

Chapter 4 The Halton County Branch

We left the senior Campbells at the end of Chapter 3 setting off for Canada. The group came to a dozen at least: Duncan senior and wife Janet, son Archibald, daughters Janet and Isabel and their families, their cousins the McCallums and others.¹ It was quite an undertaking requiring planning and execution. We do not know, even today, the name of their embarkation port or their ship. The year was probably 1833 judging from information carved on gravestones in the Boston Presbyterian church cemetery.

	<u>George III 1760-1820</u>	
Archibald is born in <i>Croftnalin</i>	1811	
	1812-14	War with the United States
Duncan junior is born in <i>Croftnalin</i>	1821	
The Andersons emigrate to Canada		
	<u>George IV 1829-30</u>	
	<u>William IV 1830-37</u>	
	1832	Clearance of Glenquach, emigration to Easthope, Ontario
The Campbell, McKerracher, McQuarrie, and McCallum families emigrate to Canada Janet dies in Canada	1833	
	1834	John Campbell succeeds as 5th Earl and 2nd Marquis of Breadalbane
Duncan senior dies in Canada	1837	Rebellion in Upper Canada
	<u>Victoria 1837-1901</u>	
	1841	Union Act forming Upper and Lower Canada
Duncan and Christina are married in Scone	1846	
Duncan and Christina emigrate to Canada	1849	
Archibald is elected to Nassagaweya township council	1851	
Archibald is first elected Reeve of Nassagaweya township	1860	
	1861-65	American Civil War
Archibald dies in Acton	1899	

Figure 1. *Timeline for Archibald and Ann Campbell.*

No first-hand account of the crossing has been found; we do not know if the services promised were delivered, that is to say, promised by the legislation passed years earlier to encourage emigration: food and water for six weeks, a hammock for sleeping and the use of common toilets (buckets emptied overboard). Many of the passengers were country folk inured to a spartan life, but the experience was no doubt a surprise to those who had never seen the ocean before. Ship's captains were often distant and autocratic, the crews coarse and foul-mouthed. They were headed for the eastern townships, so their destination was likely Quebec. The slightest sign of illness among them was cause for alarm, the diseases most feared being dysentery and cholera. From what we know of Duncan later he was becoming increasingly listless and unhappy. Family tasks were being borne by Archibald.

¹ The “others” probably included Duncan’s brother John and his wife Mary Carmichael and their daughter Christan (Families C5 and C5a). Certainly Christan was with the group as she is known to have married John Clark in Quebec in 1834. John Clark would later leave Quebec for Glengarry in Ontario.

1 Immigrants to Halton County, 1811-1849

Many inscriptions on the immigrant gravestones in the cemeteries of Boston and Knox Presbyterian Churches in Acton have been transcribed (Table 1).² The year of emigration is either given on the stone or is estimated.

Table 1. *Selected Halton County Burials, 1811-1849.*

Year of emig'n	Names	Origin	Cemetery - number ³	Relationship to Duncan junior	N
1811	William Campbell	Nairnshire	Boston – 32		
1817	James Campbell and Ann Cameron	Breadalbane	Boston – 70		a
1821	John Anderson and Elizabeth (Campbell) Anderson	Canmore	Boston – 71	aunt & husband	
1821	Catherine Anderson and Malcolm McPherson	Kenmore	Pioneer – 23		
1832	James McCallum - brother of Finlay	Kenmore	Boston - 146	pat. 1st cousin	
1833	James Anderson and Janet McCallum	Kenmore	Boston – 74		
1833	Duncan McCallum and Susan Menzies	Kenmore	Boston – 34	pat. 1st cousin	
1833	Duncan Campbell and Janet MacGregor	Breadalbane	Boston – 78	parents	
1833	Duncan Campbell	Breadalbane	Pioneer – 3		b
1833	Finlay McCallum			husband of aunt	
1833	Alexander McQuarrie and Isabel Campbell	Bradalben	Boston - 77	aunt & husband	
1833	Duncan Mc Kercher and Janet Campbell	Glenlyon	Pioneer - 75	aunt & husband	

Table Notes

- a This year of emigration is demonstrably incorrect. It should be about 1844.
 b This is Duncan Campbell of Corwine, Breadalbane, died 25 Jun 1858 aged 92.

The one to suffer the most from the crossing was no doubt Janet whose health was delicate from the start. Suddenly, in September, almost as soon as they arrived, she died. Who can know the pain she endured on the voyage? The exact place where she died is not known, though it was probably the Anderson's cabin in Esquesing. Her remains would later be moved to the Boston Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Duncan would have suffered a further setback with the news in 1835 of the death of Isabella in childbirth at Norval. Her remains and that of her baby would be moved to the Boston Presbyterian Church Cemetery as well.⁴

By 1833 Halton County was into its twenty sixth year of existence. It began in 1808 with the survey of four townships working back from the lakeshore: Nelson, Trafalgar, Nassagaweya and Esquesing with the first two being opened for settlement in 1809. For a short while starting from 1819 bonafide settlers could apply for a hundred-acre grant. By 1833 the land was no longer free and the Campbells had to buy from the original grantees.

Much has been written of the pioneer experience in Ontario. Of Esquesing township McColl has written:⁵

- 2 John Anderson arrived in 1821. He bought the west half of Lot 14 in Concession 3 in Esquesing in what was then called the Scotch Block. Soon after the arrival of the senior Campbells he exchanged this lot for Lot 6 in concession 7 of Nassagaweya. This put him on the corner of the Campbellville Road and the Nassagaweya-Esquesing townline closer to the extended family.
- 3 The numbering follows the publication by the Halton-Peel Branch of the OGS of transcriptions of the Boston Presbyterian Church Cemetery (2000 rev.) and Acton Pioneer Cemetery (1982 rev.). The numbers are keyed to maps not currently available.
- 4 I assume this from his non-appearance in the township minute books in which Archibald appears regularly. Minute Book Halton County Nassagaweya Twp 1828-1904 Archives of Ontario: GS3378.
- 5 *Records and Memories of Boston Church in the "Scotch Block" Esquesing Township, County of Halton, Ontario, Canada 1820-1920*, J. McColl (1920).

The pioneers came into a wooded country, and bears, wolves, deer and other wild animals roamed the forests. The bears and wolves rarely attacked people, but were a continual menace to hogs and sheep... The conditions of life were hard... The trees had to be cut down and cleared away, log houses and barns built, roads made, and by severe and protracted labor the necessities and comforts of life provided. At first, and until they had oxen and sleighs, many men in the Scotch Block had to carry flour on their backs from a mill on the Sixteenth at Dundas Street, Trafalgar.

