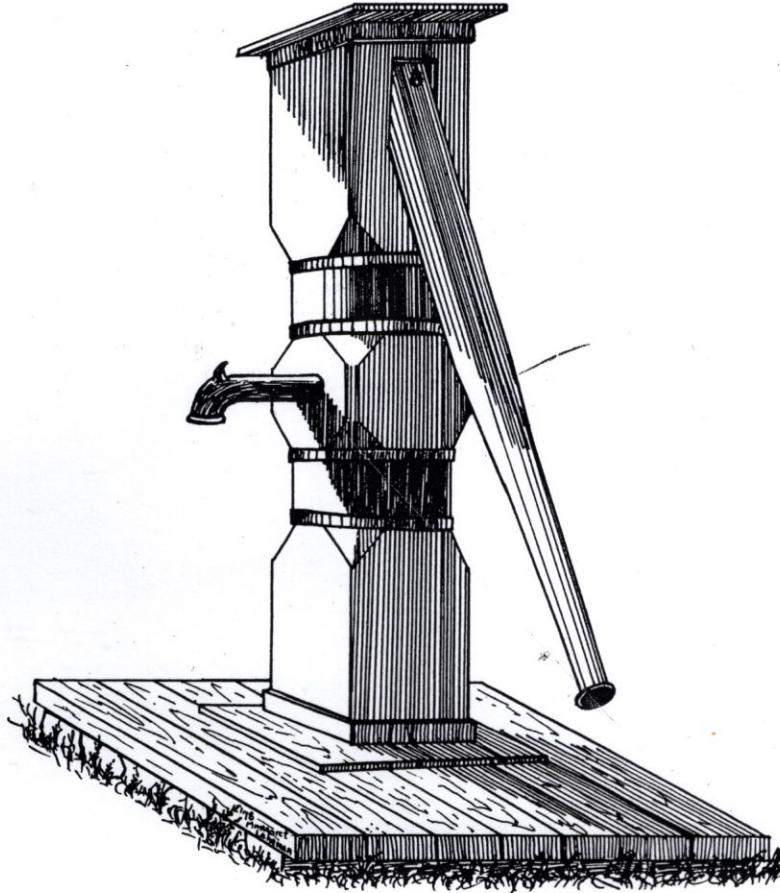


# Kith 'N Kin

Compiled and Edited by

JOANNA McEWEN *McEwan*

MCMLXXVIII



REMINISCENCES, BIOGRAPHIES, GENEALOGIES, PHOTOGRAPHS

featuring Oro Township Pioneer Families

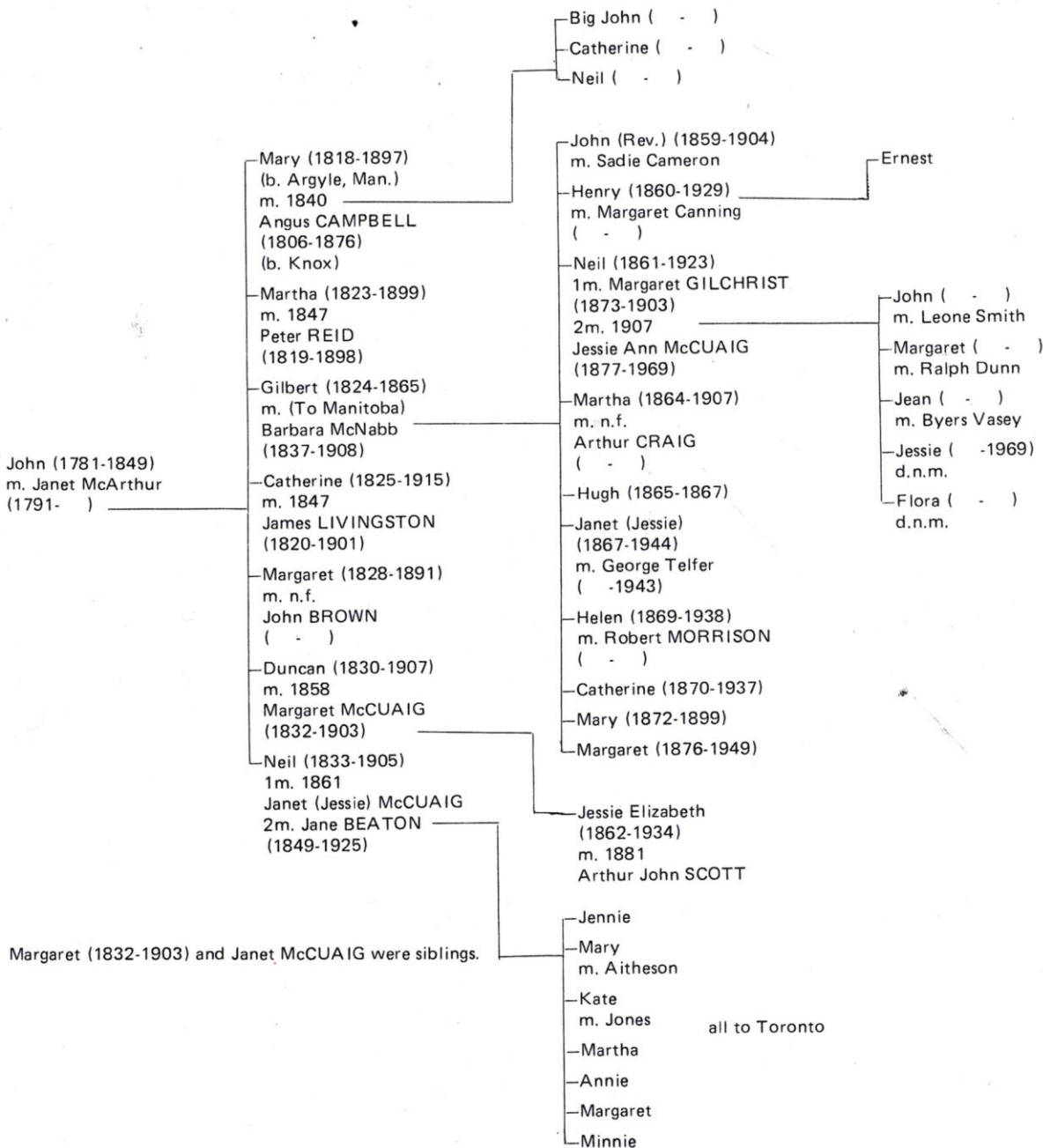


John and Janet and their family emigrated to Canada from Islay Scotland c1840's. John had been a tailor in Port Ellen, but seemingly had little chance to use his trade here, dying soon after arrival. He is buried at Knox. Their eldest daughter married into another pioneer family, CAMPBELL. Most of their children went west.

In 1882 Neil (Campbell) sold the farm at 10-4 to Henry Gilchrist and he and his widowed mother went west to join the rest.

Gilbert homesteaded on S½ 19-3, but died as a young man. His widow and her children went to Manitoba. Of Duncan and Margaret's (McCuaig) family, Neil remained on the home farm (N½ 21-3) and in 1925 the property was sold to Mason Wright.

The youngest son of John and Janet, Neil, homesteaded at N½ 19-3 Oro. Many of the members of this family are buried at Knox or Guthrie.



John (1781-1849)  
m. Janet McArthur  
(1791- )

Margaret (1832-1903) and Janet McCUAIG were siblings.

all to Toronto



John McArthur Family. Standing L.R.: Daniel, Grace, Alex, Mary.  
Seated: Lillian, Jessie, Catherine, Mrs. John McArthur (Martha Emery), Jenny, John McArthur (father), Annie

## McARTHURS

Clan Chief—McArth of Tirracladdich

Clan Seat—Tirracladdich of Lockawe Argyle

Slogan—Eisd O'Eisd

Clan Plant—Myrtle

Tartan—Green with broad and narrow green stripes

One of the oldest clans in Scottish history, The Highlanders used the Axiom "There is nothing older, unless the hills, the McArthurs, and the Devil."

They are believed to be descended from King Arthur and the Round Table. About 1400 the Clan was the greatest in all Scotland.

King James I of Scotland, executed the Chief of the McArthur Clan as an example to the rest of the Clan Chiefs.

