

Bobcaygeon, Boyd, Buffalo. In many ways the names are synonymous as they link the pioneer metropolis of Verulam Township with the pioneer Boyd family and the visionary and practical experience of the Boyd's in transporting buffalo from San Francisco,, Cal., to Bobcaygeon and cross breeding the buffalo with Hereford cattle, a herd which was quite popular and profitable to the Boyd family. Thereby hangs an interesting tale.

By coincidence the Verulam Agricultural Society formed a fourth link in the chain, the 104th anniversary of the Fall Fair having been marked in all its Autumn glory recently and the Boyd family was one of the exhibitors for several years, especially in the showing of poled Herefords and poled Angus cattle. To top this long experience as exhibitors, Mis Sheilla Boyd, a life long resident of the village for several years, exhibited at the fair some of her fine works of art, beautiful paintings, as well as some of her smart and well executed articles of smocking. The well known Superintendent of the Boyd farm "Bob Watt" failed to miss a Little Bob Fair 'n 49 years. Up until five summers ago the Herefords from the Boyd farm were annual prize winners at the Verulam Fair.

It was in the year 1833 that Mossom Boyd, son of Gardner Boyd, heard about the fascinating prospects of Ontario and the possible building of the Trent Valley Canal and the young adventurer made the trip and sailed across the big pond and settled in Bobcaygeon. He was enthralled with the natural beauty of the hamlet and with the tumultous, turbulent waterways flanked and banked with beautiful towering trees and with the then wide area of bushland. He "pitched his tent" on farm land, on Stur-

geon Lake, to the west of the village which became known as the "Beehive" which to this day is a beauty spot.

The young Boyd became one of the pioneer lumber men of the day and in short time operated on a progressive scale, rafting huge timbers along perilous waters to Trenton on Lake Ontario where they were loaded on scows and barges and taken on to Montreal, most of the fine timber being utilized in ship building.

This fine pioneer passed away in 1882 and prior to his death he was a very familiar figure in the life of the community and the first postmaster at Bobcaygeon. G. Cuss Boyd, possessed many fine characteristics of his father.

Following the death of Mossom Boyd, his son Mossom M. Boyd followed in his father's footsteps, his early training fitting him well for the task which confronted him. Young in spirit and possessed with the Boyd instinct for business as a lumberman and farmer, he launched an expanding program, purchased a fine acreage farm on the south side of the Little Bob river, and then decided to enlarge his strain of poled Angus and poled Herefords. He was the first Canadian to experiment on a large scale the crossing and breeding of the large and bulky buffalo with the Angus and Hereford cows and for this purpose he imported a fine buffalo bull from San Francisco. It was a daring and novel experiment, the owner was having in mind the developing of a superior type of cattle. Thus the herd grew and it was then that Mr. Boyd decided to purchase Big Island in Pigeon Lake near Bobcaygeon. The island contained some 1500 acres and for some time past there have been rumors that the Provincial Government has been on the verge of buying the island in order to provide a beautiful park for the use of tourists

and others. On many occasions the buffalo left the island and swam to the mainland. The cross breeding experiment was only partially successful. Many of the cows developed into fine specimens but a large number were unable to stand the crossing of breeds and died. Eventually the then famous Boyd herd of buffalo were sold and transported to Wainwright in the Canadian West, where they could face up to the fierce blasts of vigorous winters.

In 1914 Mossom M. Boyd passed on after having enjoyed a very useful and active life and his name is often heard on the lips of villagers with whom he was associated. They were his friends.

Monuments to his memory include the very fine homestead on the banks of Little Bob where his daughter Miss Sheila Boyd resides; also the fine stone building which was once the office of the Boyd Lumber Company, a building which was turned over for the use of Bobcaygeon and district people and is now used as a public library, as well as the municipal home for the village and township Councils.

A number of old, old carriages, gigs and sleighs once stored in the Boyd stables vividly recall to many residents of the village the days when Mossom Boyd and his family enjoyed driving and sleigh-riding as these vehicles of transportation were hauled by

some of the finest horses in the Province, many being imported Suffolk Punches, a breed very popular among the aristocrats and nobility of England. Some of these horse drawn carriages and sleighs still possessed the old time decorative lanterns, mounted at the front. They were illuminated by candles operating on a push up spring. Several sets of old English harness have been disposed of or given to friends of the family and it is understood that a historical society in Toronto requested first options on some of these ancient English articles.

Gardner Cuss Boyd apparently had the same love for the out of door life as his forebears and followed the lumber business on Vancouver Island, B.C. He maintained a keen interest in the Boyd farm at Bobcaygeon. Mr. Redge Cross, former Superintendent of the Victoria County Home, was for many years associated with the Boyd farm.

When attending a recent fair in Bobcaygeon Cuss Boyd remarked to a friend: "I enjoy visiting the old home in Bobcaygeon and have not missed the Fair in years and it is gratifying to know that many of the finest cattle at the Fair today are from the Boyd strain. He remarked on the beauty and natural setting, the home of the Bobcaygeon Fair. "The Fair held in picturesque surroundings" said Mr. Boyd, "the lovely placid waters of Little Bob River, with the beautiful tall green trees, now beginning to turn to crimson and bronze, lend a panorama worthy of the brush of the best artist." Here the people of town, city, village and the rural district gather as one large family. It is a wonderful feeling to meet and chat with old friends," he concluded.