THE NEWSPAPER PRESS IN OXFORD COUNTY

1840 - 1940

by

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Ingersoll, Ontario

1940

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The newspapers in this survey have been arranged in strictly chronological order. The most important word in the title has been used as the entry word, disregarding the names of towns, and words indicating periodicity, as daily, weekly, etc. An exception to this has been made in a few cases where circumstances seemed to warrant such an entry.

In some cases where there was a change in title (e.g. the Times, Woodstock, first appeared as Spirit of the times) the paper has been entered under the title by which it was most widely known. Cross references from the other titles have been included in the index, listing the titles alphabetically under place of publication. Library of Congress cataloging rules have been followed.

The most important material for this survey has been the actual files of these newspapers, which with a few exceptions I have examined. Since this source is limited, newspaper files, contemporary to them, in the Ontario Archives, Toronto, the Toronto Public Library, and the Library of the University of Western Ontario, have provided information to be found no where else. The newspaper files also provided biographical data, as few of the names of the newspaper editors are included in the Canadian biographical dictionaries. County and provincial directories, as well as gazetteers and newspaper directories in the libraries of the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto, the Ontario Archives, Toronto, and in the possession of the Oxford Historical Society, Woodstock, were another source of information.

In compiling this list I am indebted to many people for assistance, but chiefly I wish to acknowledge the kindness of Mr. W. S. Wallace, of the University of Toronto Library, Mr. Fred Landon and Dr. J. J. Talman, of the University of Western Ontario Library, Miss McClung, of the Ontario Archives, Toronto, and Miss Louise Hill, of the Oxford Historical Society, Woodstock.

ABBREVIATIONS

d. - daily
ed. - editor
m. - monthly
pub. - publisher
s.m. - semi-monthly
s.w. - semi-weekly
w. - weekly

Jan. - January
Feb. - February
Mar. - March
Apr. - April
Aug. - August
Sept. - September
Oct. - October
Nov. - November
Dec. - December

In the first territorial division of what later became Upper Canada, into four districts in 1798, what is now Oxford County was included in the Western District, and sections of it formed a part of the large counties of York and Norfolk. Not until November, 1839, were the component parts of Oxford County, as we know it today, joined together in the newly created Brock District, which was finally given the name of the county of Oxford in 1845.

Governor Simcoe had issued a proclamation offering a township to those who would provide forty permanent settlers, and in consequence many came from the United States. Thomas Horner was one of the earliest to take advantage of this offer, and erected the first grist mill near Princeton in 1796. Another citizen of the United States, Thomas Ingersoll, and those who were associated with him, were given a tract of 64,000 acres and selected the spot where Ingersoll now stands. Unfortunately when Simcoe's term of office was over, the British government rescinded his offer, and many of these families took up residence elsewhere. This factor undoubtedly retarded settlement in the county for many years.

These very early families were nearly all United Empire Loyalists, for immigrants from the old country did not come until a later date. Around Eastwood mainly, and Woodstock, were many retired English military and naval officers. Admiral Vansittart was a leader

in this community. Zorra became the hone of a large Highland Scotch settlement, though one section, East Zorra, has a predominant German population. In Dereham, south of Ingersoll, the district is often referred to as "Little Ireland".

The old stage road was the main highway in Ontario from Niagara to Windsor, in the early days. This passed through Ingersoll, which had a postoffice known as Oxford, as early as 1821. This route did not include Woodstock, but in 1843 the Governor's road was completed, and the tri-weekly mail was superseded by a daily mail service.

The development of Ingersoll kept pace with Woodstock until 1840, when the latter was named the county seat and business naturally centered there. The Woodstock herald, January 11, 1844, contains an interesting paragraph relating to the early days, "Twelve years a go the present site of Woodstock was with the exception of two or three houses, a wilderness, and two years later than that, there was no village, and within the present limits there was but one ill-supplied tavern ... In May, 1844, George Menzies took the census of the town, population 950 and 160 houses." It was not until 1840, that business in this little community was able to support a newspaper. The first, the Herald, published by a former York printer, George Menzies, appeared on June 6, 1840.

Politics have been of major importance in the life of this community. Three of the members for Oxford have been prime ministers, Sir Francis Hincks, Hon. George Brown, and Sir Oliver Mowat. The presence of these members naturally resulted in a great development in the political consciousness of the community and the establishment of political journals. Though Oxford has been one of the Liberal

strongholds, the number of papers supporting each party has maintained a pretty even balance, no doubt because it was considered wise to match one political journal with another. Unfortunately only odd numbers of the first three years of the Herald are in existence, so that we cannot find if it had a political basis. The only clues we have are those which tell us that "Mr. Menzies was not particularly successful as a politician", and the comment of a contemporary subscriber who wrote "Shows Syndenhamism and Republicanism". Earlier the Herald, Toronto, had commented on George Menzies' work on the Patriot, saying the paper showed "more temper as regards the Kings' college question and the Family Compact than are compatible to our conservative taste", but "looked on it as very far removed from Hinckism". The second paper, the Monarch, was definitely political, a church and state paper.

Since comparatively few historical data have been compiled about the county, it is difficult for a student to relate the development of the press to the general history. Unfortunately there are no extensive histories of the press in nearby counties to enable us to see, if the history of the press in Oxford is typical of that in the others. Though settlement began in 1793, there was not a large population in the county until the late thirties. Thus the appearance of the first newspaper is comparatively early. Norfolk provides a parallel case, for settlement was practically contemporary but here the first paper, the Norfolk observer[1] did not appear until October 22, 1840, nearly five months later than in Oxford. It is true

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[1] Copy in the office of the Reformer, Simcoe.

that Middlesex[1] and Essex[2] had newspapers many years before Oxford, but this can be explained by the prominent positions of London and Sandwich as capitals of the London and Western Districts. In Kent[3] the newspaper history is similar to that in Oxford and Norfolk, which leads us to the conclusion, that as far as evidence permits, there was nothing exceptional in the history of the press in Oxford. Of one significant conclusion we can be sure, that is, there was a close relationship between the establishment of the press and municipal capitals.

Few existing files represent this hundred years of journalism in Oxford County. There are no complete files of any paper, though single copies of some exist, and broken files of others. The longest continuous run of any paper is that of the Chronicle, Ingersoll, from 1856 to 1919. The earliest papers lasted only a few years, but of those appearing in the fifties, one, the Chronicle established in 1853, only ceased publication in 1919, and another, the Sentinel, begun in 1854, is today incorporated in the Sentinel-Review. Of the twelve weeklies published from 1860 to 1870, only one survived, the Observer, Tillsonburg, merged into the News, and appearing at present under that title. One other, the Gazette, Norwich, produced before 1880, is still being published. Where earlier a much smaller population supported several enterprises in one community, keen competition

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[1] H. O. Miller. History of the newspaper press in London, 1830-1875, p. 116, Ontario historical society. Papers and records, XXXII, 1937. The Sun was established in 1831.

[2] W. S. Wallace. The periodical literature of Upper Canada, p. 17. Canadian historical review, XII, March, 1931. The Canadian emigrant was established in 1831.

[3] Kent historical society. Papers and addresses, II, 1915, p. 30. The Chatham journal was established July 3, 1841.

in later years has forced the great majority to disappear from the scene. Since the numbers of available files are so limited, this survey cannot be complete. It is almost incredible that the papers about which I found least, appeared after 1890. However, I have given all the information I have been able to find.

Newspapers are a unique source of reference material for historians and economists. Especially in the case of the smaller and less important towns and villages, these files present a picture of the whole life of the community not to be found elsewhere. Political issues were discussed freely, which throws light on the issues themselves, and the men who supported or opposed them. "Old newspapers yield place neither to books nor to manuscript materials as a source of information regarding the past."[1] Evidence that they are considered valuable may be deduced from the various articles covering different phases of the newspaper press in Ontario, written by Mr. W. S. Wallace,[2] Dr. J. J. Talman,[3] Mr. Fred Landon[4] and Mr. Orlo Miller[5].

Thus in the light of the increased use of newspapers as source material, such data is a contribution to the field of historical and economic research. The object of this survey by presenting a

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[1] W. S. Wallace, op. cit. p. 5.

[2] Ibid. March, June, 1931.

[3] J. J. Talman, The printing presses of William Lyon Mackenzie prior to 1837. Canadian historical review, XVIII, Dec. 1937; The newspapers of Upper Canada a century ago. Canadian historical review, XIX, Mar., 1938. The newspaper press of Canada West, 1850-60. Royal society of Canada. Transactions, Third Ser., Section II, XXXIII, 1939.

[5] H. O. Miller, op. cit.

history of the papers published in Oxford with a record of the existing files is to provide further sources of reference material not only for history of Oxford County, but also in relation to the history of the province as a whole.

Woodstock herald and Brock District general advertiser; w. Woodstock, June 6, 1840 - Jan. 1, 1848.[1]

Ed. & pub.: 1840 - 1842?, George Menzies and William G. Walker. - 1842? - 1847, George Menzies. - March, 1847 - , Harriet Menzies.

Existing files: Oxford historical society, Woodstock, broken files from June 20, 1840 - Oct. 29, 1847. - Woodstock Public Library, Jan. 27, 1844 - Nov. 5, 1847.

