



Miss Alice Ferguson, 82, a resident of the village of King, taught at Kinghorn school from 1892 to 1895. Kinghorn school, S.S. 23, held a reunion in 1937 and Miss Ferguson was one of the central figures at the reunion.

1952

Kinghorn History Linked To Davis Tannery Growth

More than a century of events in Kinghorn are as colorful and dramatic as they are enduring. The fourth and fifth generations of pioneer families who settled in small clearings in the dense forests of early King township are still residing in the Kinghorn district. They relate with pride the traditions dating back to the 1840's.

The early development of the settlement was closely knit to the Davis tanning industry, the school, the fifth line Primitive Methodist church, and the pioneer dwellers. All that is left of the picturesque village is its stock of sturdy descendents, the school, the mill, its prosperous farm lands, its pioneer homes, and "Memory Acres", the site of the tannery and Davis home, owned by Mr. Bruce Davis, great grandson of Andrew Davis.

Newcomers too are incorporating the spirit of pioneer days. Mr. Henry Borden has named his farm lands, "Tannery Hill Farms". Mr. H. W. Weis has named his place "The Barn", while Mr. Bruce Davis is building his home on the site of his father's house.

It was King City Women's Institute that benefited from research work done by Mrs. Roy Hollinshead (Teen Egan) when Kinghorn's history was read by Mrs. Bill Willoughby (Doris Hollinshead). The story was based on facts given by older residents and whose authors are Bruce Davis and his wife, Carrol Langstaff Davis.

Outstanding happenings have been the Davis Tannery officially called the Lowell Tannery, founded in 1847, with its two fires which finally closed out a prolific chapter in Kinghorn's history in 1903. There was the outstanding public career of the Hon. E. J. Davis, member of the provincial legislature and minister of crown lands. There was the school reunion of June, 1937, known as the "Walter Rolling Day", when over 3,000 people returned to S.S. 23 to honor the man who had taught for 41 consecutive years, his predecessor, Miss Alice Ferguson, 1892-95, and Miss Elizabeth Tinline, then 82, who was assistant to Mr. McKay in 1867 and principal from 1874-1880. Other notable dates were 1932 and 1933, when Jimmie Gray and Billie Walker won the provincial shields for public school oratory; and 1935 and 1936 when silver cups were won by Douglas Kyle and Doris Hollinshead for oratory. They were all pupils of Mr. Rolling.

The Tannery 1847-1903

Had it not been for Elihu Pease, an American by birth, and a rural school inspector in parts of York County in the 1840's, Kinghorn (named later by a Scottish blacksmith) might never have a tannery location.

Mr. Pease had a small tannery on Yonge St. at the Golden Lion corner. Several miles north, James Davis, whose ancestors lived in the Royal Colony of Maryland, United States, had established a small tanning industry in 1825 on his 210 acres of land at Cummers, now called Finch's Corners, Yonge St.

Mr. Pease went westward from Yonge St., through "miles of bush" to the fifth concession at King sideroad. When Mr. Pease came to the branch of the Humber River he was fascinated with its abundant water power. He thought this was an excellent site for a tannery. There were great forests of hemlock, pine and other mixed growths of virgin trees. Accordingly he purchased 16 acres of land for his son Edward in 1847.

A combined tannery and dwelling was erected and Edward Pease operated the plant on a modest basis until 1856, the "entire payroll being two or three men". Andrew Davis took over the business, naming it "Lowell Tannery", a title it bore until 1903, although it was known as the Davis Tannery.

First Tannery Fire

On Sunday, in April 1884, a crushing blow was dealt the young tanner. Fire razed the building to the ground while Mr. Davis and his family worshipped in the small church

some 700 yards from Lowell Tannery. "The tannery is on fire," came the fatal words as the sermon was in progress. The work of a generation was gone.

Mr. Davis rebuilt, in spite of the calamity that put him in debt. The industry expanded. More homes were built and by 1903, 45 to 50 regular men were employed. Wide markets had been gained and his five sons had learned the business.

Second Fire

Just at a time when chrome tanning was increasing and the future of the industry was confidently assured, came the second fire. It was on Saturday noon, March 14, 1903, when short blasts of the tannery whistle and peels of the tannery bell gave the alarm. Already smoke was pouring from the roof. E. J. Davis and his son Aubrey were standing in front of E. J.'s house (where Archie Campbell dwells) and stepping back they saw the smoke. With no fire protection to quell the blaze, the place burned within an hour. Only records from the offices and a portion of hides in the vats were saved.

