



# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 26

April 2022

## Away From Home

Several past issues of the *Neighbourhood Messenger* have touched on the concept of home—either in the physical sense, or as in the feeling of comfort or belonging that a place or community can give. For many of us, Adolphustown or Fredericksburgh is where we live and where we feel we belong. Some

families have lived here for generations, while others are newly arrived. For a few, however, our townships were just a stopping place on a road to a better life. There are some, too, who went west for economic reasons or seeking adventure, but later returned. In this issue of the *Neighbourhood Messenger* we look at migration from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh "out west".

### Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society have a common desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our community. In researching and capturing aspects of our past, we seek to preserve, promote, and share our rich local heritage.

### Our Executive

President:	Angela Cronk
Vice President:	Frank Abbey
Secretary:	Marg MacDermaid
Treasurer:	Jane Lovell
Webmaster:	Susan Wright
Book Directors:	Joan Reynolds
	Elizabeth Vandenberg
Communications Director:	Jane Lovell

### Our Meetings

The Society meets on the third Wednesday of the month 5-8 times a year at the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 6:30p.m. Check for the next meeting on our website. All welcome!!

### Our Website

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

### Our Facebook Group



### Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, please contact :

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888)  
[angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com)

## A Glimpse of the Past



Photo: Jane Lovell

Olive Murray was the great-great-great-granddaughter of Loyalist Philip Roblin who was granted land on the north shore of Hay Bay. Olive left her family, by then in Prince Edward County, to seek a husband and a new life in the west.

Carman, Manitoba 1930s

**The Neighbourhood Messenger** is an electronic newsletter distributed to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

Membership to the Society is free. In addition to ensured e-mail delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

Anyone can become a member by clicking [HERE](#).

**If you are not currently an AFHS member, please consider becoming one!**

## Travels to the West with My Aunt

Alice Carlson

. . . that is to say, my vicarious travels west with Great-Aunt Josephine.

In the spring of 1909, Great-Aunt Josie and her husband, Edward (Eddie) Cummings left from their home in Toronto for a grand tour by railway across the United States, then north to Victoria and Vancouver and home again across Canada. As good daughters do, Josie sent postcards home to her mother, my great-grandmother, Helen Daverne, in Adolphustown. Several of these cards have been saved over the hundred and thirteen years since Josie's travels, bearing postmarks from Illinois, Nebraska, Colorado, California, Washington, and Alberta.

Great-Aunt Josephine Helen was born in 1867, the only daughter and the eldest of four children of Helen and Daniel Daverne. When Josie was just five years old, she was sent to live with her father's sister, her Aunt Nell, in Napanee. Likely this family arrangement was made because it promised a more privileged upbringing for Josie than she would have had on her parents' Bayshore farm. As well, Nell and her husband, Archibald McNeil, had no children of their own. Josie is said to have accepted these plans without complaint, and she continued to have warm relations with her mother.

Josie's aunt, Ellen Alicia (Nell) Daverne, had married Archibald McNeil in 1859, coincidentally, about the time the Campbell House was being built in Napanee at the corner of Dundas and Centre Streets. In 1866, Archie purchased the hotel for \$8300. Described in the L&A County Museum & Archives' E-History Project as "an elegant Italianate-styled hotel," the McNeil ledgers over the next few years show that "many prominent men, women, and organizations were guests at the hotel. Visitors included doctors, judges, merchants, musicians, carpenters, and artisans." Archibald was later elected Mayor of Napanee in 1878.

Following her childhood with her aunt and uncle in Napanee, at age twenty-five Josephine married Edward (Eddie) Cummings. He had been born in Kingston and at the time of their marriage, lived in the



Photo: City of Toronto Archives  
Toronto 1890s

booming Toronto of the late nineteenth century. In their 1892 marriage record, Eddie is listed as "Clerk," but apparently, through his association with the Betty Brown Candy Company and the Sellers Fur Company, he became a wealthy businessman. Josie and Eddie's only child, Marie, was born in 1893, so by the time of her parents' transcontinental train journey in 1909, Marie was a teenager. She had a "convent" education in Toronto and when not at school spent her holidays with her grandparents and cousins in Adolphustown.



## Josephine's Post Cards

### Marshall Field & Co.'s Retail Store, Chicago

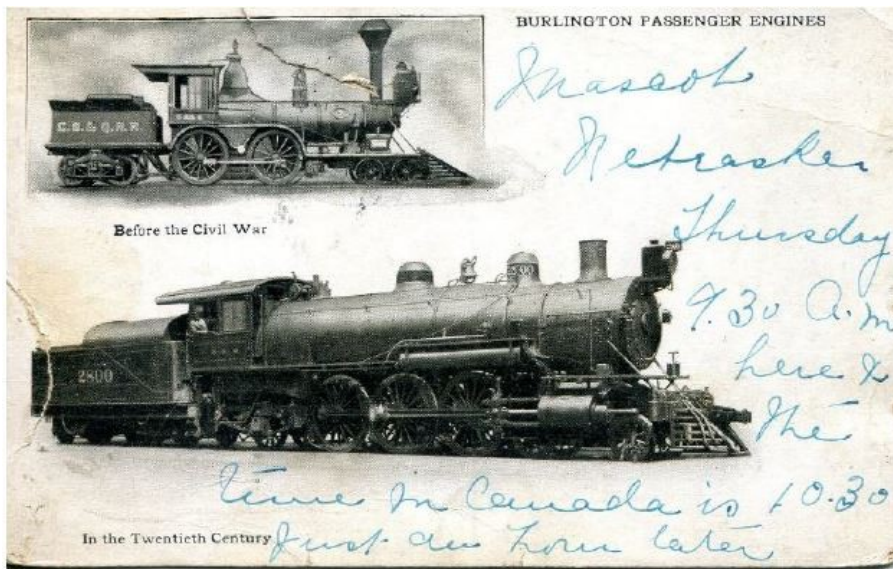
Postmark: MAR 30 CHICAGO IL

*Dear Mother*

*We are having dinner in this store today. It is the largest and grandest store in the whole world they say. I never saw anything like it in my life. I am sending you lots of cards. I put an X where we are having dinner.*



Field's mission was to deliver "a plush shopping experience fit for the Gilded Age. Unconditional refunds, consistent pricing and international imports are among the Field innovations that became standards in quality retailing. Field's employees were also instructed not to push products on uninterested customers as was common practice in stores of the period. The quotes 'Give the lady what she wants' and 'The customer is always right' are attributed to Field" (Wikipedia).



### Burlington Passenger Engines: Before the Civil War, In the Twentieth Century

Postmark: APR 1 MCCOOK NE

*Thursday 9:30 a. m. here and the time in Canada is 10:30. Just an hour later. Another town Oxford Nebraska. We are stopping for a few minutes. Nothing else to do but write letters and P.Cs. Everything handy on the train for writing.*

"Everywhere West" was the slogan for the expanding CB&Q—Chicago Burlington & Quincy railroad which connected the mid-west cities of "the Twin Cities, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, southern Montana, and even reached the Gulf!" (www.american-rails.com).



### "Seeing Denver"

Postmark: This card had neither a postmark nor a stamp. It may have been enclosed in a letter.

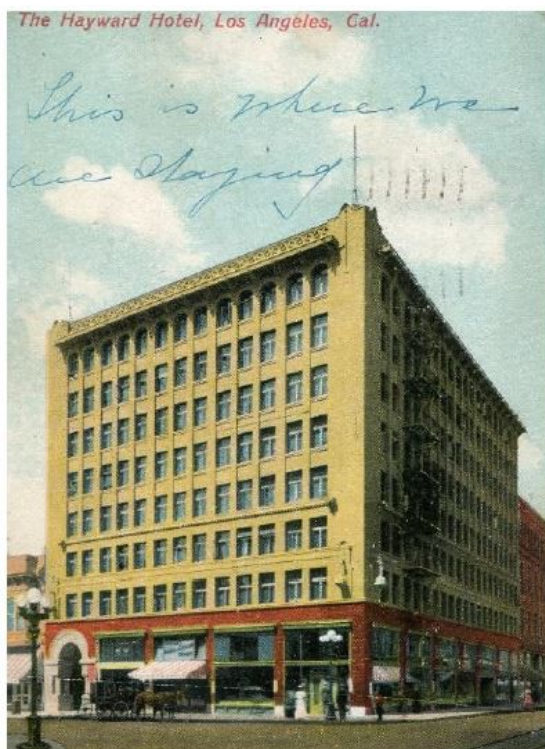
*Off for Salt Lake tonight Friday Apr 2nd. So hot here we had to take off our coats.*

*Posted April 3 at Grand Junction 45 miles from Denver in the Rockies.*



### The Hayward Hotel

Postmark: APR 6 LOS ANGELES CAL.



