

CHAPTER V HEALTH & MEDICINE

Nineteenth-Century Folk Medicine

Before the Europeans came to what is now the Detroit River Region, the Native North Americans had their own advanced herbal medicines,¹ some of which were adopted by the settlers ² Among these remedies were ipecacuanha, quinine and the narcotic nicotine from tobacco. Although the immigrants probably had an herbal such as Culpeper's³ in their baggage, many plants of the Western District would be strange to them and many were poisonous.⁴ Nevertheless, they learned quickly and herbal remedies became the mainstay of home nursing. Some of the immigrants, particularly blacksmiths and barbers, had other skills. Blacksmiths, accustomed to working with animals, pulled teeth, set bones and practised chiropractic while barbers came from the long traditions of barber-surgeons.

The Company of Barber-Surgeons was founded in England in 1461 and for over three centuries barber-surgeons did much more than trim beards, also performing blood-letting, surgery and dentistry.⁵ The trademark barber's pole represents a splint on a bloody limb with a white bandage around it. Sometimes there was also a barber's basin hanging at the bottom of the pole. Barbering became separated from surgery in 1745, after which time surgeons were not allowed to do barbering or shaving, but in rural districts and the colonies where qualified physicians were scarce, barbers continued to practise their medical arts.

Blood-letting, a universal panacea for all ills, was done in three ways: by venesection (cutting into a vein) in the arm; by cupping (applying a hot glass or horn over an incision); or by applying blood-sucking leeches.⁶ There are several sorts of leech; *Hirudo medicinalis*, the sort commonly used in medicine, is found in ponds and streams, a slug-like, blood-red animal 10-20 cm long and equipped with three rasping jaws and over a hundred teeth. From one to twelve leeches are applied to a bony protuberance on the body (so that haemorrhaging can be stopped easily) and each takes about two drachms (about three-quarters of a teaspoon) of blood and then drops off. Sometimes leeching was followed by hot fomentations. Bleeding was stopped by pressure, cold or a styptic such as alum or sphagnum moss.

Early Amherstburg developed without sewers and took its water from the river or from wells next to cesspits, so typhoid was a constant threat.⁷ On outlying farms, animals were housed next to the farmhouse alongside the manure pile. In those days there were plenty of diseases that people could catch from animals, including ringworm, rabies, erysipelas, tularaemia, cowpox and anthrax, as well as tetanus from soil-contaminated wounds.

Food preservation, vitally important for the Canadian winters, was often imperfect with botulism caused by bacteria in bottled foods and tapeworms in 'measly' pork from pigs allowed to forage in human waste. There was a universal food poisoning disorder known as the 'summer complaint' which was graphically described by settler John Wyllie in 1876:

The wife made a meat pie yesterday. And Sabbath eve we eat it up; well that pie was a mystery to all of us. It did not seem to lie well on the stomach and kicked up a fearful racket. The wife kept piling over the bed and disturbing me in my regular sleep, while Jean and Bob kept the air musical with Ohs and Ahs. That ere pie gripped hard. Yes it did. I got just one grip and started for the Seat of War. And staid there. Moral: don't eat meat pie.⁸

The remedy for summer complaint was "two ounces tincture of rhubarb, one of paregoric, one-half of essence of peppermint, one-half of essence of annis and one-half of prepared chalk." One teaspoon of this concoction was taken in a little water.

When cans came into use for food preservation, chronic lead poisoning from lead in the solder became a problem. In the latter part of the 19th century, arsenic poisoning also became a chronic problem with the use of arsenical pesticide sprays in orchards and for treating sheep and cattle,¹⁰ but there are no records of how many farmers or people eating contaminated fruit died from arsenic poisoning. Even rye in bread and animal feed caused 'St. Vitus dance' or abortion in humans and animals if it was infected by the then common ergot fungus. Ergot, however, was used to ease childbirth despite its dangerous side-effects.¹¹

Cholera was a major disease in those unsanitary days. Catharine Parr Traill observed firsthand a cholera epidemic when she arrived in Montreal as an immigrant in 1832 and then suffered it herself. She thought immigrants to be particularly susceptible: "In no class...has the disease proved so fatal as to the poorer class of emigrants. Many of these debilitated by the privations and fatigue of a long voyage...indulged in every sort of excess, especially the dangerous one of intoxication, they fall immediate victim to the complaint." Like everyone else, she had no idea of the cause. The remedies, however, "proved effectual - bleeding, a potion of opium, and some sort of salts, not the common Epsom." Other diseases she attributed to poorly-made root houses: "...the vile custom of keeping green vegetables in shallow moist cellars below the kitchen, much of the sickness that attacks settlers under the various forms of ague, intermittent, remittent, and lake fevers may be traced."¹²

Official life expectancy tables were not compiled in Canada until 1930 but from the obituary notices in the *Amherstburg Courier* and the *Amherstburg Echo*, it is striking how many babies were stillborn or survived only a few weeks, how many children died before the age of 10 and how many mothers died in childbirth, almost certainly from various infections known as puerperal fever. Childhood diseases like diphtheria, scarlet fever and even thrush were virtually untreatable and people with illnesses such as appendicitis died for want of surgery. In those early days, doctors were too expensive, too far away and probably were called in too late. Moreover, they often could not agree amongst themselves.¹³ It is not surprising that poor families resorted to home remedies.

Quack medicines and snake-oil salesmen were prevalent during the Victorian age. W.A. Whyte advertised the Mohawk Pain Charm in the *Amherstburg Echo* in 1875, a sovereign remedy for virtually every illness from whitlows to cholera. Its ingredients were not listed but it claimed to be a purely vegetable preparation.¹⁴ Sarsaparilla, advertised by W. Johnston of Amherstburg, was made from yellow dock, Honduras sarsaparilla, wild cherry, stillingia (Queen's root), dandelion, sassafras, wintergreen and various other herbs. It cost \$1.00 for a quart bottle and claimed to cure most ailments, from a disordered liver to impure blood.¹⁵ Patent medicines were readily available at local general stores and later from mail-order



MANUFACTURED BY

W. A. WHYTE.

IS THE

BEST FAMILY MEDICINE OF THE AGE.

And why it should be kept always near at hand.

1st.-PAIN CHARM is the most certain Cholera cure that medical science has produced.

- 2nd.-PAIN CHARM, as a Diarrhea and Dysentery remedy, seldom if ever fails.
- 3rd.-PAIN CHARM will cure Cramps or Pains in any part of the system. A single dose usually effects a cure.
- 4th.-PAIN CHARM will cure[Dyspepsia and Indigestion, if used according to directions.
- 5th.-PAIN CHARM is an almost never-failing cure for Sudden Colds, Coughs, &c.
- 6th.-PAIN CHARM has proved a Sovereign Remedy for Fever and Ague, and Chill Fever; it has cured tho most obstinate cases.
- 7th.-PAIN CHARM as a limiment is unequalled for Frost Bites, Chilblains, Burns, Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, &c.
- Sth .- PAIN CHARM has cured cases of Rheumatism and Neuralgia after years standing.
- 9th.-PAIN CHARM will destroy Boils, Felons, Whitlows, Old Sores, giving relief from Pain after the first application.

10th .-- PAIN CHARM cures Headache and Toothache.

- 11th .--- PAIN CHARM will save you days of sickness and many a Dollar in time and Doctor's Bills.
- 12th .- PAIN CHARM is a purely Vegetable preparation, safe to keep and to use in every family. The simplicity attending its use, together with the great variety of diseases that may be entirely eradicated by it, and the great amount of pain and suffering that can be alleviated through its use, make it imperative upon every person to supply themselves with this valuable remedy, and to keep it always near at hand.

PREPARED ONLY BY

W.A.WHYTE, Manufacturing Chemist,

73 DALHOUSIE STREET, AMHERSTBURG.

Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, February 26, 1875.



Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, circa 1890.

catalogues. Some of these almost certainly did more harm than good. Eugene Whelan describes a liniment his mother used during the Depression.¹⁶ Handed down from generation to generation, it was a concoction of turpentine, eggs, cream and a few other unspecified things. It had to be used with some care on the Whelan children since it was usually used to doctor horses and cattle. There was, however, a well-established knowledge of herbal medicines handed down over the generations that the 20th century tends to forget.

There was a whole Victorian science called Vitalogy¹⁷ which incorporated such matters as phrenology (reading the bumps on the head to ascertain character), avoiding excessive indulgences, self-pollution, magnetism, mind-cure, life perpetual and how to select a matrimonial partner and make domestic happiness continuous.

Jong experience in treating battle wounds had taught European military and naval surgeons a rough and ready patchwork kind of surgery and without an anaesthetic they could amputate a limb in a few minutes.¹⁸ Because it was done in appallingly filthy conditions, many patients died of subsequent infections like gangrene. Before the 19th century, some physicians suspected that certain diseases were transmissible but bacteria were not discovered until 1856 by Pasteur (1822-95) and Koch (1843-1910). Lister (1827-72) discovered how to reduce infections with carbolic acid. In 1823, Jenner discovered that vaccination with a cowpox serum from cows could give humans protection from smallpox. All these discoveries came from Europe, so with plenty of surgical experience and up-to-date medical knowledge it is not surprising that the best medical care came with the British army. In addition, virtually all the statistics on sickness and death came from soldiers, sailors and gaol prisoners.¹⁹ Sir John Pringle (1702-82), the Chief Army Medical Officer, understood that putrefactive processes were somehow connected with disease and he introduced a strict code of hygiene in camps and military hospitals. He identified the nature of gaol fever as typhus. The Scottish physician James Lind (1716-94) worked among seamen and he also developed rules for typhus on British ships, introduced lime juice for preventing scurvy (hence the term 'Limey' for a British sailor) and arranged for the distillation of sea water to potable water.

In the King's Navy Yard and on board the lake-going vessels, however, fresh food and water would have been available on a daily basis while medical care was probably as good there as anywhere else. The same would be true in the garrison at Fort Malden which had its own military doctors

Before there was an appreciable civilian population, the British army at Fort Malden and the British navy at the King's Navy Yard were served by British-trained military doctors. The garrison doctors also looked after the health of the townspeople, many of whom worked for the army or were closely connected with it. Amherstburg citizens had a major advantage over similar small communities without a military presence and without a large enough population to attract doctors.

Health and Medicine in the Army and Navy

Doctors of the Garrison

In the spring of 1781 Dr. William Harffy was posted from Lower Canada to Detroit where he served as hospital mate. In 1796 he succeeded Dr. George Anthon as garrison surgeon there Harffy was then posted to Fort Malden in 1798 as the garrison surgeon.²⁰ He built one of the first brick homes in Amherstburg on Lot 1, First Street²¹ where he died in 1802.

Dr. Robert Richardson succeeded Harffy as garrison surgeon in 1802. Trained in Scotland, Richardson came to Canada and was appointed assistant surgeon to the Queen's Rangers under the command of John Graves Simcoe. Richardson served at Queenston, St. Joseph's Island and Detroit²² before coming to Fort Malden. It is interesting to note that in 1812 Dr. Richardson cooperated with a Shawnee medicine man in treating a gunshot wound for Thomas Verchères de Boucherville,²³ an early Amherstburg merchant. In those days European medicines were difficult to obtain and Native healing skills undoubtedly saved many lives.

Richardson married his first wife, Madeline Askin, on January 24, 1793 at Queenston (Niagara Township). One of the sons of this marriage was Major John Richardson, noted historian of the War of 1812 and author of some of the first Canadian novels, including Wacousta. Dr. Robert Richardson took an active part in local administration and was appointed a judge of the Western District Court in 1807, serving in that position until his death in 1832.²⁴

William Faulkner arrived at Fort Malden with a detachment of the 41st Regiment in August, 1811. He was the senior medical officer and assistant surgeon for the garrison when the Americans declared war in June, 1812, rendering assistance after battles at Frenchtown, Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson. Dr. Faulkner was with the regiment as they retreated in September, 1813. He eventually arrived at the military depot at Burlington Heights from where in 1814 he returned to England.²⁵

There were other doctors whose names appeared sporadically between 1796 and the end of the Asylum period.

