

I contributed the following lines,

When Grandfather Ferguson built this home,  
He built it without a cellar.  
He said, 'This is good enough for me,  
I'll leave that job for another feller.  
Within this house was Thomas born,  
This house without a cellar.  
Within this house was Thomas born,  
And he was the other feller.'

In fact five youngsters of us were born in that house without a cellar. Only I was born in the pantry. Besides the Fergusons, mentioned before, others were born in King - Catherine, Mark and Mary Larmont. The Ferguson family grew. The eldest son John bought the farm at Eversley on the south west corner - a sunny acre farm.

For long years the corner field was the forest. On July 1st a great picnic was held there. Big picnic tables, big swings for the children, the Aurora band under the leadership of Sylvanus Lundy, and series of games. It was the big event of the season. In later years the trees were cut down, leaving a level field. Besides the fifty acre farm were ten additional acres at the west known as the Mill Pond. It was dammed up and a heavy plank sluice was built and a lumber mill erected. In the winter the farmers cut what trees were wanted to make lumber and John Ferguson and his wife, Margaret Stewart hired them at the sawmill and after the chores were finished they turned the water from the millrace over the big wheel and cut the logs into lumber. So a striving industry was carried on.

The millpond was a continuation of the lake north of it, known then as Ferguson's Lake, now Lady Eaton's Lake. On the 24 of May holiday the pond was alive with fishermen. All the youngsters around went to the pond to fish. There were sunfish, perch, catfish and shiners. One day Thomas and Henry took their fishing poles for a day's fishing at the millpond. They returned home at night tired but happy with a catch of 99 fish, all catfish but 6 which were sunfish, and all a goodly size. They were sweet eating. It was quite a chore to clean 99 fish, but everyone helped at least with the eating. This millpond was partly on the north side of the road bridge on Walter Scott's farm.

He owned two hundred acres, the length of the block from the 4th of Eversley. The second hundred had been the Bovair farm, but was sold to Walter Scott. Long years afterwards it was sold to Sir Henry Pellatt, and later became part of Eaton Hall farm. Mr. Scott retired to Aurora where he died, also his wife, leaving two daughters and one son.

A great gate led from the road into the logyard. It was used not only by the loggers but by the Thomas Scott family. When Mr. Scott had been burned out at Raffarty's Corners, Mr. Ferguson gave the family the use of the large parlor and bedroom attached until they built another home, known as Scott's Wha Hae, now owned by Harry McBride. The brick Blacksmith shop stood on the corner for many years. I suppose James Fraser took it down.

The Scott family increased in size, so he bought the farm behind John Ferguson's for his family. He built a blacksmith shop in the field near the big red brick house, where he could shoe his horses or fix his implements. He married Alison Stewart, daughter of Henry of Temperanceville. They had 15 children. The oldest Agnes married the youngest Ferguson son, Mark. Mr. Walter Scott Sr., brother of Thomas Scott, married Margaret Ferguson, my father's sister, and they first settled on a farm up the 2nd of King, later on a farm south of Aurora where the CNR cuts through. Both my grandfather and Uncle Walter had black, crisp curly heads and beards, while their brother Robert was like a golden god with pale gold, silken curls. Robert studied for the ministry and was for long a fine Presbyterian Minister. In his blacksmithing days he was engaged to be married to Mary Larmont Ferguson, my father's youngest sister, but Mary took a heart attack and was dead before Robert knew of her illness.

The Thomas Scott home with its deep veranda to the south, stood west of the mill and the width of a field from the road. So he used the lane into the millyard, then up a lane to the barn, which meant opening and closing three gates. Yet the young men who drove in to win the winsome Scott girls, did not seem to mind the job of jumping in and out of their buggies. John F. Scott, the youngest son became a Presbyterian Minister. Henry Scott died in his young manhood as he prepared to study for the ministry.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson, second son of the pioneer father, the weaver, also bought a farm one and a quarter miles, or one block north of Eversley. The farm

later became known as the T.K. Ferguson Farm, with a pond on the side next to the road. There most of his family were born. But he had a desire to own at least a part of a lake on a farm lower down, so he bought the farm now owned by Lady Eaton and called it Forest Home and the lake was known as Ferguson's Lake. It was a beautiful farm with a row of walnut trees up the lane. The forest was kept as a shelter and a beauty spot, and it still stands in its primeval beauty.

His sons owned farms in the neighbourhood. There was the T.K. Farm, the John Ferguson farm, the Hugh Ferguson farm and lake, and later William Ferguson, who farmed the homestead. Mr. Thomas Ferguson, the father retired to King where he built the brick home now owned by Dr. Hardy. Lady Eaton bought the Ferguson farm and added it to the neighbouring farms. It is now a thing of beauty, a great achievement. A CANADIAN PRODUCT.

