

Chapter 7

THE McNEILLS

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It is not our purpose to carry the history of the McNeill family back prior to the flood.

According to an article by Rev. A. MacLean Sinclair published in The Celtic Review of July 1909, the McNeill of Barra, Chief of the Clan McNeill of that day, a distinguished antiquarian of Scotland, published a scholarly volume on the history and genealogy of the family.

According to Chief McNeill they were a sufficiently distinguished family at the time of the flood that, while Noah, his family and the animals, occupied the ark they were able to have their own boat.

We quote from the continuing article:

"Furthermore, the MacNeills, according to the head of the clan, were the real founders of the Gaelic race.

"Niall of Scythia went to Egypt and became Prime Minister. He performed such important work in regulating the flow of the great river that it was named the 'Nile' after him.

"He married the princess Scota, member of the Royal House, who rescued the infant Moses from the bulrushes. He named the first son born of the union 'Gael.' Thus the Gaelic race gets its name.

"After various migrations, a descendant of Gael set up a kingdom in Spain. Another descendant, Milesius, went back to Egypt from Spain and his sons later headed an expedition into Ireland, where Hereron became the first Milesian Monarch of Ireland. A later descendant of the line, Mail Mar, led an expedition into Alba and conquered the country. He named it Scotland in honor of Queen Scota, the wife of Milesius".

Coming from fantasy to reality, the article traces the McNeills through seventeen generations, from Neil, the progenitor of the McNeills of Argyllshire down to Alexander of Colonsay who lived in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The founder of the family name in Cavendish was John McNeill who emigrated to the Island of St. John from Campbellton, on the Kintyre Peninsula of Argyllshire.

There is some doubt as to the date of his arrival. Most old records give the date as 1770, others as 1772, but we believe the more commonly recorded date of 1770 is likely to be correct.

The McNeills had sponsored the Stewart cause and after Culloden in 1746 are known to have continued close ties with the Stewarts. The passengers on the Annabella in 1770 had been recruited by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stewart to settle on his lands in Princetown and Lot 18.

It is stated in the oral records that John McNeill, a bachelor in his early twenties was one of this group. This seems logical in view of the family connection with the Stewarts.

We are indebted to Rev. Dr. John T. McNeill for the probable year of birth and parentage of John. We quote:

"The Campbellton, Argyllshire, parish register, which I examined in 1913 at Edinburgh, records the baptism in 1750 of John McNeill, son of Malcolm McNeill and his wife Euphemia MacAlister. The occurrence of the names Malcolm and Euphemia among the children of John McNeil who emigrated from Campbellton to Prince Edward Island (called St. John's Island till February, 1799) in the year 1772 supports the conjecture that this emigrant is to be identified with the infant of 1750. Otherwise I have no record of his ancestry".

It will be noted that Dr. McNeill gives 1772 as the date that John came to the Island of St. John. He states elsewhere that John was shipwrecked at Bedeque Bay and that he came ashore "with nothing but the clothes he wore". We have not found elsewhere any reference to a ship having been wrecked at that time in Bedeque Bay. Records in Cavendish give the Annabella in 1770 as the date of arrival.

In any case he made his way to Charlottetown where he lived for some years. A story has come down through several sources that he felled trees and built his log cabin on the site of the present Legislative Building in Charlottetown. There is a legend, also through a number of sources, that Governor Patterson, learning that McNeill was felling trees without permission, sent a man to order him to stop. The story continues that McNeill felled the man with a blow to the jaw, and calmly proceeded with his tree cutting and cabin building.

McNeill married Margaret, eldest child of William and Janet Winchester Simpson, we believe in 1780 in Charlottetown. Margaret was born in Gerbity, Parish of Dundercas, Morayshire, Scotland, February 2, 1759. She died November 22, 1849 and is buried in Cavendish Cemetery.

We pause to interject a note with regard to the spelling of the family name. Several different spellings occur but generally in the old records McNeill appears. In addition we find MacNeill, McNeil (as in the 1809 survey, page 55), MacNeil which is currently widely used, and McNeal which appears in the 1798 census and in the memo in Benjamin Chappell's diary noting the death of John, August 29, 1815.

We are using McNeill except in the case of a direct quote or where we know another spelling is used by the individual.

There is evidence that two other McNeill families were on the Annabella, but whether or not they were relatives of John is not known.

The 1798 census shows a family in Lot 18 under the name Charles McNeal, consisting of Charles, his wife, five sons and two daughters under sixteen years. Also, in Princetown Royalty, is Widow McNeal with three sons and two daughters under sixteen.

In the same census John, also spelled McNeal, is shown in Lot 23 (Cavendish) with a wife, and eight children, six sons and two daughters under sixteen. These were the only McNeill families on the Island in 1798.

In the early 1800s a number of McNeill families came to P.E.I. and settled in various sections. Quite a number of these immigrants were Roman Catholic.

In 1804 a Charles McNeill (Presbyterian) settled in Cavendish. We do not have a record of his family except that his youngest son Alexander married Helen McNeill daughter of "Speaker" William and granddaughter of John and Margaret. In The Examiner (a Charlottetown newspaper) of June 9, 1862 is the following obituary notice: "Recently at Cavendish, 62 years old, Alexander McNeill, youngest son of Charles who emigrated from Perthshire to this Island in 1804".

There is nothing to indicate any relationship between any of these later arrivals with John, founder of the family name in Cavendish.

It is probable that John and Margaret remained in Charlottetown for some time after their marriage. We know that their eldest son William was born there in 1781 or 1782. He died March 15, 1870 and the age given on his tombstone in Cavendish Cemetery is 88, but the weight of evidence suggests that he was born in late 1781.

Eventually the family moved to Pisquid on the upper reaches of the East or Hillsborough River with the intention of farming.

But they were not satisfied and when the Simpsons moved to Cavendish, John and his family decided to go there also. As noted earlier, on April 1, 1891 he took one hundred acres of land adjoining that of his father-in-law and we believe moved to it that spring. On September 22, 1803 he added by lease an additional four hundred acres adjoining his original holding.

This was the age of large families and John and Margaret were no exception. They had nine sons and three daughters, eleven of whom grew to maturity, married and established families of their own. There were at least sixty-six grandchildren.

One son died in infancy. Six of the remaining eight and one daughter settled in Cavendish. Only one child left the Island. Charles moved to Ontario.

The chart which follows this chapter summarizes the information we have been able to get with regard to this family - dates where known, spouses, number of children and place of residence.

It will be seen that fifty-one grandchildren of John and Margaret were born in Cavendish.

With such a large family connection in this and other families, it is obviously impossible to trace the genealogies in any detail down through succeeding generations.

We have however attempted to get a reasonably complete record of families of the first two generations. What information we have been able to assemble of the families of the eleven sons and daughters of the McNeills, and of other families, will be found in charts in the appendix.

With this background material it should be possible for anyone who wishes to trace a particular family line, to have a starting point.

Since six sons and one daughter of the original McNeill family settled in Cavendish it is understandable that, particularly during the first half of the nineteenth century, they should be very closely involved with and make a major contribution to the development of a young and growing community.

Some record of this contribution and of the character and caliber of her father's family of McNeills, is contained in a letter written July 8, 1909 by Mary McNeill Lawson to her grand-nephew Harold Macdougall.

