

FAMILIES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 65 | NUMBER 2 | MAY 2026



The Osler Farm in Newmarket c. 1969, where the ancient maple tree stood for almost 175 years.

(Photo courtesy of Dean Sprung and enhanced using AI)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rolling Your Genealogy Bones: 12 Chances to Hit a Genealogy Jackpot

Correcting DNA Misconceptions: Loyalist Susannah Lake's Maiden Name

The Origins and Family of Dr. John Sidey: A Pioneer of Bewdley, Hamilton, Ontario

The Family of Isaac Walker of Niagara: Correcting the Record

Left Out of the Story

The Silent Sentinel: A Tale of Lot 29, Concession 2, and Newmarket's Ancient Maple

WHAT'S IN A NAME? The Use of French Canadian Virtue Names

Coral's Corner, Book Reviews, and more!

ISSN 0030-2945

SAVE THE DATE



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The Ontario Genealogical Society
(OGS) will be holding their Annual
General Meeting (AGM) as follows:

Saturday, June 6, 2026

11:00 am EDT on Zoom

Registration and Details

<https://ogs.on.ca>

From the Editor



Heather McTavish
Taylor,
Managing Editor

Happy Spring to everyone! I hope that the weather is getting warmer, the birds are chirping, and the leaves and flowers are starting to bloom, wherever you are located. As for me, I travelled up to my seasonal cottage on Doe Lake to open it up for the summer. This will be the last summer for my family and this cottage, as we have decided to move on from boat access, and get an all-season, drive-up cottage. While we are sad to let this cottage go after twenty-two years, we know we can take all of the wonderful memories with us, and create some new ones, across the lake.

I was feeling nostalgic the other day when I thought about the fact that I have been cottaging for my entire life. I started going up to our family cottage on Lake Wahwashkesh when I was a baby. The cottage was on an island which was aptly named “Scroggie’s Island” after my great-grandparents. My great-grandmother had purchased the land from an American nursing friend she had made during WWI. I decided to research that cottage property to see if I could gain any new insights about my family. I tried a full-text search on FamilySearch, but so far have come up empty-handed. Since the island is still owned by my uncle and my first cousin once removed, I will be reaching out directly to see if I can gather any more information to help narrow my search.

I then tried to find my new cottage property in the land records, and this time, I did have luck! Turns out that the current owner has owned this land since 1980; she purchased it then for only \$13,000. While I was looking through the land records for the area, I was surprised to see some familiar surnames peppered throughout the records. Specifically, I came across the names of some

of my own ancestors. One, who I had lost in other records, was shown clearly as living in the area – seemingly “off-grid”. This finding has sent me down a rabbit hole of research and has opened a new area to explore – vacation properties. Did your ancestor own a second piece of property? Did they spend their summers outside of the city at a lake or their winter weekends at a ski hill? How did they use their vacation time? Luckily, full-text searches and other AI-assisted research can help us look at a higher level to see if we can find any additional information about our ancestors. I hope that you will write to me and share your findings, I would love to hear your stories!

This issue of *Families* is a particularly full one. I am happy to be able to publish the first two (of six) articles from the 2025 Keffer Essay Competition. One of our regular contributors, Drew von Hasselbach, took first place with his essay correcting the records for Isaac Walker’s children. Andrea Lister’s second place essay about her ancestor Mehitabel Street, demonstrates how often women were left out of the stories, but can still be found. Robb Gorr returns with a great article about ways that you can try some new techniques in your research to help you break through any brick walls. We also have a technical article about using chromosome-level DNA comparisons to help identify family relationships, by Craig Kanalley and Wesley Johnson. Jared Nathan has also submitted an article about one of his ancestors who was a pioneer in Bewdley, Ontario. Lastly, author Dean Sprung has penned his first genealogy-related article about the life and times of a tree in Newmarket, in *Silent Sentinel*. Of course, we also have book reviews from Heather Oakley and Art Taylor; a new instalment to the “What’s in a Name” segment by Robbie Gorr; a letter to the editor from member Nick Koutrouboussis; and finally, Coral’s Corner. As always, I really do hope that you enjoy reading this edition!

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

Heather 

FAMILIES

Table of Contents

Volume 65 | Number 2 | May 2026

<i>Rolling Your Genealogy Bones: 12 Chances to Hit a Genealogy Jackpot</i> Robbie Gorr.....	5
<i>Correcting DNA Misconceptions: Loyalist Susannah Lake's Maiden Name</i> Craig Kanalley and Wesley Johnston.....	9
<i>The Origins and Family of Dr. John Sidey: A Pioneer of Bewdley, Hamilton, Ontario</i> Jared James Nathan.....	23
<i>The Family of Isaac Walker of Niagara: Correcting the Record - Keffer Essay Contest 1st Place</i> Drew von Hasselbach.....	35
<i>Left Out of the Story - Keffer Essay Contest 2nd Place</i> Andrea Lister.....	41
<i>The Silent Sentinel: A Tale of Lot 29, Concession 2, and Newmarket's Ancient Maple</i> Dean Sprung.....	46
<i>WHAT'S IN A NAME? The Use of French Canadian Virtue Names</i> Robbie Gorr.....	51
<i>Coral's Corner</i> Coral Harkies.....	53
<i>Book Review: Planning a Future for Your Family's Past (Second Edition) by Marian Burk Wood</i> Heather Oakley.....	55
<i>Book Review: SENIOR CYBER – Best Security Practices for Your Golden Years by Scott N. Schober with Craig W. Schober</i> Art Taylor.....	56



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The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) was founded to collect genealogical and historical data, to assist members in their genealogical research, and to issue genealogical publications, especially relating to Ontario. It was organized in 1961, and received its Ontario Charter in 1967. Membership is for twelve months. There is no initiation fee. 2025 annual dues are \$63. This provides digital copies of *Families* to each household, and notice of all general meetings and conferences.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I greatly enjoyed the humour in Robbie Gorr's article entitled "*The Original Baby Name Book: The Bible*" (printed in *Families*, Volume 64, November 2025).

One sentence in his article actually resolved a mystery that has long plagued me. He says "In the book of Daniel, we are introduced to his three prison mates Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego which made excellent choices for triplets or even all for one like Shadrack Meseck Abednego Findley (1873, York) and Shadrack Meshach Abednego Wismer (1879, Huron)."

In 2002, episode 5 of season 2 of the show *Trailer Park Boys*, came out and was titled "The Bible Pimp". In that particular episode, Hampton (the titular con-artist) states, "Just as Jesus travelled from Shadrach to Meshach to Abednego, we travel from trailer park to trailer park spreading the good news."

Here is a clip:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcTHoE_7R9E.

(Editor's note: viewers caution for potentially inappropriate language).

I KNEW there was a joke hidden in there. Thank you for resolving the mystery!

Sincerely,

Nick Koutrouboussis
Mississauga, Ontario



PAGES
1 to 8

DUNNVILLE CHRONICLE

"For the Cause that Lacks Assistance—Against the Wrongs that need Resistance—For the Future in the Distance—And the Good that We Can Do."

FIRST
SECTION

The Dunnville Chronicle

Final Release

Latest years released:

2000 - 2008

of its new chancel and furnishings. Thus a vision which the congregation has set before itself, and for which it has been gathering funds for about seven years, begins to take tangible form. While the chancel has been a project of the church as a whole, a number of the furnishings are being given as memorials. Visitors will be cordially welcomed at this service of

Visit the
Haldimand-Norfolk Resources Page

A small map of Dunnville, Ontario, showing the intersection of various streets including Queen St, Centre St, and others.

🎲🎲 ROLLING YOUR GENEALOGY BONES

12 Chances to Hit a Genealogy Jackpot

Robbie Gorr

Robbie Gorr is an amateur genealogist and historian who continues to enjoy the thrill of the search and the exhilaration of discovery and, of course, writing about his experiences. He knows the value of taking a chance and rolling the dice and has hit the lucky jackpot on more than one occasion.

Roll dem bones! That's the slang expression meaning to roll the dice and take a chance. It comes from the fact that dice were once made from real bones – animal rather than human, usually. But in genealogical terms it means to take a chance with your family history investigations. We all come to a point in our research where we seem to have run up against a dead end or just stalled out and are unsure how to proceed. However, there are things you can do to change your luck, make something happen and become a high roller with your research once again. It may be a crapshoot but the key is to be willing to double down and roll those bones if you want to hit a genealogy jackpot.



Photo by Untitled blue on Creative Commons

There are twelve simple ways that can provide you with opportunities to take a chance with your family research. It's not a game of skill or expertise, but rather, it's a strategy to create your own luck by informing others about what you are looking for and how they can help and what you can do to help yourself. It really is

an attempt to initiate some action, increase your odds and get your research back on a winning streak.

• **Write a letter or send an email.** It may be one of the simplest things to do and the easiest chance to take; just reach out to someone in the hope of uncovering some new information and sparking a new inquiry. Write to a relative with some questions you have. Email a library or museum to see if there is something among their resources that could help your research. Send a flurry of form letters or questionnaires (including stamped self-addressed envelopes for convenience) to people of the same surname whose addresses you found in a directory for your ancestral hometown to see how people are related and who may know something of the family history. Approaching others and asking for answers or assistance is an easy first step to start shaking things up. Who knows what your first roll of the die will reveal?

• • **Make a phone or video call.** Making a telephone call, or even a video call, is one more way to reach out to family - extended or otherwise, friends and strangers without ever leaving the comfort of your home. Like making contact by mail or email, this method of contact is much more personal and direct (and harder for your recipient to ignore). Have your list of questions ready to go and be prepared to write down responses and take notes to follow up because you will definitely get some answers and information. No snake eyes for you!

 **Post a query.** Why not post a query, or several, asking for information or assistance with one of your lines of research interest? There are many outlets for your outreach including online family history blogs and forums, message boards and genealogy websites and don't forget the newsletters of genealogical societies and research groups that will publish your queries and questions. You may be surprised by the responses because you never know who may read your posting, now or in the future, and reply with some information or direction that could re-energize or redirect your research. Throwing a three is not called "rolling a shocker" for nothing, especially when you receive an unexpected reply.

 **Pay a visit.** You can really double up on this roll of the dice. Not only do you get to visit and reconnect with relatives and family members but you can interview them about their family knowledge and stories as well as see any family memorabilia and photographs that they may possess. That's two for two! Don't forget to bring your camera or recording device and a notepad.

 **Take a trip.** There is always someplace to see and somewhere to be if you are a genealogist. Whether your expedition might be to a family homestead or a church, a monument or historical memorial, or a library, museum or archives, you can check out the local resources and original sources for yourself firsthand. You can travel on your own, do a "drop-by stop" on a family trip or include the whole household and make it a family vacation destination. Whether it's local, somewhere farther or even abroad, a genealogy-related trip is always a sure bet.

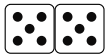
 **Go to a cemetery.** A visit to a cemetery or churchyard with connections to your family may be just the trick to discover something new. Photographing family memorial monuments will add to your personal archives of collectibles and keepsakes. But be sure to pay attention to any carved symbols, verses and tombstone maker marks on the memorial as well as any

possible connection to the surrounding burials for additional clues to follow, one of which just might be the breakthrough you've been waiting for. The dice are always loaded when you visit a cemetery

 **Visit a local museum or archives.** Roll a lucky seven with a visit to a local museum or archives. You never know what you might find on a tour or who you might meet. Some unexpected display or record or even a chance encounter with a knowledgeable person could provide a new avenue of research. You might also consider making a donation of your own family heirlooms or setting up a temporary display of family memorabilia that might solicit some unexpected assistance from other interested visitors to the institution.

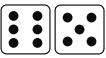
 **Read a local history book.** Published sources are an often-overlooked resource of family history research and local history books, published privately or in limited numbers, may seem like a risky bet but might turn out to be a lucky throw. Look for them in local libraries and archives as well as used book sites online. Even if you can't find a reference to a particular ancestor or your family, perhaps there will be information to inform you about the place where they lived and how they lived their lives. It's a possible win-win scenario.

 **Join online social media interest groups.** Joining online social media interest groups or participating in blogs, podcasts and webinars is a way to connect you to a wider range of ideas, theories and outlooks, broadening your understanding and perspective of genealogy and family history. Specifically focused groups may even provide valuable tips and useful advice to continue your particular research. Should you be unable to find exactly the assistance you need, you might even consider starting your own blog or focus group with interests particular to your own research that would attract other like-minded researchers. That's how you throw the dice to win.



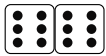
Contribute to a genealogy group.

Volunteering with a local genealogical society, a local history group, at a museum or an archive would expose you to new resources, research materials and technology and allow you to make connections among people who, like yourself, have similar interests and goals. This could present some unexpected new experiences and opportunities that might enhance your own research possibilities. And don't forget to take advantage of a group's services by adding your research needs to their lists of names or subjects of interest being researched, posting queries in the group newsletter and sharing your research at meetings. Make sure that when you roll, you roll to win!



Publish something.

In order to move your family research forward, it may be of value to make your family and the genealogical work you have done so far known to a wider audience. You could create a family newsletter or organize a family reunion to maintain existing contacts and form some new relationships. You might also consider publishing your family history in a printed format. You might be surprised by the information, photos and documentation that will come your way once family members see and appreciate what you have done so far. And, after updating your original work and including any new research, a second version or sequel could always be produced. The plan is to shake things up and get your name out there as a high roller and a winner.



Go public with your family tree and your DNA.

Double sixes are a two-for-one sure shot. Consider uploading your family tree to a website where it would be searchable by many others who might be able to correct or add to the information you have included. It will also bring you into contact with others working on similar or connected family lines. These new contacts could become useful research partnerships or profitable exchange alliances. And taking a DNA test, or even several with different companies, will make your family genes available for comparison to many others. It could expand your research into distant

collateral branches of the family or even reveal previously unknown family connections as you contact and share with multiple cousin matches provided to you. You may even solve one or two of your research roadblocks with the possibilities you discover through DNA correlation.

Rolling the dice and taking these twelve chances might produce a fast win with immediate results or it may not. Your posts, messages and contacts might not generate a response for months or even years. But at least you will know that you have made your best throw and are set to play the long game, if necessary, because these efforts may have left you with a future's bet for the eventual win.



