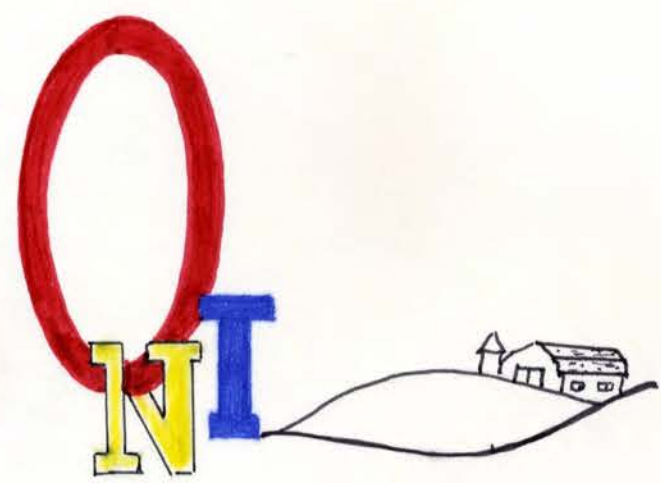
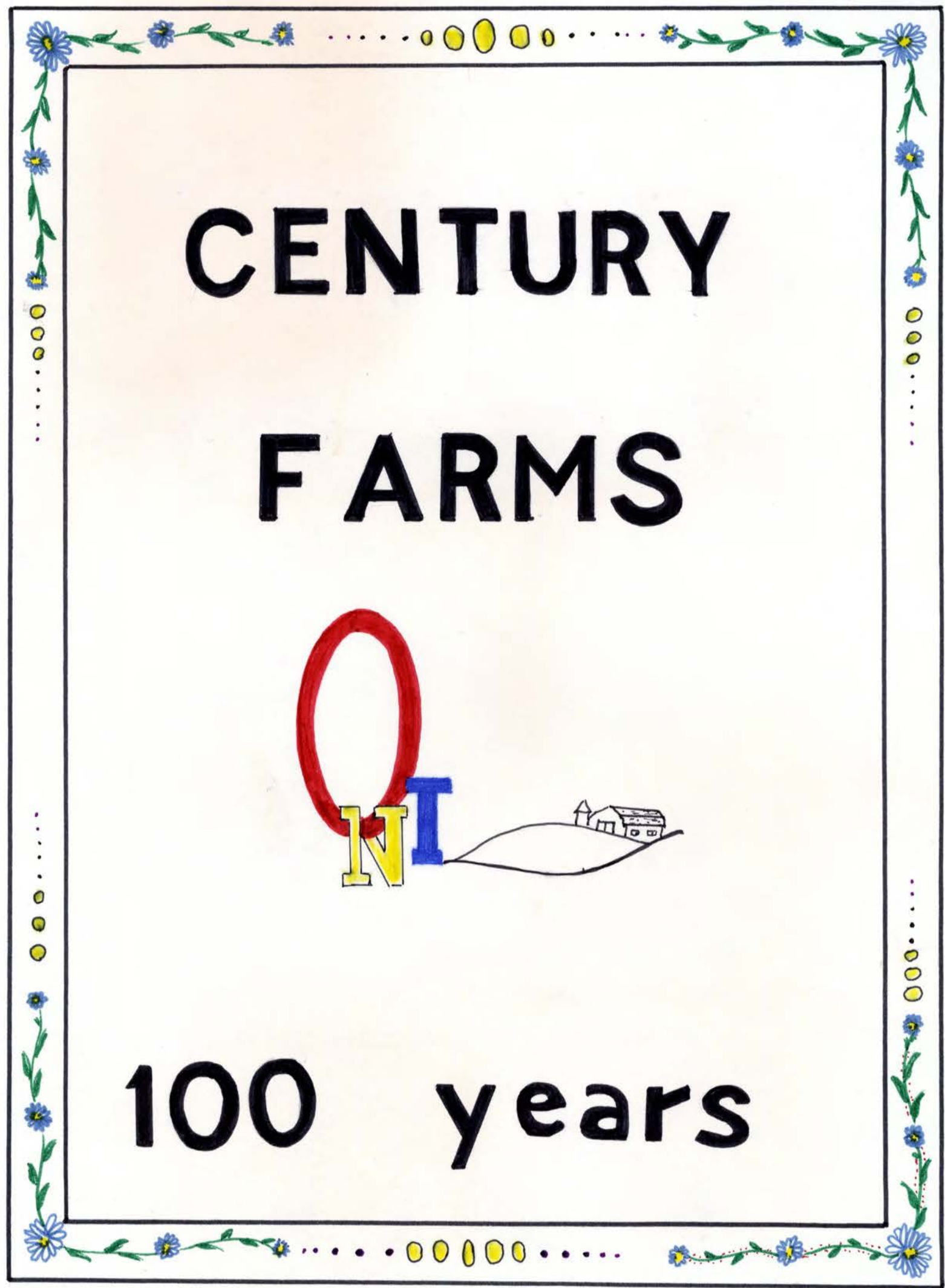


