

DOCTOR AMOS F. KAY



AS HE ARRIVED IN  
SCHOMBERG TO BEGIN  
43 YEARS OF PRACTISE  
AGED - 30 YEARS



HIS CHARMING BRIDE  
ON THE STEPS OF  
THEIR FIRST HOME -  
NOW THE POST OFFICE

THE BELOVED DOCTOR AS WE REMEMBER HIM.



Dr. Amos F. Kay was born on a farm near Sutton, Ontario, the youngest of seven children. His father was Joseph Kay and his mother Elizabeth Marshall Rae. After public school he attended Port Perry High School and Model School where his uncle was Principal. After teaching three years he enrolled in Medicine at the University of Toronto. He interned at St. Lukes Hospital in Ottawa and was assistant to Dr. Mackay of Collingwood and also Dr. Uiddrie of Creemore.

He then married Caroline Lillian Dougan and put out his shingle in Schomberg, where he practised for forty-three years. Their first home for five years was in the building now used as the Post Office. From there they purchased the lovely old white house on the hill, just north of the United Church Parsonage.

He was an elder and treasurer of the Presbyterian Church and after Union, of the United Church. He was a Mason, a member of the Bowling Club and of the Lions Club and an ardent Baseball fan. He was Medical Health Officer of King Township, an arduous task.

For many years he raised Buff Orpington chickens and won many prizes and championships at the Royal Winter Fair and Canadian National Exhibition. He also took great pleasure in his large garden. It gave him peace and serenity for the tasks of the day.

His two sons, Ronald Bruce and Harry Leslie graduated from Toronto University; Ronald in Medicine and Harry in Commerce and Finance. Life was satisfying and complete and then war clouds gathered and his sons both enlisted. Ronald in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and Harry in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Ronald was soon overseas and became a Doctor on the battlefield. Harry became a pilot and rose to Squadron Leader and Commanding Officer of two Air Stations for training pilots, first at Windsor and later at Oshawa. Then he too, was sent overseas. Harry was shot down over Stuttgart Germany on January 28th, 1945 on his thirteenth mission.

Dr. Kay was a man of peace. His life was devoted to the preservation of life. To him the sacrifice of so many fine young lives was appalling and utterly senseless. When Harry died something died in him too. His heart was broken.

He carried on for seven more years and then on May 8th, 1952 he was stricken while attending a patient. His Minister, Rev. Gordon Hunter, who lived him, in his final tribute to him, summed up his life in these words:

"He was a great Doctor, a great man, and a great Christian".

MRS. ALFRED ( ELIZABETH) LLOYD



Mrs. Lloyd, the former Elizabeth Shrigley, was born October 21st, 1863, one of four children of the late Robert and Mrs. Shrigley who owned the farm immediately east of Newmarket and which now forms a part of the town. There was a small house on the very fringe of the town on what was known as Shrigley Street, near Gorham, and here Mr. and Mrs. Shrigley lived until the farm home was built. Elizabeth was born there and the rest of the family, two sisters and one brother, in the new house.

Mr. Shrigley was a farmer but he hoped his children would gain an education to fit them for their future. This they did and three of them became school teachers and Elizabeth attended Public School and High School in Newmarket and on her graduation from High School attended Model School in what is now Alexander Muir School on Prospect Street. Ready to assume the duties of a teacher, she secured a position at Jamieson's School on the 6th concession of King Township, and the following year accepted a position at Lloydtown. She remained there for two years, but on account of a throat weakness, retired from teaching and was succeeded at Lloydtown by her sister.

She returned to Newmarket to learn the dressmaking trade, and worked at this until January, 1891 when she married Mr. Alfred L. Lloyd and returned to Lloydtown where soon after their marriage they settled on Lot 33, concession 10, previously owned by William Lloyd, Alfred's father. They were spared to enjoy sixty-three years of married life and lived the whole of the time in the vicinity of Lloydtown. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd had two children, Myrtle (Mrs. Harry Carter), and Ewart Gladstone, whose life history appears elsewhere in this book.

