

THE HOWEY FAMILY HISTORY

(copied from the Elgin County Atlas 1877)

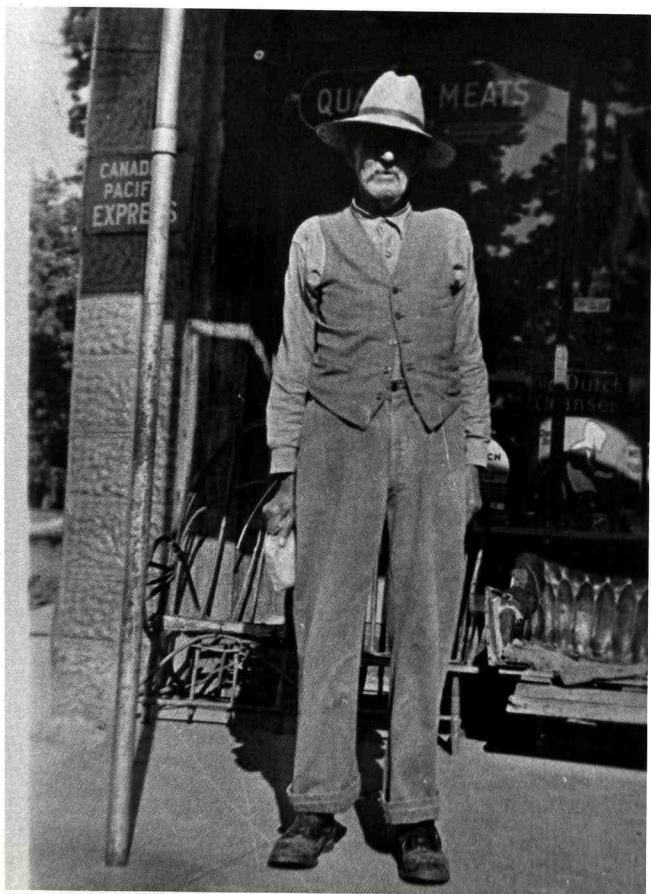
If, on the way from Straffordville to Eden, you turn off the Plank Road near a little white church and drive east a few rods, you come to the well cultivated farm and well kept residence of Samuel Howie, Esq. Mr. Howie is now 86 years old, (this was in 1877) is kind, courteous, and clear-headed, was married in 1815, and in 1817 came alone to the farm where he now lives. Came alone, because there was no shape of a human habitation upon it and with husband - like devotion, he commenced work with his own hands to put up a comfortable cabin before inviting his wife, who was with friends near Niagara, to share his forest home.

For several weeks while building the cabin, his lodging place was under a pine root where he extemporized a bed of pine shavings. He slept soundly although there were many wolves and bears in the region. He killed many of these animals and describes them as being very fond of mutton and pork. His first taste of bread from genuine flour was obtained by balancing two bushels of wheat across his ox-yoke and thus getting it with the help of his oxen to Jesse Smith's mill on Teal's Creek, a small stream near Vienna. The gullies were so steep that a load could not be drawn upon a wagon or sled. In reply to the question how to grind his grain before this. "Jammed it" said he, with a gesture that brought at once to mind the Stump-mill as described by Adoniram Davis, Esq.

Mr. Howie obtained his land of Colonel Talbot, helped to establish a school in the neighbourhood in 1830 and has settled five sons on good farms near his own.

He served in the War of 1812 and gives a very graphic and accurate description of the Battle of Queenston Heights and the burials of Generals Brock and Macdonald.

The interview with Mr. Howie was an encouraging one to the writer of these notes.



