



**Stan Brown**

*Scotch Settlement History Meeting*

October 21, 1995

Length: 42 minutes and 6 seconds

[*The person introducing the tape does not state his name, but it can be assumed that George Jackson is recording*]. George notes that he is taping this afternoon at the Bradford Public Library where the Scotch Settlement Historic Group meeting is taking place. Stanley Brown is the speaker. Stan thinks he will start with the West Gwillimbury end that's a generation up on the Brown family. The Brown family has a written family tree, although it may be re-done. He'll start with his great-grandfather [*showing a picture of him*]. These people were born about 1808-9. John Brown was born on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1808 and his wife was born November 5, 1809. Her maiden name was Chambers, Hanna. She was a Congregationalist. They came to Canada in 1840, when John was 32 and Hanna was 31. They had 12 weeks at sea in a sailing vessel before landing in Quebec. Another 3 weeks on a boat called the Durham\* brought them to Toronto. They were both Congregationalists. They had a letter of recommendation to a minister in Toronto named Ralph. He helped find work for John; that family had 13 children. 3 died in infancy; 6 boys and 4 girls lived.

John Brown lived in King and Whitchurch townships in the county of York until he went to a farm in 1872 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of Whitchurch Lot 7 Concession 2; the east part. It is known today as Leslie Street. King's Lake was on the southeast corner of the property. They rented the farm from Henry Cretan-St. George\* whose father fought for France during the French Revolution. Henry lived on the west portion of Lot 7 Concession 2 and made a living in real estate. He died in 1896, the year after the Browns moved to West Gwillimbury. Rent was paid in 1872 by William Brown, Joseph's older brother. There were quite a few older brothers; William was the oldest of the family, born in about 1834. In 1880, the semi-annual payment was made by





Whitten Brown and the other by John Brown. While living in Whitchurch Township they attended Mount *[inaudible]* Church which was a Methodist Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Whitchurch. It was on the west side of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession. Hanna, Lucy, Elizabeth, and Anne all got married before the Browns moved to Whitchurch farm. They're descended from the youngest member of the family. John died at Richard of Hanna Harsley's\* home on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1896. Hanna Brown died at Joseph's home on 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1884, aged 75. They are buried in Newmarket cemetery. According to the book (his grandfather's account book from 1887-1894), he mentions in there where they moved summons. His great grandmother was originally buried at White Rose Cemetery and that was closed off and they were moved to the Newmarket Cemetery.

John Brown's brothers came to Canada at the same time. George went to Price Edward County, but Stan doesn't think they really know where he is. They didn't keep in contact with one another. James moved to Toronto, then moved to Whitchurch, and later went west. Stan doesn't know much about him, but he thinks Jean Gordon is a descendant of John Brown; they always knew they were related but not how. John Brown's mother and sister also came to Canada 7 years later. His mom was 85 when she died in 1862, so she was born 1777. He doesn't know where she was buried. The children that grew up were John, George, Hanna, Lucy, Anne, Elizabeth, William, Alfred, Joseph, and Henry. They have other members of the family that were the original rental for the property in Whitchurch. Right now it lies in the town of Richmond Hill.

A young man by the name of Tom Horsley and another one by the name of Richard Patton\* also came up with the Browns but he doesn't know exactly why. One was 15 and one was 13; they had no parents. Both of them eventually buried one of the daughters of the Browns. Speaking about the Pattons\*, some of their descendants are up North now and there's a lot of them. The Horsleys were around too. One of the connections that came through the Pattons\*, a man by the name of William *[last name is inaudible]* from Newmarket had a daughter who married a man by the name of Birch Slesher\*... they are all descendants from that family. The late Gordon *[last name is inaudible]* was a cousin of theirs.





