

History of the Hamilton Farm

Many of the people still living in the community of Glasgow today have seen generations come and go on the old Hamilton homestead, and so swiftly do the years fly that it must be hard for them to realize that this farm has been the home of the Hamiltons for now over 115 years.

It was on October 24, 1854, that William Hamilton and Ellen Airth were married. Both young people had come from Scotland with their families in those hazardous early days when Canada was a young country, and Ontario a vast area of tall timbers. Ellen Airth's people had settled in the village of Renfrew, and William Hamilton's on a farm at Locksley. The young girl's father was a skilled violinist, and played with wonderful beauty even after he became totally blind. His violin is still in the Hamilton family.



The young couple had a momentous honeymoon trip to Locksley. We may smile today, to think of a honeymoon trip of such short distance, but in those days it was a long and difficult journey. But at that season of the year the trip must have been a lovely one, through a bush country aflame with the gold, scarlet, crimson and dark green of magnificent trees. They lived in Locksley for just about a year, when their first baby was born, Jean Hamilton (later Mrs. Gillespie). She was only a few months old when they journeyed back to this part of the county again, and settled on the homestead close to the hamlet of Glasgow Station. Their first home was only a shack, put up as a temporary shelter. Later, as they cleared more land and began growing crops, they built a more substantial log house, and two small log stables. In this sturdy log house a large family of boys and girls was born, eleven in all, one of whom died at birth.

As the boys grew tall and strong and able to help with the farm work, they cleared field, after field of good loamy soil, and later on moved from the log house to a larger frame house, built farther back on the farm, where it still stands. Here their last baby was born, little Grace, who was unhappily taken from them at the age of four. The old log house was not torn down, but moved over to the new location and used for a stable.

William Hamilton died while still a young man, and his son John, then but a mere boy, took over the responsibility of the farm. In the beginning the farm extended right through to the ninth line of McNab, but after John took over the ownership, it was divided, and his younger brother James took over the back 200 acres. Later he sold this part to John Affleck, and later it was purchased by John Crozier. The present owner is Vernon Kilgore. John retained the front part of the homestead, with the farm buildings, and as he grew to manhood another bride came to the Hamilton home Agnes Leckie of Burnstown. Between them the young couple made the old home a comfortable and beautiful place, improving the house and doing a good deal of draining, fence-building, and so on, and building a large new barn. In the meantime the railway came through, and it so hardened that it was laid at an angle across a corner of the property next to the Hamiltons' which was owned by Jack Carswell. This cut off a large field from the Carswell farm, and John Hamilton purchased it from him, which added somewhat to his acreage.

John and Agnes Hamilton had four children, three girls and a boy. The son, named for his grandfather, William Hamilton, took over the farm from his father in