



Transcripts of personal interviews included in St. Edmunds Township scrapbook, A2014.003.0562

Introduction

The following 8 interviews about St. Edmunds Township were carried out by Bruce Krug mainly between 1953 and 1963. He kept his handwritten notes related to the interviews in scrapbooks organized by townships. This transcription was prepared by Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre volunteer Robin Hilborn between Feb. 22 and Feb. 24, 2016.

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Content Warning

These interviews contain outdated language concerning Indigenous people, and others. Users should be aware that racial slurs, epithets, and derogatory terms appear in this item and collection. For more information about the Archives' approach to language used in transcripts and descriptions of historical records, see BCM&CC's [Descriptive Language Statement](#).

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Edward James Hopkins

Page 53 scrapbook

Tobermory – Edward James Hopkins, May 22, 1960

Re sawmills at Tobermory. First mill at Tobermory was built on the west side of the harbour (Little Tub) by Maitland and Rixon. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1885. Mr. Hopkins remembers this date as he was told that he was three days old when the mill burned. He is now 75 years of age. This mill was rebuilt and later moved the Owen Sound.

Tobermory had no sawmill for some time and then Dick Badstone built a mill at the end of the harbour and toward the east side. He was financed by Currie of Ripley, who took over when Badstone got into financial difficulty. The sawmill was closed down when Currie had it.

Myers built a sawmill on the site of the former Maitland and Rixon mill. Timbers for Myers mill were cut in Badstone's mill. Later Myers moved his sawmill to Wiarton and there he went bankrupt.

On the same site as Myers' sawmill Harry Murphy built a sawmill. Murphy got shot in the arm and bled to death. After this the sawmill was operated by various men such as McArty, Eldridge, Beamer.

Wes Belrose used to cut timber and whenever he cut a tree down he would get up on the log and do a step dance.

McVicar—There was a sawmill at McVicar on Crane River in the early days operated by water power. It was owned by McVicar and stood at the site of McVicar. When the lumber came out of the mill it dropped into the creek and floated down the creek to Johnston Harbour, where it was loaded on boats. A second sawmill was erected at a later date at Johnston Harbour. Peter McVicar had the sawmill at Johnston Harbour and he had a private schoolhouse for his children and those of his employees.

At Miller Lake settlement on the east side of the road just north of the creek lived Charlie Sadler in a hut. He never shaved and never washed and was a miserable sight to see.

Sam Craigie

Pages 65 scrapbook

Visit with Sam Craigie at Tobermory Dock, July 1963

Sam Craigie's father was captain and owner of the tug Queen, which he used to tow barges of lumber from the sawmills along the shoreline of the Bruce Peninsula to Owen Sound, Southampton, Kincardine and Goderich. The tug Queen was built in Port Elgin. Craigie purchased the vessel in Owen Sound in 1910. In 1915 Sam recalled helping his father haul hardwood from the Peninsula to Kincardine.

Sam said that they did not haul much lumber from Johnston Harbour as Pedwell had a sawmill there and had his own tug boat.

Seaman Hawke had a sawmill at Pine Tree Harbour. This would be the father of Garnie Hawke of Stokes Bay.

Margaret Golden, McLeod family

Pages 149-153 scrapbook

Interview with Mrs. Bert Golden (nee Margaret McLeod) at her home in Tobermory on Sat. evening, October 24, 1959

John McLeod—Mrs. Golden's grandfather (paternal)—was born in Scotland on Isle of Lewis in 1836. He fished there until he was about 22 years old. Then he left Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis, and came to Canada in a sailing vessel with the Hudson's Bay Company and he was sent to a place called York (later known as Winnipeg). [Ed. note: York appears to refer to York Factory, the HBC trading post on the southwest shore of Hudson Bay.] He worked for the HBC gathering up furs from the trappers or Indians. He did this for seven years and then returned to Scotland and came to Canada again in 1863, bringing with him his wife and two of a family, namely John and Kate. He also brought along his father-in-law, his own mother and father, also three brothers-in-law, namely Dan, Murdoch and John.

It took them nine weeks to come out in a sailing vessel. They landed at Quebec, came up to Huron County and settled on the 4th Concession of Huron Twp., all on the one farm of 100 acres. They farmed there for a few years and then moved to the 5th Concession. The reason for moving was to get in a Scotch settlement where they were much happier. Where they settled first, they were mostly Irish. After a few years there he moved to the village of Ripley and worked on the railroad on the section gang. Seven more children were born after leaving Scotland, namely Kenneth, Annie, Malcolm, Mary, Dan, Norman, Tenie. In 1882 he moved up to Bruce County and settled at Swan Lake where he farmed.

Kenneth McLeod—Mrs. Golden's father—was born Sept. 18, 1864 in Ripley. In 1882 he went to Lion's Head. He worked in lumber camps until 1887. Then he fished for Dougal McAulay out of Tobermory in a sail boat. He went back to Goderich each winter until 1896. After this he stayed in Tobermory all year round. In 1903 Kenneth went to Cove Island as lightkeeper and remained there until 1912, when he lost his job through a change in government.

When he fished at Tobermory, at first he used a sail boat and later he had a small tug called the Nettie B. He fished trout, whitefish and herring. The fish were salted and packed in barrels. Peter Foche made the fish barrels at Tobermory. He would come up from Goderich with Kenneth McLeod. Peter Foche's cooper shop was the building in which Orrie Vail has the Griffon on exhibit at the present time. Foche had a sailing vessel of his own which he called The Sephie.

"First piano ever taken over the road from Wiarton to Tobermory was taken last week by A.A. McLaren of Wiarton, who sold the instrument to Capt. McLeod, lighthouse keeper of Cove Island."

