

# CENTURY FARMS



1860  
The  
Snider  
Homestead



Sold to  
Wm Hoiles  
and  
then sold  
to Carl  
Boynton (1958)

Photo taken  
1960



Still owned  
by  
Boynton  
2000

## KENNEDY CENTURY FARM.

Early records at the Registry Office Newmarket, show that the east half of Lot Nine, Concession Nine, King, was taken from the Crown during 1839, by one David McFall, ancestor of the Bolton McFalls. Mr. McFall sold the parcel of land to Andrew McQuelin, who sold it in 1844 to Robert Kennedy, the price being £200.

Robert Kennedy emigrated from Ireland during the 1830's. He was employed in the building of the old Welland Canal, which, for him, proved a lucrative employment. The farm was the last one in the vicinity to be taken up. Settlers considered it too low and swampy. Robert Kennedy cleared the land with aid of hired hands, put in drains, which are still draining the farm to-day. He was married before he settled on this farm. His wife Margaret Dennis and her parents lived in Albion Township. Six children were born to them, the youngest, the late William Kennedy, was born in 1860.

Margaret Dennis Kennedy, Alvin's grandmother was a small, blonde lady. Stories of her fine qualities are a family tradition.

A tale worth recording tells us that, to get to church, Robert and Margaret Kennedy rode horseback to Wildfield, then called Gribbin, a distance of fourteen miles. Once they rode among a large group. It was the end of winter. They started very early in the morning, to get to Wildfield before nine o'clock. The spring thaw set in, and very warm, so that the Humber River was a raging torrent when they returned that far. Everyone was afraid to cross the river, everyone but Margaret Kennedy. "I must cross", she said.. "I have a young baby at home." A good horsewoman, well mounted, she spurred her horse into the river, it swam across and she rode on home. The others of the party waited until evening, when the flood had abated, to cross.

Margaret Kennedy looked out one day and saw a little girl, nine years old, getting out of a surrey at the driveway. She was carrying a little suitcase and she ran to Mrs. Kennedy, and said, "you are my aunt, and I am your neice, and I have come to live with you." It is recorded that the good aunt received the little orphan girl lovingly, and Katie Breslin never was parted from the Kennedy Family---shortly after her brother Willie Breslin followed his sister to Kennedys and remained until he was grown up.

Another orphan nephew was being raised at Kennedys at that time, Joseph Duggan. He remained until he was sixteen. He was well known in King Township afterwards being for some years Reeve of King. He was a stone mason. Joe Duggan played in the Nobleton Band. Among players were Daddy Holden, Ted Sampson and Ed. and Joe Pringle.

Still another orphan child was taken by Kennedys. Tess Pollard was brought to her grandparents at the age of fourteen months, in 1888 after her mother's tragic death. The child remained until she was seven

(continued)

years old, when she returned to her father's home to start to school.

An older brother of Robert Kennedy, Edmund, spent his declining years at the Kennedy home, and was cared for by Mary Kennedy, until he died in 1898.

The "new" house was built in 1880; the builder being George Hill. Some of the wood was brought from Newmarket in sleigh loads, by William Kennedy who was then 20 years old. The spiral staircase was brought from Toronto, and put together on the premises. Some interesting hand-made pine bedroom furniture remains in the house.

Robert Kennedy died in 1896 and his wife a few years earlier.

William Kennedy married Sarah Ann Doherty in 1900. Three sons were born to them, Alvin, the present owner, the late Robert Michael, who died in 1956, and another son, who died in infancy.

In June 1900 a Mr. Cabell from Richmond Hill drilled the first good well on the property. The casings of this well collapsed in 1957, and C. H. Rutledge drilled again, again, just a foot away from the first drilling. This resulted in a very good well, with a potential output of 86,000 gallons a day.

The "new" barn, Joe Duggan was the mason, was raised on June 14, 1907. Bob White was the builder. On that beautiful day so long ago, the first act of William Kennedy, was to raise a large silken Union Jack. Tables were laid on the east lawn, for the men who numbered about a hundred. Hydro was installed in 1926. In 1959 wiring was checked and repaired by Lyman Davis.

William Kennedy died in 1934. The homestead passed to his oldest son, Alvin, who married Irene Mary Hanley in 1937. Two daughters were born to them, Rose Marie and Lois Irene.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kennedy twice were hosts to the King-Vaughan Plowman's Association, in 1953 and 1958. The weather each time was perfect, the attendance large. The family enjoyed these events very much, their one regret being, that the good ladies of the Nobleton Women's Institute were so busy catering to the crowds who attended that they were prevented from enjoying the plowing matches.

The household conveniences were improved upon in 1953 when the house was renovated.

Many doweries were paid off the Kennedy Homestead, some of them formidable enough, nevertheless the farm in the 116 years it has been in the family, never has been mortgaged.

In 1953 Alvin Kennedy had a month's vacation in California, the first real vacation since his father's death.

Mrs. William Kennedy enjoys good health, is a very bright and spry lady. She lives with her son and family in the old home to which she came as a bride in 1900.

