



FAMILIES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 64 | NUMBER 4 | NOVEMBER 2025



The Wendish Easter tradition of decorating eggs is demonstrated here.

(photo by Dr. Bernd Gross on Wikimedia Commons)

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My Unusual Find: Coffin Register

The Original Baby Name Book: The Bible

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From the Editor



Heather McTavish
Taylor,
Managing Editor

I am sitting at my desk on the eve of game seven of the World Series, it's November first and at 4:00pm, it's already starting to get dark outside. Last night, I went to a costume party at the pickleball courts. And just the other day, I was doing a thorough search on Newspapers.com, looking for any social commentary on my ancestors. I came across a treasure trove of articles about my father from the 1950's and 1960's. While I had seen my grandmother's scrapbook, and had heard tales of my dad's athletic exploits, I really didn't understand just how good of an athlete he was in multiple sports and activities. There were articles about him playing basketball, football, hockey, fastball and baseball. He was the league batting champion the first year that he switched from fastball to baseball, the year that I was born. No Vladdy Guerrero Jr., but pretty impressive. And, there was mention of him in the newspaper when he passed his grade eight piano exam, and another when he got married, and others when he won awards while working at IBM. Such great life snippets that add to my family stories. Newspaper articles and other published items, provide a layer of texture to the canvas, and help us to understand not just the facts of someone's life, but how they might have lived their life. I want my descendants to know not just my name but who I am as a person, and I think that writing down all the things that I enjoy doing as hobbies, is extremely important. What about you – do you have this as part of your Legacy plans? I am interested to hear what things you enjoy doing in your

spare time, and what makes you, you. Write to me and let me know!

Our November issue of *Families* is chock full of unique articles about different characters in our lives. We have the winning student essay in this issue! Ava St. Pierre tells us about the musical legacy that her father's family has passed down through the generations. Robb Gorr writes about his Wendish ancestors, a group of immigrants that had separate and distinct customs that were often overshadowed by the better-known cultures. George Neville has added information to an article about Paul Shipman that we published in August. Rob Stieglitz has written an article about clashing loyalties amongst one family during the American Revolution. Anna Dutfield walks us through a process for correctly identifying family members through the use of military records, the FAN technique and signature analysis. Drew von Hasselbach also takes a look at signatures as a way of tracking our ancestors. And Nancy Gilbride Casey tells us about finding an ancestor in an unusual source – coffin registers. Of course, we also have book reviews, an interesting instalment to the What's in a Name segment, and finally a trip through the OGS branches in Western Ontario. So much excellent content – I hope that you enjoy it!

Wishing you success in all of your genealogy work, whatever it may be. May all your brick walls crumble!

Heather

A black and white illustration of a quill pen, angled diagonally. The quill has a detailed feather texture and a small swirl at its base.

FAMILIES

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you to add to the LACKEY article posted in the August 2025 edition of *Families*.

I would like to thank George Neville and his wife Iris (née McLinton) for not just transcribing the tombstones in the old Methodist Cemetery, now the Prospect United Church Cemetery, but adding researched information to it. In 1976, when this booklet* was published, there was no internet.

On page 8 was listed nine burial records found in the Anglican Burial Records for Ashton. Four of those nine are my family: Thomas Lackie (son of William Lackey and Sarah Clarke), Sarah Lackie (née Featherstone) his wife, Catherine Graham (née Lackey) full sister to the above Thomas and my 2x great grandmother, and lastly, Henry L. Graham (son of Catherine Lackey) who is my great grandfather. Henry L. Graham, a protestant, married Mary Ann Purdy (of Purdy Road in Goulbourn Township), a Catholic. He would not turn Catholic and so she is buried in Notre Dame Cemetery (Ottawa) with a son, while Henry's wish was to be buried with his parents at Prospect. My grandmother told me that Henry Graham's casket was sent by train from Westboro in Ottawa, to be buried in Prospect, in a grave that was unmarked.

I had no idea that Thomas and Sarah Lackie were buried there, and might never have known of it, if it hadn't been for George Neville and his wife including the information in this booklet. Thomas and Sarah Lackie must have been close to my 2x great grandparents. Thomas bought 100 acres near Ashton, and Robert and Catherine Graham had 5 acres of that 100, just outside Ashton going towards Stanley's Corners (Goulbourn Township). Sarah Featherstone's mother was a Graham and I have often wondered if she was related to Robert Graham or if it was just a coincidence.

As a result of this tremendous find, I have found that it is always worthwhile to go through old transcription records. You never know what might be added to them, and the older tombstones may still have been legible at the time of publishing.

Marilyn Cottrell
Nepean, Ontario

*Prospect United Church Cemetery (A Pioneer Methodist Cemetery & Church of Lanark County), West Half Lot 25, Con. 4, Beckwith Township (Map Reference 226 941), Ottawa Branch O.G.S Publication 76-5.



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INVISIBLE IN PLAIN SIGHT: The Story of the Wends of the Upper Ottawa Valley

Robbie Gorr

Robbie Gorr is proud to be a third generation Wendish-Canadian. He has spent almost fifty years researching his Wendish ancestry in Germany and the Upper Ottawa Valley.

Keyword Surnames: Budarich, Domann, Gerndt, Greschens, Hammel, Kolasser, Krüger, Lisk, Rinza, Sinn

Keyword Places: Algona Township, Alice Township, Australia, Brandenburg, Drachhausen, Greenlake, Hagarty Township, Iowa, Kreis Cottbus, Lyndoch Township, Nebraska, Ottawa River, Pembroke, Prussia, Quebec, Raglan Township, Renfrew County, South Africa, South America, Stafford Township, Texas, Upper Ottawa Valley, Wilberforce Township

You won't find anyone described as Wendish on any Canadian census. There are no civil documents or religious records that will describe their nationality as Wendish. They didn't even call themselves Wends [1]. But they did exist, they were here, and in relatively substantial numbers. They were a little-known and not often spoken about group that came to Renfrew County from a specific region of Prussia in the mid-nineteenth century. Settling amidst their German and Polish Kashub pioneer neighbours, they were often recorded as German although their true origins were something very different. The story of the Wends is a tale of a unique culture that has become obscured since their arrival in Canada. They were, figuratively and literally, invisible in plain sight amongst the other central European settlers of the Upper Ottawa Valley.

They were a small Slavonic minority that had existed within the German states for centuries but had

maintained their own unique language, culture and customs. Their German neighbours called them Wends although they called themselves Sorbs or Sorbians. Many of these Wendish communities were located in Kreis Cottbus [2] in the province of Brandenburg and were able to conserve their own separate identity after generations of close contact and even intermarriage with their German neighbours.

The Wends spoke a West Slavic language known as Lower Sorbian. It was more closely related to Polish, Czech, Silesian and Slovak than to German and was the common language of home and daily life. Most had some understanding of the German language, though, as almost all belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran church where Hochdeutsch or High German was predominant. As a result, family researchers will discover that records of their Wendish ancestors were written in the parish registers in German.



Figure 1 - The New Testament of a Bible published in the Wendish language. (photo by Julian Nyča on Wikimedia Commons)

Most traditions and celebrations of the Wends were connected closely with the church calendar especially the festivals surrounding Easter and Christmas as well as the personal milestones of baptisms, marriages and burials that were consecrated in the church. By way of example, attending religious services, decorating eggs and a bountiful family meal were all parts of the Easter celebration. There was also the tradition of sprinkling “Easter water”, taken from a fresh spring or brook, on family members to bless them with health and prosperity.



Figure 2 - The Wendish Easter tradition of decorating eggs is demonstrated here. (photo by Dr. Bernd Gross on Wikimedia Commons)

Other Wendish traditions were linked to the events of rural farm life and followed the cycle of nature, part of their distant pagan origins as are many Christian traditions, such as to promote fertility in the spring, celebrate the harvest in fall or to drive winter away.

Their clothing was another distinctive trait of the Wends. In addition to the everyday work clothes that included wooden shoes, heavy pants and mid-length skirts, there were different traditional costumes applicable to the occasion. There was great distinction between church apparel, festival attire and the bridal ensemble with differences in colour, length of skirts and size of bonnets, all with innumerable dress codes for all occasions.



Figure 3 - A photo of a woman wearing traditional Wendish daily work apparel circa 1896. (photo by A. Wagner on Wikimedia Commons)

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Young girls were recognized by their bright red skirts but this colour was not allowed to be worn in church or in a cemetery. Green was the favoured colour for married women who may also have worn darker colours like wine red, blue or purple while older women wore brown. Black was the most festive colour worn only on Christmas Day and other high church holidays and also by a bride on her wedding day. White was worn usually only as a sign of mourning. All women also wore an overly large headscarf that could be tied in several distinctive ways.



Figure 4 - A photo of the author's distant cousin Luise Kuhlmann and her daughter Berta, both wearing traditional Wendish festive costumes, taken circa 1927 in Turnow, Kreis Cottbus. (author's family photo)

Men also wore traditional clothing with additional trim and embellishment for special occasions. The trim needlework and the embroidered patterns on garments were unique to each area and village and the wearer could be identified as a citizen of a particular place from those recognizable and traditional elements.

In the mid-nineteenth century many Wends left home, beginning in the early 1850s, looking for new lands and

new opportunities. They migrated to the American states of Texas, Nebraska and Iowa and to South Africa, Australia and South America where they lived together in those places, forming new colonies. A group also migrated to Canada almost a decade later, perhaps choosing this place because they were encouraged and persuaded by agents of the British government or perhaps because the cost of passage to Canada was less expensive than it was to Texas or Australia. And once they arrived at the port of Quebec, it was to the province of Upper Canada that they were directed, where they settled together to form a new community.

As with the German and Polish settlers arriving at the same time, the Wends were likely attracted by the offers of free land grants presented by government immigration agents travelling through the German provinces, a tempting prospect for landless tenant farmers and estate labourers. The first recorded mention of the German settlement in the Ottawa Valley was in the report of one such government agent Wilhelm Sinn [3] in October 1860. At that time, he identified ninety-five recently settled families in the outlying townships on the south side of the Ottawa River that included about sixty German and thirty-five Polish Kashubian homesteaders [4].

Four Wendish families [5] were included among those earliest arrivals but not designated as such, not any differently from their German counterparts. They even, alongside many other early settlers, signed a testimonial statement [6] about their initial prosperity that was used in a brochure to attract further settlers.

The 1861 census, taken just a few months after Sinn's report, lists all these same Wendish families but designates them as "Prucian [Prussian]" in origin [7]. They are recorded in that census in close proximity as they all had settled in the Greenlake area of Wilberforce Township. The lake itself was a small body of water but the land around it was generally flat although covered by large areas of marsh and swamp. The largest timber there had already been harvested by

lumber companies and earlier inhabitants of the township so the newly arrived settlers had to clear the tree stumps and numerous stones from their land in order to prepare and plant it.



Figure 5 - The tombstone of Wendish immigrant Lisa Hammel, wife of Martin Krüger, in the Lutheran parish cemetery at Greenlake is like so many others, written in German with no indication of her Wendish origins

The arrival of the first Lutheran missionary Rev. Hermann Gerndt [8] in 1861 was important as he was the first to recognize and record the fact that some of those homogeneously-grouped German settlers were actually Wendish and he identified them as such. He wrote that “eight miles from Pembroke live some 50 families, Pomeranian and Wendish from the region of Cottbus...The Wends understand only a little German, though they are all Evangelical Lutheran.” [9] And in his parish record book over the ensuing years he diligently listed their names and places of origin, the many towns and villages of Kreis Cottbus and environs.

The region Rev. Gerndt considered his mission to be 150 miles long by 60 miles wide. [10] It covered almost the entirety of Renfrew County, but mainly the upper townships and some outlying parts further abroad.

Although settlement had begun in this area almost twenty years earlier the roads were still very primitive. Many thoroughfares were only narrow trails through the bush or rough corduroy roads [11] spanning the numerous swamps. Pastor Gerndt walked to meet his parishioners or rode on horseback from his mission centre in Alice Township. Early services were held in the homes of the settlers, even on weekdays to enable him to cover his immense territory. [12]

The majority of the newly arrived European settlers were farmers, some few were labourers, and some were skilled craftsmen. They were hard-working, thrifty, law-abiding people. All of them had received the benefit of an elementary education; they were not illiterates. [13]

When Gerndt sent his first report back to Synod he described “wretched little huts” [14] of log construction, surrounded by primeval forests with few passable roads, an inclement climate, and myriads of insects of every colour, shape and variety. This report was not intended to be bleak. Rev. Gerndt was reputed to be a person whose “statements are plain unadorned facts, without any colouring and exaggeration” [15]. It was merely to provide a description of the difficult conditions in which they toiled and lived. Indeed, the government agent Wilhelm Sinn reported that despite the hard work and difficult conditions, he found the settlers to be hopeful, and grateful for the opportunity to advance themselves to the possession of a homestead and the certainty of comparative independence, so different from their home country. [16]

After the initial group of Wendish migrants in 1858, there were no more arrivals for four years until 1862 but then almost annually for the better part of the next decade they came, some on their own and others to join family members already settled. The Domann family serves as an example. Anna Domann likely arrived in 1858, possibly connected to Mathias Lisk whose family had been among the first Wendish settlers to arrive in the Valley. Her brother Matthes Domann with their widowed father Hans followed her in 1863, either to

seek her out, encouraged in letters to join her or fleeing their own problems [17]. Another brother Martin Domann arrived five years later to join the rest of his family in 1868. The family of Martin Krüger, by contrast, arrived in 1865 with children and step-children, part of a group that also included his brother-in-law's family and several of his wife's cousins.

The newly arrived settlers faced not only the hardships of clearing the land and erecting homes to meet the requirements of their land grants but they also were subjected to the harsh conditions of the seasons including the long cold winters and the occasional unexpected volatility of the weather. In the spring of 1865, a drought at planting time had been followed by a deluge, and then in the summer months the crops, especially the vegetables, were attacked by large numbers of vermin. The resulting crop failure had caused widespread famine and devastating hardship among the settlers there [18].

In an open letter to some newspapers calling for assistance, Rev. Gerndt described the people as “famished, pale, emaciated” [19], as a result of scant and inferior food causing starvation. He related that there were some men “who are so much reduced in strength that they can hardly walk any distance or do any hard work” and more than a few families sent members far afield in search of work to support the family.

Donations and neighbourly assistance saw most settlers through the hard times. Some families suffered more than others. The family of recently arrived Friedrich Hammel dealt with the deaths of several of its youngest members [20]. There was relief, however, the following year in 1866, which brought a more plentiful harvest but not soon enough for some. Hammel's wife died later that year, followed soon afterward by their newborn son [21], the first of their family to have been born in this new land.

There were few Wendish arrivals after 1869, most of those coming to join already settled family members.

The census of 1871 also showed that the majority of Wendish households, now all identified as “German”, were still located in the Greenlake area of Wilberforce Township although there was also another grouping in the west corner of the township near Mud Lake (now Wilber Lake). A few settlers, including the newly established families of now grown children, had spread into the adjacent townships of Algona, Alice and Stafford where land was more amenable to farming. This outward movement would continue into the next decade as many Wendish families relocated to the northwest into Petawawa Township and to new lands opened for settlement opportunity in the southwestern townships of the county in Raglan, Lyndoch and Hagarty.



Figure 6 - The wedding of the author's granduncle Gustav Hammel to Alwine Woito in 1911 was the union of two first generation Wendish-Canadians. The Wendish tradition of the bride wearing black is clearly observed here. (author's family photo)

During this time the Wendish settlers had been undergoing a rapid “Germanization”, using more frequently the language of the Lutheran church which was the center of worship and social life in the community. The use of German was also advantageous to those craftsmen whose business took them into contact with the German settlers in their area although they had to adjust to the Plattdeutsch or Low German spoken by most of those in their daily life.

And in a few years when their children began attending public schools taught mainly in English, did another

adaptation to life in Canada begin to change the traditional life they had left behind in the old country. There were no teachers or ministers able to speak the Wendish language so it was passed on from parents to children only at home and after the first generation had grown it became little used in households that now spoke mainly German and English.

Traditional dress also quickly changed to conform to the style and necessity of their new lives in Canada. Wendish traditions and celebrations, too, were continued in families where both parents were Wendish but frequent and increasing intermarriage with their German neighbours saw a gradual diminishment of the culture.

This integration and assimilation, first the “Germanization” and then the “Anglicization” of subsequent generations, has led to the modern day where many third, fourth and fifth generation descendants of those early pioneers are unaware of even German traditions and culture let alone their Wendish heritage.

For many today, researching their family history and discovering German roots in the Upper Ottawa Valley,

may also be surprised to learn that some of their ancestors were not German at all but members of a small and unique society and culture that has remained largely overlooked and unacknowledged here. This recognition and the subsequent study of Wendish traditions and culture will help to perpetuate and preserve this little-known part of Ontario’s, and Canada’s, history and heritage.

