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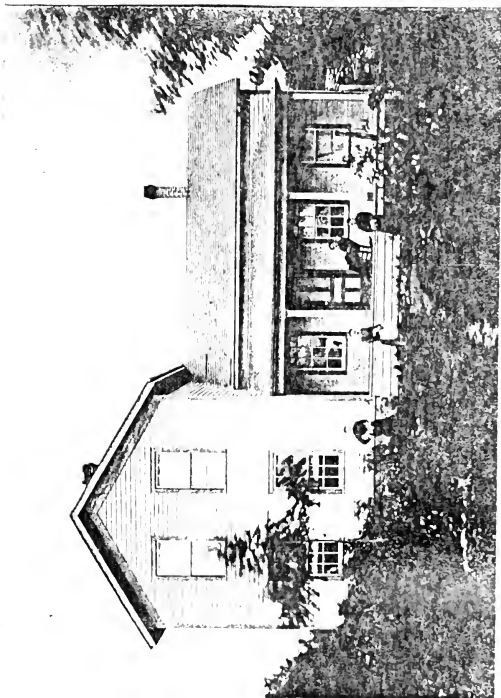
In Remembrance of
THE WEST FAMILY REUNION

IONIA, MICHIGAN

AUGUST 12-13, 1912

By **CHARLES S. WEST**

1864413





Lest We Forget

The earliest event we know of which led directly to our reunion was the birth of Donald Campbell (Kamel, from Gaelic "Caimbeul," Wrymouth), in the year 1758, in Scotland, and probably in Argyllshire where he is known to have lived and which was the territory of his ancient clan. He married Janet Lamon (or Lamont), and they lived in North Knapdale, Argyllshire, where she died about the year 1827. He came to Canada in 1812, and he died there in 1846 when he was eighty-eight years old.

Alexander Campbell, son of Donald and Janet, was born in Knapdale, October 12, 1788.

John Patterson and Margaret McKillop lived in Knapdale, and it was there that their daughter, Mary Patterson, was born, June 12, 1789.

Alexander Campbell was a Scot, as will testify anybody who ever heard him talk, and he was a "hielanman," too, and a first cousin of the Mary Campbell who loved the poet Burns and who is known to the world as "Highland Mary." The surroundings of his early life are therefore suggestive of warring clans, skirling pipes, kidnapped brides, and secret trysts; but whatever of romance there may have been in his courtship of *his* Highland Mary is lost to view in the mists of gathering years. We know, however, that Alexander Campbell and Mary Patterson were married in Knapdale, February 10, 1813.

Their wedded life covered a period of sixty-four years. They had ten children: Daniel (or Donald), born February 14, 1814, died in infancy; Margaret, born May 12, 1816, died Feb. 9, 1904; Daniel, born August 12, 1818,





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died November 26, 1891; John, born July 18, 1820, died March 15, 1875; Neil, born July 18, 1822, died in 1879; Archibald, born July 18, 1824, died March 15, 1885; Janet, born July 10, 1826, died August 1, 1876; Duncan, born May 5, 1828, died May 10, 1828; Christie, born March 28, 1830, died October 18, 1881; and Sarah, born January 2, 1833, still living. The first three were born in Scotland. Excepting the two who died in infancy, all reached and passed the age of fifty, one was eighty-eight when she died, and one (Sarah), still living, is seventy-nine years old.

In May, 1819, Alexander Campbell and his wife, with their two children, sailed from Greenock for Canada, and after a voyage of three months landed at Quebec in August, and from there went by boat to Glengarry, about seven miles from Cornwall. Their son John was born in Glengarry. In 1821 they went to Dundee, where their other children were born. Their house in Dundee was burned in 1831, and with it was destroyed a family record of many generations. In July, 1836, they moved to Ekfrid, Ontario, where they lived until 1870, when they again moved, this time to the township of Brooke, near the site of the village of Tancred, Ontario. There Mary Patterson-Campbell died, March 18, 1877, in her eighty-eighth year, and there also Alexander Campbell died, October 5, 1877, in his eighty-ninth year.

Christie Campbell was born in Dundee, Huntingdon County, Quebec, March 28, 1830, at 4 o'clock on a Sunday morning. She was named after her father's eldest sister and her mother's eldest sister, both of whom bore the name Christie. The name Christina and its diminutive, Christie, have for centuries been common in the Campbell clan. She was six years old when the family

moved to Ekfrid, where she lived until 1851. On August 28, 1849, she married John McNeil, who was born in the State of New York, November 13, 1826, of a Scottish father and an American-born mother. He met death by drowning, at Chatham, Ontario, May 18, 1850.

