

# Property Research Sheet

**Address**

356 Dalhousie

**Legal Description**

Concession 1 Part Lot 3

**Name of Building**

N/A

**Type of Property**

Residential

**Date of Construction**

1886

**Original Owner**

Colin Wigle

**Research Summary**

1886

"The town council, on Wednesday last, entered into an agreement with Colin Wigle, late of the firm of Daniel Wigle & Son, millers of Kingsville, to erect and operate a roller mill in Amherstburg. As will be seen in the council proceedings the town is to give Mr. Wigle the tannery lot on Dalhousie Street and riverfront, with water lot, and exemption from taxes for 10 years. Mr. Wigle will at once arrange for the erection of a stone building, 40x 60ft, with engine room attached. – Wigle has had twelve years' experience in the milling business- two years of which was with his father in Kingsville roller mills- and comes to Amherstburg with the best possible reputation as an energetic and upright business man, and we predict a successful future in store for him."<sup>i</sup>

"Colin Wigle's new roller mill started up Wednesday and everything proved satisfactory, the machinery running smoothly and as near noiselessly as it is possible for such to do. This mill is beautifully situated on the old tannery lot bank of the Detroit River".<sup>ii</sup>

The Wigle Mill also known as "Riverside Mills" was one of the few flour mills in the province with docks of its own, which allowed easy access to transportation and contributed to its success.<sup>iii</sup>

Deed/ Robert Linton to Colin Wigle

"Colin Wigle received deed for property from Kolfage estate and will build a home on the east end of the mill site."<sup>iv</sup>

"Colin Wigle being unable to get a suitable dwelling house has decided not to move his family here until he builds a residence on the east end of the mill site..."<sup>v</sup>

"Colin Wigle has a good force of men employed in the erection of his dwelling house and barn as well as the job of making the necessary excavation for the mill, and the work is progressing favorably. It is expected that operations will be commenced on the mill foundation the early part of next week."<sup>vi</sup>

## Property Research Sheet

- 1889-92 Insurance Policy/ \$750 on the one and a half story frame shingle roofed dwelling and addition marked "risk" on diagram for this assurance and \$250 on general household furniture including linen bedding, china, crockery, glassware and family wearing apparel while contained therein. All the property of the assured and situate on part Lot 3 on riverfront Amherstburg Ont<sup>vii</sup>
- 1893 Colin Wigle is raising the roof of his residence to make it 2 storeys instead of 1 ½ storeys<sup>viii</sup>
- 1900 "Colin Wigle has purchased from Messrs. Walker, of Walkerville, the property adjoining his mill and residence, running from Dalhousie St. to the channel bank of Detroit River."<sup>ix</sup>
- 1914 Deed/ Colin Wigle to Roy Wigle
- 1919 Town of Amherstburg Voter's List shows Roy Wigle, miller, on part 3, w/s Dalhousie
- 1949 Death of Colin Wigle.
- When Colin's sons Roy and Walter finished school they were each given a third interest in the mill and after Colin's retirement they assumed ownership.<sup>x</sup>

## Sources

Marsh Collection Society Property Research Files

---

<sup>i</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, February 26, 1886

<sup>ii</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, October 1, 1886

<sup>iii</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, October 21, 1932

<sup>iv</sup> "Upsetting the Hour Glass" in The Amherstburg Echo, April 11, 1946 (60 years ago)

<sup>v</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, April 9, 1886

<sup>vi</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, April 30, 1886

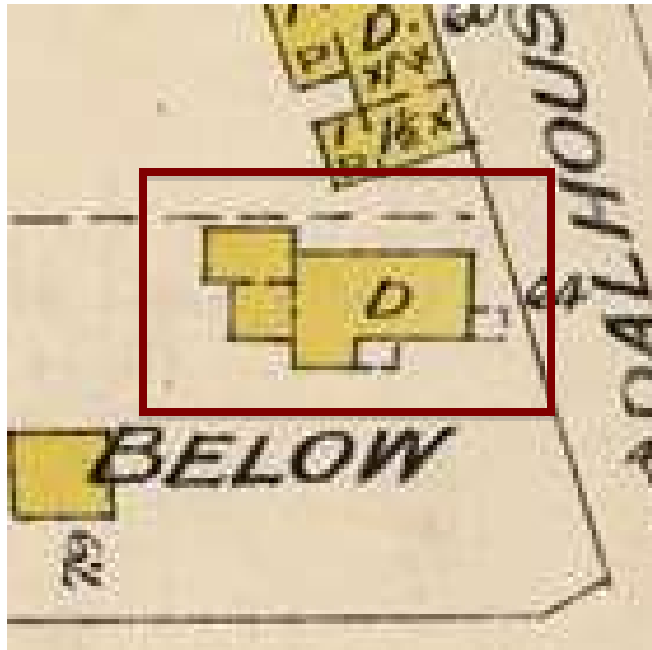
<sup>vii</sup> Canada Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Policy No. 310336, Marsh Collection Society

<sup>viii</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, August 11, 1893

