

A. Russel Kirk - Jan. 20, 1979

Four generations of Kirk's lived for eighty years in Bromley township, Renfrew County. On July 17, 1899 "Eustache Barber Kirk" brought his bride "Jane Moore McLeese" from Forrester's Falls, Ontario to the farm he had purchased a year earlier from Herb McIntyre, part of lots 11 and 12 in the fourth concession of Bromley township. This property is now owned by Thos Donohue.

In the next five years their two oldest sons Russell and Douglas were born. Milk produced on the farm was drawn to a cheese factory at Osceola. The factory was owned and operated by Alex Ferrier and his wife Emma Gemmil, who later moved to Renfrew and became a "bee keeper".

Friends were made and we visited often at the home of Charles Spence. My father was a player on the Dunmore Soccer football team. Players were Ronald Angus, Arthur Spence, James Spence, Steve Ryan, Arthur Johnston, Michael Connelly and others. There was great excitement among the spectators. Mrs. Sandy Spence cautioned my mother to not throw the baby away while waving and cheering.

In April 1905 the farm was sold to James and William Ryan and father bought Lot 8 Concession 4 on the Barr Line, 305 acres from David McLaren. This farm had been settled by a non-resident merchant from Montreal (Mr. John McIntyre). His sister Mrs. Archie MacFarlane resided in a large house back at the foot of the hill. We moved into the fine new brick house that Dave McLaren had built in 1902, right at the main road.

It was here that Wallace, Jean and Eva Kirk were born. We all attended SS No 8 public school. After attending Renfrew Collegiate Institute, Douglas and Wallace graduated from Queen's University. Jean trained as a nurse and Eva a school teacher.

My parents with the help of their family and employees, worked the farm well, clearing land, growing good crops, and livestock for a period of twenty three years.

In April 1928 they sold the farm to me, Russell Kirk, their oldest son. On August 8, 1928 Dorcas Mary McCullough and I were married at her home village of Claremont, Ontario. For the next thirty-nine years we resided on this farm in Bromley.

It was a splendid community in which to live. The neighbours were good and helpful and the social life was good. The people were industrious, progressive and prosperous. In the autumn of 1934 Ontario Hydro electric power came to us. Cars were numerous since the year 1917 and roads had improved.

The fine steam threshing machine operated by Edwin Lipsey and Robert McLaren did the grain threshing for many years before giving way to farm tractors and smaller mills and later grain combines.

Our family of seven children are very important to us. Margaret Kirk McLeod of Sudbury and her husband Stewart McLeod, Hugh Kirk and his wife Jane McKay of Ottawa, Robert Bruce Kirk and his wife Elizabeth Blackmore of Ottawa, Marilyn Kirk and her husband Ted Shahan of Ottawa, William R. Kirk and his wife Yvonne Greenough of Kemptville, Lillian of Ottawa and Ruth Kirk and her husband William Purdy of Ottawa, and we have 21 grandchildren.

On May 1st 1967 our youngest son, William R. Kirk bought the home farm from us and Dorcas and I moved to Renfrew to live. Eleven years later he sold the farm to Bruce Dick, son of Barclay and Eva Dick.

Bill Kirk and Yvonne's family of David, Diane, Janice and Sharon lived, worked, played, and attended school in the community. They were the fourth generation to reside there.