

**The Doctor's Wife**  
**(~ or ~ Great Affectations).**

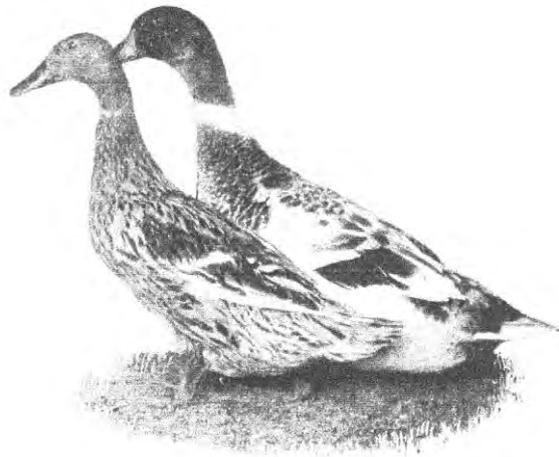
By  
Jonathan M. Thompson

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Since the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Khaki Campbell Duck has been renowned for its phenomenal production of large, white-shelled eggs; a period of 111 years to the present day, and yet surprisingly little has been known about the back-ground to either Mrs. A. Campbell or her creations, the Campbell and the Khaki Campbell Ducks.

### **The first Campbell Duck.**

The first mention of the 'Campbell Duck' is an advertisement, placed in February 1898, by Mrs. Campbell of Uley, Gloucestershire, offering eggs for sale at 4s. per dozen. In the same month other people in the village of Uley advertised adult Campbell Ducks for sale; Mrs. Campbell's near neighbour, Miss N. Edwards, of Coaley Poultry Farm, advertised a drake and five laying Campbell ducks, priced at 24s. 6d. in the April of 1898.



As eggs and stock-birds were available in the spring of 1898, adult stock of the breed must have been in existence prior to this date. Little, if any, information about the creation of this 'proto-type' duck was published in the early years of its emergence upon the public scene.

In 1912 Mrs Campbell said in an interview:

It is over twenty-five years now since I first started poultry-keeping with a few cross-bred ducklings that so persisted in living in my back yard that in self defence I had to buy them. A few mongrel hens followed, just for eggs. I did not know one breed from another then, nor anything about the habits of hens. I was shocked to find I did not get an egg per diem per fowl. . . .

I originated two varieties of ducks now known as "Campbells" and "Khaki Campbells". These are ducks for egg-production firstly, with fair table qualities. They have been known to average 256 eggs per annum and weigh 4½lbs. to 5lbs. at twelve weeks old. Various matings of Rouen, Indian Runner and Wild Duck were resorted to produce them.

In 1925 Mrs. Campbell gave a further account of its derivation:

. . . I had just one duck, a fawn and white Indian Runner, which laid 195 eggs in 197 days. She was the only duck in the yard, a rather poor specimen in appearance, and with no pedigree. However, I thought some good layers might be expected from her, but I wanted a little more size and mated her to a Rouen drake. Hence the lacing. The original Campbells were practically this cross, except that one season a Mallard drake was used.

From the above statements, and taking into account the two pairings mentioned, it may be deduced that the original pairing of Rouen x Runner took place at least a couple of years prior to 1898, giving a start-date of circa 1895/6.

The earliest description of the Campbell Duck was given as follows:

*Poultry*, 12<sup>th</sup> August 1898, p. 336. To Correspondents:

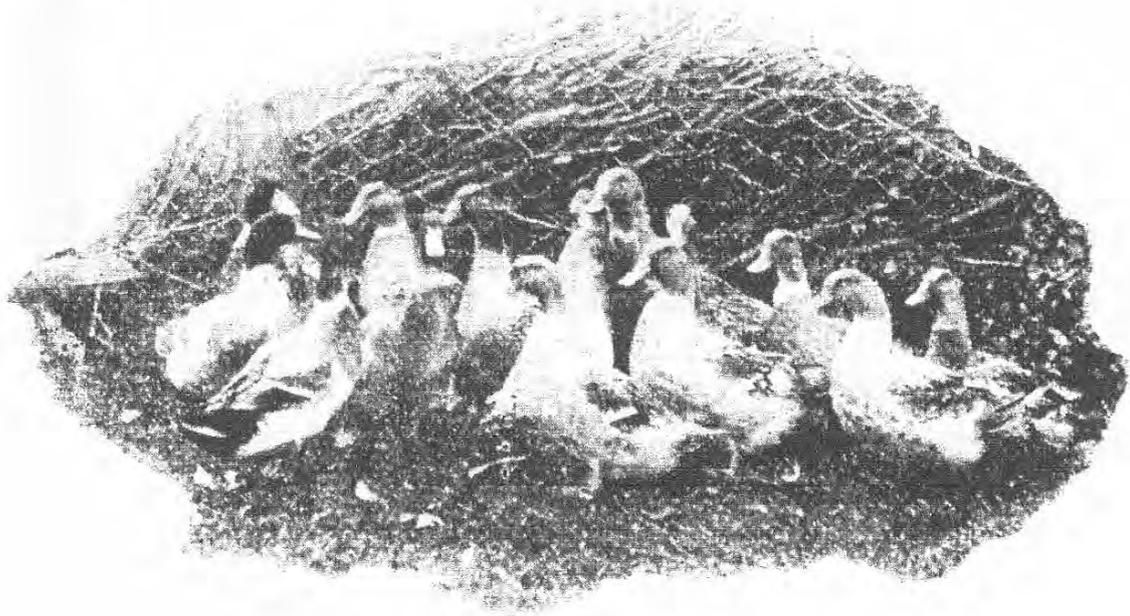
Campbell Ducks (*J.B.S.*)--The colour of the *duck* should be greyish brown, with the centre of feather marked dark brown; head plain brown, preferably with no streak from eye; white ring around neck; bill dark slate colour; legs yellow.

*Drake* in summer the adult males are very similar to the duck in plumage. In winter they have a glossy green head; grey back getting darker towards the tail; a pale claret breast, the paler the better; bill, ring around neck, and legs same as duck.

The fore-going, is, we believe, the standard colour aimed at as perfection by the originator. Many ducks come lighter and are preferred by those who desire table ducks. All are, we believe,

equally good layers. When full grown stock ducks shall weigh 4½ to 5lbs., when in store condition. Of course they can by fattening be made much heavier. Do not cross with any other breed. For one season you might venture to breed from those you have, but an older drake would be better with your young ducks. No doubt if you advertise in this paper you will be able to procure one not too closely related to your own. Ducks hatched in April should lay in October, if properly fed.

This early description requires white neck-rings in both sexes of the breed, and a diluted Mallard-colouration in the drakes; something that was to re-appear from Khaki Campbell Ducks around 1917, in the 'proto-type' of the Abacot Ranger Duck (Streicherente).



Joseph Pettipher wrote under the *non de plume* of 'Rufus'; he resided at Banbury, Oxfordshire, and in November 1898, was among the first people outside of Gloucestershire to offer 'Campbell Ducks' for sale.

Images (above) of the early Campbell Ducks showing neck-rings in both sexes are featured in *Our Poultry* (1902). These photographs had most probably been taken by Joseph Pettipher, or his travelling companion, when they enjoyed the Campbells' hospitality at Uley in 1899, with "the celebrated Campbell Ducks, the Silkies and the Brahmas, each in turn being snapped and re-snapped." They also visited Miss N. Edwards\* at near-by Coaley Poultry Farm.

\*Foot-note: *Poultry*, September 20th 1901: Louis Vander Snickt presents an article on "The Campbell Duck" in which he relates how he met Miss Edwards, of Coaley Poultry Farm (originator of the Coaley Fawn Duck, circa 1901) at the Reading Conference (1899) and she said of the breed that it was: "A new breed of ducks possessing astonishing laying qualities, produced by crossing the Indian Runner with the Rouen and the wild duck. A duck of this breed laid 186 eggs in 192 days." Vander Snickt makes no mention of Mrs. Campbell. Perhaps the two ladies were not on the best of terms. One can only muse that any meeting between this Edwardian couple, Miss Edwards and Mrs Campbell, would have resembled the tea-party scene in Wilde's most famous play.

