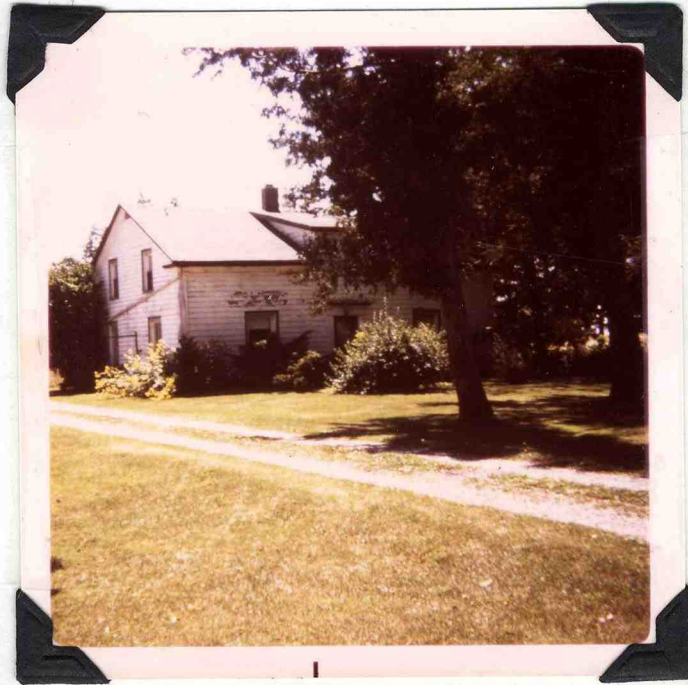


death by his daughter, Mary Gilbert, and her husband, Rev. Ballah, the tenant farmer operating the two farms thereafter as one. This information was provided by Mrs. Cedric Evans, aged 82, and her daughter Thelma Joiner.

The third mud house on the Edgeware Road was the Heipleh house. This house was built for Edmund Westlake, eldest son of Simon Westlake, at approximately the same time as the others and was the largest of the three. It also was a two-story structure and was later covered with clapboard siding. It contained five rooms downstairs, double living room, a dining room, den and kitchen. Upstairs there were four bedrooms, a bathroom and an alcove open to and adjoining the hall, which was used as a sewing room by the Heiplehs. It was occupied successively by the Westlakes, Caughells, Angus Miller and Clifford Heipleh, the Heipleh's moving there in the spring of 1942. As there was only a stone wall under this house and no basement, the wall and sills began to sag and it was demolished in 1976.



The Westlake Mud House

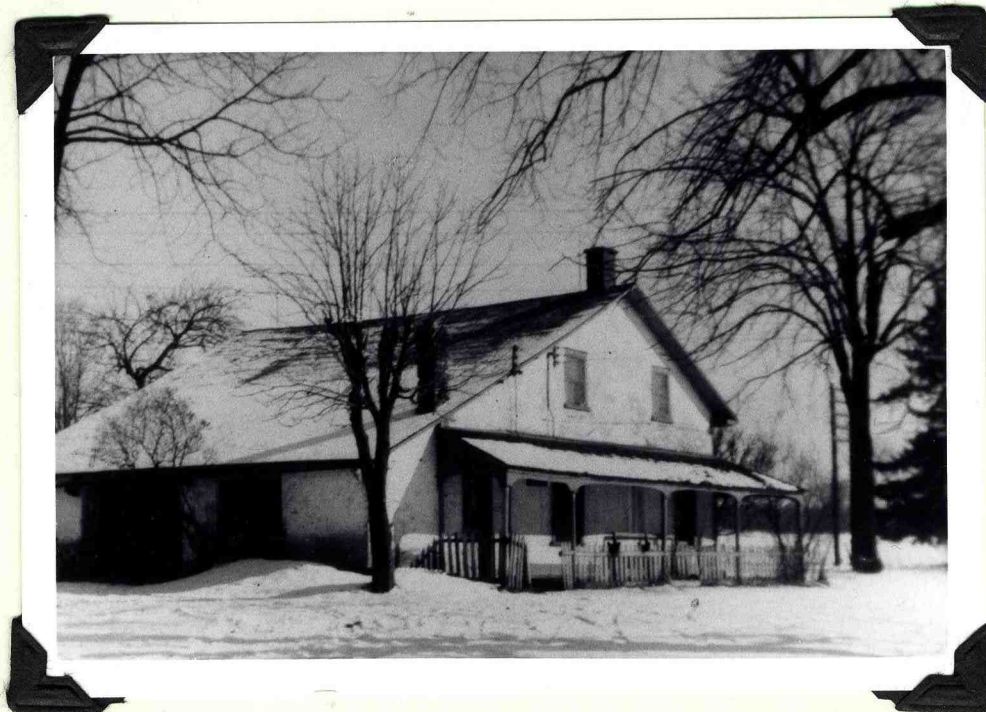
Shortly after Richard Penhale's arrival here he wrote to his brother, John, in England in the Spring of 1832 telling him of the great need for carpenters in the new land. John Penhale was an excellent carpenter and in answer to his brother's call he came out in the summer of 1832 taking up Lot 10 in the 10th concession, where Clayton and Bernice Reid live now. He followed the carpenter trade in addition to his farming and it is thought that without a doubt this John Penhale was responsible for the excellent carpentry in these three houses on the Edgeware Road.

