



*Bartholomew Carley Johns (1808 – 1859)*  
*Annabel Jane Chisholm (1814 – 1902)*

Namesake of his maternal grandfather, Bartholomew Carley Johns came into the world after the 1808 census had been taken at Elizabethtown Township, Leeds County, Ontario. From then on names of family members were not included. We can assume that he was a son of David and Sarah Johns from the following circumstances. One, he was baptized with his elder brother, Solomon, although both were of age and not required to name their parents. Two, he named his "brother Solomon" as executor of his estate. Three, Sarah Johns' obituary stated in part that she, widow of the late David Johns, died at the Marmora residence of her son, Solomon Johns. These facts together with the inscription of Bartholomew's name on the gravestone of David and Sarah Johns are the "preponderance of evidence" of his parentage.

During Bartholomew's childhood the family moved several times. When he was about ten years old they settled for a few years in Murray Township at Port Trent (now Trenton). By the time he was of working age it is possible that he was employed by his brothers-in-law, Sheldon and Josiah Hawley, who were in the timber business there. Sheldon also owned a mill 16 miles north of Port Trent at Stirling. Bartholomew could have saved a nice "nest egg" for his future, as these jobs paid very well.

In the early 1830's Bartholomew moved to Marmora, North Hastings County with his parents and unmarried siblings. They built a log house on property purchased in 1830 by his brother Solomon. Although they farmed the land it is possible that Bartholomew and his brothers may also have worked during the winters at lumbering. From 1833 to 1835 Bartholomew, Daniel and David Jr. each purchased adjoining 400-acre parcels of land in north Marmora, an area that was solid bush. Their 1200-acre tract surrounded Beaver Creek. Clearing the land would provide the timber for building their homes, with the sale of the remaining logs generating an income. Unfortunately, Daniel died in 1835 before he could realize any benefits.

Johns Bartholomew Carley Johns, of Marmora, Farmer, &  
 + Annabell, daughter of Archibald Chisholm, of Sidney,  
 Chisholm were married, by license, on this sixth day of Decem-  
 married- ber, 1836, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, I one  
 Robert Reid  
 Annabel J. Chisholm  
 Joseph Mary } Witnesses -  
 Mary Chisholm }

Marriage Record of Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm<sup>1</sup>

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 1836 Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm were joined together in Holy Matrimony at St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Sidney Township (now Belleville), Hastings County, Ontario. Their honeymoon journey, by horse and wagon, from Belleville to Marmora would have taken several days. In the early years of their marriage they resided with Bartholomew's family, at what was known as the David Johns Homestead. Their first three children were born in this location. After Annabel's confinement following the birth of their son Archibald in 1840, the family moved to their new home in North Marmora Township.

<sup>1</sup> Anglican Archives of Ontario

Bartholomew hired a professional carpenter to build their spacious eleven-room house, which still stands today as a lovely family home. It features double stone outer walls with large wooden beams, undoubtedly a product of Bartholomew's sawmill. On the main floor a central staircase separates the two front parlors. In this time period one parlor would likely have been a formal room kept for receiving guests, the other for daily use by the family. Apparently in the early 1930's dances were held in the two parlors, with a band sitting on the stairs to play the music. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the wide wooden window casings and the tongue-and-groove pine floors throughout the house. The flooring, as well as the window casings, would have been a product of Bartholomew's sawmill. A charming front porch once welcomed visitors, but unfortunately it fell into disrepair prior to 1920 and was removed. Though described as a 1½-story house, this family home has four large bedrooms upstairs.<sup>2</sup>

The back "summer kitchen" of the Johns family home showcases a large open fireplace that was typically used for cooking in the early days, with a long iron crane to hold cast iron pots over the fire. Originally there had also been a "beehive" bake oven built in the wall, which was probably purchased from the Marmora Iron Works.<sup>3</sup> Above this room are two small bedrooms, accessed by a narrow spiral staircase behind the fireplace. These rooms were occupied by hired hands during the harvest season.<sup>4</sup>

The erection of a sawmill was absolutely essential in the formation of a settlement in the bush,<sup>5</sup> and the first Ontario Directory, printed in 1851, states that B. Johns did indeed have a sawmill in the Marmora area. An old ledger from the Marmora Foundry Co., now kept in the archives of the Marmora Historical Society, contains an account for B. Johns. However, the sawmill operation may have been a joint venture between Bartholomew and his brother Solomon. This sawmill would have been located on the west half of Lot 17 or the south half of Lot 18 in Concession 5 - Beaver Creek runs through these lots providing the necessary waterpower to run a sawmill. The remains of a very old mill next to Beaver Creek are in that general location. This is not likely Bartholomew's original mill, but another one built later by William Bonter and his sons who were in the business of lumbering in the early 1900's. The Bonters bought Lots 17 and 18 in Concession 5 which had once belonged to Bartholomew, and his brothers Solomon and Daniel before him. The Bonter mill most likely utilized a circular saw, whereas Bartholomew's mill would have had a vertical saw.

