

OTTER VALLEY RIDERS M.C.

The club was originally formed by a handful of enthusiastic riders, as a hobby. The lumps, bumps, thrills and smiling faces soon created enough curiosity and interest to move the sport of trail riding to number one in this area.

At that time, the trails were so well used, it was decided to form an organized club to maintain good relations with the farmers and neighbours, whose land is a necessity if the sport is to continue.

In 1970, the first election placed in office:

- President - Jack Clements
- Vice Pres.- Ron Phillips
- Secretary - George Moore
- Treasurer - Dave Baxter

The meetings were held in Ron Phillips' pack barn at Corinth. In April, 1971, a clubhouse was in the making on the Phillips farm, Lot 1, Concession 5, in Bayham Township.

As members come from many walks of life, with club talents and co-operation, most of the labour was volunteered. The clubhouse was moved into in December, 1971.

In 1971 another election was held, putting into office:

- President - Dave Baxter
- Vice Pres.- Bev Kennedy
- Secretary - Ron Phillips
- Ass. Sec. - Bill Rice
- Treasurer - Bill Vasily

In 1971, the club applied to the Ontario Government for a charter, and on February 22, 1972, this was granted, thus forming the Otter Valley Riders M.C. Inc. The new officers for 1972 were:

- President - Bev Kennedy
- Vice Pres.- Jim Fuller
- Secretary - Ken Rice
- Ass. Sec. - Bill Rice
- Treasurer - Bill Vasily

Now it's 1973, and the sport is still growing, with teenagers, youngsters, older folks, and entire families both male and female, brought together through the optimism of a handful of people back in 1970.

1973 officers are:

- President - Peter Baxter
- 1st Vice Pres.- John Hueston
- 2nd Vice Pres.- Jim Fuller
- Secretary - Ken Rice
- Treasurer - Ron Phillips

The club is very community minded, having assisted in the Port Burwell bike rodeo in 1970, and in conjunction with police, helped to set up a course for mini-bikes in Tillsonburg to provide a safe, off the streets and roads location for these young people to ride.

They have contributed to several causes, the latest being a swim in the new recreation centre pool in Tillsonburg during the Tippy-Canoe contest against other area service clubs.

The club, with the Tri-County Agricultural Society, have sponsored 1/2 mile flat-track racing at the Tillsonburg fair grounds. They also organize mud runs for both seasoned riders and beginners and children several times a year.

The big event of the year is the Enduro, a cross-country, timed, endurance run, held the first of July weekend. Riders are attracted to this event from all over North America.

This year, the Golden Leaf Enduro, as it is called, will be hosting the Canadian Championship Enduro.

Only three years old, this club is proud of its' success, achievements, and acceptance in and for the community.

# FARM & FAMILY HISTORY

FARM AND FAMILY HISTORY

DAVID PHILLIPS FAMILY.

David George Phillips was born in London, England, in 1889. The actual date is not exactly certain, because the registration of his birth shows the date February 14th. in one place, and February 15th in another. However, he settled for the 15th., and claimed that date as his birthday. The son of George and Emily Phillips, he had five brothers and two sisters.

Having finished his formal education, he went to work for E.R. Goodrich Ltd., an 'oil and colour' (hardware) firm, which had branch shops in various parts of the city. Starting as messenger boy, he became stock manager, operating from the main branch in the Old Kent Road.

A friend at Goodrich's invited him to attend Services at "The Welcome", a city mission operated by 'Brethren' of the King George St. Hall in Greenwich. Here he met Martha Watts, who was employed as housekeeper in the home of Captain and Mrs. Harris at Lewisham. Martha, daughter of George and Caroline Watts, was born in West Lambrook, Somersetshire, England. She had two brothers and five sisters, one of whom, Mary, her twin, died of scarlet fever at the age of 18. David proposed to Martha when he was 17, but she (six years his senior) advised him to 'grow up first'. He didn't give up however, and six years later they were married. The wedding took place on Sunday July 7th., after the morning service at the King George st. Hall. The Rev. Wm. Ward Hunter officiated.

By this time David was Manager of the Goodrich store at 167 West Ferry Road in Millwall, a District in the London Dock area, called by natives 'The Isle of Dogs'. Here their first child, Ruth Patricia was born on February 5th., 1914.

