

who was born in January, 1858 and died April, 1936. James Calvin, was born in October, 1860 and died April, 1934. Colin Lorne, born September, 1879, died September, 1944.

In June, 1909 Colin Lorne Laing was married to Myrtle E. Bailey, Yarmouth. He was associated in business and assistant Postmaster with his father from 1900 on. They had four children.

George Bailey, was born October, 1910. He took up the barbering trade and was employed in Tillsonburg and Strathroy until 1940, at which time he went to Winnipeg, Manitoba to work for the Inspection Board of the United Kingdom and Canada. He married Olive Henderson of Winnipeg in 1942 and at the close of the War in 1945, they returned to St. Thomas, where they are now residing. They have one daughter, Shirley Catherine, born in April, 1945.

Charles Gordon, was born April, 1912. He is a graduate of London Normal School. He taught for several years and after his father's death he came home and is a partner with his mother in the store business. In the Spring of 1945 he was appointed Postmaster, making the third generation in business and Postmaster in the same location at Richmond Village. In 1941 he married Dorothy Peters of Vienna and they have two children. Patricia Ann, born April, 1947 and Dwight Alan, born January, 1950.

James Lawrence, was born December, 1914. He was graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1939 and joined the Army in the second World War. He was a lieutenant and was overseas for two and one-half years, he married Vera J. Crummond of Newcastle, N.B. in 1943. They have three boys, James Brian, born March, 1947, Ronald Lorne, born March, 1949 and Peter Lawrence, born June, 1952. He is now living in Ottawa working for the Government in Inspection Service of the M.T. and M.E.

Catherine Penelope, born June, 1918. She is a graduate of Stratford General Hospital. She married W. R. Copeland, Stratford and they have two children. David Royal, born May, 1947 and Mary Catherine, born, April, 1950. They still reside in Stratford where Mr. Copeland is a cabinet maker in the Kroehler Furniture Factory.

Mrs. C. L. Laing still lives in the old home which now is well over 100 years old.

KNOTT FAMILY

About the year 1790 a young Englishman by the name of Wm. Knott was sent to Ireland as constable to help quell trouble between Catholics and Protestants. He remained there and married an Irish girl but when his family was growing up the Catholics again made trouble for the Protestants.

A number decided to go to Canada where they could worship in peace.

Among that number were Wm. Knott and family, two orphan girls by the name of Powell and their uncle Mr. Lacock and family.

After a six weeks voyage they landed in Halifax.

The Powell girls remained in Toronto, one as governess the other as dress maker in the Honorable Edward Blake family.

Mr. Lacock and the oldest Knott boy Wm, went to Ingersoll and engaged in the milling business.

After a time Mr. Lacock took over the customs office in Ingersoll and Wm Knott who had married Catherine Powell operated the mill at Ingersoll.

When their family was growing up and seeking to better themselves they moved to St. Thomas a mere village at that time.

Some years later the father bought a mill at Carlingford leaving the two oldest Robert and Annie at the St. Thomas mill.

Robert married a daughter of one of Malahide pioneer farmers, Caroline Westover, and Annie married Robert Procunier a son of one of Bayham's pioneer farmers and a miller.

After operating several mills in Elgin county, Robert Knott bought the Robert Procunier mill near Richmond which he operated for twenty-nine years.

He sold the mill and retired to Aylmer. A few months after selling, the mill burned thus ending the old fashioned stone flour process in this part of the province.

Nine children were born to Robert and Caroline Knott. Two died in infancy, Wm Arthur lost his life in 1903 when the bridge at Scoval Lake went down nearly taking the train with five hundred passengers.

Ira a boy of fourteen died the same year.

At the time of writing Jan. 1955, four are still living:

Alma (Mrs G.W. Orton) Richmond

Edward Knott, Luton

Bertha (Mrs. H.L. Godwin) Richmond

Lizzie (Mrs. Wm Orton) Aylmer

Winnifred (Mrs. Chas. Donaldson) --- Having died in August 1952

PROCUNIER FAMILY HISTORY

According to tradition the Procunier ancestors came from Normandy, France. It is known that a Frenchman by the name of Procunier married a Dutch wife and came to America. They first went to Maryland and later came to Pennsylvania. They had four sons named Adam, Henry, Antoine and David. After the American War of Independence the four brothers came in a small boat across Lake Erie and landed at Port Rowan.

One of these brothers, Adam born 1798, married Desire Neal in 1817. She was born in 1799, the daughter of Major Neal an officer of the British Army who later became the first Methodist preacher in Upper Canada. Adam Procunier and wife, Desire, had four children, George Neal, Jane, Margaret and Elizah.

