

Mrs. D. C. Turner 67

History of Farms on the Gore Road

First a few interesting facts about the Gore Road.

On 5 of the 14 farms in the section in which we are interested, people of the same name have lived on the place since the Crown-
 Ian McLellan, Alex Turner, Lawrence McIntyre, Arthur McCormick and
 Mac McCormick. But you will notice that three of these are bachelors
 and one has no sons to carry on the family name. A 6th farm where
 James Bogart lives was owned by McLellans until about 5 years ago.
 Another interesting fact is that a number of people living on the
 Gore selected their mates from the 1st Con.

Angus, Annie and Margaret Turner married Mary, Tom and Dan Crosson.
 Elgin Biddle married Kate Miller.

Dick McLellan married Lottie Killins, Archie McLellan married
 Floraneil McVicar, Maude Plain married Charles Holborn, Madeline
 McCormick married Kenneth McLaughlin, Dick Plain, -Jeanie McVicar,
 Mary Lamont -Bill Killins-, Margaret McLellan -Archie Campbell,
 James Kennedy- Annie Huntley, Geo Hathaway-Mabel Newsome, Margaret
 Turner-was first married in the McBride's church and Ada Huntley
 first in Lawrence Church. Both received a white bible as a memento.

Percy Gosnell- Lot 9 Con 5.

In 1856 Archibald McLaughlin was listed as owner. His son called
 "Gore" Dan to distinguish him from other McLaughlins in the district.,
 lived on the farm after his father. He and his wife had 4 boys and
 1 girl. When the oldest was about 12 years old Mr. McLaughlin died.
 His wife tried to carry on for a few years then moved away and
 rented the farm to Thomas Brown for 6 years. Then Mrs McLaughlin
 returned to farm for a few years with the help of a nephew Lorne
 Jackson. Later she sold to James Plain.

When his son Dick was married he and his wife lived there. They
 had twins. When Dick and family moved out west LeRoy and his bride
 Rita O'Hara, took over the place. Some years later they also moved
 out west after selling the farm to Percy Gosnell. In 1939 the large
 home was destroyed by fire and later Mr and Mrs Gosnell and son
 Cameron built the smart modern home now on the farm. Mr and Mrs
 Gosnell also have 2 daughters Olga and Muriel both married.

Verne Holborn E $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 9 Con 4.

In 1856 the owner was Michael Kerns. Later a chap called Irish
 Campbell whose wife was a relation of Kerns. He was a fiddler and used
 to play at the dances around, but wasn't so fond of farming. They
 had a large family and the story goes that they didn't have a comb.
 After they left Jack Rourke lived there. He sold out to Charlie
 Holborn who lived there until 1919 with his wife. He sold out to
 James Plain. He and his son Percy had the fine frame house built
 at a cost of \$5000. Later Percy Plain resold the farm to Charlie
 Holborn for his son Verne. Mr and Mrs Plain and their family moved
 to the west.

Verne and his wife and ~~4~~ sons Leroy and Eddie live on the farm now.

Richard & Carmen
 Have moved to home farm and have house rented.

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Bassett Blewett-Lot 10 Con 5.

In 1856 John McLaughlin was listed as owner of this farm. In 1855 Archibald McLaughlin who probably was his son was owner. He had 2 sons and 6 daughters who all attended Lawrence school. Mr McLaughlin was a drover. A story is told about him. He had gone to St. Thomas with livestock and was bringing home a small pig. On the way as was commonly done in those days he stopped at the hotel. Some of the boys thought they'd play a joke on him so they took the pig out & put in a cat.

Mr McLaughlin came out some time later to start for home looked in the box and thought he had one too many. Farther up the street he stopped again and the boys replaced the pig and removed the cat. Mr McLaughlin never could understand how first it was a pig, then a cat and then a pig again.

In 1911 Ralph Humphries bought the place and lived there until his death, then his son J.C. carried on with his mother, an uncle Mac McIntyre and his sister Mary. Mrs Humphries and Mary were both Club members for years. Mrs Humphries died there.

In 1940 J.C. went to live in the west for his health and his sister and uncle carried on for a few years then sold out to join J.C. in the west.

Mr Jim Davis owned the farm for about 2 years and then sold it to the present owner Mr Bassett Blewett.

In 1950 the farm again changed hands twice. In March Ben Puskas purchased the farm and in May resold it to Mr Herbert Thomson the present owner.

*In 1954 it was purchased by Mr. Fred Thomas.
In 1964 " " " " John W. Carr*

Mac McCormick- W $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 9 Con 4.

