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John Calnan Farm

West Half Lot 63, Concession 2, Broken Front, Sophiasburgh

In 1835 Richard Calnan and his wife Sophia left Ireland to emigrate to Canada, after less than two years of marriage. Before marriage, Richard Calnan born 1798 whose father had drowned when Richard was very young and his mother remarried, had grown up in County Cork in Ireland. As a young man he had gone to London, England, where he worked several years.

His wife Sophia was the daughter of James Hurrion an Englishman who had been an army officer in the 16th Regiment as a body guard of King George III. She was born in 1811 and had also lived in London before her father retired from the army and consequently moved to Ireland.

Their first child John, was three months old when Richard and Sophia sailed for Canada. After six weeks in a stormy crossing of the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, arriving in Montreal to transship to batteau and in time arrived at Wellington, Ontario.

Here he proceeded to work with Mr. David Osterhoute, a then settler, which job he retained for one year.

After that year he bought a fifty acre farm on the third concession of Ameliasburgh. He paid cash for this land, then to get a clear deed he paid for it the second time, since the original owner had given it to creditors, which fact he forgot to mention, and with cash received had travelled far beyond any one's knowledge.

Several years and four children later, Mr. Calnan sold that fifty acre farm and moved to lot 68, concession 5, Hillier. Here the family enlarged to twelve children, who in turn grew to adulthood and left the parental farm all except Oliver the youngest son. Mr. Calnan died in 1892 being eighty nine years old. Mrs. Calnan died in October 1901 in her ninetieth year.

John the oldest with the fourth child James left the old home in the spring of 1860 to buy lot 63, west half, concession 2, Broken Front, Sophiasburgh township, just three quarters of a mile east of the old home. This was bought from William Pine and his wife Margaret, who was the oldest daughter of Richard and Sophia.

This parcel of land of one hundred acres had some clearing, a log house, near the west side, a small log barn, farther east, a few transplanted

natural fruit apple trees, some damson plums and cherry trees planted just north of the house. The price was nine hundred dollars or nine dollars an acre. The spring was northeast of the house almost straight north of the barn.

The registered mortgage was dated April 16, 1860 and was for \$900.00 to be paid in nine equal payments of \$100.00 each at least, with yearly interest of 3%. This was with Mr. Joseph Cummings of Wellington. This mortgage was discharged paid in full on November 13, 1866.

Apparently this farm was first registered by Mr. David Hopkins and his wife Elizabeth from whom William and Margaret Pine bought it.

A release had to be acquired from Elizabeth Hopkins in 1866, who was then the relict of David Hopkins.