

The Cooper Family



Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Cooper stand at the Arbor on the spacious lawn of their farm home.



Mrs. Cooper was never too busy to neglect her flower garden.

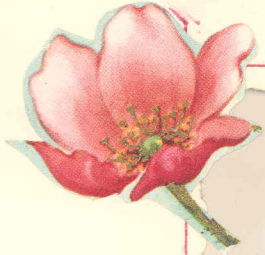
Emerson Cooper, eldest son of Thomas Cooper, has lived in the Schomberg Area for all of his life. He is a grandson of the late Joseph Cooper who came to Canada, from England, in 1842 and settled with his wife in York County. They had nine children, namely- Joseph; James; Alice; George; Ellen; John; Charles; Thomas and Mary. Of this large family only James, George, John and Thomas remained in this area.

Thomas, born in 1862 married Mary Ann Brown in 1887 and farmed in Simcoe County until 1896 when he moved to Lot 31, concession 8 W.H. of King Township. In 1901 he purchased this farm from the estate of Franklin Brown. This land had been taken from the Crown in 1803 by Joshua Applegrath and had changed owners several times until 1865 when purchased by J.R. Brown and in 1871 by Franklin Brown and finally in 1901 by Mr. Cooper.

As well as a farmer Thomas Cooper was also a pioneer thresher, having owned one of the first threshing machines in this area. Besides his own work he threshed for the majority of the farmers in the north-west corner of the township. His machine was called a "Buffalo Machine", having been made in Buffalo N.Y. It was purchased in 1893 and was still in good repair and used by his son Emerson until 1942. At first it was powered by Horse power, in 1909 this was changed to Steam and still later by Tractor power. A well remembered incident happened in the early nineteen hundreds when Mr. Cooper was moving from one farm to another on the Lloydtown sideroad, just west of concession 11, the machine upset down an embankment, which necessitated sending it back to Buffalo to be rebuilt- all expenses being paid by the Township on account of the condition of the road.

Thomas Cooper had a family of four- Pearl (Mrs. E. Proctor) living in Toronto; Ruby, (Mrs. R. Lloyd) died 1964; Emerson; and Wesley who died as a young man in 1929. Emerson was born on Nov. 8th 1899 and attended Schomberg Public School followed by two years at Continuation School, after which it was necessary for him to remain at home to assist with the farm work. In 1921 he married Alice Somerville and started farming for himself on Lot 27 W.H. of concession nine on a farm his father had purchased two years earlier. They have two children, Marie F.-Mrs. Ed Maynard of Schomberg and Maxwell who married Rose Smith and at present farms Lot 27 since his parents retirement in 1955. There are three grandchildren- Elaine Maynard and Nancy and Brenda Cooper. Emerson and Alice built their new home in Schomberg at the corner of Main St. and Cooper Drive and for the past eleven years has been employed with the Ont. Department of Agriculture as a vegetable Inspector. Apart from his work they are both ardent gardeners and find a great deal of enjoyment working among their lovely plants. They also participate in the activities of the village and attend the United Church

The Edward's Homestead.



Six generations of Edward's have descended from the owner of Lot 25 West, Concession 8 in the Township of King.

James Green Edwards and his wife were Pennsylvania Dutch, and came to Canada early in the Eighteen hundreds. They settled on the farm described above located on what was then only a rough road carved through the bush to what is now the busy 27 Highway.

On their arrival they built a log house which in 1855 was replaced by the solid brick house pictured above and which is now occupied by William Edwards and his wife the former Pearl Elmer.

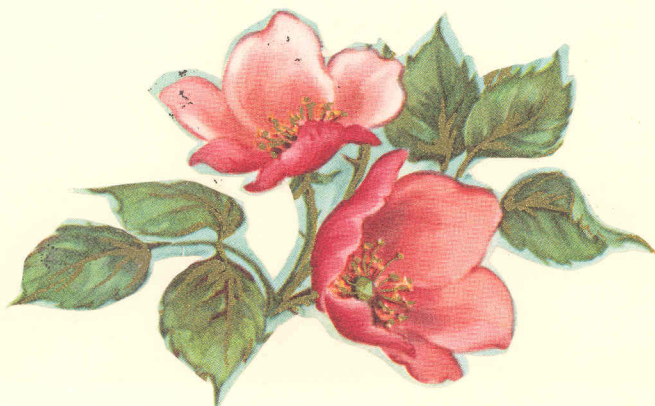
Mr. & Mrs. James Green Edwards had a family of five sons, Peter Joel, William, Albert, and Thomas, and two daughters, Martha, and Sarah. That was the era when a team of oxen was the horse power while the grain was threshed by flail.

The third son William remained on the farm while the others sought residence elsewhere. He married Susan Woodrow and they had two children John & Lida. They continued farming until John married Isabella Jardine in 1893 and took over the farm. Lida became the wife of Rolph Davis and the Mother of a family of three, Harold and Florence (deceased) and Laura who is now Mrs. Roy Dixon and resides in Schomberg.

William & Susan purchased a small farm near Pottageville which they soon sold and retired to their new home in Schomberg.

John and Isabella's family consisted of three sons, William, Earl, and George, and two daughters Gladys (Mrs. Rev. Burgess) and Orma (Mrs. Bert Bowman). Earl resides in Nobleton and George in Schomberg, but William remained on the farm and worked jointly with his Father and with his Wife shared the large brick house. After the parents death he and Pearl have continued to farm until when he sold part of the land but retained the family homestead in which they still live and enjoy the comforts and pleasures of country living that James and his wife could never have dreamed of. They have no children, but Georges son Murray and his sons David and Paul represent 6 generations of male descendents of the original owner.

Donated by
Mrs. G. and Mrs. W. Edwards.



THE HARVEY LEONARD FAMILY



June - 47

Harvey Leonard - son of Stephen and Mary Leonard, pioneers of this district. Harvey was born December 30, 1884 on the West half of Lot 30, Concession 8, King Township.

On January 20, 1909 he married Ethel Shaw, daughter of Ira and Mary Shaw of the East half of Lot 26, Concession 8, King Township. There were three children born of this marriage: Arthur - 1909; Mary - 1912 (deceased), and Kenneth - 1916.

