

## B A C K U S

Taken from an article written by A.S. Paragus in 1917 or 1918, after an interview with Mr. Butler Backus of Eden.

The very first settlers about Port Burwell were Uncle Alex Haines, mother's brother, and a friend of his, Anthony Seeley. They walked up from Nova Scotia, walked mind you, and 'spied out the land' for the others to follow. And at Normandale uncle possessed himself of one of those camp kettles and carried it wading creeks and climbing hills all the way up to the Big Otter. The next year he went back to Nova Scotia, to report. When he returned here, he walked up again and this time he stopped at Normandale and carried up a "Wires" plough. He put wooden handles in it after he got here. A Wires plough was the very first kind known here in Ontario. It was the old story among the relatives that Uncle Alex's plough weighed two hundred and fifty pounds. But he never could have carried all that. More like the plough weighed one hundred and twenty-five, I should say.

However I have seen Uncle Alex pick it up after it had its wooden fittings and never set it down again in a three mile walk about our lots. Everybody used it and it had to go the rounds and be carried. Uncle Alex was a powerful big strong man and lived till he was ninety-two. His mother was a McConnell and she lived till she was ninety-four. Aunt Tamar Weaver, you remember her, she was a Haines, lived till she was ninety-seven or eight. She died only a year or so ago. They were a long-lived family. Aunt Tamar was the youngest. My mother and Uncle Alex were older.

The bulk of the early settlers all came following Uncle Alex and Mr. Seeley. They were like a large family all married in together, the McConnells, Chutes, Backus, Edisons, Saxtons, and Haineses, etc. At one time there wasn't a single family the whole length of Nova Scotia street but what were my cousins. Then the first cousins came, it was by boat - coming ashore by row boat. Father used to take his oxen down to the mouth of the Otter where the sand choked it and with an old board scraper, Jim Hutchinson made, scraping a passage way through the bar. The oxen had to go out till they swam. Once a passage way was made the current would deepen it so that a row boat could take a scow out to the vessels for supplies and settlers. But that was before my time.

So the first dredging in Burwell harbour, you may say, was done by my father, George H. Backus. Later, I was hired by Alex Saxton to drive the horses on the first formal dredge, and by the time I had grown up the harbour had developed to such proportions, what with the great impetus of the lumber trade, that the rowboat and scow days were quite forgotten, and through the harbour swept a regular fleet of vessels. Why, I've seen two steam boats towing out a raft of logs two miles long. It would reach from the end of the pier back half-way to Vienna.

Mr. Backus made the interesting statement that, with all the many moves of his life, he had somehow seemed to be always placed near the big Otter. One way and another he had lived all the way up and down it. And now at Eden the rolling Otter hills are in near view.

Mr. Backus was seventy-eight years old the twenty-second of last October "Just the age of Sir Wilfred Laurier", he commented quaintly. "Whenever Sir Wilfred had a birthday so did I, and we were always the same number of years old. Only my birthday came one day after his. The date of my birthday was always contested between my father and my mother. Father said the twenty-first which was Sir Wilfred's. But mother declared for the twenty-second and so there you are."

The Backus family are among the very earliest pioneers in Ontario. The great-grandfather, Judge Backus, held the first court ever held in this section of country at Long Point. And John H. Backus, at Port Rowan, ground grain for the bread of all the first settlers in Elgin, I believe. William, an older brother of Butler Backus, is the present customs officer at Port Burwell, working at eighty as capably as he might at fifty. A sister is the wife of Mr. Lawrence Johnson, the well-known centarian of Avon.

1877

AND

1902.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B.  
Backhouse, purpose celebrating  
the 25th anniversary of their  
Wedding, at their home on Fri-  
day, Aug. 29th.

The pleasure of your com-  
pany is requested.

Dinner will be served at  
twelve thirty, p. m.



Backus cont'd.

(250 Years Back)

Descendants of Quaker families - Lancashire, common in Yorkshire.  
Book "The Descendants of John Backhouse, Yeoman, of Moss Side near  
Zealand Redman, Lancashire"

John - Walsingham pioneer - 1793 - America - 1 or 2 in New York  
3 years in New Jersey - came to Niagara 1798-99 - Long Point - Lot 16 & 17  
1st Con., Walsingham twp. Norfolk cty.

