

FAMILIES

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Dingman family homes in Kinderhook, New York (left) and in Morganston, Ontario (right).
(Collage generated using AI, original photos courtesy of Ancient Faces and Heritage Cramahe)

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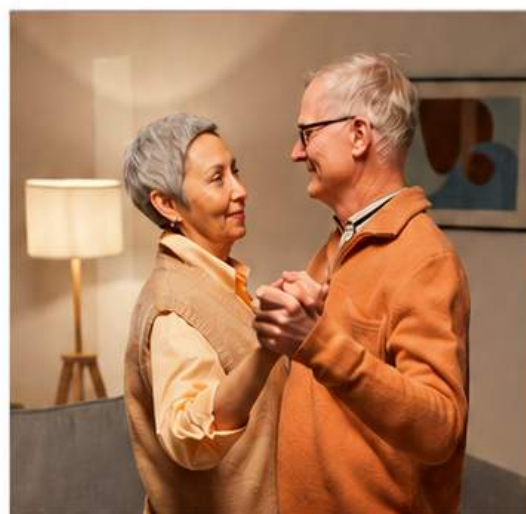


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From the Editor



Heather McTavish
Taylor,
Managing Editor

Welcome to the lazy, hazy days of summer! It's hard to believe that August is upon us already; am I the only one who feels like time just keeps speeding up? I have been keeping very busy with the many outdoor activities available here in the Blue Mountains, as well as helping my husband with our home renovations. We are nearing the end, thankfully! Sadly, I haven't had as much time to do genealogy for most of 2026. I am really hoping that I can get back to researching and writing soon. I miss the thrill of the hunt and the sense of reward that I feel when I complete a good story. I am not complaining though...life is good, I consider every day a bonus, and I am thankful.

I have spent some time over the past few weeks pondering the topic for my editorial this quarter. Jen Baldwin from Findmypast held a session recently where she talked about genealogists needing to stop viewing maps as modern tourists. Meaning, I think, that when we are doing our research, we should try putting our minds back in time and considering how our ancestors would have seen things. This is an interesting concept, and can be applied in more ways than just when viewing historical maps. I am wanting to marry this idea up with my desire to go beyond the basic facts of my ancestors. I am going to try to imagine myself living in the time of my ancestors, without the modern amenities, to interpret what they might have been experiencing and feeling in those

times. How did they deal with the weather? What did they do in their downtime, did they even have any? How did they meet their partners? How did they know about what was going on outside their communities? I know that sometimes I get too focused on collecting the facts, and by taking a mental trip back in time, maybe I can add more about their stories. What ways can you see using this thought as a tool in your research? I hope that you will write to me and let me know!

This issue of *Families* has an interesting collection of articles. We continue with another two winning articles from the 2025 Keffer Essay Competition that I am excited to share. First, our third-place winner Wendy Smith shares a sad story about a family carrying stigma related to the after effects of war. In fourth place, Jeff Airth paints a beautiful sketch of the life of his ancestor William Airth. We also have two continuations of previously published family histories with the Sackville family of Hamilton, and the Dingman's of Cramahe. Bev MacCulloch has done a mini case study of her ancestor John McLennan. The OGS has been working with Lorna Kinnaird to digitize and transcribe the petitions from the Caledonian Asylum. She has written an article for this issue to demonstrate what this new resource will provide to our members. Of course, we have our regular contributors who always add interesting ideas and thoughtful suggestions to every edition. As always, I really do hope that you enjoy reading *Families*!

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

Heather



FAMILIES

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From Parish to Petition: Tracing Scottish Families through the Caledonian Asylum Records, 1819–1924

Lorna Kinnaird, Dunedin Links Genealogy

In collaboration with the Ontario Genealogical Society, **Lorna Kinnaird** is leading the project to bring the Caledonian Asylum Records online. This project represents a significant step forward in making this material accessible through a structured and searchable database.

The Caledonian Asylum was established in 1808 by members of the Highland Society of London to support and educate the children of Scottish soldiers, sailors, marines, and indigent Scottish families resident in London who were not entitled to parochial relief. Its foundation must be understood within the broader context of the Napoleonic Wars, which resulted in the displacement of significant numbers of Scottish servicemen and their families.

In the years following 1815, many of these families, often having followed regiments south, including to Ireland and as far as New Holland, found themselves in London without access to Poor Law support. Figures such as Arthur WELLESLEY, 1st Duke of Wellington, alongside other members of the Highland Society, played a central role in raising funds to establish an institution capable of addressing this need. The Asylum initially operated from Hatton Garden between 1815 and 1819, before relocating to Copenhagen Fields, Islington, where it developed into a significant charitable and educational establishment. In 1852, it received royal patronage from Queen Victoria and became known as the Royal Caledonian School, continuing in operation until its relocation to Bushey in 1902.

It is within this institutional framework that the

surviving petition applications, beginning in December 1819, must be situated. Their introduction marks the formalization of admission through election and ballot, reflecting both the scale of demand and the necessity for clearly defined criteria. No formal petitions survive from the earlier years of the Asylum, and their absence suggests either an alternative system of admission or the loss of earlier records.

The petition applications offer a critical bridge between the Old Parish Registers of Scotland (OPRs) and the lived realities of Scottish families in London in the aftermath of war, migration, and economic hardship. Derived from personal testimonies submitted by parents or guardians, most frequently mothers, these accounts must be understood as constructed narratives shaped by institutional expectations. Applicants were required to demonstrate hardship, Scottish origin, Presbyterian denomination, and moral respectability. Petitions and their testimonials reflect these priorities. While such testimonies may contain elements of selective emphasis or imprecision, they preserve details rarely captured in formal records, including migration pathways through military service, children born abroad and family distress.

When analysed alongside vital records, census returns, militia or regimental records, these petitions form the

basis of a triangulated methodology through which individual and family histories can be reconstructed across multiple jurisdictions. In many cases, the petition provides the initial point of connection, particularly in identifying Scottish origins or military service, while additional sources enable the extension, corroboration, and refinement of these narratives over time.

The applications themselves contain a substantial range of information, including personal details of the child, the circumstances of parents and siblings, evidence of military service, and supporting testimony from sponsors. Many petitions are further supported by documentary evidence, such as extracts from baptismal, marriage, and death records, or correspondence from parish ministers, reinforcing their evidential value.

The extent of this documentation reflects the institutional priorities of the Caledonian Asylum. In requiring detailed evidence of origin, circumstance, and eligibility, the Asylum's admission process both shaped and preserved these narratives, ensuring that each application functioned not only as a request for assistance but as a structured record of identity and need.

The Asylum itself was conceived not solely as a site of relief, but as an institution of education, discipline, and cultural continuity. In addition to providing care, it sought to maintain a distinct Scottish identity through dress, music, and instruction. Boys, and later girls, were outfitted in Highland dress, and many were trained in piping or drumming. The children also contributed to the institution's sustainability through participation in public performances such as the Annual Anniversary Dinner, reinforcing its connection with the wider community.

Beyond its immediate function, the presence of the Asylum left a lasting imprint on the surrounding area. The naming of Caledonian Road, and subsequently

Caledonian Park, Caledonian Estate, and the Caledonian Market, reflects the enduring influence of the institution on the landscape and identity of north London.

Admission to the Asylum from December 1819 was governed by election and ballot. Applications required the support of subscribers, who acted as sponsors and advocates for each child. Elections were held biannually, and successful candidates were recorded in institutional lists and contemporary newspapers. This system not only regulated access to the institution but also contributed directly to the structured and evidential nature of the petition records that survive today. The petitions typically record the following:

Applicant's Personal Information

- Name, date of birth, and place of birth.

Parent Details

- Names of parents, occupations, and their circumstances (e.g., deceased, impoverished, etc.); year of birth, place of birth, age; date and place of marriage. Religion of the parents. Other children (siblings).

Reason for Application

- Details of hardship or eligibility (e.g., Scottish or Highland ancestry, orphaned status). Personal testimonials by parents.

Military Connections

- Parent's or guardian's military service details, including rank, regiment, and length of service; date and place of death.

Supporters of the Application

- Names of sponsors or references who endorsed the petition.

Additional Notes

- Health conditions, family background, vaccinations and whether clean from infection and disease. Details of Grandparents in Scotland, name, age, parish and occupation.
- Original baptismal/birth entries and certificates. Original marriage entries or certificates. Original death certificates. If not original, copies handwritten into the applications. Correspondence from Parish Ministers.

The structured nature of the petition applications reflects the formalized admission process, in which eligibility had to be clearly demonstrated to subscribers responsible for election by ballot. The evidential value of these petition applications for Scottish genealogy can be demonstrated through the following case studies.

Case Study One: Thomas Styles KAY

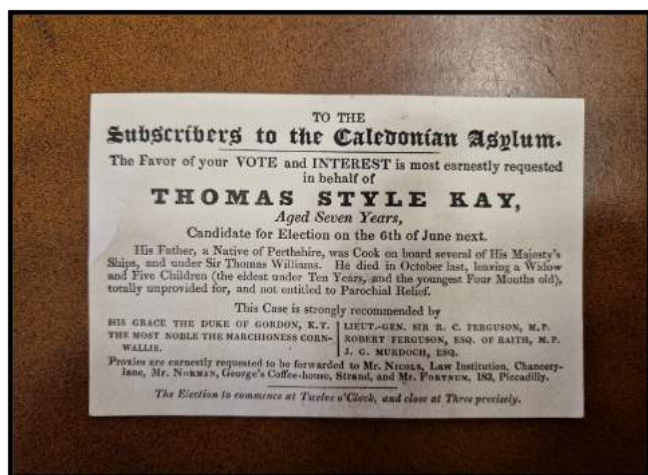


Figure 1: Thomas Style Kay (GD112/74/39/31, NRS)

Thomas Style KAY's Polling Card was found within the National Records of Scotland.



Figure 2: Thomas Style KAY, Petition Number 183

Thomas Styles KAY's petition (No. 183), recorded in Book 3, Volume 3 (covering petitions 161–286), provides a detailed account of his admission to the Caledonian Asylum. It records that he was born on 4 February 1826, elected to the institution on 6 June 1833, and discharged on 10 January 1840. Upon discharge, he was returned to his mother, apprenticed to a cabinet maker, and granted £5, reflecting the Asylum's role in facilitating transition into employment.

The application was submitted on 9 March 1833 at the

Great Marlborough Street Office by his mother, Fanny KAY, widow of Adam KAY. In her testimony, Fanny describes the circumstances of her husband's death on 28 October 1832, which left her with five children and no means of support. Her account emphasises both the immediacy of her destitution and her eligibility under the Asylum's criteria.

The petition further records that Adam KAY was employed as a cook and had resided in London for approximately ten years. Despite Thomas having been born in London, at King Street, John Square, on 4 February 1826, and baptised on 27 June at St Anne, Westminster, the application acknowledges that the parents were not entitled to Poor Relief. It further establishes the family's Scottish origin through Adam's stated birthplace in the parish of Little Dunkeld, on 14 July 1788. Fanny KAY's address at the time of application was given as 13 Chapel Street East, Mayfair.

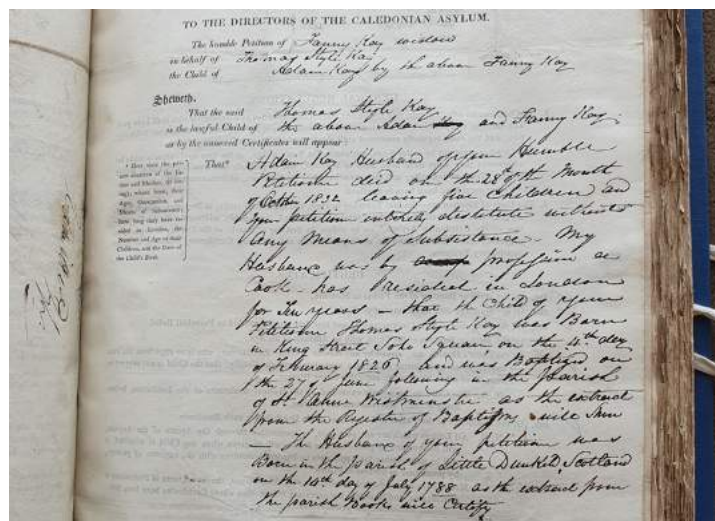


Figure 3: Petition No.183 – Thomas Style KAY

A search of the Old Parish Records (OPRs) for the parish of Little Dunkeld did not identify a baptism for Adam KAY in 1788 as stated in the petition. However, the registers record two children to an Adam KAY and Elspet WADDEL in Little Dunkeld at that time: John (1779) and Violet (1792). This may indicate that Adam KAY, father of Thomas Styles KAY, belonged to this family group, although the absence of a corresponding

baptism highlights the limitations and occasional gaps within parish records. The petition's assertion that Adam was born in Little Dunkeld in 1788 may therefore represent the only surviving evidence of his Scottish origin. In this instance, the petition preserves a genealogical connection that cannot be directly verified through the parish registers alone, illustrating both the evidential value and the interpretive challenges of the source.

A search of the 1841 Census for England and Wales further contributes to the reconstruction of the family. Thomas KAY appears aged 15, recorded as an apprentice cabinet maker and born in Middlesex, residing at Cirencester Place within the parish of St Marylebone. This entry corroborates the outcome recorded in the petition, confirming his transition into apprenticeship following his discharge from the Caledonian Asylum. The census further records Frances with the surname HOWGRAVE, aged 35, indicating a birth year of c.1806. Alexander is aged 15 and born in Ireland.

1	Frances Howgrave	35	Green	✓
	Alexander Kay	15	App Upholster	✓
	Thomas Kay	15	App Cabinetmaker	✓

Figure 4: 1841 Census for England and Wales – HO 107/675/2

	John Donald	13	App Tailor	✓
	Henry D.	10		✓
	Elizabeth D.	8		✓

Case Study Two: John MCDONALD

A second case study is that of John MCDONALD, whose petition (No. 3) was submitted on 17 August 1819, at the Marlborough Street Office by his father. The application falls within the category of children of Scottish soldiers who had died or been disabled in the service of their country, and is among the earliest surviving petitions to the Caledonian Asylum.

No.	Name of Candidate	Born	Discharged	Remarks
1	John McDonald	1788	1819	Discharged
2	John McDonald	1788	1819	Discharged
3	John McDonald	1788	1819	Discharged
4	John McDonald	1788	1819	Discharged
5	John McDonald	1788	1819	Discharged

Figure 5: Index Book 1, No. 3

The petition was completed by John MCDONALD, the father, who recorded that he had been born in Inverness and was aged 45. Formerly a soldier, he had served eighteen years in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards, commanded by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, before being discharged on account of a severe asthmatic condition. This disability left him unable to maintain employment as a labourer, having previously worked as a surgeon and was awarded a pension of one shilling per day.

In his testimony, MCDONALD describes the precarious circumstances of his family. His wife was reported to be in bad health, and he was responsible for three children: Ann, aged 15; William, aged 13 and described as a cripple; and John, aged 11, who had been born on 7 June 1809, in the parish of St James. The petition thus constructs a narrative of compounded hardship, combining military service, illness, and family dependency in order to establish eligibility for admission.

Subscribed, John M. Donald
That the said John and Elizabeth M. Donald
is the lawful Child of
as by the annexed Certificates will appear:

That *John McDonald* *was born at Inverness*
and is 45 years of age, a laborer, but extremely
disabled with an Asthmatic complaint
which renders him unable to earn sufficient
to support his family having a wife on a bed
of sickness and three children (Ann M. D.
aged 15 years, William M. Donald a cripple
in his 13th year, and John M. Donald in his
11th year was born the 7th day of June 1809 in
the Parish of St James
John Petitioner John M. Donald has served
Eighteen years in the 3rd Regiment of Foot
Guards commanded by his Highness the Duke
of Gloucester and was discharged on account
of the above complaint at a Pension of one
shilling per day

Figure 6: Petition No. 3 – John MCDONALD



Case Study Three: George KINNAIRD

A third case study, that of George KINNAIRD (Petition No. 13), petitioned by his father David KINNAIRD on 19 October 1819 at Airdrie. David signed by his mark, with the document witnessed by a local magistrate.