Murdoch McDonald—Mrs. Golden's grandfather (maternal)—was born on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland in Dec. 1832. His wife was also born on the Isle of Lewis, in 1834. To this union was born John and Angus, bachelors; Dan married a widow, Mrs. McGregor; Annie married Norman McDonald; Kate married Mr. Campbell; Mary married Angus McKay. Sarah married Kenneth McLeod on Nov. 30, 1893. To this union was born Catherine who died in infancy; John Earl born Feb. 7, 189_ and killed at war on Aug. 19, 1918; Donald Iver born Nov. 2, 1902 and married Marion Matheson on ___—they adopted a boy called Garry; Margaret Ellen born Aug. 7, 1899 and married Thomas Albert Golden on Nov. 18, 1920 in Tobermory by Rev. John Ward. To this union was born one daughter, Minerve Aileen on March 24, 1922.

Captain Norman McLeod—Master of Great Lakes ships for 39 years, died in Port Arthur Hospital on April 8, ___. Born at Ripley, Ont., youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod. Family moved to Eastnor Twp. when he was a lad and lived at Swan Lake, Stokes Bay and Lion's Head. He lived at Port Arthur for the past 37 years and most of his time on the lakes was spent as an employee of the Great Lakes Dredging Co., but latterly he was with the Canadian Dredging Co. Besides his wife, three sons and two daughters, Gordon, Cecil, Chas., Florence (Mrs. Ralph Brown), Pearl (Mrs. J. Weir), survive.

William Golden—was born in Yorkshire, England. Came to Canada to Priceville, Artemesia Twp. in or before 1861. Then he lived in Paisley, Sauble Falls, Oliphant. Spent six years at Oliphant. Then moved to Golden Valley (Howdenvale), then to Saguenay, Michigan, U.S.A. where he engaged in the lumbering business. Then he later moved back to Bruce County, settling at Hepworth. It was at Hepworth where he died at the age of 56 years with Bright's disease.

His wife's name was Ann Waters. She was born in England. Both she and her husband came to Canada on the same ship but they did not know each other at that time.

Born to this union were Robert William, George Wellington, Charles Albert, Richard and Minnie Amelia. After her husband passed away she continued to live in Hepworth for three years. Then she went to Lansing, Mich., U.S.A. and live with Minnie for six years. Then she came to Southampton in Bruce County where her son Richard died. Then she moved to Stokes Bay where she lived until she passed away at the age of 87.

Their son George Wellington Golden was born at Priceville, Artemesia Twp. on April 24, 1861. He went sailing on the Great Lakes at the age of 14 years. He took out his captain papers. He sailed for 20 years. He married Jane Knight of Strathroy, Ont. in 1886. To this union was born Violet Clara, Annie Georgina, Charles Richard, Thomas Albert, Minerva Isabella. He came to Tobermory, Ont. in 1908 and bought out the store business from R.E. Moore. He carried on in the store business for 37 years. On May ___ his wife passed away. She was buried in Wiarton, Ont. He married again in August 1936 to widow Emma Eleanor Weitzel, of Greenville, Ohio, who died Feb. 22, 1948. George Wellington died July 30, 1948. Interment in Wiarton cemetery.

Thomas Albert Golden, son of George Wellington Golden, was born in Southampton. He came as a schoolboy with his father to Tobermory. He spent all his life in Tobermory except for the years during the First World War, when he served in the army going overseas with the 160th Bruce Battalion in 1916 and returning to Canada at end of war.

He and his father and his elder brother, Charles Golden, who survives, were leading businessmen of the community. Mr. Golden Sr. established a store here which he operated until a few years ago with the aid of his sons. He and his sons also established the Golden Fish and Transport Co., providing practically the only overland freight transportation between Tobermory and Wiarton, at the base of the Bruce Peninsula.

March 1950—Lee Bros. purchased Golden Fishing outfit.

[undated report] "Fire on Tobermory tug forces crew overboard: Vern Bravener drowned — Verner Bravener, member of Golden Fish drowned, three others on boat saved, namely Frank Desjardine, captain; Milton Hopkins and Stewart Longe.

"Golden Fish was operated by Golden Fish and Transport Co. Only the lower part of the hull is left on rocky shore off Cape Hurd.

"About 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, while a mile and a quarter off shore from Cape Hurd, the boat caught fire. She was on her way to lift nets in Lake Huron when fire broke out near the stove. Efforts were made to quell the flames while the boat was headed for the beach at full speed. By the time the tug was within half a mile of land the crew found they could not stay on the boat any longer on account of flames and smoke. A raft carried by the tug was thrown into the lake. The crew jumped after it and all scrambled on to the raft except Verner Bravener, who attempted to swim to shore.

"Ivor McLeod's fishing boat, which was not far distant, had sighted the smoke and came speedily to the rescue. They took the three men off the raft and searched for Verner Bravener, whom the rescued men said had disappeared about five minutes before. His cap and some matches were found floating on the surface and a buoy was placed to mark the spot. Meanwhile the McLeod boat took the rescued members of the crew to the harbour as they were wet and cold.

"Milton Hopkins had a cut on the face caused by running into some wire before jumping off. The waters were dragged the remainder of the afternoon and evening but no trace of the body disclosed."

Tobermory History—by Peter Spears

1. First lighthouse operated at Big Tub was a lantern hung on a tamarack tree.
2. First to establish themselves here were the families of Abraham Davis and Charlie Earle, who settled at Dunk's Bay in 1870.
3. By 1876 the community boasted six families.
4. By 1881 Alex Green opened the first store and Miss Nellie Kanklin of Owen Sound taught the first class to assemble in the recently-built log schoolhouse.
5. In 1882 the mission ship Glad Tidings sailed into the harbour, bearing glad tidings in the form of the first church service to be conducted in the community. Sermon was based on Isaiah, 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts". One year later when our minister preached in the little log schoolhouse, their desire was realized. When our first church was built I do not know, but it is known that when funds ran out before the construction was completed, services were held for some months with the open sky for a roof.

