

## JOHN WELTER

Peter Graves came from Pennsylvania and bought Lot 36 from Col. Talbot in 1831. His daughter married John Welter, a brother of Isaac Welter.

After doing settlement duties Peter Graves gave the West half to his son-in-law John Welter and sold the East half to Elizah Mann. The John Welter family was one boy--Charles and two daughters--Mrs James Stanton and Mrs Hendershot.

## ELIZAH MANN

Elizah Mann took possession of the East half of Lot 36 in 1848. His son Elizah became the owner in 1851. They had a son Blucher and a daughter Sabina.

The Mann house was directly opposite the school. When I was a small boy there were about sixty pupils going to school during the winter months. The Manns were almost daily complaining to the teacher about the bad behaviour of the older boys. We got our drinking water from a well in front of the Mann house. The boys would often break the pump. We used to skate on the pond back of the barn and would leave the gate open. At one time they drove a pig on the ice. You have often heard the expression "Independent as a Pig on Ice".

However the Manns were good people but victims only of a lot of boys with a surplus of spirits.

## THE SUTTONS

Amariah Sutton bought the farm Lot 36 North on Talbot Road in 1842. This farm was covered with hard Maple, and when cleared was said to be one of the best farms in that section.

The family was two sons, one of which was a doctor and several daughters. *Charlotte.*

The house was on a small hill about forty rods from the road. The school ground had been part of the farm, west and north of the school

*not done  
date*



was a large orchard. There was also an Orchard east of the school on the Futchers farm. The Grange first held their meeting in the school; Thus Apple Grove Grange.

Up on the hill near the house the Suttons had several large apple pits. The boys from the school during the afternoon recess used to go and help themselves to the apples. The Suttons would set the dogs on us, but in a day or two we would be back for more apples. Apparently we were hungry. At last in desperation one of the girls called "Toot" came to the school and told the teacher she wanted to talk to the children. Her discourse was very embarrassing but true. She ended by telling us that we would all be arrested and put in jail. For many days when we saw a stranger we hid. In the end Mr. Sutton who was a good and kind man said he would forgive us. We never stole apples again.

#### THE FUTCHERS

Thomas Futchers was born in Wilshire in 1830. He came to Canada with his parents--Thomas Futchers and Hester Barnes Futchers in 1834. The family first settled at Johnstown and then at New Sarum. Apparently their impression of Canada was not favourable so in 1837 they went back to England but returned to Canada in 1840.

This time they bought the farm with the beautiful house from John K. Woodward, Lot 37 North on Talbot Road in 1840. This house was the home of Mr. Woodward, who was manager of The Agricultural Bank in St. Thomas. He used his home as a bank after hours for the convenience of the neighbours.

Thomas Futchers was sent to a school called "The Academy" on the Longwood Rd. near Delaware. In 1855 he married Susan Northwood who was a step-daughter of Hooper King. They had a large family--seven boys and one girl.

The eldest was James Futchers who married Ada Bennett of Talbotville. They had one daughter Ethel who married Alex McNiven. They have one son John McNiven who married Helen Lyle, daughter of John Lyle. Mrs Futchers



died and after some years James Futcher married Sara Robinson. They had three girls--Hattie, Jessie and Dora. Hattie married John Pearce of Tyrconnel, Jessie married Alex Lyle, their family is two boys and one girl--Bruce, Hugh and Louise. Dora married Francis Dowler, they have a girl and a boy--Virginia and Thomas. They live in Virginia, U.S.A. The second son of Thomas Futcher was William who married Louisa Spackman. Their family is five girls--Luella married Walter Stafford, Edna is at home, Blanche married H. Walkley of Detroit, Frances is a teacher in London, Grace married Rev. Harold Buchner.

The third son Albert married Ella Campbell, daughter of Dougald Campbell of the River Road. They had a son Gordon who died as an infant, and a daughter Maybelle who married Earl Hoffman of St. Thomas.

