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Charles J. Gilby, Resident Of Holland Tp. Since '86, Travelled on 4 Continents

Now in 85th Year, He Received Most of His Education in Constantinople, Now Istanbul—Father Was Shipbuilder

Chas. J. Gilby, a farmer-resident of Holland Township, since 1886, lived for six years in Constantinople, Turkey, and travelled on four continents during his boyhood. He received most of his education in Constantinople, then called Istanbul and sometimes wishes he had remained there in what he terms "the most beautiful climate in the world". Mr. Gilby is now in his 85th year. He lived for six years in Brant

Visited Many Lands



CHAS. J. GILBY,
former resident of Holland Township who travelled four continents during his boyhood days.

Township near Hanover, just after his father brought him and his mother and sister to this country from England in 1879. They first settled near Chatsworth in Holland Township but moved the same year to Brant, where they farmed for sixty years. Then in 1886 the whole family went back to Holland and have remained there since.

Born in London

Mr. Gilby was born in 1863 in the East End, London, England. His father, Moses Gilby, was a shipbuilder and shortly after his son's birth went to Turkey under a three-year contract with the Turkish government to build ships and teach the Turkish natives how to construct them. Turkey was then the the Ottoman Empire and included far more territory than it does today.

At the end of contract's three year term Mr. Gilby's father agreed to remain at the work for another term, and brought his wife and two children to Constantinople in 1870. The mosques and minarets of the Moslem Orient, the ancient walls of old Istanbul, and the atmosphere of the Near East became very familiar to Mr. Gilby as he grew from childhood to his early teens and received his education there. He still remembers them with great pleasure.

Loveliest Climate in World

Turkey, he says, has the loveliest climate in the world, the most beautiful women in the world, and is the "most hatless country in the world." A fez was the only common headgear he saw worn in Turkey, according to Mr. Gilby. He adds too that he believes the reason no nation has invaded Turkey is that the whole Moslem world stands behind the Turks.

When the Turko-Russian war began to shape up in 1876 the family moved back to London, England, where they lived for two years in Hammersmith, London's West End. The Turkish war with Russia began in 1877 and the family came to Canada two years later.

Turkish Fez Drew Shots

During his trip to Constantinople and then on the trip home again, Mr. Gilby and his mother and sister

Holland School Secretary Tenders Resignation After Nearly 50 Years of Service

Charles J. Gilby, Secretary of S.S. No. 1, Holland, Lays Down His Pen—Native of London, England, He Was Educated in Turkey—Has Been Successful Farmer in Canada

CHATSWORTH, May 1 — After serving his community as secretary Treasurer of the School Section No. 1, Holland township, for almost 50 years, Charles J. Gilby has decided to enjoy a well-earned rest and recently tendered his resignation to the Board. His resignation was accepted, and the new Secretary Mrs. Cecil Weeden, who is the daughter of Mr. Gilby, who was raised in the school section and received her primary education in the school for which her father was Secretary.

In a 50 year period there have in the natural course of events been many changes, and like many other sections, there has been a steady drop in the attendance. The attendance at the school at the time of Mr. Gilby's appointment numbered 40 and 45, and some years later reached 60, whereas today there are only three pupils in the school. The salaries of the teachers varied from a low of \$250 to a high of \$1,000 a year, which was paid in 1923. The present salary is \$900. The trustees in 1893 were James Galbraith, John C. Baird and George Holland, all deceased. The present trustees are Robert J. Hogg, chairman; Chester Jackson and Bruce Elder.

It is rather interesting to note that the first teacher, Robert Baird during Mr. Gilby's years of service received a salary of \$250 a year and in addition of his teaching duties lit the fires in the school. The first caretaker, the late Robert Hogg, was appointed in 1901 at a salary of \$5.75 for the school year. Mr. Gilby sent his first report to the late

Thomas Gordon, who was district inspector at that time, 1893-1894, and for some years subsequently. He worked under five inspectors since taking the position, namely: Thos. Gordon, H. H. Burgess, J. J. Wilson, S. A. Morrison and L. L. Sinclair, who is the present inspector. There were 37 teachers in the school during his period of office.

When Mr. Gilby took office he was paid the magnificent salary of \$4.00 per year. He compiled and published their first log and history of the Public Schools in this part of Grey County for S. S. No. 1, Holland, at the request of the Inspector S. A. Morrison.

Mr. Gilby, who still enjoys excellent health in his 81st year, retains all his faculties, with the exception of a little deafness, in a rather remarkable degree. He is right up to date on what is going around his own community and the world at large, and thoroughly enjoys life.

He has enjoyed a rather diversified career. Born in the east end of London, England, in February, 1863, he went to Turkey with his parents at the age of 8 years. Here he received most of his education at the Haskor Mechanics' Institute School. He knows Constantinople from the Black Sea to the Golden Horn like an open book, especially Pera, Galata, and Istamboul-Stamboul, as the Turks call it. He has set his beet in four of the continents, Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, having visited Stamboul, Smyrna, Scutari, Alexandria, Malta, Messina, Lisbon, and Gibraltar. He has the unique distinction of being

Secretary Retires



CHAS. J. GILBY

who has tendered his resignation as Secretary of S.S. No. 1 Holland Township, a position he held for almost 50 years.

the cause of two shots being fired out of that famous rock.

Leaving Constantinople at the rumors of the Russo-Turk war, 1876, he returned to London and resided in the West End, Hammersmith, until he came to Canada in 1879. Since that time he has been engaged in farming and has not been unsuccessful in that capacity.

Among other pursuits, he took up the study of architecture and will leave many school houses, churches and residences in the district as monuments to his ability along that line. At one time he was looked upon as one of the finest penmen in Grey County.