Dr. John Tennant was a surgeon with the garrison at Fort Malden after the War of 1812. He owned lands along the river south of Amherstburg.²⁶ In September of 1819 David Thompson, a member of the International Boundary Survey Commission, became severely ill with "marsh fever" (malaria) while surveying Lake Erie. Thompson was brought to Amherstburg to receive medical treatment and recorded in his journal that "I was visited by Dr. Tennants [sic], the military surgeon who sent me medicines which relieved me considerably."²⁷ Dr. Tennant probably left Amherstburg in 1822.²⁸

Dr. John F. Swindell, 70th Regiment, was once assistant surgeon at Fort Malden. In 1820 he owned Lots 21, 22 and 23, west side of King Street.²⁹

Dr. Robert Ironside was a son of George Ironside Sr., Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Amherstburg during the 1820s and '30s.³⁰

Dr. W. Cruikshank was assistant surgeon at Fort Malden in 1832 with the 79th Regiment.³¹

In 1834 Dr. Jonathon Osburne was a witness to the baptism of the infant of John Clarke, captain in the 66th Regiment.³²

Dr. Robert Todd Reynolds was born in Malden in 1812, son of Deputy-Commissary Robert Reynolds and Thérèse Bouchette. He graduated from McGill University in 1836.³³ Dr. Reynolds was a commissioned surgeon for the 4th Battalion Essex Militia in 1847³⁴ and practised medicine from his riverfront (Malden) residence until his retirement in 1891.³⁵ He died in Chicago in 1897.³⁶

Dr. Alfred K. Dewson, the son of a retired British army major, was in Amherstburg from the early 1840s until 1853. He was one of the first trustees when the public school system was set up in 1851 ³⁷

in 1851.38

Dr. Alfred DeGraw was listed in the 1855 Amherstburg Assessment Roll. He was 30 years old, living on Lot 29, Seymore Street. Dr. James Miller, age 40, was listed in the 1855 and '56 Amherstburg Assessment Rolls.

Before the War of 1812, the sick were housed in the lower storey of the men's blockhouse near the King's Navy Yard. It was a log building and there were complaints about the roof leaking and the snow sifting through the cracks between the logs.³⁹ After the War of 1812, the defenses of Fort Malden were allowed to run down.⁴⁰ When the 79th Highlanders manned the fort in 1832 the garrison hospital stood on about an acre of ground on the riverbank.

a very old small wooden building calculated to contain 6 or at most 8 beds [which] cannot be considered sufficient for more than the average number of sick in our Company, the Situation is as eligible in point of salubrity as could be found; it is divided into one Ward and the Surgery on the ground floor and two apartments on the upper one which can only be used as store rooms on account of the very open and decayed state of the roof through which the snow penetrates in abundance.41

Even the medicines froze. This was know as the 'Old White Hospital'. The upper floor was later divided into two wards and the hospital was connected at the rear to a kitchen and a room for noncommissioned officers. There was no well and water for cooking came from the river.

Following complaints from W. Cruikshank, the assistant surgeon of the 79th Highlanders, a brick building was "hired" at the corner of Dalhousie and Richmond Streets and in 1841 plans were prepared for an additional store in the yard of the brick hospital, a little further east on Richmond Street.42

The Malden Lunatic Asylum

In about 400 B.C. the Greek doctor Hippocrates wrote, "Life is so short, the craft so long to learn." Hippocrates indeed had all the right ideas about the nature of mental disorders, essentially diseases of a disturbed physiology, and he distinguished among phobias, mania, depression and paranoia. However, during the Dark Ages, between Hippocrates and the end of the 18th century, mental illness was widely seen as the work of the devil, the baleful influence of the moon (lunacy) or

Dr. Rambout was appointed to examine the military Pensioners who settled at Amherstburg

The Garrison Hospitals

the result of witchcraft. Sufferers were treated as less than animals, often restrained in gaols with criminals, the handicapped, vagrants and delinquents; or they were executed or sold off for manual labour.⁴³ It was not until 1796, the year that William Tuke, an English Quaker, founded York Retreat for the compassionate care of mentally disturbed patients, that modern psychiatry began to be formulated.

In Victorian times the term "insane" covered a wide range of disorders: brain tumours, stressrelated psychoses, alcoholism, narcotic dependency, epilepsy, seizures, schizophrenia, depression, paranoia and even some forms of goitre.⁴⁴ In 1883 Emil Kraepelin, a German psychologist, characterized schizophrenia and manic and depressive psychoses, essentially what Hippocrates had said over 2000 years earlier.

It is against this resurgence of medical and scientific interest in psychiatric theory and practice that the treatment of the mentally disabled began in Canada. As early as 1714, however, the Sisters of Hôtel Dieu in Quebec had opened a ward for mentally disturbed women, taking over their care from their families.⁴⁵ Asylums were opened in St. John, New Brunswick in 1835 and in Toronto in 1841, successively in a disused gaol, a wing of the Parliament building and in 1853 at 999 Queen Street. Notwithstanding, in 1863 nine "lunatic women" were still being held in a Perth gaol.

The Toronto facility soon became overcrowded and in 1859 its superintendent Dr. Joseph Workman proposed to the Assistant Commissioner for Crown Lands, Warren Russell, that the buildings and grounds at Fort Malden, abandoned by the military in 1859, be used to house mental patients.⁴⁶ Russell sent William Coffin to Amherstburg to confer with local officials. Coffin recommended the appropriation of a 60-acre tract stretching back eastwards some 430 yards from the Detroit River, with 320 yards of riverfront tapering to 130 yards at the eastern end. The tract included the fort in the northwest corner. This proposal was accepted and an Order of Council of June 8, 1959 proclaimed, "The Attorney General for Upper Canada suggests…that the Barracks at Fort Malden which are reported by Doctor Workman to be well adapted for the reception of 180 inmates should at once be fitted up and occupied as an Asylum for the incurably Insane."⁴⁷

Dr. Andrew Fisher, assistant superintendent at the Toronto Insane Asylum, was appointed to take charge of the new asylum at Amherstburg. Fisher was born December 22, 1832 at Wellington Square, Halton County, Ontario. At the age of 22 he obtained his degree of M.D. from Toronto University which he followed with a post-graduate course in 1855 at New York University. He then practised in Toronto until he was appointed as assistant to Dr. Workman at the Toronto Insane Asylum. On November 19, 1857 in Toronto, Fisher married Mary Lundy with whom he later had two sons and two daughters.

The twenty-seven-year-old Dr. Fisher arrived at Amherstburg on July 14, 1859 accompanied by "20 or more able-bodied patients."⁴⁸ Together they began the arduous task of converting the old fort buildings and established southwestern Ontario's first asylum, the 'Malden Lunatic Asylum'. By the end of the year there were 144 patients in residence at Malden, all "quiet chronics."⁴⁹

A brick building which would facilitate the bake shop and laundry, and a residence for the superintendent were erected in 1861. However, the government would allow little to be spent on repairing the old fort buildings as this was deemed for several reasons to be a temporary location. Dr. Fisher did his utmost to make the patients comfortable. The grounds were landscaped, a library was established, weekly dances were held and religious services took place every Sunday. Capable women patients were given sewing and household duties, while men worked on the grounds and

buildings It is noteworthy that Dr. Fis bodied patients to therapeutic work.

Drugs for treatment were limited by knowledge and budget to alcohol, morphine, opium, camphor, quinine and ipecac, mostly as tranquillizers. Medicines cost the asylum \$95.13 in 1862 as opposed to \$1125.88 for beer, wine and spirits. Dr. Fisher allowed the palliative use of alcohol only sparingly, he considered "drunkenness rather a consequence than a cause of mental alienation."⁵⁰ Fisher did not consider it necessary to have rooms for solitary confinement. The average length of stay in the 1860s was about 18 years with death usually intervening; in 1984 the average stay in an acute psychiatric ward was only three weeks. Whereas in 1862 the discharge rate of cured patients was 17% of admissions, by 1869 this had risen to 60%, a telling commentary on Fisher's skill.⁵¹ Fisher left copious notes of all his cases, whether they ended in death or cure.⁵² A social worker writing a hundred years after the asylum closed rated the young Dr. Fisher (he was still then only 45) as years ahead of his time; indeed, his compassionate and enlightened philosophy would not be out of place in today's ethics, even if the science was not available to him.

It is reported in the 1866 <u>County of Essex Gazetteer</u> that by September, 1861 there had been 214 "quiet and curable" patients transferred to Amherstburg from the counties of Norfolk, Oxford, Middlesex, Elgin, Kent, Essex and Lambton. However, in 1866 the number had increased to 235 patients - 121 men and 114 women. Officers in charge of the Malden Lunatic Asylum were Andrew Fisher, M.D., medical superintendent; John Meek, clerk; John Milligan, steward; and Mrs. K. Creed, matron. Employees were Francis King, carpenter; James Ridsdale, baker; and Simon Bertrand, butcher. The "keepers" were William Meek, William Flynn, Dennis Fowler, Joseph Creed, Thomas Jarmin, Alexander Mullen, John Donnelly, William Rowan, William Farmer, John Hutton, William Howe and Henry Blair, most of whom were former military Pensioners. Mrs. B. Duncan was seamstress; Julia Webb was night nurse. Day nurses were Annie Rowan, Caroline Naegle, Mary Boogan and Sarah Webb. Annie Mahon and Margaret McCrudden were cooks. Kate McCrystal was laundress while laundry maids were Mary McGowan and Rose McGowan.

Soon the policy of having "quiet chronics" changed. More and more acute cases arrived, some violent and suicidal. The scientific study of insanity, knowledge of the workings of the brain and nervous system, was in its infancy. Inadequate facilities in decrepit, unsafe buildings added to the superintendent's anxiety and Dr. Fisher's health gradually deteriorated under the strain.

Superintendent's anxiety and Dr. Fisher's nearly graduary determined took over responsibility for Soon after Confederation in 1867, the new Province of Ontario took over responsibility for asylums. Rather than compliment Fisher for his faithful nine-year efforts at Malden under deplorable conditions, the new inspector blamed him for the unacceptable state of the institution. The following year Dr. Fisher resigned under pressure.⁵³ He was succeeded at Malden in July, 1868 by Dr. Henry Landor.

After resigning from the Malden Lunatic Asylum, Dr. Fisher practised in Amherstburg for a brief period and then moved to Oxley. In 1883 he returned to Amherstburg, renting office space for several years before purchasing the nine-year-old "Rankin residence"⁵⁴ on the southeast corner of Dalhousie Street and Rankin Avenue in 1888, where he died in September, 1898.

Dr. Henry Landor's tenure as superintendent at Malden was brief. Soon after his arrival in the summer of 1868, much-needed repairs and modifications were made to the buildings.⁵⁵ However, overcrowded, outdated structures made his task difficult. In 1870 the provincial government erected a new asylum in London and the Malden Lunatic Asylum operations were gradually phased out. In

buildings It is noteworthy that Dr. Fisher's enlightened theory and practice was already putting able-

August of that year patients were transferred to their new quarters. A large public auction of the furniture and stores was held in August, 1870 and Fort Malden was abandoned for the second time.⁵⁶ Dr. Landor was appointed medical superintendent of the new London Asylum for the Insane. He died at his residence in that city in January, 1877.⁵⁷

Amherstburg's Healers

Nineteenth-Century Town Doctors

I hrough the years the ever-increasing population required more and more medical personnel with a variety of rapidly emerging and diversified new skills. The history of health services in Amherstburg is summarized in the following brief biographies.⁵⁸ It is noteworthy how many of these busy professionals also contributed much of their precious time to public life in the community.

Dr. Andrew Fisher, as mentioned in a previous paragraph, resigned his post at the Malden Lunatic Asylum in 1868. He practised in town for a short time before moving to Colchester. Returning to Amherstburg in January, 1883,⁵⁹ Dr. Fisher rented office space in one of W.T. Wilkinson's houses on Dalhousie Street. In May, 1888 he purchased the "Rankin" residence, southeast corner of North and Dalhousie Streets, where he died ten years later.60

Dr. Thomas Hawkins, a retired British naval surgeon, was a native of England who moved to Amherstburg around 1850. While here he practised medicine and also operated a newspaper called the Forester from 1853 to 1855.61 Hawkins then returned to Colchester where he had originally settled around 1840.62

Dr. Walter Lambert was born in 1832 in Niagara Township. He studied medicine in St. Catharines with Dr. Theophilus Mack, receiving his M.D. degree in 1856. Dr. Lambert immediately came to Amherstburg where for 24 years he enjoyed an extensive practice. His residence and office were located on the west side of Ramsay Street between Murray and Gore Streets. Lambert and his wife Elizabeth raised one son, also named Walter, who became a prominent physician in Michigan. Dr. Lambert Sr. took considerable interest in community life. His term as mayor and other accomplishments are noted in Chapter III, 'Municipal History - Mayors of Amherstburg' His standing among the medical profession was highly creditable. He was at one time president of the Western and St. Clair Medical Association which embraced four counties.⁶³ Also to his credit was the time and effort he put into training other young Amherstburg doctors. Dr. Lambert's death in 1881 at the age of 49 was cause for great sadness among Amherstburg area citizens.