George Neal Procunier while visiting the Franklin family on Talbot Road, met Elizabeth Gibbons only daughter of James Gibbons and married her in 1846. They lived on her father's farm, on Talbot Road about a mile east of Richmond. George Neal Procunier bought the sawmill and grist mill situated on the Otter Creek about three quarters of a mile northeast of Richmond. This mill was built by Ambrose Wilson. Later it was owned by Richard Simmons who sold it to George Neal Procunier for \$7,000.00 in the year 1873. This mill was operated under the firm name of G. N. Procunier & Sons. The mill was burned in the year 1882 and was rebuilt the same year. The milling business was quite successful, the mill was kept running day and night and flour was shipped to many places in Ontario and to Montreal and Halifax. Later the mill was sold to Robert Knott and known as Knott's Mill.

George Neal Procunier was a local preacher and Superintendent of the Richmond Sunday School. He donated the pulpit to the Richmond Church when it was built in 1850. He was appointed Magistrate of Bayham Township and held that position until his death. He was born in 1818 and died in 1886. George Neal Procunier and his wife Elizabeth Gibbons had six children, Elma, James, Robert, Mary, Victoria and Charles.

The eldest son, James Adam, born in 1848 married Mary Hatch and lived on the same farm which was the property of his grandfather James Gibbons. He was a man of literary ability and a successful farmer. James A. Procunier and his wife Mary had four children, Clara, May, Frank and Fred. The eldest son Frank born 1885 is a graduate of the School of Science, Toronto University. He married Alice L. Brown of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, who died in 1915. They had one son James Albert born in 1914. Later Frank Procunier married Margaret Saxton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Saxton of 1st concession, Malahide. They live on the farm where Frank's father, grandfather and great grandfather lived before him.

His son, James Albert Procunier is a graduate in Mining Engineering from Toronto University. He married Kathleen Brady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Charles Brady of Montreal, Quebec. He and his wife went to Demarara, British Guiana, where he was employed for several years by the Aluminum Co. of Canada. At present he is Chief Engineer for the Brazilian Traction Company in Brazil. He, with his wife and three children are living near Rio de Janeiro Brazil, S.A.

Fred Stanley Procunier born in 1888 married Amy Weston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Weston of Guysboro. They had six children, Earl, Mabel, William, Mary, Hilda and Fred (Ted). Earl married Beatrice Trainer and they are living in Bracebridge. Mabel is a graduate of Toronto Normal School and is a teacher in Toronto. William is a graduate of University of Western Ontario and is now teaching in Whitby Collegiate. He married Miss Irene Cott of St. Thomas.

Mary is a graduate of Toronto Normal School. She served in the Women's Army Corps during the World War of 1939 - 1945. She married Albert Irwin of Acton and they reside in Acton.

Hilda is a graduate of Tillsonburg Business College and is employed by the Royal Bank in Tillsonburg.

Ted, the youngest son, married Feril Adams of Aylmer. They are living on the home farm on Talbot Road with his father Fred S. Procunier. Mrs. Fred S. Procunier died in November, 1951.

Clara Procunier, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Procunier of Talbot Road, Bayham, was a graduate of London Normal School. She was a successful teacher in King Edward School in Toronto and has retired and is now living in Tillsonburg.

May V. Procunier, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Procunier was educated at Alma College and also at the school of Industrial Designs in Philadelphia. For some time she was a teacher in Georgetown College, Texas. Later she was appointed teacher of Arts and Crafts in Alma College, St. Thomas. She was also a graduate of Hamilton Normal School. May Procunier had exceptional ability as an artist in oil paintings and in water colours. She died in March, 1950.

Robert Henry Procunier, born 1850 was the second son of George Neal Procunier. He married Anne Knott in 1870 and lived on the farm north of the Otter Creek which he inherited from his grandfather James Gibbons. He was appointed Magistrate in 1886 which position he held until his death in 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Procunier had four children, William Ernest, Lillian, Stella and George Arnold. Dr. William E. Procunier was a graduate of Toronto University. He practiced medicine for 20 years in Newfoundland and also served as a Captain in World War 1914 - 1918. He married Minnie Pugh of Harbor Grace, Nfld. and had two sons, George and Edwin. Dr. William Procunier died in 1931.

Lillian Procunier died in 1897 at the age of 20 years.

Stella Procunier married Walter Keast and resided in Toronto. She died in 1945.

George Arnold Procunier, youngest son of Robert H. Procunier married Martha Stewart of Stoney Creek. They live on the farm which he inherited from his father Robert H. Procunier. They have five children.

Robert S. who graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College and is a teacher in the Brantford Collegiate.

Fred Procunier, M.D. who was educated at Toronto University and served as Major in the Army Medical Corps in World War 1939 - 1945.

