

THE RUSSELL MANNELL FARM

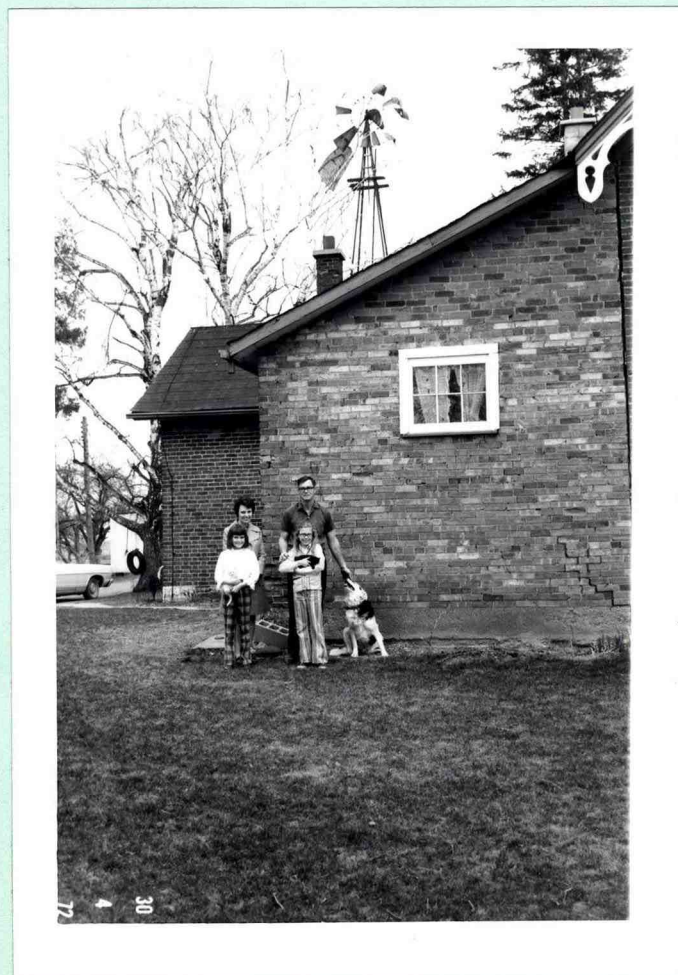
In 1832, the Canada Company purchased Lot 6, Concession 10 from the Crown. In 1859 Benjamin Dean and Mary Maginnes became co-owners. In 1860 Thomas Weaver bought the farm and moved onto it, but did not get title to it until 1863. In 1861 several little lots near the village changed hands. In 1889 Thomas Weaver sold the lot by what is now Mannell's lane to the Corinth Public Hall with Thomas Bearss and William Firby as trustees.

