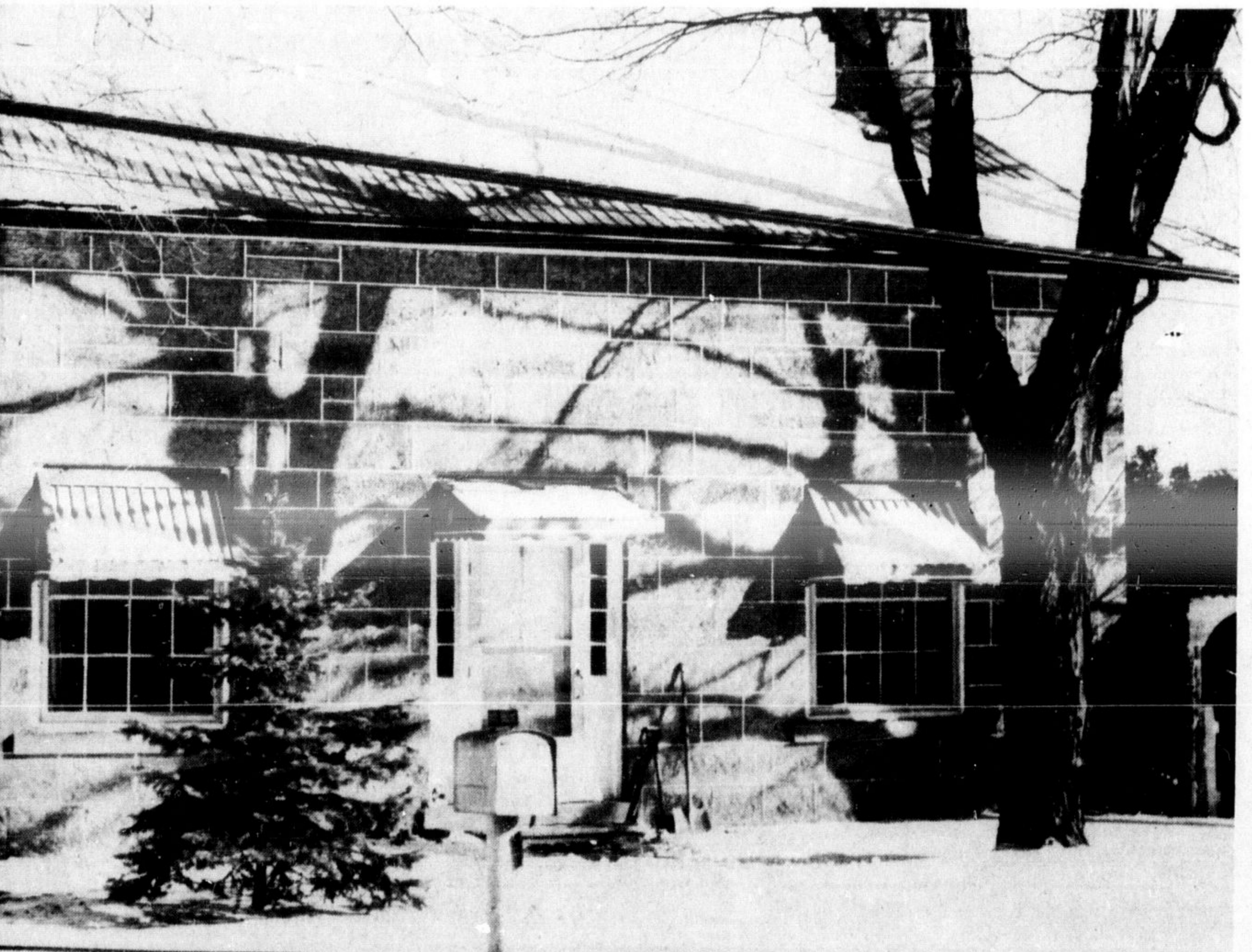


OLD MANSE for the Methodist Church is now the home of Phil and Jenny Walker. At the time of church union in 1925 the church became Nassagaweya Presbyterian and stands on a hill on 15 Sideroad overlooking the four corners.



TWO OLD HOUSES that played a part in the early days of Haltonville's history are still standing. Above is the home of Mrs. Mary Banks and below the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edwards.



wards. It is likely these homes were occupied at some time by one of the many doctors who took up residence in the area.

Haltonville



JENNINGS' GENERAL STORE and the home of Ted and Dot Jennings at the four corners of Haltonville is on the site of the first house built there in 1845. It was used as a shoemaker's shop. While digging for the basement of the current building the remains of a hotel wine cellar were found.

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SECOND SECTION

Once called Sodom

Now a cross-roads hamlet

Today one can drive through Haltonville at the corner of 15 Sideroad and Guelph Line in Nassagaweya and not know they've been there. Not so much as a road sign gives away the secret that at one time this hamlet was a thriving community. All that remains is a cenotaph, a general store and a handful of houses.

