

JOHN ARCHIBALD AND HIS DESCENDANTS

The story of how my great-grandfather came to leave Scotland, and settle in America is as follows.

My great-great-grandfather was a teacher of mathematics at Edinburgh University. His son, my great-grandfather John Archibald came from Edinburgh, Scotland when a boy of about thirteen in 1740. His Father had apprenticed him to a cheese maker to learn that worthy trade.

His master did not give him sufficient food to eat, so as he worked with the cheese, once in a while he would take a lump of curd and eat it. His master told his father, who gave him a very severe thrashing. After that happened he made up his mind to leave his place, so he ran away and getting aboard a British Man-o'-war as a stow-away, came to New York, New England States, where in the harbor he gave the sailors the slip and got away.

He first lived at Fish Kill's, New York, but what happened after that until the war of Independence broke out in 1775 is unknown to me. At that time it is said, he lived on and owned a large farm, somewhere, either where the city of Philadelphia now stands, or near to that city(and was married to an English girl by the name of Tait). They called it the forks of the Delaware River.

When the war broke out, he decided to take neither part in it, but while working in the fields on his farm, he was shot at several times by an enemy among the rebel soldiers. Then he made up his mind to join the Loyalists, leaving his wife and family on the farm.

Sometime after, while out with a scouting party, he was taken prisoner, handcuffed and marched away between two soldiers. Night came on. It became very dark. As they were going through a forest he thought he would take a chance for his life, because to go on with them as prisoner, meant certain death. So he broke away, made a dash through the trees, was missed by the shots fired at him, ran for a while, dropped down on the ground and lay still, scarcely breathing; fearful of making a noise. In vain they searched all around for him, almost stepping on him. Finally they gave up the search, thinking they had either killed him, or he had got beyond their hearing. They were forced to go on, being in the lines of the Loyalists army. After waiting a long while until they were out of hearing, (the minutes seeming like hours) he got up and wandered aimlessly around in the darkness, but finally had to ~~xx~~ lie down and wait for daylight.

When morning came he knew not where he was, or where to go for safety

and moreover, how to get the irons off his hands. Wet, shivering, and numbed with the cold and also hungry, he decided to trust in Providence and go to one of the houses that he could see in a clearing. Fortunately he met with sympathy, and the women of the house filed the hand-cuffs off. Once more he was free!

After many difficulties he found his way home. There he left his son Jesse to take care of the farm, while he with his wife and the rest of the family came as United Empire Loyalists to Nova Scotia, 1783. They lived at Digby Point or Digby Neck.

When the war was over and the treaty signed in 1783, leaving his children in Nova Scotia he and his wife started to go back to look after his affairs and see their son who had been left on the farm in Pennsylvania. The ship that they sailed on was wrecked on the Bay of Fundy, and neither they nor their son Jesse was ever heard of again.

John Archibald Senior or 1 had six children born in Pennsylvania, James, Jesse, John Junior or 2, David, Margaret and Mrs. Morill, name thought to be Susan or Sarah.

One son, possibly James settled on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario. He was a blacksmith by trade. During the war 1812 the Americans put a cable across the St. Lawrence to stop the British gun boats and so train their guns on the British. He went down between the two fires, to the river, and cut the cable with a cold chisel. Another son fought at Queenston Heights. (more likely John Jr's. son Alexander.)

John Junior, my grandfather who was born in 1770, married Elizabeth Teed in Digby, Nova Scotia, 1794, migrated to the town of York in Upper Canada in 1811. He took up land in Vaughan township, two hundred acre lot 25, Concession 4, July 22, 1811, from James Nevins, otherwise called James Lacquith, for fifty-six pounds, five shillings. James Nevins bought from Peter Musselman, Junior, January 26, 1810. This was registered by Thomas G. Ridout, County of York. The Crown deed was dated 1808 (before this)

The house which grandfather built is still standing, and is over one hundred years old. That was the house in which my father was born 1814. It was built of elm logs, and is now used as an out building on the old farm.

Grandfather was buried on the same farm in the grave*yard of a Primitive Methodist Church, of which he was a member. The site, three acres, the first in the district, he gave to that society. This was a log church built about 1828 at the halfway mark on the Teston side road between the fourth and fifth concessions.

One of grandfather's sons, my father, David Archibald was a local preacher, and at the early age of eighteen years on the suggestion of Colonel O'Brien, of the Primitive Methodists, Thornhill, was put on "The Plan" for the circuit, which included Teston, Laskay and Markham, becoming a Circuit Rider. Here it was at Markham he met his future wife, my Mother Catherine Buckendol whom he married in 1838.

The primitive methodists of England then, held their first conference in 1854 in Canada, when the Markham circuit was changed to Laskay Circuit. The Primitive Methodists joined the Wesleyans in 1884.

Grandfather John Archibald 2nd was noted as a hard working industrious farmer. With open-hearted benevolence he was ever ready to help the needy. The trail through the woods passed by his home to the townships farther back and settlers travelling by, to their own homesteads (when benighted) he would keep over night, feeding their horses, oxen or cattle free of any charge.

