

Mrs. Anne Mc Lellan.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RURAL SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP
from the Dunwich-Southwold Townline
4th Concession to the 2nd Road
3½ miles

The earliest history worthy of note as far as the white race is interested, officially started May 21st, 1803, 144 years ago. It was the falling of a tree in Dunwich at Port Talbot by Col. Thomas Talbot, an Irishman, born July 19, 1771 at Malahide Castle, Dublin County, Ireland. This was the beginning of the Talbot Settlement, a belt of land some 60 miles long. West to part of Kent County, East near Long Point along the shore of Lake Erie to a depth of 16 miles north. To Col. Talbot's memory, credit and respect is due for the founding of this Talbot Settlement, which at the same time, many candid right-thinking persons have been unable to see why in placing a settler on 200 hundred acres of solid bush land, the division should be 50 acres to the settler, and 150 acres to Col. Talbot. This however was in accordance with terms made by the Col. with the British Government, and did not prevent the settler from acquiring more land paying for 100 acres the sum of 6 Pds 9 S & 3 D or equivalent to \$30.32.

The sole object was to get settlers on land in the unbroken wilds of this south-western section of their Upper Canada. The Indian roamed at will, and when settlers landed from the British Isles and a few from the New England States, they gradually moved back to sections thus isolating themselves from the new-comers.

Pt. Talbot and Pt. Stanley seemed to be the landing places for new settlers.

The hardships and privations of these people can be better imagined than described. No roads except blazed trails through dense woods. All supplies and necessities were brought from the nearest white settlement, 60 miles to Long Point. Log cabins were built and made comfortable. Trips to and from Long Pt. were for years made on foot, fording streams and travelling over rough roads.

Clearing of the land came. Timber, such as Oak, Maple, Hickory, Walnut, Beech and Elm was cut down and what wasn't used for building homes and barns were piled high and burned.

Let us not forget the simplicity of those early pioneers that gave a peace of mind, that few today enjoy. Every man and woman had their neighbor's interest interwoven with their own, a feeling of genuine good will and friendship existed. Their emphatic days of trial were brightened by a co-operation of good will.

The land homesteaded by those undustrious settlers was a fruitful heritage. As time passed, larger barns and better houses of frame took the place of the log cabins. Orchards of apple, cherry, pears, plums and currant bushes came into being. Their dreams were being realized, as in the lines of Mrs. Hernan's poem.

The pioneer life was a strenuous one for both men and women.

First the men taking their axes to chop down trees for a space suitable to erect a house or cabin. Some would be two or perhaps three rooms. Then he must build a barn and enclosure for protection of whatever stock he had, first oxen and sheep then came pigs. But if the men were busy, it would seem the women, if possible, were busier. Their privations and difficulties were at times almost beyond endurance, but with all, they trained a generation of good citizens. Many women from the old land had been reared in homes of culture and refinement, and were accustomed to comfort and luxury. How they adapted themselves to the new surroundings no one can ever guess. They knew the art of spinning wool and flax, weaving, dying, later turning out blankets, cloth for clothes, carpets; making tallow candles for tapers. The housewife was her own dressmaker. The cook had no stoves. Chains with hooks hung in the chimney held iron pots for for cooking meat, vegetables and hot water. Their bread was baked in covered iron kettles. The dough put in kettles, placed on the hearth, then covered over with coals and was left for sufficeint time to bake it. Later came an outside oven when larger batches of bread and pies could be baked at once. Years later stoves were developed.

Amusement and entertainment after logging and bushing bees took the form of a supper and dance.

Medical Doctors were lacking in the early days. The ones few and far between were in towns or larger centres.

Lat 7 Con. 3. ✓

* Early in 1850 Archibald McKillop and his wife, Margaret Campbell, both natives of Argyleshire, Scotland, landed at Pt. Stanley with their family, three young boys and three girls - also two of Mr. McKillop's brothers; Donald, who settled in Dunwich Township and Duncan, a bachelor, a carpenter who died at an early age.

On arriving, strangers in a new strange land, they found a welcome and Scotch hospitality with Mr. and Mrs. Archie McLachlin on the Gore Road. Here they remained till they secured a Crown Deed for 200 acres of solid wood land on what we know as the 3rd Concession, then a blazed trail from west, Townline Dunwich and Southwold, east to what we call No. 4. Highway. The family:

Neil married Mary McIntyre, worked 180 acres

John, a shoemaker by trade occupied 20 acres

Alex. 100 acres east, whose record is cared for elsewhere

Isabelle married John McLellan

Margaret married John McArthur

Sarah (Mrs. Patterson) Dunwich

The McKillop family have the unique distinction of being the first white settlers on this farm, and it still remains in the family to the 5th generation. The other early original settlers all changed. Some instances once, others many times.