The fourth son John married Kate Robinson, their family was five girls and two boys. Carrie who married Frank Tufford, they have one daughter--Helene. Frankie married Tyrell Begg, they have two sons and one daughter--Futcher who has one boy and two girls, Franklin who has two boys and a girl, and Catherine Begg Smith. Alberta married Glen Allison, they have one son--Douglas. Kathleen married Lloyd Fulton, they have two girls and one boy--Lois, Elaine and Robert. Agnes married Bernie Gilbert, they have one son and one daughter--Paul and Bernice. John Robinson Futcher married Dorothy Horton who taught school at S.S. No 14, they have two boys and two girls--Isabel, John and twins--Amy Robin and Allison. Robie Futcher married Leila Clark, they have one daughter Marjory Futcher McKenzie and live on the John Futcher farm.

Thomas Barnes Futcher married Marjory Howard, she was a daughter of the famous Dr. Palmer Howard of Montreal. After Dr. Howard's death she became a ward of Dr. William Osler.

Tom and I went to S.S. No 14 at the same time. When we went to the High School we usually walked there and back together. After he attended the Medical School in Toronto in 1889 I again joined him in 1890 as a medical student. At Medical School Tom was a brilliant student and a



great favourite with both teachers and students. After he had graduated and was an intern in the Toronto General Hospital, Dr. Osler came up from from The Johns Hopkins Hospital and asked Dr. James Graham, Professor of Medicine for the names of some promising students. Dr. recommended Dr. Fatcher.

Dr. Fatcher after serving for a time at Mount Sinei Hospital became House Physician at the Johns Hospital. I took a Post Graduate course there in 1899 and Tom was most kind and helpful to me. After some years at the Johns Hopkins he opened an office and became a consulting physician. He did a lot of original work and wrote many papers on Medical subjects.

In 1907 I returned to the Johns Hopkins for Post Graduate work and was entertained by Tom at his home where I had the pleasure of meeting his most gracious wife.

During the first world war he went overseas with the American Army as a consulting high Medical Officer.

In 1938 I was shocked to hear of his sudden death. After his death Mrs Fatcher sent me a large photograph of Tom, which I treasure very much. I often look at his picture in my den and think he was one of the finest gentlemen I have ever met.

They had a family of two boys and two girls--Dr. Palmer Howard Fatcher who served in the last war. Bruce who passed away when a young boy. Gwendolyn at home and Grace who married a Mr. Norsworthy, a relative of the St. Thomas Norsworthy's.

The sixth son Frederick remained at home.

The seventh son Herbert Fatcher married Edith Lyle, daughter of John Lyle. They had two boys, Howard and Albert. A daughter died in infancy. Herbert passed away April 28th 1948.



## THE POTTICARYS

James Potticary settled on Lot 37 South on Talbot Road in 1832. The West half was sold to William Casey in 1842.

The Potticary family was five girls and one boy. The children were-- Mary married David King, they had three boys and two girls. Ellen married Mr. Jones and lived in Toronto, she taught S.S. No 14 for a time. Eliza married Story Backus and lived at Tyrconnel, they had a son and a daughter--Harold who is an official of a prominent Bond House in Toronto, and Mary who married Leslie Pearce. George married Miss Hunsburger, they had two daughters--Ethel and Muriel.

The Potticarys were a clever family. Eliza also taught S.S. No 14 for a time, also S.S. No 7. She was a competent teacher and kept good order, I remember a severe whipping she gave me. Of course it was justified and I held no spite.

I had not seen her for about forty years, when she called on me at my office. We had a very enjoyable time talking of days gone by. She and her husband moved to St. Thomas and we became great friends.

## THE LYLES

The Scottish home of the Lyles was near Glasgow. Alex Lyle the chief of the clan married Ann Dow. They had three sons and five daughters. One of the sons, John came to Canada and was so impressed with the country that he wrote home and persuaded the whole family to come to Canada.