There is an episode in connection with this which happened in the year 1832, a year of one of the very bad cholera epidemics. A man very sick and ill called to stay over night, but unfortunately, during the night passed away. They didn't even know who he was, although he was known to have a considerable sum of money in his belt. However, fearful of the cholera, which he may have had, a grave was dug in the orchard and the man, money, bed clothes and all were hurriedly buried the next day.

One hundred and seven acres of the farm, lot 25, con. 4, Grandfather had sold to Joe Rimnic, three acres given for the church and in his will, which by the way was registered by one of the first citizens of the Town of York, W. m. Chewitt., John Archibald 2nd willed the remaining east ninety acres evenly to his sons Alexander Samuel Thomas. (Thomas, died in 1842 before his Father and Mrs. Cryderman claimed it as his daughter).

In 1839, he had bought one hundred acres in King township, the west half, lot eight, Con. seven from Jesse Kinnee of Vaughan for two hundred and fifty pounds, also held a bond for the east half of the same lot for one Hundred and eighty-seven pounds, which later he took over

land values rose fast then.

My Father inherited this farm on the eight of King; it was later passed on to his son Robert, then later to his son George. Grandfather lived there with my Father, David, after he purchased it, until his death in 1842, and was buried in the graveyard of the little log church in Vaughan which he had given to the Primitive Methodists, about 14 years before.

Father being the youngest had the old people to look after in their old age. Grandmother died in 1845. Grandfather had also bought farms on the twelfth and thirteenth of King, also the farm, lot ten on the south west of the eight concession, where his son John lived, and later his son Edward. A church site was given on the twelfth and also one on the eight concession, lot 10, on the south east corner of the farm, a frame church.

The children of John Archibald 2nd and Elizabeth Teed;

Francis born 1795, married David Wait Sweet, died 1861

Alexander	" 1798	" Sarah Clement	" 1850
Margaret	" 1800	"	" 1801
Samuel	" 1802	" Jemina Kinee	" 1873
Elizabeth	" 1804	" Able Kinee	" 1873
Susan	" 1806	"	"
Thomas	" 1808	" Elizabeth Bretenton	" 1842
John 3rd	" 1811	" Mary Anne Cameron Emma Pane	" 1891
David	" 1814	" Catherine Buckendol	" 1893
Joanna	" 1816	" David C. Hill Charles Hickling	" 1897

The children of my father David Archibald 2nd and Catherine Buckendol

- are:
- George " 1839, July 29, died Aug. 14, same year.
 - Anne " 1840, married Daniel Cameron
 - Susanna " 1842 - died 1860
 - David James 3rd, born 1845 - died 1850
 - Robert Coursin, born 1848, married Martha Readmond
 - Lydia Elizabeth, born 1849 - married John Egan - died
 - Mary Anne, born 1850, married Wm. Lyons - died 1936.

Charles Henry, born 1853, married Mary Anne Dyke - died Nov. 8, 1943
 " " " " - died ~~Nov 8, 1943~~ June 12, 1946.

JOHN ARCHIBALD AND HIS DESCENDANTS cont'd. - 5-

Joanna born 1857 - married ~~Walter~~ Ireland - died 1938

David Morrison -born 1860 - married Lizzie Boyd - died 1943
" Sarah Cairn
" " " died 1944.

Father seemed to be the most noted character in the family of John Archibald, Jr. or the 2nd. He was enterprising and successful in his business undertakings. He took the first newspaper in the neighbourhood "The Globe" and as not everybody could read or write in those days, he read the news by candlelight to the neighbours in the evenings as they gathered at our home on the eighth of King. He also did clerical work for them. They came too, to see his grain binder, a Patterson work, one of the first in those parts. They cut grain on their three farms. The first round in a field was invariably cradled, but when at last to save time, I started into a field, and cut that first round with the binder, although there were many protests, at the trampled grain under the horses feet, it was never again cradled by hand.

When Father died on the sixth of King township in 1893, he owned six hundred and thirty acres in that township.

As written and told by Charles H. Archibald, April, 1910,
Lot 7, Concession 6, Strange, Ont. Later of King City, Ont.

William Baldwin (father of Ruth Baldwin) came to Canada at age 11. His mother died at his birth. His father remarried and came to Woodville, Ontario and worked at mill business. His father had been here one year and died suddenly. William got his school education and came to Laskay in 1885 and stayed till 1888, working for Henry Baldwin, his second cousin, at the woollen mill. His grandfather was William Baldwin, brother to Joseph Baldwin, who came out from England to Laskay.

William worked at the mill at Bolton about three years and then farmed at Kinghorn (Davis Farm) from 1902 to 1920. Then he moved to Strange, Lot 7, west half of Concession 7 and retired to Aurora in 1946.

Mr. & Mrs. William Baldwin celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1948.

