

Ralph married Marlene Buchanan and now works the farm. Their son James Norman, 2 years old is the fifth of his line on the same farm and shows promise of loving the farm and the animals already. We hope he will be a future descendant on the Norman Taylor farm.

*Norman and Bernice Taylor 1961.*





## "McPherson Farm"

Now occupied and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Farquhar, R.R.#2, Glanworth. It is located on Lot 16, Concession 14, Yarmouth Township.

Allan McPherson and Katherin McPherson from Scotland were the first settlers of the McPherson family in Canada. Their family consisted of Gilbert, Hugh, John, Allen, Robert, Dan, and Elizabeth. Two of their children died in infancy and Dan passed away at the early age of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years. The rest have all passed away as well as Mrs. Mary Farquhar's father and mother, John and Margaret (Gilbraith) McPherson.

John and Margaret had two daughters, Katherine (deceased) who married Robert Taylor and Mary, who married Wm. Farquhar and is still living on the old homestead.

The farm was purchased in 1856 from the Crown and the price paid was 75 pounds for 100 acres. Fifty extra acres were brought from Mr. David Hoover at a later date in 1884. The first small house was built of logs in 1856 and was situated North and East of the present large brick house.

The first small frame barn was built where the present large barn stands now. The first known livestock raised on the farm was cattle, pigs and sheep in small quantities to suit the accomodations. Two excellent mills supplied the necessary water for the barn and house.

The present large white brick house was built 30 rods from the road by John and Robert McPherson who were excellent carpenters. A telephone was installed in 1915 and electricity around 35 years ago.

The present large barn was built about 65 years ago. It is a frame structure on a solid cement wall. Later a pig pen and milk house was added also a cement silo. Years ago flax was grown on the farm but wheat, oats, corn, beans and peas have been the crops grown for many years. There are now only 147 acres as 3 acres were sold to the C.P. Railroad when it went through many years ago.

Taxes in	1927	were	\$175.00
	in	1932	\$147.00
	in	1950	\$214.00
and	in	1959	\$445.00

There are a number of apple trees, which were planted 50 years ago, still producing apples for home consumption. There are a number of relics which are valued by the family such as cake plates and silver dishes.

Charlie Farquhar and his wife Beatrice (Jenkins) Farquhar and their two children, Billie and Viola are living in an apartment in the old homestead and carrying on the old traditions of farming on the old homestead.





## The Thompson Farm

Sometime during the year 1817, according to an account in A History Of The County Of Middlesex, Arthur Thompson with his wife Sarah (Rea) and a family of five children -- one infant having died on the Atlantic voyage -- and Arthur's brother, Richard arrived in Canada from the County of Fermanagh, Ireland.

They first located near friends who had already come from Ireland, on 100 acres of Crown Land on Lot 10, Concession 2, London Township. This the family cleared and possessed until the farm was sold to John Chadwick, deed dated March 18, 1850. Arthur Thompson, Born about 1783, lived the latter part of his life with his son William and died September 20, 1875, aged ninety-two years. His wife had predeceased him August 25, 1835. They were burried in the family plot in the Grove Cemetery, not farm from the farm on which they had first settled, now in the city of London.

James Thompson, who was born October 18, 1812, and died august 9, 1890, was the eldest son of Arthur Thompson. He was first member of the family to settle in North Dorchester Township, taking claim to 100 acres of land on the south half of Lot 22, Concession 2. In a letter to his brother William, written many years later from Owen Sound, he wrote that "...I cut the first tree on the farm."

Although we do not know when James Thompson first commenced clearing the farm in North Dorchester, it is quite possible it may have been in the early 1830's. On May 20, 1835, He married Catherine Murphy, who was born September 17, 1816 and died January 12, 1904. The marriage was performed by the Rev. William Griffis of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. There is evidence to prove that he already had taken possession in 1841, as bonds exist which were drawn up between himself and his father exchanging the London Township and North Dorchester farms that year. This agreement, however, apparently was never carried through.

James Thompson received his Clergy Reserve Grant of Land of 100 acres for the sum of seventy-five pounds; deed was dated at Quebec, the 7th day of November 1851, and signed by the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. The next deed shows James selling this property to his brother William "... in consideration of the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds of Lawful money of Canada."; deed dated at London, February 21st, 1852. It is, then, through William Thompson and his descendants that the farm has continued to this day to remain in the possession of the family.

( James Thompson, in 1860 took up residence in Owen Sound, where he for many years operated a lock and gunsmith business on Bay Street. "In 1866, he went to the front with the volunteers in response to the call-to-arms to repel the formidable Fenian invasion of that year." A quotation from the Owen Sound Sun, of August 10th, 1890. )

William Thompson was born in 1827, at the home of his parents in London Township. As a young man, he no doubt helped his father on their farm and there is reason to believe he helped his brother James clear the land on the North Dorchester farm before purchasing it from him. The deed of 1852 describes James as being a "grocer of the town of London". William on January 23, 1856, married Jane O'Hara, who was born in Cootehill, County Cavan, Ireland, December 6, 1823. The marriage was performed by Rev. William Savage, at the home of her uncle Benjamin Dixon, London. His wife Elizabeth was a sister of William Thompson. Rev. William Savage was one of the pioneer Methodist ministers having a large circuit in the London area. His friendship with the family began early in 1850 and continued for over fifty years.

