

The Land is their



Richard and Catharine Wilson & Family

Heritage

by Everett A. Wilson

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The Land is their



RICHARD WILSON
1831 - 1896



CATHARINE GREGG
1841 - 1902

Heritage

THE STORY OF RICHARD AND CATHARINE WILSON & THEIR NINE CHILDREN

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by Everett A. Wilson

THE LAND IS THEIR HERITAGE
by Everett A. Wilson — 1986

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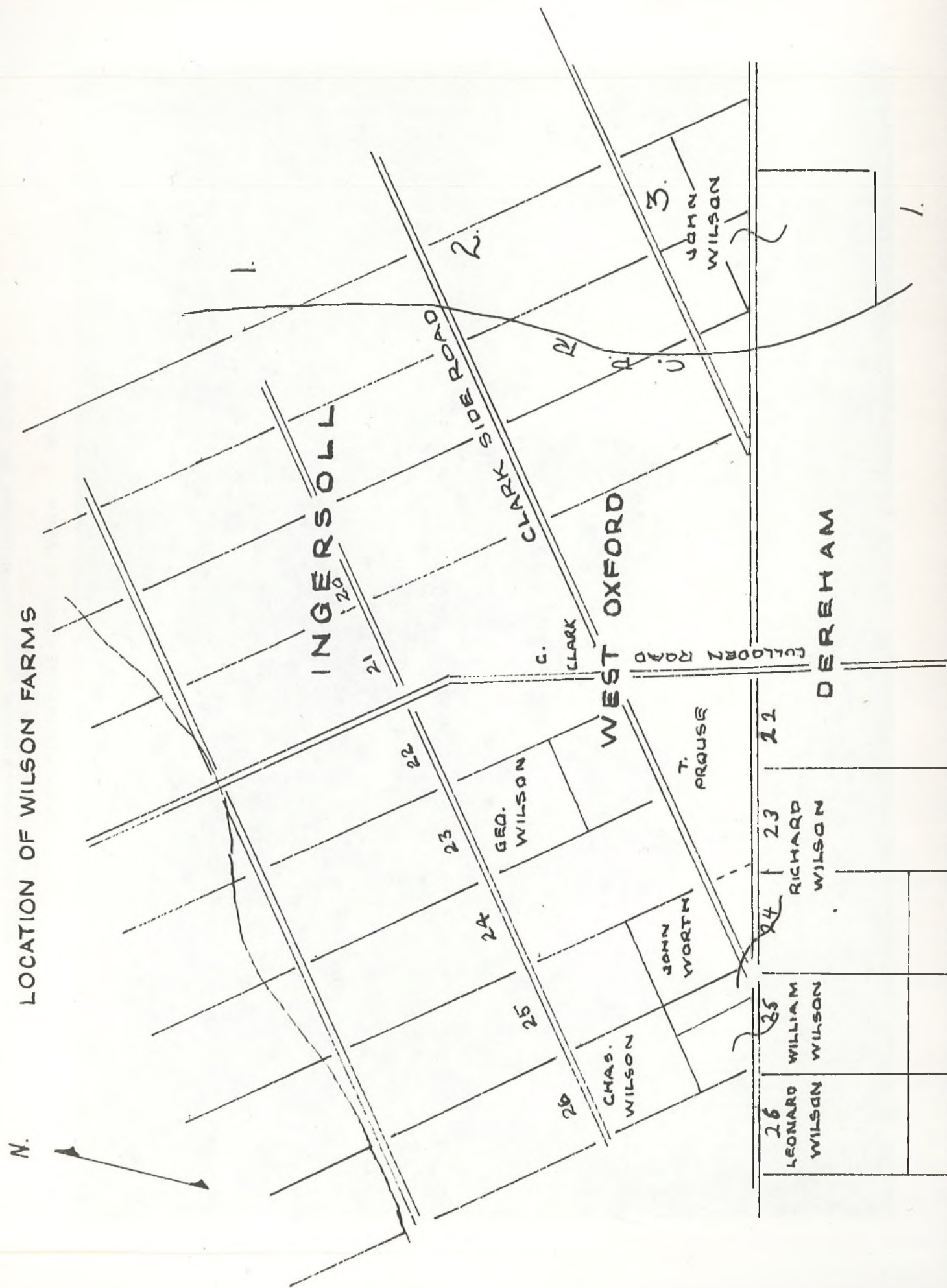
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RICHARD and CATHARINE WILSON & FAMILY — c. 1890
Standing: Leonard, George, John, Charles.
Seated: William, Elizabeth, Richard, Ellen (in picture), Catharine, May, Richard Jr.



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FORWARD

The nine children of Richard and Catharine Wilson were unique. Born and raised on the homestead farm that their Yorkshire grandparents, Richard and Sarah, had settled in 1831 and had cleared for agriculture, they had a deep love for farming.

The boys acquired the knowledge of how to turn the sod, the proper time to plant and harvest the crops, the care of the cattle, from on-the-farm training.

This family was unique in that each and every one of the six sons was able to have a farm of his own, with the total acreage of nearly 850 acres. Also, two daughters married farmers.

They were also unique in the way in which they enjoyed working together, and the warm relationships which they maintained with one another, exemplified and nurtured by the family get-togethers.

It is a great pleasure to record the lives and times of the nine children. I only wish that more details were available. These people were too busy "setting their hands to the plough" to bother writing down any of their story by their own hand.

However, with the writing of these biographies, some of the information, which has been obtained by many interviews, and from family and official documents, will be preserved. Since I first began this work in 1971, several of the people interviewed have by now departed this earthly scene. These biographies are testimonies to their memory. It might be of interest to note that only one member of the founding generation of which I write was actually interviewed by myself; that being my grandmother, Mary, the wife of William, tape-recorded in 1971.

It is hoped that the perusal of these accounts of the lives of the nine brothers and sisters will give pleasure to many, and will encourage some to appreciate more the heritage which is ours. They were indeed men of the soil, and THE LAND IS THEIR HERITAGE.

I would like to express appreciation to the many members of the various Wilson families who have been so co-operative and generous in giving interviews and sharing information. Without your kind help, this writing would not have been possible.

Everett Wilson
September 20, 1986



DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this work to the memory of my father Austin John Wilson, who watched its progress with great interest, and made valuable suggestions during the first years of its writing. He died October 21, 1976, thus not seeing the completion of this effort; but his passing did spur on the determination to finish the work.

Also, I want to include mention of his sister Helen Jackson Tuck. She has a great interest in the Wilson family, and her knowledge of the generation here chronicled is vast. Many times I have gone to my Aunt Helen for help when I couldn't quite connect pieces of information.

With love and deep appreciation,

Ernest Wilson



AUSTIN WILSON
and sister HELEN
1975

FAMILY OF RICHARD WILSON II

Richard Wilson, born February 22, 1831; died January 22, 1896
married May 24, 1860

Catharine Gregg, born April 2, 1841; died March 13, 1902

When father Richard Wilson died in 1861, and left the homestead farm at Lot 23, Con. 1, Dereham, to his youngest son Richard, it was in sure hands for continued Wilson ownership. Richard II had grown up on the farm, and after his mother Sarah died in 1859, he married Catharine Gregg¹ on May 24, 1860. Catharine was the daughter of John and Ellen (Hudson) Gregg, pioneer farmers at Lot 10, Con. 2, Dereham. Both families were devoted members of Salford Methodist Church.

Richard was an industrious farmer, and improved his farmlands, clearing rocks and trees, and increased his dairy herd. He also bought 50 acres adjacent to his farm, and 40 acres across the road.

He suffered the loss of his right hand, which occurred when a dynamite charge misfired while he was blasting a large rock on his farm. However, he was fitted with a hook, and was never known to shirk his turn in pitching hay or sheaves.

Their Family:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Ellen | born April 4, 1861 | died March 17, 1888 | age 26 |
| 2. John | born February 7, 1864 | died February 26, 1945 | age 81 |
| 3. Charles | born May 26, 1866 | died October 25, 1929 | age 63 |
| 4. George | born October 10, 1868 | died April 10, 1927 | age 58 |
| 5. Leonard | born October 3, 1871 | died October 11, 1943 | age 72 |
| 6. Eva May | born February 10, 1874 | died February 21, 1955 | age 81 |
| 7. Elizabeth C. | born March 10, 1876 | died October 12, 1907 | age 31 |
| 8. William A. | born September 18, 1878 | died November 2, 1911 | age 33 |
| 9. Richard H. | born October 20, 1880 | died January 22, 1953 | age 72 |

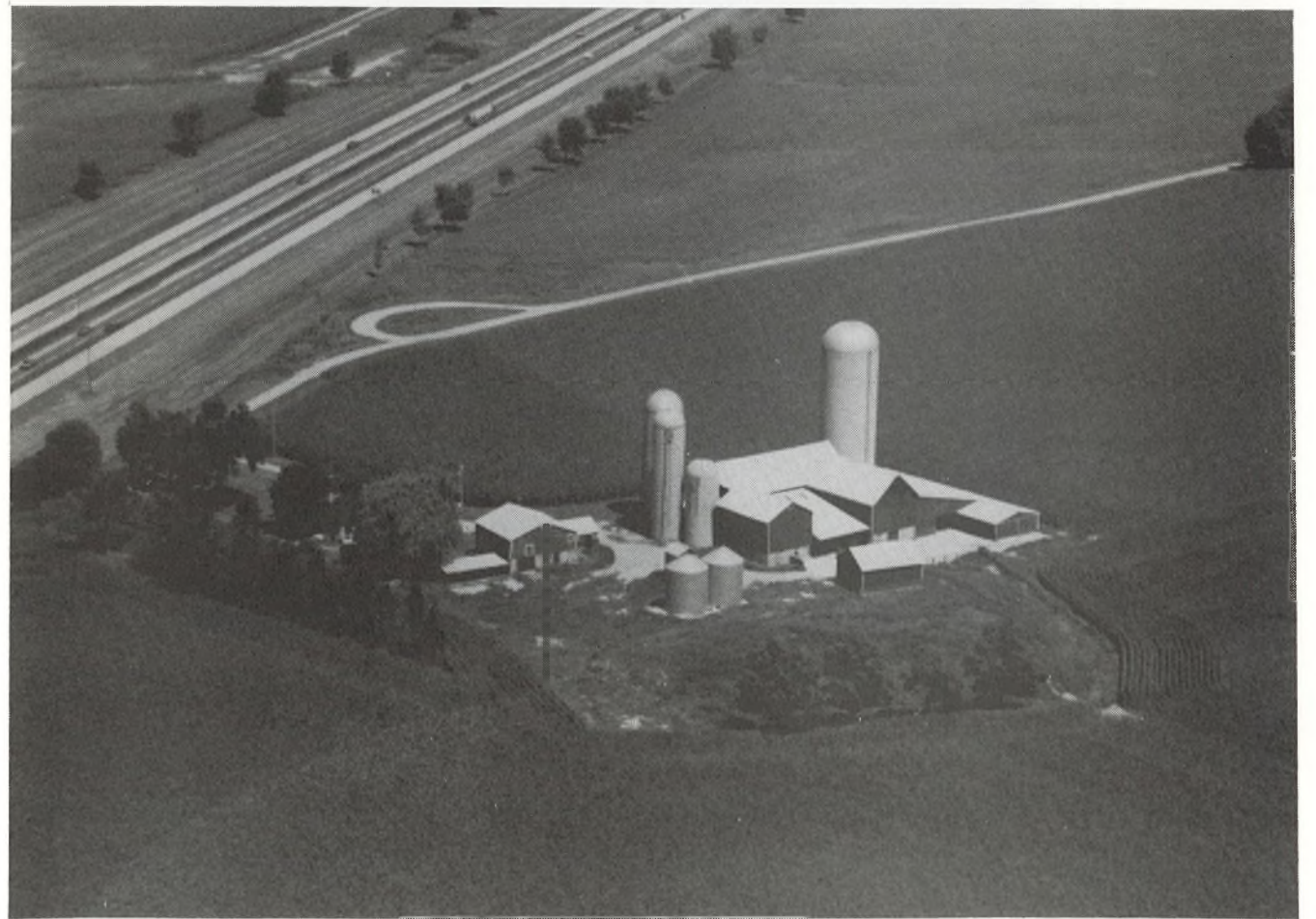
The average life span of the children was 57-3/4 years.

Richard endeavoured to start each of his sons farming on his own, and had helped his four eldest buy their farms, but he died suddenly of a heart attack January 22, 1896. His widow sold the home farm to her two youngest sons for \$1.00 in 1899, and moved to Ingersoll to a home on King Street in 1902. There she died two weeks later. In 1903, Richard H. bought the homeplace from his brother William.

1. For further information on the John Gregg Family, see the Gregg "Blue Book", a booklet prepared for the Gregg Centennial, held June 4, 1938 at the farm of Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Heeney, R.R. 5, Ingersoll.



RICHARD WILSON HOMESTEAD



AERIAL PHOTO - 1985

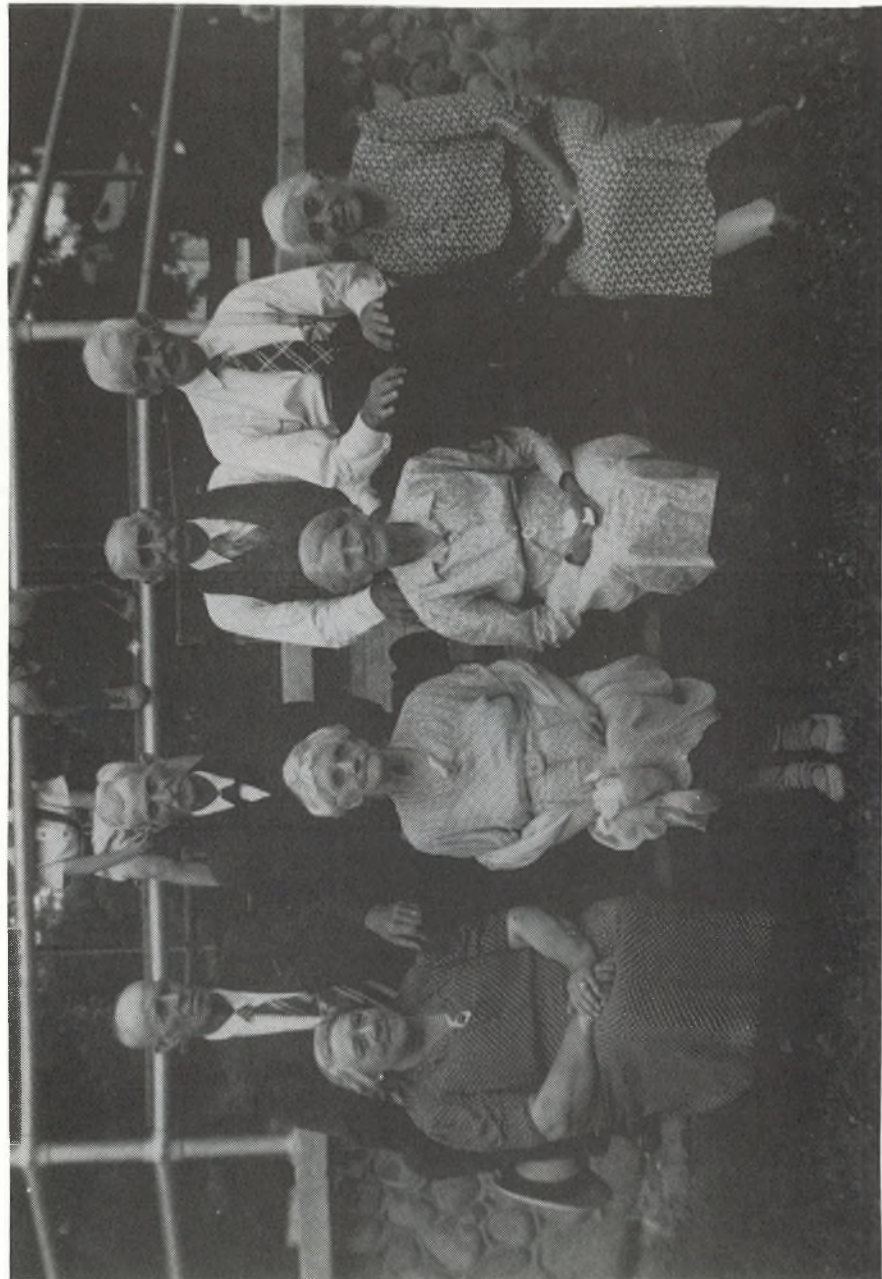


SONS OF RICHARD and CATHARINE WILSON
John, Charles, George, Leonard, Richard, William



RICHARD WILSON HOMESTEAD

K. W. Hawkins - 1986



WILSON PICNIC, MEMORIAL PARK, INGERSOLL - c. 1942

Back: Richard, John, Tom Markham, Leonard
Front: Ivah, Ella, May, May.

ELLEN WILSON
April 4, 1861 - March 17, 1888

First Child

The first child born to the marriage of Richard Wilson and Catharine Gregg¹ (both of whose parents were pioneer farmers of the Salford area) was a daughter, born April 4, 1861.² The baby was named Ellen, after Catharine's mother, Ellen Gregg, whose maiden name was Hudson. The fact that the first two children of Richard and Catharine were named Ellen and John, which were Catharine's parents' names, would indicate a strong and dominant character of Mrs. Wilson. As was the case of the first five of the Wilson children, Ellen had but one given name, which was customary to ordinary, unpretentious folk of that time.

She was born the year that her grandfather, Richard I, died, her grandmother Wilson having died in 1859. Both of these deaths and also Ellen's birth took place at the Wilson homestead at Lot 23, Concession 1, Dereham, where her parents lived since their marriage, and for the rest of their married lives. It is likely that Ellen attended the public school at S.S. 3 on the Culloden Road.

She grew to be a beautiful woman, fairly tall, and of medium build. She was described as a lovely, gentle person by those who knew her.

Marriage to Thomas Banbury

Ellen married Thomas Samuel Banbury on November 14, 1883, the Rev. David Hunt,³ minister at Salford Methodist Church, officiating at the ceremony held at her parents' home. Like Ellen, Thomas was from a family of nine children, being the seventh child, the second youngest son. They were children of Thomas and Sarah Banbury of Lot 4, Concession 3, Dereham. Ellen's parents and Thomas' parents were members of Salford Methodist Church, and of course the families knew each other well; possibly this acquaintance also led to the marriage of Ellen's brother John to Thomas' sister Ella. Thomas was born September 17, 1859, two years older than Ellen.

The Banbury Family

Ellen's husband was the third generation Thomas Banbury to farm in Canada. The first generation Thomas originated in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. He was trained as a civil engineer, and as a road builder, his work took him to Somersetshire. There at Taunton, he married Elizabeth Paynter, and raised a family of six, one of whom was Thomas II⁴. He, (Thomas II), was an athletic young man, as well as adventuresome, and came to the New World in about 1838, when he was 19, and found work on a farm in Durham County near Bowmanville. He liked the life, with its ample opportunities, and returned to England, where he persuaded his father to bring the whole family to Canada. While in England, he married Sarah Sweeting, who had been a maid to a lady of a titled family.

The Banburys first settled for about five years in Darlington Township of Durham County, where they rented a farm. Then, probably drawn to the familiar

1. Richard and Catharine were married May 24, 1860 by Rev. George Kennedy, minister of Ingersoll Methodist Church. Salford minister, Rev. John Bredin, was away at Church Conference at the time. Marriage took place at the home of Catharine's parents, John and Ellen Gregg of Dereham. Information found in Wilson family Bible, in possession of R.M. Wilson.

2. Information in Wilson family Bible as above.

3. Information from Wilson family Bible.

4. Information from "A Century and Some", a paper written by Ralph Banbury of Brighton in 1949, also from correspondence with him in 1978.

name of Oxford County, they came west in 1848, and settled at Lot 3, Concession 3, Dereham (the house and buildings on north side of 3rd Concession).

Our Thomas II bought a farm of his own, 100 acres, the north half of Lot 4, Concession 3, Dereham which cornered his father's. This was bought April 3, 1853 for 125 pounds Sterling. Although Thomas I seemed to have at times regretted coming to Canada, with hard work and the strong arms of his sons, the land was cleared and made into good farming land.

Thomas I died in 1857, Elizabeth in 1880, and they are buried in Newark Cemetery.

Thomas II and his wife Sarah had nine children born between 1848 (just before they came to Oxford) and 1866. In order of age, they are as follows:

John Sweeting married Jane Jacobs.
Elizabeth Anna married Samuel Gregg.
Charles Jordan married Belle Sharon.
Matilda Jane married Joseph Mitchell.
Mary Emma married James Little.
Samuel Thomas married Ella Jacobs.
Thomas Samuel married Ellen Wilson.
Florence Ella married John Wilson.
Joseph Henry married Frances Hoag.

On his farm, Thomas II had built a large frame house replacing the earlier log cabin. This was located on the south side of the 2nd Concession of Dereham about a mile west of Zenda.

In the winter of 1882-83 a disastrous fire totally destroyed this farm-home. Mrs. Nelson Allison, nee Florence Little, of London recalls that as a child of 4 years, she watched the fire from the window of her parents' home just across the road.¹ (Mrs. Allison is the daughter of James and Mary Little-Mary, sister of Thomas Banbury.) She recalled it was a bitter cold winter's night and nearly all the family's belongings were lost in the fire. However, a large white brick house was built on the same location in the summer of 1883.² This house still stands today.

Thomas II died May 26, 1887, age 67; and Sarah died December 27, 1891, age 73. They are buried in Harris Street Cemetery.

Thomas III and Ellen on the Banbury Farm

Thomas brought his bride to his parent's farm and the house, just built that year, was divided, with the newlyweds living in the west part and the parents in the east half. Thomas and his father farmed together from 1883 (Thomas' younger brother Joseph was living at his uncle Sam's on the Allen farm north of Ingersoll and going to Ingersoll high school then) until Joseph came home in about 1885 and they farmed together. Their father died in 1887 and Mrs. Banbury (Sarah) owned the farm till her death in 1891.

It was at this place that Thomas III and Ellen's two sons were born.



THOMAS



ELLEN

THOMAS BANBURY and ELLEN WILSON married November 14, 1883



THE BANBURY FAMILY

L to R back: Charles Jordan, Samuel Thomas, Mary Emma, Thomas Samuel (married Ellen Wilson), Elizabeth Ann
seated: Matilda Jane, Joseph Henry, Sarah (mother), Florence Ella, (married John Wilson), John Sweeting

1. Mrs. Allison interviewed July 5, 1977

2. Ingersoll Chronicle of 1883 says "Thomas Banbury of Dereham is building a new brick home."



THE BANBURY HOUSE — built 1883



CHILDREN OF THOMAS and ELLEN BANBURY — c. 1891
William and Richard (Harry)



HARRY and PEARL BANBURY & FAMILY - c. 1939
L to R - Ina, Richard, Pearl, Jack, Harry, Helen, Claude



WILLIAM and ROSE BANBURY — c. 1923
with daughter Jean

Their Family

1. William Wilson Banbury

The first child was born August 24, 1885. After his mother's death in 1888, he remained with his father, being a boy of three.

He married Rose Ermal Taylor, on April 8, 1908, and farmed a short while where the Schell farm now is, near Highway 59, south of Woodstock. Then they went to Stettler, Alberta, where he worked on a farm. After this they returned to Ontario and bought a farm west of Thamesford at Lot 20, Concession 1, Zorra Township about 1914, where he was a dairy farmer.

They adopted a daughter, named Marion Jean,¹ their only child, in 1917. She was born May 23, 1915.

William served as councillor for some time, and was Reeve of the Township in 1936.

William sold the farm to his daughter and her husband, Harold LeRoy Wilson, and retired to London in 1945, where he bought a house on Victoria Street. Rose died February 12, 1952 and William died April 5, 1964. They are buried at the Woodland Cemetery.

2. Richard Henry

The second child of Thomas and Ellen was born November 9, 1887. A son, they named him Richard Henry, but was called Harry all his life. A niece of Thomas and Ellen, Mrs. Allison (Florence) recalls the day Harry was born.² Apparently, her father, James Little, and Thomas had gone to a cheese meeting that day; they were brothers-in-law and lived across the road from each other. Ellen, realizing that the birth of the baby was near (sooner than expected), sent Willie over to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Little, for help. Mrs. Little let him in, and busied herself making him comfortable, for he was but a bit past two years, and never looked across the road where Ellen was waving urgently from the door. So the baby was born, as Harry himself has said, on the kitchen floor of the farm home.

Harry was only four months old when his mother died, and his Wilson grandparents raised him until he was about nine years old, at which time his father wanted him to come with him to help. At this time, he was farming in West Oxford (the Way farm). Harry, however, always had a very strong affection and a close relationship with the Wilsons' for the rest of his life.

On February 21, 1912 he married an Ingersoll girl, Mobra Pearl Proconier. At this time his father owned a large farm north of Ingersoll and Harry was working for him. He continued to work on the farm for about a year after they were married, then he and Pearl moved to Ingersoll where he worked for the Massey-Harris Implement dealer for two years.

He then bought the farm on Highway 19 from his uncle John Banbury, and farmed there all his life. The children, Margaret Helen born January 31, 1916; Ina Pearl born August 24, 1917; Jack Manuel born October 27, 1920; and twin boys Richard Henry and Frederick Claude born April 9, 1924, were all born on the farm.³

Harry was killed when struck by a car on the highway in front of his home January 21, 1966, at age 78. It was a snowy evening and he walked out to get the paper.

1. Jean and LeRoy interviewed, March 27, 1977.

2. Mrs. Allison interviewed July 5, 1977.

3. Information from Helen, interviewed March 4, 1977.

Pearl died May 22, 1973, at age 84. They are buried in the Wilson family plot at the Harris Street Cemetery. Their son Rich, a bachelor, now owns the farm.

Characteristics of Thomas Banbury

He was of medium build, about 5' 10" tall. He dressed very well, was always well groomed and had a flair for style. Thomas was a very meticulous man. His driving horse, a chestnut hackney, was carefully groomed, and he had the newest type of spindle spoked rubber tired buggy which was always washed and polished. He had the finest that money could buy. One person said of him, "He was alright on the big things, but he was terribly fussy about the little things."

Orris Lackie,¹ now of Mt. Elgin, who worked for him in 1915 when he farmed north of Ingersoll, recalled he found Thomas was a "pretty good man" to work for. He recalled that Thomas had suffered a severe cut at the back of his heel in an accident with a mower knife, and he limped slightly afterwards.

Thomas was active in lawn bowling and curling, and also loved to go downtown in the afternoon (usually to T.N. Dunn's) to pass the time of day. His life-style did not go over very well with the Wilsons who referred to him as "Old Tom Banbury."

Thomas was a member of the Methodist Church, Ingersoll, and on a Sunday morning would proudly drive his spirited horse and fine buggy into town to church. He never learned to drive a car, nor did he ever own one.

Ellen's Untimely Death

Ellen, some say, was not too well after the birth of her first child (1885). This was supported by the fact that when Thomas' father-in-law, Richard Wilson, bought a large cemetery plot (3 lots for \$30.00) toward the northeast side of Harris Street Cemetery, on May 1, 1887, Thomas went in with him and bought one lot for \$10.00, to form a large square 32-plot lot.

And then whether the unattended birth of the second child, Harry, led to complications is not known. There is a tradition that she may have been suffering from tuberculocis. I personally wonder if it might have been diabetes. At any rate, shortly after the baby's birth her health deteriorated, and she went to stay with her parents. There she died March 17, 1888,² at the age of only 26 years. The obituary states, "it was not thought she was dangerously ill, until a few days before her death."³ Mrs. Allison recalls that Thomas and her (Mrs. Allison's) parents went over to the Wilsons to see her almost daily during her illness, and one day Ellen sent word home that she wanted some stockings and other clothes from home, for she thought she would need them soon. So the next day they took the requested clothes with them when they went, but when they arrived at the Wilson home, the crepe was on the door. Ellen had died through the night.

The funeral was held from the Salford Methodist Church (the old one located across from the Baptist Church). The Rev. John Hockey, minister of Salford, conducted the service, assisted by Rev. T.A. Moore, a former student minister of Salford, serving at Princeton at that time (elected Moderator of the United Church in 1932) and Rev. Bridgeman of Ingersoll. The newspaper obituary said of Ellen, "She was a fine Christian lady, ready and willing to

1. Interviewed in 1978, died in 1979.

2. Date from Wilson family Bible and tombstone marker.

3. Obituary in Ingersoll Chronicle, 1888.

go to Jesus." She was laid to rest in the Wilson family plot at Harris Street Cemetery, the first to be buried in the large plot bought by her father, Richard Wilson, and her husband, Thomas, less than a year previous. Her plot is in the northwest section of the plot, and Thomas had this epitaph inscribed on the north face of the monument.

"Jesus has called the mother home,
Her flesh lies mouldering in the tomb.
God grant her offspring may be blessed,
And meet her in eternal rest."

The Silver Tea Service

The Wilsons had given Thomas and Ellen a splendid silver tea service as a wedding present. When Ellen died, her mother, Catharine, took it back temporarily, much to the consternation of the Banbury family. The Wilsons believed that this gift should be passed on to William and Harry, not to the subsequent family of Thomas, should he remarry. So the tea service was later divided, half given to William and half to Harry. William's daughter, Jean, now has the silver tea pot and cream pitcher, and Harry's daughter, Helen, has the large coffee urn, a casserole holder, a pickle cruet and syrup pitcher; these being a cherished family heirloom.

Thomas Buys a Farm; Remarries

Thomas, after the death of Ellen, stayed on the home farm awhile with his younger brother Joseph and his aged mother. But he was looking for a place of his own, for Joseph now had decided to farm--he had considered becoming a dentist. Thus on March 10, 1891, Thomas bought a farm located at Lot 19, Concession 3, West Oxford on 19 highway (across west from his Uncle John's), where Frank and Currie Way now farm. Thomas bought this farm, containing 93-3/4 acres from Mr. Wilkinson at a price of \$5700.00. At that time, the farmstead was where the Meads now live; the house is basically the same today as it was in Thomas' day, and the barns located in approximately the same place as the new barn is today.

So Joseph farmed the Banbury home farm, and when his mother died in 1891, he was left the farm on condition he make payment to his brothers and sisters. With their signing a quit claim deed August 25, 1894,¹ Joseph became the sole owner. He farmed it until 1934, when he let the farm on shares and retired to Ingersoll.

After his death, his son, Ralph became the owner on September 8, 1952. Ralph, who worked for the Ontario Department of Agriculture, rented the farm out until 1963, when he sold it.

The main structure of the house is much as it was, but the barn suffered damage in the hurricane storm January 26, 1978, and the upper structure was taken down in 1982.

Now back to the story of Thomas. In the fall of the year that he bought his West Oxford farm, he married Mary McDonald (born May 21, 1864), daughter of John and Elizabeth McDonald. The wedding took place October 21, 1891, in Ingersoll. The age of the bride was 28 and the groom's age was 30.²

1. Land Registry Office.

2. Ontario Archives, Toronto, researched August 11, 1977.

Their Family

1. Thomas Roy

Their first child, a boy, was born the next year after their marriage. Born at the farm home November 8, 1892, he was named Thomas Roy, the fourth generation of Thomas Banburys', although he was always known as Roy. He stayed with his father after his mother's death when he was just four, went through high school, served in World War I and earned a degree in engineering at the University of Toronto.

He married a girl named Isobel Faskin, of a wealthy family on June 23, 1919, and had one child, Mary Isobel, born September 2, 1922. They made their home in Toronto.

Roy and Isobel were divorced about 1946, and Roy then married Edna K. Hyde in 1950. They made their home in Toronto.¹ Edna, his second wife, soon died, however in about 1952.

Roy married his third wife, Bessie Joyce, on September 29, 1956. They lived in Mississauga. Roy had a stroke in the mid 70's, and his wife Bessie cared for him until he died January 11, 1981 in his 89th year.

2. Mary Edna

Thomas and Mary's second child, a daughter, was also born at the farm home. She was born February 17, 1895, and was named Mary Edna. After her mother, Mary, died when she was one year old, she was taken into the home of Anna (Thomas's sister) and Samuel Gregg (Samuel was Ellen's mother's brother), who raised her as their own.

Edna married George Bartlett of Ingersoll, August 20, 1918. They had two children, Barbara Elizabeth born December 18, 1922, and a son, George Philip, born September 3, 1929 (who died at three months).

Edna died October 29, 1975, in Ingersoll.

Mary Dies Giving Birth to Third Child

The third pregnancy of Mary occurred the next year after Edna's birth. She went into labour at the farm home February 5, 1896, but she encountered a difficult delivery. Thomas, it is said, went frantically around trying to summon aid saying, "Can't somebody help, can't somebody help her!" Tragically before the baby could be delivered, both the mother and baby were dead. The baby, a girl, was unnamed.

Mary was buried beside Ellen, Thomas' first wife, in the Banbury section of the Wilson plot, at Harris Street. She was only 31 years old.

Thomas continued farming at this farm after his wife's death and had housekeepers to look after the housework. One housekeeper, hired to Thomas as a single girl, had a child whom she secretly kept with her, and when Thomas at length found out about it, he soon sent her packing.

As mentioned, Thomas didn't try to keep his one year old daughter Edna, who went to live at her Aunt Anna's, but he had William, now aged about 11, and Roy age 4, and also at this time he brought Harry age 9 from his grandparents to join the family again. Harry and William went to S.S. 2, West

1. Information received in correspondence with Mrs. G. (Linda) Freypons, 1978.

Oxford school, and are in a school picture.

Thomas Sells This Farm; Buys Another

Thomas sold the West Oxford farm on April 2, 1900 to Thomas Banfield for \$7500.00.¹ Banfield sold it in 1902 to George Way. George was Banfield's son-in-law, having married Banfield's only child Henrietta. He built a new red brick house a considerable distance north of the original home. Formerly, a cheese factory (The Wilkinson Factory) once stood just east (nearer the highway) of this house. George Way's son Frank and grandson Currie now own this farm.

On April 6, 1901, Thomas bought a large farm just north of Ingersoll from Mrs. Ann Allen for \$9,000.² It consisted of 142 acres of parts of Lots 11 and 12, Concession 3, North Oxford. It had a large two-story frame house and a large tee-shaped barn, which could tie 50 cows, as well as pens for young stock, pigs and horse stalls. There was also a large square wooden silo, and the farm had a lovely flowing spring well.³ The large barn burned in the late 1920's, long after Thomas had sold the farm.

Marries a Third Wife; She Soon Dies

Thomas married a neighbour lady, Margaret Cairns, in 1907. Her parents were Richard and Margaret Cairns. Her brother is said to have worked for the Ingersoll newspaper. Within about a year of their marriage, she came down with a heavy cold, insisted on continuing doing the housework, and developed pneumonia, from which she died May 12, 1908 at age 41. She is buried in the Cairns' plot in Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Takes a Fourth Wife

Once again Thomas was alone with his boys. But he was not one to live without womanly companionship. His son Harry, who worked with him on this farm until 1913, commented that his father spent so much time courting that he didn't have enough time to look after the farm. It is about this time that Frances E. Edwards comes onto the scene. It is said that she kept house for Thomas before they were married. She was a young, attractive auburn haired girl, daughter of James Edwards and Elizabeth Wood (she was born at Brantford)⁴ Shortly after Harry left the farm, Thomas let the farm on shares and moved to a house at 285 Wellington Street, Ingersoll, where he lived but a short time; then moved to a home at 467 Ingersoll Avenue, Woodstock.⁵ Perhaps it was while he lived here that he married Frances on December 24, 1914. The marriage took place in Toronto. Why in Toronto? Perhaps her parents had moved there. Thomas' age was given as 45; Frances was 25.⁶ But this doesn't add up--did Thomas take 10 years off his age, or was it an error in recording?

In 1915, when Orris Lackie went to work for him, Thomas and Frances came back to the farm, and Thomas began to increase his dairy herd. Orris remembers helping drive a herd of cows from the other side of Tillsonburg, along the highway to the farm. Frances' sister, Marjorie, lived with them and went to high school in Ingersoll. Orris commented that Thomas acted quite sporty and young around his young wife, and used to say "Dearie this, and dearie

1. Land Registry Office.

2. Land Registry Office.

3. Recalled by Orris Lackie, who worked there.

4. Ontario Archives, researched September 6, 1977.

5. The order of the Ingersoll, Woodstock moves is not certain.

6. Ontario Archives.

that".

Orris joined the army in 1916, and Thomas decided to sell out, had an auction sale October 24, 1916, and sold the farm to Richard Archer on November 15, 1916 for \$16,300.¹

A Daughter is Born

On the very day of Thomas' auction sale (October 24, 1916), his wife gave birth to a daughter who was named Sarah Eunice. Calculations show that Thomas was 57 then. Eunice, as she was called, married William Wells October 28, 1940, and lived in Toronto and had two daughters. She died of cancer February 11, 1973.

Moves to Toronto

After selling the farm, Thomas and Frances and baby lived in Ingersoll for several years. For a short time in the early '20's, Thomas and family went out to live on the farm again (Archers still owned it).

Then in about 1924, they moved to Toronto and bought a fine large home on Hillsdale Ave. in North Toronto. Roy was living there then, and Frances liked the city life. Also, she was a dressmaker, so perhaps she wanted to go there for better opportunities to work. And work she did, for what seemed like a sizable retirement fund was soon depleted, and Frances made dresses and took in boarders to make ends meet. Thomas did not adjust very well to the big city life.

Eunice went to North Toronto Collegiate, and there met her future husband, William Wells.

His Death

Thomas lived to be a fairly old man, and when his health failed, they moved to an apartment, then for his last few years he was put into a nursing home. Towards the last his mind went on him, and he died in Toronto at age 85 on February 27, 1944. The funeral, however, was held at the farm home of his son William at Thamesford. He was buried in the plot beside his first two wives at Harris Street Cemetery.

His widow Frances continued to live in Toronto until her death on April 4, 1956, age 67. Her funeral was from a funeral home in Toronto, and she was cremated.

Commentary

When the name of Thomas Banbury is mentioned, the comment is often made that he was the man who had four wives. But is the grief and heartbreak that this man endured ever considered? And he still went valiantly onward. Perhaps his many moves were his attempt to leave behind grievous memories and to begin again. What would have been, had fate been kinder to him?

And finally, this comment made by his son Harry, is one that says much about the man. Harry said that in all his father's relations with his children

1. Land Registry Office

and with the families involved in his various marriages, he tried hard to be very fair and treat everyone equal. A fine tribute.

