



**Arlington Hotel, Sarnia, Ontario. Image courtesy of Lambton County Archives.**

### Lambton County Branch OGS

Mailing Address: Lambton County Branch O.G.S., 787 Broadway St., P.O. Box 3100, Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

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We have moved to webinars for our monthly presentations. Unless otherwise noted they start at 7:00 p.m. EST. In person workshops may be held at the Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints Church, 1400 Murphy Road, Sarnia. You must be a member of OGS in order to become a Branch member. Contact OGS at: Ontario Genealogical Society, 202-2100 Steeles Ave. W., Concord, ON K4K 2V1 or go to the website at <https://ogs.on.ca> The Branch Library is located in the **Lambton County Archives** at the Lambton County Library Headquarters, Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0.

### Lambton County Archives

**Phone** 519-845-5426, Toll free [1-866-324-6912](tel:1-866-324-6912).

**Email:** [archives@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:archives@county-lambton.on.ca) **Hours:** Wednesday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Friday/Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The archives is closed on holiday weekends. **Note: You are advised to contact the Archives in advance to confirm hours and access to equipment. Early contact will allow the archivist to be more prepared for your visit. You can book an appointment on the website <https://www.lambtonmuseums.ca/en/lambton-county-archives/lambton-county-archives.aspx>**

### Publications

See the Branch website for a listing of our publications. Please go to Marketplace on the Ontario Ancestors website to order paper or electronic copies of Lambton County Branch publications. For single pages from a Branch book contact the Branch.

### Branch Resources Search

We have the capability to search most of our publications electronically by surname, given name(s) and surname, geographical place names, and organization names, plus other potential search phrases. Contact [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca) if you are interested. A list of all the “hits” can be generated and sent to you. You would then contact [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca) for copies or if you are a member take the information to the Members’ Resources section of our website to do the rest of the search yourself. Costs may apply.

### Research

Research advice is free. Our researchers do simple record finding free of charge if we can send a pdf or jpg of the record so no costs are incurred. If you wish to request extensive research, please contact us at [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca) for cost information. Please note that the first hour of research, once per annum, is free for members of our Branch.

### Lambton Lifeline

Lambton Lifeline is a quarterly publication of the LCBOGS issued for the months March, June, September and December. Neither the editor nor LCBOGS are responsible for errors of fact, nor the opinions expressed by contributors to Lifeline. **Other publications which wish to copy any material in the Lifeline, are asked to request permission of the author and Lambton County Branch prior to use. © 2022**

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## From Your Newsletter Editor

### Alan Campbell

If you have feedback about this issue or suggestions for article topics, you can reach me at [lambtonnewsletters@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambtonnewsletters@ogs.on.ca) . Please note that this issue is shorter than usual due to a lack of submissions.

## In Memoriam

### George Pitfield

Lambton County Branch Council extends condolences to the family of George Pitfield who died March 7, 2025. George was vice chair of the Branch 2004-2005, chair 2006-2007, past chair 2008-2009. When George stepped out of the role of chair, he became the First Nations research contact for our Branch, a role which he held until 2021. Anyone who was in the audience when he gave his presentation about Going to Bed White, Waking Up Indian, will remember him well. See his memorial at this link.

<https://smithfuneralhome.ca/memorial/wilbert-george-pitfield-aajjaak-0>

### Bonnie (McFalls) Lester

Lambton County Branch Council extends condolences to the family of Bonnie Lester who died April 6, 2025. Bonnie was a long time member of the Branch. Her expertise among other skills lay in being able to explain how to find records for Lambton County area people before Lambton County came into being. See the memorial at this link.

<https://www.steadmanbrothers.ca/obituaries/lester-bonnie/>

## We Want You! – Actually, We Want Your Skills

There are many tasks to do at our Branch -indexing, cemetery transcription retyping, and cemetery recording and cleaning to mention a few. Do you enjoy reading old Lambton County newspapers? The editor would appreciate “donations” of transcriptions of interesting articles, obituaries, marriages and the like. We are seeking a volunteer to take on the membership role on our Council. This is a job that could be done by a distance member and does not require you beat the bushes for members. Other tasks can be done by people who live outside Lambton County as well via the Internet. Contact us at [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca) if you want to know more. We meet via Teams for Branch Council meetings to save the wear and tear on our bodies and our vehicles!