### **Naming the breed.**

How the breed came by its name is surrounded by some very tenuous explanations. As the creator of the breed it is reasonable to suppose that Mrs. Campbell, herself, may have bestowed it with that of her own. One, and seemingly the only, reference to the naming of the breed is given in 1923, by Joseph Pettipher, in a very curious piece of writing when he refers to the original strain as:

. . . what might roughly be termed a grey duck. The Khaki colour was an afterthought, they came in during the course of perfecting and fixing the breed. As one who had the original colour, I must say it is a very much more pleasing appearance, but the main point is that it came in, not because it was pretty but because it came in the course of increasing the volume of the egg census. When Mrs. Campbell set out to fix her laying ducks I do not suppose she ever dreamed her breed would attain its present position in the poultry world. It was in 1901 that they were first announced to the world as a breed.

Here, the reader must remind them-self that Pettipher is writing of the ‘original’ duck that entered the poultry arena in 1898. He continues:

In that year [1901?], when corresponding with me about them, she wrote: “What shall I call them?” I replied “Campbells,” and as such I first gave them that name in the Press. The prefix came afterwards, when the khaki colour came in.

Whether this account is due to a lapse of memory on Pettipher’s part is not known, for it is decidedly confused evidence, relating as it does, to both forms of the Campbell Duck; and the ‘Press’ report mentioned has, as yet, not been located.

### **The Khaki-Campbell Duck.**

Joseph Pettipher also relates that, in appearance, the Campbell Duck did not altogether please the Public, and further matings eventually produced the Khaki Campbell Duck.

Although Mrs Campbell insisted on the breed retaining its productive qualities, contrary to general belief, she did exhibit her Khaki-Campbell Ducks at the major poultry shows.

At the Westminster and the Olympia Shows in 1922 Khaki-Campbell Duck Club was formed, with Harold Paine as Secretary, and a Khaki Campbell Drake won the International Trophy at Olympia, causing a sensation. At the AGM of the KCD Club in 1923, Dr. Campbell was elected President; and Oscar Gray (the originator of the Abacot Ranger Duck) was on the committee; Mrs Campbell was absent due to illness.

### **The Private Life of Mrs. Campbell.**



In all early press reports the lady in question is referred to simply as “Mrs. Campbell” or “Mrs. A. Campbell” as, in the etiquette of the time, a wife would be known by her husband’s name simply prefixed by ‘Mrs.’ i.e. Mrs. Arthur Campbell; a married woman’s Christian name would be used only by her intimate circle.

Joseph Pettipher, writing in 1920 on the Khaki-Campbell Ducks, styles her “Mrs. Adale Campbell” ~ and this has been generally accepted to be correct. Paul Ives’ (1947) repetition of this name appears to have added further credence to its accuracy, and writers have since followed in his wake in giving “Adale” or “Adele” and or even “Adelle” as Mrs. Campbell’s Christian name.

And so it has been; and Mrs. Campbell was thought of as the wife of a Gloucestershire doctor; for that she was ~ and more . . .

In 1880, at Louth, Lincolnshire, Arthur James Campbell of Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Ireland, who had qualified as a Medical Practitioner at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, married Adah Caroline Mills of Holywood, near Belfast, Ireland, and she became Mrs.

