

system, and perhaps best of all, inside plumbing. Bill also built up a splendid Holstein herd. The name used in registering the cattle became the name of the farm, "Bo-Gar", after Bob and Gary, the two sons who literally grew up in the barn, stables and fields, beside their father whom they dearly loved.

Bill, asking nothing more of life than to live and work on his farm with his wife and all his children near at hand, and friends to come and go at will, lived till August 13, 1960, when the disease took its toll.

Now, Gary and wife Betty manage the farm, and it is now their life to maintain the Walters standards and traditions. Bessie Walters, Bill's "Becky", lives in an annex built to the west of the hundred year old colonial brick house. When it became known that Bill's years were numbered, Bessie to protect what she and Bill had worked so hard to build, took up her teaching profession again, and is still teaching in the Jaffa school, some seven miles from Yarmouth Centre.

...written April, 1964....

January 1980

SOUTH-EAST QUARTER LOT 15 CONCESSION SEVEN

YARMOUTH TOWNSHIP

"BROADVIEW" ... THE WALTERS' FARM

On July 24, 1799, the Crown granted lot 15, concession 7, 200 acres to Honourable James Baby (pronounced Baw Bee), which formed a meagre portion of the total 5,000 acres in Yarmouth he received "for faithful political service".

James Baby had played an important role in the early government of the Province of Upper Canada ... he was Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kent, and a member of His Majesty's Executive Council ... George III being sovereign of England at the time.

Baby was a resident of Sandwich, receiving a crown deed to a lot there in 1797. A house in Amherstburg still bears the name "James Baby House".

The land in Yarmouth Township which was deeded to Baby was to be utilized for immigration sale and settlement.

July 5, 1823, the land was placed on the "Clergy Reserves" with the Honourable John Strachan in charge. By this time, George IV was King of England.

May 18, 1846, by the will of James Baby, the son of the Honourable James Baby, the farm went to Charles Baby, who in October of the same year, sold 200 acres, lot 15 to Abraham Newcombe. In turn, in November 1846, Mr. Newcombe sold the south half, comprising 100 acres, to Matthew Penhale.

This land was a part of Middlesex County until 1851, when the area south of the Thames River was made into a separate county, and named Elgin after the Governor. Victoria was now Queen of England, following William IV.

Matthew Penhale, son of Richard Penhale, arrived in Canada from Devon, England in 1831 with his parents, two sisters, later Mrs. A. Miller, and Mrs. James Cole, and his two brothers Thomas and John. The senior Mr. Penhale operated a blacksmith shop for a short time, before acquiring property on the Edgeware Road. The Penhales settled in this area along with other families who had shared the boat with them on the voyage from England, namely the Gilberts,

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

Westlakes, and Andrews.

The assessment rolls indicate that in 1858, Matthew Penhale, age 33 years, was owner and occupant. In 1868, he remained as owner and occupant, with four members recorded as being in the family. Livestock included sixteen cattle, forty-five sheep, eight hogs, two dogs, and four horses. Militia service recorded shows James White, first class, and Matthew Penhale and Wm. Roe as second class. Messers White and Roe no doubt being the hired hands on the farm.

The 1877 Historical Atlas of Elgin County shows a "farm house" situated in the south-west corner of lot 15, as well as one located near the orchard farther to the east.

December 24, 1895, Matthew Penhale sold the farm to his brother Thomas for the sum of \$8,000 (100 acres @ \$80).

According to the assessment roll for 1895, "Thomas Dymond Walters and his brother John Henry Walters, known as Jack, were the residents and tenants of lots 15 and 16, the owner being Matthew Penhale. The value of the land was set at \$6,800, there were 120 acres of cleared land, 60 acres of woodland, 18 acres of fall wheat planted, and 21 acres occupied by orchard and garden. Livestock noted on the roll read, 5 horses".

A receipt for taxes paid to the Corporation of the Township of Yarmouth, September 1895, in the amount of \$62.70, covering 180 acres of lots 15 and 16 is in my possession. It is assumed that payment of the taxes on the land was all, or part of, the tenants' liability, as the tax notice was issued in the tenants' names.

