

THE MURRAY KETCHABAW FARM

The north half of lot 13, Concession 10, Bayham was taken from the Crown by Casper Best. He received the patent in July 1834. In June, 1839 Casper Best sold the farm to George Dobbie who owned it until 1853 and sold it to Joseph Lundy. George Best held a mortgage and apparently took the farm and sold it back to Casper Best. In 1863 Casper Best sold it to John Anderson who sold it to Thomas Weaver in 1865. Thomas Weaver passed it on to Edwin Weaver who sold it to Charles Dobbie. It was willed to Edith M. Firby, who was a Dobbie before her marriage. In 1905 by probate of her will it passed to Guy Allan Firby. In 1911 Guy A. Firby sold it to William H. Culp. In 1924 William Culp sold it to his son George Emery Culp but in 1935 it again passed to William H. Culp.

The original barn on the farm was destroyed by fire in the late 1930's. Mr. Culp rebuilt the barn but didn't put in stables. During the last few years that he had the farm, he didn't crop the land, but took in cattle to pasture. In the early 1930's the woodlot was cut off and sold for timber.

In 1943 William Culp sold the farm to Murray Ketchabaw. At that time water was pumped by a gasoline motor and water was carried by pail to water the stock and to the house. Horse-drawn machinery was in use then. The Ketchabaws installed hydro in the buildings in the early years of their ownership and piped water under the highway to the house. In 1949 they remodelled the house.

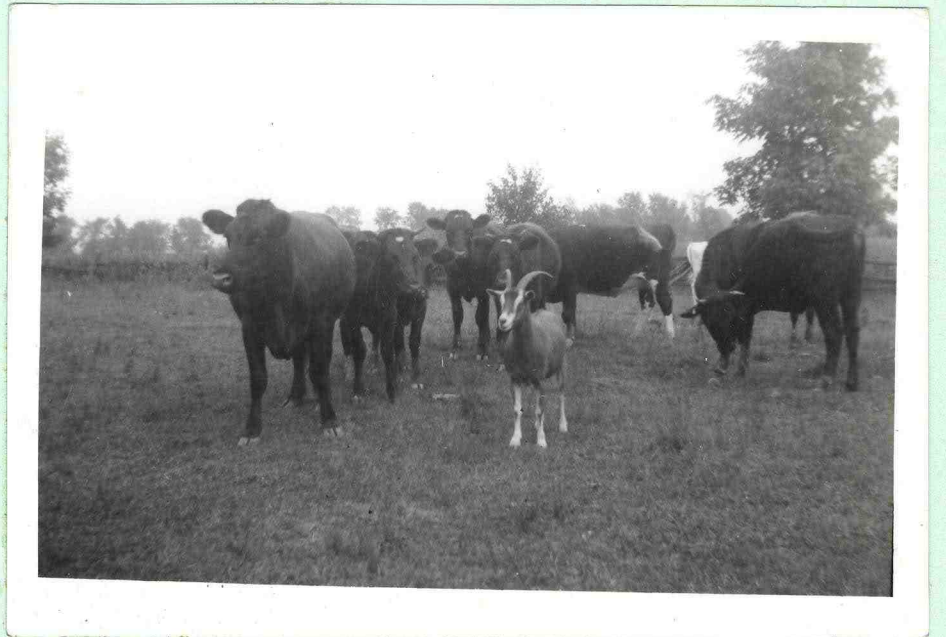


Ketchabaw farm house with two Samoyed dogs on the lawn

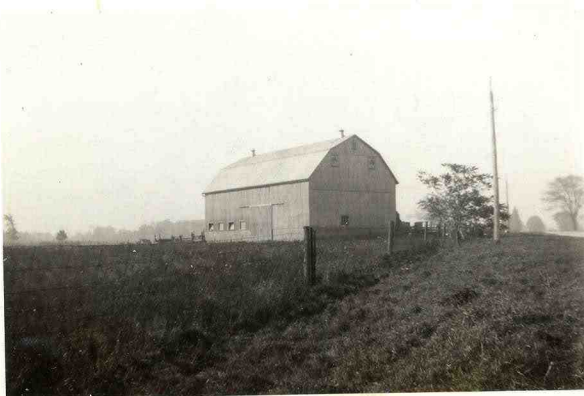
The winter before they moved to this farm Murray had put stanchions into the barn to have it ready for his cattle. He has always milked a herd of Holsteins and for a time he kept some beef cattle as well.



