

AWARD

#3287-6

THE HISTORY OF...



THE KEILTY POTATO FARM

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Note: Tape recording is included. Also, Title Documents are in attached folder

The First Keiltys to Canada

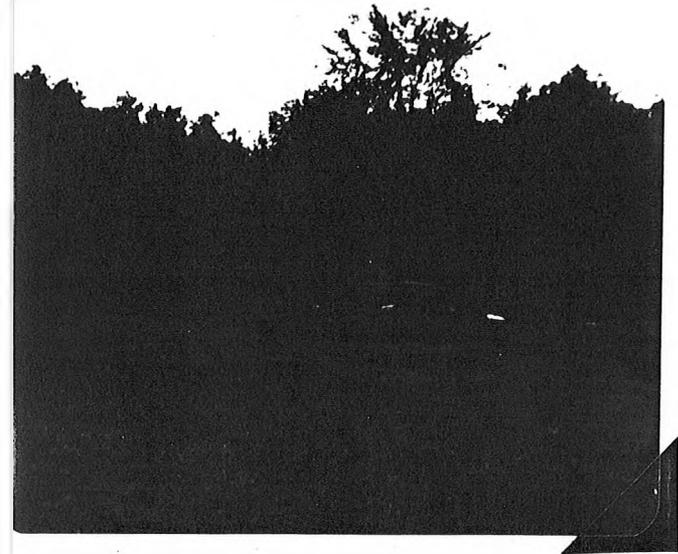
The first Keilty's to come to Canada came from Ireland in a boat. The boats were overcrowded and many people died on them from typhoid. The Irish were coming to Canada because there was a famine in Ireland because the potato crop had failed. Also, at that time, the Canadian government was offering free land to any Irish family that would come and settle it.

The Keiltys landed in Kingston with 2 other families. The Doyle's and the Rushes. They drew lots for land and the Keiltys drew a small farm 15 miles north of Kingston, but because the land was so poor, they stayed there for only two years.

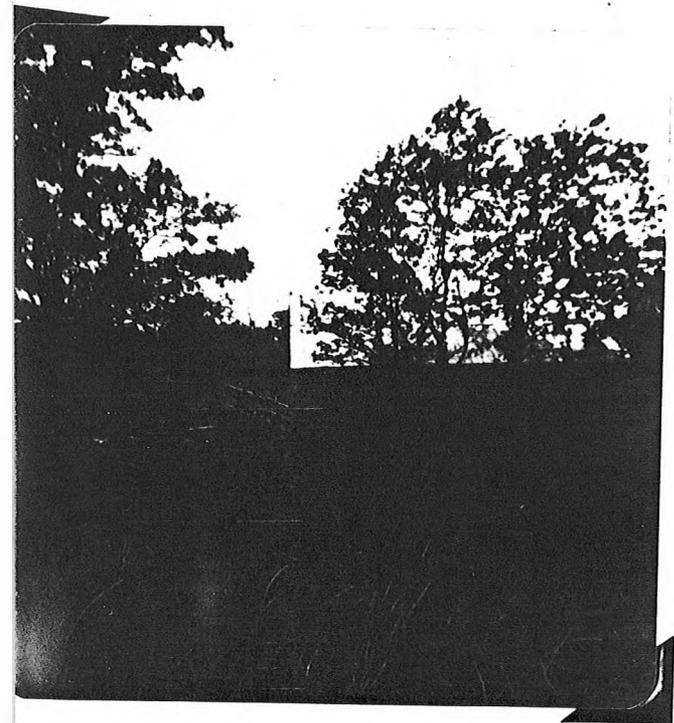
In 1850, two years after they had landed in Kingston, they learned that better land 25 miles north of Belleville was being settled. They walked about 50 miles through forests to a place 4 miles east of what is now called Stoco. He worked on a farm from 1850 to 1860 and made enough money to buy it. In 1860 he bought 200 acres in Lot 21, Concession 8, in Hungerford Township. He bought the farm from James R. Armstrong for \$120.00.

This was my great great great grandfather, Andrew Keilty.

