

HISTORY OF LOT 8, CONC. 1, ARRAN TOWNSHIP

The Crown Deed for 109 acres of land was taken out by John Hanbidge, July 23, 1874.

He put a mortgage of \$1,600.00 on the farm, March 3, 1876. The family originated in Southern Ireland near Dublin, coming to Canada and settling near Peterborough, then to Arran Township Lot 2, Conc. 2, being one of the first pioneer families; later buying Lot 8, Conc. 1, Arran, as a second farm.

Because the front half of Lot 8 was swampy they first cleared the back east 20 acres. The first log house was situated on a sandy knoll about 40 rods from the road along the line fence.

On December 30, 1881, Thomas Hanbidge bought the place from his father. He placed a mortgage of \$1,800.00 on the farm. The money was borrowed from the I.O.O.F. lodge in Paisley.

The Hanbidges built the first and present barn, an exact duplicate of the one they had built on their home place, Lot 2, Conc. 2, size 38' x 54'.

Thomas Hanbidge was not contented on the farm. The story goes that: One day when getting his team out to go on the fields after dinner his father, in the course of events, told him that "he would never make a farmer". At this he put his team back in the stable and started plans moving which resulted in the sale of his farm. He had a Grade VIII education, but went back to school at the age of 28 years, getting his certificate as a Veterinary Surgeon, practicing several years in Lakefield near Peterborough. He continued his studies until he became a qualified medical doctor. He went to the United States and practiced medicine in Montana.

The farm was sold March 8, 1888, to George Monkman, who resided on Lot 9, Conc. 2, Arran, which cornered this farm. No amount is stated, but he kept the same mortgage which now was at \$1,100.00.

On January 10, 1898, George Monkman sold the farm to his two sons in partnership, Robert A. Monkman and G. Howard Monkman. The house was built by the Monkman's. It was a one and a half storey structure, 18' x 24', of frame, lined with brick and plastered on the brick. The outside was covered with tin shingles marked to resemble brick. It faced west to the lane. They also planted several acres of apple trees on the front east of the farm. The farm was all cleared by this time, leaving two woodlots - the northwest 10 acres and a 10 acre section on the east, commencing 40 rods from the road.

The Monkman family did custom threshing for years in the community, first with horse power and later with steam, finally owning a

traction steam engine.

Robert A. Monkman was known as 'Thresher Bob Monkman'. He bought his brother Howard's interest in the farm April 6, 1904. The value, stated in the records, was set at \$3,500.00. Howard took a mortgage for \$1,800.00 as his payment. The place was cleared of debt in 1910. In 1910 the barn was struck by lightning, several rafters and beams were splintered and shingles torn off the roof and scattered over the farm. The barn did not burn. About this time Robert rented the farm to another brother, Wallace, known as 'Wall', who had been living with him; neither were married. Robert went west to Nanton and High River, Alberta in the summers for a few years, then later made his home there with his sister, Mrs. Robert Greig.

The Monkman's were noted for their fine horses. Wall Monkman owned a driving horse and a show team, winning many prizes at the local fairs. He was high spirited, being noted as a community prankster. He used his fancy team to draw the neighborhood folk to meetings and Christmas tree entertainments, etc., often managing to dump everyone into the snow enroute.

He went to Loreburn, Saskatchewan, around 1912, married and settled there.

Over the years the farm was rented for grazing, to Joseph Poole, Lot 9, Conc. 14, Elderslie; then John Davis, Conc. 11, Elderslie, and Neil Poole, Lot 9, Conc. 14, Elderslie.

On March 31, 1939, the executor of Robert Monkman's estate, his brother William I. Monkman, sold the farm to John Wolfe, who owned the farm directly across the road, Lot 8, Conc. 14, Elderslie, for \$2,000.00.

The house, unoccupied from 1912 or 1913, had deteriorated, and was torn down in 1951 by John Wolfe; the foundation and cellar filled in, with no trace left, being seeded over with the surrounding field. The central 10 acres of bush was cut during the 1940's and 50's. A dug well, near the barn, supplied the water by windmill until 1965 when a pressure line from Lot 8, Conc. 14, on a drilled well, was laid across the road.

As soon as the place was bought in 1939, the stable was converted to loose housing and has been used for wintering beef cattle since then. The farm has been used to produce hay, grain, and grass for grazing.

The barn was painted red in 1951, and again in 1963. Most of the apple trees have been removed and the field used for farm crops.

- -Contributed by - John Wolfe, March 1966.

This farm was likely taken over by Ron Wolfe from his dad (John) in the 60's. It was sold to Shaun Wolfe, a nephew of Ron's on May 1, 1987. Shaun sold the farm to Bev Kingston in the spring of 1993.