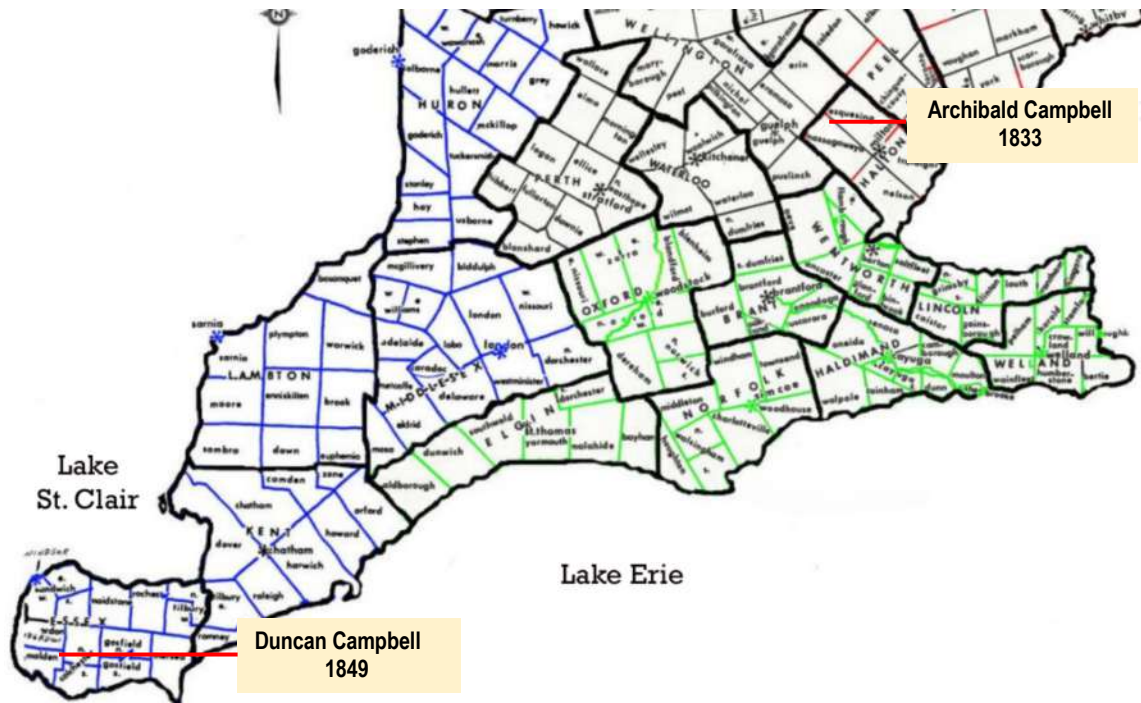


Figure 2. Southwestern Ontario. The farms of the brothers lay 200 miles apart.

A journey of 40 miles to York, always made afoot till horses became common, took two days; the driven oxen were tethered or turned out for the night; and their drivers often slept, shelterless, in the woods, by the roadside. The wheels of the first carts were cut from tree-trunks and pinned on the axle with wood,—were solid, heavy, slow, but introducers, nevertheless as the wheel every-where has been, of community contact as well as of commercial exchanges. Butter and eggs went to Toronto, ox-drawn; books, necessaries, and seeds came back. Furniture and household utensils were very meagre, and hemlock branches were used as part of the bedding. Before saw-mills were built, with immense labor and patience, two men sawed out a board from an elevated log with a whip-saw, one standing above the log, and the other below it. Tools and implements for doing farm work were few, and these had to be brought a distance. Mrs. David Darling carried a tub of butter to Little York over the forest trails and traded it for a logging chain, which she carried back with her.

The faithful co-worker of the first settlers in clearing away the forest, working the plough, and moving the first vehicle of transportation, the sleigh, in winter and summer alike, was the willing and steady ox. Buck and Bright, the ox-team, hawed and gee'd, and took the log, or load to' its destination according to directions.

In a short time the horse appeared in the new settlement to assist in farm operations. On the road the ox was sure but somewhat slow, and the horse excelled him. People in those days were fine walkers. A journey of ten, twenty, or even fifty miles, was not worth mentioning; nevertheless, both men and women found that riding on horse-back was a more easy and stylish way of travel-ing. They rode to church, to business and political gatherings, to call on neighbors, and to social functions where the fiddle was sometimes in evidence. The

buggy had not yet arrived. The means of amusement and recreation were not as abundant then as they are at present. An aged lady, well informed on the early history of the Scotch Block, is authority for the statement that the first pastor on one occasion went with his wife to an evening party, carrying her dancing slippers in his overcoat pocket. Probably such a thing now would be regarded as a very grave indiscretion. The violin, however, was an auxiliary at that time to social pleasure, and to courting in the log houses.

Archibald had the benefit of the Andersons' experience.

By the time of the Campbells' arrival the leaves on the trees were beginning to turn. All knew acutely that the keys to survival were land and planting. Archibald and Duncan McKerracher set off together for the registry office in Nelson. On 1 October Archibald put down £100 cash for the 100 acres of John Carr's holding in the northeastern part of Lot 26 in the 7th concession.⁶ McKerracher took out a mortgage on a part of lot 25 across the road. The land, though much of it swamp, lay within an easy trek of the growing hamlet of Acton. Government surveyors had marked out the lines for the future concession lines and staked the corners of the lots. But the clearing, of course, had to be done by the settlers.⁷

The region, though covered in timber, soon displayed signs of development. Every day it seemed a new shanty appeared in the bush. The Campbells were soon surrounded by people with foreign ways and foreign accents. There were Scots from the Lowlands and Highlands, English, Irish and American. Many of the Scots hailed from Kenmore and Fortingall. Like most newcomers the Campbells took awhile to get used to their surroundings and at first kept mostly to themselves and other Gaelic speakers. Sunday rest was observed. In the early days before the erection of a church many took turns hosting meetings in their homes for readings from the Bible. By 1839 the Presbyterians collected the funds to build the first Presbyterian Church on Lot 16 in the 4th concession.⁸ This rough frame building was not especially convenient for Archibald, but it did attract families from the neighbouring township of Puslinch.

Archibald already knew one of the Puslinch families from the voyage over: Duncan Campbell, wife Catherine, and their children Donald, Ann, Hugh and Duncan. Two years later, in March 1835, Ann agreed to be his wife.⁹ "This lady, wife of Archibald Campbell", was examined on 17 May 1839 by the elders of the Nassagaweya Church and admitted to membership.¹⁰ His sister Elizabeth married a more distant kinsman, Donald Campbell, from Barvas on the Isle of Lewis.

