

THE HEART OF WORTLEY VILLAGE

FROM CROWN LAND TO URBAN COMMUNITY



Marvin L. Simner

Cover: Photograph, circa 1910, taken from the corner of Craig Street and Wortley Road looking south. The tower of the London Normal School is shown in the distance. From the private collection of John Aitken, reproduced with permission.

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ISBN 978-0-9866899-1-8

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Published by The London and Middlesex Historical Society
Box 303, Station B, London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 4W1
(www.londonheritage.ca/LondonMiddlesexHistoricalSociety)

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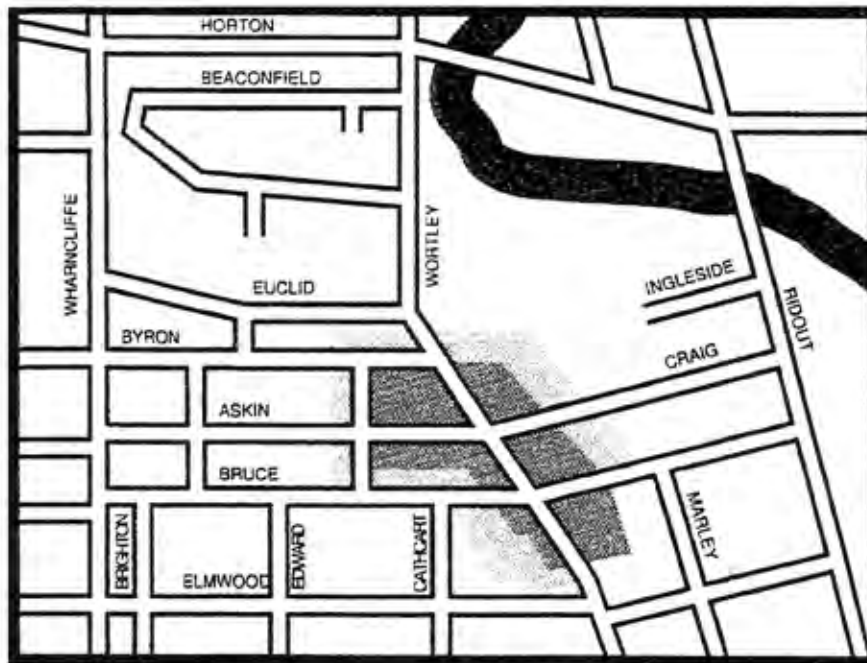
Above photograph: Wortley Road between Craig and Bruce Street looking north, circa 1890. The spire of Saint James Westminister Church on Askin Street is shown in the distance. From the Westland Photograph Collection, courtesy of the Western University Archives.

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Introduction

Wortley Village, as a proposed heritage conservation district, extends from Beaconsfield Avenue in the north to around Tecumseh Avenue in the south and from Wharncliffe Road in the west to Ridout Street in the east (Tausky, 2012). The heart of the Village, on the other hand, consists of a much narrower region along Wortley Road, as shown below. This region, which has been recognized for many years, extends roughly from Byron Avenue in the north to Elmwood Avenue in the south, and includes portions of Askin, Craig, and Bruce Streets, along with such neighbouring streets as Cathcart, Cynthia, Edward, Teresa, and Marley Place. Today this narrower region contains not only a number of businesses and professional offices but also an apartment complex, condominium units, and many private residences.



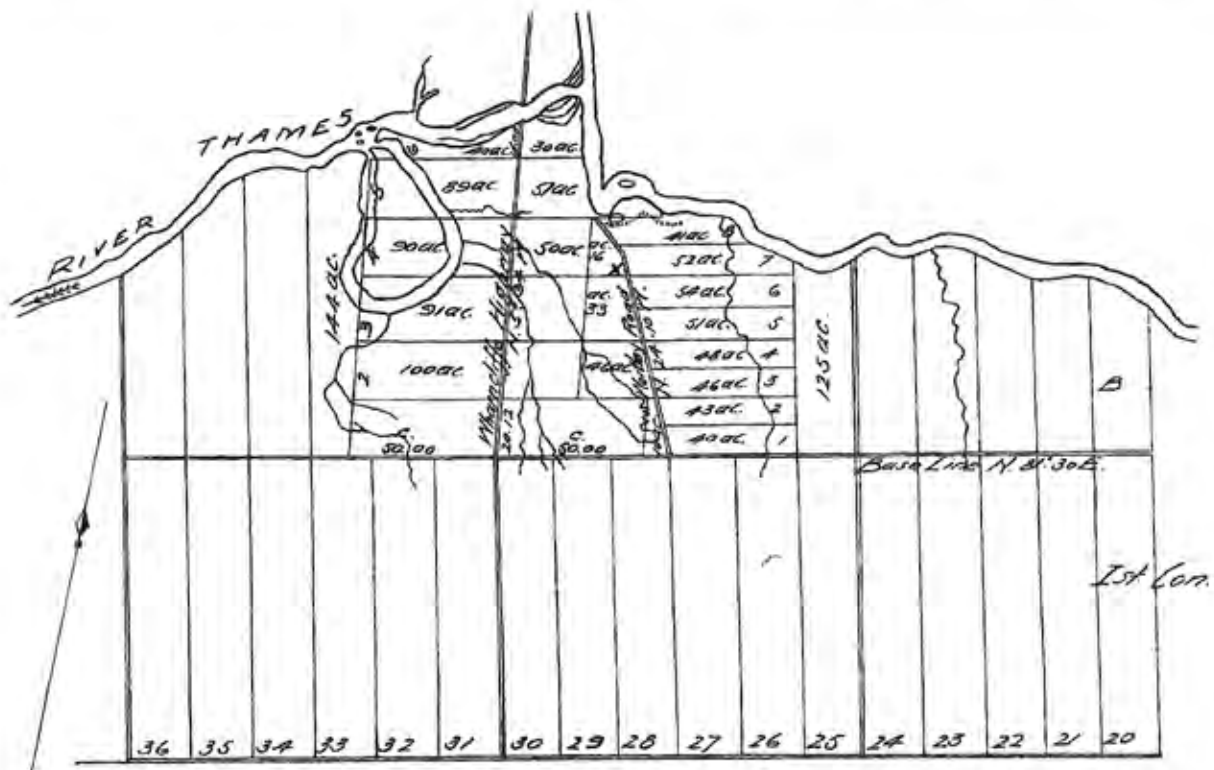
From *Heritage Places: A Description of Potential Conservation Areas in the City of London, 1993*. (Reproduced with permission.)

While several excellent sources are available on the early history of this narrower region along with descriptions of the architecture of some of the original buildings (see, for example, Lutman, 1979, Tausky, 1993), the major purpose of this publication is to outline the evolution of this area from the early 1800s, when it was crown land, to its present state as a vibrant commercial/residential centre. To accomplish this goal we begin with several early maps and discuss the land speculators, who, in the mid-to-late 1800s were instrumental in helping to bring about this

evolution. Next, through additional maps we illustrate the changes that took place between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Here we mention the origin of the street names, the neighbourhood that existed around the turn of the 20th century, the occupations and accomplishments of some of the residents and, finally, how amalgamation into the city of London occurred and what life was like for the residents when this narrower region became part of the city. In the last section entitled "Postscript" we outline the changes that took place in the commercial zone along Wortley Road between the early 20th and 21st centuries.

