

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

pulled a heavy pair of socks on over his boots, and sporting "two stout sticks", set out on foot for the Court House in St. Thomas. He arrived on time, and in good health, and performed his duty diligently.

In his later years, George rented the farm to his nephew William E. Walters, and his sons Bob and Steve, who grew soybeans and corn on part of the farm, and pastured Holstein heifers on the remainder.

Due to ill health and advancing age, George sold the farm on October 15, 1958 to his great-nephew W. Robert Walters and his wife, Helen Jeanette (Campbell), and went to make his home with his niece Mrs. Herbert Evans (Edna Walters), and Mr. Evans in St. Thomas, until his death in 1963. George and Maude had no children.

Elizabeth II was now Queen of England, following her father George VI.

The buildings on the homestead in 1958 included the house, a garage, the horse barn, and the pig pen.

The fence enclosing the front yard and the gate across the laneway were removed. Eventually all fences enclosing the eight-acre fields were removed to facilitate the maneuverability of the larger farm machinery of the present day.

A few improvements were made to the house immediately; a bathroom was installed in the downstairs west bedroom, located off of the kitchen and a kitchen sink was installed under the west kitchen window, thus bringing indoor plumbing into the home. A shallow well pressure system was hooked up to the cistern at the north-east corner of the house for the tap water, and the drinking water was brought in by the pail full from the dug well at the south corner of the house.

The old kitchen cook stove was removed from its stately position, and the stove pipe hole in the chimney sealed, ending an era.

A wood and coal gravity furnace was installed in the basement. It was such a monstrosity that it had to be dismantled to be brought into the basement, and rebuilt once in position.

The telephone had been installed many years earlier, the exact date was not available. Hydro was also in use,

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

but had been installed as late as the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Cupboards formerly lining the pantry off of the kitchen were dismantled, and the lumber used to construct new, sturdy, built-in cupboards in the kitchen, thereby closing off the pantry doorway. This left five doors leading off of the kitchen. The same kitchen cupboards are still in use, having received a face-lifting in 1978. The original wainscoting remains on the kitchen walls.

The summer kitchen and pantry were used as storage rooms until recently, when the summer kitchen was renovated into a cozy den. A corner window was installed in this room replacing an easterly window, and a northerly door which had been closed in previously to facilitate the application of insul-shake siding to the exterior of the house. A long cement step, which ran the full width of the house along the north wall was also demolished.

Heifers were pastured on the farm for several years, and sheep were raised for a brief period. At the present time, Bob has a small farrow to finish hog operation, and the crops cultivated are corn and soybeans. Bob is also employed as parts manager for a local farm equipment dealer.

In 1963 a deep well was drilled a few feet south of the house, bringing forth an abundant supply of pure water at a depth of 216 feet. Thus ended the days of carrying the drinking water in from outside by the pail full.

\$14,000 worth of elm timbers were harvested from the farm in the early 1900's, much to the displeasure of Thomas Penhale, considering the fact that his son Matthew H. had paid only \$10,000 for the farm! The apple orchard to the east of the house, having out-lived its usefulness, was bulldozed out and the land is now under cultivation. The black currant bushes we discovered to the west of the house in 1958, are still there, and bearing fruit. The peonies also have survived the times, and are enjoyed in each new season.

A beautiful horse chestnut tree immediately west of the house eventually fell prey to the elements, and was uprooted. The stately poplars lining the west side between the house and the pig pen succumbed to disease. Many trees have been planted through the last twenty-one years, some successfully, many not. Maple, ash, oak, and spruce are a few which have survived. Old cedars, weary from prevalent

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

west winds of many many years are gradually disappearing from the south section of the property.

