

A Nova Scotian named Hubbard settled on the farm afterwards owned by James Philpott, Colonel Talbot's foreman.

James Philpott was born in Col Talbot's house in 1814. After a long career as a farmer, bailiff, J.P., and church deacon, he died a few years ago at the age of nearly eighty. His memory is gratefully preserved by a tablet in the Regular Baptist church where he officiated as deacon for over fifty years.

In 1817 Mr. William Lumley, also of Nova Scotia, settled on the lot now owned by his grandson, William John Lumley. About the same time William Clark from the same province, settled on the Elijah Clark farm.

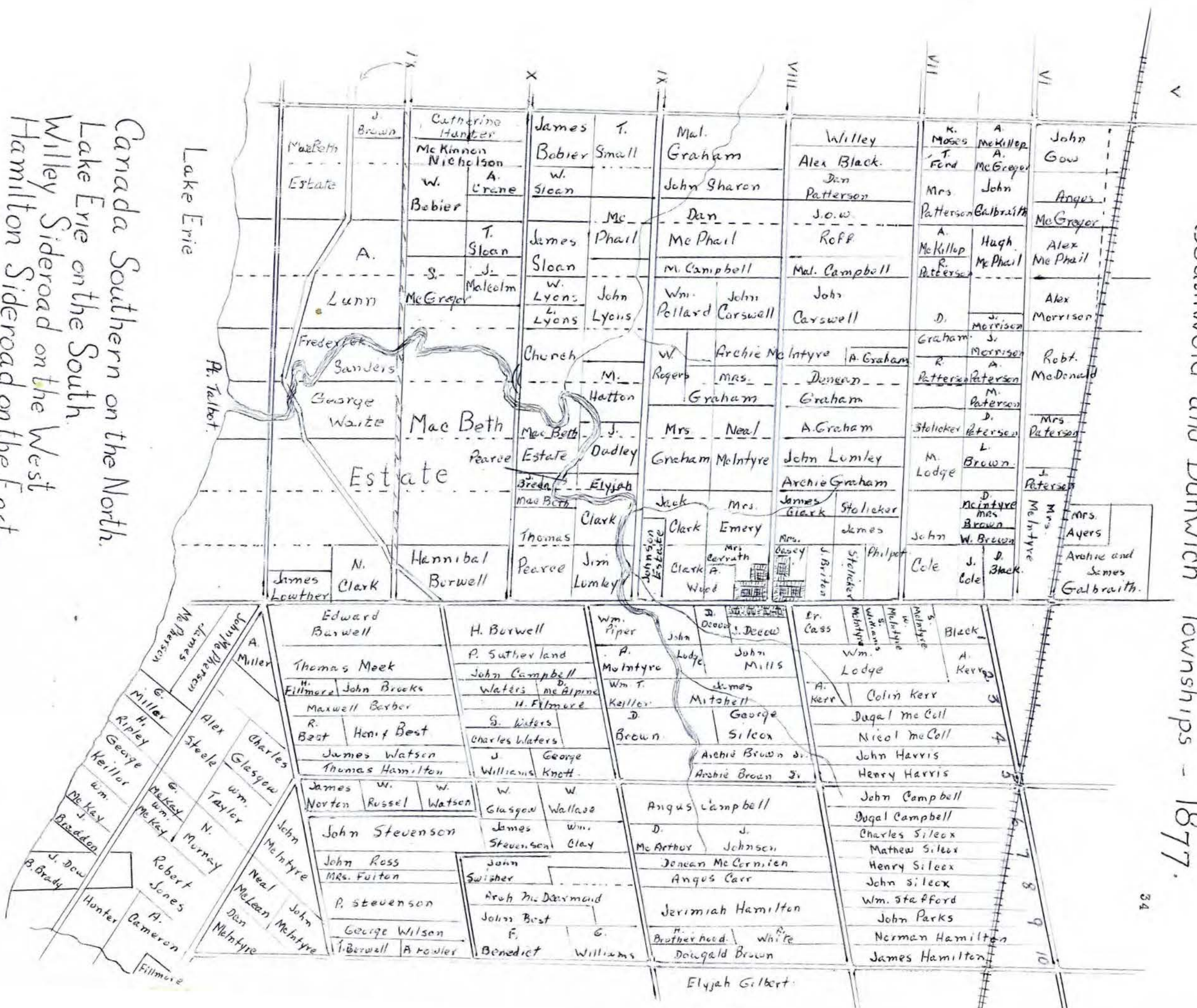
In Dunwich, some of the farms set aside by Col. Talbot were not settled till a much later date. Among those may be mentioned that of Jonah Clark, who came from Nova Scotia about 1830, and settled on the farm now occupied by his son Herman, and that of John Carswell, who came from Aldborough with his father Archibald, in 1835, and purchased a farm on the south side of the street from Elliott Young. In the same year, John Carswell rented the opposite farm from George McBeth at \$20.00 a year for ten years, after which he purchased it, and is residing on it at the present time.

