

## Bowes Birthday

This birthday, in honour of which some two hundred of her relatives and friends gathered on June 16, ushers Grandma Bowes into her seventy-eighth year. And this was her twenty-fourth consecutive birthday picnic party. Sometimes at Maple Grove, sometimes at Straffordville, sometimes along the Otter Creek at Vienna, but always somewhere among her family have her children gathered to celebrate her natal day for nearly a quarter of a century. A good number of her birthdays have been at the home of her son, Bruce (the Kennedy homestead).

Mrs. Bowes was Candace Kennedy, the daughter of William Kennedy and Martha Sanger (Mrs. Silas Burwell Mar. 21, 1959 gave me the name "Singer") whom he married from home on the Gravel Road near Straffordville. William Kennedy came directly from Ireland as a young man, bringing with him a widowed mother and some younger children.

"No" said Mrs. Bowes, "I wasn't born at the homestead here at Kennedys Corners though I was born on this farm. In those first days father worked at breaking roll-ways for rolling down logs on the Otter hills. So I was born in a cabin back along the Otter. Then we moved to Straffordville where father hauled lumber to the port.

It was when I was about nine that he made up his mind to go on a farm, and bought this land out here from a man named Fisher. I can remember helping father set out these maples, pointing to the lines of fine trees about the lawn, which have always been large and the beauty of the Corner during the memory of those now living in the community.

It was in the first of these movings, most likely, that an incident occurred which has become part of the fireside folklore of the district. It was in the days when the Little Otter was a good sized stream and the bridge set high above it that Mr. Kennedy's wagon containing his moveables, encountering a section of the bridge where the board flooring was loose, went through and his family with the household impediments, were scattered upon the waters. Little Zaccheus, asleep in the cradle, Moses-like, floated peacefully away on the tide. The tiny Candace, a babe in her mother's arms, luckily drifted on a board of the bridge.

But all's well that ends well. The father, capable pioneer hero that he was, managed to rescue safely not only his wife, children and goods, but even the sturdy team.

Another memory prominent in the life of Mrs. Bowes was the memorable event of the Great Rain, now nearly fifty years ago, which carved a deep gully in the landscape under the very eyes of the Kennedy homestead. In fact, it was the damming up of the waters at the Corners which shoved the huge wedge of land, with the trees thereupon, out into the yellow flood of the Big Otter. "I was married then" said Mrs. Bowes. "It was threshing time and I had come up that day to mother's for early apples. 'You can't start home in that storm,' said mother, when it began to rain. Rain? Dear me, it never stopped to rain. It just poured down in sheets. When it slackened up after some hours, and I got on the road for home I found myself wading knee-deep in places. And when I went to build a fire for supper, if my stove wasn't full of water. Came down the chimney, you see.

"Great things I've seen come to pass in the seventy-seven years," says Grandma Bowes. "When I was a little girl it took a long time to get as much as a cabinet organ in our house. But here not so long ago, Clifford came walking in with a radio set. How do you think you'll like that, Grandma?. I get a sight of comfort out of that thing. Those sermons! And I'm too lame you know to get out to church. I get good things from London. But it's funny with those radios, the place I can hear the plainest from is Pontiac, Mich."

Mrs. Bowes home is at present in Straffordville, although she has lived most of her life at Maple Grove. Her husband, James Bowes, has been dead some years. The children are: Mrs. Richard McCurdy, Richmond, Mrs. Fred Wilson, Mrs. Jerry Caldwell, Jaffa, Mrs. Lewis Thomas, Straffordville, and Bruce Bowes and Leaman Bowes, both of Maple Grove. There are 23 g.ch. and 11 great g. ch. living. )A.S. Paragus St. Thomas Times Journal.



## SHARPENER STILL SHARP AT 90 YEARS OF AGE

FROM Tillsonburg News , 1985

Cyril Bowes has no secret recipe for longevity, unless it be hard work and keeping active. And Mr. Bowes, who celebrated his 90th birthday recently, has never shied away from hard work.

"I've always been active," the spry 90-year-old Tillsonburg resident said, noting he only quit work about three years ago. And he only retired because his eyesight was poor and he had to undergo two separate operations to improve it.

