



Local
History
Collection

SPARKS FAMILY HISTORY

What does your family history have to do with your life to-day?

Your history is an intricate part to the mosaic of your identity. It provides you with the knowledge of where you have come from.

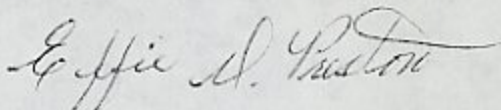
Dedicated in loving memory, to my mother, Allegra Effie Sparks Stephenson, 1889 - 1956.



Every effort has been made to make the history of our family as complete as possible. Unfortunately, I began a generation too late. Those who could no doubt, fill in the missing pieces, have long since passed on. Perhaps in time, more information will be found to fill in the blank spaces. However, the basics are here and will give the present and future generations some knowledge of our ancestry.

Many thanks to Bessie Gannon, past chairperson of the Whitby/Oshawa Branch, O.G.S. It was her support, encouragement and input that made the road of genealogy a little easier to travel. To my daughter Sharron, for putting up with my re-writing and typing the final draft.

Last, but not least, a sincere "thank you" to John Milligan, for making the phone call of October 28, 1987, that sent me in search of "my roots".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Effie A. Weston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the date.

June 29, 1994.

The Beginning

Francois de Salignac de Fenelon, a Sulpician missionary from France, spent the winter of 1669-70 with the Seneca Indians at their village of "Gandatsetiagon", on the north/east shore of Frenchman's Bay; named in honor of this missionary.

The first settler on the lakeshore was William Peake, settling on part of lot 14, 3rd broken front, near the mouth of Duffins Creek. In 1807, he purchased the property from Timothy Rogers.

The first family of Pickering was Captain Thomas Mathews. He was issued a grant of land in 1799, moved to Pickering and stayed.

Timothy Rogers brought the first Quaker settlers to the area, and the first organized congregation in Pickering met in Rogers' home, in 1810.

The tiny settlement was first known as Duffins Creek, after the fur trader. On January 9th, 1829, a post office was established - the postmaster was Francis Ley. Over the years, the village had been called Duffins, Canton, Duffins Creek and finally; was officially named Pickering, after it's Township.

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JOHN SPARKS (1771 - 1847)

The early life of John Sparks, my great, great grandfather, is obscure. Information sent to me from the County Records Office, Oxford, England, does not show a baptism for him in the parish of his birth. A search of nearby parishes, although interesting, was not conclusive enough to be used. Also unknown at this time, is when and where his marriage took place. We do know he was residing in Scotland when his eldest son James was born September 27, 1808. It appears that his second son John, was baptised on September 10, 1810, in Dundee, Scotland.

The earliest confirmed date we have for John is 1803. It was on August 11th of that year that he joined the 1st Garrison Battalion at Oxford, England. The following information is an extract from a military record as indicated by the British Army:-

"John Sparks, age 32, 5'9½" tall, complexion fair, round face, grey eyes, brown hair, born Oxford, parish of St. Thomas, trade - papermaker, promoted to sergant April 5th, 1807".

On June 28th, 1812, President Madison of the U.S.A., signed a declaration of war against Great Briton attacking her colony of Upper Canada. It was during this period that John first saw the land that he would later call home.

Following the war, the country opened it's arms to immigration - many migrating from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It was not easy for these early pioneers, having survived a sometimes perilous 6-8 week journey by sailing ship, they faced difficult living conditions and the long, severe, winters took their toll.

In 1818, John returned with his wife and family to Upper Canada, sailing from Bantry Bay, Ireland. Before the ship left Irish waters, his fourth son, William - who was my great grandfather, was born.

That year saw the 49th parallel as the fixed boundry between Canada and the United States from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains - Sir Peregrine Maitland appointed Governor of Upper Canada - Dalhousie College founded at Halifax, Nova Scotia - and the passing of the Upper Canada ban on all public meetings, which caused much ill will and clandestine gatherings.

John's decision to settle in York was probably due to the opportunities it offered. A fast developing town, and the capital of Upper Canada, it held much promise. The land he settled on was on Palace Street - a continuation of Front Street, beginning at Market Square and running east toward the Don. The house fronted on Palace Street and extended to the waterfront. (The area today is between Yonge and Jarvis St.)

How he made his living is unknown but it is likely that he practiced his trade of papermaking. Being a mariner with his own schooner, he no doubt put this to good use as well. He prospered and by 1826, was in the position to loan £200 to one, Duncan Lamont - a cooper from Scotland. Lamont secured the loan with property he had on Baldoon Road, Dover East. Before he could repay the loan, he died. A coroner's report states Lamont died May 5, 1828 due to a fit of intoxication.

A public "Take Notice" was posted April 1, 1830 at York by John Sparks, yeoman - "Will claim at the next sitting of the Honorable Commissioners for the Ascertaining of Titles" lot number 8 on south west side of Baldoon Road. The claim was granted under heir and devisee, and registered to him in June of 1830.

In 1819 Order in Council grants of land were offered to those who had served in the 1812-14 war. Since John had been a sergant he received two parcels of land of one hundred acres each. Lot 7, Baldoon Road, concession 5, and the south east half of lot 20, concession 5. With the Lamont property, he now owned 300 acres in Dover East.

In 1831-32, John came to Pickering, settling on lot 12, 3rd B.F. He cleared a section of land and built his log house. Besides farming, he helped build and repair ships at Frenchman's Bay and fished Duffins Creek for salmon, shipping his catch to the market at York. It was his fishing at Duffins that prompted Charles Fothergill to bring poaching charges against him. A letter to then mayor of Toronto R.B. Sullivan, dated September 21, 1835 and signed C. Fothergill, requested information regarding John Sparks' activities while he resided in York and outlined John's attempt to avoid court action. According to a brief comment taken from Dictionary of Canadian Biography the poaching charge finally came to court and his adversary was severely punished.

Five years after Fothergill's death in 1840, the two families were united when his son George married John's daughter, Margaret.

It was not until September 5, 1834 that he became the registered owner of the property, having purchased over 200 hundred acres from Sir David William Smith, for the sum of £150 cash. The property extended from the Baseline Road (now Bayly Street) on the north, to the shores of Lake Ontario and included the point of land known as "Sparks Point". The point jutted out much further into the lake in earlier times (erosion has taken it's toll) and family history states that in inclement weather a large lantern was lit to warn ships of the danger in coming too close.

The following two references to Sparks Point comes from research notes compiled by C. H. J. Snider, Toronto historian and newspaperman and for many years author of the Toronto Telegram column "Schooner Days on the Great Lakes", which appeared some sixty years ago:-

"For many years a sixteen foot yawl boat with the name "Three Sisters" on it's stern lay on the beach just east of Duffins Creek. It was from the schooner of the same name that went down in a storm off Darlington in October of 1875. The yawl carried Captain Malone, his wife, first mate, and two sailors through cold, rain and hail for nearly two days, until it ran aground at Sparks Point. They were taken in and cared for by Thomas Field and his wife Sarah - a granddaughter of John."

"About 1900 the writer of Schooner Days sailed from Toronto on the schooner Chicago Girl leaving in the evening and arriving at sun-up, at Frenchmans Bay. He describes entering the Bay as follows:- "We had barely passed the inner end of the east pier when the centre board scraped on a tongue of submarine sand. Heaving up the board and turning to starboard, a beautiful sheet of water was spread out before us covered with lily pads amid which gold and silver chalices rosily reflected the red rim of the sun coming up behind Sparks Point."

On March 20, 1847 John drew up his will. The exact date of his death is unknown, but the will was registered for probate July 5, 1847, probated August 8, 1847 and personal effects went to public auction September 11, 1847.

In December of 1849/June 1851/ and March 1852 liens were registered against the property and by late summer of 1852 all of lot 12 had been sold and now owned by George Fothergill, his son-in-law. As William and Thomas Blanchard, children from Margaret's previous marriage, became of legal age - George turned over to them 75 acres each, thus honouring their grandfather's wishes as stated in his will.

31376

A Memorial of the Probate of the Last Will and Testament of John Sparks of the Township of Pickering in the Home District and the Province of Canada - Yeoman deceased:-

This is the last Will and Testament of me - John Sparks of Pickering, yeoman, as follows:

That is to say - I desire all my debts, and funeral expenses, and the costs and charges of proving this my will may be paid by my executors hereafter named out of my Personal Estate as soon as possible after my decease. To my son James Sparks and my son William Sparks, their heirs and assigned forever I give and bequeath south east half of lot twenty and half of lot seven in the fifth concession of Dover East in the Western District of Canada West. To my son Thomas Sparks and his heirs and assigned forever I give and bequeath the lot eight in the fifth concession of Dover East aforesaid. To my daughter Margaret her heirs and assign forever and subject to her own sole and separate use, benefit, control and direction - either by will or otherwise, I give, devise and bequeath the West half of that portion of lot twelve in the Township of Pickering which is to the south of the Rangeline and known by the name of the Broken Front and now held by lease from me by John Foreman, but subject to the said lease and also as to the rent, subject as hereafter mentioned. To my son Thomas his heirs and assign forever, I give and bequeath the East half of that portion of lot twelve in the Township of Pickering aforesaid, which lies to the south of the Rangeline known by the name Broken Front, and which is also under lease to the said John Foreman, subject to the lease and as to the rent, subject and herein after mentioned. I give and bequeath my horse Charley to my said son William. I give and bequeath the rents to arise from both portions of the aforesaid lot twelve in the Broken Front of Pickering during the term of the said lease of the said John Foreman and also those due and accruing to my executors in trust, to be collected by them, I equally divide between said son William and daughter Margaret, but if the amount collected yearly shall exceed the sum of twenty pounds then ten pounds only is to be paid to William Sparks leaving the larger portion to my said daughter Margaret to enable her to educate her present children. To my grandchildren William John Blanchard and Thomas Blanchard sons of my said daughter by her first marriage and in case they shall respectively attain the age of twenty-one give to their heirs and assigned forever. I give and bequeath the whole of lot twelve in the said Township of Pickering contained between the Rangeline and the Base Line of the said Township of Pickering and containing two hundred acres more or less, to be divided East and West - halved on the eldest attaining the

age of twenty-one years, when he is to take his choice of the East or West half, and to enter into immediate possession and in case he should die before attainment of such age then the younger (Thomas Blanchard) on attaining the age of twenty-one years is to take his choice of either East or West halves of the lot and to enter into immediate possession - and my wish is and I hereby delegate my full authority, to their mother, my daughter Margaret to appoint a fit and proper person to protect their said lots from pillage or waste during the minority of either or both of my said grandchildren and in case of the death of either or both of the said William John Blanchard and Thomas Blanchard during their minority then the share of either or both so dying is to my wish my said daughter Margaret her heirs and assigned forever subject to known sole separate disposal and appointment either by Will or otherwise. And my Will and wish is that no log on the south fifty acres of the aforesaid lot twelve bequeathed to my said grandchildren shall be removed for the purpose of firewood, that my said son Thomas shall have the privilege of authority and drawing firewood (oak and rail timber excepted, which is on no account to be cut during the minority of my said grandchildren) for the use of his own house and to be used therein, but not for sale or in any manner, nor is such right, is capable of being assigned or transferred the said timber be cut or drawn without waste or damage to the other timber growing and the said fifty acres and the privilege is to be used in such a manner as not to injure or inconvenience the said growing portion of said lots.

To my son John Sparks I leave my family Bible and the sum of five shillings, he having been heretofore provided for, I do not consider that he or his heirs ought to receive any more of my property. The rest - residue and remainder of all my estate real and personal in proportion or expectancy I give and bequeath to my executors hereafter named in trust in the first place to pay all my debts and funeral expenses and the costs of proving this my Will, and afterwards the remainder to be either delivered or conveyed as the case may be to my said daughter Margaret to and for her own proper use, benefit, control and advantage. And lastly I hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint Paul Frederick Whitney, Elijah Bostwick of Township of Pickering and Jonathan Rogers of the same township of Pickering executors of this my Will and guardians of and Trustees for my said grandchildren William John Blanchard and Thomas Blanchard during their minority.

In witness whereof I the said Testator John Sparks (being deprived of the use of my right hand) have hereunto set my hand by making my mark and affixed my seal to this my Will hereby revoking any other and forever Wills, by me at any time made and hereby declare this to be and contain my true last Will

and Testament this Twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and forty-seven.

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said Testator John Sparks and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of and who in presence did in the presence of each other have at his request here unto act our names as Witnessed the same having been first carefully read over by the said Testator.

Signed / John Richardson

Signed his

" / John Foreman

JohnX Sparks _____ (JS)
mark

John's wife, Sarah, pre-deceased him on February 25, 1842. Both are interred in the old Methodist Cemetery on Elizabeth Street, Pickering Village.

Changing of the Times

From the time of Wm. Peake, first settler on the waterfront, circa 1798 until the present, south Pickering has seen many changes.

In 1808 the Quaker, Timothy Rogers, moved his family from Newmarket to Pickering, purchased 800 acres of land that stretched from the tiny settlement of Duffins to the lakeshore. He brought 20 Quaker families to settle - more followed and Duffins Creek and surrounding area became predominately a Quaker settlement. He also donated land for their meeting house and burial grounds.

In Smith's Gazetteer for 1846, Duffins Creek or Canton as it was sometimes called, is described as "a village in Pickering Township, situated on Duffins Creek - contains approximately 130 inhabitants - 4 churches and chapels - Presbyterian, Catholic, Quaker, and British Wesleyan. The east line road (York to Kingston) runs thru. The village has a post office (post every day). Professions and trades - one grist mill, one brewery, one tannery, three stores, two taverns, one shoemaker, two tailors, one blacksmith, one wagonmaker."

The Wesleyan Church, built on an acre of land on the Mill Road later renamed Elizabeth Street was destroyed by fire in the late 1800's. The cemetery still remains, although badly damaged by vandalism.

The outbreak of war in 1939 changed the area of south Pickering forever. An amunitions plant was built to the south and east of the village and small frame wartime houses were erected to accommodate the workers and their families, some who had travelled as far away as the maritimes. What was to be a temporary settlement during the war years, became permanent and grew to a thriving town. On January 1, 1974, regional government came into effect and Ajax and Pickering amalgamated and is now known as Ajax-Pickering. Metro moved east, developers moved in, prime land sold at inflated prices, the building boom was on. To accommodate the increasing population, shopping centers and strip plazas were built, and the GO train was extended to Pickering and Ajax.

Preservation of the Past

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) is appointed by the council of the Town of Ajax and functions as advisory to council in matters pertaining to built heritage - part of our cultural heritage. To-date, it has designated 18 properties under the Ontario Heritage Act. In May of 1991 a plaque was placed on Simcoe Point, on the west side of Duffins Creek, and site of the Peake/Greenlaw Cemetery. Although the stones have long since disappeared due to erosion and vandalism, the plaque lists those known to be interred here - one a "Miss Sparks" believed to be the eldest of John and Sarah's children, who died circa 1838.