Twenty two men, women, and children, all relatives, came to Canada in the same boat in 1873. His son Alex II who settled on Mount Pleasant, the home of G.A. Lyle, married Margaret Edmonston. In Scotland he had been an expert brass worker and knew nothing of farming.

They had three boys and five girls--David, whom we all know lives on Lot 34 and farms about a thousand acres of land. Alex who married Jessie Fitcher lives on Lot 37 north on Talbot Road, they have three children, Bruce, Hugh and Louise. John Lyle who married Bessie Hunter, they have two children--Gordon who married Margaret Fife and Helen who married

John McNiven.

The daughters of Alex Lyle were--Margaret who married Herbert Fearnley, their family is four boys and one girl. Annie who married Edgar Gilbert, their family is two boys and one girl--Dr. Roy Gilbert of St. Thomas and Stanley, manager of the Canadian Iron Foundry, St. Thomas and Cora who married Ross Tufford and owns the old McAlpine farm. Belle the third daughter of Alex Lyle married Neil Campbell of the River Road, they lived at West Lorne. They have four boys and three girls--Lyle, Jack, George and Donald, Margaret, Enabelle and Jean.

Enie, the fourth daughter married James Wyatt, they had one boy and three girls--the boy Dr. Lyle Wyatt was overseas in the last war. Nellie the fifth daughter of Alex Lyle married E.J. Fearnley of Pt. Burwell, they have one boy and two girls.

David Lyle, the second son of Alex Lyle I married <sup>Agnes</sup> Margaret Hayes. They had three boys and five girls. The boys were--Alex who lives at the Edmond Nichol home and is not married. William who married Rhea Gooding lives on the farm at one time owned by Hooper King and later by James Fatcher. Stanley who married Lena Hill, they have three boys and three girls. The boys are William, Robert and Douglas, the girls--Mary, Cathryn and Eleanor.

The daughters of David Lyle are Margaret at home, Anna, her twin sister is a nurse, also at home, Robena, a nurse in Chicago, Verna is a bookkeeper at the Times-Journal, and Edna lives in Chicago.

John Lyle, third son of Alex I married Nellie Hayes who was a sister of Mrs A.M. Hutchinson. They had <sup>six</sup> five girls--Agnes who married Charles Butler, they have three boys, Lyle, Harold and Kenneth. Annie is a school teacher at Edmonton, Edith who married Herbert Fatcher, they have two boys--Howard and Albert. <sup>Belle who married Oliver Frederickson</sup> Jean died at the age of 13. May who married Gordon Lindsay, they have one girl--Helen.

When I was a boy I read a book in success called "Tact", Push and Principle". The Lyle family have lived up to all that which is in the book.



## THE LAWTONS

George Lawton who married Cynthia Bradley of New York State settled on Lot 39 South on Talbot Road in 1864. They had three boys and four girls. James lives in St. Thomas and never married, George married Etta Dickinson, they had no children. John married Annie Freeman and lived in Saskatchewan, Mary married Eugene Hubble of New York State, Nancy Jane married John Adams of New York State, Sarah Alice married Robert Adams of New York State and Cynthia married Thomas Dubber of St. Thomas. They have three sons--Harry who married Margaret McGinlay, they have one son and one daughter--Margaret Cynthia and Arthur Henry, Arthur who married Velma McLandress and Capt. Roy Dubber who was killed in the first Great War, serving with the R.C.A.F.

Cynthia Bradley was a niece of my Aunt Elsie who married my Uncle James Davis. My Aunt Elsie also came from New York State. She was a large friendly woman, but had determined ways. She was said to be a successful matchmaker, so when her niece Cynthia came to visit her, my Aunt Elsie looked around for a suitable husband, so George Lawton was the lucky man. When another niece Maggie Lane came to visit my Aunt Elsie, John Begg was the choice. My Mother's home was with my Uncle James, so who knows but what my Aunt Elsie picked out my Father?

## THE BEGGS

George Begg settled on Lot 38 North on Talbot Road in 1842. He married Nancy Cattanach of the Lake Road. They had three sons and three daughters.