On the back part of this farm resided in a log house for a number of years one of Dunwich's early school teachers, Thomas Benson, who taught for a number of years in the adjoining section, No. 4. Mr. Benson afterwards died in Prince Edward county.

(From the writings of James W. Brown, 1896)

Canada Southern on the North
Lake Erie on the South.
Willey Sideroad on the West
Hamilton Sideroad on the East.

Southwold and Dunwich Townships - 1877.



In 1870 John Breen purchased twenty-five acres of the south-east part of Lot A from Levi Fowler. Later, in 1878, he and his wife Maria bought two hundred acres jointly with John and Sarah Rourk. This land was located on the south-west quarter of Lot B, 9th Concession, the north-west quarter of Lot B, the south-east quarter of Lot A and the north-east quarter of Lot A, all on Concession 10, Dunwich, twenty-five acres of the south-east part of Lot A, Concession 9. The land was bought from the widow of George McBeth, Anne Gilbert McBeth.

John and Maria had two sons: Thomas who married Bella - , and Edward, whose wife was the former Irene Crow. When John died in 1907, the farm was left to Edward. His mother resided with them until her death.

Another parcel of land, the north-west quarter of Lot A, 10th Concession was purchased, fifty acres, in 1912.

Edward and Irene Breen were very progressive farmers. She was a small, but an active woman, helped her husband in the fields - often driving a six horse team. A sugar bush was south of the farm buildings. Here she helped her husband gather the sap which often yielded more than five hundred gallons of syrup. This they sold in the market place at St. Thomas, and locally. It was during one of those busy times, that she slipped on a snow-covered log and broke her leg. They were one of the first families in the district to have their home and barn wired with the Delco Gas generated Hydro system.

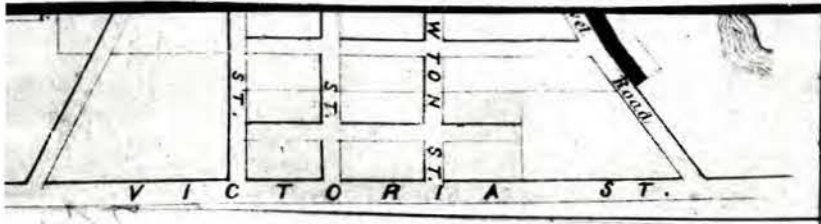
The house was of red brick, built in 1905. In 1914 a fire destroyed the south half, or kitchen. A new addition was built, being quite modern with a three piece bath, and a hot water system (which was heated by the kitchen stove) was installed. The beautiful stone posts at the front entrances to the house and barn were the handiwork of a relative, Mr. Robert Hooley, who resided on the next farm to the west.

Corn was cut, and the sheaves, as well as hay was stored in the barn loft above the cow stables and the horse barn, which were the lower part of the same building. Much of the grain flailing was done on the upper floor, or barn loft. Sixteen horses were housed, making much labour for those concerned for their welfare.

There were no children in this Breen family, but their love was shown to Mrs. Breen's relatives - (the Crow's). Their children were always welcomed. A Shetland pony was kept for their enjoyment. A few pets such as a couple of goats and lambs were always around.

Edward Breen died in 1959. The farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Healy and Mrs. Breen is living at this time in Colbourg with her sister and niece.

Mrs. L. Healy, 1967.



MILLS AND RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM PLEWES
SITUATED ON LOT NO. 19, CON. 10. BAYHAM.
"PLEWES MILLS."

