

## **Section 1. History of the Patterson Lake Area**

Drafted by Lorne Bowerman, October 2008

This first section outlines the history of the Patterson Lake area from just after the last ice age to the present. The website references are not listed as links because they may change and the Patterson Lake Association of Lanark Highlands has no control over them. They were active websites when this document was written in 2008.

### **Ice Age and Post Ice Age**

Patterson Lake lies in the area of southern Ontario that was once covered by salt water called the Champlain Sea. The Champlain Sea was a temporary inlet of the Atlantic Ocean, created by the retreating glaciers during the close of the last ice age. The Sea covered parts of Ontario, Quebec, Vermont, and New York. It was bounded on the west by the Madawaska highlands and Frontenac arch, and in the south by the Adirondack highlands and Appalachian highlands. The Laurentian highlands formed the northern boundary.

The weight of the mass of ice from the continental ice sheets depressed the rock beneath these areas over millennia. While the areas were depressed, they were below sea level and when the glaciers retreated gradually, they were flooded with sea water.

The sea lasted from about 13,000 years ago to about 10,000 years ago and was continuously shrinking during that time, since the rebounding continent was slowly rising above sea level. The retreating glaciers fed the Sea during that time, making it more brackish than typical seawater. It is estimated that the sea was as much as 150 meters above the level of today's Saint Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. Further information on the Champlain Sea and fossil evidence can be found at [http://hoopermuseum.earthsci.carleton.ca/2001\\_champlain2\\_mb/history.htm](http://hoopermuseum.earthsci.carleton.ca/2001_champlain2_mb/history.htm)

As the land rebounded, the flora and fauna from the neighbouring areas gradually moved into the new area to the extent that they could adapt to the soil and climatic conditions.

### **Pre-European Settlement**

Dalhousie Township and thus Patterson Lake lies within the area claimed by the Algonquins. Historical evidence indicates that the Algonquins over time have occupied portions of the lands of the Ottawa River watershed and travelled through surrounding territory as a hunting and gathering society. The Algonquins assert that the Algonquins of Ontario never surrendered its territory by treaty, sale, or conquest and have made such claims since 1772.

Larry McDermott, the former Mayor of Lanark Highlands is an Algonquin and part of Algonquin claim of the land. An April 22, 2005 article by Matt Ross in Indian Country Today stated "*Currently McDermott is involved in land claims for the Algonquin that encompass 8.9 million acres in eastern Ontario, or about 14,000 square miles, overlapping all of the nation's capital. While he said negotiations would only involve Crown (public) lands and not private property, the enormity of such a claim demonstrates how this area was never negotiated originally.*"

The anecdotal evidence of aboriginal occupation of Patterson Lake is that an island in the lake is called Marys Island. Mary is reported to have been an aboriginal living on the island at the same time (circa 1825) that Archie Patterson homesteaded the area just south of the bay on the south side (Concession 6, Lot 13W). Mary is also reported to be buried south of the lake. There is no anecdotal evidence of aboriginal artifacts being found in or around Patterson Lake.

### **European Land Survey**

A township in Southern Ontario is usually rectangular in shape, unless it borders a major river or lake. Townships are divided into concessions. Each concession is a strip of land one and one-quarter miles wide. Concessions can run in any direction and are usually separated by a road. Concessions were numbered with Roman Numerals (V, IV, etc), although the practice has fallen into disuse and the most used system now is Arabic number (5, 6, etc.) When concession roads do not run the length or width of the township because of water or other impediments, they are usually labelled with letters (A, B, etc). A gore is a part of a township that does not fit into the regular shape, because the earth is round and the surveys are squares.

Concessions are divided into lots that use Arabic numbers (3, 4, etc). Originally lots were 200 acres, which could then be easily divided into parcels of 100 acres. The lots ran parallel to the road. The 100 acre farms were common in southern Ontario as it was the amount of land that could be tilled by one man usually with a team of horses. The early farming settlers harvested the timber to build their homes and barns. When the work was too much for one man to do, such as raising a barn, the community came together for a work bee.