George who married Miss McGill lived on the North Talbot Road, they had two sons--John who lives on the homestead, Fred who was killed in an accident and one girl Mabel.

John Begg, the second son who lived on the homestead married Maggie Lane, a niece of my Aunt Elsie Davis. They had two sons--Elmer and Lynwood. Elmer died and was not married.

Lynwood married Nellie Berry from the River Road, they have five girls and two boys. The girls are Helen who was a nurse, now Mrs Wilcox, Dora a nurse in Detroit, Francis a stenographer in the Income Office in London, Donna also a stenographer in London and Betty-Ann at home. The two boys--John and Robert at home.

Charles the third son of George married Emma Styles, they had one son--Tyrell who married Frankie Futcher and after her death Metta McCallum. There are three children by the first wife--Futcher, Franklin, and Catherine and two by the second--John Stewart and Arda.

The daughters of Geo. Begg are Annie who was a school teacher and Barbara, not married and Margaret who was a nurse who died a martyr to her profession.

#### THE MANDEVILLES

Abraham Mandeville settled on Lot 38 South on Talbot Road in 1828. He was the son of David Mandeville, the first settler across Kettle Creek in 1816.

The Mandeville family was six boys and one girl. The boys were William and Abraham who went West during the rush. James who died of Appendicitis when a young man, this was called inflammation of the bowels in those days. There was no treatment for the disease and the majority of patients died. To-day it is very rare for a patient to die of Appendicitis, thanks to the advance of surgery. Peter a twin of James, while coming home from St. Thomas on a stormy night lost his way and was found dead in front of Charles Begg's home. It was such a shock to the neighbours. Benjamin and David left home early.

The daughter married Mr. Newton and lived in St. Thomas at the time of her death. The name of Mandeville at one time was very common. To-day the name has vanished in this part of the country.



## THE KINGS

Abraham King settled on Lot 40 in 1815. He came from England to Canada with Dr. Thomas Rolph. The Rolphs and Kings were very close friends. The famous Dr. John Rolph, son of Dr. Thomas Rolph made his home with the Kings after the death of his father.

Abraham King's wife was Mary Corsaut, their family was two boys and a girl--Charles, David and Charlotte who married a Mr. Sharon of Frome.

David King who came in possession of the farm after his father's death in 1864 married Mary Potticary, they had three boys and two girls. Abraham named after his grandfather married Miss Turner, after attending S.S. No 14 he attended the Veterinary College at Toronto and graduated as a Veterinary Surgeon. After graduating he became a teacher at the College, he had the reputation of being a clever teacher. After some years he resigned and opened an office in St. Thomas. He continued in practice until his death.

James King attended S.S. No 14 and from there the High School. After matriculating he entered the Toronto Medical School in 1889. He and I were room-mates in 1890. After graduating he started practice at Leamington where he had a large practice. He married Miss Ellen Daugharty, they had no children. George King who married Maggie Hunt remained on the farm, they had one girl Edna who is the sole descendant of a once prominent family. Edna married Leonard Silcox who died a short time ago. They have two children--Harold and Rose Marie. *married Tomkinson. Dr. Williams*

The daughters of David King were Alice and Bertha, Alice remained home, Bertha was a school teacher.

The Kings were a clever family, they took an active part in the activities of the community. They had a high sense of honour and were ready to fight for what they thought was right.

*James Davis Curtis*



### THE WEBBS

Robert Webb bought the Issac Welter farm (Lot 31) about 1885. The Webb family came from Talbotville. There was a large family of five boys and five girls. William married Orilla Welter, daughter of Isaac Welter. Edward married Mary Yeandle, daughter of William Yeandle, whose daughter married Trevor Stinchcombe. The Webbs were good farmers and took a lively interest in the activities of the neighbourhood.