We are indebted to Dr. Stuart MacDonald, son and literary executor of Lucy Maud Montgomery MacDonald, for a copy of this letter. Attached to the letter in Lucy Maud's handwriting was this memo: "Copy of a letter written by my great-aunt Mary Lawson, giving a brief account of the McNeill family of Cavendish, P. E. Island".

Mary Lawson, Lucy Maud's favorite great-aunt, the youngest child of "Speaker" William McNeill, was born in 1827 and wrote the letter to her nephew a year before her death in 1910.

We quote excerpts from her letter:

"My grandfather, John Macneill, came to the Island with the first Chief Justice. His ancestors had followed the house of Stewart till their defeat at Culloden, and when one of their adherents got the appointment of Judge of the Island he cast in his lot with them and came here from Argyleshire. The Island was then almost a forest. He married Margaret Simpson, daughter of William Simpson, who had emigrated from Morayshire, Scotland, a man of rare ability and christian character, whose descendants filled a large space in the moral, intellectual, and religious development of the country, and who were strongly impressed with the idea that they were above the common herd. . . . They had a family of nine sons and three daughters, of whom my respected father, your great-grandfather was the eldest, and I think the most talented in the connection. Pardon my egotism. . . .

"At that time in the history of the Island schools and teachers were very scarce but by dint of study and perseverance he fitted himself for teaching which he did first in Nova Scotia and on the Island. Then he went to study law in Haliburton's office in Halifax. But money in the early days of our history was hard to get so he abandoned the idea of law and came to the Island and went into shipbuilding and trading in partnership with Mr. Townsend, a gentleman from England who had received from George Third, King of England, a grant of land for his services in the British Army. My father married his granddaughter, a daughter of Captain John Townsend, who had distinguished himself by an act of bravery for which he had received from the king a gold medal about six inches in circumference on which was inscribed his services to his country. . . .

"My father was called in early life to take an active part in political affairs. He served twenty years in the local legislature, sixteen of which he was Speaker. He served without pay for a number of years as we then had no revenue or very little. That was the time we had patriots. That time has passed away and the loaves and fishes seem to have taken the place of love of country. He was the Commissioner of Public Works for all the north side of Queen's County and he presided over the county for twenty years as a magistrate. He married all the people in the vicinity, wrote all the wills, settled all the disputes, and was an elder in the church, where his advice was very much prized.

"But I must speak of my sainted mother, left at home with six girls and five boys to manage, to clothe, and send to school. The task was Herculean. She had splendid sons. There was none of them born tired. How could they be with such a mother? She encouraged them in all their work, went to the fields with them, helped them in all their labor and play, recited poetry to them, told them tales of

"England that she had heard from her mother, wept when they wept, laughed when they laughed. . . .

"I have now brought you down to your grandfather's place in the family. . . . He was W. S. Macneill and as you have the Mac on both sides you will be able to appreciate the tale of your mother's ancestors.

"My oldest brother was John Macneill, father of "Captain John" of Michigan. He married Anne Simpson, still keeping up the relationship. He was a most beautiful character. He left home when very young, was apprenticed to a ship carpenter, went to Upper Canada and settled on the Canadian side of the river that divided the countries, could not be persuaded that he would do better on the other, so he was a true Briton. . . . I know that he was a man of sterling character, highly respected in the community where he lived. Then comes your grandfather a man popular with all classes and loved in his home. His mother when dying, in bidding him farewell said, 'You never said worse to me than 'Mother'.' He left home when very young and went to the lumber woods of New Brunswick, made money, came home, bought a farm, and went into farming and ship-building trading to Newfoundland and the different provinces. . . .

"He married Ann Maria Jones, whose father had emigrated from Wales and his wife from England. Their daughter, your grandmother still lives, at a very advanced age, a very clever woman, the mother of four sons and seven daughters, all living but two. . . .

"My next brother is Thomas, a man of great strength of character and strong religious convictions and very rigid in his condemnation of any deviation from the paths of truth and uprightness. He was a very apt scholar and learned all the district school teacher could teach him. He was then sent to the clergyman of the district to learn the languages but the good old man was too indolent to take any trouble with him and he left and went into a store at the age of 14. . . .

"My brother after a time went to work in the lumber woods of New Brunswick, as there was a very large business done there by two large rich firms from Scotland. . . .

"He came back, went to farming and married Charlotte Simpson, a grand-daughter of the first Simpson I mentioned. He filled a great many important positions in his country. He was a Magistrate, employed in settling up the land after it had passed out of the hands of the proprietors. He was a very successful farmer, an elder in the church in which he took an active interest, and left money to pay his share in the salary for several years after his death. He left a family of two sons and one daughter. His other son and daughter died.

"I now take up the history of my fourth brother, James. He was a little different from the others, possessed of a very sensitive and retiring disposition. He shunned publicity. He had a great brain, wanted to know the ins and outs of everything, saw the ridiculous side of things and often expressed his opinion in poetry of no mean order. He had a great desire to go to sea. . . . But my mother, having lost her father in childhood on account of his seafaring life had such a horror of it that she discouraged it altogether. . . . He and his wife, Jane Harker, the daughter of an honest Scotchman from the land of the heather, had a family of two sons and two daughters, very clever and talented women, one the wife of a member of Parliament.

. . . .

"Next comes my youngest brother, Alexander, playmate of my childhood, friend of my riper years. Oh, how everything good and kind comes up before me as I go back to the scenes of childhood's happy hours. He tried to make you feel happy and contented and never was it my lot to find in him 'a deed ungentle or a word unkind.' I was very much attached to my brothers. He and my brother James often carried me to school when I got tired as we had almost two miles to walk, and I think that physically, morally, and mentally they were above the average. But I have left my subject. You will please excuse a childish old woman.

"Alexander lived at the old home, took charge of his father and mother, and kept them comfortable in their old age. They lived to be 89 and 82 years. He married Lucy Woolner, sister to your Uncle Benjamin, a very clever woman who had been educated in England. They had a family of three sons and three daughters. The eldest, the Rev. L. G. Macneill, was a very talented man, but from overwork is a complete wreck of his former self (so very sad). His second son is a successful farmer. His third son is a very talented lawyer in Vancouver. His grand-daughter, L. M. Montgomery, whom he brought up is a very talented author and poet. She has achieved a niche in the temple of fame. His oldest daughter married John Campbell, a descendant of the Townsends. Two of her girls are teachers. The youngest married John Montgomery, a member of Parliament who died, and left her a widow with six children. She has educated two of them, being very successful teachers. I have now given you a little history of my brothers and I will conclude this with the words of a great poet,

'My brothers these, the same our native shore,
One house contained us and one mother bore.'

Mrs. Mary Lawson"

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Added from another letter:-

"My eldest sister married the Hon. Jeremiah Simpson, a grandson of the first Mr. Simpson. They had seven sons, all married but one and have large families. There are two clergymen in the family. All are men to be trusted and respected and who take their place in everything that is for the moral and religious development of the country. One son has a son who is a minister in a Baptist church in Chicago, another a professor in a college in Arkansas. The eldest daughter married John C. Clark. They have a family of seven who are all graduates of colleges. Two are missionaries in India. One is a medical missionary in the northwest and another a professor of forestry to a large company in Vancouver.

"My second sister Helen married Alexander Macneill, no relation of her own, but a man of a big soul, kind and generous. He scorned meanness and would almost lay down his life for a friend. He was a very successful man in his business and died comparatively young. His wife, my sister, had the brain and beauty of the family but she had a large family and it required all her exertions to attend to them, which she faithfully did and left behind her a family of six daughters and two sons who have all been distinguished for honesty and uprightness of character and have helped to make the world better for having lived in it.

