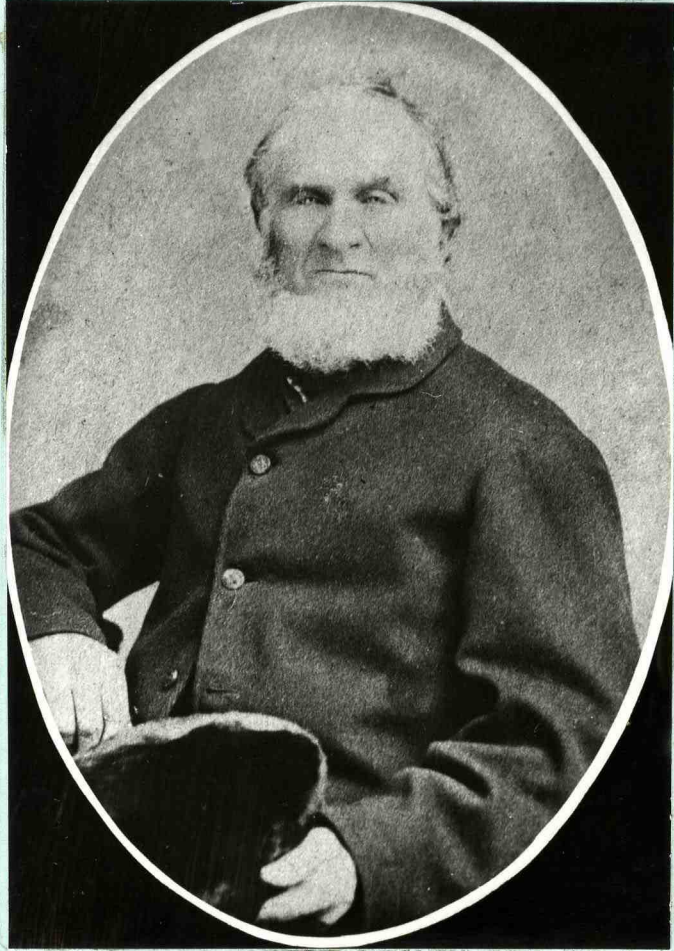




Back Row - Jacqueline Bye, George Bye, Sharon Bye (Mrs. John McHale), Ralph Bye
Front Row - Steven Bye, Onalee Bye (nee Horton), Richard Bye (Rickie), Mrs. Ralph Bye

THE CHAUNCEY SMITH FARM



Chauncey Smith



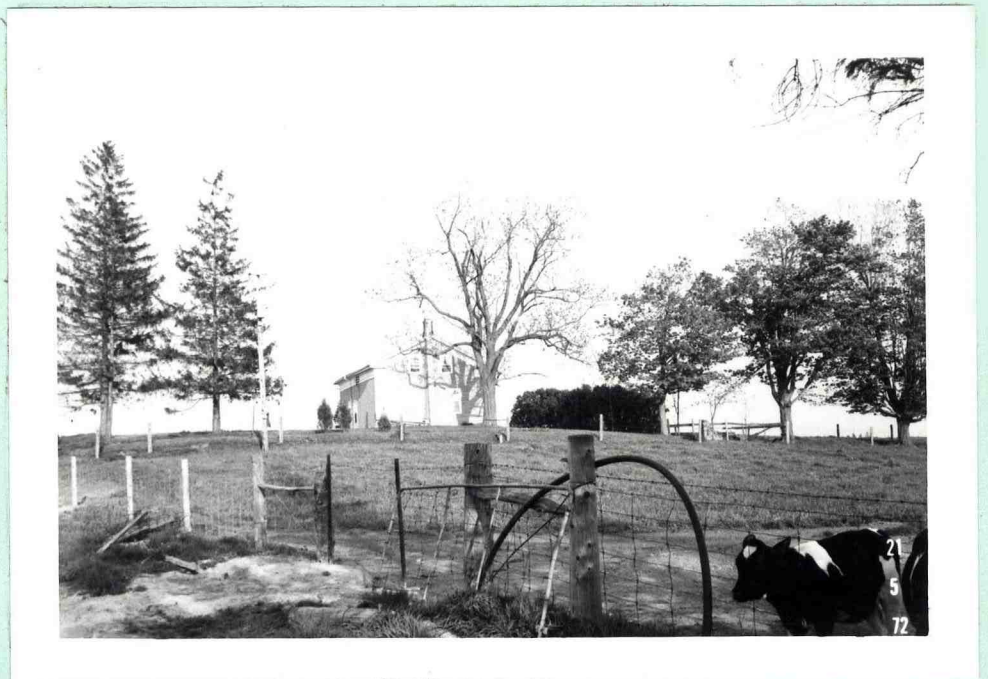
Mrs. Chauncey Smith
(nee Phoebe Louisa Tupper)

