

# **BRANTFORD WIDOWS' HOME**

## **Sheridan Place Retirement Home for Women**

**A History  
1869 - 1994**

**By  
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## INTRODUCTION

Sheridan Place Retirement Home for Women, located at 6 Sheridan Street, Brantford, Ontario, which closed its doors in 1994, had its beginnings as the Widows' Home of Brantford in 1869, the city's first charitable institution. It was an outgrowth of the Ladies Benevolent Society, which in 1868 decided to do something for widows in difficult circumstances who lived in Brantford and Brant County.

The Widow's Home commenced operations in a frame home on Charlotte Street and later moved to a house at the corner of William and Cedar Streets (now West Street) where it remained until 1873 when a home at 6 Sheridan Street was provided with the assistance of Ignatius Cockshutt who purchased the house for \$3,000.

Prior to enactment of legislation making such institutions the responsibility of the Provincial Government, the Widows' Home relied upon the community for its survival. To the end of its existence, a Donation Day was held as a set day in the fall of each year on which day the citizens of Brantford brought money, food and other supplies to the Home as their contribution to its maintenance. Local religious and service organizations along with volunteer medical services and support from industry, contributed to its maintenance and survival.

Over the years, structural changes and additions were completed to accommodate more residents, to improve their comfort and to meet new building standards.

By 1994, Sheridan Place was home to just ten women, as modern programs enabled the elderly to live in their a result of the declining number of residents, longer received sufficient Government assistance operation viable and the Board of Management, which throughout its history was composed entirely of ladies, made the sad and difficult decision to close it, relocating the remaining residents to other facilities.

Researching and compiling this history was an interesting project which I was requested to do by Miss Margaret Stedman, a former President and member of the Board of Management of Sheridan Place. Unfortunately, there are several gaps in the recorded minutes of the Board of Management of the Widows' Home and Sheridan Place which does create some difficulties when attempting to accurately compile a history. However, I am pleased with the results of what I was able to compile from the information that was available and I believes for those interested, it provides for some interesting reading.

Robert L. Deboer

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Miss Margaret Stedman
2. Minute Books and Records of The Brantford Widows' Home and Sheridan Place Retirement Home for Women
3. From the Publication "Significant Lives - Profiles of Brant County Women - 'The Ladies Benevolent Society - Founder of the Widows' Home 1868 - 1896'."
4. The Brantford Expositor
5. The Brant News -- John Merriman's Brantford - July 25, 1979 "City's Oldest Charitable Institution"
6. Vernon's City of Brantford Directories
7. The Retail Dealer's Protective Union Reference Book - Brantford, Ontario 1891 - 92
8. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Brant by Page & Smith 1875

## BRANTFORD WIDOWS' HOME/SHERIDAN PLACE

In the late 1860's, citizens of Brantford began to give thought to women of advanced age who were friendless and comfortless and had no one to provide for them. Initially they were cared for in different locations in the community but not apparently as an organized effort. An idea was then conceived by a dedicated group of Brantford women, The Ladies Benevolent Society, to do some-thing for widows in difficult circumstances who lived in Brantford and Brant County and to house them under one roof and they subsequently established the city's first charitable institution, the Brantford Widows' Home. Unfortunately, the exact date of its organization remains elusive, but it is clear that sometime during 1868, two rooms in a frame house on Charlotte Street opposite Ker and Goodwin (current location of the Brant Community Credit Union at Charlotte and Colborne Streets) were procured as the initial residence for "the aged and homeless women of the City and County". Little did the ladies realize that what they had created would continue uninterrupted for 126 years.

The first Annual Meeting of the Brantford Widows' Home was held on October 8, 1869, at which time Mrs. James Wallace was elected President, Mrs. Wood, Vice President. Mrs. Alger, Secretary and Mrs. Brethour, Treasurer. Other members of the Board of Management included Mesdames Ransom, Gould, Clement, I. Cockshutt, Webling, Milliken, C. H. Waterous Sr., Jas. Wilkes, Jarvis, Bennett and Miss Cleghorn.

The Annual Meeting resolved that a house be taken and Matron engaged and the Home be reorganized to receive inmates as soon as possible. The Committee subsequently engaged a house of Alfred J. Kippax located at 3 William Street at the corner of Cedar Street (now West Street), the rent to be \$100 per annum to be paid quarterly, possession given on October 26th, on quarterly notice from either party at any time during the year. Any serious damage done to the premises to be repaired by the Committee.

On November 10, 1869, it was resolved by the Board that an advertisement was to be put in the papers for a Matron. Out of numerous applications, Mrs. D. Brabant was engaged on November 25th at \$4.00 per month and the board of her child, entering upon her duties on November 30th. Mrs. Brabant's tenure as Matron was short lived as she was replaced on March 2, 1870 by Miss Chapin, citing family reasons for leaving.

It was resolved on November 10th, that donations be advertised for and on December 8th, it was decided to send circulars around the town and put notices in both The Expositor and The Courier. As a result of this initial effort, an annual Donation Day was held which continued throughout the entire existence of the Home until its demise, usually in October or November at which time the citizens of Brantford, school children and various businesses and organizations brought money, food or other supplies to the Home as their contribution toward its maintenance. Many city churches sent in their Thanksgiving offerings. For many years cash donations on Donation Day were placed in a large Bible which served as a cash register; Donations were recorded: i.e. Mr. Tapscott (Pharmacist) - drug order - \$6.10; Mrs. Cockshutt wood - value \$10.00; Mr. Greenwood - bag of apples, potatoes and turnips - value \$3.00. An

article published in The Expositor in 1876 indicated that the Widows' Home is supported entirely by voluntary donations from the public and that it was hoped that the paper's readers will exhibit their generosity toward this really deserving institution, in which case the article should not have been written in vain.

In January 1870, circulars were distributed to all Clergy requesting them to visit the Home for prayers. Throughout the years, the Salvation Army and representatives of the Ministerial Association attended the Home for religious services. Generous support was received from Church Groups, Womens' Institutes, Service Clubs and I.O.D.E Chapters who visited regularly providing entertainment. treats and donations.

The second Matron employed in the Home, Miss Chapin, who was receiving \$5.00 per month remained in the position for only about seven months, leaving in September of 1870 and being replaced by Mrs. Smith on October 10th at \$4.00 the first month and \$5.00 afterwards if she suited, she was also having the board of a small girl.

It would seem that Ignatius Cockshutt was likely an early supporter of the Widows' Home since he received a vote of thanks for his generous aid to the Society at the Annual Meeting of the Home held in October of 1871.

The Widows' Home, was managed by the Ladies of the Board of Management with the help of the Matron and the residents or as they were commonly known, "the inmates". The fact that the residents were recruited to assist is confirmed by two resolutions of the Board of Management. On March 22, 1872, it was resolved: "That the proposition that the old women cut and sew carpet rags at a reasonable price be approved , and on August 31 1872, it was resolved: That the propriety of insisting that the inmates render such assistance to the Matron as their health would allow such as doing dishes and doing it thoroughly."

It appears that the William Street residence rented some four years earlier may have been falling into a state of disrepair since the Board of Management entered into a discussion during their February 1873 Meeting about repairing the existing residence, hiring or renting a new one or purchasing one. As a result a Committee was struck to examine another house and decide at the next Meeting which approach to take. During the March 1873 Meeting of the Board, much of the Meeting was taken up in discussing the propriety of purchasing or building but no decision was arrived at. A further Committee was established to test the voice of the people on the subject and report to a Special Meeting. At the Special Meeting, the Ladies of the Board of Management were unanimous in favour of purchasing a house for a permanent Home. It does seem likely that the funds required for the purchase may not have been readily available and that fund raising may have been necessary since the Home was dependent upon donations from the public in order to function. However, subsequent events would rule out the need to raise funds in order to purchase a house, as one would be provided by a benefactor.

On May 1, 1873, the Minute Book of the Board of Management of the Widows' Home recorded the following: "The purchase of a house by Mr. Cockshutt and placed in the hands of the Trustees for a Permanent 'Home' for old women was gratefully acknowledged and it was

resolved that acknowledgments must be made through the papers, also a Committee consisting of Special Officers of the Society wait upon Mr. Cockshutt and express their gratitude for the generous and noble gift."

Brantford businessman and philanthropist, Ignatius Cockshutt had purchased a house at 6 Sheridan Street for the sum of \$3,000 from the Gardiner Estate and bestowed it as a gift upon the Society's Board of Trustees without encumbrance to be used as a permanent Widows' Home. The actual operation of the Home would continue in the hands of the Ladies of the Board of Management.

In the Brant News - John Merriman's Brantford - published July 25, 1979, the following is included therein: "Among the records to be found at Sheridan Place is a copy of a document Conveyance of Widows' Home; Thos. L. Shenstone and George Foster, et al. Registered May 8th, 1873. The other signatures of the Conveyance were S. J. Jones, A. Robertson and Dan Brooke. Thos. L. Shenstone was a County Registrar, S. J. Jones was County Court Judge for the County of Brant, George Foster was a Wholesale Grocer, A. Robertson was the Manager of the Bank of British North America and Dan Brooke was a Barrister. It seems likely that Mr. Shenstone and Judge Jones signed the Conveyance in their capacity as Registrar and County Court Judge. It is very possible that Mr. Foster, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Brooke were the first Trustees of the Widows' Home. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of the Conveyance is unknown.

As an interesting aside, Ignatius Cockshutt also donated to the City of Brantford 'Widows' Row', a group of five two room adjoining homes at the corner of Rawdon and Dalhousie Street. Widows' Row operated from the mid 1800's and was demolished in 1958.

In a letter to the press, dated May 24, 1873, the Secretary of the Widows' Home, Mrs. E. A. Milliken, expressed on behalf of the Widows' Home Society, their grateful thanks to Mr. Cockshutt for adding a crowning gift to his other examples of encouragement and support, namely the purchasing and bestowal upon the Society of a building for the use of such an institution as the Home, thus securing for them an end to which they have anxiously looked forward to within the past many months.

On February 3, 1874, at a Board of Management Meeting, the Deed of Trust for the new Widows' Home presented by Mr. Cockshutt was read together with a letter accompanying it. A general expression of thanks was feelingly manifested and a letter of acknowledgment voted to be sent to Mr. Cockshutt.

The newly acquired residence at 6 Sheridan Street required considerable work in the way of repairs and renovations in order to make it habitable for institutional purposes. Applications for residency in the William Street Home were rejected in 1874 and it was decided they would only be given consideration once the Sheridan Street Home was suitable for occupancy. Numerous discussions were held regarding the renovations required in the new Home and on one occasion the Board of Management met in the new Home in order to see first hand what was required to make it habitable. A Building Fund was established to cover the costs of the required work.

Plans were formulated to hold a Reception and Opening Ceremony for the New Home, dependent on Mr. Cockshutt's attendance. It appears from the Widows' Home Minute Book that this was likely held on November 4, 1874.

Considering the times, some of the antics and behaviour of the residents of the Widows' Home, or as they were known, 'inmates' are both interesting and amusing. During 1873 and early 1874, one of the inmates was brought before the Board of Management and reproved for rude and intemperate language to the Matron and for reporting house matters to people outside and uninterested in management of the 'Home'. The rules for the inmates were read to the misbehaving inmate and were ordered posted in each inmates room. At a later time this inmate was asked to leave the 'Home' and was subsequently allowed to return on condition of obedience to the rules. The Matron was called before the Board as to her ability to discharge the duties of the Home and to make regulations for the work of the old women and the enforcement of order and neatness.

.Residents paid what they could afford for their board in the Home and in some cases their families paid something on their behalf. However, financing of the operation of the Home proved difficult and in January, 1884, it is recorded that the Home was visited officially by Dr. O'Reilly, Government Inspector of Charities for the Province of Ontario with the view of having the Home placed upon the list of institutions receiving Government aid. In April and again in May of 1884, the Treasurer reported amounts of \$100 being received from the Government of Ontario, an early form of Government Grant. It appears that some form of Government support continued for some time. However during the Board of Management Meeting held in July 1905, correspondence from the Ontario Government was read relating to the withdrawal of the Government Grant for 1904 - 1905, the purport of which was that the Grant would only be withheld for one year.

In May of 1875, it was determined that the Sheridan Street Home required a new cistern and its location was decided upon by Ignatius Cockshutt. The new cistern was built and pumps installed in August of 1875. At the October 1875 Meeting of the Board of Management it was determined that installation of the new cistern had not been paid for. It was suggested that money be drawn from the Building Fund to pay for same. Discussion by the Board followed as to the amount of money required to pay up the Home indebtedness and how to raise it. After further discussion, the necessity of an addition to the Sheridan Street facility was unanimously agreed upon by the Board but all objected to running into debt. Although an addition to the Home seemed to be a priority, no action was taken regarding same, likely due to the lack of available funds until 1878.