In 1842 John McCormick and his brothers Dugald and Duncan came to settle on the Gore Road. John McCormick settled where Mac McCormick now lives. He raised a large family of 6 sons all of whom are still living and 8 daughters. These children and those of the Campbells and McLaughlins were known as the "Gore Gang" and used to cut across by way of the old road once an Indian trail and later the main road from the river to Pt Stanley which at that time was the main trading point in the district. It was one of the old corduroy roads and some of the poles used in its construction have been plowed up by the present generation. It followed the general direction that the Wabash track now takes and crossed Mr McCormick's farm at an angle and on across through what is now Verne Holborn. Later Mr McCormick and the neighbour back of him took steps to have the road closed and now only a hollow place in the hill crossing the farms shows where it used to be.

Of the living members of this family Mac McCormick lives on the home place. Dan lives on the Gore also, Alex lives in Shedden and is famous for his skill in plowing, John husband of one of our organizers, lives in St Thomas. The other two brothers and two surviving sisters live in the west and in U.S.A.

Mr and Mrs Mac McCormick have 3 daughters, Madeline and Maxine married and Grace at home. - *Grace married Morley Blewett.*

Mr Mac McCormick served a term in the township council.

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Isaac Jackson. A year later Mr W.G.O'Hara and family moved to the community and bought the farm in March 1919.

✓ In 1926 Mr W.G.O'Hara bought a section of land from Gordon Plain and built a new house. In Dec nine months after Jeff was married they moved into the new house and left Jeff and his wife on the McAlpine place.

In 1932 their barn was destroyed by fire and Jeff had to rebuild. Mr and Mrs Jeff O'Hara are the present owners.

Lawrence McIntyre-Lot 12 Con 5.

In 1856 this farm was owned by Archibald McCallum. In 1865 it was sold to Dugald McIntyre and has been in the family ever since.

Mr and Mrs McIntyre had three sons and two daughters.

Mr McIntyre built the brick house now on the farm a year or so after the Turner home was erected. It was built by the same man who used practically the same plan.

✓ Albert McIntyre his son, married Jeanie McCormick, a neighbour girl, and remained on the farm. They had 4 children, Kenneth, Randolph, Lawrence and Catherine. Mr McIntyre was accidentally killed at his own threshing and left Mrs McIntyre with the 4 small children. She managed to keep the farm going until the boys were old enough to carry on. Randolph was in the army during World War 2. Lawrence now owns the home place.

* Alex Turner-S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 11.

In 1840 Duncan Turner and his two brothers John and Dan settled in Southwold, Duncan on the farm now owned by Alex Turner. His wife was Mary McLean and they had 3 sons Angus, Charles and John and 2 daughters Annie and Margaret.

✓ When Angus was a teen aged boy they planned to build a new home so Angus went to the swamp to get the young evergreens which he planted on either side of the lawn where they still stand. The next year they built the brick house which stands on the hill. Duncan Turner was superintendant of the Union Sunday School held in the Lawrence Hall and his daughter Annie played the organ and taught a class.

Mr Turner was stung very severely by bees and had very poor health until his death.

Angus stayed on the home place and married Mary Crosson daughter of another of our pioneer families. Later two of Mrs Turner's brothers married Mr Turner's sisters.

Angus served on the township and county councils and was warden in 1905. He was inspector of the Elgin County House of Industry for 25 years.

Mrs Turner joined the Club soon after it was organized and was Club pianist for years. Mr and Mrs Turner had 3 children Duncan, Alex and Catharine. Alex now lives on the old place. In 1949 he married Margaret McIntyre a neighbour girl, who is a Club member.

Clifton Holborn- S¹/₂ Lot 10, Con 4.

In 1856 this farm was owned by John McAlpine. He had 2 sons Jack and Duncan and 3 daughters. After Mr McAlpine's death the farm was sold to Duncan McClaus who came from the States. His son Wm McClaus became a lawyer, lived in Calgary and ^{was} reported to be a millionaire. Mr McClaus sold out to Frank Comfort from whom Elgin Biddle bought the farm in 1907.

Mr Biddle was married to Kate Miller, made many improvements on the buildings and erected the fine red brick home now standing on the place. In 1919 Mr Biddle sold out to Charlie Holborn and moved to Lawrence to keep store there.

Mr Holborn lived there until his death and now his son Clifton a pilot in the R.C.A.F. during world war 2, and his English bride and baby daughter Susan live there. *Verne and family moved back in 1955.* I have been informed that at one time there was a small log Presbyterian Church on the knoll just at the gate on this farm. Dr Sutherland used to drive from Fingal to preach there and hold classes in Catechism for the younger folks.

