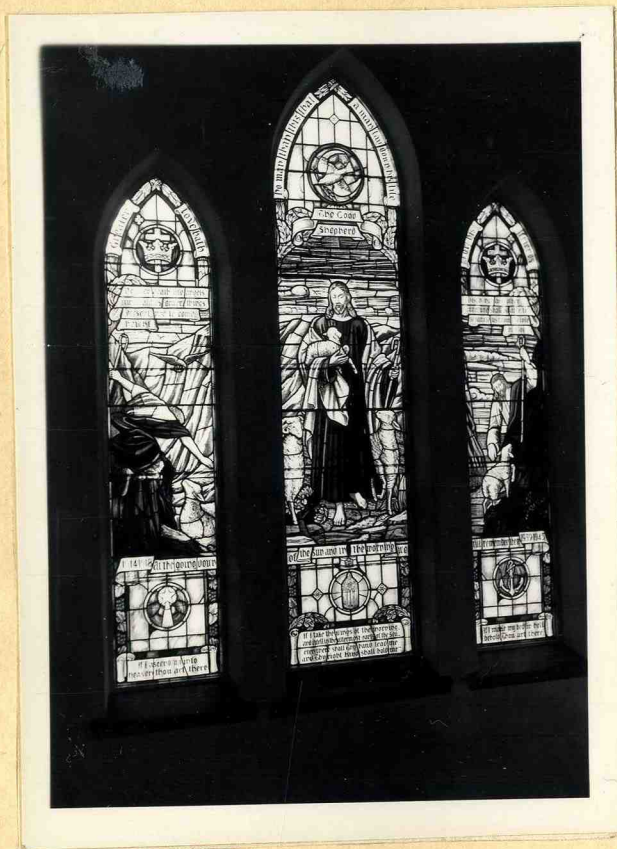


the games chatting together in groups and all through the summer children enjoying themselves playing on the green expanse, it is truly a living memorial and one that lives on in the growing generations of the youth of this community.

Omit

Should have picture of Hall



other book

The beautiful stained glass memorial windows in the new Union United Church, placed in honor of those who served and died in two World Wars, Mrs. L. W. Fish and Mrs. Walton Owen and Mr. Robert Edwards unveiling them at the dedication ceremony on Wed. Sep. 21st, 1949.

When No4 Highway was widened and improved, some years later, it had to by-pass the village of Union, consequently the Union Memorial Recreation Park was purchased from the Union Sport's Club. The Club then purchased about five acres of land farther west on the north side of the Golf Club road, being part of the west half of Lot 3, Concession 4, Yarmouth.

THE AXFORD FAMILY HISTORY

Recorded Feb. 21, 1951.

On the sixth day of April 1837, 114 years ago, from the little town of ~~W~~elsworthy, Devonshire, England, John Axford and his family set sail for this country. The voyage, in a sail boat lasted nine weeks and three days. Upon entering the Gulf of St. Lawrence a bad storm drifted them back beyond the tip of Newfoundland.

Arriving, finally, at Quebec, they made their way by ox-cart to Port Stanley. This was the first Axford family to settle in America. There were six girls, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ibet, Ann, Mary, and six boys George, Samuel, John, Richard, Benjamin and Arscott. Their descendants have settled throughout Southern Ontario.

The present living descendants of Benjamin still residing in South Yarmouth are Garton and Kenneth, sons of the late Joseph, his son and Annie, his daughter, and her son Ben Parish.

However, the largest number of Axforas now living in South Yarmouth are descendants of Richard and his wife Harriet. They were married in England, the day before they set sail for America with the others of the family. They settled one mile west of the Axford home-stead. Later, they purchased the one hundred acres, lot 10, between concessions 4 and 5 of Yarmouth, on which was built a log house and barn. About fifty acres of this land was cleared at that time. The crown deed to this property was recorded in 1863.

They had four daughters Rebecca, Mary Jane, Elizabeth and Harriet, and six sons Richard, Samuel, John, Charles, Edgar and Arscott. Samuel died at the age of 12. It is ^{not} known for certain if the eldest three girls attended the Seminary school on the Sparta road, but the boys all attended this school. Most of the two succeeding generations have attained

their primary education in this school. Still residing on the old homestead are Arscott, his son George and family on the northerly part, and Charles and his son Harold and family on the southerly part. Other members of the family residing nearby are Israel and Clayton, sons of Charles, and their families; Gordon, son of Arscott, and his family; Russel, son of John, and his son Robert and family; and Mrs. Walton Owen, daughter of Mary Jane.