LEWIS HOWEY  
GRANDFATHER OF FRANK & BASIL

Office Hours: 8:30 to 12 and 1:15 to 5 p.m. Failure to receive bill does

*Lewis Howie*

**TO THE DOMINION NATURAL GAS CO., DR.**  
LIMITED  
Tillsonburg, Ont.

LAST READING ..... 670 ..... 000 on FEB 1926 PREVIOUS READING ..... 657 ..... 000 on CU. FT. CONSUM'D ..... 2 ..... 000 Discount if paid by 10th of following month	8 45 65 7.80 10 7.90
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No Discount on this bill after the 10th

Total Amount Due ..... 7.90

Complaints must be reported immediately on receipt of bill to receive attention. **PLEASE BRIN**

Your liability continues until personal or written notice to discontinue your service is given AT THIS OFFICE



Office Hours: 8:30 to 12 and 1:15 to 5 p.m.

Failure to receive bill does

Your liability continues until personal or written notice to discontinue your service is given AT THIS OFFICE

Lewis Howey



TO THE DOMINION NATURAL GAS CO., DR.  
LIMITED

Tillsonburg, Ont.

LAST READING  
PREVIOUS READING  
CU. FT.  
CONSUM'D

670 000 on

FEB

1926

657 000 on

3 000

Discount if paid by 10th of following month

No Discount on this bill after the 10th

Net Charge

M. R.

Arrears

Total Amount Due

8 45  
65

7.80  
10

7.90



Complaints must be reported immediately on receipt of bill to receive attention.

PLEASE BRIN



BY Mrs. Margaret Rodger  
(July 1980)

John Inman, patriarch of a family prominent in Eden for many years, was born in Yorkshire, England, but grew up in the Inman Settlement at Dunnville, Ontario. There, in 1854, he married Julia Montgomery. Seven children were born to them at the homestead farm, Lot 12, Concession 2, near the Welland Feeder Canal. One died in infancy.

In 1870 the family migrated to Blenheim; in 1872 to Morpeth. After a winter at Talbotville in 1874, they settled permanently at Eden in Bayham Township.

In January 1875 John purchased the north halves of Lots 26 and 27 on Concession 8 Bayham Township Elgin County, today owned by Max Alton. Nine years later he bought the north three-quarters of Lot 25, Concession 8, most of which is owned now by Don Nickerson.

In 1897 son Milton Inman leased the south half of the north half of Lot 21, Concession 9 and two years later the north half of Lot 21 was bought by him. He lived there for the rest of his life. The property is owned now by Rene Rommel.

There may have been at least one other Inman property, for it was John's intention to settle all of his five sons on farms in the Eden area.

During the last quarter of the 19th century the abuse of alcohol had become a problem in many communities. Indeed many families, like the Inmans, had kegs of homemade grape wine and vinegar in their basements. Not long after the move to Eden, Julia Inman noticed a quickening of the appetite for wine in her husband and sons and resolved to put a stop to it. She instructed daughter Mary to draw off half the wine in each keg and replace it with vinegar. John's first reaction was anger. Later he agreed that his wife had identified a real problem. From that time, the Inmans were staunch supporters of the temperance movement.

A few years after settling at Eden, the family built a new white brick house on Lot 27. Torn down about 10 years ago, it stood opposite the present site of Max Alton's bungalow. Before moving into their new home, the family occupied an older house on their land. Daughter Mary Inman was about 15 years old at the time the new house was completed. One Saturday she decided to transfer her clothing from the old place. She was strolling across the field with dresses over one arm and her best set of hoops on the other when she saw her five mischievous brothers watching her, from the top of the wood-pile, with unusual interest.

Just at that moment she heard the sound of hooves behind her. She swung aside just in time to escape the onslaught of the family's billy-goat, which the boys had turned loose. It charged through her hoops and for a good 15 minutes bellowed and stamped in terror, trying to free itself, before galloping off to the barn. Mr. Inman lectured his sons



sternly for this escapade, pointing out the danger of serious injury to their sister, and made them buy new hoops for her with their own money. This was but one of many pranks related to descendants many years later.

John Inman, a respected citizen and prominent member of the Methodist Church, died August 28, 1896. His funeral, according to the Tillsonburg News, "was one of the most largely attended ever witnessed in this vicinity." His widow, Julia, lived with their bachelor son, Herbert, first in Eden, then in Tillsonburg, till her death November 10, 1912. Both John and Julia are buried at Eden.