Dan McCormick-Lot 11 Con 5.

In 1842 Dugald, John and Duncan McCormick came to Canada and "squatted" on this farm, the land nearest the main road not already taken. In 1846 they received the deed from the Crown for Lot 11 from Colonel Talbot. John and Duncan found other farms and Dugald married and remained here. He did not have any children. Later he decided to move and sold the farm to John and Duncan his two brothers. Until this time all the buildings were at the south end of the farm.

By this time the Gore Road had been opened, and became a main road so the neighbours all were moving their buildings to face the North. Mr John McCormick bought Duncan's share of the farm and in 1905 his son Donald built the fine brick home and married Kate McArthur, and came to live on the farm.

Mr McCormick and his son Arthur still live on the farm and he has been the source of most of the information about the early settlers. His other son Donald was a Major in the army in World War 2.

Mr McCormick has two very valued heirlooms, one the Crown deed to his farm, the other his grandfather Donald McCormick's clock in which the cog wheels are made of wood.

S¹/₂
Jeff O'Hara- Lot 11 Con 4.

In 1856 the owner of this farm was Archibald McAlpine. He had 3 sons and 5 daughters.

In those days it was the custom to drive the sheep to the river before shearing time to wash them. For this job the neighbours all helped each other. One year when they were there Hugh McAlpine, son of Archibald lost his footing and slipped into the current of the river and was drowned before they could help him.

Mr McAlpine had the large brick house built while he lived there. After he left the farm Mr John McCormick and his son Alex bought the place. Alex lived there for some time with his sister until his marriage. When he retired and moved to Shedden, He sold out to

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Kenneth McIntyre-Lot 12 Con 5.

In 1856 this farm was owned by John Kerr. He and his wife had 3 sons and 3 daughters. He died at an early age and his son John became one of the best farmers in the district. Victoria, whom they called Tory, when a girl of 18 attended the funeral of Arthur Smith who lived on the highway, and who had died of measles. It was a bitterly cold day in the winter. As she passed John McLellan the undertaker and a neighbour she jokingly said "Likely I'll be the next one to die of measles" "Yes" said Mr McLellan tapping the horse "and I'll carry you away in here". Strange as it may seem she did take the measles and died two weeks later and was the next funeral that Mr McLellan had, it was the same day that Dougie McLellan's house burned.

Sarah, who had been away learning a trade came home then to keep house for her brother and they lived on that farm until about 1917 when they sold out to Archie McLellan and moved to Iona. Sarah was a Club member for a number of years.

Dick McLellan, Albert McIntyre, Alex McCormick and Archie McLellan who bought the farm helped them move with wagons.

In 1926 Archie McLellan's two sons born on that place were killed in World War 2 and third son served in the R.C.A.F. sold the farm to Albert McIntyre and it is now owned by Kenneth McIntyre.

Kenneth sold to his brother Lawrence.

Nov. 1966 barn burned.

Kenneth Firby-~~E~~¹/₂ Lot 13. Con 5.

In 1852 the Crown deeded to Wm Decaw all the Lot 13. In 1857 the W¹/₂ was sold to John Campbell.

In 1856 this farm was rented to Thomas Silcox and in 1860 to George Parker.

In 1862 Martin Baker rented the farm from the owner Daniel Decaw who was probably a son of Wm. From then on the place became known as the Baker place and they may have bought it.

There is a story that in the spring the trees were tapped in the large woods on farm. When the syrup season was over the buckets were left on the trees and bugs collected in them with a little left over soured sap. Two of the little Baker children drank some of the sap which poisoned them and they died.

The place was purchased by John McLellan for his son Duncan who sold it in 1913 to Philip Finlay.

The house was occupied only occasionally for several years until Kenneth Firby bought it in 1932. Since then Mr Firby has built a new barn and made many improvements in the house. Mr and Mrs Firby have 5 children. Reg who served overseas in the R.C.A.F and brought home an English bride, Donald, Kathleen, Pauline and Ruby. Mrs Firby is a Club member.

James Bogart-Lot 13 -S¹/₂ Con 4.

In 1851 Archibald McLellan bought 150 acres of land now the farms of James Bogart and Harold Kestle. They cleared the land and built a log house and buildings facing the Gore Road. One or two old trees remain to give the location. Later the buildings were moved to face the Lawrence Road. They raised a family of 6 sons and 2 daughters of whom Archie and Dan are still living in our section.

In 1872 Mr McLellan bought the farm where Archie and Dan McLellan still live from Duncan McCormick. The following year the family moved to this farm and the old place was vacant until 1885 when Dougald was married and went to live there.