

# This family tree spreads right across the continent

By MANDY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The McKague family union might as well be a Northumberland County open house. As the computer data bases whirl and intermesh across e-mail connections, McKague family reunion organizers realize the family tree is a veritable forest.

"We're linked one way or another with every family in Cramahe Township if not Northumberland County," Linda McKague van Will says. "We have made connections with people all over North America."

On Saturday, August 14, all McKagues are invited to attend the first family reunion organized in over 40 years' time. At least 150 people are expected to arrive at the Castleton Municipal Building where Linda and her sister Carla McKague will have the computers and photo

archives, displays and memorabilia set up.

"There will be people from north Saskatchewan, Louisiana, Virginia and other far points," Mrs. McKague van Will confirms. "It is also a McGregor family reunion of sorts, too, because my grandmother was a McKague."

"Anyone who has a connection to the McKague family is invited," says Linda. "There's no charge. It's potluck and people can come and go. It will be nonstop talking and remembering. It's going to be just great."

Eric is the current patriarch of the McKague family.

"My father will be 90 on his next birthday," Linda announces as we move to the front room of the Castleton home for introductions.

At this point, all preconceived ideas of age and acuity go out the window.

Mr. McKague is nattily attired in shorts and sport shirt. He has foregone his high-top sneakers and blue jeans for this occasion. He waves a greeting, jumps out of his chair and retrieves his latest computer imagery project. He's manipulated old family photos of forebears, placing the people aboard elephants, in an old car that was a favourite of his decades, against a Northumberland Hills horizon.

Eric McK-

Eric McK-



The third generation relocated to Cramahe Township

LEFT: One of five sons of William and Elizabeth Coyle McKague (grandson of original settlers) was Robert, pictured here with his family: back row, left to right: Beatrice, Hilton, John and Ida. Front row, left to right father Robert, Arthur, Hedley, and Robert's wife and mother of the children Caroline Eagleson McKague.

(Below) The earliest photo of Cherry Hill Farm: Cherry Hill was a 250-acre Crowe Grant of land homesteaded by William McKague and Elizabeth Coyle McKague (shown above) in the early 1800s. The property remained in the family until 1919 when their son John retired to Cobourg. Other sons of the couple began farming in Cramahe Township. Today, a McKague still farms the Cramahe Township property.

ague is connected. He surfs the the Internet, browses on the world wide web, researching the interest of the day.

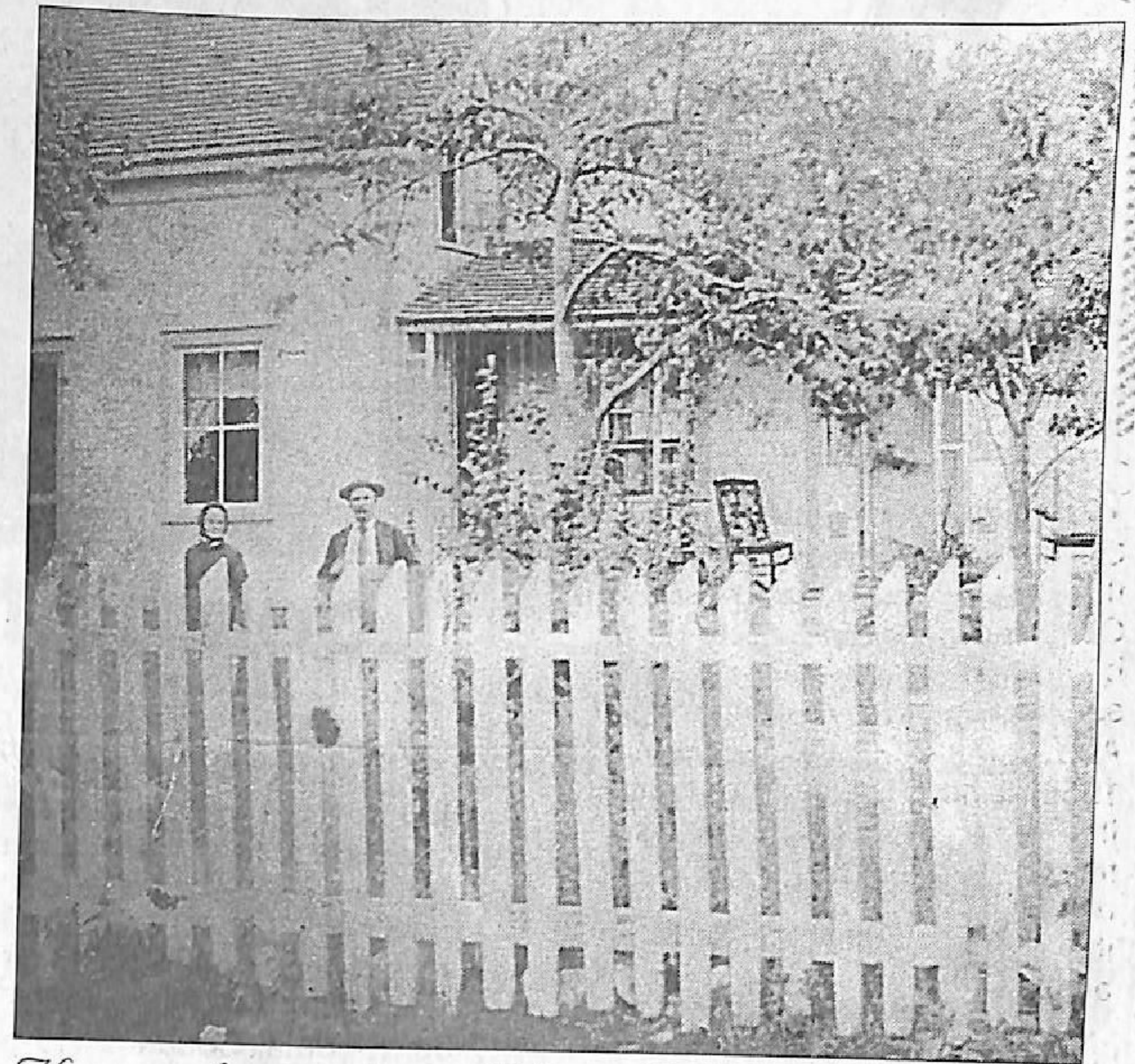
He still does income tax returns for people.

Last year, for the first time in his life, he had a hole in one while golfing at Salt Creek. Life doesn't get much sweeter.

"I went down to the municipal office to buy garbage tags last week," he tells me later in the afternoon. "It took 15 minutes because they couldn't get their computers to work properly." Not impressed.

On Saturday, he drove out to Red Cloud Cemetery for a look. He's read the article in last week's *Chronicle*.

"My brother Clarence was on the cemetery board," Eric relates. Clarence died last year. "Clarence was responsible for planting the pine trees there, the pines they removed."



The second generation at Cherry Hill homestead

# McKagues

# Calling all

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