"FOR ALL THY KITH 'N KINE"

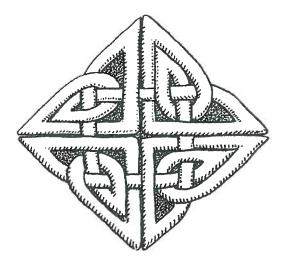
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A Remembrance of John Young, his Family and Farm

Compiled by Donald John Young and Bryson Young

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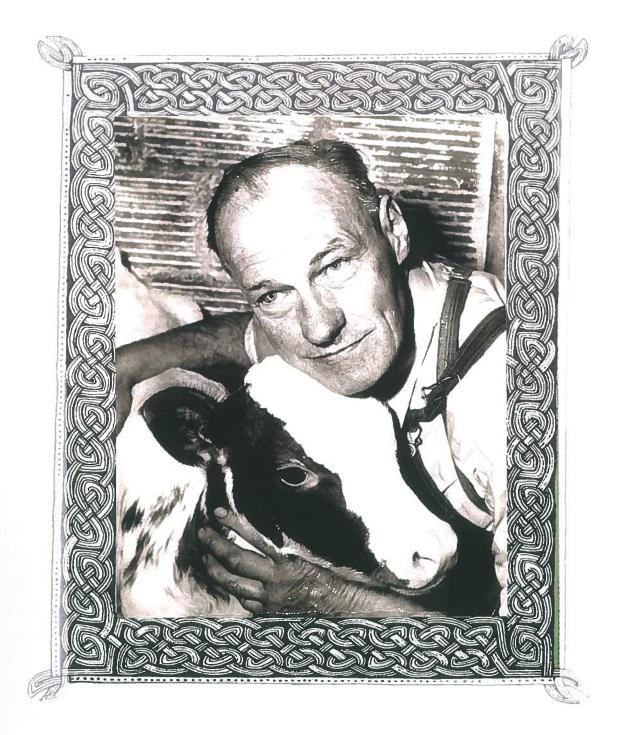


This work was compiled from the reminiscences of the surviving children of John and Mary Young, and/is to them gratefully dedicated.



"From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs, That makes her lov'd at home, rever'd abroad; Princes and lords are but the breath of kings, 'An honest man's the noblest work of God'."

Robert Burns
"The Cotter's Saturday Night"



John Young UBC Herdsman, 1929 - 1951

ate in the spring of 2003,

the old barn was torn down at last. Its destruction, board by rotting board was probably noted only by the students who parked their cars

in the far-flung corner of B-lot where it had stood for years, decrepit and finally condemned. Hurrying to class at UBC's sprawling modern facility, few if any of these commuters can have realized that the vanished ruin, an archaic and neglected pile for so many years, had taken with it the last material memory of a different and vital time in the history of the south campus and the university - a time of founders and of foresight, when these grounds had been, not pavement, but grazing pasture; when this ward had been a farm. A farm, in fact where dairy cattle, some famous after their kind, brought credit to the fledgling Faculty of Agriculture, and provided home milk service to the surrounding community; a family farm of the type that is ever rarer in the corporate scene of today, but that once was the mainstay of agriculture across the world; where daily labours are shared between parents and children, where hay is bailed and cream is drawn by hand. The conquering asphalt of B-lot now covers what was once such a place, and with the passing of the horse barn, its last standing remnant has gone.

But perhaps it is not entirely forgotten. The university's plans to develop the south and mid-campuses have reawakened an interest in the area that was once the University Farm and Dairy, home to the then-renowned UBC Ayrshire herd, and in the man who was its manager and herdsman from its earliest beginnings in 1929; whose legacy to the institution he served for twenty-two years was not less than the survival of the farm and the herd itself through extraordinarily difficult times, to its eventual recognition as an integral part of a prestigious program of academic instruction in agriculture. The University Town project, as well as renewed commercial involvement with Ayrshire

cattle and with the breed's development within B.C., have been the occasion for expressions of historical interest from many quarters. This brief account is intended to address that interest, and to commemorate the life and work of John Young, Herdsman to the Faculty of Agriculture from 1929 to 1951, his wife Mary, and their children, so many of whom went on to become UBC graduates with distinction in a variety of fields. The very Canadian story of their family and of the farm that was their home and livelihood is one well worth the telling, and begins in the county of Ayr, in old Scotland.



ohn Young was the second son born to John and Isabella Young of the village of Sorn in Ayrshire. The year was 1882. His father was a tenant dairy farmer, husbandman of the handsome, long-horned breed of red and whites that proudly bore the county's name. The tradition of tenant farming was as ancient in Scotland as in other parts of Western Europe, but was also a turbulent one throughout the early nineteenth century. The tragedy known as the Clearances, in which the Clan system was violently suppressed by the avaricious victors of Culloden Moor, was drawing out its atrocious course, and thousands had been driven off the land that they had tended for generations, or were murdered outright, sacrificed to more lucrative sheep stocks. These upheavals and horrors were present but less common for the tenantry of the lowlands, where cattle could still be kept profitably. At some point in the late century, the elder Young purchased the lease on the farm of Waterside Mains, near Keir village on the river Nith, and it was here that he moved his family and his "kine".