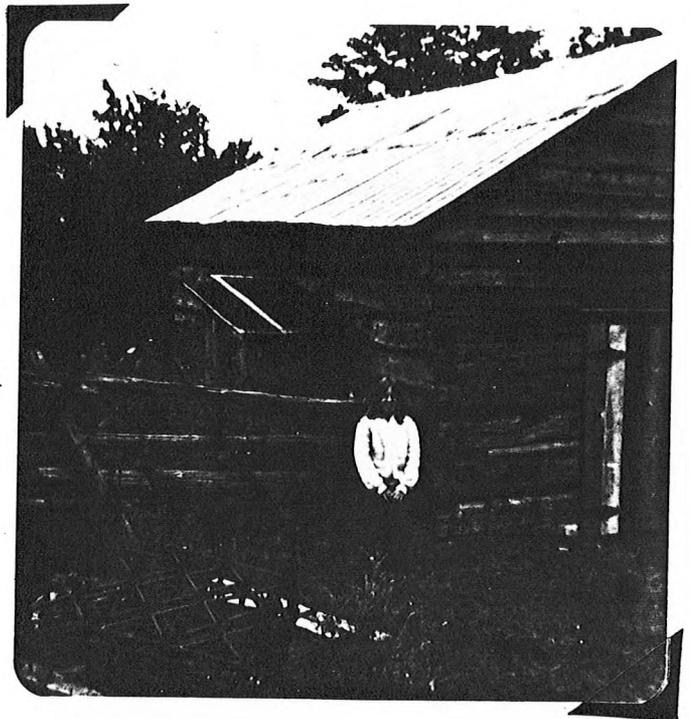
The first building built on this land was a house made of logs, but this only lasted for a short time. In 1855 a frame house was constructed, but this house became small. Then, in 1861, the whole Keilty family got together and built a beautiful stone house. This house burnt



This is the land 15 miles north of Kingston where the Keiltys first settled when they came to Canada.



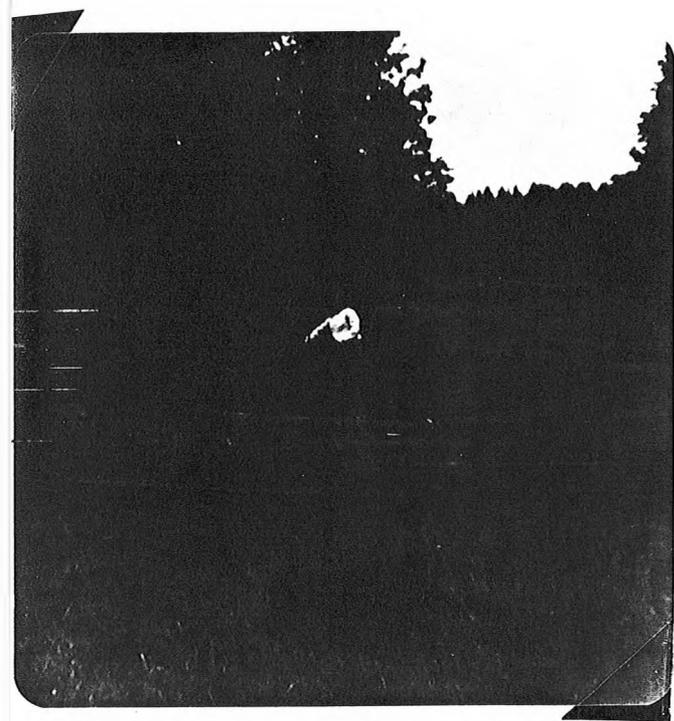
3



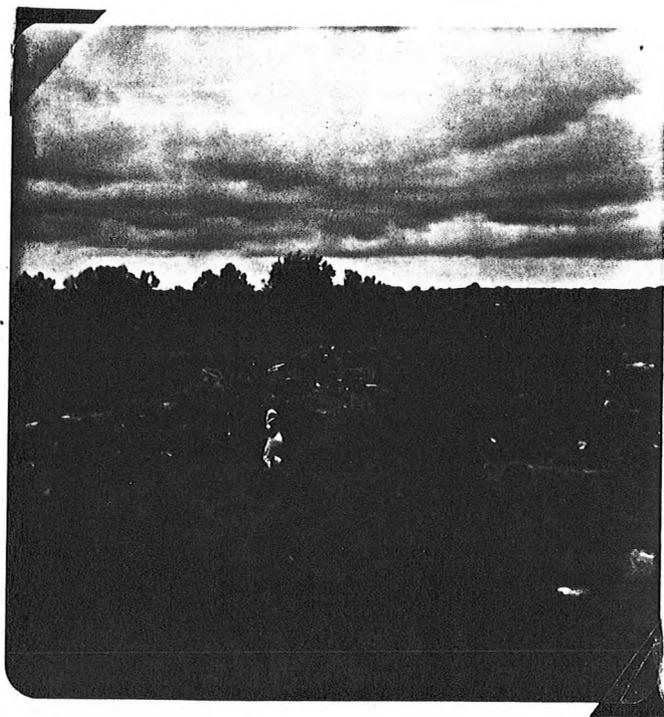
2,3. This old log cabin is identical to the first log home the Keiltys built in 1848 when they first came to Canada. It is located on the farm next to the original Keilty farm north of Kingston.

