

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF  
WILLIAM SMITHERS  
1819 - 1891

● BY  
**OSCAR SMITHERS**  
1874-1968

This paper was begun in 1934 with additions at various times through 1951.  
The author was the first cousin of James Edward Patching (1880-1956) and  
Walter Patching (1890-1977). William Smithers was their maternal grandfather.

McGillivray Township which lies in the northwest corner of Middlesex County, Ontario was settled the early part of the last century. Among the first to settle was grandfather William Smithers. He moved his family and effects with oxen from Oshawa, Ontario where he first settled. He was born in Sussex, England and lived on the sea-coast, and his early life was among the fishermen. With several brothers he came to Canada in the early 30's. I have a faint recollection of his saying there were five brothers, two besides himself there is record of. Charles who settled near Woodbridge, Ontario and John near Seaforth, Ontario. The other two so far as I know were never heard from.

In this feeble attempt to set down the events of his life and the others of the family I will have to depend on memory only and as this comes to the others, especially the older members, I am depending and hoping they will add to or make corrections they see fit.

Grandfather first settled on the 12th concession of McGillivray but later moved to the 17th or as it was more commonly known as the 16th, clearing the farm from the bush as did all the early settlers.

He married Elizabeth Cook at or near Oshawa, Ontario and the four older children were born there. Grandmother was of a Pennsylvania Dutch family and one of seven sisters. Several of whom afterwards moved to McGillivray or the adjoining counties. But Aunt Sarah Towle as we all called her was the only one of them I can remember clearly. She and Uncle George lived on the Stephen town line near Corbett. I can recollect many visits back and forth between the two families. As a small boy I recall a trip to Uncle George's in the old long sleigh which Grandfather always used. It had a deep box with a high back seat at the back end where he and Grandmother always sat. The box was filled with clean straw (usually pea straw hand thrashed with a flail) the rest piled in on the straw and Georgie as we always called him sat on a seat in front and drove. On this particular trip the snow was drifted in places so that we had to take through fields and on turning back on the road Georgie managed to upset the sleigh. Needless to say he was "in bad" as we say now but I can remember the smile on Grandmother's face while the rest were scolding him after we arrived.

Grandfather was of small stature but was always active and while he had no school education he always managed to take care of his trading. If he went to town with a load of grain he knew to the penny what he should get for it. While he could not write he had a system of his own of calculating the cost or price of anything he bought or sold. I can recall father saying that while the rest were figuring up with pencil and paper the price or cost of some article, Grandfather would have the answer as soon or before they were through.

Among the early settlers were the families of Bowser, Penrice, Hogan Greenlee, the Potters and Hodgins. Also John Thompson who lived on a small plot back in on the Greenlee farm. The Johnson farm was next north. Penrice lived across the road and the Bowser family next south. The school still stands on the corner of the side road on the old Penrice farm. I can just remember the night the old school burned. It stood somewhere near the Potter home and when rebuilt was put on the corner.

As a small boy I was always on the lookout for a chance to go to Grandfathers, and for the first two or three winters after I started to school I stayed there and went to school as it was just a short distance, while at home it was nearly a two mile walk to the school on the Hedges side road. As long as I can recall the school - Misses - as

the teacher was called then, boarded there also. One incident I am sure Aunt Lucy will remember caused quite a ruffle. She was one of the older scholars and on this occasion was sitting near the front of the room. I was up in spelling class and to be sure no one got help from anyone else the teacher stood at the back and gave out the words from there. Both Aunt Lucy and I knew the deaf and dumb alphabet so any time I was stuck she spelled the word out for me and of course I was head of the class, but when we got home that night from school the teacher had her say.

Among the odds and ends of the old time utensils I remember a set of candle moulds, a long horn made of zinc or tin which was used when anyone was out in the bush and didn't come in on time. They would blow the horn and such a blast it would give. Grandmother had two highly prized brass or copper preserving kettles and of course the old spinning wheel. Aunt Susan did the spinning as I recall and what a hardship it was to hold a skein of yarn on my hands while Grandmother wound it into balls.

Although handicapped by deafness Grandfather was always interested in current events and the weekly paper had to be read for him on its arrival from the post office every Thursday night. This task usually was done either by Aunt Lucy or Grandmother. While the rest of the family attended the Methodist church he was always a staunch Episcopalian and went to the English Church near Brinsley but in later years he was seldom able to go as Grandmother was badly crippled by rheumatism and had to be helped in and out of the buggy so that in later years they were seldom away. From as early as I can remember there was always the annual family re-union there every Xmas and nearly always there was some of those who had moved to Michigan home also. And what a time us youngsters would have. While there was always candy and nuts we always waited for Grandfather to go down to the cellar and bring up some of his favorite King apples. He was one of the first of the early settlers to set out an orchard and there was always a good supply of apples, lasting some years till well on into late spring or early summer of the next year.

Of the early events of the family I have nothing to go by. I recall father saying that as soon as the older boys grew up they worked out and followed the old English custom of bringing their surplus earnings home. I have in my possession a small Testament Grandmother gave father on his 21st birthday. What schooling the older children got was mostly during the winter months, at the old school near Potters which I have mentioned before. After the farm was cleared Grandfather replaced the original log buildings with substantial frame buildings. I can just remember the old log house. It stood to the south of the new house and I recall one 24th of May that father, Uncle John and Georgie on their return from fishing in Mud Creek stood their fishpoles against the back of the old kitchen. The old log stable stood for years after the new barn was built and was used as such till the family left.