The Township of Dalhousie was surveyed by Captain Rueben Sherwood, UEL, about 1820. He laid out the standard square layout of concessions running roughly east and west, and lots running roughly north and south.

### **European Settlement of the Area**

The European settlement of the area started in 1812 when the British Government designated all of Lanark County as a potential settlement land for European immigrant settlers. With the establishment of Perth as a military town in 1816, Lanark Township, Dalhousie Township and North Sherbrooke Township were opened for even greater settlement in 1820.

The first wave of settlers to the area were Scots from Glasgow and Lanarkshire around 1820. Lanarkshire is the area next to Glasgow in Scotland. Glasgow is on the River Clyde. In the 1830s and 1840s a wave of Irish settlers arrived. Although the Scottish and Irish settlers tried to open up the land, much of the terrain was not conducive to farming, and in the end many ended up in timber related trades. Much of the land returned to native forests.

One of the earliest records of the area is Smith's 1846 Canadian Gazetteer, which gives an interesting description of the electoral district of Bathurst, which today we would normally call a riding.

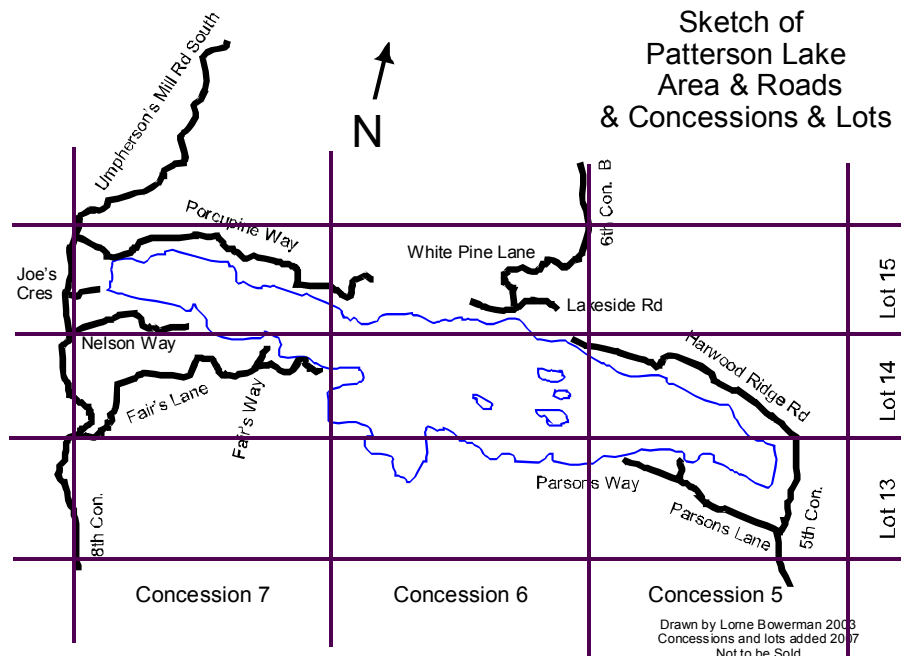
<http://www.censusfinder.com/ontario-canada-census-records4.htm>

*BATHURST DISTRICT Consists of the counties of **Lanark** and **Renfrew**, which are united so far as relates to representation in the Legislative Assembly, and return one member”.*

*DALHOUSIE. A Township in the Bathurst District : is bounded on the north-east by the township of Lanark; on the north-west by Levant; on the south-west by Sherbrooke; and on the south-east by Bathurst. In Dalhousie 23,440 acres are taken up, 8,112\* of which are under cultivation. Two small branches of the River Clyde stretch across the north of the township, and the north branch of the Mississippi runs through the south of the township from west to east. At its entrance into the township it expands into a lake, containing about 1,200 acres, and its course is very tortuous and irregular. Several small lakes are scattered over the township. The base of a large portion of the north and east of the township is marble of different shades of colour, varying from pure white to dark grey. In Dalhousie 17,200 acres of Crown lands are open for sale, at 8s. c'y per acre. In the township are one grist and two saw mills. Population in 1842 : 1,258. Ratable property in the township : £17,601.*

*\* These include the township of Levant, no separate assessment having been made.*

In the 1901 Census, the name of Lanark (North/Nord) and Lanark (South/Sud) is used to describe the political division at the time. Dalhousie Township was in Lanark North.