## The Sarnia Familysearch Center

Address: Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints Church at 1400 Murphy Road, Sarnia

The Familysearch Center hours are: Tuesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Wednesday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. At present it is not usually busy but if you are coming from a distance, I would suggest that you call (519) 451-1000 to make an appointment.

## Information About the Collections of Lambton Museums

Please see issues of *Lambton Lifeline* from 2022 for information about collections held by the Plympton-Wyoming Museum, the Forest Museum, Lambton Heritage Museum and the Oil Museum of Canada. See the article about Sombra Museum in the June 2023 issue of *Lifeline*. Note: Members of Lambton County Branch can access previous newsletters in the Members’ Resources section of our Branch website.

## Websites, Blog Posts and Magazine Articles

### Digital Archive to Collect Century-Old Antislavery Print Material

Black history is going to be collected in Chatham-Kent to create a digital archive.

<https://ckxsfm.com/digital-archive-to-collect-century-old-antislavery-print-material/>

**Soldier magazine on-line archive UK**

This is the site for researchers interested in the army of the United Kingdom. Note the disclaimer on the landing page.

<https://soldier.army.mod.uk/archive>

**Map of Typhoid Cases in Lambton County in 1911 by McLean, A. A.**

[https://archive.org/details/3586\\_SWODA](https://archive.org/details/3586_SWODA)

**Newspaper Research for Grand Rapids, Michigan**

<https://digital.grpl.org/>

**Genealogy for Australians [and others]**

<https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/>

**Roots to Rebellion -Pickering Museum Village**

<https://www.rootstorebellion.com/roots-to-rebellion>

I found this website while visiting tourism websites. This website gives an overview of Loyalists, Black history and the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion.

**Uncover the Past: Exploring the Canadian Census (1825-1931)**

This YouTube video from Allen County Public Library gives a good overview of censuses of Canada.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAXtmr2IxmE>

**Isabella (Johnston) MacMillan****Alan Campbell**

I enjoy finding stories about women who stand out because of their initiative and drive. Isabella was one of these women:

**“Enniskillen Pioneer Dies**

The late Mrs. MacMillan (nee Isabella Johnston) who died in Petrolia hospital April 1st, 1918, was born in Johnston Parish, Dumfries, Scotland in 1845. She was one of the pioneers in the eastern part of the township of Enniskillen, her father having purchased the Johnston homestead, Lot 21, Con 8, of that township in 1856. A few years later she with the rest of the family moved to what was then the wilderness of Enniskillen, two miles east of the Enniskillen town hall. Other families settling in the neighbourhood soon afterwards, a school house was built on the corner of the old homestead and the deceased having obtained a teacher's certificate from the Sarnia Board of Examiners, was engaged as the first teacher of the school. She taught there for two years when she resigned to attend the Toronto Normal School, after which she continued doing efficient work as a teacher chiefly in the county of Lambton, for nearly twenty years.

Shortly after the death of her father she purchased the old homestead, and giving up teaching, she turned her attention to farming operations. Soon after this she married Mr. Archibald MacMillan who survives her. Besides her husband she leaves to mourn her loss three sisters and one brother, Mrs. George Wilson of the eighth line of Enniskillen; Mrs. Henry Shaw of Moore Township; Mrs. Jas. Parks of the sixth line, Enniskillen, and John Johnston, principal of the southern division of the Sarnia Public Schools.

The funeral was held from the old homestead to Hillsdale cemetery on Wednesday April 3rd, and was largely attended by friends and relatives.”<sup>1</sup>

As noted in her obituary, Isabella was not the only educator in the family. According to the 1871 Canada Census for Enniskillen Township, her sister Margaret’s occupation was “school mistress.”<sup>2</sup>

John Johnston, Isabella’s father, died March 9, 1887 due to apoplexy at the age of 73.<sup>3</sup> His son John Johnston, identified as a “school teacher” was the informant.