<sup>ix</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, June 29, 1900

<sup>x</sup> The Amherstburg Echo, May 9, 1941

356 Dalhousie



Extract from Fire Insurance Plan of  
Amherstburg dated **1917**  
Source: Library & Archives Canada



Dalhousie St. Looking north. Wile Flour Mill is visible at  
left and 356 Dalhousie at right, c.1918  
Source: Marsh Collection Society P842

also, levied by  
advertised for  
cted a large  
sidents of the  
minaries the  
ou got them,"  
their rightful  
sponses to the

## AMHERSTBURG.

### A Big Thing for the Town.

AMHERSTBURG, Feb. 24.—The town council have given Colin Wigle, of Kingsville, a site with a deck on the Detroit River and exemption from taxation to erect and operate an extensive roller process mill here. Other manufacturers are negotiating to locate here.

will, it is ex  
in the relat  
tween the tw  
the new agre  
in full, but it  
brace an equ  
adian Pacific  
toba, by wh  
will receive  
ticket sold t  
point on its  
the through



July 8, 1892

payments, and enabling me to form a close approximation of the defendant's was, from time to time, deficient in his cash

of the Honorable Court, I have endeavored to make deficiencies at the dates of the bonds of the respective comparison which I have made at the close of each in order to examine the cause of such deficiency, and from the amounts of the later discoveries of errors, so as in these comparisons, I have taken into account the book, the balances in bank, and overdrafts as shown by cheques at the close of the quarter, and payments of the dates at which they were made, together with any and any visible bearing upon the result, and I find that, reduced, there were the following deficiencies existing at the dates borne by the bonds, viz:—At September 6th, 7th and 12th, 1876, and October 26th, 1876, deficiency was \$8,281.68. At June 30th, 1880, as to bonds dated June 30th, 1880, deficiency was \$19,775.98. At June 30th, 1881, deficiency was \$15,572.72. At June 30th, 1882, deficiency was \$18,915.09. It will be readily understood that there is no cash which may have been on hand at the before, purposes of this report it is assumed to be nil. and books of the townships, which would involve an labor, as from the character of the evidence of receipts sufficient without going into them. I have, however, necessary in confirmation, explanation, or for adjustment of

I certify to this Honorable Court. Auditor, in the County of Essex, Ontario, this twenty-fifth

GEO. F. JEWELL, F. C. A., Referee.

of Treasurer, in account with the County of

cash book.....	\$22,024 13
land sale.....	2,390 02
per Mr. Munro's report to adjust short credit, 871, C. B. p. 192.....	10 00
st, amount to adjust charge of \$116.31 by amount received, which with \$77.27, included in made by following entry will correct the ge both to Township and to Redemption made r (see W. F. Munro's report and 1882).....	39 04
f lands, amount of unsettled items, per list, ting amounts in entries made by W. F. Munro g in acc. item of \$171.03).....	422 69
em of November 26, 1889, erroneously struck Stewart, N.E. cor. 7, B. F., Tilbury West....	20 02
c Sale receipts—August 10, 1880, paid before 13, 8.....	37 62
8.....	37 62
st, do. do.	
80, Lot 87, pt. 73, in 1.....	\$ 2 68
" 12 ".....	9 67
" 84, 85, 86 ".....	8 07
84,.....	20 50
Sale, 1880—	
380, various lots.....	\$19 22
" do.....	35 98
" do.....	2 92
" do.....	12 96
" do.....	11 68
" do.....	10 24
" do.....	3 68
" do 676 net.....	5 04
" do 8129 net.....	27 48
re 1885 Sale—	
17, 1, receipted for though in list as not nd to be re-charged, which is not done.....	18 88
-Sept. 17, 1889, Lots paid for by J. Hogan advertising.....	26 92
unt—	
Deposit in Merchants' Bank, 1876.....	\$66 41
do do 1878.....	64 56
do Essex County Bank, or Sinking Fund, July 16, 1883.....	2 75
do do Mar. 27, 1884.....	2 10
do do June 30, 1886.....	75 75
do do Aug. 24, 1886.....	10 00
ville Deb. 1, coupon in 1885-6.....	12 52
ovement acc.—item charged to Colchester, which was not cash but to close non-payment	234 09
	903 37

