

"NELSON" MONTEITH

Samuel Nelson Monteith was born 1862 at Lot 5, Con 8 Gore of Downie, the homestead claimed in 1852 by his father Samuel who emigrated from Karn Dreen, County Tyrone, Ireland.

Nelson assumed operation of the farm at age ^{sixteen} eighteen, attending Commercial College then Ontario Agricultural College during winter months. His political career 1891-1908 included Downie Township Councillor and Reeve; Perth County Warden; County Commissioner and Member of Ontario Legislature. While Minister of Agriculture, he was once criticized for taking a cab — his usual mode of travel being by bicycle.

His interest in reforestation led to the establishment of tree nurseries in Ontario, forerunners of the Department of Lands and Forests. Thus far, two grandsons Donald Simpson, Blanshard Reeve and Perth Warden; and John Skinner, Q.C. Stratford alderman have shown political interest.

Nelson and Ida Monteith raised nine children Maude (d.), Louise Simpson, Nelson, Margaret Cronin, Hazel McKay (whose two sons now own the homestead), Ruth Packham, Grace Skinner, Howard and Frances Holden all of whom received advanced schooling. Continuing this tradition, in 1982 five great-grandsons graduated from agricultural universities. Ninety-four direct descendants look back with love and gratitude to this couple who bequeathed to us a love of music, nature and an alert active life style. Nelson died at 86, the result of a fall from an apple tree. *on Oct. 18, 1949*



Hon. Samuel Nelson Monteith
1862-1949



Ida May (Lupton) Monteith
1875-1958



Lot 5, Con. 8, Gore of Downie.

The Monteith Homestead