

## HISTORY OF MAYNARD

The settlement known as Maynard lies on the Third Concession of Augusta, roughly between the Macadamized Road (extension of Prescott's Edward Street), west of Keeler's (Ferguson's) Corners a distance of some 10 to 12 miles, and includes those homes on the sideroads leading from the Third. The story of Maynard is so interwoven with that of Charleville which adjoins it on the Fourth Concession, that one cannot be told independently of the other. In this area some 300 families live, with the schools, churches and stores to serve them.

The first inhabitants were probably the Iroquois Indians, as evidenced by the Indian mound located near Roebuck in 1912. Here relics of this race were found, but also pottery of the more crude Algonquin type in Cedar Grove area and the Sandhills north of Prescott as well. The first white settlers were United Empire Loyalists who came with Major Jessup, well-known founder of Prescott, and Major Rodgers. At the time of their arrival not a tree had been cut by an actual settler from the eastern boundary of Canada West (Upper Canada) to Kingston. Wild fruit grew in abundance, plums, cranberries, raspberries, etc. and fish were large and plentiful as were wild game and fowl.

In the spring of 1784 the first settlers came up river, and soon the colony in Augusta was one of the most prosperous along the river. Land had been apportioned by drawing lots, and thriving farms were carved out of the wilderness and roads laid out by industrious farmers. The early colony had a doctor, but no minister. Chiefly of the Methodist faith, they held their services in the dwelling of Timothy Hodge during the winter, and in a barn belonging to Joseph Scot during the summer months. On the site of this meeting place is now located the residence of Robert Somerville in Maynard sub-division, adjacent to the Park we open today.

School was kept in a log building back of the site of Maynard Public School; within the memory of local residents the chimney stood, and relics were unearthed when excavations were made for the new school. The first teacher was James Perrin, probably a retired soldier, a man noted for his keen mind and excellent discipline. Attendance was very irregular, since there were many chores children could work at, relieving parents for the most arduous tasks of the farm, clearing land and building roads.

From 1796 to 1812 a steady stream of immigrants came from the American colonies during their struggle with Britain to gain independence. Thousands came from Scotland during the famine there, as did many more from Ireland to escape the potato famine. While some of these came to Maynard, most of the families here were of English origin, wishing to live under the British flag.

Maynard was settled very early in the history of Augusta, being near the landing place at Johnstown, and the fort at Maitland. It is believed that some early landings were made at Blakey's Point (Blue Church), and that the Blue Church Road was one of the first routes into the hinterland. Perhaps the settlement grew faster on the Third than on the Second Concession because of the natural lay of the land. Farms prospered along the higher land bordering the river, and on the ridge that lies north of the Second taking in the Third and Fourth Concessions, both sides of the road. The soil there is for the most part rich loam, running into clay flats as it nears the Fourth- good growing land.

The trees are hard woods, which in themselves indicate good soil, rather than the cedar and poplar which border the creek that runs from the swamp on the Blue Church Road through to cross the Third and continue back to join the Nation.



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Immediately north of the town of Prescott were sandhills, and a ridge of sand, making that land undesirable for farming. Also evidence is clear that the creek which runs through Maynard (sometimes called Chippenhook Creek) was much larger in those days.

Augusta was organized as a township in 1813, with a full set of officers. The clerk was Samuel Heck; James Keeler and S. Glassford were assessors, and Sam Brown was tax collector. Town and Church wardens were Oliver Everts and Elijah Bottum.

It was on January 21, 1850, that the first meeting of the Municipal Council elected by the people was held in the house of Lyman Stone. Clerk at that time was Philemon Pennock. William Garvey was Reeve for that year, and Road Overseers listed included names that have always been associated with Maynard - Fell, Row, Scott, Bass, Carson, Bishop, Youker, Birks, Foster, Black, Throop, and Heck, among others.

We have reason to believe that Maynard was named for a brave man whose story was told in an early reader "Brave John Maynard", a sailor who was supposed to have stayed by his ship during a fire, and safely beached it at the cost of his own life. This story may or may not be true. If we must have a source, this is a noble one, indeed. Charleville was named for Charles Lane, first postmaster, and owner of an ashery there.

One of the first schools was a log structure just west of the present stone one Lot 16, S.S. No. 5, known as Dulmage's School which replaced it in 1838. Another log building on the Lower Third near the line between the farms now owned by Mansell Hough and Wilfrid Clark (Lot 8) was used as a school, predating the stone structure at Brundages. Dates of these early schools, and the one on the site of the Maynard Public School, are not certain, and there may have been others, since settlers decided themselves if and where and when a school would be set up, and no official records were kept.