Abstract Parcel Register Book entries for lot 21, concession 8, recorded the sale of the E ½ W ½ 50 acres to Isabella February 22, 1890 for \$850.<sup>4</sup> Another 100 acres of the W ½ went to Isabella from Mary Johnston by agreement for \$1.00 and considerations.<sup>5</sup> The same day as the agreement was made, Francis G. Johnston sold the W ½ W ½ 50 acres to Isabella for \$550.<sup>6</sup>

Isabella married William Archibald McMillan, son of Robert and Mary Ann (Singleton) McMillan, December 4, 1895 at Petrolia.<sup>7</sup> Her parents were identified as John Johnston and Mary Little. At the age of 45, would she have had difficulty adjusting to married life?

According to her death registration, Isabella suffered from bronchitis the last two years of her life.<sup>8</sup> Not a good way to end an industrious life.

## Mothers

A call for stories about mothers in the May 2025 E-Update to Members brought a response. The following story was submitted by Linda Koolen.

### Thelma (Wight) Edwards

Thelma Irene Wight was born on the first day of spring, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1928, along with her identical twin sister, Velma Eileen, to parents, Roland and Verna Wight. They had an older sister, Doris, and a brother Frank.

From photos we’ve seen they were often dressed alike. Thelma and Velma started school at S.S. #2 Bosanquet which was up the hill from their farm. Thelma spoke fondly of school memories of her teachers and schoolmates.

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<sup>1</sup> Enniskillen Pioneer Dies, *Petrolia Advertiser Topic*, 4 April 1918, accessed on microfilm at the Lambton County Archives, Wyoming, Ontario.

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Johnston entry, 1871 Canada Census, Ontario, District 4, Lambton, SD Enniskillen, Div. No. 1, p. 11, line 3, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 19 April 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Death registration for John Johnson, Ontario, Lambton County, Enniskillen Township, 1887, reg. no. 8221, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 19 April 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Instrument no. 17852, B&S, dated 22 February 1890, Township of Enniskillen, lot 21, concession 8, Abstract Parcel Register Book W downloaded from ONland 19 April 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Instrument no. 19169, Agreement, dated 13 April 1892, Township of Enniskillen, lot 21, concession 8, Abstract Parcel Register Book Y downloaded from ONland 19 April 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Instrument no. 19175, B&S, dated 13 April 1892 Township of Enniskillen, lot 21, concession 8, Abstract Parcel Register Book Y downloaded from ONland 19 April 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Marriage registration for Isabella Johnston and William Archibald MacMillan, Ontario, Lambton County, Petrolia, 1895, reg. no. 6707, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 19 April 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Death registration for Isabella Johnston, Ontario, Lambton County, Petrolia, 1918, reg. no. 22178, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 19 April 2025.

The November when they were seven Velma died in a tragic accident in the barn. It must have been a very sad time for the family and community.

Thelma took piano lessons and played piano all her life in her community and church and for her own enjoyment.

She went to high school in Thedford which meant a long walk. In warm weather she rode her bicycle and claimed, to her family, that she could ride round those curves into Thedford without touching the handlebars. In the summers she worked in the bog in the black dirt hoeing and pulling onions.

She attended church and Young Peoples at Thedford United Church and sang in the choir.

After high school Thelma worked in Monkhouse's general store. The stock was kept behind the counter so the clerk gathered the items, then everything was added up on paper with a pencil so she was quick with a column of numbers. She never did totally trust an adding machine in later years and would often add numbers herself to double check.

Thelma met Gerald Edwards at a neighbour's birthday party. They were married on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1947 at the Thedford United Church manse and had a reception at her parents' home. Thelma lived almost all her life at R.R.2 Thedford, moving just a few miles south on the same road after her marriage.

Gerald and Thelma had four children – Linda, Allan, Lois and Joy. They lived on a mixed farm where there were milk cows, calves, pigs and chickens. There were chores to do. Her children remember Thelma often sang as she worked around the house. She was at home when they arrived home from their school day.

Gerald and Thelma were partners in the seed corn and cedar post business. Spring planting season was a very busy time at the Edwards farm.

Being farmers meant there weren't many opportunities for holidays. In later years they took a trip each winter for a week or so with other seed corn representatives to places like Jamaica, Portugal and Hawaii.

Family, education and church were important values they passed on to their children. They enjoyed their grandchildren and loved to have the family get together at the farm.