Further Suggested Reading

In Search of a Home: Nineteenth Century Wendish Immigration by George R. Nielson (Texas A&M University Press, 1989)

A Rock Against Alien Waves: A History of the Wends by Charles Wukasch (Concordia University Press, 2008)

The Wendish Research Exchange

<https://wendishresearch.org>

The author has compiled a list of almost 100 Wendish surnames found in records relating to the Upper Ottawa Valley. Upon inquiry he will check the list for any surnames thought to be Wendish.

gorr9900@yahoo.com

Endnotes

[1] Wends and Wendish are pronounced as “vend” and “vendish” as in the German language.

[2] Kreis is a geographic and political division similar to a county. Kreis Cottbus referred to the county which included the city of Cottbus along the Spree River as well as numerous towns, villages and hamlets.

[3] Friedrich “Wilhelm” Sinn (1823-1864), himself a German immigrant to Canada, at that time was employed by the Royal Emigration Department in Quebec City and was a well-known German emigration agent and a prominent domestic agent serving German immigrants.

[4] In his 1860 report Sinn acknowledged that his list was incomplete and that there were many other immigrants, already arrived, including “some 30 families...who have not been able to take possession, chiefly for want of roads to reach their respective lots” as well as “about a dozen families...settled in Petawawa and Westmeath” and “a great number now in service [who] will enter on land by next spring”.

[5] The 1860 list included the Kolasser family with several Lisk step-children, and the Rinza, and Budarich families who all arrived together in the spring of 1858. All these were from the village of Drachhausen in Kreis Cottbus in the German province of Brandenburg and they had travelled together with other German immigrants aboard the “Washington” that had departed the port of Hamburg on 1 May 1858. It is known that Sinn’s list was incomplete and so it is likely that there may have been other early Wendish arrivals possibly including Anna Domann, also from Drachhausen, who likely arrived with the others in that first group in 1858.

[6] The original letter, of which only a transcript remains, was written by emigration agent Wilhelm Sinn, dated 20 October 1860, and bore 40 signatures including “Fried. Kulasser, Martin Liesk, M. Budarick, M. Budarick, jr., and M. Rinza.”

[7] 1861 census for Wilberforce Township, Renfrew County, Canada West

- [8] Rev. Ludwig “Hermann” Gerndt (1821-1905). For more information see “A Life with a Mission: Assisting German Settlement in the Upper Ottawa Valley” by Robbie Gorr, previously published in *Families* (Vol. 55, No. 3, August 2016, pp. 29-35).
- [9] An English translation of the original German report to the Canada Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Rev. Hermann Gerndt in 1861, now in the possession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada Archives located at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, and quoted in *Harvest of Stones: The German Settlement in Renfrew County* (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1985) by Brenda Lee-Whiting (p. 295).
- [10] An 1865 Canada Synod report quoted in *A Month of Sundays: A Visit to Seventy Churches in the Ottawa Valley* by Lloyd C. Morrison (General Store Publishing House, Burnstown, Ontario, 1998), p. 123.
- [11] A corduroy road or log road is a type of road made by placing sand-covered logs perpendicular to the direction of the road over a low or swampy area. The result is an improvement over impassable mud or dirt roads, yet rough in the best of conditions and a hazard to horses due to shifting loose logs.
- [12] *Zion Augsburg 110th Anniversay 1874-1984*, edited by Kornil Mielke (Custom Printers of Renfrew Ltd, Renfrew, Ontario, 1984), p. 6.
- [13] 100th Anniversary of the Organization of Lutheran Services in Pembroke by Dr. Arthur Buehlow, Zion Lutheran Church, Pembroke, Ontario, 1963 as quoted in *Forward in Faith, Centennial of Zion 1883-1983* by Rev. David H. Metzger, Pembroke, Ontario, 1983, p. 6.
- [14] *St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Alice Ontario Part One 1866-1940* by Rev. Bernard Paetzold, Pembroke, Ontario, 1981, p. 5.
- [15] From “Starvation among the Settlers on the Upper Ottawa, Canada” originally printed in the *Toronto Leader*, dated 4 July 1865 and reprinted in the *Halifax Morning Chronicle*, dated 11 July 1865.
- [16] *Forward In Faith, Centennial of Zion 1883-1983* by Rev. David H. Metzger, Pembroke, Ontario, 1983, pp. 9-10.
- [17] Mathes Domann was accompanied by an unmarried woman Liese Krüger and her illegitimate child. He likely had left his wife behind in Germany in order to cohabitate with Liese who gave birth to his child in Canada. He eventually married Liese but it may have been a bigamous union as no document has yet been located to prove that his wife was deceased at the time.
- [18] These events were relayed in an open letter to national newspapers by Rev. L. H. Gerndt who was requesting assistance for the victims, and were originally printed in the *Toronto Leader*, dated 4 July 1865, and reprinted in the *Halifax Morning Chronicle*, dated 11 July 1865.
- [19] From an open letter to national newspapers by Rev. L. H. Gerndt, originally printed in the *Toronto Leader*, dated 4 July 1865 and reprinted in the *Halifax Morning Chronicle*, dated 11 July 1865.
- [20] Hammel’s youngest daughter Louise, aged two years, and two step-children Christian Greschens, aged five years, and Elise Greschens, aged three years, disappeared from the records at this time and were believed to be casualties of the famine.
- [21] For details see “The Syrian Peddler’s Son” by Robbie Gorr previously published in *Families* (Vol. 56, No. 3, August 2017, pp. 7-11).



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Paul Shipman, Early Settler of Niagara Peninsula; Losses in U.S. War of 1812 – 1814 Compiled by George A. Neville

Introduction

Butler's Rangers was a Loyalist provincial guerrilla military unit of the American Revolutionary War, raised in 1777 by American loyalist John Butler, a rich landowner of the Mohawk Valley, in New York state. Most members of the regiment were Loyalists from upstate New York and northeastern Pennsylvania. They made their winter quarters at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the west side of the Niagara River flowing north from Lake Erie over Niagara Falls to Lake Ontario. When Butler's Rangers were disbanded in June 1784, most of the Rangers and thousands of American Loyalists settled on Niagara Peninsula land on the west side of the Niagara River. The 'Province' of New York was on the east side.



Figure 1 - Grantham Township at the NE end of the Niagara Peninsula located west of the Niagara River, south of Lake Ontario and north of Lake Erie. [Photo courtesy of the Regional Municipality of Niagara]

One such small community, later to be known as St. Catharines, had a tavern built in 1797 by a Mr. Adams; afterwards sold to [John, eldest son of John an Irish subaltern from the illustrious family of Ormonde] Butler and subsequently to Paul Shipman. It was Shipman who enhanced its importance as a meeting and resting place on the stagecoach route where horses could be changed and repairs effected to wagon wheels. This village soon became known as Shipman's Corners at the junction of Ontario and St. Paul Streets in Grantham Township, the latter which became the principal street of St. Catharines and whose name had been derived after the Christian name of Paul Shipman. [1]

Paul Shipman was not a member of Butler's Rangers because his name is not on the roster of Butler's Rangers. [2] Indeed, Jane Down's recent FAMILIES article, My Notable Ontario Ancestor, not only records his genealogical information, but also states that Paul did not fight in the Revolutionary War. She was able, however, to find "Ontario militia records for two sons – George and Jacob. George was in the 1st Regiment Lincoln Militia Muster Rolls, first as a Private, then Quarter Master Sergeant and finally, Lieutenant. Jacob, also in the Militia, unfortunately died from injuries in 1813". [3]

This later familial loyalty during the War of 1812 appears consistent with the assertion above that Paul Shipman did not fight in the Revolutionary War, but it is contradicted by Down's later findings that "he was also an American Revolutionary War Veteran. During that war, he was a Master Wagoneer and fought in many battles (on the American side), which she was

able to unearth from Revolutionary War Pension records and other sources. It is not surprising, therefore, to discover that he bought a coaching inn. He was well-versed in wagon, coach and horse needs from the war.” [4]

There is no doubting that Paul Shipman became a notable and esteemed settler of St. Catharines, but in view of his checkered history, it is curious that he not only submitted claims for losses and damage to property during the War of 1812, but that he was also successful in his claims, albeit at reduced values.

Acknowledgment

The author is indebted to his friend and colleague, Arthur Beaubien of Ottawa, for scanning all 11 of the illustrative documents which were received from the PAC in March 1974 as dark xerox copies of the originals. A couple of these, because of their length, needed to be digitally stitched to obtain the whole of each. Each also needed to be cropped to minimal size by eliminating superfluous black borders, etc., digitally enhanced and brightened for clarity of inscriptions, and saved as individual files.

References:

- [1] Down, Jane, OGS Families, Vol. 64, No. 3, August 2025, p. 9.
- [2] Cruikshank, E., Butler's Rangers, The Revolutionary Period, Lundy's Lane Historical Society (1893, reprinted 1975).
- [3] Down, ibidem, p. 12.
- [4] Ibid.



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Paul Shipman, Early Settler of Niagara Peninsula; Losses in U.S. War of 1812 – 1814 Transcribed by George A. Neville

Figure 1: Statement of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman of Grantham [Twp] from the Acts of his Majesty's Troops [sic], [etc.].

Statement of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman of Grantham from the Acts of his Majesty's Troops under the command of Gen'l Meneenth in 1813 & 1814

1813
1814

To 10,000 Shingles burnt @ 25¢ per thousand £ 2 10 0
1000 feet one inch boards @ 10¢ per hundred 5 0 0
10 Cords of wood burnt @ 15\$ per Cord 7 10 0
one side of upper leather 30S 1 10 0
18 gallons of vinegar @ 8¢ per gallon 7 4 0
To the use of his house as occupied
as a Barrack and hospital 18 months } 75 0 0
To the use of his Stables occupied by the
Provincial Light }
Dragoons commanded by Captain Merritt for six months } 15 0 0
Halifax £ 123 14 0

I Paul Shipman of the Township of Grantham do hereby solemnly declare that I have actually sustained the damage in the accompanying claim set forth and that I have not received any remuneration whatever either from his Majesty's Government, from the Individuals who have committed the damage claimed for or from any person or persons for them.

Witness
W Butler

Paul Shipman [his signature]

Statement of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman of Grantham from the Acts of his Majesty's Troops under the command of Gen'l Meneenth in 1813 & 1814 [No. 1036]

Source: PAC Dept. of Finance Records, RG 19, E 5(a), Vol. 3751, [no archival pagination]
Xerox copies obtained from Public Archives Canada (PAC), 7 March 1974.

Transcribed by George A. Neville and Iris M. Neville (née McLinton)

7 - 10	£	S	d
To 10,000 Shingles burnt @ 25S per thousand	12	10	0
2 - 10			
1,000 feet one inch boards @ 10S per hundred	5	0	0
10 Cords of wood burnt @ 15S per Cord	7	10	0
0 - 10 [?]			
One side of upper leather - 30S	1	10	0
0 - 9 [?]			
18 gallons of vinegar @ 8S per gallon	7	4	0
Allowed £11 - 8 -			
To the use of his house as occupied as a Barrack and hospital 18 months }	75	0	0
To the use of his Stables occupied by the Provincial Light Dragoons commanded by Captain Merritt for six months }			
	15	0	0
Halifax	£123	14	0
	59	10	
	£183	0	4

I Paul Shipman of the Township of Grantham do hereby solemnly [sic] declare that I have actually sustained the damage in the accompanying Claim set forth and that I have not received any remuneration whatever either from his Majesty's Government, from the Individuals who have committed the damage claimed for or from any person or persons for them.

Witness
W Butler

Paul Shipman [his signature]

Author's comment: It appears that the Treasury people wrote valuations over the mid-section of each line claim, i.e. £7 – 10 over the shingles, £2-10 over the boards, 0 – 10(?) over the leather, 0 – 9 (?) over the vinegar, and crossed out the claim for cords of wood burnt, for an overall Allowance of £11 – 8 – 0 because the superimposed entries are in a different hand and different shade of ink.

Figure 2: Statements of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman from Acts of the Enemy [etc.].

Statement of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman from the Acts of the Enemy under the Command of Gen'l Mac Cluso in the year 1813

To 200 pannel [sic] fences burnt @ 2/6 per pannel [sic] £ 25 0 0
600 feet of two inch planks @ 20S p hun'd 6 0 0
3 hogs 4.10 - @ 50S of each 7 10 0
12 Shoats 5.1 [?] @ 10S each 6 0 0
2 Tuns [sic] of hay 6.0 [?] @ 75S per tun [sic] 7 10 0
Allowed 26.0.0
10 Cords of wood @ 15S per Cord 7 10 0
Halifax £ 59 10 0

I Paul Shipman of the Township of Grantham do hereby solemnly declare that the above is a true and correct Statement of the loss which I sustained by a party of the Enemy Commanded by General Mac Cluso on the fifteenth day of November in the year 1813 and I do further declare in like manner that I have not received any remuneration whatever on account of the Loss so sustained.

Witness
W Butler

Paul Shipman [his signature]

Statements of Losses sustained by Paul Shipman from the Acts of the Enemy under the Command of Gen'l Mac Cluso in the year 1813

To 200 pannel [sic] fences burnt @ 2/6 per pannel [sic]	£	S	D
600 feet of two inch planks @ 20S p hun'd	25	0	0
3 hogs 4.10 - @ 50S of each	6	0	0
12 Shoats 5.1 [?] @ 10S each	7	10	0
2 Tuns [sic] of hay 6.0 [?] @ 75S per tun [sic]	6	0	0
Allowed 26.0.0	7	10	0
10 Cords of wood @ 15S per Cord			
Halifax	£59	10	0

* Considered under Class 2 -

I Paul Shipman of the Township of Grantham do hereby solemnly [sic] declare that the above is a true and correct Statement of the loss which I sustained by a party of the Enemy Commanded by General Mac Cluso on the fifteenth day of November in the year 1813 and I do further declare in like manner that I have not received any remuneration whatever on account of the Loss so sustained.

Witness
W Butler

Paul Shipman [his signature]

Figure 3: Class 2 No 424 Paul Shipman

Class 2. No 424
Paul Shipman
 12. M. Cruik
 fencing etc
 destroyed by
 Enemy
 £59-
 Estimated at
 forty six pounds

Class 2 No 424

Paul Shipman

12. M Cruik

Fencing etc etc

destroyed by

Enemy

£59 -

Estimated at forty six pounds.

Note: Other estimate written in by different ink and hand

Figure 4: Illustration of a Claim of Loses by Paul Shipman dated at Grantham, 21 October 1815

Estimated by. John Parsons
 of Peterborough
 with Claims under No. 1.

Estimate of Loses sustained by the
 Americans When in Possession of this Place
 under the Command of General M'Arthur

70 200 Barrel	2/6	£25. 0. 0
" 100 Feet 2 in	20/-	£5. 0. 0
" 3 Hogg Paws	50/-	£1. 10. 0
" 12 Sheets	10/-	£1. 0. 0
" 2 Tuns	75/-	£7. 10. 0
" 10 Chests	7/-	£1. 0. 0
Total for burning		£59. 0. 0

Grantham October
 21st 1815
 Paul Shipman
 See other Claim

Figure 5: Damages Sustained to Paul Shipman Since the 27th June 1813 by his Majesty's Troops [sic] and Indians Stationed at the 12 Mile Creek.

Damages Sustained to Paul Shipman Since the 27th June 1813 by his Majesty's Troops and Indians Stationed at the 12 Mile Creek

** Ten thousand Shingles - 25s per thous'd*
Three hundred and Fifty Panel [sic] of Fence Burned 1 - - per Panel
Nearly half Acre of Potatoes Destroyed
Six Acres of Meadow Ditto
Fourteen Acres of Pasture Ditto 12/6

The undersigned Certify that they have Prised [sic] the above Damages as Correct as they Possibly Could.
St. Catharines August 23^d 1813

Jacob Ten Broeck
Geo. Adams

** Paul Shipman maketh Oath that his Majesty's Troops and Indians whilst stationed at his house at the twelve Mile Creek destroyed his property to the Amount of Fifty three pounds fifteen Shillings*
Currency as above stated.
Sworn before me at
Stansford Aug. 28th 1813
Thomas Clark J. P.

