

James Harvey, of Chatham; Mrs. Joseph H. Spencer, of Morpeth; Reuben M., of Trenton, Michigan; Walter and W. D. O'Loane, at home; Mrs. George Westcott, of Palmyra; and M. Howard, a farmer of Benito, Manitoba.

MAJOR THOMAS M. FOX, a distinguished citizen in Wheatley, Romney township, County of Kent, a man prominently identified with the growth of the County, senior member of the firm of T. M. Fox & Son—lumber merchants, real estate and insurance agents, commissioners and conveyancers—was born in Mersea township, County of Essex, Nov. 2, 1829, son of Thomas and Jane (Fox) Fox, both natives of England.

Thomas Fox, grandfather of our subject, was a native of England, and being a member of the British artillery, came to America during the war of 1812, and participated in the battle of Lundy's Lane, and also at Queens-town Heights. After the close of the great struggle he received his discharge (he served nearly twenty-one years), and took up a grant of land in Mersea township, where he engaged in farming and shoemaking, spending the remainder of his life upon this property.

Thomas Fox, father of Thomas M., was quite young when he was brought to Mersea township, and there he grew to manhood upon the home farm, assisting his father in every way possible. Later he became a farmer. Thomas M. Fox was the only child born to himself and wife.

Major Thomas M. Fox was reared to manhood in Mersea township, and when fourteen years of age, he became apprenticed to the trade of carriage building; subsequently he also learned the trade of carpenter, and he has followed that calling all his life. In 1866 he started a sawmill, and manufactured all sorts of building material. In this connection he also does contracting and building. From 1869 to 1890 he operated a flouring mill in Wheatley, selling it in the latter year. This was the first flour mill in Wheatley, and although destroyed by fire in 1882, the enterprising owner immediately rebuilt it. In 1901 Major Fox removed from the County of Essex across the line into the County of Kent, although a resident of Wheatley for some thirty years. Since 1894, beside his former extensive operations,

he has added lumber and real estate and insurance business, and since his removal to Wheatley he has been a conveyancer. His years have proved no detriment to his activity, and he is remarkably well preserved both physically and mentally.

In 1863 Mr. Fox organized a company of volunteers, of which he was commissioned captain, and this company was afterward attached to the Essex Battalion, and in 1867, he received his commission as major. During the Fenian raid, in 1866, they were called out for service, and were stationed in Windsor, Ont., from June 2d to July 5th. He has taken an active interest in public affairs; has served as a member of the Mersea township council, and he efficiently filled the office of reeve of the township for six years; in 1867 he was appointed a justice of the peace. Major Fox also holds the office of commissioner, being appointed by the High Courts of Ontario in May, 1878, and in 1880 he was appointed reeve of Romney township, County of Kent, and served for two years. He has served as postmaster for a number of years, but since he has grown older, he has gradually declined public honors.

On Aug. 20, 1851, Major Fox was married, at Detroit, Michigan, to Miss Phoebe White, who was born in the township of Mersea, County of Essex, Nov. 19, 1829, daughter of James and Phoebe White, natives of Scotland and England, respectively, but who were married in the County of Essex, where they were pioneer farming people. Major Fox and his wife had the following family: (1) Rebecca married Gowan Hairsine, of Mersea, and has five children, Casper, Carl, Maud, Ivan and Sidney. (2) Frederick J., of Mersea, a partner of his father, has been reeve and justice of the peace of the township of Romney for the past six years; he married (first) Nettie Copeland, of Smithville, Ont., who bore him two children, Florence and Nettie. He married (second) Edith Dales, and one daughter, Nellie, has been born of this marriage. (3) Harriet married (first) Edward Scott, and had two children, Grace and Stanley. She married (second) George Sunter, and lives in Tacoma, Washington. (4) James, deceased, married Arvilla Lounsbury (who is now Mrs. Palmer Burns), and had four children, Estella, Forest, Mervin and Alberta. (5) Sarah is deceased.