



Cabin being built (Frederick R. Bercham)

Part One 1807 - 1850

Gable/Hammond Families — 1807

Henry Gable (born 1765, died 1834) who arrived in Upper Canada from Berks, Pennsylvania, in 1798, was the first person to be given a land grant in Clarkson. He received Lot 35, Con. 3 and 4, South Dundas Street (SDS), 230 acres (93 ha) at the Township Line (Winston Churchill Boulevard). He came to the area from Ancaster, Lincoln County, Niagara, in 1807 with his wife, Elizabeth (1765-1834), and six children, Henry, 1789, Jacob, 1796, Samuel, 1797, Magdalane, 1798, Elizabeth, 1800, and Catherine, 1802. Son, John, born in 1787, remained in Ancaster.



▲ The Gable House

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

HENRY PERFORMED HIS SETTLEMENT DUTIES SET OUT BY the government: to build a cabin 16 feet by 20 feet (4.8m x 6m); to clear and fence five acres (2 ha) of land; to clear the roadway in front of his property; and to present a signed and witnessed certificate as proof. His house was 22 feet by 18 feet (6.4m x 5m). He took his oath before William Allan, collector of customs and Home District treasurer, with Andrew Cook as his witness, and received his patent on December 19, 1807. This done, the Gables settled in to do what they knew best, farming.

Their son, Henry, was a private in Captain William Applegarth's Company, the 2nd Regiment, York Militia, in the War of 1812. For this participation, he received a grant of 100 acres (40 ha), SW ½, Lot 14, in Erin Township in 1820. He married Eve Oille (1790-1869) in 1811, and in 1817 his father transferred the north half of Lot 35 over to him and he built a house. Henry Sr. gave his son, Samuel, the 30 acres (12 ha) of Con. 4 in 1825.

Henry and Eve's daughter, Lucinda (1812-1883), married David Hammond, the 21 year old son of David and Rebecca, on March 8, 1838. Henry gave them a section of property on which to build a house and to farm. Besides being a farmer and fruit grower, David was active in the community and was said to be an upstanding and honourable man. He was chairman of S.S.#5 School, 1855-58, Trustee of the Carman Church, 1875, a prominent official of the Palermo and Oakville Church circuit, and a Justice of the Peace. At the Toronto Township Fall Fair in 1876, David won many prizes for his turnips, apples, grapes, cattle and sheep.

Henry Sr.'s nephew, Jacob (1809-1893), came to reside on the SE ½ of Lot 35 in 1850 with his second wife, Jane Petch (1817-1893), and their five children. He was an excellent carpenter, who had helped built the Methodist Church in Port Credit in 1825. His daughter, Esther Ann (1835-1862), by his first wife, Sophia Hammond (1807-1837), married his partner in the carpentry business, Richard Oughtred, (1813-1881) in 1855. They had four daughters, Jane, Mary, Esther and Lucy. Richard and Esther's daughter, Mary, married David Shook (1850-1927), son of



▲ Mrs. Jacob Gable

Conrad and Mary Shook, in 1882 and they had nine children.

Henry Jr. died on August 15, 1866, at age 77 and was buried in Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground (now the Spring Creek Cemetery). He left all his worldly goods to his son-in-law, David Hammond. His wife, Eve, passed away in 1869.

According to John Pope's *Historical Atlas of Peel County*, David Hammond still owned his property in 1877. He lost his wife, Lucinda, in 1883 and he died in 1885. Their descendants continued to reside in the Gable house and it became known as The Old Hammond Place. This house was purchased by Sheridan Nurseries from William Speck



▲ Mr. Jacob Gable (Region of Peel Archives)

around 1930. It was moved and used for storage and then as a bunk house for their relocated Japanese employees during World War II. The Japanese stayed until the 1960s and when they moved out, vandals set the house on fire. The fire was put out before the house completely burned down. It was then considered a hazard and Howard Stensson had it dismantled in 1965. He took several of the pine timbers and used them in his cabin at Dorset, Lake of Bays.

There are no longer any Gables in the Clarkson area, in fact, there is only one Gable in the Mississauga telephone book, But there are still descendants in Ontario and British Columbia.

The Greeniaus Family — 1808

Sebastian Greeniaus (b.1761-d.1847) who was a weaver, came to Niagara from Pennsylvania in 1802. He received the second crown grant, Lot 34, Con. 2, SDS, 200 acres (81 ha), on July 1, 1808. He and his wife, Eve (1766-1844), who were married on April 6, 1790, arrived in Toronto Township with their five children, Daniel, (1793-1863), Elizabeth (1796-1832, married James Kelly), Johann Peter (1797-1871), Susanna (1800-1844) and Catherine (1802-1854, married Hiram Oliphant in 1822). They constructed a house and began to farm their land.



◀ Sebastian
(Edith Nadon)

PETER MARRIED ELIZABETH OLIPHANT (1803 -1866), daughter of Peter Oliphant in 1822. His father gave him the north half of the property on November 22, 1823, to farm. On December 3, 1823, he received 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 33, Con. 2, as a grant. He purchased another 50 acres (20 ha) for £150 (\$375) from William Kelly, Lot 34, Con. 2, on June 29, 1833. He and Elizabeth had five children, David, 1823, Gaylord, 1827, Willard, 1829, Jane Amanda, 1831, and Catherine, 1834. The Greeniauses were primarily farmers, who were closely associated with the historical events of this period: the first Church services, the Spring Creek graveyard and School #5.



▲ Sebastian Greeniaus' House
(Edith Nadon)

When Sebastian and Eve passed away (both are buried in Spring Creek Cemetery), their sons carried on the family tradition of farming. Some of the property was sold off over the years, but the main farm acreage was passed down from generation to generation. In 1913, Daniel Greeniaus sold 100 acres (40 ha) to Sheridan Nurseries.

Gaylord Greeniaus built a brick house in 1891. Unfortunately, he did not get to enjoy it long as he passed away in 1893.



► Catherine
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



◄ Gaylord and
Selina
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

In 1955, it was the residence of Sebastian's great grandson, Norman, and his son, Wilmer, when it was sold to the United Lands Corporation for the development of the Park Royal subdivision, which opened in 1958. It was used as the sales office for a time and then was torn down. Wilmer and his wife, Julie, now reside in Oakville and his niece and nephew, Kathryn and Kent Greeniaus, live in the Clarkson area.



▲ Norman and Ethel's wedding
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



▲ Greeniaus residence
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Wilmer's farm
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

7



▲ Wilmer, Bruce, Murray and Ross, with wagon
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



◀ Wilmer Greeniaus
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

▶ Gravestone of
Greeniaus family at
Spring Creek
Cemetery
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



The Merigolds and Mongers — 1808

Two prominent families to settle in what would become called Clarkson were United Empire Loyalists, Thomas and Elizabeth Merigold, their 17 year old daughter, Mary, and her new husband, 39 year old Benjamin Monger. Thomas sold his farm in Kingsclear, New Brunswick, to George Ludlow for £200 (\$500). They arrived in the summer of 1808 as a party of 26, of which 16 were children. When these families arrived, the population of Toronto Township was 170. They stayed in the Government Inn at the mouth of the

Credit River while they built a 20 foot by 30 foot (6m x 9m) log house that would house 14 people.



◀ Mary Monger
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Benjamin Monger
(Region of Peel Archives)

THOMAS RECEIVED TWO GRANTS OF ABOUT 450 ACRES (182 ha), Lots 29 (registered August 7, 1809) and 30 (August 13, 1818), Concessions 3 and 4, SDS, fronting on Lake Ontario. He paid £17 (\$42) for his patent and surveying fees. This area was called Merigold's Point for a number of years. Upon their arrival, Benjamin put in for a grant and received Lot 30, Con. 2, 200 acres (81 ha), which he took possession of on July 31, 1811.

Thomas Merigold was born in New Jersey and as a young man served in the Loyalist Regiment of the New Jersey Volunteers of the British Standard during the American Revolution. When his regiment dis-



▲ Merigold Orchard
(Region of Peel Archives)

banded, he moved to New Brunswick, where he married Elizabeth in 1782. The Merigold's had seven sons and four daughters.

Benjamin was born July 12, 1769, in Dutchess County, New York. At age 19, he commanded a sailing vessel on the North River (the lower course of the Hudson River). His route was Albany to New York. At 22, he sailed on a merchant marine ship, alternating as chief mate and captain. He went to India, Bengal, Jamaica, Ceylon, China, France, Spain, Portugal, Africa and many countries before he left the sea and settled in Upper Canada.

In 1815, Benjamin sold the south half of his property to Malcolm

Wright, then Archibald Wright sold it to Warren Clarkson in 1819. Thomas and Benjamin leased Lots 27 and 28, Con. 2, for additional farm land between 1817 and 1826, from the Crown before they were granted. Thomas died in 1826 at age 65.

Benjamin served as an assessor, pathmaster, road surveyor and bridge builder. The north half of his acreage was sold to Daniel Merigold on March 4, 1822, for £500 (\$1,250). A few years later, he moved his family to Lot 3, Con. 3, West Hurontario Street, in the New Survey, where he became known as Squire Monger. He became a magistrate for the Home District in 1829, which he remained until he left the area in 1852 to live with his son, George, in

▼ Gathering Hay
(Region of Peel Archives)





Garafraxa, near Fergus, where he died on March 5, 1863. Mary passed away in Orwell, Elgin County, at the home of her daughter, Jane, in 1884.

Benjamin's property is now a subdivision, bordered on the west (Southdown Road) and south (Lakeshore Road) by various business establishments.

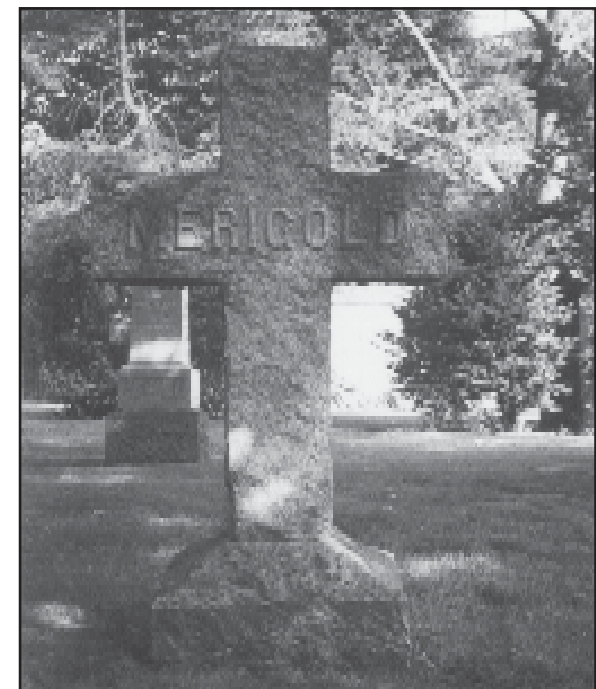
◀ Merigold Farmhouse
(Region of Peel Archives)

Memories — 1809

"At the early day of our emigration to Canada there was not a boat or bridge from York to Hamilton. York was the only place where we could get supplies and the only means of travel was on foot or by boat, a necessity to every settler. The only Mill in the County was on the River Down which enters the Lake at York. As soon as we raised wheat, we took it by boat to this Mill in a boat built for that purpose. The trip took about a week and was performed by a half dozen neighbors each carrying such food as he required. As a general thing they enjoyed themselves We were the first settlers except Indians between York and Hamilton for several years. No such thing as a team of horses were seen for several years, when we began to cut roads."

