

THE MACVICAR FAMILY

Walter MacVicar, a native of Islay, Isles of Hebrides, Scotland, settled in St. Andrew's East in 1826. In 1836, he moved to 200 acres, Lot 1020, in the rear of Chatham Township. Marion Connelly and her husband, George, visited Islay in 1980. They could not find any MacVicars, but did find MacDougalls and MacArthurs. They surmise that Walter wanted to settle closer to old friends, or he was looking for land more like Scotland. In any case, "Farming would have been a lot easier for them further south". The first MacVicar log house was just east of the present farmhouse, but across the driveway, and just below the stream which runs under MacDougall Road. The farm stretched from below the stream and the Notman house across Clear Lake, including the present Gloven point and all along the south side of the lake, including Bob Everson's. It was successively worked by Walter, his son William, and his grandson, Phineas, and is still owned by Marion MacVicar Cormelly and Kathleen MacVicar Noble, daughters of Phineas. Walter MacVicar and his wife, Eliza Dockstader, of Dutch descent, and infant children are buried on the MacVicar Farm. AU the rest of the family are buried in Lachute.

Phineas MacVicar told Marion that when there was a family burial on the hillside behind the house, the family kept a vigil at night by the graveside. This was the era of the "grave-snatchers", seeking fresh bodies for Medical Research. On one such occasion, they heard iron wheels in the gravel on the bridge by the farm. When the snatchers saw the light on the hill, they ran away.

Walter, an educated man, had previously clerked for the Hudson's Bay Company in the North West Territories. He offered night school to adults in the Dunany area and had as many as seventy-five students, settlers who drifted in and out between farm chores. Attendance, says Marion Connelly, was quite spotty, but it filled a real need in the Community. Sadly, many of the settlers, especially the women, had been victims of the woefully inadequate Irish Educational System, and could not write their names. This can be clearly seen in the number of documents signed with an "X" in the Records Office.

PHINEAS & IDA MACVICAR

Phineas MacVicar married Ida Martin, who had grown up in the house built by her father, John, in The Seigneury, on the road connecting the Four Corners to Sir John's Lake. For many years it was the Sir John's Lake Clubhouse, and is now occupied by the Bunker Family. At one time you could drive to Lakefield on this road. Passing the old Martin farm one day shortly before her death, Mrs. MacVicar was shocked when she saw the way the fields had grown up into bush. The old farmland which she remembered so well had all but disappeared.

Through marriage, the MacVicars were related to many of the area families. William had married an Armstrong from Lakefield, and Phineas' sisters, Elizabeth & Jane, married Morrison brothers. Elizabeth's husband, Jim Morrison, bought the Evans farm on the Dunany Road, halfway down the long hill. The MacVicars remember her as Aunt Lizzie, but prior to her marriage she taught in the Dunany School as Miss Eliza MacVicar. The MacVicar girls and the Morrison girls were great friends when they all attended Dunany School, and St Paul's Church together. The MacVicar-Morrison family had a long connection with Dunany School, since Jane MacVicar, Marion MacVicar Connelly and Janet Morrison (now Hay) all taught there before they were married.

Phineas and Ida gradually sold off some of the Lake lots, but they retained some for themselves. Kathleen and Marion both have cottages, and so does their cousin, Helen Martin Carkner. In addition, the MacVicar girls still own the Tilden-Tindale cottage, the lovely lot between the Steins and Bob Everson, and the land between Gloven's and Colin Notman's. Phineas built the Stein cottage and it was rented over the years to Rutherfords and Hammonds. Phineas was not well when the Wm. Hyde cottage was built, and hired a Lachute builder, James Pollock. For many years it was rented to the Hyde Family, and now belongs to Farrell Hyde.

Mrs. MacVicar was a beautiful person, and much loved by all those who rented from her. She was a real homemaker and always willing to share her delicious preserves and baking. She made her own soap into little bars during the early years of her marriage. using lye which was a by-product of the ashes of logs, made in a potash pot, such as is now used on the Golf Course to hold flowers.

