

Julia, the second daughter of Andrew Oastler, has been mentioned previously. She was educated as a teacher at Barrie, Ontario. Her last years were spent in Ottawa with her two daughters, Dorothy and Margaret. She passed away on her 98th birthday in 1975. She is buried in the South Gloucester church yard a short distance southeast of Uplands Airport, Ottawa. Her older son Thomas worked with William Oastler from 1914 to 1920. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College and the University of Minnesota in Plant Breeding and, for many years, taught at the Ontario Agricultural College. Upon the death of William Oastler he inherited part of what remained of Oastler Farm including the home. He resides there during the growing season.

Julia had a second son, Andrew. He was a geologist and predeceased her in 1948 and is buried in Foley Cemetery. He had one daughter.

It is known that Julia was born in a log cabin that stood high above Oastler Lake. This cabin had holes in the roof as the shingles were handmade. During the cold of winter, snow and frost would cover the bedroom floors upstairs. Because of the resulting extreme cold Julia would gather up her clothes and dress next to the wood stove downstairs. She has a grandson Thomas Garth Graham, Deputy Minister of the Department of Library and Information Resources for the Yukon. Also, in the Yukon she has a great-grandson, Thomas Jason Graham.

The youngest daughter of Andrew Oastler, namely Helen, was trained in Ottawa and Chicago in stenographic work. At the time of her retirement in 1952 she was Deputy Clerk of the Executive Council for the province of Manitoba. She retired to the old Farm and looked after her brother,

Uncle Billie, and the old house resounded to living and community life again. She passed away in Parry Sound in 1954.

In 1968, on the Oastler Farm, the stone walls supporting a log cabin were unearthed. This was believed to be the log cabin built by Malcolm MacDougall in 1872 in order that he could prove up title to his free grant land. Later it was realized that this was the barn site and the present house is built on the site of the original MacDougall log cabin. Malcolm MacDougall was the great grandfather of Murray Watts, the outstanding hard rock geologist and explorer, known in the north as Mr. Cobalt.

In Muskoka and Parry Sound District it is doubtful if it should every have been opened up for farming. Old Mrs. Oastler used to say: "The Lord made Parry Sound District for tourists, and he made certain it would stay that way". The soil was light and often not deep and erosion down to the rocks finally drove the farmers out of business.

At first the farmers would stump the land, which was hard slow work. Finally it became evident that this did not pay and they just let the stumps rot, and planted between them. Occasionally you could see men driving farm machinery, such as binders, between the stumps.

Forest fires were always a hazard. Old Mrs. Oastler finally wound up with 1,200 acres of land. On this between Salmon and Clear Lakes were 300 acres of virgin forest. This acreage could have put her on easy street only forest fire, around 1910, completely ruined this chance.