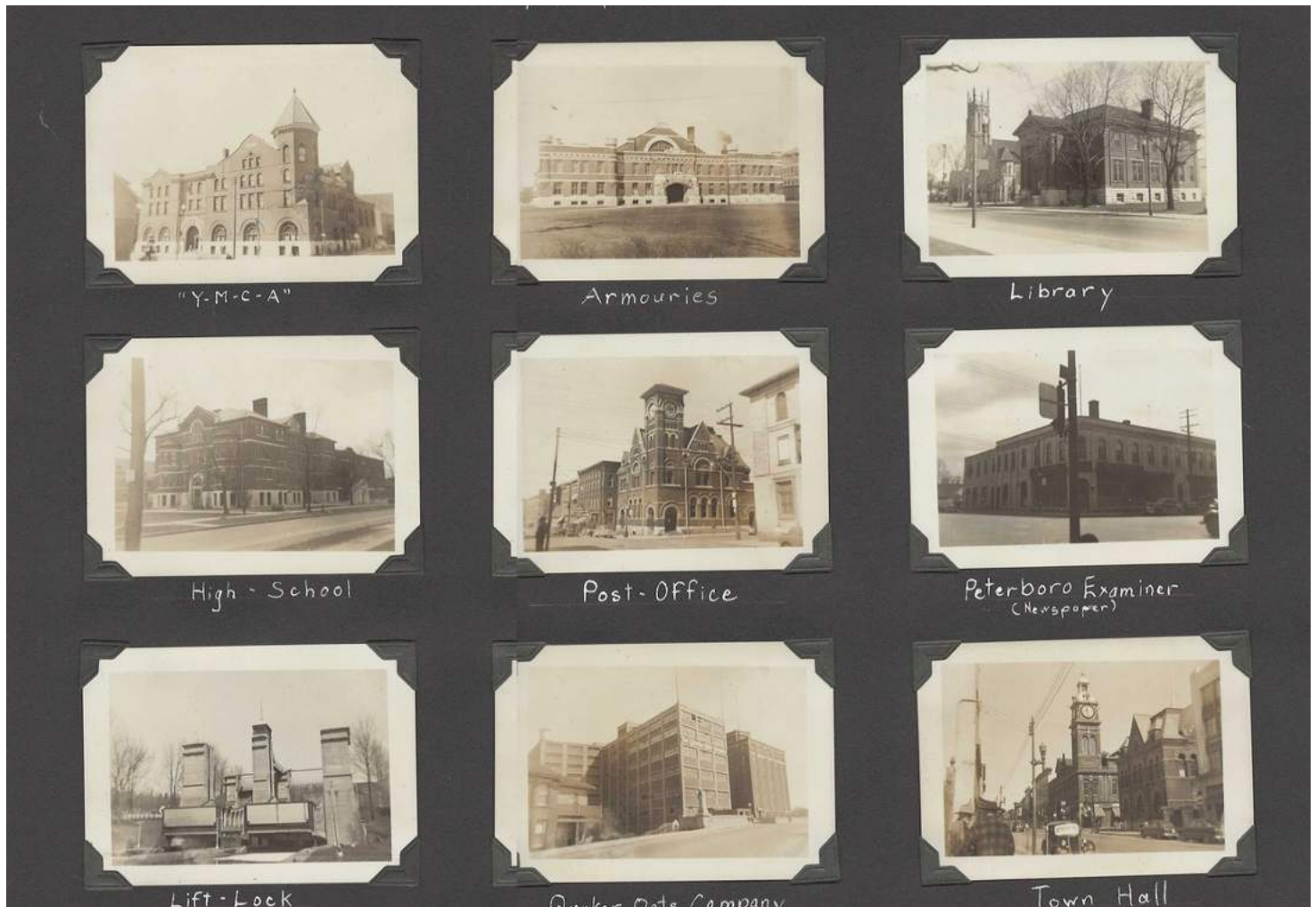




FAMILIES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 65 | NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2026



One of George Neville's personal photo montages from his trip to Peterborough in 1950.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Breaking Up is Hard To Do - Ontario's First Parliamentary Divorce
Views of Peterborough and the OPP Keeler Family of 75 years ago
Lillian Julia Tebbitt and Beatrice Tebbitt - British Home Children and Their Immediate Family
The Family of Elizabeth Robertson, Wife of Sir James Stuart
A New Chapter for Ontario's Photographs
What's in a Name? German Pietistic Naming Traditions
Coral's Corner, Book Reviews, and more!

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From the Editor



Heather McTavish
Taylor,
Managing Editor

Welcome to 2026, all the best to everyone as we continue to live through what seems like very turbulent times. It's February already and the groundhogs have given us mixed signals...but Wiarton Willie is predicting an early spring, let's hope he is correct! I am sitting here watching light flakes of snow fall in the sunshine. Last night I was out playing pickleball in a league, this morning I went out for an early morning ski at my local hill, and, this afternoon I will be attending a meeting at the local library. They are interested in digitizing their trove of old newspapers, and I am keen to get involved within my new community.

In my genealogy research, I have been looking through collections of municipal-level records, to see if, and how, my ancestors were involved in their communities. I recently found out that my 3x great-grandfather was a road assessor-collector in the 1840's, that my husband's great grandfather was a Mayor in Guelph, and, that my 2x great-grandmother was widowed three times, each time she showed up in the local tax records of Yonge Township. Municipal records, local history books and archives are rich with information from a local level, telling us of the activities of our ancestors within their communities. While the idea of community has changed over time, with the advent of online communities, there will always be a "place" where like-minded individuals gather to make connections. Looking through those community records can help us



not only track our ancestors, but also give us a peak into their lives and add colour to their stories. Have you looked into any local records to see if you can find out anything to help you craft the stories of your ancestors? Have you found out anything surprising, that you would like to share? I hope that you will write to me and share your findings, I would love to hear your stories!

This issue of *Families* is once again full of interesting stories, from a number of different authors. George Neville has shared his personal photo album from a trip that he took to Peterborough in 1950, and researched the old building to give us a glimpse in time. Alan Campbell has written about the family and circumstances of two sisters who were sent to Canada as British Home Children in the late 1800's. And, we introduce new author Raymond Perrault, who has written about Elizabeth Robertson, who was the wife of Sir James Stuart. Drew von Hasselbach has penned an article about an early divorce in Upper Canada, by way of government proclamation. Of course, we also have book reviews from Heather Oakley (and AI), a new instalment to the "What's in a Name" segment by Robbie Gorr, a letter to the editor from Jane Down with additional commentary about a previously published article, and, last but not least, Coral's Corner, where Coral Harkies walks us through information about OGS branches in Northern Ontario, and those that have recently closed, and where to find their resources. So much to read – 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



FAMILIES

Table of Contents

Volume 65 | Number 1 | February 2026

Editorial

Heather McTavish Taylor.....1

Letter to the Editor

Jane Down.....4

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do - Ontario's First Parliamentary Divorce

Drew von Hasselbach.....6

Views of Peterborough and the OPP Keeler Family of 75 Years Ago

George Neville.....10

Lilian Julia Tebbitt and Beatrice Tebbitt - British Home Children, and their Immediate Family

Alan Campbell.....17

The Family of Elizabeth Robertson, wife of Sir James Stuart

Raymond Perrault.....28

A New Chapter for Ontario's Photographs

Adina Tuerxun.....38

What's in a Name? German Pietistic Naming Traditions

Robbie Gorr.....39

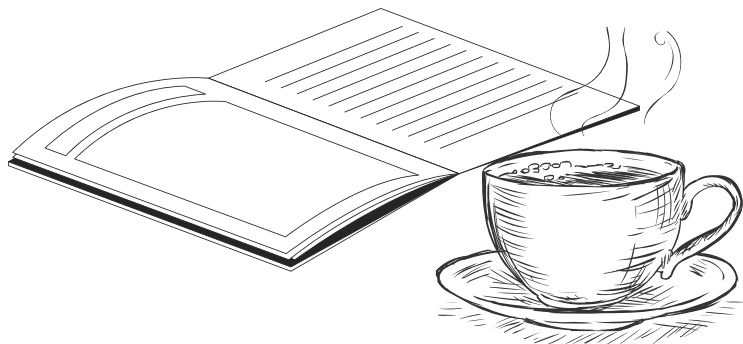
Coral's Corner

Coral Harkies.....41

Book Reviews:

Scattered Bits and Pieces Along the Road - Maynooth Memories, Volume 1 and I Remember Grandma, Second Edition

Heather Oakley.....43



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read with interest George Neville's article, "Paul Shipman, Early Settler of Niagara Peninsula; Losses in U.S. War of 1812-1814" (*Families*, Vol. 64, No. 4, 2025, pp. 12-18). Paul Shipman was my 5th great grandfather. While I am grateful to George for transcribing these documents, I was dismayed by two comments in his article and for this reason, I feel compelled to address these points in this letter.

First, George said that in my article on Paul Shipman, "My Notable Ontario Ancestor" (*Families*, Vol. 64, No. 3, pp. 8-15), I contradicted myself. He stated that I said Paul did not fight in the Revolutionary War and then later said that he did fight in the Revolutionary War. This is not true. I stated on page 12 of my article that as far as I could determine, Paul did not fight in the War of 1812. In the section on "Final Thoughts" of my article, I then mentioned that Paul fought in the American Revolutionary War on the American side. I did not contradict myself – Paul did fight in the American Revolution. George has confused the wars.

The second item that I would like to address is the statement in George's article that Paul had a "checkered history" (page 13). George was surprised that Paul not only submitted claims for losses in the War of 1812 but that his claims were also successful. I think George is referring to the fact that Paul had fought in the American Revolutionary War on the American side as being his "checkered history." But I wish he had said that instead of disparaging Paul's history. Yes, Paul fought on the American side in the Revolutionary War but in the eyes of the Americans that was honourable. Also, Paul, who had been settled in Upper Canada for

at least a decade before 1812, was clearly eligible to make claims for his losses during the war. He housed the Kings troops at his inn for 18 months at his own expense, his home was damaged and crops destroyed, and he had two sons who served in the war with the Niagara Militia, one of whom died of wounds. Paul himself was too old to serve, but his contribution to the defence of Upper Canada was significant.

It might interest people to know that the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe, made a proclamation in 1792 (less than a decade after the end of the Revolutionary War) to extend land grants and advertised widely in the United States for settlers. [1] He did this despite criticism that he was encouraging settlers who the British Loyalists had battled during the American Revolution. Simcoe was keen to have American settlers as they understood the mode of agriculture in the new world better than émigrés from Europe or Britain. He wanted to populate western Upper Canada with settlers who would support the Crown. Americans who emigrated north agreed to take the oath of allegiance, a suggestion perhaps that loyalty to the new American Republic was weak. The issue of which side one fought on or supported during the Revolution seemed to have eased with the passage of time to the point that the Lieutenant-Governor was inviting Americans to settle in the colony.

Furthermore, before Paul came to Canada, he was a Justice of the Peace in New Jersey. And as my article stated, in the early 1800s, Paul owned a good part of downtown St. Catharines, then called Shipman's Corners after him. The main street was also named after him – St. Paul's Street. Paul owned a coaching inn that became very famous and popular – coaches

stopped there to change horses on their way into the Niagara region and many local meetings and events were held at his inn. Paul was personally impacted by the War of 1812 (as noted above), he served as a trustee of the Episcopal Church and was a signatory on the petition of incorporation for the Welland Canal. So, I have to ask – what is “checkered” about his history?

Thank you for allowing me to address these points.

Sincerely
Jane Down
down1463@gmail.com



[1] *Western Ontario and the American Frontier* by Fred Landon, The Canadian Publishers, Toronto, 1967, pp 14-19.

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Breaking Up is Hard To Do: Ontario's first parliamentary divorce

Drew von Hasselbach

Drew von Hasselbach, LLB, PLCGS, a lawyer and writer in Toronto, is a Mentoring Professor with the International Institute of Genealogical Studies. His own lengthy marriage is proof he always puts the cap back on the toothpaste.

We usually look to Parliament to handle our big national problems: funding our national defence, fostering the infrastructure that builds our economy, or launching programs to tackle poverty. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, it was also something of a weird reality show, turning its attention to the fate of bitter marital breakdowns.

One such case, *An Act for the relief of John Horace Stevenson*, produced what may be Ontario's first post-Confederation parliamentary divorce, a proceeding that comes complete with Senate hearings, committee reports, and an Act of Parliament, all lodged for the purpose of dissolving a marriage that had lasted barely a day, and all available for the inspection of family historians. [1]

A rushed marriage

On 22 November 1860, sixteen-year-old John Horace Stevenson Jr. and eighteen-year-old Mary Elizabeth Foote slipped away to marry by licence in Napanee. It was a hurried, impulsive match – kind of a nineteenth-century Tinder date that took a turn to the altar.

The groom's father, John H. Stevenson Sr., was well known in the community, a local politician who would later become the first Speaker of Ontario's Legislative Assembly. Unaware of the wedding until the day after, he hit the roof and immediately sent his teenage son off to school in Montréal. The newlyweds never lived together, and according to the legal records, there wasn't even a wedding night, as John Jr. had returned home immediately after the ceremony. Normally, that would have been the end of it. But by 1868, John Jr., now in his mid-twenties, wanted to marry again. One problem: his first marriage, unhappy and unconsummated, still existed on paper.

At the time, Ontario had no dedicated court equipped to dissolve it. Under the *British North America Act, 1867*, only the Parliament of Canada could grant divorces in Ontario and Quebec (other provinces had other arrangements). That meant Stevenson needed to hire a lawyer and persuade the Senate, the House of Commons, and the Governor General to pass a private Act dissolving the marriage. So, no wedding night, but a nearly decade-long legal hangover.

RETURN of Marriages solemnized by Philip J. Roblin, a Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, for the year ending 31st day of December, A.D., 1860.

BRIDEGROOM.				BRIDE.				WITNESSES.		Date of Marriage.
Name.	Age.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Name.	Age.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Name of Parents.	Residence.	
John H. Stevenson	16	Napanee, Bath.	John Stevenson.	Mary E. Foote	18	Napanee.	Clark's Mills	Benjamin Foote, Esq. Foote, Napanee.	Lucy Foote, J. D. Roblin.	November 22, 1860.

Solemnized by Licence.
I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of all marriages solemnized before Philip J. Roblin, for the year ending on the 31st day of December next preceding the date hereof.
[Signed.] PHILIP J. ROBLIN,
M. W. M. C. I. C.
I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Marriage Return No. 957, Registered in the Registry Office for the County of Lennox and Addington on the 30th day of January, 1861.
M. P. ROBLIN,
Registrar.

32 VICTORIA.
19th MAY.

Left: An extract of the parish marriage registry for John Stevenson and Mary Foote, *Senate Journals, 1st Parliament, 2nd Session, vol. 2* (1869), page 95

Enter Parliament

Stevenson's lawyer petitioned Parliament in June 1868. [2] That petition set in motion a chain of events that would pull the elopement onto the government's order paper. The petition was a stark document, one that merely asked Parliament to dissolve the marriage. This masked the rich fabric of details that would emerge during Senate hearings, such as how the bride, Mary Foote, had long since moved to California and had a child with a man named John F. Perry. [3]

While genealogists might know about parliamentary acts of divorce, it is possible people forget that where there's a bill, there's a committee at play. The Senate Select Committee took evidence on the Stevenson bill from 17 to 19 May 1869. The Senate, once famously described by Canada's founding prime minister John A. Macdonald as the chamber of "sober second thought," dug deep into the steamy details of an ill-conceived union.