The land for S.S. No. 5 was given by the Dulmage family out of their woodlot; for the Charleville School S.S. No. 9 by the Throop family; for S.S. No. 7 by the Brundage family, as borne out by the local names for these schools which replaced the log ones.

Today all have been outdated by the modern 16-classroom brick structure, with gymnasium, staff room, board room, office and library which adjoins the Centennial Park and Sports Field. There is a staff of 16 full-time teachers, and 3 who teach part-time. In September there will also be a teacher-librarian. Grade 7 and 8 are on rotary system, similar to that in Secondary Schools, in order to familiarize the children with this type of movement from class to class. School buses bring senior students from the entire township of Maynard, and a network of buses pick up and deliver the primary and junior students as well. Beginning in September 1967 there will also be a Kindergarten class here, with the five-year old coming in on alternative days.

Music specialist Mrs. Rose Haga teaches each class for half an hour per week, and oral French is taught from Grades 5 to 8 by Miss Louise Brigden. Mrs. Goldie Connell will be the first librarian, beginning her duties in September. The janitor is James Atkinson, who is assisted by Donald Colville.



Mrs. Isabel Rosberry presides over a staff that includes primary teachers Mrs. Marjorie Kelso, Mrs. Goldie Connell, Mrs. Marjorie Drummond, and Miss Joan Ke. Junior Teachers are Miss Gayle Nixon, Mrs. Elizabeth Conlin and Eric Coville; Auxillary Class, Mrs. Mabel Joynt; Senior Teachers are Miss Ruth Thompson, Mrs. Julia Bracken, Mrs. Marion Stone, Mrs. Bertha Wilson, Mrs. Olive Knisley (part-time), and Dale Conlin, vice-principal, James Toshack and David Downing. Inspector of Schools is W. Harold Knisley who has his office in Prescott. The Augusta Township School Area Board is headed by Norman Mackey, with Byron Benn Willard Shannon and Eldon Francis members. Secretary is Mrs. Pearl Byers, and Edward Byers is administrator, Truant officer is Arthur Dulmage.

The first regular Methodist meetings were held in the home of Timothy and Catherine Hodges, Lot 11. When this house proved too small, the meetings were taken to the barn of Mr. Scott until in 1818 a church was built on the site of the present Soldier's Memorial monument at Maynard Cemetery. In 1808 Augusta Circuit was one of the nine in Upper Canada.

The first Methodist convention in Canada was held in 1817 on the Augusta Circuit, which included Elizabethtown township too. This was the beginning of a great revival, with some 1400 conversions credited. The early church was known as the Augusta Chapel, and when a division came between Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodists, the Episcopal followers built a small stone church further west along the road, probably between 1833 and 1840.

The present church (Victoria United) was built with stone from the old church being used for the foundation of the new in 1858. The timber was supplied by Charles Lane. A revival held shortly after the 1859 dedication resulted in six young men going into the ministry.

The site was originally owned by John Heck, and thus for 50 years there were two Methodist churches in the community. In 1874 Robert Alder gave the deed of the lot where the present manse is located. Before it was completed the minister lived in the back part of the church basement. Many changes and repairs have been made over the years, and in 1959 the Centennial was observed. Today the minister is the Rev. Cecil Dukelow, who, with his wife, lives in the manse and serves the Augusta Charge - Maynard, Donville and Bethel.

The Baptist congregation here was always small, and they worshipped with that at Algonquin until a division arose, and a small group of Baptists built a frame church on the farm of James Simpson, in 1899. Because they could not afford to support a minister, the church was used for service for only a short time, the minister leaving to continue his studies at McMaster in the fall of 1899 (Mr. S.T. Foster). He was succeeded by Rev. H.A. Reid who served until 1903 when services had to be discontinued. Furnishings of the church were sent to Baptist Missions, and for many years the building was used as a meeting place for many community organizations. In 1941 it was sold to Stirling McNaught who demolished it to the stone foundation and removed the materials to erect a house in Brockville.

Anglican worshippers, in the minority here, attended services at Lord's Mills; now some drive in to St. John's Anglican Church in Prescott, Presbyterians go to St. Andrew's, and Roman Catholics to St. Mark's, also in town.

