

## DEATH OF AGED PIONEER

MRS. SARAH HILBORN OF KETTLEBY, AGED 102 YEARS, 9 MONTHS, 17 DAYS, PASSED AWAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20th, 1910. (FROM THE NEWMARKET ERA).

On Sunday last, March 20th, there passed peacefully away from this world of strife and turmoil to that home from which no traveller returns, at her late home, lot 30, on the fifth concession of King, the oldest individual in this section of country, if not in Ontario, in the person of Mrs. Sarah Hilborn.

Mrs. Hilborn whose maiden name was Rogers, was born on lot 95 in the first concession of King on June 7, 1807, and consequently if she had lived until next June would have been 103 years old. Her parents came from Pennsylvania and settled in the neighborhood where she was born and remained there until their death. On May 3rd, 1840, she married William Hilborn and went to reside at her late home where she has lived continuously until her death on Sunday. She was Mr. Hilborn's second wife and by him had one child, Timothy, who was born in 1842, and who died in 1906. Her husband, William Hilborn, died in May 1909 in the old homestead which he had cleared and which has remained in the family over 100 years. It is at present occupied by the widow of the late Timothy Hilborn and her two sons, Bert and Rolph, with whom the old lady resided.

On June 7th, 1907, the 100th anniversary of her birth was attended by between 250 and 300 of her friends from all parts of the country as well as some from the United States.

Notwithstanding her advanced age she retained her faculties in a remarkable degree until the very last. Deceased had but little sickness during her entire life. She was noted for her many acts of charity and no person needing assistance and making known their wants were turned away empty handed.

She had been a consistent member of the Christian Church which stands about a mile from her late home, until she said infirmity compelled her to remain at home.

Mrs. Hilborn lived during the reigns of five Sovereigns of the British Empire: George III, George IV, William IV, Queen Victoria and the present King Edward VII. She was born under the administration of Lieut. Gov. Francis Gore, the third Lieut Gov. of Upper Canada and witnessed the services of his successors in Upper Canada till the year 1841 - the Governor General of the United Provinces under the Union Act from 1841-1867, The Lieut. Governors of Ontario since Confederation from 1867 to the present time, viz: Sir Isaac Brock 1811-12, Sir Frederick Robinson 1814-16, Colonel Samuel Smith 1817-20, Sir Peregrine Maitland 1820-23,

Sir John Colborne 1829-36, Sir Francis Bondhead 1836-38, Sir George Arthur 1838-41, Lord Sydenham 1841-43, Lord Metcalf 1843-45, Earl of Elgin 1846-54, Sir Edmund Head 1854-61, Maj. Gen. Stisted 1861-68, Sir Wm. P. Howland 1868-73, Hon. Jno. W. Crawford 1873-75, Hon. Donald A. McDonald 1875-80, Hon. Jno. Beverly Robinson 1880-87, Sir Alex. Campbell 1887-92, Hon. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick 1892-97, Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat 1897-98, Sir Mortimer Clark 1898-1908, Lieut. Gov. Gibson 1908.

Mrs. Hilborn could tell interesting incidents of the rebellion of 1837 and witnessed the moving of the anchor from Yonge St. to Holland Landing in 1812. The deceased was born on Sunday, married on Sunday and always said she would die on Sunday.

The funeral services were held at the Christian Church and were conducted by Elder Prosser assisted by Rev. T. Leonard on Tuesday afternoon. Elder Prosser feelingly referred to his long acquaintance with Mrs. Hilborn, her sterling worth and her devotion to her family and friends. In the course of his remarks he said the present was the first time he had ever been called upon to attend the funeral of a person over 100 years old and he had no doubt it was the first time anyone present had ever attended a funeral of a person over 100 years old. The interment took place in the burying grounds adjoining the church.

The pall bearers were Messrs. John Curtis, Martin Robinson, Simeon Lemon, Artemus Hambleton, Ambrose Davis and M. Terry.