### Death of Mrs. Colin Wigle.

The people of Amherstburg were sadly shocked on Monday morning of this week, when it was announced that Mrs. Colin Wigle had passed away after a short illness of but three days. She had never been very strong and, in February last, suffered from congestion of the lungs, but recovered, and since then had been enjoying very good health until Thursday night of last week, when she was taken down with acute peritonitis and, in spite of all that medical aid could do, she passed away on Monday morning, safe in the hope of a glorious resurrection. Mrs. Wigle's maiden name was Miss Hattie Russell and she was the youngest daughter of ex-mayor Geo. Russell, of Leamington, by his first wife, and was born in Mersea township on October 21st, 1859. She lived with her parents until her marriage to Mr. Wigle on October 1st, 1877, he being then in the saw-mill business in Gosfield South. In the spring of 1887 they moved to Amherstburg, where they have since resided. Her husband and four children—Roy L., aged 10 years; Sylvia, aged 7; Walter, aged 3; and Emma, seven months old, remain to mourn their irreparable loss. She was a kind, tender and affectionate mother, a loving and helpful wife, was beloved by all who knew her, and for many years was a firm and consistent member of the Methodist church. Mrs. J. H. Wigle and Mrs. Samuel F. Wigle, of Gosfield South, are sisters to the deceased, while Miss Florence Russell is a half-sister, and Ivan J., Oswald and Carl Russell are half-brothers. The funeral took place on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the family residence to the Methodist church, where a sermon from Revelations, 20th chapter and 12th verse, was delivered by Rev. W. H. Gane, after which, followed by a large concourse of relatives, friends and acquaintances, it proceeded to the Amherstburg cemetery. The local members of the Masonic fraternity attended in a body, and the pallbearers were, F. P. Scratch, J. A. Patten, Frank Fox, W. S. Falls, J. W. Pulford and John A. Auld. Among those from a distance who were present were George Russell, Mr. and Mrs. John Askew, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan J. Russell, (who were only married on Wednesday of last week, and were at Aylmer on a wedding tour when they received the sad intelligence of his sister's death,) Mrs. P. Phillips, Mrs. (Rev.) Leroy Hooker and Mrs. Peter Simpson, all of Leamington; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wigle, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wigle, Mrs. Samuel J. Wigle and Miss Annie Wigle, of Gosfield South; Wm. Russell and wife, of Port Alma, Kent Co.; Co.; Miss Sarah Wigle, of Kingsville, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. S. Aldrich and Mrs. Hugh Russell, of Colchester South.

The stricken husband and father has the universal sympathy of the community in his great affliction.

### Death of Thomas J. Elliott.

Thomas J. Elliott, who died at Windsor, on Saturday morning last, was a native of Amherstburg, having been born here on 13th July, 1827. His father, the late Thomas Elliott, was a native of Massachusetts, and his mother was a sister of the late Alanson Botsford, for many years Clerk of the Division Court here. Mr. Elliott was educated at the school taught in Amherstburg by the late James Bell, of Colchester South. He met with an accident in 1837 (during the rebellion) which crippled him for life. He early attained great intelligence. was

## STOCK TAKING.

On July 30th, I expect to con

## SEMI-ANNUAL ST

And at that time our stock of

## Must be Rec

To accomplish this end, we will offer Bargains as will

## \*SURPRISE Y

If you want Goods at your own price, come disappointed in getting them.

Ask for Prices and you will be convinced we advertise to do.

## S. STRAI HARROW, - - -

### BORN.

LUCKHAM—In Malden, on Saturday, July 2nd, the wife of Mr. Daniel R. Luckham, of a daughter.  
BRAULT—In Amherstburg, on Tuesday, July 5th, the wife of Mr. Walter J. Brault, of a daughter.  
GOTT—In Amherstburg, on Sunday, July 3rd, the wife of Mr. George Gott, jr., of a daughter.  
QUICK—In Colchester North, on Wednesday, June 15th, the wife of Mr. Malcolm Quick, of a son.  
RICHARDSON—In Colchester South, on Monday, June 13th, the wife of Mr. Herbert Richardson, of a son.  
WOODROW—In Colchester South, on Tuesday, June 28th, the wife of Mr. Duncan Woodrow, of a son.  
CORNWALL—In Colchester South, on Monday, June 27th, the wife of Mr. George Cornwall, of a daughter.  
MONFORTON—In Sandwich West, on Wednesday, July 6th, the wife of Mr. Peter Monforton, of twins—a girl and boy.

### MARRIED.

McKAY—ROBINSON—At the Baptist parsonage, Leamington, on Monday, July 4th, by Rev. Wm. Prosser, Mr. Walter McKay to Miss Valetta Robinson, all of Leamington.  
DOLSON—ROBINSON—At the Baptist parsonage, Leamington, on Monday, July 4th, by Rev. Wm. Prosser, Mr. Fred. Dolson, of the Western Union Telegraph Co., of Detroit, to Miss Lea Robinson.  
SCHANCK—LAULER—At the residence of Mr. S. L. Lauler, brother of the bride at Elsinore, California, on Wednesday, June 15th, by the Rev. Fred. Johnston, Mr. James K. Schanck, to Miss Ruth Ann Lauler.  
GRENIER—BENNETT—At the First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, on Wednesday, June 23rd, by Rev. F. H. Larkin, B. A., Mr. Albert J. Grenier, eldest son of Mrs. Henry Grenier, of this town, to Miss Helen Bennett, of Chatham.  
LANGLOIS—DROUILLARD—At St. Joseph's church, River Canard, on Tuesday, June 28th, by Rev. Father Marcellus, Mr. Elsie Langlois, of Sandwich West, to Anastasia, daughter of Mr. Henry Drouillard, of An-

### South Essex

The members of the Town Hall, The President, inson, Vice-P, The minutes, read and on the Solomon Coats Shepley, that G ed auditor in pl ried. The audi showing a mem year. On moti Golden, the re election of offi resulted as Elliott; Vice-S Secretary-Treas Directors—Isa R. Preston, Dr J. Jasper Golden, Golden and Auditors—Hov vey. The sele left in the hand posed of Jona and G.W. Co meeting—"E A. M. Wigle Seeding Fall The meeting at urday in Septa ville.

