

"The Old Manse"

Arthur Snell

Part of Lot 24, Concession 3

In 1869 the land was willed to Neil McBribe. In 1875 it was bought by Chalmers Church and a manse was erected. In November 1897 a new basement was put under the manse which the Ladies Aid helped with financially.

The trustees of the church sold the property to Alexander McLachlin in 1922 for \$550. After the death of Alexander's wife, Margaret, the property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Palmer in 1944.. Mr. Palmer erected a saw mill along the creek which he operated until 1963. Mrs. Palmer made many beautiful quilts..Her sister Mrs. Evely, lived with them for a number of years. Mr. Palmer died September 24, 1967 and Mrs. Palmer is in a nursing home in St. Thomas.

In 1963 Mr. Palmer sold the property to Robert and Betty Ostrander. Mr. Ostrander ran the mill until the early 1970's. Their family was Betty Anne (Mrs. Donald Bobier), who owns the Clothes Closet in West Lorne; Dawn (Mrs. David Cadogan); Connie (Mrs. Philip Mark); Tammy (Mrs. Archie Swain); and Robin (Mrs. Mike Stelenpool).

The Ostrander family moved to the Gore Road in Dunwich (after Mr. Ostrander's death, the family moved to West Lorne) and the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Snell ( Bud and Betty). The saw mill was torn down and the house was renovated. Mr. Snell is retired because of health problems. Their family is Beth and Lynne, both students.

Compiled in 1983.

1992 UPDATE

The Snell family sold this parcel of land to Marty Angenent who operates the Holland House at Iona.

LOT 24 and A, CONCESSION 3

Archie M. Campbell

In September 1875, Neil McBane sold the 100 acres to Daniel and Julia Thomson. In January 1910 Mrs. Daniel Thomson sold the farm to her son, Robert G. Thomson. In April 1911 he sold out to Archie M. Campbell, son of Malcolm and Isabella (Graham) (see Lot 20, Concession 4. Gordon Campbell)

Archie M. Campbell( 1885-1972) married Mary Helen McPhail (died in 1964) on February 7, 1912.

Their family were:

Gordon married Ina Vail, Melbourne and they have one Child, Lynne.

Clarence married Margaret Kovacs and they have three children - Ross, Anne and Karen.

Kathyleen married Fred Macenko and they have on daughter, Sandra. They live in Ottawa.

Archie M. and his two sons farmed together until the sons were married and purchased their own farms. Clarence served overseas in the Second World War.

After Mary's death in 1964 Archie M. continued to live alone in the house until his death in May, 1972, in his 87th year. His son, Gordon, took over the farm in 1946 and is the present owner. Clarence's son, Ross married Jane Anderson, May, 1982 and they live in the house with their two children, Tjada and Nicholas.

Compiled in 1983

1992 UPDATE

This farm was purchased by Kenneth McCallum, son of Ivan and Phylliss McCallum, in August, 1989. Ken renovated the whole interior and added an addition to the front of the house.

On 13th August, 1988 Ken McCallum married Ruth Anne Woolner, daughter of Alan and Lois Woolner, Rodney. Ruth Anne works for Valleyview Home for the Aged, in St. Thomas.



North 1/2 Lot B, Concession 3

William Salmon

There is not too much known about this farm. It was located in the hills along the fourth concession. William Salmon and his family lived there. The following are items taken from The Dutton Advance 1886 - 1893 :

- April 22, 1886 William Salmon is getting material ready for a house.
- December 12, 1889 Mary Jane Salmon married Joe Hodder. (Their family was Marie who married Lorne Battin, Norman and Lionel Hodder, Bess who married Shirley Clay, Hazel who married Pat Waters, Detroit, and Rita who married Fred Howell.)
- April 16, 1891 Peter Salmon is building a large shed and a drive barn.
- August 3, 1893 Alexander Salmon died at age 57 years. He was a bachelor.
- May 17, 1900 Peter Salmon Sr. will likely retire from farming, as he has purchased a house and lot in Middlemiss.
- March 26, 1903 Peter Salmon sold his farm and is moving to Dutton.
- February 15, 1906 Mrs William Salmon died, 64 years. Resided over 50 years in Dunwich. Her husband survives as well as Mrs. J.H. Hodder, Mrs C. Dicker, and Peter. Burial at Cowal.
- February 22, 1906 William Salmon has given up farming and has gone to live with his son, Thomas who lives at Bennett's Corners.