"My sister Anne died unmarried in early youth much regretted. Then comes my next sister Jane. She married Duncan McKenzie and moved to Michigan. Died there (4)? years ago and left three daughters and two sons. Of her family I know very little as they left the Island in childhood. She was a person of rare kindness of heart, gentle and retiring. She never did an unkind action, or suspected any one of such, she was so good herself. Then comes your humble servant, myself, a widow for the last twenty five years, baffled about by the storms of misfortune. Once having a good husband and a good home I reached out my hand to help many. I am now in my 85th year and will soon be where tempests cease to beat and billows cease to roar.

Mary Lawson"

While Mrs. Lawson's letter refers generally to her immediate family group, it gives a good picture of the conditions and problems of a young community, and indicates the type of men and women who founded its homes and guided the training of its children.

While, with pardonable egotism, she thinks her father was "the most talented in the connection", there is no doubt that all the children of John and Margaret McNeill carried their full load of responsibility. And there was not a "black sheep" in the dozen.

Clearing the land for farming was the first priority and it was time-consuming, back-breaking toil. But the land was cleared and prosperous farms established.

However there were other needs than farm produce. The log cabins and small barns of the early years were a necessary make-shift until more permanent and commodious frame buildings could be erected.

These buildings required lumber which meant logging and milling. Lumber was plentiful and was cut in the process of clearing the land.

In the early frame buildings the sills and other heavy timbers were hand hewn. But the saw-pit, described elsewhere, for sawing boards was too laborious and the harnessing of water power to saw mills soon became prevalent.

In the hollow near the present entrance to Green Gables was a flowing stream which emptied into McNeill's Pond and here two of the McNeill brothers built a saw mill which served the community for some years. With the clearing of the land the flow of water decreased to the point where the project had to be abandoned.

Another logical industry, where all goods had to be transported by sea, was ship building and John and Charles McNeill sons of John and Margaret were quick to see and grasp the opportunity. They built the first vessel to be built at Cavendish.

The post office came to Cavendish in 1833 with a weekly mail and the first post-master was Daniel McNeill, who held the position until his death in 1859. His widow, Sarah Poole McNeill was appointed to succeed him. She died in 1870.

The next post-master was Alexander McNeill, nephew of Daniel, from 1870 until his death in 1898. He also was succeeded by his widow Lucy Woolner McNeill till her death in 1911. Lucy Maud Montgomery, granddaughter of Alexander and Lucy, lived with them and was assistant post-mistress to her grandmother during the later years.

The last post-master was John Franklin McNeill, a son of Alexander and Lucy, appointed in 1911. But in 1913 rural mail delivery came into being and the Cavendish post office was closed.

So the first generation of McNeills with the Simpsons and Clarks founded farms, established homes, cleared the land, raised by today's standards large families and, in spite of their busy lives, found time to develop community institutions and to lend a helping hand to any who met adversity.

But Cavendish was a rural community with only a limited amount of land to be divided into farms.

It was inevitable therefore that, coming into the second generation, a movement to other areas would begin.

The migration from the community took three forms. There was still much undeveloped land in the colony and one group moved to various areas and founded new farms. A second group, to whom distant pastures looked greener, crossed the strait and became farmers, industrial workers or business people in other parts of Canada and the United States.

Education and religion were very dear to the hearts of these pioneer people. While basic education for every child was the norm, the ambition of many families was to see at least one son go on to higher education. The result was that from the Cavendish area a disproportionate number, in relation to population, went on to positions of leadership in the church, in higher education, in business and industry and in the state. This constitutes the third group.

So many of them made an impact in their chosen fields sufficient to receive wide recognition, that space does not allow a reference to them individually. However, to indicate the significance of the comments above, we are going to refer very briefly to one scion of the Cavendish McNeills.

We quoted above some comments by Rev. Dr. John Thomas McNeill with regard to the probable birth date of the original John.

Dr. McNeill, whose parentage for four generations is McNeill on both sides, is presently preparing a McNeill genealogy. His descent from John and Margaret Simpson McNeill is shown below:

John and Margaret Simpson McNeill

Paternal		Maternal
William Simpson (Speaker) McNeill		Malcolm McNeill
M. Eliza Townsend		M. Sarah Campbell
:		:
Thomas McNeill		John Malcolm MacNeill
M. Charlotte Simpson		M. Mary MacEwen
:		:
William Cavendish McNeill	M.	Emily Lavinia MacNeill
	:	

John Thomas McNeill

Dr. McNeill's Father was born in North Rustico, his Mother in Cavendish. They moved to Elmsdale, P.E.I. where on July 28, 1885 John was born.

We shall let him tell in his own words something of his interests and activities over the years up to and including the completion of his latest book, at almost 88 years.

"I have been much addicted to Church History since about 1910 and have written a dozen books and scores of research articles and hundreds of book reviews. My latest thing History of the Celtic Churches, A.D. 200-1200 will appear next January from the U. of Chicago Press. I just keep on scribbling. My longest stretches of teaching were in the Divinity School here and in Union Seminary, N.Y. from which I was cast out gently for old age in 1953 at 68. I've taught in a dozen seminaries since and am now dubbed 'resident scholar' (just this quarter) in the Chicago Theological Seminary. I was teaching in Knox College, Toronto at the time of Ch. Union and went forward into the United Church. At that time I wrote a History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, but accepted a professorship in Chicago in 1927. I was one of the three editors of the Library of Christian Classics, 26 vols. and did the editing of the 2-vol. Calvin's Institutes (not the translation) in that series. I am a minister and a member of the Presbytery of New York. I was born at Elmsdale, P.E.I. July 28, 1885. In Middlebury, Vt., my home now, I am best known for my industry in a vegetable patch. I am far too busy at my desk to be a good gardener - and this year I'll be too late getting at it to expect much".

John McNeill's story is one of many which might be told of the useful lives of descendants of the founders of Cavendish. As we go on to the record of the Simpsons and the Clarks, similar evidences of leadership and service will be noted.

And of course Lucy Maud Montgomery's Mother was Clara McNeill and Maud lived over thirty-five years of her life in a McNeill home, surrounded by the McNeill influences and ideals.

For over one hundred and eighty years, the McNeills have made a major impact on the history of Cavendish during its transition from virgin forest to the beautiful rural summer playground we know today.

Footnote: Research, since the above was written, has turned up an entry in the Land Registry Index which confirms that John McNeill was living in the Charlottetown area in 1780.

"McNeil John from Thomas DesBrisay 7 Oct. 1780 Grant of Lot No. 18 in the fourth hundred in Lot 430 in Royalty of Charlottetown".

JOHN McNEILL B.

1750 D. 29-8-1815 SON OF MALCOLM McNEILL AND EUPHEMIA McALLISTER

M. 1780

OF ARGYLLSHIRE, SCOTLAND

MARGARET SIMPSON B. 2-2-1759 D. 22-11-1849

WILLIAM (SPEAKER)

B. -1781
D. 15-3-1820

M. -1806
ELIZA (BLISS) TOWNSEND

B. -1788
D. 15-6-1869

L. CAVENDISH, PEI
5 SONS 6 DAUGHTERS

MALCOLM B. -1784
D. 13-12-1863

M.
SARAH CAMPBELL B.

D.
L. CAVENDISH, PEI
4 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

NEIL B.
D.

