

Started Harris home

Restored showplace atop lovely valley

Another in the series of essays by students of Rockwood public school is reproduced here. Dawn Logan chose Daleview, the beautiful Harris home in Rockwood as her subject. The Harris family figured prominently in Rockwood's affairs right from the village's early beginnings. Dawn had a personal interview with the present owners, read Frank Day's "Here and There in Eramosa" and did her own sight-seeing to get material for the essay.

By Dawn Logan

INTRODUCTION

The home of the late Edgar Harris and his dear father, William, has been inherited and modernized by Mr. Burton Hill with the accompaniment of his wife, Libian. These two people did wonders with that home. They have changed it from an old building to a home of beauty. They worked hard to fix up the land and built other finer things such as a good garage for their cars.

After fixing up the lots, Burton and his wife gave their new home a name: "Daleview". This is an extremely good name because there is an excellent view into the dale.

THE BEGINNING OF DALEVIEW

Location:

Daleview is located on the top of what is known as "Rattle Snake Hill" or Valley Road. It is surrounded by beauty all year round; in winter and summer. To reach Daleview you could either go up Snake Hill or follow along Number 7 Highway and turn in the side-road toward the Conservation area.

Daleview was purchased by Thomas Harris nearly 100 years ago. I suppose it was he who cleared the land on which he built his home.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOME

The house which stands today is the same house that Thomas Harris built many years ago when he came to this district. At that time the Harris family owned a saw mill on the fourth line across from what is known as the Conservation Area's Beach. The trees were especially good on the Harris estate so they were cut down and saved in Harris' mill. The house itself was of very firm structure. Even now the frames of the house are as sturdy as ever.

FINERIES IN THE EARLY HOME

Thomas Harris had every possible convenience in his new home. He had it built with a full basement which of course was not too common in those days. Thomas also had central heating and plumbing installed. In fact this gay chap even had his house lit by way of electricity. His barns were lit in the same manner.

BARNS

We are not certain the barns were built at the same time the house was but it is probable they were. There are two barns; one has stalls in it and I suppose the other was used for storage purposes. Both these barns were equipped with electric power. Part of the main barn was used as a bulb refinery. Old screens, barrels, boxes and tools are still there to prove this fact. The main barn also has an attic or top floor. When I saw it, it was packed with old spinning wheels, cartons of paints, horse equipment and other woolen accessories. We are not positive of its previous use if it had any at all. The other barn had but one main floor. It is packed with things from the woolen mill and old furniture. Besides the two barns there is also a tool shed. The tools of which you find in here are by no

means modern. Wooden rakes, antique pitch forks and shovels are only some of the many tools found in this little shed.

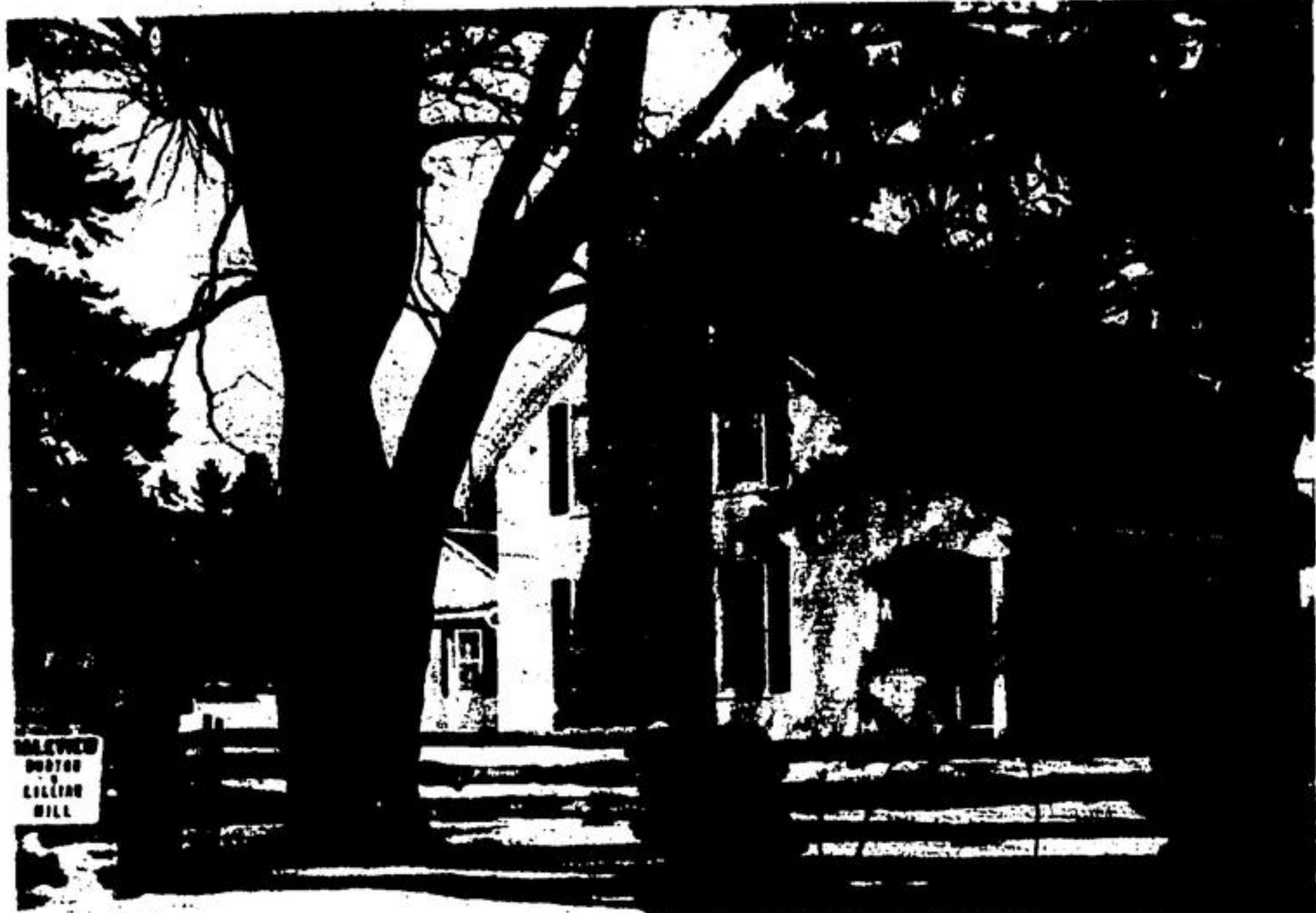
Old carts and wagons may be found behind the barns. This may give the thought of farming but they were mainly used at the mills although William Harris