Things did not seem to run smoothly with the Matron employed by the Home as problems arose periodically over the years. In February of 1876, the Board of Management reproved Mrs. Smith for Preparing for washing on the Sabbath Eve and she readily yielded to the wishes of the Ladies to defer doing so until the morning. Again in February of 1877, the Matron was the subject of discussion by the Board of Management. On this occasion it was regarding the Uniform kindness of the Matron towards the inmate. Some of the Board Members obviously considered it a serious situation as they felt that a change in Matrons was desirable and resolved

to be on the look out and when an opportunity offered to allow them to better themselves, to do so at once. Mrs. Smith, the Matron was called in and asked about her kindly feelings toward a particular inmate and was told that if she could not be more uniformly kind that the Board would make a change. The Matron was also directed to be more careful in the use of sugar and coal oil.

In December of 1877, an elderly former inmate who had previously been asked to leave the home and not return due to her behaviour was, for whatever reason, allowed to return until she could procure another home. However, due to her noisy and intemperate behaviour, she was immediately refused readmission and failing to find other quarters, had to be committed to jail.

During the December 1877 Board of Management Meeting, an earnest discussion of the case for a new Matron took place and the difficulty of disposing of the current one was presented and it was concluded that the Secretary should write to the person offering and seeking the position of Matron requesting that she meet with the Committee of Ladies to confer together at some day she might name. It would seem that the Board had someone in mind to replace, Mrs. Smith but no one was identified and at this point no one was hired as a replacement. During the February 1878 Board of Management Meeting the Matron was sharply reprimanded for various breaches of rules and proper decorum in receiving donations. After the Matron retired from the Meeting the propriety of a change in Matrons was warmly discussed and the Secretary was appointed to give the Matron, Mrs. Smith, notice that she was to leave at the end of the month. Later in February, at a Meeting of the Managers held to discuss and consider the Matron's case, Mrs. Smith provided a suitable apology and begged to be retained. The Ladies relented and agreed to give her a new trial.

In February of 1878, the subject of religion came up at the Board of Management Meeting. Under normal circumstances, only applicants who were of a Protestant faith were accepted as inmates of the Home. It was proposed that the Board consider receiving persons unprovided for, for a few days without regard to religious belief which was decided in the affirmative. In March of 1878, religion was again the topic of discussion, on this occasion the consideration of receiving Catholics permanently in the Home. Action on a decision was deferred until a later meeting. At this point in time, the Board Minutes do not indicate that a decision was arrived at.

In June of 1878, the subject of an addition to the Sheridan Street Home was discussed by the Board of Management and a decision was made that the building must be enlarged. The matter was apparently discussed with Ignatius Cockshutt as it received his approval and agreement to take matters in his hands. The Minutes of the July 1878 Board of Management Meeting very briefly state, "The addition is to be commenced at once!" The September 1878 Board Meeting Minutes state briefly, "The new building is progressing!" The addition was on the northeast side of the existing building. The Minutes do not indicate the cost incurred in construction of the addition. The Minutes of the 1878 Board of Management Meeting reports that several of the Lady Managers were appointed to get subscriptions for the Building Fund debt. In December of 1878, some success towards disbursing the Building Fund debt was reported but it appears that some indebtedness remained at this point as the Board Members were asked to try their success with members of the community about the deficit. The July 1831 Board Minutes report a



donation of \$139.69 from a Concert held by the Queen's own Rifles and \$13.61 from the Celebration Committee, both of which were applied to the Building Fund debt. It would seem that the debt resulting from the addition was longstanding. At the Board of Management Meeting held in September of 1878, further complaints against the Matron, Mrs. Smith, were considered and a strong desire was felt by most of the Ladies to supply her place, but the way to do it was considered difficult. Presumably, the Ladies were once again desirous of replacing her. During the Board Meeting of April 1879, the principal subject of discussion was once again the dismissal of the Matron. It was decided unanimously, quote, "that for want of funds, we must do without one for a time". Mrs. Smith, the Matron, was notified of her dismissal to take place at the end of April. During the May Board Meeting, the Matron urged her plea to be retained in the House- on account of her child, consenting to remain for the sum of \$3.00 per month. Once again, for whatever reason, the Board relented and again agreed to retain her until September 1st at that amount. The Board appears to again have had a change of heart regarding Mrs. Smith, as her wages were raised back to \$4.00 a month on November 4, 1879, two months after her services were to be terminated.

It was reported to the Board of Management in January of 1882, that the first President. of the Widows' Home, Mrs. James Wallace had passed away having served in that capacity from 1869 to 1881.

The Ladies of the Board of Management agreed in October of 1882 to increase the wages of the Matron, Mrs. Smith by \$1.00 per month to \$5.00 having received a report that she had been very much more obliging and satisfactory in all ways. Apparently, Mrs. Smith's satisfactory performance was not to last as she was censured by the Board in November of 1882 for giving up prayer and grace because she said the inmates came so irregularly to their meals. As a result, the Lady Managers set the time for breakfast at half past eight and dinner at half past twelve unless any should be sick, these hours should be kept. In addition, every meeting day at half past three it was directed by the Board that all inmates were required to be in the dining room so they may hear anything that may have been said at the meeting.

Having received the \$100 Grant from the Provincial Government in April of 1884, it was reported to the Board of Management that a note was received from Mr. Hardy (Arthur Sturgis Hardy, Premier of Ontario) that the money for the current year would not be received until 1885.

During the May 1884 Board of Management Meeting, the desirability of putting in water-closets was discussed and it was decided that steps for their installation should be taken immediately. It was suggested that earth closets be acquired but after some discussion it was decided to make enquiries about them before the water was put in. At the June 1884 Board Meeting, it was decided that the installation of plumbing in connection with the new water closets be left in abeyance until Ignatius Cockshutt had returned from England. At the Board Meeting held in January 1885, it was resolved that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Cockshutt for his careful manner in which he supervised the work in connection with the new bathroom water closets, thereby saving much problems for the Managers and considerable problems in the work. The installation of early flush toilets would no doubt have done

considerable to improve the sanitary and health conditions in the Home.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Management in September of 1885 it was reported that a number of Ladies of the City had decided to engage the services of a 'Bible Woman' to work in the City as a missionary, etc., and it was suggested that as there were several vacant rooms in the Widows' Home she should be allowed to live there for the present. It was decided to give her room and board hoping some influence in the Home might be beneficial. During the October Board Meeting, it was reported that Mrs. Saunders, the Bible Woman mentioned at the September Meeting had been an inmate of the Home since the 25th of September. A communication from Mrs. Saunders was read in which she asked that a steak or a chop be provided for her dinner once a week. After further discussion it was decided that she could not be given different food from the other inmates as it was the desire and intention that they should all have suitable food. Considering that Mrs. Saunders was living in the Home at no cost to herself, it seems somewhat nery of her to expect food which was likely superior to what the paying residents were receiving. No further reference to the 'Bible Woman' is found in the Minutes of the Board of Management.

Once again, problems with the Matron, Mrs. Smith, came to the attention of the Board of Management. She was directed during the Board Meeting of October 1885 that breakfast must be ready by half past eight o'clock and that inmates not able to get up be-fore breakfast should have theirs taken to them by eight o'clock. She was also instructed that the home must be kept cleaner. During the January 1886 Board Meeting it was reported that the Matron's failure to make inmates in the Home happy had been discussed and as a result two Ladies of the Board were empowered to dismiss her anytime they judged expedient. At a Meeting of the Board held in February 1886, an inmate of the Home and the Matron, Mrs. Smith both appeared before the Ladies with complaints of each other but they were considered so trivial in nature that the Ladies refused to interfere but advised them both to be less quarrelsome. At the June 1886 Meeting of the Board, the Ladies decided that a change in Matrons would be better for the interests of the Home and Mrs. Smith was called in and told her services were not required more than a month longer. She begged to stay two months longer and the Ladies said that they could not promise that she could remain longer than the middle of July. it was decided to advertise for a new Matron. The Minutes of the Board of Management contain nothing to indicate why the Ladies of the Board put up with Mrs. Smith's antics for as long as they did. Finally, after fifteen years and numerous threats of dismissal, the Board finally decided to take firm action and replace Mrs. Smith.

At the July 1886 Board Meeting, it was reported that there had been three applications for the advertised position of Matron. It was decided to hire one of the applicants, a Miss Gillis, at \$10.00 a month. Miss Gillis was not present at the Meeting as expected but two Board Members were requested to see and engage her to come one month on trial. Miss Gillis, the new Matron, was introduced to the Board at the August 1886 Board Meeting. After, the meeting, the inmates of the Home were called together and Urged by the Ladies to do everything in their power to assist the new Matron and to earnestly endeavour to live in harmony with each other that there might be less quarreling in the future than there had been in the past.

In November of 1886, the Ladies of the Board discussed the advisability of buying the house and lot adjoining the Home to the west and agreed to do so. There is no indication in the Board Minutes of the purchase price. During the January 1887 Board Meeting it was reported that the Home was receiving \$6.00 a month rent from the house recently purchased.

A report was read at the May 1888 Board Meeting from the Provincial Government which declared the Widows' Home as being progressive and including a suggestion that consideration be given to heating the Home with hot water.

During the October 1888 Board Meeting, a letter was read from a Miss Huggett in which she agreed to fill the position of Matron entering upon her duties on the 15th of October. Although nothing is recorded in the Board Minutes, it appears that Miss Gillis had either left or been terminated from her position as Matron of The Home.

The Ladies of the Board summoned the inmates of the Home together during the April 1889 Board Meeting in order to force obedience to the Rules of the Home with one inmate openly refusing to comply with same. The rebellious inmate was told that she must leave the Home within two days. During the May 1889 Board Meeting, a second inmate was told that she must leave the Home as she too refused to obey the House Rules. During the June 1889 Board Meeting it is noted in the Minutes that the second noted inmate apparently remained in the Home, but as a result of refusing to apologize to the Ladies of the Board for her conduct it was decided that if she did not do so she must leave. Although nothing is recorded in the Board Minutes, it appears that this particular inmate may have apologized since the Minutes do indicate that she remained in the Home until June of 1890 when complaints were received from the Matron regarding her conduct and behaviour. She was therefore brought before the Ladies of the Board and given two weeks to leave. As best can be determined, it appears that on this occasion she was forced to leave.

A report was read at the April 1890 Meeting of the Board of Management from Dr. O'Reilly, the Provincial Inspector, strongly recommending putting a furnace in the Home. The advisability of same was discussed by the Ladies and they decided it should be considered and a report given at the next meeting as to what system of heating would be best and cheapest. At the subsequent Meeting in May of 1890, it was decided that it was best to have steam heat. Mr. Charles Waterous, Esq., kindly said he would provide the boiler. It was decided to ascertain what the additional expenses would be and report it at the next meeting with the understanding being that the work would not be undertaken unless the money was first raised.

In June of 1890, a joint Meeting of the Board of Management and the Trustees of the Widows' Home was held. Present were the following: Mrs. Nelles, the President; Mrs. Cockshutt, the Secretary; Miss Goold; Miss Cleghorn; Mrs. Waterous; Mr. Ignatius Cockshutt; Mr. Thurston; Mr. Cook. The need for a new system of heating was laid before the meeting along with Dr. O'Reilly's strong recommendation that it should be done. The meeting was advised that Mr. Waterous had offered a boiler if steam was decided upon. After some discussion it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to give the gentlemen of the Trustee Board time to enquire into the different systems of heating for the Home. Later in June, Mr. Cockshutt and Mr. Thurston both

agreed that hot water heat was, in their opinion, the best system for heating the Home. The Secretary was instructed to again contact the Government Inspector, Dr. O'Reilly, who responded, once again strongly recommending hot water heating. In late June of 1890, it was resolved to leave the heating until the spring of 1891 as the season was so far advanced. Nothing further appears to have been done regarding a heating system until the spring of 1892 when the advisability of same was again discussed and the Ladies were of the opinion that it should be done during the summer. During August of 1892 it was finally decided to have the new system of heating installed and the matter was left in Mr. Cockshutt's hands. It was reported in September that the heating system was being installed and in October of 1892, the Secretary reported that the system had been completely installed at a cost of \$630 and that it had been completely paid for leaving a small balance on hand.

During the Board of Management Meeting of June 1890, the Ladies of the Board thought it advisable to have a new Matron. The matter, was left in abeyance until September of 1890 when it was reported that Miss Huggett had resigned her Position as Matron and the Ladies agreed to accept her resignation and to advertise for a new Matron with a Special Meeting being scheduled to consider applications. During the Special Meeting in mid September, the application of Mrs. E. Watt was considered favourable and she was hired, to enter her position on October 1st. This is a decision that some five years later the Ladies of the Board of Management would likely come to regret. During the December 1890 Board Meeting, Mrs. Watt tendered her resignation giving as reason that she could not live with one of the inmates. After some consideration, the Ladies decided to tell the inmate that she must leave the Home and to ask Mrs. Watt to reconsider her resignation and remain as Matron. The inmates were called together and told that the quarreling must be stopped and that the offending inmate who had triggered the Matron's resignation was leaving the Home.