Jane O'Hara had first come to America, as she herself has recorded, "...May 12, 1850, my anniversary of my leaving England for Philadelphia from Liverpool in the ship Susquehanna, sailing vessel, Captain Maloney in Command. We were 31 days on board, landed safe and well." In Philadelphia she had been occupied as a governess with the Jordan family until she came to London, in what was then known as Canada West, October 2, 1855. She had come to London to visit he uncle Benjamin Dixon, and after her marriage to William Thompson, they then took up residence on the North Dorchester farm.



Diaries kept by Jane Thompson covering a period of over forty years are one of the treasured possessions of the family. The earliest gives an account of her voyage to America in 1855. From 1870 to 1899, a short time before her death, an almost daily entry was made of the events of the day. These give a factual record from which a clear picture can be drawn of early years on the homestead. Quotations from these diaries are used in this history of the farm.

In 1856, William and his wife Jane were settled in a log house which probably had been built some years before, and with some barns, on 100 acres of partially cleared land. Late that same year, their first child, William, was born - he lived until 1928. Their four other children were Sarah Ann (Daisy), 1858-1940; James Dixon, 1861-1919; Arthur, 1864-1881; George Robinson, born Sept. 5, 1866, and died February 21, 1947.

The first well was dug and lined with stones, some of which were very large. It is interesting to speculate how these were lowered and fitted into place to about a depth of 25 feet. This well being under part of the house was filled in in 1955.

During 1865, a large six bedroom solid white brick house was built. From a diary entry of September 10, 1864, "...went to London bought 30,000 brick at \$3 per 1000." Logs were cut from the home bush, some sawn into lumber and others were used for sleepers. The two-foot wide foundation was of stone, many of which were drawn from the Thames River, near Nilestown. On March 28th, 1865, "...commenced the cellar of our new house - Jonathan Hillyer, mason." Work continued. Snells are mentioned as the builders, and later "Mr. Beal to plaster." Then on November 29, "...moved into our new house." Also that year, an additional 50 acres of the North West part of Lot 22, concession 2, was purchased from Elijah F. Carrothers, for \$1,400. The deed dated October 4, 1865. Some prices received for farm produce that year were; Wheat, \$1 per bu.; Butter, 25¢ per lb.; eggs, 12¢ per doz.; Mutton, 10¢; beef, 11¢; ham, 14¢, per lb.; and straw \$16 a ton.

Barns were built and enlarged from time to time. Old buildings would be moved from their original locations. The first log house was moved about 200 feet and used many years for a poultry house. Many stones for the walls of the main barns were drawn from the Thames River. A diary entry on Friday, July 8, 1870, reads, "...raised our barn today - about 35 men for supper." and again "... May 23, 1879, we raised our barn, 50 men and 14 girls here." Lumber was from logs cut from the farm bush and sawn at Piersons Mill, Nilestown.

During 1887, the 50 acres farm across the road was purchased from Wilmot Pickel for the sum of \$3,250.

Threshing grain was first done with flails during the winter months when there would be as many as twelve men for up to three days doing the work. Rails were split for fences and wood was cut for heating the house. Much wood was taken to London for sale with teams and sleighs.

Usually in March, the bush of Sugar Maples would be tapped for what was earlier referred to as "molasses", most of which in early years, was boiled down to sugar for home use. At this time of the year, mention was often made of the terribly muddy roads. Once in April 1870, it took four hours to drive to London, a distance of about eleven miles. Next there would be pruning of the apple orchard. Then would follow the sowing of spring grains, barley, peas and oats and later turnips. Corn was planted as early as 1870. During May or early June, the flock of sheep would be driven to the creek and washed. "...June 7, 1886, washed the sheep in Young's creek." They were then shorn and the wool that was not sold was picked, carded, spun and dyed for home use. Work would continue with the clearing of the land, "May 12, 1891, stump pullers with their oxen here ... 13th finished the sumps at noon - 48 - all men helped get them out."

Late in June, haying would begin. There is mentioned on "July 7, 1879, ... men putting up car for hay fork in barn." Then the harvesting of the grain crops would follow. Grain may have been cut and bound by hand until around 1875. A diary entry records, "July 14, 1875, new reaper"; on the "30th, William Kernohan here to start the reaper." A wooden silo was built in 1891, perhaps the first. A year later, mention is made of "... men working at the silo filling with two span and two wagons drawing in and two span on the horse power." And "...broke down so often the slats of the elevator." In September, the fall wheat would be sown followed by taking in the turnips and picking the apple crop.