Archibald and Ann's family grew quickly. Their first child, Duncan, arrived in 1835, followed by John in 1837, Janet in 1839, Peter in 1840, Archibald in 1842, Hugh and Catherine in 1846, Robert Burns in 1849, Donald in 1850 and finally Margaret Ann in 1863. None of the baptismal records, almost certainly of the church in Nassagaweya, have been found.

We do have the Nassagaweya township papers. Though Archibald can be identified in them, his father cannot. Duncan senior it would seem was never the same after his wife's death. Having lived to see the birth of a second grandson he died on 13 May 1837. Archibald had him buried in his mother's grave in the Boston Presbyterian Church cemetery. His father did not leave a will. This is a pity as in our imaginings he might have revealed something of Duncan junior. I imagine him spending his last months in silent depression.

There is little doubt the 1830s and 40s were difficult years for the family. The conditions they endured would no doubt have stressed the most hardy of cotters. But not to be forgotten were the compensations, the sense of freedom, equality, and opportunity. They owned the land they paid for and worked and could go about their business without interference from a chief or a factor. The absence of a gentry class meant they had to manage their affairs themselves. Duncan McKerracher was in 1835 a "fence viewer" and overseer of highways of the "fourth division". John Anderson was overseer of the townline between the 7th concession and Esquesing. Split rail fences had to be monitored, their height kept at five and a half feet.

6 The previous owner was a John Carr (also spelled Kerr). Halton County Land Registry Office Records & Abstract Index Book Nassagaweya Township VA-B ca. 1823-1958 AO: GSU 179022

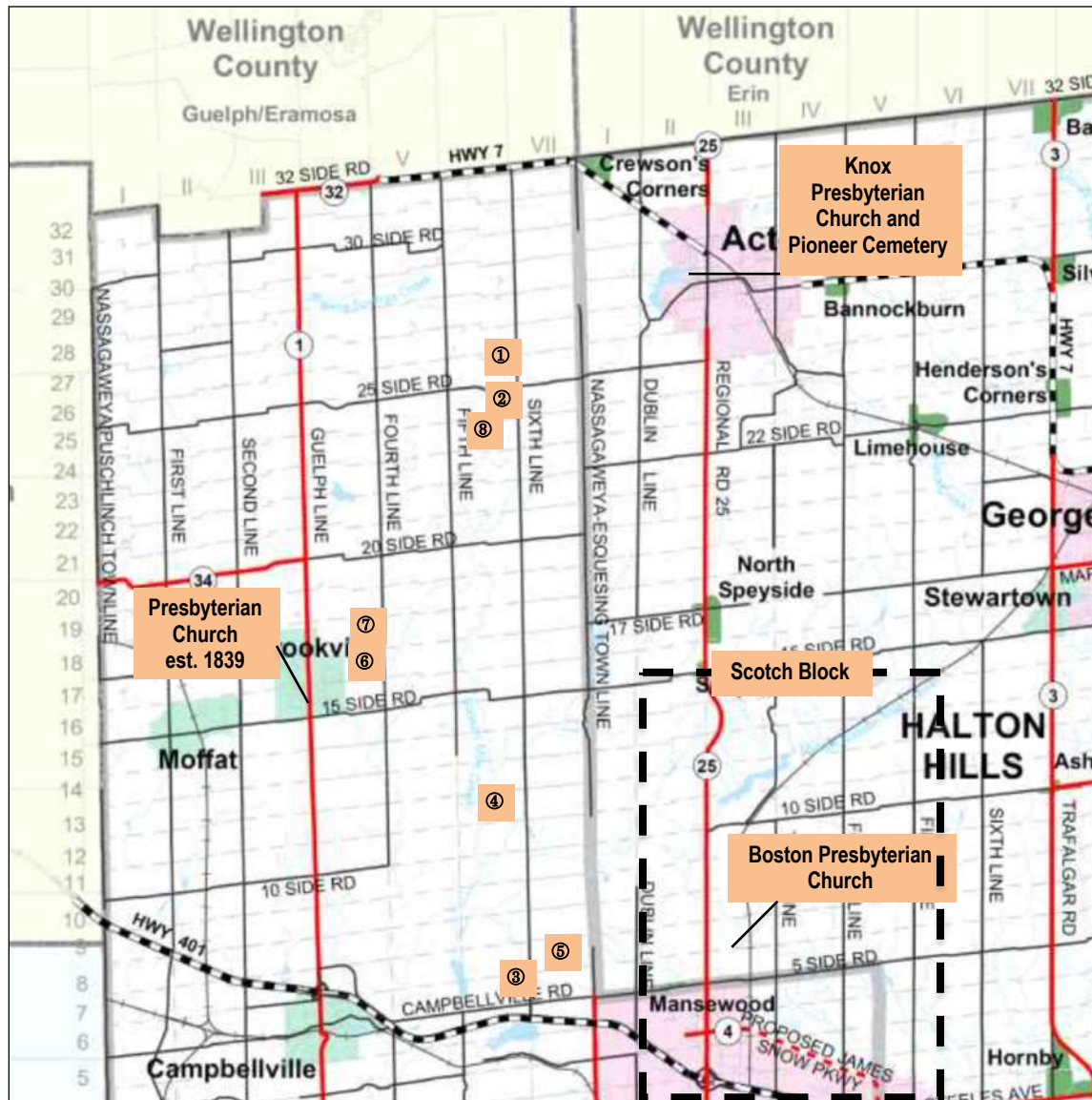
7 *History of Nasagaweya*, J. Norrish (1889), 14.

8 The early records are missing. <http://www.haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca/h/na02.htm> Thank you.

9 This record has not survived.

10 Norrish, 94.

Hogs had to be corralled if under thirty pounds weight. In 1842 Archibald served as school commissioner and in 1844 overseer of highways.¹¹



Key to Places on the Map:

- ① Archibald Campbell and Ann Campbell - Con 7 Lot 26 Nassagaweya tp.
- ② Duncan McKerracher and Janet Campbell - Con 7 Lot 25 Nassagaweya tp.
- ③ John Anderson and Elizabeth Campbell - Con 7 Lot 6 Nassagaweya tp.
- ④ Duncan McCallum - Con 7 Lot 12 Nassagaweya tp.
- ⑤ Duncan McCallum - Con 1 Lot 7 Esquesing tp.
- ⑥ William Campbell - Con 5 Lot 17 Nassagaweya tp.
- ⑦ Donald Campbell - Con 5 Lot 18 Nassagaweya tp.
- ⑧ Finlay McCallum - Con 7 W ½ Lot 24 Nassagaweya tp.

Figure 3. Northern Parts of Nassagaweya and Esquesing townships.