Travelling north on the Centre Road to the intersection of the 10th concession, we find that three corner farms, Lots 12 and 13 on the north and Lot 13 on the south, as well as Lot 14 on the north were taken up by a Scots family, the McIntyres, who came to the area shortly after the first three settlers on the Edgeware Road. Log cabins were also the earliest homes on these farms. On the Colin McIntyre farm, Lot 13 on the north side, now occupied by Albert Gredig, a mud house was built. The mud used was not a good mixture of clay and straw and it soon deteriorated and was replaced by the present frame house which was occupied by Colin McIntyre, his son, Neil, then Duncan McIntyre and his sisters, Catherine and Ethel. Albert Gredig purchased the farm in 1959 and renovated and added to the house.

Almost opposite Albert Gredig's lane, on Lot 13 on the south side of the road, on the farm owned then by Archibald McIntyre, now owned by Tony Jans, there was a more substantial mud house. It lasted many years and was occupied by Archibald McIntyre and his family until the last of his children, an unmarried brother and sister died. The spot where this house stood was marked by a grove of trees until a few years ago and a picture of the ruins of this house is in the North Yarmouth Tweedsmuir History book. Another son of Archibald McIntyre built the present Jans home over 100 years ago at the time of his marriage. This house, too, faced the 10th concession but was later moved to the sideroad. Mrs. A. McDougall of St. Thomas was a daughter, and Archibald McIntyre was the great-grandfather of Clark McDougall the St. Thomas artist. Mrs. McDougall, now 99 years of age, gave the information on this house.



Travelling west on the 10th concession, just before it intersects with Radio Road, we come to the Baker mud house. William Baker, great-grandfather of Jean Watson, bought this farm, the west half of Lot 9, concession 10, shortly after he arrived from England in 1847. The original owner of the farm was Hugh Douglas, who had sold it to John Fairgrieve, who in turn sold it to William Baker. For the next few years, Mr. Baker and his large family lived in a small log cabin built by Douglas. This cabin was in a field east of the present houses, and was still standing and used as a barn when Roy Baker was a child on the farm. This mud house was erected about 1850. Similar methods were used in building all these houses. The walls were built up on a foundation of stone. To obtain the mixture used in the walls a pit was dug and moist clay put into it. Straw was thrown in on the clay and the oxen were driven back and forth over it to mix the clay and straw together. This clay mixture was poured into wooden cribbing (much as cement is poured today) and the walls were raised 3 feet at a time. The walls were about 18 - 22 inches thick and when it was raised three feet all around it was allowed to harden for a day or two within the cribbing before it was removed and prepared for another layer to be poured. The clay mixture was moved up to the scene of the house building by oxen and wagon. There were advantages to these thick walls. First it was an excellent insulator. These houses were very warm in winter and cool in summer. Another advantage was the wide window sills to hold plants. The walls were very hard and were plastered inside and out, the outside having the appearance of rough-cast or stucco. There was a wooden porch on the south-east and west sides of the Baker house. This house, like the others, is a two-story dwelling 30 X 40 in size and has a built-in fireplace of brick with adjoining book shelves, erected in the east wall of the front room. Twenty some years ago the mud walls were covered with asbestos shingles which in time grew weathered and were replaced in 1971 with aluminum siding. At the same time some of the old sills under the downstairs rooms were replaced, strengthening the structure.