David loved animals, and soon acquired a spotted Fox Terrier named 'Toby'. He was soon joined by a mate named 'Victoria' (Vic for short). These, Martha maintained, were enough pets for one family, but she hadn't reckoned with the contacts David made daily with all sorts of characters, mostly sailors coming off ships docking from all corners of the earth. These were always dropping in with something to sell, and so a series of creatures, from white mice to monkeys found haven in the Phillips household. There were birds too, from linnets to a parrot. The favourites of the family were the dogs, the parrot, and a little marmoset monkey named 'Peter'. In later years David loved to recount to his grandchildren the antics of Peter. Dogs, however, were his particular favourites and Toby ranked first here. He was a clever dog and had many friends in the district. He took special pains to cultivate the friendship of the lady in the sweet-shop, where he found, if one just sat up and howled, there was a reward(?) of a bar of chocolate. Toby was often called upon to do escort duty for "Janie", a partially crippled friend of the family whose husband, William Jones, was away in the army. When she came to visit for an evening Toby always took her to the bus for home.

After the start of World War 1, the enemy began air raids on London. The Millwall area was especially vulnerable because so much of Britain's shipping was concentrated here. Goodrich's was a corner store, with living quarters attached. It was not long before bombs had been dropped, hitting all three of the opposite corners. The Phillips' considered it something of a miracle that their store had been missed. Because of the large tanks and drums of oils stored at the back, it was a very dangerous place to live. Consequently, David moved his family to Crofton Park, in a safer

district, and later obtained leave of absence from his firm in order to join the army.

He enlisted with the Cheshire Regiment, serving with the rank of Sergeant in North Africa (under Lord Kitchener's command), Palestine and Turkey. He was wounded in action in Africa.

Soon after the famed German Zeppelin raids on England, on Jan. 6th. 1917, twins, a boy and a girl were born to the Phillips family. The daughter died at birth, and the boy was named Charles David Watts.

Because his unit was involved in occupation duty, David did not return to England until mid 1919. He was given the management of a Goorich store at 54 Darwin St., near the Old Kent Road (the Millwall shop had been bombed out). Here, on September 16, 1921, their second son Graham Frederick Hunter was born. The following spring the family emigrated to Canada, arriving at Aylmer, Ontario early in May 1922.

Settling in the Aylmer district, David was employed by John VanPatter, a farmer in the Luton area. The following year they moved to Mount Salem, renting a farm there. In 1926 David rented a farm  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Calton. He later purchased this property from Edward Herries, and it became the family home. The two boys attended the Calton school, and Ruth went to the Port Burwell Continuation School. The family worshipped at Calton Baptist Church and all became members of this congregation. David and Martha were both active in Church work, teaching in the Sunday School for many years.

All three of the children married into Calton families. Ruth married Ray, eldest son of Earl and Vauna Baxter. Charles married Maxine, eldest daughter of Russell and Bessie McKibbon, and Graham

married Hazel, second daughter of Sadie and Robert Whaley.

Soon after the outbreak of World War 11, the boys having enlisted in the army, David and Martha closed up their home and moved to St. Thomas. Here David catered for the Sergeant's mess at the R.C.A.F. Technical Training School, and Martha worked at the Weatherhead Co. plant. David was also active in the Reserve unit of the Elgin Regiment. At the end of the war they returned to the farm for a time, and later retired to the village of Calton. On February 19th. 1950, Martha died after an illness of nearly a year.

In July 1951 David married 'Janie' Jones, with whom the family had corresponded since leaving England in 1922, and whose husband had been killed in a motor-cycle accident some years earlier. In May 1952 Janie died from a heart attack.

The following year, in April 1953 David returned to England for a visit. The trip was timed to coincide with the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11, but because of an illness which required surgery he was confined to an English Hospital during most of the holiday time.

In 1954 he married Alice Sheppard, who had been a family friend ever since they arrived in Canada. They continued to live in Calton, and David's love of living things prompted him to add to his collection of pets (a dog, cats, rabbits and coons) a variety of birds, including pheasants, peacocks and pigeons. He took a great interest in the young folk of the village, and was familiarly known to many of them as 'Grampy'.

At Christmas 1962, Alice died quite suddenly from the effects of a stroke. David lived alone in his home until early in 1964. After undergoing surgery in St. Thomas Hospital, he spent some months with his daughter and son-in-law and their family. After

another period of hospitalization, he took up residence at Elgin Manor, Elgin County's Home for the Aged. Here he passed away on November 7th 1964, and was buried in the Calton Cemetery.