Only six months after the creation of the new District of Brock, with Woodstock as the centre, the first newspaper was published. The Woodstock herald was a medium sized sheet of four pages printed each Friday. The subscription price was 11/3 per year when delivered or called for but 16/3 if sent by mail.

It contained few news items of local interest. There is also little indication of political policy, but a contemporary subscriber wrote on a margin "Shows Sydenhamism and Republicanism". The Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, edited by Sutherland & co., 1867, says that "Mr. Menzies was not particularly successful as a politician."

George Menzies, the editor, born 1796, was a native of Kincardine, Scotland. Previously he had contributed to various papers in that country and when he came to Canada in 1833, he began to use it as a means of livelihood. Before the rebellion of 1837, he had edited the Reporter, Niagara, and subsequently assisted Mr.

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[1] T. S. Shenston , The Oxford gazetteer, Hamilton, 1852, p. 122.

Simpson in the management of the Chronicle, of the same place. Afterwards he was associated with Mr. Dalton on the Patriot, Toronto. The Toronto herald commented on his work during Mr. Dalton's illness, saying the Patriot showed "more temper as regards the King's college question and the Family Compact, than are compatible to our conservative taste" but "looked on it as very far removed from Hinckism" and "its independence and talent always commanded our respect". Later he came to Woodstock and in 1840 with William Walker established the Woodstock herald, the first newspaper ever published in the county of Oxford. He also wrote poetry and his wife published a volume of "Posthumous works" in Woodstock in 1850. He died in Woodstock in his fifty-first year, on March 4, 1847.[1]

William Walker, his partner, only remained with the Woodstock herald a short time, and in 1842, he established the Monarch, the second newspaper published in the county.

Following George Menzies' death on March 4, 1847, no publisher is mentioned, but the name of Mr. H. E. Stoughton appears as printer. On April 23, 1847, the paper first bore the name of Harriet Menzies as proprietress. On August 20, 1847, her name still appeared, with the addition of J. L. Jacobs as printer. On October 8, 1847, no printer's name is given, but there is a notice that a journeyman printer is needed "to conduct the whole business of office". The paper ceased publication a short time after this.

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[1] Obituary notice in the Woodstock herald, March 5, 1847.

The Monarch; w. Woodstock, v. 1, no. 1, Aug. 4, 1842 - Aug. 29, 1848.

Ed. & pub.: Aug. 4, 1842 - Aug. 1, 1843, William G. Walker. - Sept. 12, 1843 - Sept. 17, 1844, under a Committee of direction, by John F. Rogers. - Sept. 24, 1844 - Aug. 29, 1848, John F. Rogers.

Existing files: Oxford historical society, Woodstock, v. 1, no. 2, 1842 - v. 6, Aug. 29, 1848.

This paper was the advocate of extreme Tory views and in ecclesiastical matters was recognized as the organ of the High Church party.[1] An article in the issue of August 1, 1843, states they believe "we have laid the solid foundation for a church and state newspaper in the province", and further on September 12, 1843, "In politics the 'Direction' are tories of the highest order. Responsibility in the colonies ... they hold to be perfect absurdity."

Due to the change in management at the end of the first year, there was no issue from August 1 until September 12, and "in consequence of the very great order in which the type has been found", the next issue appeared on September 26. Unlike our modern papers there was no paper issued between Christmas and New Years, an article in the issue of December 23, 1845, explains that "In accordance with established usage, this week will be observed as a holiday time by our workmen. The next number of the Monarch will

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[1] Oxford & Norfolk gazetteer & general & business directory, Woodstock, 1867, p. 25.

PUBLIC LIBRARY WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

therefore be issued on January 6."

The first editor, William G. Walker, was also associated with George Menzies in the establishment of the Woodstock herald but he only remained as editor of the Monarch for one year.

John Rogers who succeeded him was a native of England, born about 1816. He had previously been associated with the newspaper press in Toronto. There he printed the Albion of Upper Canada, founded in 1836[1] and in 1837[2] with George Heyworth Hackstaff became publisher of the Toronto herald. He came to Woodstock and remained as editor of the Monarch from 1843 to 1848. He died in New York in October 1856 at the early age of forty from an overdose of laudanum, self administered.[3]

The paper came to an abrupt close with the following notice in the issue of August 29, 1848: "As this number completes the sixth year ... and very many of our subscribers are four or five years in arrear in their payments, we shall discontinue the newspaper, at least for a time. ... How long the period of our suspension will be, depends somewhat upon our friends, probably two or three months."

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1 W. S. Wallace, The periodical literature of Upper Canada, Canadian historical review, XII, no. 1 (March, 1931) p. 20.

2 W. S. Wallace, op. cit. p. 10.

3 Chronicle, Ingersoll, October 17, 1865.

PUBLIC LIBRARY WOODSTOCK ONT. CANADA

1848

Oxford star and Woodstock advertiser; w. Woodstock, Jan. 28, 1848 - Jan. 19, 1849?

Ed.: 1848-49, John Allan.

Pub.: 1848-49, Alexander Hay[1] and James Egan.

Existing files: Toronto Public Library, v. 1, no. 2, Feb. 4, 1848 - Jan. 19, 1849.

This third paper published in Woodstock was very similar in appearance to the Woodstock herald and the Monarch and also was four pages in size. T. S. Shenston[2] gives January 15, 1848 as the first date of issue but the files in existence prove this later date to be correct.

The Oxford star was a reform paper which also seemed to support the temperance cause. The Monarch, March 14, 1848, scornfully spoke of its contemporary as "the moderate Woodstock Herald having merged into the reform Oxford Star".

Shenston also says that the paper continued for one year, and this seems very probable, as the editorial in no. 52, January 19, 1849, hints that this might be the last issue.

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1 See entry on p. 18 for biographical note.

2 T. S. Shenston, op. cit. p. 122.

British American; w. Woodstock, Sept. 30, 1848[1] - 1853.

The British American and Western progress were united in in 1854 to form the Gazetteer.[2]

Ed.: 1849 - 1853, John McWhinnie.[3]

Pub.: 1848 - , G. W. Whitehead.

Existing files: Mrs. E. C. Bartley, Stratford, v. 1, no. 45, Aug. 4, 1849.[4]

The prospectus of the British American, appearing in the Monarch, August 29, 1848, states that it will be "an unflinching advocate of conservative principles, independent of any party ... As far as religious opinions of different denominations in the province are concerned ... will maintain a perfect neutrality. Will be published Friday morning, terms 12/6 per annum in advance." An item from the Long Point advocate in the Oxford star, October 6, 1848, states it was to take the place of the Monarch. Colonel Whitehead was to be manager, George Alexander, John G. Vansittart and D. G. Miller, principal proprietors,[5] and John McWhinnie became editor in 1849. It was known as Colonel Whitehead's journal. In

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1 T. S. Shenston, op. cit. p. 122.

2 Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p. 25.

3 H. J. Morgan, Bibliotheca canadensis. Ottawa, 1867, p. 275.

4 Information as to the existence of this number came too late for examination.

5 Oxford star, Sept. 8, 1848.

6 See entry on p. 11 for biographical note.

1854 it united with Western progress to become the Gazetteer.

Colonel Whitehead belonged to an old U. E. Loyalist family, who had settled in Burford. He was superintendent of the township schools during the years 1844 - 1846, a member of the district council from 1847 - 1849, and one of the first Justices of the peace. He was actively connected with the military forces for many years and was lieutenant-colonel of Fourth Regiment, Oxford militia. In 1850 he moved from Burford to Woodstock.[1] Colonel Whitehead twice ran for parliament, unsuccessfully, against Sir. Francis Hincks and Mr. Armstrong. He died in Woodstock in March, 1870.[2]

1851

Western progress; w. Woodstock, Nov. 14, 1851[3] - 1853.

The British American and Western progress were united in 1854 to form the Gazetteer.[4]

Ed.: 1851, W. H. Landon.

Pub.: 1851 - 1853, George Laycock.[5]

The approximate date on which the paper was issued is verified by the following notice in the Examiner, Toronto, November

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1 R. C. Muir, The early political and military history of Burford. Quebec, 1913, pp. 86-7, 277.

2 Chronicle, Ingersoll, Mar. 31, 1870.

3 T. S. Shenston, op. cit. p. 122.

4 Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p. 25.

5 See entry on p.13 for biographical note.

19, 1851, "The Western Progress, of which the prospectus appeared some time ago in our columns, has been issued in Woodstock." The Barrie herald, February 22, 1854, said it was a supporter of the government.

W. H. Landon, whom T. S. Shenston says was editor for the first six months, was actively connected with the early history of the Baptist church in Oxford County. He was the first pupil in the county to take advanced studies under L. H. Perry, a New England schoolmaster teaching in the district, and in 1828 he was ordained as a Free Communion Elder. He spent his life serving the Oxford churches and in 1843 was appointed first county superintendent of education.[1]

No known copies of this paper seem to have survived.

1853

Chronicle; w. Ingersoll, Aug. 1853 - Dec. 1919.

Title varies: 1856, Ingersoll chronicle and county of Oxford intelligencer.

