



AT JARVIS INSTITUTE—Picture of the grandmothers who were present at the grandmothers' meeting of the Jarvis W.I. held at the home of Mrs. Eben Gowan recently. From left to right, back row, they are: Mrs. Eben Gowan, Mrs. Charles Walter, Mrs. Robert H. Miller, Mrs. George Mitchell, Mrs. Arthur Belbeck, Mrs. Leighton B. Holmes and Mrs. John Slater. Front row: Mrs. Robert Horne, Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Mrs. Sarah Hewson, Mrs. Rebecca Rodgers and Mrs. Richard Walter.

August 1939.



JARVIS GIRLS' CLUB—Above are members of the Merry Maidens' club, sponsored by the Jarvis Women's Institute. The are, back row, from left: Lois Leathong, Betty Janett, Mrs. N. Ryder, assistant leader; Miss Beryl Roulston, leader; Jess Leatherdale, Audrey Reynolds and Doreen Stire. Middle row: Alma Fleming, Gloria Duxbury, Helen Marr, Dorothy Dossor, Ruby Dossor, Barbara Stallwood and Marguerite Montague. Front row: Isabel Peacock, Catherine Creswell, Ethel Cassidy, Mae Burditt, Mildred Belbeck and Jean Atkinson.

1942.

Jan

1954 * THE McNEILL FAMILY * 1954



One hundred and seven years ago the father of the five children shown above, arrived in this country from Ireland and settled with his parents just west of Jarvis. Today the above five members of his family are residing together in Jarvis. Their combined ages total 389 years, or an average of 78. They are, seated in the front row, Mary Jane (Meikle) McNeill, Miss Annie McNeill; Back row, left to right, Neal McNeill, Robert McNeill and Thomas McNeill.

5 Members Of Pioneer Family Residing Together In Jarvis

The combined ages of the surviving members of the family total 553 years, for an average of 79.

It is unusual to find five members of a family living together in the later years of their lives, as the McNeills are doing. Robert and Annie remained on the farm as the others sought their fortunes in other fields. They retired, however, in 1919 and moved to Jarvis. Robert became associated with the late E. T. Carter in the hardware business in 1922 and has been associated with the same store, under different ownership, ever since.

Thomas was associated with the Firm of Borden-Gillies Ltd. in Hamilton in his earlier years and later farmed just east of Jarvis. He sold his farm in 1941 and after living for a couple of years in Port Credit, came back to Jarvis to make his home with Robert and Annie.

Neal McNeill sought his fortune in Western Canada but he retired in 1952 and turned east. He has since made his home with the other members of the family here.

Mary Jane (Minnie) Meikle started a teaching career in 1899. Following her marriage she lived in New York and later in Toronto. Her husband passed away last year and she is now making her home in Jarvis.

The roots of the McNeill family go deep into the life of this community and it can be truly said that no family is held in higher esteem by everyone in the community. They are individually possessed of a kindly spirit and their thoughtful acts toward others have been felt in many local homes. Annie McNeill lost her sight two years ago, but it hasn't darkened her spirit. She is thankful to have her three brothers and sister with her to ease the burden which would otherwise be hers.

We salute the McNeill family and wish for them many years of happiness together.

Times have changed since Neal McNeill boarded ship in Ireland, in 1847, to come to Canada. He was a young lad of but eleven years at that time, and, no doubt, greatly thrilled at the prospect of the experiences ahead of him. The sailing ship that brought Neal McNeill to Canada with his father and mother took thirteen weeks to cross the Atlantic and, in addition, the ship ran out of provisions before the voyage was completed.

The family settled on the Talbot Road (the present Arnold McDonald farm, two miles west of Jarvis) when the area was a wilderness. Despite the hardships the homestead was developed and in due course Neal McNeill took a bride (the former Mary Jane Abraham) and they carried on after the retirement of his parents.

Neal McNeill and Mary Jane Abraham had nine children, seven of whom are still living. Ellen McNeill passed away in 1917 and Rachel (Mrs. R. A. Nixon) died in 1943. Of the seven still living: Robert, 86, Annie, 82, Thomas, 77, Mary Jane (Mrs. Meikle), 74 and Neal, 70, are living together in Jarvis. Joseph, 84, is a resident of Florida and John, 80, lives in Calgary.

Robert McNeill Marks 90th Birthday

Next Tuesday, Nov. 5th, will mark Robert McNeill's ninetieth birthday and we want to be the first to congratulate him.

After a prolonged sickness earlier this year his many friends are more than happy to see him out every day keeping things trim around his Talbot Street home.

Through his kindly characteristics Bob McNeill has long since earned the reputation of being just about the best citizen of which this village and community can boast. Every kind wish goes out to him as he marks this birthday occasion.

Was 86 On Tuesday 1954

(Simcoe Reformer)

Emerson Miller of Varence, near Jarvis, celebrated his 86th birthday on Tuesday, July 19th.

He was born at Varence and has lived there his entire 86 years. No event has taken place in that district during his time which he cannot recall with a vivid memory. He can remember the disastrous fire which wiped out Jarvis in 1874, although he was no nearer to it than a hilltop at the Varence homestead on that fateful anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday 82 years ago.

As he was born on his father's farm just one mile east of where he lives in Haldimand County and his own farm is in Woodhouse Township, he claims to belong to both Norfolk and Haldimand Counties. He is a man of a buoyant cheerful disposition and has spread a lot of laughter and sunshine around, for which he has earned the warm friendship of many men and women of all ages in the two counties which covet the right to claim him.

His family consists of three sons living, Ralph at home, Bruce, who farms nearby, and R. St. Clair of London, Ontario; and two daughters, Mrs. Clarence Hayes, (Kathleen) at home and Mary on the staff of the Bell Telephone exchange in Simcoe. There were two other sons, Sergeant Pilot James E. Miller was killed while on active service with the Royal Air Force over Europe in 1940. George passed away in January, 1952. Mr. Miller's wife, the former Catharine Parkinson, died in 1942.

Among the many activities of a busy lifetime, he prizes his membership in the Masonic Lodge. He has his fifty-year jewel in King Solomon Lodge, Jarvis, having joined the fraternity here in May, 1903. He was Worshipful Master in 1908. One of his most interesting Masonic memories is that of attending the centennial of Norfolk Masonry at Simcoe in 1904.

He is also an ardent admirer of Scottish poems, as well as being gifted with the talent to recite them, some of his favorites being "Tam O'Shanter" and "Immortal Memory."

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