



*Part Two 1851 - 1900*



# The Robertson Farm — 1851

THIS HOUSE AND BARN WERE BUILT BY ANDREW ROBERTSON shortly after he purchased the south half of Lot 35, Con. 3, part of Henry Gable's 1808 grant, in 1851. At the turn of the century, it won an award as a Gold Medal Farm. There were stories told about the house being haunted by a ghost that was in a cupboard under the front stairs. The Robertsons' hired help used to live at the top of the back stairs and they would run up there and hide when anything peculiar occurred.

William Lightfoot bought 57 acres (23 ha) from Lillian Robertson on September 14, 1942. His daughter, Marguerite and her husband, Edward (Ted) Abbs, took possession in 1943. They farmed the acreage until Ted sold 53 acres (21 ha) to Hydro Electric Power Commission on April 24, 1970, so the

property could be used for the Clarkson Generating Station. However the project never materialized.



◀ The Robertson Barn, 2001  
(City of Mississauga, Heritage Department)

In 1986, the house was selected as a heritage site by the City of Mississauga. On July 16, 1991, the barn went on the inventory list as one of seven heritage barns in Mississauga. In 2001, the actual by-law to designate the property was passed by Council.



▲ The Robertson House, 2001  
(City of Mississauga, Heritage Department)

Don Herridge has rented the house and barn from the Hydro (now Hydro One Networks Inc.) for the past 30 years. The buildings now sit on 63 acres (25 ha) and are located at 381 Winston Churchill Boulevard.

## Clarkson Railway Station— 1855



IT WAS IN 1853 THAT THE GREAT Western Railway representatives came through southern Toronto Township and started buying up property they required for a right-of-way to build a railway across the province. This was

Ontario's first major railroad undertaking. Some of the property in Clarkson purchased from Warren Clarkson was also used for a station and siding.



▲ First Railway Station, Clarkson,  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Over the next two years a tremendous amount of activity took place as the Railway began its work. Local men and farmers were given jobs of preparing the area and laying the railroad ties and then the tracks. It was a boost to the Township's economy as the foremen and workers required accommodations and meals.

The first train, a green brass-trimmed engine drawing several passenger cars full of railroad officials, began its inaugural run on December 3, 1855. As it headed for the Clarkson Depot, so the residents could see the flashy newness of this phenomena, a commotion ensued before the revelry could commence.

A Mr. John Carthew attempted to prevent the train from going through. He blocked the tracks with a wooden barrier because the Great Western Railway had not paid him for his land utilized for the tracks. He owned 75 acres (30 ha) along the right-of-way. He had purchased 42 acres (17



▲ Second Railway Station, Clarkson



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▲ *The morning train and crew at old Clarkson Station (Edith Nadon)*

ha) of the southwest part of Lot 26, Con. 2, in 1846 and another 33 acres (13 ha) in 1848. When the engineer saw the barrier, the train came to a screeching halt before colliding with it. Carthew was arrested and taken aboard the train while it continued its initial run, after which he was hauled to jail in Toronto. When the Railway discovered that indeed Mr. Carthew had not been paid, he was released and on March 10, 1856, he received £662 (\$1,655), higher than the going rate, for 3½ acres (1.41 ha) used by the Railway.

A small railroad station was built on the north side of the tracks and

called Clarkson's by the Railway, which officially gave the area its name. The farmers took advantage of this fast, advantageous way of shipping their produce and fruit. With the passing of the years, more business was carried out, and the growing of fruit, packing, storing and shipping of it, became an important industry.

A larger, modern station was built in the center of the tracks around 1910 and other wooden structures were built as required. The station unfortunately burned down on December 15, 1962. The last of the buildings were not pulled down until 1998.

# Strawberries



▲ The Poet's House  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

*N*ourished by dew and softly falling rain,  
And ripened by the sun's warm golden glow.  
Like ruby gems cut by a master's hand,  
Neath verdant foliage strawberries grow.  
No incense burnt the ancient gods to greet,  
Ne'er lulled the doubting soul with scent so sweet.  
The sweeping rustle as of silken gown,  
Attuning with the snap of slender stem.  
Rises to join in nature's eternal song,  
As eager fingers seek to  
gather them.  
Yield of the earth that  
through the ages span,  
The Great Creator's  
richest gift to man.

*By Annie Hood Turner  
Clarkson artist and teacher*

► Annie Hood  
Turner  
(MLS Barnett  
Scrapbooks)





# The Strawberry Industry — 1855



▲ Young Captain  
Edward Sutherland  
(Barbara Larson)

WHEN CAPTAIN EDWARD Sutherland first planted strawberries on his land, Lot 29, Con. 3, which he had purchased from Russell Bush in 1855, it started an industry in Clarkson that would eventually make the small hamlet the strawberry capital of Ontario.

His commercial venture multi-

plied in volume with the coming of the railroad that year.

The strawberry growing enterprise expanded with other farmers taking up the trade. Clarkson was described by one local writer as “The strawberry kingdom of Canada.” A postcard of the early 1900s says, “The Chief Strawberry Shipping Station of Ontario.” In 1915, a sign was erected at the station that stated proudly, “Through this station passes more strawberries than any other station in Ontario.”

As it happened, Clarkson had a rich soil and the right climate for a fruit and vegetable centre. The crops became potatoes, corn, apples and strawberries.



▲ Catherine (Kelly) Leaman, 1921  
(Edith Nadon)

**T**he strawberry industry provided work for the local people. In mid June, when the strawberry harvests began, the workers would arrive at their designated field, straw hats perched on their heads to protect them from the hot sun of the day and pick up their wooden carrier tray by the handle, which was filled with six wooden quart baskets or eight pint boxes. They would head for the rows, kneel down and begin to pluck the fruit from the vines and fill their baskets.

When the baskets were full they took the tray to a barn, wagon or strawberry shanty, where they were given a ticket. They collected these tickets throughout the day as their work progressed. These were tallied



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(Photos courtesy Joan Terry Eagle)

### ▲ Strawberry picking on the Terry farm

at the end of the day and they were paid the going price per quart. In 1936 it was  $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  a quart. It has been said that 300 boxes would be picked on an average day. It took about three weeks to clear the farmers' fields of strawberries.

These migrant workers then moved on to picking raspberries. Then came cherries, plums, pears and apples. But in Clarkson, it was the strawberry that reigned supreme.



## A Letter Between Brothers — 1857

Massillen, Ohio, Decem 25th 1857

Dear Brother

Well Hank this is Christmas day and I wish you ALL A Merry Christmas And A happy New year for I shall not write again until after New year. Well Hank I suppose you would like to know how I spent this day. Well I will describe it to you in a short way. We opened the Store this morning and did business as if there was no such day on Record and tonight there is a Ball in town and all the boys are in it (but I am not). Don't you think I am improving. It goes against the grain pretty hard. I can't help it. I am bound to quit such Foolish practices.

I say Hank can you keep a secret. Well if you can I am going to ask a favour of you. I wrote to Miss Henrietta Hemphill about two weeks ago and have not received any answer as yet. I cannot tell what is the reason why I have not. Is there something in the wind. If there is I wish you would tell me. I think she must certainly have got the letter. Well Hank try and find out if she received it but do not let any person know anything about it. Keep it to yourself and as soon as you ascertain the truth of the matter write and let me know the particulars for I am anxious to find out how the Cat jumps so that I will know how to play my card. (Do not let any person see this letter.)

You will please remember me to Father and Mother and all the family and to Liz and all the family that inquire after my welfare.

Well goodbye Hank Write soon

Your Affectionate Brother

W. W. Clarkson

Give my love to Miss Henrietta Hemphill and tell her I should like to hear from her.

Author's note: This letter is to Henry Clarkson from his brother, William Clarkson. William married Lorenda Hemphill in 1858.  
See William Clarkson, Post Master - 1875

## Henry Clarkson's House — 1860s

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▲ Clarkson residence built by Henry Clarkson  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Alex Durie and daughter, Elva, in front of  
Henry Clarkson's House, 1910  
(Phyllis Williams)

HENRY SHOOK CLARKSON WAS GIVEN 42½ ACRES (17.2 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 2, south of the railway tracks in 1856 by his father, Warren. In 1858, he left for a job in Minnesota and returned in 1860. He married Sarah Moseley and they had a daughter, Mildred. He built this house and resided there with Sarah until his death in 1901. She died in 1918.