George Simpson Baldwin, who lived in Tom and Agnes Walker's Walker's house, brother to Henry, moved to Aurora to run the mill there. His son, George, and grandson was Gordon, who gave us early pictures of Laskay.

A Mr. Graham, who ran the woollen mill for a while, was related to Dr. William Baldwin's wife (Anderson). Dr. William Baldwin was the son of William Baldwin of Laskay and Strange.

Abraham Carley came to Canada from New York state in 1831. He settled near Thornhill, was successful at farming and later bought 200 acres of bush land on Lot 7, Concession 5. With the assistance of his sons he cleared and cultivated the land. In 1864 he died, leaving seven children and had a prosperous career.

Benjamin Carley was born in New York state in 1814. When he was 17 years old, he came to Canada. In 1837 he married Martha Clark, originally from Pennsylvania, and lived on the home farm, Lot 7 Con. 5. His family consisted of ten children.

A. D. Carley was born in 1846 on the farm at Lot 7, Con. 5. He was the son of Peter B. Carley, who inherited his grandfather's farm mentioned above and added 25 acres. Peter took no part in the 1837 Rebellion, but narrowly escaped being killed by a mob of men armed with clubs. In 1872 Peter died aged 56 years. He left nine children. A. D. Carley inherited the old homestead, 75 acres and worked an adjacent 100 acres. In 1875 he married Miss Dutcher of Innisfil. They had two children, William B. and Francis A. O.

LOT 8, CONCESSION 6.

Maple Lane Farm, east-half of lot 8, concession 6, King Township was purchased in October 1964 by the Hendersons whose farms adjoin Alfred and Elizabeth Gillhams.

Elizabeth, an elementary school teacher in King Township was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McClure.

The Gillhams bought the farm in 1945 from Mrs. Jean Gillies, after her husband John died. Terms were cash for 60 acres at \$100.00 an acre.

A barn was built in 1870 and another one was raised on July 7th, 1913. A picture of the barn raising supper tells the story. The house is of frame construction. Water is pumped from shallow wells.

The telephone was installed in 1913 and electricity in 1930.

At one time on this property there were two brickyards. When trees were being cut into lumber, one tree measuring 4' across made 2100 feet, a record for maple.

Mixed farming has been done and Alfred kept bees.

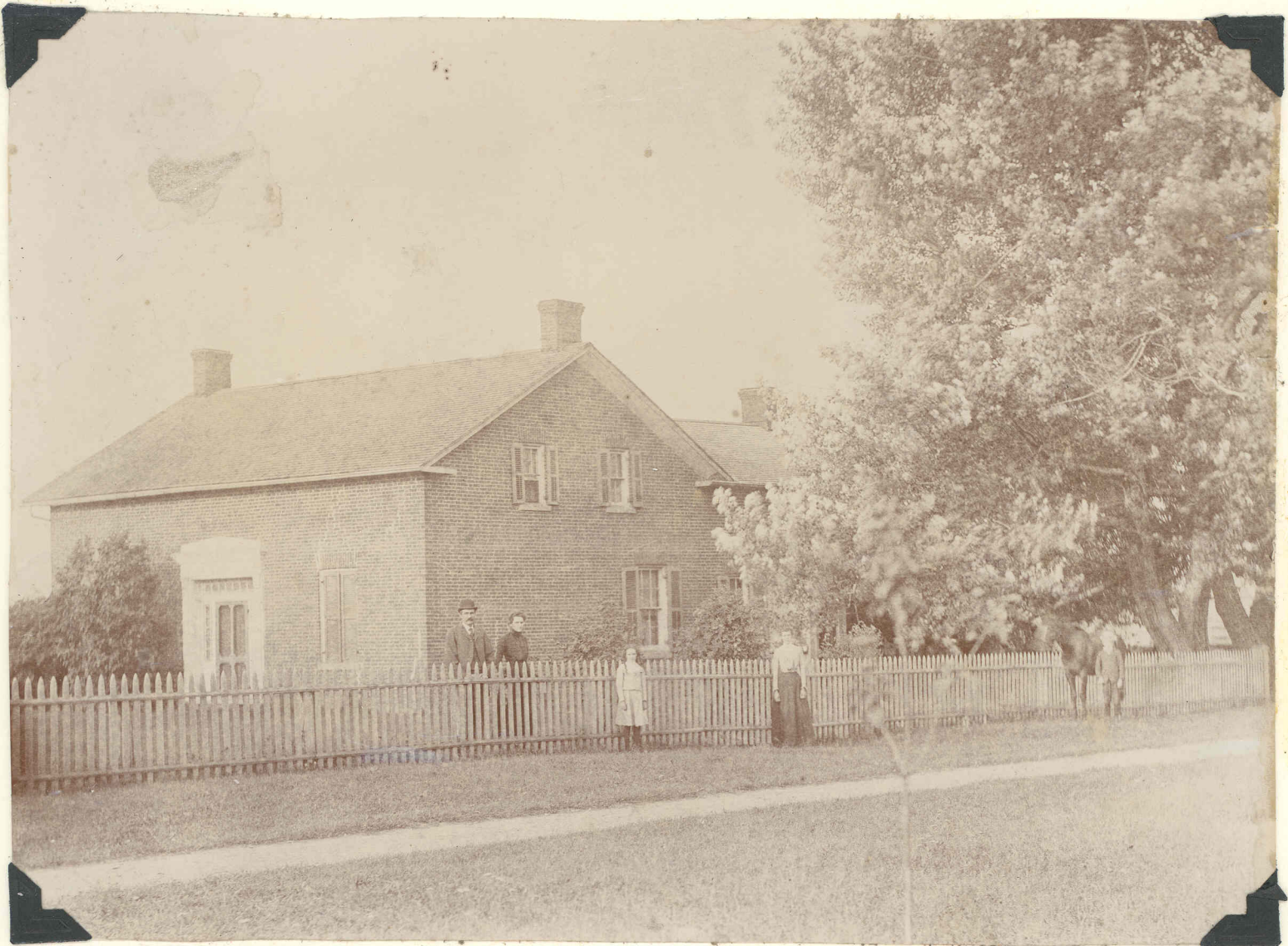
Taxes amounted to \$204.00 in 1960.

