

THE NELSON FARM



Buildings on the farm owned by Dirk Schuurman in 1972

The farm on the north parts of Lot 6 and 7, Concession 10, Bayham was originally two farms.

Lot 7 was taken from the Crown in 1835 by Eve Depeel, who in 1836 sold the 75 acres from the north end of the lot to Michael Depeel. Michael Depeel in 1843 sold to Wm. Cheeseman. In 1854 Benjamin Dean, who owned Lot 6, sold to Wm. Cheeseman 10 acres from the north-east corner of lot 6. This 10 acres was the same depth as his 75 acres in lot 7 making him an 85 acre farm.

In 1872 Wm. Cheeseman sold to Enoc Brown, who was of the Brown family after whom the Village of Brownsville was named. In 1881 Enoc Brown bought from Thomas Weaver the 50 acre farm which was the north west part of lot 6 and next to his 85 acre farm. The buildings on the fifty acres faced the road north of Corinth and were about 50 rods south of the Dereham Bayham townline. This transaction made a 135 acre farm which Enoc Brown sold to his son Edward Brown in 1882. This farm was rented out for some years as the 85 acres had been.

Edward Brown moved the buildings from Lot 6 to Lot 7. The front part of the house on lot 7 was built about 1877. The back part was moved from lot 6.

Mixed farming was the order of the day at the time Edward Brown owned this farm. He raised horses, cattle, sheep and hogs and grew considerable alsike seed. He had a clover huller, as it was called, which was a special thresher for small seed, which he used for threshing his own seeds as well as for others. Edward Brown's son, Enoc Brown, taught school at Corinth school for some time.

In 1915 Edward Brown sold to G.L. Nelson. The farmers at this period were turning more to dairy. Canadian Milk Products had built a factory at Brownsville to powder milk, the first in Canada, and with the cheese factories already established there was more market for milk. The dairy barn was built in 1926. This was the wet fall. Threshing in the neighbourhood did not finish until well on in October and silo filling finished on this farm after the ground was frozen on December 11, 1926.



The farm buildings viewed from a field



Cutting grain with a binder

57
JUL



A field of grain being stooked in 1957 - the last year threshing was done on this farm

G. L. Nelson sold the farm in 1946 to his son Walter Nelson. This was the period of greatest change on this and other farms - horses to tractors, threshers to combines, the end of the changing work for the neighbours. This farm was now a dairy farm, with stable cleaner, bulk milk tank, etc.

In 1969 Walter Nelson sold to Dirk Schuurman.

Written by Walter Nelson
1972.



Retirement home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nelson



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nelson - 1972



Home of Mr. & Mrs. Duaine Nelson -
built on a lot given to them by
Walter Nelson from his farm.



Mrs. Duaine Nelson (Alice Campbell)
and daughter Katie

FERGUSON & HEVENOR FARM



This farm consisting of 75 acres, Lot 9, Concession 10, township of Bayham was taken from the Crown by Frederick Best and then sold to William & Casper Best, later taken over by Casper Best.

After the death of Casper Best, William George Lindsay, having married Casper Best's widow, became owner of the said property in 1890.

In 1914 this property was purchased by George W. Lindsay, son of the former owner. He remodelled the house in 1914 and built a new barn in 1920.

In 1929 25 acres of Lot 9 and 10, Concession 11 was purchased making total acreage of 100 acres.

In 1937 George Lindsay sold this farm to his son Ernest A. Lindsay, who was owner until 1943 then selling it to Orrie Ferguson. During his ownership hydro was installed.

Orrie Ferguson, the new owner, built a new silo in 1944 and in 1952 the house was remodelled as it is to-day. Pressure system was installed and a new bathroom put in. About this time also the 25 acres of lot 9 and 10, Concession 11 was sold to Roy Green leaving 75 acres again in the farm.



Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Hevenor's home

In 1960 a new house was built just to the west of the present house by Ivan Hevenor, a son-in-law of the Ferguson's, who later went into partnership with the farm. They bought 100 acres across the road from the present farm in Dereham township, better known as the Lloyd Smith farm.



Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Whitesell home

The house on this farm being occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Whitesell. Mrs. Whitesell is the former Elaine Ferguson.

In 1962 a new well was put down on the 75 acres. Dairying and beef are the main products of these farms and the crops of oats, hay and corn are grown.



Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Whitesell & Shelley



Mr. and Mrs. Orrie Ferguson's home



Orrie and Blanche Ferguson



Ivan, Jill, Donna and Robyn Hevenor

THE BEST FAMILY FARM

A Century Farm

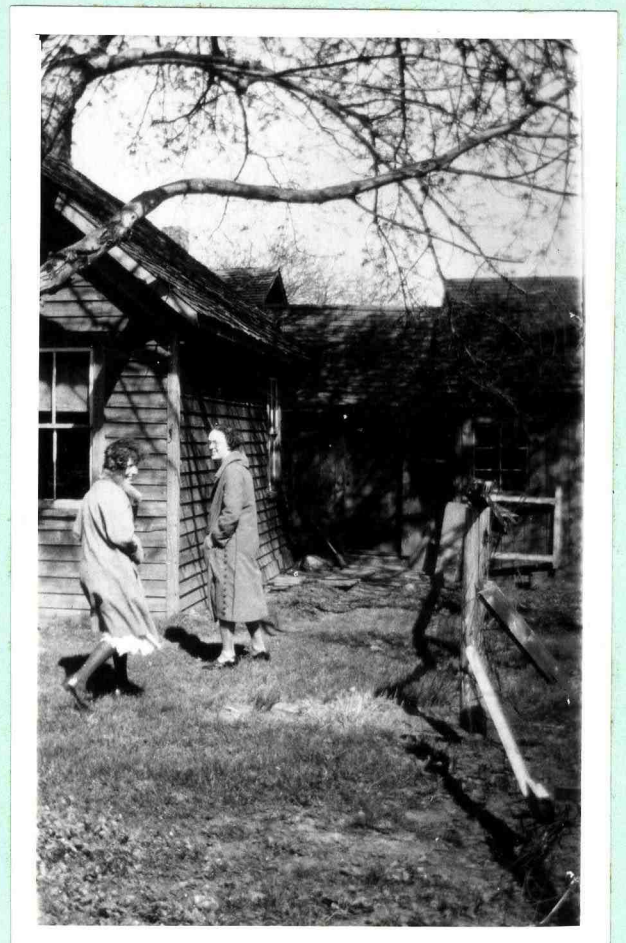
This farm consisting of one hundred acres was purchased from the crown on September 20, 1848 by Frederick Best for the sum of fifty pounds. It consisted of 75 acres in lots 9 and 10, Concession 10 and 25 acres in Lot 11, Concession 12.



Mr. & Mrs. William Best

After his death his son William Best became the owner of the 75 acres and Martha Best, a daughter, the 25 acres. At this time there was a house on the 25 acres and the remains of a well are still there.

In 1899 at Williams Best's death the farm was left to his son Cornelious who was owner until 1924. During his lifetime a new pig barn was erected. After his death the farm was left to his wife Elizabeth Best who was owner until 1940 when at her death it was taken over by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Green, Mrs. Green being a daughter of the late Mrs. Best. In 1947 the main barn was raised and a wall put under it.



Original Farm House



Elizabeth (Bessie) Best, Lena Green



Mr. & Mrs. Roy Green

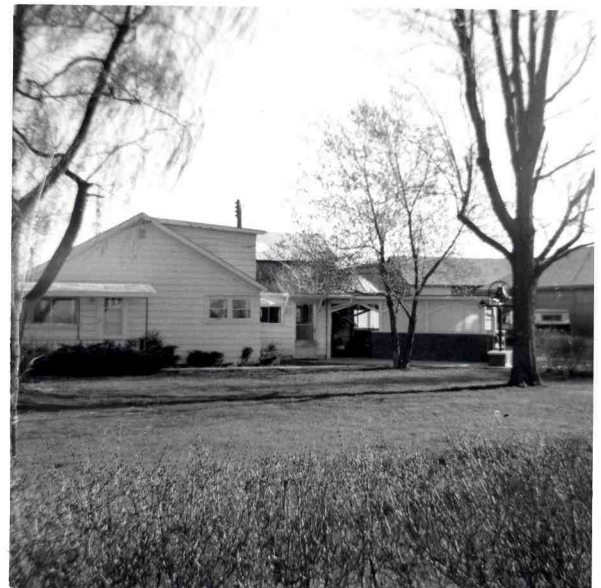
After tobacco started being grown in this territory 5 acres of land on back of the farm was sold to a tobacco farmer and the 25 acres which one time belonged to this farm was purchased from Orrie Ferguson and the land owned now consists of 95 acres. An orchard of about 2 acres was once grown here but has since disappeared. A row of walnut trees along the road fence are still standing and was planted there by the late Mrs. William Best. Hydro was installed and was turned on July 9, 1937.

The first telephone installed for a number of years was by the Dereham Telephone Co. but was later sold out to the Bell Telephone Co. Up to this time dairying and pigs and poultry were the main products of the farm.



Mr. & Mrs. Roy Green's home

In 1955 the original house was torn down and a new one erected. The following year Roy Green and son Ronald went into partnership and another house was built.



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Green's home

Bathroom and pressure systems were put in both houses and propane gas for heating, hot water and cooking.