Chauncey Smith was born in 1810 in Oakland, Brant County. In 1832 he was married to Phoebe Louisa Tupper, a sister of Sarah Jane Tupper who married George Best Sr. In 1835 they began to farm on Lot 17, Concession 11, Bayham, which they took from the Crown. Their oldest daughter, Mariana, and oldest son, Daniel Tupper Smith, were born before they settled on the farm. Their first house and farm buildings were built near the North Bayham Road on the south end of the farm.

In the spring of 1848 their seventh child, a daughter named Harriet Louisa, was born. In that summer a tragedy that was all too familiar in those days struck their family. There was an outbreak of diphtheria. The baby was the first to die. As soon as the father knew that it was diphtheria, he took his three sons and moved into the barn. They slept there on the hay and didn't return to the house, either for food or clothes, until the epidemic was over. All four of the girls died that summer, but the father saved his three sons by his prompt action. Three more sons were born to Chauncey and

Phoebe Smith, but they had no more daughters.

The first house on their farm burned sometime before 1860 and it was rebuilt. After the railway was built in 1871 the farm buildings were cut off by it from the main part of the farm, so they were moved to their present location nearer the centre of the farm.



House on the Chauncey Smith farm. This house was built by Chauncey Smith shortly after 1871.

All six sons grew to manhood and four of them became farmers in this community. One son, Joseph Henry, became a doctor and practised in Nebraska. The youngest son, Charles Sherridan Smith, inherited the family farm. In 1891 he sold it to James Elliott Sr.

Further information on the history of this farm is included under the Elliott farm history. Further information about the Smith family can be found in the Family Tree section of this book and in the biography of Chauncey Smith in the Personalities section.

THE ELLIOTT FARM HISTORY

Lot 15, Concession 11, in the township of Bayham, where Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott and Mr. and Mrs. James Elliott Jr. now reside, was purchased from the crown in 1840 by Samuel Livingstone. The grant was obtained through Colonel Talbot. All mines of gold and silver that might be discovered on the property, and all white pine trees were reserved by the crown, and 14-2/7 acres were set aside for the Clergy Reserves. The lot consisted of 100 acres. There is nothing on the deed to show what amount if any, Mr. Livingstone paid for the land, but the usual conditions under which Talbot granted land were that the settler should clear and sow ten acres of land, build a house of prescribed dimensions, and open one half the road in front of his farm within three years. If he performed these conditions, he obtained fifty acres free, and could obtain up to 150 acres more at \$3 per acre. According to this, it seems probable that Mr. Livingstone paid \$150 for his 100 acres, and had been living on it from one to three years before 1840.

The first log house and barn were across the road from the cemetery, and were moved to the present site when the railway went through. The frame house shown in the picture was built by Samuel Livingstone. George Elliott has an insurance policy issued in 1869 which shows the house insured for \$300 and the barn for \$100.

In 1870, this farm was purchased from Samuel Livingstone by James Elliott Sr. for \$4000. Mr. Elliott was a cheesemaker. At that time he was employed as cheesemaker in a factory belonging to the Brownsville Cheese Company and located just north of the railroad, on land that had been part of the Livingstone farm. Though he bought the farm in 1870, Mr. Elliott continued to make cheese and moved to Brownsville, where he was the cheesemaker in the Brownsville factory until 1883. He was said to be one of the best cheese makers in Canada at the time, and cheese made by him took three provincial first prizes in one year. When he left the Company's service to go on his own farm, in March of 1883, the Brownsville Cheese Company and the Patrons of the Factory enter-



Picture of the house in which James Elliott Jr. now lives, taken about 1894. Left to right: Austin Best, George Elliott, James Elliott Sr., Mrs. James Elliott Sr. (nee Agnes Dobbie)

Original of this picture is owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott

tained him at a public supper in Corbett's hotel in Brownsville. However, he was still not finished with cheesemaking, because in 1897 he purchased the cheese factory on his farm from the Brownsville Company, and made cheese there until 1909. In that year he closed down the factory, but still made a little cheese in 1910. The second house on the farm had been built in 1891 for the cheesemaker at that time. In front of this house at the road, was a three-storey building for storing cheese. Both this building and the factory were torn down when they were no longer in use.