Mrs. Lloyd knew the joys and trials of pioneer living, but having a keen interest in all community activities, made her a valued member of the area. She was very alert and well posted on world affairs and her love of reading was a constant education to her. She was a member of the Public Library until the last year of her life and her training as a needlewoman made her outstanding in this art. Her fine crocheting, knitting, embroidery and dressmaking were expertly done and she continued to work at it until the very end of her life.

Mrs. Lloyd seemed to find time for all good works. She gave generously of her time and talents for the good of the community and was President of the Women's Institute during 1919 and 1920. These were difficult years because it was a time of readjustment after the strenuous years of war work and Mrs. Lloyd had thrown herself whole-heartedly into it. She knew what it was to suffer the aftermath of war because her only son lay in Christie Street Hospital with doubtful hopes for the future, but she worked tirelessly for the Bright New World we hoped was won.

Mrs. Lloyd was an ardent member of the United Church and organized a Young Ladies Bible Class in 1917 and continued as its leader for twenty years. She was President of the Women's Missionary Society and attended the meetings until a few weeks before her death. She was blessed with good health and a very keen mind, a gracious personality and a cheerful disposition and was loved by all with whom she worked.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd had the unique experience of living, not only to each pass their four score years and ten, but to celebrate both their golden and diamond wedding anniversaries and were feted on these occasions by their entire community, who knew their fine qualities and marvellous contribution to society and loved and respected them for their example.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd retired to Lloydtown when their daughter and son-in-law took over the farm but moved to Schomberg in 1929 where they lived active interesting lives until Mrs. Lloyd passed on on February 16th, 1954 in her 91st year and was laid to rest in Union Cemetery. In passing she left her mark on this community which everyone agreed was a better place because she had lived here. No greater tribute could be paid to anyone, "She had done what she could throughout her long and busy life".

Facts contributed by  
Mrs. H. Carter.



MRS. EDWARD (EMMA JANE) MARCHANT



Emma Jane Perry, sixth child in the family of twelve, was born on September 5th, 1865 on lot 34, concession 10, King Township. Her father, Henry Perry, was the second son of the late Richard Perry and Susannah Proctor, and was born in Ireland in 1824, coming to Canada in 1831 when Henry was seven years old and settled on lot 24, concession 7 of King Township. Her mother was Elizabeth Gardiner, daughter of Lieut. Gardiner of the British Army.

When Henry and Elizabeth were married in 1854 they obtained lot 34, concession 10, on which they lived the remainder of their lives and raised their large family, who grew up to scatter as far west as Winnipeg and Victoria to make their homes. They experienced all the hardships, privations, joys and sorrows of pioneer farming and knew what it meant to make sacrifices to provide food and love and shelter for their children. They were devout Christians and loyal to their church, St. Mary Magdalenes in Lloydtown, which they helped to establish, and brought up their family to follow in their foot steps.

Emma received her education at Lloydtown Public School, and then remained at home to help with the task of homemaking. There were few opportunities for girls in those days and her father did not believe in his daughters leaving home - his greatest joy was to have his family around him in his own home until they were ready to make homes of their own. Consequently, she had a wide experience in pioneer life and was an accomplished homemaker. However, her life was not hum-drum because they were a happy family and enjoyed each other's companionship. They entered whole-heartedly into the life of the community and as Lloydtown was a very busy and important centre at that time they did not lack recreation and entertainment. They spent much time with church activities and since Emma was very musical she was a member of Lloydtown's Women's Band playing a coronet with much skill. She was also organist at St. Mary Magdalenes for twenty-five years and on her retirement received a beautiful set of Moss Rose dinnerware, from the congregation - a gift she treasured and used with pride throughout her long life.