Photo by Stratosphere Hotel & Casino on Creative Commons.

Just sitting on your road block and watching your dead end while you wait for something to happen is playing the lowest possible odds. If you want to change your luck you need to put yourself out there, roll those bones, throw the dice, play some genealogical craps and take a

chance. Would you pass up the opportunity that someone or something, somewhere, sometime could reveal a potential jackpot of information that would make your efforts pay off? Maybe it's time for you to get rolling!



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Correcting DNA Misconceptions: Loyalist Susannah Lake's Maiden Name

Craig Kanalley and Wesley Johnston [1]

Abstract

This study uses genetic genealogy, traditional records and the Genealogical Proof Standard to identify the maiden name of Susannah, wife of Loyalist Christopher Lake, as “Cousins,” based on autosomal DNA (aDNA) triangulation among dozens of descendants plus Canadian Loyalist records, church and government archival records, census data, and the Loyalist Lake Family DNA project. The research demonstrates that, contrary to common misconceptions, aDNA can be used to verify relationships in the 1700s, even in colonial America, if many descendants join in a focused group project. The limitations of aDNA that hold true for two random testers do not hold true when large numbers of testers from the same ancestors join in a well-focused group project. The paper includes a methodology for future studies. While direct documentary proof is missing, the convergence of DNA, migration patterns, naming patterns, documents and intermarriages provides strong evidence for Susannah's parentage, meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard.

Loyalists Christopher and Susannah Lake

Christopher Lake, in the Queens Loyal Rangers, fought at the battles of Bennington and Saratoga. He survived the first but, along with his brothers, was captured 7 October 1777 at the second. [2] While the rest of the family had gone to Ernestown in Canada, Christopher and his wife Susannah held on for several years in New York. They ultimately lost their property and joined the family in Canada in 1795 and petitioned for land as Loyalists. Christopher and Susannah married in New York in the late 1770s, based on the births of their children. No marriage record has yet been found.

What is Known of Christopher

Christopher and his Lake family are well-documented. Here are key documented events.

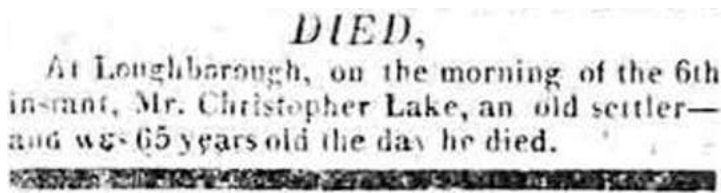
- 1755-May 18: Christopher is baptized at Six Mile Run Dutch Reformed Church in Somerset County, New Jersey, the son of John and Margaret (Snyder) Lake. [3]
- 1761-November 21: King George III grants patent of 5,000 acres in Albany County, New York, to Arent Van Corlaer, Nicholas Lake Junior, James

Lake, Thomas Lake and John Lake (Christopher's father). [4] Most of the family, then living in New Jersey, move to the granted land and engage in the fur trade.

- 1776-October: Christopher's father John Lake is taken prisoner and “carried to Cambridge”, New York, by rebel militia and compelled to take an oath against the King and pay a bond to restrict him “to lye still”. [5]
- 1777: Christopher, in the Queens Loyal Rangers, fights in the Battle of Bennington (16 August) and is captured (7 October) in the second battle of Saratoga. [6]
- 1787-February: Christopher's sister Mary's husband James Parrot who has been in Canada for years brings Christopher's parents, brother John Lake and sister Elizabeth, widow of John Hogle killed at the Battle of Bennington to Canada. [7] All the family petitions for and are granted land as Loyalists over the following decades.
- 1795: Christopher's 3 February 1807 land petition states he has “resided in this Province since the year 1795” which is when he joined his family in

Canada. [8]

- 1820-April 6: Christopher's dies. The Kingston Chronicle (7 April) [9]



Death notice for Christopher Lake from The Kingston Chronicle

What is Known of Susannah

Far less is known about Susannah. She was born about 1755-1760 and died between 1797 and 1807. Christopher's 1797 land petition refers to "wife and 3 children" (after the other children married or moved out). But his 1807 petition seeks compensation for "family", noting "Your petitioner's family consists of Seven children, the youngest being now of the Age of Sixteen Years" and makes no mention of his wife. [10]

Russ Waller's *United Empire Loyalists* (volume 2, Lennox and Addington) shows Christopher's wife as "Susan". No primary source has yet been found identifying her maiden name. Three of Christopher and Susannah's children (Elizabeth, Mary, Aaron) had a daughter Susannah, and one of their children (John) had a daughter Susan. Three children had a son named Christopher.

Children of Christopher and Susannah

Christopher and Susannah had seven known children. His 1807 land petition, noted above, says he has seven children, with the youngest being 16 years old (thus born about 1791). The 1790 United States Census of the Hoosick District of Albany County, New York, shows one male aged 16 or older, two males under age 16 and three females. There should be five females (his wife and four daughters) and not three, so that maybe two daughters were not home at the time, living with relatives or as servants in other households. [11]

Is it possible Christopher married more than once? Their second youngest child Aaron had a daughter named Susannah, as did the eldest two children

Elizabeth and Mary. So, it does seem likely that Christopher's only wife was Susannah. The seven children, ordered by birth estimates, are all verified by Ontario land records. [12]

1. **Elizabeth Lake, born c1779** m. Daniel WALKER
2. **Mary Lake, born c1780** m1. Peter FRIEL, m2. Luke BARRETT
3. **John Lake, born c1782** m. Mary LAUGHLIN
4. **Sarah Lake, born c1784** m. James WARD
5. **Hannah Lake, born c1785** m. Francis TEEPELL
6. **Aaron Lake, born c1788** m. Elizabeth KELLER
7. **Henrietta Lake, born c1791** m1. George WOOD, m2. Henry WOOD

The Search for Christopher and Susannah's DNA

In this initial study in 2020-2021, over 200 direct descendants of Christopher and Susannah had DNA-tested, with 59 kits uploaded to GEDmatch for deep analysis. All seven children were represented by these testers. They matched each other on DNA as expected, confirming the seven children found in traditional records. When tested descendants of multiple children match on the same DNA region, that region is likely Christopher and Susannah's DNA.

Two of the descendants on GEDmatch went back to Christopher and Susannah twice in their trees (pedigree collapse). The testers include 38 descendants of siblings of Christopher Lake, with 14 on GEDmatch for whom Christopher's parents John Lake and Margaret Snyder are the common ancestors. Seven testers descend from Christopher's Aunts and Uncles, with three on GEDmatch for whom John Lake's parents Nicholas Lake and Mary Janszen are the common ancestors.

These all help identify DNA regions handed down from Christopher. Here are the number of DNA testers confirmed to descend from each of Christopher and Susannah's children.

- **Elizabeth Lake WALKER** - 18 descendants via three children (John, Joshua, Susannah) - five on GEDmatch

- **Mary Lake FRIEL BARRETT** - 59 descendants via six children (Margaret, Susannah, John, Aaron, Jesse, Lyman) - 20 on GEDmatch
- **John Lake** - 33 descendants via six children (Nathaniel, Alexander, Susan, Mary Jane, Sarah, John) - three on GEDmatch
- **Sarah Lake WARD** - 51 descendants via five children (Mary, William, Christopher, Norton, James) - 18 on GEDmatch
- **Hannah Lake TEEPELL** - 15 descendants via four children (John, William, George, Sarah Ann) - four on GEDmatch
- **Aaron Lake** - 16 descendants via seven children (Christopher, William, Clarissa, James, Stephen, Sarah, Moses) - four on GEDmatch
- **Henrietta Lake WOOD** - nine descendants via three children (John, Isaac, Sarah) - five on GEDmatch

Those closest in generations to Christopher and Susannah provide the largest surviving regions of their DNA. These testers include a 3rd great-granddaughter of Christopher and Susannah through son Aaron (on GEDmatch) and a 3rd great-granddaughter through daughter Hannah (not on GEDmatch). There are 55 4th great-grandchildren, with at least one for each of the seven children (17 on GEDmatch) which includes both testers who go back to them twice - they are 4th great-grandchildren in two ways. There are 109 5th great-grandchildren, with at least one through each of the seven children (25 on GEDmatch). The remaining 35 testers are 6th great-grandchildren or greater, reducing the usefulness of their DNA to identify DNA from Christopher and Susannah.

How do we keep track of them all?

A master spreadsheet includes each DNA tester's, with GEDmatch kit numbers where applicable. The image shows (with living people omitted) part of the spreadsheet.

Sylvester Moore	= John Moore	= Susannah Friel	= Mary Lake	= Christopher Lake
Andrew Moore	= John Moore	= Susannah Friel	= Mary Lake	= Christopher Lake
Sydney Chapman	= Mary Jane Friel	= John Friel	= Mary Lake	= Christopher Lake
Nancy Hart	= Harriet Friel	= John Friel	= Mary Lake	= Christopher Lake

Part of the master spreadsheet of DNA testers

Family Photos: What They Looked Like

There are no photos of Christopher and Susannah. There are photos of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, giving us an idea of facial features in the family.

• Grandchildren of Christopher and Susannah Lake



• Great-Grandchildren of Christopher and Susannah Lake



Triangulations – Christopher and Susannah DNA

Analysis of the DNA regions in the data reveals multiple shared regions of sufficiently significant size between descendants of Christopher and Susannah. While the regions back that far were not large, the study was able to identify the following 27 regions, which in most cases are greater than 20 cM (centiMorgans), a key threshold for genetic analysis:

FORMAT

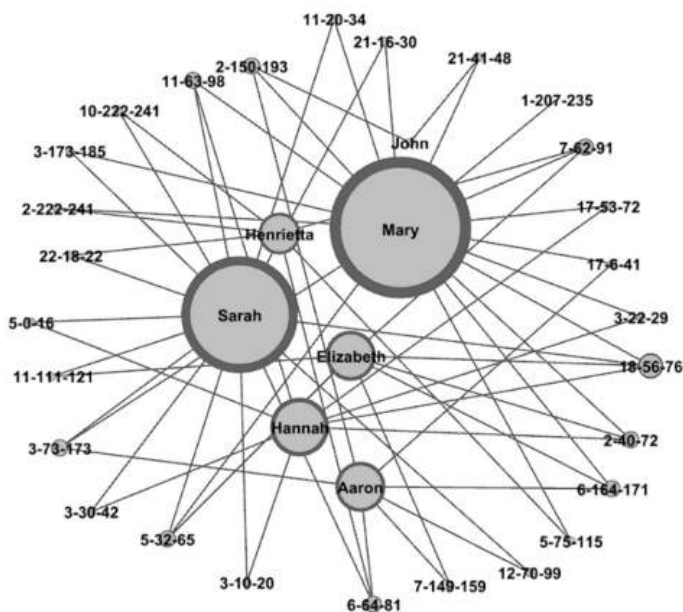
Chromosome # Start-End Points When multiple C&S descendants inherited, which children they descend of	Chr. 1 207-235 Mary*	Chr. 2 40-72 Elizabeth, Mary, Hannah	Chr. 2 150-193 Mary, John, Aaron	Chr. 2 222-241 Mary, Henrietta	Chr. 3 10-20 Sarah, Hannah	Chr. 3 22-29 Mary, Hannah
Chr. 3 30-42 Sarah, Hannah	Chr. 3 73-173 Mary, Sarah, Aaron	Chr. 3 173-185 Mary, Sarah	Chr. 5 0-16 Sarah, Hannah	Chr. 5 32-65 Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah	Chr. 5 75-115 Mary, Henrietta	Chr. 6 64-81 Sarah, Aaron, Henrietta

*inherited by descendants of Mary Lake's 1st AND 2nd husbands, increasing likelihood of C&S DNA

FORMAT

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This network graph shows the same information, with the triangulated shared regions around the outside and the children in the center. Node size is determined by the number of nodes of the other type to which they connect.

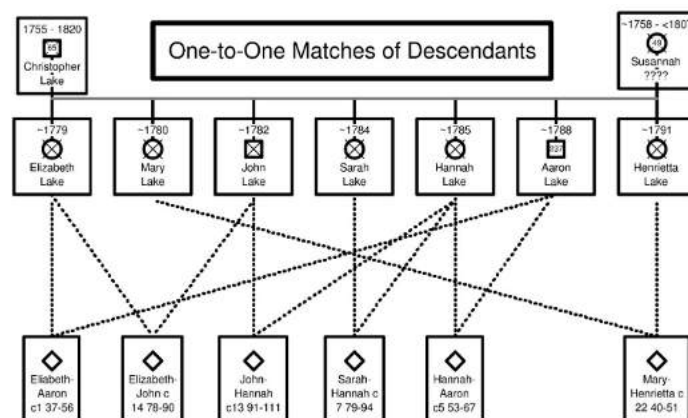


CAUTION! Just because there is triangulation involving multiple children of Christopher and Susannah and their descendants, does that mean it is definitely DNA from Christopher or Susannah? No, but it is highly likely, especially at these centiMorgan levels, and at the very least these regions of triangulation are worth exploring in efforts to identify DNA from Christopher and Susannah. Issues might include endogamy, pedigree collapse, and being related in more than one way. A careful examination of pedigrees and other matches on these regions was necessary, and that examination was made.

The triangulations shown here involve multiple grandchildren of Christopher and Susannah in every case, increasing the odds of these identified shared DNA regions being DNA from Christopher and Susannah. These are the most significant region sizes, discounting small shared regions (which present their own challenges) which may be useful later.

One-to-One Matches: Christopher and Susannah DNA

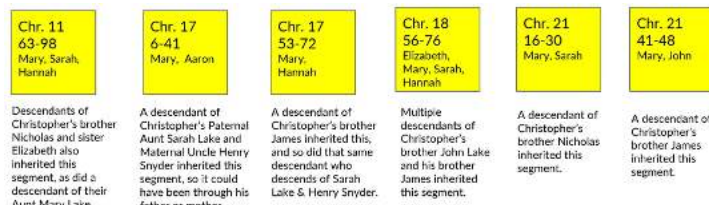
There are one-to-one matches worth further exploration, but we focused on triangulations which increase the odds of identifying Christopher and Susannah's DNA. The one-to-one matches are shown in the chart, with "c1" meaning chromosome 1 and the starting and ending locations given on the matching chromosome.



