

see file

PETERSON'S HOUSE

School Report by Elaine Taves? (between 1978 and 1984)

Mrs. Winnifred Peterson was born in 1901. She married Harrison Peterson on April 7, 1922*. As a wedding present Mr. Peterson built her a house. The house was built for his bride during the winter of 1921. It took then entire winter to build and it was finished in April. The property was bought from the Whittles. He bought a total of ten acres. Originally there was a log cabin there which was built by the first settlers but it was torn down. The man who built the Peterson's house was a mason from California who worked for a company that built fireplaces. This is why the stone arrangement differs from the other houses in the area. The coblestone [sic] on the house was picked up off of the land and land of his parents which was adjacent to it. On the sides of the porch and on the flat stools, stones were picked up off of the beach to be used as the middle layer inbetween the cement for a more decorative look. The house was built with a six inch space between the wooden frame and the stone. This kept the house very warm inside. Mr. Peterson copied the house except instead of having a glassed in area as did the hone he copied he made it into a breakfast room in order to make the house square. This house was the third flatroof house in the area at the time. The floors are made of oak which was one quarter of an inch thick. The woodwork in the front room is all oak but the woodwork in the back part of the house is Georgia Pine. This house was built during the same time period as the Miner house. It took a lot of time and work to beautify it. Harrison Peterson worked on its beautification for many years after the house was built. They planted trees in the yard in the fal of 1922. They carried the trees from the nursery and planted them themselves. The trees were Manitoba Maples. In 1942 Harrison dug up two Canadian Maple trees in the ditch along Graham sideroad to celebrate the birth of their daughter. These two trees were planted in the front yard.

Mrs. Peterson's Uncle Leonard Wilkenson [sic] (who was a prominent lawyer and later became judge) lived in Toledo. When he first visited her house he named it the Gladstone House. In fact it is still referred to the Gladstone House even today.

The Peterson's were very self sufficient. They tapped maple trees and made their own maple sugar in a cabin in his parent's bush. They had beehives which gave them the honey and they always kept up a small garden for fresh vegetables. They farmed tobacco for a living. Mrs. Peterson was an active member in the Weavers Gild [sic] (and still is) so she wove her own material and she also made their own soap.

The Peterson's were Empire Loyalists** from Pennsylvania. Harrison's father was Josiah who lived on Lot eight Concession two. Norman Peterson who was Harrison's uncle was the man responsible for having the Heinz

company built in Leamington. He went to Pennsylvania and brought Heinz back to Leamington and drove him around and let him stay at his house. He convinced Heinz to buy the old warehouse and start the company here in Leamington.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have two children John and Mary. Mr. Peterson passed away in July of 1979 but Mrs. Peterson is still alive. She lives in the Leamington Towers.

The Petersons sold all of their land except for their house where they lived until Mr. Peterson died. When he passed away they sold the house to the Velhuis who had bought the rest of the land for greenhouses. Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson who are Mr. Veldhuis' daughter and son in law now live in the old Peterson House.

*date on marriage certificate is May 6th, 1922

**no foundation for claim of being Empire Loyalists

American Revolution (1775-83)

Morris Dennis Sutton Peterson (born 1793 in Pennsylvania - died 1856 in Leamington)

father of Dennis:

Uriah Peterson (born 1771 in New York - died 1856 in Pennsylvania)

Dennis Peterson was born in the State of Pennsylvania. In young manhood he came to Mersea township, county of Essex, where he followed the shoemaking trade, his shop having been located on a corner which is now included in the best portion of the business locality of Leamington. He died in 1856, aged sixty-five years, leaving a widow, formerly a Miss Kenyon. They had these children: Grace is deceased; John W. [...]

John W. Peterson was born April 24, 1829, in Mersea township. As a young man he followed farming, but at a later period embarked in the butchering business, being one of the first to engage in the wholesale butchering business in this section. [...]

In 1857 Mr. Peterson married Jane McMullen, who was born Jan. 3, 1832 in Ireland, and was three years old when she came to America with her parents, John and Margaret (Dudgeon) McMullen. To Mr and Mrs Peterson were born children as follows: George, of Kingsville; Josiah, a prosperous farmer on Lot 8, Concession 2, Gosfield South; [...]

Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Essex Ontario (1905)

- 4 Aug 1894 see file Birth Registration for Harrison Mowat Peterson to Josiah Peterson and Mary Jane Whittle
- 8 Mar 1901 see file Birth Registration of Winnifred Wilkinson to Franklin Wilkinson and Emma Collison
- 3 Jul 1903 EFP p.6 Ruthven: Josiah Peterson is buying horses, cattle, sheep and hogs almost every day and same are shipped from this station.
- 17 Oct 1907 WER p.2 Josiah Peterson shipped a carload of fine hogs from this station Tuesday.
- May 20, 1909 KR p.1 Josiah Peterson probably pays out more money for horses than any other buyer in the province. For one carload of twenty horses he paid \$4 500, and average of \$225 each. In three months, he had paid the farmers of Romney \$30,000 for horses.
- 11 Mar 1909 WER p.2 Josiah Peterson tapped his maple trees on Monday and the sap is flowing freely. He has already made a nice lot of syrup.

8 Oct 1909 EFP p.4

**ESSEX COUNTY FAIR
The Prize List.**

Best Grade Percheron filly or gelding, 2 years old, by Josiah Peterson, Ruthven – R.J. Goslin & Sons.

23 Dec 1910 AE p.2

One day last week, Josiah Peterson, Ruthven, delivered to the McAlpin Tobacco Co., Leamington, one load of tobacco which netted the handsome sum of \$1,150.

12 Jan 1911 KR p.1

GOSFIELD SOUTH COUNCIL

Sheep-valuators, ... Josiah Peterson ...

3 Feb 1911 EFP p.7

It is interesting to notice some of the immense crops of tobacco taken from a comparatively few acres. Among the larger growers are Josiah Peterson, of Ruthven, who has already delivered \$2,626.16 worth of tobacco, and has much more to deliver...

20 Apr 1911 KR p.4

**VICTIM OF PNEUMONIA
Was the Late Josiah Peterson.**

Josiah Peterson, who was taken ill several weeks ago of pneumonia, passed away on Saturday last at Ruthven. He was the second son of the later John Peterson, a brother to ex-Mayor N. Peterson of Leamington and had a large number of relatives, being connected by marriage with many of the leading families of the county. He was for many years closely identified with the agricultural interests of Gosfield and Mersea, was several times president of the agricultural society and at his death he was one of the directors of the Mersea, Leamington and

South Gosfield agricultural society. He was a man of fine physique, and seemed to be possessed (sic) of the elements that demand a long life. He was universal (sic) respected and admired for his manliness, his generosity and willingness to assist forwarding any worthy object, and there (sic) few men in Gosfield South who were more popular with the people.

Deceased was married to Mary Jane Whittle, who with twelve children yet survive. Of this number six children are married, while 3 sons and 3 daughters remain at home. He was a member of a large family, consisting of six brothers and four sisters, of whom four brothers and two sisters are yet living. His family and nearly all his relatives are members of the Methodist church. He believed in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and lived a pure honest and honorable life.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at 2 p.m. with interment (sic) at Olinda Universalist cemetery.

27 Dec 1912 WER p.7

RUTHVEN

Harrison Peterson, who has been attending business college in Chatham, is home for the Christmas holidays.

2 Apr 1915 EFP p.6

Harrison Peterson, Arthur Wigle and Jason Malott are busy men here at present boiling sap night and day.

8 Mar 1917 LP p.4

Harrison Peterson left here on Tuesday with a fine carload of horses which he is taking through to Medicine Hat, Alberta. They were all heavy draught horses and the best lot that has left this station for some time.

29 Nov 1917 LP p.12

Harrison Peterson left here on Tuesday for Toronto where he will purchase a carload of dairy cows.

1 May 1919 LP p.12

Another real estate deal was put through here on Tuesday when Maurice Stephens sold his fruit farm on the 3rd concession and his house and lot to Harrison Peterson who will take possession at once.

1921 Census

Peterson, Mary J / Head of household / 60
 Peterson, Harrison / Son / 26
 Peterson, Leon / Son / 20
 Peterson, Iva / Wife / 17

1 Dec 1921 LP p.4

Ruthven: Harrison Peterson has started to build a fine residence on his fruit farm here. He expects to have it finished by New Years.

