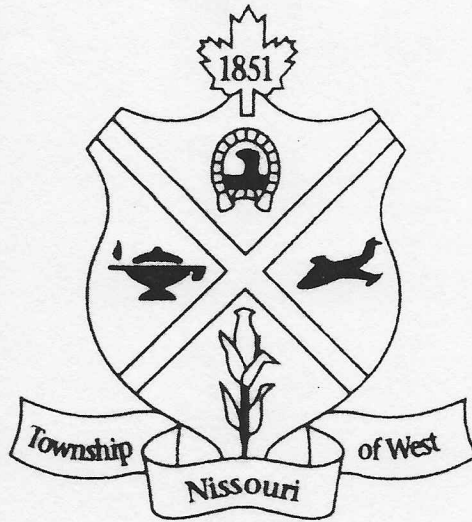


# *West Nissouri Township*



*1818 - 2000  
Our Heritage*

VOLUME ONE



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emergency relief requests throughout North America and donated to hospitals and the Red Cross. They also contributed to the Tornado Relief Fund after a tornado swept through the township in 1953. Funds have also been donated to widows of members for funeral expenses and to offset drug costs. Brothers have also donated blood regularly and member Verne Johnson was presented with a

Red Cross plaque in 1977 for his 200 donations.

Mount Olivet Lodge had 86 members in 2000. The elected officers in 2000 were Worshipful Master John Elliott, senior warden Geoff Clays, junior warden Stephen McGuffin and secretary Cecil Clark. The lodge maintains public awareness through annual church and Fall Fair parades, the placement of signs on the main roads leading into



*It was McGuffin night at Mount Olivet Lodge when Ross McGuffin was installed as master by his father, Ivan, assisted by Ross's two uncles, Arnold and Tom. The three senior members of the family were all past masters. Shown are (from left to right) Arnold, Ross, Ivan and Tom McGuffin.*



*Guests at the 1973 Thorndale Masonic Centennial Banquet included (left to right) William Elliott, Harry Ryan, Angus Jaynes, Ross Jones, William Bailey, Bill Deller, Walter Powell, Paul Texel, John Hunter, Carl Miller, Verne Johnson, Rev. George Simpson and Arthur Hannahson.*

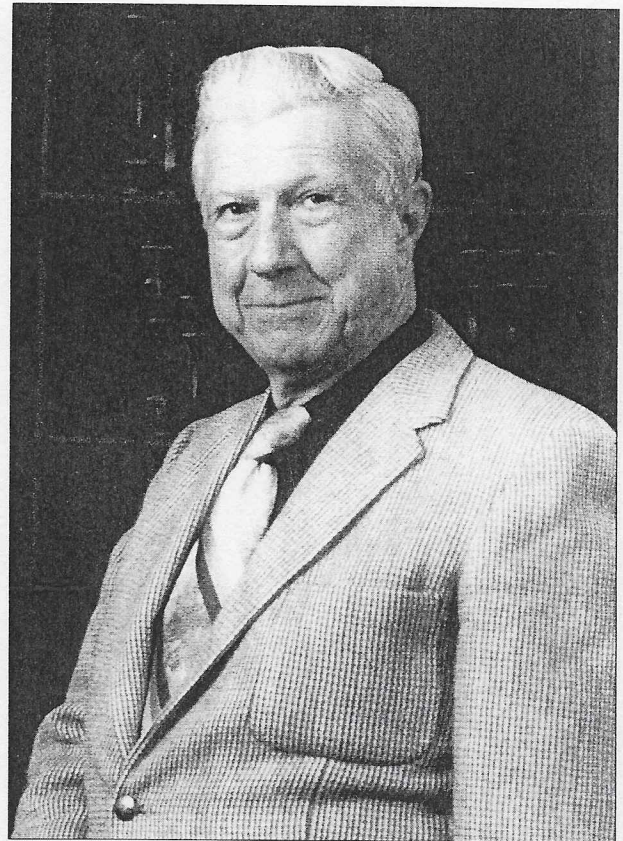
have been honoured and pleased that her book has proven to be such a valuable reference over the years and served as the basis for the later history project by the West Nissouri Historical Society.

#### **Dr. William Clayton McGuffin: Entomologist**

The research of scientist William Clayton McGuffin (1913-1998), the son of William and Margaret McGuffin, was known throughout North America. McGuffin was born on Lot 14, Con. 1, near Thorndale. From an early age, he was intrigued by the insect life on the family farm. Clayton, Wilmer and Arnold McGuffin used to spend Sunday afternoons exploring the fields and woodlots around their farms. Harold McGuffin recalls that Clayton was always fascinated by frogs and other wild creatures. Clayton attended S.S. #16, London Township at the corner of Clarke Side Road and Con. 7, and then attended high school in London, often boarding with his uncle, George Judd. McGuffin earned his BA from the University of Western Ontario in 1936 and his master's degree the following year. As teaching jobs were scarce, he took a job in the Forest Insect Survey Department of Agriculture Canada in Ottawa. He remained in that department until 1962, when he transferred to the Entomology Research Institute. During his years with the department he completed a PhD degree from the University of Minnesota. His thesis, *Larvae of the Nearctic Larentiinae (Lepidoptera: Geometridae)*, was published in 1958.

Anyone who knew Clayton McGuffin knew that he "lived and breathed his work," in his son Bill's words. Part of Clayton's work involved working with the Canadian National Collection of Insects, an impressive collection of an estimated 13 million specimens. This collection has grown from gifts, purchases, bequests of specimens, retention of materials submitted for identification and by insect surveys conducted by members of the Institute. The collection is the largest and most representative collection of insects ever assembled from the northern parts of North America and includes specimens from all over the world.