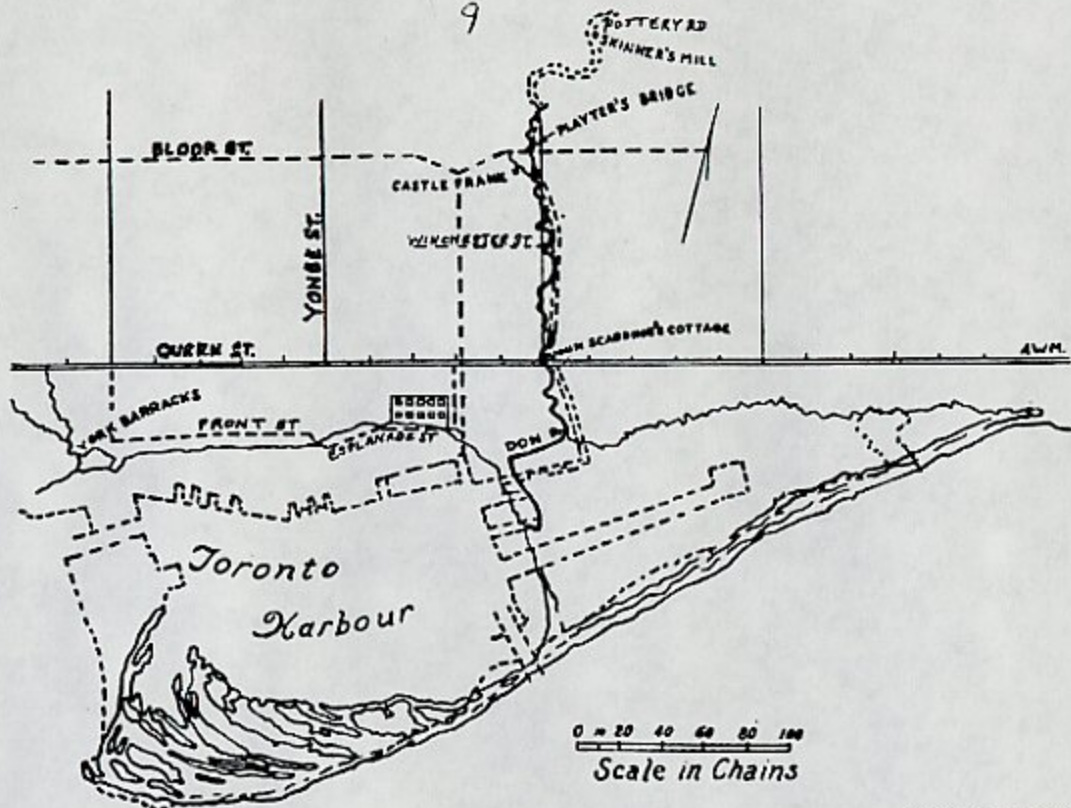
With the combined efforts of the Town of Ajax, Parks and Recreational Dept., the Metropolitan Toronto Conservation Authority, and the Lions Club of Ajax, the lakefront beginning at Duffins Creek and extending east for approximately two miles, has been turned into a lovely park area. A walkway follows the shoreline and slowly ascends to the point where on a clear day the CN Tower can be seen to the west some 20 miles in the distance. Benches have been placed along the lakefront and hundreds of trees and shrubs planted. There is a paved area where you may park your car while you take a leisurely stroll and enjoy the view.

The Lyons Club of Ajax has for sometime taken on the project of planting trees and shrubs on the Point. When it was brought to their attention some of it's history, they kindly had a bronze plaque placed on what is now referred to as Sparks Point/Lions Point.



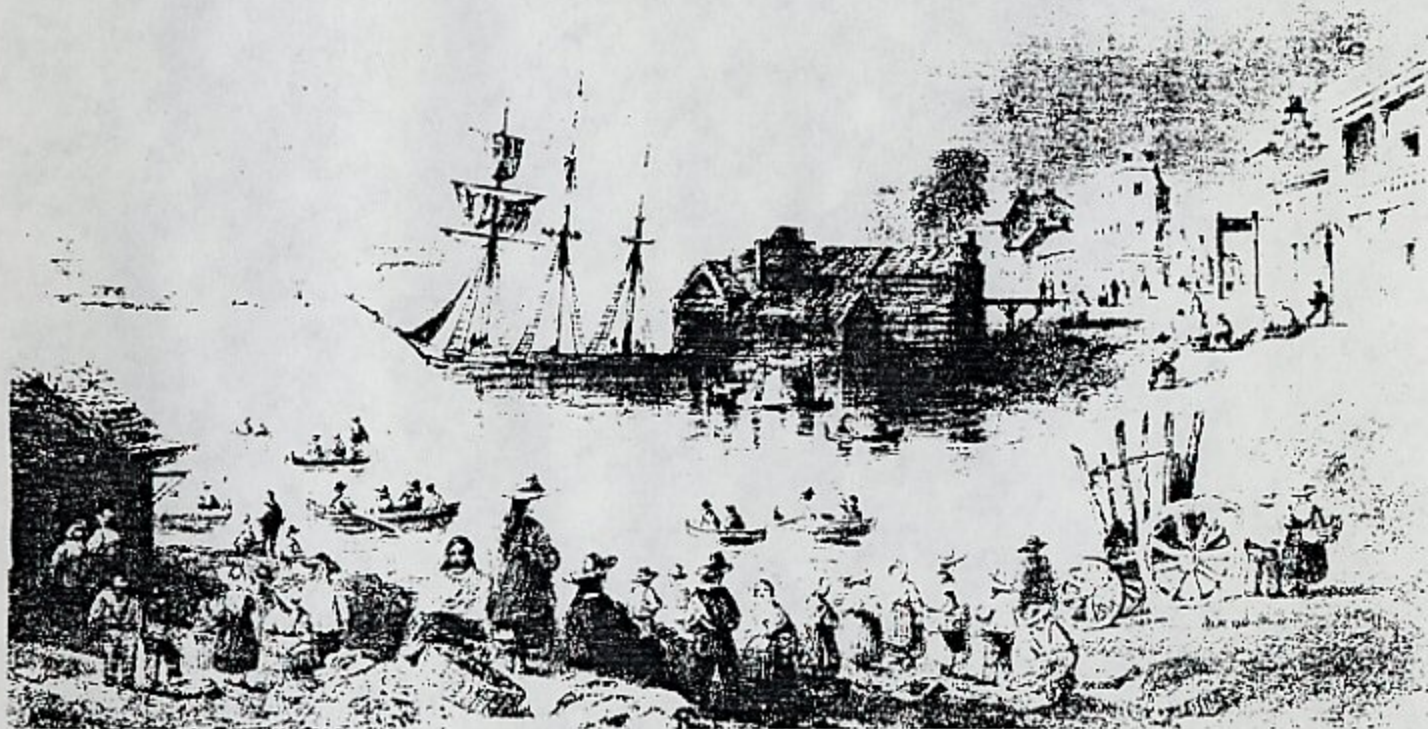
Front row left to right: Ajax Lions Club president Barry Britton, mayor Jim Witty and Lion Lorne Harris.

Back row left to right: Ajax LACAC representative Taylor Young, Lion Frank Facciolo, Sparks family descendant Effie Preston, and LACAC member Pam Pryjma.



Ontario Archives

Plan of York as Mrs. Simcoe knew it, after the survey by A. Aitkin, 1793.
Dots show modern streets and shore-lines.



IV (above). FISH MARKET, TORONTO, 1838. W. H. Bartlett.
The scene is at Front and Church Streets.

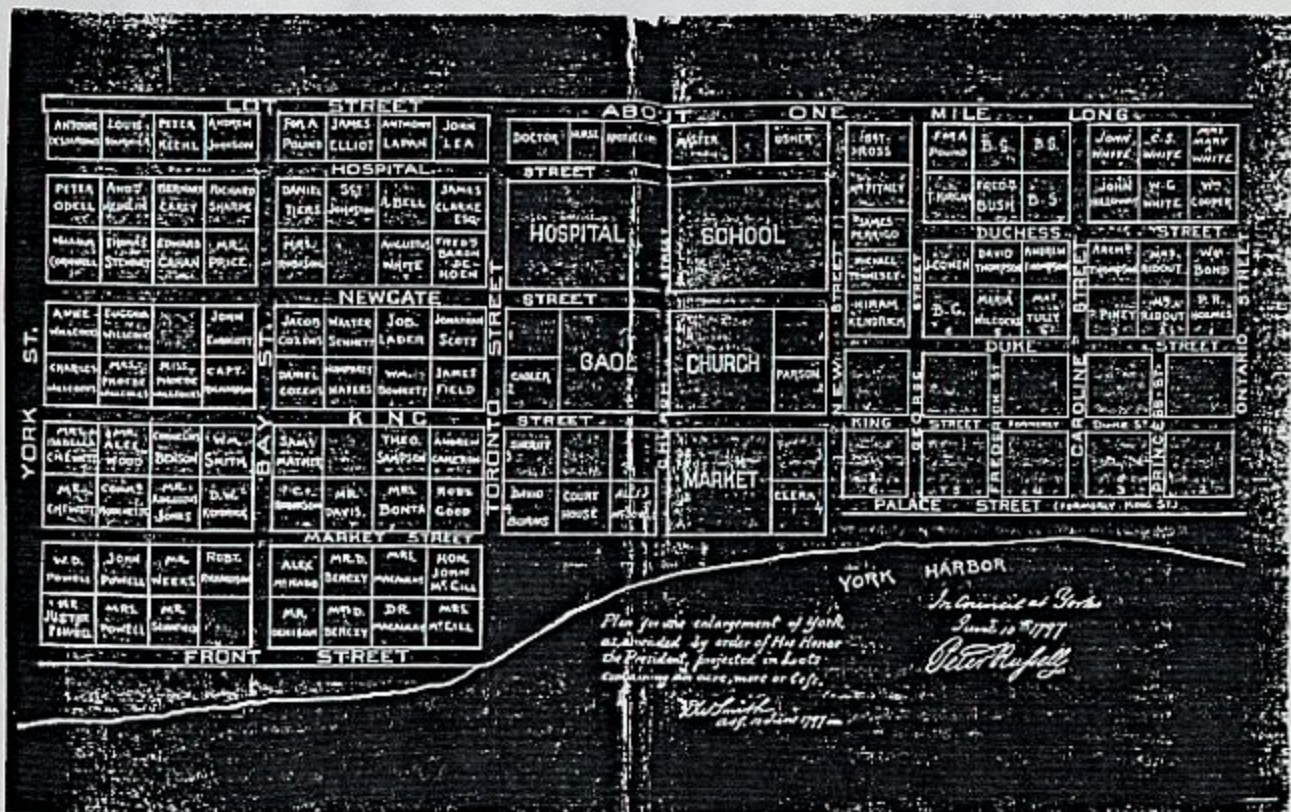
In Council 14 November 1819

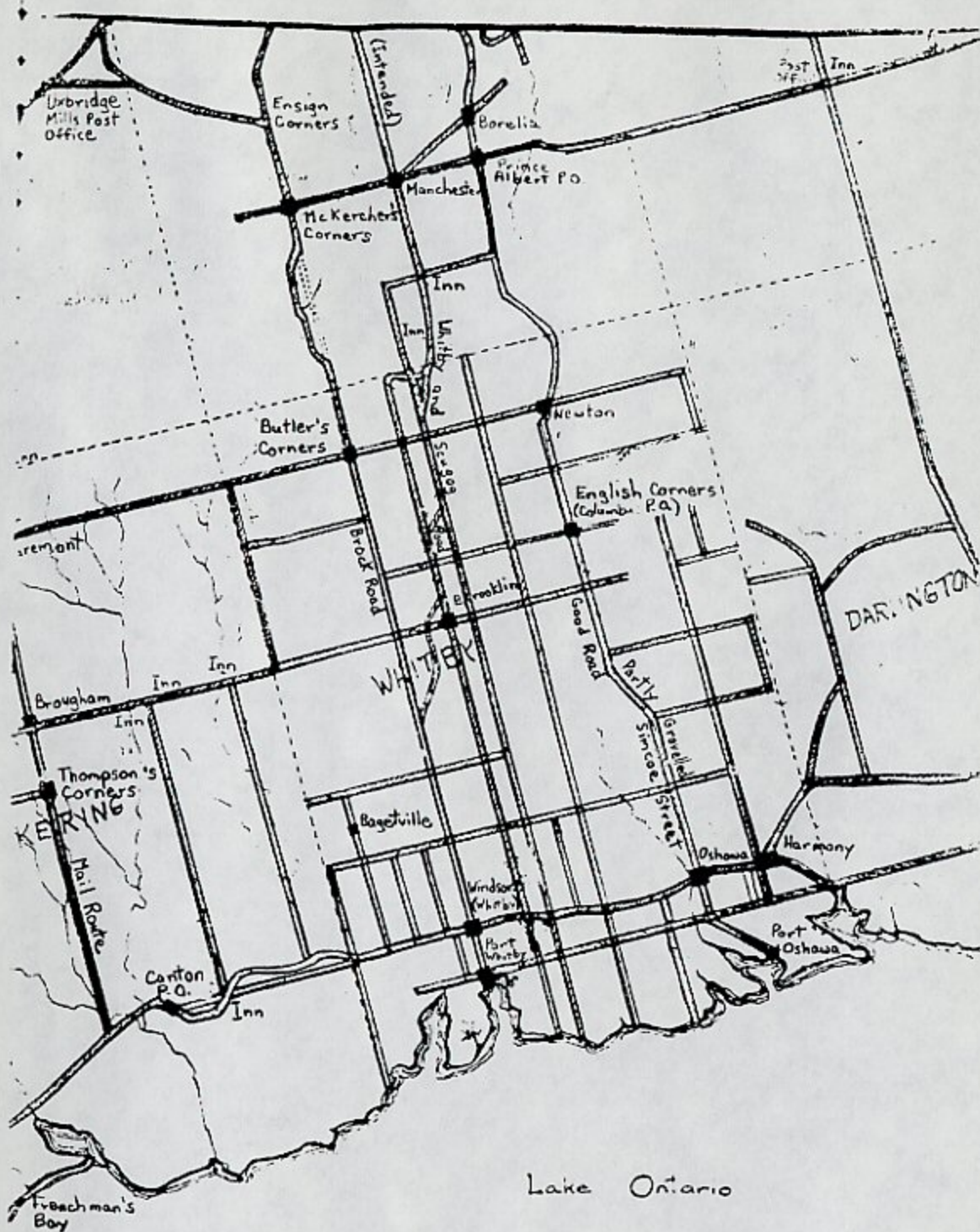
Ordered that John Sparks, of the Township of York, in the Home District, Surveyor Major, shall receive a Grant of Two hundred Acres of Land, as a Sergeant in the 1st Garrison Battalion reduced under the late War, Regulations 20th October 1819

*John W. B. [Signature]
Com^{dr} [Signature]*

The Surveyor General

John Sparks' Fiat





Map of the Area when Pickering Village and Whitby
where known as Canton and Windsor, respectively.

Above map obtained from the book "As All Our Fathers Were".

