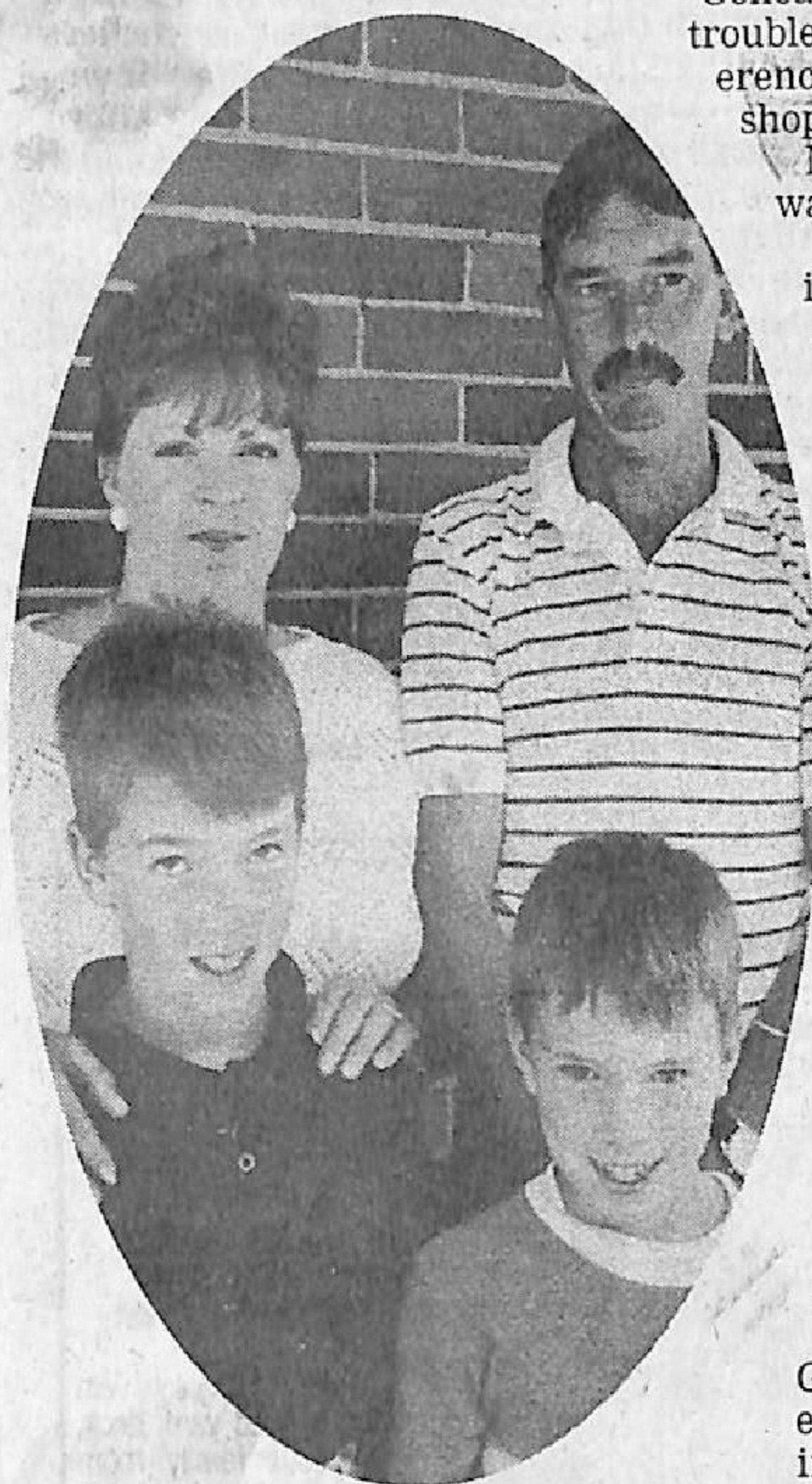


24

Marlene Cochrane Harnden traces Northumberland family roots for Aug. 24 reunion



Marlene Cochrane Harnden with husband David and their sons David Jr., left, and Patrick.

Genealogy gets in your blood. You know you're in trouble when the bags of old papers, photos and reference books far outnumber your weekly grocery shop.

Marlene Cochrane Harnden's in trouble. She wants company.

"We're organizing the first Cochrane Family Reunion at the Haldimand Memorial Arena on August 24," she announces.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cochrane family and friends are encouraged to come with a picnic lunch - and all their old records and photos. Consider it a family swap meet.

Then 5 to 6:30 p.m., it's a potluck supper (BYO utensils; a bar is available for all beverages) followed by a dance 8 - 12 p.m. (\$10 per person to offset DJ costs).

"I've just always been very interested in where people live, where they come from, how we're all connected," the Colborne hair salon owner says. "My family seems to have lived equally in Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand Township for the past eight generations or so. I want to know more about it."

One of four daughters born to Russell Cochrane and Barbara Marie Elmy, Marlene has always been aware of uncles, aunts, grandparents and great grandparents. Tragically, her father died at a young age (48), leaving Marlene with lots of unanswered questions.

About five years ago, as a member of the Grafton Legion, Marlene spearheaded an effort to obtain photos of all servicemen interred in township cemeteries. Her quest led to fascinating conversations, a cornucopia of photos and a few frustrating dead ends. But the spark caught fire, and she was off in search of the Cochrane family history in Canada.



Great, great grandfather

Edward William Cochrane (1834-1907) is the grey-haired gentleman seated second row second from right, with first wife Mary Hicks (1836-1871) second row, end right. Mr. Cochrane served a term as Warden of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham in 1880. He served as a Conservative federal Member of Parliament for nearly 25 years, 1882 until his death in 1907.

Great Grandfather: The young man seated far right, front row, is believed to be Edward William's son John Fenwick Cochrane (1864-1936), great grandfather of Marlene Harnden.