Thelma cooked a lot of meals. She helped to plan and prepare many meals and lunches with the United Church Women in Arkona. That was a social outing as well as being work to support the church. She represented Arkona at the Lambton Presbyterial and held offices at that level as well.

Her cats had a special spot in her life. They needed her care and were her friends. She also fed the hummingbirds which came to the feeder outside her kitchen window. They provided a lot of entertainment.

## Mandaumim

A station and post office on the C.N.R., seven miles from Sarnia, opened at the time of the building of above named road [Mandaumin]. The story of the naming of this place is interesting, The Government requested Malcolm Cameron, then Representative of this district, to name the post office. He gave it the name of Radcliffe, probably after an Anglican missionary labouring in this section. This locality was, even in those days, fairly settled, and the settlement objected to the name as given, calling a meeting at which Mr. Cameron was present. Some re-arrangement of political lines was in progress at headquarters.



Mr. Cameron had been cartooned as a “coon” up a tree looking which side to come down. The name “stuck” and he was referred to as “Coon Cameron” for years. He took the nickname jocularly and at this meeting agreed to change the name, saying “we will give the coon something to eat, we will give the name Mandaumin,” which is the Indian for corn or maize. The name was adopted.<sup>9</sup>

## Mandaumin 1884

Incorrectly named as Mandamin, business owning residents of the village and ministers were recorded in the *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory 1884-5*:

“A village on the S br GW div G T Ry, in Plympton township, Lambton County, 10 miles east of Sarnia, the county seat, and 6 west of Wyoming, the nearest bank location. Settled in 1840. It contains Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches and a public school, and ships crude oil, live stock and produce.

Population, 100. Express American. J G Finch, postmaster.

Cunningham Rev R M (Baptist)

Donald J B, wood dealer.

Donald Thomas, live stock.

Finch Judson G, General Store, Express and Ry Agent.

Graham George, blacksmith.

McDonald Ronald, shoemkr

McGinnis John, carpenter.

McLintock Rev John W (Presbyterian).”<sup>10</sup>

**Editor’s Notes:** I have left the punctuation as it was in the original entry. S br GW div GT Ry = south branch of the Great Western division of the Grand Trunk Railway.

## How Accurate is an Obituary?

### Alan Campbell

Obituaries can be wonderful sources of information. Verifying the information is a must as children can be left out, surname spellings can be incorrect and dates can be incorrect. I checked this obituary for accuracy:

“The Late John Miskell

On Thursday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, there passed away at his late residence lot 6, con. 8, Moore Tp., John Miskell, aged 75 years.

Mr. Miskell was born near Toronto but came to this country with his wife (Janet Dick) nearly half a century ago, residing in Enniskillen Township for several years. The latter predeceased him twenty-seven years ago, a short time after he had purchased the present farm, which was then known as the “Wilkie” and “Rainsberry” farms. This is now one of the most up-to-date and comfortable farms in this neighbourhood.

Deceased is survived by a highly respected family of four sons and one daughter- Andrew, of Buffalo; William of Saskatchewan; Alex, Howard and Margaret at home.

Few men had a wider acquaintance throughout the country and large numbers of these old friends and acquaintances followed the remains to their last resting place beside those of his wife in Bear Creek cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. McEachren, owing to the illness of Rev. Mr. Richardson of Bear Creek Presbyterian church.

<sup>9</sup> Mandaumin entry, A. J. Johnston, compiler, *Lambton County Names and Places* (Lambton County Council, Publishers, 1925), p. 37. Copy held by *Lambton Lifeline* editor.

<sup>10</sup> Mandamin entry, *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory 1884-5* (Toronto: R. L. Polk & Co., 1884), p. 526, downloaded from [https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8\\_00291\\_1/605](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_00291_1/605) 18 May 2025.

The pallbearers were A. Bruce, J. Duncan, M. Shaw, C. Pratt, H. Morrison and H. King. In politics, Mr. Miskell was a staunch Liberal.”<sup>11</sup>

According to John’s death record, he died October 26, 1916, an easy date to have correct for the obituary.<sup>12</sup> His father’s name was recorded as John Miskell and his place of birth as Bolton, Peel County. Bolton is near Toronto, definitely nearer than Moore Township is.