*This is so grand. City = the nicest yet. It is . . . fairyland at night. Regular summer weather. I am out in a white dress.*

"Completed in 1906, the Hayward Hotel was one of Los Angeles' earliest high rises, and one of its first major structures to be built with reinforced concrete. The Hayward was highly successful in its early years, owing to its prime location a stone's throw from the city's growing business center" (www.bing.com).

### St. Francis Hotel

Postmark: APR 10  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CAL

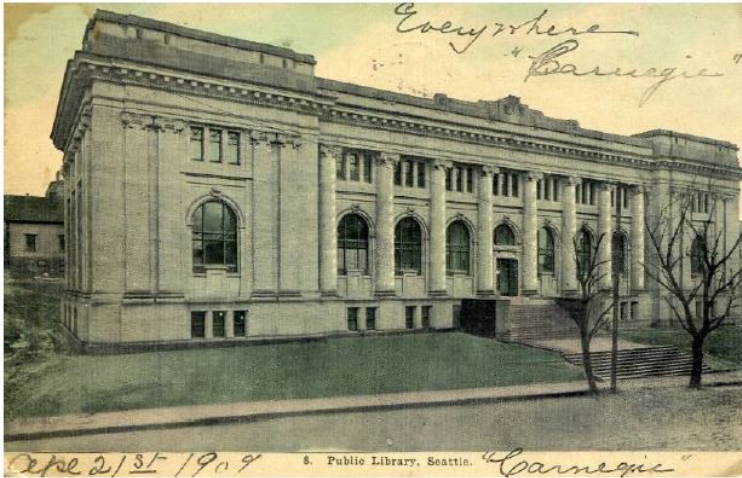
*San Francisco Cal*

*Here is where we are & this is a beautiful hotel. Our room is No 1128 & it is a beauty. . . .*

Apparently "Meet me at the St. Francis" was "a time-honoured refrain" in downtown San Francisco. Josie and Eddie's beautiful room was in the restored hotel, the original having "experienced the ravages of The Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquakes" . . . . Luckily, the structure of the hotel withstood the quake, but the great fire that followed destroyed its interior. Like the city itself, it was restored virtually from its own ashes in the undamaged shell" (Historic Restaurants www.foodreference.com).







### Public Library, Seattle

Postmark: APR 21 SEATTLE, WASH

*"Everywhere Carnegie"*

*Dear Mother*

*Here we are on our way having a most delightful trip. We came here yesterday & are staying till tomorrow. We were out at Exposition Grounds this a.m. all morning. This is the city where the big fair is in June. Buildings grand & all finished. To Vic tomorrow.*

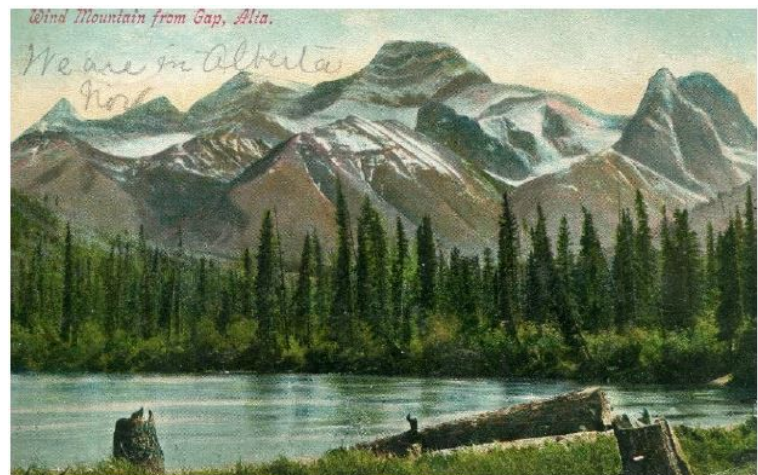
Josie's remark, "Everywhere Carnegie" was very much a sign of the times, when wealthy American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, donated money for libraries all over the English-speaking world in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

### Wind Mountain from Gap, Alberta

Postmark: Again no stamp or postmark.

*April 29*

*We are in Alberta now. We are 5321 ft above sea level in the Rockies; 4 engines are dragging our train up the mountains which are covered with snow. It is very cold here and we are travelling . . . all day for cannot see the tops of some of the mountains from the car window.*



Josie and Eddie returned home having had these wonderful travels to the West Coast. Their daughter, Marie, married Albert Heck in 1919. Josie died in 1921 and Eddie in 1922. They are buried in Toronto's Mount Hope Catholic Cemetery as are Albert (d. 1951) Marie (d. 1977).



**Latest Fashion in  
Ladies' Luggage**

**Eaton's Spring &  
Summer Catalog  
1907**



## Then and Now

Duncan & Ruth Hough

### An Old Barn — Past and Future

#### The BARN

Only a few people travelling on the South Shore Hay Bay Road in November 2021 would have noticed that the old barn on Lot 2 Additional, west of Pickerel Park, had disappeared.

Standing above the road, partially concealed by cedars and sumac, the Loyst-Casson-Frank-Barr barn had stood solid and square for many, many years. However, it had to go.



Two views of the Loyst-Casson-Frank-Barr Barn

The barn was large for an old barn, measuring 36' x 50' and rose roughly 20' to the eaves and 30' to the peak. It had a gable roof and was supported by a 3½ foot-high fieldstone and concrete foundation on three sides. There was a centre barn floor flanked on each side by a mow, floor to roof. The only suggestion that it had held animals at some time was a double plank wall and a small window in the west side.



Foundation

Recently part of the foundation had weakened. Badly weathered clapboard siding had allowed water to penetrate the timbers on the east side and that wall collapsed.

Repairs and restorations would be very expensive, especially for a barn with a limited use. Pat Barr, the current owner, reluctantly decided to have the barn taken down. She discussed the situation with Andrew Hough, who suggested contacting Shane Asselin of

When we (Houghs) rented the farm in 1978, the barn had not been used in years and was in a state of disrepair. The owner at the time, Vincent Casson, financed a new steel roof, the rebuilding of the south wall, the repair of the large barn doors, and the nailing of the weathered siding. We used the barn for storage of hay, grain, and machinery.



Collapsed East Wall



S&D Barn Demolition about possible timber salvage, and Al Roy about using his excavator to do the actual demolition. More about that later.

Before demolition, I examined the barn in some detail to try to determine some of its history and possibly its age. In looking back, I wish I had known more then about old barns and their uses and had taken more measurements and pictures.

The first and most striking feature was the siding. Shane Asselin had suggested to Andrew that if the barn had clapboard siding with vertical studs (poles) 3 to 4 feet apart, it was a very old building. This was the case. A sample of the siding, even though extensively weathered shows saw marks across the board. This predates the introduction of the powered circular saw. Later barns sported vertical siding, cut with circular saws. The grain ran up and down. This shed water more readily and weathered better.