Overlooking this tiny community is the delightful stone structure of Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church and its graveyard with hundreds of hints of the past.

Sodom
One amusing story has it that Haltonville, as it is referred to in the Halton Atlas of 1877, was once called Sodom. Further west along 15 Sideroad is the hamlet of Moffat, then called Gomorrah. As any reader of the Bible knows these names denote places of riotous and excessive living. Apparently the road between the two places the years 1850 to 1888 was not safe to travel upon after dark. There were drinking houses on all corners.

And then came the revivalists and the influence of the Methodist Church and

the Temperance Society which cleaned the place up.

Joshua Norrish history
In the Centennial Volume compiled by the Township of Nassagaweya in 1950 a pioneer settler Joshua Norrish recounts the early days of Haltonville. He wrote sometime between 1850 and 1888: "This place is, and always has been, called Sodom. I suppose some person called it that at first for mischief, the residents call it the bigger name, but it don't stick worth a straw."

"George Black built the first house here in 1845, for a shoemaker's shop, on the south side of the corners. William Gordon, a tin peddler put up another building west of the corners in 1846 for a general store and John Dunbar built a blacksmith shop the same year on the south side, and in 1849 James Monaghan is there, I think in Dunbar's shop.

Hotels
"In 1850 C. Forsyth keeps hotel on the east side of the corners. In the next two years James Farmer kept hotel, sign of the Bee Hive; next G. Mackelrevey. After this William Elgie got into the hotel, but I do not think he ever got license, but was

finned for selling without.

"In 1859 George McLarty built the frame hotel, which now stands there and exchanged it with John McEwen for his farm, Lot 26, east-half of 5th Concession. McEwen kept it for some time, then M. Lyons.

"Since that several parties have been there and pretended to keep a temperance house and sell whisky until the place got too warm and they had to dig out. (Note: When the foundations for the present general store were dug in 1930 the remains of the wine cellars of the hotels were found.)

Stores
"In the store business F. S. Clarke kept awhile in Gordon's shop, John Smith and Angus Cameron each kept awhile on the south side. In 1855 George McLarty built the frame house where Dr. Winn lived (now occupied by McPhail as a tea shop), and kept store there himself. After him Lewis Ferguson was here in 1861. Duncan Smitten kept store on the north corner at the same time, then kept store until 1876, established his apiary in 1878, and is still carrying it

on. Donald B. McKeller had a blacksmith shop here in 1863; he was the son of Archibald McKeller.

Doctors
"This place has hitherto been the home of the medical profession in Nassagaweya (Nassagaweya). The first was Wm. Scott in or about 1852, boarded with Mr. Hutcheon, was succeeded by James Bell, son of Alexander Bell. He died in 1859 of consumption after two years practice. Next Dr. Anderson and I think Dr. Cobden came to the village. After him Dr. Robertson, now Reeve of Milton. He was succeeded by Dr. Winn in 1867 who stopped here till last December.

"The village is now pretty flat, the only business carried on that I know of is B. King's carpenter shop, Meade's apiary and the tea store."

Current history
The history of Nassagaweya is brought further up-to-date following Joshua Norrish's account. In 1880 Dr. Winn, one of the first medical practitioners in the township, started a practice at Sodom, and as well as practising his profession, he started a skating rink in 1884.

The first brass band, led by Brock Lee, consisted of Johnnie Milne, Jack Hill, Wm. Kennedy, Thos. Bell, John Moffat and Wm. Dredge. It was followed by a string band and then, as mentioned previously, by a large brass band.

Rifle ranges
In 1898 Sodom boasted rifle ranges and some time later a drill shed. Dr. Meade Sirrs (nee L. K. Meade) was probably the only medical lady doctor in the Township. In 1898 a creamery and chopping mill were running and in 1950 the service station and store (now run by Ted and Dot Jennings) was owned and operated by Glen Britton.

First county road
In 1911 the first County Road was built of crushed stone, the crusher being set up in the old creamery foundation.

In 1885 Wm. Dredge Sr. was the first man to introduce registered Shorthorn cattle in the township, getting his first cow from the Ontario Agricultural College.

In 1948 Earnest Dredge presented enough ground to the Township for athletic purposes.

48th in a series on homes of distinction in Halton by Joyce Beaton



CENOTAPH to the soldiers of the two world wars occupies the south-west corner of Haltonville. The lone soldier stands guard where in 1846 a general store stood, owned by William Gordon, a tin peddler.



THE BEE HIVE was once a hotel owned in 1850 by C. Forsyth. Beside the hotel was a two-roomed A-frame building operated as a tea shop. At the rear of the tea shop was a bee house, no doubt the reason for the hotel name. The house has been owned for the past 25 years by Dan and Verna Mullen.