The Baker Mud House.

Another such mud house was the Sinclair home on the north half of Lot 6, concession 10, the Crown Deed granted Jan. 28, 1860. The Sinclairs were a Scots family as their name implies. Many years ago a wooden bridge carried the 11th concession across Kettle Creek west of the Radio Road. The road continued up the hill but was washed out many years ago by a severe storm and was never rebuilt. The only access after this occurred was from the sideroad running north from the dam. The 11th concession was therefore a blind road for this mile. On the right as one travelled eastward was the old Sinclair farm of 100 acres. There was an old frame barn which stood here long after the house was abandoned in the 1920's. The house faced north toward the 11th concession. It had a large fireplace in the west end of the living room. There was a central hall with a front entrance and an upstairs. The latter was a sort of attic under the highest portion of the roof and had no windows. The bannister and stairway were of choice walnut. The eaves were somewhat overhanging, while the cellarway was at the east side, covered by a pair of trapdoors at an angle which opened upwards. Clay steps, packed hard, led down to the cellar entrance. The many-paned windows had wide sills upon which meals or lunches were sometimes served, the participants pulling their chairs up to them as they would to a table. The kitchen, said to have been of frame construction, was at the rear of the main house. The builder of this clay house is believed to have been Donald Sinclair



the pioneer owner of the farm. His son, James, had the place for many years. Malcolm Sinclair, a pioneer school-teacher, who later worked on the railroad mail cars, and was a prolific writer to the Times-Journal using the title of "The Ingle Nook" in the winter and "The Open Road" in the summer, was born here. This lot has been owned by a succession of owners since the Sinclairs, but they were the only family to occupy the old house.

(See Settlement of Lockes Springs for picture of the Sinclair Homestead).

The only other mud house known in our immediate vicinity is the house now owned by Tony DeLouw, on the farm formerly known as the old Hill farm on the top of the hill above the Waterworks Dam, Lot 4 concession 9. Not much is known about this house. This 100 acre farm was patented to the Canada Company Oct. 5, 1832, and was owned successively by a Mr. Bobier and sold to Daniel Caughlin, who was the owner in 1877. At his death it was sold to a Mr. Fitch, then to a son of James Hill who lived across the road on Lot 5, which they had taken from the Crown. The house was probably built about the same time as the others, but whether it was owned first by Mr. Bobier or Mr. Caughlin is not known.

This concludes our tour around North Yarmouth. In most cases the early settlers came to this country in the hope of bettering their conditions, and had left comfortable homes behind them. They did try to build comfortable homes for their families at the first opportunity, as soon as finances permitted, and was often done with the help of friends and neighbours. The Baker house and the DeLouw house are the only two left standing, and occupied, the others are just a memory.



## THE MCGREGOR FAMILY

John McGregor of Argyleshire, Scotland, was a school-teacher, educated at Edinburgh University; also a farmer. He and his wife, Catherine McLaughlin, and family lived on a large estate owned by Colin Bell--he rented the land, as all the people in Scotland did at that time. Hearing of Canada and of the opportunities in the new land where they could get one hundred acres of land for each son who was 21 years old, they decided to emigrate in 1831.

