

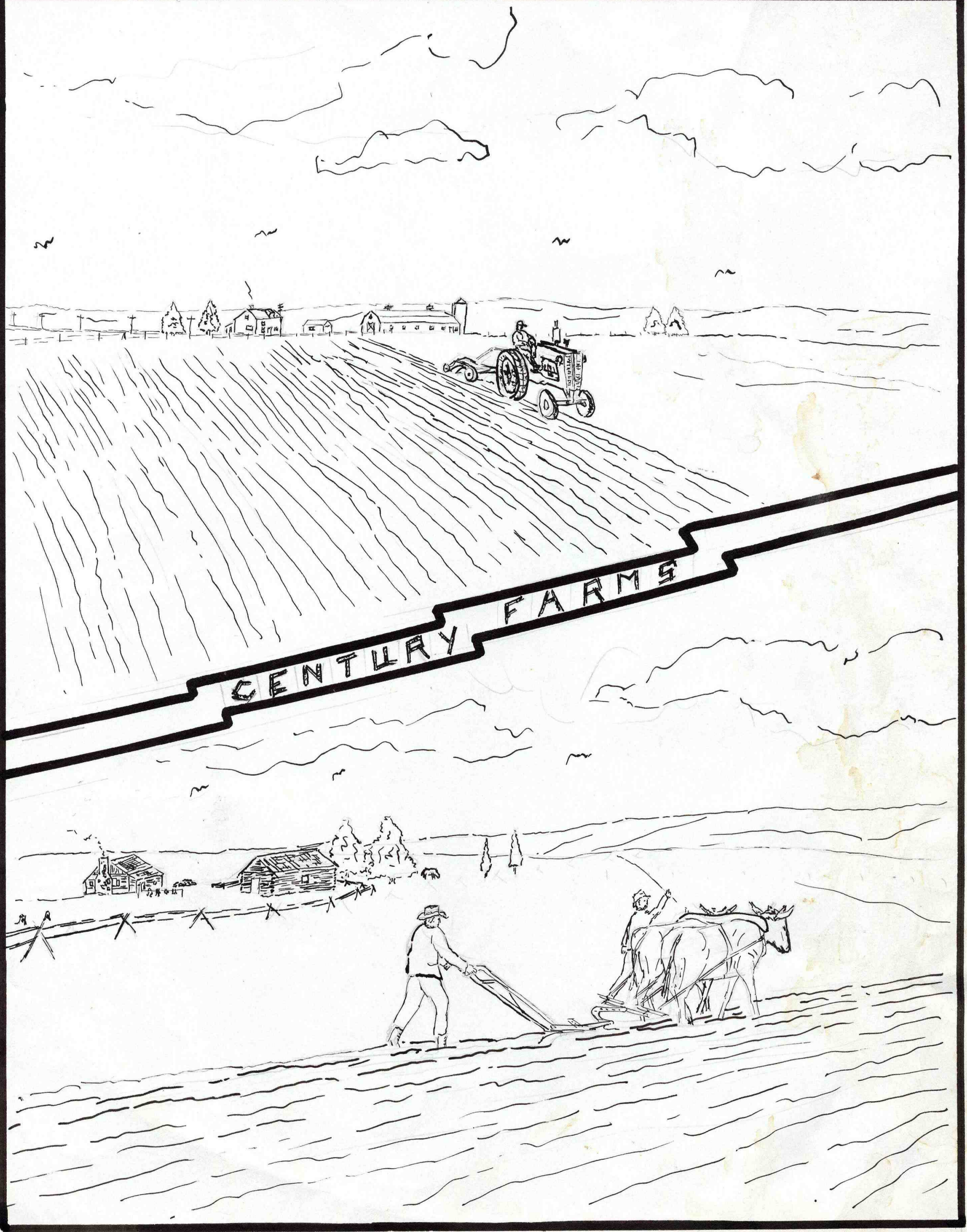
A look at the registration book revealed the distances travelled by many of those attending. There were visitors registered from Kalamazoo, Brown City, Akron, Detroit, and Troy, Mich., Akron, Ohio; Atlanta, Mo.,

Cabri and Bethune, Sask., Oakville, Parry Sound, Burlington, Toronto, Pembroke, Windsor, Fort Erie and Hamilton. Hundreds of others came from immediate district.



Mrs. Mary Pressey, Mrs. Alida Hansford, Miss Barbara Holtby (Weston Holtby's daughter)