KETTLEBY OCTOGENARIANS TO CELEBRATE  
ON SUNDAY

KETTLEBY, MARCH 7, 1935

Proving that Kettleby is a town of long-lived inhabitants, happy marriages and staunch Liberals, Wilfred Heacock, Kettleby's oldest citizen, recently passed his 83 birthday, and on Sunday, March 10th, Mr. and Mrs. John Boadwin will celebrate their diamond wedding. The same day is the 55th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Dutcher. Although the combined age of the five citizens totals over 400 years, when interviewed yesterday all were in good health and looking forward to the wedding celebrations next Sunday.

"I never cast anything but a Liberal vote in my life" Mr. Heacock said with a chuckle. "I think I voted for Sir William Mulock the very first time he ran in an election. Let me see, my son Cy was born in '82, so I know I voted for Mulock in 1883, and in the last election for Colonel William Mulock. It was certainly great to see the Liberals get in again in the Province".

Mr. Heacock was born Feb. 22, 1847, on the third concession in King. John Heacock, the great-grandfather came from Pennsylvania and bought the farm which is still held by the family. Wilfred Heacock worked on it until 1897 when he opened a grocery store in Kettleby.

"I've seen the deed of the old farm", Mr. Heacock said. "Great grandfather bought 400 acres between the 3rd and 4th concessions for \$600.00. I've lived in this district all my life except one year".

There are four generations of the Heacock family to-day. Mr. Heacock was married 63 years to the former Eleanor Hollingshead, who died two years ago in her 86th year. He had four sons and two daughters and there are 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. John Boadwin, who will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on Sunday, are also strong Liberals and keenly interested in current affairs. "Mr. Hepburn is the man I voted for," Mr. Boadwin declared, "Mackenzie King and Hepburn will get this country back on its feet and we've got to see they are allowed to work together".

KETTLEBY OCTOGENARIES TO CELEBRATE  
ON SUNDAY

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KETTLEBY, MARCH 7, 1935 - Cont'd.

Mr. and Mrs. Boadwin met each other through church work in the old Christian church on the fifth line. They were married in Newmarket Presbyterian church, March 19th, 1875.

"We were married by the minister in 12 minutes without any fuss, and it didn't cost her people or mine a cent", Mr. Boadwin said. We drove to Stouffville for the honeymoon and we had a time getting there with the cutter and horses because of the snowbanks". Both Mr. and Mrs. Boadwin are in their 84th year.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dutcher also chose March 10th for their wedding day and were married 55 years ago in King City Methodist church. They went to school together when they were eight years old.

"We've never had a fight yet", Mrs. Dutcher said. "All married people have to have give and take, and when people learn to do this they are happy. Of course, the man has to take quite a bit, but I suppose it's worth it". "The Government should stop girls smoking cigarettes and those beer dens, she said, I'm one who doesn't say much, but I believe if a daughter of mine started to smoke, I'd disown her".

Mr. and Mrs. Dutcher had ten children, three of whom live in Toronto. For 33 years Mr. Dutcher farmed on the 5th concession of King until he retired to live in Kettleby. He will be 78 next April and Mrs. Dutcher will be 72 in July.

(The Toronto Daily Star)

KETTLEBY COUPLE MARK 60th WEDDING JUBILEE  
MARCH 10th, 1940.

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Through 60 years of married happiness, Mr. and Mrs. John Dutcher always have treated marriage as a 50-50 arrangement. They will celebrate the anniversary, March 10th, 1880, quietly on Sunday at the home of their daughter, Mrs. R. Morris, Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, surrounded by 34 members of the family.

"I don't say we haven't had spats but we have looked upon marriage as a 50-50 arrangement and have been honest with each other at all times", said Mrs. Dutcher. Married at 17 Mrs. Dutcher has no particular views on entering matrimony at an early age but observed with a smile, "I got away with it". The groom, who is 83, was out for his daily walk when The Star called.