Then, the McArthur clan fortunes began to wane rapidly and they became a broken clan, joining with the Campbells and moved to Proaig on the Island of Islay. Between 1750 and 1880 the Clan suffered economic depression. They found these conditions intolerable—and they migrated to England, Ireland and the New World.

They sailed on the Armada known as, "The White Sails", which plied the Atlantic, and settled in the Carolinas, Antigonish, Pictou and Upper Canada.

Alexander married Elizabeth Johnston, emigrated to Canada 1856, settled on 5th conc. of Oro Township.

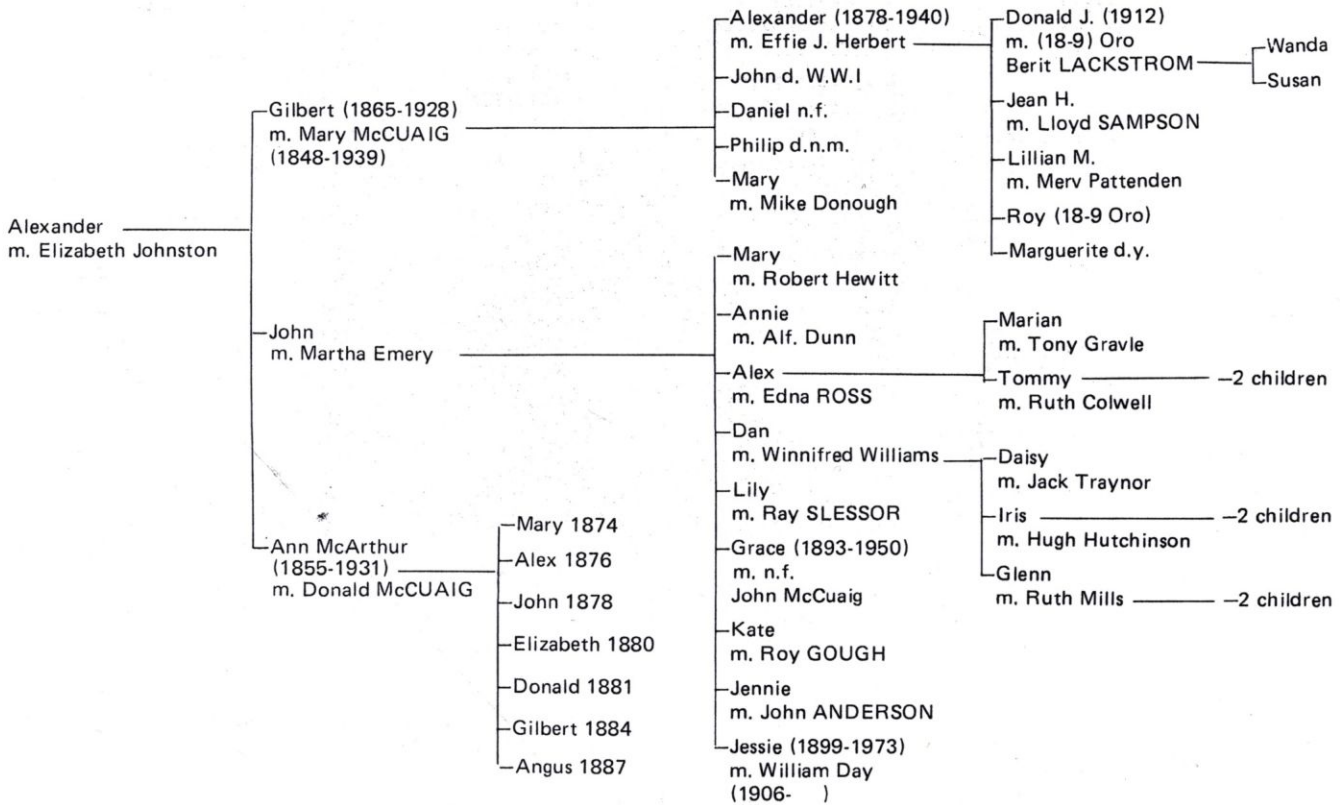
John McArthur was a son of Scottish ancestors. There were three children in the

family. John married Martha Emery of Craighurst; Gilbert, and Ann who married Donald McCuaig.

John and Martha lived on lot 10W½, conc. 7 where a family of 9 were raised.



Mrs. Donald McCuaig (nee Anne McArthur)



**McARTHUR FAMILY**

Hugh McArthur was born at Bowmore, Islay, Scotland, and was buried at Knox, Oro. He married Flora McCuaig who was born on Islay and is also buried at Knox. They were married in Scotland and had seven children when they left for Canada in 1840. Another son was born in Canada. They settled in Oro Township at 13-5. Flora died while living with her son Peter at 1-3 Medonte, where Medonte Mountain ski resort is located. "John A. Woodrow told me a few years ago that he remembered attending her funeral with his father. The casket was drawn in a wagon and it was a very hot August day. My father, John A. Dunlop, used to tell about visiting the home at 1-3 Medonte. His great grandmother was confined to her bed and was blind. She could only talk in Gaelic and she smoked a pipe." Mrs. Clinton (Ethel Dunlop) Fagan.

Duncan moved to a farm on 2-8 Oro, which had been left to Christina by her father in 1845. They built a log house with a large fireplace, a log barn and a log stable. Christina and Duncan were buried at Knox. They left their farm to

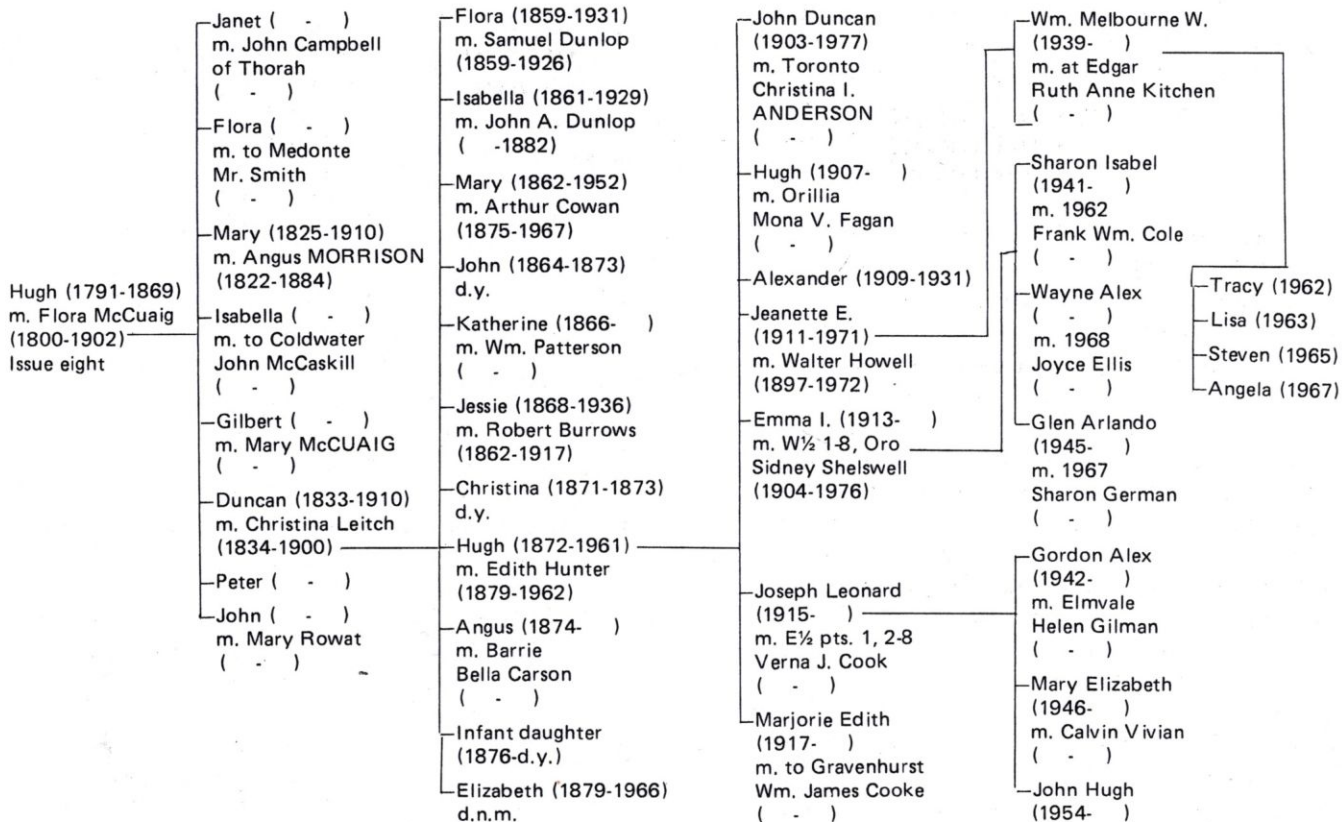
son Hugh. He bought the adjoining 100 acres when he was married. They built a new house and a large barn on their new property at 1-8 Oro. Leonard and his wife Verna live on the homestead at 2-8, Oro.



