

John Campbell, son of James and Elizabeth Campbell was born July 24, 1790 at Garabeg, Glen Urquhart Scotland. He grew up in that community, otherwise known as Invernesshire, shire meaning county.

In 1814 he married Janet Fraser, daughter of Archibald Fraser, also of Invernesshire. Shortly after he took part in Napoleonic War, being an officer of a Famous Highland Regiment, composed of many members of the Campbell Clan. It was in that capacity that he took part in the Battle of Waterloo in October 1815.

After the Napoleonic Wars, the Crown offered land grants to the former soldiers in consideration of their war service. Every enlisted man was entitled to a land grant of one hundred acres: A commissioned officer was entitled to two hundred acres. Land in various Crown provinces was offered.

A number of people from Invernesshire became interested in Nova Scotia, and several brothers of Janet Fraser Campbell had selected land grants there. It was through their interest that John Campbell claimed a land grant of two hundred acres in Pictou Co. Nova Scotia.

In 1818 John Campbell, his wife with a two year old son Peter and a babe in arms, embarked for the new world Nova Scotia. The passage took two months. At one time a great storm forced the captain into port to await better weather. In due course the vessel landed at Halifax. Upon their arrival, the Campbell family found that their land was situated about one hundred miles from the Port of Halifax. They decided to make the journey on foot, and did so, making one hundred miles with a two year old boy and a babe in arms.

The new community into which they had come was composed entirely of Scots. Most of them coming from the same locality of Invernesshire Scotland. As time passed new generations grew up. There was much intermarriage between these families. Certain names dominated this section of Nova Scotia, as Campbell, Fraser, MacDonald, Cameron, Kennedy, MacGillivray, MacLean, MacIntosh, Grant, Thompson and a few other good Scotch names. Gaelic was the language of all. Everybody belonged to a Scotch family, everybody belonged to the Presbyterian Church.

John Campbell was the father of a large family. He was married twice. By his first marriage he and Janet Fraser Campbell became the parents of seven children, all of whom grew to maturity, four boys, Peter, Archibald, James and William and three girls - Elizabeth, Catherine and Grace. Grace was our grandmother and was born October 6, 1826.

By his second marriage there were three boys and three girls - Donald, John and Archie, the girls were Mary, Janet and Margaret Ann.

Glencoe East River, was about fifteen miles from New Glasgow. New Glasgow was a port and ships came into wharf to unload freight. The surrounding country was a farming territory and the farmers prided themselves on the crops of oats, potatoes and apples.

It might be interesting to note that during Grandmother Watson's childhood they had no coal for fuel, no lamps, no kerosene, no cloth except what they made. The wool was sheared from sheep in the spring of the year, washed, carded and spun, and with a little hand loom ^{they made} weaved all the cloth for every purpose of the family. A cow was killed and the hide taken to tannery, and brought back in leather. A shoe maker would come to the home and make shoes for the whole family. He might stay for two weeks. His pay was small. There were no stoves for heating or cooking. The crane and fireplace were used. Grain was cut with a sickle and threshed in barn with a flail. Hay was cut with a scythe.

It was many years before Gaelic died out as a common language. Janet Fraser Campbell never learned English. She died in 1829. The oldest son Peter Grant Campbell, became Magistrate for County of Pictou and served in this capacity for thirty years. He read law and while he was not actively engaged in the practice of law as such, he was considered a most excellent lawyer and had a reputation for his legal talent. In all his career, there was never a single case in which a decision handed down by him was reversed by a higher court. He died when he was seventy years of age.

Our Grandmother Grace Campbell was born October 6, 1826 and married James Watson on August 9, 1855. The greater part of their life was spent in Stellarton and they had nine children.

Janet born July 25, 1856 died August 13, 1856

James - January 2, 1857

Janet - March 13, 1858

John Peter - January 7, 1860

William - April 2, 1862

Robert - June 7, 1863

Margaret - December 31, 1865

Catherine Jane - April 23, 1868

Thomas Hugh - June 8, 1871

James (d.)	Fraser (d.) Robert (d.) Sam, Grace, Hilda, Donald (d.)
Margaret Fraser (d.)	
Janet (d.)	Alexander Robert (d.) James Watson (d.) John Peter (d.)
James MacDonald(d.)	Jennie Fraser, Grace Etta (d.), Willard Edgar (d.), Katherine, Mary
John Peter (d.)	William, Ann, Grace
Matilda (d.)	
Robert W. (d.)	You fill this is.
Jessie Kerr (d.)	
Margaret (d.)	Alice (d.) Fred (d.) Grace
Thomas Hunter (d.)	
Catherine Jane (d.)	Mary Belle
Simon H. Thompson (d.)	
Thomas Hugh (d.)	Marion (d.)
Laura Perkins (d.)	

Note d. deceased

Grandfather and Grandmother Watson celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary August 9th, 1905. He passed away April 30, 1906.

Grandmother passed away August 1915.

Enclosed is picture taken on 50th Wedding Anniversary.

*Written by Rev. Donald Kennedy Campbell
in his 89th year.
Condensed by Mary L. MacLean.*