

GIBSON FARM

Lot 35, Con. 13 & 14 and 40 acres of Lot 34, Con. 31

Hugh Gibson came to Canada from Ireland with four brothers in 1861. The boys became separated in Kingston, Ontario and some time later Hugh, Frank and William Gibson arrived in Parry Sound. Hugh Gibson chose to settle on the land on the North East corner of Hagerman Twp., on the North East shoreline of Whitestone Lake. The deed for the property was registered in 1867.

In Hugh Gibson's early years in Hagerman Twp., he transported pioneers of those days from Parry Sound to Arnstein, Loring, Golden Valley and other points around Dunchurch. The Great North Road was open then and served as a bridge to those northern settlements. A team of oxen was used to transport the pioneers in the early years, later Hugh used horses to tote staple supplies of food and household items to the pioneers. This toting of supplies saved many a family from hunger. Hugh brought the first three wall clocks into the area and sold one to Jonathan Crisp. It is still keeping correct time today. When the C.N.R. was building the railway through Parry Sound area, they paid Hugh Gibson four cents per pound for beef. Cattle were delivered "on the hoof" to the lumber camps up the North Road. The cattle were bought in Orillia and driven on foot to Wahwashkesh Lake, then known as Deer Lake, where they were killed and sold; the hides were taken on the return trip south to be sold.

Hugh Gibson married Ellen Montgomery in 1873; they had a family of four boys and four girls. The youngest, Priscilla (Mrs. Sam Arney) now lives in Calgary, Alberta.

A log house was first built on the property, then a larger two storey home and in 1880 a large wooden frame barn. In 1930 Hugh Gibson willed the farm to his youngest son Robert, who in his turn farmed the land and in 1938 Harold Gibson bought the farm.

Harold Gibson farmed for a number of years before he married Doris Browett of Hamilton in 1946. At this time Harold tore down the two storey house and rebuilt on the original stone basement walls. In April of '58 the large frame barn burned to the ground and a barn-raising was held in the summer of that year; a new pole type barn was built.