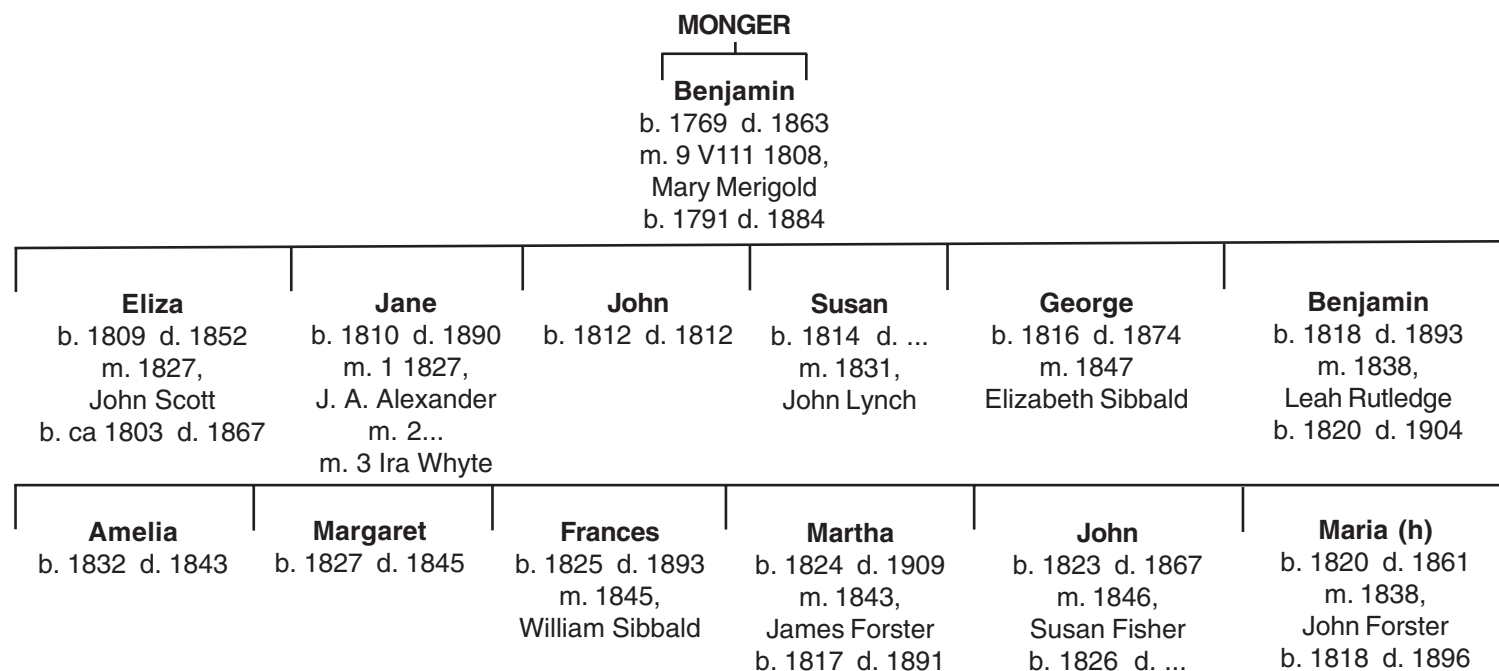
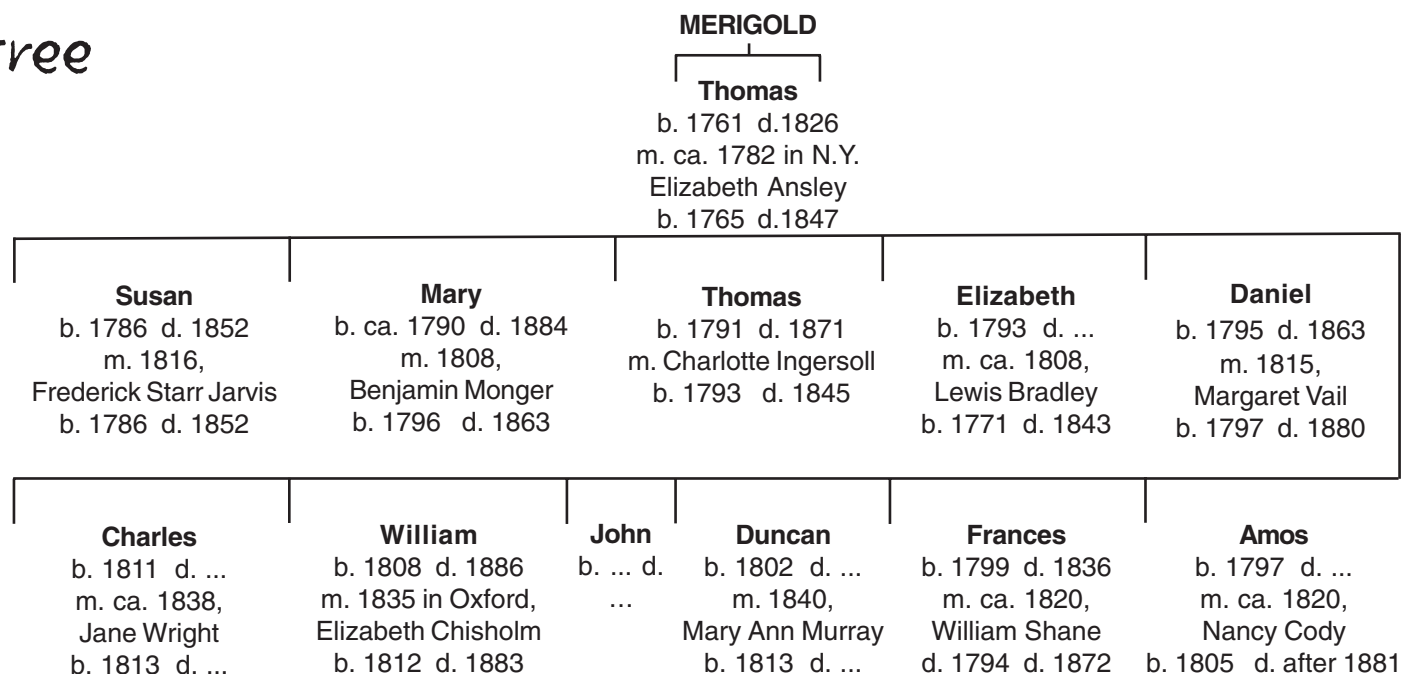
Letter from William Merigold to son, Willie, seventh son of Thomas Merigold, born 1808, N.B.
Excerpt from "The Families of Merigold Point"
by Dorothy L. Martin, pages 121-122

Clarkson and its Many Corners



▲ Thomas Merigold's gravestone,
Spring Creek Cemetery
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

family tree



Family tree from *The Families of Merigold's Point*, page 72.

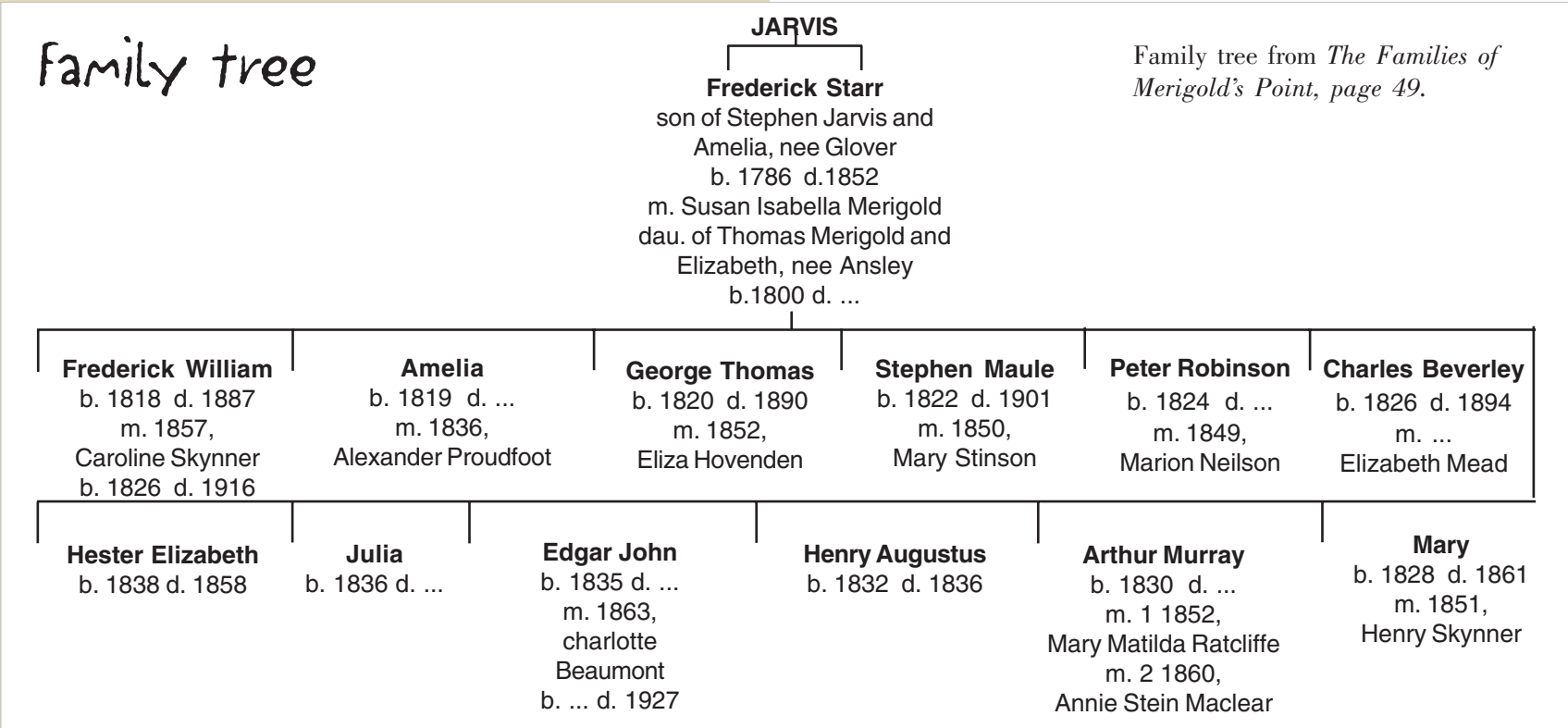
The Jarvis Family — 1809

Stephen Jarvis of York (Toronto), received a 225 acre (91 ha) grant of lot 31, Cons. 3 and 4, SDS, in Toronto Township, in 1809. He had brought his family to Upper Canada from Kingsclear, New Brunswick, in July of that year, arriving in York in August. They resided in a house that cousin, Secretary Jarvis, had purchased and readied for them. Stephen had six children. His oldest was Frederick Starr, who had been born April 9, 1787.

WHEN THE FEES WERE PAID ON THE LAND ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1809, Frederick performed his father’s settlement duties. He started clearing the land and had a log cabin built. In 1812, Frederick as a Loyalist’s son, having reached the age of 21 in 1808, received Lot 32, Cons. 3 and 4 as a grant.

His son, Peter, wrote in his memoirs, “Having selected the farm, my father’s next duty was that of felling the trees and clearing the land. On the lakeshore this was begun in a peculiar manner. The clearing was commenced along the shore, the first trees being cut in such a way as to fall over the bank into the lake. The next thing was to build a log house in which he had the assistance of the Merigold boys. Matters prospered, and in due time (he) had a considerable, clearing and a house of more

12



convenience, although it was still of logs. His farm life during this period was varied by the part he took as Major of the Militia during the War of 1812-14. The sword he carried in that war was the same one his father had used in the Revolutionary War, when Lieutenant in the South Carolina Dragoons. I still have that sword in my possession.”