Joseph Brown was the youngest of the family and he was born December 18, 1856 on the east side of Yonge Street, south of Richmond Hill; that's where they lived at that time. Harry Brown remembers the house where Joseph Brown was born; he died the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1948. He was married in 1883 at Horton, Ontario. He married Margaret Jemima Wallace. She had descended from the Crawfords. Katlynn Crawford had married John Wallace. John Wallace's parents lived on the corner of what is now the Hughes farm, sometime way back in the early 1800's. They died in the mid-1850s. John Wallace was born in 1825 in New Brunswick, but that's about all they know.

Mrs. Will Stewart\* (who was Victoria Wallace) had a broken leg but her niece Margaret Jemima Wallace was sent to help in the home until she recovered. Mrs. Will Stewart\* worked in an office in Whitchurch. That's where Joseph Brown met Margaret Wallace. Then they were married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. It had rained 3 days steady and his grandfather had to drive with his cousin Ben Brown all the way up from Whitchurch by Bradford. They stayed in Bradford overnight and drove to Thornton in time for the wedding. After the wedding, his grandparents stayed in Barrie and it took them 1 or 2 days to come back down. They settled into their home and his great grandfather was living with them until about 1890. He was moved to Horsley's after he had a stroke, and the book shows the finances of taking care of him. He lived until 1896 when he was 88 years of age. In about 1893-1894 they decided they were going to move. There was a Miss Johnson who taught then, and her home was on the 9<sup>th</sup> Line at Mount Pleasant. It was through her that they got wind of the farm, and they made arrangements to see the farm and signed a rental agreement in the fall of 1894. It was the west half of Lot 14, Concession 10 and that was 150 acres. Uncle Walter was Stan's father's brother. There were 3 girls next. After that, Joseph had the ploughing to do at his new farm. He had to seek permission from T.W. Evans. During the ploughing, he boarded with Zac Evans and his wife; the account book says it cost him \$20 in two \$10 payments. What would that cost cover?

Early in March 1895, they moved by sleigh and wagon, driving the cattle by foot from Holland Landing and arriving in West Gwillimbury by dark. Stan's dad remembers going up with his brother Walter went up the day before with Addie Walker\* to keep the house fires





going. In the following years the family settled nicely in the community, taking an active interest in the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. His grandfather had been superintendent of the Sunday School.

Stan looks in different book which he says is the record of a secretary at Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, Sunday School, 1906. It [*the record*] goes on to say what everyone was wearing and how much money they had. In the summer of 1906, Mr. William Belfry a retired public school teacher, living in the neighbourhood, informed the people that it was the Sunday School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He vigorously advocated a celebration. Not until September however, was the matter formally discussed. It was decided to be celebrated, and the burden of preparation was to fall on the [*inaudible*] League Society. The league decided that 2 services were to be held on the Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>, with Reverend J. J. Sparling as the preacher on this special occasion. Entertainment was to be given on the Monday after school. Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> was a snowstorm that lasted 2 days with some intermission. Considering the nature of the weather, it turned out well. The services were good and practical. At the concert Monday evening, most of the entertainers chose their own selections. Instead of a fixed charge of admission, a collection was taken up as part of the program. Mr. T.W. Evans had deep personal interest in the school and the community, as he was raised not far away as a scholar and a teacher.

After a number of songs (which were hardly on chord) Mr. William Belfry was called on stage for an address. He was there when the school started 50 years ago and was able to give interesting facts on the conditions of those days. He told the story about how on a snowy day, a young man driving an ox and sleigh down the road stopped his oxen. He went to the door of the house and he called out for the young woman (he was asking for her hand in marriage). Mr. Belfry told of an incident which occurred many years ago when there was a liquor cellar forever concession on Penetang road. A man addicted to drink, living on the opposite of Mount Pleasant Church, went to the corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Concession to drink. First, however, he had locked his 3 or 4 children in the house, and the house burned down. Stories were also told by the Reverend. Mr. John Robinson of Bond Head was called up as well. He was raised among those parts and had some interesting memories of the early history of the neighbourhood. He confirmed that