The days of such things as the threshing machine, fanning mill, work horses, and milking cows by hand are far behind us. The advances of scientific technology have thrust upon us many conveniences and a huge assortment of complicated farm implements. The passing of the years brings changes, most of which are classified under the category "progress". Be this as it may, I found the following comparisons very interesting:

taxes 1907 200 acres	\$122.77	1959 50 ac.	\$244.80	1979 50 ac.	\$597.31
hogs sold	1959 \$25/100 lbs.	1979	\$62.50/100 lbs.		
soybeans sold	1959 \$1.74/bu.	1979	\$8.02/bu.		
seed soybeans	1959 \$2.25/bu.	1979	\$11/bu.		
corn sold	1959 \$.74½/bu.	1979	\$3.02/bu.		
seed corn	1959 \$10.00/bu.	1979	\$50/bu.		
fertilizer	1959 \$51/ton	1979	\$200/ton		

used milk cans purchased to be used in 1960 cost \$2.25 each, in 1980 buyers pay as much as \$40 each, as a collector's item!

Present structures on the farm, January 1980 include the farm homestead, as remodelled in 1917; the horse barn as renovated in 1920, with some changes having been made to the interior in the last ten years; a frame garage; and a wire corn crib, which was erected recently.

Our family includes our son, Robert John, employed by Ford Motor Co., Talbotville, married to Mary Ann Grace Aquilina, and residing in St. Thomas, and our two daughters, residing at home, Dana Joanne, employed by Singer Controls, St. Thomas, and Denise Elizabeth, a student at Parkside Collegiate Institute, St. Thomas.

Since 1958, with the exception of five years, following 1962, when Bob's employment dictated that we reside elsewhere we have endeavoured to live our lives to the fullest while raising our family within the walls of our ancestors' homestead.

Written by

Jeanette Walters
(Mrs. W. Robert)



Threshing at W.E. "Bill" Walters' farm S $\frac{1}{2}$, Lot 13, Conc. 7, Yarmouth.
Front-Bill's son, W. Robert "Bob" Walters (Front) Mait Muir-pitching sheaves (hired man); Charles "Toby" Ryckman, pitching sheaves of oats from wagon into threshing machine. Tractor is 1944 John Deere "B"



Same scene as in above picture. Same people. Peter Ryckman standing on wagon to right with bags of threshed grain. Note Perfect straw stack!



Threshing at W.E. "Bill" Walters' farm S $\frac{1}{2}$, Lot 13,
Conc. 7, Yarmouth.



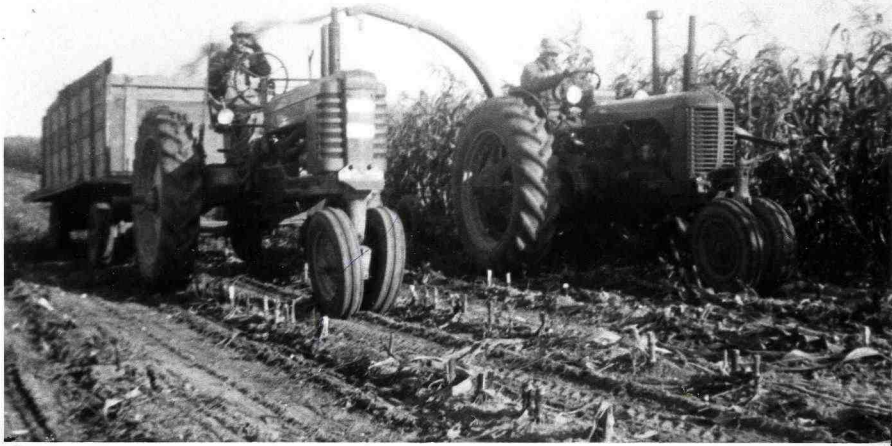
Threshing at W.E. "Bill" Walters' farm S $\frac{1}{2}$, Lot 13,
Conc. 7, Yarmouth.



Threshing Machine- - Charles Ryckman



Bill Walters driving tractor. Bob Walters operating grain binder, on George H. Walters' farm. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 15, Conc. 7, Yarmouth Twp.--approximate time, mid 1950's. Tractor 1951 John Deere "B".



Cutting corn in field for silo (corn ensilage). Mait Muir driving tractor. Charles Ryckman, driving tractor cutting corn. Lot 13, Conc. 7, Yarmouth Township.



Unloading wagonload of corn into silo. Man facing-unknown, Ab. Richardson and Ed Merritt.



Cutting corn in field for silo (corn ensilage).
Mait Muir driving tractor. Charles Ryckman,
driving tractor cutting corn. Lot 13, Conc. 7,
Yarmouth Township.