In 1891, James Elliott purchased the farm across the road, from Charles Smith. This farm had been purchased from the crown by Chauncey Smith, the father of Charles Smith. The first house on this farm, also, had been across the railroad from its present location, and had been moved after the coming of the railroad. Some time before 1860, the house on this farm burned down. The fire occurred in the afternoon when the father and older boys of the family were at work on the back of the farm. The mother and young children escaped and took shelter at the home of a neighbour. At night the men of the family came up to the barn and did the evening chores, not noticing that the house was gone until they were ready to go to supper.

The Elliott farm was one of the first in the neighbourhood to have a telephone. A Bell telephone was installed sometime in the 1890's while Mr. Elliott was operating the cheese factory. In 1901, he remodelled the main house and at that time a bathroom was installed. In 1902, Mr. Elliott built the present barn, 70 feet by 42 feet in size. In 1920 George Elliott and his father decided to install their own electric plant. It was a Fairbanks-Morse plant similar to Delco plants. They would run the engine that charged the batteries each night at milking time. It was wonderful to have electric lights instead of coal-oil lamps, but it barely supplied enough power to heat the iron for ironing. By 1928, it was possible to get regular hydro service.

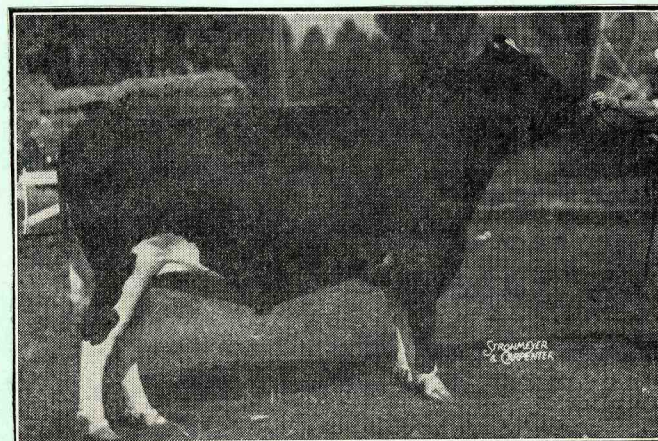
Dairying has always been the main business of the farm. The first cattle kept on the farm were Durhams and milking Short-horns. Later these were replaced by Holsteins, and in 1908 purebred Holsteins were introduced. Recently George Elliott received a pin in recognition of the fact that he has been a breeder of purebred Holsteins for 50 years. During that time he has raised many prize-winning cattle. The most famous animal he owned was Baralee Pabst Rag Apple Sovereign (XXX) who was first exhibited in 1946, at London, where he won the Junior Championship. In 1948 he was All-Canadian Champion and All-American Champion. In 1950 he was sold and shipped by plane to South America. At a cost of 50¢ a pound it cost \$1300 to ship him because he weighed 2600 pounds.

In 1960 the Elliotts owned about 150 cattle of which approximately one-half were

milch cows. They have been shipping milk to Upland Dairy in Toronto for the past 11 years, and have been on R.O.P. since about 1935. In 1960 milk worth \$29,229.00 was sold from this farm.

An important side-line on the Elliott farm for many years has been apple-growing. There was a small orchard planted near the barn, very early in the farm's history. In 1911 a new orchard was planted on the Smith farm. In 1939 a new and larger orchard was planted on the home farm west of the barn. From its orchards the farm gets its name "Orchard Crest".

Information obtained from Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott, 1960.



Baralee Pabst Rag Apple Sovereign (XXX)



Loading Baralee on the Plane



1950

Loading Baralee on the Plane