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According to the maps, in 1860 and 1907 this land belonged to William Salmon, and possibly he received it from the crown. William Salmon was married twice. His first wife was a Smith and they had three children - Mary Jane married Joe Hodder of Dutton (1882 - April 17, 1954, age 82 years), Millie married C. Dicker and lived in Dunwich and Peter who moved to Dutton, later to StThomas. His second wife was a Meek and they had two children, Thomas at Bennett's Corners and Lizzie (no information.)

After the Salmon family left no one else lived there. Donald Millar is the present owner of the farm.

Compiled in 1983.



Lot A and B, Concession 3

Duncan McBride

Duncan McBride married Mary McCallum, daughter of Hugh McCallum.  
Their family were:

- Jim (1855 - 1923) married Mysie Walker.
- Annie married Colin Walker and lived at Walkers. They had 8 children.
- Amy (1862 - 1935) married Malcolm McGugan and had 8 children. Evan McGugan, manager of Western Fair, is a grandson.
- Peter (1859 - 1876)
- Mary Jane (18-- ) married Alex Turner, lived at Campbellton, later California. They had three children.
- Catherine Cassie married James Gauld and had four children.
- Elizabeth (1873 - 1942) Libby married George Little, a brother of William Little, and lived in Aldborough and had 6 children.
- Duncan (1873 - 1932) was a bachelor.

In his early days, Jim McBride kept a store in Cowal. All this family has passed away.

Philip Campbell now owns the farm and there are no buildings on it. Ray Lumley bought the house and moved it to Iona. The barn burnt.

Compiled in 1983.

Duncan McNabb came from Argyleshire, Scotland in 1848 and he married Catherine (Katie) McBride and they lived on the Southwold-Dunwich Townline. To this union were born Mungo and Annie.

Mungo McNabb married Mary Jane Campbell in 1882 and two daughters and four sons were born to them. Mungo maintained a herd of pedigreed Shorthorn cattle.

Their family included :

1. Annie died when she was five years of age.
2. Robert married Annie McDougall in 1929 and they had no family. Bob was a machinery dealer and ran a shop on No 2 Highway west of Melbourne. He died in 1977 and Annie died in 1961, both being buried at Cowal-McBrides Cemetary.
3. Catherine never married and kept house for her two brothers, Jack and Duncan. Kate is 94 (in 1983) and still does her own housework and has a keen mind.
4. Duncan died in 1982 at the age of 91 years . He was a bachelor and farmed with his brother Jack.
5. Allan is a retired school teacher living in Toronto. After the death of his first wife, he remarried to Margaret Jenkins, Belmont. There were two children by his first marriage, Barbara and Allan who is an aeronautical engineer and has four children.
6. Jack never married and lives with Kate. He farmed with his brother Dunc.

Annie McNabb, Mungo's sister, died in 1901 when she was still quite young.

Compiled in 1983.

1992 UPDATE

Catherine (Kate) McNabb passed away on 7 April, 1988, in her 99th year. She is buried in Cowal-McBrides Cemetery.

Kate's Brother, Allan McNabb, passed away on 25 November, 1991, at the age of 92 years.



On May 17, 1802, the Crown granted to James Brown all 200 acres of Lot 16 in Dunwich Township, and in May of 1815 James Brown deeded this land along with other property to John Baxter. At the time of Baxter's death all of this land was willed to Margaret and Elizabeth Baxter, Elizabeth becoming the owner of the North  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Elizabeth married a man by the name of Hershey and upon his death she sold her 100 acres to Thomas Kerr for \$1800, in 1875. He in turn sold to Robert Goldie. In 1877 Goldie sold to Robert Clark for \$2325.