For genealogists, the material is stunning: a description of the marriage ceremony, certified copies of the licence and marriage bond, transcripts of the officiant's ordination papers, and statements from neighbours who had visited "Mary Perry" in California and had seen her living openly with her new partner and child. [4]

After the hearings, the committee reported the bill without amendment. [5] And despite the sensational facts, the senators themselves seemed faintly self-conscious about the whole matter.

Senator Sir Alexander Campbell (Conservative-Ontario), who represented the senatorial division of Cataraqui, said he would not "detain the House by any narration of the circumstances" – a polite way of admitting that this was all intensely personal business for Parliament, which had more pressing matters on its plate. [6] Indeed, immediately after the committee reported, the Senate turned to the day's next business: steamboat-inspection regulations.

The bill itself was an odd blend of bland emotion and mourning coat formality. "John Stevenson Jr., being only 17 at the time, was inveigled into the said marriage, not knowing fully the effect." By entering into a "so-called marriage" with John F. Perry, Mary Elizabeth Foote had "dissolved the said bond of matrimony on her part" such that the union between her and John Jr. "is and shall be henceforth null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever." [7]

It's important to note how highly unusual this was. There were only 12,732 parliamentary divorces recorded in Acts between 1841 and 1968, and just five of those were passed before Confederation. [8] Most nineteenth-century Canadian estrangements lacked legal fanfare. Many couples simply separated, and the husband – with or without his wife's consent – published a blunt newspaper notice disavowing responsibility for any debts she might incur. [9] This might not have legally ended the marriage, but it ended the relationship.

Parliamentary divorce was the opposite: slow, public, and given the immensely personal details involved, humiliating. Petitioners first had to run a six-month notice in the *Canada Gazette* and two local newspapers – essentially broadcasting their marital mistakes to the entire country. [10] Even then, success was not guaranteed. Under the rules described in J. A. Gemmill's 1889 manual, petitioners had to prove adultery and demonstrate they weren't forgiving it (condonation), weren't encouraging it (connivance), and weren't secretly collaborating with the other spouse. Committees could – and did – refuse bills when the evidence or jurisdiction looked thin. [11]



Applications to Parliament.

NOTICE is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, at the Session thereof next after the expiration of six months from the date of this notice, by **John Horace Stevenson**, formerly of the town of Napanee, in the county of Lennox and Addington, but now of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, for a Bill of Divorce, from **Mary Elizabeth Stevenson**, formerly Mary Elizabeth Foote, and now called Mary Elizabeth Perry, on the ground of adultery.

BEVERLEY JONES,
Solicitor for Applicant.

Dated at Toronto,
the 7th day of September, A. D. 1868. 83-26

Above: Ad in the *Canada Gazette* announcing John Stevenson's application for parliamentary divorce. *Canada Gazette*, (4 July 1868), No. 1, Vol. 2, p. 10

A marriage unwound

There were no impediments in the Stevenson case. The bill passed both Houses by 22 June 1869, received Royal Assent on 7 October, and was proclaimed on 20 November 1869. [12] A teenage union that in reality had lasted less than 24 hours required nine separate steps, two Houses of Parliament, and the Crown to dissolve.

For genealogists, the result is extraordinary. One failed marriage generated:

- a petition
- a Senate reference
- two days of sworn evidence
- certified documents
- a committee report
- a bill
- third readings
- Royal Assent
- a proclamation [13]

The paper trail is so thorough that it almost feels decadent. You can spend a lot of time hoping to come across such a detailed narrative. You do wish it centred on a happier event. Mary Foote did not return to Canada. She remained in the United States, remarried twice, had two sons, and died in Oakland, California, in

1916 at age seventy-six. [14] Stevenson remarried almost immediately: he wed Sarah Kirkby on 18 January 1870, mere weeks after the Act took effect, and eventually died in New York State [at the home of a nephew] in 1927. He and Sarah had no children.

As the Stevenson divorce shows, some of the richest genealogical records hide in unexpected legal filings. Church registers, civil registrations, and probate files are the usual starting points for our research. But you might want to check the Statutes of Canada or the Journals of the Senate for any other surprising details.

Below: An Act for the Relief of John Stevenson, *Statutes of Canada*, 32-33 Victoria, chapter 75 (1870)



ANNO TRICESIMO-SECUNDO ET TRICESIMO-TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. LXXV.

An Act for the relief of John Horace Stevenson.

[Reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon, 22nd June, 1869; Royal Assent given by Her Majesty in Council on the 7th October, 1869; Proclamation thereof made by His Excellency the Governor General on the 20th November, 1869.]

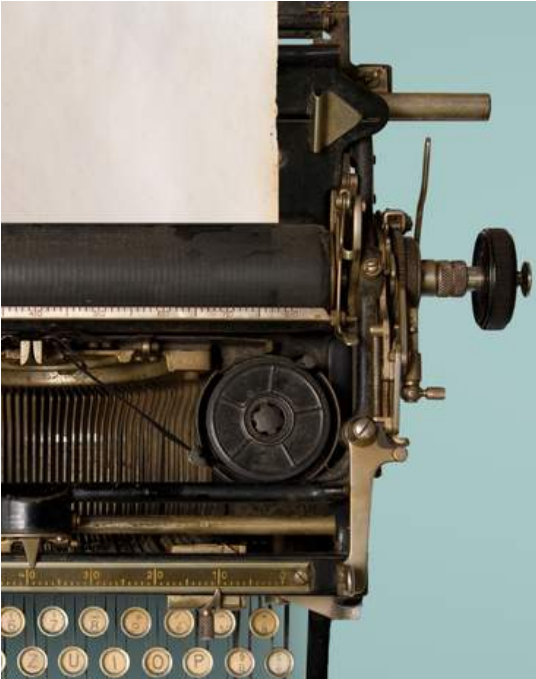
WHEREAS John Horace Stevenson, of the City of Toronto, Preamble.
in the County of York, Merchant, late of the Town of Napanee, in the County of Lennox and Addington, hath by his petition humbly set forth, that on the twenty-second day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, he was married to Mary Elizabeth Foote (now called Mary Elizabeth Perry), and such marriage was solemnized at the private residence of Benjamin Foote, the Father of the said Mary Elizabeth Foote, at the said Town of Napanee, then the Village of Napanee, according to the rites of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada; that at the time of such marriage he was a minor under the age of twenty-one years, being then in his seventeenth year, and was inveigled into the said marriage, not knowing fully the effect and importance of the same; that the said marriage was by license and performed without the knowledge or consent and contrary to the wish of his Father, who was then alive, and resided in Napanee aforesaid; that about the time the said marriage ceremony was being performed, his Father became acquainted with the fact, and made every endeavor in his power to prevent the same, but the said ceremony had been performed before he had an opportunity to interfere; that he and the said Mary Elizabeth Foote were separated by his Father immediately after the said marriage ceremony, and have lived separat; ever since, and the said marriage was never consummated by co-habitation; that in or about the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, the said Mary Elizabeth Foote became engaged to be married to one John F. Perry, to whom she was subsequently married (so far as it was possible) in the State of New York, one of the United States of America, but when, by whom, or at what particular place, the said petitioner has been unable to ascertain; that

Parliamentary divorces preserve detail on a scale unmatched by other Canadian sources: sworn testimony, migration trails, family circumstances, reputational gossip from neighbours, even copies of documents that no longer survive anywhere else.

It took 29 senators and an Act of Parliament to unwind a marriage that lasted less than the time it takes to fill out a hunting-licence form. Was Parliament busy in 1869? Absolutely. But it still made time for John Stevenson – and, thankfully for us, left behind a perfect paper trail.

Endnotes

- [1] *Senate Debates*, 1st Parliament, 2nd Session (1869), pp. 142-143.
- [2] *Canada Gazette*, (4 July 1868), No. 1, Vol. 2, p. 10.
- [3] *Senate Journals*, 1st Parliament, 2nd Session, vol. 2 (1869), pp. 92-97.
- [4] *Senate Journals*, 1st Parliament, 2nd Session, vol. 2 (1869), pp. 92-95.
- [5] *Senate Journals*, 1st Parliament, 2nd Session, vol. 2 (1869), p. 92.
- [6] Donald Swainson, "CAMPBELL, Sir ALEXANDER (d. 1892)," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 12 (https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/campbell_alexander_12E.html : accessed 21 November 2025)
- [7] Statutes of Canada, 32-33 Victoria, chapter 75 (1870).
- [8] Library and Archives Canada, Acts of Divorce, 1841-1968 (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/divorce-1841-1968/Pages/acts-divorce-1841-1968.aspx> : accessed 26 December 2026)
- [9] For typical Ontario debt-disavowal notices, see *Globe* (Toronto), 12 March 1867, p. 3; *Kingston Daily News*, 4 June 1874, p. 2; *Toronto World*, 19 September 1908, p. 3.
- [10] Constance Backhouse, "“Pure Patriarchy,”" *McGill Law Journal* 31 (1986), pp. 266-272; Library and Archives Canada, "Acts of Divorce, 1841-1968."
- [11] J.A. Gemmill, *Practice of the Parliament of Canada upon Bills of Divorce* (Toronto: Carswell, 1889), pp. 83-89, 105-124.
- [12] Legislative timeline recorded in *Senate Journals* and Statutes cited above.
- [13] Summary based on Parliamentary materials cited above.
- [14] Biographical details corroborated by Senate testimony and U.S. civil registrations



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Views of Peterborough, and the OPP Keeler Family of 75 Years Ago

Photos and Compilation by George A. Neville

Corporal 'Skipt' Keeler had been with the Lindsay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for a few years before he was transferred to the Brockville OPP Detachment with his family. The family took up residence in an older red brick house at 174 James St. East, Brockville, the second house east of my family residence (#166), on the same north side of the street. Skipt Keeler was always addressed and known in the community as 'Skipt' although apparently his given name(s) were Leland, as recorded in the 1945 Brockville Voters List and Thomas Lealand, as given by Ancestry user "LucilleKeeler47" [1].

Besides Skipt and his wife, Martha, the Keeler family consisted of three children – Bob, elder sister Elizabeth (Betty), and, younger brother Billy. Following are six photos that were taken in Peterborough showing the family members, after their transfer from Brockville.



Mr. & Mrs. Keeler (Martha Ann Elson, 1908-1963; Thomas Lealand Keeler, b. 11 July 1904, Oro Beach, Ontario; d. 8 July 1953, Englehart, Ontario.



Above - Keeler parents with sons, Robert Lealand Keeler, (1934-2013) and William (Billy) Douglas Keeler, (1946-2017).

Below left - Billy Keeler, photographed in Brockville before the family moved to Peterborough.



Above right - Elizabeth Betty Keeler, b. 14 August 1933, Kitchener, Ontario; d. 10 February 2021, Grand Prairie, Alberta.

Below - Betty and Billy Keeler each pictured with their beloved cocker spaniel dog



Bob Keeler was a couple of years older than I, and he, being the only other kid on the block in Brockville, we used to spend a lot of time together in play, community shoe-shining for ten cents/pair, and odd endeavours like compiling license numbers of cars passing along the King's Highway (Main Street, Brockville). The photo labelled Figure 7 is one that I took of Bob Keeler standing at the top of the front steps outside the Neville family home at 166 James Street East, Brockville.

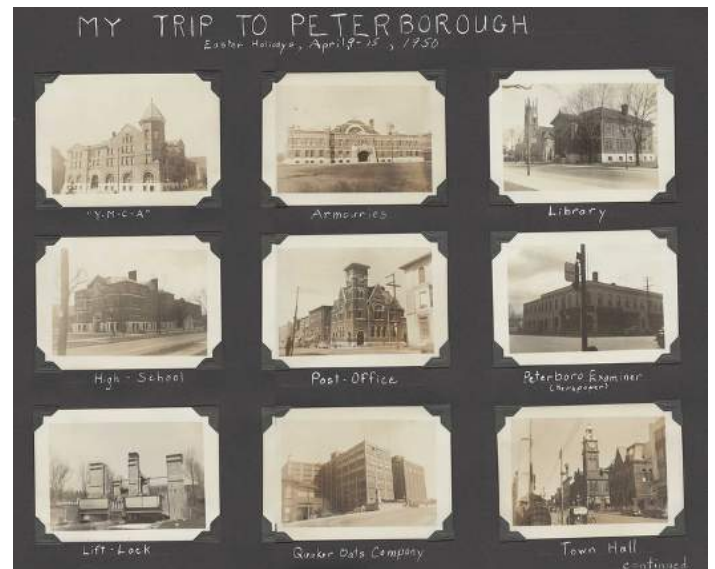


Figure 7 - Bob Keeler in front of 166 James East, in Brockville

When Skipp Keeler was transferred to the Peterborough OPP Detachment in the autumn of 1949, I felt the loss. But early in the new year, I received an invitation from the Keeler family to visit them during the Easter Holidays, from 9-15 April 1950 and to see the sights of Peterborough. I was only 13 years old and in my last term of elementary school, and this was to

be my first trip away from home to a community that was unknown to me. Seventy-five years later, I cannot remember how I got there and back, but I suspect that it was via the Brockville, Westport and North-Western Railway lines before passenger service was ended on 30 August 1952.

In any event, the montages shown in Figures 8 & 9, as mounted and identified in my photographic album with white ink against black album pages, record the sights of Peterborough that I photographed with an Ansco box camera. I bought the camera the year before and had learned how to develop, 'fix' and print pictures with Kodak development chemicals and photographic paper that was purchased at the local Fullerton drug store. All of these photos are of historical interest, and some of the sites may no longer be extant (as noted with the larger, individual reproductions).



Figs. 8 & 9 - Montages of photos taken on George Neville's trip to Peterborough in 1950



First, I photographed Skipp Keeler at the Peterborough OPP Detachment radio emission (XJB78) office with the detailed map of the Peterborough region behind him, and the wall calendar showing April 1950. Somehow, I was taken out to “Police Tower Road/Towerhill Road” to see and photograph the 215 ft. high transmission tower.



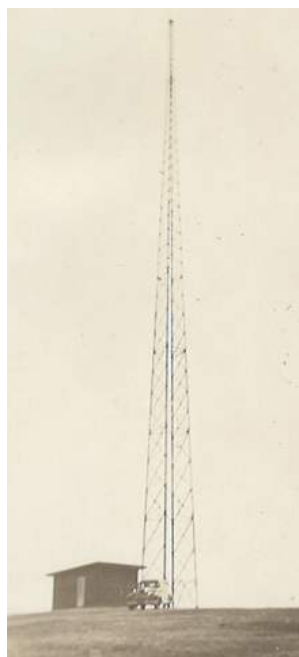
Above: Fig. 10 - Constable Keeler at the Peterborough radio desk

sites have been precluded now for decades because of liability concerns, but this one was very educational. I remember seeing Shredded Wheat Muffets coming out of an oven on a conveyor belt on their way to packaging. Every 15 minutes a loud exploding retort would be heard as another batch of ‘puffed wheat’ would be produced and packaged in large paper bags. Puffed Wheat was forced to remove all of its Quaker branding when it was sold, alongside Sugar Puffs and Harvest Cereal bars, to Big Bear in 2006. The Quaker Oats Company merged with PepsiCo Canada in 2001.



