



(Phyllis Williams)

Part Three 1901 - 1950

Meadowvale's Progress Early 1900s



▲ Meadowvale Mills
(Harry Spiers)

BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, MEADOWVALE WAS flourishing. Henry Brown was operating the Silverthorn/Gooderham mill, which were the busiest of the mills still in operation. The volume of business in the Village at this time was under the auspices of Brown, Callahan, Lambe, Switzer and Orr. The goods sold in the stores were now substantial not to warrant travelling far afield for necessary merchandise. The hotel, built by George Bell in 1844, now operated by John Campbell for Albert Lambe, was still doing a good business with transient trade. John Callahan was operating the former Laidlaw Commercial Hotel.



▲ The Commercial Hotel
(Region of Peel Archives)

FIRST BANK

The first and only bank to come to the Meadowvale Village was the Merchant's Bank of Canada, which opened on October 28, 1909, on the west side of the Graham house on Derry Road. It was open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Merchant Bank was absorbed into the Bank of Montreal in 1922, which had been granted a charter in 1822 in the Town of York (Toronto). The building is now gone and a residence is located there.



▲ Orr's Blacksmith Shop

(Mississauga Library)

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In 1900, John D. Orr, whose mother was a Switzer, was a blacksmith by trade. He was working out of his blacksmith shop located next door to Lambe's store on an eighth of an acre (0.05 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 3, facing Derry Road that he had purchased from Allan MacDonald on August 16, 1888, for \$190. He was the licence inspector and constable of the Village. His shop was located where the original Robinson store had sat. John resided on Lot 89, where the old Wagon Shop, built in 1848 by James Johnson on Water Street (Willow Lane), was located, which he also used for his blacksmithing. He sold his blacksmith shop in 1915 to Francis Jackson, who became the major owner of John Simpson's property. In 1910, Jackson purchased 150 acres (61 ha) from William Harris for \$8,900. Upon Orr's death, his Water Street (Willow Lane) property was sold in 1921 to William E. Gooderham, son of George Gooderham, who came to the village when he was four. There was a house on the property and he lived there until his death in 1963.

The CPR Railway Line was only a mile (1.6 k) from the Village and a small station had just been built there. Passenger trains passed



▲ View From Main Street (Derry Road)

(Charles Humber)

through on a daily basis from Toronto to places up to 100 miles (165 k) away.

Meadowvale was becoming considered a summer resort area and many people came to board for the summer to enjoy the tranquil sultry days, where the grassy meadows and drooping willows and tall elms along the Credit River lent to an environment that was pleasing and aesthetically effective. Many tourists boarded at John Watt's palatial estate, Rose Villa, that had been built by the Gooderhams in 1870.

The community was active with various events that had good turnouts, especially the corn roasts over a roaring bonfire. There were black bass to be caught in the Credit River, suckers, catfish, chubs and eels. Hunters would seek out foxes, hawks, crows, rabbits, pigeons and squirrels in the woods. Games of quoits (horseshoes) were enjoyed and football was played on the flat area at Sig Reeve's place, west of the bridge, or on the square between the store and mill. There was swimming in the summer and good skating on the River in winter along with sleigh rides on the passable roadways.



▲ John Watt's Rose Villa
(Harry Spiers)



▲ Home of Francis Jackson
(Harry Spiers)



▲ Orr's Outbuildings



(James Holmes)

News Item - 1901

NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

Andrew Henry Crozier, a Meadowvale Poet, composed a National Anthem for the British Empire in 1901. The music was written by Mr. H. H. Godfrey, the popular song writer from Toronto. It was sanctioned by His Royal Highness King George V. Crozier was granted permission to use the portraits of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in promoting his music sheets.

There are three verses with the chorus:

God save our noble Emperor
God save our gracious King
Long may he wield the sceptre.
While we his praises sing.

He had the voice and piano parts of his masterpiece published by the Review-Herald Publishing house in Streetsville. They sold for 25¢ and the Band part by Whaley, Royce & Company, Toronto, at 50¢ a copy.

It is intended that the new anthem shall supercede the old one and become the recognized National Anthem of the whole of the British Empire.

The Brampton Conservator, August 9, 1901
The Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbook



▲ King Edward VII



▲ Queen Alexandra

(Streetsville Review)



▲ Andrew H. Crozier

THE CROZIER FAMILY

Andrew Crozier's interview in the William Perkins Bull files from the 1930s states that his parents, John (b.1821, d.1908), and Mary Jane (1833-1910), had arrived in Canada in 1866 with six children and lived in Milton, where John's Uncle Tom resided. The family hailed from Dromore, County Tyrone, Ireland. On April 1, 1885, John bought Colonel William Birdsall's (1791-1877) Manor House and farm east of Meadowvale Village from Harriet Ann Harris for \$8,300, who had purchased it in 1881 from Francis Birdsall for \$3,679. Their farm was located on the southeast corner of Derry Road and Mississauga Road that was known as Harris' Corners and then Croziers' Corners, the west half, 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 4, WHS, that had been Birdsall's 1836 grant. Andrew, who was born April 12, 1884, inherited the

house in February, 1908, when his father died. His siblings were Isabella, 1868, Mary Ann (1870-1916), John (1872-1932), Margaret (1876-1936), and William, 1886. Just before corresponding with Perkins Bull in 1933, Andrew discovered the Colonel's diary in the garret by the stairs.

Andrew wrote poetry for *Truth Magazine* and was a Peel correspondent for *The Toronto Daily World*. His National Anthem received great praise throughout Canada and the ads stated that no collection of sheet music is complete without it. It sold for 25¢ a copy. Andrew became a friend of sketch artist, Harry Spiers, when he came to Meadowvale from Selsea, Sussex, England, with his wife and several small children. The story goes that Spiers' parents were well off and he married against their wishes, so he came to Ontario and settled in Toronto in 1900. He came to Meadowvale Village in November, 1902.

In the winter of 1904, Spiers showed Andrew a painting of The

Rabbit Hunters representing Charles Holly Gooderham. Andrew suggested he take it to John Eaton, president of Toronto's Eatons store.

He did and he made his first sale. Andrew corresponded with William Perkins Bull when the author was working on his collection of books on Peel County in the 1930s. Andrew told William Perkins Bull that his father, John Crozier, was a first cousin to Rev. John Baptist Crozier, D.D. Bishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland and to Rev. Wm. Robert Crozier of the Diocese of Derry, Ireland. In one letter dated April 7, 1933, Andrew said he was walking on a scaffold, a pole broke, and he tumbled 12 feet (3.7 m) and was seriously hurt. In another, May 17, 1937, he tells of having been in a car accident in March, 1935, and being in poor health. He couldn't have been residing in his parents' house at this time, because Jennie Crozier sold the property in 1934 to William Pratley for \$9,600. Andrew passed

away in August, 1941, and was buried with his parents in the Streetsville Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery.



NEWS ITEM

It was fitting that the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland should take place on March 17 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Belfast in the presence of all the bishops of Ireland, many of the clergy and ministers of other denominations. The see of St. Patrick, in which Dr. Crozier, was installed was founded in the year 445. The new primate is a nephew of the late John Crozier of Meadowvale.

The Conservator, April 10, 1913

CROZIER'S CORNERS

The many friends of Mr. William Montgomery were glad to see his figure on the line again.

Mr. Jos. Owens has secured his old position on the Brown farm.

The many friends of Mr. John Morrisey are pleased to see his smiling countenance not disfigured.

George, raise the line in the future.

Mr. Wm. Hiltz is engaged for the ensuing year on the Flynn farm. Frank is rushing business.

