

THE TOWN LINE SETTLEMENT

FARM- Lot 16 Concession 12 Fitzroy (Written and submitted by Helen Wilson)  
(Jan. 1965)

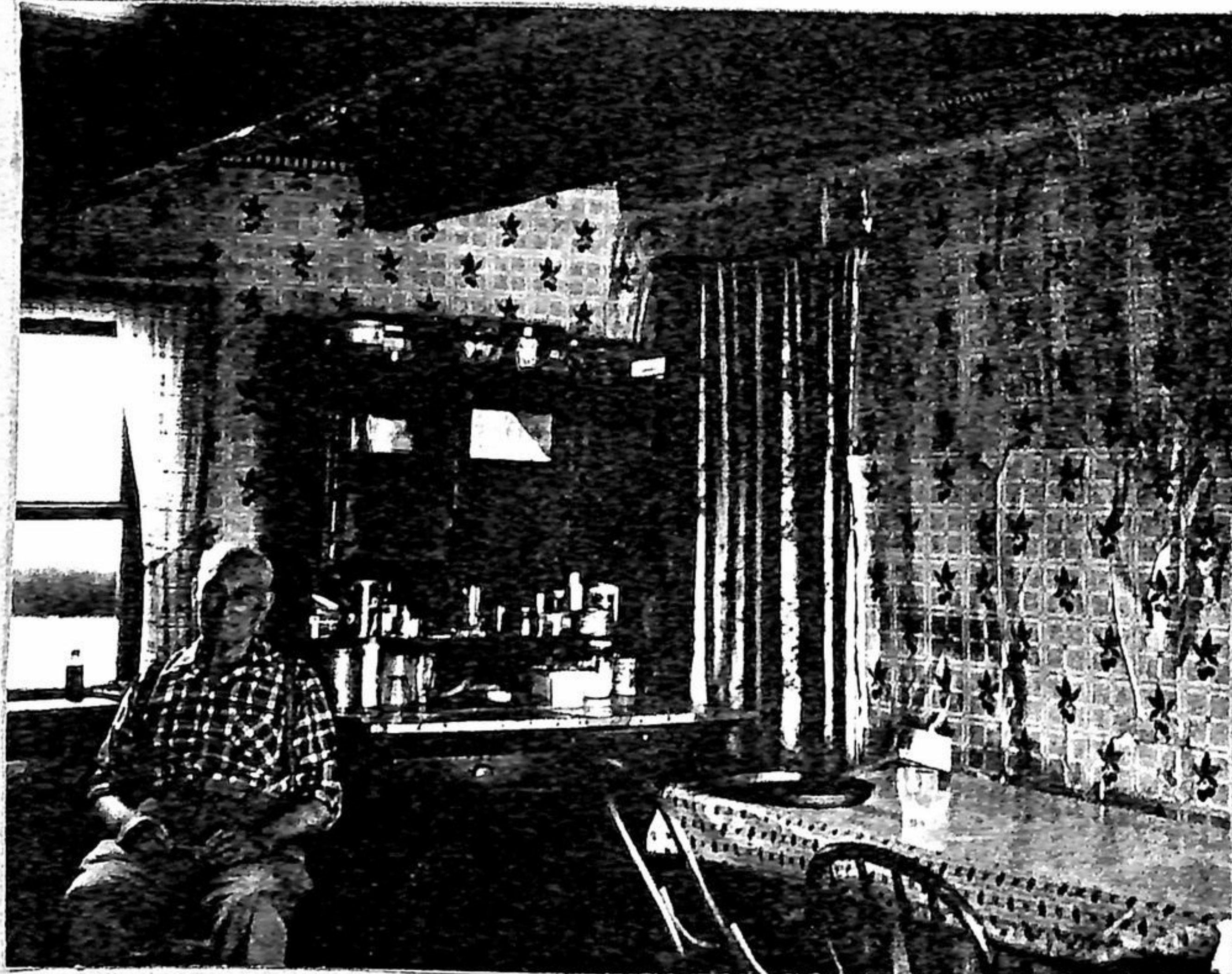


ATYPICAL PIONEER LOG HOUSE (1963) Photo by Bill Cox

This farm, although in Fitzroy, was always very much part of the Town Line Community.

In July, 1963, Robert George Tripp, Fitzroy Harbour, told me that his Grandfather, Henry Tripp, lived on this farm in approximately 1850. Later, he moved to a farm near Fitzroy Harbour.

At the time he lived on it, it was called the Lewis place, so the house must be well over a hundred



A TYPICAL KITCHEN WITH HAND HEWED CEILING BEAMS. THE MAN IS JAMES WILSON WHOSE HOME THIS WAS TILL ABOUT 1962. Photo by Bill Cox

years old. Paul Dolan, told of attending a dance in the shedloft. How low and tiny the shed seems now! The granary is interesting, as there are many tiny bins built to hold the many different kinds of grain which were used: wheat, oats, barley, and sometimes buckwheat or field peas.

It would seem that the farm was then occupied by Dick Hodgins and later by his son, Clem. The story is told that Mrs. Dick Hodgins, who wanted a good stone free farm very badly, worked at picking stones till she had built several large stone piles.

James Wilson (nephew of the Thomas Wilson who donated the land for Epworth Church) bought the farm from Hodgins in approximately 1930. After his wife Jessie died, he and his son, Edgar, continued to live here, till about 1960, when they moved to Ottawa.

This house is typical of the pioneer log houses common in Torbolton, a few of which are still in use.

In J. L. Gourlay's history of the Ottawa Valley, 1896, he says on page 6

"Go back in your thoughts to 1820, picture yourself a shanty, 14 by 20 and 8 feet high, scooped, standing in a clearing of three acres, that clearing fenced by cutting down trees, so that one met another, and some stakes and long poles on these, made it high enough for the purpose, brush being thrown in freely to close gaps. Elms were preferred if they were available, as they stuck on the stumps, by that means standing much higher than if they fell flat. This was the brush or slash fence.---- and with this you have a picture of a new home in the bush seventy five years ago." The farms in these parts may not have been settled this early, but the description probably fits.

Gerald Wilson purchased the farm in 1963 as a grazing farm.

As many of these homesteads are closed, and the land used for pasture, it is understandably sad for older people, who have many precious memories of lives lived in these simple dwellings.

