

*William George Davidson Journal (1889 - 1895)*

*Entries by William George Davidson (deceased Feb. 15, 1943, 74th year)  
(All written at Skipness)*

*September 23, 1889*

*This day was fine. I worked at home; assisting in drawing in oats. We finished harvesting.*

*September 25, 1889*

*At Porter's Mills; sawdust elevators and slab-car track burned this morning at about 4:30 o'clock. Phoenix-like, a new elevator is up tonight.*

*October 2, 1889*

*Mr. Burwash, Methodist minister commenced a series of special meetings here on Monday, 30th, held in the Presbyterian Church. I and William and Albert Chambers represented the mill tonight. The congregation was not very large, but almost every section of the neighbourhood was represented. There being yet, in this section, a number who have not made a public profession of faith. May God in his mercy constrain them to seek the salvation of their souls.*

*The weather today has been fine but lately we have had frequent showers, consequently the roads are becoming in a bad shape for teaming etc.*

*October 9, 1889*

*During this week so far, the weather has been good and the roads are better. Mr. and Mrs. Porter, after an absence of about three weeks, returned yesterday from a visit to New York.*

*Arran-Tara Fall Show was held today. Report says there was a large attendance.*

*October 17, 1889*

*The weather this week so far has been all that could be desired and the roads are in excellent condition.*

*The farmers are busily engaged in threshing. The crops are reported to turn out fairly in general. Oats, however and fall wheat, having been affected by rust, will not be of so desirable a sample as they promised to be a short time before they ripened.*

*I was at church tonight and was sorry to see the attendance so small, there being in all only five persons present. In the absence of Mr. Burwash, Mr. S. Hand presided. The last week back seems to have been Red Letter Day for the*



fisherman at French Bay. The "catch" is reported as being simply enormous, so much so that traffic on the beach is impeded by fish which lie in heaps on the sand. The usual price of 10 cents per dozen has been reduced to 8 cents.

October 25, 1889

The weather although drizzling a little today is fairly good. There are indications of an early variation in the program of "Old Prob".

Brooklyn Tabernacle Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage pastor, was burned on Sunday 13th. Steps are taken for the erection of a new tabernacle and Talmage is asking contributions from everyone, no matter their creed, where their home, or to whom their allegiance is due. He promises to acknowledge every donation, by his own hand, no matter how great or small they may be. He says, "We mean to preach a religion as wide as heaven and as good as God."

The series of revival meetings entered on by the Rev. Mr. Burwash some time ago were brought to a close tonight. The meetings throughout were very poorly attended and so far as natural perception goes, appears to have resulted in the conversion of no one. Mr. Burwash was very earnest in his appeals but was poorly encouraged, and an undefinable want of interest seemed to pervade the community-which was particularly noticeable in the members and adherents of his church.

October 31, 1889

All Hallow Eve-The weather continues fine. Yesterday I was in Tara with Anna. Business was very dull and the village presented a forsaken appearance. Last evening I was present at a concert, given by the Gould Lake I.O.G.L. lodge, in the school house. The attendance was fair. The program consisted of addresses, singing, recitations, and dialogues together with a "....entitled "Woman's Rights", given in the negro dialect by Robert Walker, the famous plantation impersonator from Allenford.

Last Sunday evening is celebrated as being the time in which the election of Elders for congregation of Presbyterians here took place. The Elders-elect are Messrs. D. Porter, D. Morton and Jas. Walker.

November 1, 1889

Today I received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Moore of Allenford stating that Mr. Jas. Walker, one of the elders-elect, declined to accept the eldership on account of his advanced age. As I stood next in order, he wishes me to take the position.

Monday, November 4, 1889

Today has been colder, with a prevailing west wind, and tonight snow is flying.



*The wind being favorable, we brought down a raft of about 100 logs from Everett's Landing.*

*The coupling in the steam pipe suddenly burst today with a terrific noise of escaping steam. Wm. Chambers, working near, was struck by the blast of steam with such force as to throw him off the wall, in which the boiler is built, down to the floor, from where he found his way out through the dense cloud as well as he could. He knows nothing of how he reached the floor.*

*I was at Allenford yesterday in compliance with a request in Mr. Moore's letter received on Friday last, re this eldership. I, not expecting to be a permanent resident here, thought it would be wise for the session to select someone else who would be in a better position to meet the needs of the congregation. They, however, thought I had better not refuse the position. I yielded to their desire and was duly ordained with Messrs. Morton and Porter. The Session as Skipness, on this occasion, was composed of the following members: Rev. Jno. Moore, moderator, and Messrs. Robert Miller and Wm Burwash, elders.*

*Skipness, Wednesday, November 13, 1889*

*Quite a spring-like day. Langley Smith had a wood-bee today, and honors the occasion by giving a monster party, from which Jno. Hunsberger and I are the only absentees of this firm.*

*Barret of Walkerton, Revising Barrister for the North-Riding of Bruce, was in Allenford yesterday for the purpose of revising list of voters, representing the adjacent polling divisions. He held his court or sitting in Murray's office.*

*November 22, 1889*

*The weather of the past few days has been showery. Jos. Chambers is busily engaged erecting a residence on his farm. Mrs. Carson also is building.*

*Thursday, November 28, 1889*

*Quite an abrupt change has taken place in the weather this week. During the night before last snow began to fall, and continues falling all day yesterday and last night. The fall of snow as accompanied by a strong wind which blew it about in a most disagreeable manner. During yesterday and last night the snow fell fast, but, the fall was more moderate today. Depth of fall 8 or 10 inches.*

*The weather of this fall has been, on the whole, the finest for a great many years, and the roads, with the exception of a few days, have been as good as in the summer months.*