### THE STUBBS

John Stubbs bought fifty acres of the North half of Lot 32 in 1861. He was a teacher of boys in the Sunday School. I was in his class and we had to commit to memory ten verses of the Bible every Sunday. This was not very popular with us as it required hard work on Sunday morning.' Mr. Lamond was superintendent and took up the collection, we contributed one cent each. The Stubbs family was four boys and two girls - Mary Ann who married Frank Westlake, William and Henry were twins, William married Miss Garrow of St. Thomas, Neil lives in Detroit, Maria married Edward Burton. They have five girls, Ferne married William Locke, Kathleen married William Bowman, Hazel married William Hall, Bell married Harold Wadland, Audry married Jack Lemon.

### THE CURTIS'S

Mr. and Mrs. Salathiel Curtis were married in Holtsbury, Devonshire, England. She was Mary Ann Sanders whose parents had died of typhoid fever, and she had been raised by her grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis came to Canada in 1841. After living in Yarmouth Township for a while they bought the South half of lot 33 from Joshua Wardell - 100 acres square on the sideroad south from Middlemarch and boundary Bush Road. Joshua Wardell had built a log house near the road under a tree, with five acres cleared. There was also a turning mill run by water power on Talbot Creek. The remains of the dam and mill pond can be traced today. Money was scarce in those days, so that barter was the rule. Butter and eggs and fowl were traded for groceries.

The lonely life was made brighter by friendly neighbours. The girls and boys of William Drake were often visitors, also the



Joiners, Wardells, Ballantynes and Thompsons. Dancing was much enjoyed.

A neighbour would send out word that they were having a dance on a certain night. The largest room in the house was cleared of furniture, a table was put in a corner of the room, and on the table was a chair, and in the chair was the fiddler. The dances were square dances, The men wore high light boots. Jim Bob or Miles Ketchum were the fiddlers, Jim Bob had a habit of opening and closing one eye as he sawed away at the fiddle. Those who danced paid the fiddler, usually fifty cents, any men who did not pay became very unpopular. About midnight a very fine lunch was served, then on with the dance until near morning.

Coon hunting was a common pastime of the young men and many of the older men. Coons were very destructive to the corn, so when the corn was out in ear, the hunters, three or four of them with a good coon dog would set out for the corn fields just after dark. They were armed with clubs. After quietly arriving at a suitable place in the field, the dog was let loose. Then there was suppressed excitement listening for the dog to give his howl, which meant he was on track of a coon. Soon the howl was heard in a distant part of the field. Then the excitement between them increased. Which way is the dog going? Is he headed for the big elm tree? If the coon reached the big elm he was safe, if a smaller tree, someone would climb the tree and shake him out, and when he struck the ground there was great excitement between the hunters, the dog, and the coon. The coons were skinned, and the skin was salted and nailed to the barn to dry. It was worth seventy-five cents.

Salathiel and Mary Ann Curtis's family was John who was born in England, Elizabeth who married John Fletcher and lived in Michigan. They had two girls and two boys. Eliza who married Thomas Peacock, they had one daughter. Mary remained at home and was unmarried and Richard remained on the homestead and never married.

The log house was replaced by a frame house on the Middle March sideroad. The frame house was further back and surrounded by evergreens. Much walnut was used in the house. In 1872 John Curtis bought the East half of lot 32 South on Talbot Road. There was also a log house close to the road on the north-east



corner of the next farm owned by the Widow Casey. The Widow O'Donnell lived in this house. I remember too, two of the boys - Mike and Pat. After the O'Donnells moved away, the old log house was used as a sheep pen by Tom Clear who rented the Casey farm.

John Curtis was one of the founders of the Bible Christian Church here. He was treasurer for many years. He was also an enthusiastic Granger, and was chaplain for many years. His wife who was Mary Ann Davis, was an active church worker. Their home was open house for ministers when visiting in the neighbourhood. She was a good cook. The preacher usually went away with a bag of oats in his buggy. Many a time I have been told to go and catch a rooster when the minister's buggy was seen coming up the lane.

