



JARVIS HOMESTEAD since 1857 is both grand and severe in appearance. A symmetrical North American Georgian, the monolithic smooth dressed stone is perfect in every detail at the front of the house.

Jarvis family

History is documented in large stone house

The history of the Jarvis family in Halton began when John Jarvis left his native home in Ballygawley county of Tyrone, Ireland in 1833 and settled with his wife Margaret on Lot 2, Concession 3, Trafalgar Township. They came to the 200 acre farm in 1838 but the crown deed from Queen Victoria was not purchased until March 3, 1856. The price, 100 pounds.

Margaret was the sister of John White, M.P., Milton's first reeve, who was first elected as Liberal member for Halton in 1851. In 1867, the year of Confederation, Mr. White defeated Col. Chisholm and remained in parliament after the election of 1872. It is said the Irish-born White named Omagh after his birthplace in Ireland. He also named Boyne, situated on Highway 25 and Five Sideroad, three miles south of Milton.

Boyne was the postal address for the Jarvis family who lived for 18 years in the original house built on the upper 100 acres of the farm. Carefully kept account books and records show there was also a house half-way back on the property for the hired man. One entry reads, "Hired man John Armstrong commenced work on the 16th March 1857 at 50 pounds for one year. Free house and firewood, 'bord' himself."

1833 entry Entries are kept as far back as 1833, possibly the book came over on the boat with John Jarvis from Ireland. In July 1846 there is indication of

a barn being built with lumber siding costing 2 pounds 6 shillings, scantling 5 shillings, and planks 1 1/4 inch by 10 inches wide costing 8 shillings.

It is recorded "C. Parkins commenced to dig cellar on the 24th July 1857" and prior to that "Francis Priestman commenced cutting stone on the 24th July 1856." Additional stone cutters began on the 23rd of September with cash payments recorded for the stone bought "on the Mountain" and in Milton.

Severe And so the large grey stone house was begun. It is both grand and severe in appearance, a symmetrical North American Georgian. The monolithic smooth dressed stone is perfect in every detail where it counted for show, at the front of the house. As one moves toward the rear of this massive structure the lesser stone is used until finally at the back it almost looks as if it were completed by the farm help. The Halton Atlas of 1877 shows the property with many orchards and a farmhouse. Today the large house sits on less than five acres of ground and the remaining Jarvis inhabitants no longer farm. Several years ago they sold the acreage which is still being worked.

Still in family Today the house is occupied by Jim, Archie and Charlene Jarvis, the children of Charles and Irene. Their grandfather James never did live on the farm, rather it was run by great-uncles Archie and John. It was from these uncles their father purchased the farm. A brother, John has also remained unmarried and lives in Calgary. Sister Edythe is married to Stan Corman and they have three children, Sheila, Beverley and Janet. They live at Kilbride. Brother Harold and his wife Mary have three children also. Marion, Charles and Shelley and still farm across the road from the homestead.

Standing before this magnificent house one can easily be transported to the days when the ladies, bustles and long skirts, were helped into the horse-drawn carriages from the cement slab still on the front lawn. Charlene considers the grandness of the front entrance "pretentious" but concedes "I guess we can allow them some pretentious living when they had life so hard in those days." The wide entrance hall and two large rooms on either side account for the entire downstairs area at the front of the house. Upstairs once again is the enormous hallway with three rooms. An immense Gothic revival stained glass window takes up almost the entire end of the upstairs hallway.

Rear The old kitchen and extra bedrooms, no doubt for hired help, are all in the rear portion of the house. As Charlene is quick to point out, having the kitchen so removed from the dining room is poor planning indeed, "obviously designed by a man who didn't have to carry the trays."

A modern kitchen is now part of the dining room. This was the section of the house the Charles Jarvis children knew best when growing up. They recall a box stove in the middle of the room with the pipe into the fireplace chimney. The fireplace was used for heat during between seasons. Electricity was installed in 1935 and the plumbing in 1954.

The back kitchen is one of those rooms of many doors. There are seven in all, one each to the side porch, the pantry, the summer kitchen, the basement, a bedroom, the centre hall, and the dining room. A back stairway from the summer kitchen leads upstairs to three bedrooms. One of the rooms is chock full of treasures of the past: including books, old harness making tools, and antique furniture.



PRICELESS TREASURES are to be found in this lovely old secretary. Here Charlene looks at the crown deed from Queen Victoria dated March 3, 1856.

History documented

The greatest treasures of all are to be found in the beautiful old secretary in the living room and the trunk upstairs. Hundreds of family pictures, diaries, legal documents and bills of lading have been carefully kept. Some of the original furniture purchased in 1858 from Jacques and Hay, cabinet makers and upholsterers in Toronto, is still in the house. The exact cost has been preserved in the hand-written account. A walnut hallstand cost \$30 and the lovely oak sideboard was \$90. The cost of draperies, down to the last detail of hooks and tassels, makes fascinating reading.