Dr. William C. Lundy practised medicine in Amherstburg, coming here shortly after his 1867 graduation from Victoria College. The native of Richmond Hill, Ontario married Sarah Conroy, the daughter of military Pensioner Farrell Conroy. Dr. Lundy died suddenly in 1877 at the age of 34, leaving his widow and two small children.

Dr. Francis Lewis Mack was born in 1836 in Amherstburg, the son of Reverend Frederick Mack, rector of Christ Anglican Church. He studied here with Dr. Walter Lambert Sr. who coincidentally had been a medical student in St. Catharines with Dr. Theophilus Mack, the elder brother of Francis. Little is known of Dr. Francis Mack's brief career in Amherstburg. He purchased property on the riverfront (Lot 8), Anderdon in 1876 and was still there in 1881 but was not entered in the 1891 Census.

Dr. William B. Quarry was also practising in Amherstburg in the mid-1870s. In 1875 he opened a new drug store in connection with his office at 70 Murray Street. An advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo reported that "a new Medical Hall...with a large stock of Pure Drugs, Chemicals, Patent Medicines, etc..." was ready for business.⁶⁴ Some years later Dr. Quarry moved to Windsor.

Daniel 'Doc' Pearson, born into slavery around 1808 in Danville, Kentucky, enjoyed a thriving practice from his home at the corner of George and Gore Streets. Having worked as a coachman for a white doctor in Louisville, Pearson acquired some medical knowledge and regular instruction but never received a formal medical licence. "By strict economy he saved enough money to purchase his own liberty" as well as that of his daughter and two sons.⁶⁵ After his second marriage in 1864, Daniel Pearson came to Amherstburg where he died in 1894 at the age of 86. Highly regarded as a healer, he was a skilled bonesetter and knowledgeable in the uses of medicinal herbs. Occasionally Doc Pearson found himself at odds with the Medical Society for "practising illegally."66

Dr. Forest F. Bell practised medicine in Amherstburg from about 1870 until 1897 when he moved to Windsor. Born in 1846 in Amherstburg, he was the youngest son of John and Hetty Bell and a grandson of William Bell who had been a master shipwright at the King's Navy Yard between 1799 and 1813. The family property between Victoria and Fryer Streets which today contains not only housing but a large sports complex is still known as the 'Bell Farm'.⁶⁷ Dr. Bell's office was first located at the corner of Dalhousie and Murray Streets and in 1878 in the "Stone Cottage," corner of Gore and Ramsay Streets.⁶⁸ In 1878 the old homestead was moved from Victoria Street to the northwest corner of Apsley and Gore Streets. This was not only the Forest Bell family home but also housed his office thereafter. He was joined in 1893 by Dr. Oscar Teeter and in 1897 Bell sold his residence and practice to Teeter. The structure is still known as the 'Teeter building'.



Dr. Thomas Hobley in his office, *circa* 1900. Marsh Collection Society, P948

Dr. Thomas Hobley practised from his residence on the west side of Sandwich Street (between Richmond Street and Rankin Avenue) from 1881 until 1905. Born in Amherstburg in 1849, he was the son of military Pensioner John and Alice (McGill) Hobley. Dr. Hobley graduated in 1875 from Victoria University, later "taking the degree of M.D. in Trinity and Toronto Universities."⁶⁹ In 1890 while taking a post-graduate course in New York, Hobley developed an illness which affected the rest of his life. He died in Amherstburg in 1907.

Dr. Oscar Langlois was born in 1849 in Amherstburg. After graduation from McGill University he opened a practice on the west side of Sandwich Street (between Alma and St. Arnaud Streets) opposite the "Erie House." Dr. Langlois moved to Windsor in 1885⁷⁰ where he died in 1894.⁷¹

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Dr. John Proudfoot practised in Amherstburg for a number of years before the end of the 19th century. In 1895 his office and residence were in the Borrowman house (later known as the Tea Garden Restaurant) on Richmond Street. In October, 1896 Dr. Proudfoot purchased Daniel Girard's two-storey frame house on the north side of Gore Street (between Ramsay and Bathurst Streets) which became his residence and office. In 1899 Proudfoot sold his practice and residence to Dr. W. Fred Park and moved to London.⁷² The *Amherstburg Echo* of May 4, 1897 reported that Dr. Proudfoot had presented a paper to members of the Epworth League on the "Nature and effects of tobacco" which was almost revolutionary for the time. Discussion ensued on the "evil nature of the thing" and its "decidedly hurtful and retarding effects..."



The Amherstburg Echo, April 17, 1896

A New Decade

As the 19th century turned into the 20th, Amherstburg was blessed with five medical doctors: William Campeau, Rodney H. Abbott, Oscar Teeter, T. James Park and W. Fred Park, all of whom were dedicated to their profession and community.

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Dr. William Campeau was born in 1864 at Amherstburg, the son of James and Lovedy Campeau. After graduating from Trinity Medical College in Toronto he practised at Pelee Island, Ruthven and Harrow before finally settling in Amherstburg where he remained for 27 years. He died in 1924 following a long illness.⁷³

Dr. Rodney H. Abbott was born at Wolfe Island near Kingston in 1856. A year after graduating from the Kingston Collegiate Institute in 1879, Abbott moved to Comber where he built up a large practice. Already a man of many letters, Dr. Abbott journeyed to England and Ireland in 1886 where he received further degrees in "midwifery and diseases peculiar to women."⁷⁴ In 1896 he returned to Kingston where he practised until coming to Amherstburg in 1907. His office was located first in the Campeau house at the corner of Gore and Ramsay Streets⁷⁵ and later at the corner of Rankin Avenue and Dalhousie Street "opposite [the] Waterworks."⁷⁶ In March, 1918 Dr. Abbott purchased the 'Dolly Varden' house⁷⁷ and lot north of the *Amherstburg Echo* building on Dalhousie Street, where he practised until his death in 1921.

Dr. Oscar Teeter, a native of Grimsby, Ontario came to Amherstburg fresh out of medical school and formed a partnership with Dr. Forest Bell. In 1897 he purchased the practice and residence/office from Bell. Dr. Teeter gave much of his time to community affairs, sat on council at different times and was mayor in 1921. Typical of the country doctors at the turn of the century, he drove from community to community caring for his patients. His medical knowledge was superior in that he was known to cure even obscure diseases. Before city medical facilities had taken up the wide use of modern treatment with X-rays and ultraviolet rays, Dr. Teeter had these installed in his office. The popular physician died in 1933 following a four-year illness.⁷⁸

Dr. Theodore James Park was a native of Amherstburg, having been born here in 1856, the son of merchant Theodore J. and Caroline (Kevill) Park. After completing his education at the University of Toronto, Trinity Medical College and a year's residency at Toronto General Hospital, Dr. Park set up his practice at the family home on Dalhousie Street.⁷⁹ Active in the community, he served as councillor for three terms and mayor in 1888. 'Doctor Jim' practised during a time when cholera, typhoid and other waterborne diseases were prevalent. During his many years as medical officer of health he constantly warned citizens to boil drinking water and maintain cleanliness for good health. He became the personification of all the qualities of a typical country doctor, maintaining a practice in his hometown for more than half a century. Doctor Jim died on New Year's Day, 1936 in his 80th year.⁸⁰

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Dr. W. Fred Park was not only one of the most famous and popular country doctors in Ontario and a mover and shaker in his adopted community but also "one of the most astute municipal men in Essex County."⁸¹ Born in 1871 at Chatham, Park was educated there and in Toronto, completing studies in

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Dr. W. Fred Park residence and office, Gore Street, *circa* 1900.



Dr. Thomas Hobley in his office, *circa* 1900. Marsh Collection Society, P948

Dr. Thomas Hobley practised from his residence on the west side of Sandwich Street (between Richmond Street and Rankin Avenue) from 1881 until 1905. Born in Amherstburg in 1849, he was the son of military Pensioner John and Alice (McGill) Hobley. Dr. Hobley graduated in 1875 from Victoria University, later "taking the degree of M.D. in Trinity and Toronto Universities."⁶⁹ In 1890 while taking a post-graduate course in New York, Hobley developed an illness which affected the rest of his life. He died in Amherstburg in 1907.

Dr. Oscar Langlois was born in 1849 in Amherstburg. After graduation from McGill University he opened a practice on the west side of Sandwich Street (between Alma and St. Arnaud Streets) opposite the "Erie House." Dr. Langlois moved to Windsor in 1885⁷⁰ where he died in 1894.⁷¹

Dr. John Proudfoot practised in Amherstburg for a number of years before the end of the 19th century. In 1895 his office and residence were in the Borrowman house (later known as the Tea Garden Restaurant) on Richmond Street. In October, 1896 Dr. Proudfoot purchased Daniel Girard's two-storey frame house on the north side of Gore Street (between Ramsay and Bathurst Streets) which became his residence and office. In 1899 Proudfoot sold his practice and residence to Dr. W. Fred Park and moved to London.⁷² The *Amherstburg Echo* of May 4, 1897 reported that Dr. Proudfoot had presented a paper to members of the Epworth League on the "Nature and effects of tobacco" which was almost revolutionary for the time. Discussion ensued on the "evil nature of the thing" and its "decidedly hurtful and retarding effects..."



The Amherstburg Echo, April 17, 1896

A New Decade

As the 19th century turned into the 20th, Amherstburg was blessed with five medical doctors: William Campeau, Rodney H. Abbott, Oscar Teeter, T. James Park and W. Fred Park, all of whom were dedicated to their profession and community.

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Dr. W. Fred Park residence and office, Gore Street, *circa* 1900.

medicine and pharmacy. He first set up his practice in 1893 in Harrow, coming to Amherstburg six vears later when he purchased Dr. Proudfoot's practice and residence on Gore Street.⁸² However, after opening his Amherstburg practice, Dr. Park continued to tend to his Harrow and county patients. Always an ardent cyclist, he watched the development of the motorcycle and in 1907 went to Detroit and purchased the latest model of the invention. The first trip he made from Windsor to Amherstburg was accomplished in 45 minutes.⁸³ He later built his own car from parts acquired at the defunct Two-in-One Auto Company in Amherstburg. Dr. Park was the plant doctor for Brunner Mond and looked after the company hospital.⁸⁴

During his medical career it is said that 'Doctor Fred' delivered over four thousand babies in Essex County.⁸⁵ He and his colleagues were largely responsible for obliterating such illnesses as cholera and typhoid in this district. As mayor of Amherstburg for twenty terms, Dr. Fred Park "guided the town through many strenuous periods and left his impress[ion] on local legislation for civic betterment that will go down through the records of his municipality's history as one of its greatest personal accomplishments."86

A former patient, Mrs. Veneta Bondy, recalls that "Dr. Fred Park used to pull my teeth for a nickel and then give it back to me. He drove a horse and cutter and one day he went through the snow at Langlois' corner - Busy Bee it was called - on his way to bring me into the world [but] he did not make it so Grandma did it again - ten times in one house... I still have a bottle of his black salve that cured everything from toothache to lumbago - 25¢ a bottle..." It was since learned that Dr. Park's 'black salve' was a "treatment for blood poisoning, boils and practically anything else." It contained a mixture of cornstarch, Churchill iodine and Vaseline.⁸⁷

Ann (Park) Squire, the daughter of Dr. Fred's brother Alexander Park, wrote the following recollection about her uncle:

My father's oldest brother Fred...was our favourite relative because he was so good to us, especially after my father died. Like his brothers he had been raised by his grandparents and worked in Dr. Samuel Radley's drug store in Chatham. Since he was a very bright young boy he left for the University of Toronto at the age of 16 after graduating from Chatham Collegiate Institute...Graduating at the age of twenty, too young to practise medicine, he stayed at the university one extra year as a teacher of astronomy, at the same time completing a pharmacy degree.