William Francis ("Will") Inman farmed beside his father for a time, then became a (1855-1937) school teacher. For 25 years he taught at Milton, Ontario. Eventually Will became principal of the Teachers' College at Kingston. He and his wife, the former Sarah Allison, had four children: Emily, who married Rev. Claude Gilbert and had two children- Douglas Gilbert of Tillsonburg and Marion (Mrs. Roger McDonald) of Ottawa; Fred William Inman, who married Roberta Stewart, and had three children- Stewart of London, William of Chatham and Margaret (Mrs. E. Buckbrough) of Toronto; Harold, who married Ethel Ward, and adopted a son, John Ward Inman; and Herbert E.A. Inman, who married Lillian Davidson and had two children- Jeanne (Mrs. George Stubbs) of Cambridge and Shirley (Mrs. Donald Dobbing) of Hamilton.

John Wesley ("Wes") Inman, the second son, after farming for a while with his father, (1857-1894) also became a school teacher. A bachelor, he died at 36 after a brief illness in 1894 and is buried in Eden cemetery.

Wilfred James ("Fred") Inman, the third son, married Mary Elizabeth Constable of (1859-1915) Port Burwell and earned a living by farming on Lot 25, Concession 8, till 1899, when he purchased a general store at Vienna. In 1910 he purchased another store at Wheatley and there spent his remaining years. He and his wife are buried at Windsor. They had two daughters, born in Eden - Mabel (Mrs. Clarence McIntyre) of Windsor and Clara (Mrs. Leonard Wheelton) of Windsor, and an adopted daughter, Bernice (Mrs. Gordon Smith) also of Windsor.

Robert Milton ("Milt") Inman lived all but the first nine of his 78 years in Eden (1866-1943) and became a successful tobacco farmer. He and his wife, the former Ella Lowrie, lived at Lot 21, Concession 9. Their old frame house was removed a few years ago. A new bungalow stands on the site today. (note picture) Milton and Ella are both buried at Eden. They had three sons. Clarence, who married Eva Stilwell of Eden, after working for Chrysler at Windsor for some years, returned to town and became a tobacco-grower. Ian and his wife, Laura, lived at Kirkland Lake, where he worked as a salesman for the Canadian Mines and Equipment Company. Lee, a bachelor, spent his entire life as a farmer at Eden and lived with his father on the home farm. The three sons are all buried at Eden. Neither Clarence nor Ian had children.





MILT INMAN HOUSE (LAST ONE)

Lot 21  
Con. 9  
Bayham  
Elgin

5 Thomas Herbert ("Herb") Inman remained unmarried. He raised tobacco and till 1914 1869-1939) lived on Lot 27, Concession 8. He then bought a farm on the Otter Flats near Tillsonburg.(south) He died there in 1939 but was buried at Eden.

6 Mary Ervilla Inman for some years contributed articles to the Tillsonburg Observer (1862-1955) and the London Advertiser. She also sold a few short stories to Lippincotts. For a short time before her marriage to Edwin Bowes of Maple Grove, she taught school at Eden.

Mary Inman Bowes always had the courage of her convictions. At the time of her marriage in 1884, it was customary for men to sit on one side of the Maple Grove Methodist Church, women on the other. The strong-willed Mary scandalized some of her new in-laws by insisting upon sitting beside her husband. Slowly, in ensuing weeks, other couples began following suit, till the entire congregation was seated in family groups. The old order had been ripe for change.

Mary and Edwin Bowes moved to Ingersoll and lived there for nearly 50 years at the corner of King and Albert Streets. He taught in area schools. She became an ardent temperance worker and for nearly 20 years was president of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was also active in the W.A. and W.M.S. of Trinity United Church. Their four children, all born in the Maple Grove area, are: Ilma (Mrs. Harold Potts) of Bracebridge, Florence (Mrs. Hugh Howard, later Mrs. Johnson Neithercut of Mission City B.C), Merton Bowes of Peterborough, and Harold E. Bowes of Edmonton. Mary and Edwin Bowes are buried in the Rural Cemetary at Ingersoll.