Donated by Douglas Rabbetts

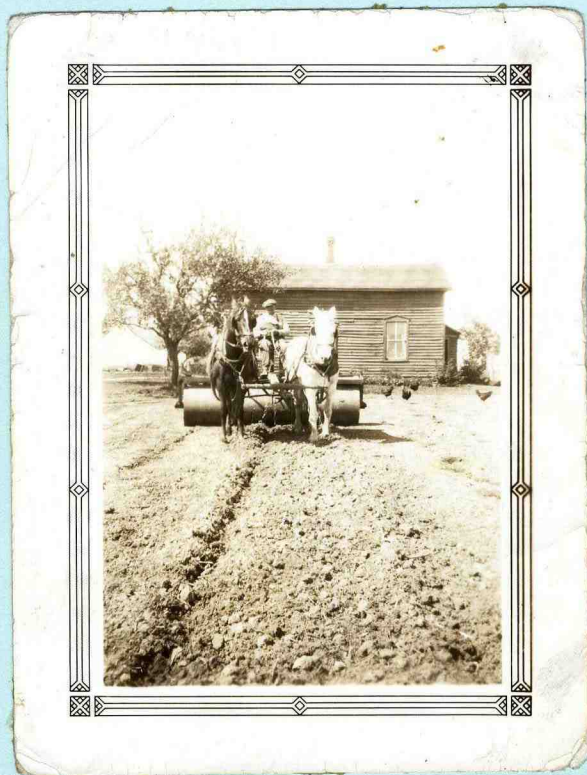


CENTURY FARMS

THE FARM OF MRS. J. SILVERTHORNE

This farm was taken up from the crown by Daniel Moss, but the exact date is not recorded. It is known that he resided in this area as early as 1850. The deed for the farm was registered in 1876 by Anna E. Moss. The next person to own it was Edward White who owned it until 1907. He then sold to Harry Newkirk, St. Thomas who was a brakeman. He sold to Christopher Pearson. It was sold again in 1911 to Gordon Turnbull, and in 1921 to the Mahlon Bears. In 1927 John and Agnes Silverthorne purchased it.

The first house was a frame structure approximately 18 feet by 32 feet. It was on Lot 2 concession 10 of Bayham. This house stood until 1961.



Original House

The barn was built at the same time as the house. It was situated to the north of the house and was a frame structure. It remained standing and in use until 1963



Original Barn

This farm had always been a dairy farm until J. Silverthorne passed away in 1945. There has been no stock since that date.

The first known well on the farm was a brick well just north of the house.

Electricity was installed in 1954. Telephone service was supplied by the Aylmer Malahide Company in 1937. There was no bathroom in the original house but one was put in the new house when it was built.

An orchard had been planted in the early years to the north of the barn. They were taken out in 1927.

Mrs. Silverthorne donated to the Elgin County Museum some carders she had. There was also a large iron kettle that was given to a niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ireland in St. Thomas.

The year 1945 is remembered as outstanding for heavy snowfall. A very heavy fall came on New Year's day. The roads were not opened until January 14 for the doctor to visit Mr. Silverthorne. A one way road was cleared for the funeral. A neighbor cleared his yard to allow a place for cars to turn around. The road into the cemetery was dug out by Kenneth and Emerson Beemer.

In 1954 Mrs. Silverthorne deeded one acre on the South East corner to Donald Murray Ireland. A house was built on this lot.



Present House of Mrs. Silverthorne

In 1956 Mrs. Silverthorne sold the farm to John and Medoria Maleschuk and bought the house and lot from Donald Murray Ireland.

John Maleschuk built a new home north and east of the first house. Some strawberries were cultivated on the farm after it was acquired by J. Maleschuk.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Maleschuk

Pictures donated by Mrs. Silverthorne

In 1964 Mr. Maleschuk built a new garage, and in 1967 a new well, 109 feet deep was drilled to supply water for the house. In 1971 a good sized raspberry patch was planted so the farm will now be producing raspberries as well as strawberries for sale.

THE KEN BEEMER FARM

In 1838 Elsworth owned as freehold property. In 1844 Michail Hickey applied for this property and he obtained it. In 1859 Thomas Street owned this farm and sold it to Hemingway. By 1862 Peter Hemingway Jr. owned 68½ acres. In 1881 it was back in Elsworth hands and he sold it to McKinney and 1883 James Bird purchased the property for \$4,200.00.

In 1904 John Wallace bought this land and in 1917 Erwin Wallace (Ed) his son was the owner. In 1946 Cecil Beemer bought from E. Wallace and now his son Ken Beemer is the present owner.

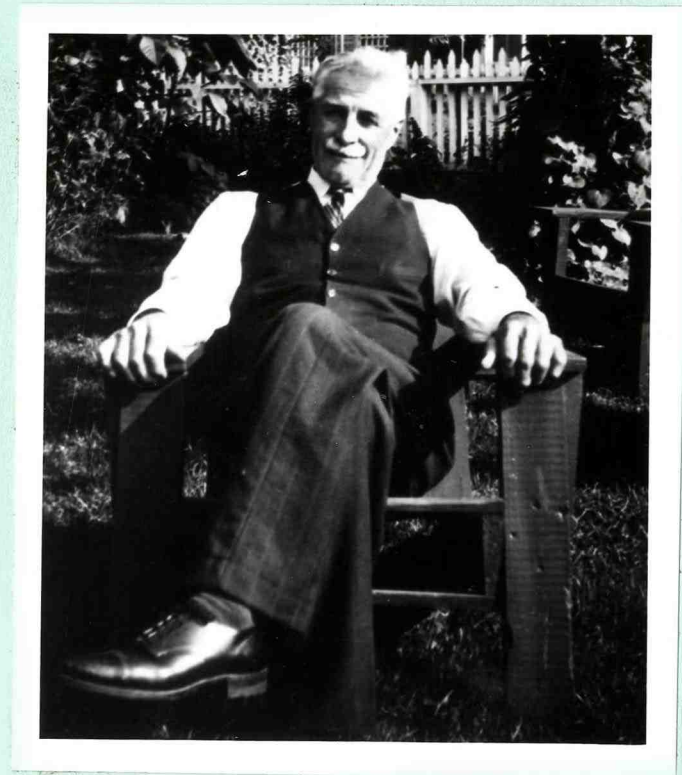
Cecil Beemer was born in Houghton, but he lived most of his life in Elgin County. He married Lillie Milmine and they lived some of their early married years on the Goodhand farm. They moved to the Wallace farm in 1946 and operated it as a dairy farm. The couple had ten children, three boys and seven girls.