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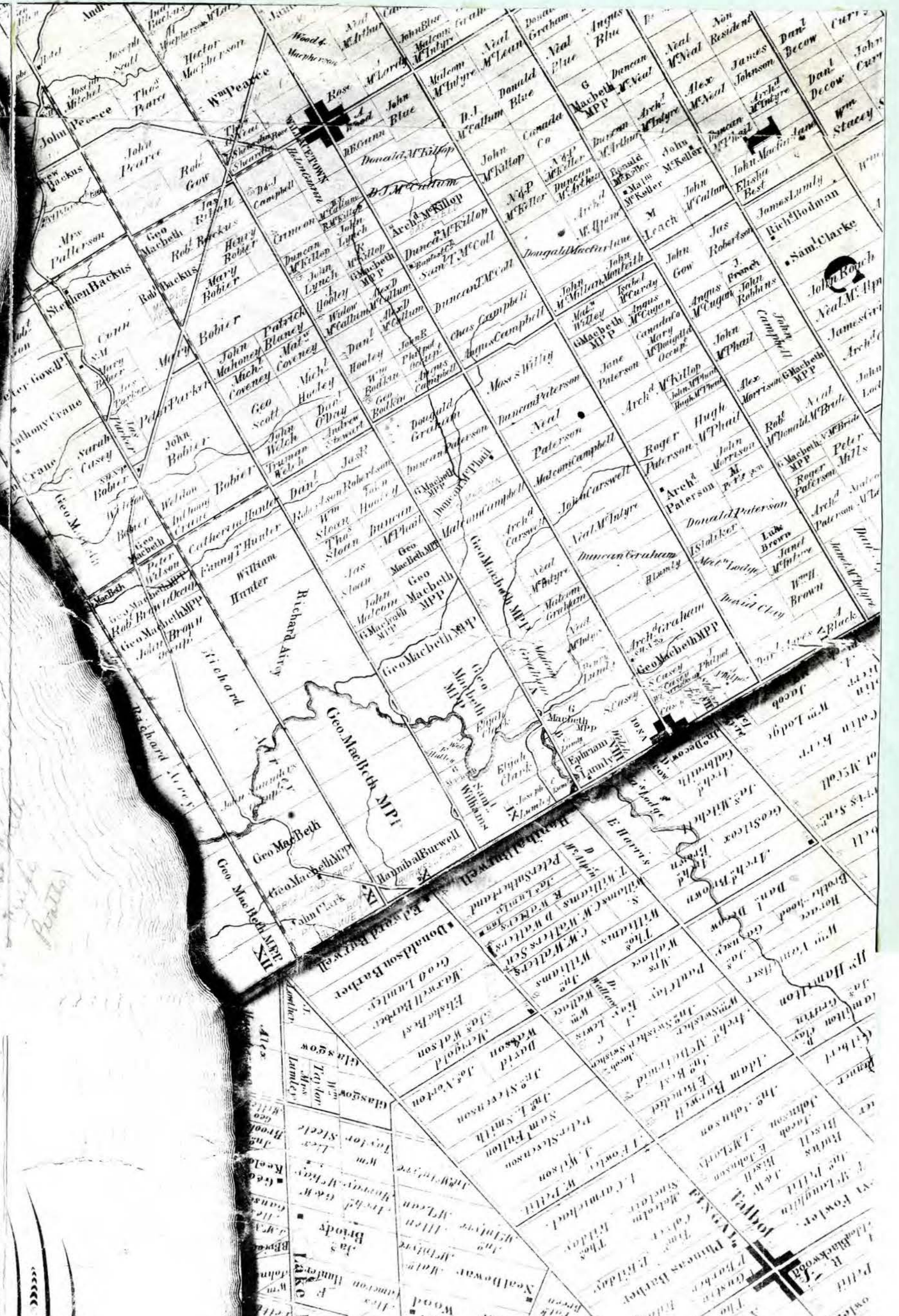
TREMAINE

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CANADA





Duncan Brown

Mary Stewart Brown

Within the memory of the older members of this locality, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Brown lived on Walnut Grove Farm on Lot number 5, south side of the North Branch of Talbot Road, half way between the village of Iona and Shedden, in Southwold Township.

The family ancestors were Dugald Brown who married Miss C. McIntyre. They had two children - Archibald and Catherine.

Archibald married Margaret Graham. There were eight children; Mary married Archie Sinclair, Kate and Archie unmarried, Nancy married Archie McGugan of Lobo, Duncan married Mary Stewart, Margaret was married to I. Gillis, while Isabel remained unmarried.

Catherine married Duncan Campbell and had nine children. John married a Miss Ferguson, Mary - Nicol McColl, Kate to Duncan McIntyre, Margaret married Roger Patterson, Belle married I. Finlay, Nancy to Henry Harris, Christie to James Galbraith, while another daughter married a Mr. McCormack. One son died.