No Inmans remain in Eden today. However, descendants of John and Julia are scattered across the provinces. Memories of the old days at Eden live on among them in family stories.

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Mrs. M. Bowes - Last Member of Pioneer Inman Family  
(was prominent in early of Ingersoll, taking active part in  
Women's affairs, is now 83 years of age).

by A. S. Paragus

On a summer day around 1874, a farmer's wife, at Eden stood thoughtfully surveying four kegs standing in her cellar. Two contained grape wine, ripe and tasty. Two held vinegar. "Mary", she called to her ten year old daughter. "Bring me a basin and pails. Now draw off half this wine keg and put in that vinegar in one. Do the same with the two other kegs."

The woman was Mrs. John Inman. That evening her husband rebuked her after his recent customary visit to the cellar with a dipper. "Julia, you had no right to do what you have done." "I had to," replied his wife, "because of you - and the boys."

John Inman being a reasonable man, that was the last said on the subject. Except years later, he confided to his daughter, Mary, that so rapid and unsuspected had been the growth of his appetite for the wine, if it had not been "for the look of it" he would have visited an inn if one had been near before he could get to sleep that night. Mary's older brothers confessed to similar struggles with craving. At any rate, from then on, the Inmans became a staunch temperance family.

With such a childhood background, plus her Yorkshire fighting blood, and a public spirit imbibed from her father, whom Mary adored, - "Don't be afraid to be interested in national affairs, Mary, and if you ever live in a city, keep abreast of its civic life." It is no wonder that when later, as Mrs. Edwin Bowes, she moved into Ingersoll, she was destined to leave her mark upon that town.

#### Did Charity Work

When Mrs. Bowes joined the King's daughters in Ingersoll, it became her duty to investigate calls for charity. There were three chronically needy families on the pork factory side of the river. She rang up the factory manager, and armed with the various data, called upon the first home.

"Would you mind telling me," asked Mrs. Bowes, "how it is that your husband gets \$10 a month, has missed only two days this year, up to this sickness, and with rent \$8 a month, you have such a hard time?"

"O, I will tell you", the woman answered readily, "Time my man's bills are paid at the two hotels here, there's little left of his cheque." (O in those days hotels cashed pay cheques, a custom now illegal).

"I take in sewing, do some cleaning"...The stories at the two other homes were identical. "Where does Mrs. John Thompson live?" demanded Mrs. Bowes of her family at supper. "The W.C.T.U. meets there tomorrow and I'm going to join"...The W.C.T.U. found Mrs. Bowes such a live-wire that they made her president at the next annual meeting, a position she held for nearly twenty years.

#### Last of her family

Mrs. Bowes is now 83, a widow, the last surviving member of the original John Inman family, of Eden and temporarily in Tillsonburg. "And yet the temperance people of Ingersoll came near to not organizing at all that first campaign in my second year of office", she was telling me, "We had a lot of Doubtful Thomases who wanted to wait. But the W.C.T.U. thought we were as near ready as we'd ever be. And we won - over 90 over the three fifths. A group of those old temperance stalwarts backed us up, Colonel Mayberry, Hardy Sumner, Fred Waters, Joe Gibson, many more. It is strong men of example like these to whom Ingersoll owes its continued era of "dry" law.

Reduced to print Mrs. Bowes' reminiscences would make spirited reading. She tells in vivid detail stories of tug-of-war campaigns, of colourful canvasses, of vigilance necessary to retain local option, alertness to be sure "it worked." And she tells them with the keen enjoyment of a participant in a lively game, played with wits, and in sporting attitude.

"Father always said, if I gave my best to the world, it would give me its best. And anyway what use is a law if it had not teeth?"

Came from England