

SOUTH $\frac{1}{2}$ LOT 13 FIRST RANGE NORTH

EDGEWARE ROAD

100 ACRES

In 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gloin and their one child, a son James, moved to St. Thomas having sold Lot 13 North to Mr. Norman Martin. In 1949 when Mr. Martin's older son, Robert, married and took up residence in the old Westlake farm (Lot 14 North) the remaining members of the Martin family moved from what had been their home on Lot 14 North to the house on Lot 13 North. The Martin family were engaged in the production of fluid milk from a large Holstein herd. They used the land on 13 North for hay and pasture purposes to feed the increased number of milking cows. Rotation of crops using soy beans, corn, wheat and oats together with the acres of fodder was practiced. At this time a deep well was drilled which disappointingly gave sulphur water. The interior of the house was redecorated at the time Mr. and Mrs. Norman Martin took over the "old Gilbert farm". The old kitchen was no longer used, except for storage, and the former bathroom near the old kitchen was made into a compact modern kitchen. The former dining-room became the living room and the old parlour became a dining-room.

In 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Martin moved to St. Thomas when their other son, Julien, married Miss Isobel Fatcher, daughter of J. Robinson Fatcher of the Talbot Road, and occupied the house on Lot 13 North. The two farms, Lot 13 North and Lot 14 North were operated in partnership by the Martin men under the name of Fairlea Farms. No immediate changes were made in the house at this time but the main barn was remodelled to allow for wintering heifers in loose-housing. Former stanchions and wooden-sided pens were removed following the Martin purchase in 1946 but not until now was the old floor re-cemented, barnyard cemented, large drive-in doors replacing small Dutch-type doors and long manger running half of the barn perimeter were built. In 1955 another attempt was made to drill a deep well for sweet water. In the second hole a good supply of fine water was found. The old sulphur well was then capped over.

In 1962 the former "old kitchen" or storage area was remodelled to provide a utility room, washroom and farm business area with desk and place for records. The key to farming in the late '50's and early '60's was to improved efficiency. The confinement method of treating cows and heifers was adopted in 1963 to replace the practice of pasturing animals. This is a much more practical and economical procedure with the cattle retained in a fenced yard or lot containing enough exercise room and a long bunk or manger leading from the silos to hold feed. The milking cows and some heifers are retained on Lot 14 North in a modern barn and silo set-up built in 1963. Both haylage and corn silage are stored in silos in the summer and fall and the cattle are fed out of these the year round. The waste of cattle walking over pasture to forage for themselves was tremendous and thus eliminated.

A small hog enterprise of two or three sows begun in 1954 was extended to a thirty sow herd by 1961. In the beginning the old horse barn section of the drive barn was converted into pens for four farrowing sows and the old three-pen pig barn (original) was extended to the north in 1958 to house 150 market hogs. In the summer of 1966 the sow pens were modernized with wall insulation, floor heating for the piglets and six farrowing crates installed. In the fall of 1966 a large barn for the increased number of market hogs was built west of the drive barn. It contained slotted floor pens with liquid waste system. There are no windows but large fans for ventilation are a feature of this steel barn in which approximately three hundred hogs can be housed. Corn is stored in a Harveststore silo (completely sealed) in the high moisture state and a feed mill for grinding the corn and other grains was installed. These storage facilities and mill were built near the hog barn for easy conveyance of milled feed. The grains are conveyed by an auger system to the mill for grinding and mixing and then it is augered into bins in the hog barn where it falls into feed carts for feeding. Crops now grown include grass mixtures for haylage and regular hay, wheat, barley, corn for silage and grain corn and soya beans.

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In 1967 a boar and several sows of the Hampshire breed were imported from the United States. These have provided the basis of the present 45-50 sow herd of which one half are purebred Hampshire sows and the rest made up of a few Yorkshire and Lacombe sows and crossbred sows.

The evolution of farming practices has been considerable since early pioneer days. The need to produce more efficiently with less help together with the advances in machinery and seed crops has allowed the farmer to produce enough feed today for 25-30 other people and the trend continues of greater productivity per acre. Mention must be made of the shift of people from rural areas to the urban centres to industrial occupations until at present only about 7-10% of the population remain on the farm.

Prepared by Mrs. J.G. (Isobel) Martin

March 1969



GILBERT HALL

Builder - William Gilbert, 1872
Named by - John Gilbert

Residence of - Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Martin
FAIRLEA FARMS

LOT 14 and LOT 15, 9th CONCESSION (EDGEWARE ROAD)

Simon Westlake bought these lots on or about September 23, 1831 from Col. Talbot at Port Talbot within days of his landing at Port Stanley with his wife and two sons George and Edmund and daughter Mrs. E. Miller.