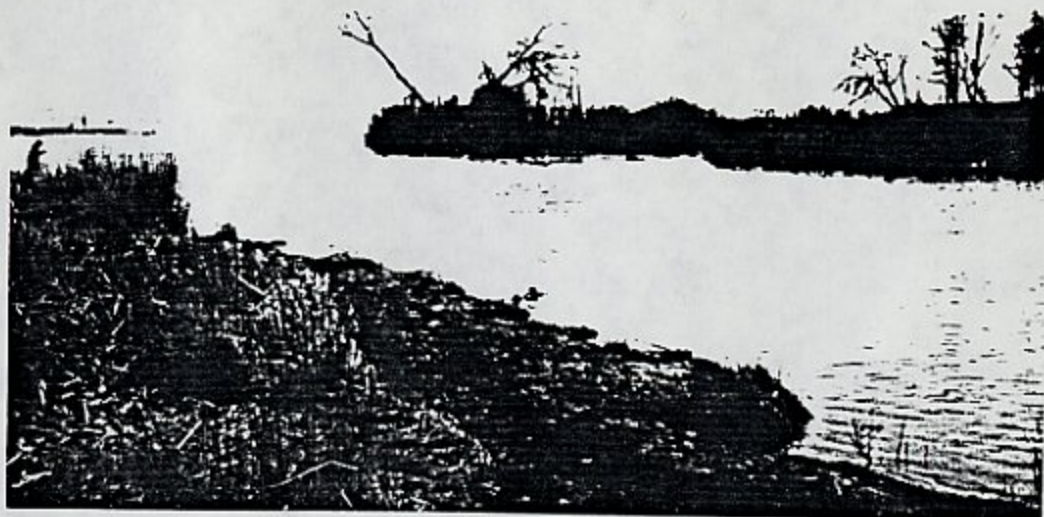


Sparks Point - 1992

SPARK'S POINT / LIONS POINT

John Sparks, a papermaker, was born in Oxford, England in 1771. After his arrival in Canada, circa 1818, he initially settled in York (Toronto), Upper Canada. Several years later in 1832, he moved to Pickering where he purchased 200 acres of land for 150 pounds. The property included this lakefront point and extended to Bayly Street. John Sparks cleared his land of its dense forest and built a log house where he and his wife Sarah lived. He earned his living by fishing for salmon in Duffins Creek, then shipping his catch to York, and by building and repairing ships in Frenchmans Bay. According to family history he would light a lamp on "Spark's Point", which at that time jutted far out into Lake Ontario, to warn passing ships of its danger during inclement weather. This point of land is now referred to as Lions Point. John Sparks died in 1847. Both he and his wife are buried in the Elizabeth Street cemetery located in Pickering Village.

Ericted by the Ajax Lions Club, 1992



Mouth of Duffins Creek - 1991

Old Methodist Cemetery
on Elizabeth Street.

Burial Site of
John & Sarah Sparks



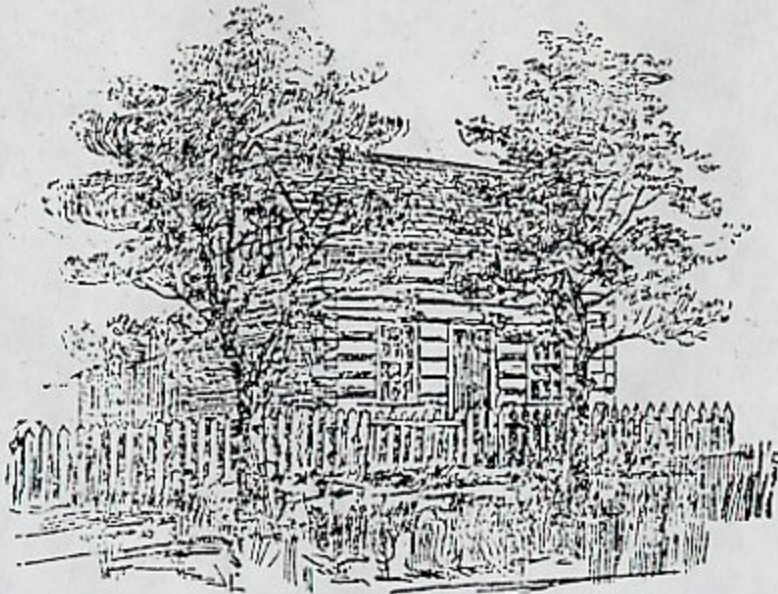
CHILDREN OF JOHN AND SARAH SPARKSJames Sparks 1808 - 1882

- Born: Scotland, September 27, 1808. Died September 5, 1882, in Toronto.
- 1st Marriage: Mary McKenney, January 14, 1830, in St. James Cathedral by Rev. Thomas Phillips.
- Children: Three known
- Charles: Born 1834.
- Mary Margaret: Born January 26, 1836.
- Henry: Born April 2, 1839.
- 2nd Marriage: Eliza Hastings (widow), July 29, 1852, in St. James Cathedral by Rev. Henry Grasett.
- Children: One
- Arthur: Born June 4, 1853.
- 3rd Marriage: Anne Haliburton (widow), March 5, 1856, in St. James Cathedral by Rev. Henry Grasett.
- Children: Five
- Thomas: Born April 10, 1857 - died 1880.
- Robert: Born December 2, 1859 - died 1941.
- Sarah: Born September 29, 1862 - died 1936.
- Harriet: Born 1864 - died November 17, 1882.
- Maude: Born 1866 - died April 5, 1882.

James came to Canada with his parents and siblings in 1818, settling in what was then known as Muddy York (Toronto), and spent the rest of his life there.

Like many children in early times, his working years began at a young age - for him, as a sailor on Lake Ontario. He became a well known lake navigator and commanded many different schooners over the years. In 1834, he was captain of the vessel John Magill. His residence during that period was on Duke St. His last command was the Beaver, a bargentine white clipper, with a guilt beaver head. It was wrecked off Rochester in a storm, circa 1865.

He was a mason and acted as tyler for the Masonic Lodge, a two-storey frame building on Market Lane, from 1822-1850. Following his retirement from navigation, he was a constable at Don Mount.



CAPTAIN SPARKS' COTTAGE BROADVIEW AVENUE.

Above taken from the book "Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto".

His second home was on Broadview Avenue just north of Queen Street. It was one of the oldest homes in Toronto, erected about the time of Castle Frank (1794-5). He purchased the house in 1840, made extensive repairs, and a few years later, clap-boarded it. The house sat on a 1/4 acre of land, had a 10' x 10' parlor - off this ran two tiny sleeping rooms - across the back of the house was the kitchen, all with ceilings barely 7' high. The upper half-storey was divided into sleeping apartments. It was in this house that he died in 1882.

His three marriages produced nine known children but it was the children and grandchildren from his third marriage who were closest to my grandfather and his family.

A daughter, Sarah, married John Gibb circa 1883. One of the daughters from this marriage was Alexandrine Gibb, who became a well-known writer for The Toronto Star, in the late 1920's. She wrote a regular sports column and in later years covered the Middle East and Soviet Union. Alexandrine, also known as "Gibby" to her friends, never married and died in 1958.

A daughter from James' first marriage, Mary Margaret, married Thomas Spring of Toronto on November 12, 1855, by Rev. J. Gemley. The marriage took place in the home of the groom's father, on King St.

Capt. James Sparks and his third wife - Ann Johnston are buried in St. James' Cemetery, together with their children and some of their grandchildren. St. James' Cemetery is located in the core of Toronto.

John Sparks circa 1810

Born: Scotland, circa 1810

Marriage: One known.

Married Margaret Darby, May 10, 1831,
in Pickering, by bans, Laurence Heydon
- Justice of the Peace. Witnesses:
James Peake, John Snider.

Very little is known of John. He lived in York with his parents and apparently spent some time in Pickering when his parents settled there. The property his father (John Sr.) held in York is believed to be his inheritance, mentioned in his father's will.

The 1834 assessment on this property reads:

"story and 1/2 on Palace St., cultivated land,
water frontage, 1 horse, 1 dog. Assessment -
44 shillings, dog assessment - 5 shillings."

John does not appear in heads of household for York in 1842 and it is felt that he may have been one of John Sr.'s sons who are rumoured to have settled in the U.S.A.

Thomas Sparks circa 1816 -

Born: Circa 1816. Place of birth unknown.

Marriage: One known. Margaret Murfit, Sept. 15, 1841, St. James Cathedral, Rev. Henry Grasett, wit. James and Mary Sparks.

Children: Four

Sarah: Born July 20, 1842. Died Oct. 22, 1920.

Mary Ann: Born Nov. 9, 1844. Died ?

Elizabeth: Born Oct. 26, 1846. Died?

John: Born 1848. Died July 25, 1900.

Thomas' early life was spent in York. Like his brother, Thomas became a lake navigator. Thomas lived in Pickering for a brief period. He lived in Toronto before and during his marriage. His children were born in Toronto.

On June 5, 1849, Thomas sold his inheritance in Dover East to Patrick Phelan of Toronto for 50 pounds. Thomas' wife was living at that time. Her name appears on the document as having signed off her dower rights. It is believed that she died between 1854-55. It is about that time that the family became separated. Their daughters, Sarah and Mary Ann, came to Pickering to live with their Aunt Margaret and George Fothergill. Their son, John, lived with his Uncle James in Toronto.

Thomas does not appear in any census, and it is possible he left the Toronto area.

Sarah married Thomas Field on April 11, 1866. She and her husband farmed in Pickering - the lower half of lot 13, broken front. This property is now owned by the Rotary Club. Sarah and Thomas are buried in Groveside Cemetery, Brooklin.

Mary remained a spinster. The 1901 census for Pickering lists her as residing with the Fields, and having independant means.

Elizabeth married Laurence (Lorenzo) White. They lived in Greenwood and appear in the 1901 census.

John lived in Toronto with his Uncle James and family. He appears in the 1871 East York census, listed as a farmer. John resided in Pickering for a period of time and in 1880, owned property with Wm. Hicks. This was 96 acres on the south half of lot 8, 3rd concession. John died a batchelor in Toronto, July 24, 1900. He is buried in the Old Methodist Cemetery, Elizabeth Street, Pickering Village.

William Sparks born 1818

- Born: Bantry Bay, Ireland, 1818.
- 1st Marriage: Rebecca Spencer, October 1, 1838, in Pickering by bands, Rev. Robert H. Thornton, witnesses John and Ann Sneider.
- Children: Five known.
- Lois: Born 1839. Married Edwin Moore, Pickering, February 1, 1862.
- Sarah Ann: Born between 1841-42. Married David Bowhall, Pickering, September 19, 1859.
- William Walter: Born 1845. (See Sparks of Frenchman's Bay.)
- Elizabeth: Born 1847. Unable to trace.
- James: Born 1851. Married Amy Worfolk, November 14, 1881.
- 2nd Marriage: Hana McAlester, Widow, September 25, 1861, at All Saints Church, Collingwood - Rev. John Langtry, witness - Allen McKorkandale.
- Children: Two
- Thomas: Born 1864
- Samuel: Born 1867

William, my great grandfather, was about fourteen when he came from York to Pickering, with his parents. He was a mariner for a time. Following his marriage to Rebecca Spencer, he farmed. He returned to lake navigation about 1849, sailing out of Frenchman's Bay. His schooner, the "Billow", was built in 1848; at Chatham, Ontario.

In 1855, he sold his inheritance in Dover East. In 1856 he signed an agreement with Paul Whitney to purchase one acre of land - lot 23, concession 1, Pickering. Although the bargain and sale was registered in 1856, no further transaction appears on this property in his name. There is the possibility that the land was sold prior to William leaving Pickering and the deed not registered to the new owner. This would not be unusual, as there are properties in the area today that no original deed exists for.

Assessments for 1851 and 1853 show his ownership of property for lot 14 B.F., 26 acres, and lot 17, concession 1, 2 acres, but once again, the registry office does not show these properties to appear anywhere in their records as

registered to him.

Rebecca died May 27th, 1860, and following her death, William left Pickering, although his children remained. William settled in Nottawasaga Township, where he remarried and in the 1871 census, he is listed as a farmer - again a widower. William's son, James, was indicated as living with him at that time.

James later returned to Pickering. At the time of James' marriage to Amy Worfolk, he was living in Whitby and his marriage certificate lists his profession as "mariner". Amy Worfolk was a younger sister of my grandmother, Sarah.

It is believed that William Sparks eventually settled in one of the western provinces, possibly in Saskatchewan. Land grants were offered to those willing to settle in the west, and many took advantage of the opportunity.

The date of William's death is unknown, only Rebecca's death is entered in my grandfather's Bible. This leads me to believe that William Walter lost contact with his father.

James Sparks and Amy Worfolk settled in Vancouver, B.C.

Lois and Sarah Ann, and their respective families, also left the area after 1871. No trace of them has been found in Ontario, to date.

William Walter never left Pickering. Some of his descendants continue to live within the area.

Margaret Sparks 1820 - 1861

- Born: York, April 1820. Baptised May 2, 1820, St. James Cathedral. Died in Pickering 1861.
- 1st Marriage: George Blanchard of Toronto, bachelor, Oct. 10, 1840 by Rev. Henry Grasett.
- Children: Two
- William John Born 1842, Toronto. Married Emma Field of Pickering, December 3, 1867.
- Thomas: Born 1844, Pickering. Married Jane Field Pickering, May 1, 1866. Twin daughters of Jeremiah Field and Eliza Howlet.
- 2nd Marriage: George Fothergill, bachelor, June 10, 1845, St. James Cathedral, Rev. Henry Grasett.
- Children: Four
- George: Born Pickering, Sept 14, 1847. Died Nov. 4, 1866. Buried Owen Sound, Ontario.
- Louisa: Born Pickering, April 19, 1849, died 1912. Married William James McMurtry, Sept 4, 1872.
- Augustus: Born Pickering Sept. 28, 1852, died Sept. 5, 1880 in Ottawa. Buried Bowmanville, Ontario. Bachelor.
- Charles: Born Pickering, Feb. 10, 1856. Died in Saskatchewan Jan. 1904 at age 48 yrs. 11 months and 4 days. Married Mary Eliza Malone Sept. 18, 1878.

Margaret's first husband was a millstone maker and their residence was on Market Lane in the area of the now St. Lawrence Market. In late 1843 her husband died and Margaret returned to Pickering to live with her now widowed father. Her second son Thomas was born shortly after.

In 1845 Margaret re-married to George Fothergill, son of Charles Francis Fothergill and Charlotte Nevins. George was born in 1814 at Rockmont, Peel, Isle of Man. He came to Upper Canada with his parents in 1817, settling in Port Hope. His mother died in 1820 and his father re-married in 1825 to Eliza Richardson of Pickering.

On October 7, 1846, George purchased the lower half of lot 13 from Johnathon Rogers, built a log house, and

farmed the land.

Margaret died due to a miscarriage, in the early part of 1861. George continued to live in Pickering until 1864. He then moved his family to Owen Sound. His eldest son, George, died in 1866 due to congestion of the lungs. George (senior) drowned on September 7, 1868, at Colpoy's Bay, on Georgian Bay.

George Fothergill died intestate. His three remaining children Louisa, Augustus and Charles, came under the guardianship of their uncles J.J. Fothergill and George McGillvray until they reached the age of 21. (George McGillvray was the husband of Caroline Amelia Fothergill.)