Paul Shipman *[his signature]*

	£	S	D
* Ten thousand shingles [sic] Burned 25S per thous'd	12	10	0
Three hundred and Fifty Panel [sic] of Fence Burned 1 - - per Panel	17	10	0
Nearly half Acre of Potatoes Destroyed	3	0	0
Six Acres of Meadow Ditto	12	0	0
Fourteen Acres of Pasture Ditto 12/6	8	15	0
Halifax	£53	15	0

Figure 6: Paul Shipman, 3rd claim for losses

Paul Shipman 3^d claim for losses

To 10,000 Shingles, 1,000 feet Boards
10 Cords Wood, leather, Vinegar
use of house 18 mo^s use of Stable

To 200 panels fence, 600 feet plank
3 Hogs, 12 Shoats [sic] - 2 Tons Hay
10 Cords Wood

Niagara District } Personally appeared before me W^m Hamilton Merritt, Esqr. One of His
To Wit } Majesty's Justices of the Peace in & of the aforesaid District, Paul Shipman of
Granham Innkeeper, who deposeth that the above Accounts to the best of his
knowledge is correct And Amos McKenney of St. Catharines, Gentlemen and
Mrs. Lydia Chisholm of same place depose that they are knowing to a part of the
above Act & believe the whole to be correct.
Sworn before me this
8th day of January 1820 [?]
W^m Hamilton Merritt J. P.

Paul Shipman *[his signature]*
A M^cKenney *[his signature]*
Lydia Chisholm *[her signature]*

To 10,000 Shingles, 1,000 feet Boards	}	£ 123 . 14. 0
10 Cords Wood, leather, Vinegar		
use of house 18 mo ^s use of Stable		
To 200 panels fence, 600 feet plank	}	59 . 10 . 0
3 Hogs, 12 Shoats [sic] - 2 Tons Hay		
10 Cords Wood		
		£ 183 . 4 . 0



Figure 7: Letter to James Macauley Esqr. from Wm Hamilton Merritt, St. Catharines 7 January 1823

about 10 minutes 7th January 1823
James Macauley Esqr.
Sir,
Mr. Shipman, cannot
procure the Affidavit of Peter Carson, who has
removed from the Country - or T. Powess who
resides on the River Thames, but sends the
deposition of Mr. Amos McKenney Mrs. Chisholm
who resides on the place and knowing to Mr
Shipman's loss - and I can further attest from
my own knowledge that he has lost property
and sustained damage to a much greater Amount.
I have the honor to be
for
Justice of the Peace
Wm Hamilton Merritt.
P.S. Should the Board conceive it necessary, the affidavit of Mr. Powess can be obtained but will
require more time.

James Macauley Esqr.
 Sir,

Saint Catharines 7th January 1823

Mr. Shipman, cannot procure the Affidavit of Peter Carson, who had removed from the Country or T. Powess who resides on the River Thames, but sends the deposition of Mr. Amos McKenney & Mrs. Chisholm who resided in the place & is knowing to Mr Shipman's losses and I can further attest from my own knowledge that he had both property and sustained damages to a much greater Amount.

I have the honor to be
 for
 Justice of the Peace
 W^m Hamilton Merritt.

P.S. Should the Board conceive it necessary, the affidavit of Mr. Powess can be obtained but will require more time.

Figure 8: Cover page

Paid 1 N 2
James B. Macauley Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Claims
York
750
Wm Hamilton Merritt

Paid [?] 1 N 2

James B. Macauley Esquire
 Secretary to the Board of Claims
 ----- York -----

[below the above title is written at a different time and ink, upside down]

P. Shipman
1036

Figure 9: Witness statement by Frank Powess and Peter Carson, witnessed by W. Butler

We Frank Powess And Peter Carson
of the Township of Grantham do hereby certify
that we have carefully examined the accompanying
Claim made by Paul Shipman of the Township
of Grantham for damages sustained by him from
his Majesty's Troops and from a party of the
Enemy under the command of General Mac Cluso
and we do further Certify from our own knowledge
that the said Paul Shipman has actually
suffered the damage for which he claims to be
remunerated and that in our estimation the sum
of one hundred and eighty three pounds four
shillings is a just and reasonable compensation
for the same and also that the several Items
therein put down are not overcharged
Witness
W Butler
Frank Powess
Peter Carson

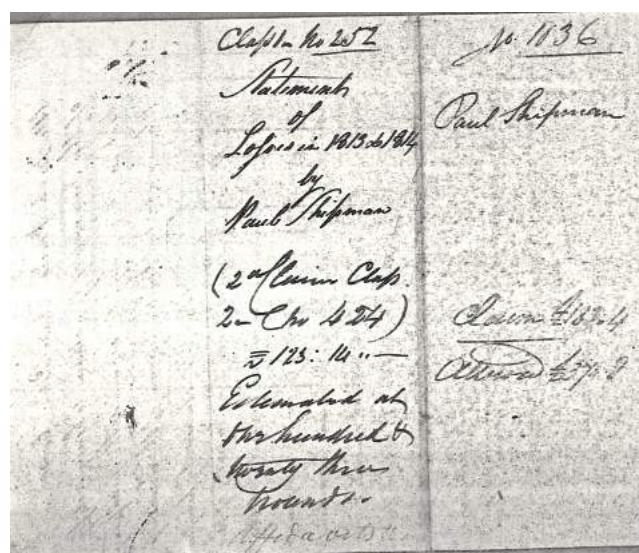
We Frank Powess, And Peter Carson of the Township of Grantham do hereby certify that we have carefully examined the accompanying Claim made by Paul Shipman of the Township of Grantham for damages sustained by him from his Majesty's Troops and from a party of the Enemy under the command of General Mac Cluso and we do further Certify from our own knowledge that the said Paul Shipman has actually suffered the damage for which he claims to be remunerated and that in our estimation the sum of one hundred and eighty three pounds four shillings is a just and reasonable compensation for the same and also that the several Items therein put down are not overcharged

Witness
 W Butler

Tunk Powess
 Peter Carson

[his signature, but poor spelling]
 [his signature]

Figure 10: Cover Panel, with very faint information inscribed on the left



Classⁿ No 252

Statement of Losses in 1813 & 1814
by Paul Shipman

(2nd Claim Class
2nd Clm 424)

£123 : 14 .. -

Estimated at three hundred &
twenty three pounds.

No 1086
Paul Shipman

[Annotations written later with different ink]
Claim £183.4
Allowed £37. 8



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Sign of the Times: How Full-Text Search can lead you to signature evidence

Drew von Hasselbach

Drew von Hasselbach, LLB, PLCGS, is a writer and lawyer living in Toronto and a mentoring professor with the International Institute of Genealogical Studies. His handwriting is illegible.

We are still coming to terms with the incredible power of the full-text search on FamilySearch.org.

For a lot of people, the opportunities provided by full-text search are straightforward: you can avoid the often-complicated maze of records on FamilySearch and instead rapidly find the birth, marriage and death registrations and other vital statistics that are the meat and potatoes of genealogical research.

Yet the true power of full-text search lies in finding the unindexed gems that can advance genealogical proofs in ways that were previously impractical, impossible, or perhaps too obscure to even have been on your radar. A prime example would be the seemingly innocuous witness statements that are attached to land and probate records.

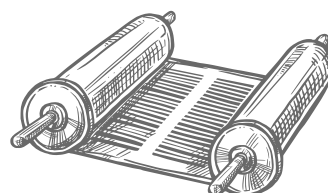
We are all probably familiar with the so-called FAN Club – friends, associates and neighbours – research technique pioneered by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This uses evidence from individuals your ancestor may have known as a proxy to place an ancestor in the right place and time to sustain a genealogical proof argument. The problem is locating such information. FAN Club research typically relies on investigating the friends, associates, and neighbours of your ancestors. But what if it was your ancestor who was the friend, associate or neighbour?

Full-text search is allowing us to locate instances where our ancestors signed their names or marked an “X” on

legal documents – concrete, first-hand evidence that they were in a specific place on a specific date. Using full-text search, I can now discover that “Edmond Buck” of South Norwich, Ontario, signed his name as a witness on at least two land documents deposited in the Oxford County registry office on specific days in 1870 and 1874. That gives me original documents with primary information that confirm he was alive and where he was on those dates. What’s more, I now also know where I can locate documents with his signatures.

I think we under-use signatures in our research. In the absence of photographs, a signature may be the best visual clue to distinguish people of a similar name. Genealogist Ronald Hill describes the method in an article published in 1999.[1] It’s not a perfect method. I make no claim to be a handwriting expert, and a lot of old penmanship looks the same to me. But hear me out.

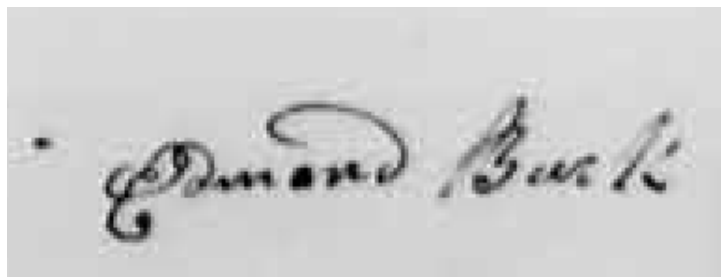
One of the biggest challenges in researching Edmond Buck – my wife’s 3x-great-grandfather – has been proving that the Edmond Buck who lived in Grimsby, Ontario, during the 1830s is the same individual who later lived in Norwich, Ontario. Edmond Buck is not a common name like, say, John Taylor or William Smith, but it’s not exactly a weird name, either.



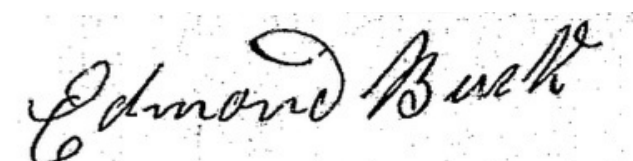
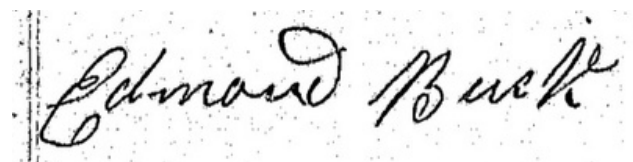
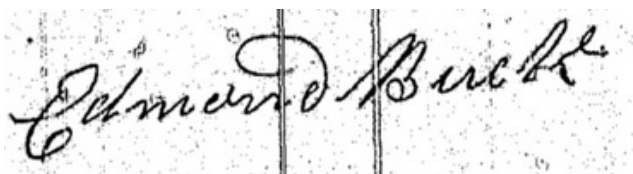
I have a signature on a marriage bond for an Edmond Buck that dates from Grimsby, Ontario, in 1834.[2] Until now, it was the only signature I had found that I believe to be his. Since this one signature dates from his Grimsby era, locating signatures made in Norwich would be an effective way to prove that Edmond Buck did indeed later live in Oxford County.

Thanks to full-text search, I found those two mentions of Edmond Buck in the land registry copy books for Norwich, Ontario.[3] Admittedly, these are just copies, not the originals. But using the dates and instrument numbers recorded in the copy book, I was able to order images of the original documents from ONLand and compare the Grimsby and Norwich signatures.

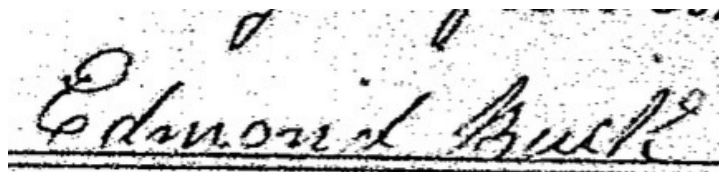
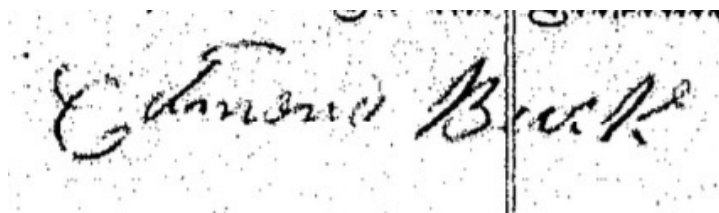
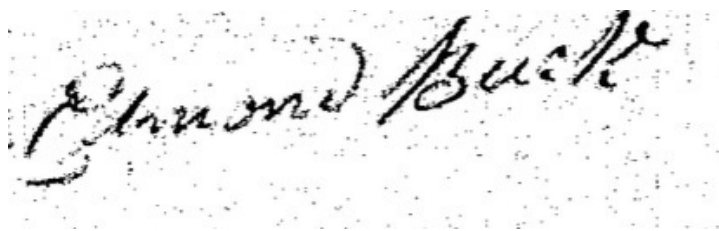
Here is the 1834 signature for Edmond Buck, then of Grimsby, found in the marriage bond.[4]



In 1870, an Edmond Buck of South Norwich, Oxford County, signed his name three times as a witness to a real estate transaction.[5]



In 1874, an Edmond Buck of South Norwich signed his name three times as a witness in another real estate transaction.[6]



Again, I am not an expert in handwriting. But I think even the average Joe can see enough similarity in these signatures to be convinced they were all made by the same man. Firstly, there is the stylized E in Edmond, which has a little loop in the middle of it. Then there is the small letter d at the end of Edmond, which has this swoopy thing that rises up, then curls to the left. The capital B in Buck is remarkably consistent across the samples.

Are all these signatures identical? No, but then signatures never really are, especially if you're comparing signatures that might be taken more than 30 years apart.

Some things are going to change over time. Indeed, you can see slight variations in the signatures that were made the same day. But overall, to my eye, these signatures were made by the same guy. Edmond Buck of Grimsby in 1834 is the same man who was living in South Norwich Township in 1870 and 1874.

This is something that would not have been possible in the absence of full-text search. I'm not sure there's any way I could have known that Edmond Buck served as a witness to a couple of random land deals in the 1870s. Finding something you were looking for is fun, but finding something you never even would have guessed existed – that's amazing. That is the power of full-text search. It gives us yet another way for our ancestors to speak to us from the past.

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Connections between family history &
other areas of research



Notes:

- [1] Ronald A. Hill, "Identification through Signatures: Using Complex Direct Evidence to Sort Colwills of Cornwall," National Genealogical Society Quarterly 87 (September 1999) at p 185 to 198.
- [2] "Norwich Township, Oxford, Ontario, Canada records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H6-N7WM?view=fullText> : Nov 20, 2024), image 162 of 532.
- [3] "South Norwich Township, Oxford, Ontario, Canada records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HD-MKKB?view=fullText> : Nov 20, 2024), image 435 of 696.
- [4] Library and Archives Canada, Marriage Bonds, 1779-1858 – Upper and Lower Canada, RG 5, B 9, Vol. 28, no. 4425, "Abraham Walker and Catherine Merrill," 17 December 1834. Edmond Walker of Grimsby and William Walker of Grimsby were the two bondsmen. Edmond wrote out his full name, and William signed with an X.
- [5] Ontario, Oxford County Land Registry Office, LRO41, no. SN478, Deed of Bargain and Sale, Daniel Templeton and Charles E. Bauslaugh, 17 October 1870.
- [6] Ontario, Oxford County Land Registry Office, LRO41, no. SN1604, Deed of Land, Martin Hicks to Daniel Hicks, 13 April 1874.



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apgcan.org

Anna Dutfield, PLCGS

Identifying soldiers from Colonial Upper Canada and linking them to their correct family lines is challenging given that most surviving military records from that era contain little more than a name, leading to possible misidentification and family history errors. However, by carefully analyzing both direct and indirect evidence – using historical context, the Friends/Acquaintances/Neighbours (FAN) research method, and signature comparison – researchers can accurately connect each soldier to his family and community.

The military history of Upper Canada in the 19th century was built on the province's earliest settler families – farmers and labourers conscripted as defenders and builders of their new home. Identifying these ordinary soldiers and their families requires searching military, court, land, and local records, as well as early newspapers and family histories. A broad search of military records for Colonial Upper Canada [1] for the early 1800s found many nominal records – pay lists, muster rolls, medal lists, and promotions – but no individual service records for this era. As part of reconstructing the family lineages of the North York Militia, several 1838 pay lists [2] were examined, listing soldiers' names, ranks, and pay. Closer scrutiny revealed men with the same surnames and signatures in different handwriting styles [3], highlighting the importance of contextual and graphic clues in records.

A key case was Private James Stoutenbrough of the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd North York Militia [4] during the Upper Canada Rebellions (1837–1838). The only identifying item for him on a November 1838 pay list was his signature, alongside 60 other men. To identify and “repatriate” James Stoutenbrough with his family, three research steps were taken: understanding the historical context of the Upper Canada Militia, applying the FAN (Friends/Acquaintances/Neighbours)

methodology to the other men on the pay list, and comparing James's signatures across records.

Name of Regiment
 PAY LIST and assistance Roll of the *Regiment of Cavalry attached to the 3rd New York Battery*
 for the month of *September* 1863
 We whose names are hereto subscribed do acknowledge to have received from *Francis Captain Capt*
 the sums set opposite to our respective names, being the amount of *Pay* due to us, according
 to the Rank we severally hold in the above Corps, and for the periods hereunder specified.


