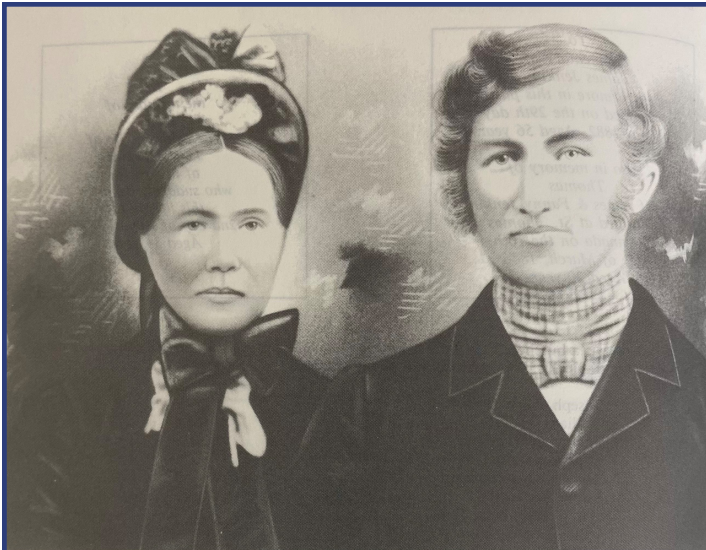


The Jenkins

of Little Britain and Oakwood, Kawartha Lakes

English Roots in Little Britain.



James Jenkins and Fanny Beer, c. 1840s



'Buttermore' the home of James and Fanny Jenkins of Milton Damerel, Denon England c. 1900

On December 29, 1846 James Jenkins married Fanny Beer, the daughter of John Beer and Ann Wood, also of Devon England at the Milton Damerel Methodist Church, Devon, England. Together the Jenkins family welcomed 10 children, Joseph, Elizabeth Ann, William, James, Henry 'John', William, Mary Grace, Emily Jane 'Jennie', Fanny, Thomas, and Charles.

Sadly, when Fanny was 54 years old she was killed in a horse and buggy accident.

James remarried to Rebecca Horn and passed in 1882.

Many of James and Fanny's children found their way to North America to find new beginnings when their father passed. Of the 10 children who survived into adulthood, 7 of them moved to North America in which 6 moved to Ontario and 2 of them built their lives in Kawartha Lakes.

The oldest son, Joseph, travelled with John and Jennie on board the ship The Sarmatian from Liverpool to Quebec and arrived on October 12, 1878. Joseph settled in Little Britain and John continued on to London where he worked on the railroad.

Jane stayed with Joseph for a few years until moving to Jersey, United States with her husband Edward. Together they became the caretakers of the 'Parker House Castle.' James was the first of the Jenkins children to come to Canada arriving in 1870. James initially rented farm land in St. Thomas and then purchased a farm near Belmont, Ontario. Fannie arrived in Ontario in 1882 and found home in Chatham Kent, and Charley arrived in Montreal with his brother Thomas on September 20, 1882. Eventually by train, the two boys arrived at Mariposa Station. Thomas continued his journey to St. Thomas to join his brother James and his family to help on the farm and Charles met up with his brother Joseph in Little Britain.

By 1882 Joseph was fully established as hotel manager and was presumably more than happy to put his little brother Charles to work. Joseph ran the Dominion Hotel in Oakwood after former owner, Duncan J. McKinnon, retired. Joseph did this until he moved to Little Britain in 1887 and opened the Victoria Hotel, the former Globe Hotel, when it closed in 1886 due to prohibition. (The Hotel was taken down in 1920 when the community hall was built that same year) Joseph ran the hotel until his death in 1907.

Joseph married the daughter of John Thompson and Anne Wiley, Catherine 'Cassie' of Darlington Township on January 23, 1882 in Little Britain.

Joseph and Catherine welcomed 4 children.

Charles Jenkins lived with his brother Joseph and he helped with chores at Joseph's hotels in Oakwood and in Little Britain. Charles was later employed by the Little Britain Post Office where he met Mary 'Minnie' Parkinson of Mariposa.



Charles Jenkins, c. 1917, 48 years of age

Charles Jenkins lived with his brother Joseph and he helped with chores at Joseph's hotels in Oakwood and in Little Britain. Charles was later employed by the Little Britain Post Office where he met Mary 'Minnie' Parkinson of Mariposa.

Charles and Minnie were married on June 6, 1894 and welcomed 7 children, Robert Charles 'Herald', Wesley Vrooman, John Casey, Milton James, Flora May and Frank Parkinson and Joseph Clare between 1895 and 1912. During the early years the family lived on land owned by Charles' brother, Joseph- Concession 10, Lot 16.

In 1908 Charles purchased Lot 15 on Concession 7 in Oakwood and purchased the neighbouring southern half of Lot 14 from James Frise in 1912.

The Jenkin's children all would have attended S.S. No. 9, as it was directly across from their farm.

