

Dan Paterson died Aug 7, 1968 and Mrs. Anderson inherited the farm. Joe. Bechard who owns Lot 10, Concession 11, (the John Paterson farm) had been renting the land and continued to do so. In the Spring of 1971 the farm was sold to the County of Elgin for \$32,000.00 to make an alignment to straighten County Road 30 (Radio Road) and to instal a new culvert at Kettle Creek to replace the aging Paterson Bridge. The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority were given an option on the property. The North Yarmouth District Historical Association (formed in 1969) had a special interest in the restoration of the log cabin which had been falling into disrepair.

In the Spring of 1972 Kettle Creek Conservation Authority took up the option and purchased the remaining portion of the farm from Elgin County. It had been hoped by different individuals and organizations that the brick house built in 1875 could be saved. However the new alignment of the road brought it within ten feet of the house with the road on a much higher level. All efforts to save the brick house failed and it was torn down early in 1972 by Robert Proud and the materials removed to his property across the road.

The one hundred acre property consists of 40 acres of agricultural land, 10 acres of hard maple trees and 50 acres of bush. The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority hope to use the farm as a field headquarters, utilizing the barn for storage and the property as a conservation and outdoor education area. They have expressed a desire to co-operate with the North Yarmouth District Historical Association in the restoration of the log cabin, perhaps moving it to a more desirable site on the property.

From information given by Dan Paterson, Mrs. Blanche Anderson, niece of Dan Paterson, and Clive Lewis, grandson of John Paterson. (1972).

Reconstruction of the log cabin began in 1972. It was taken down log by log by Mr. Gillard of Port Stanley and moved to a more desirable site and reconstructed. The old logs were used in the reconstruction with the exception of two which had to be replaced. The roof had been leaking for many years and had rotted and were replaced with rafters from the barn which the Conservation Authority had demolished. Work proceeded slowly on the cabin as funds became available. A general canvas of the neighbourhood was conducted and several grants were received - from the Timken Col and the Barrie foundation.

A lease arrangement was drawn up by the Conservation Authority whereby the Historical Association pays \$1.00 per year for the land the cabin sits on and an area of 200' surrounding it. As soon as the cabin was completed sufficiently to be used, the Historical Association began holding an open house there once or twice a year in which the cabin was furnished and different displays set up.

In 1979, the Kettle Creek Pioneers, an antique machinery club was organized and since that time the Historical Association have co-operated with them in holding their open house on the 2 days in August when their annual historical show is held. This year (1983) marked the 5th annual show held there.

In 1982 the project of the Historical Association was to build a brick fireplace in the cabin, the foundation for which had been laid when the cabin was first restored. The good white bricks owned by Mr. Proud from the demolished Paterson brick house were purchased for this purpose. The mantel was formed from an old barn beam.

The Conservation Authority use the property as an outdoor conservation and recreational centre. In 1983 they improved the property by the addition of a picnic pavilion and washrooms. They have been most co-operative with both the Historical Association in their activities at the cabin and with the Kettle Creek Pioneers in the presentation of their annual show.

Nex year 1984 will be the 150th Anniversary of the cabin and the 200th Anniversary of the coming of the U.E.Loyalists and plans are underway to celebrate these two events in a fitting manner when we will be welcoming guests to the sixth annual Historical show and open house at the Dan Paterson cabin.

PATERSON FAMILY

and

DESCENDANTS

Alexander Paterson 1st, born 1799, died Nov. 3, 1867, married Catharine Fraser, born 1805, died April 18, 1882. They were married in the Parish of Croy, Invernesshire, Scotland, Feb. 13, 1829. Their children were: -

1. Isabella, born Dec. 10, 1829, in Scotland, married Duncan Ferguson, March 31, 1853. Isabella died June 4, 1896. Their children were: Fergus, Alexander, Mary, Edward, Catharine, Duncan and John Edward.

2. Janet, born Sept. 28, 1831, in Scotland, married George Ordish. Their children were: Mrs. Glover, Susan, Mary, George and Edward.

3. John, born Nov. 27, 1833, at Utica, N. Y., married Catharine Thomson, Feb. 24, 1870. John died Sept. 2, 1927. Their children were:

1. Catharine, born March 5, 1871, died Oct. 1, 1874.
2. Flora, born Sept. 3, 1872, died Feb. 21, 1936.
3. Mary, born Feb. 19, 1875, died April 24, 1957.
4. John Alexander, born April 6, 1877, died July 19, 1930.
5. Margaret, born March 9, 1879, died April 27, 1973.
6. Euphemia (Effie), born May 16, 1881, died Feb. 29, 1936.
7. James, born Dec. 3, 1884, died March 28, 1951.

