



A view of the Yakes' family home as it looks today at the south end of O'Brian Ave. Following is a comprehensive early history of the travels and experiences of the family.

Early history of Yake family

By Hazel Yake
Notes on Daniel Yake or Yak as the name on some old deeds (1736-1832) and his descendants in Upper Canada. Two Narratives by Ira Yake (1864-1942).

Daniel Yake came from Strausberg, River Rhine Germany between 1700-80. He had a wife and three children. He lost his wife and two children at sea. One daughter survived and live in Pennsylvania. Daniel married again and came to Canada, settling at Hamilton. The spelling of the name at this time was Yake. Calvin Yake (1843-1930) stated that his father's name was Hiram and that he had five brothers.

Daniel's second family was John, Gabriel, Michael, Hiram and Daniel. This gentleman settled at Altona and died in his 96th year, and was buried in the family cemetery on the still preserved today.

Germans and Swiss had a long and tedious way to go before embarking, and many were the tribulations which they endured. A journey down the Rhine from Hellbronn, to Holland took from four to six weeks, and in the middle of the 18th century involved a stop at each of the 36 custom houses, where a toll had to be paid. The expenses of this part of the trip averaged about three pounds but it varied so greatly by reason of unforeseen delays, or the dishonesty of agents, that many emigrants found themselves on the borders of Holland without money enough left either to continue their journey or to return home. Abbot E. Smit, Colonists in Bondage. (1947).

Such emigrants leaving the Rhine Valley would bargain for passage. A man would actually indenture himself — sell his services — to the Captain for a year or more. In turn on reaching America, the Captain would auction off this contract to the owner of some large estate, who would pay the passage money, and thus become entitled to the emigrants' services, almost as a slave, for the agreed upon period. Overcrowding on shipboard, disease, lack of food and air, and the length of the voyage made the passage a hideous experience. Many did not survive. It has been written that out of 15 ships arriving in 1732 at Philadelphia only two had come with those on board relatively well and 1,600 had died. Laws of Maryland were changed in 1817 whereby provision was: "No agreement made in Europe or elsewhere bound a servant to serve for the passage of another dead or alive," as the Captain tried to make Daniel Yake serve out the servitude of his wife who was buried at sea.

Daniel worked in a brewery at Lundy's Lane and it is reported that he fought in the battle of the lane.

The influx of German settlers into York County was not until 1793, and touched only the western half of Markham township. The first settlers from Pennsylvania into the eastern half of the township came in 1803, when Henry Wideman settled on the 8th concession.

Daniel Yake bought lot 10, Concession 9 Whitchurch Township Jan 12, 1808 from Samuel Van Wyck. His two elder children Jonathan and Esther returned to the United States. Mr. Yake married Mary Nicely as his second wife before coming to Canada. They brought their small possessions and three cattle. On entering Canada they were reduced to choosing such plants as they saw the cattle eating in the forest, making "greens" of them and using them for food.

Some relatives in Germany were worried and sent barrels of flour to the family in Canada. This was not received so when Daniel returned from his job at Lundy's Lane and found that the family had been existing on pumpkins, he immediately with a son walked back to the wharf at Muddy York to find his barrels of flour and pork. He had quite a battle with the customs official. However, he did find one bag or barrel and returned to Altona carrying a hundred weight of flour.

On Feb. 12, 1823 Daniel sold his Whitchurch Property to his son John, 100 acres for 50 pounds. On April 1, 1830 John sold 50 acres of this to Joseph Brown. This John had 12 children, namely John, Hiram, William, Daniel, Maud, Annie, Rachael. Most of the Yakes living today in Ontario and Saskat-

chewan are descended from this branch.

Daniel had a son Michael remaining in Pickering. In 1812, he refused to bear arms against the U.S.A., was kept in jail for a time, where he was given only the scanty ration of one pound of bread and some water per day. About the year 1816 he married Jane Vanzant, by whom he had a family of twelve.

Daniel Yake finally settled down on the 100 acres in Pickering, of which the Yake Burying Ground is a part. The house where he lived and died was a substantial log one and was in use for 60 years after his death. Like many other dwellings put up by the early settlers, the house was located near to the necessary water supply rather than to the almost non-existent roads.

Mr. Yake took wool to the carding mill and made full cloth. Here and there were woollen mills, where they could take their wool to be made into stockings, and other knitted goods, or have part of it made into full cloth for clothing. At a later date there was a carding mill as near as Sparta (now Box Grove). There were itinerant tailors who would cut and make a suit for very little money. Shoes were made of deer hide and cow hide. Taxes were extremely low. The school teacher boarded among the families. This teacher

was usually an old soldier.

John Yake lived on the corner of the 10th on the townline, between Markham and Whitchurch. He was sitting in a downstairs room nursing his youngest child Ann, when he was struck by lightning and killed. The child was knocked under the bed but was unharmed.

Hiram Yake (1814-1899) was another son of John. In 1850 he is listed as one of the pound keepers of Markham Township. He conducted a hotel in Stouffville for many years and in 1861 was granted a tavern license. Hiram inherited the red frame building on the corner where Hardings' barn used to be. The hotel business was good. There were no railroads and all grain had to be hauled to the Front, the wharf on Lake Ontario about 16 miles below Stouffville. The hotel would be filled at such times with four beds in a room, the occupants strangers to each other. Men came hauling grain from Brock, Reach, Scott, etc. A couple of hostlers slept in a bunk in the bar room. This hotel operated under "a by-Law to regulate Taverns, No. 34" passed in 1852.

