

1983 Update

Hugh Maxwell Hunter (b1954) married Nancy Arlene Waite(b1955)in 1978. They have two sons - Joshua Hugh "Josh" b. 1981, and Jacob Denver "Jake." Hugh farms with his father Mac. Jake was born in 1982.

Marianne (b. 1956) married Kenneth James Cuthbertson (b, 1951) in 1978. Marianne is a registered nurse and Ken is studying law. They reside in Kingston.

Roy McIntyre Hunter (b. 1957) married Wendy Lee Paavola (b. 1958) in 1980. They live on the Hunter Homestead near Port Stanley. Wendy works in London and Roy is studying at Fanshawe College.

Carol Elizabeth (b. 1959) married Arthur David Filson (b. 1960) in 1981. Dave farms with his farther, Hugh Filson. They live near Birr.

Hugh and Nancy moved into the red brick house after their marriage, and Gladys Carroll moved into an apartment in Dutton. She spends six months of the year there and spends the winter months in Florida. In 1981 Mac and Marjorie covered in the front porch of their home, making it into a living room, filled with antiques. Marjorie has several Limousin cattle which she shows at fairs. She teaches in St. Thomas.

1984 - Born to Carol and Dave Filson, a daughter, Jennifer Margaret, on August 4, 1984.

1992 UPDATE

Marjorie Hunter retired from teaching in June, 1990.

Hugh and Nancy Hunter's third child was a daughter:

Cheri Michelle born 4 October, 1985

Marianne and Ken Cuthbertson's family:

Laura Hunter Cuthbertson born 29 July, 1989

Hayley Hunter Cuthbertson born 11 June, 1991

Carol and Dave Filson had two more daughters:

Sarah Marjorie born 9 July, 1986

Christine Marion Elizabeth born 30 May, 1988

We shall now deal with that part of the farm known as the "Murray Place", Lot 22, Concession A Brocken front 91½ acres.

This lot was included in the 2000 acres land grant made to Lieutenant Colonel William Campbell of the 24th Regiment in 1795. The grant was made by King George III and witnessed by the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada John Graves Simcoe.

The 24th Regiment to which Col. Campbell belonged was the same one Co. Talbot was with on his first trip to Canada in 1790. When Simcoe travelled through this region on his way to Detroit in 1793 Col. Talbot was with him, and who knows, possibly Col. Campbell was also on his staff.

This lot was owned by Col. Campbell's heirs for 91 years until 1886. Five generations owned it and as far as we know none ever saw it. I will give the line of heirship taken from old documents. Lt. Col. W. Campbell received the grant in 1795. In 1797 he died intestate and his estate went to his two sisters Jean and Euphemia Campbell. The latter married William Ross. She died intestate in 1829 and her interest in the land went to her eldest son John Ross. In 1832 John Ross died intestate and the land went to his son John Crockat Ross. In 1833 Col. Campbell's other sister Jean Campbell died, leaving her interest to her grand nephew the same John Crockat Ross. In 1841 John Crockat Ross died unmarried leaving all his property to his three sisters Euphemia, Anne and Marion Ross. The latter married Alexander McNeel Caird, a wealthy lawyer and writer of Stranraer, County Wigtown, Scotland. He evidently re-established the family claim to the remaining lands of the grant, being lots 19, 20 & 22 Conc. 1 and lot 22 in the brocken front.

In 1857 one Alexander McDonald sold lots 22 in conc. 1 and brocken front to James Shanly for £150. Shanly was clerk of the Court of Chancery in London, Ont. This appears to have been an attempt to steal the land because Shanly had to give it back to Caird.

In 1869 David Glass, at one time Mayor of London bought 36 acres in lot 22 brocken front and 69 acres in lot 19 conc. 1 for back taxes paying \$129.19. In 1872 this land was returned for the sum of 5 shillings. Possibly Glass sold enough timber in the meantime to recover his investment. In 1877 William McKay of St. Thomas bought 4 acres in 22 B.F. and 3 acres in 22 conc. 1 for \$70.67 to pay back taxes. In 1885 Alex. McNeel Caird junior, son of the other Caird, paid \$99.00 to Mr. McKay's widow for the seven acres she held.

In 1886 Caird sold lot 22 B.F. to Dugald Murray of Ekfrid Township for \$2,287.50. He bought this farm for his three sons and they proceeded to develop it. A few years after they built their buildings they were flooded, so in 1894 they bought 2 acres of higher land across the road in concession 1 from John C. Campbell for \$80.00. In 1899 title was transferred to John and Malcolm Murray for \$400.00 and an existing mortgage.

In 1900 John went to Wisconsin to a railway job, and Malcolm went to the same work in St. Thomas. From then until 1905 the farm was rented to William McRae who had a milk drawing job to West Magdala cheese factory near Lawrence Station. In 1905 John sold his one half interest in the farm to his brother Malcolm for \$1,500.00. Angus Murray then rented the place for one year. In 1906 Malcolm sold the farm to William Carroll for \$3,100.00. From then on this property was operated as part of the main farm. Malcolm Murray's daughter became Mrs Peter Laing, one time mayor of St. Thomas.

