

## ENJOY A VISIT TO THE LOG CABIN

Living in the past for 103 Sundays since Canada's Centennial year, has given Hugh and Coral Clark an experience that is not gained by the average couple.

Their experience will continue to grow as they open the doors of the log house to visitors and friends wishing to make a journey back in time with them.

Since they first opened the doors in October, 1966, 14,000 interested people have signed their names to the register. The log house is situated on the Indian Town Line Road between Nelles Corners and Hagersville.

"The house was started as a family project for Canada's Centennial year," said Mr.

Clark. "We tried to keep everything in the house in working condition and at least 100 years old."

"It was our aim in the first place to have all the items working so that a person could move right in and live," he said.

At the present time the house has 1,100 items listed and catalogued.

Mr. Clark explained that it does not include each fork as an individual item but the set as one item.

"One reason why you don't think there's so much is because it is put away as if you were living there, where it would be kept," Coral said.

"They come in here just like they were coming to visit a

friend or neighbour," said Coral. "It isn't like a museum."

"We tried to keep the homey feeling; we'd tell people entering to come in, sit down, have a cup of coffee," Hugh said.

Maybe we'd sing a bit or play the piano or organ and have a great time, he said.

The most we have ever had registered in one day was in the Centennial year, Mr. Clark pointed out.

"We unlocked the door at noon; by dark that night 780 people had signed the register. If you can imagine that many people with some trying to take pictures."

"The total day was a loss for us to try and explain things; we just had to stand back and watch," he said.

Since the time the log house has been opened, nothing has been lost or has gone missing, Mr. Clark said.

"There's several glass items on tables; you would think sometime someone would accidentally knock one off," he said. "We hold our breath sometimes though."

"It's not uncommon for people to drive out from Toronto who are genuinely interested; they just don't happen along," said Mr. Clark.

It's quite interesting to us how very few signatures come from west of Jarvis.

Mr. Clark attributes that to



Hugh Clark cocks the trigger of an old flint lock, while his wife, Coral, writes a message on a slate. Articles in the log house have been situated as early settlers would have used them.

the foreign element that is there, who are not interested in Canada's heritage.

Most of our visitors come from the Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton, Stratford, and Toronto.

"One time we had a couple and son from Germany and had to talk through an interpreter," Mr. Clark said.

"We thought by this time we would have been using it as a playhouse, and it would have played out by now," he said.

**School Tours**

"The education schools have given us is something else," laughs Hugh. "Coral one time had 160 children when she was alone; they're pretty hard to handle sometimes."

Late last fall two buses from Niagara College pulled in; they only left themselves about 30 minutes to see everything. You



Hugh Clark and his family of R.R.2, Hagersville, built this log house as a centennial year project. Over 14,000 visitors have passed through the doors and it still continues to attract visitors interested in Canada's heritage.

couldn't begin to see it in 30 minutes; if you are genuinely interested in all or any of the house and contents, it will take at least three hours."

"We purposely put things away as would have used them, because if we had put them on display, it would have been like a museum," Mr. Clark said.

"It's interesting the schools that come, how well mannered and behaved some come and how wild others run," he said.

When some schools left, we came in the house and said that we'd just have to quit. Just when we were ready to give up another class would come along, and we just couldn't turn them down," Hugh said.

Sometimes we wouldn't think children got the meaning of these things, but we realized they did when we got their letters. He said, "We literally have hundreds and hundreds of them."

Mr. Clark attributes the log house as having helped school children understand early day life in Canada, and the hardships involved.

Again a lot depends on the teachers. We've had some teachers so interested they've forgotten they even had a class. They questioned us to no end for their own benefit, and the children didn't get anything out of it, Hugh explained.

**Youth and Heritage**

Sitting over a cup of coffee in the kitchen of their modern two-storey house, Hugh and Coral agreed the youth of today were getting back to the essentials of life.

"In my generation, youths couldn't have cared less about heritage; now we're far enough advanced that my

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This treasured old photo shows Allen McIntosh, son of John McIntosh, discoverer of the apple bearing his name, standing beside the original

## World Famed Apple Had Its Origin Near St. Lawrence

The famous McIntosh apple originated at Dundela, Ontario, beside the St. Lawrence River. Pomologists have in the past honoured the site of the tree from which all McIntoshes are descendants; with the advent of the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway project they have been wondering what would be the fate of the land where the lusty forebear of Canada's most popular apple grew.

Their fears have been quietened by the assurance that the site of the original tree, marked by a granite stone, will not be inundated. But the graveyard where John McIntosh, discoverer of the apple, lies buried, may be affected, so his tombstone is to be removed to the historical park where memories of submerged landmarks are to be preserved. This tombstone bears an inscription recalling John McIntosh's connection with the apple which perpetuates his name.

It is almost 100 years since the McIntosh apple was originated at Dundela, and in the intervening century this variety has won world-wide acclaim as both an eating and cooking apple. By far the greater number of apples sold on Canadian markets are McIntosh, whose trees are all direct descendants of the Dundela tree.



The tombstone of John McIntosh in St. John's cemetery, which is to be removed to the new historical park planned in connection with the St. Lawrence seaway development, records his achievement.

nt kneeling  
angel smuck  
garet Church  
s a. Miller  
son R. Bailey  
Bartlett  
Elizabeth Church  
d. Bartlett.

St. Porter.

## WALPOLE TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK MENTIONED ON RADIO



REV. KENNETH N. BRUETON, THE AUTHOR

During 1967 the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been running a series of programmes called "Centennial Diary" which comes over the radio (CBL) three times a week. Last Monday evening one of the projects mentioned was the Walpole Township Centennial History. The speaker gave a very favorable review of the book and described it as a worthwhile project for this Centenary year. He was particularly struck by the account of the pioneers and their difficulties and quoted from the book the description of the interior of a log cabin.