It would appear that the inmate who had been causing so much disruption in the House in 1889 and 1890 and who had been directed on more than one occasion to leave as a result of her failure to comply with House Rules either remained in the Home or left and was permitted to return as there is an entry in the Minutes of April 1892 Board Meeting that the inmate had requested \$10 from the Ladies of the Board of Management in order to buy false teeth. The Ladies felt obliged to refuse her request.

It was reported to the Board during its Meeting of May 1895, that a letter- had been written to The Electric Light Company saying that the Board would wire the House, put in the fixtures necessary and pay for all renewals if the Company would give the light free. In June of 1895, a response was received from The Electric Light Company stating that the Company would give the light free to the Home but that the Home must pay for renewals in the lights and \$6 per annum rent for the transmitter. The offer was discussed by the Ladies and accepted. At the July 1895 Board Meeting it was reported that the Home was now lighted with electric light filling a long void in the Home for a better system of lighting. A bill was paid to The Electric Light Company for wiring of \$49.33.

On August 3, 1895, serious problems regarding the Matron, Mrs. Watt, came to light and caused some exciting moments at the Home. It would seem that on the date noted, one Fred

Shackell was shot in the arm by the Matron while he was trying to enter the Home through a window. Questions arose as to whether it was a break and enter gone wrong or the result of a lover's quarrel.

The ensuing court case which saw Shackell facing a charge of attempting to enter a residence with intent to commit a felony and Mrs. Watt facing a charge of intent to maim also resulted in a court order for the Managers of the Widows' Home to make a thorough investigation of the circumstances leading up to the incident and was intriguing enough to make spectators at court out of many of the city's most prominent citizens.

In court Mrs. Watt admitted that she had known Shackell for six years. She claimed that a very drunken Shackell had been on the grounds of the Home two weeks previous but had fled when the Police were called. He had returned later that same night and Mrs. Watt claimed she had fetched Shackell's wife to take him home. She also claimed that Shackell had followed her on occasion and in July he had been arrested by County Constable Adams, when in a drunken state he been loitering around the Home. Mrs. Watt stated that on the night of the shooting she had been awakened by a noise at a window about 10 P.M. She discovered Shackell and warned him to leave or she would shoot. He went to another window and tried to enter. In the ensuing struggle, Mrs. Watt fired her gun and hit Shackell in the arm. She claimed that she had not meant to hit him but only to frighten him. He then pounded on another window, swearing he would kill her and then left. At 4:30 he returned with his wife and another man and they only left when Mrs. Watt fired another shot out the window.

In his cross-examination of Mrs. Watt, Shackell's lawyer, C. B. Heyd, tried to establish that this had been a liaison between the two protagonists. He suggested that Shackell had brought Mrs. Watt clothes and jewelry, that the two of them had spent weekends together in Toronto, Buffalo and St. Thomas, that Shackell often spent the night at the Widows' Home and that Mrs. Watt left a window unfastened so that he could enter. Mrs. Watt vehemently denied these suggestions, calling them 'filthy stories'.

For his part, Frederick Shackell told the court that he had slept with Mrs. Watt every night from the first of June until mid-July and that on several out of town occurrences he had introduced her as his wife. According to Shackell, on the night of the shooting an 'Arrangement' had been made with Mrs. Watt for him to spend the night.

In this case, the Magistrate reduced the charges against Shackell to trespass, fined him \$5 and ordered the Managers of the Widows' Home to conduct a thorough investigation into the charges made against Mrs. Watt by Shackell. The charge against Mrs. Watt for shooting with intent to maim was then dealt with. For its Part, the Crown mainly re-submitted the evidence that had been presented against Shackell. The defense presented two witnesses. one, a young boy, swore that on at least ten occasions he had delivered notes from Shackell addressed to Mrs. Watt. The other, a neighbour lady, Claimed that on the night in question she had heard a scuffle and a woman's voice saying, "Get out or I will shoot!" This was followed by the report of a pistol. The Magistrate dismissed the charge against Mrs. Watt. In giving his decision, he noted that under the circumstances, the use of a weapon was justified on the grounds that

Shackell was an intruder who was seeking admittance at a late hour into a house where there were only women.

On August 12, 1895, as a result of the Court Order from the trial of Fred Shackell that the Board of Managers thoroughly investigate the charges made against Mrs. Watt, the Matron by Shackell, a Special Meeting of the Board was called to consider same. A list of the most specific charges had been drawn up by Mr. Heyd. It is interesting to note that Mr. Heyd who now appears to be acting on behalf of the Board of Managers, also acted for Fred Shackell during his trial. The charges drawn up by Mr. Heyd were read to Mrs. Watt who denied emphatically all the statements contained therein. She was questioned by the President and the Ladies of the Board, still denying all and protesting her innocence. Mrs. Watt then tendered her resignation as Matron, but expressed her willingness to remain until her place was filled. The Board while sympathizing in her desire to go were anxious to investigate further so decided to take no action in the matter until the adjourned meeting to be held the following Friday at 10 o'clock. At the adjourned meeting it was reported that enquiries had been made in Harrisburg regarding Mrs. Watt but the results were not of a satisfactory nature. It was then resolved that Mrs. Watt's resignation be accepted. It was further resolved that as the Matron had resigned that the Board take no further steps in investigating the charges against Mrs. Watt. There is no record of what happened to Mrs. Watt after she left the Widows' Home but it seems likely that the Widows' Home would not have been the same for quite a while.

Late in August of 1895, the Board of Management met to consider applications for the position of Matron. Many applied in person and some by letter, all with the highest testimonials. The position was offered to a Brantford woman who accepted the position but was unable to come for three weeks. In the interim, the newly hired Matron asked to be released from the engagement and the position was offered to a Mrs. Weir who accepted at \$10 a month. Mrs. Weir remained as Matron until September of 1898 at which time her resignation was accepted by the Board.

In February of 1896, an application for admission to the Home was brought before the Board of Management from a woman who was a Roman Catholic. At it was a rule of the House that only Protestants should be admitted as permanent residents, the matter was put to a vote and the majority negated the admittance.

The Minutes of the January 1897 Board of Managers Meeting notes that it had decided to pay a man \$3 per month for attending the furnace.

It was reported to the Board in November of 1898 that Mr. and Mrs. Barber had come to the Home, Mrs. Barber having accepted the position of Matron and Mr. Barber agreeing to attend to the grounds, the furnace, snow shoveling and other work around the House for his Board.

At the April 1899 Meeting of the Board, religion again entered into consideration of an application for admission to the Home. The Ladies of the Board decided that the applicant, a Roman Catholic, described as almost helpless, was not suitable for admission.

During the Board Meeting of November 1899, the question of how much butter should be allowed each inmate was discussed and the amount was fixed at two pounds for sixteen people although no time period for its consumption was specified.

The advisability of putting bars across an inmates door was discussed by the Board of Managers in November of 1899 and it was agreed that something must be done should the inmate continue to wander about the House at night.

The Board of Managers received an assertion of a stolen purse from an inmate at their Meeting in June of 1900. The inmate stated that she had taken a purse containing forty dollars to church with her on Sunday and brought it back to the Home with her when she returned and on Tuesday she discovered the purse was gone. The inmates were assembled in the dining room and told that if any of them had anything that did not belong to them, if it was not returned in half an hour, the House would be searched by the Police. The House was searched, the money and the purse were not found but were later recovered in the church.

On March 2, 1901, a Special Meeting of the Board of Management was held to extend the sympathy of the Board to the family of the late Ignatius Cockshutt. The following Resolutions were passed:

- 1 - That the Board desired to place on record their deep sense of the great loss "The Widows' Home" had sustained in the death of Ignatius Cockshutt. It is to his generosity that the House owes its very desirable residence and his constant supervision and generous gifts have added much to the comfort of the inmates while his advice always kindly given has lightened the work of the managers and all feel his place can never be filled.
- 2 - That a copy of the Resolution be sent to Mr. Cockshutt's family as an expression of the deep sympathy the members of the Board feel for their bereavement.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Management was called in July 1901 to consider the resignation of the Matron, Mrs. Barber, which was accepted by the Board. It was expressed in the Minutes that the Ladies of the Board were of the opinion that they would have a difficult problem of appointing a successor. The President called for reports on names that had been submitted for the position of Matron and called on with results that were not satisfactory as the available ones did not seem suitable and the suitable ones were not available, so the problem of finding a Matron had to be faced once more. Now comes the question to advertise or not to advertise? The unanimous feeling of the Ladies was not to do so. The Board again met two days later but none of the applicants appeared, not even the one from Toronto upon whom the Ladies had pinned their faith. The Meeting adjourned to meet again at a later date. The Ladies reconvened in late July regarding a Miss Williams who had applied for the position of Matron, upon the condition that she should try it for a month and then if not desirous of retaining the position, or the Board not judging her competent, she be released agreeing however to remain until a successor was appointed. Miss Williams asked that she might take her meals alone and have a room to herself. After due consideration, Miss Williams was engaged, her duties to

commence the 21st of August, Mrs. Barber to stay until the 15th of August, half of her month. Miss Williams was engaged at a salary of \$12.00 a month.

In late July, it was reported that the retiring Matron, Mrs. Barber, was very ill, possibly with typhoid fever. The President apparently spoke with her personal physician regarding Mrs. Barber's situation but he assured her that he anticipated nothing so serious. An impromptu Meeting of the Board was held as the House was in a state of confusion. Mrs. Barber had actually developed typhoid fever and had been removed to the hospital. Mrs. Manning, who was the Matron's assistant, took over the responsibilities of the Matron in Mrs. Barber's absence and a former Matron, Mrs. Weir, agreed to return to the Home to assist.

During the time Mrs. Barber was Matron, a washing machine was acquired by the Home at a cost of \$12 with the Home paying \$4, Mr. and Mrs. Barber paying \$4 and the balance being donated by the maker of the unit. With the Barbers leaving the Home, they claimed ownership of the washing machine. Mr. Barber claimed to have spent \$1 for repairs to the machine and subsequently offered to pay the Board \$3 in order to take possession of the unit which with the repairs--added up to the \$4 the Board had paid toward its purchase. The Ladies of the Board failed to see eye to eye with the Barbers and established a Committee to determine the rightful owner. There is no indication how their decision was arrived at but at a Meeting in September 1901, the Ladies agreed to pay the Barbers \$5, thereby retaining owner-ship of the washing machine.

In January of 1902, the advisability of putting a coal range in the kitchen was discussed at some length and the Ladies on the Committee responsible for the kitchen were asked to enquire as to price, etc. At the February Meeting, the Committee reported that they had been to the Buck Stove Works and found a kitchen range which was considered suitable for the Home at a cost of \$37.56. It was resolved that the range be purchased. Upon receipt of the bill from the Buck Stove Company, the cost of the stove had been reduced to \$20.45.

At the Board of Management Meeting in May of 1903, the Ladies were advised that the Meeting had been called for the purpose of considering applications for the position of Matron as Miss Williams was leaving. Miss Downing was appointed as Matron at a salary of \$12 a month.

The house facing West Street which had been purchased by the Home in 1880, was the subject of discussion by the Ladies of the Board in June of 1904. It was unanimously agreed to have the house removed as the Health Inspector had reported that it must have sewer connections. In August it was reported that the house had been removed and \$15 paid into the funds of the Home for its value.

At the April 1905 Meeting of the Board of Managers, it was reported that a donation of \$10 had been received from. Father Lenon of St. Basil's Church as an acknowledgment of the care given for a time to Kate Gallagher. It appears likely that Kate Gallagher was Roman Catholic. Were the House Rules regarding Catholics overlooked on this occasion?



In February of 1906, the Secretary reported to the Ladies of the Board that a letter had been received from Dr. Bruce Smith, the General Inspector, saying that he intended to have a new clause inserted in the yearly statements of Public Charities. This clause was to be named the Capital Account and all monies received by Charitable Institutions were not to be used for maintenance and should be entered under this heading and would not interfere with the Government Grant.

In June of 1906, a decision was made to put natural gas in the kitchen stove and in the summer kitchen. It was also reported that the new Electric Light Company had written to the Board stating they could not provide free lights to the Home as their predecessor had but that they would be pleased to donate \$25 per year to the Home.

In February of 1907, the question arose about whether or not to build a verandah across the front of the Home with money bequeathed to the Home and to have it constructed so that women residing upstairs could be wheeled outside when they required fresh air and were unable to walk. All the Ladies of the Board agreed it would add greatly to the comfort of the inmates. After considerable discussion the matter was left in Mr. Frank Cockshutt's hands to act as he thought best after looking into the cost. At the May 1907 Meeting of the Board, a plan for a verandah was submitted and it was reported that Mr. Frank Cockshutt had advised that the Board not build the verandah this year as the general fund account was overdrawn and it would be necessary to use money from the Building Fund for general expenses. It was agreed by the Ladies to accept Mr. Cockshutt's recommendation.