One of my most vivid memories of Uncle Fred was when he removed the tonsils of the three older girls in our family. I had to go first because the others were so frightened. I lay on the table in his office and he used a local anaesthetic, which meant that I could watch everything he did. When he was finished I went to lie down on his front porch while the others were treated to the same service. After it was all over we walked home ...

Dr. Fred was stricken with a heart attack in 1934. His family and friends pleaded with him to relinquish some of his activities but he said, "I want to die with my boots on."... On the morning of his death, two years later, Dr. Park had his usual office hours, seeing several patients...and as his last act signed the death certificate of his friend and colleague Dr. T. James Park [who had died two days previously]...He complained of a weak spell and...died a few minutes later. His family called in Dr. Harris, the only other doctor in town, but there was nothing anyone could do. Dr. Fred had died with his boots on...

Pat Warren in his 'My Town' column recalls the town doctors of the 1930s.⁸⁸ Being a doctor in the thirties was a lot different from today. Back then they made house calls. They almost never sent you a bill and if they did that was a signal that they really needed the money for some good reason. People paid if they could and paid what they could. If Doc needed to be at the top of the list for some reason, then at the very least they would get paid a little bit each pay day or the barter system was used. Often they made the medicine right there in their office instead of writing a prescription. They didn't make pills so the powder was contained in a special paper that was folded in a way that prevented the contents from falling out. Seems to me there were various colours of paper. I seem to remember black, blue and white very stiff paper. Later one of the doctors told me that one of those papers, I think it was the dark blue one, always contained aspirin. Just as often, though, the medicine would be an elixir or syrup that would either taste like honey or gasoline and sometimes both. Or it could be a salve or ointment also made on premises with only those ingredients needed for your problem.

I remember four of the six doctors who lived and practised medicine here in the thirties. I remember my dad talking about the two doctors Park. One was Jim and one was Fred. They both died in 1936 within two days of each other and they were not related. But I do not recall even seeing either one of the famous doctors Park. The doctors I did see were Ladouceur, Manning, Harris and Hutchinson. The one I saw the least was Doc Ladouceur. Seems he was off in Windsor delivering a baby just about every time we needed a doctor. I sure liked the look of his house and office. It's still there today at the northwest corner of Sandwich and Elm Streets. I saw Doc Ladouceur bowling more often than I saw him in his office. I never heard him speak French either but I know some of his patients spoke French only.

Doc Manning was my next-door neighbour for a number of years. His son Tom was my age and we used to play together a lot. Doc Manning invented a salve during the First World War that he used to cure a skin lesion of mine that had all the experts stumped. Mom had taken me to expert doctors from Windsor and Detroit and to experts in London and Toronto. But it was Doc Manning's salve that worked the cure. It's a long story, but today you can buy a salve just like it called Ozonal. Another time I was playing with Rev. Hart's dog. He was black and white and I think we called him Blackie. We were in the playground of the public school. I had a two-foot-long stick about two inches thick and Blackie just loved chasing it. This one time the dog jumped up to grab the stick just as I was moving it and as he came down his tooth ripped a three-inch gash in my stomach. Doc Manning fixed it up with some kind of clear liquid gel that looked like transparent plastic that he said was a bandage and he used tape to hold it together instead of stitches. Doc Manning, like the other doctors, never had an extra dollar until medical insurance came along.

When I got into a problem one time just before Easter of 1937 Doc Harris came to our house. He almost always wore a grey suit and looked and sounded so kind and wise. He spoke with a husky voice that was very reassuring. I was so full of pain I was willing to let him do anything, but I had no idea how much he was going to hurt me. I may have passed out but whatever he did the pain was gone. He patted me on the head and told me how good and brave I had been. He still had to do an operation that time and again the next year and I think he was the one who took out my tonsils. Anyway, I always thought of him as a surgeon even though he had a pharmacy in his

"The Miracle Workers We Knew as Our Doctors"

office. It was a small room about five feet wide and 10 feet long with narrow shelves on both sides just full of jars containing powders and liquids of every colour and texture. He had a collection of mortar and pestle sets. Some were metal, some glass and some were china or ceramic. There was a very sensitive scale that could measure the weight of any of these medicines with great accuracy.

The house that contained his office with its own pharmacy still looks much the same today as it did when I first saw it in the thirties. It was and is the second house from the southeast corner of Bathurst and Gore Streets. I remember it especially well because right next door on the corner lived Tom Kilgallin Sr. with his wife whom my parents called "Gert" and their daughter Marie who was a classmate of mine. Even with a fine doctor next door, Marie died while still in elementary school.

I remember that some years later Doc Harris' son also became a doctor and married Mary Gillman from town and in the mid-fifties when I was teaching in Sarnia, he became the chief of medicine at the Sarnia General Hospital.

Doc Hutchinson never wore grey that I can remember. In fact, in my memory he was always in a blue serge suit. Sometimes in his office he would wear a white smock like the doctors do on television. Just like the other doctors, Doc Hutchinson had his medical office in his home. It was located at the southwest corner of Sandwich Street and Rankin Avenue. Today it's a grassy area enclosed by a wrought-iron fence surrounding the Richmond Terrace Nursing Home. ()ne day around 1935 a few of us kids got a ride back to school after lunch. A neighbour lady of ours was driving her daughter back to school for some reason and we all piled in. As we were passing the corner where Doc Hutchinson's office was located, her daughter decided to turn the door handle of the car. That door was hinged at the back instead of the front like today. The awful result was that the wind flung the car door open with such sudden force that the child, caught by surprise, froze her grip on the handle and was yanked out of the car and hurled onto Dr. Hutchinson's lawn with a fearful force. Thank God we were not going fast! By the time the mother got the car stopped and ran over to see her daughter, Doc Hutchinson was already there checking her out and putting her arm back into its socket before the feeling came back and then he began cleaning her cuts, scrapes and bruises. He had seen the accident happen and acted fast. In a couple of weeks the girl was skipping rope like nothing had happened.

Doc Hutchinson to my eye was the tallest and perhaps the most dignified-looking doctor. As the area medical officer of health he needed all the skills of a diplomat and the persuasion of a lawyer to get the cooperation he needed to avoid or minimize the risks of epidemics. As I remember it he was part of the big campaign that successfully eliminated rats from the streets, alleys and garbage cans of Amherstburg. I remember one time when Doc Hutchinson provided a hospital-style anaesthetic in my dad's dental office. It was for a surgical dental procedure that one of his patients needed. Some years later his son Bruce joined him in his practice and eventually, together with other doctors, in the seventies they bought my parents' property on Sandwich Street and established the present Hutchinson Clinic.

Dr. Edwin C. Harris, a native of Kingsville, was known locally as a quiet man who maintained a low profile in the Amherstburg district which he served for forty-seven years. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Harris served with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps during the First World

War. In May, 1921 he set up a practice in "the Kemp Block, Murray Street," Amherstburg.⁸⁹ In July he moved to the residence/office on Bathurst Street (two doors south of Gore Street)⁹⁰ where he remained until retiring in 1968. That year Dr. Harris moved to Sarnia to live with his son Dr. George E. Harris where he died in March, 1969.

Dr. Frederick W. Manning practised in Amherstburg for thirty-six years. Born in 1881 in Durham County, he graduated in 1906 from the University of Toronto and during the First World War served in the Canadian Medical Corps with the rank of major.⁹¹ Coming to Amherstburg in 1930 he set up a practice which lasted throughout his life in this community. Dr. Manning died in November, 1966.

Dr. Ernest C. Ladouceur first located in Amherstburg in 1936 in an office "upstairs over Mrs. Charlotte Brooker's residence" on Sandwich Street across from the Liberty Theatre.⁹² Born in 1906 at Belle River, he obtained his B.A. at Assumption and received his medical degree at the University of Western Ontario in London. He and his wife Rita (Shanahan) in 1939 purchased the stone house on the northwest corner of Sandwich and Elm. That year he built an addition which was used as his office until ill health compelled him to retire in 1977. Dr. Ladouceur died in June, 1979. One of the town's most beloved doctors, he was an unassuming, kind gentleman who soon after his arrival became known as one of Amherstburg's top bowlers.

Dr. John G. Leonard, a native of Cobourg, came to Amherstburg in 1949.93 A graduate of the University of Toronto and Queen's University Medical School, he was associated with Dr. Bliss in Kingsville before opening a practice here. Dr. Leonard's office was located first on Sandwich Street, then on Murray Street until he had a new residence/office building erected in 1964 on the southwest corner of George and Murray Streets. In 1971 he relocated to Dalhousie Street, having a new building put up on the former Gray's Greenhouse property (now Rosa's Restaurant) south of the Legion clubhouse. Dr. Leonard died in January, 1974.

Dr. Edgar D. Hutchinson was born in 1890 in Moore Township near Sarnia. After graduating from Sarnia Collegiate at the age of 19 he continued his education for the teaching profession at Peterborough Normal School.⁹⁴ Two or three years later he entered medical school, graduating from the U the University of Toronto in 1916, just in time to go overseas with the Canadian Army Medical Corps.95

In March, 1921, having spent the previous two years with the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Committee at London and Windsor, the young doctor was invited to join the staff of the four-year-old Brunner Mond Canada Ltd. firm as assistant to Dr. Fred Park. He and his wife Grace moved to a company house on Brunner Avenue.⁹⁶ In September, 1921 the Amherstburg Echo announced the removal of Dr. Hutchinson's office from Brunner Avenue to Sandwich Street "opposite the park." Four years later contractors were at work building his "new brick residence" on the southwest corner

of Rankin Avenue and Sandwich Street. By November, 1925 the Hutchinsons were living in their new home and the good doctor was working out of his new office there. In 1948 Dr. Hutchinson purchased the A.R. Bartlet house on north Dalhousie Street and moved there, separating the residence from the medical offices.

Through the years in his adopted town Dr. Edgar Hutchinson was active in the community, serving for many years on the local school boards. He retired from his 45-year career in 1962, retaining his post as medical officer of health.⁹⁷ Dr. Hutchinson passed away January 30, 1980.

Dr. E. Bruce Hutchinson was born in Amherstburg. His education at the University of Toronto was interrupted by the Second World War in which he served more than two full operational tours of duty with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a bomber navigator.⁹⁸ During his military career he won numerous citations, foremost among them the Distinguished Flying Cross. At the conclusion of the war Hutchinson returned to university. After graduation and an internship at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Dr. Bruce Hutchinson returned to Amherstburg in February, 1952 where he joined his father, Dr. Edgar Hutchinson, in general practice.99 Together they established a small medical centre, creating Amherstburg's first group practice. In 1958 more offices were added to the medical centre at the corner of Sandwich Street and Rankin Avenue and more doctors joined the staff. Dr. Otto Salonen and Dr. Mel Kaspardlov were among the first recruits to assist at the new medical centre. Dr. Robert P. Shelley joined the group in July of 1961, remaining until 1991 when he retired to embark on a protracted sailing voyage. He assisted Dr. Hutchinson in recruiting Dr Gordon McPherson in 1962. In 1968 Amherstburg native John R. Greenaway joined the practice Two years later Dr. R.H. Miller worked with the group for one year.

In 1971 the former Dr. E.M. Warren home at 80 Sandwich Street was razed and a larger, modern medical facility built on the site was opened in the spring of 1972. The transfer from 198 to 80 Sandwich Street was expertly coordinated by the head nurse, Joan Woof Beneteau. Her predecessors in the nursing department of the medical centre were Dee Wigle and Orla Ducharme, both of whom worked for the clinic for some years.

Around the time that the new centre opened, Dr. John O. Cox joined the group and remained a partner for five years. After his departure, Dr. Richard E. Lovell and Dr. Victor S. Bolton became members of the team. Dr. Bolton left three years later to work in Windsor and later in England. In May, 1989 Dr. David Coates joined the staff of the medical centre and in August, 1989 Dr. Rose Lan entered the partnership. In November, 1995 Dr. Tim O'Callahan joined the staff.



Hutchinson Clinic, 1989. Marsh Collection Society, P1532

In October, 1989 the medical centre was renamed the 'Hutchinson Clinic' in tribute to its founders, Drs. Edgar D. and Bruce Hutchinson. The multi-doctor clinic which they established in the 1950s was an innovative and radical method for its time when small-town physicians traditionally operated their own individual practices.¹⁰⁰ 'Doctor Bruce' actively practised until 1985 when illness compelled him to limit his activities. He passed away on January 21, 1986.

