

MR. AND MRS. IRA STILWELL

Dec. 1942

On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Ira Stilwell of Eden observed their golden wedding anniversary by holding open house for their relatives and friends during the afternoon and evening.

Fifty years ago on December 28th, Ira Stilwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Stilwell was united in marriage by Rev. Mr. Sherman, pastor of Eden Baptist Church to Miss Annette Meyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Meyer of Glen Meyer, Mr. Meyer being the first Postmaster of that place.

They moved to their home at Eden shortly after and have resided there ever since. Mr. Stilwell has resided on the identical farm for his entire life with the exception of five or six years spent in Hamilton and London where his father taught school.

Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell have been members of the Eden Baptist Church for 60 and 49 years respectively. And they were members of the Choir for upwards of 50 years. Mr. Stilwell was a member of the Bayham Township Council for five years and a Justice of the Peace for a number of years.

The party was proof of the affection in which Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell are held as relatives and friends braved even the bad storm to pay their respects and extend their best wishes to the bride and groom of 50 years ago.

Mrs. Stilwell wore for the reception a two piece gown of black crepe, the jacket braided and sequin trimmed with a corsage of white and yellow mums.

The house was attractively decorated with Christmas decorations of evergreens, yellow snapdragons and mums.

Their daughter, Mrs. J. C. Inman (Eva) of Windsor, and Mr. Inman opened the door to the guests and Miss Evelyn Meyer, of Port Burwell, sister of the bride, and Miss Fern Lewis, niece of the bride of Toronto, poured tea.

IRA A. STILWELL called suddenly this week.

Eden - Ira A. Stilwell passed away suddenly on Monday morning from a heart attack while he was completing his chores. His death was very unexpected as he had been enjoying the best of health in months. Mr. Stilwell, who was born near Eden, On. Aug. 13, 1868, spent practically all his lifetime here, with the exception of a few childhood years in Hamilton and London. He was a son of the late Nicholas Stilwell and Sarah Ford of Eden.

Mr. Stilwell was married at Walsingham on Dec. 28, 1893 to Annette Meyer daughter of George E. Meyer and Martha E. Franklin of Glen Meyer, who survives him. He also leaves a daughter, Mrs. Eva Inman of Windsor. For many years Mr. Stilwell was a deacon of the Eden Baptist Church. He served also as the church Clerk and Sunday school superintendent, and he was chairman of the field committee of the Eden, Malahide and Goshen Baptist churches. For a number of years he was a member of the Bayham Township council. He was a member of Otter Lodge No. 50, IOOF, Tillsonburg. The funeral was held on Wed. afternoon, Rev. Frank S. Humphreys, the pastor of the Eden Baptist church, conducted a private service at the residence and a public service later in the church. The choir, accompanied by Mrs. C. Ball, sang an anthem, "Sunset and Evening Star". The hymns sung during the service were "Jesus Still Leads On" and "O God, Our Help in Ages Past".

Interment was in the Eden cemetery. The honorary pall bearers were Ren Leach, Charles Leach, Frank Travis, Camp. Travis, Alex Howey, Nathan Gray. The active pall bearers were Ernest Scanlan, Bruce Nunn, Jack Capling, Claude Wilson, Harley Howey, Lorne Alton. The I.O.O.F. service was conducted by the noble grand and the chaplain of Otter Lodge, Major F.G. Bowes and W. H. Popham, the members being present in a body at the service. The large attendance at the funeral and the many beautiful floral tributes attested to the high esteem in which the late Mr. Stilwell was so widely held.

ELWIN STILWELL FAMILY

Mr. William Elwin Stilwell was born July 28, 1859 on a farm in the township of Middleton, near Eden. He was one of nine children of the late Mr. & Mrs. William Stilwell. (She was nee Christianna Ostrander.) If not the first settlers on the Goshen Road, at least they were among the early settlers there.

Elwin Stilwell married Miss Calista Cornwall, also a descendant of a U.E. Loyalist family. She lived in Middletown township also but lived nearer Courtland.

Their family also were nine children:

Lula (Mrs. William Kennedy),

Emmer (Mrs. Charles McKoy)

Pearl (Mrs. Ellis Irwin),

Henry,

Nicholas,

Ayrest,

Waldron,

Olive, (Mrs. William McKoy)

and Raymond.

Mr. Stilwell was a man very highly respected. He is remembered as Choir Leader for many years as well as other offices in the local Baptist Church. He was a public school trustee and auditor of Middletown township books.

He was both credited and qualified for all positions which he filled as well as operating the farm on which he was born and lived all his life. He was married at the age of 21.

Mr. and Mrs. WALLIE STILWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Wallie Stilwell of Eden were honored at a community celebration Wednesday on the occasion of their 50th Wedding anniversary. The event was held at the Eden Baptist Church.

The couple were married at Eden on February 16, 1916. She was the former Ella Hotchkiss of Guysboro. They farmed near the village until five years ago, when they moved into Eden.