John married Janett Dick, daughter of Alexander and Janett, at Albion Township, March 13, 1866.<sup>13</sup> The ceremony was performed by Joseph Wheeler, a minister of the Congregational Church. John’s parents were identified as John and Mary Miskill. Both John and Janett were recorded as having been born in Albion Township.

The 1871 Canada Census places the family in Enniskillen Township.<sup>14</sup> The family was composed of John, 26, laborer, born Ireland; Jennet, age 23, born Ontario; Andrew, age 4, born Ontario; Jennet age 3, born Ontario and Alexander, age 8 months, born August. The 1881 Canada Census also places the family in Enniskillen Township.<sup>15</sup> The family was composed of John, 39, born Ontario; Jennett, 33; Andrew D., 14; Jennett A., 12; Alexander, 10; William M., 4; and Maggie M.E., 4 months, born June.

The earliest Township of Moore assessment roll found to date was for 1887.<sup>16</sup> At that time John was listed as a freeholder on the E ½ of lot 6, concession 8, with 45 of 100 acres cleared. The 1891 Canada Census captured a much larger family; John, age 49, widow, farmer; Andrew, age 24, farmer; Jessie, age 22; Alexander, age 20, farmer; William, age 14; Maggie, age 10, Franklin, age 6; and Howard, age 1.<sup>17</sup>

John’s wife Janet died December 9, 1889 at Moore Township.<sup>18</sup> The cause of death was dropsy and heart disease. Her son Andrew registered her death using her maiden name, Dick. This date of death mirrors that of her husband’s obituary.

Daughter Janet A. Miskill died October 6, 1893, due to consumption. John Franklin Miskill died by his own hand February 23, 1912 at lot 6, concession 8, Moore Township.<sup>19</sup> Information supplied by his brother Alexander gave Bolton as their mother’s birth place. These deaths indicate that the list of surviving children in the obituary is accurate.

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<sup>11</sup> *The Observer*, 24 November 1916, p. 6, accessed on microfilm at the Lambton County Archives, Wyoming, Ontario.

<sup>12</sup> Death registration for John Miskill, Ontario, Lambton County, Moore Township, 1916, reg. no. 18529, p. 150, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>13</sup> Marriage registration for John Miskill and Janett Dick, Peel County, Vol. 53, 1858-1869, downloaded from [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) 18 April 2025.

<sup>14</sup> John Miskill household, 1871 Canada Census, Ontario, Lambton County, Enniskillen Township; p. 52, lines 2-6, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>15</sup> John Miskill household, 1881 Canada Census, Ontario, SD Township of Enniskillen, p.84, lines 11-18, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>16</sup> John Miskill entry, *Assessment Roll for the Municipality of the Township of Moore*, p. 27, no 497, downloaded from [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) 18 April 2025.

<sup>17</sup> John Miskell household, 1891 Canada Census, Ontario, District 82, West Lambton, SD b, Moore Township, Division 4, p. 26, lines 9-16, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>18</sup> Death registration for Janet Dick, Ontario, Lambton County, Moore Township, 1889, reg. no. 8703, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>19</sup> Death registration for John Franklin Miskill, Ontario, Lambton County, Moore Township, 1912, reg. no. 17393, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.



The marriage of Margaret Miskill to John Nesbit, at Burns Manse, Sarnia Township, March 13, 1918 produced a registration that includes the information that her brother Andrew Miskell was a witness and lived at 188 South Division Street, Buffalo, New York.<sup>20</sup>

In the case of this obituary, it would appear that the author(s) knew the family or had “grilled” the family for accurate facts.

### Hotels of Sarnia and Point Edward 1909-1911

Sarnia was “blessed” with hotels at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The following hotels were listed in the *Sarnia and Point Edward Directory for 1909-10*:<sup>21</sup>

**Arlington Hotel** 132 Front Street south

**Belchamber Hotel** 176 Front Street north

**Chapman House** 197 Christian Street north

**Colonial Hotel** 156 Christian Street north

Exchange Hotel 176 Victoria Street north

Hotel Northern 210 Christian Street north

**Hotel Vendome** corner of Front Street and Cromwell Street

Mansion House 126 Green

**St. Clair House** 112 Front Street north

**Western Hotel** 234 Front Street north

The Balmoral Hotel south side Michigan Avenue at 4 east Livingston, Point Edward

Queen’s Hotel north east corner Michigan Avenue and Livingston, Point Edward

The bolded hotel names are as they were in the directory. Presumably they had paid more to have their name advertised more prominently. The owners or management of the Belchamber Hotel, the Colonial Hotel, the St. Clair House, and the Western Hotel paid more to have additional advertisements.