*Saturday, December 7, 1889*

*Since I last wrote, we have had two thaws followed each time by frost-so the snow still clings to the ground.*

*Yesterday Mr. Jas. Beakle and A. Grant disposed of their Stock and Implements by public auction.*

*Harvey, the Guelph murderer, suffered the extreme penalty of law, in that city on Friday 29th-inst.*

*Thursday, December 19, 1889*

*Our snow has all disappeared and the weather is mild and springlike.*

*Last week, Peter Bartleman sold off his stock, implements, etc. His farm is rented.*

*During last week, I was at Park Head assisting Young & Lawson with their accounts.*

*December 25, 1889*

*Christmas-I spent today at home. The day was a most pleasant one although the weather was a little unusual for this season of the year, there being not one flake of snow, and the thermometer ranging in unseasonable degrees. Yesterday was a terror of a day for rain.*

*On Monday evening last, the Good Templars banquetted Miss A. Dezell, the retiring teacher of our school. The banquet was attended and a pleasant, sociable and agreeable evening was spent.*

*On Friday last, Mr. Hand and I visited Tara and purchased presents for Xmas tree.*

*Friday, December 27, 1889*

*Tonight, the annual Christmas Tree entertainment, in connection with our Sabbath School, was held. The evening, being fine, there was a nice gathering and a very enjoyable hour was passed. The program, consisting of speeches, readings, recitations, etc., being dispensed of, Mr. Jno, George, impersonating Santa Claus, entered from the rear amid great applause & distributed presents.*

*Tuesday, December 31, 1889*

*The weather has taken an abrupt change and again the lakes and streams are chained with ice. A little snow has fallen, but not enough to make sleighing.*



*On Sunday last, during the high wind, the smokestack on Porter's mill blew down. It was flattened out badly in some places, and broken into several pieces.*

*Yesterday being the last Monday in 1889 was Nomination Day. Nominations this year took place in Vance's Hall, Hepworth, instead of at Cribbis' school where they took place in former years. There were two nominations for the Reeveship, three for the Deputy-Reeveship, and five for Councillors. However, all the new nominees resigned and the old council, consisting of: J.M. White, Reeve; Robt. Davis, Deputy-Reeve; and Jno. Rushton, Thos. Askin and Wm. Smellie, Counsellors, were returned the second time by acclamation. As the actions of the council during the past year were generally satisfactory, the people generally were pleased to see them returned as above, not to say anything about dispensing with the expense of an election, the result of which might be a doubtful benefit to the municipality.*

*1890-Skipness, January 30, 1890*

*During the time that has elapsed since last writing. I have been at home most of the time. Yesterday morning I resumed work at the mill.*

*Titia, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Porter, after an illness of over a week, died of an affliction of the brain on Thursday 16th-inst.-aged 1 year, 6 mos. and 27 days. The funeral took place on the Saturday following. The sympathies of the entire community are extended to the bereaved, who mourn their little one, whose sojourn with them was so quickly severed. My remembrance of her is sweet.*

*The smokestack has again been placed and work was resumed on Monday.*

*I spent last Sunday in Owen Sound and had a most enjoyable time. I attended Division St. Presbyterian Church and was delighted with two sermons from Rev. Mr. Sommerville. I also attended his Bible Class.*

*Friday, February 7, 1890*

*Snowing; the ground has again been bare. Presbyterians of Elsinore held a soiree last evening. Proceeds \$45. Social tonight.*

*La grippe, a kind of influenza, has been epidemic, largely throughout Canada lately. Quite a number in our neighbourhood has been afflicted by it.*

*Friday, February 14, 1890*

*The weather continues fine, but during the week up to yesterday sleighing was*



*tolerably good; and the people appear anxious to make the most of it, as the log yard will show.*

*On Wed. 12th the Conservatives of this Township (Amabel) conveyed at Hepworth to appoint delegates to attend the convention at Tara on Wed. 19th, when the candidate to contest the election for Local Parliament will be selected.*

*Yesterday I was at Allenford attending meeting of Session, called by Mr. Moore, moderator for the purpose of answering questions on "state of religion" and "temperance", submitted by the General Assembly.*

*The Dominion and Local Parliament are in Session at the present time.*

*Tuesday, February 25, 1890*

*Since last writing there has been a heavy fall of snow, which however has thawed away considerably since Sunday. Tonight is freezing.*

*Our school board has, at last, succeeded in securing a teacher to take charge of school in the person of a Miss McNeill of Port Elgin. She took charge last Wednesday.*

*On Wed. 19th-inst., Mr. Jno. George of Port Elgin "got the convention" and so in the usual order of things will be a candidate for Provincial honours and will appear on the Conservative side.*

*The "Orange Incorporation Bill", brought in by N.C. Wallace G.M. has passed its second reading, being carried by the majority of 16. There was no debate. Sir John A. McDonald, McNeill and Jno Charlton were among those who supported the bill, while ex-Premier McKenzie, Blake and Laurier voted or paired off in opposition to it.*

*Tuesday, Mar. 11, 1890*

*The above bill passed its second reading by a majority of 25.*

*Sir John Thompson's amendment to D. Alton McCarthy's bill to abolish the dual language in the Territories was carried.*

*On Monday 3rd, Willie Chambers accidentally cut off one of the fingers of his left hand on the big saw. He was adjusting the guide when the wrench, being oily, slipped and his hand came against the saw with the above result.*



*The Reform Convention to select a candidate for Local Parliament meets tomorrow in Southampton.*

*The weather during last week was very severe; this week it is the reverse.*

*Geo. Fields, head-sawyer, left here preparatory to going to California on Sat. 1st. Mr. Miller, his successor, arrived yesterday 11th.*