Neil McKillop, as a young man taught school several years, a period in Delaware Tp., S.S.No. 3 Southwold, also S.S. No. 17. A successful teacher, excelling in penmanship. His writing was like copy plate. Many legal papers and important documents were penned by him. Later he turned his attentions to farming, a successful farmer. Their family, one son Archie Jr., interested in mining and prospecting, went overseas in the First Great War, his connection being with the surveying and rebuilding and re-construction to France and Belgium. On his return, he settled in Toronto, a bachelor. He passed away in October 1946 and is buried in the McIntyre Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. McKillop had six daughters:

Margaret (Mrs. Graham) Lucknow, Ontario

Sarah (Mrs. Rugus Campbell) Pt. Talbot

Mary (Mrs. Still) St. Thomas

Isabell St. Thomas

Bessie St. Thomas

Katie (Mrs. D.D. McKillop) deceased

Early in 1900 Mr. and Mrs. McKillop Sr., Misses Bessie and Belle moved to St. Thomas leaving their daughter Katie and her family on the old home. Mr. N. McKillop died in St. Thomas 1907, his wife in 1925, and both are buried in McIntyre Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. D.D. McKillop continued to work on the homestead, Mr. McKillop a native of Wallacetown, and their family consisting of one son and three daughters.

Donald, who still lives on the homestead

Tena (Mrs. C.J. Orchard) Shedden

Mary Reg. N St. Thomas

Bessie, Bookkeeper with Anderson Co. St. Thomas died Sept 1959

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On January 6, 1945, Mrs. McKillop passed away and February 10, 1945 Mr. McKillop died and both rest in Black's Cemetery, Wallacetown.

Donald at this time took over the responsibilities. His wife, was the former Marion Wright. Their family consist of one son Donald Duncan (Danny), four girls, Betty, Catherine and Marilyn (twins), Christine and Evelyn Isabel. All except Christine and Evelyn attend Lawrence School.

The McKillop family down through the years always attended the Presbyterian Church. First the Fingal Church, later McBrides, when it was erected in 1876. It is now a United Church. Mr. D.D. McKillop for many years, was Superintendant of the Sunday School, and an honored member of the Choir and Session. He with Mrs. McKillop and all members of their family were valued members of McBride's Choir.

Lot 8 Con 3
John McKillop, born in Argyleshire in 1821, a shoemaker by trade, built his log cabin on the McKillop homestead, taking 20 acres on the west side. Here he brought his bride, Miss McFarlane, Wallacetown. She died six months later. After years, he married Betsy McIntyre Campbell, a widow. She was the mother of Duncan Campbell, who made his home from a younglad with his Uncle Malcolm McIntyre, 3rd Con. An account of his stewardship is related in another narrative.

✓ Their family; John J., also a shoemaker, resided in St. Thomas Archibald J., born 1865, after leaving school went to St. Thomas, hired with the Canada Southern Ry. as fireman. A successful engineer 1888-1894. Then went to Chicago, Ill. He continued railroading till he was stricken with typhoid fever, passed away Oct. 1910. His remains were brought back and he too rests in McIntyre Cemetery.

Betsy, only daughter, attended S.S. NO. 17, married Alex. McArthur, a neighbor. They shortly after moved to St. Thomas, where "Sandy", as he was popularly known, secured employment as brakeman on the Grand Trunk R.R. For many years they resided on Balaclava St. St. Thomas, when he was transferred to Windsor. Their family: Dave, Angus (veteran of First War), Clifford, Jessie, Margaret, and Marion. Mr. McArthur died in 1936.

After Mrs. John McKillop passed away in 1870, her husband took to himself a third wife, Mrs. Hannah Campbell, Aldborough. Through this union their one son Dan, an outstanding lad for all kinds of fun and mischievous pranks, had as his chief hobby, tormenting and tantalizing some one. His school friends never tire of telling of his early days. However in later years he made good. He was a successful Railroad Conductor out of Chicago. His wife and his sons reside in Chicago. Occasionally, he used to visit his old haunts, where his friends were glad to see him. He died in January 1919, and is buried in Champlaine Ill.,

His parents are buried in McIntyre Cemetery. The father died in 1888, and Mrs. McKillop in 1901.

Reel sold to
Greenwoods in 1959.
They sold to Joe Burritts¹⁹⁶²
who sold to Henry¹⁹⁶³
Stokes.

Sold Apr. 1967

Lot 13 (or) 4

Lot 9

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* The 3rd farm had as its original settler, Donald and Mrs. McArthur, two natives of Argyle Scotland. They secured their Crown Deed in 1851.

