

## VIVIAN CORNERS A HIVE OF INDUSTRY 30 YEARS AGO

George McCormick Describes Vivian's Hey-Day When Twenty Men Were Employed in One Mill.

Sixty or seventy years ago when the product of the forest almost equalled in importance the other products of the farm in Whitchurch Township, the name of Robert McCormick was known to most every settler within its borders. It is now thirty years since the captain of industry made business hum around the Vivian settlement in the very heart of the municipality, and between his saw-mill and farming operations twenty men found employment at the height of the season. This was a very considerable number for one man to engage in a rural section in those early days especially. The McCormick homestead at Vivian on the 8th concession is still in the family, and is occupied by the youngest son and only survivor, George.

"It is now 85 years since my father first set foot in Whitchurch, and took up land," said George one day to the reporter who quizzed him.

"Father and mother came from Toronto, but they were in the U.S.A. prior to that, for father was born in New York State. My mother came from Ireland," he explained. They chose the timbered land around Vivian and established the big saw-mill which cut millions of feet of lumber over the years. Almost on arrival they had a fine brick residence now standing on the north-west corner, built. The very next year the home on the south-west corner with the store premises was built all of brick, and both places are still standing although the store has been vacant these 30 years.

"When we had the store, and the mail I have seen 20 and 30 people lined up in one evening to receive their letters, papers, obtain supplies," said Mr. McCormick. This was always in the evening. "Then there would be sports over in the field there," he mused.

Getting back to the original

Robert McCormick, it is interesting to note that with his wife, they journeyed into Whitchurch with two small children, William and Robert, both of whom were born in the States. Then Nathaniel and George were born at Vivian. Three daughters were also born there but all are now gone, except the youngest son George who was 74 years old on the 24th of June. He is still running the farm and occupies the sturdy old home dwelling. George lost his wife seven years ago, but he has three daughters. The eldest Mrs. Harry Stanton of Peterboro was recently bereaved when her husband was killed by falling off a box car. The other two daughters are Mrs. Ray Smith and Mrs. S. Pollard.

While Robt. McCormick's name is very familiar even today in Whitchurch he has been dead 30 years, passing at the age of 81 years. His wife predeceased him. The tragic death of Robt. Jr. about 20 years ago is well remembered by those of middle life. He located in Toronto Junction back in the hey-day of that section and having inherited his father's tendencies of leadership he did things in a big way and became an outstanding figure there. On the fateful Sunday morning of his death he had planned to drive Senator Will Sharpe to Uxbridge. They drove via Vivian but between there and Uxbridge the car upset on a sharp corner and Mr. McCormick was killed at the wheel.

If you drive up to Vivian and stand before the two substantially large houses with their sturdy white brick sides, and contemplate on the fact they have stood there these 80 odd years, you are impressed with the great spirit of progress and determination possessed by those pioneer folk back there in a day when horse transport was the only thing they had, coupled with good feet to wind the long bush trails and sturdy hearts to withstand those early privations, yet with it all, how happy they were!

## Mr. and Mrs. B. Clark Celebrate Their Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Clarke Baby Point Road, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at their summer home, "Filey Beach," Jackson's Point. Mrs. Clarke received in a white sheer dress with a corsage of carnations and snapdragon, and wearing her bridal veil. The living room was decorated with gladioli. She was assisted by her sister, Mrs. Lorne H. Clarke, and Mrs. Fred Langmaid, who respectively, played the wedding music and sang at the wedding 25 years ago. The ceremony was performed at that time by the Rev. P. A. Jourdan and Rev. Mr. McKendry.

The supper table was attractively centred with a large wedding cake; and white candles in silver holders. The hostess was assisted by her three daughters, Reta, Jean and Dorothy, and her three nieces, Mary, Mabel and Doris Clarke.

Lorne H. Clarke proposed the toast to the bride and groom. The bride's father, Alf. S. Collins of Stouffville, hoped they would be spared to celebrate their golden anniversary. A musical program followed.

The three daughters and one son, David, were present. The eldest daughter, Reta (who graduated in physiotherapy from University of Toronto this year, and is now doing internship in Montreal General hospital) came home for the celebration.

Friends and relatives also gathered from Greenbank, Manchester, Montreal, Nova Scotia, Maple, Oshawa, Stouffville, Toronto and 6th line Whitchurch.

## Former Local Teacher Weds

The marriage of Miss Shirley Ramona Colcleugh, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Colcleugh of Vancouver, B.C., and niece of Captain and Mrs. S. A. Putman, Deseronto, to Mr. Philip Victor Blake, Ottawa, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Blake of Deseronto, took place in Deseronto United Church. Pink and white gladioli formed the background for the ceremony, which was conducted by Rev. W. D. Harrison of Belleville. Mr. Jack Denmark played the wedding music.