At the June 1907 Meeting of the Board of Management, it was reported that Dr. Bruce Smith, the Government Inspector, had made his annual visit to the Home. He had apparently found everything in order but thought some fire protection should be provided. He stated that the stairways were difficult for old people and in cases of fire occurring at night he felt that it would be difficult to get inmates out. He examined the plans for the proposed verandah and strongly advised that it should be built at once and an outside stairway added which would give increased safety in case of fire. The Ladies discussed the advice of Dr. Smith and it was resolved that as Dr. Smith had strongly recommend that the verandah be built at once, 'that they were willing to have it done if Frank Cockshutt felt sure it could be built without incurring any debt. The verandas, including an upper level, was subsequently constructed.

Unfortunately, the Minute Books of the Brantford Widows' Home, covering the period from 1909 to 1945 are not available, their whereabouts unknown, resulting in the loss of considerable valuable historical information during this period. President's notes commencing in 1932, are available, but unfortunately, contain limited information.

For many years, the Brantford Laundry, now defunct, did the household laundry for the Home and did so without charge. Medical services were provided to the Home without charge by three local doctors over a period of 70 years. Dr. Ashton provided medical care and advice for several years in the early 1900's but no record exists of exactly how long. Dr. John Marquis provided his services without charge from 1915 to 1945. Following in his father's footsteps, his son, Dr. J. A. D. Marquis was the doctor for the Home for 40 years, until 1985, providing

medical services without charge for much of that time until Government requirements made it necessary for the Home to pay him a nominal fee as House Physician.

Until the 1930's, the Board of Management operated the Home, mainly with a staff of one, a resident Matron and some additional help as required, a man to attend the furnace and look after the upkeep of the grounds as well as snow shoveling. occasionally.

A nurse would be hired to look after a very ill resident. Board of Management members supervised menus for residents meals, looked after grocery orders, linen supplies, as well as upkeep and repairs of the building, in much the same manner they would have in their own homes. As previously noted, residents, or inmates as they were referred to, helped with light chores such as dishwashing, dusting, food preparation and door answering, under the supervision of the Matron.

Applications for admission to the Home were carefully considered and discussed by the Ladies of the Board of Management and for many years applicants were actually required to appear before the Board, Preference was given to women most in need and to residents of Brantford and Brant County, although some exceptions appear to have been made in special circumstances if accommodations were available and not required by a resident of the County or City.

Over the years, structural changes were made, not only to accommodate more residents but to add to their comforts and to meet the various new building standards. In 1906, the occupancy of the Home seemed to range from 11 to 14 residents. Usually, the rooms were single occupancy but on occasion, two women would occupy one room. In,1929, the Scottish Rite donated an extra washroom and in 1930, electrical work was donated. Government inspections seem to have been made periodically. In 1919, an Inspector reported the need of 5 sprinklers but otherwise everything else seems to have been satisfactory. Immediate action was apparently taken to install the sprinklers. In 1918, an Inspector reported that there were 15 inmates in the Home, that Staff consisted of a Matron and one female helper and that inmates paid up to \$4 a week, depending upon their circumstances.

An application form in use by the Home in 1919, shows that applicants for admission were asked to provide their name, address, age, where they were born, religious affiliation and clergyman's name, length of residency in Brantford or Brant County and were also required to provide the names of two references. Dr. John Marquis signed the application. It was also reported in the 1920's that the residents were older and unable to do as much physical work as residents had done in previous years. As a result, in 1934, housekeeping staff was hired to assist the Matron. With the increasing age of residents, they also required more care and in 1940, a decision was made to engage a night nurse 7 days a week in order to allow the Matron a much needed rest. In 1937, the Board of Management apparently gave consideration to providing an infirmary for seriously ill residents but no action was taken on the proposal. Food trays were taken to residents rooms when necessary and seriously ill residents were admitted to the hospital.

In 1927, a Provincially run, means tested Old Age Pension, cost shared with the Federal

Government, was introduced. Residents of the Widows' Home apparently contributed a portion of their pension toward their room and board. In 1934, it was noted that such contributions from the Old Age Pension made it possible to improve conditions in the Home. In 1944, it was further noted that due to the introduction of the Old Age Pension, most residents had some money and unless they were destitute it was not felt unreasonable to require that a portion of same be paid toward their living expenses in the Home. It appears that the contributions from resident's pension benefits prior to this time may have been voluntary. In 1952, Federal Legislation was enacted, introducing the Old Age Security Act, thereby making pensions payable under Federal jurisdiction and replacing the 1927 Provincially run plan.

At the January 1944 Board of Management Meeting, Mr. J. McIntosh Tutt, a future Trustee, made a proposal that the Bixel House be considered. The Minutes do not elaborate for what purpose he was making the proposal, therefore, it can only be assumed that it may have been a suggested relocation of the Widows' Home. The Minutes indicate that the President and Treasurer had already looked over the property, which is believed to be the current location of the Canadian Red Cross at 25 William Street and it was subsequently resolved that Mr. Tutt be notified that the Board of Management was not interested in the property.

The Board of Management discussed the propriety of implementing entrance fees for admission to the Home. It was proposed that applicants having up to \$5,000 should pay 5% upon entering the Home and those having in excess of \$5,000 should be required to pay 10%. Apparently the proposal was put into effect but was short-lived.

During the February 1944 Board of Managers Meeting, the Ladies expressed hope that an addition to the Home could be built in the not too distant future and that plans for such an addition should be considered soon. Seven years would pass before construction of an addition would actually commence.

At the Board of Managers Meeting in April of 1944, it was reported that Mr. Tutt had received a letter in response to his enquiry about property adjoining the Home to the east on Sheridan Street from the owner of the property, a Mrs. Miller, who resided in the United States, expressing a willingness to sell the property.

It was reported to the Ladies of the Board in May of 1944 that the City Firemen would clean the Home's windows, charging sixty cents an hour.

During the June 1944 Meeting of the Board of Managers, it was reported that chairs in the Home requiring repairs would have the required repairs undertaken by pupils at the School for the Blind in the Fall. It seems likely that the chairs requiring the repairs would have had carted seats which the blind students were proficient in repairing. It was also reported to the Board that the Sheridan Street Property adjoining the Home had been purchased for the sum of \$2,400. It was also resolved by the Board that a Committee meet with the Trustees regarding the raising of funds to extend the Home after the War.

Owing to World War Two, it was found near impossible by the Ladies of the Board to obtain

linen for the Home. However, Mrs. W. V. Woofinden, a member of the Board of Managers, had the good fortune of obtaining a quantity of used sheets and pillow cases from a gentleman in Kitchener at a cost of \$20. The Kitchener entrepreneur had written to the Board advising that he also had a supply of flat silver and china on hand formerly used at the Preston Springs Hotel. A Committee was chosen to travel to Kitchener to determine if the items were suitable to meet the needs of the Home. It was also reported that the Matron, Mrs. Cook, had been able to obtain hard coal recently as its availability had improved. It was decided to make enquiries about the possibility of obtaining a ruling so that the Home might be supplied always with coal.

During the Annual Meeting of the Widows' Home held in February of 1945, Mrs. Scarfe stressed the growing need for the enlargement of the Home and expressed hope that it could be undertaken at once at the conclusion of War.

During the Board of Managers Meeting in May of 1945, the Ladies decided that the keeping of chickens by the Home be given up. It was reported at the June Meeting by the Matron that a Profitable sale of the chickens had been negotiated. They were sold "live weight" as the women in the Home felt that such "pets" could not be disposed of in the usual manner.

A brief discussion of the much needed extension to the Home took place during the Board of Management Meeting in March of 1946. It was felt that an institutional architect was called for and the name of Harold J. Smith of Toronto was considered. Mr. Smith had been the architect for the Queen Elizabeth Pavilion of the Brantford General Hospital. It was resolved that Mr. Smith be engaged to draw plans for the extension and that the plans be approved by the Board of Managers. At the April 1946 Board Meeting a Report of the Building Committee and Trustees in regard to an addition was presented. Mr. Harold J. Smith was asked to present a plan and that it would be decided when the work would be carried out.

The resignation of the Matron, Mrs. Cook, due to illness, was received after 16 years of service in the Home, by the Board at its Meeting in June of 1946. It was resolved that a cheque for \$200 be presented to Mrs. Cook along with a letter of appreciation and flowers. It was decided to advertise in The Expositor for a new Matron. It was also reported that Mr. Harold Smith, the architect, had met with the Building Committee and had been asked to change the proposed preliminary idea of plans for the addition.. The Board of Managers also decided to consult with Dr. Marquis about the advisability of having some definite arrangement regarding professional medical fees. A new Matron, Mrs. Greiner, is believed to have been engaged by the Ladies of the Board in July of 1946.

A letter was read during the Board of Managers Meeting of February 1946 from Mr. Harold J. Smith, Architect, asking if any decision had been made regarding the proposed Plans for the addition to the Home. It was apparently reported in The Expositor on February 4, 1948 that due to labour and material shortages, the proposed extension to the Widows' Home had not been proceeded with during 1947. Hope was expressed by the Board that work on it might commence soon in order to provide a larger amount of accommodations for Residents.

During the Board of Managers Meeting in March of 1948, it was resolved that a cheque for

\$100 should be sent to Dr. Marquis along with a note of appreciation for professional services rendered throughout the year. It was the opinion of the Ladies of the Board that the day was past when a busy doctor could give his service without charge to the institution. Dr. Marquis subsequently sent the Board a note stating that he felt lie could not accept the "token" cheque which the Board had seat him for medical services to the Home and wrote most generously of his continued interest in the Home and of his appreciation for the way in which tire Home was managed.

During the Board of Management Meeting of June 1948, it was decided by the Ladies 'that in view of the fact that the house at 10 Sheridan Street which had been purchased several years earlier, was to be torn down to make way for the proposed addition to the Home, that no money should be spent on repairs there. It was resolved that the tenants be advised in writing that it they vacate by September 15th, the rent will be refunded from June 1st.

The board of Management was shown revised plans for the addition to the Home by the architect, Mr. Smith, in September of 1948. During the Board Meeting, a letter was read from Waterous Ltd.. Mr. Donald Waterous had very admirably put before the Company the building plans for the addition to the Home and his letter stated that in planning appropriations for charitable purposes during the current year the sum of \$500 had been reserved for the work of the Widows' Home.

The Board of Management discussed the advisability of proceeding immediately with the building addition and also with respect to the repairing or replacing of the present heating system, during the April 1949 Meeting. During the May Meeting, two quotations were received for an oil burning furnace, one of \$665 and one of \$800. The Board decided to obtain quotations from B.A. Oil and Imperial Oil. It was subsequently resolved that a Timken Burner from Timken Limited be installed in the Home, together with a return pump.

During the late 1940's, various reports were received from Government and local Fire Inspectors resulting in the installation of alarm systems and fire steel doors. During November of 1949, the cost of installing a fire alarm system was reported at \$2,156. During the November Meeting, the President suggested that the Board should be seriously thinking about enlarging the present Home. A discussion ensued during which several suggestions were brought forward. It was finally decided to ask the architect, Mr. Smith to submit further plans on a smaller scale or plans to fit the expenditure of \$75,000.

During the February 1950 Meeting of the Board of managers, it was reported that Mayor Howard Winter had made a promise regarding the removal of snow from the walks of the Home, stating that the City would be responsible for doing so. During the March Meeting, it was reported that the Mayor's promise had not been carried out and that further enquiries would be made.

During the April 1950 Meeting of the Board of Management, the death of Dr. J. A. Marquis, who for so many years gave so freely of his services to the residents of the home, was reported.

it was also reported that he was loved by all for his kindness and goodness.

In early June of 1950, a Meeting of the Trustees and the Building Committee was held with Mr. Harold J. Smith. Discussions took place regarding what part of the building plan was to be implemented. The new wing to be added to the Home would face Sheridan Street on the east side of the building.

In October of 1950, a Special Meeting of the Board of Management was held to receive a final report regarding the renovation and extension of the Home. The history of the Home was received and a de-railed report of the running expenses and costs of upkeep for the previous three years was presented as well as a report of the Board of Trustees. After careful consideration, it was resolved as follows:

- (a) that the Board approve the plans of renovation and expansion as drawn up in plans submitted by Mr. Harold J. Smith, Architect;
- (b) that the entire capital of the Home of \$101,000 be used for the above purpose and that the Trustees have agreed to be responsible fund-raising the remaining \$20,000;
- (c) that of the two tenders which were received, the Schultz Company tender which was \$103,935 be accepted as it was lower than that of Cromar Construction Company of \$115,000 and that the work should be Proceeded with immediately.

During the December 1950 Board of Management Meeting, it was reported that a Committee had been formed to campaign for funds for the annex to the Home. It was to be known as the Advisory Campaign Committee and was composed of the following: Robert Du Domanine; J. C. Preston; Andrew Donaldson; Harry Fox; Donald Williamson; Sam Stedman; C. H. Ellis; A. G. Hitchon; J. M. Tutt; C. Gordon Cockshutt. The January 1951 Meeting of the Board was advised that the Campaign Committee had sent out letters for the Building Fund and that the response had been very good.

It was reported to the Board of Management during its February 1951 Meeting that excavation for the addition to the Home had commenced. A request was received from the Campaign Committee that members of the Board of Management take some of the Special Names to contact to assist with the campaign. Each Board Member took four names. During the March Meeting, a Committee was formed to complete Extension Fund letters to be sent out as it was reported that funds were still required to complete the campaign.