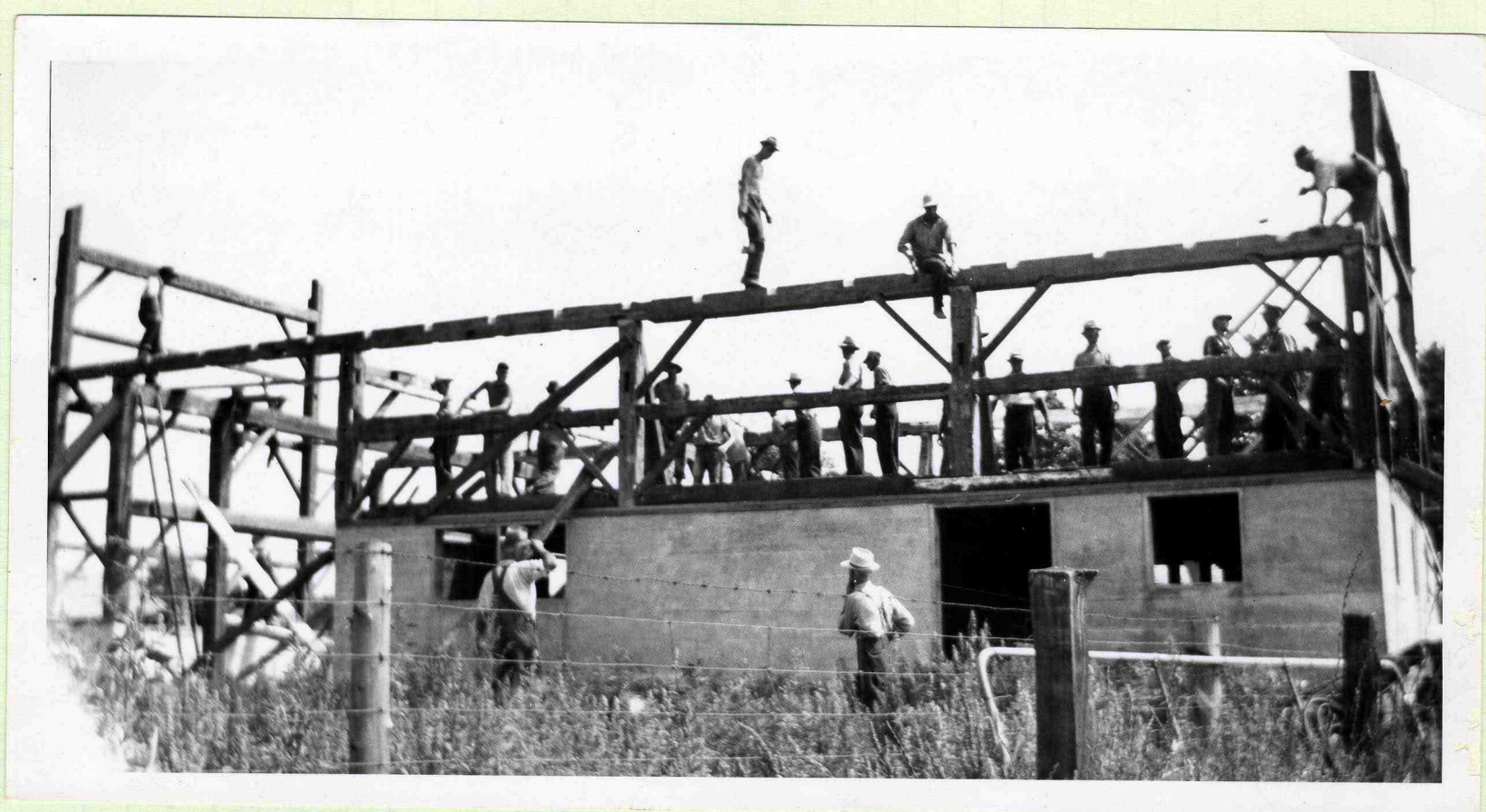
Born on a farm in Bayham Township, near, Eden, he worked for his father on the home farm for several years until his father sold his farm and Mr. Bowes bought an adjoining farm. He and his wife Elva Sinclair, whom he wed in 1915, grew tobacco five or six years until they sold the farm and moved into town in 1940. They rented a house on Lisgar Avenue while Mr. Bowes worked, during the war, in the tool room at Pratt and Whitneys in Dundas.

It was while he was working in Dundas that the Bowes bought the house he still occupies on Second Avenue, 43 years later. When the Bowes bought the house, the neighbourhood was very different than it is now. "Initially it used to be just wilderness," Mr. Bowes said, pointing out the area then was all Beech woods at that time. Mr. Bowes said he first tried work as a bailiff following the war but didn't enjoy the job and so turned his hand to carpentry. He built himself a shop where he constructed tobacco boats, window sashes and frames "but it got so I couldn't get good material so I quit that and went into the sharpening business." Mr. Bowes said. He sharpened saws, lawn mowers and even the 30-inch paper knives used by the newspaper in those days and he sharpened many pairs of skates in the shop by his home.

"Sometimes when I think of the hours I put in out there I wonder, how crazy can a person be," Mr. Bowes said, recalling how he sometimes didn't even have room in his double garage for his car so full the garage was with lawn mowers to be sharpened. "There were times when I'd sharpen all week and still have left 75 at the end of the week," Mr. Bowes said, noting the old manual lawn mowers did a far better job than any rotary mower does today "because they don't keep the blades sharp."