Left: Fig. 12 - Quaker Oats Secretary/Tour Guide

Right: Fig. 11 - Old OPP radio transmission tower, 215 ft. high formerly on Towerhill Road, dismantled some 20 years ago



Below: Fig. 13 - Quaker Oats plant, 34 Hunter Street East



We had an exciting and informative part day touring the Quaker Oats plant where we were met and escorted by a tour guide, the Secretary for Quaker Oats, who took us throughout much of the large plant. It was first established as the American Cereal Company in 1902 on the shores of the Otonabee River during Peterborough’s period of industrialization. The Quaker Oats plant is located at 34 Hunter Street East, on the north side of Hunter Street. Such tours of industrial

The Peterborough Young Men’s Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.), later re-named the Peterborough Family YMCA building at 475 George Street North was built in 1896, originally designed by architect William Blackwell, has substantial Victorian structure and Romanesque Revival features as shown in Figure 14. When the “Y” moved to a new south-end facility in 2007, the city’s deep affection for the old downtown

landmark at the corner of George and Murray Streets remained. Fifteen years later, when it closed its doors as a community resource and health and wellness centre, the former “Y” found new life as Y Lofts, an upscale purpose-built rental with 136 apartments. The photo in Figure 15 shows most of the pool at the “Y” when traffic along George Street was two-way, north and south, but since the 1960s, is a one-way street going southbound.



Above: Fig. 14 - Old YMCA building at 475 George Street



Above: Fig. 15 - The pool at the old YMCA

Other 1950 Photos of Peterborough Sights

The Peterborough Drill Hall/Armoury was built between 1907-1909 at 220 Murray Street, and recalls a Romanesque fortress in its turrets, arched troop doors and crenellated roof line. It is one of the largest and best examples from this period, designed by Thomas Fuller, Chief Architect of the Federal Department of Public Works of the early 20th century.

Below: Fig. 16 - Drill Hall/Armory at 220 Murray Street



The Peterborough Carnegie Library is now the Carnegie Wing of City Hall (the north wing of the City Hall) but was the original location of the Peterborough Public Library. Built in 1910-1911 using funds from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, it was one of only 125 Carnegie libraries in Canada. The library, fronting on George Street, was built in the Beaux-Arts style by prominent local architect John E. Belcher. The building also housed the collection of the Victoria Museum, the precursor to the Peterborough Museum & Archives.



Above: Fig. 17 - Carnegie Library, fronting George Street

Below: Fig. 18 - The old high school on McDonnell Street



The Old Peterborough Post Office is located at the north-west corner of Hunter and Water Streets, opened in 1888 and was demolished in 1955 soon after the new Post Office on Charlotte Street was opened. The

building was designed in Ottawa by Dominion architect Thomas Fuller and was built at an original cost of \$30,000. A red brick Romanesque Revival style building, with thick gray stone arches and a 4-storey clock tower, it held an important position in the lives of turn-of-the-century residents. A semi-circular pediment and the bell from this building were located outside the former Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives (PCMA) and the clock was stored in the basement of that museum. The PCMA was transitioned into the Peterborough Museum and Archives (PMA) in the late 2000s with the Museum Renewal Project when storage issues were addressed and facilities of the museum improved.



Left: Fig. 19 - The old post office located on the NW corner of Hunter and Water Streets

The Peterborough Examiner Newspaper Building housed The Peterborough Examiner in 1950 and was located at the southeast corner of Hunter and Water Streets, kitty-corner to the post office. It was one of the paper's several locations throughout its history, including a previous location on George Street and a later move to The Kingsway in the 1990s, according to the Examiner's website.



Above: Fig. 20 - The Peterborough Examiner Building, home to the newspaper for a time

Below: Fig. 21 - Lift locks at 220 Hunter Street East



The Peterborough Hydraulic Locks is a boat lift located on the Trent Canal and is numbered Lock 21 on the Trent-Severn Waterway. For many years, the lock's dual lifts were the highest hydraulic boat lifts in the world, raising boats 65 ft. (20 m). They are one of only two hydraulic lift locks on the waterway. Opened on 9 July 1904, the locks at 354 Hunter Street East leave a visible and lasting impact on Peterborough's landscape.

The Peterborough Market Hall and Clock Tower was constructed in 1889, and is a 2-storey, red brick market hall with a tall clock tower located at 360 George Street. It is the principal monument of Peterborough's historic downtown street scape.



Right: Fig. 22 - Market Hall and Clock Tower located at 360 George Street

The heritage value of the Market Hall and Clock Tower resides in its importance as a market place and cultural facility to Peterborough for more than a century. It is an excellent example of the work of local architect John E. Belcher, and one of only a few 19th century Ontario

market buildings still in existence. It is a landmark and example of late 19th century commercial architecture. Mayor James Stevenson laid the cornerstone in the fall of 1889 and it officially opened in 1890. It was constructed by building contractor Thomas Rutherford. A farmer's market operated inside and outside the building for decades, until the advent of the modern supermarket curtailed its business. Its importance to the community led to its restoration and re-purchase by the city in the year 2000.

Figure 23 shows the Peterborough War Memorial. The Citizens' War Memorial Advisory Committee, formerly called the Cenotaph Advisory Committee, first met on 11 December 1920. During a public meeting on 17 December 1920, a design by Walter S. Allward was approved. Allward was chosen by the Canadian Government to execute the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France, so he secured the assistance of an eminent English sculptor, Gilbert Bayes, to assist in carrying out the Peterborough design. The statues were cast in Allward's England studio and then shipped to town with the help of Allward's son Hugh, who was the project manager.

On 10 October 1927, the Creber Brothers' tender for memorial granite work was accepted. The committee was still securing a complete list of those who died in the First World War. Excavation began and the cement work started on 28 May 1928. The memorial was dedicated by Sir Arthur Currie on 30 June 1929. Central Park, now known as Confederation Park, was selected because of its central location and more importantly, as a sentiment to the fact that many of the soldiers started and returned at that location.

The Citizens' War Memorial sits on a circular, stepped base made of white granite and the pedestals for both bronze figures are also of white granite. The west pedestal is carved on the front and back with the names of war victims from the First World War. The four bronze plaques placed over the inside of the western pedestal are inscribed in raised gold lettering with the



Above: Fig. 23 - The Peterborough War Memorial in Confederation (Central) Park

names of all war dead from the World Wars and the Korean War. A dedication plaque is on the eastern side the east pedestal. Above the pedestals are two bronze figures of heroic dimensions. The first is known as the Knight of Chivalry, which portrays a brave Canadian soldier standing tall, a sword in his right hand and his left hand is held up as a warning to stop. The other figure shows a cringing and recoiling figure in fear with his hand on his fevered brow, known as the "defeated enemy".

A Quiet View of 'Main Street' was taken in Peterborough in April 1950, and shows a large Coca Cola billboard on the side of a building adjacent to a Texaco gasoline filling station opposite the YMCA and looking south on George Street.

Below: Fig. 24 - Peterborough's main street, looking south on George Street



Acknowledgments

I am very grateful to the Google internet base for the Peterborough, Ontario websites from which I gleaned much of the descriptive information for many of the historical photos comprising this Peterborough photo/Keeler article. PepsiCo Canada, refused to identify the Quaker Oats guide shown in Figure 12 on the basis that it could not divulge personal information. A similar restriction must also apply to the OPP because no information, not even an acknowledgment, could be obtained from the OPP administration or the OPP Museum at Orillia, Ontario.

I am also indebted to my longtime colleague, Arthur Beaubien of Ottawa, for digitally scanning the photos of this collection and cropping them for this publication. I am also particularly appreciative of the sleuthing work of Jon Oldham of the Peterborough Museum and Archives in finding sought-after familial information on the Keeler family located in the Ancestry files, and he is also thanked for his critical review of this article and photo exhibition, including his related assistance in providing identifying information for this exposition.

Addendum

In pursuing his search for Keeler family information of Peterborough, Jon Oldham, archivist with the Peterborough Museum and Archives found further information on 'Skipp' Keeler's daughter, Elizabeth "Betty" Keeler (b. 14 August 1933, Kitchener, ON; d. 10 February 2021, Grand Prairie, AB) from another Ancestry submission by user "Randal Coutts" for Lealand Thomas Keeler and Martha Ann Elson and their same children given in this cited article.

The Coutts submission extended the line listing Elizabeth's husband as Robert Wilson (1929-1962) by which they had several children, one of whom was identified as David Wilson (1954-2016). Tragic that he died young, David was born in Lindsay and died in Peterborough; thus, Elizabeth and husband Robert Wilson were in living in Lindsay in 1954 and Peterborough in 1962.

The Peterborough 1962 directory does list a Robert J. Wilson and wife Elizabeth A. Wilson living at 449 Bellevue Avenue with Robert working at Westclox. The 1961 directory names the wife as 'Betty' and Robert was working as a watch repairer at Charlotte Jewelers; however, they are not listed in earlier directories.

The October 1962 issue of the Westclox company newsletter Tick Talk states only "The (wrist watch) department wishes to extend sincere sympathy to Bob and Mrs. Wilson on their recent bereavement." There is, however, a burial at Little Lake Cemetery in Peterborough for David Leland Wilson, burial date 8 September 1962. Seeing the young lad named "David Leland Wilson" helps confirm the link between his known parents, Bob and Betty Wilson, and her father, Lealand Thomas Keeler, generally addressed as 'Skipp'.

Jon Oldham, intrepid sleuth that he is, found an extracted record on Ancestry in their Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection (no original document attached unfortunately) that does show Elizabeth Wilson (w/o Bob Wilson) having two siblings, Bill and Bob Keeler, as set forth in the above cited article.

References

[1] <https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/73642011/person/32280966944/facts>

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How to & Where to get ~ Letters ~ Book Reviews
Interesting Findings (DNA, Archival Records)
Connections between family history &
other areas of research



Lilian Julia Tebbitt and Beatrice Tebbitt - British Home Children, and their Immediate Family

Alan Campbell

Alan Campbell, newsletter editor for Lambton County Branch OGS, is also a prolific author of articles about his ancestors and unrelated ancestors of other families.

Prologue

I found many spellings of the surname Tebbitt in my research. I used the spelling of Lilian's name with one "L" as that was the spelling used by the Charlotte A. Alexander Home employees. I could not have completed this article without the help of Earl Mead, Wellington County Branch researcher, and Ken McKinlay who accessed the Charlotte A. Alexander Home fonds at Library and Archives Canada for me.

While at the Lambton County Archives searching for an obituary, I came across the following article which grabbed my attention:

"Miss Lilian J. Tibbett, one of the nurse's [sic] of the Sarnia General Hospital, passed away Sunday evening after a six week's illness from typhoid fever. Miss Tibbett contracted the disease while attending a patient and although she made a gallant struggle for life, passed away as above stated at the early age of 23 years, in the presence of her mother, brother and sister, who were summoned here owing to her serious illness. Deceased was a favorite with the hospital staff and her death is deeply regretted. The body will be shipped to Guelph tomorrow by G. L. Phillips for interment." [1]

Lilian's death registration noted her date of death as 24 February 1901, at the age of 23, at Sarnia General Hospital. The cause of death was recorded as pneumonia. Apparently, typhoid and pneumonia have similar symptoms which could explain the differing cause of death recorded. No parents' names were given but her birthplace was recorded as England. [2]

Questions came to mind. Who were her mother, sister and brother who came to be at her death bed? Where was she born in England? Where did she train to be a nurse?

A baptismal record for a Lilian Julia Tibbett, born 26 December 1875 at Kensington, St. James Parish Norland, Middlesex, England records her parents as Joseph and Julia Tibbett residing at Clarendon Place. Both parents were identified as grocers. [3] An age calculator using birth date and death date, provided an age of 25 years, 1 month and 29 days for Lilian.

An 1880 school admission record placed Lilian at the Kensington and Chelsea Fox School. [4] Her father Joseph registered her there on 8 August 1880. He gave her birthdate as 10 October 1875. The family was living at 87 Peel Street. Her birthdate and age fluctuate in records.

An 1881 England Census captures the family of Joseph Tebbitt, age 28, Librarian's assistant; his wife Julia, age 26; daughter Julia, age 5; son Alfred, age 3; and daughter Beatrice age 5 months. [5] All but Joseph and his daughter Julia were born in Middle Kensington. Julia was born in Middle Notting Hill.

Calamity struck the family in 1888. A news article in *The Kensington News and West London Times*, dated 8 September 1888, reported that Joseph had been charged with embezzlement and committed for trial:

"Joseph Smith Tebbitt, late secretary to the Princess Alice Lodge of Oddfellows, held at the ...

According to *A Calendar of Prisoners Tried at the September, Adjourned Sessions of the Peace*, Joseph was received into custody 29 August 1888, tried on 26 September, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to “12 calendar months” at Pentonville Prison. [7] According to records held by the Charlotte A. Alexander Home, Joseph had smallpox which led to the embezzlement.

“I, Julia Tebbitt hereby declare that I am willing to allow Miss Alexander to send my daughters, Lillian & Beatrice Rosamond, to Canada, to be adopted into good families there.” [8]

Joseph signed an identical agreement 21 December 1888.

Lilian and Beatrice were shipped to Canada on the *Assyrian* out of London on 2 May 1889. [9] Lilian was recorded as age 13 and Beatrice as age 8 on the ship's list. Beatrice was identified with a "B" not her full given name. The ship arrived in Quebec on 17 May 1889, after which the group probably was sent to the distribution centre, the Charlotte A. Alexander Home, in Toronto.

We had a perfect success there in Italy - the weather, especially, is a pleasant party from which we detached ourselves now & then & explored some charming out of the way places, such as

that I have by me signed by both father and mother (a copy)

"I, Julia Zebbitt - (J. Joseph Smith Zebbitt) hereby declare that I am willing to allow Mr. Alexander to send my daughters, Lillian & Beatrice Rosamond, to Canada, to be adopted into good families there -

Signed +
witnessed Nov 7. and Dec 21. '88

The grandmother, who is a most decent superior person, is delighted, for the children's sakes, that they should be completely separated from their parents. If I can do any better, I will let you know at once. But I do not like to delay writing longer. Perhaps any intending benefactor might like to write to the grandmother. The children know her address.

I am so very, very sorry about the triumph

*Above: Agreement by Julia Tebbitt to give up daughters
Lillian and Beatrice*

The initial placement for Lilian was with Frances (Fannie) Knowles and her husband Frank who lived at 449 Glasgow Street in Guelph. [10] The inspector who kept track of her recorded in her report “Lilian very happy quite like daughter in family...” At this point in time Lilian was in this home on an annual agreement. Lilian could send letters to Miss Alexander and Beatrice but was not allowed to send letters to her parents. If she wished to send a letter to her grandmother Tebbitt, it had to go through Miss Alexander.

In a letter dated 26 July 1889, written to Miss

							Totals
V	201	Maggie Hall	Dance	18			
V		Eileen Smith	"	16			
V		Sally Peterson	"	13			
V		L. Battingram	"	11			
V		E. Wainman	"	15			
V		Indian Festival	"	12			
V		B.	Care	9			

*Left: Lillian and Beatrice on
the ship's list*

Alexander, Lilian wrote that she was "...getting along nicely with her music now. I practice from one hour to five hours a day." She references a Johnie who is living with them and mentions her brother Eddy.

