

for the sleigh, not to be left behind. Also looking out of the kitchen window one morning, Mrs. Axford saw a bear eating apples underneath their pippin tree.

St. Thomas was non-existent at that time with just a few houses at the foot of Talbot Street hill. Mrs. Axford used to walk and carry produce to Port Stanley in exchange for groceries and carry them home again--a distance of approximately six miles.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Axford were members of the Union Methodist Church, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on April 6, 1890.

Mr. Axford died June 18, 1894 in his 84th year and Mrs. Axford died September 18, 1903 in her 84th year.

The farm was divided among the family with the youngest son, Arscott remaining on the homestead. He bought 50 acres adjoining his portion of the farm to make up 86 acres of land. He farmed it until his retirement and now lives with his wife, the former Hattie Pettit in a small home on the farm. They raised a family of three sons and one daughter, Gordon, George, Martin and Irene (Mrs. Harold Parker). In 1945, George took over the farm and now occupies the original home with his wife, the former Shirley Kipp and their two sons, Floyd and Paul-who make up the fourth generation to reside on the same farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Arscott Axford celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 8, 1961.

Arscott Axford died January 17, 1963.

WEST HALF LOT 12, CONCESSION 5, YARMOUTH

Ferguson Family Farm

On March 18, 1854, the Crown deeded to William Bowerman, the west half of Lot 12, Concession 5, Yarmouth Township.

Here Mr. Bowerman and his wife raised a large family, few who ever married. One sister Elizabeth, more daring than the rest, married Justus Wright at the age of 74.

The original house built by Mr. Bowerman still stands on this land, on a natural raise overlooking Fruit Ridge road. Its three stories and many windows would lead one to wonder why such a large residence would be built on this farm.

By much research, we find it was used as a seminary and also a residence for the family, later as a guest house for Quaker visitors who came to worship from many parts of the United States.

Two large portions of the building were later moved away and the house is now a modern country farm home.

In 1876, Wm. Bowerman sold to Mrs. Justus Wright (widow) formerly Elizabeth Bowerman. And on April 25, 1883, Benjamin Franklin Hathaway and his wife Grace (Walker) Hathaway purchased the property from the daring Elizabeth and settled there with their family: Zackenos, Samuel, James, Charlotte, Ada, Grace, Martha and Mary. This family were all reared in the staunch Quaker faith and were an asset to the community--all settling near their home and living very worth while lives as Christian citizens.

Mary Hathaway married Sherman Freeman in 1880 and four children were born to this marriage, Vernon, Ada, Eva and Lillian.

In 1887, Sherman and Mary Freeman bought from her father, Benjamin F. Hathaway and his wife, the homestead. They moved there on February 28, 1887 from White Station where Mr. Freeman formerly operated a threshing machine.

West half of Lot 12, Concession 5, Yarmouth

Ada married Morley Parker, Eva married O. Pressey and Lillian is unmarried. Vernon the only son married May McKenzie on September 27, 1911.

After the death of his wife, Mary, in 1928, Sherman Freeman deeded to his son Vernon, the homestead.

Vernon Freeman died on September 10, 1930 at the age of 50 years, leaving besides his wife May, three daughters-- Ina (Mrs. Charles Ferguson); Grace (Mrs. E. L. Griffiths) and Jessie (Mrs. Terrence Cherinwasky).

Mrs. Freeman carried on the estate for some years, later renting it to Mr. John Lale and his son Howard.

On August 6, 1946, the estate sold the farm to Charles and Ina (Freeman) Ferguson, so the fine old Quaker home has moved down one more step to the fourth generation. The Ferguson's have two children, Wayne and Ann.

Grace has one son, Lawrence and resides in Kingston. Jessie is living in Edmonton, Alberta.

May we state, that most of these quiet, honorable citizens have found as their last resting place, the picturesque old Quaker burying ground, west of Sparta village. As one passes by this hallowed spot and listens to the wind singing in the trees, we can not help being impressed by the memory of these quiet lives.

