

THE HISTORY OF THE HOLLAND FARM
Arthur Holland 1917 - 1961
Mack Holland 1962 -

The 150 acres of the Holland farm where Mack and I live today, is made up of the north half of lot 25, and the northwest corner of lot 24, concession 10, South west Oxford.

This land was bought from the crown, along with other land in the county by Thomas Moore, in 1816. He divided his land into 100 acres farms and 50 acre farms. These two lots of land went through various owners, until Robert Agur put the farm together as we know it today.

The earlier owners of these lots had buildings both east and west of where they are now. The buildings we see on the farm today were erected by Robert Agur, probably in 1878 - 1881. Some barns were moved to the location and new ones added.

In 1903 this 150 acres with new house and barns erected, was sold to John Mitchell.

On April 28th, 1917, this land was sold to Isaac Holland for \$15,000. Isaac Holland had come to Canada in 1863, from England. He was 12 years old when he arrived here with his mother and stepfather. They lived in various places in Dereham Township. In 1889 he married Elizabeth Butler, and they settled on Lot 18, Concession 9, Dereham Township. They had a family of 10 children. Isaac Holland in the same year 1917, turned the farm over to his oldest son Arthur, and in 1920, Arthur Holland married Nellie Lowrie, and they settled on this tract of land. This was a convenient location as it was just 2 miles west of where Isaac Holland lived and they could work back and forth and share implements.

There were cupboards put in the kitchen, a bathroom put in upstairs, and other redecorating done to the house during the year before Arthur and Nellie were married. The telephone was installed in the house during the time the Mitchell's owned the farm.

The farm was operated as mixed farming with a herd of dairy cattle. Some pigs were also kept. A flock of hens was kept for eggs to use and sell. The crops grown at that time were wheat, oats, barley and corn and mangels. There was and still is an 8 acre woodlot on the farm. Wood from here heated the house for a number of years and it was also tapped for maple syrup, some years back.



Arthur Holland & Hired man in 1929

The Orchard was on the farm when Arthur Holland came there and has been replenished with new trees throughout the years. Like many other orchards it has deteriorated, but we still get some apples off it each year for our own use.

The water in the 20's came from a drilled well, pumped by a windmill. Later a gasoline engine pumped it to the barn and to two storage tanks in the house, where there was both soft and hard water. Later the water was run by electricity which was installed in 1928. There was a silo erected in 1936.

Arthur and Nellie Holland had three children, Mack, Wray and Shirley. Mack the oldest son remained on the farm.