

History fabric of community

You never know what impression you are going to make, or what influence your actions will have years after the fact.

One of my grandmother's sayings was that "a hundred years from now, it won't matter." Grandma usually applied that philosophical solution to everyday problems such as whether the homework would get done on schedule or whether you could find an outfit as smart as the one worn by your friends.

These things obviously don't matter beyond the moment but other actions can make a difference for generations. For example, the decision of an 18-year-old to leave Paisley in Scotland in 1849 and put down roots in Bruce County made a big difference for her and it still prompts unexpected connections.

Morton McGillivray recently published "From City Sown to a Duckless Forest," the story of Jane Smith, her great grandmother and the brave young woman who made the unaccompanied journey to the Queen's Bush in the last century. That story appeared here two weeks ago. Since then more information has come from others with a connection to Jane.

In the book, McGillivray briefly notes that Jane married Peter Bartleman of Bruce Township a few years after arriving at her brother's homestead in Wilketon. The couple farmed at a corner of the 12th concession and 30th side road in Bruce. McGillivray told me she had been by the farm, but had per-



IN THE DISTRICT
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son the house.
Now McGillivray will have the chance to at least see a photo of her great grandmother's home, thanks to Aubrey Adams who with her husband Norman farmed the former Bartleman property. Aubrey remembers the old log house being dragged from its original location by Deer Creek on the side road and put near the present day farmhouse on the corner for use as a piggery.

"You could see it was a beautiful house, the stairs were gone, but you could see where they were, and all the doors and windows. It was all plastered inside," Aubrey said of the present house.

The Bartleman house has since been demolished, but a photo of it remains and was used on the cover of a school history project by Adams' granddaughter, also called Jane.

I was intrigued by Aubrey's information, because it means the original house was less than a mile from where I lived in Bruce. Our school bus route passed the spot twice a day. The road is straight now, but in those days it curved with the creek through the bush.

premier spot on the farm, and wouldn't it be convenient to get water from the creek," Aubrey said.

Aubrey said Bartleman descendants will live in the Walkerton area, and left me curious about a story that says Bartleman built a clock tower in his barn. More Bartleman connections came from a Hanover area woman, who recommended Josephine Elizabeth Hahn's book "Home of My Youth" for information on the Bartlemans at Maple Hill and their homestead Haddington Towers. My father was both a genealogy researcher and a former student of Josephine Hahn, a respected music teacher in Hanover in the early days.

Jane's father must have worried for months, wondering if he had made the right decision in letting his independent daughter leave home and look for a new life in an unknown world. There could be some lessons that she would not only make a successful journey and raise a large family, but also be the thread that would weave through so many stories about people and places in Bruce?

Threads like the ones in Jane Smith's story help make a strong community fabric. With the help of genealogists, storytellers, family historians and those with a memory for detail or the habit of writing things down, we can have the good fortune of discovering and preserving even more of the connections between people and events in our community.



Home Hardware

Names: Left to Right, Front Row: Ryley Witter, Tyler Schell, Jason Burns, Kevin Curtis, Andrew Page, Alexander Farmer, Jeffrey Warner. Middle Row: Nathan Leander, Patrick Hoffman, Michael Adam, Shaun Patne, Kory McForte, Erig Miller. Back Row: George Burns, Rob Witter, Randy Miller.



Junior Tyke Power Workers Union

Names: Left to Right Coaches: Pety MacLean, Dave Gutbuchen. Back Row: Kirk Gutbuchen, Philp Huestegge, Connor Bell, Karyn McBride, David Barron. Front Row: Jesse Leander, Michael Page, Kyle Devries, Miss MacLean, Connor Bourth.