(2) Flora, 1872 - 1936, married James Ferguson, 1886 - 1950. Their only child was Robert James, 1909 - 1983. Robert married Jessie Fox, born 1910, in 1933. Their children are:

1. Stanley Ferguson, born 1934, married Ruby Johnson, born 1935. Their children are: James, Karen, Barbara and Susan.
2. John Ferguson, born 1936, married Patricia Bowlby, born 1937, in 1957. Their child is: Vicki Ferguson, born 1958.
3. Mary Flora Ferguson, born 1937, married Ronald Rawson, born 1935, in 1955. Their children are: Robert, Catharine Ann, Lee Ann, Daniel Scott.
4. Frank Ferguson, born 1938, married Sandra Dufty, born 1941, in 1960. Their children are: Doublas, Kerry, Bryon James.
5. Keith Ferguson, born 1940, married Karen Clark, born 1943. Married 2nd Brenda Hill. Their children are: Christopher, Keith, Kyle.
6. Patricia Ferguson, born 1945, married Monte Boughner, born 1941. Their children are: Robert, Nicolle.

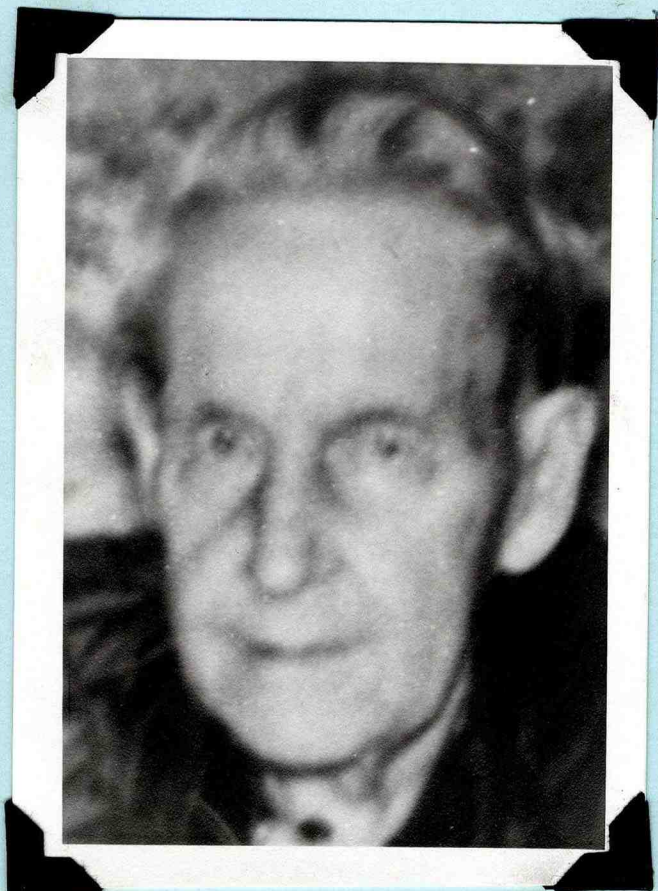
(3) Mary, 1875 - 1957, married Richard Herbert Lewis, born Sept. 15, 1871, died June 2, 1962. Their children are:

1. Catharine Vera Lewis, born Oct. 20, 1897, married Donald A. Ferguson, 1894-1972., Oct. 20, 1924. Their children are:
 1. Margaret C. Ferguson, born 1930, married Ivan Patterson, born 1925, Nov. 20, 1954.
 2. Donald Roderick Ferguson, born 1932, married Margaret Martyn, born 1933, Nov. 26, 1960.
 3. Colin Ferguson, born 1933, married Joyce Kibble, born 1937, April 2, 1960.
2. Clive G. Lewis, born Sept. 18, 1889, married Catharine A. Duncan-son, born Feb. 20, 1908, Dec. 8, 1969.
3. Mary J. Lewis, born 1902, died 1960, married G. Ervin Taylor, born 1900, died 1962, Nov. 9, 1921. Their children are: Helen, Lewis, Donald, James.
4. Florence Marguerite E. Lewis, born 1907, married 1st Basil Carruthers, died July 1, 1951, Jan. 3, 1928. Their children are: Donald, Clive, Basil. Married 2nd Weldon A. Abernethy, 1955. He died 1978.
5. John Herbert Lewis, born Sept. 26, 1913, married May 22, 1937, Catharine Shipway. Their children are: Beverly, John W., Ambrose.