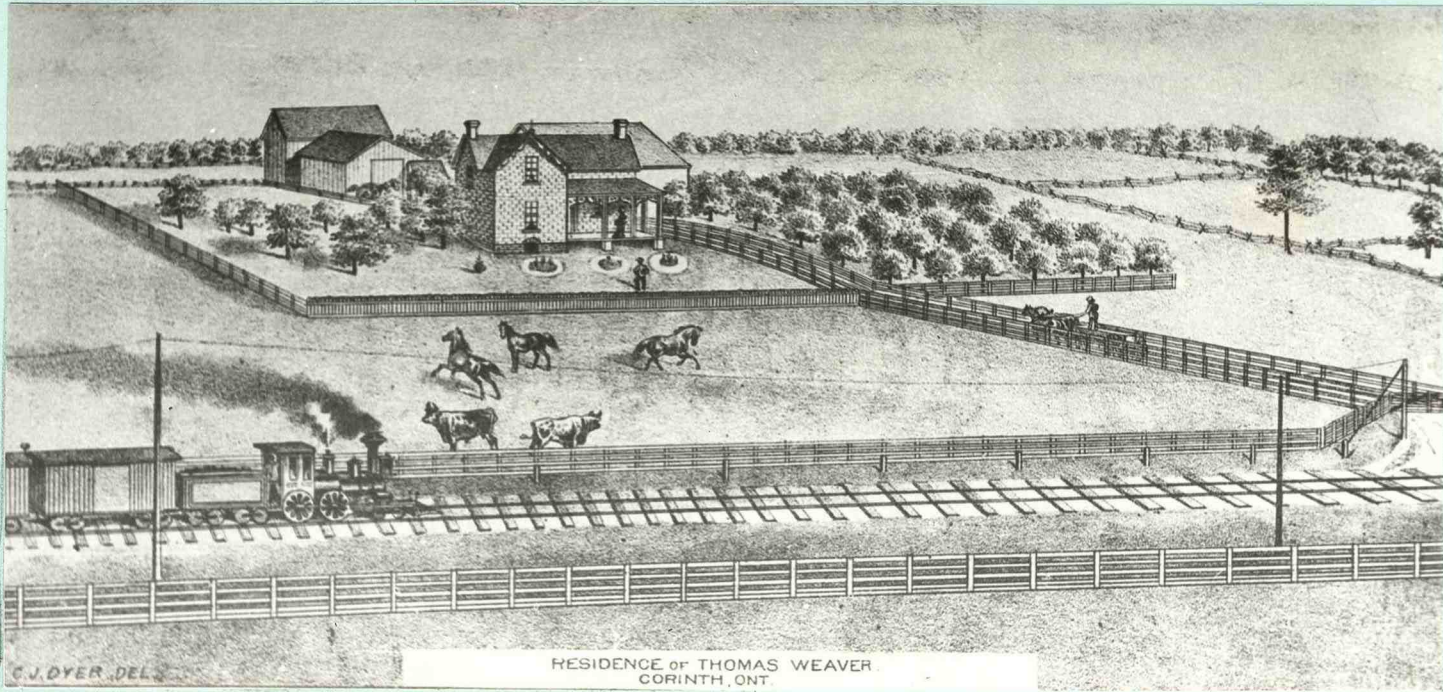
In 1877 an attractive picture of this farm was printed in the Historical Atlas of Elgin County published by H.R. Page & Co. of Toronto.

In 1906 John Wallace became the owner, but according to older folk of the community, he lived there long before this. By 1918 Charles Hall was the owner and sold the farm to Phineas Lorenzo Pressey in 1921.

In 1935 H. Andy Pressey bought the farm from his father and farmed a successful dairy herd until, due to ill health, he sold out to Harry Flick in 1953 and moved into the village of Corinth. There he bought the Alex Bradburn house by the railway track across from the parsonage.

In 1967, the present owners, Russell and Florence Mannell, purchased the farm. They kept chickens for broiling for a while and now are shipping milk from a fine dairy herd.





RESIDENCE OF THOMAS WEAVER
CORINTH, ONT.

The Weaver farm - now the Mannell farm - from picture in Elgin Co. Atlas of 1877



Aerial view of the farm in 1951



Mr. & Mrs. Andy Pressey - 1951



Back - Shirley Allen, Ruby (Pressey) Allen, Jess Allen
Front - Zelpha Pressey, Tom Allen, Freida Pressey
1969



Freida Pressey
May 1971



The Mannell house in 1972

STIMER'S FARM

North half

The farm, Lot 6, Concession 9 Bayham was purchased by Jacob Stimers who came from Haldimond County. It was purchased from W. Dundass of Ingersoll who was a land agent. The 70 acre farm was bought in 1864 at the price of \$10 per acre.

The first house on the farm was a log house built on the north side of the creek. For sometime there was no barn but when built it was on the south side of the creek and a frame structure.

A frame house replaced the log house. It was built on the north side of the creek and about 1914 was sold and moved to the 10th Concession of Dereham, west of Brownsville on one of the Scanlan farms.

The first well was a flowing well on the north side of the creek and when the new house and barn were built was strong enough to force water in both by tap.

