

TURRILL (Cont'd.)

He first moved on to a clergy reserve, known as the Stephen Mills farm, Lot 24, Concession 5, north of the now village of Sparta. During the first winter of his stay there, he and his four sons walked down (about 4 miles) to the homestead they had secured, Lot 22, Concession 2, and chopped off forty acres of timber, felling the trees so they could be burned the following summer. Soon afterwards he built a large two and a half story log house and into it he moved his wife and ten children.

For a number of years it was uphill work, the nearest village being St. Thomas, a distance of twelve miles. At Ebenezer's death, March 9th, 1845, he left the farm to his son, Joseph, who continued to live on it, clearing and improving. At his death, September 2nd, 1855, the property was divided among his heirs - one son Isaac the south portion and a son Elihu, the north portion of Lot 22, Concession 2. The house standing on the south portion was built in 1876. Isaac Turrill gave a lot off the south west corner of his farm to the Methodists and they built a church there in 1877. It remained there until 1886 when it was moved east of Jaffa and is used as a Baptist church.

A log house stood on the north west portion of the north farm and later a frame one was built. These preceded the brick house built about 1888. Joseph E. Turrill bought the north portion from Elihu Turrill, and Isaac B. lived on the south portion until 1922 when he sold to his cousin Arthur Turrill, and he, with his son Clarence, live there in 1948. This portion continuing in the family from the Crown Deed.

TEETZEL

John Solomon Teetzel was born in Saxe Cobourg Gotha, Germany, in 1762. He was sent to College to be educated for the Priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church. As this was much to his dislike, he took his yacht and sailed away, was shipwrecked and picked up by a British ship sailing for America. He landed in New Jersey shortly after the Revolutionary war which ended in 1783. He was an educated man and had a knowledge of Greek. He married in New Jersey and they came to Grimsby, Canada, about 1790. As a German boy, he must learn some trade and he was an expert marble cutter. A number of beautifully carved headstones in the Grimsby Cemetery still bear his initial T. He was Secretary of the Masonic Lodge for years, and the books show his good penmanship.

His son Jonathan Johnson and bride moved to Southwold, near Fingal, in 1816. This was their wedding trip and was taken on a sled drawn by a yoke of steers with all their household possessions with them.

A son James Nelson and wife Elizabeth McQueen and some children moved to Concession 2, Lot 25, south east of Sparta, where they lived until 1867 when they rented the farm and moved to Sparta, living in the residence directly west of the Public School.

TEETZEL (Cont'd.)

The children of James Nathen known best to Sparta people were James, born in 1853, who married a Sparta lady, Priscilla Darling, in 1880 and was for years Judge Teetzel of Hamilton, Dr. William was a Physician in Cleveland, Manson a school teacher, Dr. John, a dentist in St. Thomas for twenty years before going to Barbados in 1902 where he died in 1947. Two sisters were born in the Sparta home viz; Sara and Rosabel (Mrs. H. Bates of Lakeview). The latter is the only living member of this generation in 1948.

Judge James Teetzel, who wrote this family history, speaks of his Grandfather, Jonathan, as a fine Christian gentleman. He was a consistent Methodist and always observed morning and evening scripture reading and prayers with his family of twelve children. In Nuremburg, Germany, a descendant of John Solomon found a street named Tetzels Strass and he was conducted through the castle of the Von Tetzels estate and through the Chapel where were the tombs of several Tetzels, the last of whom died in the 17th century. However, the Tetzels fortune had reverted to the crown.

SANDERSON

Sparta has always been known as a Quaker settlement. They organized as the first religious sect in 1819 in the so-called John Kipp home which received its crown grant in 1799 from Hon. James Baby. It passed on to different owners until sold to George Z. Minor in 1866, grandfather of the present occupant Lila B. Sanderson. It is interesting to relate the walnut timbers, twelve inches square and fifty feet long, remain solid and many timbers resisted the bit when the electricians were boring to install electricity in 1924.

The fifth generation of the grandparent, George Z. Minor, now play in the spacious rooms and grounds.



Pioneer Home of John Kipp
later
The Sanderson home



'The Smith Estate.'

THE SMITH ESTATE

This 200 acres, Concession 3, Lot 21, was the pioneer property of James Mills, one of the six sons of John Mills who came to this district in 1831. Mr. E. A. Smith says - "Mr. Mills used to go to Long Point to mill. He had a large row boat at Barnums' Gully. He used a sail to help when the wind was fair. There was a slide made of timber to get the grist up and down the gully. There was no sale for wheat. Some parties went to James Mills for wheat to make bread for their family. He told them to go to a certain log building on his place and take what they needed. He would not charge anything as he could not sell it. One morning they furnished breakfast to 100 British soldiers. The women had their hands full as they fed them on fried pork, biscuits and potatoes. He never received any pay. He was given some sort of an order from the Captain but he never used it. Mr. Mills had a soap works and made his own soap. His family raised and spun flax. He made his own boats, also shoes for his family and some for his neighbors."

In 1852 he willed his farm to his daughters Drusilla Harvey, Hannah Moore and his son Abraham Mills. The last two signed off their interest to Drusilla Harvey. She and her husband William Harvey sold to Hiram Burley Smith in 1859. He had a large family and in 1865 built a substantial brick house on this estate. This farm was willed by H. B. Smith Sr. to Charles and Edgar Smith, the latter renting the whole farm.

"If you look over the barns on the Smith farm you will find that all the beams are either made of white ash, walnut or pine and put together with wooden pegs. These pegs were all hewn from the log by hand. In 1872 John McDowell hewed timber for what is known as the dry barn. This is in perfect condition seventy-five years later." Mr. E. A. Smith was interested in purebred animals and his "Sparta Jerseys" figured prominently in the prize lists of the Ottawa, Peterborough, Toronto and London Exhibitions. At these Fairs they won eighty-four rosettes, of which twelve were championships. After forty-eight years in the business, he sold the herd in 1947 as a unit to another Mr. Smith of Troy, Ontario.

The large field in front of the brick house has been used for baseball and community activities for many years free of charge.



Later Home of Samuel Haight.



Old Haight Clock made before 1800.



Haight Chairs of early 1800.



Home of Ephraim Haight
Built in 1841



Home of Samuel Haight
Built in 1837.