*Skipness-Thursday, Mar. 13, 1890*

*The last few days has been very warm, especially today. The wind blew freshly all day from the sou'west, melting the snow very rapidly. The roads are in a very poor condition, half sleighing-half wagoning, and both halves of the worst class. It is freezing tonight.*

*At Reform Convention at Southampton yesterday, D. Porter, was selected as Candidate to contest election to Local Parliament. Dr. Bonnar, Chesley; Jno. Pierson, Saugeen Gp.; and Jno. Douglas, Tara, were other aspirants for the position and stood in the order in which their names are given.*

*Friday, March 21, 1890*

*It has been a very spring-like week, and this morning we had a brisk shower of rain.*

*A year ago Tuesday 18th, I commenced work at Porter's. A whole year! And when I came I did not expect to be here more than a month. Such is life; it is the unexpected that happens. But it is possible that the best has happened and, in looking back, I can see that the time has not been spent in vain; that I have learned some things that are certainly useful and which I might not have been able to learn elsewhere.*

*Wednesday, April 2, 1890*

*Last Thursday night and Friday were perhaps the most stormy weather that we experienced this winter. On Thursday evening the wind freshened up and continued to increase in velocity during the night. Toward morning snow began to fall and, amid the storm, continued to fall all day. It is estimated that about a foot fell.*

*Mr. Miller, head sawyer, severed his connection with the mill today, returning this morning to his home in Chesley.*

*Yesterday evening, being Tuesday, I joined Gould Lake Lodge or I.O.G.T. Miss C. McNeill, Teacher, was also initiated at the same time. So at last I have*



*consented to become a Good Templar-Nay I have become one after having been proposed and accepted three different times. Truly the third time is the charm. But I almost shudder as I think of the solemnity and sacredness and duration of the vows I have made.*

*May God in his mercy, his Holy Spirit, give me strength to keep inviolate these vows which, if kept, I believe will be advantageous to me and, perhaps, indirectly beneficial to those with whom I come in contact.*

*The pledge I took was - Sec. 1 - No member shall make, buy, sell, use, furnish, or cause to furnish to others, as a beverage, any spiritous or malt liquors, wine or cider, and every member shall discountenance the manufacture, sale and use thereof in all proper ways. Sec. 2*

*Wednesday, April 16, 1890*

*Spring has come. The snow is all or very nearly all away and the ice on our little lakes has broken up.*

*Fish and fishers are plentiful and the report of the gun and rifle makes us aware that where fish and fishers are plentiful the former are at a serious disadvantage.*

*There is one more resident at Skipness, a new arrival in the person of a young son born to Mr. and Mrs. Porter last week.*

*Jno. Cribbis, collector for Amabel Township, skipped out some time ago taking with him funds of municipality to the extent of over Two Thousand dollars. Mr. Cribbis was a man who held the unbounded confidence of the Council as well as all others acquainted with him. But the confidence of the council led them to be negligent in the matter of having his securities renewed, and so he left no person liable to the council.*

*Sugar-making is all the rage. Nearly every family in the neighbourhood is making. There has been several good runs, especially on Saturday and Saturday week.*

*The Good Templars here gave a musical and literary entertainment in the school house last night.*

*Rev. Messrs. Moore and Burwash were present and gave suitable addresses, bearing on the subjects of temperance, and the choice of profession.*



*The Smith Family, violinists, were present and catered some excellent selections. They were deservedly encored.*

*The proceeds of the evening amounted to \$7.30.*

*Wednesday, June 18, 1890*

*During the 63 days elapsed since I have written, I have been at home. For the most of the time I have been unwell-not right down sick, but still unable to do much. Since then we have been through the heat of an election campaign, which, so far as North Bruce is concerned, has been stubbornly contested and very close-a closeness that is remarkable as this riding has always been considered, things being equal, a Reform stronghold. The attitude of the Mowat Administration to the Roman Catholics is mainly the reason for the results.*

*Below is a copy of the returns for this riding, which shows Mr. John George of Port Elgin, Conservative, elected by a majority of nineteen (19).*

*Monday, June 30, 1890*

*The weather has been very warm, and growth rapid. Crops of all kinds look well and prospects for an abundant harvest are very encouraging.*

*John, this year, enlisted in No. 6 Company of the 32nd Battalion of volunteers. John Douglas of Tara is Captain of this company. The camp this year was in Stratford. The drill lasted-or rather No. 6 Company left Tara on Tuesday 17th inst., and returned on Saturday 29th-thus being in camp eleven days.*

*Tuesday, July 1, 1890*

*Quite cool this morning, it having rained a little yesterday.*

*The Annual picnic, in connection with our Sabbath School, came off on Thursday 26th inst. in Bartleman's bush. The day being fine a nice company was on the grounds and all together a most enjoyable time was spent. The local (choir) supplied the music. Speeches were delivered by Rev. Messrs Moore and Burwash and D. Porter. A collection amounting to \$9.35 was taken up to aid the S.S. Fund.*

*Friday, July 11, 1890*

*Changeable weather; some days very warm, others quite cool; dry. Tomorrow being 12th July, the orangemen of the District of Arran will celebrate "The Boyne" at Allenford.*



*Joseph Strang died suddenly at his brother Will's on Wednesday morning between 3 and 4 o'clock, from inflammation of the tonsils. He had come up from his home just the evening before in, apparently, his usual health. Truly in the midst of life we are in death.*

*"Dangers stand thick through all the ground  
To push us to the tomb  
And fierce diseases wait around  
To hurry mortals home.*

*Friday, July 25, 1890*

*The Orange demonstration at Allenford passed off pleasantly and successfully. There were eight stands of colors present and two brass bands were in attendance. On that morning, I united with the Orange association. So, everything considered, the 12th July, 1890 was a day not the most unimportant.*