The Previous Owners of Lot 21, Concession 8

The first owner of Lot 21, Concession 8, was the government. It was sold to Philip Ball in 1834, and then he sold it to James R. Armstrong in 1846. It was then sold to Andrew Keilty in 1860, and the Keilys have owned it ever since.



4 The trees behind me are protruding from the old foundation of the Keilty house that burnt down in 1920. The roots of the trees came from a hedge that was around the house



5. This is some of the land of the farm east of Stoco as it looks today.



6. This rock was used as a slide for many generations. It is located in front of the old farm house on the land the Keiltys bought in 1860. My sisters and I are the 6th generations of Keiltys to slide on this rock.

Lot 9, Concession 7, Hungerford Township

Pretty soon the older farm got too small when the Keilty family grew, so William J. Keilty, grandson of Andrew Keilty and my great grandfather, purchased a farm a short way away. He bought 125 acres of land in Lot 9, Concession 7, Hungerford Township for \$9 000.00.

The previous owner's name was Joseph Emerson. He had bought the farm from a family by the name of Barkers. The Barkers were the first family to settle in 1830. They were United Empire Loyalists that came from the United States.

The first building that they had built on the farm was a log house, in 1830. 10 years later that was replaced by a better log home, and 15 years after that, a stone house replaced the other house.

This farm is now owned by my grandfather, Thomas S. Keilty.

It is located 3 miles south of the village of Tweed on no. 37 highway.

How the Keilty Potato Farm got Started

The Keilty Potato Farm was begun in 1921 when my grandfather's father bought 125 acres of land. He did farm some potatoes, but he only produced a small quantity each year.

In 1942, my grandfather - Tom Keilty, helped his dad out with the farm, and began farming parts of it, as well. Then, in 1949 he bought it from his father.

The first year he only planted 3 acres of potatoes, the second six, and then he went to seventy. The reason why he farmed so many acres of potatoes was because it was financially rewarding. They had just passed through a period of depression when cattle was selling for $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a pound and pork for 3¢ a pound. He could make more money growing potatoes than he could with livestock.

My grandfather has farmed 70 acres of potatoes until about 4 years ago. Then he dropped to 25, and this year 12. The reasons for this were:

1. In the spring of 1980 commercial fertilizer increased \$100.00 per ton in cost,
2. Repairs for farm equipment has increased more rapidly than any other cost on the farm, and
3. The cost of spray material has tripled.

The Farm Nowadays

Nowadays, in addition to potatoes, my grandfather farms some hay, a variety of oats and wheat, and some grain.

About every month my family goes down to the farm. We can play in the barns, jump from the beams into the hay or grain, ride tractors, help grandpa with the potatoes, or give grandma some help in the kitchen.