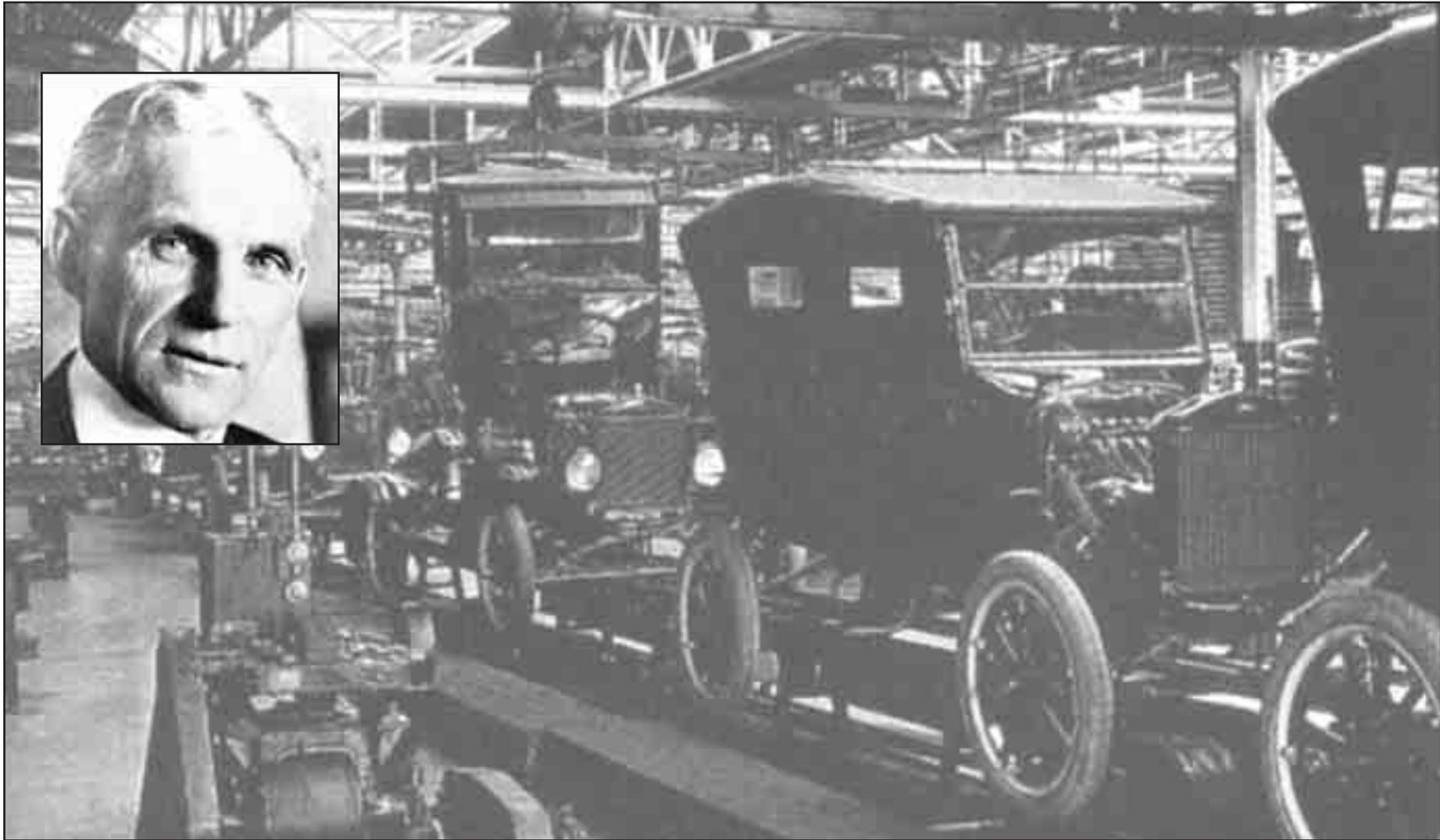
A. C. Crozier is cutting a large amount of wood for the coming season.

Mr. Edward Owens has resumed work again after a severe attack of la grippe.

Molly Dok

The Streetsville Review Column, March 29, 1894

The First Automobiles - Early 1900's



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▲ Ford Plant

(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)

Inset: Henry Ford

(Other photos courtesy of the Ford Motor Company's Archives)

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, A PHENOMENAL sight appeared on the streets of North America - the automobile. Because everyone was used to horse drawn wagons, the new contraption became called “the horseless carriage.”



◀ Gordon Morton McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor), which became the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

The first gasoline-powered automobile was invented by Americans Charles and Frank Duryea in 1893. They started manufacturing at their Duryea Motor Wagon Company factory in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1895, Frank Duryea entered a car race sponsored by the *Chicago Times Herald* and he finished the 52 mile (87 kilometers) course first at a speed of 6.5 miles (11 kilometers) an hour.

Henry Ford began to manufacture cars in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903, and others followed. The Ford Motor Company was worth \$100,000 U.S. in 1903 and by 1927 had escalated to \$700 million. The first Model T advertisement appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1908 with a price tag of \$280. The mass production in the first decade by Henry Ford brought about a tremendous change in transportation. The day of the horse drawn wagons and carriages would become passe. The automobile was here to stay.

The right to manufacture cars in Ontario was acquired in 1904 by 31 year old Gordon McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor), which became the Ford Motor Company of Canada. The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was Moore Motors, established in Port Credit in 1914 by Fred Moore, which was



▲ William Lambe at Meadowvale Station
(Region of Peel Archives)

an authorized Ford dealership, sanctioned by the Ford Motor Company. The first operator's licence in Ontario was issued in 1927 at a cost of \$1. The first year, 444,472 licences were issued.

The first car in Meadowvale was owned by Albert S. Lambe. He had sold some lumber to a customer and received a convertible type automobile in lieu of cash. Mr. Lambe never drove his car with the licence plate 4738 - it just sat in his garage until his son, William, drove it.

In 2000, according to the Ministry of Transportation, there were 8,121,374 licenced drivers in Ontario. Ford Canada celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2003.

The Meadowvale Literary Society - 1903

THE MEADOWVALE LITERARY SOCIETY WAS started in 1903 with T. S. Jewitt as president, W. A. Gardner, vice president, C. W. Switzer, chaplain, Miss Charlton, secretary/treasurer and Miss J. Pearson, organist. They had meetings almost every night during which they held debates, recitations and essays. One interesting program was a study of the Merchant of Venice in four acts with music provided by the Meadowvale chorus.

The Society founded its own paper called The Meadowvale Mirror. The first edition was published on Wednesday, October 28, 1903, and sold for 5¢. Orange J. Church of the *Streetsville Review* was the publisher and Harry Spiers, the artist, was the editor. The paper was only one page that was published twice a month, which contained editorial notes, the upcoming meeting program, a continuing essay, meeting notes, market reports, debate report and village gossip. It also gave an opportunity to advance one's literary prowess.



◀ Charles W. Switzer

(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Orange J. Church
(Region of Peel Archives)

One interesting item in the January 6, 1904, issue read: \$10,000 Reward. On Friday afternoon last, between the hours of four and six o'clock, a house on Main Street was taken possession of, the members of the said house being "conspicuous by their absence." The above reward will be given to anyone who can bring these "Ramblers" to justice. The people of Meadowvale are strongly advised to never leave their house "alone by itself" while these Ramblers are still at large.

(No further information on the Literary Society could be found.)

A Mecca For Artists - Early 1900s

MEADOWVALE WAS KNOWN FOR ITS TALENTED artists. The Village became a paradise for artists, who came from all over Ontario to paint the beauty of the location: A. J. Casson, Charlie Goldhammer, Owen Staples, Tom Roberts, Carl Adhorns, Tom Stone, Walter Sutton, Harry Spiers, George Chavignaud, Edwin Thurston and Fred S. Haines. These latter three purchased houses in the village and became actively involved in the community.

Walter T. Sutton said, "Painting is a most interesting and absorbing work, but the emphasis is on work. Painting will take your mind off the most pressing problems. It is a work in which one can lose oneself." Sutton did landscape and floral scenes. He had been born in Brampton and had studied under Canada's portrait painter, J.W.L. Forester, for which he paid \$2 a lesson.

George Chavignaud was born in Finis terre, France, in 1865 and was educated at the College of Charlemagne in Paris. He came to Toronto, Ontario, to live in 1884 and was employed as an art director for a publishing firm. He settled in Meadowvale in 1904 to reside in the Gooderham house for a year, left for Lambton Mills in 1910 and returned to the Village again in 1929. He travelled much of Europe and died in Meadowvale in May, 1944. Some of his work was donated to William Perkins Bull in the 1930s for his books on Peel County.



▲ Mill Cottage - 1904

(Harry Spiers)

Alfred Joseph Casson (b.1898, d.1992), was a member of the Group of Seven from 1925, when he replaced Frank Johnston, to when they disbanded in 1932. He had a connection with Meadowvale through his mother, Henrietta Hardy, who had been born in the Village. Casson, who had a Quaker upbringing, first came to the Village in 1907 at age nine with his parents, John Edwin and Henrietta Casson, and brother, John, to spend the summer with Grandmother Hardy. She lived in the Mill cottage on Willow Lane (now 1101 Old Derry Road) that she rented from Henry Brown. He had been born on Baldwin Avenue in Toronto and the family had just moved to Guelph, where his father worked for a jam manufacturer. Even though his parents, had no interest in art, he had started painting as soon as he could hold a brush, and at this early age, he loved

to explore the countryside, which he would paint. He returned many times to the birth place of his mother to paint, especially the Meadowvale Mills.

Casson moved to Toronto in 1916 where he attended Central Technical School to study art. Alfred Howell, his teacher, took an interest in his work. In 1917, his first painting was exhibited at the Canadian National Exhibition and it was here that he met artist Fred Haines, best known in Meadowvale for his Indian mural, who managed the CNE Art Gallery. Through these connections, his artistry evolved from 1920. He travelled about Ontario extensively, setting up camps and traipsing through the small communities to find the ideal settings for his drawings, sketching and painting.

He worked as a commercial artist and received many awards and honorary degrees. As his fame rose, a small oil sketch, 12" by 15" (30 cm x 38 cm), would sell for \$5,000 and larger oils for \$25,000. His paintings were exhibited at the Rogers Gallery in Toronto. One of his landscapes sold for \$37,000 at auction in Toronto. He claimed, "It's partly my association with the Group of Seven that jacks the price up. And, of course, it's partly my age." In 1980, he was the last surviving member of the Group of Seven. When he turned 88, Casson was honoured with a birthday bash at the Royal York Hotel with dinner for 600 guests at \$200 a plate that was donated to Alzheimer's Research. His wife, Margaret Purdy, whom he married in 1924, suffered from the disease. He died in 1992 at age 94.

Paintings done by George Chavignaud, Tom Roberts and Tom Stone are among the collection at the Region of Peel Archives and Art Gallery.



▲ Fred Haines
Water Street
(Basil Welch)

Author's Note: This painting was done when Haines bought the second house from left in 1903.