George Fothergill was the only father that the Blanchard boys knew. He made certain that the wishes of their grandfather, John Sparks, were carried out according to John Sparks' will. As each came of legal age, George Fothergill assured that their inheritances from John Sparks were turned over to them.

In 1881, both Blanchard men were living in East York with their families. Both were listed as mariners. Thomas' wife, Jane, died in 1931 and was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto. Emma, William's wife, died in 1895 and is buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto. No further information is available on William and Thomas - except that both were living at the time of the deaths of their spouses.

The Sparks of Frenchman's Bay

In a log cabin, on lot 12, 3rd B.F., Pickering, a son was born to William Sparks and Rebecca Spencer, on July 22, 1845. His parents named him William Walter. He was my grandfather.

William grew up on the farm of his parents. He received his education in a one-room school house believed to be the one on the old Baseline east of the Liverpool Road. It was there, where his own children learned their "Three R's".

The Sparks' were mariners and William was no exception. His younger years were spent on the lake, following in the footsteps of his ancestors.

On July 2nd, 1871, William Walter married Sarah Worfolk, the eldest child of Benjamin Worfolk and Mary Ann Robinson. Sarah was born at Grimsby, Linclonshire, in England, on June 1st 1849. In 1856, she came to Canada with her parents and they settled in Whitby.

For the first five years of their marriage, William and Sarah resided in Whitby. It was in Whitby where their two daughters Athelia and Mary Rebecca were born.

William moved his family to Frenchman's Bay in 1876. There, he purchased a two-storey frame house from William McCourt. The house - built about 1850 was located on a quarter-acre of land on lot 23, B.F., Wharfe Road. Across the road was a large parcel of land that in later years was turned into a lovely park. On the west side of the park, there was a pavillion built by the Avis family. My uncle Herbert Sparks participated in it's construction. It was there, at the age of six, that I took my first steps on a dance floor. This property is now part of the present day marina site. The Harbor Company was west of the marina. The Harbor Company employed William as overseer and warehouse manager.

Later, the Harbor Company was purchased by the W. D. Mathews Company, a well-known firm of grain merchants from Toronto. William became the company's representative at the harbor, holding that position for many years. Besides grain and coal, the company also handled the cutting and storing of ice; which developed into an important part of the W. D. Mathews' operation.

William was also harbormaster. A brief comment appeared in the local paper to the effect:-

"Mr. Sparks with rifle in hand, had to take a threatening stance, when a vessel tried to avoid payment of 15¢ harbor fee."

With the discovery of Dundas shale in the shallow waters of Lake Ontario, stone hooking became a major industry. Five of the finest vessels were based at the Bay in the 1880's - Rapid City, Newsboy, Northwest, Madeline and the Maple Leaf. The Madeline was owned by Mathew O'Brien. Thomas Mansfield owned the Maple Leaf. Both of these two gentlemen were longtime residents of the area.

Activity at the harbor had increased by the late 1840's and with it, came more settlers.

In 1855, Paul Whitney drew up a plan for a proposed town to be called Liverpool. The area for the town was part of lot 23, 1st concession, beginning approximately at the range line. It extended north, to slightly beyond the Kingston Rd. The plan shows

a lay-out of streets and lots ranging from 1/4 an acre to one acre. Between the Grand Trunk Railway and Kingston Rd., an area of three acres was reserved for public buildings and winding through the town was the proposed course of Whitney Creek. A few lots were sold, but for some reason, the plans were never registered, the dream faded, and the area "Just grew like Topsy."

About 1882-3 William began construction of a steam yacht. In 1884, it was registered at Toronto with the registration number 83376. The "Scintilla" (which means spark) was screw propelled, 27' in length, 7'8" in breadth, and 2'7" in depth, with her four-ton weight registered as three, her home port - Pickering Harbor, and owner - Wm. W. Sparks. The steamer was used to run excursions to Toronto as well as for the pleasure of his family, and he often took friends and neighbors for a cruise on the Bay. He operated his own coal and wood business, later taking into partnership his son-in-law, Thomas Law and their business became known as Sparks and Law Coal and Wood Co.

On January 16, 1890, the Masonic Lodge Doric 424 was established and William became it's 52nd member. The first burial was Thomas Gormley, an ancestor of my Uncle Thomas (Tom) Gormley. The lodge celebrated it's 100th birthday January 16, 1990.

William was a handsome man. He stood 6'2", with dark brown hair, deep set brown eyes and high cheek bones. According to my mother, he was good natured, seldom showed anger, and was a kind and loving husband and father. He was generous of his time, and help he could give to others less fortunate than himself. Quaker by faith, he was superintendant of the Harbor Church Sunday School, as well as lay preacher. The church was an important part of their family

life, both spiritually and socially. Although very religious, I believe he was more a liberal Quaker than conservative. Some members of the community refused to enter their home after he purchased an organ - they felt it was an "instrument of the devil".

Grandmother was petite, barely five foot, blue eyes and fair hair with an out-going, lively personality and a good sense of humor. With ten children, I imagine the sense of humor came in handy. She was an excellent seamstress, making all the girls' clothes until they were old enough to sew for themselves. She also made the boys suits and while she sewed in the evening, grandfather would read the local paper to her.

My mother, her three sisters, and six brothers, all attended the Baseline School. It was a four-mile round trip on foot, rain or shine. During severe winter months, the neighbors would take turns "chauffeuring" the children to school by horse and sleigh.

For entertainment during the summer months, there was canoeing and sailing on the Bay, hay rides, picnics and church socials. At the socials, the women would make a box lunch for two, and the men would bid on a box. The money then would go toward expenses of the church. During the winter, there were sleigh rides, toboggan parties, ice boating and skating. Mother loved to skate, and in 1949, had her last skate on her beloved Bay. She died March 2nd, 1956.

Starting with a few "hardy souls" in the very early 1800's, the Township slowly grew and by Centennial year, 1911 - the Village of Pickering and surrounding area had developed into a thriving community. The celebrations began July 1st with a parade, beginning at Brougham and ending in Pickering. People came from miles around to join in the festivities. Dignitaries gave speeches, sporting events were held for all ages, prizes were given out for the children's games, and throughout the day, the "bands played on". It brought together family and friends from surrounding towns and villages and gave them the opportunity to catch up on the latest gossip and to reminisce of "by-gone-days".

William's deep interest in the affairs of the community led him into politics and from 1907-1916 he served as councillor, deputy reeve, and finally, reeve of the Township. Any future plans in the political field came to an abrupt end on September 10th, 1917, when he tragically lost his life in a train and car accident.

Grandmother died October 21st, 1923. Both are buried in the family plot at Erskin Cemetery.

In the fall of 1993, a tree was planted on the point, in memory of Wm. Walter. A small plaque that reads:

Wm. Walter Sparks
1845-1917
reeve humanitarian

was placed in the memorial stone located east side of the base of the point.

Children of William Walter and Sarah Sparks

- Athelia Jane: Born Whitby Oct 28/1872 - Jan 27/1906
 married Wm O'Brien of Pickering Sept 2/1890
 resided: Pickering
 two children: May, Grace.
- Mary Rebecca: Born Whitby Oct 1/1874 - 1955
 married Thomas Fletcher Law, May 19/1897
 resided: Pickering
 two children: Charles Apr 3/1903-June 27/1950
 Howard Nov 21/1912-Aug 25/1959.
- Walter James: Born Frenchman's Bay Mar 7/1877-Aug 31/1948
 married Celina Youdan Sept 19/1916
 resided: Western Canada
- Arthur B. James: Born Frenchman's Bay Jan 1/1879-1932
 married Nellie Mary McDougal
 resided: Western Canada
 three children: Isabel, Wm. Walter, Wilmot Arthur.
- Wm. Joseph: Born Frenchman's Bay Nov 8/1880-1952
 married Annie O'Brien Aug 29/1911
 resided: Western Canada
 one child: Ruth
- Herbert Henry Robt.: Born Frenchman's Bay Apr 7/1882-Aug 30/1949
 married Alma Sproule Aug 30/1905
 resided: Toronto
 three children: Aubrey, Wilmot, Leta
- Albert Ernest: Born Frenchman's Bay Jan 13/1884-1945
 married Margaret Kurstead Oct 2/1914
 resided: Oshawa
 three children: William, Albert, Jean.
- Frank Wilmot: Born Frenchman's Bay Dec 23/1886- May 8/1908
 batchelor
 died while working in the U.S.A.
- Sarah (Sadie) Lucille Elizabeth: Born Frenchman's Bay Mar 14/1888-
 Apr 1974
 married Thomas Gormley Sept 15/1914
 resided: Oshawa
 one child: Bruce.
- Allegra Effie: Born Frenchman's Bay Dec 18/1889 - Mar 2/1956
 married Charles Wm. Stephenson June 19/1919
 resided: Oshawa 1926-1956
 two children: Effie Orma June 29/1920 at Frenchman's Bay.
 married Frederick Cecil Preston Jan 31/1942 in Oshawa
 one child: Sharron Dianne born June 19/1944, in Oshawa.
- Alma Ruth born Jan 30/1923 in Toronto,
 married Donald E. Morris Feb 7/1942 in Oshawa
 two children: Dianne Christine June 22/1948 in Oshawa
 Peter Jan 11/1955 in Oshawa.

—The community was cast into deep gloom on Monday evening when the sad news was circulated that W. W. Sparks met instant death at Pickering station. He had been at his coal sheds just west of the station looking after the loading of a wagon of coal, and when this was completed he jumped into his auto and started off for his home at Frenchman's Bay. As the station and several cars intercepted his view of the track to the west he did not see the approaching fast local which is due at Pickering at 7.40, but which does stop here. Evidently he had been in deep thought, when he got into view of the tracks, otherwise he would have seen the approaching train. The front wheels of the auto had just cleared the track, when the impact came. As the train was going nearly sixty miles an hour, the auto was struck with terrific force, as it was thrown about fifty feet, and Mr. Sparks' body was found about one hundred feet from the crossing, and in a badly mangled condition. The top of his skull was crushed, his neck dislocated, and his right leg was broken in two places and his body otherwise badly bruised. Coroner Dr. McGillivray was notified and he ordered the remains moved to C. H. Burling's undertaking rooms until an inquest could be held. On Tuesday a jury was empanelled. — After viewing the body they went to the scene of the accident, where they found the auto in a heap of ruins. Several witnesses were examined, but as the Grand Trunk Railway wished to be represented by counsel, the inquest was adjourned until 1.30 on Monday next. In the death of Mr. Sparks, Pickering and the whole

28 FROM PICKERING NEWS
SEPT. 14 1917

surrounding country has met with a great loss. For many years he has been in the grain and coal business, and in this way he has become widely and favorably known. In the coal business he has had a good connection. Last winter, when many places were suffering from a coal famine, Mr. Sparks' customers were never without a supply, and he was even able to go to the assistance of neighboring towns and villages. He has also been prominent in municipal affairs, as he was for a number of years, until the present year, a member of the Pickering council, filling for the usual terms the position of councillor, deputy-reeve and reeve. In politics he was a staunch Liberal and in religion he was a member of the Society of Friends, and he took a deep interest in all things tending to the betterment of the community. He was a member of the Masonic order for a number of years, and was for many years an active member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is survived by his widow, five sons and three daughters. These are Walter, of Mikado, Sask., Arthur, of Regina, William, of Winyard, Sask., Herbert, of Toronto, Albert, of Oshawa, Mrs. Thos. Law, of Pickering, Mrs. Thos. A. Gormley, of Oshawa, and Allegra at home. One daughter, Mrs. Wm. O'Brien, died several years ago, and one son, Frank, was killed in a railway accident near Rochester, a few years ago. Mr. Sparks' funeral will take place this (Friday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock, to Erskine cemetery.

The inquest into the death of W. W. Sparks was resumed in the Town Hall on Monday afternoon, with the Coroner, Dr. McGilivray, presiding. The crown was represented by Col. J. E. Farewell, the County Crown Attorney, and the Grand Trunk Railway by Mr. Pratt, their solicitor. Evidence was given by C. C. Ravin, the station agent, who was on the station platform at the time of the accident; Dr. Field, who was on the scene a few minutes after; the engineer and fireman, and H. G. Calvert, who was the last man to speak to Mr. Sparks. After hearing all the evidence, the jury brought in a verdict exonerating the employees of the Grand Trunk from all blame. The general impression seems to be that Mr. Sparks, in his hurry to get to his home at Fairport, did not think of danger and did not look up or down the tracks to see if a train was approaching. The evidence showed that only about two seconds elapsed between the time that the fireman first saw Mr. Sparks when he was approaching the crossing and the time of the collision, which made the collision inevitable.

The funeral of the late W. W. Sparks, which took place on Friday afternoon last to Erskine Cemetery, was one of the largest ever seen in the township, Mr. Sparks being widely known. Many were present from the surrounding country, towns and villages, including F. L. Fowke, ex-M. P., and W. E. N. Sinclair, ex-M. P. P., of Oshawa. His five sons

and three daughters were all present at the last sad rites. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Marsh, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Down. The Masonic order, of which the deceased was a member, was well represented by members from Claremont, Whitevale, Brougham, Whitby and Oshawa, and their impressive service was conducted at the grave. The pall-bearers were members of the present and former township councils, of which body Mr. Sparks was a member for about nine years. Many were the expressions of esteem heard. In his many years of dealing with the public in the grain and coal business, Mr. Sparks built up a reputation for square dealing, which makes his death a distinct loss to the community.

/ —Thos. Law has decided to continue the coal business formerly carried on by Sparks & Law. /

/ —Wm. J. and Arthur Sparks returned to their respective homes in Saskatchewan on Tuesday, after attending their father's funeral. /

As You Well Know

From time to time, the occasional misprint may occur in the most astute of periodicals.

The following interjections on my part, are what I have researched, and found to require editing.

The death occurred in the Western Hospital Tuesday night of John Sparks, a well known and highly respected resident of Pickering. Mr. Sparks was taken suddenly ill on July 12, and a few days later was removed to the hospital. There he seemed to improve, and it was hoped that he would recover, but there came a change for the worse, and he passed away unexpectedly. Mr. Sparks was born in Pickering where he resided up till eleven years ago, when he came to this city. He was a son of the late John Sparks, and was 52 years of age. He was a member of Pickering Methodist church for many years, and during his stay here had attended Woodgreen Tabernacle. In politics he was a staunch Conservative. Mr. Sparks was unmarried. He leaves three sisters—Mrs. Thomas Field, Pickering; Mrs. Lawrence White, Greenwood; Miss Mary Ann Sparks. Mrs. Jane Sparks, Arthur J. Sparks and Robert Sparks of this city are cousins of deceased.

Pickering News Jan. 1906

—It is with deep regret that we report the death on Monday, at Fairport, of Mrs. Wm. O'Brien at the age of 33 years, 2 months and 22 days. The deceased, who was daughter of W. W. and Mrs. Sparks, has passed through a lingering illness of sixteen months suffering from bronchial trouble which gradually weakened her, and also causing heart trouble. She is survived by a sorrowing husband and two young children. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon when the remains were interred in the Friends burying ground at Fairport.

Pickering News July 1900

Born in Toronto.
Son of Capt. Thomas Sparks.
Grandson of John Sparks.