Young John completed his high school education at Wallace Hall Academy, at the time a rare privilege for boys of his class, and went on to apprentice in pharmacy in the capital city of Edinburgh. However failing health, likely from pneumonia and not from tuberculosis as was at first thought, made it necessary for him to return to farm life in Dumfrieshire. He assumed an active role in the life of the shire and in the local congregation of the Church of Scotland, singing in the village choir and exhibiting the profound yet stoical faith that was so characteristic of the region, and which was to become one of the ordering principles of his life. This, after all, was the country both of Burns and of Knox, where a certain rustic levity was combined with a deep, essentially personal obligation to the divine. John was remarked throughout his life for possessing an ethic that was incredibly steadfast, if mostly taciturn, and showed it from early on. He assumed responsibility for the farm as his father's age advanced, and began serving on the parish school board; and it was here that he met bonny Mary Donald Bryson, a schoolteacher who had grown up at Braehead, also a dairy farm, near Mauchline. They courted and were married in 1915. Their first child, a son, was born not quite a year later, and by tradition given the name of John. He was to be followed in due course by Grace Cook Bryson (1918), David Bryson ('19), Alastair James ('20), Isobel Mary ('23) and Archibald Douglas ('26). For a decade the young family prospered at Waterside Mains.







l At Waterside Mains farm in 1925; nictured above are (left to right) John, Alastair, Grace, young John, Isobel, Mary and David.

2. The house at Waterside Mains at right, pictured in 1925; it lies half a mile from Keir Mill in old Dumfrieshire, made from the same pink sandstone as nearby Drumlanrig Castle. It is still a dairy farm today





b ut by 1929, as in the rest of the world, things were not going well on the farm. A bout of "contagious abortion" caused by brucellosis had irreparably damaged many of the dairy herds in the area, including the Young's own. This disaster, combined with a notice of costly increases in the "tack" or lease of tenantry, gave the future a desperately uncertain cast.

It was at just this time that Professor H.M. King of the University of British Columbia was sojourning in the region, seeking to purchase twenty-four Ayrshire cows and one bull to form the foundation of a herd for the Faculty of Agriculture. The purchase was financed by a wealthy Scot, Captain J.C. Dunwaters of Fintry BC. Capt. Dunwaters was the owner of the Glasgow Herald newspaper, but had lived for many years in BC. He had bought and farmed a property at Fintry on the west side of Okanagan Lake, and had a passionate enthusiasm for the Ayrshire cow, believing it should be the only breed on the new UBC Farm. He kindly offered to purchase the cattle for the university, and Professor King was duly dispatched to Scotland, looking for healthy and promising livestock, as well as a seasoned herdsman to bring the cattle to Canada, then to be employed as manager on the farm at the university's new Point Grey campus. Providentially and, as it turned out, fortuitously for all concerned, John Young of Waterside Mains was recommended and accepted the job.

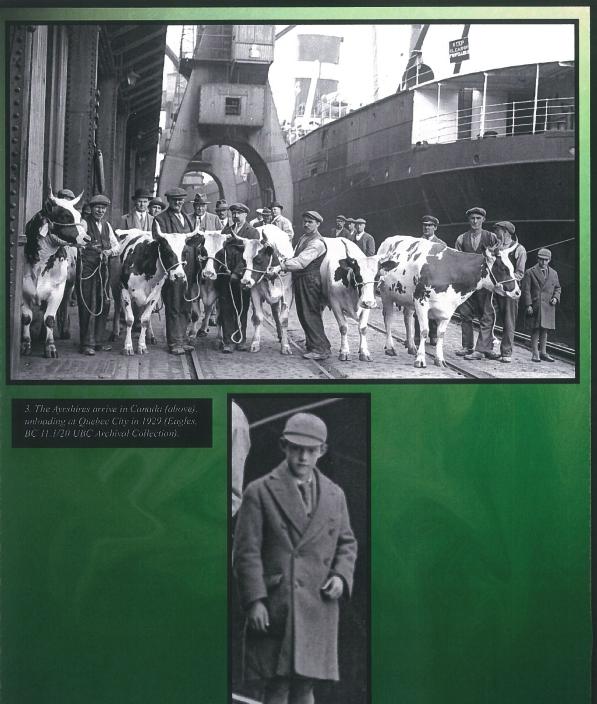
The cattle were soon bought and readied for transport to Canada. The chosen cows represented some of the finest bloodlines that Scotland had to show, coming from such venerable farms as Lessnessock and Ardgowan. On June 20, 1929, the freighter S.S. Carmia, loaded with emigrating Caledonians and their cattle, set sail from Glasgow. John was observed standing on the aft deck, silently watching until the Firth of Clyde disappeared entirely from sight, the last of his homeland he was ever to see. After a rough 10 day crossing, during which the entire Young family was dreadfully seasick, the boat made harbour at Quebec City. Here the cattle were placed in quarantine across the St. Lawrence at Levis for six weeks. Following this, John and his eldest son accompanied the cattle by freight train to Vancouver, while Mary and five small children set off by passenger train. A few family anecdotes survive from this trip, which filled the children with a keenly remembered wonder at the unimaginable vastness of the country they were passing through. The story goes that, raised on many a romantic storybook about the new world, the one sight that these young Scots wanted above all to behold as they travelled was an "Indian". At a whistle stop somewhere in Saskatchewan, Mary called them to the window and pointed to one of the men in dungarees who was working the line, saying she was quite sure that he was what they had been longing to see. The children stared fixedly for a few moments until young David, voicing the question that was perplexing all of them, asked "But Ma......where's his feathers?"

