

THE BRICKMAN CENTURY FARM

The Brickman century farm is situated on lots 82 & 83, 1st concession of Ameliasburgh on what is known as the Gore road. The Brickmans were from Holland, but had settled in New Jersey before they came to Canada. Ludwig Brickman's birth and marriage to Mary (Marytje) Wannamaker, also the birth of several of their children are registered in New Jersey. The Brickmans were not Loyalist, but came to Canada and settled in Ameliasburgh in 18<sup>06</sup>. Ludwig and Mary had seven children. Mary died and Ludwig married again - Aule Crouter(1788-1853). There were two more children by this marriage.

Ludwig Brickman built a log house and barn on the limestone ridge north of what is now the Gore road. He and his sons dug a well close to their buildings. They also planted some apple trees on the knoll as soon as the land was cleared sufficiently. Lorne Brickman recalled, as a boy, helping his father to cut and burn some of the old apple trees.

Rynard Brickman was Ludwig's oldest son. He was born in 1788 in New Jersey, died in 1848. He married Margaret Peck(1792-1856). They had six children. Rynard built a second log cabin after his marriage. By that time a road had been established, so he built his home on the south side of the road where present home stands. It boasted a cellar to store fruit and vegetables and a huge fire-place.

Rynard's second son Lewis followed him as owner of the property. Lewis was born in 1817, died 1882. He married Margaret Jane Cole(1823-1893). They had four children - Ben, Rynard, Mary Margaret who married Jacob Sager, and Sophia who married a Glenn. Lewis Brickman built a new frame house to the east of his father's log home. He cut down his own trees, and took them to the local saw-mill operated by William Babcock on the creek about a mile and a quarter to the west of the Brickmans. The shingles were all hand made from pine. The floors were of inch and a half pine, and all the moulding was hand planed. This house years later became a canning factory for the Brickmans.

Lewis's son Rynard (1844-1906) was the fourth generation to till the Brickman farm. He married Alzina DeLong (1853-1898). He was a very industrious and progressive farmer. He built the present barn in 1898. It is 70 feet long by 40 feet wide. Alzina died at the early age of 45. Rynard and Alzina had only one child, a son Lorne, born in 1879.

Lorne R. Brickman married Emma Ainsworth in 1899. In 1902 they built the present spacious and comfortable home. Rynard only lived four years to enjoy it. Lorne and Emma had one daughter, Audra. She is the sixth generation of Brickmans to live on this farm. Audra has several dishes and pieces of furniture well over 100 years old and has a grandfather's clock with all wooden works which is almost 200 years old.

Mixed farming has been carried on through the years. In the depression years of the 1930's Lorne Brickman grew tomatoes. When the canning factories refused to take delivery of his tomatoes, Lorne rented a home-canning outfit and started in the canning business. The old home built by his grandfather Lewis became a canning factory in 1934. The next year Lorne bought an outfit and canned beans and corn as well as tomatoes. Then gradually other lines were added to include asparagus, tomato juice and chicken. The factory was used for jam making for the Red Cross during World War Two. Neighbouring women assisted with this work and 8,800 pounds of jam were canned and shipped overseas.

The telephone was installed in the Brickman home about 1903 or 1904 by the Sprague Telephone Company. They have had a bathroom since 1911. Electricity was installed in 1930.

It seems probable that the Brickmans settled first briefly in Sophiasburgh in the Green Point area, when they first came from New Jersey. The older children's births are recorded in New Jersey, last one in 1796. Daughter Jane's birth is recorded in Sophiasburgh in 1805. Son Peter's birth is recorded in Ameliasburgh in 1807, so they must have moved to Ameliasburgh by then.

Ludwig Brickman's will of May 5, 1813 wills 400 acres of land: 100 acres, the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of lot 82 2nd concession Ameliasburgh to oldest son Rynard; 100 acres - the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of lot 82 2nd concession to second son William; 100 acres - the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 82 1st con. to 6-yr. old Peter; and 100 acres - the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 82 in 1st concession to son Henry. Peter and Henry were the children of Ludwig and his second wife, Olive Crouter. After Ludwig's death, she married a man named Benton. Ludwig left each of his 5 daughters \$50.00 and his wife \$60.00.