John Curtis died in 1915 at age 75 and Mary Davis Curtis died in 1929 at age 82. There was one girl and two boys in the family - James, Salathiel and Etta.

JAMES DAVIS married Dora Ferguson of Strathroy. They have a daughter Carolyn, at home and a son Dr. John Curtis, who is associated with his father in St. Thomas. Carolyn is a prominent artist in St. Thomas. John married Patricia Dowler and they have three children - Dorinda, James Dowler and Mary Carolyn. James Dowler, who became a doctor in Montreal, married Erica Smith. Dorinda, graduate of MacDonald Hall, married Robert S. Keith and live in Michigan. They have Jeffery and David. Mary Carolyn is a secretary in London. James David died in 1967 at the age of 98 and his wife Dora died in 1963.

SALATHIEL married Mary D. (Dolly) Hunt, daughter of Squire Francis Hunt, who lived on the McNiven farm. They have four girls and two boys.- Grace, Dorothy, Francis Richard (Frank), James Clarence, Florence and Norah. Grace died of Meningitis at the age of three. Dorothy became a teacher at Shedden and married William Ayerst, an accountant on the Michigan Central Railway. They have three sons, William, John and Richard. William married Mary Holtby and had one son Robert and two daughters Mary Susan and Victoria Ann. John Kerrigan (Pat) principal of Elmdale School in St. Thomas, married Mary Heckman and had three children - John, Stephen and Elizabeth.

Richard, a teacher at Oakridge Acres in London, married Barbara

Grant and had three children - Michael, Mark and Nanci Colleen.

Francis Richard (Frank) - the oldest son - married Dorothy Chambers a school teacher. They bought the Isaac Walter farm opposite the Middlenarch School. Elijah Mann started this farm in 1920. His son, also Elijah, one of a family of sixteen, also owned this farm. He sold the farm to Isaac Walter of Copenhagen. Frank Curtis also owns the 24 1/2 acre farm where the first blacksmith shop stood, as well as the west 50 acres of the Sutton place. W. G. Lyle owns the north half of this 75 acres. This farm belonged to Calvin Witt from Oxford, Oakland and Michigan. There was a large log hotel there, where Colonel Talbot had many of his parties. Auction sales were held by Mr. Witt and later by Charles Jackson with Mr. and Mrs. George McCaig helping with sales and farm work. For a time Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vickery owned this farm till they moved to Bothwell. Frank and Dorothy Curtis had two boys - John Davis and Robert Salathiel. John Davis who graduated with B.S.A. at Guelph U. A. S. in 1959 and master of Agriculture in 1964, was stationed from 1959 to 1966 at Ridgetown Agricultural College. He then moved to Kemptville Agricultural School, where he is Director of Soils and Extension officer to help 30 agricultural representatives. John Davis married Nancy Tuck, McDonald Hall graduate in Home Economics. She taught in Ridgetown High School for four years. They have Laurie Jean, Deborah Lynn and David John.

Robert Salathiel married Patricia Cohoe, a public health nurse in St. Thomas. He has the two farms on Talbot Road. He graduated from Western Agricultural School in 1958. He helped his father farm and took charge when his father died in 1961. His mother Dorothy moved to St. Thomas in 1965, before Robert married Patricia Cohoe. Robert and Patricia have two boys, Daniel (Danny) born in 1970 and Michael.

James Clarence, the youngest son, married Eva Johnson and they live on the original Salathiel and the father Salathiel farm. They have one son, James Ernest Wayne, who roomed with Robert (Frank's son) at Western Agricultural School and graduated in 1958. He farms with his father and is unmarried. There are two daughters - Josephine (Mary Josephine) who married Donald C. Bogart with the Canadian Armed Forces N.A.T.O. Germany, also served four years in France. They have three sons - Gary, David and James, and one daughter Kim.



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Anne Christine, an occupational therapist, married John C. Brown, a farmer from Ringal. They have Steven Michael and Nancy Anne. Water was always a concern. We decided to drill for water. People thought we were foolish, but we had it witched. After a few mishaps drilling, we found water pure and clear. In 1967, after an ownership search was taken, we were entitled to a plaque as a Century Farm owner.