During the Board of Management Meeting of April 1951, Mr. J. M. Tutt and Mr. N. Moore were present on behalf of the Campaign Committee and reported on the results of the financial campaign and that \$27,704 had been collected.

It was reported to the Board of Management during its Meeting in May of 1951, that problems had arisen regarding the installation of a fire alarm system in conjunction with the addition to the Home. Due to the considerable expense involved in installing the fire alarm system and so as not to cause an over run in the cost of the addition, some other detail in the plans was eliminated, although it is not indicated what. It was also determined that a Government Grant of

\$1,000 per room for institutions may be available to the Home which could be applied to the fire alarm system. It was suggested that a cornerstone be laid with an official ceremony and that on completion of the building an Open House be held and that all donors be advised.

On June 5, 1951, a Ceremony was held at the Home during which Mr. C. Gordon Cockshutt laid the cornerstone and Mrs. Donald M. Waterous, President of the Board of Management, deposited a cylinder behind the cornerstone which contained the following: History of the Widows' Home; Names of present Board Members; Names of Members of the Board of Trustees; Names of Men's Campaign Committee; Names of Members of City Council; Name of Architect; Name of Contractor; Name of Matron and Assistant Matron; Names of Residents; Amount raised by Public Subscription; Approximate cost of new building; 1951 minted coins; Brantford Expositor of June 4th including photo of outside of new building. The speaker for the Ceremony was Mr. Cockshutt with the Rev. Fred Bullen, President of the Brantford Ministerial Association giving the Dedication Prayer.

In June of 1951, the total of the Building Fund was reported at \$29,424. In December of 1951, confirmation was received in a letter from the Ontario Ministry of Health that the Home would receive the anticipated Grant of \$1,000 per bed for ten new beds.

On January 6, 1952, the initial proposal to change the name of the Brantford Widows' Home was made when it was resolved that in the future the Home be known as Sheridan Place. In May of 1952, Mr. J. M. Tutt spoke to the Board of Management regarding the January 8th proposal to change the name of the Home. He suggested that there was no incorporation of the name Brantford Widows' Home and it might be better for business reasons to retain the present name. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed name change and it was resolved that the original name be retained as it is but that the address 6 Sheridan Street be plainly marked on the door and the address be used. The subject of changing the name of the Home would arise on other occasions subsequent to this but no actual change would take place until 1976 when the name Sheridan Place was officially adopted.

The Board of Management received a Report on the state of the Building Account regarding the addition to the Home at its Meeting in May of 1952, as follows: Schultz Construction \$77,441.80; Harold J. Smith, Architect \$5,342.39; Telephone City Broadcast \$27.00; Preston and Sons \$61.92; Campbell Electric \$220.96; Metal Signs \$42.50; Crown Electric \$272.60; Higgins Screens \$700.00; Total \$84,761.67. The original contract had been for \$103,935 with a total of \$77,441.80 paid out, leaving a balance of \$26,493.20.

The new addition to the Home was ready for occupancy in 1952, with some residents moving in April and renovations to the original building still going on. The first Meeting of the Board of Management was held in the new Board Room in the Home in June of 1952. The addition and renovations provided for 3 baths for residence, 6 wash basins and 6 toilets. A self contained apartment was provided for the resident Matron.

During the November 1952 Meeting of the Board of Management, plans were discussed for the Official Opening of the addition to the Home. It was felt that a great deal of Preparation must

go into getting ready for the event and that the list of invitations both to individuals and organizations must be carefully thought out and that there should be a general invitation published in The Expositor for the public at large. During the December Meeting plans for the opening were again the subject of discussion. It was reported the "Hillcrest Gardens" would supply tea and small cakes for 100 persons for \$25 and above this \$1 per hour for one assistant and \$1.75 per hour for two. As the actual date of the opening had not been agreed upon, the matter was deferred.

Early in February of 1953, the Official Opening of the new addition to the newly renovated Home was scheduled for the 19th of the Month. It was decided that invitations for the opening would be directed to members of the Trustee Board, members of the Campaign Committee, the Mayor, the House Doctor, M.P.'s, M.P.P.'s, Contributors to the Building Fund, but not to Members of the Board of Management. Plans were also completed for the Opening Day Ceremonies. Members of the Zonta Club were to be asked to serve tea in the afternoon and the Board Members were to act as guides for the inspection tour of the building. The Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Harold Van Sickle had offered to play in the evening but it was noted that the piano in the Home was in poor condition. Subsequent to Opening Day, Mrs. Marshall Foss donated her piano to the Home. This piano was of special significance to the Home as it had been bequeathed to Mrs. Foss by her grandmother, Mrs. John Wallace, a former President of the Board of Management of the Home. It was reported that the Salada Tea Company donated two large boxes of tea for the Opening Ceremonies. During the February Meeting, the Board was advised that difficulties were being experienced with the new heating system and also with the newly installed elevator. It was resolved that the architect, Mr. Smith, be contacted regarding the problems.

The Opening Ceremonies were held on February 19th, with the following amongst those in attendance, Mr. Alexander J. Smith, Architect, who had drawn up the plans for the addition to the Home; Mrs. Donald Waterous, President of the Board of Management; Mr. C. Gordon Cockshutt, representing the Board of Trustees; the Mayor of the City of Brantford, Howard E. Winter; the Warden of Brant County, Edward A. Wright. The dedicatory prayer was given by Mr. Elliot.

The Report of the Government Inspector was received by the Board of Management at its May 1954 Meeting. The following recommendations were included in the Report:

1. That each resident of the Home should have an annual medical examination;
2. That a book for medical records be kept by the Matron;
3. That the fire panel which had been reported as not working should be put in order;
4. That a record should be kept of the Home's Plans for evacuation in case of fire and of the number of practice evacuations held.

A Report was also received by the Board of Management indicating that Government assistance for the new building had been increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per bed which would likely have proved beneficial to the costs involved with the recently completed addition.

At the September 1954 Meeting of the Board of Managers, notice was received that the Matron,



Mrs. Greiner, had given notice that she was leaving the employ of the Home, effective October 17th. Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood were subsequently appointed as Matron and Mr. Greenwood accepted the responsibility of the duties of Building Superintendent which included gardening, cutting the lawn, electrical, plumbing and carpentry work as well as attending to the furnace.

In the period that followed, social changes were taking place that meant women were entering the Home at a more advanced age and were unable to do much in the way of household duties. Also, the neighbourhood where the Home was located was becoming such that it was not considered safe for the residents to take on duties such as answering the door. More staff was required and the cost of running the Home increased, resulting in a corresponding increase in board rates. The introduction of the Federal Old Age Security Pension in 1952, initially at age 70 and later at age 65, regardless of financial circumstances and a supplement for those whose income and assets were below a certain level, meant that many residents were able to pay full board. In addition, the Home was able to apply for a subsidy for those whose assets were below a certain level. Every effort was made to keep the per them rate low, but financing the running of the Home was a difficult task.

In November of 1955, a recommendation was received from the Department of Public Welfare that all residents of the Home have a chest examination. The Board of Managers decided to consult Dr. Marquis on the advisability of the examination. There is nothing in the Board Minutes to indicate that any effort was made to adopt the recommendation regarding chest examinations until March of 1956 when a letter was received from the Director of the Home for the Aged Division, Provincial Department of Welfare which included a semiannual report form required under the Regulations of the Department of Health and stating that all residents must have chest x-rays annually and upon admission to the Home in the case of new residents. Arrangements were made with Dr. Hazen at the Brant Sanatorium where they would be x-rayed. By 1957, arrangements were made to conduct the x-ray clinic at the Home rather than at the Sanatorium.

In December of 1955, it was reported that some of the problems with the new elevator had been resolved. The Company that had installed the unit, the Roelofson Elevator Company, thought it would be advantageous if the elevator was operated by only one person, that it could more easily be kept in repair and the number of inspections could be reduced to two a year. Mr. Greenwood, the Building Superintendent indicated that he would be willing to operate the elevator at meal times but felt that he could not be continually interrupted at his work to take someone up or down. Discussion ensued with the building architect, Mr. Harold J. Smith who had recommended the elevator be installed by the Roelofson Company, regarding the high cost of elevator maintenance and repairs. Mr. Smith strongly recommended that inspections of the elevator continue as preventative maintenance and that in future it be done by the Turnbull Company as he felt that this company would be less expensive. The difference in charges by the two firms turned out to be insignificant with the Turnbull Company charging about \$5 a month less than Roelofson. In February 1956, it was reported that the elevator had been operating more satisfactorily, although it had been out of service for 6 days in January. The Board decided to remain with the Roelofson Company and reduce inspections of the elevator from the twelve a year recommended by the Company to two a year in order to reduce costs which did not meet

the approval of the Company.

The cost of prescription drugs for residents was of cause for concern by Members of the Board of Managers. The City of Brantford had paid for drugs for some residents and it was suggested that greater assistance from the City be sought. Dr. J. A.D. Marquis was consulted about the drug cost problem and he offered to assist in any way possible to help keep costs down even offering to have some prescriptions prepared in the dispensary in his own office. In March of 1956, the City Welfare Department agreed to contribute \$30 a month for 6 months towards the cost of the Home's Prescription Drug bill. In December of 1956, the City agreed to extend the \$30 per month for drug expenses for a further six months.

Once again a void appears in the Minutes of the Widows' Home, as those covering the period from June of 1952 through until March of 1962, have been lost or misplaced, again resulting in the loss of considerable historical information.

The October 1962 Meeting of the Board of Managers received a Report that Dr. J. A. D. Marquis had not received remuneration for his service to residents of the Home although it had been decided in January of 1962 that application to the Ontario Government for such remuneration should be made. Considerable correspondence with the Department of Welfare had been received regarding this situation and it was understood that Dr. Marquis would be paid. Recent information showed that no direct payment would be made by the Department to the Doctor but that the Government would recognize payment of amounts up to \$1.75 per month per bed to the Home Physician in computing the per them rate upon which the Government Grant would be based. It was resolved that Dr. Marquis be paid \$1.75 per month per bed by the Home for his service, payments to commence immediately.

The Board of Management Meeting of March 1963, was addressed by Mr. John Noble who outlined a plan he had in mind to build a home for elderly persons, not necessarily indigent, and to accommodate 50 men and women. The purpose of the home would be similiar to that of the Widows' Home in that it would be a residential home for older persons where persons with means could go and would pay full cost and those without means would also be accepted. Persons without assistance would contribute their Old Age Pension for a small refund to the Pensioner for personal needs and incidentals. The home would operate under the Charitable Institutions Act. Mr. Noble wished the Board of Management to consider whether they would accept responsibility for operating such a home as well as the Widows' Home if his plans went through. No decision was made by the Board at this point. Mr. Noble was advised that the matter would be given careful consideration. Representatives of the Board of Managers met with the Board of Trustees of the Home and outlined Mr. Noble's proposal. The Trustees were of the opinion that Mr. Noble might have had in mind that the Widows' Home act as an auxiliary to the Home he was proposing but felt that no action was necessary at present as the Home proposed by Mr. Noble was likely several years in the future.

The Matron and Building Superintendent, Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood, submitted their resignations to the Board of Managers at their December 1963 Meeting, to take effect January 31, 1964. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Slater were engaged as Matron and Maintenance Man at the

January 1964 Meeting of the Board.

It was reported to the Board of Management in May of 1964 that household articles were being sold at very low prices at Winston Hall, the former residence for student nurses located in Eagle Place. As a result wardrobes were purchased for use in the Home at a cost of \$3 each.

During the November 1964 Meeting of the Ladies of the Board, a letter was received from a Member of the Board, tendering her resignation. She indicated in her letter that being a Christian Scientist, in accordance with the Constitution of the Widows' Home she did not qualify as a Board Member and therefore was of the opinion that she should resign. The Ladies of the Board unanimously decided that her resignation should not be accepted and that the Constitution should be reviewed. In December of 1964, copies of a proposed revision to the Constitution were distributed to Board Members, the only change being that Board Members might be drawn from members in good standing in churches previously named or in any other Protestant Denomination. Previously, Christian Scientists had apparently not been included. The proposal was accepted by the Board and the member concerned remained on the Board.

The Matron and Home Maintenance Man, Mr. and Mrs. Slater, resigned their positions in April of 1965 and were replaced by Mr. and Mrs. Robbins. Mr. Robbins assumed the position of Building Superintendent.

In October of 1965, an application for residency was received from a Roman Catholic who claimed not to be an active church woman. The Board of Managers felt that the applicant should understand that Protestant Church Services only were held at the Home on a regular basis and that she should be encouraged to discuss the application with her Priest. It was subsequently determined that the applicant had attended the Roman Catholic Church after her marriage but had been brought up as a Protestant. Her application was subsequently accepted.

The Matron and Building Superintendent, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins, submitted their resignations in February 1968, to take effect May 31st.

