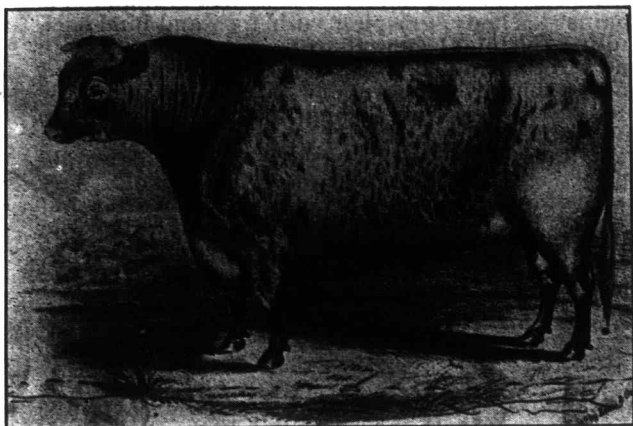


The Early Importations of Shorthorns to Canada.

According to the best records available the history of the importation of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle to Canada dates back to 1825 or 1826, and the Province of New Brunswick has the honor of having made the first importation, the Board of Agriculture of that Province, through the then Speaker of the Legislature, having imported four bulls, all of which are registered in the first volume of the English herd book; but no females were brought out with them. In 1832 Judge Robert Arnold, of St. Catharines, Ontario, owned the registered cow Countess = 782 =, bred by C. H. Hall, Harlem, N. Y., sired by imp. son of Comet (155), dam Princess = 419 =, imp. bred by Robert Colling, and born in 1827, so that the late Judge Arnold



BARON SOLWAY = 23 =
IMPORTED IN 1861 BY SIMON BEATTIE, FOR JOHN SNELL,
EDMONTON, ONT.

evidently has the honor of having been the pioneer breeder of Shorthorns in Canada, as this cow bred eight calves while in his possession, and was then sold to Mr. Lewis F. Allen, of Buffalo, N. Y., then editor of the American Shorthorn Herd Book. Many of the useful Shorthorns of the country trace to this cow Countess.

In 1833 the first importation of considerable importance was made by Mr. Roland Wingfield, an Englishman, who brought them to the neighborhood of Guelph, and shortly afterwards sold them to Mr. John Howitt, of the same place. This importation numbered six heifers and two bulls—the latter being Reformer = 212 =, and Young Farmer = 275 =, bred by Rev. Henry Berry, Worcester, Shire. The cows were Lilly = 302 =, by Warden, bred in Yorkshire; Favorite = 179 =, by Henwood; Favorite = 180 =, by Warden; Dairymaid = 103 =, by Warwick; Pedigree = 408 =, by Mynheer and Countess = 94 =, by Warwick. Of these cows Lilly by Warden seems to have the largest number of descendants on record, a great many useful cattle tracing in their lineage to her. Four at least out of these six cows were sold, after producing one or more calves, to go to Kentucky.

In 1835 the late Hon. Adam Ferguson, of Woodhill, Waterdown, Ontario, imported one bull and two cows. One of the latter, Beauty = 30 =, by Snowball, was the maternal ancestor of a very numerous family of good cattle widely scattered throughout the Dominion, showing strong breed character and excellent milking qualities. The other cow was Cherry = 76 =, by Dunstan Castle = 93 =, and the bull was Agrícola, alias Sir Walter = 5 = (1614). In 1837 Messrs. George and John Simpson, of Newmarket, Ont., imported one bull, Roseberry = 215 =, and two cows, Rosebud = 469 = and Lady Jane = 281 =, by Sir Walter. A large number of excellent cattle have descended from the last named cow, and are widely distributed.

In 1845 Mr. Ralph Wade, of Port Hope, imported four heifers, among which were Snowdrop = 497 =, and Fisher Roan = 186 =, from which a good many very excellent animals have descended. These and a few other scattering importations of one or two pure-bred animals up to the last named date proved a potent influence in the districts where they were used in improving the quality of the stock raised, and an incentive to improvement which led others to embark in the enterprise on a larger scale, and to the great benefit of the farmers of Canada generally.

It was in 1846 that the Provincial Agricultural Association for Upper Canada was organized, and the first Provincial Exhibition was held at Toronto in that year. Liberal prizes were offered for the best pure-bred animals, the first prize for stallions in several classes being as high as £10, and for bulls £17 10s., or equal to \$70. For many years the Association encouraged the importation of first-class male animals by offering three times the amount of the first prize if won by imported males not previously exhibited. This movement probably did more in the following twenty years to stimulate competition and encourage enterprise in the importation and breeding of improved stock than any other agency, and from the date of the institution of the Provincial Fair rapid progress was made in this line.