Florence - an R. N. in Buffalo, married Joseph Guegino, a druggist in Rochester, N. Y. They had three sons - Joseph, a teacher in Syracuse, N. Y. and Charles is at school in Illinois, and Gerald at school at Rochester. Florence still nurses.

Norah - became a secretary and married Reginald T. Luxton, an employee of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway and now lives in Sarnia.

ETTA was a Middlemarch School Teacher. She married George Campbell and settled on a farm on Centre or Middle River Road and Bush Road. Etta died in 1965. They built a modern red brick home. They had two sons and a daughter. Curtis, lives on the home farm, married Velma Lanning of Yarmouth Township. They have Janet, Colin and John. *Jeannette* Janet married James Jackson Tyson, a Toronto school teacher and has one son James Curtis. Colin is married and is working at the Elgin Co-Operative. John is helping his father. Neil, was overseas in the last war in the R. C. O. C., married Bessie Grass. They have one daughter, Doris who works for the Bell telephone and married Larry Moore of London. Bessie Grass taught at River Road and Coon Road schools. Jean, a St. Thomas school teacher, married Stewart A. Brown, Shedden who died in 1966. They had five children - Stewart Curtis, Mary Jean, Duncan George, Isabel and Carolyn. Stewart Curtis married Doreen Barker, R. N. He graduated B.S.A. at Guelph and joined his father as a cattle buyer and farmer. They have seven children - David, Cathy, Michael, Karen, Paul, Linda and Allan. Mary Jean, an interior decorator, married Edward Handberry and they have three children - Janie, Edward and Carolyn. Duncan George, married Lois Turner, R. N. head of operating room nurses at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. They have one son Brian Duncan. Isabel, a teacher, married Robert Campbell, a teacher in London. Carolyn, a teacher, married David Menham, a teacher in London. Stewart A. Brown was a warden in Elgin County.



William Curtis, a brother of Salathiel, settled in Yarmouth Township about 1841. He had five sons - Neil, who married Blanche Taylor, R. N. and lives in St. Thomas. Salathiel, who married May Roberts who had a son Stanley who married Isabel Carrie of St. Thomas. They farm on the old farm and specialize in Registered Hereford Cattle. They have four sons - Richard, Daniel, Roger and Jay. Daniel who never married was prominent in the Township affairs and lives next door to the older home. Wallace died in Vancouver. Matthew died in the Canadian West.

A modern barn replaced the first barn in 1915 by Salathiel who had built a modern house a few rods west of the John Curtis home in the large orchard of fruit trees. Frank Curtis had helped his father Salathiel move the large maple trees on the west side of the lane in big blocks of frozen earth, from the very large maple bush near the Bush Road. John Curtis and now James Curtis have gradually cleared the fields of bush to the present woods. Salathiel, Frank and Jim have made maple syrup by arch of bricks and open pan from the maple trees.

An open drainage ditch and partly closed drain crosses the Wardell (Travers), John Fitcher (Robie Fitcher), Frank Joiner (Orville Ingram), Bowlby (now Carroll), Dowler (now Kruppe) and crosses South Talbot road to Harold Butler and Kimbles to join Port Talbot Creek.

Frank Curtis' steel barn built by Isaac Welter in 1918 had been destroyed by fire, and was also destroyed by fire in 1944, and replaced by a larger higher Preston barn in 1945. The barn on the other place was destroyed by fire fourteen months later (combustion). Now Robert S. has established a cattle feed lot - silo 60 x 20 - Chemicals and fertilizers may be added dry - fall or spring - powder or granular form by spreaders or other farm implements with special attachments or by adding to oil or water into a spray. Corn residue after ensilage is treated in the fall and during the winter rots the corn residue to add its chemicals to the following crop.