Duncan Brown, who married Mary Stewart of South Delaware, had four boys and one daughter - Stewart, Duncan, Margaret (Mrs. C.W. Sinclair), Colin and Dugald.

It may be of interest to note that John Campbell, a first cousin of Duncan Brown Sr., lived on the south side of the side road which faces the school house at Number 10, Southwold. His farm was later occupied for Oliver Gale and later by the Houghtons. His daughter gave "Campbell Cottage" on Wellington Street, St. Thomas as a residence for older people, under Y.W.C.A. trusteeship, many years ago.

Mr. Duncan Brown and Mrs. Brown (Mary Stewart) lived in a house located back of the present brick house when their children were small. It had been occupied previously by Duncan, his brother Archie, sisters Kate and Isabel.

The family engaged in beef producing, buying western cattle, readying them for shipment, live, to Scotland during thirty years. A man who wished a trip to Scotland, could go along with the stock.

The family hobby - prize winning short horn cattle, was not rewarding in a financial way. It was sufficiently interesting as a vocation, even with the ups and downs of profit and loss, when beef might be sold for seven cents a pound.

Accompanying this record is a picture of Duncan, second son of the family. He is standing in front of the impressive home, the building of which Mrs. C.W. Sinclair well remembers. She and her brothers were so interested in kibitzing, even in the cold weather, that they all contracted chilblains as a result of their curiosity.

This house, built in 1902, was equipped with acetylene gas for lighting. During parties it rarely failed to fail. It was discontinued after reports were received of explosions elsewhere, and the family again relied on coal oil lamps until 1920. A Delco installation later proved satisfactory, but when Hydro (electricity) became available, Delco was still used for household equipment. It proved equally satisfactory. The Tiffany Shade in the dining room and the stained glass windows are remembered for the cheery colours they provided.

Mrs. Brown was very interested in worthwhile community projects. She was the first president of the Iona Women's Institute and among the first West Elgin District Presidents of that organization. When she realized that many of the neighborhood children had no available Sunday School nearby, she began one in the school house. Mr. Oliver Gale was the efficient superintendant, Alworth Silcox, a fine teacher. Miss Flossie Campbell officiated at the organ and Miss Viola Gale with her lovely voice led the singing. The Christmas entertainment was the high light of the year.

Mrs. Brown initiated a Home and School Club, later known as the Country Club, which was still in existence when the school was closed.

The twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Iona Women's Institute was held at the Brown home. Little Margaret embarrassed her mother by continuing to clap energetically after others had ceased.

Six women enjoyed an embroidery club. They were Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Edgar Silcox, Mrs. Angus Campbell, Miss Annie Kerr, Mrs. John Harris and Mrs. John Mitchell. This club met once a month in each other's homes. Once a year they splurged. Hiring Mr. Frank Comfort, who now lived in the Gale farm, to take them on a trip in his automobile.

The Browns attended the Presbyterian Church in Fingal. Leaving home at nine o'clock to arrive for Sunday School at ten, they arrived home after the sermon about one. Then their local Sunday School - after a visit with neighbors - usually lasted until five in the afternoon - a busy Sunday.

A party for the neighbourhood children at the Gale's is remembered. Visiting the railroad tracks north of the house, the boys heard a train and lay down on the tracks. The girls were very, very frightened - as the young men had hoped.