Mr. John Gillies collected money and Indian souvenirs, and his wife left a collection of 1750 pieces of china including an unique collection of jugs from all over the world which went to Ontario Museum in Toronto at her death.



THE MACMURCHY HOMESTEAD

The red brick house still in good use in 1966, was built in 1859 by a Wm. Wells. Norman relates that all the building material for this house came off the farm; the bricks were made in the field south of the barn and you can see where the old lime kiln was near the road south of the orchard. Lumber from timber on the farm was most likely sawed at Marsh's mill on Lot 7, Con. 6.



Norman MacMurchy - Elizabeth McCallum
parents of

Alexander MacMurchy - Agnes McCallum
parents of

1. Norman MacMurchy - Pearl Teale
2. Ouida MacMurchy - Albert Hill - Nobleton
3. Margaret MacMurchy - Dr. R.M. Lymburner - Hamilton.

Ouida and Margaret were both Public School teachers.

Mr. Norman MacMurchy submitted this information for Laskay Tweedsmuir History Book, 1966.

Lot 9. Concession 6 - 1885-1961.

Lot 9, Con. 6, King township, the said east half 100 acres was granted by the crown to Richard Machell in 1839 and in 1840 William or "Squire" Wells as he was better known, purchased the 100 acres from his father-in-law Richard Machell, "Machell(s corners", now Aurora for 252 pounds or about \$1100.00

It was Mr. Well's ambition to start a town and he built a store at the road, south of the laneway in 1841. Some years later he moved the store a few rods north to the site it occupied until burned in 1922. On the northerly site the store was enlarged and quite a large house was built at the back (picture elsewhere in this book)

The store was stocked with groceries, hardware, boots, shoes and about everything needed in those pioneer days. There was also a dressmaker and millinery shop. Norman MacMurchy still has an account book dated 1846 from this store.

The farmers traded their produce for goods, eggys by the dozen and butter by the pound for a York shilling or 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Cow hides, calf skins and wool were also traded. One item a plow sold for four lbs., two shillings. Whiskey was even sold at two shillings or .50¢ a gallon., and rumors were, there was a barrell of whiskey in the store room with a tin cup hanging for customer's use.

Later when a Mr. Mowat operated the store he had a bakery. In the 1840's there were four other homes built along the front of lot 8. One house owned by Mary Howitt contained a small store, this house later torn down by Alex. MacMurchy.

Mr. Wells' hopes of a town were shattered when the railroad went through King City in 1853 and he sold the farm to his eldest son, Wm. Wells, who kept it til 1885, when Alexander MacMurchy purchased the farm for \$7,600.00

Alexander MacMurchy was the son of Norman and Elizabeth (McCallum) MacMurchy of New Scotland lot 13, Concession 7, King township. The MacMurchy family emigrated to Canada in 1840. The farm stayed in the MacMurchy name till 1961, when Alexander's son-Norman sold the farm to Stanley Kerr, who also owned Lot 8, and son Douglas Kerr's family live in the old MacMurchy homestead.

Mrs. Alexander (A gnes) MacMurchy was the daughter of the late Peter McCallum who lived nearby at lot 8 west half of Con. 5, and was an active community church and Institute worker.

Mr. Alexander MacMurchy played a very prominent part in municipal life; as a member of council first in 1903, later reeve for some years and the highest award when chosen warden of York county in 1913. He played an active part in York county council for eight years. After a short retirement he was again found in the Reeves' chair, and totalled 18 years in local council life.

LOT 9, Concession 6, 1885-1961. cont'd.

