

CENTURY FARM

Allan Gellatly - Lot 16 and part of 17, Conc. 4 (rear of 3rd), King Township

In the year 1857, Peter Gellatly, of Blairgowrie, Scotland, came to Canada. His neighbours, the Wightons, and their son John and daughter Margaret had emigrated the previous year. In 1858 Peter Gellatly and Margaret Wighton were married in Toronto, then called Muddy York. Their son Robert was born in 1859.

About 1860, Peter Gellatly and his brother-in-law, John Wighton bought a 200 acre farm in King Township from a land agent in Toronto without seeing it. The agent said "It was as level as a table". John Wighton got the north 50 acres of Lot 17 and Peter Gellatly got the south 50 acres. This property was completely wooded with huge pine trees, to be cleared with oxen and later a stumping machine. In later years, Robert Gellatly bought the adjoining 100 acres to the south.

Robert Gellatly had 3 sisters, Jennie, the eldest, married Tom Marshall and they farmed just east of Eversley. The two unmarried sisters, Bessie and Maggie, kept the Post Office at Eversley for many years.

Robert Gellatly married Elizabeth Ferguson, only daughter of Thomas Ferguson. Thomas Ferguson and his sons Will and Hugh owned farms, now part of Eaton Hall Farm. Another son, T.K. Ferguson, owned the farm just north of the Green Lane on Con. 3. The five Ferguson brothers were Joshua, John, Will, Hugh and T.K. Ferguson.

We have been told that in the early days, the hills of King produced good straight pine trees and that they were shipped to England and Scotland to be used as masts for sailing ships. On our farm we had at one time about 400 rod of stump fence. The oxen pulled the stumps to clear the land.

Robert Gellatly had three daughters, Clara, Jessie and Mary and five sons, Walter, Harvey, Roger, Ernest and Allan.

Allan Gellatly has two daughters, Carol and Shelia, and three sons, Peter, Brian and Kenneth. Brian is the fourth generation to farm this land.

HISTORY OF THE CURTIS FARM - A CROWN DEED FARM

By

Mrs. Fred Curtis

The first settlers to settle on the Curtis Farm, located in Lot 9, Con. 4, King Township, were Mr. William Curtis and his wife, Mary Ann Germain, both English descent, Grandparents of Mr. Frederick William Curtis who holds the Crown Deed.

They were married February 26, 1857. Mr. Curtis bought the 100 acre farm from the Crown May 18, 1857, at a cost of 62 lbs., 10 shillings. That same summer the first house was built at the back of the farm. It was built of logs. Later the farm was cleared and a barn built close to the house.

Farming was started by the use of oxen. There were several beech trees on the farm so from that it was named " BEECH MOUNT FARM "

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis had five of a family and spent their life on the farm until retirement age, when they built a home in King, and lived there, 113 Keele St. S., until their death.

Their son, Arthur William Lonsdale Curtis, took over the farm, in the year 1891.

On February 24, 1892, he married Annie Cicely Ball. The house that still stands was built in the year 1861, and was the birth place of Arthur William Lonsdale Curtis, the father of Frederick William Curtis, Mary Isobelle (Mrs. Ralph Burns) and Josephine Beatrice (Mrs. James Wells) all of whom reside in King City at the present time.

Mr. Curtis did mixed farming. The hydro was installed in both the house and barn in the year 1928. The telephone, known as the King Line, later changed to King and Vaughan line, was installed in the year 1908.

Frederick William Curtis worked the farm with his father. In the year 1940, April 17, at the age of 78, Mr. William Curtis died. The farm was willed to his wife, Annie Cicely Curtis. Frederick William Curtis then worked the farm for his mother.

On June 11, 1941 he married Annie Roberta Ferguson, who came as a bride to the farm. On August 5, 1944, after a lengthy illness, Mrs. Annie Cecely Curtis died. At this time Mr. Frederick William Curtis inherited the farm, stock and implements.

Up until this time a dug well back of the barn watered the stock, and a dug well at the house supplied the house. In 1945 a well was drilled at the back of the barn and water installed in the house and the barn. A bathroom was put in the house.

The barn was a bank barn, stableing underneath and barn above. Up until five years before selling the farm it was all mixed farming. The last years some dairying.

In 1892 taxes on this property were about \$20.00 per year. In 1955 the last year for this farm to be in the Curtis name, the taxes were \$185.00

In March 1955 the farm was sold, to the King Cross Estate.