Dr. Fernando DiPierdomenico was born and raised in Amherstburg. His early education was obtained in Amherstburg schools, after which he received Bachelor and Master degrees in Applied Science from the University of Windsor. Dr. DiPierdomenico obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1979. He then returned to his native town to practise at 290 Sandwich Street South where he has built up an impressive practice.¹⁰¹

Dr. Haider Hasnain is the most recent addition to Amherstburg's medical personnel. Having obtained his M.D. degree in 1992, Dr. Hasnain came to Windsor in April, 1996 as plant medical doctor at the General Motors Trim Plant. Anxious to have his own family practice and clinic, he opened the Amherstburg Medical Clinic at 258 Sandwich Street South on July 15, 1996. The 'walkin' clinic offers a wide range of medical services similar to both the Hutchinson and DiPierdomenico operations.

hiropractic is the treatment of physical disorders by manipulation of ANPRACTIC CENTEN the spinal cord and other parts of the body. The science of chiropractic was founded in 1895 by David Daniel Palmer, a Canadian. Amherstburg has had practising chiropractors periodically at least since 1915 when W.S. Savage carried out "chiropractic and spondylotherapy" at the residence of Mrs. Georgina Boyle on Rankin Avenue.¹⁰² Dr. J.O. Boughner, "chiropractor and osteopath," had his office and residence at the corner of Gore and Bathurst Streets

in 1916. He advertised that he had a "lady assistant" and consultations were free.¹⁰³ By the 1920s there were two "osteopathic physicians," Dr. Brown and Dr. Bullock, practising at the office of the late Dr. R.H. Abbott at the corner of Gore and Ramsay Streets. On January 17, 1922 they advertised office hours every Thursday.¹⁰⁴ Dr. W.G. Wright announced that on October 16, 1922 he would ^{open} an office over the Imperial Bank of Canada at the corner of Dalhousie and Richmond Streets.¹⁰⁵ John Usher of Goderich came to town in December, 1923 and located his office "above the I.S. Brown store" on Dalhousie Street. 106

Local historical research did not produce evidence of any chiropractors practising in Amherstburg from the late 1920s until 1978 when Dr. Donato Pietrangelo opened his office here Raised in Amherstburg, Dr. Pietrangelo attended local schools before attending the University of Western Ontario and then the Canadian Chiropractic College. Almost immediately after graduation

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Chiropractic





Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, September 19, 1913.



equipment Optometry belonging to Dr. Gabus. Marsh Collection Society, P1330



Modern optometry equipment belonging to Dr. DiPasquale. Marsh Collection Society, P1332

in 1978 he opened his practice in the former medical centre building at 198 Sandwich Street South, later moving across the street to the Amherst Plaza at 197 Sandwich Street South.¹⁰⁷ Dr. Todd Hollinger currently practises at 216 Sandwich Street South, just north of Richmond

Street

Optometry

Dectacles for the correction of poor vision have been in usage since the mid-14th century. The first pair of bifocal spectacles were made in 1760 for Benjamin Franklin.¹⁰⁸ At one time the need for eye glasses was decided through trial and error by trying to read a letter card on the wall of the doctor's office. A pair of spectacles which gave reasonably good vision could be obtained through the optician or at a five-and-dime store.

Modern optometry is a highly exact science that prescribes corrective lenses for either glasses or contact lens wear. It also serves as early detection for eye diseases such as glaucoma, cataract, keratitis or cancer. Surgery, including laser surgery, can also replace damaged corneas and correct the curvature of the eyeball to restore vision.

At different times in Amherstburg's history, visiting optometrists would arrange to be at a local site, usually one of the hotels, jewellery stores or drug stores, where they would invite the public to come in for an eye examination.

In September, 1913 Wilkinson's Drug Store in Amherstburg advertised that their "new optical room" was "enlarged and refitted" and an optical specialist had been engaged for a few days. People were invited to come in and learn the condition of their eyes and "whether or not they needed glasses." Mr. Denike, the store manager, was also taking a course in optical science and would be able to handle his customers' optical needs.¹⁰⁹

Dr. Edward A. Gabus was Amherstburg's first permanent optometrist. While still practising in Windsor, Gabus purchased the Barron house at 46 Sandwich Street where he opened a branch office.¹¹⁰ In 1976 Dr. Robert Hupka purchased the Gabus practice. Two years later Dr. Anthony DiPasquale, a recent graduate of the University of Waterloo, became associated with Dr. Hupka and the practice moved to 296 Dalhousie Street. In 1981 the office relocated to 197 Sandwich Street and three years later Dr. DiPasquale became the sole owner of the practice. This office was expanded in 1987 and remodelled in 1996. Dr. Guiseppe DePinto became associated with Dr. DiPasquale in 1995

Dr. Frank Fox, a native of Amherstburg, has been an optometrist in Windsor and Amherstburg for over twenty-five years. Dr. Bradley Sanger established his optometry practice in 1983 at 266 Sandwich Street South and was joined by Dr. Fox in July, 1988.¹¹¹ Dr. Sanger is well-known for his work in Third World countries under the auspices of Rotary International, bringing eye care to the people of Jamaica, Guyana and Ghana.¹¹²

Dentistry

entistry did not come into its own until well into the 19th century. It was not until 1884 that W.D. Miller, a German bacteriologist, discovered that caries, the most common disease of the teeth, is caused by bacterial infection that releases acids that destroy a tooth's structure.¹¹³ The filling of cavities was first done in France in the 17th century with lead, which we now know is toxic to the body. Gold as a filling came into use at the beginning of the 19th century. Amalgams (alloys) of mercury have been widely used as filling materials, but mercury is now another controversial toxic material. Other filling materials included gutta percha and cements of zinc oxide mixed with zinc chloride or phosphoric acid. Even more hazardous was the use (invented by J.R. Spooner of Montreal) of arsenious acid to devitalize infected pulp. The painful action of arsenious acid was later mollified by the addition of morphia, atrophia or iodoform. For most of the 19th century, extraction of carious teeth was by far the most common procedure, done for the most part without anaesthesia and with crude instruments like ordinary pliers. Dental prosthesis (false teeth and caps) did not come until the latter half of the 19th century.

Formal training in Ontario began in 1867 with the formation of the Ontario Dental Association.¹¹⁴ The Royal College of Dental Surgeons was founded in Toronto in 1875 and affiliated with the University of Toronto in 1888. A school for dental hygienists opened in Toronto in 1951. Locally there is now a school for hygienists at St. Clair College in Windsor.

In the early days of Amherstburg, dentistry was most likely performed by a doctor or, for economic reasons, by anyone with a pair of pliers, extraction being the only common home remedy for chronic toothache.

During the last half of the nineteenth and into the twentieth century, itinerant dentists filled the needs of the local citizenry by periodically setting up shop in one of the local businesses for short periods of time. Dr. Benjamin Siddall practised in Amherstburg around 1842-43,¹¹⁵ perhaps only as an occasional visitor as was often the case in small towns in the 19th century. Dr. Andrew Wigle was another itinerant dentist who advertised periodically at the turn of the century that he would be at the Brown House opposite Fox's Livery on the first Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each month.¹¹⁶

Dr. W.W. Warren was here in the 1870s. In March, 1875 he announced his intention to move his practice to Chatham, adding that he would pay an occasional professional visit to Amherstburg.¹¹⁷ Warren was succeeded by Dr. G.A. Teeple who opened his practice in 1885 in the Horsman Block on Murray Street. He may have been Amherstburg's first full-time dentist with regular office hours. Dr. Teeple extracted teeth for 25 cents.¹¹⁸



Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, January 12, 1887.

Dr. H.F. Klopp practised dentistry on the second floor of the Imperial Bank of Canada building, at the corner of Dalhousie and Richmond Streets, in the early 1920s.¹¹⁹ In 1923 he sold his practice to Dr. Edwin R. Pearce who remained in that location until his death in 1947. Dr. Pearce came to Amherstburg from his native Gesto when he was about nine years old. He graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgery (Toronto) in 1923, receiving his D.D.S. and L.D.S. degrees. Active in the community, Dr. Pearce was a member of the General Amherst High School Board and was well-known for his ability as a football and hockey player.¹²⁰

6 On February 6, 1930 Amherstburg lost "one of its most colourful personalities and popular citizens" in the death of Dr. William S. French. The native of Campbellford was 56 years old when he died after contracting pneumonia at his mother's funeral. An Honours graduate of Toronto University, Dr. French came to Amherstburg in November, 1897 and practised here until a week before his death. His first office was upstairs in the Horsman Block, Murray Street. He advertised "Gold work a specialty" and "Algene" was used for the "painless extraction of teeth."121 During his 33 years in Amherstburg Dr. French was active in the community as well as being an ardent advocate of sports, particularly cricket and lawn bowling. In 1899 he married Josephine Auld, the daughter of John Auld, M.P.P. and co-editor of the Amherstburg Echo. They moved into the house on Dr. W.S. French dental office and residence, the southeast corner of Ramsay and Richmond Streets Richmond Street, circa 1910. where a few years later he attached a new brick addition Marsh Collection Society, P328 for his practice.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1930, just a few weeks after Dr. French's death, Dr. E.M. Warren purchased the dental practice and leased the Richmond Street office of Dr. French. Edward Michael Warren was born in 1898 at Cornwall, Ontario and died in 1985 in Amherstburg after a long and illustrious career.¹²² He was totally involved in almost every aspect of life in the community from the time he and his wife Alexandra arrived in 1930. The following sketch written by his eldest son Pat best describes Dr. Warren:

My dad had two popular nicknames. Some called him 'Doc' and some called him 'Pete'. The Doc came from the fact that he was a dentist and the Pete came from the Irish practice of calling the son by his father's name. His dad was Edward Peter but was called 'Big Mike'.

Doc Warren had not planned on coming to Amherstburg but once he got to know the town he was never bashful about being an enthusiastic booster. In March of 1930, by a special arrangement with the widow of the recently deceased Dr. W.S. French, Dad began the practice of dentistry in Amherstburg. He moved Mom, me and the baby to Amherstburg in May. I was almost two and my sister Cathy had just arrived. Dad found Amherstburg and its people to be more



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compatible than he ever expected to find anywhere and he quickly decided this was home forever.

Pete Warren started life in Cornwall, Ontario. He was one of those tall skinny brash kids that got super good grades in school. So he felt that he had to do wild things to avoid the unwanted labels of that day. Still, he finished high school too young and had to wait one year to enter the University of Toronto School of Dentistry. At university Pete discovered a liking for other disciplines. This led to his habit of sitting in on the more interesting lectures and laboratories of medicine and law. In turn this led to one of his several unofficial methods of making a dollar. He became well-known as a hustler at the pool table but was more discreet about his habit of writing papers and taking exams for some of the less enthusiastic but wealthy 'students'.

The ink was barely dry on the last exam paper in 1924 in the Faculty of Dentistry when Pete, with other Cornwall friends from the university, headed for adventure. This meant California. And soon it became Los Angeles and Hollywood. While waiting for his Canadian Dentistry credentials to catch up to him, Pete became a dental supply salesman and soon was responsible for the entire Pacific coast. This in turn impressed Mrs. Davis, a widow from Duluth, Minnesota, but did it impress her beautiful daughter Alexandra who was already a dancer and bit player in Hollywood crowd scenes?

Pete discovered Hollywood-style cosmetic dentistry. As he became a highly proficient and successful member of the facial reconstruction team his income finally began to grow. Pete reinvested his income and acquired not only the knowledge and skills of this flourishing surgical dentistry but also acquired the necessary and very expensive equipment. Now he could propose marriage. With encouragement from mama, Alexandra said yes, but only if they went far away from 'sin city'.

In quick succession they made five moves. First to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin for the wedding and to meet the rest of the relatives. Then to Cornwall to meet his friends and relatives. It was right on their first anniversary that Patrick was born and named Edward Alexander but was not called 'Mike' after his Dad because Big Mike was called 'Mike'. At this time the Welsh Davises met the Irish Warrens (and Clearys) and friends. Next it was back to the University of Toronto to acquire additional dental training. Then off to Windsor to set up the very expensive and profitable Dental Reconstructive Surgery of Hollywood fame. This service was aimed at the very large number of people in the Windsor/Detroit area who could afford it. It was 1929. October came too fast. After October cosmetic dentistry was not viable. A family dental practice became available in the thriving small town of Amherstburg. Move number five took place. Amherstburg became the permanent home for Peter and soon he was better known as 'Doc'.