## William Clarkson's House — 1865

WILLIAM CLARKSON MARRIED LORENDA Hemphill in October, 1858. They had four children, Warren, Cora, Bertha and Edith. He built this house next door to his father Warren's store on Clarkson Road, when he took over its management in the mid 1860s. In the 1950s, it was Bill Elliott's Fruit Market. It is located at 1140 Clarkson Road North, and it now sits empty.



▲ William Clarkson House  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ William Clarkson House, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)

## The Cavan Family — 1862

**I**rish born Thomas Cavan and his wife, Mary, and their three sons, Hugh, James and William, came from New York State to the Lakeview area in 1837, where he received a 200 acre (81 ha) grant that had been designated for the King's College, Lot 11, Con. 2, SDS. He cleared his land, started to farm and was soon transporting his produce into Toronto by wagon and then by skiff via Lake Ontario.



▲ Harry Cavan Farm, Clarkson Road North  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)





▲ Mrs. Richard Proctor  
(Region of Peel Archives)

THEIR SON, HUGH, married Mary Giles and they had eight children. Son, James, married Elizabeth Giles in 1838 and he brought her home to a little log cabin. They eventually had 13 children. He was involved in community work as a preacher and was one of the first trustees of the Methodist Church in Port Credit, built in 1825, and superintendent of the Sunday School.

Thomas died in September, 1844, as did Mary. They were buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. Their family carried on in the community, passing the family property down from generation to generation.

James' son, Hugh Mathias, was born in 1839. Hugh became a ship-captain on the Great Lakes. His route ran from Port Arthur to Quebec. He met Anne Elizabeth Proctor of Clarkson and they were married in 1862. Anne stayed with her parents while Hugh went off on his ship. Richard Proctor had purchased the north half of Lot 29, Con. 2, 80 acres (32 ha) from Alexander Proudfoot on November 30, 1852, for £200 (\$500). He had built a large, oblong shaped house and a barn with a stone foundation and stabling. It was here that Hugh and Anne raised eight children.

When Anne's father died in 1863, she inherited 40 acres (16 ha), so Hugh retired and started a dairy farm and shipped his milk to Toronto. This only lasted for a few years and then in 1871 he purchased 40 acres (16 ha) for \$1,000 from Anne's sister, Isabelle Thomas, and planted the entire acreage in apple trees – Greenings, Russets, Baldwins and Spies. They were shipped by train all over Ontario. The light, sandy soil of Clarkson proved to be a successful fruit growing area.

Hugh was extremely active in his community. He was auditor for the #5 School Board, 1873-74, a trustee on the School Board, 1880-82, secretary, 1887, and chairman, 1883, 1892-93, and 1899, and he became a Justice of the Peace in 1880.

A tragic story is told of the death of Hugh and Anne's son, William, in 1894 at age 23. On his way home from a mill in Erindale with a wagon full of bags of ground feed for their cattle, as he turned off Mississauga Road, the front wheels were pulled out and he was jerked over the dash board. The half ton of meal fell on him and crushed him. He managed to hold onto the reins and his horses dragged him home. He died of his injuries a few days later.

When Hugh passed away in 1901, his son, James Harry, inherited the property. He replenished the orchard, replacing the old trees with new ones and added cherry trees and other fruit trees. Upon his death in 1947, his son, Thomas, took over the farm. On October 15, 1955, he sold part of his property to Trusteel Corporation and on August 26, 1966, 27 (11 ha) acres to New Peel Developments Corporation Limited for a subdivision. He passed away in 1970.

Donald Cavan, son of Thomas and Marjorie, started a road side fruit stand in 1956 on part of his 30 acres (12 ha) that was market garden. When he first started only his wife, Doreen, worked with him. They had been married in 1946 and had five children, Larry, Jamie, Ellen, Tommy and Gina. Don built a substantial house with a swimming pool. As the children became teenagers, they all worked in the family business. (Tom now has his own Cavan Garden Centre in Erin, Ontario.) Business prospered over the years and Don kept on expanding until he built a 10,000 square foot (929 m<sup>2</sup>) Garden Centre in 1970 to serve a community that now had a population of nearly 19,000.

Don eventually sold off all but three acres (1.2 ha). In 1998, he closed down his market and now Coventry Lane Townhouses are located at 1566 Clarkson Road North. (Kylmore Homes, and Guthrie Muscovitch Architects, were given an Urban Design Award in 2002 from the City of Mississauga.) The Proctor/Caven house, although remodelled a few times, is at 1404. It is owned by Bobbi MacDougall. Don's greenhouse was bought by James Ryan, who opened the Clarkson Rock Health and Fitness Club in the restored Cold Storage Building in 1999.





▲ Fruit Market, 1959 (Don Cavan)



▲ Cavan's Fruit Market, 1998  
(Don Cavan)

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▲ Proctor/Cavan House, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Coventry Lane Townhouses, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Shook Family — 1866

**H**einrich Schuck (Henry Shook, b.1766, d.1839), who was from Rheinbeck, Dutchess County, New York, was the first of his family to move to Upper Canada following the American Revolution. He resided in the Township of Grimsby, County of Lincoln, in the District of Niagara. He received a grant in 1807 to the west of Toronto



▲ Henry Shook Residence  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



Township, Lot 1, Con. 1, SDS, Trafalgar Township, and moved there with his wife, Rosanna, and their seven children in 1808. Other members of his family soon joined him.

The Schucks obviously had an interest in what went on in the Township to the east for Henry

◀ Mrs. Rosanna Shook  
(Region of Peel Archives)

▼ Henry Shook  
and Family  
(Christ Church)





▲ Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Shook  
(Region of Peel Archives)

leased Lot 35, Con. 2, SDS, on May 29, 1811, for farmland, before it was granted out. This activity in the community led to his daughter, Susan, marrying Warren Clarkson in 1816. Then his son, Conrad (1799-1881), married Mary McDonald in 1830 and they had ten children, who married into the Merigold, Pollard, Oughtred and Johnson families. Henry and Rosanna are buried in St. Peter's Anglican Church cemetery.

Conrad and Mary's son, Henry (1837-1918), who married Alitia Starrat, purchased 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 30, part of Benjamin Monger's original grant, from William Stewart for \$1,796 on April 3, 1866, and began farming. They had Charles, Robert, Mary and William.

Henry bought another 27 acres (11 ha) in 1872 and 16 acres (6 ha) in 1884 for a total of 103 acres (42 ha). Henry was politically inclined and became a councillor for Toronto Township from 1886-90; 2nd Deputy Reeve, 1891-94; 1st Deputy Reeve, 1895-96 and Reeve, 1897-98.

Their son, David (1850-1927) married Mary Oughtred, the daughter of



▲ The Shook School Bus  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

Richard and Esther Ann Gable Oughtred, in 1882. David was also a councillor in 1902. They had nine children.

The family belonged to the Carman Methodist Church and were actively involved in its activities. Henry and his son, Robert (1860-





1929), who married Cora Clarkson, William's daughter, were on the Trustee Board for many years. The Shooks were very community minded and their farm wagon was used as a school bus.