### PEL

Council and to adjore M-D Council



## COLIN WIGLE

The Amherstburg Echo  
May 9, 1941

# Colin Wigle's Life Synonymous With Business History Of Amherstburg

It was on April 6, 1886, or was it April 5, 1886? that Amherstburg and district witnessed one of the worst snowstorms in history. Well, anyway it was on the day of the big storm that Colin Wigle came to Amherstburg to establish a flour mill and remain 54 years, during which time he was actively interested in an Electric Power plant, a hardware business and a silent partner in a general dry goods store.

### Recalls Storm

There has been some controversy among the older residents of the district regarding the date

of the storm in '86, but as Mr. Wigle recalls it was April 6. He had come from Kingsville by boat, met the town council, completed plans for the erection of a mill, and was returning by train by way of Essex when the storm hit. The "plug" failed to complete the trip, became snowbound between Essex and Amherstburg and Mr. Wigle and several other passengers were forced to remain there all night, returning to Amherstburg the following morning. Thus on the wings of a storm was launched one of the most successful business careers in Amherstburg.

In the summer of the same year stone masons began construction of a building on the bank of the Detroit River at the northern entrance to the town and by fall the Wigle flour mill, which was to operate for 50 years, came into existence. During the younger days of the business, the mill employed five or six men and in the fall of each year ran 24 hours a day. After the harvest, wagons loaded with grain used to line the streets in the vicinity of the mill and oftentimes, Mr. Wigle remarked, it was impossible to use all the wheat and much of it had to be re-sold to Montreal dealers. Flour, the chief product of the mill, was distributed widely throughout the eastern provinces and exported to the Old Country. In Amherstburg and district Calumet flour became a by-word with housewives and it continued in popularity until the mill ceased operation two or three years ago.

### Ran Business Alone

Until his sons completed their schooling, Mr. Wigle ran the milling business alone, for all but a couple of years when his brother, David Wigle, was associated with him. When his sons, Roy and Walter, finished their education each was given a third interest in the mill and on Mr. Wigle's retirement they assumed joint ownership of the business.

The mill proved a profitable venture for Mr. Wigle and it wasn't long after that he entered the general dry goods business as a silent partner. F. P. Scratch was a popular employee of the J. D. Burck store, Seymour Street, and with his business knowledge and Mr. Wigle's financial support, the two opened a dry goods store in the Lake View Block, Dalhousie Street. The name of F. P. Scratch became widely known throughout the district and the business flourished for half a century under his guidance. Opening in the Lake View Block, the store was later moved to the building occupied today by the C. H. Smith Company.

### Electric Light Plant

It was during his early days in Amherstburg that Mr. Wigle became associated with an Electric Power plant. Admitting today that there was little profit in the business, Mr. Wigle stated the plant was started principally to provide Amherstburg with a convenience enjoyed by other municipalities at the time. He and J. D. Burck became interested in the plan and after some consideration dynamos were installed next to the flour mill and the first arc lighting system in Amherstburg became a reality. Sufficient power was supplied to provide electric lights for sections of the town as well as many of the business houses. Mr. Wigle later purchased Mr. Burck's share in the company and the former continued as sole owner until forced out of business by the town council. About that time there was a move afoot to establish a municipally-owned power plant in town, and the council, realizing two such plants could not operate at a profit, used a little coercion on Mr. Wigle in an attempt to make him dispose of his interests. The

chief source of revenue came from the town for street lights and when the council threatened to discontinue purchase of power from Mr. Wigle there was no alternative but to sell the plant.

Part owner of a dry goods store and sole owner of flour mill, Mr. Wigle didn't allow this to interfere with his opening a hardware business in town. He founded such a business about 25 years ago in the store now operated by J. H. Shillington, and at one time he was the only hardware dealer in town. This came about when he bought out two other dealers, Burck and Taylor, and for several years Mr. Wigle conducted two stores, one on Dalhousie Street and the second where the Wigle Hardware is located today. The latter was turned over to his two sons, Russell and Hugh, some years ago and the former business was later sold to Jones and Trimble.

### Active In Community

In his 54 years as a resident of Amherstburg, Mr. Wigle has taken an active interest in affairs of the church and community. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Wesley United Church, a position he has held for over 40 years and he formerly served on the town council, one year as deputy-reeve. It was in Mr. Wigle's early days as a member of the church board that the present place of worship was erected. And members of the congregation will tell you today that it was chiefly through Mr. Wigle's efforts that this came about. Although he will celebrate his 90th birthday anniversary August 28 this year, Mr. Wigle is still very active. He was born in Gosfield South, near Kingsville, and for many years was a familiar character on the cricket fields of the county. He played the game until long after he came to Amherstburg and when the sport died out he took up lawn bowling as a means of recreation. Cricket and lawn bowling, Mr. Wigle will admit, are the two sports he loves best.