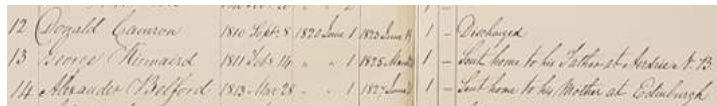


Figure 7: Index to Entry Book 1, Volume 1, Petition No. 13

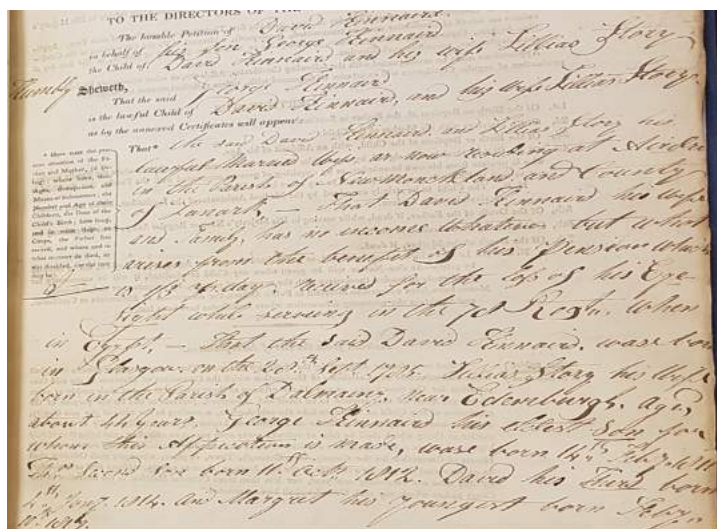


Figure 8: Petition No. 13 – George KINNAIRD

George KINNAIRD had been the son of David KINNAIRD and Lillias STORY [STORIE]. The petition application recorded the extract of his birth.

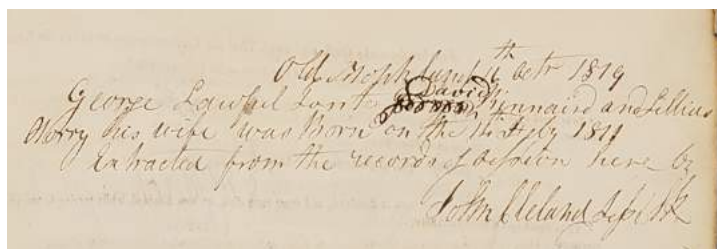


Figure 9: Baptism of George KINNAIRD

At the time of completing the petition application, David and Lillias are residing at Airdrie. He records that he has no income other than his pension which is 1s 3d per day whilst serving in the 78th Regiment when in Egypt. David records that he was born in Glasgow

on 28 September 1785. A search of the OPRs found his baptismal entry which confirms his parents as George KINNAIRD a Stabler and Margaret MCLUN.

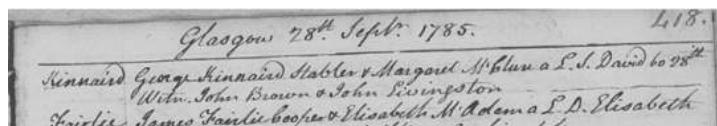


Figure 10: OPR Baptism – 1785/644-1, page 421 of 470, Glasgow (Scotland's People)

This evidence establishes a clear lineage extending beyond the immediate family named in the petition, demonstrating how these applications can connect multiple generations across different locations in Scotland.

The petition records that David KINNAIRD has served in the 78th Regiment of Foot. David's Discharge Papers are in the collection British Army Service Records at The National Archives under WO 121 Box 93, and online at FindMyPast. They confirm the information that he records on the petition application for his son. The period of service is from 19 June 1804 to 24 January 1809, and he was discharged for being blind from Ophthalmia contracted in Egypt in 1807. He was twenty two years old, 5ft 4 inches tall with fair hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. His trade had been a surgeon, the occupation that was not recorded in the petition applications.

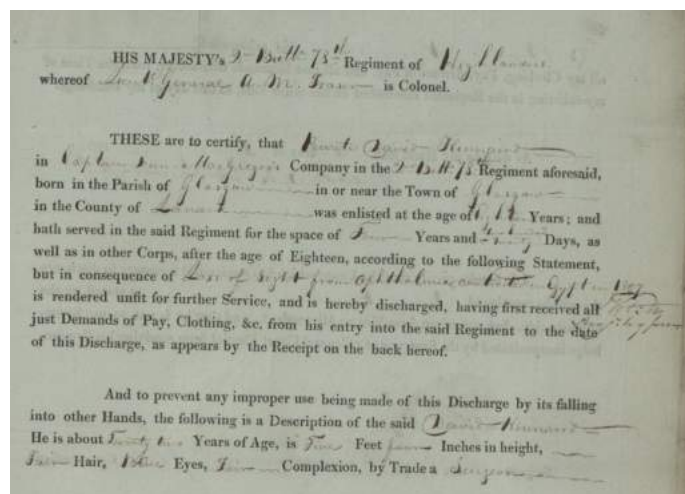
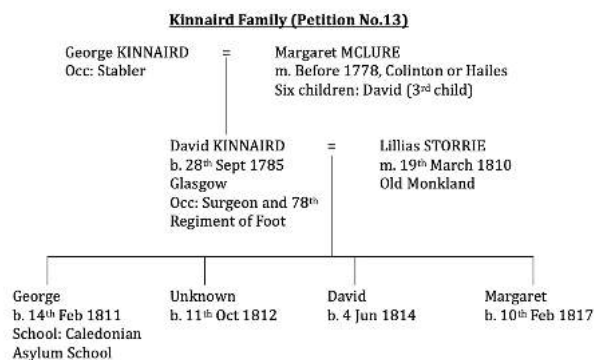


Figure 11: Discharge Papers for David KINNAIRD - WO 121/93

Taken together, these case studies demonstrate the varying evidential strengths of the Caledonian Asylum petitions. While some applications preserve otherwise unattested origins, others illuminate patterns of military service and hardship, and, where supported by parish and service records, enable the reconstruction of multi-generational family histories. Collectively, they confirm the value of these petitions as critical junction points linking Scottish and London-based record systems.

In contrast to the partial or uncertain evidence seen in other cases, the KINNAIRD petition demonstrates how, when supported by vital, census, and service records, a more complete and robust genealogical framework can be established.

Kinnaird Family (Petition No.13)



These petitions reflect the many changes in name of the original Caledonian Schools – from Asylum to the Royal Caledonian School to the Royal Caledonian Education Trust (until it closed in 2006) to finally Forces Children Scotland. Regardless of how much the name has changed, their core ethos shows absolute commitment to giving children of the Armed Forces every opportunity to achieve and thrive.

The Asylum could accommodate up to 200 children, but it struggled to maintain funding without subscribers to contribute. Subscribers to the Institution were made up of Scottish Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and others connected either by birth or who held property in Scotland – whether resident in London or not – all with

the aim to keep the Asylum running and maintain its reputation as the greatest and noblest Charitable Institution in London. By 1853, upwards of 500 children had received the benefits of the Institution most of whom had later obtained situations.

The Caledonian Asylum petition applications, held today within the London Metropolitan Archives (now The London Archive), represent a uniquely rich yet historically underutilised source for the study of Scottish migration, military families, and urban poverty in nineteenth-century London. As demonstrated through the case studies presented here, these applications function as archival bridges, linking the Old Parish Registers, census returns, and military records to reconstruct lives that would otherwise remain fragmented across jurisdictions. Their value lies not only in the factual detail they preserve, but in the personal testimonies through which parents, most often mothers, articulated hardship, identity, and aspiration.

The ongoing project led by Lorna Kinnaird, in collaboration with the Ontario Genealogical Society, represents a significant step forward in making this material accessible through a structured and searchable database. In doing so, it transforms a dispersed archival collection into a powerful research tool, ensuring that the experiences of these Scottish families, often absent from surviving Scottish records and shaped by migration, military service, and survival in London, can be more fully understood and more widely explored.

Initiated through research at the London Archive, the project began with a single catalogue search and has since evolved into a sustained effort to identify and reconnect Scots whose lives unfolded far from their place of origin. With this resource now available, it is anticipated that future researchers will be able to trace these families with greater clarity, restoring connections between Scottish origins and lives lived beyond them.

A Mini Case Study:

John McLennan of Lochiel and Roxborough

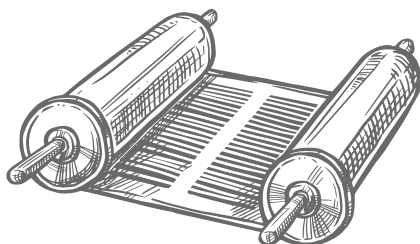
Bev MacCulloch

Bev MacCulloch spent her career in accounting and information technology. She has been researching her family history since high school. She is an amateur genealogist whose ancestral lines all include Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in Eastern Ontario.

The descendants of John McLennan (c1830 – 1904) believed he was born in Lochiel Township, Glengarry County. He married Isabella McNeil and they settled in nearby Roxborough Township, Stormont County. They were Presbyterian. The family thought John was the youngest son, and his father's name was also John. [1] Beyond that, the connection to John's parents had been lost.

Glengarry was initially settled by immigrants from the Scottish Highlands, many with the same names. The 1851 Glengarry census has more than 30 John McLennans/McLellans, 10 of them in Lochiel, yet none of them were good matches. [2] John and Isabella's marriage record might have identified John's parents, but it has not been found.

An important clue to John's origins appears in his obituary: John R. McLennan and John D. McLennan of Lochiel and W. J. McLennan of Kenyon were identified as "relatives from a distance" having attended his funeral. [3] Could identification of these men lead to John?



Part of the obituary of John McLennan, 11 November 1904 issue of The News (Alexandria, ON). Image from <https://newspapers.glengarrycountyarchives.ca>

The 1901 Lochiel census has John R. McLennan in a household headed by his mother Rachel. [4] Earlier census records, and Rachel's obituary, identify John R. McLennan's parents as Roderick J. McLennan and Rachel McCuaig of concession 7, lot 13 in Lochiel. Roderick was likely born about 1824. [5]

Again, using the 1901 census as a starting point, John D. McLennan in Lochiel can be connected to his parents Donald J. McLennan and Ann McRae. [6] Donald McLennan, age 32, of Lochiel, whose parents were John McLennan and Harriet McGillivray, married Ann McRae in 1861. [7] John McLellan and Ephy McGillivray, of concession 7, lot 12 in Lochiel, baptized a son named Donald in 1828. [8]

Similarly, we can determine that the parents of W. J. McLennan of Kenyon were Duncan McLennan and Mary Fraser. [9] When they married in 1861, Duncan was age 31, and his parents were noted as John and Harriet. [10] John McLellan and Elpy or Eppy McGillivray, of concession 6 [sic], lot 12 in Lochiel, baptized a son Duncan in 1830. [11]

John and Harriet [sic] McLennan of concession 7, lot 12 in Lochiel baptized a son named John in 1833. He could be the research subject. [12]

The 1851 census was revisited – this time looking for a John McLennan age 19, with father John, mother possibly Harriet or Ephy/Euphemia, and possible brothers Roderick age about 28, Donald 24, and Duncan 22, living around lots 12 or 13 on concession 7 in Lochiel.

The census taker recorded the concession and lot for each family, possibly to help himself distinguish amongst the families with similar names. Concession 7, lot 13 had three families listed, including one with most of the expected names:

John McLennan, farmer, widower, age 50, born Scotland
Donald McLennan, laborer [sic], single, age 20, born Canada
Duncan McLennan, laborer, single, age 18, born Canada
Harriet McLennan, laborer, single, age 16, born Canada
Roderick McLennan, laborer, single, age 14, born Canada
John McLennan, laborer, single, age 12, born Canada
Ann McLennan, laborer, single, age 70, born Canada [13]

This family looks promising, but there are discrepancies to resolve.

First, was the family on lot 12 or lot 13? In 1818, a John McLennan leased lot 12, a clergy reserve property. [14] In 1834, a John McLennan purchased the west half of lot 13. [15] In 1840, John McLellan of lot 12 appeared on a list of clergy reserves with rent in arrears. [16] In 1855, a petition to the government to purchase lot 12 included evidence from neighbours that

it had been abandoned by its tenant John McLennan about 20 years before. [17] It appears that John McLennan Sr. initially leased clergy reserve lot 12, defaulted on the lease, purchased half of lot 13 and moved there.

Second, was John McLennan Sr.'s wife named Harriet or Euphemia McGillivray? The names Euphemia and Harriet were both used as English translations of the Gaelic name Oighrig. [18] Her parents likely had Gaelic as their first language, named their daughter Oighrig, and people recording her name in English records translated it different ways.

Third, what would account for the age discrepancies in the 1851 census? It was supposed to list the age that the person would be turning in 1852. John was recorded as 12 but turned 19 in January 1852. Roderick was recorded as 14 but was probably turning 28. It's difficult to mistake young men for boys. John Sr. was recorded as 50 but was at least 55, possibly well into his 60s, since he had been old enough to lease a clergy reserve lot in 1818. The household's older adults were recorded with round numbered ages, and the "children" all exactly two years apart, suggesting some guessing was involved. What if the census informant was the household's unidentified Ann McLennan age 70? She was a generation older than John Sr., a generation that generally did not keep track of birthdates. If Ann's age was also significantly underestimated, she may have been quite elderly – and may have had difficulty communicating the family's details to the census taker.

John McLennan Sr. died about 18 January 1864. [19] His will identified Roderick as the eldest son, who inherited the west half of concession 7, lot 13. There were also bequests to sons John, Duncan and Donald, as well as daughters Mary Fraser and Harriet McRae. [20]



Endnotes

- [1] “John McLennan”, *The News* (Alexandria, ON), 11 November 1904, p 7, col 6; digitized copy, Glengarry County Archives (<https://newspapers.glengarrycountyarchives.ca>).
- [2] *Automated Genealogy* (<https://www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>) > 1852 census > Canada West (Ontario) > Glengarry (county) > search for surnames McLennan, MacLennan, McLellan, and MacLellan, with first name John. All four surname options were considered in this research.
- [3] “John McLennan”, *The News* (Alexandria, ON), 11 November 1904.
- [4] 1901 census of Canada > Ontario > Glengarry > Lochiel > Polling subdivision 3 > page 9 > lines 27-30, Rachel McLennan household.
- [5] For Rachel’s obituary, see “Mrs. Rory J. MacLennan”, *The News* (Alexandria, ON), 17 April 1903, p 1, col 5. The 1861 census indicates Roderick was born 1826: Lochiel > Enumeration district 7 > page 84 > lines 11-15. The 1871 census indicates an 1825 birth: Lochiel > Division 3 > page 17, lines 1-5. The 1881 census indicates an 1827 birth: Lochiel > Division 3 > page 21, lines 21-25. Roderick’s death registration indicates an 1824 birth: Roderick McLennan, Ontario death registration #17008-86; image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/8946/images/ONMS935_45-0245). Other research indicates Roderick’s parents were married in March 1823, and he had a sister Mary born in August 1826 who was baptized alone, not as a twin. The most likely timeline is that Roderick was the eldest child and born between those two events, likely about 1824.
- [6] 1901 census: Lochiel > Polling subdivision 3 > page 9 > lines 44-47. 1891 census: Lochiel > Division 3 > page 21, lines 19-23. 1881 census: Lochiel > Division 3 > page 22, lines 13-17. 1871 census: Lochiel > Division 3 > page 17, lines 17-20 and page 18, lines 1-2.
- [7] Donald A. McKenzie, *Glengarry County Marriage Register, 1858-1869* (Ottawa, ON: The Ottawa Branch, The Ontario Genealogical Society: 2001), p 45.
- [8] Donald McLellan, baptism, 1828, in Mary Beaton’s transcript of the register of baptisms and marriages, 1820-1911, of St. Columba’s Church, Kirk Hill, p 98; image, *Héritage Canadiana* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1807/566), Library and Archives Canada film H-1807, image 566.
- [9] 1901 census: Glengarry > Kenyon > Polling subdivision 3 > page 15 > lines 39-42. 1891 census: Kenyon > Division 3 > page 16, line 25 and page 17 lines 1-5. 1881 census: Kenyon > Division 3 > page 46, lines 21-25 and page 47 lines 1-3. 1871 census: Kenyon > Division 3 > page 42, lines 16-20 and page 43 line 1.
- [10] Duncan McLennan-Mary Fraser, 15 October 1861, in Prescott County marriage register, 1858-1869, p. 19; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS76-79BG-9>), DGS film #7859253 image 51.
- [11] Duncan Darby MacDonald, compiler, *St. Columba Presbyterian Church Parish Register, Lochiel Ontario, 1820 to 1884, Baptisms and Marriages* (Milton, ON: MacDonald Research, 2013), p. 43. There is a notation that the concession should say 7, not 6. The Lochiel land abstract index shows no transactions for anyone named McLennan on either lots 12 or 13 of concession 6, suggesting MacDonald’s notation about the concession is correct.
- [12] John McLennan, baptism, 1833, in Register of Marriages, Births & Funerals in connection with St. John’s Church Cornwall, from January 1833 to January 1863, page titled January & February 1833; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39T-L7XP>), DGS film 8486552 image 10. MacDonald, *St. Columba Presbyterian Church Parish Register*, p. 49, indicates St. Columba’s minister departed 31 January 1833, and shows no baptisms for 1833 or 1834. The St. John’s Cornwall register has 10 baptisms of children residing in Lochiel or neighbouring Kenyon on the same day in February 1833. Perhaps the Cornwall minister travelled into Glengarry to baptize children.
- [13] 1851 census: Lochiel > Enumeration district 3 > page 119 > lines 39-45, John McLennan household. The concession and lot identifiers are on the back of page 120.
- [14] John McLennan, Upper Canada Land Petitions, RG 1 L 3, Volume 379(a), Petitions “M” Bundle Leases, #215, Library and Archives Canada film C-2235 images 699-702.
- [15] James Ferguson to John McLennan, land instrument 284, dated 1834, recorded 1853, in Lochiel Glengarry land register book 1; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HH-DQ8H-Y>), DGS film #8631959 image 164.
- [16] “Statement shewing the amount in arrears for rents of Clergy Reserves”, *Appendix to Journal of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, session 1839-40, volume II*, p. 273; image, *Héritage Canadiana* (https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9_00942_17/974).
- [17] Declaration of John and Malcolm McCuaig, 28 December 1854, in Township papers collection, Lochiel Township, Concession 7, Lot 12, p 1511; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSY9-9H22>), DGS film #8346558 image 685.
- [18] <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Oighrig>, also Mary Beaton’s explanatory notes to her transcription of the St. Columba church register https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1807/403, Library and Archives Canada film H-1807, image 403.