DESCENDANTS OF ELLEN WILSON AND THOMAS BANBURY

1. Ellen Wilson, b. April 4, 1861; d. March 17, 1888;
Married November 14, 1883
Thomas Samuel Banbury, b. September 17, 1859; d. February 27, 1944

Children: 2

1. William Wilson, farmer, b. August 24, 1885; d. April 5, 1964
Married April 8, 1908
Rose Ermal Taylor, B. August 13, 1886; d. February 12, 1952

Children: 1

- Marion Jean, b. May 23, 1915; adopted 1917;
Married February 1, 1936
Harold LeRoy Wilson, b. October 2, 1910; d. December 20, 1979

Children: 2

1. Ronald William, Thamesford, salesman, b. January 2, 1944;
Married May 9, 1964; divorced 1975
Marilyn Joan Leafsteadt, b.

Children: 2

1. Randall William, b. May 15, 1967
2. Robert Scott, b. June 9, 1969

2. Bonnie Dianne, Thamesford, hairdresser, b. May 26, 1949;
Married July 17, 1971
Beverly Allen Martin, b. December 28, 1948

Children: 2

1. Jeffery Allen, b. September 17, 1974
2. Jennifer Lynn, b. February 11, 1976

2. Richard Henry (Harry), farmer, b. November 9, 1887; d. January 21, 1966;
Married February 21, 1912
Mobra Pearl Proconier, b. July 12, 1888; d. May 22, 1973

Children: 5

1. Margaret Helen, West Oxford, housewife, b. January 31, 1916;
Married January 16, 1940
Cecil Walter Wilson, b. April 23, 1916; d. January 21, 1984

Children: 1

1. Ellen Marie, Woodstock, nurse, b. February 21, 1941;
Married August 18, 1961
James Donald Town, b. September 23, 1937

Children: 3

1. James Donald, b. June 8, 1963

2. Jon Douglas, b. May 29, 1965
3. Jeffery Duane, b. June 5, 1968

2. Ina Pearl, R.R. 4, Ingersoll, housewife, b. August 24, 1917;
Married July 12, 1941
Ray Albert Sadler, b. May 15, 1918; d. August 5, 1979

Children: 2

1. Sharyn Rae, secretary, b. March 13, 1945;
Married November 18, 1966
Harry Edmond Richmond, b. 1945
Divorced, 1973

Sharyn remarried, 1973
Larry James Lee, b. December 6, 1945

Children 1:

1: Christopher James, b. December 20, 1973

2. Steven Paul, Montreal, electrical engineer, b. June 2, 1958;
Married January 18, 1986
Leslie Ann Lake, b. October 3, 1959

3. Jack Manuel, Woodstock, factory worker, b. October 27, 1920;
Married July 9, 1949; divorced 1959
Doris Elizabeth Dennis, b. December 22, 1928

Children: 2

1. Gerald Dennis, Mt. Elgin, b. September 7, 1949;
Married October 16, 1970
Joyce Lenore Zavitz, b. February 19, 1953

Children: 4

1. Shelley Anne, b. January 6, 1971
2. Denise Marie, b. May 30, 1974
3. Steven Christopher, b. January 27, 1979
4. Sara Jane, b. August 26, 1985

2. Rockford Wayne, Ingersoll, b. May 9, 1951;
Married August 28, 1976
Diane Lynn MacGinnis, b. August 4, 1954

Children: 3

1. Clinton Wayne, b. September 25, 1978
2. Blake Thomas, b. November 16, 1980
3. Garth Elliott, b. July 29, 1986

4. Richard Henry,(twin) R.R. 4, Ingersoll, farmer, b. April 9, 1924
5. Frederick Claude,(twin) R.R. 5, Ingersoll, painter, b. April 9, 1924

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BANBURY AND MARY McDONALD

Thomas Samuel Banbury, b. September 17, 1859;
October 21, 1891 (Second Marriage)
Mary McDonald, b. May 21, 1864, d. February 5, 1896

Children: 3

1. Thomas Roy, b. November 8, 1892; d. January 11, 1981;
Married June 23, 1919
Isobel Faskin, b. October 18, 1896

Children: 1

1. Mary Isobel, b. September 2, 1922;
Married March 27, 1945; divorced
Jack McCauley, b.

Children: 2

1. Mary Lynn, b. September 2, 1947;
Married October 16, 1967
Richard Dodds, b.

Children: 3

1. Carmen Lea, b. October 8, 1969
2. Lisa Nicole, b. October 14, 1971
3. Sarah Mae, b. June 7, 1974

2. Laurel Anne, b. February 8, 1952;
Married December 9, 1972
Brian Lovegrove, b.

Roy and Isobel divorced 194

Roy married September 26, 195
Edna K. Hyde, b. ; d. 195

Roy married September 29, 1956
Bessie Joyce, b.

2. Mary Edna, b. February 17, 1895; d. October 29, 1975;
Married August 20, 1918
George Bartlett, b. March 4, 1892; d. March 4, 1962

Children: 2

1. Barbara Elizabeth, b. December 18, 1922; d. January 27, 1957;
Married May 14, 1945
Harry Albert Lambert, b. October 25, 1921; d. December 15, 1968

Children: 2

1. Mary Elizabeth, b. May 11, 1946; d. May 11, 1946
2. Linda Anne, b. March 10, 1948;
Married March 28, 1970
Guillaume Ronald Freypons, b. January 7, 1948

Children: 2

1. Michael George, b. March 28, 1973
2. Robin Elizabeth, b. July 16, 1975

Harry Lambert remarried September 1, 1962
Mary Elizabeth Coughlin, b.

Children: 1

1. Sandra Lee, b. January 15, 1964
2. George Philip, b. September 3, 1929; d. December 1929
3. Female child, still born, February 5, 1896

THOMAS BANBURY AND MARGARET CAIRNS

Thomas Samuel Banbury, married 1907 (third marriage)
Margaret Cairns, b. 1867; d. May 12, 1908
No children

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BANBURY AND FRANCES EDWARDS

Thomas Samuel Banbury, married December 24, 1914 (fourth marriage)
Frances E. Edwards, b. 1892; d. April 4, 1956

Children: 1

1. Sarah Eunice, b. October 24, 1916, d. February 11, 1973
Married October 28, 1940
William Charles Wells, b. November 23, 1913

Children: 2

1. Judith Ann, b. July 19, 1947
Married May 1, 1971
George Teichman, b.

Children: 1

1. Sarah , b. July 1, 1979
2. Garron Frances, b. December 31, 1950

JOHN WILSON
February 7, 1864 - February 26, 1945

His Birth and Youth

The second child and first son of Richard and Catharine was born February 7th, 1864 and was named John - no second name. He was probably named after his maternal grandfather John Gregg. His formal education was not extensive; it is unlikely that he reached grade eight, but he had a quick mind for mental calculation and an astute eye for estimating grain in a bin or the number of acres in a field. These gifts he developed and employed in his various business endeavours. His handwriting was strong and distinctive.

Because he was the oldest, his mother would sometimes recruit him to watch the younger babies in the cradle and rock it until the baby went to sleep. The story is told of him gently blowing on their eyes so the baby would close them. Then he would leave and when his mother would reprimand him, John would say, "The baby had its eyes closed, so I left."¹

Out on His Own

Richard Wilson, John's father, helped start his sons farming on their own and in John's case, Mr. Wilson heard that a farm about 2 miles down the road was being offered for sale by auction, so he attended, and as was his custom of buying whatever he started bidding on, he came home the owner of what John was to afterwards name, "Evergreen Farm".² The date was March 5, 1886; the farm was located at lot 19 and 20, 3rd Concession, West Oxford, and contained 73-1/2 acres. The price was \$5,155 to the former owner Thomas Hesketh; in addition, Richard contracted to pay off mortgages on the property to Mary Harris \$1,150; to Reuben Smith, \$1,000; and to John Lee, \$500.³

It was to this farm John came when he was 22 years old, and began farming on his own. As this was about three years before he married, during those years he had an elderly housekeeper named Miss Julia Newton, an English lady who had known the Wilson family back in England.

John bought this farm from his parents on January 30, 1892, at a price of \$5,000.⁴ However tradition has it that Richard set each of his sons up on a farm, thus perhaps John never had to pay the \$5,000 to his father.

His Marriage

He married Florence Ella Banbury on December 26, 1888, younger sister of Thomas, the husband of Ellen Wilson, his sister. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's mother, the father having died in 1887. The marriage was conducted by the Rev. John E. Hockey, Methodist minister at Salford, assisted by the Rev. E.F. Clement. Ella was born September 16th, 1864, and was 24 years old when she was married.

A copy of an invitation to the wedding, hand-written by Mrs. Banbury in a very lovely English script, is vividly remembered by Dorothy, daughter of John and Ella.

Remnants of Ella's wedding dress were kept in a chest on the farm for many years. The dress had been a lovely shade of grey-blue velvet. A wedding

1. Information given by his daughter, Dorothy Freure, unless indicated otherwise. Dorothy interviewed October 2, 1975 and subsequent letters.
2. From "Reminiscences of the Wilson Family" as recalled by Fred Wilson, and collected and typed by Rev. R.B. Cumming.
3. Oxford County Land Registry Office.
4. Oxford County Land Registry Office.

picture of John and Ella shows her in a long, full-skirted, tight-waisted black seal coat. John wore a dark broadcloth overcoat with fur collar and a fur hat.

Ella Wilson

Ella was short, just over 5 feet, and slim. She had copper-brown hair (later pure white) and large grey eyes. She had a thin aristocratic face and a fresh complexion. After the noon-day meal was over, she always changed her dress and put on a fresh apron.

As a young child, she had thrown her wax doll out of the window of their burning house, and thus saved, she prized it until her death.

Ella completed public school and attended a ladies' school in Woodstock, where elocution and music and also painting were taught. She loved to play the piano, and many Sunday afternoons she played and sang hymns.

She had a splendid, clear speaking voice and at many concerts and social events, she was called upon to give readings. A scrapbook belonging to her still exists, which contains many poems and short stories, with moral and religious themes, as well as some humorous stories. One of her favourites was called, "The Double Cure," and she was asked to recite this piece at the Salford Christmas Concert when she was well over 70. She never forgot any piece which she had ever learned. At church her voice was distinctly prominent in prayers and psalms.¹

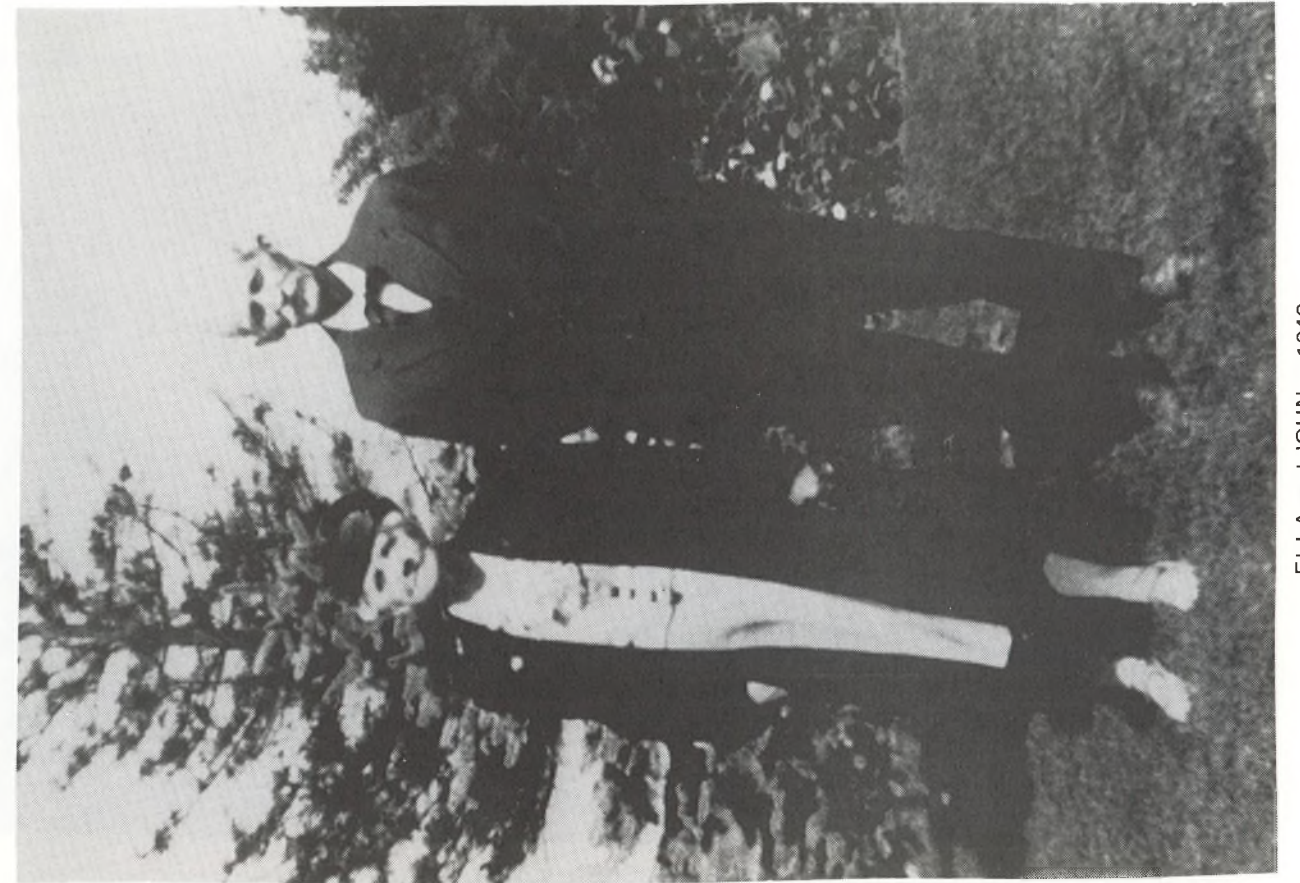
Mrs. Wilson's life was wrapped around the church and family. She and John were faithful members of the Salford Methodist (later United) Church, and they "inherited" the Richard Wilson family pew - located at the left front of the new church - after the other children had gone their various ways and the parents had died. John had helped team bricks for the new church built in 1890, and Ella was at the forefront when the church women had socials and teas to raise money for the building fund. She was active in the Salford Church women's organizations and taught Sunday School there for many years. One of her pupils was Aimee Semple McPherson.

One outstanding memory of the Wilson household was the way in which Sunday was prepared for and spent. Shoes had to be cleaned and blackened on Saturday, while Mrs. Wilson checked out the clothes of everyone to see that everything was in top shape for Sunday church service. Occasionally on a stormy Sunday morning in winter when the roads were plugged solid, everyone would gather in the sitting room where a cheerful wood fire was sending out its cheer and heat to all. Mrs. Wilson would play and the family would join in singing the familiar hymns. She would then teach a Sunday School lesson, followed by a piano solo. One of the children would gather the collection, which was added to the regular givings for the next Sunday.²

As were all the Banburys, she was a fine horsewoman. Never at a loss to harness or saddle a horse, she was always glad to gather up a load of ladies for a meeting, or go to town on an errand. She drove a two-seated yellow phaeton, which had a fringe of small tassels hanging down from the top, and a coal oil light on each side.

She was a judge for many years of the baking and preserves at Ingersoll fair and other small fairs around.

1. Remembered by Mrs. Wm. Pearson, member of Salford United Church.
2. From "Reminiscences of the Wilson Family" by Fred Wilson as above.



ELLA and JOHN - 1943
in his 80th year



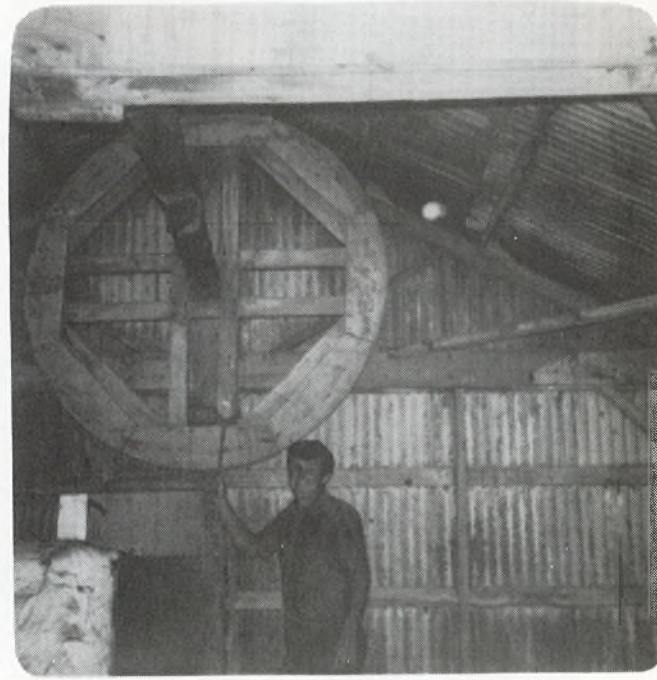
JOHN and ELLA WILSON
Wedding Picture - December 26, 1888



ELLA and JOHN - c. 1902
L to R - Brock, Fred



JOHN'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE



LIFTING DEVICE IN SLAUGHTERHOUSE
Rick Wilson in picture

Administrator of His Father's Estate

John's father, Richard, died suddenly January 22, 1896, in his 65th year. He was visiting his brother-in-law, Henry Gregg of West Oxford,¹ and it is said that he had finished his dinner, pushed his chair back from the table and lit his pipe. Suddenly the pipe fell from his hand to the floor and Richard was dead.²

Although a thorough search was made "of the places where he usually kept his valuable papers" no will was found. Richard's widow, Catharine, named John, being the eldest son, as the administrator of the estate, and on his shoulders fell the responsibility of dividing the properties according to the law of the land, and in fairness to all. The following is an inventory of Richard's property at his death:

Household furniture	\$	250.00
Farm implements		75.00
Horses		885.00
Cattle		450.00
Sheep and Swine		28.00
Book Debts and Promissory Notes		1340.00
Cash in Bank		100.00
Farm Produce of all kinds		300.00
Vehicles and Harness		100.00
8 Shares Cheese Factory Stock		45.00
Cheese in Factory		100.00
	\$	<u>2873.00</u>

Real Estate: parts of Lots 23 & 24 in First Concession of Dereham, 250 acres more or less	\$12,000.00
Pasture Lot - 32 acres in West Oxford	600.00
	<u>\$12,600.00</u> ³

There is no indication of the problems John encountered or the manner in which he divided the assets of the estate, but the fact that there are no reports of dissatisfaction from the family, would indicate that he carried out his responsibilities in a manner exhibiting good judgment and fairness.

A Man of Many Enterprises

John had many enterprises in his busy life; he had a great ability as an entrepreneur, as the following account reveals.

Dairying was, of course, always a major operation on his farm - thirty to forty cows were milked by hand (until his later years when milking machines took over.) John was acknowledged to be the best milker of anyone around, possibly because he had small, slim hands for a man of his size and they always looked clean and well-kept. His daughter Dorothy, as well as his sons, were good milkers. The milk from the farm went for many years to the cheese

1. From Funeral Home Card in possession of Mrs. Ross Shelton. Henry Gregg, Mrs. Richard Wilson's brother, farmed where Sam Crombie later farmed, now owned by Charles Shelton. Large white brick house is now replaced by a modern home.
2. Story told by Richard M. Wilson.
3. Surrogate Court of Oxford County.

factory on the Culloden Road. John served as one of the Directors of this factory from 1888 to 1918, and was president from 1903 to 1915.¹ When the factory was closed and sold in 1918, John then shipped his milk to Bordens at Ingersoll.

Apple Exporter

For years he packed apples and exported them to England and Scotland. He had an orchard at his home farm and would buy the apples from as many as 20 to 30 other orchards per season, hiring a picking crew, sorting gang and packers. A Mr. Empey was one of the chief sorters and packers. The apples were packed in wooden barrels, the tops fastened down, and branded with "John Wilson, Ingersoll." Black shoe polish rubbed over the metal brand made the lettering. They were mostly shipped to the firm of Thompson and Matheson who had receiving depots at Glasgow in Scotland and Liverpool in England. In late summer one of their agents would come over and settle on the number of barrels to be supplied and the price.

One autumn when there was an abundant apple crop, John made arrangements to ship apples to merchants in Western Canada. The sorted fruit was put in clean sacks, placed in box cars, with straw used for packing, and arrived in such good condition that repeat orders were received from the merchants. In all, 28 carloads were sent west by rail that fall.

Drover

John loved to buy and sell cattle. He would buy dairy cows in Southern Ontario, in the "sand country" in the fall, and sell them farther north, often up into the Bruce Peninsula. Besides regular auction sales at Ingersoll, held in the courtyard at the Oxford Hotel, he held sales at Owen Sound, Port Elgin and Georgetown. John would stand watching the cattle being sold with his thumbs in his vest armllets, a signal to his helpers to keep bidding up the animal. But when he lowered his hands, this meant the price was right, and the boys would quit bidding.

He would take a buyer's note for a cow, when necessary, with the understanding that he would receive so much a month when the milk cheque came. The depression years hit him very hard; it is said that he once offered \$10,000 worth of these notes for \$10. His son-in-law, Russell Freure, remembers driving him to the Owen Sound district, to try to collect money that was owing him from notes received from a number of farmers there. At each place they called, it could be seen that it would be a real hardship for the man to pay even a part of what he owed. John came home without any collections even though he himself needed that money.²

He had an uncanny ability to pick a good cow. He would walk up and down behind a row of cows in a farmer's barn and know immediately which ones he wanted. He would then make his offer, and he could recall from memory the good qualities or faults of every selection he had made. Often he kept the cows at home while awaiting resale, and milking at these times would be quite a task.

John was also called upon to judge dairy and beef cattle at various fall fairs.

1. From Factory Secretary's Minute Book, in possession of the Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum.
2. Remembered by Russell Freure, interviewed October 2, 1975.

In the Surrogate Court of the County of Oxford,

Whereas Richard Wilson, late of the Township of Dereham in the County of Oxford, and Province of Ontario, Farmer, deceased, died on or about the Twenty Second day of January, A. D., 1896, intestate, a Married Man, and had at the time of his death a fixed place of abode at the Township of Dereham, in the County of Oxford, aforesaid,
And Whereas, I, Catherine Wilson of the said Township of Dereham, am his lawful Widow,
And Whereas my son, John Wilson is one the sons of the said Richard Wilson and one of his next of kin,

Now I the said Catherine Wilson do hereby expressly renounce all my right and title to Letters of Administration of the property of the said deceased in favor of my said son John Wilson, being the eldest son of the said Richard Wilson.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Twenty Ninth day of January, A. D. 1896

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of

M. Empey

Catherine Wilson



Butcher

There is, still standing today, at the north-west corner of the barn, a small, metal building which John built to be used for his slaughter house. On Fridays, the animals would be butchered, the sides of beef, pork or lamb would be wrapped in white sheets and taken into Ingersoll Friday evening to the market square where he rented a stall. On Saturday morning, John would be up, have his horse fed, breakfast over, and be on his way by four o'clock to sell the meat to the public, some of whom would be at his stall at 5 o'clock to make their weekly purchases. If requested, the meat orders would be delivered in the small meat wagon, pulled by Maude, the driving horse, and driven by King Buchanan. Two men, Mr. Moon and Mr. John Sage, also helped John on Saturdays. The slaughter house and surroundings were regularly inspected by Government inspectors. When the wooden market stalls were replaced by the new brick market building in 1919, John discontinued his meat business, and the McMulkins then were the main butchers in town. However, John and his sons continued to do butchering for neighbours and for their own use for many years after this.

Each Christmas season, John would also have buyers purchase poultry, especially ducks and geese, which besides being sold locally, he would ship an order to Victoria, B.C. He would hire a number of people to dress and package these in wooden boxes. However, on one occasion this was a losing venture, as the car carrying the poultry was sidetracked on the way to its destination, arriving too late for the Christmas trade, with the result that the poultry had to be sold at a considerable loss.¹

Their family

The first child of John and Ella was a son named Brock Banbury Wilson, born October 20, 1893. The inclusion of Banbury in the name of the firstborn child would indicate a strong family sentiment on the mother's part.

Brock was a fine student, completing public school at S.S. 2, West Oxford. This one room school was located nearly directly one mile north of John's farm, and the children usually went up the railroad or across the fields to school because it was a much shorter route. After public school, Brock went to Ingersoll High School and then completed a course at the Woodstock Business College. But he loved the country life, and returned to the home farm where he farmed all his life. Working first with his father, then after his death, Brock and his brother-in-law Russell Freure farmed on shares for awhile. When Russell and Dorothy left, Brock surprised the neighbourhood by getting married when he was over 62 years old. On May 26, 1956, in a quiet ceremony, he married a widow named Mabel Isabella Heeney, who farmed nearby. Belle, as she was called, had continued to farm after her husband, Frank Heeney had died April 12, 1953. The Heeneys had two children, Noreen and Terence.²

Isabella was an energetic helpmate to Brock, sharing in the farmwork and chores, and with their hired man George Powell, they milked 30 - 40 cows and shipped the milk to a Toronto dairy.

However, they had but six years of married life, for Brock died February 22, 1963, of respiratory problems. Following Brock's death, Isabella continued to farm, and George Powell stayed on as hired man. When he died in May 1967, Isabella decided to sell the farm, and according to Brock's wishes, one of Fred's sons was given first chance to buy it. Richard, Fred's youngest son

1. From "Reminiscences of the Wilson Family" by Fred Wilson as above.

2. Information supplied by their daughter, Noreen Smith of Ingersoll.

was the one whom fate and fortune chose to elect as the owner of the homestead. Isabella bought a house on Holcroft Street, Ingersoll and resided there until her death on February 4, 1971.¹

The second child was named Frederick John, born June 28, 1899. He married Muriel Elizabeth Gill, December 17, 1927. A farm, called "Spruce Crest", nearly across the road from Evergreen Farm was purchased and the house completely rebuilt and brick veneered with red brick. They had four sons and two daughters, Doreen, Keith, Carl, Catherine (died in infancy), Evan and Richard. Their eldest son Keith, farmed with his father, beginning in 1951. A dairy herd of 40-50 cows was milked and the milk shipped to the same Toronto dairy as Brock did. Later, Fred and Muriel built a new home just east of the farm, on a 19-1/2 acre lot bordering on No. 19 Highway. Fred suffered a stroke on December 31, 1960, and after spending four months in hospital, he returned to his home with but partial use of his left side, which had been paralysed by the stroke. Fred died on May 15, 1966, and Muriel, who had been ill for some time, died June 25th, the same year.²

The third child, a daughter, born December 25, 1906, was named Dorothy Ella. In her early years, she took her part in helping with the various farm chores, including milking. She recalls that her father offered to pay her 1c per cow for evening milking and 2c for morning. Dorothy earned enough to buy herself a watch, milking at this rate. She attended Ingersoll Collegiate, then Westervelt Business School, and then received her B.A. degree from the University of Western Ontario. She worked for some time at Queen's Park as a secretary. She married Thomas Russell Freure, May 13, 1933. Russell is a druggist and worked as a pharmacist in Toronto, Hamilton, Tillsonburg, Kitchener London and Ottawa, where they have resided since 1955, and where Russell owns, in partnership, two drug stores. They have four children, Thomas, Wilson, Heather, and Dorothy Ellen.

The New House

The house which was on the farm when John and Ella were first married was sided with clapboard which was painted a soft pink colour - a rather unusual colour in those days. The upstairs was heated by a drum in the stove-pipe which came from the bandbox stove in the sitting room below.

In about 1911 or 1912 this house was renovated. The woodshed was taken away, the house enlarged by the addition of a large new kitchen, washroom and office; also the roof was raised, making the house a full two stories with a spacious attic. Then the house was bricked with red Preston brick. Ella re-designed the interior of the house to make the rooms more convenient and spacious, and new floors were laid with maple cut from the hard woods on the farm.

During the renovation of the kitchen, Ella cooked outside on her kitchen stove which was set up along the fence east of the house. The carpenters, brick layers and other workmen were boarded and served their meals by Ella during the construction of the house.

The Sugar Bush

Along the west side of the farm, there was a fine hard woods containing

1. Noreen Smith

2. Information supplied by their son, Keith Wilson.



BROCK and ISABELLE WILSON -- c. 1950



FRED and MURIEL WILSON & FAMILY - c. 1950
L to R - back: Keith, Doreen, Carl
front: Evan, Fred, Muriel, Richard



RUSSELL and DOROTHY FREURE & FAMILY - 1984
L to R - Thomas, Heather, Dorothy, Russell, Wilson, Dorothy Ellen

many maples which John tapped each spring. This sugar bush was known for its top quality syrup.

At the end of the syrup-making season, John would always have a "sugaring off" when he would boil down syrup in a big iron kettle. He would have pans of ice prepared and would invite the children from around to come and have taffy. When the syrup was just right (he always knew from its appearance) he would pour some over the ice and it would harden into strings of taffy. Some he would pour into saucers and it would be beaten until maple sugar would be formed. This was an annual event.

Fire Destroys Barn

The following headline appeared in an article in the Thursday, April 11th edition of the Ingersoll Chronicle in the year 1918, "Property of John Wilson, West Oxford, burned early Wednesday morning, loss estimated at over \$8,000.¹ The article stated that the fire, which occurred at about four o'clock on the morning of April 10th, had destroyed the large barn, about 40 head of cattle, one horse - the driving horse of William Chambers, who often drove Mr. Wilson on business trips - (John's work horses and his driving horse and carriages were housed in a separate horse barn, built in 1891, some distance south and east of the barn), and a pony belonging to Dorothy. Also lost was the seed grain for spring planting, and a considerable quantity of stored feed for the cattle. A load of chop, freshly ground from the mill, which had been driven onto the barn floor just the evening before, was also lost. Milk which was in cans just outside the barn doors was found to be thoroughly boiled.

Mrs. Wilson first noticed the reflection of the flames on the bedroom window, but before anyone could reach the barn the fire had made such progress and the wind was so high that nothing could be done in the way of rescue work. The loss was partially covered by insurance in the North and South Dorchester Farmer's Mutual Company.

The cause of the fire was officially listed by the Fire Marshal as spontaneous combustion, since he could find no other cause. John and the boys personally thought that it had been accidentally set on fire from a match dropped by someone stealing grain, which was very expensive at that time. The previous week Brock had found a man's mitt in the granary which did not belong to anyone at the farm.

The debris from the fire had to be cleaned away and the remains of the dead animals had to be taken away to the edge of the woods and buried - an onerous task. Soon a new steel barn was ordered from the Preston Steel Barn Company. It had steel girders instead of wooden beams. A Mr. Chris Erb from that company came to supervise the erection of the barn, which was completed that summer. Mr. Erb stayed at the house and became very fond of Dorothy, since he had no children of his own. Mr. Erb related that when he came to build the Wilson barn, he arrived by train at the Ingersoll station where he was to be met by Mr. Wilson. Very soon along came a team drawing a flat rack loaded with milk cans. This was indeed Mr. Wilson, ready to take Mr. Erb to the farm, after having been to the Condenser and unloaded his milk. When they arrived at the farm, Mr. Erb knew why there were so many milk cans, for there he saw two long rows of cows tied to fence posts, where they had been milked that morning. This was only a few weeks after John had lost his entire herd in the fire; already a new herd had been assembled.²

1. Ingersoll Chronicle, April 11, 1918.

2. Mr. Erb told this to Frank Way, for whom he also built a barn. Mr. Way farms adjacent to John Wilson. Interviewed July, 1977.

Characteristics of John

Being over 6 feet in height, John was the tallest of the Wilson brothers. He was always very slim, with slightly wavy black hair (later grey), a thin aquiline nose and light greenish eyes. He was able to read without glasses until he was nearly 80.

John always wore a black ribbon bow tie. His daughter Dorothy says that she remembers that he always wore a tie, even to the barn.

At the Wilson Christmas gatherings and other similiar events, he was always called on to carve the meat, whether it was a bird or a roast. He was very professional with the carving knife; and he was an unique figure, tall and slim, standing at the head of the table, with white apron and black tie, serving the meat.

John never went north hunting with his brothers. He was on his own, busy farming, when the hunting trips began. However, he was fond of walking and often, though tired, in the evening after milking and the chores were done, he would go for a walk, always with his hands behind his back.

He was a quiet man, but when he made a remark it was a thoughtful one. He always had time to listen to anyone who seriously wanted his attention. He did not talk about his religious views, but he attended church as long as his health permitted, sitting in the same seat where he sat with his parents as a boy.

Russell Freure, his son-in-law, recalls that John neither smoked nor drank, although he had among his acquaintances those who did both. Russell also declares that John was never known to use profane language.¹

Although a motor car (a McLaughlin) was bought soon after they became available, John himself never drove - the three children all drove. Before rural hydro became available, a Delco system was installed at the farm to provide power and light for the barns and house.

John never drove the tractor, always doing his work with horses. In fact, he cut all the hay on three farms the summer before he died, and cut it with horses.

Additional Land Bought

Shortly after the War (1914-18) a farm located across the road and a little east, was offered for sale, and John bought it from the owner Mart Williams. This was the farm that Fred took over when he was married.

Brock gradually assumed greater responsibility at the home farm, with John continuing to make his contribution of work and advice.

The property across the road consisting of 48 acres of Lot 17, was purchased. Then a 50 acre parcel of land of Lot 15 was bought and divided, with John and Brock having the front 34 acres and Fred the back 16 acre portion.

About 1930, John acquired the McKay place at Lot 18, consisting of about 75 acres. In June of 1943, the barn on this farm was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Ed Towle who worked this farm for John from 1936-1944, remembers that Ross Kilgour was contracted to build a new barn, and within two weeks it was ready to fill with hay. John was very pleased and proud of this barn.²

1. Recalled by Russell Freure, interviewed October 2, 1975.

2. Ed. Towle of Woodstock was interviewed by telephone January, 1978.

Machinery Jointly Owned

John and Brock and brother Fred owned many of the larger pieces of farm machinery jointly, and worked together seeding, haying, harvesting and other work. The first tractor owned jointly was a Hart Parr. To this day, Keith, the owner of Fred's farm and Richard, the owner of John's farm (Fred's sons), own most of the large machinery together, and still cooperate in seeding and harvesting.

Golden Wedding Anniversary - December 26, 1938

John and Ella were one of the few of the Wilson family who were spared to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their marriage. The celebration, arranged by the family, began with a Christmas-Anniversary dinner on the 25th of December, with the immediate family attending.

Then on Monday, December 26th - the wedding date - an open house was held at the Wilson home, and many neighbours, relatives and friends, in spite of a very wintry day, called to extend congratulations to the couple on the occasion.

John, dressed in his best navy blue suit, with a yellow rose in his lapel, looked very pleased and young for his age at 75.

Ella was gracefully gowned in a mauve velvet dress adorned with a corsage of yellow roses and a gold brooch.

A three tiered wedding cake, made by their daughter Dorothy, centred the table, and a piece of this cake, along with other refreshments and tea, was served to the guests by Mrs. George (Edna) Bartlett, a niece, and by Dorothy. The glowing fireplace lent a cozy air, and Muriel Wilson, daughter-in-law, played background music on the piano. Doreen Wilson, a granddaughter, was the door attendant.

Russell had decorated the large dining room with gold and white bells and streamers. Yellow roses and mums decorated the table and sideboard. John and Ella had not known of the plans until the day before, so it was a real surprise. During the course of the day they received a number of lovely gifts, beautiful flowers and numerous cards; it was an occasion of happiness and delight for the honoured couple.

John's Death

In the fall of 1944, John's health began to fail seriously, and it was decided that he would go to live with his daughter Dorothy and her husband who lived in London at that time. He gradually became weaker through the winter and when his 81st birthday came on February 7th, he was very feeble. His granddaughter Heather's birthday was the same day, and he wished to have, as usual, a birthday dinner with her and the rest of the family. For the occasion he requested roast duck, so Russell bought one, and it was prepared for the meal. But when John got to the table, one small bite was all he could eat because his appetite was ever so meager, indicative of his declining health. In spite of doctor's visits and his daughter's care, his condition worsened, and on Monday, February 26th, he died in his sleep.

As was his wish, the funeral was held from his farm home. On Wednesday, February 28th, friends were received at the Fred Newman Funeral Home,

Ingersoll, prior to the funeral. About a dozen men from the community came to the Wilson farm and hand-shovelled the lane clear of drifted snow, so that the funeral procession could get in and out of the lane. Rev. R.B. Cumming, of Salford United Church conducted the funeral, and a duet entitled "Dear Spirit, Lead Me" was sung by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Folden, unaccompanied.¹

The flower bearers were Earl, Austin and Harry Wilson and Wilson Markham; the pall bearers were William, Milton, James and Harry Banbury, Nelson and Douglas Wilson, all nephews of the deceased. Temporary entombment was at the Mausoleum, with interment at the Harris Street Cemetery, in the Wilson plot.

Mrs. Wilson Dies at 85

After John's death, Dorothy and Russell and their family moved from London to the farm in order to look after Ella and to help take care of the house. Although she was still quite active and able to do a fair share of the housework, it was felt that some additional help would be beneficial, because Brock was unmarried at this time, and was busy operating the farm.

Shortly after moving to the farm, Russell decided to try his hand at farming, and he and Brock operated the farm on shares for a few years from 1946 to 1949. Then Russell withdrew from the farm operations and went into partnership with a London pharmacist, although he and his family continued to live on the farmstead.

During these years Ella became increasingly frail, and then in 1949, she suffered a series of small strokes with Dorothy nursing her during these afflictions, until on Wednesday, July 27th, she died in the farm home where she had come as a bride nearly 60 years before. She was at her death, the oldest member of Salford Church; and of her nine brothers and sisters, only Joseph survived her.

She too, was buried from the house; the funeral being held on Friday, July 29th, with Rev. Robert Passmore, the minister at Salford officiating, and Rev. R.B. Cumming assisting. Burial was in the Wilson family plot at Harris Street Cemetery.²

The Farm Today

Fred's son Richard or Rick, as he is called, assumed possession of the farm September 1, 1967, and began major renovations of the house. He was married the following summer, 1968 and he and his wife took up residence there.³

The farm buildings have been improved and enlarged, - in 1973, a large 24' x 80' silo was built, and in 1975 a spacious implement shed was built.

At present, 60 head of registered Holsteins are milked and plans are being considered to build a milking parlour.