MRS. R. STEWART AND FAMILY



STEWART CENTURY FARM.

The spacious home set high enough to command a good view of Highway 27 and the surrounding homes, at Lot 15, Concession 9, King, has been in the Stewart name for over one hundred years.

It was bought by James Stewart from Thomas Brown in the year 1846 for £300. One hundred and seventy-five pound was a down payment and sums of £25 to £50 were paid the first day of April each year until the balance was all paid.

The Stewart Family were of Irish decent and James Stewart's father and mother brought their family from Ireland early in the 18th Century. They settled in King Township near Eversley, one child was born on the boat coming to Canada.

James Stewart married Margaret Rankin on Dec. 22, 1846 and brought his bride to the new home purchased that year. They were blessed with five sons and five daughters. William married Annie Scott on January 5th 1882. James Albert married Eva Mann in October 1882. James was a school teacher and spent most of his years in British Columbia. George married Fanny Wade in November, 1884. Rankin married Carrie Stokes in October, 1886. They had one son Stokes, who was a doctor and held the position of superentendant at four Ontario Hospitals--Orilla, Hamilton, London and Kingston. Robert married Arminta Davis on June, 1892. Mary married William Robinson in January, 1870, and spent a good many years farming in Manitoba. Sarah married W.T. McCutcheon in March, 1876. Bella married Loftus Hunter in September, 1883. Helena married Milton Wells in March 1881, and Ida married Joseph Tatton in September, 1891.

James Stewart built the house that stands on the farm to-day, in the year 1864. It contains 65,000 bricks, which were bought from the Norton Brick Yard in Bolton for \$3.00 per thousand. He gave the land for St. Pauls Presbyterian Church and the adjoining cemetery, where three generations of Stewarts rest...also helped to establish the first log church.

When Robert married Arminta Davis, he took over the management of the farm from his father who remained with them until his death. Robert built the present barn in 1914. He spent his entire life on this farm. He was a faithful member of the Masonic Order, holding the position of Grand Sr. Stewart for the province of Ontario Grand Lodge. He was also secretary for Union Lodge 118, Schomberg and held that office for forty years. Robert and his wife had two children, Edna, who married Joseph Boak and now resides in Nobleton. And Lyle who married Ann Jane Buck of Trenton in 1927 and took over the management of the farm from his father. They have one son Beverly, who lives at home with his parents. The eldest son William, died when an infant. Lyle and his wife remodelled the home for modern living about 1950, installing indoor plumbing and making the rooms more compact for a small family. Telephone service was installed in this home about 1911 and hydro electric in 1933. Lyle disposed of his stock and implements privately and both he and his son Beverly, are employed at other work. The land is tilled by his nephew Art Boak. This is one of the oldest Century Farms in this district.

TRIPLET CALVES  
BORN ON  
THIS FARM



DAVIS CENTURY FARM.

The hundred acre farm located at Lot Seven, Tenth Concession, King, was purchased by Samuel Davis of the Township of Tecumseth, County of Simcoe, from Archabald Robinson for the sum of £1000. Six hundred and twenty-five pound was paid down and the following year £125 principal. Interest was to be paid at the rate of 6% on the balance of £250 until the full amount was completed.

The Davis family were of Dutch ancestry, migrating to Canada in the early eighteenth century from Pennsylvania, first settling in the Newmarket area.

Samuel Davis, the purchaser of this farm, had a family of six sons and three daughters; Daniel, Thomas, George, Alfred, Milton, Charles, Matilda, Mary Ann, and Caroline.

Charles was a school teacher and taught at the school on the Tenth Concession, therefore advised his father on the purchase of this farm for his brother Alfred.

Alfred moved to this farm in March of 1860. He was married to Emily Kennedy and they raised a family of three sons and five daughters; Edward, Frank, Samuel, Mary Ann, Harried, Ina, Alfreda, and Araminta. Alfred and his family built the brick dwelling now in use in the year 1867.

Samuel was the youngest son and inherited the family home in the year 1913. He was married to Ella Hollingshead of Toronto, formerly of the Aurora district. There were two sons from this union; Lyman and William. Lyman married Edith Maw of Albion Township in the year of 1922 and lived on the neighbouring farm which Samuel purchased from Henry Thompson in 1918 for \$9000.00. Lyman has three children; Jean, Glen, and Clifford.

The youngest son William, married Mary Elizabeth (Mamie) Hutchinson of Barrie in 1927 taking over the farm home and his father and mother moved to Nobleton. William has one daughter who is married to Robert Beggs of Peterborough and they have two sons Richard and Garry. William's son Douglas married Constance Jonas of Nobleton in 1956. They now reside in Nobleton and have one daughter, Carol Ann, who is the sixth generation we have recorded.

While Samuel lived on the farm he added to and reconstructed the present farm buildings---about 1907. Telephone was installed by the Bolton Telephone Company in this home in 1910. Hydro electric was installed in 1926. Samuel was an ardent worker to bring hydro to this area.

William still lives on the home farm, installing indoor plumbing in 1953 and making the home comfortable in other ways. The main upstairs floor was made into self-contained apartment and was occupied by Douglas and his family for a period of time.