Their marriage followed a school romance. Both are lifelong residents of King Township and attended Kinghorn public school together. Mr. Dutcher was the oldest ex-student to attend the school reunion in 1937 and his wife ran him a close second for the honor. Both have attended the Methodist (now United) church at Kettleby and have lived in this village for 40 years.

Mr. Dutcher was born near Eversley, farmed for several years after marriage and then "teamed" for some time. He retired about 20 years ago. Mrs. Dutcher, formerly Susan Thorpe, was born at Stouffville but came to King Township at the age of three. Both enjoy good health.

They raised 10 children, six of whom are living. Five daughters, Mrs. P. W. Traviss and Mrs. Morris of Toronto, Mrs. W. Codlin and Mrs. B. C. Cutting, Newmarket, and Mrs. J. Harman, Kettleby, will celebrate with them. One son, Herbert, lives in Nelson, B. C. There are 25 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

(The Toronto Star, March 9, 1940)

## CURTIS FAMILY HISTORY

John and Emily Curtis came from Harrow-on-the-Hill, England, sometime between the years 1836 and 1838, on a sailing vessel, which was caught in trade winds and which took them sixteen weeks to cross the ocean. On July 8th, 1867, they purchased from William Mason, Lot 33, west half of Concession 4, for the sum of \$4,000. to be paid in sixteen annual payments of \$250.00 with interest at 6%. The agreement was drawn by John Cook and witnessed by John T. Curtis. This farm remained in the family until the estate of Emily Curtis was settled in 1916 when it was sold to Albert Shanks. They were members of King Christian Church and had a family of five sons and three daughters. John Curtis died March 9th, 1878, and his wife, Emily, on April 30th, 1914, at the age of 98.

John T. Curtis, son of John and Emily, was born on November 13th, 1845. He married on January 13th, 1869, Margaret Black, who was born August 29th, 1847, and who was the daughter of John and Amynta Helyer Black. Her father, John Black born in 1818, served in the rebellion of 1837 to champion the cause of William Lyon MacKenzie. After the rebellion it took him three nights, travelling by night and herding with confederates by day, to go from York (Toronto) to the homestead (now owned by Howard Black, a grandson).

Five children were born to this marriage: Adizilla, who died in infancy; William Henry, who married Bertha Barradel; Elizabeth Luella married to F. W. Heacock; Norman Leslie married to Martha Warboise, and John Franklin married to Clara Clarkson.

He was a stern advocate of Christian principles and both he and his wife were members of Kettleby Methodist Church. He was on the official board for many years and for over forty years taught the Bible Class in the Sunday School of that church. The following is a copy of a testimonial given him by the members of that class on the presentation of a Bible:

"Respected Friend:

We, the members of the Bible Class of Kettleby Methodist Sabbath School, desire to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of your most earnest efforts during the past ten years in the capacity of Bible Class teacher of our school.

We fully realize that the work which you have propagated as you have in the interest of your class, and for which you were ever qualified, has required an unlimited amount of earnestness and zeal. We rejoice to know that you have manifested virtues in a high degree. As a Christian, we trust that your Christ-like life has been in many instances the means of pointing many to the "Lamb of God which taketh

