

JOHN CARSON enlisted in Her Majesty's 56th Regiment of Foot, June 6, 1824, at Longford, Ireland. From the first he determined to keep a detailed account of the miles marched, the names of various towns through which they travelled, and the ships in which they sailed "with all other remarkable occurrences". He notes that drill did not agree with him, and that he was more turned against service when he was brought to witness the courtmartial of two regimental men, each of whom received 100 lashes on his bare back. The regiment moved about the country until Nov. 4, 1829, when they embarked on board the William Harris, a transport ship rated to carry 350 tons, for the West Indies, headquarters Barbadoes.

His account of the voyage shows a difficult time, to quote "Now all was getting silent, seasickness and things of more importance began to prey on the minds of the soldiers, while they thought of friends dear to remembrance, it soon caused the tears of affection to flow from the eyes". He describes life in the West Indies as he served on St. Vincent and Granada. There was abundance of fruit, but conditions unhealthy because of bowel complaints being prevalent, but Granada was "best for rum".

It is not clear just when he married, but when orders came for British North America, he says "my wife being near her downlying, she took sick in the barracks, and he was advised to get her on board if possible".

Forbidden by superiors to leave the barracks, he found a comrade's wife who helped get her safely down the hill (a full mile) and on board. He was put under arrest and given the task of having every woman belonging to the regiment on board within 10 minutes or face additional charges.

The ship set sail Dec. 25, 1837, and, after enduring storm and seasickness, they arrived in Halifax January 2, 1838. Immediately they embarked for Fredericton, where general orders to proceed to Quebec were awaiting. The women were allowed to accompany their men by leaving the heavy baggage behind. After a weary journey by steamer and sledge, the regiment arrived in Montreal, Dec. 2, 1838, to meet orders to proceed to Kingston, Upper Canada, at once by sleigh. A halt was made at Cornwall for refreshments, and at a "small town called PRESCOTT where there had been a smart scrimmage on Nov. 14th." Upwards of 100 prisoners taken there were conveyed to the military fort at Kingston where the 56th spent the winter in barracks.

June 19, 1839, a detachment embarked for Prescott, Sgt. Carson the first sergent that took over the barracks on June 20, 1839, the fort not yet completely finished. He remained there until May 1840, when the 56th was relieved by an equal number of militia, and the regiment left for Quebec, transhipped to H.M.S. Sapphite, arriving in Portsmouth harbour July 2, 1840. Carson was discharged in Dublin after 21 years and 53 days in service, most of it as a non-commissioned officer. His pension was 1 shilling and 10 pence daily.

At once he arranged passage to British North America by way of New York, and after another stormy, perilous crossing, arrived in America. The same day they took passage for Oswego, transhipped at Albany on the canal line, then again at Syracuse on another line of canal boats to Oswego, where they came by lake steamers. From there to Prescott is 138 miles, deck passage was 10 shillings each, and they reached their destination, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1845.

On May 2, 1840, Carson had purchased from Frederick Belfay, 139 acres lot 15, Concession 4, Augusta, for £100, and there he removed to begin a new life on the farm. In 1852, he was able to purchase an additional 80 acres from Amos Nettleton, Sr., and this became the main homestead.

His family consisted of Jane, Martha, Eliza, Abram and George John Carson. The latter married Mahala Alder and farmed the homestead, rearing their family, active in all phases of community and church life in the Maynard-Charleville area.

Egbert John Carson was born at Charleville, Jan. 13, 1879. He was favoured with godly parents, and a model Christian home. At the age of 11 years, during the pastorate of Rev. G. S. White, he united with the church.

Leaving public school at twelve years of age, he attended Prescott High School, then Ottawa Collegiate. In both he was noted for his studious habits, his more than average ability, and his manliness of character. He won many medals for his work, including the medal given by the Governor-General for proficiency in Latin and Greek. At the closing of the Institute, he gave the valedictory address in Latin, which was regarded as of such excellence that Dr. Thoburn, a former principal, requested a copy.