William Ross, 83, a tannery employee who still lives at Kinghorn, describes the sight. "We were eating dinner when we heard the whistle. Rushing to the scene I saw the smoke pouring from the roof. The fire had started in the drying floor and worked its way downward. Everyone tried to help but there was little one could do. I had worked 12 years in the factory and the destruction meant that 40 to 50 people would be out of work.

Mr. Thomas Anderson, 84, fourth concession, was the night watchman at the tannery at that time. He was not on duty.

"We stood on the bank and watched my father's machine, enveloped by flames," said Margaret Cull. Mr. Cull took down two of the houses that were moved to Newmarket after 1903.

E. J. Davis and his sons decided to select a new site. It was a hard break. King township council urged the Davis family to remain in the community.

Newmarket was chosen and a large acreage purchased and in 1904 construction of a large building commenced. A number of the Kinghorn employees went to Newmarket with the Davis family to work in the new tannery. Some of the dwellings at Kinghorn were taken apart and rebuilt in Newmarket, and are said to be still in use.

James Groves and Ernie Fairey are probably the only two remaining Kinghorn workers who are still employed by the Davis Leather Co. at Newmarket. Kinghorn had lost its industry, many of the old homes disappeared and the population diminished. Betty McCallum, who boarded the tannery workers at \$5 a month, died at 90 years and her small, roughcast house north of the bridge on the 5th concession has long since disappeared.

Gone, too, are the blacksmith, carriage shop, the lime kiln plant. Gone many years is the community hall with its driving shed beneath. For ten cents you could see a good Punch and Judy show; you could attend stormy political meetings, and have dances and oyster suppers. "I can remember some of these doings," says Mrs. Egan.

The Hollinshead family can boast the fifth generation in Kinghorn, in fact Paul Willoughby, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ern. Hollinshead, is the sixth generation. Eli Hollinshead, their ancestor, an United Empire Loyalist, lies in the old churchyard cemetery on the fifth. His tombstone is dated 1853. Ern, Ab, Harold, Roy, sons of Eli, 2nd, make up much of the village's population.

Ralph and Wilbert Burns, whose ancestor, James Burns, stttled here in 1843 on the farm east of the school, are still farming. They tell of the Burns' sawmill that manufactured the lumber for the school built in 1860.



FEB 57



FEB 57

NORTH HALF OF LOT 2, CON 2, KING

THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN ON JAN. 1. 1957, AFTER THE JOS. LEVISON FAMILY MOVED TO SHANTY BAY, AND BEFORE JOAN (nee BURNS) AND JOHN ADDISON STARTED TO REMODEL THE HOUSE. THE BARN AND ALL THE OTHER OUT BUILDINGS WERE TAKEN DOWN.

LIST OF OWNERS FOR

North half Lot 2: Con. 2 King Township
Bathurst Street

1818	-	August 1- William Lee
1821	-	John Bishop
1831	-	John Gamblex
1838	-	Jacob Rawn
1851	-	Jonathan Rawn
1851	-	Richard Thomas
1885	-	Richard Thomas Jr.
1888	-	William Thompson
1899	-	James Thompson
1917	-	Damzy And S. Jarvis
1920	-	Wm. A. Paxton
1929	-	Joseph Levison
1948	-	Joseph Levison Jr.
1956	-	C. F.W. Burns
1958	-	John H. Addison