Given in marriage by Col. H. E. Putnam, in absence of her uncle, Captain Putnam, the bride wore an afternoon frock of powder blue, trimmed with French blue, and a corsage of white orchids and lily-of-the-valley. Miss Elsie J. Ballantyne was her only attendant, in a frock of ashes-of-roses sheer crepe, with black velvet hat and corsage of pink roses and lily-of-the-valley. Mr. Irwin Robinson was groomsmen.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's uncle and aunt, and the latter received in a gown of navy blue sheer, with navy hat and corsage of Talisman roses and lily-of-the-valley. The mother of the bridegroom was gowned in navy crepe, with accessories of navy and pink, and corsage of dark red roses and lily-of-the-valley.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Blake left for Port Alexandra, the bride travelling in French blue tailored coat and frock, with matching hat. They will live at 110 1/2 Third Avenue, Ottawa. Both are graduates of Queen's University.

## NEW GARAGE FOR RINGWOOD

Gerald Burton who has for the past year been operating the large garage at the corner of Ringwood, has this week given up his business premises there to Charles Wright of Oshawa. Mr. Burton is moving across the road into the Sinclair premises, where he will renovate the frame structure to the south of the Sinclair store. A new concrete floor is being rushed in immediately and the proprietor tells us that he expects to have everything ready for business in a very short while.

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## WILLIAM REID DEAD

There passed away at Pine Orchard on Sunday, August 21, Wm. Reid, lifelong residence of the district. Mr. Reid was in his 79th year and had been ailing for some time. He is survived by his wife Emma Gibney and a daughter, Helen. Funeral was from the late home on Tuesday afternoon with interment in the Pine Orchard Cemetery. Rev. McIntyre conducted the service.

## LOCAL CROP YIELD A GOOD AVERAGE

The Tribune has been given to understand by the local threshers that the grain yield in the district will be a good average with oats probably a little over.

The average wheat yield on the farms so far threshed is around 30 bus to the acre. Farmers in this locality are in the majority of cases through harvesting although over the province probably only 75 per cent of the grain has been threshed. Yield and quality was lowered in a number of local cases by leaf and stem rust, which we are told draws the yield down some three bushels. West of here heat reduced the crop quite severely.

Spring grains on the whole have matured early this year with the yield slightly above average, and harvesting has been a week earlier than usual. Damage was caused by the most serious outbreak of army worms in the last fifty years. Individual fields suffered as much as ten to fifteen per cent injury, and in a few cases more. Severe rainstorms resulted in rain lodging in some parts, making cutting fields difficult, but the loss was not serious.

It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that the harvested area this year will be 742,062 acres, the highest since 1927 and compares with 718,813 acres last year. Total production should amount to 20,036,000 bushels, which is the largest crop since 1926.

## Reeves who have Served

The late Amos Lehman had an outstanding municipal career. He served as a councillor for eight consecutive years from 1914 to 1921 inclusive. In 1922 he received an acclamation for reeve, after which he retired from municipal life. Mr. Lehman always took his duties seriously, and when face to face with a decision that might mean popularity to vote a certain way, it never affected him, and he chose the path which he thought was right irrespective of popular opinion.

