

JANUARY 1980

The parents of William Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke Sr., came from Chilton Polden, Summer set Shyre, England, to Canada in 1867, with their five daughters.

John Clarke Sr., born 1847 : died 1931, married Margaret Hooper, born 1848; died 1924 in Canada.

They settled near Mt. Elgin, where three sons and a daughter were born, later moving to the Brownsville Area, where they resided on a farm on the 10th concession of Dereham.

Sons William, George and John worked on their father's farm as well. William and George cut 500 cords of wood at 75¢ a cord during one winter.

William, the eldest, born September 1st, 1877 : died April 20th, 1935, married Mary Ann Burks, of Holbrook, born May 24th, 1877 ; died April 28th, 1960.

They made their 7th concession of Dereham. William worked as a carpenter for five years. He helped to build the Lloyd Cook barn, now owned by Emerson Priester. The Oscar Simmons, Mack Bearss, also the barn which he later owned, at the present location. While it was being raised a pole broke, letting the barn down, killing a man.

Two daughters were born on the 7th concession, Mildred, Mrs. Leonard Tullisonburg, of Delmer, and Mar Bruce Sandham, of Tillsonburg.

In 1907. they moved to the Carman Pratt farm on the 9th, concession of Dereham, residing there for 7 years, where Hazel and Wilford were born. Hazel died Sept. 2nd 1907, age 5 months. Wilford Wm. was born April 26, 1913.



first home on the 9th, concession of Dereham in 1903. While it was being raised a pole broke, letting the barn down, killing a man.

were born on the 7th concession, Mildred, Mrs. Leonard Tullisonburg, of Delmer, and Mar Bruce Sandham, of Tillsonburg.

moved to the Carman Pratt farm on the 9th, concession of Dereham, residing there for 7 years, where Hazel and Wilford were born. Hazel died Sept. 2nd 1907, age 5 months. Wilford Wm. was born April 26, 1913.

In 1914 William purchased lot 19, on the 11th concession of South Dorchester, from Mr. Lester Wilson, for the sum of \$10,000.00 - \$100.00 per acre, with \$1,000.00 down payment, and a 5% mortgage for the balance.

The first owner from the Crown was John Haviland, (1816) for the sum of 100 Lbs. Other owners were : B. Fairchild, Joel Davis, Adam Davis, William Wilson, Gilbert Moore, William Pulford, Adam Robertson, James Wilson (1889), Amos Charlton (1909) - \$9,600.00, Lester Wilson, (1912) Wm. Clarke (1914) Wilford Clarke (1952).

The first house was built in 1816, of logs, located at the far end of the farm. The second house, white frame, located across the lane from the present house, later torn down and the kitchen used for a garage. The present house, red brick, was built in 1905 by James Wilson, Lester's father. Plans were to build and add a summer kitchen, but were never completed.