CENTURY FARMS



100 years



PLEASANT VALLEY

Sad and weary,
Dull and dreary,
Crushed as slave in galley,
 I sought in vain
 To ease my pain
Outside Pleasant Valley.

Here roses bloom
With sweet perfume;
Wherever you may sally,
 The breezes blow
 So soft and low
Through fragrant Pleasant Valley.

I brooded on
My ills upon,
My spirits would not rally,
 Until at last,
 When thus o'ercast
I sought out Pleasant Valley.

There is a rough
Of human stuff
Quite free from shilly-shally,
 Both leal and true,
 And truest blue
In Cowal's Pleasant Valley.

Since here I'm boothed,
My nerves are soothed;
With care I no more dally,
 I laugh and play
 By night and day
In Glorious Pleasant Valley.

No head need ache,
No heart need break,
Nor tongue cry "wally, wally."
 For grief will fly,
 And gloom will die,
When entered Pleasant Valley.

I wished for rest,
I now am blest,
For wish and fact now tally;
 Oh, happy he,
 Whosoe'er he be,
Who finds out Pleasant Valley.

- Rev. Andrew McNabb
 Lucknow, Ont.

This poem was written by a minister who spent a week in Pleasant Valley many years ago.

When travelling North on the Cowal side road, just before you cross the second concession, you go down a slight decline. From this higher land, (the original site of Chalmers Church) to the river is known as Pleasant Valley.



PRESENT HOUSE
Built in 1915 - Picture taken in 1922.

The first known settlers of this farm were John Campbell and his wife Mary Young. Natives of Inverness Scotland they emigrated to Cape Breton Island about 1824. John Campbell was a cabinet maker by trade; no doubt an apprentice for the 7 years previous to his 21st birthday. Some of his expertly made furniture is still in possession of several of his descendants. After a time they became restless in Cape Breton, and because of the propaganda being circulated by land companies etc., about the wonderful land and climate in Upper Canada, or Canada West as it was known from 1841 to 1867, they decided to move to what is now South Western Ontario. It was a long arduous journey up the St. Lawrence. One of their children was born on the way. In these early times there were no canals nor steamships to speed the passage. Durham boats and the smaller Bateaux were used to ascend the river. They were rowed in quiet water, with poles and sails used at times. In swift water they had to be hauled over portage roads or dragged by men or oxen walking along the shore. Family tradition says they landed at Hamilton and came overland the rest of the way. They settled first at what is now Glencoe. They did not stay there long because the land was so flat and wet. They moved next to a lot in Ekfrid Township, one or two roads North of the river. We do not know exactly what farm it was or how long they stayed there; however sometime between 1835 and 1840 they moved to the farm South of the river of which this story is about. Whether they chose this farm because of the river flats, recognized from earliest settlement as the best in Upper Canada, with the exception of the flats near Lake St. Clair, or because of its location on the river, which was a main transportation artery at this early time, we do not know.