McGuffin published several important scientific papers during his career. He and his wife, Dorothy, spent some years in Calgary. They lived in Nepean, Ontario after Clayton retired from the Institute. He collected insects both in Western



*Entomologist William Clayton McGuffin's research was published in several scholarly journals during the scientist's distinguished career.*

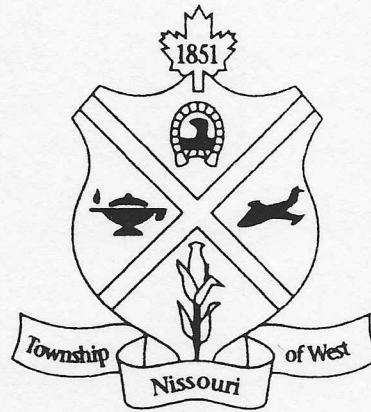
Canada and Quebec, and during his career in Ottawa he identified insects at the research farm which had been previously unidentified. McGuffin often returned to the laboratory to visit old friends and keep up with current research after his retirement. He died in 1998.

Although McGuffin was passionate about the insect world, he was also clever with words. In 1938, a car dealership ran a contest asking entrants to suggest a new slogan for their advertising campaign. Clayton won a new vehicle with the phrase "Drive as you would be driven." He later gave the car to his brother, Mervin McGuffin of London, who still had it in his possession when he died in 2000.

#### **John McFarlan: Member of Provincial Parliament, 1913-1919**

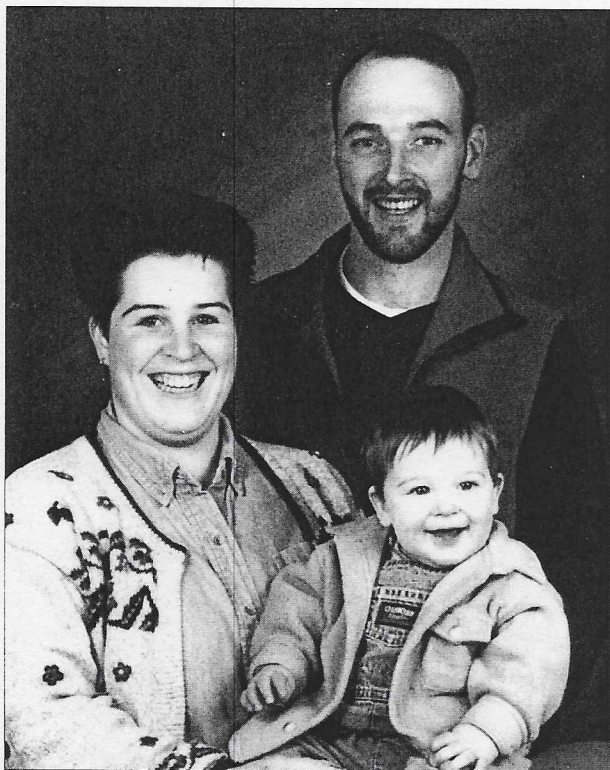
John McFarlan was born in Ireland, the son of Thomas and Margaret (Boyd) McFarlan. He lived most of his life in Middlesex County, first in Dorchester, and later in Nissouri Township.

# *West Nissouri Township*



1818 - 2000  
*Our Heritage*

FAMILIES  
VOLUME TWO



Michael and Laura (Bloomfield) Jones with their son, Owen Jones. Owen is the eighth generation in the Logan family to live in West Nissouri Township.

Agricultural Society since 1990. He was president of the Society in 2001, serving a two-year term. Michael is also involved with the Parks and Recreation Committee for the township.

Laura is a legal secretary, working in real estate law at a firm in London. She also has served on various committees with the Thorndale Agricultural Society. Michael and Laura attend Central Baptist Church in London where they enjoy teaching Sunday School classes as well as being involved in other church activities.

Michael and Laura have two children: Owen John (2000) and Meagan Colleen (2002). Owen and Meagan are the seventh generation of the Mills family and the eighth generation of the Logan family to live in West Nissouri.

#### JONES, GORDON & PATRICIA (MILLSON)

Kenneth Gordon Jones (1951, Huntsville) is the son of Kenneth and June (Lovegrove) Jones. Gord has a BSc (Agriculture) and works in sales. His hobby is restoring old tractors.

His wife, Patricia (1952, St. Marys), is the

daughter of Glen and Ruth (Harding) Millson. She has a BSc (Nutrition) and is a registered dietitian. Gord and Pat were married in 1973 at St. Marys. They live at Lot 16, Con. 6.

Gord and Pat have two children: Zachary "Zach" Gordon (1977, London) and Melissa Louise (1980, St. Marys). Zach married Sheila Beye of Strathroy in 2001. He is attending Providence College studying ministry drama. Melissa completed a business course at Canadore College in North Bay.

#### THE JUDD FAMILY

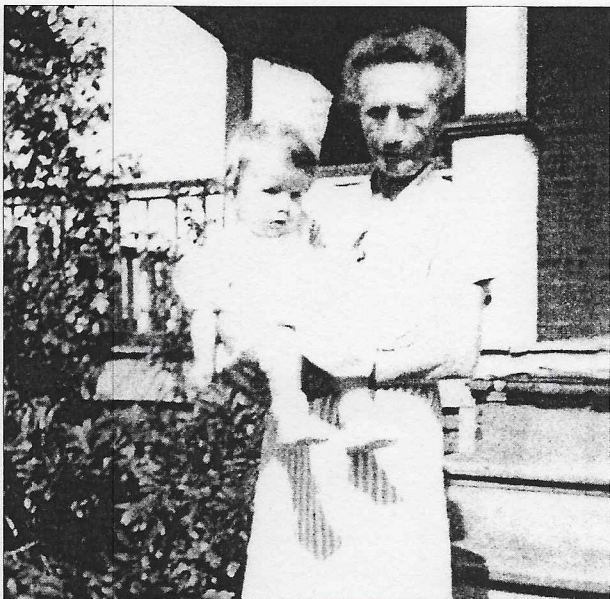
William Judd (1835-1884), the fifth child of Hugh (1802-1849) and Fanny (Squire) Judd, left England and immigrated to Upper Canada before 1851. He married Charlotte White, and they raised eight children on their farm at Rebecca. William worked for Mr. Fletcher on a farm near Rebecca, where he met his wife. William did outside work while Charlotte handled the household chores.

Charlotte White had sailed from Cork, Ireland and was an orphan who had been placed in Mr. Fletcher's care after her parents died. The relatives who raised Charlotte and her brother, Samuel, had no interest in their upbringing and sent them to Canada at the earliest possible moment.