The Fergusons had thought of supplying their lake with fish, so applied to the government Game and Fisheries Department. At that time they were interested in carp, so they sent enough carp fishlets to supply the lake. This was a sad mistake, as few people care for carp and they hug the mud at the bottom of the lake and are difficult to catch. We believe that Jewish people like them. Along one shore of the lake was a layer of white clay. Men would come and dig up a pail of this white clay to use as a whitewash for their outhouses and cellars. A sample was sent away to the government to enquire as to it being used in quantity, but nothing was done about it. So it is probably there until this day.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson married Francis Wade, daughter of old Philip Wade, of the farm down the Third, across from the Fergusons. Mr. Wade used to use the ash of those old forests to make potash, a clear, solid produce used in the manufacture of soap. We apparently made a good product which sold well.

My good mother was cutting up some potash for soap making, and some fine pieces flew around. I, as children often do, picked up this 'candy' put it in my mouth to lick. My mother quickly filled my mouth with butter, thus saving my throat from burning.

North of Eversley, next to the Timothy Rodgers farm, was the George Norman Wade farm. A beautiful farm with a big, red brick house. Mr. Norman later

moved to King and built the house which is now the Baptist parsonage. The farm was sold to Mr. Peter Bovair who married Eliza Scott. Their youngest son, Arthur, lives there now with his wife, a son Ross and his wife, while the second son Scott owned and worked the farm which backs to it, facing the second.

The farm north of the Norman farm and south of the James Rogers farm was the Hutchinson farm. After the passing of the parents it was farmed by the son, James Hutchinson. Later it was bought by Mr. Alex McLennan, the present owner.

South of the Ferguson farm was the Maple Avenue farm, situated on the south east corner of Raffarty's Corners. On the map of the County of York, published in 1861 is the Ferguson Homestead farm, named by Alec Ferguson, Maple Avenue Farm. He was my father's next older brother, and planted the rows of sugar maple trees and an inner row of other varieties which have long since disappeared - balm of gileads, mountain ash, pines, which I remember as a child. Grandmother Scott picked the buds of the balm of gilead and made a wonderful healing salve.

The farm joining our on the south was the Thomas Wood farm. Mrs. Wood was a Trench, a lady from Scotland. With her lived her adopted niece Jean Trench, who later married James Ness and inherited the Wood Ha' farm.

Thomas Ness, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ness, opened an electric business in Montreal. His brother Walter and Andrew and my brother Walter went to Montreal and were employed by T.W. Ness there. Walter Ness carried on the farm. He had brought parts of telephones with him and suggested that he might run a telephone between our farms. He ran the wires along our back lane and made the connection. Our phone was inside the pantry door. Daily Mrs. Ness and I had a phone talk. Other people thought it was a splendid idea and wanted a phone in their homes.

At Temperanceville Theo C. Cadden, who had the blacksmith shop opposite the store, and his home a quarter of a mile south, had a telephone installed so that he could contact his home. Thus the first telephone line in King Township was started by Walter Ness. The Temperanceville store was the first central. Later it was moved to King, to the store of Milton Winters and he and Mrs. Winters carried it along. Thus was the beginning of the KING TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The Ferguson farm, Maple Avenue Farm, had four houses on it. First there was the large farmhouse built by grandfather Ferguson before he and his family took up residence there. Another house was built in the garden, later moved to the Third, where it was used by hired man and family. Later it was rented to different people. At one time Mr. Hugh Mitchell lived there while he assisted on the farm. Further down was the cottage called The Pines. First it was built for a hired man, and consisted of a living room and two small bedrooms. Later this was taken over by Mr. George Burrows, husband of Catherine Ferguson, my father's sister. Mr. Burrows was a cabinet maker by trade, having learned his trade with Jacques and Hayes, a noted cabinet maker of long ago. He added to the house, with an upstairs room and bedroom, while the downstairs was his workshop. Later on, on account of father's poor health, we rented the farm to Mr. Peter Paxton, who was a tenant for 20 years, while we grew up and received our schooling. In the lower corner of the farm stood a small log cabin - a squatter's claim - where the Carter's lived, free of rent. Old Mr. Carter had been a soldier in the British army. He lived here with his wife and son, Harry. The boy mixed with the soldiers and liked to march like a soldier. Harry, or Henry as he preferred to be called, had been born mentally deficient. He loved to get a group of boys around him and pretend to train them. He would give the command "March", and the boys would break ranks. He would give the command, "Halt" and the boys would stop abruptly. He was known as Captain Carter. He would work and after his father and mother died, he lived alone in the log shack. People who knew him helped him out with food. If a girl smiled on him he was very happy. If he were sawing wood and a sunbonnet were held up on a pole he would work tremendously hard, thinking a girl was watching him. He was good-natured and happy when used right, but he was often the bull for the boy's nonsense. The boys would gather at his log hut and give him a letter from Queen Victoria and he would read it. The queen was his best girl. Of course he always wanted to be married. Once a woman did come home with him, but seeing conditions, left him. He once said to me "You know Alice, you can always have me, but I thought you would marry a minister." His one dread was that after death he would be sent to the doctor for experimentation. My brother finally took him to the poor house, where he died. A few of his neighbours clubbed

