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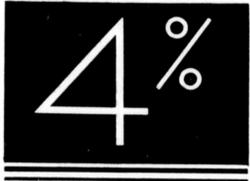
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MILTON

Oppose Election Ask Re-Division

A re-division of Burlington into six instead of four wards was approved by town council last week but in the next breath, voted against a move to elect councillors by wards. Both measures were introduced by Cr. Frank Whittaker who informed council he would immediately seek to line up citizens on a petition calling for a plebiscite on the question.

"I have a lot of work ahead of me to line up one-fifth of the voters," Cr. Whittaker declared after hearing his second motion, for election by wards, go down to defeat on a recorded vote. The motion, defeated by two votes, and seconded by Cr. Gordon, read: That the solicitor be instructed to prepare a by-law to provide for the election of the mayor, reeve and deputy-reeve by a general vote of the electors of the Town of Burlington, and six councillors by wards, subject to the approval of the Department of Municipal Affairs of the re-division of the Town of Burlington into six wards."



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Halton's Pages of the Past

Limestone Rock Still Around Little Kelso Is a Ghostly Reminder of Pioneer Past

BY GWEN CLARKE

In looking over the history of Halton, the name of D. D. Christie occurs quite frequently, particularly in connection with Milton, Acton and Nassagaweya. This is not surprising as further investigation reveals that Mr. Christie was one of Halton's most active and enterprising citizens.

David Darling Christie was born in 1840 in the district now known as Kelso on the Fifth Line, Nassagaweya. His father was Charles Christie, who came to this same township about 1830, approximately the same time as Andrew Elliott and Adam Alexander. Elliott and Christie came from Kelso in Scotland and after receiving grants of Crown Land it is understandable why the little settlement was given the name of Kelso. According to field notes taken by Ruben Sherwood, provincial surveyor, the land around Kelso was "stoney, uneven ground with tall pines and a serpentine stream running through the flats."

Plenty of Rock and Stone

There was certainly plenty of rock and stone, which to the average settler was a disadvantage, but to Charles Christie, who had been familiar with quarries in the Old Country, the terrain held promise of a similar nature. This faith was justified many years later when his son David opened up the Christie Limestone Quarries—a day which Charles did not live to see as, when David was only 12, his father was riding home from Milton, climbing the mountain by way of the Base Line. The road was rough; the horse stumbled, threw his rider and then rolled on top of him. It was several days before Christie's lifeless body was discovered in a gully.

As was usual in those days the boy David's education was very limited but as he grew older the opportunity presented itself and he was able to attend the Rockwood Academy. At an early age his ambition and business ability became evident and he successively opened a general store in Campbellville, Milton and Acton. In Acton he also operated a private bank, the



DAVID DARLING CHRISTIE, son of Charles Christie, opened the Christie Limestone Quarries and owned stores in Campbellville, Milton and Acton as well as operating a private bank in Acton. D. D. Christie's log house near Kelso still stands.

banking business being carried on at the back of the store.

When the Credit Valley Railway built a line through Nassagaweya from Guelph Junction, D. D. Christie was quick to realize that it was now possible for his father's dream to become a reality. And so the Limestone Quarry came into being and remained in operation until 1929 when it was sold to the Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company of Paris, Ontario.

Had First Cookstove

The log house where D. D. Christie was born still stands. As a means of preservation the 112 year-old house has been covered with clap-board siding. It is surrounded by beautiful, well-kept grounds and is the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Gamble of Guelph—Mr. Christie's daughter and son-in-law.

Many of the old furnishings have been preserved and in one room it is possible to see the old logs. The Christie home was the first in the district to have a cookstove instead of the usual crane over an open hearth. When the Canadian Pacific Railway took over the line from the Credit Valley, the company asked permission to give the little whistle-stop station the name of "Christie".

D. D. Christie was well known in political circles—as a Liberal. His brother-in-law, David Henderson of Acton, was a Conservative member of Parliament for over 30 years, and as senior member was given a seat next to the Prime Minister. During

political campaigns, and on the day the people went to the polls, Christie and Henderson shared the same horse and buggy—taking turn and turn about in driving electors to cast their vote!