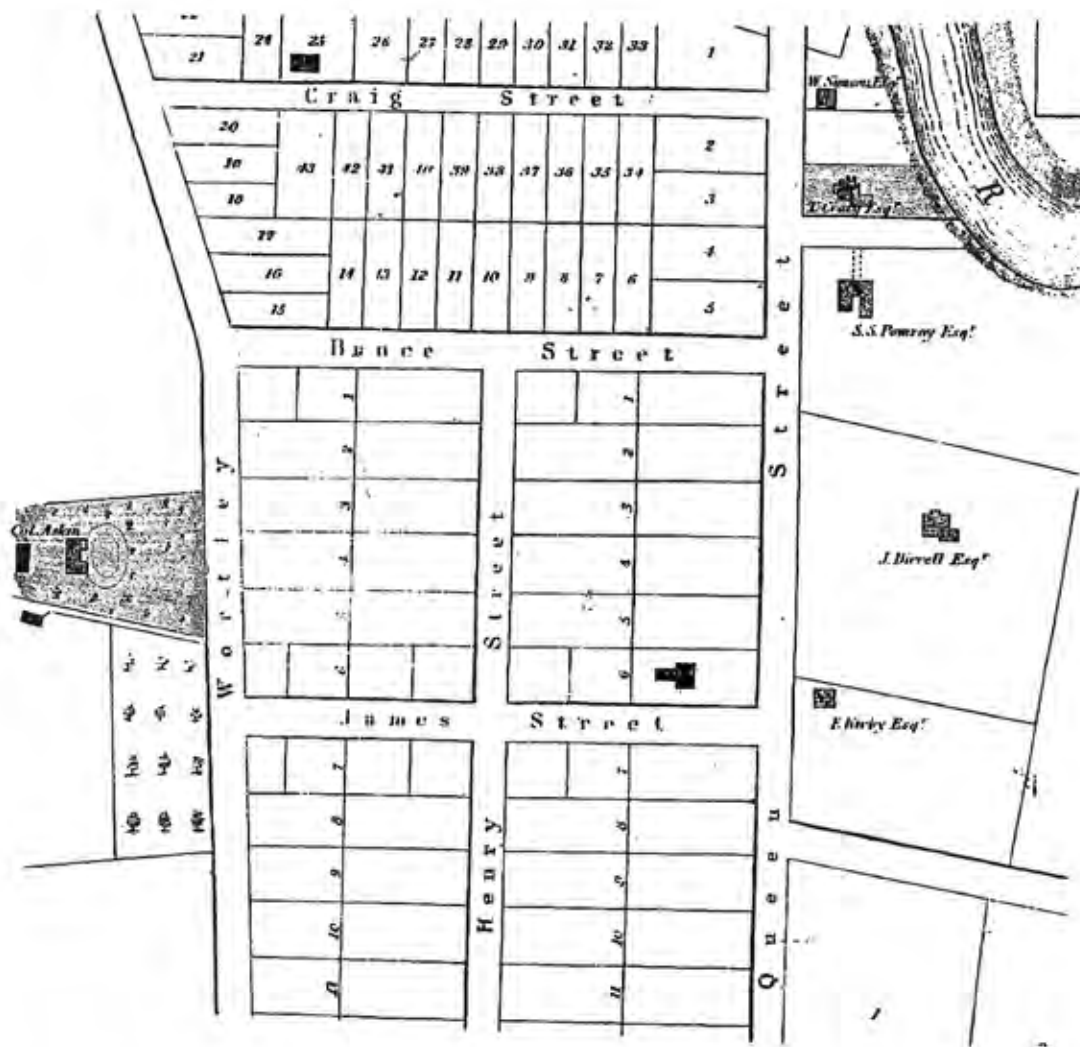
Early Stages

The land that today encompasses the heart of the Village was purchased by the Crown in 1790 from the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi nations (Armstrong, 1986). The 1830 map reproduced below shows the divisions of crown land that eventually served as the basis for this area. The location of what was probably the first house is marked with an X in lots number 7 and 8 in the 16 acre section west of Wortley Road. The house was owned by Patrick McManus who initially was a peddler but eventually opened a store in the vicinity of the London court house (Campbell, 1921).



Reproduced courtesy of the Western University Map and Data Centre.

The Village emerged from lots 3 and 4 on the east side of Whamcliffe Highway and from lots 6, 7, and 8 on the east side of Wortley Road. Lots 3 and 4 were purchased from the Crown by John Baptiste Askin in 1836 and were subdivided into smaller building lots around 1878. In 1840, lots 6, 7, and 8 were owned by James Hamilton who later entered into a real estate partnership with Robert Carfrae. In 1844 their property south of Bruce Street was subdivided into building lots and their property north of Bruce was subsequently owned and subdivided by Thomas Craig around 1855. The 1855 map reproduced below shows the subdivisions and the locations of the Askin and Craig estates. Who were these individuals? Beginning with Askin and Hamilton, the following section contains a brief biography of all four of the major land speculators.



Land owned by Hamilton, Carfrae, and Craig along Wortley Road divided into building lots. (From an 1855 map of the City of London, Canada West, surveyed and drawn by S. Peters, P.L.S. & C.E. Courtesy of the Western University Map and Data Centre).

John Baptiste Askin

Born in Detroit on April 10, 1788, John Baptiste Askin was a descendant of a prominent family that can be traced to John Erskin (1675-1732), the 22nd Earl of Mar who was a member of the Scottish Peerage and at one time was a British Secretary of State (Dictionary of Canadian Biography, 1976).

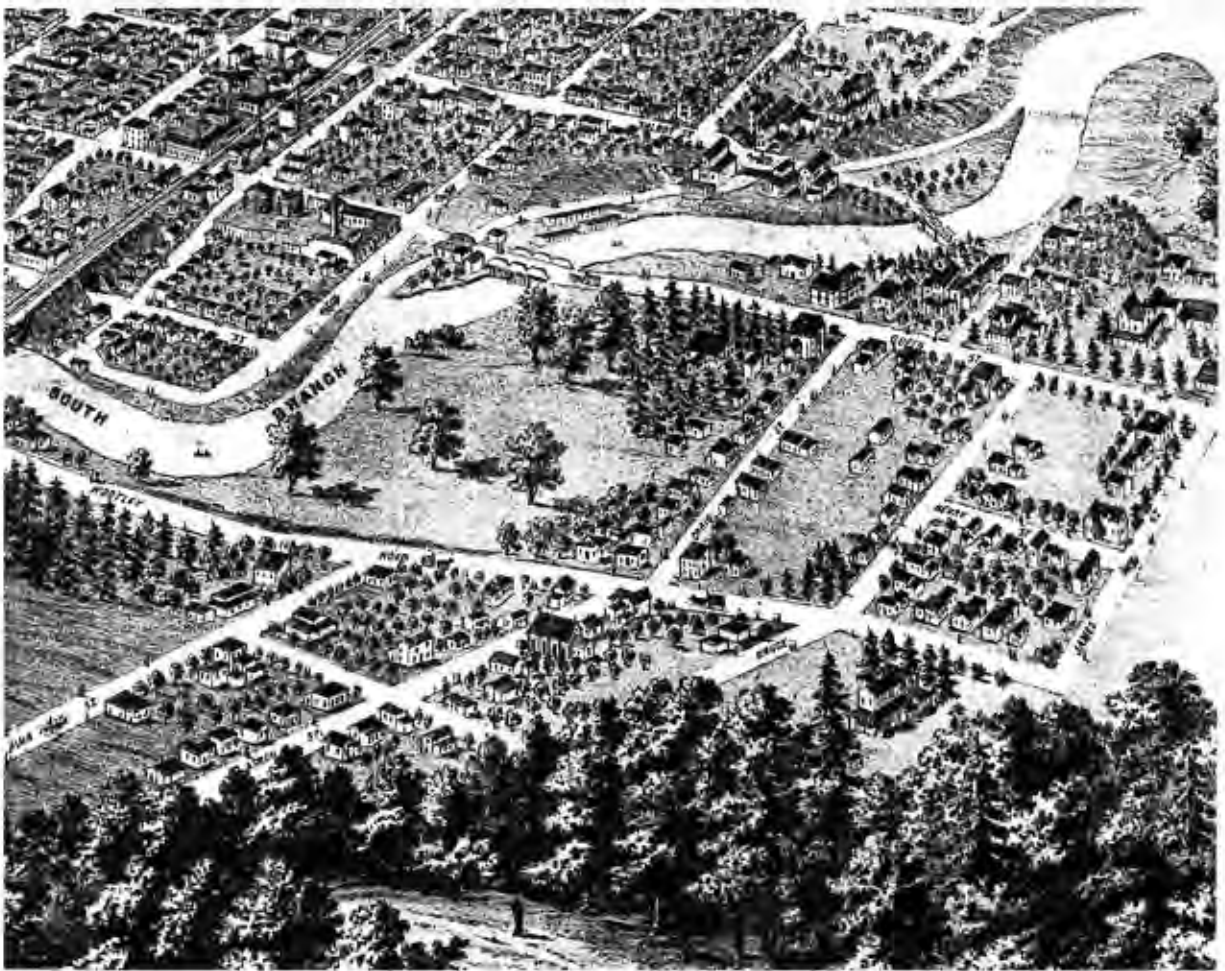
John Baptiste's father, John Erskin Askin, emigrated to North America from Scotland in 1758 and became a very successful merchant in Detroit. Following the American Revolution he relocated across the river to Sandwich, now part of Windsor, where he owned a considerable amount of land and built a substantial estate. While there he assumed the positions of customs collector for Amherstburg and storekeeper for the Indian Department at St. Joseph Island near Sault Ste Marie. He died in 1815 at the age of 75 (Fuller, 1972).

Along with his father, John Baptiste served in the British militia during the War of 1812. Following the war he settled in Vittoria in Norfolk County where he was appointed clerk of the peace and clerk of the court. In 1831 he was appointed to the board of education for the London District and in 1832 he moved to London where he also served as clerk of the court. Among his many responsibilities in this role he issued certificates of settlement for Colonel Talbot. In 1837, John Baptiste raised volunteers and took part in action to suppress the rebellion led by William Lyon MacKenzie. He was promoted to colonel in 1838 and was listed in the 1856 City of London Directory as "commanding the 8th militia district of the Provincial Militia." As a prominent citizen of London he was instrumental in the establishment of the Mechanics Institute which opened on Courthouse Square in 1843 and relocated to 231 Dundas Street in 1877 (Baker, 2000). He was also the first president of the Middlesex Agricultural Society. In view of his importance in London, coupled with his considerable land holdings in south London, during the early days the centre of the Village was referred to as Askin Village.

Like his father, he too was a land speculator. Aside from his holdings in south London, he also owned considerable property in North London. In south London he built a substantial residence on his estate (see the 1855 map) where died in 1869. The residence was demolished shortly after his death. Those who knew him claimed that although "he was outwardly of quite gentlemanly bearing, inwardly (he was) conceited, proud, jealous, selfish and envious...he had no taste for the society of his equals or immediate superiors" (Hughes, 1916, p. 22).

In his will (see Service Ontario Land Registry Office Middlesex County microfilm #E-33T-019 and 020) he left all of his real estate holdings to his wife and appointed his son, Charles Askin from Chatham, and James Shanly of London as trustees of his estate. On May 3, 1876 James Shanly, acting as executor, transferred the ownership of the property that extended from Wortley Road to Wharncliffe Road and from Bruce Street to Tecumseh Avenue to Daniel Macfie for "one dollar." That same month the property was surveyed into building lots and on May 6, 1878, the property was sold to Ephraim Jones Parke for \$14,000.