Frederick arrived home safely from the war and continued the clearing of his father’s property, which had become known as Brunswick Farm. Stephen always lived in Toronto, so Frederick took on the responsibility of his property. Stephen sold Frederick the lakefront Lot 31, Con. 4, acreage in 1816 for £200 (\$500). On August 4, 1816, he married Thomas Merigold’s daughter, Susan. Justice of the Peace and neighbour, William Thompson, performed the ceremony.

Susan and Frederick had 12 children, eight sons and four daughters. Two of their children died early, Henry, at age three died by drowning in 1836, and Hester, born in 1838, died at age 20.

The Jarvises were very involved in the community known as Merigold Point (Clarkson). The children attended the S.S.#6 School and the family went to St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). Frederick was instrumental along with William Thompson in its founding in 1825 and its opening in 1827. He signed many settlement certificates, was executor on his neighbours’ wills, and performed his government obligations such as serving on the Home District Court of Quarter Sessions’ juries. With his father’s York connections, he was well

known by government officials such as Chief Justice Beverly Robinson, who handled the St. Peter’s property purchase. He became called Squire Jarvis.

In October, 1835, Frederick and Susan moved their family into a commodious red brick house, they called Brunswick Lodge. His father reported at this time that the house was located on the north side of the Lake Shore Road.

Their 17 year old daughter, Amelia, married Alexander Proudfoot, a Trafalgar Township merchant and post master, on January 12, 1836.

Their sons, William and Peter, went to Upper Canada College. William became a government official and Peter a mercantile merchant. He married Marion Neilson of Galt in 1849 and they would have 11 children. In 1863, he would become Mayor of Stratford. In 1849, son Frederick William moved to Toronto and became the Sheriff of the Home District, taking over the position handled by his Uncle William Botsford Jarvis, who had been involved in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837. He married Caroline Skynner in 1857 and they had five children.

Daughter, Mary, married the son of the late Captain John Skynner of the Anchorage, Henry Skynner, on October 30, 1851. A year later, June 2, 1852, Frederick passed away suddenly of a heart attack.

It is very likely that the two storey Jarvis house “Brunswick Lodge” became the Spinning Wheel Lodge (see article 1950).

The Bradley family — 1810

Lewis Turner Bradley was born a twin of William Brown Bradley in 1771 in Savannah, Georgia. His father, Richard, died when the twins were ten and their mother, Sarah (nee Turner), married Lieutenant John Jenkins within a year. After the American Revolution, as United Empire Loyalists, they went to live in New Brunswick, where their stepfather died in 1804. Lewis did not find New Brunswick to his liking, so after marrying Thomas Merigold's 19 year old daughter, Elizabeth, in 1808, he decided to make the cross country trip to Upper Canada with the Merigolds.



HE AND ELIZABETH WENT TO NIAGARA, WHERE HIS HALF-sister, Mary, lived with her husband, Bartholomew Crannel Beardsley. There he opened a store. He put in a petition for a grant, which was certified for entitlement by Stephen Jarvis of York (Toronto), the father of his future brother-in-law, Frederick Starr Jarvis, who married Susan Merigold in 1816.

When Lewis received 222 acres (90 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 3 and 4, SDS, in Toronto Township in August, 1810, he took over his property and built a log cabin that sat surrounded by pine trees. He carried out his settlement duties and received his patent, which was signed by Frederick on January 29, 1811.

According to Dorothy Martin, who wrote *The Families of Merigold Point*, Lewis and Elizabeth had seven children, Mary, 1810, William, 1815, John, 1817, Eliza, 1819, Charles, 1824, Cornelia, 1828, and Richard, 1832. With such a large family to accommodate, Lewis built a much bigger house in 1830, a storey and a half salt box construction with a three-bay facade, reminiscent of the American Federalist style found in northeastern United States.

Lewis was known to be a worthy settler of Merigold's Point, a kind father and attentive husband. To his community and neighbours, he was charitable and liberal. He conducted his annual statute labour of maintaining the roadway in front of his property, was involved in local civic affairs and attended Grand Jury duty on the Home District Court of General Quarter Sessions, which required trips into York.

It was said of Lewis that he had been a steady and consistent member of the Methodist Church for years and his house a welcome home for its ministers until the Methodist Church (now Christ Church) was built in 1830. Also that year, the Bradley children were able to attend the S.S. #6 School located on the Lake Shore Road that had been corduroyed since 1820.

◀ The original location of the Bradley House
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Richard Bradley
(Bradley Museum)



▲ Margorie Bradley
(Bradley Museum)



▲ Moving day
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ After the move
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Interior of Bradley House
(Bradley Museum)

Three years after Lewis Bradley's death on April 1, 1843, at age 72, his property was sold to his brother-in-law, Bartholemew Crannel Beardsley, for £500 (\$1,250). The Bradley house was then occupied by Beardsley's daughter, Cornelia, and her husband, James Upham. Elizabeth and her children moved to Trafalgar Township. (Over a hundred years later, a park on Inverhouse Drive was named for Lewis Bradley.)

Down through the decades, the Bradley House had many occupants, such as the Ryries and the Flemingtons, until 1941 when the British American Oil Company (B.A.) began purchasing several hundred acres (hectares) in the area for its refinery and obtained the house. The B.A. rented it until 1959 when it was decided to demolish it. Kenneth Armstrong, who founded *The Mississauga News* in 1964, bought three houses from the company and donated the Bradley House to Toronto Township with the stipulation that it be used as a museum. The Ward 2 Councillor, Robert Harrison (1960-65), was instrumental in the transaction along with former Reeve Anthony Adamson. It is the only house of the original Merigold's Point settlement to survive. The Toronto Town-



▲ **The Anchorage**
(Bradley Museum)

ship Historical Foundation was formed and incorporated on December 6, 1960, to operate the museum. This organization became the Mississauga Historical Foundation in 1976 and the Mississauga Heritage Foundation in 1987.

In 1963, the house was moved some 3,000 feet (914 m) inland to Orr and Meadow Wood Roads onto an acre and a half (0.6 ha) of land donated by the British American Oil Company. It still sits on the original Bradley grant, adjacent to the 13.2 ha (32 a) Meadow Wood Park. The house was restored by a group of dedicated volunteers. Architectural details were put into the fireplace's wooden mantel, the dining parlour's corner cupboard, and the period furnishings as examples of the early pioneers' lifestyle. Only a corner cupboard of the original Bradley home has survived, which was set up in the common room. The museum, located at 1620 Orr Road, was opened to the public on July 5,

1967. It was designated a heritage building in 1977 by the City of Mississauga according to the Ontario Heritage Act of 1974.

Gradually, a few other buildings were added: a drive shed was put up in 1971 and a display barn, with original beams and siding from several barns in the City, was constructed by Bruce S. Evans in 1976. Captain John Skynner's home, the Anchorage, was moved onto the property on June 16, 1978. Following extensive studies and fund raising efforts, it was renovated and opened in 1992.



◀ **Gravestone
of Lewis
Bradley**
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Captain William Thompson — 1815

William Thompson was born to Cornelius and Rebecca in New Brunswick in 1786. During the War of 1812, he headed up the 2nd Regiment, West York Militia, as a Captain and fought in the Detroit, Queenston Heights and Lundy's Lane battles. William and his brother, Augustus, were taken prisoners of war at St. Davids on July 19, 1814, when it was set afire at the command of American General Jacob Brown. They were not released until February, 1815, when the war was officially over. Despite this harrowing experience, he remained in the Militia and was made a Lieutenant Colonel in 1826 and a Colonel in 1831.

► Harwood
(Region of Peel Archives)

WILLIAM'S FATHER PASSED AWAY IN 1814, LEAVING HIM TWO of his many land grants, 480 acres (194 ha), Lots 33-34, Cons. 3 and 4, SDS. Following his release, he came to the Clarkson area to farm the property assigned to him. He had married Jane Garden in 1810 and they had two sons, William John and Alfred Andrew. When his log house on Lot 33 got too small for his growing family, he built a substantial house in a Regency style on Lot 34 and named it "Harwood."

Between 1824-28, he represented York and Simcoe Counties in the House of Assembly. He was made a commissioner by the Provincial Act of 1826, along with William Allan and Doctor Grant Powell, to supervise the construction of a building for the Legislature. At this time, he was involved with Colonel Peter Adamson in the building of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). He is considered one



of its founders and signed the deed. His son, Henry Horace, was the first child to be baptized in the church in May, 1828.

In the 1828 election, he ran against William Lyon Mackenzie for the York County Riding and lost. During the Mackenzie Rebellion in December, 1837, he was second in command alongside Lieutenant James FitzGibbon. He became a leading Upper Canada magistrate and was productive in the Home District's Court of General Quarter Sessions.

He was an extremely politically minded gentleman, who was heavily involved in Toronto Township politics for a number of years. He became the Ward 1 councillor in the Clarkson area and treasurer in 1850 and the Reeve in 1851. Over the years, he bought parcels of land throughout the Township and held many mortgages.

In 1848, he lost his wife, Jane, with whom he had had nine children. She passed away at age 62 while visiting relatives in New Brunswick. Their son, Alfred, was the first mayor of Penetanguishene. William died at his home on January 18, 1860.

Thompson's "Harwood" was restored in the 1930s by the Wasson

family, who renamed it "Acacia Farm." Then it was part of the St. Lawrence Cement purchase in 1956 and the house was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Vanravonstein. Then newlyweds Rene and Rommy Vanderspek resided there from 1963 to 1968. He was the plant's maintenance supervisor. It was demolished in 1986.



▲ Rearview of Harwood
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Harwood dining
room fireplace
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Harwood living
room fireplace
(Region of Peel Archives)

The Oliphant Family — 1819

The Oliphants became a prominent family in the Clarkson area. Peter (b.1763, d.1846) and Elizabeth (1769-1826) Oliphant, came from Trafalgar Township, Halton County, in 1819 with their children, Aaron (1788-1868) and Hiram (1802-1864). Peter purchased the north half of Lot 26, Con. 3, for £130 (\$325) in 1821 from David Kerr. This property was sold to John Peer in 1827. Peer built a brick house on Barrymede Road (now Bexhill Road) that is still there.

The Oliphants bought property all over Clarkson: In 1825, Aaron, whose first wife was Catherine Hendershot, purchased 150 acres (61 ha) of Lot 27, Con. 3, for £200 (\$500) from John Marlett. In 1843, Peter bought the south half of the property that is now the Rattray Marsh, which was then called Oliphant's Swamp. This section was sold to Thomas Slade in 1851. In 1856, Aaron's son, Isaac (1824-1894), bought 70 acres (28 ha) for £800 (\$2,000) of Thomas Merigold's grant, Lot 29, Con. 3. Over the years, parts of Lots 23, 25, 28 and 34 were purchased.



▲ Thomas Oliphant
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ Mrs. Mary Oliphant
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

BESIDES BEING WHEAT farmers, the men of the family were great hunters, trappers and fishermen. They were also community minded and were involved with the Methodist Church and School #6 for as long as they resided in Clarkson. On May 25, 1860, Isaac and Catherine Oliphant registered a deed on a small piece of their property on Lot 29 to the Church for a meeting place and burial ground. The cemetery never materialized.

In 1884, a list of members of the Carman Methodist Church included Thomas Oliphant (b.1858 to Aaron's son Phillip and wife Eliza, who had 75 acres (30 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 3), as a steward, and his family. Thomas purchased 50 acres of lot 29 and 30, Con. 3, in 1886 and built a two storey house.

Thomas played the organ at the

turn of the Century. He was also mentioned as one of the actors in the 1910 annual minstrel show held in the Community Hall. His second wife, Mary Shook, daughter of Henry and Alicia, belonged to the Church's Ladies Aid. Their only child, Armadell, married Gordon Pattinson.