◀ Thomas Stone's Credit
Near Meadowvale
(Perkins Bull Collection)

MEMORIES

"It's rather a pretty little village. One of the nice things is the community spirit. Of course, in the early days, the Church and Sunday School were important social contacts. I have quite a bit of space around me. It's like living in the country. You're not all cramped in close together. The Village was also once a well-known artists haven, with the area's lush meadows and flowing river providing appealing landscapes for such painters as George Chavignaud, Tom Stone and Fred Haines. I can remember when students from the Ontario College of Art boarded with village residents during two consecutive summers in order to take advantage of being close to natural surroundings."

Quote from Louise Southern, June 4, 1986
Mississauga News article by Michael Lightstone.



▲ Louise Southern

"From the time I was a little boy, I can remember the artists coming out to Meadowvale to paint the mill, the barn, the mill house and other beautiful historic buildings in the area, including Apple Tree Inn, the cottage, flats and the dam. George Chavignaud lived in the village in those days, and Tom Stone, a lesser known artist, was enchanted with the village. Fred S. Haines came and painted, and while not one of the Group of Seven, was closely associated with them. On summer days, we would often hear a terrible clammering and clattering outside the house and look out to find that there was a row of cars parked on the grass outside the fence and half a dozen people would be setting up their easels on the front lawn. Later we took the fence down and they would come and drive right onto the lawn.

"I regularly went to watch A. J. Casson, A. J. Jackson and others, but I had no idea who they were at the time. And Casson did become a member of the Group of Seven. What I do remember is that each and every one of them gave paintings to my mother as their way of saying thank you for allowing them to paint on the property. All in all, I have some great memories of Meadowvale."

Henry Allan Luther Emerson Excerpt from MHF letter Jan 21, 1998



▲ Allan Emerson

Fred Haines and The Mural - 1903

Fred Stanley Haines, who was born in Meaford, Grey County, Ontario, in March, 1879, achieved national prominence for his pastoral scenes in oil. Haines first came to Meadowvale in 1896 with the burning ambition to be an artist and study in Toronto. He only had \$1.50 to sustain him. He studied under Reid and Cruishank at the old Central Ontario School of Art, which became the Ontario College of Art. In 1901, he began to display his work in the Ontario School of Art and became a member in 1906.

He married Bertha Moorehouse and they bought a house on Water Street (Willow Lane) on November 3, 1903, for \$400. They had a daughter, Dorothy, who attended the Meadowvale Public School, where Fred was a school trustee. During the summer of 1910, he painted a mural called “Indians on the Credit” in vivid, clear colours. It was painted on three roller blinds, 18 feet by 40 inches (5 m x 100 cm) and glued to the school wall. The mural depicted two Indians in a canoe on the Credit River, paddling towards an Indian village. According to the *Streetsville Review*, his masterpiece was dedicated that fall.



◀ Fred Haines

(Region of Peel Archives)

AFTER ACHIEVING THIS ARTISTIC ENDEAVOUR, HE STUDIED at the Belgium Academe Royale des Beaux Arts in Antwerp, Belgium, where he received a gold medal. He returned to Canada in 1914 and continued his etchings, many of which are hanging in art galleries here and abroad. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has a Frederick S. Haines collection. They sold their house to Margaret Trevorror on February 25, 1916, for \$900.

Haines took on many challenges and became secretary of Graphic Art at the Canadian National Exhibition (1920) and commissioner of Fine Arts (1924), President of the Ontario Society of Artists (1924-1927), Director and curator of The Toronto Art Gallery (1927-1932), Principal of the Ontario College of Art (1932-1951), President of the Royal Canadian Association of the Arts (1939-1942), and was a founding member of the Canadian Society of Painters and Etchers and the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colours. After leaving the College of Art in 1951, he turned full time to his landscape painting, which was his first love.

In 1958, Haines donated 14 canvases to the new Thornhill High School and several canvases to his alma mater, Meaford High School.

Haines died of a heart attack on November 21, 1960. He was buried in Thornhill Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Over the years, Haines' mural was badly mutilated and tarnished and used as a dart board by the students. The school became the Community Hall in 1959 when a larger school was built. The Haines family transferred ownership of the mural to the South Peel Board of Education on January 1, 1964.

On June 5, 1969, Louise Southern, granddaughter of George Gooderham, wrote a letter of concern to Councillor Grant Clarkson about the destruction of Haines' mural. She received a response on June 8th from Deputy Clerk, John T. Corney. It informed her that her letter would be considered by the Town of Mississauga Council at its June 9th meeting. As it turned out it was deferred until June 16th in order for a report on the matter to be compiled. On that day, the Council decided the municipality could not afford to take on the cost of such a project.

Several Councils were approached over the next 10 years and finally in October, 1975, when former councillor Grant Clarkson was vice chairman of the Peel County Historical Society, he found out that the Ministry of Culture in Ottawa was going to preserve old murals. Through this contact, The Conservation Institute of Canada took on the responsibility of financing the project. A team of restoration experts, headed up by Ferdinand Petrov, was hired to undertake the preservation and reconstruction of the mural. The project cost was

established at \$15,000. The City of Mississauga Council agreed to handle \$500 travel costs to Ottawa for three days accommodations for three people.

Although the colours of the mural were faded with the years, there was hope of it being restored to its original splendour. The work began in January, 1976. A three man team was directed by Peter Vogel, consultant conservator of fine arts for The Conservation Institute.



Organic glue was put on the front of the mural and a temporary canvas affixed to it to prevent it being damaged during the removal process. It was a painstaking task to chisel the 66 year old invaluable piece of art out of the wall. When the mural was finally removed, the Toronto Art Gallery arranged transportation and storage of the art piece. In Ottawa, it was put on a vibrating table that shook off all the

◀ Restoration of Mural

(Mississauga News)

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▲ Mural: Mississauga Indians Travelling on the Credit River

(Region of Peel Archives)

lathe and plaster pigments. Permanent glue was put on the back and it was re-canvased and mounted on a stretcher. The front canvas was lifted off, then it was cleaned, retouching was done and then it was varnished. There were 400 hours involved. It took one year exactly to complete the work.

The mural, now in three frames, was housed at the Peel Museum and Art Gallery, 9 Wellington Street East, Brampton. It was unveiled on Thursday, October 6, 1977, along with a Fred Haines Art Exhibition loaned by the Grey County Board of Education. It was entitled, "Mississauga Indians Traveling on the Credit River" and was on display until November.

When the Delta Meadowvale Inn opened on October 16, 1980, with Alex Lindquist as General Manager, the mural was put on display in the foyer for three years. At the opening was Peel Museum director, Bill Barber, and Grant Clarkson, the former president of the Peel County Historical Society and former chairman of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), and Jack Alquire, senior vice president of Markborough Properties. It was then moved to the Board Room of the CVCA, where it still hangs today. It is now owned jointly by the CVCA and the City of Mississauga. Grant Clarkson and the City of Mississauga are in the process of having it restored again and moved to the Mississauga Civic Centre.

The house the Haines resided in at 1147 Willow Lane became an heritage building in 1980. It has been owned by Basil and Margaret Welch since 1968. Margaret passed away in 2002 and Basil still resides there.



▲ Fred Haines' House (Region of Peel Archives)



Basil Welch's House, 2002 ▶
(James Holmes)

Artist Spiers on Meadowvale - 1904

THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF MEADOWVALE is situated on the Credit River in the County of Peel, Province of Ontario. In its immediate neighbourhood are to be found some of the finest farms in the country, and, as a result of which, those who guide the plow, harvest the crops and dispose of the grain, as a reward of years of toil and industry, have accumulated enough of this world's goods to build substantial homes for themselves, and massive and serviceable barns for their stock. But with all their previous success there is still no stopping the seasons as they come and go, call for work, and there is ever a pressing onward to some future day, when perhaps, fortune's sunny smile may ease down the burden of toil and one may rest, as it were on their oars, and take a retrospective view of their life's work, and even if all has not been accomplished as desired, their duty done in the field into which they are called to work will always be to them, like an ever flowing stream, a continued source of satisfaction.

Quote by artist, H. (Harry) Spiers "A Souvenir of the Village of Meadowvale on the Credit," 1904

Spiers was born in 1869 in Sussex, England.
He died in 1936 in Dedham, Mass.



▲ Residence of R. Golden (Harry Spiers)

MEMORIES

Historical research as it applies to the Village of Meadowvale, the facts are not incompatible with beauty and imagination. The very word, "Meadowvale" is both musical and stimulating to the mind's eye and above all it is entirely descriptive. Nestled on the banks of the Credit River is a little Village of Meadowvale. The very existence of this rural retreat in the midst of frantic industrialization is charmingly incongruous. Here is a place of peace and tranquillity bountifully blessed by Mother Nature.

Reminiscencing of Mrs. Chadwick, 1956
from the Meadowvale Women's Institute scrapbooks



▲ John Watt Residence



▲ Fred Haines' House

Gardner Homestead ▶



(Drawings courtesy of the Mississauga Library System)



◀ Church and School

Harry Spiers Cottage ▶



The Gooderham/South Farm - 1910



▲ Haying, John Farnell, William Gooderham, Robert Golden and George H. Gooderham, 1900
(Region of Peel archives)



▲ George Gooderham House, 1904
(Harry Spiers)



George Gooderham with
Shepherd dog, 1905 ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

GEORGE GOODERHAM CAME TO MEADOWVALE IN 1869 TO take over the supervision of his Uncle William's business interests. He would manage 450 acres (180 ha) of the Gooderham farmland that was under cultivation and the Cooperage. He and his wife, Catherine, were married in 1851 and they had seven children, who grew up in the tiny hamlet, attended the Gooderham school then the Meadowvale Public School, and became involved in all aspects of community activity.

