

# ARTHUR HARRIS

Arthur Harris, born February 4, 1843 at Benares, was the youngest of *Captain James* and *Elizabeth Harris*' eight children and the only son to grow into adulthood. He was also the only one to have children of his own.

Arthur helped to run the family farm, taking over many of the responsibilities by the 1870's. His focus was always on farm and family, although he did join the local militia during the Fenian Raids and was also an active member of St. Peter's Church. Arthur only left Benares once for an extended period when he visited relatives in Great Britain in 1876.

After inheriting some money in 1880, he was in a position to marry and support a family. Arthur wed *Mary Magrath*, the granddaughter of the *Reverend James Macgrath*, (first rector of St. Peter's Church) on September 29, 1881. Arthur was 38 years old and Mary 22, but both were genuinely fond of each other. Their first child, *Annie*, was born in 1882 followed by *Naomi* in 1883.

Upon his parents death in 1884, Arthur inherited Benares and continued to farm until 1900 when he sold off some property and rented out the rest. Arthur, always an active man, at the age of 75 continued to chop wood and do some of the outdoor chores.

Very conservative and sceptical of many new innovations in later life, his refusal to set the clocks ahead during Day Light Savings Time caused much confusion with guests!

An avid sportsman, who always kept a rifle near the front door, Arthur was supposedly one of the best shots in the *St. Ann's Hunting and Fishing Club*.

Described by his aunt as a "fine handsome, gentlemanly, young man" in the 1870's he is also remembered by his grandchildren as being a stern but kindly man. Heralded as "one of Toronto Township's Oldest Citizens", Arthur died in his 90<sup>th</sup> year on March 26, 1932 at Benares.