11 Minute Book Nassagaweya Tp., 1828-1904 AO: GS3378.

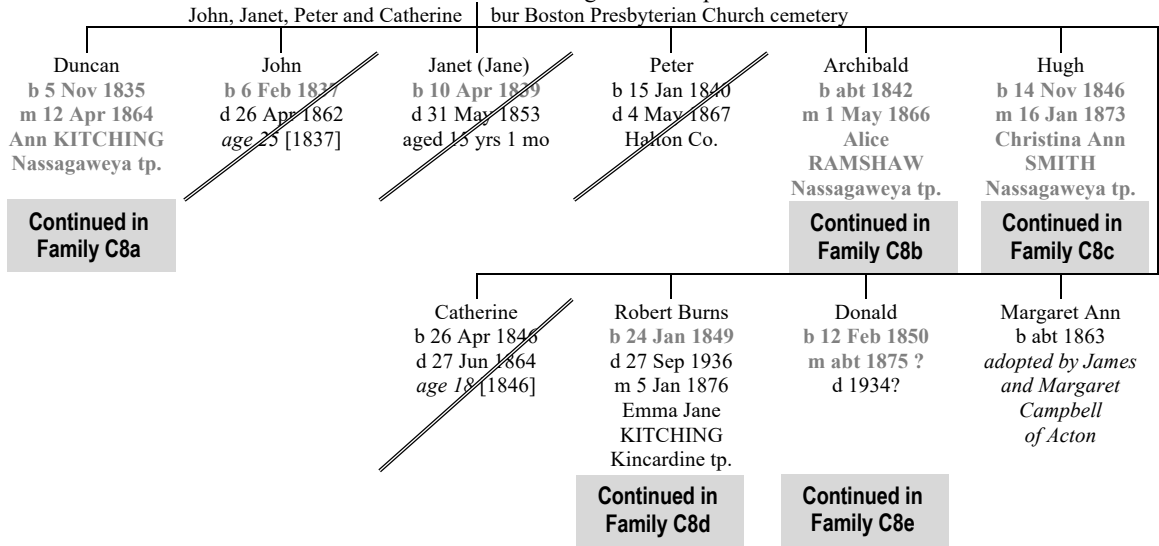
Continued from Family C6

Archibald CAMPBELL
b 26 Apr 1811 Croftnalin, Fernan

his 1st, her 1st
m Mar 1835 = Ann CAMPBELL <-----
c 12 Mar 1809 Weem
d 14 Nov 1871 aged 61 [1810]¹²
bur Pioneer cemetery, Acton, Ont.

Continued from Family C9

and
his 2nd, her 2nd
m 30 Dec 1872 Guelph = Margaret-Elizabeth (STEWART) LAIDLAW <<<
b Esquesing 1836 James Stewart
d 22 May 1899 Acton, Ontario
executor of Archibald's will
d 30 Aug 1918 Guelph



Family C8. Archibald CAMPBELL and Ann CAMPBELL, Nassagaweya, 1811 - 1936.¹³

The sense of equality adopted by settlers is underscored by the reaction to it of ministers fresh from Scotland. Ministers were simply not paid the deference that would be the norm in Scotland. The Rev. MacNaughton for one was indignant with the lack of respect he received from the Scots in Vaughn:

I cannot speak favourable of either the piety or of the intelligence of the Scotch settlers in Canada. In Canada I have met persons of decided piety, and I have met persons possessed of some knowledge—but the generality of them in sound and useful knowledge are...on a level with the general class of labourers in Scotland. They boast of their equality, of their independence and liberty. They seem equal in poverty, in ignorance, and in indifference to religion. They seem to think that they depend neither on God nor on Man.

He was, as Campey put it, among people who “no longer felt subservient to anyone”.¹⁴

A major lament of most family historians is how few of his subjects were inclined to write about their experiences. This applies most especially to Archibald who lived in the upper part of Nassagaweya near the head of the Grand River, a place swampy and ridden with mosquitos. Five of his children died young—Janet at fifteen, John at twenty-five, Catherine at eighteen, Peter at twenty-seven, and Archibald junior at

12 Mrs. Archd Campbell, Nassagaweya Farmer removed from communion roll by death 14 Nov 1871. Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, Communion Roll 1872-1906 AO: GS3316.

13 It bears noting Archibald was fully aware of the family's troubles in Scotland. To none of his seven boys did he give the name James, the name of his Scottish uncle.

14 L. H. Campey, *The Scottish Pioneers of Upper Canada, 1784-1855* (Heritage Books, Toronto, 2005) 105.

twenty-eight—very likely of malaria. They were buried in the Boston Presbyterian Church cemetery near their grandparents.

2 Problems with Family C8

The date of Archibald and Ann's marriage and the birthdates of their children are taken from internet websites and lack citations.¹⁵ The place where the post-1839 baptisms took place is not specified, but was probably the First Presbyterian Church in Nassagaweya. I think Archibald's connection with the church ended around 1850 when the proximity of Acton prompted him to transfer his allegiance to Knox Presbyterian. He was elected elder there in 1857. The Andersons, on the other hand, who lived on the Campbellville Road, continued to frequent Boston Presbyterian Church in the Esquesing countryside, which was nearer to their home.

3 The First Presbyterian Church of Nassagaweya

The first Presbyterian church in Nassagaweya lay between the Guelph Line and the 4th line just north of side road 15. This was likely the church the family attended until 1850, when for the sake of convenience, they switched their allegiance to Knox Presbyterian in Acton.

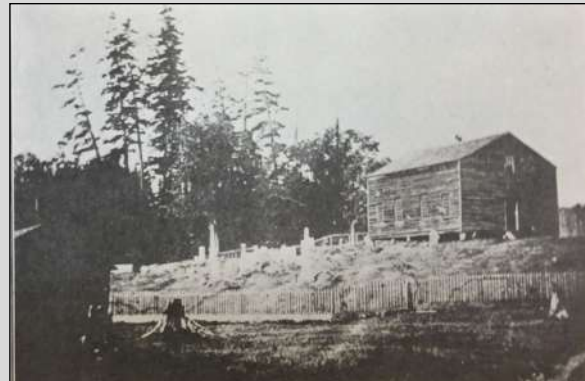


Figure 4. *The First Presbyterian Church of Nassagaweya est. about 1839.*¹⁶

Archibald came to Canada already inured to hard work, and though the felling of trees was new to him initially, he took to it quickly. As the son of a farmer he knew enough of farming to make a go of it. The assessments of 1853-57 show him clearing his land at a steady pace.¹⁷

Archibald was a religious man and civic-minded. He had the learning and confidence to hold his own in public discourse. In 1851 he was elected to the Nassagaweya township council and served for six years. In 1860 he found himself reeve.¹⁸ Reelected reeve in 1864 he served continuously in that capacity to 1871. Then a J.P. he styled himself "Esquire".

