

THE TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK:  
A STORY THROUGH TIME

*by the*  
*Warwick Township History Committee*

built a new building which housed two evaporator pans, several storage bins, a large coal bin, a coal-fired furnace and a large chimney. He changed the name just before World War II to Warwick Pure Salt Company. At this time they produced and shipped about 100 tons of salt a week. Five trucks a week delivered salt as far as Montreal, although during World War II the shipping was mostly done by rail. The salt was used for pickling, tanning and curing hides, livestock consumption, making sidewalks and softening water.

During the 40s while Schikoransky was in charge, there was a little community of Polish men working and living at the site. Many of the people of Warwick never knew much about this community.

In the 1950s the Warwick Pure Salt Company was owned by Wm. D. Thompson. He tore down the buildings which housed the first salt unit of the pioneer days. He manufactured coarse salt exclusively until about 1964. In 1965, United Salt & Chemicals Limited purchased the land, wells, premises and the salt reserves, which were still in excess of 1,000,000 tonnes. United Salt's president, W.D. Thompson, announced plans to start a \$250,000 salt plant to produce fine salt principally for industry and agriculture. He expected to construct a new highly-automated plant with facilities for both bag and bulk shipments.

"United Salt and Chemicals Ltd., closed [in recent] years, may be back in operation within six months under the name New United Salt Mines Ltd. The plant is located at Warwick. Total assets of the company are listed at \$35,887."<sup>22</sup> Although the plant opened briefly it succumbed to the advanced technology being used at the Windsor and Goderich salt mines.

Luke Ouellon bought the building in 1982, thinking it was a good place for his business, but soon discovered it was too far from Sarnia where his clients were. He had had the property rezoned for manufacturing, removed the old boilers and stacks and tore down some buildings.<sup>23</sup> By 1984 he had sold off the remaining tools of his furniture-making business in the evaporating shed of the Salt Works.



courtesy S Loxton

*Elarton Salt Works artifacts, 2006*

### ***Grand Trunk Railway***

Although the railway came through from Sarnia to London in 1856, it was not until 1892 that a branch line was built to Glencoe, through Alvinston. The following year a railroad station was built at Kingscourt Junction. Although its main purpose was to provide a home for the railroad operator who did the switching from the main line to the branch line, it served the local community as well, providing a shipping place for livestock, timber, salt and sugar beets and a terminus for passengers and freight.<sup>24</sup> Eventually houses were also built in the area for the section gang.

It was west of Kingscourt Junction that the Wanstead train wreck of December 26, 1902, took place. This was Lambton County's worst rail disaster. The west-bound Chicago Flyer #5, a passenger train, collided with an east-bound freight train during a snow storm. The Flyer had left Watford without permission and the Kingscourt operator could not stop the speeding locomotive. Thirty-eight people were killed.

Kingscourt was also known for its extensive brickyards run by John McCormick, who opened the first plant in 1872. R. H. Stapleford explained:

the first brick ovens in Lambton County were built by the late John McCormick. The McCormick brothers came to this country from Ireland and all four brothers opened up brickmaking plants at different points in the Township of Warwick. The other brothers, Robert, Joseph and Richard, along with Robert [sic] furnished most all the bricks which went into new homes in the east part of Lambton County. Thousands of acres of land have been drained by the tile made at the McCormick ovens. Many carloads were shipped from the Kingscourt station. The bricks were well made and sold from three to four dollars a thousand and were made from the clay taken from McCormick farms.<sup>25</sup>



courtesy J Sayers

*Kingscourt Junction: This station opened in 1893.*



courtesy N Holden

*Hugh McKenzie, (MPP Lambton East, 1890–1893)***Hugh McKenzie, MPP**

Hugh McKenzie (1840–1893) was born in Inverness, Scotland. He arrived in Warwick Twp. when it was all bush, cleared his own farm and remained for the balance of his life. He was involved in affairs of the township and county for 35 years.

McKenzie was elected to the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ontario in 1890, and represented the Liberal Party of Ontario in the electoral riding of Lambton East. He contracted typhoid fever and died at the age of 53. His death caused the need for the byelection in which Peter McCallum won the seat.<sup>72</sup>

Hugh McKenzie was the uncle of Hugh Alexander McKenzie, who would later become federal Member of Parliament for the riding of Lambton-Kent.

**Peter Duncan McCallum, MPP**

Peter D. McCallum (1853–1917) was born in Wellington County. The family moved to Bosanquet Twp. a few years later. He was a prominent farmer and cattle drover who took an active interest in municipal affairs, serving on the Bosanquet Council for many years. In 1878 McCallum married Annie Vivian of Bosanquet Twp. They had two children, William H. and Ethel. He was Warden of Lambton County in 1893. The following year he moved to Con. 7 NER, just east of Forest. In 1906 he moved to Forest.<sup>73</sup>

Mr. McCallum ran as an Independent-Conservative, representing Lambton East, in the by-election of 1893, caused by the death of Hugh McKenzie. He was elected to

the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament. He was successful again in 1894 when he ran as an Independent and sat in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament.<sup>74</sup>

With the election of the Whitney Government in 1905, he was appointed assistant Inspector for Liquor Licences for East Lambton in 1906, a position he held until his death.<sup>75</sup>

**Robert John McCormick, MPP**

Robert J. McCormick (1848–) was born in Ireland, but his parents were Scottish. He came to Warwick Twp. in 1862 or 1863, where he was a farmer and brick maker. McCormick was a Councillor from 1882 to 1891, Deputy Reeve in 1891, Warden of Lambton County from 1892 to 1894, and was elected MPP for Lambton East in 1908 and held it until 1914.