It was but a few months after Alexander Campbell came from Scotland to Canada that Henry West came from England to the United States. He was born in 1792, on the Isle of Wight, where he grew to manhood. His father died while Henry was a child, and his stepfather not only failed to provide him with an education but also thrust upon him the steppaternal name of Jones, and so it was as Harry Jones that he was known to his associates. He seems to have acquired good ideas of his own about his name, for when the banns were cried in the church the announcement was that Henry West would marry Sarah Harvey.

Sarah Harvey was born in Brighton, on the South coast of England, in 1795. But little information concerning her is now available, but the vigor and character transmitted to her children is ample proof of what she must herself have been. They had seven children: William, born August 15, 1817, died August 1, 1901; Edmund, born January 19, 1820, died October 31, 1882; George, born and died in infancy, about 1823; George, born September 13, 1825, died January 5, 1886; Harriet, born November 28, 1828, died June 12, 1889; John, born June 24, 1831, died December 28, 1906; and Silas, born November 23, 1833, still living. Excepting the one who died in infancy, all reached and passed the age of sixty, one was seventy-five when he died and another eighty-four, and one (Silas), still living, is seventy-nine years old.

After their marriage they lived in the Parish of Braden,

Isle of Wight, where their son William was born. In the fall of 1819 they sailed for America, and, probably late in December or early in January, landed at Baltimore, Maryland.

Tradition has it that Henry West inherited considerable money and that he left a whole hat full of gold on deposit "in the Bank of England." Oh, that mystic fortune! "Peter Piper once was told, and was filled with wonder, that a fabled bag of gold hangs the rainbow under." Fortunately for us, we have never been much given to rainbow-chasing.

The family remained in Baltimore about three and a half years, and there Edmund was born and George was born and died. They then moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where George 2nd was born. In 1827 they went to Canada. It was on this journey that young William fell off of the canal-boat and before he reached the water shouted "Man overboard!" And why not? Was he not ten years old? You had better not tell a chap of that age that he isn't a man!

They settled on a farm in the township of Southwold, Elgin County, Ontario, and there Harriet was born. The farm had been conveyed to Henry West by quitclaim deed, and, fearing that the title was not entirely clear, he gave it up in 1829 and took a farm in the then sparsely-settled country south of Chatham, Ontario, and near the place now called Charing Cross. There John and Silas were born.

Sarah Harvey-West died at Charing Cross in 1840. Some years thereafter Henry West married Magdaline Blakesly, a widow whose maiden name was Arner. She died at Charing Cross in 1856. He died at Charing Cross, May 10, 1865.

Edmund Washington West was born at the Rising Sun Hotel, in Baltimore, Maryland, January 19, 1820, but a few weeks at most after the arrival of his parents in America. He was about three and a half years old when the family moved to Philadelphia, about seven and a half when they went to Canada, and about ten when they moved to their frontier home at Charing Cross. When he was eighteen years old he enlisted in the Canadian volunteer army raised to suppress the rebellion led by William Lyon Mackenzie in Upper Canada, but the company of infantry to which he was assigned saw no active service, and, tiring of the monotony, he gave a man, or perhaps a mere boy like himself, five dollars and his uniform to take his place. Afterward, probably in quest of adventure, he went to Michigan where he was variously employed, but for the most part in connection with the construction of what was probably the first railroad built in the State. While in Michigan he was taken sick, and yielded to the written persuasions of his father to return to Canada. He thought seriously of going as a sailor to sea, and in company with his chum, George Holbrook, started to try it out on the Great Lakes. They were unable to find a vessel which would take on two green hands at once, and, being inseparable, they remained ashore. When the California gold fever broke out he resolved to be "a miner, a forty-niner," but the plea of his father not to leave him in his old age prevailed. His father counseled him to marry and settle down on a farm, but he replied that he had seen but one woman he would marry, and he had no idea that she would have him! He had met the "one" at the home of his brother William, whose wife, Vienne, was her sister-in-law. "But," said his brother George, who knew

and admired the young widow, "if it were me I would try; I would *find out*." And so he tried, and he found out, and they were married, Edmund and Christie, at Ekfrid, Ontario, March 1, 1851, and went to live on their farm near Charing Cross. In March, 1855, with the courage with which pioneers have ever faced the hardships of frontier life, they left Canada for Michigan, traveling by team, and in about ten days arrived at Ionia, where a few weeks later they were joined by William West and his family who took a farm adjoining the one on which they had settled. A year or two later they sold their place to William Hinds, and purchased, from one Harvey Harter, the farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives. She died October 18, 1881, and he, October 31, 1882.

Their lives, though uneventful, had been successful. They had reared a family of ten children, providing each with every necessity; they were possessed of a competence against the old age which through no fault of their own they were not privileged to know; and they had the love and respect of all who knew them, well-earned, because "An honest man's the noblest work of God."