*Last week David Smith, resident on the 10th sideline, was drowned while bathing, in Gould Lake. Cramps. This is the first person we have any knowledge of drowned in our beautiful little lake.*

*Haying; generally a good crop; but the showery state of the weather will be the cause of a lot of badly colored stuff. Prayer meeting tonight.*

*Wednesday, August 6, 1890*

*The weather continues variable; today it has been cool. Farmers are nearly all through haying. Fall wheat harvest. Fall wheat generally is pretty good. Spring crops are ripening fast.*

*Lowry and I were cutting wheat today-a small piece of spring we sowed on the model farm last fall.*

*Sarah George, after a short period of sickness, died from inflammation of the bowels, on Saturday 2nd inst. and was buried under the auspices of Gould Lake Lodge No. 1 to I.O.G.T. (of which society she had been a member) in the Tara cemetery on Monday 4th.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Simpson's child died at Bartleman's on Monday morning. The remains were taken to their home in Ethel Huron Co. for interment.*

*Tuesday, August 19, 1890*

*Today it is raining; Harvest. Crops nearly all ripe, and in this section are pretty good. Last week I was working for Jas' Glenn. Miss McRae came in on Friday*



*and remained in over Sunday. Our academy reopened on Monday 11th-inst.*

*Thursday, September 4, 1890*

*Harvest. We have been very busy all week hauling in, finishing at home, all but the flax, on Tuesday 2nd. Today we drew in one load of oats on the model farm. But, the well going dry, we stopped and are making preparatons to sink it deeper this afternoon.*

*During this harvest the weather has been a little fickle; there being a great many showers which prevented getting the crops housed; however all this week so far has been fine and a great deal has been taken in. Crops this year are very good. Hay is plentiful.*

*Monday, September 15, 1890*

*We finished harvesting on the 9th. There is, however, through the country some who are not through yet. Today I was ploughing and picking stones at the model farm, getting the ground ready for the fall wheat.*

*Little Archie Smart died on Wednesday, 10th inst.*

*Wednesday, September 24, 1890*

*The weather if fine. Today I am plowing in field north of the orchard. We began fall plowing on Monday 22nd. On Saturday 20th I finished harrowing fall wheat on the model farm.*

*Friday, October 3, 1890*

*The weather for the last week has been all that could be desired. Yesterday afternoon we had a fine shower of rain which continued through the night and this forenoon, and which will prove very beneficial as the ground was very dry. We sold one load of peas at 59 cents per bushel, Oats are 35 cents per bushel.*

*Monday, October 13, 1890*

*On Tuesday last Joc Webster and I went back to the French Bay fishing grounds in hopes of getting some fish. We were unable to get any fresh so we brought some salted ones away with us, paying 12 cents per dozen for them.*

*So far this season, according to latest reports, not many fish have been caught.*

*Arran-Tara show-fair was held this year on the 7th and 8th of this month. I was down on the last day. The fair this year was perhaps more successful than any previous one, as there were said to be 200 more entries than ever before.*



*We are raising our potatoes, getting about a wagonload and a half dug today.*

*George Harris was married to a Miss Speer of Arran on the 8th inst.*

*Tuesday, October, 28, 1890*

*I was in Tara yesterday. Today we were working on the hill on the 3rd Conc. putting in the supplementary grant.*

*Today and yesterday was rather cold snow flying on both days.*

*Tuesday, November 4, 1890*

*Last night snow fell to the dept of 3 or 4 inches. We have been busy scraping out a place for our turnips the last few days. Fred George is working on Reid's farm, he having taken it on shares for a term of 4 years.*

*Wednesday, November 12, 1890*

*The snow has all disappeared. Last night at Temperance Lodge I was installed into the office of Secretary, and Jos. Webster, C.T.*

*Tomorrow we are going to thresh. Jno and Jas. Adams moved the machine over this afternoon.*

*The weather of the last few days has been fine.*

*Rob. Forgrave came in to see us on Saturday and remained until Tuesday afternoon when he returned home. All well in Derby.*

*Saturday, November 22, 1890*

*Last night we had a slight fall of snow.*

*Lately we have been picking stones, jerking stumps, etc. in the pasture field just south of the barn, and yesterday afternoon I started to plow it.*

*Miss Anna Temple is staying with us at present, helping Anna for awhile. She came on the 13th inst.*

*John went up to Lion's Head yesterday afternoon, or rather to Wiarton from where he will take the stage this morning to the "Head". He goes up there with the intention of working for awhile in Murphy's shanty; J.M. White is foreman. This camp is composed of men going from this neighbourhood and that of Elsimore.*



*Wednesday, November 26, 1890*

*I was plowing yesterday; today it was frozen up so that is was an impossiblity.*

*Lowry and Jim are at Allenford tonight, attending the regular meeting of the Orange Lodge.*

*Jim was at Owen Sound yesterday with pork, and recieved \$5.20 per cwt. for it.*

*Thursday, December 11, 1890*

*Since last writing, considerable snow has fallen and tolerably good sleighing was the result. However it has nearly all thawed off again, and so the wheels are again on the road.*

*Snow is again flying this evening.*

*J.M. Chase, of Pasily Woolen Mills, was here today, having just came from Lion's Head where, he says, sleighing is good, snow to the depth of a foot and a half lying on the ground.*

*We have cut wood and skedded the hemlock sawlogs on this place. There are 88 logs and will aggregate about 13,000 ft.*

*Miss Sillie Morton of Guelph is visiting her friends in this neighbourhood, coming up on Tues. 9th inst.*

*Saturday, December 20, 1890*

*Today has been fine. The roads are in a half and half condition, both sleight and wagons being on them.*

