

V2-4

ORVAL CRISPIN FARM HISTORY

Mr. James Crispin who celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary on December 21, 1937 with his life partner at their home southwest of Hanover is one of the oldest continuous residents of this section having been born on the Crispin farm which has been in the family name since 1848. His grandfather, James Crispin, Sr., was one of the first settlers to come to this district when it was opened up, passing through Abraham Buck's pioneer hostelry the year it was erected as the first log house on the present site of Hanover, and going into Brant on the county line between Grey and Bruce. Grandpa Crispin built two little log cabins on his holdings, and one of them is still standing (not at this day) though the family now lives in a commodious brick house, erected about 40 years ago (1897).

The grandson, James Crispin, is now 83 and a grandfather, and he can recall many interesting features of life in this district when it was first opened for settlement. It took his grandfather half a day to chop a narrow trail from Abraham Buck's cabin to where Mr. Crispin decided to erect a cabin. He really blazed the trail which is now so widely used, namely the cemetery road. The "old" cemetery is on part of the Crispin farm, with the new cemetery across the county line. Grandfather Crispin erected his cabin, placing it on the side of a hill and facing the river, but it developed that when the South Line road was built the cabin was located on the roadway and for a year or two it stood practically in the middle of the road, with a pathway on each side of the cabin, leaving it like an island in the center. The second cabin was built further west.

Grandfather Crispin came to this section, from Devonshire England, with four sons, William, John, James, and Thomas, and the man who recently celebrated his diamond wedding anniversary is the son of John Crispin, being born in 1854. Between the father and his sons, they took up 300 acres of land on both sides of the river. John stayed with his father on the homestead, and James opened the first tannery in Hanover, later known as the Flanagan Tannery standing on the west side of the County Line hollow, near where Dr. S. H. Zinn now resides (Gateman Bus Lines). All traces of this early industry have disappeared. Another