Lorne Lilley and his family were the last to live in this house. Soon after they moved in they were forced out by the flood of 1937. Lilleys lived here until 1940.

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"C & H" VALLEY FARMS LTD

"The Urquhart Place"

The part of the farm known as the Urquhart Place consists of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in lot 21 conc. 1 and 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in lot 21 conc. A. broken front. These lots are small because of the curve of the river. In 1838 both these properties were sold by the Crown to the Canada Company. In 1874 In 1874 they sold lot 21 broken front to Frederick Jasper Chadwick a land agent from Rockmaple near Guelph for £112.16.3. The next years in 1875 he sold it to William Urquhart, a tailor who lived across the river for \$700.00. In 1882 William sold it to his son Nathaniel for \$1000.00.

Lot 21 in conc. 1 (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres) became the property of George MacBeth. It is not registered how. In 1889 his widow, Anne G. MacBeth, Verschoyle Cronyn and William P. R. Street, heirs of MacBeth signed the property over to Annie J. MacBeth, who then sold it to Nathaniel Urquhart for \$200.00. This now made a farm of 42 acres. Urquharts had a stable there for some stock, and planted an orchard of about 25 trees. To get to this farm they used a boat. To take implements and horses across, they forded the river. During one flood they saved their livestock by keeping them on top of a straw stack.

In 1900 they sold the farm to Dugald Campbell for \$1,650.00 provided that he pay one year's taxes that were due. They also reserved 100 cord of wood and six Maple trees on the river bank of their own choosing. They were to have one year's access to remove the wood.

In 1906 Dugald sold this land to William Carroll for \$1,500.00. This was at the same time his brother John sold his farm to the Carrolls.

There is a story told that when the Canada Company owned this land thieves cut the best Walnut logs, and sank them in the river. After the turn of the century many logs were removed from a bend in the river and drawn to the sawmill at Cowal. Many of these were logs that sank on their way to sawmills at Chatham. Perhaps some of these were the stolen walnut.

"C & H" VALLEY FARMS LTD."The Campbell Place"

This is part of the farm known as the Campbell Place. It contains 83 acres in the north $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 22 in concession 1.

Until 1890 it was owned by the same people in Scotland that owned the Murray Place. In 1890 this property was sold by auction to George T. Mann a coal merchant in London. On the south side of this farm the woods had been flattened by a windstorm, and it may have been when Mann owned it that this timber was drawn through the woods on lot 23 then across lot 24 to the river. They crossed the river on the ice to Middlemiss where the timber was shipped out by train.

In 1892 Mann sold the farm to John C. Campbell who lived on the second concession for \$1,660.00.

In 1902 a barn was built for John Campbell by Sandy Clark, Bennett's Corners. This is a bank barn, 38 by 60 feet.

In 1906 due to ill health Mr. Campbell sold to William Carroll for \$2,000.00.

No story of this property is complete without mentioning William Webster who lived here as a squatter for many years. He was a weaver by trade and raised 12 or 13 children. Mac Webster of Wallacetown is a descendant of one son. A daughter was Mrs Angus Murray, Robert Murray's grandmother. Because of his nearness to the river this was a good location for a weaver. The place where his house was became a gravel pit later on and for many years supplied the neighbourhood with gravel for cement and roads. South west of the barn there was at one time a shanty for Indian woodcutters to live in. On the south side of the farm there was another house or shanty believed to have been used when the timber was being removed.



Flooding of Thames River around barn on "Campbell Place"



Campbell Home in 1898 (built about 1879)

Seated Dugald C. Campbell and Mrs Campbell with children Alex & Robert D.

Robert Campbell married Jean McFarlane at Roseneath, Scotland, March 6th 1794. They had eight sons and two daughters. The youngest was Alex who came to Canada in 1832. The rest came in succeeding years until 1846. All are buried at the Murray Cemetery in Ekfrid Township, Middlesex County, except Mary and John.

When Alex and Humphrey first came to Canada they worked for a year at the Welland Canal. Alex was then a lad of 19 years. They then came up the lake to Port Stanley and walked to the Thames River where their allotment of land lay. This land was lot 22, Concession 2 Dunwich Twp., situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Thames River, and 2 miles north of Cowal. Humphrey took up land in Ekfrid.

The work of making a home from the virgin forest began with the building of a log house. This was built on top of a small ravine - to be sure of water. The spot of this first dwelling is easily seen as there are some old apple trees and a flower bed of "Sweet Mary" and scented "Old Man" near by. The wash was done by the side of the creek and hung on branches of fallen trees to dry. A brother, Dugald, who was a bachelor, came in 1834 and took over the land south of Alex's (South $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 22 Con. 2) now the home of Mr. & Mrs., Philip Campbell.

Alex married Janet Carswell on Jun 7th., 1849. Janet lived on the Back St., now No. 3 Highway. They walked to their new home 10 miles distant and when nearly there the bride had the misfortune to fall and sprain her ankle.

In those days there was nothing but oxen and the Campbells were forced to walk nine miles to the nearest store at Iona to purchase the necessities such as tea, salt, flour etc., They carried butter and eggs to exchange for their household supplies.