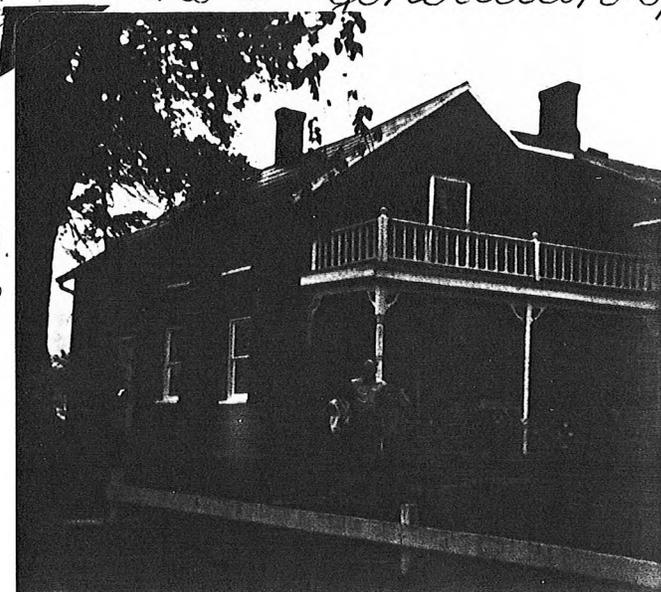
All of the grandchildren: Larian, Jennifer, Kristen, Alexandra, Claire, Erin, and Niccolu visit regularly.

The younger kids like petting the kittens and the older kids go out in search of puffballs.

My father, Jim, his brothers, Greg and Pat, and his sister Denise grew up here. All of them love to come down.

When my grandfather is ready to retire Pat and his wife Kim will probably take over the farm. Pat has gone through Agricultural College to train to be a farmer. He will be the 5th generation of Kelly farmers in Canada.

is the farmhouse
 nowadays. A little to
 right of the part of
 house in the picture,
 the stone house that
 built in 1855, but now
 covered by stucco



With me in the
 picture is my
 sister Jennifer
 and my grand-
 father.

Family Tree

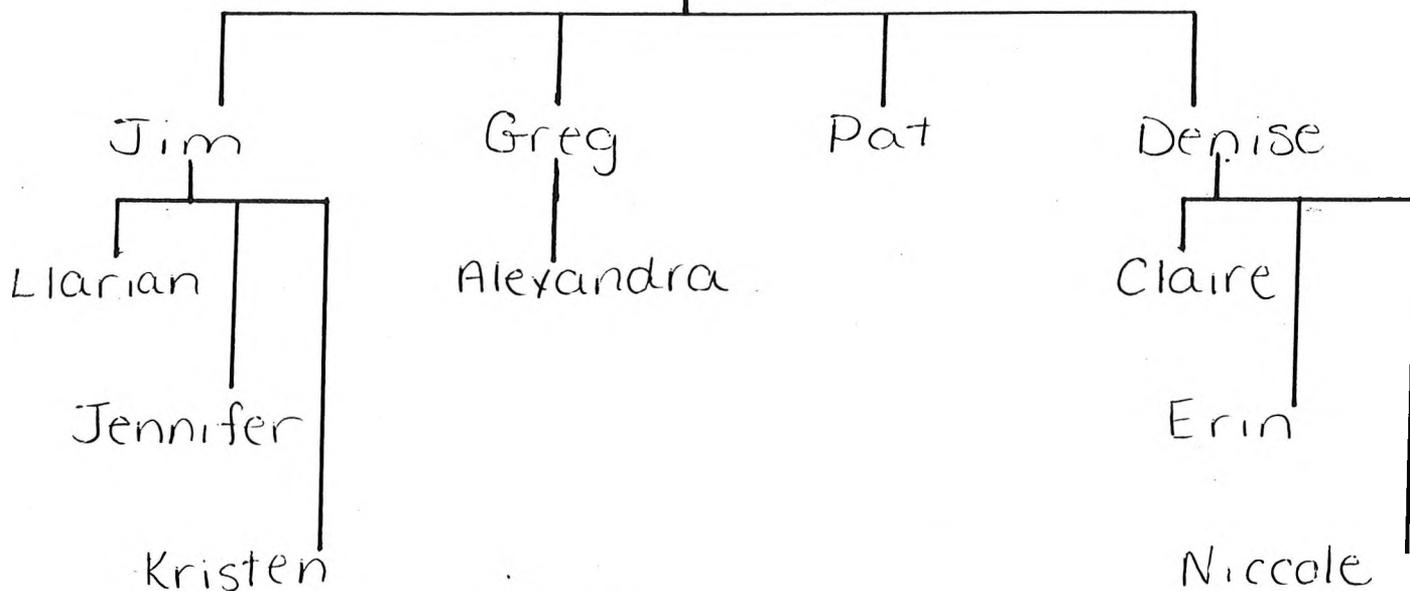
(My Direct Ancestors)