Duncan McArthur



Mrs. Duncan McArthur



Mrs. Hugh (Flora McCuaig) McArthur,  
sister to Henry, Janet, Anne



Daughters of Duncan McArthur and Christina (Leitch): Flora,  
Katherine, Isabella

On the title page of her excellent book "Highland Heritage" Grace Campbell has had printed the old Gaelic saying "Curmhnich air na daoine o'nd' haenig thu"—"Remember the men from whom you are sprung". To follow this advice it is well for us to write down what we can before we forget.

All immigrants who came after 1829 had to buy their lands from such land dealers as the Canada Co. at prices which must have seemed to them outrageous. They also had to buy their seed, food, stock, etc.

If the price of land seemed great, the amount of land 100 acres or 50 acres must have been stupendous, to them who had been raised on the produce of "lazy beds" in the glens of the Scottish Highlands. The rectangular pieces of land often would be no more than an acre in area. These crofters made some of their living from the sea and took the seaweed for fertilizer for their "lazy beds". They were endowed with a great deal of courage and determination to launch out on the uncharted ocean to make things better for themselves and their descendants in the New World.

Three months seems to be the time required for each sailboat to cross the Atlantic. Some landed at Quebec, others at Montreal. There must have been considerable communication between Upper Canada and the homeland for so many from Islay, Scotland, to have settled in Oro Township.

Two different groups of McArthurs came to Oro who claimed no relationship, but away back all were supposed to be descendants of three McArthur brothers who were sent from the mainland to build a lighthouse at McArthur's Head on the east side of the island. They took land for wages. Even then there had been McArthurs on the island for years.

John McArthur and Wm. McLarty came out together from Tormisdale (no longer on the map), Islay in 1842. They seem to have worked around before finally buying land. The area on the 7th and 8th conc. where the McArthurs bought was part of the twelve hundred acres given as a grant to Captain Malcom Ross. A Wm. Roe, from Whitchurch, presumably a land speculator, bought E½ 22-7 for 25 pounds in 1838 and sold to John for 80 pounds in 1850. Peter came out about 1851. In 1854 he bought W½ 22-8, for 125 pounds. Two brothers, Donald and James, appear to have come out a number of years later. John sold the S. E. ¼ of his property to his brother Donald in the 1850's, and Peter to

his brother James S. W. ¼, about the same time.

They cleared the land and found the soil to be good. They built their barns and houses from the logs of the trees they felled. Stones, pine roots, and rails they split from cedar trees formed fences for the property and fields. Much of their furniture was built by themselves or relatives who were craftsmen. The women spun the wool, from the sheep they kept, into yarn. It was knit into socks and stockings. Some was taken to Jas. Reeve, the weaver at Oro Station to be woven into cloth and blankets. Some of these blankets are in use in our homes yet. Tailor McIntyre made up some of the men's clothing. I remember an iron of his we used as a door stop. We know the women made their own under garments, dresses and coats for their children and themselves. In the spring great quantities of sap was boiled for the year's supply of syrup and sugar. Later a travelling nursery man sold them apple trees to plant orchards. These remained in production for a good many years. In fact there are a number to be seen yet. Our relatives excelled in many forms of needle work to adorn themselves and their homes. Many fancy quilts and fancier quilting were made, at first interlined with wool that was carded for the purpose. Other material was cut into strips to be woven into carpets to help keep the floors warm or hooked into mats. I recall a super carpet of red and some other colours of yarn woven together.

Logs were cut in the bush for lumber to replace the log houses and barns. Wm. and Jack by this time had gained experience as carpenters. The barn and house on the N. E. ¼ 22 were built before 1898. On the S. E. ¼ 22 the barn was built around 1903 and the house 1911.

John McArthur's farm remained in the family name until the death of Alex, when it was sold to Wallace Gilchrist in 1926. Donald's was operated by John A. his son and finally sold in 1965. Peter's farm was sold in 1899 or 1900. James' property was taken over by his son John J. It was sold in 1915 to Archie A. He sold it in 1941 to Mel Crawford.

Alex McArthur became a councillor from 1907-1912. He was deputy-reeve 1914 and 1915 and reeve 1918-1920. He was reeve when he met the men from the department of highways to finalize the direction No. 11 would take. He was foreman from conc. 6 to 11 when the gravel was put on in 1921. He served as President of Oro's World's Fair 1917-1918.

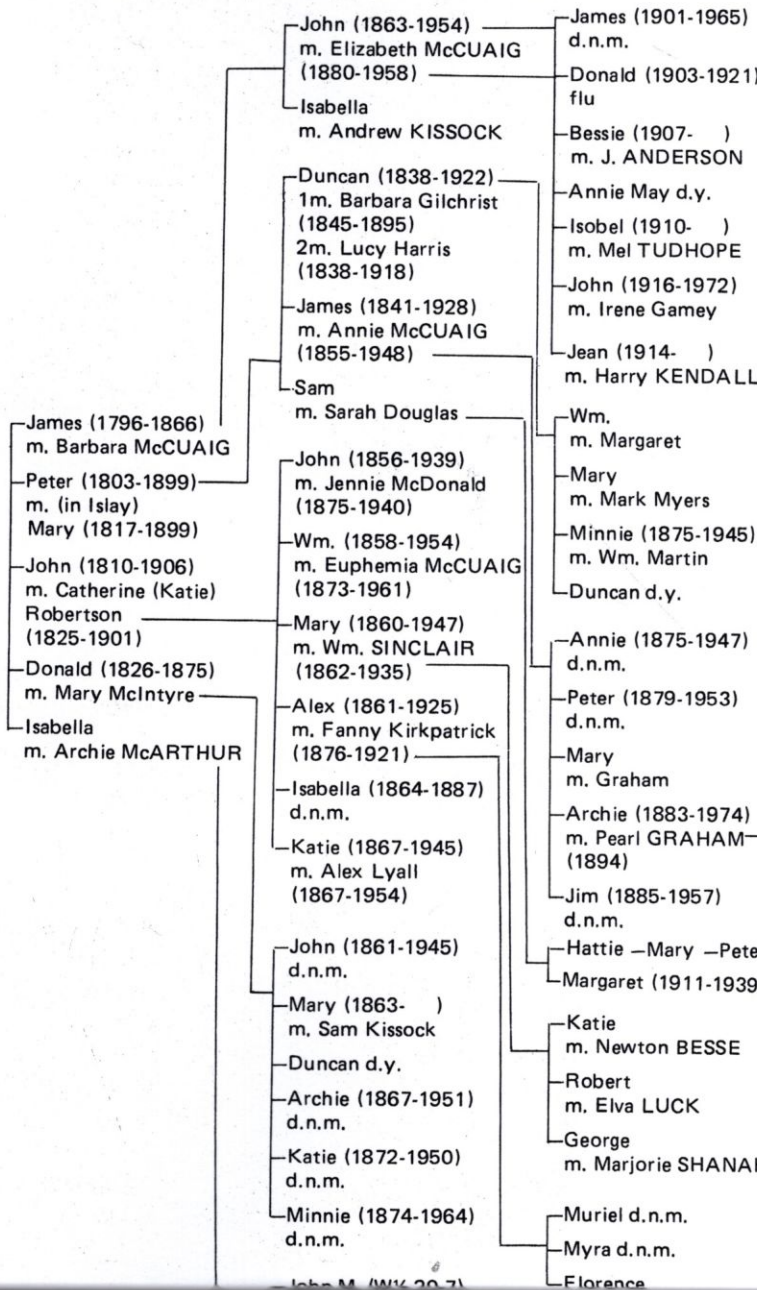
Wm. was a carpenter. He with his brother John built barns. Later he built houses. We can count 13 houses at least and two barns. We think there were more. He tried to have one house a year. From 1907-1934, he was assessor for Oro Township. He drove in winter with horse and cutter to visit the homes of the township. He was an elder in Central Church over 50 years. His marriage to Euphemia McCuaig was the first in Central Church in 1903.