Cecil Davis says: First pioneer was Abraham Davis, then Charles Earle. Abraham Davis arrived in 1861 from Collingwood, looked over the ground, stayed one year and left to return later in 1863 with Charles and his family in a black sailing vessel named The Mitchie. The first grain grown was in 1880 and was taken to Wiarton to gristmill by George Belrose and Henry Davis (Cecil's father), taking three days to reach Wiarton by team.

Tobermory Lumber Co.:

Information obtained from a letter written by Mrs. Peter Thompson (nee Violet Clara Golden) of 55 Chassin, Eggertsville, N.Y. to Mrs. Bert Golden, Tobermory, Ont. in June 1958.

Harry Murphy, Mr. Kyle (Mrs. Murphy's father) and Captain Williscroft had an interest in the Tobermory Lumber Co. The logs came from all over the lakes—called the Tobermory Beach Combing association. The lumber was shipped to different parts of the country, some of it going to Tonawanda, N.Y. It was shipped by boat. Peter was the millwright and did the overseeing of the frame work being put up. Erwin Kid built the framework. He boarded at our place for a time and was a great checker player. E. Long Manufacturing Co. of Orillia furnished the machinery. Lumber was shipped mostly by boat. Captain Williscroft used to come in there with his barge and deliver it to whoever bought it. The barge Williscroft had was called the Alaska.

Mr. & Mrs. Wally Scott

Pages 197-202 scrapbook

Visit with Wally Scott and his wife at their home on lot __, May 1958

This afternoon I called on Wally Scott and his wife at their farm home near Dyer's Bay. Wally Scott said that his mother was a Green. She was eight years of age when she came up from Holland Centre with her parents to the Bruce Peninsula. They came up by oxen and settled in the Mar district. Scott said that his mother died in 1942 at the age of 87 years so this would make it 1863 when they came to the Bruce Peninsula. The Whites and Krugs were in Mar when the Greens came to the Peninsula. Scott said that his mother used to tell him about the shipwrecks on the Lake Huron shore and how the people salvaged

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the lard and flour which came ashore. When the Green family came up from Holland Centre, they came up with oxen.

Wally Scott said that his father came to the Bruce Peninsula from Harriston. Wally's father was born in Toronto and his father was born in Nova Scotia.

Wally's father came up to Spry, settling on a farm a little distance from Spry. Wally's grandfather took up the farm at the southeast corner at Spry where the school is located now. Wally's father exchanged farms with Wally's grandfather, so that Wally's father lived on the corner farm at Spry.

Wally said that when his oldest brother was three weeks of age, the log house was destroyed by fire and they had to put his brother out through the window. Then the Scotts rebuilt another house. This was replaced with another house 63 years ago and this is the house which is there today.

In the Gillies Lake area the Bank of Montreal had a large block of land north of Gillies Lake and across to Wingfield Basin. This was formerly the Pedwell limits and the Bank of Montreal foreclosed on them. Rannie owns this area now, having bought it from Bank of Montreal.

Wally Scott's father logged in the Umbrella Lake area. His camps were: #1, where Hay's camp is now; #2, Scott's bridge; #3, Smoky Hollow; #4 White's camp; #5, south side of Umbrella Lake; #6, north side of Umbrella Lake.

The camp on the south side of Umbrella Lake: Wally Scott said that he lived in this camp 56 years ago, i.e. in 1902.

Wally Scott said that his father hauled the logs to Double Dump on the Georgian Bay shore. They had wooden birdges or trestles built over several ravines. Double Dump lies between High Dump and Clay Banks. Besides logs, they cut flat ties and posts. Kastner bought logs one year.

Jim McCarty bought ties for the Grand Trunk. After McCarty, Jim Corrigan bought ties. He worked at first for Watt and then later for Johnson, Crawford and Hunter.

Wally Scott said that a fire had burnt over the country around Umbrella Lake before he started going in there, because when he first went up to Umbrella Lake, one could see a long distance across the country. He said there was a lot of lovely cedar laying down. This cedar had been blown out and over and was still good timber.

Alex Green (uncle of Wally Scott) took out a lot of square timber. He had a camp at Wingfield Basin. He was in that area in the 1880s. Wally said that he can remember when he was four years of age, his uncle would come down from the Basin. Later Alex Green worked for Harrison's of Owen Sound.

Jim Lynch had a camp at the north side of Umbrella Lake. He was burnt out there. A bush fire burnt up to his camp and destroyed all the camp and forced Lynch to take refuge on a raft out on Umbrella Lake.

In the Mar area, one of the first settlers was Jim Hagen and his son Mike. When the settlers started coming in Jim thought it was too crowded and took up a farm at Miller Lake where Bob Noble lives now, the farm on the southwest corner when one turns off the highway to go to Pine Tree Harbour.

We talked about Dr. Fox's book, The Bruce Beckons, and about Steve Bradley and the rattlesnakes. The Scotts said that Steve Bradley and Mrs. Dick Tackaberry of Lion's Head were brother and sister. Mrs. Dick Tackaberry was the grandmother of Mrs. Fred Obright of Chesley (nee Beatrice Tackaberry) so this would make Steve Bradley a great uncle of Mrs. Fred Obright.

