

History of the Hathaway Family

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by McDonald Dwayne (Velda) Hutchison.
and Lark Hathaway.

William D. Hathaway was the first ancestor to come to Canada from the United States. He was born near Cooperstown, New York, and at the age of nine, he left home and worked on the Erie Canal for about three years. Then he joined the American Army in Long Island, and at the age of sixteen he left the army and crossed into Canada. He finally settled in Haldimand County near Jarvis, and for many years worked for several lumber firms in that area. In later years he ran a threshing machine during which time he married Jane Drinkwater and raised a family of six. They were Orville, William, Charles, Norris, Mary Jane and Sarah. Orville, William and Norris moved up around this part of the country to live, and Charles went to the United States. Mary Jane and Sarah both married Belbecks and they resided down around the Haldimand area.

Norris Hathaway married Elizabeth Tiffin and they rented the Kennedy farm (where Harold Schram lives now) for several years before buying the homestead which has been in the Hathaway name for sixty-seven years. Norris and Elizabeth raised a family of six, four boys and twin girls, whom are all still living at the present time. This August they will be all eighty years of age and over. The eldest, George married Mahel (Newsome) and she died many years ago. He now resides at the Elgin Manor. Charles lives with his wife Stella (Smith) on their farm near Iona Station. Norris Jr. married Lucille (Roberts) and she died in 1960. He still resides in his own house at 35 White Street, St. Thomas. Cora married George Hibcox and she lives on their farm near Melbourne. George died several years ago. Fanny married Walter Walker and they resided at Frome. Walter died a few years ago and she has continued to live on the same farm. Samuel Robert married Ida Mae (Tanner) and they reside on the family farm at Iona Station.

This tract of land which consisted of two hundred acres was bought from Pat. Crown by the Canada Company. Later Amasa Wood bought the south half (one hundred acres) from the Canada Company for \$75.00. In 1865 Amasa Wood sold it to George Carr Sr. for \$2000.00. Then George Carr left it to his son Andrew in 1873 and in 1878 Andrew sold it to his brothers George Jr. and Fleming Carr for \$3500.00. In 1882 Fleming sold his share of the property to George for \$1.00. Thomas Mumford bought it from George Carr in 1904 for \$4000.00 and in 1910 Mumford sold it to Norris Hathaway for \$53.00 an acre at an interest rate of 4 1/2%. This piece of property is located on the south half of lot 15, concessions 4 in Southwold Township.

The house is the original one, and the barns are the same ones, except at one time they stood a little further north than where they stand to-day. The main barn measures 30 feet by 60 feet and the shed is 24 feet by 60 feet.

The Hathaway family had mixed farming all the years that they were in operation. They had approximately thirty head of Shorthorn cattle when they moved there, and they have bred and raised them over the years. Pigs, chickens, geese and at one time a few turkeys were also kept on the farm.

Just a few feet east of the back corner of the house was a well 3 feet by 5 feet, which was used to water everything. However, the first year they were there the weather was very dry and the well went dry, so they went to work and made it much larger. It now measures 10 feet by 20 feet.

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In 1933 they decided to dig a well in the basement of the house because the earth was always damp there. This little well measures 3 feet by 5 feet and waters everything. The big well is no longer used as the little ones never dry. In fact, it is almost impossible to even try to pump it dry.

Electricity was installed in the house in 1927, but it was several years later before the barn had any electrical lights.

In 1912 the Southwold and Dunwich Telephone Company built lines in the area, and that was when they got their first telephone installed.

Norris Hathaway built a shed just in front of the other barns in 1911. One end of the building was used to store all the machinery and the other end was made into a pig pen.

Southern Ontario Gas Company Limited installed a gas line for use on the premises in 1919. The price of natural gas at that time was 37 cents per 1000 cubic feet.

The house was modernized somewhat in the late 1940's and early 50's when the old type sink with a pump in the corner disappeared and was replaced by new cupboards, sink, and a set of taps. A bathroom was also put in just a few years before the cupboards. Even the outside of the old white frame house got a face lifting. Insul-brick siding was put on.

Many years ago there was an orchard on the hill which was located at the west side of the house. Today the trees are all gone and a large portion of the hill has also been removed. It was used to build up the Gore Road a few years back before it was paved.

The acreage still remains 100 acre, and the taxes on it ran around \$30.00 back in 1900, compared to \$540.00 to-day.