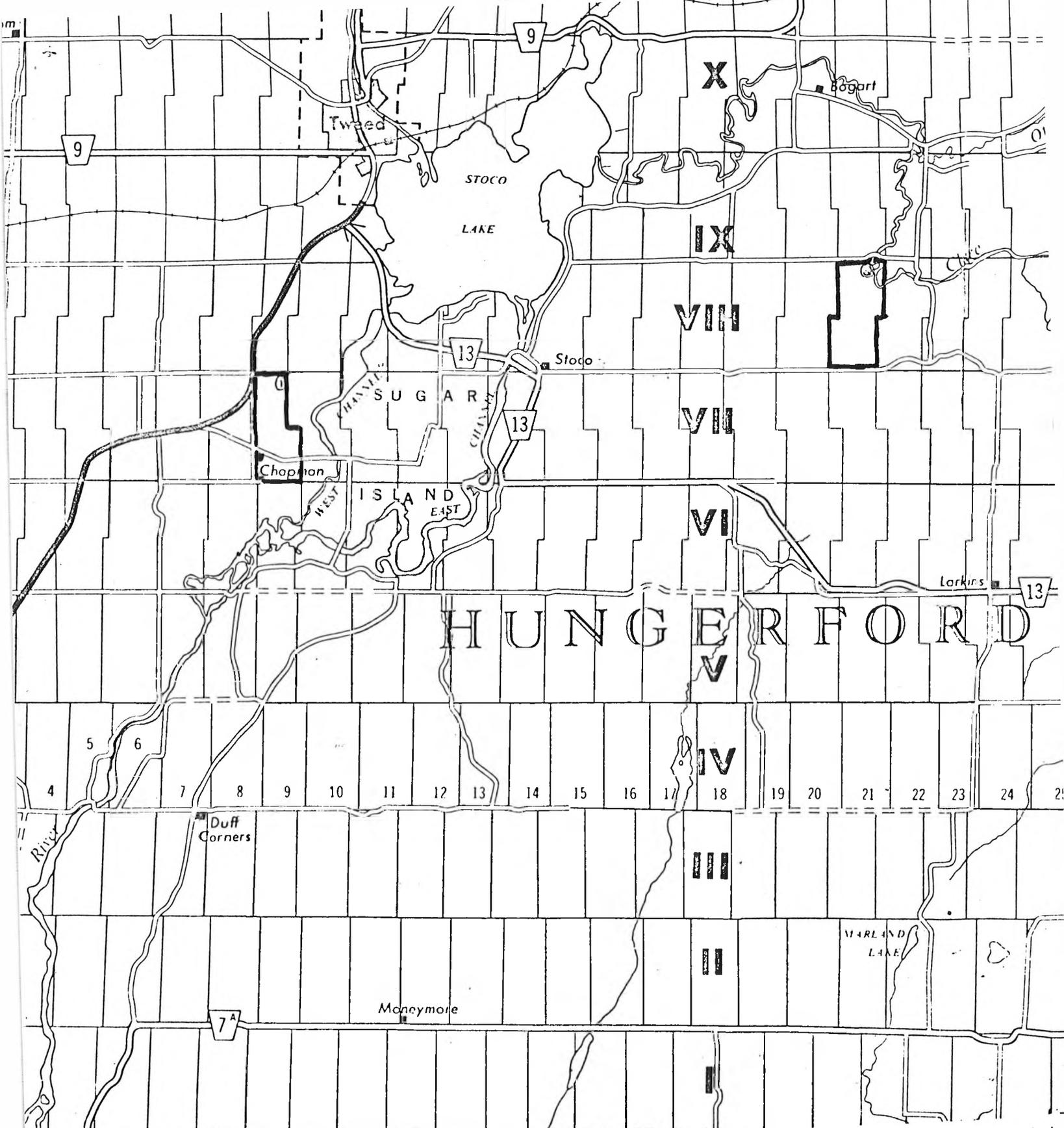
Andrew Keilty, Sr. and wife

Andrew Keilty, Jr. and wife

William Keilty and Honora

Thomas Keilty and Lucille





1. This is the land now lived on by my grand mother and grand father.

2. This is the land that was bought by my great great great grand father Andrew Keilty, in 1860.

List of Sources

Keilty, T My Father

Keilty, T My Grandfather

The Registry Office. Documents