

## T. E. M. Banting

One of Oakland's first big farmers, Thomas Edward Meredith Banting — an uncle of Sir Frederick Banting of insulin fame — moved to the Sourisburg district from Newton Robinson, Ontario, in 1887.

The Sourisbourg district already contained many of his immediate family, including his father, Benjamin, a member of the Anglo-Irish gentry forced to flee Ireland during the great potato famine. So Thomas apparently did not have too much trouble getting settled. When the C.P.R. branch line crossed Oakland in 1892, a siding was laid near his home. The elevator at Banting Siding and the large brick house he had built in the 1890's were among the landmarks of the countryside.

Thomas Banting had a Methodist's determination to prosper and enjoyed doing things in a big way. As they said in the heyday of the big harvesting crews, he was one of those who had "one gang going, one gang coming and one gang working".

An inventive streak was part of his somewhat aristocratic nature. He tried to make economical fuel from a rig that rolled moistened straw into "wood", was one of the first Canadian farmers to experiment with a cement-floored barn, and pioneered the "automatic" method of watering cattle indoors.