When they came to this farm there is supposed to have been a cabin a few rods west from where the Cowal side road would meet the river. Whether this was built by a squatter or a defeated settler we do not know. The Campbells lived here for a while. They built their next home on the north west corner of lot 23, concession 1; this is a high sand site chosen possibly because their first house was either flooded or threatened by the river. It should be remembered that at this early time there were no roads, only trails, so a dry site with spring water was the main consideration.

1943 - taken from south side

John and Mary Campbell had nine children; five sons and four daughters. In the 1850's Tuberculosis struck this wilderness home. In 1851 Mrs Campbell died at 58. Her sons Dan and Malcolm and her daughter Christie Ann, all in their twenties, soon followed her. Others in the family were also infected but recovered.

Because no one had legal title to their land until all settlement duties were completed, and all payments made, this farm was registered to the Canada Co., from 1838 until 1851, when John's eldest son Thomas received title to the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 23 Concession 1 being 100 acres, on payment of £75. This payment was not the total value of the farm but just the balance that was still owing.

When Thomas Campbell, one of the first 4 Elders of the Church, married Nancy Campbell (no relation) he built his log buildings near the Cowal sideroad where the white frame house now stands. Thomas and Nancy had four daughters and eight sons. One son and one daughter died as children. Of the sons, three were doctors and two became lawyers. About 1858 their log barn burned, and in trying to save a new fanning mill from the flames Mrs Campbell's hands were severely burned. In 1858 they sold the farm to Thomas' brother John for \$1,800. He had been farming a rented farm north of the river for a few years previous to this. When John Jr. married Jane Campbell (no relation but a first cousin of Dugald and Archie Campbell) they decided to live in the old house and Thomas' cabin was allowed to disintegrate. Perhaps John Sr. left at this time because when he died in 1865 at the age of 73 he was living with one of his daughters Mrs Archie (Mary) McDonald.

John Jr. also owned the 65 acres of lot 23 in the broken front. Although this lot is not registered to him until 1869, Dunwich Township records show that he paid taxes of \$14.51 on 165 acres in 1859. In 1865 John leased the 65 acres to one Daniel Kennedy. This was an oil lease. Kennedy paid \$1.00 down and a shilling per year on demand, also one tenth of any oil or other minerals that might be discovered. In 1866 the balance owing on lot 23 broken front was sold by the Canada Co., to George MacBeth, (Colonel Talbot's heir) for £65.6. In 1869 John paid MacBeth \$670.00 and the land was registered to him. MacBeth made almost 100% profit in three years. At this time he mortgaged the 165 acres to the Huron & Erie Mortgage Co. The mortgage was for \$796.50 at the rate of one percent per month.

In 1870 they decided to move their headquarters to the Cowal side road. By now they were living in a small 3 room frame house, so they moved it to the site of the present brick house. A kitchen of some kind was added. The old log house was moved also and used for a stable. In 1875 they built a frame barn 36 X 58. The framer was Dugald McLaughlin who lived on the farm later owned by D. A. McNabb, now owned by Jamey Campbell. In those days it was a common thing to walk as far as Fingal to get to a store.

To illustrate how pioneers helped one another, about this time their closest neighbours the McNabbs, who lived across the road from them, were stricken with diphtheria and several of their children died. They needed help so Mrs Campbell went even though she feared the disease. In time she did catch it and was very sick. She had seven children of her own, some quite small. Her father's brother, Dugald Campbell, a bachelor who lived in a small red frame house on the site of Philip Campbell's new house, moved in with them until she recovered. He cooked meals and took care of the children and nursed his niece. It is needless to say how welcome he was made to feel any time he chose to visit after that.

One trip John Campbell made is worth noting. His wife's eldest brother Robert was teaching school in Goderich. After Christmas one year, John drove Robert back to Goderich with his team and sleigh. Naturally it took several days, the nights being spent at inns along the road. What an interesting story this would be had a diary been kept of the trip.

One of John Campbell's sources of cash was selling oak bolts to a firm in Chatham to be made into barrel staves. The bolts were cut in the winter and in the spring were fastened into rafts and floated down the river to Chatham. At night he tied the rafts to shore and spent the night in farm homes near the river. He usually stayed with the same people each year; one was a Simpson family in Aldborough. Large logs were marked as to who owned them and floated down stream to Chatham.