CURTIS FAMILY HISTORY

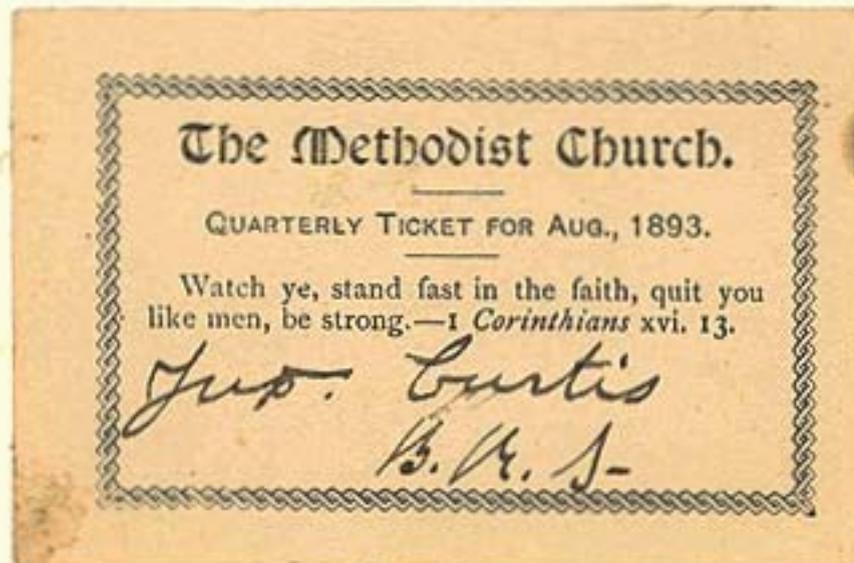
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away the sins of the world". Your example as a kind and noble friend is well worthy of our imitation.

You will kindly permit us to show our deep sense of gratitude to you for the spirit of helpfulness and loving forbearance with our many short-comings. You will please accept this International Teachers' Edition of The Holy Bible as a slight token of our appreciation of your past services, ever trusting that it may please Almighty God to abundantly bless you and prolong your estimable life, and, that, when done with time you may meet this Class as an unbroken family around the Throne of God."

Signed in behalf of the Class ( Mrs. R. Hughey  
January 31st, 1899. ( Mrs. W. J. Rogers  
( Miss A.J.Seymour

John T. Curtis died on August 22nd, 1916, and his wife on March 30th, 1914.



CURTIS FAMILY HISTORY

**TOWNSHIP OF KING, CO. OF YORK.**

1872.

*Mr John Curtis jun* Con. *5*, Lot No. *32*

ASSESSMENT.	\$	C	TAXES.	\$	C
Amount of Assessment Real Property...	25	00	County Rate 17 Cents in the \$100.....	4	42
Am't Assessment of Personal Property..	2	00	Township Rate 9 Cents in the \$100....	2	34
Amount of Income Assesses .....			High School Rate      Cents in the \$100		39
No. of Dogs.....			School Section Rate      Cents in \$100		
No of Bitches.....			Dogs One Dollar each .....	8	32
			Bitches Two Dollars each.....		

TOTAL TAXES, \$ 15 49

Received Payment.

Collector

John T. Curtis commenced farming on Lot 32, Concession 5, in 1873, and his municipal taxes for that year were \$12.90.

## CURTIS FAMILY HISTORY

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JOHN FRANKLIN CURTIS, son of John T. and Margaret Curtis, was born August 6th, 1886, and married Clara Clarkson on October 28th, 1914. He bought his father's farm - lot 32, concession 5, in 1917, which he sold in 1928 to George and Oliver Thompson. In 1928 he purchased the historic mill at Kettleby, which he operated until 1949 when it was sold to Mr. H. Denne of Newmarket.

Both he and his wife went to school at S. S. No. 12, and both attended Sunday School and Church at the Christian Church on the fifth concession. Mrs. Curtis played the organ in this church starting at the age of 14 and continuing for over nine years. Mr. Curtis spent 60 years in choir work between the Christian and United Churches.

He is a member of the I. O. F. and a life member of Union Lodge No. 113.

Their daughter, Jean, married Sargeant Arthur Brown in 1953, and are at present stationed at Fort Churchill, Manitoba. Jean also attended S. S. No. 12 where her parents had attended, as well as S. S. No. 11, and Aurora District High School.