Pouring tea at the celebration were Mrs. Fred Cousins, Mrs. George Hotchkiss and Mrs. Edith Hotchkiss in the afternoon and Mrs. Max Alton and Mrs. Roy Sinden in the evening.

Waitresses were Mrs. Ray Roloson and Mrs. Mack Ball in the afternoon and Mrs. Colin Marr and Mrs. Robert Soper in the evening. Hostesses were Mrs. George Jenkins and Mrs. Hans Anderson. Kitchen helpers included Mrs. Acel Langohr, Mrs. Harry Beaman, Mrs. Charles Cowan, Mrs. George Backus.

The tea table was attractively arranged with a silver service, three-tier wedding cake and tapers. Flowers were given by Mrs. Morley Hotchkiss and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Porter and the Eden Ladies' Aid also gave flowers. Gift to the couple from relatives and the community was a hide-a-bed sofa.



LILLIAN, ELSIE + JOHN TANNER
WEDDING DAY

JASPER TAYLORS OBSERVE 67 th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Taylor celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on March 16, 1968. Their eight children attended a supper with the couple in the Straffordville United Church basement. In the evening they attended a party at the Vienna community centre.

The supper was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Settington of Baltimore; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Taylor, of Straffordville; Mrs. Leo Boyd of Chippewa; Mrs. George Bradt of R.R. # 4, Tillsonburg; Mr. Jim Taylor of Bowling Green, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Taylor of Wallbridge, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mooney of Leamington; and Mr. and Mrs. Newton Taylor of Baltimore. Rev. and Mrs. G.P. Smetheram of Straffordville, and Elder George Ruston of Dutton were also guests.

The evening celebration at Vienna was attended by about 250 friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. It was the largest attendance ever for the affair, which has been held every year since the couple's 55 th anniversary.

One guest was especially welcomed. He was Leroy Jasper Taylor, from Westover Air Force Base, Mass. The son of Jim Taylor, he is the only namesake in the family.

The grandchildren provided a smorgasbord for the guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were born in Kentucky. They moved to Pelee Island and then to Leamington, Ontario. They moved to Bayham in 1936 and retired from the tobacco farm in 1951 and have lived in Straffordville since then. Old neighbours from Leamington



attended the celebration. Prime Minister Pearson and several other members of Parliament sent telegrams of congratulations to

MR. AND MRS. JASPER TAYLOR.

News Clipping from Tillsonburg News 1971

Thirty-nine years ago on May 19, 1932 the village of Courtland was thrown into a state of excitement, and sorrow, when, without warning, one of the large drying kilns at the C.M.P. factory exploded. An employee, Chester Logan, age 28, was literally roasted alive, and died a few hours later at Tillsonburg Hospital. The following is a poem written by another employee concerning the disaster, which for a time threatened the entire village.

The Burning of the City Dairy
Courtland, Ontario

On May nineteen, in thirty-two,
the day dawned bright and fair.
The birds sang sweetly all the morn,
'Twas music everywhere.

Then Royce sprang to him quick as flash,
And helped him 'Cross the track,
No time was lost to give him aid,
Those burns so deep and black.

We went to work with joyful hearts,
So glad we had a job,
'Twas hello Roy, and hello Don,
And hello Earl and Bob.

Such pluck and strength we never saw.
He knew his hours were few;
He passed away at ten o'clock,
A husband, father true.

Good morning Chester, how are you?
"Just fine" he answers back,
Soon every man was at his post,
From Morley on to Jack.

Two little girls, just six and eight,
A wife and mother home,
were plunged in deepest agony,
And left in gloom alone.

The boys had nearly finished work,
'Twas almost half past four,
When Chester said, "I'll go upstairs,"
Then came that mighty roar.

The friends and neighbours far and near,
all hurried to the spot,
They fought the fire with all their might.
Twill never be forgot.

The City Dairy burst in flames,
And mounted way up high,
The timbers flew across the street,
The smoke rolled toward the sky.

We can't forget that awful fire,
And Chester laid away,
Our time may come as quick as his,
Then let us not delay.

