

Axford. Eliza kept the farm for five years and sold it to one Wm. Culver and his wife Annie for \$6000 on July 8, 1903. The Culvers had two sons and one daughter.

The new owner farmed it for one year and made \$250 on his bargain and disposed of it to George Buck and his wife Emma Jane of Malahide. The family instinct was strong in these two fine people and not having children of their own, adopted two young daughters. One daughter died while young and the other daughter Eva, married Wm. Rowe and also died at an early age leaving three children. George Buck decided to sell the farm and retire in the city, later going back to Malahide. Mrs. Buck died and later Mr. Buck married Ethel Smale McKenzie, a daughter of John Smale old residents of this community.

James Young, a farmer and lumber merchant from the Muskoka district, looked favorably upon this fine farming land and in the summer of 1907 made an agreement with George Buck to take possession of the farm on March 7, 1908.

The agreement stipulated the following: no timber to be cut, manure to be drawn out, back field summer fallowed, 20 rods of line fence built, weeds cut, ropes, pulleys and all loose lumber to be left on the premises. The price paid \$7200.

In the spring of 1908, James Young and his wife Eliza Bogart Young and their eleven children moved from Muskoka district to Yarmouth to make anew life on the farm, bringing with them, household effects, two carloads of lumber to repair the barns and one of the finest teams of bay horses that were

the pride of the neighbourhood.

Two more children were born to this union making a family of thirteen children, eight sons and five daughters.

James Young and Sons were deeply interested in dairy cattle at one time owning a fine herd of Holstein Friesians and retailing milk to St. Thomas citizens. Mr. Young soon felt the need for more land and in 1919 purchased from the late Edward McCready one hundred acres directly across the road and also bought 50 acres of property in Concession 5 and acres of Doan property in Concession 4.

Over the years the family became scattered owing to their chosen occupations. In the order of their ages--  
Jessie (Mrs. S. Edwards) settled in Simcoe; John in Burk's Falls; Cora (Mrs. D. Radcliff) in Orillia (deceased); Elva (Mrs. G. McWhirter) in London, Ontario; Gertrude, (Mrs. H. Bailey) in St. Thomas, with whom Mrs. Eliza Young now resides. Gowan residing on McCready farm, R. R. # 2; Reginald in St. Thomas; Elmer in Grand Rapids, Michigan (deceased); Verne on a farm on R. R. # 2, St. Thomas; Harvey in Cleveland, Ohio; Clifton the ~~one~~ one remaining member on the home farm; Clarence in Copper Cliff; Marjory (Mrs. B. Gilbert) in London, Ontario. In 1935, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Young celebrated their golden wedding and in March, 1938, Mr. Young passed away at the age of 76.



## HISTORY OF WATSON FARM

A crown grant consisting of two hundred acres, which was Lot 12, Concession 6 of Yarmouth was given to Peter Baby on July 24, 1799. Peter Baby had been a British officer during the American Revolutionary War. For Peter Baby's services to the British government, he was awarded several hundred acres of land in the present day Yarmouth Township. Peter Baby always resided in Detroit.

In 1832, Francis Baby, the son of Peter sold the entire two hundred acres to William Milne. Eleven years later William Milne sold all of Lot 12 to two men, Thomas Anderson and William Forsythe. These men, in 1845 dispensed the two hundred acres intact to Marial T. Moore. At one time, M. J. Moore held the office of mayor in St. Thomas. He also ran a tannery in St. Thomas.

In 1846, two brothers Henry and Lyman Mann journeyed from the United States to settle in the region now known as Elgin County. Lyman Mann, in 1846 bought one hundred acres, which was Lot 12, the east half, from M. J. Moore. Two years later, in 1848, Henry Mann obtained one hundred acres, Lot 12, the west half.

Lyman Mann sold ten acres off the east half to Robert mills. Robert Mills then gave this land to George Mills, who in turn transferred to Ben Mills. Ben Mill's farm is now owned by Allan Doan.