As to the making of the man reports conflict. Sons Duncan and Robert are said to have left home at sixteen and "never heard from again". This could not be entirely true as Robert helped administer Duncan

15 <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~denham56/campbell.htm> No reference for the birthdates has been found. They may have been taken from a family Bible; in any case they are not in the IGI.

16 McColl.

17 Assessment and Collectors Rolls 1853 to 1899 Nassagaweya twp., Halton County AO: GS3376.

18 Norrish.

McKerracher's will in 1879. Hugh remained and farmed in the area. In 1887 he served as co-administrator of James Campbell's will. For whatever the reason none of the boys worked the home farm.¹⁹

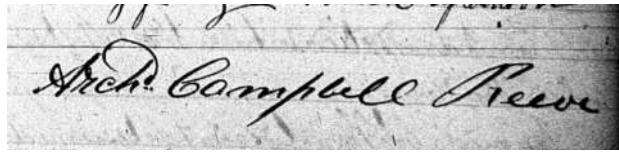


Figure 5. Signature of Archibald Campbell in his capacity as reeve.

4 Duncan and Catherine Campbell of Puslinch

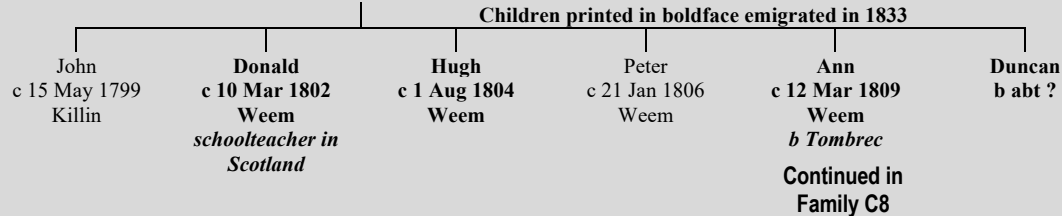
Archibald's wife Ann Campbell was born to Duncan Campbell and Catherine Boyd in Weem parish in 1809 and accompanied her parents to Puslinch township in 1833. The following descriptions of the family have been taken from a historical atlas of 1906:²⁰

CAMPBELL, Duncan (d.), b. Perthshire, Scot., 1766; d. age 82. He was a tailor by trade, and came to Puslinch Tp. in 1833. He was a Presbyterian and a Liberal. He m. Catherine Boyd. Issue: John, who remained in Scot.; Donald, Hugh and Peter stayed in Scot.; Mrs. Arch. Campbell, Acton, and Duncan.

CAMPBELL, Donald, b. 1802; d. 1869, came to Canada with his parents at 31 years of age. He had been a school teacher in Scot. He bought rear lot 20, con. 11, and cleared the farm. He was a Presbyterian and a Liberal, and would not hold office of any kind. He m. Janet Cameron, of Rosshire, Scotland. Issue: Catherine (d. 20); Hugh, Alexander, Duncan, Jr.; Roderick, John, Christina, Mrs. David Hume, Arkell; Mrs. Alex. Matthews (d.), Guelph; Mrs. Peter Scott, Teeswater; Mary (d. 14); Mrs. David Hogg, Manitoba, and Donald.

The piece for Duncan is correct save for his age at death. If he were born in 1766 he was 92 at the time of his death not 82. A native of Killin in Perthshire, his first child, John, was born there (Family C9). They moved to Weem around 1800.

Duncan CAMPBELL m 17 Jun 1798 Killin = Catharine BOYD <<< ?
 b abt 1766 b abt 1766
 d aft 1833



Family C9. *Duncan CAMPBELL and Catherine BOYD, Weem and Puslinch, ca. 1766 - 1833.*

Archibald and Ann were married for nearly forty years. Around 1870 her health began to fail and the two agreed to have their six-year-old daughter, Margaret Ann, adopted by James and Margaret Campbell

¹⁹ *North Halton Compass* (Eden Mills, ON), 1 Nov 2000, 14.

²⁰ *Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington, Ontario* (Historical Atlas Pub., Co., Toronto, 1906).

who had no children of their own.²¹ Did Archibald remember how his little brother Duncan had been adopted when his mother became ill so many years before?

Ann died in 1871. She was 61. Near the end of her life she agreed to Archibald's request to sit for her photograph. Archibald had her buried in the Knox Presbyterian church cemetery in Acton, in what would later be called the Pioneer cemetery. A photograph was taken of the family farm perhaps around the same time.



Figure 6. *Photograph of Archibald and Ann Campbell ca. 1870.*²² This was taken when Archibald was reeve just a year or two before Ann's death.



Figure 7. *The Campbell family farmhouse, ca. 1880.*²³

S
"Knothead"
Archibald Campbell
Homestead
Lot 26, Conc. 7
Nassagaweya
- circa 1880 -

Archibald was not the sort to live alone for long. In 1872 he married Margaret-Elizabeth (Stewart) Laidlaw, a widow, thirty-six. She was born in Esquesing to James and Elizabeth Stewart. Her first husband, James Henderson Laidlaw, Esq. of Guelph, had recently died leaving her with two children. The Laidlaw family was wellknown in the area, many Laidlaws being active in the Boston Presbyterian Church.

The Campbells retired from farming around 1885 and went to live in a new brick bungalow that Archibald had prepared on Lot 40 in Acton. They were remembered by a reporter for the *Acton Free Press* in these words:

Squire Campbell was a fine type of Scotchmen who came from the lowlands to Canada, ninety or an hundred years ago. Mr. Campbell was a prosperous farmer, was the father of a fine family of boys, who made names for themselves, and took time to give attention to matters of church and state. He was one of the first deacons of Knox Church, his election taking place away back in the year 1857, when Rev. John McLaughlin, the first settled minister of the church, was inducted. From then until the time of his death, about twenty-five years

21 This is curiously similar to Duncan's adoption. Margaret Ann, too, was about six.

22 North Halton Compass (Eden Mills, Ont.), 1 Nov 2000, 14.

23 Ibid.

ago, Mr. Campbell was officially connected with Knox Church. When the new church was opened in 1895 he was the Senior Elder, and of the forty members enrolled for the first communion in 1857, only himself and Squire Alex. Grant then survived. His was the first subscription tendered for the erection of the new church, \$500, and only one other member equalled this sum in the subscription list. When the new church was opened, Mrs. Campbell, his second wife, was President of the Ladies' Aid.