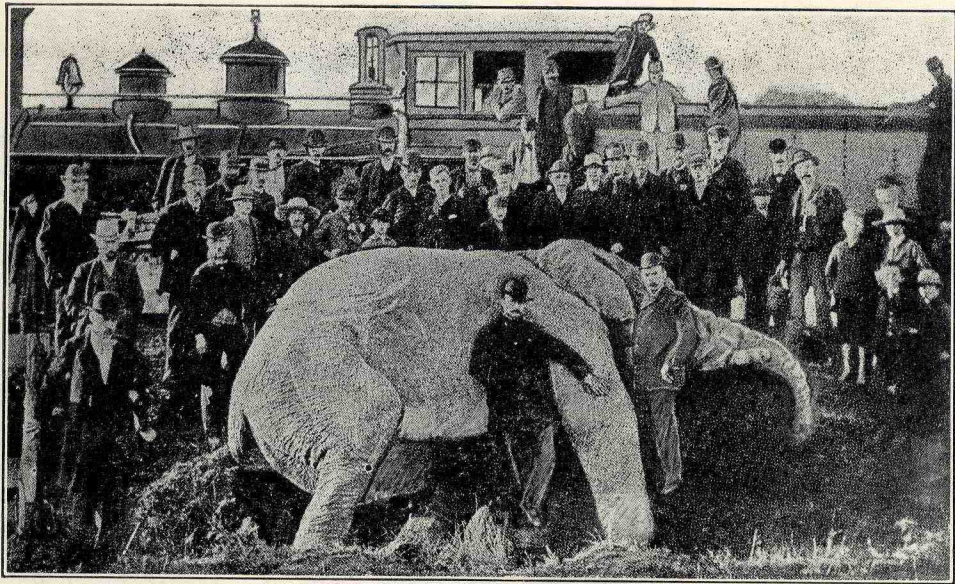
The early years of Richard and Harriet and family, were not without adventure. One day they were visited by a jewel peddler. Later in the day he also visited their next door neighbors. The next day, both neighbors and jewel peddler disappeared. Three years later, after the battle at Port Talbot, a dying Fenian confessed to Richard, the murder of the jewel peddler and where the body was hidden. Later on Richard helped to recover the body found in a brass kettle buried in the gravel pit on what is now known as the Jolly farm.

Mary Jane has often told, when as a small girl, a huge black bear entered their barn in the night, and fought with a mother sow for her little ones. Mary Jane's father shot into the bear with his musket and ran back into the house. The bear was found dead next morning in the nearby swamp. Bears were numerous in those days and older members of the family always carried knives for protection against them. Arscott recalls an encounter with a bear when the family were gathering maple sap in the woods. The frightened oxen ran to the barn with the still more frightened children clinging to the sleigh.

Members of the family remember well the day "Jumbo" was killed in St. Thomas, they having attended the circus that day.

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(This article contributed by Mrs. Clayton Axford)



"JUMBO"—Killed in St. Thomas, September 15, 1885

COMPLIMENTS OF
ANDERSONS LIMITED, ST. THOMAS, ONT.

This is a print of a picture taken by the late T. H. Scott, one of St. Thomas' early photographers.

N. B.-- We think that following Mrs. Axford's excellent article on the history of their family, the activities of the present families should be mentioned. Mr. Charles Axford is especially noted as one of the pioneers in the fruit-growing industry on the famed Fruit Ridge Road. Even at his advanced years of age (over eighty) he has recently developed a new red sweet cherry which will be on the market next year. His two sons, Harold on the home farm with his father has made a science of peach-growing and has established a nursery ^{of} many different new varieties of that fruit and Israel on an adjoining farm specializing in apples and also cherries, are carrying on with their father in the fruit-growing industry. Mr. Clayton Axford, the other son, has made a departure from the fruit-growing and has now established a factory producing a mineral food for cattle and hogs.

This district is also very proud of Larry Axford, Clayton's son, as he won the highest award in the Elgin Oratorical Contest.

The other descendants of this pioneer family are engaged in general farming, nearly all in the vicinity of the 4th concession, Yarmouth.

(This note has been added to Mrs. Clayton Axford's article by Ellen Russ.)