After leaving Ottawa, he attended Victoria University, Toronto, winning high honours in political science and graduating with first class honours and the silver medal. From Toronto, he proceeded to Winnipeg, and entered a law firm for the purpose of fitting himself for the legal profession. Meanwhile the conviction that he ought to preach the gospel was taking a strong hold on his heart. One night, unable to sleep because of the struggle going on within himself, he arose, made his way to the bridge that spanned the Red River, and heard these words: "WHOSO HATH THIS WORLD'S GOOD, AND SEETH HIS BROTHER HAVE NEED, AND SHUTTETH UP HIS BOWELS OF COMPASSION FROM HIM, HOW DWELLETH THE LOVE OF GOD IN HIM?" and then, "FOLLOW THOU ME". Then kneeling in the silent midnight hour, he consecrated himself to the Christian ministry and the foreign field.

He immediately entered Wesley College for the study of theology, and was appointed by the Missionary Board to work in West China. Having married Miss Florence Dunfield, also a student of Wesley, on the eve of their departure for Chengtu in November 1906, they were tendered a reception by the professors and students and an address with a purse of \$60 in gold.

His career in China was one of brilliant achievements, his rapid acquisition of the language, together with his splendid abilities, secured for him prominent positions in the university middle school, and theological school in Chengtu. He was given the responsible position of secretary and registrar for the Educational Union of West China.

In January before his death, he was chosen to supervise the evangelistic work in Chungking and adjoining vicinity, after much prayer and voting by ballot. Letters from him following this new appointment tell of his travels in the country, his cordial reception by the people, and his preaching among them.

On June 14, 1910 he died in Chungking of typhus fever. On June 26, a fitting memorial service was held in the church of his childhood, with a very large audience gathered to pay him tribute. Rev. Dr. Service, a co-worker of Mr. Carson in West China, was present, and paid a glowing tribute to his deep religiousness, his untiring energy, his sound judgement, his keen perception, and other qualities that fitted him for that work to which he had given his life.

He was survived by his wife, and two sons, Egbert and Marvin.

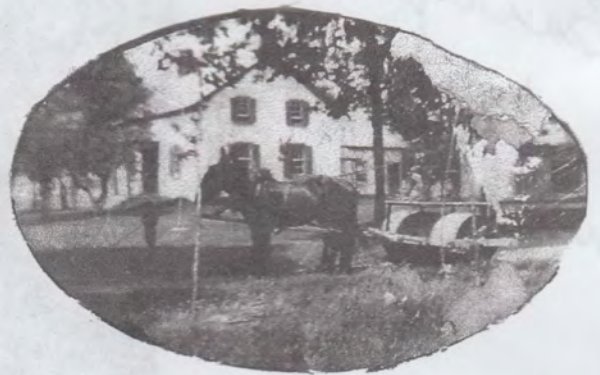
- from a longer account in
The Guardian, written by
Rev. Joseph Pinel.