 Signature. 259

Rank	Name	Period		Days absent	Rate per day	Amount Army Stelling.	Signature
		From	To				
Captain	Francis Butler	15	30	15	15	15	Francis Butler
Lieutenant	Bartholomew						Bartholomew
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith
Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith
Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith
Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
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Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith
Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
Sergeant	James Smith						James Smith
Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith
Sergeant	George Smith						George Smith
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Sergeant	John Smith						John Smith

Figure 1 - November 1838 Pay List

To accurately identify and ‘repatriate’ James Stoutenbough with his respective family, three significant facets of the research and analysis process were carried out:

1. Research and understand the historical context of the Militia in Upper Canada in the early to mid 1800s.
2. Use the Friends/Acquaintances/Neighbours (FAN) methodology to search for records relating to the other men listed on the pay list to ascertain any possible connection between them.
3. Locate additional records that contain signatures of James Stoutenbough and compare those signatures to the ones on the military pay list to strengthen any conclusions drawn from steps 1 and 2.

Historical Context of the Upper Canada Militia

The Militia Act of 1793 authorized the appointment of lieutenants for each county who were empowered to organize and prepare local males aged 16 to 50 for battle [5]. Each militia was named for its county. The York Militia [6] was subdivided into the North York Militia, the East York Militia and the West York Militia, necessitating the service of settlers from the counties in and surrounding the present-day Greater Toronto Area (then wholly known as York County). These regiments fought in several areas of combat, of which Captain John Button [7] [8] was commander of the 1st Regiment of the North York Militia, later promoted to Major in 1831 [9]. By 1837, the Rebellions in Upper Canada and Lower Canada, that eventually led to the arrival of responsible government and the union of the Upper and Lower Canadas into one colony [10], required the services of the Militia, including that of the York regiments. At that time, the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd North York Militia was commanded by Captain Francis Button [11].

Record keeping was not likely a priority of the Militia in the early 1800s as few detailed records exist that reveal any individual soldier’s personal history or service. However, many nominal lists, including muster rolls, pay lists, and notices of confirmations of

appointments as officers, are still accessible. The November 1838 pay list is one of several extant records that pertain specifically to the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd Regiment of the North York Militia, commanded by Captain Francis Button, dated non-sequentially between 3 July 1838 and 31 December 1838. The July 1838 pay list noted 21 men, while the November and December pay lists each named about 60 men. James Stoutenbough appears on all these lists, which could indicate he was among the first men to join this troop of soldiers.

Applying the FAN Principle: Relationships Among Soldiers

While no specific township was noted on the nominal lists of York Militia soldiers, a transcript of a list of soldiers in 1828 attached to the 1st Regiment of the North York Militia indicated that the geographical limits of this regiment were the neighbouring townships of Markham and Vaughan in the northern part of York County [12] [13]. Further, the November 1838 pay list [14] contained 42 different surnames that accounted for the 61 men listed in the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd North York Militia. Some of the most common surnames that were recorded included Button (Captain Francis, William M., and John), Marr (five men), Stoutenbough (James and John), as well as the surnames Arnold, Shoults, and Warren. Many of these men were likely associated by means of neighbourship, business dealings, or friendship within their community, likely of Markham or Vaughan townships.

Such a hypothesis validated the use of the FAN methodology to reconnect each soldier with their families. As each regiment was organized by enlisting men from within the same county, and further, each troop was subsequently created by drafting men from smaller townships, then it was logical to conduct a search for the identity of James Stoutenbough through his relationships to the other soldiers he served with, as listed on the November 1838 pay list. A preliminary search for many of these men in connection to James

Stoutenburgh was initiated by consulting census records, county directories and land records.

Was there more than one man named James Stoutenburgh?

To determine if there was more than one man named James Stoutenburgh living in Upper Canada in the 19th century, a search of the Census of Canada for the years 1851 [15] [16] [17] [18] [19], 1861 [20] [21], and 1871 [22] [23] revealed clues as to two possible men of appropriate age to have served as Private James Stoutenburgh of the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd North York Militia during the Upper Canada Rebellions in 1838: James Stoutenburgh of Reach Township, Ontario County, born about 1818, and James Stoutenburgh of Markham Township, York County, born about 1820-1822. However, to distinguish which James Stoutenburgh was the more likely candidate, further evidence of both men's identity was sought.

James Stoutenburgh of Reach Township, Ontario County was not enumerated in the 1851 census. There was a James Stoutenburgh recorded as the occupier of Concession 8, Lot 2, in Reach Township, Ontario County in 1847 [24]. This same plot of land was occupied by Luke Stoutenburgh in 1837 [25]. While no records were located to determine kinship between Luke and James Stoutenburgh of Reach Township, it is possible that these two men might have been father and son, or brothers.

A search for other surnames of Private James Stoutenburgh's comrades in arms in an 1837 directory [26] revealed no other familial surnames consistent with those of the soldiers of the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd North York Militia in 1838. Since militia regiments were formed from local men, if James Stoutenburgh of Reach Township were the same man who served as a private in the North York Militia, other surnames from the 1838 pay list would also appear in Reach Township records alongside Stoutenburgh.

As a result of these preliminary findings, James

Stoutenburgh of Reach Township was considered an unlikely candidate to be the same man who served under Captain Francis Button in 1838. The research focus turned then to James Stoutenburgh of Markham Township, York County.

A comparison of the citizens catalogued in The Toronto City and Home District Directory for 1837 [27], the year prior to the recording of the 3rd North York Militia Pay List, revealed that no less than 33 families, with the same surnames recorded on the Pay List, were inhabitants of land in Markham Township at that time (see Table 1). As not all given names listed as landowners and/or occupiers in the 1837 directory matched the given names of the soldiers, the consideration that many of the soldiers were the sons of those landowners/occupiers was realistic.

Table 1
Soldier Surnames Cross-referenced with Land Inhabitant Householders in Markham in 1837

Names of Soldiers* (Surname spelled as signed by each soldier; bolded/capitalized surnames indicate further relationships to be discussed)	Concession/Lot ^b (in Markham Township)	Names of Householders listed in the Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1837 ^b
BUTTON: Francis Button (Captain) John Button (Corporal) Wm M Button (Bugle)	4/15	Francis Button and John Button (co-owners)
Richard Vanderburgh (Lieutenant)	1/43, 1/46	Rich'd and John Vanderburgh
ARNOLD: Isaac Arnold (Cornet) William Arnold (Private)	1/23 and 1/34 3/13 and 3/16	Jacob, Rob't, John and Abner Arnold – one or more could be fathers of these soldiers (not 3/13 shared with STINHOFF)
MARR Jacob Marr (Troop Srgt Major) John W Marr (Private) Joseph Marr (Private) David Marr (Private) and William Marr (Private)	3/18, 9/14, 9/15, and 9/16	William (sen'r), William (jun'r), David, Alum, Jacob, Joseph and Benjamin Marr; note that 9/14 is co-owned by William (jun'r), David, and Joseph, and Benjamin.
WILLMOT Peter Willmot (Sergeant)	3/18	Peter Willmot (shared with MARR)
SHULTS George Shults (Sergeant) Henry Shults (Private)	4/13, 4/14	John Shults (4/14 is shared with MASON)
James Armstrong (Sergeant) John Armstrong (Private)	4/2, 7/36, 8/9, 9/6, and 10/5	Wm, Jno, Robert, Edward, and Thomas Armstrong
TRUDGEN Richard Trudgen (Corporal)	4/27	Henry Trudgeon: Note this is shared with FULTON.
STOUTENBURGH: John Stoutenburgh (Corporal) James Stoutenburgh (Private)	3/25	Martin Stoutenburgh
William Warren (Private) James Warren (Private)	1/46	Widow Warren
Joseph Watson (Private)	4/28 and 4/29	Thomas and Richard Watson
John Fulton (Private)	4/27	Widow Fulton (possible mother or grandmother?) (Note this property is shared with TRUDGEON)
John Johnson (Private) William Johnson (Private)	3/11, 5/34, 6/15, 8/20, 9/24, 10/8	Wm, Sam'l, Christopher, Benjamin, Cornelius Johnson



John Mason (Private)	4/14	John Mason (shared with SHULTS)
John Munshaw (Private) William Munshaw (Private)	1/35, 1/37, 2/26	B., Wm, and John Munshaw
Christopher Scott (Private)	5/23	John Scott
James Coulter (Private) Joseph Coulter (Private)	1/48	John Colter
Nathaniel Wood (Private)	6/13 and 10/24	Samuel and Nathaniel Wood; Nathaniel is listed on 10/24
STINHOFF Peter Stinhoff (Private)	3/13	Benjamin Stinhoff (shared with ARNOLD)
John Cary (Private)	4/38	Thomas B. Carey
John Forester (Private)	3/32, 4/3 and 8/12	John, George, and Wm Foster
Samuel Dunsheath (Private)	10/6	Wm Dunsheath
REYNOLDS Chauncy Reynolds (Private) Henry Reynolds (Private)	3/5, 10/10	William, Insters, and Asa Reynolds co-own 10/10; Henry Reynolds owns 3/5
Thomas Peters (Private) Charles Peters (Private)	7/10, and 7/11	William and Thomas Peters
James Long (Private) Thomas Long (Private) Wm Long (Private)	10/33 and 10/34	Philip and Joseph Long
Jacob Dafoe (Private)	11/7	Jacob Defoe
George Harrison (Private)	9/1	Robt Harrison
George Monkman (Private)	8/5	Geo Monkman
Charles Hodgen (Private)	4/21, 7/12	William and Charles Hodgeons (4/21 shared with WANCH/WONCH)
Hiram Miller (Private)	8/18	There are 20 households owned by MILLER, but only one property owned by a man named Hiram Miller
WONCH William H Wonch (Private)	4/21	Joseph Wanch (shared with HODGEONS)

Note: The following soldiers were omitted from this table to conserve space, as they were not listed in the 1837 directory for Markham. However, these surnames might be listed in neighbouring townships: Privates John Goudby, John Dicky, William and Edward Mulholland, John Liens, John Wass, Thomas Burk, John Gibson, Joseph Petty, Joseph Bingham, Henry Lever and James Bullock.

Note 2:

- Ancestry.com, Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Troop of Cavalry 3rd North York Militia, November 1838.
- Ancestry.com, Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906, Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1837; Markham Township.

Specifically, Martin Stoutenburgh was listed as the owner of Concession 3, Lot 25 [28], the same plot of land that James Stoutenburgh later occupied in 1851 which was indicative of a familial relationship. Francis Button (Captain of the 3rd Regiment) was listed as a neighbour of the Stoutenburgh family, owning Concession 4, Lot 15 [29].

To better understand the nature of the relationships that

James Stoutenburgh had to the families of the other soldiers of the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd Regiment of the North York Militia in 1838, the land descriptions from Table 1 were plotted on a map of Markham Township [30]. The land plots were mostly clustered in concessions 3, 4, and 7-10, with many bordering or even shared by families, suggesting these men were neighbours and possibly related by marriage.

Most of the land plots were close together or even shared, indicating these men and their families were neighbours. This proximity, along with the presence of many families sharing surnames in Markham Township and the military history of the troop, supports the conclusion that James Stoutenburgh of Markham Township was the private who served under Captain Francis Button in 1838. To confirm specific relationships between James and his neighbours, further research into Markham Township's land records, including Township Papers, was necessary.

Land Records, Wills, and Family Connections

A search of land records and Township Papers [31] relating to the land descriptions revealed many documents that further supported the existence of prior relationships among the families of these soldiers, and likely between the soldiers themselves.

A direct connection between the Button, Stoutenburgh, Willmot, Wonch, and Stinhoff families was discovered when examining the original 1830 indenture for part of Concession 4, Lot 15 [32], jointly owned and used as the site of a church and burial grounds. Specifically named on this document were Captain John Button, Peter Willmot, Martin Stoutenburgh, John Wonch, and Benjamin Stinhoff, as well as Francis Button and John Button (Jr.). Today, this land is known as Buttonville Cemetery and contains the monuments of many of these families from that era, including that of Major John Button (previously Captain John Button, died in 1861 [33] [34]), Captain Francis Button [35] and Peter Willmot [36]. The Township files for Concession 4, Lot 24 [37] included a copy of the will of Richard

Trudgen (died 1844) which revealed that the east quarter of this lot was bequeathed by Richard Trudgen to his sons John and William Trudgen. Richard Trudgen was a corporal in the same regiment as James Stoutenburgh in 1838 [38]. This land was diagonally adjacent to the east half of Concession 3, Lot 25 owned by the Stoutenburgh family, making the Trudgen and Stoutenburgh families direct neighbours.

Given that original vital records from early 19th-century York County [39] do not exist, alternative sources such as wills, marriage transcriptions, church records, memorials, family fonds, and published family histories were used to confirm James Stoutenburgh's identity and family connections. James Stoutenburgh was named as "my youngest son" in the will of Martin Stoutenburgh [40]. Equally, Martin named "his loving wife Sarah" and his "daughter Charlotte Lever, wife of Henry Lever", as well as his "eldest son John" in his will. John Stoutenburgh was a corporal in the same regiment as James Stoutenburgh. Henry Lever, a private in the same regiment, was a brother-in-law to James Stoutenburgh and his brother John. Further evidence of kinship can be found in the will of Major John Button [41] as James and John Stoutenburgh and Charlotte Lever, wife of Henry Lever, were named as beneficiaries of monetary sums.

A biographical sketch of James Statenburgh [42] (of lot 25, concession 3, Markham) indicated that he was the youngest of three children, born in Markham Township in 1821, where he was also educated. At the time the sketch was written, James was living on the family homestead, "having received the same from his father." This same biographical sketch goes on to say that James was twice married, first to a daughter of Robert Nichol, by whom he had one daughter, and then to a daughter of Robert Grundy, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. Although the biographical sketch would be considered a derivative source providing secondary information, the latter fact was supported by the information found in the 1851 Census of Canada where James was listed with Jane [43], and his children. The cemetery memorial for James and his

wife indicates that James's second wife was Jane Grundy [44].

The will of Major John Button [45] also provided evidence as to the relationship between some of the other soldiers. Francis Button was named in the will as the eldest son of Major John Button, and Anna Marr was named one of John Button's daughters. The former information provided evidence that Captain Francis Button was the son of Major John Button, the founding member of the militia troop Francis commanded. Further, the latter information was evidence of a marriage union between the Button and Marr families. Finally, John Button named Francis Button and Henry Lever as co-executors of his will.

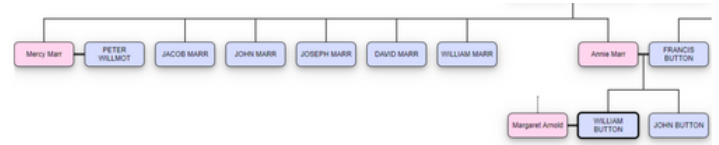
Several published family trees relating to the Button, Stoutenburgh, and Marr families provided significant, but uncorroborated, identifying information for several of the 3rd Regiment North York Militia soldiers serving in 1838. Of particular interest were the following:

- Martin Stoutenburgh (father of James Stoutenburgh of Markham Township) married Sarah Button (daughter of Major John Button) [46] [47]. This marriage made Captain Francis Button an uncle to James Stoutenburgh, Charlotte Stoutenburgh Lever, and John Stoutenburgh, as well as to Henry Lever by marriage. James, Charlotte and John were therefore John Button's grandchildren.
- Francis Button married Anna Marr [48]. Annie's brothers were Jacob, William, Joseph, David and John W. Marr, soldiers serving in their brother-in-law Captain Francis Button's Cavalry Troop.

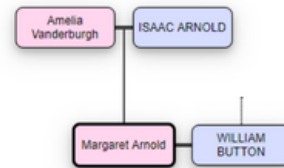
Additional evidence pointing to long-standing familial relationships between the Marr, Willmot, and Button families stems from the pages from a Button/Marr family bible [49] that recorded the following marriages:



- Peter Willmot married Mercy Marr in November 1822. Peter Willmot is listed as a soldier in 1838,
- Francis Button married Anna Marr, 25 March 1816.
- William M Button married Margaret Arnold, 26 May 1838 [50]. Margaret is listed as the daughter of Isaac Arnold. Isaac Arnold is Cornet serving with his daughter's father-in-law Captain Francis Button.