bride to live with him at Daleview. This young man was William Harris and his wife Edith Walker. Miss Walker was the aunt of the present owner.

After William's father died he was nominated as president of the Harris Woolen Mill. All ran

greenhouse full of these flowers and the new school site was once a huge gladiola garden. He named Daleview "Valleyview Gardens" because there was a good view into the valley.

In 1933, Edith Walker, then Mrs. William Harris, died at the age of 65. From then on



was a florist and had many flowers. Other parts of farm machinery such as old planters may be found around the barns also.

OWNERS
THOMAS HARRIS

In the middle eighteen hundreds Daleview was built by Thomas Harris. That was almost 100 years ago. To prove my statement, last summer Mr and Mrs. Hill visited Stanley Harris in Victoria, British Columbia. He was born in this house and at that time the house was already about 15 years old. Mr. Harris is eighty-five years old.

Thomas, an uncle of Edgar's, then sold the house to William Harris, Edgar's father.

WILLIAM HARRIS

In 1888, which is 78 years ago, a happy young man brought his

well and the young couple became fairly rich. They entertained many people and Mrs. Harris kept the house and yard looking beautiful. Later, a new joy entered into their lives. A bubbling baby boy, who they named Edgar.

Besides minding Edgar, entertaining and keeping their home clean, the Harris' found time for gardening. William was the president of a garden association and it was his responsibility to see that everyone received the flowers they had ordered.

So honest was this young man that once when he had forgotten an order for a weeping birch, he gave up one of his own and planted it for the person, free of charge.

William's main interest was raising gladioli. He had a little

William, along with his son, lived as a recluse (one who shuts themselves up from the world for personal reasons) until his death in 1945 at the age of 90.

EDGAR HARRIS

Edgar Harris was a rather unhappy little boy. Being the only child he didn't have anyone to play with. I suppose that most of his early life was situated around his parents and helping them in any way he could. However, the young lad had good schooling and when he became of age he attended Pickering College. After that he then went on to a textile institute in Philadelphia. Although he went to those different places, Rockwood was always his home.

Alas, when Edgar's mother died, everything fell dead. He and his father were like recluses. The house fell into disrepair. The pair lived on like this until William died in 1954. Edgar lived alone and became a real hermit.

Fear grew inside this lonely old man. He pointed his old shotgun at trespassers.

Finally in 1965, the poor man's grievings were over. He died from a stroke.

BURTON HILL

After Edgar's death, his belongings were divided among relatives, according to his will. The house was left to a first cousin of his by the name of Burton Hill. Mr. Hill along with his wife and family lived in Galt. He varies in his work. He is a life insurance man and a Quaker minister.

At first when Burton inherited the house, he hadn't the slightest idea as to what to do with it. It was finally decided that the house and yard should be fixed up. Thus it was. In August, 1966, the Hill family moved into their new home.