Grandfather was very conservative and would seldom accept new changes until they were well tried out. In the early days all grain was threshed by hand and one of the first essentials was a good threshing floor. Then came the horse power machine. Five or six teams were used and neighbors exchanged work. That is, while the machine was at one farm the adjoining farms sent a team and man. And how I did want to be on the platform on the center of the horsepower with the man who kept the teams going. Each team was hitched to a long sweep or arm, as it was called, which were equally spaced around the power - the teams traveling in a circle. And this for years was the modern way of threshing. Then came the steam engines or steamers as they were called. But for a long time or until the other neighbors had discarded the old power outfits he

finally had the steamer outfit. At first there had been an occasional barn burned - caused by sparks from the steamers but he was always very careful that there was nothing loose in the way of scattered straw or rubbish in front of the barn and was always on edge till the machine moved out.

I have no recollection when he first bought a buggy as I can always remember him driving one but he would have nothing to do with a cutter. The old long sleigh was his one and only way of travel in winter, and we could always tell it as far as we could see it coming. And what an event it was for he and Grandmother to come. There was always apples or some treat for us youngsters and if Grandfather was to town, Parkhill, he always came by our place even if the roads were not as good as by Lieury. And needless to say there was always a bag of candy or sometimes an orange which in those days was a real treat.

I wish I could recall the many stories he told of his home and early days in England. I can remember him showing me how to make a needle or shuttle used in making a seine or fish net. I do remember him telling of being shipwrecked on a fishing boat and the exposure was the cause of his deafness. Another story he told was that while living at Oshawa a lady at whose home he was delivering wood had a sick dog and she asked him if he could cure him. Well, Grandfather looked the dog over and said he thought he could. He took the dog home with him and kept it tied up for a few days and gave it little or nothing to eat. It seemed that the main trouble was it wouldn't eat. Well, in a week or so he took it back and the cure was complete. That dog ate everything in sight and Grandfather got a dollar which was a lot of money in those days.

Uncle Tom was 2nd eldest of the family and lived on the 18th on the same farm all his life. He was three times married. His first wife was Mary Cassidy. She was the mother of his two boys - John William and Albert - but she died shortly after Albert was born. Some years later he married Louise Ware. She died about 1895 or 6 and his third wife was a Mrs. Mathias a widow who lived on the townline near Parkhill. She had twin daughters who came with her. They were about the same age as Albert. Effie contracted T.B. shortly after they came to Uncle Toms and died a year or so later. John William married Addie the surviving sister about 1902 and lived on the 17th a quarter of a mile north of Grandfather's old place. Albert married Maggie Pollock and lived on the homestead till about ten years ago when he moved to a farm west of Greenway or Boston as it was earlier known. He has one son Ciceil. John William has three children - two boys and a girl.

Uncle Tom died in 1904 and was buried in the old Salem cemetery.

Father was next to Uncle Tom and as a young man worked many years making staves which at that time was one of the main sources of employment. As the oak from which these staves were made soon became scarce at home, he went each fall to Michigan working in the woods all winter and then on the drive on the river the next spring. Each stave was hewn by hand after it was split up from the proper lengths. Square timber hewn from oak was also one of the main export items of those times and a good hewer always was paid the highest wages. The square timber was hewn in the woods and then swamped to a skidway on the bank of a stream and left till the spring freshet when it was floated down to where it could be loaded on cars. Father worked the last four or five winters he went over for Godkin Bros. a firm located at that time in Bay City, Michigan.



Father was married in 1872. Mother's name was Jane Little. Her family lived then on the 18th Con. They were married in Alsia Craig, driving there in a lumber wagon which was then considered quite a luxury. I have an old tintype they had taken that day and it is still in good state. They went directly to their home on the 20th Concession, a farm partly cleared with a new frame barn. My first recollection was of the old log house with the usual log milk house near the back door. I was then about three years old. Mother's Uncle Sam Little was helping father grind an axe in the yard. The well was nearby and had an oak plank for a cover. Uncle Sam had drawn some water to grind the axe and left the cover off. In playing around I fell in. Father heard the splash and on turning around he missed me and raced to the well. The water was about 3 feet from the top. He saw only my toes and reached down and pulled me out. The only thing I remember about it was when father carried me in the house and called mother from up stairs. I can recall the look on her face as she came through the door. The next day father dug a new well near to where he had started to build a new house and had a pump put in, and as soon as it was ready the old well was filled.

The summer following the new house was finished, father built it himself, he had worked at different times building barns and other carpenter work but the new house was the first building he built on his own. It still stands on the old place. I was through it this summer. It was vacant at the time but was being repaired. It has been changed somewhat but is still solid.

As long as I can recall father had a work shop. For a time he used the old house but it was torn down a year or two after we moved into the new home and he then built a shop and drive shed between the barn and the house. He had a fair set of tools for those times and later he made a saw table and got an old horse power to drive it. He also made a turning lathe, but that was run by foot, and how I did hate to have to help pump that. But when I could get the chance I was always ready to turn something myself. About that time hand worked washing machines became quite popular. Father got the pattern of one somewhere and made one for ourselves. Then he got an order or two to make for some friends and from that he started selling them. It was for this that he made the power saw. He also made a few churns but they did not go as well as the washers.