- [19] John B. McLennan, death entry, 18 January 1864, in Angus Alexander McMillan and Family, Farmer's Almanac Diaries, Book 1, 1862-1876, handwritten p. 38, January page of the 1864 farmer's almanac; image, *Héritage Canadienne* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1808/52), Library and Archives Canada MG 9, D 8-78, digitized microfilm H-1808, image 52. Angus Alexander McMillan and his children recorded Glengarry area events 1862-1910 in farmer's almanacs and notebooks.
- [20] Will of John McLennan, land instrument 1121, 1864, in Lochiel Glengarry land register book 2, p. 426-7; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HH-DQ8J-P>), DGS film 8631959 image 494.
- [21] John McLellan-Errich McGillivray, marriage, 1823, in Mary Beaton's transcript of St Columba's Church, p 25; image, *Héritage Canadienne* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1807/492), Library and Archives film H-1807, image 492. See Duncan Darby MacDonald note above discussing the incorrect recording of concession 6.
- [22] William Fraser-Mary McLennan, marriage, 1849, in Eastern District, marriage register of Church of Scotland, Lutherans... Moravians, 1831-1865, p 65 right side; image, *Héritage Canadienne* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c3030/697), Library and Archives Canada film C-3030, image 697.
- [23] Mary McLellan, baptism, 1826, in Archives of Ontario church records collection, Lochiel Township – Breadalbane Congregation, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS 104, page titled Lochiel August 1826.
- [24] Euphemia McLennan, baptism, 1837, in Mary Beaton's transcript of St. Columba's Church, p 162; image, *Héritage Canadienne* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1807/630), Library and Archives film H-1807, image 630. The Land Abstract Index Books for Lochiel show no one named McLennan on concession 7 lot 21. The Land Abstract Index Books for Kenyon have a Hugh McLellan/McLaven/McLaren on concession 7 lot 21, but he sold the lot in 1824. This baptism likely pertains to the family on concession 7 lots 12-13 Lochiel.
- [25] Donald McLennan, baptism, 1835, in Mary Beaton's transcript of St. Columba's Church, p 145; image, *Héritage Canadienne* (https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1807/613), Library and Archives film H-1807, image 613.
- [26] See <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/traditional-scottish-naming-patterns>: "...you may find that certain given names were duplicated within the same generation. This could be the result of both grandfathers sharing a common name that was then given to two children..."



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STIGMA - An Abridged Version

Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith has been researching and chronicling her family history for over forty years. She is a graduate from University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College. Her essay took third prize in the 2025 Keffer Writing Contest.

The tale that was passed down to me was that as a teenager, Grampa stowed away on a British freighter and made his way to Canada. Not much of this was true except perhaps the part about being on a ship and disembarking in Canada. The closest truth to “stowing” was that Grampa left without telling his family and without telling the Russian government.

Johannes Õunpuu was born in 1896 in Mustjala County, on Saaremaa Island, Estonia, an isolated island facing the Baltic Sea, when the country was still a territory of Imperial Russia. Czar Nicholas II had just become the Emperor after the death of his father Alexander III in May of that year.

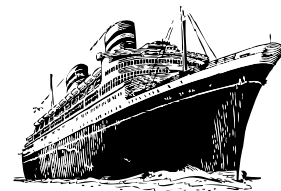
It seemed next to impossible to locate the Estonian documents I needed and then I couldn’t read Estonian or German. Luckily, I connected with a relative in Estonia who went to the archives at the University of Taartu, retrieved documents, translated them and mailed them to me and only asked that I reimburse him for his costs.

Ship manifests show that in 1913, before the Russian revolution, Johannes at age 16 [1], was possibly recruited by Aleksander Matt, a fellow Estonian born in Arensburg, who at the age of 19 had already made several ocean crossings, always with a different group. [2] On June 13, the S.S. Columbia made its way from Finland to Glasgow, carrying Estonians, Finns and

Russians whose destination was “CPR, Chapleau”, Canada. On June 16 the ship arrived at Ellis Island, New York. [3] Grampa had \$25 and his destination was a “friend”, Johannes Lonn, in Chapleau, Ontario.

My enquiries to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to find these records were dead ends, apparently such records were never kept. The CPR was a huge supporter of the war effort and encouraged their workers to sign up, offering six-months in wages to full time workers and promised their jobs back upon their return from the war.

In 1916, Grampa made his way to Webbwood, Ontario where he enlisted as “John Gaalson” in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces on the tenth of March. On August 8, he began to send \$15 per month back to his father in Estonia. He disembarked the S. S. Metagama in Liverpool on August 19 and went through a battery of inoculations. By December 1918, he had had mumps, three rounds of gonorrhea, syphilis and a shrapnel wound to the head. He fought at Vimy Ridge, France and in the Battle of Passchendaele in Ypres, Belgium. Battling venereal diseases came with painful shots of arsenic, mercury and galloyl. Three times he was discharged from the hospital as “cured” of syphilis.





My grandfather John Gallson, in his WWI uniform, c. 1917. Photo courtesy of the author.

While hospitalized in England during WWI, a doctor mused that because Grampa was Scandinavian and didn't speak English, he was thought of as being "mentally slow". [4] He was 22 years old, 5' 9", blue eyes – a "Lumberman" with his regimental number tattooed on his right forearm. Grampa received the British War Medal and Victory Medal. [5] These medals were reportedly donated to the Royal Canadian Legion 254 in Mattawa, Ontario where Grampa was a charter member.

In the early 1900s, there was virtually only one cure for syphilis. It was a relatively new discovery known as the "606 Compound" or Salvarsan. [6] But throughout Grampa's detailed medical logs, there is no mention of him being treated with this. Penicillin was not used for venereal diseases until the mid 1940's. Without being treated with Salvarsan, Grampa was not yet cured, but there was another golden opportunity for Grampa to seek treatment for free.

Toronto had a hospital specifically for WWI soldiers returning with syphilis, the Military Base Hospital on Gerrard Street, the former Toronto General Hospital. [7] If Grampa was forced into this hospital upon his return to Canada, perhaps it was here that Salvarsan would have been used.

I ordered the admission documents from September 1918 to December 1919. It was with disappointment that I had to admit that Grampa never took advantage of this. It was interesting going through the hundreds of names, many treated for influenza but mostly for venereal disease. They were discharged either "to duty" or as "invalids" perhaps testifying to the success rate of Salvarsan.

Grampa's name morphed from Gaalson to Gaallson then Gallson. On 16 December 1920, he headed for Wheeling, West Virginia where he joined the US Army as a Private and declared he was born in Finland, he'd never had gonorrhea, never been treated by a doctor and never been in the hospital, never saw action. [8] He also began the process of becoming an American citizen.

Grampa met, then married, my grandmother, Florence Peters, in Manhattan, New York in March 1922. She was a domestic from London, England, who had immigrated to Canada through the Overseas Settlement Committee on the S.S. Metagama. It had been over five years since Grampa had been initially infected with syphilis, putting him into the "latent" stages, during which instances of transmission are rare but to be honest, Grampa passing this onto my grandmother can never be ruled out.



My grandmother Florence Peters, photo taken for her passport, c. 1920. Photo courtesy of the author.

Between 1923 and 1927, they had one child, Jeannette, in Maine and two children, Joan and Phillip, in Florida. In 1928, John is listed as a tanner with his wife “Flora” Gallson at 200 North Street, Endicott, New York, [9] and in 1929 at 206 North Street as a shoe-worker likely for the Endicott-Johnson Tannery and Shoe Factory [10] that provided medical care and tremendous, innovative benefits for its employees including company shares and subsidized housing.

In May 1929, my grandparents made the fateful decision to buy “Farm, Lot 15, Conc. B, Widdifield Township, Nipissing District, North Bay, Ontario.” [11] In July 1929, the Gallson family loaded up their Ford Model-T and crossed the border into Canada to this very specific location. Grampa had been working on two plans and, for whatever reason, the Canadian plan to own 40 acres of heaven in Trout Mills, Ontario won over his American naturalization plan.

My grandmother lasted six months in the little piece of heaven before she had a complete mental breakdown, officially diagnosed as “manic psychosis, manic.” She was entered into the population of the Lakeshore Mental Asylum in New Toronto on 21 December 1929. All three children remember their mother being taken out and away. As well, all three remember being split into temporary homes. They were told she was dead.

Later, as adults, the children would hail their father as a hero who made the choice and effort to bring them all back together under the same roof because the alternative would have been separation, foster care and adoption. My uncle remembered a story that a family wanted to adopt only him, and not his two sisters, but Grampa wouldn’t allow it. Who would have a “waiting list” of adoptive or foster families? The Children’s Aid Society (CAS).

Sometime between 21 December 1929 and January 1930, Grampa bought an advertisement in the Toronto Star looking for domestic help. By a stroke of fate, Mary Morrison, a desperate single mother, looking for

an escape for herself and her young son, answered the ad. [12] Mary was born 6 September 1910 in Kirkfield, Ontario. Her mother, Louisa, a widow with five children under the age of 10, moved to Oshawa and opened a boarding house.

By May 1926, Mary was 16, unwed and pregnant. Her son was born in February 1927. [13] His father was an older man who had “some connection to the boarding house”. [14] When Mary became pregnant with her second child in October/November 1929 at the age of 19, [15] her mother made an appointment for an abortion which was illegal in Ontario at the time. The abortion appointment was made for an evening and unbeknownst to Mary’s mother, Mary took her son and left that same day to meet John Gallson in a hotel room in Toronto. [16] Grampa had gone to the children’s temporary homes arranged by the CAS, removed them and drove them to Toronto for the meeting. Mary’s story of this meeting with Grampa relates that the Children’s Aid Society were looking for Grampa and that he felt an urgency to “get out of Toronto” quickly. [17] After coming to an agreement, Grampa, Mary and all four children packed themselves into Grampa’s Model-T and headed to Trout Mills. [18]



Mary Margaret Morrison c. 1940. Photo courtesy of the author.

Neither Mary nor Grampa had money. Donald (age 2), Uncle Phill (age 3), and Mom (age 5) were left in the care of Aunt Jean (age 7) while Mary and Grampa went to work butchering chickens behind the North Bay Airport. [19] According to my mother, Mary destroyed almost everything in the house that identified my grandmother as the children's true mother, even burning her clothes while maintaining the lie that my grandmother was dead.

While the 1931 Widdifield census finds my grandfather, his children, Mary and her children, it doesn't show that Mary is four months pregnant meaning my grandfather and Mary had entered into a sexual relationship, a 13-month timeframe for my grandmother to lose her advocacy, her support and her home.

My grandfather, needing to stay under the "radar" to avoid government oversight, taxes, asylum costs, disappeared in 1931 into Papineau County, finding a shed on land owned by the Gilligan family. This shed became known in my family as Gilligan's Shack, a place where my grandfather in later years could become reclusive. When Mary and the five children moved there, they were helped by the Gilligans to fix up the shed into something livable. [20] Mary claims that she and Grampa were "happy living in [the] shack compared to what they had before". [21]

This certainly gave me cause for reflection on how bad the house in Trout Mills truly was.

A North Bay Nugget article on 13 December 1947 stated that John Gallson allegedly got up on 30 November 1947 and disappeared from his Papineau County home. The article says Mary thought he had gone into the bush to work for his "employer" and reported him missing two weeks later, on December 13th.

Grampa's letter to Mom in December 1948 expressed his wish not to be found. [22] What Mary didn't know

at the time, was that Grampa had purposely disappeared and was hiding out in the bush at Goulais River, Algoma.

My uncle, being an American citizen, joined the US Army when he turned 18. Upon his discharge in 1947 after serving in Japan, he enrolled himself into a 6-month photography course in Memphis, Tennessee after which he returned to Mattawa to open his own photography studio in the summer of 1948.

During this time, a misguided invoice addressed to John Gallson from the St. Thomas Mental Hospital was mistakenly delivered to Phillip Gallson. It requested money to pay for night gowns for a patient by the name of Flora Gallson. Uncle Phill called the hospital and tried to arrange a visit with his mother but was told she was "too far gone" and visiting would only upset her and him. He made the decision not to go.

Gallson Studio was a busy business between 1948 and 1950 in Mattawa. After Christmas of 1948, Uncle Phill took a few months away from his business to be with his "missing" father, in the bush. He returned in March 1949, bringing his father with him. The discovery that my grandmother was alive broke the family.

Uncle Phill married a Mattawa woman in 1953. Neither my grandfather, Mary, nor any of the six half and step-siblings were invited. The wedding announcement says Uncle Phill is the son of "Mr. J. Gallson and THE LATE MRS. GALLSON of Mattawa." Mattawa residents who knew the Gallsons must have thought Mary had died.

My grandmother spent 31 years in two different Ontario mental asylums, dying in 1960 and is buried in a pauper's grave in Union Cemetery, St. Thomas, Ontario. Her immediate cause of death was drowning in her own vomit, post-autopsy findings were bed sores and emaciation.

My grandfather died in 1979. Mary died in 1990.

Endnotes

- [1] Johannes Öunpuu, June 7, 1913, Ticket 41, *S. S. Columbia*, Departure Port Glasgow, Ancestry.ca, Image 163, Reference Number: Series BT27-115682.
- [2] Aleksander Matt, June 7, 1913, Ticket 35, *S. S. Columbia*.
- [3] Johannes Öunpuu, "New York, Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* ([http://www.vlib.us/](https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TC-J9B1-Z?cc=1368704&wc=4FMB-74C%3A1600502408 : 27 January 2018), Roll 2106, vol 4767-4769, 16 Jun 1913 > image 1068 of 1112; citing NARA microfilm publication T715 and M237 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).</p><p>[4] John Gaallson, Canadian Armed Forces Records, Reg. No. 754360, March 1916 to January 1919.</p><p>[5] John Gaallson, Statement of Service in the Canadian Armed Forces, National Personnel Records, Public Archives Canada, June 19, 1986.</p><p>[6] Dr. M. Geoffrey Miller, <i>Syphilis Treatment During WWI</i>, The Medical Front WWI, WWW Virtual Library, Website: <a href=)
- [7] Bogaert, Kandace. "Treating the 'Undesirable': Venereal Patients in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914–1918." *Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia* (Spring 2017), no. 2. Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society. [doi:10.5282/rcc/7743](https://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/7743). (Website:<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/>).
- [8] John Gallson, Reg. No 6476877, Enlistment Record Regular Army, December 16, 1920, Enlisted at Fort Thomas, KY, Signed at Wheeling W. Virginia, Reconstructed file.
- [9] Gallson, Jno. E. (Flora), tanner, h 200 North, Endicott Directory, 1928, page 686.
- [10] Gallson, Jno. E. (Flora M.) shwkr, h, 206 North, Endicott Directory, 1929, page 717.
- [11] John E. and Flora M. Gallson, Land Transfer, Parcel 1279 (formerly 1886), Nipissing District, Ontario, May 23, 1929, Registered July 15, 1929, \$140.00 from Hugh and Elizabeth Dignam.
- [12] Barbara Turcotte, Personal interview with Gail Turcotte, June 2025, Mattawa, Nipissing District, Ontario.
- [13] Donald James Morrison, Statement of Death, Mattawa, Ontario, No. 020968, June 18, 1950, Age 23, Date of Birth February 23, 1927. (Obituary states that Donald's age at death was 22).
- [14] Barbara Turcotte, Interview with Gail Turcotte, June 2025.
- [15] John Morrison, 1931 Census, Widdifield Township, Nipissing District, Page 12, age 1 (John is "Jackie") (Website: Ancestry.ca)
- [16] Barbara Turcotte, Interview with Gail Turcotte, June 2025.
- [17] Ibid
- [18] Ibid
- [19] Ibid
- [20] Ibid
- [21] Ibid
- [22] John Gallson, Letter to Joan Smith, November 28, 1948, Goulais River % Algoma Forest, Ontario



The advertisement features a green banner at the top with the text "Ontario Ancestors Member Benefit". Below the banner, the text "FREE ACCESS" is prominently displayed in large, bold, green letters. Underneath this, the "MyHeritage" logo is shown, followed by the text "LIBRARY EDITION". A green box at the bottom left contains the text "MyHeritage Library Edition is free with your Ontario Ancestors membership." The background of the advertisement shows a laptop on a wooden desk with some papers and a pen.