The cattle arrived in Vancouver on August 10, 1929, during the Canadian Pacific Exhibition, the forerunner to the PNE. Photographed upon arrival at the CNR station, the event was reported in the Vancouver Province newspaper, and recalled by David Young in his 1947 thesis on the history of the university herd this way:

It is interesting to note that the cattle made timely arrivals at Quebec and Vancouver. They arrived in Quebec amidst the Flag-bedecked ships celebrating "Dominion Day" [now called "Canada Day"], and more than a month later arrived in Vancouver on "Caledonian Day" at the Vancouver Exhibition. On their arrival here the cattle were immediately loaded into appropriately decorated trucks and paraded, headed by a pipe band, through the streets of Vancouver, and then in front of the crowded grandstand at the exhibition grounds where the "Caledonian Games" were in progress. The cattle received a most enthusiastic welcome, at the conclusion of which they were trucked to the University Campus, and unloaded at their new home.







4. Detail from top, right; one of the Young children (David? Alastair?) in his travelling clothes, watches as some of the cattle are disembarked.



t was a grand entrance indeed. The Ayrshires were trumpeted in the press as "the finest examples of the breed ever seen in this part of the world", a statement not entirely without justification. Ayrshires had been favoured in the British Isles over other types of dairy cattle for almost a century as they were hardy and good-natured, outstanding milk producers and exceedingly efficient grazers. The newcomers were to augment and eventually replace the pre-existing population of Jersey cattle on the farm, as they did on farms throughout the province. Of them all, three of the Scottish cows would become particularly distinguished members of the Ayrshire breed. "Rainton Rosalind V", purchased from A.W. Montgomery of Lessnessock, proved the worth of her famous bloodlines. Her milk production would be so great as to require milking four times a day, rather than the usual two. Her many prizes included Supreme Champion of the Ayrshire Breed (Ochiltree, 1929), Grand Champion Female (Vancouver Exhibition, 1934), best daily, monthly and yearly milk yields in Canada, and the BC Dairyman's Association Prize for highest milk production record in the 305 day division. The only other cows in the herd that could rival Rosalind were "Ardgowan Gladness II" and "Lochinch Lassie". Gladness was awarded a rating of "Excellent" in the Ayrshire Classification. She was most noted for her milk's high butterfat content, consistently greater than 4%. Lassie was a good milking cow, but had the added benefit of being an excellent breeder. She would give birth to the great sire, "Ubyssey White Cockade", whose daughters were consistently high quality milking cows. These three famous cows were often put proudly on display by the Agriculture Department.

For the human members of this entourage, the new life in western Canada, far away from the familiar comforts of "kirk" and kin, must have been daunting and often difficult. The family of eight took up residence in a two-bedroom suite in "The Gables" apartments above a store in the old University village, residing there for two years before being moved to a small house at the edge of the farm. Mary can't but have missed the grange at Waterside, and her couple of serving girls. Sod had only lately been broken at the Point Grey campus, and the farm facilities which John was charged with managing were some of the newest buildings on the site, the large horse barn being one of the first, with a great deal of 'breaking in' to be done. The city of Vancouver was itself not much more than a frontier railway town, an hour away from the UBC campus on the bumping, swaying Vancouver streetcars. The pulse of this new world was raw and erratic compared to the pastoral rhythms of life in Dumfrieshire, full of strange accents and behaviours. But it was not for nothing that this family and the stock they'd brought with them shared a place of origin, with certain hardy and healthy traits in common. They found ways to manage and adapt, and even to work into the rough, jangling strains of this new and complicated community a measure of their own quiet music of strength and integrity. Mary took a posting with the Vancouver school board, and every weekday, with young Archie beside her, took the long journey down to Powell Street into Japantown, to teach kindergarten classes to the Japanese children who lived there with their gardening and fishing families. For a year she taught them English and singing at the piano. Long after, when the appalling crimes of the Internments were descending on Japanese British Columbians, Archie remembers his mother's voice as one of the only ones he ever heard speak up in protest at the terrible things being done to these good people.