### **Settlement of the Patterson Lake Area**

Patterson Lake lies within the Township of Dalhousie in Lanark County in Eastern Ontario. The lake straddles Concession 5 on the eastern end, Concession 6 in the middle, and Concession 7 on the western end. In a north-south division of surveyed land, Lot 15 is on the northern side, Lot 14 in the middle section and Lot 13 on the southern side. The lake is positioned on an angle, with the western end higher and the eastern end

lower, on the square grid of the concessions and lots layout. Note that each lot is 200 acres, or 100 acres on the east half and 100 acres on the west half. Legal descriptions may say West half Lot 15, or part of West half Lot 15

Concession 8 is also important to Patterson Lake because the Purdons settled there. Concession 8 starts just a short distance from the end of the lake, and is on the western side of what we would call today the 8<sup>th</sup> Concession and Umpherson Mills Rd South.

The man who lent his name to Patterson Lake was Archie Patterson. He is listed in the Settlers to Lanark County as arriving in 1821 and settling in Concession 6, Lot 13W, which would put him just below the large bay on the south shore of Patterson Lake. The record is contained in:

<http://www.granniesgenealogygarden.com/Granny1/settler4.html>

Patterson Archibald Dalhousie 6 13W 7 26 1821 (July 26, 1821 - which appears to be the date that a settler was “located”, i.e. allocated land. (The reference is not clear on the meaning).)

Further evidence that Archie Patterson was there is a record of a burial site on Concession 6, Lot 13, of Dalhousie Township. This would put the burial site just south of the bay and matches the land on which Archie was settled. The notations are “M.P 1825.” and “Believed to be a child of a Patterson Family”. Keith Thompson who lists the burial site said that he has never found the site. His record is at:

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~onlanark/cemeteries/Patterson/patterson\\_lake\\_burying\\_site.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~onlanark/cemeteries/Patterson/patterson_lake_burying_site.htm)

The story of Archie Patterson and Patterson Lake seemed to have run out by the 1850s. There were no Pattersons to be found in later records. What happened? It remained a mystery until Jim Neelin of Fairs Way pointed to the solution in a book by Carol Bennett, *The Lanark Society Settlers, 1820-1821*, Juniper Books, Renfrew Ontario 1991.

By the way, Carol Bennett lists the spelling as Paterson. There were both Pattersons and Patersons listed in the records at that time so it is not clear which is correct. We will continue to use the spelling of “Patterson” as that is the way the lake’s name was first spelled in the 1850s.

Archie Patterson, David Campbell, William Drynan, John Gillan, and William Hay came over with the Milton Dumbartonshire Emigration Society on the ship “David of London” in 1821. These societies were organized to record the funding and registering of immigrants to Canada.

Archie (29), his wife Mary Buchanan(30) and their children Agnes (5), Elizabeth (3), and Jean (6 months) came to Canada. They had three more children born in Canada, Archibald (born about 1823), a child, “M.P.”, who probably died in infancy; he or she was buried on the farm in 1825 according to the Lanark Genealogy Society, and Mary (born about 1828).

Carol Bennett states that his location was Lot 12 East, Concession 6, while all the records that were found elsewhere place him in Lot 13 West Concession 6. If it is Lot 12 East,

then he would be one mile south of the lake and not on the lakeshore. This needs further research. There is no use looking for a cemetery until we can further clarify which area it is. And it is possible that he owned both areas, although they would not be contiguous.

Regardless, if anyone has walked in that area, they would know that it would be tough land to convert into a farm because there is a lot of low swampy areas and rock outcroppings.

Archie stuck it out in the area until 1834 when he moved to Admaston Township in Renfrew County. He was regarded as a pioneer there. His daughter Agnes and her husband John Bremmer also moved there.

Carol Bennett also records that Archie died in 1868 and that they were a prosperous family in Admaston Township.

