

Professional success is worth celebrating

CECILIA NASMITH

Northumberland Today

COBOURG - Professional success is always worth boasting about, and several members of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society took the opportunity to do so, on behalf of their forebears, at their annual Mystery Ancestor Night in January.

Jim Sandham told the story of first cousin twice removed Charles Luther Burton, born in 1876 in the Pickering Township village of Green River. His father kept the general store. His mother Eliza Barclay Burton shared the job, a whole-hearted homemaker who kept house in the back of and above the store — and also provided the sense of order and cleanliness up front that kept the store from descending into chaos during those days when barter brought as much produce into the store as customers took out.

The family moved to Toronto when Charlie was 11, and he entered what is now Jarvis Collegiate. He had to leave school at age 14, because his family could no longer support him, so he got a job with an attorney's firm.

Dissatisfied with only slow prospects of advancement, he joined prominent wholesaler H.H. Fudger in 1891. It proved to be an excellent move.

In 1897, Robert Simpson Company founder Robert Simpson died, and his business was sold to a syndicate of three Toronto businessmen (including Fudger).

This made Charlie an employee of the Robert Simpson Company, and his advancement came swiftly. He was assistant general manager by 1912, president by 1929 and chairman of the board by 1948 — years during which he built up a great Canadian retailing organization that had few equals.

Tom Holden's English grandfather William Cudworth took to the rails after witnessing the first run of the world's first passenger railway, the Stockton & Darlington, in 1825. He was just a 10-year-old boy at the time.

He had a detour, when he apprenticed in ship building, was briefly a sailor, then started his own shipbuilding business. But he gave it up to be a civil engineer for the Stockton & Darlington in 1840.

He was engineer to the Kendal and Windermere Railway, which opened in 1847 against opposition for its intrusion

A Great Canadian Retailer

Charles Luther Burton

Charles Luther Burton was an ambitious and energetic man who was born in 1876 in the village of Green River, in Pickering Township, where his father kept the general store. His mother, Eliza Barclay Burton, was a whole-hearted homemaker who kept house not only her home, above and in the back of the store, but also the store. It was only her order and cleanliness that kept chaos from descending upon the store, as it always threatened to do days when barter brought as much produce into the store as it took out. According to Burton, "It was my mother's tireless labors that I acquired the respect for which I received the greatest service in the merchandising ahead of me. You cannot run a department store unless good order is in the forefront of your mind, all day."



C.L. Burton Painting, oil on canvas, by Cleve Horne (1912-1998)

...excellent move...

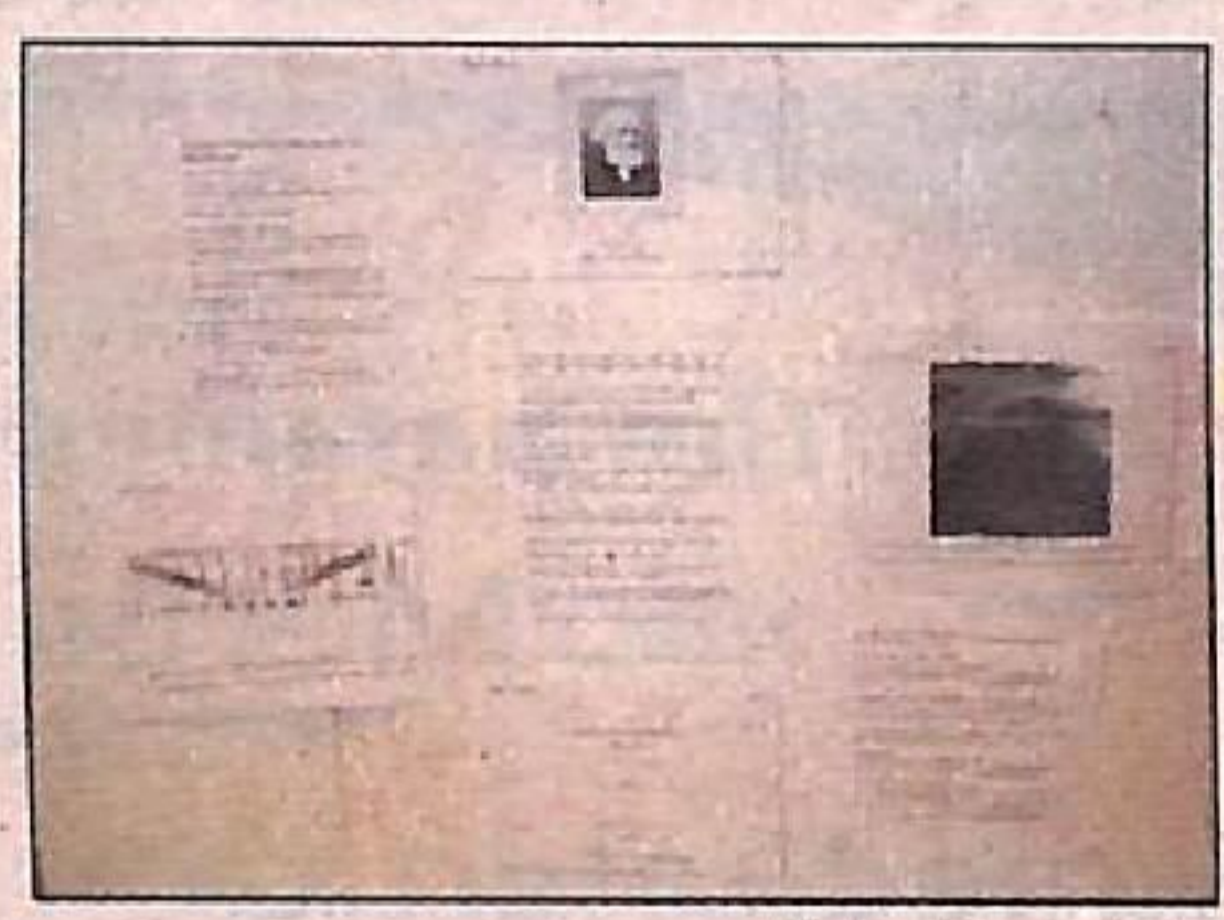
In 1897 Rob Simpson Company was sold to a syndicate of three Toronto businessmen (including Fudger).

Family's move to Toronto in 1888, at age 11, that is now Jarvis Collegiate. After a diagnosis of being much in need of money of which transformed the rest of his life he had to leave school because of the family's financial support. His first full-time job was at an attorney's firm. Seeing only slow advancement, he joined a prominent wholesaler in 1891. This proved to be an



Submitted photo

Jim Sandham stumped his fellow Lakeshore Genealogical Society members at Mystery Ancestry Night with the story of Charles Luther Burton (1912-1998), born to a small-town merchant, rising to president of the Simpson's chain in 1929 and chairman in 1948.



Submitted photo

Biographical facts of Quaker William Cudworth (1815-1902) — railway pioneer, civil engineer, literatus and linguist — did not help members of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society identify him as the grandfather of Tom Holden.



Submitted photo

Bee Makepeace told the mysterious story of her cousin Everett Nelson, who ran a produce store under an assumed name and was the black sheep of the family.



40