**Interior View of Siding**



**Plank Siding with Saw Marks**

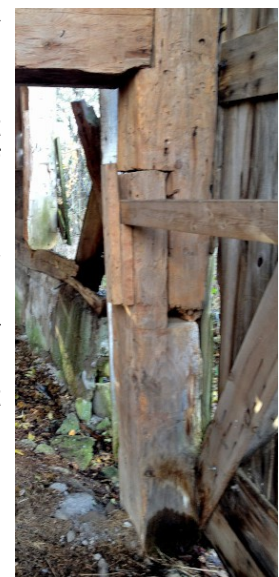
The second feature which caught my eye was the massive hand-hewn beams inside the barn. There were three on the west side of the barn floor and two on the east. They measured from as big as 11" x 15" and were all 36' long. Beams of this dimension would have been hewn from straight sound pine with a minimum diameter of 30" at 40' of height. Definitely, old growth pine growing long before settlement in 1784.



**Massive Beams**

it? That would have been a massive project, but would have provided more room under the roof for storage of hay and grain.

The posts on either side and each end of the barn floor had been spliced at exactly the level of the 3½ foot-high foundation. Did the original post decay at ground level and need replacing? Or was the whole barn jacked up 3½ feet from ground level and the wall constructed beneath



**Post Spliced  
at 3½ feet**



Looking up, we see vertical posts supporting the purlins which support the roof half way between the wall and the ridge. Tie beams joining the posts have been cut off. Obviously done after the barn was built, this modification allowed the installation of a hay fork system. A fork suspended by a rope picked up a bundle of loose hay from a wagon. It was hoisted to the peak, then carried on a track beneath the roof over a mow where the bundle was dropped. This eliminated the need to hand pitch hay or grain up into the mow. Not only did it save labour, it allowed the mow to be filled to a far greater height. The hay fork system became popular in the 1870s. The barn predates that era.



**Tie Beam Cut Off**

When the barn came down, we discovered that the rafters were attached to the purlins and the ridge by wooden pins, not metal spikes. This suggests an earlier construction date.



**Square Cut Nails**



**Blacksmith-Made Spike**



**Pin in Rafter**



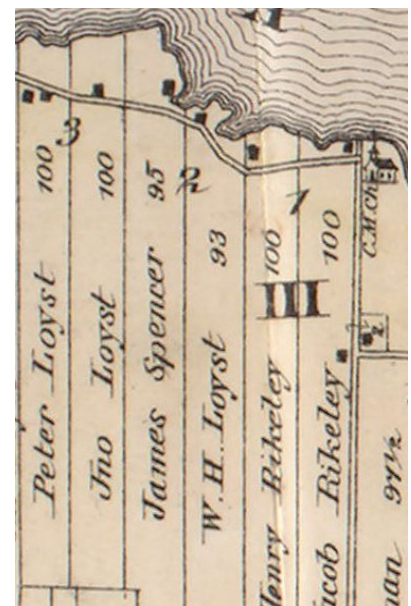
**Rafter Pin**

Square cut nails were used to fasten the siding. Modern wire nails did not come into use until the 1870s. Also, any large spikes were blacksmith made. Again, the sign of an old barn.

The final consideration is who owned the farm and had the means and need to build the barn. According to *Two Centuries in Hayburn* by Donald Hough, the early owners were Samuel Detler 1801-1819, George Embury 1819-1836, F. W. Vandewater one day in 1836, Stephen Jayne 1836-1847, and John Loyst and descendants after 1847. The earliest owners would have struggled to clear land and simply survive. However, Embury, Jayne, and Loyst with some length of tenure, timber available, and considerable assistance from the community, could have built the barn.

**East Half of Lot 2 Additional in the 3rd  
Concession of South Fredericksburgh  
Originally Granted to Samuel Delter 1801**

**Meacham's 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas  
of the counties of Frontenac, Lennox and  
Addington**





## The DEMOLITION



Al Roy arrived with his excavator on November 15<sup>th</sup>. He spent a day clearing brush and trees around the site and removed the collapsed wall. Next morning, Shane Asselin arrived with his truck and trailer. He evaluated the barn, then, working from an aluminum ladder, cut a number of timbers with a chain saw. A cable was attached from the excavator to a large post on the end of the barn. As he pulled slowly and steadily, the barn simply collapsed.

Once the barn was down, selected beams were dragged from the debris and loaded.

Pat Barr received a significant sum for the salvage. According to Shane, the timber will be used in timber frame construction either in Canada or possibly as far away as Texas.

Al Roy sorted the debris. He peeled the steel roofing off the sheathing and a recycler picked it up in a bin. He levelled the site and smoothed the soil. He left much of the foundation wall intact and placed a large rock nearby.



Cleared site

*Farewell old barn—but a part of you will live on.*

### Author's Note:

In researching the history of old barns and trying to date this one, I was absolutely fortunate to be referred to Hugh Fraser, a retired Agriculture Engineer in Niagara. Hugh has studied old barns, especially old Swing Beam Barns. They are unique 1820-1850 barns built with large long tapered beams which, by running totally across a barn, gave an open space for threshing wheat indoors in pioneer times. They are similar to barns in Pennsylvania and New York from whence the Loyalist Settlers originated. Hugh has published a book, *Swing Beam Barns of Niagara*, which provides a wonderful profile of these barns, their history, and the history of early wheat production. This barn fits the description of a swing beam barn. There are certainly a few remaining in this region. A further story awaits!

## Free Land!

Jane Lovell

Canada was settled by immigrants, many of whom were enticed here by the prospect of free land.

Most of the land held by the Crown had been acquired through treaty, purchase, or conquest from the indigenous peoples present in North America when the Europeans arrived. In the case of the Cataraqui Townships (Kingston west to the Bay of Quinte), the British government bought land from the Mississauga, who then occupied most of southern Ontario. The territory acquired in the 1783 *Crawford Purchase* underwent a hasty survey, only barely completed when Loyalists fleeing the American Revolutionary War arrived in Adolphustown on June 16, 1784.

Like earlier surveys along the St. Lawrence River in Quebec and eastern Ontario, the surveys from Kingston along the shore of Lake Ontario were laid out in narrow parcels of land running north from the shore. This afforded what was then essential water access to these "front" lots. These lots constituted the first concession of townships along the lake. Subsequent concessions, made up of similarly-sized lots were laid out to the "back". Generally, these back concession lots did not have water access. However, the irregular shoreline of the bays of the Bay of Quinte region afforded water access to many of the back concession lots too.

### Concession:

A concession comprises a series of lots spanning the entire width (or length) of a township. These lots were conceded (granted) by the Crown to individuals for the purpose of new settlement. Concession roads were laid out through undeveloped Crown land to provide access to the newly surveyed lots.

The townships (in the current Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington, and Frontenac counties) making up Cataraqui Townships were all laid out similarly, with 200-acre lots running between concession roads. Adolphustown has five concessions, and Fredericksburgh has seven. Because of the irregular shape of these townships, the concessions are often jagged and do not span the entire width of the township.



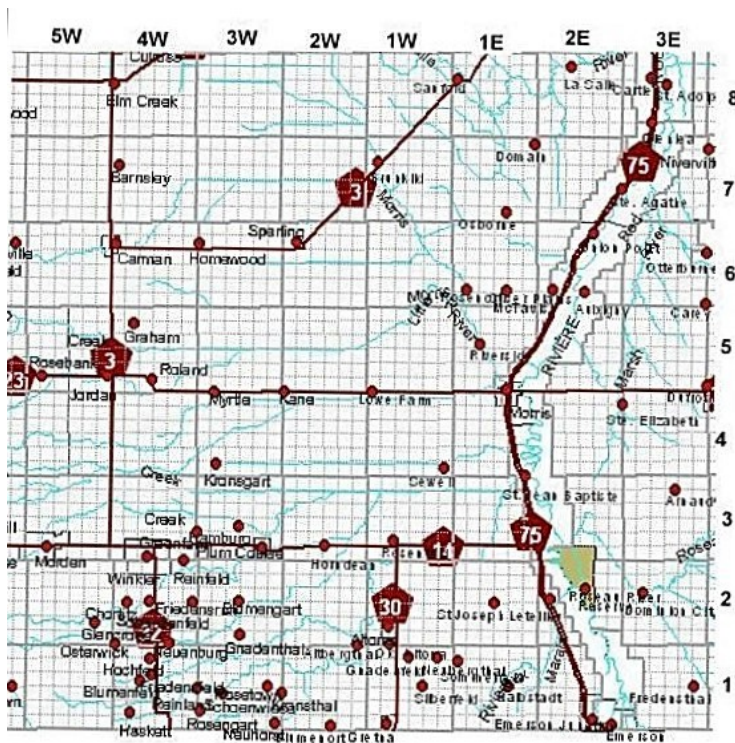
**Meacham's 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington**  
Lots and concessions in the townships of Lennox & Addington and Frontenac