The parents, with their family of four sons and two daughters, set sail for America. After a voyage of seven weeks and four days, they landed at Port Stanley. John McGregor had some money, having taught school in Scotland, and he bought and improved McKillop's farm in Southwold, but sold it and took up five one-hundred-acre farms on the tenth concession of North Yarmouth. Duncan and Colin were of age to take their own farms, but, since James and John were not yet of age, their father took up farms for them, as well as himself. To own their own land was their reason for coming to Canada.

The first brick house in the district was built by Duncan McGregor. He was about twenty-three years old when they came to Yarmouth, and he had learned the carpenter trade in Glasgow, Scotland. The house was built after a house he had admired in Scotland. It was quite a show place in its day, and many came from far and near to see it.

In 1887 this farm belonging to Duncan McGregor was sold to John D. Ferguson, a son of Donald Ferguson of the 12th concession. He was a breeder of fine horses and Shorthorn cattle. At his death in 1925, his son, Archie, and his wife, Eleanor (Saywell) Ferguson, came into possession of the farm. The farm was sold to Dayton A. Davis of St. Thomas on April 15, 1947, and is now operated by his son, Keith. The house was modernized in 1949.

The farm which John McGregor settled on in 1831 remained in the McGregor family for a good many years, great-grandson Donald McGregor residing there with his wife, Virginia (Thorntwaite) McGregor, until his death on Feb. 16, 1973. The farm was sold by Virginia to Albert and Jean Gredig not long after. Virginia (known as Virgie) McGregor died at St. Thomas on April 19, 1975, in her 82nd year.

## THE McINTYRE FAMILY

Early in the spring of 1831 Archibald McIntyre, his wife and family of five sons and two daughters, of Argyleshire, Scotland, decided to emigrate to Canada where it was hoped the family would have better prospects. The voyage took six weeks, and after disembarking at Montreal, they had to make another tiresome trip through the lakes to Port Stanley, the nearest landing-place to their destination, the Talbot Settlement. They found that nearly all the farm land to the east, west, and north for a distance of fifteen miles was already taken. However, these men wandered on a trail through the forest which led to the Edgeware Road, and brought them to the home of an earlier settler, Richard Gilbert. He was a bit suspicious of these men dressed in their Highland costume and speaking the Gaelic language. Fortunately, one could speak a few words in English, and they were given food and shelter for the night in a new sheep-pen filled with pea straw.

Resuming their search for land, they were successful in obtaining four one-hundred-acre lots on the tenth concession of Yarmouth, three of these lots being on the corner where the Glen School stands. Duncan Campbell had taken up the south-west corner lot, and Archibald, Angus, and Colin McIntyre (whose aged parents settled with him) obtained the three remaining lots on the corner. Dubald McIntyre took up land directly east on the concession, as did Duncan, James, John and Colin McGregor.

It can be readily understood that the concession road between the hills of Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek would be called "the Glen" by the early settlers in memory of some particular hills and glens in Scotland, the McGregors being responsible for the name "Glen Lyon".

Colin McIntyre, like his neighbours, first built a log house on the south-east corner of the farm. Later, a mud house was built, but the material was not properly made and soon crumbled; then the present frame house was erected over a hundred years ago. During this time, Colin married Catharine McIntyre (no relation), whose family emigrated from Scotland and first settled in Southwold; their family of seven sons and three daughters lived until they reached manhood and womanhood and then each of them made his own choice of occupation. Duncan stayed on the farm with his parents, but he was accidentally killed by a horse. Neil C., a younger son who had been teaching school, came home and lived on the farm until his death in 1929.

Through the years, the McIntyres gradually left the farms to settle elsewhere, leaving Neil C.'s son, Duncan J., the only descendant, with his two sisters, Catharine and Ethel. He finally sold the farm in 1957 to Albert and Jean Gredig, and went to St. Thomas where he resided on Wellington Street with his two sisters until his death on April 11, 1970.

Catharine and Ethel spent their last years at Elgin Manor where Catharine died on April 23, 1981, and Ethel on April 4, 1992.