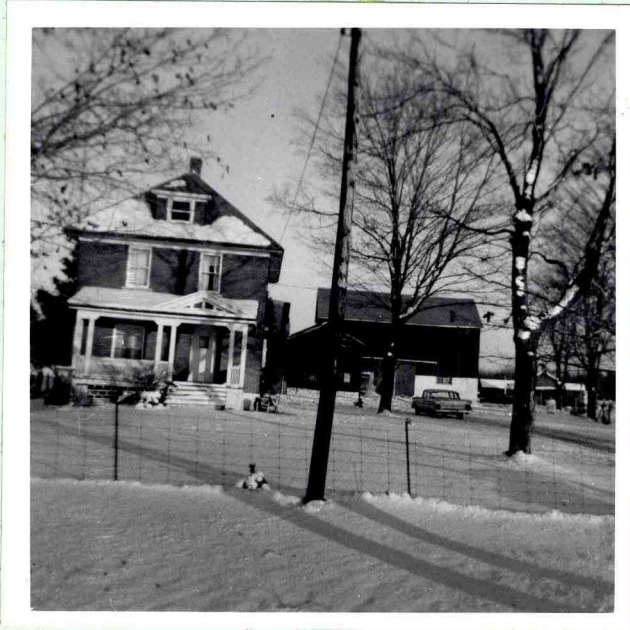
The new house was brick and built in 1910 by the Tillson Construction Company. The exact year the telephone was installed is not known for certain but it is known to have been there in 1908. A bathroom was put in during 1912. Electricity was installed in 1929.

An orchard was planted in 1900 but this was all torn out about 1947.

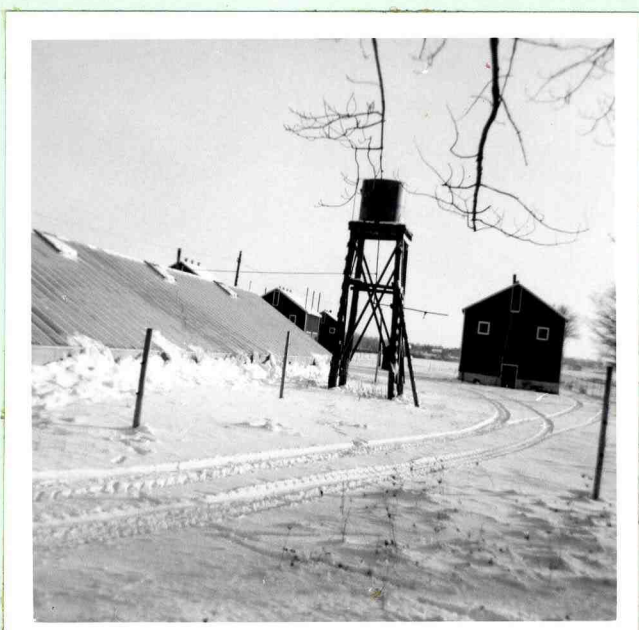
G. W. Stimers became the owner in 1900 and Frank Stimers in 1942. Up to this time dairying and gardening was the only type of farming done. In 1946 the farm was sold to James Demeter and he began growing tobacco. A greenhouse and tobacco kilns were built. Mr. Demeter sold to Mr. Turnbull. He in turn sold to Martin Mayer who bought it in the late fall and was there only a few months and stripped the crop, and then sold to Stephan Haimann who, in 1961 is still owner.

Frank Stimers has an assessment slip for 1874 but was unable to locate any tax slips but recalls that the taxes in 1865 were \$7.43. In 1946 when he sold the farm the taxes were \$117.

In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stimers is a table made of cherry. The tree was cut on the Stimers farm and the log cut at the mill that in the early years was on the creek by the farm. The table was made by Robert Dalrymple who was a cabinet maker who came from England in 1866. He had a shop in the village on the south side, west of the four corners.