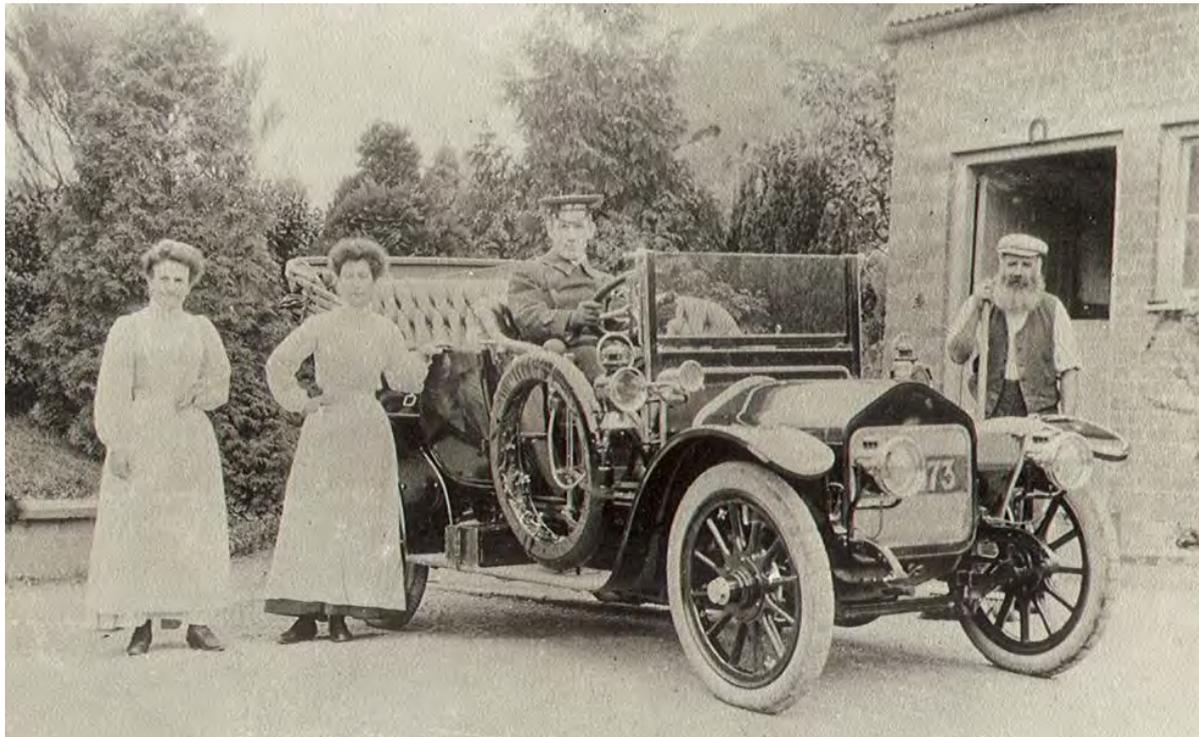
Arthur Campbell. Adah Mills had been born in 1856, and her husband was two years her junior.

The couple initially lived at Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, where, in 1881, their only child was born and christened Arthur Charles Campbell, known as 'Charlie'. At this time they employed a general servant in the form of Sarah Ann Baylis of Bassingham, Lincolnshire, who was just twelve years of age.

Mrs. Campbell states she commenced poultry-keeping around the year 1887. It is probable the family were by then living in Rose Villa, The Street, Uley, Gloucestershire, as Dr. Campbell had achieved the position of Medical Officer for the district. Here, by 1891, they had engaged a slightly more mature domestic servant from the village; one Laura Malpas, twenty years of age.

The Campbells seem to have had difficulty in retaining their domestic help for any period of time until, at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Eliza Whitfield, at 27 years of age, was engaged as a general servant; and she was still with them in 1911. Eliza and her younger sister, Lily, also acted as receptionist-come-nurse during Dr Campbell's surgery hours; during which period his patients were expected to attend no later than nine o'clock in the morning as they were not wanted to be seen on the pathway after that hour.

Foot-note: The Whitfield family lived at Whitecourt in the village of Uley. In the census of 1901 & 1911, Eliza Whitfield appears as residing at both Rose Villa & Whitecourt. It might have been that Mrs Campbell wished to appear to have a live-in servant at Rose Villa, or the Whitfield's thought of Eliza as living at their family home.



In the photograph (circa 1910) are Eliza & Lily Whitfield (the Maids), William J. Bruton (the Chauffeur) & Mr Nicholls (the Handy-man). Photograph courtesy of Charles Martell.