SUBJECT *Colin Wigle*  
 CLIPPED FROM ..... DATE *Sept. 30* 1943.

**Tribute Is Paid  
 By Local Masons  
 To Mr. Colin Wigle**

Members of Prince of Wales Chapter R.A.M. Thistle Lodge No. 34 A.F. & A.M. and their ladies gathered at a dinner in Christ Church Parish Hall on Monday evening to honor Colin Wigle, who recently celebrated his 92nd birthday. Mr. Wigle is a past principal of the chapter as is three of his sons Roy L., Walter S. and Russel D.

The speaker of the evening was Colonel E. S. Wigle of Windsor who told of the early times in Amherstburg, Kingsville and Essex County. Colonel Wigle was thanked for his talk by Rev. H. A. Wright.

A feature of the gathering was the large birthday cake with 92 lighted candles on it which was brought in at the conclusion of the dinner.

ECHO NEWS MORGUE

SUBJECT *Colin Wigle - Honoured*  
 CLIPPED FROM ..... DATE *Sept. 23* 1943

**Masonic Brethren  
 Will Pay Honor  
 To Colin Wigle**

Colin Wigle, who recently celebrated his 92nd birthday, will be the guest of honor at a Masonic dinner to be held in Christ Church Parish Hall on Monday evening, September 27. The dinner will be served by the ladies of Christ Church.

This affair is sponsored by the members of Prince of Wales Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. They have invited the members of Thistle Lodge to attend the dinner.

Mr. Wigle is a past First Principal of Prince of Wales Chapter and has the unique distinction of sitting in lodge with three sons who also have been Past Principals of the Chapter, Roy L., Walter S., and Russel D.

# With The Tide

By

JOHN A. MARSH

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS** this week to Mr. Colin Wigle of Amherstburg who on Saturday—August 28—will celebrate his 92nd birthday . . . In spite of his advanced years Mr. Wigle is one of the most active men in Amherstburg—he goes about his daily tasks like a man many years his junior and even drives his own car . . . During his long years of residence in Amherstburg Mr. Wigle has taken an active part in the affairs of the town and its business . . . Colin Wigle came to Amherstburg on April 6, 1886, and it so happened that this day will go down in local history as the day of the big storm—He came to town from Kingsville by boat—met the town council and completed plans for the erection of a flour mill here . . . He was returning to Kingsville on the Canada Southern Railway via Essex when the storm hit in all its fury . . . The 'plug' failed to complete the trip to Essex and became snowbound and Mr. Wigle and several other passengers were forced to remain on the train all night—returning to Amherstburg the following morning . . . Thus on the wings of a storm was launched one of the most successful business careers in Amherstburg . . .

j a m

**DURING THE SUMMER** months of the same year the Mill was erected on the shores of the lower Detroit River at the southern entrance to the town and by fall the Wigle Flour Mill—which was to operate for more than 50 years—came into existence . . . During the younger days of the business—the mill employed five or six men and in the fall of each year ran 24 hours a day . . . After the harvest—wagons loaded with grain—used to line the streets in the vicinity of the mill . . . Often-times it was impossible to process all the wheat that was taken in and much of it was re-sold to eastern dealers . . . Cala Lily Flour—made in Amherstburg—soon became well known in the Canadian markets as well as those of the Old Country . . . When his sons Roy L. and Walter completed their schooling they joined their father in the flour business . . .

j a m

**THE MILL** proved to be a profitable venture for Mr. Wigle and as he was a man of action he soon turned his attention to other lines of business . . . It wasn't long until he entered the general dry goods business as a silent partner . . . The late F. P. Scratch was a popular employee of the J. D. Burck Store—Seymore Street—and with his business knowledge and Mr. Wigle's financial support—the two opened a dry goods store in the Lake View Block—Dalhousie Street . . . The F. P.

# 1 With The Tide

From Page 1, Column 1

**MR. WIGLE CONTINUED** to expand his business interests in Amherstburg and about 27 years ago opened a hardware store in town—this business is now owned by Shillington Brothers . . . At one time he was the only hardware dealer in Amherstburg—this came about when he bought out the two other dealers—Burk and Taylor—and for several years he conducted two hardware stores—one on Dalhousie Street and the second where the Wigle Hardware Company is located today at the corner of Gore and Seymore Streets . . . The latter business was taken over by his two sons—Russel D. and Hugh—who continue to operate it—the former store he sold to Jones and Trimble and later was purchased by J. H. and the late Ben J. Shillington . . .

j a m

**AN ACTIVE MAN** in municipal and church affairs as well as in business—Mr. Wigle has been a member of the board of trustees of Wesley United Church for over 42 years—he has served on the town council and was Deputy-Reeve for a year . . . It was in Mr. Wigle's early days as a member of the church board that the present place of worship was erected—it is said that it was through his energetic efforts that this came about . . . In September, 1941 Amherstburg masons held a gathering in his honor and presented him with a Masonic charm and a 50-year jewel as a member of Prince of Wales Chapter . . . Mr. Wigle was First Principal of the chapter in 1891 and again in 1896 and 1899 . . . At that time it was pointed out that the Wigle family held a unique position in Masonry . . . F. J. Maloney stated when making the presentation "There is probably no parallel case in Canada where a Past Principal sits in a chapter meeting with three sons who are also Past Principals" . . . He referred to the fact that Roy L., Russel D. and Walter S. Wigle all have held this highest position in the chapter . . .

