

William Broadbridge and wife (Mary Ann Jones) came to Canada from Sussex, England in June 1907 with a family of six children, three boys and three girls ranging in age from ten years to two months. Emily, William Jr., Sidney, Mary, Lousie and baby Charles.

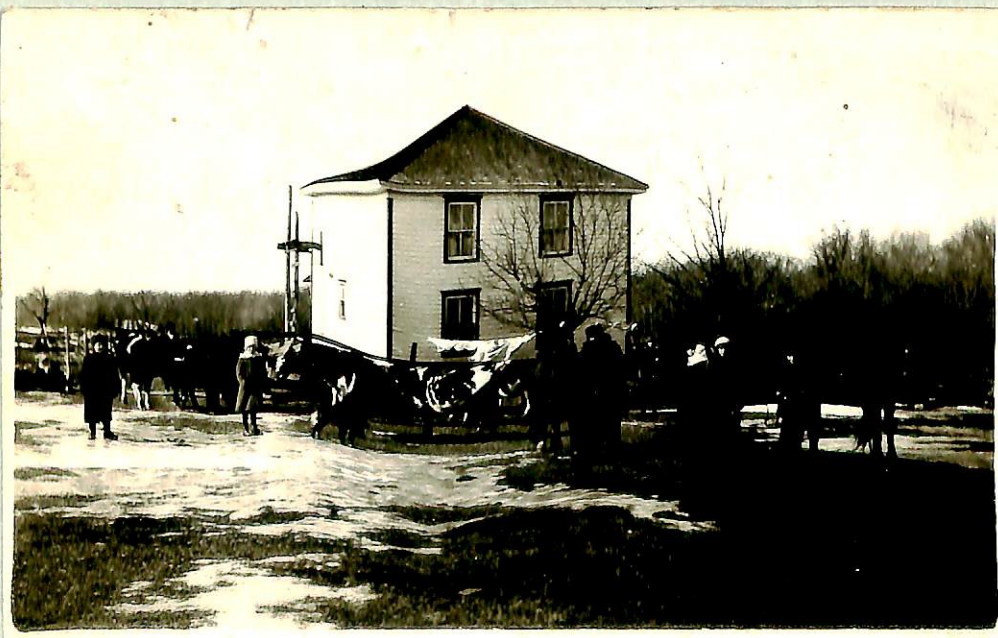
Arriving in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County, Ontario by train in ninety-degree temperature. Walking the distance of two and one-half miles west of Bloomfield to the farm of Hebert Cooper, here he worked for the four summer months. Then for one year and eight months working as a farm hand for Walter Stone, Schoharie. In the fall of 1909 he purchased the farm of Wesley Doolittle situated in the Big Swamp, known as Doolittle's Island.

Wesley Doolittle though handicapped by a crooked right arm, cleared all this island farm land. Also, he built an eight room cottage roof house and large barn from lumber of logs out on cleared land. Wesley Doolittle was a brother of Lydia Cole, wife of Jesse Cole. He he stayed much of the time while clearing his land. He was married later in life to Loetisha Kimmerly. They had one daughter Hazel, who now resides in Belleville. Wesley Doolittle had owned this island about twenty-five years when Wm. Broadbridge bought it.

The road leading to his island was of corduroy (logs). In the spring thaw, we children were taken back and forth by punt ( a flat bottomed boat) to the main road to school. The water being too deep to wade.

There was no telephone, the little Gilberts Mills post office, four miles away, in the residence of Lester Doxsee , here letters were mailed, stamps bought, money orders had to be purchased at Picton, if required. Mrs. Hannah Scott delivered the mail from Bloomfield at that time. Rural mail was serviced in the County in 1912 but still a distance of over one mile to the mailbox.

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Wm. Broadbrid  
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early 1930's

origin in the  
destroyed all the buildings, house, barn and henhouse and much of the crop. Wm.  
Broadbridge owned his first farm for forty-six years. Selling it one year before  
his death to the present owner Roy Brooks.

Written by EMILY MOORE

*Bought in 1952*

*fences removed - 1975*