On February 11, 1870, George leased a white frame house and 94 acres (37.6 ha) of the original Hugh Bell's 100 acre (40 ha) farm, Lot 11, Con. 2, and 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 12, Con. 2, W-1/2, from his uncle, William Gooderham, for \$800 a year and resided there with his family. The house Bell had built was located on Lot 12, on the east side of the Concession Road (Second Line West). He bought the property on March 26, 1883, for \$12,000 from cousin, Charles Holly Gooderham. George sold the farm to Stephen George South on March 31, 1910, for \$11,000 and moved into one of the Gooderham houses in the Village where he died in 1912 at 86 years of age.

Stephen and his wife, Jane, had six children, Milford, Harold,



▲ Mrs. Stephen G. South
(Region of Peel Archives)

William, Ken, who died tragically in a drowning accident in 1911 with Henry Brown, and two daughters. In 1919, Stephen constructed a large two storey red brick house on Lot 11. He owned the property until October, 1936, when he sold to his son, Harold, and moved to Trafalgar Township. Harold took over the first house and divided it to accommodate two families and his brother, William, moved in. He bought a 100 year old barn from Lot 11, Con. 3, SDS, near the Lakeview Rifle Ranges property, thought to be that of Wesley Watson,

one of Lakeview's earliest residents, and transported it by horse and wagon to Meadowvale and reconstructed it. It was a two storey timber frame structure with a gambrel roof of corrugated steel metal set on a moulded concrete block foundation.

On October 15, 1938, Cecil Treanor bought the South's Lot 12 acreage for \$6,000 that had the white house on it. Harold and his family moved into his father's red brick house. For several years, the Treanors rented out parts of their home to a variety of families at a cost of \$5 and \$10 a month. Cecil's daughter, Dorothy Jean, and her husband, Bruce Kurtz, bought 1.7 acres (0.7 ha) on August 4, 1964, and built a house. They lived there until 1969 when they sold their home to their son, Wayne, and his wife, Trudy, and moved to Brampton. Cecil sold out to Frederick Gruell in 1965 and Gruell sold most of the farm land to Fieldrun Holdings Inc. in 1986.

Harold sold off much of the Lot 11 property in November, 1955, to Dolphin Company Limited for development by Meadowvale Development Ltd. His daughter, Frances, and husband, Alex Copeland, who were married in 1944, built a red brick bungalow on a half acre (0.2 ha) in 1959. They still reside there. Their only son, Larry, born in 1947, is a Doctor and works in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Ohio State University Medical Centre in Columbus, Ohio. Larry and his wife, Lisa Jo, have three children, Laura, Nicole and Kelly.

Harold died in 1972 and his widow, Annie Farnell, remained in their home until 1980 when she sold the house to Lorne Davidson and moved in with her daughter, Frances. Lorne resided there for five years and sold it to Ron and Brunia Shahr. Annie died in 1986 at 90 years old.

The Bell/Gooderham house is located at 7235 Second Line West. The last house George Gooderham lived in was the McKee house at 7050 Second Line West. Stephen South's brick house at 7059 Second Line West, designated in 1980, has been owned by Miles and Elizabeth Backhouse since 1995. The South's Barn, at 978 John Watt Boulevard, was torn down in 2001.



▲ The South Barn
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



◀ Stephen South House
(Region of Peel Archives)



The Bell/Gooderham
House, 2003 ▶



▲ The Bell/Gooderham House, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Meadowvale Women's Institute - 1910



▲ Women's Institute, 1910 (Mrs. Charles Gardner)

The Meadowvale Women's Institute (MWI) was founded in 1910 and had its first meeting on May 5th with Catherine Sibbald as its president. The 15 members met at the home of the secretary, Mrs. J.J. Stewart. Mrs. E.G. Graham and Miss Susan Campbell from the Brampton Women's Institute had organized the group. Mrs. Graham inducted the officers. The MWI motto was, "For Home and Country."

The first Women's Institute in Ontario was founded by Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless (b.1857, d.1910)



▲ Adelaide
Hunter Hoodless



▲ Catherine
Sibbald

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)

at Stoney Creek on February 17, 1897. Adelaide was the daughter of David Hunter of Derry West, who passed away a few months before she was born on a farm near St. George, Ontario. Her great achievement with this organization warranted her a stamp in 1993 during the first special issue of stamps honouring women.

The group kept records from the outset, but the minutes up to 1922 were destroyed by a sister of a member who died, as she thought they had no value and burned them. The women were quite active in their community, holding events such as picnics and concerts in the Meadowvale Public School and taking tours to points of interest around Ontario, one being the Alexander Graham Bell's homestead in Brantford, and visiting other Women's Institutes in Peel. To raise funds, they held euchre parties, auction sales, garden parties, teas, bake sales and did catering. In February, 1933, they held a Mid-Victorian Party at the home of Miss Minerva Castle and some members wore 19th Century gowns; one was an 85 year old green and silver taffeta and several wore their grandmothers' wedding dresses.

The Peel County Women's Institutes were instrumental in the founding of Peel Memorial Hospital. At a meeting of the Institute held in Brampton on February 28, 1910, the idea for a hospital was suggested by Susan Campbell. Mrs. E.G. Graham, president of the Peel County Women's Institute, and 500 women got behind the proposal. All but two of the branches pledged to work on campaigning for funds. Their goal was reached and the formal opening ceremony took place February 2, 1925, with Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Henry Cockshutt (1921-1927), on hand with Reverend R.N. Burns carrying out the dedication.

During World War I (1914-1918), the ladies knit socks, mitts, scarves and gloves and sent them in gift boxes with fruit and candy to the Meadowvale men serving overseas. Upon the return of these veterans, the MWI held a celebration and presented them with watch fobs with engraved lockets. They carried out the same procedure during W.W.II (1939-1945), donating gift boxes to the Canadian Red Cross for the men in the armed forces.

In 1927, the MWI rented a small section of land for \$1 at the north-east corner of Derry Road West and Mill Road from William Lambe to be used for a park. A committee was organized and a planting design was drawn up by Miss Mary Eliza Blacklock of Rowancroft Gardens, who donated perennials and shrubs. A lattice type summer house was provided by Miss Helen Beardmore and a flag pole was installed thanks to Miss Mary Yates, who operated the Apple Tree Inn.

In November, 1929, the MWI started a Library, which was opened in a small shed they set up in their park. Member Minerva Castle was the first librarian. They gathered contributions and maintained the Library. The women, whose membership rose to 60, held garden parties, teas and bake sales and purchased the property on July 1, 1930, for \$400. In 1953, the park was transformed into a children's playground and the Library was at this location until 1965 when it was moved to the Meadowvale Public School. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) bought the park for \$2,000 in 1968. The MWI used the money for bursaries for students at the Meadowvale Public School. An Art Shoppe was opened in the library building on July 4, 1970, by some residents who were loaned the property from the CVCA. It only stayed open for a year. The park is now the location of the Meadowvale Heritage plaque and the sewage

pumping station that has been disguised to resemble an old coach house. It was built when the sewers were put through the Village in 1988.

The Women's Institute held a Garden Party the first two years and the Meadowvale Band, under the direction of Charles W. Switzer, provided the music. They sponsored a skating club and tennis club, held an annual children's picnic at the end of the school season and an annual Halloween party. Over the years, they donated to the Peel Memorial Hospital (now called The William Osler Health Centre) and Nurses Residence in Brampton. In 1937, they furnished a hospital room along with the Derry West Women's Institute, and they donated a cardiograph machine. They sent preserves of fruit and jam to the patients of Peel Manor Home for Senior Citizens (opened in 1898 and called The County of Peel House of Industry and Refuge) and gave contributions to The Hospital for Sick Children (opened in 1875), Christie Street Veterans Hospital (1918) and the Canadian Institute for the Blind (founded in 1918), and assisted needy families in the community.

Lady Tweedsmuir, Susan Charlotte Buchan, encouraged the women's organizations to record their history when her husband, Lord Tweedsmuir, John Buchan, was Governor General of Canada (1935-1940). The Meadowvale Women's Institute scrapbooks are impressive, four large black covered binders with aluminum fronts designed by Doris McPherson. Miss Ida Davidson, daughter of William T. Davidson, started to compile Meadowvale's history in 1948. The curators varied over the years, but the most prominent was Louise Southern, great granddaughter of William Gooderham's brother, Ezekiel, who was an early member, was on the MWI Board in 1965 and was curator from 1974 to 1993.



Lady and Lord
Tweedsmuir
(Region of Peel Archives)



Anniversaries were held over the years. The 35th on June 13, 1945, was celebrated at the home of Mrs. Jessie Pearson. The renowned food critic/cook/author, Kate Aitken, who had a house on Mississauga Road, was the special guest speaker. On June 22, 1960, the 50th anniversary was held at Rowancroft Gardens. The 60th was a Special Tea on Tuesday, May 12, 1970, at the Meadowvale Community Hall. The president was Mrs. Harry Christie and the secretary, Miss Frances McCracken. For the 75th anniversary of Federation Women's Institutes of Ontario, the MWI hosted a commemoration Anniversary Tea in the Community Hall on May 13, 1972. Ladies came from all over Peel, Streetsville, Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon, even a

Ruth MacKendrick from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, visited. The 80th was celebrated on June 9, 1990, at Terra Cotta Inn. Jane Christie was president, Irene McKee, treasurer, Frances McCracken, secretary and Louise Southern, curator.