Beaver Creek also provided the transportation route to send logs to Port Trent (now Trenton) via the Crowe River and the River Trent. Once the logs arrived they were re-raftered and sent on to the markets in Quebec. In the 1860's the Gilmour Company, the largest timber business in Hastings and surrounding counties, used Beaver Creek to transport logs from Limerick County, north west of Marmora, to Trenton<sup>6</sup>. There was a sorting "jak" in Marmora that may have been operated by Gilmour. Marmora pioneer John Ryan recalled in an interview that he had once seen a log boom extending nine miles from Beaver Creek to Crowe Bay during the lumbering years<sup>7</sup>.

Once Bartholomew cleared his land he began growing mixed crops of hay, wheat, barley and oats. On the southwest corner of the property there is a ten-acre sugar bush, which is still productive today. In those early days families would process maple sugar from the sap produced by the maple trees. It was not only a yearly task, but also a celebration with all family members involved in the two or three-week process and sharing in the enjoyment of tasting the end product.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> As described by current owner Linda Bertrand

<sup>3</sup> "Historic Hastings" by Gerald E. Boyce - Hastings County Council Centennial Project, 1867-1967, pg. 63

<sup>4</sup> Confirmed by Marion Vincent Barrons, whose father worked for the Johns family when young.

<sup>5</sup> Pioneer Days in Upper Canada, Edwin C. Guillet

<sup>6</sup> "Historic Hastings" by Gerald E. Boyce

<sup>7</sup> Marmora Herald, 22 February, 1934, pg. 4

<sup>8</sup> Pioneer Days in Upper Canada, Edwin C. Guillet, Chapter VI

## *Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm* (3)

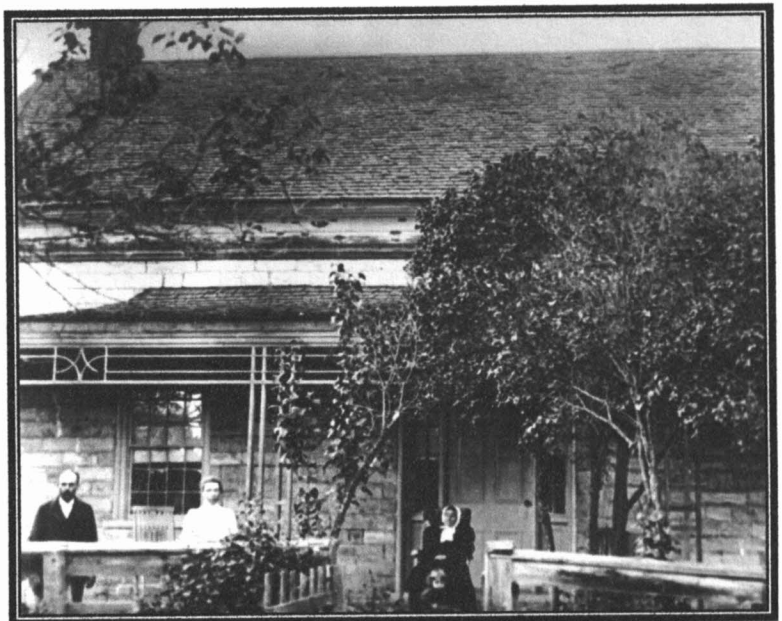
Bartholomew apparently did not restrict his activities solely to provide comfort and food for his family. Like his brother Solomon he was active in civic affairs. In 1850 Bartholomew was named as a councilor for the Marmora town council, along with Solomon. Another year he was appointed road master for his area in North Marmora.

Land swapping was definitely a lively occupation of the early settlers in all areas of Ontario, and the Johns family was no exception. One result of this activity resulted in Bartholomew, at the time of his death, being the owner of 600 acres in a block surrounding a portion of Beaver Creek.