Any licenses granted for the sale of wine or spirituous liquors to be drunk on the premises if such houses are within one mile of Yonge St. or in the Village of Markham, Unionville, Stouffville,

Reid's Corners or Crosby's Corners, shall have in such house and constantly keep for his or her customers six clean and comfortable beds and bedding, one sitting room, exclusive of bars, good stabling, with sufficient provend for 12 horses; also convenient driving house and shed. No intoxicating liquor to be sold or given on Sunday.

It shall not be lawful for any tavern keeper to give or allow to be sold or given any intoxicating liquor to any child under the age of 12 years, or to allow drunkenness, or to allow playing at Ninepins, Bagatelle, Cards, Dice, Draughts, Skittles or any other implements of gaming (gaming?) on his or her premises.

In the village's infancy, there were three taverns, and the village was not noted for its orderliness. The first building in the east end was a shoe shop built by John Yake. It stood on the south east corner, was enlarged by Hiram Yake and converted into a tavern. Yake's corner became known by the name of Brimstone Point, Cock-fighting and horse racing were familiar village sports.

Mrs. Calvin Yake (Susan Moore, 1845-1928) told me that the west end was known as "Little Hell" and that the lads from Brimstone Point and Little Hell fought each other.



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Peas or Cream Style Corn 3 14-FL. OZ. TINS **\$1**

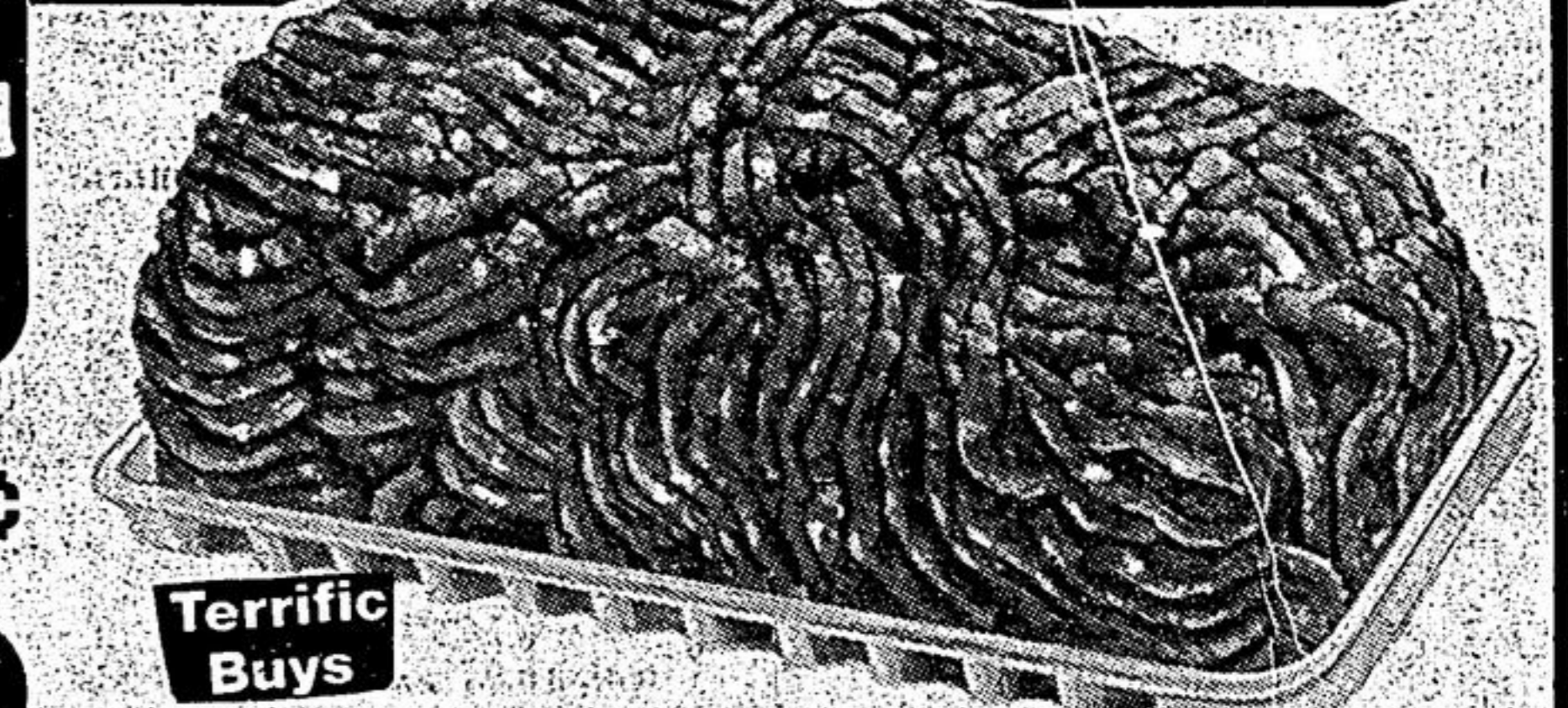
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ASSORTED COLORS
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