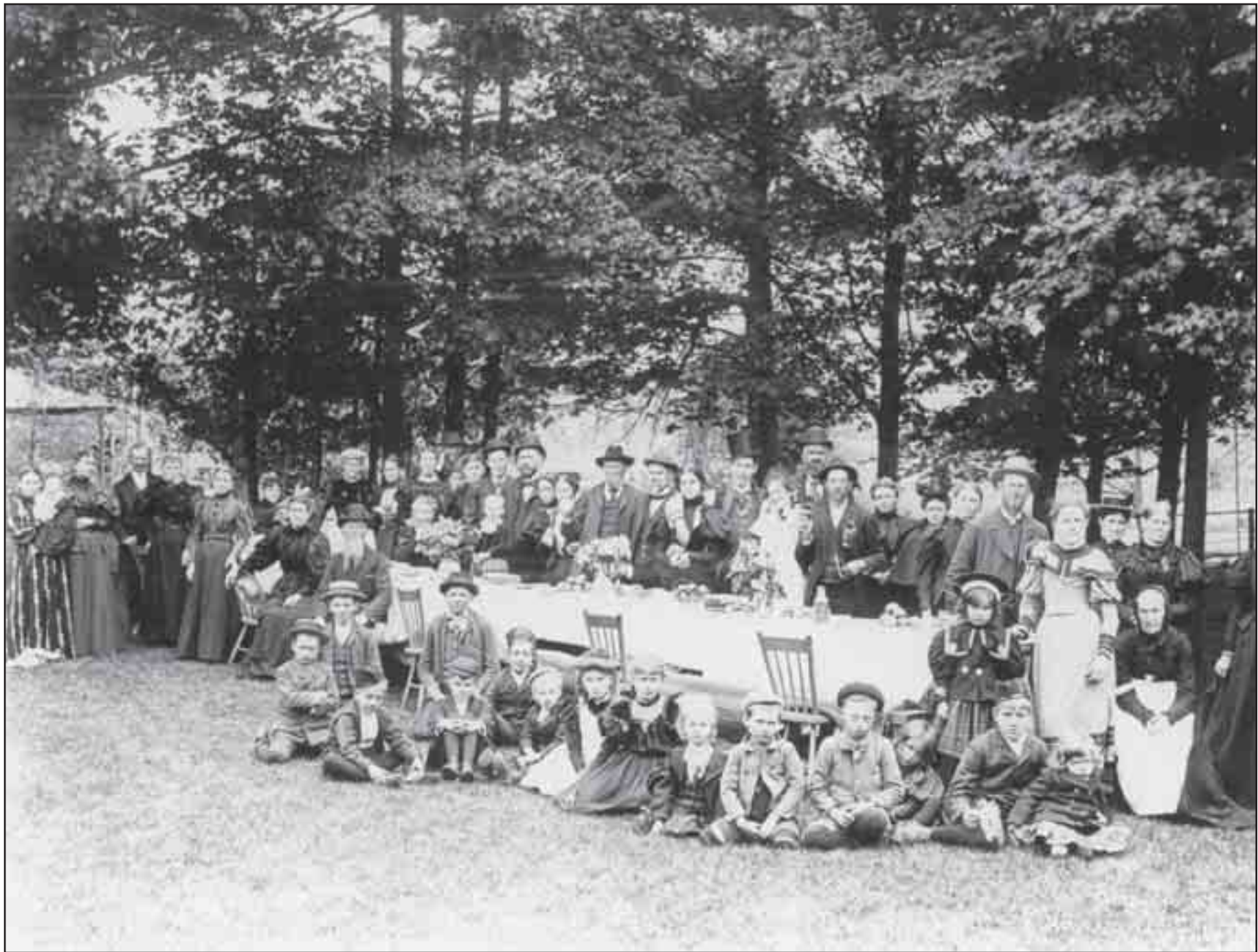
Keeping up the tradition, Robert took over the farm upon his father's death in 1918, along with his brother, William (1878 -1948). When Robert passed away in 1929, he had one of the largest funerals in Clarkson's history. Over 200 cars were in the procession. At the time of his death, he was president of the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association.

William, who purchased 27 acres (11 ha) in 1910 from Drusilla Clemens, was also an auctioneer, an insurance agent and a qualified school teacher. His wife, Mary Lightfoot, played the organ at church and was involved in the Women's Association and the Women's Missionary Society. Their only daughter, Elaine Merigold, married Douglas Auld, who opened Auld's Butcher Shop in 1947.

The Shook farm was sold by Robert's only child, Robert Lloyd Shook, in two parts, to Roy Price Bourne on November 12, 1943, and to Harry Newman, June 15, 1944. It is now the Curran-Hall and Fairfield subdivisions.



▲ *David Shook*  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Shook Family Picnic May 24, 1897 (Mary Langstone)



## The Orr family — 1870

**J**oseph and Elizabeth Orr, who hailed from Northern Ireland, had a farm on Dundas Street in a small hamlet named Frogmore, near Winston Churchill Boulevard. They sold it in 1870 and moved to Clarkson, where they had purchased acreage, Lot 29, Con. 3, on January 24, 1868. He and Elizabeth had four children, Edward, Andrew, Alexander and Isabella. Joseph built a large homestead and barn.

In 1870, Joseph purchased 20 more acres (8 ha) of Lot 29 that included Bush's Inn. In 1872, he bought 70 acres (28 ha), Lots 29 and 30, Con. 3, for \$2,200 from Isaac Oliphant.



▲ Edward Orr

In 1879, he purchased another 25 acres (10 ha) from John W. Bredin for \$1,293 and 47 acres in (19 ha) 1884 for \$2,350 for a total of over 180 acres (73 ha) of the original Thomas Merigold grants.



▲ The Orr House

(Joseph Orr)

WHEN HE RETIRED AND MOVED TO MIMICO IN 1889, HE divided his property between his two sons, Edward and Andrew. He died in 1904 at age 70.

Edward, who married Mary Cavan, had quite an enormous dairy farm and had 10 acres (4 ha) in strawberries. Edward bought 33 more acres (13 ha) in 1891 as did Andrew. In 1925, Ed became the president of the Toronto Milk & Cream Association. He also became very involved in local politics. Besides being the trustee for the Clarkson Public School #6, he was on the Toronto Township Council as Councillor of Ward 2, 1914-15, was 2nd Deputy Reeve, 1916-17, 1st Deputy Reeve, 1918-19, and served as Reeve, 1920-22, and was also Warden of Peel County in 1922. He was quite active in the Carman Methodist Church



and helped in the participation of the building of the Sunday School and Community Hall in 1924. He had seven sons, Fred, Hugh, Donald, Howard, Andrew, Stewart and John.

Edward died in 1935 and his sons, Fred and Hugh, took over his interests. Fred ( b.1899, d.1925) had married Myrtle Manley (1899-1966) in 1912. He was the S.S. #6 Trustee who hired Annie Hall for principal in 1924. Hugh sold the remaining 100 acres (40 ha) of Orr property to the British American Oil Company on February 26, 1941, for \$57,000. The house his grandfather, Joseph, had built was torn down.

Hugh died in 1988 and his wife, Beatrice, in 1992. Their son, Joseph, still reside in the Clarkson area (he lost his wife, Sophie, on August 11, 2002) and he is a member of Christ Church. Orr Road is named in honour of the family.

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▲ Hugh Orr  
(Joseph Orr)

◀ The Orr Barn  
(Joseph Orr)

## William Clarkson, Postmaster — 1875

Clarkson's Corners, located at the railway tracks and Clarkson Road, between Lots 28 and 29, Con. 2, was already a popular place in the 1860s when William Clarkson first took over his father's general store. William, born in 1830, was the son of Warren and Susan Clarkson.

When Warren died in 1882, William and his brother, Henry, inherited their father's holdings.

William opened the first Clarkson post office on June 1, 1875, and was the first postmaster. Before this, residents had to go to Springfield (Erindale) for their mail. He would be succeeded by his son, Warren Frank, on May 1, 1894. On May 1, 1901, Warren would turn over the position to his sister, Edith. He died in 1904.

► 1906 stamp

(Canada Post Corp. Ottawa)



▲ William Clarkson's Store and Post Office, 1885  
(Region of Peel Archives)

IN 1906, IT COST ONE CENT TO MAIL A LETTER TO THE United States. A letter received at the post office was just addressed "Clarkson, Ontario." Shortly after Edith took over the post office, she had the store enlarged to two storeys and added a new section on the north side to accommodate the growing community. In 1913, she subdivided her property and built a Queen Anne style house. Edith was





▲ Clarkson post office and store interior, 1910  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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▲ Edith and Cora Clarkson, 1910  
(Region of Peel Archives)

the postmistress until she died on November 30, 1919. That made a total of 44 years that the Clarksons handled the post office.

Harold U. Hare, who operated a coal yard, took over the rental of the store and post office on January 1, 1920. He was postmaster until August 24, 1925, when he resigned.

