

## "The Appletons"

A temperamental youth among the sons of the Appleton family in England was the source of the family of that name and owned and also occupied the farm <sup>with</sup> Lot 81, Concession I King Twp. for over a century.

Among the several sons, Thomas was the most studious and was planning to become a school teacher. He had advanced theories and ideas in political affairs and applied himself to their study. The more he read, the more he argued and expounded. This did not suit his conservative minded Father, and he remonstrated against his perverting his other sons. The exasperated Father finally told Thomas he had better go to America, and get away from the other boys with his wild and dangerous notions. The Father's final taunt "You Jacobite" "You'll never amount to anything here", was ringing in his ears as he turned his face to a new land to make his start in life.

He landed in "muddy York" and became one of the first school teachers. He was a close friend of Jesse Ketchum and other progressive citizens of that time.

His radical leanings and proclivities were again in evidence. He identified himself with the total abstinence cause, and was active for political reforms of the times. For this reason, when he applied for a grant of land from the Family Compact officials of the crown, he found he was not in favor in those circles. His application was held up which did not sweeten his disposition towards them.

He was ardent in religious and moral reform enterprises, and took a leading and useful part in these movements.

## "Appletons" Continued (2)

Thomas Appleton's other brother later came out from England to Montreal, and became a building contractor in that city; another brother went to New York, and became founder and head of the great Appleton Publishing Co.

The fourth brother to come out from England settled in Illinois W.S.A. and the town of Appleton Ill. was named in his honor.

In 1822 we find Thomas teaching school on Yonge Street. His son Seville Cumberland was born on Yonge Street, on the farm opposite St. Andrew's College, which was once the home of the Gabriel Lount family.

This son married a daughter of Jacob Hollingshead a neighbor, who owned 200 acres. Lot 81, King Township.

At age of 16 this son was working the East. 100 acres of Lot 81, now known as the Collins farm.

Though he started young in farming he was 35 when he married Abigail the daughter of James Rush. They had nine children. Mary, Elizabeth, Willmot Cumberland, James, Abigail, Seville Charles, Walter, Robert, Richard & Susan died in infancy.

When they came here beavers were building dams on the stream that crosses their farm, Indian graves were to be found. They built the first primitive buildings, houses, barns and fences. They also built a saw mill on the stream and operated it for many years.

At that time on a clear day, the hum of six other water power saw mills could be heard. Donald Kennedy's on the Richardson farm (once owned by John C. Davis)

David Mc Gaffin's on the Gilpin farm (once owned by Aaron Clark)

Irwin's on the Collins farm (owned by Irwin's)

## "Appleton's Continued (3)

Phillip's saw mill on Phillip's pond.

James Lloyd's on the Cosford farm

Ferguson's on the Ferguson's farm (now Lady Eaton)

Those were the building days. New homes barns, school houses, and churches were going up in every direction: and the lands were being cleared, roads and bridges built for the progressive settlements.

Seville Charles Appleton played a useful and important part in the young community. He was a leader in the Methodist Church and helped in the erection of the first Church at Mackell's Corners (now Aurora) when it was built with its burying ground around it, at the corner of Yonge Street and Tyler. Alfred Tyler gave them the land and the Street was named after him. He was on the Trustee board of School Section No 10 (now Snowball) when the new brick school was built. He was active in total abstinence work in those days when liquor was plenty. He was one of the party which included Nathaniel Pearson who started the Sons of Temperance Division at Kettleby in 1855. It was he and John Webb who reinforced the weakened high spire of the Aurora Methodist Church (now United) which was ultimately blown off by a cyclone that swept Aurora in 1903.

The Rebellion times did not involve this family, and they have pursued the even tenor of their way, a fine representation of pioneer stock.

James Almante a son of James Appleton married to Rhena Wood has a son George & a daughter Grace. He is the fifth generation to live on the same property.

N. pt. Lot 89, Con. 1.



Mr. and Mrs E. L. Reddick on lawn 1952.

They bought the best 25 acres of Lot 89, Con. 1. in 1927 from <sup>the</sup> H. M. Armstrong <sup>farm</sup> who lived on Yonkers St. on the east end of the lot. They bought from Alfred Bickett who two years previously bought from Chester Hodgson who originally had persuaded H. M. Armstrong to sell the best 25 acres. He partly built a house which was finished in 1927 by E. L. Reddick.

The crown deed of lot 89 was acquired by Isaac Phillips in 1802. Who left the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  to his son Oliver and the south half to son David. David sold the South half to Geo. Milgate, who raised his family there, then retired leaving son Benjamin and his wife Sophie to raise their family there. They in turn left the farm to their son Walter and his bride Meta.

After three years they rented the farm to Joseph Cooney finally selling it to William and Annie Armstrong.

Less could be learned about Oliver Phillips' North half. - but it was later owned for several years by Hillard Cook and his wife, who bought it from Thos Stewart. In 1919 Cook sold it to Wm Armstrong and his son Elton. So the Armstrongs then owned all of lot 89 and in 1921 sold the best 25 acres to Chester Hodgson.

(Mrs E. L. Lila J. Reddick)

Arthur Morning Farms.  
1952

These farms situated sixty Acres, lots 21 and 22, East half of Concession 2. King Township was owned by Thomas F. Heacock before 1851 when he sold to Absalam Baker.