A small log cabin was constructed by Lyman Mann. This cabin was not far from the present day red brich house. Lyman had several children. Unfortunately in 1865, Lyman died, when he was still young, as result of a farm accident at harvest time. Since Lyman's young family were unable to work the farm, his brother Henry Mann took over the management of it. In 1882, Henry Mann purchased Lyman's farm of 90 acres, from Lyman's family, for the sum of \$6,000.00

On the west half of Lot 12, Henry Mann constructed a house and various barns. The house was one of the first brick houses built on the road. The timber for the buildings came from the woods at the back of the farm.

Clearing of the land for crops such as corn and grain continued from Henry Mann's generation up to his great nephew Henry B. Parker's time.

Since Henry Mann had no offspring, Lyman's son Isaac Mann returned to buy his father's property, Lot 12, the east half from Henry Mann. Isaac obtained the 90 acres for \$6,000.00. Around 1899 Isaac Mann enlarged the small frame house on his farm. Red brick was put on the outside of the house.

Isaac Mann did not have any children. He cared for a niece, who was Olivia Mann and a nephew, who was Henry Burton Parker.

In 1897, Henry Mann died, Henry B. Parker, then, purchased Henry Mann's farm of one hundred acres from the executors of the estate for \$4,500.00. Henry Parker built the pig barn and implement shed, He also repaired the horse stable and barns.

Henry B. Parker only had one daughter Vivian. Vivian married Thomas Jones of Dexter in 1923. Vivian and Tom inherited part of Lot 12 the east half and then bought the remainder from Great-Uncle Isaac Mann.

Vivian and Tom Jones repaired the foundation and constructed the cement porch at the back of the red brick house. Tom Jones did general farming until his death in 1937. Vivian continued to farm the two hundred acres for five years. Then Rented the land and buildings until 1944. A cement silo was constructed at the east barns by Vivian Jones in 1943.

In 1940, Vivian Jones purchased the west half of Lot 12 from her father, Henry B. Parker. With this acquisition, Vivian was able to keep the two farms intact.

Roscoe (Jack) Ferguson, a cattle drover, procured both farms from Vivian Parker Jones in 1944. Jack Ferguson drilled a deep well and installed a large water pump on the East half of Lot 12. He built a small sunporch on the red brick house. At the west barns, he paved the barnyard. Jack pastured the farm and kept cattle in the barns.



Roscoe (Jack) Ferguson died in London on Dec. 24, 1957. Stewart C. Brown and Duncan G. Brown, of Shedden, sons of his business partner Stewart A. Brown inherited the farm, which consisted of 190 acres.

McKellar L. (Mac) Watson purchased the west half of Lot 12 less ten acres from D. G. Brown in September, 1963. In the same year, Mac Watson bought the east half of Lot 12 from S. C. Brown. Jay Leonard Kenyon obtained the ten acres of woods off the west half of Lot 12 for \$4,450.00 from D. G. Brown. The original farm of two hundred now consists of one hundred and eighty acres.

McKellar and Marjory (Martyn) Watson came to live in the red brick house in 1964. Their child Luella Watson became the first infant to even be born in the red house. Marjory Watson was the last teacher to work in the neighbourhood school, S. S. #12, from 1967 to 1968.

Since purchasing the farm, Mac Watson has made some renovations to it, Mac completely renovated the red brick house in 1964.

The house was entirely replastered. A bathroom was added in the upstairs. Large, picture windows replace the small ones in the front room. A new forced-air furnace was installed. On the east side of the house, a utility room was built.

A new steel implement barn was erected in 1963. Two large cement silos were constructed at the east and west barns in 1965. All the barns were re-wired for electricity.

The west barns were renovated in 1964. New cement walls and mangers were made in the barns. A year later, the east barns were repaired. Huge stones had been used as the corner foundations under these barns. The barn walls were raised and cement foundations were constructed under them.

The old orchard near the red house was toun out and seeded down with grass. Young trees were planted on this lawn.