According to the 1857 Ontario Directory, Bartholomew Johns was a Justice of the Peace. It is apparent that he wrote his own will in 1859, when he was diagnosed with a strangulated hernia. He died that year at the young age of 51, leaving his wife and nine of their eleven children at home. Each of his six sons inherited 100 acres of land, providing a stake for their future, while his "beloved wife Annabella" received the family homestead for her lifetime, after which it would pass to their youngest son, Alexander. Annabel and her sons continued to operate the farm after Bartholomew's death. The eldest, David Daniel, would likely have taken some of the responsibility along with his brother Solomon, as they were then aged 21 and 17 respectively. The younger boys were only 7, 5, and 3 the year their father died. By 1861 the second eldest son Archibald, a clerk, had moved away, according to the census for that year. A schoolhouse was located a short distance down the concession road, providing education for the children. However, by then Maggie was attending school in Stirling, while living with Bartholomew's sister Emma Bull. In 1871 Bartholomew Jr. and Murchison were listed on the census as farmers along with their older brothers, while Solomon was noted as the head of the family. Annabel gave her occupation as "female farmer" on the 1881 census - a progressive statement for that time period. By then, the only sons remaining at home were Murchison and Alexander, although Daniel lived on the adjoining farm. Solomon and Bartholomew Jr. had journeyed to Manitoba to help "settle the west".

Murchison bought the home farm property in 1884 from his brother Alexander, who had married and after 1891 moved to the United States with his family. In 1892 Murchison sold a small piece of that land to the Beaver Creek School Trustees, of which he was one, for the token sum of \$25.00, followed in 1894 with another token sale to the Beaver Creek Presbyterian Church. One of the church trustees appears to have been his brother-in-law, Frank Brown. Murchison kept the homestead until after his mother died in 1902. Thus Annabel was able to stay in her own home for the remainder of her life, with memories of her husband and their early days on the farm. Living with Murchison, his wife Annie, and their infant sons, Charles and Edward, would surely have given Annabel pleasure in her reclining years.

Photo: Johns Family Home with front porch, circa 1900<sup>9</sup>  
Murchison, his wife Annie, son Charles, mother Annabel



<sup>9</sup> Photo was presented to current owner Linda Bertrand by Edward Carley Johns, son of Murchison, about the late 1980's.

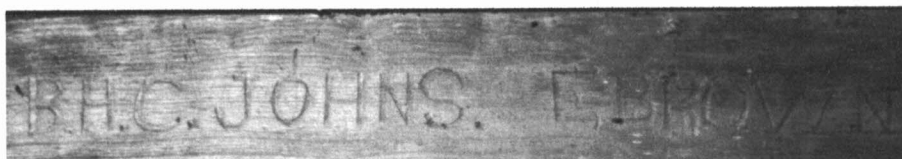


l. to r.  
Back – Sarah’s daughter, Mary Ann (Minnie), and grandson, unknown  
Front – Annabel Jane Johns, her daughter, Sarah Johns Bleecker

Photo taken at Trenton, circa 1900

In 1887 the first train came to Marmora on the Central Ontario Railway line from Trenton. This was the likely mode of transportation for Annabel’s trip to Trenton with her daughter Sarah about 1900. She would have seen many changes on the Bay of Quinte from the time of her youth, prior to her marriage to Bartholomew in 1836.

Windowpanes at the front entrance of the family home, and the outer porch walls, showcase a collage of names and initials etched, or carved, by family members and visitors - keeping memories of the Johns family alive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Carved on the side porch wall is “B. H. C. Johns”, the signature of Bartholomew Henry Carley Johns, a son of Bartholomew and Annabel’s son Solomon, visiting from Manitoba. F. (Frank) Brown may have carved his name while courting Nancy Johns prior to their marriage in 1882. Etched on one of the windowpanes is “Maggie Vars”, a daughter who married St. Matthew C. Gilchrist Vars of Peterboro County in 1867. Addison David Johns Vars, their son, carved many versions of his initials on the porch walls. A recurring phrase, “Remember me Susie”, was etched, also on the window glass, by Susan, who married George Walker, a dentist from Belleville. The family was apparently upset