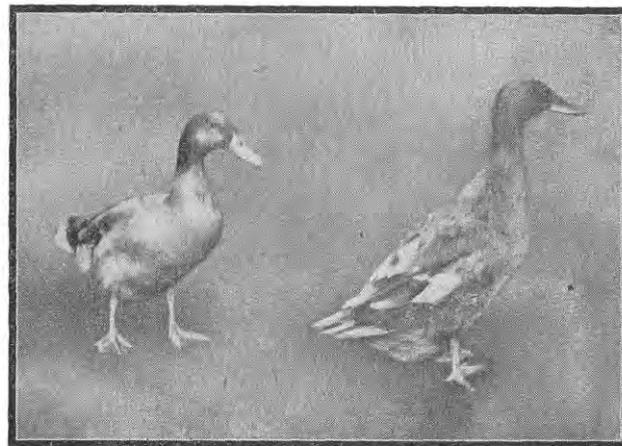
The young Arthur Charles Campbell became a bank clerk by profession by the time he was twenty years old. No record has been found of him ever enlisting in the army, which dispels the presumption he could have suggested the name "Khaki" on being de-mobbed at

the end of the Boer War. In 1909, then working in Bath, Somerset, he married Annie Matilda Glass of Melksham, Wilts. The couple had Annie Green, of Uley, aged 17 years old, as their domestic servant. Around this time young 'Charlie' had inserted the name *Delvercourt* among his Christian names.

By 1910, Mrs. Campbell was a well-known breeder and successful exhibitor of Dark Brahma, Silkie, Sultan, Silver-Pencilled Wyandotte and Spangled Orpington Fowls, as well as originating both varieties of the Campbell Duck. In this year Dr. Campbell traded-in his pony and trap and purchased a motor-car that was driven by the chauffeur, William J. Bruton. §

Photograph courtesy of Charles Martell.

§Foot-note: Wlm J. Bruton was born in Bristol, where his father, James, of Dursley, Glos., was working as a carpenter. William returned to the area and married. His daughter, Helen Marion Bruton ~ known as Marion, had worked for the Campbells in the early 1920's; she married Dennis J. Kemp and continued to live in the village of Uley; and it was she, as Mrs. Kemp, who was able to furnish Charles Martell with much detail about the Campbell Family and drew a layout of the grounds, showing the site of the duck-house, etc.



**TYPICAL KHAKE CAMPBELLS.**

Bred by Mr. J. Pettipher, Woodway House, Banbury.

Photograph: Poultry World Yearbook 1921

From this period onwards, the family's activities are less easy to trace, save the fact that Dr. and Mrs Campbell vacated Rose Villa, Uley to take up residence in Cambridge Villa, St. Ives, Ringwood, Hampshire, around 1924-25 and about the time of the Doctor's retirement. Whether or not, Mrs. Campbell's, by this time, famous ducks also made the move is presently unknown. The Campbell's maid, Eliza Whitfield stayed in Uley, where she died, un-married, in 1931.

Adah Caroline Campbell appears never to have attempted any 'correction' to her Christian name(s) as given in the Press, and died in 1930, aged 74 years, at Ringwood,

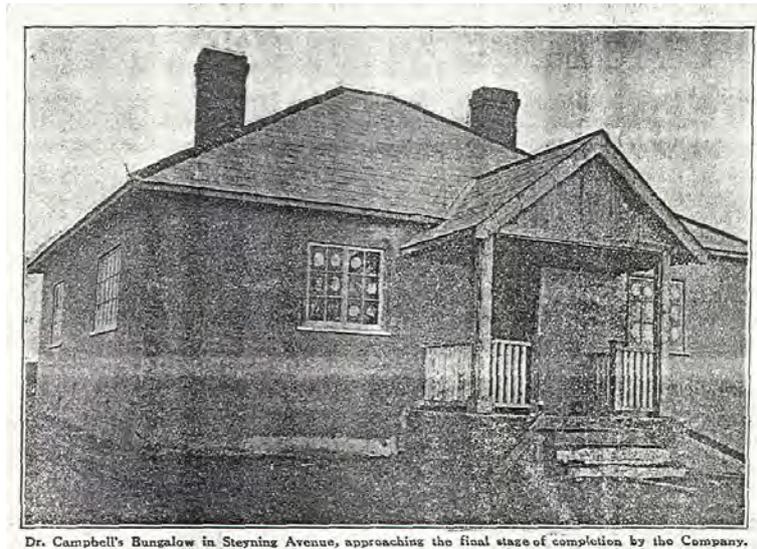
Hampshire, after a long illness; but even then her true forenames were not to be revealed ~ etiquette was to maintain that secret for her.