The house in 1943



Shorthorn cattle and a goat



1943

The barn in 1943



Mary Lou's first day going to school
Mary Lou on the drive way, barn and
hog pen in background

Some sheep have been an interesting and profitable side-line of the farming operations through the years, though they have been pastured on Murray's father's farm or elsewhere, usually, because most of the pasture on this farm was needed for the cows. The Ketchabaw family are fond of animals. At one time they raised Samoyed dogs and have kept a few deer occasionally.



A winter cutter ride



A summer hayride

In 1950 the cattle were sold off and the family took a trip out west.



Horses have been kept of late years for recreation mainly.



Larry Riddell, Murray Ketchabaw, Mildred Ketchabaw, Mary Lou Ketchabaw

When they returned they planted pine seedlings and sold the young trees for a while. This took the place of the income from milk while the herd was gradually built up again.

In 1954 Keith Ketchabaw, Murray's youngest brother, built a house on the corner of the farm. In the late 1950's Murray built a log cabin in a clearing in his woodlot on sideroad 14 and moved into it in 1966. In 1968 he built a small barn in the clearing also. In 1970 the farm house was remodelled again and Mary Lou and her husband, Jim Brady, now live in it.



A flock of sheep belonging to Murray Ketchabaw. The white faced ewes are north country Cheviots. The black faced ones are Suffolk.

