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Rockwood, Ontario



On Front Porch - Mr & Mrs. Thomas Near, Mayme, Alex & Bill. Others unknown.



Thomas and Margaret Near

~ 1885 ~



William Martin Near

~ circa 1900 ~

Thomas and Margaret Near Family

~ circa 1905 ~



L. to R. - William, Mary Ellen & Alex.



Mary Ellen Near (Mayme)

~ circa 1910 ~

Shoebox M

Home of Thomas & Margaret Near
Lot 29, Conc. 6,
Nassagaweya

~ 1910 ~



William Thomas Near and his wife, Margaret "Maggie" Sinclair descended from United Empire Loyalist stock. His paternal grandfather was born in 1812 to 1814. His grandmother, Hannah Reilly, was the daughter to Canada from Scotland. Thomas and Maggie married in 1885 and bought the property from a Mr. Conboy who had been hurt while building the house on the north east corner near the orchard on the property until their house was destroyed by fire in 1970 and later rebuilt. Thomas and Maggie's first child was Alexander and William (Bill). By 1905, Tom Near had bought the south east corner of the property where Tom and Maggie married in 1928. Alex and Evelyn later moved to the McLaughlin property which had been sold for S.S. #9 school, locally known as "Bloomsbury" school. Bill and Mary first married one of them, Mary Vanatter of Georgetown. Bill and Mary first worked for Bell Telephone Company for 39 years. Mayme Near continued to live on the family farm after the death of her husband. Audrey share many happy memories of visits and vacations at their grandfather's home. Both Mayme and Alex were self-taught musicians, Mayme played the piano and other area dances. In later years, Mrs. Laura Early accompanied her. They sold their Lot 27 farm during the 1960's and moved to Rockwood, Ontario and Alex Near served their community as municipal councillors in Nassagaweya. Alex also served at the County level in Halton in the '50's and '60's on the Board of Health.

Visiting the Family Farm

~ 1929 ~



L to R. - Tom, Maggie, Mary & Bill Near.

Frederic Near
b. 1793, d. 1869



Near Family Tree

m. 1 Hannah Reilly
b. 1798, d. 1830
m. 2 Rebecca Johnston

Catherine E. Near
Alex Johnston
Alexander Near
m. 1 Annie Kirkwood
m. 2 Katherine Barber
Walter Near
William Near
b. 1824, d. 1891
Deborah McEnery
b. 1826, d. 1907
James Near
John Near
Ellen McEnery
Cordelia Near
David Bradford

Sarah Jane
William
Margaret A
Archibald
Frederick N
Christine
Ellen Near
John Her
William Th
b. 1858, d. 1891
Margaret
b. 1867, d. 1907
James Near
John Near
Martin Lut
Bella Ak
Elizabeth M
William

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