M. HANNAH TROWSDALE

B.
D.
L. CRAPOD, PEI
3 SONS 2 DAUGHTERS

JAMES B. -1789
D. 21-12-1859

M. 24-7-1824
MARGARET DOCKENDORFF
B. -1796
D. -1856
L. CAVENDISH, PEI TILL 1847
THEN CHATHAM, ONT
3 SONS 4 DAUGHTERS

ELLEN B. 28-3-1790
D.

M.
1. ALEXANDER MARQUIS
3 SONS

M.
2. FAIRBAIRN
1 SON 2 DAUGHTERS
L. MILLVALE, PEI

CHARLES B.
D.

M. CHRISTIANA JOHNSTON
L. RALEIGH TSP, ONT
1 SON 1 DAUGHTER

JOHN B.
D.

M. SARAH DOCKENDORFF
B. -2-1800
D. 14-12-1879
L. CAVENDISH, PEI
3 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

DANIEL B. -1793
D. -1859

M.
SARAH POOLE B. -1870
D.

L. CAVENDISH, PEI
FIRST POSTMASTER
4 SONS 2 DAUGHTERS

EUPHEMIA B. -1794
D. -1873

M.
JOHN SIMPSON B. -1793
D. -1852
L. CAVENDISH, PEI
4 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

JANET B. -1798
D. 8-2-1878

M. 4-8-1829
ROBERT SIMPSON
B. -1799 or 1800
D. 12-4-1864
L. HOPE RIVER, PEI
3 SONS 2 DAUGHTERS

DAVID B. -1803
D. 22-3-1891

M.
MARY DOCKENDORFF
B. -1800
D. 22-3-1871

L. CAVENDISH, PEI
4 SONS 1 DAUGHTER

A SON DIED IN INFANCY

BECAUSE SOME BIRTHDATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE NAMES MAY NOT BE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

Chapter 8

WILLIAM SIMPSON JUNIOR

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We indicated in an earlier chapter that four children of William and Janet Winchester Simpson, two sons and two daughters with their husbands shared with them the honor of having been co-founders of Cavendish.

In the previous chapter we have told in some detail the story of the eldest child Margaret and her husband John McNeill and their descendants. While they probably did not come to Cavendish till a year after the others, we have given them precedence partly because Margaret was the oldest and more particularly because the McNeills, at least from the point of view of numbers, had the greatest impact on the developing community.

William Simpson, Junior was the third child and second son of William and Janet. In earlier chapters we have given the Simpson background in considerable detail.

William Junior was born in Gerbity, Morayshire in 1762. Some records give his birthdate as June 19, but the baptismal register of the Parish of Dundercas states "1762 June 19 William Simson and Jannet Winchester had a child bap^d called William". The June 19 date therefore is incorrect and we have used the June 15 date given in other records, although we think that this too is an error and that he was probably born on June 5. The other baptismal records of Dundercas parish show a lapse of approximately two weeks from birth to baptism.

He was a man of twenty-eight when the family moved to Cavendish in 1790. There is no firm record of his activities during the preceding years, but it is probable that he and other young men found employment in the clearing of land and construction of homes in Charlottetown.

Oral records frequently refer to William Simpson living for a time in Cove Head and this has generally been considered to refer to William Senior. We think it more likely that William Junior spent some time in this community. We know that Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay in recording his marriage states that he was resident in Cove Head.

On February 13, 1790 he married Mary Millar of Cove Head. Her father, John Millar, a native of Muthill, Perthshire came to the Island of St. John on the Falmouth in 1770, with his wife and four daughters ranging in age from eight to two years. Mary was the two year old. Four more daughters and one son were born after their arrival.

If, as suggested earlier, William Senior built his log cabin at Cavendish during the fall of 1789, there is no doubt that his sons were actively involved. But there is nothing to

suggest that William Junior built a cabin for himself and his bride to be. We think they all lived in the one cabin, the site of which we have located, for a period after their arrival.

We again refer the reader to the 1809 survey plan on page 55. It will be seen that William Junior was assigned one hundred acres of land next to that held by his Father. The reasoning apparently was that the older son would eventually inherit his Father's farm thus giving him two hundred acres.

On February 29, 1804 John, the youngest son of William Senior married Helen Hyde of West River and established a home in that area. This left his hundred acres, between William Clark and James Simpson, to be reallocated and it was transferred to William Junior thus giving him two farms of one hundred acres each.

William and Mary had eight children - three sons and five daughters. In the chart following this chapter and in the appendix we give what information we have been able to secure on the families of these eight children. We are quite sure that somewhere among the descendants of the various families are detailed records but we have not been able to locate them. Hence some names and many dates are missing.

Seven of the eight children established homes on the Island. One son David and his wife Mary MacKenzie went to Wisconsin. Two sons and one daughter remained in Cavendish.

Mary married Henry Robertson. Their home was to the east of the McNeill properties and is shown on the 1880 map (page 56) between those of John F. McNeill and Alexander Laird.

John married his first cousin Euphemia McNeill daughter of John and Margaret Simpson McNeill. They had a family of five sons and four daughters. As the eldest son of William he inherited and lived on the homestead property - the second 100, butting on the eastern end of Cavendish Pond. John was born 1793, died September 7, 1852. His wife Euphemia was born 1794, died October 7, 1873.

This property in turn became the home of John's son William John who also had a large family - five sons, three daughters.

Of William John's family, Winchester died while attending Acadia University. Three sons and two daughters moved to Vancouver. Of these Neil married Sarah Margaret MacLeod and had one daughter and three sons. The eldest, Evelyn, was born in Cavendish. A son William Wesley Ph.D. worked for a time with Dr. Banting on the development of insulin.

The other four who went west never married. They were John, Lincoln, Ella and Lottie. Janie married Roger Simpson and had three daughters.

Remaining on the Homestead was William George who married Janie Profit and had one son and three daughters.

A visitor to Cavendish today may locate this property easily. It is the beautiful Rainbow Valley just east of the Baptist Church.

The youngest son of William Junior and Mary was Henry, born 1812, died May 8, 1885. He married Janet Stevenson born 1819 died March 8, 1880.

Turning again to the 1809 survey, his property was the hundred acres between William Clark and James Simpson.

This couple had five sons and four daughters. Of the sons only Charles Augustus Fitz-Roy (named after a former Lieutenant-Governor) remained in Cavendish on the homestead.

William lived in Baltic, P.E.I. and had three sons and two daughters. John was a minister in Lexington, Kentucky and had two sons - a doctor and a minister. George lived in Montana and had two sons and two daughters. Frank, unmarried, also lived in the Western States.

Of the daughters Mary Jane married Hugh McLure of North Rustico, had two sons and three daughters. Martha married Walter Simpson of Bay View, had five sons and seven daughters. Margaret married David Anderson, had five sons and two daughters and Elizabeth married William Liddell and had one daughter.

Charles, who lived in the old home married twice. His first wife was Emmalinza Wallace of Shubenacadie, N.S. who had two daughters. Born in 1851 she died in 1878 age 27. His second wife was Louisa Maria Clow of Truro, N.S. Four daughters were born to this union.

Charles was born at Cavendish November 13, 1844 and married Louisa Clow in 1880. In 1914 at age 70 he retired from farming and moved to New Glasgow, P.E.I. About 1920 they moved to McKay Station in the Municipality of Burnaby, B.C. where he died March 5, 1936.