-written by Mrs. Angus (Clara) McKenzie

EAST HALF OF LOT 12, CONCESSION 5, YARMOUTH

- by Mrs. Robert (Helen) Axford -

The earliest record we have of the east half of Lot 12, Concession 5, Yarmouth Township, 100 acres, is that in the year 1817 it was leased by the government for 21 years to Mr. N. W. Parker. Then in 1825, apparently upon the death of Mr. Parker the farm was subleased by his sons and heirs, George Parker and William Parker to Mr. Jacob Preffer.

In the year 1842, January 5th, the farm was sold by the Crown to Mr. Edward Morgan. At this time Yarmouth Township was in Middlesex County, the District of London. Witness to the sale was Sir Richard Downes Jackson, K.C.B. Administrator of the Government of Upper Canada, and Lieutenant General, commanding the forces in British North America, etc. etc. at Kingston. The registrar for this district at that time was a Mr. Tucker.

Mr. Morgan died, by his own hand, sometime between 1842 and 1877. He had seven children, four daughters and three sons, all of whom received cash settlements. By name they were: Maria Morgan Graham of Howard Twp., Kent County; Mary Ann Morgan Palmer of Chicago, U.S.A.; Eliza Morgan Kipp, Yarmouth Township, Elgin County; Susannah Morgan Arkell, late of St. Thomas, her share being put in trust for the benefit of her children; John Morgan, Twp. of Yarmouth; and Henry Morgan, Twp. of Yarmouth.

On April 2, 1877, the farm was sold by Mr. Morgan's widow, Mary N. Morgan to Mr. Richard Sanders. On the same day the east half of the farm, 50 acres was sold by Mr. Sanders to Mr. Richard Axford. At the time, only the front half of the farm was cleared of woods. Two days later, Richard Axford sold the same tract of land to his son, John H. Axford. Five years later on April 6, 1882, John H. Axford purchased the remaining 50 acres, the west half of the east half of Lot 12, Concession 5 of Yarmouth from Richard Sanders.

This tract of land, 100 acres has remained in the Axford

East Half of Lot 12, Concession 5, Yarmouth

family since. On December 9, 1913, John H. Axford passes away in his 60th year and the farm went to his wife, Annie Hepburn Axford, and farmed by their only son, John Russell Axford. Their only daughter, Ethel married a Dr. Warner and lived in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. She passed away in 1918, a victim of the influenza epidemic, leaving two young daughters, Jane and Anne, now married and living in Sandusky, Ohio and Denver, Colorado, respectively.

About 1919, the original house burned and in 1923 a beautiful brick home was built which still stands. John Russell Axford still lives on the farm, farming jointly with his only son, Robert Norman Axford. Robert Axford married the former Helen Cook and they have two children, John age 7, and Joan age 4.

Mrs. Annie Axford passed away at the age of 87 on June 88, 1947. Mrs. J. Russell Axford passes away in 1949. Besides their son, Robert N., there are four daughters, Mrs. Jack Webster (Bernice) of Edmonton, Alberta; Mrs. Orville Herman, (Margaret) of Lomond, Alberta; and twins, Mrs. Russell Markert, (Jane) of Ensign, Alberta and Mrs. Thomas Tallack, (Jean) of St. Thomas, Ontario.

NORTH HALF LOT 17 CONCESSION 5
COOK BROTHERS
Better Known as "Tansley Farm"

Excerpt from Crown Deed

"Instrument Patent January 3, 1823, Grantor-- Crown to Grantee King's College. Her Majesty Queen Victoria entitled an act to amend the laws relating to University of Toronto by separating its function as a University from those assigned to it as a College by making better provisions for the management of the property thereof, and that of Upper Canada College and whereas under the provisions of the Statute aforesaid "David Buchan" of the City of Toronto Esquire, the Bursar of the University and Colleges at Toronto has been authorized by a commission under the Great Seal of the said Province of Canada to transfer and convey any of the property aforesaid to purchasers and others entitled to receive conveyances thereof that the said "David Buchan" as such Bursar under and by virtue of the said Commission and said Statute and in consideration of the sum of \$500 paid by said John Minard and his heirs forever, the land being North Half of Lot 17, Con. 5."