## THE HISTORY OF KING CITY

King City was first named Springhill (Spring Hill) supposedly after springs which were so easily found when digging. Even shallow wells were spring fed. In Springhill and later King City, there were two hotels, "Dennis's Hotel" situated in the south-west part of the village and "Hogan's Hotel" (Armstrong's in 1967), located in the central part. There were three stores, a saddlers shop, a shoemaker, a furniture store, an undertaker's, two blacksmiths' shops, a chopping mill, a cheese factory, two doctors, two grainbuyers and a bake shop. There was also a brick yard which was operated by Alfred Jarvis, the only person who went from this village to the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1868 in the name of Queen Victoria a quarter acre was purchased for \$250.00 from Rob't. Stewart. A military drill shed was built there and members of the York Rangers came down from Aurora to drill. This site was later used for garden parties, fairs and social events: it was also used for a skating rink. John Hogan, hotel owner and builder of the shed constructed a race track where he tried out his race horses.

A meeting was called by the trustees in Springhill to discuss the area comprising the village. A petition was circulated by J. W. Crossley, a trustee and a foremost leader of the community, to include a thousand acres as an incorporated village to be called King City. There was another Springhill in Nova Scotia, which was on the same railway line and the mail was continually being mixed up because of this. In May 1890 Springhill was officially named King City.

A large brass bell was erected on the roof of J. W. Crossley's driving shed. This bell was rung everyday,....exactly at twelve o'clock noon and six at night. It is said that the villagers could set their watches by it, it was so exact. This bell was later sold to the Augustinian Fathers at Marylake, a mile north of King City, where it is still used for a dinner bell.

The Grand Trunk Railway was the first railway built from Toronto to Aurora in 1853, later sold to the Canadian National Railway. All the villagers and surrounding neighbourhoods came to see the first train and also have a free ride on it. The engine of the first train the "Lady Elgin". It is said the first railway station was to have been built in the central part of the village, but the hotel-keeper Dennis gave a concession of land to the Grand Trunk Company, in the south-western part where it was built and still stands to-day.

Isaac McBride took over Dennis's Hotel (Langdon's Garage built on site) and was the first to establish the grain buyers at the King Station. This was a great relief to farmers to sell grain at King City rather than have to haul it to Aurora.

The first Post Master of this village was Benjamin Lloyd. Later the MacDonald Family took over the post office and hence served it for sixty years.

In the year 1857. the first religious services were held in an "Upper Room" of the Dennis Hotel, by a minister who rode to his charge on horse back. Two years later land, which was donated by a Mr. Pulford, was cleared of virgin bush and the first church, which was Anglican, was built from the clear lumber that had been cut from the bush. The good folk travelled to church by wagon and team on roads with mud to the axle. The original bell still rings and the original door with its stout six inch key still remains in the church. The church cemetery is kept in fine order and while seldom a burial takes place now, the old monuments still recall the zealous and ardent devotees of the church. Since then, the United Church was built in 1871, and the Baptist Church which was first established at Eversley in 1873 and later moved to King City and rebuilt in 1889

In 1873 the first school was established in the northern part of town. It had two rooms although there was only one teacher at the beginning. Before this a Miss Blisher had kept a private school for ladies in a room at the station hotel, where she taught sewing, fancy work, music and art. There was also a school for young children, held in a room which had formerly been a wheelwright shop. In 1951 1951, because there had been such a growth of population in the village, it was necessary to add another large room to the two-room school house. This new room was of the most modern plan of new schools.

The people of King City have always been book lovers and in 1893 a library was organized, known as the King City Mechanics and Library Association. Altogether there were 800 books, including classics, adventure and a few for children. Later the books were kept in private homes, but after a few years the organization became defunct. It was not until 1945 when King Memorial Library was established.

In 1895 a special meeting of the inhabitants of King City was held at Hogan's hotel for the purpose of relieving or rejecting coal oil lamps to be placed on the streets by our first commissioner J. W. Crossley. It was carried unanimously in favour of the motion, that Crossley Take control of the lamps, get the oil and set the hour for extinguishing them. Apparently, the first year the lamps were installed, they used eighty gallons of oil, the next year only forty gallons were used, while another year only seventeen gallons used. It was in 1907 that the

One of the chief reasons for the growth and population of this village, and the construction of many new homes has been the installation of waterworks. While there are no industries located in the village, the time may come with the decentralization of industry by the city of Toronto, when this village may become a suburb of Metropolitan Toronto.

This information was provided by the Senior Citizens of King City in 1952, for Roger Rawlings, a student of Aurora and District High School. We cannot verify the authenticity of this interesting story.