REBUILDING
FIXING UP THE YARD

The first thing the Hills did when they took up the task of fixing Daleview was to clean up the yard. They removed all the old lumber and dead wood and then cut the grass. Later they made a garden and tore down the old stone fireplace.

In order to fix up the house, Hill employed a company from Galt. This company replastered every room, put in board siding, put in new heating and electricity and also built a number of other necessities such as closets, fireplaces, and vanities.

After having new windows and doors put in, Hill got Mr. Milne of Rockwood to paint the house. It was painted white and trimmed with black. Shutters and a new veranda were also applied.

Most of the furniture from the house was packed into the barns after Edgar's death. Later when Burton found time he began the slow process of cleaning the barns out. Much of the junk was burned, some given away, and some sold.

SOMETHING OF INTEREST

Since Edgar was a hermit many antiques were found in the house such as woolen equipment, old furniture and some old toys. Many old documents were found in the Harris Estate. Some marriage certificates dated back to 1785. They also have the marriage certificate of John Harris and Jane Wetherald, the first settlers of Rockwood, school diplomas have also been found. The Harris Family owned three mills. They owned a woolen mill in Rockwood, a saw mill on the fourth line, and a grist mill in Rockwood. These mills were widely used by people from all other areas when they were first built.

Among the many things the Harris' owned I find the most interesting is Hi Pot Lo Park. This park used to be practically all of the Valley Road and was privately owned. It lives up to its name. The high cliffs, pot holes and low valleys make this a very appropriate name.

Harley to Halton

by harry harley m.p

Since our last column, the House of Commons has processed without incident, some non-controversial legislation which does not have any particular significance for Halton.

One of the matters debated in its resolution stage was the increase in postal rates for first-class mail. This came to a sudden and unexpected vote at the beginning of an evening session and the resolution was defeated. It means that this matter cannot be raised again during this Session of the 27th Parliament and, therefore, no increase in postal rates for first-class mail can take place at this time.

The Commons has returned to a consideration of capital punishment which should come to a vote within a day or so. The Committee on Health and Welfare, which I have the honour of chairing, is studying the matter of abortion. This is a highly controversial subject.

It was hoped that it would be possible to have a report ready for the House of Commons by Christmas, however, there have been so many requests for hearings before the Committee that it is now obvious that this date cannot be met. It is now hoped that a report might be possible by the end of January, 1968.

Canada has again been subjected to unwarranted interference in Canadian affairs by General de Gaulle. The Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Mr. Pearson, publicly rebuked General de Gaulle in the House of Commons to the applause of all Members of the House regardless of political party. As the Prime Minister

said "Canadian affairs will be decided in Canada, by Canadians."

It is hoped that these statements will not cause friction between Quebec and the rest of Canada. General de Gaulle's statements are undoubtedly meant to stir up trouble and internal strife in Canada.

Disturbance, theft reported by Acton police

A disturbance at the Royal Cafe on Saturday, December 2, resulted in a customer being ejected, police reported this week.

Malicious damage and theft at Lindsay's mill between Dec. 2 and Dec. 5 were also reported. Gas and a car battery were taken sometime in that period. Police are investigating.

--Intelligent acts prevent accidents.

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EDEN MILLS Presentation to couple parents' night in hall

by Mrs. R. Wright

A gay time was held in Eden Mills Community Hall Friday evening when Dan Stevenson and his bride (nee Pamela Brown) were honored with a social evening and presentation. Neighbors and friends enjoyed cards and dancing.

Then the happy couple were called forward when an address was read by Jack Chamberlain and the presentation of a kitchen suite was made. The young couple thanked the gathering for their thoughtfulness.

Dancing was resumed and lunch followed. Prize winners for Euchre were, ladies Mrs. Irene Turner, Mrs. W. Gilbertson, Mrs. J. Gilbertson; gents Don Peeling, Ogg McLean, John Turner.

A parents' night for the Cubs & scouts of Eden Mills and district with a large number attending was held Wednesday evening in the Community Hall. Movies were shown by Dr. W.R. Mitchell and a film on the World Jamboree held at Niagara on the Lake which was very informative and was enjoyed by all.

The Cubs presented a display of their work to obtain their bad-

ges which included maps of the village, bird houses, Christmas decorations, Indian masks, soap carvings, leaf collections etc.

The Group Committee held their election of officers and chairman Jim Cann was re-elected with 1st vice Trevor Clifford, secretary Mrs. Pat Wardle, Treasurer Mrs. Mary Andersley.

On behalf of the group committee Mrs. R. Roy was presented with a gift for her interest and work in the past-years. She will be greatly missed in the Community and best wishes go with her.

The cubs closed the evening with prayer and the Rev. R. Sinclair said the Benediction.

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