

W I L L I A M I R W I N

WILLIAM IRWIN, the pioneer of the Irwin family in Canada, was born in Millington, Yorkshire, England in 1838 and came to Canada in 1857 when he was eighteen years old. After his father's death, his mother came to Canada with her family of three sons and five daughters and settled in Markham Township, near Unionville. As William was the oldest son, the responsibility of running the farm fell on his shoulders.

In 1866 he married Annie Dixon of Markham and they farmed at Unionville. In November 1882, he bought the south half of Lot 34, Concession 9, Vaughan Township and moved there with his family in the spring of 1883. The farm had been rented to Mr. Plowman two or three years prior to William buying the same. William built the barn, silo, pig pen and hen house that are now on this farm. He also set out two of the orchards on the farm and planted a cedar hedge up both sides of the lane and around the lawn and he planted as well several trees around the house.

In 1907 he also bought the east half of Lot 27, Concession 10, Vaughan Township. In 1909 he built a house in Weston. After his son George, was married in December 1909, William retired and moved to his new home in Weston and George took over the farm. As William was always a

lover of nature and the great out-doors, he was not happy living in a town. After living in Weston for three years, he sold his home there and moved to Nashville where he bought a home.

William and Annie had a family of seven children; Emrys, Bertha, Ada, Myretta, Ethel, Maude and George. Emrys stayed at home and farmed with his father. He married Miss Ella Abernathy of Duluth and after he was married, he farmed the east half of Lot 27, Concession 10, Vaughan Township. Emrys and Ella had four sons; William T., George, Arthur and Gordon.

Bertha was a music teacher and married John Wilkie of Nobleton and they lived in Toronto where Mr. Wilkie was an adjusting manager in Eaton's for years. They had three children, two daughters and a son; Gladys, May and Stanley.

Ada was also a music teacher. She married Rev. W. A. Potter, of Nobleton area, who was the minister of the Methodist church at Chapleau, Ontario, at the time of their marriage. Later he was a professor in Victoria College, Toronto and they lived in Toronto. They had two daughters, Ethelind and Myretta.

Myretta, William's daughter stayed at home and helped her mother. She married Arthur Hambly of Nobleton and farmed on the 10th of King and later moved to Kleinburg where they

farmed. They had one daughter, Merle.

Ethel was a school teacher. She married Armiston Mather, a farmer at Weston. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, Irwin, Gladys, Lloyd, and Doris.

Maude never married and stayed at home with her parents and cared for them in their old age.

George farmed with his father until he was married and then took over the home farm and his parents retired. He married Lilian Mortimer of Honeywood. They had six children, Muriel, Heber, Murray, Douglas, Gladys and Doris.

William's family attended Mount Lebanon Public School, S.S. No. 20, Vaughan. They also attended the Sunday School held there for many years with Mr. Edwin Hambly being the superintendent.

William was a Methodist and was always interested and active in the work of the church. He was as well, a life-long Conservative. He was a local preacher and for many years he preached regularly from one to three times a Sunday, both in Markham and in Vaughan, on the Kleinburg circuit of the Methodist church. William attended Nobleton Methodist church. His family also took an active part in church work. His daughter Bertha, played the church organ for several years until she married. Myretta sang in the choir from the time she was a young girl until she married. The family also took an active part in the Epworth League.

On the 25th day of February, 1925, William died at his home in Nashville. After his death, Annie and Maude continued to live in the home in Nashville. However, on the 30th day of July, 1930, Annie died and Maude, the daughter, died shortly thereafter on the 12th day of March, 1932. After George took over the family farm, he farmed it until his retirement in 1946. At this time he purchased a house in Nobleton and lived there with his wife Lily until his death in 1953. Lily still has the house in Nobleton. During his farming years George purchased the 100 acre farm immediately to the north of the family farm. His son Murray is operating this farm presently. During his lifetime George was an active member of the Nobleton and later the United Church Session. Muriel married Forest Mactaggart in 1937 a farmer south of Nobleton. They had a son and daughter. Bruce a lawyer and Gail a secondary school teacher. Heber married Mary Martin of Dunedin in 1938 and is farming in the Reddickville area. They had five daughters and two sons; Beverley, Janette, Mary Beth, Blake, Paul, Catherine and Heather. Murray Married Bernice Lindsey in 1941 and have four sons; Lawrie, Harold, Stanley, and Neal. Douglas married Dorothy Harrison in 1941. They had two daughters and three sons; William, Helen Goslin, John, Tom and Janice. He farmed the homestead until his death in 1961. John is presently farming this farm.

Gladys married Allan Laverty in 1941, a farmer at Reddicville. They had four daughters and one son; Glenn, Donna, Diane, Myrna and Nancy. Doris, a school teacher, married Milton Ziegler in 1948 a farmer at Harriston. They had a son and a daughter; Leigh and Lorna.

Presented by:

Merle Hambly

Muriel Mactaggart