B.H.C. JOHNS

F. BROWN



Maggie Vars



Remember me Susie

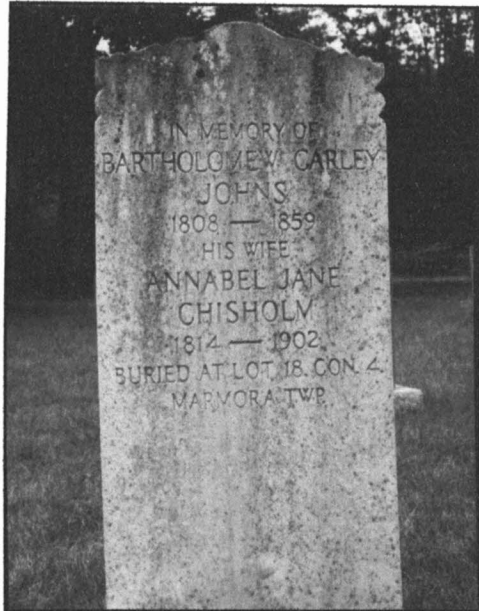


F. BLEECKER

about her marriage because they didn’t think anyone could make a living pulling teeth. Susie’s diminutive custom-made sidesaddle remains at the farm. The name F. Bleecker was likely inscribed by Frederick, a son of Sarah, eldest daughter of Bartholomew and Annabel who married Marmora merchant George Bleecker. One can almost picture the young people congregating on the porches on a warm summer evening - talking, laughing, and dreaming about their futures.

*Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm* (5)

Bartholomew and Annabel were buried, in a small cemetery on the family farm, located in one corner of a small orchard on the hill overlooking the house. On the back of the gravestone of Bartholomew's parents, in the Marmora Protestant Cemetery, there is an inscription detailing their birth and death dates and the location of the cemetery.



IN MEMORY OF  
BARTHOLOMEW CARLEY  
JOHNS  
1808 — 1859  
HIS WIFE  
ANNABEL JANE  
CHISHOLM  
1814 — 1902  
BURIED AT LOT 18, CON. 4  
MARMORA TWP.

The gravestone is crumbling now, and the small cemetery on the farm is obliterated from the overgrowth of wild plum trees and lack of markers. There are eight graves there. We have not determined all who are buried with Bartholomew and Annabel in this family

cemetery, although it is likely that their young daughter who died in 1860 is in one grave, and Anna, a daughter of Daniel and Clara who died in 1890 could be in another. Daniel and Clara may also be buried there, as well as David Bucklin Johns.

The following news items and obituaries published by the Marmora Herald, or Stirling News-Argus, give us some details of Bartholomew and Annabel's family. Margaret Anna (Maggie) Vars was apparently remarried to a man named Gundlack. As she is not mentioned in the obituaries of her siblings, we have to assume that she died before 1906. Similarly, we have not found any record of Archibald Chisholm Johns after 1886. Daniel was the only one to remain on the farm until his death.

District Happenings – Marmora

Mr. D. D. (David Daniel) Johns has been engaged as assessor for this year. We hope he will please all parties.

(Stirling News-Argus, 27 February, 1880)

The assessor for Marmora and Lake has had, he says, a good deal of trouble with some parties giving evasive statements of personal property to him, as follows: Question—"How many sheep have you?" Answer—"Ten only"—excluding all the wethers and rams from the list; and similar replies to queries regarding all other farm stock.

(Stirling News-Argus, 30 April 1880)

The body of the eldest girl of D. D. Johns was found in Beaver Creek on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. The child had left school in the forenoon to go home and is supposed to have fallen out of a boat in trying to cross the creek. The bereaved parents have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

(Stirling News-Argus, 10 October 1890)

DIED

BROWN – At Dauphin, Man., on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nannie, beloved wife of Frank Brown, formerly of Marmora, and daughter of the late B. C. Johns.

(Marmora Herald, 29 March 1906)

"LOCAL NEWS"

What People are Doing.  
Where They are Going.

(Marmora Herald 1907-08)

05 Sept. 1907 -- Fire broke out in M. C. Johns' blacksmith shop on the east side of Main St. last Thursday night. The workshop was saved but a large storehouse belonging to the Gladney Estate was burned to the ground, but not until most of the contents, mostly salt, had been removed. There was no insurance and the building was of solid pine and one of the oldest in town.

17 Oct. 1907 – Mrs. D. Johns of North Marmora, who has been an invalid for many

years, is now so low that her recovery is not expected.

14 Nov. 1907 – Mr. N. S. Doupe has purchased the blacksmithing business carried on by Mr. M. C. John(s) and will open his shop in what was formerly the carriage shop, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

20 Feb. 1908 – Mr. D. D. Johns, who had his ears and face badly frozen a few weeks ago has been confined to the house for a number of days with symptoms of blood poisoning.