Along about 1880 reaping machines began to be generally used. I recall father swinging the old cradle and my first attempt at helping with the harvest was to rake and bind wheat behind him. But the next year we had an usually heavy crop so he bought a reaper, a Kirby. How well I remember seeing those rakes going round the first time it was used. However, a few years later the self binder came into general use and what a joy that was. No more raking or binding by hand, but by that time our farm had been about all under cultivation and father had all the modern farm implements in use at that time.

There were six children all told in our family. I was the eldest, Walter was next. He died when about two months old, then came, Manda, Laura, Bertha and Laura.

The eldest Laura was killed when she was about five years old. A neighbor was driving past on the road with a land roller tied behind his wagon. His children about her age were at our place at the time. When they saw him go by they started for home and she went with them and they raced to see who would catch the roller first. It was built out of a heavy log with a frame around but no cover. Laura was first to catch up and in attempting to climb on the frame for a ride she was thrown in front of the roller on the hard road but before the other children could call their father she was crushed under it and instantly killed.

Bertha after she was old enough went to London and for several years worked at tailoring and while there contracted T.B. She had left London a year or so before and had spent a summer with me at Bolton, Ontario. Part of the time she worked for a tailor in the next town but the following winter she went back to London apparently fully recovered from what at the time seemed a run down condition. However, the next fall the doctors finally told her that it was T.B. but that if proper care was taken she might throw it off.

As soon as I had her letter telling me the situation I went home. I was living in Bolton then - and father and I at once arranged to have her taken to the Sanitorium at Gravenhurst. She was there over a year and came home looking fine but while she was not completely cured they had good hopes for her. She lived about a year with some old friends of mothers near where Manda was living at that time on the 7th Con. of McGillwray. She had been engaged to be married for several years to Wm. Fenwick whom she had met in London. Finally Will insisted that regardless of her chances of recovery that they be married. They lived in London and for a time she appeared to have recovered but she died in February 1914.

Manda married Dan Hislop and lived on the 7th Con. for several years. They later moved to Sarnia and from there to Detroit, Michigan but have again moved back and are now living in Sarnia. They have two boys - John and Jim - and one daughter. They are all married. The boys living in Detroit and Leona in Montreal. Her husband Eric Eastwood is an official of the Engineering Staff of the Imperial Oil Co. They have a daughter while both John and Jim have three each.

Laura married Ernst Durr and they lived in several places as Ern taught school for several years. They moved to Detroit in 1917 or 18 and are living there now. They have three children, two boys and one girl. Audrie is married as is Leslie the older boy. Menzo the other, lives at home. They are all living in Detroit.

About 1890 father traded farms with Robt. Reid on the 18th Con. and we moved there the next spring. I was then about 16. Being always of a roving disposition I decided that I would strike out on my own and packed what few clothes I had and started for Sarnia. I walked as far as Sylvan where a family lived who used to be neighbors on the 20th and stayed overnight. Then the next day started to walk the railroad. Arriving at Forest I met a hobo who helped me get on a freight train. We rode in a box car to Pt. Edward and took a street car to Sarnia. Went out to the tunnel offices - the G.T.R. tunnel was under construction at that time - and we both got a job working nights. On the strength of having been taken on at the tunnel we got into a boarding house and had supper that night. Next morning my hobo friend was missing. I went to work that night and was given a job as lantern boy. After two or three weeks I got rather homesick and a letter from mother decided things so I went home. About two years later I again left and went to Detroit where my old pal of school days was living. Got a job the next day and was there several months when again mother wrote me that father was unable to manage alone so went home again in time to help finish with the harvest.

In 1895 I went to Manitoba and after working some weeks on a threshing outfit, hired out to my Uncle George Bowser for a year. When that term was up I came back home and worked at home till 1899 when I went to London to work on the Street Railway. The following year married Ethel Young and lived in London till 1904 when having spent considerable time learning photography I moved to Clandeboye and spent the summer there making view photographs. The following winter I purchased a studio at Bolton, Ontario and moved there that spring. I operated the studio there till 1909 when I moved to Welland, Ont. and opened a studio which I ran till the fall of 1913, sold it and moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. to continue making photographs in a studio there.

In 1919 I left the studio with the assistant I had and went to California. Bought a studio in Alhambra, California but stayed there but a few months when I sold it and drove a car back east. In August of that year I bought another studio in Merrill, Wisconsin and operated it till the next spring when I rented it and again went west. Spent the balance of that year in Reno, Nevada where I obtained a divorce. In 1921 I bought a third studio in Green Bay, Wisconsin taking it over in March of that year. During the next two years I sold the other studios and lived in Green Bay till 1926, married Florence Metzler - a widow, Mrs. Zeutzius - in 1924. We moved to Warsaw, New York the spring of 1926 and are living here at this time. She had two daughters, one four and the other six.

I have one boy - George - by my first marriage. He was born in London, Ontario. He is now married and lives in Detroit and has one child, a daughter Joan. I also have one girl - Geraldine Jane born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She is now ten years old.