Robert Clark married Catherine Fletcher (see Lot 24, Concession 2) and they had 10 children:

Dougald who married Jennie McCallum,

Robert who married Etta Ada Smith,

Alex who married Bertha Willey,

Danny died as an infant,

Christena married Thomas Gervis, see Lot 23, Conc. 5 N of A,

Gor Gordon died an infant,

Arthur 1879-1908,

Catherine died an infant,

John married Catherine Campbell,

Margaret 1887-1934.

When Robert Clark died his executors, Milton Smith and Sandy Clark, sold to William Jamison in 1928 for \$5000. They did not register the sale until nearly 10 years later. In the 1930's to 50's William Jamison leased the property with several oil and gas companies.

Upon the death of William Jamison the property came into the hands of Wilfred McKellar and his wife and Donald McKellar and wife who were official guardians for an infant. The property was then sold to Earl and Elizabeth (Betty) Bobier in 1954. Earl and Betty had three children namely Donald, David and Sharon. They lived here for 19 years and in 1973 sold to Douglas and Margaret McCauley. This young couple had four children. Maggie joined in the activities of the Cowal community and was an active member of the W.I. helping with 4-H clubs. Doug did extensive work on the barns, remodelling them to accomodate a farrow-to-finish hog operation. Times were tough and Doug and Maggie could not make the farm work. They were forced to leave in 1976. As the McCauley's had become quite in debt to the Bank of Montreal, the Bank now owned the farm.

Peter Timmermans and his wife Helen bought the farm from the Bank in 1979 and with assistance from the Farm Credit Corporation, bought out the Bank. Timmermans kept the barn as a pig operation and also had a tiling machine, which he and his sons operated. Peter and his wife came from Holland, Peter in 1950, Helen in 1955 and they were married at Strathroy in 1958. They have three daughters and five sons, Joanne (who married Grant Campbell, son of Archie T. Campbell), Paulene, Dorothy, Joseph, Leonard, Peter,

Peter Timmerman's health failed and he was unable to continue farming. Laura Campbell, aged 19, younger daughter of Russell and Grace Campbell,

(see Lot 23, Concession 3) had just graduated in May 1984 from Ridgetown College of Agriculture Technology in the Production and Management of Livestock and Field Crops. She hoped to get into farming. When Mr. Timmerman's farm became available she negotiated with the Farm Credit Corporation and became the owner in June of 1984. By August of 1984 she had farrowed about one-third of her 100 sow herd and was looking forward to the day when these piglets would go off to market. At the time of writing this account, Laura is engaged to marry Robert John Hathaway, son of Murray S. Hathaway Jr., Melbourne, Ont.

by Grace Campbell, 1984

1992 UPDATE

In 1989 David Campbell bought this farm from his sister, Laura Hathaway. Bell Cellular installed a microwave tower at the front of the property in 1991.

The house has been torn down and only the barns remain on the farm.



North ½ Lot 17, Concession 4

Samuel McColl

In June 1803 the Crown granted 200 acres, all of Lot 17, to one Samuel McColl. It remained in the McColl name until 1914, when it was purchased by Harry Lilley.

In 1919 William Little became the owner and upon his death, his daughter, Alice Little was granted the property.

In 1945 James C. Campbell purchased it from Alice Little for \$4000. To this date James C. Campbell is still the owner but it is farmed by his son, Keith (see Lot 21, Concession 3).

by Grace Campbell, 1984

1992 UPDATE

The McColl farm became the property of Keith Campbell after the death of his father, James C. Campbell. The 50 acres on the west side were sold in 1991.



by Mrs Philip Campbell

Angus MacCallum married Margaret Watson in Crinan, Argyleshire, Scotland. With his two children Malcolm and Margaret they bid farewell to their native land and sailed to Port Stanley in October 1853.

They bought a farm, Lot 18 Concession 4, Dunwich from Mr. Currie who lived in Middlesex County. A small part of the South corner of the farm was cleared. Mr. Currie had sold staves from this land and floated the logs down Pioneer Creek (Whitelock) to the river where boats came for them. In the fall of the year anyone wanting to use the Creek to float their logs made a bee and removed all obstructions for a clear channel. The Mill was on Lot 18, Concession 2 where the three creeks met before flowing into the Thames River.