The History of William Airth (c. 1815-1880)

Jeff Airth

Jeff Airth is an amateur family historian from Northern California who years ago discovered a stash of records, letters, photographs and more in his father's garage. From this, Jeff discovered deep genealogical entanglements on multiple family lines to Ontario (Canada, not California). Jeff works as an Emergency Manager at a large hub airport. He and his wife Lisa are the parents of two children. This story placed fourth in the 2025 Keffer Writing Contest.

William Airth was born in the Parish of Rayne, in rural Aberdeen-shire in north-east Scotland. The original date of his birth was not recorded however he was christened on 10 March 1815, the first born of eight children. The Old Parish Records (OPRs) for Kirkton of Rayne indicate that witnesses to William's christening were John Airth (presumably his grandfather) and William Hutcheon. The record indicates that William's parents, William Airth (c. 1791-1836) and Mary Singer (c. 1792-1861) lived in Little Warthill, a small village in the Parish of Kirkton of Rayne. William Sr. was the son of John Airth (c. 1745-1829) and Jean Diack (born c. 1747) and worked as a shoemaker. Mary Singer was the daughter of Alexander Singer (1729-1800) and Jane Cruickshank (1751-1835). William and Mary were married in the village of Muklen Folla or Folla Rule in the Parish of Fyvie located north of Rayne. Family tradition provides a few clues that the Airth, Singer and other families in north-east Scotland were strong supporters of the Jacobite cause.



*William Airth (c. 1815-1880).
Photo from the author's collection.*

Along with the religious and political turmoil in Scotland during the 17th and 18th centuries, economic conditions caused many landowners and Lairds to evict their croft tenant farmers in favour of sheep farming for the wool market – a period known as the “highland clearances”. Some tenants had been farming leased land for generations. Beginning in the late 1700's, advertisements in local newspapers in the British Isles had advertised that land was available for settlement overseas. The Canada Company, formed in 1824, advertised cheap land available and resource assistance for settlement in Upper Canada, which is now the Province of Ontario. Regardless of his motivation, in 1835 William migrated to Canada with some of his family. We know this from a letter that he brought with him from Scotland, copies of which are still in the possession of some of his descendants:

"This is to certify that William Airth, an unmarried man, is a regular member of the Scotch Episcopal Church of unexceptional moral character and, as he is about to emigrate to America, he is strongly recommended to the Pastoral care of any Episcopal clergyman with whom providence may provide him as a young man well acquainted with the principals of the church to whom he belongs of sober and industrious habits as a man, and exemplary in his deportment as a Christian. Given at the parsonage of Muklen Folla Parish of Fyvie, this sixth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five years. By [Rev.] Charles Grant, Presbyter of Diocese of Aberdeen."

Records indicate that William (junior) Airth's siblings Mary (c. 1818-1892), Elspet (c. 1820-after 1847), Catherine (c. 1824-1872), Alexander Cruickshank (c. 1825-after 1851), John (c. 1830-1901), and his mother Mary Singer (1792-1861) migrated with him. There are no records detailing when they travelled, conveyance or ship used, any information on two other siblings (James and Leslie Airth), or where they lived from 1835 until William's first mention in the provinces vital records. On 27 November 1836, his father William Sr. died at Damhead, Warthill in Rayne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

In the 1840s, William was living in North Easthope Township, Huron District, located in southwestern Ontario. He is mentioned in the 1842 Assessment List and Population Return of the Huron District Assessment Rolls, an early form of a census. The document is one of the earliest known official records of the Huron District. The Return indicates that William owned and farmed on Lot No. 2, Concession No. 2 of North Easthope Township, and he owned a total of 100 acres of property. The census return indicates that his household consisted of a total of six individuals, one male and one female over the age of 16 and four males under the age of 16.

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Eliza Cairns Airth (c. 1822-1894). Photo from the author's collection.

William and his wife Eliza are mentioned together in the record of the 1851 Census of Canada, Canada West (later Ontario), Perth County, North Easthope Township. (Perth County was officially created from the Huron and Wellington Districts and incorporated in January 1850). William is listed as the head of household, aged 37, born in Scotland, a farmer, and a member of the Church of England as well as his wife and family. The census records their property as Lot 2, Concession 2 in the township, with the following children: Mary, aged 6; Annie (Jane), aged 5; William, aged 3; and, James, aged 1; all born in Canada.

Tragedy struck the family when the two eldest girls died, Mary at age 7 in March of 1853, and Annie at age 11, in June of 1859. This information is known only from the inscriptions on the family burial plot and monument. According to the memorial marker the two daughters are buried at Haysville, a former community near North Easthope Township, Perth County.

In 1854 the family left Perth County and moved north to a new home on a concession in the Township of Melancthon in Grey County. It is possible that William visited this area before and purchased property there. This new location was near the village of Horning's Mills, a small settlement along the Pine River founded some years earlier by Lewis Horning, who experienced much hardship due to economic loss of his farming and property, the death of a child, and abduction of his other children by indigenous natives. It was timely for William and Eliza to arrive on the scene as they bought out Mr. Horning's business and operations and remained at that location for many years to come. William engaged in various businesses including the operation of a grist mill, and had a number of employees. He soon opened a general store in competition with another nearby general store and benefitted greatly from the sale of goods to his own employees. He also operated a post office from the store and started a tannery.

It was said that Horning's Mills was three days ride to Toronto and four days ride return due to the uphill terrain. In July of 1855, William and Eliza welcomed their fourth son and sixth child, George Leslie, followed by Emily Jane in June of 1857 and, John Charles, known as Jack, in May of 1859.

William was known in the community and a trusted figure in civic affairs. In 1855, he ran for Reeve of the Township and won the election. After the election was over, another candidate, Elias B. Grey arrived at the county seat in Owen Sound first, claiming to be the winning candidate. Despite William possessing a certificate of election from the township clerk, Mr. Grey was certified and sworn as the Reeve. (William's younger brother, John Airth lived in northern Grey County near Owen Sound where he saw success in farming.) William was later Reeve and Deputy Reeve of the village as well as Reeve of Melancthon Township in 1877 and Deputy Reeve in 1879. He issued marriage licenses, was a Justice of the Peace and

served on the local volunteer militia as well as a member of the county council.

During this time, William and Eliza welcomed their remaining children to the family. Elspet Adelaide, known at various times as Elicia or Elsie, was born in April 1863, Alfred Thomas was born in April 1864, and their youngest of eleven children, Henry Franklin, was born in May 1865.

About 1868, the eldest son William Singer Airth, married Betsy Clark, born in Argyll-shire, Scotland and daughter of James Clark and Elizabeth Cable. To this union was born William's first grandchild, named William Douglas Airth on 29 January 1869. William Singer Airth was at the time training to be a physician at a medical school in Ottawa, Ontario. Tragedy again visited the family, when the fifth son, John Charles 'Jack' Airth, died of a heart ailment at the age of twenty in October of 1879.

William is mentioned in the "Illustrated Atlas of Grey and Bruce County, Ontario, Canada," published by H. Belden and Co., of Toronto, an early biographical work of prominent citizens in Ontario. The atlas lists his name as William (J.P.) Airth, as he was a justice of the peace at that time. William Airth was a "general merchant, Horning's Mills; has been postmaster of that place as also Reeve and Deputy Reeve of Melancthon Township; was born in Scotland in 1815; came to this county in 1854."

From the Biographical sketch of the Illustrated Atlas:

"William Airth, deceased, late Reeve of the Township of Melancthon, owes his nativity to the land of heather. Born in Aberdeen shire in 1815, he immigrated to Canada in 1835 and after residing nine years in other parts of the Province, removed in 1854 to the County of Grey and settled in the "Old Survey" of Melancthon, at Horning's Mills. He soon after purchased the mills property from Mr. (Lewis) Horning, and thereafter followed milling. Engaging in public municipal affairs

very soon after his first settlement, he was elected to the Council when quite an early resident of the place. He occupied a seat on the Council board for a great many years as Councilor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve; and held the latter position at the time of his death, which occurred, to the great sorrow of all who knew him in January, 1880.” [While he was Reeve,] “the township voted by a very large majority for annexation to the new County of Dufferin, already provisionally formed, and for the future it will bear no connection with the County of Grey, of which, up to the present time, it has formed a part. [Note: The county of Dufferin was not officially created until 1881.] Mr. Airth was an officer of [the] Reserve Militia for many years, a Magistrate for more than twenty, and during the course of his life, a man in whom the public placed the highest confidence, and for whom a very large circle of friends possessed the most affectionate regard.”

Another version of the Biographical sketch is as follows:

“Mr. WILLIAM AIRTH was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1815. In 1835, he emigrated to Canada, and after residing nine years in other parts of the Province, moved in 1854 to, the then County of Grey and settled in the ‘Old Survey’ of Melancthon at Horning’s Mills. He was the father of 11 children. James was born in 1851; Dr. Leslie in 1854; Elsie (Mrs. Rolston) was the owner of the lake. Another son, Jack, died at an early age. Mr. Airth purchased most of the Horning property when the Horning’s moved back to Hamilton. Mr. Airth lived on the hill across the road from the grist mill and later built an addition to his home where he kept a country store. In February 1862, the Airth home was completely destroyed by fire. Only some bedding and furniture were saved. They moved into a shack across the dam until a new home was built. Mr. Airth made extensive improvements and opened a hotel. This is the same building now known as the Allen Hotel. He turned the shed across the road from the hotel into a store and post office and later sold to J.P. Mathews who in turn sold to John Reid. Engaging in public municipal affairs very soon after his first settlement, he was elected to the Council when

quite an early resident of the place. He occupied a seat on the Council board for a great many years as Councilor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve; and held the latter position at the time of his death, which occurred, to the great sorrow of all who knew him in January, 1880. Mr. Airth was an officer of [the] Reserve Militia for many years, a Magistrate for more than twenty, and during the course of his life, a man in whom the public placed the highest confidence, and for whom a very large circle of friends possessed the most affectionate regard.”

On New Year’s Day of 1880, William’s daughter Emily Jane married Dr. Henry James Rolston a physician from nearby Shelburne, Ontario. Born in Haldimand County, Ontario in October of 1844, Dr. Rolston was the son of Alexander Rolston and Eliza Jane Kelly, immigrants from County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Twenty-six days later, on 26 January 1880, William died of a heart attack. It is ironic that his new son-in-law, Dr. Rolston, was the attending physician and signed the death record. After William’s death, his older children sought their own way in life, with several children seeking available land for farming in the Dakota Territory. Three children, James Cairns Airth, Emily Jane Airth Rolston and Elspet Airth would later live and have connections to Cuba. The eldest living child, Dr. William Singer Airth and the youngest, Henry Franklin Airth, also a physician, would later practice medicine in Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida. In the 1881 Census of Canada, in Ontario, Eliza (widow of William) was living in Toronto where the youngest children were completing their education. It seems that the Airth family had departed Horning’s Mills for good, however Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Rolston would live in Shelburne for many years to come. William’s widow Eliza later moved to Live Oak, Florida to be with her two physician sons and she died there on 29 January 1894.

William and Eliza are buried at the Airth family plot at the Horning’s Mills Cemetery; section CR6-7. The transcript of the grave inscription gives us much valuable information:

In memory of Mary, died 1st Mar 1853, aged 7 years, buried at Haysville; Annie, died 10th June 1859, aged 11 years, 7 months; John Charles, died 15th Oct. 1879; aged 20 years, 5 months. Children of Wm. Airth, not lost, but gone before. William S. Airth, born Sept. 6th, 1949, died July 1st, 1900, buried at Live Oak, Fla; Sheridan J. Infant son of Dr. H.J. & Emily Rolstin, born 5 Jan 1883, died 18 July 1883. Sacred to the memory of Wm. Airth Esquire, A native of Aberdeen Shire, Scotland, Born [christened], 10th Mar. 1815, died, 26th Jan. 1880. Eliza Cairnes Airth, born 14 Mar. 1824, died 29 Jan. 1894. In the midst of life are in death.

William Airth's obituary was published in the Orangeville Sun on 29 January 1880:

Death of Mr. Airth

It is with deep and sincere regret that we chronicle, in this week's issue of The SUN, the sudden and unexpected death of William Airth, Esq, which sad event took place at his residence, Horning's Mills on Monday evening, the 26th. The deceased had been ailing for a number of years, with asthma; but no one anticipated its fatal results. Up to the hour of his death he was conscious and passed from life into eternity in a quiet tide which proved the Christian heart. Mr. Airth was one of the early pioneers of the Township of Melancthon, and to him, more than to any other is due the development and prosperity of the eastern section of the Township. He was widely known and highly respected by all who knew him, and his death has cast a gloom over the entire community, which time alone can dispel. He filled several important public offices with erudite to himself and satisfaction to the public. As Justice of the Peace he saved much needless litigation, and as Councilor and Reeve of Melancthon he gave unqualified satisfaction. It was with sorrow that we heard of his death; it is with unfeigned regret that we record it. His wife and family have the sympathy of the whole community, in their great loss and bereavement.

Although William Airth died in 1880 and his wife Eliza Cairns died in 1894, they are the familial bridge

between the old world in the British Isles to the new world in North America. The history of the Airth family continues into the 21st century – by which time there are living many hundreds of their descendants.



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- Photo of William Airth is from the Airth family records. See also bullet five for the Historical Atlas of Grey and Bruce Counties.
- Assessment and Census information from 1842, was found online through the Huron County Library. (<https://www.huroncountylibrary.ca/>)
- Repository: Goderich Branch Library, Huron County located at 52 Montreal Street in Goderich.

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Swiss Cheesing: Stacking weak evidence into a strong DNA case

Drew von Hasselbach

Drew von Hasselbach, LLB, PLCGS, is a Toronto-based genealogist, writer, and lawyer. He makes lots of friends in elevators.

Sometimes your data gets a little too bloated, and you have no choice but to cut the cheese. I might have a method that can clear the research air.

I call it Swiss Cheesing.

The idea is inspired by the Swiss Cheese model used in risk analysis. [1] One slice of cheese has holes. Stack several slices together, and the solid parts of one slice cover the holes in another. Genealogical evidence works much the same way. A census record from one year may contain an error. A family tree may borrow from incorrect data inherited from other family trees. A DNA match may be too small to reliably stand on its own. The point is that any one piece of evidence may be unconvincing because it could contain an error. Yet several independent pieces of weak evidence pointing to the same conclusion are much harder to dismiss.

My test case was James Rowe, born about 1806 in or near Wedmore, Somerset, England. James married Charlotte Manning in Taunton in 1833 and emigrated to Canada West about 1850 with a large family. Once in Canada, the family is well documented. The problem was his parentage back in England. I could find no will, Bible record, family letter, or parish record that answered the question.

What I did have was a scattered pile of 5,000 paternal DNA matches on Ancestry. Most were useless for this problem. Many lacked family trees. Others had no

stated connection to Somerset. After filtering for matches who had a Rowe or similarly named ancestor from Somerset and eliminating matches with insufficiently developed trees, only eight potentially useful matches remained. Their shared DNA ranged from 8 to 35 cM.

That range is crucial to this technique. Genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger has analyzed thousands of AncestryDNA matches by comparing them against known parent matches. His results showed that matches above 15 cM fell within a relatively safe zone for reliability, while matches below 10 cM carried a substantially higher risk of being false positives. [2] In other words, an 8 cM match, standing alone, would not prove much at all.

Swiss Cheesing changes the odds. Instead of asking whether a single weak match proves a conclusion, Swiss Cheesing asks whether several weak matches answer the question by independently pointing to the same ancestral couple.

Working through the eight trees separately, I found that six led back to the same couple: John Rowe and Mary Brooks of Wedmore, Somerset. More importantly, they did not all descend through the same child. Three descended through Thomas Rowe, two through Phoebe Rowe, and one through Anne Rowe.