In March of 1968, an application for residency was received from a lady who was a heavy smoker. It was decided that should she become a resident that she only be allowed to smoke in the common room. Her application was accepted and within a month many of the other residents were expressing displeasure about this lady and her excessive smoking in the common room. Many of the resident ladies claimed the smoking was spoiling their being able to watch their favourite television shows. It was decided that the smoker would have to take her habit into the Board Room.

In April of 1968, a new Matron, Mrs. Eva Pearson was engaged with her husband assisting in the management of the Home. A second gentleman was hired to do the gardening.

In September of 1968, the subject of Dr. Marquis and remuneration for his service to the residents was again the topic of discussion by the Board of Management. It was indicated that it must be adjusted to meet Government Regulations. In November it was reported that Dr.

Marquis was remaining as Staff Physician for the Home and under Government Regulations he was to be paid \$1.30 per bed per month which is .45 cents less per bed than the \$1.75 he received in the Fall of 1962.

In September of 1969, the resignation of the Matron and Building Superintendent, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, was tendered to the Board of Management. A Special Meeting was held at which time a Report was provided resulting from a Meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, who felt that their daily hours on duty were too long and who expressed that co-operation with Mrs. Rideout, the Assistant Matron was not satisfactory and that too much responsibility rested on the Matron's shoulders. It was the feeling of the Committee who had met with the Pearsons that if their complaints could be satisfied that their resignation would be withdrawn. It was decided to place a classified advertisement for an Assistant Matron. Shortly thereafter, it was announced that Mrs. Rideout had resigned.

In October of 1969, the Board of Management appointed a Committee to procure information regarding the installation of a new elevator for the Home. The elevator installed when the addition to the Home was constructed in the early 1950's was proving to be a continual expense requiring constant repairing and was performing very unsatisfactorily. The Board of Management received a report on the condition of the elevator in November from Dover Turnbull Ltd., of Hamilton. An inspector had examined the existing elevator and had recommended a new operating unit with an automatic door. The existing unit required very extensive and expensive repairs. An estimated cost for a new elevator was submitted. The specialist stated that a new elevator would give guaranteed and efficient service. The Board decided to apply to the Samuel Stedman Foundation for a grant toward the cost of the replacement elevator and also to direct a letter to the Homes for the Aging Branch to enquire if the Home would be eligible for a subsidy under this Branch of the Ontario Government. In December, it was reported to the Board that a grant of \$10,000 had been received from the Samuel Stedman Foundation and that correspondence had been received from the Department of Social and Family Services in reply to the request for a subsidy, that if the Home's per diem rate for 12 months was submitted, the Home's eligibility would be considered. Dover Turnbull Ltd., submitted a final price of \$15,600 to upgrade the elevator which included a new cage, new doors, new operating unit, all necessary repairs and a one year guarantee. The Board accepted the proposal and requested that work commence as soon as possible. In June of 1970, it was reported to the Board that the new elevator had been installed and was operating quite satisfactorily.

Peace with Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, the Matron and Building Superintendent was apparently short lived, as they submitted their resignations to the Board in December of 1967. In January of 1970, Mrs. Poole was engaged as Matron and Mr. Peter Landry as general maintenance man.

The problem of smoking in the Home was again noted in the Minutes of the Board of Management in January of 1970. Complaints were received that the Staff were smoking in the kitchen. The Board decided that in future, any smoking would be done in the laundry room by Staff members except the Night Nurse who it was decided could still have her cigarette in the kitchen.

In April of 1970, the Board of Management was again addressed by Mr. John Noble, accompanied on this occasion by Rev. H. Stibbards and Mr. J. Read, representing the Brant Homes Association. Mr. Noble outlined the need of residential accommodation for aging citizens in Brantford and Brant County. He indicated that as an operating home at present, the Widows' Home might be eligible for Government assistance if an extension was added to the present building. The feasibility of a separate building operated by the Board of the Widows' Home was also discussed. Mr. Noble believed that about \$100,000 had been promised at some earlier date by the City of Brantford for such a Proposal. Mr. Read told the Board that from a study of comparable homes in Ontario which had been visited, a 40 bed home would cost in the neighbourhood of half a million dollars. The Board resolved that the Trustees be invited to meet with them to discuss whether the property of the Home would be available for such a residence and whether the Present Board would wish to accept the added responsibility. It was noted that the availability of financial assistance from the City of Brantford and the Ontario Government would have to be thoroughly investigated. Later in April, a Special Meeting with the Trustees was held. The Report of the earlier Meeting with Mr. John Noble, Rev. Stibbards and Mr. Read was read. The Trustees recognized the need of a further home in Brantford but understood that the accommodation under study would be about-for about 100 resident including apartments as well as rooms for single men and women. It was pointed out that the Trust of the Widows' Home as left by Mr. Ignatius Cockshutt, would be most difficult and very costly to break in order to participate in such a plan as suggested by the Brant Homes Association. Questions arose from the Trustees as to the number of present staff in the Home attending to the 18 residents and the per them rate. It was pointed out in response that there would be the equivalent of 10 full time employees and that the per diem rate changed quarterly, in 1969 starting out at \$165 per person on a monthly basis and that 1970 rates would be higher. The Trustees did not think that the Home was overstaffed and if it was increased to even 30 or 40 beds, much more help would be required including a paid Administrator and costs would increase accordingly. It was the advise of the Trustees that the Home continue on in its present manner as long as possible. If Government Regulations interfered so as the Home's finances decreased alarmingly, further plans and changes would be necessary. The Board of Management then resolved that it continue to operate the Widows' Home in the traditional manner.

During the May 1970 Board of Managers Meeting, information was received regarding the availability of a house on Sheridan Street adjoining the Home. It was suggested that further information be obtained regarding the property but no further action be taken as the thought of extending the Home was quite remote and the Board Members at this point had no desire to become landlords. It was also reported at the May Meeting that the Tapscott Drug Store had gone out of business. As a result it was decided that Dymond Drugs become the pharmacists for the Home and that the usual 10% discount be requested.

By the early 1970's, due to the increased workload in the Home, Staff had increased considerably, resulting in the Matron no longer being able to handle efficiently housekeeping duties as well as the welfare of the residents along with ensuring Government Regulations were being adhered to plus other related problems. In September of 1970, the Board entered into discussions regarding a paid Business Administrator. It was felt that if a part time Administrator

were employed, adjustments would have to be made in the present Staff with some curtailments and with more effort put toward the comfort of the residents. Discussions were also held with the Administrator of the John Noble Home regarding a Business Administrator but it would be some time before a decision was actually made to fill the Position. In December 1971, Mrs. Lloyd Edwards was engaged as Executive Secretary of the Home to work five mornings a week from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Matron, Mrs. Poole, resigned her position in February 1971 to be replaced by Mrs. Rena Mitchell who was herself replaced by Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie Marshall as Matron and Building Superintendent in May of 1972 who in turn were replaced by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith in September of 1972. In May of 1973, Mrs. Jean Mosher was appointed as Matron.

Apparently there was considerable displeasure over the years, among the residents of the Home about the name "The Widows' Home", which they felt suggested charity. Those paying full board apparently found this particularly disturbing. The matter of changing the name had previously been considered thoroughly by the Board of Management and the Trustees with the suggested name of "Sheridan Place". However, no change was made. During a Special Meeting in December of 1972 to discuss the future of the Home, the question of whether or not the name "Widows' Home" could be changed, once again came up for discussion. It was deferred to the Board of Management Meeting in January of 1973 when it was resolved that serious consideration be given to a name change. A Committee was appointed to meet with the Trustees to review the Constitution. Representatives from the Board of Management and the Trustees met with Mr. Richard Beckett, M.P.P., in March of 1973. Mr. Beckett was of the opinion that changing the name of the Widows' Home could be accomplished in consultation with legal counsel.

In February of 1974, the Board of Management met with the representatives of the Trustees to further discuss a change in the name of "The Widows' Home". After considering several proposed names, the Board resolved that the name "Sheridan Place" be presented to the Trustees. The representatives of the Trustees expressed the opinion that the total assets of the Corporation should be invested in one body, "The Ladies of the Board of Management" and the name "Sheridan Place" be adopted. Mr. George Lawrence of the Law Firm of Slein, Wynn and Lawrence, had acted as legal representative for the Trustee Board as the name change would come under the Corporations Act and would involve an Order in Council. The Trustees, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Richard Beckett, M.P.P., had met with a representative of the Social and Family Services, Home for the Aged Branch and were assured that the name change could take place without difficulty. After considerable discussion and regret, the Trustees came to the conclusion that they should dissolve themselves as a Board. It was moved that the Board accept the following Resolution: "That the Trustees proceed with the Private Members Bill titled, 'An Act Respecting The Widows' Home of Brantford.'" This Act was to change the name of The Widows' Home and form a new Corporation which would have full responsibility and to dissolve the former Trustee Board. The final Trustees Board was composed of: Dr. J. A. D. Marquis; Dr. James R. Digby; Mr. John G. Stratford; Mr. A. Reville Hitchon.

At the November 1974 Meeting of the Board of Management, Mr. George Lawrence stated that it would be advisable to form a Corporation without share capital for the purpose of taking over ownership and operation of The Widows' Home. This would include dissolving the present Trustee Board, changing the name to Sheridan Place and setting up a new Board of Directors. He stated that the new name had already been cleared with the authorities and that there would be no interference in the internal office of the new Corporation and that the matter would be dealt with by means of a Private Members Bill in the Legislature in February next. The present Trustees declined to serve on the Board but agreed to act in an advisory capacity. The present Board of Management could continue as a Management Committee of the Corporation. Mr. Lawrence requested that he be provided with the names of the nine persons to form the new Corporate Board of Directors. The new Directors appointed were: Mrs. E. D. Vance, Jr.; Mrs. F. E. Stern; Mrs. G. Kneale; Miss Margaret Stedman; Mrs. R. B. Kerr; Mrs. R. V. Woofinden; Mrs. A. M. James; Mrs. Clifford Chapin; Mrs. M. H. Toy.

The Board of Management was in receipt of a letter at its April 1975 Meeting from Mr. George Lawrence, advising that Letters Patent incorporating Sheridan Place had been received from the Province of Ontario and that he was proceeding with the advertising of the Private Members Bill which will authorize the undertaking of The Widows' Home in the Corporation known as Sheridan Place. He advised that he had attended the Private Bills Committee of the Ontario Legislature in April at which time the Committee approved the Private Members Bill with respect to Sheridan Place. Mr. Lawrence requested that he be provided with the name of the intended banker and the intended auditor. Later in May, Mr. Lawrence attended the Meeting of the Board of Management and advised that Royal Assent had been given to an Act Respecting Sheridan Place on May 2, 1975. All assets of The Widows' Home of Brantford were to be transferred to Sheridan Place effective December 1975. Directors were advised to send notices to the Canada Permanent Company of the termination on December 31, 1975 of the present trust and a new agreement with termination clause to be entered into with Canada Permanent as agent. The auditors were to be Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, Chartered Accountants. The Corporate Board would consist of 9 Directors and the Annual Meeting of members and directors would be held in March 1976. The fiscal year of the Corporation would run from December 31 to December 31 of each year.

On January 6, 1976, at a Meeting of the Board of Management, the President, Mrs. Vance, announced that The Brantford Widows' Home, after 106 years, had changed its name and would henceforth be known as Sheridan Place. In January of 1977, a letter was received from the Ministry of Community Services acknowledging the revocation of The Widows' Home Charter and approving Sheridan Place as a Corporation, effective, January 1, 1976.

During the Board of Management Meeting in December 1972 held for the purpose of discussing the future of the Home and from whence the name change to Sheridan Place eventually resulted, other topics were also discussed, including allowing television and telephones in residents rooms, having the Public Utilities Commission inspect the electric wiring in the Home, addition of bathrooms, consideration of an infirmary for the Home or additional nursing care so that residents could remain in the Home for a greater length of time, depending on the illness. A Committee was formed to seek direction and advice on how the Home could be updated to be

Home had been inspected and approved and that inquiries were to be made regarding cable television.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Management in September of 1974, permission was granted to the Matron, Mrs. Mosher, to live outside the Home.

In June of 1975, upon a Doctor's recommendation that a resident of the Home go to a Nursing Home because of her deteriorating health, further discussion ensued during a Meeting of the Board of Management regarding the need for an infirmary to provide residents with a little extra care, rather than requiring their removal from the Home. It was resolved by the Board that as an infirmary was needed, that the Scottish Rite be contacted to see if a hospital bed with sides could be provided on a temporary basis should a resident require same. Nothing further appears to have been done by the Board regarding an infirmary.

In September of 1976, the Board of Management was in receipt of a letter from the Ontario Association of Homes for the Aged informing of a proposal to increase property taxes for institutions by the Ontario Government. The proposed taxation rate of the building was apparently to be at the rate of 50% of the market value and changing the classification to residential. It was resolved by the Board to strongly protest the Government proposal and that a letter be directed on the Board's position to the local M. P. P., Mr. Mac Makarchuk. A letter was also sent by the Board to the attention of the Blair Commission, which was dealing with the taxation issue, opposing any change in the current tax exemption for Homes for the Aged in Ontario. It was reported to the Board that should the Government's taxation proposal be passed in the Legislature that Sheridan Place would be assessed \$2,147 in taxes. Letters were received in response from Willis Blair, Chairman of the Blair Commission and Mr. Makarchuk regarding the taxation proposal. Nothing further is recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Management regarding the proposed taxation increases. Therefore, it must be assumed that the Government's proposal was not approved.