Harvey Leonard attended both Public and Continuation School at Schomberg and after his marriage started farming the West half of Lot 32, Concession 8, King Township. The Crown deed of this land had been taken out by John Applegarth in 1803, at the price of \$300.00. In 1843 it was sold to Isiah Tepson. In 1855 it was sold to John Nixon. In 1856 it was sold to John Brown. Then in 1897 it was sold to Stephen Leonard, father of Harvey. In 1902 Arthur Leonard, older brother of Harvey, started farming this parcel of land, but died very suddenly at an early age, with Harvey taking over the farm.

In 1928 Harvey Leonard purchased the east half of Lot 32 from Neil McDonald and farmed this 100 acres until his son Arthur married Greta Courtney in 1936 and took over this farm.

Kenneth Leonard married Blanche Beatty in 1944 and took over the home farm, which in 1959 was sold to Mr. Chas. Aitchison.

In 1948 Harvey Leonard built a new home in Schomberg where he still resides.

During the years Mr. Leonard farmed many changes took place. The farm home was completely remodelled in 1919; then in 1927 when the Hydro was made available he had it installed. After using horses all his life he was one of the first in the neighbourhood to purchase a tractor and likewise a thresher in 1945. In 1917 he got one of the first cars in the district.

On January 30, 1959 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard celebrated their Golden Wedding, a most happy occasion for them, their family and friends. They have four grandchildren - Grant and Doris, Arthur's children, and Mary and Brock, Kenneth's two children.



contributed by Mrs. Kenneth Leonard



-1957-

"SPRINGVALE FARM"
"THE LYNN HOMESTEAD" LOT 28, 9TH CONCESSION



The front door of the old log house. Mother and my sister pose with two of the many City relatives that loved to spend the summer at the farm.



Much interesting information concerning the settlement of our immediate area of farm lands may be gleaned from the pages of the "Domesday Book", and it is factual that the Municipal Records of King Township are amazingly complete.

Since six generations of the "Lynn" family had lived on Lot 28 for one hundred and twelve consecutive years prior to 1956, it is of special interest to me to have traced the records of this old farm both at the Registry Office and through valuable old documents now in my possession; which enables me to write its story from the time when it was virgin forest and deeded from the Crown.

King Township was first laid out in 1800 by Surveyor Stegmann and completed in 1859, by Mr. Whelock with some alterations in the North Eastern boundary when the County of Simcoe was established. Settlers began to penetrate the forest and bargain for land as early as 1797 when seven Crown Patents or Deeds were granted; but it was not until 1801 and 1802 that any farms were claimed in this section. Records show that in 1809 there were 33 families with a total population of 160 in King Township. It was in 1805 John Wilson received the Crown Patent of Lot 28 and in the next forty-three years it changed owners four times, without having had a permanent house built on it. The last of these owners was Joshua Winn.

John Lynn, my great grandfather, came to Canada from Knockintern, County of Londonderry Ireland, in the year 1828 and settled with his family, in the County of Glengarry for twenty years. He had four sons, James, Joseph, William and John. In 1848 they moved to King Township and bought Lot 28 from Joshua Winn, for the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars. James was a school teacher and settled in Toronto; Joseph, my grandfather, followed the trade of a carpenter until he was appointed postmaster at Linton, and William and John became farmers. Their first task was to build a suitable house and the old log structure stood with only minor alterations to shelter five generations. They were indeed pioneer farmers and most of their implements, hand made from wood, were still stored in the shed in my time, as they had been replaced by more advanced models. My Great grandfather died in 1863 and I have the copy of his will in which he bequeathed the farm to William and John; with the provisions for their mother's care until her death. During these years the log exterior of the house was covered with clapboards that never did boast a coat of paint, but contributed greatly to added warmth and comfort. William and John farmed until 1907 when, from advanced age, they were forced to retire and the responsibility of the farm was assumed by their nephew, John Alex Lynn, son of Joseph and who was my father. The old gentlemen lived with us until their deaths a few years later. My father and mother, my sister Pearl and myself, occupied the farm until 1920 at which time my sister married Nelson Wauchope and took over the farm while my father, mother and I settled in Schomberg in the house now owned by Mr. Arnold Adair.

Now the old farm was still in the family but under a new name, and was to see new changes made; for this was the period of great strides in the methods of farming. In 1925 a new house was built and the old log one, in which their family was also born, was taken down. The stables were renovated, and power machinery was used on the farm for the first time.

In his prime of life, Nelson was stricken with ill health and died in 1958 leaving my sister with her two sons, Clifford and Jack and her daughter Joyce, to carry on the farm.

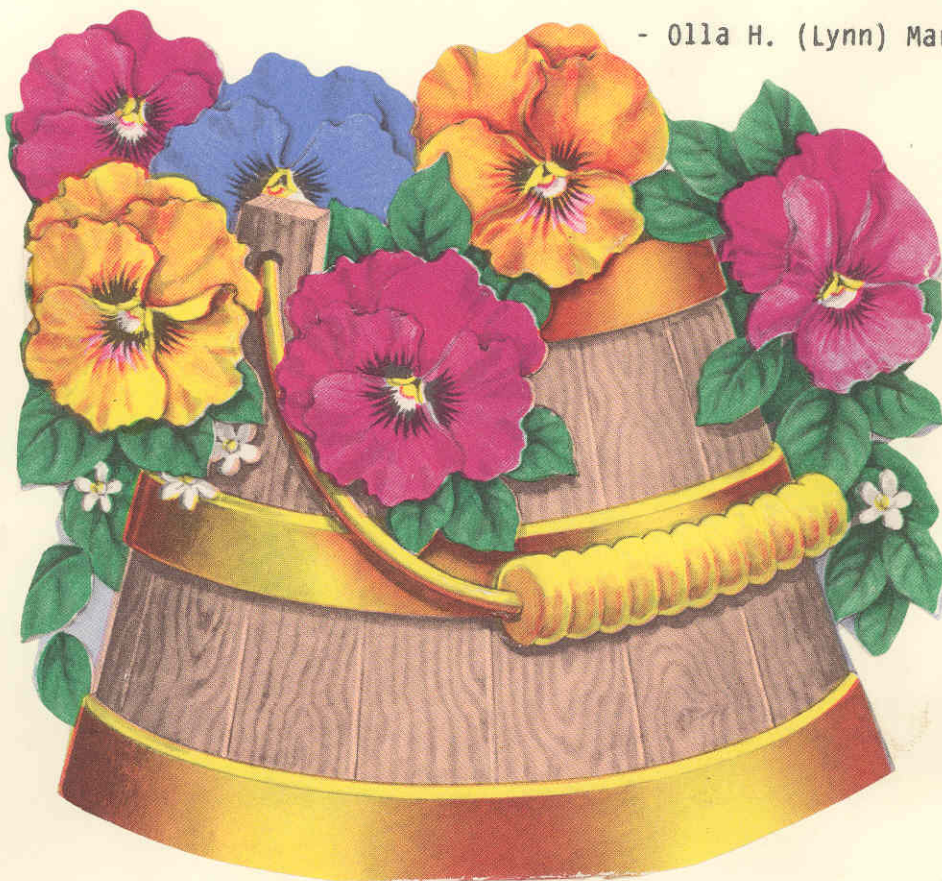
Clifford married Barbara Oldfield in November, 1948 and began farming in Tecumseth Township and when Jack married Valerie Hunter in December, 1949 his mother retired to Schomberg and Jack took over the farm.