j a m

**AS MENTIONED** at the beginning of the column—Mr. Wigle is still a very active man—he is keen mentally and well physically . . . He was born in Gosfield South—near Kingsville—and for many years was a familiar figure on the cricket fields of the county . . . He played the game until long after he came to Amherstburg and when the sport died out took up . . .

ing of



PASTE ARTICLE HERE

# Ninety Three Years of Age Colin Wigle Is Guest Of Honor

## Family Gathering Held Last Monday

Colin Wigle, dean of Amherstburg businessmen, quietly observed his 93rd birthday, Monday, at a family gathering held at the home of his oldest son, Roy L. Wigle, Dalhousie Street. Four generations were represented at this affair in the persons of Mr. Wigle, Roy L. Wigle, Mrs. William McKenna and little Merry Michael McKenna. In spite of his age, Mr. Wigle is hale and hearty and goes about his daily business with the vigor of a man many years his junior.

Mr. Wigle came to Amherstburg from Kingsville in 1886 to establish a flour mill. He prospered in this venture and later became interested in an electric light plant, a hardware store and other businesses. Some years ago he retired and his interests have been carried on by his sons Roy L., Walter S., Russel D. and Hugh. Down through the years he has been an active member of Wesley United Church, Thistle Lodge No. 34 A.F. & A.M. and Prince of Wales Chapter R.A.M. On the occasion of his 90th birthday fellow masons honored him at a gathering held in Christ Church Parish House at which time he was presented with a Masonic charm and a 50-year jewel as member of the Chapter.

### Masonic Career

The Masonic presentation was made by F. J. Maloney who stated Mr. Wigle first joined St. George's Lodge in Kingsville but shortly became affiliated with Thistle Lodge and Prince of Wales Chapter in Amherstburg. "Mr. Wigle has been an ardent and an active mason," Mr. Maloney commented. "In 1891 he was First Principal of the Chapter and again in 1895 and again in 1899. In 1895 he was appointed Grand Standard Bearer in the Grand Chapter." It was pointed out that Mr. Wigle's sons Roy L., Walter S. and Russel D. have also been elected to the highest position in Prince of Wales Chapter. "There is probably no parallel case in Canada where a Past Principal sits in chapter meeting with three sons who are also Past Principals," Mr. Maloney stated.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Wigle came to Amherstburg the day of the big storm in '86. It was on April 6 that he arrived from Kingsville, met the town council and completed plans for the erection of a mill. He was returning home on the train by way of Essex when the storm hit. The "plug" failed to complete the trip, became snowbound between Essex and Amherstburg and Mr. Wigle and several other passengers were forced to remain there all night, returning to Amherstburg the following morning.

### Erects Mill

In the summer of the same year stone masons began construction of a building on the bank of the Detroit River at the southern entrance to the town and the Wigle Flour Mill which was to operate for over 50 years came into being. During the younger days of the business the mill employed five or six men and in the fall of each year ran 24 hours a day. After the harvest, wagons loaded with grain used to line the streets in the vicinity of the mill and oftentimes it was impossible to use all the

terested in an electric power plant. It was started to provide local residents with electric lights, a convenience enjoyed in some Essex County towns. He and the late J. D. Burck became associated in this venture, dynamos were installed next to the flour mill and the first arc lighting system in Amherstburg became a reality. Sufficient power was generated to provide electric lights for sections of the town as well as many of the business houses. Mr. Wigle later purchased Mr. Burck's share in the company and continued as sole owner until forced out of business by the town council. About that time there was a move to establish a municipally-owned power plant in town, and the town council realizing two such plants could not operate at a profit used a little coercion on Mr. Wigle in an attempt to make him dispose of his interests. The chief source of revenue came from the town for street lights and when the council threatened to discontinue purchase of power from Mr. Wigle there was no alternative but to sell the plant.

### Other Interests

During his business career in Amherstburg Mr. Wigle has been part owner of a drygoods store, owner of two hardware stores and owner of many pieces of real estate.

He has taken an active interest in the community, served a long term as a member of the board of trustees of Wesley United Church, served on the town council and was deputy reeve for one year. He was born in Gosfield South, near Kingsville. For many years he was a familiar character on the cricket fields of the county. He played the game until long after he came to Amherstburg and when the sport died out he took up lawn bowling as a means of recreation.



## Parking Is A Problem

Parking problems in the Dalhousie Street district were discussed at the meeting of the Amherstburg Council held Monday evening. In a report of the Police Committee held that afternoon the committee turned down the request of George Speal for a no-parking area in front of his new tavern on Dalhousie Street. However the council reversed the decision of the committee and on motion of Dr. E. M. Warren decision on the request was deferred for further consideration.