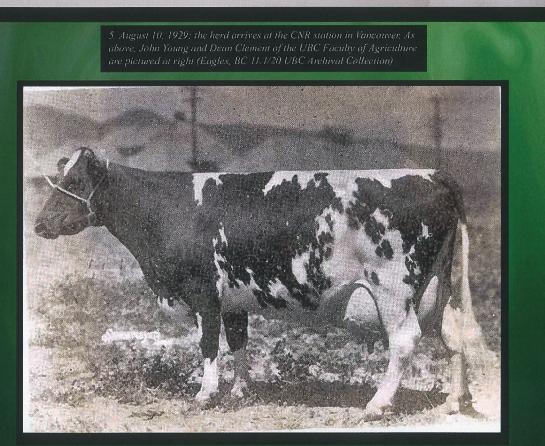
Some arduous adjustments to be sure, but the prospects for the herd and the renewed university seemed bright and the new life not without promise. They began attending church at the University College Chapel (now the Vancouver School of Theology), a congregation of the recently formed United Church of Canada, presided over by the 'dour' Dr. J.G. Brown who, despite his censorious ways, was to become a great support to the immigrant family. They found other Scots in attendance here, and made some lasting friendships. Life began to take shape again, and two new "bairns" arrived to bless the clan, wee Jean McKerrow in '31 and later Andrew Bryson, "Drew", in '34.







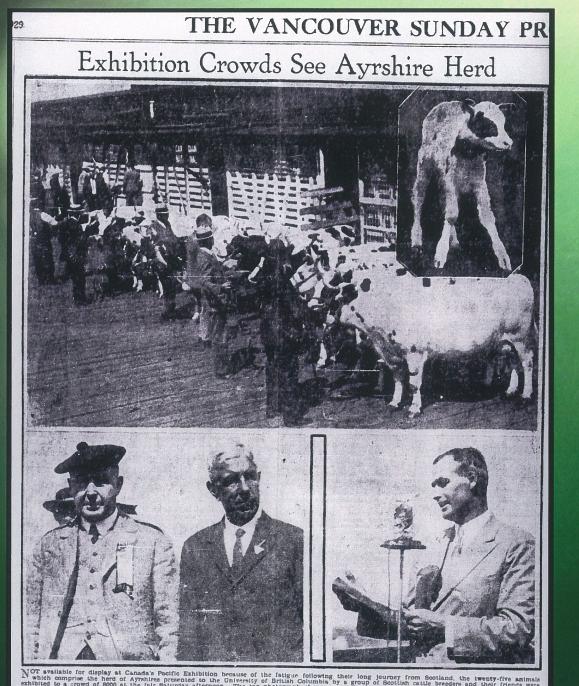
The newly imported Ayrshires for the University of British Columbia being unloaded at Vancouver. At right is Dean Clement and next him is Mr. Young, herdsman U. B. C. S. J. Bowman, Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association Fieldman is standing at the back.



6. The famous Rosalind ("Rainton Rosalind the 5th"), purchased at Lessnessock farm in Scotland. She would go on to set many remarkable production records at the UBC farm. By the end of her long life, her marvelous udder was almost touching the ground. (Thesis of D.B. Young, UBC 1947)





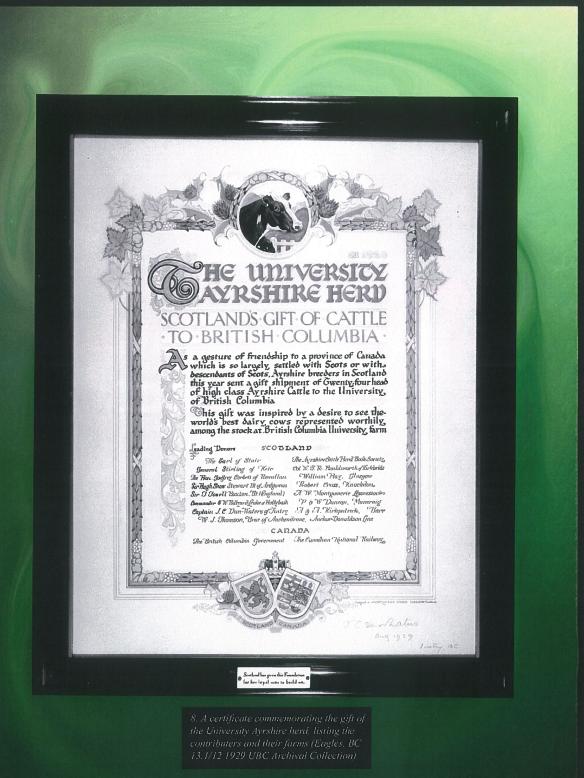


which comprise the herd of Ayrahires presented to the University of British Columbia the using burney from Sociland, the twenty-five animals hibited to a crowd of 6000 at the fair Skurday afternoon. The top photograph above some of the bary were unloaded at the Casadian Nemal Ballway station, while the bottom photograph shows, left to right Hugh Macaulay president of the tity were unloaded at the Casadian Statistic of the stati

7. Announcement of the Ayrshire's arrival in the Vancouver Province (Sunday, Aug. 11 1929; page 32.). Pictured from left to right are: Mr. Hugh Macaulay of the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society. Capt. J.C. Durwaters, who was respondsible for the cattle's purchase, and Dean F.M. Clement of the UBC Agriculture faculty.













