

MAIN ST.

HENRY YARWOOD  
1838

JOHN EAKINS  
1843

JOHN EAKINS  
1850

JAMES ST.

CHARLES  
STRONG  
1868

EDWIN  
KIPP  
1859

JOHN WEBSTER  
1856

CHURCH ST.

JAS. BAWLBY  
1861

ROBERT  
STAFFORD  
1859

WILLIAM  
CARR  
1858

BRICK  
YARD

SOUTH ST.

KING ST.

CENTER LINE LOT 22.



LOT 22. CON 3.

## SQUIRE SMITH FARM

"To Hon. James Baby for all Lot 22, Concession 3, Yarmouth, dated July 24th A.D. 1799.

Sold to The Right Honorable Edward Ellice of Mark Lane, London, England, Squire September 1807.

Sold to Hiram Kipp and wife, Sarah Harvey, sister of David Harvey, on December 1837 for 150 pounds, lawful money of Upper Canada - 200 acres together with all houses, outhouses, woods and waters thereon."

Started selling Sparta lots at north end of farm in 1838 to Henry Yarwood and to John Eakins in 1843. Then lots were sold each year and streets of Sparta were laid out.

In 1857 Hiram Kipp sold to William Harvey part of lot 22, Concession 3 - 100 acres at 2000 pounds.

In 1874 Benj. and Emma Prosser sold to Richard Banbury west half lot 22 - 93 acres.

In 1879 Eli and Charity Smith sold Richard Banbury west half of east half - 50 acres. The house was bricked over by Mr. Banbury.

Squire K. Smith purchased the farm in 1904 and this farm was in his possession until 1946 when it was purchased by Mr. Szyusco Vandal.

Where Mr. Mills' evaporator now stands bricks were first made. This was the only yard where steam machinery was used. This was managed, in turn, by Darius Burt, Merne Davenport, Ben Mandeville and William Yelland.



Home of John Rundle  
Built in 1888.



Back in the 1880s this fine double carriage, with its sweeping lines and elaborate mudguards, was considered the last word in personal transportation. The occupants are Charles Rundle, Miss Rundle, and Miss Carrie Smith, all prominent members of the Elgin community of Sparta. The picture was taken on the Union road before one of Sparta's hostelries.

## RUNDLE

John Rundle and his wife Jane Philp were married in 1847 in Bodmin Church, Cornwall, England, and immediately sailed from Plymouth and in six weeks arrived in New York. They traveled across New York State and crossed Lake Ontario, landing at Port Hope. Then they came by boat to Hamilton and over the Hamilton mountain by horse-drawn conveyance to London. Later came to St. Thomas and lived three years in a cottage on the London and Port Stanley Gravel Road and were looking for a suitable farm. They decided on a place owned by an American gentleman called Thomas Darling. This was Lot 19, Concession 3 and considered a fine property with good house and barns. In 1893 his two brother-in-laws - George and Joseph Philp and sister Amelia Philp and Andrew Murray and wife Mary Philp - came to Canada.

The large brick house on this place was built in 1888 and John Rundle Jr. took his bride there in 1893. The latter was Anna Cole from two miles north of Sparta. At Mr. Rundle's death in 1924, the son, Bill, managed until 1927 when the farm was sold to Mr. Isaac Jones, then to Mr. Walter Rogers and Charles Bond purchased it in 1946 and made the large house into five apartments.

## VERCOE

John Parkyn Vercoe, his wife and five children, left England on April 17th, 1851 and arrived in Quebec May 27th, taking forty days for the trip. In his diary he speaks of the passengers spending some time on Sundays reading chapters from the Bible and the sailors joining them in singing hymns. A vessel in sight was great excitement. After the long time on the ocean, it was pleasant to see land at Newfoundland.

The Vercoes were friends in England of the John Rundle family and when they arrived here they spent a time with them on their farm opposite the Friends' Cemetery and soon purchased the next farm east.  
west

Two younger children were born here. One daughter, Gertrude, married Thomas Roberts and Margaret married Edward Haight. Another daughter, Charlotte, taught in the East school and a son, Henry, taught in the Sparta school.

## TANSLEY

Roy and Mason Tansley live on Lot 17, Concession 6. It is quite interesting to find that Lots 14, 15 and 17, Concession 6 and also one other lot, each containing 200 acres, making 800 acres of land, were acquired by Peter Baby in 1799 for the sum of one hundred and eleven pounds, eight shillings and eight pence.

Lot 17 was sold by Peter Baby to Robert Henry of Brockville in 1833 for the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds.

In 1868 John and Mary Johnson Tansley came to Yarmouth Township and moved on the west half of Lot 17, but one year later he died and the property was bought by his son-in-law William Gilbert of North Yarmouth and it remained in the Gilbert family until 1916 when Roy Tansley bought the land where Mason now lives. In 1881 the late Arthur Tansley purchased the east half of Lot 17 which is now owned by Roy Tansley.

The fifth generation are living on the property.

## MANN

Noah Mann lived at Petworth, Sussex, England, and deciding to come to America they crossed the ocean in a vessel called the "Hebrew". It took them eight weeks to make the crossing. They proceeded to Port Stanley in 1836 and in 1839 purchased the farm on the lake shore. Nelson Mann was born in Port Stanley a few days before moving to the present Mann Homestead which was purchased from Nelson Nelson. This is Lot 23, Concession 1.

At that time the house faced the Lake, as the road was south of the house. The Manns' remember seeing sixty or seventy loads of wheat passing their place in one day enroute to Port Bruce to be shipped.

## THE PRIOR FARM

This farm, Lot 18 or 19, Concession 1, on Lake Road, has been owned by the family since 1855. In 1848 George and Elizabeth Prior and four children came from England in a sailing vessel. It took them six or eight weeks to come. They landed at Port Stanley. They lived near Port Stanley on Samuel Haight's farm and at Pleasant Valley before purchasing the homestead. The buildings were all moved from the north of the farm to the Lake Road.

In 1880 Stephen Prior bought the farm from his father and lived there until his death in 1909. After his death, his son, Roy, took over the place and still lives there, as does his daughter Mrs. Verne Crosby and husband and their daughter. This makes the fifth generation of Prior's living on the homestead.

George Prior had a son George Jr. and in 1888 he and his family went to Kansas and homesteaded, but owing to drought and grasshoppers they only stayed five years. He sent his family back by train and he bought a covered wagon and a team of horses and, in company with two other farmers who had the same bad luck, set out for Ontario on September 10th, 1893. They averaged about thirty miles a day. His two companions left him in Michigan and he came on alone to Sparta and arrived here sixty days after starting. He had driven 1200 miles.