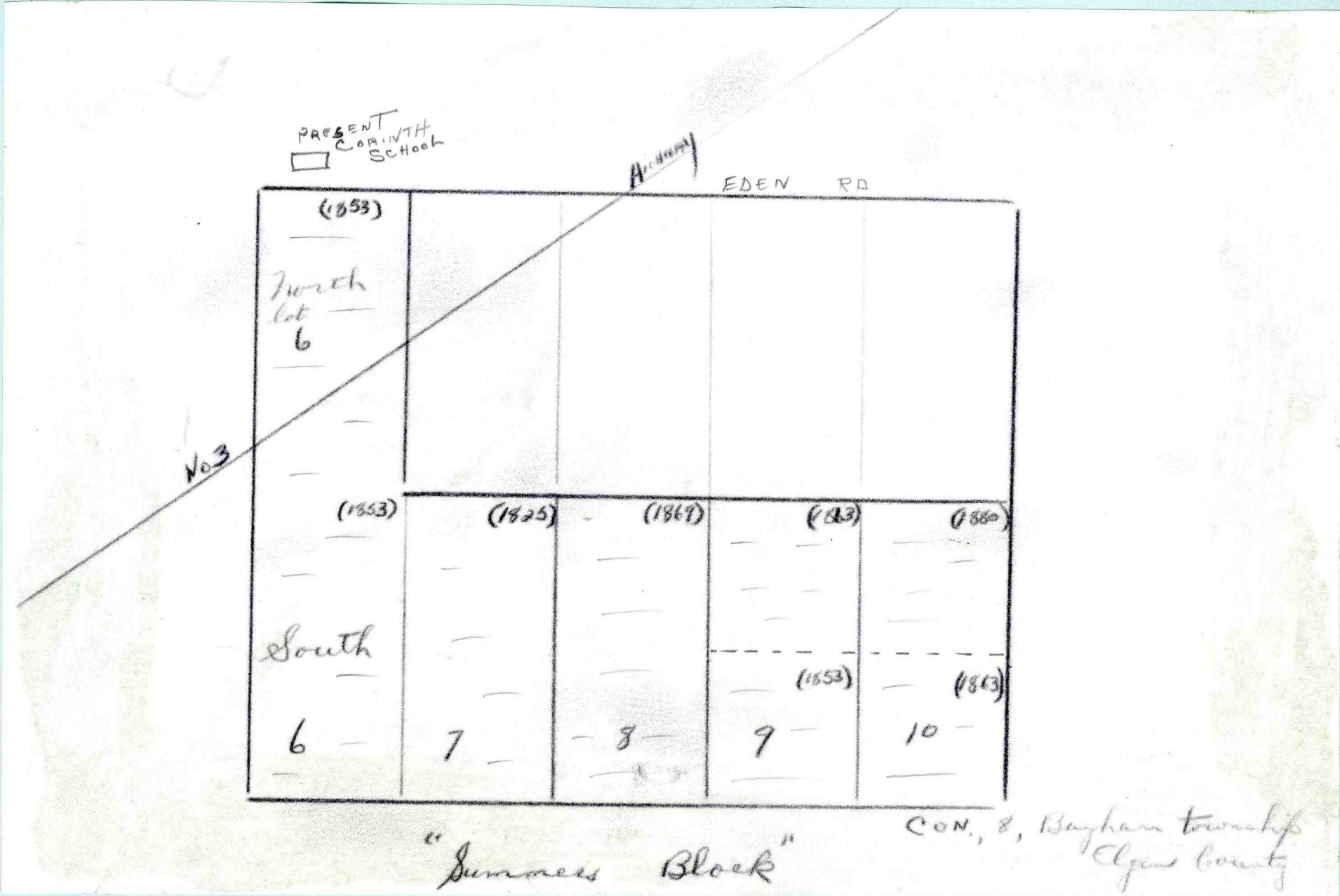


Buildings taken 1965



Pictures donated by Mrs. S. Mueller

THE SUMMERS' BLOCK



600 acres of land settled by Summers' on Con. 8, Bayham township, Elgin County

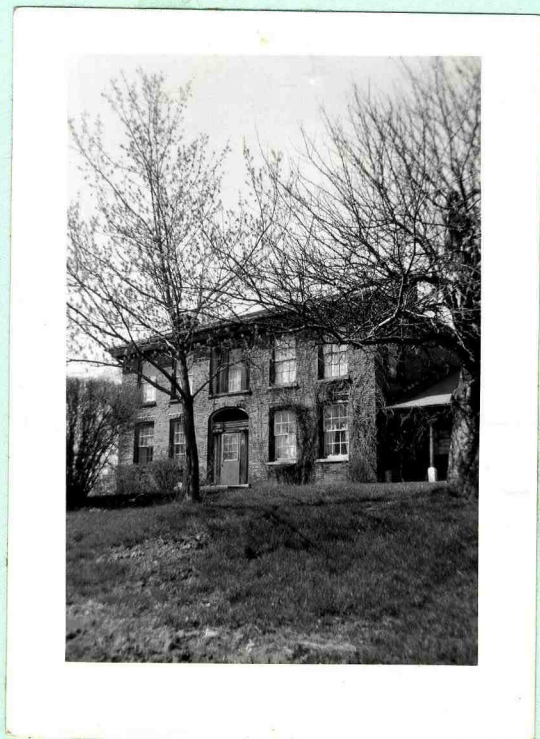
(Preface and further quotations taken from an interview of Frank Summers by a Miss Louisa Hatch for the St. Thomas paper printed in 1918)

"On the eighth con. of Bayham, running parallel and to the north of the Big Otter, laid a long parcel of land known to the countryside as the "Summers' Block." It covered some six hundred acres of the richest and most fertile land in the township of Bayham. Three hundred acres of the land had been owned and tilled until the death, in Oct., 1920, of Frank Summers, son of Alexander Summers the original settler. The Summers' family were thorough, intelligent farmers of the old fashioned, painstaking type and brought the land into such a splendid state