Ed. & pub.: Aug. 1853 - ? 1854, J. & J. Blackburn. - ? 1854 - Aug. 1854, Allen Wessels. - Aug. 1854 - Jan. 1876, J. S. Gurnett. - Feb. 1876 - Apr. 1894, G. F. Gurnett. - Apr. 1894 - July ?, 1894, C. R. Patience and W. Agur. - 1894 - 19-?, R. Elliott. - 19-? - 1917, W. J. Elliott. - 1917 - 1919, W. A. Willoughby.

Existing files: Sentinel-Review office, Ingersoll, Sept. 5, 1856 - 1919. - Ontario Archives, Toronto, broken files from Feb. 13, 1863 - May 7, 1874.

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[1] Z. M. Hotson, Pioneer Baptist work in Oxford County, [Woodstock 1939] p. 8.

The Chronicle was the first paper published in Ingersoll. It was a large four page sheet, printed weekly from 1853 to 1919. A daily edition was also issued in 1897, but competition was too keen and it was forced from 1916 on to issue the weekly only. It is interesting to notice that in 1864 the editor advised subscribers he was willing to accept one cord of sound wood for one year's subscription to the paper. The reason for this was that Ingersoll was a "Wood-up" station on the Great Western railway. After a few years publication the hand press was discarded and a Gordon job press was purchased and the paper became greatly enlarged. The Chronicle was always a strong supporter of liberal principles.

The Huron signal, August 25, 1853, states that "The Ingersoll Chronicle has come to hand. It is published by Messrs. J. and J. Blackburn of that town ... and supports the present administration." Mr. Josiah Blackburn was an Englishman, who had been editor of the Paris star, and in 1852 had bought the Free press in London.[1] He published the Chronicle for a short time only. When J. S. Gurnett bought the paper in August, 1854, it was published and edited by Allen Wessels.[2]

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[1] H. O. Miller, The history of the newspaper press in London, 1830 - 1870. Ontario historical society. Papers and records, XXXII, p. 133.

[2] Sentinel-Review, Ingersoll, Sept. 11, 1936, p. 9. This is the 50th anniversary number of the daily Sentinel-Review.

Little is known of Gurnett beyond the fact that in the issue following his death on January 27, 1876, his birthplace is mentioned as Ancaster, Ontario. It is more than probable that he was a son of the George Gurnett who settled in Ancaster and there published the Gore gazette in 1827 and later founded the Courier of Upper Canada.[1]

The Chronicle, under the long and vigorous management of J. S. Gurnett, became a very successful weekly, and his son George Frederick Gurnett, continued publishing the paper until his death in 1894. After 1894 the Chronicle passed out of the hands of the Gurnett family.

C. R. Patience, formerly of the Sun, Ingersoll, and William Agur, published it for a few months, and then it passed into the hands of the Elliott family. Robert Elliott managed the paper until his appointment to an official position with the Canadian foresters. His son, William J. Elliott, edited the Chronicle until about 1917, when W. A. Willoughby, of Detroit, took over the business for the last few years of its existence.

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1 W. S. Wallace, op. cit. p. 9.

1854

Sentinel; w. Woodstock, Jan. 1, 1854[1] - Oct. 1878.

The Sentinel and the Review were united in 1878 to form the Sentinel-Review.

Title varies: 1854 - , Weekly sentinel.

Ed. & pub.: 1854, Alexander Hay[2] and John McWhinnie. - 1854 - Sept. 1870, John McWhinnie and son. - Oct. 1870 - 1875, G. R. Pattullo[3]. - 1875 - 1878, G. R. Pattullo and A. Pattullo[4].

Existing files: Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, broken files from May 8, 1868 - Jan. 19, 1872.

The Sentinel, first published in Woodstock in 1854, was reform in politics and a strong supporter of Presbyterianism.[5] It was a large four page sheet, published Fridays and printed on a Hoe

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1 County of Oxford gazetteer, Ingersoll, 1862, p. 218.

2 See entry on p. 18 for biographical note.

3 See entry on p. 39 for biographical note.

4 See entry on p. 39 for biographical note.

5 W. Meikle, Canadian newspaper directory, Toronto, 1858, p. 42.

press, power for which was supplied by a large wheel, hand turned. The printing plant was first in what is now known as Woodroofe block on Graham street and later where Karn's drug store now stands.[1]

It was established first by Alexander Hay and John McWhinnie. Shortly afterwards John McWhinnie bought out Alexander Hay's interest, and it was published until 1858 by John McWhinnie and son, with John McWhinnie as editor and Robert McWhinnie as publisher. C. R. Pattullo bought the paper in 1870 and conducted it alone until his brother Andrew Pattullo joined him in 1875. In 1878 it was united with the Review, and the paper has since been published as Sentinel-Review.

John McWhinnie was born in Glasgow in 1808 and came to Canada in 1821. He received his early education in Lanark County and was in Hamilton and Norwich for some time before coming to Woodstock. An item from the Globe in the Oxford star, October 27, 1848, states that previous to his association with the British American he had edited a reform paper in Picton, then the Spectator in Hamilton and later established a reform journal, the Sentinel, in the same place. He was editor of the British American from 1849 - 1853[2], and his next venture was in 1854 when he established the Sentinel. Later he printed the Good templar in the interests of the Order of good templars.

A grandson, Wallace McWhinnie now in County records office, Woodstock, also gave information from family letters that John McWhinnie knew little of the printing of a newspaper but was for the most part engaged in an editorial capacity. John McWhinnie died in Woodstock, July 3, 1877.

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[1] Sentinel-Review, Ingersoll, Sept. 11, 1936, p. 13.

[2] H. J. Morgan, op. cit. p. 275.

Gazetteer; w. Woodstock, Jan 4?, 1854 - Jan. ?, 1858.

Formed by the union of the British American and Western progress.[1]

Title varies: 1855 - , Weekly gazetteer.

Ed. & pub.: Jan. - Nov. ?, 1854, J. G. Vansittart and George Laycock. - Nov. ?, 1854 - 1858, George Laycock.

Existing files: Oxford historical society. Woodstock, July 28, 1855. - Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, broken files from v. 1, no. 46, Nov. 11, 1854 - Nov. 9, 1855.

In 1854 the British American united with the Western progress and became the Gazetteer, under the joint management of J. G. Vansittart and George Laycock. The office was first on the corner of Dundas and Light streets, Woodstock, but in November, 1854 it was moved to the premises occupied by Mr. Grobe, situated on Dundas street, opposite Mr. Caistor's hotel.

Beginning as a weekly issue of four pages, a year later it became an eight page paper, and on May 21, 1855, the Guelph tri-weekly-advertiser announced it had received the first number of its tri-weekly edition. The Barrie herald, February 22, 1854, welcomed the Gazetteer by saying "One good Mr. J. G. Vansittart has accomplished, viz. that instead of a government organ (the Progress), and a nondescript journal (the British American) the county of Oxford has now at least one honest and independent exponent of public opinion."

In the fall of 1854 Mr. Vansittart retired from the editorial

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[1] Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p. 25.

management of the paper[1], but George Laycock continued its publication until January, 1858, when the want of sufficient support, together with existing hard times forced him to discontinue its publication.[2]

The Vansittart family was one of the early pioneers of Oxford County, Admiral Vansittart having settled in Woodstock in 1834. John George Vansittart, the eldest son, was born in England in 1813. On coming to Canada, he took up the study of law in Toronto, but poor health forced him to abandon this and he settled on a farm near Eastwood. His ruling against the legal qualification of the Hon. F. Hincks, while returning officer in the election of 1848, won great popular acclaim for him among the conservative ranks. In 1851 he ran against Sir Francis Hincks but was defeated. He was one of the proprietors of the British American, published in 1848, but apart from his association with George Laycock on the Gazetteer, he did not take any further part in newspaper publication. He was appointed postmaster in Woodstock in the summer of 1869, but died shortly afterwards, on October 13, 1869.[3]

George Laycock, who had published the paper from 1854 to 1858, had considerable experience as a publisher. He had been associated with the Western progress before it merged into the Gazetteer, and a further notice is to be found in the London free press, September 23, 1859, concerning the Clinton courier: "A paper bearing the aforementioned title is to be published at Clinton, early in October, by Mr. Geo. Laycock.

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1 Guelph tri-weekly advertiser, Nov. 8, 1854.

2 Chronicle, Ingersoll, Jan. 15, 1858.

3 W. E. Elliott, The parish of Woodstock. Ontario historical society. Papers and records, XXX, p. 30.

Mr. Laycock has been connected with the press for many years, during which he conducted a paper with success at Woodstock."

Woodstock mercury; w. Woodstock, Sept. ?, 1854 -

The only reference to be found to the existence of this paper is a notice in the Daily globe, September 22, 1854, stating that it was "a new and well printed paper".

1855

Times; w. Woodstock, Mar. ?, 1855[1] - Dec. 1, 1902[2].

Title varies: 1855 - March, 1857, Spirit of the times.

Ed. & pub.: 1855 - Oct. 1873, A. R. McCleneghan. - Oct. 1873 - 1876, R. McElheran and G. Ross. - 1876 - Feb. 1889, A. W. Francis. - Feb. 1889 - Dec. 1902, V. L. Francis.

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, Feb. 13, 1863. - Oxford historical society, Woodstock, broken files from Mar. 19, 1880 - 1889. - Woodstock Public Library, 1890. - Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, broken files from Dec. 17, 1869 - 1891.