[NOTE: The accessible Gosfield South Assessment Records end at 1920]

6 May 1922 see file

Marriage Registration of Harrison Peterson and Winnifred Wilkinson

- 11 May 1922 LP p.10 Ruthven: A pretty wedding was solemnised at Leamington on May 6th when Harrison Peterson of this place and Miss Winnifred Wilkinson, of Leamington, were married at the home of the bride. After the ceremony the guests partook of an elaborate wedding dinner after which the young couple who were showered with confetti and good wishes left for a trip through Michigan. They will be at home here to their friends after the 15th of this month. Congratulations.
- 2 Dec 1926 KR p.5 **MRS. JOSIAH PETERSON**
Mrs. Josiah Peterson of the 3rd Concession, Gosfield South, passed away very suddenly this morning at the home of her son, Harrison. Deceased was 56 years of age and was born and raised on the farm now owned by George Orton, 3rd Concession.
- 16 May 1929 KR p.1 Harrison Peterson, sheep valuator sent in a report of sheep belonging to Blaine Jeffrey, killed and worried by dogs and estimated the damage at \$302.00. Moved by Fulmer, secd by Longland that an order be issued on the treasury in favor of Mr. Jeffrey for the amount. Carried.
- 20 Feb 1930 LP p.5 A function of more than ordinary interest was the complimentary banquet given Tuesday evening at Auto Stop Inn Café by President Cecil Stobbs and directors of the Mersea Leamington and South Gosfield Agricultural society to the retiring president, Dan Kennedy, first vice-president Lewis Pickle, second vice-president Chas. Baker now reeve of Mersea, and Harrison Peterson, all of whom retired this year from the board of directors after many years of faithful service.
- 23 May 1935 KR p.8 Mr and Mrs Harrison Peterson are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.
- 25 Jun 1936 KR p.8 The Woman's Association met at the home of Mrs. Harrison Peterson on Wednesday afternoon. After the business session, Mrs. Peterson, with her committee, served dainty refreshments and a social half-hour was enjoyed.
- 27 Jul 1937 KR p.8 Mrs. Harrison Peterson entertained at bridge on Friday evening at her home here. Four tables were in play.
- 14 Oct 1938 AE p.1 **Classifiers Started On Burley Tobacco Crop Thursday**
The classification of the 1938 Burley Tobacco crop under the Burley Marketing Association began in Essex County this Thursday morning, October 13. Classifiers will call at each man's barn and the Board of Directors hope that every growers will be present when they are looking over his crop.
The Association's classifier for Malden and Colchester South is Harrison Peterson of Ruthven; wile Stanley Bailey of Oxley will look after Colchester North, Sandwich South, Rochester, Maidstone and Gosfield North.

17 Dec 1942 KR p.8 Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Harrison Peterson on the birth of a daughter, at Hopewell Hospital, Leamington, Friday, December 11.

5 Jul 1978 KR p.3

H. Peterson Succumbs at 83

Harrison Peterson, age 83, passed away Thursday, June 29, at Leamington District Memorial Hospital. Late residence Concession 3, Gosfield South Township.

Husband of Winnifred; father of John F. of Kingsville and Mrs. Mary L. Forster of Guelph; brother of Mrs. Stanley Orton (Pearl) of Ruthven; also survived by three grandchildren. Predeceased by several brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 1, with Rev. Malcolm Fife and Rev. L.A. Thompson officiating and interment in Graceland Cemetery, Olinda.

Leamington Masonic Lodge A.F. and A.M. No. 290 held a service Friday at Reid funeral Home, Leamington.

9 May 1984 KR p.3

W.L. Peterson Passes at 83

Winnifred L. Peterson, age 83 years, passed away Thursday, May 3rd at her residence in Leamington. Formerly of Ruthven.

Beloved wife of the late Harrison Peterson (1978). Dear mother of John, Kingsville and Mrs. David Hauser (Mary), Kitchener. Dear grandmother of Dennis, Pamela and Melinda. Predeceased by one brother and two sisters.

Funeral services were held from Ruthven United Church, Monday, May 7th, Rev. Isagani Lazaro officiating.

Interment in Graceland Cemetery, Olinda. The Reid Funeral Home, Leamington was in charge of arrangements.

<i>abbrev.</i>	KR	The Kingsville Reporter
<i>abbrev.</i>	AE	Amherstburg Echo
<i>abbrev.</i>	EFP	Essex Free Press
<i>abbrev.</i>	LP	Leamington Post
<i>abbrev.</i>	WER	Windsor Evening Record