*Yesterday I was in Allenford; was out with the mail.*

*The trial of the petition against the election of Mr. John George as member for the North Riding of Bruce in the Local Legislation, began in Port Elgin on Tuesday 16th inst. The trial was held before Justices MacLennan and Falconbridge. Mr. C.M. Boroman, the petitioner, was represented by H.P. O'Connor, Q.C., M.P.P. of Walkerton, and Mr. A.B. Aylesworth, Q.C. of Toronto. The respondent, Mr. George, was represented by C.E. Start of Tara, Mr. J.B. Clark and Mr. Nisbet of Toronto.*

*The trial has been proceeded with four days and on Friday 19th was postponed for some time and transferred to Toronto.*



*Thursday, December 25, 1890*

*Christmas. Yesterday the weather took an abrupt turn; for a few days previous it inclined to be soft, but yesterday morning it began to snow briskly and continued so until night, snow to a considerable depth falling. So, today, those who wished to avail themselves of a sleigh ride were not detained from satisfying their propensity from a want of snow.*

*Webster's had a wood bee yesterday.*

*John came down from Lion's Head yesterday. It is just about a month since he went up. We will be home for perhaps a week.*

*Andrew, Ann Jane and Bella McIntosh were over to see us today.*

*1891*

*Thursday, January 22, 1891*

*Quite a long time has elapsed since I last wrote in this book. Since that time, we have been through the throes of a municipal election, which resulted in the return of last year's council again to power, this being their fourth term of office. Below is the result*

Reeves	1	2	3	4/5	totals	Majority
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White, J.M.	77	72	95	67	311	197
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Gowan, Jno.	40	48	15	11	114	
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*Deputy Reeves*

Davis, Robt	59	50	48	32	189	17
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Robertson, Jno.	38	50	62	22	172	
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*Councillors*

Askin, Thos.	96	63	71	45	275	
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	1	2	3	4/5	totals	Majority
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Rushton, Jno.	71	60	55	38	224	
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Smellie, Wm.	69	48	70	66	253	
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Baker, Mic.	64	59	44	5	172	
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Buckland, F.	9	30	10	15	64	
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Johnston -	8	4	21	31	64	
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Gingrich, Jesse 15 57 7 1 80

Since then also Jno George, member-elect to represent North-Bruce in the local parliament, has been declared unseated. The judges have judgment on Sat. Jan. 17th at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. They held the election void, because of the payment by the respondent, Mr. George, of a sum \$5 to one McKay, for supplying vehicles on polling day. This was part of a bill of \$18 paid by Mr. George, the other items being legitimate. The judges came to the conclusion that it was a corrupt act - but "committed without any corrupt intention, and in ignorance, which was involuntary and excusable, and that the evidence showed the candidate to have honestly desired, and in good faith, endeavored, as far as he could, to have the election conducted according to law" and therefore while they unseated they did not disqualify Mr. George.

Wednesday, January 28, 1891

The Conservatives of North Bruce met in convention in Tara on Friday 23 inst. and brought out Mr. George again to contest the by-election to be held soon. Mr. Porter is to oppose him again.

Wednesday, February 4, 1891

This is a very cold day, a continuance of yesterday's storm.

Miss Lizzie Forgrave returned home yesterday after spending quite a time visiting her Amabel friends.

The Annual Meeting of the Skipness Presbyterian Church was held on Thursday, Jan. 29th. R. Webster and Jas. Temple were reelected to the management board for the next term. The board for 1891 is composed of D. Porter, D. Morton, Jno Blyth, M. McDonald, R. Webster and Jas. Temple.

Wm. Morton and Jas. Davidson were reappointed auditors for coming year.

Last week we were engaged hauling our sawlogs out to Allenford.

Monday, Feb. 9, 1891

Today it rained. Lowry finished hauling hemlock sawlogs today.

Allex and Mary Forgrave came in on Saturday evening. Alex returned home yesterday evening. Mary is still in Skipness.

Jno George has purchased part of the Greenslade farm or rather old man Greenslade's farm.



*Tuesday, February 17, 1891*

*Yesterday and Sunday it rained; today it has frozen up and is snowing.*

*The 6th parliament of the House of Commons of Canada has been dissolved, and writs for a new election have been issued by the Governor General. Nominations are to be on Thursday, Feb. 26th and the polling on March 5th.*

*Mr. Alex McNeill who represented North Bruce in the last parliament is again the Conservative candidate and again contests Dr. Bonnar of Chesley who got the Reform convention.*

*Mr. Miller, a young Theological student, occupied Mr. Moore's pulpit last Sunday.*

*Anna and mother are busily engaged quilting.*

*Monday, March 2, 1891*

*John came home from Lion's Head on Saturday evening last.*

*The Presbyterian Soiree, arranged for last Tuesday but postponed on account of the rain, is to come off this evening.*

*Tomorrow will decide whether George or Porter is to be member of North Bruce in the Local House.*

*On Tuesday last there was a big rain which raised the Sauble to such a height that some of the dwellings and shops in Allenford and Tara had to be deserted.*

*Thursday, March 5, 1891*

*Our Soiree came off on Monday evening. The night being fine there was a very nice turnout; not, however, so many as would have been on Tuesday, the day previously arranged. \$49.60 was realized. There will be a social tomorrow evening.*

*The election of a member to represent North Bruce in the Local House came off on Tuesday. All the returns are not in yet but it is pretty certain Porter is elected.*

*Saturday, March 11, 1891*

*On Thursday 5th instant, the Dominion election came off. The returns show the country was sustained the Conservative party at the polls, through by a decrease*



majority, the Ministry having over fifty when the House was dissolved, while according to the "Empire", the Conservative majority is forty-two with seven seats to hear from. Below is a synopsis of the return for the whole Dominion.