Thomas passed away in 1911 and Mary sold their home. Around 1920, she rented Edith Clarkson's house on Clarkson Road North, Lot 29, Con. 2, to use as a boarding house. Edith, who had died in 1919, had started selling off her property in 1913 and had had the house built north of the Clarkson store and post office. Mary boarded some of the

teachers from S.S. #6, along with Annie Hall. Eva Herridge, a young widow with a seven year old daughter, Irene, went to work for Mrs. Oliphant as housekeeper in 1927. She and Irene lived there until 1938, the year that Mary died at age 71. Mary had one of the largest funerals in Clarkson, which was held at the Clarkson United Church with Reverend R. Spencer officiating with the burial at Spring Creek Cemetery.

There are no longer Oliphants living in Clarkson, but the last Oliphant residence (the Edith Clarkson house), a two storey white brick building at 1160 Clarkson Road North, next door to The Toronto Ability School, is owned by Teresa Hunkar.



▲ Edith Clarkson's House
(City of Mississauga Heritage Department)

First Church Services — 1820s

UPPER CANADA WAS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN Methodist Episcopal circuits. Toronto Township was included in the circuit along the Lake Shore Road from Pickering to Trafalgar. Early church services were conducted by circuit ministers, who rode their horses from one community to another, preaching wherever a home was open to them. They usually covered their territory once a month.

In May, 1822, Reverend Reed of York wrote to Reverend T. Mason to report, “We had any quantity of preachers who made himself at home wherever he went. He rode up and if the cow was in the stable, turned her out, fed his horse before he came in and generally commended the wife of the splendid shortcake he had eaten the last time he was there and always stayed all night, preaching in the evening. The house was now crowded with listening multitudes. To see them coming from the woods in every direction with lighted torches, has often filled us with pleasing solemnity.”



▲ *A Circuit Rider*

(C.W. Jefferys C-96392 Rogers Cantel Collection)

The first record kept on a church service in Clarkson was noted in Reverend Anson Green's journals. Green, who was born in 1801 at Middleburgh, Schoharie, New York, was converted to Methodism on October 17, 1819, and came to Upper Canada in 1822, when the population was 130,000. He was ordained on August 25, 1824, and was assigned to the Smith Creek Circuit (Peterborough area). In September, 1826, he was given the Ancaster Circuit. He stated, “We



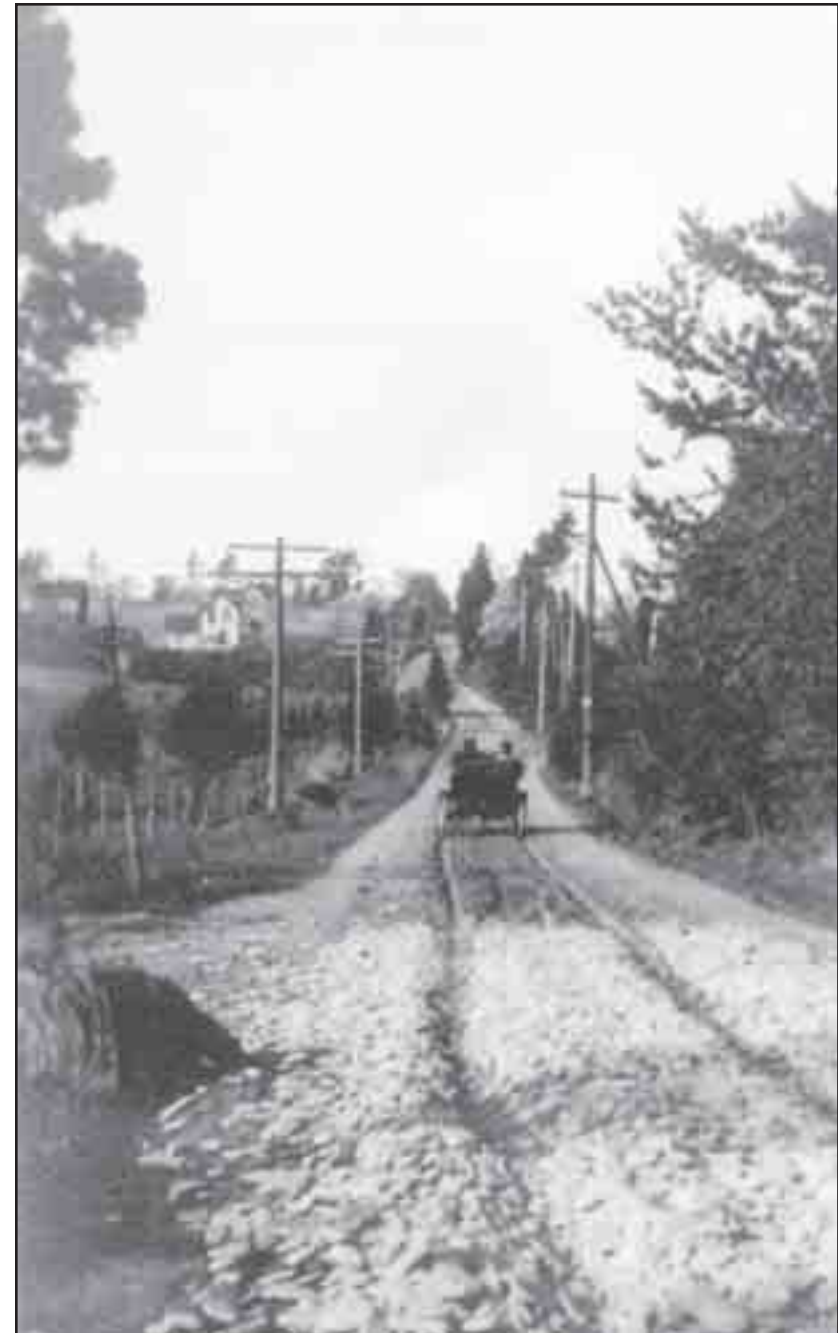
▲ Anson Green
(Mississauga Library System)

laboured in eight townships from the River Credit to the Grand River Swamp.” There were 396 churches under his pastoral care.

On Saturday, October 14, 1826, he preached in Lewis Bradley’s house. In attendance were Lewis’ sons, William and John, Captain Daniel Merigold and wife, Margaret, the Hendershot family Peter Oliphant and family, and John and Maria Peer. On the Sunday, a service was held at Greeniaus’ Red Schoolhouse on the north-west corner of Lot 31, Con. 2. Green called it Greeniaus because he stayed at their home during the weekend. There were more people out for the Sunday service. Besides the Greeniauses, all of the above, as well as Alexander Hemphill, whose property the school was on, and sons, Zechariak and Nathaniel, David and Sophia Hammond and sons, William, Ransom and David Jr., with his wife, Lucinda, Heinrick Schuch and sons, Peter and Conrad and children, Joshua Pollard and children, the Kellys, Johnsons, Henry Gable and sons, Henry Jr. and Samuel, and grandson, Jacob, Warren Clarkson and wife.

ROAD REPORT — 1822

Local Road Commissioner’s Report: I furthermore certify that I have examined the allowance for a road between Captain Monger’s (Lot 30, Con. 2) and Mr. Hemphill’s (Lot 31, Con. 2) down to the lake and find it will be impractical to make a good road by reason of the ground being low, wet and stone.

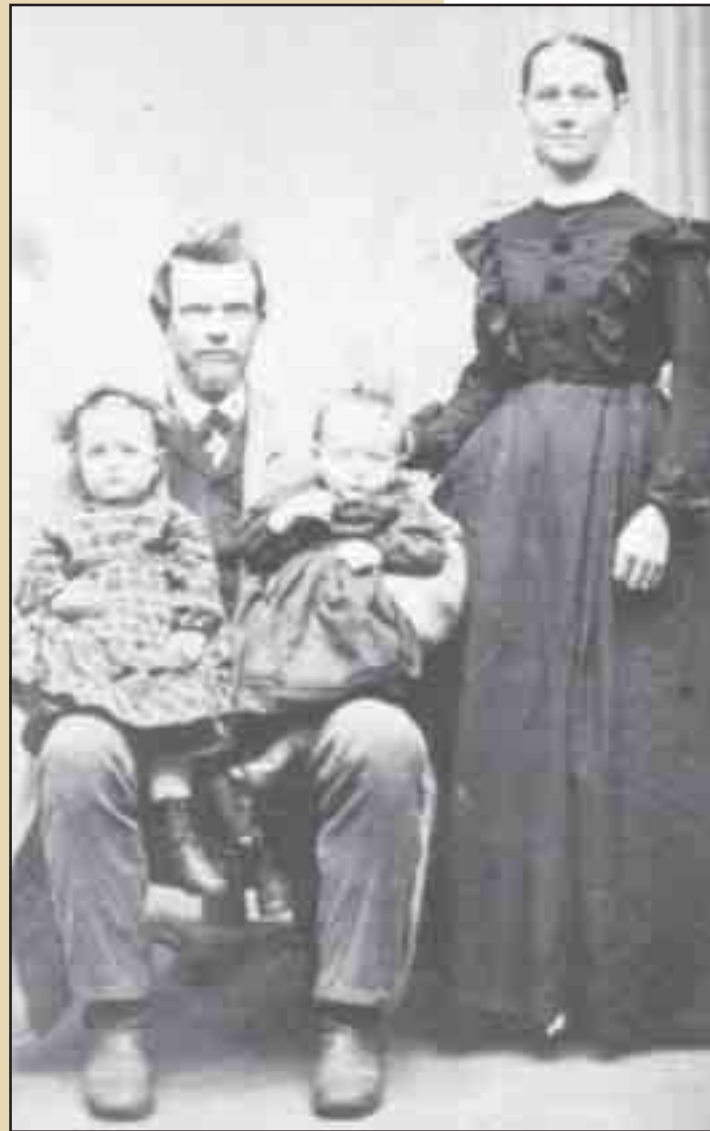


▲ Author’s note: This roadway was opened that year and became Fifth Line and then Southdown Road in 1958.

(Ontario Archives, John Boyd Collection)

The Johnson Family — 1825

In 1825, Henry Johnson purchased 100 acres (40ha) in Clarkson for £100 (\$250) south half of Lot 31, Con. 2, SDS, from David Kribbs of Barton Township. Henry had been born in the United States on February 14, 1780. His father, Henry, brought his family to Niagara about 1786, after the American Revolution. Around 1806, young Henry married Elizabeth Smith and they had eleven children.



▲ Descendents Daniel and Mary Johnson, 1880
(David Johnson)

HENRY WAS A FARMER AND UPON HIS arrival in the Clarkson area, he built a house and immediately began to work the land with the help of his nine sons. The family were Methodists and joined their neighbours in the communal church gatherings at the Bradleys and Greeniaus' Red Schoolhouse until the first church was built in 1830.

In 1853, Henry sold his acreage to his sons, Jeremiah (50 acres, £400 - 20 ha, \$1000) and James (50 acres, £400). Henry passed away on September 25, 1854. On October 6th, his wife joined him. Both are buried in the Spring Creek Cemetery. Jeremiah sold his 50 acres (20 ha) to Charles Cordingley for \$3,000 on February 2, 1874, but James' land, located behind the Specks' farm, was retained for generations of Johnson descendants. The Johnsons were related to the Patchett, Taylor, Shook, Greeniaus and the Naish families.

James died in 1904 and left his property to Thomas Patchett. There were Johnsons in the Clarkson area up until the 1930s. The property was eventually sold in 1955 to United Lands Corporation for what became the Park Royal subdivision. The house remained for years and then was demolished.