- (4) John Alexander, born April 6, 1877, died July 18, 1930, did not marry.
 - (5) Margaret, 1879-1973, (March 9, 1879-April 27, 1973) married Albert Campbell, Dec. 26, 1905. Their children were:
 1. Lorne Campbell, married Nora White. Their children are:
 1. Donna Campbell, married Douglas Penhale.
 2. Keith Campbell.
 2. Irene Campbell.
 - (6) Euphemia (Effie) born May 16, 1881, died Feb. 28, 1936.
 - (7) James Paterson, born Dec. 13, 1884, died March 28, 1951, married Nell Dickson, 1924. Their son:
 1. Donald Paterson, married Muriel Allen. He died June 16, 1970. Their children were:
 1. Carol.
 2. Christena.
4. Catherine, born Aug. 18, 1835, married John McBrayne. Their children are:
 - (1) Catherine.
 - (2) Mary.
 - (3) John.
 5. Margaret, born May 15, 1837, married Neil Walker. Their children are:
 - (1) Dan.
 - (2) Maud.
 6. Alexander 2nd, born April 15, 1842, married Euphemia Thomson. Their children are:
 - (1) Flora, Alex 3rd, Daniel, Eva.
Flora, born March 1, 1875, married Gilbert Campbell Taylor. Their son:
 1. Ervin, married Mary Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lewis. Their children are:
 1. Helen.
 2. Lewis.
 3. Donald.
 4. James.
 2. Blanche, married Earl Anderson. They had no children.
 - (2) Alexander 3rd, born Aug. 6, 1882, married Bessie Siple, Feb. 14, 1906. Alex died July 10, 1969, aged 86 years. Their children were:
 1. Marjorie, Mrs. James Wright, Port Stanley.
 2. Eva, Mrs. James Cassidy, Port Stanley.
 - (3) Daniel, born May 4, 1884, never married. He inherited the homestead. He died Aug. 7, 1968.
 - (4) Eva, born Jan. 13, 1893, married Angus McKenzie. They had no family.
 7. Mary, born Sept. 14, 1844, married Alec McLaughlen. Their children were:
 - (1) Alec.
 - (2) George.
 - (3) Archie.
 - (4) John.
 - (5) Ella.

DAN PATTERSON'S

"MILK CAN ENVIRONMENT"



Daniel Patterson, of R. R. # 8 St. Thomas, was born May 4th, 1884 on the farm where he spent almost his entire lifetime. He died August 7th, 1968, aged 84 but has left behind him an inheritance in the world of art.

It came about because Mr. Patterson was a bachelor farmer who kept no cows on his farm, and began using condensed milk in 1949 because it was readily available and required little refrigeration. Used cans were cast aside in a back room off his kitchen.

Previous to the present effort he built a pyramid out of the cans. But one day he dropped some wood on the floor and the vibrations knocked the pyramid over. Due to some compulsion Mr. Patterson began to wire together the two thousand cans which eventually emerged as an undefinable and whimsical structure resembling a four-poster bed with pyramidal and columnar elements. Mr. Patterson was completely untrained in art and built the structure in his spare time over a period of twenty years.

The structure, 87" high, nine feet long and 67" wide sat in the back room of the farm home for four years with no protection as the aging Mr. Patterson lived with his niece Mrs. Earl (Blanche) Anderson, 48½ Mitchell St. St. Thomas. The farm-

house was broken into a number of times and someone had kicked part of the structure but it was not damaged seriously.

On August 15th, 1968 Jean Paul Morisset, who directs art shows outside the country, visited the farm looking over the milk can art and decided he would like to send the exhibit to a folk art festival in Czechoslovakia, but first he had to check with a representative from the National Art Gallery. Clark McDougall, 56 Inkerman St. St. Thomas, a local artist who had known Mr. Patterson for thirty years, first brought the matter to the attention of the National Art Gallery.

In 1949 this piece was Canada's first entry in the Czechoslovakian display, the Biennial of Native Art, in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. Amongst an exhibition of traditional native paintings from twenty-one countries, Dan Patterson's work stood out "incongruously and magnificently alone in its eccentricity". He had used the waste products of an industrial civilization to create an abstract work of art in a rural environment traditionally seen as serene and uncomplicated. The judges awarded the sculpture the second honourable mention with a prize of 5,000 Czech crowns, equivalent to about \$300.00 in Canadian money.

In May 1970 the National Art Gallery paid \$1,000.00 for the structure. How much was an empty Carnation milk can worth? More than the price of the original can and its contents. The structure was purchased from Mrs. Blanche Anderson, a niece of the creator of the piece.

DAN PATTERSON'S
"MILK CAN ENVIRONMENT"

As well as building this structure Mr. Patterson made plans for a perpetual motion machine. These plans were given to a mechanic in South Yarmouth a number of years ago and have become lost.