Josh and Jack Bradley were nephews of Steve Bradley. They lived at Kincardine but worked for Wally Scott's father up in the Dyer's Bay area.

Notes:

1. George Gara had a camp at Double Dump. There was a dandy spring as you descended down from the upper hill to the level above the lower hill.
2. Burdock camp at Half-way Rock was not one of Scott's camps. Kastner did the last logging in there and it was his camp. This was one of the most recent logging camps.
3. At Pike Bay Jim Lynch took up first place and Bill Lynch had far place. Bartleys own it now.
4. Heather Belle—old sailing vessel. Went to pieces in Little Pike Bay. Mrs. W. Scott recalled seeing the remains of the vessel there 40 years ago. This boat belonged to Captain Gauley. Captain Gauley timbered along the west side of the Bruce Peninsula and gave his name to Gauley's Bay. Capt. Gauley brought in provisions with his boat to Little Pike Bay in the early days. Old man Gauley had a farm at Mar and Dave Gauley had a farm at Little Pike Bay. Dave built on the sand hill at the back end of the farm. Fowlies built on this same farm later, but built at the front of the farm. Besides Gauley bringing in supplies with his boat, Parker also had a small sailboat. Parker brought in supplies at the bay at the west end of the road running directly west from Ferndale. This bay became known as Parker's Landing. Parker was the man who had the contract of cutting the government road through the bush along the west side of the Peninsula south of Stokes Bay.
5. Pearson, the V.C. winner, buried in Lion's Head cemetery, lived on the farm 1¼ miles south of Spry and then 1¼ miles west. He lived on the northwest corner. For further information call on John Fowlie who lives in a white brick house at the above corner or contact Jim Fowlie (brother of John) who lives on Centre Road, second house south of Centreville Church on west side of highway. Pearson was married with a family. He had a daughter Eno who married and went to Toronto.
6. There are some mounds at the back of the Wally Scott farm which Dr. Fox makes mention of in his book The Bruce Beckons as possible Indian village near Gillies Lake.
7. The white-fringed orchid found by Fox in the Gillies Lake area was shown to him on the shores of George Lake by Wally Scott's son.
8. The Graham family lived on the Wally Scott farm years ago. Later the Graham family moved to Western Canada. While the Graham family lived on this farm a shooting tragedy occurred. The father and son walked back to the bush about a field to the north of the house and were trying out the sights on a gun. A target was placed on a tree and while the elder Graham was shooting at the target, the son stood behind the tree holding the target. The son, either believing or questioning whether his father had fired, looked out from behind the tree at the critical moment when the gun discharged and the son was killed. He was buried in the bush where he was killed and a headstone with the following inscription stands among the trees: "Erwin J., second son of James E. & Eliza Graham, died June 11, 1895, aged 18 years, 2 months & 21 days". Some years ago the boy's sister, Mrs. ___ of Owen Sound, since deceased, came up and erected a woven wire fence about the grave and planted a bed of narcissi on the grave.
9. Tom Stewart frozen to death—Tom Stewart was teaming oats one winter to Colpoy's Bay. He lived between Lion's Head and Ferndale and on his way home he got into a blizzard. He had called at Lion's Head on his way home to see his father and mother and it was sometime after leaving Lion's Head that in a blinding snowstorm his horses got off the road and became entangled in a wire fence. He went to the neighbour to get a lantern and this is the last he was seen alive, as he was found frozen to death later. This happened between Lion's Head and Ferndale, 46 years ago and was sometime after Christmas.
10. Another freezing tragedy was the case of Mrs. McGruery. She was found frozen to death along with either one or two of her children. When found she was sitting up against a stump. This happened at Lion's Head about 80 years ago. Mrs. McGruery was going home and lost her way.

11. Townsend gang—Lived around Harriston. Noted for robbing. They used the work at square timber in the Peninsula. One night Archie Amos of Big Bay was on his way home after selling a load of wheat. On his way home he stopped and imbibed too freely with the result that he got drunk. The Townsend boys took the team and wagon of Amos and drove off with Amos laying in the wagon box with the grain money in his pockets. The Townsends left Amos and his team and wagon further down the road as they were just out for some fun, little realizing that Amos was carrying this money in his pockets.

12. Wally Scott recalled that there was a very severely cold winter when he was 20 years of age. He is 75 now so this would make it 55 years ago, i.e. 1903. It was known as the winter of the terrible cold. Wally Scott was in a logging camp up around Umbrella Lake and he recalled that it was so cold in camp.

13. In 1902 there was a bad windstorm. It knocked down barns.

14. Mrs. Wally Scott was Ethel Winters. Her parents came from St. Marys (her mother's name was Roadhouse) and settled in the Ferndale district.

Sid Lee

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Interview with Sid Lee at Tobermory on August 22, 1953

Howard and I drove up to Tobermory this afternoon and while we were sitting in our car, which was parked at the harbour, [Sid] Lee came along and sat in the car with us. Lee formerly fished out of Owen Sound but about ten years ago moved to Tobermory so that he would be closer to the fishing area which is along the south side of Manitoulin Island.

There are four Lee Bros. operating a couple fish tugs out of Tobermory at present. The Lee Bros. are Sid, George, Alf and Huck. The first three fish while Huck, who is sickly, lives in Toronto. Huck has the most money in the business.

I asked Lee if he knew the location of any shipwrecks in the Tobermory area. He said that the yacht Waseda, which was a diesel yacht, sank in Rattlesnake Harbour and still lies on the bottom of the harbour. He said that a sailboat called the Emil Maxwell was wrecked off Horse Island. The ship was carrying a load of horses. He said the ship The Manitoba was wrecked off Manitoba reef. He recalled that the tug The Scott from Wiarton was wrecked off Club Island about ten years ago. There is a wreck at Hungerford Point.