—A very sad accident occurred on Friday last at Rochester, N. Y., when Frank W., youngest son of W. W. and Mrs. Sparks, of Pickering Harbor, came to an untimely end. So far no particulars have been received other than that he was killed on the railway. For some time he has been engaged with a firm in New York, and his duties compelled him to work for brief periods at different places. His body was taken home on Monday, and on Tuesday was conveyed to Erskine cemetery for interment. The sympathy of the community is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Sparks and family in their sad and sudden bereavement.

Pickering News May 1908

The family never accepted his death as accidental. The police report left many questions unanswered.

It is with regret that we report the death of a well and favorably known resident of this township, Mrs. W. W. Sparks, which took place at the residence of her son, Albert Sparks, 174 Church St., Oshawa, on Thursday, Oct. 27th. The deceased, whose maiden name was Sarah Warfolk, and who was in her 76th year, was born in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England, and came to Canada with her parents when 7 years of age, and settled in Whitby. In 1876 she married the late W. W. Sparks and continued residing in Whitby for twelve years afterwards. Forty years ago they moved to Frenchman's Bay (now Fairport), where she has ever since resided. She had a family of ten, ~~five~~ sons and ~~five~~ daughters, of whom eight survive. These are Walter of Alberta, Arthur of Hewart, Sask., William of Wynyard, Sask., Herbert of Toronto, Albert of Oshawa, Mrs. Thos. Law of this village, Mrs. Thos. Gormley of Oshawa, and Mrs. Stephens of Toronto. Her husband predeceased her six years. She was a member of the Friends' Church and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. Her funeral took place on Monday to Erskine Cemetery, when the service was conducted by Rev. J. F. Clugston, of Dunbarton.

Pickering News
Nov. 2, 1923

Married in 1871.
Lived in Whitby
6 yrs.

Had 6 sons and
4 daughters.

Mrs. Chls. Steph-
enson not Stephens.

GLEANINGS from THE PICKERING NEWSAug. 3, 1883

Boat race at the Bay July 28 for the Champion Flag of Frenchman's Bay, presented by the Harbor Master. Among the enteries was the Maud S. owned by W.W. Sparks. (This was built by my grandfather and named in memory of his first cousin, Maud Sparks - youngest dau. of Capt. James Sparks. Maud died at age 15, in 1882, of congestion of the lungs.)

Jan 18, 1884

Sparks - In Pickering January 13 to the wife of Mr. Wm. Sparks of Liverpool Harbor (Frenchman's Bay) a son. (Uncle Albert).

Dec 25, 1885

Pickering Harbor Dec 22 to wife of W.W. Sparks a son. (Uncle Frank).

Mar 16, 1888

Sparks at Pickering Harbor Wed. Mar. 14 to wife of W.W. Sparks a daughter. (Aunt Sadie).

July 5, 1889

Mr. Sparks has sold his steam yacht. He takes her north to Lake Simcoe. We hear he is going to build again. Hope that he will hurry Up.

July 12, 1889

Mr. Burrel is going to team the yacht to Lake Simcoe for Mr. Sparks.

July 18, 1889

Messrs. Sparks & Burrel are home from trip to Lake Simcoe.

Oct 24, 1890

Re sail boat race on the Bay. Mr. Sparks' new sloop in a race up the Bay to windward, soon left the fleet and left no doubt but she was the fastest.

GLEANINGS.....(cont'd)Feb 6, 1891

W. Morris, Chas. Burrell, J. Gillam, & B. Pickett, fishermen at Frenchman's Bay charged to appear before Squire Bunting on charge of Sabeth Desecration. Complainant W. W. Sparks - lifting nets on Sunday.

April 3, 1891

Report of S.S.#2 for March. Past to grade 11 - Willie Sparks.

July 3, 1891

Mr. Sparks has sold out his interest in the white fishing business. Mr. Sparks laying foundation for new coal sheds.

July 3, 1896 S.S.#2 - 3rd class - Albert Sparks.Oct 25, 1899

Capt. Sparks & his steam yacht at the Methodist picnic on the lakefront on Wed. afternoon & ran short excursions out on the lake.

Nov. 30, 1900

W. W. Sparks having stable rebuilt & remodeled.

Jan 3, 1902 - School Reports S.S. #2 Pickering

promoted to Jr. 4, T. Gormley (Uncle Tom)
promoted to Sr. 3, S. Sparks (Aunt Sadie)
promoted to Sr. 2, A. Sparks (my mother, Allegra)

July 25, 1902

Mr. Walter Sparks (Uncle Walt) assisting his father with his fishing business.

Dec 5, 1902

W. W. Sparks has his two steam yachts hauled out for the winter. (Scintilla & Victoria)

June 19, 1903

The lighthouse which has undergone extensive repairs & improvements, is now considered about the best on the north shore of Lake Ontario. These repairs were carried on under the direction of W.W. Sparks.

July 24, 1903

W. W. Sparks & crew have returned from Port Hope trip - looking for a lost dredge.

GLEANINGS.....(cont'd)July 21, 1905

We congratulate Mr. W. W. Sparks on his success in locating the large government dredge, Sir Wilfrid, which foundered during a severe storm nearly three years ago in Lake Ontario between Newcastle and Port Hope. It was found in about 78 feet of water and 2 1/2 miles from shore. Mr. Sparks will secure the reward of \$500 offered to the person who would locate it.

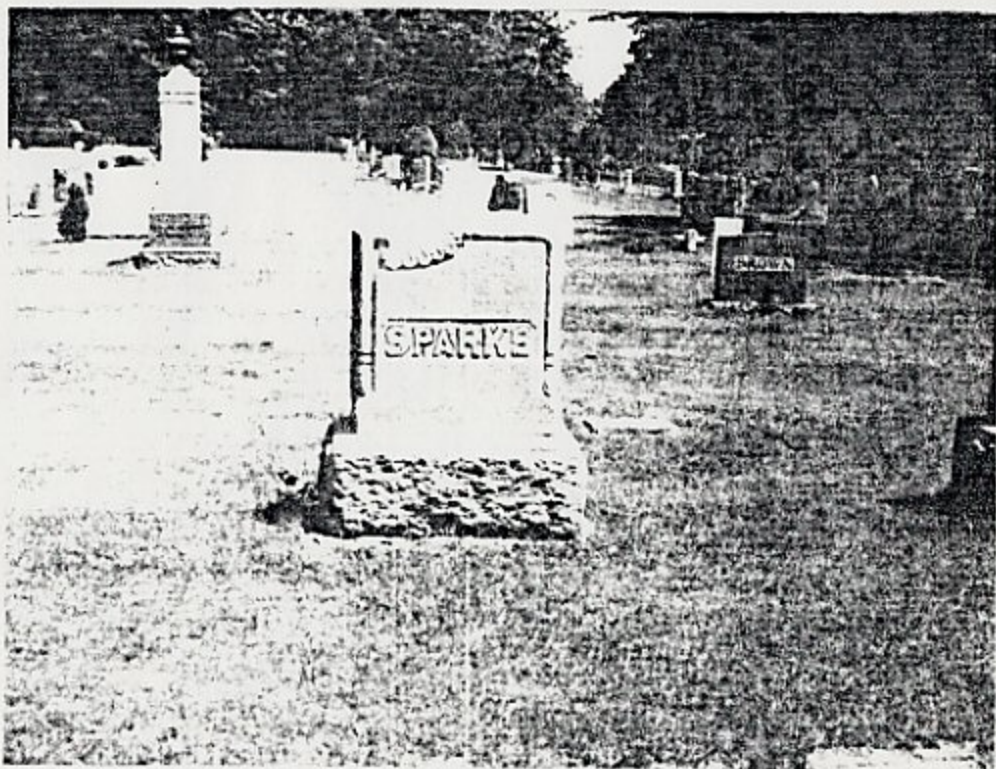
July 13, 1906

W. W. Sparks returned on Monday night from Go Home Bay after having a pleasant trip around the lakes in Mr. Firth's new gasoline launch. The trip which was one of about 700 miles was a most enjoyable one, although that part through Georgian Bay was somewhat rough. Mr. and Mrs. Sparks intend at the end of the month to go back to spend a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Firth.

"Gleanings", courtesy of Dave O'Brien.

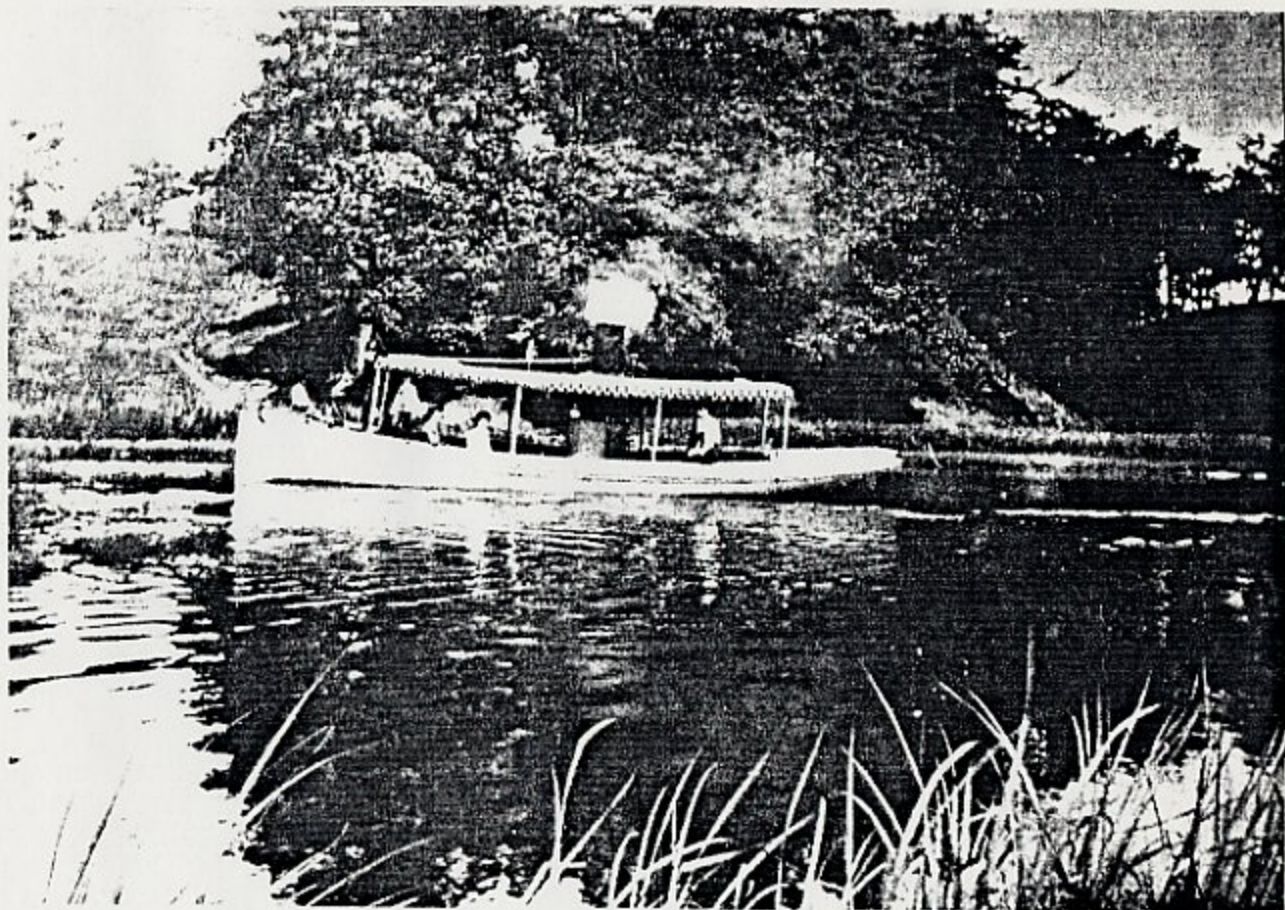


Above picture of Erskine Church and Cemetery established in 1854. Located at Fairport Rd. and Finch Ave.



Sparks Family Plot

Sarah & Wm. Walter Sparks (grand parents)
 Albert Sparks & wife Margaret Kurstead (uncle & aunt)
 Allegra Effie Sparks & Charles Wm. Stephenson (parents)
 Frank Sparks, Walter Sparks (uncles)



The "Scintilla" on Duffins Creek, 1884.

Sail On The Bay

(Composed after a pleasant sail on Frenchman's Bay, and
after testing the speed of Mr. Spark's new steam yacht).

We swiftly go, thro' waves that flow,
With sunbeams on them dancing;
With scarce a frown the sun looks down,
His darts around us glancing.

All crowned with foam, the billows come,
The deep blue sky o'er-arching,
Each crested wave like warrior brave,
Away to battle marching.

The waters glint, with varying tint,
I watch their bright commotion,
And long for life of fearless strife
With mighty waves of ocean.

Away, away, my fancies stray
To islands green and floral,
To summer time, and summer clime
Beyond the reefs of coral.

O far-off strand of fairy land,
Where strange bright birds are singing,
The billows roll as fleet my soul
Its fancy flight is winging.

O land of thought, what gems are wrought
In gay fantastic weaving!
Its realms are fair, devoid of care
All grief and trouble leaving.