Their family consisted of two girls; Sarah and Betsy, later Mrs. Ronald McDonald, six sons; Alex., who married Betsy McKillop, later a C.N.R.R. conductor, Windsor. Malcolm, Donald, Archie, David and Duncan, all deceased. The family all attended S.S. No. 17. Their young days were spent assisting their father clear the land. The farm in 1861 was assessed for \$950.00.

In February 1873, a branch of the C.N.R. or Loop Line went through a corner of the farm cutting off about 6 acres, where the house and farm buildings were situated in the south west corner. The remaining 94 Acres were north of the track.

✓ The McArthur boys were rated as outstanding singers. Whenever they were out, either to village church or going elsewhere in their conveyances, they could be heard for long distances, singing the familiar folk songs or sacred hymns. Their melodious voices would grace any platform to-day. Unfortunately they never had the opportunity to study voice culture. The father, a retiring old Scot, very friendly, enjoyed visitors. On their leaving, he would accompany them to the door and insist they soon would make a return visit. In parting he would always say "Be sure and come back, and if you cannot do that, will you be sure and come to my funeral". Many of his friends treated this as a joke, but by a strange coincidence the day of Mr. McArthur's funeral, there was such a dreadful storm raging, it was almost impossible for any one, only those who felt it compulsory, to attend.

In religion this family adhered to the Baptist Church and attended the Baptist Church at Iona Station.

When the McArthurs left, they sold their farm to Malcolm McIntyre around 1880.

In 1895, a Mr. Parker of Middlemarch and his two daughters, Edna, now Mrs. J.C. McIntyre, 27 Pearl St. St. Thomas; Millie (deceased) Mrs. W. Francis; and one son Edge lived there.

A sad accident happened one night. Edge going home from school S.S. No. 17, getting off on a sleigh, somehow got run over and died almost instantly. He is buried in St. Thomas. The Trace family, later of Shedden lived there for some time, also the Brown family, who was an employee on the C.N.R. Miss Annie Brown, now of Toronto, a daughter attended S.S. NO. 17.

In 1900, Charlie Joiner and a twin brother, Chester of Middlemarch, bought this McIntyre farm, also another McIntyre farm, Lot 11. Mr. Joiner with Mrs. Joiner (nee Minnie Sawnders) also of Middlemarch and young son Vernon, moved in. Marguerite and Richard were born on this farm. All attended the No. 17 school. Marguerite, an accomplished musician, taught music, married George Evans, Dunwich, now with the M.C.R.R. and reside in St. Thomas.

Richard, was overseas remaining during the duration of the 2nd World War in Europe, returned and is married and is with his brother Vernon at Lambeth garage.

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Around the spring of 1914 Mr. Joiner moved the barns across the track, enlarged them, and erected a silo. John McCormick was the contractor. The following summer the frame house was moved across the Railway track, enlarged and veneered with red brick. In March 1927 Mr. Joiner's health failing he sold the farm to the Messrs. Edward and Roy Chamberlain, a family of South Delaware. He moved back on the Lawrence Road, Vernon moving to Lambeth. Shortly after in May 26, 1927 Mr. Joiner passed away suddenly.

The Chamberlain family have fitted in with the community life, making good citizens. The family comprised Mr. and Mrs. Edward Chamberlain, their son Roy, his wife and children; Clayton, Dora (now Mrs. C.L. Somerville) Murray, Carl, Jean, all attending the Lawrence School No. 17. Murray went overseas in 1945. After the war was over he remained with the Army of occupation in Germany. On February 9, 1946 he made the supreme sacrifice and rests in the military cemetery in Holton Holland.

Mrs. Edward Chamberlain passed away in September 1945, and twelve days later her son Roy passed away suddenly. Mr. Edward Chamberlain died in Windsor April 1948. All are buried in the family plot in McIntyre Cemetery.

Mrs. Roy Chamberlain and family and grand-daughter Marilee Somerville continue to reside on the farm.

FOURTH FARM

Dugald Brown, Stewart and Duncan Brown's grandfather, a native of Scotland, bought this wood lot. Between this lot and the McArthur farm was a corduroy road, a continuation of the road coming from the North at the Cheese Factory and on out to the Gore Road. This road however has been closed for many years.

In 1872 Mrs. Brown sold to Alex. and Donald McIntosh and it remained in their possession till 1908. It was a long hundred reaching back to the Lawrence Road. Many years ago the older residents recall a tragedy. A young English lad, working for them was hoeing in the field during a severe thunder storm. McIntoshes, thinking he would take shelter in the barn didn't call him till after the storm. On going out to the field they found he had been instantly killed from a bolt of lightning, the hoe still poised over his shoulder and the handle gripped tight in his hand.