Now for a little background on the Walters' family:

Thomas D. Walters was born in Cornwall, England on June 9, 1864, the eldest son of Richard Hawke Walters and Jane Dymond Walters. On April 5, 1892, he married Ann Lemon Halls in Northill Church, Cornwall, England, and brought his bride to Canada on their honeymoon. Accompanying them on the trip were two brothers, William and Jack, and their sister Ann, known as Annie. Several years previously, Thomas, William, and Jack had travelled to Canada, and lived in St. Thomas while being employed on the Canada Southern Railway. After returning to their homeland, the decision to return to Canada, and the opportunities the country afforded, was made.

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

Thomas and his wife Ann farmed for R.A. (Alfred, known as "Alf") Penhale on the Edgeware Road. Alf was a nephew of Matthew Penhale. William Walters also worked for the Penhale family for a short time, while Jack was employed by James Westlake of the same area. Sister Annie was able to find work, and make her home with the Gilbert family also of Edgeware Road.

Thomas and Ann became the parents of two daughters while they lived on the Edgeware Road, namely Bessie Aleta (Mrs. William Matthews, presently of Valleyview Home, St. Thomas) and Hazel Jane (Mrs. George Matthews, 96 Moore St., St. Thomas).

In 1895, Thomas, Ann, their two small daughters, and Jack Walters took up residence on lot 15, concession 7, occupying the frame farm home, part of which still remains on the same site.

According to information obtained from the Regional Assessment Office, the present house was built in the year 1890. It was a double-boarded frame two-storey, L shaped dwelling, facing the sixth concession road, to the south. Two large windows to the south framed the front door, with a stairway immediately inside the door leading to the second floor. Upstairs were two large bedrooms. On the main floor were two parlors, one to each side of the stairway, with bedrooms to the north. A large kitchen, the width of the house, had doors leading outside to the east, and to the woodshed to the west. A narrow passageway to the north of the kitchen, had a doorway leading to the stairs to a rear bedroom, also a stairway to the "high cellar". The cellar was divided into two sections, dubbed the "high cellar" and the "low cellar". The high cellar was located under the north summer kitchen, and was used to store vegetables, apples etc., the ceiling being "standing height" as recalled by a daughter of Thomas. The low cellar boasted a brick floor, and an outside entrance to the east, located under the centre portion of the house. The summer kitchen was the most northerly room of the dwelling.

The first barn was constructed in 1900, possibly a section of the red barn that is still in use. This was, in earlier years, the horse barn, the buggies being driven into the south end, with the horse stables and box stalls to the north end. There was the usual hay loft above, for the storage of hay and straw.

The records of the assessment roll reveal that, in

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

1898, the tenants included Thomas, Jack, and George Henry Walters, their brother who had recently arrived from England with his parents, Richard H., and Jane D. Walters, and his four sisters.

George, being a bachelor, occupied the small, second-storey bedroom to the north-west of the passageway.

Thomas and Ann claimed the east parlor and bedroom on the main floor, while their children, namely Aleta, Hazel, Richard Edwin (later a farmer of the Talbotville area, deceased 1963), and Ella Mable (former owner of Ella's Beauty Shop, presently of 19 Ryerson Pl., St. Thomas), slept in the bedrooms upstairs over the south portion of the house.

In 1898, Jack married Jennie L. Cramer, a native of Malone, New York, who was employed by the James Westlake family of North Yarmouth. Jack and Jennie occupied the large parlor and two bedrooms on the west side of the main floor of the home.

With the addition to the family of a brother, a new baby, and a new sister-in-law, 1898 saw the farm homestead being lived in to the fullest!

The three families shared the huge kitchen, the focal point being the long pine table at which everyone sat to eat, seated on the sides on long pine benches.

January 8, 1903, Thomas Penhale sold the farm to his son Matthew Henry Penhale, for the sum of \$10,000. Edward VII was now on the throne of England.