Progress and change are marvellous to behold, but at the same time can lead to a loss of cultural memory, the "Irish" or Gaelic being one example. Many immigrants spoke Gaelic in the home and church, and it continued to be spoken in Halton County for longer than in other places in Ontario. It was certainly heard in Archibald's household when the children were small:

...in the earlier days it was a requirement of the minister who was being called that he should be conversant with the Gaelic language, and agree to preach at least one sermon each Sabbath in Gaelic. Rev. John McLachlin, Rev Lachlin Cameron, Rev. D. B. Cameron were all eloquent—not to say long-winded—Gaelic preachers. And how the McDonalds and the McNabbs and the MacGregors and the McKerrachers, and the McIsaacs, and the McBains, and the McPhersons, and the McDougalls and the Burns, and Lawsons, and Campbells, and Waldies and Warrens and Scotts and Kennedys, and Camerons, and Manns, and Rosses and others of the old settlers who had come from the bonnie banks and braes of Scotland, did enjoy the words of the Lord in the mother language. As the years progressed the demand for the Gaelic grew less insistent. The young folks learned English only and rarely "spoke the Gaelic". For years Mr. Cameron satisfied the congregation with one Gaelic sermon a month, and that usually after the sermon in English.

Figure 8. *Marriage notice in The Canadian Champion, 9 January, 1873.*

CAMPBELL—LAIDLAW —At the Manse, Guelph, by the Rev. Mr. Torrence, of Guelph, assisted by the Rev. J. Cameron, of Acton, on the 19th ult. Archibald Campbell, Esq., Ex-Warden Co. Halton, Knowehead, Nassagaweya, to Margaret Elizabeth, widow of the late James H. Laidlaw, Esq., of Guelph,

5 Boston Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Esquesing

The Boston Presbyterian Church can be found in the countryside of Esquesing township just north of sideroad 5 on the 3rd line. Many of the extended family are buried there. This was the home church of the Anderson family.



Figure 9a. *Boston Presbyterian Church and its cemetery.*

Figure 9b. *The gravestone of Duncan Campbell and Janet MacGregor. Boston Presbyterian Church Cemetery.*

'In Memory of DUNCAN CAMPBELL Native of Breadalbane, PerthShire, SCOTLAND. Emigrated to Canada 1833. And Died May 13, 1837 68 yrs & 5 mos. Also of Janet McGREGOR wife of the above who Died Sep. 19 1833 57 yrs.'



6 James and Margaret Campbell

The Campbells, James and Margaret, were lifelong friends of Archibald and Ann. The two appear on the 1871 and 1881 censuses of Halton County. On the former Archibald and Ann's daughter, Margaret, can be seen in James's household described as an adopted daughter 7 years old. She must have been born around 1863. James was one of the few Scottish immigrants who actually returned to Scotland to spend a few weeks in the home of his youth (1886).²⁴

What we know of James is largely from his 1887 obituary in the *Acton Free Press*. Born in Kenmore in 1824-5²⁵, he married Margaret around 1849. The two moved to Canada ten years later. He spent eight years as a farmer in Nassagaweya, and then went into the hotel business with the Rossin House, later called Bennett's Hotel in Acton. Five years later he retired and spent a number of years at his home on Fairview Avenue. He then purchased the Royal Exchange Hotel of which he was the proprietor at the time of his death. The obituary goes on to say of him:

He was a good hotelkeeper, and no more orderly or better kept house can be found in the county. For many years Mr. Campbell was a member of the Presbyterian Church and for some time was treasurer. He was also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and was initiated in Scotland. He was a genial hearted citizen had a good word for all and was generally liked by those with whom he came into contact. He was childless. His wife and Maggie, an adopted daughter survive him. They have general sympathy in their bereavement. The funeral on Saturday was largely attended. The religious services were performed by Rev's. Dr. Torrance, J. W. Rae, and R. B. Cook. The bearers were Messrs. D. Henderson, W. T. Smyth, Geo. Havill, Alex. Bremner, Wm. Hampshire and J. A. Fraser, Milton.

By 1887 Archibald was seventy-six. It was time to make a will. He makes no mention of the church in Nassagaweya or Boston Presbyterian but he does show a commitment to Knox Presbyterian with a \$400 bequest to assist in the building of a new church and \$300 towards the "Aged and Infirm ministers Fund". The remainder of his estate he wishes to be divided among his four surviving sons. His wife "Margaret

24 Obituary of James Campbell, *Acton Free Press* (Acton, ON), 29 Sep 1887, p. 3, column 3.

<http://ink.ourdigitalworld.org/newspaper-overview/acton>

25 The article states 1859, but 1859 must have been the year he emigrated.

Elizabeth Campbell” is to receive the house and lot 40 in Acton. A bequest of \$400 is to go to “Margaret Ann Campbell of the village of Acton, spinster, the adopted daughter of James Campbell. He requests \$250 be put towards a monument on his grave, a sum he soon extends by codicil to \$400.

He died on 22 May 1899. An obituary was printed in *The Acton Free Press*.²⁶ His wish for a memorial was, for whatever the reason, never carried out. I think he was buried in the cemetery of the Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton, but I cannot be certain.²⁷ Margaret lived on and died in Guelph in 1918. Of the four surviving boys only Hugh stayed in the area. Three boys were drawn, like other young men of the time, to Kincardine in Bruce County, Duncan leaving around 1866 and Robert and Donald around 1878.