Their four children, Fred, Donald, Ted and Jacqueline, were all born on the farm making the sixth generation to live on it.

However, farm life did not appeal to them and in 1956 the farm was sold to Clifford Graham who with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clarence Graham of Woodbridge, are at the present time joint owners.

Thus the story of over a hundred years of development and changes in the life of six generations on one homestead has ended and it is not likely any descendants will ever again be interested in "Springvale" as it was commonly known.

- Olla H. (Lynn) Marchant.



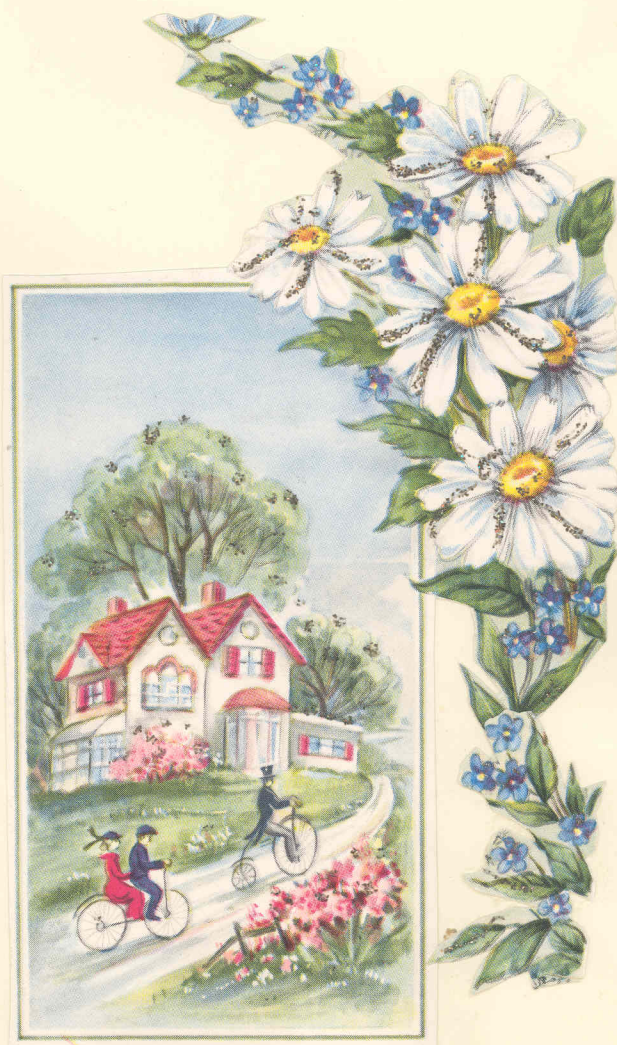
This old wooden roller still in use on the farm in 1910 was made by hand by my great Uncle, John Lynn, who is standing beside it.

April, 1966.

An interesting and thrilling experience happened for me this year and since it has a connection with the old farm, I believe it is worthy of relating in this history book. My history of Springvale ended when it was finally sold out of the family and I believed I would have no further interest in it, but for the Grahams it naturally held no feelings of sentiment and was purely a speculative venture. It grieved me whenever I passed to see it gradually deteriorating to the place where the barns were decaying and falling down and the grounds surrounding the house growing wild with weeds, under the care of disinterested tenants.

However there were brighter days ahead when in 1964 it was resold to a Mr. and Mrs. Castell of Toronto who saw in it possibilities for a summer home. They immediately began to restore the place. First the barns were torn down and the ground where they stood levelled; fences were built and the grounds around the house cleared, enlarged and graded. Changes were planned for the house and one day in the autumn of 1965 as a bulldozer was excavating for a new addition the workmen unearthed an old tin box about 6"x8" so rusted Mrs Castell had trouble getting it opened. It was found to contain a parchment Diploma issued to my Great Grandfather as he graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1812. It is in remarkably good condition and the seal of the University is enclosed in another small oval box and attached to the Diploma by a strip of parchment. Included in the box is a number of letters of reference and credentials each written by the various professors under which he studied. Some of the subjects were-Mathematics, Moral Philosophy, Greek, Natural History, Private and Public Logic, Divinity, Mineralogy and Zoology and several others. I was most grateful that Mrs. Castell went to the trouble of locating some one who would be interested in her find and that that someone was me because I am extremely interested in historical matters and more especially when it concerns my own ancestors. These old papers are now over one hundred and fifty years old and no one will ever know just how long they have been buried or why they were ever placed there in the first place. It is a great joy to me to know that someone has a new interest in the old farm and I hope their summers are as happy as many of mine were there.

Olla(Lynn) Marchant.



THE MARCHANT FAMILY

It is generally assumed that the first Marchant to set foot on English soil did so as a soldier of Henry the Conqueror of France who was defeated by Harold of England at the battle of Hastings on October 14th, 1066. However, from the pages of the 25th Edition of the Sussex, England Archaeological Report we read:- "Thomas Marchant of Albourne, Sussex had two sons - William and John. John died without issue; William had one son, Thomas. This Thomas Marchant was born in 1676 and during his lifetime was the land steward for the Duke of Somerset and died in 1728 at the age of 52 years. He had a large family but all but two predeceased him, William and Mary. Mary married in 1731 and became the great grandmother of the Rt. Hon. J.G. Dobson and died in 1784. William married and left a son Thomas, and died in 1776. Thomas married and left a son, William, and died in 1802. William married and left a son Thomas, the date of his death being unknown. Thomas married and left a son, Richard, the date of his death also being unknown.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Mr. Walter Bell
Miss Sarah Marchant
Mrs. Cross
Mrs. Bell
Mrs. W. Marchant
Mr. Richard Marchant
Mr. Cross
Mr. Wm. Marchant
and
Ross Marchant on
the radiator of
Mr. Bell's first
car (from Beeton).

