

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 Mark ham 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 many 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 12, 1946~~ June 12, 1946.

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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 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, eggs 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.