1. From newspaper Obituary.

2. From newspaper Obituary.

3. Rick and his wife Suzanne interviewed and pictures of farmstead taken in 1977.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND ELLA WILSON

John Wilson, farmer, b. February 7, 1864; d. February 26, 1945
 Married December 26, 1888
 Florence Ella Banbury, b. September 16, 1864; d. July 27, 1949

Children: 3

1. Brock Banbury, farmer, b. October 20, 1893; d. February 22, 1963
 Married May 26, 1956; buried - Harris Street Cemetery
 Mabel Isabella Heeney, b. May 25, 1904; d. February 4, 1971
2. Frederick John, farmer, b. June 28, 1899; d. May 15, 1966
 Married December 17, 1927; buried - Harris Street Cemetery
 Muriel Elizabeth Gill, b. January 4, 1906; d. June 25, 1966

Children: 6

1. Ella" Doreen", teacher, R.R. 6, Brantford, b. April 16, 1929
 Married July 18, 1953
 James Wilson Pate, b. November 27, 1925

Children: 5

1. Thomas Wilson, farmer, R.R. 6, Brantford, b. September 8, 1954
 Married July 13, 1985
 Myrlan Dawn Wert, b. October 31, 1957
2. Andrew "Wilson", farmer, R.R. 6, Brantford, b. July 11, 1956
 Married July 5, 1980
 Sherri Lee Passmore, b. October 14, 1957

Children: 2

1. Gregory Wilson, b. September 25, 1983
2. Mark Andrew, b. September 21, 1985

3. James Wilson, farmer, R.R. 6, Brantford, b. January 9, 1959
 Married June 11, 1983
 Heather Jane Okey, b. March 18, 1959

Children: 1

1. Christopher James Wilson, b. January 21, 1986

4. John Frederick Wilson, farmer, b. July 28, 1960
5. Bruce Wilson, b. October 5, 1967

2. John" Keith", farmer, R.R. 4, Ingersoll, b. September 15, 1931
 Married June 8, 1957
 Barbara "Louise" Zavitz, b. April 3, 1937

Children: 4

1. Dennis Keith, farmer, b. April 7, 1959

2. David Ward, farmer, b. July 18, 1962
Married September 13, 1986
Sandra Marlene Toth, b. January 19, 1965

3. Penny Louise, b. November 8, 1964

4. Amy Lou, b. July 19, 1971

3. Clifford "Carl", professor, Manhattan, Kansas, USA, b. June 20, 1936
Married September 21, 1963
Repha "Alfreda" Cole, b. November 4, 1930

Children: 2

1. John Alfred, b. April 28, 1965
2. Richard Carl, b. September 14, 1967

4. Catherine Anne b. July 28, 1938; d. February 23, 1939
Buried - Harris Street Cemetery.

5. Frederick" Evan", civil engineer, Hamilton, b. January 2, 1941
Married May 24, 1969
Ann Lenore Swance, b. September 3, 1946

Children: 4

1. Sean Evan, b. April 2, 1973
2. Laura Ann, b. June 17, 1976
3. Paula Lyn, b. December 13, 1979
4. Craig Scott, b. November 23, 1982

6. Richard Gill, farmer, R.R. 4, Ingersoll, b. June 8, 1944
Married September 7, 1986
Susanne Irene Hines, b. January 23, 1946

Children: 5

1. Lisa Marie, b. December 3, 1970
2. Catharine Anne, b. December 8, 1972
3. Carla Susanne, b. January 1, 1975
4. Darren Richard, b. September 28, 1977
5. Sarah Kathleen, b. February 20, 1982

3. Dorothy Ella, secretary, 29 Greenside Ave, Nepean, b. December 25, 1906
Married May 13, 1933
Thomas "Russell" Freure, b. March 4, 1911

Children: 4

1. Thomas Russell, salesman, b. May 19, 1934
Married August 26, 1961; divorced
Elizabeth "Joyce" Peura, b. March 19, 1938

Children: 2

1. Liisa Marie, b. August 17, 1967

2. Thomas Russell, b. June 18, 1970

2. Samuel "Wilson", Nepean, b. November 11, 1935

3. Heather Arlene, nurse, Montreal, b. February 7, 1939
Married June 16, 1962
Thomas William Barnes, b. March 15, 1938

Children: 3

1. Leah Christine, b. April 30 1964
2. Lorie Ellen, b. July 10, 1967
3. Lesley Heather, b. February 19, 1971

4. Dorothy Ellen, teacher, Toronto, b. February 25, 1942



JOHN WILSON FARM — 1982
now owned by Rick Wilson

CHARLES WILSON

May 26, 1866 - October 25, 1929

Childhood

Charles Wilson, the third child and second son of Richard and Catharine Wilson, was born on the Wilson homestead, Lot 23, North Townline, Dereham Township, on May 26, 1866. He had only one given name, Charles, and was named after his father's brother. He was baptized in the Methodist faith, and his parents were faithful members of the Salford Methodist Church.¹

He attended the Culloden Road School, S.S. 3, where a Mr. Bucknell was teacher. The pupils were often young men, and Mr. Bucknell would sometimes use his fist to discipline the rowdy ones. Some of Charles' classmates were Herb Piper and Mike Lahey. He probably did not go beyond the third or fourth book at school.

His Marriage

Charles was 24 years old when he married Margaret Louisa Case, February 25, 1891. The location of the marriage is given as Ingersoll, with Rev. J.F. Barker, pastor of the Baptist Church, Ingersoll, officiating. The attendants were George B. Jamison and Ella Maud Case.²

Louisa was born July 31, 1870, at Centreville, daughter of Wilmot Case and Ann Maria Faulkins. She had worked as a housekeeper for the Kirkwoods (next to the Baptist Church) and also for John Prouse at Prouse's Corners. It was probably while she was here that Charles became acquainted with her.

One time when Charles was visiting Louisa, one of her brothers untied his horse, and sent it home, leaving poor Charles to walk home.

Louisa

She was a tall woman - the Case family were all tall people, and rather slim. She was a gentle mannered woman. A very warm welcome greeted those who visited her home, and she was known to be a very kind, gracious person.

She would take the driving horse, Topsy, to town when she wanted to shop, and was very capable with a horse and carriage. Also, she could help milk when called upon to do so.

The Case Family

Louisa's father, Wilmot Case had first married Louisa Van Slack. They lived in Centreville, where Mr. Case was a carpenter. They were of the Baptist faith. Their children were Velinda, Henry, Harrison and William. The mother died when William was two weeks old.

1. Information supplied by his son Nelson Wilson, interviewed May 2, 1976, and by Ruth Vyse, interviewed July 19, 1976, unless otherwise indicated.

2. Marriage certificate in possession of Ruth Vyse.

About a year later, Mr. Case married Ann Maria Faulkins (her first marriage). Their children were Franklin, Rodolphus, Levi, Margaret Louisa, Ella Maud and Robert.

Mr. Case was severely injured while serving as a volunteer fireman at a fire in Ingersoll, and died shortly afterwards. His widow married Norman L. Oales at Centreville, May 6, 1889, with Rev. J.F. Barker, pastor of Ingersoll Baptist Church officiating. They moved to Ingersoll, on King Street East. Mr. Oales is believed to have owned some property in West Oxford near the Wilsons.

Mrs. Oales, in later years came to live with Charles and Louisa. She was warmly welcomed into the circle of family activities, and Granny Oales, as she was called, for many years was the "gravy maker" at the Wilson Christmas's. She died at Louisa's home from where the funeral was held March 8, 1919.

The Farm at Lot 26

Charles brought his bride to the farm at Lot 26, Concession 1, West Oxford. The farm, which was comprised of 100 acres of the north half of the lot, may have been farmed by Charles before his marriage, because his father had owned it for some time. The north-east 50 acres of it had been bought from the crown on February 24, 1855 by Thomas Holcroft, then sold to Charles Wilson (the older brother of Charles' father). Richard bought it from his brother on January 12, 1864, for \$1,012.50. The north-west 50 acres of land was bought from the crown in 1861 by John Choate, then bought from him by Richard in 1862 for \$600. It was on November 28, three years after his marriage that Charles bought this farm from his father at a price of \$4,500.¹

In 1888, 83 acres from the north end of Lot 25 was purchased by Charles from Alexander Choate for \$2,500. On this property, along the 1st Concession, was located the S.S. 6, West Oxford School, founded in 1861. In early years it was called the Choate's School. It burned on February 14, 1959 when it is believed the oil furnace exploded during the night.² A new home owned by John Leonard now stands there.

Charles served as trustee of this school for many years, and was secretary-treasurer of the board for several years. The teachers of this school usually boarded at the Wilson home.

St. Michael's Chapel

On the sideroad along the east side of this property, and towards the south end, was located an Anglican Church, known as St. Michael's in the Field. Services were usually held just once a month in its later years, with a priest coming out from Ingersoll to officiate. Sunday school, however, was held every Sunday, and Charles' son, Nelson, although raised a Methodist, recalls attending there. Arthur Crawford was S.S. Superintendent for many years. The Worths, Choates and Baileys were the main Anglican families that supported this church. It was closed and sold in 1929 to L.P. Desmond, a non-Anglican. Mr. Desmond had bought the building for \$100 to tear down for the materials, which he was going to use to build a gas station on the Hamilton Road. He issued a cheque for it and the cheque was accepted, but when demolition started, he was warned to leave the building alone. This he did, pending straightening out of the matter. However, about a week later, on the

1. Land Registry Office Records
2. Oxford County School Board Archives.



CHARLES and LOUISA WILSON
Wedding Picture - February 25, 1891



LOUISA, GRACE, NELSON, CHARLES
c. 1905



THE HOUSE ON CHARLES' FARM - 1976
Note new and old parts

night of May 7, 1929, the church mysteriously burned to the ground. There is nothing left today to mark the site.¹

Railroad Cuts Across Farm

In 1881, the Credit Valley Railroad (bought by C.P.R. in 1884) constructed a line from Ingersoll to St. Thomas, which cut across the full front of Charles' farm, between the house and the Concession road. Thus the railroad had to be crossed each time one wished to reach the road.

General Characteristics of the Farm

The farm had about 60 acres of good farming land at the north end, high ground with a gravel base. Stones were a problem on this land, and stone picking was a constant task. Austin Wilson, who spent much of his youth working for his uncle Charles, remembered picking stones, and drawing them to the woods practically all one summer.

Towards the middle portion of the farm was a fine stand of hard maples, and then southward beyond this was a large cedar swamp, through which ran a crystal clear creek, which the Town of Ingersoll leased for a water supply.

Farm Buildings

It is believed that Charles in his early years on the farm, put the barn, which measured about 40' x 85', on a stone wall. South of this barn, there was a pig pen, of which portions of the foundation remained until 1976. An interesting small stonewalled building which stood south-west of the barn was once used for an ice house. A cement silo was built about 1910. All these buildings have now been cleared away.

There was on the farm, a house of white brick, two stories high. Charles added a front portion of red brick about 1902. It consisted of a double living-dining room, and front hall downstairs, with bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. It had a slate roof. At his time, the back part was painted red to match the new red bricks.

Their Family

1. Charles Stanley. Born May 12, 1893; at an early age he was afflicted with diabetes and with no effective treatment at that time, he died on his father's birthday, May 26, 1897, at the age of four years and two weeks.
2. Nelson Wilmot. He was born October 31, 1898 and grew up on the farm, attended the nearby S.S. 6 school and went to Ingersoll Collegiate for one year. Then he worked at home for awhile, after which he found a job in town. After the family moved to town, when he was 22 years old, he found employment with Zurbrigg's Bakery, where he worked for 30 years, driving a bread delivery truck to rural customers for many of those years. Later he was secretary for the Dereham and North Dorchester Fire Insurance Co. until his retirement.

He married Helen MacKay on June 27, 1923. They had one daughter, Lenore, born March 3, 1926. In 1941 he bought the house on Wellington Street from his

1. Newspaper clipping, in scrap book of Miss Mary Wilson.

mother and made his home there. Lawn bowling and playing bridge or cribbage were his hobbies. Nelson and Helen celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1983, with a reception held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll.

On November 19, 1983, he fell while walking from their car in front of their house. He was bruised and shaken up, but no bones broken. He was taken to Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll.

He never got stronger, so on December 27, 1983, he was taken to the La Pointe-Fisher Nursing Home, Guelph and became a resident there. Their home at 307 Wellington Street, Ingersoll, was sold in 1984, and Helen located an apartment in Guelph at 309-21 Woodlawn Road.

He gradually became weaker, sometimes having small spells, but was able to get around the nursing home with a walker. When this writer visited him in March of 1985, he knew me, but said he couldn't see well enough to read much. The attendant helped him get from his walker to the dinner table.

In April of 1985, he fell and broke his hip, but after having it pinned together, he was up and going within a week.

His lungs began to become congested and on Christmas night 1985, he was taken to Guelph General Hospital where he died on January 16th, 1986.

The funeral was held from the McBeath Funeral Home, Ingersoll, Saturday, January 18, 1986 at 11 a.m., Rev. Jennings of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church officiated. He was buried in Harris Street Cemetery.

3. Grace Louisa. She was born March 31, 1901. She was stricken with appendicitis when she was ten years old. Although the doctor made a desperate effort to save her, performing an operation on the kitchen table at the Wilson home, she never recovered, and died May 15, 1911. Charles and Louisa were grief stricken by her death, and it is said that Charles spent a whole day alone in the woods in his sorrow. Thinking that another child would lessen their grief, they opened their home to a foster child about Grace's age, with the intention of adoption, but this didn't work out.

4. Ruth Helen. In the summer of 1914, Charles and Louisa adopted a baby girl born January 26, 1914, and they named her Ruth Helen. She started school at S.S. 6, then when the family moved to Ingersoll, she finished Grade 1 in the old Public School, then grades 2 to 8 in the new Victory Memorial School. After 3 years of high school, followed by a business course, she worked as a clerk in the Metropolitan Store and other stores in Ingersoll for some time. She married Cecil Vyse on August 29, 1934. After living at Mrs. Wilson's for about 3 years, they moved to the home on Cherry Street, which Cecil and his father had built. Cecil is a craftsman in handcarved furniture and he operates his own workshop adjacent to their home. Their one child, Marian Ruth, was born October 27, 1938.

The Boxing Match

It so happened, that Charles' hired man, Albert Turk, and Walt Davis, who worked for George Wilson, Charles' brother, were rivals for the affections of a local girl. When Charles heard about this, he approached his brother and they planned to have some sport by staging a boxing match between the two contenders, to determine the man to claim the girl's hand. Charles liked a boxing match, and was a pretty fair man with his fists himself, so he and George busied themselves training their men for the match. It was to be held on the barn floor at Charles' place. On the set day, the men began arriving for the event, and as the yard began to fill with carriages, Louisa became suspicious,

and on finding out the plans, quickly appeared on the scene, called the fight before it started, and dispersed the spectators with a good scolding.

Farm Operations

Charles' farm was a typical farm in those days. A herd of cows was kept and the milk was usually shipped to Ingersoll, although Nelson can remember it being taken to the Culloden Cheese Factory for a time. He recalls when this factory was reopened in about 1916, that he worked there for a summer, under Art Page, the cheese maker, and that they made up to 20 cheese a day.

Horses, pigs, chickens and sometimes a few sheep were also part of the farm stock.

Maple Syrup and Honey

Charles regularly tapped the large maple woods, numbering about 500 trees and had many regular customers for his maple syrup. Louisa would put syrup away in sap buckets with newspaper tied over the tops, and it would keep fairly well.

A specialty of his was a colony of 20 to 25 hives of honey bees. He had an extractor in the cellar of the house and carried on a small honey business.

Characteristics of Charles

Charles and Louisa were members of the King Street Methodist Church, Ingersoll, and their children were baptized as infants there. Charles served on the Board of Trustees of this Church for some time.

Charles was the smallest of the Wilson brothers, being about 5' 8" tall, and weighing only about 150 pounds. He wore a rather heavy moustache, otherwise he was clean shaven. He smoked a pipe, and when he was milking or otherwise working around the barn, he had a metal cap which could be placed on the pipe for safety. He always used Shamrock Plug tobacco which he would shave off with his jack knife when a refill was needed.

Les Nancekivell remembers the time he ran the threshing machine at Charles' place, and he recalls that every time Charles would bring a load of sheaves up from the field and have a moment's wait, he would sit down on his load of sheaves and light up his pipe. Les said he was "scared as hell he would cause a thresher fire", the great fear of all threshermen, but never did.¹

In an accident in the sawmill, he lost the end of his index finger at the first joint. This sawmill, operated by the Wilson brothers, was located on the north side of the road across from William's farm. The accident occurred one day when they were sawing pickets. Charles was taking the pickets away from the saw and as he had his hand on one, his brother George, who was operating the saw, unexpectedly backed the log carriage up a little bit, thus bringing Charles' finger against the saw.

Charles was part of the Wilson Brothers syndicate, which owned a steam engine, threshing machine and cutting box.

He was one of the five brothers, who, it is said, would climb to the top of their windmills on a quiet day, and in their sharp, twangy voices, would

1. Told by Les Nancekivell, June, 1978

holler to each other, though some of their farms were a mile apart.

Charles was known as a generous man, and probably because of this was nicknamed "Rich Man" by his brothers.¹ One example of this was demonstrated in the spring of 1918, when his brother John lost his barn, including his seed grain, in a fire. Within a couple of days, Charles pulled into John's yard with his wagon loaded with bags of grain, and said, "Johnny, here's some seed for you, you needn't worry about buying more."²

Charles liked to go to dances, and he could play a fiddle with considerable ability, even after the loss of the end of his finger.

He was very proud of a watch which his mother had given him as a boy, for lighting the fire for her.

A MacLaughlin car was bought in 1915, but Charles never learned to drive, relying on Nelson to chauffeur him.

"Up North" Deer Hunting

Fishing in the summer and rabbit hunting in the winter were sports which Charles enjoyed and found time to do. But going north deer hunting was the big event of the year, anticipated long beforehand, and reminisced upon long afterwards. It is believed the first trip north was to Burkes Falls in 1908, travelling on the train being the mode of transport in those days. The hunting gang included, besides Charles, George, William and Richard. Tom and Dick Markham and Leonard Wilson sometimes went with them.

The next year, the Wilsons went with the Verschoyle gang, which included Orrin Simmons, Charlie Williams and Doc Williams. Their camp was located on the Pickerel River and it was to this area that they returned year after year. They stayed in a cabin owned by a man names Wyms, this cabin was located about six miles up the river from the railway station. In about 1911 Charles' son Nelson, went along hunting with his father, and the next year Nels shot his first deer. The deer were plentiful in those days, with each hunter being allowed to bring home two deer.

Charles always had a hound dog, his best deer dog was named Sport, a son of Diamond (Dime for short) Rich's good deer hunting dog.

Charles' deer rifle was a Savage 303, which Nels later used and it is still in working order.

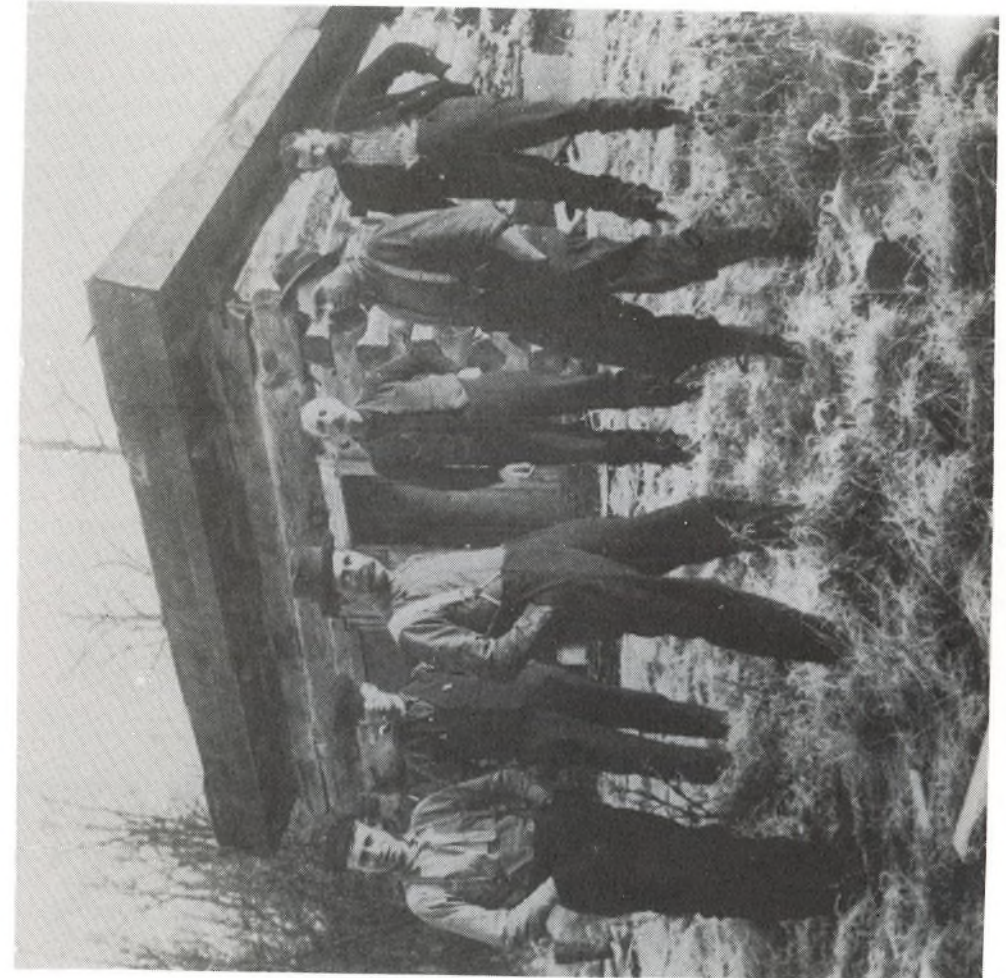
A hunting meeting was always held in advance of the trip north, and supplies would be arranged for. Charles would volunteer to supply the potatoes and the honey, and George would bring the apples.

By 1920 this gang had ceased to go north. However, in 1923, the next generation Wilson boys - Fred, Nels, Jim, Earl, Harry, (Austin was out west that year - he went north with them regularly in succeeding years) went up to this same location, but had to live in tents as the old cabin had fallen down. They stayed in tents for three years in various locations along the Pickerel, then stayed a year at Jack Welch's Kagamaga Lodge, located about two miles up the Pickerel River from the railroad crossing. Then they stayed in the office of a deserted sawmill which was no longer operating.

About 1951, they went another 7 miles up the Pickerel through Squaw Lake, where they stayed in a cabin which they rented from Jack Welch. A rugged boat trip of about 18 miles up the river was the only way to this place. This generation quit going there about 1970, but some third generation Wilsons - Robert, Charles - still go there. Now they can drive to within a few miles of the cabin, and go on by boat.

1. Nickname remembered by Wm. Pearson, who worked with the Wilsons while working for McNivens in 1911.

2. Told by Mrs. Russell Freure, John Wilson's daughter.



DEER HUNTING ON THE PICKEREL - 1912
L to R - Nelson, unknown, Charles, Dick Markham, Bill Newell, George Wilson



HAYING TIME — c. 1917
L to R - Austin, Nielson, Charles

Charles Sells the Farm

Charles' son Nelson began to work away from the farm, because the wages were better than the poor farm prices. So Charles decided to sell the farm. It was sold to Percy Langford in the fall of 1920 for \$12,500. An auction sale of all Charles' livestock and equipment was held in the month of October.

Shortly after the sale, a couple of work horses came trotting up the Wilson lane. These proved to be the faithful work team which had belonged to Charles; they had escaped from their new owner, a Mr. Pye who lived a couple of miles away, and had found their way "back home".

The neighbours held a farewell party for the Wilsons at their home, October 22, 1920, shortly before they moved, and presented Louisa with a lamp and Charles with a ring.

Mr. Langford had financial difficulties in the depression years and sold the farm to a Mr. McRoberts. He too, went under, and in 1931, Nels, as executor of his father's estate, (which held the mortgage) had the farm back on his hands. He rented it to Edgar Wessinger for several years, then rented to Bill Thorpe for about three years. It was sold to Douglas Wilson on January 19, 1955 for \$9,000.¹

Now the farm is owned by Beatty Farms Ltd. who have built a large turkey barn there. Over 15,000 white turkeys on range present an unusual sight to anyone passing by.

New House in Town

Charles had purchased a lot for \$100 at 307 Wellington Street, Ingersoll, and a new brick house was built there during 1920. Bill Wilkinson was the builder, with the brick laid by Bill MacKay. Total cost of the house was \$6,000. The family moved to their new home in November, 1920.

Town Life

Charles always kept a large garden on his spacious town lot. He worked part time for Bill MacKay, mixing mortar for him. In a letter from Mrs. Mary Wilford, to her son, Austin Wilson, who was out west, she makes the following comment about this: "Uncle Charles is still real busy carrying hod for Billie MacKay-some job for a retired farmer."²

A fun loving man, getting together with the boys for a game of cards, or fishing, and of course, hunting in the fall were his chief pastimes. He also curled in the winter.

Cecil Vyse, Charles' son-in-law, can remember Arthur Wilson, on whose farm he worked one summer, talking about Charles. Cecil asked him where Charles lived (Cecil says this was before he met Ruth, his future wife). Arthur replied that if you go down Wellington Street, and see a man sitting in his chair with his feet propped up on the railing of the veranda, and smoking a pipe, that will be Charles Wilson. Soon afterwards Cecil went that way, and sure enough, there he was exactly as described, pipe, chair and feet on the railing.³

1. Land Registry Office Records.
2. In a letter written October 14, 1923.
3. Told by Cecil Vyse, July 19, 1976.

Sudden Death

Charles was stricken with a severe stroke in October of 1929, when he was 64. For four days he lay unconscious at home, where he died October 25th. The funeral was held on Monday, October 28th, at Trinity United Church.

He was buried in the Wilson plot at Harris Street Cemetery.

His Widow

Louisa continued to live in the Wellington Street home after Charles' death. Hattie Devine (Meatherall) roomed with her for some time, and Cecil and Ruth lived there for a while after they were married. Then in 1941, Nelson bought the house from her, and Louisa moved to an apartment (1/2 of a single story double house) owned by Cecil Vyse, and located across the street from him on Cherry Street. There she spent many years, quietly reading and doing crocheting and knitting. She made two extensive trips, one to Vancouver, and one to California to visit her brother.

She had surgery for cancer of the breast at Ingersoll Hospital, just before Christmas in 1959, and after a month's stay, went to Nelson and Helen's, where, with the help of their daughter, Lenore, a registered nurse, her recovery from the operation was described by Dr. Cornish as being his prize example.

In time she would walk with the aid of a cane, although she remained weak, and never again could climb stairs.

In the autumn of 1960, she went to Ruth and Cecil's and stayed there 21 months. In the summer of 1962, her general health failed and she went to Ingersoll Hospital where she died October 30, 1963, at the age of 93. A post mortem showed no trace of cancer.

The funeral was held from the McBeath Funeral Home, November 1st, with Rev. King of Trinity United Church officiating. Interment was in the Harris Street Cemetery.



CHARLES' NEW HOUSE
on Wellington Street
Nels and Helen - 1976

DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES AND LOUISA WILSON

Charles Wilson, farmer, b. May 26, 1866; d. October 25, 1929, buried- Harris Street Cemetery;

Married February 25, 1891

Margaret" Louisa" Case, B. July 31, 1870; d. October 30, 1963.

Children: 4

1. Charles Stanley, b. May 12, 1893; d. May 26, 1897, buried- Harris Street Cemetery.

2. Nelson Wilmot, bread delivery man, b. October 31, 1898; d. January 16, 1986, buried- Harris Street Cemetery;

Married June 27, 1923.

Helen Jean McKay, b. April 5, 1901

Children: 1

1. Helen May" Lenore", Guelph, nurse, b. March 3, 1926,
Married October 10, 1962

Stanley Scott Bland, b. April 22, 1922

2. Grace Louisa, b. March 31, 1901; d. May 15 or 16, 1911

3. Ruth Helen, 156 Cherry St., Ingersoll, housewife, b. January 26, 1914;
adopted by Charles & Louisa, March, 1914,

Married August 29, 1934

Cecil Clayton Vyse, b. June 3, 1912

Children 1

1. Marian Ruth, 879 Parkhill Rd. W., Peterborough, secretary,
b. October 27, 1938,

married September 5, 1959

Clifford James McCollow, b. March 12, 1934

Children: 2

1. Kevin James, b. April 5, 1967

2. Louise Elizabeth, b. September 14, 1969



NELSON, LENORE, HELEN
on steps of their home
50th Wedding Anniversary - June 27, 1973



HELEN and NELSON - 60th ANNIVERSARY
Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll - 1983

GEORGE WILSON
October 10, 1868 - April 10, 1927

Third Son

Born October 10, 1868 at the Wilson homestead, the third son of Richard and Catharine Wilson, was named George; he had no second name.¹ The name George was chosen, probably after Catharine's oldest brother, George Gregg. The name is derived from two Greek words, ge - earth, and orgeo - to work, or in other words, farmer, which was quite appropriate to him.²

George was nicknamed "Pud" (rhymes with hood) by his brothers. This name it is thought, came from the rhyme "Georgie, porgie, puddin and pie". However it may well have been given to him because he tended to be on the stout side. He attended S.S. 3 Public School, it is believed that he completed grade 8.

A story is told about one time his younger brother caught him smoking behind the barn, and to add emphasis to his report, he told his parents "George both chewses and smokeses".

George was a willing worker on the home farm, and he was the main driving force in the building of the combination horse barn and drive shed, located directly south of the house. This was built shortly before he was married, and just before the main barn was enlarged in 1896, so probably it would be around 1894.³

Marriage to Maria Nancekivell

George, at age 26, was at the point where it was time to think of getting married. So he considered the eligible girls of the immediate vicinity, and hit upon Maria (always pronounced with a long "i") Nancekivell, who lived a mile south, and a little west, at Lot 27, Concession 1, Dereham (where O'Neills farmed until recently) whom he knew from school days at #3. So he went over to her place, proposed to her and she agreed.⁴ Marriage plans were made, and they were wed April 3, 1895 at the home of Maria's parents, Thomas and Harriet (Rice) Nancekivell. Officiating was the Rev. Charles Deacon, minister of Ebenezer Church, which the Nancekivells attended. Rev. Deacon had been minister at Salford from 1890-93. Attendants of the bride and groom were Josephine Nancekivell, sister of Maria; and Leonard Wilson, brother of George.

George had bought the marriage licence about a week prior to the wedding day, and gave Maria's age as 26, which she was then, not thinking that she would turn 27, April 1st, two days before their marriage. She often kidded her husband about putting her wrong age on the license.

It is said that some of the Wilson boys and Maria's brothers took George out the night before his wedding, and had him celebrate with some "spirits". Maria heard about it the next day and was considerably vexed with such behaviour. However, the wedding still went on, although it was a little later than scheduled, so that George could be straightened up.⁵



RUTH, MARION and CECIL VYSE
1985

1. Information obtained from Florence Shelton, his daughter, interviewed November 30, 1977 and from Douglas Wilson, son, interviewed April 30, 1978. All the information in the George Wilson story was obtained from the above people, unless otherwise indicated.

2. Greek translated by Roger McCombe, Classics teacher at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

3. Information from Richard M. Wilson.

4. Told by Nelson Wilson.

5. Told by Nelson Wilson.

New Farm in West Oxford

The newlyweds went immediately to the groom's 100 acre farm located at the north half of Lot 23, Concession 1, West Oxford. This was on the south-west edge of Ingersoll. George had just bought this farm the month prior to his marriage, signing the transaction March 23, 1895 between himself and Thomas Brown for the price of \$5,500.¹ Douglas says that George's father, Richard paid the \$5,000; and George paid the \$500, which apparently was a mortgage Mr. Brown owed on the property.

Description of Maria

Maria was born April 1, 1867 and came from a family of nine children, as did her husband. Her sisters were Fanny, Hattie, Josephine and Florence; her brothers were Thomas, William, Rueben and Theodore.

She was fair skinned, her hair was brown and curly. She was slim when young, but later put on some weight.

When she was young she sang in the Ebenezer choir, and after her marriage, she and George went to the King Street Methodist Church regularly, and Maria taught Sunday School there for some time. She saw to it that Sunday was kept very strict, no work except what was absolutely necessary, she wouldn't let the girls even touch a pair of scissors on Sunday. At syrup making time, Maria wouldn't let the men boil or gather sap on Sunday. However, if the sap was really running fast, and the buckets were running over, she would allow the men to even them out.

She also strongly believed dancing or drinking or playing cards were evils to be shunned. She wouldn't allow a deck of cards in the house, and Floss to this day can't play cards with a clear conscience.

Maria was a very industrious worker, and very frugal. She would work late into the night, mending, or knitting, or canning. The cellar shelves would be filled to the ceiling with jars of preserves, nothing was allowed to go to waste, it was put away for future use. George liked his canned fruit well sweetened, a pound of sugar for a pound of fruit was his wish, he wanted it as sweet as honey.

Maria could take the buggy and the driving horse - a bay - to town when necessary. She never learned to drive a car.

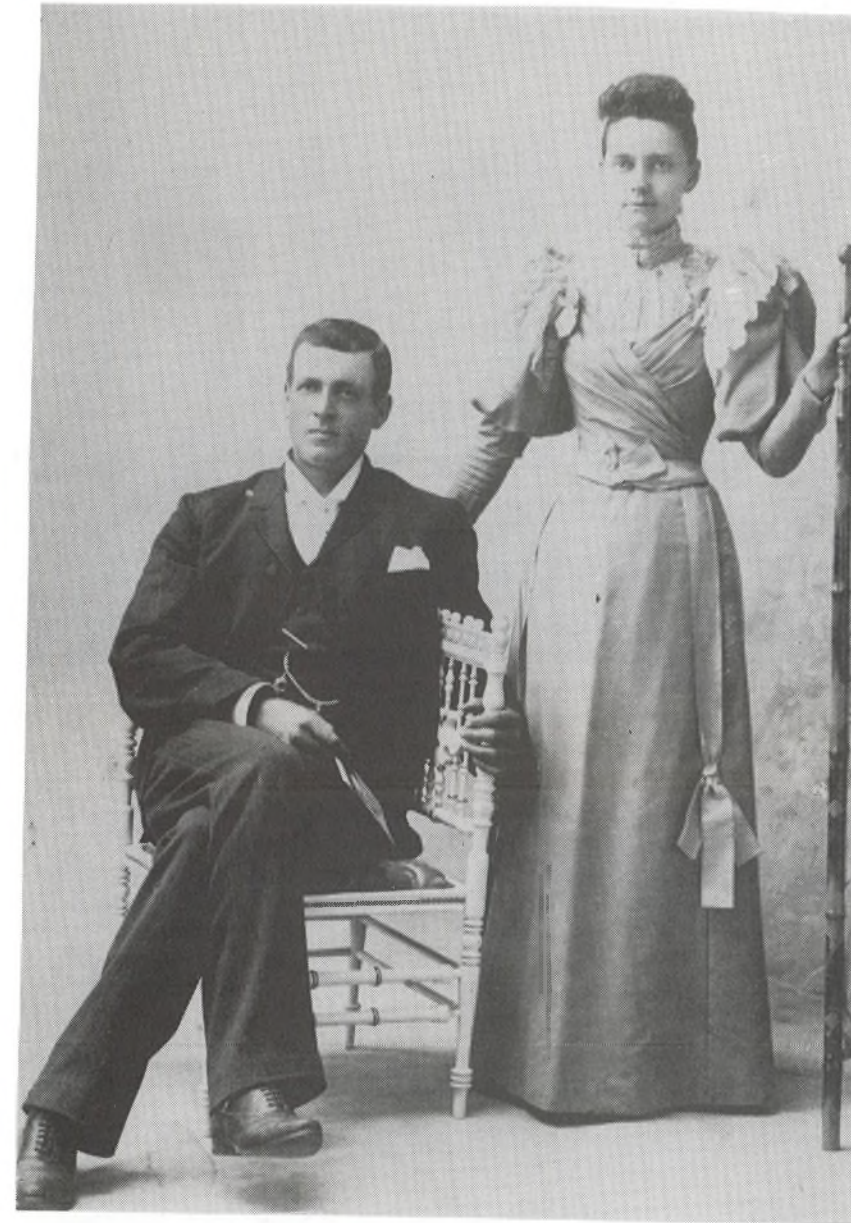
Description of George

He was the largest of the Wilson boys, a heavy framed man of about 200 pounds. He had dark hair, a bit wavy. He was a quiet man, quite easy going, not easily ruffled. He loved to go deer hunting every fall, otherwise he didn't take very many days off; didn't fish or go to ball games. His guns were all stolen from the house when Douglas was living alone on the farm.

George had an asthma condition, that would especially bother him in the frosty weather, or when he had been exposed to dust or ragweed. He would get a type of ground weed called "Asthma Relief" which he smoked in a pipe, it was supposed to help him to breathe easier. He chewed tobacco also, much against his wife's wishes, perhaps his young brother years before had spoken the truth!

He was a hearty eater, he loved fruit and pie topped with maple syrup.

1. Oxford County Registry Office



GEORGE and MARIA WILSON
Wedding picture - April 3, 1895



GEORGE and MARIA WILSON & FAMILY -- c. 1916
standing: Hazel, Thomas, Douglas
seated: George, Florence, Maria



GEORGE WILSON HOUSE -- built 1905

He liked his potatoes and other vegetables smothered with butter. Another favourite was scalded cream. Milk would be placed in pans, and heated until the cream solidified on top. Then it would be skimmed off and eaten, sometimes alone, most often on pie or fruit, much as ice cream is eaten today.

George had a pocket watch which his father had given him before he was married. His father, Richard bought this watch from a school teacher who taught at S.S. 3, and boarded at the Wilson's. Douglas still has this watch, an "American Waltham", which still is in good running order.

Their Family - George and Maria had four children.

1. Douglas Richard - The first child, a son, was born June 26, 1896. He finished grade 8 at S.S. 6, West Oxford, then stayed home to work on the farm. He did much of the work with horses around the farm, because neither his father nor his brother cared that much about driving them. He was over 30 when his father died, still not married. Douglas did have girl friends, a Miss Fewster, and Jean Gall, whom he courted seriously until she began to make plans about how they would fix the house over when they got married, and suggested that wedding plans be made. This scared Douglas off, and he terminated the romance.

He was a steady, hardworking farmer, devoting his whole life to the farm and the dairy cows. He expanded his land holdings when he bought his uncle Wm. Nancekivell's 120 acre farm at the auction sale in about 1950, for \$9,000. He made a good profit on this property when he sold it to the town of Ingersoll for \$20,000 in the 1960's. He also bought his Uncle Charles' farm from Nelson in 1955 for \$9,000, here too he cashed in by selling it in the late 1960's for \$28,000. For some time Doug had a hired man on each of these three farms, each milking a dairy herd for him.