A few years after I went to London, father sold the farm and bought a smaller place on the opposite side of the 18th. He and mother were just nicely settled when she died in 1905. Father lived there till his death in March 1919.

Father and mother are buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on the 16th Con. of McGillivray.

While I think that I have the several sisters and brothers of father's in order as to their age, am not sure that Aunt Jane was next to father. She married George Allison and they had moved to Michigan before I have any recollection. They lived near Scottsville and there was a large family but a present am unable to name them all. I have in recent years visited one of the boys - Walter - who lives at Evart, Michigan but will try to get the names of the rest of that family later.

OCTOBER 19, 1939

It is now five years since I started this writing and much has happened in the interval. I find that I have some corrections to make. Aunt Jane was the eldest of the family. She was born in York township near Oshawa in 1841 and married George Allison in 1858. They moved to Michigan a short time later and settled near Custer. They had eleven children only two of them are left. Since I started this have visited there and have a copy of the family births and deaths from their family record.

For the past three years I have spent my vacation with Walter who lives at Evart, Mich. and has a fine business selling farm machinery. Each time we visited the folks at Scottsville and Custer. Three years ago Edward, one of the older boys, had a stroke and was in bed when we were there. He lived till early this summer. Charles the youngest of the family lived at Scottsville. He had charge of a Canning factory there. While his health had not been good for some time no one thought it serious. He died in February of this year. There is only John who lives at Custer and Walter left of all the family.

There are several grandchildren living in the section near the old home but do not have a record of them.

Three years ago I started to correspond with Aunt Lucy who still lives near Winnipeg, Manitoba. She has sent me a copy of the old family record from the family bible which has put me right as to the order of dates of birth of each.



Aunt Bell - Elizabeth Isabella - was next to father. She married George Patching in 1870. They lived for a time at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and moved to near Sunbright, Tennessee in 1876. They had eleven children, five of whom are still living. Edward and Walter live at Oakdale, Tenn., Carrie in Florida, Arley in Colorado and Gertrude lives on the old home near Sunbright.

Three years ago I decided to make a trip to Tennessee to see if I could find some of them, as outside of an occasional letter scattered over many years there had been little heard from them.

Geraldine went with me. We found them without any trouble and what a welcome we received. Walter conducts a grocery and general store and in the same building Edward had an electrical store. They live outside the town and both have good comfortable homes. Outside from one other - Uncle Ed's Charlie - we were the only other relatives from the north they had ever seen. The two homes are together with a walk through a garden connecting and built on a plot considerably higher than the highway. There is a fine view of the mountains at the back and of the valley from the front.

We arrived there on a Friday evening. On Saturday, Edward and his three girls and Walter's only girl went with us back up to Sunbright and out to the old home to see Gertrude. The girls all were about Geraldine's age so they had a big time together. The old buildings that Uncle George built were still standing but the old farm has not been worked for many years and has grown a fine stand of second growth timber.

On Sunday we had dinner outside. It was the first of November. Both families together and it was like a June day up in this north country. It was our first experience of southern hospitality and it seemed each one tried to outdo the others in their endeavor to make our visit pleasant and what a dinner it was. Edward's boys - James E. and George E. - were home for the occasion. They are fine young men both graduates of Tennessee University. James now is one of the faculty of the Oakdale High School and George is now in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Since then Myrtle who lived in Kansas City has died as has also Gertrude's husband. Last summer James E. and George E. accompanied by their Uncle and Aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arnhart of Knoxville and their two girls, paid us a short visit on their way home on a trip to the World's Fair at New York.

Aunt Bell and Uncle George Patching moved from the farm to a home next to Walter's where they lived till the time of their death.

Walter served in the World War and saw service overseas. He has one daughter, <sup>Margaret</sup> Elizabeth.

Arley lives in Colorado but have no record of them. Carrie lives in Florida, her husband died several years ago.

It is now February, 1943

Of Uncle Ed's family I have little to record. He married Teresa Henderson who was one of the teachers at the old school near where grandfather lived and at that time was living near Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. In 1891 grandfather and grandmother went to live



with him there where they both died later that same year. Later he sold the farm and moved to Mt. Pleasant where he had an implement business from which he retired. In 1924 on a trip to Detroit on my way to Wisconsin I went to see him. He was in the basement of his home when I arrived overseeing some repairs. Aunt Teresa instead of calling him sent me down to see if he would recognize me. We shook hands and I asked if he knew me. I said it was about 33 years since I had last seen him. He thought a minute then he held the light he had in his hand to my face. In a moment he said - - "You're Jane's boy, you have your mother's eyes". About four years later on a trip to Wisconsin I again visited him.

Two years ago on my return from Evart where I had been visiting I came by way of Holt, Michigan where his son Charles lives and had a nice visit with him. He later that year paid me a visit here in Warsaw, New York. Last year I again spent part of my vacation with him. He promised to send me a record of the family.

Of Uncle Jacob I have little or no record. I remember seeing him only a few times at the Xmas gatherings of the family. He was a big man, stood over six feet and weighed around 220 lbs. At one time he was on the police force of Bay City, Michigan but most of his life he was a bridge builder for the railroad there. He had one son - Albert - who visited when I was still in school. I have tried unsuccessfully several times on my trips to Michigan to contact someone who could give me some information of the family but so far have had no success.