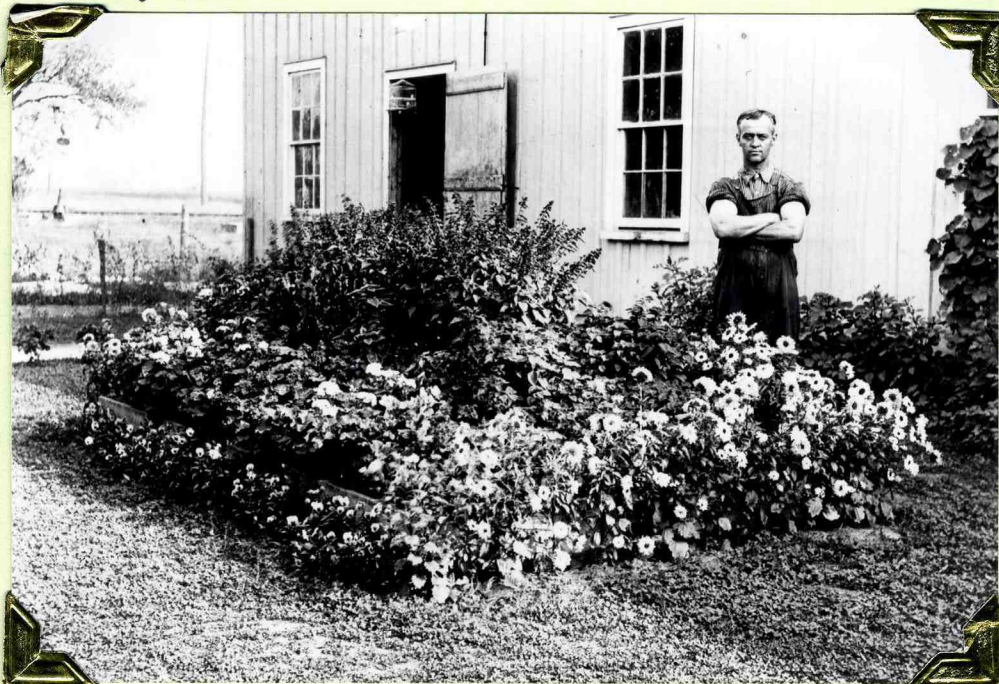
"Oh, where is Wilfred, Stan and John,
And where is Dave? they said.
Has Florence gone home? is Bruce all right?
Is Charlie 'live or dead?

Written by Frank E. Travis, an employee.
(one of 16)

The roll was called, they answered "here",
Just one more yet to find,
"Oh Chester, Chester, where are you?"
This thought on every mind.

Below is a picture of Frank E. Travis
beside his Cheese Factory at Eden, which
was also destroyed by fire approximately
1923. Camby Travis lived in the
McDowell residence on the N.W. corner in
Eden, and was at that time building his
house (next Harry Beaman's house).
Lottie Allen worked for them at that time.

Then such a sight that met our eyes,
'Twas Chester all on fire,
He fought the flames on every side
Which mounted high
and higher.



Mr. Frank Travis at the Cheese Factory

Talking to C.C. Travis at his home Mar. 17, 1961

The New England Cheese factory was three storied. Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Travis lived on the second floor for six years. There was a call that Mrs. Earl was sick. Mrs. Travis left the table - believe it was breakfast and never came back. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Ronson Moved in.

Frank Travis tore down the factory in 1913(?). The floor in the George Grass house (3rd floor) 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, is from the old factory. Frank built the cheese factory in Eden and Will Roloson built the house where Mrs. Sarah Saunders lived, for C. C. Travis. Will Roloson rented the house from C. C. until he built his own which belongs to Hans Anderson now. (Note; destroyed by fire, June, 1968 and new one built).

Chas. Matthews wife (wife was Bessie Berry's sister) bought the place from C. C. Travis for \$500.00. Chas. Kennedy, Alex Chandler, Mrs. Saunders lived there. When the latter died, Mrs. Magee sold it to Aquilla Shepherd. (Dredges and W. G. Shepherd lived there).

The Roloson house on the death of Mrs. Roloson was sold to Frank Porter and sold to Hans Anderson.

The barn of the Saunders' place came from the New England property. It had cost \$14.00 for the hemlock lumber. Travis had bought two acres down there, moved the boiler there but never built.

Israel Stillwell sold the Verne Baldwin house to C. C. Travis for \$400.00; after his father died, he moved his mother there in 1905-1919. Rent on the place was \$4.00. His mother bought the place but before she died she needed money and C. C. Travis bought it back for \$800.00. He then sold it to Clayton Wilson for \$900.00.

Verne Baldwin lives there now.

Kirk Stilwell built the Carman Ball house and Charlie Leach who lived there built the barn - (torn down in 1962(?) & garage built. Robert White Walter McKinley \$1200.00.

Cecil Ball house - Minard Phelps - Frank Travis - C. C. Travis, C. E. Wilson.

Frank Travis moved to Saunders' mill and then to Courtland, Grandpa Adams house which in 1886 belonged to Pearc Dean - his son - James Dean taught school at Guysborough.

Paid \$1,000.00 for the house and five acres. J. H. Howey, Wm. Berry, Stewart Moore rented the house for \$10.00 a month 6 months at a time. Moved out - 6 months behind but he had done a great deal of fixing which made up for it. Then sold to J.V. Capling for \$2200.00. Barn Burned.



1963



MR + MRS FRANK TRAVIS

While the Frank Travis' lived in the Adams home in Courtland, Mrs. Travis attended a Church meeting in the evening. As they kept some chickens, she came home with the scraps and she was given left over food for Frank's midnight lunch at the City Dairy. Mrs. Travis told him where his lunch was, When he was leaving for work. At midnight he wondered why there were pickles among the cake, etc. He had taken the wrong parcel!

Frank Travis gave Cathy McDowell a baby doll at Christmas time. That was when Methodist Church used to have Sunday School Christmas entertainments. He was the guarantor for Walter McDowell when he began the Rural Route # 1 at Eden.



JENNIE TRAVIS