One last troubling fact for any researcher is that Archie was long gone from the area when James Hay Fair, born April 17, 1785, died 1854 and his wife, Jane Watson, born 1806, died 1862 were buried in the pioneer cemetery where the Patterson child was buried. Apparently there is a plaque marking the graves. This would certainly indicate that the Patterson child's grave was still known and cared for after the Pattersons had moved.

Further Keith Thomson from the Lanark Genealogy Society noted that apparently there are five burial plots at this site. Who are the extra two? Could one be Mary, the aboriginal from Marys Island? It is not beyond reason as they were people who honoured their dead. The record is at:

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~onlanark/cemeteries/Fair/fair\\_private\\_burying\\_site.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~onlanark/cemeteries/Fair/fair_private_burying_site.htm)

Do not miss the connection with Fairs Creek, Fairs Way, Fairs Lane, and Nelsons (Fair) Way.

Another well know name found in the same settlers list as Archie Patterson is: Purdon Robert Dalhousie 7 8E 7 18 1821 (Consession 7 Lot 8E, July 18, 1821) This location is south of the western end of the lake. The record is contained in: <http://www.granniesgenealogygarden.com/Granny1/settler4.html>

The H. Belden Atlas of Lanark County in 1880 shows a stylized map of the lake with the title of Patterson's Lake. There were three men listed as farmers with acreage around the lake. These were James Reid on the north eastern side, David Machan on the north western side, and Donald Purdon on the western end. The details are:

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/images/maps/townshipmaps/lan-m-dalhousie.jpg>

David Machan, Concession 7, Lot 13 & 16, 225 acres

James Reid, Concession 6, Lot 15, 20 acres

Donald Purdon, Consession 8, Lot 14 & 15, 180 acres

A voters' list dated June 13, 1905 gives a listing for the Lake. These would be only property owners and it would be their residences so if any had a cottage, it would not be recorded. The details are:

<http://www.globalgenealogy.com/LCGS/voters/V-LK1905.HTM>

For the Municipality of The United Townships of DALHOUSIE and NORTH SHERBROOKE in the COUNTY OF LANARK in the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO Names for Dalhousie Township Concessions 5, 6, or 7; Lots 13, 14, or 15, and for Concession 8 Lot 14:

BARRIE, James Dal C 5 L13 021 j MF&O Fa WC

HARPER, Hugh Dal C 7 L13 031 j MF&O Fa MC

PURDON, Donald Dal C 8 L14 E 031 j MF&O Fa MC

021 or 031 are polling divisions; "E" is east half; "j" is eligible for juror duty; "MF&O" - married with family and owner; "Fa" is farmer; "WC" is Watsons Corners and "MC" is McDonalds Corners.

The 1918 Dalhousie Township Directory provides the next set of data.

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~cdobie/1918dalhousie.htm>

Barrie James 13 1 O 5 13 (Concession 5 Lot 13). James Barrie is the only one listed from Concessions 5, 6, or 7 and Lots 13, 14, or 15.

Purdon Rufus 174 2 O 8 14 (Concession 8 Lot 14)

Hugh Harper is not listed in this 1918 Directory.

On the positive side, the most consistent data of long loyalty to the area are the Purdons and we will leave the final word to Rhodena, a daughter of Joe Purdom, who was asked about the first cottages on the lake..

### **From Rhodena (Purdom) Bell**

I am not really sure about the first cottage on the lake other than Archie Patterson's homestead built around 1820-1830s or so and that is why the lake was named Patterson Lake. Archie and Mary from Mary's Island on the islands were the only people who actual lived on the lake as well as the Whytes who lived near the western end

I know that Dad (Joe Purdom) built our cabins, the first in 1934. The early cottages on the lake were the Code's cottage on the western end and one on the small island on the north side (now Porcupine Way).

### **Political Changes**

In 1975 Lavant Township amalgamated with Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke Township to form the "Township of Lavant, Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke". This was followed in May 14, 1997 when Lavant, Dalhousie and North Sherbrooke Township, Lanark Township and Lanark Village amalgamated to form North West Lanark. However, very shortly afterwards on July 1, 1997, North West Lanark Township and Darling Township amalgamate to form The Township of Lanark Highlands.