

and of the McGregors

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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



The fifth generation

ABOVE: Eric McKague (a son of John Bruce McGregor and Caroline Eagleson McKague), and wife the late Margaret Richards, surrounded by family photos. Today, Eric is approaching his 90th birthday. ABOVE RIGHT: John Bruce McKague, a son of Robert and Caroline Eagleson McKague, married Lena Maud McGregor December 25, 1907.

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."

Eric assessed the tallgrass prairie ecosystem with an open mind.

"To the undiscerning eye, there's not much to see," he declares.

Eric was an executive with CN Rail before his retirement. He and a sister bought the house he currently resides in with daughter Linda van Will when another brother Jim married and bought out brother Eric and Clarence.

Jim McKague's son D'Arcy is operating the Cramahe Township farm that has been within the family since 1875.

Eric married Margaret Richards of Warkworth. When Eric retired from CN Rail. He and Margaret moved to the Castleton home. Margaret passed away in 1985. Today, Eric lives in the home with daughter Linda McKague van Mill.

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In 1822, John and Jane McKague emigrated from County Cavan in Ireland to Cherry Hill, a small settlement east of Baltimore. There, they raised eight children. It is believed

the direct-to-Canada contingent meshed with other family members who came to Canada at the same time as United Empire Loyalists receiving land grants.

Initially, the Cherry Hill homestead was a log home, later replaced by a larger, finished home.

One of the earliest photos Linda and sister Carla have garnered shows William, son of the John and Jane, standing in the garden of the Cherry Hill homestead with his wife Elizabeth Coyle McKague.

There's a lovely family story about the initial meeting of William and Elizabeth.

"William went to the Coyle farm on an errand and when he arrived, there was Elizabeth stomping on laundry in a tub in the front yard. She had her skirts hitched up around her waist and apparently that was it for William."

Elizabeth was reputed to have been quite acrobatic and a very accomplished rider. Another family story relates she was riding a horse while carrying eggs for market when the horse suddenly shied.

"It is said she flipped off the horse and landed on the ground without breaking an egg," Linda relates.

William and Elizabeth had 10 children.

Two of their sons, George and Robert, together brought a farm in Cramahe Township in 1875. Robert McKague (grandson of the original settler and great grandfather of



The fourth generation



The fifth generation

One of the very few McKague family artifacts that survived from the original settlement in Canada was a horn brought to Canada by John and Jane McKague in 1822. The horn was used by the McKagues at Cherry Hill, east of Baltimore where they first settled, to call the men from the fields.

Above, the late Ethel Maud McKague is shown blowing the horn in 1968. Ethel's brother Eric, of Baltimore, donated the horn other memorabilia to Barnum House museum. When the family asked to borrow the horn for the upcoming August 14 family reunion at Castleton, they were told the horn and several other items had been "stolen" from the museum sometime between 1992 and 1999.

All photos courtesy of Linda McKague van Will

Linda and Carla) married Caroline Eagleson. The couple had six children.

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