His companion on the journey to Canada, Richard Gilbert, purchased at the same time 300 acres of virgin land at 12s.6d. per acre. His lots were Lots 12 and 13 south, and Lot 12 first range north on the Edgeware Road. He later bought Lot 13 north range (1835) from the Canada Land through Col. Burwell for 62.10.

The exact location of these mens lots were privately determined between Gilbert and Westlake who flipped a coin to decide by chance whether each would have corner lots or one of them would have the corners. Gilbert won two throws out of three and won the corner lots, Westlake taking the two lots to the east.

The men set up rough log huts for their temporary locations and began the backbreaking labour of clearing the land.

The 1877 Atlas of Elgin County shows the following lots in the possession of the Westlake family.

On the south side of the Edgeware Road, Lot 14 owned by Simon Westlake, Lot 15 owned by E. Westlake (with a house and buildings on this property) and Lot 16 also owned by E. Westlake.

On the north side of the road Lot 14 owned by Simon Westlake (with a house and buildings) and Lot 15 owned by Mrs. E. Westlake (also with a house).

George Westlake was married to Miss Addie Doan, daughter of James Doan of New Sarum (she was a sister of Dr. Warren Doan of Harrietsville) on September 16, 1890 and these two lived on the farm on the north side of the road (Lot 14) until his death. They had no children. (He must have been a son of George Westlake and grandson of Simon). The widow lived there until 1933 when the farm was sold to Mr. Norman Martin.

The farm was in the possession of the Westlake family continuously from the crown for 101 years.

HISTORY OF THE PADDON FARM: Lot 15, 1st Range North Edgeware Road

At the end of the 18th Century, England was confronted with a revolution (Napoleonic), caused from a complexity of social problems. This caused many English subjects to desert their country seeking fortune in greener pastures and lands of opportunity where there was freedom of speech and religion. Holsworthy, Devon, England, recognized as a centre of Christianity, was a place of unrest at this time and not a place to raise families.

On the morning of April 12, 1831, four families left the port of Biddeford, Devonshire, on the wooden sailing vessel "Calypso" for a destination unknown, loaded down with an abundance of food, various clothing articles, variety of tools, utensils, and life savings, including silver. The four families, all born in the small town of Holsworthy, Devonshire, were Richard Penhale and family; Richard Andrews and family; Richard Gilbert and family, and Simon Westlake (born 1-18-1826, died 9-9-1865), his wife and two sons, George and Edmond, and one daughter, who later became Mrs. E. Miller.

After battling the Atlantic for eight weeks, they landed at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, in June, 1831. From here they pushed on to New York where they were stranded on Hellgate Rock for several hours, and were therefore discouraged from landing at this point, so moved on into New York harbour. Upon learning of the heavy custom duties in New York, they dumped most of their cargo into the harbour--e.g. pans, kettles, skillets, and farm tools. From here they pushed on to Bethany, Albany, and on to Buffalo. It was in Buffalo, while their baggage was on the wharf waiting to be sent to Ohio, that a local hotel-keeper asked them why they didn't go on to Canada and remain under the British flag. So, after much persuasion, they boarded the schooner "Niagara" under Captain Scott and travelled along Lake Erie, arriving at Port Stanley which was the end of their contract. They were very disappointed at seeking only two buildings and a wilderness, but they could not go on any further.

Upon arrival, Gilbert and Westlake walked to Port Talbot to purchase farms from Colonel Talbot, who received the new settlers very cordially, and, as a result of this visit, they purchased their farms on Edgeware Road, being Lots 12, 13, and 14, North and South of Edgeware Road, with Simon Westlake settling on Lot 14, 1 R.N.E.R., occupied now (in 1992) by Thomas Martin and family. Richard Penhale opened a blacksmith shop in Port Stanley, but later travelled to St. Thomas and purchased 100 acres (Lot 10, Edgeware Road, today owned by Ilene Begg) in 1831, adjoining his brother-in-law Richard Gilbert's four hundred acres. The Gilbert farm today is owned by the Van Patters. Lot 10 was later sold to Richard's son, Thomas.

Richard wrote home to England to his brother Thomas (born 8-15-1800) telling him how good the trading was; there being a good harbour only 12 miles away. The quantity of maple trees was excellent for making maple syrup, and carpenters (Thomas was a carpenter by trade) were very scarce in the area. It is believed this letter influenced Thomas to migrate to Canada in 1832 with his wife, Mary Ann Pearce (born 2-11-1804) and son Richard (born 8-15-1832), arriving in the spring. It is believed they landed in Quebec and travelled up the St. Lawrence, living in St. Thomas on Kains Street before moving to the farm--Lot 10, Concession 10, west of the Yarmouth Centre Road, now owned by Clayton Reid. Lot 14, Concession 10 was purchased later, in 1832; this is the farm where Douglas Penhale and family live today.

Thomas and Mary Ann had 8 descendants, the second oldest being Mary Ann (born 3-6-1835; died 5-29-1904) who married George Westlake (born 1-18-1826; died 9-9-1865). George was the son of Simon Westlake.