Corn planting research has developed corn varieties to be planted as soon as land is ready and mature in 90 - 110 days for grain corn. Ensilage is cut at an earlier stage. Grain corn may be shelled as picked or sold. It may be stored dried if necessary by air or heat in farm driers and stored in cribs on farms to be ground (cob and grain for cattle or pigs. Each fall



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the previous years corn left on the farm is sold, usually to farm owned co-operatives. A corn bank, and beans, soya and white, is also operated to dry and hold corn as needed by the farmer at a monthly cost per bushel, or sold as farmer wishes so farmer may sell the crop at the best possible price.

The co-operative in St. Thomas gives a dividend and price cut to its share holders (\$100.00 a share to belong). They have expanded to gas, oil, smallfarm supplies and veterinary supplies.

Many farmers are cash croppers - sugar beets, tomatoes (to Libby's, Campbells in Toronto and Chatham), vegetable crops, corn, soya beans, yellow eye beans and white beans and tobacco. Vegetable crops enrich the soil and hand cultivations eliminate weeds. Single seed sugar beets eliminate hand blocking.

Push button feeding - calves from Western Canada are "zero fed", that is hay, ensilage, ground cob corn and supplements are used to get calves ready for market from Oct. or Nov. to July or August. He tries to have cattle make  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 lbs. daily gain from western weight. Shipping fever, which may turn to pneumonia is a constant threat especially after a long ride by train or truck from Canadian West, often Alberta. Electricity pumps and heats water from the large pond. It takes 15 minutes to feed twice daily. Shoat pigs (40 lb. plus) run with the cattle. Stewart A. and Duncan Brown also have feed lots and cattle run to open barn for shelter. Barn yards are cemented. Board fences also break the wind. Manure spreaders scatter the manure on the fields. When the fields are soft the manure is stock-piled till fields (sometimes after crop harvest) are ready to have manure spread.

Heavy horses except on tobacco farms are obsolete - many farmers have a pony for the children or a quarter horse (Western and Saddle) to round up cattle moving from pasture or barn. Much cattle movement is by truck. As many farms have just the line fences left and some not even these to help control the weeds. Chemical weed control has lost us many of our loved birds and bees, and beneficial insects, by eliminating their feed and shelter from the fence rows.

Mechanical pickers have been successful in apples and small fruit.

The family flock of chickens is replaced by chicken specialty farms having upwards of 5000 to 10,000 broilers (sexed male birds at birth) or sexed pullets or yearlings. These farms are operated



a lot by electricity, supervised by men or women. Eggs are gathered from community or trap nests, candled, packed, cooled and sold, often daily. Not many chickens, turkeys and ducks now see daylight and green grass and are killed in killing plants. Ducks and geese are reared mass production. Even the blood is collected and used in research. The feathers are removed by machines. At Watford, 16,000 birds are processed hourly. A gizzard machine is operated, feathers are collected and graded and sold. Elgin Egg in St. Thomas is a smaller poultry preparing plant of Cuddy farms, Strathroy.

George Carroll and Lynwood Begg still operate an egg route in St. Thomas each Friday. The House sisters from Port Talbot operate an egg route and attend St. Thomas Market with farm produce each Wednesday and Saturday. They specialize in gladiolias during the entire season and also supply some St. Thomas florists.

For many years cattle of all ages were finished for market, killed on the farm and sold by quarters. Now many farmers have large freezers to store meats in cooking quantities and vegetables and fruits and home baked goods.

The man or family who operated the general store is losing out to the groceterias - company owned and operated. Flowers, small appliances and farming implements - hoes, rakes etc are also sold. More packaging with cello-phane - smaller quantities but fresher, (coming by car, truck, plane and railway), better grading and mixes have made groceries much better but more expensive. Chain stores have ruled out the family owned store - A & P, Firestone, Loblaws, I.G.A., Walkers etc. R. M. Anderson family still operates one of St. Thomas' oldest ready to wear and yard goods stores. Pincombes still have a grocery and meat store on Ross Street but previously had three or four stores.