Province	Ministry	Opp.
Prince Edward Is.	2	4
Nova Scotia	17	4
New Brunswick	15	1
Quebec	30	31
Ontario	46	43
Manitoba	4	1
Northwest Terr.	4	0
British Columbia	6	0

Wednesday, March 18, 1891

In the election just past, the trade question was the great issue before the electors. The principal plank in the Reform platform, and the one brought most prominently, was Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States.

The Tories on the other hand came with the "Old Policy" on which they have been returned to power now the third time.

The Hon. Edward Blake was retired from active political life; he found it impossible to reconcile himself with the leaders of the Reform party; and characterizes the writing of his letter of withdrawal to the members of the West Durham Reform Convention as "the most painful event in the political life of which it is the close."

Last week the ground was nearly clean of snow, but today we have perhaps as much as we had at any previous time this winter.

John and I have been cutting wood lately.

Bartleman's removed to Wiarton today having sold their farm to \_\_\_\_\_ Strang.

Saturday, April 4, 1891

Rather a fine day; sun warm with cold winds. Cutting wood.

Sugarmaking began on Tues. Mar. 24th has been rather backward, owing to rain and snow nearly all week. Boiled on Monday and Tuesday.



*Tom Hand returned home from British Columbia a few weeks ago. He has completed arrangements to open a butchering business in Tara shortly.*

*Mrs. D. Reid has been down to see her sister in Brampton, whose husband, Mr. Hunter, was recently accidentally drowned.*

*The election of Mr. D. Porter to be protested. The necessary papers were filed on Monday. This will likely give North Bruce another election before the snow again flies.*

*Wednesday, April 15, 1891*

*A dull foggy day. The snow is all away. I was boiling sap yesterday. We are busy, chopping the fallow.*

*Today a Mr. Grunlees of Wiarton was here bargaining for oats. He pays 50 cents per bushel for them at the barn.*

*One day last week Andy Carson and Miss M. McFadden of Markdale were married. May their lives be happy.*

*George's are busy making the grange hall over into a residence.*

*Wednesday, April 29, 1891*

*The weather is fine. People, i.e. farmers, are into the thick of spring work. This year we began plowing on the 21st of this month. Today we sowed our first grain, oats for this year.*

*Jim and I were ditching today.*

*Wm Struthers of Owen Sound, an old N.B.C. chum, sent me a copy of the "Weekly Owen Sound" last week.*

*Oats are worth 55 cents per bushel, Potatoes 65 cents, Pears 70 cents.*

*Saturday, May 9, 1891*

*We are blessed this spring with fine weather. Since spring work began there has been scarcely any intermission caused by foul weather and, on account of the high winds occurring so frequently, and the absence of heavy rains, farmers are enabled to go on their low land at a much earlier date than is usual.*

*Today I was planting our early potatoes in the garden. I planted 355 hills.*



*This week I made application for admission into the Orange Mutual Benefit Society and yesterday I was examined by Dr. A.B. Taylor, in accordance with the regulations of the society.*

*Thursday, June 4, 1891*

*Yesterday we had a copious rainfall; something that was needed as there has been very little rain this spring and the crops were beginning to show signs of distress.*

*On the 24 of May I picnic(k)ed on the Island on Chesley Lake and had a splendid time.*

*We finished seeding this year on the 25th of May.*

*Ann Jane McIntosh was over here today.*

*John was on the lake this evening fishing and secured some nice perch.*

*We were planting potatoes today.*

*It is reported that Sir John A. McDonald had a paralytic stroke which leaves him in a critical condition.*

*Saturday, June 6, 1891*

*Sir John A. MacDonald is dead. The silver cord is loosened and the great leader is now no more. The sad event took place Saturday, June 6 at 10:15 o'clock P.M. Sir John was in the House of Commons for the last time on May 22nd. He had been in poor health some days previous but continued to look after affairs of State till Thursday the 28th when he was seized with a slight paralytic stroke. This was followed by another and more dangerous stroke on Friday which he never rallied. He has been looked upon, and not without cause as the father of this country. Sir John entered the Parliament of Old Canada in 1844 as the representative of Kingston, which city he has represented ever since,*

*with the exception of two short intervals. Few men have been more highly honored than Sir John. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1815; was called to the bar in Kingston in 1836; entered Parliament in 1844; and became a Minister of the Crown in 1847.*

*Wednesday, June 24, 1891*

*A fine day; crops are improving thanks to recent rains.*



*Hon. John J.C. Abbott, being summoned by the Governor-General to form a new administration, has accepted the task.*

*Mr. Abbott was born in St. Andrews, Quebec on March 12, 1821. He graduated from McGill University in October 1847. He began his political life in 1857 representing Argenteuil in the Canadian Assembly and continued to be member for the county up to 1867, when he was again elected for the House of Commons at Ottawa. In 1887, he was called to the Senate as leader of the Government in that house without portfolio. He was married in 1849 to Miss Mary Bethune, daughter of the Very Rev. J. Bethune, D.D., late Dean of Montreal.*

*Thursday, July 2, 1891*

*Yesterday was Dominion Day. I worked in the forenoon. In the afternoon I was fishing on Chesley Lake with John and Wm Morton.*

*Crops in this neighbourhood are looking pretty well, much better than in neighbouring districts.*

*We had a light shower yesterday*

*Rev. Mr. Burwash, Methodist minister, preached his farewell sermon here on Sunday last.*

*Saturday, July 18, 1891*

*A rather dull sort of a day, showery.*

*We were weeding turnips today.*

*John and Anna have gone to Forgraves' this evening and will remain overnight.*

*Haying is commenced. The crop improved by recent rains, is much better than it was anticipated; all other kinds of crops are also doing well.*