First Public School, S.S. # 5 — 1826



THE FIRST CLARKSON SCHOOL, located south of Middle Road (now the Queen Elizabeth Way) and west of what would become Southdown Road, was built in 1826. (The first Grammar School Act was passed in 1807, which established that one school was to be built in each of the eight Districts. This was followed by the Common School Act in 1816.) It

was a frame structure of 40 square feet (3.7 m²) on the northwest corner of Lot 31, Con. 2, SDS, on property leased for 999 years from Alexander Hemphill. He had purchased the north half for £400 (\$1,000) from grantee David Kribbs on July 1, 1816. The school was registered on March 14, 1826. The area was called School Section #5.

Down through the years, it had other names such as the Little Red School house, Greeniaus' Schoolhouse and Monger's Schoolhouse and by 1950 was sometimes referred to as Hillcrest School by the Grade 8 students, because it was located on the crest of a hill. Three of the first trustees were Alexander and Zachariah Hemphill and Joshua Pollard. They also acted as secretaries and auditors and saw that good records were kept on all school expenditures. The first teacher was David Hammond Sr. The local farmers, Greeniaus, Shook, Pollard, Gable, Clarkson, Oughtred, Conover, Johnson and Cameron, maintained the schoolhouse and kept it in good repair.

As attendance grew, it became necessary to enlarge the school to two rooms in 1830. The yearly cost to parents for each student was 18 shillings (approx. \$2.25). The cost went up to 25¢ (2 shillings) per month by 1861, at which time \$56.82 was collected. Free schooling came about with the Grammar School Act of 1871, which provided for "Free and Compulsory Primary Schooling" for all children.

By this time it was apparent that a new school was required. A three-quarter acre (0.3 ha) piece of property was purchased east of the school from John Utter for \$37.50 in 1876 and a new building of red brick with a green shingled roof was put up and opened that same year. The old school was sold for \$21.50.

In 1957, the property was expropriated by the Department of Highways for the expansion of the Fifth Line (Southdown) intersection, where a rotary interchange would be constructed at the Queen Elizabeth Way. The South Service Road was put through and the "Little Red Schoolhouse" was demolished. The South Peel Board of Education received

25





▲ School #5
(Phyllis Williams)



▲ Miss L. A. Smith with Class of 1896
(Vera Davis)

\$125,000 for this property and an 11 acre (4.4 ha) site was purchased north of Truscott Drive, just east of Fifth Line (Southdown Road). A six room school was constructed and opened on November 14, 1957, retaining the name Hillcrest.

In 2003, the principal of the Hillcrest Public School, 1530 Springwell Avenue, is Nancy Perrin and there are 510 students.

▼ Hillcrest School, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Spring Creek Grave Ground — 1827

THE SPRING CREEK CEMETERY WAS STARTED by the pioneers around 1827 on one acre (0.4 ha) at the northeast corner of John Chambers' 20 acres (8 ha), Lot 29, Con. 2. This acreage had been purchased from William Kelly on September 29, 1827, and August 27, 1828. It was located on the west side of a trail that would become Clarkson Road in 1850. It was originally called "Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground" for his association and the spring that meandered through the property. This cemetery had no church or government affiliation.

28



▲ Clarkson Road and Spring Creek Cemetery
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

Warren Clarkson was the moving force behind the establishment of the cemetery and was instrumental in choosing the perfect location. He became Chairman of the Board and a trustee, along with John Chambers and Nathaniel Hendershot. John Chambers sold all but the cemetery plot to Frederick Starr Jarvis on March 25, 1835. Warren saw to the maintenance of the graves and held his position until 1873. When he died in 1882, the Clarkson family grave was enhanced by an elaborate carved stone angel.

Most of the old Clarkson pioneers are buried here, the Bradleys, Merigolds, Oughtreds, Shooks and Greeniauses, but the first burial was that of Christopher Hendershot, which has April 17, 1812, on the headstone. Christopher, a cooper from Ancaster, had received Lot 26, Con. 3, as a grant in 1808.

The earliest records kept are written minutes and an account book dated 1848. The first meeting's minutes of April 11 read: "The object of this meeting called by the Trustees, for the neighbourhood to take into consideration the management of Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground." The Trustees were Warren Clarkson and Nathaniel Hemphill. Jacob Gable was appointed to take the place of John Chambers.

Finally on March 19, 1849, Chambers sold the acre (0.4 ha) of land the cemetery occupied to Warren Clarkson and the Cemetery trustees. At this time Warren Clarkson obtained a deed from John Chambers to secure ownership of the property. According to the Cemetery Board minutes, the Chambers was still being used in 1901. August 10, 1901: "Moved by E. Savage and seconded by E. Orr that Henry Shook be and is hereby appointed to collect all outstanding debts due the Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground for unpaid lots." At the October 15, 1907 meeting, it was referred to as the Clarkson Cemetery. Then Clarkson Spring Creek Cemetery.

In 1859, another half acre (0.2 ha) was purchased from James Morgan, the new owner of Chambers' farm, to expand the site. The plots were being sold for around \$1.25 each. Another half acre was acquired on January 29, 1931, from Cyrus Ward, for \$580. The Board of Trustees was incorporated on July 19, 1951.

Over the years, the cemetery at 1390 Clarkson Road North, has expanded to 20 acres (8 ha). Many decorative head stones enhance the quiet solitude of this final resting place that reflects the spectrum of Clarkson's original pioneers.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Spring Creek Cemetery since 1995 has been Bill Lawrence, whose great grandfather, Ferris Lawrence, was chairman in 1895. Two of the Oughtreds also serve on the board, Wallace and Gordon's sons, Bill and Richard.

SPRING CREEK CEMETERY BOARD MINUTES — 1873

Saturday, June 28, 1873: Solomon Savage, chairman, Daniel Johnson, secretary, carried. Mr. Warren Clarkson then tendered his resignation as Trustee of Chamber's Spring Creek Grave Ground. The meeting accepted of the resignation. Moved by J. Pollard and seconded by J. Gable that this meeting tender Mr. Clarkson a vote of thanks for his long service as a Trustee. Carried. Moved by D. Hammond and seconded by J. Gable that Henry Shook act as Trustee instead of Mr. Clarkson who had retired. Carried. Moved by H. Shook and seconded by G. Greeniaus that the number of trees on a lot do not exceed one to a lot and that they not be allowed to grow larger than eight inches in diameter and twenty feet high, except ornamental trees now out. Anyone not complying with the above resolution, the Trustees are empowered to go on said lots and cut down all trees that exceed the above dimensions. Carried.



▲ The entrance to Clarkson Road Cemetery, 2001
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ Spring Creek Cemetery 1390 Clarkson Road North
(Mississauga Library System)

Public School S.S. #6 — 1830

THE SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE BUILT IN CLARKSON was School Section #6 on Lot 29, Con. 3, on a piece of property donated by Thomas Merigold. It was a rough-cast building situated on the west side of what was Lake Shore Road and is now 888 Clarkson Road South. There is not a definite date of its construction, only that it was built around 1830. Little else is known as no records are available before 1900, when Miss Jean Smith was the teacher with an annual salary of \$400.

30



▲ Clarkson Public School
(Jane Watt)



▲ School Section #6
(Phyllis Williams)

In 1904, the little schoolhouse was sold to Misters Shook, Manley, Stephens and Pengilley and moved onto part of James Pengilley's 10 acres (4 ha) behind the Church to be used as a community hall. It was rented out to organizations such as the Clarkson Red Cross Branch and the Women's Institute for functions until it burned down in 1920.

A new brick, one-room school replaced it with Miss Cline as the teacher. Thomas Oliphant was the secretary, Mr. Pengilley the caretaker



▲ Miss Annie Hall
(Phyllis Williams)

and Mr. Galbraith, inspector. In 1905, 20 more feet (6m) was purchased for \$28 in order to extend the school property.

By 1915, the Clarkson Public School was overcrowded and during the spring season, a tent was utilized as a portable. By September, the old school-house behind the Church was used for the winter months. A new four room brick school was erected by architects Ellis and Ellis in 1916 and is still used today.

In 1924, when an acre and a half (0.6 ha) of land was purchased from George James, a dynamic young lady came on the scene and made such an impression during her tenure that she is still talked about today. Miss Annie Hall came to Clarkson to be interviewed for the job of principal.

She had graduated from Hamilton Normal School in 1918 and taught in Burlington until 1923, In 1924, she attended the University of Toronto. She met Trustee Fred Orr in his strawberry patch and before several pupils, Doris and Enid Pattinson (Speck) being two, she was interrogated for the

position. She was hired and remained with the school until her retirement in 1962. She taught three generations of pupils. Another dynamic teacher was Myrtle Speck, who arrived in 1926, and spent 44 years as an active presence in the school's activities until she retired in 1970.

Over the years, the school put on many plays under the directorship of Annie Hall, such as "*The Wishing Moon*," which was a fund raiser for the Red Cross, "*The Hot Potato Inn*" and "*Star Bright*," written by Evelyn Crickmore. These were held in the Carman Church's Community Hall and audiences often numbered 600.

It was not until 1944 that the school had new plumbing installed, which included flush toilets, much to the relief of the students, who abhorred the outhouse. In 1945, the school was insulated and indirect lighting was a new addition and the interior was redecorated. A new roof was put on in 1946 along with an oil burning, hot water heating system.

The Clarkson Public School now has 14 teachers with 11 classrooms and a gymnasium to serve the 209 students. Scott Kruger is the principal.



▲ School Section #6 in 1906-07 (Phyllis Williams)



▲ Clarkson Public School, 2001
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ Principal
Annie Hall (top
row, fourth
from left) with
students, 1938
(Phyllis Williams)

► Memoirs of Peter
Robinson Jarvis, age 73.
Born August 6, 1824, the
son of Frederick Starr
Jarvis, son-in-law of
Thomas Merigold.
Excerpt from "The
Families of Merigold's
Point" Dorothy L. Martin,
page 133

MEMORIES

"My early life was uneventful. My education began in the first log school house built in the neighbourhood. It was situated on the Lake Shore Road about a mile from my house. At about seven years of age, I began attending school and as the road was exceedingly rough, being of corduroy, I was frequently carried on the backs of the larger boys to and from school. The educational facilities of those days were imperfect and the opportunities in that direction were limited. There was no system of education in the country at that time and whatever was done was by the pioneers in the locality."

The Methodist Church — 1830

THE FIRST CHURCH IN Clarkson was the Methodist Church, that became the Carman Methodist Episcopal Church, then Christ Church. It got its start in 1830 when the congregation held its first service in the S.S. #6 School and meeting house. But the first church was not built until 1859. The dedication services took place on October 30 with the key being presented to Bishop Smith by building chairman, Dr. Thomas Slade. On May 25, 1860, a registered deed was signed, whereby Isaac and Catherine Oliphant granted a 90 by 121 foot (27 m x 37 m) piece of property, Lot 29, Con. 3, to trustees of the Methodist Church, Thomas Slade, Phillip and Aaron Oliphant and Joseph Johnson, to be used for a meeting house and burial grounds. This property was 1,155 feet (352 m) south of the Lake Shore Road corner.



▲ Carman Church Picnic, 1912

It was the only church in a three mile (5 k) radius so it was not known for strict denominationalism and because of this, it became the focus of community life in Clarkson. Many extracurricular activities were held there such as picnics, concerts, plays and choral singing.

That church was only used for 16 years when a larger church was required for the growing congregation. A new church was built in 1875 on three-eighths of an acre (0.2 ha) donated by the late Daniel Merigold's wife, Margaret Vail, with a 96 foot frontage and a 160 foot (29 m x 49 m) depth of Lot 28, Con. 3, on the bend of the Lake Shore Road (now the



▲ First Church
(Christ Church)



▲ Church and Community Hall
(Christ Church)



▲ Second Church
(Christ Church)

corner of Clarkson Road South). It was at this time that the Church was named for Bishop Albert Carman of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, a longtime friend of Mrs. Merigold's. (From 1918-1922, the Church was called the Clarkson Community Church and over the years was often referred to this way, even though in 1922 it was changed back to the Carman Church.)

