



Melvin Wood home built 1850's



Amos ROGERS and the
old ROGERS home

MELVIN WOOD 'S HOME.

Melvin Woods was a book-keeper from the United States who came to the Sparta district. He married a daughter of Isaac Mills and she came to live here as a bride.

The property is registered in the registry office in 1857. Whether he built this house is not known, it is thought to have been built in the 1850's. He was also a handy man having helped with building and decorating other homes.

Others who have lived here are Wm. Smith 1882 (grandfather of Mrs. Lee Elliott) ^{ED SMITH} Mr. McDowell, John W. Scott 1918, Mary A. Smith & Isabella Reed 1925, Thos. Wonacott, John Millman 1929, Asel Norton 1950, Herman Smith 1951, and now Charles Warren 1955.

THE ROGERS' FAMILY

The Rogers' family is descended from an Old New England Quaker family.

In 1645 John Rogers settled in Marshfield, Mass. Later in 1800 his great grandson Rufus in company with his father-in-law Timothy Rogers took up land from the Crown on Yonge Street near Newmarket and helped found the Friends settlement in that community. In the Sixties Amos Rogers came to the Sparta district and eventually owned and died on his farm, Lot 20, Con. 5 on which his great grand-daughter Mrs. Sam McLorn now lives.

Walter Rogers is at present living on the adjoining farm and has continued and enlarged the operations of his father and grand-father.

The Rogers are and have been for the last three generations active Members of the Sparta Baptist Church.

HISTORY OF LAIDLAW FAMILY

Sometime during the 1830's, Adam Laidlaw left the Lowlands of Scotland with his family and settled near Beaver Bank, Nova Scotia a place not far from Halifax, on the Dartmouth side. He had a large family and whether they were all born in Scotland or some in Nova Scotia the writer doesn't know. Their home in Scotland was on the Border between England and Scotland and John Laidlaw, the second eldest son was heard to say, If he was born in the south end of the house he was English, but if in the north end of the house he was Lowland Scotch.

A few years later John decided to leave Nova Scotia to find a place where farming would be easier and more successful than on the rocks of Nova Scotia. In 1843 John Laidlaw and his half brother William Murdie left Beaver Bank and journeyed to this part of Ontario coming by boat and settled near Port Bruce to work on the Dally Place- a syndicate farm owned by some one in New York, and now owned by Melvin Pineo.

They worked on the farm on the north side of the road for twelve years, then William Murdie went fishing at Port Bruce and John Laidlaw bought a farm on the first concession of Yarmouth the south half of Lot 20. The men both married. In 1855 John's first wife died and the baby also. Then he sent for his sister Elizabeth to come and keep house for him. His parents and other members of the family followed.

In January 1862 he married Agnes McTaggart of Dunboyne, in Malahide, a Highland Scotch lassie from Argyleshire, Scotland and their eldest son John was born the following year. When their second son Archibald was born three years later it was not in the log cabin but in the new frame house which is still standing and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. Babinski. Later two daughters Agnes and Margaret were born into the family.

After the death of their father in 1889 John and Archie bought the north half of Lot 20 and in 1891 John with his wife Mary Taylor of Belmont settled there. Archie married Frankie Rogers, Agnes married Louis Moedinger of Sparta, a Hardware Merchant and Margaret married Duncan Somerville a fruit farmer. In 1901 John replaced the old frame house with a red brick one.

John and Mary Laidlaw had three children. Violet and St. Clair, still on the home place, and Annabell now Mrs. Walter Knowlton. Archie and Frankie had two children. Ernest and Dorothy. They moved from the first concession in December 1910 to the farm on the Sparta road now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Will Arthurs. In 1919 they moved to Stettler, Alberta and later to California where Archie died. The son Ernest still resides there with his wife Ila McRan of Sparta. Agnes and Louis Moedinger had one daughter Helen, now Mrs. Robert Harvey.

Many members of the Laidlaw family came from Nova Scotia but several married and stayed there. Miss Jane Laidlaw was for many years a seamstress of Sparta living in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Garrod. Elizabeth married John Bates a wheelwright and carriage maker residing where the Higgs home is now on Main street. Janet married Enoch Mills and they had two daughters, Hattie, who married James Harvey and Elizabeth who married and went to Belmont. Adam Laidlaw, the eldest son, who came from Scotland, settled just west of Aylmer and his great grand-daughter, Gertrude Laidlaw taught school in Sparta a few years ago, other sons, Thomas and Robert settled in Malahide.

Some items of enclosed papers

Bill of account of Matura Haight at
H. B. Smith's store, Sparta - 1861.

Such items listed -

1/2 lb coffee = 10c
1 lb butter = 13c
5 lb sugar = 40c
1 dozen eggs = 8c

Boots for Sarah Doan \$1.50

Henry Haight's tax bill on 50 acres land
in 1865 = \$9.75

John Haight's tax bill on 100 acres land
in 1883 = \$32.96.

Writings concerning John and
Abraham Huff.

Dates of birth of Amos, Joanna
and Phebe Hubbs.

Some deeds of land,

List of land obtained by Jonathan Doan
marriage license 1870
Galbot Anniversary PROGRAM 1961