

SPRUCE HILL FARM

.....

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Arwood Harman is situated on the south west corner of Lot 71 in the 1st Concession of King, comprising 30 acres. Being a corner lot, it fronts a hundred and twenty rods on C.F.R.B. side road and forty rods on the 2nd concession of King. The land is slightly rolling with a good southern view.

On this farm is a solid brick house of seven rooms which was built sometime in the 1870's. The brick was made by hand in the neighbourhood. The brick part is attached to the frame house which had been built some time between fifty and seventy years before.

The house has had water on tap for fifty five years and lately has had hot water and bath room installed. The barn which is frame was built in 1902 and is 36 by 76 on a stone foundation.

The house is sheltered on the north by a row of spruce, grown from seed brought from Scotland.

The history of this farm goes back to 1808 when Joseph Minthorn was granted the Crown Deed to 210 acres, Lot 71, 1st Concession of King, for services rendered. At the same time James Minthorn was granted the 210 acres, Lot 70. In those days this part of the country was known as the Home District and the lots were numbered from York up. Now in 1835 Joseph Minthorn sold Lot 71 to Henry Harman, who had held the Crown Deed of Lot 77 from 1802, and was one of the first settlers. As the country was settled some of this land was held in the Harman name and some sold. In 1850 Joseph Wells bought this corner and sold it to John and Letitia Waugh in 1870 who, in 1893, sold it to Richard Harman, great grandson of the second owner and father of the present owner.

56

JAN



The History of Farm
Property located at
Lot 64 rear Concess-
ion I, Township of
King, W.G. Jennings.

According to records at hand the above property was first taken up in 1797 by John McKay. The Crown Deed is dated June 24, 1834.

James Wilkie purchased this property from the estate of Richard Watt for the sum of 224 pounds. There is no record until 1870 when it was sold by William Thompson to James Thompson for the sum of \$3289.00.

On the 6th of July, 1882, the north part of the farm was purchased from a Thomas Mortson by James Thompson. On the 1st of April, 1884, James Thompson sold the entire property to a Thomas Legge who was an unmarried man. Then on the 13th of July, 1885, Thomas Legge sold it to Thomas Henry Legge.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Legge raised their family of eleven sons and two daughters on this farm. During their residence here the house was burned. It was of log construction and had been banked with straw against the cold and a spark from the chimney caught in the straw and caused the fire. This was in early spring and the family, with four children, lived in the granary until the present brick house was built. We presume this house was built about fifty-five or sixty years ago. There are two barns on the farm of L-shape construction. The north barn was out in the north field and was moved to its present location. The larger barn was added to that at this time. They are both on stone foundations and are of frame construction.

Mr. and Mrs. Legge remained on the farm until March 12, 1920, when Mr. John Jennings bought the property.

Mr. Jennings moved his wife and family of seven children from Barrie Island, a part of Manitoulin Island, and retained possession until his death on January 1, 1942. At this time his son, Wilbert Gordon Jennings, became the owner, and resides on the farm with his wife, the former Grace Evelyn Rumble, son Gerald Gordon, and daughter, Donna Marlene. The house is situated thirty rods from the road and until three years ago there was an orchard on front of the house, but as it had become too old to be useful it was taken out with a bull-dozer and is now a field.

There is a windbreak of Scotch Fir along the north side of the house and former orchard. The seed for these trees came from Scotland. In 1936, when King Township was declared an

area free of T.B. cattle almost all the Jennings herd had to be sold and at that time a pure-bred Holstein herd was established on the farm. This herd has continued to grow and now numbers about sixty head and Locusthaven Holsteins have made a creditable showing, both in R.O.P. and in the show ring. The barn was rebuilt in 1950 and the house remodelled. A sun-room has been built to the front and a garage to the rear of the house. In 1955 considerable underground drainage was laid in the three fields surrounding the barn.

May 7, 1956.



Dec. 25. 1949.



Spring 1953.

Jennings Farm and Herd Sold

Record Auction Sale Temperanceville Area

The largest sale ever held in the Temperanceville district was that of Mr. Wilbert Jennings, Locusthaven Farms, second concession, K Sing Township. On March 7th, an estimate of between 2,000 and 2,500 persons attended with a ten acre field packed with cars as well as the roadway. Buyers came from as far as Manitoulin Is., New York, Napanee, Midhurst, Indiana and many other places were represented. A Mr. Ball flew from Florida to attend the sale.

It was in 1936 that Mr. Jennings lost his complete herd through T.B. From that time he began the building up of the superior herd of holstein cattle which was sold on this date.

Fifty-five head of cattle as well as the complete sale of implements, grain and miscellaneous articles were auctioned off.

Twenty-five milk cows sold at an average of \$420.00; 10 Bred heifers averaged \$273.00; 11 open heifers averaged \$202.00; and six heifers under one year old averaged \$135.00. A Bull sold for \$360.00.