*The Feathered World Year Book 1931, p.15:*

In Memoriam

The death of MRS. ARTHUR CAMPBELL on November 17<sup>th</sup> [1930], was a sad grief to her very wide circle of friends: for forty years a breeder of Brahmas, and of Silkies but ten years less, her place will be hard to fill.

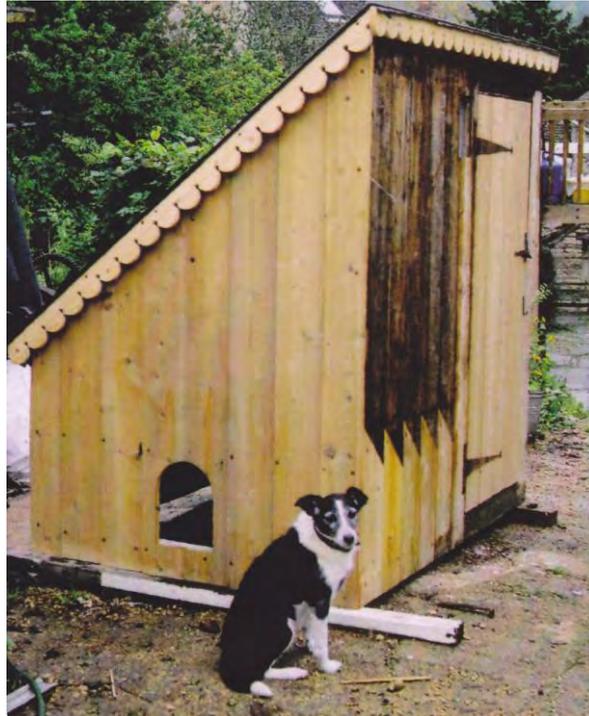
Strangely, no mention is made of her ducks, which had by this time been exported to all parts of the world and their fecundity, even in the present day, continues to be the stuff of legend ~ as does she, for the two are inextricable in our history of domestic waterfowl.



Photograph from *The Peacehaven Post*, Jan.1922, courtesy of Charles Martell.

Dr. Arthur Campbell who had, also, a long association with the Silkie Fowl Club, removed himself to Sunny-Cliffe, Steyning Avenue, Peacehaven, near Brighton, Sussex, and lived in the bungalow he had built in the early 1920's, for his retirement and, it has been suggested, without his wife's knowledge, as Adah Campbell refused to move there.

Dr Campbell co-habited at Peacehaven with his 'house-keeper', Miss Alexina Guthrie, until his death in April 1950, in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year.



Mrs Campbell's original Duck House during restoration.

Photograph courtesy of Charles Martell.

As a foot-note to the Campbell Duck's story:

Charles Martell, through the help of Mrs Marion Kemp, of Uley, was able to locate Mrs Campbell's original duck house. Although, by now, somewhat dilapidated, the corrugated iron roof had preserved it in a recognisable condition. Charles obtained ownership of the duck house in exchange for a consignment of his own brand of cheese, and it has now been restored to its full glory (above) by craftsman, Andy Bell, and houses Khaki Campbell Ducks once again.

**References Sources:** Papers held at the National Archives, the General Records Office, UK., and the British Library; and with the generous assistance of Mr. Charles Martell of Dymock, Gloucestershire, who has carried out so much research on the Khaki Campbell Duck and the Campbell family (see *The Telegraph* 01Dec. 2007 & BWA's *Waterfowl Yearbook 2008*.) and has so kindly permitted use of his photographs in this piece.

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