However arduous the work of clearing land, putting up buildings, fencing and a hundred

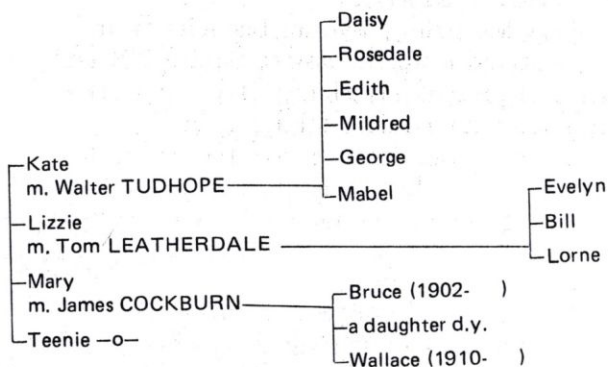
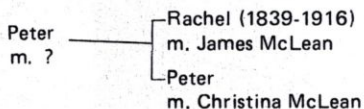
other jobs, the pioneers did not neglect their spiritual growth. The McArthurs walked the six miles for divine worship to Knox Church. At first services were in their native tongue—Gaelic. Not only that, the Gaelic Bible was well used at home, as can be seen by looking through it and seeing how the New Testament is well thumbed, especially the Book of John and the Psalms from the Old Testament.

What I have said about the McArthur brothers from Tormisdale on the Rhinns of Islay could be said about thousands of others who lived up to the McArthur motto "Fide et Opera" "Faith and Work". So I say to them and all their fellow pioneers in Oro "Bless you" "Beannachd Leibh".

Mrs. Newton (Katie Sinclair) Besse



Very little conclusive information was handed in on this very old Oro family. A Peter was listed at N. E. ¼ lot 6-10 before 1837. His dates may be 1788-1866. There were several Dan's unaccounted for as well.



McCUAIG (Pt. E. 15-4)

Duncan B. McCuaig and his sister, Margaret, emigrated to Canada from Port Glasgow, Scotland, around 1852. Their parents were Peter McCuaig, a carpenter, and his wife, Janet "Jessie" Walker, both of whom died of plague.

The following was copied from the Duncan McCuaig-Flora McNabb Family Bible: "Peter McCuaig, carpenter, Port Glasgow, Scotland, and Janet Walker, his spouse, had a lawful son, born October 16, 1830, and baptized the 23rd, called Duncan. Extracted from the Parish Records of Births and Baptisms. Wrote at Port Glasgow this 30th day of June 1852 by me, William Smith, Session Clerk."

Margaret, the eldest, married John Cameron,

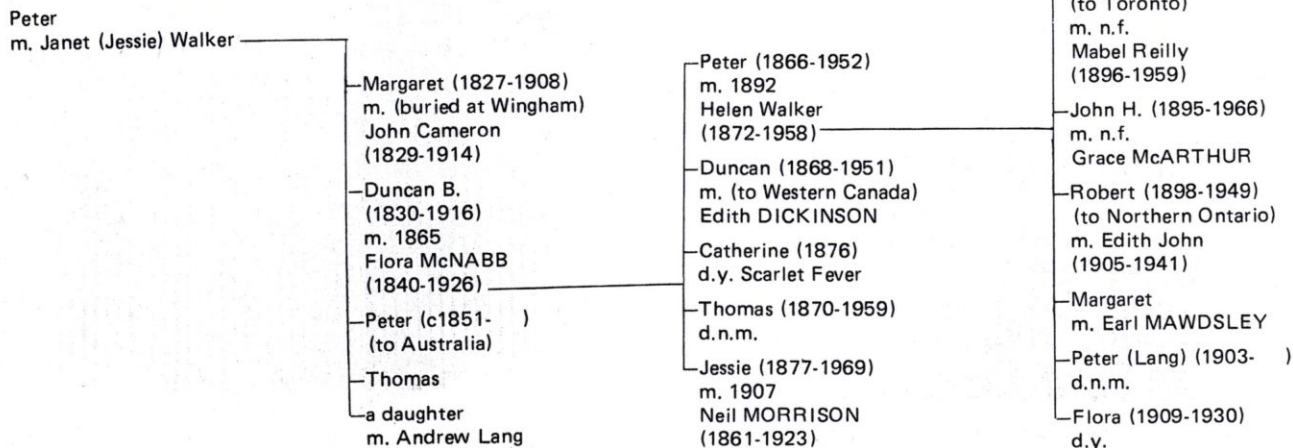
of Wingham, Ontario. All their family were born there.

Duncan was married to Flora who was born at Jarratt, Ontario. Both are buried in Guthrie Cemetery, Oro.

Duncan and Flora farmed on Concession 4, Oro, about two miles south of Edgar.

Peter and Helen are both buried in Knox Cemetery, Oro. Their family consisted of Duncan, who lived in Toronto; John farmed in Oro; Robert went to Northern Ontario; Margaret married Earl Mawdsley and moved to Gravenhurst; Lang lives on the home farm, not far from the Oro Fair Grounds. A daughter, Flora, died at age 20. All four sons were overseas in the first war.

Duncan 'Ban'—so named for his fairness. 'Ban' being Gaelic for fair.





Duncan (1868-1951) lived in Western Canada. Thomas (1870-1959) stayed on the home farm on Conc. 4, Oro, until after his mother died, at which time he moved to Barrie to live with his sister, Jessie. The farm was purchased by

Ernest Campbell and later by the Livingston family.

Jessie married Neil Morrison who farmed N. E. 21-3, Oro. After Neil's death, Jessie and her family moved to Barrie.



Peter McCuaig family. F.R.L.R.: Margaret McCuaig, Mrs. Peter McCuaig (Helen Walker), Mr. Peter McCuaig, Flora McCuaig. B.R.L.R.: Robert McCuaig, John McCuaig, Duncan McCuaig, absent Lang McCuaig



## McCUAIG

In 1856 a property consisted of 100 acres assessed to Angus McCuaig (W $\frac{1}{2}$  15-5).

His son Duncan married Janet Gilchrist in 1855. She was also of Highland Scottish ancestors and came to Oro in 1850 with her parents at 20 years of age.

The first house was of log, built north east of the present house presently owned by Roy Pilkey.

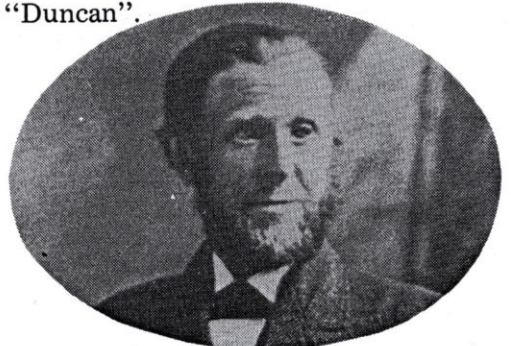
In 1887, the present house was built (for the McCuaigs) by Tom Gray.

Mr. Duncan McCuaig had the misfortune to have a tree fall on him causing head injuries which resulted in paralysis of his left arm. However, with the help of his faithful wife they cleared their land and he is said to have been one of the quickest men with the sickle in the neighbourhood. Mrs. McCuaig used to go with him to help neighbours in order to get the help needed in return.

Wheat was carried to Bradford to have

it ground into flour. They raised sheep from which wool was spun into yarn for family needs. The yarn was taken to Mr. Reeve of Oro Station or to Mr. McQueeney of Knox for weaving. Her spinning wheel is in a local home at time of writing.