And now comes the free part. To reward allegiance to the British Crown during the American Revolutionary War, and to encourage settlement, the British government offered land grants to Loyalist refugees. The size of the grant was dependant on military rank and family size, and ranged from 100 acres to many thousands. In our townships, most grants were for the full 200-acre lot, although in



some cases half lots of 100 acres were also awarded. Of course, several lots could make up a single grant. To avoid speculation and to encourage permanent settlement, the recipient of the grant needed to ensure that certain obligations were fulfilled. This generally included clearing and cultivating the land, building a house, and establishing and maintaining the concession road fronting the property. It was only after these conditions were satisfied that title was actually granted. Much of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh were settled by recipients of Loyalist grants. For others, the land was not free and needed to be purchased from the Crown.

Nearly a century later, the Crown made more land available for free—this time as an incentive to settle the prairie provinces and to affirm Canadian sovereignty over these territories. Under the *Dominion Land Act* of 1872, land was set aside as free homestead land. The Crown first needed to acquire land. This was done in 1870 with the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company. Trade and development rights had been granted by royal charter to the company by the British Crown in 1670, and after a full two centuries, the holdings of the Hudson's Bay Company included all of Manitoba and parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan.



**Property Assessment Map (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/>) showing the sections (in light gray) making up townships (in dark gray) for a region just south-west of Winnipeg.**

Major roads often separated the townships but some also ran through the road allowances between the sections. See Carman at 6-4W. In this part of the province, there are regional roads running between almost all adjacent sections.

The *Dominion Land Act* required the survey of the Crown land to be given or sold to settlers. The survey, begun in 1871, covered roughly 800,000 square kilometres and became the world's largest survey grid laid down in a single integrated system. This system is based on a "section". Each section is one mile by one mile square, and encloses 640 acres. A group of 36 sections, 6 miles by 6 miles in size, makes up a township. While allowances for roads were surveyed between all sections, only some of them were developed into roads.

The even numbered sections within each township were designated as homestead land. By paying a \$10 registration fee, any head of household could apply for 160 acres (a quarter section) of land as a homestead grant. As was the case with the Loyalist land grants in Ontario, recipients had obligations to fill before being awarded title for their land. In Manitoba, settlers had three years in which to break ground and plant 30 acres of land, build a house and barn, and fence some portion of the property.

The key to opening the west was the railroads. By way of incentive, in 1882 the Crown granted large blocks of high-quality land to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and other railway companies, to sell to possible immigrants. As part of the original sale agreement for Rupert's land, the Hudson's Bay Company was also allowed this same right. Both the railways and the Hudson's Bay Company profited by this arrangement, but it also brought settlers to the west.



1882



**The Canadian Pacific Railway Co.**

**LAND GRANT**

**TWENTY FIVE MILLION ACRES**

**IN MANITOBA AND THE NORTH WEST**

*The Future Wheat field of the CONTINENT*

**INFORMATION FOR INTENDING SETTLERS**

The Burland Litho. Co., Engravers and Printers, Montreal.

**Rebate for Cultivation \$1.25 per Acre.**

**THE CANADIAN Pacific Railway Company**

OFFER FOR SALE TO SETTLERS

**TWENTY-FIVE MILLION ACRES**

—OF—

**The Choicest Agricultural Land**

—IN—

**MANITOBA**

—AND—

**THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST**

**The Best Wheat Lands in the World.**

PRAIRIE LANDS,  
MEADOW LANDS,  
TIMBER LANDS,  
\_\_\_\_\_ &c., &c., &c.

FERTILE SOIL,  
GOOD WATER,  
PLENTY OF WOOD AND COAL,  
HEALTHY CLIMATE,  
READY MARKETS.

**CHEAP FARMS FOR EVERYONE.**

**Canadian Pacific Railway.**

**LAND DEPARTMENT.**

The Lands of the Company are critically examined by competent surveyors, and no lands are accepted from the Dominion Government unless suitable for agricultural purposes; therefore the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY HAVE NOT AN ACRE OF POOR LAND TO OFFER FOR SALE, AND THEIR

**Selected Agricultural Lands**

are sold only to actual settlers, or to those who will put them under cultivation, and to ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT a REBATE OF ONE-HALF THE SELLING PRICE is allowed on each acre cultivated.

**Price of Land \$2.50 per Acre.**

Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives, LAHS Transportation Collection  
Canadian Pacific Railway Co. brochure 1882

Not free, but half price:

“Selected Agricultural Lands are sold only to actual settlers, or to those who will put them under cultivation. and to ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT a REBATE of ONE-HALF THE SELLING PRICE is allowed on each acre cultivated.”

Free or cheap land held the promise of a better life, and drew many from the overcrowded farming regions of Ontario — including from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh.



## From Sillsville to Alberta — Wilkie & Anne Sharpe

Duncan & Ruth Hough

Wilkie Sharpe grew up in Sillsville. While working on his future father-in-law's farm in Sillsville, he grew frustrated with the heavy clay soil and numerous stones. He vowed to seek out better land. In 1913, he travelled to Lethbridge Alberta to work on his Uncle's "Ship Wheel Ranch". There he met Irvine Hambly from North Fredericksburgh, who had bought land near Munson, near Drumheller. The land was prairie, free from large trees and rocks. Accordingly, he bought two adjacent quarter sections (320 acres) not far from Hamblys from two homesteaders who had decided to quit farming.

In a document issued by the Munson & District Centennial Book Committee in 1967, Wilkie's daughter-in-law Ethel Sharpe wrote:

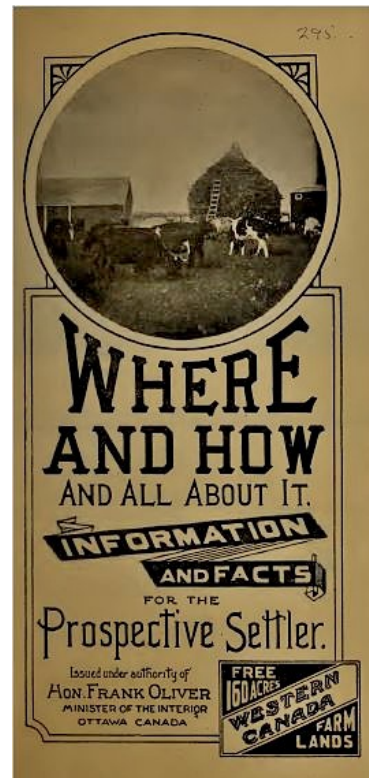
Full of enthusiasm, Wilkie returned to Ontario and married the young lady he had known since childhood. Anne Asselstine, now an R.N., became his bride on Feb.24, 1915. She had been born and raised on a farm less than a mile from the Sharpe home, so she knew a considerable amount about farm life. She was not quite prepared for THE WEST.

In Jan. 1916, Wilkie Sharpe came to Munson on a Settlers' train. The young couple had pooled their resources, sold some possessions that would be impractical to bring, and bought such necessities as 4 horses, 6 cows, a buggy, a cutter, a bed, a table and chairs, a stove, a churn, a cream separator, etc.

Each settler had a car for his possessions or shared a car with another pioneer. Regular stops had to be made and water carried to the livestock. Feed was taken along and if the supply became depleted, more had to be bought along the way. The young wife had wanted to send her pet cat along, but this idea was vetoed. Mr. Sharpe did attempt to bring a dog but it apparently did not enjoy train travel and ran away at one of the watering stops. Later in their new home, Mr. Sharpe had to admit the cat would have been a better idea, as they had to borrow a neighbour's mouse catcher for a time.