On November 1st, 1893 Emma married Edward Marchant and moved to lot 14, concession 8, Tecumseth, where their family of three sons - Clarence, Victor and Clifford, was born. Here also, Mrs. Marchant found time to serve her church and was the organist there while her husband was Superintendent of the Sunday School. After eight years there they retired to the old Perry Homestead as Mr. and Mrs. Perry were becoming too old to manage the farm and although Mr. and Mrs. Marchant purchased the farm her parents were not obliged to leave their old home, but remained as welcome guests as long as they lived. Farming saw many changes during these years, and Mr. Marchant progressed with the times. It was a happy but strenuous life since this was the homestead and the parents were still there. It was a common thing for Mrs. Marchant to have at least 20 for dinner, as the children came home each Sunday to see their parents. This did not keep her from her church but she used to say, as they drove home, she would look in the yard as soon as they passed the orchard, to see how many guests she would have to prepare dinner for. It was also the centre for summer holidays and nieces and nephews came to the farm all summer long for their turn for a week's holidays.

Mrs. Marchant was a good neighbour and neighbours were needed in those days. She would take little treats and spend a whole day visiting the sick and shut-ins in the village. She was always on hand when a neighbour needed help and she cared tenderly her aged mother until she passed away. She was President of the W.A. of her church for many years and was a Life Member of the same. She was also President of the Women's Institute in 1915, 16 and 17, during those busy war years when she drove every Wednesday with horse and buggy to sew for the Red Cross in the Masonic Hall.

In 1926, after fifty-three years on the farm of her birth, she and her husband moved to their pretty new brick bungalow on Main Street in Schomberg, where she was happy to enjoy her retired life, serve her community and church and tend her lovely flowers for which she had a great love.

Two special events stood out in her latter years - on November 1st, 1943 they celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary when friends gathered from near and far to express their good wishes and shower them with gifts. It was a gala occasion and the Institute sent flowers to show their esteem, and on September 5th, 1955 she was again honoured with a party on the occasion of her nintieth birthday when she cut her cake, received her friends and enjoyed their company.

Mrs. Marchant was blessed with good health, a mild disposition and a happy contented nature. She had a very keen memory and could re-tell interesting stories of pioneer life and in fact, was a source of information for many who had no record of births, deaths, etc. She was able to remain in her own home after she was widowed in 1952 and enjoyed an interesting life until she passed quietly away in November, 1956 in her 92nd year. She was laid to rest in old St. Mary Magdalenes Cemetery and the people mourned the passing of a senior citizen who left the community a better place for having lived there.



Mrs. Leeson ( Helen ) McGowan



Mrs. McGowan, the former Helen Elaine Averall, was born November 10th 1891, one of two children of the late James and Mrs. Averall who lived on a farm about two miles north of Newton Robinson, on the Twelfth line of West Gwillimbury Township. Helen was born on this farm and also her sister, Daisy Ellis. Mrs. Averall passed away about two weeks after Daisy was born and Helen was three years old. The family then went to live with their Grandparents. The girls received their education at Newton Robinson public school. In 1919 the home farm was sold and the family moved to 111 Dixon Ave, Toronto, where Helen worked until her marriage to Leeson McGowan, Sept. 20th 1928.

Leeson came to Schomberg in 1924 and operated a Fancy and Dry goods store in the south half of the store owned by Miss Attridge, and now occupied by Roy Jennings. His elderly father lived with him there as did also his widowed sister, Mrs. Frankie Arnold. A little later he obtained the business of Mr. Geo. Bannerman (now Crest Hardware) and operated a general store until he purchased the business of Mr. Robt. Creighton, now owned by Mr. Cecil Henry. In March, 1945 he again sold out and moved to Barrie where they now live in a pretty little bungalow on Innisfil St.