Lee recalled that while gill net fishing off Dawson Reef he pulled up a piece of board which he believed to be from a shipwrecked vessel and he thought that it might be from the ship Asia which was believed to have been wrecked in this area.

I asked Lee what was the largest lake trout that he knew of being caught in the Tobermory area and he said that Roland Edmundson of Owen Sound, while fishing out of Rattlesnake Harbour, caught a 55-pound lake trout with hook and line off Dawson Rock.

Lee said that on the north side of Lonely Island on the beach lies the boiler of a tug, but he didn't know what ship it was from.

I asked Lee if he ever heard of any Indian relics being found. He said that his brother-in-law, Herb Eden, while trolling in Owen Sound bay about 20 years ago, caught an Indian pipe with his troll. He was fishing at Smith's Point, just off Balmy Beach in about 30 fathoms of water. The pipe was of agate with a 4" long copper stem. Eden's present address is Humboldt Street, Port Colborne. Lee believes that Eden still has the Indian pipe.

Robert Allen Hopkins

Pages 269-274 of the scrapbook

Visit with Robert Allen Hopkins at his home in Tobermory on Sunday, July 21, 1957

Robert Allen Hopkins was born in 1875 on a farm on the Ayton road south of the Durham-Hanover road. His father was Edward Hopkins, who was one of a large family of boys. Edward Hopkins emigrated from Ireland in 1844 to Canada and settled on the Ayton road. Edward Hopkins and his brother Charles came out from Ireland on a cattle boat, feeding cattle on their way over to pay for the passage. Their father is buried at Rocklyn where he built the church and was influential in starting Sunday school there. The same year that Edward and Charles Hopkins came to Canada, a large number of settlers came from Ireland but a little earlier in the year than the Hopkins, and these people settled around Hutton Hill and Durham and Ayton. Their passage was paid by a rich lord in Ireland who chartered two sailing vessels. The names of some of these settlers were Hopkins, Cuff, Hutton, Lorne, Edge and Widmeyer.

Edward Hopkins married Mary Cuff, to whom were born a family of two girls and 12 boys:
Richard

Martha, married Thomas Bartman and settled near Tobermory where they cleared land and raised a big family. Mrs. ___ Robins of Miller Lake is a daughter.

Anne, married John Dockstader. Anne was the second oldest in the family. They lived in Egremont, then in Dakota and later in Armstrong, B.C.

John C., settled in Tobermory.

James H., settled in Tobermory

George Samuel, settled north of Durham Road, Hanover.

Benjamin, lived on Manitoulin Island. Later moved to Salmon Arm, B.C.

Edward, lives in Hanover at present. He raised his family on the old homestead. One of his sons is on the homestead.

___, a son who was killed with a colt. This was before Robert Allen was born.

Robert Allen, born in 1875; twin brother of Herbert.

Herbert, born in 1875; twin brother of Robert Allen.

Joseph, youngest boy. He farmed at Mindemoya, Manitoulin Island. He has been dead a long time.

Robert Allen said that he came to Tobermory in 1893 from the North, i.e. from Manitoulin Island, where he had been working. He came on the steamboat Jones, which made two trips weekly around Manitoulin Island, picking up fish, mostly trout. At the far end of Manitoulin Island between Silverwater and Meldrum Bay the Jones would pick up a lot of sturgeon. Robert Allen recalled that when he was working at Sandy Rumley's logging camp on the south shore of Manitoulin Island, south of Silverwater, there was a terrible blow in the fall of the year and many parts of wrecked ships came ashore. On one piece of wreckage which drifted ashore there was a man's body with the one leg stuck down into a hole in the wreckage which resembled a hole for a stove pipe. The man was dead and there was no means of identification so the body was buried in a sandy knoll at a pine tree near the beach. A magistrates bench viewed the body and then permitted it to be buried. Later people came from the Michigan Soo in search of a lost relative

and the body was dug up but the people did not claim the body and it was buried again. The point where the body is buried is known as Deadman's Point. There were several boats in trouble in this storm and it was never learned from where this man came. Robert Allen was up to Silverwater, Manitoulin Island this summer and visited to sailor's grave, which is still marked. Clifford Rumley lives near the grave now and he is 65 years of age and at the time the body was found in the wreck Clifford was the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Rumley, who operated the logging camp.

When John Allen Hopkins came to Tobermory in 1893 he was attracted Tobermory by the fact that some of his brothers had settled in that area at an earlier date. John Allen was married in 1897. John Allen settled on the farm where the big barn and nice house is west of the Bury Road, lot _____. He settled on this farm when it was all bush. At that time to take up land you went to the forest bailiff, who classed the land as a farm lot or a bush lot. If it was a bush lot the forest bailiff would value it at \$75 with \$15 down. If it was a farm lot there was no charge for the land, but it was necessary to clear five acres of land and erect a dwelling before you obtained a deed to the property. The sale of land was handled by the Indian Department. George Samuel was the first of the Hopkins boys to take up land at Tobermory.

Robert Allen Hopkins' father came to Tobermory first before any ship called regularly. He came by sailboat from Golden Valley. There were four men in the party, namely Julius Bartman, George Wilson, Edward Hopkins and _____. They came up the look for land. They took up 600 acres for themselves or their family. Robert Allen recalled that his father said that they landed at Warner Bay and followed the survey line of the sideroad. His father said that one of their party climbed a pine tree and looked across the spruce and balsam for hardwood where there would be higher ground. They had their lunch with them and when they came across a spring they stopped to have lunch. While having lunch they heard an axe cutting and upon investigating they came upon Jacob Belrose, who was copping (cutting a clearing) at the place which today is just across from the Settlement United Church on the east side of the highway. Jacob Belrose had a little land cleared and had a little shanty erected. Michael Belrose had been here sometime ahead of Jacob and he had a clearance and a good house erected on lot _____. This house is still standing, although the logs are now covered with sheeting.