 June 26, 1931; graduation day for the Japañese children at the Cordova Buddhist Temple kindergarten class. Mary, their English and singing teacher, is in the back row, the second from the left.



Dut a mere two years after the Young's arrival in B.C., the Great Depression struck with devastating force. A desperate student campaign kept the university from being closed altogether, but as it was, budgets were eviscerated and programs cancelled at every level. The Faculty of Agriculture sustained a slashing of crippling intensity, reduced to less than half of its previous operating costs. A decision was taken that the farm could not be saved, and in a spirit of exasperated desolation, all employees were let go, cattle sold and the shiny new facilities prepared for abandonment. But all hope wasn't yet lost for the faculty's pride. No one, apparently, had figured on the staying power of a certain remarkable Scot. A deal was struck whereby John Young would run the farm with only the help of his family, one or two workers and whatever student assistance could be drummed up. In fact it was a leasing arrangement very similar to the ones that he and his ancestors had lived under for centuries. All of the cows would be sold except the twenty-four Ayrshires that had come with him from Scotland, and with these he would set up a commercial dairy, providing home delivery to the university area. It was in this calamitous way that the "UBC Dairy" was born, and the faculty farm saved from ruin.

Nevertheless, it was a nearly impossible task. In the days before widespread automation, and certainly before antibiotics, the task of running even a middle-sized dairy involved a combination of ancestral know-how with an enormous capacity for hard work, and this on the part of many hands. 'Many hands' was just what John did not have - but the other two were qualities he possessed in abundance. To these he must now add the acumen of a businessman. Going door to door only in the university neighbourhood, a restriction imposed by licensing, he slowly developed a client base for the new dairy, which was his sole support for operating the farm. The family's life became a stern routine of work, education, and then more work. The eldest boy, young John, was obliged to leave school altogether in order to help his father, which he did gracefully and without complaint, as was his nature. The next three boys, Dave, Alastair and Archie, who was no more than fourteen when he began work at the dairy, rose at 5:30 am each morning and divided between themselves the tasks of milking and delivery. Due to the shortage of manpower, and the pressure of getting all deliveries to their rightful doorsteps with dispatch, underaged Archie often had to drive the truck himself, but was assured by Constable Orchard

of the B.C. Provincial Police that as long as he drove responsibly, he wouldn't be arrested. With the help of school friends like Kenny MacPherson, the boys finished the job by eight o'clock and rushed to school at University Hill, where young Archie was known to often fall asleep during class.

These were the founding days of U.B.C., and many of the houses served by the dairy were homes of names to conjure history with: President Norman MacKenzie's house was one on McGill Road, later to become Allison Road, as well as Gordon Shrum's on Chancellor Boulevard. Dean of Applied Science Hector Macleod, and many other illustrious deans and professors, who were nurturing the infant institution through its early years, were part of the clientele. Their residences were familiar stops on the boy's morning labours. Grace had by this time taken a job downtown as a legal stenographer, and early each day was collected and given a ride by Mr. Justice A.M. Manson of the Supreme Court of B.C., also a customer of the dairy. This sent Mary into regular fits of agitation, adamant that Grace not keep the great man waiting.

All the cattle were milked by hand, with a special chlorine solution used in the process to prevent the cows developing mastitis, or any such ailment that might be contracted through the teats. Into sterilized buckets and then into a large vat kept cold by watercooled coils, the milk was then stored in ten gallon cans before bottling and readying for delivery the next day. In the days before pasteurization, hot weather became an extra problem for the boys, as the coliform counts in the product became unacceptably high if left in the truck too long, so an element of haste was added to an already onerous work schedule. Two and sometimes three milkings were necessary to keep the cows in the best shape, as well as feeding, tramping and shovelling silage, to say nothing of endless cleanings and fittings. All of this the four Young boys undertook, guided and assisted at every stage by the patient and seemingly tireless hand of their father. Itinerant "aggie" students who had dealings at the farm remember the herdsman, "Mr. Young", a man by this time well into his fifties, as rarely putting in anything less than a sixteen-hour day. Certainly all of his children remember his exhausted homecomings late at night, as well as many a restless Christmas morning, fuming impatiently over their porridge till his arrival back from the barn, when presents could finally be opened.