*Written by his daughter  
Mrs Ray Baytes.*

## FAMILY HISTORY



Phillips, C.Ron. 57789H

Enlisted in R.C.N. Sept. 30, 1957, received basic training on H.M.C.S. Cornwallis, N.S. March, 1958, drafted to H.M.C.S. Shearwater, entered aircrew training school receiving wings in Dec., 1958. Drafted to 880 squadron H.M.C.S. Benaventure, as an observer's mate on tracker aircraft flying on anti-submarine patrol in the North Atlantic, ranging from Ungava Bay in the north to Curacao in the south (off the north coast of Venezuela) called at many ports during different cruises - San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Key West, Jacksonville, Florida, Charleston, South Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia, Philadelphia, P.A., New York, N.Y., Boston, Massachusetts.

In late November 1959, returning from a cruise to the British Isles, the ship was forced to call at the islands of the Azores for fuel and repairs after weathering hurricane force winds up to 120 miles per hr. doing 3 million dollars damage. Squadrons of aircraft alternate between duty on H.M.C.S. Shearwater a land base and H.M.C.S. Benaventure, aircraft carrier. Flying range of aircraft is approximately 200 miles from base be it land or ship.

Obtained release on Sept. 29, 1962 after 5 year's service.

Above picture and data donated by Ron's mother, Mrs. Chas.

Phillips.

FAMILY HISTORY



Phillips, J. C. 37995-H

Enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy December 31 1959; received basic training at H.M.C.S. Cornwallis at Digby, N. S.

Served on H.M.C.S. St. Croix; visited ports in England and Portugal during his service in the navy. He received his discharge November 30, 1960.



## A FAREWELL NOTE

May 11, 1965

We are here tonight to say farewell to Margaret and Stuart and to wish them continued good health and happiness.

I thought it might be of interest to you to know a little of the story of their ancestors. Owen Kinsey and Ethel Van Velzer were married June 26, 1912. They had two sons called Orland and Stuart. Stuart was born on Jan. 16, 1918 on the family farm in Bayham Township which was originally Crown land. His early childhood was spent in the Calton area, moving to Aylmer after the death of his mother. His father later married Jean Truman, formerly of Calton whose home was on the farm, the first place west of Hugh Matthews. When Stuart had finished school, he returned to the farm and resided with his grandfather, Eber Kinsey. Eber was the son of George Kinsey who resided on the Elgin Laidlaw farm on the 5th Con. of Malahide. George had two brothers, Jessie who lived on the Ray Prong farm, and John on the Clinton Learn farm. Eber married Naomi Gilett of the Sparta district, she was a first cousin of the father of Lily James. They had one son, Owen. Eber Kinsey at the age of 84 came to the farm of John Kennedy to help with the threshing, losing no time, he climbed up into the mow and showed the younger man he was still quite alive.

Stuart's mother, Ethel Van Velzer was the daughter of Lafayette Van Velzer and Alice Wilson, she had one sister, Mrs. Fred James of Aylmer. The Van Velzer's came to North America on the May Flower. In 1834, Jacob Van Velzer purchased 100 acres (Lot 34, Con. 4) now owned by Walcarius's, previously by C. Lycke and R. McKibbon. The family purchased additional property until they owned the corner block from Maurice Landon's to George Csakli's. Alice Wilson, his grandmother, was the daughter Bradford Wilson and Elizabeth Boyd. They purchased land from the Crown, the 2nd con. of Malahide, now owned by George Coysman. There were 7 daughters and 2 sons in the Wilson family, Mrs. John Kennedy, the mother of Robert Kennedy was a sister to Stuart's grandmother.

Margaret Whaley was born in Brownsville, her parents were Robert Whaley and Sadie Matthews, they had 4 children. The first daughter was named for her grandmothers "Margaret Emma", her early life being spent in Brownsville, St. Thomas and Grovesend.

In 1931 the family moved to Calton to the Jim Van Velzer farm and occupied the house now owned by Mrs. G. Graves. Robert Whaley broke his leg while playing hockey and complications necessitated his retirement from farming. They purchased a house at Grovesend and had it moved to its present location next to the hall yard where they now reside.

William Jabez Whaley, her grandfather came from Chatteres England to Canada at 18 yrs. of age, married Emma Fewster and farmed at Derham Centre and Brownsville in Oxford Country, also acting as a preacher at the local churches.