The old schoolhouse that had been used for community activities burned down in 1920 and a new hall was required. The Church constructed a Sunday School and Community Hall with the aid of a build-

ing committee headed up by Percy Hodgetts. The \$9,000 structure, worked on mostly by volunteers, would allow for an expansion to the Church's activities. It was dedicated on September, 28, 1924.

In 1925, with the amalgamation of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches to form the United Church of Canada, this church became the Clarkson United Church.

It was decided in 1954 to build a new church on Mazo Crescent on 4.3 acres (1.7 ha) of the former Harris property. It cost \$3,000 an acre (0.4 ha). The chairman of the building fund was Stanley Arnold Holling, who just happened to be a second cousin to Mazo de la Roche for whom the street was named. The ground breaking was on May 1, 1955. The last Church service in the old church was on Sunday, January 29, 1956.



▲ The 1920 School Fire
(Jean Lindsay)



▲ Clarkson United Church play, 1943



▲ Sunday school concert



▲ Lakeshore Floor Finishers
(Mathew Wilkinson)

36

The new building was dedicated on February 1, 1956, by Reverend G. C. Ridgeon. A plaque was unveiled on August 2, 1956, for the “Margaret Merigold Room,” in honour of this lady, who kindly gave the Church such a generous start. At this time it became Christ Church.

The old church was sold to St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic Church, but only remained a church for a short time. Cecil Caton purchased the building in 1964 and opened it as a commercial business for Lakeshore



▲ Christ Church, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Floor Finishers. When he died in 1995, his wife, Edith, became the owner of the building and the business was owned and operated by their son, Bruce. In March, 2002, Bruce moved his business to 1034 Clarkson Road North. Wowy Zowy Toys, owned by Kevin and Mary Pat McConnell now operates out of the old location.

Although a great departure from its original historical bent, the Gothic windows of the former church lend an enduring trace to its past.

Highway Legislation - 1834 — 1917

1834: An Act to exempt tolls on Sunday for persons going to Church or vehicles carrying manure.

1868: An Act to regulate speed of steam traction engines carrying freight or passengers not to exceed 6 mph and 3 mph in town. A messenger to precede the engine with a red flag. Engine to stop if horses encountered frightened.

1885: No stone or gravel to be placed on the Queen's Highways during the sleighing season.

1903: First issue of licence plates. Speed 10 mph in town, 15 mph on highway.

1905: Vehicle must carry a headlamp.

1912: Vehicles to proceed at a walking speed on bridges over 30 feet in length.

1917: Two headlamps required, one on each side.



▲ Canada's first car owner, Hamiltonian John Moodie in his four-wheeled gasoline-propelled motor vehicle, 1898.

(Ministry of Transportation)

Bush's Inn — 1835

ON NOVEMBER 7, 1835, ENGLISH born Russell Bush purchased 20 acres (8 ha) of land for £100 (\$250), which was part of Lot 29, Con. 3, on a wagon trail referred to as Merigold Road (now Clarkson Road South), from Amos Merigold, Thomas' son. Amos was married to Nancy Cody, the daughter of Philip Cody from Dixie, who was the grandfather of William F. Cody, the famous showman known as Buffalo Bill.

▼ Back View of Bush's Inn
Outbuildings
(Jean Lindsay)



▲ Bush's Inn
(Misissauga Library System)

Bush proceeded to build the first tavern and Inn in Clarkson, near Hyatt's Saw Mill, which was located on a ravine beside the waterway now known as Sheridan Creek. Bush's Inn was to accommodate weary travellers on their journey by stagecoach along the Lake Shore Road from Toronto to the Niagara Peninsula. William Weller's Stage Coach Line stopped frequently at the Inn for the horses to be rested or changed and the passengers to have refreshments. Bush eventually added seven stables, a barn and several outbuildings to meet



◀ Captain Sutherland
(Barbara Larson)

the business's need to handle the traffic as stagecoach travel became a daily occurrence.

Initially, the features of the Inn were drawn from typical English inns known for low ceilings and wandering corridors. It was constructed as a three bay facade with a gable roof set on a solid lake stone foundation. This became the back wing of the structure, which was fronted by a larger rectangular, half stuccoed and half timbered house. One popular room was called The Tap Room, which was long and narrow with walls of vertical wood and floors of wide pine planks. It had its own entrance, and here the locals would gather to imbibe, with the odd traveller stopping by to enjoy a brew. The gossip of the day was shared, such as the death of King William IV, 1837, and the crowning of Queen Victoria or the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion.

When the railway arrived in 1855, stagecoach travel diminished and Russell found his business on the decline and sold out to Captain Edward Sutherland of the 96th Regiment on October 16 for £650 (\$1,625). Captain Sutherland, who was born in Ireland and came from Halifax, Nova Scotia, renamed the property "Woodburn" and decided to produce strawberries. He made use of the railway and shipped his fruit throughout Ontario. He kept up this practice for a few years, after which he sold the 20 acres (8 ha) to Reverend James Magrath's son, Charles, in 1861. It is thought that the Captain went to St. Catharines to live with

his son, John Newton, for a time. He later moved to his daughter's home near Santa Margarita, California, where he died in 1885 at age 90.

Over the years, the Inn changed hands and each owner continued the strawberry farming. Magrath sold to Robert Orr in 1868 and he to Joseph Orr in 1870 for \$1,480. Then Joseph gave it to his son, Andrew in 1889. When Alexander Westervelt and Percy Hodgetts, purchased the 20 acres in 1910 from Andrew, and tossed a coin to see which piece of the property each would get, Alex won the toss and got the Inn. He tore down the stables, leaving only a barn, and expanded the strawberry fields and planted an orchard. He became the chairman for the Royal Winter Fair when it began in Toronto in 1922. Livestock men constantly sought his expertise and advice to solve their Association problems. As he was preparing for the 1936 Fair, he collapsed and died at age 64.

Avice Westervelt sold to George and Ethel Bonter on May 18, 1944, and then on May 1, 1946, Carolyn Dayley bought it. The strawberries were eventually replaced with an apple orchard with a few peach and pear trees. The Dayleys subdivided the property so that when Muriel Williams became owner of the old Inn in 1955, it sat on one acre (0.4 ha) of land. Murray and Joan Thom and their five children took up occupancy in March, 1956, and did some restoration, throughout which they discovered the old kitchen fireplace and bake oven. In August, 1975, it was taken over by Hubert and Katherine Thom, who also took pride in the old place and restored it further.

Bush's Inn today looks much as it did in the 1830s when stagecoaches stopped on a regular basis and passengers took advantage of the refreshments and camaraderie. It is however sitting on a very narrow lot at 822 Clarkson Road South, surrounded by houses and is used as a residence by William and Janet Woods, who purchased it in 1979 from the Thoms.



▲ Alex Westervelt
(Jean Lindsay)

The Oughtred Family — 1835

Richard Oughtred III and his brother William came from Guisborough, England, to Quebec in 1820. While there, William married Mary Cole.

Four years later, they returned to England. Then in 1831, William, Mary and their two children, William and Elizabeth, and Richard's two sons, William and Richard, came to

Upper Canada to settle in the small hamlet of Hammondville, named for the William

Hammond family, who had received a 100 acre (40 ha) grant, north half of Lot 35, Con. 2, that was located at the junction of the Town Line (Winston Churchill Blvd.) and Middle Road (Q.E.W.), in Toronto Township. Shortly after their arrival, Richard's son, William, died. His son, Stephen, came to Upper Canada a few years later.

► William Oughtred
(Region of Peel Archives)

▼ Doughtred House
(Region of Peel Archives)





◀ Oughtred and Hardy families — Top Row: 2nd from left, Wilson, 3rd from left, Art, Bottom Row: Gordon on left, Wally on right.
(Anson Hardy)

41

After residing there for a time, Richard, who was a blacksmith by trade and quite a literature buff, suggested the name of the village be changed to Sheridan for the Irish playwright, Richard Brinsley Sheridan. He married Esther Ann Gable in 1855 and purchased 90 acres (36 ha) of Lots 28 and 29, Con. 1. He built a brick house that was torn down in 1938 to make way for the widening and paving of the Middle Road. In 1835, his Uncle William, at 59 years old, purchased 40 acres (16 ha) in Clarkson of Lot 33, Con. 2, for £50 (\$125) from William Kelly and began to farm. His daughter, Elizabeth, died this same year. Reverend Peter Jones preached a sermon for her at the Port Credit Methodist Church.

When Richard died in 1881, Stephen inherited his farm and it was left to his son, William, upon his death in 1903. When William died in 1923, it was passed down to William and Emmaline's only son, Wilson.

The Oughtred family, who were serious farmers, owning over 400 acres (162 ha), became prominent in the Township. They had one of Ontario's successful strawberry farms. They transferred their membership from the Sheridan Methodist Church to Clarkson's Carman Meth-

odist. Wilson served as a Society representative and in 1924 he took part in the building committee for the new Sunday School and Community Hall. His wife, Alice, was involved in the women's organizations. They had three sons, Arthur, Gordon and Wallace. Wilson was the first in the Township to use irrigation and the Oughtreds were called early pioneers of this innovation. He died at age 56.

Arthur, Gordon and Wallace took over the farm and ran market outlets around Clarkson and other small towns until 1965. Arthur became very active in the church, first in Sunday school and then as president of the Young People's Group. When plans for a new church began in 1954, he was instrumental in raising funds. Arthur became the president of the Fruit Growers Association of Ontario, he died in 1962.

The remaining acreage of the Trenwith Stonehaven Farm was sold on July 22, 1963, to Idlewyld Developments Ontario Limited, owned by the Oughtred brothers. They built the subdivision that became the Trenholme Estates.

Today, Gordon and Wallace are in land development with Oughtred Brothers Limited.

Benares — 1837

THE HISTORICAL GEORGIAN CLASSIC REVIVAL style brick and stone structure called “Benares,” that was designated an heritage building by the City of Mississauga in 1977 and has been a period museum since 1995, has an interesting history. It is one of the oldest houses in the Clarkson area (built in 1857, with original out-buildings from the 1830s period), in line with the Clarkson/Barnett house, the Bradley House and the Anchorage. The six acre (2.4 ha) property it sits on, located at 1503 Clarkson Road North, was originally owned by Edgar Neave, Lot 28, Con. 2, SDS. He had started to build a house, but apparently he left in 1835 before it was finished. Neave had purchased 150 acres (61 ha) from grantee Frederick Starr Jarvis for £300 (\$750) on December 20, 1833. He received 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 28 as a grant in 1834 and 136 acres (55 ha) of Lot 27 in 1835.