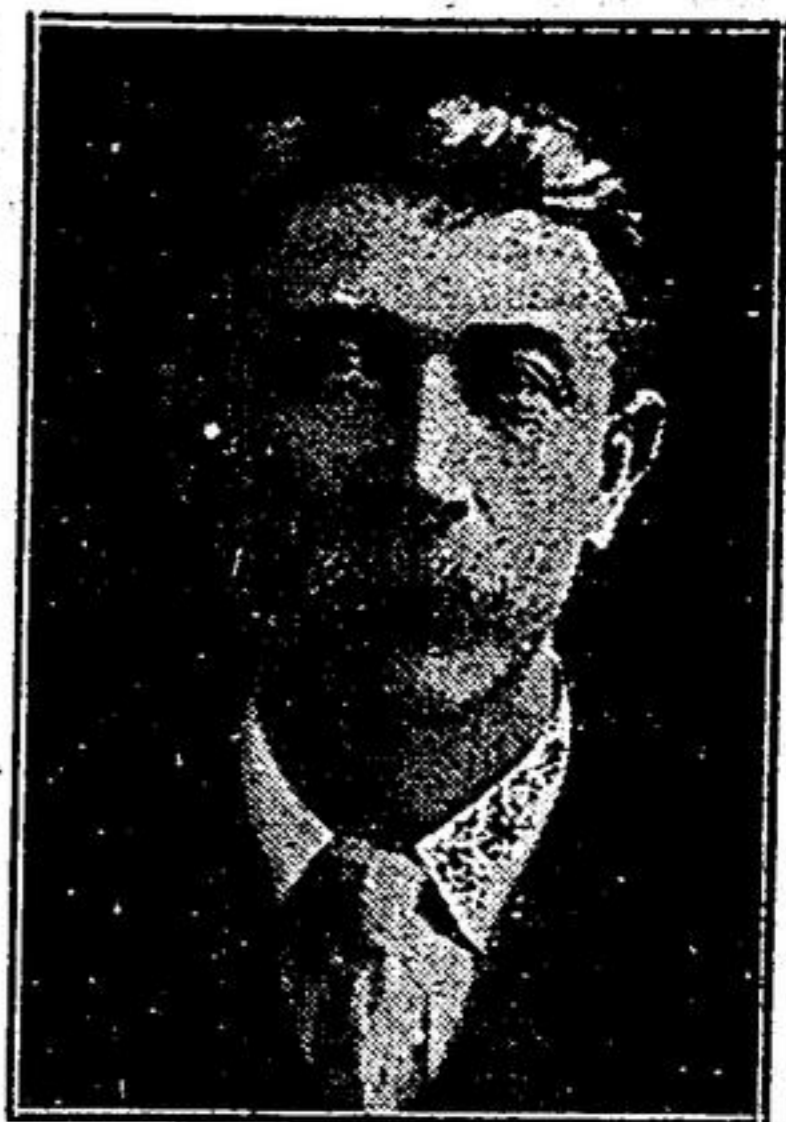


Photo by W. R. Sanders Amos Lehman

When he was made reeve in 1922 his council was Fred Silversides, Alex. Scott, W. E. Morden and George Lee. Negotiations were carried on during the year in an effort to secure hydro power but nothing definite was accomplished. Under Mr. Lehman, however, the village concluded an agreement with the Carnegie Library Corporation and secured \$6,000 for the new library which was built at that time.

Coming to town as a young man Mr. Lehman was in business here for 36 years. He started in the shoe business in 1896 at Church and Main street, was later next the fire hall.

In 1919 he bought the shoe

premises where his son Ormsby still carries on the trade. He was born near Cedar Grove, and throughout his career built up a reputation for integrity and honest dealing. Mr. Lehman died in February 1936, and his interment was made at the Wideman cemetery where many of his ancestors found their last resting place.

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## Markham Water Under Inspection

Markham Council and Board of Health are awaiting a reply to a test of the Markham Village water, which appeared last week to be carrying considerable sediment, and rather alarmed a number of householders. Last week, a committee comprised of Dr. A. L. Hore, M.O.H., Chas. Reesor, member of Council, Frank Burkholder, chairman water commission, Garnet Cowie, town engineer, and headed by Chairman O. B. Heisey inspected the three springs and pumping equipment, and had seven samples despatched to the Department for inspection. Dr. Hore informs the Tribune that as yet nothing has been proposed to raise the purity of the water, although the Provincial engineer has been asked to look over the situation.

## ONE MORE REASON

Amid all the hulahaloo that has been heard from the coast to coast, it remained for a local radio license inspector to advance a refreshingly new idea on the reason for the increase of the license fee from \$2.00 to \$2.50 annually.

This inspector had called at a local residence with a request to see the radio license. The lady of the house, not accustomed to regular visits from such dignitaries, was somewhat flustered, but invited the official to come in

and have a seat while she conducted a hunt for the necessary document.

After the lady had consumed a few moments in a fruitless search in the back of the radio and other places which women ordinarily employ to deposit such articles the inspector figured uneasily and began to expound his idea on the subject: "You know," he said, "the reason it was necessary to raise the license fee 50 cents was because we inspectors lose so much time sitting around waiting for women to find out what they have done with their licenses." He proceeded to elaborate on this statement for a full ten minutes or more while the hunt for the license was temporarily forgotten as the housewife hung breathlessly onto his words.

The license was eventually recovered and the demands of the inspector met. But the housewife since has been mentally pondering just how much time the inspector himself loses in a day if he indulges in this lengthy if naive explanation at every port of call.


## BOYS BAND APPEARANCE SURE

Stouffville Boys Band will definitely appear at the big Celebration being staged by the Veterans here on Labor Day. The Aurora Boys Band have also been booked to appear, as well as the town's own brass band. All in all it should be a great day for the music lovers, and there's nothing like some good lively band music to keep up the crowd's enthusiasm.

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