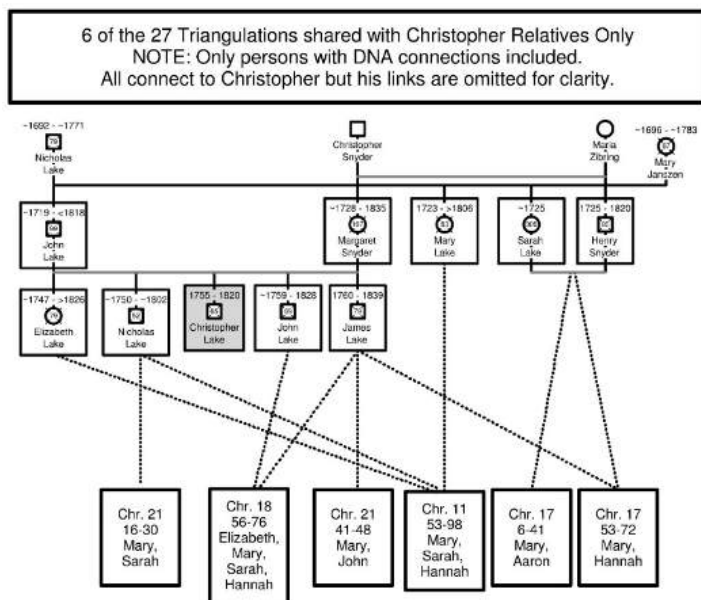
There are many other instances of this, plus countless smaller regions omitted here. Small regions present unique challenges in terms of the likelihood they are IBD (identical by descent), that they are indeed Christopher and Susannah DNA and that they are not false positives. As a result, the study focuses on the larger triangulated regions.

Triangulations - Christopher DNA

As noted above, descendants of Christopher's siblings, aunts and uncles have DNA-tested. Some of them inherited these same triangulated regions, giving high confidence they were inherited from Christopher. Six of the 27 regions shared above fall in this category.



The chart shows the connection of the family members to the triangulations that we can now say are Christopher's and not Susannah's DNA.



A Family of Loyalists

John Lake and Margaret Snyder and all their children suffered confiscation of their land and fled to Canada after the Revolution and settled in Ernestown Township. Sons Nicholas, Christopher and James saw combat in the Queen's Loyal Rangers at the Battles of Bennington (16 August 1777) and Bemis Heights (7 October 1777) where they were all captured. Daughter Elizabeth's husband John Hogle and son Nicholas' wife Rhoda Broadwell's relative Richard Broadwell were both killed at the Battle of Bennington. All served in the company originally formed and commanded by daughter Mary's husband James Parrot. They formed the cadre for that company, the first members.

Triangulations – The Cousins Family

Let's get to know the Cousins family. Christopher Lake's family tree is well traced, from Long Island to New Jersey to New York. The Cousins family's names and locations differ completely. There is no overlap between the Lake and Cousins families.

The Cousins family originated in Wiltshire, England. They settled in Massachusetts. In the mid-1700s, some family members migrated to New Fairfield, Connecticut. Unfortunately, most of the New Fairfield, Connecticut records have burned.

But from there, they did something of interest to us. They settled along what later became the Vermont/New York border. Christopher Lake lived near White Creek, New York, very near the Vermont border. As we will see below, Susannah was the probable sister of Laban Cousins. The Revolutionary War pension file of Patience (Chase) Page includes Laban Cousins' affidavit of his own life and war service. He was born 7 July 1761 in New Fairfield, Connecticut. About age 7 (c1768), his father moved the family to Bennington. If Susannah was Laban Cousins' sister, she arrived in the area about 1768. Since her first known child, Elizabeth Lake, was born about 1779, Laban's statement fits with Susannah being near the Lake-Corlaer land patent where Christopher Lake lived. [13]

Here's where it gets really interesting. Multiple Cousins family descendants match the Christopher and Susannah Lake descendants on triangulated regions of DNA identified as those of Christopher and Susannah. The Cousins family doesn't overlap Christopher's. Thus, it must be DNA from Susannah that is matching the Cousins family descendants.

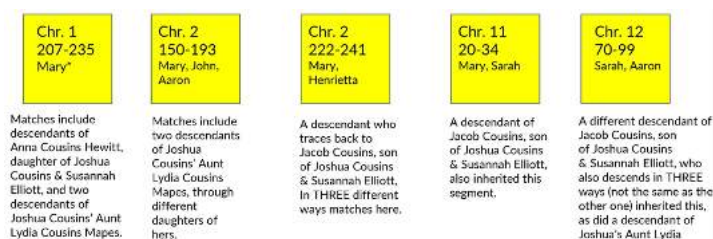
Here are those regions identified as likely Christopher and Susannah DNA that matches up with Cousins family descendants and are thus likely Susannah's DNA:

Chr. 1 207-235 Mary*	Chr. 2 150-193 Mary, John, Aaron	Chr. 2 222-241 Mary, Henrietta	Chr. 11 20-34 Mary, Sarah	Chr. 12 70-99 Sarah, Aaron
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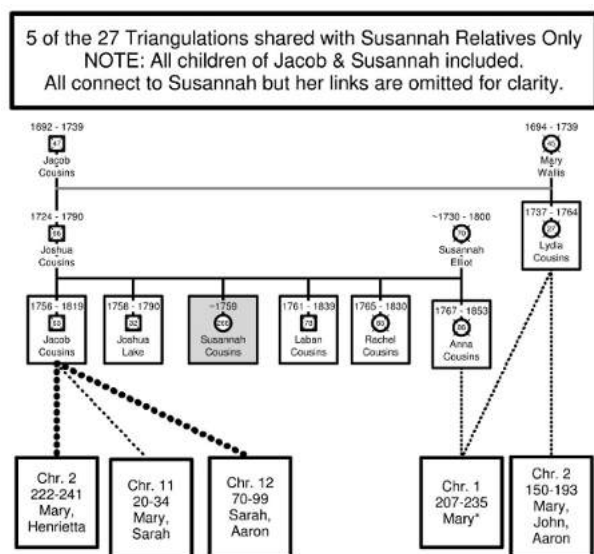
*inherited by descendants of Mary Lake's 1st AND 2nd husbands, increasing likelihood of C&S DNA

Not all Cousins descendants who match us are on GEDmatch, where we can compare region data. For the nine on GEDmatch, six descend from a couple, Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott, who were of the right age, generation and geographic location to be Susannah's parents. They brought their family from Connecticut to the Vermont/New York border about 1768.

Here is a closer look at each region and which Cousins family members match Christopher and Susannah's descendants.

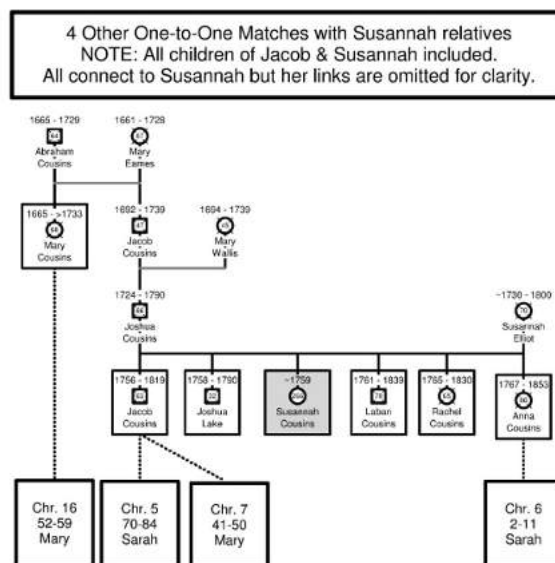
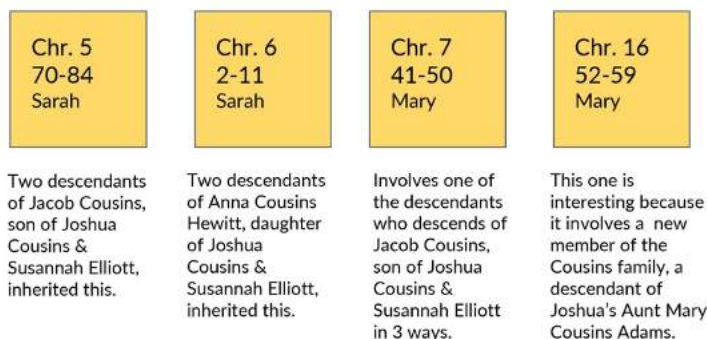


*inherited by descendants of Mary Lake's 1st AND 2nd husbands, increasing likelihood of C&S DNA



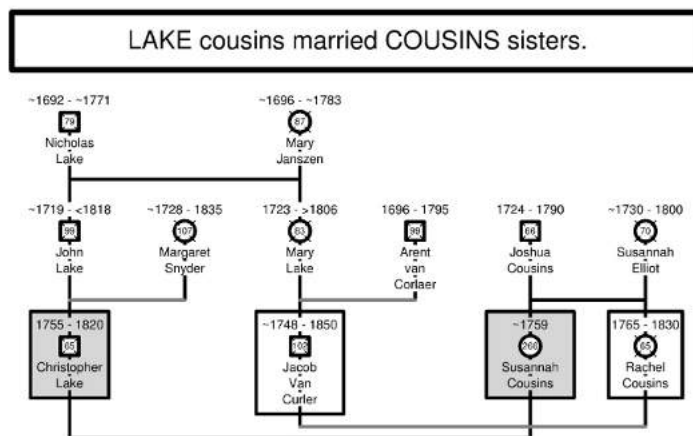
Other Matches to the Cousins Family

There are a few additional matches of DNA regions to the Cousins family, regions NOT referred to previously because they involve only one child of Christopher and Susannah and not triangulations of multiple children. But given that the DNA results have pointed us to the Cousins family, these are now worth examining.



A Known Cousins-Lake Family Link

As noted, the Cousins and Lake families lived very near each other along what became the New York-Vermont border. There is at least one Cousins family link to the Lake family, thinly supported via traditional records. Christopher Lake's 1st cousin Jacob Van Curler married Rachel Cousins, daughter of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott. [14] Jacob and Rachel lived in Dorset, Vermont, about 30 miles from White Creek, New York.



We can expect that there are Jacob and Rachel descendants who would match Christopher and Susannah descendants, but none of Jacob and Rachel's descendants we know of are on GEDmatch so far. This does NOT prove anything about the DNA regions just discussed above. It does support geographic proximity, that the families knew each other, and Christopher may have

married a relative – possibly a sister – of his 1st cousin's wife.

Aaron and Sarah Van Curler of White Creek, NY

That brings us to Aaron and Sarah (Barret?) Van Curler. Aaron was the son of Christopher's Aunt Mary Lake and Aaron/Arendt van Curler/Corlaer and thus another 1st cousin of Christopher. Aaron and Sarah were contemporaries of Christopher and Susannah. They lived nearby and were about the same age.

Remember that Christopher and Susannah's children included Sarah and Aaron. Aaron and Sarah Van Curler's first daughter was Susannah. The given names resonate between the two families, giving evidence of a close connection between them.

Aaron and Sarah's descendants also DNA-match to Christopher and Susannah's descendants, but most of their descendants are not on GEDmatch. While it could be Lake DNA for those matches, through the fathers, it's possible Sarah was related to Susannah in a yet unknown way. One Sarah and Aaron descendant on GEDmatch appears to triangulate on the chromosome 2 (222-241) region shared with the Cousins descendant. Most trees list Sarah's maiden name as Barnhart (also Barrett/Barret) with no evidence. Sarah could be a sister or cousin of Susannah.

The Page-Cousins Connection

There is a family undoubtedly tied to both the Cousins family and to Christopher and Susannah's descendants via DNA: the Page family. This centers around the chromosome 1 triangulation that descendants of Mary Lake, daughter of Christopher and Susannah Lake, inherited.



We identified this above as Susannah's DNA. But let's look at that asterisk for Mary. It tells us that she triangulates on this region of DNA through her children by both her first husband Peter Friel and her second Luke Barrett. Those descendants share this triangulation, making it more likely to be Christopher and Susannah DNA. And since it triangulates with the Cousins family, through a daughter (Anna) of Joshua Cousins and his Aunt Lydia, it is highly likely Susannah's DNA.

Descendants of the Page family also inherited this DNA region. They are not just any Page descendants. Among them are descendants of a Loyalist Page woman who settled just outside of Kingston, Ontario, near where Christopher and Susannah settled. But let's back up a second and come back to that.

The Page family originated in England and settled in Massachusetts. One branch of the family carried on to New Fairfield, Connecticut, and then to the Vermont/New York border. If this sounds familiar, it is because it is the same migration path as the Cousins family. Here are important Cousins-Page links with traditional records:

- a land transaction dated 5 May 1779 in Dorset, Vermont from Joshua Cousins to Jonathan Page; [15]
- the 1790 Joshua Cousins Jr. intestate probate record includes Jonathan Page, Jacob Van Curler (m. Rachel Cousins) and Barnabus Hewet (m. Anna Cousins) as creditors; [16]
- the Pension Papers for Patience (Chase) Page that include an affidavit from Laban Cousins (son of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott) that states that he knew Patience's husband Jonathan Page "since he was young". [17] Patience was born in the Hoosick District of Albany County, New York, which included part of the 1761 Lake-Van Corlaer patent. The 1779 Hoosick tax list shows her father Nathan Chase and other Chase family members at the time Christopher and Susannah Lake lived very nearby. [18]

So, the Page family and Cousins family were close in several ways. They knew each other. They travelled the same migration path. And there is DNA evidence that they are related. For that chromosome 1 DNA region shared by descendants of Mary Lake, and by descendants of Joshua Cousins' daughter Anna and his Aunt Lydia Cousins Mapes, the following Page descendants also inherited this region:

- Descendant of Jonathan Page (b.1752) (who married Patience Chase, whose pension papers mentioned Laban Cousins) through grandson Jedediah Page.
- Multiple descendants of Parthenia Page (b. c1770 VT) who married Lazarus Spooner and settled in the Kingston, Upper Canada area, as did Christopher and Susannah Lake. Some grandkids of the two families were neighbours in Storrington Township.
- Descendant of a Tully Page (b.1816 NY) whose parents are unknown.

