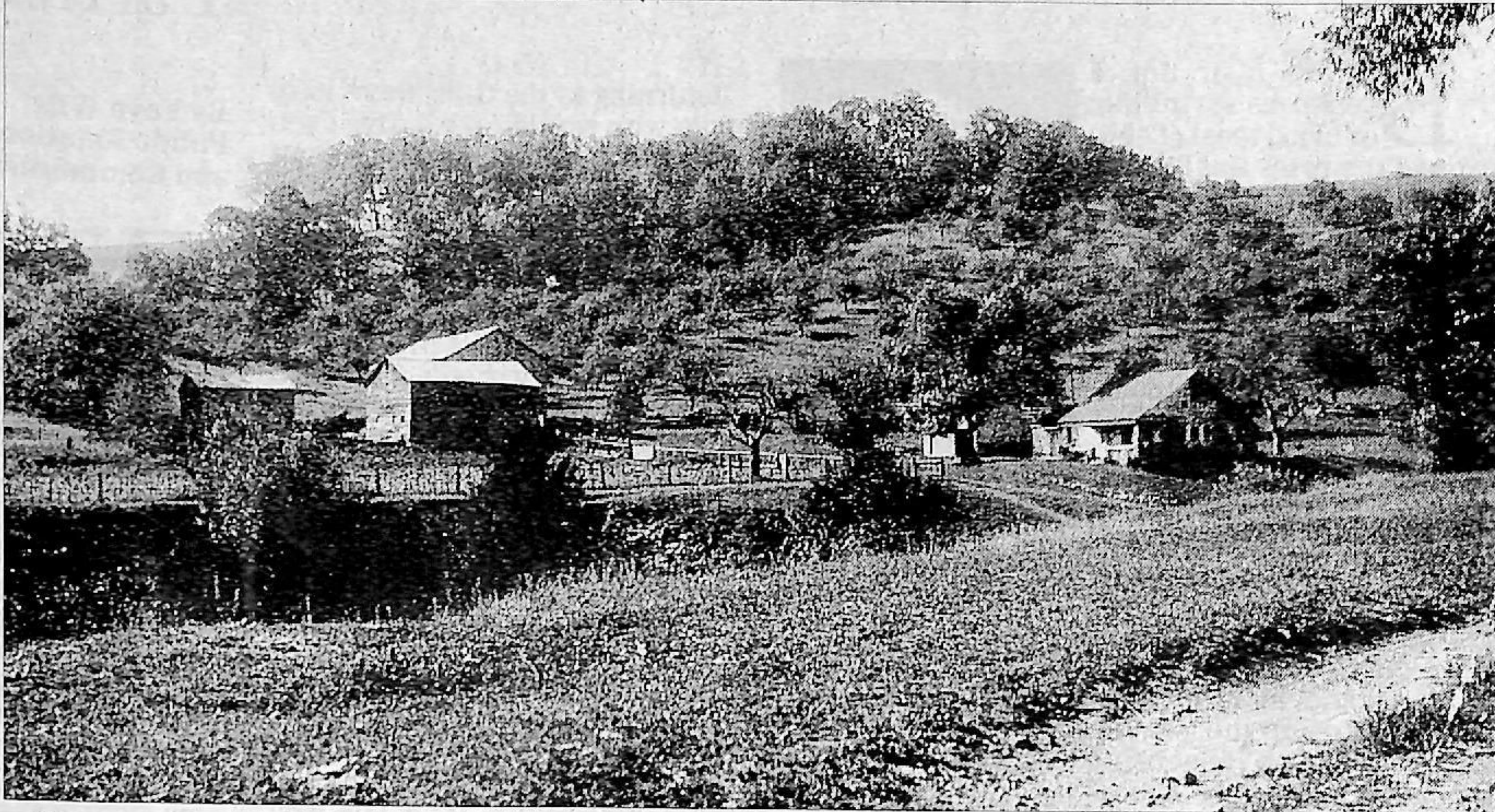


Feature

150th Anniversary of the Samis Family in Canada July 27-29

COLBOURNE CHRONICLE JULY 12/07

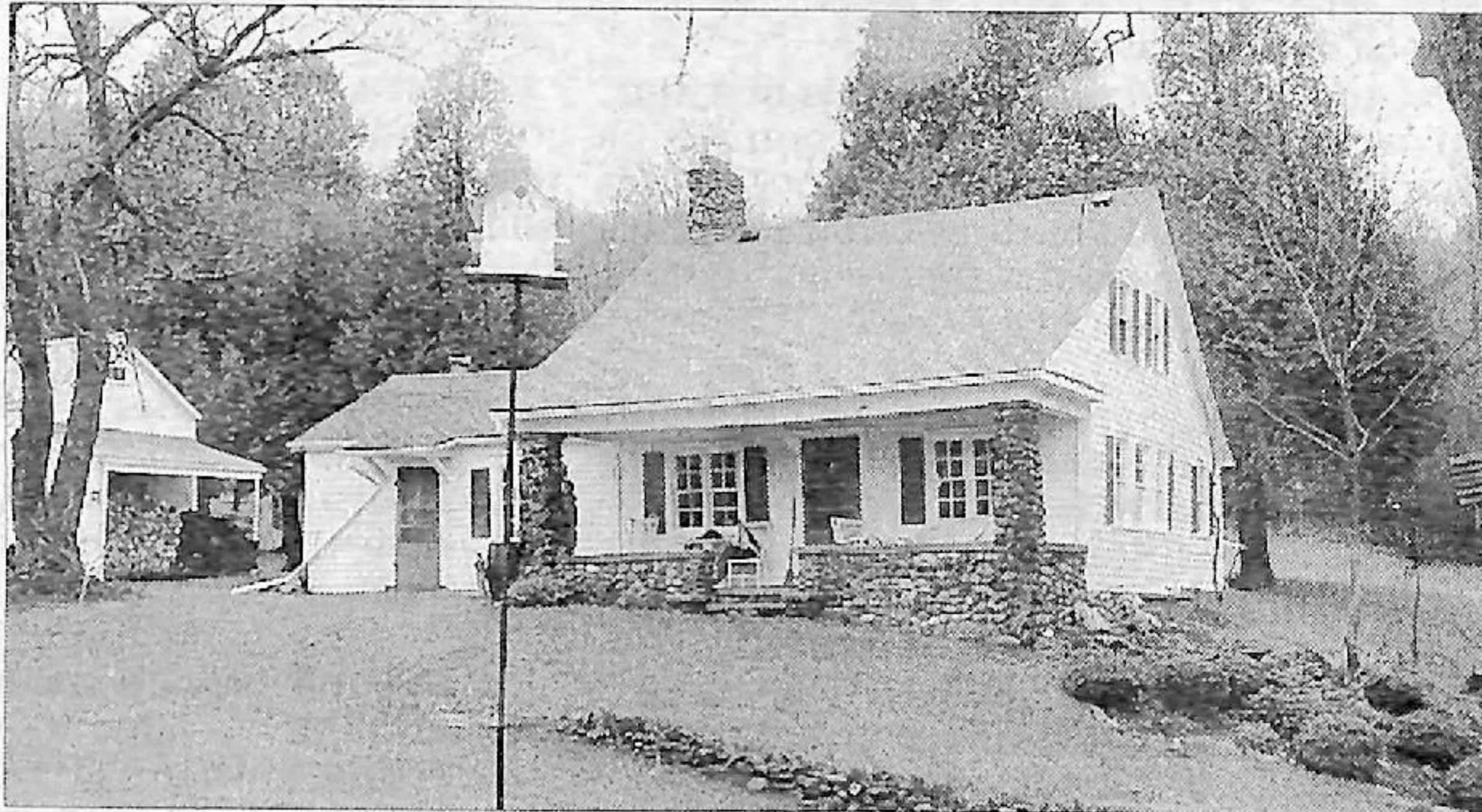


SAMIS HOMESTEAD

Above, an undated photo of the Michael Samis home on Danforth Road near Cobourg.

The home was built by Michael's brother Israel Samis. The brothers were sons of Ebenezer and Sarah Tuttle Samis who arrived in Lakeport, Canada in 1807. Israel was a dispatch rider between York and Kingston during the War of 1812-14.

Right, the house as it stands today, Glendalen Farm. It will be the site of Samis family reunion events July 27-29.



sons of Ebenezer and Sarah," Clay notes.

There have been prolific family contributions to the generations, many with eight or more children. That also means an age spread within each generation resulting in some brothers or sisters being the same age as nieces and nephews. That's where the keepers of the genealogy step in to assist — and, what the heck, it's all one big family!

This year, newfound descendants from as far away as California, Alberta and Nova Scotia are expected to gather at a Samis homestead on Danforth Road in Hamilton Township just east of Cobourg.

At Glendalen farm, the house built by Ebenezer and Sarah's son Israel for his brother Michael after the war of 1812-14 still stands. It has been extended, modified, but the bones are still apparent. The property, now owned as a secondary home, has been offered to the family for reunion use.

"Since the reunion started in 2001, there have been amazing connections we've made," Don says.

"All over Canada and the United States," Clay confirms.

The first reunion, attendees were stunned when Don's doppelgänger, a cousin, arrived. The two men looked at one another in amazement. Despite five generations of separation, genetics was holding fast.