19 March 1908 – Master Charlie Johns, who has been ill of pneumonia for the past two weeks is slowly improving.

13 Aug. 1908 – Mrs. B. Johns and daughter, Lillian of Port Allegheny spent a few days in town last week the guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Johns.

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DEATH OF MRS. JOHNS

The death occurred on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, of Mrs. Clara Louise Johns, wife of D. D. Johns of Marmora Township. Deceased, whose maiden name was Maybe(e), was born on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1844 being in her 65<sup>th</sup> year. She has been a great suffer for a number of years, being confined to her bed with rheumatism. She was a member of St. Paul's Church.

(Marmora Herald, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1909)  
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DEATH OF D. D. JOHNS

Mr. David Daniel Johns, one of the oldest residents of Marmora Township passed away suddenly on Tuesday evening. Deceased was in his 74<sup>th</sup> year and has been in poor health for some time, but was not confined to his bed. Death came suddenly while he was sitting at the supper table. The funeral will take lace this afternoon, service being conducted in St. Paul's church at 2:30 and interment taking place in Marmora cemetery. A more extended obituary notice will appear in our next issue.

(Marmora Herald, 22 June 1911)  
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DAVID DANIEL JOHNS

As noted in our last issue one of the oldest residents of Marmora township passed away suddenly while at the supper table on Tuesday evening, June 20<sup>th</sup>, in the person of David Daniel Johns.

Deceased was the oldest of a family of ten who grew up to manhood or womanhood. He was born on the farm now occupied by Mr. Wm. Hilton, and has lived nearly all his life in the same neighborhood. Great changes have taken place in the county during his lifetime. During his early life Marmora was known as "The Works", the smelting of iron ore being the chief industry. There was no railway here then and nearly all merchandise had to be hauled from Belleville or brought on horseback.

The late Mr. Johns was of a quiet and retiring disposition and never took any active part in politics either municipal or otherwise. By his kindly disposition and integrity he won the friendship and esteem of his neighbours and all who learned to know him well. He was twice married his first wife being Miss Margaret Perry, of Peterborough. He had no family by this wife. His second wife was Miss Clara Maybe(e), of Colbourne, who predeceased him about two years ago, and by whom he had four children. Anna the eldest died about twenty years ago, and the others are, Miss Lena and Messrs. Archibald and Harry. He is also survived by three brothers and two sisters as follows; S. M. Johns, of British Columbia, Alex. of Tenn., M. C. Johns and Mrs. S. M. Bleecker, of Marmora and Mrs. Geo. W. Walker, Sr., of Dauphin, Man.

The funeral services were conducted in St. Paul's Church on the afternoon of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Coronation Day, and were very largely attended. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. C. M. Harris. Interment took place in Marmora cemetery.

(Marmora Herald, 29 June 1911)  
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LOCAL NEWS

The Beaver Creek Military Company has been organized by a number of the farmers of this vicinity for the purpose of operating a roller flour mill for their own use. Mr. Wm. Pack is the president, J. E. Bailey, vice president and Chas. Jones, Sec. Treas. The mill will be situated near Wm. Bonter & Sons saw mills in Marmora Township.

(Marmora Herald, 19 July 1917)  
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"From Herald Files of Former Years"  
APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 1918

Mr. M. C. Johns has purchased a farm at Allandale and is there at present putting in

*Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm* (7)

his crop. Mrs. Johns and sons expect to move to their new home in a few weeks. (reprinted in Marmora Herald, 24 April 1941)

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M. C. JOHNS

M(u)rchison Chis(h)olm Johns of Innisfil township passed away on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1934. He suffered a slight stroke of paralysis on March 3 and this was followed by another two days later from which he never recovered. Deceased was born in Marmora, Ontario, on June 29, 1853, living there until he came to farm at lot 3, concession 12, Innisfil, about 16 years ago.

Surviving relatives are his wife and three sons, Charles D. of Toronto, Edward and Gordon at home, one sister, Mrs. G. W. Walker, Victoria, B.C. and one brother Alex. of Port Allegany, Pa. The late Mr. Johns was of a quiet, kindly disposition. His chief interests were in his home and family.