97
Lilian Julia Tebbitt 15 Oct 1889. Came from Mrs Alexander, Aubrey House, Kensington. Has been in Mrs. A's home, Reigate about 1 year. Mrs. A. wrote "Always most good & obedient, clever & useful children." Lilian's Father Secretary to old fellows. Well educated. Bore good character till 4 years ago. When had small pox. Head became affected. One year ago enlarged memory. Been improving 9 months. Has signed paper giving over the children to Mrs. A. since her husband's small pox has left him. Learning with some one else. Lilian been a good deal with Grandmother (most respectable) Mrs Tebbitt 63 Tavistock Crescent, Westbourne Park, W. Went to Canada with party 1889. July 18 I took her to Mrs. & Mrs. F. B. Knowles, corner Glasgow & Northumberland Streets, Guelph. Heard from her & Mrs Knowles & saw latter & her sister Mrs Scott, several times during season. Lilian very happy quite like daughter in family but Agreement only annual. Not to write to her parents. If to Grandmother, letter to be sent without address through Mrs. A. or me.

Above: Record of progress for Lilian Julia Tebbitt in 1889

In 1890, the Knowles family moved to live with Frances' sister, Eliza Scott, on Jarvis Street in Toronto. The inspecting person recorded that Lilian was going to spend a month with Beatrice who was living with the James Adam's family. She also noted that the Knowles were going to move to Peterborough.

The report for 1891 recorded that the Knowles had a store at 393 George Street in Peterborough. [11] The description of Lilian's behaviour at that time was not positive; "Lilian been going to school & not improved since spring. Forgetful, not obedient. Not fond of domestic work." Even so, Frances signed an agreement that she would act as a guardian for Lilian and would "...make suitable provision for her in all ways, till she marries or comes of age & is earning her own living." [12]

Lilian was captured in the 1897 Toronto City Directory as a lodger at 203 Jarvis Street; "Knowles Miss Lilian l[ives] 203 Jarvis" [13] This address was the home of Eliza Scott, sister of Fannie Knowles, "Scott, Eliza (wid John) h 203 Jarvis". [14] Unknown at this time is where Lilian received her nursing training. Toronto would have been a good option as her aunt had a home

there. Guelph could have been a possibility as she had lived there briefly but there is no listing for her in the *Guelph General Hospital Golden Jubilee School for Nurses 1888-1938* book. [15] Sarnia is another option as they had a nursing school at the time. Unfortunately, the Sarnia nursing school alumni materials at the Lambton County Archives do not cover the years that she would have been at the school.

As noted earlier, Lilian died 24 February 1901 at the Sarnia General Hospital. The *Barrie Examiner*, in its 28 February 1901 issue, reported as part of the Oro Station news that "Miss Beatrice Adam is in Toronto attending the death bed of her sister, Miss Lillie Tibbett." [16] Other than the incorrect location for Lilian's "death bed," this would indicate that Beatrice went to Sarnia. The mother who attended her was probably Fannie Knowles and the brother could have been Edward W. Knowles or Harry Knowles from her adoptive family. To date, her place of burial has not been identified.

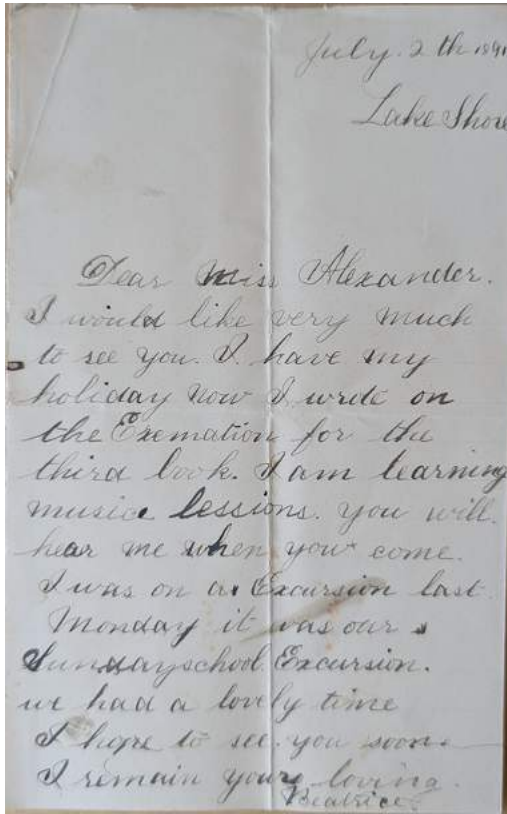
Below: Newspaper article about Beatrice attending her sister's "death bed"

ORO STATION.
Feb. 25—Mrs. Jas. Adam is very ill. Miss Beatrice Adam is in Toronto attending the death bed of her sister, Miss Lillie Tibbett.
Jas. Webb will deliver a lecture on phrenology and the ability of man in the school house here on Wednesday.
A party of young people spent a pleasant time at John Elson's on Thursday evening.
William Bell and family moved into one of Mrs. Jas. Adam's houses on Saturday.
Geo. Ferguson spent Sunday in Barrie.
L. A. Marlin called on friends at Ferndale on Saturday.

Beatrice Tebbitt

How did Beatrice fare after arriving in Canada? She was sent to Oro Township, Simcoe County and was "adopted" by farmer James Adam and his wife, Elizabeth. The 1891 Canada Census captured her as Betres [sic] Adam, age 10, born England, and adopted. [17]

In the 1901 Canada Census for Oro, Simcoe County, Beatrice was enumerated as Beatrice R. Tibbett. [18]



Left: Letter
from Beatrice to
Miss Alexander
in 1891

She was still living with Elizabeth Adam, now a widow. Annie E., Elizabeth's daughter, and two more adopted children, Harriet Ryder and Alfred Nash completed the family unit. Elizabeth's occupation was recorded as farmer making it likely that all of the other members of the household were working on the farm.

At the time of the taking of the 1911 Canada Census, Beatrice was still living with Elizabeth Adam and her daughter Annie E. but they had moved to Barrie. [19] Elizabeth was recorded as having "income" so the sale of the farm was probably supporting them. Neither Annie or Beatrice had occupations recorded. Another probable source of income was a family lodging with them, Fred Redditt, stone salesman; his wife Nellie G. and their daughter Margaret R.

Beatrice, age 28, married Albert Sinkinson, son of Thomas and Mary (Wallace) Sinkinson, at Toronto, 30 March 1914. [20] Albert and Beatrice emigrated to the United States, entering at Niagara Falls, New York 4 July 1915. [21] He gave his occupation as metal tracer.

They had travelled to the United States on the Grand Trunk Railroad. Both his Declaration of Intent and Petition for Naturalization, dated 4 July 1915, recorded their home as 418 Hawkins Ave., North Braddock, Pennsylvania. [22]

A daughter, Dorothy Alberta Sinkinson, was born on 8 March 1918 and died the following day at the Homeopathic Hospital, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. [23] Her death resulted from "injuries received at time of birth." She was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery, Pittsburgh, according to the Certificate of Death.

Albert and Beatrice were still living at 418 Hawkins Avenue at the time of the 1920 United States Census. [24] Their recorded dates of immigration to the United States don't fit with the Naturalization documents, 1910 for Albert and 1893 for Beatrice.

Elizabeth (Bell) Adam, Beatrice's adoptive mother, died on 5 July 1924 at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Irwin McMahon [Elizabeth Birdie Shaw, daughter of John and Grace (Adam) Shaw]. [25]. Children noted in the obituary were Mrs. J. J. (Ellen Birdie Adam) Kissock, Orillia; Miss Annie Adam, Hawkestone; adopted daughter Beatrice Sinkinson, Pittsburgh; Mrs. John (Grace A. Adam) Shaw, deceased, and Malcolm, deceased. Elizabeth was buried in Guthrie [Presbyterian] Cemetery. [26] Obviously Beatrice was considered part of the family.

Ellen Birdie (Adam) Kissock died on 1 November 1927 at Orillia, Ontario, shortly after the death of her husband the previous August. [27] After his death she had rented a house next door to her sister Annie Adam and niece Elizabeth Birdie McMahon in Hawkestone. Noted in the obituary was her "...adopted sister, Mrs. Sinkinson, of Pittsburg, who had returned from visiting Mrs. Kissock only six weeks ago." Adoption of children appeared to be a practice of the Adam family as Ellen had an adopted son, A. E. Kissock, of Burns Lake, British Columbia who was noted in her obituary.

By the time of the 1930 United States Census, Albert

and Beatrice were living in Swissvale Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. [28] He was employed as a weigh master in a steel mill; she was a housewife. They owned their own home valued at \$4,000.

Albert died at Swissvale, Allegheny County, 9 March 1931. [29] His remains were shipped back to be buried in Guthrie Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Guthrie, Simcoe County. [30] Beatrice entered Canada on 20 April 1931, at Bridgeburg [Fort Erie area], destined for Hawkestone, Ontario, with the intention of residing with Mrs. Erwin [Irwin] McMahon. [31] She identified 1427 La Clair Avenue, Regent Square, Swissvale, Pennsylvania as her last place of residence in the United States.

A border crossing manifest for Buffalo, dated 12 March 1935, recorded Beatrice crossing back into the United States. [32] She identified Henry Granger of 1427 La Claire Avenue, Swissvale as a friend at her destination. She recorded Alfred Tebbitt, her brother, living at 567 Bruce Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, as her relative in Canada. It is not clear from the dates of residence in the United States listed, 1915-1932 and 1931-1933, as to whether she had spent much time in Canada.

The 1940 United States Census captured Beatrice back in Swissvale, as a lodger in the home of Harry E. Granger on La Clair Avenue. [33]

Later, Beatrice returned to Hawkestone, Oro Township, to reside permanently. Mayme (Marion) Tebbitt, the wife of her brother Alfred, maintained a friendship with Beatrice. *The Barrie Examiner* reported in February of 1952 that “Mrs. Tebbitt of Toronto is visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sinkinson, for a few days.” [34] In September of 1953, *The Barrie Examiner* reported that “Mrs. Sinkinson and Mrs. Tebbitt have returned home after spending a few days in Toronto.” [35]

Beatrice died on 2 November 1972 and was buried in Guthrie United Church Cemetery, in Hawkestone, Oro

Township, Simcoe County beside her husband. [36] Beatrice’s obituary was published in the *Daily Packet & Times* (Orillia):

“SINKINSON, Beatrice – At the residence of her niece, Hawkestone, on Thursday, November 2, 1972, Beatrice Tebbitt Adam beloved wife of the late Albert Sinkinson. Dear aunt of Birdie (Mrs. Irwin McMahon) of Hawkestone. Resting at her residence in Hawkestone until Saturday afternoon, November 4 then to St. Aidan’s Anglican Church for funeral service at 3:15 p.m., Interment Guthrie Cemetery, Arrangements by Dolittle Funeral Home.” [35]

Alfred Charles Tebbitt

The 1891 England Census captured Joseph Smith Tebbitt, porter, age 38, born Cambridgeshire and Alfred, age 13, born Kensington, London. [38] Joseph was recorded as the brother of the head of the household, Robert Tebbitt, and Alfred was recorded as Robert’s nephew. This may explain why Alfred was not shipped to Canada along with his sisters. He might have been living with his uncle while his father was in prison.

An Alfred Charles Tebbitt, age 22, barman at a pub on North Brompton Road, Kensington, London, owned by Frederick Davis, was enumerated in the 1901 England Census. [39] He is age appropriate and his place of birth, Kensington, London also matches. This census was taken on 31 March 1901.

Alfred (identified as A. C. Tebbitt) arrived at Quebec aboard the *S.S. Manitoba*, Canadian Pacific Line, on 5 October 1901. [40] This was a ship built that same year [41] and he was a second cabin passenger. He was recorded as a hotel keeper as opposed to a barman. His final destination was Toronto.

Alfred married Mayme Seager, daughter of John Seager and Mary Blackburn, on 30 October 1914 in Toronto. For the marriage license he provided the information that he had been living in the City of Toronto since 24 October 1901. City directory entries

verify his time in Toronto and indicate that he was a salesman, a travelling salesman and a business owner:

1904 - "Tebbitt Alfred C, Slsman Robert Barron, l[odger] 29 Linden" [42]

1908 - "Tebbitt, Alfred, trav[eller], rms 20 Czar" [43]

1910 - "Tebbet Alfred C, trav Cowan Co. rooms 29 Charles W" [44]

1914 - "Tebitt, Alfred C b[oarder] 124 Bellwoods av" [45]

1918 - "Tebbitt Alfred C trav Williard's Chocolates Ltd. H 257 Doverscourt rd" [46]

Alfred was listed until 1920 in this occupation. This involvement with Williard's Chocolates may have been what led him to open a confectionary shop.

1921 - "Tebbitt A C & Co. (Alfred C Tebbitt, Fred Rose) confy, 998 Bloor w" [47] This was his home address as well. He appears in city directories in this role, without Fred Rose from 1922 to 1925. Then the listing disappears from city directories.

Alfred's wife visited Mr. and Mrs. Irwin (Elizabeth McMahon) in Hawkestone in July of 1929 according to *The Barrie Examiner*; "...Geo Adam and friend of Toronto and Mrs. Tebbitt of Windsor have returned to their homes after spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Irwin McMahon." [48] No record of Alfred or Mayme could be found in City of Windsor directories so this is an educated guess that the Mrs. Tebbitt was Mayme considering the connection to the Adam family.

Alfred died 26 February 1950 at 414 Brock Drive, Toronto. [49] Mayme was the informant for his Statement of Death. *The Barrie Examiner* carried an obituary:

"TEBBITT – Suddenly at his home 414 Brock Ave., Toronto, on Sunday, Feb. 26, Alfred Charles Tebbitt, beloved husband of Marian (Mayme) Seager and dear brother of Mrs. Beatrice Sinkinson of Hawkestone. The funeral, conducted by the Rev. R. Hunt of the Church of the Redeemer, was from Myers-Elliott Funeral Home,

715 Doverscourt Rd. at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 1, to Mount Pleasant Cemetery." [50]

Mayme (Marion) Tebbitt maintained a friendship with Beatrice. The *Barrie Examiner* reported in February of

1952 that "Mrs. Tebbitt of Toronto is visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sinkinson, for a few days." [51]

In September of 1953 the *Barrie Examiner* reported that "Mrs. Sinkinson and Mrs. Tebbitt have returned home after spending a few days in Toronto." [52] This suggests that maybe they were living in the same area. The last listing for Mayme was in the 1952 Toronto City Directory, "Tebbitt, Marion (widow Alfred) h 414 Brock ave LA 3255." [53] I was unable to find a record that placed her in the Hawkstone area as a resident.

Mayme Tebbitt died in 1954 and was buried with Alfred in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, Section 42, lot 337. [54]

Adolphus Benjamin Owen Tebbitt

According to the 1939 England Register for Croyden, Surrey, Adolphus was born on 1 May 1887. [55] His birth place was recorded as Kensington, London, Middlesex in his military records. His sisters Julia and Beatrice had been given up by his parents in late 1888 so he would be unlikely to have had any recollection of them.

