

Record of Barnum Family

Recently, the contents of a book entitled "Geneological record of the Barnum Family" has become available to some members of the "Barnums".

This book, published in 1909 in Massachusetts gives a complete record, opening with a conspectus of the old Barnham family of England extending from Sir Walter Barnham, 1377.

The peorage lapsed in 1728 in default of male heirs. The founder of the American line was Thomas 1st, born in 1625. He became one of the very early settlers in the New England States at which time he altered the spelling of the family name to Barnum.

One member of the 6th American generation was Phinias Taylor Barnum who attained fame as the founder of the Barnum circus.

Of particular interest to Northumberland County was Colonel Eliakim Barnum.

He was born in Franklin, N.Y., in 1784, and on his 24th birthday travelled to Upper Canada to visit his married sister at Grafton. Subsequently he bought property, married Hannah Ewing from Vermont and built the present Barnum House.

This latter dwelling is now an historical museum for Northumberland County. The oldest living descendant of Eliakim is Harold G. Barnum of Port Credit, Ontario.

Seymour Township received a 7th generation Barnum in the person of Caleb, who in May, 1867, bought the north half of lot 26, concession 9.

This was crown land although apparently it was held in the name of the University of Toronto.

Caleb's father, Leman, was a third cousin of P. T. Barnum and a third cousin of Col. Eliakim Barnum.

Caleb Barnum married Agnes Reid and they had two sons, Daniel and Amos as well as three daughters. The first dwelling was on the site of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Irwin.

On March 11, 1871, Caleb bought the south half of lot 26, concession 9 for \$800, from the University of Toronto. This property passed to Amos Barnum who died at the age of 88 in 1935. It is a corner of this latter property that is being developed by the Rylstone Women's Institute as a Centennial Park. The ceremony for the dedication of this park is to be held on June 10.

The oldest living male descendant of Caleb Barnum is Alfred Barnum, RR2, Campbellford.

In "Ancestral Roof"

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shot of the double-doors in the Bluestone House with their "deep baseboard, the wide moulding of the door trim and the square corner-box with its plaster rosette."

Another photograph depicts the Idalia, Port Hope, a villa in the Italianate taste. "Italianate villas graced a number of cities of Ontario," reads one paragraph in *The Ancestral Roof*, "but the pruning hook of time has cut them down. Some have been destroyed by fire, others have been mutilated beyond recognition. Idalia, in Port Hope, survives with only minor abrasions."

Ancestor of Col. Arthur Williams of World War I fame, John Tucker Williams acquired several thousand acres of crown land at Port Hope. These included Penryn Park where one of the family Mrs. Seymour occupied Idalia. Later, the Hemmick family were summer residents for many years and after long vacancy Idalia became the Golf and Country Club House.

On Kingston Road near Barnum House is the Mallory house, built by Justice Friend Mallory and it is the hallway that is noted to be of particular interest. "In this narrow apartment the massive simplicity of the 'eared' trim and the fine quality of the painted graining on the two-panelled door are submerged in

a plethora of woodwork."

According to W. P. Hinman of Ann Street, Cobourg, there are three Mallory houses on the Kingston Road. The centre one was once owned, he said, by Caleb Mallory who had three sons, Clark, Benjamin and Caleb.

In 1803 the Crown deeded land near the Golden Plough Lodge to one Peggy Jones who in turn deeded it to Zaccheus Burnham in 1805. Still standing on this land today, on Highway 2 just west of the Lodge, is the house that Burnham built. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Allen B. Moore. The house had been owned latterly by Harold Ferguson and before him by the Robert Staples family.

The house is painted white and gracing the front entrance are four pillars, two on either side of the door. The book refers to these pillars as "slim Hellenistic columns" and uses the name "Whitehall" in connection with the house. To date *The Sentinel-Star* has been unable to locate the origin of this name.

At the back of the book under the title "Porches" are sketches of various houses including the Renwood house near Cobourg. This was the home of the late Dr. R. S. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson, now of Calgary. It is a brick house built in 1845, and is now occupied by H. O. Matthis. This was once owned by W. A. Hoskin's grandfather

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Thomas, then the son Albert E. Hoskin sold to the Budd family.

Relating to the finer details of homes the book refers to the employment of treillage in building. "At Port Hope," it states, "we see a very extensive development of treillage with possible Chinese influence."

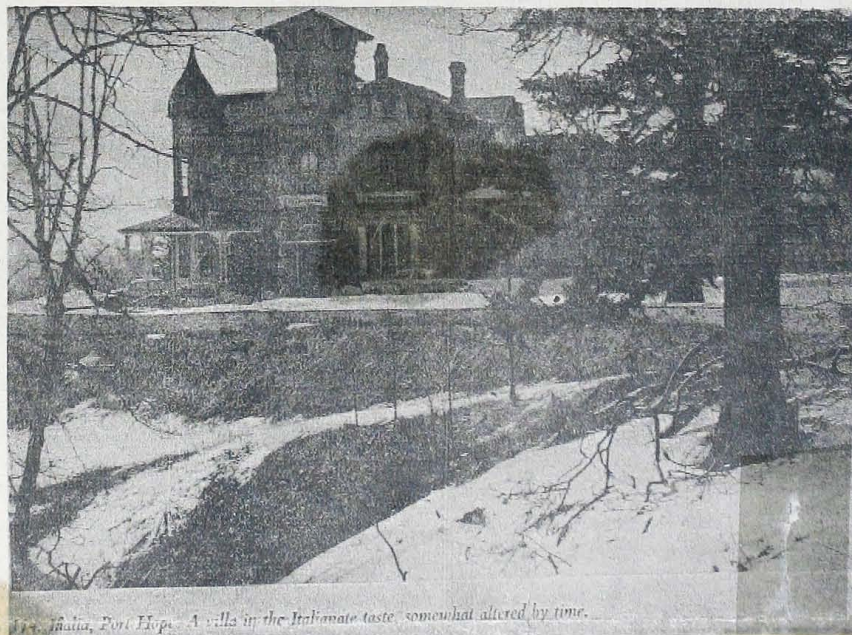
A piquant note appears on the frontispiece: "The Ancestral Roof was written by Marion

MacRae in constant consultation with, and sometimes in spite of Anthony Adamson, who wrote the first word and the last word and made the drawings."

The book is composed of large pages, eight by ten inches, on high quality paper. The type is large and easily readable and contains many names of Canada's earlier citizens. It is a well written and interesting account.



195. Above: The Battel house, Cobourg, has the run's roof gable of Durham and Northumberland but its window treatment is native to Cobourg.



194. Idalia, Port Hope. A villa in the Italianate taste, somewhat altered by time.