

*Finds siblings
after 50-year search*

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A phone call changes Ruth Gerrard's life

by Mary Golem

Ruth Gerrard still finds the news she was given over the telephone Friday difficult to believe.

After wondering for more than 50 years about her natural mother, the 73-year-old Chesley woman has not only found out about her mother, now deceased, she has also learned she had nine half-siblings, six of whom are still living!

"I've found a family I never knew I had," she said excitedly during an interview on Monday afternoon. "I can't think of anything else . . . I never dreamt in my whole lifetime this would happen . . . my whole life has changed overnight!"

Ruth Gerrard was adopted as baby in Toronto and raised as an only child by a Hanover couple.

"When I grew up and my adoptive parents had died," she explained, "I wanted to know more about my natural mother." She had never been told she was adopted, but had learned about it from children at school and confirmed it later when she found the adoption papers among her adoptive parents' belongings. She wrote letters to the Toronto paper, however, for years adoption records were kept secret. Just recently, "the doors have opened" and access to such records is now easier.

A little more than two months ago, a Toronto protest about opening such records is what got the ball rolling for Gerrard. After reading an article about

the fight to make access easier, Gerrard was able to obtain an address for an organization which does such research. Realizing she couldn't do it alone, Gerrard contacted Parent Finders, offered them what little information she knew about her mother - her last name - Hale - and left the rest to them. Records in both Canada and the United States were searched and after making a phone call to a man named Hale in Louistown (the man happened to be her half brother!), a woman named Sylvia who was doing the research was able to call Gerrard with the good news.

"She said I have good news and bad news," Gerrard recalled. The bad news, of course, was that her mother had died. The good news was that she had found out there were nine siblings, six of whom are still living in the Niagara Falls area.

"I never had a brother or sister to play with and now I have six!"

"It's like living a tv drama," Gerrard continued.

Admittedly nervous, Gerrard picked up the phone and called her new-found brother. Within the next few hours, she had talked to her two sisters and another brother.

She now has all of their names, addresses and phone numbers. A "family" reunion has been planned by her new-found siblings for July 9 and 10 in Niagara Falls. "I just can't wait to go . . . I'll never be lonely again!"

Elsie Krohn

Jane
Elsie Florence (Priebe) Krohn passed away on Monday, May 23, 1994 in the Chesley and District Memorial Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Chesley on November 1, 1924, she attended Chesley Public School.

On July 16, 1949, she was married to William Krohn, whom she leaves to mourn her passing.

Loving mother of David, Debra and Fred, she will be sadly missed by five grandchildren and also by her brother, Edward and his wife, Eva of Hanover and sisters, Christine Turner of Port Colborne, Violet Phillips of Hanover and sister-in-law, Gert Meyers of Hanover and by two step-sisters, Mary Meyers of Kitchener and Louise Zinger of Exeter.

She will be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Predeceased by her parents,

Herman and Helen Priebe, a brother, Harold and sister, Helen Leishman, four step-sisters and one step-brother.

The family of the late Elsie Krohn received relatives and friends at the Emke-McFadden Funeral Home in Chesley where the funeral service was held on Thursday, May 26, 1994 at 2 p.m. Rev. B. Holloway of Zion Evangelical Baptist Church, Elmwood, officiated. He was assisted by Harry McCready, singing the deceased's favorite hymn "The Old Rugged Cross."

Pallbearers were Jim Phillips, Terry Priebe, Walter Ahrens, David Johnston, Richard Rochford and Jim Sparrow.

Donations to the Cancer Society, Zion Evangelical Church, Elmwood, VON and the Chesley Hospital were appreciated by the family as expressions of sympathy.

Interment in the Chesley Cemetery.

65 years of togetherness



George and Essie Mannerow of Scone were married 65 years of June 12. (Golem photo)

Mannerows mark marriage milestone

by Mary Golem

The blessings of good health and a loving family have contributed to "the pretty good life" George and Essie Mannerow of Scone have shared as husband and wife for the past 65 years.

The well-known Scone couple quietly celebrated their anniversary on Sunday with members of their family, including three sons, two daughters, 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. "They have been a real blessing to us . . . we've had a good family and they've been good to us. What a difference that makes!" Mrs. Mannerow added.

George and Essie Mannerow were married on June 12, 1929 at the Salem Presbyterian Church on the 10th of Elderslie. They had met and fallen in love at a Orange Hall dance in Dobbinton a few years prior. Following their marriage, they farmed together on the 8th of Elderslie where they stayed for 10 years. In 1939, nearing the end of the Great Depression, the Mannerows moved to the Bentinck townline where they farmed together until 1968 when they moved to their present home in Scone.

George never really left the farm, and although nearing 90 years of age, still likes to go back to the farm, now owned by son, Lloyd and his wife, Marj "to check things out!"

There have been few dull moments in the past 65 years for George and Essie. "We got along good," she says. "It wasn't all sunshine," George adds, as he mentions the struggles they faced early in their marriage during the years of the Great Depression. "We have both had our share of hard work!"

While farm work and the demands of raising a family kept them busy, George and Essie also found time for active community involvement. Scrapbooks, photo albums, framed certificates of appreciation and

engraved plaques covering the walls of the couple's living room are evidence of the valuable service both have given to the community.

George was a charter member of the Chesley District Hospital Board and is now a life member of the Board. He also served as Reeve of Bentinck Township and 40 years ago, in 1954, he served as Warden of Grey County. But his community involvement does not end there. He was also a member of the county's Soil and Crop Improvement Association, served as a director with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the Agricultural Society and the Plowmen's Association.

Essie, who turned 85 in April, was also active in the community. She was a member of the Geneva Church Women's Auxiliary, the Sconecrafters and has been a member of the Chesley Hospital Auxiliary since its inception 46 years ago.

And like their parents, George and Essie's children are also actively involved in community work.

Daughter Isabel and her husband Leith live in Tara; son Ken and his wife, Jean, live in Elderslie Township; son Lloyd and his wife, Marj live on the home farm in Bentinck Township; daughter, Dianne and her husband, Ross King live in Chesley and son, Reg and his wife, Dayle live near the home farm in Bentinck Township.

Long-time avid gardeners, this year marks the first time the couple have not had a garden. However, flower beds, hanging baskets and window boxes full of beautiful flowers adorn their home.

The Mannerow's 65th wedding anniversary was quietly celebrated with family members on Sunday, June 12. We at The Enterprise join your many friends in the area and congratulate you on your 65th wedding anniversary!