never had there been a person down from Mount Pleasant school that had brought lasting disgrace upon it. On the contrary, many people from the school had honourable positions in the county. Mr. Robinson said much about the goodness of people. He told them about a woman living there who wished to post a letter. Having no money, she took some butter and tried to sell it. She went to the landing with it. When she arrived, she posted her letter which cost her a quarter, and went home. In those days, there was no Bradford. Holland Landing, however, was quite a considerable place and trading post. Elder Case\* had once preached to 600 Indians. The social success of the celebration was well worthy; it brought contact with good people under wholesome conditions. There was a good selection on the program. A commendable variety of subjects was touched on; stories, facts. The collection for the concert amounted to \$4.52. The Sabbath's collection was \$3.38, amounting to \$7.90.

[*Historical society members ask and answer questions.*] There was a funeral at John Robinson's, and he had 200 acres. Stan had an 1860 map given to him of York County and he welcomes people to look at it. Stan's seen an 1872 map. Is Jack Robinson descended from the same Robinsons mentioned? Stan thinks so. Stan mentioned the Crawfords in a conversation with a Robinson and found out that she was actually also descended from the Crawfords. There is a cemetery called Crawford Cemetery and that's where the Crawfords are buried. There is a man by the name of John Lewis who had descended from that same family; the Burton family was also descended from them. This 1906 gathering that you are speaking of, that was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church. It was a horse and buggy church that the family went to when they came up. In 1909 or 1910 it was closed. He thinks Irene Turner (his cousin) may have more information on the background of that church than he does. The Sunday School funds were about \$9 a year. At Mount Pleasant Sunday School in 1907, Joseph Brown (Stan's Grandfather) was the superintendent of the School. He also taught the men's bible class. Mr. William Belfry was the teacher of the women's bible class, Ms. Mary Evans taught the girls' bible class, and Mr. Walter Brown taught the boys' class. Walter Brown was Irene Turner's grandfather. [*They continue to name the people who attended the school.*]





There is another list from 1908. Joseph Brown was still superintendent and all the same teachers ran the bible classes. (*Continuing to name the people who attended the school that year*) Irene Turner was Victor's wife. She is the first cousin of him and George. Where was the church? He thinks it was just in front of the gates at the top of the hill. There was a pine tree there. The roadway is still there. Before the road was taken down it had center gates. Does anybody know who Ernest Feddenburg\* was? Not really. Tom Horsley was a boy who came with the Browns in 1840; nobody seems to know why he was separated from his parents. Stan thinks he was born around 1828 and Patton was born 1825. They had a letter of recommendation to a man named Ralph. Doctor Rolph\* was Commissioner for Crown lands and he's mentioned in the book about the 1837 Rebellion. That was a connection to a Congregationalist minister, and the family had contact with him when they came out. He was a teacher at the church as far as the records say.

Stan has a copy of the Crawford family history. It says that Robert Crawford was born June 20<sup>th</sup> 1793. He was the son of Ralph Crawford and Mary Mulholland\* who immigrated to Canada from Ireland in the 1820's. He was married on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1826 to Susannah Spence, who was born 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1805. After living in York for a number of years, they homesteaded on Lot 28; the east half of Concession 2, Albion Township. The Crawford Church and burial grounds were named after this family. Robert Crawford died November 23, 1867 and Susannah Spence Crawford died October 1886. They're both buried at Crawford Cemetery Lot 28<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Line at Albion. They had 11 children, and Stan's great-great grandmother was one of them. She was born 1832 and died 1891. Stan's Aunt Ella has a memoir remembering the times when Zac Evans had a heart attack in the church in Mount Pleasant, it was around 1906. Harry Manning took Zac and Susan to their home and Zac was put to bed about 9pm when a further seizure took his life. His son Edgar was to farm the land. He married Ida Kneeshaw February 19, 1907. Mary went to live with her Aunt Mary Anne Boke\* in Weston. Mary and Walter were married at the Boke\* home on March 3, 1909 at noon so they could catch the train back to Bradford. [*Tape cuts out*]

*Note:\* Indicates that the word or name is written as it sounded, and therefore may be incorrect.*