Many of Doc's American patients followed him to Amherstburg. Some already had cottages in the area. As the October, 1929 stock market crash turned into the awful Depression of the thirties, the Warrens settled into the happy (but financially marginal) lifestyle of Canada's deep south. Doc found Amherstburg to be a community blessed in many ways. His favourite words to describe the people of this area were "gracious" and "salt of the earth." He quickly became involved in efforts to make life better. He was a strong believer in attracting tax-paying business and industry to the town. But three things really bugged him. One was the way the young and the poor were suckered into losing what little money they had on the slot machines that were everywhere - not just in hotel bar rooms but in pool halls, barber shops, restaurants and more. Second was the awful hardships experienced by a growing number of families as the destructive rate of unemployment kept getting worse. The third pet peeve was the lack of enough healthy activity for young people. One thing led to another and Doc found himself nominated for election to the town council in November, 1931.

League sports was seen by many as an activity whose time had come. But there were barriers. The first problem was the work week. It was six days long and usually ten to twelve hours a day. So any sport to be open to all had to be played in the evening, but only if you could get that new invention called floodlights, or it had to be played on Sunday. Because of Ontario Blue Laws any activity on Sunday other than going to church was unlawful. So organized competitive sport was out of the question. Unless you could ignore the Blue Laws and find one or more employers who would co-operate by changing working hours, league sports were impossible.

The elected town fathers were unable to publicly support Kilgallin, circa 1966. Sunday sports, but a number like Doc were openly promoting it in spite of the Blue Laws. When finally the first league sport, namely baseball, was ready to play on a Sunday afternoon there was considerable anxiety about what might happen. The chief of police, Bill Timmis, arranged to be out of touch, as did H. Lester Hamilton. However, it was felt that somebody had to take the heat if there was any. So Devere Thrasher, Captain J. Earl McQueen and Doc Warren (and there may have been others I don't know about) were on hand at that first game. They thought it was probable that they would be arrested because of the strength of the support for the Blue Laws. As it turned out nothing happened and in time the Blue Laws were extinguished.

To bring some modest help for the families of the formerly employed, Doc concluded that some form of welfare was needed. This was not a popular idea. The Amherstburg Town Council and other businessmen of the community got so fed up listening to Doc's bleeding heart they told him to go and do something about it. So he did. It turned out that the place to go was the Ford Motor Company of Canada. It was located in Ford City which was adjacent to Walkerville which was adjacent to the City of Windsor. Doc met with Wallace Campbell, the president of Ford of Canada and the chief organizer for welfare for the citizens of this area. For a while Doc, like Mr. Campbell, was 'Mr. Government Welfare' in the community. This project was made possible by the highly respected lawyer Arthur W. McNally (who at that time lived in what is now the second house north of Elm Street on the west side of Laird Avenue, right next door to the impressive English-style house built by Bill Aikman's dad in the 1920s). And there were two ladies who did all the real work, namely Mrs. Gert Kilgallin (the mother of our former town clerk) and Mrs. Vera McNally.

The other half of that event was the eventual birth of unemployment insurance so that the formerly employed could pay their legitimate bills even while unemployed. In those days the small business owners were carrying their neighbours out of optimism and generosity. But too soon the banks were refusing to provide the necessary credit. As a result just about every small business was ripe for bankruptcy. In those days of disappearing dollars, a lot of products on the store shelves were really empty boxes and empty cans. Brand-name companies provided empty showpieces



Dr. E.M. Warren with patient Robert Scaddan, assisted by Sharon Kilgallin, *circa* 1966.

because there was not enough money for the real thing and empty shelves scared customers away. Welfare and unemployment insurance not only provided much-needed relief to the formerly employed but was very obviously saving small business from bankruptcy and the suppliers and banks from disaster.

Problem number three was more sinister. The bosses of organized crime were backing slot machines. Doc lost only one election. That was when the gangsters who controlled the slot machines provided free booze and other persuasions to keep from being expelled. There were a few moments of great tension in our house when a New Year's Eve incident between Dad and Bull Fielding turned dangerous. Dad credits Devere Thrasher and his connections to Canada' finest, the RCMP, with saving the day.

And so began nearly forty years of elected service to the citizens of his adopted home. When Doc returned to town council after a few years as a dentist in the Armed Services, serving both Army and Air Force, he was very alarmed by the need for housing for the returning veterans. As a town councillor and especially as president of the Amherstburg Legion, Dad campaigned for more housing of any and every kind. He met with some success but only because he had a lot of help. As it turned out, Dad had some good luck with Jim Flynn (of Chicago who also fell in love with our town) and the Amherstburg Town Council. There were more houses built in Amherstburg because of Jim Flynn than because of any other single person until David Dufour got rolling in later years. For a start Jim Flynn with help from the town provided special incentives to any veteran to build on the south end of King Street. Jim helped so many people so quietly that some people judged him only on the basis of his "loud, brash, American ways." Most people were totally unaware of Jim's extensive, sensible but invisible helping hand. Eventually, with special help from many, including two highly respected and down-to-earth gentlemen known as Devere Thrasher and Ted Pickering, Amherstburg got some geared-to-income housing. Our town joined the ranks of many other Canadian towns. We got twenty-eight well-built, attractive, affordable houses. That area (around Main and Fort Streets) was eventually called 'Warren Park' in Doc's honour. The name was the winning entry suggested by one of Devere's children.

Doc attended many official and unofficial meetings. For a number of years the unofficial ones were frequently held at Duffy's Tavern in the evening and Vic Nedin's coffee shop in the daytime. The internationally syndicated cartoonist Lee Stanley, who signed himself simply as 'Stanley', often made cartoons at these meetings and he gave a number of them to Doc 'just because'. Sometimes there would be kitchen table discussions at our house after council meetings, with one or more council members attending.

Doc's health began to fade bit by bit as time wore on. Even so he remained always eager to promote an interest in municipal politics among the young business leaders. He did what he could, always with an eye on a better future for the people of the Amherstburg area. Eventually he retired from dentistry and from the town council. He was very moved by the retirement party that was thrown in his honour. The memories and the mementoes were his constant companions as he shrank from over two hundred to less than one hundred pounds. He was very careful in his eightysixth year to arrange with his eldest son for green beer on St. Patrick's Day. But he had to enjoy it from the other side. It was the first time he missed on this side.

6

Dr. Eugene L. Paquette opened his Amherstburg dental practice in June, 1949. After one year at the University of Toronto Dental School, the Tilbury native spent five years in the Canadian Dental Corps during the Second World War. Upon being discharged he returned to university and completed his studies in dentistry, graduating with a D.D.S. degree in 1949. In June of that year Dr. Paquette purchased the dental practice of the late Dr. Edwin Pearce on the second floor of the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building. In the mid-1950s Dr. Paquette moved his practice to a small building at 165 Sandwich Street. In April, 1974 the structure was remodelled with an addition 27 x 32 feet on the east side and a basement.¹²³

During Dr. Paquette's thirty-six-year career in dentistry he Amherstburg Dental Associates, supported the community in many ways. He served on the circa 1984. Left to right: Dr. E.L. Paquette, Dr. General Amherst High School Board and later chaired a R.J. Petras, Dr. F.R. Lovell, committee organized to supervise the building of Stella Maris Dr. P.M. Neilson. Separate School. Having an interest in hockey and sharing this with his three sons, Dr. Paquette became very involved with organizing hockey after the building of the Amherstburg arena. He was president of the first Amherstburg Minor Hockey League and the first president of the Amherstburg Junior C's, OHA Vikings and also later the president of the Essex County Travelling League.

After his retirement in 1985 much of Dr. Eugene Paquette's time was given to his beloved church, St. John the Baptist, and he was instrumental in the reorganization of the Historical Committee and the 1992 publication of the parish's history. This and the enjoyment of his family, playing golf and bridge filled his retirement years. Dr. Paquette passed away on April 14, 1992. Dr. Peter Neilson, an associate since 1974, described Dr. Paquette as a "gentleman. He really understood how important the doctor-patient relationship is. That's probably the most important professional lesson he taught me."124

Dr. Peter M. Neilson, a native of Learnington, graduated from the University of Toronto and then completed a four-year program at the University of Western Ontario. When he finished his education in 1974 Dr. Neilson planned to set up practice in Amherstburg as it was then an underserviced area with Dr. Paquette being the only dentist in town. After some discussion with Dr. Paquette the two decided to enter into partnership at the Sandwich Street address. Soon Dr. Frank Lovell joined the pair and in 1984 Dr. Roy Petras became associated with them, forming the Amherstburg Dental Associates.

in January, 1993.



At the end of 1992 Dr. Neilson left the Amherstburg group to open a new practice in LaSalle

Dr. Frank Lovell, a native of Riverside, was introduced to the Amherstburg area as a child



Building of Drs. Petras, Harris, MacDonald and Carrocia, 165 Sandwich Street South, 1996.

in 1955 when his parents rented a cottage near Amherst Pointe. He graduated from dental school at the University of Western Ontario in 1976 and immediately began his practice in Amherstburg with Dr. E.L. Paquette and Dr. Peter Neilson. In May, 1993 Dr. Lovell relocated his practice to its present location at 192 Sandwich Street South. The following year he was joined by Dr. Corev Prince.125

Dr. Roy Petras graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1984 and joined the Amherstburg Dental Associates shortly before Dr. Paquette retired. The premises at 165 Sandwich Street had been renovated several times over the years to accommodate the growing practice. In 1995 it was completely rebuilt into a very modern and

Dr. Louise Harris, Dr. John Carrocia and Dr. Ian MacDonald also joined the practice which in 1996 had a support staff of fourteen, including Julie Hunt, Anna Savo, Toni Cook, Denise McCurdy, Melissa Soanes, Kathy Longpre, Melissa Savo, Veronika Nagy, Rachel Coates, Vicki Scratch, Joy Stumpf, Kim Burns, Sandra Scully and Lori Robson.¹²⁶

Dr. Michael Slipchuk, a graduate of the University of Alberta, came to Amherstburg in December, 1991 and joined Dr. Paul Smith in his dental practice at 268 Sandwich Street South. In January, 1992 Dr. Slipchuk took over when Dr. Smith moved his office to Windsor. In recent months Dr. Anthony Prsa joined Dr. Slipchuk's dental practice.



The Amherstburg Echo, June 27, 1877.

6

Guldie Denture Clinic was established by Henry Guldie at 121 Sandwich Street (at the southeast corner of Fort Street), manufacturing false teeth. In January, 1990 the business moved to its present location in one of Amherstburg's historic buildings at 254 Ramsay Street. (This building was erected in 1878 for John Leggatt, town clerk.) In January, 1994 legislation was passed which allows for denturists to provide partial dentures to the public.¹²⁷

Public Health

In response to the dramatic medical advances being made in Europe and the growing awareness of the importance of hygiene in public health, Amherstburg appointed its first sanitary inspector in 1887.¹²⁸ Compulsory vaccination against smallpox was instituted on October 31, 1889.¹²⁹ In spite of this order, smallpox did break out in 1900¹³⁰ and again in 1924¹³¹ Vaccination, it appeared, was not being done, at least not on the scale necessary to prevent an epidemic.

In 1924 Gordon Deneau of Malden, an employee of a Windsor furniture store, became ill and died within a week after unpacking Oriental rugs at work. Smallpox was not diagnosed until after his death. A large number of his relatives and friends soon became ill. Some had been vaccinated and had a mild form of the disease. However, nineteen of his relatives and a few others became violently ill and soon died of what came to be known as the 'bloody smallpox'. It was widely believed that this particular outbreak could be attributed to the virus being carried on the rugs. An undertaker working with the bodies also contracted the disease but recovered. Notwithstanding the order of 1889, presumably still in force, the provincial minister of health, Dr. Forbes Godfrey, had to order mass vaccination of the inhabitants of the Border Region. Twenty doctors did the work and within a few weeks the disease disappeared.¹³²

Other diseases connected with poor sanitation were addressed at the turn of the 20th century. A sewer was constructed in 1900 from the north end of Dalhousie Street to Park Street, greatly reducing the risk of cholera and infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) contracted from human feces. Even so, two cases of polio were reported in 1939.¹³³ In 1916 the Board of Health instituted compulsory milk testing with the object of eradicating tuberculosis, mastitis and brucellosis.¹³⁴ As in most of the western world, an epidemic of influenza caused the closure of schools and churches in 1918.

The Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Volunteer Ambulance Service began in March, 1962 to ensure the speedy transport of emergency cases to Windsor hospitals.¹³⁵ Training of the first twenty volunteers had begun the previous November. A Chrysler ambulance was purchased in 1962 to begin a 24-hour service. The same year the service was renamed the 'AAM Volunteer First Aid and Rescue Squad' with its ambulances housed in the town garage and at the Sutton Funeral Home. Later the service was housed on Sandwich Street South on property donated by Thomas Bratt. The building was expanded in 1970. In 1996 plans were initiated to build a new ambulance hall on the eastern outskirts of town on land donated by Amherst Quarries, better accommodating the two remaining ambulances and the thirty-strong squad of volunteers.¹³⁶ As of June, 1997 construction on the new squad hall had not yet begun.

Fox:

In the 200-year history of Amherstburg there had been no endeavour taken which is more notable than the founding and continuing operation of the Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Volunteer Ambulance Service. In 1961 Amherstburg firemen Wilson 'Pepper' Brush, Doug Goodwin, Jack Hamilton and Don Snyder along with former Windsor ambulance attendant Phil Smith attended a convention of the International Rescue and First Aid Association in Roanoke, Virginia. It was here that they were able to observe and gather information on a group of 50 non-profit volunteers providing 24-hour ambulance

Ambulance Service

The following recollection of the AAM Volunteer Ambulance Service was written by Leonard



Founding members of the AAM Volunteer **Ambulance Service.** Left to right: Phil Smith, Doug Goodwin, Wilson Brush, Jack Hamilton. Absent: Don Snyder.



AAM Ambulance fleet, 1963, at base on northwest corner Sandwich Street South and Rankin Avenue.



 AAM Ambulance squad, May 1967. Marsh Collection Society, P9
Front Row (left to right): Gordon Fry, Russ Renaud, Ron Meloche, Jack Hamilton (captain). Danny Shaw, Jim Allen, Gino Gardin.
Middle Row: Don Laing (treasurer), Des Sullivan, Phil Smith (2nd lieutenant), Doug Goodwin, Bill Maitre (1st lieutenant), Ken Dube, Harold Beetham.
Back Row: Garnet Fox (chief), Lawrence Fox, Ernie Rymar, Bob Bradt, Cornelius 'Casey' Overgaauw, Leonard Fox, Bill Byron (secretary), Rolly Spencler. and rescue service to a community of 50,000 people. This type of service was common along the eastern seaboard of the United States. They returned to Amherstburg filled with enthusiasm and with the goal of organizing a similar service here. They soon increased their number to twenty likeminded individuals and began training with the help of the Canadian Red Cross.

The greatest difficulty now faced was to convince local politicians, business people and citizens of the Tri-Community that the group was serious and its proposals feasible. This was necessary as start-up grants and private donations were essential to funding. The need for such a service was obvious. Ambulances had to come from Windsor and although the fire department had a rescue vehicle, it only responded to drownings or when summoned by a doctor, and even then only in critical situations. A few incidents involving car accidents and a broken neck in a diving accident highlighted the need not just for ambulance transportation but for well-trained personnel. Personal donations permitted the immediate purchase of a 1954 Chrysler station wagon converted to ambulance use. The Amherstburg Town Council donated the 1956 Ford rescue vehicle no longer required by the fire department. Hearing of the formation of a volunteer service, the Manisquan, New Jersey volunteers donated a 1947 Cadillac ambulance.

With all of this in place the operation began from a former carwash on Sandwich Street in early March, 1962 with members using their own money to pay for fuel. The viability and vital need for this service was soon evident. The growth of the AAM Volunteer Rescue and First Aid Squad took off and never looked back. The quality of care given by the volunteers was the prime reason for this. Training under the direction of Doug Goodwin dictated that every patient, whether in an emergency situation or requiring transportation to the hospital, was to be treated with utmost care and respect. No one was to be denied help even if the need was dubious. To be otherwise would be met with immediate dismissal from the squad.

Recognition by the community resulted in an increase of donations and support. By the end of the first year of operation the squad had already gained international recognition by winning a rescue award and first aid competition as a result of the rescue of a man trapped under a food elevator aboard the Aquarama, a Great Lakes cruise ship. Squad attendants Pepper Brush, Garnet Fox, Vince Spearing, Leonard Fox and Dr. Ladouceur were placed aboard this huge vessel by a Bob-Lo Island ferry which stood by in the Amherstburg Channel to return the attendants and the patient to shore. They were able to free the badly injured man and transport him to hospital where he had a leg amputated. The International Rescue and First Aid Association presented the squad with the Julian S. Wise Award for this incident, the first Canadian organization to be so honoured. Also in 1962, squad attendants Doug Goodwin, Phil Smith, Fred 'Buck' Meloche and Tom Kilgallin defeated all but one of eighteen Canadian and twenty-one U.S. first aid teams to place second in the World Championship First Aid Competition in Montreal.

The years 1963-66 were times of dynamic movement for the squad which was determined to provide the very best vehicles possible for ambulance duty. Financial considerations at the time placed new units out of reach. With donations a used Cadillac hearse was purchased and a second was donated by a generous Detroit family. Through the expertise and generosity of Harold Bernachi of Windsor Body & Fender these were converted to ambulance use. It was at this time that the squad found itself without a base. Tom and Marcelline Bratt overwhelmed the volunteers by the donation of property on the newly-opened extension of Sandwich Street South. A new base was erected with donated money, materials, furnishings and labour from the people of the Tri-



AAM Ambulance fleet, 1987.

Community who came to see this as their ambulance service.

Door-to-door fund drives enabled the squad to obtain their first two professional ambulances in 1967 with the purchase of two Pontiac Superior vehicles. This was repeated in 1974 when two Cadillac Superior ambulances were purchased and again in 1979 and 1990 when through donations alone new custom-built vehicles were placed in service.

As the squad's longest-serving member and its secretary since 1962 and treasurer from 1975, I have worked with many dynamic people. Space does not permit the naming and contributions of them all but I feel it is a must to mention our chiefs and presidents. Our first chief was Harry Spearing who came to the service with experience on Rescue 8, the fire department's rescue squad. He was followed by Harold Jones and Garnet Fox. It was during Garnet's term that titles were changed to president, vice-president and director from chief, captain, lieutenant and sergeant. I must point out the continuing tremendous contributions made to the squad under these titles by original members Doug Goodwin, Phil Smith, Pepper Brush and Jack Hamilton.

Jack and his wife Grace were the first dispatchers as they volunteered to add this to their police and fire dispatching. Dispatchers after Grace who also operated from their own homes were Vi Brush, Joanne Maitre, Dianne Fox, Cathy Overgaauw and Laurie Major. After 1968 these positions were paid. After Garnet Fox, Casey Overgaauw was elected president and served in this capacity for a number of years until the election of Lynwood Martin, followed by Clarke Moore, Jerry Fryer, Clarke Moore again and our current president Wayne Russelo.

By 1988 the covering of a daily shift was becoming extremely difficult, not from lack of volunteers but rather due to the fact that fewer and fewer people worked shift work. Clarke Moore, as president, was reluctant to do so but proposed to the membership that we try to convince the ministry to fund full-time staff for the day shift. The membership, with the principle of 'patient first' followed since our founding, agreed. They were apprehensive but realized that the people of the Tri-Community must be first. The ministry agreed with the need and funded us to hire three full-time ambulance attendants. The people of this community are very fortunate to have the quality and concern that these three people give. On-site coverage is provided six days per week when the

In the past thirty-five years nearly 400 men and women have dedicated many of their available hours to the vital service of the care and transportation of the sick and injured. Volunteers today are trained and have attained skills that our 'pioneers' would not have thought possible. New members are placed in a rigid training program that requires hundreds of hours of both classroom and field time. This takes from six to nine months before being highly tested in practical and theoretical problems. Other volunteers who live outside the community are also accepted but must have graduated from the Ontario Emergency Medical Assistant program. Several local volunteers have also graduated from this course. The squad has always strived to have the highest training possible. Standard First Aid was never enough. When we reached the end of our ability to train locally we sent members to the United States on courses. Many were graduates of the Casualty Care

course at Camp Borden. Now this training is available in Windsor, making it much easier. New equipment and methods have been accepted and brought to the squad as fast as possible, often after a fight with some authority to convince them that we are not your average volunteers. The support that this service has received for the past three decades from the people of this community is boundless. Working with and observing the dedication and care that our volunteer ambulance attendants have always and continue to exhibit fills one with tremendous pride.

Diagnostic and Advisory Services

In order to provide modern diagnostic services to Amherstburg medical and dental offices without having to send patients to Windsor, Plaza Imaging Associates established an X-ray and ultrasound facility in Heritage Square Plaza, 80 Richmond Street. The same building houses the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit which conducts medical and dental inspections for school children and gives public health advice on such matters as family planning, genetic counselling, nutrition for senior citizens, parenting, prenatal education and clinics, bacterial analysis of water, food safety and rabies control.

The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) is an organization of fully qualified and dedicated nurses who visit patients at home, with management and service volunteers providing leadership to employees and to the community. The Border Cities VON was established in Windsor in 1927, sponsored by the Sir Eric Geddes Chapter of IODE, with the object of providing a home-nursing service supported by donations, bequests and volunteers. In 1965 branches of VON in Kingsville and Learnington amalgamated as the South Essex Branch which in turn joined the Windsor branch to form the Windsor-Essex County branch with nurses caring for patients throughout the county. Whereas VON nurses made a total of thirteen thousand home visits in 1928, thirteen thousand visits were made each month in 1988. By 1992 twenty-one thousand visits were made each month in Essex County, including Amherstburg.

The range of nursing services given by VON is remarkable. It not only covers visiting nursing and home care but also school health support, placement coordination, Meals on Wheels, Cancer Centre liaison, prenatal health education, senior citizen health counselling, in-home intravenous therapy, foot care, the Integrated Home program and coordination of the Quick Response program.¹³⁷

Wigle Maternity Home

Through the years Amherstburg has had its share of privately operated, short-term nursing and maternity homes. One of the longest operating 'maternity homes' in the area was run by Mrs. Norma Wigle. Wigle's Maternity Home was where many of Amherstburg's residents born in the

The Victorian Order of Nurses

Nursing Homes

1930s first saw the light of day. Norma (Sinasac) Wigle was a practical nurse who assisted local doctors with at least 70 births in and around Amherstburg. The Amherstburg Echo in 1932 reported that she was encouraged by doctors to open a maternity home and it was hailed as "an asset to the town."¹³⁸ In 1934 she moved from her Sandwich Street home to the former Mullen house (now the historic Gordon House) on Dalhousie Street. Later in the 1930s the tendency to give birth in the modern hospitals in Windsor became more the fashion than having babies at home and the Wigle Maternity Home eventually closed.

Bellevue Veterans' Home

At a time when many homes for veterans of the First World War were being established across Canada, Bellevue Veterans' Home opened in July, 1947 in the former Mullen residence at 525 Dalhousie Street.¹³⁹ In June of the previous year the Department of Veterans' Affairs purchased the beautiful historic property from the Mullen estate with the intention of converting it into a "home for old soldiers."¹⁴⁰ S. Murray Clark, M.P. for Essex South, and the Fort Malden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion were largely responsible for the successful negotiations which brought the veterans' home to Amherstburg. The first patients, eleven veterans of World War I, arrived at Bellevue in mid-July, 1947 from Westminster Hospital in London.¹⁴¹ They were Charles Coley, John N. McPhee, John R. Motby, William Pinkham, William Langlois, Andrew Galbraith, Alfred Crocker, Frederick Coleman, Albert Potter, Alfred J. McLaughlin and Frederick Williams. The old soldiers were accompanied by the matron, Miss Laura Moutrie. Gavin Greig, the manager, had been in Amherstburg for some weeks preparing the place for occupancy. Within hours of their arrival the men had settled in "as if they had been in the home for a long time."¹⁴²

About five years later there were rumours that Bellevue would close and patients would be transferred to London. S. Murray Clark protested to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, as did veterans' organizations in Southwestern Ontario, but to no avail. Clark accused the department of purposely reducing the number of patients at Bellevue to show increased costs. Veterans' Affairs denied the allegation, saying that they wanted to have all the veterans at Western Counties Veterans' Home at London "where they will be close to medical and hospital care." Local citizens fought the good fight but on September 30, 1954 Bellevue Veterans' Home closed and its patients were taken by Greyhound bus to London. During its operation Bellevue was visited by many distinguished guests including the Honourable Louis St. Laurent when he was Prime Minister of Canada, and John G. Diefenbaker when he was a Saskatchewan M.P.