Because he had six daughters to help milk cows and churn butter, more butter was made than was needed for their own use or for barter. They milked upwards of twelve cows depending on the season, and the surplus butter was packed in oak casks and sold on the London market. Before the buyer would pay for the butter, he bored an auger to the bottom of the cask to sample the butter and to be sure there were no stones in the bottom. Once John's reputation was established the same buyer usually bought it.

As a teetotaler John Campbell was one of the founding members of the local Temperance Lodge, which met in the school house and spent its time discussing politics and literature. Condemned by Col. Talbot as "Those damned cold water drinking societies" these lodges were very influential in the reform movement. The impact of this lodge was felt in the community long after it ceased to meet. To illustrate the need for such a movement I would like to quote from an account book from Decow's General Store at Iona of the year 1863. Whiskey sold for 25¢ per gallon, and tea sold for \$1.00 per pound.

For many years a spring ran out of the knoll opposite the frame house and ran down the east side of the road. It provided a welcome drink to weary travellers, both man and beast. A well further down the road on the west side was for many years the main source of water for the farm.

By the 1880's the small house of four rooms was becoming crowded for a family with seven growing children. To provide bed space for everyone they had in the kitchen what was known as "Bank-Lit". In the daytime these were used as settees or benches and at night opened into beds. When enough money became available, they hired Peter Forbes of Wallacetown to build a story and a half frame house on the front of the existing house. This contained a parlor and two bedrooms downstairs, and three bedrooms upstairs. This section was later veneered, heightened to two storeys and used for the front part of the present house.

By this time a flourishing orchard surrounded the homestead. One tree, a pear, bore fruit for seventy five years. In the early days a row of yellow barked willows bordered the lane on the south side. Two large silver maple trees stood near the house.

Older than John's six daughters was his only son Malcolm. Because his health was not the best he left the farm as a young man. At first he worked in a store in Middlemiss, and then as a travelling salesman. For many years he was a customs officer in Glencoe, where he died at the age of 58.

The eldest daughter Elizabeth, worked as a seamstress before she was married. She and a neighbour girl, Mary McTavish, had an apartment in Robert Campbell's store in Middlemiss, and did their sewing there. About 1886 she married William Carroll. Their first home was on a farm rented from the Arkell estate. This house was located on the back of the farm now owned by Ronald Watson. Three of their children were born there. John Campbell's other daughters were; Mary, who married David Carroll and lived near Shedden. David was a brother of John and William Carroll and worked with them for nine years prior to his marriage. Jessie married a neighbour, John Fletcher, and died when her first child was born. Margaret married Hugh Rankin and died a few years later. Annie married James Cobban, a livestock dealer, and lived in Middlemiss until they moved to Saskatchewan in 1912. Previously Mr. Cobban had made forty trips to the West selling horses. Mrs Cobban is now 97 and lives in Paris, Ontario. Jennie was a school teacher before she married Wesley Richards of Melbourne. For many years they were in the store business in both Middlemiss and later Melbourne. Both John Campbell's wife Jane, and his daughter Jessie died in 1889.

John retired in 1892, and sold the farm to his daughter and her husband Mr. and Mrs William Carroll for \$5,000.00. He retired to a house in Middlemiss where he lived to be over 90.

The three oldest of the Carroll children, George, John and Jean were born before their parents moved to the Valley Farm. David, Lydia, William Jr., and Hugh were born afterwards.



DAVID, WILLIAM SR. & HUGH CARROLL 1929

In 1893 it was decided to dig a large cistern (22' X 12') near the barns. While digging it a very strong spring was struck. This well is still the main water supply. The next year after buying the farm, William Carroll built another barn to be used for horses and machinery storage. It was 34 by 48 feet and was framed by James Bennett, (father of Jim and Dave). As an example of the price of materials at this time, the pine siding for the barn planed on one side, was purchased for \$17.00 per thousand board feet. A long shanty roofed cattle shed was built along the north side of the barn yard. It had no loft and was floored with plank. Soon after this the old kitchen was replaced by a new one built by Tom Griffin. Like other farm homes at this time the only cellar was a small building of logs with its floor a few feet below the surface of the back yard. Ice was stored in a small ice house, for summer use in the ice box which was simply a large chest built of pine planks and kept in the cellar. As the ice melted, water drained through a hole in the floor.