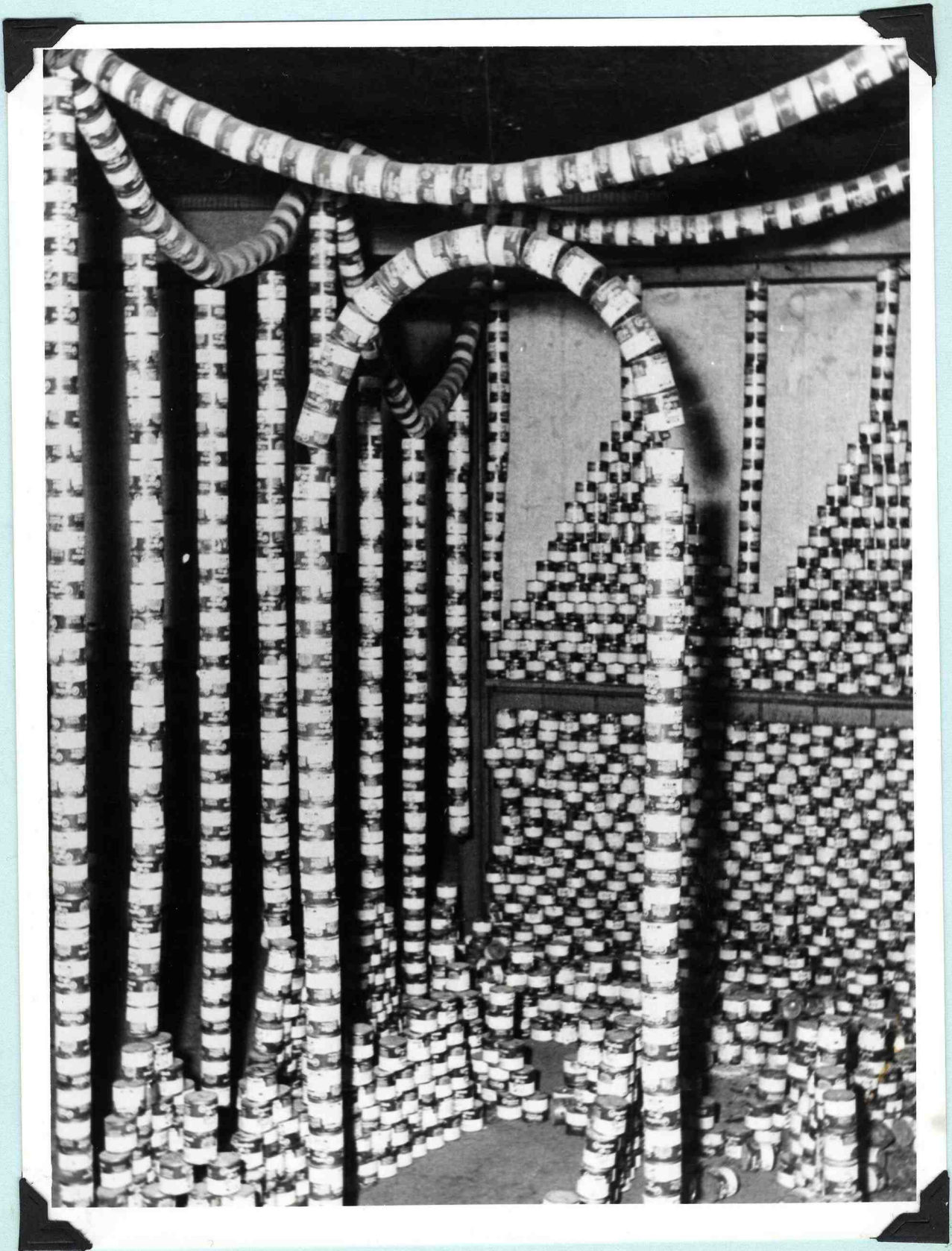
What kind of man was Dan Patterson? "He was the kind of man who would scoff at being called an artist", says Clark McDougall. "He had done his work privately and as far as can be ascertained he never intended it to be seen, except perhaps by a few friends. He does not seem to have had any notion that his activity could have been defined as artistic".

A Scotsman with a wry, almost caustic, sense of humour, who disliked having his picture taken, Mr. Patterson lived his entire life, with the exception of the last four years, on his farm on the 11th concession of Yarmouth township.

His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Patterson, came from Argyleshire, Scotland in 1831 and built a log cabin in 1834 which still stands on the farm. His parents were Alexander and Euphemia (Thomson) Patterson.

Mrs. Harold R. Davis
1972.

DAN PATTERSON'S
"MILK CAN ENVIRONMENT"



Dan Patterson who spent from 15 to 20 years assembling 2,000 empty milk cans into the structure pictured here, little dreamed that someday it would win a prize in a world-wide contest. It was awarded second prize in the show which attracted 750 entries from 20 countries. Each country showed from 20 to 30 exhibits, while Canada entered only this one exhibit.