Last Saturday he had a sale to get rid of the shop full of machinery he can no longer use and "it was just like parting with one of the family almost", he said, noting the machinery he had you can't buy any more because they just don't make it any more. Still independent, Mr. Bowes has lived alone and kept house for himself since his wife died in 1977 after 62 years of married life. But his activities have been curtailed and although he does a lot of reading, he admitted life does get lonely. Fortunately, one of his three daughters lives in Tillsonburg and takes him out when he desires an outing. His other daughters live in Niagara on the Lake and Mississauga and his two sons in St. Catharines and Toronto. His younger brother has lived in New Liskeard since 1922 and his sister, 15 years his junior, lives in Woodstock. Some of his family came for the sale last Saturday and for a belated birthday celebration. Mr. Bowes turned 90 on Sept. 4 and Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven delivered a plaque from the province to mark the occasion. Mr. Bowes laughingly told how he actually received two plaques as the first one delivered had a spelling mistake - not in his name - but in the town's name. Tillsonburg was spelled with only one "L", he said, pulling out the original plaque presented to point out the error. The plaque, hanging alongside a similar plaque presented to he and his wife on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary, is mute testament to the milestone Mr. Bowes has achieved. "I guess I've lived longer than any of my near relatives but I don't know why". He said hard work must be the secret, adding he'd worked all his life until the last couple of years.





BARN RAISING AT BOWES FARM 1945



DAVID

PEG DOUG  
MARK  
ANDREWS

MIKE



FOUR GENERATIONS

ERMINA BOWES

GRETTA  
WALSH

RUSSELL  
MCDOWELL



James Buchner of Bayham

In 1843 James Buchner petitioned to purchase Lot 28, in the 8th Concession of Bayham township. He was born in Welland County, 1800, on Lot 5, 4th concession of Crowland township on the Lyons Creek Road. His father was Henry Buchner Jr., son of Henry Buchner, Sr., who came to Canada as a United Empire Loyalist in 1786 with a wife and 9 children. Because of their loyalty to the British Crown during the Revolutionary War their Sussex County N.J. property was confiscated. Their home was near the old log jail in or near where the town of Newton now stands. In fact the Buchner family was one of the first to take up land there.

Buchner is the correct spelling of the name and is German for Beech tree. The family came from the Nurnburg area in Germany and came to the American shores about 1752. After the Revolutionary War two groups of five Buchner brothers emigrated to Canada where they received land grants. They were:

Group I Henry born about 1738 d. about 1827 and buried likely on his Lyons' Creek farm Lot 4, Con. 4, Crowland.  
Mathias b. about 1740 d. lived on Lot Con. of Windham.  
He and his descendants spelled the name Boughner.  
Christopher born 1740 d. 1810 and is buried at Beamsville.  
John  
Martin

Group II Henry born 1760 died 1820 and buried in the Lyons' Creek cemetery, which was on his property, Lot 1, Con. 4, Crowland.  
Jacob b. 1762 d. 1841 and is buried in Woodhouse cemetery.  
Christopher born 1765 d. 1824 and is the Capt. Christopher Buchner buried in Lundy's Lane cemetery which was originally part of his land.  
Peter born 1770 d. 1848 and is also buried in Lundy's Lane cemetery.  
Daniel b. 17 and died young leaving one daughter Elizabeth who got his grant of land.

It has been said that these two groups of five brothers were cousins - likely first cousins which would make the fathers of the two groups brothers. We know that John Buchner of Sussex County N.J. was the father of the second and younger group.

Children of Henry Buchner Sr. of the first group were

Catharine m. John Pettit  
Elizabeth m. Capt. Abner Owen of Woodhouse  
Anna m. Daniel Howey and lived at Delhi  
Elsie m. Henry Buck  
John  
Martin  
Christopher m. Margaret Robinson and settled on the Talbot Road between Delhi and Courtland.  
Henry Jr. m. ---- Green, dau. of Charles Green of Lundy's Lane.

Children of Henry Buchner Jr. and Green: Lewis, Charles, James, Martin, Henry Green, Sarah, Mary and another daughter who married a Stilwell  
Henry Jr. is buried at the Drummond Hill cemetery, Niagara Falls, Ontario.  
His widow moved to Tillsonburg with her daughters and is buried there.