Janet McCuaig was one of the characters in Marion Keith's "Duncan Polite" while Duncan McCuaig across the road is said to have been "Duncan".



Duncan B. McCuaig (1830-1916)

## EXHIBITED AT FAIRS FOR HALF A CENTURY

—Janet (Gilchrist) McCuaig

Mrs. Duncan McCuaig, whose body was laid to rest in Guthrie cemetery last week, was the oldest exhibitor at the agricultural fairs of this district, her entries covering a period of some fifty years.

Mrs. McCuaig was an extraordinary person in activity and ambition in the direction of bringing the everyday food and garment to a superior quality. Her special activity was along the line of exhibiting her own handiwork, her own production of farm material, at the annual fairs in the county. She was of a retiring disposition, modest in effort, yet insistent in her quiet way that the superior thing justifies its existence. That her exhibits were superior was borne out by the prizes they were awarded.

From the inception of fairs in Oro Township, Mrs. McCuaig was an exhibitor. Elmvale, Barrie and Orillia fairs were other scenes where her exhibits were familiar. Cooked fowl of all kinds, roasted to a turn, quilts, flannels, homemade cheese and butter were her chief exhibits. She rolled the butter herself and until two seasons ago she exhibited her products in person. She was awarded many special prizes, as well as the ordinary, and took a keen interest in competitors' work as well as her own, always with the idea uppermost of producing the purest food possible.

Her personality won for her many friends. Quiet, retiring, sincere, might describe her attitude either at home or elsewhere.

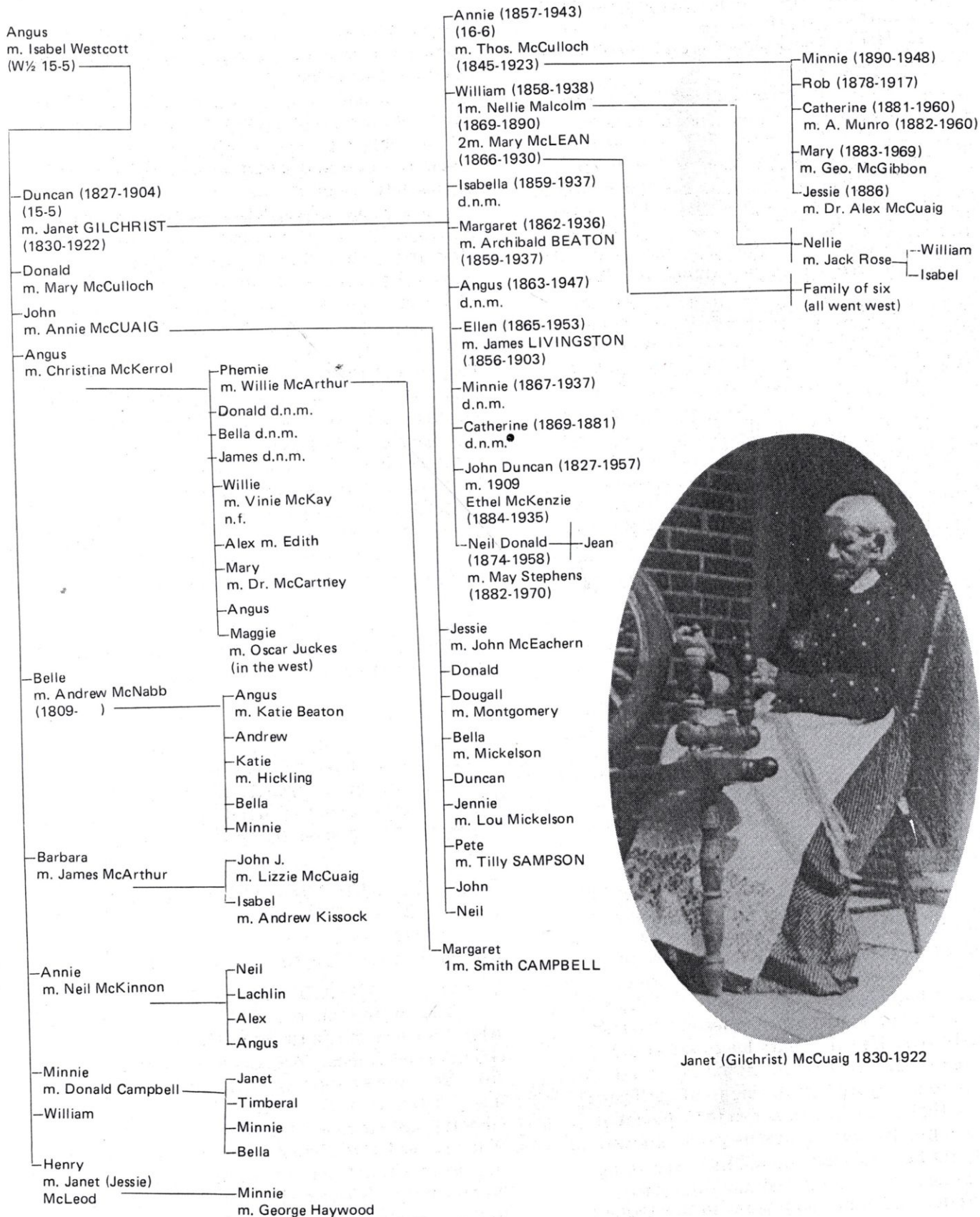
In the hills of Islay, Scotland, Janet Gilchrist was born ninety-two years ago, one of a family of thirteen children. About 1850 the family emigrated to Canada, locating among the Highland Scotch settlement of Oro.

At the age of 25, Janet Gilchrist was married in Oro to Duncan McCuaig, also from the Scottish Highlands. They cleared their own land and launched out in the adventure of life. Mr. McCuaig passed away about eighteen years ago.

Eleven years ago, at the age of 81, Mrs. McCuaig visited her two sons in Portage La Prairie. Her smartness on the train, absence of fatigue on the journey, surprised her family. That may be understood when it is stated that in her long life Mrs. McCuaig never had need for a medical doctor. She had a custom of overcoming little complaints by a spirit of determination that she was superior to the complaint—that was the Islay spirit from faraway, bonny Scotland. Her life was one of great usefulness and her achievements in the simple arts and homely things which after all count so much in making life really worth while are surely worthy of consideration and emulation in these days of rush and artificialities.



F.R.: Jessie or Janet (Gilchrist) McCuaig. B.R.L.R.: Angus McCuaig, Ethel (McKenzie) McCuaig, Annie (McCuaig) McCulloch, John McCuaig, Ellen (McCuaig) Livingston. Background L. Minnie McCuaig, R. Bella McCuaig. W½ lot 15, Conc. 5, Oro. c. 1915



Janet (Gilchrist) McCuaig 1830-1922

These notes concerning Henry and his family are taken from "Genealogy of Henry McCuaig and his wife Janet (Jessie) Calder", compiled by Mrs. Douglas Arthur Bird.

"This is the genealogy of Henry McCuaig and Janet Calder (1799- ) who came to Oro Township, Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada, from the Isle of Islay, Argyleshire, Scotland in 1857. Henry McCuaig had three sisters who immigrated to Oro: Janet McCuaig, wife of John Campbell in 1831; Ann McCuaig, wife of John Gilchrist; Flora McCuaig, wife of Hugh McArthur; and one brother Duncan who remained in Islay. These names were obtained from the first of a series of articles 'THE CAMPBELLS OF ORO' by Norman M. Campbell which appeared in the Barrie Examiner. This particular article was in Wednesday, May 31, 1956 issue. According to page 113 of the book 'JOHN RAMSEY OF KILDALTON' by Freda Ramsey and published by Peter Martin Associates Ltd., 17 Inkerman St., Toronto 5, in 1969, Henry had another brother Alexander who remained in Islay." A great deal of information has been collected re the descendants of Janet, Ann and Flora McCuaig, and it is hoped that these also may be in printed form in the not too distant future.

"Although Henry and Janet came out with their family in 1857, I would like to point out that their eldest daughter, Helen, known as Ellen, and her husband, Archibald Gilchrist of Craigabus, Islay, came to Oro in 1855 when their son Ronald was 2½ years and Henry was 9 months old."