Three more daughters and two more sons blessed the family of Thomas and Ann, namely, Hilda Annie (Mrs. Robert Blakley, 23 Dunkirk Dr., St. Thomas), William Edgar (Farmer of the sixth concession, deceased 1960), Edna Caroline (R.N., married to Herbert Evans, St. Thomas, deceased 1974), and John Halls who died in infancy.

Gradually, more buildings were constructed on the farm. West of the horse barn, the Walters built a pig pen which even had an upstairs and to the south of this barn stood the corn crib. Farther to the north of the pig barn was the granary barn, running in a north-south direction. The grain was stored here and the seed cleaned by use of the fanning mill, for planting in the spring. Daughters of Thomas and Ann recall many friendly games of tag being

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

executed in this barn.

North of the horse barn was constructed a cattle barn, situated in an east-west direction. The barnyard was located in between the two buildings. A large cement watering trough still stands as a reminder of the days when cattle drank there in the yard. Box stalls lined the west side of this barn, with the cows housing the east half. It was the responsibility of each of the three families to milk one-third of the herd of forty-five Durham cattle. The Durham was a red cow, resembling the present-day Shorthorn in size and build.

The milk was delivered daily to the Morrison Cheese Factory, situated on the next road north, lot 16, concession eight. At that time, a road ran to the north from the seventh concession road to the Talbot Road, between the woodlot and what is today the St. Thomas Municipal Airport property, and passed directly in front of the cheese factory.

To the north-east of the present garage there were two buildings, a hog pen and a work shop. It was in this work shop where one of Thomas's sons diligently lodged a cat in a vice which was attached to the work bench, then he coaxed his younger sister to release the distraught animal!

The children of the family each had chores assigned with regard to age and ability. They could barely wait their turn to learn to milk a cow correctly, for which accomplishment their father paid the successful student the tidy sum of 50¢. Making the task of learning to milk more pleasurable, was the thought in the back of the mind, that while the child was receiving instruction, another sister or brother would have to pinch-hit and perform the student's regular chores for him.

Sources of water on the farm included a well in the field a short distance to the west of the present location of the old cement watering trough; a well at the south-west corner of the horse barn; a cistern at the north-east corner of the house; a dug shallow well at the south-east corner of the house; and a spring-fed well, located on lot 16, used to water the cattle which were pastured in the field.

At the mention of wells and watering troughs, etc., the story was related how the elder son was sent to water the cattle in the far east field one day. The water was pumped, by hand, from the spring-fed well into a trough. Little "sis" tagged along, to keep her brother company.

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

Upon arriving at the trough, the boy threw a chip of wood into it and offered, in all his brotherly generosity, to let his sister have the first turn pumping water, the deal being that when she had pumped enough water to cover the chip of wood, he would take over and fill the trough. It took a while, and some eager pumping before sis discovered how, once again, she had been tricked!

And then, there was the time when the big bull was to be sold. The children were warned to stay out of the way while the men blindfolded the bull and tied ropes around it to lead it away. Up in the hay loft the children perched to get a good view of the proceedings, when all of a sudden the bull became angered and charged into the side of the very barn they were using as refuge! There were even visions of the bull getting after them, as high up as they were. When the ordeal was over, down came some very shaken little folks, who wished they had returned much earlier to the comfort and security of the house!

The soil on the farm is clay-loam. Wheat, corn, oats, and barley were the crops grown during the earlier years. At harvest time, the corn would be "stooked" in the field, to be husked later, by hand, by local Indians who were hired for this time-consuming chore. Some of the corn was transported to town for grinding into feed, while the remainder was stored "on the cob" in the corn crib, to be fed to the pigs.