The Times was a conservative journal "of large size" published first as a weekly in March, 1855. By 1857 the Chronicle, Ingersoll, of March 13, says: "The Woodstock Times now come to hand

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1 County of Oxford gazetteer, op. cit. p. 218.

2 Sentinel-Review, Sept. 11, 1936, p. 16.

twice a week. It has dropped a part of its title - Spirit of - reduced its size - widened its columns - and has quite a metropolitan appearance." By 1869 it had become an eight page sheet and from 1898 to 1902 it printed a daily edition.

Alexander Riggs McCleneghan, who established the Times, was born in Armagh, Ireland, October 15, 1823. His family came to Canada in 1829 and later settled in Woodstock.[1] He established the first conservative paper in Norfolk County, the Simcoe standard, in 1847 and successfully published it for several years.[2] He published the Times from 1855 till 1873 when, on receiving the appointment as postmaster of Woodstock, he gave up his connection with the paper.

The Chronicle, October 16, 1873, notes the change in management of the Times by stating: Mr. McCleneghan having been appointed postmaster of Woodstock has sold the Times to Messrs. Richard McElheran and George Ross, both practical printers." Mr. McElheran was a former engineer in the Times office.

Arthur W. Francis, the next editor, was born in Chester, England, July 14, 1835. He came to Canada about 1858 and settled in Woodstock. After a partnership with T. J. Clarke in oil refining business he bought the Times in 1876. He conducted the paper until he was killed in St. George train wreck February 27, 1889.[3]

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1 W. Cochrane, Canadian album, Brantford, 1891, v. 1, p. 411.

2 Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p. 247.

3 Times, Feb. 28, 1889.

His son, Vaughan L. Francis, succeeded his father in the management of the Times and remained in charge until it went out of existence on December 1, 1902. He later became Division court clerk in Woodstock.

1859

Oxford herald; w. Ingersoll, Sept. 7, 1859 - July 17, 1862.[1]

Ed. & pub;: 1859 - 1862, Thomas A. McNamara.[2]

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, broken files from v. 1, no. 19, Jan. 12, 1860 - May 29, 1862.

The Oxford herald was the second paper published in Ingersoll. It was a weekly of four pages supporting conservative principles, but it lasted only from 1859 to 1862. Mr. McNamara said lack of support was the principal reason for the discontinuance. "The business men of Ingersoll are almost to a man Reformers, and although favourably disposed, could not be expected to support a Conservative journal."[3] Mr. McNamara then moved from Ingersoll to Tillsonburg and in August, 1862 began the publication of the Herald in that town.

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1 Herald, Tillsonburg, Aug. 7, 1862.

2 See entry on p. 20 for biographical note.

3 Chronicle, Ingersoll, July 18, 1862.

Review; w. Embro, Sept. 7, 1859 -

Publication suspended: Feb. 1862 - May, 1863. - Sept. 1863 - Nov. 1869.[1]

Title varies: 1872 - , Embro review and North riding of Oxford advertiser.

Ed. & pub.: 1859 - 1874?[2], Alexander Hay.

Existing files: Oxford historical society, Woodstock, v. 6, no. 40, Sept. 6, 1872.

The Leader, Toronto, September 19, 1859, says they have received "a prospectus of the Review to be published in the village of Embro, county of Oxford, by Mr. Alexander Hay". It was a weekly four page sheet, printed on Wednesdays.

The first few years it was not in continuous publication. Discontinued in February, 1862, it started up again in May, 1863, only to be suspended in October of that year. It was not in circulation again until November, 1869, when Alexander Hay once more began publication. The liberal Chronicle, Ingersoll, blamed its conservative viewpoint for such happenings, February 28, 1862: "The Embro Review, a ministerial sheet has been discontinued. Toryism, it seems, flourishes no better in Embro, than it does in other parts of Oxford County." Knowing the reputation of Zorra as a liberal stronghold, one does not wonder at such a statement.

It is doubtful whether the Review was published much later than 1874 as it is not included in the 1877 directory published by G. P. Rowell & co.

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1 Chronicle, Ingersoll, Feb. 28, 1862; May 15, Oct. 2, 1863: Dec. 2, 1869.

2 Fisher & Taylor's gazetteer and general directory for the county of Oxford. Toronto, 1874. p. 57

The editor, Alexander Hay, like his father-in-law, John McWhinnie, was for many years actively connected with the newspaper press of Oxford County. According to a family letter in possession of Wallace McWhinnie, Woodstock, he was in Hamilton at one time and later came to Norwich. There he assisted a Mr. Wilson in the publication of a paper. In 1832, D. W. Wilson had a contract for carrying mail between Norwich and Burford[1] but no evidence can be found of the existence of such a paper. From 1848 to 1849 he assisted in publication of Oxford star. In 1852 Alexander Hay is listed as a printer in Woodstock[2] and in 1854 he was associated with John McWhinnie in the establishment of the Sentinel. The next paper with which he was connected was the Review, Embro, which he established and published from 1859 until about 1874. In 1862 he published the Drumbo review and also the Canadian conservative, Woodstock.

1860

Baptist freeman; s.m. Woodstock, July 15?, 1860 -

Ed.: Mar. 1865 - , Robert Cameron.

A notice of the publication of this paper appears in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, July 20, 1860, "We have received the first number of a semi-monthly paper published in Woodstock, in the interests of the Baptists. It is entitled the Baptist Freeman. The

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1 T. S. Shenston, op. cit. p. 182.

2 T. S. Shenston, op. cit. p. 126.

paper is well got up, and we have no doubt will be liberally supported by our Baptist friends."

No mention of any other editor than the Rev. Robert Cameron, in 1865, can be found. He was born in Oxford County in 1839, and had served as correspondent for various political papers.[1]

There are no known copies in existence, and the Historical committee of the Baptist church believes that it could not have been an official publication.

1862

Drumbo review; w. Drumbo, 1862?

Ed. & pub.: 1862?, Alexander Hay.

Only two references can be found concerning the existence of this paper. In the Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, 1867, p. 25, it states: "At Embro and at Drumbo for a time the political press had representation but no measure of success attended either." The other in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, November 28, 1862, referring to the establishment of the Canadian conservative by Messrs. Hay and Lusted says "the first named gentleman formerly of the Embro Review and more recently of the Drumbo Review". Since the Embro review was discontinued in February, 1862 and the Canadian conservative published in November, 1862, it is probable that the Drumbo review was published in the interval.

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[1] H. J. Morgan, op, cit. p. 61.

Herald and general advertiser for the counties of Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin; w. Tillsonburg, Aug. 7, 1862 -

Ed. & pub.: Aug. 1862 - , T. A. McNamara.

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, broken files from Aug. 7, 1862 - Oct. 23, 1863.

Just three weeks after Thomas A. McNamara had ceased to publish the Oxford herald in Ingersoll, he began to issue a new weekly in Tillsonburg, the first paper published in that town. Like its predecessor the Herald was a four page sheet and probably was printed on the same press. Unlike the Oxford herald, which was conservative in politics, in Tillsonburg the editor stated "In politics the Herald will take no part."

It is unlikely that the Herald was published for more than two years or so, because in April, 1866, T. A. McNamara was publisher and proprietor of the London herald, and in 1868, a printer in the office of the Free press.[1] The Tribune, Ingersoll, February 21, 1877, has a further notice about T. A. McNamara in connection with the publication of a weekly temperance paper in London, Ontario, called the Week's doings, of which he was the editor and proprietor.

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[1] H. O. Miller, op. cit. p. 138.

Canadian conservative; w. Woodstock, Dec. 30, 1862 - Mar. ?, 1863.

Ed. & pub.: 1862 - 1863, Alexander Hay[1] and Stephen Lusted.

Existing files: Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, Jan. 13 (v. 1, no. 3) - Jan. 27, Feb. 10 - 24, 1863.

In 1862 another weekly, the Canadian conservative, made its appearance in Woodstock. This paper, though small in size was an eight page sheet. As its name implies it was conservative in politics. The Chronicle, Ingersoll, December 31, 1862, gave it a good reception. "We have received the first number of a new paper, published every Tuesday, the Canadian Conservative. The sheet is got up in quarto style, contains a large amount of information and is printed in a neat and attractive manner on excellent paper and new type. Both proprietors are practical printers, and well known in the county." It lasted only three months.[2]

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[1] See entry on p. 18 for biographical note.

[2] Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op, cit. p. 25.

Good templar; w. Woodstock, Jan. 6, 1863 -

Ed. & pub.: Jan. 6, 1863 - Aug. 9, 1864, John McWhinnie and J. W. Ferguson. - Aug. 16, 1864 - , John McWhinnie.

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, Jan 6, 1863 (v. 1, no. 1) - Aug. 30, 1864.

This paper "devoted to temperance and moral reform" was the organ of the Independent order of good templars. It was a medium sized sheet of four pages, probably printed on the press of the Sentinel, which was also published by John McWhinnie.[1] The Good templar included notices of the activities of the lodges, temperance lectures and news of the Order in the United States and Canada. According to complaints voiced in its columns, it received very little support, and all the lodges did not subscribe to its upkeep, though the Order was strongly established in the county at that time. J. W. Ferguson, of Hamilton, later a Grand Master of the Order, was at first associated with Mr. McWhinnie in the publication of this paper.