After his mother died and he continued to live alone on the home farm, he was the target for robbers. Twice he was held up and robbed, the second time on March 4, 1973, when he was 77 years old, his assailants suprised him in the kitchen of his home, tied him to a chair, hit him on the head with a block of wood, inflicting a cut requiring 5 stitches. They stole his wallet, ransacked the house, and took off with his car. He finally was able to extricate himself from the ropes and report to the police, who found the car in London, but the culprits were not apprehended.

On October 6, 1973, he suffered dizzy and fainting spells, caused by a slight stroke, and spent 3-1/2 months in the hospital, and from there was taken to Faith Haven Nursing Home on December 28, 1973.¹ When the new Oxford Regional Home at Ingersoll was opened in June of 1975, he became one of the first residents of it.² He fell there September 30, 1979 and broke his hip. He died October 2nd and is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

2. Thomas George - Born July 23, 1899, he started school very young, probably about five, because his mother didn't like Douglas going over to the S.S. 6 alone, so Thomas was sent along.

He didn't get his grade 8, worked at home awhile, then worked for his uncle, Wm. Nancekivell in 1915-18, returning to the home farm after the war ended. He thought he would like to farm on his own and bought a 100 acre farm at Lot 26, Concession 1, West Oxford, from his cousin Austin Wilson, on September 2, 1927, but changed his mind almost immediately, and cancelled the

1. Dates supplied by Eleanor Banbury from her diary.
2. Douglas was interviewed in June, 1978.

deal.¹

He married Elsie Marguerite Odell, born August 13, 1903, at Trinity Church, Ingersoll, on October 10, 1927. They lived in rented houses for some time, while Thomas worked at various jobs, a short time at a service station, then with Bill McKay, bricklaying. His Uncle Charles Wilson also worked with Bill McKay.

Then he went to work at Bordens about 1930, and worked there until he retired in 1965. A home was bought at 115 Francis Street, Ingersoll, in 1933. He suffered from heart trouble the last four years of his life and went to hospital in January, 1976, where he died February 25, 1976. His widow still lives in the home on Francis Street.

Thomas and Elsie had a family of two daughters, Marion Elizabeth, born March 10, 1930; and Margaret Ann, born January 4, 1941.²

3. Hazel May - Born December 30, 1901, she completed grade 8 at S.S. 6, West Oxford, then stayed home to help with the housework. She met her future husband, Charles Henry Banbury, through the efforts of Fred Wilson who was a cousin of them both. They were married February 15, 1928 at Trinity Church, Ingersoll.

Henry, as he was called, born January 12, 1893, in Dereham Township, had bought a 100 acre farm north of Princeton at Lot 14, Concession 1, Blenheim Township, and the bride and groom settled there, where they remained all their lives. They operated a mixed dairy farm. Hazel viewed the move away up to Princeton with some apprehension, but they both soon became involved with community affairs in Princeton. Mrs. "B" as Hazel was called in the community, was active in Women's Institute, church and the Rebekahs. Henry served on the Township Council from 1950 to 1957, being Reeve in 1957. He was also on the South Blenheim school board in the 1940's.

He suffered a serious back injury in a fall from a straw stack in 1948. He also had a heart condition for several years and he died suddenly at work in the barn, September 13, 1958.

Hazel was a diabetic for the last 25 years of her life, which led to ulcers on her foot which wouldn't heal. While in Paris Hospital with this problem, she suffered a stroke, spent about two months there, and a month in Victoria Hospital, London, where she died July 17, 1972. They are both buried in the Princeton Cemetery.

They had a family of four children; Florence Eleanor, born December 2, 1932; Douglas Hugh, born October 27, 1934; James Laverne, born December 31, 1937; and George Bruce, born August 14, 1946³

4. Florence Helen - Born November 26, 1905, Florence finished grade 8 at S.S. 6, then went one year at Ingersoll High School. Then she worked at home, willing to work outdoors, doing some milking, driving horses for the hayfork, and other tasks.

She met Clarence Ross Shelton, born January 25, 1902, through her cousin Stu (Stuart) Nancekivell, a friend of Ross's. They were married March 24, 1928 in Trinity United Church, and moved to a 42 acre farm at Hagel's Corners, which Ross had bought. He milked about 10 cows, and was a dealer in calves and sometimes cattle, all his life. They are faithful members of Trinity Church. Florence is affected with an asthmatic condition. They have no family. Ross sold the farm in the fall of 1979 and they moved to an apartment in Ingersoll.

1. Information from Austin Wilson.

2. Elsie interviewed July 1978.

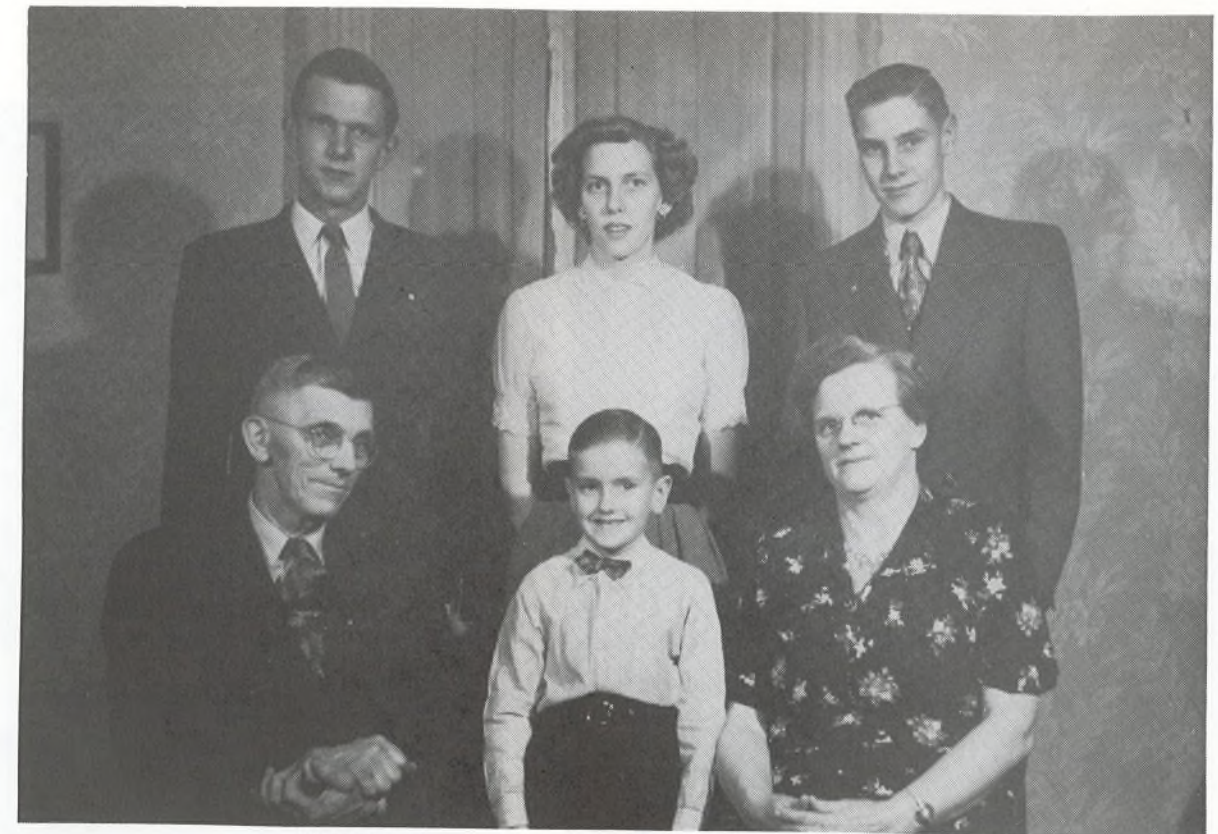
3. Information from letters from Eleanor Banbury in 1978.



DOUGLAS and his DC4 Case tractor
Auction sale - April 12, 1975



ROSS and FLORENCE SHELTON - 1954



HENRY and HAZEL BANBURY & FAMILY - c. 1951
standing: Hugh, Eleanor, Laverne
seated: Henry, Bruce, Hazel



THOMAS and ELSIE WILSON - 1954

CHILDREN OF THOMAS and ELSIE WILSON



MARION



MARGARET

George's Farm Operation

The hundred acre farm was fairly light loamy soil, with good natural drainage, early to dry in the springtime. Most of the land was already cleared when George bought it, and there was a nice maple woods of about 100 trees at the back of the farm, which he usually tapped and made syrup from.

A dairy herd of about 20 to 25 cows was kept, as well as the necessary horses. Milk was taken to the Borden plant located a short distance from the farm. A combination horse barn and driving shed was located between the house and barn. George was not a great lover of horses - none of the Wilsons were - but of course they were a necessary part of a farm operation then. George bought a Ford tractor, Tom drove it, and George did some. Douglas did much of the work with the horses. George usually had a hired man, who lived with the family. One who was there for a considerable time was Bill Lee, and later there was Roy Phillips. The barn was put on a wall and a section added in 1902, a painted sign above the double doors on the barn bridge gave this date. George worked with his brothers in the threshing syndicate, and silo filling. He also helped in the Wilson's sawmill. There was a nice orchard, and always a large garden.

George was a good manager, a shrewd and thrifty businessman. He chose not to put his money in more land, even though a parcel of about 40 acres came up for sale at the back end of his farm. Despite urgings by his son Douglas, he couldn't be persuaded to buy it, although he could well have afforded it. He did buy the Houghton place, 8 acres with a small house on it. At his death his farm was valued at \$8,000, he had \$7353.70 cash in the bank - nearly enough to buy another farm - as well as other investments; in Canadian bonds - \$13,000; Ingersoll Telephone - \$3,000; Town of Ingersoll - \$5,672.50; Huron and Erie - \$5,000; and two notes - R.B. Nancekivell for \$1,300, and Wilson Bros. for \$350; quite a wealthy man!¹

New House

When George and his bride first moved to the farm in 1895, the farm dwelling was a 1-1/2 story frame house, located just behind where the new house was subsequently built. Then it was bought by Steve Houghton and moved to his lot on Whiting Street where it still stands today. The first three children, Douglas, Thomas and Hazel were born in the frame house.

In 1903, plans were made to build a new house, and the contract was let to T.W. Nagle and Co. of Ingersoll to construct it. This contract, still in the possession of Floss Shelton, was dated January 13, 1905, with a total cash price agreed upon of \$2,400.

It was to be a two story, red brick house, with a slate roof, styled like that of T.W. Nagle's in Ingersoll. It must have three coats of plaster, likewise three coats of paint. There was to be a fine front stairway, and the parlour and dining room were to be of grained oak; and it specified that "fine workmanship required". There were to be verandas on the south side and the east front.

A soft water tank was to be installed above the bathroom, by the contractor; the proprietor was responsible for the plumbing and furnace. Also the proprietor was to furnish all stone and sand, was to do the teaming, and

1. Surrogate Court, Woodstock

furnish board for the plasterers and carpenters. A final admonition reads, "work to be as good as any house in this locality at this cost".¹

For Maria it was quite an ordeal, to provide room and board for all the men, with her three little children at that time, in the little old house. The fine new house was completed on time, and the family moved in that summer.

First Car

For many years Maria had wanted a double seated carriage, but George was quite content with just the horse and buggy. When he went all the way, he bought a brand new Overland car, and Maria was quite disappointed that he hadn't bought her the horse carriage. George, however, loved to drive this car, and would, as Floss says, "get in it and drive like the wind".

The year the Gregg picnic was held at Putnam Church - the minister, Rev. E. Shaw, had married a Gregg - George and his family arrived there in their shining new car. After the family had alighted, and George was talking to relatives, a young boy, Clinton Gregg, began to climb into the car, to see this new sight, when George gruffly hollered, "Hey boy, don't scratch that car". Clinton quickly climbed down, and treated it with great respect after that.²

His next car was a Studebaker which he had until his death - it was valued at \$400 when he died.

George's Early Death

His asthmatic condition and a heart problem rendered George somewhat sickly in his mid fifties. At last his health worsened and he was confined to bed at home for about a week.

The day before he died, he said that the bedroom window looked a bit cloudy, and he asked Floss if she would clean it. So she did, and he seemed somewhat more content. They went to bed that night thinking he was stronger, but the sad news the next morning, Sunday, October 10, 1927, was that he had passed away through the night. He was 58 years old, having lived on his farm in West Oxford for 32 years. The funeral of Maria's nephew, Fred Nancekivell, was held the day George died. Fred had been killed by a buzz saw blade which flew apart. George's funeral was held Tuesday, October 12th, at his late residence at 2.30. The service was conducted by Rev. R.G. Peever of Trinity Church, Ingersoll, assisted by Rev. J.G. Scott, a retired Methodist minister, a friend of George. The pallbearers were John, Charles, Leonard and Richard Wilson, brothers; W.S. Nancekivell and Rueben Nancekivell, brothers-in-law. Interment was in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.³

George died without a will, his wife Maria was named as administratrix. Each child received 1/6 of the estate and Maria 1/3, with Maria holding the farm until she died.

None of the children were married at the time of George's death, but within a year, all but Douglas were married and gone.

Maria Stays on Farm until Her Death

After her husband's death, Maria continued living on the farm, keeping house for Douglas, a bachelor, who operated the dairy farm. As the years went

1. Contract viewed at Floss Shelton's, November 30, 1977.
2. Clinton Gregg interviewed July 1978.
3. Newspaper Obituary.

by, they tended to withdraw from events and society around the community, Douglas' whole energy being channelled to farming, and Maria's main interest being in maintaining the home. She never went on any trips, or even away very far from home except to go to church on Sunday. Nothing was bought that wasn't a necessity, money wasn't spent on frills or luxuries.

Death of Maria

So the years passed till the winter of 1952, when Maria became weaker, and in February she was confined to bed. Dr. Bland of Ingersoll doctored her at home for hardening of the arteries, for the week she was sick in bed. A housekeeper, Mrs. Barnes, was hired to help look after her.

One day when Floss went to see her mother, she took her a jar of peaches. The next day when Floss returned to visit her, her mother said, "I enjoyed the peaches". These were about the last words she spoke, for she lapsed into a coma for two days, and died quietly February 22, 1952, at the age of 84, she would have been 85 in April. She and Doug had lived and worked together for a period of nearly 25 years since the death of her husband.

Visitation was held at the P.T. Walker Funeral Home, from where the funeral was held Monday, February 25th at 2 p.m. Rev. C.D. Daniel, minister of Trinity United Church, officiated. Members of the Welcome Circle of the King's Daughters (a church group) attended in a body. The pall bearers were all nephews, Wm. Banbury, Brock Wilson, Harry Wilson, Douglas Nancekivell, Stuart Nancekivell and Arlington Robinson, with burial in the family plot at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.¹

The Farm Today

Douglas took the death of his mother very hard, having been together for so many years. The housekeeper who had been there while Maria was sick, offered to stay on, but Douglas would have no part of it, no one could take the place of his mother. So he lived alone in the farmhouse, and without the touch of a woman to keep the housework done, the place began to slip. With the help of a hired man, he maintained a herd of registered Holsteins, and he didn't hesitate to buy modern farm machinery.

He was stricken with a slight stroke on October 6, 1973, and was taken to Ingersoll hospital, then later to a nursing home. The cattle were sold immediately after he went to the hospital, because the hired man was not tending to the chores satisfactorily. Doug's brother-in-law, Ross Shelton, arranged for a trucker to take the herd to a sales yard. The farm and machinery were left just as Doug had left them until April 12, 1975, when the machinery was sold by auction at the farm. Doug was able to come out to the farm to attend the sale.

Four months later the barn was destroyed by fire on August 18, 1975, with the loss estimated at \$30,000. Juveniles playing with matches were believed to be the cause of the fire.

The house, standing empty and desolate was completely vandalized, every window broken, and thus covered with sheets of plywood which were ripped off periodically. The town of Ingersoll had expanded to property adjacent to the farm and it was now very valuable for future town development.² Doug, however, didn't want to part with the farm.

1. Newspaper Obituary.
2. In September 1986, GM - Suzuki announced plans for a \$540 million auto plant on 540 acres, which includes this farm.

LEONARD WILSON
October 3, 1871 - October 11, 1943

His Birth and Youth

The fifth child of Richard and Catharine Wilson and the fourth son in a row, he was born October 3, 1871 and was named Leonard - no second name.¹ He was named after his father's brother, Leonard. Born on the Wilson homestead, he attended S.S. 3 school, where in 1883, he stood first in the senior fourth class.²

A story is told about Leonard when he was a young boy, one time his parents went to town, and left orders that the boys were to pick potato bugs from the potato patch. Leonard decided not to help in this messy job, so the other brothers chased him till they caught him behind the barn, and brought him by force back to the garden.

Leonard, after completing public school, helped with the work on the family homestead. He was a little over 24 years old when his father died suddenly in 1896, and he continued to work with his brothers on the home farm for the next three years, during which time the barn was greatly enlarged.

Buys a Farm

A property about a half mile west of the home farm came up for sale, and on October 14, 1899 he signed an agreement of sale for this farm containing 120 acres of the north half of Lot 26, Concession 1, Dereham, from Joseph Holmes at a price of \$6900.³ By actual measurement, however, it was not quite that large, being closer to 110 acres. The farm is a lot wide, but is more than 1/2 a lot in length.

His Marriage

The next year, in the spring of 1900, Leonard married May McMulkin, the daughter of Frank McMulkin, (Mrs. McMulkin was deceased). The wedding took place April 11, 1900, at St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, at 7:30 in the evening. Rev. James Thompson officiated at the service, witnessed by William Albert Wilson (brother of the groom) and Mary Elizabeth Worth (1st cousin of the bride). (William and Mary would later become man and wife.) The wedding was attended by a number of relatives and immediate friends of the contracting parties. After the ceremony the company went directly to the newly married couple's farm home in Dereham, where a reception was tendered them by their relatives. An elaborate wedding dinner was served, followed by a social time. After wishing Mr. & Mrs. Wilson a long and prosperous life, the company broke up at a reasonable hour.⁴

Description of May

May Maude McMulkin was the daughter of Frank and Mary (Worth) McMulkin who farmed where Tony Quinn lives near Clark's Corners. Her grandparents, who had farmed on the same farm, were Christopher and Anne McMulkin, who came to Canada in 1847 from County Fermanagh, Ireland. May's parents, when she was about three, had moved to Ingersoll, to a home at the end of Oxford Street, across Dufferin Street.

1. Information obtained from his son Harry, unless otherwise indicated. Harry was interviewed November 13, 1978.

2. Ingersoll Chronicle - June 1883.

3. Land Registry Office.

4. From a newspaper account of the marriage, in the scrapbook of their daughter, Mary Wilson.

May was born June 4, 1870, and was nearly 30 years old when she married. She was the eldest of the family and her brothers and sisters in order of age were: Edward, William, Frank, Bessie and Harry.

The McMulkins were Anglican, and May was confirmed in St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, on April 18, 1886, and remained a member of that church all her life. After her marriage, she also attended the small St. Michael's Chapel (Anglican) near the farm, and took the children to Sunday School there. After it closed, she attended St. James at Ingersoll whenever possible, but Leonard never embraced Anglicanism, so sometimes they would attend his church, the Ingersoll Methodist Church on King Street.

May was quite plump in stature, not too tall. She had a round face with dark complexion, and dark hair, which she always wore in a bun on top of her head. She was a careful housekeeper, a very neat sewer and good at needlecraft and knitting.

A hospitable welcome greeted any visitor who went to their home. The large Gregg picnic was held at their homestead at least twice, in 1919, and again in 1931, when 110 were present. This was the 33rd annual picnic, and dinner and supper were held on the lawn of the Wilson homestead.¹

The Wilsons called her Aunt May Leonard, to distinguish her from their sister, Aunt May Markham.

Description of Leonard

He was a slim man, about 5' 11", weighing about 160 pounds. He had fairly dark, straight hair; in later years he sported a moustache. He was nicknamed "Tack"(reason not known) by his brothers; also they referred to him as Wilson.

He started smoking a pipe after he went hunting the one and only year he went. That year, about 1910, he had a hired man named Chris Paul, whom Leonard left in charge of the farm and the fall ploughing while he went north with the Wilson gang. However, the hired man was thinking of getting married and spent most of his time at his girl friend's. So when Leonard came home, he found that all the ploughing was yet to be done! This ended Leonard's deer hunting career, although he would go rabbit hunting in the winter time.

He was a rather quiet man and at a gathering he would tend to sit back and enjoy the conversation of others. He was not easily excited, a steady worker, devoted to his farm. He was also very fond of children and really enjoyed his grandchildren.

During his farming career, Leonard, as do most farmers, had some farm accidents, and some close calls. His most serious injury occurred at the farm of David Robinson, who lived across the road from Leonard. They were using a steam engine and a bunt pole to push the threshing machine up his plank barn bridge into the barn. Leonard had hold of the tongue of the threshing machine, steering it into the barn, when a plank gave way and one of the front wheels went through, causing the tongue to swing violently, throwing Leonard against a wall and dislocating his shoulder. They brought him home, and had Dr. J.B. Coleridge put it back into place. Leonard had his arm in a sling for a while.

Another time he was trying out a newly installed hay fork car in his barn and when he pulled the car to the block, the fork dropped, and the point of it just grazed his nose, making a scar which he carried the rest of his life. Another inch closer and this would have been instant death.

Leonard liked a game of cards. Many an evening someone would drop in, often Dick Markham, and play cards, euchre or King Pedro. Dick, a bachelor,



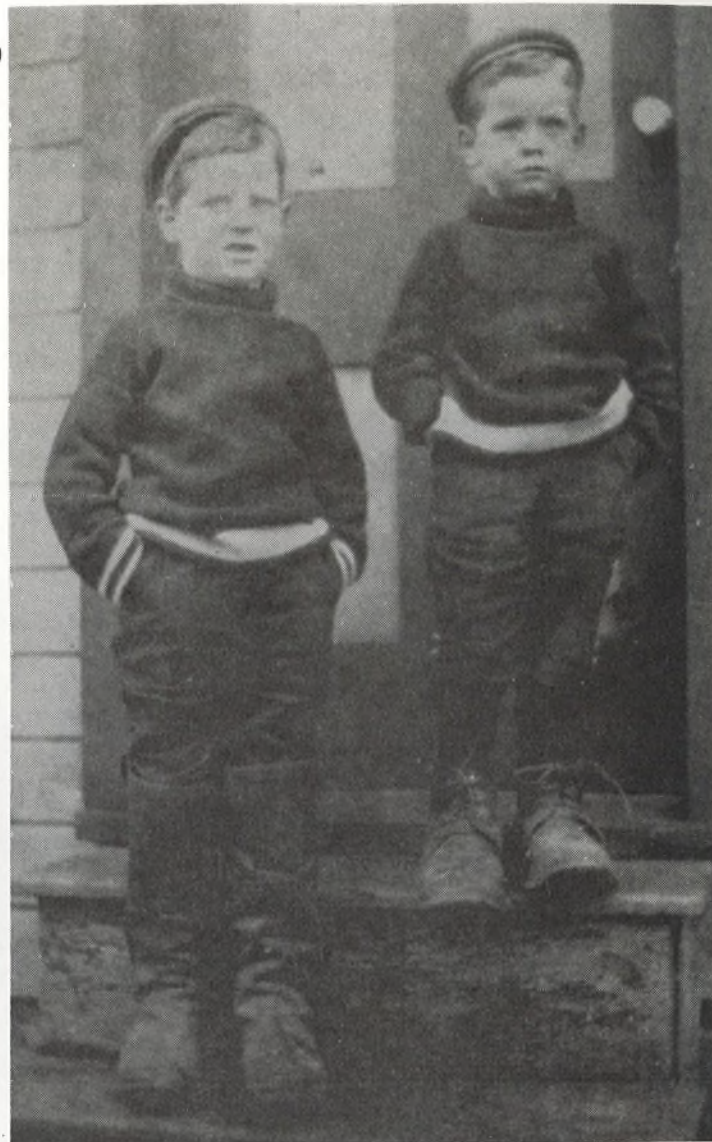
LEONARD'S FARMSTEAD -- c. 1914
May, hired girl and Bessie

1. Ingersoll Chronicle

RICHARD and HARRY — c. 1909
age about 7 & 5
sons of Leonard & May



LEONARD and MAY WILSON
1931



BESSIE MAY — c. 1914
born 1909, died 1916
daughter of Leonard & May

would often stay a day or two. Harry remembers that in the winter when the milking was light, after supper the dishes would be pushed to one end of the table, and a game of cards would be enjoyed, with the loser having to go out to the barn to feed the cows hay.

Leonard bought an "Overland" car in about 1918 from Harry Sutherland, and he learned to drive fairly well.

Leonard's Farm

When Leonard and May first came to the farm, there was a frame 1-1/2 story house there, sided with tongue and grooved boards. The front part of the house had been moved from the back of the farm (the cellar remnants could be seen there for years). A lean-to and a woodshed were attached to the south side of the house.

There was much land not cleared on the farm when Leonard first came there. An area on the east side was cleared but a large section on the hill behind the barn was covered with stumps, and there were standing trees, including many large pines, along the west side. Leonard hired Stan Bolden, who had a stumping machine, to pull these stumps, so more land could be broken. Harry remembers several years later, he and his father and a hired man repaired this stump machine, which was sitting unused at Sheahan's, and they brought it home and cleared more land west of the barn.

A woodlot of about 10 acres was saved at the back of the farm. It contained numerous hard maple trees, and Leonard regularly tapped them, hanging about 100 buckets. The sap was boiled in pans over a fire pit in the woods, and the syrup would be brought up to the house to be cleansed.

Many years later, in 1948, when Leonard's son Harry bought the farm west of this, it also had a back woodlot with good hard maple trees, and these combined woods were tapped.

In the 1950's a boiling place was built just behind the barn, and now the sap was brought from the woods and boiled there.

When Leonard bought the farm, there was a barn on a stone wall, facing north and south, with an "L" to the east setting on the ground. In 1916 this wing was taken down, a cement wall was poured and a new wing was built. The milk house was located north of the barn a short distance. The farm had an ice house and ice brought from the pond by Spencers (Clarks) east of the Culloden Road. The cement silo was built about 1910. A pig pen was built about 500 feet west of the barn, the pigs were housed on the ground floor, with implement storage above.

In about 1915, the main natural gas line was laid along the road and gas was installed in the furnace and the kitchen was lit by a gas light. Hydro was put in the farmstead in 1926.

Farm Operations

Leonard usually kept about 18 cows, plus the young stock; as well as some pigs. The milk was taken to the Culloden Road factory about 2 miles away, while it remained in operation, then to Borden's Condenser, Ingersoll. Harry remembers one summer that he and his older brother Dick would sometimes draw the milk over to this factory, but they would have to have one of the factory workers (usually Stan Pullen) come out and help them tip the big cans into the port.

Their sister Mary or "Sib" as she was nicknamed, was a good hand milker,

helping quite regularly. Also, Leonard usually had a hired man.

In the early years Leonard and his brother William, who farmed next to him on the east, worked together in the haying. Also, the Wilson brothers worked together in a syndicate, threshing and silo filling, and Leonard of course belonged to it. They used a Sawyer-Massey steam engine for power, and when it wore out, a fuel burning 2 cylinder Hart Parr tractor was bought; later a 4 cylinder Hart Parr was purchased.

By the mid 30's, only Richard and Leonard and their sons were left in the syndicate. An International tractor was next used, then about 1938 a John Deere was bought. This tractor lasted for many years. It also was used for ploughing; young Rich and Jim and Harry would each use it with a 3 furrow plough. Jim put rubber tires on the tractor, and after he sold his farm, he used the tractor at his sawmill. Harry and Rich bought a self-propelled combine and harvested their own grain with this. The old threshing machine was stored in the barn at Harry's other farm, and it was never used again. It was sold about 1970, along with the John Deere tractor; the last vestiges of the old Wilson syndicate.

Their Family

1. Mary Elizabeth, the first child was born February 4, 1901. She was nicknamed "Sib" which all the Wilsons called her throughout her life. When she reached school age, she went to town to live with the McMulkins - Aunt Bessie, Uncles Frank, William and Ed, none of whom were married. This arrangement was made so that she could go to school in town, rather than walk considerable distance to S.S. 3, Dereham, which was nearly three miles from Leonard's place. After completing grade 8, she had the choice to go on to high school or come home to the farm. She chose the latter. She helped her mother in the house and also helped with farm chores, until they moved to the 5 acres. After her Aunt Bessie died, she also helped do housework for her three bachelor uncles. Mary never married and her brother Harry says that she never had a boy friend.

After her mother died, in 1947, she and her Uncle Frank, who came to live with them after his brothers died, continued to live at the 5 acres. When he died in 1948, she was left to live alone there. Her nephew Bill, Harry's son, boarded with her shortly after this, while he attended Beal Tech in London. In 1953, it was found that she had diabetes, and was put on the insulin needle.

In 1954, Bill built her a new house on a lot immediately east of the stone house, and here she lived until 1961. Then she went to Sault Ste. Marie when Bill moved there. In 1962 she came to Mossley to keep house for LeRoy Guest, where she remained until 1964. After leaving Guests, she went to live with her Aunt Mary Wilford in 1965. She remained about a year there, and then was a housekeeper for Heath Stone until 1968. Her diabetes began to cause serious trouble at this time, and she was hospitalized two or three times. So she took an apartment on Thames Street over Nagles for a short time. Her health deteriorated and she went to the Oxford Mt. Pleasant Nursing Home in the spring of 1969. She died September 29, 1969, with burial in Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

2. Richard Francis, born May 2, 1902, his early childhood was perfectly normal and he was an active boy around the farm. He was nicknamed "Dick" by the family. He went to school at S.S. 6, West Oxford, the closest school to

his home. In his obituary, the newspaper described him as "a particularly bright boy".

Then in his tenth year he was stricken with diabetes. Before insulin was discovered, his condition was impossible to arrest, although he was cut off sweets. Also, his parents heard of a treatment which involved electricity, and as Leonard's brother Rich on the home place had hydro, wires were strung from there to Leonard's house, so that this electrical apparatus could be set up for Dick; but of course it was to no avail.

Despite other medical efforts of the day, and special care at home, he became thinner and weaker, and died Wednesday, August 6, 1913, at the age of 11 years, 3 months.

The funeral was held August 8th, from the family home, with burial at Ingersoll Rural cemetery. Rev. R. Perkins (Anglican) officiated, assisted by Rev. Shaw (Methodist) of Putnam. Pallbearers were Brock, Fred, Thomas, Nelson, Douglas Wilson (these cousins would be in their mid-teens then) and Arlington Robinson, a neighbour.

3. Harry William, born July 25, 1904, he started to school at S.S. 6, West Oxford. On stormy winter days, he would stay at his Uncle Charles and Aunt Louisa's, and go the short distance to school from there. Enrolment was very small at this school then, sometimes Harry would be the only one there, and eventually when he was about half way through, the school closed temporarily. Then he went to S.S. 3, Dereham, until when he was part way through grade 7, his father's hired man left to join the army, and Harry stayed home to help on the farm and never went back again.

Harry was nicknamed "Nip" from early days. It so happened that a man was hired by May to grain the doors and woodwork of the house, and Harry was a small boy running and nipping around in the man's way. So he wrote Nipper on one of the doors, and that name has stuck with him all his life.

He married Leila Dundas on July 25, (his birthday) 1931. She had come to teach school at S.S. 6, West Oxford, in 1925, and Nip became acquainted with her when she had recruited his sister and himself and some other young people to take part in a play she was putting on at the school.

When they were married, Leonard and May and Mary moved to the 5 acres on the Hamilton Road, and Harry and Leila began farming the home place. They bought the farm in 1935 for \$6,000.

They have three children: Edward Leonard Dundas, born February 24, 1933; William Francis, born May 25, 1934; and Jean Evelyn, born January 4, 1938.

In 1948, Harry bought the 50 acre farm adjacent on the west side from Jack Halpin for \$6,000. It has a house, which Harry rents out, and a barn which is used for young cattle.

In 1956, the roof of the farm home was scheduled for reshingling, but when work started, it was found the sheeting and rafters were rotten, so the house was torn down except for the chimney and the room around it. Then Harry and his sons Ted and Bill - a graduate carpenter - built an enlarged single story house encompassing the original chimney and room. The home, including the red brick veneer siding, was completed that year. During the time of construction, Harry and Leila and their family moved to the house on their other farm, except for Ted, who continued to make his lodging in the one room of the home house, and the new house was virtually built around it and him.

Harry and his oldest son Ted, who, after completing a course at Beal Technical in 1950, farmed successfully together and continued to expand their dairy enterprise. A new milk house was built in 1964 to accommodate a bulk

tank.

When Ted was married in 1966, a second new house was built on the farm, the construction being mainly done by Ted, Bill and Harry. It is located across the driveway west from Harry's house.

In 1970 a large silo was built.

Then in 1972, Harry sold the farm to his son Ted, with the agreement that he and Leila have the right to live in the farm home as long as they wish to do so. Ted installed a pipe-line milker that year. Harry continued to regularly and faithfully help with the farm work.

Ted had a sudden fatal heart attack on July 13, 1974, when just 41 years of age. Following this shocking turn of events, Harry's son Bill decided to come home to farm, so he resigned his high school teaching position in Sault Ste. Marie and bought the farm from Ted's widow, Kathleen, in 1975.

Harry and Leila continued to live in the farm home in semi-retirement. Although he had a heart condition, Harry regularly went out to the barn each day to help with chores; and he rarely took a holiday away from the farm. Harry lost a finger in a feed auger accident, October 19, 1974.

In July of 1980, Harry was prying with a crow bar and put pressure on his stomach. He felt severe pain and went to the doctor, who found he had ruptured his appendix. He had the operation and had a lengthy stay in hospital, with an abundance of antibiotics because of the infection. He came home in the fall of 1980; then on April 3, 1981, the doctor decided to operate to repair the incision. Although Harry came home from the hospital in about a week, infection set in and he was back in hospital April 19th (Easter Sunday). Infection spread and he died May 6, 1981, with interment at Oxford Memorial Cemetery.

4. Bessie May, born August 22, 1909, she was a normal healthy young girl, actually quite chubby. She started school at S.S. 6, West Oxford, but was struck down with diabetes when she was just seven, and she soon succumbed to this all too familiar infliction. Death came on Friday, December 8, 1916, with the funeral being held from the Wilson home on Sunday, December 10th and interment in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

5. Francis, at the time of the death of eleven year old Dick, on August 6, 1913, his mother May was in advanced pregnancy for another child. She was forty-three years old at the time, and with the stress of grief at the loss of, first her father in March, then Dick in August, her pregnancy was not going well. Toward the last of August, the doctor decided it was either the mother's life or the baby's, and so it was in those days without specialists, a baby boy was delivered, stillborn, on August 30, 1913 and was named Francis.

The Tragic Year of 1913

Certain periods of a family's life seemed to be marked by a succession of tragic events. This was certainly true of the year 1913 for Leonard and May.

On March 13th of that year, May's father, Frank McMulkin was killed instantly when struck by a train on the Grand Trunk tracks (now C.N.) near the Thames Street crossing. He was walking along the tracks when an east bound freight came up behind him. It sounded its whistle, although he was clear of the track when the engineer first saw him. He apparently became confused and stepped in front of the train instead of away from it. The



DEER HUNTING ON THE PICKEREL — 1910

Orrin Simmons, Charlie Williams, Joe Robinson, Dr. Williams, Dick Markham, George Wilson, Charles Wilson, Leonard Wilson



THREE GENERATIONS — c. 1934
Leonard, Harry, Ted



MARY — c. 1960
with niece Jean on steps of her home



HARRY and LEILA & FAMILY — 40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
1971
L to R — Bill, Harry, Jean, Leila, Ted

impact threw Mr. McMulkin a distance of nearly fifty feet and he was entangled in a wire fence along the Morrow Nut Works property.⁶

The newspaper account also stated that Mr. McMulkin was nearing 70 years of age, had been a resident of Ingersoll for upwards of forty years, and had been in the hide trade for years, formerly associated with Peter Kennedy.

That same spring, Leonard and May's oldest son Dick, age 11, was showing the effects of diabetes and as described above, died from this, (at that time) fatal disease, on August 6th.

Then the heart breaking disaster was the revelation that May's pregnancy was also ill-fated, and would result in a stillborn baby boy, born August 30th.

That year of tragedy was not the end of their grief, for three years later they saw their daughter Bessie, fall victim of the nemesis to their family - diabetes.

What a time of loss and bereavement for Leonard and May and family. However, they weathered this bleak time, with the pressing farm work as therapy. Through the years the farm was improved with the help of the two remaining children, Mary and Harry, who in due course reached adulthood.

Leonard Leaves the Farm

When their son Harry married Leila Dundas in 1931, Leonard (now nearly 60 years of age) and May and their unmarried daughter Mary, moved to a five acre "farm" west of Ingersoll on the Hamilton Road. This place, located at Lot 23, Broken Front Concession, West Oxford, was formerly owned by May's brother Frank, and Leonard bought it from him in 1930. This lot has a large unique stone house on it, the stones are somewhat rounded small ones set in mortar; also there was a small barn located some distance behind the house. A picturesque stone lined creek flows along the east side of the house. This creek, dammed at one point to form a lovely pond, then flows down to the road.

Along the back of the farm runs the C.P. Railroad line to Putnam and St. Thomas. For many years, every Monday morning, Leonard would walk along these tracks to Harry's farm and at a point just west of his brother Charles' old farm, he would cut south through the cedar swamp and arrive at the gate of his old homestead. Leonard would stay over, sleeping in the spare room and return home usually Friday afternoon. During his absence, Mary would look after the three or four cows they kept, and other chores on the five acres. Leonard and Harry would work together keeping the farm work done and the homestead in a good neat condition.

Leonard's Health Fails

This fine relationship continued more or less the same for about 12 years. Then in 1943, on the 24th of May, as was Leonard's custom, he and the family went to visit his sister May Markham, at Parkhill. He didn't seem to be himself on the way up, and then at the dinner table he said to his sister May, "Why didn't you peel the potatoes?" This strange question indicated there was something wrong with his eyesight and also, he seemed to have trouble using his knife and fork.

He was brought home and a doctor was called, who said he had had a slight stroke, and he was to be kept quiet.

6. Newspaper clipping in Mary's scrapbook

He never again walked out to the farm. However, later on in the summer, Mary would bring him out, and he would putter around a bit, but they didn't leave him overnight.