Continuation of a Family Tree showing the brothers and brother-in-law, fellow soldiers who all served under Captain Francis Button, acquaintances to James Stoutenburgh by marriage. [55]



Continuation of a Family tree showing Isaac Arnold, the father-in-law of Bugler William M Button, who was the Cornet who served under Captain Francis Button, acquaintances of James Stoutenburgh by marriage. [56]

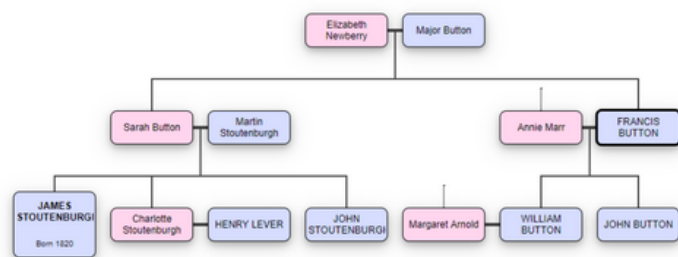
Signatures as Corroborating Evidence

Each soldier's signature on the November 1838 Pay List was unique and served as a personal identifier. Comparing James Stoutenburgh's signatures provided crucial evidence confirming that James, son of Martin Stoutenburgh of Markham Township, was the same individual who served as a private in the Troop of Cavalry of the 3rd Regiment North York Militia in 1838.

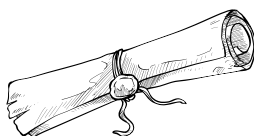
James Stoutenburgh's signature appears on the 1838 Pay List [57] as shown in Figure 3a. There was only one man named James Stoutenburgh listed as a Merchant in Victoria Square, Markham Township, York County, in 1864–65 [58]. It was previously determined that a man of the same name inherited the east half of Lot 25 in the Third Concession [59], located in Victoria Square, Markham Township [60], in the Spring of 1850 after the death of Martin Stoutenburgh. The original documents concerning the probated estate of Martin Stoutenburgh [61] contained the signature of James Stoutenburgh. Martin Stoutenburgh's probate file contained numerous affidavits written in a similar style of penmanship but also comprised several different witness' signatures in varying fonts that differ from the body of the

According to a 12 May 1859 marriage announcement [51], "...Mr. W. Willmot, son of Mr. P. Willmot of Markham, married Miss M. E. Lever, daughter of Mr. H. Lever, of the same place." This marriage is likely between the son of Peter Willmot and the daughter of Henry Lever, both of whom are named as soldiers alongside James Stoutenburgh and the Button family. Peter Willmot and Francis Button were brothers-in-law, having married Marr sisters [52]. Henry Lever was a co-executor of the will of Major John Button, and therefore well-known by the Button family. Further, Henry Lever was brother-in-law to James Stoutenburgh [53].

By examining evidence about James Stoutenburgh both as an individual and as a community member, we see that his fellow soldiers included relatives, friends, acquaintances, and neighbours.



Family Tree showing the Stoutenburgh brothers, their brother-in-law, and their Button cousins, all soldiers who all served under Captain Francis Button; James Stoutenburgh's family by blood and by marriage. [54]



document, including the signature of James Stoutenburgh. As a result, it is reasonable to conclude that James signed his own name to his affidavit [62] (see Figure 3b).

James also signed his own name to his will, which was included in his probate file of 1894 [63] (see Figure 3c). Even though these signatures were affixed to paper at different stages of James Stoutenburgh's life, (1838, 1850, 1883), the complete signatures of James Stoutenburgh from the November 1838 Pay List and found in Martin Stoutenburgh's probate file strongly resemble each other in font and style.

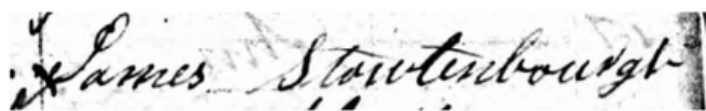


Figure 3a: Signature of James Stoutenburgh, 3rd North York Militia, Pay List, 19-30 November 1838. Record provides no other identifying information about signer. Digital photograph.

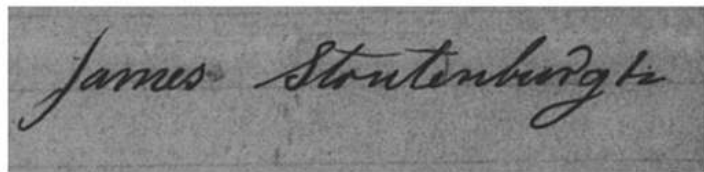


Figure 3b: Signature of James Stoutenburgh as co-Executor of Martin Stoutenburgh's will, York County Surrogate Court, April 1850. Signer is identified as the younger son of the deceased. Digital photograph.

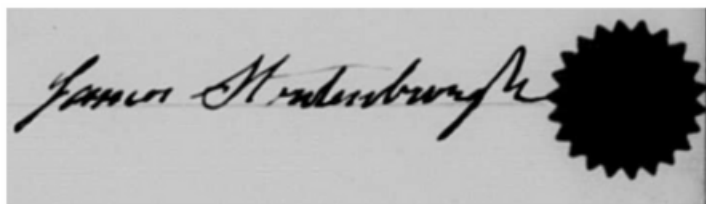


Figure 3c: Signature of James Stoutenburgh on his own will witnessed by a Notary Public, 3 September 1883, York County Probate Records. The signer is the testator. Digital Photograph.

Conclusion

Research into the Upper Canada militia revealed that soldiers were not just comrades but also family, friends, and neighbours, deeply rooted in their communities. Using historical context, the FAN methodology, and

signature analysis, the identity of James Stoutenburgh – a private in the 3rd North York Militia's Troop of Cavalry – was traced to Markham Township, York County, born about 1820-1822. He was the son of Martin and Sarah (Button) Stoutenburgh, brother to John (a corporal in the same regiment), and nephew to Captain Francis Button. He married Jane Grundy in 1847, farmed and worked as a merchant, and died in Markham in 1894.

James's life and service were intertwined with those of his relatives and neighbours, many of whom served alongside him. Their collective story illustrates how the early settlers of Markham Township built both their community and the province's military defense. Identifying and restoring these soldiers to their families enriches the history of Upper Canada's formative years.

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Endnotes

- [1] Online searches for military databases and surviving records for Upper Canada between 1800 and 1850 at Library and Archives Canada www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng and www.collectionscanada.gc.ca, Canadiana Online www.Canadiana.ca, www.Ancestry.com, www.FamilySearch.org, and City of Toronto Archives <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/access-city-information-or-records/city-of-toronto-archives/>; Onsite visits to Archives of Ontario, Richmond Hill Public Library, and Markham Museum. Note that an online search of records at the British National Archives <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> was also undertaken as the defence of Upper Canada was largely the responsibility of the British military until the early 1870s, after the Confederation of Canada in 1867.
- [2] Ancestry.com, Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1795-1850, [database online]; Muster Books and Pay Lists (Militia, Volunteers); Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Private James Stoutenbough, (Troop of Cavalry, 3rd North York Militia, Capt. Francis Button), Citing "Walpole, Warwick, Watertown, Whitby, Windsor, and York, 1837-1840", War Office 13 (MG13 WO13), Vol 3716, Microfilm B-3194 (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 June 2025).
- [3] For a comprehensive reference on penmanship of this era, see Sperry, Kip, Reading Early American Handwriting, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998). Of note, Chapter 7: Sample Alphabets and Handwriting Styles.
- [4] Ancestry.com, Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Roles, Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Private James Stoutenbough (Troop of Cavalry, 3rd North York Militia, Capt. Francis Button), Muster Books and Pay Lists (Militia, Volunteers), dated for the pay period between 19th – 31st November 1838. Images 468-469. (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 June 2025)
- [5] Wilson, William R. F. (2012) "Historical Narratives of Early Canada: The Militia", <http://www.uppercanadahistory.ca/military/military8.html> : accessed 4 June 2025. Between the years 1793, the year the Militia Act was passed in Upper Canada's First Legislature, and 1855, when the enlistment process was changed to a volunteer basis, conscription into the militia was on a county-by-county basis. See also Chambers, E. J., The Governor-general's Body Guard: A History of the Origin, Development and Services of the Senior Cavalry Regiment in the Militia Service of the Dominion of Canada: with some Information about the Martial Ancestry and Military Spirit of the Loyal Founders of Canada's Defensive Force, Toronto: E.L. Ruddy, 1902. Archive.org, digital copy, <https://archive.org/details/bodyguard00chamuoft> : accessed 9 June 2025.
- [6] Ontario Genealogical Society, Men of Upper Canada: Militia Nominal Rolls, 1828-1829, Ontario: Toronto, 1995. Note that many of the same surnames of the soldiers in Captain Francis Button's Troop of Cavalry 3rd Regiment of the North York Militia in November 1838 are included on the transcribed militia list for the 1st Regiment of the North York Militia (Markham/Vaughn Townships) of 1828-1829. Of note, the transcribed list of 1828-1829 included the following surnames: Button (Captain John and Lieutenant Francis Button), Marr, Shults, Vanderburgh, Arnold, Reynolds, Stoutenburgh (Martin, Srgt Major of the Troop of Cavalry) and Wilmott.
- [7] Ibid., p. 214
- [8] Sparks, W.E.L. (donor), "Records of Button's Troops", 1812-1814, William Marr Button Family Fonds (Button Family Papers), Archives of Ontario. Folder 1 contained handwritten ledgers, lists, and correspondence detailing John Button's command of the 1st Regiment North York Militia during and after the war of 1812
- [9] Colbourne, Sir John, "Commission as a Major to John Button of the 1st Regt North York Militia", 29 September 1831, William Marr Button Family Fonds (Button Family Papers), Archives of Ontario, B293877, F902 MU453, Folder 4. Original commission papers.
- [10] The Canadian Encyclopedia: Rebellion in Upper Canada, Article by Phillip A. Buckner (25 July 2013), updated by Richard Foot (4 November, 2016); <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/rebellion-in-upper-canada>: accessed 9 June 2025. See also, National Archives of Canada, Rebellion in the Canadas: 1837-1838, curators Burns, Robert J., McLean, and Porteous, Susan. Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1987
- [11] Colbourne, Sir John, "Commission as a Captain to Francis Button of the Troop of Cavalry attached to the 3rd Reg^t North York Militia", 20 November 1831, William Marr Button Family Fonds (Button Family Papers), Archives of Ontario, B293877, F902 MU453, Folder 4. Original commission papers.
- [12] Ancestry.com, Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1795-1850, Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Private James Stoutenbough (Troop of Cavalry, 3rd North York Militia, Capt. Francis Button), dated July 1838. Cited from The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; War Office and Predecessors: Militia and Volunteer Muster Books and Pay Lists; Class: WO 13; Piece Title: Walpole Volunteers, Warwick Volunteers, Watertown Guard, Whitby Independent Company, Whitby Independent Volunteers, Windsor Volunteers, 1st, 2nd, And 3rdE. York Militia, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, And 5th W. York Militia, 1st And 2nd W. York Militia; Piece Number: 3716. (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [13] Ontario Genealogical Society, "Men of Upper Canada: Militia Nominal Rolls, 1828-1829", page 214
- [14] Ancestry.com, Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1795-1850, Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Private James Stoutenbough (3rd North York Militia), November 1838. Note that many of the surnames on this list were also found on the transcribed list in Ontario Genealogical Society, "Men of Upper Canada: Militia Nominal Rolls, 1828-1829" (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).

- [15] Ancestry.com., Canada West (Ontario), Ontario County, 1851 Census of Canada, East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia [database with images], Schedule A (Population Schedule), Scugog, image 7, line 9, James Stoutenburgh, Citing Library and Archives Canada, Microfilm and Publication Roll C-11743; (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [16] Ibid., Schedule B (Agricultural Schedule), Markham Township, James Stoutenburgh, digital image 131, line 40; Citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm publication Roll C-11759, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [17] Ibid., Schedule A, Markham Township, James Stoutenburgh, Roll C-11759, page 117, line 32. (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [18] Note that Birth Registrations began in Ontario in 1869, so no birth registrations exist for this time. No Church records were in Methodist/United Church archives or transcribed documents for a James Stoutenburgh, born about 1820, at this time.
- [19] Canada West (Ontario), York County. 1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, (database with images), Schedule B (Agricultural Schedule), Markham Township, image 131, line 39, Henry Lever, digital image, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm publication Roll C-11759 (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [20] Ancestry.com, 1861 Census of Canada [database with images], Schedule A (Population Schedule), Ontario County, Reach Township, page 100 , line 17, James Stoutenburgh, Ancestry.com, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm publication Roll C-1058-1059 (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [21] Ibid., York County, Markham Township, page 57, line 11, James Stoutenburgh, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm publication Roll C-1088-1089, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [22] Ancestry.com, 1871 Census of Canada [database with images], Ontario, Ontario North, Reach Township, James Stoutenburgh, page 72, Family No. 253, citing Library and Archives Canada, microfilm roll C-9975 (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [23] Ibid, Ontario, York East, Markham Township, James Stoutenburgh, page 49, Family No. 172, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm roll C-9969 (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025).
- [24] Ancestry.com, Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906 [database with images], Brown's Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1846-1847, James Stoutenburgh, Reach Township, image 131. (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 June 2025). City directories from this era often contain an alphabetical record of citizens (usually the heads of households) and a listing of the land that they owned/occupied, recorded as Concession Number and Lot Number.
- [25] Ibid., Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1837; Reach Township, image 92.
- [26] Ibid., Reach Township, images 91-92.
- [27] Ibid., Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1837; Markham Township, images 79-83.
- [28] Ibid., Markham Township, image 83.
- [29] Ibid., image 79
- [30] York University Digital Library, [online collection], Map of the township of Markham in the County of York [cartographic material] : according to a re-survey made under instructions from the municipality by George McPhillips P.L.S. in 1853-54; <https://digital.library.yorku.ca/yul-1150838/map-township-markham-county-york> : accessed 9 June 2025. The map is a cadastral map that shows the numbered lots and owners as of 1854. Notably, many of the soldiers' families still owned the same plots of land in the community at this time. Markham Township was, and still is, a rectangular township laid out in grid formation of 10 Concessions running from the Whitchurch Town Line in the North to Steeles Avenue in the South, and 6 side roads running from the Pickering Town Line in the East to Yonge Street in the West. Located about 30 kilometers from Downtown Toronto, this township covers an area of approximately 215 square kilometers, and each lot of land is 200 acres.
- [31] FamilySearch.org, Canada, Ontario, Crown Lands Department, "Township Papers, ca. 1783-1870's", [online database with images] www.familysearch.org: accessed 9 June 2025; citing Archives of Ontario no.: RG 1, series C-17. Markham Township, microfilm 8346881, 8126242, 8346882, and 8265716 (viewable from the Family History Library or a satellite Family History Center). Township papers are among the earliest land records available for Upper Canada.
- [32] Sparks, W.E.L. (donor), "Indenture for Church and Burial Grounds on Concession 4, Lot 15", 9 November 1830, William Marr Button Family Fonds (Button Family Papers), Archives of Ontario. News clippings/Land Contract, F805570, separated from B293877.
- [33] York Herald, "Demise of Major Button", 15 November 1861, page 2. <http://history.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/3210707/page/3>: accessed 9 June 2025.
- [34] Buttonville Cemetery (Buttonville, Markham Township, York Region, Ontario), Major John Button, 9 November 1861, aged 81 y'rs, 5 mo's, & 21 d's. Note that this monument also includes a plaque indicating he was a War of 1812 Veteran. Visited in person 13 June 2019.
- [35] Ibid., Colonel Francis Button, Oct. 12, 1880. Note that this monument also includes a plaque indicating he was a War of 1812 Veteran. Visited in person 13 June 2019.
- [36] Ibid., Peter Willmot, May 22, 1881, aged 77 years, 5 months, 13 days. Visited in person 13 June 2019.
- [37] Ontario, Crown Lands Department, "Township Papers, ca. 1783-1870's", [online database with images] www.familysearch.org:accessed 9 June 2025; citing Archives of Ontario no.: RG 1, series C-17. Microfilm 8126242, items 1 – 1042,

Markham Lot 2, Con. 3 to Lot 35, Con 6; Will of Richard Trudgeon, images 431 and 432. Images available online at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSVK-15GK?cat=2759321&i=430&lang=en>. A copy of the original will, with Richard Trudgeon's signature also located, see also Archives of Ontario. York Region. York County Surrogate Court Estate Files, Richard Trudgen, T7 (1 May 1844), Series 6-2, RG 22-305. Microfilm reel MS 638, Reel 103. Toronto, Ontario.

[38] Ancestry.com, Pay List and Acquittance Roll, Troop of Cavalry 3rd North York Militia, November 1838.

[39] FamilySearch.org, "Ontario Vital Records", Family Search wiki, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ontario_Vital_Records: accessed 9 June 2025.

[40] Ontario. York Region. York County Surrogate Court Estate Files, Martin Stoutenburgh, S9 (30 March 1850), Series 6-2, RG 22-305. Microfilm reel MS 638, Reel 102. Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario.

