

# Special Events of Monteith History.

In the early days most of the land in and around Monteith were covered with bush, mostly evergreen trees, and the old homes were literally carved out of the bush.

One of the dangers dreaded was a forest fire and on July 29 of 1916, after a spell of dry weather, the danger struck and the forest began to burn. The sky was a haze from the oily smoke.

Many homes were burned and many people lost their lives. There was a great deal of suffering. Farm animals were burned.

Some of those who lost their lives were

Mrs. William McClinchy and daughter <sup>Pearl</sup>, who were suffocated in a well, where they had gone to stand with a neighbour, Mrs. Wm. Coleman. Smoke from their burning home had blown directly into the well. The husbands had been away working and could not get to their homes because of the burning bush.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Green, and Mrs. Reynolds also perished. They lived nearby the McClinchy farm.

Mrs. Noe Poirier was the only one of his family saved.

Two families who had fled to a root house on the present Ayers place were suffocated by smoke, among them a mother, whose babe was born while the fire was on. There were 10 in the root house. They were members of the MacMillan and Campbell families.