

ABRAM continued 2

resembles a paper chain of maple leaves. It took him all one summer to do the intricate and artistic carving.

To the right of the front door was the living room in which hung a large lamp with prisms. It could be pulled up or down as light was desired, and under it was a circular table made of butternut.

In the parlor, to the left, were oil lamps with lovely ornate shades. In here, too, was the lovely old horse-hair suite. Each room had the traditionally high ceilings that were "divils to heat", said Marjorie.

Abram installed running water. It was pumped by a ram from the spring which gushed out at the foot of a huge maple tree over the mountain brow. This tree was known as "Lees Maple" by travellers for miles around who would stop to water their horses while they lunched under the spreading limbs. Abram built a retaining wall and made a circle around the spring to be used for the large milk cans. It was like an outdoor refrigeration system. The bridge was built across with planks, and in later years was cemented. The overflow from the spring ran down the mountain side and was greatly swelled by the spring freshets. As children, this was a favorite spot for play, and grandmother was always afraid the children might drown in the pool.

The cattle were driven down to this spring to water. At the top of the mountain was a gate leading to the small pasture below the hill, and each spring the heifers were put down there for summer pasture. They watered at the half-hogshead sunken in the spring water.

The running water was pumped into the black iron sink in the kitchen where the brass tap was kept in high shine. The hand pump brought water up from the large cistern.

MAPLE SYRUP

Maple trees have always been most prevalent on this property, especially toward the back, and the woods continues on into the other Lee farm across the concession. The trees were tapped and the sap boiled down in outdoor open kettles to make the famous "Lee's Maple Syrup", which was poured into round gallon tins and sold mainly to Andy Bane's grocery store in Hamilton. Some was sold at the farm to friends and neighbors, too. During the First World War, Marjorie Lee sent pancake flour and Lee's syrup, in the newer square tins, well packed and sewn with cotton to the boys overseas. She still has many letters from them.

The lime ridge through this property seemed to give distinctive and delicious flavour to the syrup and fruits grown here.