To date, no record of Joseph's wife Julia and their son Adolphus has been found in the 1891 census records. By the time of the 1901 England Census for Westminster Borough, London, Joseph, a clerk, was living with Julia and their son Adolphus, age 14, an errand boy. [56]

Adolphus, now a general labourer, enlisted in the army of the United Kingdom at the age of 21, on 31 August 1908 and was posted to the Hussars. [57] He was 5 foot 6 inches tall, had a dark complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. He was transferred to the 11th Hussars in Dublin on 3 September 1908. Then on 6 October 1909

he was posted to the 13th Hussars, a Calvary Unit in India, as a Private.

The 1911 England Census, the Return of all Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, Drummers and Rank and File, captured Adolphus as a Private with the 13th Hussars, age 23, single, born Kensington, London. [58] On 8 October 1913 he was appointed as an unpaid Lance Corporal. [59] He reverted to being a private at his own request on 29 May 1914. Perhaps this request was made because he received two reprimands in the role of Lance Corporal, one for neglect of duty (failing to post a sentry) and the other for not complying with an order. [60] His last day in India was 17 September 1914. Adolphus then became part of the British Expeditionary Force on 18 September 1914 and was shipped to France. By 2 December 1915, he was attached to the 1st Army Headquarters and served as a batman to Captain Twiss. [61]

Adolphus married Elizabeth Ellen Spiers, daughter of Henry Spiers, on 5 January 1916 at the parish church, Parish of St. Philip, Lambeth, London [part of the Diocese of Southwark, Surrey]. [62]

A son, Leslie Henry, was born on 17 July 1917 and baptized at St. Philip Parish, Lambeth, London. [63] The family was living at 4 Oakden Street, Lambeth, London.

His service in France ended on 1 February 1919. He was recorded as being at home from 2 February 1919 until 2 March 1919, which a Protection Certificate and Certificate of Identity dated 3 February 1919, described as a furlough. Apparently, this certificate was provided because at this time he was a “soldier not remaining with the colours” and it was proof that he was not AWOL [away without leave]. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 3 March 1919.

A second son, Jack Owen Tebbitt, was born on 1 June 1920 and baptised on 8 July 1920 at St. Philips Parish,

Lambeth, Southwark, Surrey [London]. [64] His father’s occupation was recorded as engine driver. The family was still living at 4 Oakden Street.

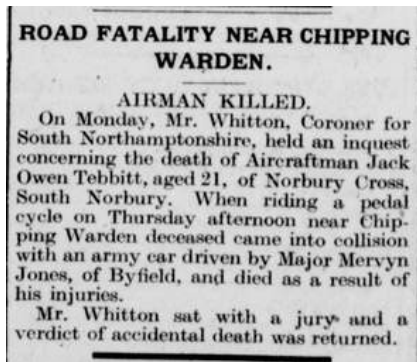
Adolphus was discharged on 30 August 1920 at Canterbury, with an exemplary rating. His Military History Sheet has this notation, “...he is a very good hardworking man, sober, honest, and reliable and is an excellent groom.” [65] His home address was recorded as 4 Oakden St., Kennington Road, London. He was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. [66] According to the Statement as to Disability in his pension file, dated 30 January 1919, he did not suffer any injury due to his service in the war. [67]

The 1921 England Census captured the family still living at 4 Oakden Street, London. Adolphus was a hot water and gas pipe fitter working for the Stag Brewery and Watney, Combe, Reid & Co. [68] At the time of the 1939 England registration his occupation was recorded as an engineer’s mechanic, heavy worker. [69] Elizabeth’s occupation was recorded as unpaid domestic duties. Leslie was recorded as a student and his brother Jack as a draughtsman and a reinforced concrete engineer.

Jack became part of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, service no. 1222163. He was an Aircraftman 2nd Class, a wireless operator, when he died on 27 November 1941 at the age of 21. [70] While riding a “pedal cycle” near Chipping, Jack came into collision with a car driven by Major Mervyn Jones and died as a result of his injuries. [71] An inglorious way to die during a war! He was buried at Croydon (Mitcham Road) The National Probate Calendar index of Wills and Administrations contained the following information about the proceeds of Jack’s estate:

“Tebbitt Jack Owen of 18 Norbury-cross Norbury London S.W. 16 died 27 November 1941 at Chipping Warden Northhamptonshire. Administration Oxford 28 December to Adolphus Benjamin Owen Tebbitt engineer’s assistant. Effects 300 pounds.” [72]

*Below: Notice of Jack Tebbitt's death in the Banbury
Guardian in 1941*



Adolphus died in 1944 and his death was registered in the district of Croydon, County of Surrey. I found no record of him ever coming to Canada. That same year, Leslie Henry Tebbitt married Joan B. Burton in the registration district of Croydon, County of Surrey. No attempt was made to trace Leslie's family from that point onward.

Joseph Tebbitt and Julia (Roberts) Tebbitt

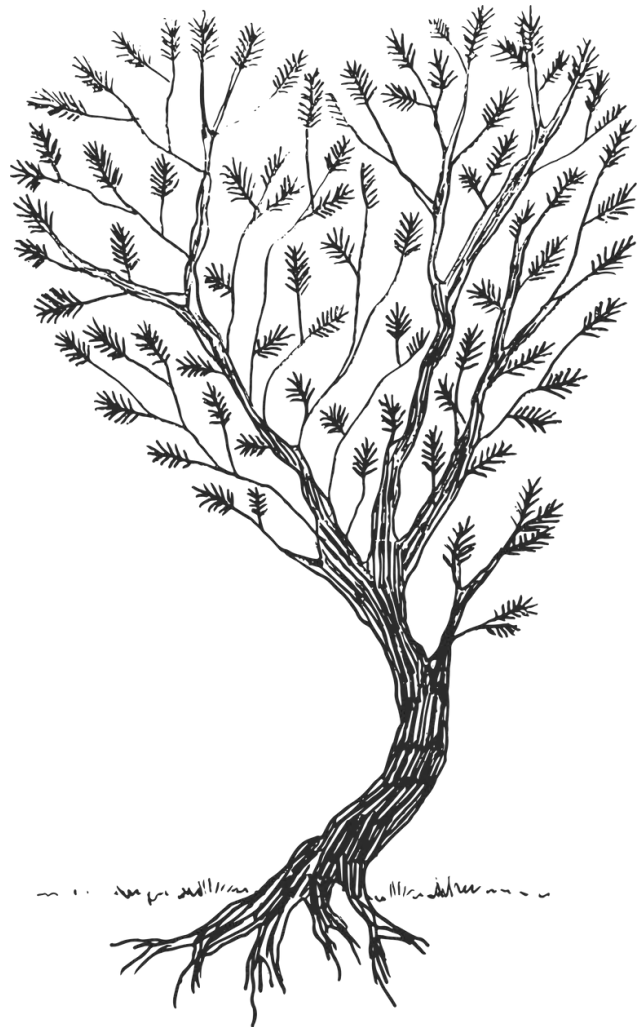
What happened to Lilian, Beatrice, Alfred and Adolphus's parents? As noted earlier, the 1891 England Census captured a Joseph Smith Tebbitt, porter, age 38, born Cambridgeshire and Alfred, age 13, born Kensington, London. Neither Julia, Joseph's spouse, nor their son Adolphus was included in this household. To date, no record of Joseph's wife Julia and their son Adolphus has been found in 1891 census records.

By the time of the 1901 England Census for Westminster Borough, London, Joseph, a clerk, was living with Julia and their son Adolphus, age 14, an errand boy. [73] The 1911 Census of England and Wales, for the sub-district of Clerkenwell [part of the City of London] captured Joseph, age 58, married 35 years, working as a clerk in an envelope addressing company. His birthplace was recorded as Cambs, Soham which appears to match his birthplace of Cambridge, Soham. Julia was 59 years old, with 5 children born alive, 3 still living and 2 who died. Her birth place was recorded as London, Kensington which matches the birthplace listed for her in the 1881 England and Wales Census. Research to date has not uncovered another Tebbitt child who died prior to 1911.

Julia was admitted to the City Road Workhouse (St. Luke's Workhouse), at 50 Eagle Street in Holborn on 30 June 1913. [74] She was on a diet for the infirm and the only admission that day who required a number, 13, on her clothing. She died at the workhouse on 29 September 1914. [75]

At the time of his death on 22 June 1924 at 19 Shepherdess Walk, Joseph was working as a clerk at 50 Eagle Street, Holborn, the same address as the workhouse at which Julia died. [76] He may well have been working there at the time of her placement.

What started out as a brief search for information about Lilian Julia Tebbitt became a story that intrigued me and kept me searching. Finding out that Lilian and Beatrice's time as "adopted" children was good, made their story better. I enjoyed uncovering the layers of the Tebbitt family story.



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The Family of Elizabeth Robertson, wife of Sir James Stuart Raymond Perrault

Raymond Perrault was born in Quebec but is now living in Northern California. He has written articles on the Aubert de Gaspé, Bailly, Beaubien, Benington, Dumoulin, Hingston, Perrault, Stuart, and Smith families. Several have appeared in *MSGCF*, *Connections*, and *Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire du Plateau-Mont-Royal*. They can be found at <https://crperrault.github.io>.

Introduction

James Stuart, one of the most distinguished lawyers in Canada, was born in Fort Hunter, New York on 2 March 1780, the third son of the Reverend John Stuart, D.D. (1740-1811), a United Empire Loyalist missionary and official of the Church of England in Kingston, and his wife Jane Okill. [1] James Stuart was called to the Bar of Lower Canada in 1801, practiced law in Montreal and was first elected to the National Assembly in 1808. He was appointed Solicitor General in 1805, Attorney General in 1825, and Chief Justice of Quebec in 1838. He was made baronet in 1841 and died in Quebec City in 1853. In the 1830s, he was one of the leaders of the movement to unite Lower and Upper Canada and was sent to London to plead the case. [2]



Above: Photo of Sir James Stuart as found in volume 8 of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

On 14 March 1818, in Montreal, Stuart married Elizabeth Robertson, daughter of Alex Robertson and his wife Mary. A. H. Young, biographer of the Stuart family, notes that Alex Robertson was “of the Robertsons of Faskally, Perthshire”. [3] [4] [5]

That is all that has been published about Elizabeth Robertson’s ancestry. There are no birth, marriage, or death records for Alex Robertson in the church records in Canada. Though mentioned incidentally, he has no page in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and no obituary in Montreal papers.

We will show here that Alex Robertson and several siblings came with their parents, Thomas and Katherine Robertson, from Perthshire to Canada via the United States, that he settled in Montreal as a merchant and fur trader in partnership with his brother James, and married Mary McPherson from a family in Trois-Rivières also linked to the fur trade. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline. Alex died at sea on his way to London on one of his annual trips to buy goods to trade for furs, and François Desrivières, stepson and partner of fur trader James McGill, soon became the tutor of Alex’s minor children.

Katherine Robertson’s ancestry can be traced back to Alexander Robertson of Struan (d. 1505), the first to bear the name Robertson. Thomas Robertson’s lineage is not as clear, but we argue that he is likely descended from the Robertsons of Faskally, as Young claimed.

James Stuart appears in the story as the lawyer who drafted James McGill's will, including the bequest to found McGill University, but who, on behalf of Desrivieres, unsuccessfully fought its implementation. On his wife's behalf, Stuart sued for possession of land in the Ottawa Valley that Elizabeth and her uncles had bought from another Robertson family. The settlement of this suit, which depended on whether British or Canadian land law applied to land in the Eastern Townships, was ultimately decided in the House of Lords in London, England and made Canadian legal history.

From Perthshire to Canada

Scottish birth records show the following births of children of Thomas Robertson and Katherine Robertson, all at Blair Atholl, Perthshire [6]:

- Neil Robertson, 4 November 1751
- Margaret Robertson, 23 February 1754
- Ann Robertson, 14 December 1756
- Alexander Robertson, 4 March 1760
- James Robertson, 1 March 1763
- Patrick Robertson, 5 August 1770

I will show that this Alexander Robertson is the father of Elizabeth Robertson who married James Stuart.

Thomas and Katherine Robertson emigrated to North America in July 1775 and settled on a farm of 50 acres in New Cambridge, Albany County, New York, between the Hudson River and the Vermont border, about 250 km south of the Canadian border [7]. The Robertsons were loyal to the British Crown. Soon after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, eldest son Neil enlisted with the British forces. Thomas and Alex were imprisoned in Spring 1777 but escaped. The whole family fled to General John Burgoyne who had led the forces that chased the Continental Army from Quebec and came down the Richelieu Valley to take Fort Ticonderoga, where the Robertsons took refuge with the 53rd Regiment. Thomas fought in the Battle of Bennington on 17 September 1777, then fled to Canada with his family, settling first in Johnstown, Upper Canada. For his losses in Cambridge, Thomas claimed

£300 compensation. He applied in 1791 for a land grant in Stormont, Upper Canada [8], where he was living in 1812, when he wrote a letter to a cousin in Scotland in which he says he is in his 80th year. [9]

Thomas's daughter Margaret married John Whiteside of Cambridge, New York. They had six children starting in 1782 and she died there in 1841. Whiteside was a Captain in the Revolutionary Army who participated in the Battle of Bennington. [10] [11] [12].

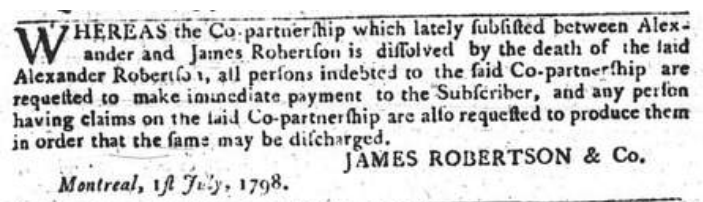
Alex Robertson

The James Stuart archives contain letters written from London between 1792 and 1796 by Alex Robertson to his wife Mary, in Montreal. [13] In the first letter, dated 2 May 1792, posted to Miss McPherson, he addresses her as "Dear Madam". In the subsequent ones, posted to Mrs. A. Robertson, he addresses his wife as "My dear girl". These letters are consistent with a marriage, written in French, at the Protestant Congregation of Trois-Rivières on 29 September 1792, between an Alex Robinson (sic) and Mary McPherson. Another link to Trois-Rivières is in a letter where Alex suggests his wife leave the house for company by going to "Quebec, Trois-Rivières, or wherever". Mary was born in Trois-Rivières on 5 April 1775, the daughter of John McPherson and Marie Cameron.

In 1793, Alex and his brother James established a partnership with Peter and David Grant, two other Scots who were established as clerks of the North West Company (NWC). They sent canoes to Grand Portage (now in Wisconsin), the main trading center of the NWC. The Grants tried to establish their own trading post in the area of the Qu'Appelle River in Saskatchewan, but the experiment failed and although the Robertsons managed to save their investment, the Grants lost theirs. [14] The following year, the Robertsons and the Grants partnered with the firm of Simon McTavish and Joseph Frobisher, who controlled half the shares of the NWC at the time. [15] McTavish and Frobisher sued the Robertsons and the Grants in 1794 for failing to deliver some trading goods at Grand Portage. From a settlement of this suit on 5 March

1796, letters from Alex Robertson to his wife, and his inventory after death, it appears that Alex imported to Canada goods he acquired in London during annual visits in the winter up to 1796, starting no later than 1792, some of which were then shipped to the northwest to be traded for furs. [16] The goods, some of which were declared in the inventory as being stored at Michilimackinac, included knives, axes, guns and ammunition, pots, clothes, beads, and liquor. [17] The Robertsons do not appear on a list of NWC shareholders, but they evidently dealt with them. There is no evidence Alex ever travelled to the northwest, but the settlement with McTavish and Frobisher includes free transport for James to Grand Portage in 1796, suggesting that Alex managed the goods and James the trading.