The day before his birthday that year, Leonard, May and Mary had been out to the farm. Harry had a potato patch at the back of his farm, and they all went back to dig some. Leonard insisted on helping to pick up some potatoes and seemed quite at ease and content doing so.

The next day, October 3rd, he, May and Mary came out for the birthday dinner. After dinner Leonard said that he would like to go and see his brother John. So Harry drove him up and Leonard and John had a nice visit, exchanging greetings and reminiscences of times past.

About 2 days after this, he had a severe stroke. The doctor told them not to put Leonard in bed upstairs, but to let him lie on the couch, clothed just as he was. He was paralysed and couldn't talk. A nurse, Mrs. Goodhand, came to help take care of him. He lived about a week, and the end came on Monday evening, October 11, 1943, just past his 72nd birthday.

The funeral was held from his residence on Wednesday, October 13th, with the service being conducted by the Rev. H.E. Merrifield (Anglican) assisted by the Rev. R.H. Parr (United). Pallbearers were Harry Banbury, Nelson Wilson, Wilson Markham, Jack Burroughs and Rev. Frank McMulkin. Interment was at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.¹

Death of May

May, and her daughter Mary lived on in the stone house after Leonard's death. The house was divided and an apartment made at the back, and rented to various families.

Frank came to live with them in about 1946, after he had sold the McMulkin ancestral home in Ingersoll. In the fall of that year, May seemed to have one cold after another, and about Christmas time she took a bad cold and a doctor was called. When he began to examine her, she immediately revealed to him her long dreaded secret, a lump on the breast which she had known about all summer long. In the first part of February, an operation was performed, cancer was found and the breast was removed. She was able to come home and in a while, showing good determination, was up and about, getting meals and doing a share of the housework by the early spring of 1947.

May was noticeably frail and in April took a cold again, which developed into pneumonia which she couldn't shake off. Although Mary faithfully cared for her at home during this time, on Tuesday, April 29, 1947 she passed away at the age of 76 years, and 10 months. Visitation was at the house, at which the funeral was held Friday, May 2nd, at 2:30 p.m. Rev. Carmen Queen, rector of St. James Anglican Church, conducted the service, assisted by Rev. Frank McMulkin, nephew of the deceased. Interment was in the Leonard Wilson family plot at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ted McMulkin, Nelson Wilson, Wilson Markham, Earl Wilson, Harry Banbury and Jack Burroughs.²

Mary Sells the Five Acres

After her mother's death, Mary continued to live at the five acres, and her uncle Frank stayed with her until he died the following year. In 1954 a

1. Newspaper Obituary from Mary's scrapbook

2. Newspaper Obituary from Mary's scrapbook

lot was severed from this farm, and a new home was built by her nephew Bill, owned jointly by him and Mary; and she moved into it that summer.

The stone house was rented for awhile, then sold to Henry Covemaker. It is now owned by Floyd Shrubsole, who keeps the house and grounds in excellent condition.

Leonard's Homestead Today

The farm which Leonard bought at the turn of the century is today the base of a modern dairy operation. Now owned and capably managed by Bill, a grandson of Leonard, the homestead named "Valley Centre Farm" continues to thrive. In 1978 a second large silo was erected, and the milking herd expanded to forty-eight head.

Bill has a family of two sons and two daughters, so perhaps this farm may continue to be owned by a Wilson, the fourth generation in the Leonard Wilson lineage.

DESCENDANTS OF LEONARD AND MAY WILSON

Leonard Wilson, farmer, b. October 3, 1871; d. October 11, 1943
 Married - April 11, 1900; buried Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
 May Maud McMulkin, b. June 4, 1870; d. April 29, 1947

Children 5:

1. Mary Elizabeth, housekeeper, b. February 4, 1901; d. September 29, 1969
buried Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
2. Richard Francis, b. May 2, 1902; d. August 8, 1913
3. Harry William, farmer, b. July 25, 1904; d. May 6, 1981
married - July 25, 1931; buried - Oxford Memorial Cemetery
Leila Evelyn Dundas, b. March 12, 1905

Children 3:

1. Edward Leonard Dundas, farmer, b. February 24, 1933; d. July 13, 1974
married - July 9, 1966; buried - Harris Street Cemetery
Kathleen Grace Hart, b. January 25, 1943

Children 3:

1. Stephen Edward, b. August 15, 1967
2. Brian Leonard, B. May 13, 1969
3. Andrew John, b. December 22, 1970

2. William Francis, school teacher, farmer, R.R. 4, Ingersoll, b. May 25, 1934;
married - August 16, 1958
Margaret Euphemia McAlpine, b. Nov. 26, 1935

Children 4:

1. James Edward, farmer, b. December 30, 1959;
married - August 2, 1986
Julie Jane Shaftoe, b. October 12, 1966
2. William Paul, b. April 3, 1963

ferred him passage home, but was going first to see their brother William at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. John stayed there and found employment with Governor Sam Houston. John was offered a position in Governor Houston's Texas, but he decided to go back to Ingersoll, Canada.¹

Perhaps he had met a girl there, for he married an Elizabeth Ward of Ingersoll, July 27, 1853.

On June 28, 1853, John had bought a farm, consisting of 50 acres of the N.E. 1/4 of Lot 22, Concession 3, Dereham Township, Oxford County,² from John Cannon. This property was situated along the very same Culloden Road which he had helped construct years earlier.

In 1859, he was named executor of the estate of John Baugham, who had owned the 50 acre farm west of him (N.W. 1/4 of Lot 22, Con. 3). Shortly thereafter, Mr. Markham bought this property from Mr. Baugham's widow.

He later bought 50 acres on the east side of the Culloden Road, making his holdings 150 acres. Although there is some low woodlands area, there is a goodly acreage of sandy loam soil, naturally drained, and early to get on in the spring. Mr. Markham, with the help of his boys, established a prosperous farm here, and had a fine herd of dairy cattle.

One characteristic of John was that he wore a necktie every day no matter what the task of the day on the farm.

John and Eliza had 11 children.³

1. Sarah Jane, b. June 4, 1854, d. Nov. 27, 1898, married Charles Rice, no children.
2. Fanny Irene, b. May 27, 1856, d. June 8, 1858.
3. & 4. Twins, b. May 10, 1858 - one died at birth, the other d. May 30, 1858.
5. William Henry, b. July 19, 1859, married March 15, 1883 to Anna Page, 6 children.
6. John James, b. Oct. 11, 1861, had asthma and went to Colorado, married Viva Morris, Colorado, no children.
7. Louisiana, b. Feb 3, 1865, d. 1919, married Robert Mitchell, 3 children.
8. Richard, b. March 9, 1867, d. 1936, never married.
9. George Thomas, b. Aug. 11, 1869, married Eva May Wilson, 4 children.
10. Albert Edward, b. May 20, 1872, d. March 5, 1885,
11. Walter Frederick, b. Nov. 18, 1874, married Sarah Dale, 4 children.

The Markhams were Anglican and attended the St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, when possible. After John sold the farm to his son Thomas in 1897, he and his wife retired to a home located on the S.W. corner of Albert and King Street, Ingersoll. Mrs. Markham was crippled the last years of her life and had to be carried about. She died February 16, 1899 at age 64. John died June 15, 1901, in his 82nd year. They are buried at Harris Street Cemetery.

Description of George Thomas Markham

He was born August 16, 1869, son of John and Elizabeth Markham (see above). Thomas was five years older than his wife, May. He had worked in a cheese factory at Kippen before he was married.

He was a fairly tall man, rather slim, weighed about 165 pounds. He had a heavy moustache, and smoked a pipe. He once bought a car, but it never would run, and he never did learn how to drive.

Thomas, it seemed, never liked to stay at one place too long; he was a bit of a wanderer, and moved several times in his life. He didn't really like



THOMAS and MAY MARKHAM - c. 1916



MARKHAM HOME AT CRINAN
Picture - 1982



THE MARKHAM FAMILY - c. 1890
back: William, Thomas, Sarah, Dick
front: Louisiana, John (father), Eliza (mother), John Jr., Waiter

1. Information from Louisiana (Lou) Nagle, interviewed July, 1981

2. Oxford Land Office

3. Information from Family Bible as copied by Mildred Baskette, interviewed January 29, 1982



BLANCHE and DUNCAN McINTYRE & FAMILY — c. 1961
back row: Donald, John, Cora, Ivah, Bruce, Jean
seated: Ken, Blanche & Duncan, Blanche



BLANCHE AND HER FAMILY ON 85th BIRTHDAY AT CARLISLE CHURCH — January 25, 1984
rear (spouses): Ruthanne, Clayton, Florence, Dick, Bernie, Willard, Mary, Marion
centre: Blanche (mother)
front (children): Don, Jean, John, Iva, Blanche, Cora, Ken, Bruce

the steady life of a farmer, but yet that was what he seemed to be driven by fate to do.

He loved a game of cards, would often walk, even on a cold winter's night over to a neighbour's or to the boys at the blacksmith shop for a game.

Farming on the Markham Place

When first married, Thomas and May farmed the Markham home farm at Lot 22, Concession 3, Dereham. Thomas bought the farm from his parents January 14, 1897 for \$8,000.¹ Then his parents retired to Ingersoll. Upon his father's death in 1901, Thomas mortgaged the farm for \$5,000, probably to settle the estate.

Thomas and his brother, Dick, together operated the home farm for a few years. Thomas' and May's first three children, Blanche, Edna, and Wilson, were born there.

On February 1, 1908, Thomas sold the home farm to George Holmes for \$9,600. At this point, he seems to have decided to quit farming and to try something else.

Rents a House from his Brother-in-law

Thomas and his family moved to a house which he rented from his brother-in-law, Will Wilson. It was located on Will's north 50 acre place. Thomas became a salesman for dairy equipment, more particularly selling to cheese factories. He enjoyed very much the opportunity to get around the country which the life of a salesman afforded him.

Their daughter, Cora was born October 30, 1909, while they were living at Will Wilson's.

Buys a 100 Acre Farm near Crinan

In his travels as salesman, Thomas spotted a farm for sale 3/4 miles west of Crinan. This farm had a cheese factory located on it. Having an interest in cheese making, he bought the place, located on the south half of Lot 21, First Concession, Alborough Township, Elgin County, from John Colridge for \$5,500, on April 1, 1910.²

So the family moved there, (Cora was 9 months old when they moved) and Thomas began farming again, and also operated the cheese factory. He had the hiring of the help for the factory, and often they would end up at May's kitchen for meals!

Thomas, after awhile, began selling some groceries to the patrons from the curing room. As this business grew, he built a store near the factory and ran it.

Just across the road from his farm was a Presbyterian Church, and May and the girls took on the janitor's job for it.

His brother, Richard, owned 50 acres near this farm, and they farmed together.

Thomas had a silo built of red clay tile, and it still stands to this day.

One time the Wilsons all came down to May's, who was holding the Wilson

1. Information from Oxford Land Office
2. Information from Elgin Land Office

Christmas that year, and it was quite a stormy night, so many of them stayed overnight. The men slept up over the store, which was used as a meeting place for a Lodge. The Wilsons often recalled the experience of staying overnight at May's down at Crinan.

Buys a 300 Acre Farm near Parkhill

After awhile, Thomas began to get restless, and claiming the heavy clay soil of the area was too hard to farm, he heard about a large 300 acre farm, owned by Robert Townsend, located east of Parkhill, through a real estate agent named Tennent. So he acquired this farm, located at Lot 1 and 2, Concession 20, East Williams Township, Middlesex County, on November 26, 1918, through an exchange of farms with the Tennent agent. He traded his Crinan farm plus \$1 for the Parkhill farm.¹

There was a large creek named Mud Creek, running through part of the farm, and along this waterway was a considerable acreage of unworkable land, with gullies leading into the creek. Also the C.N. Railway ran across a portion of the farm.

When Wilson, Thomas' son, finished public school at Parkhill in 1920, he began farming with his father. Wilson soon was pretty well running the place on his own. There was a large barn on the farm which housed the dairy herd. The milk was sold to customers in Parkhill, a much better market than it would be at the cheese factory.

Thomas Goes West on Harvest Excursion in 1925

In the 1920's the popular adventure for many rural people was to go west by railway on the "Harvest Excursion". The railways would take you from Toronto to Winnipeg for \$10, and would bring you back for \$15. The wages out there were about \$5 per day. So Thomas decided that sounded like a good adventure and went out in 1925, and again a couple of years later. Thomas would be in his mid-fifties at this time, considerably older than most of the "boys" going west.

Barn Burns

A severe misfortune occurred back home while Thomas was out west in 1925. A spark from the steam engine was blown unnoticed under the barn bridge doors and ignited some straw on the barn floor. The barn was soon all ablaze, and it burned to the ground. The date (from a newspaper clipping in a scrapbook May kept) was September 28, 1925.

A new barn was soon built in time to house the cattle that winter, but of course all the feed was lost, and it was a difficult season, having to buy everything the cattle ate. Wilson would be about 19 years old at the time, a very trying time for a young man, and there was the cost of building the barn and the ever present weight of a farm mortgage over his head. However, the family managed to pull through, then the tough depression years of the 1930's made life everywhere a struggle, and for the Markhams, as for most others, just to survive was a real challenge.

1. Information from Middlesex Land Office

Thomas Sells Farm to Wilson

As was common in those days, when the tax man wasn't behind every fence post, fathers could turn the farm over to the next generation simply and cheaply. So Thomas, in an agreement dated December 8, 1936, sold the farm to his son Wilson, for \$1.¹ Thomas would be 67 years of age at the time. Thomas and May continued to live on the farm, helping Wilson as much as they could.

May and Thomas Celebrate Golden Anniversary

The following Ingersoll Tribune newspaper clipping,² dated December 21, 1942, describes the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Thomas and May, held December 14th. (May and her brother John were the only Wilson children fortunate enough to reach this milestone).

"Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Markham, of Parkhill, and former well known residents of Dereham Township, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the home of their eldest daughter Mrs. Duncan McIntyre of Ailsa Craig. A family party for about 18 was enjoyed and after a turkey dinner, Mr. & Mrs. Markham were made recipients of many handsome and useful gifts, accompanied by an address bearing the good wishes of all the relatives.

Another family party was also held later in the week for about 15 relatives when more gifts were presented and an address was read at this time by Mrs. Markham's youngest brother, Richard H. Wilson, who resides on the family homestead in Dereham.

Mr. & Mrs. Markham have three daughters and a son: Mrs. Duncan (Blanche) McIntyre, Ailsa Craig; Mrs. Earl (Edna) Townsend, Stratford; Mrs. Lloyd (Cora) Clark, Thedford, and Wilson, at home. They also have nine grandchildren. Walter Markham, Ingersoll, is a brother.

Those from Ingersoll and district attending the celebrations were: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson, Mrs. Louisa Wilson, Mrs. W. Wilford, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wilson, Miss Mary Wilson, Mrs. George Wilson. Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson of West Oxford were unable to attend through illness.

Mr. & Mrs. Markham received many cards and messages of congratulations on their 50th wedding anniversary."

May was 68 years old and Thomas was 73 at the time.

Farm is Sold, Auction Sale Held

On March 15, 1948, it was decided to sell the farm, and an auction sale of stock and implements was held on the farm. The farm was sold to Charles Blamplain for \$6900.

Several years later a dam was built near Parkhill which backed the water up to form a lake on this farm. Today most of the area is a conservation park.

Buys 50 Acre Place near Thedford

The family moved next to a small farm, across the road from their daughter Cora, Mrs. Lloyd Clark, near Thedford, on Lot 11, Concession 4, Bosanquet Township. Thomas was now 79 years old and in pretty good health, as

1. Information from the Middlesex Land Office
2. From clipping collection of Mrs. Mary Wilford

was May. Wilson never farmed this place, but he lived there, and worked at various jobs.

Celebrate 60th Anniversary

In 1952, Thomas and May celebrated their 60th anniversary at a small celebration at the home of their daughter, Cora and Lloyd's.

May Dies At Home

For some time in her later years, May had a persistent cough. At one time her doctor put her in the hospital for awhile to try to clear it up, but it wasn't too successful. In December, 1954, May and Thomas celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. That winter May became noticeably weaker, and in mid February, Blanche went to stay with her for a few days. One morning, (February 21, 1955) May said she felt sick and went to the bathroom. She came out shortly, but collapsed a short time later on the floor; she had suffered a fatal heart attack. Thomas sent Wilson across the road to get Cora, but when they arrived back at the house, May had passed away. She was in her 81st year. The funeral was held from the Gilpin Funeral Home at Thedford on Wednesday, February 23rd, with interment in the Wilson plot at Harris Street Cemetery.

May was the last survivor of the nine children of Richard and Catharine Wilson, and her death marked the end of the third generation of the Richard and Sarah Wilson family. What a fine tradition of family conviviality and close relationships. Many people I have talked to invariably commented on "how well the Wilson family got along together and how they cooperated and helped each other when the need arose."

Now the last link was severed.

Thomas' Last Days

After May died, Thomas and Wilson continued living together on the 50 acre place. Thomas went over to Cora's nearly every day, while Wilson went to work in town. After about three years, (1958), Thomas became unable to look after himself, so he was placed in a nursing home at Parkhill. He was very unhappy there, so after a couple of months, he was brought back to Cora's to live. He began having small strokes, so about the end of October, he was taken to the Parker Nursing Home at Watford. He had been there about three months, when on January 12, 1959, he suffered a fatal stroke. He was in his 90th year.

The funeral was held from the Gilpin Funeral Home, Thedford, on January 14th. Temporary entombment was in the Ingersoll Mausoleum with interment later in the Harris Street Cemetery, where nearly three years earlier his wife had been laid to rest.

Their Children

1. Blanche Irene: Born January 25, 1899 at the Markham homestead in Dereham, she was nicknamed Renie (from Irene). She went to S.S. 3 school for about 4 years, then finished public school at Crinan when her folks moved

there. She also began 1st form at this school - often public school teachers would do this in those days - but she quit at Christmas. After Christmas she stayed at her Uncle Charles and Aunt Louisa Wilsons' and went to Ingersoll Collegiate. She didn't like this school and soon discontinued attendance. While she was at her Uncle Charles, they adopted a two week old baby girl whom they named Ruth.

The next fall she went to West Lorne High School, and completed 1st form. Then she was needed at home, and she helped there for a few years. When she was 19 (about 1919) she enrolled in the Chatham Business College and graduated from it. She took a job at West Lorne Motors, then when her family moved to Parkhill, Blanche found employment at Morgans Supply House in downtown London.

She was married September 14, 1921 to Duncan McIntyre. She had met Duncan at Crinan, where he was a neighbouring farmer's son, 15 years her senior. The wedding took place at her Uncle Rich and Aunt Ivah's at the Wilson homestead farm. Blanche explains,¹ "the Wilsons all wanted an invitation to the wedding, so it was easier for us to go down there than to have them all come up to Parkhill".

Duncan and Blanche farmed the home McIntyre farm for about 3 years, but when his father died without a will, Duncan couldn't negotiate ownership and they moved to a place near Lambeth to farm on shares. Their first child, Ivah May was born on the McIntyre farm, March 18, 1923.

After farming at Lambeth a year, they moved to a farm on concession 1, W. Missouri, which they rented for 3 years. Their first son, John Wilson was born here, Feb. 26, 1925, and also their 3rd child, Jean Elizabeth, born July 4, 1927.

Next they rented a farm on Con. 2, near Thorndale for about 4 years. Here were born their 4th and 5th children; Cora Ellen, born Sept. 12, 1929, and Duncan Bruce, born Sept. 2, 1932.

Then they moved to a farm on the 15th Con. of London township which they rented for 4 years. Here were born their 6th and 7th children; Donald Clair on Oct. 6, 1935, and Blanche Irene, Aug. 30, 1938.

They bought a 100 A. farm at lot 31, Con. 16, London township in 1938. Their 8th child, James Kenneth was born here Nov. 24, 1943. Their son Donald farmed with Duncan and an adjoining farm was bought. Duncan suffered a stroke in 1964 when he was 80, which affected his one side. He was never able to walk again, and Blanche and the family cared for him awhile at home. He was taken to the hospital in August, 1964, where he died December 28 that same year.

Donald married the next year and the house was divided, with Blanche continuing to live on the farm.

The occasion of Blanche's 85th birthday, Jan. 25, 1984, was celebrated by an open house birthday party held at Carlisle United Church. A large number of friends, relatives and family attended.

On Jan. 23, 1986, two days before her 87th birthday, Blanche fell in her home, fracturing her hip. She was in St. Joseph's Hospital, London, for five weeks, and came back home about the end of February. She was getting around pretty well again, and enjoying the springtime, and her family, when during the night of Monday, May 26, she died unexpectedly in her sleep. The funeral was held May 28, from the Stephenson Funeral Home, Ailsa Craig, and she was buried in the Carlisle Church Cemetery, where her husband had been buried in 1964.

2. Edna May

She was born July 5, 1904 at the Markham farm in Dereham. After

1. Blanche interviewed April 18, 1981

finishing public school at Crinan, and with the family getting ready to move to Parkhill, she started High School there, boarding there a few months until her parents moved.

She was afflicted with Brights disease while in high school and was forced to quit. This illness occurred just at the time of her sister Blanche's wedding, Sept. 14, 1921. She was very disappointed to miss it, for she had a new dress ready for it for six months, but the big day came and she was sick in bed!

Eventually, Edna did overcome this disease, and went to work in Stratford at Ballantines knitting mill. In Stratford she met Earl Alfred Townsend, born Feb. 13, 1900, and they were married Aug. 4, 1927. He worked at the railroad shop, which Stratford was noted for in those days. They bought a home in that city. They never had any children.

Edna suffered a stroke in 1939 at the age of 35, which partially paralyzed one side. After some time she was able to walk again, but her one arm was never of much use again. She died April 23, 1944 and is buried in the Wilson family plot at Harris Street Cemetery. Earl was remarried to a woman from out west. He died on Aug. 22, 1980.

3. Thomas Wilson

The only son of Thomas and May, he was born Nov. 5, 1906 at the Markham farm in Dereham. He started public school at Crinan and finished at Parkhill.

After public school, he stayed home and farmed the large 300 A. farm. His father never really cared about farming, so he was the farmer from age 14.

Although officially he went by the name Wilson, he was indeed a man of many names. When young, his mother called him "boy", and that name stuck with him for many years. Then when his sisters had children, he was called just "uncle", and some still call him that. When they moved to Thedford in 1948, for some reason he told people there that his name was Charlie, and he was generally known around there by that name. The Wilsons from the Ingersoll area usually called him Meally, just why isn't known.

Wilson never married, his sisters never remember him having a girlfriend; he always said he couldn't afford to get married.

His parents sold him the farm at Parkhill for \$1.00 on Dec. 8, 1936, with the agreement that he assume the mortgage of \$4,400.¹ After operating it for 12 years, Wilson sold it March 15, 1948, to Charles Blampain for \$6,900. Blampain had a V.L.A. loan, and in a few years the V.L.A. took possession. On Feb. 10, 1964, they sold the farm to the Ausable River Conservation Authority for the sum of \$30,000. A dam was built, and part of the farm is now a lake, and a recreation area. Too bad Wilson couldn't have held on and cashed in on some of this.

He then bought a 50A farm near Thedford at Lot 11, Con. 4, Bosanquet Township. He rented out this farm and worked in Thedford at the sugar beet plant for a few years. He and his parents lived in the house on this farm however. When the sugar beet business fell off, Wilson began fixing drains for farmers, and this developed into a steady job for him. About a year after his father died, he sold the farm and went to live with his sister Cora and her husband Lloyd Clark, who lived near Wilson's farm. When they moved to Forest in 1970, he went with them.

Wilson drove Buick cars for many years, and traded often, so he always had a nice car. When he went for a drive, often to visit his cousins around Ingersoll, he was usually accompanied by a friend, Jack Anderson.

In January of 1978, he had an operation to remove his bladder. He re-

cuperated from this, and, still living at Cora and Lloyd's, he was able to get out and around again. But in October of 1979, he had a stroke. He was in University Hospital, London, for about two weeks to determine the extent of the damage caused by the stroke. He had use of his arms and legs, but his mind was affected. From the hospital he was placed in the Forest Nursing Home, about the beginning of November, 1979, and is there at the time of this writing. He can still get around pretty well, and Cora brings him out occasionally for dinner at her place - she lives right across the road from the nursing home. He doesn't remember people, nor does he really comprehend what is going on in the world.

4. Cora Ellen

She was born October 30, 1909, while her parents were renting the cottage on the 50A farm, from William Wilson. She married Lloyd Charles Clark, January 14, 1933, at her parents home. Lloyd was born December 3, 1911; his parents farmed near Thedford. After their marriage, he farmed with his father for about a year and a half. Their first child, Margery Ethel was born during this time, December 3, 1933.

Then they moved south of London, where Lloyd managed a dairy farm for Dr. Hodgins for two years. Their second child, Norma May, was born there August 2, 1935.

They then came back and bought a farm near Thedford. They farmed here for about two years, and then, when his mother died, Lloyd and his family came back to the Clark home farm. He continued active farming on this farm until 1956. Then he sold his cows and went to work at the Thedford tile yard. He sold the farm to a neighbour, and kept two lots, on which he and his daughter Norma and her husband Richard Bird, each built a new house. After a while, the new owner of the farm built a large pig barn, and the smell from it became very offensive. In 1970 they arranged for both houses to be moved to Forest, where they located them side by side. The moving cost was \$500 for each house. Cora and Lloyd continued living there beside Norma and Richard.

In the fall of 1985, Lloyd had heart trouble, and was taken to Victoria Hospital, London, in November. Here he died Nov. 29, 1985. His funeral was held from the Gilpin Funeral Home, Thedford, with interment in the Arkona Cemetery.

DESCENDANTS OF MAY AND THOMAS MARKHAM

Eva "May" Wilson, b. February 10, 1874; d. February 21, 1955,
Buried Harris St. Cemetery

Married December 14, 1892

George "Thomas" Markham, b. August 16, 1869; d. January 12, 1959,

Children: 4

1. Blanche Irene, b. January 25, 1899; d. May 26, 1986

Married September 14, 1921

Buried Harris St. Cemetery

Duncan McIntyre, b. April 29, 1884; d. December 30, 1964

1. Land Registry Office, London

Children: 8

- Ivah May, b. March 18, 1923
Married September 15, 1951 Res. R.R.3, Ilderton
Richard Nelson Smibert, b. January 30, 1923

Children: 2

- Marian Louise, b. December 8, 1953
- Marjorie Ellen, b. June 8, 1955
Married July 23, 197 Res. Arva
Roy Ian Barton, b. May 19, 1954

Children: 2

- Michael Ian, b. June 10, 1977
- Richard "Jason", b. March 3, 1979

- John Wilson, b. February 26, 1925
Married October 23, 1954 Res. R.R.3, Denfield
Florence Beatrice Winslow, b. April 10, 1926

Children: 3

- Karen Marie, b. October 8, 1956
Married August 15, 1980 Res. Barrie
Harold "Wayne" Elliott, b. June 30, 1956

Children: 3

- Sonya Marie, b. October 4, 1981
- Sheena Louise, b. May 28, 1983
- Jennifer Michelle, b. June 13, 1985

- Margaret Anne, b. July 30, 1958
Married August 6, 1977 Res. London
Glen Patrick Brunskill, b. March 9, 1954

Children: 3

- Amanda Lynn, b. August 1, 1980 (twin)
- Nancy Anne, b. August 1, 1980 (twin)
- Jonathan Patrick, b. March 28, 1984

- Phyllis Jean, b. June 22, 1961

- Jean Elizabeth, b. July 4, 1927
Married August 27, 1949 Res. R.R.2, Denfield
Thomas "Clayton" O'Neil, b. May 25, 1919

Children: 6

- Catherine Ann, b. December 3, 1950
Married July 14, 1973
Nickolas John Joseph Terpstra, b. March 29, 1949

Children: 6

- Darryl Thomas, b. May 8, 1974
- Brian Nickolas, b. June 3, 1976
- Cheryl Ann, b. July 21, 1978

- Steven Joseph, b. October 1, 1979
- Scott Anthony, b. August 11, 1981
- Dwayne Kenneth, b. January 31, 1983

- Donna Jean, b. May 27, 1952
Married September 6, 1975
John Ancell Lee, b. August 12, 1951

Children: 3

- Kevin John, b. May 16, 1979
- Erin Jean, b. December 26, 1980
- David Darren, b. May 28, 1983

- Douglas Clayton, b. May 7, 1955
- Dennis Robert, b. November 22, 1958
- Janice Lucille, b. November 28, 1962
- Joseph "Frederick", b. September 14, 1967

- Cora Ellen, b. September 12, 1929
Married May 30, 1953 Res. R.R. 3, Ilderton
Willard Maurice Smibert, b. November 13, 1930

Children: 6

- Charles Willard, b. July 7, 1956; d. July 17, 1959
- Barbara Lynn, b. May 14, 1958
- Brenda Marie, b. May 12, 1960
Married September 13, 1986 Res. London
Salvatore Pace, b. August 5, 1959
- Paul William, b. May 20, 1962
- Nancy Ellen, b. June 16, 1964
- Heather Anne, b. May 26, 1969

- Duncan "Bruce", b. September 2, 1932
Married September 28, 1957 Res. Ilderton
Edith "Marian" Ridgeway, b. March 9, 1933

Children: 2

- Gordon Bruce, b. July 13, 1962
- Ray Scott Duncan, b. September 10, 1966

- Donald Clair, b. October 6, 1935
Married July 10, 1965 Res. R.R.2, Lucan
Ruth Ann Dykeman, b. July 4, 1940

Children: 3

- Lynda Jane Emily, b. June 4, 1966
- Dwayne Donald, b. May 10, 1969
- Lee Ann, b. March 9, 1971

- Blanche Irene, b. August 30, 1938
Married October 14, 1961 Res. R.R.2, Denfield
Bernel Lockhart Hodgins, b. October 21, 1935

8. James "Kenneth", b. November 24, 1943
 Married August 25, 1972 Res. R.R.2, Ilderton
 Mary Louise (Moulton) Gow, b. January 7, 1943

Children: 5

1. Susan Louise (Gow) adopted by Ken, b. February 3, 1965,
 d, November 16, 1974
 2. Steven James, b. June 26, 1966; d. July 5, 1966
 3. Brian Kenneth, b. May 30, 1974
 4. Craig Scott, b. July 5, 1976
 5. Gayle Louise, b. October 2, 1980
2. Edna May, b. July 5, 1904; d. April 23, 1944
 Married August 4, 1927 Buried Harris St. Cemetery
 Earl Alfred Townsend, b. February 13, 1900; d. August 22, 1980
3. Wilson Thomas, b. November 5, 1906
4. Cora Ellen, b. October 30, 1909
 Married January 14, 1933 Res. Forest
 Lloyd Charles Clark, b. December 3, 1911; d. November 29, 1985

Children: 2

1. Margery Ethel, b. December 3, 1933
 Married May 14, 1955 Res. Arkona
 Robert Glen Jefferson, b. March 18, 1933

Children: 4

1. David Clark, b. November 28, 1956
 Married July 26, 1974; divorced
 Betty Lynne Marsh, b. March 2, 1956

Children: 2

1. Tracy Lynne, b. February 17, 1975
2. Daniel Clark, b. April 7, 1976

2. Harley Robert, b. June 27, 1958
3. Kevin Laverne, b. May 8, 1961
 Married September 19, 1981
 Diane Elizabeth Sharpe, b. July 2, 1961

Children: 1

1. Alyssa Michele, b. May 28, 1986

4. Ronald Malcom, b. May 14, 1963
 Married May 7, 1983
 Terry-Lyn Russell, b. September 20, 1963
2. Norma May, b. August 2, 1935
 Married September 26, 1953 Res. Forest
 Richard Eric Bird, b. March 2, 1932

Children: 3

1. Shirley Ann, b. September 21, 1954
 Married August 24, 1974
 Phillipe "Guy" Tremblay, b. May 27, 1952

Children: 2

1. Joseph "Paul", b. September 14, 1976
 2. Stephen "Mark", b. January 17, 1980
2. Margery "Lenore", b. July 5, 1956
 Married September 23, 1978
 Steven "Wayne" Pearson, b. September 23, 1951

Children: 2

1. Amy Ellen, b. February 6, 1981
2. Abby Eileen, b. July 2, 1983

3. Stephen Richard, b. November 26, 1959
 Married April 14, 1979
 Deborah May Jennings, b. October 20, 1960

Children: 4

1. Andrea Marie, b. March 26, 1981 (twin)
2. Angela Christine, b. March 26, 1981 (twin)
3. Matthew Lee, b. July 15, 1983
4. Lesa Alice, b. December 27, 1984

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND MAY MARKHAM



CHILDREN OF TOM & MAY MARKHAM — c. 1916
from front to back: Cora, Wilson, Edna, Blanche



WILSON "Charlie" MARKHAM — c. 1935



CORA and LLOYD CLARK & FAMILY — c. 1943
Cora, Norma, Margery, Lloyd,



EDNA and EARL TOWNSEND
Wedding Picture - August 4, 1927

ELIZABETH C. WILSON
March 10, 1896 - October 12, 1907

Seventh Child

The next child, after May--who was the long awaited second daughter-- was also a girl. The family Bible gives the name of her, the seventh child of Richard and Catharine, as Elizabeth C.-- the C. probably stands for Catharine.¹

Information about her has been very difficult to obtain, as she died at an early age, and much of the family tradition of her seems somewhat shrouded in secrecy and comments are quite guarded.

Nelson Wilson, one of her nephews, said quite candidly that she had a mental disability, or as it was called in those days, she was simple minded. However, Blanche McIntyre and Dorothy Freure say that they never heard that she was mentally deficient, but that she was regarded as not very strong.

It is not known if she completed public school, or even if she was capable of attending school at all. Elizabeth was of medium build, not as fine boned as her sister, May. From pictures available, she appears to have a round, full face, even slightly puffy around the eyes, and heavy eyebrows.

Elizabeth had several talents that evinced a young lady of ability. There are several examples of her knitting and sewing handiwork which have been mentioned by various people. Helen Tuck has a knitted couch covering made by Elizabeth.

Of course, it has been often pointed out how she was able and willing to do her share of the housework of the Wilson household, and how, with a great amount of housework to do, her contribution was of great value to her mother and the rest of the family.

Another talent which was attested to by a neighbour, Mrs. Edward Johnson, nee Rose Minard,² was that Elizabeth, nicknamed Lizzie, could play the piano. Mrs. Johnson well remembers going over to the Wilson's to play or visit and states that she has heard her play the piano. Mrs. Johnson said that she didn't regard Lizzie as simple minded. She recalled that when Catharine and Lizzie moved from the farm, her sister, May, bought the Wilson piano--a flat piano, not an upright--for eight dollars.

Elizabeth and her mother were virtually inseparable; Elizabeth accompanied her everywhere she went. She never married, thus she was always part of the home family. Several people have mentioned that she and her mother always came to church together. Salford church records list her as a member until her death.

One traumatic incident in her life, which is odious to relate, yet is part of her life's drama, is a pregnancy, inflicted upon her by a neighbour, whom Nelson Wilson has named to me, but since I cannot prove it, I won't reveal it. The baby was born premature, stillborn, and was buried by the maple trees which stood west of the Wilson house.

Catharine and Lizzie Honoured by a Farewell Party

The mother of the Wilson family, Catharine, had developed what was called rheumatism about 1899, and she became less and less able to do the work which the large house required, even with the help of her unmarried daughter Lizzie.

Thus, when her second youngest son, William, made plans to marry in the

1. A search of the records of the Office of the Ontario Registrar General revealed no record of a registration of her birth
2. Mrs. Johnson interviewed December 1, 1978

wishes known, she left her gold watch, which Florence still has as a valued heirloom. Although Floss doesn't remember her Aunt Lizzie, this watch is a remembrance of a young lady who had but a brief life of 31 years on this earth, and in many ways an unfortunate life, but who was as gentle and kind a soul as this world has seen.



MAY and ELIZABETH WILSON — c. 1888



AUNT ELIZABETH'S GOLD WATCH
in possession of Florence Shelton — picture 1982

WILLIAM ALBERT WILSON
September 18, 1878 - November 2, 1911

His Early Life

The eighth child, and fifth son of Richard and Catharine Wilson was born September 18, 1878,¹ at the Wilson homestead. He was named William Albert, the first son to be given two Christian names--William, a family name (an uncle), and Albert, royalty? In his early years, he was usually called Willie.

There are few stories of his early years. Concerning his education, he completed Grade 8 at S.S. 3, the Culloden Road school, and went for a year or two to Ingersoll High School--the only one of the family to go to high school. He then worked on the home farm with his brothers, willingly lending his hand to the work on this large farm. The spring and summer of 1896 was a particularly busy time, for the barns were relocated and enlarged at that time.²

After father Richard's sudden death in January, 1896, the boys had to grow up in a hurry, and William, age 18 at the time, helped shoulder the responsibility of managing the large farm. The mother, Catharine, and sister Lizzie, continued to keep house for the boys.

Grandmother Gregg's Settee

One of the few stories about William, or Will as he was often called, concerned his grandmother Gregg (Catharine's mother Ellen). She was widowed in 1895, and spent her last years at the Wilson place. Born in 1811, she lived to be 90, the date of her death being June 18, 1901.

When grandmother Gregg became weak, it was decided someone should sleep nearby to keep an eye on her. So Will, unmarried at the time, was asked to do so. He slept on his grandmother's settee, which was stationed in the hall, by her bedroom door. One time she said to Will, "You have been very faithful, keeping watch over me, so when I'm gone, I want you to have my settee". So it was given to him when she died, and it has been in the family ever since. It is now owned by her great granddaughter, Helen.³

Catharine Sells Farm to William and Richard in 1899

On December 9, 1899, Catharine decided to sell the place to her two youngest sons, William and Richard. For the nominal payment of \$1, she turned the farm over to them, with the agreement that they provide for her - "in consideration of natural love and affection between mother and her sons, and of the bonds and obligations entered into by them."⁴ The farm consisted of 150 acres of Lot 23, 100 acres of Lot 24, and 32 acres in West Oxford. With the prospect of Will marrying in 1902, and also Catharine becoming afflicted with rheumatism, a house was bought for her on King Street, Ingersoll, and she and Lizzie moved at the end of February, 1902.

1. From Family Bible, in possession of R.M. Wilson.

2. See the Richard Wilson story.

3. Information obtained in an interview with Mary, wife of Will, held May 23, 1971; and also in discussions with Helen and Austin.