A few chickens were kept to supply eggs and poultry for the large family. The orchard, east of the house, brought forth the following scrumptious varieties of apples: spies, greenings, snows, russets, Baldwins and Spitzenbergs ... "a beautiful red apple covered with white dots, the flavour resembling that of a spy". Many batches of applesauce, apple-sauce cakes, and apple pies were produced from the bountiful harvest the orchard afforded. No doubt, the occasional keg of cider was uncorked also! I would be remiss, when mentioning the applesauce, not to mention the favourite delicacy served along with this dessert, Devonshire Cream. This topping was made by simmering a shallow pan of milk, unpasteurized, on the back of the cook stove, and skimming off the thickened cream, which was then left to cool before serving. I've been told it was absolutely delicious, but is impossible to duplicate today using pasteurized milk and an electric stove.

Another recipe of her mother's that Ann Walters brought with her from England is one which has been used and trea-

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

sured down through the generations, and is definitely a favourite in our home, namely, 'Appy Jack, a currant bun.

Meat was butchered on the farm, dried, cured, and stored. Lard was rendered from the pork fat. The hooks used for hanging the cured meats were only removed from the kitchen ceiling recently, when a new suspended tile ceiling was installed.

The women in the family made soft soap from fat, rinds, bones, and hardwood ashes from the stoves; the leech used was located just outside the east kitchen door of the house. Also, among the many routine chores was the churning of butter for the family.

Ann Walters was an excellent seamstress, deftly fashioning the clothing for her children, right down to the boys' trousers.

The three eldest daughters, and the eldest son in the family attended school regularly, walking the distance to the red brick school on number three highway, lot 10, concession nine, later to be known as "the red school", and presently, "Centennial School". Ella remembers vividly stopping at a neighbour's for help when her feet froze on the long trek home one winter's day! The children always went off to school armed with lunch pails brimming with wholesome, nutritious food, packed by a loving mother.

In April 1907, Matthew H. Penhale and his wife sold the south half, 100 acres lot 15, and the west half of the south half, 50 acres, lot 16 to the Walters brothers, Thomas, Jack, and George, for the sum of \$9,700, slightly more than \$64 per acre. In October of the same year, the west corner lot, one acre, was registered to the Board of Public School Trustees, S.S.#12, School. The price paid was \$150.

In September 1907, a white brick school was opened on the corner one-acre lot of lot 15 and Yarmouth Centre Side-road. This was a real treat for the children in the community to have a school house so close to home.

In 1910, George H. Walters married Maude Mary Hocking, an English school teacher who was living in St. Thomas with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hocking. George V was King of England at this time.

The Walters families continued to farm together and share the same household until 1917. March 1, 1917, the

January 1980 SE 1/4 LOT 15 CONC. 7 YARMOUTH

brothers dissolved their partnership, with Thomas being granted the south-west fifty acres, lot 16, George retaining the south-east quarter lot 15, fifty acres, and Jack receiving the south-west quarter lot 15, forty-nine acres.

At this time, the south part of lot 15 became identified as the south-east and south-west quarters, and has remained as such to this day.

Thomas sold his portion of the farms to John Archie R. McLean, the father of Charles McLean, presently of the sixth concession, and purchased the 100 acre farm lot 13, concession 7, south part, the present home of his grandson Richard Gary "Steve" Walters, and his wife Betty (Tapsell) and their family.

Jack had the house separated, and moved the front half to its present location on the south-west quarter lot 15, presently the home of Casper Vandebroek, his wife Marie, and their family.

With the use of horses and the assistance of friends relatives, and neighbours, the house was rolled on huge logs across the field to the chosen site. Jennie had even left her good china in the sideboard, and believe it or not, according to an eye witness, not a single dish was damaged!

The granary barn was also moved over to Jack's farm, and with some alterations became the main barn, complete with barn bridge.

In the meantime, George had the west section and the second storey constructed on the remaining portion of the house, and continued to farm the property, and raise a herd of beef cattle. In 1920, an addition was added to the red horse barn, It is probable that some of the older barns were dismantled at this time also.

Following the death of his wife in 1936, George lived alone except for a brief period when a nephew and his wife made their home with him, namely Mr. and Mrs. Richard Minor.

It was brought to my attention that George felt keenly his duty as a good citizen, as illustrated by the time when he had been called for jury duty ... it was in the earlier years when good roads as we have come to know them, did not exist. Following an ice storm, George