*There was a heavy thunderstorm on Monday evening, the 12th-rather 13th.*

*The Rev. Mr. Sharp is pastor of this (Allenford) circuit.*

*The Orangemen of North Bruce and North Grey celebrated the 201 Anniversary of the Boyne of Monday, 13th in Wiarton.*



*Some 25 or 30 lodges were represented, and there were between 7000 and 8000 people assembled in Wiarton to do honor to the occasion. Five beautiful arches were erected and the town was tastefully decorated with evergreens, banners, flags and mottoes. 21 stands of colors were in the line of march and 6 bands enlivened the proceedings with choice music. At the grounds Bro Jno Hearst, Co. Master, took charge of the proceedings and, after a few remarks, called upon the following brothers in turn for an address: D.M. Jermyn, Wiarton; Rev. Mr. Churchill, Lion's Head; Wm Masson, Barrister, Owen Sound; Jno George, Port Elgin; Jos. Lang, editor of the Owen Sound Sun, and others.*

*Monday, August 3, 1891*

*We cut our fall wheat today; part of it is a good crop.*

*Lowry began to work at the Quarry on Sat., August 1st.*

*John is going up to Brandon, Manitoba. He starts tomorrow from Owen Sound.*

*The Rev. Jno. Moore preached his farewell sermon here on Sunday last, having received and accepted a call from the congregation near Kingston.*

*Saturday, August 8, 1891*

*It rained today; the weather has been very warm during the last few days.*

*I was in Owen Sound on Tuesday last. John, going to Manitoba starting from there. Yesterday we received a card from him, written in North Bay. He reports there are immense crowds going west.*

*Jim and I have been repairing the wagon today.*

*Harvest has been commenced. Crops are going to be very good as a general thing.*

*The Rev. Dr. Moffat of Toronto, Secretary of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society, is to preach here tomorrow evening.*

*On Friday evening, July 31, a farewell entertainment and presentation were given the Rev. Mr. Moore and family by the members of the Allenford Presbyterian Church in the church. It was perhaps the largest and most successful gathering in the history of Allenford, it being estimated that fully six*



*hundred were present to enjoy the entertainment and social event. Tara Presbyterian choir furnished music and the resident ministers and other gave suitable addresses. The interesting features of the evening were the presentations: a purse containing \$40.00 to Mr. Moore, and three pieces of silverware-one a massive water pitcher to Mrs. Moore.*

*Friday, August 28, 1891*

*We are having a very wet season, consequently harvest is backward.*

*I was back at Smith's yesterday for seed wheat. The variety is known as Manchester wheat. We sold 4 cattle, 3 heifers and 1 steer for \$140.00, \$35 each, to a Mr. Bland of Kincardine, also 3 others to Mr. Russel for \$83.*

*Yesterday Isaac Kerr was brought to appear before Justices Anderson and Reid on a charge of maiming and injuring a horse belonging to Mr. Thos. Carter who laid the information. Evidence supporting the charge, sufficient to indict the defendant, was taken so he is out on bail of \$500 to appear at next court of Quarter Sessions.*

*Wednesday, September 2, 1891*

*We have had a few days of fine weather so a lot of grain has been harvested. Miller Carson was helping us draw in today.*

*We sowed our summer fallow in wheat on Monday. The grain is known as the Manchester variety and was grown on Smith's farm on the 8th Con.*

*Mr. Alex Broadfoot, who went to California over a year ago, was killed by a tree there a short time ago.*

*John writes from Carberry under date of Aug. 23rd. He is well. He reports they had a frost on the night of the 22nd so severe as to form ice. inch thick. Wages there are from \$30 to \$35 per month.*

*Thursday, January 7, 1892*

*It is quite a long time since I wrote in this book. Since then the petition against the election of David Porter has been tried. And, although it was shown bribery and corruption were practiced, Porter was not unseated. The petition against the return of McNeill has also been tried and dismissed. Since then also Kerr's case has been tried in Walkerton and been dismissed. John has returned home from Manitoba. Since then the census returns have been made public and*



shows the total population of the Dominion to be 4,823,344. This is an increase of 11.52% in 10 years. The returns disappointed. I think, most every Canadian. James Kirkwood, a cousin of mine, has, since then, been elected to represent East Wellington in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The annual Christmas Tree entertainment of the Skipness Sabbath School was held on Christmas Eve this time; the proceeds were \$9.85. Since then, the Allenford, Elsinore and Skipness congregations of the Presbyterian Church have given a call to the Rev. Wm. Mowat of Merriton, which has been accepted. The annual School Meeting was held on Dec. 30th. Mr. David Morton, the retiring trustee, was succeeded by Mr. S. Hand.

Below are the full returns of the Amabel Municipal election

Reeves	Totals	Majorities
Askin, Thos.	323	160
Smellie, Wm.	163	
Deputies		
Davis, Robt.	271	62
Robinson, John	209	
Councillors		
Beatty, Wm.	203	
Murphy, J.E.	257	
Ruston, John	239	
Root, Robt.	195	
Rourke, M.S.	104	
Buckland, F.	77	

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1892

It has been a very cold day today. Jim and John are drawing wood to Tara.

During November last I wrote on the entrance to Civil Service examination in Toronto, and by the "Empire" of Jan. 10th, I notice my name among the successful candidates. In Toronto, 59 succeeded in the preliminary exams and 35 in the qualifying exams.