His son Norman followed in his father's footsteps and participated in municipal office for thirteen years. Norman is a member of the Masonic Order. Needless to say this agricultural farm was always kept in operation. Norman and his wife Pearl Teale (Carleton Place) reserved a lot on the northeast corner of the farm and built a modern red brick home about 1961-62 beside the old Stone church. Besides the store and Norman's new house there still are two houses on the southeast corner of the farm.

STRANGE STORE AND POST OFFICE



Robert Rutherford purchased Strange Store in 1895 from a Mr. Brown.

Mr. Rutherford kept bees and sold the honey in his store. In 1922 the house and store were wiped out by fire. This building was replaced by a new house and a store. The store was confined to one room in the new home.

Strange store closed in 1941.

There was also a Post Office for many years and no doubt would be closed about 1926 when Rural Mail Delivery came to Road mail boxes.



Robert Rutherford and his model-T Ford Car taken 1916 in front of Presbyterian Manse - Strange.

WILLIAMSTOWN - STRANGE.

In 1840 William or Squire Wells purchased 100 acres, east half of Lot 9 Con. 6 King, from his father-in-law, Richard Machell, who had received the crown grant in 1839. It was Mr. Wells' ambition to start a town, so he built a store south of laneway in 1841 on the 6th concession road. Some years later he moved the store a few rods north of the site which it occupied until the store and house were burned in 1922.

In the 1840's four other houses were built, one of which included another store which was short lived and torn down in 1880. Mr. Wells' hopes of a town were shattered when the railroad went through King City in 1853. Mr. Wells then took over the farm until 1885 when it was sold to Alexander MacMurchy.

Robert Rutherford purchased the store in 1895 from a Mr. Brown. Mr. Rutherford kept the store well stocked with groceries, hardware, boots, etc. and in exchange hides, calfskins, wool, butter and eggs were brought in. At one time, whiskey sold at two shillings a gallon and a tin cup hung on a barrel in the back of the store. A bakery existed one time in the history of the store and the Rutherford daughters carried on a Millinery and Dressmaking business in the home.

This town was first called Williamstown and changed to Strange about 1879, named after Dr. Strange M.D. of Aurora Conservative Leader in North York Riding. The first Post Office in King Township was called King and Donald (Chief) McCallum was it's postmaster on Lot 8, west half of Concession 5. Later the Post Office was at Strange Store and Post Masters were Mowat, Gillies, Chandler, Brown and Rutherford.

Early records state that Francis Attridge established a carriage making business in 1883. Buggies and wagons were made downstairs and a paint shop was upstairs at the east half of Lot 6, Concession 6. Sam Carson, besides being a rural mail carrier, also carried on the wheelwright business. His grandson was the late Jack Carson of Hollywood fame.

Brick yards have been reported on Lots 7, 8 and 9 west side of the 6th Concession.

Daniel O'Brien established a blacksmith shop in 1854 at Lot 7, west half Concession 5. Later he and his eldest son, Joseph carried on their business at the corner of Lot 5, Con. 6 until Joseph's retirement in 1935. Mr. Joe O'Brien or Spurgeon, as nearly everyone called him, kept

posted on all the local news at the "Old Forge".

Mrs. Joseph O'Brien was the first Laskay Women's Institute President.

Malcolm McMillan was the last reported Smithy to operate in a log shop at Lot 10, west half of Concession 5,

Some local names for individual places in and around Strange included - Vinegar Hill, Velvet Hill, Egypt and Scripture Town.

Lot 7, east half of Concession 6, now known as Hawthorn Hills Farm claim three notable people who have made their mark in the world.

Rev. Herbert Archibald first went out to India in 1913 and spent twenty-seven years in missionary service in that country. Mr. Archibald passed on to greater service in 1966.

Dr. W. W. Baldwin, who graduated in 1930's has been the local practitioner in Brooklin, Ontario, since his graduation, and became the 80th President of the Ontario Medical Association in 1959-60.

Mrs. D. .C. Henderson, now residing on the Hawthorn Hills Farm, has had a profound interest in Christian education and refugee work, also a very avid worker of the United Nations Association, Toronto and York Branches.

Mrs. Henderson, a world traveller, a scholar and teacher of a Universal language -- "Esparanto" is also an author of books, including "Greater Glory" and "People Have Power".

PIONEER DAYS

One of the few farms on the 6th of King, still farmed by a descendant of the pioneers, is Lot 15, Con. 6 farmed and owned by Donald Gillies. He has the crown deed that his Grandfather received when he bought the farm in 1850.

The first owner of this land, Lawrie Gillies, was a Scotch immigrant, who had saved enough money from herding cattle in Scotland, to buy a passage to Canada. He started on foot to buy land to settle, walking from Richmond Hill, to find the land, Lot 15, Con. 6.

He started clearing the bush land and lived alone here for two years, then married Jane Craik, a native of Scotland. They had a hard, lonely life, as pioneers did, plenty of hard work and not much money, but plenty of ambition.