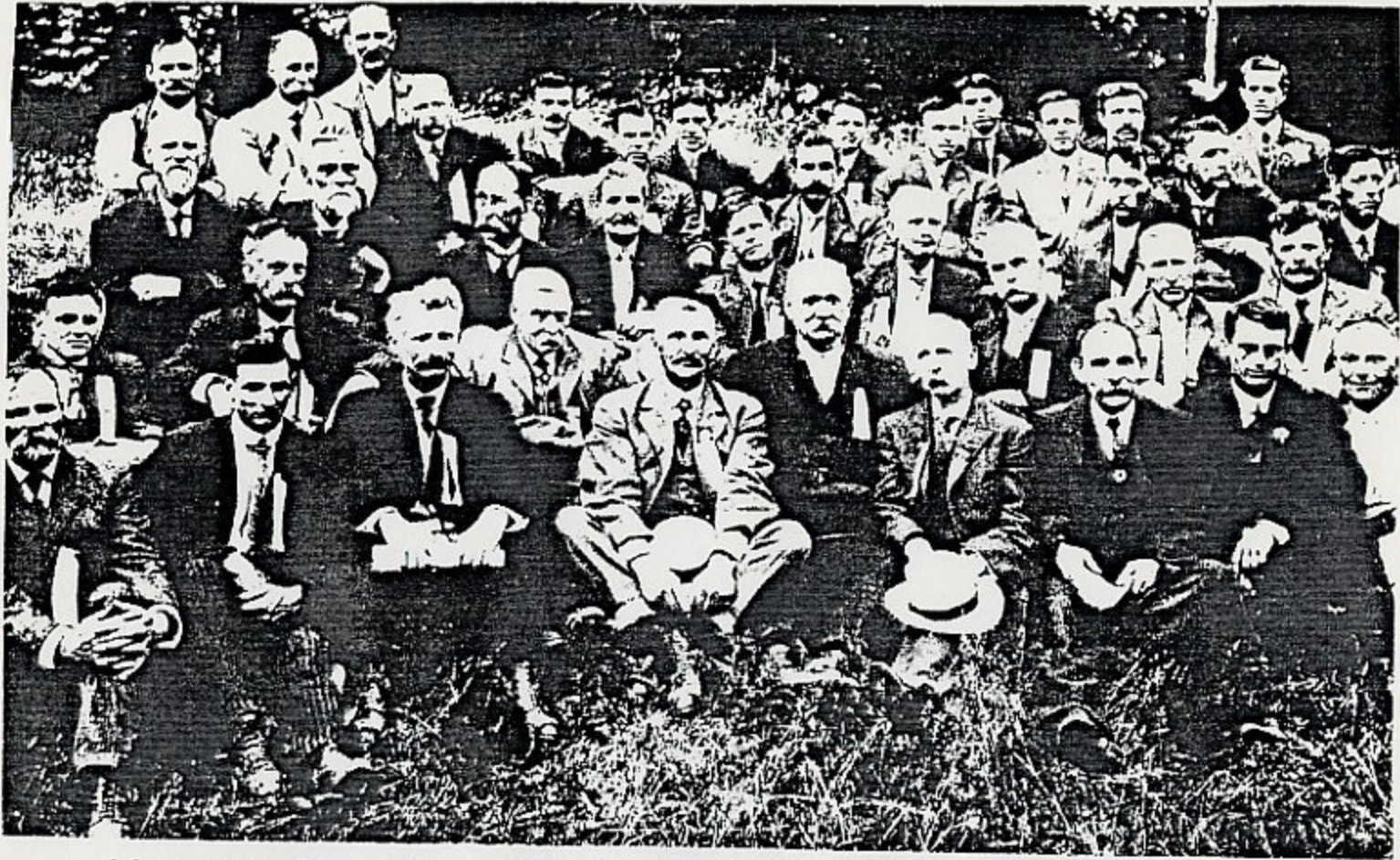
I wake from dreams, the lightning gleams
My fancy isle forgetting;
On, on, good boat, at anchor float,
Or we shall get a wetting.

Brave boat you glide, safe thro' the tide,
And Tho' no sail is swelling,
Away you start, a beating heart,
Your outward course propelling.

I would proclaim aloud your name:
"Scintilla," staunch and hearty,
How well you bore us from the shore,
A merry laughing party.

Long may you reign, the bright blue main,
And free from all disaster;
Good luck and health, the seaman's wealth,
The lot of thy brave master.

Adalena Westney,
Pickering, July 2nd, 1884.



Managing Committee, Pickering Township Centennial 1811-1911
 Grandfather (William Walter Sparks) sitting below arrow.

Grandfather (William Walter Sparks) taken 1909.



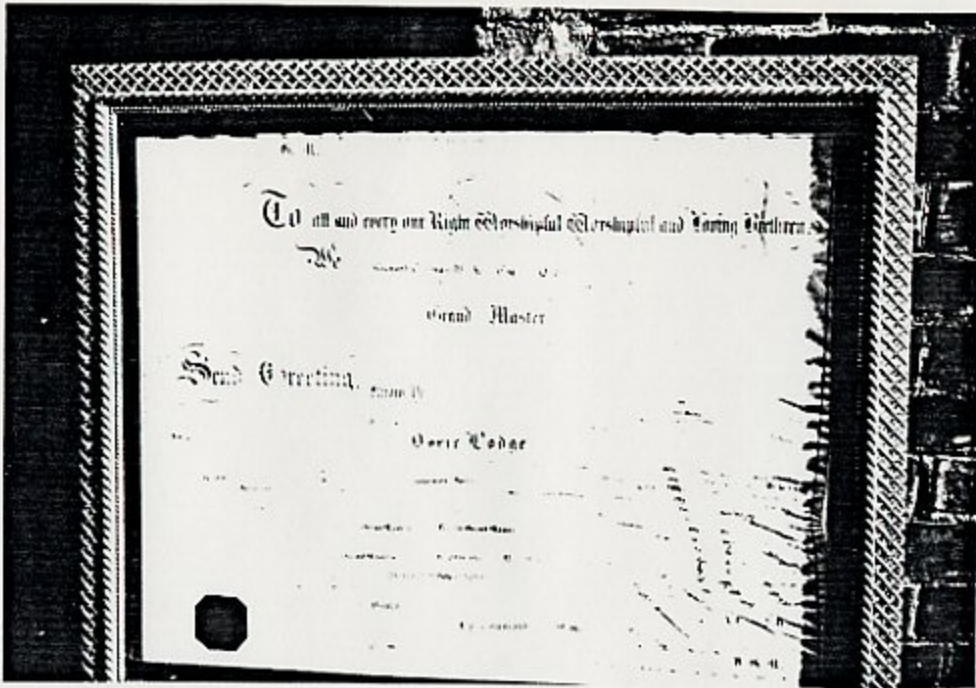
County of Ontario--Members of Council

1914

W. W. Sparks	Reeve Pickering Township	Pickering
E. B. Hoover	Deputy Reeve Pickering Tp.	Atha -
John J. Moore	Reeve Whitby Township	Brooklin
H. Gifford	Reeve East Whitby Township	Cedar Dale
Jas. A. McKenzie	Deputy Reeve East Whitby Tp.	Beathton
Ralph McIntyre	Reeve Reach Township	Ashburn
J. T. Dobson	Deputy Reeve Reach Township	Manchester
Wm. Jackson	Reeve Scugog	Scugog
Duncan M. Morgan	Reeve Uxbridge Tp.	Claremont
Jas. Blanchard	Reeve Scott Township	Leaskdale
John Wetheral	Reeve Brock Township	Derryville
John Sackville	Deputy Reeve Brock Tp.	Cannington
John Westlake	Reeve Thorah Township	Beaverton
John McNabb	Reeve Mara Township	Brechin
Henry Heavener	Reeve Rama Township	Fawn
J. W. Bateman	Reeve Whitby Town	Whitby
R. H. Rogan	Reeve Oshawa Town	Oshawa
G. D. Conant	Deputy Reeve Oshawa Town	Oshawa
Wm. Foster	Reeve Uxbridge Town	Uxbridge
George Gerow	Reeve Port Perry Village	Port Perry
Tom A. Wilson	Reeve Cannington Village	Cannington
H. S. Cameron	Reeve Beaverton Village	Beaverton

Standing Committees.

- Finance and Assessment—T. A. Wilson, Esq., Cannington, Chairman.
Messrs. Cameron, Conant, Wetheral and Sparks.
- Roads and Bridges—Dr. J. J. Moore, Brooklin, Chairman
Messrs. Blanchard, Wilson, Gerow and McNabb.
- Education—Harry S. Cameron, Esq., Beaverton, Chairman.
Messrs. Foster, Moore, Rogan and Hoover.
- County Property—John Bateman, Esq., Whitby, Chairman.
Messrs. Foster, Sparks, Morgan and Dobson.
- Printing—John Wetheral, Esq., Derryville, Chairman.
Messrs. Jackson, Westlake, Heavener and McKenzie.
- Legislation and Memorials—George Gerow, Esq., Port Perry, Chairman.
Messrs. Heavener, Blanchard, Bateman and Sackville.
- Mileage and Per Diem—Elias B. Hoover, Esq., Atha, Chairman.
Messrs. Morgan, McIntyre, Rogan, and Jackson.
- Agriculture—J. T. Dobson, Esq., Manchester, Chairman.
Messrs. Westlake, McNabb, McKenzie and Sackville.

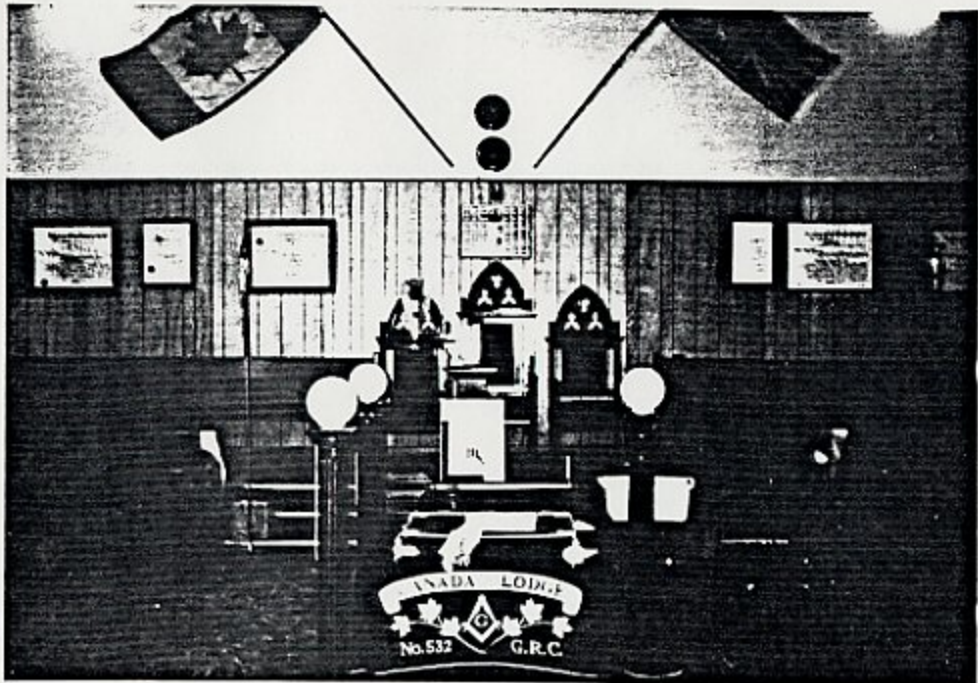


Signature on Lodge Register

52

Spencer W. Walker

Doric Lodge Charter granted in 1890.



Doric Lodge, Pickering.

"

Freemason

51

10th April 1900

21st June 1905

29 Aug 1909

Initiated 2nd Degree 3rd Degree

Sparks W.W.

1900	Nov 1	To Initiation Fee	25 00	
"	1	By Cash		25.00
1900	"	1 Initiated		
1901	June 27	Passed		
	Aug. 29	Raised	29 Aug. 1901	
1901	Dec. 31	To dues Nov. 1/1900 - to 31 Dec 01 = 14 mos. 3.50		
1902	Jan 23	By Cash		3 50
	Dec 31	To dues to Jan 1903	3 00	
1903	Jan 17	By Cash		3 00
1903	Dec 31	To dues Jan 1, 1903 to Jan 1904 3.		3 00
1903	Jan 1	To dues Jan. 1904 to Jan. 1905 3.		
	Jan 19	By Cash		3 00
1906	Jan 4	To dues Jan 1905 - Jan 1906 3		
	Jan 4	By Cash		3 00
	July 3	To dues July 1907 to Jan 1909 3 00		
	July 3	By Cash		3 00
1908	Dec 31	To dues for 1908	3 00	
1909	Feb 4	By Cash		3 00
1909	Dec 31	To dues to Dec 1909	3 00	
1910	Jan 17	By Cash		3 00
1910	Jan 17	To dues to Dec 1909	3 00	
1911	Feb 17	By Cash		3 00
1911	Dec 31	To dues for 1911	3 00	
1912	Jan 4	By Cash		3 00

Sparks W. A.

1913	Jan 1	To Dues to Jan. 1. 1913	3 00	
	July 20	By Cash		3 00
1913	Jan 1	To Dues to Jan. 1. 1914	3 00	
	July 5	By Cash		3 00
1914	Jan 1	To Dues to Jan. 1. 1915	3 00	
	Jan 25	By Cash		3 00
	Jan 1. 1914	To Dues to Jan 1. 1916	3 00	
	Jan 16 1916	By Cash		3 00
		To Dues to Jan 1917	3 00	
	April 25. 1917	By Cash		3 00

Deceased

Footnote:

The above information has been supplied from the journal of the Doric Lodge. Courtesy of Terence Shand.



Picture & research information courtesy of Mr. Dave O'Brien.

Baseline School, SS #2,
Built - 1852 SE corner Brock Rd. & Baseline

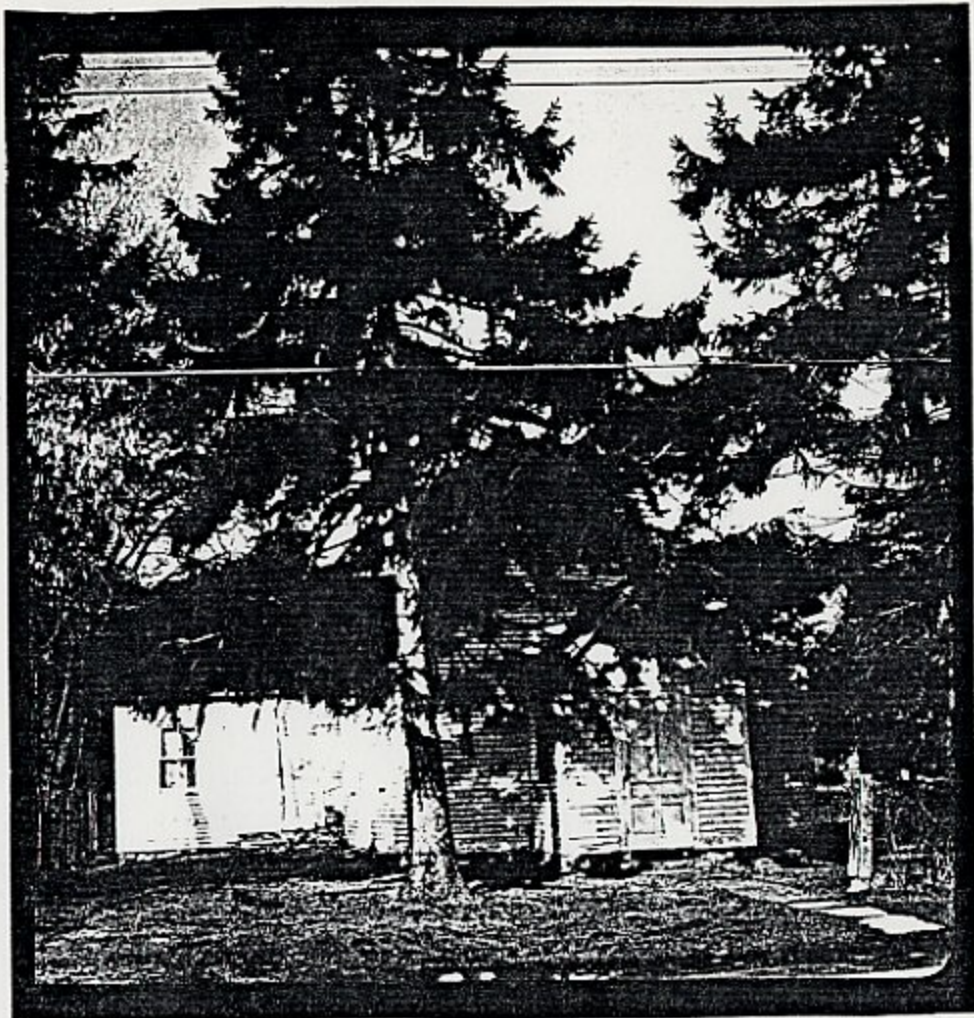
School year: 1901-02

Prior to this date, there was a school on the Brock Rd. just north of the Kingston Rd. Later a frame school was built on the Brock Rd., south of the railroad line. With the coming of the railroad in the 1850's, the school was built of brick. Land around the school was added to it in 1858, 1873 and 1952. The first inspector of schools for Pickering Township was Geo. Barclay, who reported in 1844 that Pickering had 15 school districts, with a total of 893 pupils.