For Lot 15, 1 R.N.E.R. records show that Richard Gilbert made a payment to Colonel Talbot on Jan. 17, 1833. This payment of fifteen pounds twelve shillings sixpence currency was the first quarterly payment. Later, receipts for payment on this property include one--Richard Gilbert dated January 1837, and others from Archibald McIntyre dated April 1844, 1847, and 1849. Sale price of this land was 12 shillings 6 pence per acre. A Crown Land Patent Deed with seal attached for Lot 15, 1 R.N.E.R. was received by George Westlake, son of Simon Westlake, on August 28, 1856. However, a letter from the Crown Land Office to George Westlake dated February 1856 states that this deed had been delayed on account of filing procedure from Gilbert to McIntyre, and intimates that 1853 was when he should have had the deed. This date of possession is further corroborated by the fact that George Westlake and Mary Ann Penhale were married this same year, and started farming here, on Lot 15. The total sale price was 62 pounds 10 shillings.

Mr. Westlake died in 1865 at the age of 40, but Mrs. Westlake and her family--James, Walter, Alice (mother of Andrew Paddon), and George--carried on farming. Then, on or about the year 1878, Mrs. Westlake and her eldest son, James, bought Lot 11 on the other side of the Gilbert property --the Donald Black farm now owned (in 1992) by the family of the late Ken Gonyou--and moved there. In 1883 Mrs. Westlake and her youngest son, George, and her daughter and son-in-law, Alice and William Paddon, moved to the original Simon Westlake home- stead at Lot 14, 1 R.N.E.R. The two properties, Lots 14 and 15, were then farmed as one unit.

On January 5, 1889, the east part of Lot 15 was deeded to Alice Ann Paddon by her mother, Mary Ann Westlake. At that time, the Paddons built a large white brick house, and, with their four-year-old son, Mervyn, moved here. At this time the original home, built approximately 1853 at the edge of the present orchard, was moved and bricked in with the large white brick home. In the following years they bought and moved from Lot 17, 1 R.S.E.R. a vacant pioneer Methodist church to become a unit in the rebuilding and improving of the barns already there. Evergreen trees were planted for windbreak, plus fruit trees and an apple orchard planted in 1902. A well was bored and many rods of clay tile were laid to improve the productivity of the land. Split rail fences were built, later to be replaced by wire. All of this work was done by hand. Through this hard labour and careful planning, Mr. and Mrs. Paddon made a real home for their family--Mervyn, Myrtle, and Andrew. In 1901, the rest of Lot 15 became the property of Alice Ann Paddon.

After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Paddon in 1936, their daughter, Myrtle Mary Paddon, became the owner on June 10, 1937. She carried on and managed the farm until her death, July 3, 1970. Then it was acquired by her brother, Andrew E. Paddon, and he sold it to the present owner, John C. Penhale, January 22, 1974. John Penhale's daughter and son-in-law, Joanne and Ron Erickson and family, have lived on the property since July, 1974.

The property has been improved and modernized but the original has been preserved as much as possible. The barn (originally the church) has been re-roofed, foundation made stronger, and has been painted. New evergreens--Norway Spruce--have been planted on the west side of the property to serve as a windbreak and replace those trees which have been destroyed in recent wind and ice-storms. Land has been cleared east of the wood-lot; new tiling laid plus other tiling re-routed and added to, and a weeping bed has been put in. Inside the home, the original beams found in the old home have been refurbished; the wainscoting has been refinished and replaced, and the original shutters have been repaired and put back on the home. The original site of the hitching-post has been recognized and marked. An addition has been put on the back of the home to serve as a freezer/laundry room, where the back kitchen originally was.

Although this century farm has passed from the Westlake descendants of 1831, the date of settlement in Canada, a family connection is still partially retained in Lot 15, 1 R.N.E.R. by the fact that Joanne Erickson's great-grandfather John (born 7-5-1837, died 3-1-1909) and Andrew Paddon's grandmother, Mary Ann Westlake (born 3-6-1835, died 5-29-1904) were brother and sister, children of Thomas and Mary Ann Penhale, who arrived in Canada in 1832 at the invitation of Thomas' brother Richard, who came to Canada in 1831.

66 Material for the above history was provided by the late
Andrew Paddon and Joanne Erickson
in July, 1984.



The William and Alice Paddon Family, with their prized possessions, at their home on the Edgeware Road, about 1898.
Left to right - Andrew Paddon, with his wagon and kitten; Mervyn Paddon, with his bicycle; William Paddon (father) with family dog; Alice Ann (Westlake) Paddon (mother) with another family dog; Myrtle Mary Paddon, with her kitten.



1980 - Home of Ron & Joanne (Penhale) Erickson
(Great grandfather John Penhale and Alice Paddon's mother Mary Ann Penhale brother and sister)