William Thomas McCord bought the business on February 23, 1926, and became the postmaster. It was the Red & White Store at this time. On October 18, 1937, Harry Gerhart purchased the business and took over as postmaster. On November 10, 1937, he appointed David Terry to handle the post office. In 1941, it was Carload Groceteria, according to an item in the *Port Credit Weekly* that stated Gerhart supplied coffee and sandwiches for the firemen who worked on the fire at the Basket Factory. David was postmaster until 1945 and Gerhart again took over the responsibility.

In 1947, John Bodley purchased the grocery business from Gerhart and it remained the Carload Groceteria. Gerhart moved the post office into the adjoining building. The business had been a general store and John got rid of everything but the groceries. This did not go over well

▼ Clarkson Store and Post Office  
(Region of Peel Archives)





▲ John Bodley (John Bodley)





▲ Post Office, 1955  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ The Toronto Ability School, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

with the customers and his business gradually went down hill. He sold out to James Tait in 1952.

A Post Office was built two doors up on the north side of Balsam Avenue in 1955. Gerhart resigned as post master in 1957. When corner boxes were installed throughout Clarkson in 1962, the Post Office building was sold to Clarkson Holdings and it has been used since 1995 by The Toronto Ability School, 1146 Clarkson Road North, that was established in 1984. The Clarkson store at 1130 and 1132 now sits empty as does William Clarkson's house at 1140. Edith Clarkson's house is at 1160 and it is owned by Teresa Hunkar.



▲ Former Clarkson Store, and  
William Clarkson House, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)

## The Harris/McCord House — 1880



▲ McCord House  
(Phyllis Williams)



(Lush Family Collection)

*Maude married Samuel John McCord on April 11, 1928.*



▲ McCord House and Farm  
(Phyllis Williams)

This house was built in 1880 by Captain James Harris, on Lot 28, Con. 2. It was located between what is now Mazo Crescent and Truscott Drive. In 1928, it was leased by newlyweds, Samuel and Maude (Lush) McCord from Arthur Harris. In later years, it was bricked over. In 1960 when William A. (Bill) Trenwith bought the house, the bricks were removed and the Bourne family, who had six acres (2.4 ha) nearby and owned part of Lot 29, used them for their barn. The house was then transported by tractor-trailor to Bill's Stonehaven Farm in Campbellville.

## The Manleys — 1881

**T**he first Manleys to come to Canada from County Cork, Ireland, were Bartholomew and his wife, Catherine Dempsy, who were married August 7, 1835. They eventually settled in the small hamlet of Sheridan. Then on October 24, 1881, Catherine purchased the north half of Lot 31, Con. 2, 100 acres (40 ha) of Alex Hemphill's property, where the S.S. #5 School was located, from John Kentner for \$6,750. When Catherine died in 1889, her son, George, inherited the property.



▲ George Manley



▲ The Manley farm

(Photos courtesy of Ralph Manley)

GEORGE (B.1852, D.1934) MARRIED ARLETTA GREENIAUS (1863-1949) in 1889. They had three children, Charles, Myrtle and Harold. They farmed the land and were quite successful in their efforts.

Charles Gaylord (1896-1966), named for Arletta's father, Gaylord Greeniaus, married Minnerva Bentley (1894-1984) and they had one son, Ralph Gaylord, in 1925. Myrtle married Fred Orr in 1912 and they

## *MANLEYS' ASSESSMENT NOTICE — 1911*

*Toronto Township, Taxes For Year 1911*

*Part 31, Con. 2, SDS, 99 acres*

*Value of land: \$3,200*

*Value of buildings: \$1,200*

*Total assessment of property: \$4,400*

*Total Taxes demanded \$50.51*

*Collector District 2, Thos. D. Schiller*

had five children, Harold, Howard, Helen, Harry, who was killed while serving in the Army during World War II, and Freddie. Harold married Jessie Ford in 1920 and she died when their daughter, Velma, was born in 1922. Velma married Archie Izatt in 1940.

Charles and Harold were given a piece of the family farm. Charles and Minnie remained in the family house and took care of George and Arletta. Minnie took in boarders. The teachers from the #5 School lived at the Manleys.

Ralph married Eva Jones, (b. 1928), in 1949. Her family had come to Clarkson in 1944 from Toronto. Reg and Beth Jones bought six acres (2.4 ha) with a 60 year old house on it, part of the original Captain Richard Pollard property, Lot 33, Con. 2, near what is now the Queen Elizabeth Way/Southdown interchange. They had two other daughters and the family attended the Clarkson United Church and they sang in the choir. The Joneses moved to Bolton in 1952.

Eva taught school at the Lakeview Army Barracks emergency housing from 1948 to 1951. Ralph worked as a plow jockey, driving a tanker truck at Goodrich in Port Credit for eight years during the wintertime. They had a son, Martin Gaylord, in 1952, and two daughters, Gay, 1953, and Judy, 1955.

Charles sold the farm in 1955 to United Lands Corporation for the Park Royal subdivision and retained only the property where the family house was located. In 1966, Charles died and in 1968 Minnie sold it and moved to an apartment in Port Credit. She died on July 19, 1981.

Ralph and Eva purchased Fairview Farm in Brampton in 1955, where they still reside today with their children and two grandchildren.



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*To Arletta Greeniaus,  
When sailing down the stream of life  
In your little white canoe,  
Oh, may you have a merry time  
And lots of room for two.*

*Agnes M. Merigold*

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*From Arletta's autograph book  
given to her by her father,  
Gaylord Greeniaus, April 17, 1880*



# Diary of Minnie Armstrong Durie — 1882 to 1930

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▲ Minnie Durie  
(Phyllis Williams)

**Jan. 10, 1882.** Ettie and I went by train to a place called Clarkson to visit Mr. Thompson.

**Aug. 4, 1884.** Joined the Salvation Army Corp, Parkdale, under the command of Lieut. Adamson and Cadet Joe Griffins.

**Sept. 1, 1884.** Went on a picnic at Lorne Park.

**Jan. 1, 1885.** Went to Springfield with A. Durie and the Patchetts.

**Feb. 3.** Went for a drive with A. Durie.

**Feb. 4.** Drove to Riverdale Banquet with A. Durie.

**Feb. 13.** Moved into Stemachers - like it very well.



▲ Minnie & Arthur, 1914 (Phyllis Williams)



**Mar. 16.** Wrote four letters, one home, one to A. Durie, Uncle Ferris, Libby McCollough. I am sitting in my room with nothing in it but a bed and washstand.

**Mar. 24.** Had a letter from Alex.

**Dec. 27.** I was home for Xmas. Spent New Year at Uncle Ferris' with Fannie. Alex gave me an album for Xmas present. I gave him a large framed picture. Alex hired a rig and took me all over the country.

**Mar. 16, 1886.** Married at seven o'clock in evening. Ettie was bridesmaid and George Durie, groomsman. Mrs. McAdair, Rev. McCullen and wife, Libby and Mary McNab were all that were there outside of our two families. Alex drove Mr. and Mrs. McCullen, then we went home. Ettie and George lit the place up and wound the alarm clock and put it under the bed, but we found it.

**Mar. 20.** Moved to Dovercourt Village - did not think it very healthy behind store.

**Jan. 12, 1887.** Ernie born. Mrs. Durie my nurse, sick a month.

**Feb. 23, 1889.** Arthur Durie born, sick a long time - caught a

cold. Maid left before well and Ernest took sick.

**July, 1889.** Moved to Lisgar Street as Alex wanted to keep another horse. Lilly Hodge was hired maid.

**Oct., 1889.** Moved again across the road to the only house I ever liked. Before being settled, Ernest fell into hot water on Nov. 5 badly scalded. When Alex got home, I had Ernest in bed and myself with a black eye I got it going up back stairs. Ernest was five months before real well.

**July 8, 1891.** Nelson born. Children sick with the whooping cough. All had it even the baby a month old.

**April 20, 1892.** Moved again. We thought the rent too high and he would not lower it.

**April, 1892.** Rented a house only three weeks when Alex bought a home. Alex had a chance of trading his house on Grove Avenue for one on Argyle Street, a larger house and room for a stable. So we moved again before we were all unpacked. Cleaned and painted - took two years to get fixed up as we owned the house. Alex decided he would like to live in the country. Moved over the hills to the hateful country on **May, 1894** — for a year and moved to Pickets **May, 1895.**

**Feb. 1896.** Ettie born. Mother with me. All of them had the measles, even my month old baby.

**Mar. 1896.** Moved to a cottage of four rooms while building our new house. Built a house on a farm he bought on Erindale Road.