That independence is the heart of the method. Six

copies of the same online mistake do not become stronger merely because they are repeated six times. A dozen trees copied from one another are not a dozen pieces of evidence. But six independently tested descendant lines running through different children and leading back to the same ancestral couple create a stack of compelling evidence. Each line emerges from its own documentary research and creates its own route back to the proposed ancestral couple. Are there weaknesses in each family tree? Absolutely. But because we're stacking the evidence together, the holes in the evidentiary record are not in the same places.

Bettinger's data reminds us that small cM matches deserve caution. Swiss Cheesing is not concerned with a single weak match. Instead, it asks what happens when multiple independently researched matches all point to the same ancestral couple. A small match carries a meaningful risk of being a false positive. The odds of a false positive decrease exponentially as you add more and more low-quality matches that independently track back to the same mutual ancestors. The exact figures depend on the assumptions used, but the principle is straightforward: each independently verified line covers holes left by the others.

The documentary evidence supplied still another layer. Jonas Rowe, a documented son of John Rowe and Mary Brooks, settled in Beverly Township, Ontario, at roughly the same time that James Rowe arrived in the neighbourhood; chain migration is often a reliable clue. A member of the Hembry family from Wedmore later married one of James's daughters in Ontario. What are the odds that's just a coincidence? Naming patterns and family associations were likewise consistent with the proposed relationship. None of these connections would prove the parentage case by itself. Together, however, they combine with the DNA evidence to build a very compelling case.

Swiss Cheesing can be effective, but it takes work. It requires the researcher to build and test collateral lines, verify each descent independently, separate copied trees from original research, and then ask whether the

resulting pattern can be explained by coincidence, error, or an alternative relationship. The payoff is worth the proverbial elbow grease. Tenuous evidence alone doesn't account for much. But when piece after piece of circumstantial evidence points to the same conclusion, you eventually discover a pattern that you can't ignore.

I thought I had cracked this case using my six matches above. But something amazing happened once I felt confident to update my Ancestry family tree to include John Rowe and Mary Brooks as my 4x-great-grandparents. Ancestry's ThruLines lit up like a Christmas tree, revealing a host of additional matches connected to John Rowe and Mary Brooks. Every line required verification.

Some survived scrutiny and some did not, but the pattern held. What began as six useful matches eventually grew to sixteen documentary-confirmed matches descending from six children of John Rowe and Mary Brooks: Thomas, Phoebe, Anne, Lot, George, and Jonas. Under the assumptions used here, the odds that the entire pattern was spurious had dropped to approximately one in 98 trillion. [3] I don't claim to be a mathematician or a statistician, and that number is not the point. I'm just saying that however one calculates it, the odds of a false positive are so absurdly small that they do not change the genealogical conclusion.

In the Rowe case, I still lack a record that provides direct evidence that James Rowe was the son of John Rowe and Mary Brooks. I doubt I ever will find such a document. But sixteen verified DNA matches, six descendant lines, documentary associations, migration evidence, and family connections all point to the same conclusion.

One slice may be full of holes. Stack enough independent slices together, and the block begins to hold. Your stack of Swiss cheese gives you a solid research conclusion.



Endnotes

[1] James Reason, "Human Error: Models and Management," *BMJ* 320, no. 7237 (2000): 768–770.

[2] Blaine T. Bettinger, "The Danger of Distant Matches," *The Genetic Genealogist*, 6 January 2017.

[3] My calculations are based on independently verified descendant lines, documented DNA matches, and false-positive assumptions derived from Bettinger's published analysis. The figure is conditional on the assumptions used and is intended as an illustrative estimate, not a formal statistical proof.



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The Sackville Family of Hamilton, Ontario

Jared James Nathan

Jared James Nathan resides in El Paso, Texas, USA and is a descendant of William Henry Sidey. He holds a degree in chemistry and works in the biotechnology industry. He specializes in pre-1700 New England research. He has published in journals such as the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, *New Hampshire Genealogical Record*, *Vermont Genealogy*, *Connecticut Ancestry*, *MASSOG: A Genealogical Magazine for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, *New England Historic and Genealogical Register*, *The Genealogist*, *The American Genealogist* and *Families*.

The previous issue of *Families* provided information on Agnes Sackville, the wife of Dr. John(2) Sidey (George(1)), and her descendants. [1] Agnes Sidey, a widow, and daughter of James Sackville, was born in Scotland on 29 May 1820 and died at Hamilton, Northumberland, Ontario, on 21 September 1912. [2] She married at Newcastle Village, Clarington, Durham, Ontario on 2 August 1840 to John Sidey. [3] An obituary for her husband called her the sister of James Sackville. [4] A 1914 biographical sketch on her grandson Rowland(4) John Sidey gave details of his ancestry and stated that Agnes Sackville was born at Gedboro [sic] Scotland, likely Jedburgh, on 29 May 1820 and immigrated in 1830 with her parents and five brothers, sailing from Whitehaven on the ship *Hetherington*, and arriving in Port Hope the following June. The Sackvilles were said to have located on a farm eight miles north of Port Hope, Northumberland, Ontario. [5]

An historical account on the founding and early history of Bewdley, Hamilton, Northumberland, Ontario only stated that Agnes was a daughter of George Sackville, in disagreement with her death record. Although no relationship for her was given, the account also mentioned members of the Sackville family of Hamilton and that they “appear to have been the first permanent pioneer family to settle in the area

immediately outside Bewdley village.” [6] The account gave the following genealogical details:

- James Sackville came from Dumfries, Scotland in 1831 with two brothers, George and John. James’s brothers bought property on lot 34, concession 7, where they farmed.
- James Sackville Sr. died in 1879.
- James Sackville Jr. was born in 1843 and died in 1917.

This article provides information on the Sackville family of Hamilton, provides evidence that Agnes (Sackville) Sidey was a sister of James, William, George, and John Sackville, and will identify their immigrant parents.

Early Sackville Records at Hamilton, Ontario

The surname Sackville appeared at Hamilton in 1833, when John Sackville was enumerated at lot number 34, concession 7, with five males 15+, one male 15-, two females 15+, and one female 15-. [7] He was also the John “Sackwell” who was enumerated in 1832 at number 34, concession 7, with three males 15+, one male 15-, one female 15+, and one female 15-. [8] James Sackville was mentioned in a deed dated 15 October 1833, as being a yeoman from Hamilton. [9] In 1834, John was enumerated with six males 15+, two males 15-, two females 15+, and two females 15-. [10]

By 1837, James Sackville was enumerated on lot 34, concession 7 with six males 15+, one female 15+, and one female 15-. [11] Taken together, this data seems to indicate that John and James Sackville were the same person (see Table 1).

Name	Year	Males 15+	Males 15-	Females 15+	Females 15-
John	1832	3	1	1	1
John	1833	5	1	2	1
John	1834	6	2	2	2
James [1st]	1837	6		1	1
		Males 16+	Males 16-	Females 16+	Females 16-
James [1st]	1840	4		2	
James [2nd]	1840	1	1	1	3

This conclusion is supported by the fact that in the 1840 census at Hamilton, there were two James Sackvilles enumerated. One James, for convenience called the first, was in a household of four males 16+, and two females 16+. The other, James the second, was a male 16+, with a male 16-, a female 16+, and three females 16-. [12]

In the 1844 and 1847 Hamilton assessments, lot number 34, concession 7 was listed for George Sackville. James Sackville was listed at lot 31, concession 7. [13] This implies that John/James Sackville had died (or moved), and he had a son named George that took over his land. In the 1848 census at Hamilton, George Sackville was enumerated at lot 34, concession 7, as a yeoman in a household of three people. James Sackville was at lot number 31, concession 8, as a farmer, in a household of eight people. John Sackville was enumerated alone at lot number 35, concession 8, and was an exacator [sic]. [14] Based on their locations and appearances in time on early records, James, George, and John Sackville could have been brothers, as stated in the Bewdley historical account.

This hypothesis is strengthened when the information on Agnes (Sackville) Sidey is incorporated. The biographical sketch claimed that Agnes came with her parents and five brothers. Agnes was born in 1820 and married in August 1840. The 1840 census was likely

taken in the Spring of 1840, so it would be expected that Agnes still lived with her parents. The early census data suggests that John/James Sackville and his wife had four sons and one daughter, all 16+, by 1840. One son was James, who had a wife and four children by that year. Agnes could account for the female 15- in the 1832 and 1833 censuses, and as one of the two in 1834. Documents show that she was a sister of James Sackville [the second] and also the daughter of James Sackville [the first].

James Sackville [the second] of Hamilton

James Sackville died at Hamilton on 10 April 1879, aged 73, and was born in England. [15] His death was reported by his physician, Dr. Sidey, husband of his sister Agnes. The will of James Sackville, yeoman, late of Hamilton, was dated 8 April 1879 and was presented to probate on 5 May 1879. James named his wife Jane, daughters Agnes Benson, Mary Ann Crook, and Jane Crook, as well as sons, William, James, George, and Edward. He mentioned debt due to him from Mrs. Sidey Senior (i.e., his sister), Agnes Sidey (i.e., his sister's mother-in-law), John Sackville Senior, and George Sackville Senior for land they held together at Hope Township, Durham, Ontario. He appointed his wife Jane and John Benson the Elder, yeoman as his executors. [16]

In the 1840 census, typically taken in the spring, James was enumerated as 16+, with a male 16-, a female 16+, and three females 16-. The older female was likely his wife Jane. The three younger females have been identified in the Genealogical Summary as Agnes (born about 1835), Mary Ann (born 1838), and Jane (born February 1840). The young male probably died young. James had married Jane Jemima Gibbs, perhaps in 1833, when she could have been of the adult females enumerated in the household of John Sackville, the other being John's wife. James Sackville of Hope, yeoman, purchased land there on 11 March 1845. [17]

In 1861 at Hamilton, James Sackville was a sawyer, aged 55, born in England, and living in a household

with his wife Jane, aged 45, born in Ireland, and four children born in Canada. [18] In 1871, James was aged 65, born in England, of English origin, and living in a household with Jane, aged 57, born in Ireland, and three children born in Ontario. [19] Jane Jemima Sackville died at Hamilton on 30 October 1900, aged 88. [20] Of their known children, the eldest was named Agnes, and he named two sons William and George.

George Sackville of Hamilton

George Sackville died at Hamilton on 17 December 1887, aged 75 years and 7 months, and was born on the border of Scotland and England. His physician was Dr. Sidey and the informant was his son William James Sackville. [21] The will of George Sackville of Hamilton, farmer, was dated 28 January 1887. He gave his 100-acres of lot 34, concession 7, to his son James Sackville. He left legacies to his children John Sackville, Eliza Jane Johnston, Ann Jane Robertson, Mary Sackville, Margaret Sackville, and George Sackville. [22]

In 1844, George had taken over the land that James/John Sackville had been enumerated at in Hamilton since 1832. In 1861 at Hamilton, George Sackville was aged 49, born in England, and living in the household with his wife Margaret, aged 46, born in England, and six children born in Canada. [23] In 1871 at Hamilton, he was aged 59, born in England, of English origin, and living in the household with his wife Margaret, aged 49, born in England, and nine children born in Ontario. [24] In 1881, he was aged 67, born in England, and living in the household with his wife Margaret, aged 57, born in England, and four children born in Ontario. [25] Margaret was still living in 1891, aged 68, born in Scotland. [26] Margaret's maiden name was Turnball.

George named his eldest child Agnes and had two sons named John and William James. He was mentioned in the 1879 will of James Sackville and owned land with him, Agnes (Sackville) Sidey and John Sackville.

John Sackville of Hamilton

In the 1848 census at Hamilton, John Sackville was enumerated alone at lot number 35, concession 8. In 1848 and 1850, he was enumerated in Hope Township with a household of three. [27] John Sackville of Hope had purchased land at Bewdley, Hamilton on 6 February 1848. [28] On 6 March 1848, John Sackville and Richard Ainley, yeomen of Hope, purchased 50 acres of lot number 34, concession 8 in Hamilton as guardians for the infant children of William Black of Hamilton, innkeeper. [29]

The executor of the 1912 will of Agnes (Sackville) Sidey was Joseph Ainley. [30] On 19 May 1849, John and Richard sold a quarter of an acre in Bewdley as the Black children's guardians. [31]

John Sackville was married first to Eliza Holroyol and they went to the United States for a time. He was of Hamilton when he married a second time at Port Hope on 17 September 1869 to Annie Turnball, aged 27, born in Canada, a daughter of Richard and Alice. At that time, he was aged 50, born in England, and his parents were reported as John and Annie Sackville. [32] It has already been discussed how the John Sackville of Hamilton from 1832-34 likely also went by the name James in 1837 and 1840. Annie is a well-known nickname for Agnes.

John does not seem to have been enumerated in Ontario during the 1861 census. However, his son William was noted to have been born in the United States about 1853 and in a 1911 census William was reported to have immigrated in 1865. [33] John Sackville was born about 1819 and cannot be the John Sackville who owned property at Hamilton from 1832-34.

In the 1871 census taken in Hope Township, John Sackville was aged 54, born in England, of English origin, in the household with his wife Ann, aged 30, born in Ontario, and sons William (18, born in United States), and Edgar (July 1870, born in Ontario). He was also enumerated with William Sackville, aged 60, born

in England. [34] In 1881, he was enumerated as a farmer, aged 62, born in England, with wife Ann, aged 40, born in Ontario, Edger (aged 10) and Alice Alberta (aged 3). [35] In other records, Alice was also known by the names Anis and Annie, both known nicknames for Agnes. John was mentioned in the 1879 will of James Sackville and owned land with him, Agnes (Sackville) Sidey and George Sackville.

William Sackville of Hamilton

William Sackville died at Hamilton on 8 July 1875, aged 67, born in England. His physician Dr. John Sidey of Bewdley was the informant. [36] In 1861 at Hope, William Sackville was aged 54, born in England, in a household that contained Agnes Sackville, aged 78, born in Scotland, and Agnes Sackville, aged 27, born in Canada. [37] Based on her age and association with William, it is highly likely that the elder Agnes was his mother. In 1871 at Hope, he was enumerated in the household of John Sackville, aged 60, born in England, and of English origin. [38] William Sackville was a witness to John Sidey and Agnes Sackville's marriage in 1840. [39]

Conclusions

From documents in Canada, the Sackville names at Hamilton appear to have all been siblings based on the location, their ages, and their various connections. In the 1833 census, John/James Sackville and his wife Agnes/Annie had five children. The biographical sketch had stated the Sackville family included the parents, five brothers, and Agnes. The following summarizes the various connections between these siblings:

- Two James Sackvilles were enumerated at Hamilton in 1840. In his 1879 will, James [2nd] refers to siblings Agnes (Sackville) Sidey, George Sackville, and John Sackville regarding land they owned together. He named his eldest known child Agnes and also had sons William and George.
- By 1844, George Sackville had taken over the land that James/John Sackville was enumerated at in

Hamilton since 1832. George owned land with Agnes (Sackville) Sidey, James Sackville, and John Sackville. He named his eldest known child Agnes and had sons John and William James.

- John Sackville's parents were named John and Annie. John owned land with Agnes (Sackville) Sidey, James Sackville, and George Sackville. He lived with William Sackville in 1871. He named his only known daughter Anis, a known nickname for Agnes and had a son named William. He was mentioned in the 1879 will of James Sackville and owned land with him, Agnes (Sackville) Sidey and George Sackville. John was a witness to the marriage of James's eldest daughter Agnes.
- William Sackville lived with Agnes Sackville, a woman old enough to have been his mother, in 1861. In this household was also an Agnes Sackville that was of an age to have been his daughter. They were living next to John and Agnes (Sackville) Sidey. William lived with John Sackville in 1871. William was a witness to the marriage of Agnes Sackville and John Sidey.
- Agnes Sidey was reported to have been the daughter of James Sackville in 1912. She was also called the sister of James Sackville in 1892. She had connections to James, George, John and William Sackville, as shown in the previous bullet points. She named a son William. She also had sons John and James, though those names also had significance in her husband's family.

The 1840 census and biographical account both suggest that there was another son. An online source claims him to have been Thomas (1823-1894) though no proof was provided and he does not appear to have generated any records at Hamilton. [40] If there was another son, it is possible he had died young.



GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. **JOHN/JAMES(1) SACKVILLE** was probably born in England, say 1780, [41] and may have died by 1844. [42] He married by about 1806, **AGNES/ANNIE(1)** (____), who was born in Scotland about 1783, and was living in 1861. [43]

Children of John/James and Agnes/Annie (____) Sackville:

- 2 i. **JAMES(2)**, b. England, abt. 1806; m. **JANE JEMIMA GIBBS**.
 - ii. **WILLIAM**, b. England, abt. 1809; d. Hamilton, In Northumberland, Ontario, 8 July 1875, aged 67. [44] 1861, his household contained Agnes Sackville, aged 27, born in Canada, suggesting she could have been his daughter. [45]
 - 3 iii. **GEORGE**, b. border of England/Scotland, abt. May 1812; m. **MARGARET TURNBALL**.
 - 4 iv. **JOHN**, b. England, abt. 1817; m. (1st) **ELIZA HOLROYOL**; m. (2nd) **ANN TURNBALL**.
 - v. **AGNES**, b. England or Jedburgh, Scotland, 29 May 1820; d. Hamilton, 21 September 1912; m. Newcastle Village, Clarington, Durham, Ontario, 2 August 1840, **JOHN(2) SIDEY** (*George(1)*), b. Ogdensburg or Albany, New York, abt. 1820, d. Hamilton, 19 February 1892. [46]
2. **JAMES² SACKVILLE** was born in England about 1806 and died at Hamilton on 10 April 1879, aged 73. [47] He married c. 1833, **JANE JEMIMA GIBBS**, who was born in Ireland about 1812 and died at Hamilton on 30 October 1900, aged 88. [48]

The will of James Sackville, yeoman, late of Hamilton, was dated 8 April 1879 and presented to probate on 5 May 1879. James named his wife Jane, daughters Agnes Benson, Mary Ann Crook, and Jane Crook, and sons, William, James, George, and Edward. He appointed his wife Jane and John Benson the Elder, yeoman, as his executors. [49]

Children of James and Jane Jemima (Gibbs) Sackville:

- i. **AGNES(3)**, b. Hamilton or Hope, abt. 1835; d. Hamilton, 7 June 1900, aged 65; [50] m. Northumberland and Durham, Ontario, 9 October 1866, **JOHN BENSON**, son of Robert and Mary, [51] b. Ireland, 16 August 1825, [52] d. Hamilton, 10 April 1908, aged 83. [53]
- ii. **MARY ANN**, b. Canada, 24 December 1838; d. Joliet, Will County, Illinois, 24 December 1922; [54] m. Northumberland and Durham, Ontario, 8 February 1859, **GEORGE CROOK**, son of James and Ann (Worthington), [55] b. England, 1 January 1836, d. Bear Lake, Manister County, , Michigan, 8 June 1914. [56]
- iii. **JANE**, b. Canada, 23 February 1840; d. Seattle, King County, Washington, 29 April 1927; [57] m. abt. 1859, [58] **RICHARD CROOK**, son of Richard and Nannie (Worthington), b. Canada, 14 May 1832, d. Seattle, 18 June 1910. [59]
- iv. **WILLIAM M.**, b. Northumberland, Canada, 22 June 1843; d. Waco, McLennan County, Texas on 22 June 1933; [60] m. (1st) Smith, Peterborough, Ontario, 19 February 1878, Mary Isabella Sanderson, daughter of Michael and Margaret, b. Smith, [61] 10 January 1851, d. 1 April 1900, bur. Pearsall Cemetery, Pearsall, Frio County, Texas; [62] m. (2nd) Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 14 September 1903, **FRANCIS CARLISLE**. [63]
- v. **JAMES**, b. Hope Township, 29 October 1845; d. Hamilton, 7 July 1917, aged 72; [64] m. bef. 1877, **MARY CLEMESHA**, [65] b. England, abt. 1835, [66] d. bef. 10 May 1889. [67] In her will dated May 1899, Mary, wife of James Sackville, named her brother John Wordsworth Clemesha, her brother-in-law George Sackville, and her son-in-law John Benson, as well as her children.
- vi. **GEORGE K.**, b. Hamilton, 30 July 1847; d. Hamilton, 15 December 1904, aged 59; m. Hamilton, 1874, **CECLIA RICHARD**, daughter of John and Mary, b. Hamilton, 27 February

1856, [68] d. Hamilton, 21 September 1901. [69] In his will dated 10 March 1904, George mentioned that he had purchased parcels of land from his brother Joseph E. Sackville, Agnes Sidey, and Thomas Sidey. [70] The executors of his estate were owed money from the estate of Agnes Sidey. [71]

- vii. JOSEPH EDWARD, b. Ontario, 22 May 1853; d. Oakland, Alameda County, California, 25 November 1937, aged 84 years, 6 months, 3 days; [72] m. (1st) Carroll County, Missouri, 31 January 1885, ADALAIDE BARKER; [73] m. (2nd) abt. 1899, BERNICE M. ROBINSON, [74] daughter of Hamilton and Caroline (Crandall), b. Mt. Ayr, Ringgold County, Iowa, 25 February 1874, [75] d. Siskiyou County, California, 24 December 1948. [76]

3. **GEORGE(2) SACKVILLE** was born on the border of Scotland and England about May 1812 and died at Hamilton on 17 December 1887, aged 75 years and 7 months. [77] He married by about 1848, MARGARET TURNBALL, who was born in England about 1815. [78] She was living in 1881. [79] She died before 12 October 1892.

On 12 October 1892, John and Sarah Sackville of Brock, Ontario; George and Eva Victoria Sackville of Deloraine, Manitoba; Eliza Jane Johnston of South Monaghan Township, Northumberland, Ontario; Ann Jane Rowson of Port Hope, Durham, Ontario; Christiana Northcott of Hamilton; Mary Sackville of Hamilton, spinster; Margaret Sackville of Hamilton, spinster; all children of George Sackville late of Hamilton; and William James Sackville were involved in a land transaction that had been left to them in George Sackville's will. The document notes that his wife Margaret was now deceased. [80]

Children of George and Margaret (Turnball) Sackville:

- i. AGNES(3), b. abt. 1848; liv. 1871. [81]
- ii. JOHN, b. Ontario, 29 May 1850; d. Brock, 14 October 1927; [82] Port Hope, 7 October 1874,

SARAH JANE CRUSE, daughter of John and Mary (Ford), [83] b. Hope, 20 June 1855, d. Brock, 28 July 1935. [84]

- iii. ELIZA JANE, b. Hamilton, 11 September 1852; d. South Monaghan, Northumberland, Ontario, 5 August 1934; [85] m. Millbrook, Peterborough, Ontario, 16 October 1873, THOMAS JOHNSTON, son of Robert and Elizabeth, [86] b. Cavan, Peterborough, Ontario or South Monaghan, August 1847, d. South Monaghan, 2 November 1917, aged 75. [87]
- iv. ANN J., b. Hamilton, 26 July 1853; d. Peterborough, 16 March 1927; [88] m. by 1880, JAMES ROWSON, [89] son of John, b. England, 25 April 1845, d. Port Hope, 20 July 1920. [90]
- v. MARY ELIZABETH, b. Hamilton, 31 January 1857; d. Port Hope, 30 April 1927, [91] unmarried.
- vi. CHRISTINA ANN, b. Hamilton, 30 September 1860; liv. in 1921; m. Hamilton, 29 December 1880, WILLIAM NORTHCOATE, son of William and Mary (Bateman), b. Hamilton or South Monaghan, 13 April 1857 or 1858, d. Peterborough, 19 February 1928. [92]
- vii. GEORGE, b. Bewdley, Ontario, 24 April 1860; d. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 22 September 1953, aged 91; m. Port Hope, 21 October 1885, EVA VICTORIA RANDALL, daughter of William and Adelaide, b. Port Hope, 29 May 1859, [93] d. Saskatoon, 9 May 1947, aged 88. [94]
- viii. MARGARET SELINA, b. Hamilton, 23 December 1864; d. 16 June 1922, aged 57 years, 5 months, bur. Cedar Vale Cemetery in Cannington, Ontario; m. Hamilton, 12 September 1894, WILLIAM HARRIS ALLIN, son of Francis and Elizabeth, b. England, 20 October 1847, [95] d. 23 March 1937, aged 93 years, bur. Cedar Vale Cemetery. [96]
- ix. WILLIAM JAMES, b. Hamilton, 23 April 1868; d. 26 August 1923, bur. Cedar Vale Cemetery, Cannington, Ontario; m. (1st) Hamilton, 15

December 1892, EDITH ELIZABETH NELSON
Daughter of Edward Willson and Ellen Olcott, b.
Hamilton, 6 June 1869, [97] d. Hamilton, 18
April 1909; m. (2nd) Port Hope, 2
June 1913, ANNIE FLORENCE
VALLANTYNE, [98] daughter of John and Eliza
(Fair), b. Ontario, 9 August 1863, d. 22 January
1929, bur. Cedar Vale Cemetery. [99]

4. JOHN(2) SACKVILLE was born in England about
1817. [100] He was living in 1881. [101] He married
perhaps by 1848, [102] ELIZA HOLYROYL. [103]
He married second at Port Hope on 17 September
1869, ANN TURNBALL, daughter of Richard and
Alice, born in Canada about 1842. [104] She was also
living in 1881.

Child of John and Eliza (Holyroyol) Sackville:

- i. WILLIAM(3), b. Illinois, United States, 30
March 1856; d. Hamilton, 16 March 1913; m.
Hamilton, 14 April 1880, MARY ANN CRUSE,

daughter of James and Sarah, b. Ontario, 20
January 1857; [105] d. Hamilton, 19 February
1929. [106]

Children of John and Ann (Turnball) Sackville:

- ii. EDGAR, b. Port Hope, 19 July 1871; d. St.
Thomas, Ontario, 4 November 1935; [107] m.
Leamington, Essex, Ontario, 15 March 1894,
ANN JOHNSON, daughter of James and
Elizabeth, b. Leamington, [108] 12 March 1873,
[109] d. 1914, bur. Lakeview Cemetery,
Leamington. [110]
- iii. ANIS/ANNIE ALBERTA, b. Port Hope or
Peterborough, Ontario, 9 August 1877; d.
Ridgetown, Ontario, 30 April 1915, aged 37;
[111] m. Leamington, 26 August 1898,
CHARLES ELMER WILSON, son of John E.
and Eliza (Howell), b. Thamesville, Kent,
Ontario, [112] on 11 or 18 September 1874,
[113] d. Ridgetown, 25 July 1928. [114]



Endnotes

- [1] Jared James Nathan, "The Origins and Family of Dr. John Sidey, A Pioneer of Bewdley, Hamilton, Ontario," *Families*, 65 (2026):23-33.
- [2] *FamilySearch.com*. Ontario. Death Registers, 1912; Film # 4176382; Image 1029 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TF-H9YS-J]. Her parents were both reported as born in Scotland.
- [3] *FamilySearch.com*. Newcastle Village. Marriage Registers 1833–1855; Film # 7560993; Image 27 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-896W-JC3S]. William Sackville was as one of the witnesses.
- [4] Port Hope and Hope Township deaths (1832-1899), database, alivingpast.ca/D1832.htm, accessed 13 January 2026, entry for John Sidey. Citing *Weekly Guide*, 26 February 1892:4.
- [5] Benjamin G. Shinn, Blackford and Grant Counties, Indiana, *A Chronicle of their People Past and Present With Family Lineage and Personal Memoirs* (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1914), 1:246.
- [6] Catherine Milne and Donna McGillis, *The Early History and Founding of Bewdley, Ontario*, 1990, 4-6.
- [7] Hamilton Township 1833 Census and Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1833-census-and-assessment.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entry for John Sackvill.
- [8] Hamilton Township 1832 Census and Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1832-census-and-assessment.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entry for John Sackwell.
- [9] *FamilySearch*. Land records of Northumberland County, 1832-1834; Film # 8637256; Image 219 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HX-W569].
- [10] Hamilton Township 1834 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1834-census.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entry for John Sackville.
- [11] Hamilton Township 1832 Census and Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1837-census-and-assessment.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entry for James Sackville.
- [12] Hamilton Township 1840 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1840-census.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entries for James Sackville.

- [13] Hamilton Township 1844 Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1844-assessment.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entries for George and James Sackvill. Hamilton Township 1847 Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1847-assessment.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entries for George Sackerville and James Sackville.
- [14] Hamilton Township 1848 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1848-census.html, accessed 13 January 2026, entries for George and James Sackvill.
- [15] *FamilySearch*. Ontario. Death Registers 1879; Film # 4173028; Image 303 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q93-C9YJ-7QYY-2].
- [16] *FamilySearch*. Estate files, 1845-1930; index, 1800-1967; register books, 1803-1931; administration books, 1858-1931; Film # 8484065, Images 954 to 963 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39P-LSXW-W].
- [17] *FamilySearch*. Durham. Deeds October 1844–January 1846, July 1846; Film # 8636109; Image 254 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H6-GQ84-G].
- [18] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1861; Film # 4391947; Image 568 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-X499-LJ2]. The children in the household of James Sackville were William (aged 18, laborer), James (16), George (13), and Edward (8).
- [19] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1871; Film # 4396622; Images 197 and 198 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBLQ-39C]. The children in the household of James Sackville were James (25), George (22), and Edward (17).
- [20] *FamilySearch*. Ontario. Death Registers 1900; Film # 4175316; Images 40 and 41 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9B9-X97R-8].
- [21] *FamilySearch*. Canada, Ontario, Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947; Film # 4172870, Image 938 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q93-C9YJ-792Q-D].
- [22] *FamilySearch*. Land records of Northumberland County, 1801-1912; Film # 8633329; Image 360 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HC-TXSY].
- [23] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1861; Film # 004391947, Image 560 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-X499-GG5]. The George Sackville household included Agnes (14), John (11), Eliza J. (9), Ann (7), Mary (4), and Christie (2).
- [24] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1871; Film # 004396622, Image 201 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBLQ-7Z9]. The George Sackville household included Agnes (23), John (20), Eliza Jane (18), Ann J. (16), Mary E. (13), Christy Ann (11), George (9), Margaret S. (6), and William J. (3).
- [25] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1881; Film # 004465934, Image 149 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DT3X-Z4]. The George Sackville household included George (17), James (12), Mary E. (22), and Margaret S. (16).
- [26] 1891 Census of Canada, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1274/images/30953_148159-00470, accessed 13 January 2026.
- [27] Hope Township Census 1848, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1848.htm, accessed 13 January 2026. Hope Township Census 1850, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1850.htm, accessed 13 January 2026.
- [28] *FamilySearch*. Land records of Northumberland County, 1801-1912; Film # 8637267; Image 103 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HX-QNNP].
- [29] *FamilySearch*. Land records of Northumberland County, 1801-1912; Film # 8637267; Image 77 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HX-QJZG].
- [30] See note 1, at 28.
- [31] *FamilySearch*. Land records of Northumberland County, 1801-1912; Film # 8637267; Image 158 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HX-QJKD].
- [32] *FamilySearch*. Huron. Marriage Records 1869–1872 | Essex. Marriage Records 1869 | Peterborough. Marriage Records 1869 | York. Marriage Records 1869-1870; Film # 4529096, Image 531 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39T-WKT]. The bride was aged 27, born at Canada, daughter of Richard and Alice Turnball.
- [33] *FamilySearch*. Northumberland. Census 1911 | Norfolk. Census 1911 | Nipissing. Census 1911 | Northumberland. Census 1911; Film # 7526766; Image 1233 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98W-QSP1].
- [34] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1871; Film # 4396303; Image 208 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6M47-R3R].
- [35] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1881; Film # 4467420; Image 8 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-69D7-J58].
- [36] *FamilySearch*. Ontario. Death Certificates 1875; Film # 004171970, Image 69 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZCQ-9R8].
- [37] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1861; Film # 4391933; Image 89 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DTMS-L6].
- [38] See Note 31.
- [39] *FamilySearch*. Newcastle Village. Marriage Registers 1833–1855; Film # 7560993; Image 27 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-896W-JC3S].
- [40] *Findagrave*, database, findagrave.com/memorial/243008489/john-sackville, accessed 13 January 2026.