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[1] See entry on p. 11 for biographical note.

Oxford reformer; w. Ingersoll, Feb. ?, 1863 - Sept. ?, 1863

Pub.: Feb. 1863 - , Sutherland and Robinson. - ?, 1863, R. R. Sutherland.

In the issue of February 20, 1863 the Chronicle, Ingersoll, has the following notice: "We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a new paper just started in this town by Messrs. Sutherland and Robinson." The Canadian conservative, February 17, 1863, also commenting on the new paper, says Mr. Sutherland is the author of County of Oxford gazetteer. This gazetteer, published in Ingersoll in 1862 by James Sutherland, lists him as a resident of the town, where for many years he compiled and published numerous county gazetteers and general directories. No mention can be found concerning the identity of Mr. Robinson.

The Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, 1867, p. 25, gives the following information about the paper. "In 1862, the Oxford reformer was established by Sutherland and Robinson, and subsequently passed into the hands of R. R. Sutherland, who carried it on for some time and sold out to A. R. Sutherland, who started a conservative paper called the Inquirer."

It lasted only a few months according to a note in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, October 2, 1863. "The Oxford Reformer being the third paper started in Ingersoll since the Chronicle, has ceased to exist."

The Observer; w. Tillsonburg, July ?, 1863 - Nov. 1919

Title varies: 1863 - , Tillsonburg observer and counties of Oxford, Norfolk & Elgin advertiser.

Ed. & pub.: 1863 - 1887, William S. Law. - 1887 - 1919, John Law.

Existing files: News printing office, Tillsonburg, broken files 1863 - 1919.

The publication of the second paper in Tillsonburg was recorded in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, July 31, 1863 by this notice: "We have received the first number of the Observer, published at Tillsonburg, by Mr. W. S. Law. The sheet tho' small, is neatly printed." It was printed weekly on Thursdays, and though originally composed of four pages, the publisher promised a further enlargement should the railways be built,[1] and in 1879, it was increased to eight pages. At first it was independent in politics, but later became conservative.

The Observer, during its entire existence, was in the hands of the Law family. Prior to the publication of the Observer W. S. Law had been employed in the Chronicle office as foreman and reporter from August 1858 until January 1861. From there he went to Clinton with George Laycock to begin the publication of the Clinton courier.[2] He remained there only a

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[1] Chronicle, Ingersoll, October 20, 1870.

[2] Chronicle, Ingersoll, January 11, 1861.

short time and came to Tillsonburg where he established the Observer with which he was associated from 1863 to 1887.

His son John succeeded him in carrying on the paper, and, although the name of James L. Law, a brother, is coupled with his as editor, another brother Mr. E. Law, said that he only took a minor part in the business for a short time. This paper continued to be published by John Law until 1919 when it amalgamated with the Liberal to form the News.

Enquirer; w. Ingersoll, Nov. 6, 1863 - 1865?

Ed.: 1863 - , James S. Ennefick.

Pub.: 1863 - , A. R. Sutherland.

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, v.1, no. 3, Nov. 20, 1863.

This conservative paper was started in Ingersoll shortly after the Oxford reformer ceased to exist. It was published by A. R. Sutherland for about two years when the office was destroyed by fire.[1]

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[1] Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p.25.

The Canadian plaindealer; w. Ingersoll, Oct. 27, 1865 - Apr. 17, 1867.

Ed.: 1865 - 1867, H. Constable.[1,2]

Pub.: 1865 - 1867,[1] P. H. Finlay & co.

Existing files: Mr. J. E. Gayfer, Ingersoll, v. 1, no 31, May 2, 1866.

The Canadian plaindealer "devoted to literature, agriculture and politics" made its appearance in October, 1865.[3] Aside from the Chronicle the papers in Ingersoll in the sixties were of short duration and the Canadian plaindealer was no exception. Its obituary notice was included in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, April 16, 1867: "The Canadian Plaindealer published in this town for a year and a half past has ceased to exist, the last number having been published yesterday."

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[1] Oxford and Norfolk gazetteer, op. cit. p. 170.

[2] See entry on p. 28 for biographical note.

[3] Chronicle, Ingersoll, Oct. 13, 1865.

Princeton transcript and Blenheim and Burford advocate; w.

Princeton, Apr. 4, 1867 - Mar. 7, 1869.

Ed. & pub.: Apr. 4, 1867 - Mar. 7, 1869, Robert Patterson.

Existing files: Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, v. 1, no. 3, Apr. 18, 1867.

The Princeton transcript was a large four page sheet, containing local news, chiefly of the eastern section of the county.

Previous to this Mr. Patterson had edited the Ayr observer and upon ceasing to print the Transcript in Princeton in March, 1869, he moved it to Paris where he continued its publication under the name of the Paris transcript.[1]

The News; w. Ingersoll, Apr. 24, 1867 -

Suspended: July, 1874 - Apr. 1875.

Title varies: 1867 - , Ingersoll news.

1874[2] - , Canadian nationalist and Ingersoll news.

1877[3] - , Canadian news.

Ed. & pub.: Apr. 1867 - 1869[4], M. L. Aldrich & E. B. Lewis. - 1870 - 1874, H. Constable[5]. - 1874 - , H. Constable & T. Harris[2]. - 1877 - , A. M. Constable[3].

Existing files: Ontario Archives, Toronto, Apr. 24, 1867.

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1 Galt reporter, Mar. 26, 1863.

2 Fisher & Taylor's gazetteer and general directory of the county of Oxford. Toronto, 1874. p. 15.

3 [Pettengill's] Newspaper directory & advertiser's handbook. New York, 1877. p. 298.

4 Province of Ontario gazetteer and directory. Toronto, 1869. p. 633.

5 Lovell's Province of Ontario directory. Toronto, 1871. p. 57.

The publication of the News, a reform paper, followed closely after the suspension of the Canadian plaindealer. The Chronicle, Ingersoll, commenting on the above, April 18, 1867, continues, "The printing material has been purchased by Messrs. Aldrich & Lewis, who commence on Wednesday next, the publication of a new paper, to be called the Ingersoll News. Mr. Aldrich has been employed in the Chronicle office for several years, latterly as foreman."

About 1870 Mr. R. H. Constable, formerly of the Canadian plaindealer, returned to Ingersoll and bought the News and continued to publish it until July, 1874, when a disastrous fire ravaged most of the business part of the town. Publication was suspended until the next spring, when, according to the Chronicle, April 15, 1875 "The Ingersoll News made its re-appearance on Tuesday. The office, it will be remembered was destroyed by fire in July last - the proprietor Mr. Constable losing the whole plant. The sheet before us, is a 32 column one, and printed on new type." It is doubtful whether it was published much later than 1877.

Mr. R. H. Constable had a long and varied career in the newspaper world. He was born in London, England, on February 9, 1832 and came to Canada some years later. He first began in the printing business as an apprentice to George Laycock and in 1855 was working on the staff of the Stratford examiner. Due to ill health he went to Cleveland, and in 1863 was working on the Cleveland plaindealer. In 1864 he returned to Canada and settled in Ingersoll where he established the Canadian plaindealer and published it from 1865 to 1867. Then he started the Dundas express, but he remained there for

only a short time, after which he returned to Ingersoll and bought the News. He lost everything in the fire of 1874, and from Ingersoll went to Ridgetown, where he established the Ridgetown plaindealer. In 1881 he sold out his interests there and went to Niagara Falls, where he established the Record. Ill health again forced him to retire, but after an interval he went to Glengarry and there started a reform newspaper. He sold this paper and came to Brantford and bought a job printing plant. From 1900 to 1917 he was associated with the Ayr news, and then came to Woodstock where he worked on the Sentinel-Review for about a year. Following this he bought a job printing office from Charlie Blackwell, and this he conducted until 1919, when he retired. He died in Woodstock, on September 8, 1923, at the age of 94.[1]

1869

Review; w. Princeton, May ?, 1869 - Sept. 1870.

Continued by the Review, Woodstock, Oct. 1, 1870.

Title varies: 1869, The Weekly review

1870, The Princeton review.

Ed. & pub.: 1869 - 1870, F. J. Gissing and Daniel Clark.

The Chronicle, Ingersoll, contains a notice of the first appearance of this paper in its issue of May 20, 1869: "The Weekly Review is the title of a journal started at Princeton. It is published by Mr. F. J. Gissing and Dr. Clark, the latter a clever man,

[1] Sentinel-Review, Sept. 9, 1923.

a talented writer and a regular contributor to Stewart's Quarterly magazine. The Review is a 28 column sheet, very neatly printed. It is reform in politics." A further reference from the same paper of January 13, 1870, says, "The Princeton review has been enlarged to a 36 column sheet -- making it one of the largest papers in the country."

In October, 1870, the press was moved to Woodstock, and the later history of its development is continued under the Review, Woodstock.

The Planet; w. Embro, Oct. ?, 1869 - Apr. ?, 1878.

Ed. & pub.: 1869 - 1871[1], Henry Adams. - 1871 - Nov. 1877, G. W. Dawson. - Nov. 1877 - 1878, W. H. Pilcher.