**Fall, 1896.** Moved to new house on the farm.

**Apr. 19, 1899.** Lottie born.

**Sept. 19, 1901,** Elva born.

**April, 1903.** Nelson, my boy died age 11.

**1908,** moved to the store.

**1914.** Arthur went to war.

**1917.** Ernest married. Arthur married in 1922.

**Sept. 1924.** Ettie married.

**June, 1925.** Sold the business.

**Oct. 3, 1925,** nephew Walter

**Apr. 5, 1926,** Moved to a summer house on my lot. Built a big house on the lot. Moved there. Alex died **1930.**

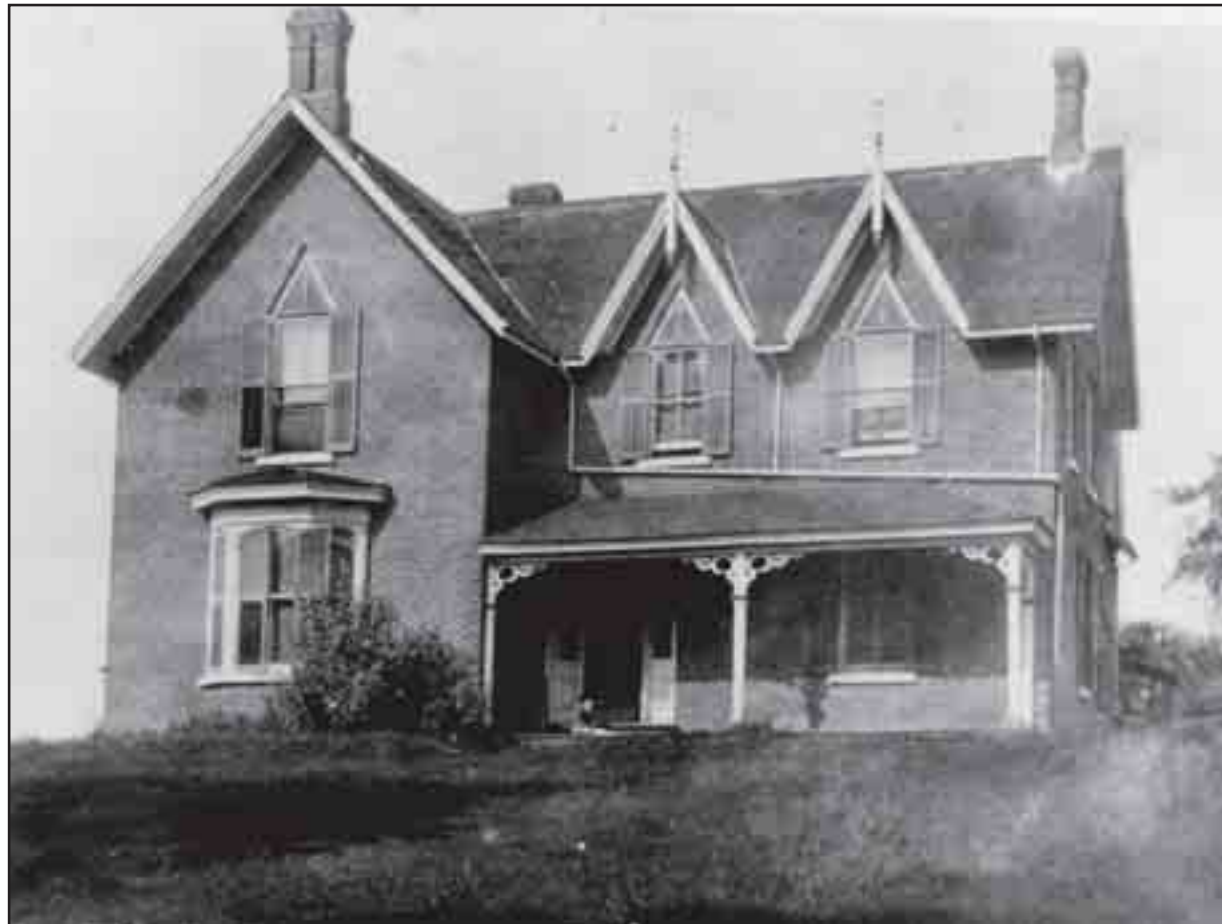
*(Author's note: Minnie's diary filled a lined scribbler – only highlights were used)*



▲ Durie Store and Merchant Bank  
(Phyllis Williams)

## The Pollard Residence — 1884

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Captain Richard Pollard, the 35 year old son of Joshua and Mariah Pollard (pictured above), purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 33, Con. 2, in 1884 from William Kelly's widow, Anna, and built this house. He was married to Maggie Bell and then Selena Bannister. He had seven children. He had served in the Fenian Raids with #1 Company 20th Rifles, 1866. He made his mark in the community by being a trustee for S.S. #5 School, 1875, 1877-78, 1885-86, auditor, 1881, chairman of the School Board, 1882, 1885, and secretary, 1890. In the 1876 Toronto Township Fall Fair, he won prizes for his sheep, tomatoes, citrons, peas and grapes. He farmed until 1902 when he moved into Toronto. His property was sold to George Pepper by Franklin Pollard on August 12, 1915. In 1944, Reg and Beth Jones purchased it and resided here until 1952. The house was demolished for the Park Royal subdivision.

*(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)*

## The Taylor Residence — 1885

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This homestead was called “The Red House” by the family and belonged to Frederick John Taylor and his wife, Elizabeth Anna Johnson, who married on November 21, 1878. They had eight children.

(Vera Davis)



## The George Gooderham farm — 1893

**A**n article in *The Brampton Conservator* on July 16, 1901, focused on George Gooderham of the famous Gooderham family of Toronto's Gooderham & Worts, the second largest distiller of whiskey in the world that had been established in 1832. It read that even though George Gooderham was one of Toronto's wealthiest men, occupied with numerous commercial enterprises, he found time to acquire lots in Clarkson in 1893. He purchased 360 acres (145.7 ha), Lots 31 and 32, Con. 3 and 4, the Jarvis grants. He had abundant crops and it was turning out to be a great investment. He shipped enormous quantities of fruits and vegetables to the Toronto markets from the Clarkson Station. This locale also enabled the farmers to procure fertilizers for their farms at reasonable prices. The going rate from Toronto was \$9 a car load. He charged only \$6. He had a 10 acre (4 ha) orchard that contained 500 apple trees, Northern Spy, King of Tompkins, and other Ontario varieties and 15 acres (6 ha) of Canadian walnuts, planted in 1894, which were doing reasonably well in 1901.



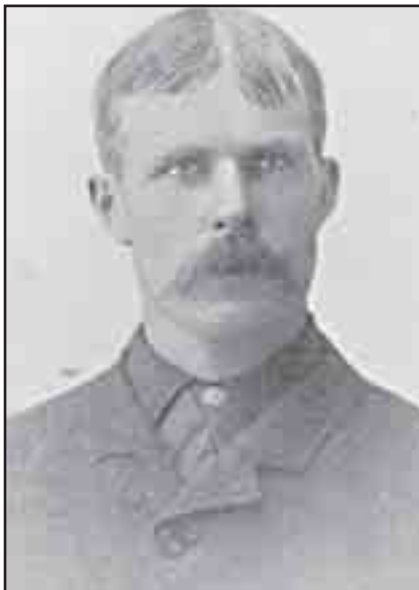
▲ George Horace Gooderham  
(Region of Peel Archives)

IT WAS SAID IN LATER YEARS THAT THE GOODERHAM Estate was one of the finest farms in the province. George Horace, the third son of William and Harriet Herring Gooderham, had built four houses of architectural design, a family residence called the "Manor House," a manager's home and two boarding houses for workers. His first manager was Harold Scholefield. He also constructed two barns valued at \$100,000 and a horse stable at \$25,000, which had Georgia pine doors and four coats of varnish, a real animal palace. Only three years later they burned to the ground. He built four more barns of modern construction and kept them trim and neat. He had two Massey



▲ The Toronto-Hamilton Highways Commission

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▲ Harold Scholefield  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Harris binders and two mowers, a Royce Reaper and a Patterson Reaper. There were rail fences of the old snake pattern all around the estate, which gradually changed to the straight rail with posts.