It's not yet clear how they connect, but the Page and Cousins families must be kin. The maiden name of the mother of Jonathan Page (b.1752) is not known. Might it be Cousins? We do not know. The link could also be further back. It is worth noting that only on the chromosome 1 region was this link to the Page family found.

The Hope of Mitochondrial DNA

While this study has focused on autosomal DNA, we do have a fully sequenced mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test from a matrilineal descendant of Susannah through her daughter Mary Lake. Family Tree DNA assigns the tester to mtDNA haplogroup T2b1 which is most common in Western European populations. [19]

That doesn't tell us too much. The test has no exact full-sequence matches but has a small number of genetic distance 1 matches, most of whom report English or Scandinavian maternal origins. The time to

most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) predates the eighteenth century by over one thousand years, too early for a genealogical connection.

Correcting the autosomal DNA Misconceptions

This study dispels two misconceptions about autosomal DNA. Both are correct in some circumstances. The problem with them is when they are turned into universal "truths."

The Colonial Marriage Pool Misconception

This misconception is that the colonial marriage pool was so localized and restricted that modern descendants of colonial ancestors are related to everyone else who descends from colonial ancestors. This was true in communities that stayed together over generations. But "colonial America" covers all parts of all colonies. Families that moved every generation or two connected with other families on the move, so that they married spouses unrelated to them. This is precisely the case with Christopher Lake and Susannah Cousins. Their ancestral paths to the place where they met differed greatly, both in geography and in DNA brought to the marriage.

The Only-Recent-Generations Misconception

A child gets half their autosomal DNA from each parent. With each generation, the inherited DNA halves, so that by seven generations back, less than 1% comes from each 5th great grandparent. Cousins via those ancestors inherit similar amounts, but it's unlikely two random cousins share the same DNA, making matches rare that far back.

This reality has led some genetic genealogists to claim it is impossible to use autosomal DNA beyond five to seven generations. For a single individual seeking distant matches, that is often true. And there are real hazards to researching such distant matches. Small amounts of shared DNA can lead to errors such as confirmation bias, jumping to the conclusion that the first potentially shared ancestral line is the only origin leads to not searching the rest of the lines. With only

small amounts of shared DNA, false matches are more likely. Shared DNA can come from ancient populations and not indicate a recent common ancestor.

So, those who say it is impossible to do what we have done in this study have very real and strong points to raise. But what they fail to consider is that, with careful research, robust family trees, and group DNA projects, it is possible.

In focused group projects, many pairs of testers can reveal shared DNA structures that individual testers cannot see. The individual researcher will fail with random matches due to the reality of DNA halving. But statistical reality gives high probability of success with far fewer testers than most people recognize. The statistical reality of the “birthday paradox,” shows that success can be had with far fewer testers than most people expect. [20]

Other Published Studies

The work to do studies such as this one, that bring together DNA tests of many descendants in order to find connections in the 1700s, is very long and time-consuming. Thus, there are few reports of such studies. But they are increasing, showing the power of well-focused autosomal DNA group projects. Three projects illustrate the power of numbers in autosomal DNA projects when properly done with great care for accuracy and avoidance of pitfalls such as those mentioned above.

- 2020-2021: Dr. Tim Janzen M. D. first presented his work on “Tracing Ancestral Lines in the 1700s Using Autosomal DNA” at the February 2020 Institute for Genetic Genealogy Conference in Las Vegas. [21] He gave an updated version in the 2 July 2020 Ontario Genealogical Society’s monthly webinar. [22] Finally, he expanded the presentation to two parts at RootsTech 2021. [23]
- On-going: Martin McDowell and the North of Ireland Family History Society have two townland DNA projects (Ballycarry and Islandmagee) of as many testers as possible whose ancestors lived

there. The Ballycarry project was first. It revealed the maiden names of women in the 1700s and continues to break through walls once thought impossible with autosomal DNA. [24]

- 2025: For the Yates One-Name Study Project, Patricia Hatfield and Ronald Yates did extensive work with more than 300 DNA-tested descendants of four sons of a couple whose children were born in the 1740s to provide overwhelming evidence that a conjectured son born in 1743 was in fact their son. [25]

These studies share key ingredients.

- A large number of tested descendants (from different children) in a well-focused project.
- Careful triangulation of DNA regions and GED-match analysis of the group as a whole.
- Solid documentary genealogy.
- Collaboration with others seeking the same level of careful work.

When many descendants of two suspected families share overlapping autosomal DNA regions on the same chromosomes and documentary evidence and perhaps Y-DNA evidence supports the connection, autosomal DNA can provide extremely strong evidence, even though absolute proof is never possible through autosomal DNA alone.

The Bottom Line on Autosomal DNA

The bottom line is that if you hear or read of someone saying autosomal DNA can only be used for recent generations, you are hearing a misconception being perpetuated. It is a misconception that the work of this and the other studies and studies now in progress yet to be published are slowly but very definitely dispelling.

A Usable Methodology

Toward the possibility that this study’s success may lead others to wish to conduct a similar study, this section summarizes the steps used to do the study.

1. A prerequisite is to each have your own family tree well-researched and well-documented so that it

supports the DNA work to come.

2. The DNA work was only possible because so many testers who descend from the different children of Christopher Lake and Susannah Cousins found each other. This began slowly, using GEDmatch's Tier 1 Segment Search tool for those on GEDmatch and Ancestry's Thru Lines. At about seven testers, it speeded up as many more were found. Collaboration was crucial, which we did via an e-mail discussion group.
3. The first step in the analysis identified triangulations of sufficient size (20 cM) of tested descendants of all seven children of Christopher and Susannah. It is important to note that the study did not rely on comparison of individual test results but instead leveraged the research going forward with the 27 DNA triangulation groups. Thus, it was clear that these were triangulation groups that matched either Christopher or Susannah and not some intervening generation of common ancestors.
4. Once the 27 triangulation groups were established, they could each be used to search for others in GEDmatch who shared that same DNA. This first allowed identification of those groups that had Christopher's DNA. The testers who matched the remaining groups could then be checked against family trees to see if those groups clustered and pointed to any specific family for Susannah – which turned out to be the Cousins family.
5. Once the groups had been identified, one-to-one comparisons of individuals could also be made and a few more shared DNA regions found, but this was only done after using the triangulated groups and was not part of establishing the connection but rather a further exploration once the connection was established.

Evaluation Against the Genealogical Proof Standard

1. Reasonably exhaustive research: This study integrates extensive autosomal DNA analysis of evidence. The breadth of combined historical and

biological evidence satisfies the GPS exhaustive search

2. Complete and accurate citation: The study provides citations for the key documentary, genetic, and contextual sources, maintaining transparency and adherence to the GPS citation standard.
3. Analysis and correlation: The paper correlates genetic data (triangulated segments, shared cM, lineage clustering) with documentary evidence (land petitions, church registers, Loyalist records) and geographic migration patterns. These correlations demonstrate consistent, multi-source validation.
4. Resolution of conflicts: Potential conflicts – such as pedigree collapse, multiple Loyalist Lake lines, or alternative maiden-name hypotheses – are addressed through collateral-line matches, and elimination of alternative explanations using segment-level evidence.
5. Soundly reasoned conclusion: The combined evidence supports the identification of Susannah, wife of Christopher Lake, as a member of the Cousins family, possibly a daughter of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott. Although direct records are missing, the genetic and documentary coherence meets the GPS requirement for a well-supported, reasoned conclusion.

Conclusion / Looking Ahead

The convergence of multiple large autosomal regions shared exclusively between Lake and Cousins descendants – absent in paternal Lake lines – combined with documented intermarriages and parallel migration routes, provides strong evidence that Susannah Lake's maiden name was Cousins.

We provided this paper to ChatGPT to request a confidence assessment. ChatGPT gave this response.

1. Existence and Identity of Christopher Lake and His Parents: High confidence, supported by contemporary baptismal, land, Loyalist claim, and obituary records.

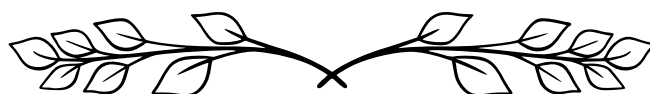
2. Enumeration and Identity of the Seven Children: High confidence, based on Ontario land records, censuses, and consistent naming patterns.
3. Attribution of Six Triangulated Segments to Christopher's Paternal Line: High confidence, given replication among descendants of siblings and Lake aunts/uncles.
4. Existence of a Genetic Connection between Lake and Cousins Descendants via Multiple Triangulated Segments: High confidence, based on segment size, multi-branch triangulation, and consistency with independent Cousins pedigrees.
5. Identification of Susannah as a Member of the Cousins Family: Moderately high confidence (GPS-level proof), contingent on the assumption that alternative explanations (e.g., another, as-yet-unknown family sharing similar migration paths and kin ties) are less parsimonious than a Cousins origin.
6. Specific Identification of Susannah as a daughter of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott: Moderate confidence, supported by segment patterns, geographic and temporal fit, and absence of

competing candidates, but limited by lack of direct documentary naming evidence.

7. Hypothesis of Additional Connections via Sarah (Barnhart?/Barrett?) Van Curler and the Page Family: Low to moderate confidence, best treated as promising avenues for further research rather than established conclusions.

Whether Susannah was definitely a Cousins is probable with moderately high confidence but not proven. DNA, coupled with geography, timeline and available records make a very strong case. The quest continues for having more Christopher and Susannah Lake descendants DNA-tested and on GEDmatch.

This study was done in 2020-2021. Since then, many more descendants of the different branches of the Lake family have done autosomal and Y-DNA tests. And that is probably true of all the families to which the Lake family connect. The work goes on, with a growing number of descendants.





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Endnotes

- [1] Craig Kanalley descends from Christopher and Susannah's daughter Mary Lake. Wesley Johnston descends from their daughter Sarah Lake.
- [2] Gershom French, "A List of Captain Simeon Covels Company as they Served in Lieut. General Burgoynes Campaign 1777", 25 October 1777, in Library and Archives Canada "James Parrot and family fonds" R6289-0-X-E, MG23-HII3, File 1 "Correspondence, etc." – not online but now posted at <https://www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/revolution/Parrott,%20James-LAC-2025-03-20-e011512224.pdf> accessed 6 October 2025
- [3] "New Millstone North branch and Six Mile Run I, Book 76", Christoffel Leek son of Jan Leek and Maregrietje 18 May 1755, image 20 of 99, digital image, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6961/records/212398> accessed 4 July 2025.
- [4] Originally found at FamilySearch, Patents of state of New York, 1649-1912 (Film 945298, DGS 8350326), Volume 13, pp. 452-455, www.familysearch.org/en/search/film/008350326?cat=629503&i=0 accessible at a Family History Center but now posted at www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/ny-patent/1761-06-17%20Petition-1761-11-21%20Grant.pdf accessed 5 October 2025.
- [5] Ancestry, "UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835", "AO 13 American Loyalist Claims, Series II, Piece 019: New Claims L-P V., New Jersey", pages 71-72 (both recto and verso), claim dated 6 December 1783 made at Cambridge, Albany County, New York, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307175-00089 et seq. accessed 7 October 2025.
- [6] Gershom French, op. cit.
- [7] "Permit the bearer James Parot Esqr...", 5 Feb 1787, signed by Henry Hope, in Library and Archives Canada "James Parrot and family fonds" R6289-0-X-E, MG23-HII3, File 1 "Correspondence, etc." – not online but now posted on page 19 at <https://www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/revolution/Parrott,%20James-LAC-2025-03-20-e011512224.pdf> accessed 6 October 2025.
- [8] Christopher Lake Land Petition 2 Feb 1807, Library and Archives Canada Microfilm C-2125, Bundle L-8 Petition 18 – at <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-119.02-e.php?q2=29&q3=2506&sqn=1036&tt=1081&PHPSESSID=npfo6qij0n1rpue06msk2mqnj1> accessed 6 October 2025 and now posted at <https://www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/petitions/C-2125-Bundle%208-Petition%2018-Christopher%20Lake-1807.pdf> accessed 6 October 2025.
- [9] *Kingston Chronicle*, April 7, 1820, page 3, column 4 on the Our Ontario website's Digital Kingston web page at <https://vitacollections.ca/digital-kingston/97122/page/3?q=christopher&docid=OOI.97122> accessed 24 November 2025.
- [10] Christopher Lake Land Petition 2 Feb 1807, op. cit. Christopher Lake Land Petition 3 October 1797, Library and Archives Canada Microfilm C-2125, Bundle 8 Petition 30 – at <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-119.02-e.php?q2=29&q3=2506&sqn=1075&tt=1081&PHPSESSID=npfo6qij0n1rpue06msk2mqnj1> accessed 6 October 2025 and now posted at <https://www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/petitions/C-2125-Bundle%208-Petition%2030-Christopher%20Lake-1797.pdf> accessed 6 October 2025.
- [11] "United States, Census, 1790", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHKP-GL8>: Sat Jul 06 22:51:10 UTC 2024), Entry for Cristopher Lake, 1790.
- [12] Images of every Lake who made an Upper Canada land petition, including all of Christopher and Susannah's children, can be found via links at <https://www.wwjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/index.htm> accessed 24 November 2025.
- [13] Laban Cousins affidavit 17 September 1839 in Revolutionary War Pension Record of Patience Page, U. S. National Archives, Record Group 15 (Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs), Series "Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service", NAID: 196339206 - 39 pages, starting at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/196339206>. The 2-page affidavit is at images <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/196339206?objectPage=3> and <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/196339206?objectPage=2> accessed 25 November 2025.
- [14] Neither a marriage record nor a record showing Rachel as a daughter of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott has been found. The biographical sketch of Jacob and Rachel's son Aaron Curler in the "Brief Personals" Appendix of "*History of Addison County Vermont*" (p. xv), edited by H.P. Smith (Syracuse, New York; D. Mason & Co., 1886) at <https://archive.org/details/historyofaddison1886smit/page/15/mode/2up> accessed 29 November 2025) shows his mother Rachel born in Salem, New York. Rachel appears in multiple modern family trees as the daughter of Joshua Cousins and Susannah Elliott, but no birth/baptism has been found for any of their children, and Joshua Cousins died intestate in 1790, and the probate records contain no list of his surviving children.
- [15] Indexed at "Dorset, Bennington, Vermont, United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJD-7979-3?view=explore> : Nov 24, 2025), image 58 of 422; Image Group Number: 008098464 -Record on page 520 of Volume 1 only available at FamilySearch Center or affiliate at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/film/008129502?cat=koha%3A21168&i=0> accessed 24 November 2025.
- [16] Estate of Joshua Cousin Jr, Dorset, Intestate, Sept. 22, 1790 to Apr 10, 1792 in Vermont, Bennington County, Manchester District,

Probate Records; Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Manchester District). This 22-image record is on Ancestry, with the first image at <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9084/records/866366> accessed 26 November 2025.