- [41] All 1871 census data for the Sackvilles of Hamilton reported they were of English origin.
- [42] See Note 12.
- [43] Marriage estimate based on birth of the first known child, James.
- [44] See Note 33.
- [45] See Note 34.
- [46] See Note 1, at 28.
- [47] See Note 14.
- [48] See Note 18.
- [49] See Note 15.
- [50] *FamilySearch*. Ontario. Death Registers 1900; Film # 4175316; Images 34 and 35 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9B9-X9MG-4].
- [51] *FamilySearch*. Northumberland and Durham. Religious Marriage Registers 1859-1869; Film # 7859252; Image 91 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS76-CWNG-W]. John Sackville was a witness.
- [52] *FamilySearch*. Canada. Census 1901; Film # 101692805; Image 693 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L7HZ-7].
- [53] *FamilySearch*. Ontario. Death Registers 1908; Film # 4171368; Image 731 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-63N7-K4C].
- [54] *FamilySearch*. Deaths: Williamson. Death Certificates 1922 | Joliet. Death Certificates 1922; Film # 4008054; Image 271 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99KB-71J]. The record states her mother was Jane Thompson.
- [55] *FamilySearch*. Northumberland and Durham. Religious Marriage Registers 1859-1869; Film # 7859252; Image 21 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS76-CWV6-X]. The record states her mother's maiden name as Worthington but that was her husband's mother's maiden name.
- [56] Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60872/images/44471_354852-01391, accessed 13 January 2026. His mother's forename was listed on his marriage record.
- [57] Washington, U.S., Death Records, 1907-2017, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6716/images/i2284692-02683, accessed 13 January 2026. The record states she was the widow of Richard Crook and her mother's maiden name was listed as Worthington.
- [58] 1900 United States Federal Census, King Co., WA, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118872_00591, accessed 13 January 2026.
- [59] Washington, U.S., Death Records, 1907-2017, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6716/images/i2284628-00445, accessed 13 January 2026.
- [60] *FamilySearch*. Texas. Death Certificates June 1933; Film # 5145224; Image 2784 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YB1-QSJJ].
- [61] *FamilySearch*. Marriage records: Ontario. Marriage Records 1878; Film # 4529123; Image 578 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39R-VNC]. His residence was Texas, USA.
- [62] *Findagrave*, database, findagrave.com/memorial/125509620/mary_isabella-sackville, accessed 13 January 2026. Obituary for Mrs. William Sackville, San Antonio Light, 2 April 1900:5.
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Leaving Their Mark

The Dingmans of Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario

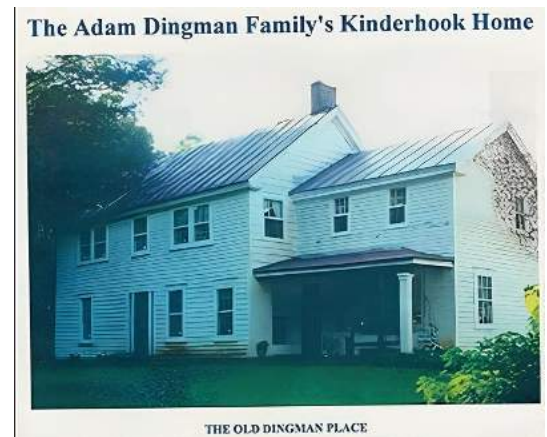
Rob Stieglitz

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

The November 2025 issue of *Families* published my narrative “Clashing Loyalties: The Dingman Family of the Mohawk Valley During the American Revolution.” [1] In it, I detailed the story of my wife's (Bette) fourth-great-grandparents, American patriots Samuel and Mary Dingman. Samuel and Mary, both Dingmans, were second cousins who married after the war. They were the exception as most of the Dingmans in New York were United Empire Loyalists, who immigrated to Cramahe, Northumberland at the conclusion of the war. As a family historian/genealogist, I explained that researching her family was both a history lesson about the war, as well as an eye-opener as to what the family would have personally experienced during the American Revolution. This narrative tells of their history in Canada.

The surname Dingman in the United States and Canada can be attributed to one Adam Dingman. Adam was born in Haarlem, The Netherlands in 1631 and immigrated to the New World sometime before 1655. [2] Following Henry Hudson's exploration of the river that was named after him, Dutch immigrants began settling along its banks. The first thirty-one families arrived in 1623 and established New Amsterdam. [3]

New arrivals travelled further and further north on the Hudson, where Adam Dingman settled in what is now Kinderhook, New York about 130 miles north of what is now Manhattan. [4] Adam and his wife Aetije Gardinier (1646-1693) had at least seven children, and from there the Dingman name prospered in the New World. [5]



Old Dingman Homestead Kinderhook, New York [6]. Photo courtesy of Emerson Dingman Smart of Ancient Faces.

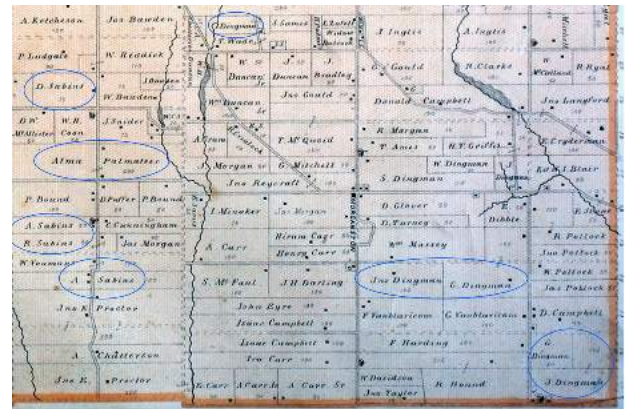
Cramahe, Northumberland was founded in 1792 by Vermont Empire Loyalists. [7] The state of Vermont (meaning Green Mountain in French) has an interesting history. It was not an official state at the beginning of

the Revolution and actually declared its own independence from Britain in 1777. By joining the Union in 1791 as an individual state, it drove the remaining British Empire Loyalists up into Canada. [8] The majority of the Dingmans were loyal to the British crown and left the newly formed United States between the years 1783 and 1795, with many ending up in Northumberland County. [9] In following the story of their move to Cramahe Township, I discovered Bette's lineage connects to three other prominent pioneer families that left America for Canada around the same time.

As seen on the map above, all four families were well established approximately 80-90 years after the founding of Cramahe Township.

Families on map: Sabins, Palmateer, Puffer and Dingmans – northeast corner of Cramahe

Garrett Dingman b. 15 May 1827 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada d. 23 Aug 1875 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada int. Ref. 1523	Garrett Dingman Sr. b. Aft. 1794 in Mohawk, Montgomery, New York, USA d. 23 Aug 1875 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada int. Ref. 1523
George Dingman b. 03 Jan 1806 in Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada d. 24 Oct 1939 in Keweenaw, Tootie, Montana, USA m. 29 Nov 1894 in Penn, Ramsey, North Dakota, USA	Ann Sabins b. 1895 in New York State, USA d. 12 Feb 1893 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada
Phoebe Puffer b. 09 Feb 1830 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada d. 07 Aug 1909 in Watkworth, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada	James Puffer b. 1799 in Dutchess Co., New York, USA d. 1843 in Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada int. Ref. 1523 in Ontario
	Deborah Palmateer b. Aft. 1800 in Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada d. Unknown in Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada



Cramahe Township circa 1870-80 close-up showing the Dingman, Palmateer and Sabins homesteads. Photo courtesy of Ontario Genealogy. [12]

The Dingmans - A Tangible Legacy



Cramahe Hill Christian Church and headstone Garrett Dingman 1794 Mohawk, NY – 1875 Northumberland, Ontario [13]. Photo courtesy of the Author.



Cramahe Township circa 1870-80. Photo courtesy of Ontario Genealogy. [11]

Religious – In 1875, the heirs of Jacob Dingman sold two acres of their land for a symbolic \$1 to the Canada Christian Conference. A church was built on this site in 1884, which still stands at 340 Morganston Road (near the intersection with Dingman Road). [14]

Dingman Road – A rural road was named after them because of the multiple Dingman farms in the area. [15]

Hamlet of Morganston – In December 1821, Samuel Dingman (1785-1864) acquired 200 acres of land in Cramahe from Van Wicklen. He and his wife, Hannah, raised eight children on their farm, becoming essential figures in the development of the Hamlet of Morganston. [16]

The Dingman House – A notable historic residence located at 1644 Morganston Road was constructed by the family, likely by Charles Henry Dingman, between 1880 and 1920. [17]



The Old Dingman House in Morganston, Ontario [18]. Photo courtesy of Heritage Cramahe Project.

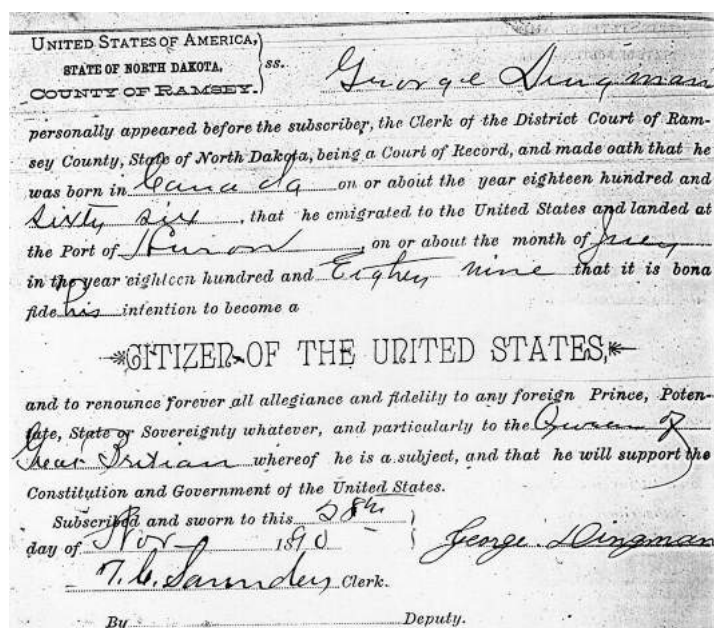
Dingman Pioneer Cemetery – The cemetery is located about eighty kilometres from Cramahe in Milford, Ontario. [19] The oldest Dingman burial at the Pioneer Cemetery is Garrett Dingman (1819-1887). [20] Garrett was the grandson of Samuel and Mary Dingman who had immigrated to Ontario around 1795. [21]



*Milford, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada.
Photo courtesy of Raymond Weisner.*

Leaves for America

George Dingman (1866-1939) left Ontario for America in 1889, 97 years after his great-grandparents had settled in and left their mark in Cramahe Township. I moved to North Dakota in 1977 to live where my wife was born and raised. At the time Bette only had one living grandparent – Irene Dingman Nord (1900-1985), daughter of George. If only I knew then what I know now...I would have so many questions to ask.



Immigration Record for George Dingman [22]. Document courtesy of the State Archives for the Historical Society of North Dakota.

Endnotes

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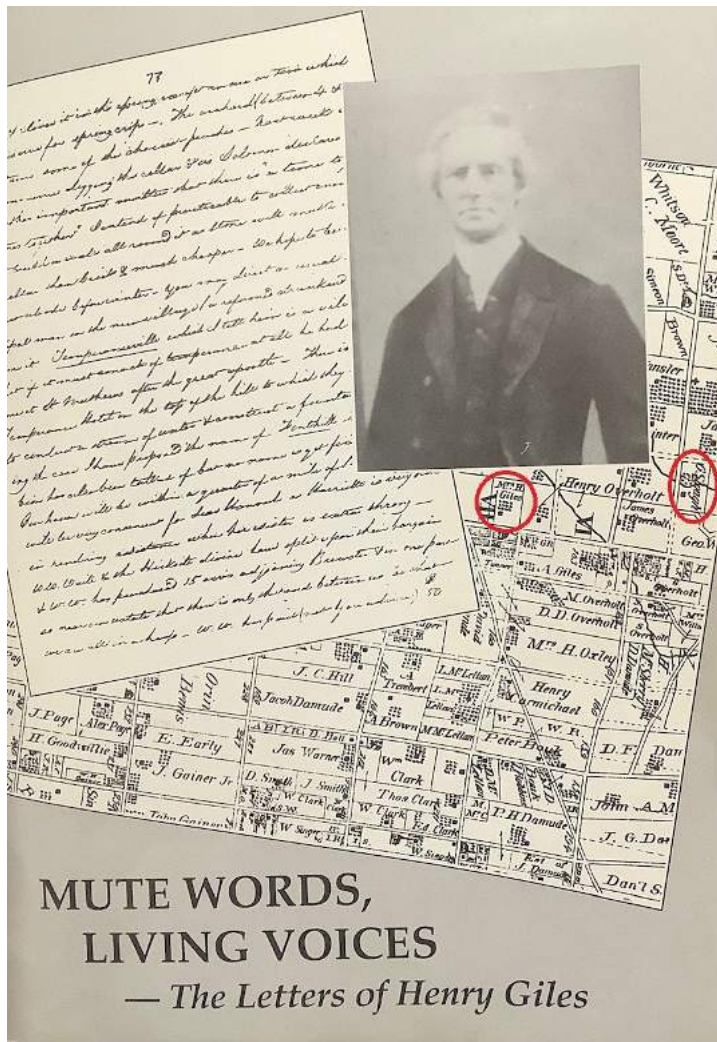
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Mute Words, Living Voices: The Letters of Henry Giles, 1842-3

Reviewed by Graham Segger, FCPA, FCA

Graham Segger is the author of *The Land at the Crest of the Hill: Clues to Niagara History from Upper Fonthill* and several past *Families* articles. He has also presented two Niagara Peninsula Branch webinars. Graham is on the Executive Committee of The Pelham Historical Society and writes regular history articles for local news outlets.

Names: Fonthill, Giles, Niagara Falls, Pelham, Quakers, Slough



On one level it may seem a little unusual to be writing a review of a book first published 35 years ago, and perhaps stranger still when we consider that most of the content of the book was first composed 185 years ago.

Mute Words, Living Voices: The Letters of Henry Giles, 1842-3 is a compilation of 16 letters written by Henry Giles (1803-1871) of Pelham Township, Lincoln County, Canada West over a thirteen-month period. His expansive and eloquent letters to friends and family, mostly in England, provide a revealing account of life in mid-nineteenth century rural Ontario. Henry was a well-educated Quaker, who had arrived in Upper Canada with his family [1] only two years earlier from Norwich, England. His observations on day-to-day life in his new adopted home are invaluable. He describes the weather, transportation, the economy and his struggles to eke out a living. Several letters read almost like a prospectus, extolling the virtues of his adopted country to family back home.

The book has great value to the genealogical community from several perspectives. If you have ancestors in rural Ontario, or the Counties of Lincoln or Welland in particular, these first-hand accounts provide context and texture for the lives of those ancestors. The letters also mention many of the local Fonthill and Pelham families who Henry interacted with, some of whose descendants are still represented in the community today. It is necessary to approach the letters with an understanding of the times in which they were written. Certain passages or viewpoints expressed may reflect attitudes considered insensitive by today's standards, though this does not diminish the historical significance of the work.

One of the neighbours who Henry mentions is John George Slough (1807-1891), [2] whose grandfather had received a 200-acre land grant for Lots 2 and 3, Concession V, Pelham Township. [3] In Letter 7 to his brother Robert, Henry mentions that “We have an estate being offered for sale belonging to one George Slough, (probably the slough of despond [4] as his family consists of 6 unmarried daughters) which seems an eligible site for a mill ... there are 22 acres available, 12 of which are level enough to plough. The remainder romantic hills ... There is a beautiful stream but no dam erected. A fall of 15’ may be obtained.” I’ve done some work on this family in the past so thought I’d dig a little deeper into the rather uncharitable reference to the slough of despond, as well as the land purchase opportunity. The land described was likely occupied by George Slough and his family at the time of the letters, but land records indicate it was still owned by his father George Slough (1777-1851) in 1843. George (1807) did eventually inherit ownership of the 22 acres located at the south end of Lot 3, Concession V through the terms of his father’s 1850 Will, and shows that he still owned it in the 1876 H.R. Page Atlas for Lincoln and Welland Counties. Red circles have been added to the crop of that map on the front cover of the book shown above to highlight the location of the Giles 25-acre farm and the George Slough 22-acre farm.

We will never know whether the Henry Giles reference to the land available for sale was wishful thinking, or the Slough family had second thoughts and decided not to sell. The slough of despond depiction probably alluded to the fact that there were no sons to carry on the business of the farm, considered a sad state of affairs in those days. Two sons and three more daughters were eventually welcomed to this family. The six daughters who were listed on the 1851 census as old enough to have been alive in 1843 all went on to marry into successful founding families of central Niagara. These included Clark, Hansler, Tice, Depotty, Lindsay and Singer. Other families referenced often in the book include Oxley, Waite, Hill and of course Giles. One of the experiences which Henry marvels at is the

joy of travelling by horse drawn sleighs in the winter months, explaining how much faster and more comfortable that was than travelling on the rough roads in summer. He also describes the beauty of the Niagara Falls in winter, observed while climbing down into the gorge over the ice using crampons on his feet. For me, part of the magic of this book are the many detailed descriptions of the local economy and the challenges involved in starting up a 25-acre farm (now covered with houses on the west side of Pelham Street North in the heart of Fonthill).

The publication of this book by The Pelham Historical Society (PHS) was a true labour of love for a core group of members and summer students, as well as descendants of Henry Giles. The preservation of the letters is a story unto itself. Henry would laboriously dampen the ink-covered pages and press them onto a fresh sheet of paper creating a mirror image of his longhand script. These letters were preserved carefully in the family for over one hundred years until Henry’s great grandson Leo Giles painstakingly accomplished the task of transcribing them. PHS members, led by Mary Lamb, [5] then prepared the letters for publication and added historical essays on the Township of Pelham and the Quakers of Pelham, as well as helpful footnotes explaining some of the more arcane terms or topics addressed in the letters.

