

BURNS FARM

Lot 50 Sophiasburgh Township. Parson Dorland bought farm Lot 50, 3rd concession of Sophiasburgh from the crown in Queen Victoria's reign in 1958. This farm consisted of 100 acres more or less. John Burns purchased the farm from Dorlands' around 1900. Since then there has been a new house built on the foundation where the old house stood, in 1913. It contained a bathroom and a furnace and taps with hot water provided by a 20 gallon tank which was heated from the cook stove, which had a water front. A barn was built in 1907 to replace the old one. John Burn's son, Percy, purchased the farm from his father in 1918. The property still remains in the Burns family. Hydro was installed around 1938. The telephone having been installed a good number of year (by the Mutual Telephone Co. later bought by Bell) and is operated by them. A much smaller house was built near the road for one of Parson Dorland's sons. This house was sold in 1977 to Robert Crane. The land with the farm was sold to John and Paul VanVliet in 1974. The large house on the hill was sold in 1977 to J. Bock.

"Rita Calnan"

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G. BENWAY FARM

Thomas Reed, at the age of 17, came from Ireland in the spring of 1851, landing in New York. He came to Trenton, Ontario, with a lumber wagon and stayed with people by the name of Lawheed. He later went to work for Jonathan Crawford at Bethel. In 1876 he bought this farm then owned by the Dingman Bros. He married Mary Hethrington who lived on the farm now owned by Leland Doxsee. They raised four children; Russell, Stuart, Jennie and George, the latter two remaining at home to help and run the farm.

Thomas Reed died at the age of 82 years. He had built the house in 1888 and the barn in 1907.

George married Ruby Christie who taught school at Doxsees, and they had three children, Albert (a teacher), Mary (a nurse), Bernard (remained at home and married Lillian Love). They had two small daughters at that time. They sold the farm to George Benway in 1944, consisting of 199 acres of land, 69 acres which is called the back place was once owned by George Clapp, also bought from the Dingman Bros. It was once called the Rose Nook farm. At one time the Presbyterian church was on this farm, later being sold to Royal Munro, where it still stands as a drive house. This farm is still owned and operated by George Benway and son, Ronald.

"Laura Benway"