**William John Hanna, K.C., MPP**

The *Watford Guide* stated that “Few men in Ontario are better known than the Hon. W. J. Hanna, the genial and popular member of Lambton West in the Ontario Legislature.”<sup>76</sup>

William John Hanna (–1918) was born and raised in Watford, but practised law in Sarnia. A member of the Conservative Party, he represented Lambton West in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Parliaments. Hanna was the Provincial Secretary and Registrar from 1905 to 1916.<sup>77</sup> While serving in this position he created the King’s Counsel (K.C.), which recognizes distinguished service in the legal profession and in the community.

**Charles Eusebius (Zeb) Janes, MPP**

Zeb Janes (1888–1983) was born in Warwick Twp. He received his primary education at Warwick SS#1. After graduating from Business College he followed in his father’s footsteps, becoming a farmer.

Zeb Janes played an important role in the development of Lambton County. He served as the Treasurer of Warwick Twp. for 45 years. As well, he was a Director of the People’s Telephone Company of Forest for 40 years. He was also a Director of the Ausable River Conservation Authority, a Director of Lambton Loan and Investment and an active participant in the development of the Petrolia, Forest, Watford and Lambton-Kent High School Districts.<sup>78</sup>

Zeb Janes represented the electoral riding of Lambton as a Progressive Conservative, and sat in the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Parliaments (1945 to 1963).<sup>79</sup>

Because of his municipal and agricultural experience, Zeb was valuable in many areas. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, he served on many parliamentary committees. He turned down a cabinet position as Minister of Tourism because he didn’t want to be tied down to one field of interest.<sup>80</sup>

In 1925 Zeb married Margaret Hazel Dolbear of Brooke Twp., and they had two daughters, Calla Evelyn and Mary Margaret. In 1959 Zeb married Hazel Delilah Sinclair Metcalfe.





*McChesney home on Lot 30, Con. 4 NER. Mary Ann McChesney with daughters Beatrice and Grace*

who married Kelso Sheppard (1901-1956) and took over his parents' farm in 1923. Joseph was a quiet man who continued to farm until into his eighties. In 1923, they moved up the road to a smaller farm and remained there until Joseph's death. Joseph and Mary Ann were both members of Arkona Baptist Church.

The McChesneys were a large boisterous family who liked practical jokes. The girls were in charge of changing the straw tick in the mattress and would attempt to make their brothers' mattresses as high as they could so that it was difficult for them to clamber into bed. Ernest would always take a flying leap to land on the bed. Once, however, his sisters bested him by removing the mattress altogether. Ernest landed with a crash on the floor. After one community slaughtering bee Hanlon helped smuggle a pig carcass into a neighbour's bed. The next morning he began to laugh at his deed and then cut himself in the act of shaving!

Joseph's brother, James, married Flora J. Currie (1855-1927) and made his home next door to his parents and older brother. The couple had seven children: Leslie (1877-), Miles (1879-), Anna (1881-1969), Mary (1888-1966), Roy (1889-1970), Vernice (1891-1971), Verna (1891-1969).

Joseph's sister Eliza Ann (called Lizann) married Luther Smith (1859-1940), the brother of Joseph's wife Mary Ann, and they had four children: Ernest (1888-1963), Verna (1890-1976), Friend (1893-1922) and Cora (1895-).

## **MCCORMICK**

*(from various clippings)*

Joseph McCormick (1815-1895) located on Lot 24, Con. 2 NER when he first came to Warwick from Ireland in 1855 with his wife Sarah Ann Taylor (-1886), his eldest

son Samuel and infant son William. They left three sons, Robert J., Richard, and George in the care of his sister until Joseph could send for them. Joseph was looking for better conditions in which to raise his family. En route to Canada they were shipwrecked in an Atlantic storm, but they managed to transfer to another ship before theirs sank. William died shipboard.

In 1858 Joseph purchased Lot 12, Con. 5 NER. Seven years later the three sons joined the family. Joseph and Sarah Ann had five more children: Joseph, Elizabeth (who married Thomas O'Neil), John, James, and Mary.

When Robert J. McCormick (1848-1943) came to Canada with his two younger brothers, Richard and George, he hired out as a farm boy in the summers, his first wages being \$9. a month plus board. In the winters he attended school when not doing chores. He spent two years with Isaac Eves,

learning the brick making business and then he made bricks for John D. Eccles. By 1869 he had started making bricks for himself, renting the Eccles brickyard. Eight years later he bought the Eccles brickyard and farm, located on Lot 14, Con. 2 NER. In 1882 he took his brother Joseph into partnership with him, forming the firm McCormick Bros. Brick and Tile Yard. In 1887 he took his brother John as partner in a second brickyard on Lot 7, Con. 4 SER, where they also built a sawmill. Robert J. and John ran this until 1904. The brothers operated the largest brick and tile manufacturing business west of London. Many of the brick businesses and homes in Watford, Forest and Warwick were built with McCormick Bros. brick and the farms were drained with McCormick Bros. tile.

