

Wesley's family consisted of four daughters, Hazel now Mrs. Breman of London, Nellie, now Mrs. George and Leda, now Mrs. Jenkins, both of Belmont, and Grace, now Mrs. Willsie of Wilton Grove.

At this time, there were about twenty head of cattle kept, a few pigs and hens, and in Andrew's time Maple Syrup was made and boiled down in a big black kettle. During Wesley's time this was discontinued although six acres of woodlot remained. Much small fruit including currants, red, black and white; cherries - red, black and yellow; gooseberries, pears and strawberries were raised and the surplus sold. At one time enough black currants were sold at a shilling a box to buy a croquet set which was in vogue in the 1900's.

A garage was built by F. J. Yorke in 1923, when Wesley became the proud owner of a Maxwell touring car.

In 1913, Wesley was appointed Postmaster in Belmont and moved to the village where he remained as postmaster until his death in 1939. His wife, Loretta predeceased him by two years. The farm was operated at first by various married hired men.

In 1921, his son-in-law Ernest George of Putnam, husband of daughter Nellie took over operation of the farm and so it continued until Wesley's death.

The farm was then willed to Daughter, Nellie, and so remains as a family farm at this date, 1961. Hydro was installed in all buildings in 1932. First radio was acquired in 1937. A furnace was placed in basement in 1939, and plumbing and a bath room in 1941.

Ernest and Nellie George had one son, Charles, and a daughter Marion. Charles remained on the farm and married Elizabeth Glover of Fingal who with their three children Karen, Garvey and Melanie live in the farm house. Marion married a research chemist, D. R. Christie and resides in Toronto.

In 1937, Stella, youngest daughter of Andrew and Ellen retired from business. She had been private secretary to Sir Adam Beck and later was in personnel at London Life. Her heart remained in the old farm and she sought and gained permission to build a six-room cottage and garage south of the farm house. This she named "Four Winds". Many trees and shrubs were planted to adorn the lawn. Stella lived here in close companionship with the farm people until 1956. An electric bell system connected the two houses for safety and convenience. In 1956 Stella moved to London where she now resides and Ernest and Nellie bought the cottage. Since Charles' marriage he and Elizabeth had lived in an upstairs apartment in the brick house. Now they had the entire house for their expanding family.

An old house moved from I know not where had been the implement shed, having an upstairs which housed antiques and junk. A milk house had been constructed in one end of this in Wesley's time. Later, it was not up to Borden requirements and Ernest and Charles George built an up-to-date one for the time at the south end of the stables. In 1955 the implement shed fell into disrepair and was torn down. A large steel implement shed replaced it.

Since Wesley's time registered Holsteins have been the main farm operation. Milk was delivered first to Belmont Cheese Factory, later to Canadian Milk Products and finally to Borden Company. Wheat is raised as a cash crop and oats, corn and hay for cattle feed. Although Wesley was a lover of horses, and was successful in winning prizes at London in 'Driver Class', no horses have been on the farm since 1950 when the first tractor was acquired. Hay and grain are harvested by neighboring farmers with big machinery.

Sunday Afternoon Group on church lawn



Shirley Luton, Hazel, Nellie, and Grace Vemming
Mrs. Wesley Vemming.

1914



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Vemming
in front of United Church, Belmont.

The four generations of this family have loved their farm and each generation sought to add to its attractiveness and comfort. Ellen Venning at one time sold enough produce (raspberries at .05¢ a quart, delivered) to place green shutters on all her south windows. All have loved trees, the present occupant of the brick house most of all and Charles has planted many of both evergreen and deciduous varieties with a fine windbreak of spruce west of the two houses. The buildings seem to nestle among the many trees all have loved. All have loved flowers which have been abundant since Ellen's geraniums set carefully in an old binder wheel on the lawn to Elizabeth's lovely perennial border of the 1950's.

And now in 1961, Garvey Ernest George is ten years old and fifth of his line on the same farm and already helping with farm chores, and expressing his firm intention of carrying on with the land his ancestors settled on nearly one hundred years ago.

Prepared by Nellie M. George
January, 1961.

4 Generations 1921



Nellie M. George, Chas. George, Wesley Venning
and Andrew Venning

4 Generations 1921



Same as above except Mrs. Wesley Venning.

"LONE MAPLE" - farm of Norman A. Taylor

Lot 24, Concession 8, South Dorchester

In 1831, Archibald Taylor and his wife Mary (McBride) Taylor arrived in Canada from Skipness, Argyleshire, Scotland. The names of their family were John, Angus, Neil, Duncan, Daniel, Euphemia, Gilbert and Archibald. They came to join a sister and a brother who lived near St. Thomas.

In 1871, the present 100 acres in Lot 24, Concession 8, was purchased by Angus Taylor, grandfather of the present owner Norman A. Taylor. The purchase price was \$4500.

Archibald A. Taylor and his wife, Thirza Easterbrook (Taylor) settled on the farm after their marriage in (1881) and raised the following family, Herbert G. Taylor, Harriet Farquhar (Taylor), Fred Taylor, Erle Taylor, Fannie Wintermute (Taylor) and Norman Taylor.

Angus married Margaret Smith and settled on the north half of lot 23, concession 9, South Dorchester. Their children were John, Margaret, Archibald, Mary, Colin, Euphemia, Angus, Neil, Kate and Ann.

This farm is now owned by Mrs. H. G. Taylor. The first house was a small warmly built plank house and is still used as the kitchen, bathroom, washroom and back stair bedrooms of the present large home.

The new addition of 5 rooms was built by the McPherson brothers in 1893. Electricity was installed in 1922 in both the house and barn. There were 3 dug wells on the farm and a drilled well was put down in 1943. The water system was installed in the barn and house in 1945 and a modern bathroom in 1948. The telephone belonging to the Belmont Co-op was installed around 1911.

The first barn was too small to accomodate the increasing head of cows as well as a number of sheep and pigs, so in 1899 a large new addition was added and the barn was raised and placed on a wall. A hen house and colony house (1924), milk house in 1925, silo in 1926, pig pen and garage have since been added. A fine herd of pure bred holstein cows now occupy the barn, and the henhouse (now converted into a hog pen) and the other outside hog-pen are filled with fine hogs.

Mixed farming has been carried on since the farm was cleared. At one time maple syrup was made from the fine bush on the farm. This has now nearly disappeared. The few trees left provide shade for the cattle.

Special crops grown on the farm were hops, flax and of recent years canning corn, canning peas and soya beans, wheat, oats, hay and corn for silage are the present crops.

The taxes have greatly increased -	1889	\$57.41
	1909	60.94
	1912	88.06
	1925	173.99
	1945	113.00
	1950	155.14
	1960	395.70

Norman A. Taylor and his wife, Bernice (Monck) Taylor were married in 1923 and lived on the old homestead until 1958 when they built a new home in Belmont. Their children are Lawrence, Betty (Stover), Ralph and Norma at University.