

THE DOBSON FAMILY

John Dobson was born in Baildon, Yorkshire, England in the year 1792. He married Hannah Fairbank of the same place. Their son, James Dobson, born June 1, 1839, came to Canada and in 1861 married Matilda Wright in the parsonage of J.F.A.S. Fayette in Tecumseh Township. Matilda was the daughter of William & Elizabeth Wright. William Wright was born 1800 in County Managhan, Ireland. Mr. & Mrs James Dobson lived in Tecumseh where their family were born, moved to Kleinburg and later to Alberta and homesteaded at Innisfil. Their son, Francis Reuben Dobson, who was born July 9, 1875 stayed here and in 1898 married Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs Henry Thompson who farmed on the 11th Concession of King Township. Her brother Henry Thompson owned the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 6, Con 10, James the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 7, Con 10, and Alfred the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 6, Con 11, Township of King.

Frank and Elizabeth Dobson lived in Nobleton until 1908, when they bought the present Dobson farm, 1 mile south of Nobleton on the east side of Highway 27. Later they bought the 100 acre Mitchell farm to the North. Frank Dobson was a builder by trade and built a number of houses and barns in the district, also bricked and plastered the Kleinburg United Church. He was an Orangeman and a Black Knight. Mr. & Mrs Dobson were active and devoted members of the old Methodist Church and after Church Union of the Nobleton United Church. Mrs Dobson was a Life Member of the W.A. and Frank Dobson, an elder of the Church until his death. They had 6 children, Frank Reuben, Wilbert, Gertrude Gladys (deceased 1906) and Mildred, all born in Nobleton, and Howard born on the farm. Wilbert and Howard stayed on the farm, while their brother and sisters married and moved away.

In 1933 Howard married Ellen Westover of Weston. They made their home at the farm and had 2 sons, Thomas and Edgar, and 1 daughter Dana. Tom and Edgar played hockey and baseball for Nobleton.

Tom received a Degree in Business Engineering at the University of Toronto and is a Junior Executive with Ford Motor Company of Canada. Edger graduated from Ryerson Institute in Electrical Engineering and is the London Manager for Power Regulator Company of Canada. Dana graduated from Weston High School and married D.Howard Winder of Weston.

On January 26, 1958, Frank and Elizabeth Dobson celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and on April 25, 1958, Mrs Dobson died. Frank continued in good health until his death on September 8, 1964.

Howard and Wilbert were in the milk business till 1969 when they sold the north 100 acres, retaining the original Dobson farm where they still grow grain and fatten beef cattle. In their possession are the Crown Deeds from George III of the farms.

Ellen Dobson worked for the Township of King for more than 18 years until her retirement in 1972, at which time she held the position of Deputy-Treasurer of the Township of King.

Howard and Ellen Dobson are both active members of the Nobleton United Church. Howard has been an Elder since his Father's death. During a trip to England in 1970, they visited the church and graveyard at Baildon in Yorkshire and found a head stone on which Howard's Great Grandfathers and Great Grandmother's deaths in 1862 and 1850 respectively were recorded. This headstone recorded the death of Sarah Fairbank, April 9, 1801, aged 78 years, also William Fairbank who died May 3, 1803, aged 80 years. Sarah and William Fairbank were Frank Dobson's Great-Great Grandparents.