In the year 1854 and from that date forward men whose names are familiar to the present generation and who are well remembered personally by many of the older stockmen of the present day ventured largely in the enterprise of importing

high-class stock, such as were likely to stand well in the competition for prizes at the Provincial Fair. Among these were the Millers, of Markham and Pickering, and Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, whose first importations of Shorthorns were made in 1854, the former exhibiting at the Provincial Fair at London in that year, winning first-class honors.

The late George Miller, of Markham, came to Canada from his native Scotland in 1832, and was followed three years later by his nephew, Mr. John Miller, who yet lives in Pickering, being now in his 82nd year, and who is, so far as we know, the oldest living importer of pure-bred stock to Canada from the Old Country, having brought with him a dozen Leicester sheep and a pair of Yorkshire pigs. His father, the late William Miller, of Pickering, and his two brothers—Robert, of Pickering, and William, now of Storm Lake, Iowa—came out in 1839, bringing with them ten Leicester sheep and a pig, so that the Millers were among the pioneer importers of sheep and swine to this country, if not, indeed, the first to venture in that line, and it required no little courage to undertake such an enterprise in those days, before steamships were in vogue, and the voyage by sailing vessel often extended over eight to twelve weeks, the accommodations being very limited and the risks much greater than in the present day. It was after one of these long and tedious voyages that William Miller and his sons landed on this side the Atlantic, and young Willie, when informed that he was in America, shook his curly head and declared, "I will nae believe it till I see my Uncle Geordie." This evidence was shortly after afforded him, and these brave men settled down to the work of hewing out for themselves homes in their adopted country, and entered upon a career in importing and breeding pure-bred stock, which extended over many years, and is yet continued successfully by at least one of the pioneers of the family (the sage of Thistle Ha'), and by others of a younger generation.

It was in 1854 that the late Simon Beattie came out from Scotland with an importation of Shorthorns for Geo. Miller, the laird of "Riggfoot," with whom he remained for several years as manager of his herds and flocks, which rapidly grew into large proportions. In this consignment came Miss Syme = 369 =, by Baron of Kildale, and Louisa = 304 = and Red Rose = 455 =, by the same sire, and bred by Mr. Robert Syme, of Redkirk, Dumfriesshire. These were followed in 1855 by an importation by the Millers, including the cows Syren, Sybil, and Rosa, and the bull Redkirk, all from the herd of Mr. Syme, and a grand lot of cattle they were—large, thick-fleshed, low-set, and good feeders—and from them have descended a long line of most estimable stock, which for many years won a large share of the prizes at the leading shows in the Province. It was at the Provincial Fair at Cobourg in 1855 that the writer first met Simon Beattie, then in the prime of his early manhood, and his fresh, ruddy countenance and bright smile as he waved the prize ribbons his charge had won, and declared, "I would nae carry a second or third i' ma' pouch," has never been forgotten. Little thought he or we at that time that he was destined to play the prominent part he afterwards did in importing and dealing in high-class stock, involving business transactions representing not only thousands, but tens of thousands of dollars, running the whole gamut of the ups and downs of life, which in the end left him enriched only in experience and in the consciousness of having done good work for the country of his adoption in disseminating stock of good blood and individuality, the influence of which will tell on the character of the stock of the country for many generations. We have often thought, and still think, that high on the honor roll of the heroes in this great work should be inscribed the name of Simon Beattie, who spent an active and unselfish life in the cause he loved, and for which he was richly endowed by nature and fitted by acquirement as a judge and a feeder.

Another of the pioneers in the business of importing whose memory is worthy of the highest respect and esteem was the late Frederick William Stone, of Guelph, who invested heavily of his means and assumed great risks in importing large numbers of high-class animals whose influence has been widespread for good and whose blood courses the veins of innumerable descendants all over the American continent. Conservative and firm in his purposes and plans, yet kindly and generous in his manner and strictly upright and honorable in all his dealings, he was one of nature's noblemen who, though tenderly raised in the luxury of an English home, emigrated to Canada with a very limited means, and, enduring the privations of pioneer life, hewed out for himself a home on the Puslinch plains and made for himself a continental reputation as a stock breeder, acquiring the fine property now widely known as the Ontario Agricultural College farm, which he sold to the Government for \$75,000.

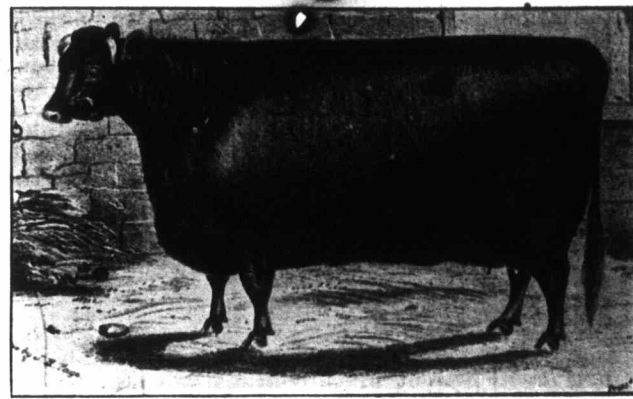
It was in 1854 that Mr. Stone made his first importation of Shorthorns, which comprised the well-known bull John O'Gaunt II., and the cows Daphne, by Harold, and Margaret, by Snowball, the latter in calf, carrying Mayflower, by Tortworth Duke, maternal ancestors of many meritorious members of the breed. At Cobourg, in 1855, Mr. Stone made his first appearance in the Provincial showing with a splendid display of Shorthorns and a grand exhibit of imported Cotswold sheep, which were greatly admired for their stylish appearance and their long, flowing forelocks. The Millers had imported a few Cotswolds the previous year,