Under the newly formed Corporation which saw the name of The Widows' Home changed to Sheridan Place, the Directors had full responsibility for all assets as well as the day to day operation of the Home and an Investment Committee of the Board was established to study and select future investments. The Investment Committee received assistance in their endeavours from three local business men who met with the Committee three or four times annually to discuss matters and give advice but who had no official capacity and did not assume any responsibility, that being left entirely to the Board of Management.

The operation of the Home continued as it had prior to formation of the new Corporation. The building was maintained in good condition and all fire regulations were met. Regulations imposed by the Government Ministry regarding health care were met. Additional qualified staff were engaged to dispense medication. Improvements were made in the heating and cooling systems in the home for the comfort of the residents. With full occupancy in the Home it was possible to provide comfortable accommodations for the residents at a reasonable cost. However, when there were vacancies for prolonged periods, the per them cost per resident increased dramatically and in the 1980's this type of situation occurred fairly frequently. Efforts



increased dramatically and in the 1980's this type of situation occurred fairly frequently. Efforts were made to advertise the Home in the media, both newspapers and radio, notices were placed in church newsletters and bulletins and on public billboards and brochures were placed in doctor's waiting rooms. Other residential homes in Brantford offering the same services as Sheridan Place were experiencing similar problems. A decision was made by the Board of Management to accept residents for short term periods to give care givers respite but this proved of little value to the Home from a fiscal standpoint. In 1988, the Matron, attended a course for administrators of Homes for the Aged, the thinking being that the current trend of vacancies in residential homes would continue with support services being implemented to keep the elderly in their homes. Home Care, visiting nurses, visiting homemakers, Meals on Wheels, Operation Lift, were encouraging this trend. As a result, the demand for admission to homes came from those requiring nursing care rather than residential care only. In addition, more semi-residential, semi-nursing homes were being built privately.

Consideration was given by the Board of Management to Sheridan Place becoming a nursing home but this was not thought wise. Consideration was given to providing rooms with private bath as some of the newer homes were doing but this was not thought practical. The Home continued to provide the same interest in and care for residents with Board Members continuing to visit them, take them for outings and to appointments. The Home also continued to enjoy considerable community support and involvement. However, vacancies continued which eventually would effect a decision by the Board on the continued existence of the Home.

Unfortunately, a further void appears in the Minutes of Sheridan Place, on this occasion, from March of 1978 until January of 1986.

Dr. J. A. D. Marquis, who had been the longstanding physician for the Home for 40 years, retired as a practicing physician in December of 1985. As a tribute to Dr. Marquis, it was decided by the Board of Management to have an Illuminated Address prepared to be presented to him in recognition of his long service to the residents of the Home. A Committee was formed to choose the applicable wording of the address based on the one presented to his father, Dr. John Marquis.

In February of 1986, the finalized version of the Illuminated Address to be presented to Dr. J. A. D. Marquis, was presented to the Board of Management, as follows:

#### 'A TRIBUTE TO DR. J. A. D. MARQUIS'

"We the members of the Board of Sheridan Place, express to you, our gratitude for forty years of excellent service to the residents of the Home.

We will always be indebted to you for your sympathetic care, your wise counsel and your genuine concern for the welfare of the Home. May this tribute convey fondest wishes from your friends at Sheridan Place, for whom your name is linked with the finest tradition, of your profession, your country, your community and the Christian way of life."

It was decided that Board Members names were to be included in the address. The Illuminated Address was presented to Dr. Marquis at a Tea Party held at Sheridan Place on April 15, 1986.

In June of 1986, the Executive Committee of the Board was advised that the Minister of Social Services had intimated that his Ministry wished to place a plaque in Sheridan Place in honour of Dr. J. A. D. Marquis and his father, Dr. John Marquis. It was also reported that Board Members had met with Mr. Derek Blackburn, M. P., to request his support in obtaining an Order of Canada Award for Dr. Marquis. It was reported to the Board in June of 1987 that it was noted that a report in the Globe and Mail indicated that Dr. Marquis might be included in the next list for the Order of Canada Award. Unfortunately, Dr. Marquis was never in receipt of the Award.

On May 31, 1991, Dr. J. A. D. Marquis passed away, leaving his wife, Helme. During the Board of Management Meeting in September of 1991, a memorial to Dr. Marquis was proposed for inside the building as well as something in the garden. In April of 1992, a Committee of the Board recommended that two plaques be erected, one in memory of Dr. J. A. D. Marquis and one in memory of his father, Dr. J. A. Marquis. Each plaque would be approximately 9 inches by 12 inches with engraved plain blackened letters. The plaques were presented on May 26th, 1992 at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting by Miss Margaret Stedman and were received by the incoming President, Mrs. Frank (Shirley) Wells. Dr. Marquis' widow, Helme, was present on the occasion. A flowering pear tree had been planted on the grounds of the Home in November of 1991.

In January of 1992, it was reported to the Board of Management that the Home's Accountant, Marlene McGraw, was expressing concern about the operation of the Home. The cost per resident had risen to \$6.00 per day in excess of the ceiling allowed for subsidization purposes. By November of 1993, the situation was deemed as being serious. At the time a representative of the Home's Accounting Firm and of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, attended a Meeting of the Board of Management to explain the alternatives of continuing the operation of Sheridan Place in a different concept and to discuss the financial implications considering the current and future shortage of residents. It was recognized that the Home could not break even financially with in excess of three vacancies and that there was currently well in excess of that number, a situation that was not likely to change in view of the extensive Home Care Programs currently available allowing people to remain in their homes longer. It was noted that Brantford currently had many empty residential type beds. It was pointed out that the Home was unable to provide heavy duty nursing care without making structural changes to the building as well as staff changes and that it would have to operate under different Government Rules and Regulations. The Board of Management was of the realization that the situation was serious and considered adopting one of the alternative proposals which had been made or possibly ending the operation of Sheridan Place as it currently existed. The Home's Accountant pointed out that Sheridan Place would have to fill at least 16 full pay beds to break even and were not currently meeting that level. A question was posed as to whether the Board would be willing to dig into capital funds to cover expenses. It was suggested the projected income would probably drop because of low interest rates. It was also suggested that the Home could continue to operate under its

current mandate until the capital was exhausted but a consensus arose that this was not a wise choice. To change from a Residential to a Health Care Facility would require many expensive structural changes and Queen's Park had apparently already indicated that the Home was unable to meet standards as it was now. The Ontario Government representative suggested that setting up a Foundation was something the Board may want to consider.

The Board of Management received a Report on the results of a Meeting of representatives from the John Noble Home and members of the Sheridan Place Board of Management and Staff. One suggestion was the possibility of the absorption of Sheridan Place by the John Noble Home. All of Sheridan Place's residents would be absorbed within 4 to 6 weeks and positions for the Sheridan Place Staff could be found if the building was purchased by the John Noble Home. If approved, the John Noble Home could consider using Sheridan Place for a Day Care Centre for seniors who are quite frail. They would come in for half or full days for recreational needs and the bedrooms could be used at night for respite care for Alzheimer's patients. It was suggested that there was a significant need in Brantford for both Respite Care and Day Care for frail seniors.

The Government representative suggested that should Sheridan Place attempt to maintain the status quo, that funding would be very vague. A partnership with another group was suggested as a possibility. Further discussion with the John Noble Home was also suggested.

The Board of Management discussed the following points:

1. Is there a need for Sheridan Place in its present form? A very painful decision.
2. There is no Day Care for frail seniors or Respite Care in Brantford. Could Sheridan Place operate such a facility, similar to the suggestion made by the John Noble Home?
3. Could Sheridan Place become a Foundation and use its funds towards worthwhile community projects?
4. Would Board Members carry on under a new Mandate?

It was generally felt by the Board that for the sake of the residents and Staff that a decision about the future of Sheridan Place should be made as soon as possible. If it was decided to close the Home, residents would be given a choice as to where they would like to go.

At a Board of Management Meeting in November of 1993, it was reported that a Meeting had been held with Mr. Lee Dudley, solicitor for the Home, to discuss the intricacies associated with the changing role of Sheridan Place. Mr. Dudley had advised that if the organization dissolved, everything would have to go to charity. It was subsequently resolved by the Board that Sheridan Place cease operation as a Retirement Home as soon as possible after arrangements have been made for the transfer of the residents and all ongoing financial and legal obligations have been met.

It was decided by the Board of Management that the Sheridan Place Charter should not be surrendered at this time. It was reported to the Board that the John Noble Home required additional space and were desirous of setting up a Day Care Centre for the Frail and Elderly.,

Janice Mills, the Administrator of the John Noble Home apparently looked favourably upon the idea of taking Sheridan Place as an Annex and was to present the proposal to the Board in early December 1993. It was indicated that if the proposal was approved, the John Noble Home would accept most of the Sheridan Place Staff. It was subsequently resolved by the Board of Management that a Committee of the Board be struck and authorized to undertake discussion with the Board of the John Noble Home regarding the possible transfer of residents, the possible transfer of the lands and premises and the possible hiring of Sheridan Place Staff.

It was decided that a Meeting be scheduled with residents and their families to explain the Board's position and options. The Meeting was held between Christmas and New Years 1993. The Board decided that the Building and Investment Portfolios remain as two separate entities. It was decided that consideration be given to setting up a Foundation at a later date.

At a Board of Management Meeting held in mid-December 1993, the Home's solicitor, Mr. Lee Dudley, reported as follows: Because Sheridan Place is a Charitable Organization, the Board does not have absolute ownership of its assets and the Board Members are Trustees of the assets. To wind up active operation of the Home, the Board would have to consider;

1. What will happen to the residents?
2. What will happen to the employees?
3. How to deal with ongoing contracts for services?

The subject of what to do with the Home's assets was discussed by the Board of Management and no further direct contact was made with the John Noble Home regarding it assuming operation of Sheridan Place in a different format. It was pointed out that the John Noble Home belonged to the City of Brantford and if the John Noble Home was in a position to take over Sheridan Place it would likely require funds, likely sufficient to initiate their programs over a period of a few months. It was reported that the Public Trustee would explore ways to ensure that funds were used for charitable purposes rather than paying of a deficit of a municipal organization. Certain clauses and trusts to the gift would be attached for restrictive purposes. The attitude of the Public Trustee was that if Sheridan Place proposed to transfer the building to another facility such as the John Noble Home then why not the assets. It was further reported that there was a tremendous resistance by the Public Trustee to setting up a Foundation. A Foundation would have disbursement quotas and is of perpetual duration. It was pointed out to the Board that it would likely take a minimum of six months to complete all the required paper work with the Office of the Public Trustee to incorporate as a Foundation and even then it might not be approved. It was also pointed out that the Public Trustee must approve of the sale of the building and also that when Charitable Organizations are dissolved, the funds can be allocated to other Charitable Organizations of similar Purpose. Charitable Organizations anywhere in Canada could be chosen as recipients in the disbursement of Sheridan Place, should the Corporation be dissolved. Alternatives, other than facilities for the elderly may be considered by the Public Trustee.

At the Board of Management Meeting in January 1994, Mrs. Shirley Wells reported speaking confidentially to Janice Mills about the Sheridan Place Building and funds. The John Noble

Home Board had met in camera in early January to discuss the Sheridan Place proposal. It was suggested that the Board send a proposal that the John Noble Home take Sheridan Place and a "ball park" figure of the sum that would be available to commence programming. In December of 1993, the John Noble Home had established a Foundation and received a Charitable Number. Any funds received from Sheridan Place could be placed in the Foundation as such monies could be so directed. It was reported that Mr. Lee Dudley had been advised that the Sheridan Place funds would have to go to the care of the elderly. Board Members suggested where the funds might be directed, including St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, St. Joseph's being renowned for its excellent chronic care, the Salvation Army, the Kiwanis Club which was seeking funds for hospice care, the Alzheimer's Society which works in conjunction with the John Noble Home. The consensus was that the John Noble Home would work with any community organization as it was very community minded.

During a long term planning Meeting at the John Noble Home in January 1994, Janice Mills suggested that the Sheridan Place proposal could state that the income from its funds be used to supplement community programming dollars. It was resolved by the Board of Management that Lee Dudley be asked to draw up a proposal to the John Noble Home with the offer of \$500,000 minimum which would go directly to the John Noble Home Foundation, plus the Sheridan Place Building, grounds and inventory contents, with the understanding that the building would be used for community purposes for the Frail and Elderly.

Mrs. Wells reported to the Board of Management in February of 1994 that the Board's proposal went over well with the John Noble Home Board but they apparently questioned how far down the line funding would carry them and that the John Noble Home Board felt that it would take at least one further meeting in order to determine if Government funding would show up. The Health Council recognized that Day Care facilities for the Frail and Elderly would be an important asset to the community as it was proving in other communities.