Chapter

THE HISTORY OF THE HINDLEY FARM

Feb., 1947

farm

The Hindley farm is one of the few farms of this community still owned and operated by descendants of the original owner and homesteader. It is now owned and operated by James C. Hindley, fourth generation to live on this fine property.

The first Wm. Hindley and his wife, Hannah, of the village of Merton, Lincolnshire, England, set sail from Liverpool in the early 1800's in a sailing vessel and were for six weeks en route before landing at New York. Whence they came to Sparta, and stayed with the Lawtons, relatives of Mrs. Hindley's, until Mr. Hindley by working around the neighbourhood, managed to save enough cash to start out for himself.

He located first on the south half of Lot 5, on the Lake Erie shore, building there a log house and barn, the location of which slid into the lake just a year or two ago. There was a saw mill located on the next lot to the west, at the mouth of a small creek, owned by partners, Smith & Firth, which has been engulfed by the lake many years ago and is now only a memory. At this saw-mill Mr. Hindley had timber squared and sawed for a barn, which he built to replace the log barn. This barn was later, in the year 1912, sold to a neighbour, Mr. Nelson Parker whose barn had been burned, and moved eastward to Mr. Parker's farm where it now stands and is now owned by Mr. Howard Cross.

During the Rebellion of 1837, Mr. Hindley was accused of giving refuge to Mr. Geo. Lawton and Mr. Fred. Johnson, who escaped the law by fleeing to the United States. And to keep from being involved in further trouble, Mr. Hindley and family took his team of oxen and moved to the Township of Don, Middlesex, and took up 150

acres of land there. He did his settlement duties and after two years or thereabouts when things political had quieted down in Yarmouth, he traded his 150 acres for his first wagon and returned to his farm here.

After the roads and concessions in Yarmouth were surveyed Mr. Hindley purchased the north 100 acres of the farm and built a new log house and barn there. The present owner, Mr. James Hindley, just recently, tore down what was left of the old log barn. While tearing down the barn an old newspaper found pasted to the wall was dated 1853.

Mr. Wm. H. Hindley, grandson of the first Wm. Hindley, to whom I am indebted for all this past history, has in his possession the old Crown Deeds issued to his grandfather. The older deed is for the North half of Lot 5, Con, I, Yarmouth, and was issued at an earlier date than the south 100 acres, which was the part settled first, and was signed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Quebec, the 5th day of July, 1853 in the 17th year of Queen Victoria's reign and shows that it was purchased from the Clergy Reserves for the sum of 75 pounds;

"Given under the Seal of the Province of Canada; WITNESS, our Trusty and well beloved, Lord Elgin, Governor-General of British North America & Captain-General & Governor-in-chief in our Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward."

It was recorded on the 8th day of August, 1853.

The second deed was for the south half of Lot 5, Con, I, Yar. reserving free access to the shore of Lake Erie for all (vessels) vessels, boats, persons, and was purchased for the sum of 62 pounds and 10 shillings. This deed was signed at Toronto, the 27th of May, 1856, in the 19th year of Victoria's reign and was recorded at Toronto, the 14th day of June, 1856.

The remains of an old cabin may be found in the gully at

the back of the farm. This cabin was built by an old settler who hated to get up early but still wanted to say that he rose at sunrise, so he built his cabin in the deepest gully then the sun would not waken him until about ten o'clock and he could still say that he arose at sunrise.

Another interesting feature of this old farm is that all the fields have names; for example, The Chandler field because a man named Chandler Keilor chopped all the trees on this field and laid them in windrows and burned them, thus clearing the field. There is a Spring field, because there are two springs running out of it to the main creek. A Pond field because a pond had been scraped out to water the stock; a Fallow field, the last one to be cleared and it was summer fallowed for a year before a crop was ever planted in it. There was also a Colt field, Mr. Hindley was a great lover of good horses and always had from sixteen to eighteen horses pasturing in this field. Unfortunately the lake bank keeps breaking away each year and many acres of these lake shore farms are lost to the encroaching waters; there are about thirty acres of this farm gone now, including a field called the Barn field because that was where the first log barn was situated.

Special mention must be made of the wonderful windbreak of spruce trees planted sixty years ago by Mr. Henry Hindley, son of the first owner of this most interesting old farm.

The history of this farm was related to me by Mr. Wm. Hindley, third generation owner but a few years later it was sold out of the possession of the Hindley family and is now owned by the Klaas Barendregt Estate Farms.

Ellen Russ