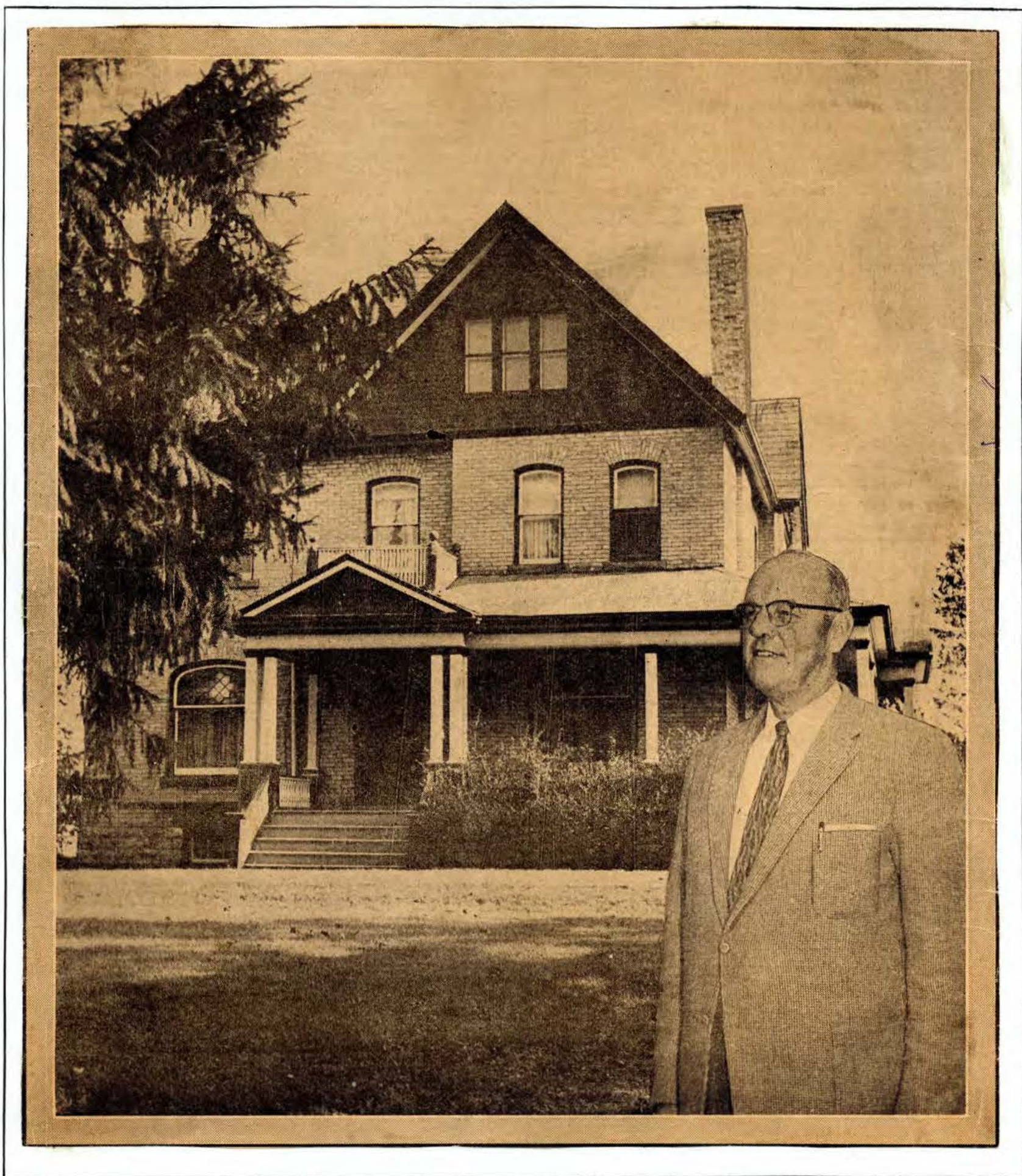
This home of many pleasant memories is now rented, the older home houses farm machinery.

Only Dr. Colin Brown and Mrs. Sinclair remain.

STEWART BROWN, the eldest son of Mr. Duncan and Mrs. Brown, married Jean Campbell of the River Road community in Elgin. The two sons and three daughters of this couple, arriving in due time, completed their family circle.

Mr. Stewart had planned to prepare himself for his chosen vocation in cattle production by attending Agricultural College in Guelph until graduation. The war, beginning in 1917, prevented that graduation. Farm help was very scarce. His father, then in his seventies, found himself unable to cope with the work on the family farm and asked him to come to his assistance and he consented to do so.

A feeding station had been established just east of Shedden and made a new home desirable. Two attractive homes were built near this station. His to the west and his younger son's (Duncan) to the east.



DUNCAN BROWN

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of the
Farmers' Advocate.

Mr. Stewart had become prominent in several ways. His cattle interests were successful and he had many interests near home and further afield as follows: Reeve of Southwold in 1932 and 1945, the first President of the local Junior Farmers Organization; activities in local politics led to his becoming Elgin County's youngest Warden in 1932; member of the Second World War Prices and Trade Board in Ottawa; Director of the Royal Winter Fair Livestock Division in Toronto; one of the first organizers and President of the Ontario Beef Producers Organization; member of St. Thomas High School Board and an Elder in the Fingal Presbyterian Church.