William and Charlotte moved to their first farm in 1861 at Lot 2, Con. 2, where their first son, William D. (1856) was born. The 100-acre farm had 30 acres which were cultivated, ten were in pasture and 60 were wooded. The farm was valued at \$2,500. At the time of the 1861 census, William owned one cow, one horse, and two pigs, valued at eighty dollars.

William and Charlotte's second child was Robert Henry (1861-1945). By 1884, William and Charlotte had moved to Lot 6, Con. 2, living in a log house which was very close to the Rebecca toll gate. William grew wheat, oats and hay and sold milk and eggs. The family went to the London market where they sold their goods and purchased what they needed for the farm.

William died from inflammation of the lungs in 1884 and is buried in Robin's Hill Cemetery. William did not leave a will, and the court awarded his estate to Charlotte. His widow remained on the farm until she died in 1916, ten years after a stroke that left her speechless. She was buried beside her husband.



Margaret (Judd) "Maggie" McGuffin in 1948, holding her granddaughter, Margaret.

William and Charlotte's other children were: George (1865-1944); Richard (1867) who died in infancy; Fanny (1868-1944); John (1871-1923); Annie (1874-1943) and Margaret (1876-1955).

Margaret "Maggie" was only eight years old when her father died. She married William C. McGuffin, son of William and Mary (Shoebottom) McGuffin, in 1910 (see William McGuffin profile).

William and Charlotte's seventh child, Annie (1874-1943), was ten when her father died. Annie became a seamstress and dressmaker and looked after her mother in the log house on the family farm until her mother's death. Annie spent her entire life in the London area. She later lived with her sister, Fanny, in Thorndale. Joyce (Judd) Scott remembers visiting them to learn the art of embroidery.

In later years, Annie suffered from arthritis. She is buried beside her parents in Robin's Hill Cemetery.

Information for this profile was provided by Philip Henry Judd of Victoria, British Columbia who published the book, *The Judds of the Squamish Valley, Volume 1* (1990), which details the history of the Judd family in Canada back to 1681.

#### JUDD, ROBERT & IDA (DIXON)

William and Charlotte (White) Judd's second child, Robert Henry Judd (1861-1945), was born a few months after the family settled on Lot 2, Con.

2. Robert grew up on the farm and helped his father. William and Robert were listed as farmers on Lot 6, Con. 2 in the 1884 *London City Directory*.

After his father's death in 1884, Robert helped his mother manage the family farm on Lot 6 until he married Ida Jane Dixon in 1890 at Maple Bank Farm on Lot 4, Con. 1.

Ida (1867-1939) was born on Maple Bank Farm, the daughter of John (1834-1906) and Mary Jane (Wilson) Dixon (1835-1911). Ida's maternal grandparents were Moses (1796) and Elizabeth (Bailey) Wilson (1808), both born in Ireland.

For a time, Robert lived on Lot 6, Con. 8 in Ballymote, London Township. After Ida's parents died, the couple moved to Maple Bank Farm, which was very flat and generally fertile, in West Nissouri.

Robert and Ida raised eight sons: Howard Dixon (1891), William John (1893), Gordon Robert (1894), Chester Roy (1896), Frank Eugene (1899), Leonard Wesley (1903), Edward David (1906) and Karl Marcus (1909).

Robert, known as "Bob", spent his entire life farming and was fond of horses, particularly his team of Bay Clydesdales. Robert had 18 or 19 pure-bred Holstein cows milking at any one time. One cow, which could fill more than one pail at milking time, sold for \$300 when it was ten years old. In those days, that was a lot of money!

Ida and Robert are buried in Robin's Hill Cemetery.

#### JUDD, GORDON & LILA (WEST)

Robert and Ida Judd's third son, Gordon (1894-1993), was born on his father's farm at Ballymote, London Township. Dr. Weekes of Thorndale assisted at the birth. Gordon's parents later moved to Lot 4, Con. 1.

As well as farming with his father and brother, Gordon also worked on the roads to help send some of his brothers to university.

Gordon married Lila May West (1904), the daughter of Benjamin and Jenny West, in West Nissouri in 1929. Gordon and Lila had one child, Joyce (1931) (see Mac Scott profile). They lived on Lot 3, Con. 1 on a farm immediately south of Gordon's father's farm. Lila was a great help to Gordon, and they worked together doing the farm work. Both Gordon's and his father's farms were flat and productive.

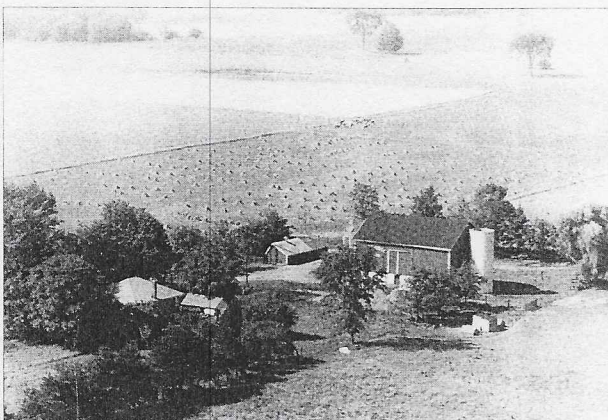


Joyce Judd c.1930s, with the family dog, at the farm on Nissouri Road.

When Gordon first married, he milked 10 to 13 cows and sold the milk to a cheese factory. He later sold fresh milk to the Pure Milk Dairy owned by Robert Read. Gordon originally used a horse to deliver milk, but later used a car and trailer.

Gordon, a persuasive talker, was able to sell anything he could grow at the London market. During the 1930s, he used to make extra money by buying a crate of 12 live roosters. He would take them home in his car to kill and dress, and return to the market in the evening to sell them. He put a board on the bumper of his car and laid the roosters on it. People were persuaded that he offered a good deal and in no time, the birds were sold for a five dollar profit!

In 1940, the Crumlin Airport was opened and Gordon's farm was taken over by the airport. The Judds then purchased E $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 4, Con. 2, which Gordon farmed until he retired. He supplemented his income in the 1940s by using his team and



An aerial view of the Gordon Judd farm at Lot 4, Con. 2 in 1950.

wagon to haul gravel for the County. He earned \$3.50 a day for himself and his outfit.