4. Quoted from Agreement to Sell document in Land Registry Office.

Will Marries Mary Worth

Will courted and won the love of a neighbour girl, Mary Elizabeth Worth, whose father farmed about 3/4 mile north of the Wilson farm. The Worths were Anglican, and the wedding was held at the St. James Anglican Church,¹ Ingersoll. A church wedding in those days was something special, usually weddings were held at the home of the bride.

The marriage was held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 4, 1902, and was conducted by Rev. James Thompson, rector of St. James Church.

The ceremony was performed beneath an arch of green leaves, and evergreen boughs festooned from the gasolier at the front of the altar.

The bride's dress was a cream silk, and she carried a bouquet of cream carnations. The bridesmaid, Miss Annie Worth, sister of the bride, was attired in white organdy.

The groomsman was Richard Wilson, brother of the groom. The choir rendered several numbers during the ceremony. The church was filled with a large number of guests and spectators.

After the ceremony, the bridal party and invited guests, numbering about 50, drove to the home of the bride's grandmother, Mrs. John Corrie, where the company partook of an elaborate wedding dinner. The numerous gifts received attested to the esteem of the couple. Among the gifts were a dozen silver spoons from St. Michael's Sunday School, where the bride was a faithful teacher. The groom's gift to the bride was a pearl crescent.

After some time in games and a social time, Mr. & Mrs. Wilson left for their home on the Wilson homestead.

The next morning, they set out for Aylmer by horse and buggy for their honeymoon; Mary had some cousins there.

One incident that Mary told of the wedding was that she was quite late arriving at the church. Apparently, the driver was sent by the groom to pick up the bride to bring her to the church. He went to her parent's place, but no one was there, and it was some time before he found Mary, who had been at her grandmother's, Liza Corrie, getting ready. Will, it was said, was very upset and worried as he waited at the church; and Mary was nearly ready to start walking, thinking that everyone had forgotten her.

Mary recalls that there was a heavy frost the night before they came home from their honeymoon (about June 6th), and heavy crop damage was evident when they arrived back home.

Description of Mary Worth²

On October 16, 1878, Isabella (Corrie) Worth went to the barn early in the morning and milked her usual cows on the farm of her husband, John Worth, of West Oxford. A short time later, back in the house, she gave birth to her second child, a daughter whom they named Mary Elizabeth. Baby Mary was a blue eyed, fair haired child, a natural blonde, so much so that she was nicknamed "tow-head."

Her older brother, John Currie Worth, was born February 15, 1877; William Humphrey was born August 28, 1880; Henry George, born December 14, 1882; Eliza Anne (Annie), born November 28, 1884; and Lillie Isabella, born September 25, 1889.

Mary's mother, Isabella, sometimes called Belle, was a very energetic person, a capable helpmate on her husband's dairy farm. Wm. Pearson, who



WILLIAM (left) WITH BROTHER RICHARD
ages 7 & 5, c. 1885

1. From a newspaper clipping in Mary (Sib) Wilson's scrapbook.
2. From a write-up by her daughter, Helen Tuck.

MARY, AUSTIN, HELEN, MARION & WILLIAM WILSON - 1911



William and the Wilson Bros. steam engine



WILSON SAWMILL

l to r: Richard Wilson, unknown, Tom Markham, Harry Pearson
George Wilson, William Wilson



THREE WILSON COUSINS WITH SONS - August 1933
l to r: Jim with Kenneth, Harry with Edward, Ausin with Everett

worked for their neighbours, the McNivens, remembers her as the one who was up early in the morning getting the others going. She was born on a farm south of Verschoyle, the daughter of John Corrie and his wife Mary Morris. She had one sister, Mary, who married Rev. John Veale.

When Isabella was about 9 years old in 1860, her mother gave birth to twins, and died of dropsy 17 days later. One twin, William, lived for about 1 month, and the girl, Phoebe Ann died at 9 weeks of age on November 1st; a tragic time for Mr. Corrie. He remarried; first to an Elizabeth, who died June 30, 1873, and then to Eliza Lennon, who outlived him, he dying September 13, 1900 at age 82.

Isabella married John Worth on March 28, 1876.

As a young lady, she became an accomplished cheese maker, winning prizes at fairs and exhibitions, one of which was the Central Fair, Hamilton 1873, where she won a large Family Bible for "The Best Dairy Made Cheese." Another prize she won was a large bureau (chest of drawers) with mirror, now in possession of the writer.

When Mary was about two years old, she fell and broke her arm. She went to stay with her grandfather and stepgrandmother, John and Liza Corrie (also spelled Currie) until it healed, and continued staying with them until she was 16 years old. Gramma Liza, as Mary called her, was very fond of her and gave her a good up-bringing and they formed a lasting affection for each other that lasted through Gramma Liza's life. She was like a mother to her, and as noted above, she tendered the wedding reception and meal for Mary and William. The Corries lived on a five acre "farm" at the corner of Whiting Street and the 1st Concession of West Oxford. Grandpa Corrie had retired here when he sold his farm south of Verschoyle (William Armstrong owns it now). He built a nice white brick house and small barn there, and kept a horse and a couple of Jersey cows.

Mr. Corrie was a Scotsman and very frugal, but was good to Mary, driving to town to meet her at school when the weather was bad.

Mary attended the Ingersoll Public School, and went two years to high school. She became a member of St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, and when that congregation built a small chapel¹ near the farm of her father, Mary also attended there, going to Ingersoll on Sunday morning and then going to St. Michael's-in-the-Field in the afternoon, where she also taught Sunday School for several years.

When Mary was about 16, she returned to her parent's home, then kept house for about two years for her brother John, who farmed south-west of Putnam.

Mary was courted by Arthur Crawford, who was superintendent of St. Michael's Sunday School, but William Wilson finally won out.

Mary had a fair complexion, a round face, high forehead, and prominent eyes. She was of medium build, had a strong constitution, which saw her reach 96 years of age. She was a very energetic person, a good manager with good business sense.

Will Sells Out to Richard

So Will brought his new bride to the Wilson homestead farm, which he and his brother Richard owned jointly. The brothers farmed together and Mary kept house because Richard was unmarried at the time. There was an understanding that Richard would not marry for 3 or 4 years until Will found a farm of his

1. See the Charles Wilson story.



AUSTIN AND STELLA WILSON & FAMILY - 1943
Standing: Donna, Austin, Everett
Seated: Stella with Diane on lap



HELEN and DOUGLAS JACKSON & FAMILY - 1956
L to R - William, Helen, Douglas, Marilyn

own, for it was understood that the youngest son, Richard, would have the home farm.

However, the next year (1903), Richard made plans to marry, so Will agreed to sell his half of the farm and livestock to Richard for \$8500. This sale was dated April 7, 1903,¹ the day before Richard was married. Will took a note for the full amount of \$8500 from Richard, secured by a mortgage on the farm. In this agreement of purchase, Richard also assumed the liabilities which he and Will had jointly undertaken in 1899 when they bought the farm from their mother. These liabilities probably included payment for the house in Ingersoll, plus care for their sister Lizzie. This amounted at the time of the sale, to \$6350, which is stated as part of the above agreement. Thus Will and his wife moved out, and with no place as yet having been purchased, once again Grandma Corrie came into the picture. She offered to let them live with her in her large home. Mary was always somewhat bitter over having to move off the farm before they had found another place, and also, she was expecting her first child later that year.

Will worked out for farmers that summer, and kept his eyes open for a farm he could buy. One place he considered buying was on the north edge of London, where the Hunt Club later established its location. On July 27, 1903, their first child was born at Grandma Corrie's place. A daughter, she was named Marion Isobel.

Will Buys Farm

A farm down the road, next farm west of the Wilson homestead, came up for sale at the beginning of 1904. Located at Lot 25, Dereham, and consisting of 80 acres of the north-west portion of the lot, it was also adjacent to Will's brother Leonard on the west. The owner, Darius Palmer, was in financial difficulty; he had signed it over to his wife, Florence, in June, 1903 (for \$1.00); had borrowed \$700 from John Wilson, for which he had mortgaged his farm in July; was being sued by Frederick Harris, on behalf of himself and other creditors concerning which a Lis Pendis, was registered against the farm in December, 1903.²

Thus Will was able to find a willing seller in the persons of Florence and Darius Palmer. The agreed price was \$6,500 and the sale was dated February 8, 1904.³ The Lis Pendis was discharged by Oxford County Court on the same day, Judge Alexander Finkle presiding,⁴ and Will had a clear title to the farm. Or so he thought. But another problem came up. The lawyer noticed that in the settlement of the Ball estate (owners of the property in the 1800's) there were a few loose ends. Thus Will had to pay \$5.00 to have a Julia Ball, widow of Abram Ball, sign a Quit Claim deed in order to clear the title.⁵

Then in November, 1904, the owner of a farm across the road north and a little west, Henry Frederick Harris, made an assignment. The solicitor, Robert Fisher of London, put the farm up for auction on December 15, 1904, and Will successfully bid \$3,500 and became the owner of another farm located at Lot 26, Concession 1, West Oxford.⁶ The farm consisted of 50 acres, less 5-4/10 acres which the Town of Ingersoll had leased along the creek in the cedar

1. Land Registry Office.

2. Land Registry Office: a Lis Pendis is a court injunction registered against a property, barring any transactions until the claim of the person named is satisfied.

3. Land Registry Office.

4. Documents are in possession of the writer.

5. Land Registry Office.

6. Land Registry Office. This was always called the Harris farm by Will and Mary.

swamp along the north end of the property. This creek fed a reservoir, from which the town pumped water into their waterworks system, and Will received \$5.00 per year rent for this. There were about 35 acres of light loam workable land at the south end of the farm, with about 15 acres of cedar swamp at the back.

Near the road, on this farm, was located a single storied brick house, and a barn which had clay block walls. A large shed, west of the barn, was built for the saw mill, but was later used as an implement storage shed.

Description of Will

Will was fairly tall, not quite six foot, and dark haired. Rather slim, he was a good humoured jolly man.

William Pearson said that he was like the rest of the Wilsons, of few words, and even tempered, able to take life's annoyances in his stride, without getting too excited.

He could play the violin and often played at the house dances that were held around. He had a pretty fair singing voice; he had the Wilson "twang" as his wife Mary called it.

A neighbour of the Wilsons, Mrs. Ed. Johnson, remembers the Wilson brothers hollering at one another. They would climb their windmills and shout messages back and forth.

One time, Mary had unexpected dinner guests, and she was short of bread. So she, quietly on the side, asked Will to slip up to May's (Leonard's wife) to borrow a loaf of bread. So, instead of quietly going up for it, he went out on the barn bridge, and started to holler, "May, have you got a loaf of bread?" Nearly everybody in the neighbourhood heard him, including the dinner guests, so twangy and penetrating was the Wilson voice. Needless to say, Mary was very agitated with her husband. We wonder if he got the loaf of bread.

Will was the mechanic of the Wilson brothers. He was the one who helped look after the steam engine and thresher. Also the saw mill was set up on his north 50 acre farm, and he was the one who sharpened the saw and kept it in repair.

He had good quality tools, and many of them: hand saw, brace and bit, wood chisels, are still in use today, having been passed down to his son, Austin, then to the writer.

He liked to go north deer hunting with the Wilson brothers. He had a .38 Winchester gun. His son, Austin, used it for many years in his day, now it is in the gun collection of Will's grandson, Bill Jackson. Will also enjoyed going rabbit hunting.

Will was known as a good business man, and he was auditor of the Culloden Road Cheese Factory for the years 1905 to 1910.

Will was nicknamed "Cod" by his brothers. Wm. Pearson remembers them calling him that, but has no idea why they did.

Their Family

1. Marion Isabel: She was born July 27, 1903, at the house at the 5 acres, while her mother and father were staying there with Mary's step-grandmother, Liza Corrie. The family moved in 1904 to their newly purchased farm at Lot

25, Concession 1, Dereham.

A story that is told of her is that one time her mother had her out in the garden with her, and Mary was picking potato bugs off the potato patch and putting them in a pail. She set it down to do some hoeing, and then noticed that Marion was into the pail with both hands, eating potato bugs!

The school to which she should have started was S.S. 3, Dereham, over 2 miles away, but it is believed that she didn't go there but stayed at her grandmother Worth's, who lived on Wonham Street, Ingersoll, and that she went to Ingersoll school.

When her Aunt Lizzie Wilson died in 1907, she left each of her nieces something. Marion inherited a gold ring with two rubies and pearls. She also received about \$500, which she lent to the Methodist Church House, then lent it to the Salford Baptist Church. At her death most of it was used to buy a steel burial vault.

She grew to be a very lovely girl, gentle and kindly mannered, affectionately loved by all who were within the circle of her acquaintance.

Marion was confirmed as a member of St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, January 28, 1917, Rt. Rev. David Williams, Bishop of Huron, confirming her.

Someone has said that she was too sweet for this world. How tragically true this saying proved. She was stricken with diabetes at about age 17, and soon became thin and sickly.

Shortly thereafter, her mother remarried, and the family moved to the Salford farm. About a year after they had moved there, Marion, in her weakened condition from diabetes, took a cold which went down on her chest. Shortly, she lapsed into a coma for two or three days, and died February 7, 1922. Ironically, insulin--the great treatment for diabetes--was being perfected by Doctors Banting and Best at that very time, in fact it had been used experimentally for the first time on a human on January 11 of that year, 1922. The experiment was a success, and the young boy, Leonard Thompson, lived to reach adulthood.

Marion's funeral was held from the farm home, February 10, and was one of the most largely attended that district had known.¹ The service was conducted by Rev. W.E. McMillen, minister of St. James, assisted by Rev. C.H. Innes of Salford Baptist Church. Pallbearers were six Wilson cousins; Douglas, Thomas, Earl, Nelson, Harry and Fred Wilson. The interment was in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery, where her father had been buried 10 years previously, also a victim of diabetes.

2. John Austin: Born March 27, 1907, at the farm home, he was baptized June 9, 1907 by Rev. E. Marshall at the King Street Methodist Church, Ingersoll, the church of William's persuasion. The baptism record gives his name in the order John Austin. John, his maternal grandfather Worth's name and Austin, a name Mary thought couldn't be nicknamed.

His father died when he was 4 1/2 years old, and although Mary says that he followed his father around "like his shadow", Austin said that he could not really remember his dad. In his father's will, the name is recorded in the order John Austin; in this will the farms are willed to him when he reached the age of 21.

During the time the family lived at Clark's Corners [1912-1921], Austin completed his public schooling at S.S. 2, West Oxford. He helped tend the two cows and other livestock on his mother's 5 acre farm, and also on weekends and summer holidays worked for his Uncle Charles and Uncle John Worth. He often talked about picking stones off his Uncle Charles' fields, and of

1. From newspaper obituary.

driving the team on the hay wagon, while Charles and Nels loaded.

When his mother remarried in January, 1921, and they moved to the Salford farm, he was 13 1/2 years old and had started attending the High School in Ingersoll, and he rode the train that winter. It left Salford station at 7 in the morning and returned about 7 at night--a long day. He rode a bicycle to High School in the nice weather.

The next fall, he took a commercial course at Ingersoll High School, but quit in early spring, and helped with farm work.

In August, 1923, at age 16, he and the Pogue brothers, Loyal and Earl, went west on the Harvest excursion. They worked near Drumheller, Alberta (\$4 per day), for nearly three months, then went on to Vancouver to see the country. Before he went, he had a health problem, it is believed a kidney infection, and was a weak 115 lbs. When he came home, he weighed 150 lbs., and was hardly sick another day in his life until his heart problems began.

In 1925, he went out west again, this time with Thurwell Dunham, and worked near Carmen, Manitoba for over a month.

On March 11, 1929, he bought the 128 Acre farm at Lot 16, Con. 2, Dereham, from Wm. Wilford, his step-father for \$14,000 with Mr. Wilford holding a mortgage for \$8,700.

On November 30, that same year, Austin married Estelle Louise Cornish of Crampton, b. April 15, 1909; the wedding taking place at the Beachville Parsonage.

He always signed his name Austin J. Wilson. When he was courting Stella Cornish, he told her that he didn't like his initials of his name J.A.W. so when he began doing business on his own, he switched the order of his names. His Wilson cousins, especially Jim, usually called him Henry, the reason is not known.

On April 13, 1931, they lost a full term baby boy, because of a difficult delivery and an incompetent doctor attempting a home delivery. Their other children were Everett Austin b. October 7, 1932; Donna Marion Louise, b. September 2, 1934; and Diane Elizabeth, b. June 11, 1939.

Immediately upon starting farming, the Depression came, and he was caught rather heavily in debt. But by hard work and austerity, they managed to pull through.

He joined Salford United Church shortly after he was married.

Austin served as President of the Salford Cheese Factory from 1942-44, was a director on the Ingersoll Local of the Concentrated Milk Producers and was Chairman of the New Lawson Milk Producers, 1964-65. He was trustee for S.S. 2, Salford school for several years prior to 1943, then was trustee on the Township Area Board until 1946. He served on the Dereham Township committee of adjustment from 1965 to 1971 and on the Township Planning Board from 1961 to 1971.

His son, Everett, formed a partnership with him, commencing in 1951, and the dairy herd was increased.

The youngest daughter, Diane, was critically injured when the car she was driving was in collision with another car on December 14, 1956, and died December 16. This tragedy left its mark significantly on Austin the rest of his life.

Austin always loved the north woods, and went to the Pickerel River area deer hunting, the first indication is from a letter in 1925. He dreamed of having a cottage in the north, and in 1973, he and Cecil Wilson bought a cottage on Round Lake northwest of Huntsville, and as long as health permitted, he and Stella holidayed there.

On November 16, 1974, he had a heart attack while raking leaves at home, and was taken to Ingersoll Hospital (his first stay in a hospital), and was put on the heart monitor for several days, and held in hospital until November 29. He then admitted to having had a spell earlier that summer, on August 22, while baling straw. But he had never let on and drove to the cottage at Round Lake the next day! Austin and Stella had planned a celebration of their 45th Wedding Anniversary, November 30, but this was cancelled because of Austin's health, but at least he was home on the day.

He was ordered to stop smoking, and not to do any work, but he didn't exactly obey the no-smoking order, and the no-work order made him very distraught, and he felt he was rendered useless.

He continued in this state under doctor's care and taking medication without further serious pains until he had another attack July 28, 1976. This time he was taken to Victoria Hospital where he was a patient for 8 days before he was allowed to return home.

Then through the early morning of Tuesday, October 19, 1976, he had pains. They subsided through the day and came again in evening. Doctor Emery was called out, and he advised going to the hospital. An ambulance was called and he was taken to Ingersoll Hospital where he was put on the heart monitor and given pain sedatives. He grew weaker through Wednesday, and died about 5 a.m. Thursday, October 21. The funeral was held October 23, from McBeath's, Ingersoll, with interment at Harris Street Cemetery in the family plot where his dear daughter, Diane, had been buried 20 years before.

His widow continued to live in the farm house until December, 1978, when she moved to an apartment at Earl Street, Ingersoll. She developed cancer, and died Aug. 23, 1982.

3. Helen Elizabeth: The third child of Will and Mary Wilson. Born on the Wilson farm, March 24, 1909, she can remember being taken into the room where her father was lying in his casket (Helen would be just a little over 2 years old). She asked why they had her dad in that box. When in 1912, they moved to 5 A at Clarks Corners, she went to Public School at S.S. 2, West Oxford. Miss Milliken was the teacher, and later Miss Nash.

When she was 11, her mother married Wm. Wilford, and the family moved to Lot 16, Con. 2, Dereham. Helen felt that this was quite an upheaval; she really loved their home at the 5 A.

However, Mr. Wilford was a likeable man, and he said he hoped he could make a good home and a good life for his new family.

Helen took communicant classes at the Anglican Church, Ingersoll, driving in from the Salford farm, and joined St. James Church.

Helen was in Jr. 4 (Grade 7) when she came to Salford after Christmas and started at Salford with Evelyn Peck, teacher, and then Grade 8 or entrance with her.

Then to High School at Ingersoll. Mabel Wilford was going to Grade 13 at Ingersoll that year, so they drove a horse and rig there.

The next year she boarded in town with Martha Bailey and went to High School until Christmas.

The Mt. Elgin Continuation School was newly opened, and pupils from Dereham Township had to pay tuition if they went to Ingersoll High School, so she started at Mt. Elgin in January of her second form. Helen boarded at Mrs. Hadcock's at Mt. Elgin and went to school from there. She finished her fourth form there. Miss Calhoun was the principal.

Helen gave the valedictory address at her class's graduation in 1926. She

then stayed home for 2 years to help her mother, then decided to further her education.

She considered going into nursing, but the principal of Westervelt came to recruit pupils for his business school. Mr. Wilford resented her going back to school, but she enrolled.

She started at Westervelt (two weeks late because of a flu epidemic) in January, 1928. After graduation in 1929, she was hired by London Life Insurance, Head Office, where she worked until 1935. Then she married Warren Douglas Jackson of Bancroft, Ontario, whom she met at London Life. The wedding took place at St. James Anglican Church, Ingersoll, on August 31, 1935. Their first home was at One Rambert Crescent, Toronto, as Doug had been transferred there in 1933.

They had two children: Marilyn Frances, b. December 11, 1937; and William Douglas, b. October 13, 1940.

Doug was promoted to Office Manager in 1940. The family moved to a home at 118 Castlewood Road, Toronto, in 1940.

Doug and Helen became active members of St. James Bond United Church.

In 1964, Doug developed cancer and after several operations and much suffering, died September 20, 1967. He is buried at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery in the Wilson plot.

His widow, Helen, remarried December 16, 1972, to George Irvine Tuck, b. May 29, 1895. In 1977, he was placed in a nursing home, where he died September 1, 1981. Helen continues to live at 118 Castlewood Road.

William Wilson's Farm Operation

There was a frame clapboard two-storied home on the south farm, and a well built barn. Will had a cement silo built shortly after he bought the farm, probably about 1907 or 1908. Doug Wilson recalled that he went over to help fill the silo that fall, and it was the first cement silo he had ever filled; wood-stave were the common ones in those days.

The soil was a light loam, gently rolling land, early to dry in the spring. There was a hardwoods at the back, where Will used to make maple syrup.

Jack Hargreaves, when he was 12, in 1907, helped Will with the chores that winter. He remembered Will as a hard working man, who kept pretty good livestock.

William Pearson worked for Will in 1910. He helped to do some road work with Will that fall. He remembers that Will asked him to stay on awhile, so that the week before Christmas Will could go up to his brother-in-law, Lorne Cook's to go rabbit hunting. Will wanted to hire Mr. Pearson for the next year, but he decided to go back to town to work in the shoe factory.

Will kept a herd of Holstein cows, and was beginning to get into registered Holsteins by the year 1911. The advertised auction sale of his stock and implements (March 14, 1912) lists a seven year old registered cow, Fanny Dekol Posch #5815, born January 20, 1905, bred by W. J. Treffry, Hawtry, Ontario; and her son Henry Dekol Mercena #12585, born April 19, 1911. Since this bull was registered in the ownership of William A. Wilson, with W. J. Treffry as breeder, we can say that the dam Fanny Dekol Posch was in calf when Will purchased her, and calved at Will's farm. Also listed was a bull, Prince Calamity Hengerveld #8666, born April 5, 1909, and bred by James Raymond, Ingersoll, Ontario. In addition to these registered Holsteins, there were 20

grade cows advertised, all bred to the registered bull; 2 heifers, 2 two year olds milking; and 2 two year olds to freshen later; also 3 yearling heifers and a 4 month old calf.

There were four horses advertised: gray mare, about 1200 lbs., 11 years; bay mare, about 1200 lbs., 10 years; two general purpose horses, 8 years and 4 years.

Also advertised were 3 brood sows with pigs at side, and 11 shoats, about 80 lbs. each. There were 50 "good young hens" advertised.

The implements advertised included: McCormick binder, nearly new; McCormick seed drill, nearly new; McCormick mower; set of disc harrows; 2 horse cultivators; land roller, new; set of diamond harrows; 2 furrow plough; 2 single furrow ploughs; corn cultivator; wagon with combination rack; milk wagon; rubber tired wagon; steel tired wagon; hay fork complete; wheel barrow; root pulper; 3 forty gallon cans; 14 condenser cans; Massey-Harris cream separator; chicken incubator; set bob sleighs; set scales, 2000lbs. cap.; set light double harness; 2 sets double heavy harness; set heavy single harness; 5 milk pails; quantity of hay, straw and ensilage; good water tank; barrels; number of grain bags and "numerous other articles."

By this listing, we gain a birds' eye view of the farm livestock and implements which Will had amassed on his farmstead.

Diabetes Strikes

When Will was just nicely getting his farm going well, in about 1909, when he was about 31 years of age, he was stricken with diabetes. It soon caused him to lose weight and sapped his strength. Wm. Pearson remembered him coming over to McNivens' threshing when he was there about 1909, and he brought special brown bread for dinner. It was sugar free, and Mary would soak the flour, and strain it through a silk stocking, in an effort to remove some of the starch, before using it in the bread. Also he quit eating sweets, which he dearly loved, in an effort to combat the disease.

Doug Wilson remembered being at Will's place one fall for silo filling, and Will was cleaning stables with a shovel. Doug said to him that at their place they cleaned with a big scoop shovel, and Will replied, "What good would a big scoop shovel do me? I can't handle the one I'm using."

Thus, before the help that insulin gave to diabetics, Will struggled in vain to battle his affliction, and steadily lost to the scourge.

It was about this time, 1910, that Mary's beloved step-grandmother, Liza, decided to close up her house at Clark's Corners, and to come to live at Mary and Will's, because she was no longer able to live alone. She helped out as best she could, even though she was quite aged.

Mary had a girl helping her at this time, whose name was Nora Lindsay, she later married Randal Vincent (see below).

Frequent visitors to the Wilson farm were Will's cousin Annie and her husband Harry Pearson. Annie was the daughter of Charles Wilson, the governor of Woodstock jail. It is because of the fact that Annie could afford to own a camera, and took pictures of Will and his family, that we have any pictorial evidence of them.

The Death of Will At 33

Will had a hired man in the summer of 1911 named Randal Vincent, and he himself was able to be up and about and doing his bit. Diabetes seldom kills, but it so weakens the body that other diseases take hold and cause serious problems.

Mary said that Will foolishly went swimming with his brothers and others at a picnic at Port Stanley that summer, and caught a cold, which he could not shake.

It is said that his brothers went deer hunting that fall--usually the last of October-- but before they had been there more than three or four days, they received word that Will had died. A tradition is that an Indian woman paddled up the river to the hunting camp with the news. The obituary states that "while he had been ill for several months, he was able to be around, and his death, which occurred suddenly, came as a shock to all who knew him." Mary said that pneumonia set in at the first cold snap of the fall, and he was dead in a short time, with no strength to resist it. He died at home, Thursday, November 2, 1911, being 33 years one month and 15 days.

His oldest child, Marion, was 7 years old, Austin was 4 1/2, and Helen was 2 1/2.

The funeral took place Sunday, November 5, from the farm home, thence to the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery for burial.¹ Mary said that when her father (John Worth) heard the news of Will's death, he went to Ingersoll Rural cemetery and bought a lot (the Worth's are buried there), although the lot he bought isn't very close to theirs, it is about midway on the north side of the south driveway. Then John came over to Mary's place and said, "Mary, don't worry about a burial place for Will; I have got that all arranged." She said that was one of the nicest things he ever did for her.

The newspaper writeup of the funeral states that "upwards of one hundred and fifty vehicles were in the procession, indicating the esteem in which the deceased was held not only throughout the township, but also in town." Rev. H.B. Christie (Minister of Ingersoll King Street Methodist) officiated, assisted by the Rev. R.J.M. Perkins (Anglican Minister of St. James). It is interesting to note that both Methodist and Anglican clergy officiated, and that the Methodist (William's church) was in charge). Pallbearers were Messrs. John, Charles, George, Leonard and Richard Wilson, brothers of the deceased, and Thomas Markham, brother-in-law.

Terms of the Will

Under the terms of the will, which he had written October 21, 1911, about a week and a half before he died, Will appointed his brothers Richard and George as his executors, and his wife as guardian of the children and the estate. She received his \$1000 life insurance policy (in Confederation Life).

He gave his wife the use of his farmlands, until his son, John Austin (note the order of names) attained the age of 21 years; at which time Austin was to have the farm on condition that he pay his sisters Marion and Helen \$2500 each. Also, Austin was to pay his mother \$100 per year after he reached age 21, as long as she remained a widow.

The value of Will's estate as listed and filed in Surrogate Court was as follows: household furniture - \$300; farming implements - \$400; horses - \$400; cattle - \$1000; swine - \$75; life insurance - \$1000; cash in bank - \$660.16;

1. From newspaper obituary.

farm produce - \$600; real estate - 1. Lot 25, north half 1st Con. Dereham - \$6500; 2. South half, Lot 26, 1st Con. West Oxford - \$3000; for a total of \$13,935.16.¹

Considering that Austin was 4 1/2 years old at his father's death, this meant that Mary had the responsibility of looking after the two farms for a period of nearly 17 years, without being able to sell them. Quite a heavy load for a widow, but she managed to shoulder the task very well, renting the two farms to various tenants. Of the two executors, Richard and George, Richard was the one who helped Mary the most.

Auction Sale, Thursday, March 14, 1912

Mary's hired man, Randal Vincent, continued to look after the chores through the winter of 1911-12. She then contacted the well-known auctioneer, Alex Rose of Ingersoll, to arrange for an auction sale of the farm stock and implements in the early spring.

The printed sale bill, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer, gives the date chosen as March 14, 1912, at one o'clock. See listing in earlier section "Farm Operations".

Although the receipts of the sale are not known, there is a set of figures written on the sale bill which may be of some significance. Beside the purebred Holstein listing appears:

175
60
235
125
360

Perhaps the purebred cow brought \$175, the yearling bull calf \$60, and the registered herd sire sold at \$125.

Mary and Family Move to The 5 Acres

After the auction sale, it was decided that Mary and her three children, and Grandma Liza, who was living with them, would move back to Liza's house at Clark's Corners. The home farm was rented to Sam Fitzpatrick, and Grandma Liza's house was opened up again, and Mary and her family settled in.

However, Grandma Liza fell and broke her hip in the late summer of that year, 1912, and after about 2 weeks in bed, died August 31, aged 81. This was a real sadness for Mary, for she was very close to her.

An account book which Mary kept and which is still extant, gives a good picture of the affairs of their household, beginning in the year 1912. It indicates that Mary bought a stove for \$21, and bought Grandma Liza's stove for \$4 in November of 1912, she was getting ready to heat the house that winter. Also, on December 7, she paid \$1339 for the place - Grandma Liza left Mary the house in her will, on condition she pay off the nieces and nephews (her maiden name was Lennon). Mary paid \$18.51 taxes on the place December 14.

As Christmas approached that year, Mary bought a goose on December 20 for \$1.25; gloves for Ma, (Mary always called her mother Ma) and Aunt Fanny, \$2.00; sweater coat for Helen, 25c; gloves for Leonard, \$1.25; cocoa jug for Annie, \$2.50; cup and saucer for May, 75c; cup and saucer for Ellie, (Ella,

1. Surrogate Court papers filed, November 12, 1911, County of Oxford.

Mrs. John Wilson), 35c; boy's handkerchief, 50c; candies, 25c and oranges, 20c. Bread was 12c per loaf and butter 35c per pound.

Also, it is noted that \$5 was paid to the Wilson brothers for cutting wood, and \$5 was paid for sawing pickets.

In February, 1913, Mr. Fitzpatrick paid his rent for the home farm - \$233 for the year. Dick Markham, (Tom's brother) who did day work around, is mentioned in the account book several times as having worked for Mary. It is said that he had romantic intentions towards her, but she did not reciprocate.

Contemplates Becoming a Nurse

In the spring of 1913, Mary considered taking a course to become a nurse. She was 35 years old at the time, and she reasoned that by doing this she could provide for her family with a useful occupation while she still was an able bodied woman.

She obtained the books necessary for the course, advertised her place for sale, (the advertising cost \$6.50 in May, 1913), and picked out a house to rent in Ingersoll, near the water stand-pipe on Wonham Street. It was arranged that the children would stay at their aunts - the girls to Lily and Annie, and Austin to Aunt Louisa. However, Mary never went through with any of these plans. Helen remembers that the children were much against moving to town, and when her mother got out the nursing books, they would beg her to send those books back. These books represented a threat to the pleasant life that they had enjoyed living at Clark's Corners.

Life On The Five Acre "Farm"

So Mary gave up the idea of becoming a nurse, and as the children could help a little more, kept more livestock on their little farm. There was a small barn on the place, and two or three cows were kept. In 1917 there is an entry in the account book, "purchased cow from John (Wilson) - \$85." Also, a driving horse named Britton or Britt for short was kept. An entry the same year showed "sold 8 chickens - \$7.00 and 2 pigs at \$6.00 per cwt."

By 1917 enough milk was produced that it was shipped to Bordens. The milk cans were placed on a stand by the roadside, and a neighbour, Mr. Williams, would pick it up on his way to the factory. He was a wonderful neighbour, and helped Mary and family with many kindnesses: he would give them fruit from his orchard, and would often take the children to town on his milk wagon. Mary's parents or brothers never came around to help her very much. There are three milk cheques entered in the book for 1917 - \$5.00, 17.00, and 6.10. Also there are milk sales to Mrs. Odell at 9c per quart. In 1918 the milk business was even better, and the following cheques are recorded: June, \$38.00, July, 40.70, August, 36.16, September, 27.94, October, 26.34, November, 18.83. Milk sales for 1919 of about the same amount are recorded.

Two neighbouring families, the Clarks and the Turners were very close friends of Mary, and their children played together, and went to school together. The school was S.S.#2, West Oxford, located a mile south and about 1/2 mile east of Clark's Corners. The Odell tile yard was just west of their place, and was a great place to play. The children watched them make tile, sometimes getting a piece of the soft clay and shaping it into figures. The pond was a swimming hole in summer and provided skating in winter.

All this time, of course, Mary was renting her two farms to various tenants, and the account book records names, amounts of rent and expenses incurred on the farms. As best as can be ascertained, here are the various renters;

Palmer farm (south home farm - 80A) - From 1912-17, Sam Fitzpatrick rented at \$240 per year; 1918-24, Abe Haycock (a new barn roof was put on in 1921 - cost \$309; 1925-26, John Tisdale. Austin, on coming of age, sold the farm September 21, 1927, to his cousin Thomas Wilson, for \$7,250. Tom backed out of the deal before completion, and Austin kept his \$500 deposit. Austin sold the farm to his uncle Richard Wilson later that year for the same price. The Harris farm (north 54A) - Will's brother-in-law Thomas Markham and family rented it from Will from 1908 to 1910, Cora Markham was born there. From 1912-15, Mike Halpen; 1916-1921, George Haycock (brother of Abe Haycock above) - rent was \$225 per year; 1922-30, Percy Burroughs, rent also \$225; 1931-1932, Howard Chilton, rent was \$250, but with depression, he couldn't pay his rent; 1933-35, Allan Skinner, rent \$175 per year; 1936-38, Harry Wilson - his hired man lived in the house; 1939-44, Bob Pray. On October 23, 1944, Austin sold the place to Florence Boyce for \$3,400.

Mary Weds William Wilford - 1921

The first inkling that Mary had a beau was at a Pierian Club picnic - this was a community club of members around Clark's Corners and West Oxford. There weren't usually people from Dereham there, but this one year William Wilford and his daughter, Mabel, showed up. It was at the Kennedy farm (now the Thompson place at the junction of 401 and the Culloden Road.) These picnics were quite an event and well-attended. Quite early in the afternoon Mary left with Mr. Wilford in his Dodge car; apparently he was driving her into town for an appointment.¹

After that, Will Wilford was a fairly frequent visitor to the Five Acres, usually on a Sunday afternoon. At Christmas time that year, he came with Mary to the school concert at S.S. # 2, West Oxford, put on by teacher Miss Nellie Nash and her pupils. Mr. Wilford praised Helen for her performance in her several appearances on the programme. That Christmas Will brought Mary the biggest box of chocolates that you could ever see.

Helen can remember going along with Will and Mary on many of their outings, riding in the back seat of the car. They went to visit Lorne Cook at his farm north of town, in to see Will's parents on Concession Street, Ingersoll, and others of his relatives. She does not remember going out to Will's farm at Salford till after the marriage.

One night when he was visiting Mary, and having an evening lunch, Burton Harris and others took Will's horse and cutter, and drove it home and put the horse in its stall, leaving Will stranded!

There were a few breaks in the romance when Mary seemed unsure of what course she should follow, and she sometimes believed she should end the relationship. But Cupid finally won out, and it was noticed that some new clothes were being made by the local seamstress, Bertha Cook. Marion at first was quite cool to the idea of her mother having a beau, but she eventually came to accept it happily; as for Helen, she thought it was great. But it came as a complete surprise when one day in January, Mary told the children they would not be going to school the next day because she and Mr. Wilford were being married. The next morning Helen was sent to town for some groceries and

1. From a write-up by Helen.

the table was all set up pretty. Then Uncle Lorne Cook and Aunt Annie came and the four of them went to the Anglican Church rectory where Will and Mary were married on January 19, 1921; the Reverend William McMillan officiating.

Mr. Wilford did not want to be married in the church sanctuary. Mary was 42 years old at the time of her second marriage, and her husband was eleven years older than her.

The wedding party came back to Mary's house for a supper. Mary wore a lovely new Hudson seal coat, the gift of the groom.

That evening, after the children had been arranged - Austin went to his Uncle Charles and Aunt Louisa Wilson, and Helen and Marion went home with their Uncle Lorne and Aunt Annie Cook - the bride and groom boarded the train for Toronto. They stayed at the King Edward Hotel, did some sight-seeing, went to hear the famous minister of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Shields, and spent about a week in Toronto on their honeymoon.

Upon their return, they settled into the farm home at Salford, situated at Lot 16, Concession 2, Dereham. William had bought this 100 acre farm from his father-in-law, George Stockdale, in 1902 for \$7,000. The railroad went through just after this and sliced 28 acres from the west side of Lot 15, so William bought this from Sullivan Ranney. William's first wife, Martha Stockdale, had died in 1916, leaving three daughters; Eva, Mildred, and Mabel.

There was a large red brick house on the farm which Will and Martha had built in 1907, so with Will's unmarried daughter, Mabel, still at home; a hired man, Robert Honess, and Mary and her three children, this new family filled the house to capacity. Mr. Wilford is remembered as saying that he hoped they all could make a happy family together, and it seems that it was a satisfactory family circle.