The committee further reported the matter of the widening of Dalhousie Street had been considered and the chairman was authorized to consult the owners along the street with respect to making it a one-way street southbound with northbound traffic being routed east on Gore Street to Ramsay, Bathurst and Apsley Streets. The speeding of cars on Sandwich Street and the use of the parking lots at the rear of the Amherstburg Cold Storage and the corner of Dalhousie Street and Gore Street was discussed by the committee members.

### Tells Reasons

Mayor Stevenson told the reasons why he opposed Mr. Speal's request for the no-parking area in front of his building in that the council had received previous requests and had set them aside. "We do not allow parking on the west side of the street and it would not be reasonable not to allow parking on the east side," he said. It was moved by Henry Lavers and Ferman Sinasac that the recommendation of the police committee be carried out.

Mr. Morris stated more problems would arise on Dalhousie Street if the buses followed the route suggested by the council. As for merchants parking their cars in front of their places of business, he stated this could easily be solved through co-operation and that the public could be educated to use the free parking lots.

### Congratulations

Mr. Stevenson congratulated Mr. Speal on the fact that he is providing space for the parking of cars at the rear of his building.

"I am in favor of widening Dalhousie Street but not in favor of one-way traffic on this street," stated Reeve Sinasac. He thought the sidewalk on both sides of the street should be narrowed and the street widened in this manner.

## Contributed Much To Town

# Dies Following Severe Heart Attack

## Colin Wigle, Amherstburg Pioneer,

Amherstburg's grand old man in the person of Colin Wigle, died Thursday afternoon at his home on Dalhousie Street south. Had he lived until August 28th next he would have been 98 years of age. His life was synonymous with the business history of Amherstburg and his contribution to the community was in no small measure responsible for its present state of prosperity. Mr. Wigle has been an active man all his long life and

only recently returned to his home in Amherstburg from Florida where he spent the winter. Up until fairly recent years he drove his own car. On Wednesday afternoon he suffered a severe heart attack from which he did not recover.

Among his other achievements, during his long residence, in Amherstburg was that he founded the first electric light plant in town and brought to this community the benefits of electrical power.

### Arrived in 1886

The late Mr. Wigle came to Amherstburg on April 6, 1886, on a day that Amherstburg and district witnessed one of the worst snow storms in history. He came to town from his home in Kingville by boat, met the town council, completed plans for the erection of his flour mill, and was returning to his home by train when the storm hit. The "Plug" (the Amherstburg-Essex M.C.R. train) failed to complete the trip to Essex, became snowbound and Mr. Wigle and several other passengers were forced to remain there all night, returning to Amherstburg the following morning. Thus on the wings of a storm was launched one of the most successful business careers in Amherstburg.

In the summer of the same year stone masons began construction of a building on the bank of the Detroit River at the southern entrance to the town and by fall the Wigle Flour Mill, which was to operate for 50 years, came into existence. During the younger days of business the mill employed five or six men and in the fall of each year ran 24 hours a day. After the harvest, wagons loaded with grain used to line up the streets in the vicinity of the mill and oftentimes it would be impossible to use all the wheat so much of it had to be re-sold to Montreal dealers. Flour made in Amherstburg was widely distributed throughout the eastern provinces and exported to the Old Country. Cala Lily flour became a by-word with housewives and it continued in popularity until the mill ceased operation.

### Electric Power Plant

It was during his early days in Amherstburg that Mr. Wigle became associated with an electric power plant started principally to provide the town with a convenience enjoyed by other municipalities. He and the late J. D. Burk became interested in the plan and after some consideration installed

## Arrange Program For Sunday Evening Band Concert

The Amherstburg Boys' Band will present a Sunday evening program in the auditorium of the General Amherst High School on May first. The band will be under the direction of E. L. Robinson, bandmaster.

Featured on the program will be clarinet solo, Carol Ann Kennedy; cornet duet, Vernon Kennedy and Drifford Bertrand; Euphoneum solo, Calvin Borrowman; vocal solo, Fern Peever; cornet solo, Paul Deslippe; trombone solo, Grant Kennedy; clarinet duet, Charles and Ida Hinshaw; vocal duets, Peggy Woof and Peggy Burk. Mrs. Bruce McGregor will be accompanist.

## On Anderdon Reeve

# Writ Issued In Libel Action

A writ of summons in a libel action has been served against Reeve Fred J. Pettypiece. Named as plaintiffs are Alvin Vermette, Rossmon Sinasac and Bruce W. Dowler. The writ was dated April 22, 1949, and issued through the office of Sheriff A. A. Marontate.

The action arose on account of a letter which appeared in the Echo, February third issue. The writ states "The plaintiffs' claim is for damages for libel. The libel complained of was published in the Amherstburg Echo, a newspaper published in the Town of Amherstburg, in the County of Essex, in the issue dated February 2, 1949, by a letter signed by the defendant."

occupied freed for mented.

