

Immediately after purchasing Lot 26 my grandfather returned to Fenelon Falls, Victoria County, for it was there that his parents and his nine brothers and sisters resided. After hearing his report on the Peninsula district now known as Purple Valley, they, too, decided to come here and take up land. In the year 1878 my great-grandfather and his family moved here and settled on Lot 29, Concession 13.

Then, in 1881, my great-grandfather purchased from my grandfather the west half of Lot 26, erected buildings, and moved his family there later that year. My great-grandfather became Purple Valley's first postmaster in 1884, and it was at his dwelling facing the 12th concession that the post-office was operated.

The Hambly lands, once rather extensive and consisting, in part, of the property now famous as Mallory Beach, now comprise only three lots. Lots 26 and 29, Concession 13, and the east half of Lot 25, Concession 14.

In 1881 my grandfather erected a log house about 12 x 18 only a few feet from where the present residence stands. (And it was in that first old house, on June 27, 1885, that my father was born.) Also in 1881 my great-grandfather and his sons erected a small log house and a frame barn 30 x 42 on the west end of Lot 26. Then, in 1882, my grandfather erected a frame barn 40 x 40 near his place of residence on the 25th sideroad (east half of Lot 26).

Horses, cattle and pigs were the first livestock. It is known that my great-grandfather Thomas Hambly brought the first team of horses, a span of mares, into Purple Valley. But for many years after that oxen were still the main beasts of labour. It wasn't until many years later that the Hambllys acquired some sheep. It might be worth mentioning here that the Hambllys' first cattle were driven all the way from Fenelon Falls when the family moved here in 1878. It is extremely doubtful that they had much livestock at first, for, until they got some land cleared and some hay growing, they would have little on which to feed their animals.

The Hambllys always engaged in what is commonly known as mixed farming. Timothy was at first the main hay crop, giving way later to alfalfa and, occasionally, alsike. Oats, barley and wheat, in that order, were the main cereal crops. Roots and corn were grown some years. An outstanding hay crop was harvested back about 1915, the estimated yield being ninety tons or more. And about 1920 my father had such a beautiful