

# A BRIEF HISTORY AND PHOTOS OF HAYES FARM DEVON formerly "UPPER HAYES FARM"

Many thanks to historians Carol Randall and Robert McNeil, authors of the 4-volume set "DEVON REMEMBERED", from which the following excerpts were taken.



**The Upper Hayes Farm**

20th Century, Circa 1910

St. Mary's, Devon, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Credits: Mary Hayes

When Col. Francis Hayes died, his grandson, Francis `Frank` Hayes, (Edward's eldest son) and his brother John were not included in the Colonel's will; however, two other grandchildren, James P. and Mary Ann were given property and money. They inherited the part of the property referred to as the 'upper farm'. Whether through sale, gift or his having outlived his siblings, at some point Frank and his wife Harriett (Wilson) Hayes took over the 'upper farm' and raised their family there.

The grandchildren, James P. and Mary Ann, were given a right-of-way across the front portion of the Hayes land so they could get to their property. They were given the property on condition that their mother, Margaret, should "during her lifetime or while she remains unmarried receive a comfortable support and maintenance upon and out of the said property". It seems that even though James and Mary Ann were given the 'upper farm' in the will, it was Frank, their older brother who ran the farm and may have had his mother living with him.

James P. Hayes (1854-1923) lived on the farm after 1881, and then moved to St. Mary's Street and ran the store on the corner of St. Mary's and Union Streets. His store was on the property which once belonged to Calvin Estabrooks and Winslow Tilley. James P. Hayes asked his nephew Leo, son of Frank Hayes, to come and live with him over the store at 96 St. Mary's Street.

**Credit: Robert McNeil & Carol Randall - Devon Remembered, Vol. 4, p.**



**Broad Acres and Col. Francis Hayes**

20th Century, Circa 1950

St. Mary's, Devon, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

The Hayes name has been long associated with Devon. This is mainly due to the fact that the first Hayes (or Hays as spelled in the 1851 Census) arrived in this locality in 1836, and became land holders of a large part of the community.

Colonel Francis Hays (1792-1867), the patriarch of the family, was born in County Cavan, Ireland. He was approximately 44 years old, when he entered New Brunswick in 1836, to settle at St. Mary's Ferry. Since he had resources when he came to New Brunswick, he was able to purchase two large estates at St. Mary's Ferry, adjacent to the Laurence Hughes (Hews) property; one property being just below and the other just above Hughes. Hayes began farming and grew more prosperous through this enterprise.

Francis' wife Catherine (1797-1857) was born in Ireland and came with him to New Brunswick. It is recorded in the 1851 Census, that they had two children living in their household; James (1824-1897) and Margaret (1829-), both born in Ireland. Another son, Edward (1819-1857), also born in Ireland, was married and living in St. Mary's Parish, with his wife Margaret and four children. According to the 1851 Census, they may have been living at the so-called 'upper farm, now 577 Hillcrest Drive. The upper and lower farms were divided by a gully.

James had a brick yard near his house, which supplied bricks for local construction. The Colonel's original house may have been a log cabin or perhaps he took up residence in one of the old Acadian houses, which were on the property. It was later that the family built this house known as "Broadacres". The two generations, Francis and his son James, lived in the same house at 'Broadacres' and probably shared barns and farm machinery. When Francis Hayes died in 1867, he left his property at 'Broadacres' to his children, James and Margaret. A condition of the will was, if Margaret remained unmarried and 'without issue,' then the property was to go to James on her death.

James and wife Sarah (McDevitt) (1840-1913) Hayes of 'Broadacres' were affected by the 1892 Fire. The local newspaper reported: `` ... two large barns belonging to James Hayes filled with hay and grain were burned to the ground. His loss will be about \$500. ``

**Credit: Robert McNeil & Carol Randall - Devon Remembered, Vol. 4, p.**

**Now...fast forward to the 1970's - a time when New Brunswick produced 70% of what we consumed!**

***Hayes Farm photos below courtesy of Ian Robertson & family***



**And where we are today...a new generation of farmers...**



**To find our way forward, we must find  
our way back!**