The *Sarnia and Point Edward Directory for 1911* list of hotels had not changed much:

**Arlington Hotel** 132 Front Street

**Balmoral Hotel** south side of Michigan Avenue at 4 east Livingston, Point Edward

**Belchamber Hotel** 176 Front Street north

Chapman House 197 Christina north

**Colonial Hotel** 156 Christina Street north

**Exchange Hotel** Jos Ellison Prop 176 Victoria north

**Hotel Northern** 210 Christina Street north

**Mansion House** 126 Green Street

Northern Hotel 210 Christina north

**St. Clair Hotel** 122 Front Street north

**Vendome Hotel** corner Front Street and Cromwell Street

**Western Hotel** 234 Front Street north

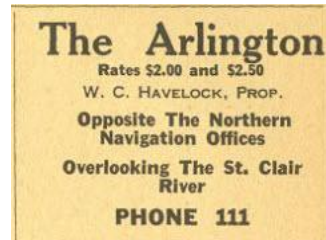
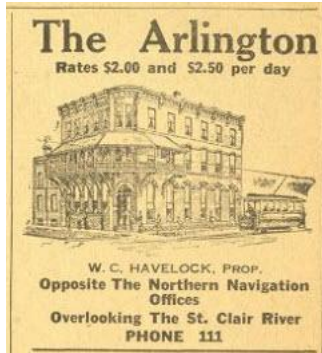
**Queen’s Hotel** north east corner Michigan Avenue and Livingston, Point Edward<sup>22</sup>

The owners or managers of the Balmoral Hotel, the Belchamber Hotel, the Colonial Hotel, the Exchange Hotel, the Mansion House, the St. Clair Hotel, the Vendome Hotel, the Western Hotel and the Queen’s Hotel had advertisements in the directory as well.

<sup>20</sup> Marriage registration for John Nesbitt and Margaret Miskill, Ontario, Lambton County, Sarnia Township, 1918, reg. no. 11489, downloaded from [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) 18 April 2025.

<sup>21</sup> *Sarnia and Point Edward Directory 1909-10* (Ingersoll: Union Publishing Company of Ingersoll, Publishers, 1901), p. 206, print copy accessed at the Lambton County Archives, 13 March 2025.

<sup>22</sup> *Sarnia and Point Edward Directory 1911* (Ingersoll: Union Publishing Company of Ingersoll, Publishers, 1911), p. 223-224, accessed in print at the Lambton County Archives, 13 March 2025.



Two types of ads found in *Vernon's City of Sarnia and Pt. Edward, street, alphabetical and miscellaneous directory 1916-17*, p. 67 and 59 respectively. Note the price of a room in 1916.

**OIL FIELD HISTORY... IN ACTION.**



**Petrolia Discovery**

1860s Working Oil Field Historic Site

**4281 Discovery Line, PETROLIA**  
PLEASE USE ENTRANCE OFF PETROLIA LINE  
THROUGH BRIDGEVIEW PARK NORTH.

**519-882-0897** [www.PetroliaDiscovery.org](http://www.PetroliaDiscovery.org)

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JUNE: Sat and Sun 10-4  
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## Rutherford

Known also as Dawn Centre, is a village in Dawn township, Lambton County, 30 miles south-east of Sarnia, the county seat, and 7 north-east of Dresden on the E & H Ry, its nearest railway and banking point. It contains Methodist and Presbyterian churches and a public school, and ships grain, cordwood, ties, stave bolts and hoops. Population, 70. Mail tri-weekly to Florence, 6 miles west. Hiram N Roberts, postmaster.

Atwel & Barnes (Wm Atwel, Samuel Barnes), shingle mill.

Dawson Wm, Blacksmith.

Graham & Johnson (Matthew Graham, James A Johnston), saw mill.