In 1950, Gordon and Lila built a brick house on the farm. Gordon named the property Golden Ridge Farm, from the name given to his accredited herd of dairy cattle. Lila became ill during the summer and died in 1987 in St. Marys. She is buried in Robin's Hill Cemetery.

#### JUDD, KARL MARCUS & RHEA (BOYD)

Robert and Ida Judd's eighth son, Karl Marcus Judd (1909-1983), was born on Maple Bank Farm, on Lot 4, Con. 1. When his father Robert died, Karl took over Maple Bank Farm, which was willed to him, and farmed here until the land was taken over for Crumlin Airport. Karl then purchased W $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 5, Con. 2 and farmed there until he retired.

Karl married Rhea Boyd (1913-1995) in 1935. Rhea was the sister of Frances Boyd who had married Karl's brother, Edward. Karl and Rhea eventually retired to Seawood Avenue in London. They are buried in Robin's Hill Cemetery.

#### JUDGE, JAMES & ELIZABETH (MORRISON)

James Judge (1806-1876) and his wife Elizabeth Morrison (1819-1893) emigrated from Ireland to Canada about 1830. They were accompanied by James' older brother, John Judge (1795), and his wife Jane Henderson (1801-1891). The brothers first settled in the Toronto area, but c.1851 moved to Middlesex County. John settled in East Nissouri while James settled first in North Dorchester Township, later moving to Lots 1 and 2, Con. 4 and Lot 5, Con. 3, West Nissouri.

James and Elizabeth had 11 children. Seven of the children were born in Peel County, three in Dorchester Township and one in West Nissouri. They had David (c.1838-1918), Jane (c.1841-1869), Elizabeth (1842), Ellen (c.1844-1904), James (1845-1908), William (1848-1910), Robert (1850), John (1852-1871), Mary Ann (1855), Maria (1859) and Margaret (1863).

David, a carpenter, married Mary Jane Logan of West Nissouri and lived in Point Edward, Lambton County.

Jane married Richard Morrison of Arthur. She is buried in Robin's Hill Cemetery. Elizabeth married an Alcock.

Ellen married Richard Warwick (1842-1923)



and lived on the S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 29, Con. 4. They had one son, Lloyd (see Near profile).

James (1878-1972) married Edna Spence of Con. 3 in 1906. Daniel and Grace and George and Laura are buried in North Nissouri Cemetery.

#### McFARLANE, JAMES & EDNA (SPENCE)

James Emerson (1878-1972), the son of Daniel and Grace (Uren) McFarlane, married Edna Spence (1886-1975) of Con. 3 in 1906. Jim and Edna farmed Pt W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 28, Con. 5. They retired in 1958 and moved to St. Marys. On June 6, 1971, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. The couple moved to the Blue Water Rest Home in Zurich, Huron County in 1972.

James and Edna had two daughters: Annabel (1914-1916) who died in infancy and Marguerite who married Walter Anderson and lived in Sandusky, Michigan. In 1972, Jim and Edna had three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jim, Edna and Annabel are buried in North Nissouri Cemetery.



*James and Edna (Spence) McFarlane, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 1971.*

#### McGEE, JOSEPH & MARY (LEIGH)

Joseph, son of Patrick McGee of the Lucan area, married Mary Leigh, daughter of Harold and Winnifred (Herbert) Leigh of London. They moved to Pt Lot 6, Con. 2 about 1950. Joe was employed for many years at 3M in London and raised sheltie dogs as a hobby. The McGees have four children: Lori, Danny, Mike and Lisa.

Mike married Denise and they have two children: Branden and Kristy. He purchased the property from his father about 1993.

Lori and her sister, Lisa, live in the Peterborough area and Danny lives in London.

#### McGUFFIN FAMILY

The ancient home of the McGuffin family was the island of Colonsay, off the west coast of Scotland. The family were part of the MacFie clan which took part in a rebellion in 1615. The rebellion was crushed and as punishment, the MacFie clan was evicted from Colonsay to the mainland of Scotland where they became one of the "broken" clans. Some of them settled around Loch Abar and others immigrated to Ireland. These families were the ancestors of the McGuffins of West Nissouri Township.

In 1812, James and Sarah (McLeod) McGuffin left Newry, Warrenpoint, County Down, Carlingford Lough, Ireland by boat with their 14 sons, according to family folklore. Two of their sons were removed from the ship and forced into the Army. They were brought across the Atlantic on another boat but jumped overboard before the ship reached shore. One was shot while in the water, the other reached the shore but because of his wet clothing and the cold, he froze to death in the bush.

James McGuffin died and is buried in New York State while Sarah (d.1819) is buried in Siloam Cemetery in London, with over 80 other McGuffin descendants.

James McGuffin Jr. (1793-1848), the eldest of the McGuffin brothers, married Margaret Duncan (1804-1881). She emigrated from Stirling, Scotland to Westminster Township in 1815 with her family. James purchased a farm on Lot 14, Con. 1 in West Nissouri in 1846. Early records indicate that Lot 14, Con. 1 was first registered in 1822 to Hall Davis, then in 1835 to Anthony Upper. James and Margaret were one of the first McGuffins to settle in West Nissouri. The family lived in a log



The William and Mary McGuffin family, c.1890, included (standing at rear, left to right) John, Thomas, George, Lilly (Box), William, Sarah (Parkinson) and (front) Rebecca (Fitzgerald), Matilda (McComb), Henry, Mary (Shoebottom) McGuffin, the mother, Margaret (Elliott), James with a portrait of the father, William McGuffin (1827-1880).

house on S<sup>1/2</sup> Lot 14, Con. 1. James and Margaret had ten children, many of whom remained in London Township. Matilda (1823-1883) married James Smibert Jr. (1815-1867); Henry (1825-1900) married Julia Maria Needham; William (1827-1880) married Mary Shoebottom (1832-1910); Mary (1830-1887) married Alexander Smibert (1827-1904); Margaret (1832-1891) married James Colbert Shoebottom (1827-1894); Joseph (1833-1920); John Wesley (1836-1883); Sarah Jane (1839-1911) married Isaac Colbert Shoebottom (1834-1902); Hester Ann (1841-1922) married George McGaffin (McGaffin, not McGuffin) and Rachel (1850-1881).