An Electrical Genius

Kelso is one of Halton's smallest communities but it certainly has more than its share of interesting homes and families. One in particular is the home of Duff Alexander. This was Crown Land property, originally homesteaded by Alexander Campbell in 1822. It was sold by Campbell to Wm. Proctor in 1829, and by Proctor to Adam Alexander. When pioneer Alexander came to Canada he carried with him a quaint document, which is still preserved by the family, and was apparently given as a reference by the rector of the parish to the departing Adam. It is worded thus: "That the bearer, Adam Alexander, with his wife and family left this parish free of Church Censure and Public Scandal is attested at Cullamond this 24th day of July 1826. (signed) F. E. Wismar."

No doubt Mr. Alexander was a typical, hardworking Scot—a worthy progenitor of his future grandson—also named Adam. Adam the Third was little short of an electrical engineering genius. Young Adam watched the steady trickle of a small spring coming from the rocks above, and a little beyond, the old homestead. Gradually he became obsessed with the idea that this little stream might be harness-

ed to provide electrical power for the house and barn.

Still Runs Equipment

With unending patience, and as the result of many experiments, Adam finally had the water piped to the house and barn and was thus able to set up a main distributing centre for his machinery. With the help of the necessary shafts, pulleys, motors and drive-belts, Adam succeeded in providing power to operate, among other things, a washing machine, circular saw, emery wheel, meat chopper and a perpetual water fountain for the front lawn. Water was on tap upstairs and down in the fine old cut-stone house and home generated electricity supplied light for the house.

At the barn there was every kind of labour-saving convenience—and that at a time when such things were unheard of on the average farm. Adam Alexander died in 1941 but his son Duff still runs the old farm and continues to make use of all the power-driven equipment invented by his ingenious father.

Adam Alexander's days must have been very full, for besides farming and experimenting he was also the first postmaster when Kelso was granted a post office after the railway line went through.

For a number of years most of the children at Kelso attended Ligny school, walking a distance of three miles or more. But eventually, in 1886, a school house was built and became known as "Richmond School". According to an old story the reason it was given this name was because there had been so much controversy over the location of the school. Mrs. Alexander said it should certainly be called "Richmond"—after the Battle of Richmond!

A Mill and Tavern

Close to Kelso there was a large grist mill—Abrey's Mill—that looked after the needs of farmers in the district. There was never a regular church in the community but thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Gamble a hall was provided for denominational Sunday school classes to be held each Sunday. And of course, during the week the hall was always available for community and social activities.

There was only one tavern in the settlement. This was on the Fourth Concession, now the Gamble property. It is more than likely this tavern was called "The Bee Hive" as over the lintel of the front entry there was the following inscription—

"In this Bee Hive we are all alive Good whisky makes us funny. If you are dry, come in and try 'The flavour of our honey!'"

And today... what is there left of the Kelso settlement? The Gamble residence, the grey stone school house, the Alexander power-equipped farm and the Elliott homestead, now owned by W. L. Johnston. The post office has vanished and Christie railway station is no longer even a whistle-stop. But the limestone rock is still there, a ghostly reminder of Kelso's pioneer past.

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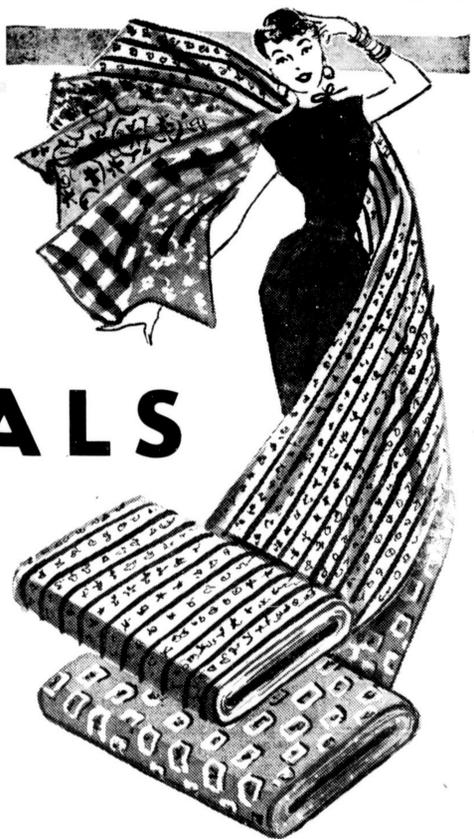
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