that it was a joy for passers-by to cast their eyes over the land of large, clean fields, net fences, with orchards, and mansion after mansion with the fine barns and silos belonging to each, rising one after the other from the landscape until the trees shut out the view. These were the establishments built from time to time as need arose in the Summers' family. The family's earliest traditions trace back to a beautiful palatial Castle on the crest of a hill. Castle Eastnor, County Lanark, Scotland. The Mr. Richard Summers of Scotland (great-grandfather of Frank Summers) educated a son as a doctor, Alexander. He had been chief=surgeon on a Flag

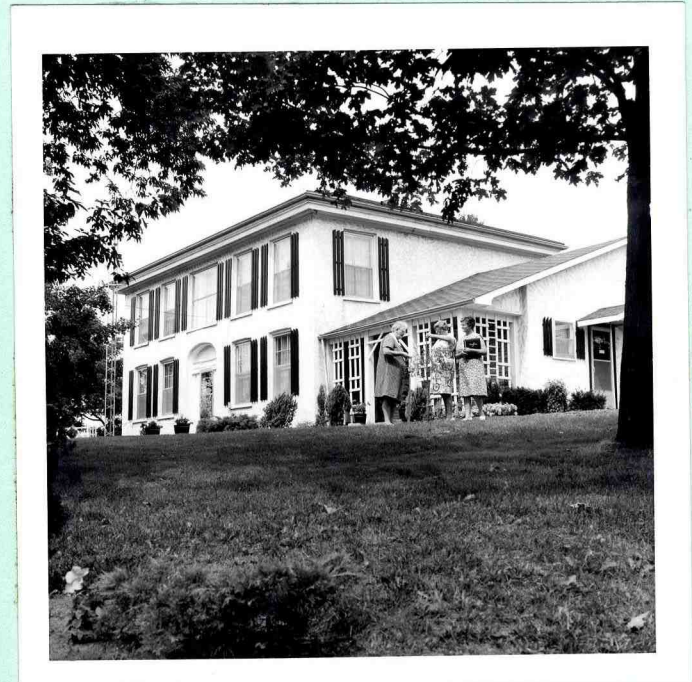
ship and came to Canada and settled on land near St. Catharines, at a place called Beechwoods, or The Short Hills. It was the sons of this doctor, William, John, James and Alexander, who came and took up land in Elgin after the War of 1812. Through serving in the war, the first three of these obtained their land for nothing, and settled at Summers' Corners, east of Aylmer. The fourth son, Alexander, had been too young to be in the war and he had to buy his land. He purchased in northern Bayham and The "Summers' Block" gradually grew up around his home." end of quote.