On August 13, 1912, thirty years after the time when we first stood about their new-made graves, we, their ten children, were permitted to again gather there, all in good health, although with a combined age of 522 years or an average age of over 52, the youngest 42 years old. No greater tribute was ever paid to man and woman than this, for the children of the weak and vicious generally die young, and none but the children of those whose lives are clean and whose characters are strong can participate in such a scene. Add the fact that all but one of our

children are living, and all of the children of our children are living, and the evidence is complete.

Here are our names with places and dates of birth, and (in *italics*) of those united with us in marriage. Perhaps the West family contains but little of what the world is wont to call greatness; but neither is there in it any physical or moral degeneracy or the slightest trace of crime. Each member has filled, with a reasonable degree of success, his place, whether large or small, in the affairs of men, doing his duty as God has given him to see his duty, and that's enough. There is no black sheep in this flock. Who among us or of the generations yet to be wants the odium of breaking this honorable record? Do you?

Mary Anne McNeil. Ekfrid, Ont., Jan. 1, 1851.

Guilford P. Burtch. Tedrow, Ohio, April 17, 1848.

Sarah Bethiah Burtch. Crystal, Mich., Sept. 11, 1876.

Arthur Van Sickle.

Lallah Ellen Van Sickle. Carson City, Mich., Dec. 12, 1898.

Olive Priscilla Burtch. Tecumseh, Mich., Oct. 5, 1878.

Cirtus G. Sampson.

Lyle Burtch Sampson. Crystal, Mich., May 21, 1900.

Leta Marguerite Sampson, Crystal, Mich., Jan. 1, 1903.

Mary Ernestine Sampson. Crystal, Mich., July 9, 1906.

Alfred Henry West. Charing Cross, Ont., Sept. 29, 1852.

Rose M. Hubbel. Grattan, Mich., Nov. 19, 1853. Died at Ionia, Mich., Oct. 4, 1882.

Kate Jane West. Lowell, Mich., Dec. 11, 1879. Died at Lowell, Aug. 22, 1880.

Effie May West. Ionia, Mich., May 10, 1882.

Emma C. Stacy. Hopkinton, Mass., Dec. 23, 1853.

John Alexander West. Charing Cross, Ont., Aug. 27, 1854.

Mary D. Boren. Guntown, Miss., Feb. 16, 1863.

Edmund Boren West. Horatio, Ark., May 1, 1901.

Christina May West. Deming, Wash., Feb. 16, 1903.

Sarah Janet West. Ionia, Mich., July 24, 1856.

Florence W. Eddy. Ionia, Mich., Nov. 16, 1854.

Clarence Edmund Eddy. Ionia, Mich., Feb. 6, 1887.

Glenn West Eddy. Grand Rapids, Mich., July 19, 1891.

Julia Francis West. Ionia, Mich., Apr. 16, 1858.

Charles H. Thompson. Lawton, Ohio, Oct. 17, 1854.

J. West Thompson. Stanton, Mich., Oct. 26, 1884.

Lloyd Edmund Thompson. Stanton, Mich., Feb. 25, 1886.

Frank Alfred Thompson. Stanton, Mich., July 24, 1887.

Zella Adeline Thompson. Stanton, Mich., June 27, 1889.

Frank James.

Charles William James. Linnton, Ore., Aug. 8, 1910.

Clara Eliza West. Ionia, Mich., Apr. 3, 1861.

Louis N. Tuttle. Ionia, Mich., Aug. 9, 1858.

Lois Florence Tuttle. Ann Arbor, Mich., Feb. 19, 1884.

Roy R. Smith,

Olive Margaret Tuttle. Belding, Mich., July 19, 1886.

Fred H. Cooke.

Raymond West Tuttle. Belding, Mich., May 12, 1894.

Olive Margaret West. Ionia, Mich., Jan. 8, 1864.

Delbert L. Thomas. Tyrone, Mich., Nov. 14, 1860.

Ray Henry Thomas. Albion, Mich., Feb. 2, 1888.

Charles Edmund Thomas. Saginaw, Mich., June 3, 1894.

George Harvey West. Ionia, Mich., Oct. 27, 1865.

Bertha Weisgerber. Ionia, Mich., Sept. 25, 1868.

James Harry West. Ionia, Mich., Aug. 5, 1887.

Bernece Elizabeth West. Ionia, Mich., Nov. 26, 1888.

Charles Samuel West. Ionia, Mich., June 24, 1868.

Elizabeth M. Park. Greenock, Scotland, Jan. 27, 1870.

Edmund Graham West. Omaha, Neb., Apr. 13, 1894.

William Abram West. Ionia, Mich., May 30, 1870.

Grace B. Alger. Escanaba, Mich., Dec. 15, 1875.

Gladys Christie West. East St. Louis, Ill., June 19, 1897.



The Original West.

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JULY 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