But the dairy farm, while being the centre of endeavours, was by no means the limit of John's exertions. He bore responsibility for the university's pig, sheep and beef cattle stocks as well, and oversaw the storing of silage, as well as the cultivation and harvesting of hay. The farm's two horses, Babe and May, were in these early days used for everything from ploughing to bringing in the hay, most anything that a tractor might be used for today. They were kept and cared for by Mr. Bill Gardiner, John's only regular paid help on the farm. For everything else, it was the family that got the job. Mary took in boarders, but as Drew remembers, can hardly have made much from their monthly payments, so well she fed and kept them. In the evenings and at month's end, the girls went through the bills and kept the books. It was often a grim reckoning. The proceeds didn't nearly cover the farm's operating costs, or produce enough to feed, clothe and educate eight children. Grace has admitted to once peeking into her father's bankbook. Thirty-five dollars was all that remained in his account. There must have been desperate hours and weeks - and while none of John and Mary's surviving children remembers ever feeling a sense of want, not one can imagine how their parents managed through those years.

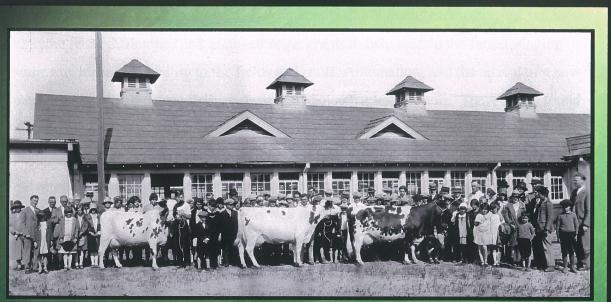
But manage they did - until a new tragedy befell them. In the year 1935, at the height of the Depression, their eldest son, John, collapsed and died from a ruptured appendix. This was the same son who, at age thirteen, had been his father's main helpmate in transporting the cattle from Scotland, and who had run the farm beside the older Young ever since. The loss nearly defeated them all, particularly Mary, who had found great solace in her son's quiet and compassionate strength. But a strange irony was attendant on the family's bitter grief. Two weeks before his untimely death, unbeknownst to any of them, John had taken out a sizeable life insurance policy on himself. It must have been in a spirit of the most agonizing ambivalence that the older John then used the indemnity to save the farm from failure. Drew remembers that it was seldom his mother let a month pass without making the long journey out of town to visit John's grave.

Through all of these troubles, the daily functions of the farm never paused, and the university had at its disposal a teaching and research facility that was kept to the very 20

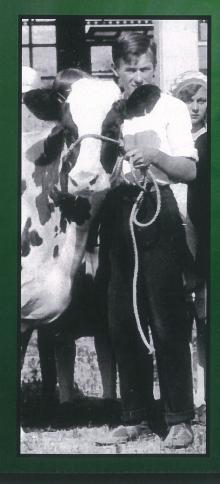
highest standards of efficiency, cleanliness and excellence of product. The original twenty-four cows went on to form what R. Blair calls in his history of the Agriculture Faculty " the nucleus of what was to become one of the finest Ayrshire herds in Canada". Rosalind herself was to live to eighteen years of age, leaving a legendary memory, with an astounding lifetime milk production record of 137,061 pounds. She also left many daughters behind her, as well as two extremely valuable sons, Ubyssey Rosalind's Governor and Ubyssey Rosalind's Admiral, who brought credit both of the academic and the monetary kind to the faculty. When the "auld coo" was lead away at the end of her long, unusually productive life and put down, John, who would ordinarily have overseen the task himself, couldn't face it and stayed away. It is probably the only instance in the history of the farm of him allowing someone else to do the tougher job.





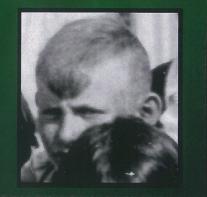


10. The Agriculture faculty put their three prize dams on display at the UBC dairy barn: from left to right the three cows are "Ardgowan Gladness", "Lochinch Lassie" and Rosalind, her halter being held by John (Frank, L. 1930; 1.1/1371/UBC Archival Collection).





Details from #10 above; young John holds Gladness' halter (11, at left); the older John's distinctive glower (12, above right); no doubt directed at young Archie (13, at right) who is pictured just in front of his dad.





radually, things improved. The university did ultimately recognize the family's extreme fiscal difficulties and arranged some grants to help sustain the farm, bringing some much needed stability to the fields and stalls. Automation, and the arrival of a new pasteurizer made the home delivery business somewhat less arduous. The Youngs found themselves able to rent a four-bedroom house on Westbrook Crescent. With young John's death, it now fell to David and Alastair to help their father maintain the farm. Dave was not altogether happy to give up high school while Al continued, but began attending night classes to catch up. The camaraderie as well as the perpetual competition between these two was known everywhere. As boys they were remembered for having endless basketball games in the upper loft of the Horse Barn during the times of the year when it was not full of hay. Under the guiding hand of their father they learned the ancient arts of their farming ancestors, and teamed up to present livestock at 4H Club exhibitions and were known to usually win. In later years they began showing at the PNE, and on rare occasions would compete against John himself, who, though giving them the better animal and taking the second best one to show himself, would still beat them. Needless to say, the two boys were to become excellent judges. Upon enrolling at UBC, Alastair went on to receive the Lady Jane Trophy for excellence in livestock judging, the first freshman ever to win the award.