James' son, William (1827-1880) and his wife, Mary Shoebottom, had 11 children. They were: James Wesley (1853-1925), Rebecca (1854-1918), Margaret Ann (1855-1921), John S. (1857-1914), Matilda (1859-1902), Henry Duncan (1863-1930), Sarah Ellen (1865-1950), William Colbert, Thomas Isaac (1871-1924), George (1872-1943) and Lilly (1873-1955).

William Colbert (1867-1936), their eighth child, married Margaret Judd (1876-1955), daughter of William and Charlotte (White) Judd of



William C. McGuffin married Margaret "Maggie" Judd in 1910.



Mervin McGuffin and his wife, Loreen (Gledhill), pursuing one of their favourite activities, canoeing in Northern Ontario in summer, 1990.

Rebecca, in 1910. Margaret grew up on the family farm at Lot 6, Con. 2.

William and Margaret farmed Lot 14, Con. 1 and had four sons: Gerald (stillborn), William Clayton (1913-1998), Mervin James (1915-2000) and George Orville (1917-1972). William and Margaret are buried in Siloam Cemetery.

William Clayton studied biology at UWO where he received his master's degree in 1937. He later earned a PhD from the University of Minnesota. In 1938, Clayton started working with the federal government doing insect investigation, travelling to various regions of Canada. He married Dorothy Dann (1918-1980) in London, Ontario. Although Clayton spent his summers doing insect surveys in many different regions of Canada, he and Dorothy lived in Calgary and Ottawa for most of their married life. Clayton and Dorothy had one son, William "Bill" Cecil (1941, Ottawa). The couple are buried in Siloam Cemetery.

Mervin James (1915-2000), William and Margaret's third child, worked as a mechanic for McGuire Motors while becoming a commercial pilot. Mervin served in the armed forces during the Second World War where he was an instructor in flying, aircraft mechanics and marksmanship. Mervin later taught mechanics at H.B. Beal Technical School before becoming technical director for the City of London. One of his achievements was writing an automotive mechanics textbook which was in use for many years.

In 1941, he married Loreen Gledhill (1917-

2000) and they enjoyed their summers boating and fishing on Georgian Bay in their homemade, 22-foot Chriscraft. The McGuffins later built a sport fishing lodge called Camp MacMac on Lake Nipissing, and a similiar operation in northern Saskatchewan. Merv and Loreen built their own cottage on Rabbit Lake in Temagami where they enjoyed 35 summers. The couple had one son, Gary (1959, London). In 1981, following his graduation in outdoor recreation technology from Seneca College, Gary backpacked the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine with fellow graduate, Joanie Wood. The couple were married in Bracebridge in 1983 before departing on a two-year voyage across Canada by canoe. The McGuffins published their first book about their travels, *Where Rivers Run, A 6,000 Mile Exploration of Canada by Canoe* in 1986. Further adventures, and two more books followed. The McGuffins live at Goulais River, Ontario with their daughter, Sila Kestrel (1999). Mervin and Loreen are buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.



Orville McGuffin married Irene Perkin in 1944 at her family's residence in London Township.

George Orville (1917-1972), the fourth child of William and Margaret, married Elva Irene Perkin, daughter of Clarence Herbert and Margaret (McGugan) Perkin of London Township, in 1944. Orville and Irene were students together at S.S. #16, London Township. Orville stayed on his parents' farm and carried on mixed farming along with dairy cattle. The farm has been in the McGuffin name since 1846.

One activity which the McGuffins enjoyed was the weekly euchre games held in homes around the community. Irene taught Sunday School at Zion United Church after her marriage and was a member of the United Church Women. She received her life membership from Thorndale Women's Institute in May 2001. Orville and Irene had three children.

Margaret Irene (1946) was active in Thorndale Junior Farmers and Middlesex County Junior Farmers. She worked at the Bank of Montreal (Market Square branch) and London Metal Services on York Street, London. Margaret married Joseph Jeffrey Bryan, son of Claire "Pete" and Florence (Rainsberry) Bryan, in 1974. The couple have two daughters: Jean Marie (1977) and Susan Patricia (1978).

Orville and Irene's second child, Ronald Orville (1949-1974), studied motor mechanics. Ronald helped his father on the farm and worked as a mechanic in London. At the time of his death in a traffic accident, he was a mechanic at London Transportation Commission (LTC).

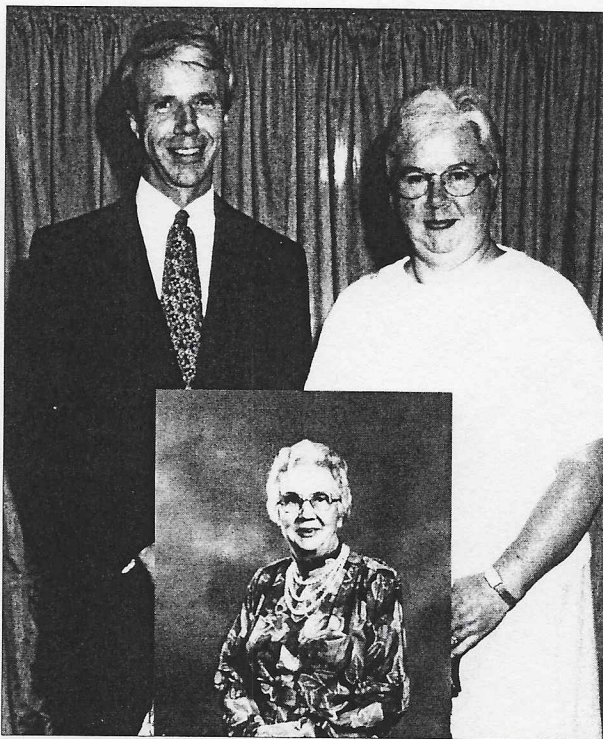


Ron McGuffin in 1974.