[41] Ibid., John Button, B12 (9 November 1861), Series 6-2, RG 22-305. Microfilm reel MS 638, Reel 75. Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario.

[42] Mulvany, Charles Pelham. (1885). History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario – Volume II. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson, Publisher. Page 308.

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[44] Walker, D., Burkholder, R., & Stratford-Davai, F., The Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West: Home District (1808-1836), Volume 11: Part III, Global Heritage Press (2000), page 100. "James Stoutenburgh, to Jane Grundy, both of Markham, 18 Mar. 1847, by License. Rev. Adams. Wit. Oron Munro and Laurence Loveless."

[45] Ontario. York County Surrogate Court Estate Files, John Button, B12 (9 November 1861).

[46] Richmond Hill Public Library, Special Collections - Helen Schwab Collection [Typed by Mary-Lou Griffin, 1980] "B1-Families". Button Family Tree: Major John Button. See also, Victoria Square Cemetery (Victoria Square, Markham Township, York Region, Ontario), two monuments connected along center seam and a separate memorial, "Martin H Stoutenburgh, Died 30 Apr 1850, ae 56 y's, 6 m, 10 d. also Sarah Button, wife of the above died 5 Sep., 1857, ae 61 y's, 2 m, 9d". Visited in person 13 June 2019.

[47] Markham Museum and Community Archive, Marshall, Steve D. E (author)., Capt. James Stoutenburgh, Family Vertical File. date unknown. uncited.

[48] Ibid., Marr Family Vertical File, Family history, authors unknown, undated, uncited.

[49] Sparks, W.E.L. (donor), "Family Record Pages from the family Bible", dates unknown, William Marr Button Family Fonds (Button Family Papers), B293877, Archives of Ontario. Folder 2, Family Genealogical Papers. Note that the front matter of the actual Bible was not included in this collection. However, much of the writing is done in different ink and penmanship styles.

[50] See also FamilySearch.org, Ontario, District Marriage Registers, 1801-1858 [database with images], William Marr Button to Margaret Arnold, 26 May 1838, citing Home Township, Algoma, Upper Canada, British Colonial America; Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario; FHL microfilm 1030052, image 204 (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/> : accessed 9 June 2025)

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[52] Sparks, W.E.L. (donor), "Family Record Pages from the family Bible", William Marr Button Family Fonds.

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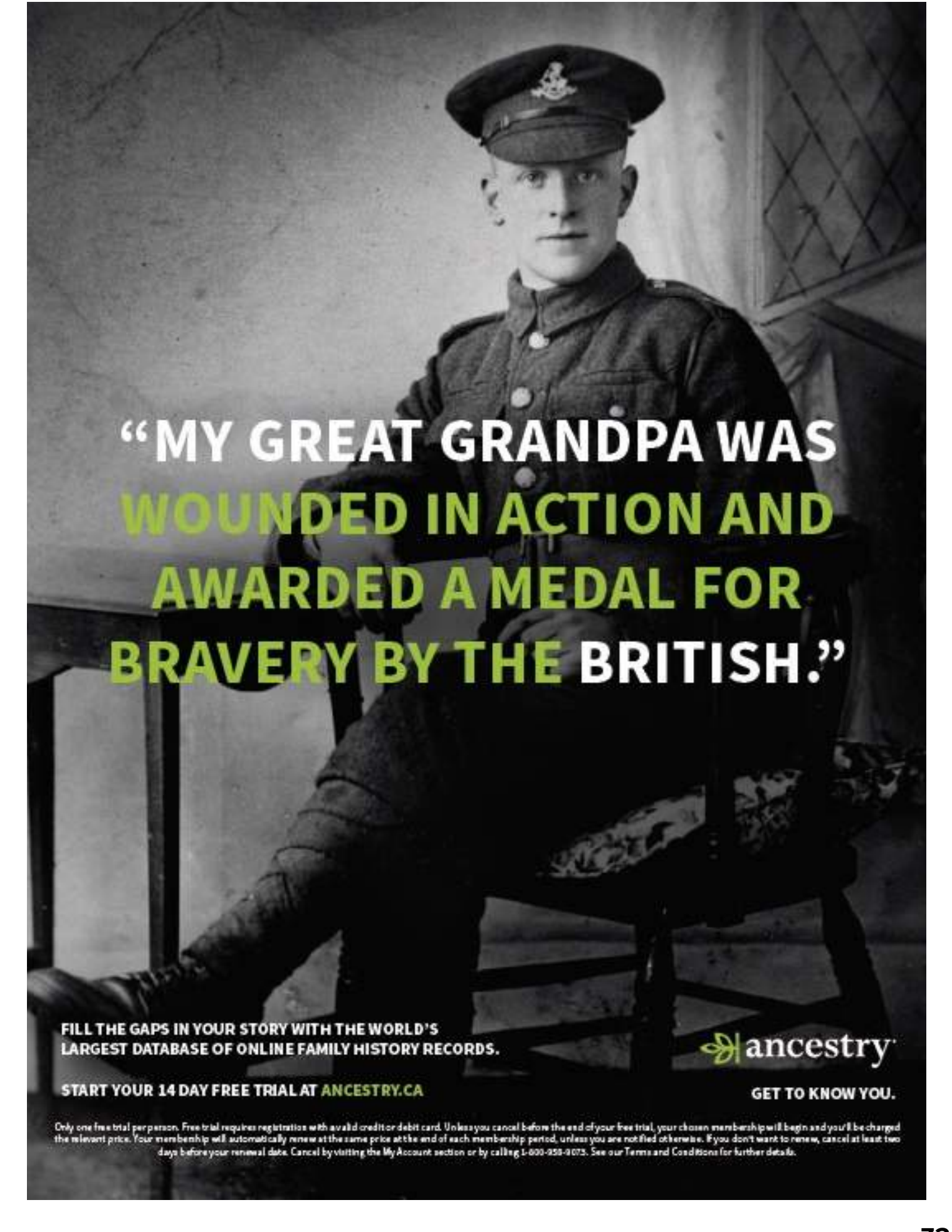
[59] Ontario Land Registry Access, "Abstracts/Parcel Register Index", Ontario, York Region (LRO 65), Markham, Book 101, Concession 3 (Lot 1 to 31), E1/2 Lot 25, image 568, <https://www.onland.ca/ui/65/books/search> : accessed 9 June 2025.

[60] Canadian Digital Atlas Project, York County, Markham Township <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/Images/Maps/TownshipMaps/yor-m-markham.jpg> : accessed 9 June 2025.

[61] Ontario. York Region. York County Surrogate Court Estate Files, Martin Stoutenburgh, S9 (30 March 1850).

[62] Ibid., Affidavit Signed by James Stoutenburgh, 26 April 1850.

[63] York County Probate Records, Probate Records, 1825 – 1900 (Index, 1801-1955) – Probate Papers 1894. File for James Stoutenburgh, 8 September 1894, File Number 10471, www.familysearch.org [digital database with images] Book 26, Folio 429, Microfilm 8483635, images 802-816 available at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39L-7SRR-S?cat=24422&i=801&lang=en>.



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AWARDED A MEDAL FOR
BRAVERY BY THE BRITISH.”**

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Clashing Loyalties: The Dingman Family of the Mohawk Valley During the American Revolution: Genealogy, History or Both? Rob Flanagan Stieglitz

Rob Flanagan Stieglitz is a retired chemistry/physiology teacher and hospital pharmacist, living in Fargo, North Dakota. In 2020, he completed the Boston University Genealogy Studies certificate program as well as a certificate in genetic genealogy from the University of Strathclyde (Scotland) in 2022. Since then, he has had multiple articles published in a variety of genealogical magazines. The magazines include the Germanic Genealogy Journal (USA), The New York Researcher (USA), Irish Roots (Ireland), The Irish Genealogist (Ireland), Family Tree Magazine (USA), The Bridge - Danish American Journal (USA), Genealogen (Norway), VärmlandsAnor (Sweden), Irish Lives Remembered (Ireland), The Journal of Genetic Genealogy (USA), The Scottish Genealogist (Scotland), Generations (USA), The Septs (USA) and the Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland (Ireland). He also teaches general and genetic genealogy research classes at local workshops and libraries.

KEY PLACES, PHRASES AND NAMES

Dingman, Empire Union Loyalists, Mohawk Valley, American Revolution, Tories or Loyalists, Rebels or Patriots, Fisher's Regiment, Tryon County Militia, Battle of Oriskany, Sir John Johnson and Chief Joseph Brant, General Burgoyne and Battle of Saratoga, Matchiche, Quebec, Loyalist Refugee Camp, Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Drums Along the Mohawk (1936) Walter Edmonds

"oh my Sister, how horrid is this war, Brother against Brother – and the parent against the child – who were the first promoters of it I know not but god knows – and I fear they will feel the weight of his vengeance (sic) – tis pity the little time we have to spend in this world – we cannot injoy (sic) ourselves and our friends – but must be devising means to destroy each other – the art of killing has become a perfect science."

— Lucy Knox to Hannah Urquhart, April 1777. (Gilder Lehrman Institute) [1]

My wife, Bette, is a descendant of Samuel and Mary Dingman, second cousins, who lived in New York's Mohawk Valley during the 18th Century. They would marry at the close of the American Revolution, where Samuel fought for the Rebel cause in its fight for independence from England. Mary's brother, Gerardus, also served in the Continental Army. [2] Samuel and Mary, both descend from three of the most prominent early Dutch families to immigrate to North America. Their ancestors, Adam Dingman (1631-1721), Roeloff Swartwout (1634-1714), and Frederick Phillipse (1627–1702; see New York Researcher Spring 2024), were a part of the early Dutch families that settled in New York in the mid-seventeenth century. [3] Also, the first recognized Norwegian to New Netherland, Albert Andriesen Bradt (1607-1686), is part of their illustrious heritage. [4]

Genealogical research is not just a study of your own family history; it also encompasses world history as well. Discovering the Dingman family's involvement in the Revolution was both personally revealing and historically enlightening.

Family research identified that not all of Samuel and Mary Dingman's family were supportive of American independence, in fact most were Tories, known as United Empire Loyalists. Those in Samuel's family considered loyalists were his father, Jacob; his uncles, Richard and Peter; and his grandfather Gerardus Dingman. All four men with their families fled to Canada, some during the war and others after.

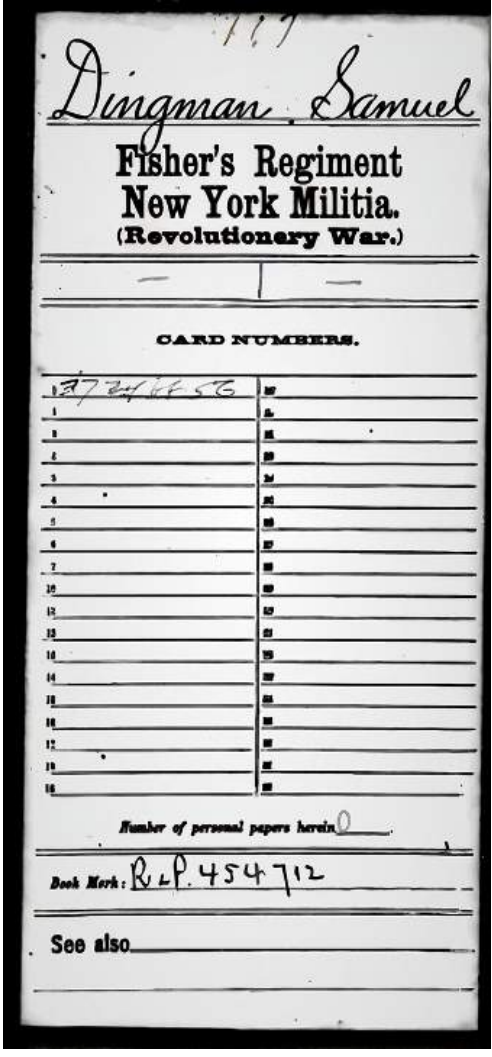
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Loyalist Directory Home / Loyalist Directory							
ID	Surname	Suffix	Prefix/Rank	Given & Middle Name	UELAC Status	Where Resettled	Last Revised
2272	Dingman			Garret		Fredericksburg	Details
2273	Dingman			Gerardus (Gerardus Gerhard)		Marrache Refugee Camp, Quebec, Jo 1272	Details
2274	Dingman			John	Proven	of Westminster	Details
2275	Dingman			Richard	Proven	Eastern District	Details

Chem & Misclo Netanity	Gerardus (Gerardus, Gernard)
Suranne	Dingmen
Pihere Reserited	Metardus Gerardus Cerao, Ducato, in 1779
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DecePlace of Death	r 1789, Machiche Beragus Comp, Quebec
Sponse	Doris Gerardus ater., n, 1712 w, 1782 in the Nalthiene Halugen hempurmitatus
Culldren	Phis Adable, oh Delses, Richard Dype Morie, Sarah fove, 7 Carneus, Weraham, Gerald
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Figure 1 and 2 - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada – Loyalist's Directory [5]

Not quite 16-years of age, Samuel Dingman, was one of 900 men to report for duty at Fort Dayton in German Flatts on August 3, 1777. [6] Born in Schenectady in the early 1760s, the family was now living on a farm

near the far eastern region of Tryon County. Along with Samuel, were his cousins Jacob, Garrett and Peter Dingman who joined the fight for the rebel cause. The army was mustered to protect Fort Stanwix against the loyalist army commanded by Tory John Butler and their native American allies under Joseph Brant.



Dingman, Samuel

**Fisher's Regiment
New York Militia.
(Revolutionary War.)**

CARD NUMBERS.

1724856

Number of personal papers herein 0

Book Mark: RLP.454712

See also

Figure 3 - Fisher's Regiment Roster – Samuel Dingman (Ancestry.com) [7]

The four Dingman boys were assigned to the 3rd Regiment of the Tryon County Militia. The 3rd Regiment, usually known as Col. Fisher's or Vischer's, was composed of militia from the present east end of the county, or the Mohawk District. [8] The muster rolls, payroll records, family or soldiers' letters, etc. were organized by "The Tryon County Militia Project" to reconstruct all of the regiments of the State of New York and are held by the State Archives in Albany. [9]

I believe, like most Americans, that we look at the Revolution as one solely of independence from England. But after discovering my wife's Dingman family participation, the realization of a Civil War becomes apparent. The excerpt from the letter written (see opening passage above) in 1777 from Lucy Knox to Hannah Urquhart characterizes how many families must have experienced the Revolution, which would likely include the Dingmans.

The Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777 was one of the bloodiest battles of the American Revolution and a significant engagement of the Saratoga campaign. **This was one of the few battles in the war in which almost all of the participants were American; Patriots and allied Oneida fought against Loyalists and allied Indians in the absence of British regular soldiers.** An American column of Samuel's Tryon County militia and Oneidas trying to relieve the siege of Fort Stanwix were ambushed by a party of Loyalists and allies of several American Indian tribes, primarily Iroquois. The Loyalists were commanded by Sir John Johnson and Chief Joseph Brant, which included Samuel's loyalist uncle Richard Dingman. Although the battle was a devastating loss for the Tryon County Militia, the heavy losses on both sides contributed to the failure of the British campaign in the North.