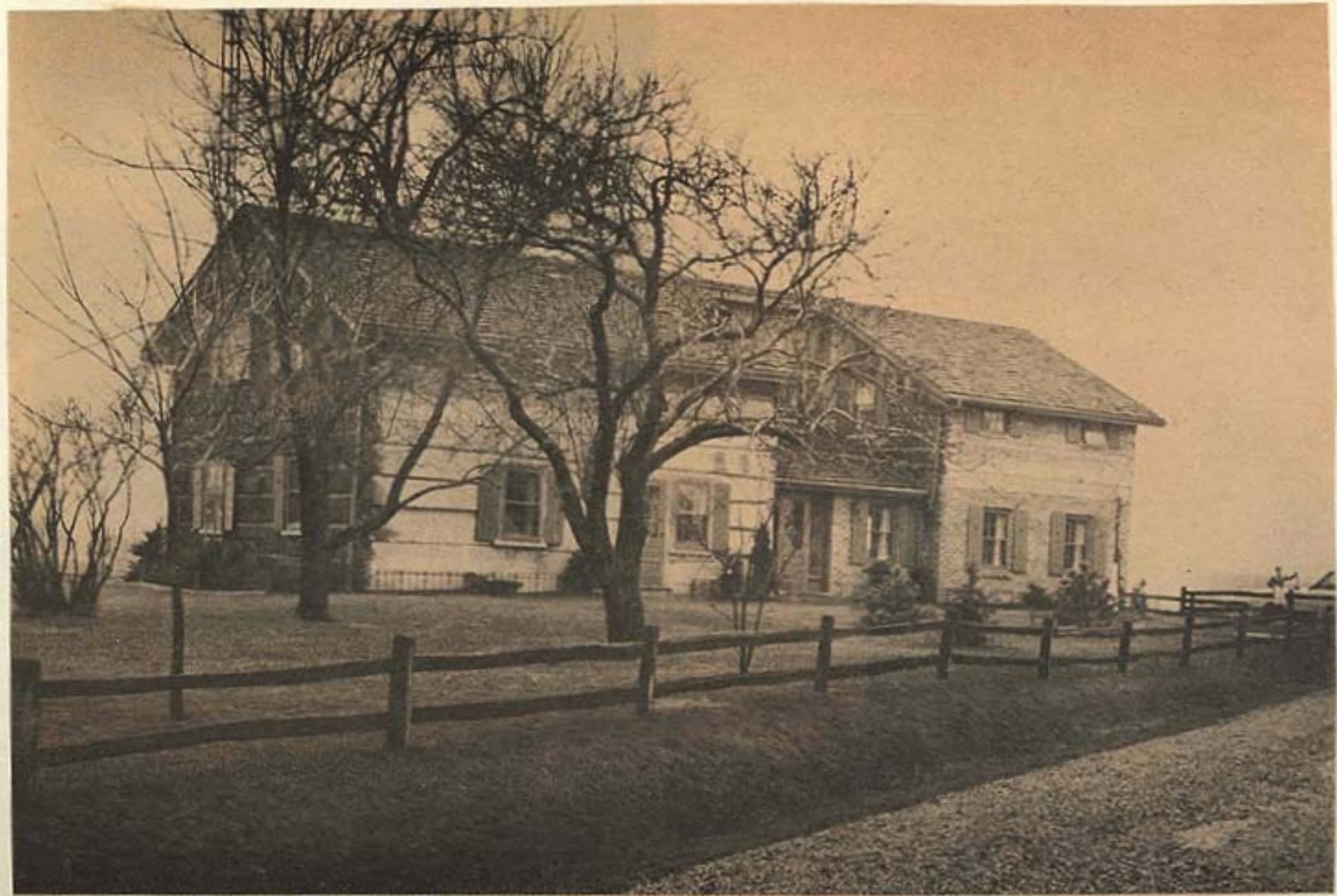
Kingcroft --- LOT-3- CORN 2. KING.

*a 165-year-old
log country home*

***K**INGCROFT, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Addison in King, Ontario, is a 165-year-old log house that is one of the oldest residences in Eastern Canada. The Addisons bought two old schoolhouses to find enough ancient red brick to build onto the original house.*

John and Joan Addison are members of the Toronto and North York Hunt and John, a Member of Parliament, is an active polo player. On Kingcroft's 300 acres, they keep hunters and steeplechasers, two black Labradors and an Old English sheep dog. They have three children -- Jock, 8; Toni Reay, 7; and Kate, 16 months.

1966.



EMPTY GASOLINE TANK DEATH TRAP FOR BOY, 6 PAL, 5, IS BADLY BURNED

Special to The Star

Temperanceville, April 21—An empty gasoline tank in a gloomy driving shed became a tomb for one of two boys who lowered themselves into it yesterday while playing on a farm west of here. Temperanceville is near King City.

Danny Chalk, six, his body covered with bruises and gasoline burns, was dead when pulled out of the tank by Howard Northey, father of the boy who survived.

Donald Northey, five, whose rasping breath coming from the tank attracted his frantic mother's attention, was lying underneath his dead pal in an inch of water and gasoline when his father reached through the 14-inch opening in the top of the tank.

The boy was rushed to York County Memorial hospital by Dr. Crawford Rose, where he was treated for first and second degree burns. Although his condition is reported "good," there is a possibility his lungs were damaged by the heavy gasoline fumes.

In Tank Almost 3 Hours

"As soon as I felt Danny I knew he was dead," Mr. Northey said. "Donnie was barely breathing when I lifted him out. I don't know much about artificial respiration but I never worked so hard in my life."

Mr. Northey estimates the boys were in the 200 gallon tank about three hours.