Ronald enjoyed Scouting and sports, particularly baseball. He is buried in Siloam Cemetery with his father, Orville.

Kenneth Earl (1950), the third child of Orville and Irene, started his career with Canada Trust, District Trust and Eaton Bay Trust. In 1983, Ken became an agent with Oxford Mutual Insurance in Thamesford.

Ken is past president of the Thorndale



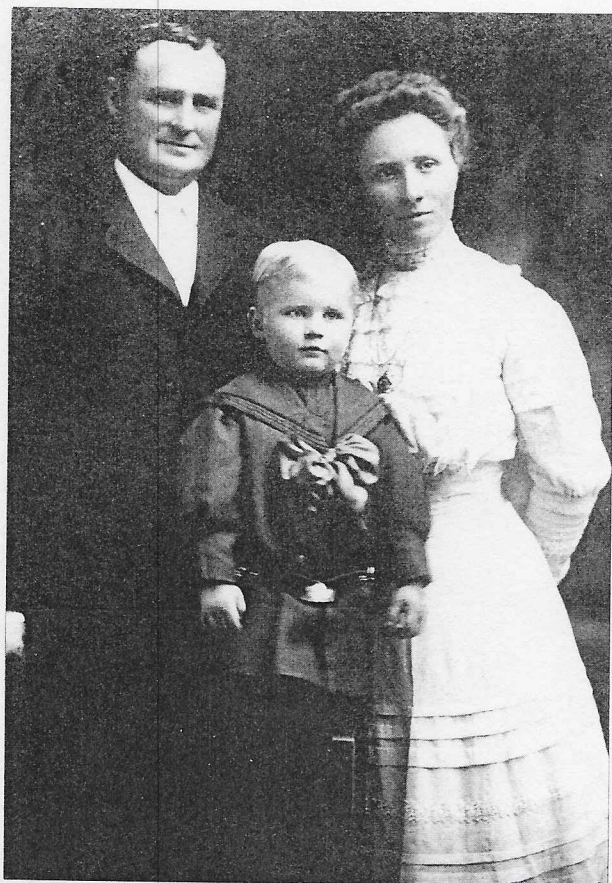
Ken McGuffin, his sister Margaret (McGuffin) Bryan, taken in 1996 with their mother, Irene (Perkin) McGuffin, photographed in 1989.

Agricultural Society (1997 and 1998). He was instrumental in founding the West Nissouri Historical Society, chairing the group organized to research and write the township history which you are reading.

#### McGUFFIN, THOMAS & FANNIE (WYATT)

James McGuffin's son, William (1827-1880), having purchased the farm from his brother, Henry, in 1856, began clearing the land. William married Mary Shoebottom (1832-1910) and had 11 children (see earlier profile).

William built the present house on the north half of the lot in 1870. The barn was a 36 x 48 foot structure of frame construction. During his time there, William bought a team of oxen for \$400 and paid 20 per cent interest on the money borrowed from his brother. This was during a time of very high interest rates. The first grain was sewn by hand by William, with Mary walking behind with an ox hitched to a thorn tree for a harrow. General mixed farming was carried on through the years. In 1900, the 200-acre parcel was divided into 100-acre lots with the north lot going to Thomas and the south to William.



Thomas McGuffin, his wife Fannie (Wyatt) and their eldest son, Ivan, about 1911.

Thomas I. McGuffin (1871-1924) married Fannie Wyatt (1883-1965) in 1907 in London Township. Fannie was the daughter of John and Rebecca (Birch) Wyatt of London Township. Thomas attended Zion Methodist Church in London Township. The couple had five children: Ivan E. (1908-1987), Hazel A. (1913-2003), Thomas Wilmer (1916-1997), Arnold K. (1918) and W. Harold (1922).

Harold, the youngest son of Thomas and Fannie, was born in the same room of the house where his father, Thomas and grandfather, William, had died of pneumonia, both at the age of 53. Fannie and the family continued farming N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 14, Con. 1. In 1967, Harold took over ownership of the farm, which he still owns in 2003.

Before the turn of the century, the barn received a new stone foundation and in 1917, an addition was built. Hydro was installed on the farm in 1930. Another addition was built in 1957. Just over 15 acres of the farm was sold to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority in 1952



The children and grandchildren of Thomas and Fannie McGuffin, photographed in 1957, included (back) Ivan, Ross, Arnold, Edna, Harold, Marie and (front) Hazel, their mother Fannie, Nancy, Robbie, Wilmer, and (in front) John and David.

leaving just over 83 acres. Taxes on the farm went from \$50 in 1912 to \$67 in 1934, \$165 in 1954 and \$1,367 in 1999.

Thomas and Fannie McGuffin are buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.

#### McGUFFIN, IVAN & EDNA (PIPER)

Ivan McGuffin (1908-1987), the eldest son of Thomas and Fannie McGuffin, purchased Lot 13, Con. 4 in 1934. Ivan married Edna Piper (1909-1989), who grew up on a farm where London Airport is now located, in 1935. Ivan and Edna are buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.

Their son, Ross McGuffin (1938), married Dawn Oldham (1938) of London in 1957. Ross and Dawn took over the family farm in 1973. They have five children: Kim (1958), Stephen (1959), Kevin (1961), Clinton (1968) and Jane (1969).

Kim is married to Bill McDonald (1954, Scotland). Bill and Kim reside in London.

Stephen was a member of the 4-H Dairy Clubs in the township. He attended Ridgetown Agricultural College, graduating in 1980 from the agricultural production management course. Stephen is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Thorndale and is employed by London Agricultural Commodities. Stephen is married to Cathy Prisciak



*The Ross and Dawn (Oldham) McGuffin family includes (standing) Clint, Jane, Cathy, Stephen, Kevin, Kim, Bill and (seated) Ryan, Dawn, Christopher, Ross and Jeff.*

(1960), originally from Beamsville. Cathy was a member of the Thorndale Agricultural Society and is now employed by Coni Marble in Thorndale. Stephen and Cathy have three sons, Ryan (1982), Jeff (1983) and Chris (1985), and live on Nissouri Road.