[17] Laban Cousins affidavit 17 September 1839, op cit.

[18] Patience Chase family information from <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/2Z3G-L4N> accessed 24 November 2025. Hoosick District 1779 Tas List from New York State Archives, A3210-77, Box 2, Folder 32 – not online but now posted at <https://www.wjohnston.net/famhist/lake-family/ny-patent/NYSA-Tax-A3210-77-Box%202-32-Hosick-1779-All.pdf> accessed 24 November 2025.

[19] This test predates Family Tree DNA's 2025 mitochondrial DNA haplogroup updated haplogroup assignments, but the new assignments did not change the haplogroup. The tester is not in any of FTDNA's new mtDNA clusters, and the closest match remains at a genetic distance of 1.

[20] Wesley Johnston, "Sharing Distant Autosomal DNA: Low probability is not no probability" in "Journal of One-Name Studies", v. 14 n. 7, July-September 2022, pp. 16-19. Also "The Birthday Paradox & Autosomal DNA Projects: The Power of Numbers in Autosomal DNA Projects" presentation at the October 2023 quarterly Advanced DNA Seminar of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon which can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqjIBuMLqK4&t=1s> as of 8 October 2025. Also presented but no longer online "The Power of Numbers in Autosomal DNA Projects" at the October 2024 East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference.

[21] This presentation was recorded and can be viewed after payment at <https://i4gg.org/2020-videos/> as of 8 October 2025.

[22] This presentation was recorded and can be viewed at <https://ogs.on.ca/tracing-ancestral-lines-in-the-1700s-using-dna/> as of 8 October 2025.

[23] These presentations were recorded and can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB7VJeCR6Bs> and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scOtMyFULGI> as of 8 October 2025.

[24] The best overview of these projects was in the first 20 minutes of a group of NIFHS project presentations in 2024 which can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns80nPCuMOg&t=85s> as of 8 October 2025.

[25] Patricia Hatfield and Ronald Yates, "Establishing Kinship through Collateral DNA Saturation: A DNA-based Method to Supplemental Traditional Lineage Proof" in "Journal of One-Name Studies", v. 15 n. 8, October-December 2025, pp. 15-21.



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The Origins and Family of Dr. John Sidey

A Pioneer of Bewdley, Hamilton, Ontario

Jared James Nathan

Jared James Nathan resides in El Paso, Texas, USA and is a descendant of William (3) 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*, and *The American Genealogist*.

Bewdley is a rural community in Hamilton Township, Northumberland County, Ontario, Canada. An historical account on the founding and early history of Bewdley, Ontario provided a sketch on “John Sidey, Pioneer Storekeeper.” [1]

“John Sidey (1819-1892) came to Bewdley c.1840. His brother, James, located in Cobourg at the same time where he operated a store. John's birthplace is given as the United States but it is said their Sidey forebears emigrated c.1820 from Scotland to Thorold, Ontario, where they were employed as stonemasons on the Welland Canal.

According to family members John Sidey first squatted on the Rice Lake shore and is listed as [a] fisherman in early Hamilton Township assessments. Shortly after his arrival he married Agnes (1820-1912), a daughter of GEORGE SACKVILLE, and they had a large family.

By 1860, John Sidey had a store and post office in Bewdley and also acted as telegrapher. He practised as a[n] herbalist doctor as well, having learned the effectiveness of herbs from the Rice Lake natives. Although John Sidey never graduated as a doctor of medicine, he had written qualifying examinations in Toronto. He also

extracted teeth and performed amputations using only alcohol as a[n] anesthetic and acted as veterinarian on occasion. Some of his instruments are preserved in a museum in Dundas, Ontario. For over 100 years descendants of John Sidey kept a store near the present government dock in Bewdley. The store burned down a few years ago. Agnes and John Sidey are buried at the Bewdley Union Cemetery. The Sideys could probably be considered the founding family of Bewdley village.”

The sketch provided the following genealogical details of interest. John Sidey was born in the United States in 1819 and died in 1892. His family originated from Scotland and he had a brother named James. John married Agnes Sackville, daughter of George, who was born in 1820 and died in 1912. The scope of this article is to identify John's parents, their origins, and his descendants.

Records for John Sidey in Ontario, Canada

Records in Ontario for John Sidey confirm most of the genealogical details from the above printed historical sketch. John Sidey was a medical doctor born at Albany, New York and died in Hamilton Township on 19 February 1892, aged 72 years.[2] In one version of his obituary, John is said to have resided in Port Hope

for 60 years.[3] He married at Newcastle Village, Clarington, Durham, Ontario on 2 August 1840 to Agnes Sackville.[4] Agnes Sidey, a widow and the daughter of George Sackville, was born in Scotland on 29 May 1820 and died in Hamilton Township on 21 September 1912.[5] In a different obituary for John, she was named as the sister of James Sackville.[6] Her Sackville family will be treated in a forthcoming issue of this journal.

In census data from Hamilton Township in 1848, John Sidey was reported as a fisherman living with five residents, on Lot 34, Concession 8. [7] In 1857, he was listed in a directory as the postmaster, a dealer in groceries, drugs, and medicines at Bewdley. [8] In 1861, at Hope Township, Durham County, Ontario, John and Agnes are shown to have started what would become a large family. John was listed as a farmer, aged 41, born in New York, and Agnes was aged 40, born in England. Their household had seven children born in Canada. The household also contained Catherine Sidey, a widow, aged 61, born in Scotland, which strongly suggests she was John's mother based on the age difference. John was living next to William Sackville, a farmer, aged 54, born in England, whose household contained Agnes Sackville, aged 78, born in Scotland, and another Agnes Sackville, aged 27, born in Canada. [9] Based on the ages and proximity, William Sackville could have been Agnes Sidey's older brother, and Agnes Sackville the elder, her mother. William Sackville had been a witness to John and Agnes's marriage in 1840.

In 1871 at Hamilton, John was reported as a postmaster, aged 51, born in the United States, and Agnes was aged 50, born in England. Their household included five children all born in Ontario. [10] John's apparent mother from 1861, Catherine Sidey, was not in the household but was enumerated by herself at Hope, aged 71, and born in Scotland. She was living next to the household of John Sackville, aged 54, born in England, which also contained William Sackville, aged 60, also born in England. [11]

By 1881 in Hamilton, John Sidey was enumerated as a physician, aged 61, born in the United States, of Scot origin, and Agnes was aged 60, born in England, of English origin. The household contained three children all born in Ontario. Catherine Sidey reappears in this household, aged 81, born in Scotland. [12] Catherine Sidey died in Hamilton Township on 5 September 1882, aged 83, born in Scotland, a farmer's widow. Her death was reported by John Sidey, M.D. [13] In a business directory for 1889, John was listed as a physician, grocer, and postmaster. [14] John Sidey of Hamilton, postmaster, wrote his will on 18 August 1891. He left land he bought during the 1880s to his son Thomas Morris Carr and the rest of his real estate to his wife Agnes. He appointed Agnes and his friend John Benson as his executors. [15] After John's death in 1892, Agnes was still living in Hamilton Township in 1901 with her son, P. Franklin Sidey, born on 29 May 1820 in England, and was reported to have immigrated in 1830. [16]

In summary, records for John Sidey in Ontario indicate he was born about 1820 in New York, his parents were from Scotland, and his mother was likely named Catherine, who was born in Scotland about 1800. John Sidey's descendants can be easily documented, but it does not seem that available Canadian resources can determine his exact origin in Scotland. The records shown so far also only give a clue as to who his mother may have been. However, one of John's sons, William Henry Sidey, left Canada after his service in the Fenian Raids and went to the United States where a history for the family was published, which aids in answering these questions.

The Sidey Family of Montpelier, Blackford County, Indiana, USA

In 1914, a biographical sketch was published on Rowland J. Sidey, who was born at Harvard, Ontario, Canada in 1873. Based on the information, it is reasonable to conclude that his father William was the source of the information, and he would have assuredly known his grandmother Catherine (Morris) Sidey as an

adult. A great amount of detail on his Canadian ancestors was provided: [17]

“The family was founded in America by George and Catherine (Morris) Sidey, who were born in Angus, Scotland, and on coming to America in 1817 settled and lived for three years at Ogdensburg, New York, and in 1820 moved to Port Hope, Canada. They lived there until 1836, then settled on a farm eight miles from the same town, where George Sidey died in 1850. Their family comprised two sons and three girls: John, born at Ogdensburg, New York; Margaret, Jane and Mary, and James, all of whom were born in Canada. The son, James, is still living in Toronto; is a man six feet three inches high, weighs two hundred and twenty pounds, is straight as an Indian, and since early life has been noted for his prowess as a hunter. This characteristic pertains to nearly all the members of the different generations, and in occupation the family had been farmers and carpenters, physicians and always men and women of substantial character.

John Sidey, grandfather of Rowland J., and the son of George, was a child when the family moved to Canada, and there prepared himself for the profession of medicine and began practice in 1838. In 1857, he moved to Bewdley, and there conducted a farm and a store and also established a post office. In 1859, he returned to his old farm for two years, but in 1861 was once more in Bewdley and continued as a merchant and as a practitioner of medicine until his death in 1892 at the age of seventy-three. He was the owner of a large amount of land, and one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his community. Dr. Sidey was a man of buoyant and optimistic nature, of strong and upright character and of fine mentality, and was well equipped for leadership in thought and action. In 1840 he married Agnes Sackville. She was born May 29, 1820, at Gedboro [sp], Scotland, and in 1830 came

with her parents and five brothers, sailing from Whitehaven on the ship Hetherington, and arrived in Port Hope, Canada, in the following June. The Sackvilles located on a farm eight miles north of Port Hope, and that place is still owned in their name. Mrs. Dr. Sidey lived to the extreme age of ninety-two years, passing away in 1912, and at her death there were left seven children, twenty-nine grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. To the marriage of Dr. Sidey and wife were born twelve children, eight of whom reached mature years and are named as follows: Jackson, who was killed in a railway accident in Canada, and was the father of eight children; James, who had two children; William, six children; Albert, two children; Catherine, three children; Thomas, six children; Frank, a bachelor; and Jennie, two children.”

This account claims George Sidey to have been the progenitor of the family, that he had two sons and three daughters, and was at Port Hope in 1820 where they resided until 1836.

Records for George Sidey in Ontario, Canada

The first known record for a George Sidey in Ontario appears to have been in 1823 in Hamilton Township, where he was enumerated as aged 16-60, with a female aged 16-60, and a male and female both under 16. In the same census, David Sidey was also listed. [18] George was then recorded in 1824, again in Hamilton Township but by 1825 he was in Hope Township. He was not enumerated in Hamilton Township in 1827. [19] A summary of early census data for George Sidey is shown in Table 1.

Year	Males >16	Males <16	Females >16	Females <16
1824 [20]	1	1	1	1
1825 [21]	1	1	1	1
1826 [22]	1	1	1	2
1827 [23]	1	1	1	2
1830 [24]	1	1	1	2
1832 [25]	1	1	1	2
1833 [26]	1		1	
1834 [27]	1	1	1	3
1835 [28]	1	2	1	3
1836 [29]	1	1	1	3

Table 1: Summary of George Sidey Entries in Early Census Data

In 1835, the total of five children agrees with the biographical account. George was not enumerated in Hope Township in 1837, but in 1838 Catherine Sidey was listed as the head of the household, aged over 16, with a male over 16, a male under 16, and three females under 16. [20] This suggests that George had died by 1838 and his wife was Catherine. In 1839 and 1840, Catherine was over 16, with two males over 16, one male under 16, and three females under 16. [21] By 1841, Catherine Sidey was enumerated as aged over 16, with one male over 16, and two females under 16. John Sidey was also enumerated as over 16, with a female over 16, and one male under 16. [22]

In 1843, Catherine Sidey was included in an assessment at Lot 1, Concession 9, Part Mid. [23] In 1844, she was at Lot 1, Concession 7, Part Mid. [24] In 1845 at that location, she was recorded as Jean Sidey. [25] In 1846, 1847, and 1848 the location was then recorded to John Sidey. [26] John had also been recorded in Hamilton Township by that time and seems to have permanently removed there. The early census and assessment data for Hope Township also indicates that George and Catherine Sidey were John's parents, which agrees with the later census and vital data for Catherine and John Sidey previously presented.

Finally, land records for Hope Township can confirm that Catherine was the wife of George and an approximation of when he died. On 20 February 1836 and 22 March 1836, George Sidey of Hope Township was involved in two deeds at Lot 1, Concession 7. Both deeds were witnessed by David Sidey of Port Hope. [27] Then on 6 April 1844, Catherine Sidey, widow of "John" Sidey, and John Sidey of Hope Township sold 45-acres there at Lot 1, Concession 7. [28] Lastly, on 14 October 1879, Catherine Sidey of Hope Township, widow of the late George Sidey of the same place, quit claims on land to John Sidey of Hamilton Township, postmaster of Bewdley, 45 acres at Lot 1, Concession 7. [29]

Turning back to the Rowland J. Sidey's biography, all

the records from Ontario support the claim that John Sidey's parents were George and Catherine Sidey. The relative precision of the account provides a reasonable conclusion that the parents of Dr. John Sidey were George and Catherine (Morris) Sidey who were said to have been born in Angus (Forfarshire), Scotland.