Richard was born in 1830 and as a young man was engaged by the owner of a grist mill in the village of Slaugham, Sussex to be the Mill Manager and operator. While there he met and married Ann Winter and of this marriage six children were born - Nancy, Sarah, Edward, Georgia, Eliza and Florence. Richard, together with his wife and family emigrated to Canada in 1871 and lived for a few months in Toronto, thence to King Township where Richard became a miller, operating a mill at Bell's Lake on Concession #9 for a number of years. Here in July 24th, 1873 a seventh child was born, William, and later in 1873 his wife died.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Mrs. Edward Marchant
Mr. Victor Marchant
Mr. Edward Marchant
Mr. Clifford Marchant
Mr. Clarence Marchant

On March 1st, 1878 Richard, with the help of his son Edward, (at that time 14 years old) rented the east half of Lot 22, Concession 9, King Township and started to farm. In 1883 they moved to the east half of Lot 35, Concession 11, King Township and five years later moved to Lot 33, Concession 10 where they farmed for four years.

He then moved to the 8th Concession of Tecumseth and in 1902 Richard and William bought the east half of Lot 34, Concession 11, King Township, where Richard died in 1916 in his 87th year.

Edward Married Emma Jane Perry on November 1st, 1893 and farmed for eight years on the farm in Tecumseth and in 1901 bought the east half of Lot 34, Concession 10, King Township where they lived until 1926, when they retired to the village of Schomberg. Edward died September 21st, 1952 in his 89th year. His wife died November 16th, 1956 in her 92nd year. William married Marion Mitchell on November 8th, 1905 and lived on the 11th Concession until 1933 when they retired to Schomberg. William died July 19th, 1955 in his 82nd year. His wife Marion, is still living on this date. Of the five daughters born to Richard and Ann they are now all deceased, the last surviving, Florence, died at Jarrow, Alta. on April 11th, 1957.

Edward and Emma had three sons, Clarence Winter, born March 26th, 1896; Edward Victor, born June 20th, 1897 and Clifford Roberts, born November 3rd, 1900. Clarence married Olla Lynn in 1921 and farmed on Lot 33, Concession 10 for 30 years and retired to Schomberg where they now reside. Victor married Irene Brown, farming the home farm until 1951 when they also retired to Schomberg. Clifford married Marjorie Ferguson and lives in Weston where he is Business Administrator for the Weston Board of Education.

Clarence and Olla have two daughters, Gwynneth (Mrs. Lloyd Preston) of Weston, and Audrey at home. Victor and Irene have three children, Douglas, who married Marie Wilson of Bond Head, on the home farm; Betty, (Mrs. Ross Moody), living in Florida, and Donald, who married Marilyn Walker of Newmarket, living on #9 Highway near Schomberg. Clifford and Marjorie have two daughters, Shirley (Mrs. Burt Avery) of Weston, and Helen at home.



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD MARCHANT AND THEIR FAMILY

Taken on the grounds of their old farm home on the occasion of their Golden Wedding, November 1st, 1943.

Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Marchant.

Left to Right: Clifford, Marjorie, Clarence, Olla, Irene, Victor.

THE PEARSON FAMILY



The original house built by Jas. Pearson on lot 33, concession 8 - over one hundred years ago from the wood of one tree, stands in excellent condition today, but with the wide verandahs removed.

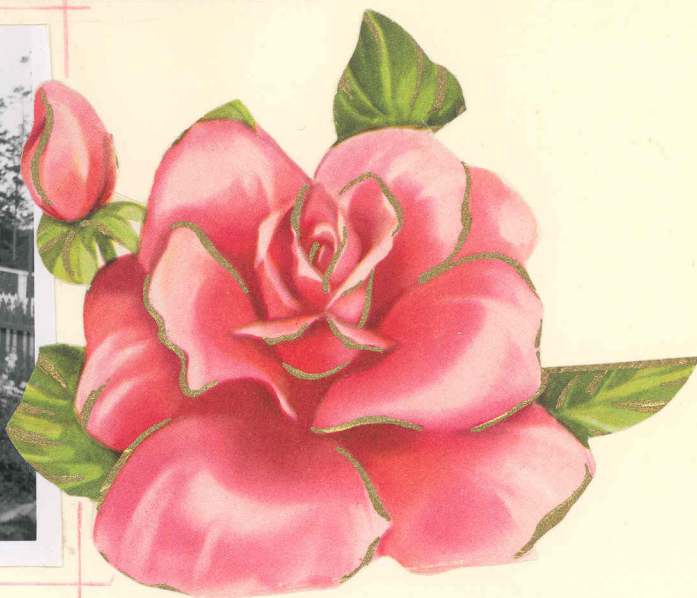
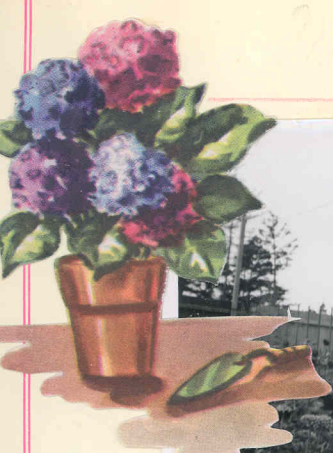


"The scene of many happy W.I. Meetings. Mrs. Pearson was the first President"

The history of this old pioneer family reaches back to James Pearson, originally immigrated from England, who was supposed to have been killed during his homeward journey, somewhere between Quebec and New Jersey, from the Old French War. His only son, Nathaniel, was married to Ann Bunting, whose father was William Bunting, formerly of England. Her mother's maiden name was Bidgood, whose ancestors came from England to Pennsylvania with Wm. Penn in 1681. Their son James, (buried in Aurora Cemetery), married Jane Lount, sister of Samuel Lount, a martyr with Matthews and Wm. Lyon McKenzie in the rebellion of 1837. He came to the township of Whitchurch in 1800, bringing with him the first span of horses owned in the district.