The 1872 drawing, reproduced below, not only contains an artist's rendition of the Askin estate on Wortley Road south of Bruce Street, but also suggests that the property north of Bruce had been sold and subdivided prior to 1878. Indeed, many of the lots on Askin Street itself were purchased by William Hunter as early as 1872, if not before. In fact, the forerunner to the present Saint James Westminster Church was erected on lot 18, Askin Street, and opened to the public in 1873. The forerunner to the Wesley-Knox United Church was built on the corner of Askin and Teresa Streets and dedicated in January, 1875.



From a drawing by E. S. Glover entitled "Birdseye View of London Ontario Canada 1872."
(Courtesy of the Western University Map and Data Centre.)

James Hamilton

James Hamilton (1792-1858) was also from a prominent family. His father, the Honourable Robert Hamilton, founded Queenston, and the city of Hamilton, Ontario, was named after his brother George. In addition to being an extremely successful merchant in St. Thomas, James Hamilton was appointed sheriff of the London District in 1837 (Cameron, 1916). Among his many duties as sheriff, he too was involved in the 1837 rebellion, though his actions were not necessarily meritorious, at least according to those who were charged with pursuing the rebels responsible for the uprising. Sheriff Hamilton was called upon for aid and, although he was "loyal enough...he seems to have been lacking in enthusiasm...or as some thought, he was constitutionally timid. At all events, he had to be spurred on--even to the extent of threatening him with the anger of the Government" (Campbell, 1911, p. 33-34). Among those who did the spurring was Askin. Hamilton eventually agreed to call out the militia.

After the rebellion, again as sheriff, he was charged with carrying out the following executions on the courthouse grounds: Cornelius Cunningham was hanged on February 4, 1837, Joshua Gilliam Doane and Amos Perley were hanged on February 6, 1837 and Albert Clark, an American, was executed on January 14, 1839 (Campbell, 1911; Cameron, 1916).

Hamilton's property consisted of a 106-acre estate known as Sheriff Hamilton's Bush. His house was erected in 1848-1849 on the corner of James and Queen Street (see the 1855 map) at what is now the corner of Elmwood and Ridout. The house was later moved to 198 Elmwood (Lutman, 1979). During the period when his house was under construction, the Ridout Street bridge was also under construction. As an interesting footnote, it soon became apparent that the proposed layout of Queen Street (later Ridout Street South) from the bridge to Commissioners Road was to pass through his house. To avoid this situation, Hamilton along with several others gave a considerable sum of money to the Westminster township council "for extracting stumps and otherwise constructing a road from the river to the Commissioners' road...to the (east) of the first surveyed location" (Cameron, 1916, p. 39-40). Thus, Hamilton may have been at least partly responsible for the slight jog in Ridout Street immediately south of the bridge.

Robert Carfrae

Robert Carfrae was born in Leith, Scotland, in 1804 and was one of the earliest pioneers in London. He came from Toronto to London around 1830 and was employed as a cabinet maker in the District Courthouse, which was then under construction. In 1834 he purchased from the Crown a large tract of land in Westminster Township along the Thames river where he erected his home in the late 1850s at what is today 39 Carfrae Street (Flanders, 1977; History of the County...1889). Aside from his holdings in south London, he also owned a large plot of land on Dundas Street between Richmond and Clarence. According to his obituary, which appeared in the London Free Press on April 8, 1881, "For years he followed the business of a carpenter, and by prudent and upright dealing, and taking advantage of the opportunities offered in the rise in real estate, (he)

amassed a considerable fortune...He was known to the citizens generally as an upright, conscientious man, abhorred display of a public nature, and was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends.”

Thomas Craig

In the 1840s Thomas Craig operated a bookstore on Dundas Street (History of the County..., 1889). His home, known as Craig Castle, was quite large and was located between Craig and Bruce Streets on what is now Ridout Street but was then Queen Street (see the 1855 map). Although Craig remained a bookseller throughout the 1850s, in the early '60s his firm was involved in a serious lawsuit and he was forced to sell his business to pay off his creditors (London Public Library, Seaborn Collection, Doctors, p. 305-306). Apparently, he was “one of the last men in Canada to suffer from the old law of imprisonment for debt” (Priddis, 1909, p. 24). Although it is unknown where he was imprisoned, it may have been in the London Court House and Jail, which had two cells set aside for debtors (FitzGerald, 2005). Following his release, according to the London City Directory, he then turned to real estate. In 1864 he was listed as a land agent and broker with an office on Dundas Street between Richmond and Talbot. No further listings for him appeared in the Directories after this date.

Origin of the Street Names

The map on the next page reveals that by 1879 all of the land along Wortley Road that now comprises the heart of the Village had been subdivided into streets and building lots. Several of the street names were derived from the surnames of the original land owners. Most of the following information is from a report read before the London and Middlesex Historical Society in 1905 and later updated (Priddis, 1909).

Alma Street - this street was originally named after Alma Heights in the Crimea, but to avoid confusion with a street of the same name in North London, the name was subsequently changed to Byron Avenue after the village west of London.

Askin Street - named in honour of Colonel Askin.

Bruce Street - derived from the family name of the Earl of Elgin, who was Governor-General of Canada in the late 1840s.

Cathcart Street - named in honour of Robert Cathcart Macfie, a land owner.

Craig Street - named in honour of Thomas Craig.

Cynthia Street and Teresa Street - named in honour of the daughters of Colonel Askin.

Edward Street- named in honour of Edward Dean Parke, another South London land owner.



Survey of the streets and building lots along Wortley Road. (From an 1879 Map of the City of London and Suburbs, courtesy of the Western University Archives.)

Elmwood Avenue - see James Street below.

Henry Street - named in honour of Henry Hamilton, who was the Town Clerk before London became a city and whose house was located at the corner of Henry and James Street. Later the name was changed to Marley Place which was the name of Henry Hamilton's home.

James Street - According to Priddis this street was also named on honour of the Earl of Elgin whose first name was James. It was later changed to Elmwood Avenue due to the abundance of Elm trees that grew in the vicinity. It is worth noting, however, that James Street on the east side of Wortley Road was constructed before Elmwood Avenue to the west of Wortley Road. The connecting jog that today appears between the two stemmed from the fact that when Elmwood, to the west of Wortley was surveyed, it was to run along the main entrance to the Askin Estate, which, as shown on the 1855 map, is not quite parallel with James Street to the east of Wortley (Lutman, 1977).

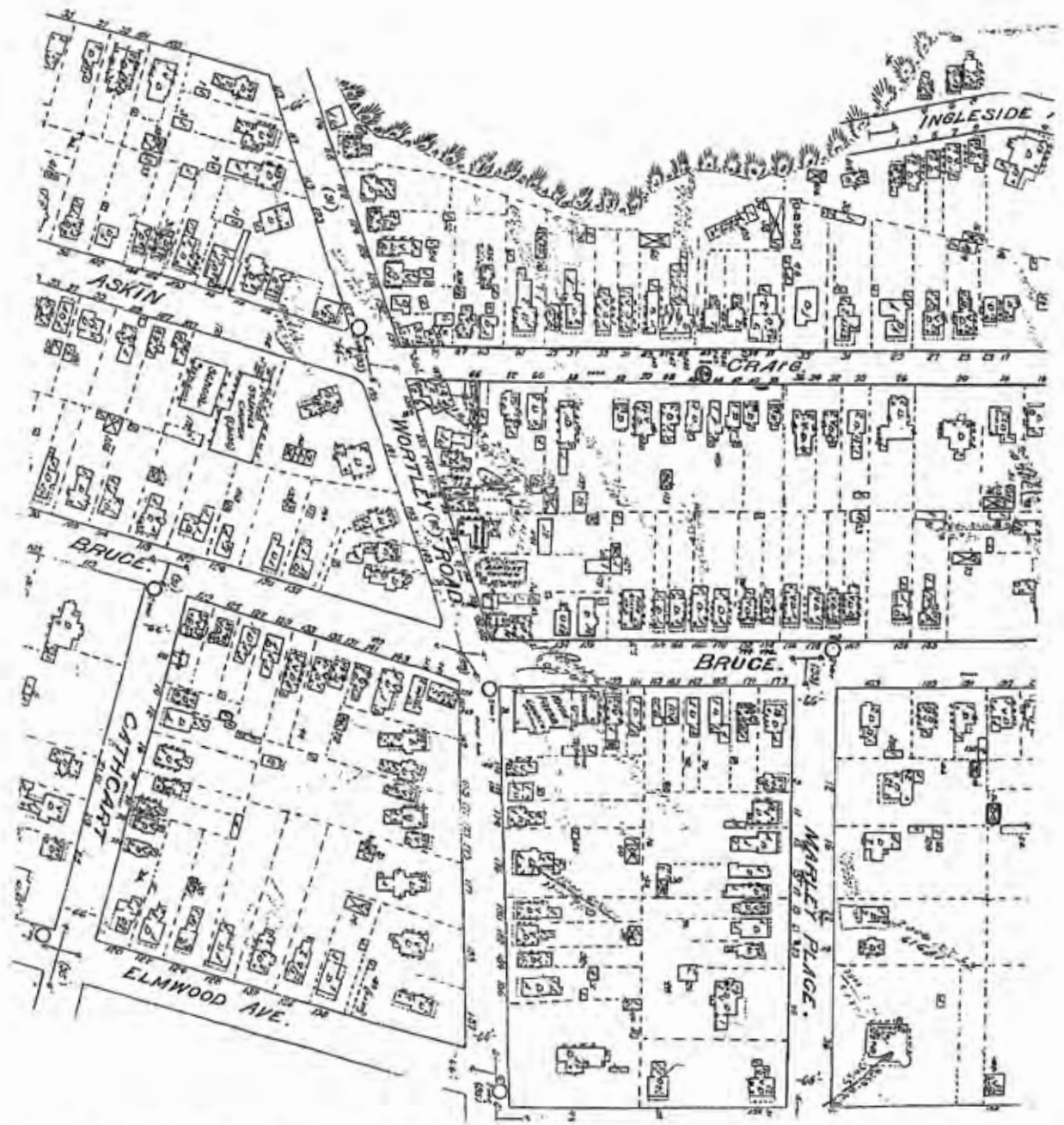
Wortley Road - named in honour of Stewart Wortley, a friend of Colonel Talbot.