John m Margaret Longbottom  
m Jane White, dairy maid ( He was a J.P.)  
m Hannah Haines

Squire Backhouse

1 William - m. Hannah, dau. of Cap. Ed McMichael  
John m. Hannah Dedrick  
Abraham  
Thomas  
Mary  
Elizabeth  
Esther

2 Henry  
Jane  
Nancy

Wm. George m. Elizabeth Haines of Malahide - Pt. Burwell  
John A. m. Sarah Bostwick  
James Jackson m. Saxon (Bayham family)  
Edward m. Violet Countryman of Pt. Rowan - Kentucky

Elizabeth m. Rev. Romulus Cook - Chicago (Dr. Cook)

Margaret . Levi Johnston - Bayham

Jane m. David Smith - Simcoe

Hannah m. Peter Vanderberg - Iowa

Jemima m. John Roberts Of Bayham  
2nd Jesse Ball , surveyor of Vienna

Eleanor m. King Cooper - Iowa

Amelia m. James Willard - storekeeper, St. Williams

Mary Ann m. John Taylor, Walsingham

Mathilda m. Isaac Foster, Pt. Royal

John - Lucretia m. Thomas Smith  
Emma m. Frederick Bouck  
John m. Sarah Ann McDermand - dau. of Elder Wm., succeeded to home  
Adelaide m. Brandow stead.  
Cornelius d. single  
Mary Ann m. John Alexander  
Hannah m. Frederick LaFortune

Abraham m. Alway Clear Creek, Houghton  
John  
Abraham d. single  
Margaret (Mrs. William Rusling of Houghton)  
Amelia (Mrs. Henry Perby) teacher  
Hannah (Mrs. Albert J. Nevills)  
Emma (Mrs. Ceremus Smith)  
Mathilda (Mrs. Smith - Mrs. Walter Brown, Aylmer)  
Thomas m. Amelia Young - mill property  
John D. m. Sarah Dedrick - home neighbourhood  
Thomas d. single

Backus cont'd.

Thomas m. Amelia Young

3rd child

Jemima m. Lucas Dedrick - near old home

Ruth m. Barrett

Mathilda m. Holt, a lawyer near Pt. Rowan

Mary lived in England

Elizabeth m. Alexander Hutchinson

Henry m. Smith 4- Thomas, Alvenza, Jugurtha & Jane

Jane no data re these last two.

Nancy

The Samuel Baldwin Family

10

Samuel Baldwin married Abigail Ketchabaw. Two of her sisters were Rhoda Ketchabaw and Sena Ketchabaw. She had a half brother Thomas Amerman.

Samuel and Abigail had seven children Warren who married Priscilla Abbott, the daughter of William Abbott. They had four children Agnes Mary Baldwin married Chas. M. Kennedy Samuel

William Verne married Faye Wilson  
Clarence Warren married Iva Williams

Elzina

Maggie  
M  
Howey

Sena

Mark

Agnes

Anna  
M  
ABBott

See Kennedy family for Agnes Mary's family.

William Verne Baldwin married Faye Wilson. They had seven children : Nina Faye who married Arnold Hubert Ferris, daughter Keren Ann. William Llewellyn married Donna Marie Franklin - DONALD, CHERYL, BRENT.

Victor Donald married Lucille Small

Ivan Lee married Florence Carruthers Corbett, 1 son.

Charles Stanley married Marlene Margaret Longworth, three children John  
Jane  
Stephanie

June Eunice married Roger Copp Tuck

Wayne Morrice married Shirley Marie Cornell

Clarence Warren Baldwin married Iva Williams. They had three children, Lila Bernice, Robert, and Ronald Clarence who married Anna Veronica Baudura.

THE BALL FAMILY HISTORY

(from the Guysboro Centennial Report)

Mr. Charles 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. Robert Woulds of Tillsonburg, also Mr. Levi J. Hatch, Maple Grove.

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The first Ball ancestors that 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 in Sept. 16, 1814, and died 1894 and is also buried in Guysboro cemetery. Caroline was the daughter of John and Christine Coad Serpell of Lisgar, Cornwall, England.