The woods were full of wild animals and the supply of food was replenished by walking to Richmond Hill and carrying the groceries home in a pack on the back.

In 1895, the second son, Robert C. Gillies, married and took over the task of clearing and farming this land, where he lived all his life -- 78 years. He died in 1933 and the farm was taken over by his son, Donald.

Lot 16, rear Con. 5 - Gillham Homestead

Mr. George Gillham pioneered the 200 acre farm at Lot 16, Con. 5 (rear) and received the crown grant. The farm later became handed down to Lewis (son), who lived all but nine of his eighty-four years on the homestead. Then his son, William, lived there for about seven years. The Lewis Gillham family lived at an Eversley Farm for seven years, thence retiring to Aurora two years before his death in 1956. Lewis was married to Sarah Jane Ash of Whitchurch Township and they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1954.

The following information was given by Wing Commander R. A. Stubbs, who purchased 50 acres of the Gillham farm in 1952 at \$125.00 an acre. The present cement house (40 X 30) was built in 1900 by Lew Gillham. A barn (100 X 40) was built in 1926. There is a cement cistern and a shallow well - stoned. Electricity was installed about 1949. A summer kitchen was renovated with wooden siding in 1926. Ten acres to the north were reforested in 1940 and 4 more acres in 1960. Present acreage - 36 acres in 1960. Taxes in 1950 - \$52.00 -- in 1960 - \$2202.00. Name of farm - Wendy Ridge - well named for its location.

KNOLLWOOD FARM

"Knollwood Farm" was acquired and named by the Fraser Grant family in 1936. At times, it has included about 180 acres in the East Halves of Lots 16 and 17 in the Seventh Concession, a few acres in Lot 16 of the Sixth and a stretch of the original Seventh Concession which was "detoured" many years ago to skirt the steel hill over the "watershed" between Lakes Ontario and Simcoe. The lands adjoined "Kelly Lake" and the "New Scotland Sideroad", -so named from the school built in 18 , between the East and West Halves of Lot 16.

The previous owners were several members of the Douglas family, who lived and farmed in the seventh concession. The Grants purchased the East Half of Lot-17, from Clifford Douglas in 1936 and the remainder, at different times, from Frederick William Douglas and his widow, formerly Rose May Jarvis. At that time, the only buildings were a two-story frame house and a stone-and-frame barn on Lot 17, built around the turn of the Century. The wells of those times still serve the properties and the "New Scotland" School; and, conspicuously visible throughout the valleys across to Bolton and the Albion Hills, are the "Hilliard Pines".

Before the Douglas family - and during their earlier tenancies, was an owner of Lot 16, Donald Bowie, by name - who surprisnly disappeared from those parts for a quarter-century, - who cased his rent cheques, ultimately mailed in a Deed to Frederick Douglas, and never returned. About that time Mr. Douglas bought the West half of Lot 17 from his wife's (Jarvis) family. Meanwhile, early in this century, East-Seventeen was acquired by one Joseph Parker, a master carriage builder of Oshawa, who turned to farming because he couldn't believe in the future of the automobile.

In the 'thirties, the Grants renovated and enlarged the farm-house and barn and built the steel (Beatty-Brothers) riding-stable, riding-arena, and implement shed in Lot 17, now (1953) owned by Mr. Laurence J. McGuiness. The buildings were erected by the "Saints". -those then famous brothers, Art and Len Saint. As a sample of those remarkable master-craftsmen of King Township,- on Monday they started the excavation for a 110-foot long four-level Council standar steel implement-shed, finished it Friday with time to build a complete new roof on the farm-house and moved their equipment in time to start a new job across the Township on Morday morning. These were giants in the land in those days!

KNOLLWOOD FARM - 2

During the years 1936 to 1953, Lot 17 was used for (a) mixed farming, including various crops; and riding-trails (b) raising, pasturing and training saddle-horses and ponies, and for breeding and pasturing sheep, and for poultry. The "Knollwood" part of Lot 16 was - and still is - used for the family's living cabins, garage, swimming pool, and in the Easterly part, for the home of the farm-manager, and a composite steel barn housing box-stalls, tack-room, garage and storage. Latterly the "ponds" by the side-road have been cleaned, enlarged, graded and seeded. Telephone and electric wires have been put underground. And throughout both lots many thousands of trees were planted, - most of them now full grown - for soil-conservation and for beautifying the landscape. In 1953, Lot 17, including all of the riding-stables, etc., was sold to Mr. McGuinness, who now maintains it for his new residence and his farm.

Lands and buildings of King Township would be dull statistics without the "Stories" of its people. For instance, no sketch of these parts should omit "The Kellys", that amazingly durable father-and-son team, - Archibald, Sr. and Jr., - who named "Kelly Lake", lived by it from the Grant by the Crown until 1935. They almost spanned three centuries and left only one registration on the title, - the will from father to son. Their housekeeper, Margaret Mitchell, survived briefly to eighty-eight. The Kellys told the Douglasses that they had to clear some of the hills for farming because so much of the valley was covered by small lakes and streams. Anti-Conservationists take notice!