In 1990, the membership was low so the group disbanded at the 1993 annual meeting in April after 83 successful years. A farewell luncheon was held at the Delta Meadowvale Inn in June.

The Peel District Women's Institute still exists with Joan Folkard, who has been a W.I. member since 1972, as president. There are over 10,000 ladies involved in the Women's Institutes in Ontario.



Meadowvale Women's Institute (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Sewage Pumping Station, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Fortnightly Club - 1910

“THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB” WAS THE LAST literary society to be founded in Meadowvale. Professor Frank Brown got it organized in 1910 with J.J. Stewart as president. At its meetings, the speakers dealt with philosophy, prophesy, music and poetry. At this time, Meadowvale was noted for its literary and debating societies. Various people from the community donated their time to lead the groups, whether it was the school teacher, junior pastor or resident artist. There was the Reading Circle that held readings and debates that caused some controversial moments. The Meadowvale Literary Society had been functioning since 1903.

The groups were under the direction of Professor Frank J. Brown and William L. Davidson, who were the force that added enthusiasm and spirit to the organizations. Not only the local people were involved, but people from the surrounding communities.

During the winter months, the meetings, which were held at the public school, were well attended and the camaraderie was electrifying. They were informative, which made for profitable evenings. They created an interest in literary matters and musical involvement that was uplifting.



▲ W. Lorne Davidson
(Ian Davidson)



▲ Frank Brown
(Region of Peel Archives)

The closing meeting of the season in June, 1912, when Stewart stepped down as president, had M.P.P. Samuel Charters as guest speaker. The orchestra with musicians, Mrs. Haines, Miss Pearson, Miss Davidson, Mr. Thurston, Mr. Davison and Mr. Ross, played “The Ambassador.” Mr. Cyrus W. Brown came in as president and Mr. J. Francis Jackson as vice president.

(No further information could be found.)

The Arrival of the Telephone - 1910

THE CONVENIENCE OF THE TELEPHONE arrived in the area of Meadowvale in 1910, when telephone poles were put up Hurontario Street and extended along the side roads. The men involved in installing the telephone lines camped on the David Wedgewood farm in Derry West.

The cost of a telephone ranged from \$6.65 per subscriber to \$12. When a severe thunderstorm hit the area on August 27, 1911, a string of telephone poles were toppled in Palestine to the east. At this time there were over 50,000 telephones across the province.

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▲ The men involved in installing telephone lines camped on the David Wedgewood farm in 1910
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Telephone, 1880



▲ Touch tone telephone, 1967



▲ Alexander Graham Bell

(Photos courtesy of
Bell Canada Historical Services)

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in Brantford, Ontario, in 1874. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was founded in 1877. The first telephone to be installed in Toronto Township was put in James Hamilton's general store in Port Credit in 1881.

The northern part of Toronto Township was considered a rural area and in the first decades, not every household had access to having a telephone installed. On April 29, 1929, a right of easement was passed for telephone assess to be installed in all the rural areas of Ontario. At this time, each home owner was included on a party line with six other families. It took until the late 1940s before rural service in Ontario was expanded to include most of the northern farm areas. It was announced by Bell Telephone in August, 1946, that 22,000 telephones would be installed to the rural areas of the province at a cost of \$10 million for the rural development program. It was stated that within five years the company hoped to be serving 55 per cent of the rural families. The program would require the erection of thousands of miles of new poles and wire so that every street was serviced. Some telephones were being installed at some exchanges by doubling up on the party lines to accommodate the hundreds of waiting applicants.



▲ *The Famous Words*
(Bell Homestead Museum)

Reduction of the number of parties on a line was one of the major objectives of the company. It was noted that of the phone users questioned, 71 per cent objected to others listening in to their conversations.

The improvements and how quickly things progressed, depended on the money Bell Telephone had available. Party lines decreased down through the years and got to the point where there would be three, then two on one line. They were still being used in some rural areas up until the 1980s. In the Halton/Peel 1983 telephone directory, instructions said to dial 611 to reach a party line customer. Any references to party lines ceased with the 1984 directory.

In 1962, dial service finally came to the countryside. In 1980, non urban service improvements were instigated and poles were torn down and new lines put up and new phones installed. Remote dial offices were built and by 1997, everything was digital.



▲ *Hamilton's Store*
(Toronto Public Library)



▲ *Bell Homestead*
(Bell Homestead Museum)

Rowancroft Gardens - 1914



▲ Rowancroft Gardens
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Former Mary Blacklock's Residence, 2003
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Miss Mary Blacklock ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

ROWANCROFT GARDENS WAS STARTED IN 1914 BY MISS Mary Elizabeth Blacklock. She had purchased five acres (2 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS, in October, 1913, for \$1,500 from Francis Jackson and established a botanical gardens. She had a two storey Georgian style house of wood siding constructed. On April 10, 1918, she bought another 2.4 acres (1 ha) for \$732 from Goldwin Smith. By 1920, business was flourishing to the point of employing seven people, who were required eight months out of the year. During the growing season, several more workers were hired.

It was a favorite spot for people to stroll, especially in June when the peonies were in full bloom.

Miss Blacklock was born in 1860 in Hastings, Ontario, to John and Louise Blacklock. When she was a young lady, her family moved to Toronto, where her gardening expertise was nurtured and took root. She planted a garden at their Davenport Road home. She sold plants for 5¢ and 10¢ and shrubs for 25¢ and contributed the money earned to the St. Anne's Anglican Church Building Fund.

She began to correspond with horticulturists and collected seeds from all over the world until she had an outstanding collection of flowers in her garden and tremendous knowledge in her head.

When her father passed away in 1910, she travelled to Europe to visit nurseries and meet the experts she had been writing to. She visited Kew Gardens in London, England, the gardens of the Frenchmen, Dessert, near Tours, France. Here she found peonies, which became her passion. From Mons. V. Lemoine in France, she was introduced to lilacs she adored and would eventually transport to Canada.

Upon her return home in 1914, before World War I started, she established Rowancroft Gardens. Her French peonies and lilacs were much appreciated when she introduced them here. Seeds from this stock replenished their supply of lilacs, of which the fragrance was thoroughly enjoyed during the blooming season in the spring.

She entered the floral competitions at the Horticultural Shows around the province. She took a first prize at the Toronto Horticultural Show for her irises and a first at the London International Show for peonies.

Miss Minerva Swann Castle began to work with Miss Blacklock in 1915 as a helper. She was tremendously horticulturally conscious and gardeners began to flock to Rowancroft Gardens to learn from her astonishing plant knowledge. It has been said of her that she had an intense interest in all growing things, a capacity for hard work and a keen sense of humour that endeared her to the customers in the Village.

Miss Castle, as a member of the Meadowvale Women's Institute, was instrumental in starting up the first library in Meadowvale in 1929 and she became the first Librarian. In 1937, she served as the president of the Streetsville Anglican Church Chancel Group. On August 7, 1941, she purchased a piece of property from Miss Blacklock and had a one and a half storey three room frame house built on the same laneway and was given the right-a-way to get out to Derry Road. She was a founding member of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 1954 and was also very active with the Toronto Garden Club for many years.

Miss Blacklock passed away in 1956 at her home in her 96th year. Upon Miss Blacklock's death, Minerva Castle became partners in Rowancroft Gardens with Miss Ethel Winter. Their business flourished. Miss Castle's favorite peony was the Grace Adams, named for

one of the Garden's workers. It was a large white bloom with golden stamens in its center. Miss Castle became known and respected across Canada for her supreme stock and as being one of the country's best plantsmen. She was an accomplished grower of peonies and perennials. Her peonies were shipped as far as Australia.

Throughout her lifetime, she was presented with many awards: In 1961, she was given Britain's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit for the Sorbus Rowancroft Pink Coral Mountain Ash; in 1964, she received a Dominion Life Membership pin at the 75th anniversary of Trinity's Church Women's Auxiliary; the Federal Government's Centennial Medal in 1967 for her Red Cross involvement and her contribution to the horticultural industry; in 1969, she received the first gold medal ever presented from the Toronto Garden Club for achieving the most outstanding contribution to Horticulture in Canada. Dr. Leslie Laking was the presenter.

Miss Castle passed away on January 1, 1976, at age 84. Her funeral service was held at the Streetsville Trinity Anglican Church on Monday, January 5th, with services conducted by Reverend David Busby, Rev. David Adams and Lay Reader, Sam McCallion. She was buried at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

Hazel McCallion, then Ward 9 Councillor, said, "Her passing is a great loss to the Region of Peel and I feel a little part of history has departed."

On Friday, October 21, 1977, over 100 people gathered at the Meadowvale Community Hall to pay tribute to Minerva Castle. The evening was organized by the Women's Institute, of which she had been a devoted member since its inception in 1910. Councillors, Hazel McCallion and Larry Taylor, Chief Librarian Noel Ryan and Rev. David Busby assembled for the unveiling of a plaque that would be hung in the Community Hall. It was unveiled by a relative, John Beck. It read: "To commemorate the Generosity of Minerva S. Castle to the Village of Meadowvale, 1891-1976."

Before Miss Castle passed away, she sold her property to Frank Baldesarra, who lived in the village of Meadowvale. He has quite a history with the property, where he has built himself a spectacular two storey red brick mansion. He tore down her house in September, 2002, and rents the elegant Blacklock house at 1160 Old Derry Road.