Angus MacCallum built his first log house on the North side of the farm on Concession 4. Here his family were born;- Duncan, Andrew, Angus, Donald, Thomas, Neil, John and Christina Jean. Neil and Christina Jean died as infants. After seventeen years in this home, a large log house was built on the raise of land where the present cement block house was built in 1908. A log barn was built in 1862 which was replaced by a frame one in 1894 which remains. James Bennett framed this barn.

When Angus MacCallum came to Canada first, money was very scarce. To add to his income he sailed on lakes Huron and Erie with his brother-in-law, Captain May from Port Stanley. Cargoes of walnut lumber were shipped to Montreal. Grain and staves for making barrels were shipped from Tyrconnel and Port Stanley to eastern ports in Canada. Payment was made in silver cash as at first settlers doubted paper currency. As they came home in the wagons you could hear the jingle of the silver coins in their pouches.

Each winter trees were chopped and the land gradually cleared and rail fences built. There are no woods on this farm now and the fences are of wire.

Soft water was hard to store in the early days. Many a basket of soiled clothing was taken to the creek bank where fire was put under big black iron kettles and water dipped from the stream for the washing.

There were no bricks yet so the first wells were dug and a huge hollow elm log was put in the hole to keep the earth from caving in and spoiling the drinking water. In a short time the wood would start to decay and spoil the well. It was a grand relief when on Lot 17 a brick yard was started and used for all general purposes.

Mrs Angus MacCallum died in 1865. Mr. MacCallum married Mrs McColl in 1866, who died in 1885. Mr. MacCallum died in 1880.

In 1876 Duncan went to Grenville P.O., B.C., later Vancouver to work in lumber camps. He married Annie Ballard in 1911. He died in 1943.

Angus, twin brother of Donald went to Michigan to work in lumber woods, and later went to Vancouver to work. He married Kate Stephens and had three daughters Maggie, Mrs Clarence Lilly, Olive Burritt, and Annie, Mrs Kyle McDonald who survive him.

Andrew blacksmithed at Iona and Largie for McPhersons. In 1897 he went to the copper mines in Calumet, Michigan. He married Catherine Duncanson who died in 1908. There were two children. Mary married Basil Sims from Flint, Michigan, and had one son Jas. Sims. Peter Angus married Maribel McLellan and lived in Windsor. Andrew came to Dunwich after retirement in 1921 and died in 1925.

Maggie married Peter Duncanson and died in 1875 when her daughter was born. Her daughter married John McLellan and had one daughter Pearl who married Harry Kestle and lived at Lawrence Station and Dutton.

Malcolm went to Enniskillin, Lambton County in 1876 to farm. He returned to farm Lot 3, Concession 4, Dunwich.



North 1/2, Lot 18, Concession 4 (continued)

Donald stayed on the homestead. He married Betsy Crawford to which union were born Ida, Maggie, Mary, Angus, Archie Peter and Agnes Jean.

In winters Donald went to make square timbers in New York and Pennsylvania States, also in Lambton, Huron and Norfolk Counties.

Oxen and walking were the only means of communication. Good neighbours were a great asset. Bees for getting both the women or the men's work done, - and then a gay time together in the evening.

Ida married Duncan McCallum, and had four children, Gilbert, Donald, Bessie and Margaret.

Mary attended Model School in St Thomas and taught school. Later attended London Normal and taught until 1917 when she married Harry Ashby of Chatham and had one son Donald who died in 1940.

Angus worked on his fathers farm and operated a threshing machine. He ~~was working~~ with Jas Stacey when Mr. Stacey was killed on the river hill in 1913. Alex McLachlin and Archie T. McCallum operated machines with him. In 1924 he was fatally injured filling silo at the home of Wm. Carroll & Sons.

