

ERLAND -- 4th generation



Erland Lee was born May 3, 1864, and died in 1926. He inherited the farm from his father, Abram, and in 1889 married Janet Robertson Chisholm (Jan. 4, 1862 - 1940) of Hamilton. They had 5 children: Marjorie, Hilda, Gordon, Frank and Alice.

Erland attended the Lee School on the farm property and Waterdown High School. In 1883 he received a teaching certificate, second class. In 1885 he received a Certificate in Agriculture given by the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario, and won second prize for the Province. For 12 years he was secretary-treasurer of the Saltfleet Agricultural Society and for many years Clerk-Treasurer of Saltfleet Township.

When the Farmers' Institute of South Wentworth was formed in 1882, Erland was one of the Charter Members, and during the years served as Secretary-treasurer and President. The Farmers' Institutes were formed for the purpose of disseminating information in regard to Agriculture and for the development of local talent. Mr. Lee was a prominent, public-spirited, broadminded farmer of Saltfleet, and followed mixed farming on the hundred acre property, carrying on the tradition of his forefathers with purebred Jersey cattle, fancy dairy butter, maple syrup and fruit.

Mrs. Erland Lee graduated from the Hamilton schools with a teaching certificate. She was chosen to take a kindergarten course in Toronto, and then returned to Hamilton to help set up a kindergarten system for the city. In 1889, she married Erland Lee and gave up her profession to become a farmer's wife.

It was through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Erland Lee that the first Women's Institute in the world was formed, and it was on the walnut dining table in this home that the original Constitution of the Women's Institute was penned by Mrs. Lee, under the supervision of Col. F. M. Carpenter and Mr. E. D. Smith. It is significant that this dining room table, around which the committee sat to form the Constitution remains a treasured piece of furniture in the home.



Mrs. Lee became one of the first Directors of the Stoney Creek Women's Institute, and it was she who suggested the annual fee be set at 25¢ (in order that all women could afford to