George Lount Pearson married Jane Lloyd and lived on his farm one and a half miles south of Aurora known as the Old Survey. He later sold this in 1852 and bought lot 25, concession 9, which is better known as the McCutcheon farm on highway #27, which Mr. A. Huson purchased in 1956 from Mr. A. McCutcheon. Mr. Pearson built the house on this farm which was demolished by Mr. Huson and replaced by a new modern one. It must have been a very old house because Mr. Pearson sold the farm in 1856 and bought lot 33, concession 8, and built the house that is still standing there, and in which Mr. and Mrs. George Hulse now live. All the wood used in it's construction was hewn and hand dressed from one red pine tree, which grew on Mr. Thomas Lloyd's farm, lot 29, concession 7 of King Township. It took two men one whole day to chop down this mammoth tree.

- ✓ George and Jane Pearson had three sons and three daughters, James, Milton and Gabriel, Annie, Jennie and Dehlia. They obtained their education in the old frame school house at S.S. #14. Gabriel died as a young man and of the three sisters we have no information.
- ✓ James married Eliza Leavens and lived on the home farm for seventy years before selling to Mr. Robert Hulse in 1926. Being of United Empire Loyalist Stock, they were also Quakers and were faithful supporters of the little Friends Church until it was closed. They then associated themselves with the Presbyterian Church. They had two children, Ernest, who married Lillian Clarke and who farmed with his father and retired with him to Schomberg in 1926, and Florence, who was a nurse and died during the flu epidemic in 1918. Mr. Pearson died in 1931 and his wife on Christmas morning, 1947 in her 98th year. Ernest and Lillian sold the residence on Main street this year and moved to their new modern home on Elmwood Avenue. Life histories of the two Mrs. Pearson's (Mrs. James and Mrs. Ernest) will be found elsewhere in this book as they were both Charter Members of the Women's Institute.
- ✓ Milton Pearson was born in 1856 and like his brother, worked with his father until his marriage to Elizabeth Brown in 1881. He first lived at Beeton and then obtained possession of lot 33, concession 9 immediately across the road from the Quaker Church. He had a family of three sons, Clarence and Elsworth (both deceased) and Grant who lives in the west. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson sold their farm to Rolph Davis and retired to the house now owned by Clarence Jessop, then to Mr. Anthony McCollum's house, and finally built the pretty little bungalow on Western Avenue where Mr. Royce Rowland now lives and lived their reclining years in quiet village peacefulness. Thus generations come and go and Mr. Ernest Pearson remains the only representative in our community of an industrious and highly respected pioneer family.

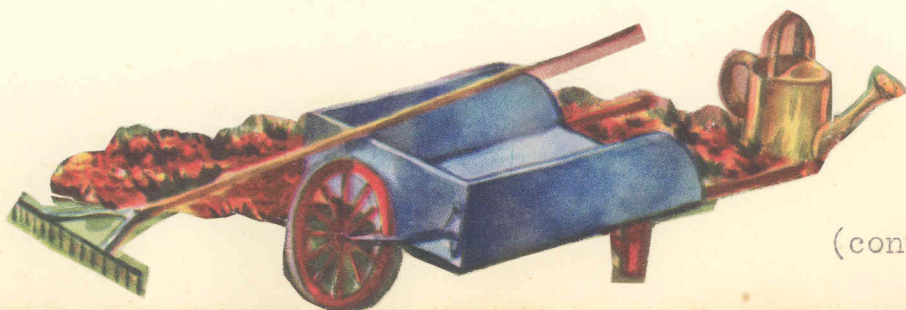


This story is different from the ordinary life history, and concerns the lives of two people who came from England and lived in our community only seven years. They were a wonderful couple and gave of their talents for the betterment of the community from the moment they arrived until they left, as suddenly as they had come, to make their home in Victoria, B.C. Both were closely associated with the Horticultural Society and through their inspiration and effort, made the flower shows the successful affairs they have been ever since. Mrs. Rhodes joined the Womens' Institute and contributed greatly to the programs with her many talents of elocution, floral culture and arrangement and her knowledge of public health. When I wrote to her in 1960 and asked if she would like to write a short story of her life for our Tweedsmuir History, she was pleased beyond words and from her sick bed, where she lay critically ill with cancer, she wrote her story. She passed away in September, 1961 and when Mr. Rhodes wrote to tell me, he sent the story of his life. We shall write them as they always lived, sharing and working together.

Mrs. Rhodes letter:-

"My dear - I was so glad to get your letter. It is wonderful to hear from people you know, and to think of all we shared together. I am just about at "Journey's End" but I am not sad. Life has been a wonderful experience and now I am waiting for the Great Adventure. Bob is so good, I want for nothing. It will be hard to write my life story it has been so full but I will just tell you a little so you will remember me. I loved the Womens' Institute, the Schomberg ladies were so very lovely and I got to know so many in the few short years we lived among them.

I was born April 12th, 1896 in Badsurth Village, England and attended school there and then at Docraster High School where I cycled seven miles each day. In 1914 I went into training as a nurse at St. Thomas Hospital in London, England, then served as a Navy nurse in World War 1. I met my husband while in the Navy and we were married in 1922. We came to Canada in 1929 and lived in Toronto for fourteen years before coming to Pottageville in 1943. I did some nursing for dear old Dr. Dillane while we lived there and there we enjoyed the lovely rural life we both loved. Barbara, our daughter, worked in Toronto and our son Ian completed his education while we were there. In 1949 we moved to Victoria and I led a very full life in Church and community work while we tended our beautiful garden and took part in all shows with fine success. I was also Head Nurse at St. Gregory's Hospital until I took a severe stroke in 1952. Then in 1954 I had my first cancer operation, and again in 1958, and now I am waiting for my Call and live with my wonderful memories. One of them being the pleasure you and your husband gave us by spending a day with us while on your visit to Victoria, and how we all rode in the old truck while Bob exhibited his flowers and vegetables at Sannich Fair. I'd love to read your village History, but I'm proud to be asked to write this little story for it. Lovingly - Amy"



(continued)