Danny left his home on the second concession in the morning to play with Donald, who lived nearly a mile away on the long sideroad west of Temperanceville. He took a stick for protection against two unfriendly dogs but arrived at the Northey home safely.

Mrs. Northey said the boys spent the morning playing around the yard with the farm collie. When she couldn't find them at noon, she thought they might have gone on a hike and telephoned Mrs. Chalk to see if they were there.

The two women started to search the vicinity of their homes but could find no trace of the boys. Mrs. Chalk said Danny always was punctual but that she didn't really start to worry until after 2 p.m.

Passed Shed Several Times

Meanwhile, Mrs. Northey became more anxious as she continued to search without turning up a clue to the boys' whereabouts. She had passed the shed numerous times, but dismissed it as a possible hiding place, as the door was open slightly.

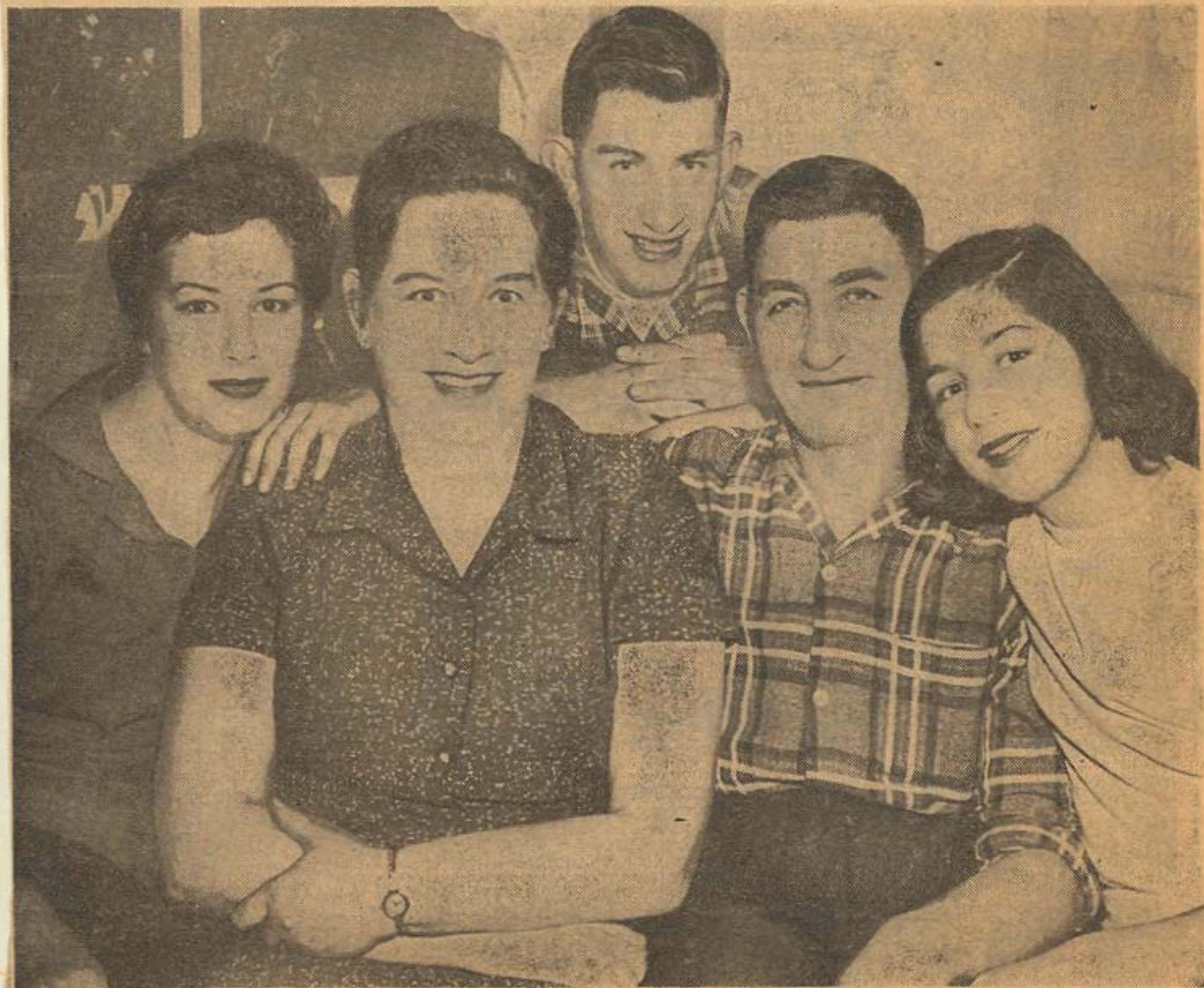
Finally, coming to a stop outside the shed door, only 200 feet from her kitchen, Mrs. Northey heard the rasping of Donald's breath.