Mann Hugh C, shoemkr.

Moreland Wm J, hotel.

Roberts Hiram N, General Store.

Singleton Richard, livestock.

Tims George, saw mill.

Tims Thomas H, general store.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, p. 224.

<sup>24</sup> Rutherford entry, *Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory 1884-5* (Toronto: R. L. Polk & Co., 1884), p. 768, downloaded from [https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8\\_00291\\_1/849](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_00291_1/849) 18 May 2025.

## Educational Events

### Lambton County Branch 2025

**Lambton County Branch of Ontario Ancestors**  
*Meetings are free and open to the public-all welcome.*

**Tuesday June 3, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.**

**New 2024 Family Tree Maker  
with Mark Olsen**

Mark Olsen has been the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world since 2016. Join us as Mark shows us the new 2024 Family Tree Maker, how to use it & the many things it can do.

ON-LINE ONLY  
 Register for Zoom Meeting at  
[lambton.ogs.on.ca](https://lambton.ogs.on.ca)  
 or email [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca) for a link





**Drop In  
& Chat**

with members of  
**Lambton County Branch  
 of Ontario Ancestors**

- Working on your Lambton County Genealogy?
- Have questions about researching your Lambton ancestors?
- All Welcome
- Informal sessions
- Learn what resources are available.
- Get help with your "brick wall".
- Share ideas.

Join Us...Monday June 30, 2025  
 2pm-3:30pm  
 For a link visit [lambton.ogs.on.ca](https://lambton.ogs.on.ca)  
 or email [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca)





### Kent County Branch

Join us for a visit to the **FamilySearch Centre** on June 4, 2025 from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. The volunteers at the centre will give us a tour of the centre and the resources available to researchers. The centre is located within the Latter-day Saints Church at 23 Detroit Drive, Chatham. Everyone is welcome to join us.

### Deadlines for Submissions for Publishing in Lambton Lifeline Issues for 2025

August 10, 2025	September 2025 issue
November 10, 2025	December 2025 issue

### From The Sarnia Canadian Observer, Tuesday, November 8, 1938

#### Firemen Elect Two New Officers

Annual Department Ball is Planned for December 2  
 Petrolia, Nov. 8 –(Special to The Canadian Observer)

Under the direction of Fire Chief Walter R. McDonald, the members of the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Brigade held their annual election of officers last evening. Deputy Reeve John R. Blake, chairman of the fire, water and light committee of the town council, was also present.

Succeeding Frank Gaunt Jr. as captain, George Ward was elected to the office. The position of secretary-treasurer, was taken by Blake O'dell, one of the newer members of the brigade. Mr. O'dell succeeds Harry Bain. Plans were completed for the annual Firemen's Ball, which will be held in the auditorium of Victoria Hall, on Friday evening, December 2. Committees were chosen to make arrangements.

Members of the Petrolia Brigade at the present time are, chief, Walter R. McDonald; assistant chief, Elmer Clifford; firemen, George Ward, Blake O'dell, Russell Kerr, Norman S. Jackson, J. Laverne Williams, Paul Bentein, Frank Gaunt Jr., Frank Bartlett, William J. Smith, John Ward, Edward Zimmerman, Joseph Tobin, George Jackson, Stanley Morrison, Albert Sulston, William J. Knapp, Henry Gillespie and Harry Bain.

## Branch Council -Lambton County Branch OGS

Treasurer	Nancy Brown
Secretary	Gwen Watson
Cemetery Contact	Pat Cooke
Library Resources	Kathi Vandenheuvel
Facebook	Pat Cooke/Jane Teskey
Membership	Nancy Brown/Catherine Tyrie
Newsletter	
Editor	<a href="#">Alan Campbell</a>
Proofreaders	Linda Koolen
Publications	
Creation	<a href="#">Jane Teskey</a>
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Program	Branch Council
Research	Ruth Mackesy/Sheila Hewett/Pat Cooke/Jane Teskey/ Alan Campbell
Publicity	Gwen Watson
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Webmaster/IT	Jane Teskey
Strays, Goodwill	Janet Kelch
Member at Large	Gary Prokopowich
History Scanners	Dave Hext/Maureen Steele