

building and upkeep of schools, the ratepayers in S. S. # 17 Yarmouth had to dig down in to their homespun pants and fork over 30 pounds, almost \$150.00 for school purposes. It is worthy of note, that the school tax alone on this property today (1955) is \$383.32. IN (1968) [#]303.81,

Two more children were born to this union, John Alexander in 1885 and Angus Grant in 1892.

On January 12, 1895, J. C. McKenzie purchased from Flora Weir for \$2,250. the south-west half of lot 8, Concession 7, consisting of fifty acres.

The new house was built by R. Sanders St. Thomas the summer of 1903. Price \$2950 + \$32 for a clothes press under the stairs.

The McKenzie and Henderson families were both of Scottish origin. Mr. McKenzie, the eldest of seven children was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, three days after the family landed from Dundee, Scotland.

After a few weeks spent in Pictou, the family moved to Ekfrid township, Middlesex County. The paternal home on the Longwood Road, still stands and is occupied by a member of the family.

Mrs. Isabell McKenzie was born in Port Stanley, one of eight children of James Henderson and Christine McColl. Mr. Henderson for many years was bookkeeper in the grain exchange at the lake-side. As a grain shipping centre, Port Stanley flourished for nearly half a century, doing a great volume of business, when the sailing schooner was still Queen of the Great Lakes. Goods were advertised and merchandise named by the ship that brought them. Here is part of a typical advertisement of A. &

R. Carrie and Co. of 88 years ago--"Ex. S. S. Peruvian, St. Patrick, St. George, and St. Andrew: a large assortment of staple and fancy dry goods, for fall and winter, just arrived, consisting in part of 8 bales grey and white cotton, 2 bales blue denims and striped, one bale white and scarlet flannel, one bale best English blankets, one bale checked and fancy flannel sheeting, one bale lilac print, one case grey lambs coating, one case Scotch and English tweeds, four cases figured wincey, one case of 300 new shawls, one case ladies plush hats, also 1,500 yards best black Lyons silk."

The Port Stanley Mills, which both stored and milled grain for many years, was supplied with power through an aqueduct, under which passed the pioneer road to the lake.

Later the family bought a farm in Delaware township, Middlesex County on the Littlewood Road and continued to reside there until a few years ago. Miss Maria Henderson was the last surviving member of the family. She passed away at the St. Thomas Memorial Hospital on November 21, 1956 at the age of 91 years less 8 days.

In 1905, the South Western Traction Co., built a line from London to Port Stanley and on October 27, 1905, James McKenzie gave the Traction Co., right of way along the west side of his farm; providing the said Company would establish a five cent rate from Concession 6 to St. Thomas.

This electric road operated until ^{4 or} 13 yrs, the land then returned to the farms from whence it came. The old road bed

can still be traced through many of the fields.

On October 11, 12, and 14th, 1912, rural hydro was first shown to Elgin County farmers on this farm and the farm of Alex Anderson, on the Old Port Stanley Gravel Road.

The demonstrations planned by Sir Adam Beck, drew ^A large attendances, and no doubt some doubting Thomases, for don't forget, hydro on the farm was virtually unthought of forty years ago.

Farmers' wives who attended the demonstrations along with hundreds of St. Thomas women, found special interest, by an expert of electrical household appliances of that day. Toast, tea and coffee was prepared on those appliances and served the spectators. Electric vacuum cleaners, washing machines and bed warmers, ranges, etc. created much interest.

At the McKenzie farm, they filled silo with hydro electric power, all went well until dinnertime, when the ladies were ready to serve the meat, which was being roasted in the electric range, it was found to be in a very rare state and had to be finished in the wood oven. Hydro has been perfected in the last ⁵¹ forty years and today our automatic ovens are most dependable. HYDRO WAS INSTALLED HERE SEP. (1930)

While attending the demonstrations on the farm, Sir Adam Beck took a liking to a couple of young jumpers in the pasture. These he purchased from McKenzie Bros. and sold later at a handsome figure to an English riding stable.

From 1897 to 1916, the milk delivery wagons of Spring

Creek Dairy farm were a familiar sight on the streets of St. Thomas. It has always been a dairy farm, but since 1916 has done a wholesale business first with the old Western Dairy and later years with Silverwoods Ltd.

James McKenzie was a staunch Conservative, greatly interested in all civic affairs, and during the parliamentary regime of the late Andrew Brower, acted as Justice of the Peace. Old copies of statutory laws of Ontario for 1905 to 1908 are still in the family's possession.

The family were Presbyterians by faith. For 26 years James C. McKenzie was an elder in Knox Church, St. Thomas. He answered his call at a preparatory service in the church on October 1, 1909.

Donald McKenzie married Iza Louella Baker, September 1, 1909, and Mary (Mae) married Vernon Freeman on September 27, 1911.

John Alexander and Angus Grant carried on under the name McKenzie Bros. for many years. In 1912 they purchased from the late John Martin, Lot/O, Con. 7 and proceeded to farm both farms until a division was made. On September 1, 1921, John married Reka Watson of Frome and took up residence on the east farm. Angus remained on the homestead. On April 19th, 1922, Angus was married to Clara Mills Windsor, three children were born to this marriage--Jack Mills McKenzie who is married to Margaret Lankin of St. Thomas and resides on the homestead; Clara Marion McKenzie is married to Donald C. McKenzie residing

in St. Thomas; Donna Ruth, dying at the age of eight months on September 15, 1930.