#### HENRY McCUAIG AND JANET CALDER

Born in Argyleshire, Scotland, they emigrated to Canada with their family when he was 60 years old. They settled on the W½ of Lot 19, Conc. 4, Oro. Here is an anecdote from Norman Campbell: "Henry McCuaig had a talent for composing songs. One day as he was flailing his grain in Islay, Scotland, a young man came to him in great distress of mind. His face was red as a cherry. I think he must have had a temperature of 110 degrees. He had a double dose of that dreaded disease called Love. He told Henry his troubles and offered to flail his grain for him if he would compose a song for him to sing to his girlfriend, a song that would charm her so that she could not say no. Henry told him he would do just that, but he would have to tell him everything charming about this girl and his feelings towards her. After he complied with this request,

Henry handed him the flail. Time being no object he went to work on the song which turned out to be a masterpiece. It had 12 verses and a chorus. Dr. William Gilchrist, who was a grandson of Henry had the song written in Gaelic and it is on record and in safekeeping in the Gaelic Society in Toronto." (CAMPBELL'S OF ORO, by Norman Campbell) So far the author has not been able to follow this up. According to reports he was known both in the old country and new for his universal kindness of heart and his many exemplary deeds. In 1878 the W½, Lot 19, Conc. 4, was divided—his son William remained on the N½ with his father and mother and his son John received the S½, Lot 19, Conc. 4.

#### PETER McCUAIG

"The three eldest of the family, Peter, Helen, and Margaret were born before the Parish of Oa was made a distinct parish and were therefore registered in the Register Book of Births for the Parish of Kildalton, which book is now transmitted to Edinburgh, but the dates of their births are as declared by their father." (Copied from a document in George McCuaig's scrapbook) So far no further information has been uncovered,

#### JESSIE McCUAIG AND NEIL MORRISON

She was born in Islay. They were farmers in Oro. He later married Jane Beaton.

#### JESSIE MORRISON AND ARTHUR SCOTT

He was a blacksmith and built many of the fire escapes for large buildings in Toronto. Later he built a number of houses. He was a skilled violinist, wrote poetry as a hobby and was also a gifted public speaker and leader in the Baptist Church.

#### JOHN McCUAIG AND ANNIE McNABB: AND MARY GILCHRIST

He was born in Islay. He was a farmer in Oro on the S½ of Lot 19, Conc. 3.

#### HUGH McCUAIG AND FLORA McCUAIG

They were farmers in Oro. He was born in Islay. She was the daughter of Catherine Gilchrist and Duncan McCuaig of Beaverton. The story of how he happened to marry Flora has many different versions. According to Edna Gilchrist she overheard her Uncle John and Uncle Will and her father Henry Gilchrist saying that the girl to whom Hugh was engaged went back on him and he felt so badly that his brother George told him about a nice girl near Beaverton. So

they went up. In a week's time (not one day) he married her and brought her home with him. According to Norman Campbell's story it was one day. Hugh's story reveals his attitude toward the situation. He said that upon his return from working at a logging camp that he learned some disappointing news—the girl he was engaged to had jilted him. He said, "I got married that summer anyway".

Evidently Hugh was a great story teller. He would talk of his early life in Islay and whenever his daughter-in-law Jennie happened to be alone he would talk about Grandma McCuaig, especially of those first weeks of her illness while she was still with them. He was always so cheerful and patient to the end and it reminded Jennie of Wordsworth's "Patient endurance is Godlike".

According to the tombstone, he was born on the 19th, but the document from George's scrapbook (mentioned under Peter) gives the day as the 29th.

#### HENRY McCUAIG AND MARY GRAHAM

They were farmers in Oro. At the time of writing Mary is in a Nursing Home in Barrie, age 84.

#### DUNCAN McCUAIG AND LILLY WEARING

They were farmers in Oro. He farmed with his brother Henry for a number of years.

#### JESSIE McCUAIG AND ROBERT REID

They were farmers in Oro.

#### KATE McCUAIG AND JIM BRYSON

No information is available.

#### DUNCAN McCUAIG AND JEAN LENNOX

He was born in Oro, Ontario. He went to Rathdrum, Idaho, U.S.A. in 1904, residing near Twin Lakes, engaging in woodwork there and later in sawmill work at Kettle Falls, near Colville, Washington. His employment was that of millwright and scaler. His sister Belle stayed with him in Idaho from the time of his wife Jean's death until his passing.

#### GEORGE McCUAIG AND HANNAH THOMPSON

He was born in Oro. They were farmers near Midhurst, Ontario.

#### REV. HUGH McCUAIG AND JENNIE ANGLIN

He graduated in Arts (B. A.) and Theology, Queens University. His wife Jennie also had a B. A. from Queens. She has contributed greatly to the writing of this family tree.

#### BELLE McCUAIG

She lived most of her life on the farm and cared for her aged parents until they died. Later she helped Dr. and Mrs. Neil Campbell in Barrie much like the Red Cross Homemaker of today. I don't know whether she considered herself a housekeeper or not, but that was her only occupation. She stayed with her brother Duncan in Idaho when his wife died. At the time of his death she returned to Barrie, living retired in an apartment, finally going to Sunset Lodge in Orillia. Here she was close to her nephew and his wife, Rev. Allan and Elizabeth McCuaig who were a great comfort to her.

#### HARRY McCUAIG AND BESSIE

He was a retired B. C. Government employee, a member of Royal Oak O.A.P., West Burnaby United Church, A.O.T.S. and Vancouver Pioneer's Association.

#### WILLIAM McCUAIG AND MARY FLETCHER

He was born in Islay, Scotland. William remained on the N½ of his father's farm with his father and mother. He later bought the N. W. ½ of Lot 19, Conc. 3 which had been settled by Neil Morrison.

#### HENRY McCUAIG AND ANNIE McKAY

They were farmers in Oro. He farmed on his father's farm and later retired in Hawkestone.

#### DR. ALEX McCUAIG AND JESSIE McCULLOCH

He received his D.D.S. from the Toronto Dental College. He practised dentistry in Peterborough. His wife Jessie McCulloch was a public school teacher.

#### DUNCAN McCUAIG AND LAURA WILSON

He received his B. A. from the University of Toronto and was a graduate of Osgoode Hall. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 1920. He practised law in Barrie. Duncan was the Federal Member of Parliament representative for Simcoe North from 1935-1945. He was the first liberal to win the riding since 1904 when a liberal won with a majority of 41. No other liberals have held the riding since 1874. While in Barrie he held various positions: alderman, reeve, mayor (1928-1931), and was past master of the Scottish Rite and 32 degree Mason. He also was Judge of Elgin County from 1947 to his death in 1950. His wife Laura moved back to Barrie from St. Thomas in 1961. She was a graduate of the Faculty of Education.

**JESSIE McCUAIG AND ERNEST LOVE**

They were farmers in Oro. Jessie lived on Highway 11 just north of Guthrie Church.

**MARY McCUAIG**

She was born in Islay. She was the cook at Colonel Hendry's home in Hamilton. She had a number of helpers. Relatives from Oro used to travel from Toronto by way of steam ship or the old street car which ran regularly to Hamilton to visit her. She would greet them with a real Scotch accent.

**HENRY McCUAIG**

He was born in Islay and died at an early age.

**GEORGE McCUAIG AND SARAH CAMPBELL**

He was born in Islay, Scotland. He went to Winnipeg in 1881, then to Vancouver in 1892 where he managed a dry-goods store for three years. After this he went to Africa where he lived for four years. In 1899 he returned to Vancouver, entering business as an auctioneer and commission merchant. He was a member of a military corps at Medicine Hat during the Riel Rebellion of 1885. He obtained an autograph of Riel, and this historic souvenir is now in Vancouver Public Library. He was a member of old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He was an active member of Mount Hermon Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

According to Jennie McCuaig, George was THE FAMILY HISTORIAN and as she said, "We could have learned so much from Uncle George about the various clans and relatives in Scotland, had we only been alert enough to ask. Though the youngest in his family he was the one who kept in touch with the relatives everywhere." He kept a scrapbook which his nephew Harry McCuaig has which has been very helpful in compiling this family tree.

According to Jennie McCuaig "Uncle George knew Lachlan McCuaig, George's first cousin, who ran a hotel and golf course at Port Ellen, and his two sisters, but none of them were married. They had a brother, Rev. Angus McCuaig of Jura, Islay. Perhaps he too was a bachelor. George last visited Islay around 1912 at which time he visited the following cemeteries: Kilnaughton, Kildalton, Port Ellen, Stremnishmore, Port Asabash, Imrimhal, Big Strand and Bolana Amhagh. He gathered leaves and flowers from these graveyards,

pressed and pasted them in his scrapbook."

Sarah was the eldest daughter of R. Campbell of Vancouver. She had three brothers: Rod Jr., Kenneth and Edward and two sisters: Mary and Hattie.

**GORDON McCUAIG AND MARJORIE BEAUMONT**

Gordon, the only child, died in a tragic car accident in 1936. A number of other people had met their deaths on the same bridge. Marjorie re-married.

**HARRY McCUAIG AND BESSIE**

He was a retired B. C. Government employee, a member of Royal Oak O.A.P., West Burnaby United Church, A.O.T.S. and Vancouver Pioneer's Association

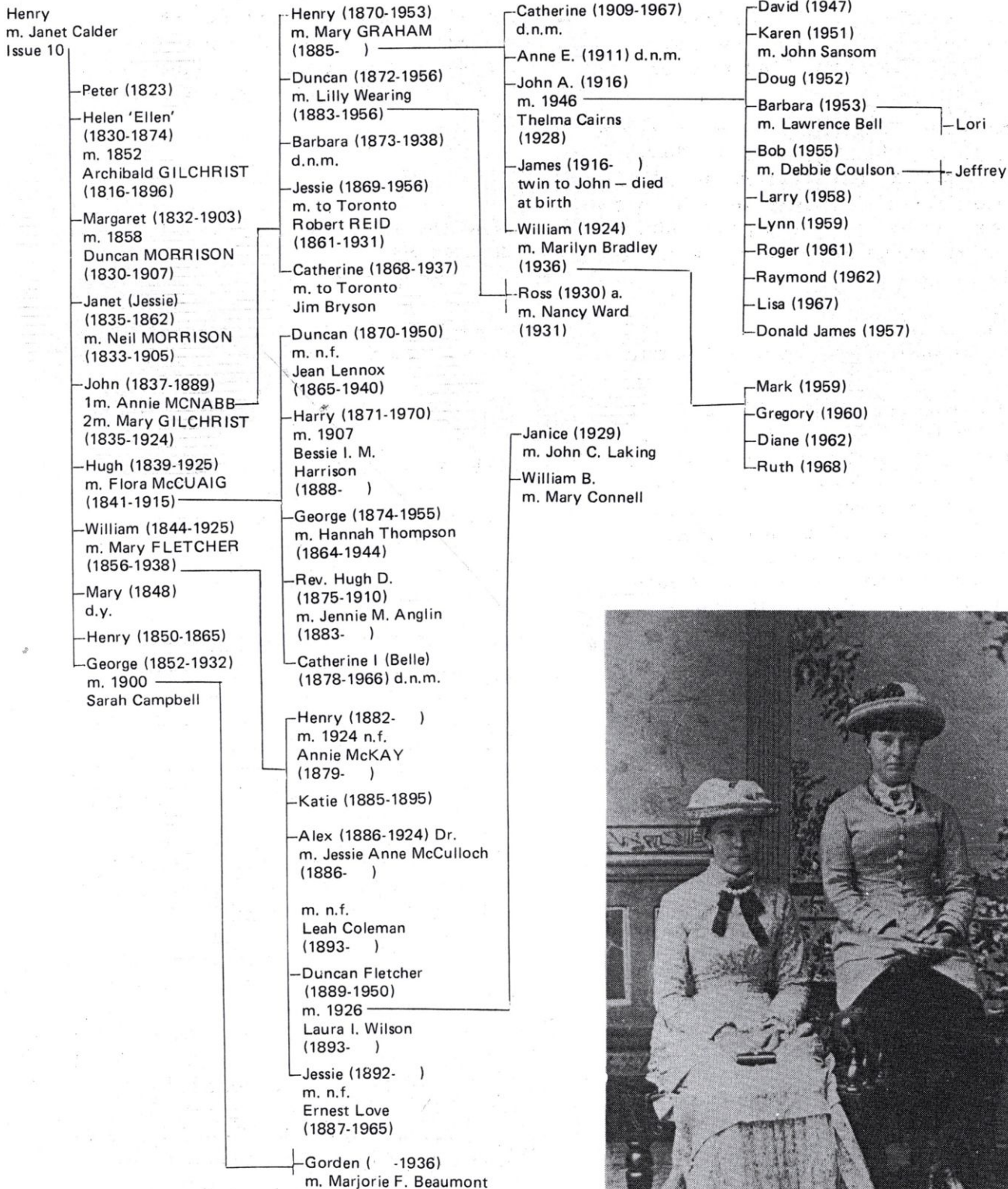
**FURTHER NOTES**

John (1837-1889) came to Canada in 1857 from Islay and settled on Crown land—S.W.¼ 19-4. All his five children were born to he and his first wife. His farm was left to his two sons. They farmed together until 1943 when Duncan's share was acquired by John A., son of Henry. John A. has owned this farm since 1953.

Gilbert MORRISON farmed S½ 19-3 until 1872 when the property was taken over by John MORRISON. In 1895 it was purchased by Henry and Duncan McCuaig, and John moved his family to Argyle, Manitoba. Then in 1943 Duncan's share was purchased by John A.

William McCuaig (1844-1925) also came to Oro in 1857. He settled on N.W.¼ 19-4. His son, Henry, took over this property and in 1953 Wm. G. purchased this land.

N½ 19-3 was first pioneered by Neil MORRISON (1833-1905). In 1899 he and his family (Janet McCuaig, wife, daughter Jessie) moved to Toronto and the farm was purchased by William McCuaig. Wm's son Henry farmed here until 1953 when the property was bought by William G.



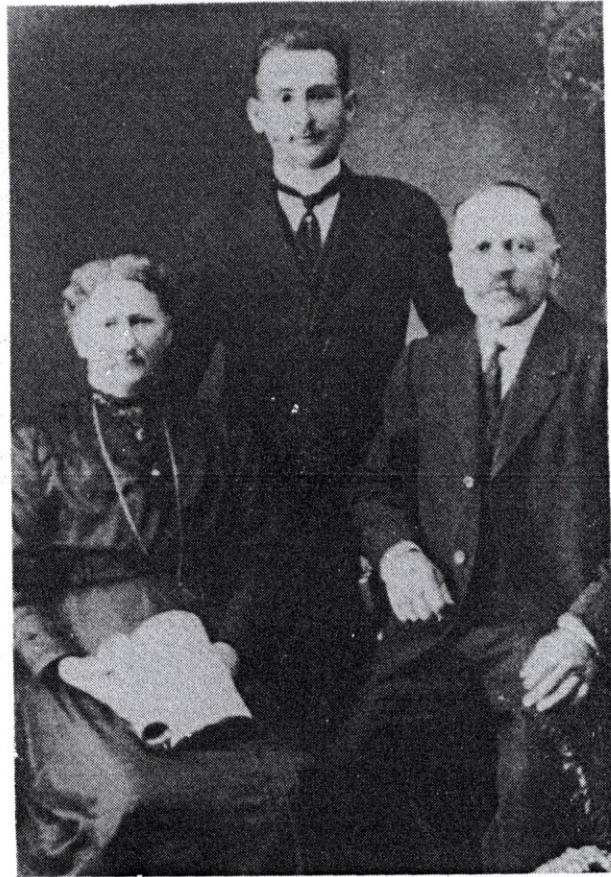
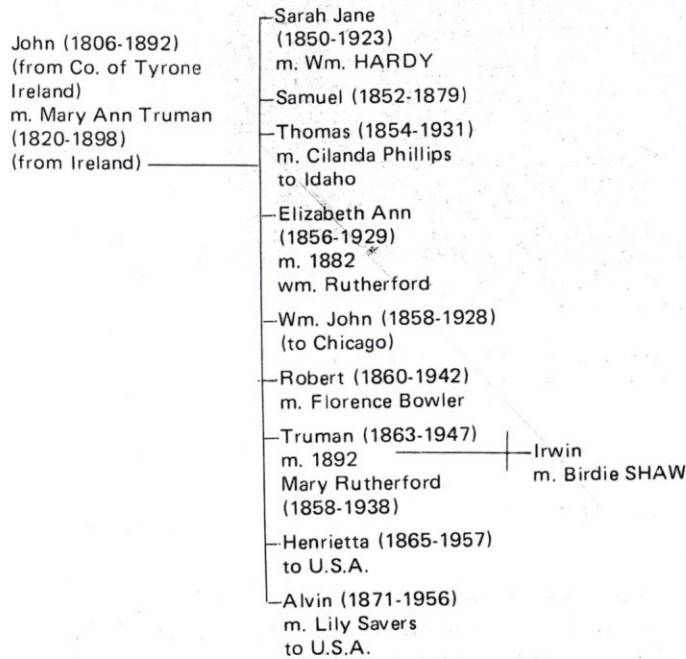
NOTE: Helen and Archibald were married in the Parish Church of Oa.

Tintype taken c. 1885; L.R.: Ellen McCuaig, Mrs. James Livingston

## McMAHON

A portion of the McMahon family came to Oro in the early 1870's namely Sarah Jane, Elizabeth Ann and Truman. The remainder of the family went to the American West—Idaho and Wm. John to Chicago.

Truman settled on 14-12 Oro; later moving to Hawkestone.



Truman McMahon (Mary Rutherford) and son Irwin

## McNABB

The Duncan McNabb family seem to have come to Canada from Argyleshire Scotland, the same time as the Campbells of Guthrie, which would have them landing in Oro in 1833.

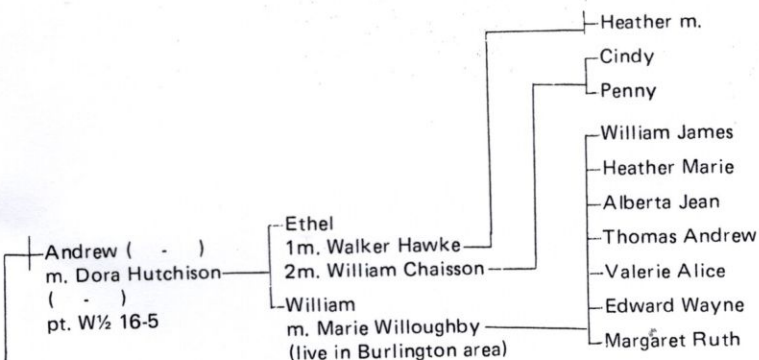
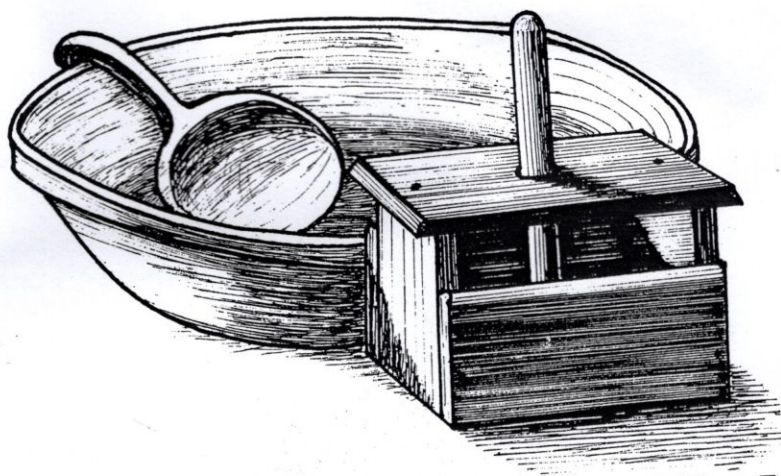
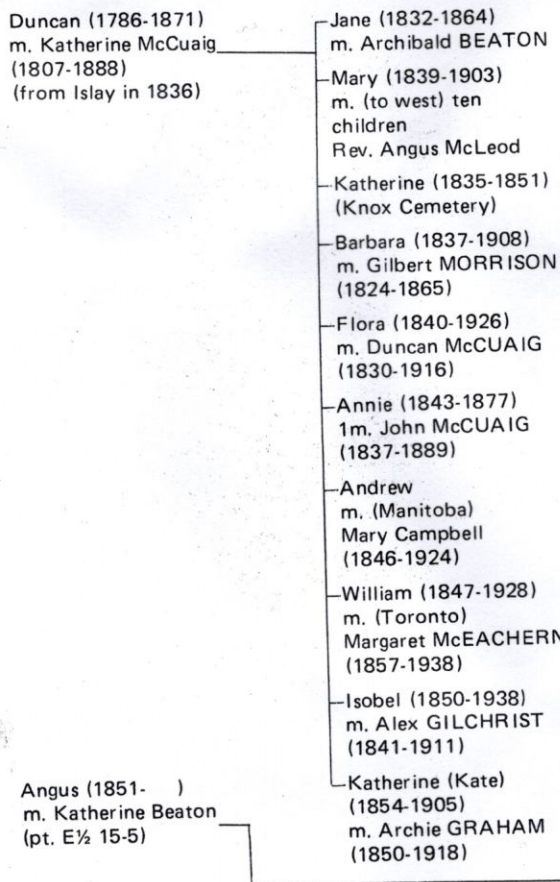
Whether they spent the previous two years in Glengarry with their friends, we are not certain, but it was Duncan McNabb who did the blacksmith work on the wagon axle that broke between York and Holland Landing, on which they were hauling their boat the Mary Anne. Duncan McNabb is reported to have made the nails and hardware for St. Thomas Church at Shanty Bay.

Mary O'Brien in her journals, refers to the coming of the Campbells and "Our Blacksmith" in 1833 (page 212) on June 18. While we do

not know much about the McNabb family, we do know Duncan McNabb owned the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 15, Concession 4, in 1866, that he was 60 years old at that time and that William McNabb, 19, presumably his son was also listed as a blacksmith on the same lot. An Andrew McNabb, 2 years younger than Duncan from Thorah Twp. owned the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of E $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 15, Concession 4, or the adjoining farm.

By 1873, Angus McNabb had purchased the centre part of Lot 16, Concession 5, adding the west part and later leaving here to move across the road to the East part of Lot 15, Concession 5. Andrew McNabb, his son, spent his last years on these farms also, so in all, the McNabbs occupied considerable land on the centre crossroad in Concessions 4 and 5.





McNIVEN

John McNiven came to Canada from Islay, Argyleshire, Scotland in 1831 and took up lot 3-8 Oro. He was a tailor by trade. A search of the title to property reveals that it was patented October 19, 1847 from the Crown to John Nevins (same man—John McNiven) and included the whole 200 acres of lot 3. He later parted with the north half of the lot to his cousin Alex McLean. In 1837 at the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion many of the settlers were in sympathy with Mackenzie though they did not agree with his methods and many sympathizers suffered retaliations later. It was a serious time. Alex McLean walked from lot 3-8 Oro to Hog's Hollow to discuss these matters with John McNiven who was working outside Toronto at the time. The family of John McNiven and Elizabeth

McPhee numbered five—all active in the community. Isabella and James McKerroll farmed W ½ 1-10 Oro and later kept store in Orillia where Maude Arnem's is located. Neil was one of the early teachers, teaching first at Coulson in a little building, just east of the Patterson house on lot 2-7 Medonte. School was held here for six months of the year and then six months at Hobart. He taught at Leigh's Corners in 1867 and also kept store in Orillia from 1878-82. He married Ada Stokes, the granddaughter of another pioneer family of Ontario, who operated a grist mill and flour mill in King Township. The youngest daughter of John and Elizabeth, Eliza, taught school at No. 14 in 1874-75. In 1977 lot 3-8 has been in the McNiven name for one hundred and forty-six years.