

TAYLOR FAMILY

ARCHIBALD TAYLOR  
born 1788, died 1870

MARY McBRIDE  
born 1794, died 1864

JOHN, ANGUS, NEIL, DUNCAN, DANIEL,

born in Scotland

EUPHEMIA, GILBERT, ARCHIBALD

born in Canada

This branch of the Taylor family are the descendants of Archibald Taylor, son of Angus and Martha Taylor, and Mary McBride. They were both born and brought up in Skipness, Kintyre, in Argyleshire, Scotland.

He worked as a fisherman here until the Spring of 1831, when they and their family of five boys set sail for Canada, where it was thought there would be better prospects for the growing boys. The eldest at this time was sixteen. They were also accompanied by his mother, a lady about eighty years of age.

The trip across the ocean was a great undertaking in those days. The only means of travelling was by sailing vessel, which was dependent on the wind and weather. In this case the journey took thirteen weeks. Each passenger had to supply his own food, and because it had taken so long to cross, both crew and passengers were on short rations before land was reached. With the forethought of an old sailer, Grandfather had provided an extra barrel of flour, which supplied the needs of his own family and enabled him to share with some of his fellow passengers.

After disembarking at Montreal, they had to make the trip through the lakes to Port Stanley, the nearest landing place to the Talbot Settlement, where his brother, Gilbert, and sister, Mrs. Alexander Love, were living. Here they were met by his brother who had as the only means of conveyance a horse and saddle borrowed from a neighbour to take the family and their belongings a distance of thirty miles to the sister's farm on the Talbot Road and the townline between Dunwich and Aldborough. After borrowing enough money from his brother to pay their passage from Montreal they started on the trail through the woods, the grandmother on the horse with her son Gilbert leading, and the little family following on foot. It would be hard to imagine the feelings of these parents as they trudged through the forest in a new land with nothing to supply the needs of their family. After getting his mother comfortably settled, the brother returned for his sister-in-law and youngest child and brought them to his home. Four weeks after their arrival the only daughter, Euphemia, was born.

After making arrangements for the oldest boys to do chores on the neighbouring farms and go to school, the father left them and walked through the woods to Hamilton. Here he obtained a job using a whip saw in the lumber yard where his brother Neil worked. The logs were rolled out on an elevated tramway. One man stood above and the other beneath and the logs were cut with a saw similar to a crosscut saw. The timber thus sawn was used in building boats.

In the Spring of 1832, with the money earned in this way, he returned to his family and after making the first payment he received the title to settle on the Taylor homestead, Lot 14, Concession 11, Yarmouth township.

The nearest they could bring their belongings by either horses or oxen was a point where the first overhead bridge east of St. Thomas, on the Talbot Road, is now situated. From there they had to be carried. A small log cabin was built on the south-west corner of the lot and the clearing of the land was started. On this farm the two youngest sons were born.

Although the work was new, by perseverance, he and his sons gradually cleared the land and raised crops of wheat and corn. In a few years they were able to take up farms in South Dorchester for four of the boys who cleared their farms and built homes for their wives and families. Later the others settled on farms in Yarmouth, Dorchester and Westminster.

1. John, the oldest son, settled on the south half of lot 20, concession 9, of South Dorchester, and married Kate Buchanan. Their children were Archibald, Annabell, William, Nancy and Neil. As his second wife, he married Jane McPhail and their children were Kate, John, Jane, Duncan, Mary and James.

2. Angus married Margaret Smith and settled on the north half of lot 23, concession 9, South Dorchester. Their children were John, Margaret, Archibald, Mary, Colin, Euphemia, Angus, Neil, Kate and Ann.

3. Neil settled on lot 20, concession 8, of South Dorchester, and married Mary Taylor, their children being Archibald, Nancy, Angys, Mary, Flora, Euphemia, John, Neil and Gilbert.

4. Duncan, settled on the north half of lot 14, concession 11, Yarmouth, and married Margaret Campbell. Their children were John, Mary, Nancy, Euphemia, Duncan, Gilbert, Angus, Margaret and Christina.