The second son, Stewart Jr., generally known as "Bud" came into possession of the Nicol McColl farm which he purchased from Mr. Arthur Smith, who had probably secured it from the McColl's. This stately old farm home was reached from the north branch of the Talbot Road by a long lane arched by the rows of maple trees along its entire length. Only the kitchen wing of the old home remains, and the maples are dying out from old age. Mr. Brown built a modern home south of the old house for his growing family.

The attractive home of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Sr. is now often unoccupied, Mr. Brown having passed away in 1965. The trees planted around this home he enjoyed for so short a time are thriving. Mrs. Brown remarried her husband's brother Colin and they occupy it as frequently as possible.

DUNCAN BROWN, the second son of Mr. Duncan Brown Sr., married Myrtle Hodgkins. They lived in the home formerly occupied by Mr. Brown's parents. There were no children.

Mr. Brown began his career as an auctioneer of live stock when the sales at Manitoulin Island began, and he continued annually throughout his life. He was considered a leader in his chosen field.

Mrs. Sinclair of Aylmer remembers the trip this couple made to Scotland with Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Edwards of Arva to an international gathering of cattlemen. They were entertained by many outstanding farmers who shared their interest in Black Angus cattle, and came home glowing over their happy experiences.

Mr. Brown at one time considered running for member of the Federal Parliament. He was persuaded by his brother, Dr. Colin, to have a complete physical examination. The heart condition discovered by Dr. John Oile of Toronto, came as a surprise and shock to his family, who had no knowledge that such a condition existed. Duncan seemed not at all concerned and continued the usual activities he so enjoyed with his many friends. Dr. Oile was a staunch Conservative and the fact of his diagnosis having removed one rival party candidate from the race, provided a chance for a chuckle between the two men when they met.

Mrs. Brown's tragic death occurred shortly after the trip which had given them so much pleasure. Seven years after her death, Mr. Brown followed her in 1965. His only sister had spent as much time as possible with him, and is sorrowed that she was not with him at the end. He did enjoy living and did not suffer a long illness. His brother Stewart survived him by one year.

MARGARET BROWN (Mrs. Charles W. Sinclair), of Aylmer, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Brown of Walnut Grove Farm.

As Margaret Brown, she remembers her teachers well, although at that time formal education was not of much interest to her. At School Section Number 10 in Miss Brown's school days, Miss Maggie McLellan was succeeded by Hercules Burwell, Malcolm Campbell, Miss Morehouse and Miss Leek. All of these teachers were welcome guests at the Walnut Grove farm home. Mr. Brown had permitted this school to be built on a corner of his farm.

Having completed the four junior and senior grades then required in grade school, Miss Margaret took up residence in St. Thomas at Alma College and without undue concern, absorbed enough knowledge to take part in the lovely graduation exercises of that institution. The following phase in her education was two years spent at McDonald Hall in Guelph where she studied Home Economy. Next came the final step: four months at Johns Hopkins Medical Centre in Baltimore, Maryland. Receiving her cap, the reward of successful completion of that course, was a different experience. In her own words, she found herself, and has been sitting on top of the world ever since. It was the best experience in her life up to that time.

Although a qualified hospital dietician, she never did develop a liking for hospital work - preferring prevention to cure.

Now back home at Walnut Grove Farm, the Iona Institute claimed her interest, 1921, and she became its secretary. That was the year the first attempt was made by an organization to clear up the old Iona Cemetery. Money was collected and the grass was cut for that season.

Shortley her interest turned to the Junior Girl's Institute. The girls were proud to have Miss Ethel Chapman come to organize their group. Miss Chapman is still well known and much honored in the Women's Institute. Miss Brown served the new organization for its first three years as president.

During her interest with the Institute, she spent three winter months in Peterborough county with two assistants, in charge of their short courses. She taught Home Economics, the assistants sewing, and home nursing. In her absence the vice-president and secretary of the newly formed Girls' Institute gained valuable experience carrying out the course and events which had been planned by their president prior to her absence in Peterborough.

The Elgin Girls were proud of the contests they won, especially the final one-Provincial Honours in Competative Judging, for two successive years at the Canadian National Exhibition. The gay time the girls spent during their week in Toronto is well remembered. The three girls taking the leading part on the first day of the exhibition were Alice Galbraith, Amy McCallum and Grace Marr of Dunwich. They arrived the previous day, and settled in at a tourist home near the fair grounds. They were persuaded to go to bed at nine o'clock, to be at their best the following day when the other nine girls arrived as planned. Their contest won, the fun of the fair was fully enjoyed. Miss Galbraith, being beautifully tall, could see better than the rest and they would say to her, "What next, Alice?" They had a wonderful week, didn't miss a thing, and their expenses were paid as well as the events of the fair free to them.