While growing up, Kevin was a member of the 4-H Dairy Clubs and Thorndale Junior Farmers. Kevin graduated from the agricultural business management course at Ridgetown Agricultural College in 1983. He was a member of the Thorndale Agricultural Society for a number of years. Kevin has raised draft horses, both Percherons and Clydesdales, and is a partner in the family farming operation. In 2003, he married Jodi (Young) Verellen and they are living in the township.

Clinton graduated from the University of Guelph in 1991. While growing up, Clint was a participant in 4-H clubs. He is now employed as a parts manager at Vincent Farm Equipment near Woodstock.

Jane was the Thorndale Fair Ambassador in 1986. She is married to Mark Root (1963) and they live on Valleyview Road. Mark is a partner in his family's business, G & S Electric in London. They have two children, Marina (1998) and Jamie (2000) along with Mark's sons, David (1987) and Christopher (1989), from a previous marriage.

### McGUFFIN, ARNOLD & MARIE (PERKIN)

Arnold McGuffin (1918), the third son of Thomas and Fannie (Wyatt) McGuffin, married Marie Perkin (1917, London Township) in Arva in 1946 and moved to his farm in London Township. After spending 28 years there, he, Marie and their daughter, Nancy, moved to their new home built on W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 16, Con. 1, West Nissouri (Prospect Hill Road). The McGuffins purchased this farm from Leona Hindmarsh who had inherited it from her uncle, Fred McGuffin.

Arnold farmed this land with his brother Harold until 1975 when Arnold went to work as a millhand at Arva Flour Mills. Since his retirement in 1983, he has rented this land to his nephew, Ross McGuffin.

In 1975, Arnold and Marie's daughter Nancy (1953, London) graduated from UWO and moved to Toronto to work for Ontario Hydro as a computer analyst. She married Bud Lum in 1978 and they



*Arnold and Marie McGuffin with their daughter, Nancy, in 1974.*

have two children, Melanie and Chad, and live in London. Nancy now works for the London Health Sciences Centre.

Arnold is a past master of Thorndale Masonic Lodge (1958) and has always attended Zion United Church, London Township, where he has served as Sunday School superintendent, elder, trustee and in other capacities. He has also been a director of London Township Fire Insurance for 21 years. Arnold has an interest in draft horses and participated in local baseball.

His wife, Marie, attended London Normal School. As a public school teacher, she taught in the eight-grade rural schools. After the new Masonville Public School was built in 1948, she acted as principal and taught the senior grades. Marie has always attended Zion United Church where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, belonged to the United Church Women where she took her turn as president, secretary and treasurer and served in other capacities. She has been a member of Thorndale Women's Institute since 1963, where she held many offices, and also at the district and area level.

#### **McGUFFIN, THOMAS WILMER & EVELYN (CAUGHLIN)**

Thomas Wilmer "Tom" McGuffin (1916-1997), the second son of William and Fannie (Wyatt) McGuffin, grew up in a deeply religious, disciplined family that was ruled by his mother after the death of her husband in 1924. Daily prayers (morning and evening), farm chores, Zion United Church, and school at S.S. #16 taught young Wilmer many lessons and instilled in him values that stayed with him his entire life. The lessons, however, were not easily learned. The Twenties didn't 'roar' as much on the McGuffin farm as elsewhere.

After graduating from high school, Tom was already planning a way to attend university. Since he could not afford tuition fees, Tom worked towards financial aid in the form of bursaries and scholarships. He began his studies at UWO in 1934, winning the Board of Governors prize in 1935 and the Wyatt Scholarship for Honours History and English in 1936 (his mother must have loved that one!). During his university years, he was a prolific writer of letters, journal entries and poetry in addition to his academic work.

Tom began his teaching career at the high school in Clinton. While attending university, Wilmer met Evelyn Coughlin, a teacher at St. George's Public School in London. The couple were married in 1942. Having been rejected by the Air Force due to vision problems, Tom's war efforts were on the home front as a cadet trainer, which he continued into the 1950s.



*Wilmer "Tom" McGuffin*

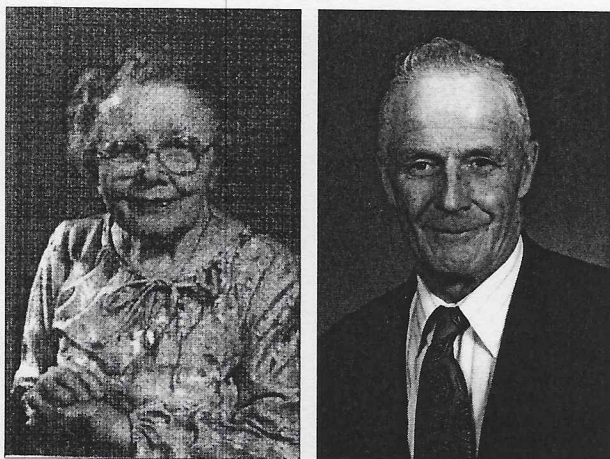
Tom and Evelyn had three sons: John (1945), David (1947) and Rob (1953). Once the war ended, the family moved to Hamilton where Tom taught at Central Secondary School. For two years, Tom was head of the English Department at Oakridge Secondary School in London. He returned to Hamilton in 1962 to become vice-principal of Westmount Secondary School and the family settled in Ancaster.

In 1968, Tom earned his MA (English) from UWO and became principal of Westmount High School. He was later the first principal of a new experimental school, Hamilton Collegiate Institute. After retiring from teaching, he and Evelyn travelled extensively and volunteered with a stress relief hotline. They became loving grandparents to five grandchildren. Tom died in 1997, ending the couple's 55-year marriage.

#### **McGUFFIN, HAROLD**

Harold McGuffin (1922), the youngest son of Thomas and Fannie McGuffin, has continued farming the home farm. As well as the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 14, Con. 1, his property includes 40 acres at Lot 16, Con. 1, purchased in the early 1960s. He is the fourth generation to have lived and farmed this property, settled by his great-grandfather and remaining in the McGuffin name for 156 years.

Harold has been a member of the Zion United Church, London Township all his life. He has also pursued his love of heavy horses. Even as a child, he showed in 4-H fair classes for draft horse foals.