David Sidey of Hamilton, Port Hope, and Cold Springs, Ontario

David Sidey was in Hamilton Township about the same time as George Sidey in 1823. He also witnessed George's deeds in 1836 in Hope Township. David Sidey died in Hamilton Township on 4 March 1871, born at Scotland, aged 88. [30] In 1851, David was enumerated in Hamilton Township as aged 60, born in Scotland. [31] In 1861, he was enumerated there as aged 67, born in Scotland. [32] Thus, he was born in Scotland between 1783-1794. George was likely born before his wife Catherine, who was born about 1799. Therefore, David and George Sidey were of similar ages and both were born in Scotland. They were definitely associated with one another and were probably brothers.

In an historical account on the settlement of the village of Cold Springs, David Sidey was called the founder and a biography was printed. [33] He was called a Scotsman from Blairgowrie, Perthshire who had come to Canada around 1823. Also mentioned was Peter Sidey Sr., who married Mary Jane Ford, and also came to Cold Springs from Dundee, Forfarshire (Angus) Scotland around 1839, and was "probably a relative." In 1844, Peter was listed on an assessment in Hamilton Township for Lot 20, Concession 6. David Sidey was also listed at Lots 15 and 16, Concessions 5 and 6, respectively. [34] Peter's origins can be confirmed in records from Scotland and could be the subject of a future article. He was married at Rattray, Perthshire, Scotland on 2 January 1825 to Janet Ford. [35] Their children that were born in Scotland and were baptized in Dundee.

Sidey Records in Scotland

The relative precision of Rowland J. Sidey's biography and all the records from Ontario support the claim that John Sidey's parents were George and Catherine Sidey. Taken together, this provides a reasonable conclusion that the parents of Dr. John Sidey were George and Catherine (Morris) Sidey who were said to have hailed from Angus (Forfarshire), Scotland. This is the same location from which Peter Sidey Sr. originated. George Sydey, blacksmith, married in Dundee on 30 November 1818 to Catharine Morris, the daughter of John. [36] The timing of this marriage is in agreement with John Sidey's age, the names and location identified in the biography, and the Canadian records for Catherine Sidey, widow of George, who died in Hamilton Township in 1882, aged 83.

There are other Sidey records of interest in Perthshire, Scotland where Peter Sidey was located before Dundee, including the following:

Children of George Sydnie and Jean/Jane Rattray, Alyth, Perthshire, Scotland:

- Jane, b. 10 December 1786, bp. 17 December 1786 [37]
- David, b. 1 March 1787, bp. 4 March 1787 [38]
- Isabel, bp. 16 August 1789 [39]
- George, b. 3 June 1792, bp. 10 June 1792 [40]
- Susanna, bp. 14 January 1798 [41]

Children of David Sydnie and Janet Rattray, all born at Alyth, Perthshire, Scotland:

- Susan, b. 19 August 1788, bp. 24 August 1788 [42]
- George, b. 7 June 1790, bp. 13 June 1790 [43]
- William, b. 12 January 1792, bp. 15 January 1792 [44]
- Peter, b. 14 August 1797, bp. 20 August 1797 [44]

From this data, it is possible that George and David Sidey were brothers and may have married two sisters, Jean/Jane and Janet Rattray. Peter Sidey's birth aligns with records in Canada for his age. George and David

Sidey's births also correlate to the men of those names in Canada and would confirm that they were brothers. Peter could potentially have been their first cousin. The blood relationship of George, David, and Peter should be able to be confirmed using Y-DNA testing on their many descendants with the surname Sidey.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. **GEORGE(1) SIDEY** was probably born at Alyth, Perthshire, Scotland on 3 June 1792, the son of George (A) and Jean/Jane (Rattray), [46] and died by 1838. [47] He married at Dundee, Forfarshire (Angus), Scotland on 30 November 1818, **CATHARINE(1) MORRIS**, the daughter of John (A) Morris. [48] Catherine was born at Scotland about 1799 and died in Hamilton Township, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada on 5 September 1882. [49]

Children of George and Catherine (Morris) Sidey: [50]

- i. **JOHN(2)**, b. NY, abt. 1820; m. Agnes SACKVILLE.
- ii. **MARGARET**, b. Canada.
- iii. **JANE**, b. Canada.
- iv. **MARY**, b. Canada.
- v. **JAMES**, b. Canada; liv. Toronto, Ontario, 1913. He was almost certainly the James Sidey who died at Nottawasaga, Simcoe, Ontario on 10 May 1913, aged 78 years, 1 month, 11 days (born 29 March 1835 in Canada), son of John. [51] Deeds by Catherine Sidey in 1844 and 1879 referred to her husband by both the names John and George. The first appearance of another son of George and Catherine Sidey occurred in 1835. The biographical sketch noted that the family were carpenters. James Sidey, a carpenter, was enumerated at Nottawasaga in 1861 as aged 27, born at Canada West. [52] In 1871, he was a farmer, aged 34, born in Ontario, and of Scotch origin. He named his eldest daughter Catherine, his eldest son John, had a son named George, and also sons Albert and William. [53] Catherine could be a namesake for his mother, John for his brother, George for his father, and Albert and William were forenames used by John Sidey of Hamilton Township (see following genealogical summary).

2. **JOHN(2) SIDEY** was born at Ogdensburg or Albany, New York about 1820 and died in Hamilton Township on 19 February 1892. [54] He married in Newcastle Village, Clarington, Durham, Ontario on 2 August 1840, [55] **AGNES(2) SACKVILLE**. She was born in England (or Scotland) on 29 May 1820, [56] the daughter of James, and died in Hamilton Township on 21 September 1912. [57]

The will of John Sidey of Hamilton, postmaster, was dated 18 August 1891. He left land he had bought during the 1880s to his son Thomas Morris Carr and the rest of his real estate to his wife Agnes. He appointed Agnes and his friend John Benson as his executors. [58]

The will of Agnes Sidey, widow, who died at Hamilton on 21 September 1912, was probated on 7 October 1912 by Joseph Ainley. [59] Her will was dated 19 September 1895 in Port Hope. In the will she stated she was the widow of John Sidey. She appointed Edwin Cole and Joseph Ainley, farmers in Hamilton Township, her executors. She named her daughters Catherine Sophia Ainley, wife of Joseph, and Agnes Jane Gainor, wife of William. She also named her son William Henry Sidey, Janet Sidey, the wife of her son Albert, her son Peter Franklin Sidey, and Mary Jane Sidey, the wife of her son James. As shown in the child list, her son John was already deceased and is not mentioned. She did not mention her son Thomas, likely because John had already given him an inheritance. During the administration of Peter Franklin Sidey's estate in 1915, Thomas was named as a sibling (see below).

Children of John and Agnes (Sackville) Sidey:

- i. **JOHN(3)**, b. Ontario, abt. 1841; [60] d. Hamilton Township, 6 September 1878; [61] m. bef. 1863, [62] **MARGARET GAYNOR**, b. Ontario, abt. 845, liv. 1871. [63]
- ii. **JAMES**, b. Hamilton, 9 January 1845; d. Bewdley, Hamilton Township, 7 April 1932; [64] m. Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, 24 March 1869, **MARY J. GAINOR**, b. Hamilton Township, 3

February 1851, daughter of William and Mary (Mullen), [65] liv. 1911. [66]

- iii. **WILLIAM HENRY**, b. Canada, August 1849; [67] m. **EMELINE ANTHONY**.
- iv. **CATHERINE SOPHIA**, b. Bewdley, 19 November 1852; d. Bewdley, 23 January 1930; [68] m. Port Hope, 3 February 1875, **JOSEPH AINLEY**, b. Hope Township 24 February 1849, son of John and Mary Ann (Hannah), d. Hamilton, 19 June 1925. [69]
- v. **ALBERT**, b. Hamilton, 3 April 1854; [70] d. aft. 1915, bef. 15 October 1926; [71] m. Haldimand Township, Northumberland, Ontario, 25 Sept. 1878, **JANET ISABEL AITCHSON**, b. Hope Township or Plainsville, abt. 1854, daughter of William and Janet (Sidey), [72] d. Norwood, 15 October 1926. [73]
- vi. **THOMAS MORRIS CARR**, b. Bewdley, 10 August 1857; d. Port Hope, 5 April 1944; [74] m. Port Hope, 7 September 1881, **ELIZABETH TAYLOR**; [75] b. Bewdley, 16 September 1860, daughter of William and Maria (Hill), d. Port Hope, 12 April 1924. [76]
- v. **PETER FRANKLIN**, b. Canada, 11 January 1860; [77] d. Bewdley, 19 April 1915; unmarried. [78] His brother James would administer his estate, which was divided in six parts for his siblings, including James of Bewdley (eldest sibling), Thomas of Bewdley, Albert of Plainsville, William Henry of Oklahoma, USA, Agnes Jane Gainor of Bewdley, and Catherine Sophia Ainley of Bewdley. [79]
- vi. **AGNES JANE**, b. Hamilton Township, 12 August 1864 or 1866; d. Bewdley, 17 December 1940; [80] m. Millbrook, Durham, Ontario, 16 December 1885, **WILLIAM GAINER**, b. Hope, 8 March 1856, son of William and Mary, [81] d. Hamilton Township, 4 May 1923. [82]

3. **WILLIAM(3) HENRY SIDEY** was born in Canada in August 1849, [83] and he was living in 1920. [84] William was said to have been born in Bewdley in 1848. [85] He married at Kittanning, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania on 2 November 1870, [86]

EMELINE/EMMA REED ANTHONY. She was born at Pennsylvania in May 1850 [87] and died between 1910 and 1920. [88] She is said to have died in March 1913 in Taft, California and was the daughter of George and Phoebe (Edwards) Anthony, natives of Pennsylvania, and that her father died at the age of forty-six. Emeline Sidey was the informant on her mother's, Phoebe (Edwards) Anthony, death certificate where her parents were named as John Edwards and Sarah Anthony. [89]

William was said to have served as a soldier in the Dominion Militia during the Fenian Raids. He then immigrated to the United States in the Oil Creek District of Pennsylvania and became a pioneer in the oil industry, working also in Ohio, Indiana, and California. When the biography was published in 1914, William had been living in Taft, California. [90]

William H. Sidey, Esq., of Montpelier, Blackford County, Indiana applied for and had a land grant approved in 1912-1913 under the Fenian Raid Volunteer Bounty Act. He enrolled at the Port Hope Rifle Company of Volunteer Militia and served as a private at Toronto, Kingston, and Cobourg, Ontario from 1 June 1866 to 19 June 1866 under Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Captain William Fraser. He was a guard of Fenian prisoners at Toronto, guarded Fort Henry in Kingston, and guarded the courthouse at Cobourg. He was awarded the Canada General Service Medal. [91]



Children of William Henry and Emeline/Emma (Anthony) Sidey: [92]

- i. LAFAYETTE(4) M., b. Canada, 24 November 1871; d. Martinsville, Clark County, IL, 24 November 1937, bur. Westminster, Allen County, OH; [93] m. (1st) Auglaize County, OH, 7 September 1893, ADDIE/ADA HERCKER, b. OH, April 1875; [94] m. (2nd) Blackford County, IN, 15 October 1903, MARY LUCILLE ANDERSON,

b. KY, abt. 1877, d. Oblong, Crawford County, IL, 31 May 1956. [96]

- ii. ROLAND JOHN, b. Hamilton Township, Canada, 20 April 1873; [97] d. Duchouquet Township, Auglaize County, OH, 5 August 1944, bur. Kossuth Cemetery; [98] m. Auglaize County, OH, 3 Jan. 1894, CHRISTIANE FREDERICKE CLAUS, [99] b. Ochsenbach, Vaihingen, Württemberg, Germany, 6 July 1873, [100] d. Wapakoneta, Auglaize County, OH, 13 April 1967. [101]
- iii. PHOEBE ETHEL, b. PA, February 1876; [102] d. 1933, bur. Garber Cemetery, Garber, Garfield County, OK; [103] m. Auglaize County, OH, 1 January 1895, James L. Hunter, [104] b. OH, June 1871, [105] d. 1930, bur. Garber Cemetery. [106]
- iv. CARRIE A., b. PA, 22 March 1879; [107] d. 10 June 1927, bur. Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, Kern County, CA; [108] m. (1st) Van Wert Co., OH, 25 June 1895, Courtland Victor Rood, [109] b. Gibson Township, Mercer County, OH, 10 February 1872, [110] d. Redondo, CA, 19 November 1935; [111] m. (2nd) Los Angeles, County, CA, 28 August 1916, Lester B. Graff, b. PA, 1 March 1869, [112] d. 9 February 1967, bur. San Luis Cemetery, San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County, CA. [113]
- v. EMELINE/EMMA JANE, b. PA, August 1881; [114] d. 9 May 1965, bur. San Luis Cemetery; [115] m. (1st) Blackford County, IN, 16 October 1898, Otis W. Burklo, [116] b. McKean County, PA, 13 November 1874, [117] d. Wapakoneta, Auglaize County, OH, 7 July 1942, [118] bur. Kossuth Cemetery, Auglaize County, OH; [119] m. (2nd) Los Angeles County, CA, 16 April 1949, Harvey C. Allen, [120] b. 1890, d. 1975, bur. Oakwood Memorial Park, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, CA. [121]
- vi. CLARENCE WILLIAM, b. McKean County, PA, 22 September 1883; [122] d. McAlester, Pittsburg, OK, 6 October 1965; [123] m. bef. 1920, EMMA MAE SKINNER, b. Villisca, Montgomery, County, IA, 23 September 1871, d. McAlester, 14 January 1948. [124]