A large number of descendants of William Junior and Mary are scattered over the continent, many of whom have held positions of responsibility and rendered valuable services to the communities in which they have lived.

But since Charles left Cavendish in 1914 no descendant of this couple of the Simpson name remains.

WILLIAM SIMPSON, JUNIOR B. 15-6-1762 D. 22-2-1840

M. 13-2-190 AT COVE HEAD, PEI BY REV. T. DESBRISAY

MARY MILLAR B. -1768 D. 22-2-1852 FROM PERTH SHIRE TO COVE HEAD, 1770

CATHERINE B. -1792
D. -1847

M.

WILLIAM McKAY

B.
D.

L. ALBERTON, PEI

3 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

JOHN B. -1793
D. 7-9-1852

M.

EUPHEMIA McNEILL

B. -1794
D. 7-10-1873

L. CAVENDISH, PEI

5 SONS 4 DAUGHTERS

DAVID B.
D. -1868

M.

MARY MCKENZIE

B.
D.

L. WISCONSIN

7 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

MARY B. -1797
D. 6-6-1859

M. HENRY ROBERTSON

B.
D.

L. CAVENDISH, PEI

2 SONS

MARGARET B.
D.

M.

JOHN STEVENSON

NO RECORD AVAILABLE

ELIZABETH B.
D.

M.

DAVID ORR

L.

3 SONS 1 DAUGHTER

JENNY B.
D.

M.

FARQUHAR McLURE

B.
D.

L. NORTH RUSTICO, PEI

6 SONS 4 DAUGHTERS

HENRY B. -1812
D. 8-5-1885

M.

JANET STEVENSON

B. -1819
D. 8-3-1880

L. CAVENDISH, PEI

5 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

BECAUSE SOME BIRTHDATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE NAMES MAY NOT BE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

Chapter 9

THE CLARKS

- - - -

The founder of the Clark family of Cavendish, like William Simpson and John McNeill was a Scot.

William Clark was born in Clackmannanshire the smallest county in Scotland in 1754. Clackmannanshire is north of the upper reaches of the Firth of Forth. It is the apex of an isosceles triangle formed to the north from a baseline stretching from Edinburgh to Glasgow.

In the market place of Clackmannan is Clack Mannan - the "Stone of Mannan", sacred to the spirit of an ancient local diety.

In the mid eighteenth century there was a form of conscription for naval and, to some extent, military service known as the press-gang. Funk and Wagnalls dictionary describes press-gang as "a detachment of men detailed to press men into naval or military service".

The procedure was a form of kid-napping. The press-gang would spot a likely looking prospect, a sturdy young man, and by devious means or by sheer force take him, usually aboard a naval ship where he was literally a prisoner with no chance of escape and so pressed into service.

There are apparently authentic records that William Clark escaped such a press-gang by boarding a vessel bound for Quebec, probably in 1774. From Quebec he made his way to Boston where, family records state, he witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

During the summer of 1775 he made his way to Charlottetown where he apparently lived until he went to Cavendish with his father-in-law in 1790.

We have already referred to inaccuracies resulting from lack of research, and their perpetuation. This is true of William Clark.

From a number of sources we have the following statement partially correct but with several inaccuracies:

"The first Clark came from Clackmannanshire, Scotland. His name was William, father of the William who married Helen Simpson. He was born in 1754 died 1831 aged 77 years. He escaped the press-gangs in Scotland and came to Quebec, from there he went to Boston, and witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill. He came to the Island the same year 1776. His son William born 1765 died 1852 age 87 married Helen Simpson".

Any thinking person should realize that a man born in 1754 would not have a son born in 1765. Bunker Hill was 1775 not 1776, and there is no record anywhere else of a William Clark born in 1765 who died in 1852.

In Cavendish cemetery is a stone with the inscription:

William Clark	September 29, 1831	Age 77
His wife Helen Simpson	February 23, 1852	Age 87

This date confirms William's birth date as 1754 and that it was he, not an imaginary William born in 1765 who married Helen Simpson.

William and Helen were married March 4, 1789 in Charlottetown. The incomplete records indicate that they went to Cavendish with William and Janet Simpson in the spring of 1790.

The 1809 survey (page 55) shows the location of their 165 acre farm, a part of the original lease taken by William Simpson Senior in 1789. We believe that they built their log cabin on this property during the summer and fall of 1790.

They had eight sons and four daughters. Ten married and had families ranging in number from twelve to one - a total of seventy-one. The two unmarried children are referred to as being in a helpless state. We do not know the cause.

Of the married children two sons, Andrew and David remained in Cavendish. They married two sisters, daughters of Richard and Elizabeth Cantello Bagnall.

Three sons and one daughter established homes in communities between New London and Malpeque Bays. Of these William, the eldest child, was elected several times to the legislative assembly. He and Francis lived in Darnley. James and Mary who married John McEwan, lived in Campbellton. John who married Anne Simpson moved to South Rustico.

Richard, Helen and Janet eventually left the Island. Janet married her first cousin, James Simpson Junior and lived for a time at Bay View, moving in 1847 to near Chatham, Ontario. She was the Mother of Rev. Dr. A. B. Simpson of whom more later (Chapter 17).

The original Clark property in Cavendish (1809 survey) was divided between David and Andrew, sons of the founder William and Helen Simpson.

David lived on and farmed the eastern half of the property. He had two sons and six daughters. Three of the daughters did not marry.

Of these the eldest, Emily, lived to 97 years. Alice died at Truro, N.S. age 27. The youngest child and third unmarried daughter, Adelaide, was much beloved by the whole community and was known to all and sundry as Aunt Pet. An indication of the esteem in which she was held is shown by the inscription on her tombstone in Cavendish cemetery:

"In Loving Memory of Aunt Pet
Adelaide Clark
1858-1935".

Four members of the family lived elsewhere than in Cavendish. Sophia Jane married George Baker and lived in Summerside. Family: one son, one daughter. Martha married Rev. C. C. Burgess who served various congregations. No record of family. Caroline married Francis Bain and lived in York Point, P.E.I. Family: six sons, three daughters. Richard the younger son married Jane Wyand and lived in Haverill, Mass. Family: three sons.

The older son, William Darnley, 1848-1928, lived on the homestead. On December 23, 1875 he married Jane Stewart of Brackley Point, 1852-1943. They had four sons and two daughters.

We are indebted to the second child and elder daughter Maggie, Mrs. Walter Buntain, for much of our information on the Clark family. Almost 94 at time of writing, physically well and mentally young, Maggie lives with her son Roland and his wife Dora Simpson at East Royalty, outside Charlottetown. Maggie and Walter lived until retirement at South Rustico. A daughter, Lottie Evelyn died at three years of age. Their son Roland, mentioned above was born October 23, 1903 and married to Dora Simpson of Bay View Mills June 29, 1927.

The oldest child Chesley Darnley lived in Western Canada and died in Tacoma, Washington. He was twice married but had no family.

Campsie still living, married Roy Toombs of North Rustico and had two daughters. Irma, the younger, unmarried, is living on the old place.

Fred married Hester Houston and lived in Cavendish. They had two sons and two daughters. Ernest, the youngest, also lived in Cavendish. He married Alma Bulman and also had two sons and two daughters. Wilber who married Nellie Bulman lived in Summerside and had two daughters.