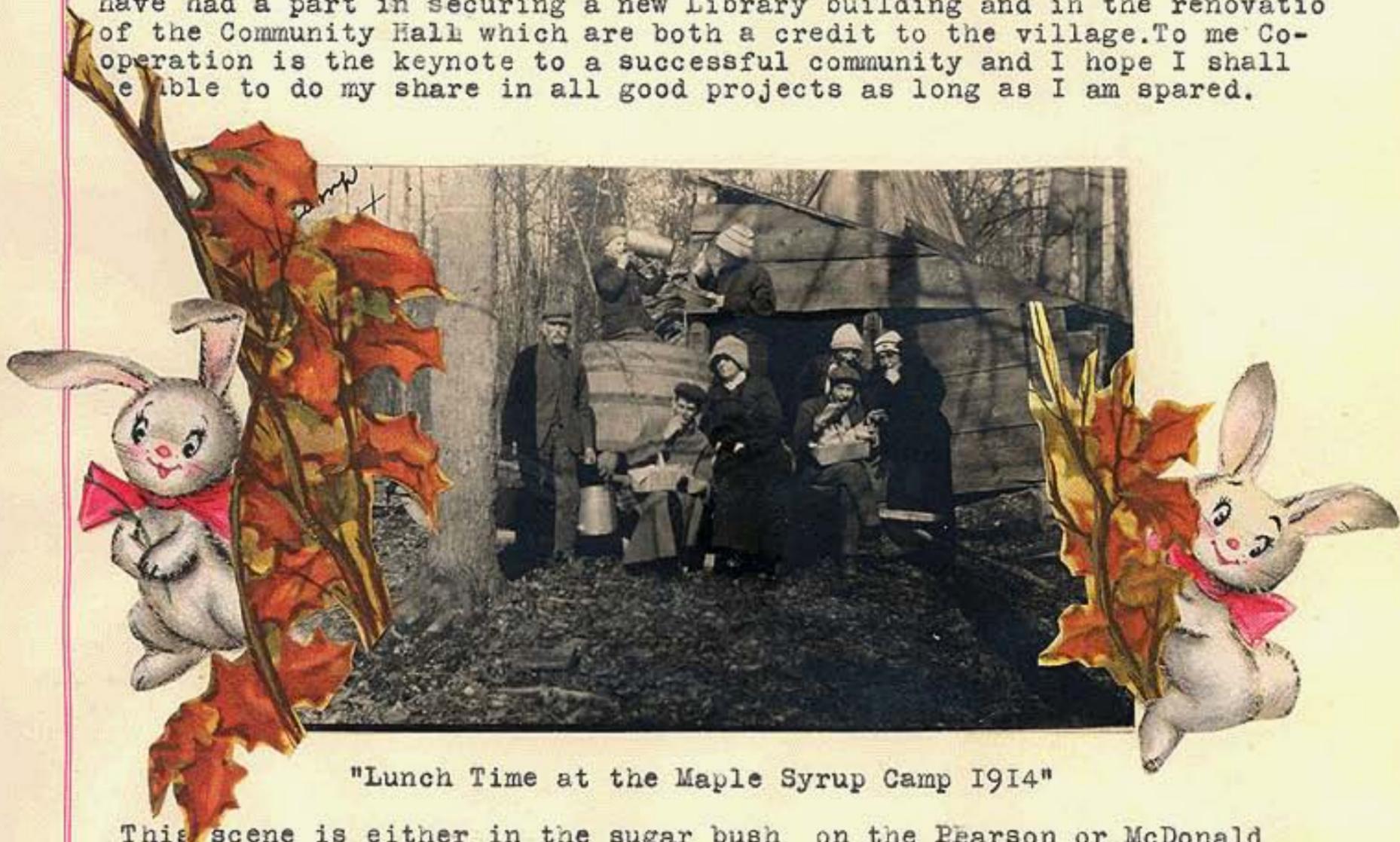
Helen joined the Women's Institute soon after coming to Schomberg and although she never held an executive office, her contribution to the organization was very great. Her home was always open for meetings and her Co-operation and faithfulness to the work of the branch during the war effort was outstanding. Their great love was the work of their Church where Leeson was Warden, Treasurer and Superintendant of the Sunday School for many years and Helen was tireless in her efforts for the work of the W.A. of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church. They made a fine contribution to the life of the community and were missed when they moved from our midst.