Early teachers were J. W. Palmer in 1846, J. D. O'Sullivan in 1849 and Mr. B. Bunting, 1851-52.

A Centennial Day was held June 26, 1954 when the school was 102 years old. Both mother and Aunt Sadie enjoyed their day at the celebrations.

2nd row: left to right; Mother, cousin May O'Brien, Aunt Sadie (Sarah),
Willamena Shepherd
top row: third from right; John O'Brien, 4th from right; Thomas Gormley



The land was granted to Captain George Hill in May of 1796 and was sold to David Gardiner by Isabella Hill in November of 1834. On March 19, 1847 David Gardiner sold what is now the cemetery to the Trustees of the Bible Christian Church for a selling price of ten pounds. It was stipulated that this property was to be used as a burial grounds and a site for a church.

It is not known when the white frame church was built but, a 1887 article appears in the Pickering News regarding a Christmas party held at the Pickering Harbor Sunday School.

This little church was used by the Quakers - Church of Friends. William Walter Sparks was a lay preacher and superintendant of the Sunday School. Prior to 1949 there were no burial records at the cemetery and there are more graves there than presently marked. It is believed that two veterans of the War of 1812-14 are buried here.

In October of 1984 the little white frame church on Liverpool Road was torn down.

Courtesy of Dave O'Brien.



Athelia Sparks O'Brien
with her two children,
May standing and
Grace sitting on
her mother's lap.

Uncle Arthur.



Left to right: Walter, grandmother and Herb.





William Sparks and wife Annie
O'Brien.



Either uncle Al or uncle Frank.
Taken prior to 1900.



Allegra, Walter, Sadie and Mary Sparks.
Summer of 1948.



Allegra and Sadie 1910.

Courtesy: Mrs. Joan Avis

This picture was taken in 1945.

The house in the background was once the home of William and Sarah Sparks from 1876-1923. The porch was added in the 1930's.

Mrs. W. Avis ,

Courtesy of Mrs. Joan Avis



Home of William and Sarah Sparks as it looks to-day. Picture taken 1990.

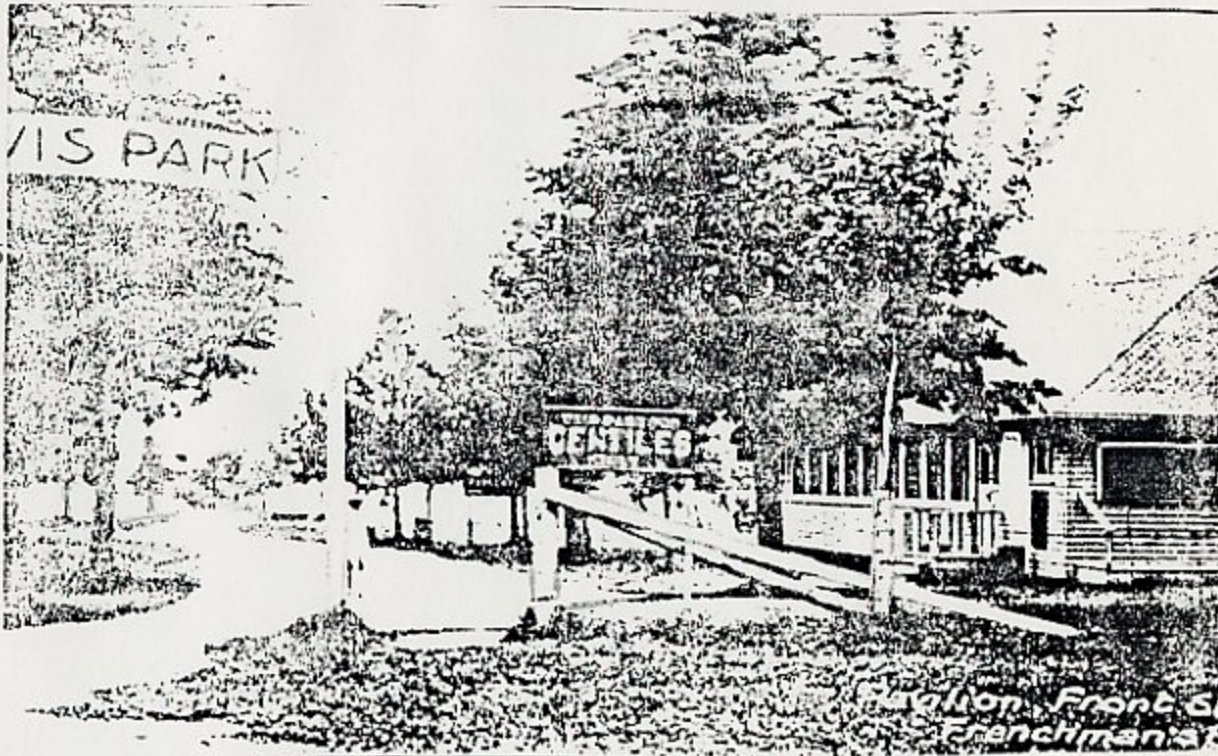


Picture taken circa 1905, members of the Avis family. Building was originally a tavern built about 1850. My mother is the second from the right.



Courtesy: Mrs. Joan Avis

Avis' Park and Pavilion, Front St. and Wharf Rd. Built in 1926



Mother and Walt Avis about 1911.

Courtesy: Mrs. Joan Avis



Frenchman's Bay:

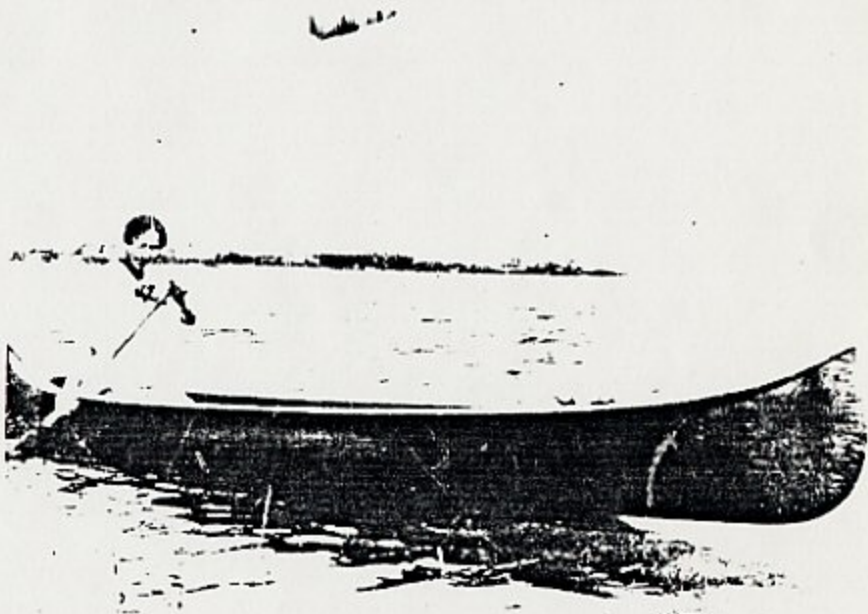
"The Bar"

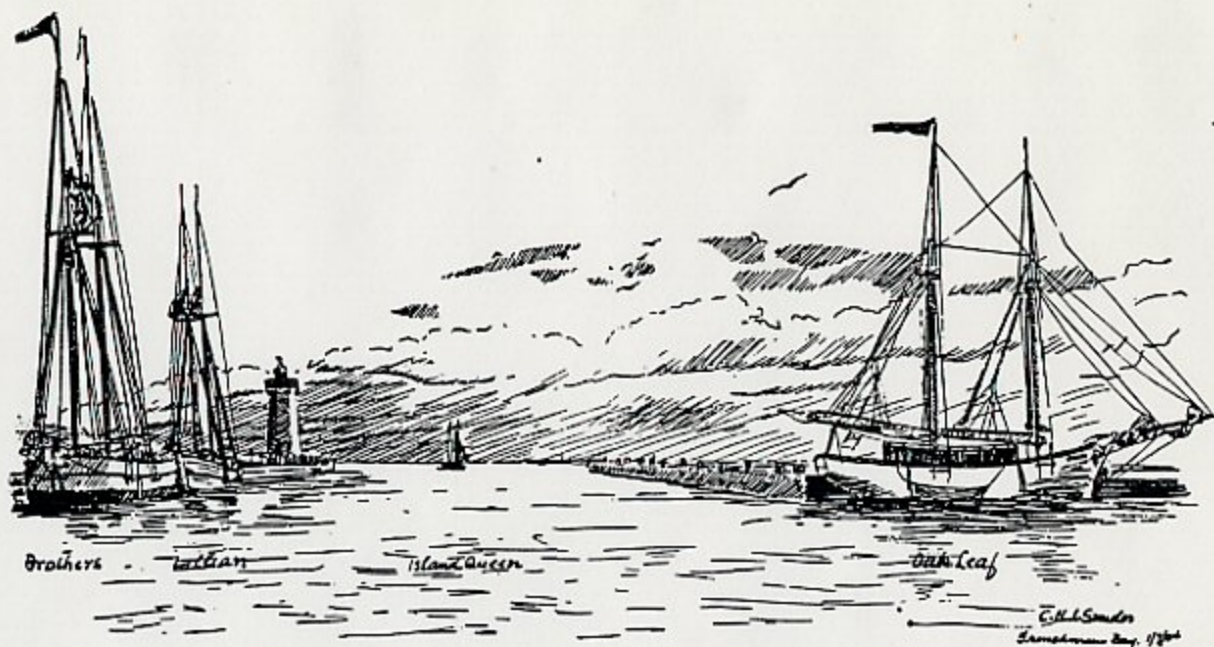


Front St. taken from
The Bay.



Mother in her canoe
in 1909.





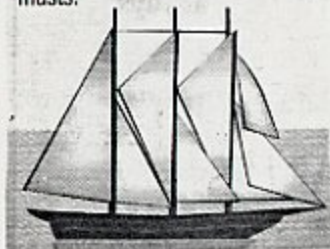
The piers at Frenchman's Bay after the light tower had been straightened up and the stilts and props supporting it had been removed.

The "Brothers", "Lillian" and "Island Queen" were stonehookers. The "Oak Leaf" was a little yacht, originally a converted fishboat.

The difference a mast makes

Schooner

A vessel with two or more masts carrying fore and aft sails on all masts.



Brig

A square-rigged, two-masted vessel.



Barkentine

A three- or four-masted vessel with square sails on the foremast and fore and aft sails on the mizzenmasts.



Brigantine

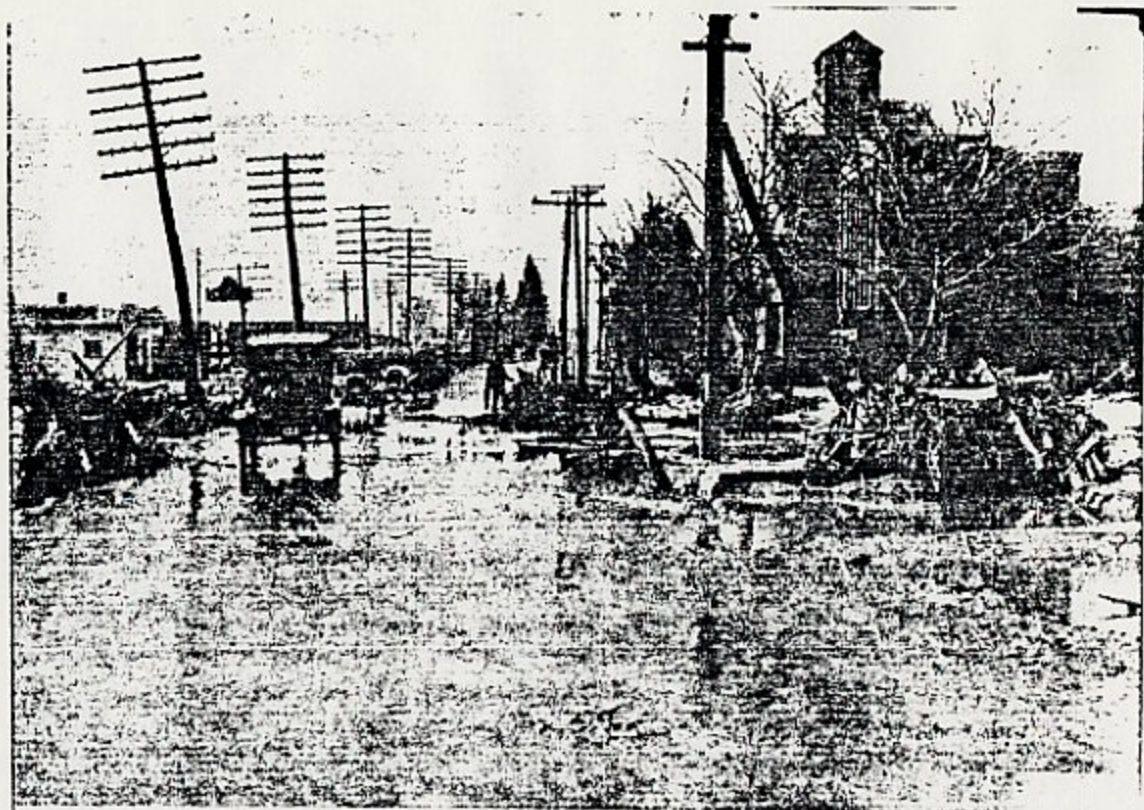
A two-masted vessel with square sails on the foremast and fore and aft sails on the mizzenmasts.



Full-rigged ship

A three-masted ship with square sails on all masts.