This journal, "devoted to moral culture, literature, agriculture and commerce", was founded and edited by Dr. Henry Adams. The Chronicle, Ingersoll, October 14, 1869, comments, "We have received the first number of the Planet, a weekly paper, published at Embro, in this county, by Dr. Adams. It is of medium size, neatly printed." It was liberal in politics.

Dr. Adams continued as editor of the Planet until 1871, when George W. Dawson took over the business and carried it on until November, 1877. His retirement from the editorship was noted by the Tribune, Ingersoll, in the issue of November 14, 1877: "Mr. G. W.

[1] Lovell's Province of Ontario directory. Toronto, 1871. p. 175.

Dawson who has carried on Embro Review so successfully the past six years, is to be succeeded by Mr. W. H. Pilcher, formerly of the old Norwich Standard."

In April, 1878, the Planet office was completely destroyed by fire[1] and this was probably the end of the paper, for the Express, founded in Embro in August, 1878, is mentioned as a worthy successor to the Planet.

1870

Review; w. Woodstock, Oct. 1, 1870 - Oct. 1878.

The Sentinel and the Review were united in 1878 to form the Sentinel-Review.

Title varies: 1870 - 1872, Woodstock weekly review.

1872 - , Weekly review.

Ed. & pub.: 1870 - 1875, F. J. Gissing and Daniel Clark. - 1875 - 1877, F. J. Gissing. - 1877 - 1878, F. J. Gissing and Robert A. Laidlaw.

Existing files: Sentinel-Review office, Woodstock, 1871 - . - Oxford historical society, broken files from July 17, 1874. - Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, broken files from Jan. 19, 1872.

The reminiscences of Mr. G. R. Pattullo, in the Sentinel-Review of October 7, 1920, p. 4, are the basis for many of the

[1] Chronicle, Ingersoll, Apr. 25, 1878.

Interesting details of the early history of this reform paper. The Review was originally printed in Princeton, where Dr. Clark was "a well known physician, a political aspirant and was also a brother-in-law of Mr. Gissing". When it was announced that the Sentinel would appear on October 1, 1870, under the new management of G. R. Pattullo, the proprietors of the Review upon a week's notice decided to move their paper to Woodstock and appear on the same day as their rival. They used a Washington hand press which was easily conveyed on a farmer's wagon. Dr. Daniel Clark retired from the paper in 1875.

Mr. Gissing ran the paper alone for some time before taking as his associate partner Mr. Robert A. Laidlaw. It was considered unnecessary to have two reform papers in North Oxford, so in 1878, the Sentinel and the Review were united to form the Sentinel-Review under the editorship of G. R. Pattullo.

Daniel Clark was born in Granton, Invernesshire, Scotland, August 29, 1835. In 1847 he came to Canada and was a practising physician in Princeton for many years. He was a brother-in-law of F. J. Gissing, with whom he was associated in the establishment of the Review in Princeton in 1869. He severed his connection with the paper upon his appointment as superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, where he was in charge from 1875 until 1905. He wrote many articles on medical and psychological subjects and he was also the author of "Pen photographs of celebrated men and noted places", Toronto, 1873, and a novel "Josiah Garth", Toronto, n.d. He died on June 4, 1912.[1]

[1] Encyclopaedia of Canada. Toronto, 1936. v. 2, p. 74.

1873

Tribune; w. Ingersoll, Dec. 17, 1873 -

Title varies: 1876 - 1879, Oxford tribune and Canada dairy reporter.

Ed. & pub.: 1873 - 1885?, Harry Rowland. - 1885? - 1905?, B. B. Baillie. - 1905? - 1912, E. L. Smith. - Mar. 1913 - W. R. Veale.

Existing files: Tribune office, Ingersoll, 1876 - 1879, 1914 -

The Oxford tribune first established in Ingersoll in 1873 is the only one of the numerous papers published in the town still in circulation today. It was at first four pages in size, later increasing to eight pages. It was conservative in politics, though in the later years, it has become independent. It has always been published as a weekly.

It was printed by Harry Rowland for some years and later taken over by his son-in-law, Byron B. Baillie. Following him E. L. Smith was editor until his death in 1912, and in March of the next year W. R. Veale, the present proprietor, bought out the plant.

1874

Argus; w. Otterville, Apr. 1874 - July, 1876.

Ed.: 1874 - 1876?, W. C. Hallen

Pub.: 1874 - , W. C. Holland.[1]

[1] Fisher & Taylor's gazetteer and general directory of the county of Oxford, op. cit. p. 46, p.79.

A notice in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, April 23, 1874, records the publication of this paper: "We are in receipt of the first number of the Argus printed in Otterville in this county. It is a neatly printed 28 column sheet, neutral in politics 'the principal object in printing the paper being to make money and Riel et al may go hang if we can't make it pay' says the editor."

The same paper, July 20, 1876, contains the news of a "Fire in the building used by W. C. Hallen, editor of the Argus. The fire was put out, but everything was burned", and it is likely the paper ceased publication.

1876

Standard; w. Norwich, 1876 - 1877.

Ed. & pub.: 1876 - 1877, H. C. Pilcher, F. & W. Pilcher.

The year that Norwich became incorporated as a village saw the establishment of the first newspaper. In the issue of the Chronicle, Ingersoll, January 20, 1876, appears this notice, "The Standard is the name of a new paper for publication in the county of Oxford, v. 1, no. 1, which has just reached us. It is printed in the village of Norwich by Henry C. Pilcher." Very little information can be found about this paper, except from the reminiscences of W. H. Hellems, former editor of the Kingston reporter in an article in the Sentinel-Review of September 11, 1936.

H. G. Pilcher was an Englishman who settled in Woodstock. In 1875 he bought the job printing establishment of John A. Tidey, and with his sons Frank and Wallace began in 1876 to publish the Standard. Mr. Hellems describes it as a four-page, double demi sheet, all home print, printed on a Washington home press. Publication was suspended in 1877, and the plant was sold to Messrs. Jaffray who began to print the paper under its present name, the Gazette. In November, 1877, as already noted, H. G. Pilcher became editor of the Planet, Embro.[1]

1877

Gazette; w. Norwich, May 1877 -

Ed. & pub.: 1877 - 1879[2], Jaffray & Craib. - 1879 - 1884?, W. Miller & P. Craib. - 1884? - 1908, T. C. Bartholomew. - 1908 - J. S. Winterburn.

Existing files: Gazette office, Norwich, broken files from 1884.

"The Norwich Gazette is the title of a new paper issued at Norwich by Messrs. Jaffray and Craib, both practical printers." This statement appearing in the Chronicle, Ingersoll, May 24, 1877, announced the advent of the second paper in Norwich, or rather, the resurrection of the Standard under a new name.

The Jaffray brothers were connected with many newspapers

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1 Tribune, Ingersoll, Nov. 14, 1877.

2 G. P. Rowell & co's American newspaper directory, New York, 1879. p.373

during their lifetime. J. P. Jaffray was born in Galt in 1854 and began work on the Galt reporter in 1866. Afterwards he became interested in telegraphy, but he gave this up to join his brother, Robert M. of Windsor, in establishing the Gazette. After remaining there two years he went to Brantford, where he established the Brantford daily telegram. Some three years later the brothers went to Wisconsin on daily Morning leader, and before returning to Galt in 1896, J. P. Jaffray launched the Canadian-American in Minneapolis, and the Referee cycling magazine which became the Motor age. Mr. Jaffray was associated with the Galt reporter from that time on, and died in Galt in 1934.

After the Jaffrays left Peter Craib, who was from Woodstock, took into partnership William Miller, and the firm became Miller & Craib. Some time between 1880 and 1884 T. C. Bartholomew bought the business and ran it until 1908, when it was purchased by the present owner, J. S. Winterburn. The paper is still in circulation.

The Liberal; w. Tillsonburg, Sept. ?, 1877 - Nov. 1919.

The Liberal and the Observer were united in 1920 to form the News.

Ed. & pub.: 1877 - 1882?, William McGuire and Norman Dresser. - 1882? - 1902, William McGuire. - 1902 - 1910?, F. E. Aldrich. - 1910? - 1919, F. E. Aldrich and H. F. Johnston.

Existing files: Broken files in the News printing office, Tillsonburg.

The Chronicle, Ingersoll, September 6, 1877, under the Tillsonburg news has this item: "A reform weekly journal to be called

the Liberal, is to be started in this town. Its proprietors are Messrs. Dresser and McGuire." A further item of September 20 notes the arrival of the first number.

Although Norman Dresser severed his connection with the Liberal about 1882, according to papers in the hands of W. W. McGuire, a son and present postmaster of Tillsonburg, William McGuire continued to run it until 1902, when F. E. Aldrich took a lease. In 19107, F. E. Aldrich in partnership with H. F. Johnston bought the Liberal and ran it until it was united in 1919 with the Observer to form the News.