George died in 1905 after being ill with typhoid for a number of years, and his son, William, took over the farm. He purchased more acreage in 1914 and 1918, adding to his father's luxurious estate. The Gooderhams owned property on both sides of Royal Windsor Drive. Grain was grown and when harvested, it was sent to the Gooderham and Worts Distillery in

Toronto. There was a special spur on the railway with a siding for this purpose. He had high class horses, cattle and poultry. In 1915, he supplied the Department of Agriculture with Holstein cows. His son, Gordon, helped manage his Clarkson estate. According to the *Conservator*, April 15, 1920, when Holsteins were selling at the Canadian National Exhibition, Gordon was the largest buyer. He paid \$12,925 for eight head and \$5,100 for Rose Echo Segis, a two year old heifer.

The Gooderham maple bush was also popular, where maple syrup was made in the evaporator and sugar house. It was closed down around 1930.

Although William's brother, also named George Horace, held many titles of companies and organizations, he was best known for his presidency of the Canadian National Exhibition (1906-1910) and Chairman of the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission (1914-1922). William died in 1936 and Gordon took control of his father's holdings including Gooderham & Worts. George and Gordon were both close friends of Reuben Lush.

The Gooderham acreage was eventually sold for various businesses and houses. The last Gooderham to live on the remaining property was Eric Gooderham, George's great grandson, who had three daughters, one being Patricia Leaver, who resides in Meadow Wood subdivision on Bob-O-Link Road. They lived on the Manor Farm on the last ten acres (4 ha), and a neighbour farmed the acreage. In 1947, Gordon Gooderham's house was purchased by Mrs. Grey and Mrs. Scher, who named it the Greyscher House and opened a nursing home for seniors. Toronto



▲ The Scholefield House  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Iris and Eric Gooderham  
(Patricia Leaver)



▲ The Manor House  
(Patricia Leaver)

Township purchased this property and Eric's Manor House for the Clarkson Sewage Disposal Plant in 1955. The Greyscher House became the Plant's administration building and both houses were torn down in the 1960s.



## Alex Durie — 1896

When 29 year old Alex Durie first came to this area from Toronto in 1896, he owned

a farm south of Springbank Road. Oughtreds bought the property and gravel pit and it became a dumping ground for a few decades until it was filled in around 1970. Alex belonged to the Salvation Army Corps and this is where he had met Minnie Armstrong in 1884. They were married on March 16, 1886, and had six children, Ernest, 1887, Arthur, 1889, Nelson, 1891, Etta, 1896, Lottie, 1899 and Elva, 1901.



▲ Alex Durie  
(Phyllis Williams)

IN 1908, HE LEASED PROPERTY FROM HENRY CLARKSON'S daughter, Mildred, Lot 28, Con. 2, that had two old buildings on it, just to the east of the Clarkson Railway Station on Clarkson Road. He

moved his family into the one closest to the tracks and opened a store and sold meat, groceries, fruit and vegetables. The following year, he started delivering groceries throughout the area, even to the Ryries, who were living in the old Bradley house. His store was a neighbourhood meeting place where the farmers gathered around the pot bellied stove and sampled from the cracker barrel while they discussed the local news and gossip of the day. As time passed, Alex was called "Dad Durie" by his customers.

He leased the other building to the Merchant's Bank in 1913 for \$300 a year. In 1923, he bought the store from Mildred Clarkson Mitchell for \$3,000 and in 1924 his daughter, Etta, married bank manager, Roy McBain. In 1940, Mildred's husband, Phillip, sold the bank building to James Pengilley and he sold it to Doug Auld in 1947 and he opened a butcher shop.

Alex's daughter, Lottie, married William H. Trenwith in 1926. Their daughter, Phyllis, was born on Trenwith property and still lives there, next door to the boulder stone house her father built.

When Alex retired in 1925, after living in Clarkson for 29 years, he sold the store to George Battersby, which he took back in 1928, probably due to non-payment. On September 25, 1929, his general store and the Merchant Bank were burglarized. The thieves entered the bank through the transom over the door and broke the glass in the door of the





▲ Durie Store and Merchant Bank

(Photos courtesy of Phyllis Williams)

store to make entry. Alex told the police that a considerable amount of goods were taken, but the bank only had a loss of a few dollars in coppers.

In 1926, Alex built a cottage on Lakeview Avenue (Meadow Wood Road) in which to reside while he built a luxurious brick house for his retirement home. Unfortunately, he did not get to enjoy his leisure time for long, as he passed away on July 26, 1930, at age 63. He was buried in Spring Creek Cemetery. His pallbearers were Wilson Oughtred, William Trenwith, Bert Dingwall, George Adamson, Nelson Lawrence and Alfred Strickland.

On April 12, 1932, Alex's executor sold the building to Charles Terry and his store became the Izatt's Basket Factory. When the Basket Factory had a fire in 1941, the building was rebuilt and turned into apartments. Howard Speck bought it from the Charles Terry estate in 1959 and Doris Speck sold it to Alderpark Investments in 1970. This company still owns it. Part of it is used for apartments and it has been the offices of Cleyn Industries Limited, 1115 Clarkson Road North, since 1994. Alex's retirement home is also still in existence at 960 Meadow Wood Road.



▲ Clarkson Road, 1915



▲ Alex with daughter Etta



▲ Alex at retirement



▲ Durie's Store, 1915



▲ 960 Meadow Wood Road, Alex Durie's House, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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▲ Alex Durie's Store, now apartments and a business,  
1109 Clarkson Road North, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



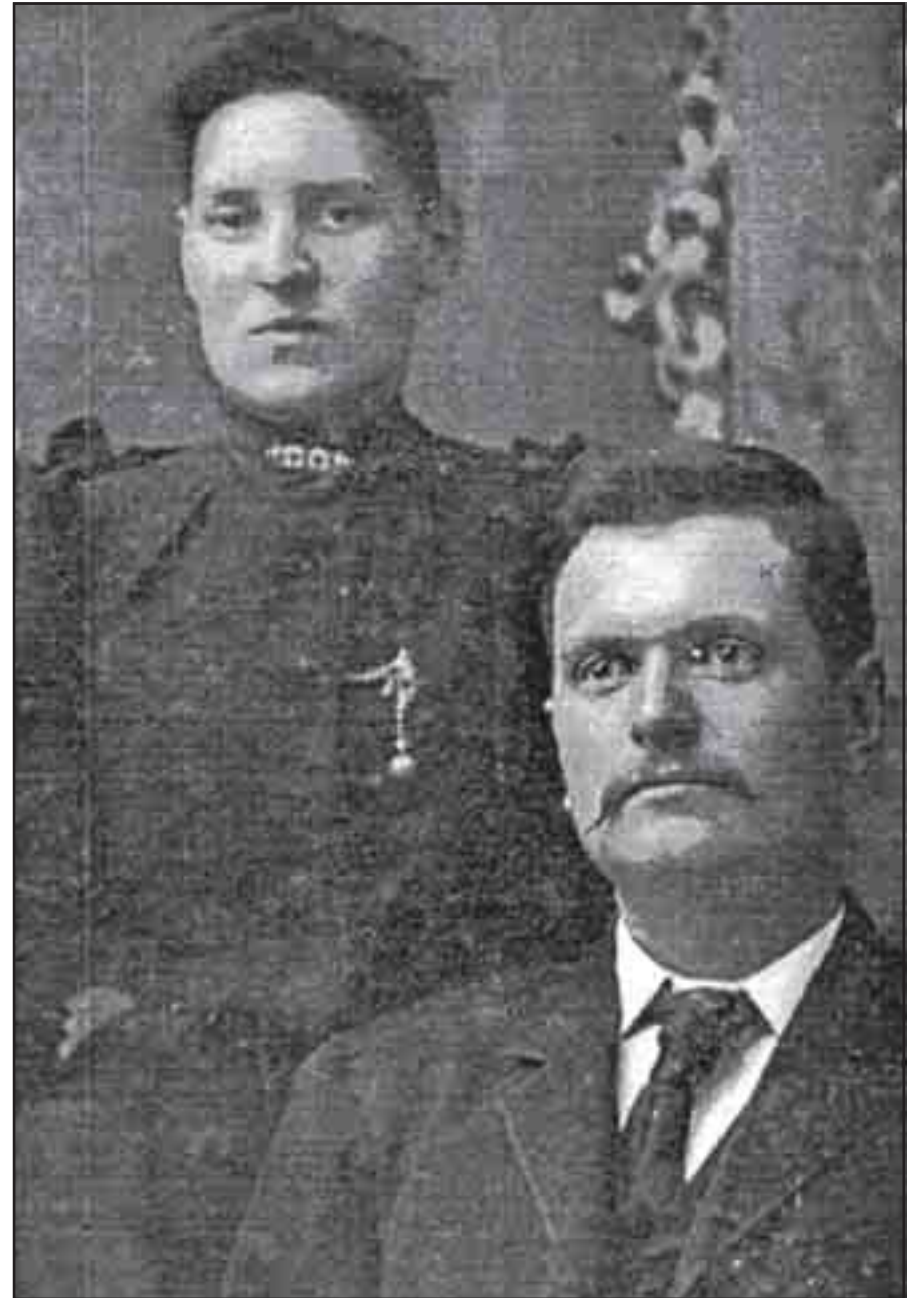
▲ Clarkson Road North, looking north, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## History of Lushes Corners — 1897