In 1906 William Carroll purchased three properties to the west of the home farm totalling 215 acres. Along with the original 165, this brought the acreage up to its present size of 380 acres. Ninety acres was purchased from Malcolm Murray; 42 acres from Dugald Campbell, and 83 acres from John C. Campbell. The stories of these farms is told separately.

The grain crop was heavy in 1907 so a seven foot binder was purchased; one of the first in the district. One Sunday soon after, the Rev. Lawrence was preaching on the speed and pressure of modern day living. After several examples he intoned "even a six foot binder is no longer large enough for some, now they must have a seven foot"

In 1908 the main barn was raised and enlarged from 36' X 58' to 36' X 80'. The barn was raised by Wellmans from Melbourne, and the addition was framed by Peter McCallum Sr. from Dutton.

The telephone was installed about this time. It was connected to the Dunwich and Dutton telephone system. Naturally this was a great convenience. Another great time saver was the "Low water bridge" built about 1900. A road was built from Cowal side road through the McNabb farm, along their south line fence to the river, then across the Low Water Bridge. On the other side it connected with the river road to Middlemiss which was then a thriving town with a railway station. Also a brick and tile yard, five stores, and several blacksmith shops. It is ten miles to Dutton from the Valley Farm, and with this bridge it is only one and a half miles to Middlemiss.

In 1909 a 14 by 35 foot silo was built by a Mr. Stafford. He charged \$75.00 for his equipment and himself. Gravel from the farm was used. Cement cost \$1.50 per barrel, and labour was hired for \$1.00 per day. This same year a small barn was moved from the Murray place and made into a pig barn. Five years later a cattle shed was built from this pig barn to the silo.

When William purchased the extra land he no doubt assumed that his 5 sons would all be farmers. In 1909, after being at home for 5 or 6 years his second son, John, decided to go to O.A.C. at Guelph. He attended for 3 years then worked 1 year as assistant ag. rep. in Northumberland County; then returned to college for another year. When he graduated in 1914 he was appointed ag. rep. in Peel County. In 1915 he joined the Canadian Army as Lieutenant. However when he finished training there was a surplus of officers in the Canadian Army, so a number of men were transferred to the British Army. He spent his war years as a lieutenant in the Imperial Light Horse Artillery. After the war he returned to Peel



Bend in river at north west end of farm



Heavy crop of oats.

"C & H" VALLEY FARMS LTD. (Continued)

County and later to a career in the Ontario Department of Agriculture. In 1921 he married Frances Fenton of Brampton. He is now retired in Brampton.

In 1912 the third son David went to Guelph. After a two year course he spent one year as assistant ag. rep. in Frontenac County. In 1915 he came home to help build the house and decided to make a career of farming.



The Carroll Home in 1912. Left to Right - Hugh Holding horse) Jean, Mrs Wm Carroll Sr. Lydia.

In 1915 the house was enlarged and renovated, the oldest section became a wood shed and has since been torn down. The former kitchen was made into a garage. The new house was built by Wm. Stevenson and included central heating, a fire place, hot and cold running water and a three piece bathroom. The brick work was done by Wm. Lawrence a one armed mason from Lawrence Station who worked for \$5.00 per day and averaged 1100 brick per day. The red brick cost \$14.50 per thousand delivered to Middlemiss. The total cost of the house was approximately \$4,500.00

In the fall of 1915 the eldest son George bought a 100 acres farm at Crinan and next spring he moved to it. At the end of the year he married Gretta Burrows whose father had been a storekeeper at Middlemiss before moving to Alberta.

The eldest daughter Jean, lived and worked at home until her marriage in 1930 to Robert Martin. They now live in Dutton.