Marion & Kathleen have fond memories of a loving home and their growing up years in Dunany. In the early thirties, on one of Bishop Farthing's visits to St. Paul's, when the Rev. Allan Mount was Rector, Marion was pressed into playing the organ. She writes, "I would not have been brave enough, except for Rev. Mount and for Angus' mother, Janet MacDougall, who was a beautiful singer." Afterwards, the Bishop told her she had "done very well".

Marion tells a story about her grandfather, William, and his desire to get a field hoed by his sons. It was the day of the Grange Picnic, and the boys longed to get away to this special event. Grandfather fell asleep and when he awoke, he found he was surrounded by a tepee of hoes!

The roads being so impassible, it was the custom of local farmers to board anyone who needed lodging. Another boarder, who also helped out on the farm, was Eddie Sillick, a Montrealer working for Lovell's Directory. He spent his summer holidays with the MacVicars. He was a nephew of Lizzie Porter, who had a farm on the road into M&Nights Lake. Eddie became like one of the MacVicar family, even setting up a "muscle-building contraption" for young Brent Connelly in the carriage house.

Marion & Kathleen both attended Dunany School and Marion went on to a teaching career. She taught one year in Louisa and two years in Dunany on a Special Permit. While she was teaching at Louisa, she boarded with Clamnce and Dorothy Neill. Bev was just a baby then, and Marion remembers how she loved to cuddle him. Marion later went to Macdonald College to get her Teaching Certificate. She taught another two years at Dunany and for many years in Brownsburg. Marion and George have two children, Brent and Janice, who still love to come to Dunany for holidays with their families. Kathleen and Emerson Noble have one son, Terry, who graduated from UNB in Forestry and has now married and settled in the Edmundston, N.B. area. Terry and his wife, Suzanne, have a baby daughter, named Emily.



Ida MacVicar, Helen Martin Carkner, Phineas MacVicar, Alvin Connelly, Kathleen MacVicar Noble, George Connelly, Isabel MacVicar (Skinner), Marion MacVicar Connelly, Mrs. John Connelly, John Connelly - at the wedding of George and Marion Connelly. This picture was found in Angus MacDougall's album.



Enroute to Church. David Morrison, Kathleen MacVicar, Jessie Morrison, Janet Morrison (Hd), Janet MacDougall, Ida MacVicar. In front, Clifton Morrison.

Strawberry Preserves.

2 qts. strawberries - boil 3 mins.

Add 3 cups sugar - boil 3 mins.

add 2 cups sugar - boil 3 mins.

Pour into bowl and stir until cool before bottling.

Rhubarb and pineapple conserve

5 cups rhubarb.

5 cups sugar

1 can crushed pineapple

Boil 20 mins.

Remove from stove and pour in 2 lbs.

strawberry jello Seal hot.

Makes 7 small bottles.

District of Montreal } In the Court of Request
No 48 of Sept. Term 1846 } of Leandreuil holden at Leandreuil

Robert Simpson of St Andrews
Trader - Plaintiff

Walter M^r Vicar of the
Township of Chatham Defendant

By Virtue of a Writ of execution, Issued out of the
Said Court, and to me directed, against the Goods
and Chattels, of the Said Defendant, bearing Date
the 17th day of April Eight hundred and forty
Six I have this Day been to the Domicile of the
Said Defendant, in the hour of four o'clock after
noon in the Said Juris District and there
being I demanded of the Said Defendant and
Speaking to himself the Debt, Interest
and Costs in the Said Execution, mentioned amounting to the sum of £7.50 Currency and my own
fee, and the Said sum not being paid I have
in the presence of the undersigned Recor-
dered and taken in execution as belonging
to the Said Defendant the following Goods &
Chattels Which I found in the Possession of
the Said Defendant to wit:-

one brown Mare
three Red brown Cows
two Pigs
one Sleigh and rigging
one Seta painted yellow
one Chest of drawers
one table

Writ of Execution against Walter MacVicar, 1846. The loss of their possessions was devastating to this settler family.