With hopes set on an economic turn-around, the end of the 1930's brought war instead. Both David and Alastair enlisted with the Canadian Air Force and served overseas. Mary went regularly to the movie theatres in those days, less interested in the feature film than in the newsreels that ran prior to the movie, showing pictures of the Canadian troops and giving an update on their activities in Europe. Like Canadian mothers all over the country, she hoped to catch a glimpse of her sons. But on Friday, the twenty-fourth of March 1944, young Grace came home in tears from an outing with friends, having had a terrible premonition. As at other turning-points in her life, particularly those concerning her family, Grace had been enveloped in a strange vision, this time a terrifying one, and simply knew that something awful had happened to Al. Her sight was tragically prophetic. He had been killed when his plane was shot down on a night mission over the German-Dutch Border. Is there a greater anguish in all the world than that of a parent who loses a child? The way of grief for these poor Scots was to bear the enormous pain mostly in silence. Archie remembers Dr. Brown's presence in the house during this time as being of great support to Mary and John. Two of Alastair's plane mates who survived the crash did come to the Young home to visit after the war to tell his story, no doubt partially mitigating the family's mourning.

David returned to the farm after the war, but not before flying thirty-four missions over enemy territory and being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He married Vere Linden whom he had met on a posting in Edmonton, and went on to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture at UBC, writing a thesis that compiled the entire history of the UBC Ayrshire herd, from its inception up to the time of his graduation in 1947. He then became the Federal Livestock Fieldsman for B.C., and was instrumental in instituting the Artificial Insemination Program, which transformed cattle breeding across the province. He later moved to Ottawa to be head of the "Record of Performance" for the Milk Producers of Canada. He served as Chairman of the National 4H Club, and was part of a Canadian government initiative that shipped cattle to Cuba, helping to set up dairy programs all over the island.







12, Fught Lieutenant David Bryson Young 408th Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force. 14. 1943; Alastair James Young in his uniform as Warrant Officer 2 in the Royal Canadian Air Force, 421st Squadron.





fter 21 years of farming the same Ayrshire cattle, now strengthened by the many offspring born and intelligently bred at UBC, John retired from farming in 1951. As the Vancouver Sun article that announced his retirement attests, his reputation with the Agriculture Faculty and his peers was of unyielding dedication and hard work. He had taken days off only occasionally over his entire career, perhaps to be a judge at an exhibition or to attend the Caledonian Games once a year.

The terms of John's retirement are shocking to look at today. This after all was a man who, through overwhelming effort, had made a remarkable contribution to the university. Through some of the darkest days the young institution had yet known, he had found a way to keep the farm and retail dairy going, allowing agriculture students and researchers to continue with their work, while maintaining a service to the larger neighbourhood. But having been a salaried employee for only two years before leasing the farm, John's monthly pension amounted to all of twenty-five dollars (Mary referred to it as his "monthly insult"). With a son in Ottawa and two others graduating in medicine, there was no one to take over from him. Dairyland took charge of his client roster, and gave him five thousand dollars for the goodwill of the dairy. This was the most he had to show for his many years of dedication. Being the humble man he was, he would have accepted these small graces without a word of complaint. But like many farmers today who are selling the lands that their families have farmed for generations, there must have been for John Young a profound sense of loss - loss of a way of life, one that put the best interests of community and fellow-man ahead of any other.







• JOHN YOUNG, who brought the prize Ayrshire herd to UBC in 1929, and has husbanded them ever since, retires as the university's farm manager at the end of April.

Ayrshire Expert Retires As UBC Farm Manager By WILLIAM BOSE Vancouver Sun Farm Politor

That wiry Scot, John Young, and the Scotch cattle at University of British Columbia, are soon parting company after 31 years of a partnership that began in Ayrshire Scotland.

Now 68, Mr. Young retires as farm manager at UBC April 30.

When the university went into the Red-and-Whites in 1929, it was he who brought them over from the old land, then remained to milk them, show them at the fairs, breed them, feed them, and generally husband them. Agriculture professors at Point Grey say he "works 16 hours a day."

AYRSHIRES PICKED UBC

UBC didn't pick Ayrshires for their barn; it was the Ayrshires who picked UBC, according to Mr. Young. Another Scot, Capt. J. C. Dunwaters, one-time owner of the Glasgow

Another Scot, Capt. J. C. Dunwalers, one-time owner of the Glasgow Herald, had the Finitry Ranch in the Okanagun, named after his Finitry estate in Scotland, and believed that because there wore so many Scottish folk in BC, and so many lochs and dells and bens and braes, there should also be more Scottish dairy kine. He had Ayrshires at Fintry, imported from Scotland, and he donated 21 more head to UBC.

Mr. Young, raised on a dairy farm in Ayrshire, left Scotland with them in August 1929, along with 12 head additional for other breeders across Canada.

DON'T JUST HAPPEN

Good dairy cattle don't just happen; they are the result of scientific breeding of "the best to the best" and back again, by crossing near relatives and thus "fixing" the desired abilities.

