

RE: GORDON SHAY FARM

The original owners of the property known as SHAY'S LIVESTOCK CENTRE were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clark Barber. After they died in 1935, a daughter, Mrs. Nellie Oxley occupied the house for a number of years.

The original farm consisted of 136 acres, more or less, and situated in the Township of Townsend, County of Norfolk, being Lots 13 and 14 on Concession 4, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Boston, Ontario on the Cockshutt Road.

During the ownership of the property by the Barber family, the farm was beneficial and profitable. In the early 1940's Mrs. Oxley rented the farm to Mr. William McDonald and Mr. James Charter. Two farm houses and two barns were built in the earlier days, and feed and hay were stored as they were harvested. Maple syrup was made and sold in the "shanty" in the woodlot. The maple trees were "tapped" and the sap was collected from the pails, hanging on the trees, by horse-drawn "stoneboats," as they were known in those days. A pleasure rarely known in Ontario today.

A sudden disaster struck the main farm home in 1944 when it was occupied by Mr. McDonald and his family, when a fire broke out instantly. The cause was unknown, but it was believed that Gasoline was poured into the lantern, instead of Kerosene. This caused an explosion, the home was burned to the ground. Mr. McDonald's son, 22 years of age, was burned to death.

Later this property was divided into three parts. Mr. Wilton Elliott purchased 56.25 acres; Mr. Clifford Johnson 53.33 acres; and Mr. Mahlon Price 26.75 acres. Mr. Price decided to build a house on the same site the house that was burned, and accomplished this in 1945.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Shay purchased this last described parcel of land including the house and barn from Mr. Price in 1946. Their original Grandparents (on Mr. Shay's side) immigrated into Canada, and the Boston area, from their United Empire Loyalist location in Pennsylvania, U. S. A. about 1854. They resided on the John Harris farm on the Angling Road, southwest of Boston.

Mrs. Gordon Shay's Grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson who resided in Boston. They had two sons, Ralph of Brantford, the late William, and two daughters, the late Mrs. Wilmer Persall, and the late Mrs. James Scott. To Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson were born two sons, Clifford, now residing on the original property described above, and the Rev. Forrest Johnson, and two daughters, Mrs. Claude Bowen, and Mrs. Gordon Shay. Rev. F. E. Johnson received his ministerial training in the U. S., and is now Pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Seattle, Washington.

Five children were born to Timothy and Rebecca Shay who came from the U. S.: Archie, George, Roland, Mary, and Emma. Archie died in his early years, and Roland continued farming at home, but George farmed the old Lloyd Bowen farm southwest of Boston. Mary and Emma later married and moved to Toronto and Burlington.

George Shay and his wife (the former Minnie Peach) had five sons and one daughter: Percy, Russell, Harold, Gordon, Earle and Edith. Harold met his death suddenly at Hawtry Station in 1921 when a train killed him. Russell died in 1949 when he was killed instantly by a train at a level crossing near Woodstock. Percy, Edith and Earle reside in Toronto, and Gordon remained on the property now known as SHAY'S LIVESTOCK CENTRE.

Gordon and his wife Norma had three sons and one daughter: Barbara, Keith, Wayne and Brian. Barbara resides in Brantford and is married to Gerald Pusey. Keith resides in Watford and is married to the former Elaine Thompson. He is the Auctioneer at the Sale Barn. Wayne is attending Devry Technical School in Toronto and Brian is home at school.