The other daughter Lydia was a schoolteacher until she married Rev. Thomas Watson. Mrs Watson died in May 1959 having been a widow for several years.

"C & H" VALLEY FARMS LTD.

(continued)

The fourth son William Jr., known as Bill, attended high school at both Glencoe and Dutton, and graduated from Toronto University in 1926, the gold medalist of his class in Honour Finance and Commerce. He married Anna Carr of Iona Station, and worked for Canada Packers, retiring as a vice-president. They now live part of the year in Toronto and part on the island of Montserrat in the West Indies.

The youngest of the family, Hugh always worked on the home farm. He was regarded by many as a good judge of livestock, and for many years was in demand as a judge at fairs throughout Western Ontario. He married Gladys Hartwick, a school teacher from near Thorndale. They have one daughter, Marjorie.

As on most farms the 1920's were a prosperous era. White beans were the principal cash crop. The first tractor, an International 8 - 16 was purchased in 1922. It was purchased during a special company sale. \$900.00 bought the tractor, a three furrow plow and a 32 plate disc.

In 1923 David married Flora Dennis a schoolteacher from Sarnia. Wm. Saunders & Sons of Dutton were contracted to build a frame house 22 by 28 feet including a bathroom and running water. The total cost of this house was about \$3,500.00. They had three children Shirley, now Mrs Lynn Lashbrook of Rodney; Donald, who lives near Iona Station (the writer of this story) and John who died at the age of three years.



New home built for Mr. & Mrs David Carroll in 1923. Now occupied by Mr. & Mrs Mac Hunter and family.



Some of first Holstein Cows on^{the} farm - 1929

Until 1928 when Holstein cattle were purchased, Shorthorns were the predominant breed, perhaps known as Durhams in the early days. For many years seven or eight work horses and two driving horses were kept plus several colts. In 1915 alone four colts were broken to work. Most of these horses were Percherons. For several years Dave and Hugh had a herd of pedigreed Yorkshire swine which they showed extensively, winning many prizes.

In 1932 William Carroll's wife died at the age of seventy two after a long illness. In July 1933 William Carroll died at the age of eighty two.

These were the dismal years of the great depression. For the next 12 years David and Hugh farmed the place in partnership throughout the depression and war years. In 1939 or 1940 several hundred evergreen trees were planted in a bare spot at the front of the woods next the side road.

Hydro was installed in 1941. In order to get power a line was constructed across the river from Ekfrid Township. This was made necessary because the neighbours to the south did not wish to install it at this time. In 1945 David sold his share of the farm to his brother Hugh, and moved to his present home on Shackleton Street.

For several years Hugh produced hybrid seed corn. After a few years he changed to Hereford cattle, keeping a large herd of cows as well as fattening stock. He added many acres to the useable portion of the farm by clearing and draining swamps, spraying weeds and brush and improving pasture land.

"C & H" VALLEY FARMS LTD.

(continued)

On 4th February 1965 Hugh Carroll died. After his death Carl Chamberlain who had worked there for 10 years, ran the farm until the next fall for Mrs Carroll. Then Mrs Carroll's daughter and her husband Mr. and Mrs Mac Hunter moved to the farm and are now managing it. The four Hunter children - Hugh, Marianne, Roy and Carol are the sixth generation of the family to live on this farm.

Comparative Taxes	1859	on 165 acres N $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 23	Conc. 1 & 23 B.F.	\$	14.51
	1865	"	"	\$	17.34
	1900	"	"	\$	39.61
	1908	on 380 acres as of now		\$	92.37
	1925	"		\$	265.60
	1950	"		\$	400.93
	1962	"		\$	783.37

For many years this farm has been known as Pleasant Valley Farm. However this name has been registered to another farm. On January first 1967 the farm was incorporated. The new name of the farm is : - "C & H" Valley Farms Ltd.

This farm contains in Concession 1 -
 North $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 23 being 100 acres
 North $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 22 " 83 "
 lot 21 " 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

In Concession A broken front
 lot 23 " 65 "
 lot 22 " 90 "
 lot 21 " 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Total 380 acres