Arthur Hill - 1916

DURING THE START OF WORLD WAR I (1914), Arthur S. Hill, who had been born in 1899 on Pond Street in Meadowvale, was residing in Toronto. On January 16, 1916, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and became a private in the 124th Infantry Battalion. His parents, Richard and Grace, had purchased Village Lot 28 from Ann Barnhill on May 23, 1896, for \$200. The property had been sold by Francis Silverthorn to William Wilson on February 11, 1859, who sold to Thomas Idle on December 20th. A one and a half storey plank house with a medium pitched gable roof, thought to be built by Idle, became their home.

Arthur had his training and was attached to the 60th Battalion of the Westmount Rifles on December 25, 1916. He was sent overseas and when the Battle of Vimy Ridge began in France on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, he was there with brother Fred in the 15th Machine Gun Unit.



▲ Arthur Hill and brother, Fred, France, 1917
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The Hill House, 7015 Pond Street
(James Holmes)

He recorded this encounter as “The barrage, one of the heaviest up to that time, commenced at 5 a.m. and it was quite a sight to see, the shells bursting over German Lines. Eventually the barrage lifted and the infantry advanced, capturing all positions, with the exception of the Pimple - the highest point of the Ridge - this was captured on the second day by storming it from the rear.”

Shortly after this devastating involvement, the 60th Battalion was disbanded and he was transferred to the 87 Battalion, a unit from Quebec. He returned home safely.

When he retired in 1957, he came back to Meadowvale and the house where he had been born, 7015 Pond Street. He died there on February 2, 1986, at 87 years of age. The Hill house was designated an heritage building in 1980 and it is now owned by David Moir.

The Apple Tree Inn - 1920

THIS VERNACULAR ONE AND A HALF STOREY structure, built in 1860 of Classical and Gothic



▲ Luther Cheyne

revival stylistic elements, was the original house of the Village's first post master, Luther Cheyne, which he built on the corner of Pond Street and Barberry Lane. It had coach houses on the property, one of which remained well into the 1970s.

John and Mary Ann Lambe Farnell purchased the house on Lots 23 and 24 from Tobias Mason, executor for Christopher Cheyne, on January 17, 1891, for \$500. The Farnell family originated from Yorkshire, England, and came to live in Sandhill, Chinguacousy Township, in 1853. Mary Ann Lambe was raised by Mathew and Ann Laidlaw. They had four children, Albert, William, Annie and Martha. They also bought adjoining Lots 22 and 25 on June 15, 1896. John died in 1914 and Mary Ann sold the house and all the property to Miss Helen Beardmore and Miss Mary Yates on June 15, 1920, for \$2,500. She died shortly thereafter.



▲ Mary, John and Annie Farnell at their home, later the Apple Tree Inn
(Bruce Farnell)

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The ladies opened a Tea Room and called it Apple Tree Inn. It was named for an old apple tree near the house that was resplendent with white blossoms every spring.

These young ladies became popular for boarding artists. In the summer of 1921, Ontario College of Arts send students to Meadowvale to paint the landscape. They enjoyed the experience so much, they returned in 1922. The proprietresses kindly accommodated the tourists and catered to their comforts. Miss Yates used to place advertisements in the Toronto Press Club paper so the Inn had an exclusive clientele.

Miss Yates had been born in England, so she operated her establishment in the manner of an English Inn. Her hobby was perfecting the iris, of which she had many varieties in the Inn's garden. Miss Beardmore also had a green thumb and leaned towards roses. She had the hill behind the Inn terraced with bricks, which were smothered in rose bushes of every colour. Between 1922 and 1925, she was



president of the Ontario Rose Society, which was founded in 1913 and had a name change in 1955 to Canadian Rose Society, because the membership had progressed throughout Canada.

During the summer, the ladies held a ritual of “Afternoon Tea” in their fragrant garden. The women of the neighbourhood, treasured as great cooks, supplied the elegant desserts. On Halloween, the ladies invited the children into their dining room, aptly decorated for the occasion, for special delicacies.

Helen Beardmore passed away on October 19, 1940, and Mary inherited the Apple Tree Inn. She only stayed in operation until December 1, 1944, when she sold it to Aemiluis Jarvis for \$3,000 and it became a family residence. It is now a heritage building and located on one acre (0.4 ha) at 7053 Pond Street. Jason and Susan Henderson purchased it in January, 2002, and are in the process of restoring it.

▲ The Apple Tree Inn, 2002
(Region of Peel Archives)

◀ Helen Beardmore and Mary Yates
(Region of Peel Archives)



The Apple Tree Inn
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ The Henderson
House
(James Holmes)



▲ The famous apple tree was cut down
around 1980.

Louise Gooderham Southern - 1921



▲ The Southern House
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ Katherine, Mary Davidson, Louise
(Region of Peel Archives)



Louise Southern ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

LOUISE SOUTHERN, WHO WAS BORN ON MAY 5, 1912, came from hardy pioneer stock. Her family originated in Great Britain and came to York (Toronto) in 1832 from Norfolk, England. Her grandfather, George Gooderham, was sent out from Toronto in 1869 to take over the Gooderham interests for his Uncle William. He made a tremendous mark in Meadowvale that is still remembered today.

Louise's father, William Ezekiel (b.1865, d.1963), was four years old when his father, George, moved here and he attended school in the schoolhouse his second cousin,



▲ George Gooderham
(Region of Peel Archives)

Charles Holly, had built on the property to accommodate the Gooderham children. Her mother was Mary Jane Watt (1873-1962).



▲ William Ezekiel
(Region of Peel Archives)

The first trip Louise made to Meadowvale was in 1918 at age six with her parents, and four year old sister, Katherine (Kay), for a visit to her Gooderham relatives.

In 1921, her father bought property on Willow Lane (Water Street) for \$12,000, that had been owned by blacksmith, John D. Orr, and was the location of James Johnson's wagon shop. There was a plank on plank salt box house available and William had a Mr. Brigg work on upgrading the house and a veranda was added. The family came to Meadowvale every summer. Then they moved to the Village permanently.

Louise attended the Meadowvale Public School, and after graduation, she took the Toronto/Guelph Radial to attend Islington Continuation School and Etobicoke High School. She graduated as a nurse from the Toronto General Hospital in 1939. It was here that she met and fell in love with a patient, Sam Southern.

In 1946, she and Sam married and moved into the family homestead with her parents. They had two sons, William and Robert. Louise kept busy with her new family and community activities such as the Meadowvale Womens Institute (MWI), which she joined in 1951. Louise had many fond memories of her life in the Village. Some are recorded in the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks that are at the Peel Heritage Complex Archives. She joined the MWI



▲ Mead's House, 2003 (James Holmes)



▲ Southern/Mead Outbuildings, 2003 (Mathew Wilkinson)

board in 1965 and was curator from 1974 to 1993 and helped compile the scrapbooks. She also served as a District Director for Peel. When her father passed away in 1963, she and sister Kay inherited the house. She lost her husband, Sam, in 1975.

She sold her house in 1998 to Bruce and Elva Mead and moved to Elora to be near her son, Bill. She passed away on Friday, December 20, 2002, and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery.

The Gooderham/Southern house is located at 1101 Willow Lane, however, it has been relegated to a pool cottage and a new elegant structure has replaced it as the main house that was built in 1999 by the Meads, who came to Canada from Summerville, South Carolina. Bruce was born in Port Credit and came to the Village at age four and was back, renewing his love of the area. The Meads had parts of an 1890 house shipped to their location and incorporated into their new house. They have put a big investment into the restoration of the Southern house and the former wagon and blacksmith shops and have made them a showplace that compliments the heritage aspect of Meadowvale Village.

In November, 2003, they sold their Village homestead to Patrick and Betty Chartrand and moved in March, 2004, with the intention of living on their yacht and travelling around the world.

Hydro in Meadowvale - 1922

SIR ADAM BECK, KNIGHTED IN 1914, was an electricity advocate, who had introduced the first Power Bill into Legislation in 1906. The Bill was passed on June 7th and Beck was made Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

In 1911, the Rural Distribution Act was passed and Port Credit was the first community in Toronto Township to turn in an application for hydro power.



▲ Meadowvale's Main Street (Derry Road West)
(Charles Humber)

On July 5, 1912, the first electricity was supplied. In early 1913, the residents of Cooksville and Clarkson put in applications and soon hydro wires were being installed.

On June 10, 1913, Toronto Township Council took over the operation and signed a contract for power with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. It was then operated by the Commission of Council until June 1, 1917, when the Toronto Township Hydro Electric Commission was established.

By-law 949 was passed on July 1, 1922, authorizing the establishment of Rural Hydro. A contract, that had to be signed by the Toronto Township clerk, John Kennedy, and the property owners, stated that the owners had to pay all charges for their electricity used by Rural Hydro, which was operated by the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for the municipality. The Ontario Hydro instigated a sales promotion to encourage farmers to install electric power and it worked well. Meadowvale was served by an office in Brampton, which



◀ Adam Beck
(Hydro One Archives)

covered the largest area in the Township. The north-easterly section, such as Malton, was handled by the Woodbridge office.