R. J. McCormick married Elizabeth L. Smith, daughter of George and Mary Ann (Thomas) Smith. Their three daughters were Mary Alice (Allie), Pearl (Perley), and Ruby.

Robert J. McCormick was a breeder of cattle and Shetland ponies on his farm. He also took an interest in municipal affairs and served both locally and provincially.

Joseph McCormick (1856-c.1955), Robert J.'s brother, married Lucinda Ann Luckham (1861-1934). Their children were Carrie Bell (1892-1892) and Mabel Edith (1895-1988) who married Raymond Morningstar (1890-1955). Joseph partnered with his brother in the brick and tile yard business.

John McCormick (1859-1941), Robert J.'s brother, was born on Lot 12, Con. 5 NER. He farmed 400 acres, raising cattle and breeding horses. He also operated the brick and tile yard business south of the Egremont Rd. with his brother.

John married Susan Jane Luckham (1859-1944). They built a beautiful, large brick home at Kingscourt. John

courtesy B Luckham



*John (Jack) and Jennie McCormick family. Standing: Cecil, Edythe, Tom, Jean. Seated: Lou, Jack, Jennie, Russ*

and Susan had six children: Louisa Myrtle (1888–1969) married Frederick Paul (1889–1966); John Russell (1890–) married Martha McLeay (1886–1966); Joseph Cecil (1892–1939) married Lillian Irene Rankin (1900–1939); Sarah Jane (Jean, 1895–1960); Mary Edythe (1896–1981) married Dr. Russell G. Woods (1895–1973); and Thomas Luckham (1898–1948). John was also active in municipal politics. He died at Kingscourt.

Joseph Cecil, John and Susan's son, served overseas with the Lambton 149<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was gassed during the war and suffered lung problems after that. After World War I he worked in the brick and tile yard with his father until he obtained a position as Indian agent for the Sarnia and Kettle Point Reserves.

Joseph Cecil and Lillian's children Don, Barbara and Patty were young when both their parents died in 1939. Don lived on the farm with his Uncle Tom and Aunt Jean, Barbara went to live with her mother's sister, and Patty went to live with her father's sister.

Don continued to live on Confederation Line, on McCormick property, even while he worked in Sarnia. In more recent years, his wife Doris (Burnley) was a recipient of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Award for her and her husband's commitment to making this region a better place to live. They were active members of Ducks Unlimited, Lambton Wildlife Inc. and other environmental groups. They built wildlife ponds on their property on Confederation Line, and planted shelter belts to provide wildlife habitat. Doris and Don's son Joseph and his wife Laurie (Toffelmire) live in Warwick Twp., but their daughter Jane moved away after graduation from East Lambton Secondary School.

### **McGILLICUDDY** (from Beers)

Eusebius (1832–), James Henry, Jordan, and Sarah McGillicuddy were young children when their parents died. Their uncle John Roache brought the three boys to

a farm in Halton County, Canada West in 1840 and hired a couple to look after the boys and the land. Their little sister Sarah was left in Ireland with an aunt. (Eventually Sarah came to Halton as well.)

Eusebius attended school in Halton until he was 18, then he went to the United States for a year. Upon his return he bought 100 acres on the Egremont Rd. in Warwick Twp., cleared it and built a frame house and good outbuildings.

In 1851 Eusebius married Ann Jane Fulerton. They had ten children: James (who died young), John (a veterinarian), Jordan (a Warwick farmer), James (a doctor), William, Robert E. (a Warwick farmer), Mary (who married William Janes, a Warwick farmer), Sarah Jane (who married Edward White, a Warwick farmer), Catherine (who married Warwick farmer William Smith), and Margaret.

Eusebius' brother James Henry (1839–) was an infant when he came to Canada. In the 1860s he came to Warwick Twp. to be nearer his brother. He bought 100 acres on the Egremont Rd., then in 1889 sold this tract of land and bought 180 acres on 18 Sideroad.

In 1875 James Henry married Susanna Liddy, daughter of John Liddy of Warwick Twp. They had five children: James Franklin, John Edward Warner (a medical doctor), Charles Arthur, Walter Eusebius (a lawyer), and Adelia May.

Eusebius and James Henry's brother Jordan took up store keeping in Wentworth County, and remained there until his death.

### **McGREGOR**

(submitted by Lewis Edmond McGregor)

In 1840 Archibald McGregor arrived in Warwick Twp. from Ireland. He took up residence on the west ½ of Lot 20, Con. 1 NER. He arrived with two daughters and two sons. It is believed his wife had died in Ireland. The



*Mary Jane (Williamson) and husband Robert Edmund (Ed) McGregor, 1896*

courtesy L McGregor