In the aftermath of General Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga, many Loyalists in New York chose to flee to the safety of Canada rather than face the prospects of poor treatment, forfeiture of property and imprisonment at the hands of local rebels. Sarah "Eva" Dingman, Samuel's aunt and daughter of his grandfather Gerardus, stated that they came to Canada because of her father's loyalty to the Crown and because his cattle and possessions were taken by the enemy. In addition to the devastation of having to leave their homes, on the journey to Canada, Richard Dingman was drowned in the St. Lawrence River along with his wife and several other children. [10] Gerardus and family initially were resettled at one of the multiple Loyalist Refugee Camps. They were housed a

Matchiche, Quebec in 1779. Unfortunately, Gerardus died within a year of arriving at the camp. [11]

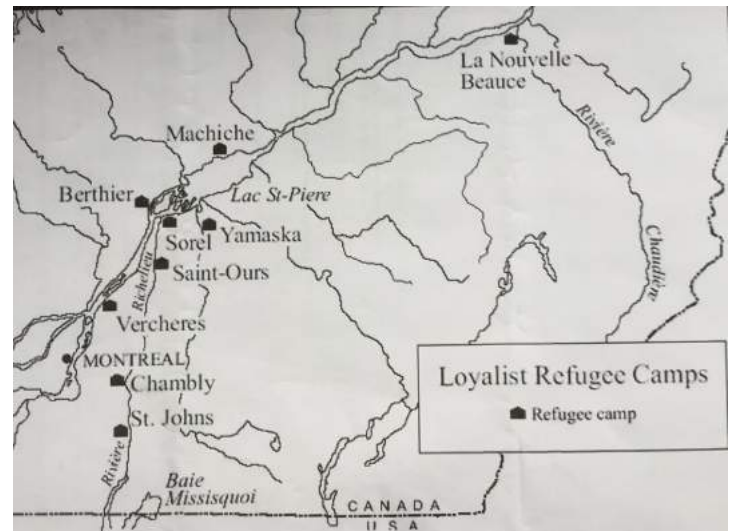
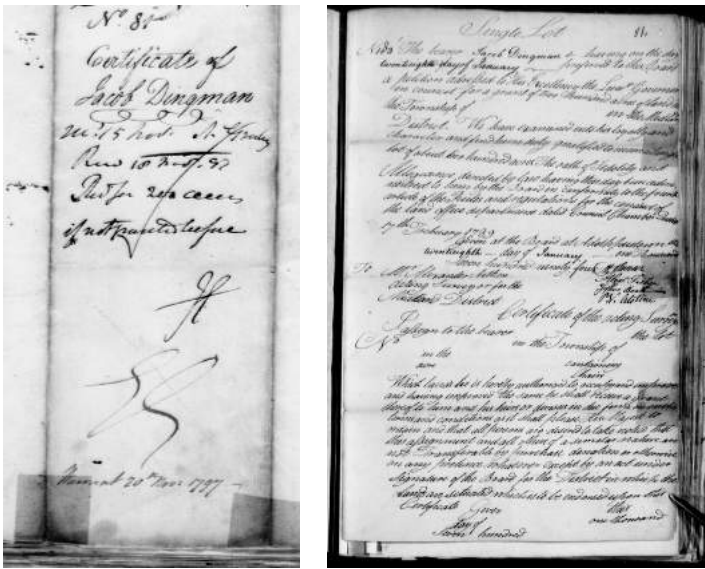


Figure 4 - Loyalist Refugee Camps, Quebec (Photo courtesy of *Our Ancestors and Their Times*) [12]

After the war ended, and with most of Samuel's family in Canada, he and Mary settled in Mohawk, Montgomery County, New York. There, three children were born to them during the 1790s. Samuel's loyalist father Jacob, applied for the 200 acre land grant to anyone who could prove they were loyalists to Britain during the war. He was approved in 1789 and moved to Canada sometime after 1790. In 1795, he was granted a track of land in Fredericksburgh Township, Lennox & Addington County, Upper Canada. [[i]] Interestingly, Bette's "patriots," Samuel and Mary Dingman's family eventually moved to Canada around the same time as his father. Samuel sold his property in Mohawk, which was worth a considerable sum, and along with his pension from the U.S. Government, made him quite wealthy for those times. I can only surmise that, "time heals all wounds," wanting to stay with family, Samuel and Mary packed up everything they owned and headed north to join them at end of the 18th century. There, the families established themselves in Cramahe, Northumberland County, Ontario. One-hundred years later, in 1889, Samuel and Mary's great-grandson and Bette's great grandfather George Dingman, left Canada to settle in America.



Figures 5 and 6 - Certificate of Jacob Dingman (Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada) [14]

A partial transcription of the land record follows:

“The bearer, Jacob Dingman, having on this day, twenty-eight day of January 1789 prepared to this board a petition to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor in council for a grant of two hundred acres of land in the Township of (blank) in the Midland District. We have examined into (sic) his loyalty and find him duly qualified to receive a single lot of about two hundred acres. The Oath of Fidelity and Allegiance directed by law on this day been administered.”

With the help of records found through The United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada, writing the history of our Dingman ancestors did not disappoint.

Genealogy or History or Both?

From what I have read, the relationship between historians and genealogists has long been a troubled one. [15] I have personally experienced a bit of disdain and rejection regarding a genetic genealogical narrative I submitted to a “history” magazine. The response was, “this is genealogy, not history!” An AI definition on the web describes the difference as, “history generally studies past events and their causes, while genealogy traces family lineages and the history of specific families.” While researching the Dingman lineage, their story coincided with, and they participated in major

American historical events! The information gathered includes not just the names and dates of the family (genealogy) but also includes a unique perspective (history) of the war itself. It is then my contention that separating this narrative to one or the other is not so clear. The genealogist at times can write a short historical family narrative encompassing both disciplines.

Addendum

An interesting addition to the story of the Dingman family in New York’s Mohawk Valley during the Revolution was the inclusion of their family in one of the most famous books written about those times. *Drums Along the Mohawk* (1936), written by Walter Edmonds and classified as an historical adventure novel and historical fiction, features such events as the Battle of Oriskany. In two separate locations in the book, Bette’s Dingman family is mentioned as residents of the Mohawk Valley.

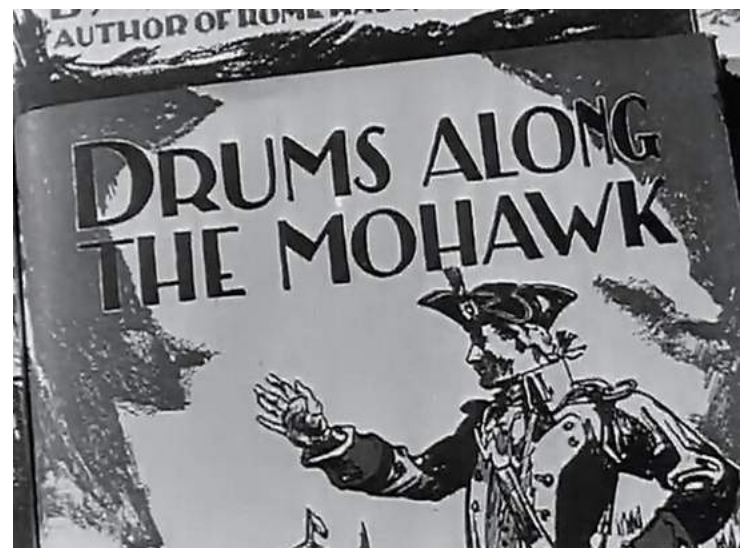
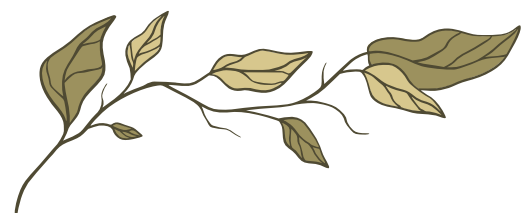


Figure 7 - Cover of Walter Edmonds book entitled *Drums Along the Mohawk* [16]



Endnotes

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A life in harmony: The musical legacy of Sherley St. Pierre

Ava St. Pierre

Winner – Dr. Don Brearley Genealogical Essay Prize

Today, I will be writing an essay regarding someone whom I have not met in person, but someone who has had a great impact on my life. Some people leave behind stories, others, such as my great-grandfather Sherley St. Pierre, left behind melodies. Researching his musical past has inspired me to continue loving music in more ways than I could have ever expected. There is no doubt that his life was more than just a collection of years; it was confirmation of how music can shape a community and carry a legacy across generations.

I'm currently in high school, and as part of a family and individual studies class, we were asked to create a genealogical tree. I chose to incorporate the theme of music into the tree, explaining how each relative was connected to music. Sherley's musical background was by far the most fascinating, especially his influence on both my grandfather and father. The opportunity to dig deeper into his life was made possible by my profound research at the Chatham-Kent Public Library, where I was able to use resources such as old newspapers, documents, articles, and even ancestry, to piece together his story.

Born in a small town in Southwestern Ontario, Grande Pointe, Sherley's childhood consisted of doing lots of farm work. He grew up as the only boy among three sisters and, in a unique twist, was given a traditionally female name. It became a charming part of his story, one that always made people smile and perfectly reflected his playful spirit. Life for him was simple: early mornings, hard work, and long days. At the time,

in the 1930s, children working to keep up on chores and yard work was very common. The rural town was known for its agriculture, fields, and vegetation (Ontario Atlas, 2012). He and his family didn't grow up with much, but they always found a way to make it work. One of Sherley's main passions was music, as was his father's, Abraham St. Pierre, who could also play the guitar.

However, it wasn't until later in life that he took music seriously. In 1953, with the help of his wife, Theresa Demers, he gathered his friends and family and created a band called "The Melody Ramblers". They were a small country and western band with limited equipment, but they made it work. The band members included **Theresa St. Pierre** – Lead Vocalist, **Sherley St. Pierre** – Lead Guitarist and Vocals, **Joe Barnier** – Guitar, **Marie Barnier** – Vocals, **Louella Barnier** – Vocals, **Francis Barnier** – Drums, **Ralph St. Pierre** – Fiddle, **Joe Demers** – Pedal Steel, **Rita Demers** – Vocals (Beaulieu, 2009). They would perform in front of the community just for fun, but they quickly gained popularity. Next thing they knew, they were getting hired for weddings, festivals, birthdays, and parties. The Chatham Musical Archive stated that, "The very first couple of live shows the band did were for \$35 a night in the 1950s. It was not unusual for them to perform two shows a day on the weekend, often doing something like a wedding in the daytime and a night show at an establishment. Some of the places they played in these early years were Big Point, Stoney Point Club, Port Lambton, Chatham Polish Hall, Blenheim, and Tilbury. The group also performed at the Pyranon

Ballroom in Chatham”. Sherley created the band, but it wasn’t for the attention or fame; it was for the love of music and the desire to gather a community.

Sherley’s musical talent was passed down to his children, and in particular, his son (my grandfather). Growing up with Sherley as a father meant music was always a part of his daily life. Whether it was hearing him practice at home or attending one of his shows, my grandfather was constantly surrounded by the sounds of music. In 1973, he joined The Melody Ramblers, stepping into a role that had once been Sherley’s. He was an exceptional drummer and band leader.

Sherley was known to be the life of the party and often encouraged others around him to pick up their instruments and join in the celebration. When our family would gather for holidays or special occasions, the night would not end before the guitars were pulled from their cases and songs started to ring out. At a young age, my father also took an interest in the joys of making music and learned how to play the drums like his father. It wasn’t by studying theory or taking lessons, but rather by simply being exposed to the environment that encouraged music and learning to play an instrument. Presently, he spends most of his weekends drumming for musicians and bands all over Southwestern Ontario. He has also been fortunate to travel to the U.S.A. and Sweden to perform. This wouldn’t have been the case without Sherley’s musical influence.

As a matter of fact, I likely wouldn’t be here today without his music. While in high school, my father was quite shy. He had learned that my mother could sing, so, as a way to get to know her better, he convinced her to be a member of a student rock band. My mother loved singing in church as a child but never enjoyed the spotlight. With his encouragement, he convinced her to sing more often, giving her the experience and confidence to sing on stage in front of a crowd. It was through this school band that my parents formed a friendship and long-lasting relationship, celebrating 20 years of marriage this year.

Before passing away in 2008, Sherley was honoured and inducted into the Grande Point Hall of Fame for his musical contributions to the small town he had grown up in. He was not only recognized for his talents but his joy for life and lively character.

The purpose of this essay is to honour my great-grandfather by talking about how his music has carried people through life. His influence didn’t just stop with him; it brought my grandfather into the family band in 1973, and my father into a drumming career of his own. That connection between them, and how it blossomed through the family, makes me feel like music is more than just something we listen to; it’s something that’s been part of who we are for generations.

His musical roots still impact my life to this day, and he’s my inspiration to continue listening and engaging with music. In the end, Sherley St. Pierre didn’t just play music, he was music; and to me, that’s the greatest legacy anyone could ever leave behind. Maybe one day, the world can hear my voice as they heard his.

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Referenced the Chatham-Kent Public Library

Interview with grandfather – Saturday, April 19, 2025

Interview with father – Thursday, April 17, 2025



My Unusual Find: Coffin Register

Nancy Gilbride Casey

Have you ever heard of a coffin register? I haven't. And just like you, I'm asking, "What's that?"

I discovered a coffin register at the St. Catharine's Public Library on a summer research trip. And I was quite surprised to find an ancestor's name in it.

This coffin register was a book used by the Thomas McIntyre company in St. Catharines to record coffin orders between 1863-1865. McIntyre had a cabinet and furniture making business and eventually branched out to build wooden coffins for his clients.

Early funerals in America were usually conducted by family and friends of the deceased, and included preparing the body, providing a homemade shroud or coffin, and even carrying the coffin to the grave site. By the mid-late 18th century, carpenters and cabinetmakers began to offer bespoke coffins. Eventually, tradesmen like McIntyre expanded their businesses by making coffins or selling ready-made ones and began to "undertake" more and more arrangements for funerals. They became the precursors of today's funeral directors.[1]

My 3rd great-grand uncle Daniel Cassidy died on 29 August 1866. His register entry gives details of the type of coffin which was ordered for Daniel.[2]

The left page of the registry gives the following information:

- No. of the order: 92
- Date: 29 (August at top of page)
- Name: Daniel Cassidy
- Residence: Grantham
- Quality: Stained and box
- Age: [blank]

Information on the right page includes:

- Sise (sic): 5ft 8
- Other details of the order: "hearse and span" and possibly "cleat trimmings"
- Cost: \$20.00

No. in	Name	Residence	Quality	Age
77	16. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
78	17. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
79	18. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
80	19. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
81	20. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
82	21. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
83	22. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
84	23. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
85	24. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
86	25. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
87	26. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
88	27. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
89	28. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
90	29. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
91	30. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
92	31. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
93	32. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
94	33. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
95	34. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
96	35. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
97	36. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
98	37. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
99	38. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
100	39. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
101	40. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
102	41. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
103	42. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
104	43. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
105	44. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
106	45. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs

Figure 1

No. in	Name	Residence	Quality	Age
77	16. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
78	17. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
79	18. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
80	19. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
81	20. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
82	21. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
83	22. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
84	23. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
85	24. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
86	25. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
87	26. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
88	27. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
89	28. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
90	29. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
91	30. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
92	31. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
93	32. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
94	33. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
95	34. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
96	35. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
97	36. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
98	37. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
99	38. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
100	39. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
101	40. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
102	41. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
103	42. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
104	43. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
105	44. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
106	45. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs
107	46. J. Smith	St. Catharines	Stained & box	74 yrs

Figure 2

Figures 1 and 2 - The left and right sides of Daniel Cassidy's burial record.

These details provide some context about Daniel and his burial.

First, he was fairly short, based on the coffin measurement of 5'8". He was likely a bit shorter than that to allow for room at his head and feet, perhaps 5'6" or 5'7."

Second, the coffin "quality" was noted as "stained and box." Other orders were for "walnut & box," "covered and box," "outside box only," and simply, "stained," noting variations in the type of woods and stains used. The term "box" is unclear but might refer to an outer box similar to the vaults used around modern caskets.

Third, "hearse and span" likely means that the coffin was carried by a two-horse cart for the funeral. Other orders on the page note "single hearse." A "span" is defined as "a pair of animals (such as mules) usually matched in appearance and action and driven together." [3]



Figure 3: Clipart rendering of a hearse and span.

Daniel died in Grantham, which was about six miles from St. Catharines where his funeral and burial would have been held. His family belonged to the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, and the Catholic cemetery of the time was Victoria Lawn Cemetery. The larger hearse might have made the distance to be travelled from Grantham to St. Catharines easier or maybe it also conveyed family members. My guess is that the hearse and span was a

substantial part of the \$20 cost, among the more expensive orders on the page.

Fourth, "cleat trimmings" is noted for Daniel's coffin while other orders on the page note "plate trimmings" which seemed to be more expensive. I had some difficulty finding the definition of a cleat used in coffin-building but ran across a modern set of coffin plans online, which showed that the cleats hold the wood boards together from side to side.[4]

Perhaps the difference between the "cleat" vs. the "plate" is that the cleats were wooden while the plates were metal and probably looked a bit fancier.

Other orders on the page included details for linings ("plainly lined," "nicely lined," "silk lined"), handles, ("handles put on coffin") and even "engraved plate." There is no mention of any lining, handles, or plates on Daniel's coffin, so perhaps the budget for his burial did not allow for those after the cost of the hearse and span; his family wanted a simpler coffin for him.

Incidentally, do you know the difference between a coffin and a casket? I didn't! A coffin has a hexagonal shape which follows the contours of the body – wider at the shoulders and tapering towards the feet. A casket has a rectangular shape and is more widely used today than in the past.[5]

The coffin register definitely ranks up there with the most unusual places I have found an ancestor recorded, and also one of the most fascinating finds on my research trip.