In 1963, the Toronto Township Council requested a Private Bill of the Legislature to amalgamate the southern area and the northern Rural Hydro area into one Hydro Electric System. Streetlights were installed in Meadowvale and Churchville. On December 11, 1963, the Hydro Commissioner and Reeve of Toronto Township, Robert W. Speck, sent letters to the rural consumers welcoming them to the Toronto Township Hydro system, which took effect on January 1, 1964. At midnight December 31, 1963, the street lights were turned on with several Villagers in attendance.

NEWS ITEM

“And out of the darkness came light.” this phrase is so familiar to most of us and this is exactly what happened in the village last week.

The big news, of course, was the advent of street lighting in Meadowvale. On what seemed to be the coldest night of the winter to the few residents who attended the lighting up ceremonies, a Hydro man climbed up a ladder to one of the control switches and within seconds the Meadowvale sideroad was turned into a path of light.

All this took place on New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m. with Councillor Roy McMillan, Deputy Reeve Chic Murray and Hydro Chairman Elmer Wright in attendance. Ian Davidson was present to represent the village.

We returned to the Meadowvale Garage afterwards at the invitation of Syd Buttle to have hot chocolate, which was appreciated by all. He can always be relied upon to donate prizes to any of our local organizations during their fund raising campaigns and his candy counter is a meeting place for all trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

*Meadowvale News column in the Brampton Times and Conservator.
Written by Sheila Funnel, January 8, 1964*



**HYDRO RURAL FAMILY
MORE THAN DOUBLED
SINCE THE WAR**

HYDRO now serves 313,285 rural customers—more than double the 156,000 served at the end of the war—bringing electricity and a better way of living to an additional 157,285 Ontario farm, hamlet and village customers.

At the end of the war there were 21,569 miles of rural lines bringing electricity to the rural areas of Ontario. By September, 1951 the miles of line had increased to 37,235. During this period the horsepower demand in the rural areas showed a remarkable increase. The demand at war's end was 172,351 horsepower. By 1950 it had more than doubled to a total of 316,681 horsepower.

On the farm, Hydro power is a low-cost blood man—helping to produce more at a reduced cost. In the home it makes possible the use of modern electrical appliances which lighten work, save time and make life easier for all. Yes, the coming of Hydro to the farm provides a better way of life for thousands of people in the rural areas of the Province.

**Let Us All Remember Hydro Is Ours..
We Should Use It Wisely**

ONTARIO  **HYDRO**

The Meadowvale Library - 1929

THE MEADOWVALE LIBRARY WAS OFFICIALLY opened on November 1, 1929, by the Meadowvale Women's Institute (MWI) in a small cabin that had



▲ *The First Library*
(Region of Peel Archives)

been moved onto property the MWI rented at the corner of Derry Road West and Mill Lane that was used as a park. The suggestion that the MWI establish a library came from Minerva Castle at a meeting of the group. It was organized by Minerva, who became the first librarian, and MWI president, Helen Beardmore.



Minerva Castle ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

They gathered book contributions from family, friends and MWI members and managed to collect over 2,000. They raised money from various events to stain the exterior and interior of the shed and furnish it with shelves, a desk, chairs and red curtains that brightened up the simple decor. A Franklin stove provided warmth for the cozy abode. They also received grants from the Toronto Township and Peel County Councils.

In the beginning, the Library was only open on Friday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fees to become a member were set at 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children. Miss Margaret Trevorrow, who wrote "*Meadowvale on the Credit*" for the Women's Institute in 1922, was the first paid up member.

In 1944, the Library became a member of the Peel County Library Association for a \$25 annual fee. An extension was put on the building in 1948 and it was rewired and painted and had new shelving added.

Miss Castle retired as librarian in 1952, and Mrs. Ivan Ryman took over the position until 1957. At this time they boasted 88 members.



◀ Librarian
Mrs. Evelyn Rea,
1965

Jane Christie and
Roy K. McMillan,
1968 ▶



▲ Librarian Mrs. Evelyn Rea

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Official opening with Mayor Hazel McCallion, 1984

In December, 1956, the Meadowvale Library was amalgamated with other community libraries to form the Toronto Township Library System. Mrs. William Conklin was the librarian from 1957 to 1960 when Mrs. Evelyn Rea took on the position.

The Library continued at this location until April, 1965, when it was moved to the Meadowvale Public School. It was officially opened

on May 13, 1965, by William Davis, Minister of Education. At this time it was operated jointly by the Toronto Township Library System and the Toronto Township School Board. It was now open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The books were supplied by both Boards. This new venture between these Boards, thought to be the first of its kind in Ontario, did not work out amica-

bly and the Boards dissolved their joint involvement. The Library closed on June 30, 1966, and the Toronto Township Library System's Bookmobile service was utilized under Evelyn's supervision.

A new Library opened in the Meadowvale Community Hall on Second Line West in 1973 with Evelyn continuing on as Librarian. She and her husband, Gordon, had lived in the Village since purchasing one of William Lambe's houses in 1947. She retired on August

25, 1980, after 20 years of service. Gordon passed away in 1991 and Evelyn in 1993 and their home at 1050 Old Derry Road was sold to Jason Holmes in 1994.

A Meadowvale Branch Library, the 12th in the Mississauga Library System, was opened with great fanfare in the Professional Centre at 6855 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle on January 28, 1984, with

Pamela Frick as Librarian. It was a 6,300 square foot (584 m²) facility with over 35,000 books. The two libraries operated simultaneously in the area until the Village Library was closed in 1990.

In 1993, Hannah Von Bulow was the Librarian when the Meadowvale Branch Library was moved to the Meadowvale Town Centre, 6677 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle, where it had a collection of 85,000 items in 1,858

square meters (20,000 square feet). It was closed down in early 2003 for a new ground floor location in the Centre and renovations. The grand reopening took place on May 24th, with Ward 9 Councillor Patricia Saito doing the honours. Director of Library Services, Don Mills, and Mayor Hazel McCallion were in attendance. Kathy Oakleaf has been the Librarian since 2000. The Meadowvale Library has a monthly circulation of 48,000 items.



▲ Meadowvale Library October 21, 2004. L. to R. Harwant Singh, Azmat Saad, Jaqueline Kucera and Joy Davies (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Meadowvale Jingle - 1930



*We come from the town of Meadowvale,
We are a jolly lot.
You cannot name a single thing
That Meadowvale hasn't got.*

*There's a body called the Institute
That are working for a Park
A lovely place for boys and girls
To have a little lark.*

*We have a lovely little Church
And a pastor good and true.
Just bring a friend along next week
And fill an empty pew*

*Miss Yates has a fine Tea Room
And it seems to be a sin
That thru the long wintertime
You never can get in.*



*And if you want to go away
Just jump up on the car
And if you don't like Radials
Just go by the CPR.*

*Our miller is Mr. Brett,
Our grocer Mr. Lambe.
And all we need is a butcher shop
To feed us up on ham.*

*Author unknown
From the Meadowvale Women's
Institute Scrapbooks*



The Village Smitty - 1932

In 1932, Ernie Martin (b.1906, d. 1990) came to Meadowvale and became the Village Blacksmith. He bought the Francis Sibbald residence on Pond Street, one of the workers' homes built by Francis Silverthorn. He and his wife, Ethel (1910-1992), had one son, Howard, born on June 22, 1932.

In the days of the horse and buggy, a blacksmith was a vital part of a community and Meadowvale had had a blacksmith in the village for nearly 100 years. In the 1840s, the local blacksmith shop was located on Lot 10 on the south side of the dusty trail that became Main Street (Derry Road) in 1856. George Bell was the first blacksmith in the village. He worked his trade along with his hotel business, and others followed. In 1867, Michael Clipsum did the work required in this capacity.



▲ Martin Residence (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Ernie and Howard Martin, 1985
(Region of Peel Archives)

FROM 1871 TO 1873, IT WAS THOMAS ELLIOTT. IN 1888, John D. Orr operated a blacksmith shop on Lot 10 until 1915. At the turn of the century, Albert E. Rowcliffe, who came from Alton, Ontario, was working his blacksmith shop also on Lot 10 on property that he had purchased in 1897 from Mary Graham for \$110. In 1902, Mary Graham took the property back for non payment and sold it to Albert Lambe.

In 1900, Ernie Martin had come to Canada at age six with his parents, James and Flora Martin, and siblings to live in the City of Toronto. There had been over 300 years of blacksmiths in his family and so, his father, who had been a certified blacksmith in England, set up shop at Runnymede Road and Dundas Street, charging \$20 for shoeing a horse.

At age 12, Ernie was taught the blacksmith trade. His brother, William, started a Smitty in Malton and Ernie came to Meadowvale. Ernie operated out of an old building behind the former Laidlaw Hotel. At this time, he began to shoe the local farmers horses and repair their harrows and other farm equipment. Then in 1937, he built a shop on the end of his property that faced onto Second Line West.

When farming in the area began to decline after World War II,



▲ Howard Martin
(Region of Peel Archives)

1945, he had to turn his talents to ornamental iron work. He would also convert wagon wheels to rubber tired wheels. He continued to make shoes for the horses used by the Brampton Dairies, but they put them on the horses.