Alexander Summers (2nd) settled and purchased his land on Con. 8, Bayham. Lot 7 was the first to be purchased by him from a Joseph Robson, who obtained it from the Canada Co., on June 11, 1825 and resold it to Alexander Summers Dec., 10, 1825. In latter years, lots 6, north and south were purchased by Alexander Summers. These parcels of land were Crown land when he purchased them in 1853 from the Canada Co. When Alexander Summers (2nd) died lots 6, north and south, and lot 7 were left to son Edward which he farmed until his health failed and sold in 1915 to Wm. and John Holtby and he went to reside in the village of Corinth. Both, north and south lots 6, were sold to John Holtby in 1915 and in 1962 his son, Weston Firby Holtby, took possession and continues to reside there. Weston Holtby and his sister Mrs. M. Holbrook were born in the first house built by Alexander Summers and has lived the most of his life on the same farm.



House on lot 6, first built by Alexander Summers. Picture as when Florence & Weston Holtby first occupied.

This was the first home built by Alexander Summers and the red brick of the old Homestead was supposed to have been made on the farm. The stately home still stands. In recent years the bricks have been stuccoed, and the interior extensively redecorated by Mr. & Mrs. Weston Holtby.



Same house, stuccoed and remodelled by Weston Holtby

Lot 7 has been purchased by Oskar Jennerich in 1970. As time passed the Summers family continued to take up land to the Otter river east, amking in all the Summers' Block comprising of the six hundred acres.

Quoting again from the interview -

"Alexander Summers first married a Miss Cheeseman. There were several childred to this marriage, but every one of them was swept away in ~~the~~ plague (approx. 1830) that visited the country at that time. Mrs. Summers also died. Afterward Alexander Summers married a Miss Metcalfe.

, Mrs. Alexander Summers (former Miss Metcalfe) was from an interesting family, a descendant of Captain Metcalfe, whose family married in the Godwins, the Burgers, and the Burgesses. Captain Metcalfe, the head of the family was a clothier by trade and settled at the junction of the Big and Little Otters, where he built a woollen mill, which is, of course, long since gone." end of quote

The second family of Alexander Summers consisted of the following-
MARTHA- born Aug. 11, 1834 - 1st husband Nelson Woelley, daughter Mary
2nd husband John VanPatter, son Everett
FRANCIS HENRY (FRANK) = born Jan. 17, 1836 - died Oct. 11, 1920 in 85th yr., wife - Jane Crane 6 children later recorded.

ROWAN - Born Aug. 11, 1838 - died Jan 14, 1897
 wife - Belle Berry
 EDWARD - Born Mar. 21, 1841, died Nov 28, 1918
 wife - Annie Firby
 THEOPHILUS (THEY) - born Apr. 24, 1843, died
 Feb 12, 1894 in 51st year. never
 married and was a cripple and always
 rode horseback.
 MARY C. (KATE) - Born Aug. 19, 1846 - died Jan
 1, 1915, husband Kerwin Freeman
 JOHN - Born June 7, 1849 - died Mar 16, 1894
 in 46 year. never married.

Shippey and also another 50 acres in 1863.
 These latter were owned by his son Frank Summers,
 who in 1869 purchased from Elisha Stoner 100
 acres which is lot 8 and for a number of years
 was known as the Holbrook Farm.