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### IN MEMORIAM

BROTHER JOHN FRANKLIN CURTISS

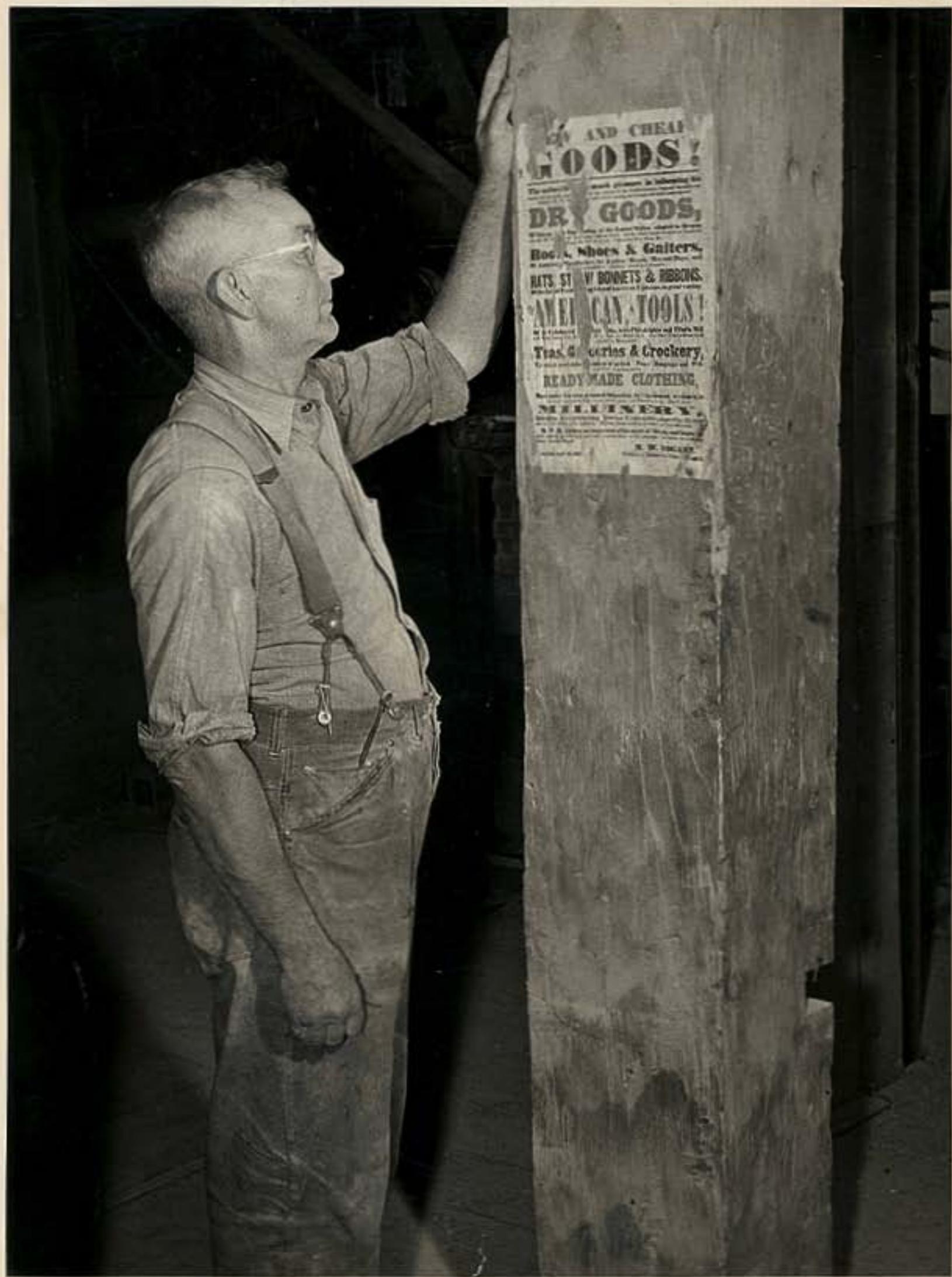
Initiated into Union Lodge, Feb. 17, 1913.

Passed to the Fellowcraft Degree, April 14, 1913.