Robert Allen Hopkins married Annie Spiers. She was the daughter of Solomon Spiers, who settled on the Hopkins Bay road, the farm with the brick house on the north side of the road, lot _____. William Spiers settled across the road on the south side of the road where the old log house still stands. The Spiers came from Hanover in 1888.

There had been a sawmill in Tobermory before Robert Allen Hopkins came to Tobermory. Rixon of Owen Sound had bought the pine in the north part of the Bruce Peninsula and operated a sawmill for two or three years at Tobermory where he cut the pine logs. Rixon bought the pine stumpage from the Indian Department. He moved the sawmill back to Owen Sound and this left Tobermory without a sawmill for several years. Robert Allen says this was before he was married. Wm. Stoddart was boss of operations for the Rixon Lumber Co. and Robert Allen recalled that his brother (i.e. Robert Allen's brother) used to come out of the bush and leave his orders with Wm. Stoddart to bring up supplies from Owen Sound on Rixon's tug. Robert Allen recalled his brother saying to Stoddart, "Bill, fetch up a thousand feet of hemlock". Hemlock lumber delivered from Owen Sound to the dock at Tobermory for \$8 per thousand feet. The people were paid \$2.50 per M ft for hemlock logs delivered at the shore at Tobermory. then the logs were towed to Owen Sound and sawn into lumber.

About the time that Robert Allen was married, Hector Currie moved his sawmill from Ripley to Tobermory. He moved it up in the winter time on sleighs. The first year he moved up his shingle mill and the next winter he moved up the main sawmill. Currie's mill was just east of where Craigie's restaurant stands today at the south end of the Little Tub. Currie lived in a big frame house which stood where now there is a vacant lot beside the _____ parsonage. Later Simpson owned this house and it burned down at that time.

After Currie got his sawmill started there were three sawmills started at Tobermory. The first large sawmill was built by E.M. Miers, who came from Wiarton and later went back to Wiarton.

Robert Allen recalled that the first cottage was erected in Tobermory around 1900. It was a three-storey frame building which had a wide bottom storey about 8 ft. high, then the second storey came in somewhat and was also about 8 ft. high and then the third storey came in still more and served as a lookout. This cottage stood about where Jim Roe's house stands now on the east side of the Little Tub. The cottage was named Neumanananakin, Indian meaning rest and amusement. The cottage burnt down. Robert Allen said that his wife as a girl worked for the people at this cottage.

I asked Robert Allen if he could tell me about the wreck of the ship China, which gave its name to China Cove. He said that Michael Belrose had told him about this wreck but he didn't remember the details now.

Robert Allen said that the first year he was at Tobermory the Big Tub would be half full of sailing vessels. He recalled that one year it was a real blessing to him when there was a storm and the ships sought refuge in the Big Tub. The blow lasted for a week and the ships began to run low on supplies and sent to Robert Allen for some meat. He butchered a heifer and sent along a few bags of potatoes as he had a good crop that year. The sailors liked the potatoes so well that they ended up by purchasing 60 bags at \$1 per bag. This sale of potatoes helped Robert Allen very much.

The first population at Tobermory was people from Goderich and Kincardine who came in the spring by boat and fished out of Tobermory until they returned home in the fall. One of these old-timers was McGuinness. These people came by sail boat.

Julius Koch built the Matheson House. It was built after Robert Allen was married, i.e. about 1900. Neil Matheson was captain of a fish tug for the Booth Fish Co. operating out of Tobermory. Capt. Alex Craigie was a captain of a fish tug for this same company out of Tobermory.

When Robert Allen first came to Tobermory, fishing was all done with sail boats and nets.

Robert Allen recalled that in the big November storm of 1913, the shore of Warner and Hopkins bays was lined with stuff from wrecked ships, mostly parts of boats. There was a lot of bags of flour washed ashore of which the people were able to salvage a good portion of the flour.

Robert Allen said that he could remember several bad blows. One which he recalled in particular was when his family was quite young. It was difficult to feed his large family and they depended on wild fruit to help out the larder. There had been a scarcity of raspberries this fall. It was late in the fall when Robert Allen's oldest boy (Barney), who was a lad of five years at the time, found a box on the shore at Hopkins Bay. It was a box containing cans of canned fruit and in all they found six cases of gallon cans of fruit, making in all 36 gallons of fruit—canned rhubarb, apples, pears. This occurred late in November. Robert Allen said he shared the canned fruit with his neighbours as everyone was accustomed to do in the district. They learned later that the cans of fruit had been washed overboard from a scow which was being towed up the lake by a tug with a load of supplies for logging camps on the north shore. Barney Hopkins is 59 years of age now, so this would make the storm about 1903.

Malcolm Matheson, brother of Neil Matheson, also fished out of Tobermory.

Besides Currie's sawmill, there was a sawmill on the east side of the Little Tub almost across from the present ferry dock. It was operated by Wm. Gillies, father of the Gillies Telephone line. He also kept store at Tobermory just south of the Matheson House. They are dismantling this old store at present.

Miers had a sawmill on the west side of Little Tub, then Harry Murphy and Williscroft operated it, then Harry Murphy and John Eldridge. Miers had gunshot feed in his mill. Some logs were brought into Tobermory by raft in the summer and others by sleigh during the winter.