The David and later Darnley Clark property was immediately west of the present Rainbow Valley and the site for the Cavendish Baptist Church was donated by Darnley Clark.

David's brother Andrew, 1807-1885, owned the western half of the original Clark property. On Christmas day 1834 he married Sophia Bagnall, 1814-1890. They had three sons and nine daughters. Six of the twelve were unmarried. Of the three sons, one died at one month, another at eighteen years.

The unmarried daughters lived in Cavendish. Elizabeth married William Brown, Margate. No record of family. Charlotte Geddie married Thomas Johnston, Brookfield. No record of family. Sarah Ann married John Anderson and had three sons.

Two daughters married Simpsons, grandsons of William Junior and Mary Miller. The name of each was William so nicknames were given "Will Effie" and "Will Jerry". Helen Jane married William John son of John and Euphemia, Effie, Simpson - hence Will Effie. They had five sons and three daughters. Sophia Amelia married William McNeill Simpson, eldest son of Hon. Jeremiah and Margaret McNeill Simpson. He was Will Jerry. They lived in Hamilton, P.E.I. and had four sons and four daughters.

The eldest of the family, John Cavendish, 1835-1914, married Anne Margaret Simpson, daughter of Hon. Jeremiah. They had three sons and six daughters. They also adopted a son Ray, who at time of writing is still living in Summerside. In the section dealing with the Cavendish Baptist Church prepared by Anna Simpson and Dr. Myron Brinton there is fairly full coverage of this family. Three were missionaries and all were professional people.

Clemmie died of typhoid fever and it is interesting to note that, although the funeral was held on a rainy November day in 1899, the casket was not allowed in the house because of fear of contagion.

John C. was much interested in politics and attended political meetings for miles around. His home was on the bay shore just at the end of Bay View bridge, and, as was customary in winter, he travelled on the ice often returning late at night. He was noted for continuing to venture on the ice during the approaching spring break-up. He used to boast that scarcely a winter passed without his getting a horse in the ice - but he never lost one.

The writer remembers a windy April morning. We wakened to find the ice moving down the bay in the high wind. About eleven o'clock John C. came to our home (we lived on adjoining farms) and his first remark to my Father was "You know Dan I got an awful scare when I woke up this morning. I came home from Stanley Bridge on the ice about midnight and the bay was open when I got up".

This then, very briefly, with the record in the genealogical charts is the story of co-founder William Clark and some of his descendants.

WILLIAM CLARK B. -1754 D. 29-9-1831 FROM CLACKMANNANSHIRE, SCOTLAND 1775 VIA QUEBEC AND BOSTON
 M. 4-3-1789
 HELEN SIMPSON B. 5-7-1766 D. 23-2-1852 DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND JANET SIMPSON

WILLIAM MCLA B. 3-5-1789
 D. 24-12-1845
 M. 1811
 MARGARET MCEWEN
 B. CA-1793
 D. Living 6-1846
 L. DARNLEY PEI
 4 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

JAMES B. -1798
 D. 22-6-1851
 M. 18-7-1832
 ELIZA BELL B. -1811
 D. -1887
 L. CAMPBELLTON, PEI
 4 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

THOMAS B.
 D.
 M.
 ANNA LOVE WOODSIDE B.
 D.
 L. DARNLEY, PEI THEN MICHIGAN
 5 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

FRANCIS B. -1794
 D. 10-6-1870
 M. 28-4-1826
 ELIZABETH SCURMAN
 B. 28-12-1805
 D. 28-2-1874
 L. DARNLEY, PEI
 10 SONS 1 DAUGHTER
 FRANCIS AND MARY WERE PROBABLY
 TWINS.

MARY B. -1794
 D. 25-5-1851
 M.
 JOHN MCEWEN B. -1775
 D. 31-3-1850
 L. CAMPBELLTON, PEI
 3 SONS 4 DAUGHTERS

MARGARET B.
 D. Living 18-11-1824
 UNMARRIED, PHYSICALLY
 INCAPACITATED
 L. CAVENDISH, PEI

JOHN B. -1800
 D. 18-9-1886
 M. 22-9-1841
 ANN SIMPSON - BY REV. JOHN GEDDIE
 B. -1806
 D. 16-2-1856
 L. SOUTH RUSTICO, PEI
 2 SONS 1 DAUGHTER

HELEN B. 7-1803
 D. 23-7-1879

M.
 JAMES MARQUIS
 B.
 D.
 L. DETROIT, MICH.
 1 DAUGHTER

JANET B. CA 1813
 D.
 M. 1-2-1837
 JAMES SIMPSON
 B. -1813
 D.
 L. BAY VIEW, PEI TILL 1847
 THEN CHATHAM, ONT.
 6 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

ANDREW B. 16-7-1807
 D. 22-11-1885
 M. 25-12-1834
 SOPHANNA E. C. BAGNALL
 B. 27-3-1814
 D. 9-3-1890
 L. CAVENDISH, PEI
 3 SONS 9 DAUGHTERS

DAVID B. -1809
 D. 4-5-1866
 M.
 MARY S. D. BAGNALL
 B. 26-6-1820
 D. 22-2-1890
 L. CAVENDISH, PEI
 1 SON 3 DAUGHTERS

ROBERT B.
 D. Living 18-11-1824
 UNMARRIED PHYSICALLY
 INCAPACITATED
 L. CAVENDISH, PEI

BECAUSE SOME BIRTHDATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE NAMES MAY NOT BE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

Chapter 10

JAMES SIMPSON

- - - -

James the seventh child and third son of William and Janet Winchester Simpson, was born in Gerbity, Morayshire, March 13, 1770.

Five years old when the family set out for the New World and a new life, he would have spent his boyhood and adolescence in the home of his parents, no doubt finding employment as he grew into manhood.

He was a young man of twenty when, with his parents, a brother and a brother-in-law William Clark, he became one of the founders of Cavendish in the spring of 1790.

As noted in Chapter 7 his other brother-in-law, John McNeill, who shared in the record as a founder, probably did not come to Cavendish till the spring of 1791.

Referring again to the 1809 survey, it will be noted that the hundred acres allotted to James by William Senior was the most westerly portion of William's lease of 565 acres. The western boundary was the lot line between Lots 23 and 22. It is a short distance east of the present Don Baker cottages and the road running north from highway 6 toward the Park.

In the Meacham 1880 Atlas it was part of the farms shown under the names James Orr and George Harker. The John Geddie manse referred to in Chapter 16 was on the Harker portion of this property.

Since the clearing of land referred to previously was a laborious process, and since these first settlers were a close knit family group, it is probable that they worked as a group.

The lightly dotted line on the survey chart indicates the extent of cleared land from the shore. Considering the primitive methods of clearing, this amount of land under cultivation is a record of unremitting toil and real achievement.

Since James did not marry until 1798 the oral records suggest that he continued to live in the home of his parents. This is supported by the fact that the two buildings shown in the survey are near the center of his property, indicating that from this point to the shore was already cleared and under cultivation. We think he built his home a short time prior to his marriage.

In 1798 James married Agnes Woodside, known to all as Nancy. She was a daughter of James Woodside and his wife Ann Love who came to Prince Town from Saltcoats, Scotland in 1770 on the Annabella.

Since James Simpson married a Woodside and his son John married his first cousin, Barbara Woodside, Nancy's niece, we are interested in an item in the will of James Woodside Senior, proved 5 July, 1824.