1939

## CENTURY FARMS

### REUBEN CHAMBERLAIN

One of the things most noticeable to us on our visits to Century Farms is that so often the front of the house which faces the road is designed in a set, formal sort of way. But the driveway usually takes you to the side of the house, which is a warmer, more homey picture. More often than not there is a verandah with a sloping roof, maybe vines growing around the posts, and if you're lucky a 'lift-up-the-latch-and-walk-in' door.

Such is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Chamberlain on the east half of lot 8 on the 10th concession of the Township of King.

The Chamberlain history in Canada begins when John and Jane Chamberlain sailed to Canada from Lincolnshire and first made their home, in 1837, on the East half of lot 12, concession 10 in King Township.

Meanwhile the farm they would eventually own was changing ownership rapidly! The Crown Deed of 1802 was handed over to James Cannon on March 7th, 1804. In 1835, James B. Forsyth purchased the land, selling it to Joseph Wells in 1843.

Four years later, in 1847, John Chamberlain, great-grandfather to Reuben, bought the land.

The Chamberlains hold a document which will interest many of you who know the little red school house almost opposite their home. It reads: "A" Memorial and Indenture, December 20th, 1847, made between John Chamberlain and the Township of King, Whereby the party of the first part and the party of the second part hath granted and sold for the sum of one pound the parcel of land mentioned being 7/8ths acres for school purposes and part of same for burial ground, School Sec. 7 forever. Signed and sealed in the presence of John Smith, blacksmith. Thomas Watson and John Chamberlain.

The School house was well used, and only a few years ago 'closed for business'. The burial ground has many tombstones still standing. It is here that three of John's and Jane's grandchildred lie-they died of the dreaded Black Throat disease in 1857, the children of John 11.

John and Jane were devoted church attenders and workers. One Sunday a dreadful thing happened to them. They and their children went to church as usual, and when they returned home-no home. The whole log cabin had gone up in smoke, and they had not a thing left. But this is where the courage, faith and determination of those early settlers took over. John turned around and built another log cabin! We suppose John and Jane looked at each other and thanked God they and their childred had been spared even in those days troubles could always be worse.

Reuben Chamberlain told us a story which proved the immense need these settlers had of their religion and church. Great grandmother Jane fell and broke her hip. Today, perhaps, we would be scared to move too far, if at all, in that unhappy position. But not Jane! The family sat her upon a chair, strapped the chair to the boat and off they set for church! Determination indeed.

The son John had married a girl whose Christian name was that of his mother, Jane. She was the daughter of the Taylor family, and she and John had seven children, five of whom died so tragically, as we have told you.

It was on November 20th, 1858, that John, the father, sold his 99 and 1/8 acres to son John, each using their mark 'X' to sign the deed.

Somewhere in the middle 60's the present house was built, a very pleasant design, it is a friendly house, nice low ceilings and the original woodwork inside.

The farm was passed on to John and Jane's youngest son, William and in 1912 he built an addition to the house, making it into the 12-room home it is today.

William married Alice Robb and their children are Mrs. Chris Hodgins, Nobleton, Stokes, Mrs. Hilda Houseago, <sup>AND CHRISTOPHER</sup> Toronto and Reuben. Sons Bill and Russ have passed away, the former was killed in action in World War I.

Once more the farm was handed down to the youngest son, and so it is that Reuben Chamberlain and his family have farmed the land for many years.

Reuben married Eliza Archer of Elmvalle and they have five children-Mary is now Mrs. Hugh Sheardown, sons, Archie and Robert of whom we will tell you more in a moment, and two daughters still at school, Ida and Hilda, making the fifth generation to live on the farm.

Mr. Chamberlain had another interesting story for us. Not only was great grandmother Jane a brave, determined woman. Grandmother Jane ran a close second. Apparently she walked all the way to Erindale, and then carried a spinning wheel back home, sleeping in the bush when darkness fell. We hesitate to think about the things that went 'bump' in the night-we're quite scared enough of the 'lang-leggity beasties'!

We said we would tell you more of Archie and Robert. Here are two young men of the fifth generation proving life is fantastically different to their ancestors. They are 'Flying Farmers'! Off in the back forty lies a hanger with a bright yellow two-seater plane inside-a Piper J-3. For two years Archie and Robert have been enjoying this up-to-the-minute pastime and relaxation. Would their great grandparents John and Jane have held up their hands in horror and amazement that such a strange man-made bird should rest in their fields? We dare not think!

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain have only the farm house left to remind them of all that has gone before, although there is a most handsome carved side-board with some of the heaviest brass handles we have ever seen. "It has been here for as long as I can remember" says Mr. Chamberlain, "but I really don't know where it came from in the first place." Likewise an old Toby jug which interested us, and which Mr. Chamberlain told us is called a 'tobacco pouch'. Grandfather John's chair is still covered in the gold and red plush which was the fashion of the day.

So, from stoneboat to airplanes in not much more than a 100 years, the Chamberlain house and acres certainly tell a story!