When the farm became more productive and livestock was kept, a trip was made twice a year to London with a load of dressed hogs. This trip took two days with a team of horses and wagon. The family, like many others, lived off the products of the farm. They kept sheep for the family supply of wool for making blankets stockings, mittens and clothing. Picking wool bees were common among the neighbours. The wool was carded into rolls, and spun into yarn on the spinning wheel, and woven into cloth and blankets on the loom. Neighborliness was strong in those days and they helped each other in times of sickness and distress.

To Alex and Janet were born six sons and two daughters: - Robert 1850 - 1876. Archibald 1851 - 1853. Margaret 1853 - 1903. Archie C. 1855 - 1930. John 1857 - 1928. Alex 1860 - 1867. Jean 1862 - 1932. Dugald 1864 - 1930. There was much sorrow in the passing of three of the sons; - Archibald when two years old; Alexander was drowned in the Thames River when seven years old; Robert, the eldest was instantly killed in the woods when struck by a loose limb which became dislodged by a high wind as he was chopping wood. He was 26 years old.

There was lawlessness in those days. Dugald, brother of Alex lived alone in a small house. When he was quite an old man, a band of armed masked men came in the night and bound him to a chair. One stood over him with a gun while the others ransacked the house for money he was reputed to have had. They found nothing of value. After this experience Dugald lived with his brother Alex and family for the remainder of his life.

After living in their log house for thirty years, Alex Campbell built a larger frame house facing the 2nd Concession, and lived in it for many years.

Janet died in 1888 at the age of 67 years. Alex passed away in 1890 at the age of 70 years. Dugald died a few years previous.

Dugald C., son of Alex married Christina Cobban and lived on the home farm. Christina died in 1900 leaving three small sons, Alex, Robert D., and James C., who was only a few days old. Later in 1902 Dugald married Margaret Eaton and they had one son Philip.

John who never married lived with his brother Dugald and family until his death in 1928.

In 1915 Dugald built a home on South 1/2, Lot 19, Concession 3, and the family moved there in 1916, leaving the house on Lot 22, Concession 2 vacant until 1929 when his son Philip moved the house across the gully to the second concession, ^{on Lot 22} the farm originally owned by Dugald Campbell Sr., brother of Alex and later owned by John Campbell son of Alex. Philip married Agnes Jean McCallum and established a home there in 1929.

Philip Campbell and Sons now own all of Lot 22, Concession 2. There are three sons, namely, - Angus A., Clifford D., and Donald Philip A.

Alex Campbell, at the age of 19 went to Saskatchewan in 1915 and married Stella Latcham in 1925. They lived at Elrose, Saskatchewan. They had two sons and a daughter, - Loreen, Ross Dougald and Lorne Alexander.

Robert D. and James C. Campbell continued to farm in the district.

History of Lot 23, Concession 2, Dunwich Township, Murray Property.
Century Farm, by Bruce Murray.



Murray Home 1955

In 1795, the Crown granted a parcel of land consisting of 200 acres to Lt. Col. William Campbell. At his death, the land was bequeathed to his eldest sister, Jean Campbell, in Airies, Scotland.

Miss Campbell turned the land over to her nephew, Col. William Ross, as a gift, and on the Colonel's death it was divided among four parties: his wife, his sister, Mrs Alexander McNeil Caird, the former Marion Ross; two maiden sisters, Misses Euphemia and Anne Ross, and Angus Murray of Stranrear, Scotland.

Mr. Murray, in 1850 bought the other three shares and became sole owner of the original 200 acres. He paid \$400 for a farm valued at 200 Pounds.

He had married Sara McPherson and in due time set out for Canada with several of his nine children. Two sons settled in Nova Scotia, and Mr. Murray, his wife and a son Dougal journeyed to the Murray farm in Dunwich Township, then located in Middlesex County.

Dougal Murray later bought a farm across the Thames River and built a log cabin about 30 rods West of the present house.

Angus Murray left his farm to another son, Angus who was a sailor on the Great Lakes. The son had previously built a log cabin on the farm near that of his parents. He married a woman named McCallum and the two raised four daughters and a son.

It was Angus Murray the son, who later sold 50 acres across the South end of the farm to a man known only as McTavish.

His wife soon died and the oldest daughter Margaret took care of the home and the rest of the family for a while.

Margaret married Duncan McPhedron who lived in the Cowal settlement. As for the rest of the family, Isabelle Murray married a man named McGeachie, and when he died, she married her brother-in-law, Duncan Urquhart.

Janet Murray became the wife of William Ritche and they moved to Port Huron in the United States. The only son, Hugh, left home when he was a young man and also moved to the U. S. Kate Murray married John McMillan and they settled in the Township.

With his family gone, Angus hired a housekeeper and later married a Mrs Isabelle Clarke, the former Isabelle Webster, a widow from Scotland with her three sons, William, Allan and Tom.

Angus and his new wife had two sons and a daughter. Malcolm was killed by a horse when he was 11 years old; Sarah married Duncan Leverington and they settled just North of what is now West Lorne; and Angus who was born on June 29th 1869.

(continued)