He left to his two grandchildren Barbara, daughter of his deceased son William (who married John Simpson July, 1840) and James, son of William Donald, his pew in Prince Town Church, to be enjoyed between them equally. In those days church pews were either rented or bought outright. Woodside had apparently bought his pew.

James and Nancy had six sons and four daughters. One son William died young and two daughters, Christy and Margaret, to the best of our knowledge never married.

The remaining five sons and two daughters married and produced fifty grandchildren. We shall return to them in due course.

During the next few years James was involved in several land transactions. There are four entries in the Land Registry Index between 1801 and 1805 to which he was a party. There are two errors in the recordings which we shall indicate.

The entries are:

"Simondson James from William Winter 4 August 1801
Lease 200 Acres Lot 23".

The name Simondson is an error in transcribing. This name does not occur in any other record and we are satisfied that it should read "Simpson James".

"Simpson James from William Winter 22 Sept. 1804 Lease
200 acres Lot 28".

Lot 28 is an error in transcribing and should read Lot 23. William Winter was the agent for Lot 23 but had no responsibility for lands in Lot 28, which was the Tryon, Cape Traverse area.

"Simpson James from William Winter 29 Sept 1805 Lease 200
acres Lot 23".

"Simpson James to Charles MacNeill 2 Oct. 1805 assignment
of lease, premises not mentioned".

Charles McNeill, son of John and Margaret was a nephew of James and, while the premises are not mentioned in the entry, this was the 200 acres shown in the name of Charles in the 1809 survey. It will be noted that only a very small area in one corner had been cleared of trees in 1809.

In Chapter 16, in connection with the Churches of Cavendish, there are references to the interest taken by James in religious and community matters. This interest is further evidenced by

the entry in Land Registry records that he donated the lot for Cavendish Cemetery, which has since been enlarged, and on the northeast corner of which stood the first two Presbyterian Churches in Cavendish.

There is a record that the first agricultural society in the New London area was organized in his home.

Meanwhile James and Nancy, who were the writer's great-grandparents, were to become the founders of another new community, Bay View.

Bay View is at the north end of Lot 22 on the shores of New London Bay, and is the next district to Cavendish on the west.

Why James, age 42, and Nancy, with a family of at least seven children, an established home, the major portion of a farm under cultivation and leaseholders of other land in Cavendish, should decide to move and start again from scratch in virgin forest, we do not know. But move they did and established a Simpson homestead from which four sons set up homes in Bay View and one in the neighboring district of Hope River. The two married daughters lived elsewhere in P.E.I.

The Bay View home was on the south shore of New London Bay and was the second farm east of the mouth of Hope River and consisted of 150 acres.

Inside the shoreline there was a depression in the center of the farm - a small pond fed by a strong spring at its head.

Just to the east of this spring, in 1811 James built his log cabin to which he and his family moved in April 1812.

Potatoes were planted and some grain sown among the stumps. Oral records say that the first fall the grain was threshed with a flail on the kitchen floor. In 1813 a barn was built.

The 1798 census shows a Thomas Adams, his wife and two sons as the only residents of Lot 22. They may or may not have lived temporarily in Bay View and there is no other record of them. There is also an oral record that a family by the name of Burke lived for a short time prior to 1812 immediately west of the Simpson property line. But they were transient.

During the writer's boyhood there was still remaining evidence, since washed away, that the west shore field of the Simpson farm was a favorite summer camping ground of the original Canadians, the Micmac Indians.

Oysters were very plentiful in the bay and clams along the shore and what were known as "Indian middens" - piles of oyster and clam shells, occurred on bay shores of P.E.I.

A large midden of this type in the west field had been mostly eroded by storm waves, but sufficient remained to indicate its location and dimensions.

These earlier residents were transients. James Simpson was the first to establish a permanent home and proceed to clear and cultivate a farm, which remained in the family until 1930.

Early historians wrote before the day of women's lib and were basically male chauvinists. Walter Simpson in Cavendish in the Olden Time will say "he had x number of sons" and name them with no reference to daughters. Others did likewise. It has therefore been difficult, in many cases, to get dates and in some instances names of female members of families.

In the case of the family of James and Nancy we have the dates of all the sons who grew to maturity and of one daughter. But no record has been found of the birthdates of the other three daughters.

The seven children who married all married cousins, three of them grandchildren of William and Janet Simpson - hence first cousins, and three great-grandchildren - first cousins once removed. John, the youngest son, married his first cousin Barbara Woodside, his Mother's niece.

While no male descendant of William Junior remained in the Cavendish area after 1914, there is still substantial representation of the descendants of James and Nancy in Bay View and Cavendish. We have been able to build a fairly full record of this group in the genealogical charts in the appendix.

Robert the eldest son, 1800-1864 married on August 4, 1829 his first cousin, Janet McNeill 1798-1878 and established a home in Hope River. There were three sons and two daughters.

Jeremiah 1803-1877 married on December 28, 1831 Margaret McNeill 1807-1896. She was a daughter of Speaker William McNeill and Jeremiah's first cousin once removed. They acquired a grant of land adjoining his Father's farm to the east, shown in 1880 under the name Arthur Simpson, now owned by his great-grandson David. They had a large family - eight sons and four daughters, several of whom also had large families. There were thirty-three grandsons and thirty-eight granddaughters.

In 1860 Jeremiah became The Honourable Jeremiah Simpson. He received, dated at Government House, Charlotte Town, 15th Feby, 1860, an invitation to become a member of the Legislative Council replacing Hon. John Wright, resigned. He accepted the invitation and served for several years.

In Chapter 16 it will be noted that Jeremiah and his son Arthur were prime movers in the establishment of a Baptist Church in Cavendish, that he was the first deacon and Arthur the first clerk.

It was Jeremiah's son Walter who, in 1900, wrote Cavendish in the Olden Time, which appeared as a series of five articles in the Prince Edward Island Magazine, now in the P.E.I. archives.

The third son, James Junior, born 1807 was married on February 1, 1837 by Rev. Dr. John Keir to his first cousin Janet Clark, born 1813. They established their home in Bay View, butting onto the East Branch of Hope River and shown in 1880 under the name Andrew Cullen.

The section shown angling across the property in the name of A. Clark was purchased later and is still known as The Shipyard Field. Here among other pursuits James built ships and there is a record of the launching of The Eliza, a 207 ton barque from this yard.

The biography of his son Rev. Dr. A. B., a world figure to whom we devote Chapter 17, says of him:

"James Simpson had established himself as a shipbuilder, miller, merchant, and exporter. He carried on his business in connection with the Cunard Steamship Company, exporting the product of his mills - flour, oatmeal, and pearl barley - and importing British goods which he sold in his store to the farmers for their produce. Such a medium of exchange was a necessity, and the business prospered till the financial depression which tested the foundations of British commerce swept over the empire. Shipbuilding was suspended, and export trade was threatened with extinction. James Simpson sold his business and with part of the proceeds bought a farm in Western Ontario".

This was in 1847. Three sons, including A. B. and two daughters were born in Bay View, three sons and one daughter in Chatham.

Alexander, the fourth son, 1809-1884 married Eliza McNeill 1814-1879. She was a daughter of Malcolm, his first cousin once removed. They had five sons and five daughters.

He built his home at the head of the East Branch of Hope River beside that of his brother James and established a milling business, a grist mill and a wool carding mill.

He built a dam on the stream flowing into the East Branch to provide water power. The mill, now basically a lumber mill and the mill pond, are still there operated by Alexander's great grandson Rupert.