Unfolding of the Village as an Urban/Commercial Centre

By the 1880s the majority of lots in the centre of the Village had been sold and a number of buildings had been erected. The locations of many of the earliest buildings along Wortley Road can be seen on the 1912-1915 fire insurance plan on the next page. According to information in the 1891 London City Directory most of the early buildings were private residences although a few were commercial/religious structures.

Proceeding south from the corner of Craig on the east side of Wortley to Elmwood, the 1891 Directory lists George Shaw's grocery store combined with the Askin Post Office at the corner of Craig and Wortley. Next was the Baptist Church at 152 Wortley, Westland and Sons' paint shop at 156, Isaac Weldern's drug store at 158, and Knox Presbyterian Church at the corner of Bruce and Wortley. On the west side of Wortley, and proceeding south from Askin, the only commercial property was a grocery store owned by G.T. Trebilcock at the corner of Bruce and Wortley. Thus, of the 33 buildings shown on the map along this two block stretch of Wortley, there were two churches, two groceries, one post office, one paint store, and one drug store. According to the Directory, 18 of the remaining buildings were private homes. By 1912 the only changes that had taken place were the addition of another drug store at 136 Wortley, a barbershop at 144, the Merchants Bank at 146, and a dry goods store at 161.

The occupations of the earliest residents clearly reveal that by the turn of the 20th century the six to eight square blocks that today comprise the Village were no longer solely the domain of the very wealthy, nor had this area become a working class community. Instead, what emerged by



From the London Fire Insurance Plan 1912-1915, Chas. E. Goad Co. (Courtesy of the Western University Archives.)

the 1890s was a well integrated neighbourhood that consisted not only of the wealthy, but of labourers, trades people (e.g., carpenters, shoe makers, blacksmiths), educators, lawyers, physicians, and business owners, to mention a few. (For the occupations of the residents and their addresses as listed in the 1891 City Directory see the Appendix.)

While the accomplishments of most of the early residents are lost to the pages of history, a number were quite influential not only in the London community but in other parts of the province, and in some cases, even well beyond the province. A few of the notable residents around the turn of the 20th century are given below.

Clara Brenton (188 Bruce Street)

Clara Brenton was born in London in 1874 and resided throughout her life at 188 Bruce Street. She was the daughter of Thomas Brenton, a prominent furniture manufacturer and owner of a large furniture store located at 385/387 Talbot Street (*Industries of Canada*, 1890, p 52). As a teacher, Ms. Brenton started her career at Victoria Public School on Askin Street in 1895. In subsequent years she taught at Wortley Road Public School and at Tecumseh Avenue School. In 1912 she became supervisor of kindergarten work and in 1929 was promoted to supervisor of the kindergarten and primary grades in London. A recipient of many honours throughout her life she was awarded the King's Coronation Medal and was named an honorary member of the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario in 1961. Following her retirement in 1943, she served as chair of the London Board of Education for 10 years. Several months prior to her death in 1963, the London Board of Education announced that the new school on St. Croix Avenue would be named after her (London Free Press, August 23, 1961; London Free Press, December 20, 1963). A wooded area also named in her honour is adjacent to the school.

John Duncan Clarke (32 Craig Street)

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1854, Clarke arrived in London in 1875 and went to work for the London Free Press. He then moved to Hamilton where he became city editor of the Hamilton Spectator and later Managing Editor of the Hamilton Times. In 1889 Clarke returned to London and served for a period of nine years as editor of the London Advertiser. Around 1898 he left this position to become Secretary in the Department of Justice, a position he held under two successive Ministers. In 1910 he accompanied Minister Aylesworth to a conference in the Hague and in 1915 Clarke was promoted to the position of Registrar in the Department of Justice. He died in 1941 and was mentioned in the book, *London and Its Men of Affairs*, published by the London Free Press (circa 1945).

Rev. Thomas Cosford (23 Cathcart Street)

Thomas Cosford (1812-1892) was one of the pioneer ministers in Middlesex County in the early-to-middle 19th century. Born in Hardington, Northampton, England, his parents emigrated to the United States in 1818 and eventually settled in York (now Toronto). Cosford entered the Methodist ministry in 1839 and travelled as an itinerant minister for the Methodist church in southwestern Ontario. "His ministry was surrounded with many hardships, and frequently on his earlier circuits he was compelled to walk for miles where it was impossible to take his horse, to

keep appointments” (London Free Press, July 7, 1892). He remained active as a circuit riding minister until his retirement around the age of 71, which is when he moved to 23 Cathcart Street.

John Dearness (30 Marley Place)

John Dearness (1853-1954) was born in Hamilton, Ontario. He graduated from the Toronto Normal School, taught in several public schools and high schools in Middlesex County, then served as school inspector in East Middlesex for nearly 25 years. In 1900 he became the first vice-principle of the London Normal School and in 1918 he became principle, retiring from this position in 1922 (for a history of the London Normal School see Simner, 2009). As principle, one of his duties was to approve boarding houses for female students enrolled in the Normal School, a number of which were located in the Village. The following list is one that he compiled. A photograph of the London Normal School, as it appeared around the time that Dearness was principle, is on the next page.

List of London Normal School Boarding Houses			
1918		1919	
Name	Residence	Can Accommodate	Price of Board Per Week
Mrs. Cummings	Askin St., 16	4	\$5 00
Rev. G. W. Howson	Askin St., 71	3	5 00
Mrs. F. Baird	Askin St., 114	2	5 00
Mrs. H. McKone	Beaconsfield Ave., 97	4	6 00
Mrs. A. M. McLeish	Beaconsfield Ave., 105	4	5 50
Mrs. W. Patrick	Briscoe St., 22	2	5 00
Mrs. Ward	Briscoe St., 43		
Mrs. Geo. Roberts	Briscoe St., 45	4	5 00
Mrs. W. Roberts	Briscoe St., 27	2	5 00
Mrs. Obe	Broce St., 23	4	5 00
Mrs. McAlpine	Byron Ave., 88	6	5 00
Miss Knott	Carfrae Crescent, 10	2	5 50
Mrs. McDonnell	Cathcart St., 22	4	5 00
Mrs. P. N. Wiggins	Love Road, 20	4	4 50
Mrs. J. E. Hammond	Craig St., 36	2	6 00
Mrs. I. Marlatt	Craig St., 40	2	5 00
Mrs. E. Harris	Duchess Ave., 81	4	5 00
Mrs. T. H. Murray	Duchess Ave., 109	4	5 00
Mrs. Corbett	Duchess Ave., 230	4	5 00
Mrs. Bloomfield	Edward St., 18	5	5 50
Miss R. Bryant	Edward St., 20	5	5 00
Mrs. McDonald	Edward St., 21	4	5 50
Mrs. Alex. Westman	Edward St., 60	4	5 75
Mrs. C. A. Vollick	Elmwood Ave., 22	2	5 00
Mrs. Wallace	Elmwood Ave., 26	2	5 50
Mrs. Allison	Elmwood Ave., 139	4	5 00
Miss M. Taylor	Euclid Ave., 66		
Miss E. Kerne	Euclid Ave., 62	4	5 00
Mrs. S. Sperrigue	Garfield Ave., 22	2	5 00
Miss M. Scott	Langarth St., 134	2	5 00
Mrs. Atkinson	Langarth St., 174	2	5 00
Mrs. Peacock	Langarth St., 181	2	5 50
Mrs. I. G. Kiltourne	Langarth St., 192	4	5 00
Mrs. Ryan	Orchard St., 26	4	5 00
Mrs. E. Lewis	Orchard St., 31	6	5 00
Mrs. J. Wood	Orchard St., 32	3	5 00
Mrs. Marshall	Ridout St., 32	2	5 00
Mrs. Petrick	Scantley St., 80	2	5 00
Mrs. Cornfoot	Tecumseh Ave., 214	4	6 00
Mrs. W. J. Chalfant	Tecumseh Ave., 215	2	5 00
Mrs. Geo. A. Farr	Tecumseh Ave., 119	4	6 00
Mrs. Sidney Clark	Teresa St., 14	2	
Mrs. Land	Victor St., 21	2	5 00
Mrs. Kreitzer	Victor St., 29	2	5 00
Mrs. Burleigh	Victor St., 42	2	5 00
Mrs. Chas. Mennill	Wharmcliffe Rd., 204	2	5 00
Mrs. E. M. Healy	Wharmcliffe Rd., 225	4	5 00
Mrs. A. P. McLean	Windsor Ave., 108	2	5 00
Mrs. J. A. Campbell	Wortley Rd., 176	1	5 00

Courtesy of the Western University Archives (Box 746).