The neighbours and relatives had a presentation for the newlyweds shortly after they were married. They presented them with a pair of leather chairs, as well as some other lovely gifts, including a piece of silver from the Pierian Club where it all started.

Later that spring, the family all went back to the five acres and decorated the house for a party and dance for the Wilsons and the old neighbours. A great time was had at the party; afterwards they all drove back out to the Salford farm in the wee hours of the morning and the Corrie house was closed up.

Description of William Wilford

He was born August 16, 1867, the son of William Wilford and Ann McKay of Dereham Township. He had eight brothers and sisters. Will or Billy as he was affectionately known, was a tall, slim man, pale complexion, somewhat anemic in later years.

He was a very devoted Christian, being a leader of the Baptist Church at Salford - the Baptist persuasion being of his choice. It so happened that in the summer of 1921, he was chairman of the building committee that carried out the building of the new Salford Church, replacing the old one on the same site. Mary went to this church regularly with her husband, and an exception was made in her case; she was allowed to take communion although not a member. She kept her membership at the Anglican Church in Ingersoll, and on special occasions, William would take her to church there.

William was the superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. He was also active in community affairs; he was a trustee of S.S. 2 (Salford)

school for some time; he served as a director of the Salford Cheese Factory. He also was a fervent ball fan, and would take Saturdays off to follow the Ingersoll ball team.

Mary sold the Corrie place to Tom Rowsom within a year of her marriage to William. She had suggested she keep it for William and her to retire to, but William said when he retired he did not want even 5 acres of land to work.

Will Wilford's farm had been called "Sunnyside Farm" by the Stockdales, and had a fine maple woods on it which William tapped every spring. He installed a large 500 tree evaporator in about 1922.

The hired man, Robert Honess, came to the farm maybe even before William bought it in 1902, and "Bob" remained on the farm the rest of his life. He died November 21, 1951, having spent the summer of 1951 on the farm recuperating from a stomach operation, but he was hospitalized again in November and died there at age 71. He never married, although he did have a steady girl friend, Ethel Page of Salford.

Just a little over a year after Mary and family had moved to the Salford farm, the oldest daughter, Marion, who had grown weaker with the affliction of diabetes, was forced to take to bed, and within a few days lapsed into a coma and died February 7, 1922, in her 19th year. The funeral was held from the farm home, with a great number of relatives and friends attending.

Austin started High School in Ingersoll from the new home, and Helen finished Public School at Salford, then went into Ingersoll Collegiate. They sometimes rode the train to town, leaving Salford station at 7.00 a.m.; returning at 7.30 p.m. With hours like these to contend with, they also drove a horse and carriage much of the time, leaving their horse "Deuce" at the Oxford Street livery stable.

William Sells to Austin in 1929

By this time, William Wilford was not in the best of health because of anemia, and he also had a bout with pneumonia. He was never strong again, and could never really cope with farm work.

William had talked about selling the farm for several years; he offered it to his hired man, Robert Honess, but he was too cautious to buy.

Austin had come of age in 1928, and was in possession of his father's two farms; he also was going steady with Stella Cornish and thinking of marriage. One time he asked her where she would like to farm, over on his farms, or at the Salford farm, and she said there were enough Wilsons on the road over there already; so Austin decided to sell the south farm, and buy the farm from Mr. Wilford.

Thus on March 11, 1929, the farm changed hands, the price being \$14,000; William holding a mortgage of \$8,700, interest at 6%. Austin married Stella Cornish on November 30, 1929. Within a year, because of the depression, the farm was worth about 1/2 of its \$14,000 price tag. Mr. Wilford offered to either reduce the mortgage or the interest rate to 5%. Austin chose the reduced interest rate.

Honoured by Farewell Party

Prior to William and Mary moving to Ingersoll, the Salford neighbours tendered them a farewell party. On Tuesday evening, November 19, 1929, about

one hundred and twenty-five people gathered at the Wilford farm home for the event.¹ Mr. Frank Gregg, chairman for the evening, presided over a program which opened with singing one verse of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," followed by prayer by Rev. J. F. Forsythe (Salford Baptist minister). Fred Henry favoured them with two vocal solos; Frank Nancekivell and Billie Baskett, a vocal duet, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. R.R. Nancekivell; a piano solo by Miss Fernie Shelton; interspersed with short speeches by a number of men present, in which they each paid high tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Wilford. At the close of the programme, the following address was read by Mr. Sherman Mitchell:

"To Mr. & Mrs. Wilford and Miss Helen Wilson:

One of those changes which are inseparable from life, has brought us together here at your home tonight, and it is with deep regret that we learn of your removal from our community to take up your residence in Ingersoll. To you, Mr. Wilford, having spent so many years of your life among us, we wish to express our respect for your many sterling qualities and our appreciation of your hearty interest in all phases of community life and your readiness to assist in promoting all activities for the welfare of the community.

In the discharge of your several duties: as School Trustee for many years, as President and Managing Director of our Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Company, and as President of our Home and School Club, and in other offices, we always found you to have the courage of your convictions and to be faithful and self-sacrificing in the performance of your duties. While we shall miss your kind and helpful co-operation in the life of this whole community, yet, it is, perhaps, in the little Baptist Church where your council and leadership and support has been so freely and gladly given, that you will be the more greatly missed. This church of your choice has loved to honour you, Mr. Wilford, and has repeatedly conferred on you the highest positions in her gift - that of Treasurer and Deacon and of Sunday School Superintendent, and we know you have served faithfully and conscientiously with zeal and energy for the furtherance of her interest and of your Masters' work.

And you, Mrs. Wilford, although you have held no public positions, yet you have been a true helpmate with kind and gracious sympathy, making your home one in which we loved to meet, and you, too, have given helpful co-operation and support in every worthy effort of the Church and community. This we have truly appreciated. In leaving the farm home, we are sure it must be a source of satisfaction to you, as it is to us, to be able to leave it in charge of your son, Austin, instead of in the hands of strangers and we feel sure he and his bride-to-be will carry on your good work.

And to you, Miss Helen, we express our appreciation of your happy useful life among us, your musical and dramatical ability and your willingness to do your part to further every good cause in our community, have endeared you to us. As secretary of the Home and School Club, as organist of the Sunday School and Young People's Union, and in many other ways, you have given of your time and talent cheerfully. Although we will miss you sorely, we wish you success in your business career and hope you will often come to visit us in our homes.

And now, as an expression, in tangible form, of our sincere respect for you, and in appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered to our community, we ask you to accept these lamps, table, sewing cabinet and toaster, trusting as they brighten your home and make your toast, you may be reminded of your loyal friends in and near Salford, and we pray that now, as

1. From a newspaper clipping, in collection of Mary Wilford.

you rest from the more active duties of the farm, your health may be restored and that you may be spared to walk along life's pathway together for many years of happiness, comfort and continued usefulness. We will continue to value your friendship and since you are not going very far away, we hope we may frequently meet, and we assure you of a hearty welcome to each of our homes."

Signed on behalf of the community: Sherman Mitchell
Wesley Wilford
Timothy Dunham
Burton Harris

Following the presentation of the gifts to Mr. & Mrs. Wilford and to Miss Helen Wilson, Mr. Wilford, on behalf of himself and Mrs. Wilford, feelingly thanked the friends for their kind remembrance and beautiful gifts. Miss Helen also, in a few words, expressed her appreciation for the lovely gift to her.

Will and Mary Move to Ingersoll

Mr. Wilford had bought a large red brick house at 121 King St. West, Ingersoll, in 1926. This house had been built and was owned by Ransom Harris, who formerly farmed at Salford on a farm that backed up to Will's. When Ransom died, his son George, was the executor. George and Mr. Wilford were brothers-in-law, George married Alice Stockdale and Will married her sister Martha. (Ransom Harris was an uncle of Mary's first husband, Ransom having married Ellen Gregg, a sister of Will Wilson's mother.)

So Mr. Wilford bought this house from the estate on Dec. 9, 1926, for \$5000.00, and it was ready and waiting for them to move into as soon as Will sold the farm. They moved near the end of November, 1929. By this time all of Mr. Wilford's girls were married, and Helen, Mary's daughter, was going to a London business school.

Will enjoyed his living in town, but was never in very good health, having frequent bouts of heavy colds, and he also was quite anemic.

One pastime Will enjoyed was a ball game - and Ingersoll had some very good Intermediate teams during those years. "Rabbit" Marshall was a pitcher of considerable talent, and led them for many successful seasons; then later "Lefty" Judd was the sparkling star pitcher for them, on his way to the professional major league team of the Philadelphia Phillies. Will followed the Ingersoll team with loyal interest.

After Helen was married in 1935, Will and Mary had boarders in the spare upstairs bedroom; Miss McKay, high school teacher; Miss Parkhill, teacher at S.S.2, West Oxford (she paid \$12 per month); Mr. Turner, about 1940. Then Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mahar roomed there for a couple of years, 1941-43, (they were there when Will died).

The Bowes House

Mary had inherited some money from her parents, and she took a mortgage on a house across the street from where she lived, when a school teacher, a Mr. Bowes, bought the place. He became sick, and let the taxes go unpaid, so the town put his house (on the corner of Albert and King) up for sale for the taxes in 1937. Mary sent her husband, and her son Austin to the town office on the day of the sale to bid the house up to her mortgage (about \$2500).

When a property is sold for taxes, the auctioneer sells the place to the first bidder who offers enough to cover the back taxes, although Austin and Will didn't know this at the time. So the first bid - by a stranger - of \$1000 or so, which covered back taxes, was accepted by the auctioneer, who promptly proclaimed the place sold. Austin and Will never even got their mouths open.

When they reported this to Mary, she was furious. She immediately began action to satisfy her mortgage claim, and after some negotiations, apparently the buyer was co-operative, and agreed to relinquish title to the house for a reasonable payment. Mary became the owner of the Bowes house. It was a substantial two storied red brick house, much like the house Mary and Will lived in.

Mary made this house into an upstairs and downstairs apartment. She installed a gas hot water heater in 1937, cost \$128, and also a new gas furnace, cost \$150. A Millson family rented the downstairs until 1942, then Mary Johnston and her mother rented it. The upstairs apartment was rented to Ross Fewster and family from 1941-43.

Death of Will Wilford

In the early morning hours of Monday, July 6, 1942, Will had severe pains, and thinking he had indigestion, got up and took some medicine for it. The pains continued, and at length, a doctor was summoned, but Will had suffered a severe heart attack, and he passed away within an hour. He was in his 75th year, and had resided in Ingersoll for 13 years.

The funeral was held from the residence on Wednesday, July 8, with interment in the Harris Street Cemetery, at the side of his first wife, Martha Stockdale.

Cataract Operation

Will's widow, Mary, stayed on in the 121 King Street home for a year after his death. She developed a cataract on her eye, and had an operation in Victoria Hospital, London, in 1943, and with special glasses had pretty good vision out of this eye for many years.

Sells the House and Moves Across the Street

She sold the house at 121 King Street to Roy and Minnie Warren on November 1, 1943 for \$3700.

She then moved across the street to the upstairs apartment of her Bowes house, the Fewsters having just vacated it. There she lived quite comfortably. She loved to have company call in and one interesting aspect of her character was that she always had her table set for a second person; thus was ready for company, and when they came, she would bustle about preparing a cup of tea, served with cake or cookies.

In 1950, her eyesight became poorer, and since the Johnsons had moved from the downstairs apartment, it was thought best that she should move downstairs, so there would be less stairs to climb.

Her other eye developed a cataract, but the doctors thought it best not to operate on it. In 1965, her niece Mary (Sib) lived with her for about a

year, then she was alone again.

She rented the upstairs to Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Farrell from 1951 to 1957. In 1958 Vivian Gibson rented it. In 1962, the upstairs was rented to Miss Weber (a nurse) and she was there until 1967. Mrs. Morris was the next (and last) tenant of Mary's.

Sells the House

By 1968, Mary was getting quite hard of hearing, and with poor eyesight also a problem, she decided to sell the place. So in May, she sold the house privately to Karl Carter for \$15,000, she having the right to remain for a short time.

On July 13, 1968,¹ her furniture was moved to her daughter Helen's in Toronto. Helen's husband, Douglas Jackson, had died in 1967, and she was living alone. So on July 16, 1968, Mary was moved in with her daughter at Toronto. Mary had maintained her own place until her 90th year.

On October 16 that year, Mary and Helen came up to Ingersoll to celebrate Mary's 90th birthday at the home of her granddaughter, Donna, Mrs. Jim Moran.

At Ingersoll Mt. Pleasant Nursing Home and at Toronto

Mary became less able to look after herself, with failing eyesight and hearing, although her appetite remained good, and her limbs were still sturdy. She would get confused as to where she was, sometimes thinking she was back on the farm. A quote from her letter of September 9, 1971, is indicative of her condition, "I hope you can make out my writing. I don't write well any more, but you know when you reach 93 years, you can't expect too much.

My seeing eye is not too good, it has got quite dim this last year but I am trying to get along as well as possible..... I am getting homesick to see you all again."

At Easter time, (April 2, 1972) she was brought up to her son Austin's farm home for awhile. It was decided to give her the care of a nursing home so on April 8, 1972, she was registered at Mt. Pleasant Nursing Home on Oxford Street in Ingersoll. That summer she spent a week or so at Helen's cottage at Paudash Lake near Bancroft. She was so confused and distraught with the nursing home life, that Helen didn't bring her back to Mt. Pleasant, but kept her with her again.

In December, 1972, Helen made plans to remarry, and Mary was placed in a nursing home in Toronto called Barton Place. Mary's time at Barton Place was not at all happy, so once again she was moved. In October of that year (1973) Mary was brought out to the Salford farm home of her son Austin for her 95th birthday. Just her immediate family were present. A birthday cake was enjoyed and presents were given. This was the last time Mary was ever out to the farm.

About January of 1974, she was placed in an Extendicare Home in Toronto called Highbourne. Mary now rarely knew members of her family when they visited.

1. Dates from the diary of Stella Wilson

One aspect of her that never changed was her hospitality. She would always say that she was sorry that she couldn't find the teapot to make us a lunch when we visited her.

Her 96th birthday, October 16, 1974, was spent at Highbourne. Some of the family visited her, and took her to the lounge of the nursing home, where a little party was held, and a gift was presented to her. This writer never saw her alive again.

Death of Mary

On Friday, December 20, 1974, news was received that Mary had died. She had sat on the edge of her bed, eating supper from a tray, and when the nurse returned, Mary was slumped over dead. Mary was the last of her generation, either on the Worth side or the Wilsons.

The funeral was held Monday, December 23, from the Kaake Funeral Home, Ingersoll. Rev. Thomas Murray, of All Saints Anglican Church, Woodstock, conducted the service. It was ironic that the Anglican Church in Ingersoll, with which Mary had her membership all her life, was between ministers when she died, and a Woodstock minister had to officiate. Her grandson, Everett, was asked to read the scripture at the funeral. The complete service was held at the funeral home. Temporary entombment was in the Ingersoll Mausoleum, and interment later in the spring in the family plot, beside her husband, William Wilson, at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM AND MARY WILSON

William Albert Wilson, b. September 18, 1878, d. November 2, 1911
Married June 4, 1902 Buried - Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
Mary Elizabeth Worth, b. October 16, 1878, d. December 20, 1974
Children: 3

1. Marion Isabel, b. July 27, 1903, d. February 7, 1922, Buried Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

2. John "Austin", b. March 27, 1907, d. October 21, 1976
Married November 30, 1929 Buried - Harris Street Cemetery
Estelle Louise Cornish, b. April 15, 1909, d. August 23, 1982
Children: 4

1. Male, no name, b. April 13, 1931, d. April 13, 1931
2. Everett Austin, b. October 7, 1932
Married October 1, 1955 Res. R.R.1, Salford
Shirley Marie Connor, b. February 12, 1935
Children: 6

1. Suzanne Marie, b. September 2, 1956
Married, April 14, 1978 Res. Ingersoll
Richard Scott Travis, b. March 25, 1955
Children: 2

1. Rebeccah Marie, b. December 30, 1981
2. Brittany Diane, b. August 23, 1985

2. Steven John, b. December 8, 1957
Married July 5, 1980 Res. R.R.1, Salford
Penny Valerie Condos, b. September 15, 1958
Children: 1
 1. Kirby Austin Nicholas, b. March 28, 1987
 3. Linda Diane, b. February 28, 1960
 4. William Arthur, b. August 24, 1961
 5. Anne Louise, b. January 15, 1964
Married July 19, 1986 Res. London
Michael Francis Bessegato, b. February 5, 1964
 6. Everett "Paul", b. August 26, 1970
3. Donna Marion Louise, b. September 2, 1934
Married May 21, 1955 Res. Ingersoll
James Earl Moran, b. November 12, 1933
Children: 4
 1. Shelley Louise, b. August 25, 1956
Married November 19, 1977 Res. Stratford
"Marcel" Linus Everardus Franciscus Pepping, b. March 4, 1957
Children: 4
 1. Erin Louise, b. December 10, 1979
 2. Donna "Melissa", b. December 15, 1981
 3. Amanda Jane, b. June 23, 1983
 4. Rachel Diane, b. August 2, 1986
 2. Michael James, b. February 20, 1958
 3. Gail Diane, b. July 14, 1959
 4. Mary Elizabeth, b. August 19, 1960
 4. Diane Elizabeth, b. June 11, 1939, d. December 16, 1956
Buried Harris St. Cemetery
3. Helen Elizabeth, b. March 24, 1909
Married August 31, 1935 Res. Toronto
Warren "Douglas" Jackson, b. March 24, 1906, d. September 20, 1967
Children: 2
 1. Marilyn Frances, b. December 11, 1937
Married August 18, 1959
Murray Jonas Kuno, b. June 10, 1936
Children: 3
 1. Stephanie Lynn, b. August 21, 1963
 2. Anita Gale, b. June 22, 1967
 3. Paul Warren, b. November 2, 1968
 2. William Douglas, b. October 13, 1940
Married October 1, 1966 Res. R.R.1, Kettleby
Beverley Jean Crowe, b. May 1, 1943
Children: 2
 1. William "Craig", b. December 4, 1969
 2. Scott Alexander, b. November 26, 1971
- Helen remarried December 16, 1972
George Irvine Tuck, b. May 29, 1895, d. September 1, 1981

RICHARD HENRY WILSON

October 20, 1880 - January 22, 1953

Ninth Child

The ninth child of Richard and Catharine Wilson was a son born on the Wilson homestead, October 20, 1880.¹ He was named Richard Henry; Richard, the traditional family name reserved for the youngest son down through three generations. Catharine, it would appear, practised family planning quite effectively, waiting until this son on whom to confer the name Richard, then making sure he remained the youngest. The name Henry, was after one of Catharine's brothers, Henry Gregg, who was close to the family.

Richard went to the Culloden Road (S.S.3) School, where it is believed he completed Grade 8.²

He was raised in a household where attendance at church --the Salford Methodist--was as regular as clockwork, and observance of the Sabbath was strictly enforced. His father saw to it that the horses which were used on the buggy to take the family to church were not let out Saturday night, so they would not have to be rounded up Sunday morning. Also, the buggy would be turned Saturday night, with the shafts pointing toward the road, so that it wouldn't have to be turned around on the Sabbath. The buggy was a large, three seater, a rarity, and the family would all be aboard it for church. When they arrived there, they went to the Wilson pew, front left in the new church, which curved in along the north wall and held all the family.

One Saturday, the boys had been busy haying all day, and had neglected to turn the buggy ready for Sunday. Mr. Wilson refused to allow it to be turned the next morning, and the family missed church. Several of the congregation inquired the next week as to the grave sickness or other emergency which kept them from church.

The Wilson Homestead at Lot 23, Dereham

After finishing public school, Richard worked on the home farm with his father and brothers, George, Leonard, and William, unmarried at the time. John and Charles were already married and had farms of their own.

Richard's father had inherited 150A of Lot 23, Con. 1, from his father, Richard 1, when he died in 1861. Richard 1 had bought the 200A lot in 1830 for 100 pounds or \$500, but sold 50A off the south end of it to his son, Leonard, in 1853. Richard 1 also owned 40A of mainly cedar swamp land in Lot 26 of West Oxford, and this was also bequeathed to Richard's father. During his life, Richard 2 bought 50A of the north-east part of Lot 24.

The first house on the farm was a small log cabin. This was replaced sometime between 1850 and 1860 by a large, nearly square brick building and in the early 80's, the roof was raised and a full second story added to the main part. Also, a two story back part was added at that time. Later was added a large front veranda with cement pillars supporting a top balcony with an elaborate railing.

1. From Wilson Family Bible in possession of Richard Martin Wilson.

2. Information given by his son, Richard M. Wilson, unless otherwise indicated. Interviewed April 27, 1979.

Helps Relocate the Barns

At the time Rich began to work full time on the farm, there were two barns located westward from the large pond behind the house. His father made plans to relocate them on the east side of the pond and move them together in the form of an ell. He had said they would start the barn when the nails were bought and paid for. So, in the fall of 1895, the nails were ready, and the contract was let to a builder for \$250. This builder also supervised the cutting and hewing of the hardwood timbers in the Wilson woods that winter, and by midwinter the stockpile of materials was beginning to accumulate. However, on January 22, 1896, Richard 2 was fatally stricken with a sudden heart attack. Thus the building project was left in the hands of the boys.

In the spring of 1896, the plans, which their father had made but never lived to see carried out, were brought into being. The two barns, one 36' X 50' and the other 32' X 50', were moved so that they cornered one another, with the area in the corner built in new.

The part of the job with which Richard H. was most involved was helping with the barn wall. Jim and Jack Miners were the stone masons, and it was Richard's job to haul stones to them by team and stone boat. He often said that before the walls were built there were many stone piles along the fence rows, but ere the barn walls were completed, he had those stones all cleared up, and was out hunting up more. He said that he did nothing but draw stones that first summer he worked on the farm full time.

For the roof, the boys went to the cedar swamp and cut a cedar tree so large that one huge log out of it, which they took to the shingle mill at Mt. Elgin, yielded enough wood shingles to do the barn roof.

It is said that the barn was finished in time for haying that first summer. It had two barn floors with approaches to both, one from the north and one from the east.

The boys had a bumper crop of wheat that summer, and drew the sheaves into the new barn, filling the mows on each side of both barn floors. When the wheat was threshed that fall, they sold enough to pay the barn builder his \$250. Out of this amount, he had paid his workmen. Richard often said that his first year on the farm was one of a lot of hard work for a young man 16 years old.

Catharine Sells the Farm to William and Richard

When Richard 2 died without a will in 1896, his widow, Catharine, became sole owner of the farm, and she and her unmarried daughter, Elizabeth, continued to manage the household for her sons on the farmstead. Then on December 9, 1899, she sold the farm to her sons, William and Richard, for the sum of one dollar, and "in consideration of natural love and affection between the mother and her sons, and of the bonds and obligations entered into by them."¹ This meant that the two sons were to provide a home for their mother for the remainder of her life. Thus, William and Richard farmed together, and their mother and sister "Lizzie" continued to keep house for them.

William and Richard buy a house for Catharine

Catharine was afflicted with rheumatism in her older years and became

1. Land Registry Office.

unable to cope with the housework. So, with the prospect of William marrying in June of 1902, Catharine, knowing that there would be someone to look after the housework, decided to move out. A house was bought for her at 143 King Street W., Ingersoll, and at the end of February, 1902, she and Lizzie moved to this house. However, on March 13, 1902, just two weeks after moving, she died, in her 61st year.

Richard Buys the Farm from William

Family historians have noted that while primogeniture (i.e. firstborn son inherits titles and lands) was the official order of inheritance, practical considerations dictated that for most farm families in Ontario, the older son(s) would get started on their own place, thus the youngest son (or sometimes the last to marry) would fall heir to the home place. It is interesting to note that this pattern held true for Richard 2, Richard H., and Richard M.

So William, who had married Mary Worth on June 4, 1902, and had farmed with Richard that summer and winter, decided to find a farm of his own. Until he found a farm, it was understood that Richard would not get married. However in the spring of 1903, Richard made plans to get married on April 8. So William sold Richard his half of the farm, and he and his wife moved to her step-grandmother's home. The sale agreement, made April 7, 1903, (the day before Richard's wedding) called for Richard to pay William \$8500 for his share of the farm, and also to assume liabilities entered into jointly on behalf of their mother, totaling \$6350.¹

Richard Marries Ivah Martin

Harry Land worked at the Culloden Road Cheese Factory and boarded at the Wilsons', and he and Richard chummed together. One Sunday afternoon, Harry asked Rich to take him for a buggy ride down to the Lyons area, where he knew some people. Near there they saw a young lady walking along the side of the road, and Harry, recognizing her, stopped and introduced her to Rich, and they gave her a ride home. She was Ivah Sophronia Martin, daughter of Edward and Mary Martin, who farmed about 1/2 mile east of Lyons on the 10th Concession, South Dorchester, near Heslop's Hill. She was born July 26, 1882, the sixth child in a family of seven. Her brothers and sisters in order of age were: George (drowned at 15), Charles, James, Mahlon, Edward, Ivah, and Alice.

So Richard began courting Ivah, usually going down to see her about every third week, sometimes staying over the weekend. They were married April 8, 1903 at the Martin home, the Rev. John Morrison, Methodist minister, officiating. Ivah was in her twentieth year, and Richard was 22 years old. Their attendants were Ivah's brother "Mac" Mahlon Martin and his wife Libbie. Richard and Ivah came home to the Wilson farm directly after the wedding; there was no honeymoon trip.

Description of Ivah

She was a very pretty young girl, with blue eyes and long eyelashes, and brown hair worn in a bun, and later she had a permanent wave. She was of medium height and wore glasses. She could play the piano well and was the

1. Land Registry Office.

pianist at the Lyons Church before she was married. She also had a good singing voice. A jolly person, she very much enjoyed company and often had dinner guests. She could cope with a table of company and was a good cook. Ivah never learned to drive a car. She was an excellent quilter and made each of her grandchildren a quilt. She attended many quilting bees, some of them for the Women's Institute. She also crocheted many tablecloths, place mats, doilies etc., and was a fine embroiderer. When television became available, she had her own set, and enjoyed the programs, especially hockey and ball games.

In her latter years, she was quite stout, and had much trouble with her legs and feet swelling.

Description of Richard

He was a tall man, about 6'2", rather slim, with a straight and erect posture. He had a medium complexion and dark brown hair, becoming bald on top in later years. He smoked a pipe most of his life. If things didn't go right, he would deliberately take his pipe from his mouth and in a rather drawn out way, utter the word "Well". He was a good manager about the farm. He was a kindly tempered man, and could cope well with a trying situation. His wife's sister, Alice Laur, and her family, stayed there when she needed a home, and Richard accepted this and was very helpful. He could speak his mind, call a spade a spade, and ruled the family in a kindly, but firm manner. He was well regarded, he could give good counsel, he weighed his words well, and had homespun wisdom. As were most of the Wilsons, he was a staunch Conservative.

Richard was not overly fond of horses, although 3 or 4 teams were of necessity kept for the farm work. He disliked a balky or misbehaving horse. One such horse was named Mounty. One morning, the hired man, Albert Turk, had the milk loaded, and hitched Mounty to the wagon. The horse started to kick, and broke the front end of the wagon, with his feet coming dangerously close to the hired man's head. Rich, hearing the commotion, came out, and after viewing the scene, unhitched the horse, took it back to the woods, and shot it.

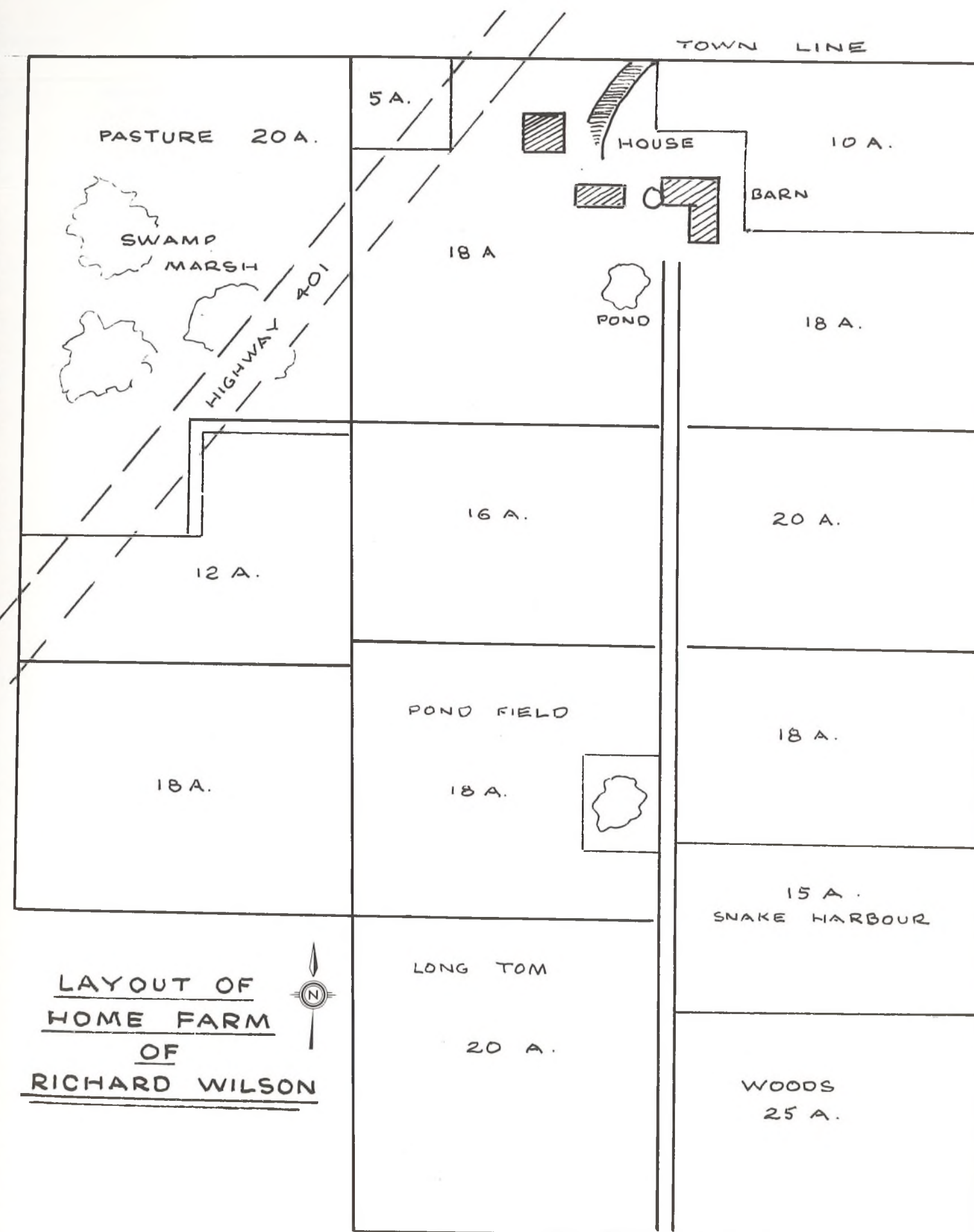
Farm Operation

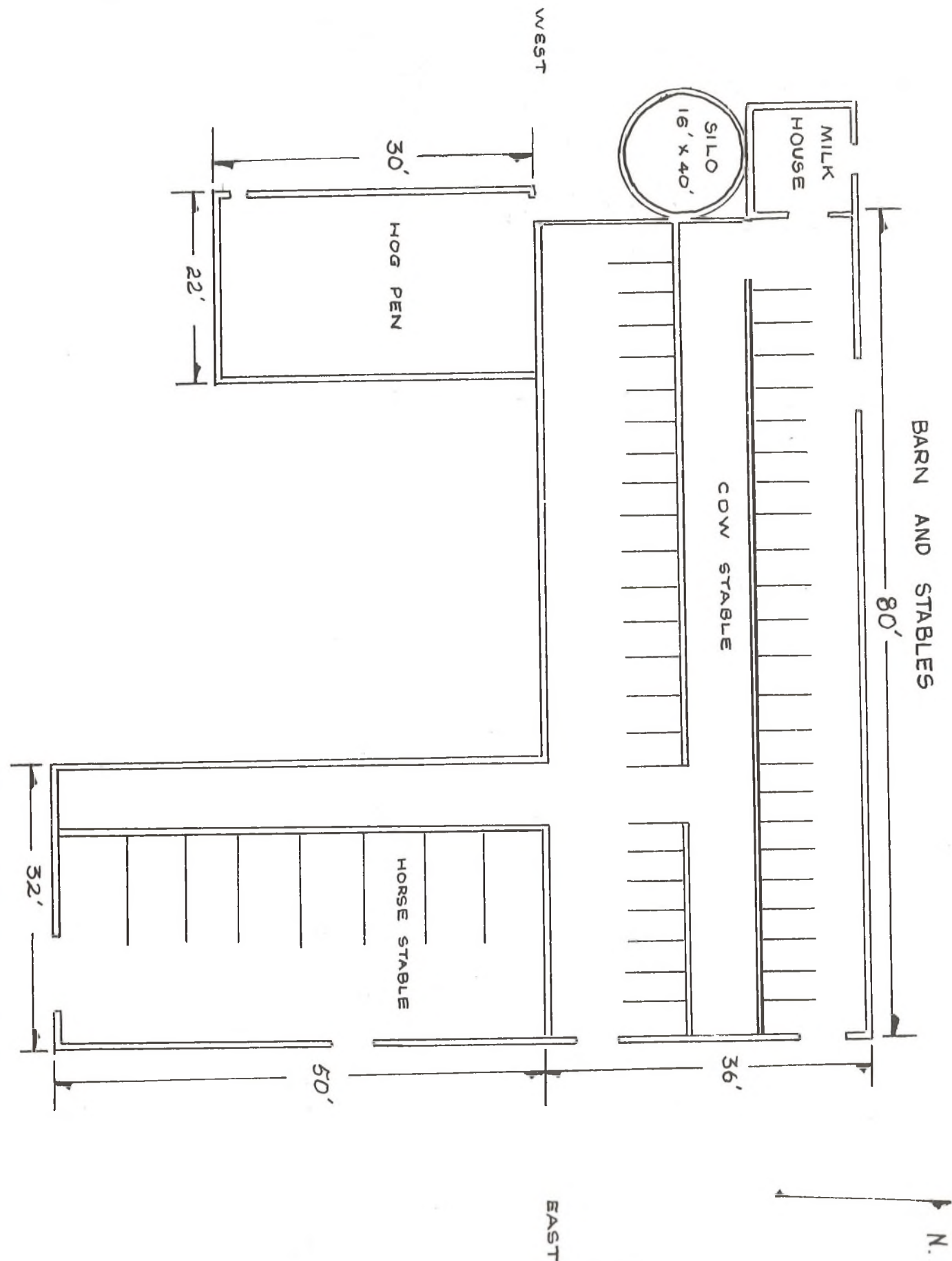
Richard became the sole owner of the large Wilson home farm at the relatively young age of 23, however, he was well prepared for this responsibility by "growing up" with the work since his father's death when he was 16. Now in 1903, the year of his marriage, he and Ivan were on their own.

Dairying was the most important enterprise on the farm. Usually about forty milking cows were kept, although one summer they milked 52. At that time, there was a married hired man, Harden Sharp, who lived in a second house on the farm. It was a frame house, located just east of the main house. Gordon Bruce was the last hired man to live in it, before it was bought in 1924, by Charlie Dynes for \$50.00, who moved it down the road west near Five Points. It burned in 1978.

As well as a married hired man, Richard usually had a single hired man who lived in with the Wilsons.

The summer that 52 cows were milked, there would be eight people go out





to milk--Mr. Sharp and some of his family, the single hired man, and Richard and some of his boys. The first thing every morning, the last night's milk would be loaded on the milk wagon and taken to the Culloden Road Factory. Then the empty cans would be quickly taken home, so that they could be filled with the morning's milk; then it too was taken to the factory.

Richard kept some sows in the pigpen in the southwest wing of the barn, and would fatten off the pigs. Then too, a flock of ducks and geese made themselves at home on the pond west of the barn.

The soil on the farm is a mellow sandy loam, self draining, and dries early in the spring. The fields were fairly large, about 18-20 acres, and arranged as the diagram shows. As well as oats, hay and corn, a field of wheat was grown as a cash crop.

There was a 25 acre hard wood woods on the farm, and syrup was made every year, with the boiling place back in the woods. Earl was the one who liked making syrup.

Hydro was installed on the farm about 1914. It was possible to have power at this early date by bringing a line down from Clark's Corners, where Wes Clark had one of the first electrified farms in the province.

Richard co-operated with the Wilson brothers in threshing and silo filling for many years. In the early years, he ran the threshing machine-one without a blower or feeder, powered by a stationary steam engine which was moved by a team and wagon. So to move the outfit from one farm to another would require two teams just to move the equipment, and it took three men just to operate the engine and separator. They would do some custom threshing, at a charge of \$10.00 per day.

Although Richard's brother John didn't thresh in the Wilson brothers' syndicate, John and his boys would come over and get the threshing machine and engine after the rest of the Wilsons were finished.

One time Richard went over to John's to see how threshing was going. He walked around the machine, and came to where Brock was feeding the machine.

"Who's running the machine?" Richard asked.

"Fred."

"Who's looking after the grain?" (The grain was running out the granary door.)

"Fred," Brock replied.

"Where is Fred?"

"He's back in the field putting on a load."

Director and Salesman for Culloden Cheese Factory

Richard was closely involved and vitally interested in the Culloden Cheese Factory, where the milk from his farm was sold.

He served as director of the factory for the years 1910 to 1918 (when it ceased operations and was sold). Also, he was the cheese salesman for the years 1912 to 1917.

More Land Purchased in 1918

On March 6, 1918, Richard bought several pieces of property from Jacob Goodhand at a price of \$4060.00. The lands were 25 acres of the North West quarter of Lot 24, and a 1 1/2 acre lot on the extreme north west corner of

this property. Also included were 22 acres along the east length of Lot 25.¹

His Cars

Richard's first car was a Maxwell, (with gas lights) bought about 1914, for \$500.00. About two years later, P.T. Fleischer fitted it with a battery, and wired the lights.

One time Richard and Ivah were out driving, and as they rounded a corner, Richard went off the side of the road with his car and it tipped over on its side. Richard was able to climb out of the car window, but Ivah couldn't get out through, so she had to stay in until Richard got some men to get the car straightened up again.

The next car was a "Baby Grand" Chevrolet. When he traded this off in 1926, he bought a new Graham-Page car, and also a second hand Model T Ford truck. This truck was used for drawing milk and for other farm duties. It was great in driving through deep snow.