The mill pond brings happy memories to several generations of Bay View and Hope River children including the writer. The school was only a short distance from the pond. On the opposite side was "the big hill" an open field which merged gently into the pond.

Here in winter we skated and coasted down the hill and across the pond, while in summer lake trout could be taken in quantity from the pond. The larger sea trout, less plentiful, could be taken from "the big hole" below the waste gate.

The youngest son John 1810-1900 went outside the McNeill and Clark families for a wife and married on July 27, 1840 his first cousin Barbara Woodside 1812-1908. These were the writer's grandparents.

John remained on the homestead farm where they had a family of three sons and six daughters. There were fourteen grandsons and fourteen granddaughters.

Two daughters died young. The four older daughters married and established homes in P.E.I. Margaret married Archibald Gordon and lived in Cascumpec. Two sisters lived in Sea View, Ellen who married William Donald and Christy who married Benjamin Donald. The fourth daughter Janie married Samuel Brown and lived at Stanley Bridge until 1890 when they moved to Vancouver. Howard, the second son, never married.

The youngest son, the Honourable George Woodside Simpson 1858-1906 lived in Bay View. On August 28, 1888 he married Catherine Taylor 1856-1921 of Malpeque.

He was twice elected to the P.E.I. Legislature, was a member of the Cabinet, and in reports of the day is referred to as "the most fluent member of the Legislature".

He was nominee for the Federal Parliament at the time of his early death from blood poisoning at forty-eight.

He will be referred to again in Chapter 16 as a prime mover for, first secretary of and a very active participant in the Cavendish Literary Society organized in 1886.

This book is dedicated to Laura Simpson Cowan. She is a daughter of George and Catherine. There were two other daughters, Annie Bernice who died in infancy and Lilla Mabel.

Laura Margaret and Lilla went to Prince of Wales College, taught school in Vancouver. Each married a World War I veteran. Tom Cowan was a Scot from Glasgow and Fred Harwood, Lilla's husband, a Yorkshireman.

We are giving coverage to this family particularly because Laura Cowan was very much involved in initiating the research which has resulted in this book, and contributed a substantial portion of the information covered.

We would point out that there are many individuals in the wide connection of whom a record of their accomplishments should be noted, but space does not permit.

The last member of John's family, the writer's Father who was the eldest son, was Donald Montgomery Simpson, 1849-1921. On September 3, 1884 he married Ellen (Nellie) Montgomery Ramsay in Chicago. She was born in Montrose, P.E.I. attended Prince of Wales College and was engaged to her future husband before going to Chicago with her parents. Her dates: 1858-1928.

It will be noted that both my parents had Montgomery as a second name. Thereby hangs a tale. Most people have four great-grandmothers. My sister, brother and I have only three.

Helen Montgomery, a sister of Senator Donald Montgomery, Lucy Maud's grandfather, married William Woodside and had one daughter Barbara who married my grandfather John Simpson. Thus Helen became my paternal great-grandmother.

While Barbara was still an infant William with others built a vessel and set sail with a cargo of cattle for Newfoundland but was taken by pirates and part of the crew were forced to "walk the plank" leaving three young widows in Malpeque, including Helen.

Helen later married George Owen and had a daughter Mary, my maternal grandmother who married Malcolm Ramsay. Thus Helen also became my maternal great-grandmother.

My Father Donald inherited the James Simpson homestead. Here I was born and grew up.

Coming to the daughters of James and Nancy, Charlotte on March 29, 1843 was married by Rev. John Geddie to Thomas McNeill son of Speaker William and had three sons and three daughters. In Chapter 7 we have referred particularly to a grandson, Rev. Dr. John Thomas McNeill.

Anne 1806-1856 married on September 22, 1841 her first cousin John Clark and lived at South Rustico. They had two sons and one daughter.

As stated earlier we have no definite information on the other two daughters Christy and Margaret.

Returning to James and the pioneer farm home, he and Nancy and the family lived in the log cabin until about 1830 when a frame house was built.

This was the house in which my Father was born, but in the early winter of 1867 it was destroyed by fire.

It was customary in those days, and later, to bank a house with seaweed in the fall to keep out winter drafts.

The cast iron stove developed a crack with a fire in it which it was necessary to extinguish.

Aunt Christy who was twenty-two rushed out with a burning stick of stove wood and, believing the banking to be wet enough to extinguish it, stuck it into the seaweed. But the banking was not wet. It ignited and the house was soon ablaze.

The neighbors rallied to the emergency felled logs, sawed the necessary lumber, and erected a building of two large rooms and a loft, so quickly that my Grandfather and Father slept in the new kitchen two weeks after the fire.

This was the kitchen section of the main house, which was built the following spring. It was the house in which the writer was born.

The story of James and Nancy and their descendants is to a large extent the story of the early years of Bay View. And, while they were separate school districts, Bay View and Cavendish were essentially one community.

We have come to the end of the written genealogical record of the founders of Cavendish. Those who wish more detail should consult the genealogical charts.

Still to be told is something of the other children of the first William and his wife Janet, and of the other family names which come into the record of a developing Cavendish.

JAMES SIMPSON B. 13-3-1770 D. 18-12-1850 SON OF WILLIAM AND JANET SIMPSON

M. 1798

AGNES (NANCY) WOODSIDE B. D. DAUGHTER OF JAMES D. AND ANN WOODSIDE

ROBERT B. -1800
D. 12-4-1864
M. 4-8-1829
JANET McNEILL
B. -1798
D. 8-2-1878
L. HOPE RIVER, PEI
3 SONS 2 DAUGHTERS

JEREMIAH, HON. B. 7-9-1803
D. 14-7-1877

M. 28-12-1831
MARGARET McNEILL
B. 27-8-1807
D. 7-9-1896
L. BAY VIEW, PEI
8 SONS 4 DAUGHTERS

ANN B. 1806
D. 16-2-1856
M. 22-9-1841 By REV. JOHN GEDDIE
JOHN CLARK B.
D.
L. SOUTH RUSTICO, PEI
2 SONS 1 DAUGHTER

JAMES B. -1807
D.
M. 1-2-1837 By REV. JOHN KEIR
JANET CLARK B. -1813
D.
L. BAY VIEW, PEI TILL 1847
THEN CHATHAM, ONT
PARENTS OF REV. DR. A.B.

ALEXANDER B. -1809
D. 15-1-1884
M. ELIZA McNEILL
B. -1814
D. 30-3-1879
L. BAY VIEW MILLS, PEI
5 SONS 5 DAUGHTERS

JOHN B. 17-11-1810
D. 19-3-1900
M. 22-7-1840
BARBARA WOODSIDE
B. 31-8-1812
D. 19-9-1908
L. BAY VIEW, PEI - HOMESTEAD
3 SONS 6 DAUGHTERS
THE WRITER'S GRANDPARENTS

CHARLOTTE B.
D.
M. 29-3-1843 By
REV. JOHN GEDDIE
THOMAS McNEILL B. 1-5-1816
D. 10-1904
L. ELMSDALE, PEI
3 SONS 3 DAUGHTERS

CHRISTY B.
D.
APPARENTLY UNMARRIED

MARGARET B.
D.
APPARENTLY UNMARRIED

WILLIAM B.
D. YOUNG

100

BECAUSE SOME BIRTH DATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE NAMES MAY NOT BE CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED