

Diamond Wedding  
Souvenir

1847

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1907

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bannister

announce their

Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary

Friday, November fifteenth

nineteen hundred seven

Townsend, Ontario, Canada

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Married

Wesleyan Church, Brantford, Canada

November fifteenth

eighteen hundred forty-seven

by the

Rev. E. N. Ryerse

Charles Bannister

to

Miss Ann Dale

## Sixty Years of Wedded Life

A rare and happy event occurred on Friday, Nov. 15, 1907, at Pine Grove farm, Townsend, Ont., where a happy family group gathered at the old home to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bannister.

Mr. Bannister was born in Suffolk, England, November 5, 1820, and lost his father at the age of four. In 1836 he, with his mother, sister and five brothers, came to Canada to what was then known as "The Fifty," now Winona, in Wentworth county, where he learned the trade of shoemaking. In 1847, in the Wesleyan church, in Brantford, he was united in marriage with Miss Anne Dale, of Bramham, Yorkshire, England, who, with her mother and two brothers, had lately settled in the locality, the father having died soon after their arrival in this country.



In the spring of 1851 Mr. and Mrs. Bannister moved to Norfolk county and settled upon the farm where they passed a happy, useful life, and where they still reside. Twelve children blessed their union—five sons and seven daughters—of whom two, Walter and William, died in early life. Two others—Mrs. Samuel Proper (Elizabeth), of Brantford, and Mrs. R. F. Pollard (Beatrice) of Toronto, have passed away since the celebration of the golden wedding.

Forty grandchildren, of whom thirty-four are living, four great-grandchildren, together with those united in marriage, increase the family number to seventy-five, most of whom were present at the diamond wedding.

Other guests were Mr. William Dale of Teeterville, and Mr. John Dale of Brantford, brothers of the bride of sixty years; Mrs. William Dale, Mr. and Mr. Thomas Hague of Brantford, and Mrs. Dunnett, old-time friends; also Rev. Mr. Collins, pastor of the family, and Mrs. Collins. Mr. William Dale was groomsman in 1847, and Mrs. Jonas Smith, the bridesmaid, is still living, though in poor health.

Mr. Bannister is the only survivor of his family, though four of his five brothers passed their eightieth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bannister are in good general health, though the former is confined to his chair, and the latter has been blind for thirty-five years. The youngest son, Charles O. Bannister, lives upon the home farm. One daughter, Georgina, remains with and cares for the parents. The eldest son, George D., lives near by, also the youngest daughter, Mrs. William McKerlie (Theresa); Mrs. E. B. Freeman (Eleanor), and Mrs. W. A. Smith (Emma) reside near Burlington; Mrs. (Rev.) E. A. Elliott (Alice) in Bay City, Mich., and Prof. A. W. Bannister, A. M., in Pasadena, Cal. One grandson, Dr. Claude W. Freeman, is a medical missionary in Chung King, China. Others are living in different parts of Canada and the United States.

After a bountiful dinner, Mr. Bannister was seated in a handsomely upholstered rolling arm-chair presented by the family, and letters of congratulation, love and good wishes were read from absent members. Songs of praise were sung and prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Collins.

In connection with the event the following verses were composed by Mrs. E. A. Elliott.

We greet thee, honored parents,  
On this glad anniversary day;  
We honor, love, revere thee,  
Our guides thro' youth's brief way,

Full sixty years you've travelled on  
Ever in heart together;  
Full sixty years of joys and griefs  
Thro' bright and cloudy weather.

Twelve children unto you were given,  
Five sons and daughters seven;  
One only smiled, one played awhile  
Then hastened back to heaven.

Two more were called; we knew not why,  
But know our Father's wisdom;  
They trusted much, they suffered long,  
They wait to bid us welcome.

On calm Pacific's distant shore  
One son has built his bower,  
In California's balmy air,  
The land of fruit and flower.

A daughter, too, has crossed the line  
To Michigan's Lake border;  
Her home is here, and there and where?  
Where'er the church doth order.

The rest are in Ontario,  
Not far from Erie's waters;  
The eldest and the youngest sons,  
Four fair and stately daughters.

One daughter only did not wed,  
The third; none could persuade her.  
She cares for parents, home and friends—  
What would we do without her?

Grandchildren, too, we count the living  
One more than three times eleven,  
Fairly divided, girls and boys,  
Of each there are ten and seven.

Six others long since crossed the bar,  
Which made the number forty,  
Three little ones, their parents' hope,  
Amelia, Ada, Charlie.

Three grandsons only bear the name  
Of Bannister, their grandsire—  
Tall Stanley, Claude and Harold small,  
We trust they'll bear it higher.

In China far, one grandson dear,  
His life is nobly giving  
To heal the body, teach the soul  
A better way of living.

Two brothers also of the bride,  
One near four score, one over,  
Their greeting bring their sister dear  
To show her how they love her.

Not often maid and groomsman both,  
For three score years resideth  
So near the aging bride and groom,  
Who still on earth abideth.

Today we meet; tomorrow part;  
And still we journey onward  
Toward the goal of every life,  
Our faces ever heavenward.

And when the day, which soon must come,  
When again our circle's broken,  
Whoe'er it be, immortality  
Is sure—a heavenly token.

As one by one we cross the bourne  
From which none e'er returneth,  
As spirits in the spirit land  
Guard we those who still sojourneth.

And when at last we all are there  
Within our heavenly mansion,  
We'll raise a song, a chorus grand,  
To Christ, our souls' redemption.