

died shortly after. She had won such distinction as a nurse that the country honoured her by holding a special memorial service at Victoria Hospital and her body still rests in a vault in the hospital.

For years at the entrance of the farm, stood two tall poplar trees, one on each side of the lane. After the War of 1812-1814, when the country was full of unrest, loyal settlers planted these poplar trees. They were planted so that government officials or other loyal Britishers travelling through the country would know they could find necessary rest or protection on these farms. Both trees in front of this farm, fell in storms, one in 1941 and the other in 1917. The stump of the second is the only landmark of the early settlers left on this farm.

Ernest Phoenix, at the age of 34, in 1913 had been married to Emma Maud (Pierce) of London for 7 years, and they resided at 47 Oak Street, London. Ernest and his father William operated a Dairy and Milk Delivery business, in the east end of the city. In May 1909, Ernest had bought a farm on Lot 6, Concession 2 Westminster Township, to supply milk to the dairy he was operating. Various tenants lived on the farm and it is presumed did some farming for him.

Early in the spring of the year 1913, Ernest was delivering milk by horse and wagon at 4 a.m. At the Burwell St. crossing, an unscheduled train was approaching. Due to some error the flagman did not attend to his duties, which were to protect vehicles and pedestrians on the street by flagging them down. The wagon was hit and Ernest was seriously injured, the injury to his leg being so severe that he spent 8 months in hospital before he could even walk with a cane. He received some compensation, which was extremely small in comparison to what it might be today. His doctors, including his brother who was also a doctor, recommended an active life style or his leg would not be of any use, due to poor circulation. He decided to move to the farm, along with his wife Maud and three children: William Edward (1907), Kenneth George (1909) and Helen Maud (1912).

His experiences in farming were limited as he, by training was an accountant. He farmed by the book and through the years achieved a degree of success. He developed an excellent Purebred Holstein herd with record producing cows, and became very knowledgeable and proficient in crop rotations, even advising others. One year he obtained the title of "Corn King". He served on the School Board of Norton School for many years along with several of his neighbours, a school which all his children attended.