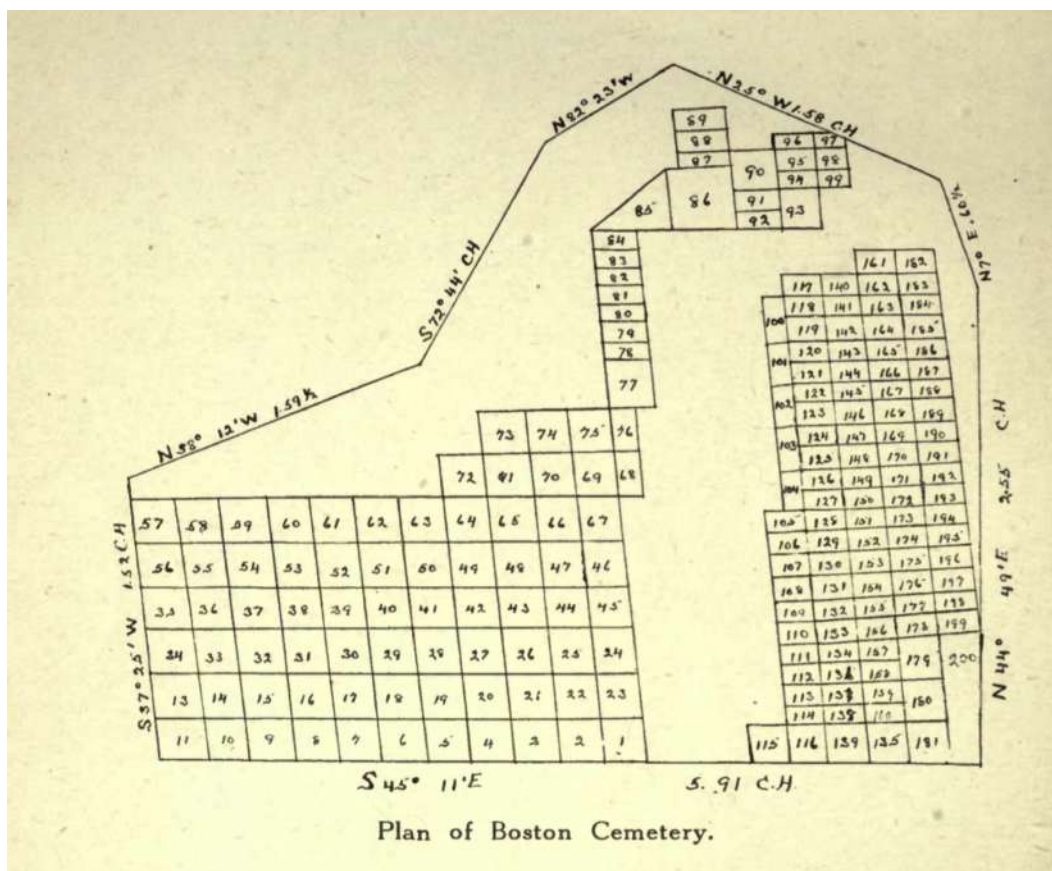


Figure 10. Map of Boston Presbyterian Church cemetery, Esquesing.²⁸

26 Obituary of Archibald Campbell. *Acton Free Press* (Acton, ON), 1 Jun 1899.

<http://ink.ourdigitalworld.org/newspaper-overview/acton>

27 Archibald owned a lot in the cemetery of the Boston Presbyterian Church, evidently for himself, but a stone was never placed upon it. Burial records of Boston Presbyterian Church. Publication of the OGS.

28 Laidlaw Family Papers AO: F230-6.

7 Evidence in Wills

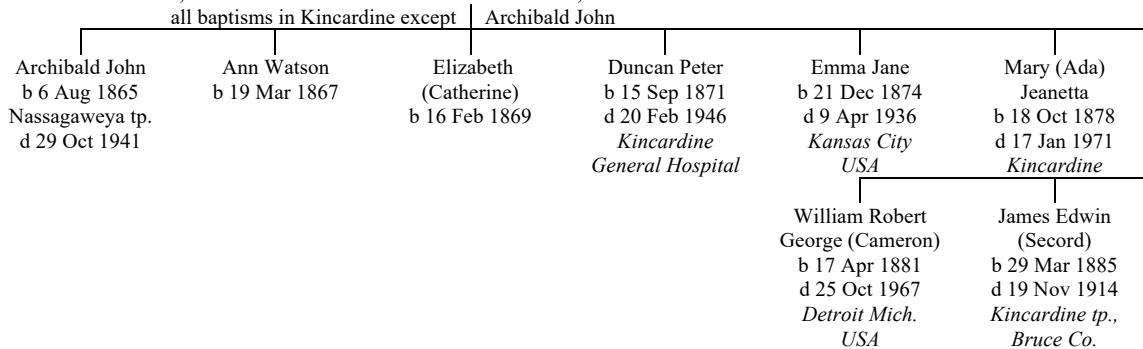
John Anderson 1873 John Anderson's estate was administered by Archibald Campbell, Finlay McCallum Junr and Donald Campbell.

Duncan McKerracher 1879 Duncan McKerracher's estate was administered by Robert Burns Campbell and James Elliott Cobban, a labourer of the village of Acton.

James Campbell 1887 James Campbell names his adopted daughter Margaret Campbell who we have identified as Archibald's daughter. Executors of his estate were Hugh Campbell of Nassagaweya and Finlay McCallum of Esquesing.

Continued from Family C8

Duncan CAMPBELL m 12 Apr 1864 = Ann KITCHING <<< John Kitching & Ann Watson
 b 5 Nov 1835 Nassagaweya tp., b 6 Aug 1840 Nassagaweya tp., Halton Co., Ont.
 d 5 Jul 1911, Kincardine tp., d 27 Feb 1916 Kincardine tp.,
 Bruce Co., Ont. Bruce Co., Ont.



Family C8a. *Duncan CAMPBELL and Ann KITCHING, Nassagaweya and Kincardine, 1835 - 1967.*

Continued from Family C8

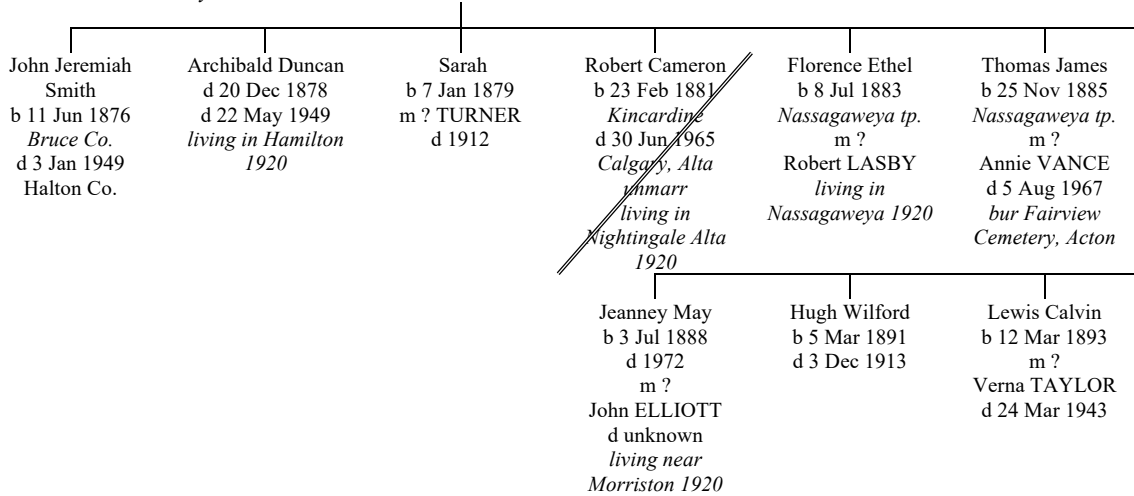
Archibald CAMPBELL m 1 May 1866 Nassagaweya = Alice RAMSHAW <<< William and Mary Ramshaw
 b abt 1842 Nassagaweya tp., b abt 1844 Nassagaweya tp.
 d 29 Apr 1870 *aged 28* [1842] d 21 Jun 1917 Souris Man.