Endnotes

- [1] Catherine Milne and Donna McGillis, *The Early History and Founding of Bewdley, Ontario*, 1990, pp5-6 [cobourg.ca/media/lc4dahcx/bewdley.pdf].
- [2] FamilySearch.com. *Canada, Ontario, Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947*; Film # 004033002; Image 578 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6WM9-GV4]. His religion was listed as Baptist and death was reported by James Sidey of Hamilton.
- [3] Obituary for John Sidey, *Vancouver Weekly World*, 3 March 1892: p4.
- [4] 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.
- [5] 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
- [6] 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.
- [7] Hamilton Township 1848 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1848-census.html, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for John Sidey.
- [8] *The Canada Directory for 1857-58* (Montreal: John Lovell), 59.
- [9] FamilySearch.com. *Canada. Census 1861*; Film # 4391933; Image 89 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DTMS-L6]. Their household also included John (aged 19), James (17), William (13), Catherine (9), Albert (6), Thomas (4), and Peter (2).
- [10] FamilySearch.com. *Canada. Census 1871*; Film # 4396622; Image 206 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBLQ-MC8]. Their household included Catharine (18), Albert (16), Thomas (13), Peter F. (11), and Agnes J. (6).
- [11] FamilySearch.com. *Canada. Census 1871*; Film # 4396303; Image 208 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6M47-R3R].
- [12] FamilySearch.com. *Canada. Census 1881*; Film # 4465934; Image 167 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DT3X-LJ]. Their household also included Thomas (23), Peter F. (21), and Agnes J. (16).
- [13] FamilySearch.com. *Ontario. Death Registers 1882*; Film # 4173030; Image 771 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q93-C9YJ-771L-W].
- [14] Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3789/images/30819_103626_002-00079, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for John Sidey.
- [15] FamilySearch.com. *Land records of Northumberland County, 1801-1912*; Film # 8633330; Images 266 and 267 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HC-T36G-F].
- [16] FamilySearch.com. *Canada. Census 1901*; Film # 101692805; Image 697 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L7CL-9].
- [17] 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), 1:245-47.
- [18] Hamilton Township 1823 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1823-census.html, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for George Sidey.
- [19] Hamilton Township 1827 Census, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1827-census-and-assessment.html, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [20] Hope Township 1838 Census, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1838.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Catherine Sidey.
- [21] Hope Township 1839 Census, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1839.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Catharine Sidey. Hope Township 1840 Census, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1840.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Catherine Sidey.
- [22] Hope Township 1841 Census, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1841.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entries for Catharine Sidey and John Sidey.
- [23] Hope Township 1843 Assessment, database, alivingpast.ca/ass1843HT.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Catharine Sidey.
- [24] Hope Township 1844 Assessment, database, alivingpast.ca/ass1844HT.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Catharine Sidey.
- [25] Hope Township 1845 Assessment, database, alivingpast.ca/ass1845HT.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for Jean Sidey.
- [26] Hope Township 1846 Assessment, database, alivingpast.ca/ass1846HT.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for John Sidey. Hope Township 1847 Assessment, database, alivingpast.ca/ass1847HT.htm, accessed 15 January 2026, entry for John Sidey. Hope Township 1850 Census, database, alivingpast.ca/HT1850.htm, entry for John Sidey.
- [27] FamilySearch. *Land records of Durham County, 1798-1954, 1974-1976*; Film # 8636106, Images 209 and 210 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H6-XSX1-Y].
- [28] FamilySearch. *Land records of Durham County, 1798-1954, 1974-1976*; Film # 8636109; Images 146 and 147 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H6-GQZP-K].
- [29] FamilySearch. *Land records of Durham County, 1798-1954, 1974-1976*; Film # 8636109; Image 33 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3HZ-C9HH-F].

- [30] Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1952, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8946/images/ONMS935_2-0606, accessed 15 January 2026. 1871 Census of Canada, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1578/images/4396622_00151, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [31] 1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1061/images/e095-e002361011, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [32] 1861 Census of Canada, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1570/images/4391947_00437, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [33] Catherine Milne, *Settlement of the Village of Cold Springs*, 1990, 1-2 [cobourg.ca/media/d52dpe4n/cold-springs.pdf].
- [34] Hamilton Township 1844 Assessment, database, northumberland.westhistory.net/hamilton-1844-assessment.html, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [35] Scotland, Marriages, 1561-1910, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XY3L-ZBM, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [36] Scotland, Parish Marriages & Banns 1561-1893, database, findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=SCOT%2FDUNDEE%2FOPRS%2F000039369%2F1&tab=this, entry for George Sydey, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [37] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XG-PQZ, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [38] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XT-YHH, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [39] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1F6-ZR7, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [40] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XT-MW1, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [41] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X13K-JHK, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [42] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1X5-F4W, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [43] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XT-MWT, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [44] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XT-ZBF, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [45] Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X1XT-FQX, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [46] See Note 50.
- [47] See Note 30.
- [48] See Note 46. Birth estimate assumes he was 25 years old at time of marriage.
- [49] See Note 13.
- [50] See Note 17, at 245. Children are listed in the order presented in the publication. Also see Note 28.
- [51] FamilySearch. *Canada, Ontario, Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947*; Film # 4170178; Image 51 [familysearch.org/search/film/004170178].
- [52] FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1861*; Film # 4108345; Image 485 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DBT9-KFN].
- [53] FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1871*; Film # 4396340; Images 171 and 172 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6GRG-C5].
- [54] See Notes 2, 3, and 17.
- [55] See Note 4.
- [56] See Note 16. All censuses list her birth as England but the biography states she was born at “Gedboro,” Scotland, likely referring to Jedburgh. This is near the Scotland-England border, which was historically highly contested.
- [57] See Note 5. Her mother was possibly Agnes Sackville, born at Scotland about 1783 and living at Hope Township, Durham Co., Ontario in 1861. See Note 9.
- [58] See Note 15.
- [59] FamilySearch. *Estate files, 1845-1930; index, 1800-1967; register books, 1803-1931; administration books, 1858-1931*; Film # 8484869; Images 445 to 447 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39P-T9DJ-H].
- [60] See Notes 9 and 32. FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1871*; Film # 4396622; Image 207 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBLQ-QGC].
- [61] Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1952, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8946/images/ONMS935_19-0393, accessed 15 January 2026. He was killed in a railway accident. This aligns with the identity of Jackson Sidey named in the biographical sketch.
- [62] FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1871*; Film # 4396622; Image 207 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DBLQ-QGC]. Marriage date based on birth of eldest known child, George.
- [63] See Note 72. Her surname is listed in records for several children, such as William. FamilySearch. *Marriage licenses & affidavits: Ontario. Marriage Records 1919*; Film # 005293970, Image 257. [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-G1GL-9NGD].
- [64] FamilySearch. *Ontario. Death Registers 1932*; Film # 4023105, Image 37 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6DH9-7RB].
- [65] FamilySearch. *Peterborough. Religious Marriage Registers 1868-1869*; Film # 7859253, Item 1; Image 25 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS76-79B5-W]. FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1901*; Film # 101692805; Image 697 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L7CL-9].
- [66] FamilySearch. *Northumberland. Census 1911*; Film # 7526766; Image 1233 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98W-QSP1].

[67] See Note 9.

[68] FamilySearch. *Ontario. Death Registers 1930*; Film # 4000832; Image 1429 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-672W-7WJ].

[69] FamilySearch. *Marriage records: Ontario. Marriage Records 1875*; Film # 4529113; Image 219

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39R-QG5]. FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1901*; Film # 101692805, Image 698 of 2500 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L7HD-L]. FamilySearch. *Ontario. Death Registers 1925*; Film # 4171427; Image 358 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DBTW-9X8].

[70] FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1901*; Film # 101692805; Image 680; [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L7CS-J].

[71] See Note 89, where he is named in his brother's estate file. Obituary for Isabel Sidey, *Winnipeg Tribune*, 16 October 1926: 11.

[72] FamilySearch. *Marriage records: Ontario. Marriage Records 1878*; Film # 4529123; Image 18

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39R-JPV].

[73] Obituary for Isabel Sidey, *Free Press Evening Bulletin*, 16 October 1926: 17.

[74] Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1952, database,

ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8946/images/46721_83024005548_1833-00416, accessed 15 January 2026.

[75] FamilySearch. *Marriage records: Ontario, Marriage Records 1881*; Film # 4529132; Image 728

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39L-1SJ].

[76] FamilySearch. *Canada, Ontario, Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947*; Film # 4171767; Image 1276

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-67KS-GB1].

[77] See Note 16.

[78] FamilySearch. *Ontario. Death Registers 1915*; Film # 4170234; Image 1480 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-67Q9-WSD].

[79] FamilySearch. *Estate files, 1845-1930; index, 1800-1967; register books, 1803-1931; administration books, 1858-1931*; Film # 8440751; Images 143 to 160 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-C3K9-W].

[80] Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1952, database,

ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8946/images/48785_556833-01871, accessed 15 January 2026.

[81] FamilySearch. *Marriage records: Ontario. Marriage Records 1886*; Film # 004529149; Image 948

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y39R-RZH]. FamilySearch. *Canada. Census 1901*; Film # 101692795; Image 1560

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS1-L3XJ-T].

[82] FamilySearch. *Ontario. Death Registers 1923*; Film # 004171757; Image 322 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6XMZ-KB].

[83] See Note 9. FamilySearch. *12th Census of Population 1900: Wells. Census 1900*; Film # 4118677, Item 1, Image 219

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6S81-KH].

[84] FamilySearch. *Kansas. Census 1920*; Film # 4965901, Image 955 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RX7-Z9W]. William's birthplace was Canada, but he was born a US citizen. His father had been born in NY. He was living in Oklahoma in 1915 when his brother Peter's estate was administered

[85] See Note 17.

[86] Pennsylvania and New Jersey, U.S., Church and Town Records, 1669-2013, database,

ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2451/images/40162_261479-00047, accessed 15 January 2026.

[87] FamilySearch. *12th Census of Population 1900: Wells. Census 1900*; Film # 4118677, Item 1, Image 219

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6S81-KH].

[88] FamilySearch. *1910 population census schedules - Indiana: Indiana. National Population Census 1910*; Film # 4971198, Image 1074 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRNX-9WMX]. Emma is not listed on the 1920 census with her husband.

[89] Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899-2017, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60716/images/45232_356093-00057, accessed 15 January 2026. Phoebe's father was reported as John Edwards, born at MD, and her mother Sarah Anthony, born at PA. Phoebe was born at PA on 5 September 1825 and died at Keystone, Wells Co., IN in May 1909. It can be shown Emma's father was named Alexander.

[90] See Note 17. The biography must have been written after March 1913, when Emma is said to have died.

[91] Canada, Fenian Raids Bounty Lists, 1866-1871, database, fold3.com/image/610665347/sidey-william-h-page-1-canada-fenian-raids-bounty-lists-1866-1871, accessed 15 January 2026.

[92] FamilySearch. *Pennsylvania. Census 1880*; Film # 5162273, Image 246 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBG-PZZ]. Lists wife Emma, aged 30, and children Lafayette (8), Roland (6), Phebe E. (4), and Carrie (2).

[93] FamilySearch. *Deaths: Adams. Death Certificates November 1937*; Film # 4008453, Item 1, Image 325

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89K1-M9MH-L]. Death record states he was born at Pittsburg, OH, but other records show Canada.

[94] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Auglaize. Marriage Records 1883-1898*; Film # 4017419, Item 2, Image 34

[familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-S53D-4N]. FamilySearch. *12th Census of Population 1900: Blackford. Census 1900*; Film #

- 4118582, Item 2, Image 50 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6S47-GN8].
- [95] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Blackford. Marriage Records 1877-1905*; Film # 4201886, Item 4, Image 136 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-XHL3-BHF].
- [96] Obituary for Mary Sidey, Lima News, 1 June 1956: 4. FamilySearch. *1910 population census schedules - Illinois: Illinois. National Population Census 1910*; Film # 4970746, Image 937 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRJN-SRQ].
- [97] FamilySearch. *Ontario. Birth Registers 1873*; Film # 4529886, Image 216 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-Y3S7-YS3]. Roland's birth was delivered by Dr. Sidey.
- [98] FamilySearch. *Deaths: Ohio. Death Certificates 1944*; Film # 4020875, Image 376 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9P2P-S6GW].
- [99] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Auglaize. Marriage Records 1883-1898*; Film # 4017419, Item 2, Image 48 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-S53X-P7].
- [100] See Note 17. Birth and baptism records, Baden-Württemberg > Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart > Dekanat Vaihingen an der Enz > Ochsenbach > Taufregister 1851-1879 Band 4, Bild 762, database, archion.de/p/83091a441b/, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [101] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/31796606/fredrike-n-sidey, accessed 15 January 2026. Ohio Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Certificate of death, Reg. Dist. No. 06, Primary Reg. Dist. No. 0602, Registrar's No. 84, obtained from the Auglaize County Health Department.
- [102] See Notes 97 and 102.
- [103] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/59665451/phoebe-ethel-hunter, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [104] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Auglaize. Marriage Records 1883-1898*; Film # 4017419, Item 2, Image 92 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-S536-PJ].
- [105] See Note 97.
- [106] See Note 113.
- [107] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/26448096/carrie-a-graff, accessed 15 January 2026. FamilySearch. *California. Census 1920*; Film # 4964281, Image 913 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R6Z-3GC].
- [108] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/26448096/carrie-a-graff, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [109] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Van Wert. Marriage Records 1891-1897*; Film # 4017436, Item 1, Image 240 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-S57T-S2].
- [110] FamilySearch. *12th Census of Population 1900: Huntington. Census 1900*; Film # 4118629, Item 1, Image 495 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6XBW-4FX]. FamilySearch. Record of Births: for the use of Probate Judges of the State of Ohio: *Mercer. Birth Records 1867-1883*; Film # 4017318, Item 1, Image 88 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRYW-SDQQ].
- [111] Obituary for Courtland Rood, *Redondo Reflex*, 22 November 1935: 8.
- [112] FamilySearch. *Los Angeles. Marriage Records August 1916-October 1916*; Film # 454062, Item 3, Image 5 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-BJS7-KN]. Carrie was recorded as divorced.
- [113] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/94375727/lester-b-graff, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [114] FamilySearch. *12th Census of Population 1900: Wells. Census 1900*; Film # 004118677, Item 1, Image 208 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6S8B-7G].
- [115] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/93656774/emma_jane-allen, accessed 15 January 2026. California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997, database, ancestry.com/search/collections/5180/records/96230, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [116] FamilySearch. *Marriage Record: Blackford. Marriage Records 1877-1905*; Film # 4201886, Item 3, Image 160 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-XHL3-RM1].
- [117] See Note 119.
- [118] FamilySearch. *Summit. Death Certificates 1942*; Film # 4057806, Image 1272 [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PKP-4DS3].
- [119] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/31796283/otis-william-burklo, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [120] California, U.S., Marriage Index, 1949-1959, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5186/images/CA_MG949ALLEN0-0, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [121] Findagrave, database, findagrave.com/memorial/190608897/harvey_c-allen, accessed 15 January 2026.
- [122] See Note 94.
- [123] U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014, database, ancestry.com/search/collections/3693/records/57049897. Funeral home record, Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society.
- [124] Obituary for Emma Sidey, *M'Alister News-Capital*, 15 January 1948: 2. Iowa, U.S., Births (series) 1880-1904, 1921-1944 and Delayed Births (series), 1856-1940, database, ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61441/images/101713547_04061, accessed 15 January 2026.