A new Chevrolet truck was bought in 1928.

The Graham-Page car was traded in about 1938 for a new Plymouth; the last car Richard ever drove.

Auto Crash

When Richard was in his mid sixties, about 1946, he was in an accident while driving his car, a Plymouth. Just after dinner on a summer day, he was approaching the Culloden Road from the east, going to cross it, and proceed toward home. Cyril Pigram and his wife were coming from the south, going into town. Neither vehicle was travelling very fast, probably about 15 or 20 miles per hour, when Richard drove right out in front of Cyril, and Cyril's car struck Richard's on the front left side. Both vehicles remained upright, and came to rest on the shoulder of the road. No one was injured in any way. Cyril got out of his car and asked Richard, "Do you ever look when you come to a corner?" Richard replied, "I just never saw you at all." Ivah happened along just then, with some ladies going to a meeting, and she said that Richard's eyesight in his left eye was not very good. Cyril asked if he had insurance, because Cyril's 1935 Ford had a dented fender. Richard replied, "No, I haven't, but I'm not so poor that I can't pay for the damage I cause." It cost \$35.00 to repair the fender on Cyril's car.²

Richard said, that's that, I quit driving right now, and he never renewed his license.

Township Tax Collector and Fence Viewer

Richard served the township of Dereham as tax collector for 22 years. First appointed by township council in 1928 for \$140.00 per year,³ his duties were made more difficult during the depression of the 30's when times were extremely difficult for everyone, and it wasn't easy to pay the taxes. It is to his credit that he was able to carry out the task of tax collector, traditionally a despised position--the Bible presumes that they are great sinners--with fairness and even gained the respect of many people. One person, whom he had encouraged to keep going when times were bad, said of

1. Land Registry Office.

2. Cyril Pigram interviewed July 16, 1979.

3. From Township records, researched by writer, September 28, 1979.

Richard, "He was better to me than my own father." When another man couldn't pay his taxes, Richard bought his team of horses, at a generous price, in order to generate enough money to pay the taxes so he wouldn't lose his farm. Richard's son Martin says that there would have been many more farms sold for taxes during those years, if Richard hadn't encouraged and worked with the tax delinquents until they could get their bills paid.

In 1935 the council voted to change the tax collector's payment to \$50.00 plus 1% of collections made. However, the next year this method was discontinued and Richard received \$240.00 per year, paid in four equal installments. He was to pay into the office his collections at two week intervals.

He continued to serve at this pay until 1950, when council passed a motion combining the offices of Township Treasurer and Tax Collector. Norman Longrell was appointed to this dual role, and paid \$540.00.

Richard also was appointed annually by council to the position of Fence Viewer for his section of the township from 1927 to 1951, a period of 24 years. In 1952, his son Richard Jr. was appointed to succeed him.

Their Family - Richard and Ivah had four children, all sons.

1. Earl Eugene, born May 27, 1904. He attended the old S.S.#3 school, and when he was in Grade 6, the new school was built, and he completed Grade 8 in it. He never went on to high school, but worked at home until he married. He married Inas Manzer, on June 15, 1927, the marriage taking place at her parents' home in Ingersoll, with Rev. Peever of Trinity United Church officiating.

Earl's father Richard gave him 50 acres of Lot 24, the farm adjacent to the west of the home farm, plus 20 acres of the east side of Lot 25. Earl and Inas had the house on this farm remodelled just before they were married.

The barn was enlarged and renovated in 1934. Dairying was the main enterprise, with about 25 milk cows, also pigs and chickens were kept.

Earl was the first to buy a combine, in the late 1940's, the others still threshed with the gang for some time.

Earl was handy, and began to work at wiring, plumbing, and carpentry for people in the community. Then when his son Charles graduated from Beal Technical School in 1952, they worked together.

When the 401 Highway, constructed in 1954, cut across the middle of his farm, Earl decided to give up farming and he sold the farm to the Department of Highways. He designed, and, with Charles' help, built a new home on the west side of the Culloden Road near Clark's Corners, and moved in in 1955. Then he and his son worked full time building, plumbing and electrical wiring.

Earl suffered heart problems in 1967, and was under doctor's care. In April, 1968, he had severe leg pains and was taken to Victoria Hospital where he had an operation on his leg veins. After a month's stay in hospital, he came home and was much better that summer. However, on September 25, 1968, he had a fatal heart attack. After supper that day, he went out to his work shop. Inas heard him cry out and went to his aid, but he was dead when she got to him. He was in his 65th year. He is buried in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

Earl is survived by three children: Helen Meridel, born October 6, 1930; Charles Eugene, born December 19, 1933; and Mary Evelyn, born November 27, 1935.

Inas lives on alone in her home; her daughter Mary and her husband built a new home next to her in 1974 (Mary won a \$119,000 Sweepstake that year), so Inas has someone close at hand.

2. James Arthur, second child, born October 29, 1906, went to S.S.#3 school, where he completed grade 8. He started to Ingersoll High School, but dropped out in the first year, then farmed at home. He wanted to be a train engineer, and had a chance to work with his uncle, James Martin, as an apprentice, but his father thought he should farm.

Richard bought 80A of Lot 25 from Austin Wilson in 1927 for \$7250 (he already owned 20A of it). Richard rented it to John Tisdale for 3 years until Jim was married and then Richard set him up there.

Jim and Hazel Irene George (born August 11, 1908) were married on May 27, 1931, at her parents' home at Con.1, North Dorchester.

They had five children: Kenneth Arthur, b. August 24, 1932. He remained at home until he was nine, then was placed in the Orillia Hospital for the mentally retarded, where he died February 26, 1953 at age 21; James "Gordon", b. March 10, 1936; Robert George, b. January 7, 1938; Ivah "Glenda" Margaret, b. October 9, 1940; Roger Orland, b. April 12, 1952.

Besides the farm in Dereham, Jim also bought 20A of Lot 26, West Oxford, from his father, and 58A of the same lot from Florence Boyce.

Jim kept a dairy herd of about 20 cows, and also kept some pigs. In 1947 he completely rebuilt the barn and put in new steel stanchions to tie 20 cows plus the young cattle.

That very same year the whole herd was lost in the T.B. test which was being conducted in the county. He bought more cows and built up another herd. When Highway 401 went through in 1955, it cut about 15A off the back of his farm. However, he was able to buy 33A from the Department of Highways of what was the north part of his brother Earl's farm (this included the house and farm buildings). Then in 1957, his herd became infected with Brucellosis, and he sold them all. He had a knee problem and milking aggravated it, so he decided not to milk cows again, and he raised calves and pigs.

Jim liked to work in the woods, logging and cutting cedar posts from the swamp; he set up a sawmill on his property in West Oxford. Also, he loved to go out into the woods hunting, and went north deer hunting with the gang regularly. He was a natural woodsman, had an unfailing sense of direction, and was never known to become confused or lost.

In 1967 or '68, he sold the 58A farm in West Oxford to Cliff Smith. Then in 1970, realizing that none of his boys were going to farm, he sold the farm to Harry Terhaardt. Through the fall and winter of 1969, Jim and his family built a new home on his property in West Oxford. They moved in on May 1, 1970.

Jim had a heart condition and also circulatory problems. He died at the dinner table while he and Hazel were having dinner on May 29, 1974.

Hazel continued to live in the home until July, 1979, when she sold it to Ron Harrison, and she moved into a home with her son Roger, in Ingersoll.

3. Leslie Merritt, the third child, born February 25, 1908. The name Merritt came from a novel that Ivah had read.

When just a boy, he was stricken with severe abdominal pains, and was operated on for appendicitis, but his appendix was not diseased. The doctor called his problem T. B. of the bowels, and a serum from Montreal was obtained which cost \$10 a treatment, for a series of 20 treatments. This cured him,



RICHARD and IVAH WILSON
Wedding Picture - April 8, 1903

but he lost a whole year of school.

Leslie finished public school and went to Ingersoll for 2 years of high school, then stayed home to work on the farm.

When he was 20 years old, he got his left arm caught in the chain that ran the feeder of the threshing machine. He had reached through the chain to screw down a grease cup while the machine was running, and his shirt sleeve became caught up in the chain, which pulled his arm into the sprocket and so badly mangled it, that it was necessary to amputate it at the elbow.

After this serious mishap, he enrolled in the Westervelt Business College in London from which he graduated as an accountant. He was first employed in the office of A. Langford, London, for several years. Then, about 1938, he went to George White Co. as an accountant, where he remained for 24 years.

He married Margaret Ruth Douglas on October 7, 1939. Ruth is the daughter of Walter and Mary Douglas of Ilderton, and was born November 7, 1907. She worked at McCormicks of London, and met Leslie through mutual friends in London. They rented part of a divided house at 721 Dundas Street East for the first 8 1/2 years of their marriage. Then in about 1947, they bought a home at 33 Duchess Avenue, London.

They had two children: Ruth Anne, born June 16, 1941 and Donald Leslie, born December 6, 1944. Donald died at home June 20, 1968.

After working at George White for 24 years, Leslie went to work for Basil Thody, with whom he had worked at Whites, when Thody started a John Deere implement dealership on Wharncliffe Road.

Leslie had just worked there for a little over a year, when one morning at home he suffered a heart attack, and was taken to Victoria Hospital where he died two days later, January 9, 1963, at age 54. He is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Ruth continues to live in the Duchess Avenue home.

4. Martin, born February 10, 1910. When it became evident that Martin was to be the last child, Ivah, in keeping with family tradition, added Richard to his name, but officially, his birth certificate records only Martin Wilson.

He went to S.S.#3, and attained grade 8. Then he stayed on the home farm and participated in the enterprise with his brothers and his father. He was nicknamed Mutt.

Ivah usually had a hired girl, one of whom was Velma Elizabeth Wade, (b. September 28, 1911). Martin became attracted to her, and they were married on November 3, 1937. The house was divided, with Rich and Ivah having the west side, and Martin and Velma the east side.

Martin and Velma had two children: Marilyn Louise, b. December 21, 1938; Richard "John", b. March 26, 1940, he being Richard 5, and he has a son Richard 6.

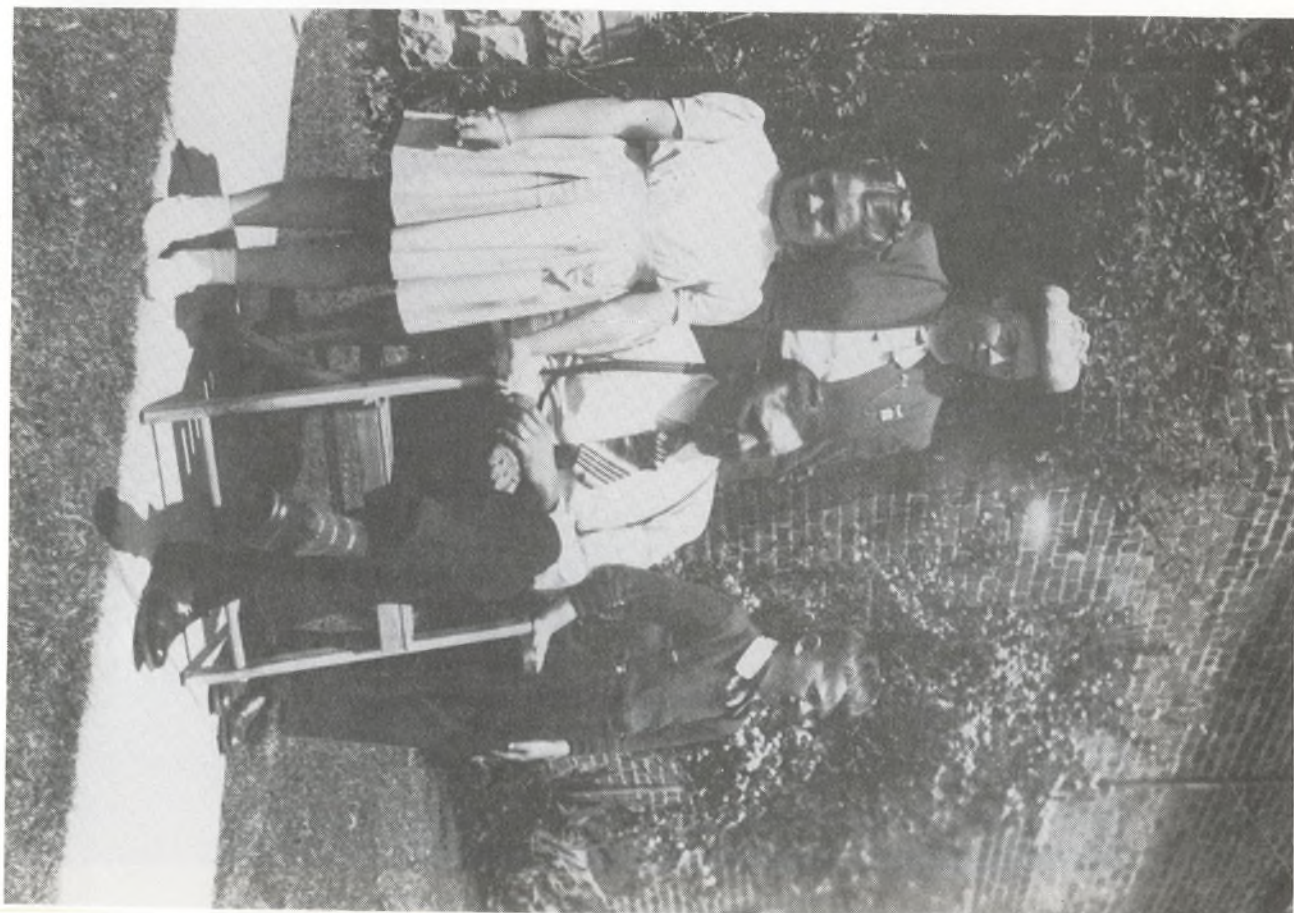
Martin became more and more known as Rich (often young Rich). He and Velma joined the Salford United Church, and Rich served on the Board of Stewards and on the Worship Committee.

In 1946, his father turned the farm over to him for \$1. He had various single hired men, most of whom didn't turn out too well. Rich and his brothers Earl and Jim and their cousin Harry worked together threshing and silo filling. Later, Rich and Harry bought a combine, baler and a harvester jointly.

When Highway 401 went through in about 1954, it took about 10A from the north-west corner of the farm; but worse still, it cut the road off, making it very inconvenient to go to Harry's farm.



RUTH and LESLIE WILSON — 1947
with children Donald & Anne



R. MARTIN and VELMA WILSON — c. 1947
at their home with children Marilyn & John

When it became evident that Rich's son Jack didn't wish to farm, Rich sold the place in 1968 to Gordon Hollingshead. Rich and Velma bought a house (built in 1960) located at 14 Pine Street, Ingersoll, and moved in the spring of 1969. Velma died of cancer in her 62nd year, on January 3, 1973.

Rich lived alone in his Pine Street home until 1977, when he married Freida Margaret Webb (nee Sitter) on October 5. She is the widow of Alfred Charles Webb.

Rich had an operation in April, 1979, at Victoria Hospital, for prostate problems, then followed a series of radium treatments. He was all summer convalescing, and by fall was getting around again.

In February, 1980, he and Freida flew to Hawaii for 2 weeks, where he celebrated his 70th birthday, the only one of the family to reach that age.

A Sportsman

In his younger days, Richard H. played a lot of football. Also, he used to box a little. The Markham's barn on the east side of the Culloden road south of the Second Concession was fixed up for a boxing ring. The Quinns and the Mitchells, especially Sherman, were the top boxers of the community.

When the family was growing up, Richard would often take them to a baseball game. About then, Ingersoll, with Lefty Judd pitching, was a top team. One Saturday, Richard said that they would have to thresh hard all morning so that they could go to Preston to see Ingersoll in a playoff game. So they knocked off threshing at noon, all the family got into the car, and Rich drove them to Preston, where they saw Lefty pitch a shut-out game and Ingersoll won 1 to 0. Another time, Rich and the boys were relocating a water tank in the barn, and he said if they hurried and got it fixed by noon, they would go to the ball game after dinner.

Rich was the instigator of the Wilson deer hunting trips north. He had a very good deer hound named Diamond (Die for short), and the deer hunt every fall about the first of November was a holiday that Rich looked forward to. He continued to go north with the younger generation Wilsons, until he was nearly 70. When he could no longer go north, he gave his deer rifle to his son Jim.

In the 1920's, house dances were quite popular, and Rich and Ivah regularly went to the ones that their neighbours had, and also were hosts for some at their home. A dance would be held about every other week. Gordon Bruce would play the guitar, Charles Wilson the violin, John Osborne would chord on the piano, and Rich would call the square dances.

The family usually went to the annual Gregg picnic, to Ingersoll Fair, and to the Wilson Christmas's.

Rich enjoyed a game of cards. In general, Rich was a man who enjoyed a good time and had the faculty to create an atmosphere of fun when the family was together. He and Ivah held Christmas every year for their sons and their families, and Rich saw to it that the table would be bountifully supplied; there was always lots to eat at Rich and Ivah's.

Attended Ingersoll Church

Richard and Ivah attended the Ingersoll Methodist Church. They probably got started there with Charles and Louisa. Richard's parents were members of Salford Church, but Richard and Ivah chose Ingersoll. Their children were all

christened at home. The minister would be invited for supper, then after the meal, the baby would be christened.

Trip to Florida

Richard and Ivah once went to Florida for about 5 months. Friends of theirs, Mr. & Mrs. William George from Crampton, had a winter home in St. Petersburg, Florida. So when they went down, as was their custom, just before Christmas in 1926, they took Rich and Ivah with them, going by train. Ivah had a health problem just then, mainly nerves, and the doctor suggested she have a holiday, so this trip was mainly for health reasons. Rich enjoyed the holiday very much; one game he played down there was horseshoes, and he often later talked about how much he liked the game. However, Rich and Ivah never repeated this excursion to Florida.

The Wilson Picnics

The Wilson family, from quite an early date, held family picnics, as did most families. A newspaper clipping from Mary (Sib) Wilson's scrapbook, from the year 1917, gives us the following information, which merits quoting:

"The splendid farm of Richard Wilson was the scene yesterday of the annual reunion of the Wilson clan, and as this was the homestead of the Wilsons, it was most appropriate. About 165 were gathered from Toronto, London, St. Marys, Stratford, Woodstock, Parkhill, Ingersoll and vicinity. Last year at Woodstock there were more present. The day was a bit warm, the luncheon at one o'clock was served under a large marquee. Following this, a good program of sports was run. Dorothy Wilson won the girls under 12 race. Then followed a baseball game between the Wilsons' and the Ragged Nine, which resulted in a win for the former by 7 to 5. A good game was played.

This brought the time to around 5.30 and all partook of a nice supper, and soon afterwards, the gathering broke up and departed homewards.

Many expressions of appreciation were given to Mr. & Mrs. Wilson for their hospitality in offering their farm for this picnic. If such a good time can be had next year and in the following years, it is certain that these Wilson picnics will never be permitted to die out."

Despite the hope expressed by the writer of the above, the Wilson picnics ceased shortly after the big Centennial in 1931. (It is not known if one was held the following year)

However, the families of the Richard and Catharine branch started up a smaller picnic about 1940, holding them in July, after haying, at Memorial Park, Ingersoll. The picnics were held annually at the park until 1952, after which they ceased. Is it a coincidence that no more were held after Rich's death in January of 1953? Mary (Sib) Wilson was the last secretary and Mrs. Nelson (Helen) Wilson was the treasurer. Helen still has the record books.

Wilson Centennial

In 1931, the Wilson Clan planned and organized a gigantic celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the Wilson family coming to Lot 23, Concession 1, Dereham.

Beverly Wilson of London was the secretary of the organizing committee, and Mrs. Mabel Cronk did the historical research and gave a history of the family.

The gathering, held at Wilson Manor, on Wednesday, August 26, 1931, attracted over 250 members of the Wilson family, who came from various parts of Canada, and even from parts of the United States. They came to commemorate the coming of Richard and Sarah Wilson of Yorkshire, England, to this area.

On the occasion of the celebration, the home of Richard and Ivah Wilson was bedecked in a festival appearance. Flags were flying, and stretched across the evergreen archway to the farm was a large streamer bearing the wording, "Welcome to the Wilson Manor", while further up the driveway were the words, "Wilson Centennial".

The house was decorated with flags and bunting, and on the lawn was a huge tent, in which the Centennial meals were served, and the program presented.

The duty of the chairman for the occasion rested with Richard Wilson, the genial host, who heartily welcomed all.

Before the elaborate dinner was served, two anniversary cakes, one in memory of Richard Wilson, and the other in memory of his wife, Sarah Foster, were presented. These were cut by the two oldest members of the family present, Richard Wilson of Foldens Corners, and Mrs. George Collins of Toronto, both representatives of the third generation.

Two miniature sailing vessels, typical of the time when Richard and his wife made the voyage across the Atlantic, were on display, and were objects of much interest. Having made the perilous voyage separately, there was a ship in memory of each. Their names were lettered in red on white streamers which were attached to the vessels, with the date "1831" in prominent display.

Also of much interest was a group of pictures conveniently arranged in the house. These included a picture of the original log house of the Wilson family, showing its cramped dimensions, as compared to the present large home. There was a picture of the "laundry" of Sarah (a spot in the Hislop Creek), and pictures of the cemetery markers of Richard and Sarah at West Oxford Church Cemetery. Also, there were pictures of each of the sons of Richard and Sarah; namely, Charles, William, Leonard, Robert and Richard, and their wives.

During the afternoon, Mrs. Mabel (Smith) Cronk gave her fine history of the origins of the Wilson family, and the hardships the pioneer family endured as they shaped a farm from the forest of the new land.

A song was introduced and sung to the tune of "The Maple Leaf Forever". The words went as follows:

"In days of yore, from England's shore,
Our great grandparents came
And started here the Wilson home
In Canada's fair domain.
Here, theirs' have lived a hundred years,
In love, hope and ambition.
Their forest home, once woods and wild
Has grown to this fine mansion.
Our Wilson name, we love it so,
May it live on forever.
God keep the name as pure a gold,
May Wilsons stain it never.
In dear old Florida's sun kissed land

A Wilson member lives;
While British Columbia's western coast
More names of Wilson gives.
And may those ties of love be ours
Which will live on forever.
God bless our noble family,
And help preserve it ever.
All honour to the Wilson name,
And to all those who bear it.
May peace and plenty be their lot,
According as they merit."

A fine supper was enjoyed by all who could stay in the evening, and then the tables and chairs were cleared from the tent, and a dance was held therein, something the Wilsons thoroughly enjoyed. One wonders how Richard managed to get the milking done that evening!

Richard Turns Farm Over to Youngest Son

In 1946, when Richard was just past 65 years of age, he turned the farm over to his youngest son, Richard Martin, who was then 36 years of age. In an agreement of sale dated April 11, 1946, and registered in the Registry Office, he sold the farm to his son for One Dollar (\$1), with the understanding that Rich and Ivah have a home on the farm for life. The house had been divided and altered at the time of Martin's marriage in 1937, with Richard and Ivah having the west side, and Martin and Velma the east.

Richard continued to work around the farm, doing his share as health permitted. His special interest was in keeping the buildings and lawn in neat condition, fixing and painting taking up much of his time. He also fattened off a few hogs on his own.

Richard Stricken

Even though he was afflicted with diabetes at age 50 (in 1930) and had to have a daily insulin needle for its control, he continued to have a keen interest in the farm. The diabetes caused a deterioration in his eyesight the last six or seven years of his life. Then one day in late November, 1952, Richard was in the other end of the barn feeding the pigs, which he usually did, while Martin was doing the milking. Martin noted that not much seemed to be going on in the pig pen, so he went to investigate, and there he found his father, sitting on the bags of chop. When he saw his son, he said, "By George, Martin, my right foot is awfully cold, it's so cold I can't stand on it." So he was helped to the house, and sat beside the fire, but by noon it was still cold. So they took him to the doctor, and he said the circulation had stopped in that leg. He was then taken to the doctor at Victoria Hospital, London, to whom he had been going for his diabetes. He examined him and said that gangrene would develop quickly, so it was decided to amputate his leg. The operation was done the day before Christmas in Victoria Hospital. He was allowed to come home in about two weeks, but he was quite weak and seemed to have lost all his fight. He just lay at home in bed; he couldn't be persuaded to try to get around on crutches. Blood clots now were the

greatest hazards. One day one went to his brain, and he was unconscious for more than a day. In a few days, one hit him in the chest, causing pain for over a day.

The death of Richard

On Thursday, January 22, 1953, a third clot hit him in the stomach in early morning, and he was in severe pain. Dr. Bland was summoned to come out and gave him a shot of pain killer, but he warned that it wouldn't really do much good. So the doctor said that he had better be taken into the hospital in Ingersoll, and he was taken there about 8 a.m. In a couple of hours, another clot rendered him unconscious, and he passed away about 11 o'clock that morning. By strange coincidence, he died the same date, January 22, as his father had in 1896.

The body rested at the P.T. Walker Funeral Home, from whence the funeral was held, Sunday, January 25, the Reverend C. D. Daniel of Trinity United Church officiating. The pallbearers were nephews of the deceased: Harry, Nelson, Austin, Brock and Douglas Wilson; and the flower bearers were nephews Wilson Markham, Harley, Herman, and Raymond Martin, and Ernie Laur. Temporary entombment was in the Ingersoll mausoleum, with interment later in the Wilson family plot at Harris Street Cemetery.

Richard was 72 years, 3 months at his death, and if he had lived till April 8th, he and Ivah would have been married 50 years.

Ivah Dies at Home

Ivah continued to live in the apartment on the homestead, managing fairly well. Of course, Martin and Velma kept a close watch on her and helped when needed. Ivah hired a Mrs. Long once a week to clean the apartment. She was a great TV fan, had her own set, and was especially fond of viewing baseball and hockey games.

Ivah developed a heart condition, and she had to take pills to control it the last several years of her life. She celebrated her 80th birthday, July 26, 1963.

On Sunday evening, May 22, 1966, she didn't feel very well, so the doctor was called out. He examined her and said that she wasn't seriously ill, but he warned her not to exert herself, or even get out of bed if she felt bad, unless someone was there to help her. The next morning, Rich, who made a practice of going in to check on her before he went to the barn, noticed that the bathroom light was on and the door was open. He went in to investigate and found his mother stone cold dead on the floor. She had apparently felt ill and had gotten up, and this exertion brought on a fatal heart attack. The doctor placed the time of death early Monday morning, May 23. She was 82 years, 9 months and had lived on the farm for 64 years. Her son, Leslie, predeceased her in 1963. She was survived by 3 sons, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Friends were received at the Walker and Clifton Funeral Home, where the funeral service was held Thursday, May 26, at 2 p.m., the Reverend Stanford Lucyk of Trinity United Church officiating. Pall bearers were all grandsons of Ivah: Charles, Gordon, John, Robert, Roger, and Donald Wilson.

The Farm Today

When Richard Martin no longer could cope with the work on the farm, and his son Richard John, was not interested in farming, Richard sold the place on February 22, 1967, to Gordon A. Hollingshead for \$65,000. Thus ended 137 years of Wilson tenure at Lot 23, Con. 1, Dereham, beginning in 1830.

Hollingshead continued to milk cows, but in a little over 2 years, he sold out. Oxford Silos Ltd., a family company comprised of two brothers, Peter and Harry VanRyswyk, bought the farm on November 6, 1969, at a price of \$74,000.

They converted the barn to a loose housing beef set-up, added a large pole barn lean-to along the east side in 1971, built a 16 X 50 and a 24 X 70 silo in 1971, and a 30 X 80 silo in 1972. They cleared out all the farm fences, filled in the two ponds, and drained the low spots. They plant the whole farm (175A workable) to corn. In 1977, they ceased to put in beef cattle, and set up a corn drying system and now operate it as a grain corn farm.

The house still has two apartments, which the VanRyswyks rent to tenants; they themselves live on #19 Highway.

They are good operators, the crops are well managed, they ceased to use a mold-board plough a few years ago, instead they use a "soil-saver" implement on the stalks. The house and grounds are well cared for, but the barns and silos stand unused.

DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD AND IVAH WILSON

Richard Henry Wilson, b. October 20, 1880; d. January 22, 1953
Married, April 8, 1903 Buried - Harris Street Cemetery

Ivah Sophronia Martin, b. July 26, 1882; d. May 23, 1966
Children: 4

1. Earl Eugene, b. May 27, 1904; d. September 25, 1968
Married June 15, 1927 Buried - Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
Inas Elizabeth Manzer, b. November 24, 1901
Children: 3

1. Helen Meridel, b. October 6, 1930
Married June 22, 1957 Res. London
John Edward Walsh, b. May 11, 1931
Children: 4

1. Mary Helen, b. September 10, 1959
Married November 28, 1981
Michael Austin Richard Partridge, b. June 29, 1948
Children: 2

1. Jennifer Meryl, b. January 21, 1983
2. Stephanie Dawne, b. May 1, 1984

2. John Edward, b. July 14, 1961

3. David Wilson, b. January 23, 1963

4. James Matthew, b. January 29, 1968

2. Charles Eugene, b. December 19, 1933
Married October 4, 1958 Res. Ingersoll
Lois Anne Gratton, b. March 23, 1938
Children: 3
 1. Christine Anne, b. May 9, 1962; d. April 28, 1967
 2. Charles Eugene, b. March 3, 1966
 3. William Gratton, b. July 26, 1968
3. Mary Evelyn, b. November 27, 1935
Married October 9, 1971
Frank Ernest Loscombe, b. June 10, 1928
(Frank had three children from a previous marriage):
 1. Jolyn Catharine, b. February 12, 1952; m. Glen Laurenson
One child: Keri Lynn, b. July 26, 1973
 2. Frances Ann, b. December 9, 1956; m. William Waterman
One child: William Jeffrey, b. July 10, 1979
 3. Dawn Ellen, b. January 3, 1959
2. James Arthur, b. October 29, 1906; d. May 29, 1974
Married May 27, 1931 Buried -
Hazel Irene George, b. August 11, 1908
Children: 5
 1. Kenneth Arthur, b. August 24, 1932; d. February 26, 1953
 2. James Gordon, b. March 10, 1936
Married June 9, 1956 Res. Lucan
Fern Elizabeth Cecile Carrie Zinn, b. May 22, 1939
Children: 2
 1. Lorie Anne, b. May 8, 1958
Married July 2, 1977
Murray Dale Connelly, b. June 2, 1958
Children: 3
 1. Carrie Jean, b. December 17, 1977
 2. Angela Marie, b. March 28, 1981
 3. Colleen Gayle, b. November 14, 1984
 2. Kenneth Gordon, b. November 23, 1962; d. July 29, 1964.
 3. Robert George, b. January 7, 1938
Married March 4, 1976 Res. Ingersoll
Mary Margaret Jakob (nee Hunt), b. August 26, 1940
Children: 1
 1. Gordon Ronald Robert, b. January 9, 1979
(Mary had 5 children from previous marriage to Dennis Jakob)
Robert adopted the youngest 2 children
 1. Lisa Maureen, b. August 24, 1963
 2. James Darrin, b. March 22, 1965
 4. Ivah "Glenda" Margaret, b. October 9, 1940
Married July 23, 1960
Ronald George MacDonald, b. November 23, 1935
Children: 3
 1. Heather Irene, b. January 17, 1961
 2. James Lee, b. March 21, 1963
 3. Robert Raymond, b. October 3, 1968
 5. Roger Orland, b. April 12, 1952
Married July 23, 1977, divorced 1980
Christine Beatrice Cole, b. September 2, 1954
3. Leslie Merritt, b. February 25, 1908; d. January 9, 1963

- Married October 7, 1939 Buried Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, London
Margaret "Ruth" Douglas, b. November 7, 1907
Children: 2
1. Ruth Anne, b. June 16, 1941
Married December 31, 1965 Res. Lucan
Ross Walter Holden, b. May 31, 1940
Children: 4
 1. Michael Leslie, b. December 20, 1968
 2. Jayne Colleen, b. October 15, 1970
 3. Mary Anne, b. October 26, 1973
 4. Sara Michelle, b. August 25, 1976
 2. Donald Leslie, b. December 6, 1944; d. June 20, 1968
 4. (Richard) Martin, b. February 10, 1910
Married November 3, 1937
Velma Elizabeth Wade, b. September 28, 1911; d. January 3, 1973
Children: 2
 1. Marilyn Louise, b. December 21, 1938
Married June 21, 1958 Res. R.R.2, Mt. Elgin
Charles Alfred Babcock, b. September 22, 1933
Children: 3
 1. David William, b. December 28, 1958
 2. Richard Charles, b. September 28, 1963
 3. Steven Leslie, b. October 11, 1966
 2. Richard John, b. March 26, 1940
Married August 19, 1967 Res. Ingersoll
Jill Kathleen Moggach, b. October 18, 1946
Children: 3
 1. Richard "Christopher", b. August 1, 1971
 2. Leigh-Anne Jilliane, b. October 11, 1975
 3. William "Adam", b. June 7, 1978

Richard Martin remarried October 5, 1977 Res. Ingersoll
Freida Margaret Webb (nee Sitter) b. May 5, 1912



DEER HUNTING ON THE PICKEREL — c. 1945
 Standing: Bill Clement, Austin, Frank Way, Don Little, Rich Wilson
 Front: Grant Hutchinson, Nelson



JOHN (Jack) & DON WILSON
 boating on Wilson pond c. 1950

WILSON SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The initial plans for the Wilson Sesquicentennial celebration were begun at a meeting held February 22, 1981. Everett Wilson was named chairman, Edna Meek, secretary, Bernice Manicom, treasurer, and Mr. & Mrs. Richard "Jack" Wilson, registrars. Other committee members were chosen from each of the five Wilson lines and the committee met a total of 10 times.

The date of the event was set for Saturday, August 1, and Sunday, August 2, 1981, to be held at the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. Invitations were printed and sent out, with advance reply requested. Registration was \$3.00, Saturday meal, \$5.00 and Sunday luncheon, \$3.50.

On the day of the event, the main lobby and large gymnasium of the school were decorated with streamers and fresh flowers, making a perfect setting for the reunion, marking 150 years since Richard and Sarah Wilson and their five sons came to Oxford County and bought 200 acres at Lot 23, Concession 1, Dereham Township.

On display at front centre of the gymnasium was a specially designed and decorated cake, flanked by two miniature sailing ships. Two ships were included because Richard came alone to Canada, from Yorkshire, England, in 1830, and bought his farm in Oxford County; the following summer his wife Sarah and their five sons came to join him.

Inside the large gymnasium, displays of family pictures, lineage charts, and heirlooms were arranged under the headings of the five original sons of Richard and Sarah, namely: William, Charles, Leonard, Robert and Richard.

Approximately 600 people attended the two day event. Upon registering, each person received a name tag with a specific colour designating his or her founding family line. Also, a blue bow was added for those who had attended the Wilson Centennial held August 26, 1931. There were 55 of these veterans present at the 1981 celebrations.

On Saturday afternoon a program of sports was arranged for the young, and enjoyed by those young people present.

Also, during the afternoon, guided bus tours were provided, which included visits to the original homes of Charles, Leonard, Robert and Richard, and to the various gravesites at Harris Street, and West Oxford Cemeteries. (Richard and Sarah are buried at West Oxford Cemetery)

A smorgasbord supper was served to nearly 300 people in the cafeteria of I.D.C.I. In the early evening a hayride was conducted for the children.

Then a formal program was presented in the gymnasium. Cecil Wilson, (a fifth generation Wilson) Mayor of South-West Oxford, was called upon to give words of welcome, and officially opened the celebrations.

The oldest person present, Leonard (Curly) Wilson of St. Marys, aged 91, was presented with a Bible. Two week old Leslie Jackson of Beachville, the youngest person present, was given a silver spoon. Several musical numbers, a Scottish dance and some Wilson anecdotes were given. An original song, composed for the occasion was sung by three farmers in appropriate costume, namely Keith Wilson, Everett Wilson and Bill Meek.

The events of Sunday, August 2, began with a luncheon, again held in the I.D.C.I. cafeteria. The program featured a 20 page Wilson history prepared and read by David Manicom, (a sixth generation Wilson). The oldest person for the day was Robert Smith, age 90, of Woodstock; and the youngest was Monica Wilson, aged 11 months, of Memphis, Tennessee, each received a Bible and silver spoon respectively. The program ended with singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds", after which a group picture was taken on the school lawn.

Concluding Remarks

Dear Cousins near and far:

The date of September 20, 1986, is the cut off time when these writings went to press. But the procession of life marches on, and new dates and names will be added to this list. Please try to keep your record up to date, by adding to this booklet or whatever system you choose.

In labour and time, this book has cost many times what could be reasonably charged. The inclusion of nearly 80 pictures and sketches, also added to the cost, but in a work of this nature, pictures are what makes the dry bones of names and dates come to life.

The only way not to have made mistakes was not to have written it. In every line of a work like this, there are several chances to go wrong. While I have tried to be accurate, and in cases where noted, have gone to primary sources, errors or omissions in transcription are a possibility. My regret and apologies are conveyed where these have occurred.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my wife Shirley, without whose help in editing and typing, my task would have been immensely more difficult. Also, to Gail Moran and Mary Loscombe, who did the major portion of the typing, I am deeply grateful.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge a generous donation from Mrs. Florence Helen (Wilson) Shelton towards the printing of this book. Floss makes this donation in loving memory of her parents, George and Maria Wilson, her sister Hazel May (Wilson) Banbury, and her brothers Douglas Richard and Thomas George.

By the printing of this book, may it be a memorial more lasting than the marble slabs that mark the resting place of those whose lives and toil made the basis for our lives. Times and conditions made life for them one of much manual toil. The nine children of Richard and Catharine Wilson lived at the dawning of the machine age. Those of them who reached old age saw horse power replaced by tractors, and more sophisticated farm implements made farm operations less toilsome. Rural electricity, which several lived to see, made farm life immeasurably easier.

These were kind, honourable and measurably successful people. We owe them the highest possible honour. May each new generation, with its vastly higher privileges, uphold and improve the good name and reputation of those who have passed into history. It behooves those of us who continue to farm, to maintain the highest degree of stewardship and love for our precious soil, for "The Land Is Their Heritage".

With permanent interest in all of you,

Everett A. Wilson.



DESCENDANTS OF RICHARD and CATHARINE WILSON
Pictured at the Wilson Sesquicentennial - August 1, 1981



THREE GENERATIONS OF RICHARD WILSON - AUGUST 1, 1981
L to R - Richard John, Richard Christopher, Richard Martin at the
Wilson Sesquicentennial.

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