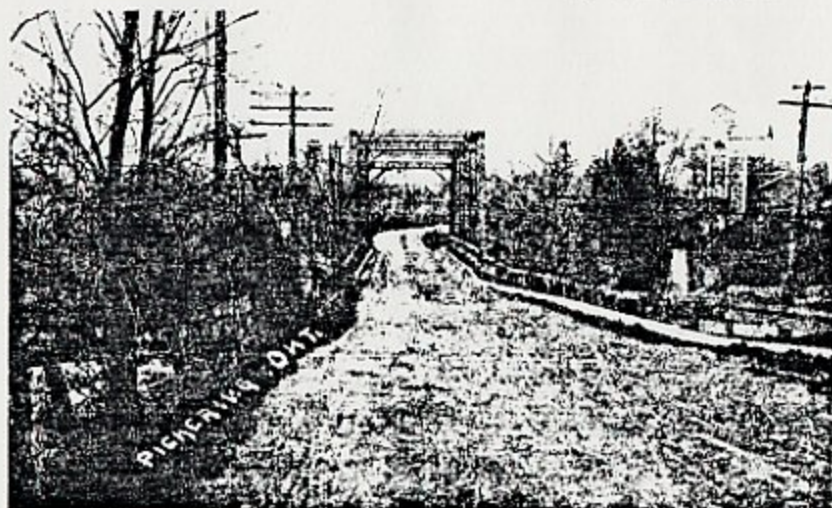




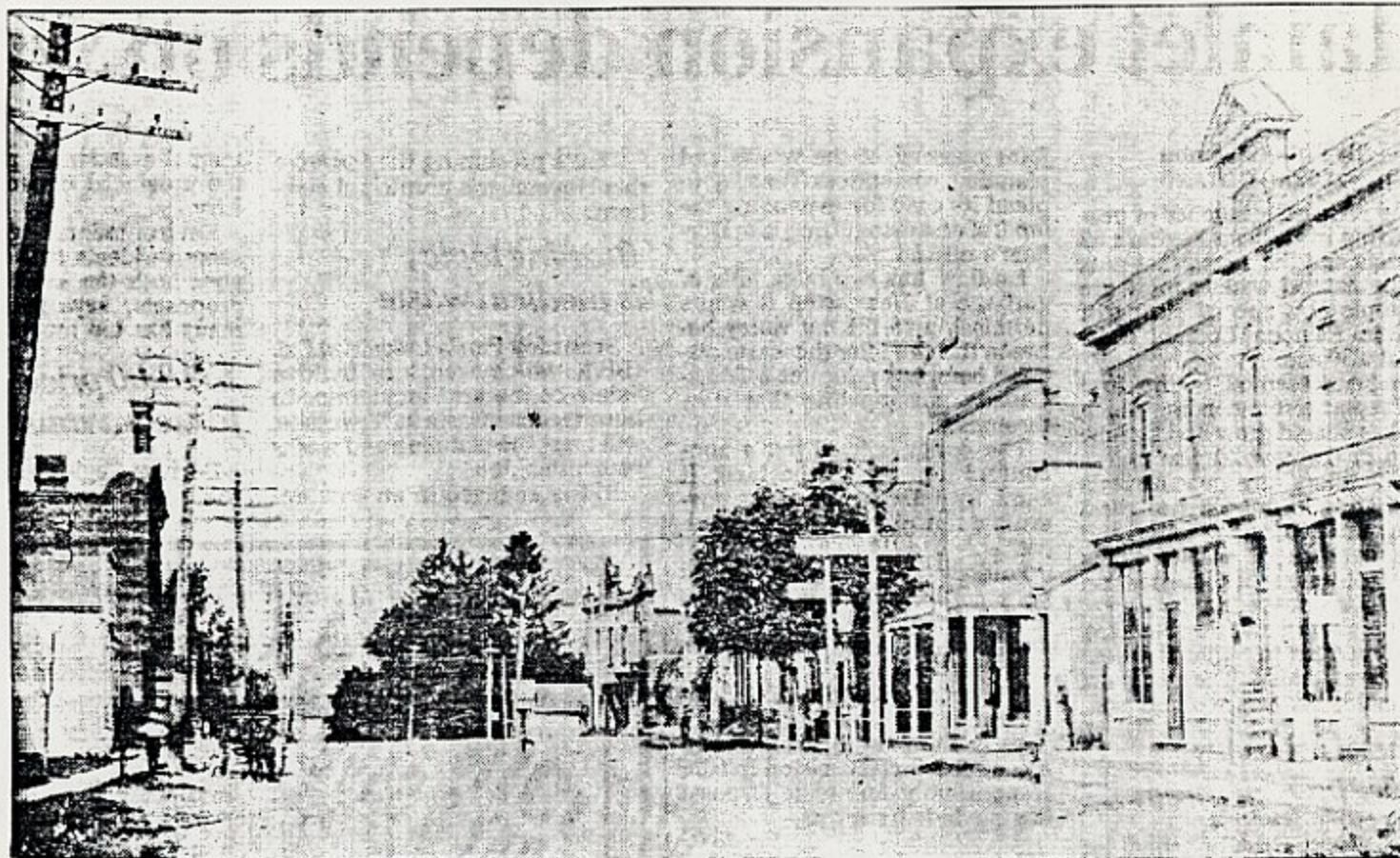
THE ANNUAL FLOOD

Above courtesy of Harry Schoon.

Picture taken 1929.



OLD KINGSTON ROAD BRIDGE — 1912 SHOWING THE SPINK MILLS AND ELEVATOR
IN THE RIGHT BACKGROUND AND THE TAIL RACE RIGHT CENTRE



Old Kingston Road
circa 1910
Village of Pickering.

Courtesy of Harry Schoon.



*Amidon Road
Pickering Village*

The first issue of the Pickering News was printed
November 9th, 1881.



Hand-drawn

*Kingston Road
Pickering Village*

Kingston Road West
Pickering Village, Ontario
built circa 1889.

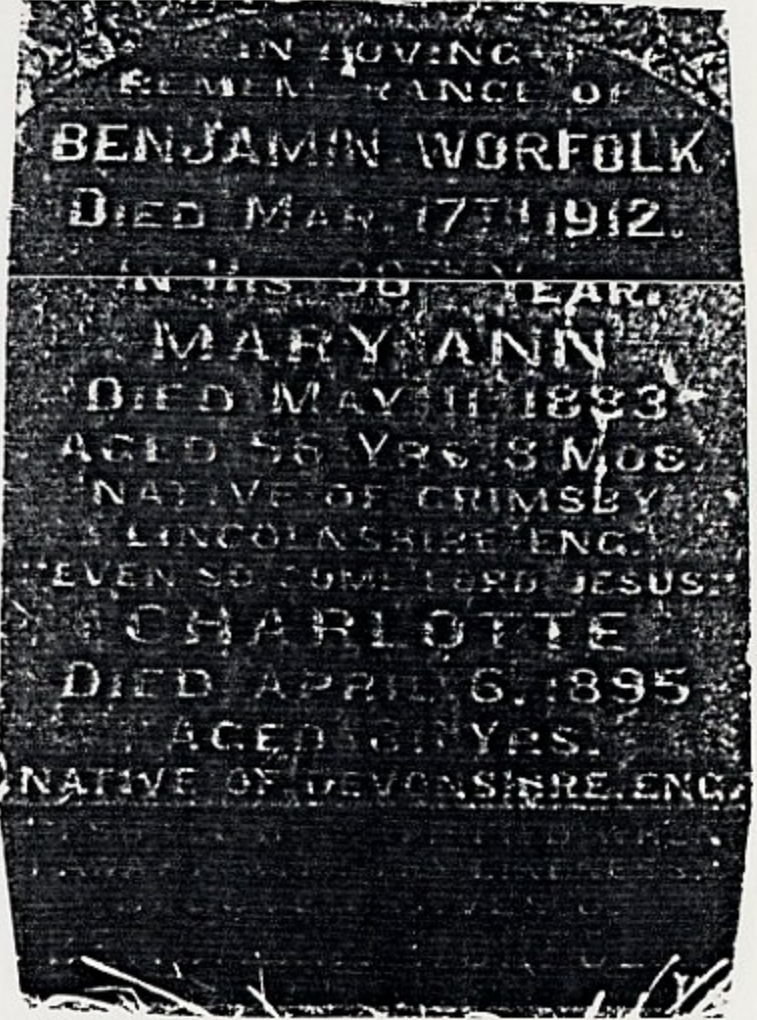
Courtesy of Mrs. H. Fenton.



Benjamin Worfolk
1822-1912

St. John's Cemetery

Whitby



IN MOVING
REMEMBRANCE OF
BENJAMIN WOLFOLK
DIED MAR. 17TH 1912.

IN HIS 90TH YEAR
MARY ANN
DIED MAY 11 1883
AGED 56 YRS 3 MOS
NATIVE OF GRIMSBY
LINCOLNSHIRE ENG.
EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS

CHARLOTTE
DIED APRIL 6. 1895
AGED 61 YRS.
NATIVE OF DEVONSHIRE ENG.

BENJAMIN WORFOLK (1822 - 1912)

Benjamin Worfolk (my great grandfather) was born in Yorkshire, England, August 31, 1822. He came to Canada in 1856, settling in Whitby.

Benjamin and his wife, Mary Ann, had eleven children. They were: Sarah (my grandmother), Elizabeth, Julia and William; born in Lincolnshire. Mary Ann, Amy, Joseph, James, Martha, Frances, and Alice were born in Whitby.

He first engaged in sailing, then worked for a number of years as engine driver, when Chester Draper was harbor master. He also helped to build the piers at Whitby harbor. He was a county constable for some time. He was also a contractor for moving buildings - and did so up to his 80th year. In politics he was a Liberal, and in religion, belonged to the Brethern.

Benjamin was a tall, well-built man, and his stalwart form was a familiar sight on the streets of the Town as he took his daily walk - his last, a week before his death on Sunday, March 17, 1912, age 90.

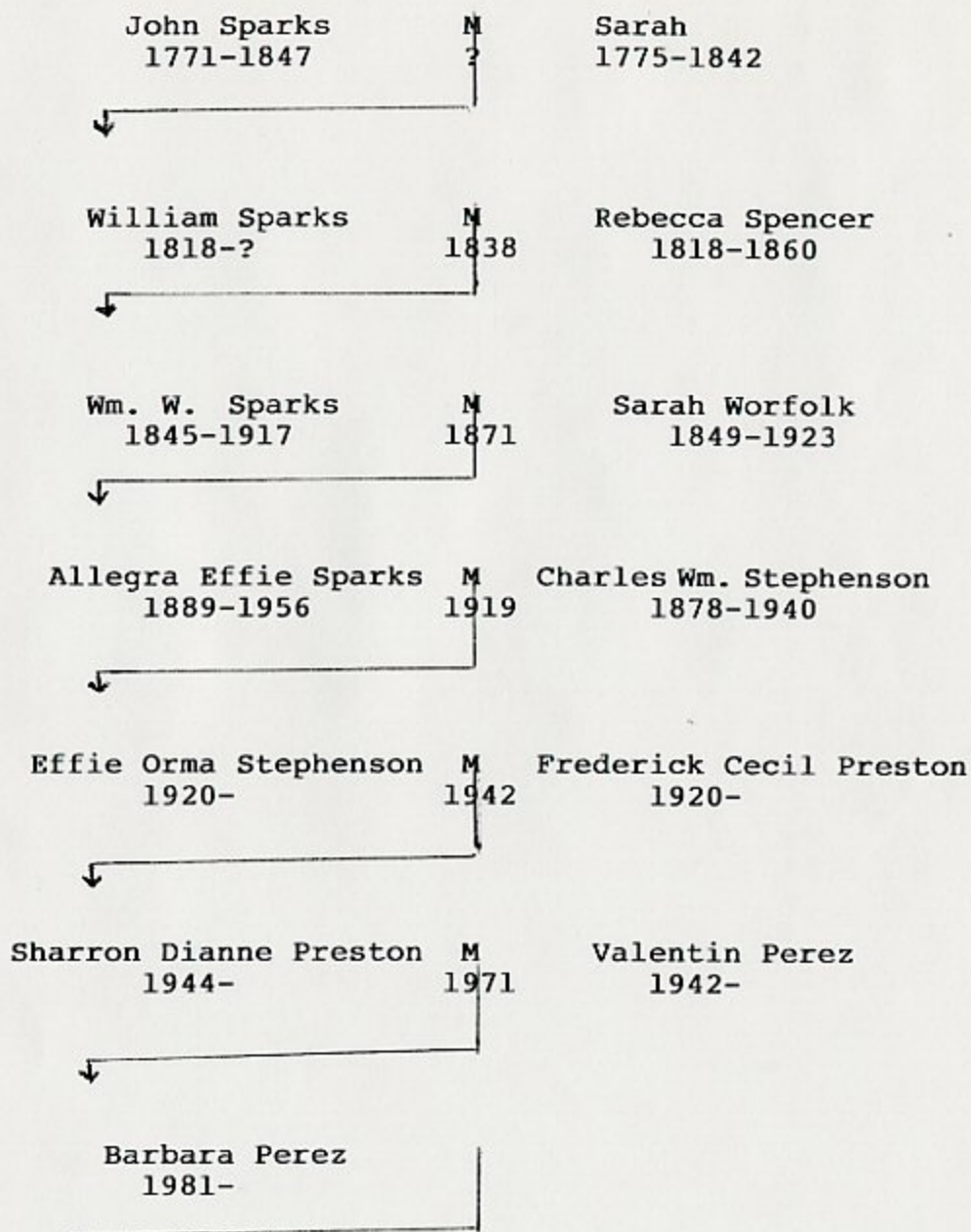
Mary Ann, nee Robinson (my great grandmother) was born in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, in 1827. She married Benjamin circa 1847 - she died May 11, 1883. Both are buried in St. John's Cemetery, Whitby.

Of his children:

Elizabeth married Wm. Edwards of Pickering. Wm. was one of the men employed in the dredging of the channel at Frenchman's Bay from 1843-45. He was 20 yrs. old at the time.

Alice married John Bowsher, a farmer, and lived in Brantford. I have fond memories of visits there each summer, with my parents and sister.

Amy married James Henry Sparks, a younger brother of my grandfather, William Walter. The marriage took place at her parents home in Whitby, November 14, 1881. Rev. J. H. Starr officiated. They settled in British Columbia.



Christmas Eve '93



Fred and I

grand daughter
Barbara



daughter Sharron

Areas of ResearchArchives of Ontario

Probate court records: land grants, fiat, heir & devisee document, coroner's report (Duncan Lamont), loan agreement (between John Sparks & Duncan Lamont), letter from Charles Fothergill to Mayor Sullivan of Toronto.

Church of Latter Day Saints Family Center Utah

First Garrison Battalion military extract - re John Sparks, Parish records for Oxfordshire, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire & Scotland.

Census for 1851-1901

Pickering, Toronto, Nottawasaga, and 1842 heads of household for Toronto

Cemetery Records

Pickering & Whitby, Ontario Genealogical Society, Oshawa/Whitby Branch.

Marine Museum

Toronto - John Summers, Ass. Curator

Registry Offices

for Pickering, Chatham Dover East (documents of land transactions).

Robertsons Landmarks of Toronto

Bio of Capt. James Sparks, and 1834 assessment.

Marriages of John Sparks' Children

courtesy of Wm. Britnell, O.G.S., Toronto

Sir Wilfred Laurier University

Schooner Days on the Great Lakes by C.H.J. Snider.

Family Bible of Wm. W. SparksOshawa Public Library, reference dept.

Toronto of Old by Henry Scadding, History of County of Ontario 1615-1875 by Leo A. Johnson, Dictionary of Canadian Biography printed by University of Toronto Press, As All Our Fathers Were, by Presbyterian Church - Whitby.

Areas of Research (continued)A Special Thank You to:

Mrs. D. Macdonald, Ottawa (Fothergill family tree & history)
Dave O'Brien, Pickering, historian
Harry Schoon, Whitby/Oshawa branch, O.G.S.
R. W. Bro. Terence Shand, Chairman, The Ontario Mason Committee
Brian Winter, Whitby, historian

Contributions from Family Members:

Ivan Fuller, Kelowna, B. C.
Ruth Rheinhardt, Whitby
Adelaide Sparks, Toronto
Arthur Sparks, Battersea, Ontario
Ruth Sparks, Wynyard, Sask.