The top priced cow "Alcartra Abbekerk Edna Texal" went to Mr. H. Pringle, of Napanee, for \$925.00. Mahoney Joy Lochinvar went to Mr. R. Dennis, Oak Ridges Farms, for \$725.00. Locusthaven Ray Apple Reflection

was sold to Arthur Ball, of Clarence, New York for \$535. Other animas went to Allan Jones, New York, one to the State of Indiana, five to Napanee, three to Walkerton, one to Mildmay, two to Elmvale, two to Alliston, two to Seagrave, one to Dundalk, three to Woodbridge, one to Schomberg, two to King City, one to Thornton, four to Brampton two to Sunderland and one to Midhurst. The largest purchaser was Mr. R. Dennis who has also purchased the Locusthaven Farm took 9 head of the excellent herd.

The bailer sold for \$1,250, Forage Harvester \$1,250, Blower \$660, Tractor \$1,175, and Grain Drill \$415.00

This farm was sold in December 1956 to Mr. R.R. Dennis. The Jennings retained the farm house for two years, when they moved on April 1st. 1959 to a new house built on Lot 6, concession 2 King Township.

Mr. Dennis has made considerable change in the barn, and has added loafing barns, driving shed and an extension to the original north barn.

The house has since been occupied by various families who have worked on the farm. Mr. & Mrs. John Mosely and family for about two years, and later Mr. & Mrs Arnold Winters from 1962--64.

In the spring of 1964 Mr. & Mrs. David Samson moved in.

A short History Of Our Fences

Oddly enough, at first blush no subject would appear to hold less possibility or attraction than the subject of fences. Yet the more one thinks about it, and the more one explores, the more fascinating it becomes.

The story of fences goes back through the dim ages to the very beginning of man. Always there has been fences, or dividing walls, or bulwarks, or stockades, or hedges, or contrivances of one separating kind or another.

The Great Wall of China; Hadrians Wall in northern Eng., built from coast to coast, to keep out the marauders from the North; Indian stockades; and on and on through history from earliest Biblical times, through stone fences, dry walls that move with the frozen land, brick fences, wooden fences, wire fences stump, hedge, laurel and hawthorn, and finally, to our single strand, ridiculous looking economical and efficient electric fence of to-day. What a story they have to tell. What changes they have seen.

The word fence derives from the Latin fendere, to ward off, implying a confining or enclosing against human or animal intrusion.

"Zion is a fortress encircled by walls and ~~bastions~~ bastions," as the Israelites so aptly said. The Mosiac law threatened with a curse him who removed his neighbour's landmark, or fence.

In Canada rural fences have grown up with the country, whilst materials used and construction methods varied. But it is singularly correct that a farmer may well be known by his fences. A glance at road fences will usually reveal the sort of farmer who tills beyond them. Upstanding, well maintained fences indicate progressive yeomen, well cultivated fields and contented live stock, whereas neglected fences go with tumble down barns, undernourished cattle, weedy fields, poverty and general inefficiency. A well built fence promotes cordiality amongst neighbours and is insurance against friction. Poor fences do, indeed, make bad neighbours.

Some fences are almost indigenous to the localities wherein they are located. In Ont. such would seem to be the case with stump, snake and straight rail fences. They seem to blend into and be a part of the landscape itself. They are efficient in a careless, improvised way. Their aesthetic effect is great, for they are obviously home-made. They tell of trees felled, stumps uprooted, stones removed, rails split and new ground broken and made ready for seeding.

The fence is inseperable from the history of men. One might even trace it back to the lower animals, for what is a beaver dam but a water fence.

Fences have always been inextricably interwoven with our Canadian military history. One of the earliest hostile encounters was Champlains fight with the Iroquois on the western shore of Lake Champlain, in the year 1600. The Indians prepared for battle by building their palisade, from behind which they poured a deadly flight of arrows upon the invaders.

Abraham Lincoln in his was affectionately known as "the rail splitter," because of his prowess at this very tricky job. Even in those times, snake rail fences meandered up hill and down dale. They turned awkward corners, dodging boulders and huge trees. Because of their sharp angles, and interlocking joints, they were strong and solid. But they had ~~two~~ two drawbacks; they sheltered weeds in their corners; they took up a lot of room. But against this, in harvest time they served the harvesters wonderfully well as eating and resting places in the hot weather.

Straight rail fences were, of course, an adaptation of the snake fence and were built in much the same way, but lacked the two bad features of the latter. They succeeded the snake fence which, in its turn, succeeded the stump fence, which comprised simply large tree stumps piled in a row, thus forming a type of abstacle very difficult for livestock to break through. But probably the earliest pioneer fence of all was known as the brush fence. The construction simply consisted of piling brush, logs, and roots around the settlers clearing. They were the easiest and cheapest of all, in actual labour, but the cattle went through them, and the pigs went under them.

Stumping bees were organized in the long ago pioneer days, at which the neighbours assembled, including their families, and their teams of oxen, and over sized bulging hampers of food, consisting of cooked hams and chickens, home-made pork sausages, doughnuts fried in lard, pies, cakes, buttermilk, and raspberry vinegar. The latter was known as a shrub, a name for it brought from the old country. Mostly the oxen were known as Buck and Bright, the farmer worked on the off side and Bright on the nigh. The soil would be loosened around the stumps and all except the tap roots cut. Then in went the teams of oxen, and with a good "all together" steady pull, out came another useful section of fencing. After a tremendous supper the local fiddler cleared a space and "called off" for the dancing that usually followed.

