

ORIGINAL

HISTORY

OF

THE

HUGHES' FAMILY

The Hughes' arrived at Montreal the sixth of March, eighteen hundred and forty-nine in the twelfth year of the "Reign of Queen Victoria". Recorded the twentieth of March eighteen-hundred and forty-nine, "Lot Number Thirteen", in the "Sixth Concession of Township of Portland", in the Midland District for the sum of thirty-three pounds.

John Hughes

This is copied from the original deed which was written on a sheepskin tissue-like piece of material. I copied it from my father's deed the day I signed off the place in July, 1961. It burned at the time of the fire in September, 1962. Recorded Clear Deed Grant to John Hughes, June 20th, 1899 for 88 acres Concession V. (This is, I presume, Uncle Edgar's farm.)

Minnie Hegadorn

John Hughes Sr., my Great Grandfather and family came from the "County of Down", Patrick, Ireland in the year 1822. The family included his wife, one girl and two boys, Hannah 9, John 2, and Alexander an infant who died from exposure during the trip. He was buried beside the road between Harper's Corner and Cataraqui. The County bought the burying ground to rebuild the road. His body was exhumed and re-buried in what is now Cataraqui Cemetery. *Section E* They had three girls born in Canada; Eliza, Suzanne and Francissa. Their mother's maiden name was Anna Laze and by coincidence her mother's maiden name was Hughes.

They came from Ireland in a mast boat, and were seven weeks on the ocean. They came directly to Kingston and from there to Sydenham in a horse stage to the County of Spaffordton where they met an oxen stage and changed. The horse stage returned to Kingston. They lived in Sydenham four years in front of what is now the Anglican Church. He worked for Hazy Purdy a wood-ranger who found this lot that wasn't staked. He looked over the lot and on returning home told John Hughes. The next day John Hughes came over and put his initials on a stake, claiming the land. The next day he walked to Kingston and bought it from "Sir Henry Smith" Premier of Canada, for a dollar an acre plus interest, sixty-six acres in all. He died before he had it paid and John Hughes Jr. finished paying for it. That same summer he went out to the farm and cleared a place large enough to build a shanty. The next spring they moved out to the farm. About ten years later he built a log house and log barn. The shanty was where the drive shed now stands. They built the cabin south of it and the barn north of it. When the country was surveyed the concession came out about eight rods south of the buildings, therefore a lane was built. In 1857 he built a large barn. At that time it was the largest barn around. Over 100 men came to the barn-raising. Many were so interested that they came and helped without being asked. The chickens for the dinner were cooked in a large cooler outside. Both John and Anna Hughes died before John Jr. built this new barn. Hannah married George B. Snyder. Later he fell from another barn that was being raised on a very windy day, hurting himself seriously. Shortly after he died insane. He was a weaver by trade. His wife took over the weaving and supported her four boys and one girl; John, William, Jim, Edward and Catharine for a short time. Then the family was divided. Hannah and Ed came back to the homestead; Jacob Snider brother of George, took John; George Asseletine took Billy; Joe Si Taylor took Jimmy and Jim Wells took the

girl Catharine. Ed married and moved to Meaford. Jim later went to Meaford. John and William signed up for the American war. John was never heard of again and Billy was killed. Catharine married Anson Charlton and lived her entire life in the Harrowsmith area. Hannah died at the homestead some time later.

Francissa was a maiden who never left the homestead and died when she was about 35 years old.

Eliza married James Bradford and had four boys and three girls. They were William, Thomas, John S., Alvin, Charlotte, Minnie and Elizabeth. They farmed about 1 mile from the Hughes homestead. She lived and died in this vicinity. Thomas lived on the Bradford homestead and had three children, Ella, Florence and Melville.

John S. lived and died in the Verona area. He had three boys and two girls, Clinton, Floyd, John, Lillie and Laura. William lived and worked on the farms with his brother Thomas. In middle age he sold his farm to his brother and moved to Kingston where he died. He was a bachelor until after his move to Kingston where he married a middle aged lady.

Alvin went west at an early age and I have no data on his family.

Charlotte married Reuben Garrison and spent her entire life in the Petworth, Yarker area. They had four children, two boys John and David, and two girls Eliza and Lena.

Elizabeth married a man by the name of Mr. Hall and spent her life in Utica, New York. I have no record of her family.

Minnie married Wilfred Huffman and had three boys, Hurrelle, Kenneth and LaVerne. She lived and died in the Moscow area. I have no further data concerning the family.

Suzanne married Thomas Watson and moved to Meaford. She had seven children, John, Sarah, William, Thomas, George, Martha and Cecelia. I have no more data on them.

John Hughes rode horseback to court Mary Randolph who lived on Quobin Road near Odessa. They married and had seven children, five boys and two girls, James Albert, Melissa, John, Anson, Cynthia, Edgar and George. They grew up on the homestead with their parents.