Mrs. Sharpe and baby Kathryn arrived at Easter time. Their first days at Munson were spent as guests of the Hamblys because the only dwelling place on the Sharpe holdings was a very small shack, really only a shelter in which one of the bachelor homesteaders had lived. In addition, the travellers had contracted the measles on the journey. A shack was purchased from the Greenwood Brothers and the young family moved into their first home. There was only one room 14'x16'. There being no window frames, some were hastily fashioned and insulated by stuffing newspapers into the cracks. There was room for only the very necessary articles. Cupboards were made from boxes piled on top of each other. The screen door and lower walls were insulated against the cold with cardboard, but it was very cold that first winter. Potatoes and other groceries froze. Kathryn was not allowed on the floor and had to be content on the bed or chair.

The following year, Mr. Sharpe purchased the Settlers' Lumber company office building in Munson to be used as a house. This was a well built structure and a few years later as the family increased in size, an addition bigger than the first building was erected. Then, two glassed-in verandahs were added and the house was stuccoed. The first home became the well house.



1906 Canadian Department of the Interior Settlers' Information Brochure

There were 45 acres broken when Mr. Sharpe became owner of the land. His first crop was harvested in 1916. In those first years, the Sharpes and Hamblys worked together, as between them they had enough horses and machinery; what one lacked, the other had.

Hugh Sharpe, Wilkie's nephew, recounts that the first crop harvested in 1916 was a bumper crop, which sold at a very good price. As the Sharpe farm was situated on high land, it escaped a severe killing frost in the fall, which destroyed immature crops on lower land. Sharpes were able to sell quality seed to their less fortunate neighbours.

Quoting again from the Munson document:

The barn was built in 1920 by Mr. Steele, a homesteader who was also a carpenter. It was equipped with a "sling" for stacking hay, a real labour saving device. Granaries were built as the years went by and trees planted in 1924.



**International Harvester  
Titan Oil Tractors Catalog 1900-1910**

Mr. Sharpe purchased his first automobile in 1918. He went to Calgary and the lady from whom he bought it accompanied him home to teach him how to operate his new McLaughlin. The first tractor, a Titan, was also bought in 1918. It was very useful for land breaking and later for operating the threshing machine. For some years there were about 20 horses on the farm. They were used until the early 1940s for seeding by drill (4 horses) and for summer fallowing (6 or 8). An International pull combine was bought in 1936. There were approximately 12 cows but no milking machine. As Mr. Sharpe said, "I've got 3 boys for that." They were expected to do their full share of the chores and the farming and there was no dawdling. Mr. Sharpe worked right along with the boys. The girls too had their duties and chores. Kathryn was very helpful with her

younger sisters. When there was work to be done, the father believed in getting it done. A favourite expression of his was "come on boys, get up, the sun will burn a hole in you."

A further quote from the Munson document:

Perhaps the name Sharpe will best be remembered in connection with the growing of prize wheat. Marquis was the favoured variety for years and many good crops were grown. Sons and then Grandsons exhibited wheat locally in Calgary and Toronto and Chicago, winning numerous awards.

But the culmination came in 1950 when 12 year old Grandson Rick was declared "World Wheat King" at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair, with a sample of Marquis wheat. It was the first time this distinction had come to this part of Alberta and the first time it had been won by a 4-H Club member. Rick journeyed to Toronto to accept the honour with his Mother and Father.

Note: Hugh Sharpe had visited his cousins that year and helped cut and stook the plot. The prize sample was hand threshed, not put through the threshing machine, then carefully sorted to give a heavy bright sample. Then it was polished in a nylon stocking, just so.

The Sharpe families continue to farm extensively in the Munson area near Drumheller.

**Quoted material from the Munson historical document was provided by  
Wilkie's granddaughter, Sharon Halligan.  
Anecdotes are from Hugh Sharpe.**



## Clippings



### KINGSTON & PEMBROKE

—AND—  
Canada Pacific Railways

### HOME SEEKERS' EXCURSIONS

—TO—  
MANITOBA and the  
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

Leaving July 7 and 21. Good to return September 5 and 19 respectively.

Full particulars at K. & P. and C. P. R. Ticket office, Ontario street.

F. CONWAY, B. W. FOLGER,  
Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt. Gen. Manager.

*Weekly British Whig*  
July 8, 1896

Miss Amy Davis, Adolphustown, and Mrs. Leslie, Deseronto, sister of Dr. Demorest, Napanee, started yesterday for Melita, Man. Miss Davis will spend the next two months visiting her brother. Mrs. Leslie joins her husband, who has located at Melita, and will make her home in the prairie province. A. Wolfe, Kingston, is

*Weekly British Whig*  
July 14, 1898

Napanee, Aug. 14.—The weather still continues dry; the dust is inches deep along the highways. Farmers are almost through harvesting, and numbers are thinking of taking in the excursion to Manitoba on the 24th inst., and helping with the heavy harvest in the prairie province. Reports of an enormous yield are heard from many from this section who are settled in that country.

*Weekly British Whig*  
August 17, 1899

The following from Fredericksburgh, Lennox, are settled at Elva, Manitoba, and are all doing well: Edward Armstrong, George I. Armstrong, W. H. Stratton, F. G. Stratton, William Rennie, Thomas Rennie, Orison Vancott, Oscar Vancott, John Gibson, William Mooney, Wilbur Schryver, Joseph Lowry, Clarence Wagar. From Adolphustown, Charles Roblin, Merton P. Roblin, R. W. Peterson, Sidney G. Davis, James Graham. From Richmond, John W. Rooka, Raymond Newman, John Dixon, Fred Husband, Clarence Wagar, George McLeod.

*Weekly British Whig*  
March 9, 1899

SILLSVILLE - G. Hugh Sharpe left on Monday for Alberta to help his cousins with the harvest.

*J. Wright Scrapbooks, AFHS*  
September 1953

Napanee, April 2.—Joseph Marsh left Friday, for Saskatoon. He will work with the Daly Tea company. J. McLennan and wife left, Saturday, for Saskatoon, to reside.

*Daily British Whig*  
April 2, 1910

## CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.

### Settlers' One-Way Excursions

To Manitoba and Canadian North-West will leave Kingston every TUESDAY during March and April.

Passengers travelling WITHOUT LIVESTOCK should take train leaving Kingston at 1:50 a.m.; Renfrew, 5:14 p.m.

Passengers travelling WITH LIVESTOCK should take train leaving Kingston 1:50 a.m.; Renfrew, 10 p.m.

Colonist Sleepers will be attached to each train.

For full particulars and copy of "Settlers' Guide" apply to F. CONWAY, Agent, Kingston, or to

**C. E. McPHERSON,**  
Assistant General Passenger Agent,  
1 King St. East, Toronto.

*Weekly British Whig*  
March 2, 1899

## Wartime Harvest Excursion

In his 2013 book *Growing Up In Adolphustown*, Merton Davis recounts his father's "excursion" west to Manitoba.

In 1945, Father went out west on the Harvest Excursion, right after we had taken off our own crop. He rode the train over several nights along with hundreds of other men from the east. There was a shortage of workers for the western harvest because so many were still in the army. Father went directly to Melita, Manitoba to see Uncle Sid, because he got the 'flu on the train and was very ill. He couldn't even work. Eventually he got strong enough to go out to help a neighbouring farmer harvest hay from a slough and provide other farming assistance.

While Father was away, Mother, Gramma Davis and we kids did all the chores. It must have been hard for Mother. San Simmons did the fall ploughing. We had a new disc plow. There was a mechanical problem, and San and I took the broken part out to Haight's garage to get it welded.



Uncle Sid's Sod House Circa 1900

Merton's uncle Sid's first house in Manitoba was a sod one. Winters were brutal in such an abode, and before long, Sid's wife announced that she would not spend another winter in a sod hut. By 1907, Sid had given up on farming and the family moved to Melita, and into the 1½ story wooden house that Merton's father stayed in when he visited in 1945.