Breaking into the shed, she saw the top of the tank and realized the boys were inside. She reached through the opening in the top and attempted several times to pull Danny

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

ALONG THE SIDEROAD

Hard Work Won for Newcomer



MR. AND MRS. WILBERT HERREMA WITH CHILDREN, CLARA, LEFT, GARRETT AND AUDREY

By DEAN HUGHES

Eleven years ago, on a raw, muddy day in late March, Wilbert Herrema landed in Canada from Holland. He had four children, an attractive wife and \$400 — all he was allowed to take out of Holland at that time. But he was 40 years old and for Wilbert Herrema it seemed destined that life was to begin—a new life.

In the province of Friesland in North Holland, a few miles inland from the shallow tidal sea of the Wadden Zee, Wilbert had a small farm where he grew garden produce. But he wanted a larger farm. And in Holland you can't just go out and buy a farm when you want it, as you can in Canada. Although the country is only one-twenty-fourth the size of Ontario, there are nearly 12,000,000 people there, compared to nearly 17,000,000 in all Canada. And farms are handed down from father to son. Where there are no children the land is deeded to the church, rented out and the moneys used to pay the minister. Not only that but most of the farms are less than 25 acres in size. So Wilbert Herrema didn't know what to do.

Then, one Friday morning, he went to market and while

there he picked up some literature about Canada. He and his wife read it, talked it over with the local land agent, put in an application to emigrate to Canada and two months later he and his family sailed for Halifax.

Good to Hear

The other day I talked to Wilbert, his blonde wife, Yvonne, and their 20-year-old son, Garratt, in their home near Temperanceville. Over a cup of tea and a coffee bar I listened to their story. And it was one of those success stories it is good to hear—one of the many success stories of New Canadians who have made good in a land far away from the land of their birth. But success did not come easily.

When the Herrema family landed in Canada with their \$400, Wilbert was obliged by law to work as a hired man on a farm. This he did for three years. Saving every penny he decided at the end of that time to rent his own farm and managed to scrape together enough money to buy a few implements, put down some money on the rent and buy a number of pigs. Thus the family moved into the home they now occupy and dug in to make a go of it. But things were

against them. Wilbert bought some feeder cattle in the fall for 32 cents a pound, fed them all winter and had to sell them in the spring at 28 cents a pound. His work and feed cost was lost. The price of pigs dropped, too. But he hung on. And he bought one Holstein cow — the breed which originated in his native Friesland. As he could afford a few dollars he bought others. He started shipping to a dairy and as his herd was enlarged his monthly milk cheque increased.

Today there are 52 head of cattle in the Herrema barns. Thirty of these are milking cows. In October he shipped 27,000 pounds of milk to the dairy—an average of about 30 pounds per cow per day. They are mostly grade cows but one of them gave 18,000 pounds last year—a volume much higher than the average Holstein purebred. And his average test last year was 3.6 of butterfat — which is high for a Holstein herd.

Are Happy Family

The Herremas are a happy family. They work hard to make a success of their farm. Audrey, 12, is in public school. Clara, 17, is an intensive high school student and is going to be a teacher. Barbara, 24, is married with two children. They came to

25th Wedding Anniversary 1955

A delightful party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hereema on Saturday evening, March 29, in honour of their 25th wedding anniversary March 31. Among the 30 guests presents were the family and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hermstra (Barbara) and their daughters Evonne and Joanne arrived from British Columbia to help prepare for the party. A bouquet of pink and white carnations was received from friends in Bradford. 1958

Canada with little and have done well as a result of frugal living, hard work and the invaluable help of Moffatt Cockburn, the agricultural representative for York county, who has counselled them on many things. And I came back to Briarwood Farm feeling that I had had a wholesome shot in the arm. The Herremas had told me they love Canada and their future lies here for them and their children and their grandchildren. And despite the occasional record of failure among New Canadians I realized that Canada has more to offer than we native-born Canadians seem to realize.

As I write this piece I have in front of me a copy of the current Junior Farm Quarterly for Autumn. On page nine is a photograph of 38 Ontario boys and girls who were selected to make a trip to New York and Washington. In the background is the outline of the United Nations building. And in the back row of the picture, sixth from the left, stands Garratt Herrema, son of Wilbert Herrema—Junior Farmer of Canada and a New Canadian who will be one of the finest of Canada's farmers of the future.