The funeral was held on March 8, with service at the late residence conducted by Ven. Archdeacon A. R. Beverley of Barrie. Interment was in the Union Cemetery, Barrie. The pallbearers were: C.M. Seigley, Morley Dyer, H. M. Lougheed, Robt. Redfern, Chas. Campbell and Arthur Dyer. Among the floral tributes were tokens from Holly Women's Institute and Holly Ladies' Aid. - Barrie Examiner

(Marmora Herald 29 March 1934)

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At the beginning of the 21st century, the memory of Bartholomew Carley Johns and Annabel Jane Chisholm is renewed as we look into the details of their lives, and of their children and their many descendants.



Original Home of Bartholomew and Annabel Johns



View from behind the house looking south over Lot 17, Concession 4

(2001 photos)

SUSAN A. J. WALKER

At the home of her daughter, Mrs. N. R. Ferris, 1284 Beach Drive, yesterday evening, the death occurred of Susan Amanda Johns, widow of Dr. George W. Walker, formerly of Belleville, Ontario, and Dauphin, Manitoba, in her eighty-ninth year. Mrs. Walker is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Ferris, and one son, Dr. George C. J. Walker of Dauphin, Man., nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

(Victoria Daily Times, November 30, 1935)

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The funeral will be held on Monday, December 2, the cortege leaving Hayward's B. C. Funeral Chapel at 2 p.m., proceeding to St. Mary's Church, where Rev. Canon A. E. de L. Nunns will conduct the service at 2:15. Interment in St. Luke's Churchyard, Cedar Hill.

(Victoria Daily Times, Sunday Dec. 1, 1935)

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GEO. W. WALKER

1838 - 1927

SUSAN A. WALKER

1847 - 1935

N. FRANK FERRIS

1869 - 1935

M. M. MABEL FERRIS

1871 - 1960

(Gravestone St. Luke's Churchyard  
Victoria, British Columbia)



A copy made of the will of Bartholomew Carley Johns  
As registered in the land deed records Book A, Marmora Township

A memorial or copy to be registered pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided of the last will and testament of Bartholomew Carley Johns, Esquire, in his lifetime of the township of Marmora in the County of Hastings and Province of Canada, deceased. And which last will and testament is in the following words, viz.