*Thursday, January 28, 1892*

*It has been a very fine day. Jim and John were to Tara today with wood; they intend to go with tanbark to Pt. Elgin tomorrow. Mrs. and Mr. Jos. Marshall died from the effect of La Grippe. She was buried on Saturday and he on Monday.*

*Monday, March 7, 1892*

*It has been a very fine day; the sun shining bright and warm and the snow thawing rapidly. The roads are becoming bad, especially the crossroads and near the villages, etc. We were cutting wood today-have been, off and on, for some time back.*

*Cousin Johnston F. Davidson or "Dodd" as he is more familiarly called, was up to visit us during a few days in February.*

*Mr. David McBeath was buried in the Elsinore cemetery today. He had been unwell for a considerable time. Mr. James Nelson of Elsinore also passed away a short time ago. As a matter of fact, a great many deaths have occurred in this section of country this winter.*

*Saturday, April 23, 1892*

*We began spring work on the 12th, plowing in nor'west corner field. We sowed peas on the 19th and wheat on the 21st. Spring work started about nine days earlier than last year.*

*April, this year, has been very dry. Fall wheat wintered well but there has been a lot of frost nights which has damaged it some.*

*Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, ex-premier of Canada, died on Sunday (Easter) April 17th and was buried on Thursday, 21st. Mr. Mackenzie was born in Scotland, Jan. 28, 1822. Thus he was three score and then when summoned hence.*

*Monday, May 2, 1892*

*It rained today. This has been a rather dry spring so far and the rain of today will prove beneficial to the fall wheat and the other crops. Anna and I were over at the D Line this afternoon.*

*Wednesday, May 18, 1892*

*We have had a fine spring so far and spring work is well advanced.*



*John and I have been plowing today in the field below the barn. We will finish it tomorrow, I think.*

*We sowed wheat in the new fallow on the 12th inst.*

*Miss J. Hammond is staying with us now, assisting Anna and Mother.*

*Ann Jane McIntosh was over to see us on Monday.*

*Wednesday, May 25, 1892*

*Yesterday was the Queen's Birthday anniversary. There were celebrations in Chesley, Southampton and Owen Sound.*

*We were logging today in the afternoon; in the forenoon we sowed our carrots. We finished seeding this year on the 20th inst.*

*Last week, Mr. Thos. George embarked on a visit to England.*

*Mr. Donald Reid is in Toronto this week. One of his eyes was affected by a blood vessel being ruptured, and so he visits the city to have it treated.*

*Wednesday, June 2, 1892*

*It rained today; in fact we are having a very wet season, rain falling nearly every day and night.*

*Yesterday I was plowing for potatoes and Jim and John were washing the sheep.*

*Last week Mr. Reid visited Toronto.*

*John and Jos. H. Webster were fishing in Chesley Lake this afternoon; they succeeded in getting two nice strings of perch.*

*Mrs. Geo. Walker returns today from the Sault, where she was on a visit to her brother's.*

*Crops are looking well; there are some of the best fields of fall wheat I think I ever saw; spring crops are also looking well. Pasture is good.*

*There is great promise for a good crop of fruit; orchards are literally white with blossoms which is one indication of a fruitful autumn.*

*Wednesday, January 11, 1893*

*We are having a fine winter; yesterday and today are perhaps the coldest we*



have had so far. The thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero.

Below is the result of Amabel's Municipal Election Council for 1893

Divisions	1	2	3	4	5	Totals	Maj.
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Reeve by acclamation  
Thoms. Askin

Deputy Reeves

J.E. Murphy	57	50	10	23	22	252	32
Wm. Smellie	37	42	0	69	20	220	
			52				

Councillors

Wm. Beatty	81	65	71	20	11	248
Robt. Root	44	51	94	47	44	280
Jno. Rushton	66	64	68	33	10	241
Jas. Martin	16	30	28	68	3	145

Monday, April 17, 1893

We started spring work today; plowing sod on the Harris farm opposite the house. This has been rather a backward spring. We started plowing about 5 days earlier last year.

We made sugar- or rather maple syrup this spring.

Our new school house has been opened since last writing. Miss Mary E. Anderson passes into history as being the first teacher to officiate in it.

Fall wheat wintered pretty well.

During the winter we were employed teaming wood and maple saw-logs. We took out about 20 m. of maple.

May 8, 1893

Friday 5th was Arbor Day. It was not observed by our school.

Yesterday and today have been fine. Fine weather is rather unusual this spring.



Uncle William James Forgrave died on Thursday, April 20th last. He had not been in good health for some time and, a few weeks previous to his death, he met with an accident in handling some colts, getting some of his ribs broken. He was born in the Township of Chimquacoucy in the County of Peel and was buried in Greenwood cemetery, Owen Sound, beside his wife who preceeded him quite a number of years.

January 12, 1894

Below is the result of the municipal election for this township for 1894: aslo the plebiscite vote.

	Totals	Majorities
Reeve by acclamation		
Thomas Askin		
Deputy Reeves		
J.E. Murphy	322	93
Wm. Smellie	229	
Councillors		
Wm. Beatty	306	
Jas. Martin	248	
Robt. Root	235	
Jno. Rushton	316	
Plebiscite		
YES	412	308
NO	104	

January 26, 1895

Below is the result of the Municipal Election for Amabel Township for 1895. The pool took place on Monday, Jan. 7, 1895.

Totals	Majorities
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*Reeves*

<i>Thos. Askin</i>	317	53
<i>Wm. Beatty</i>	264	

*Deputy Reeves*

<i>Jno. Rushton</i>	326	92
<i>Wm. Smellie</i>	234	

*Councillors*

<i>Jas. Martin</i>	289
<i>J.R. Chambers</i>	270
<i>Geo. Stacey</i>	60
<i>Jno. M. Gowan</i>	90
<i>Wm. H. Lawson</i>	292
<i>Ed. Brigham</i>	173
<i>Steve Ottawell</i>	63