Mr. F. E. Aldrich was actively associated with the newspaper press for many years. He first learnt the trade from his uncle, Mr. M. L. Aldrich, publisher of the Aylmer enterprise. Then he came to Ingersoll and worked with Mr. Constable on the News, and was later with the Tribune. He was in Blyth for a time, where his uncle published a paper, and following that on the St. Mary's Argus. After a few years in the United States, he returned to Ingersoll and rejoined the Tribune, then went to the Listowel banner as foreman, returned to Ingersoll on the Chronicle and was later in St. Thomas on the Times. He acquired control of the Liberal from William McGuire in 1902 and remained with it until 1919, when he assumed the presidency of the News from 1920 to 1938.[1]

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[1] Tribune, Ingersoll, Oct. 18, 1934.

Sentinel-Review; w. d. Woodstock, 1878 -

Formed by the union of the Sentinel and the Review.

Ed.: 1878 - 1880, G. R. Pattullo. - 1880 - 1903, Andrew Pattullo. - 1904 - 1907, A. Balmer Watt. - 1907 - 1927, John Markey. - 1927 - 1929, M. McIntyre Bood. - 1929 - , W. E. Elliott.

Pub: 1878 - 1880, Laidlaw, Pattullo & co. - 1880 - 1901, Pattullo & co. - 1901 - 1933, Sentinel-Review co. ltd. - 1933 - Woodstock publishers.

Existing files: Sentinel-Review office, Woodstock, 1878 -

From the union of the two reform papers, the Sentinel, established in 1854 by John McWhinnie, and the Review, established in 1869 by F. J. Gissing and Dr. Daniel Clark, the Sentinel-Review was formed in 1878. A weekly edition was published from 1878 until November 30, 1933, and the daily edition was first issued on September 11, 1886. Though described by the Leader in 1886 as a "bitter clear Grit journal", the strong partisan policy of the Sentinel-Review has been greatly modified during the intervening years. Up to about 1919, it was still liberal in politics, but since then has been independent.

When the amalgamation took place, the firm was composed of G. R. and Andrew Pattullo, of the Sentinel, and Robert Laidlaw, of the Review. G. R. Pattullo left in 1880, and Andrew Pattullo bought out the Laidlaw interests. He continued to control the paper until in 1901 a joint stock company was formed, with W. J. Taylor as

Managing director and the Sentinel-Review co. ltd. took over the management of the paper. A further change was made in 1933 when Woodstock publishers was formed.

In 1891 the Sentinel-Review absorbed the Oxford standard and in 1913 the daily Express. The Sentinel-Review publishing co. in 1908, became the proprietors of the Star, Thamesford and the Courier, Embro. In 1917 an office was opened in Ingersoll and in 1921 after the Chronicle has ceased publication, the Ingersoll Sentinel-Review building was purchased. A Tillsonburg office was opened in 1935.

George Robson Pattullo was the first editor of the Sentinel-Review. He was born in Caledon, Peel County, April 8, 1845.[1] Previous to joining the staff of the Sentinel in October, 1870, he was editor of the Transcript, Paris. In 1880 he severed his connection with the paper upon becoming chief Liberal organizer for Ontario.

Andrew Pattullo, his brother, who succeeded him was also a native of Caledon, born in 1850. Poor health forced him to give up a brilliant scholastic career in England, and returning to Canada he joined the staff of the Sentinel, Woodstock, and was made junior partner in 1875. From 1880 until 1903 he was editor of the Sentinel-Review. During that time he was president of the Canadian press association from 1890 until 1892, and also member-elect for North Oxford from 1896. He died in London, England, in December, 1903.[2]

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1 Who's who & why. Vancouver, v. 5, 1914. p. 735.

2 Sentinel-Review, Sept. 11, 1936, p. 13.

John Markey, who followed the Pattullos as editor, was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, April 15, 1856. He came to Canada at an early age with his family, who settled at St. Mary's. His journalistic career was begun on the staff of the St. Mary's Argus, from which he went to the Beacon, Stratford. In 1886 he joined the staff of the Sentinel-Review under Andrew Pattullo but left a short time afterwards to go to the News, Detroit and later to the World, Toronto. In November, 1898 he returned to Woodstock as editor for the new conservative paper, the Express, where he remained as editor until 1907. From that year until his death at Battle Creek, Michigan, on July 29, 1927, he was editor of the Sentinel-Review.

Express; w. Embro, Aug. ?, 1878 -

Though no known files of the Express are in existence, an item from the Tribune, Ingersoll, August 21, 1878, gives a very complete picture of the paper. "The Embro Express is the title of a new paper just started in Embro, the first number of which we have just received. Its appearance and general 'get up' is highly creditable and no doubt will be a worthy successor to the Planet of that village, which was lately destroyed by fire. Although it is to be reform in politics, it promises no blind attachment to that party."

It is probable that as the Courier began in the same year, the Express was very short-lived.

Courier; w. Embro, 1878 - Aug. 1, 1934.

Ed.: 1878 - 1884, William Kay. - 1884 - 1890?, John W. Gunn. - 1890? - 1893?, William Clubb. - 1893? - 1899?, William Stewart. - 1899?, Mr. Riddell. - 1899? - 1900?, William Stewart. - 1900? - 1908, O. M. Alger. - 1908 - 1934, A. A. McKinnon.

Pub.: 1878 - 1884, William Kay. - 1884 - 1890?, D.R. Ross. - 1890? - 1891?, William Clubb. - 1892? - 1899?, William Stewart. - 1899?, Mr. Riddell. - 1899? - 1900?, William Stewart. - 1900? - 1908, O. M. Alger. - 1908 - 1934, Sentinel-Review publishing co.

Existing files: Oxford historical society, Nov. 8, 1899.

Unfortunately the files of this paper have not been preserved and the following is the history of the Courier as related by the former editor, Mr. A. A. McKinnon, who still lives in Embro. Mr. William Kay, who established the paper, came from Wardsville. He had had a paper there and brought the equipment with him. About 1884 Dr. R. Ross, who had an oatmeal milling business in Embro, bought the paper from him, and John W. Gunn was installed as manager. The following note is to be found in the Gazette, Norwich, January 17, 1884: "The Embro Courier in the hands of a new proprietor, Mr. W. Gunn, presents a neat typographical appearance." William Clubb bought the business from Mr. Ross, but he left and went out to British Columbia and sold out in turn to William Stewart. Mr. Stewart ran the

paper from about 1893 to 1900, with the exception of three months when a Mr. Riddell from Toronto took over the business. He decided not to stay in Embro so Mr. Stewart rebought the paper. O. M. Alger bought the paper from Mr. Stewart and ran it until 1908, when he traded the office in Embro with W. J. Taylor, managing director of the Sentinel-Review publishing co. for a newspaper in Tweed. Mr. Taylor installed A. A. McKinnon as editor, and this arrangement continued until the paper ceased publication on August 1, 1934.

1879

Lively times; m. Culloden, Feb. 1879 -

Ed. & pub.: 1879, D. W. Wilson. - 18-?, Reil McCarthy.

Although no copies of this monthly paper seem to have survived, the Tribune, Ingersoll, February 5, 1879, comments on its first issue, "The enterprising village of Culloden, not to be behind in the course of progress, has started a monthly paper which sets out under good auspices. Mr. D. W. Wilson of that village is the proprietor and we have no doubt it will be a success. It is needless for us to say that it is a neatly printed sheet as the work is executed at this office." Additional information from old residents of the village states that it was later printed by Reil McCarthy in the back of an hotel there where they had a printing press.

Advertiser; m. Tillsonburg, 1881 - 1884?

This paper of four pages was established in 1881 and issued for monthly advertising purposes.[1] It is doubtful if it were published for more than about four years.

Sun; w. s.w. Ingersoll, 1881 -

Title varies: Weekly sun

Ingersoll sun.

Ed. & pub.: 1881 - 1884[1], C. R. Patience. - 1884 - 1886, Campbell & Aldrich. - 1886[2] - 1908, T. A. Bellamy. - 1909[3] - , W. J. Taylor.

Existing files: Mrs. Fred Bowman, Ingersoll, Feb. 1907 (25th anniversary number).

The Sun, independent liberal in politics, was established by Colin R. Patience in 1881. A semi-weekly edition as well as a weekly edition was issued.

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1 [Polk's] Ontario gazetteer & business directory, Toronto, 1884, p. 425.

2 Sun, Ingersoll, Feb. 1907.

3 McKim's Canadian newspaper directory, Montreal, 1909, p. 38.

In 1884 C. R. Patience sold the paper to Messrs. Campbell and Aldrich, who in turn disposed of it to T. A. Bellamy in 1886. Before coming to Ingersoll Mr. Bellamy had been in the printing business in Orangeville. He remained as publisher until about 1909, when W. J. Taylor, managing directory of the Sentinel-Review publishing co. took over the business.

Otterville guide; w. Otterville, Sept. 15?, 1881 -

Ed. & pub.: 1882 - , L. Wilcox.

Existing files: Misses C. and I. Pennington, Otterville, v. 1, no. 37, May 26, 1882.

This was a small paper of four pages, price seventy-five cents per year. Leonard Wilcox, the editor, who is said to have come from Norwich, later was in the publishing business in Buffalo, N.Y.

1886

Oxford standard; w. d. Woodstock, Feb 4, 1886 - Mar. 31, 1891.[1]

Absorbed by the Sentinel-Review in 1891.

Title varies: May 1896 - 1891, Evening standard.

Ed. & pub.: 1886 - 1888, A. Denholm. - 1888 - 1891, W. M. O'Beirne & C. Abraham.