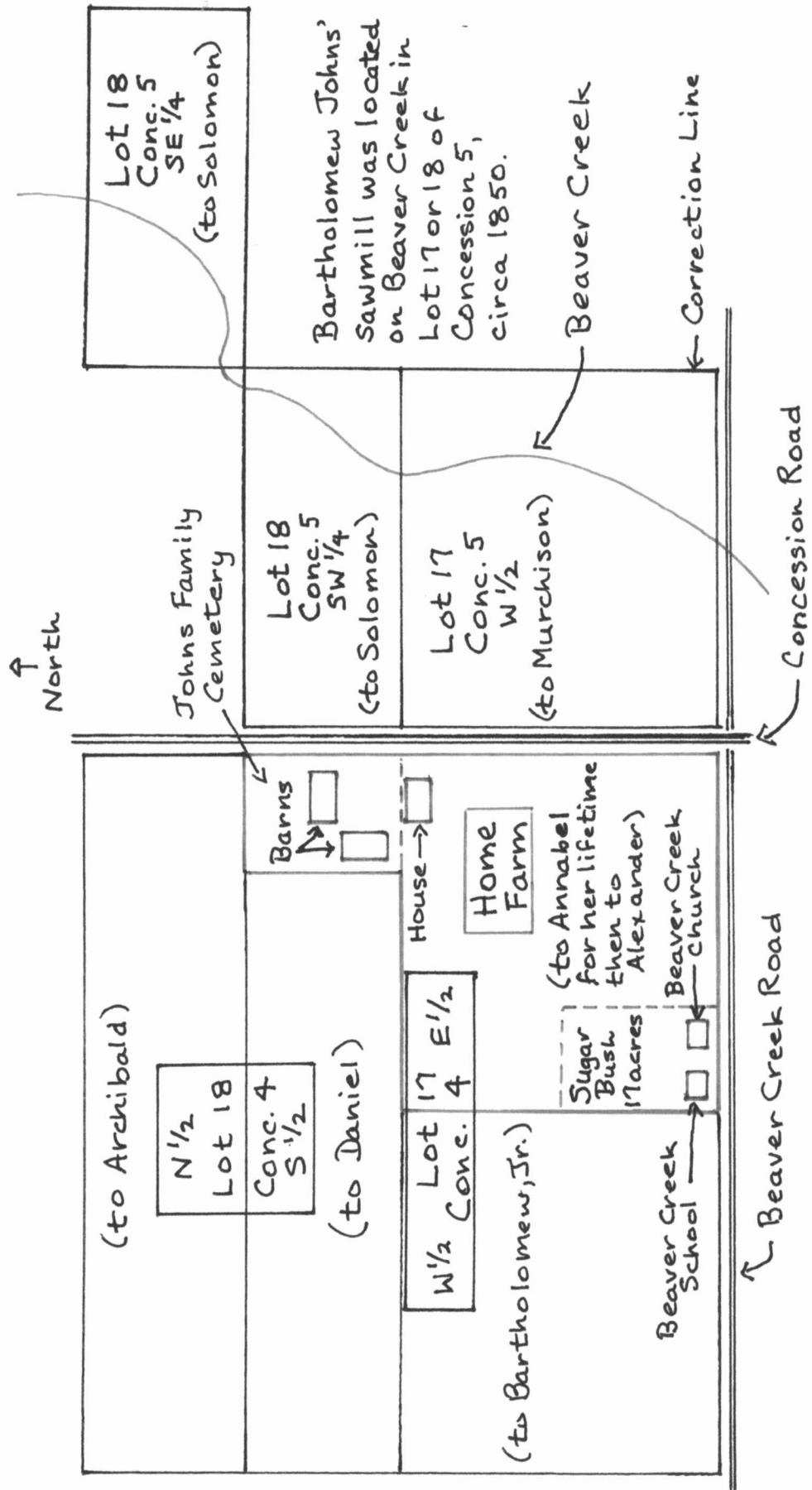
"This instrument and witnesseth that I Bartholomew Carley Johns, Esq., of the township of Marmora and in the County of Hastings and Province of Canada being of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding do make publish and declare this to be my last will and testament hereby revoking and making null and void all former last wills and testaments and writing in the nature of last will and testaments by me heretofore made. My will is first that my funeral charges and just debts shall be paid by my Executors, hereafter named. The residue of my estate and property which shall not be required for the payment of my just debts and funeral charges and the expenses attending the Executors of this my will and the administration of my estate, I give and dispose thereof as follows to wit. I give and devise to my beloved wife Annabel Johns the east half of lot number seventeen in the fourth concession of Marmora in the county of Hastings. Also the southeast part of lot number eighteen in the fourth concession of the County of Hastings, that is to say measuring thirty-five rods in width and sixty rods in length along the fifth concession line. Also all the household furniture stock and farming implements to have and to hold as long as she remains my widow, and after her death, then to go to my youngest son Alexander Johns. I give and devise to my son David Daniel Johns the south half of lot number eighteen in the fourth concession of Marmora in the county of Hastings, reserving so much of said lot as is willed to my beloved wife Anabella Johns. Also that my son David Daniel Johns pay the sum of fifty dollars to assist in the discharge of my lawful debts. I give and devise to my son Archibald Chisholm Johns the north half of lot number eighteen in the fourth concession of Marmora in the County of Hastings. Also that my son Archibald Chisholm Johns pay the sum of fifty dollars to assist in the discharge of my lawful debts. I give and devise to my son Solomon Johns the south half of lot number eighteen in the fifth concession of Marmora in the county of Hastings. I give and devise to my son Bartholomew Carley Johns the west half of lot number seventeen in the fourth concession of Marmora in the county of Hastings. I give and devise unto my son Murchison Johns the west half of lot number seventeen in the fifth concession of Marmora in the County of Hastings. And I do nominate and appoint my brother Solomon Johns and my son David Daniel Johns to be the sole executors of this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I the said Bartholomew Carley Johns, Esq. have hereunder subscribed my name and affixed my seal this twenty seventh day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine in three sheets of paper signed sealed and declared by the said Bartholomew Carley Johns to be his last will and testament in the presence of David G. Bowen and John V. Chisholm who at his request and in his presence have subscribed their names as witnesses hereto in the presence of each other.