Raised to the Degree of a Master Mason, Feb. 9, 1914.

Made a Life Member Union Lodge, 1958.

Passed to The Grand Lodge Above, March 31, 1967, in his 81st year.



J. Frank Curtis reading a sale bill in Kettleby Mill, which is on a post 16" square. The beams in this building were 18" square, the whole building being of red pine.

BLACKBURN FARM HISTORY

These pictures are the barn and house on the 75 acre farm that John Blackburn and his wife bought from William Walton in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn had two sons and two daughters.

Their son George and his wife took over the farm and farmed for many years. Ten of their eleven children received their education in S.S.#12, King Township.

In 1917 their youngest son, Leo, married Nora Cull and took over this farm, farming it for 39 years, selling it in 1956 to Mr. Franc Joubin.



Nora Cull Blackburn - a life member of Kettleby W.I.

MISS CONSTANTIA FOX, SCHOMBERG, FORMERLY OF KETTLEBY,  
CELEBRATES HER 99th BIRTHDAY

Miss Constantia Fox celebrated her 99th birthday on February 8th, 1958. She was at the home of her niece, Mrs. Peter Muirhead, R.R. #1, Schomberg, with whom she has lived for the past 57 years.

In the afternoon, the Ladies Guild of Christ Church, Kettleby, paid her a visit, bringing numerous gifts and special refreshments. She is a charter member of the Guild, having joined when she was living on the Fox homestead on the sixth of King.

In the evening a supper party was given by Mrs. Muirhead, assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Jack Guthrie, and granddaughter, Mrs. Donald Munshaw. About thirty relatives were present, including her great, great grandniece, Debbie Munshaw, age 6, and brother Larry, 2. Her brother, Ben Fox, 88, of Detroit, and his nephew Fulton Fox spent the week end with her.

Rev. Dr. F. V. Abbott of Schomberg, age 71, whose birthday is on the same day, paid a short visit as has been his regular custom on their birthdays. Mrs. Charles Fox, a nephew's wife and Miss Virginia Fox, a niece, Bill Muirhead, a nephew of Oak Ridges, Mrs. Muirhead and their family of Newmarket, were a few of the many relatives attending.

Children do not bother this remarkable woman although she is confined to a wheel chair. She can play house and store with the youngest. She received a large number of useful, and pretty gifts, including potted plants. Over 100 cards were received.

And how do you reach 99 with such zest? have a merry heart, a cheerful disposition and always be interested in people and their problems, is her answer. Keep young people around you and you will easily forget you are "supposed to be getting old".

Miss Fox is in good health although she has never weighed more than 101 pounds. She reads a great deal, watches T.V. programs, does embroidery work, writes two letters every week to her relatives. She has more nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews than she can count, although she knows them all by name. She and her brother, Ben, are the only survivors of the family of 11 children of William Fox and his wife, Jane Boak.

Miss Fox came with her parents from Kent, England, to King Township about 92 years ago. They lived on the eighth concession for a year and then her father bought the Kettleby farm. In 1916 it was bought by her nephew-in-law Peter Muirhead. Miss Fox spent twelve intervening years in Toronto where her parents died. In 1916 she returned to the farm, which was sold last year.

Miss Fox has many things to remember of the olden days around Kettleby - the school - the opening of Christ Anglician Church and how her family drove in a democrat eight miles to the Lloydtown church before 1891 when Christ Church was built.

She recalls how the Holland Marsh was uncultivated. She has seen floods in the marsh long before Hurricane Hazel, and recalls the five floods that destroyed the Kettleby river dam. She remembers the old mill that was made of red cedar, the Temperance Society socials, the old hotel, hallowe'en pranks and the numerous home industries.

Nevertheless, Miss Fox likes things as they are to-day and is glad she has lived to see the advances of science in the new world. She says she hopes to reach the century mark in 1959.

Copied from the  
Newmarket Era