

THE BALL FAMILY HISTORY.

(Copied from the Guysboro Church)  
(Centennial Report)

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Mr. Chas. Ball Sr. who signed the Guysboro Church deed in 1860 was born in Plymouth in 1802. He came to Canada in a sailing vessel taking four months to make the trip.

He later came to live on Lot 140 North of Talbot Road. He donated the land for the site of the Orange Hall at Guysboro, from his farm.

Mr. Ball raised a family of ten children, many of whose descendants are still in this part of Ontario, a valuable asset to our country.

He died in 1898 in his 97th year. He and his wife Caroline Serpell Ball are buried in the Guysboro Cemetery.

His descendants are quite sure that both Mr. and Mrs. Ball Sr. were Anglicans. If so, it surely shows an ecumenical spirit for him to have assisted in building a community church for the Methodists who celebrated their 100th Anniversary Dec. 19, 1964.

Benjamin Haigh was sent from England by the Wesleyan Methodist Church of the New Connexion as a travelling preacher and was the first minister of whom there is any written record. His name is on the Deed of Land for the present church property also John Scruton Andrew H. House, Charles Ball and Joseph Hobbs. Witnesses John Clifford and Henry Wilkinson.

To make it legal the land was bought for \$1.00 from Claudius Coan from their farm Lot 137 South of Talbot Road in Houghton Township.

About 1911 Guysboro was on a five-point charge with Maple Grove, Eden, Straffordville and North Hall. Once each month a local preacher supplied for a Sunday service. Some of these were: Mr. Isaac Hogarth and Mr. Robt. Woulds of Tillsonburg also Mr. Levi J. Hatch, Maple Grove.

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The first Ball ancestors that first settled in Canada were Mr. and Mrs Charles Ball. Charles was born near Plymouth, Cornwall in England in 1802., and died 1898 and buried in Guysboro Cemetery. His wife, Caroline Serpell, was born Sept. 16 1814 and died 1894 and is buried in Guysboro cemetery. Caroline was the daughter of John and Christine Coad Serpell of Lisgar, Cornwall, England. Mr. Serpell being unsuccessful came to N.Y. in July 1833 on the sailing ship "Roscoe", Captain Rogers at the helm for a fare of 20 guineas. Christine was killed (next day?) by a horse-rrawn N. Y. street car. Charles Ball who evidently was acquainted with Caroline, came to N. Y. in 1834 after 4 months at sea. He was supposed to have come out as a companion to a young man who failed to make the trip. Met Caroline. Married her in same year but kept the wedding a secret - she was disinherited. A farm in Virginia a baking business in Rochester, N. Y. and 1846 came to Brantford in Upper Canada. December 2, 1850 bought farm at Guysboro (Beaver Dam Farm) lot 140 Houghton Township Concession 1 North Talbot Road. Of interest June 15, 1903 sold for one dollar the south east corner to the Orange Lodge (Geo. Marchall, James Sauders, Norman Dick, J. Priddle, Albert Swinn).

Caroline was a bonnet-maker by trade, she had learned the medical value of herbs from the Indians and used this in helping as a mid-wife (she acted as mid-wife when C.C. Travis was born). Robert Serpell Ball - the sixth child - b. July 27, 1846 at Brantford d. March 7, 1918 at Straffordville and was buried at Guysboro. He married Chloean Ostrander daughter of Jacob Ostrander. Chloean was b. June 12, 1858 and d. Sept. 13 1941 and buried at Guysboro. There were nine children

1. George Luther b. 28, 10, 1879 Lot 1 Con 1 S. Talbot Rd. (middle Hiram Dean farm) d. 30, 9, 1929 .. a farmer, was married to Ida Capling.
2. William Clarence b. 10, 6, 1881 (middle H. Dean farm) d. 11, 8, 1945 ... Detroit...a carpenter, married Mabel Capling (Robert); Mary Small
3. Carmon b. 26, 11, 1882 Con. 8 Bayham lot 24, 25, 26 Ontario d. 12, 3, 1964 ...cheesemaker and farmer married Alberta McKim Mar. 14, 1906 ... R.C. Ball (Tillsonburg); Cecil Ball (Tillsonburg); J. Mack Ball (Eden)
4. Doretha b. 1, 10, 1884 (all the other children at same place as Carmon) married Percy Spence Dec. 1 1904 at Guysboro presently living in Edmonton, Alberta (spent most of her life pioneering Athabaska Landing) 11 children
5. Arvilla Amelia b. 14, 4 1886 ... married John Robert Fulkerson June 15, 1905 .. 9 children
6. Judson b. 23, 9, 1887 d. 6, 1, 1959 ...a farmer married Grace Shepherd of Goshen, March 6, 1912
7. Sophia b. 4, 5, 1889 d. 12, 1, 1951 in Victoria Hospital...practical nurse and general store keeper after marriage to John McQuiggan, Feb. 23, 1927
8. Frederick Lewelland b. 26, 7, 1891 d. 18, 9, 1961..carpenter and farmer...married Clara (Babe) Garner
9. Samuel Claude b. 1, 9, 1893 d. 12, 12 1955..married Jennie Charlotte Sanders June 22, 1918...3 children b. 15, 8, 1889 d. 10, 5, 1958 Salt Lake City