Uncle John was also a big man, even heavier than Uncle Jake and for a time, as a young man, was a well digger. But as I first remember him he was on a farm on the 14th Con. of McGillivray and later moved to the 17th Con. about a half a mile north of grandfather's. But the first year's crop with the barn on this farm was burned. Shortly after he moved to Bad Axe, Michigan to a farm there where he lived till he died February 1, 1906.

His wife, Mary Watson, survived him several years but has since passed on. They had a large family. Aunt Mary died December 18, 1929.

Of all the Uncles I knew Uncle George best. He was next to Uncle John. A serious illness in infancy left him entirely deaf. In those days there were no facilities for education of the deaf, but notwithstanding this handicap he was always bright and cheerful. He was the mainstay of the family up to the time they moved to Uncle Ed's at Mt. Pleasant. He was always popular with the young folks and took part in all the usual activities and how he did like to hunt. For a long time grandmother would not allow him to have a gun but every chance he got to visit at our place, father who was also very fond of hunting and always had an extra gun, went out with him. And as I grew older and was allowed to handle a gun, I would go instead of father. I think he got more real pleasure out of Xmas than any of us, even as small children. In those days hanging up a stocking the night before was the big event and while he knew as well as the grownups, he always insisted that Old Santa always came down the chimney. I remember for some reason he had walked to our place the day before one Xmas and stayed over night. When it came bedtime we youngsters of course hung our stocking as usual but I think it was because he was afraid that father would tease him that he didn't hang one of his. Next morning when he saw all of us emptying ours he look so disappointed that mother on the quiet filled both his mittens in his overcoat pocket. This he didn't discover till we were ready to start for the gathering at grandfathers and that fixed everything. I don't think he ever forgot it for many years later when he was on a visit from Manitoba he mentioned it to mother.

Georgie, as we all called him, after grandfather's death at Mt. Pleasant went to live with Aunt Lucy in Manitoba. When I went out there in 1895 he was with her but the next year he worked for a neighbor. And when I was ready to leave the next fall to come back east I had a time getting away without him. He was determined to come with me. Later in the winter following he did come with a neighbor who was an old friend of the family. He stayed for a year or so and worked for an old friend but in the summer of that next year he came down with typhoid fever. At that time Aunt Susan was living on the old home farm so she took him and nursed him through that illness. Shortly after his recovery he went back to Aunt Lucy and except for one or two visits back east, made his home with her. I have no knowledge of his life after that except that Aunt Lucy and Uncle George made a place for him in their home and took care of him in his declining years. He died in 1932.

Aunt Susan was next to Georgie. I have little recollection of her till she was grown up. She married William Clarke on December 26, 1883 and for a time they lived on a farm east of Mt. Carmel on the McGillivray Stephen town line. I remember visiting there with father and mother several times. At the time grandfather and grandmother went to Michigan they moved on to the old home place and lived there several years. Some time after I had left they sold the farm and moved to Pt. Elgin, Ontario where Uncle Will was in business for some time. As the years went by I had lost contact with them and it was quite some time after that I learned of her death in 1909. They had several children but one or two as I remember died quite young. Am not sure if Aunt Susan died before or after the family moved to the west. Indirectly have been told that Albert the oldest of the children lives in Alberta or Saskatchewan and Myrtle is now a Mrs. Robertson and lives in Saskatoon, Sask. Some time ago I secured her address and hope to receive from her a record of the family.

Aunt Lucy was next and the youngest of the family. Upon her more than any of the rest was put the responsibility and care of the old folks as well as of Georgie. Grandmother for the last several years of her life was so badly crippled with rheumatism that she was unable to move about except with the aid of a cane. So it was Lucy who took care of the home, went with grandfather on his trips to town, transacted his business; and saw that Georgie did the farm work as grandfather directed, which wasn't always easy as Georgie had ideas of his own. But in spite of all she was always cheerful and was popular in social and church circles. But when the old folks went to Uncle Ed's she married George Bowser who had a home near Emerson, Manitoba and went there immediately after the wedding.

They lived there for some years and then moved to Winnipeg, with Uncle George taking a position with the T. Eaton Co. which he held till he retired a few years ago.

The last report I had of them was from my neice who visited them last summer. They are both well or were then. Their children, all girls, are all married except one who is an invalid at home. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary December 10, 1940.

It is now May 14, 1947

And much has happened in the interval. In September, 1945 Charlie Smithers and I drove to Winnipeg and had a nice visit with Aunt Lucy and Uncle George. They were both well and much pleased to see us. One of their daughters - Gladys - lives not far from them

and we spent an evening there. We had a nicetrip and came back by way of the Lake of the Woods district. About all we saw there was woods and lakes. We were just a week away. Charlie had started to build some houses and was unable to take any longer time for the trip. He drove his car and on the way out we stayed over the first night at Green Bay, Wisconsin. On the return trip we came by way of northern Michigan crossing the lakes at St. Ignas. We stopped on the way out at Evart, Michigan and saw Walter Allison. He was busy finishing the sale of his business or he would have gone with us. His wife Louise had died a short time previous so he was very much upset. Have not heard from him since.