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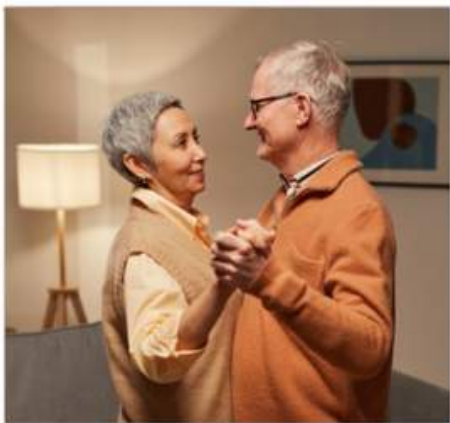


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The Original Baby Name Book: The Bible

Robbie Gorr

John and Mary were the most popular standard names given to children for centuries, being good old plain and solid names but also belonging to several important people mentioned in the Bible. Of course, the best-selling book of all time, the “Good Book” has always been an inspiration for the faithful and the devout, providing many names ranging from the well-known to the almost unheard-of and even the strange and foreign sounding. The Bible was obviously one of the most popular sources of baby names for generations of our ancestors and perhaps it can even be called the original baby name book.

Prophets, Heroes and Apostles

Names were often chosen for the qualities they embodied in the hopes that a child bearing such a name would live up to those attributes, an idea taken directly from the scriptures: “As his name is, so is he” (1 Samuel 25:25). As a result, the names of the prophets, heroes and apostles of the Bible were frequently bestowed on generations of children.

Among the major prophets mentioned in the Old Testament were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel but those names were chosen no more often than the names of the minor prophets such as Nathan, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zechariah and Malachi, and many of us have at least one or more of these among our early ancestors.

The almost-mythical stories of heroes like David, the shepherd boy who battled a giant and became a king, Noah who survived the destruction of the world, Moses and Joshua who led the Israelites from slavery to a land of freedom, and Samson, the legendary strongman, ensured that these names were in popular use for centuries. Even heroines like courageous and faithful

Miriam, Esther, the reluctant queen who saved her people, and the loyal and devoted Ruth inspired many parents to name their daughters in commemoration.



Figure 1 - Lazarus Parkinson (1817-1896) of Eramosa Twp., Wellington Co., Ontario

In the New Testament, it was the tales of the Apostles and their teachings that motivated many to name their children Simon, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, Peter and Philip. Even the infamous Judas would be memorialized as the author of regret and redemption, if you were to ask Judas Iscariot Parnham (1880, Simcoe). And the authors of the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (again) – were also among the inspirational choices.

The Moral Women

There are certainly more names for boys in the Bible than there are names for girls. Nonetheless certain names of moral, humble, devoted or trusted women in the stories have had their moments of popularity. Abigail, Huldah, Judith, and Deborah were prominent

names of past days while Mary, Elizabeth, Anne and Sarah have been among the timeless names commonly used for centuries. Recent top lists of biblical names for girls have also included Rachel, Rebecca, Chloe and Hannah.

Choosing the Lesser Known

Even the names of the less moral women in the Bible were options for baby names. Parents did not hesitate to use Jezebel (like Jezebel Thomas, 1889, Waterloo Co.), Delilah (like Delilah Potter, 1874, York, and Delilah Hilts, 1873, Grey), Eve (like Eve Tripp, 1875, Oxford), or Jerusha (like Jerusha Church, 1870, Renfrew). And certainly, there were some little-known women of the Bible whose names have been memorialized in earlier generations such as Hagar, Achsah, Eunice and Lois.



Figure 2 - Delilah Price (1833-1907) of Williamsburg Twp., Dundas Co., Ontario

Many lesser known and more unusual names were also used for boys. Just ask Hezekiah Shirk (1881, Essex) or Adam Methuselah Hall (1880, York). In the book of Daniel, we are introduced to his three prison mates Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego which made excellent choices for triplets or even all for one like

Shadrack Meseck Abednego Findley (1873, York) and Shadrack Meshach Abednego Wismer (1879, Huron). And names like Naaman, Jabez, Jethro and Josiah have also been used with varying degrees of popularity.

Just looking at the names of past generations leaves no doubt that the Bible has always been a go-to baby name book for the pious and the faithful. Some inspired extremes, however, like God Moses Fleshman (1883, Lanark) and Jesus Christ Long (1879, Middlesex) were unexpected revelations.

The Finger of Fate

There is evidence that some parents, believers in fatalism, predestination or even just karma and kismet, sometimes closed their eyes, opened their Bible and pointed randomly to determine a child's name. It would certainly explain some unusual historical names including Notwithstanding Griswold (1764-1835) and Maybe Barnes (1663-1749). The practice is called "bibliomancy" and is part of the philosophy that the Holy Spirit is directing the finger that will randomly choose a verse for guidance or, in this case, a name to bestow. I tried it myself and thankfully no future child of mine will need to bear the chosen name – Therefore Gorr.

Enduring Popularity

Almost a generation ago biblical names for girls were among the fashionable choices. Recent years have seen resurgence in the popularity of some biblical names once again. This time some Old Testament names are on trend for boys – Samuel, Joseph, Aaron, Adam and Jacob have all seen their popular days, but Noah and Elijah are among contemporary favourites and included on most top ten lists. The Bible continues to be an ongoing and unending source of popular names for children.

Is there a new baby in your family? You might consider consulting the original baby name book to choose a tried and tested moniker or perhaps something more unusual, even if you must close your eyes and point to a page to find it.

Coral's Corner

Coral Harkies

As we continue to explore the resources available to our members, we will now take a brief look at the Branches in the western part of Ontario. These include Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, London, Oxford and Perth.

Essex County Branch covers the County of Essex. The branch now includes the Franco-Ontarian Research Centre, which after 40 years of operation had been on the brink of closing. The Branch is now working to make resources from this collection available to their members. Their library collection is housed at the Windsor Public Library and their website has both free and members only resources which include church records, Branch newsletters, family histories and much more.

Huron County Branch covers the County of Huron. They have helped to publish books about local history. They have a master name index on their website which is free to search and also has links to local research resources. Their members only section has an interesting collection of soldier biographies as well as family histories and Branch newsletters.

Kent Branch covers the County of Kent. The branch website offers both free resource links as well as a members' corner. The members' corner section has many records that can help you expand your research in the local area. They include diaries, yearbooks, local histories and much more. Their library collection is housed at the Chatham Kent Public Library.

Lambton County Branch covers Lambton County. Their website has a master name index and links to other interesting local records. The Branch partners with the Lambton County Archives to provide access to

their records collection. Their members only section includes family histories, newspapers and a settler's index.

London Middlesex Branch covers Middlesex County including the city of London. Their family histories collection is held at the Wright Family Research Room at the Strathroy Public Library. Their website has an extensive list of resources connected to Middlesex County. The branch's member's only section includes a surname index, obituary collection and their publication section has a wealth of information to help move your research in this area of Ontario forward.

Oxford County Branch covers Oxford County. Their research collection is held at Court House Square in Woodstock. Their website has free research resources including a name index, maps and more. They also have links to many helpful sites. Their member's library includes historical photos of the county, funeral home records, newspapers and much more.

Perth County Branch covers Perth County. They have worked alongside the Stratford-Perth County Archives to help support family history research in the area. Currently, their members only section has a collection of branch newsletters available.

Along with these and all of our Branches, the Society is continuing to add new record sets to our research area. You can now explore the records that were donated to us by the Huguenot Society of Canada after it closed several years ago. It is organized by surname and each record could be a one page note about an article from the *Huguenot Trail* newsletter, a brief history of a particular surname, or it may even include family charts and more.

Our newest addition is a collection of Century Farm applications. This collection includes survey questionnaire forms, along with additional information that was provided by the farm owners, as well as some correspondences with township offices which may list other potential century farms for the project. All of the application forms are included, sorted by the surname of the original owner. We will be adding more of the correspondences to the collection as soon as possible.

Another resource that was recently added is the Master Index of the Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Registers. Many of our branches have the books for their area available either in their members only section of their website or in their marketplace. There is a finding aid available to assist you in finding the book you want. In areas where we do not have a local branch, we have added the complete register books, with permission, to our collection as a members-only resource.

Stay tuned for more records and resources to come.

Off the Beaten Branch

University Libraries are an often-under-utilized resource that can help with your research. They often have specialized collections related to the area they are in, programs they offer, and more. These may include both online and onsite resources. Here are a few examples of online collections.

Trent University Archives and Special Collection Guide to Online Resources: This online collection includes diaries, letters, City of Peterborough resources, and much more.

<https://www.trentu.ca/library/archives-special-collections/archival-research-guides/guide-digital-resources>

University of Guelph Archival and Special Collection: This is one area of the university library site that would be of interest to genealogists.

<https://archives-catalogue.lib.uoguelph.ca/>

The other collection that could be of interest is their research Database which includes over 600 databases covering all areas of study at the University of Guelph. You can search by keyword, type or subject.

<https://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/az/databases>

University of Toronto Canadian Necrology: This database is a unique collection of death and/or obituary information spanning the late 18th century to 1977. Both prominent and lesser-known Canadians are included in this collection of over 20,000 records.

<https://collections.library.utoronto.ca/explore/necrology>

Why not plan a visit to a local university library and discover what they might have to add details and context to your research?



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at the tip of your fingers
in an instant...

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Census Documents
Cemetery Transcripts
Parish Papers
Unique Local Resources
and more...

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**Ontario
Ancestors**
The Ontario Genealogical Society

The United Empire Loyalists, Founders of British Canada by A.G. Bradley, 1932

Honouring the Women of North Hastings – their stories and recipes, Volumes 1 and 2

Book Reviews by Heather Oakley

The United Empire Loyalists, Founders of British Canada

by A.G. Bradley, 1932

This book came to me via my partner Ken's grandparents, the Crandlemires of British Columbia. Reading a book written so many years ago that used a style of writing and word choices that was vastly different from today's more modern books. The author, A.G. Bradley, authored numerous other books on the history of Canada, as well as other topics. Oddly enough, Wikipedia lists many other books and articles written by him, but not this book!

In this book, Mr. Bradley states his views on the U.S. War of Independence, and the trials of Loyalists prior to, during, and after this War, which may go against most of the existing histories of the time (remember this book was written in 1932). He believes that because he lived in Virginia and Boston as well as England, he spoke with and used historical documents for which most of his British contemporaries did not have access. He writes about the period before the War of Independence, through the War of 1812-14, to about the 1840s – always describing how the British/Loyalists founded parts of Canada. Mr. Bradley gives his perspective on the situation in the original thirteen colonies vis-à-vis the British, how things unfolded, and the treatment of those who professed loyalty to the British Crown. He mentions some of the documents he reviewed, like ex-Governor Hutchinson of

Massachusetts Bay's (1771-1774) journals, the differing views in Maryland, the accounts of David Fanning (a Loyalist guerilla leader in the Carolinas), Nicholas Cresswell's journals (1774-1777) as a newly arrived Englishman who travelled extensively through Virginia, Maryland and the Ohio Valley, Justice of the Supreme Court of New York Judge Thomas Jones exhaustive record, and Professor John Fiske's book *The Critical Period of American History* (about the years 1783-1789 before the US Constitution was written) published in 1888. Mr. Bradley also mentions conversations he had with people who lived through (or their descendants) the U.S. War of Independence. This book gives an interesting view of what happened to Loyalists during the War of Independence.

Mr. Bradley goes on to discuss the lives of United Empire Loyalists when they arrived in Canada, in Lower Canada/Quebec, Upper Canada/Ontario or the Maritimes. He talks about the hardships and difficulties they faced when opening new land, setting up their farms and businesses, and getting transportation networks working. His book has separate chapters on the Loyalists in Ontario versus Loyalists in the Maritimes. Mr. Bradley again talks about the documents he used like Colonel Edward Winslow's Report on the Loyalists in Nova Scotia/New Brunswick 1783-1785. He continues writing about these Loyalists and how they were faring up to the War of 1812.

At this point in the book, Mr. Bradley outlines the political discourse leading up to the US declaring war

and the ambivalent feelings of some of the U.S. states. He describes the various battles and skirmishes between American and Canadian forces in both Upper and Lower Canada, outlining which side prevailed and upon which side of the border. He does make it clear that British forces were few until the latter part of the War of 1812. Also clear is that the American militia (mostly farmers) were not strong fighters and may have even retreated home at the first sight of an organized Canadian force. Mr. Bradley dissects most of the battles as well as the leadership. In his view, many of the American military leadership left much to be desired. Mr. Bradley tells us his opinion of the U.S. government leaders of the time and some of their actions that appear wrong-headed in hindsight.

Mr. Bradley closes the book with a description of how life for the United Empire Loyalists, their descendants, and new British emigrants was in Canada up to the 1840s. If you are interested in how the U.S. War of Independence started, how the Loyalists were treated, how the United Empire Loyalists fared in Canada, and the War of 1812, this book could be an interesting read for you. Additionally, it might also lead you to new avenues of research into your Loyalist ancestors.



***Honouring the Women of North Hastings –
their stores and recipes, Volumes 1 and 2***

Since my maternal Canadian line originates in the northern part of Hastings County (Lake St. Peter to be exact), I am always glad to find any research material! These two volumes put out by the Bancroft North Hastings Heritage Museum Board and Book Committee, contain about 125 biographies of women written by their descendants. Each biography comes with a favourite recipe and most with a photograph!

These biographies speak of women who were born anywhere from the 1880s up to about the 1930s. These women were born in north Hastings County, or other places in Ontario/Canada, or in the United Kingdom or other parts of Europe. Many of the women were farm wives but just as many lived in town. There are stories of women who faced adversities: becoming a widow at a youthful age with small children, moving to a new country, looking after the farm by themselves while raising their children, taking over their late husband's business, et cetera.

This book gives the reader an in-depth look at how the women of north Hastings County lived, raised their children, and prospered. If you are not lucky enough to be related to any of these women, you can still learn about a section of Ontario that I find to be lacking in information sources. You will also get more social context about families, food, and life during that period of Ontario history.

If you are interested in these books, you can purchase them at The Bancroft North Hastings Heritage Museum, email bancroftnheritagemuseum@gmail.com I can also recommend a visit to the Heritage Museum!



Don't let your memories fade™



Challenge your brain ...the more you stimulate and challenge your brain—and the earlier you begin that stimulation—the more of a buffer you'll create against the detrimental effects of aging.



Shirley S. Wang
July 19, 2017

In what is thought to be the largest randomized trial to date, **residents gathered photographs and talked about family**. Participants reported a significant improvement in their quality of life. The intervention also reduced their agitation as effectively as antipsychotic drugs.



... study suggests that pRT stimulation **may reduce dementia symptoms both during participation and as much as 24 to 36 hours later**, when participants showed benefits from the residual effects of the photo-based reminiscence therapy session. This pilot study strongly supports and contributes to a medically valid, non-pharmacological approach to working with and treating patients with dementia.



Reminiscing and novel learning promotes neurogenesis and brain plasticity



Restore photos, documents and even mementos



Record memories and feelings to describe people, places and more



Stories combine images and recordings into movies automatically or fine-tune

pRT assists family and professionals to engage with loved ones



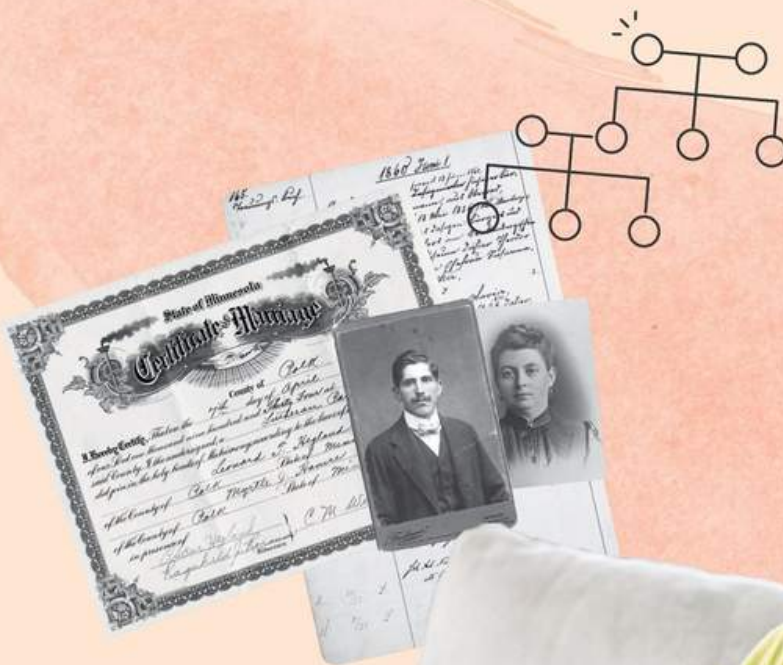
Prompts assist caregivers to communicate with loved ones



Vivid-Pix.com



- Build your family tree
- Get automatic matches to other family trees
- Collaborate with relatives around the world
- Search global historical records
- Uncover your ancestors' stories
- Receive automatic record matches to your family tree



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