Mr. Rhodes story:-



I was born in 1888 on the Estate of the Earl of Harewood, near Leeds, in Yorkshire where my people were tenant farmers for generations. Princess Royal, Dowager Countess of Harewood, Aunt to Queen Elizabeth lives in the Dower House on the Estate. I was apprenticed to gardening and had a thorough training in every phase from fruits, flowers and early vegetables under glass, to hardy fruits, kitchen gardens, herbaceous borders and pleasure grounds. During my career I worked in gardens in various parts of England from Northumberland to Surrey and Hampshire. I served in the Royal Navy in World War 1, and we came to Canada in 1929 where I secured the position as Head Gardener at the Lambton Golf Course where I stayed for 4 years before I ventured out on landscape gardening on my own, where I worked until 1949 when we came out to Victoria. We lived in Pottageville for seven years when we got to know Schomberg and many people well. We did our best to promote Horticulture and I hope we added something to the Society there. We began raising African Violets as a profession when we came to Victoria as they had only had the three old colours there - blue, pink, white, but no fancy ones. We did very well but had to give it up after Amy's illness. My hobby has always been exhibiting and I've really enjoyed it and usually took my share of the cups - one I've held for eight years - but now that Amy is ill my place is by her side, so I shall not be doing much more in the future. Her comfort is my only concern. Sincerely - Bob.

What a happy world this might be if more people copies the philosophy of this devoted couple. Mr. Rhodes lived on in the memory of many rich and happy married years. His only solace was in his garden. In July of 1962 he exhibited again at the great Victoria Rose Show winning 32 firsts from 33 entries.

On October 22nd I received a letter from Barbara, their daughter telling me of her father's death on October 13th. In her own words she said - "It was a heart attack, stricken in his garden with his arms full of roses. He lived only a few hours but died peacefully as he would have wished it."

"One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth."



THE SKINNER FAMILY



The Methodist Church, Schomberg.

HOUSE
WAS BUILT
1825

CHURCH
WAS BUILT
1880

The Skinner Home
- built in 1825

The Church
- built in 1880



Grandfather, George Skinner, was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England, on November 11, 1826. He came to Canada in 1884. He and Margaret Pallett were married January 20, 1851. At first they lived on Dundas Street, west of Toronto, but soon they moved to the 8th line of King Township, a short distance north of the Aurora Sideroad on the east side of the road. I remember as a child being shown a flowing well with a watertrough from which passing horses might drink, just in front of their land. Weekly, grandfather walked to Toronto to be there for work on Monday morning and back again on Saturday. He was a stone mason and a bricklayer.

Grandmother, Margaret Pallett-Skinner, had several brothers and one sister. The brothers remained on Dundas Street West as market gardeners. Likewise, their sons. The third generation did more at branching into other interests as lawyers, teachers and marketers. One sister of grandfather's, Eliza, married a Wilson, near Flesherton. Her family still lived round about there. All were Conservative and Anglicans.

On May 30, 1864, he bought my home from Dr. Robert Ramsay, paying 175 English Pounds. The house had been built for Dr. Ramsey in 1825. It is interesting to note that my grandfather laid the foundation, and to this day there is not a crack in all the stonework. The small village was known as Brownsville until about 1864. At that time Ontario was known as Upper Canada. It was not until 1867 at Confederation that the name Ontario replaced the name Upper Canada. Our street that goes west to Lloydstown has always been King Street on all official deeds of land and legal papers.

While living in Schomberg, grandfather had a small grocery and meat shop where our present restaurant is located. Two of the articles that he made and sold were candles and soft soap. They were in constant demand. Merchandising has changed greatly since those days when customers wanting such supplies as molasses, vinegar or coal oil, took their own containers to the shop to be measured and filled from the large barrels or hogsheads that were fitted with a spout and tap. Crockers were sold for housewives to store their home-made jams, pickles, butter, home rendered lard or for the pickling of small pieces of meat. Farmers frequently bought their groceries by trading. They brought to the storekeeper baskets of eggs, crocks of butter and lard, fowl or home cured or smoked meat - usually pork - or cords of wood. Supplies for the shop had to be hauled, according to the season, either in a wagon or a sleigh, by a team of horses. That entailed the taking of the trade goods as could be sold in Toronto, down on one day, staying over night and the next morning starting the return trip with the fresh supplies. Indeed the shipping of all such produce and the getting of new stock for the store was done in this way until early in 1902 when a steam engine, locally known as "Annie Rooney", began its route between Schomberg and Schomberg Junction on Yonge Street for entry to the city markets. Until 1912 all banking was done through the Post Office.



Mr. Skinner's
Shop on Main St.

Grandfather was one of the early Superintendents of the then Union Sunday School. It was held in the upper part of the Temperance Hall that stood where our present Community Hall houses our village library. Our Women's Institute rooms are a part of it.

The late Dr. Brerton told mother that grandfather had borrowed every medical and surgical book that he owned and discussed them with more understanding than most doctors.

Father, George Thomas Skinner, bought this home from his father for \$1,000.00 in 1879. Grandfather moved to Paisley, Father's mother had died some time before that and grandfather had married again. The small baby at that time became the grandmother of Alan Stanley who played defence position for the Maple Leaf Hockey Team for several years.

Hugh Halliday, Nature writer for the Saturday edition of the Toronto Star, and the author of several books on his studies of wild birds, is the son of father's sister, Elizabeth, who grew up in Schomberg.

I have heard father's older brother, John, recount stories of the scarcity of cash when he was a boy. At different times he worked for ten cents a day flailing grain for local farmers. His grandson, Bill Malcolmson, continues his father's Insurance business in Barrie. He is also much interested in horses which he keeps on his farm just out from Barrie. He frequently shows some of them at Schomberg Fair and other local Fairs.

George Deeth is father's sister Jane's grandson. He has a Chartered Accountant's business in Port Credit. Father's brother Kenneth, also spent his boyhood here. He has told me of hunting the weakest little dandelion that he could find and transplanting it into better soil and his delight in getting it to grow into a sturdy plant. In later years he became a successful market gardener in the Credit River area, Port Credit. His two sons followed their father's work but their real love was building houses on property owned by their father along the banks of the Credit River. Victor's sons, Eric and Stanley, went into Chemical and Machine work. Milton's sons, Donald and Paul, are graduate architects from Toronto University. Donald specialized in Senior Citizen's Homes and Schools. He was the architect of the new south wing of York Manor, Yonge Street, Newmarket. Paul's work is in London, Ontario.

