

The Lamport Family

MEMORIES OF FARQUHAR

by Rose (Lamport) Ford

I moved to Farquhar as a 12 year old girl when my father, Samuel Lamport, bought the general store in 1911 and lived there with my parents until we moved into Exeter in 1915. I remember many of the people that are mentioned in "Between the Fences". Farquhar even then was only a cross-roads hamlet. A small inn run by the Pollens stood on the corner beside the store. Around the corner was David McNichol's blacksmith shop. Across the side road lived "Aunt" Lucy Hazelwood while on the other side of Thames Road was the home of "Auntie" Barbara Gardiner. A short distance to the west was the community hall. Although small, Farquhar was a centre for the farms of the area.

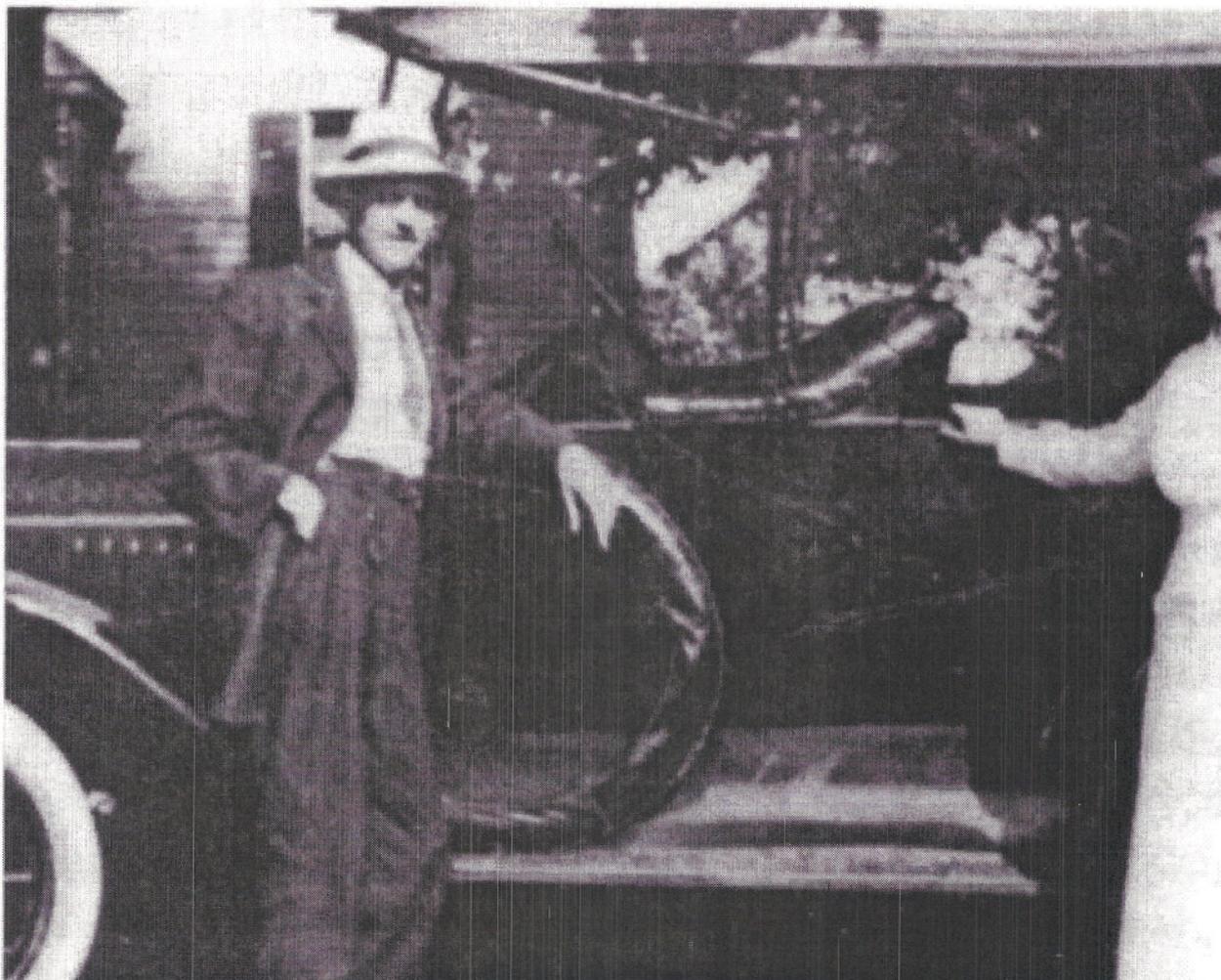
Our general store was a typical operation for those days. These were horse-and-buggy days so people dealt locally. A wide variety of goods were offered for sale from hardware to seeds and from farm supplies to groceries. As well as selling for cash, my father would also take produce such as eggs and butter from the farmers in exchange. Some he would resell from the store but many of these items he took into Exeter in his light wagon pulled by a team of horses and resold them to the merchants there. On the return trip he would bring back goods he had ordered from London and which had arrived at

the Huron and Bruce train station. For the first couple of years, my father also had the local post office in his store. I can remember as a small girl sorting the mail into the little pigeon holes and giving it to the people when they called for it. In 1913, however, rural mail delivery came to Usborne Township and the post office was closed. The new roadside mail boxes for all the people in the area were delivered to our store where they lay in great piles until they were picked up by their owners.

While we lived in Farquhar we were members of the Bethany Methodist Church where I made many friends. Some of these friendships lasted for many years. I remember such families as the Canns, Johns, Passmores and Whitlocks. Across the road was the Thames Road Presbyterian Church where the Rev. Colin Fletcher was the preacher. One of the highlights from those days was the time we were having a Young People's picnic at Bethany and Mr. Fletcher invited some of us girls to bowl on his private bowling green at the manse. We were all amazed that a Presbyterian minister would invite a group of Methodist young people to bowl on his green. Yes, I am afraid religious prejudices ran pretty deep in those days, but as related in "Between the Fences", Bethany and Thames Road had a history of co-operation which was somewhat unusual for those days.

Our years in Farquhar included the start of the First World War. In Exeter, the 161st Battalion began their training. I remember particularly one occasion when a squadron from the 161st came to Farquhar on a route march. Women in the district baked for days ahead so that the troops could be fed a hot meal. One of the men in the group was Jimmy Marshall who bought my father's parrot and gave it to his mother. Jimmy was killed in the war but his mother had the parrot for many years after.

One of the people I remember is Meryl Snell who later married Ray Frances. One of Meryl's children was Marian who married Ray Stewart and moved to Sarnia. All these people are mentioned in Between the Fences. Some years later, my son Dick and his wife moved to Sarnia and became close friends of Ray and Marian and later still discovered the common connection with Usborne Township. Small world!



*Samuel & Eliza (Rowe) Lamport – Prepare to go j
in their new Model T Ford. Note the fancy clothes,
larly the hat on Eliza. This is the car in which Rose
to drive. She drove many makes and models over th
years, but none have given her a greater thrill than
when she first soloed at the age of 16 years.*