WM. STARKEY - GEORGE LUKI FARM

Lot 12, North 1/2 Con. 9 on No. 3 Highway



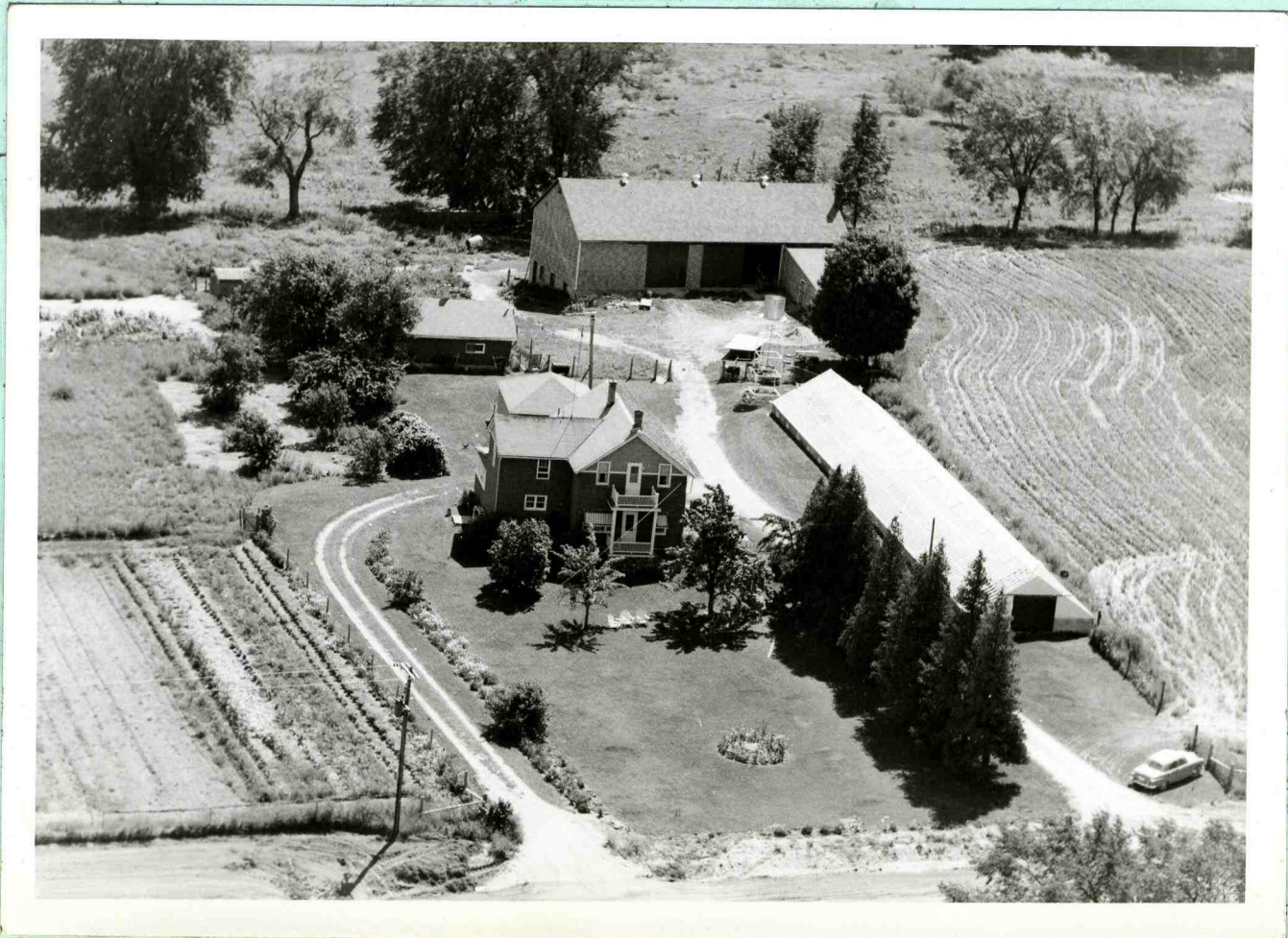
Old Home Picture

On May 12, 1906 Wm. Starkey and family of 1 boy and 5 girls ranging in age from 9 months to 8 years of age, formerly of Lancashire, England left Liverpool aboard the "Iona". They arrived May 29th in Montreal - thence by train to Tillsonburg where they went to Delmer to live until Oct. 31st when they purchased this farm from Mr. Burt Hatch of Ingersoll. Wm. Starkey and wife farmed successfully through the depression years with the help of his son Tom - who did treshing- custom work and they had a large sugar bush from which they made and sold syrup.

Wm. Starkey cut grass for the highway department with his fine team. He sold the farm to Ed Moffatt in December 1938 and

moved to Springford and later retired to the village of Springfield. The original house burned in March of 1927 so William then bought part of the hotel in Corinth and moved it to the farm and built on to it and the original barns burned after 1938 and others have been built and also remodelled for the use of tobacco.

Mr. Moffatt sold the farm to Andy Lakatos and then sold again to Joe Danko. As tobacco acreage increased the various owners built more kilns until when George Luki bought the farm in 1949, he has increased the number of kilns to nine, built a second greenhouse, remodelled the barns and remodelled the house, which had been the hotel, extensively.



George Luki's daughter and husband, namely Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Balint are sharegrowers and during the past two winters demolished the old home and to-day a beautiful new home stands in its place. Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Luki reside presently on North Broadway, Tillsonburg. A son, George, also lives in Tillsonburg now. (1972)



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HISTORY OF THE W.J. HARPER FARM

The farm presently owned by W.J. Harper, which is situated on #3 Highway and is the south half of lot 10, concession 9, Bayham township, Elgin county, was granted by the Crown to the Canada Company on October 24, 1873. On July 13, 1842, it was granted to Haggai Cook and from that date it remained in the Cook name, but in various families by that name such as Robt. W., again Haggai, and then Henry Grant Cook until June 29, 1913, when it was registered in Martin Purdy's name. This transaction was a trade of property from Saskatchewan for this parcel of land. From that date on, the property has been in various names, such as Wm. Starkey, Thomas Layman, Edward Barnard, Pure Gas & Oil Co. and on May 15, 1944 it was registered in Wilfred Harper's name.

The original Haggai Cook came to Upper Canada in 1785. The Cooks were United Empire Loyalists from New Jersey. There were eight children. It was one of his sons, Robert, that came from Niagara Fall to this area and settled in 1828. His mother and father lie buried in the little old church cemetery at Lundy's Lane. Bullets and cannon balls of the 1812 - 14 Lundy's Lane battle, came down through the Cook orchard, while the present Chippewa Hydro Canal runs through the old Cook farm.

Robert Cook was very fond of trees and planted ^{many} of them. A story is told that a walnut tree west of the homestead, now part of the Robert Veitch farm, was planted from a nut that he carried in his pocket when he walked up from Niagara. He was a tall, big man, and he walked this distance in two days, a feat which so intrigued his grandson, Spencer Cook, that the latter with his chum Merritt Moore, (the past auctioneer) sought to emulate it. However, the trip took these ambitious lads three days to accomplish; and then, so it is said by the family, the exhausted boys had almost to be pulled in home at its conclusion.