(continued ---)

Son Fred delivering meat
with wagon - 1907





Blocks of ice cut from lake and hauled on sleigh to Ice House to be used in refrigerator in Butcher Shop

Father had a butcher business from the age of sixteen until his death in 1931. I Believe that his first beef cost him \$18.00. He borrowed his brother John's mule and cart to peddle it from door to door. His receipts from that deal were \$22.00.

Father and mother, Emily Clarkson of Islington, were married March 10, 1880. Our present United Church, then known as the Methodist Church, was built the following summer on the adjoining lot to the east.

In those days weigh scales were not as numerous as they are today and a buyer of live animals usually bought with a guess as to their weight. At that father became quite an expert. A story was told to me by Mrs. Tegart, widow of the late Dr. Tegart from whom Dr. Dillane bought his practice in 1900. A half dozen men had gathered one evening around the box stove in the late Graham Pinkerton's hardware store. It was the first store just north of the bridge in the village and on the west side of the street. Later it was father's shop. Their conversation ran to guessing each other's weight. To settle it they went back to the platform scales and weighed each other. Just as they settled themselves back by the stove father entered and joined them. One of the men soon suggested a bet on each other's weight, the winner to be the closest to their total weights. So again they went back to the scales and the weighing process and the totalling of their weights was recorded. The men in their anxiety to appear innocent, upped and down their weights as they remembered them, but their balancing proved too difficult as father won their bets. It was too much for the men to keep silent about and one of them told of their scheme. Father retained that judging ability for on the last seven cattle that he bought his estimate of their total weights was just out thirty-five pounds.

In father's earliest days as a butcher, deep cellars were important for they were much cooler then the modern basements. Father's first ice-box was six feet by four feet and three feet deep. It was lined with galvanized sheeting with a drain for the water to run off as the ice melted. Wooden racks were fitted about the space for the great blocks of ice. The meat was laid on these racks. Next came the big ice refrigerator, nine feet high and six feet square. The storage space for the ice was at the top. In winter, huge blocks of ice were sawn from the Mill Pond or from Belle's Lake and packed in the ice-house with sawdust as an insulator. At first this sawing was done by men with especially deep toothed saws. Later circular saws run by gasoline engines were used. Weekly in summer weather a supply of these blocks of ice had to be taken out and the storage part of the refrigerator filled. The handling of this ice both in winter and summer was very heavy work. When electricity was brought into the village that refrigerator was wired. It served as long as the business was in operation.

Father was interested in having unusual pets. At one time, when Fred was a boy, he had a pair of black bears. He kept them in a strong cage in the garden just west of the house. I remember him having two great horned owls. He got them out of a hollow tree when they looked like two balls of yellow down. A favourite snack of their was a big mouse which either of them would devour in a gulp.

About 1905 a large group of residents of King Township organized to find out if the people of the Township wanted all hotel bars closed and the sale of intoxicating liquors made illegal. The law for prohibition did pass. In spite of a great deal of talk on the amount of liquor made and sold illegally, father's experience in his shop was that, although he had worked vigorously with the Temperance Organization he was surprised how soon people who had been accustomed to buying on credit, and their bills were often difficult or impossible to collect, began paying cash for their purchases. Even many long-time bills that had been thought hopeless to collect were paid. It surely proved that money spent on self-indulgence many times ought to be spent on primary needs.

For some years father served as a Commissioner on the local village council, when it was first organized as a Police Village, about 1900. A Police Village was one that had the management over its own local affairs.

Our family numbered seven - Adeline, Herbert, Fred, Alma, Florence, Blake and myself, Mabel.

Adeline taught school for a few years and later graduated as a nurse from the Toronto General Hospital. After doing some private duty nursing, both in Ontario and in Vancouver, she became Superintendent of Nurses under the Victorian Order of Nurses, in Melfort, Saskatchewan. Later she went to Revelstoke, British Columbia and then to North Bay, Ontario until her retirement. She passed away in 1962.

Herbert, after teaching for a short time was sent by the Shaw Business College in Toronto to Vancouver to open the shorthand department in their Shaw Business College now known as the Vancouver Business Institute. He married while in Vancouver. Later he returned to Ontario and opened his own accountancy business in Orillia which he kept until his death in 1935.

Herb was active in Sunday School and Church work both in Vancouver and in Orillia. He was a member of the Orillia Masonic Lodge #192 AF and AM. He was a past First Principal of Couchiching Chapter. In 1935 he held the position of Grand Superintendent of the Georgian District of the Royal Arch Masons.

Fred was a Funeral Director and had a furniture business here in Schomberg. He served on the local Council of the village for several years. He married Mary Ramsden of Kettleby. Their son, Norman, died as a baby. Their daughter, Hilda, died when training as a nurse. In 1923 they moved to Port Credit and opened a Funeral Home and had an Ambulance Service. It is still carried on under the name, Skinner and Middlebrook. For nearly twenty years he was active in Municipal affairs. He served fourteen years as Reeve of Port Credit. He served one complete term and two partial terms as Warden of Peel County. For seventeen years he was the Treasurer of First United Church, Port Credit. He was a strong supporter for the organizing and building of Mississauga Hospital. He served on the Board of the Hospital for twelve years. He is a Past Master of Union Lodge of Schomberg. Presently, he is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Port Credit. Mary died in August, 1968. For the last two years (1970-1972) he has been confined to Mississauga Hospital and Chelsey Park Nursing Home.

Blake farmed for a few years where Mrs. Wilfred Aitchison now owns. I remember our mother telling of when the fields where houses now are, were covered with bush. In 1915 Blake married Louise Dodds, daughter of the late Ira and Ruth Dodds of R.R.1, Bolton. The Dodds home is a century farm, and a niece of Louise still lives there. About 1923 Blake joined his father in the butchering business and carried it on for a number of years. Later he drove a Langdon School Bus. He was their instructor of School Bus drivers. For a number of years he was one of the elders of the United Church to which they belong. Blake and Louise have two sons, Jack and Donald. Owing to ill health Blake and Louise sold their home in the summer of 1971 and went to live in York Manor, Newmarket. At that time Blake had lived in Schomberg for the longest time continuously of any resident.

Father's aim, using his muzzle loading gun was very accurate and seldom if ever did he return from a 'turkey shoot', without his bird. Blake had the same accurate shot. Fred recently recalled one night when they were boys at home. Of their being wakened by a series of midnight disturbances with cat fights beneath their bedroom window.