Since my last entry in this writing much has happened and many changes. Sharleen and Dorothy are married. They were the girls Florence had by her first marriage. Geraldine is home at present. She graduated from Business College in 1944.

During the war II several members of the families were in the service. George E. and James E. Patching, Menzo Durr, and also several nephews of Florence. Maurice Gardner, Sharleen's husband, was over three years in uniform. Was in the invasion of North Africa and the Italian campaign. Mustered out as Sargeant and was awarded the bronze medal. Dorothy's husband, Ralph Slocum, was over three years in the Air service but did not go across. He was kept in the clerical department of that service. He had the rank of Sargeant. George E. Patching was in the Air Force from the beginning. He was a 1st Lieutenant at the end of his first year and was kept on this side as a training officer. He is now a Captain and with the A.T. Command at Memphis, Tennessee. James E. saw service in North Africa and France. Was a 1st Lieutenant in the Chemical Division and he is now home. One of Florence's nephews, a Metzler boy from Wisconsin, was the G.I. who swam the river with General Patton in Germany. There were other nephews of the same name in service but have no record of them. One of Aunt Lucy's grandsons was a pilot in the Canadian Air Force and was lost in a flight over Germany.

It is now October 17, 1949

A lot of water has gone under the bridge in the past two years. Geraldine was married on the 27th of August last. The wedding ceremony was in the United Church here in Warsaw to Donald L. Mahieu whose home is at Williamson, New York. About 100 guests attended the reception after the ceremony in the Masonic Temple. They are making their home in Williamson, New York.

Sharleen now has three children - Charles, Sandra and Thomas. Dorothy has two - Richard and Carol.

On my vacation this summer I attended the Parkhill Old Boys Reunion at Parkhill, Ont. Visited with Kenneth Smithers (son of Uncle Thomas Smithers's son, John Wm.) Saw a number of old friends and acquaintances. George, Edith and Joan and his mother were there. Met them on Saturday night. Sunday drove out to Albert Smithers. Found them quite well and Albert much better than for some time. He was helping with the harvest. That evening drove to Ipperwash to John Hislop's summer cottage. From there to Sarnia and brought Dan and Manda back to Parkhill for the reunion. Monday night drove back to Sarnia and on Wednesday of the next week drove to Evart, Michigan. Visited over night with Walter Allison and then back to Sarnia the next day and arrived home Sunday.



It is now January 27, 1951 and have been unable to get any further information regarding Uncle Jake's family.

Since the last entry Walter Allison passed on last spring and also Albert Smithers (Uncle Tom's son) in April of last year. Have not heard from Aunt Lucy for over a year until a short time ago when I received a nice long letter from her. She told me that Uncle George had died in March of this year. She has since moved to Vancouver, B.C. and is now living near her daughter Gladys in a home. She tells me she is nicely situated there and happy. 1951 ?

Had a long letter from Ed Patching's family recently. The children of both families are all married. George E. is still in the Air Force and stationed at Langley Field. James E. is in the Department of Labor and lives at home for the time being. Arley the oldest brother visited them last year. He lives in Colorado. Gertrude the youngest sister, at present lives in Memphis, Tenn. Walter still has the store in Oakdale and presume from the letter that Ed is retired. Carrie the oldest sister lives in Florida.

On December 27, 1950 Amanda and Dan Hislop celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Sarnia where they have lived since 1918. Only the immediate members of their family attended. Their two sons John and James from Detroit and their children. Leona from White Plains, New York with her daughters Joan and Rosemary. Our sister Laura and her husband Ernie Durr and Laura Cavanaugh a niece of Dan's made up the party of twenty-five members of the family present. There was a dinner at the Vendome Hotel in Sarnia after which a reception was held at their home. Many gifts as well as beautiful flowers and congratulatory messages were received.

In a recent letter from Ridley Smithers a son of Uncle John's who lives on the old home near Bad Axe, Michigan I received a list of Uncle John's family and birth dates from him. He also told me that two of his sons served in World War II. One was killed in France, the other after three years in service overseas returned safely.

In April I made another trip to Tennessee and spent two weeks with Edward and Walter Patching. Had a splendid visit. Their children are all married and in homes of their own. Walter sold his business last winter. Both he and Ed are retired and enjoying themselves with their gardens and hobbies. Walter is fixing up a work shop with power tools while Ed spends most of his time gardening.

One outstanding event in the early days was visiting of relatives. Almost every Sunday afternoon and very often directly from Church found one or two families at one or the other homes. In the later years after grandmother was unable to travel, one or more of the families would be - "home" - as she always said. Every Sunday morning she read from her bible which was always on a shelf beside her chair. One of her favorite texts was Ex-20-12. We youngsters would have to be there as Sunday was strictly observed in those days and Sunday clothes precluded any play or games. But never the less we were always eager to go and she always had something special for us.

It may be that some of the earlier dates I have made from memory are not correct but are approximately so. Many thanks to those who have helped in sending their family



records and to my daughter Geraldine who has made sufficient copies of this to send one to each branch of the family. It was her curiosity when, as a youngster, after we had returned from a vacation trip and had visited some relatives, she asked what relation they were and that prompted me to make this record. The thought came to me that since the family had become scattered to so many different parts of the country, in another generation we will not know who or where the relatives are. I thought a record of the family with a list of the addresses of the older members would be appreciated.