In 1958, he was written up in the *Brampton Conservator* by Flo Haw and she started

the article off with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *The Village Blacksmith*, written October 5, 1839:

*Under the spreading chestnut-tree
The Village Smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man he is,
With large and sinewy hands;
And muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.*

*His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns what'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.*

*Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.*

*Children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing floor.*

*Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.*

Ernie's son, Howard, joined him in the business and became quite a master at the trade. In 1970, they became carriage makers and started the Meadowvale Carriage Works on Pond Street at the suggestion of John Perri, who operated Perri Farms on Second Line West at Britannia Road. Perri had a successful business called Antique Horse Drawn Carriages and sold and rented old-carriages. He mostly operated through tourism in Toronto and the Royal Winter Fair doing show demonstrations. The Martins took his advise and it turned out to be a lucrative operation through John Perri Sales. Ernie retired in 1971 and Howard carried on. Howard did not use blueprints for constructing carriages. He took an old carriage apart, studied how it was made and learned from that, then as his expertise matured, he was able to build his own designs.

The first carriage he ventured to make was a single-seat buggy. Everything on his carriages, from the steel frames to the woodworking were all done by hand. He purchased springs ready made and bought the wheels from the Mennonites in Elmira. He sent the carriage away to have the upholstery and painting done. It took nearly a month to make a carriage. A Waggonette Break could take up to three months.

There had been a wagon shop in the Village in 1848, which was located on Water Street (Willow Lane) where the Gooderham/Southern's house was later built. So history repeats itself in the Martins' shop, which is still in existence on Second Line West and is used as a storage shed. Howard Martin resided in the village with his wife, Joyce, at his father's former residence, 7079 Pond Street, until October, 2003. The former Silverthorn worker's house is now owned by Tony and Siobhan Kirkolic.



Martin's Blacksmith Shop
▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

◀ Orr's Blacksmith Shop, 1900
(Mississauga Library System)



◀ Martin's Blacksmith Shop, 2002
(James Holmes)





Martin's Wagonettes and carriages (Howard Martin)

Red Cross Branch - 1940

DURING WORLD WAR II (1939-1945), A BRANCH of the Red Cross was organized in Meadowvale. Thirty ladies were involved. The convener was Miss Minerva Castle, who was assisted by Mrs. Carl Jensen. By War's end, the group had knit 568 pairs of socks, 80 turtleneck sweaters and over 1,000 other items such as gloves and scarves. They worked on hospital supplies, rolling bandages etc. that were sent to the Toronto Township Red Cross headquarters. The first headquarters of the Red Cross in Toronto Township was located in Lakeview, which was founded in 1935.

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A cushion and handmade quilt were donated to the cause and a draw was implemented as a fund raiser. Wool was donated for the knitting projects and gloves were made to be used as draw prizes.

The ladies held euchre nights to raise money for their war effort. Strawberry jam was made and included in parcels for the men in Europe. It could not be determined how long this branch functioned, but knowing the efforts of Minerva Castle, probably until her death in 1976.

All meetings for the Branches were held in the Red House on the Lake Shore Road. Today, head office of the Region of Peel Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society is at 5700 Cancross Court.



▲ Welfare Convenor, 1964 (Peel Branch of the Red Cross)

The War Honor Roll 1861 - 1945

The Honor Roll for Meadowvale was compiled in 1973 by Louise Southern. It goes like this: Reverend J.R. Black and Robert Golden as participants in the Civil War (1861-65); Major General Lessard and William Philpott, Boer War (1899-1901); W.W.I. (1914-18), Robert D. Andrews as Killed in Action (He was a private in the 75th Battalion and he died at Valenciennes, France. A memorial tablet was placed for him in the school in his honour. He is the only one of the men, who went into this War from Meadowvale, who lies buried in the fields of France.) and 22 names of men who participated, some of which are, George H. Gooderham and Thomas W. Reeve; W.W.II (1939-45) 23 men listed, such as Roy Pearson Brett, Robert Elliott, Luther P. Emerson and John Prebble. Killed in Action, George Guthrie, Alfred Ives, William Reed and Charles David Thompson.

During the two World Wars, the Meadowvale Women's Institute sent parcels to the boys overseas and when they returned, they held a welcome home party in the Community Hall.

The Prebble/Logan Residence - 1941

George and Marguerite Prebble bought this house on Village Lot 83 on September 1, 1941, from William Trevorrow's daughter Jane's estate. George designed and built very impressive bridges that could be raised and lowered to provide a pedestrian walkway across the small stream in front of his house. At Halloween, the teenage boys would push the bridge over and the next day come and reassemble it. The third bridge was washed away during the flood of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 and he put up a fourth. He died in October, 1965, and Estelle Prebble sold the house to Lorne and Sandra Heslip in 1969, who sold a year later to Clayton Peterson. Then it came into the possession of William and Mary Moorehead in June, 1972, and John (Mike) and Ruth Logan purchased it on October 3rd. They still reside there, 1155 Willow Lane.



▲ The Prebble/Logan House
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ House overlooking the fourth bridge (Region of Peel Archives)

Snowstorm - 1942

THE BLIZZARD OF THE WINTER OF 1942 immobilized the people of Peel County. That first fateful night in February, George Preston helped his pregnant wife into their sleigh and headed towards Hurontario Street and the Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton.



▲ Mr. & Mrs. George Preston with baby Peggy Marie, 1942

The road was impassable, the drifts high and the wind was blowing furiously as George encouraged his horses to surmount the tremendous height of the snow. When the horses could not buck the drifts, he knew they were not going to get to the Hospital in time to meet the stork, so he pulled in at the Derry West farmhouse of Charles Beamish.



Nurses Miss Helen Cole and Mrs. Barbara White Kee



◀ Peggy Marie turns one

As it turned out, miraculously enough, two nurses had also come in out of the storm, Helen Cole and newlywed, Barbara Kee. Mrs. David Thompson was visiting the Beamishes and she, too, was a nurse. One would have been enough, but three was overwhelming.

They all assisted in the birth of Peggy Marie Preston on February 8, 1942.

Peggy grew up being told of her auspicious birth that treacherous winter night. She became Peggy Marie Borer in 1964 and the Prestons eventually moved to North Bay.



Snowstorm of 1942



(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)

The McKee Family - 1946

George Samuel McKee and his wife, Irene, came to the Village of Meadowvale on May 1, 1946, with their six months old daughter, Lynn. They purchased Lots 10 and 11 of the Village plan, on Second Line West, from Mabel and Wilfred Archer, who had bought the property in 1942 from George Gooderham, the son of George Gooderham, who had resided there when he died in 1912. The McKees took up residency in the Archer house and settled into their new community.



▲ The McKee House
(Irene McKee)



▲ George McKee
(Irene McKee)

George was the son of John and Elizabeth Copeland McKee of Dundalk, Ontario. In September, 1940, at age 20, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and received his training at No. 1 Wireless School in Montreal and Bombing and Gunnery School, Jarvis, Ontario. He graduated as the rank of Sergeant as a Wireless Air Gunner. In July, 1941, with the war raging in Europe, he was sent overseas to England. In January, 1942, he went on the S.S. Burma, via Capetown and spent some time in Nanyuki, Kenya, for operational training, before being sent to Egypt. During the voyage, the ship was

struck by a torpedo that fortunately did not explode.

He then took up active duty in Egypt with the 148 RAF Squadron and was based at Benghazi, North Africa. Many war experiences, such as raids on Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and sowing mines in the Danube River, prevailed. After 307 hours of flying time, he was hospitalized in England for nervous exhaustion and then sent home in July, 1944, with impaired health. He was discharged from the RCAF on December 4, 1944, with exemplary service.

George McKee and Irene Wilson had met in Grade 11 at the Dundalk High School in 1937. When they got married on October 14, 1944, they resided in Toronto and then they took up residence in Malton, where George worked as an Air Traffic controller at Malton Airport (now the Lester B. Pearson International Airport). Then they moved to Meadowvale. They had Karen in 1948 and Eloise, 1951. Their three daughters would bless them with eight grandchildren.



▲ McKee Family (Irene McKee)



▲ Lynn, Irene, George, Eloise and Karen McKee, 1984
(Irene McKee)

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▲ McKee/MacLean House, 2002 (James Holmes)

The McKees were members of the Meadowvale United Church. In 1947, George became a member of the Streetsville Legion, Branch #139, which he remained for the rest of his life. Irene was employed as first secretary at the Meadowvale Public School from 1962 to 1976. She was a member of the Meadowvale Women's Institute and was a secretary-treasurer for the Peel District Women's Institute for four years. George was on the executive of the Meadowvale Village Association when it was formed in 1969. He retired from Civil Service in 1983.

After 46 years in the Village, George died in the Credit Valley Hospital on Saturday, July 18, 1992, age 72. In 1999, Irene sold their home at 7050 Second Line West to Michael and Tracy MacLean, and moved to a condo in Brampton. The MacLeans still reside in the heritage house, built by the Gooderhams in the 1870s.

Memories

"When George's cousin, Alex Copeland, who lived in Meadowvale, returned from overseas, George went to visit him. He saw that the house across the road was for sale so we bought it. Our house was on 2/5ths of an acre and there were no houses on the north side of us, just Ernie Martin's blacksmith shop. On the south side lived Miss Edythe Barber. Her house was originally the first school house and it was destroyed by fire in 1974, leaving only the basement. In 1991, Ray Carruthers removed the remains of the basement and built a new house there and he and his wife, Phyllis, still live there. In those early days, the Village had an open, friendly feeling and we walked everywhere, especially to the Post Office or to Syd Buttle's Garage. George would take the children down to swim in the Credit River. Everyone knew everybody in the Village. Eight of the women formed a club where we played cards once a week in each other's homes - first canasta, then it turned into a two-table euchre club. Lots of fun!"

Irene McKee, 2002