

Lot 20, Con 1V EBR Balsam Groves

Nathaniel Given and Elizabeth Keatley emigrated from Antrim County, Northern Ireland, to Philadelphia, USA, where they were married. Later, with their family consisting of Robert, Nathaniel Jr., James and Elizabeth, they moved north to the Mar Community, purchasing 105 acres, Lot 20, Con 1V, EBR, from Arthur Schulthopkis in 1874.

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The land was gradually cleared and the farm divided with Robert farming the eastern 50 acres.

Nathaniel Jr. married Margaret Laughton and settled on 100 acres, Lot 23, Con 1 EBR. He later ran the general store and was the first postmaster in Mar until his death in 1889. Their daughter Elizazbeth married John Egleson Esler and moved with her family to Bigger, Saskatchewan.

After Robert's wife, Elizabeth McMaster, died, James acquired his brother's property and in 1900 took over the rest of the homestead. He extended his acreage by purchasing 50 acres of Lot 22, Con 1V EBR from Albemarle Township in 1894 and 109 acres of Lot 21, Con 1V EBR from James Button in 1919. With his acquisition of these two wooded areas much of the north western shoreline of Berford Lake became part of his homestead.

James married Martha Jane, the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Jane Crane of Mar, in 1885. Their first home was in the orchard area west of the present farm house. When his parents' two-story log house was destroyed by fire James had the existing brick house built. They had nine children:

Jane (Mrs. Charles Tompkins, Burt, NY)	1888
Elizabeth (Mrs. Glen Miller, Newfane, NY)	1889
Margaret (Mrs. La Vern Fisk, Newfane, NY)	1892
Mary (Mrs. Alex. Rydall, Lion's Head, Ont)	1894
James	1895-1920
Edith (Mrs. Harold Stitt, Toronto, Ont)	1897
Theresa (Mrs. Ainsley E. McGee, Wiarton, Ont)	1901
Thomas	1903-1911
Archibald, Mar,	1905-_____

Martha was a well-known mid-wife in the community, and was always ready to help neighbours who were ill. She was a trustee of the Mar Baptist Church when it was built.

James, in his early life, was well known in sporting circles where he was a ball player of note and participated in many hard-fought games.

Friendly and hospitable, they were highly regarded in the Mar area. Seventy-five members of the community presented them with two living-room chairs upholstered in tapestry and a rug when they retired to Wiarton in 1930.

(Article)

The homestead stayed in the Given family and was farmed by their son Archie and his wife, Emilie White, from 1929. Their children are Lois (Mrs. Cameron Smith), Alan (m. Barbara Edwar^d), and Edward (m. Nancy Skene), and Merideth, d. as a young child, ^{2. Susan Williamson}

Emily was active in church, Women's Inst. Life member and Museum work. She is now retired in Wiarton.

Emily is a Founding and a Life member of the Bruce County Museum at Southampton and contributed a good deal of time in its Founding. She was the Mar correspondent for many years to the Wiarton Echo. Daughter of Henry & Josephine White