Archie Peter attended Dutton High School, London Normal and enlisted in 1916 in No. 10 Stationary Hospital, going overseas at once. While in France he contracted T.B. which required treatment at Byron, Ont. In 1918 he entered Toronto University and received his medical degree in 1923. He married Miss Alma Faulds and had two daughters Beth and Jean.

In 1923 Mrs MacCallum died and Maggie continued to live with her father who died in 1939.

Maggie married George McLellan<sup>(Kelly)</sup> Campbell in 1938 and she died in 1945.

Agnes attended Dutton High School and Stratford Normal. She taught at Chatsworth, Iona, Stacey's and Bennett's Schools. In 1929 she married J. Philip Campbell and had three sons, Angus, Clifford and Donald Philip.

Philip Campbell purchased this MacCallum homestead from Dr. A. P. MacCallum in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas Reeves have been tenants in this house since 1960

1983 Update

Marilyn and Jim Reeves and four children moved from the house in 1975. Since that time the house has been vacant and Belldoon Farms continue to crop the land.



West ½, Lot 19, Concession 4

Known as the McNabb Farm

Arch McLachlin first owned all of lot 19, Concession 4, but lived on the East half for a number of years. He then sold to Lachlin McLachlin who lived in Ekfrid Township. Lachlin McLachlin gave it to his two sons Dugald and Duncan, and they divided it into two "long hundreds". Dugald, who was a bachelor, lived on the West half.

Duncan McNabb (D.A.) bought the farm from Dugald McLachlin in 1885 for \$3,600.00. He married Jane McBride, daughter of Mr & Mrs Donald McBride who lived on Lot 24 Concession 3 along the Cowal sideroad. They had no children, but a niece of Mrs McNabb, Mabel Whitelock, lived with them from childhood until she was married to Cessford Lunn from South Dunwich in 1915. Prior to her marriage she taught school. Mr & Mrs Lunn now reside in St Thomas.

Later, a niece of Duncan's, Marion McNabb (daughter of John McNabb of Middlemiss) came to live with them as a little girl and resided with them until her marriage in 1939 to Robert D. Campbell.

Duncan McNabb served on the Township Council for several years, being Reeve in 1899, and in 1905 was appointed Clerk of the Township of Dunwich, a position he held until December 1932 when he resigned. During all those years he drove from his home to the Township office in Dutton (a distance of about five miles) three days a week, summer and winter, fall and spring, through all kinds of weather. In the early days he drove a horse and buggy, or horse and cutter until he purchased a motor car in 1922. The motor car was not used in the winter time for many years. Many a High School student, or someone wanting to go to town would get a ride with him as he journeyed back and forth.

Mr McNabb was also active in Church work. He was ordained as an Elder in Chalmers Church in 1894, and the following year was appointed Clerk of the Session, a position he held for fifty one years.

There are no records of when the house and barn were built, but a kitchen was added to the house in 1898, and the house was renovated in 1913 by Bert and Clare McCallum. The henhouse was built in 1916 and the drivehouse some time before that. The land was cleared at the North end first, and the buildings established there, probably because of the creek running close by. An orchard was planted in 1890 on a sand knoll across the creek and to the East of the buildings. In 1895 a big fire went through the timber at the South end of the farm, destroying much of it. The farm was named Meadow Hill Farm in 1902. The phone was installed in 1907. In 1938 a Hydro power line was built across the property and again in 1951 another line was built with a tower from each built on the farm. John Whitelock, a nephew of Mrs McNabb lived with them and worked the farm on shares for several years. General farming was carried on, mostly wheat, barley, oats and some corn being grown. Most of the livestock was raised on the farm. Cattle, sheep, pigs and horses were kept.

Mrs McNabb died in 1935, and her husband in 1942. Mr McNabb willed the farm to Chalmers United Church, and the trustees of the Church sold it to R. D. Campbell in 1945 for \$4,000.00. The house was sold to Mr J. Bandeen of Aldborough Township, who moved it to his farm and rebuilt it in 1949.

The farm is now mostly used for pasture, and is now owned by James A. Campbell, great nephew of Duncan McNabb.