The *Quebec Gazette* from 1798 contains advertisements announcing the dissolution of the firm of Alexander and James Robertson, following the death of Alexander, asking for creditors to report their claims. [18]



WHEREAS the Co-partnership which lately subsisted between Alexander and James Robertson is dissolved by the death of the said Alexander Robertson, all persons indebted to the said Co-partnership are requested to make immediate payment to the Subscriber, and any person having claims on the said Co-partnership are also requested to produce them in order that the same may be discharged.

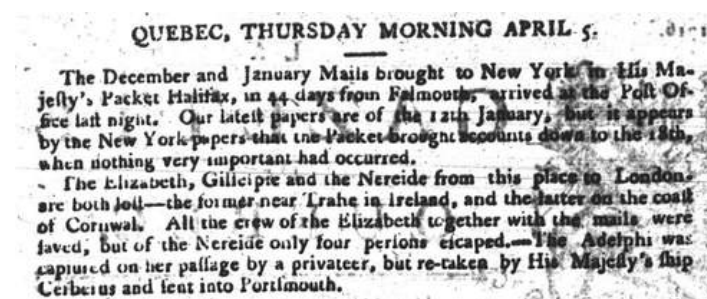
JAMES ROBERTSON & Co.
Montreal, 1st July, 1798.

Above: Advertisement in the *Quebec Gazette*, 1798

Alex's death is reported in Thomas Robertson's 1812 letter to a cousin in Scotland, in which he says that Alex "was lost going to England", but not when. [19] An agreement between Mary McPherson and James Robertson, dated 28 May 1798, states that "on the sixteenth day of December last past, this said Alexander Robertson, then on a voyage to England, was unfortunately drowned on the Coast of Cornwall". [20] Lloyd's List, which records all UK-related shipping, reported on 22 December 1797, that "The Neriod, Yeoman, from Quebec, is lost near Land's End. Only four Men saved." [21] The correct name of the ship is *The Nereid*, with Henry Yeoman as its captain, who died in the wreck. It was carrying oak lumber, which

was auctioned, as well as 1,272 deer skins, 246 racoon and marten skins, and 32 bear skins, which could well have been brought by Alex to London. [22] The report of the wreck appeared in *The Quebec Gazette* on 5 April 1798. [23]

Below: Report of wreck of the *Nereid*,
Quebec Gazette, 5 April 1798



QUEBEC, THURSDAY MORNING APRIL 5.

The December and January Mails brought to New York in His Majesty's Packet Halifax, in 44 days from Falmouth, arrived at the Post Office last night. Our latest papers are of the 12th January, but it appears by the New York papers that the Packet brought accounts down to the 18th, when nothing very important had occurred.

The Elizabeth, Gillicpie and the Nereide from this place to London, are both lost—the former near Trahe in Ireland, and the latter on the coast of Cornwall. All the crew of the Elizabeth together with the mails were saved, but of the Nereide only four persons escaped.—The Adelphi was captured on her passage by a privateer, but re-taken by His Majesty's ship Cerberus and sent into Portsmouth.

Alex and Mary had two daughters born in Montreal: Elizabeth, on 31 January 1795, and Catherine Ann, on 13 January 1798. Alex was not present at either baptism, consistent with his being in London on business during the winter of 1795, and having passed away in late 1797. James Robertson signed for his brother in both cases.

Following Alex's death, the Court of King's Bench appointed his brother James as the children's tutor. James agreed to pay Mary MacPherson £1500, plus £100 per year, until the daughters came of age or married. [24] In return, Mary renounced the share of Alex's estate to which she would be entitled as they were married in community of property.

James Robertson died, unmarried, in Montreal on 23 September 1800, and was succeeded as tutor to Alex's daughters by François Desrivères, who agreed to abide by the terms of the agreement Mary had with James. [25] [26]

François Desrivères, James Stuart, and the suit over the McGill estate

Desrivères was a major figure in Montreal's fur trading circles. [27] Born on 5 September 1764, in Montreal, son of Joseph Amable Trottier Desrivères and Charlotte Guillimin, he became the stepson of merchant James McGill (1744-1813) [28] when his

widowed mother married McGill in 1776. In 1792, he became a partner in the firm of Todd and McGill, fur traders and shareholders in the NWC. [29] Desrivères was a landowner on Mount Royal, with McGill and other prominent businessmen including Joseph Frobisher and McGill's partner Isaac Todd. [30] [31]

Upon McGill's death in 1813, Desrivères and his nephew, James McGill Desrivères (1796-1867), became his residuary legatees.

James Stuart was connected to the Robertson family through McGill and Desrivères. Stuart wrote McGill's will and later represented Desrivères in litigation between him and McGill's estate. [32] While McGill had left Desrivères £23,000 and some lands, he had bequeathed Burnside, his estate on the mountain, and an endowment of £10,000 to the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning for the establishment of an English university in Montreal, but only under the condition that if the college were not erected by the 10th anniversary of his death, the endowment would go to the Desrivères'. [33] The university's board was appointed in 1818, and in 1820, it called upon the Desrivères' to relinquish the estate. This they refused to do on the grounds that the Royal Institution had no funds to build a college. The Royal Institution then sued the Desrivères' who retained Stuart to represent them. Ultimately, the courts found for the university, but Desrivères took the case to the Privy Council in England, which upheld the lower court decision in 1835, five years after François Desrivères' death. [34] The rest, as they say, is history.

Neil and Patrick Robertson

Neil and Patrick Robertson appear on a ratification of 23 March 1804, between Daniel Robertson [35] on the one hand, and François Desrivères, as tutor of Alex's daughters, and Patrick and Neil Robertson, as universal legatees of James Robertson, now deceased, on the other. [36] Daniel Robertson had undertaken on 30 August 1797, to pay £1,000 to the then-living Alex and James. [37] The 1804 agreement transferred this obligation to Alex's and James's heirs. Patrick died in

Montreal on 16 March 1808, unmarried. Neil died at Coteau-du-Lac on 18 June 1813, at age 63. He had married Catherine Ann Campbell in Montreal in 1808 and they had a daughter Elizabeth Ann (1809-1823). [38]

The Daniel Robertson mentioned in the 1804 act is said to be Lt-Colonel in the Army and living in Chatham, Quebec. This is undoubtedly the Daniel Robertson who was born in Dunkeld, Scotland and participated in the capture of Montreal in 1760 as a surgeon to the 42nd Regiment of Foot. [39] He participated in military operations in the Caribbean until the Treaty of Paris of 1763, before returning to Montreal. In 1783, he was appointed commander of the trading post at Michilimackinac, and applied for an appointment as Indian agent there, with his son-in-law Daniel Sutherland, James Grant (a partner of Daniel Sutherland in expeditions to Michilimackinac), Frobisher and McTavish, but this was rejected. He returned to Montreal in 1787, where he was officer in the militia and settled on land that he purchased in the Ottawa Valley. He was elected honorary member of the Beaver Club in 1793.

The relation between Alex, James, Patrick and Neil, is made explicit in a suit by James Stuart and his wife Elizabeth against one Baxter Bowman in 1835 for the recovery of two lots in Buckingham Township. The Crown ceded to John Robertson, son of Daniel, 2,000 acres in Buckingham Township in 1799. Five years later, John having left the province on military duty, his wife, Catherine Christie, sold this property to Patrick Robertson and Alex's minor children, represented by François Desrivères. In 1833, Christie sold two of the lots she had previously sold the Robertsons to Bowman, who started exploiting them. Sir James and his wife sued to recover ownership. The case made Canadian legal history as it hinged on whether English or French property law applied to the townships, that part of Lower Canada not governed by the seigneurial system. The case was not finally resolved until a decision in Stuart's favour by the Court of Appeals in 1853. In a dissenting opinion, Judge Smith of the

Superior Court for the District of Montreal, discusses how ownership of the land passed following Patrick's death:

“...the purchasers of that deed became possessed as tenants in common, one-half vesting in Patrick and one-half, or one quarter each, in the minors. That upon Patrick's death, the property devolved by right of inheritance to his elder brother, Neil; upon Neil's decease to his daughter Elizabeth Ann, and upon her decease, in 1823, to her cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander, then his sole surviving heir, who had previously inherited the share of her sister, Catherine”.

This confirms Neil, Patrick and Alex as brothers, but is silent about their relation to John Robertson and his father Daniel.

Mary McPherson's Family

Mary McPherson, Alex Robertson's wife and Sir James Stuart's mother-in-law, was born in Trois-Rivières on 5 April 1775, daughter of John McPherson, an Army officer, and Marie Cameron, both born in Scotland. She died on 12 April 1846, in Quebec City, where she was living in the household of Sir James. Mary was the eldest of 10 children. Her brother Andrew (1783-1847), worked for the NWC as a clerk from about 1805 to 1821, then after the merger with the Hudson Bay Company, as a clerk for them until his death in 1847. [40] Mary's sister, Joan (1798-1870), married Archibald McLean (1791-1865) who was wounded in the War of 1812, became a lawyer and eventually Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for Upper Canada. [41]

James Stuart and Elizabeth Robertson's Descendants

Elizabeth Robertson was of age when she married, so did not need her tutor's permission, but François Desrivières and Michael O'Sullivan, James Stuart's lawyer, were witnesses. [42]

Sir James and Elizabeth had four children, all born in Quebec City:

- Charles James (1824-1901) articulated with his cousin George Okill Stuart (1807-1884) in Quebec City, then studied at Oxford and was called to the Bar in London in 1848. A special law was passed in 1849 allowing him to practice law in Quebec. He acted for his father in several land transactions in Quebec before settling in London, where he died. He inherited his father's title in 1853 but did not marry and the title passed to his brother, Edward.
- Mary Catherine (1828-1901), settled in London and died there, unmarried.
- Edward Andrew (1832-1903) joined the British Army, fought and was wounded at the battle of Sevastopol in 1855, then in China. He was appointed Lieutenant-General of the Royal Hospital in London from which he retired as Major General. He inherited the baronetcy in 1901 and died in London.
- James (1837-1915) studied at Oxford and became an Anglican clergyman in England where he was vicar in Leicestershire and Somerset. He inherited the baronetcy in 1903, did not marry, and the title became extinct at his death. [43]

Sir James also had three known illegitimate children, the subject of a separate article. [44]

The Robertsons in Perthshire

The relationship between Alex, James, Neil and Patrick Robertson, and the names of their parents is established by a letter found in the *Red Book of Scotland* in the entry for Katherine Robertson, who married at Blair Atholl, Perthshire, on 23 July 1750, to Thomas Robertson, in Clunes. [45] “They emigrated to Canada from where Thomas corresponded with members of his extended family back home in Perthshire.” The letter reads:

River Reason, Stormont County, Upper Canada, 29 Sept 1812

Dear Cousin,

I received your much esteemed favour last winter which you sent by Alexr Robertson who sent it here

by another person. Duncan Cameron's son I have not seen. He & John Cameron's son has settled in Nova Scotia. I am informed my brother-in-law died last year, please let me know how he settled his estate for it was entailed to my eldest son failing heirs of his own body. Neil was talking of going home when I have seen him last for he lives at Montreal, is still unmarried and has a great deal of property. I lost two of my sons since I wrote to you last. Alex was lost going to England & James died a natural death at Montreal & left most of his property to his brothers. Patrick keeps a wholesale store in Montreal unmarried. I am now in my 80th year, much failed. I got a good track of land here, made up a house that cost about £100. I have about 60 acres clear. I have rented it to one Duncan Cuming that came here last year. I cannot look much after anything but thank God I have plenty to make me live comfortably. Be so good as to let me know about my Grandnephews in Tulimet and Strathardle and the poor remains of the Fascally family. Let me know what family your uncle has left & I hope they come on. Give my compliments to Strowan & tell him I am sorry he does not marry. Make my compliments to Achleeks & tell him that I am his Godfather when he was baptized that he ought to write to me. Give my compliments to my cousins Daniel and James Stewarts for whom I had always a great regard. I am told that Duntanlich sold his estate he has always been a very unfortunate man. Remember me to all my old friends & acquaintances. A great many families from the highlands of Scotland have arrived here. I have not seen any of them yet. My compliments to Mrs. Robertson and family. I am Dear Cousin, your sincere friend and humble servant. THOS ROBERTSON. PS Do not forget to write me for I will not grudge the postage to the care of Patrick Robertson, Montreal.

Alexander Robertson's Scottish Ancestors

Katherine Robertson's ancestors

The *Red Book of Scotland* shows several generations of Katherine Robertson's ancestry. [46] Her paternal line

indicates her family was established in the district of Atholl, going back to the origins of clan Donnachaidh, later Robertson.

Designations such as "James Robertson, 2nd of Auchleeks", indicate that James Robertson was the owner, or laird, of an estate called Auchleeks. The title of laird is a recognized honorific, though not a noble one. It can be inherited through the male line but can also be passed to a buyer of the estate. The laird can also be called by the name of his estate. "Auchleeks" in Thomas Robertson's letter designates the current laird of Auchleeks, in this case Robert Robertson, 8th of Auchleeks.

1. Andrew de Atholia, first ancestor of clan Donnachaidh for whom there is evidence. Lawfully descended in the male line from the Earls of Atholl.
2. Duncan de Atholia, died 1555-1557.
3. Robert, son of Duncan of Atholia, married to the daughter and heiress of Fordale.
4. Duncan Robertson of Atholia, died 1 June 1443.
5. Robert Rioch Duncanson of Struan, who succeeded to the lands of Struan in the Earldom of Atholl, in reward for his capture of Robert Graham, one of the assassins of James I. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Stewart, 1st of Bute, natural son of King Robert II. He died in battle about 1457.
6. Alexander Robertson of Struan, first to assume the name of Robertson. He died in 1505 and was buried at Dunkeld. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Lyon, Lord Glamis.
7. James Robertson, 1st of Calvine.
8. James Robertson, 1st of Auchleeks, acquired the lands of Auchleeks. He died before 1614.
9. James Robertson, 2nd of Auchleeks, died by 1616.
10. Charles Robertson, 3rd of Auchleeks, married in 1622 to Beatrix, daughter of Alexander Robertson of Inchmagranoch, died before December 1649.

11. Duncan Robertson, 4th of Auchleeks, married in 1637 to Jean, daughter of Alexander Robertson of Middle Downie, and died in 1693.
12. Alexander Robertson of Bohespick.
13. Neil Robertson of Bohespick, obtained the lands of Bohespick from his uncle, Donald Robertson of Auchleeks, in 1714. He married at Dull on 24 May 1716 to Anna, daughter of Thomas Fleming of Moness.
14. Katherine Robertson, married Thomas Robertson.

On her mother's side, Katherine is descended from Fleming of Moness, Menzies of Carse and of Weem, and Stewart of Foss, all from Perthshire.

