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THE STORY OF THE COUSINS FARMS

The South Half of Lots 4 and 5 Con. 6
Westminster.

The story of the Cousins farms would start with the arrival in Canada, in 1851, of a young man from Dunfermaline, Fifeshire, Scotland. He was William Cousins, son of John Cousins and Anne Stephenson of the same city.

His first job after arriving in Canada was on the construction of the London & Port Stanley railroad. A few years later in 1855, he married Mary Nichol, only daughter of Francis and Janet Nichol, who had settled on Lot 15, Con. 4, at the corner of Wellington Road and the 4th Con., Westminster, shortly after their arrival from Roxboroughshire, Scotland, in 1833.

Soon after William and Mary were married, Mr. Nichol purchased the south half of Lot 5, Con. 6, for them, from Abner Wilson who had purchased it from the Canada Land Co. some years previous. William and Mary then took over this farm.

During the next several years five children were born to them - Janet, John, Elizabeth, Anne and Mary. Shortly after Mary was born, the Mother died, leaving William with a young family to take care of. However, with the help of friends and relatives they carried on.

Some time later, William married Mary Russel, a young lady from London. Four more children were born, namely, James, Margaret, Emily and Lillian.

Some years later, Mr. Cousins decided that they needed more land to work, so he purchased the next farm to the east of the home farm from William Laidlaw who wished to sell it, as he was taking over his grandfather's farm at Lot 11, Con. 4, Westminster, as Mr. Wilson wished to retire.