Courtesy of the Western University Archives

In addition to his interest in education, Dearness was a self-taught botanist who published 57 papers in the field and became the sixth president of the Mycological Society of America. His extensive collection of fungi, gathered in Middlesex County between 1880 and 1940, is housed in the National Mycological Herbarium, Biosystematic Research Institute, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. A resume of his life and career in mycology was published in the journal *Mycologia* in 1955 (Vol. 47, p. 909-915).

While maintaining his affiliation with the public school system, he also secured a position at the University of Western Ontario where he taught botany and later zoology. In fact, the University Alumni Gazette, in an article published in 1943, referred to him as “Western's first professor of biology.” He also taught at the Medical School on York Street starting in 1888 and, following retirement in 1922, he assumed the position of historian of the Medical School.

In recognition of his accomplishments in the field of mycology he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1937, and the laboratory of plant pathology at the Botanical Gardens in Montreal was named in his honour. Among the many telegrams he received at his 90th birthday celebration was one from George Washington Carver, the world renowned botanist at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Dearness' final honour was bestowed by the City of London in 1953 when it named the new building on Wellington Road the Dr. John Dearness Home for Elder Citizens. Although he was able to attend the dedication, he died the next year at age 101. Almost to the moment of his death, however, he was extremely active. He didn't stop shovelling snow until the winter of 1953/54; he also drove his car until he was 90 and stopped only because he could no longer get a licence.

Charles H. Elliott (20 Craig Street)

Born in Westminster Township in 1844, Charles Elliott was raised and educated in London. In 1866 he established what was to become a large retail grocery business near the corner of Richmond and Dundas. In 1891 he founded the firm of Elliott and Marr, a wholesale grocery establishment, which he headed until 1906 when he was appointed to the position of Collector of Customs for the City of London. In 1891 he was also involved in another business, Elliott & Company, which was an iron foundry that manufactured agricultural implements. He too was mentioned in *London and Its Men of Affairs*.

Wallace Halle (10 Marley Place)

Wallace Halle was born in England and arrived in Canada in 1866. Initially he opened a large music store in Chatham then, four years later, moved to London where he was “prominently identified with every musical event of any importance” held in the city (*Industries of Canada*, 1890, 57). His shop, W.Halle & Co. located at no. 5/ 6 in the Masonic Temple Buildings on Richmond Street in London, specialized in high quality pianos, cabinet organs and general musical merchandise. There were also rooms in his shop that could be used for music rehearsals. It is said that he conducted “the leading piano business in London and that his instruments are sought after by the best musicians for recitals.”

Fred Landon (21 Bruce Street)

Born in London in 1889, Fred Landon was a member of the editorial staff of the London Free Press from 1906 to 1916. During this period he became city editor and rose to the rank of managing editor while representing the paper in the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Ottawa. Following his departure from the Free Press he became chief librarian for the London Public Library system. In 1919 he graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Master’s degree in history and subsequently became an associate professor in the Department of History at Western. While at Western he served as a member of the University Senate and in 1923 he was put in charge of the University’s libraries. He became vice president of the University in 1946.

In 1929 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 1945 he was awarded the Tyrrell Medal by the Society for his “outstanding work-in connection with the history of Canada” (London Free Press, May 12, 1945). His many publications included one dealing with the historical and economic development of Lake Huron, another entitled “Western Ontario and the American Frontier,” and still another, in collaboration with Jesse Edgar Middleton, was entitled “The Province of Ontario - a History 1615-1927.” He also published extensively on the American Civil War with a focus on slavery. In 1967 he received the gold Cruikshank Medal in recognition of his literary contribution to the Ontario Historical Society.

Not only was he an accomplished scholar and administrator, he also gave freely of his time to serve on many local, provincial, and national organizations. At the local level he was chairman

of the board of trustees of the Elsie Perrin Williams Art Gallery, a member of the London Board of the VON, the London Community Concert Association, the Western Fair Board, and the Board of Trustees of the London Civic Art Gallery, to name a few (London Free Press, January 6, 1951). He also oversaw the establishment of the first branch of the London Public Library in south London in 1919. Not surprisingly, when the new building was erected on Wortley Road in 1955, it was named in his honour. Fred Landon died at the age of 88 in 1969.

Colonel Francis B. Leys (111 Elmwood Avenue)

Colonel Leys was born on his father's farm in Pickering Township in 1839 and died in London in 1905. At the time of his death the flag at London City Hall was lowered to half-staff and the Free Press on September 12, 1905, published an extensive front page article that detailed his accomplishments and numerous contributions to London and the surrounding area.

Before arriving in London around 1872, Leys lived in Windsor where he served in the militia. After arriving here he rose to the rank of colonel and was largely instrumental in organizing the Dominion Savings and Loan Society which he managed for many years. As a resident of south London he was elected school trustee for No. 2 section of Westminster Township, a position he held for a dozen years. As evidence of his devotion to education, according to the Free Press, the London Normal School was "secured from the Ontario Government mainly through his insistent efforts." In 1883 he was also instrumental in convincing the Presbytery of London to establish a mission church in south London which subsequently became Knox Presbyterian church at the corner of Wortley and Bruce (McEachern, 2000). He was a director of the Western Fair Association for over a quarter of a century, a member of the London South Amalgamation Committee that negotiated with London to become part of the city, and he served as a member of the Provincial Legislature from 1898 through 1902.

As an example of his ingenuity and interest in animals (he raised deer on his property in south London), the following appeared in the London Advertiser on November 3, 1887. Apparently he spent considerable time training his horse to navigate the route from his home on Elmwood Avenue to his office in the Dominion Savings Bank on Richmond Street opposite city hall.

Col. Leys is the owner of a well-trained horse. When he is at his office and doesn't want his rig any more, he simply starts the animal off for home in London South and it goes direct. To prevent people from interfering with the driverless rig, he ties a card to the horse, reading: "I am on my way home; don't stop me!" Yesterday afternoon, while the horse was quietly wandering homewards, a policeman pounced upon it and walked the animal back to the Colonel's office. When he reported the matter there he was requested to read the card.

One of the most revealing chapters in his life, however, took place while a member of the Provincial Parliament. Leys was elected to Parliament as a Liberal on March 2, 1898. During the

election campaign he promised to support the Liberal Government, but two years later he resigned from office. The reason he gave for his resignation has much to say about his character and integrity.

I feel that I cannot conscientiously continue as the supporter of a Government which has acted in a manner which in my opinion is detrimental to the interests of my constituents. When I was in Toronto I promised that no licenses would be issued for (the use of large commercial fishing nets) in the Thames at the Cashmere dam, and now I find that such a license has been granted, and, as in previous years, hundreds of tons of fish will be taken at this dam and shipped all over the country and to the United States. The fishing in our inland streams belongs to the people who live along these waters, and should not be given to two or three individuals for their exclusive gain. I took the stand that the people along our river, as far as St. Mary's and Woodstock, were entitled to share in the fishing, and to ensure this, I made a decided protest against (commercial fishing) at the Cashmere dam. Now I find that despite the pledge given to me (by the Government), a license has been issued for (such fishing in) this very place. If one or two individuals in Chatham and Bothwell have more weight with the present Government than the interest of my constituents, I will not continue to be a supporter of that Government (The Daily Free Press, April 22, 1901).

Although Leys subsequently learned that the Government rectified this issue, it was too late for him to withdraw his resignation so a by-election was called. Leys ran again and this time won by an even more sizable victory (1,655 votes to 314 votes).

Conservatives and Liberals alike rallied to the support of the man who was independent enough to say, regardless of party ties: "Justice shall be done my constituency;" and the handsome majority (of votes) upon which Col. Leys returns to Toronto is ample enough vindication of his manly stand in the matter of the Thames fisheries (London Advertiser, July 10, 1901).

In summarizing his many lifetime accomplishments the Free Press concluded its remarks with the following statement.

In his death London loses a public-spirited citizen who played quite a prominent part in its affairs for many years, and who did a great deal in his own way to advance its material interests as the financial, manufacturing and residential city of the western peninsula of Ontario.

As a further example of his importance, at his funeral the following pallbearers were among the most prominent members of the community: Sir John Carling, Senator Coffey, T.H. Purdom, W.J. Reid, George Somerville, Francis Love, James Weldon, Thomas Alexander, Colonel Gartshore, George C. Gibbons, and Samuel Monroe (London Free Press, September 15, 1905).

It is also worth noting that Knox Presbyterian Church on Wortley Road, which Leys was instrumental in bringing to London, became a United Church in 1925. Outraged by this move, six elders from the original church who were “bitterly opposed to the new church,” convened a meeting and “resolved that a new Presbyterian congregation should be established” in south London (McEachern, 2000, p. 3). Funds were raised and, ironically, Leys’ estate on Elmwood Avenue was purchased for \$13,000 to serve as the location of this new church. As a result, the first afternoon service, held on March 22, 1925, took place in his home, which is still part of the original church building on Elmwood Avenue.

Arthur Stringer (64 Elmwood Avenue)

Arthur Stringer (1874-1950) was an extremely well known author and poet. He published over 40 novels, more than 10 books of poetry, at least two plays and, at one time, wrote for MacLean’s Magazine and the Saturday Evening Post. Some 30 of his novels and short stories were made into movies (Lauriston, 1941). As testimony to his reputation, in an October 30, 1945 article in the London Free Press by Arthur Ford, Editor-in-Chief of the Free Press, Stringer was referred to as the “best known author, poet and novelist London has produced”.