Locally, for Clay and Don, they've discovered they are close relatives of people they've known all their lives, like Terry Pettibone of Lakeport, who lives just kilometres from Clay. Or Chuck Martin of Brighton, descended from the Benjamin son branch. Donna Puddy Griffin of Enfield, who assiduously keeps Samis family records on the computer, is from the Israel Samis line.

An American cousin, Bill Williams of Battle Creek, Michigan, compiled a 400-plus-page genealogy record published in 2004. With new interconnections and photos made available through Samis reunions since 2001, a vastly expanded second edition — a whopping 900 pages — will be published this year.

The 200th anniversary Samis

reunion is still open to registration: \$40 per adult, \$70 per couple, \$20 per youth and \$1- for children 6-12 years, which includes the full weekend of events.

On Friday, July 27, 4-10 p.m., there will be a sign-in and meet and greet held at the IOOF Community Hall, 412 Victoria Street, Cobourg.

Saturday, July 28, is family day with 9:30-10:30 a.m. morning sign-in at Glendalen Farm, Danforth Road. There will be historical reenactments, historical and interactive displays, a commemorative plaque and tree planting plus catered dinner and evening bonfire until 10 p.m..

Sunday, July 29, an interdenominational worship service will be held at Glendalen Farm 10-10:45 a.m. followed by a picnic at Victoria Beach in Cobourg (site of former reunions) 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m..

For more information or to register for participation in the Samis Reunion, contact organizing chairs Don and Betty Samis, Hwy. 2, Courtice ON L1E 2M5, phone 905-436-2372, or e-mail donbetty.samis@sympatico.ca.