I was born on a farm, north of Schomberg in Tecumseth Township, which my Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clarke, had cleared of bush and farmed until their only son, my father, Stephen Henry Clark married and took over the farm. I still have a pair of brass candlesticks that was given my mother by a pedlar as a wedding gift when he called at their home the day after they were married.

I married Ernest J. Pearson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Pearson, in November 1909 and lived on his parent's farm until 1926 when we moved to Schomberg where we have lived ever since with the exception of one year which we spent in Battle Creek, Mich.

I joined the Women's Institute when it was organized in 1911 and have been a member ever since with the exception of the one year we were out of the community. After Mrs. Pearson's death we sold our home on north Main St. and bought a bungalow on Elmwood Ave. but later as we realized we were getting older and it was a long walk to the business section of the village and to our Church, we sold again in 1962 and bought our present home on Church St, where we hope to spend the remainder of our years enjoying small town life and friends. I have many interests in the town which keep me busy and makes life full and satisfying and I would not live elsewhere. Besides my Church, which is Presbyterian, and the Institute activities I am a Charter Member of the Horticultural Society and a Board Member of the Public Library since its beginning. I am happy to have had a part in securing a new Library building and in the renovation of the Community Hall which are both a credit to the village. To me Cooperation is the keynote to a successful community and I hope I shall be able to do my share in all good projects as long as I am spared.



"Lunch Time at the Maple Syrup Camp 1914"

This scene is either in the sugar bush on the Pearson or McDonald farm where the ladies have brought lunch to the men who are gathering sap and putting it in the huge tank from which the ladies are drinking. It will then be put into the kettles to boil. These were kept boiling constantly until the syrup was at the right consistency for straining. Very often the kettles would be kept boiling all night, and the fires kept burning with wood gathered in the bush. It was hard work but the sparkling golden syrup was ample reward for their labor.

Mrs. James (Eliza) Pearson



The old farm home on Concession 8, King that was built by the late George Lount Pearson in 1856. All the wood that was used in the trim came from one tree and was all hand dressed.

Mrs. James Pearson was born on the 30th. of June, 1851 on a farm near Meaford in St. Vincent Township. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Leavens, had settled there when first married. They had travelled by horse back from her grandparents' home near Picton in Prince Edward County, on their Honeymoon. Mrs. Pearson received her education in the little school near her home, and when she married James Pearson, in the year 1877, she came to live on the farm on the 8th. concession of King where she lived for nearly fifty years, and where their two children were born. A son Ernest and a daughter Florence who graduated as a nurse and died during the Flu. epidemic in 1918. Ernest assisted with the farm until 1926 when they sold it to Mr. Robert Hulse and retired to Schomberg. Their ancestors were United Empire Loyalists and Quaker stock and the story of the Pearson family reaches far back in pioneer history of York County. Their family history is recorded in the pioneer histories appearing in another section. Mrs. Pearson was a woman of charming personality and was very capable and intelligent. She was interested in every movement that stood for better community life and was so enthused about the principals of the Women's Institute she labored for the organization of the branch that has flourished in Schomberg for more than half a century. She made herself so well informed of the constitution that she became the first President and remained active as long as she was physically able. Her spacious farm home was ever at the disposal of the branch for meetings and social activities and records reveal the wonderful foundation and leadership she gave to the branch. She brought honor to the branch by being chosen a District President and assisted in organizing many new branches. In this work she had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Effie O. Charles of Aurora as District Secretary, who, I think has done more to further the work of the W. I. in this County than any other single woman and who became so endeared to the women of rural North York.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearson made their home with their son and daughter-in-law after their retirement, on Main st. where Mr. Pearson died in 1931 and Mrs. Pearson passed quietly to her reward on Christmas day 1947 leaving the community poorer for her passing but richer for her having lived in our midst.



Mr. & Mrs.  
Charles  
Aurora, O.

Information by courtesy of  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Pearson.