In 1895 Absalam Baker sold to Charles Blaker, who rented it to James Morning and moved his family there in the Spring of 1897.

On March 1st 1904. James Morning purchased it and in May 1925 erected a new barn.

October 6th 1947. James sold to Arthur whose wife Minetta we are indebted to for this information. They have one daughter Jean.

A suitable name was chosen as one gets a grand view of the surrounding country from their windows and lawn. "Grandview Farm" it is.

Lot 82. West half. Concession I. King Township, Fifty Eight Acres, owned by D. E. Hamer was sold April 15th 1910 to James Morning, and on October 6th, 1947, his son Arthur purchased from him.

"Answer to Women's Institute Roll Call "Give the History of your farm" by Mrs. Arthur Morning April 1952."



East Part of Lot 24. Concession 2.



Jan. 1956

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Manning.

1847 Copson Farm 1952.

-2-

The original dwelling place was moved and a verandah built along the South side and North on the East side.

A cook house was built away back of the original building to the East with the entrance from the West off the North part verandah. A preventative from fire Henry thought.

In 1860 a new house was built by Harris Brothers (two) Carpenters, the work was all done by hand, and it took two years to complete. Lumber was plentiful and the 24x36 ft. foundation had beams a foot square all around and two across. The house was two storey, eight rooms, two windows in every room, two long halls upstairs and down, a closed in stairway, fifteen doors, two large clothes closets.

In 1886 the log stable and the barn were struck by lightning and burned. Lost a few hens, saved the pigs. The sheep and cattle were out to pasture.

William the eldest son married Hannah Walker in 1862. They lived here and a son and daughter were born here. He moved to Sunnydale in 1866 another son & daughter were born.

Robert the second son bought forty acres of land and buildings middle part Lot 25 Concession 2 King Twp. but continued living here until he died in July 1918. He never married. Alfred purchased this land from Robert's Estate when it was settled in 1918.

Henry and Alfred were married to two sisters Sarah and Harriet Walker respectively, in 1876.

Henry's two sons and a daughter were born here and lived here until 1882 when they moved to Lot 85 Concession I King Township where another son and daughter were born.

Alfred and Harriet lived here and Ernest, his son and two daughters were born here, and when the baby was nineteen days old, Harriet passed away.

Henry's daughter "Anne Fox" died at the age of 15 and his wife Anne died in 1880 and Henry in 1888.

Their remains were interred in Aurora Cemetery.

1847 - Copson Farm 1952  
(3)

The youngest son of Henry, and Ernest's Father was married again in 1889 to Elizabeth Ann Graham and from this union, a son Charles Clifton was born in March 1898. When Clifton was nearly ten years of age his mother and Alfred's wife passed away in 1908 leaving Alfred a widower again. Iris the elder daughter married in 1906, Hattie the youngest in 1909, and moved to their separate homes, leaving Alfred, Ernest and Clifton living here.

In 1922 Clifton married Hazel Billing from Carmen, Manitoba and made their home on middle part of Lot 25 Concession 2 King Township, where their three daughters were born, Gwenn the eldest, May 6th. Beth May 10th. Bernice May 31st. Alfred died in 1928 leaving this farm to Clifton, and the Homestead 100 acres East half Lot 26. Concession 2 to Ernest J.

April 1929 Ernest married Flossie L. (McConnell) Turp the widow of Robert J. Turp, and she and her son Robert and daughter Edythe came to live here.

Robert, her son enlisted in Royal Canadian Air Force, became Pilot Officer 1942 and was killed in action, and buried in France.

Living at present May 1952. Ernest, his wife Flossie L. and daughter Edythe L. Turp.

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"Lilacopse Farm"

Answer to Women's Institute Roll Call. "Give the History of your Farm by Mrs. Ernest Copson. April 1952"



"Copson Farm"

1847 - 1952

This farm of one hundred acres situated East half Lot 26. Concession 2, Township of King is owned now in 1952 by Ernest F. Copson, who was born here in 1878, lived here and is still living here as this is written.

Thomas Cosford purchased some seven hundred acres from the Crown about 1837.

Henry Copson, a Lawyer, his wife Anne and their four sons and one daughter came out from Atherstone, Warwick, England, in the year 1847, and purchased the above one hundred acres from Thomas Cosford's land.

It was half bush land with a two storey building 20 ft x 30 ft (used now as a woodshed) their dwelling place, with an entrance from both North & South sides. There was also a Barn 30 x 40 ft. and a log Stable North and West of the house, which they used as a cow stable. A neighbor Mrs. Ruth Davis gave them a cow the first winter they were here.

Henry was not a farmer but was good with the pen and a brush. Some of his sketches still hang on the wall.

A clipping from the "Aurora Banner" 1918 after the death of his third son Robert reads "Henry Copson his father taught school for some time in what was called "Mr. Leod's school house, which stood on the old road just North of Aurora, and was attended by all the youths of the country about from Bond Lake to Newmarket, and included the Hartman's, The Trents, The Mosley's, The Phillips, The Pearson's, The Rogers, and the Lounts."

There was a log school house situated on East half of Lot 25 Concession 2. where services were held on Sundays, and was called the Atherstone Union Sabbath School. It had a library & Henry was Librarian in 1862-1863, as a copy of records shew names of scholars at that time and Ernest's father A. Copson is on the roll.