Lots 24, 25, 26 from Crown on down  
Lot 24  
Oct. 24, 1837 purchased by the Canada Co. - 100 acres  
Jan. 18, 1854 - Martin Hubbard  
June 12, 1856 - probate of will made transfer of property to Alvy Caswell to James Corless Jr.  
S.W. $\frac{3}{4}$  corner Matthew Caswell transfer to Alvy Caswell





Mr & Mrs. Chas. Ball



Mr & Mrs. Carmon Ball

July 14 1857 Alvy Caswell - Daniel Campbell .. 1864 James Corless transfered to Isaac Chambers  
 June 1865 - James Corless sold to Wm. Cornfoot  
 May 1865 Isabella Cornfoot to Isaac Chambers  
 Jan 1867 Wm. Cornfoot sold to Isaac Chambers  
 Mar. 1867 Isaac Chambers sold to Charles Ball Sr. with a mortgage of \$450.  
 (1876 - Charles Ball by Eleanor Nesbitt by George Kennedy \$400.  
 1877 - George Kennedy assigned mortgage to James Walker)  
 June 16, 1884 - Charles Ball sold to Robert S. Ball - mortgage held by Martin Kidd  
 Dec. 2, 1916 - Robert S. Ball sold to Judson Ball  
 April 5, 1961 Register of deed to Robert Ball, Mack Ball, Cecil Ball and Judson Ball Estate as tenants in common.  
 March 13, 1966 as above. (house was situated in the centre of the farm)  
 Lot 25  
 (present location of house etc.)  
 1832 - Horatio Nelson Franklin  
 1868 - Colin Munro, Sheriff of Elgin to George Phillips  
 July 31, 1869 - George K. Phillips to Charles Ball Sr.  
 Mar. 24, 1883 - Charles Ball sold to Robert S. Ball 45.2 acres  
 May 19, 1884 - Charles Ball sold to Thomas Ball, 17 acres  
 Dec. 21, 1889 - Thomas Ball to Robert S. Ball  
 Dec. 2, 1916 - Robert S. Ball sold to Judson Ball - \$5000.  
 Mar. 27, 1935 - gas lease to E. P. Rowe by Judson Ball - 7 producing wells  
 1966 - 1 producing well - Central Pipe Line  
 Oct. 13, 1955 - farm agreement of sale, judson and Grace Ball to Robert Ball, Mack Ball, Cecil Ball and Judson Ball  
 April 5, 1961 final deed to Cecil, Mack, Bob and Judson Ball Estate  
 Lot 26

1853 - c - Norman B. Schofield N 1/2  
 1854 - c - James Corliss S 1/2  
 Ball Plantation (gets its name from tradition) given by Cecil Ball  
 Charles Ball Sr. Worshipful Grand Master of Orange Lodge - 1862, 1871, 1879, 1882; Thomas Ball in 1913; George Ball in 1915 Orange Lodges - Guysboro LOL No. 556 - May 23, 24 - 1954

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The present house was built in 1884 and the barn was built in 1890. The first well at present house location about 1885 (where front yard is now (March 27, 1966) Water was on tap in house, 1950. Electricity was installed in 1936.  
 The year that the telephone was installed is unknown but the Bayham and Malahide Telephone Co. was the line. The house was renovated in 1964 with basement, furnace and new kitchen. There have been no fires.  
 The old barn was a hip-roofed barn and up until 1956 was used for general farming.  
 Dates of barns, 1850 and 1890 - (20 ft. x 30 ft.)  
 1956 - built into a tobacco farm - by "Ball Planatation " sizes 32 ft. x 60 ft; 18 ft. x 24 ft.; 8 kilns, 150 ft. green house



Tobacco is grown now as well as corn, wheat and rye for ploughing under the farm has 48 acres rights and the outstanding yield was in 1965 with an average of \$1277. per acre. The orchards of apples, peaches, cherries etc. have since been cut down. The present acreage of the Plantation is 177 acres.

March 14, 1906 - Wedding of Ball - McKim

The residence of Mr. Robert McKim, North Road, Houghton was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday of this week, when his only daughter Bertha, was united in marriage to Mr. Carmon Ball third son of Robert Ball of Bayham. The ceremony, which was performed by Rev. A. W. Dever (?) of Straffordville, in the presence of a number of immediate relatives of the happy couple, took place under an evergreen arch. Attired in a beautiful dress of white wool tafette, trimmed with lace, the bride entered the room; leaning on the arm of her father. The wedding march was played by Mrs. Percy Spence of Brantford. The bridesmaid was Miss Sophia Ball and the groom was supported by Mr. Chas. McKim.