Pilot Andrew Windsor, a step-son age 28 years, gave his life in World War Two, while testing an "Anson" bomber over St. John's, Quebec, leaving a young wife, Katherine Pugh Windsor and a daughter, Sylvia Windsor four years of age. ^{FEB. 27 (1943)} David Earl Windsor, a second step-son married Joy Cook of New Sarum and they reside in St. Thomas.

On June 18, 1948, Spring Creek Dairy Farm was changed to Grey Manor Farms, it being requested by the Holstein Friesian Association that farm names be registered for the convenience of cattle registration.

LOT 9, CONCESSION 7 - 100 acres

Yarmouth Township

OWNERS - James Gowan Young and Marguerite (Teeple) Young

This farm is part of the 5000 acres in the Township of Yarmouth given to the Honourable James Baby from the Crown as a reward for faithful political service, several years before Colonel Thomas Talbot received his grants. The story is that Colonel Talbot wanted Yarmouth lands but no more was available in this area, thus Dunwich Township was his second choice of settlement headquarters.

The father of James (Jacques) Baby came to Canada in 1665, settled in the Detroit-Windsor area. James Baby played an important role in the early government of the Province of Upper Canada, he was Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kent and member of his Majesty's Executive Council in the Province of Upper Canada, received a Crown deed lot in 1797 in the Town of Sandwich, a house in Amherstburg still bears the name "James Baby House."

This is just a bit of background history of why the name "Baby" is familiar in this area.

The Crown Deed Patent for this farm is dated July 21, 1799 in the name of the Honourable James Baby, Middlesex County. According to records at the Elgin County Registry Office, on July 5, 1823, James Baby sold or transferred to John Strachan, who was scouting this area for land to build schools.

Let us pause from ownership of this farm to learn about John Strachan, later Bishop Strachan of York.

A man of intense convictions, John Strachan was the kind of person who made fiercely loyal friends and adamant opponents. Son of Scottish Presbyterian foreman who was opposed to higher education for his boy, John Strachan, by dint of his own wit and perserverence, worked his way through university. At the age of twenty, he answered a notice requesting a teacher for the sons of the militiamen stationed at Kingston, Upper Canada. From the time of his arrival, in 1799 until his death in 1867, revered and highly influential Anglican Bishop, he was a moving force in a rugged pioneer community. As a teacher in Cornwall, he introduced his famous monitoring system, in which the students assisted in the instruction process. As a clergyman (he was ordained in 1804), he sought and received the position of rector of York, since he felt that the post would provide scope for his ambition. York was a cluster of wooden houses when he arrived in 1812 but as a governing seat it grew quickly. John increased in power with it, but always used his influence with great charity and responsibility. This is evident from a glance of his major activities, superintendent of school and developer of a co-ordinated programme of education through Upper Canada, instigator of a veteran's relief fund and a hospital, founder of a University to train Anglican clergy, first Bishop of Toronto and influential member of the Executive Council.

With his busy life, records do not show that he farmed his land, but on one occasion when in this area, he baptized a

daughter of Jeffrey and Jane Hunter - Colonel Talbot's faithful retainers.

June 26, 1834, show Thomas Clarke, William Allan and John Strachan appearing as executors for Honourable James Baby and the deed again in the name of James F. Baby.

August 31, 1836, James F. Baby selling the 100 acres to Michael MacNamara.

January 11, 1862, Michael MacNamara, Catherine E. and Raymond Baby sold to Mitchell H. Broom, who was a relative of the late Mitchell Hepburn.

March 23, 1863, Mitchell Broom sold to Daniel Parish who built the present house.

November 1, 1909, Daniel Parish sold to Everard McCredie who farmed it until 1919, when he sold it to James W. Young who was at this time living across the road since 1908 with seven sons still at home and he felt the need to have more land to provide for the growing family. The family moved to this farm and operated four milk routes in St. Thomas until pasteurizing of milk became law, selling out to the then Western Dairy, St. Thomas. A few years later, part of the family moved back across the road leaving Gowan, Reginald, Elmer and Verne on this property. Reg leaving to make railroading his career, Elmer decided farming was not for him and left to make a living in the bright lights of American cities. Gowan and Verne remained partners until 1943, when the deed was transferred to the present owners, Gowan and Marguerite (Teepie)

Young, who are still following the occupation of cash crop farming. The Ontario Water Resources Commission has rights at the east line fence, south to north for 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres for the Lake Erie Pipe Line. The name of this farm is "Hilltop Farm".

Gowan and Marguerite Young are the parents of one daughter, Claire Dunan who resides at 26 Forest Ave., St. Thomas with her husband, Robert Malcolm Dunan and one son, James who resides with his wife Janice (a native of Australia) at 10 Dieppe Drive, St. Thomas, with their two daughters, Maribeth Marie age three and Jocie Anne, one month.

Although this farm has not had too many owners, it is felt that there is a good deal of history connected with Lot 9, Concession 7, Yarmouth Township.

-Compiled and written by

(Mrs. Gowan) Marguerite Young,

February, 1972.