5. Daniel settled on lot 22, concession 8 of South Dorchester and married Nancy McIntyre. Their children were Archibald, Kate, Duncan, Malcolm, Mary, Euphemia, Daniel, John, Roland, William, James and Russel.

6. Euphemia married Archibald McPhail and their children were Archibald, Mary, Euphemia, Jane, Duncan, Isabela and Margaret.

7. Gilbert married Jane Hyndman and lived on the old homestead. Their children were Archibald, Mary, Duncan, John, Gilbert, Flora, Neil, Margaret and Euphemia.

8. Archibald, who never married, settled on Lot 5, concession 7, Westminster, and later moved to London.

While many incidents might be told of those early days they are common to all the early settlers. Being human these pioneers had their faults and failings. However, they had two good qualities. In the church records their names appear as regular attendants and liberal supporters. In community affairs we find them always ready to give a helping hand. So much is this true that it has been said as they were coming across the fields to a neighbour's bee or raising:--"We can get ready to start now, here comes the Taylor boys." This shows that they were lifters, not leaners.

While possibly the men have figured most prominently in the above history, we must not forget the wives who kept step beside them. It is difficult for us to realize the hardships they endured. It was by dint of hard work and great self-sacrifice that they raised their families, giving them healthy bodies and sound minds.

The farm settled by Archibald Taylor remained in the family until 1942. It was owned by his son Gilbert who married Jane Hyndman, and it was in turn left to his son, Gilbert E. Taylor, who married Edna McIntyre. Ypon his death the farm was sold to Allen Grawburg and is presently owned and occupied by Earl Grawburg. (1967.)

Archibald Taylor and his wife are buried in a little family burying ground on a knoll in the field west of the house.

Taken from the Taylor family history  
Courtesy of Jim Taylor.

# S U P E R S T O R M

1978

It began quietly and without warning in the early morning hours of Thursday, January 26th, 1978.

The preceding evening was mild. At 3 a.m. it was raining heavily and at 5.30 the temperature was still above freezing. The change in the weather was extremely abrupt, and was said to be caused by two low-pressure areas meeting directly above. At 6.30 the rain turned to snow. The wind was rising steadily, and by daybreak was driving the snow before it. By 8 a.m. the temperature had plummeted to - 6 C and the bottom dropped out of the barometer. Weather officials reported that the mercury had never fallen so low in this area since weather records had been kept. The wind was almost due south and howled and shrieked, tearing at everything in its path, reaching hurricane speeds. The London weather office reported wind speeds of 115 kilometres per hour with gusts to 128 km. per hour.

Hydro service failed at 7.05. Some venturesome persons started out to go to work, or on other errands, but the more prudent ones realized that this was the makings of a destructive storm and wisely stayed inside. About this time, barns and other buildings began to disintegrate, losing roofs and upper structures, and in many cases collapsing completely, leaving debris strewn across the countryside. Trees were uprooted, chimneys blown off and roofs and television aerials damaged. The wind continued out of the south all day, blowing the swirling snow before it. Many homes had no heat, as they depended on oil furnaces or electricity for heat. Schools were closed and luckily the storm struck before the school busses were on the roads. Travelling in rural areas was next to impossible, as visibility was zero. There was not much trouble with phone service as lines were underground.

Late in the afternoon, about 4.30, the high winds began to abate a little and changed first to the south-west and then to the west, with gusts to 85 km. per hour and subsided early in the evening. The temperature at 10 a.m. was - 10 C (about 12 F) and fell to a low of - 16 C at night, (near zero), distinctly cold for those without heat, and many went to bed early to keep warm.

Some persons were trapped in their cars but no one in the immediate area covered by this history were killed or injured. However many have stories to tell or hardships suffered in trying to care for livestock, etc. The bird population was decimated as they were unable to find shelter. Hardly any birds have been seen since the storm.

