

A. B. GRENON FARM
Now Mikola & Polvi Subdivision and Harvey Punkari's Farm

The first Grenon family arrived in Canada in the 1870's and settled in Quebec. In the 1880's they made their permanent home in Waters Township.

Mr. Edmond Grenon, brother of J.B. Grenon, bought a tract of land approximately 2 miles square, from the government when it was available to settlers. This land was made up of Lot 2, Con 4, Lot 3, Con 3, Lot 4, Con 3 and Lot 5, Con 5. He then sold it to A.B. Grenon. The family consisted of A.B. Grenon, his wife Marie Louise; nee Fortin, and their eight children, Victor, Placid, Adrian, Edward, Marie Louise, Bernadette, Agnes and Jane, all of whom are now deceased.

Their first house was built in 1883 from logs lumbered on their own land, it had 3 bedrooms, a parlour and a kitchen. Farm buildings were built next - a barn for 4 horse teams, another for cows, a hay shed and a chicken house. A granary was added later. They also built a windmill (on the site of Polvi's present house), with a tank to provide their water system.

The land was originally the site of a government lumber operation. In 1899, Mr. Grenon built a saw mill, at the edge of the creek, powered by a water wheel. It soon became a thriving business and the family was considered one of the richest in the township. The home farm produced hay, oats, wheat, potatoes and vegetables. In 1913 deer ate and trampled a large portion of the oat crop, the crop was ruined and A.B. approached the government for compensation. It is not known if he received any, however, it is likely that he did.

At this time, Mr. Grenon met Mr. J. B. Moxam

and persuaded him to come to Waters Township because of the thriving economy, promising to help him in any way possible. The first winter the Moxams stayed with the Grenons enjoying their hospitality. Moxam then built his own home next door, cutting the necessary lumber and processing it at Grenon's saw mill. No sooner had the Moxams settled in their new home when a feud developed between the two men, the reason is unknown, although it lasted many years. Whenever A.B. hit the old brown jug, usually once or twice a year, he would drive his buggy to Moxams. There he would circle their house crying; "You, why did you build on the best part of my lot - why didn't you build on your side of the lot line?" This performance was greatly enjoyed by all the younger Moxams. The feud took on a new twist when A.B. decided to survey the land, the outcome of which was that his own boundary fence was placed too far over and was actually on Moxams land. He lost the disputed tract to Mr. Moxam.

On May 24th., 1913, while the Grenon's were enjoying a picnic at Nickel City Bridge (now Vermillion River); picnic and transportation courtesy of Mr. John Anderson, a Copper Cliff storekeeper; they lost their house in a fire. It had no electricity, telephone or inside plumbing. The water was provided by the windmill = tank system. It seemed the Grenons were to be plagued by fire, after the loss of their home they had four more fires, the granary, machine shed, three barns and a wholesale storage building.