Mr. Beemer was an Elder of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints at Corinth for twenty some years. He was on the Corinth school board for eighteen or nineteen years. He died in 1960 in his eighty-seventh year.

As of May, 1972, Ken Beemer, the oldest son, who is unmarried, lives on this farm, and has been farming all his life. A sister, Mrs. Inez Smith, resides with him, and has been keeping house in the old family home for twelve years. Emerson, another son, who had had a farm across the road, has made his home with Kenneth and Inez.



Ken Beemer and his sister, Mrs. Smith, live in the house on the left. Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Travis live in the house on the right.



Mr. Cecil Beemer

EMERSON BEEMER FARM



Samuel McKinney was a United Empire Loyalist of Scottish descent who left Buffalo to take up a farm in this area. Each Loyalist was to receive a free tract of land. By mistake his land was given to another McKinney of the same name. He then bought 100 acres of land, lot 4, concession 9, in Bayham Township for 12 pounds. He also bought 200 acres east of the Corinth school-house where two of his sons lived later as well as 200 acres in Dereham township.

Samuel McKinney came to Canada in a covered wagon and lived in it until the house was built. The first house was a log house situated west of the present house. Then he proceeded to clear land to sow wheat. Trees were cut down and burned in order to use the land. The first barns were log also, but the size or location are not definite. The next barns were frame and later torn down and replaced by the present barns sometime around 1905 by the McKinneys. When this barn was built one of the girls, Minerva McKinney painted the boards before they were put on the barn and they were leaned against the fence to dry. The barn is L-shaped, about 50 x 90 and the L approximately 40 feet.

Descendants of Samuel McKinney had the farm until it was sold to Mr. Beemer in 1945 and then bought by Emerson Beemer in 1946.

It is not known when or where the first livestock were acquired but it is known that Jerry McKinney kept holstein cows, also hogs. When Emerson took over the farm he had to rebuild the stalls because the cows kept before were so much larger that he could not use the stalls. This is still in 1961 a dairy farm with all registered holstein cows. The number milking in 1961 is 24. The milk test of individual cows was taken and 8 had a test of better than 5.1 and the highest was 6.4. It is known that yields on the farm were as high as 80 and 90 bushels per acre.

The barn was struck by lightning twice but was put out. The roof is still charred from this. The hydro was installed about 1950. This was done by L. Beemer, brother of Emerson who was a foreman of hydro for several years at Windsor. When wiring it a light was put outside on each corner of the barn.

The present frame house was built in 1853 by Mr. Hiram Moss. It was the first frame house in the area. This replaced a second log house which had been built when the family outgrew the first one. When Jerry McKinney died the three girls, Minerva, Bert and Dora lived on the farm and rented it. A new kitchen was added to the house. About 1934 Mr. Beemer rented the farm and they shared the house with the McKinney's. The kitchen was later moved down to the

barn to be used as a milk house. In 1953 a garage was added to the house and both sided with new siding and new windows put in. The pressure system was put in at the same time hydro was installed. The telephone was installed in 1957 by the Aylmer Malahide Telephone Co. No bathroom has been put in.

The first well was in the front yard of the present house on the east side of the driveway near the road. Later a well was drilled in the back yard of the present house. It is still in use, nothing having been done to it until 1961 when it was cleaned.

An orchard was planted on the farm at an early date. The trees came from a vineyard in Norfolk county from people who were relatives of the McKinneys. Some of the trees are still bearing fruit in 1961.

The early settlers tapped the maple trees in the bush and made maple syrup for their own use. In 1961 there is still

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a sugar bush of approximately 200 maple trees and when time permits they are still tapped.

In 1856 there was a famine in this area due to heavy rains. Crops could not be harvested. The McKinneys spent the winter in Simcoe and worked there in a smelter and earned money to buy seed and returned in the spring to the farm.

The Railroad was put through this area in 1871 and crossed this farm. In 1961 there is approximately 6 acres of woods on the farm and with the exception of these, the land acreage remains the same and is all cultivated.

The farm has been given the name BeeKenneyHolm. The McKinney and Beemer families were raised on this farm and always were good friends. They have been the only ones to own it, thus the two family names have been combined to form the name BeeKenneyHolm.