An ad placed in the *Upper Canada Land, Mercantile & General Advertiser* on July 31, 1835, for the sale of this property, stated, “A Quantity of Land upwards of 80 acres (32 ha) under good fence, an elegant stone house, having been constructed by the present proprietor, 4 log houses and a new barn, with at least a 2 mile (2.4 k) frontage, consisting of 197 acres (78.8 ha), Lot 28, 2nd Concession.” It was signed James Magrath (son of Reverend Magrath of Springfield/



▲ Benares Historic House



► Benares
(Barbara Larson)

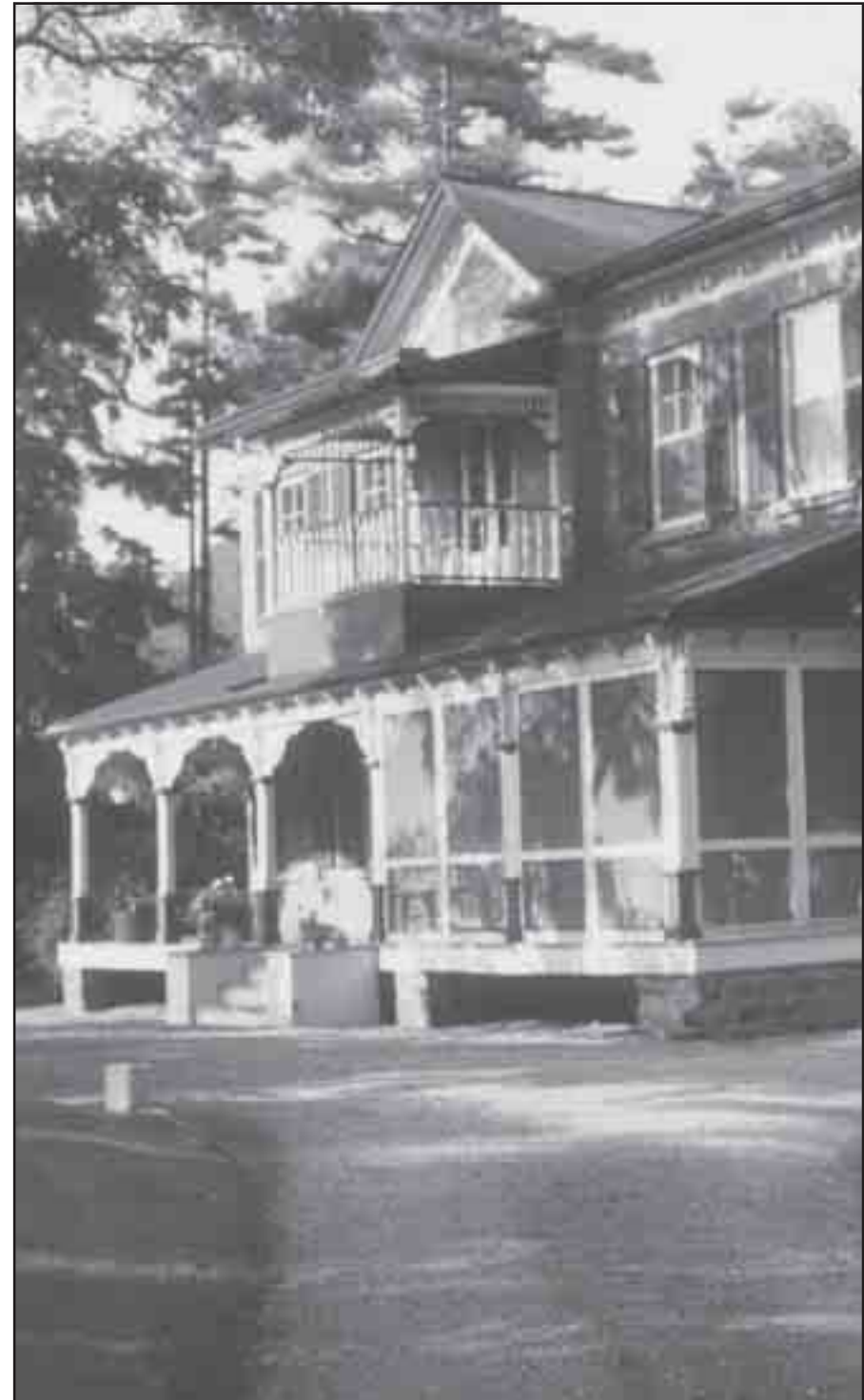
◄ Captain James Harris
(Benares Historic House)

Erindale) and John Jones (the minister for the Mississauga Indians, whose reservation was where the Mississauga Golf and Country Club is now located). According to the Land Registry, George Truscott purchased the property from Neave on August 21, 1835.

On August 31, 1837, 39 year old Captain James Beveridge Harris bought 136 acres (55 ha) of Lot 27 and 148 acres (60 ha) of Lot 28 for £850 (\$2,125) for a total of 284 acres (115 ha) from Truscott.

Captain Harris was of English descent and had a traditional military service background, having had a military post in India with the British Army's 24th Regiment of Foot. His grandfather had been at the capture of Quebec during the Seven Years War (1756-63) and his father, Major General John Harris, had fought against Napoleon at Waterloo (1815). His three brothers also had been professional soldiers, so he came by his calling from family tradition.

In 1829, he had married 23 year old Elizabeth Molony, who had been born in County Clare and lived in Dublin, Ireland. They had two children, Elizabeth, called Bessie, who had been born on the ship on



the way to Canada in 1835, and John, born in Montreal in 1836. They were residing in Toronto when they heard about Truscott's sale of the former Neave property.

44



▲ Arthur Harris

► Elizabeth Harris



► Mary Magrath Harris

(Photos courtesy of Benares Historic House)

It has been said that Neave named his estate "Benares," as a tribute to the Hindus holy city, Benares, an Indian name, today known as Varanasi. According to Anne Sayers, who was interviewed by Dora Royce for the William Perkins Bull books in 1932, "Strangely enough, Neave had named it Benares, which suited the Captain of the India Regiment, and so Benares it remained."

Captain Harris gave up his military position in 1837 and became a gentleman farmer and worked his land earnestly. He was community minded and became involved in local affairs as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He and his family socialized with their neighbours and attended St. Peter's Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale).

James was their first child to be born at Benares in 1838. Margaret, nicknamed Maggie, was born in 1839, Charles, 1841, Arthur, 1843, Lucy, 1844, and Anne in 1846.

For over 10 years, Captain Harris and his family fared well at Benares and prospered. Then tragedy began to stalk them. They lost their son John in 1850 to pneumonia. On November 11, 1855, a fire brought the original stone Benares to the ground, except for the summer kitchen on the back. It was suspected that thieving servants, who had poached the family's silverware, started the fire to cover their crime. Captain Harris had a frame structure put up quickly only to have it burn down in December of 1856, at which time young Lucy saw two men running away from the scene. The Captain, wearing only his nightshirt, led his family to safety and as they stood on the front lawn watching their house burn, he looked through his bedroom window and saw his pants, hanging on the bedpost, go up in flames.

He then commissioned carpenters, Robert Leslie and Charles Dingwell, and stone mason, William Heron, to build a third house, this time a sturdier brick structure. The house with its Neo-Classical cornice returns, tall decorative chimneys and rooms with 12 foot high (3.7 m) ceilings was completed at a cost of £1000 (\$2,500).



▲ Naomi and Anne (Benares Historic House)

In 1857, their son, James, was gored by a bull and he died. Captain Harris had the bull shot. In 1860, they lost Charles to cancer of the kidneys and Maggie died of scarlet fever in 1875.

Both James and Elizabeth passed away in 1884, and their son, Arthur, inherited the homestead. Arthur was the only child to give his parents grandchildren. Bessie, Maggie and Lucy had never married and Anne married Peter Henry Cox, the Mayor of Paris, Ontario, in 1875, but had no offspring. Arthur and his wife, Mary Magrath, who were married in 1881, had Anne (1882-1986), Naomi (1883-1968), and Margaret (1887-1887). She was the granddaughter of Reverend James Magrath and her mother was Captain Edward Sutherland's daughter, Christiana. In 1889, they redecorated the house and added two marble fireplaces, brought by Mary from her Springfield family homestead, and an ornate Victorian style veranda, extremely fashionable at the time.

Daughter Anne married Beverly Sayers in 1906 and Arthur gave them 94 acres (37.6 ha) as a wedding gift. They did not move to the property until 1911 when Beverly had a two storey house built to accommodate his family. (This house became Claudine Hare's nursing home, The Pines, which was opened by Reeve Robert Speck in November, 1962.) They had three children, Geoffrey, 1907, Dora, 1915, and Barbara, 1920. Anne and Beverly built a log bungalow on Birchwood Drive in 1922, where Anne lived until her death in 1986. Her daughter, Barbara, resides there today. When Arthur passed away in 1932, services were held at St. Peter's with Reverend H.V. Thompson of Niagara, who had been the Rector for 25 years, and the present incumbent, Reverend George Banks. Arthur left his property to his daughter, Naomi, who continued to care for her mother until she died in 1954. Naomi lived her entire life at Benares until her death in 1968.

Geoffrey, who was educated at the University of Toronto Schools, was a handsome and sophisticated young man, who often rode his bicycle to the station to catch the train into Toronto. He went into stocks and bonds until the crash of the stock market in October, 1929, then he worked selling life insurance for Northern American Life. In November, 1933, he married Kathleen Colloton at St. Peter's. During World War II, he served in the Lorne Scots Regiment and attained the rank of Captain. When he returned home, he became involved in the development of the Birchwood subdivision on his estate. He and Kathleen lived at Benares.

It is common knowledge that author Mazo de la Roche lived on the



► Dorothy Livesay, Dora Sayers, Sophia Livesay
(Barbara Larson)

◄ Mazo de la Roche
(Benares Historic House)

Sayer's estate with her cousin, Caroline Clement. In 1924, she purchased two small lots from the Sayers, and built a small cabin she called the "Trail Cottage." Here she wrote the first book of her *Jalna* series.

The Harris family did not appreciate the notoriety that transpired when people began to associate Benares with the *Jalna* books. They were invaded by tourists from the first publication. In 1972 when officials from CBC - TV requested permission to film the *Whiteoaks of Jalna* TV series at Benares, Geoffrey Sayers refused. So interior shooting took place at a pioneer homestead in Toronto and the Lake Shore Studios, with exterior shots being done at Audie Irwin's Whitby home, and filming of the war scenes at the old brickworks in Cheltenham.

Captain Harris' great-grandchildren, Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Dora Sayers Caro and Barbara Sayers Larson, inherited Benares upon the death of Aunt Naomi, who was the last Harris to reside in the old homestead. They generously gave Benares to the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF) in 1969. It was one of the first properties in Ontario to be donated this way. Geoffrey remained there until the spring of 1979, then the house was rented out for security reasons until it was turned into a museum.

An archaeological dig was conducted in 1991 by the OHF under the direction of archeologist, Dena Doroszenko, and 94,617 artifacts were uncovered. Restoration on Benares was conducted over 1993-94 in preparation for its future as a museum, which would recreate the ambience and lifestyle of the three generations of the Harris family who had resided there during the 19th century.





Arthur with
grandchildren, Geoffrey
and Dora Sayers, and the
goose won at the
Red Cross Raffle, 1917
(Benares Historic House)



By the fall of 1994, the 2,500 square foot (232 m²) Benares Visitor Centre was under construction. Sears & Russell Architects Ltd. was the architectural firm handling the design and the general contractor was Luigi de Benardo Construction.

On June 25, 1995, Benares Historic House was opened as Mississauga's newest museum by the OHF, which would work in partnership with the City of Mississauga to operate it.

Geoffrey Sayers passed away on Tuesday, November 25, 1997, and Benares was darkened in his memory. He was survived by his two sisters, Dora and Barbara. His wife had predeceased him in 1981.

Benares, which received an Award of Merit for significance and execution at the 1995 Urban Design Awards, is also a popular movie site. The revenue from this opportunity allows Benares staff to have the artifacts restored.

As of June 25, 2000, the City of Mississauga became the sole owner of Benares, as the City completed a land transfer agreement with the OHF. An Old Fashioned Family Fun Day was held and a plaque unveiled to commemorate this achievement and to mark Benares' fifth anniversary.