Born in Chatham, Stringer moved to south London with his family in 1884 and resided at 64 Elmwood Avenue while he attended primary and secondary school. Following graduation from Central Collegiate he went to the University of Toronto and then attended Oxford University in England. In 1946 he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Western Ontario (London Free Press, June 11, 1949). A summary of his recollections of growing up in the Village appear below on page 24.

Maurice S. Westland (154 Wortley Road)

Maurice Westland, born in 1902 and educated in London, was the grandson of the founder of Westland and Sons Paint Shop, established in 1854 at 156 Wortley Road. With his brother Owen, Maurice took over the firm in 1939. He is best known, however, for his long-time work in the scouting movement. He first became associated with scouting in 1939 and in 1942 he was appointed scoutmaster of the 27th Scout Group. In 1947 he received the Medal of Merit for services of exceptional character to scouting and served as district council commissioner for the London and District Council of the Boy Scouts Association from 1957 to 1962. The London district, which included not only London but Lambeth and Arva, encompassed 81.5 square miles and was responsible for the activities of nearly 5,000 scouts, cubs and leaders. Over the years the London Free Press published many articles dealing with his role in the scouting movement (e.g., January 26, 1946; January 13, 1961; January 20, 1969).

Amalgamation

Prior to 1890 the Village was part of Westminster Township. Through the approval of Bylaw 485 of the Township of Westminster on May 1, 1890, south London, and hence the Village, became part of London proper. The steps leading to approval, however, were characterized by considerable and often acrimonious debate.

According to numerous articles in the London Advertiser and the London Daily Free Press, those in favour of the bylaw stressed the health advantages that would result if amalgamation was approved. Specifically, the city had agreed to provide clean drinking water to the residents of south London by connecting the city water supply to the annexed territory. Without approval south London would remain a separate village which meant that home owners would be responsible for obtaining their own drinking water from wells, and it was said that these wells were often contaminated. The following letter to the editor, which appeared in the Free Press on April 12, 1890, is an example of the rhetoric that frequently occurred throughout the debate.

The fact that four cases of scarlet fever have broken out in families in London South within one hundred yards of Shaw's Corner (Craig and Wortley), not one of whom uses city water, ought to be conclusive evidence that disease and death lurks secretly in the well water of the suburb. The question for every father of a family to consider "Can I afford to jeopardise the health of myself and children by voting against amalgamation, and with it pure, wholesome spring water." It should not take more than a moment's time to answer the question - an exceedingly important one - in the negative.

In response to claims such as these, at several open meetings, those opposed to amalgamation stressed, among other matters, the financial costs to individual home owners through increased taxation if the bylaw was approved. The following remarks were made at one such meeting held in the hall above Trebilcock's grocery store at the corner of Bruce and Wortley on April 18.

Mr. Charles Hutchinson set the ball rolling. He started off in his usual style by characterizing the statements of the amalgamationists... as false and misleading. He then went on to claim that every property owner (in South London) within three hundred feet of a (water) main might have to pay four mills on the dollar if the city so desired.

This claim, however, was denied by others such as J.C. Judd. "The amendment to the London Water-works Act included in the recent City of London Bill was simply to charge a small rate to owners of vacant lots. The four mills water rate was all bosh."

Although Judd's comments "were received with great applause," in his concluding remarks, Hutchinson said that "the amalgamationists had no argument, and had to resort to threats. Men had been threatened (by their employer) with dismissal if they didn't vote for amalgamation."

From the crowd came cries of "name, name."

"I'll not tell you," yelled Mr. Hutchinson.

"You can't," answered several ratepayers.

Hutchinson replied "It would be cowardly to name the man."

"Name the employer," said Mr. Thomas Edwards.

Mr. Hutchinson angrily refused to do even this and asserted that everyone in the room knew it to be so. Several in the room denied that they knew or had heard anything of the kind, and Mr. Hutchinson said that what they were stating was false.

The debate finally ended with cries of "shame."

The vote on amalgamation was held on Monday, April 21, 1890. Of the 750 home owners and tenants in south London who were eligible to vote, 697 (93%) cast a ballot. The following report of the results appeared in the Free Press on April 22.

As soon as the polling booths closed the majority of the workers and numerous interested others gathered as quickly as possible at Trebilcock's Hall, where arrangements had been made for receiving the returns. (The No. 3 polling division) was the first to report, and a mighty cheer went up from the amalgamationists when it was announced that it had given a majority of 32 votes in favour of union (with the city)...The vote in Nos. 4 and 5 divisions was a trifle disappointing to the amalgamationists, but they soon whooped it up again, when a buggyload of electors arrived from No. 7 and it was learned that a grand majority of 80 votes have been rolled up there. Trebilcock's division was the last to report making the total majority for union 177. A large number of jubilant amalgamationists immediately took possession of Trebilcock's Hall and cheered themselves hoarse.

Mr. Thomas Alexander said this was one of the most glorious victories ever gained in Western Canada when the difficulties against which they had to contend were considered...The people had not been led away with bogus water schemes but by facts and figures had been convinced that amalgamation was the most desirable (outcome).

While the celebrations continued throughout the day and evening, apparently bitterness remained among some of those who opposed amalgamation. That evening a number of youths threw eggs at George Shaw's store at the corner of Craig and Wortley (George Shaw was an outspoken supporter of amalgamation). Those responsible for this mischief, however, were never apprehended.

With amalgamation secured south London became Ward 6 of the city of London which meant, of course, that the residents of the Village would now enjoy not only the right to vote in all city elections but also the right to stand for city office. The first election following amalgamation was scheduled to be held in January, 1891. One concerned resident of South London wrote to the Free Press requesting information on the qualifications a person needed to possess in order to run for alderman.

In response the Free Press listed two major qualifications. First, the candidate needed to be a British subject and, second, he “or his wife must be the owner of free hold property to the value of \$1,000 or the owner of lease hold property to the value of \$2,000.” In commenting on the latter, the Free Press claimed that property ownership was intended to ensure “the faithful performance of (the candidate's) duties and that he has not received any payment or reward or promise of such for the exercise of partiality, etc. or undue execution of this office, and is not directly or indirectly interested in any contract with corporations” (April 28, 1890).

Five candidates in Ward 6 ran for the position of alderman, two of whom were residents of the Village (Edward Parnell lived at 93 Bruce Street and George Shaw resided at 136 Wortley Road). The election was held on Monday, January 5, 1891. Two days earlier the London Advertiser ran an editorial urging all of the residents of London to vote, not only for the elected offices of mayor, alderman, school trustee, etc. but also to vote in favour of a bylaw on the ballot restricting the number of liquor licenses that the city would issue.

No elector can refuse to vote on the question of whether or not the licenses to sell liquor shall be reduced from 69 to 50...(The bylaw) proceeds on the ground that the fewer licensed places there are the less temptation there will be to drink and the fewer evils will result from the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor...Even if we reduced our liquor dealing establishments to 50, we will still have 1 for every 600 men, women and children in the city....

This election was particularly interesting because women who were widows or spinsters and property owners had been granted the right to vote in Ontario municipal elections in 1882 (Cleverdon, 1950). Since this was the first time that the women in south London, and in the Village of course, would be permitted to vote in a city wide election, a further editorial on January 5 stressed the importance of voting by women.

We have heard it stated that many lady voters, who are very much interested in voting for the bylaw to reduce the number of licenses to sell liquor in the city, intend merely to vote for that bylaw, and leave the settlement of the mayoral, aldermen, water commissioners and school trustees to the male voters.

This is a mistake.

The women taxpayers of the city have an even greater need to select the best men running for mayor, aldermen, water commissioners and school trustees than have the men.

They cannot afford to be apathetic. Let them vote for the license bylaw by all means, but that is not enough. They are warranted in exercising their full franchise; nay, it is their duty to do so.

Although both candidates for alderman from the Village were expected to win as the result of their stand in favour of amalgamation, in Ward 6 only Shaw was elected. Parnell lost to Shaw by a mere 4 votes. Also, the bylaw on the reduction of liquor licenses was approved by a reasonable margin: in London as a whole, 2,725 (58%) were in favour, 1,950 (42%) were opposed and in Ward 6, 371 (64%) voted in favour, 207 (36%) were opposed. Of special interest, however, are the results from the one polling station in the Village, located in Mrs. Le Clair's house at 165 Bruce. Here the vote to restrict the number of saloons was even more pronounced: 114 (70%) were in favour whereas only 48 (30%) were opposed. Clearly, the residents of the Village preferred to live in a dry community!

Life in the Village around the time of amalgamation

Only a few of the Village residents earned their living from businesses and professions located along Wortley Road. Instead, the majority worked and shopped in London proper. Indeed, since public transportation between the Village and downtown London had been established as early as the 1880s it was quite easy for the residents to take advantage of the many opportunities that daily life in London provided. William Hunter, who resided at 87 Askin Street, operated a livery stable at 29 Teresa Street. His horse-drawn bus ran from Bruce Street to the downtown Market on an hourly schedule (Lutman, 1979). There were also a number of livery stables in the city with carriages for rent that could be delivered to the residents if desired. Then in 1889 the London Street Railway Company extended its route into the Village and in 1895 electric powered cars began to appear. By 1914 the rail route through the Village from downtown London went along Ridout to Elmwood, north along Wortley, west along Askin to Wharncliffe then north to Stanley and back downtown (Gardner, 1914). For those who wished to travel further the tracks extended throughout the city and as far west as Springbank Park.