Existing files: Oxford historical society, Woodstock, v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 4, 1886. - Mr. J. M. Overholt, Eastwood, Sept. 26, 1890.

A new liberal paper began publication in Woodstock in 1886. The publisher proudly pointed out they were using a large whafdale press, a gas engine and job presses. First it was issued as a weekly but in May, 1886 a daily edition was added called the Evening standard. This was the first daily issued in Woodstock and in Oxford County. It was only published until 1891 when it was absorbed by the Sentinel-Review.

Andrew Denholm who established the Oxford standard was born in London, December, 1856. Before coming to Woodstock he had published the Standard in Kincardine and after two years with the Oxford standard he went to Blenheim, Ontario where he purchased the News.[2]

Charles Abraham, the next proprietor was a former business manager of the Sentinel-Review. His partner, William O'Beirne, after the Oxford standard ceased publication, moved to Stratford and joined the staff of the Beacon.

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[1] Sentinel-Review, Sept. 11, 1936, p. 16.

[2] W. Cochrane, op. cit. v. 2, p. 464.

1887

Echo; w. Plattsville, 1887[1] -

Ed. & pub.: 1887 - 1888[2], H. Chester. - 1892[1] - , W. T. Buggin. -

1900[3] - , F. E. Robinson. - 1905[4] - 1908, Robinson bros. -

1909[5] - , G. G. Robinson. - 1925[6] - , A. G. Graham.

The Echo, independent in politics, was published in Plattsville for about thirty-five years. Since then no paper has been printed locally though Wilson publishing co., Toronto, have published Plattsville Post since 1930.

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[1] McKim, op. cit. 1892, p. 105.

[2] Polk's Ontario gazetteer & business directory, 1888, p. 799.

[3] Directory of Canadian newspapers, Toronto, 1900, p. 76.

[4] McKim, op. cit. 1905, p. 90.

[5] Ibid. 1909, p. 62.

[6] Ibid. 1925, p. 214.

1891

Gazette; w. Woodstock, 1891? -

Ed. & pub.: Y. M. C. A.

Existing files: Y. M. C. A., Woodstock, v. 3, no. 2, Nov. 1891.

This little paper was issued monthly by the Y. M. C. A., under the direction of T. W. Gray, president and O. C. Elliott, general secretary. It contained Y. M. C. A. news, having as a motto "Our field--the young men of Woodstock". Although the only copy in existence is numbered v. 3 no. 2, it is believed the paper did not last longer than one year.

1892

The Echo; m. Otterville, Nov. 1892 -

Pub.: 1892 - , Under authority of the Epworth league of the Methodist church, Otterville, Ont.

Existing files: Misses C. & I. Pennington, Otterville, v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1892.

This was a small monthly paper, four pages, subscription price twenty-five cents per year, containing mainly items concerning the church. There was, however, one page of local news, for the editors wished to make it a "lively, progressive, local journal". Enquiry from the Board of Christian education of the United church, established the fact that it was entirely a local venture. Rev. L. B. Trimble and Rev. Hugh Kennedy were the ministers on the circuit at that time. It was probably limited to a few numbers.

1895

Gazette; w. Tavistock, Oct. 1895 -

Ed. & pub.: 1895 - 1900, J. W. Green. - 1900 - 1907, F. W. Leslie. - 1907 - 1909, Charles Fraser. - 1909 - 1911, N. E. Dopp. - 1911 - 1916, W. Appel. - 1916 - 1929, L. W. Appel. - 1929 - 1932, G. K. Brown. - 1932 - K. H. Brown.

Existing files: Gazette office, Tavistock, 1920 -

The Gazette is one of the few papers still in circulation today. It was at first a five column, eight page sheet printed in the old Commercial hotel. Its present location was the site of the first grist mill in Tavistock. Previous to 1923-4 when a linotype was installed, all type was set by hand. At present the Gazette is owned by K. H. Brown of Tavistock, R. O. Brown of Galt, and G. K. Brown of Oshawa with K. H. Brown as editor. The old custom of combining editorial and publishing ends of the business under one head continued until 1932.

James Wheeler Green, who established this paper, was born in Freeport, Ontario in 1850. He founded and published four newspapers, the Gazette, Mildmay, the Gazette, Tavistock, the Gazette, Parkhill, and Maple leaf, Wellesley. He died at Doon, Ontario in 1939.

Two of the other editors are still in newspaper business, Frank H. Leslie with the Review, Niagara Falls and G. K. Brown as managing editor of the Times, Oshawa.[1]

News; w. Princeton, 1895[2] - 1900[3].

Ed & pub.: 1895 - 1900, J. A. Boden.

This paper was independent in politics. It ceased publication in 1900.

1897

Banner; w. Drumbo, 1897? - 1900[4]

Ed. & pub.: 1897[5] - , N. H. Boden.

This paper is listed among the weeklies for 1900, but no later mention can be found concerning it.

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1 The complete history of this paper was obtained through the kindness of K. H. Brown, Tavistock.

2 Directory of Canadian newspapers, Toronto, 1900. p. 78.

3 Ibid. p. IV.

4 Ibid. p. 155.

5 Union publishing co.'s farmer's & business directory for counties of Brant, Elgin, Norfolk and Oxford. Ingersoll, 1897. p. A26.

Bright enterprise; w. Plattsville, 1897? -

Ed. & pub.: 1897[1] - , W. T. Buggin.

W. T. Buggin published both the Bright enterprise and the Echo at Plattsville in 1897.

Record; w. Thamesford, 1897? -

Ed. & pub.: 1897[2] - , J. Young.

1898

Express; d. Woodstock, Nov. ?, 1898 - 1915.

Ed.: 1898 - 1907, John Markey. - 1907 - 1915, Charles Hamlyn.

Pub.: 1898 - 1915, Woodstock express printing co. ltd.

Existing files: Sentinel-Review office, Woodstock, 1898 - 1915.

An independent conservative paper was started in Woodstock in 1898 by Woodstock express printing company, owned partly by D. W. Karn with A. B. Lee as managing director. A daily edition was printed until July 13, 1913, when it was absorbed by the Sentinel-Review. A semi-weekly edition lasted until 1915.

John Markey[3] was the first editor, remaining until 1907 when Charles Hamlyn succeeded him.

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1 Union publishing co., op. cit. p. A55.

2 Ibid. p. A85.

3 See entry on p. 40 for biographical note.

1899

Herald; m. Otterville, Jan. 1899 -

Pub.: 1899 - 1900, Herald publishing co. - 1900[1] -

Smiley hardware & dry goods co.

Existing files: Mrs. A. Moore, Otterville, v.1, no. 3, April, 1899.

This small monthly paper was published principally as an advertising medium, "free to all who receive it", though it also contained local news items.

1904

Maple leaf; w. Drumbo, 1904 -

Ed. & pub.: 1904 - 1905[2], H. G. Comfort

By 1907 another paper, the Beaver, was being published in Drumbo, so this probably only lasted two years at the most.

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[1] Directory of Canadian newspapers, op. cit. p. 73.

[2] McKim, op. cit. 1905, p. 54.

Star; w. Thamesford, 1904 - 1911?

Pub.: 1904 - 1905[1], John G. Hastings. - 1907[2] - 1908[3], O. M. Alger. - 1909[4] - 1911[5], W. J. Taylor.

At the same time that the Courier, Embro, changed hands the Star also came under the management of the Sentinel-Review co. of Woodstock of which W. J. Taylor was managing director. At first a local editor, living in Thamesford handled the news, E. H. Brennan was editor while O. M. Alger published the paper.[2] This did not prove successful and for the last few years a local correspondent, Miss Irene Brock, collected news items and under an agreement they were sent to Embro with the Courier to be inserted with the ready print.

1907

Beaver; w. Drumbo, 1907[6] -

Ed. & pub.: 1907 - 1909[7], E. W. Johnston.

It is doubtful if this lasted more than a few years as it is not listed in the Canadian almanac after 1910.

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[1] McKim, op. cit. 1905, p. 103.

[2] Ibid. 1907, p. 101.

[3] Union publishing co., op. cit. 1908, p. 416.

[4] McKim, op. cit. 1909, p. 76.

[5] N. W. Ayer's American newspaper directory, Philadelphia, 1911.

[6] McKim, op. cit. 1907, p. 49.

[7] Ibid. 1909, p. 22.

1920

The News; w. Tillsonburg, Jan. 1920 -

Formed by the union of the Observer and the Liberal.

Ed.: Jan. 1920 - Oct. 1938, F. E. Aldrich. - Oct. 1938 - H. F. Johnston.

Pub.: Jan. 1920 - , News printing co. of Tillsonburg, ltd.

Existing files: News printing office, Tillsonburg, 1920 -

The amalgamation of the Observer and the Liberal took place in November, 1919, but the new management of the News did not take over until January, 1920. Under this arrangement, Mr. Aldrich was president from 1920 to 1938, John Law and Alexander McIntyre were secretary-treasurer for one year, 1921-22, and the business manager was H. F. Johnston. Following Mr. McIntyre's death, Mr. Aldrich was still president and editor, and Mr. Johnston became secretary-treasurer and business manager. In 1938 Mr. Johnston, the editor, also became president of the company.

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