Finally Blake lost his patience and by the light of the coal-oil lamp loaded his new twenty-two rifle, took aim out the back door at two bright specks of light (the cat's eyes). In the morning a dead cat lay where the twin specks of light had been. Several of father's grandsons and great-grandsons have that ability as marksmen.

Mabel taught school first in King Township. In 1923 she went to the Islington School in Etobicoke where she remained for thirty-seven years before returning to make her home here. While there she was especially interested in class-room library work. Upon leaving, her collection of teaching aids were used to establish three cabinets for general use in the school. A request was made from the West End Teacher's College for a share of them. One of the cabinets holds a large number of hand carved, life-sized birds painted in their natural colouring, done by Smith of Scarborough. One cabinet holds a picture file for help in teaching Canadian History, Geography and Nature Study. The third cabinet has samples of Canadian Mineral Ore, Canadian Grains and seeds and Canadian woods and also an interesting collection of things used by our pioneers. These include a section of the first water-main used on Yonge Street. It came from just north of Eaton's main store when the subway was built. The wood of the hollowed log was in perfect condition. As well as class room work, she filled a term of office as President of the Home and School Association, and at another time as President of the Women Teacher's Association of Etobicoke Township.

Herb's son, Harold, lives in Renfrew, Ontario. His work is the inspecting of parts before they are assembled into helicopters. Harold is a Past Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge in Carleton Place, and also a Past First Principal of the Maple Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Carleton Place. He is an elder in the Renfrew United Church to which they belong. He married Dorothy Burton of Renfrew in 1939. They have four children. Marion, a graduate nurse of Kingston General Hospital, is married and the mother of Lesley Ellen Roberts; David is a graduate Mechanical Engineer of Carleton University, Ottawa, married and living in Ottawa; Richard is in the English Honour Course at Carlton University and married, and Helen is a student in Renfrew Collegiate.

Blake's son, Jack, is a graduate of Commerce and Finance of Toronto University. He is now Vice-President, Personnel of Bell Canada and lives in Montreal. He qualified as an Artillery Officer in the Canadian Officers' Training Corps while attending University, but on active service he served overseas first as an officer with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals first in England and then in Italy with Montgomery's famous 8th Army in the struggles at Ortona, Cassino, the Liri Valley, Gothic Line and in the Po Valley. Later, when the First Canadian Corps joined the First Canadian Army in North Western Europe, he was involved with the Royal Canadian Engineers in the crossing of the Rhine and the subsequent liberation of Holland. Later he retired as a Major with a total of thirteen years of military experience. In 1942, Jack and Catherine MacKay were married in New Toronto. Catherine is the daughter of Mrs. MacKay and the late Rev. Wm. A. MacKay. Rev. MacKay was the minister in the United Church, Schomberg, 1933-36. Catherine and Jack have two sons, John and Jeffrey. John is a graduate of McGill University, Montreal, and at present is with a British Newspaper in London, England, reporting on in-going and out-going freight for the British Isles and Mainland European seaports. Jeffrey is a student in History and Philosophy in Trent University, Peterborough. As a hobby, he shows a high degree of ability and skill with a guitar.

Donald is a graduate in Business Administration from Toronto University. He is with Bell Canada working with the engineering department. Donald and June Caulfield were married in Aurora, July 11, 1953. Her parents were well known from their work with Horticultural organizations. Donald is an elder in the church to which they belong, The Islington United Church. They have three daughters, Carol, Beth and Gill, all pupils in the Islington School. Their home is within sight of the Anglican Church on Dundas Street West, always known as St. Georges-on-the-Hill. The girls' great-great-grandfather worked on the building of the original church; in fact that old part was incorporated into the present new church. Surely proof of how grandfather's work has stood the test of time.

P.S. In 1971 John returned from Europe to marry Claire McFetridge, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S.A. McFetridge of Vancouver. Shortly after their marriage they returned to Europe for a time. He is now (1972) with the editorial staff of the Toronto Star.

(Signed) Mabel Skinner.



Begin Here

We are indeed fortunate to have in our area a few of the approximately six thousand Century farms found in the province of Ontario. By Century farms we mean farms that have been managed by the same families for at least one hundred years. This project was started by the Junior Farmer's Association to honour Canada's Centennial. They copied the idea from Prince Edward Island where similar plaques were issued in 1964. Such a project required an endless amount of research and it is quite possible that some farms were missed, but so interested were the eligible owners that a few made application on their own if they had been missed. The qualifications were investigated and when the committee were convinced the present tenant was eligible, a suitably engraved plaque 16" x 19" was donated to be attached on a post at the entrance to the farm. Such a farm was the Sproule homestead, then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon. (Mr. McCutcheon is a son of Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon, who was the former Muriel Sproule.) It has since been sold to Mr. S. Wiggins.

The Original Patentees for the Township of King, as given in the "Doomsday Book", shows Lot 34, Concession 8 deeded to Andrew Wilson in 1803 and was sold to William Johnstone Sproule the same year. He was Mr. McCutcheon's great-great grandfather. Mr. Sproule built the first house which was a frame one, and part of the foundation is still in evidence. In 1865 it was replaced by the present home designed by his grandson William Sproule and his son Newton Sproule, who was Mr. McCutcheon's grandfather.

Little is known of the earlier families, but Newton Hay Sproule was widely known in the area, being a farmer, a school teacher and later a Justice of the Peace. He was married to Maggie Devitt and they had seven children, two sons - Egerton and William, who obtained excellent educations but both died as young men. The oldest daughter was Muriel, Mr. McCutcheon's mother, who lived in northern Ontario. Clare, who did not marry but, having graduated from University, spent many years in Western Canada, returning later to finish her life on the homestead where she lived with her treasured heirlooms. She died in 1963 and was buried in the Quaker graveyard, now known as Schomberg Union Cemetery, with her parents and brothers. Hazel and Evelyn are also deceased and Iva, the youngest, married and lives in Detroit. They all received good educations and two taught school at Schomberg school. After Clare's death the homestead was bought by Mr. McCutcheon.

By this time the beautiful old house was in need of much repair and this the McCutcheon's did, and with few changes restored it to almost perfect condition, so well had it been built. They operated an antique shop in the rear of the house which they designed for that purpose, but disposed of it owing to Mrs. McCutcheon's poor health. They later found the upkeep of such a large place beyond their ability to maintain and sold it to Mr. Wiggins about 1968.