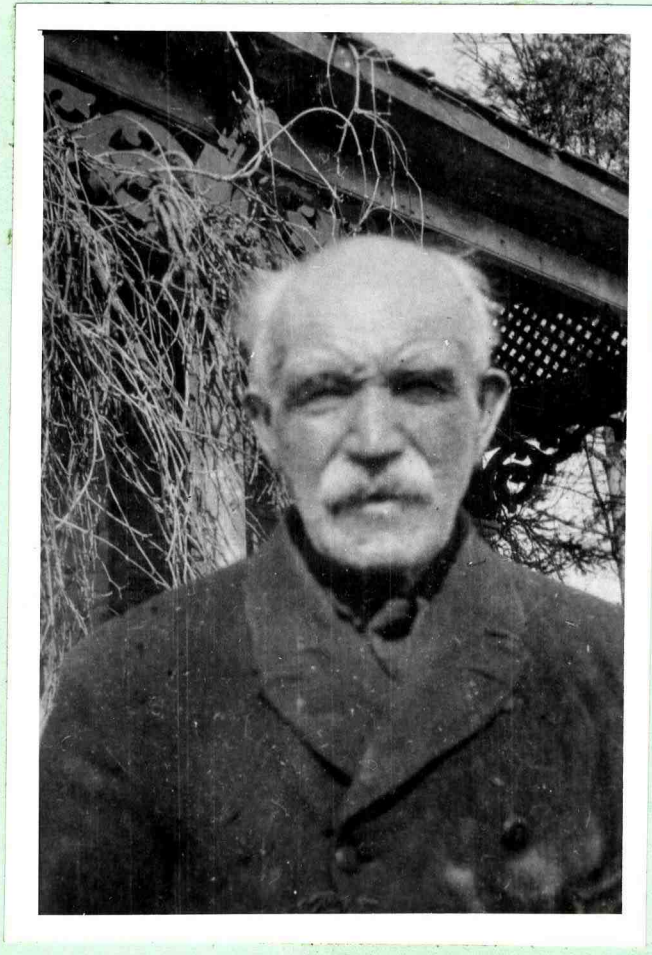
Quoting again from the interview of 1918 -

"Frank Summers and his brothers and sisters
 obtained their schooling in a one room school,
 known as the Herdman School, which was around
 the corner and down the road a little way from
 the Alexander Summers Homestead (Mr. & Mrs.
 Weston Holtby's home) Bert Green now owns the
 farm where the school once stood. There was
 also a school somewhere around Corinth at the
 same time, each with an enrolment of some fifty
 pupils. Children were no different in those
 days then, because many pranks were recalled
 by Frank Summers. The teachers usually would
 board at the Summers' and would cut across the
 fields and come back for a hot dinner. One
 teacher recalled by Frank was a Mr. Veitch.
 Frank also, told of running to the Herdman home
 as a lad, carrying a wooden bucket with cold
 ashes in it from Mrs. Herdman to put live coals
 in so his mother could start the fire to get
 the breakfast with." end of quote



The original property of Alexander Summers
 Buildings were built by Edward Summers
 Picture as they were while David Langfield
 owned (1921-1965)

The original lot 7, the first parcel of
 land, changed hands several times. On this
 lot Edward Summers erected the large red brick
 home and magnificent barns. Wm. Holtby, having
 bought it from Edward Summers, owned the
 property from 1915-1921, at which time David
 Langfield bought it and in 1965 sold to a
 Mr. Huybers. Mr. and Mrs. David Langfield
 had two sons when they took possession
 namely Cecil and Clifford but a daughter
 Hazel (Mrs. Clarence Jenereaul, Aylmer)
 was born in the former Edward Summers home
 and Cecil later married Hazel Palmer and
 their family were also born in same house
 namely Glen, Gwenda Martin, Dianne Young,
 Joanne Young and Marianne. In 1967 Gordon
 Paul Stewart bought the farm and sold in
 1970 to the present owner Oskar Jennerich.
 The red brick house which once was gorgeously
 furnished and beautifully carpeted is replaced
 by a smaller modern home. The old home still
 stands (1972) but is unoccupied.



Frank Summers, grandson of Alexander Summers,
 the Captain and Chief-Surgeon from Scotland

Frank Summers (grandfather of W.J. Harper,
 Mrs. Jean Wolfe, Mrs. Mildred Travis, and Mrs.
 Ruth Davidson all still living as of 1972)
 farmed all his married life on lots 8, 9 and
 10, Bayham township.

Alexander Summers also purchased another
 parcel of land in 1853, down the 8th con. to
 the east. This was purchased from a Benjamin