In 1967, a cement driveway was built behind the red house. Huge stones, from behind the barns and in the laneway were brought up to the house to create a rock garden.

The fences, in the laneway, leading back to the woods were removed. Now the land, in the lane, and the two other fields have been incorporated into one huge field consisting of 170 workable acres.

This farm has an abundant supply of water. There are nine wells and two cisterns located on the property. At the back of the farm is a plenteous spring. During a summer of drought in the early 30's, neighbours came to fetch water from this spring. There are fifteen buildings of varying size on the property.

McKellar Watson uses the land for cash crop farming. He utilizes the barns for a Beef, calf-cow operation. In this year of 1970, County Road #45 has taken seventeen feet from the back of the farm, to be used for widening the road. The spring-fed well had to be moved back from the new road.

In these changing times for the farmer, it is to be hoped that the productivity of this farm continues for future generations to enjoy and prosper on it.



1969

Written by (Mrs. Mc. Kellar) Marjory Watson



### THE BEN MILLS HOMESTEAD

The north west quarter of Lot 13, Concession 6, Yarmouth, better known as the home of Ben Mills and his wife Annetta Smale Mills, changed ownership many times in the early years.

The Canada Company took it from the Crown in August of 1831, selling it to James Cunningham and Joseph Doan in 1838. In 1843 it was purchased by Martial T. Moore and in 1850 by John McDiarmid, who sold the same to George Paige Mills, the grandfather of Ben Mills in 1851.

The fine old country home with its beautiful row of old willow extending from house to barn has been in the Mills family since that time.

In 1852 Robert Paige Mills and his wife, Sarah Knight Mills moved to this farm. Nine children were born to this union, seven sons and two daughters. One of the sons, Wiltsie died in childhood. Phoebe Ann married John Maynard and Hannah Jane (Jennie) married Stephen Mills of American origin, George, William, Robert, Charles, Andrew and Ben settled in the community.

Robert Paige Mills acquired much land in Concession 6 and 7, parcelling it out to his many sons in 50 acre lots. Charles was the only one to leave the land settling in a house owned by his father on highway #4 in Yarmouth Heights. He followed the art of hardwood finishing until his retirement. Andrew also received a parcel of land in the same vicinity but traded it to Donald and Flora McIntyre as part payment on the farm he

purchased in 1897.

After the death of his father, Ben became the owner of the home farm and with his wife Annetta and three children, William Frederick, Thelma and Lloraine lived there until his death in March, 1936. His mother, Sarah Knight Mills made her home with her son, passing to her reward in December 1916.

William Frederick, died from complications following scarlet fever at the age of twelve years.

In 1943, Mrs. Annetta Mills sold the farm to George Wolfe and retired in the city of St. Thomas with her elder daughter, Thelma (Mrs. P. N. Hillisheim). Lloraine married George Bennett of Ottawa whom she met while practicing her profession of trained nurse in that city.

.....written by Mrs. Russell Axford  
(1967)



FIFTY ACRES, NORTHWEST QUARTER OF LOT 14, CONCESSION 6

- by Miss Frances Ryckman-

In 1799, this farm was bought by Peter Baby from the Crown. In 1826 it was left to his sons, James and Francis Baby, 1831 they sold to John Kirby and the following year 1832 it was sold to John Christie.

In 1833, Francis Baby got it back as he held the mortgage, 1835 it was sold to John Forsythe; 1837 Alexander Pringle was owner; 1840 John Christie was the owner; 1844 James and Joseph Martin, owner; 1848, Henry Mullen owner; 1880 George Small, owner; he had a mortgage sale and his brother Nathan Small took over in 1888. Lochia McLean and sons rented from Nathan Small 1899 to 1904 when Frank Ryckman became owner. The house burned on the farm while Archie McLean was living in it.

A wind storm, June 8, 1906 blew a new barn over that was being raised for a foundation, which was a total wreck, Peter Ryckman is now living on farm, 1955.