The biggest trout that Robert Allen recalled being caught out of Tobermory was one weighing 57 lbs. This was caught by John and Will Ronsbury of Ronsbury Fish Co. about 15 to 20 years ago. They caught it in their nets.

Robert Allen doesn't remember seeing passenger pigeons but he said that when his father was living near Ayton he told Robert Allen that the pigeons flew in such flocks as to darken the sun.

Perry Shoal on the Lake Huron side of the Peninsula is named after either the boat or the captain of the boat which ran aground and was wrecked on the shoal bearing its name. The ship was loaded with brick. It happened before Robert Allen came, but he recalled that for years afterwards, one could pick up worn bricks on this shoal.

J.C. "Base" Munn is married to Robert Allen's oldest daughter. She was born in 1900 and has red hair like her mother. They live on the Warner Bay road.

Syd Glazier's father was Methodist minister at Allen Park when Robert Allen and his parents lived in that area and Syd as a boy would come and spend his summer holidays on the Hopkins farm. Syd's sister Minnie taught at the Settlement school, Tobermory.

Mrs. Arthur Watson, Wila Watson

Pages 263-267 of the scrapbook

Visit with Mrs. Arthur Watson and her daughter-in-law Mrs. Ivan Watson (nee Wila Wynoch) on Dec. __ 1957

This afternoon I called on Mrs. [Arthur] Watson, mother of Ivan, Archie and Percy Watson. At present she is staying at the home of Ivan Watson. Mrs. Watson said that she was less than two years of age when she came with her parents to Tobermory. She came with her parents in the fall of the year and she was two years of age on Jan. 9th of their first winter in Tobermory.

Her father's name was Charles W. Hodge. He came from Peckam in Kent, England. Because of some strife or loss of loved ones at home, he was melancholy and went sailing on the ocean. He was fireman on the ocean-going ship The Manitoba and later left the ocean to come on the Great Lakes and fired on The Manitoba on the Great Lakes. The ship on the Great Lakes and on the ocean were different ships. Charles Hodge came to Collingwood and it was here that he met his wife.

Real estate sharks interested Hodge in land at Tobermory and so he purchased a lot with a house and barn on it, at Tobermory. When Hodge arrived at Tobermory with his wife and family he found that he had been swindled. Alex Butchart was living on the lot, having a log house and stable there also. His father had purchased the property from the Crown. Then Hodge realized he had been swindled. His money was gone and he was without any home. The people of Tobermory took pity on Hodge and they helped him find shelter in a long narrow shanty at the edge of the harbour, about where Orrie Vail's workshop is now. Mrs. Watson recalls that she was very small at this time and she stood on a box to look out the window and watch the men putting up ice. Later the Hodges lived in the house which forms part of Belrose Inn now.

Mrs. Watson said that when she and her parents came to Tobermory the land in that area had all been burned over by the Indians and that one could stand where Orrie Vail's house is now and you could see the lighthouse at the Big Tub.

In the early days the first people at Tobermory were fishermen from Goderich, who came up to fish for the summer and cleared out in the fall. Mrs. Watson remembered the hotel on the Big Tub. She couldn't remember many details about it as she was quite young, but she recalled that it was on the flat area on the north side of the Big Tub and a little west of the lighthouse. As a girl she played in the vacant building. There was a room with a long bar. The counter of the bar was made of one wide board. Behind the bar were cupboards.

Out in front of the bar was a row of stalls. The glass windows had been painted with various scenes such as boats, farm scenery, people carrying buckets of water, people fishing. Mrs. Watson said that when they tore the hotel down her father got these windows, cleaned the paintings off and used the glass for another building. Abraham Davis (Cecil Davis' grandfather) was the lightkeeper at the Big Tub. He kept cows in part of the old hotel. The hotel was a frame building. Mrs. Watson recalled that a lot of the boards in the building were exceptionally wide.

Mrs. Watson's father and Charlie Earl tore the hotel down. Watson used some of the lumber for cupboards in his house. Charlie Earl said the hotel had been a desperate place at one time. Charlie Earl and his father had the hotel. Charlie Earl kept the light after Abraham Davis.

Some of the pioneers in Tobermory area were Michael Belrose, Jacob Belrose, Charlie Hopkins, Philip Adams. Michael and Jacob Belrose came through the bush from Warner Bay and Jacob built the log house which still stands across from Roy Hatt, lot ___, and Michael Belrose built the house where Ivan Watson's gravel pit is, lot ___.

Alex Campbell lived at the corner by Tobermory dump where the big willow trees are now. He was known as "Black Alex". He had a log house but it burnt down. He lived on northwest corner of intersection.

Mrs. Watson's father was the second mason to come into the Tobermory area and consequently he helped to build a lot of the mason work in the houses.

The mail was brought in once a week, on Saturdays, to Tobermory from Cape Chin. Michael Belrose was the mail carrier. At the flat on the highway south of Tobermory, which is sometimes known as Little Lake, there was a heavy wire strung across the trees to help people get across. When there was a lot of water on the flat they poled a raft across. Mrs. Watson recalls her father taking the horse from Tobermory to Little Lake and then tying the horse here while he went across the pond on a raft.

One time Michael Belrose was bringing up the mail and supplies and he had burdock blood bitters for Charles Hodge, who was awful sick. The whole case of medicine was too heavy for Michael Belrose to handle across the Little Lake so he asked permission to open the case and carry part of it over at a trip.

There was an early hotel near Barrow Bay, known as Caldwell's Half Way House. Philip Adams (Alf Adams' father), one of pioneers of Tobermory.

Stutter and Ainsley had a sawmill at Tobermory. Maitland and Rixon either had a sawmill or bought logs. Hector Currie operated a shingle mill at the foot of Little Tub.