Clerk a local office the five units construct wanted adjacent stated he know in "I am port and construct mented M

## Program By Ro

Rose L the Halsey Pearl Du eral Amher day even chairman charge of were W. bington S Stanley S

The Ha the conce Russell B George De Wanita H Winona R Jack Gre Donald F ald Sinas Hunt, Car and Lynw

Featured were Mar Jordan, R lin, Peggy Holly Ho Barbara A Mrs. R. W

## To Pres Highway On River

A comm County Cou den Walter Ernest Cec Thomas C and Reeve W side will m ister of Hig morning (T a brief ask ernment to Drive throu side and Te of Belle R highway.

The ques has been a the Essex C and at the decided to s interview th ways.

## America To Conc In Amhe

Thirty-two will be the r

Continued on Page 4, Sec. Section

## County Affairs

## Up And Shut Up

er, Public Speaking Instructor, arians How To Make A Speech



LINE OF 1949

# Colin Wigle, Amherstburg Pioneer, Dies Following Severe Heart Attack

From Page 1, First Section

but to the town mill the first air lighting system in Amherstburg. Sufficient power was supplied to provide electric lights for a section of the town as well as many of the business houses. Mr. Wigle later purchased Mr. Burk's share in the company and remained sole owner until forced out of business by the town council.

About this time there was a move afoot to establish a municipally owned power plant in town, and realizing two such plants could not operate at a profit the town fathers used a little coercion on Mr. Wigle in an attempt to make him dispose of his interests. The chief source of revenue came from the town for street lights and when the council threatened to discontinue purchase of power from Mr. Wigle there was no alternative but to sell the plant.

## Other Interests

The late Mr. Wigle had many other business interests including part owner of a dry goods store and two hardware stores. Thirty four years ago he founded the hardware store on Dalhousie Street now owned by J. S. Kendall. He then acquired stores owned by Messrs. Burk and Taylor and opened a hardware store at the corner of Gore and Apple Streets. The business is now owned by his son R. D. Wigle and is known as Wigle Hardware Company.

The late Mr. Wigle was also active in affairs of the church and community. For many years he was a member of the board of trustees of the Wesley United Church. He served on the town council one year of which as deputy reeve. It was in Mr. Wigle's early days as a member of the Wesley Church Board that the present place of worship was erected. It was largely through his efforts that the new building came about.

## Born in Gosfield South

The late Mr. Wigle was born on a farm in Gosfield South near Kingsville. As a young man he was a familiar figure on the cricket fields of the country and played the game until long after he came to Amherstburg and when this sport did not he took up lawn bowling as a means of recreation.

Mr. Wigle was active in Masonic circles, belonging to Thistle Lodge 84 and Prince of Wales Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. On his ninetieth birthday in 1942 he was presented with the Masonic fifty-year jewel.

In Masonic circles Mr. Wigle and his sons held what was considered a record for Canada. Mr. Wigle himself was elected in 1922 to the position of first principal of Prince of Wales Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and later three of his sons, Roy, Walter and Russell, held this highest position in the chapter so that a father and his three sons were thus able to attend meetings, all being past principals of the chapter.

Mr. Wigle was twice married. His first wife Herbert Russell died in 1892. His second wife, the former Susan Debus, also predeceased him in December 1944.

Mr. Wigle is survived by five sons, Roy, Walter, Russell and Hugh, all of Amherstburg, and Allen, of Windsor, Indiana; two daughters Mrs. R. P. Jones (Emma) of Amherstburg and Mrs. Agnes Fitzgerald (Sybil) of Kettering, Ontario, and one brother Melvin of Amherstburg.

Rev. R. J. McKnight pastor of Wesley United Church, officiated at the funeral in Wesley United Church, Sunday afternoon. Rev. A. E. M. Thomson of Windsor, a former pastor, gave the funeral sermon. Mrs. Alfred Scammon sang "Abide With Me" and "Crossing the Bar" during the service. Six grandsons acted as pallbearers for burial in Rose Hill Cemetery. They were David and James Wigle, Colin Wigle, Robert Jones, Walter and George Wigle.

## PARLIAMENT TO END JUNE 27

The fifth session of Canada's 27th Parliament closed June 27, 1949, will end in dissolution late this week and the general election will follow Monday, June 27.

## CHRIST CHURCH

(Anglican)

Rev. R. W. Lane, B.A., Rector

Ian Thomson, Organist and Choir Director

Sunday, May 1, 1949

8:30 A.M.—Holy Communion

LANTIC  
FACT

THEY DON'T DO  
HITLER!



## The Hour Glass

near Altona, in Gosfield North. They find the day land somewhat sandy after living so long on heavy land, but the fall wheat looks splendid to them.

W. R. Goodrich and Son, Malden, have caught the largest Mackinaw trout that ever has been known to have been caught in Lake Erie. Its length was over three feet and it would weigh 25 pounds.

Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bray, Lake Road, Malden and Albert Goodrich, of Kingsville, were married, April 24.

Married at the residence of the bride's father in Anderson, April 24, Ezra DeMarch of Gibraltar, Michigan to Charlotte, daughter of Robert Foyes of Anderson.

Kingsville organized a Board of Trade and formed itself into an association to vote for gas within the Corporation limits.

## With The Tide

ing rod parted passing down the Straits of Mackinaw and the Imp-