Mr. Serpell being unsuccessful came to New York 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 drawn New York street car. Charles Ball who evidently was acquainted with Caroline, came to New York in 1834 after four months at sea. He was supposed to have come out as a companion to a young man who failed to make the trip. Charles 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 in 1846 came to Brantford in Upper Canada. On December 2, 1850 he bought a farm at Guysboro, (Beaver Dam Farm) Lot 140, Con. 1, north of Talbot road, Houghton township. Of interest in June 15, 1903 sold for one dollar the south east corner to the Orange Lodge as mentioned above. (George 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, died March 7, 1918 at Straffordville and was buried at Guysboro. He had married Chloe Ann Ostrander, daughter of Jacob Ostrander. Chloe Ann was born June 12, 1858, and died Sept. 13, 1941 and buried at Guysboro.

There were nine children.

George Luther born Oct. 28, 1879 Lot 1, Con 1 .S Talbot rd. [Middle Hiram Dean farm] died Sept. 30, 1929. He was a farmer & was married to Ida Capling.

William Clarence born June 10, 1881 (middle H. Dean farm) died Aug. 11, 1945 at Detroit. He was a carpenter and married Mabel Capling. (Robert; Mary Small)

Carmon born Nov. 26, 1882, Con. 8 Bayham Lot 24, 25, 26. He died Mar. 12, 1964. He was a cheesemaker and farmer. He married Alberta McKim Mar. 14, 1906. Children were R.C. Ball (Tillsonburg) Cecil Ball (Tillsonburg) and J. Mack Ball (Eden).

Doretha born Oct. 1, 1884 (All the other children were born same place as Carmon) She married Percy Spence Dec. 1, 1904 at Guysboro. Presently living in Edmonton, Alberta (Spent most of her life pioneering Athabaska Landing) She had 11 children.

Arvilla Amelia born Apr. 14, 1886. She married John Robert Fulkerson June 15, 1905. They had 9 children.

Judson born Sept. 23, 1887 died Jan. 6, 1959. He was a farmer and married Grace Shepherd of Goshen March 6, 1912.

Sophia born May 4, 1889 died Jan. 12, 1951 in Victoria Hospital. She was a practical nurse and general store keeper after marriage to John McQuiggan Feb. 23, 1927.

Frederick Lewellan born July 26, 1891 died Sept. 18, 1961. He was a carpenter and farmer. He married Clara (Babe) Garner.

Samuel Claude born Sept. 1, 1893 died Dec. 12, 1955. He married Jennie Charlotte Sanders June 22, 1918. (They had three children) Born Aug. 15, 1889 and died May 10, 1958 Salt Lake City.

## OWNERS OF LOTS 24, 25, 26

## Lot 24

On Oct. 24, 1837 purchased by the Canada Company - 100 acres  
 Jan. 18, 1854 Martin Hubbard  
 June 12, 1856 Probate of will made transfer of property to Alvy Caswell to James Corless Jr.  
 SW 3/4 corner Matthew Caswell transfer to Alvy Caswell  
 July 14, 1857 Alvy Caswell - Daniel Campbell  
 1864 James Corless transferred to Isaac Chambers  
 June 1865 James Corless sold to Wm. Cornfoot  
 May 1865 Isabella Cornfoot sold to Isaac Chambers  
 Jan. 1867 Wm. Cornfoot sold to Isaac Chambers  
 Mar. 1867 Isaac Chambers sold to Charles Ball Sr. with a mortgage of \$450.00  
 (1876 - Charles Ball by Eleanor Nesbitt by George Kennedy \$400.00)  
 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.

The house was situated in the centre of the farm.

## Lot 25

## Present location of house

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 to Thomas Ball 17 acres  
 Dec. 21, 1889 Thomas Ball to Robert S. Ball  
 Dec. 2, 1916 Robert S. Ball sold to Judson Ball - \$5000.00.  
 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,  
 Apr. 5, 1961 Final deed to Cecil, Mack, Bob and Judson Ball Estate

## Lot 26

1853 c Norman B. Schofield N  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 1854 c James Corless S  $\frac{1}{2}$

The Ball Plantation (gets its name from tradition) given by Cecil Ball.

Charles Ball Sr. Worshipful Grand Master of Orange Lodge - 1862, 1871, 1879, 1882;