Richmond Terrace Nursing Home, 1997. Marsh Collection Society, P1533

<u>Richmond Terrace Nursing Home</u>

Richmond Terrace at 89 Rankin Avenue had its beginnings as a nursing facility in 1969 in the former Amherstburg Public School building on Richmond Street. After several additions and renovations (in 1972 and 1989) the old schoolhouse section was razed and further improvements transformed the building into a modern care facility, the front now facing Rankin Avenue. There are at present 115 residents and approximately 120 employees at Richmond Terrace.

Sun Parlour Community Support Home

Sun Parlour Community Support Home at 184 Victoria Street South was opened on July 11, 1991 This provincially funded residence provides single-room facilities for fourteen residents with minimal care requirements. It is a satellite to the Sun Parlour Nursing Home in Learnington and the first of its kind in the area. With this facility, seniors who are no longer able to live on their own but do not require nursing are able to stay in the district and live with dignity.

Lodern veterinary science can be divided into three main areas: (1) the health and wellbeing of domesticated animals, which include recreation and farm animals (horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry etc.), fur and fibre animals (mink, fox, angora goats) and companion animals (dogs, cats, hamsters, budgies etc.); (2) wildlife health (for example, fish diseases and rabies control); and (3) public health, in which veterinarians watch the quality of our foods (such as salmonella in eggs, hormone and antibiotic additives in milk and meat) and monitor animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans (for example, psittacosis from parrots, ringworm, mastitis, brucellosis and tuberculosis from cattle).¹⁴³

At the turn of the 19th century, much of the early settlers' capital was tied up in their livestock, therefore a disease or a broken leg in a draught horse or ox was a devastating loss. So little was known of veterinary science that animal disease epidemics were simply lumped together as murrain of cattle plague or distemper.¹⁴⁴ These diseases were rife in Europe at the DR. F. A. JONES time of early Canadian settlement so many imported animals were already infected when they arrived or they were too weak to survive the journey. Some diseases were highly contagious and the only control was to slaughter whole herds and bury the carcasses. Hides were slashed by the authorities to prevent their being used in tanneries, as anthrax can be passed to VETERINARY SURGEON. humans from leather Another reason for slashing the hides at burial was to allow Honor graduate of the Ontario Veterin ary Medical College, will attend to ell the escape of gases of decomposition diseases of Domestic Animals. Surgery and which could literally blow up the grave.

There were many varied folk remedies regardless of the disease. These included warm milk or other warm drenches of urine, ale or soapy water; thin mashes, rhubarb, bleeding, and fumigation of animals in thick smoke from

Veterinary Medicine



Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, August 24, 1888.

smouldering damp wood or straw. These remedies would be administered by people steeped long in traditions of animal health - farmers, blacksmiths or drovers.

It was not until the Ontario Veterinary College was founded in Toronto in 1862 (and subsequently moved to Guelph in 1867)¹⁴⁵ that trained veterinarians became available to the settlers of the Amherstburg district.

E.

One of these was Dr. James Bowler, an 1887 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College. Bowler served a seven-year apprenticeship with a druggist and veterinary surgeon in England before emigrating to Canada. He first came to Amherstburg in 1885 and practised for a while before reentering veterinary college to complete his education.¹⁴⁶ His office in 1887 was "nearly opposite A. Fox's livery stables and three doors east of the Brown House," on the corner of Richmond and

E.S.

In 1888 Dr. F.A. Jones, an Honours graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, had his office and residence on Sandwich Street about where the Amherst Plaza is today.¹⁴⁸ He specialized in dentistry and surgery, keeping regular office hours in Amherstburg but also attending to animals at Drummond's Hotel in Harrow on Thursday afternoons. Dr. Jones was the government inspector of cattle crossing the border from Detroit which required his presence in Windsor periodically. In his spare time Jones sold fire insurance. He moved to Windsor in 1895.

Dr. Alexander Clark specialized in "veterinary dentistry" in Amherstburg and Harrow in 1901 "at the late J.W. Gibb's Livery on Apsley Street."¹⁴⁹ Horses were clipped for two dollars.

Dr. A.E. Bowman was another specialist in animal surgery. He practised in 1912 and for some years afterwards from his home on Richmond Street, the former Borrowman house (which was known in the second half of this century as the Tea Garden Restaurant). Dr. Bowman was married in 1906 to Libbie, daughter of William Borrowman.¹⁵⁰

FA

Dr. William J. Boyd followed in the footsteps of his father and three uncles when he became a veterinarian. After graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph in the early 1930s he opened an office in Amherstburg in 1933 on Ramsay Street.¹⁵¹ Three years later he was appointed as Dominion Veterinary Inspector for Essex County.¹⁵² Dr. Boyd eventually moved to Harrow to

F.A.

Dr. William J.H. McBride was born in 1873 at the family farm in Malden, son of James and Philomene (Caldwell) McBride. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1893 and several months later married Phoebe Brown, daughter of Archibald and Phoebe (Racicot) Brown.¹⁵³ The couple immediately moved into "their residence on the corner of Gore and Bathurst Streets" which

also contained Dr. McBride's office.154

By 1903 Dr. William McBride was practising in Malden¹⁵⁵ In 1915 he sold his 90-acre 'Hickory Hill' farm on the Pike Road to David Mahoney of Pelee Island¹⁵⁶ and purchased three acres of the Caldwell property, east side of Lot 3, south Dalhousie Street. On this property he built a cement block residence "on the hill" as well as a two-storey garage and barn.¹⁵⁷ From his office there he made regular trips to various livery stables and other places in the district from which he would examine and treat his four-legged patients. In 1933 McBride sold the Dalhousie Street property to Capt. J. Earl McQueen and moved back to Malden. He retired in 1943 and passed away the following year.

55 The Fort Malden Animal Hospital at 280 Sandwich Street South is operated by Dr. Gilda A. Poitras and Dr. Reg Westgarth. Opened in May of 1981, the surgical facilities were in place by June, 1982. Before that time animals requiring surgery were sent to their associates at the Essex Animal Clinic. A new facility was built immediately east of the first animal hospital on Sandwich Street in 1997 and the old building was razed.

The story of the Amherstburg Animal Clinic, corner of Richmond and Seymore Streets, is a fine example of what modern veterinary science is doing in Amherstburg. It was founded by Dr. John McKinley, a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, and became a fully accredited small animal hospital in 1987. Dr. Martin Ross, also a Guelph graduate, joined him in 1989. The clinic is affiliated with the South Howard Animal Hospital in Oldcastle where horses are treated. Dr. McKinley was formerly the Ontario Racing Commission Veterinarian at the Windsor Raceway and owns standardbred horses. Dr. Ross is a dog fancier and is involved in long-term research at Guelph into a major heart disease of Doberman pinschers. He is secretary of the Essex County Veterinarian Association and is active in pet visitation programs where pets are taken to shut-ins for therapeutic relaxation. The clinic also operates a grooming establishment, Fancy Paws, under the care of Rosemary Harris who raises, breeds and shows Standard Poodles.¹⁵⁸



January 22, 1915.

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44. The Great Lakes Basin is an area of endemic goitre, collectively disorders of the thyroid gland on either side of the front of the neck. Exophthalmic goitre induces extreme nervousness and irritability, which sometimes led to the diagnosis of

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48. The London Free Press, November 6, 1938, "Fort Malden Lunatic Asylum," article by Alfred E. Lavell.

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50. "Report of the Malden Asylum for the Year 1862," written by Dr. Andrew Fisher. <u>Sessional Papers</u> #66, 1863. Quoted in Healy, Mary Lou. "The Malden Lunatic Asylum," unpublished manuscript prepared for the University of Michigan School of Social Work, April 1984, p. 5. (Copy in Marsh Collection Society, file "MIM-113.") Hereafter referred to as

51. Healy.

52. Ibid.

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54. The Amherstburg Echo, May 11, 1888.

55. Carter-Edwards, Fort Malden: A Structural Narrative History.

56. Ibid.

57. The Amherstburg Echo, January 12, 1877.

58. There may have been some medical practitioners in Amherstburg of whom the co-editors are unaware or about whom little is known. If so we apologize for any omissions. Although many Amherstburg natives entered the medical profession, only those doctors who actually practised medicine in Amherstburg are included in this book.

59. The Amherstburg Echo, January 6, 1883.

60. The Amherstburg Echo, September 30, 1898, obituary of Dr. Andrew Fisher.

The Printed Word

62. The Amherstburg Echo, January 22, 1886, obituary of Thomas Hawkins.

63. The Amherstburg Echo, July 1, 1881, obituary of Dr. Walter Lambert.

64 The Amherstburg Echo, November 5, 1875.

65. The Amherstburg Echo, June 15, 1894, obituary of Daniel Pearson.

66. The Amherstburg Echo, December 14, 1876.

67 The .1mherstburg Echo, October 10, 1990, 'Just Folks'.

68. Ibid.

69. The Amherstburg Echo, December 13, 1907, obituary of Dr. Thomas Hobley.

70. The Amherstburg Echo, April 24, 1885.

71. The Amherstburg Echo, February 9, 1894, obituary of Dr. Oscar Langlois.

72. Botsford, p. 112.

73. The Amherstburg Echo, October 24, 1924, obituary of Dr. W.J. Campeau.

74. The Amherstburg Echo, August 9, 1890.

75. Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, May 10, 1907.

76. Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, March 8, 1918.

77. 'Dolly Varden' is an English architectural style of the Charles Dickens era.

78. The Amherstburg Echo, June 23, 1933, obituary of Dr. Oscar Teeter.

79. The house was moved further north on Dalhousie Street in 1972 and is now the historic Park House Museum.

80. The Amherstburg Echo, January 3, 1936, obituary of Dr. T. James Park.

81. The Amherstburg Echo, January 10, 1936, obituary of Dr. W. Fred Park. Park accomplished so much for this community in his thirty-seven years here that condensing the information is an almost impossible feat. It has been suggested and is hoped that his life story might be written by a historian at some future date.

82. The Amherstburg Echo, October 6, 1899.

83. The Amhersthurg Echo, August 16, 1907.

61. The Forester was amalgamated with the Telegraph in 1855. (See Chapter IV, 'Transportation & Communication -

84. Marsh. The Brunner Mond hospital was located in the northwest section of the company's property along Highway

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87. Information received from Dr. Fred Park's granddaughter Peggy (Hamilton) James, daughter of H. Lester and Marjorie

88. Printed in the River Town Times, September 24 and October 1, 1996.

89. The Amherstburg Echo, May 20, 1921.

- 90. Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, July 8, 1921.
- 91. The Amherstburg Echo, November 10, 1966, obituary of Dr. F.W. Manning.
- 92. The Amherstburg Echo, June 5, 1936.

93. The Amherstburg Echo, March 3, 1949.

94. The Windsor Star, May 14, 1962, 'Physician Ends 45-Year Carcer'.

95. Ibid.

96. Ibid.

97. Ibid.

98. The Amherstburg Echo, January 29, 1986, obituary of Dr. Bruce Hutchinson.

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- 101. Information obtained from Dr. Fernando DiPierdomenico, 1995.
- 102. The Amherstburg Echo, February 5, 1915.
- 103. The Amherstburg Echo, May 19, 1916.
- 104. The Amherstburg Echo, January 13, 1922.
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- 109. The Amherstburg Echo, September 19, 1913.

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- 111. Information obtained from Dr. Bradley Sanger, 1995.

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- 118. The Amherstburg Echo, August 28, 1885.
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- 120. The Amherstburg Echo, May 31, 1935; and December 4, 1947.
- 121. Advertisement in the Amherstburg Echo, November 12, 1897.
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- 123. The Amherstburg Echo, April 3, 1974.
- 124. The Amherstburg Echo, April 22, 1992, obituary of Dr. Eugene L. Paquette.
- 125. Information obtained from Dr. Frank Lovell, 1995.
- 126. Information obtained from Dr. Roy Petras, 1995.
- 127. Information obtained from Henry Guldie, 1995.
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- 130. Amherstburg Council Minutes, February 28, 1900.
- 131. The Amherstburg Echo, April 27, 1983.
- 132. Ibid.
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