The snake rail fence, too, was abanded in favour of the straight rail because the boundry lines between farms, carelessly placed in pioneer days, were even more strictly defined as time went on.

Settlers soon enough learned to peel the bark off the fencing material, since, freed of bark and the moisture it held the wood lasted much longer.

Barbed wire, first patented in 1873, in its original form was indeed a different commodity than that of to-day. It was made from flat strips of metal, notched on alternate edges about every six inches. Live-stock suffered severely before they gradually become accustomed through generations to respect its possibility to seriously injure. And the same slow way the cattle learned to shun it, to a point that quite often ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~single~~ ~~strand~~ ~~of~~ ~~wire~~ ~~being~~ ~~strung~~ ~~up~~ ~~on~~ ~~posts~~ ~~with~~ ~~white~~ ~~insulating~~ ~~bobbins~~ ~~is~~ ~~quite~~ ~~sufficient~~ ~~to~~ ~~keep~~ ~~the~~ ~~animals~~ ~~away~~, regardless of the wire not being electrified.

Gradually the era of the wooden fence in its many forms is passing.

In cities, towns, and villages the board fence was popular in its day. In days gone by they were revenue producing investments, used for advertising in bright paint such then popular medicine's as Radway's Ready Relief, Burdock Blood Bitters, to name a couple.

"A hedge between keeps friendship green", sang the poet. While there are many fine hedges in Ont., Canadians as a whole do not seem to take to them enthusiastically. The locust hedge, seen here and ~~there~~ there, is indeed a pleasant feature of our landscape. It is almost impenetrable, and its exquisite white, scented blossoms, and delicate, ferny foliage are a delight to the beholder.

Quilton St. George, a French emigre, who fled his country during the Revolution, settled north of the town of York. He imported rare hedge shrubs from Europe for his estate near Wilcox Lake, (which is now the home of Captain and Mrs Schyler Snivley) where a considerable section of hedge, 8 or 10 feet high, still lines the road-side.

The Humorous Side

Some animals, of course, make fences look funny. Such was the case of an old billy goat belonging to a Doctor in Peel Co. in the days of long ago. Strange enough, this strange old goat possessed an ever-recurrent thirst for hard liquor, of all things, coupled with an un-canny ability to climb a snake fence and walk along the top rail. In the afternoon old "Billy" would leave the farm and trot happily along his unique self-respected highway a matter of a mile, or so, to Button's Tavern at the Claireville five ~~corners~~ corners. Generally there was a scramble as to who would stand first treat and old Billy was always included, and never missed a drink, if he could help it. After a goodly number of rounds old Billy, not quite as sure-footed as on arrival, would think of home. He was invariably the first to leave. Of course the assembled guests were always intrigued by the prospect of old Billy's homeward journey. No matter how wobbly he was he always refused any highway except the top of the rail fence. Needless to say, it quite often ~~took~~ took him several attempts before he could even successfully mount his self-appointed pathway. His frantic efforts to stay on top were even more ridiculous. Finally he would make off, slowly and cautiously, with much staggering hesitation and wild swayings from side to side and lustily cheered by his convivial hosts. A slight unpremeditated slip often sent him collapsing to the ground in a heap; but after a maudlin interval he would again with difficulty mount his beloved fence and thus continue his journey the way home.

The Legal Aspects

Pioneer holdings were often large, and frequently only partially cleared. A few feet one way or another on a bush-land farm, made little difference. But as Canada developed, and this, we presume, applied to all countries, line fences, barriers and boundaries of all kinds assumed greater importance. The early confusion in this country was perpetuated, further by snake fences. A U.S.A. farmer estimated 6 acres as the loss or "fence waste" on 20 acres of land. As the owners became more appreciative of the producing possibilities, and, hence, the cash value of their land, the importance of the exact boundary line was increased. Unhealthy quarrels were just as frequent over straying stock, as over disputed boundaries.

In 1834 an act of William IV provided for the appointment of "fit and discreet" as the "fence viewers, to determine what should be a lawful fence. Of course the ideal fence, "horse high, bull strong, and sknuk tight", was not too easy to agree on, or in fact, to erect.

Early legislation goes into minute detail, and deals entirely with rail fences. The bottom rail was to be within four inches apart, and the whole fence had to be staked and ridged. In those times cattle were kept "handy by" for protection against wolves and bears.

The electric fence came into general farm use in 1932. It is, of course, an amazingly simple fence to construct, consisting of one strand of either barbed or smooth wire, attached to glass or porcelain insulators, on posts, or pickets, spaced twenty to eighty feet apart depending on the level of the ~~land~~ ground and the class of the stock.

This then in brief is the story of the fences. We like to feel that in some small way this is perhaps the fashion in which it might have been presented to you by those pioneers who devised them.

We owe a great deal of credit to Mr. H. Symons for much of this information which was gained from his book on "Fences".