On March 14, 1889 John Minard sold to James and William Tansley, the North Half of Lot 17, Con. 5 for the sum of \$1725.

William Tansley died in February 1915 intestate. In pursuance of the Short Form of Conveyance Act of the Devolution of Estate Act, Lyman G. Tansley paid off the other heirs--namely: Morley S., Cecil,

John and William Tansley and their wives, Ida, May, Beatrice, and Phoebe Tansley.

Cecil Tansley purchased east half of north half of lot 17 and erected buildings. Lyman Tansley bought west half of north half of lot 17 and adjustments were made with the other heirs namely John, Morley, William and their wives.

On October 20, 1919, Lyman Tansley sold his property to John Tansley. He in turn sold it to James Weir who purchased it under "The Veterans' Land Act." Mr and Mrs. John Tansley then took up residence in Sparta.

It was on March 12, 1953, that Keith and Myles Cook purchased the farm from James Weir and in accordance with the purchases of land from the "Director of Veterans' Land Act" the said purchaser received a deed which was paramount to a Crown Deed.

Since 1953 the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cook and family and later by Mr. and Mrs. David Cook and family. Keith and Myles known as "Pop", and "Joe" owned and operated the farmland.

For some years the "Mouse House" was sadly in need of repair so the owners decided in 1967 to renovate it. It took many days and nights to put in a furnace, a bathroom, new floors, new windows, panelling, papering and painting in order to modernize it as a suitable dwelling. Even the old dirt floor in the basement was eventually covered with concrete so a new washer and dryer could be installed. During this time the old stageparty took place among the saw horses and scraps of wood, paper and sawdust. Often friends and relatives dropped in for a friendly chat,

sometimes giving a helping hand. One night at midnight the boys were surprised to receive a treat of hot coffee and a big homemade pizza pie. This boosted their morals and the finishing touches were added and they were able to meet a deadline in May 1968 when their new tenants moved in, delighted with the finished product.

Later with the completion of a sun porch and storm windows the old house had taken on a new look. During the summer the lawn was kept mowed and the children now frolic in their neat surroundings.

LOT 9, CONCESSION 6, YARMOUTH

-Mrs. Clifton Young-

The home of Clifton and Ila (Mann) Young and their two sons, James Arthur and Wayne Clifton was taken up from the Crown in the year 1849 on January 8 by the late Patrick Brady an Irishman of Catholic faith.

Patrick's children were James, Annie, Michael, Joseph, John and Margaret. Michael was Oxford County parish priest; John settled in Chicago and Margaret whose married name was Caughlin lived in New York, James and Annie remained at home.

In 1884, four years before his death, Patrick deeded to James the west fifty acres with the privilege of cutting 15 cords of wood and 1000 black ash rails and 1000 oak rails per year.

An interesting item of this research was the last will and testament of the late Patrick Brady, who died October 8, 1889, bequeathing to James, the east fifty; he was to pay Annie \$1500. and Margaret Caughlin, \$1000. Bather Michael Joseph had received his education and John was well to do, so the will states they didn't need any. J. B. Davidson still practicing law in the city of St. Thomas was the solicitor for Patrick Brady. The charge for transferring a deed \$1.40.

On August 18, 1898, James Brady then sole owner of the hundred acres, sold to Eliza Doyle for \$6000. in lawful money of Canada, farm, all growing crops, crops in barn, all the wood that was cut and a certain water tank, that was to remain on the premises; subject to a lease thereon, in favor one Richard