Just the year before, Sid made a trip out to Adolphustown where, in his mid-eighties, he helped with the haying on the Davis farm.



Gramma (Annie) Davis and Uncle Sid with  
Merton's mother Dorothy and sister Jean  
Front: Lois and Merton Adolphustown 1944



Uncle Sid and the team haying on the Davis farm in  
Adolphustown 1944

Thanks to Merton Davis for the photographs and anecdotes.



## The Mortons and Phippens Go West ... but Why?

Ross & Mavis Morton

### The Mortons

My father's (Edmond Wilfred Morton aka Will) family emigrated from Scotland to Ontario Canada and was given land in the Kaladar Ontario area to settle as homesteaders. Homesteaders were given free land if they agreed to settle it. Government officials who sat down with a map and assigned land did not evaluate it for farming or wood harvesting purposes. Unfortunately, the parcels of land given to the Morton family had small trees that were not big to harvest and there was little topsoil, which meant it was not good farming land either.

Given the state of the land, many who were assigned land in the Kaladar area moved to other areas such as the Napanee district. My Dad (Will) was born on August 4th, 1884 in Kaladar.

When my grandfather Joseph Morton died in 1901 in Ernestown Ontario, the family wondered what to do, and his sons (my uncles and father) had been hearing glowing comments about what good farmland there was in the Dryden area. So, they decided to take a chance and move there with the hope of picking up better land on which to farm. These Morton boys took their mother (my grandmother Margaret Reid) to the Dryden area and my father Will Morton got a job at the Government Experimental Farm. He became a foreman and, in that capacity, had the opportunity to take animal husbandry courses at the then Agricultural College which came to be the University of Guelph. My grandmother, Margaret Reid, stayed in Dryden until her death in 1931.

### The Phippens

My mother's (Fannie Edith Phippen) great-grandparents (George Phippen and Sarah French) had a large family (12 children) and some of the sons (including William, Richard, and Charles) emigrated from England to Canada by sailboat. They had money and therefore had the means to purchase their own land. William Phippen married Rosa Ann Scobell in Ontario and they had nine children. One of their sons, John, married Eliza Steele Turnbull. John and Eliza had six children including Fannie Phippen (my mother). Fannie was born at Conway, South Fredericksburgh in a house that is no longer there. The land was located on #33 highway on the Bay of Quinte and across from Fannie's Uncle Harry's property, now the Wright's property. Fannie's mother and father later moved to Parma and owned the land where Ruth Brooks lived for a while. Fannie went to the Parma school.

Fannie's Uncle William bought land in Conway and built a house and a cheese factory on Lot 2 on the south side of Hwy #33 on the Bay of Quinte which is located east of the current Conway store. Archie Wright and his father Ed operated the Conway store and grist mill before moving to the Harry Phippen farm. Fannie's Great Uncle Richard bought the property to the east and her Great Uncle Charles, farmed near the Elmbrae public school between Sandhurst and Bath.

Fannie's Uncle Arthur Wesley was one of William and Rosa Ann's sons. He was a bachelor and became an expert in cheese making. Cheese factories were being established but they were mainly co-ops and Arthur and his father helped establish several co-operative cheese factories in the Amherst Island and Sillsville areas. They had a wharf at the bay shore in Conway from which they sent cheese on boats to England. A lot of co-op cheese factories were being established at that time. Once co-operatives were formed, member farmers were committed to paying expenses, but also got profits. With the number of co-ops being established there were not that many farmers wanting to send milk to the Phippen's privately-owned cheese factory, as farmers were committed to sending milk to other co-operatives. The Phippen's cheese factory couldn't compete and eventually closed.

In 1897 Arthur obtained homestead rights to a large acreage (something in the order of 180 acres) in Wainwright Township in the Dryden area. Arthur opened up a dairy when he got there. He told his



**Photo: Alice Carlson**  
**Fannie Undated**

John A Preston, was born and lived in Amherst Island and was friends with the Neilson's family who lived next to the Conway house that Fannie's Aunt Kate Phippen was living in. John visited the Neilson's and would have met Aunt Kate there. He was the president of a coal company and then a beer company

called Kopitz-Melchor Breweries of Detroit. They married in 1883 in South Fredericksburgh and that same year moved to Detroit and that's what took Fannie's Aunt Kate to Detroit. They had no children.

Aunt Kate and her husband John Preston wanted Fannie to come and live with them, which she did for several years. A couple of other girls lived with them too. Fannie's Aunt Kate wanted to adopt Fannie but that was frowned on by her parents and it was at this time that Fannie's parents suggested she move back to Dryden.

brother John about opportunities in the west and persuaded John and family to move to Dryden. This is how Fannie Phippen ended up in the Dryden area.



**Photo: Alice Carlson**  
**Phippen family on their farm near Dresden circa 1904**  
**Parents John and Eliza in centre, with Fannie beside John.**  
**Fannie's sister Kate is beside Eliza; brothers are Bill (standing),**  
**Preston, and Harold with Boozer.**



**Will and Fannie 1970s**

Fannie and Will met in the Dryden area and then married on October 20th in Dinorwic near Dryden in 1910. Fannie always explained that the reason she married Will was that he was the best looking of all the Morton boys.

The Conway property was owned by Fannie's Uncle Ed Phippen but he was mainly living in Napanee. Fannie's Aunt Kate remembered the good times at the Conway place and so she bought the property from Ed. She made the offer to Fannie and Will that if they farmed and looked after her in that Conway house, then the farm and house would be given to Fannie. Fannie and Will returned by train from Dryden to Conway in June of 1928 with six kids (I was 3 years old) and carried out a successful dairy business until their retirement.

Aunt Kate lived with our family (Fannie, Will and me and my siblings) for four years until she needed more help and then she went to Napanee where she died on January 31st, 1932.

So this is the story of how and why my parents, Will Morton and Fannie Phippen, and their families went west and returned to the Conway area.



## From the Kitchen

Jane Lovell

### Leone's Brownies

I met Leone only once, but her brownies have been a much-loved treat in our family for at least two generations. The recipe is one of the first in my mother's recipe book and also made it into my 4-H recipe box. However, although I have searched through my grandmother's recipe book, I cannot find it there. This surprises me because it was through my grandmother that Leone came to be a close friend to four generations of my family.

When they met, both Leone's family and mine were first generation migrants from Ontario. My great-grandfather, David Wilson (DW) Roblin followed his brother Rodmond Palen Roblin out to Manitoba from Sophiasburg in Prince Edward County in the early 1880s. Rodmond had become a wealthy man, with a hand in various farm-related businesses and real estate, before getting into politics. He later became premier of Manitoba (1900-1915); his grandson Dufferin (Duff) became the second Roblin premier of the province (1958-1967).

Encouraged by his brother's success, DW also became a land owner, purchasing several farms around Carman, Manitoba. Leone's parents became tenants on one of DW's farms.



Leone 1949

Born on Manitoulin Island, Leone moved with her parents to Manitoba sometime before 1911. The 1921 census shows a Swedish immigrant, Sig Johnson, working as a hired hand in the household, and four years later Leone eloped with Sig, 14 years her senior. Shunned by the local community for doing this, Leone and Sig found an ally in DW who took the couple on as tenant farmers on one of his other farms.

And so began a curious friendship between Leone and the Roblin family.

As for many in the western provinces, the Great Depression was not kind to DW, and over the course of the 1930s he lost all but one of his farms. Leone and Sig farmed the one that remained. Despite their diminished means, the Roblins continued a comfortable lifestyle in Carman, and their daughter, my grandmother, lived an even more privileged life in Winnipeg. All the while, the two families continued to spend time together, mostly at DW's home in Carman or on the farm he rented to Leone and Sig.