In 1943 Pastor Arthur Downing with his wife and family came to Charleville from Prescott to hold tent meetings for the Pentecostal faith, and after two summers of this, they built a small church at Charleville corner. In 1945 regular meetings began, and they go out to hold tent meetings in nearby settlements each summer. A feature of this church which was enjoyed by a large audience was the regular Saturday morning gospel program over the Brockville radio station which Pastor and Mrs. Downing inaugurated and maintained for 20 years, with Doris Stephenson as pianist, and the children singing old gospel songs requested by the listeners. Rev. Mr. Kingsley serves that parish at present.

A burying ground was established in the churchyard of the first Methodist meeting house, and it has grown to large proportions today. Land was given by Ebison Fretwell whose farm was adjacent, and he stipulated that it must be a public burying ground, non-denominational and non-racial. Such it remains. Field stone markers there record early burials, but lettering cannot be deciphered.

In 1914, at the instigation of Maynard Women's Institute, a community meeting was called, and Maynard Cemetery Board was organized. Members elected at that time were (in order of votes received) Ebin D. Perrin, Joseph C. Whitney, J. Bass Scott, Robert Simpson, Wesley McLean, Joseph A. Barton and Joseph S. Lane. The elected men chose J.B. Scott to be Chairman; E.D. Perrin to be secretary; and J.C. Whitney as treasurer. Wesley McLean served one year, then resigned in favor of Freeman Teppin, but the others served during their lifetime. Others who have worked on this Board are W.J. Barton, Earl Throop, Herb Whitney, Willard Fretwell. At present Chairman A. Ivan Lane heads the group, with W.B. Weir, treasurer; John M. Robinson, secretary and on the Board Mrs. Bruce Connell, Edward Byers, Egbert Fretwell, Will Glasgow, Charlie Whitley, Will Durant and Arthur Dulmage. Also serving by virtue of their office are the President and Secretary of Maynard Women's Institute. In charge of aretaking is secretary treasurer named by that organization. Miss Maud Row held the office 1914-1926. Mrs. Nellie (Barton) Attridge served 1926 to 1951 when illness forced her resignation. Mrs. Goldie Connell succeeded her.

On Lot 10, Concession 3, was located the Temperance Hall, meeting place for a lodge known as the Sons of Temperance. The hall had facilities for meetings downstairs, and upstairs were kitchen and dining room. At one time a singing school was conducted here by Mr. Place, and it was for years a social centre, especially for the men of the community. It was replaced in 1890 by the frame house, built by Chester Spicer, now occupied by Bruce Connell.

Maynard Post Office was established November 1, 1866 and closed April 25, 1914. Postmasters during that time, each in his own dwelling, were Charles Birks, James Simpson, Ebison Fretwell, James Spicer and Mrs. Catherine Jenkinson.

Charleville, established April 1st, 1853, closed temporarily October 15, 1893; re-opened April 1, 1894 and closed May 9, 1914. Postmasters there included Charles Lane, Samuel Throop, Rufus Throop, Theo. Baker, J.W. Halfpenny, Seymour Baker, and Allison Stephenson. When post offices were closed, horse-drawn vehicle service was provided. Today the mail comes daily, with George Grant delivering from his car. Mailmen who served long terms were Ernest Lawrence, James Hall and Garnet Woodward within recent years.



For many years this was mainly a farming community, with mixed dairy farms. They were served by three cheese factories ... Lee Hill, Charleville and Blue Church Road. None of these is now in existence. Lee Hill factory was built by John Fretwell and first used in 1904. At various times cheese was made there by Charles James, Duncan Warren, Mr. Tackaberry, Pat Pyke, Joe Cope, Lawrence Fretwell, Stephen Kirkby, James Cardiff and Robert Lindsay. In 1914, cheese made by Robert Ramsey in this factory won first prize at Chicago Fair. Location of this factory was on the hill on the Upper Third on the farm of Leonard Conklin, Lot 21.

The Blue Church Road factory was located on the Blue Church Road at the intersection of that road with the Second Concession, northwest corner. It was built in 1887 by T.D. Place. His son William and George Seeley made cheese there until 1918 when the factory closed. In 1894 the price of milk was \$10.60 a ton. The price in 1918 was \$50 a ton.