In the letter, Thomas comments on the death of his brother-in-law, who died "last year", and whose land would have been entailed to Thomas's eldest son, Neil, failing the brother-in-law's having any heirs to his own body. Katherine had four brothers:

1. John Robertson of Bohespick, born 1720, died at the battle of Culloden on 16 April 1746, without children. His estate passed to his brother.
2. James Robertson of Bohespick, died without children on 3 December 1771. His estate passed to his brother.
3. Patrick Robertson of Bohespick, married Helen Stewart, and died without surviving issue before February 1801. His estate then passed to his nephew, James Robertson, son of his brother.
4. Duncan Robertson, married in 1753 to Janet Robertson, who had a son:
 - a. James Robertson, who inherited the lands of Easter Bohespick in 1802. He also had a son:
 - i. Neil Robertson, who succeeded his father in 1819.

The brother-in-law Thomas refers to appears to be Patrick, who died without living sons in 1801, 11 years before Thomas's letter. It seems Duncan died before

1802, as he did not inherit from Patrick. But whatever possible entailment Thomas may have believed to have been established in favour of Thomas' son Neil was superseded in favour of James.

Thomas Robertson's ancestors

The parents of Thomas Robertson are not evident, from Scottish baptismal records or from the current *Red Book of Scotland*. However, the letter provides hints as to his ancestry.

The addressee of the letter is not known, but the fact that it was found in the papers of James Robertson Irvine [47] suggests that the addressee was an ancestor of Irvine's, about whom the letter indicates that he was a male Robertson alive, along with his wife, in 1812. From Irvine's ancestry in the *Red Book*, this is quite likely James Robertson, 8th of Kindrochit (1739-1823), who married in 1776 to Jean Stewart, daughter of William Stewart, Tacksman at the Mill of Blair Atholl. She died in 1818.

For Thomas to be a cousin of this James Robertson, he needs to be a grandchild of one of James's grandparents. We have found two places where a chronologically plausible missing Thomas could be placed. The first is as a grandchild of James's paternal grandparents, James Robertson, 6th of Kindrochit (1685-) and his wife Beatrice Robertson. James had one known son, Duncan Robertson 7th of Kindrochit, whose children were born in the 1740s, too late to be Thomas's parents. James had a daughter, Janet, who married Robert Robertson of Wester Invernack, and they, and no one else, can we identify in the descendance of James Robertson, are plausible candidates to be the parents of Thomas.

However, there is a more compelling descendance from James's maternal grandparents, Helen Robertson, daughter of Alexander Robertson, 7th of Faskally, and her second husband, James Stewart in Clunes. Her first husband, whom she married in 1701, was Charles Robertson, Tacksman of Calvine, who is said to have had descendants, but these are not known. I conjecture

that Thomas was one of Charles and Helen's unknown grandchildren. Helen's children from her second marriage married in the 1730s, which is consistent with her children from Charles Robertson having married in the 1720s, and consistent with Thomas's being born in late 1720s.

This identification has the following consequences:

- It relates Thomas to Clunes, as mentioned in his marriage to Katherine Robertson, but via James Stewart in Clunes, his grandmother's second husband.
- It makes Thomas a descendant of Robertson of Faskally, via his grandmother, consistent with Sir James Stuart's entry in *Burke's Peerage* [48] and its mention by A. H. Young. The "poor remains of Faskally" mentioned in Thomas Robertson's letter would be the natural son of George Robertson, 9th of Faskally. Shortly after George's death in 1776 (the year after Thomas and Katherine emigrated to the US and Canada), the lands of Faskally were sold. The name of the natural son, born in 1755, is not known, but he appears to have been living in 1812.
- It makes Thomas a cousin once removed of Dr. William Robertson (1784-1844), the Montreal physician who was witness to Neil Robertson's marriage in Montreal, as William is the son of James Robertson, 8th of Kindrochit, Thomas' likely correspondent. [49]

Several other people mentioned in the letter can be identified.

"...my Grandnephews in Tulimet and Strathardle..."

These are probably:

- George Robertson of Easter Auchnagie, b. 1763, who was heir to Easter Auchnagie in 1785. He became a hairdresser in London and sold his estate to Dr. William Dick in 1786.
- James Robertson b. 13 August 1768, his brother.

These are sons of James Robertson of Balnacree and Easter Auchnagie, who was baptized at Dull in 1722.

He married at Blair Atholl, Helen, d/o Duncan Robertson, 7th of Auchleeks, and died in 1771. Helen would be a first cousin of Katherine Robertson, both granddaughters of Charles Robertson, 6th of Auchleeks.

Although Tullimet, the town, existed in the late 1700s, it was not an estate associated with a family after it was sold by the Aysoun family before 1700. However, Auchnagie [Auchnagay] is in the town/parish of Tullimet and is associated with it earlier as owned by the families Low and Stewart. Tullimet [Tullymet] is a named estate in the parish of Logierait, 12 miles south of Blair Atholl. Strathardle is four miles from Tullimet and is associated with Alexander Robertson, 1st of Downie, who is said to have obtained the lands of Downie in Strathardle. George and James are significantly younger than Thomas and could have been living when he was writing. It is not clear whether Thomas would have known of George's having sold his estate in 1785, after Thomas emigrated.

"...Give my compliments to Strowan & tell him I am sorry he does not marry..."

This would be Alexander Robertson of Struan, b. 24 December 1741, who obtained the restitution of the Struan estate in 1784. He died without children in 1822. He and Thomas were distant cousins, descended from Alexander Robert of Struan (-1505).

"...Make my compliments to Achleeks & tell him that I am his Godfather when he was baptized that he ought to write to me..."

This would be Robert Robertson, 8th of Auchleeks, baptized at Blair Atholl, on 20 March 1755 who succeeded his father. He is a cousin of both Thomas and Katherine. Robert is 2nd cousin of Thomas' as both are descendants of Alexander Robertson, 7th of Faskally. He is 3rd cousin once removed of Katherine Robertson. Bohepick, from which Katherine descends, is a junior branch of Auchleeks, which is in the parish of Blair Atholl.

...I am told that Duntanlich sold his estate he has always been a very unfortunate man..."

This would be Donald Stewart, 12th of Duntaullich, son of Donald Stewart, 10th of Duntaullich, who married at Dull on 19 December 1749 to Jean Stewart. In 1795, Donald succeeded his brother, Alexander, in the lands of Duntaullich but the estate was so heavily encumbered by debt that he immediately sold it to Alexander Stewart of Bonskeid. Thomas Robertson and Donald Stewart were distant cousins, both descended from Alexander Fleming, 4th of Moness (1557-1663).

Conclusion

James Stuart's wife, Elizabeth Robertson, was the daughter of Scottish parents, a family heavily involved in the fur trade, starting shortly after the British conquest of Canada. François Desrivères, Elizabeth's tutor after the death of her father, was partner and heir of another Scot, James McGill.

Elizabeth's grandparents, Thomas and Katherine Robertson, left Scotland to settle in New York State in 1775, and moved to Canada as loyalists at the beginning of the American Revolution. Katherine's ancestry in Scotland is well documented, Thomas's less

so, though from hints in a letter he sent a cousin in Perthshire in 1812, one can infer that he was probably a descendant of Robertsons of Faskally, as claimed in Sir James Stuart's entry in *Burke's Peerage*. He was also a cousin of Dr. William Robertson, who settled in Montreal and became the first dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University. Several issues remain open. First, is there a link between Elizabeth Robertson's family and that of Lt. Col. Daniel Robertson and his son John, very likely also from Perthshire? What was the reason for the 1797 payment of £1000 from Daniel Robertson to Alex and James Robertson? An inheritance? An investment in their business?

Secondly, is there a relationship between the Robertsons of Montreal and the McPhersons of Trois-Rivières, Alex's wife's family? Mary McPherson was 17 when she married Alex Robertson, and an eldest daughter who had probably not left Trois-Rivières yet. Her father was an Army officer with no known connections to the fur trade. One possible connection is through the Camerons, the family of Mary McPherson's mother. Thomas Robertson mentions some of them in his letter, as having settled in Nova Scotia.

Endnotes

- [1] T. R. Millman, "STUART, JOHN (1740/41-1811)," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed November 27, 2025 online at: https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/stuart_john_1740_41_1811_5E.html.
- [2] Evelyn Kolish, "STUART, Sir JAMES," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 8, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed May 19, 2024 online at: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/stuart_james_8E.html.
- [3] This appears in the entry in *Burke's Peerage* on Sir James' baronetcy.
- [4] A. H. Young, *The Revd. John Stuart, D.D., U.E.L., of Kingston, U.C. and his family: a genealogical study* (Kingston, Ontario, 1920)
- [5] All births, marriages and deaths in Quebec are from the Drouin Collection consulted on Ancestry.com
- [6] Scottish Birth Records, Ancestry.com
- [7] UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835, Ancestry.com
- [8] Land Petitions of Lower Canada, 1764-1841, Library and Archives Canada.
- [9] Letter from Thomas Robertson to an unnamed cousin, addressed from River Raison, Stormont County, Upper Canada, Sept 29, 1812, in Gordon McGregor, *Red Book of Scotland*, vol.14, p. 463, 2024. See below in the section "The Robertsons of Perthshire".
- [10] Battle of Bennington, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bennington.
- [11] George Alexander Whiteside, application to Sons of American Revolution, 2 Feb 1950, Ancestry.com
- [12] Margaret was 23 in 1777. Thomas says nothing in his claim about a daughter having stayed behind when the family fled. It is possible, given that her first known child was not born till 1782, that she went with her family and returned later.
- [13] Stuart family fonds, Archives of Ontario, Fonds F-996.
- [14] Jean Morrison, "GRANT, PETER," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed October 6, 2024 online at: https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/grant_peter_7E.html.
- [15] North West Company, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company.

- [16] Although James Robertson is the instigator of Alex's inventory, on behalf of Alex's daughters, Alex was the sole owner of goods and sole party in the considerable debts reported there. Minutes of Louis Chaboillez, notary, Inventory of Alex Robertson, August 21, 1798, Archives des notaires du Québec, Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec (BAnQ).
- [17] The net value of Alex's estate was over £12,000, worth today about £120,000, or US\$150,000.
- [18] *Montreal Gazette*, July 16, 1798.
- [19] Alex Robertson letters, Stuart family archive.
- [20] Minutes of Louis Chaboillez, notary, agreement between James Robertson and Mary McPherson, May 28, 1798, Archives des notaires du Québec, BAnQ.
- [21] Lloyd's List, 1797-1798, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015073721238&seq=5>.
- [22] *Nereid*, Historic England Research Records, https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=3a77c9a2-ded7-4f3b-8cda-1d78644a3ec6&resourceID=19191.
- [23] News of the wreck came from London on the packet boat *Halifax*, which left London on January 19, 1798 and arrived in New York on March 4, after which it was sent by land to Montreal, which apparently took one month. Lloyd's List, January 30, 1798; *Quebec Gazette*, April 5, 1798.
- [24] Minutes of Louis Chaboillez, notary, agreement between James Robertson and Mary McPherson, May 28, 1798, Archives des notaires du Québec, BAnQ.
- [25] Minutes of Louis Chaboillez, agreement between François Desrivieres and Mary Mcpherson, January 3, 1801, Archives des notaires du Québec, .
- [26] James's death is reported in Thomas Robertson's letter.
- [27] Stanley B. Frost, "DESRIVIÈRES, FRANÇOIS," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed May 21, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/desrivieres_francois_6E.html.
- [28] J. I. Cooper, "MCGILL, JAMES," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed May 21, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mcgill_james_5E.html.
- [29] The North West Company, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company.
- [30] Myron Momryk, "TODD, ISAAC," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed May 20, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/todd_isaac_5E.html.
- [31] Stanley B. Frost, *ibid*.
- [32] Cooper, *ibid*
- [33] J. M. Desrivières married Caroline, Joseph Frobisher's daughter, in 1820.
- [34] Cooper, *ibid*
- [35] No known relation to Alex.
- [36] Minutes of Louis Chaboillez, Ratification et obligation en faveur des enfants mineurs de Alex Robertson par Daniel Robertson, 23 March 1804, act 6357, BAnQ.
- [37] No reason for the obligation is given, and it was to be paid off in one year, mortgaged against all of Daniel's assets.
- [38] He is probably the P. Robertson who in a letter to Mary McPherson dated April 2, 1806 addresses her as "Dear Sister". James Stuart archives.
- [39] David A. Armour, "ROBERTSON, DANIEL," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed May 22, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/robertson_daniel_5E.html.
- [40] Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba.
- [41] Bruce W. Hodgins, "MCLEAN, ARCHIBALD (1791-1865)," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 9, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed May 19, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mclean_archibald_1791_1865_9E.html.
- [42] Alan Dever, "O'SULLIVAN, MICHAEL," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed September 8, 2024, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/o_sullivan_michael_7E.html.
- [43] Young, *op cit*.
- [44] Raymond Perrault, Les enfants illégitimes de James Stuart et de Marie-Joseph Dufresne, *Mémoires de la Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française*, to appear. English version at https://crperrault.github.io/BPB/articles/abstracts/James_Stuart_illegitimate_children.html.
- [45] Gordon McGregor, *The Red Book of Scotland*, 2016, www.redbookofScotland.co.uk.
- [46] The facts in this section are drawn from Gordon MacGregor's *Red Book of Scotland*, 2024, vol 14 on the Robertson family and vol 16 on the Stewart family. <https://redbookofscotland.co.uk/>.
- [47] The document in the archive is a copy of the side of the original containing the message. Unfortunately, the reverse side, which would have shown the addressee, was not copied. Gordon MacGregor, private communication.
- [48] Sir Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage and Baronetage*, 1913, p 1836.
- [49] E. H. Bensley, "ROBERTSON, WILLIAM (1784-1844)," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed December 12, 2024, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/robertson_william_1784_1844_7E.html.

A New Chapter for Ontario's Historical Photographs

Adina Tuerxun

Adina Tuerxun is a student currently pursuing a Masters Degree. She is working as an IT intern at the OGS office.

Ontario Ancestors is embarking on an exciting new project that brings together heritage, technology, and community knowledge in a meaningful way. Beginning in early 2026, the Society will be collaborating with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information on the development of a new Historical Image Library for the Ontario Ancestors website.

Over the years, Ontario Ancestors has received many donated historical photographs. Some are carefully identified and well documented. Others raise intriguing questions. Faces without names, locations without labels, moments captured without context. These images are rich sources of genealogical clues, yet they can be difficult to fully explore or share using older digital platforms.

This new project aims to change that.



As part of a UX Capstone course in the Master of Information program, a team of graduate students in the User Experience Design concentration will work with OGS to reimagine how historical photographs are presented and discovered online. User Experience, often referred to as UX, focuses on how people interact

with digital tools and systems, with an emphasis on usability, accessibility, clarity, and overall ease of use.

In this project, the focus is on how people browse, search, and interpret historical photographs. The students will explore how images can be organized and navigated, and how information such as names, locations, or family stories might be added over time. By approaching photographs as research tools rather than static records, the project encourages shared interpretation and the gradual building of collective knowledge.

The Historical Image Library is envisioned as an interactive space for discovery and participation. The Capstone project will run from January through April 2026, during which the students will conduct user research and develop design concepts and interactive prototypes. Their work will provide OGS with a clear framework and practical recommendations for building a future image library that reflects real research practices and user needs.