Oscar Smithers

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM SMITHERS, SR.



William Smithers born in England

Died Oct. 3, 1891

Elizabeth Cook - his wife - birth, no record

" April 10, 1891

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Their Children -

|                    |   |                                     |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Jane               | Born August, 1841 in Loboco Township<br>York Co., Ontario         | Died Sept. 24, 1920                 |
| Thomas             | " July 22, 1843 " "   | " July 1904                         |
| William            | " Feb. 8, 1846 " "  | " March 6, 1919                     |
| Elizabeth Isabella | " April 16, 1848 " "  | " <del>Jan</del> <del>12</del> 1932 |
| Edward Charles     | " Oct. 22, 1853 in McGillivray<br>Township Middlesex Co., Ontario | " -- -- 193-                        |
| Jacob              | " Nov. 25, 1855 " "   | " -- -- --                          |
| John               | " Nov. 22, 1857 " "   | " -- -- --                          |
| George             | " March 16, 1859 " "  | " Jan. 9, 1932                      |
| Susannah           | " Aug. 22, 1861 " "   | " Jan. --, 1909                     |
| Lucy Ann           | " Oct. 15, 1865 " "   |                                     |

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The above names and birth dates are recorded in the old family Bible which Aunt Lucy has had since the death of the old folks in 1891, the copy of which she sent me in 1940.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE AND LUCY ANN SMITHERS BOWSER

26-10



George Bowser

Born 1866

Died March, 1951

Lucy Ann Smithers Bowser

" 1865

m. 10 Dec. 1890 (p.9)

-----  
Their Children -

|                   |                    |           |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Pearlie May       | Born June 13, 1892 | Died 1932 |
| Eva Mildred       |                    |           |
| Eunice Clementine | " June 24, 1898    | " 1944    |
| Edna Milisa       | " Feb. 18, 1900    |           |
| Gladys Lucy       | " Jan. 4, 1908     |           |

26-1 ✓

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE AND JANE SMITHERS ALLISON

|                       |      |                |      |                |
|-----------------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| George Allison        | Born | 1834           | Died | May 2, 1904    |
| Jane Smithers Allison | "    | August 1, 1841 | "    | Sept. 24, 1920 |

-----  
Their Children -

|                |   |                 |   |               |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Mary           | " | August 21, 1859 | " | Dec. 28, 1871 |
| James          | " | April 22, 1861  | " | March 5, 1918 |
| William        | " | May 6, 1863     | " | Dec. 19, 1917 |
| George, Jr.    | " | June 18, 1865   | " | Dec. 18, 1901 |
| Elizabeth      | " | Feb. 18, 1867   | " | Jan. 31, 1937 |
| John           | " | Oct. 3, 1870    |   |               |
| Edward         | " | July 15, 1873   | " | Feb. 1939     |
| Walter         | " | Oct. 4, 1875    | " | Apr. 1950     |
| Marcy Lucindia | " | Feb. 12, 1878   | " | Feb. 20, 1880 |
| Richard        | " | July 17, 1883   | " | July 20, 1883 |
| Charles Henry  | " | April 24, 1885  | " | Feb. 5, 1940  |

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26-2 ✓

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS SMITHERS

|                                 |      |      |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| His first wife - - Mary Cassidy | Died | 1877 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|

-----  
Their Children -

|              |      |      |   |           |
|--------------|------|------|---|-----------|
| John William | Born | 1872 | " | Dec. 1940 |
| Albert       | "    | 1876 | " | Apr. 1950 |

His second wife - - Louise Wares

His third wife - - Mrs. Mathias

✓  
26-3

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM SMITHERS, JR.

His wife - - Jane Little      Born                      1848                      Died May                      1905

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Their children -

|            |   |              |   |              |
|------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Oscar      | " | May 30, 1874 |   | 18 Jan. 1968 |
| Walter     | " | 1876         | " | 1876         |
| Amanda     | " | Jan. 2, 1877 |   |              |
| Laura      |   |              |   |              |
| Bertha     |   |              | " | Feb 1914     |
| Laura Jane |   |              |   |              |



THE FAMILY OF GEORGE AND ISABELLE SMITHERS PATCHING

26-4  
8  
12-

|   |         |                |                                      |      |               |
|---|---------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------|
| George Patching                         | Born    | Aug. 21, 1845  | Worthing, Sussex, England            | Died | Oct. 21, 1936 |
| Elizabeth<br>Isabelle Smithers Patching | "       | April 16, 1848 | Canada                               | "    | Jan. 17, 1932 |
|   |         | Aug. 1841      | Lebaco Township York Co.,<br>Ontario |      |               |
|   | Married | Sept. 7, 1870  |                                      |      |               |