Hazel McGuffin in 1989. Harold McGuffin in 1994.

Harold still owns a team of Belgians and can be seen driving them every day for chores that require good old-fashioned horse power.

Hazel McGuffin (1913-2003), who remained on the farm with her brother, Harold, played the piano and organ at Zion United Church and taught Sunday School. She helped out whenever food was required for any community events such as picnics or other celebrations. Hazel is buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.

### McGUFFIN, DORASTUS & JANE (DONALDSON)

Dorastus McGuffin (1828-1903) emigrated from County Down, Ireland in the early part of the nineteenth century. Dorastus was the son of Hugh and Theda (Evan) McGuffin of London Township. Dorastus married Jane Donaldson of London Township in 1855. He purchased 150 acres at Lot 20, Con. 1, West Nissouri, which overlooked the Thames River, for \$100.

Dorastus and Jane had ten children. They were: Hugh (1856), Mary W. (1859), John (1861), Robert (1863), Alexander (1867, died in infancy), Adeline A. (1869), Dorastus Jr. (1871), Ernest (1878), Winnifred and Margaret (1877). Alexander is buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.

The first crop the family planted was potatoes. The original log house stood near the first concession where the first well can still be seen as well as the indestructible lilac bushes which were planted on the family's doorstep. This house had a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms downstairs and a large undivided loft above for sleeping. A little

later, a second small building was built nearby where Jane could do her weaving. This was where the family's sheets, carpets and other cloth was woven.

When the new house was built c.1899, much of the timber was cut from the farm. The kitchen and dining room ceilings are cherry wood. There is also a table made from farm cherry wood. The white brick for the farmhouse came from Walker's brickyard in London.

The original log barn ran in the opposite direction to the present one, which was erected in 1910. The log house was dismantled at that time, and some of the timbers were used for sleepers in the barn. Mrs. Robert McGuffin recalled what hard work it was cleaning out that old log barn while the men were busy drawing timber for the new barn.

The principal livestock on the farm were pure-bred polled Angus. Pictures of early breeding stock shows them as larger animals than the cattle of today. They were a general purpose animal, used for milking as well as for beef. Nine or ten cows stood in the barn and the young cattle ran around the straw stack. McGuffins also kept Leicester sheep and general purpose horses, with at least one good driver.

Dorastus Sr. operated a horse-powered thresher where the horses walked in a circle to provide the power. His son, Robert, did custom threshing, using steam power. The machine was drawn from farm to farm by teams of horses. Each farmer had to have a supply of wood and water ready for the boiler to get the steam up.

At the house, the McGuffins had a dog churn with a Newfoundland dog to operate the churn. Among many interesting antiques on the farm were two iron kettles—a small one that must have cooked many a dinner in the log house and the large one used for boiling down maple syrup or to scald the pig on butchering day. The Roy McGuffins displayed that kettle on their front lawn, filled with flowers in the summertime.

The farm had an orchard with all kinds of apples: sweet, russet and spies as well as crabs, pears and black cherries. Harry Harding ran an evaporator in Thorndale. Margaret McGuffin, married to Robert, used to gather the apples, assisted by her son Roy, and got 40 cents a bag for them at the evaporator. That was good money in those days!

Robert McGuffin was pathmaster and it was his



duty to see that the road was opened after a storm. In the days before snowploughs, the farmers got their teams out and broke a trail. Often they crossed the river on the ice and used the second concession road.

Dorastus McGuffin Sr. died in 1903, and the farm was divided in 50-acre parcels between his three sons, Robert, Ernest and Dorastus Jr.

Robert McGuffin married Margaret Hart, the daughter of James and Sarah Margaret (Berry) Hart. Robert and Margaret had one son, James Roy (1901-1986), who eventually purchased Lot 20, Con. 1 from his father.

Roy married Winnifred "Winnie" Angus (1896-1990), a distant cousin. They are buried in Siloam Cemetery, London.

#### **McKAIG, JAMES E. & AUDREY M. (PALMER)**

James E. McKaig (1928) married Audrey M. Palmer (1930) in St. George's Church in 1953. They lived in London for nine years. Jim worked at General Steel Wares and Metropolitan Life Insurance while Audrey taught at Ealing Public School. When Audrey's father, Wilfred Palmer, died in 1962, they returned to the farm as Jessie, Audrey's mother, wished to remain in her own home.

Jim took over the former pool hall in Thorndale and opened Jim's Variety and Snack Bar. He sponsored the Thorndale Flyers' Hockey Team. Jim was also a Cub leader, known to the Cubs as "Akela". Audrey was a choir member at St. George's Church for many years and also taught



*Audrey Mary Palmer and James Eugene McKaig were married in 1953.*



*Karen Elizabeth (McKaig) Bentum and Sandra Lynn (McKaig) Thomas with their children, Matthew James (left), son of Sandra and Lee James Thomas, son of Karen Bentum.*

Sunday School. She taught school for one year in Thorndale and then joined the staff of Plover Mills Central School when the school opened in 1965. She taught there until 1985.

Jim sold the variety store to Joan Paschink in 1974 and became proprietor of East London Sports in London which later became Source for Sports. He retired for health reasons in 1990.

The McKaigs had two daughters, Sandra Lynn (1958) and Karen Elizabeth (1961). Sandra moved to London and married. She trained as a nurse at Fanshawe College. Sandra moved to Flesherton and worked with the Victorian Order of Nurses. She has one son, Matthew James (1987).

Karen attended Fanshawe College and graduated as a dental assistant. She married Donald Bentum and remained in Thorndale where they own Thorndale Pro Hardware (see Bentum profile).

#### **McKAY, JOHN & MARTHA (SUTHERLAND)**

John (1865-1953) and his wife Martha (Sutherland) McKay moved to W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Lot 12, Con. 2 in 1906, from North Dorchester Township. They purchased the farm owned by E. Scatcherd. The McKays had one son, John Alexander "Alex" (1900-1986), who married Willa Martin, the daughter of George and Mary (Urquhart) Martin. Alex and Willa had three children: a son who died in infancy; Arnold Ross (1933-1957) who died in a