Projects like this remind us that genealogy is not only about documents and dates. It is also about recognition, connection, and the small details that help place a person within a family or a community. A photograph can do all of that at once, especially when many people are invited to help interpret what it shows.

OGS looks forward to sharing more as this project unfolds. In time, this collaboration has the potential to open up new ways of seeing our shared history, one photograph at a time.

What's in a Name?

German Pietistic Naming Traditions

Robbie Gorr

Among the most commonly used names of our German ancestors were Johann, Carl, Friedrich and Wilhelm, or their English versions of John, Charles, Frederick and William, and every family of German descent has many of them. More rare, but still regularly used by our German forebears, were names like Gottfried, Gottlieb and even Christlieb. But these less-common names do not have an English equivalent because these names were a part of a German history that is now all but forgotten. The German Pietistic religious movement of the Lutheran church was prevalent in the 17th and 18th centuries but afterwards, even though its popularity waned, its influence was still felt among the German pioneers who came to Canada in the nineteenth century. So, what do the naming traditions of our ancestors have to do with an all-but-forgotten religious movement? And, for the love of God, what kind of a name is Gottlieb?



Gottlieben Mack (1838-1922), wife of Rudolph deGuehery of Renfrew County, had been given one of the female variations of a common Pietistic name.

Pietism got its name from “piety” or the reverence that was thought to be the most important facet of Lutheran worship. Many scholars view German Pietism as similar

to the Puritan reformation of the Church of England that swept Britain and the American colonies. The Puritan movement was active at the same time period as Pietism and sought many of the same ideals, such as living a personal life of moral purity as interpreted from the examples of Bible scripture. One of the most recognized features of Puritan life was the popular use of virtue names for their children. Pious parents hoped their newborn child might embody a particular virtue or, by association, to remind others around them of that particular trait.

The German Pietists also used a naming tradition similar to the virtue names of the Puritans. Many of the virtue names fashionable in the English-speaking world did not translate as well into German and certainly were less euphonious. The popular Faith, Hope and Charity in the German language would be Glauben, Hoffnung and Nächstenliebe. These were not names that anyone, even the most extreme reformers, would want their children to carry. Instead, the Pietists created names using “Gott” or God and combined it with a pious adjective. For example, Gottlieb was a compound of God and love and literally meant ‘love of God’. Similarly, Gotthilf meant ‘help of God’, Gotthard meant ‘strength of God’ and Gottlob meant ‘praise of God’. Sometimes the “Gott” would be reversed as in Liebgott which meant ‘love God’ or Traugott which translated as ‘trust God’. These German compounded name innovations were simple and more mellifluous and served well the Pietists’ conviction to embody a more pious lifestyle.

In the course of events, however, there were some unusual Pietistic names that were used. Leberecht was one of the most popular of these and literally meant



Traugott Glaubegott Furchtegott Dietzmann (1828-1914) of Mifflin, Wisconsin received the hat-trick of Pietistic names. His full name literally means 'Trust God, Believe in God, Fear God'.

'live right'. Hassdenteufel meaning 'hate the devil' and Tugenreich which meant 'full of virtue' were among the rare exceptional names and most reminiscent of the Puritan virtue names.

Over time there were some adaptations of the names that developed like Christlieb that meant 'love of Christ' in place of the well-liked Gottlieb. And since most of the German Pietistic names were used for boys, of course there were soon female variations of some of the most popular names. Gottfried meaning 'peace of God' was sometimes seen in feminine form as Gottfriede or Gottfrida. Gotthild which meant 'fight for God' was sometimes seen as Gotthilda. The popular Gottlieb was occasionally used in the female form as Gottlieben. As well, some few names such as Tugen which meant 'virtue' or Freimut which meant "free spirit" were gender-neutral and were assigned to boys and girls.

The German Pietistic movement ended toward the beginning of the 19th century although several of the key tenets of Pietism became accepted doctrine within regular use like Gottfried and Gottlieb. And, occasionally, some of the other Pietistic names would again make vintage appearances.

For the German pioneers who came to Canada in the

nineteenth century, these German naming traditions were part of their long history. As many of them struggled to carve a home from the wilderness of this newland and to find spiritual strength and guidance, occasionally the use of a Pietistic name for a newborn child reflected their dedication and determination. Rarely was this type of name given as the child's first name but rather as the second or, most commonly if three names were used, as the final name given. It shows clearly that the Pietistic naming tradition was engrained in these pioneers and, as such, is an integral part of our German-Canadian heritage.



Luise Sophia Tugenreich Klebesadel (1865-1944) of Big Timber, Montana was given one of the most unusual Pietistic names as her third name, the traditional placement of such a name.

APPENDIX OF TRADITIONAL PIETISTIC NAMES

Christhard (strength of Christ); **Christlieb** [**Christliebe** (f)] (love of Christ); **Dienegott** [m & f] (serve God); **Ehregott** (honour God); **Ehrenfried** (honour peace); **Freiherr** (free lord, free man); **Freimut** (free spirit); **Fürchtegott** (fear God); **Glaubrecht** (believe right); **Glaubegott** (believe in God); **Gottbert** (shining God); **Gottfried** [**Gottfriede/Gottfrida** (f)] (peace of God); **Gottgetrau** (to dare God [f]); **Gotthard** (strength of God); **Gottherz** (heart of God); **Gotthild** [(m & f) & **Gotthilda/Godhilda** (f)] (fight for God); **Gotthilf/Gotthelf** (help of God); **Gotthold** (dear to God); **Gottlieb** [**Gottliebe/Gottlieben** (f) & **Amadeus** (m) (Latin)] (love of God); **Gottlob** (praise of God); **Gottmar** (fame of God); **Gottschalk** (servant of God); **Gottvertrau** (trust in God); **Gottwald** (power of God); **Gottwin** (friend of God); **Grazia/Gratia** (grace); **Gudhardt** (good strength); **Hassdenteufel** (hate the devil); **Helfgott** (help God); **Lebefromm** (live piously); **Leberecht** (live right); **Liebgott** (love God); **Pius** [**Pia** (f)] (pious & godly); **Traugott** (trust God); **Tugen** (virtue); **Tugenreich** (full of virtue).

Coral's Corner

Coral Harkies

Our Society has three branches in Northern Ontario that help to promote family history and assist family researchers in their quest to find their ancestors.

Sudbury Branch covers the District of Sudbury. Their website has reference information which includes a surname index, local links and information about researching your First Nations ancestry. Their members only area has indexes to the *Sudbury Star*, yearbooks, photos, branch newsletters and much more. One unique collection is the Mond Nickel Corporation Employment cards. You can use the index to search for a person and then purchase their card from the Sudbury Branch Marketplace. Their library collection is housed at the Greater Sudbury Library's main branch.

Nipissing Branch covers the Districts of Nipissing, Timiskaming and Parry Sound. On their website you can see newspaper indexes for the *Cobalt Nugget* and other local newspapers, North Bay Normal School Yearbooks and other local history resources. Their members only section has newspapers, census records, voters lists, and more. Their Library collection is housed at the North Bay Public Library.

Thunder Bay Branch covers the Thunder Bay District. Their website has links on where to find local records, an index of their newsletters and more. Their members only section has webinar recordings, some parish registers for St. Theresa's Parish and some local Tweedsmuir Histories. Their library collection is located at the Brodie Reference Library in Thunder Bay.

Unfortunately, we have had a few branches close as of the end of 2025. The most recent was the **Bruce and**

Grey Branch. They covered the counties of Grey and Bruce. All of their resources, including their large surname collection, their collection of newsletters and links to other free resources are now open to all members of Ontario Ancestors. Their physical library collection will continue to be housed at the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library in Owen Sound.

We also have a page on our website for the **Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District** area. Society member access includes links to some local research in this area. The library collection of the former branch is located at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library.

The Society Marketplace has many cemetery transcriptions for Algoma, Bruce and Grey Counties and they can be found through the shop link on the Society website.

Visiting a branch in person or online is a great place to start if you find yourself researching in a new or unfamiliar area. Each branch is a wealth of local knowledge and experience that you cannot get on the large commercial sites, especially when you are looking for that elusive ancestor. The Society has been working with local museums and archives to help preserve their collections. We have received items from the Marsh Collection, the Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society, the Paris Museum and Archives, and the Canadian Military Heritage Museum. We have received a variety of items from these repositories which include a ledger of minor offences at Base Borden, military unit photos, Tweedsmuir Histories and newspapers on microfilm. These items will be digitized, shared with the museum and added to our site as permissions are granted.

Off the Beaten Branch

Save Ontario Shipwrecks:

<https://saveontarioshipwrecks.ca>

Save Ontario Shipwrecks is a Provincial Heritage Organization dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of Ontario's Marine History. Resources include a Marine Heritage database, photo gallery, plaques and more.

Ontario Abandoned Places:

<https://www.ontarioabandonedplaces.com>

Ontario Abandoned Places is a database of abandoned buildings, ghost towns, industrial sites and more. It does include other provinces as well. The photos are posted by others interested in urban exploration.

Atlas Obscura:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com>

Atlas Obscura is a collection of over 20,000 curious places around the world. Ever wonder about the travel photos in front of the large goose in Wawa? This is the place where you can find them, and learn more about many unique locations.



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Scattered Bits & Pieces Along the Road - Maynooth Memories, Volume 1 by Katherine Green Cannon

I Remember Grandma, Second Edition
by Pat Husak

Book Reviews by Heather Oakley

Scattered Bits & Pieces Along the Road – Maynooth Memories, Volume 1

by Katherine Green Cannon (self published, 2022)

This book is a rich and personal contribution to the genealogical and social history of Maynooth and the Hastings Highlands, written by Katherine Green Cannon, a longtime researcher and community advocate. Ms. Green Cannon began her own genealogical research in 1983 and has spent decades deeply involved in preserving family and cultural history. From 1991 to 1996, she served as a volunteer and contact for Algonquin family genealogy with Golden Lake First Nation, and from 1996 to 2017 she was Chief and Algonquin Nation Representative for the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Treaty negotiations.

Coming from a family of thirteen children – each of whom married and raised families – Ms. Green Cannon draws on a wide and interconnected network of relatives. As a result, readers will encounter many family names and personal stories throughout the book, a feature genealogists will appreciate for its depth, even if it can occasionally feel overwhelming.

Central to the narrative is her grandfather, John Green Sr. (born 1886), who emigrated from Ireland and settled in Maynooth, Ontario, where he owned and operated the Greens Hotel. From this starting point, the author weaves together memories of growing up in Maynooth, everyday life in the community, and

reflections on both her Irish and Algonquin heritage.

While the book does not include a formal index, the detailed table of contents makes it reasonably easy to locate sections related to particular families or topics. Readers with an interest in lumbering, hunting, and fishing in the Hastings Highlands will find useful historical context, while those wanting to better understand the Anishinaabe way of life in the Baptiste Lake region will gain valuable social and cultural insights.

As someone whose own grandparents attended school in Maynooth, I found this book especially meaningful. It helped me better visualize the village as they would have known it and deepened my understanding of the Algonquin presence and traditions in the area. Overall, *Scattered Bits & Pieces Along the Road* is both informative and engaging, and it will be of particular interest to genealogists, local historians, and anyone with roots in North Hastings.

Copies of this book, as well as further information about the region, are available through the North Hastings Heritage Centre in Bancroft (<https://bancroftnhheritagemuseum.ca/>).

Note: The author used ChatGPT to refine this book review and was proofed carefully for correctness and context.



I Remember Grandma, Second Edition

by Pat Husak

The author starts the book by saying the original 'I Remember Grandma' book was completed by typewriter and photocopier in 1993. This edition contains new information from many people from the extended families mentioned in the book. This edition is not just a copy of the original edition but a rewrite with much of the same information though some parts have been taken out completely and much more information has been added.

This book is about Grace Taylor McGregor, the author's grandmother, and the area known as The Ridge which is in Lake of Bays Township which was established on 1 January 1971, from the former Townships of Franklin, Ridout, McLean, and Sinclair/Finlayson (unorganized) as part of the reorganization of the District of Muskoka. Ms. Husak gives us a book filled with stories of the original settlement of The Ridge, based on information she collected and researched. There are many photographs, poems, old letters, and other ephemera from the past.

Ms. Husak gives great background and information on the founding families: the Thomson's, Pattison's, Henderson's, McGregor's, and Maitland's. The Thomson family came from Airdrie, Scotland, sailing from Glasgow on 24 May 1856, and ended up on free grant land on the Hastings Road. There is similar information on the other founding families. The book includes a map showing where the founding families settled on The Ridge. Settlement of the area started after fur trappers decided that there was rich soil suitable for farming in the late 1850s/early 1860s. They were a busy bunch, getting buildings built with a Church in 1875 and a school in 1876-77. There is information on farming, industry, and the old Church. (The new Church was built in 1947.) The Ridge School, called the Mayflower, operated from 1876-77 to 1944, and there is information about students and teachers.

The author traces the descendants of the founding families as well as other long-time residents. The end of the book contains pedigree charts that consolidate much of the information contained in the narrative.

If you have research interests in the District of Muskoka or just want to learn more about the struggles of original settlers, this book contains considerable detail and family information. The book provides much social context. This book was both interesting and informative.

P.S. If you want to get a copy of this book, you will need to contact the North Hastings Heritage Centre in Bancroft (<https://bancroftnhheritagemuseum.ca/>)



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2026 Call for Candidates for Members of the Board of Directors

The role of the Society's Board of Directors is to set policy and direct projects for the Ontario Genealogical Society. All Board positions are unpaid volunteer positions with expenses being compensated as outlined in the Society policies.

As per the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 – Part IV: Directors and Officers, elections will occur at The Ontario Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting to be held virtually in June 2026.

The OGS Elections Committee is calling for the following positions to be filled:

President – to serve for two years (2026-2028)

Director-at-Large – to serve for two years (2026-2028); two positions to be filled

The Society is seeking Board members who:

- Will actively contribute to meetings, share knowledge, provide opinions, offer advice;
- Have a broad understanding of and commitment to the Mission, Vision and Objectives of the Ontario Genealogical Society;
- Think and act strategically and support the direction of The Ontario Genealogical Society;
- Will take responsibility for and actively contribute to one or more designated portfolios of Board work;
- Develop an annual mandate for their contribution to OGS;
- Have an active relationship with one or more Branches or SIGS;
- Will be an ambassador for and help the Society to secure adequate resources to support and sustain the organization by encouraging their network to join, donate and participate in OGS activities.

The Society is specifically seeking candidates who have expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Financial Management
- Information Technology
- Membership Development-Growth and Engagement
- Fundraising/Giving
- Communications (ie: Web/Social/Media/Newsletters) & Marketing
- Volunteer Management
- HR Experience

Preference will also be given to candidates with expertise or interest in one or more of the following

- Educational Planning
- Legal Experience
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning

To apply as a candidate for the Board of Directors, interested members (or those that wish to become members by the time of the AGM) will need to do the following:

1. To apply, [download and complete the application form](#) found on the OGS website.
2. Email the completed application form, along with your resume and cover letter to elections@ogs.on.ca.

Deadline for submission of applications is 10 April 2026

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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.



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pRT assists family and professionals to engage with loved ones



Prompts assist caregivers to communicate with loved ones



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