A voters' list of 1894 is intact as is the assessment slip dated 1871. It reveals the total value of the property to be \$4700, five persons and one dog residing, and livestock of 15 head of cattle, 12 sheep, three hogs and three horses.

Milton merchants

Accounts in the 60's and 70's with Milton merchants such as John P. Roper, J. B. Willmott, D. D. Christie, J. Hollinrake, W. D. and R. A. Lyon, John M. Bastedo, and George Smith reveal the types of purchases and their costs. T. L. White and Co. in Kilbride was a favorite place



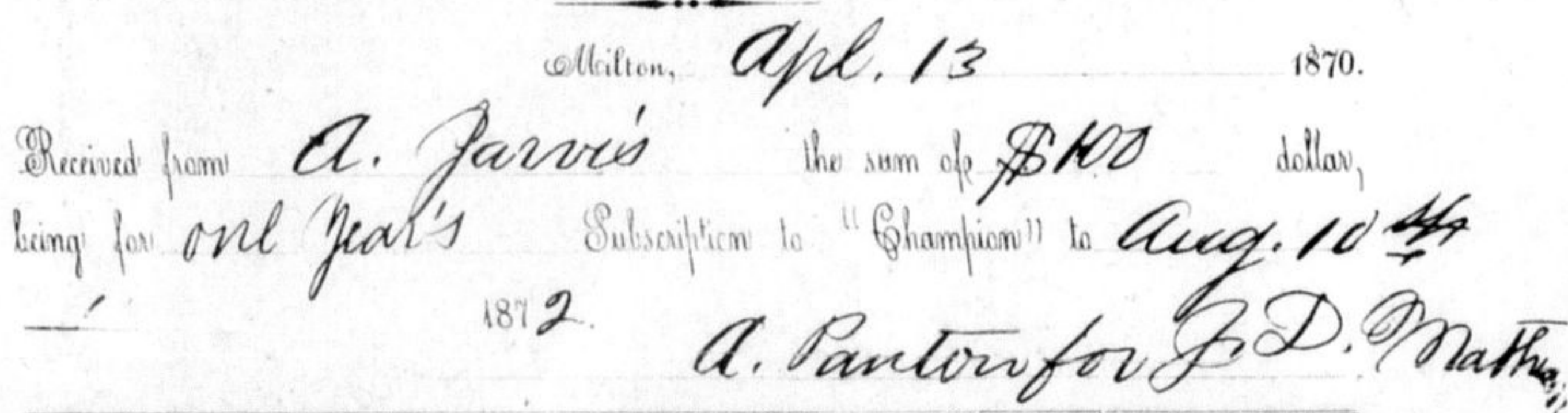
LOVELY OAK SIDEBOARD was purchased new for the house in 1858 from Jacques and Hayes, cabinet makers and upholsterers in Toronto, for \$90.

for Mrs. Jarvis to shop for a pair of gloves costing 30 cents and a new bonnet for \$2. The price of a suit of clothes for a man is listed at \$19.

A book could be written on the memoirs of this one family alone from the wealth of information they have retained over the years. It was interesting to see receipts for The Champion signed by A. Pantou for owner J. D. Matheson. Subscription cost was \$1 per year.

The wording itself is interesting. Apparently John Jarvis was in the side-business of picking up dead bodies for the county and paid according to mileage travelled. An entry reads, "Inquisition taken on the body of Peter Tramblock, Trafalgar, at the house of Mr. James Thompson on the 16th of April, 1845, eighth year of Her Majesty's reign, verdict, died by intemperance and being exposed to the night air. Mileage 7."

"CHAMPION" RECEIPT.



CHAMPION RECEIPT dated 1870 is just one of the hundreds of pieces of documented history kept carefully by the Jarvis family over the years.

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AUNT'S PORTRAIT hangs in the living room and shows the dress of the ladies of the mid-19th century.



GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S SWORD is shown by Jim Jarvis to his nephew Charles. The fireplace is in the rear portion of the house in what once was the kitchen.



ATTIC TREASURES are fun to explore and Charles Jarvis finds an old harness maker's tool, as his master reads a book of Tom Sawyer dated 1899 which once belonged to Cecil Jarvis. Cousin Sheila finds a trunk of old clothes.



GOTHIC REVIVAL WINDOW dwarfs seven-year-old Charles Jarvis. The stained-glass window takes up almost the entire end of the upstairs hallway.



JAMES JARVIS is shown at the 1896 Halton Plowing Match. The team belonged to John Henderson and was named Polly and Nellie. This type of plough was used by the Jarvis family for years until the Cockshutt Company made one almost exactly like it. Charlie Jarvis took part in the boys' class, coming first and James Jarvis came first for the best finish, best crown and best all-round ploughman.



FIFTH GENERATION JARVISES visit the family homestead. Posed on the wide stairway are Sheila, Beverley and Janet Corman from Kilbride and Charles and Marion Jarvis whose parents farm across the road.