James Albert married Elizabeth Grainger from Elginburg and had three children, a daughter who died in childhood and two sons Elmer and John. John Hughes bought James Albert the second farm to the east when he married. He then

bought the farm next to it for Anson. Anson was a carpenter by trade. He married Allie Hartman and had two daughters. Grace married Joe Hawkey and Myrtle married Percy Shibley. Anson sold his farm to James Albert his brother, moved to Harrowsmith, built some houses, sold them and moved to Odessa. His wife died and he remarried in old age. He died at the age of 99 years in Sydenham where he had been living with his daughter Grace.

Melissa married Joe Hartman, Allie's brother, and moved to Polingbrook. They had three sons and three daughters, Damon, Josie, John, Maud, Mary and Minnie. She died at about 38. Damon married Della McEwen and lived at Tichborne. Josie died young at Kingston in 1922. John married Grace Clow of Tichborne. Maud married Robert Norris of Perth. Mary married Bill Wright of Odessa and Minnie married Jim Harrison of Kingston.

John Jr., 11 months younger than Anson, married Charlotte Brown, Moscow. His father John Hughes bought him a farm south of his land with the house on the Colebrook Road. He had four boys and five girls; Earl, Roy, Cecil, Russell, Lilly, Edith, Jennie, Mabel and Bertie. I have very little information about them.

Cynthia married William Ashley and had two daughters Minnie and Violet. They lived at Petworth. Minnie died at age 3 and Violet at 18. She later married Frank Walker, Harrowsmith. She died on the homestead.

Edgar married Pheobe Carr, Petworth. They moved in the homestead with his parents John and Mary Sr., and brother George in the year 1885. Mary the mother died in 1899. John died in 1906. After Mary's death they moved half the barn from the homestead across the road to Concession V and built a large new home for Edgar and Pheobe. They had no children and both died in this house, Pheobe in 1938 and Edgar in 1946. George and his father lived alone in the big house on the original homestead for a couple of years. George married Ella Barr on November 18, 1908. They had two daughters, Gladys born August 25, 1909 and Minnie born October 10, 1911. Gladys married Gerald Huffman on November 1, 1932. They had four sons and one daughter, Ronald, Wendell, Rubena, Gary and Lionel. Ronald lives at home. Wendell married Vera Shillington, Bath and lives at Petworth, Rubena married Clifford Davis, Harrowsmith and lives in Toronto. Gary married Donna Irwin, Odessa and lives in Belleville, and Lionel lives in Harrowsmith. Minnie married James Hegadorn, Odessa on September 1, 1931 and they have two sons and two daughters, Walter, June, David and Carol. Walter (Reverend) married June Wagar, Colebrook and presently lives at Seeleys Bay. June married

Jack Purvis, Glenvale and lives in Kingston. David lives in Kingston and Carol lives in Killaloe.

Ella Barr Hughes died May 15, 1922 with T.B. George Hughes lived on the homestead until his death July 13, 1960 at the age of 94. His daughter Gladys and her husband lived with him and continued living there until September, 1962 when the house burned. They sold the farm in 1965 to Arthur Leeman. In 1978 he sold it to Knud Norgaard who has built a new home just west of the foundation of the original big house. The original home had 2 halls 7' wide, 7 bedrooms, living room and dining room each 17' x 17', kitchen 18' x 20', pantry, dormer room and a large two storey woodhouse. There were 2 cellars, in addition to a third cellar, which was never used, under the kitchen.

who  
built  
house?

Written by M. Hegadorn in 1979.

Some Events of Pioneer Days

When Mr. Hughes bought the land, the first thing he did was to get the land cleared in preparation to sow wheat and barley to contribute to his living. They sold the good timber and then piled the scrub trees and brush in a pile and burned it. They had built a stone ash house and this they filled with the ashes. When the ash house was full they would sell them to Mr. Sydney Warner and Mr. Sam Stewart of Harrowsmith who made potash. Mr. Hughes would take this money and buy flour and vegetables. Once the land was cleared, they raised wheat for their own flour and corn for cornmeal. They made a hoe shaped from a board to rake the ashes. When they first came they had to build a log building which came out at the top to put their sheep in at night to protect them from wolves. Grandfather Hughes had a dog called "Captain". The children played on a large stone until the wolves' eyes shone in the dark, then they would run into the shanty. Wolves attacked Captain one night and tried to break into the shanty. They succeeded in keeping them away from the window and door but next morning Cap's mangled body was found in front of the door. Both Mr. Hughes Sr. and my grandfather carried all the wool sheared from the sheep and the wheat to be ground to Yarker on their back.

Harrowsmith consisted at that time only of a store built on the corner. Later a hotel was built and gradually a village named "Spike's Corners" sprung up. A school was then built but John Hughes was too old to go. He had just gone to school a few weeks in Sydenham before they moved but could not be beaten selling grain, making change or doing any kind of mental figuring. Hannah the oldest girl had a good education as she had gone three years in Ireland and finished her education in Sydenham. John Hughes courted his wife on horseback. She was Mary Ann Randolph of Odessa. They became friends when Mary Ann came to visit her friends "The Snyders" who lived close by.

When crossing the Atlantic a large vessel tried to sink their small vessel to keep them from settling in Canada.

My uncle, Anson Hughes when he was eighty, related this to me shortly after we were married when I visited him at his home in about 1933.

Minnie Hegadorn

August 18, 1979