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Their Children -

|                               |             |                |                       |      |               |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|------|---------------|
| Elizabeth Francella           | Born        | July 14, 1871  | Grand Traverse, Mich. | Died | Feb. 13, 1873 |
| Arlie (William Arleyton)      | Born        | Dec. 1, 1873   | " " "                 | Died |               |
| Carrie Lulla Albertson        | "           | Aug. 3, 1875   | " " "                 | Died | Aug. 17, 1945 |
| Jennie Maria                  | "           | July 22, 1877  | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | Oct. 10, 1884 |
| Edward (James Edward)         | "           | June 10, 1880  | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | Oct. 28, 1956 |
| Evart (John Everett)          | "           | June 13, 1882  | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | June 30, 1927 |
| Gertrude Bell Campbell        | "           | Sept. 10, 1884 | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | Jan. 12, 1964 |
| Myrtle (Sarah Myrtle) Stewart | "           | June 25, 1886  | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | Dec. 6, 1939  |
| Inez Josephine                | "           | Sept. 17, 1888 | Skene, Tenn.          | Died | July 13, 1889 |
| Walter                        | "           | Dec. 6, 1890   | Burrville, Tenn.      |      |               |
| Baby Boy                      | Born + Died | June 13, 1893  | Burrville, Tenn.      |      |               |
| Three others died in infancy  |             |                |                       |      |               |

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THE FAMILY OF EDWARD SMITHERS

26-5  
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|                           |      |    |  |      |    |
|---------------------------|------|----|--|------|----|
| His wife Teresa Henderson | Born | -- |  | Died | -- |
|---------------------------|------|----|--|------|----|

---

Their Children -

|                 |      |                |  |
|-----------------|------|----------------|--|
| Lucy Ann        | Born | Dec. 29, 1884  |  |
| Sara Elizabeth  | "    | May 19, 1887   |  |
| Charles Edward  | "    | Nov. 20, 1889  |  |
| James William   | "    | Apr. 16, 1893  |  |
| Teresa Georgina | "    | July 21, 1901  |  |
| Mary Isabell    | "    | Sept. 29, 1905 |  |

26-9

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM AND SUSANNA SMITHERS CLARKE

|                         |                                    |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| William Clarke          | Born London Township, July 1, 1852 | Died Dec. 24, 1933 |
| Susanna Smithers Clarke | " McGillivray Aug. 22, 1862        | " Jan. 1909        |

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Their Children -

|                 |                                     |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| William Albert  | Born McGillivray 12th Dec. 19, 1884 | Died            |
| Pearl Elizabeth | " McGillivray 17th June 24, 1891    | " Oct. 2, 1891  |
| Edward Newton ) | " McGillivray 16th Dec. 26, 1892    | " Oct. 1, 1893  |
| Edna Lucy )     | " McGillivray 16th Dec. 26, 1892    | " Feb. 27, 1894 |
| ) - Twins       |                                     |                 |
| Myrtle Evelyn   | " McGillivray 16th Feb. 10, 1896    |                 |
| Cecil Emerson   | " Lucan, Ontario Jan. 28, 1901      |                 |

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THE FAMILY OF JOHN SMITHERS

26-7

|                      |         |         |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| His wife Mary Watson | Born -- | Died -- |
|----------------------|---------|---------|

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Their Children -

|                |                      |      |
|----------------|----------------------|------|
| Mary Elizabeth | Born October 6, 1878 | Died |
| Albert R.      | " May 27, 1880       |      |
| Emma S.        | " October 5, 1882    |      |
| John Willis    | " December 30, 1884  |      |
| Ridley Martin  | " May 24, 1887       |      |
| William Otto   | " June 27, 1889      |      |
| Hannah J.      | " April 20, 1892     |      |
| Robert James   | " September 27, 1894 |      |
| Charles Arthur | " February 7, 1897   |      |

ADDRESSES

Aunt Lucy's - Mrs. Lucy A. Bowser, 4596 Marine Drive, N. W., Vancouver, B. C.

Her daughter's - Mrs. William Coldicott, 2846 West 29th Avenue,  
✓ Vancouver, B. C.

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Aunt Jane Allison's family -

John Allison, Custer, Michigan, R. D.  
Mrs. Ray Cable, 745 East Huron River Drive, Belleville, Mich.

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Uncle Thomas Smithers' family -

✓ Kenneth Smithers, Parkhill, Ontario  
Carmen Smithers, London, Ontario  
Cecil Smithers, Parkhill, Ontario, R. D.

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William Smithers, Jr. family -

Oscar Smithers, Warsaw, New York  
Mrs. Donald Hislop, 239 George St., Sarnia, Ontario.  
Mrs. Laura J. Durr, 2952 Altar Road, Detroit, Mich.  
George Smithers, 1968 Fleetwood Drive, Goose Pte. Woods, Mich.  
✓ Mrs. Geraldine Mahieu, 188 West Union St., Newark, New York

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Aunt Isabella Patching's family -

James Edward Patching, Harriman, Tenn. R. R. 3  
Walter Patching, Harriman, Tenn. R. R. 3

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Uncle Edward Smithers' family -

✓ Charles Smithers, Holt, Michigan  
Teresa G. Smithers, 311 N. Franklin St., Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

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Aunt Susan Clarke's family -

✓ William Albert Clarke, 51 Nanaimo Ave., Penticton, B. C.  
Mrs. Myrtle Robertson, 711 - 9th St., E. Saskatoon, Sask.

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Uncle John Smithers' family -

Ridley Smithers, Bad Axe, Mich. R. D.

Robert Smithers, 2648 Arlitta Ave., Toledo, Ohio

Willis Smithers, Bad Axe, Mich., R. D.

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