My grandmother's eldest daughter, my aunt, spent many a summer as a girl and teen on Leone's farm, followed in turn by her eldest son Peter. That made four generations of the Roblin family—DW, my grandmother, my aunt, and my cousin—who considered Leone a good friend, despite the obvious difference in social standing and means.

Perhaps humble beginnings as a farmer's son in Ontario lead DW to reach out across the traditional social gap between landlord and tenant. It is more likely, however, that the bridge between the two families was supplied by another

#### Leone's Walnut Brownies

In a saucepan, melt over medium heat:

- 1 cup butter

Remove from heat and stir in:

- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ tsp salt

Beat in:

- 2 eggs

Sift in and stir to combine:

- 1 cup flour
- 4 tbsp cocoa

Stir in:

- 1 cup walnuts

Pour into a greased 9 x 9 pan and bake at 350F for 40 minutes.

migrant from Ontario—this time, DW's niece, Olive. Widowed at age 25, Olive moved from Sophiasburg to live with her uncle's family sometime after the death of her husband in 1912. She remarried in 1916 and, by the time Leone and Sig became tenants on one of DW's farms, Olive and her husband Will were living just two farms away. Despite over a decade difference in age, Leone and Olive became life-long friends.

There were ups and downs in the fortunes of the lives of the two women. While Leone and Sig's operation was successful enough to engage a hired hand, Olive and Will struggled to make a living at farming and eventually left their farm and moved into Carman. DW died in 1944 and his last remaining tenant farm was sold. Leone and Sig took on a tenancy at a nearby farm, and after Sig died in 1952, Leone continued to work the farm with their hired hand, Fred Scott.



Sig & Will & Olive & Leone circa 1930

Fast forward to the early 1970s and a road trip my family took out to Manitoba. Part of the itinerary was a stop at Leone's farm for "lunch". This was a multi-family affair with the meal consumed on a table set up in the the largest room in the house (the other rooms were two small bedrooms and kitchen in an attached structure). There was no running water and I was delighted to work the bright red hand-pump affixed to the counter beside the kitchen sink. The sink itself emptied directly into slop buckets, to be carried out to the pigs. The outhouse was not a particular novelty to us, but still, as a kid raised in a middle-class suburb of Toronto, I found all this to be an astounding way to live.

I don't remember if we had Leone's brownies on that occasion, but we may well have. Certainly the meal (more like a Sunday Dinner than lunch!) involved an enormous amount of food, with much, if not all, of the vegetables from the kitchen garden. A well-remembered treat was to be able to go out the garden and pick both strawberries **and** raspberries for dessert.

In recalling all of this, I was struck again by the unusual friendship that grew and endured between a wealthy and privileged family from Winnipeg and a woman who never owned her own farm, but who nevertheless succeeded in making a modest living off the land. Leone's influence on our family goes far beyond what remains to me in her brownie recipe—she allowed both my aunt, and to a lesser degree my mother, to sample the hardworking but gratifying life on the farm, and to extend those same experiences to my cousin Peter.

Prompted by my questions about Leone and the farm, Peter was able to give me a glimpse of the life on that Manitoba farm in the 1960s. Over multiple generations, the farm set the stage for experiences and connections that created and cemented the seemingly unlikely but profound friendship between Leone and our family. The following is what Peter remembers of his time on the farm.

## Memories of A Farm in Carman

Peter Robinson

*I spent a great deal of time with Leone and Fred. From the time that I was about 11 or 12 until I was 21, I would go out by bus (50 miles) for long weekends, summers, Christmas breaks. I loved it out there. I worked with Fred on everything—cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, geese, cleaning the barns, feeding critters, vaccinating, grinding grain, moving grain in the truck to the Graysville elevator, collecting eggs, working in the garden. I was with Fred all day. Naturally, what I was allowed to do increased with time and skill. At the end, I was doing fieldwork with the tractor, as well as driving the grain truck. Fred died in June 1973 and that was the last summer I was at the farm. I stayed until university classes started in mid-September, helping Leone with the final crop and starting the wrap-up process. But even at that time the sense of community was strong. There were neighbours there every day to help; I guess that they worked it out amongst themselves. Leone (and Fred) were very*



popular in the area, and of course had done the same for neighbours in their time. Leone moved to town that fall after the crop was in so that she was not there alone all winter.

Working on Leone's farm was great times for me—a holdover from another era, but it was a highly (in today's terms) sustainable farm where there was great reliance on the farm products (beef, pork, chickens, geese, eggs, grains, veg, fruits) to create the food supply, and an interconnection of all activities on the farm. Only staples were purchased at the Safeway in town.

The main farm was just 80 acres, with at least 40% of that the Boyne River, the farmstead, the garden, and woodland. Then there was the 'North 40', another 40 acres of strictly cropland adjacent (kitty corner) to the north-west. The main crops were wheat, barley, oats and some fall rye, with a bit of flax. Most of that was sold, with only enough kept for the animals. Seed was bought every spring in Carman. There was always a field of corn (for silage - stored in a dirt bunker), and one for hay. The corn was cut in the fall and the hay about three times over the season. The hay from the field was baled and I was often the guy standing on the skid towed behind the baler, who stacked the bales into a stook and then drove a big iron bar into the ground to push it off the skid. We used the tractor for baling. To supplement that hay, the road allowance was also cut twice. However, as this was mainly ditch, Fred broke out the old horse-drawn cutter, hitched up the team and cut the grass. He also used the horses to rake it, but the baler and tractor were used for baling. That was the only work that the horses did in the summer.



Two teams of four harvesting oats on Olive's farm. 1927

Fred loved the team. For the longest time they were Bonnie and Dan. Fred had them trained to voice commands. He simply spoke to them and they were one group of three mammals with a single purpose. I can never remember him hitting them, or even raising his voice. He did hold the reins, usually, but only to assist in guiding them in lieu of voice commands. I will always remember Bonnie and Dan backing the 'stoneboat' (a flat sled on skids used when there was snow on the ground) into the barn backwards in response to voice commands. As we shovelled the manure onto the stoneboat, Fred would speak to them periodically and they would step forward as needed. Fred always preferred using the team over the tractor, so even when the spring weather melted the snow, we would switch to the manure spreader with the horse accoutrements and carry on. It was a manure spreader designed for tractor or horses since it was the turning of the wheels that drove the apparatus to whirl off the manure. The cutter for road allowance harvest which was drawn by Bonnie and Dan was simply practical since a tractor and swather was just too big to do ditches. But basically the horses had the summer off and could be anyplace on the farm on any day. If they came to the barn, I would climb on to one of them (Bonnie I think) and go for a ride holding onto her for dear life and directing her by pulling lightly on her mane. These horses were very quiet and seemed massive, but then I was a little

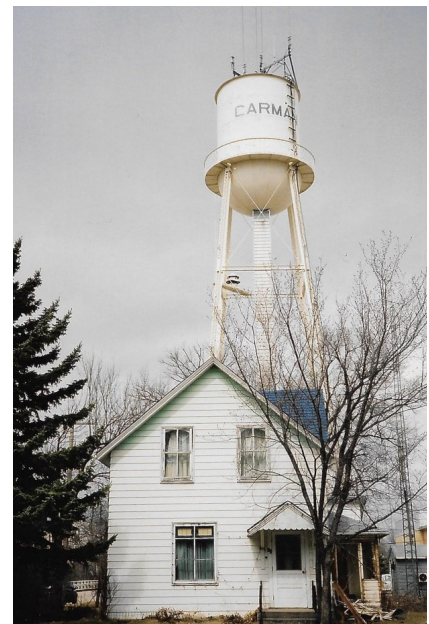
guy!! I sensed at the time that I was experiencing the past. I saw the changes taking place on other similarly operated farms in the area and was deeply suspicious of the farmers' motivations, farm sustainability, and the long-term impacts on the lives of the local people.