Another stalwart character and next door neighbour of "Knollwood" was Mark Gillham, who worked several farms as a widower in his eighties. He fell and broke a hip in his stable yard in sub-zero temperature, was found the next day living on frozen eggs, threw off frost bite and pneumonia and was preparing to go home, when he died of a heart attack.

"Knollwood" Farm throughout its twenty-five years and through three generations has been guided and "cared-for" by its two bachelor "originals", - Clifford Douglas and Victor Cull of the 5th Concession, Near Kinghorn. Clifford Douglas died in 1965.

This information was prepared and given to us February 10, 1961 by Mr. W.G. Fraser Grant, 9 Highland Ave. Toronto 1. In his letter he mentions that his wife's Father, was born in Lloydtown (The Hon. H.C. Schofield) where his Father was a practicing physician and surgeon. He died (Dr. Schofield) as a young man and his family moved to Toronto.



The Marshall re-union at Duncan McMurchy's on July 1, 1914, at which all were present except Will MacCallum.

Standing at back; left

Colin Campbell holding Ruth (Mrs. Tankard), Mary McMurchy (Marwood), Aubrey Marshall, Mrs. Albert Marshall (Jenny), Albert Marshall, Frank Marshall, Mrs. Frank Marshall (Florence), Duncan McMurchy, Mrs. Art Marshall (Elizabeth), Art Marshall.

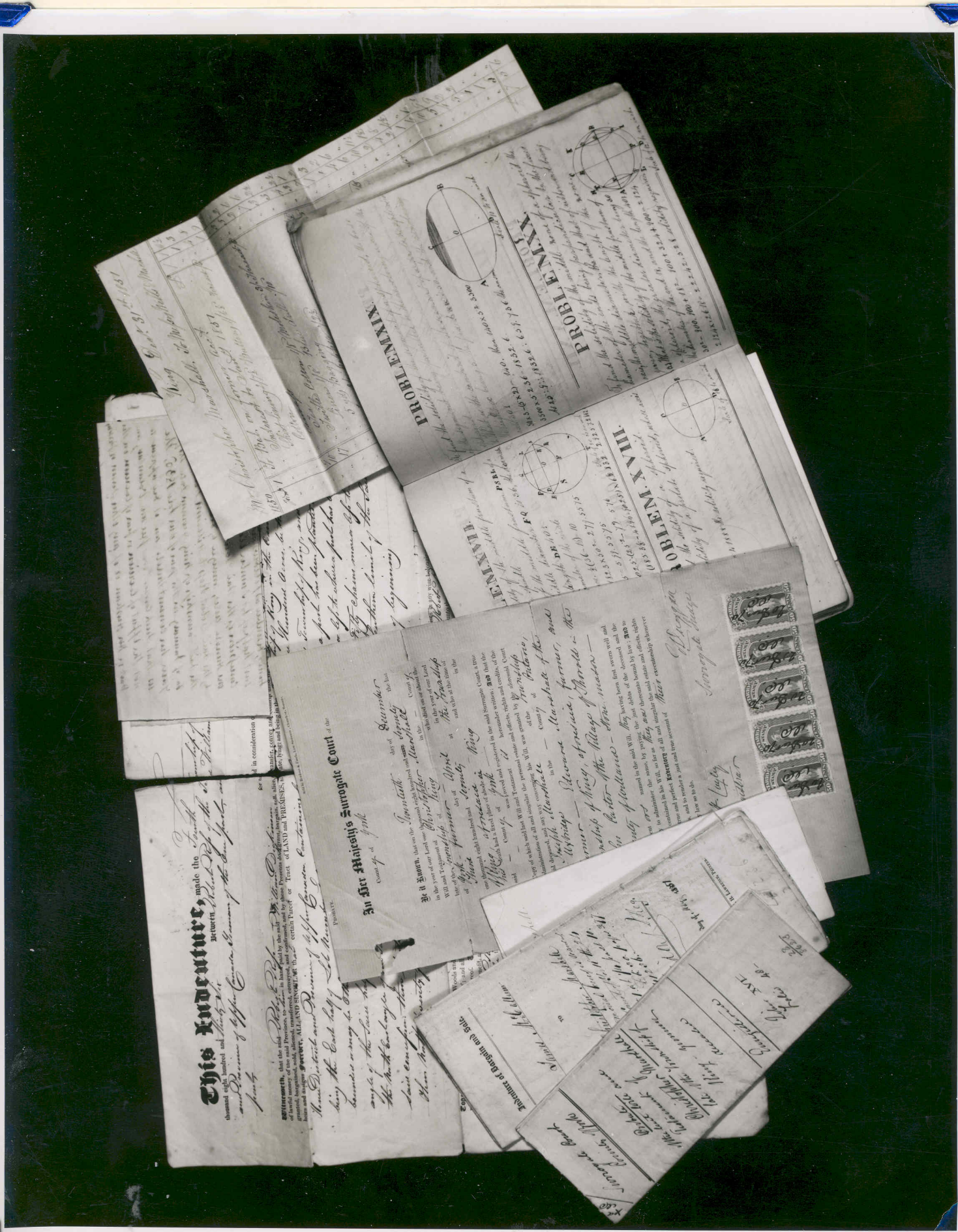
Seated; (left to right)