At first only weekday rail service was available, however, in 1907 a number of Londoners petitioned the city council to allow service on Sunday. Because this issue was hotly debated on religious grounds, it wasn't until seven years later that a limited Sunday operation was initiated. Apparently the inaugural Sunday run was of such importance that the press devoted a full column to the public's reaction.

The first car out of the barns - No. 142 of the Dundas line - was well filled before it had proceeded two blocks on its initial trip toward west London. In fact, many people had arisen early in order to make the trip as a matter of novelty. Several of them, fearing that they would be outwitted in their endeavours to thrust the first fare in the box, entered the Lyle Street barns and boarded the cars before they were scheduled to move. Mr. Oakely Smith had the honour

of paying the first fare, while Miss Olive Aiken was the first lady passenger to spend her ticket (Free Press, February 23, 1914).

While the population of London in the early 1890s was only around 30,000 (Brock, 2011), the Village residents could avail themselves of a surprising range of services in the city. Again according to the 1891 City Directory, in and around the downtown area there were eight savings banks, 11 dentists, 12 druggists, 27 barbers, 39 boot and shoemakers, 42 barristers/solicitors, 48 butchers, 54 physicians, 57 fire insurance companies, and 88 dress makers. For those who wished to venture abroad there were even 47 steamship agents representing such major international lines as Allan, Anchor, Cunard, North German Lloyd, and White Star. In fact, advertisements for these lines frequently appeared in the London Advertiser with information on steerage and cabin fares to Europe and ports in the Mediterranean along with departure dates from cities such as Portland, Halifax, and New York. To escape the Canadian snow and cold, there were also advertisements that promoted winter vacations via rail to Florida and other destinations in the American south.

In addition, the city offered a wide range of educational opportunities, cultural activities and entertainment. For example, throughout January 1891 there were a number of articles in the London Advertiser announcing talks, concerts, etc. to be given during the month. On January 6th the well known American boxer, John L. Sullivan, appeared as a blacksmith and fighter in an Irish drama at the Grand Opera House on the corner of Richmond and King. On January 7th the noted newspaper reporter and African explorer Henry Stanley gave a talk at the Queens Avenue Methodist Church on his quest to find Dr. Livingston. Then on January 13th the celebrated Canadian soprano, Agnes Thompson, during a stop on her cross country tour, appeared in a concert at Victoria Hall. Her appearance was followed by a talk on the 17th at Victoria Hall by Anna Shaw on woman suffrage. Also in mid-January, "Prof. D.M. Bristol and his remarkable school of 30 educated horses, mules and ponies" appeared in the Grand Opera House all week with family matinees on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 2:30. His performance was preceded by the actor William Redmund in the society comedy drama "Cuchillo."

That same month the Advertiser also listed a number of organizations such as the Masonic Lodge, the Ancient Order of Foresters, St. George's Society, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union that were open to the public, held meetings throughout the year, and often sponsored social events. In terms of schooling, advanced training was available through courses at the Forest City Business College, 366 Richmond, the London Academy of Music, 674 Talbot, the Mechanic's Institute and the Western Ontario Art School, 231 Dundas, and the Western Ontario Shorthand Academy and Business College at 76 Dundas.

The Village itself also provided opportunities for residents who wished to remain closer to home. Along with places of worship, there were fraternal organizations that a person could join. One such organization was the Royal Templars of Temperance that held meetings in the lecture room of the Knox Presbyterian Church. In January, 1891, ten applications for membership were received by this group and the brotherhood even added seven new members to its governing council. The

Westminster Skating Rink at 12 Wortley Road was located just north of the Village. In the summer and fall the rink was used for roller skating and in the winter for ice skating

Westminster Rink was thronged with people last night. Seating accommodation was at a premium, and the skaters were as thick as the hairs in Hamilton hotel hash. The baseball match, which was played on roller skates, resulted in a victory for the picked nine, who defeated the shoe clerk nine by a score of 7 to 5. Mr. Crawford umpired, and the London South Band enlivened the proceedings by rendering some very fine selections (London Advertiser, November 3, 1887).

During the winter months residents of the Village also had access to the Victoria Toboggan Slide that opened in 1888. Located on the hill on the north side of Craig Street, it terminated near the river (McEwen, 2012). Apparently, tobogganing was a very popular and exhilarating sport since, according to McEwen, the Victoria Slide was not the first to open in London. For those who frequently indulged, Burns and Bapty, a clothing store at 154 Dundas Street, even made toboggan suits and carried all of the necessary apparel (blankets, toques, sashes, mitts and hose to match) to properly protect their more discriminating clientele who were willing to risk this dangerous adventure (London Advertiser, 1888, January 3).

Every night both the Victoria slide in London South and the London slide in London North are crowded, and the rushing toboggans, as they go down the steep slope at a fearful pace, may be heard incessantly...A reporter for the Advertiser took in the London South slide the other night, and to his surprise has recovered sufficiently to describe his sensations. When he took his seat on the vehicle he grasped the sides with a determination to stay, and stay he did. The man at the helm gave the word go, and the next instant the reporter felt as if he had a bad attack of nightmare, in which somebody was dropping him off a church steeple. He shut his eyes and waited to strike bottom...The reporter wasn't sure at that time whether any of him had been left behind and he turned around to see. The necessity for a hurried scramble out of the way of a following toboggan interrupted his meditations. Unfortunately, however, he was induced to take one more trip on the fastest toboggan on the slide. It was a long one, capable of carrying half a dozen people, and the heavy weight sent it along both fast and far. As it reached the bottom of the slope it was going at a tremendous rate...in consequence, the reporter came to the conclusion that he was going to get thrown into the river...Over the bank it went and out onto the ice...the reporter decided he had enough for the present and quit, pleased that he had got off so well (London Advertiser, 1888, January 17).

In short, adults who resided in the Village around the turn of the 20th century could easily take advantage of a varied and rich lifestyle. But what about the children? Arthur Stringer, who spent much of his later childhood and adolescence at 64 Elmwood, in a somewhat lengthy article in the London Advertiser around 1910, provided a glimpse into a few of the activities that at least some of the males engaged in during the spring, summer, and winter months. The following excerpts are from his article (for the complete article see the London Public Library Scrapbook, Vol. 1, pg 27.)

We made up what was usually known as the South London gang. Our domain extended from the quiet waters of Pond Mills on the east, to the Byron dam on the west. We generally ventured as far as opposing and hostile town gangs would allow, so that when we penetrated to the north branch for sunfish and shiners and suckers, or trudged to the many-tented Carling Heights, all of us went secretly armed, either with slingshots, home-made dirk, or a soul-wearing pocketful of stones.

Our year began, of course, with the opening of the swimming season. A sunny day in April saw us disporting ourselves, sans clothing and sans care, on the flooded meadows of MacArthur's Flats, between the first and second coves. But this was not the real swimming season for our gang. That came with the heat of summer, when flannels first began to itch you, and your feet felt like a pair of convicts when inside shoe leather and "Old Mack"(Alex McQueen, principal) of the Askin street school, found it hard to keep us from gaping dreamily out of the open windows. Sometimes we wandered up to Clark's bridge, where we usually had a fight with the local gang and sometimes we tried Pond Mills. Then we would point out to one another the scene of the Victoria disaster and puddle about in the shallower and safer water (of the Thames) and wait until the afternoon express came thundering down the grade from Komoka, whereupon we would line up at the side track and dance wildly up and down quite barbarously and quite unashamed.

After the opening of the swimming season, the next great event of the year was strawberry time. Just to the south of our domain lay many vast acres of this delectable fruit (that we were given) one cent a quart for picking. It is true we picked a few quarts, but we devoured quarts and quarts before so much as covering our first box. (To curtail this thievery) one grower, indeed, ordained that only really needy boys should be employed in his patch. Weird and touching were the tales of poverty which the sons of opulent and quite well-to-do citizens carried out. To that cross-examining fruit grower, South London, in his eyes must have appeared the most pauper-ridden city suburb in all Canada.

Later in the summer we haunted the Rifle Range, between the two coves and zealously gathered old bullets from beneath the targets. The lead thus harvested we put through a dilapidated old bullet-mould which was then used as ammunition for our pirate ship, with which we fondly but fruitlessly dreamed of some day capturing the White Sulphur Springs bath house.

(Other events that come to mind) are the circuses we used to hold in Colonel Leys' barns and how in winter we made the cove hill into an ice-covered toboggan slide and the Duchess Avenue mill pond into an open-air skating rink...of these, and of many other things, I should like to tell you, but alas, space sternly forbids.

Postscript

This brief history outlines the growth that took place in the heart of the Village from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. To complete the story it may be worth mentioning the further changes that occurred between the early 1900s and the beginning of the 21st century, as recorded in the city directories.

As stated above, in the late 19th century the two-block section of Wortley between Askin/Craig and Elmwood had two grocery stores, two churches, one post office, one drug store, and one paint store. By 1912, although there were still two grocery stores, etc., there were now two drug stores, one bank (The Merchants Bank of Canada, which was robbed on December 1, 1920 [Brock, 2011]), one dry goods store, and one barbershop. By 1955, although the same two blocks no longer had a bank, in addition to the churches, there were two variety stores, two service stations, an interior design shop, a shoe repair shop, a coffee shop, restaurant, one meat market, one grocery store, a drug store, dry cleaner, bakery, hardware store, along with one plumbing business, an electrician, a library, and one funeral home at the corner of Wortley and Elmwood.