**R**euben Lush became a prominent name in Clarkson shortly after he moved to the district in October, 1897, with his brother, Cuthbert. On October 15, they entered into an agreement with Edmund Jarvis, to purchase 15 acres (6 ha) of land for \$1,200, part of Lot 31, Con. 3, SDS, on which they built a house, stables and began a market garden. Once their produce was ready, they went into business selling to farmers' markets in Toronto.

With the security of their endeavours, Reuben married Margaret (Maggie) Coulson on January 25, 1899, at St. George's Church in Lowville, near Kilbride, and brought her to her new home. When Maggie was asked where they went for their honeymoon, she would quip, "Upstairs!" Reuben and Maggie had four daughters, Marjorie, 1901, Maude, 1903, Ethel, 1906, and Zilla, 1908.

► Reuben and Maggie Lush







### ▲ Cuthbert Lush and workers

### ◀ Girl Guides

REUBEN AND CUTHBERT HAD GROWN UP OVER THEIR father's butcher shop in Milton. Their family had got its start in Eramosa Township, near Guelph, in 1831 when their great grandfather, George Lush, age 50, and his family immigrated to Canada from Somerset, England.

Their father, Thomas Foster, was born in 1844 in Illinois where George's son, Israel, and wife had moved in 1838. They returned in 1847. Thomas married Margaret Jane Howson in May, 1867, and Reuben Howson was born June 29, 1868, the first of a family of 13 children. Thomas built a three storey building in the Town of Milton and opened a butcher shop on the ground floor.

Reuben left school when he was only 12 and went to work doing odd





▲ Alex Durie, Ethel Lush and Reuben Lush

jobs in bush camps near Huntsville and as hired help on farms in the area. He began courting Maggie and in 1890, joined in the founding of the Sons of Temperance, Energetic Division, which became active in organizing social events for young men and women.

After working for various farmers, he and his brother Cuthbert, who was a year younger, decided to go into business for themselves. They devised a “tree stump puller” and began removing stumps from farmers’ fields, using this contraption and a team of horses.

By 1900, they were well established in Clarkson. By October, 1902, they had paid off their \$1,000 loan to Jarvis and their property was registered on November 17, 1902. On January 16, 1904, they pur-



▲ The Lush House

chased 29 acres (11.7 ha) of Lot 30, Con. 3, from Andrew Orr for \$2,421. On October 1, 1905, they bought the 22 acres (8.9 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 4, from Charles Upham for \$1,300, which they turned around and sold to Harry Ryrie in 1909 for a profit of \$900.

In 1909, Reuben and Cuthbert dissolved their partnership and Cuthbert married Mable Speck on March 24 and moved to an 80 acre (32 ha) farm in Trafalgar Township near Milton.

On their fertile acreage, Reuben and Maggie had their frame house, a barn, driving shed and several frame cottages for their Indian workers that were brought from the Brantford Hagersville Indian Reserve during the picking season. They had strawberries, raspberries, thimble berries and every kind of vegetable imaginable. Most of their produce was shipped into Toronto and Montreal.

When the Lake Shore Road was relocated in 1914, it cut Reuben’s property in two. He had 15 acres (6 ha) on the west side where his



Ontario's first road-side fruit stand. Maggie is second from the left, and Rueben is on the far right. The other persons are not identified but are probably the Lush daughters. (Photos courtesy the Lush Family)

house was and 28 acres (11.3 ha) on the east side that had the barn, berries and market gardening. Having access to the roadway led to his opening Ontario's first road-side stand in 1917, which was recorded as such in the *Book of Knowledge* encyclopedias.

During World War I, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides came out from Toronto to work on the farm. A comical story about the Boy Scout's lack of enthusiasm comes from this time period. Reuben got a call (they had one of the first telephones in the area as well as electricity and one of the first automobiles – a Model T-Ford) from an irate wholesaler in Montreal, who claimed that there was a layer of small potatoes in each of his berry boxes. The Scouts, who were always anxious to go swimming, had raided the potato patch and hurried their job along. Reuben was a mild tempered man and did not give the boys a tongue lashing, but the practice was stopped cold.

Reuben was very involved in the community and served on many committees such as the Peel Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Board, the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association and the Canadian Terminal System of Montreal. He was devoted to politics as a participant, being a strong Conservative, and as an avid spectator. His political career began in 1906 as a councillor on the Toronto Township Council. In 1910, he became Deputy Reeve and was Reeve in 1912 and 1913. He often held political meetings in the den of his house and worked hard when elections came around. He mostly promoted better roads and more electrification throughout the Township. He promoted the 1917 creation of the Toronto Township Hydro Commission and served as Hydro Commissioner 1917-18, 1931-34, and Chairman in 1919-20 and 1922-23. He was a man of vision who managed to make many of his ideas materialize.

In 1919, Reuben and Maggie started to sell off parts of their property which would end up being subdivided for other people to start smaller farms. At this time, they decided to build a new house just east of what became known as Lushes Corners. It was an elegant, two storey brick structure designed by Albert Howson, a relative, who was an architect in Toronto. They then added a small barn and several outbuildings. The carpenter was a Mr. Bull, who was paid \$740 for his work.

With no sons to carry on the business, Reuben retired from farming in

1922. On August 30, he and Maggie began a journey across Canada by boat and train with friends. When they returned October 3, Maggie opened their home to American tourists at a rate of \$1 per person a night. Her busiest time was when the Canadian National Exhibition was on at the end of August. Reuben, working on behalf of wholesalers, such as Hart and Tuckwell and Eastern Fruit of Montreal and the Niagara Peninsula Growers, bought fruit and vegetables from his neighbours. He also had a business called the Manure Syndicate and had manure shipped in from Gunns Limited and supplied the local farmers. He sold fence posts, wire and Premier Separators as well as gravel to Toronto Township and Peel County for roads at \$2.10 a yard. On December 31, 1926, 63 yards (57.6 m) were delivered to the Town Line and 14 yards (12.8 m) to Stavebank Road. All his transactions were kept in an account book, which is now in the possession of the Region of Peel Archives.

On May 26, 1925, Reuben became a Justice of the Peace and tried many cases of speeders caught on the Lake Shore highway. The offenders were fined \$5 to \$10 plus \$2 for the arresting officer and \$2.75 for Reuben. In 1927-28, he served the Township as a Corn Borer Inspector and travelled extensively, inspecting the corn fields for intrusive moths that lay eggs in the corn that turn into caterpillars that cause considerable crop damage.