Mrs. Colin Campbell (Ella), holding Marshall Campbell, Mrs. Neil MacCallum (Louise) holding Irene (Mrs. Geo. Beome) and Kenneth, Edward Marshall, Mrs. Ed. Marshall (Margaret Carson), Mrs. Duncan McMurchy (Annie)

Front Row:

Raymond Marshall, Margaret MacCallum, Marjorie McMurchy, Evelyn MacCallum (Mrs. Ken Jones) Aileen Marshall (Mrs. Jack McDonald) Marshall McMurchy

Absent; Will Mac Callum.



This collection of papers is in possession of Mrs. Irene (Marshall) Folliott, and had belonged to her Grandfather and great-grandfather. The geometry workbook was compiled in 1849 and is in excellent condition. It was highly recommended by a Notary Public - J.M. Walton.

THE MUD HOUSE

I sipped Chinese tea and ate little cakes as I looked across miles of green woodland when recently I had the opportunity of visiting with Blair Acton Burroughs, probably the only woman in Canada who has built her own house, not from bricks, cement or lumber, but constructed of earth from her own property. This unique process is called 'pise de terre,' which means earth rammed between forms until it is hard as stone and rings like a bell.

Miss Burrows had lived in the city for a number of years, when a friend told her about a farm for sale near King. She had not wanted as large a piece of land, but 'just a little plot of land somewhere in this wide Dominion'. On a snowy day she came up to look at it. Soon after, the 50-acre property became hers. It is located on the sixth concession, north of the King sideroad. The problem now arose about constructing a house both durable and economical.

Examples of earth dwellings had been examined in Normandy and Spain, where Hannibal's walls still stand also houses in the Valley of Rhone which are 600 to 900 years old. Miss Burrows found another advantage of the pise de terre construction is its warmth. It prevents absorption of heat in summer and cold in winter. It is much dryer and warmer, and on account of dry earth absorbing moisture, conditions its rooms, which other building materials do not do. After consulting many books on the subject, she decided to build her own house.

Miss Burrows, a carpenter and two boys, set to work in June 1937. All were skeptical but determined. Many vicissitudes interrupted work, such as the carpenter being called on jury duty which lasted five weeks, but the main room was completed by the time snow fell. This was essential as work must be done in dry weather with dry earth.

The fireplace and chimney went up first, along with the foundation, both made of stone from the property. Then forms were set up for the earth. When these were taken down, Miss Burrows went along the wall poking earth into the holes left by the bolts. The walls are twenty inches thick. Trim is wood from the property and the beams in the living room are B.C. fir. Walls were whitewashed according to a government recipe, using skim milk and shutters were painted a French blue. Trim was given two applications of used crankcase oil, coloured with a little lampblack and yellow ochre, creating a deep, rich brown colour. At first the roof was thatched, but when Miss Burrows took up permanent residence, she had the roof shingled in pale grey.

The surprise came when I remarked on the beautiful setting of

THE MUD HOUSE Cont'd.

the house among fir trees and how it fitted in so well with the landscape. Miss Burrows told me that it had been a bare hill and all the trees and shrubs had been planted. During the war, she had grown potatoes at the bottom of the hill, but since the new road went through, she had let the underbrush grow up so the view wouldn't be marred by the sight of cars racing along the road. However, the old road remains, curving in front of her house, banked on each side by silver birch and dense foliage. This was, at one time, the road Governor Simcoe used to travel from Toronto to the north, as is explained in the book 'French Regime in Canada'.

Main advantage in building one's own home," said Miss Burroughs, "is the psychological satisfaction of using materials from your own land and actually putting up walls and trim yourself. Then you know exactly what goes into the house and as you sit back in front of a blazing fire in the stone fireplace, you can remember the stages of building with its joy, sorrows and setbacks and then, the final joy of completion.

After the completion of her home, Miss Burrows wrote a booklet for the Department of Lands and Forests called "Pise de Terre, Rammed Earth Construction", which made it possible for anyone interested in building a home of this type of house to have advantage of her experience. Many houses in South Dakota have been built in this manner because natural resources are plentiful.

As I left the cool interior of the house and ventured in the heat of the afternoon, a breeze blew the delicate fragrance of fir and pine which mingled with the smell of mint as I walked across the plants creeping in profusion over the stone walk. I turned again to wave goodbye and again viewed the white house, set in lovely green trees, with curving stone walks and rustic fences, living again as I drove away, my interesting afternoon with a charming person.

(This article was written by Beverly Smith for one of the local papers).