After the ceremony the guests sat down to a sumptuous repast. In the afternoon, the happy couple left for Courtland, where they took the train for eastern points.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball will spend a few weeks with relatives here, after which they will go to reside in Wisconsin, where Mr. Ball has secured a good position as cheesemaker. The best wishes of the neighbourhood go with them.

CLINTON D. KENNEDY.

Clinton Dwight Kennedy is the youngest son of Archibald Kennedy and Laura Ann Phelps. His birthdate., May 13, 1902.

Earliest records in their possession reveal that a tract of land approximately 86 acres was purchased from Howard Lammond & wife who gave a grant to Nelson D. Forest for the sum of \$ 4500.00. Apparently this land changed hands back to Mr. Howard Lammond and finally into the possession of Mr. Nathan Gray from whom in Nov. 1939 Mr. Clinton Kennedy purchased one-fifth of an acre from the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 23 in the 8th Con. of Bayham.

He began building a one-storey frame house which he finished Jan. 25th 1940 and moved his wife and family in. Electricity was connected the following spring and a telephone installed a few years later. Taxes which were \$14.00 per year on this property at first, have increased to \$42.00 in 1960.

He was married to Alice Annebelle French, youngest daughter of George French and Mary Ostrander. Her birthdate was May 16, 1908.

To this marriage were born three children viz:

Nellie Marie..... born April 14, 1927.

James ..... 1928. who died in infancy. (2 weeks)

Grace Marilyn.... born July 21, 1935.

Mrs. Alice Annebelle Kennedy passed away Jan. 16, 1938.

Mr. Kennedy married Olive M. Fletcher (nee-Denwoodie) Nov. 22, 1952.

There are no children to this union. However,

Nellie Marie married Glen Aarand Topping, London, Ont. June 29, 1946. Their children-  
Barbara Marie, Nov. 27, 1948.  
Linda Alice Jan. 7, 1950.  
Douglas Glen May 13, 1958.

Grace Marilyn married Kenneth David McDowell, London, Ont. Aug. 17, 1958. Their children-  
Deborah Eileen Feb. 14,  
Richard Dwight July 26,



JAMES HOUSE.

About the year 1812, Joseph DeFields and James Gibbons built their log habitations on Talbot Street (then a blazed path through the woods) between the two Otter Creeks.

In the south of the Twp. of Bayham, at the mouth of the Little Otter, were Hollowood, Hutchinson and Thomas Edison.

In 1816, James House came from Ancaster and settled south of Talbot Street in the East part of the township; his was the only house at this time between the Street and the Lake Shore Settlement.

Mr. House was one of the surviving veterans of the War of 1812. He drew his pension from the Government at the hands of Col. McPherson in the Town Hall, St. Thomas, October 1875.

He thought Nicholas Phillips and Joseph Marsaw would make good settlers and he moved them with an ox-team from Ancaster in 1817. Mrs. Sherriff Garnham, the wife of the enterprising and hospitable proprietor of Garnham's Mills is a daughter of Nicholas Phillips.

( This was copied from the Historical Atlas of Elgin County. 1877.)

Then, a research of the "Joseph House Family Record" reveals that:-

James was the fifth child of Joseph House and Rebecca Horning of Ancaster, and was the father of Charles, James Colbourn(Cobe) Mrs. Stephen Pressey and John House, a lumber dealer of Courtland who is succeeded by his son Lloyd in the same business. (1966)  
The family plot is in the Guysboro Cemetery.

(From the 1871 Census (Archives, Toronto) and Family Bible (Jessie E. Caswell)

1st Generation we can trace. Harmanus House (spelled Haus) who was a British soldier in the American War of 1812, a leader of an Indian band in the Revolutionary War.

2nd Generation- Joseph House was born Nov.1, 1768  
married Rebecca Horning June 7, 1790 & Elizabeth Rosseaux Feb.1814  
3rd Generation- James, was fifth child of Joseph's 12. B. June 1, 1798 ( mother of his 2nd family ( of seven)

4th Generation- John Shingler married LoEmma Safford  
Charles Wesley " Alice Robinson and 2nd Margaret Rossell  
Catharine Elizabeth John Rossell  
(Cobe) James Colbourn " Maggie VanCliff  
Martha Jane " George Leach  
Chauncey George " died young of Lockjaw  
Mary Eliza " Stephen Pressey  
Violet " died young.

5th Generation - James Wesley House age 71 died October 1965, suddenly in Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe. Service was conducted at the McBride Funeral Chapel St. Williams on Tues. at 2 P.M. by Mr. Norman Pressey cousin of the deceased. A solo "Beyond the Sunset" was sung by Mrs. Norman Pressey. Survivors are two brothers, Stanley and Clarence both of St. Williams and two sisters, Mrs. Hugh McConkey (Ila) Pt. Burwell and Mrs. Neil Ashford (Hazel) of St. Williams.