Reuben, who had long suffered from diabetes, died on June 29, 1934, from a stroke. Maggie sold the property and bought a house in Hamilton in the early 1940s. Her daughter, Zilla, moved in with her. She later moved to Toronto to live with Maude. While convalescing at Zilla's, she succumbed on December 13, 1961, at age 89. Both are buried in the Spring Creek Cemetery. Their memory lives on in the history of the area of Clarkson. Many people remember Lushes Corners and Mr. Lush whose name remains in Lushes Avenue.

The Lush home at 1998 Lakeshore Road West, is now owned by the well known artist, George Rackus, whose mother purchased it in the early 1950s. For a number of years it was a tourist stop called "Pipe and Slippers." George's works have been purchased by the National Gallery of Canada. He is the president of the "Colour & Form Society," which helps establish new Canadian artists.



## Peer/Harris House — 1898

**J**ames Harris married Margaret Jane Peer in 1898 and they purchased her brother John's frame house for \$2,800. Their grandfather, John, had built the house in 1855 and it was located on 6½ acres (2.6 ha) on Barrymede Road (now Bexhill Road).

This property was part of the original 1808 grant, Lot 26, Con. 3, of Christian Hendershot. David Kerr bought the northern 100 acres (40 ha) in 1809. In 1821, Peter Oliphant bought it and sold it in 1822 to his son, Hiram. He in turn sold the property to John Peer on March 27, 1827, for £150 (\$375).

James and Margaret had six children, Olive, 1900, Harold, 1902, Bill, 1904, James, 1912, Margaret, 1915, and Doris, 1921. As the family grew, James built a new addition on the back and bricked the house. He farmed the land and utilized the large barn that John had constructed behind the house.

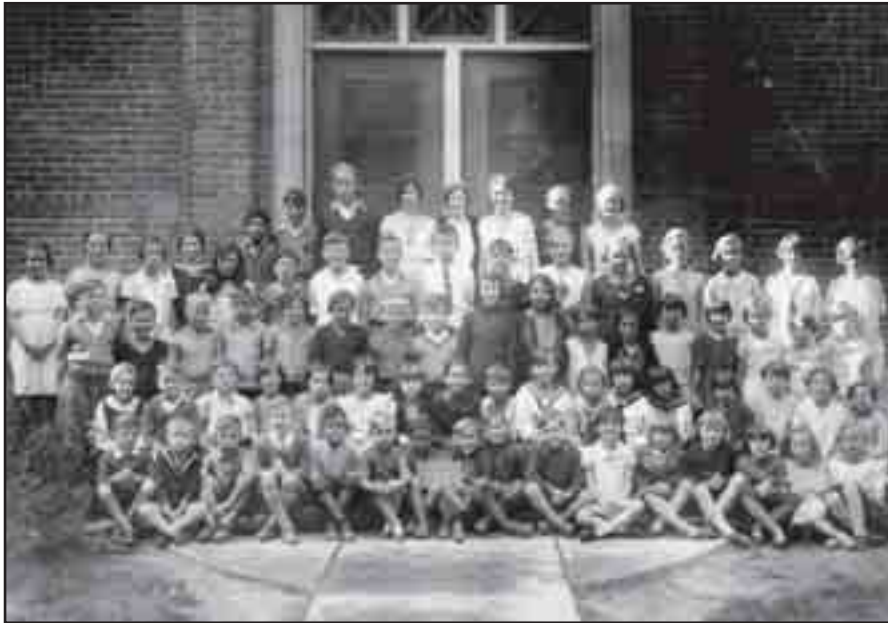
► The Peer/Harris House  
(City of Mississauga Heritage Dept.)



▲ James Harris and sons, Harold and Bill





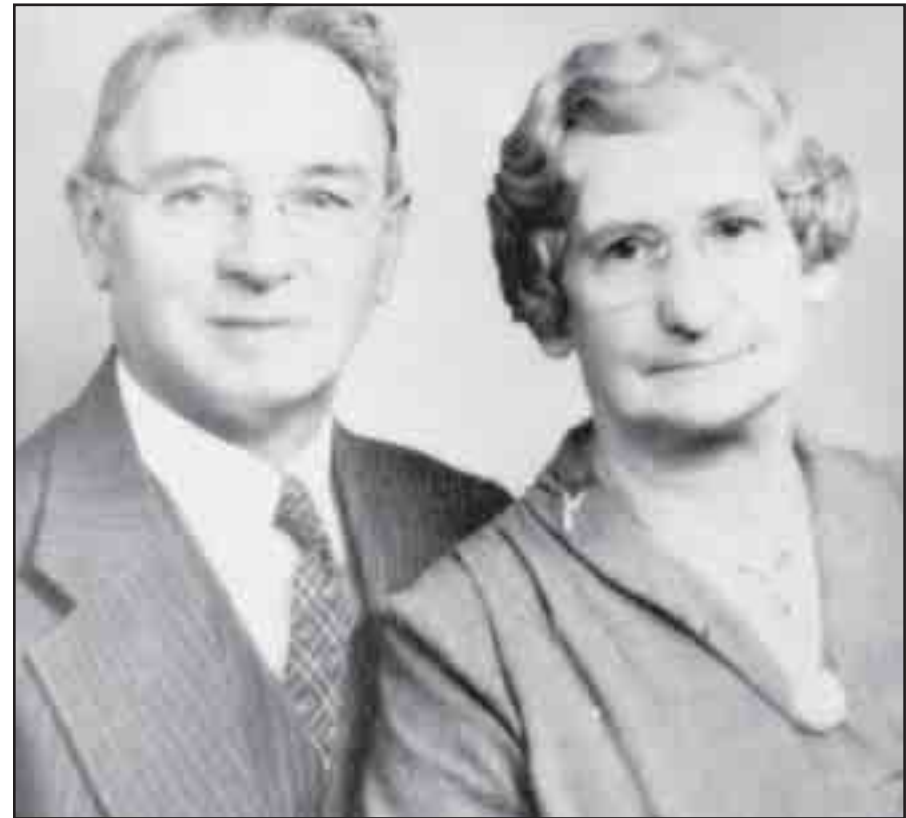


▲ The Harris children attended the three room S.S. #6 School

THE CHILDREN ATTENDED THE THREE ROOM S.S. #6 School. Doris Harris remembers Annie Hall fondly. She joined the Lorne Park Baptist Young People's Union and while at a convention in Montreal in 1946, she met John Bodley. He had just returned from overseas duty as an air frame mechanic in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II.

John's parents, Clarence and Emma Bodley, were married in Toronto in 1900. They had Fred in 1902, Jean, in 1918, and John in 1920. When John, who was a sickly child, was 11 months old, the family doctor suggested that his parents take him to the country to live, which would be a healthier environment for him. So Clarence bought 10 acres (4 ha) north of the Middle Road (QEW) from Bill Shook, for a small fruit farm and moved his family there. He ended up with 200 cherry trees, an apple orchard and fields of corn and asparagus. John attended the two room S.S.#5 School.

When the government decided to widen and pave the Middle Road in 1937, Clarence sold six acres (2.4 ha) of his land. He and his sons tore



▲ Clarence and Emma Bodley

(John Bodley)

down their house in 1938 and built another one on the northern section of the property, using some of the wood. According to John, the highway went right through the dining room of their old house.

In 1947, while courting Doris, John took over the William Clarkson store and ran it until 1952 as Carload Groceteria. They were married in 1948. They have a son, David, who has blessed them with two grandsons.

Doris is a rarity in this day and age. Up until 2001 when she and John moved to Barrie, she resided on the land next door to the original John Peer house, 956 Bexhill Road, where she was born. The Peer house was last owned by her sister, Margaret Harris Duke, and her husband, Glen. Margaret died in 1996 and in 1997, Glen moved into a nursing home and sold his house to Paul Ingram and Ann Martin. He died on July 16, 1997 at 86 years of age.



▲ Martin Shoe  
Repair Store  
— James Harris,  
seated



▲ Doris Bodley and  
great, great niece  
Samantha wearing  
great, great Aunt  
Olive's dress and  
bonnet from 1908,  
sitting in the 130  
year old rocking  
chair of great,  
great, great  
grandmother Harris.



◀ The Peer Barn  
(Doris Bodley)

◀ The Bodley House