The entire UBC herd now traces back many times to three great cows in the original 24 head. There was "Rainton Rosalind 5^{tho}, bought from Adam W. Montgomery of Lessnessock, one of Scotland's outstanding breeders. Dave Caldow, farm manager at Tranquille, was born on the same farm as was Rosalind.

And there were Ardgowan Gladness 2nd, obtained from Sir Hugh Shaw-Stewart, and Lochinch Lassie, bought from the Earl of Stair.

PLANNED TO FARM

With their blood, UBC has produced the great sire Ubyssey White Cockade, whose daughter's production has placed him on the top rung of Avrshire sires in North America.

John Young came to Canada to go farming for himself but he arrived just before the big slump and, he recalls, "what I saw happen to the farmer then didn't do much to encourage me."

didn't do much to encourage me." Closest he got to it was in 1932 when the depression hit the university budget and the agriculture faculty was cut down to a skeleton crew. Every employee on the farm got a month's notice on March 31. It is only alternative was to accept an offer to take over the college farm

His only alternative was to accept an offer to take over the college farm and operate it on lease as a private enterprise. This he did for 17 years, retailing milk by the hottle in the university residential area

10. vaneouver sun article, (April 18, 1951, page 20) announcing John's retirement. The reference to "31 years service" may be a mistake, but calculated in terms of actual manhours, it is perhaps more accurate than the real figure of 22 years.



17, 1961; Andrew and Mary are pictured at the inaugural presentation of the John Young Memorial Trophy for Best Ayrshire Herd at the annual PNE.



he world raels on", as old Burns sings, and so it does and should. The farm lives now only in memory, as do John and Mary themselves, and in the stories passed down to children and grandchildren. The arts of telling and remembering are essential to humanity, or so the Scots have always believed. Sometimes it is only at a great distance that the value, the lasting worth of something, comes clear. One can't hear of summer days of harvesting in the hayfield, when neighbours and friends would crowd around to help with the work; when songs and laughter would roll down the hay rows as people put their backs to the job under the hot sun, with John's strong and certain presence always at their shoulder; or of his always taking the heaviest part of the load as the hay was lifted into the upper tier of the horse barn, then drinking a beer at the end of the day, the only time he ever did; one can't hear these days spoken of without experiencing, in some small measure, the seasonal surety and serenity of that life - for all its tribulations - and valuing it; valuing, and wanting to pass the story on to others. Memories, though, are ineffable things and can be lost. As the last of the old buildings, the horse barn, is cleared away, we, the heirs and descendants of John and Mary Young thank you for your kind interest in them, and would like to share with you our hope that these remembrances will one day take a new form - a form that values and speaks for them, and for the days of the Canadian family farm.

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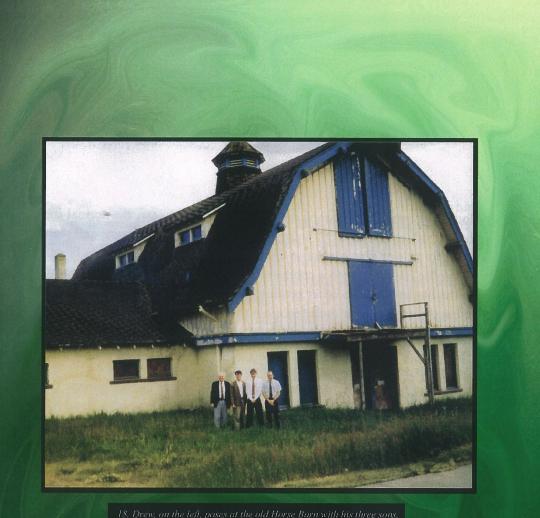
<u>UBC Grads</u>: (Children & Grandchildren of John Young)

David Bryson Young, B.Sc.Ag. 1947. Archibald Douglas Young, B.A&Sc. 1947 Andrew Bryson Young, MD 1959. Robert John Alexander Fraser, B.Ap.Sc 1971. Neil David Fraser, B.Ap.Sc. 1978. Lillian Mary Boyle, BSN 1990. Ross Cameron Young, B.Sc.Ag. 1985 Joanne Wendy Smith, BSN 1983. Maureen Patricia Smith, BSF 1984, BLA 1995 Sharon Elizabeth Pritchard (nee Young), B.Ap.Sc. 1986. Brian Andrew Bryson Young, BA 1987. Donald John Young, B.Sc. 1989, MD 1994, CCFP 1996. David Michael Young, B.Hum.Kin 1994, B.Ed, 1995.

<u>UBC Attendees</u>: (Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren of John Young) Alastair James Young, 1939-41. Jean Mckerrow Smith (nee Young), 1949-50. Gregory Glen Smith, 1982-83 & 1985-86. Erica Louise Fraser-Dauphinee, 2003-04.







18. Drew, on the left, poses at the old Horse Barn with his three sons, Bryson, David and Donald, on the occasion of David's graduation from UBC with a Bachelor of Education, in May 1994. Don was to graduate that same year from the UBC Medical School.