Elizabeth (Tiffin) Hathaway died in 1925 leaving her husband and family to carry on. In later years, Samuel, the youngest of the six children, came home to reside with his father and help with the farming. They lived on and operated the farm for several years by themselves until 1936, when Samuel married Ida Mae Tanner and they continued to live with Norris. In May 1941 a little girl named Velda Elizabeth was born, the first Hathaway to start her life on the family homestead. Then on August 4, 1944, two little boys were born on their father's birthday. Their names were John Samuel and Robert James, but unfortunately they were called away to that eternal home above. In January 1945 Norris Hathaway died at the age of 88, leaving the farm to his son Samuel Robert, who farmed it until about five years ago. He and his wife still reside on the farm and rent it out for pasture.

George Hathaway died Sunday January 1, 1978 in his 90th year.

Norris Hathaway died Wednesday March 8, 1978.

The James French Farm.

Between the years 1818 - 1820 ninety six families from Argyleshire Scotland emigrated to Upper Canada and landed on the North Shore of Lake Erie in Aldborough Township at Sixteen Mile Creek, so named because it was 16 miles west of Port Dalbot.

Most of these families took up land in Dunwich and Aldborough. Among them was Mrs. Donald Campbell (Flora McAlpine) a widow and six children. They came in 1818. Her sister Mary married Donald McGegan and came to Canada in 1819. John Campbell was the youngest son of Donald and Flora Campbell. About 40 years ago (1969) his daughter Mrs. Richard Hallard writes this story (1969)

In the year 1818 my grandparents Donald and Flora Campbell left Scotland and after a long tedious voyage during which Donald Campbell died and was buried at sea, the widow and six children landed on the north shore of Lake Erie near Eaglewood took land and my grandmother pluckily took on the task of homemaking. She even took her shovel and did her required road work. Mrs. Hallard had in her family the tea and coffee canisters brought from Scotland and are now handed down from generation to generation.

In 1842 John Campbell, the youngest son married his cousin Janet Campbell and they came from Aldborough and settled on the North hundred acres of Lot 21, Concessions 5, 5 of 7 on Shackletoe Street, Dunwich Township.

Of 12 children, 7 died or spent their lives on the farm and five married. Flora, married Charles Johnson, Mary, married William McAlister and lived next to the old farm. Effie married James French and lived on the old farm. This was right in the woods with great swamps all around. Gradually the woods were cleared about the tiny cabin. One afternoon Mrs. Campbell went to visit a new settler's wife. The afternoon passed quickly and the early October evening soon became darkness and Mrs. Campbell became lost among the trees. She shouted for her husband, doubting if she would be heard. He did hear her and came with an axe and a lantern, with awick and grease. This soon gave out and they had to spend the night, having gathered wood and got a fire going to protect them from the wolves which did come prowling about. The place where they spent the night, is now the paved road, Shackletoe Street.

Wood was cut and hauled to Tryconnell and a cow and some sheep were purchased. Mrs. Hallard and her family have the spinning wheel and Reel which her grandfather toted on his back from Tryconnell. He wouldn't trust it to the ox-cart and corduroy roads.

Great quantities of oak timber were found in these woods and these trees four feet and six feet in diameter were cut and made into barrel staves. These were drawn to the lake and shipped all over the world, even the West Indies for rum, brandy and molasses barrels.

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The James French Farm

John Campbell died in 1892. His wife died in 1902. They were devoted members of the "Hard Shell" Baptist Church, near Dutton. They left a family of eight children. John Campbell had purchased the farm in 1842 from the Canada Land Company for 50 pounds. Upon his death in 1892, he willed the 100 acres to his daughter Effie French, upon conditions relating to the care of certain members of the family.

Mrs. Effie French died in 1931.



1st Row Russell + Shirley vd. Dries, Cobie Veraart, Jim + Janice Hatch,
Norman MacP., Michael Kilmer, ?, David Hatch, Majorrie Kil.,
2nd Row.
Jaos V., James MacP., Frank Aressen, Ria V.,
Jeanette A., Arthur MacP., Bas V., John V.
3rd Row ???, Walter P., ?, Audrey Kil., Mrs. Aressen,
Larry McLeod, Adriana V.
4th Row. Bas Dries, Bessie Coakley, ? Majorrie P., Doreen
Aressen, ? Kilmer, Mrs MacP., ?, Ada vd. Dries.
5th Row. Emma P., Stella Hatch, Donna Hatch, ?



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