

97 and still spry *well Jan 13/83 PE Co. Beog - M*

'I'm real young' says Lily

By MARG HAYLOCK
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WELLINGTON - A distant cousin of British hospital reformer Florence Nightingale, Lily Morton, at 97, is the oldest resident of Clinton Lodge.

"I'm real young. I'll be 98 on June 1st," she says.

She can recall the early settlement days of Huff's Island, where she grew up and attended school. "My mother was a Nightingale and the Nightingales came from England in 1840. They lived in Toronto until their children were old enough to farm and they started to look for land."

It was through Bishop Strachan that the Nightingale family learned of Prince Edward County and they bought 1,400 acres of land on Huff's Island. A friend in Toronto purchased half of this property, leaving the Nightingales with 700 acres by the bay.

"Florence Nightingale was a cousin of my grandmother Nightingale. When grandmother came to Canada, Florence was 10 years old. There was talk of her coming for a visit but her parents wouldn't allow her to come over to this strange place."

Lily Wallbridge (her maiden name) grew up on Huff's Island the sixth of seven children. She recalls that her father's family came to Canada from the United States, after the War of 1812.

"The Wallbridges settled the Massassaga Line. Another bunch of them who were doctors and lawyers settled on the shores of Belleville; near the Loyalist-Wallbridge Road."

"My mother married a Wallbridge from Massassaga and I was born on Huff's Island."

Lily Wallbridge remained with her family, as a young woman. She made a trip to Chicago to visit family friends and she accompanied them on a trip "to the old country" as a companion for their young daughter. At her father's death, she continued to care for her mother. When she was 30 years of age, Lily married Fred Morton, a farmer from the Melville area.

Today, both Melville and the neighboring hamlet of Allisonville are ghost towns but she can remember when each



LILY MORTON

community had a general store. There was a church at Allisonville and French's Mill and French's factory.

"They built a lodge in Allisonville and used to

have meetings there and put on little plays."

"When I got married, I lived on that road from Melville to Allisonville."

Fred Morton retired from farming with the arrival of the age of mechanization. "We used to farm with horses. Tractors started coming in and my husband never liked anything like that so he sold out and we came to Wellington. My children all were married at the time."

A widow for a number of years, Lily says she is happy at Clinton Lodge "because they let you do about what you want." She has an old Singer sewing machine in her room, purchased in 1920 and still enjoys stitching quilts.

"You don't want an electric machine for quilts. My eyesight is gone and I can't see to thread a needle but I can put quilts on the machine."