Leone and Fred were remarkably self-reliant. The garden was huge and provided a lot of winter veg (potatoes, carrots, beets, parsnips) that were stored in the basement. In season, 'rasps', strawberries, corn on the cob, etc. were used straight from the garden. A lot was canned or made into jam. All dairy products and meat were from the farm. In my day, Leone bought ice cream, cheese, and butter from the grocery store, but in my mother's day they made that as well. The cream was taken to town twice a week and sold at the creamery. (Leone took the milk separator—electric—to the barn every morning and night and cleaned it twice a day). The milk went to the pigs and in a mason jar, as needed, for the house. I did not drink it as I did not like the flavour. The cows were actually beef cows (Herefords) and Fred would milk two or three by hand twice daily to get enough milk to feed the calves (if present) and pigs (it was really the pigs that drove the milking process, as there were always three sows that had little ones spring and fall). Fred sat on a little stool next to the cow and leaned his head on her side. I swear that the guy slept, but his fingers kept pulsating to draw the milk. I could not milk the cows—no hand strength!! Hereford milk is really high in fat, hence a lot of cream from a couple of buckets of milk each day.

Very little feed was bought for the animals. Some salt blocks for the cows, and protein meals for the pigs. The rest was home grown. The fence posts were cut from the woodland each summer and 'cured' for a year or two (we 'fenced' the entire place every summer when nothing else was going on). The house was heated with the wood stove all winter and the firewood came from the woodland. No tractor was used from October thru April for farm duties—all work was based on the team. Fred once told me that keeping the tractor going in the winter was a pain and anyway, the horses ate hay whereas he had to buy the diesel! But the '60s were a time of change in farming. In 1960 many farms in the area would have been like Fred and Leone's, but by 1970 most farms were concentrating on some aspect—grain, pigs, cattle, etc.—and getting bigger. That meant big loans, rising land prices, land clearing, and bankruptcies when things did not work out. I knew that I was on a farm from the past at the time because change was leaving them behind both functionally and societally.

That hand pump in the kitchen drew water from the cistern, which occupied the space under the kitchen and provided water for the house. It was filled by rainwater from the roof. Some summers it ran dry and so we put a big metal tank on the truck and went to Carman to fill it with water from a big overhead gantry at the water treatment plant behind Olive's house. We would run it into the cistern when we got back. This cistern water never froze in the winter because it was protected from the cold. The water was pumped out of the cistern for all household purposes, except drinking water. Drinking water was obtained periodically in Carman from a hand pump at a guy's house that many farm folk used. I think we used a cream can.

There was a well by the barn, which had really hard water—but oddly tasty—which dried up late summer most years. The main water source was the Boyne River. There was no water in the barn at all. The cattle were outside pretty much from April to November, but in the winter when they were all closed up in the barn, they went outside every day for about two hours and went down to the river for water (we had to maintain a hole in the ice for them). They sort of queued up and drank their fill—only one critter could drink at a time.



Built by Rodmond Roblin, this house became DW's family home and, later, Olive's house. The Carman water tower provided water to surrounding farmers as well as to the town. 2002



When family gatherings were held at the farm, we had 'dinner' at noonish in the main room (there was a big table in the kitchen for Leone and Fred and me, and also when folks popped in for coffee). Mother always brought a lot of stuff (typically things that she did not think that Leone would have easy access to) but preparation of the dinner was a big deal with lots of cooking for hours. It was a full sit-down formal deal with all fixings, but typically beef. Occasionally Leone and Fred went to town and the process played out at Olive's in the front room. If that occurred, Leone and Fred and I would have to



Thanksgiving on the Farm 1937

Olive is on the far left; her husband Will is in suspenders. DW is in the hat.

In the center is Leone; her husband Sig is on the far right.

Crouching below: My grandparents, uncle, and Jane's mother.

leave by about 4:30pm because we had chores (cows, pigs, etc.) twice daily. So these dinners were only at times when there was no fieldwork. However, if the dinner was at the farm, all hands would assist with chores and the party continued afterwards when we re-convened for 'lunch' at about 6:30pm. Departure to Winnipeg was often late — 7:30-8:00pm, even in the winter. This was in my time when roads and cars allowed it—family trips to Carman in the 1920s were overnight affairs due to the state of the roads.

For sure, my experience on the farm lead me into Animal Science as career, but I had no desire to become a farmer. It was a 365 day a year deal, a lifestyle inconsistent with the way that kids like us were raised. People like Fred and Leone were people of the past—as in a hundred years—but this was their life. They never questioned it. I do not think that Leone left the farm for an overnight trip in 50+ years. Fred spent the war years in England with the RCAF as a mechanic, but never spoke of it—I only knew this because there was a photo of him in the main room in an air force uniform, and because he insisted on taking me to the movie titled "The Battle of Britain" when it played at the little movie theatre in Carman.

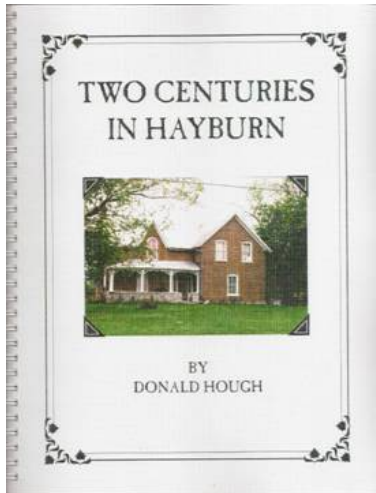
Pleasures were so simple—ice cream cones at Syl's Drive-In (when the dog got its own cone), a card party at Olive's (or a neighbourhood card party in a winter evening at the local one-room schoolhouse), a summer picnic at a local park, or even lunch at the Chinese restaurant in Carman—very exotic. I am sure that they did not enjoy every minute of every day, but they enjoyed their lifestyle—as did I.



Despite leaving Manitoba in 1974, Peter travelled frequently to his family home in Winnipeg, and he continued to call on Olive and Leone whenever he did. With Olive's death in 1984 and Leone's in 2001, the friendship between Leone and four generations of the Roblin family came to an end, three quarters of a century after it had begun. While few photographs remain of Leone, and none of Fred or from the time Peter spent with them on the farm, Leone's brownies are ever present in my home, and a reminder of a wonderful family gathering on a hot summer day on a modest farm in rural Manitoba 50 years ago. A success story, of sorts, for two migrant families from Ontario seeking a new life "out west".

Click [HERE](#) to see a 3-minute 1956 clip of one of Peter's first visits to Leone's farm.

## From the Book Shelf



### Two Centuries in Hayburn Donald Hough

Published in 2000, this document covers land records, lot by lot, of ownership on Concession 3, Additional, from the Crown Grant to the (then) present owner, and includes extensive genealogical information on the families who lived there. This book will prove invaluable to future generations, both as a record of land holdings and local family history.

The Society periodically publishes books reflecting our local history. Our catalogue now contains fifteen titles.

See our website (<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/Books.htm>) for a full list, along with a brief description of each book.

## A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk

Bruce Caughey of Amherst Island correctly identified last issue's *Curious Thing*:

The object in the AFHS Newsletter is a tool used in the practice of Horse Shoeing. The hoof was/is placed on the end of the upright while clinching the horseshoe nails against the upper hoof wall. I have used one similar.

Ed: "Clinching" is finishing off the nails that protrude through the hoof wall after the horseshoe has been affixed. The stand supports the hoof so the blacksmith can access the head of the nail on the shoe as well as the protruding nipped off tip. The clinching tool is used like a pair of pliers to bend the tip down against the hoof wall. The clinched nail tips and the surrounding hoof are then filed smooth.



November's  
Curious Thing



### What are these?

Please contact [angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com) if you recognize the item. Tell us what it is called, what it is used for, during what era it was used, and anything else known about it.

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

Submitted by Angela Cronk



## From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events. Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

Some items we are currently looking for:

### OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island
- Tarry Hall

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Correspondence from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

### BOOKLET:

- Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid, 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list.  
**Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

### Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* several times a year. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Please send submissions to [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net).

#### Contributors to this issue:

Alice Carlson	Jane Lovell
Angela Cronk	Ross & Mavis Morton
Duncan & Ruth Hough	Peter Robinson
	Susan Wright