Grace, a teacher who married Arthur Hurlburt of Toronto.

Gordon, who graduated in Electrical Science from Toronto University and served as Captain in World War 1939 - 1945.

Neal, received the degree of B.S.A. from Ontario Agricultural College and is now living on the home farm Lot 114 north of Otter Creek. He married Marion Laidlaw daughter of Elgin Laidlaw.

Martha Procunier died at the home farm in May, 1952.

Mary D. Procunier, born 1856, died 1930, second daughter of George Neal Procunier, married Cicero McConkey. They lived on a farm on Talbot Road east of Richmond. They took an active part in the work of the Richmond Church and community. They had 3 children who lived to adult life.

Neal H. McConkey who married Edna McConnell of Lakeview and lived on the farm east of Richmond. Later they moved to Corinth where they owned and operated the general store. Neal McConkey died in 1951.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal McConkey had three children.

Pauline, who is a graduate nurse and is employed by Victoria Hospital, London.

Harold, who married Gloria Underhill and is a bank clerk.

Mary Elizabeth, employed by Bell Telephone Company of Tillsonburg.

Evelyn McConkey daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cicero McConkey, married Sydney Stirling and resided at Chatham.

Shirley, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cicero McConkey, died about 1920.

Victoria Procunier married James Dunning and resided in Aylmer in Elgin County. They had five children, Olive, George, John, William and Gene.

Elma Procunier married George Burdick and resided in Windsor.

Charles Ault Procunier became an Anglican Minister and after World War 1914 - 1918, resided in Revelstoke, British Columbia. He married Jessie Maxwell. They had a son Charles and a daughter Irene.

Charles Procunier served in World War 1914 - 1918 and later married Eva Baker of Chatham. They had four children, David, Nancy, Peter and Dale and have lived with their mother for a number of years in Toronto.

THE MITCHELL FAMILY OF BAYHAM,

A Short Historical Sketch

By
Louise Mitchell Dean.

Ephraim Cole Mitchell and Mary McCall were the progenitors of the Mitchell family, in Bayham . Both were United Empire Loyalists.

The writer of this sketch found, in an old book, belonging to the family, this statement: "Ephraim Cole Mitchell was born at Rock Run, Harford County, Maryland, March 18th, 1786". Orphaned at an early age, the little lad was brought to the Long Point Settlement, Norfolk, by his uncle, the veteran surveyor and United Empire Loyalist, Thomas Welch, (or Walsh, as the family name is now spelled).

Mary McCall Mitchell was the youngest daughter of Donald McCall and Elsie Simpson McCall, who came to the Long Point Settlement in 1796 and were the founders of the Norfolk McCall Clan. This clan is an offshoot of the great Clan Cholla, of Scotland and ancient Ireland and, according to the "Genealogy and History of the Norfolk McCall Family" compiled and edited by Mr. D. T. McCall, of Simcoe, numbers more than 560 families and 2600 individuals, living and dead.

Ephraim Cole Mitchell and the little girl, who later became his wife, attended, as children, the first little school in the Long Point Settlement, which was held in a building loaned by Abraham Smith. The teacher of this early school was William Pitt Gilbert.

Whatever other education Ephraim may or may not have

acquired at this little school, he certainly learned to use his pen. His calligraphy is faultless and very pleasing to the eye. Some of his penmanship is still to be seen, in old books possessed by his descendants.

For some years after their marriage, Ephraim and Mary Mitchell farmed in Charlott&ville, Norfolk County and Ephraim C. Mitchell's name is listed as one of those who received indemnity for losses sustained during the raid of General McArthur and his American freebooters, in November of 1814.

Two, and possibly three of their children were born in Charlotteville, but in the summer of 1816 the E.C. Mitchell family migrated to Bayham, where there was richer soil and more timber.

The Mitchell and Hatch families moved together and tradition tells that, when making camp along the flats of the Little Otter Creek, Ephraim Mitchell walked out on the bole of a tree that had fallen across the stream, and dipped a ~~pair~~ pail of water to use for cooking supper for the party. A century later, in 1916 about four feet of the same log protruded from the bank of the stream.

The Mitchells were located by Col. Talbot, on a two hundred acre tract of land, Lot, No. 118, which is described, in the Crown ^{that} Deed, ~~which~~ is now a cherished document in the family, as, "Situate in the Township of Bayham, in the County of Middlesex, in the District of London, North of Talbot Road East". They were to have "All the woods and waters thereon, lying and being ~~under~~ under the reservations, limitations and conditions herein expressed, to have and to hold the said parcel or tract of land, hereby given and granted to him, the said Ephraim C. Mitchell,