For the two following years, Miss Brown was at Alma College teaching Home Economics which she found interesting and rewarding. The friendliness and ability of the Women's Institute members from East and West Elgin was plain, but there was little social contact between the two groups. Miss Brown chanced to mention this to Dr. Dobson, then Principal of the college. He suggested they plan a dinner and invite both groups. As a result of this pleasant event, the Winter Picnic had its inception.

At this time she had been only three weeks at the college and her three students had mastered only two recipes, rolls and pumpkin pie. The menu planned to serve these two groups was roast pork, vegetables, the pie and the rolls. Miss Zeigler, then Dean, thought the addition of a fruit cocktail would make the food as planned more attractive. When the guests arrived she was still preparing grapefruit for the fruit cocktail she had suggested. Dr. Dobson, enveloped in a white apron was busily whipping cream for the pie.

When Miss Beeman, teacher of Home Economics at Arthur Voden Technical School in St. Thomas was compelled to ask for sick leave, Miss Brown was asked to supply for her. She accepted though not a qualified teacher, as she had made clear. However, definite plans for the succeeding year made continuance impossible, although Miss Beeman's health made her continue her leave of absence. Miss Brown's coming marriage to Dr. C.W. Sinclair of Aylmer in 1931, was to channel her life into different channels.

A short time prior to 1943, the Rockefeller Foundation had given a grant to a county in Quebec to be used as a pilot project to set up a Public Health Unit. As Mrs. Sinclair thought her district might be interested, she had copies describing this project distributed among Women's Institute Branches and other groups in the district. Thirteen resolutions among the groups contacted, were passed and forwarded to Dr. Robb, Ontario Minister of Health. They asked him to set up Health Units in Elgin County.

When Mrs. Sinclair was President of the Elgin Women's Association, the Deputy Minister of Health addressed them, arousing their continuing interest. In 1943 Dr. Edna Moore of that same organization, asked for their cooperation, as she wished an opportunity to speak at a meeting of the Elgin County Council. Fortunately, the Women's Institute Winter Picnic was slated to take place at once. A resolution, passed at this gathering and sent to the Council, resulted in a favourable answer to Dr. Moore's request. Thirteen local women attended this Council meeting which followed. A unanimous resolution passed and resulted in the formation of the Elgin County Health Association.

Mrs. Sinclair at this date is continuing to serve her community in many ways; including the following offices:

Provincial Convenor of Religious Education for the Home and School Association in Ontario.
 President of the Home and School Association and Program Convenor of the Aylmer Branch.
 President of the Canadian Mental Health Association in Elgin.
 Chairman of the local "March of Dimes".
 One of the organizers and first President of the Elgin Manor Auxiliary.
 President of Memorial Convalescent Auxiliary.

With Mrs. Barnum of Aylmer a project was planned for the Aylmer Fair to raise funds to hire a high school teacher to supervise the new Aylmer swimming pool. This was a program based on the fairy tale, "the Queen of Hearts." After getting this project, they continued to provide water safety. These two women supervised the wading pool themselves.

She continues her activities in many worthy projects which claim her interest in church and otherwise. She says, "I like to think of religion as being woven into the fabric of every day living, imperfect as it may be."

COLIN and DUGALD Brown, the youngest of this family were twins.

COLIN became a physician, graduating from the University of Western Ontario in 1933. After interning at Ottawa Civic Hospital and gaining further experience at Boston Obstetric, he set up practice at Niagara Falls. After the death of his wife, the former Muriel Newman, a friendship developed between him and his widowed sister-in-law, Mrs. Stewart Brown, which led to their marriage.

He keeps up his practice, but spends one summer month at the Lake of Bays in the north, and one month in Florida each winter. Many week-ends are enjoyed at his wife's former home in Shedden.

DUGALD became a Real Estate Broker, setting up an office in Port Stanley. There he developed an interest in the local political situation which led to his active involvement at a later date.

After only a week's illness, he died in 1947. His widow, the former Irene Stewart has carried on the business he developed. Two married daughters survive.

Written from the memories of those in this community. Thanks to Mrs. Sinclair for her co-operation. Convenor 1962-1963.