James Buchner married Amy Ostrander, b. 1803, d. 1894, daughter of John Ostrander of the Short Hills and his wife, Christianna Cohoe who was the daughter of Ambrose Cohoe, who died at Fonthill district during the starving year, 1889. Ambrose Cohoe was the only Tory member of the large Fennsy family of a Daniel Cohoe and his wife Mary Cutter. Daniel Cohoe came from Ireland and the name Cohoe is Protestant for Kehoe. Ambrose Cohoe's wife was Deborah Heacock. Nathan Smith Cohoe of Courtland was Christianna's youngest brother. Two of James Buchner's sisters, Sarah b. 1799 d. 1897 and Mary b. 1803 d. 1880 married respectively: Amy Ostrand's two brothers - Andrew b. 1797 d. and Asa b. 1801 d. 1863. They two settled in Bayham.

Children of James Buchner and Amy Ostrander were Ebenezer b. 1830, John B. 1825  
Henry James Martin Elsie Catharine and Mary.



James Buchner of Bayham

Children of Sarah Buchner and Andrew Ostrander were:

John	Asa
Christianna m. William Stilwell	Amy
Henry	Charles
Jane	Simeon
Catharine	Marsena
Andrew	Emma
Samuel	
James	

Children of Mary Buchner and Asa Ostrander were:

Sarah b. 1824	Julia
Lewis b. 1828	Amy
Rebecca b. 1829	Mary b. 1848
Caroline	Phoebe

Howey, Ostrander, Stilwell and Buchner picnics were a yearly affair until just prior to the first world war. (H.O.S.&B).

Many of these are buried in the old Ridge Road cemetery. (in with churches history)

by Orrena Buchner Hanley

From the British Canadian Paper

Died Jan. 9, 1908 - an old resident of Middleton; after an illness of a little over four days, Mrs. John Buchner, one of the earliest settlers in the township of Middleton, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Beaman, at Eden. Mrs. Buchner, who was aged 80 yrs. and 10 mos., was born near St. John, N.B. When she was seven years of age, her father, the late David Stilwell, came with his family to Middleton, and settled on a farm in Goshen, where the deceased lived until her marriage. Some time after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Buchner settled on a farm near Eden and lived in that neighbourhood until a few years ago, when they sold their farm and went to Tillsonburg, where they resided about three years. As Mrs. Buchner's health was poor they returned to Eden and made their home with their daughter.

Mrs. Buchner had been a member of the Baptist church for sixty years, being one of the first members of the Eden Church. She is survived by her husband, two sons, George Buchner of Eden, and H.C.(Henry) of Tillsonburg, and two daughters, Mrs. William Earle and Mrs. Henry Beaman, also one brother, Isaac Stilwell, who resides on the old homestead in Goshen and who is the last remaining member of the family of the ten children of David Stilwell.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon. The body was taken to the Eden Baptist church, where an impressive funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Silcox, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Oliver of Tillsonburg. Pallbearers were Messrs. N.A. Gray, W.P. Scanlan, James Leach, Thomas French, John Allen and George Thomas.

Note: The John Buchner who married Naomi Stilwell was the son of James Buchner and Amy Ostrander.

Their children i.e. John and Naomi were:

Permia b. 1851 m. William H. Earle, son of Wm. Earle and Emaline Sovereign
George b. 1853 m. Emeline Ronson
Henry b. 1859 m. Etta Scidmore
Sarah Buchner b. 1864 who married Henry Beaman
Jane b. 1870



MRS. JAMES BUCHNER

(Taken from an early newspaper called St. Thomas Times copied by Mrs. Nat Walker, R.R.# 3  
Simcoe, Ontario.)

ISSUE: Jan. 10, 1883

"Mrs. Buchner of Bayham near Eden, is the oldest female resident of the county, 84 years of age and lively as a cricket, being at present hard at work on a patch work quilt while her brain is as active as ever. She came from Niagara District in 1818 and was the first woman in the North Pine woods. She walked from Hamilton; her wardrobe being in her pocket handkerchief.

She remembers the battle of Lundy's Lane and other incidents of the War of 1812-14. Mr. Tillson, founder of Tillsonburg, boarded with her. Mrs. Buchner now lives with her son, John (wife Naomi Stilwell). They have an excellent farm and enjoy every comfort in the evening of her life! "

Note:

She and her husband, James Buchner, are buried in Ridge Road cemetery. James Buchner was the son of Henry Buchner, Jr. (wife a Miss Green) who lived on Lot 4, Con. 4, Crowland Township. He was the son of Henry Buchner Sr. who lived on Lot 4. James Buchner had three sisters and two brothers who also came to live in the area.

Bristol - Buchner

A pretty wedding was solemnized in the Baptist Church parsonage Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 9th, when Miss Audrey Buchner and Mr. Earl Bristol were quietly married by Rev. Albert Carr.

The young couple were both from the township of Bayham and were unattended. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Bristol left on a motor trip to Toronto and points east. On their return they will spend the winter in Bayham.