some of which were purchased by the late Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton, who also made his first show in Provincial competition at Cobourg in 1855, winning a fair share of prizes with Cotswold and Leicester sheep. From that time forward for many years the names Miller, Stone and Snell held a prominent place in the records of the prize lists at Provincial Fairs and were widely known as associated with high-class stock breeding and successful exhibiting. Mr. Stone imported largely in 1855 and also in 1856, and in October of that year held a public sale of Shorthorns, at which prices unprecedented in Canada up to that date were obtained, many buyers from the United States being present, and quite a number of animals selling at from \$300 up to \$750, at which price the imported cow, Margaret, was purchased by Mr. John Hles, of Puslinch, while the late John Snell paid \$1,300 for the cow Fairy and her yearling daughter Fancy, and \$400 for Prince of the West, a bull calf under a year old.

In 1857 the late John Thomson, of Whitby, imported three excellent animals from the herd of Mr. James Douglas, Athelstaneford, Scotland. These were the cows Lady of Athelstaneford and Nerissa 11th, and the bull Bridgegroom, a first prize winner at leading shows. In this year, also, Mr. R. R. Bown, of "The Ox Bow," now Bow Park, Brantford, imported three head—the bull Master Graham = 107 =, a first prize winner at the Provincial, and the cows Bessie, by Bankfield, and Roan Duchess, by Lord Ducie, a very prolific family.

The impression, we believe, is general that the introduction of Cruickshank Shorthorns into Canada was of comparatively recent date, as it is only in the last twenty years that they have been accorded the distinction of a famous family, but the records show that as far back as 1850—just 40 years ago—Mr. Neil J. McGillivray, of Williamstown, in the County of Glengarry, Ont., imported four cows and a bull, two of the cows and the bull being bred by Amos Cruickshank, of Sittyton, the breeding of which is familiar to all students of Shorthorn lineage, the cows being Honesty = 232 =, by Procurator, and Model = 371 =, by Matadore, and the bull, Royal George = 240 =, by Master Butterfly 2nd. These cattle passed out of Mr. McGillivray's hands shortly after, but were regarded as a very superior class, showing the influence of the master-hand of the breeder.

Among the first importations of note in the sixties was one for Geo. Miller, by Simon Beattie, in 1861, with which came the bull Baron Solway = 23 =, for John Snell, of Edmonton. This bull made a splendid record as a prizewinner and a breeder, and is well remembered by many living stockmen, and that made in 1864, by the Hon. David Christie, of Paris, Ont., who brought to the fine farm now known as Oak Park, and owned by Capt. D. Milloy, a magnificent selection of five cows from the herd of Mr. James Douglas, of Athelstaneford, Scotland, who, judging from the character of these cattle, had shown himself a breeder in the best sense of the term and one who succeeded in producing animals of a type quite in advance of the times, such, indeed, as would measure well up to that of the best specimens of the most approved type of the present day. Those who remember the cow, Queen of Athelstaneford, will acknowledge that she has had few equals in the list of show cows since her day, being as she was level and straight in her lines, with a grand back and ribs and deep and full in all her parts, standing on short legs and showing great indications of constitution, but having been highly fitted for the showing in the Old Country, her usefulness as a breeder was sadly impaired, though she left two charming daughters, which had they been judiciously



QUEEN OF ATHELSTANE = 439 =
IMPORTED IN 1864 BY HON. DAVID CHRISTIE, PARIS, ONT.

mated with the right class of bulls, might have perpetuated the excellencies of a rarely good family, but, strange to say, they seem to have almost entirely disappeared from Canadian records, in so far, at least, as the female line is concerned.

The importation in 1867 of two cows and two bulls by Mr. George Isaac, of Baltimore, Ont., from the herd of Sylvester Campbell, seems to have been the first of the Kinellar stock to come to Canada, but they made a lasting impression and were soon followed by many more from the same source and of a character which has done splendid service in moulding the type of the modern Shorthorn as we find it in the best of the breed.

It was in 1867 that Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Quebec, entered the list of importers by bringing out the star performers Rosedale and Baron Booth of Lancaster. Rosedale had made a great