The Charleville factory was built in 1881 by Rufus Earl on the northeast corner of the crossroads, Fourth Concession and Charleville Road. He made the first cheese there May 1, 1881. Cheese was selling then for 7¢ to 10¢ a pound with milk bringing the farmer \$15 to \$18 per ton. The price of making was 1-1/8 cents per pound. Labor to help the cheesemaker cost him \$15 per month. Rufus Earl sold the factory in 1900 to L. Jackson. The last to operate this was a company run by the patrons. Owners included Mr. Earl, James Wright, Miss Jane Andrews, Rufus Earl, John Fretwell and William Easter. Cheesemakers included John Redmond 1911; Pat Pyke; Carman Lakins; Rayburn and McFadden in 1928. In 1930 the factory was torn down and part of it sold. The boiler building was sold to Joe Knapp where it became part of the smaller house on his property, now owned by Edward Byers.

After the factories closed, milk trucks gathered milk from each farm conveying it to a condensary in Brockville. The factory was a meeting place for the local men each morning except Sunday, and all topics -- local, political and international were discussed there. The day thus began in a friendly interchange of news and views in a day when men worked long hours with little time off for social exchange.

Proof exists that several small industries necessary to the well-being of pioneer families flourished here. Besides Chippenhook Creek stands a white rough-cast house, once a thriving tannery, operated by William White (1853-1871). Downstairs, hides were tanned, and upstairs shoes were made and repaired for 18 years. Several blacksmiths shops were located here, one run by the Service family opposite Brundage's Inn at that corner no doubt served the stage coaches that stopped at the Inn. There was one on the Simpson farm opposite the cemetery and one on the Fourth Concession run by George Hough.

There were many asheries, lime kilns and gravel pits, and hops were grown commercially on the farms of Charles Row and James Simpson for many years. Towards the end of August and early September the cones were picked, usually by groups of Indians brought from Cornwall reserve for this skilled task. A ready market for this product was the Grenville Brewery, although some were shipped as far as Boston.



The Leeds and Grenville Telephone Company, incorporated 1908, involved many local people and brought telephone service to Maynard. Three central exchanges were set up, at North Augusta, Algonquin and Spencerville. Maynard men, Ebin D. Perrin and Robert Simpson served as directors for many years, and helped in building the lines. Until January 1951, service was supplied during daytime only, with emergency calls being handled at night if you could rouse someone in the Dawson home where the exchange was located. The same was true of Sunday calls. When it could no longer compete, the company was sold to the Bell Telephone Co. in 1956, and many changes have been made. Now we have dial phones, and service extends across the country by dialing. Cost has risen many times to pay for the improved service, of course.

Maynard was primarily a farming community until World War II, when labor shortage took many farmers into factory employment. When the war ended, they did not return to farming in many cases, but lived in the farm homes. Much land was left idle, or just pastured, or one farmer with heavy machinery cultivated several farms.

In 1958 Allan Stewart's plan for a Subdivision was approved by Council, and the construction of homes begun on land Mr. Stewart purchased from Floyd Stephenson (Hodge for many years). The growth of this subdivision can be attributed to the industrial growth in Brockville, Maitland and Prescott. Maynard Realty Company was formed, and 24 lots sold to the Grenville Home Builders' Association and 10 to the Augusta Home Builders' Association. These groups were made up of families who who built for the main under Central Mortgage and Housing with the men working in teams and buying supplies cooperatively. The lots cost \$400, and the services - drilling well, septic tanks and disposal beds - \$720. Designs of homes were in three groups - \$8600, \$9100 and \$10100. The Grenville group included Charles Tackaberry, Lyn Cronk, Bert Empey, Dave Simpsc and Jim Cutler in executive positions. These homes have changed hands as men were moved by their employer or change of employment. Four acres had been left by planners for a school, and Augusta Township School Area Board soon took advantage of this nucleus to erect a modern school to serve the rapidly-growing population. Other homes sprang up along various sideroads as well as within the subdivision, erected by people who wanted the advantages of rural living within easy commuting distance of their jobs.

Inevitably, there came the need for a general store, and one was begun by Mr. Tarlington from Brockville on land purchased from Floyd Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Cyr became proprietors, and they enlarged the premises, adding a store room, a snack bar, and later built living quarters on the east end of the store itself. In 1964, Mr. Cyr opened a Purina Feed store in connection with the general store, but very soon removed to the farm on the corner, Lot 14, to give full time to the feed business and piggery. The store was taken on by Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Murdock who came from Baldersön. They remained until ill health forced them to sell to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hodgson, Winchester, who came in December 1966. Each year new homes are added, and Maynard loses more of its rural look.

Following World War I a Soldiers' Memorial Monument was erected at the Cemetery, and deicated in 1920. The campaign was spearheaded by members of the Women's Institute as a community endeavor. Following World War II bronze plaques were added to the stone cenotaph, with names of men who gave their lives in this conflict. Each year on the last Sunday in August a Memorial Service is arranged by the Women's Institute to honor the dead in two wars as well as all those who lie in this burying ground.