The single most pronounced change, however, took place around the start of the 21st century. According to the 2009 City Directory many of the stores that were present in the mid-1950s were no longer there. Instead, there was considerable growth in health and wellness services coupled with the presence of a large number of specialty shops. In terms of health and wellness, there were 15 physicians along with four massage therapists, three chiropractors, two audiologists, two dentists, one optometrist, and one health food store. In addition there was a Walk-In Clinic, a firm that featured spinal decompression, and one that provided respiratory care. With regard to specialty shops, there were five hair salons, one gift shop, a flower shop, an antique store, one record store, one body scent shop, a jeweller, a travel agent, a bar, and one store that sold dog supplies exclusively. Indeed, the only similarity between the consumer services available in the 1950s and those available at the turn of the 21st century was the continued existence of a grocery store, a service station, a hardware store, a drug store, a coffee shop, and the library. Moreover, by 2009 the Knox Presbyterian Church had been demolished while the Baptist Church had been converted into apartments. In 2012 a boutique condominium residence featuring 14 suites will be available for occupancy at the corner of Bruce and Wortley and further new housing is currently scheduled to be erected on Wortley as well as around the corner on Elmwood. Needless to say, all of these recent changes suggest that even more people will be attracted to this area in the coming years and that still further growth in the residential and commercial sectors will occur in the future. While it remains to be seen what all of this new growth will mean for the area, there is little doubt that the heart of Wortley Village will remain an exciting and vibrant part of the city for many years to come.

Appendix

The names and occupations given below are of the residents who lived in the heart of the Village at the time of amalgamation and are from the 1891 London City and Middlesex County Directory. The locations of many of the addresses appear on the map on page 10. Because several of the street names have changed over the years, to avoid confusion the names cited below are the ones in use in 2012. The original street names as given in the 1891 Directory are in brackets. No buildings were listed in the Directory on Elmwood [James] between Wortley and Ridout or on Marley Place [Henry] between Elmwood and Tecumseh.

Askin Street (from Teresa to Wortley Road)

North Side

- #88 John H. Pope - bookkeeper
- #90 A. G. Chisholm - barrister
- #92 William H. Heard - proprietor, Wm H. Heard & Co.
- #96 George Robinson - labourer
- #102 David C. McIntyre - brass finisher
- #108 John Macpherson - barrister

South Side

- #93 William Elliot - labourer
- #99 Thomas Griffiths - packer
- #103 William Janes - shoemaker
- #107 Henry Sutherland - shipper
- #109 Mrs. L. Bryant - widow

Bruce Street (from Teresa to Ridout)

North Side

- #96 Charles E. German - life insurance agent
- #98 Frank W. Grew - lithographer
- #114 Thomas Ray - railroad switchman
- #122 James Malcolm - carpenter
- #124 John T. Read - carpenter
- #130 Richard Greenwood - bookkeeper
- #132 Mrs. C. MacKenzie - widow
- #164 Atwell Roddam - clerk
- #166 Henry Northey - blacksmith
- #168 Ernest E. Nugent - stair builder
- #170 Joseph J. Adams - machinist
- #172 Charles Gleed - baker

- #174 James Egget - driver
- #176 George M. Evans - teacher
- #182 William Maddeford - blacksmith
- #186 John Killeene - cutter
- #188 Thomas Brenton - proprietor, home furnishing store

South Side

- #93 Edward Parnell - clerk
- #95 James Forbes - clerk
- #97 Joseph Young - commercial traveller
- #101 Bartholomew Gidley - tailor
- #123 Charles Claton - proprietor, Claton Brothers (building contractors)
- #125 James L. Murray - salesman
- #127 Joseph Henry - baker
- #129 John A. Pring - contractor
- #133 James Thorburn - plumbing manufacturer
- #143 George T. Trebilcock - grocer
- #161 Thomas Watson - foreman
- #163 David J. Mills - machinist
- #165 Mrs. S. Le Clair - widow
- #167 Charles M. Roe - gardener
- #169 James H. Mustillo - proprietor, John Mustillo & Sons (blacksmiths)
- #171 Richard Evans - engineer
- #173 Alonzo A. Lucas - bridge inspector
- #183 Mrs. M. A. Robinson - widow
- #191 George Parish - clerk
- #193 James Goodall - gardener

Byron Avenue [Alma Street] (from Teresa to Wortley)

North Side

- #76 Thomas Hilliard - proprietor, Hilliard & McKinley (carpenters)
- #80 Ernest Rau - chef (Tecumseh House)
- #82 Mrs. M.J. Lee - widow
- #84 Arch McAlpine - carriage maker
- #86 William Moore - excise office
- #88 Donald McAlpine - real estate

South Side

- #95 William Kennedy - proprietor, Bowman, Kennedy & Co. (wholesale hardware)
- #99 Edwin H. Sammons - insurance agent
- #101 Alex McQueen - Principal, Askin Street Public School
- #103 Miss E.S. Moore - proprietor, private school (same address)

Cathcart Street (from Bruce to Elmwood)

East Side

- #12 Thomas H. Warren - foreman
- #16 Charles Griffith - upholsterer
- #18 John J. Biggs - teamster

West Side

- #19 Joseph Johnson - clerk
- #23 Rev. Thomas Cosford - Methodist Minister

Craig Street (from Ridout to Wortley)

North Side

- #29 Hedley V. Taylor - commercial traveller
- #31 Thomas G. Davey - manager Railroad News & Printing Co.
- #35 Albert Chapman - clerk
- #37 Mrs. Selma Martin - millinery
- #39 William Gerry - builder
- #45 Robert Rich - grain sales
- #47 William West - baker
- #57 Charles Edwards - proprietor, C. McCallum & Co.
- #61 Mrs. C. Whitehead - widow
- #65 James Grigg - foreman
- #67 Richard Hall - house mover
- #69 C. Rossiter - shoemaker
- #71 Arthur Kemp - butcher

South Side

- #20 Charles H. Elliott - proprietor, Elliott & Co. (grocery, wines and liquors)
- #26 James Burns - proprietor, Stevens & Burns (iron and brass foundry)
- #30 John Ward - clerk
- #32 John D. Clarke - editor of the Advertiser
- #34 Mrs. M. Westland - widow
- #40 Edward J. Wright - cooper
- #42 Albert Stanton - proprietor, Stanton & Griffeth (coal yard)
- #48 John Mustillo - proprietor, John Mustillo & Son (blacksmiths)
- #50 Miss Amelia Wheaton - clerk
- #58 Alfred Westman - hardware
- #60 Robert Ferguson, MD - physician
- #62 John M. Shaw - clerk
- #66 John Brockest - tinsmith
- #68 George Shaw - butcher

Elmwood Avenue [James] (from Edward to Wortley)

North Side

- #64 Hugh A. Stringer - carriage manufacturer
- #92 Rev. J. Ballanytne - Presbyterian pastor
- #96 Mrs. M. Johnson - widow
- #110 Robert D. Kilgour - manager
- #114 James Kilgour - furniture
- #116 Robert N. Curry - broker
- #120 John Wildern - roofer
- #122 Mrs. M.M. Burkholder - widow
- #128 Mrs. M.A. Bratt - widow
- #132 Charles H. Fewings - foreman
- #138 Francis Harding - confectioner

South Side

- #63 D. H. Tennent - barrister
- #83 Ian B. Bond - commercial traveller
- #87 James Learn - principal, King Street school
- #103 Edward Cameron - barrister
- #111 Francis B. Leys - banker
- #133 Mrs. N. Rowell - widow
- #135 Walter Mitchel - wood engraver
- #137 Chris D. Gowman - carpenter

Marley Place [Henry Street] (from Bruce to Elmwood)

East Side

- #10 Wallace Halle - proprietor, W. Halle & Co.
- #22 Alfred Cave - grain buyer
- #36 Mrs. E. Hendrie - widow

West Side

- #15 John Madden - furniture finisher

Wortley Road (from Byron to Elmwood)

East Side

- #114 Archibald Legg - machinist
- #116 William Packham - machinist

#122 Mrs. M. Brummitt - widow
#126 S. W. Widdowson - moulder
#128 Mrs. S. Landon -widow
#132 William A. Thornton - grocer
#136 George Shaw - grocer
#140 William R. Browne - furniture
#172 Samuel Bartlett - labourer
#174 Mrs. H. Brown -widow
#180 Charles Clark - clerk
#182 B. W. Burton - commercial traveller
#186 R. J. Reynolds - commercial traveller

West Side

#117 John M. Piper, M.D. - physician
#119 Rev. Evans Davis - rector St. James Westminster Church
#123 William F. Green - commercial traveller
#141 Malcolm J. Kent -manager, London Loan Company
#145 John A. MacDonald - proprietor, C. McCallum & Co.
#149 Gavin Rowat - proprietor, Rowat, McMahan & Granger
#153 William J. Clarke - barrister
#176 G. T. Trebilcock - grocer
#177 Tunis Griffith - proprietor, Griffith & Orchard (coal yard)

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Acknowledgements

Of the many who helped throughout the preparation of this document, I am most indebted to Catherine B. McEwen, who served as publication editor for the London and Middlesex Historical Society. I profited enormously from Catherine's detailed knowledge of the early residents of the Village, their lifestyle, and from her extremely careful review of what seemed like countless early drafts of the material. She was truly an editor par excellence. I am also very grateful for the assistance I received from Theresa Regnier whose intimate knowledge of the extensive holdings in the Western University Archives led to a number of unexpected and important discoveries.

ISBN 978-0-9866899-1-8