▲ Clockwise from top: Benares, 2001 (Kathleen A. Hicks)
Benares barn, Benares oven (Benares Historic House)

The Anchorage — 1839

CAPTAIN JOHN SKYNNER BOUGHT PROPERTY IN the Clarkson area on Lake Ontario from James W. Taylor in 1839 for £600 (\$1,500). It was 113 acres (46 ha) the east half of Stephen Jarvis' original land grant, Lot 31, Con. 3 and 4. There was a lovely, Ontario Regency style, wooden cottage, with a five-bay facade, hipped roof and Neo-Classical doorcase on the Con. 4 part of the estate, which Skynner named, "The Anchorage." This has been said to come from his retiring at age 76 from his long career as an officer in the Royal Navy and commenting, "I have retired. Here I will rest. This is my anchorage."



▲ The Anchorage in its original location
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



◀ Captain John Skynner
(Region of Peel Archives)

The Captain, who had commanded King George III's Brig of War, *Hirondelle*, in the Mediterranean (1802-07) for which he received a handcrafted silver urn, was a congenial host, who invited the farmers to bring their grain to the Anchorage, where it would be shipped to England from his dock. They came from all parts of southern Ontario, even on cold days when he would offer them a meal and hot toddy of rum, butter and cinnamon. Viola Herridge's grandfather, Andrew Aitkens, was one of the farmers and he "teamed his grain" from the northern section of Halton County.

Captain Skynner passed away in 1846, and after his death, his family made a few alterations to the house, one of which was the replacing of some of the wood for a veneer of yellow brick. The Skynner family resided in the house until they sold it on August 27, 1853, to George Lees for £1,200 (\$3,000).



▲ The Anchorage
(Bradley Museum)

After several owners, including Joseph Foote, William Ellis and George Hanning, the 28 acre (11.3 ha) lakefront property, where the Anchorage was located, was purchased in 1952 by the National Sewer Pipe Limited from James Davison. The house became the executive offices of the company until the plant opened in 1955, and then it was used for storage. In 1978, this company generously donated the house to the City of Mississauga and City Council decided to use it to augment the Bradley Museum. The Anchorage was moved on June 16th of that year.

In 1983, when the house was designated a heritage home by the City of Mississauga, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation (MHF), which operates the museum, undertook a feasibility study for the entire museum site. MHF contributed \$130,000 towards the restoration's estimated budget of \$420,000. After the extensive restoration was

completed, it opened on June 21, 1992, now providing an exhibit gallery, curatorial work space, artifact storage, an administrative office and a tea room that is open to the public every Sunday.

Since 1994, the Bradley Museum has been operated by the City of Mississauga.

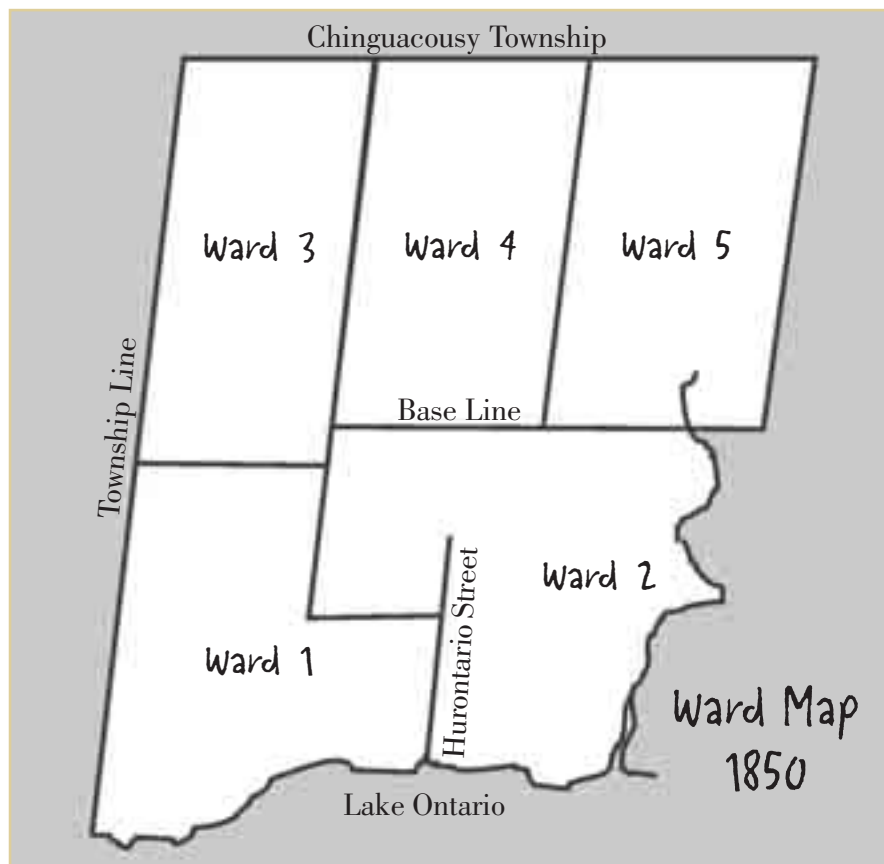
Author's note: It is thought by this author that the Anchorage was built by Fredrick Starr Jarvis



▲ The interior of the Anchorage
(Bradley Museum)

Toronto Township Incorporated—1850

IN 1850, TORONTO TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED under the District Municipal Act, which reads: “Incorporated under the Act passed by the Legislature in the Twelfth year of Victoria, Chapter eighty and eighty one; entitled an Act to repeal the Acts in force in Upper Canada, relative to the establishment of Local and Municipal Authorities and other matters of a like nature.”



The Township was divided into five wards at a meeting of the Home District Council on October 2, 1849. At an election held the first Monday in January, the councillors for the year of 1850 were decided upon: Ward 1, Clarkson, William Thompson, Ward 2, Charles Romain, Ward 3, Christopher Row, Ward 4, Joseph Wright, and Ward 5, Samuel Price. The Council now had the jurisdiction to hold municipal elections and control its own governmental undertakings.

On January 21 at the Telegraph Inn in Streetsville, the councillors took their oath, then proceeded to appoint a Town Reeve and Deputy Reeve. The yeas and nays for Joseph Wright as Reeve went Yeas, Price, Row, Romain and Nays, Thompson. For Samuel Price as Deputy, Yeas, Wright, Row and Price, Nays, Thompson. Joseph Wright became the first Reeve. William Thompson of Clarkson became the Reeve in 1851. Samuel Price became Reeve at Confederation in 1867.

The population of the Township at this time was nearly 7,000. This same year, the Council opened Clarkson Road.



▲ Charles Romain
(Region of Peel
Archives)



▲ Samuel Price
(Mississauga Library
System)

Clarkson Road — 1850

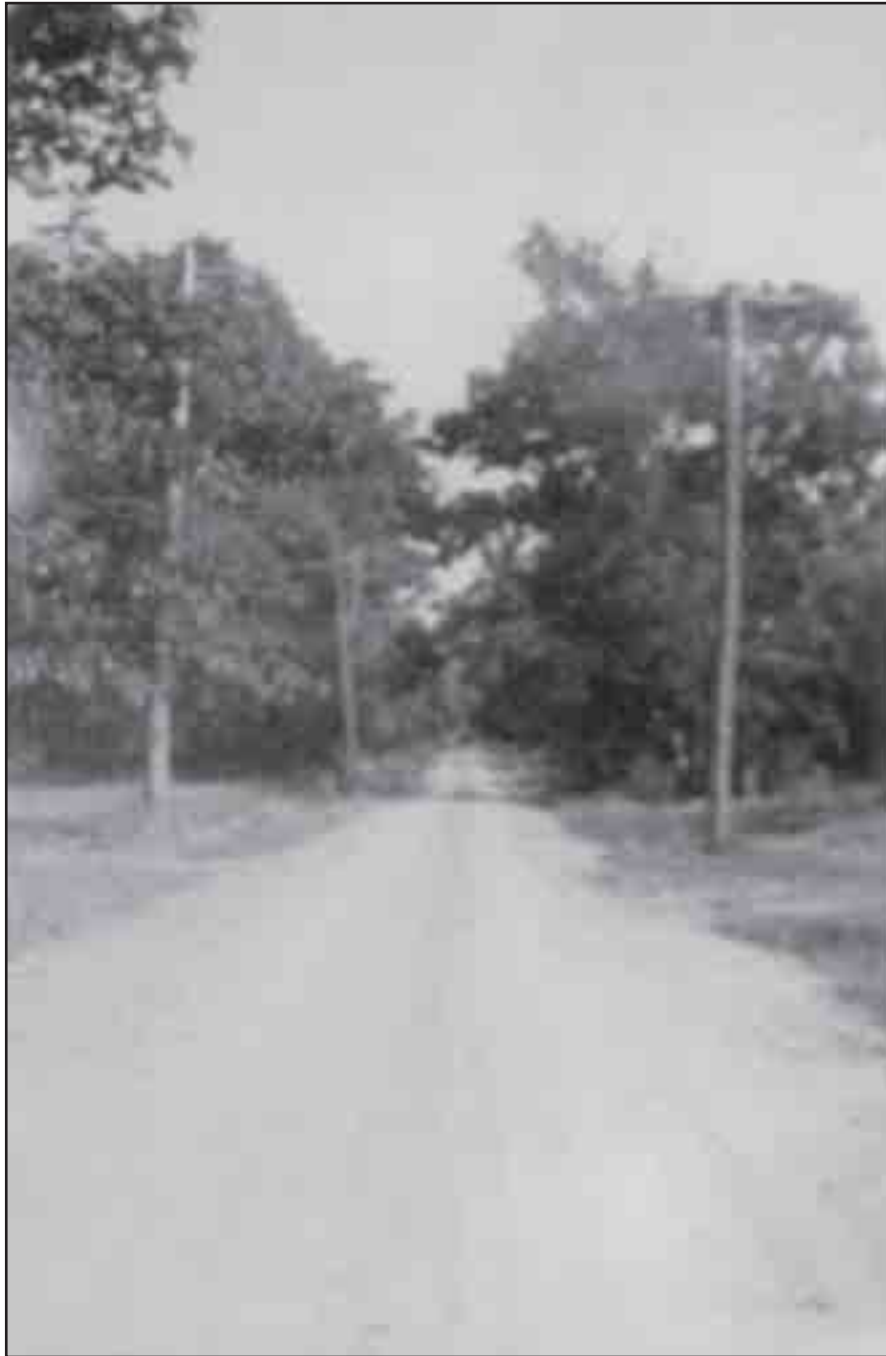
AFTER MANY YEARS OF USE AS A STAGECOACH and wagon route, Clarkson Road was officially opened and named in 1850 by Toronto Township Council. At a meeting in Streetsville, July 1, William Thompson moved and Christopher Row seconded “that the report of the Township surveyor relating to the line of Road between Lots 28 and 29 in the 2nd Concession, South of Dundas Street, Old Survey, be adopted to Clarkson’s Corner and that the Line should then diverge one chain (66 feet - 20 m) more or less in a southerly direction to the road travelled at present to the Lake Shore Road and that the same continues as the public highway and that the parties applying shall pay the surveyor his legal charges.” This had occurred because of the increased traffic along the roadway. Now the residents would be assured of regular maintenance and upkeep by the Township.

52



(Region of Peel Archives)





▲ Clarkson Road North, 1925
(Vernon Collection)

In 1845, Captain James Harris and Warren Clarkson had donated land to allow Clarkson Road to be more than a wagon trail, so it was called a given road. It was named for the prominent landowner, Warren Clarkson, whose store sat on the west side, north of the Lake Shore Road. The reason the road has a jog in it is because Warren Clarkson did not want to move his store so the road could go straight to the highway.



▲ Clarkson Road North, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)