In the early days, the Little Tub and Big Tub would both be filled with sailing ships at times. Some of the sailing vessels which tied up at the Big Tub would paint the name of their ship and date on the flat rocks there.

Theowald Ludwig operated a summer hotel (Indian name) at Little Tub. Mrs. Watson as a girl of about 15 worked for him.

In the spring of the year when the first boat came in to Tobermory, since there were no roads the farmers would pile into their rigs, which consisted of a jumper with a table on it, and they would go for a supply of flour, with one man at the front of the jumper to drive the oxen and the other man at the back the hold the flour on the table.

There was a path from Tobermory across the Dunk's Bay and on Sunday in the summer Mrs. Watson went with her parents for picnics to Dunk's Bay. She recalled seeing a lot of hand bones and ribs in the sand at Dunk's Bay. She recalled hearing her father and mother say that a battle had been fought here between the Indians of the East and West. Mrs. Watson said that her father had said that old Mr. Davis

had found several skulls on the beach. Mrs. Ivan Watson said that when they dig graves in the cemetery now, they still dig up Indian bones.

When Mrs. Watson went with her parents to Dunk's Bay there was only one building there. This was a frame house which had been built by Joe Patton of Tobermory, a carpenter. This house is owned and used by Auburns as a cottage now.

George Currie kept Cove Island lighthouse. He lived in the house across from Michael Belrose, i.e. across from Ivan Watson's gravel pit. Charles Hodge plastered Currie's house.

Of the Earl family there were Pat Earl, Mark Earl (blind). Maud and Sandy Earl were niece and nephew of Mark Earl. Mark left money to Maud and Sandy and the rest of Mark's money was left in a bank in Seattle.

Log house on road to Warner Bay was built by Bill Speers (brother of Solomon Speers). Next people to live the house were Vails, then Wes Belrose and then Mel Martin.

Orrie Vail's mother was burnt to death in bed in her house. Vail children were Walter, Victor, Orrie, David, Wellie and Vera.

An epidemic of cholera struck Tobermory and it was necessary to get a doctor for Lion's Head. So Lauchie Currie, who was a sailor in summer and a farmer in winter, went with his team of six dogs from Tobermory to Lion's Head and brought back a doctor (Dr. Freeborn?). Currie was dressed with a dogskin coat and foxskin cap with the tail hanging down and the doctor hesitated at first to accompany him. Currie had lots of robes in the sled and he started right back for Tobermory after he picked up the doctor.

What is now called the Davey Hotel was built by a German by the name of Julius Koch. Kock operated the hotel, known as the Koch Hotel. Before he built this hotel he had a boarding house next to the hotel but it was moved away later. Mrs. Watson thought that the hotel was built when she was 15 years of age. This would make it built in the year 1902. After Koch, Matheson operated the hotel and it was known as the Matheson house. Now it is operated by Mrs. Carl Davey and is called the Davey Hotel.

Bill Smith kept the telegraph or wireless office at the entrance to the Big Tub. This area was known as "The Bight".

Mrs. Watson said her father had a row boat he called the Little Edith and he would take Mrs. Watson with him and row over to the Bight and pick up driftwood, which was very plentiful on this point and was bleached white from the elements.

Old Chetua, an Indian from Cape Croker, had a camp at the point where the wireless station was. "Oily" Mclver used to render out fish oil from the leavings in a little building on Wireless Point. He sold the fish oil for oiling harness.

The cemetery at Dunk's Bay was started with the burial of an unknown sailor, who either took sick or was washed ashore. He is buried to the west of the present cemetery about where the road goes to Belrose Beach. This was the first part of the cemetery and some of Pat Roach's children are buried here also. their graves used to be marked but the wooden markers have all disappeared. Mr. Davis donated the land for the cemetery, it being a piece off the corner of his lot.

See: William Henry Hopkins, brother of Mrs. Chas. Wynoch; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watson, Wiarton, live across from Dr. Hardman (Mrs. Watson was a Speers); Tom Speers at Wiarton; Ted Martin at Wiarton.

Lloyd Smith

How Tobermory Cemetery was started

This afternoon, August 22nd, I got talking with Lloyd Smith at Tobermory. He asked me if I had heard how Tobermory cemetery was started, so since I hadn't heard he gave me the following story.

A man by the name of Charlie Earl had a store in the early days at the Big Tub. The fishermen would tie their boats up here and made Earl's store their headquarters for renewing their supplies. Besides handling groceries, etc. Charlie Earl also made bootleg whiskey and he was in the habit of getting there fishermen dead drunk and then while they were in a stupor, he would rifle their boat. The people at Tobermory began to revolt against Charlie Earl and his tactics, so one day a whiskey barrel was raised on the storm signal pole with the following inscription, "Charlie Earl will die tomorrow at 4 o'clock". And Charlie Earl did die the next day. Autopsy revealed that he had been poisoned. Charlie Earl was buried at Dunk's Bay and from then on, burials were made there. No-one was arrested and punished for the poisoning. The Earl family was a pioneer family at Tobermory.

I asked Smith about the storm signal. He said that it was used before radios, etc. to inform the sailors of the weather. The storm signal consisted of a large pole to the top of which were raised the signals. An arrow pointing down meant the wind was from the east, whereas an arrow pointing up meant the wind was from the west. If the wind was of gale intensity, then a basket was hung with the narrow _____.
[sketch of "West" and "East"]

At Tobermory the storm signal post was on the road to the Big Tub about where Fred Whip lives now. It was taken down about 12 or 14 years ago.

[Ed. note: The above interview is not dated by year, but is assigned 1957 since the two neighbouring interviews (in the original order) are from 1957.]