John & Mahala Carson



Oscar & May Carson



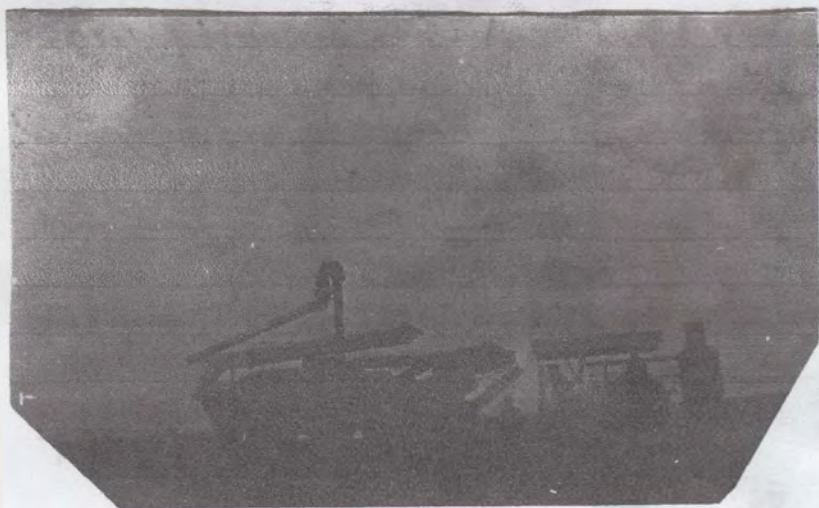
- proudly wearing
Sgt. Carson's jacket



- thanks to



Early
days
on the farm



The Carson Farm 1850-1943

Lot 12 - 4th Concession Augusta Township

This land was taken from the Crown by Amos Nettleton the Elder, who sold it to Sergeant John Carson. The Nettletons moved to Illinois W. & A. Sergeant John Carson 1806-1883 of Longford Co.

Ireland served with the British militia at Fort Wellington in 1838 and had charge of the prisoners when taken to Fort Henry at Kingston. When discharged from the army he brought his family from Ireland to settle in Augusta Township. His first home was some where along the Nation Creek.

He built the white stuccoed stone house about 1857. The stone mason was a Mr Street who also did the stone work on the Victoria Church built in 1859. Later his son Rev. Richard Street became the minister there in 1916.

A small frame house was built across the drive way from the stone house. Frank Scott supplied the material and built the house for \$150. Sergeant John Carson his wife lived here after his son George John Carson married Mahala Alder in 1874. This frame house was later moved to the side road and used for a hired

2. man's house. With some additions it is at present (1967) the home of Arian Corillo.

John McLean of Algonquin was the carpenter when the big barns were built in 1895.

Oscar L Carson took over the farm in 1915, selling to Reid Johnston after the barns were destroyed by fire when threshing in Sept 1942.

Since then the farm land has been divided and the property changed hand several times.

May E. Carson

CARSON GENEALOGY

SERGEANT JOHN CARSON, and his wife, ELIZA: (Eliza died July 22, 1879, aged 66 yr)

Their family:

1. ANN, born at sea, died Jan. 29, 1857, aged 19 years, Maynard Cemetery.
2. JOHN
and
3. ABRAHAM JAMES, both died in Ireland of diphtheria.
John about 2 years old and Abraham 6 months.
4. JANE, born Ireland. Married Mr. Henry and lived in Domville area.
5. ELIZA, born Canada. Married Mr. Russell, Bishops' Mills.
6. MARTHA, married Mr. Coughlin, lived in Wexford area. One of her daughters was Theresa Kingston whose children were George, Paul, Edna, Dorothy, Edgar, Arnold and Lawrence.
7. GEORGE JOHN, born April 17, 1850, died March 15, 1920.
married Mahala Alder, lived Augusta
8. FRANCES SUSAN, died Nov. 18, 1887, aged 6 yr. 6 mo., Maynard Cemetery.
9. ABRAM, born at sea, became the husband of Sarah
and father of Bertha Carson.
Sarah was Matron of the Rest Room in the Town Hall, Prescott,
was buried from Will Connell's home.

G. JOHN CARSON and his wife, MAHALA ALDER, (1851-1937)

Their family:

1. GEORGE married Ethel Robinson, (1876-1976)
their children were 4 - Arnold, Arlene, Evangeline, Edith
2. ALDER ERNEST b. Dec. 4, 1876-died Aug. 9, 1948
married Eva Hough (1888-1980) no issue
3. EGBERT JOHN b Jan 13, 1879, died June 4, 1910)
married Florence Dunfield, both were missionaries in China
2 sons, Egbert a Judge in London, Ont.
Marvin a United Church minister
4. ETHEL MAHALA, born Oct. 9, 1880, died Aug. 23, 1935
married William J. Connell - children - Myrtle, Egbert,
Ernest, Dora Martha
5. BLANCHE PHOEBE, born July 6, 1886. died Mar 14, 1971
6. OSCAR LORNE, born Dec. 29, 1884, died Mar 11, 1960
married May E. Bishop no issue