April 20, 1955 a sale was called and stock and implements disposed of.

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick William Curtis moved to King City, 143 Humber Cresnet. They retained the Crown Deed to the farm.







This drawing was done
just after

The Wade Family

Philip

1835

Mary

Of Sussex England

Mary Ann John Dianna Philip George William Frances James -

Sara Hoover

John Kate Ann William Sara Sadie Philip Frances -

Eliza
Moody

John
Fry

Arthur
Lane

Hall

Frank
Moody

Hannah
Wattlake

George
Stewart

Ethel
William
Cennyson

Florence
Scott
Bovair

John Aubrey

Grace
Chandler

Laura
Oliver
Legge

Norman

Betty Saigler

Linda Sandra

1967

THE WINTER FARM

Lot #3, In 4th Concession, Township of King

200 Acres

I have been told that the above lot was the one selected as the "Clergy Reserve" for the Anglican Church at King. It apparently was one among a number of similar purposes, but in some way or other, the responsible Officials failed to obtain the signature of the Governor of Upper Canada before his departure for England, and before anything further could be done, so great an opposition towards these grants arose that no Government had the courage to try to put them through. Some years ago when the Writer was a member of the Ontario Civil Service, Veterans Land Grants Department, Lands Forests and Mines. I made it my business to search "DOOMSDAY" in which all Crown Deeds are recorded. This Lot was granted to Neil Wilkie in the year 1801. Some years later he disposed of the east half of the lot (shown on sketch) On part of this half, the plan of part of the Village of King was Registered by Dr. James Beatty, in the year 1852. Eventually the 3 part lots were sold to individual buyers. At one time Lot 3 had a mortgage for \$1000.00 placed upon it. This mortgage was defaulted, the Lot passed into "The Court Of Chancery" and sold to the highest bidder. The Mortgagee, in giving title to the new owner had to secure, along with his own and family, that of sons-in-law, as well as, daughters-in-law, twenty-three signatures in all.

My Father, having bought the remaining 54 and $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the Lot, in the year 1867. He, at that time, and up until 1872, resided with his 3 brothers on the east half of Lot 5 in the 4th Concession, which they owned. Sometime between 1867 and 1872 the Northern and Northwestern Railway closed North Street on their western boundary. They put on gates and locked them. This would compel my Father, in his journey to his New Farm, to use the first street north of North Street, which ran west from Keele St. along the north side of the Station Agents' house, to a junction with West Street then south to North Street. My Father, in order to pass in the usual way, cut the gate down the centre, and passed through. A few days later a new gate was on and locked. This time he cut the gate posts off level with the ground. And that was that! From that day to the present hour, no attempt has ever been made to close the right of way. The incident shows what a man of courage can do in defence of his rights in face of a powerful company.

In 1907, my Father set aside a lot on which to build a home for his retirement from the farm, but before this was completed he passed on, leaving this home and the income from the farm to my Mother for life.

My Mother died in 1921, leaving her estate to my sister Margaret.

The time had come when my two brothers and I had to prepare to carry out the terms of my Father's will. We found that an error had occurred in the will respecting the House and Lot, which would result so that the road to the farm would be cut off, to remedy this, we thought it best to give my sister a deed for the property, clearing the road to the farm, but reserving a right of way over it for her property. I prepared a Deed for the same and sent it to the Registry office, in 10 days it was returned to me, stating that it could not be registered as the house appeared to be on a street allowance. A sketch was enclosed marking the street, and upon measurement, it was found that the house was right on Winter Street.

This state of affairs was caused by the fact that when a Village Plan is registered the ownership of the streets are invested in the of the township in which the village is situated and do not become the property of the village until such time as it is incorporated. Negotiations were opened with the officials of the township council, These negotiations extended over a period of two and one half years, before satisfactory terms were arranged for the closing of Summer Street, Winter Street, North Street, Union Street, and South Street, on the twenty-third of December 1923.

A Deed, by the Corporation of the Township of King, was granted to the Executors of the Estate of Thomas Winter, thus investing the ownership of the named streets in the above named estate, and from that date we are outside the Village of King.

As we close, we leave to the hand of time, the recording of the history yet to be. We have with us ⁱⁿ our declining years the memory of those semi-pioneer days, with their mud roads and well-worn paths, no sidewalks of any kind, youth did not need them. We would not wish for a return of these conditions again unless accompanied by youth.

King, Ontario

R.T.Winter

September 30, 1952