|
 William Peter
 (Cameron)
 b abt 1867

Family C8b. *Archibald CAMPBELL and Alice RAMSHAW, Nassagaweya, 1842 - 1917.*

Continued from Family C8

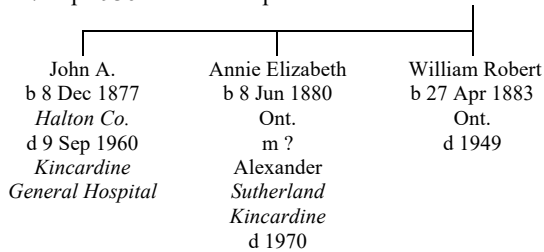
Hugh CAMPBELL m 16 Jan 1873 Nassagaweya = Christina Ann SMITH <<< Jeremiah & Sarah Smith
 b 14 Nov 1846 Nassagaweya tp., b 28 Feb 1851 Nassagaweya tp., Halton Co., Ont.
 d 14 Nov 1920 Nassagaweya tp. age 77 [1843] d 29 Feb 1932 Nassagaweya tp.
 bur Fairview Cemetery, Acton



Family C8c. *Hugh CAMPBELL and Christina Ann SMITH, Nassagaweya and Kincardine, 1846 - 1972.*

Continued from Family C8

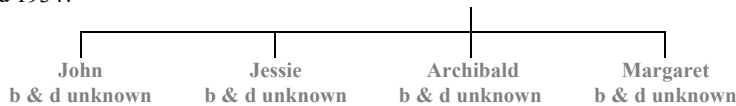
Robert Burns CAMPBELL m 5 Jan 1876 Kincardine tp. = Emma Jane KITCHING <<< John Kitching & Ann Watson
 b 24 Jan 1849 Nassagaweya tp. b 12 Jan 1855 Ont.
 d 27 Sep 1936 Kincardine tp. d 3 Feb 1911



Family C8d. *Robert Burns CAMPBELL, Nassagaweya and Kincardine, 1849 - 1970.*

Continued from Family C8

Donald CAMPBELL m abt 1875 prob Kincardine, Ont. = ? <<< ?
 b 12 Feb 1850 Nassagaweya tp.
 d 1934?



Family C8e. *Donald CAMPBELL, Nassagaweya and Kincardine, 1850 - 1934.*

8 Another Search for Duncan Campbell Junior ²⁹

The argument for Duncan junior's connection and adoption made in Chapter 3 would obviously fail if a person with this name were to be found in the household of the senior Campbells in Canada. It is therefore essential to test this with data from the 1842 census. If Duncan, born in 1821, were in Canada in 1842 he would be 21. At that age, he could be married, though he could just as easily be living in the household of his brother Archibald. The 1842 census for Halton County is not available on ancestry.com but extracts from it are available from the website given in footnote 29.

A search of the census for Nassagaweya township yields four Campbell families headed by a Duncan, an Archibald, a William, and a Donald (Table 2). The data gives only the heads of families. Duncan, William and Donald live on the same concession and could be related. There is no evidence Archibald is connected with the others. The records state he has been in the province 8 years, which is consistent with an arrival in 1833. He is between 30 and 60 years of age and has a wife between 14 and 45. He has 5 children, 2 boys under 5 (Peter and Archibald), one girl under 5 (Janet) and 2 boys between the ages of 5 and 14 (Duncan and John). All of this is consistent with what is drawn for him in Family C8.

Table 2. *Campbells on the 1842 Census of Nassagaweya Township.*

Name	Duncan	Archibald	William	Donald	Duncan ¹
Concession	5th	7th	5th	5th	6th
Lot #	E pt Lot 2	E pt Lot 26	W pt Lot 17	E pt Lot 18	E pt Lot 7
Prop/Non-Prop	Prop	Prop	Non-Prop	Non-Prop	
# years in the Province	10	8	11	11	10
# Males under the age of 5	-	2	1	-	2
# Females under the age of 5	-	1	2	1	-
# Males between the ages of 5 & 14	-	2	1	-	1
# Females between the ages of 5 & 14	-	-	-	1	2
# Single Males between the ages of 18 & 21	1	-	-	-	-
# Single Females between the ages of 18 & 21	-	-	-	-	-
# Married Males between the ages of 21 & 30	-	-	-	1	-
# Single Males between the ages of 21 & 30	2	-	-	-	-
# Married Males between the ages of 30 & 60	-	1	-	-	1
# Single Males between the ages of 30 & 60	-	-	1	-	-
# Married Males over the age of 60	1	-	-	-	-
# Single Males over the age of 60	-	-	-	-	-
# Married Females between the ages of 14 & 45	-	1	1	1	-
# Married Females over the age of 45	1	-	-	-	-
# Single Females over the age of 45	1	-	-	-	-

Table Notes:

- 1 Duncan son of Duncan on the 5th concession

Most importantly, there is no sign of a 21 year-old brother. Of course, he could already have left the farm or died before the family left Scotland. It does, however, increase the likelihood the Duncan of Family C6 remained in Scotland and is our Duncan junior.

But there is another point, something Archibald maintained. He called his homestead in Canada *Knowehead Farm*, after what he described as "his birthplace" in Scotland.³⁰ We know from the records of Kenmore church that his birthplace had the official name Croftnaln, though Duncan senior may have called the fields he worked there *Knowehead Farm*. His parents may have occupied a Knowehead Farm elsewhere in the years leading up to their emigration. If they did it could only have been for a short time (1828-1833 approximately). The name Knowehead Farm does not occur in Kenmore, but it does in a number of places elsewhere in Perthshire: Mauchline, Ayrshire and Blairgowrie and Dunning. This issue has no effect on our story.

29 <http://ontariocensus.rootsweb.ancestry.com/transcripts/pre1851/1038-1.html>

30 Obituary of Archibald Campbell, *ibid*.

9 Knox Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Acton



Figure 11a. *Pioneer Cemetery, Acton. This is the view behind Knox Presbyterian Church.*



Figure 11b. *A View of the cairn in the Pioneer Cemetery, Acton. Erected by descendants of the pioneers in 1933.*

Recapitulation

The senior Campbells were typical of many pioneers of 19th century Ontario in living relatively short lives. Lacking doctors close at hand and the drugs taken for granted today, they were left to their own remedies. Their health and safety was tested by many issues, the psychic shock of leaving their ancestral homes, the hazard of crossing the ocean, the adaptation to a new land and a new culture, and the accidents of a workforce engaged in generally hazardous work, the cutting down of trees with sharp implements. Archibald, of the second generation, blossomed in the new setting. As to his children, they went their own way, wholly acculturated. No one in the family left any kind of hint of a younger brother Duncan in Essex County. This is curious as the evidence is so strong. The proof may, at the end of the day, require a DNA analysis to put the question of the connection at rest.