Not only did Charles farm, Charles served on Mariposa Council for 8 years: 1913, 1914, 1915 as Councillor, 1916, 1917, 1918 as Deputy Reeve and 1919, 1920 as Reeve. All of Charles and Minnie's children stayed and built lives in the Oakwood and Little Britain area.

Herald and Wesley were both drafted under the Military Service Act of 1917 and served in the Great War. When Herald returned he took up plumbing and electrical work and in his later years became a barber. Wesley took up farming, both in Oakwood and Little Britain. Flora married Robert 'Stuart' Henderson, in the early years their family farmed the Henderson family farm and in 1949 the family moved to live with Minnie on the Jenkins farm. Frank was first a truck inspector, and later he worked for the Liquor Control Board in Little Britain. Joseph taught school and after he was married took up farming.

When Charles passed in 1936, the southern part of Lot 14 was passed to his middle son, John Casey and was in the family until John's daughter Margaret Lidkie sold the farm in 1999. Lot 15 was passed to his fourth son, Milton and eventually passed to Milton's son Ernest Hamill Jenkins.

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When Wesley returned from war he married Lucretia Campbell, the daughter of August Campbell and Harriett Isabella Prouse, on December 31, 1919. Shortly after they married, Wesley and Lucretia moved out of his family home and purchased their own family farm on the 12th Concession north of Oakwood.

Wesley and Lucretia welcomed 4 children on the farm, Mary 'Isabelle', May Iona, William Charles Campbell- Richards father, and Betty Grace Lucretia.

Speaking with Wesley's grandson, Richard Jenkins, he remembers growing up with his grandparents at the 'big house' in Oakwood.

Richard's parents, William and Jean, were married in Lindsay and built a modest home across the farm laneway at William's parents house in 1949. Raising 3 sons in this house, the house was moved in the mid 1980s closer to the Jenkins farm house.

When Wesley retired from farming the farm was passed to his son William and Wesley and Lucretia moved to Perry Street in Oakwood.

Wesley and Lucretia's 60th Wedding Anniversary, c. 1979 >
Top Row: Children, Betty, William, May and May
Bottom Row: Lucretia and Wesley Jenkins



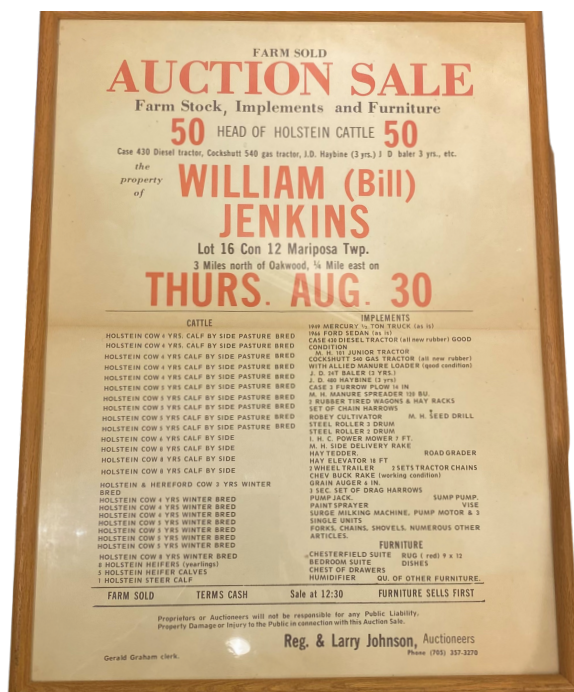
Richard remembers that his grandfather “didn’t quite retire, he was always over at the house helping out with the farm.” The Jenkins farm continued to have pigs, chickens and cattle until Richard was in high school, “the chickens were first to go, then the pigs, and eventually only 30 dairy cows were left.”

Growing up on the farm everyone did their share. One of Richard’s first jobs was selling strawberries at the Oakwood Store making \$1.75 an hour.

The store was owned by Blake and Cheryl Drinkwalter at that time. He remembers Mr. Reid Torrey (Torrey Family Story also found in Kawartha Lakes Moments and Memories) coming in from Eldon Township selling Torrey farm potatoes at the store.

Richard recalls that the original ‘big house’ burned down right around the time that the Old Quaker Meeting House (Concession 12 Lot 21, Mariposa) was removed in 1939 and some of the wood from the Meeting House was used in the home’s new front stair railing.

For grades three to five, Richard attended the Brown School, his grandfather Wesley was the caretaker, on the corner of Peniel and Eldon Roads with Mrs. Sherman Moore. For grades six to eight, he attended Eden School with Mrs. Prentice and Miss Newton before attending LCVI in Lindsay.



William sold the farm to Peter R. Brown in 1973 and Richard’s parents moved to Long Beach, Cameron, as “Mom always loved the water.”

<The framed farm auction poster that was given to Richard and his two siblings as a surprise from their mother, 10 years after the farm had sold.

Thank you

The Jenkins Family

Jenkins, Richard. Interview. Conducted by Laura Love, July 5, 2023.

Resources

The Jenkins Family History Book, James and Fanny Jenkins of Devon, England & Their Descendants by Marion MacIntyre, 1991

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