Mrs. Wells reported to the Board of Management at its March 1994 Meeting that the Sheridan Place proposal to the John Noble Home had apparently not received much attention and had in fact been referred to their Finance Committee. It was further reported that the Finance Committee had given a completely negative response to the Sheridan Place proposal and they indicated they were desirous of using the funds offered as they saw fit. It was also reported that Brant County, which contributed to the upkeep of the John Noble Home, was very much opposed to the Sheridan Place proposal. The John Noble Home was negative about the proposal unless funding was guaranteed by the Government but apparently they would need a building before the Government would consider funding. The John Noble Home requested a copy of Sheridan Place's audited financial statement to determine the yearly operational costs. It was reported that the John Noble Home had approximately \$300,000 in the Foundation at present. The John Noble Home wanted to know if the funds that Sheridan Place was offering could be used for other seniors programs and if they accepted the building and funds, could they sell the building at some later date if the program was not successful. The Members of the Board of Management felt a deadline for a definite response to its proposal should be received from the John Noble Home no later than April 15, 1994.

It was brought to the attention of the Board of Management that all Sheridan Place residents had been placed in other homes and that Sheridan Place was no longer considered a Charitable Institution. The question arose as to when Property tax would have to be paid on the property at 6 Sheridan Street and if the Board was left with the building would an appraisal be recruited as well as an auction of furniture and contents.

The Board of Management was advised that the Public Trustee was not in favour of funds going to the Salvation Army because it would go to a central pot. It was pointed out that the Salvation Army had nursing homes in Niagara Falls and Kitchener and that Sheridan Place could possibly designate that funds be used in these homes if it was decided to go that route.

At the April 1994 Board of Management Meeting, it was reported that progress with the John Noble Home was being held up because of inclusion in the Sheridan Place proposal that a program be set up in the Home. The John Noble Home required a guarantee of Government funding for programs and that apparently was not possible at this time. As an alternative, it was suggested that Sheridan Place could give the funds and building to the John Noble Home "Fund", essentially the same as a Foundation, with the funds to be used for renovations in the Alzheimer's Unit. The solicitor for the Home, Mr. Lee Dudley, had been consulted regarding this and he advised that Ignatius Cockshutt gave money and property to both the John Noble Home and Sheridan Place so they were considered "sometimes situation". legally. It was suggested that the John Noble Home would probably not sell Sheridan Place but all responsibilities would be theirs. The Board was advised that Lee Dudley had received from the Public Trustee a "Draft Without Prejudice" which outlined information required from Sheridan Place, including the following:

1. Annual audited financial statements;
2. Copies of Resolution with respect to dissolution and proposed dissolution;
3. Copy of Dissolution Document;
4. Information regarding cancellation of Charitable Institution Number;
5. Information regarding Letters Patent;
6. Precise realty involved;
7. Specifications regarding distribution to organizations;
8. Information regarding John Noble Home Fund;
9. John Noble Home Real Estate;
10. Proposed recipients in accordance with Charities Accounting Act.

At this point it was expressed that the Public Trustee was suggesting that the entire Sheridan Place operation go to the John Noble Home. The opinion was expressed by the Office of the Public Trustee that should it go to the Salvation Army it would mean that the funds would be used for nursing homes outside the area. The Members of the Board of Management expressed the desire that the funds be used in Brantford.

On April 12, 1994, it was resolved by the Board of Management that the Letters Patent of the Corporation be surrendered and the Corporation dissolved as soon as Practicable after receiving all necessary Government approvals. It was further resolved that the President of the

Corporation be and that she was hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to give effect to such Resolution. It was further resolved that upon dissolution of the Corporation, the payment of all debts and liabilities, the assets of the Corporation be distributed as follows: That the total assets of Sheridan Place be turned over to the John Noble Home Fund. All documents were to be delivered immediately to the Office of the Public Trustee for prompt processing. The subject of the plaques placed in Sheridan Place in memory of Dr. John Marquis and Dr. J. A. D. Marquis was discussed by the Board and it was suggested that they be relocated. Dr. J. A. D. Marquis widow, Helme, was to be consulted to determine what she would like done with them. A decision was subsequently arrived at that the plaques remain in the Home which was done.

At the May 1994 Board of Management Meeting, Mr. K. P. Lefebvre of the Law Firm of Lefebvre and Lefebvre was in attendance at the invitation of Mrs. Wells. He spoke to the Board about the current position of Sheridan Place and reported that the Public Trustee had given a definite no to the transferring of funds to the John Noble Home Fund. He suggested establishing a Sheridan Place Corporation. The existing Board of Management would nominate a new Board consisting of at least seven members and would administer the Corporation's funds as it saw fit. The Board of Management was in agreement with Mr. Lefebvre's suggestion, who indicated that he had discussed same with Mr. Dudley who was also in agreement. Mr. Lefebvre recommended that the Home be appraised and that a real estate firm be contacted and the property listed for sale as soon as possible.

On June 28, 1994, a Special Board of Management Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lee Dudley. Also in attendance was Mr. Lefebvre. Mr. Dudley reviewed the Board's position to date and outlined a way around the roadblock set up by the Public Trustee. Sheridan Place would retain its Charter and continue to operate in a different fashion, with a reconstituted membership and reconstituted Board with all assets to be transferred for specific purposes. The building at 6 Sheridan Street was to be listed for sale with Executive Realty with an asking price of \$350,000. Mr. Dudley directed that the Sheridan Place name be removed from the front lawn signs and that the brass plaque also be removed. The brass plaque was apparently not removed as it remains today to the left of the main front entrance. Permission to pay all outstanding accounts was given. Letters of resignation from Members and Directors of the Board of Management were received by Mr. Dudley. Mr. Dudley pointed out that the Sheridan Place Charter required that the Corporation deal with Homes for the Elderly in Brant County and therefore the new Corporation would carry on its mandate. The John Noble Home would be the most likely recipient of Sheridan Place Grants but the Board would be flexible. The current BY-Laws allowed up to nine members on the reconstituted Board which would meet quarterly. Members of the old Board of Management felt that three of its members should be on the new Board. At this point, Mr. Dudley and Mr. Lefebvre left the Meeting and Mrs. Wells assumed the chairmanship of this portion of the Meeting. She presented the following names as candidates for membership on the reconstituted Board of Sheridan Place, all of whom agreed to allow their names to stand, as follows: Mrs. F. A. Wells; Mrs. J. R. Digby; Mrs. E. D. Vance; Mrs. Marlene McGraw; Mr. K. P. Lefebvre; Mr. L. H. Dudley, Mr. V. H. Sisson. It was resolved that the foregoing be accepted as Members of the reconstituted Board of Sheridan Place. It was further resolved that the resignations of the existing Member's and Directors of the

Board of Management of Sheridan Place be accepted. Mrs. Wells thanked all members of the former Board of Management for their friendship and support during the very difficult transition period. The Meeting was then adjourned, thereby closing the Minute Book of Meetings of the Board of Management of Sheridan Place Retirement Home for Women after almost 125 years of continuous service in the Community. However, the reconstituted Board of Sheridan Place would continue long into the future, with the same mandate of caring for the Frail and Elderly in Brantford and Brant County.

The Building and property at 6 Sheridan Street was sold and is now known as Sheridan Lodge Retirement Home.



## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Brantford Widows' Home/Sheridan Place, was administered by a volunteer Board of Management composed entirely of women, many of whom were from prominent Brantford families. It is evidence of the tradition of service to the community, characteristic of these families, that in many cases their members served on the Board for extended periods. Enid Hately was the fourth generation of her family to serve as a Board member. Her family predecessors were Mrs. Elias Ransom, Mrs. Cummings Nelles, who served as President for 39 years from 1881 to 1920 and Mrs. George Hately who served as President for 8 years from 1924 to 1932. Helen Scarfe, who became President in 1932, remained in office for 14 years, retiring in 1946 and followed in the footsteps of her mother, Mrs. John Wallace who was President from 1920 to 1924 and her grandmother, Mrs. James Wallace, who served as the Home's first President from 1869 to 1881. As can readily be seen, it was not unusual for a President in the early years to remain in office 15, 20 or more years. Mrs. Frank Cockshutt holds the record for service on the Board, as Secretary and Treasurer, having served for over 50 years. The services of Mrs. D. J. Waterous, Mrs. C. H. Waterous and Mrs. David Waterous, Mrs. Ignatius Cockshutt and Mrs. Gordon Cockshutt are also recorded in the Record Books. Other well known family names associated with the residence throughout its long history are Wilkes, Cleghorn and Stedman. Such community service is unrivalled in providing for those unable to fend for themselves.

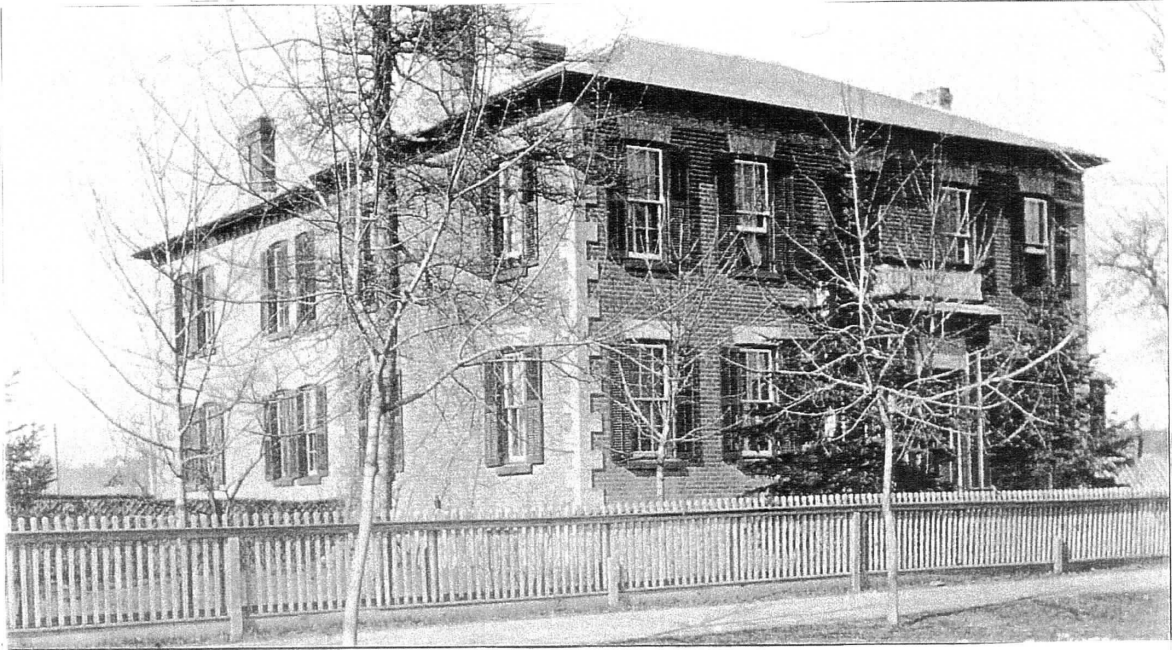
The following held the Office of President of the Board of Management, initially of The Brantford Widows' Home and in more recent years, Sheridan Place:

Mrs. James Wallace	1869 to 1881
Mrs. Cummings Nelles	1881 to 1920
Mrs. John Wallace	1920 to 1924
Mrs. George Hately	1924 to 1932
Mrs. Reginald Scarfe	1932 to 1946
Mrs. Donald Waterous	1946 to 1954
Mrs. R. V. Woofinden	1954 to 1959
Mrs W. D. Hurley	1959 to 1961
Mrs. Hedley Ross	1961 to 1966
Mrs. Peter Lyons	3 Months in 1964
Mrs. Gordon Adams	1966 to 1968
Miss Margaret Stedman	1968 to 1971
Mrs. J. S. Holden	1971 - February to September
Mrs. R. L. du Domaine	1971 to 1973
Mrs. E. D. Vance Jr.	1973 to 1976
Mrs. F. E. Sterne	1976 to 1978
Mrs. Gordon Chown	1978 to 1980
Mrs. John Stratford	1980 to 1982
Mrs. James Digby	1982 to 1984
Mrs. E. O. Fanjoy	1984 to 1986

Mrs. Gordon McIvor	1986 to 1988
Mrs. Warne Emmott	1988 to 1990
Mrs. John Mott	1990 to 1992
Mrs. Frank Wells	1992 to 1994



Sheridan Place as it would have appeared in the 1980's



The Widows' Home as it likely would have appeared in 1873 when it was purchased by Ignatius Cockshutt and bestowed as a gift to be used as a permanent 'Home' for old women



Ignatius Cockshutt - Benefactor  
of The Widows' Home



Mrs. James Wallace  
First President  
Board of Management



Mrs. Ignatius Cockshutt - An ardent supporter of The Widows' Home and a long time member of the Board of Management



Plaque on exterior wall of former Sheridan Place adjacent to main entrance.