The title selected for this book of letters was drawn from a poem composed by Henry Giles’ brother James, one of the recipients of the letters:

Old Letters [6]

“... They tell of days of innocence, when
We only walked where peace and duty led
They urge us back to that sweet path again
When those who urged us, are not, – and instead
Of reading the mute words of living men
We hear the living words of the dead.”

Mute Words, Living Voices was re-issued by Pelham Historical Society recently and the 67-page book is available at several local Pelham outlets [7] and for remote purchase through Someday Books in St. Catharines.



Endnotes

- [1] Henry and his wife Hannah Oxley (1804-1880) came to Canada with three sons and a daughter in 1841.
- [2] In Pelham the family name is pronounced to rhyme with “scow.” John George’s wife was Dorothy Terryberry (1813-1895).
- [3] I have had the good fortune to be able to view the original 225 year old Land Patent issued to George “Slow” (1777-1850) for this property, which is in excellent condition.
- [4] *Mute Words, Living Voices: The Letters of Henry Giles* (Fonthill: The Pelham Historical Society, 1992) 33. “Slough of Despond” is a reference to a line in Pilgrim’s Progress written by John Bunyan (1628-1688). The expression has come to be used as a metaphor for a state of depression or despair.
- [5] Mary Lamb (1931-2025) wrote an excellent review of the book for PelhamToday in 2024 to help launch the re-issue – Accessed June 27, 2026 - <https://www.pelhamtoday.ca/local-news/history-a-collection-of-letters-that-brings-old-pelham-to-life-9275309>.
- [6] James Giles, *Poems: Domestic and Miscellaneous*, (London: W.B. Whittington & Co., 1881) 53. Accessed June 27, 2026 - https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=vk4CAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=zh-TW&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false.
- [7] The book is available for \$15.00 at Boggio Fonthill Pharmacy & Log Cabin Gift Shoppe, Nature’s Corner Café, and PharmaChoice Pelham.

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Author: Andrea Lister

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“STIGMA - An Abridged Version”
Author: Wendy Smith

Fourth Place
“History of William Airth ca. 1815-1880”
Author: Jeff Airth

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“2021 Canadian Census”
Author: Debra Honor

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What's in a Name?

The Trend to be Unique

Robbie Gorr

The latest trend in baby names is avoiding any and all possible trends. Parents who grew up being the third Ashley or the fourth Jason in their class want their own children's names to be unique, one-of-a-kind and original, and to do that they are choosing names that are unconventional, eccentric and even a little quirky.

Kreeaytive Spellyng

Some parents still love certain commonly-used names but, in order to make their child stand out among the crowd of others with the same name, they are applying some creative spelling. They can still have a Katelyn but they can spell it Caitlyn, Catelyn, Caitlin, Katelin, Katelynnne, Keightlynn and even Katlyn, disregarding certain rules of pronunciation.

To accomplish this, parents will switch out vowels especially Y and I or they substitute certain similar-sounding letters like S and Z, C and K (and sometimes even Q) as well as J and G. And they can also add or remove a final silent E. In this way, that dated Ashley could now become Ashlee, Ashlea, Ashli, Ashly or Ashleigh and that same old Jason might now appear as Jayson, Jaeson, Jascin or Jacyn.



Figure 1: Parents who grew up being the third Ashley or the fourth Jason in their class want their own children's names to be unique, one-of-a-kind and original and so they are choosing names that are unconventional, eccentric and even a little quirky.

Some spelling variations, however, can create problems as they certainly cause people to pause and consider how to pronounce such names as Khymberli, Oliveigha or Tiphineigh. This trend, taken too far, could be a "trajedeigh".



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MULTI PATRIAE
PRIORES + MULTAE

Pick A Noun, Any Noun

There has also been a recent trend to confer the names of objects, words that are not normally used as names, upon children. It started as a celebrity fad with the likes of Apple Martin (daughter of Gwyneth Paltrow & Chris Martin), Psalm West (son of Kanye West & Kim Kardashian) and Blue Ivy (daughter of Jay-Z & Beyoncé). But it subsequently inspired a whole generation of similar unique objects for names like Moon, Ocean, Ace, Phoenix and Sparrow. I keep waiting for the appearance of an Ennui, a Neurosis or a Pneumonia.

Hyphenate Or Combinate

Modern parents who don't care to risk something completely out-of-the-box have taken a safer way to find a unique name for their child by combining two names together, often an unexpected pairing, as a hyphenated combination. You have to admit that there probably would not be two boys named Jackson-August or Mason-Cody on the same hockey team or two girls named Olivia-Faye or Isabella-Leigh in the same dance class. These double-barrelled names may be multisyllabic mouthfuls but can easily be shortened to more familiar terms or initials.

Parents can also create some portmanteau names by name-blending two more recognizable names into one interesting new variation. Those 90s standards of Ryan and Aiden can be combined to form Ryden, Raiden or even Ryanden while Kyle and Tyler can be meshed to create Kyler. Elizabeth and Isabella, both mellifluous and popular choices on their own could be put together to make Elizabella, Elsabella or even Iszabeth, each euphonious in its own unique way.

Just Make It Up

Of course, to be truly original and to ensure that your child is the only one with a particular name, you can just make something up and that's not even a new concept. Cedric was a name invented by Sir Walter Scott for his novel *Ivanhoe* (1819) and Wendy was a name created by J.M. Barrie for a character in his play

(1904) and later book (1911) *Peter Pan*, both names becoming very popular at certain periods.



Wendy was a name invented by J.M. Barrie for a character in his play (1904) and later the book (1911) Peter Pan. The name became so popular that it remained on the list of the top one hundred most popular names between 1954 and 1981.

Once again celebrities are among the first to begin a fad and invented names have often been popular original choices for their children including Raddix (daughter of Cameron Diaz & Benji Madden), Dweezil (son of musician Frank Zappa) and Techno and Exa (children of businessman Elon Musk). This may also become a new naming tendency as parents continue to search for those unique baby names. Of course, by then John and Mary may seem like the uncommon option.

I can only imagine what our own future descendants will say about these current naming trends with the weird alternative spellings, the unusual choices and completely unexpected fabrications. I imagine it will be similar to our own reaction upon discovering that our ancestors had virtue names or that they used then-fashionable literary, nature or biblical names – What were they thinking?

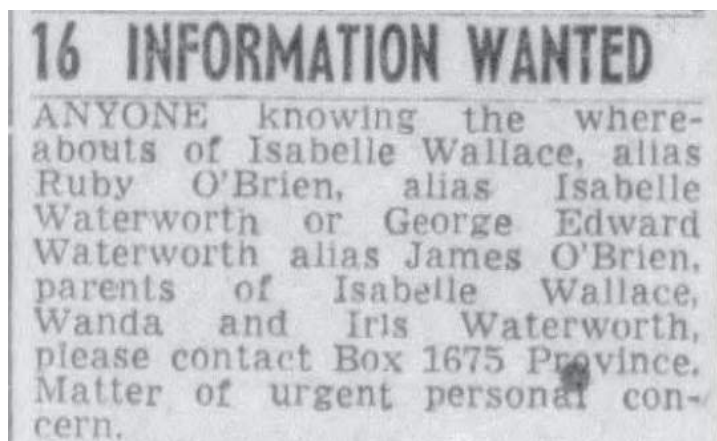


Coral's Corner

Coral Harkies

Genealogy is like doing a 1000-piece puzzle without the box top. You never know what you might find about the people in your tree. As you research your family history, you are always discovering new sources of information that shed light on how your ancestors lived. I have several examples of this in my collection, and I am going to share a few. Some are from familiar sources but there may be new information from a part that you had not previously viewed. My examples are from British Columbia, England, and the United States. Hopefully this will provide some inspiration to look wider and see what you can discover.

Newspapers are a great source for local news, births, marriages and deaths, but have you looked to see if your ancestors are mentioned in the classified section? Maybe they owned a business and advertised there, maybe they were selling something, or were having an auction. My family ended up in the classifieds because someone was looking for them. The unique part of this was that both of their legal names, as well as their aliases, were included. I am sure there is a story there!



The Province, Vancouver, BC., 30 January 1960, page 33.

Stephen Goldsworthy was a spokesman for Goldine Tonic. The testimonial included his street address as part of the article. I wonder if he was paid anything for this and if it ran in more than just the local newspaper in his community. Goldine Tonic was one of the patent (non-prescribed) medicines that were available in the 19th and 20th centuries. These medicines often contained alcohol, laxatives and other narcotics.

AT THE TICK OF THE CLOCK

Had the United States waited for volunteers, the great world war would probably not be over. Had the man of affairs waited for opportunity to knock at his door, he would most likely not have met her. As it were, he went after her and found her half-way. As in the case of Mr. Stephen Goldsworthy of 207 Simmons Avenue, Cohoes, who found Goldine was his opportunity in getting relief. Let him tell the story in his own words: "For over a year I had suffered with dyspepsia, had terrible headaches—dizzy spells—coughed and spit a lot—was bothered with gas and bloating, and my sleep was broken and disturbed, as I had to get up several times each night and got up as tired as when I retired. I tried a lot of medicines, but got no better. Finally some friends who had used "Goldine" advised me to give it a trial. That proved to be my "opportunity," for I did try it, and, after trying it, give it my hearty commendation. The headaches are all gone, my stomach is now in fine shape, no shortness of breath, pains in chest all gone, and I now get a full night's rest, and get up in the morning fully rested. "Goldine" has done all this for me, and I am only glad of the opportunity to tell it to my friends and neighbors. (Signed) **"STEPHEN GOLDSWORTHY"**

Goldine Stomach Medicine—Goldine Kidney and Rheumatism Remedy—Morning Smile Laxative and Goldine Oil.

Daily Hudson Valley Times, 25 June 1920, page 8.

In your research, you may have used passenger lists to search for your immigrant ancestors, but have you searched the transport lists for military personnel? Robert Vincent was a native to New York State and joined the United States Army and was stationed in Hawaii. I found the transport list for the Cambria that departed on 8 September 1926 from Fort Slocum, New York.

197.	CRANEY, ROBERT M.	PTZ.	F.A.
198.	DELMAR, FRED	"	"
199.	FLINT, ALFRED	"	"
200.	DELL, ALBERT	"	"
201.	KNIGHT, VICTOR F.	"	"
202.	KNEELS, FLOYD M.	"	"
203.	KNOX, FREDERICK A.	"	"
204.	MC KEEL, JOHN J.	"	"
205.	MC MURCH, EMMET P.	"	"
206.	MAIR, DAVID	"	"
207.	MYL, GEORGE D.	"	"
208.	MYL, ALBERT A.	"	"
209.	MYL, WILLIAM J.	"	"
210.	MYL, ROBERT E.	"	"
211.	MYL, GEORGE W.	"	"
212.	MYL, THOMAS S. W.	"	"
213.	MYL, THOMAS E.	"	"
214.	MYL, LEO A.	"	"
215.	MYL, GEORGE	"	"
216.	MYL, WILLIAM H.	"	"

PAGE 211. CANADA.

Hopefully these examples have inspired you to look deeper into the types of records your ancestors may have left, or have been referenced in, to help to provide more context for their lives.

Off the Beaten Branch

Here are some ideas to help you explore some of the many diverse cultures and groups that have helped to shape Canada.

Canadian Slovenian Historical Society. If you have ancestors from Slovenia, this organization might help you explore your ancestors' lives, traditions and culture. Their site includes historical details and images showcasing the history of the Slovenian people in Canada and beyond.

<https://www.slovenianhistorical.ca/>

Lithuanian Museum - Archives of Canada is the only museum-archive dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of Lithuanian Canadians. They have a digital gallery and genealogy page to help you learn more about Lithuania.

<https://www.lithuanianheritage.ca/>

Bermuda National Library has a digital collection of the Royal Gazette newspaper from 1784-1964. They also have other titles including The Bermuda Beacon, The Bermuda Times and The Recorder.

<https://bnl.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/BermudaNP02/search>

Trove is a collaboration between the National Library of Australia and hundreds of partner organizations around Australia. They have newspapers, images, maps and more to discover as you explore your relatives who may have gone to Australia.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/landing/explore>

Ancestry.com. U.S., Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910-1939 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

Did you have an ancestor that was killed in action during war time? Do you want to know what happened? Have you looked for any war diaries for the regiment in which your ancestor belonged? This example is from the 5th Border Regiment, during WWI. Joseph Vincent was one of the soldiers lost to shelling on 11 January 1916. He was buried in the Perth China Wall Cemetery in Belgium. This cemetery is one of the locations managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

WAR DIARY		Army Form 10 (1914)
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		(When available and required)
Date, Day, Week	Summary of Events and Intelligence	Reference to previous reports
10th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 10th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
11th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 11th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
12th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 12th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
13th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 13th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
14th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 14th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
15th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 15th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
16th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 16th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
17th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 17th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
18th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 18th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
19th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 19th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
20th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 20th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
21st January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 21st January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
22nd January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 22nd January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
23rd January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 23rd January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
24th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 24th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
25th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 25th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
26th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 26th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
27th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 27th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
28th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 28th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
29th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 29th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
30th January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 30th January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	
31st January 1916.	Position in the trench on the 31st January 1916. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep. The trench was 100 yards long and 10 feet deep.	

The Hop-Picker Murders

(A Genealogical Crime Mystery)

by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Book Review by Heather Oakley

This is my second review of a Nathan Dylan Goodwin book. The first review was about his book in the Venator Cold Case series entitled The Hollywood Strangler. That book used mostly DNA results to solve a mystery. The Hop-Picker Murders is about a forensic genealogist using a deceased person's journal to eventually solve the murders. I found this book interesting for numerous reasons. First, the book told the story of forensic genealogist Morton Farrier using various sources at various locations (not all online!) to find out more about the events described in the journal. Second, as a genealogist, I was able to follow along in his research steps, finding out what sources he used, why he used those sources, and how he accessed those sources. This story is based in the east end of London and the hop gardens in Kent. Through the journal that started the research, the writer gives us details about the early 20th century, many about seasonal hop-pickers in Kent as well as life in the east end of London. Thirdly, the title character was researching people living in the 20th century which is a period not many of us explore unless we are looking for extended family members. As genealogists we tend to be more focused on the 19th century and earlier, so this was a bit of a learning experience for me. Maybe for you too? Finally, like any good book, there were other story lines besides the murders in the title. The main character earns a living doing genealogical research and someone was using his name, with him ending up with a punch in the face! Added another dimension to the story.

Overall, I enjoyed the story, the research steps, and the characters. The book ended with a satisfactory

conclusion and to me, a desire to read more about the main character Morton Farrier. Hopefully, my public library will have his books. If you see any books by Nathan Dylan Goodwin, I recommend picking one up!



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AI for Genealogists by Natalie Webb

Book review by Art Taylor

The content appears to be accurate as of the date of writing, although most AI models have improved in the past few months, with increased capabilities. It is a good introduction to AI for those who have not yet started to use AI for any genealogy projects.

Looking at the Table of Contents, it's quickly apparent that this may have been self-published. A glaring problem – Chapter 12 immediately follows Chapter 10, with no indication of Chapter 11. Although odd numbered pages are on the right-hand pages with even numbered pages on the left, the page numbers are always on the bottom right of the page instead of alternating between the outer left and right edges of the pages. Aside from these signs of limited proof reading, this is a useful book, especially for those just getting started with AI in genealogy.

Topics covered are: a definition of AI; prompts and how to use them; how AI supports common genealogy tasks; AI for writing and editing in genealogy; research planning; data management; translation and paleography; working with images; DNA data interpretation; hallucinations and other errors; AI ethics in genealogy; privacy, copyright, and data concerns; a summary and closing reflections.

Three appendices wrap up the book: A glossary of AI terms; AI Tool Comparison Overview; and Resources and References. A brief author bio follows.

The author offers good explanations of what to use in specific prompts to get the desired information. Each chapter includes a list of what AI can and cannot do in a particular project, followed by some suggested prompts for several expected and desired outputs.

Ethical standards are recommended, as is the need for verification of every “fact” returned.

Each chapter covers from three to nine sub-topics. Some chapters start with information about what AI does well and not so well or can or cannot do. The last two chapters stress ethical considerations and use in genealogy, copyright considerations, and the crucial need to verify everything, confirming the sources provided by the AI model.

It's up to each reader to choose which AI model to use for any specific project, although several models may produce similar results for the same prompt. Experimentation with the same prompt in several different models is a good way to learn which model works best for you in a given situation. The book is helpful to those just getting involved with AI in genealogy.



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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.



Reminiscing and novel learning promotes neurogenesis and brain plasticity



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Record memories and feelings to describe people, places and more



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

pRT assists family and professionals to engage with loved ones



Prompts assist caregivers to communicate with loved ones



Vivid-Pix.com