Signed D. G. Bowen )  
Signed John V. Chisholm ) both of the township of Marmora in the County of Hastings  
Signed B. C. Johns

And which last will and testament is witnessed by David G. Bowen and John V. Chisholm both of the township of Marmora and in the County of Hastings and this memorial thereof is hereby required to be registered by me David Daniel Johns one of the devisees therein named. Witness my hand and seal this third day of December in this year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

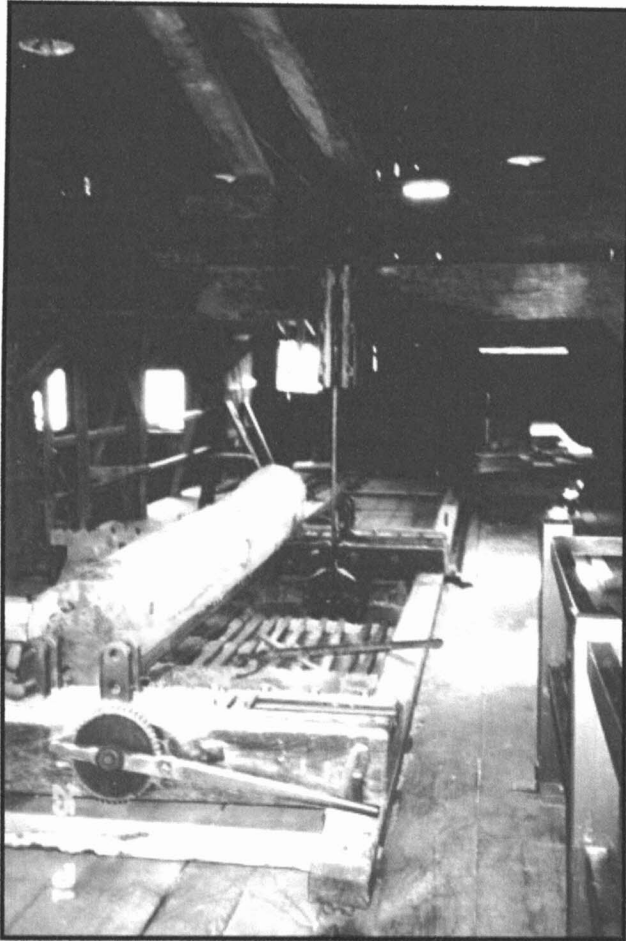
Signed and sealed in )  
Presence of )  
Signed D. G. Bowen ) signed  
Signed John V. Chisholm ) David Daniel Johns

Property of Bartholomew Carley Johns, Sr. - North Marmora Township  
 Inherited by his sons at his death in 1859



## Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Sawmill

This simple frame structure houses a single water-driven vertical saw. It is a typical example of a small country sawmill of the first half of the 19th century, which provided its local population with all their needs in sawn lumber. Prior to the erection of a sawmill,



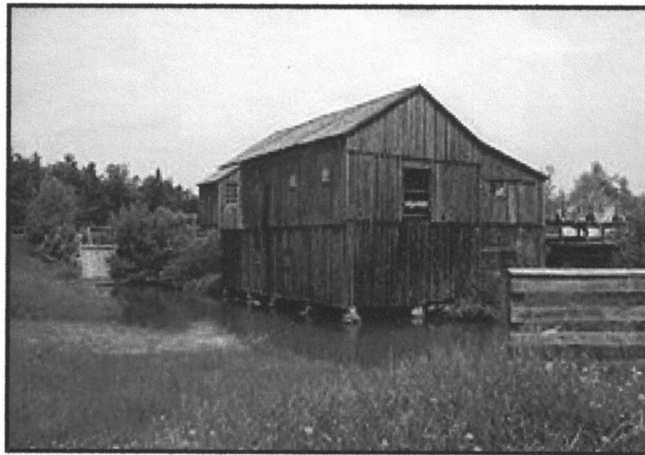
all lumber was "pit sawn". It required two men, one in a pit and another standing on the log above him working a long two handed saw. The man below pulled the saw down along and the method was slow and back-breaking to produce lumber.

Community mills imitated the vertical sawing action of the pit saw. Manpower was replaced by a frame to support the saw blade. Later a style of blade called the "muley saw" was designed to eliminate the frame, and this is the type of saw working in this mill.

The sawmill provided all the lumber needed in a village, and in fact was often the first public building to be erected in a pioneer community. Early settlers had a constant need for lumber; not just planks for building houses, but also wood for furniture, barrels, guns, and wagons. Like the flourmill, the sawmill was powered by water. Water was gathered by damming a stream to create a millpond. This water was then directed against a power wheel, which operated the saw.

This sawmill was capable of producing 2000 feet of board in 24 hours.

The availability of wood enabled the community to grow quickly and encouraged trade. The miller kept half the wood that was brought in, and sold it to other businesses.



"Beach's Sawmill", Upper Canada Village Heritage Park, Morrisburg, Ontario

(Note: The sawmill built and operated from the 1830's by Bartholomew Carley Johns, near Beaver Creek, North Marmora, would be similar to the one illustrated and described here.)