Hydro power was restored in our area at 8.25 a.m. Friday which soon relieved much of the discomfort. The storm was followed by extensive drifting for the next two days with roads and highways closed until the snowplows could complete their work.

The storm affected an area as far west as Windsor and east as far as Kitchener. Most heavily hit were Elgin, Kent, Essex and Middlesex counties, with Elgin, and to a lesser extent, Middlesex receiving the most damage. Lambton, Huron, Perth, Norfolk, and Waterloo counties were affected to varying degrees. Old-timers recalling the blizzard in the winter of 1921-22 and comparing it with the blizzard of Thursday, January 26th, 1971 agreed that this was the worst storm experienced in Elgin County in living memory.

Many homes had snow driven into the attic by the high winds. In this area hardly a farm escaped without some damage. The buildings in our immediate area most seriously damaged were:

S U P E R S T O R M 1978

George Dennis Radio Road Dairy barn, south end of barn and half the roof.  
Clayton Reid Lot 10 North Edgeware Road, barn completely demolished.  
Clayton Reid Lot 10 Conc. 10, south end of barn and most of the roof. Small  
implement shed destroyed.  
Ralph Gooding Lot 7, Conc. 10, east side of barn roof destroyed.  
Keith Davis Lot 15, Conc. 10, small implement shed destroyed and barn roof  
damaged.  
Morris Martin  $N\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 15, Conc. 12, large new implement shed completely  
destroyed.

Churches;

New Sarum Baptist lost nearly all its roof.

Yarmouth Centre United lost over half its roof.

St. James Presbyterian miraculously escaped wind damage, but had snow in the  
attic above the classroom.

The storm was followed during the month of February and early March by cold  
clear weather with little snow accumulation and no high winds. Nature seems to  
have gathered all her forces for that one day in January. Public opinion is that  
no one wants to see another storm like this again.

Mrs. Harold R. Davis  
March 8th, 1978

SUPERSTORM

1978



Clayton Reid's barn  
Edgware Road  
Completely demolished



Clayton Reid's barn and  
implement shed  
10th conc.



Clayton Reid's barn  
10th conc.  
Upper structure and roof  
damaged.



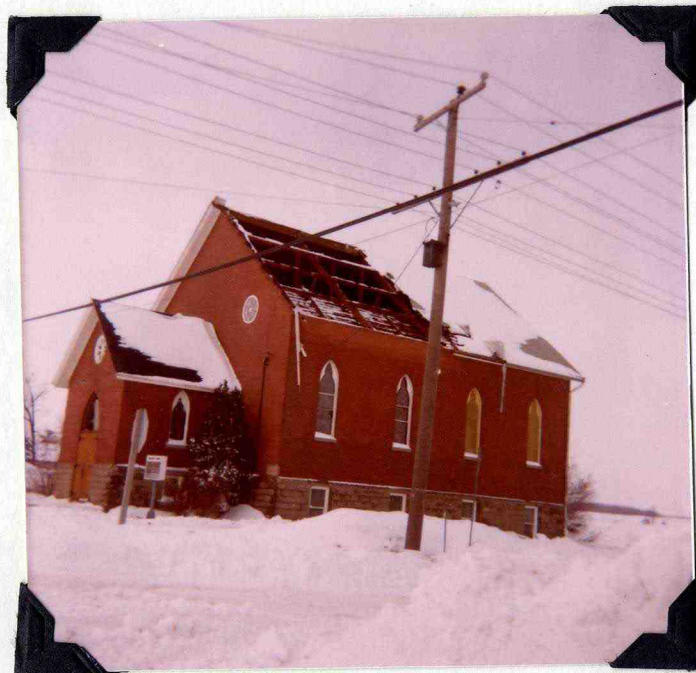
Ralph Gooding's barn  
10th conc.  
Roof damaged

SUPERSTORM

1978



New Sarum Baptist Church



Yarmouth Centre United Church

Pictures on these two pages supplied by  
Mrs. Clayton Reid