Maynard has given its share of prominent citizens to the nation. Many professional and business people had their start in this community. At the time of the jubilee of Victoria Church it was reported that no less than 14 preachers had gone from this parish to preach the gospel. One of the foremost of these was the Rev. Egbert Carson who was in China for many years. Rev. James Spicer became an evangelist in the United States.

Three boys who attended Brundages' School together were later to become Dr. James Simpson, Dr. Sterling Spicer of Toronto, and James I. Robinson president of Crane Co. Ltd., Montreal.

In the early days they came by higher education the hard way, until bus transportation put this within reach of all. But there were many who persisted in each generation, to become teachers, nurses, and professional people in various areas. In war we were well represented, and our monument testifies that we suffered losses, too. We had our share of war brides, so our boys were alert in more than one way while overseas. Others remained on the farms, built fine homes and barns and served their country no less than those who left.

One of the happy events connected with the Centennial Celebrations is the awarding of "Century Farm" plaques to farms where the same family has been in operation of the farm for 100 years. In Maynard these signs are proudly displayed by John M. Robinson, Lot 9; Ellis Conklin, Lot 21; Percy Fretwell, Lot 13; Maud Row, Lot 10. Of these only the Robinson farm is operating at capacity.

Maynard for many years supported baseball teams, softball teams and hockey clubs when field ice was available. During the early 1960's an organization was formed to put this on a more formal basis. When Centennial grants for sports fields were made available from various levels of government, the Maynard Educational and Recreational Committee was formed, and plans made for better sports facilities for the youth of Maynard. Land was available adjoining the school and subdivision, conveniently within the heart of the community, and work began to that end. Now there is a regulation size skating rink, with change house and lights, a lighted ball field with bleachers, a soccer field and a number of small ball diamonds for use of the younger players.

President of the group, known as MERC, is Ron Betsworth, Mrs. John Robinson, vice-president; Merle Cede, secretary; Earl Greer, treasurer; and members Kenneth Fretwell, Carl Durant, Grant McIntosh, Percy Baker, Arthur Dulmage, Lorne Dougherty, Frank Landen, Gerald Polite and John Brennan. Much effort has gone into this Centennial Sports Field, and it would do credit to a much larger community. Further facilities are planned as time and funds are available.

The Women's Institute Hall on land leased in perpetuity by Delbert Armstrong, Lot 16, has served the community needs for meetings, receptions, and social gathering of all sorts since it was erected. Originally part of an army hut from the Officers' Training Camp at Brockville, it was purchased from Crown Assets and moved to the site on a float. Total cost of hut and moving \$562.25. The township grader, operated by Ward Stephenson, levelled the grounds at no charge. The Hall was officially opened on July 28, 1954, with an afternoon tea and program. The ball field adjoining the Hall was made possible through the purchase of the grounds (lease in perpetuity) by sportsman Ellis Conklin from Delbert Armstrong at a nominal fee. At the time of opening, Mrs. Will Durant was the hard-working secretary-treasurer and Mrs. John Keys was president.



The Scouting Movement in Maynard has been sponsored at the United Church for a number of years. At present Girl Guide Leaders are Mrs. Wilfred Clark, Mrs. Don Kerr and Mrs. Glenn Stewart; Brownie Leaders are Mrs. Carl Durant and Mrs. Kenneth Fretwell; Cubs are directed by Frank Darcel, and Scouts by Bob Peters.

And so over the years Maynard has grown and changed from a thriving farming community to a busy suburban-rural area. We like to think that we have all the conveniences of city living without the disadvantages. We have bread and milk delivery at our doors, dry-cleaning and laundry pick-up service, daily paper thrown off at our gate or handed in by delivery boys and an efficient general store in our midst.

If we so desire, we can whisk off to Brockville or Prescott shopping in a few minutes drive over good roads, kept open the year round,

We are within easy driving distance of the larger cities - Ottawa, Kingston and Cornwall are an hour away.

There is an excellent school for our children, 4H Clubs and other youth organizations, and now a splendid sports field for after-hours recreation and training.

What more could one ask?

The future looks bright, and we are confident that our community will keep pace with any in Ontario.

- This material was researched and prepared by Mrs. Goldie Connell, Maynard for the Maynard Educational and Recreational Committee for the Opening of Centennial Park, July 8, 1967

Copy placed in Cairn.