



Irma Burton

Scotch Settlement History Meeting

July 29, 1995

Length: 28 minutes and 20 seconds

[*The person introducing the tape does not state his name, but it can be assumed that George Jackson is recording.*] George states that he is recording the Scotch Settlement Historical Meeting which is being held at the Auld Kirk in West Gwillimbury on July 29th, 1995. Wilson* introduces Irma. He says that she has put a map up for them. When he first started school in Bond Head, Irma was his first teacher for a couple of years. She has remained in the community ever since; he's not sure how far back her ancestors go so he will turn it over to her.

Irma says that she appreciates the invitation. This should have been a fairly easy assignment because she had a lot more time about 10-15 years ago to get the Hughes family tree and the Gibbs family tree completed. Therefore she didn't have to do any research; she just had to get it on a chart and ready for a presentation. She did it this morning and she hopes they will understand it. The top chart is a map of the 27th Highway, the 3rd Line (which is Tecumseth) and Highway 88 at Bond Head. She notices an error she made; the Auld Kirk is in the wrong spot. The word seemed to get out that Irma was going to talk about the Hughes family tree. She didn't want to disappoint anybody so she will start with an interesting comparison between the Hughes family and the Gibbs family. The Hughes family came from around Dunkerron. Until 1912, there was a Quaker church on the northwest corner of the 3rd Concession and 27. The church seemed to disappear after that; although there is still a cemetery there (most people wouldn't be aware of that). The Hughes family came from Wales to Pennsylvania in the year 1698. Then they came with the United Empire Loyalists to York County in 1805. The Scotch settlers came through the Red River Settlement, down to Scotch Settlement in 1805 to 1819. The Quakers





came to the U.S. probably because they were escaping religious persecution. They were chased out of Scotland; there was also terrible poverty.

Many of the Hughes descendants are buried in this Quaker cemetery. Irma's grandparents are buried in the Schomberg Union Cemetery. Her father was Joel Hughes who married Ida Walker. Irma's great grandfather was Samuel Hughes. Irma has two brothers: Orville* and Roy (who passed away eight years ago). Roy's son Glen and his wife Connie and their children are still on the Hughes Century farm, the second farm that's south of Dunkerron.

Irma says she will move on to the Gibbs family. It [*she may be referring to a picture of the homestead*] was built by her great-grandfather Alexander Gibbs. As far as she can remember, her first recollection being in the 1920s, Dan and Bill Sutherland lived there. Then Viola and George MacMillan bought that farm. Irma always remembers Viola because this Sideroad only came as far as 3rd Line. It was quite a steep hill and Viola wasn't happy; she couldn't rest until the road went through. Presently this property is owned by Reverend Paul Melnychuck*; he pastors the prayer palace, a huge Pentecostal Church on North Jane Street in Toronto.

Irma will now talk about the Alexander Gibbs family tree. George Gibbs married Betsy McKay. She was born in Scotland in about 1799 and came with Scottish settlers. Irma couldn't find much information on George Gibbs. Then Betsy had come to the [*inaudible*] Settlement in 1813. In 1815, she came to the Scotch Settlement. Their son, Alexander Gibbs (1818 to 1906) married Janet Bannerman; he was married twice but she was his first wife. They had three girls and one boy. Irma remembers that it was their father Alexander who had built that big house that they used to call the Sutherland House. It's a unique house; it has a "widow's walk" on the very top. It drops very suddenly down to marsh and the Holland River comes along here. Across the Holland River is an Indian burial ground. Coming back to Alexander Gibbs; George and Betsy must have lived in Toronto at some point because Alexander was born there. He became a millwright in Bradford. Going back to Janet Bannerman; Irma asked Ruby Lloyd if she was really related to John Diefenbaker and she reluctantly said that she was (Irma thinks they must have been first cousins). Mr. Jason Bateman's parents were married there.





Going back to Alexander and Janet's children, Irma said they had three daughters and one son. The first daughter was Elizabeth, she married John McDonald. They had four daughters named [*two names are inaudible*], Christina and Aida. They are all buried in the Scotch Settlement Cemetery, as well as Elizabeth and John. They always travelled by horse and buggy. The second daughter was Christina who married Robert Fraser and they lived across from [*inaudible*]. They had five children, two of whom are married. Alexander married in England and Ruby married John Lloyd [*inaudible*]. The one son, George Gibbs married Dell Sutherland* and they, with their son Jack, lived in Collingwood. Then the third daughter, Isobel Gibbs, married James Walker [*inaudible*] When they built the brick church, Irma's grandfather Walker bought the old church and moved it across and built a house. Irma's mother is named Ida Walker and her father is Joel Hughes. Her Uncle Norman Walker lived in the Walker house after and then Uncle George Walker, and then Uncle Bob Walker.

She mentioned before that Alexander Gibbs was married twice. His second wife was Anne [*inaudible*] who was born in Limerick, Ireland and came to Toronto. They had Janet, who married John Craven and they lived in Barrie. Their daughter Annie married G.W. Ross*, and they have a son named Reverend John Ross who was a Presbyterian Minister in Chilliwack, British Columbia (now retired). There was also Melville* and Hermione Craven. Another daughter named Mary Emily Gibbs married John Colborn* (there are some Colborns living in Newton Robinson); these Colborns went to Stayner, and then moved to Toronto. Irma's cousin Mary Cunningham lives in the same house they lived in Toronto. Mary Emily Gibbs' daughters are Anne Hamilton, Jenny [*inaudible*] and Christina Cunningham.

Irma hoped there was someone there who may know if she had wrong information. She asks if anyone has anything to add. Someone asks if Alexander Gibbs came from Scotland. Irma doesn't think so but she isn't sure where he came from. She knows Betsy and George Gibbs came from Scotland. Irma says thank you. [*Tape cuts out*]

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