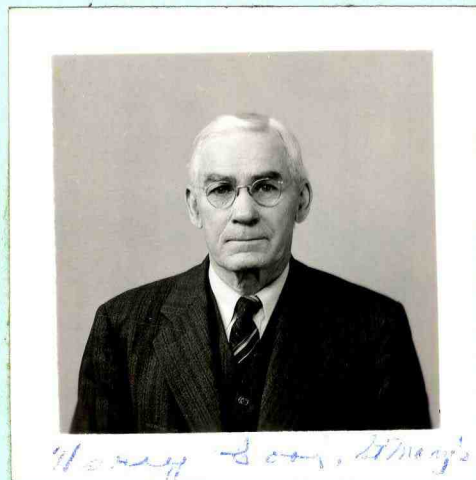
Haggai Cook took possession of this farm on July 13, 1842. He also served as Justice of the Peace. He had a family



Haggai Cook

Donated by:
Mrs. Florence
Harper

of six, three brothers and two sisters, namely - ~~Christy~~ DePeel, Edna Cook, Lon Cook, Harvey Cook, and Haggai Cook. Two of his great-grandsons are still living, one Mr. Harry Cook, living in St. Mary's, eighty-six years of age, and Mr. Dewey Cook, living in Straffordville, eighty-seven years of age. Also living are his two great-granddaughters Mrs. Marr and Mrs. Dingman.



Donated by Mr. Harry Cook

The father of Mr. Harry Cook lived on the side road where Mr. W. Milmine and Leon now reside.

The original tract of land taken up by Haggai Cook, was one hundred acres, but the Department of Highways have twice purchased land and on August 1, 1963, there were ninety-five acres still remaining.

A former frame house stood to the east of the present stone structure. The stone house was built in 1876, and is still in use. A fire destroyed the barn in 1932 and a new one was built but not on the same location. A greenhouse was built and stands where the old barn was. The night of the fire the well on the front lawn, which served the farm many years, was pumped dry and remains unused to-day. A well was dug east of the buildings and serves the house, barn and greenhouses.

The farm was converted from a general farm to a tobacco farm in the years between 1945 and 1960. During those years two greenhouses, five kilns, and a pack barn have been added. Electricity was installed in 1946 for the first time and the telephone was reinstalled also in that year. Mail delivery past the premises had never been before that same year 1946. Plumbing was installed in 1955, and other alterations came with more to

with more to follow, as the house is still very sound



During the course of the years, orchards have been planted and vanished. The main crops grown to date are tobacco, potatoes, and rye. There is an unused woodlot which is termed by the Department of Lands and Forests as a Demonstration Woodlot, which is exempt of taxation. Also, there is an irrigation pond where a swamp had been. This serves the tobacco in case of drought.

Taxes have increased considerably through the years. 1963 taxes - \$572.69 1968- \$872.88 compared to taxes of 1939 which were \$146.00.

According to data found in an old atlas of Bayham township, this farm is much older than the village of Corinth, originally named Jones Corners. The farm is situated some two miles from the village.

Some of this information has been obtained from Mrs. Clara Bowen, eighty-six years of age (1960) who had lived in California for many years but was brought up by the original Mr. & Mrs. Haggai Cook who lived on this farm.

The farm is now called Stone Haven. A wrought-iron standard and name plate was hand made and erected by the ~~present~~ owner, Wilfred Judson Harper in 1960.

In Mar. 1968 the farm was purchased by Jeffrey Phillips but now is one of the many farms operated under C.D. Phillips Ltd. Fences have been removed and it is joined in the north with 25 acres that Phillips purchased from Leon Milmine. Since tobacco has been reduced in production other crops are grown by Phillips Ltd. such as corn & millet for bird seed.

A parcel of the woodlot of this farm was reserved by Wilfred Harper for a residence. This had been built prior to sale of the farm. A new home had been built on 3.8 acres where Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Harper presently reside as of April, 20, 1972.



Barbara Harper, Wilfred Harper, Florence Harper, Harriett Harper