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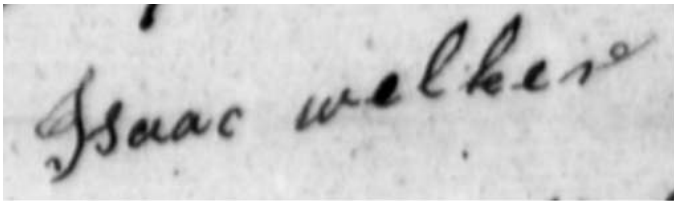
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The Family of Isaac Walker of Niagara: Correcting the Record

Drew von Hasselbach

Drew von Hasselbach, LLB, PLCGS, is a lawyer and writer from Toronto. This essay is the winner of the 2025 Keffer Writing Competition.



Isaac Walker's signature from an 1800 land application

Isaac Walker was born in North Carolina about 1775 and came to the Niagara Region with his Loyalist parents and many siblings in 1794. [1] He married Catherine Hare about 1800, and they had several children before Isaac died of disease while serving in the militia during the War of 1812. But how many children? And what were their names?

Evidence shows that Isaac had three daughters born between 1801 and 1807 and may have had one son born around 1800. This challenges a long-held view that Isaac and Catherine had a family of eight, a version repeated in several family trees and published local histories. [2] This study aims to correct the record with research that meets the Genealogical Proof Standard. [3]

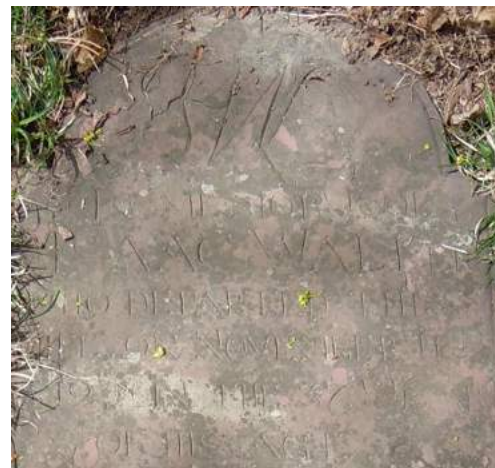
Roots of the family tree problem

As a genealogical question, the Isaac Walker problem is typical of early Ontario research, as records from that period are limited. In 1958, a Walker family tree appeared in *Annals of the Forty*, [4] a 10-volume local history collection assembled by the Grimsby Historical Society. “The Forty” refers to the early settlement around a survey marker 40 miles west of the Niagara

River. Typical of the accepted research standards of that time, many accounts in *The Annals* lack sourcing or any sign of evidentiary analysis. Such is the case with the Walker tree.

Still, the 1958 authors did caution readers of the uncertain nature of their conclusions. For Isaac’s children, the tree says that “the following *may* belong in his family” [emphasis added]: Frances, Thomas, William, Israel, Abraham, Jane, Sarah and Margaret. That word “may” was intended to signal that the 1958 list was tentative, yet later researchers have treated it as settled fact.

This research extends beyond *Annals of the Forty* to examine parish, land, probate, military, census and cemetery records and reconstruct the family of Isaac Walker on the basis of reliable, fully cited sources. An analysis of this evidence supports a family of three children, possibly four, but not eight. The 1958 list is therefore in need of revision.



*Isaac Walker's
grave marker, St.
Andrew's Anglican
Church Cemetery,
Grimsby, Ontario.
Photo by Drew von
Hasselbach, 19
April 2023.*

Confirming the identity of the three daughters

Isaac Walker, from Clinton Township in Lincoln County, served in the 4th Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812. While it is not known whether he personally saw action, the 4th Lincoln Militia was present in the famous Battle of Queenston Heights on 13 October 1812. [5] Whatever his role in the battle, Isaac's pension record states that he fell ill on 28 October 1812 and died on 4 November 1812. [6] Isaac's wife must have died earlier, as the pension record mentions no widow. Instead, William Walker Sr., Isaac's father, applied for the pension in 1816 as the children's guardian. Isaac died intestate, and William was named estate administrator on 12 February 1813. The petition for administration does not mention Isaac's children, likely because none were of age. [7]

A Return of Persons who have been placed on the Pension List, ^{in the} Service of the St. Regiment Lincoln Militia, formerly 2nd December 1816.									
									1819
Name of Person the said Person ranked in the militia	Time the said Person served	Date when discharged	Rank in Militia	Rank in Militia	Rank in Militia	Date of discharge	Rank in Militia	Rank in Militia	Remarks
John Smith	Nov 1816	Dec 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
John Brown	Nov 1816	Dec 1816	Private	Private	Private	2 Feb 1817	Private	Private	
John Johnson	May 1816	3 Aug 1816	Private	Private	Private	4 Dec 1816	Private	Private	
William Griffin	5 Oct 1816	2 Oct 1816	Private	Private	Private	4 Feb 1817	Private	Private	
Robert Thompson	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
John Smith	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
John Brown	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
John Johnson	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
William Griffin	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
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John Smith	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
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John Johnson	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
William Griffin	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	
Robert Thompson	1 Oct 1816	3 Nov 1816	Private	Private	Private	1 Jan 1817	Private	Private	

Library and Archives Canada, "Return of Person's Place on Pension List, 4th Regiment of Lincoln Militia," Civil Secretary's Correspondence, Upper Canada, Upper Canada Sundries, September-December 1816, MG 5, A, 1, Vol. 30, page 14119.

Some family trees say that Isaac's wife, Catherine Hare, died in May 1812, but no sources establish this. The pension record confirms she was alive until at least June 1807, when their youngest child was born. Since there were three children under 16 listed in the record, they must have been born between 1801 and June 1807.

William Walker Sr. died on 22 October 1819. He had signed his will on 30 April 1819, and it was probated on 2 November 1819. [8] The will names three granddaughters as “daughters of Isaac”: Elizabeth, Sarah and Catherine. As an original record containing

primary information with direct evidence identifying Isaac's three daughters, the will delivers a significant blow to the reliability of the 1958 tree in *Annals of the Forty*, which omits the names of two of these daughters and claims Isaac had children born after June 1807.

Since the 1816 pension record notes only children under 16, Isaac and Catherine may have had older offspring. Establishing whether they did requires pinpointing their marriage date.

Catherine's father, Peter Hare, applied for land for her in January 1797, stating she was 16 at the time. [9] The government replied that she was too young and would qualify for land either when she became of legal age, which would occur c. 1801/1802 when she would turn 21, or when she married. That later situation arose. Isaac and Catherine, married and living in Ancaster, applied for land on 18 August 1800 as a Loyalist daughter and her husband. [10] The land petition therefore suggests they were married by 1800. That timing allows for one older child who would have been over 16 by 1816.

25
 To his Excellency Peter Hunter Esq Governor and
 Commander in and over his majestys province
 of upper Canada &c &c &c
 The petition of Isaac and Catherine Walker
 Humbly Sheweth
 That your ^{petitioners} Isaac Walker of ancestor in the County of
 Lincoln came into this province in the year
 1794 under the Favour of his father and since
 that Time Married with Catherine Hair Daught
 of Con: Better Hair who was a Captain in the late
 War in Con: better Kings and ^{lost} Catherine
 his present wife or himself ^{not} whom have received
 any Grant of land on account of her being a
 Sovereigns Daughter and Most Humbly pray that
 your Excellency will Grant him such an allot-
 ment of Land as you in your Wisdom may think
 they Merit on that behalf and your petitioners
 as in Duty bound will Ever pray
 Isaac Walker
 Catherine Walker
 3^d 4th of August 1800 —

*Library and Archives Canada, Upper Canada Land
Petitions, "W" Bundle 5 (1763–1865), RG 1 L3, Vol. 523(a),
no. 25, Isaac Walker and Catherine Walker.*

A possible son

If an older child exists, Abraham Walker is the strongest candidate. He was clearly connected to the wider Walker family of the Grimsby area. He married Catherine Merrill, and his 17 December 1834 marriage bond was signed by a William Walker and an Edmond Buck. [11] The Merrills were Baptists, and Abraham Walker and Catherine née Merrill joined the Beamsville Baptist Church. [12] Among the congregants was the aforementioned William Walker, [13] who would have been a son of Isaac Walker's brother Thomas. Edmond Buck had married Catherine Walker in 1831, Isaac's daughter. [14] Signatures found on legal documents dating from 1870 and 1874 confirm that the Edmond who signed Abraham Walker's 1834 marriage bond was indeed the same man married to Isaac's daughter Catherine. [15] In other words, Edmond was likely signing the marriage bond as Abraham's brother-in-law. So, while his parentage is not explicitly documented, Abraham fits the circumstances to be Isaac's son.

The commonly cited dates for Abraham – born 1808, died 1848 – come from a 1987 transcription of cemetery data. [16] This is a derivative source based on earlier transcriptions. Abraham's gravestone itself did not survive a relocation of the Beamsville Baptist cemetery in 1932. Dates were recorded at that time, but complete inscriptions were not preserved. Later transcriptions relied on the 1932 notes. [17][18][19] The accuracy of the 1932 work is impossible to confirm, and the condition of the stones at the time is undocumented. As a result, the 1808 birth year rests on weak evidentiary footing.

If Catherine Merrill was born in 1798, as her own 1987 cemetery transcription suggests, that would imply a bride who was 10 years older than her groom – not impossible, but highly unlikely for the time. The 1851/52 Canada West census places her birth around 1804. [20] While this might narrow the age gap, it would still leave her senior to Abraham by about six years, still an unusually large difference.

More importantly, an 1808 birth conflicts with Isaac's pension record. As we've seen, the pension record specifies that the youngest of his children was born in June 1807. If Abraham truly was born in 1808, he cannot be Isaac's son.

A more plausible explanation is that Abraham was born about 1800 and that the gravestone date was either misread or mis-transcribed. Weathering can easily make "1800" appear as "1808." Parish membership records support this possibility: Abraham appears on the Beamsville Baptist rolls until about 1843, with "deceased" noted beside his name that year. [21] His name then disappears from later lists, while Catherine's name remains. He therefore likely died before 1848. On a deteriorated stone, a "3" (as in 1843) could have been mistakenly read as an "8."

These revised dates, 1800-1843, better fit the established timeline. The pension record eliminates an 1808 birth, and the chain of derivative cemetery records is too weak to sustain the 1808-1848 claim. Meanwhile, the marriage bond provides sturdy evidence of a family connection between Abraham and Catherine Walker, a known daughter of William Walker Sr. The available evidence and timeline sustain a strong argument that Abraham was Isaac's son.

Removing the other names

Because the sourcing that underpins the 1958 family tree is unknown, its reliability is severely impaired. Conclusions must rest on evidence, and no publicly available sources support the inclusion of the other purported children.

Frances Walker

Frances appears in *Annals of the Forty* as the father of a daughter baptized in 1834, Phoebe Catherine Walker, who later married Solomon Ball. [22] This describes only Frances's parentage of Phoebe, not his relationship to Isaac. No evidence actually connects Frances to Isaac's family.

Thomas Walker

Thomas is said to have married Harriet Moon and “probably” lived on Lot 36 in Ancaster. [23] Property records for Lot 36 Concession 3 in Ancaster – a property connected with the Walker family – contain no mention of a Thomas Walker. [24] There was a Thomas Walker who married a woman named Harriet Moon, but the couple lived in Clinton, Huron County, not Clinton Township, Lincoln County. Her obituary states she married in Bath, England, before coming to Canada around 1835. [25] The only Thomas Walker in Clinton Township at the relevant time was Isaac’s brother. Thomas can therefore be eliminated as Isaac’s son.

William Walker

This William Walker, said to be born in 1804, [26] is often linked to “lot 36” in Ancaster. However, the William Walker associated with that property was William Walker Sr., Isaac’s father. [27] A William Walker born about 1804 did exist in the area, but he was the son of Ralph Walker, Isaac’s brother. There was also the Baptist William Walker mentioned above, who was the son of Isaac’s sibling, Thomas. Of course, 1804 does fit the 1801-1807 birth timeframe but, no other evidence links Isaac with a son named William.

Israel Walker

Israel’s records consistently conflict. The 1851/52 Canada West census says he was born in the United States about 1806. [28] The 1870 U.S. census gives a U.S. birth in 1795, [29] and his 1871 death registration reports a U.S. birth about 1800. [30] These locations contradict Isaac’s residence in Upper Canada and the pension record’s timeline. Only the 1861 Canada West census places Israel’s birth in Upper Canada with an implied date of 1800, [31] but this single inconsistent entry is outweighed by the other records. Israel does not appear to have been Isaac’s son.

Jane Ann Walker

Jane, born 1809 and said to have married James Patterson, falls outside the pension-derived date range. [32] Multiple censuses (1851/52, [33] 1861, [34] and, 1871 [35]) and her 1896 death registration [36]

independently confirm an 1809 birth. She cannot be Isaac’s daughter.

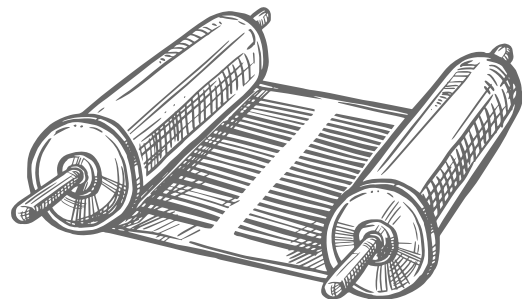
Sarah B. Walker

The 1958 tree lists Sarah B., born 1811 and married to Ebenezer Stinson in 1828. [37] The marriage bond provides no evidence linking her to Isaac. [38] Her birth year is unknown but falls outside the range set by the pension records. The Sarah known to be Isaac’s daughter was born 23 September 1804, according to an 1841–1845 family tree, [39] and married William Swackhammer on 1 May 1823, confirmed by a parish marriage record. [40] These two Sarahs are distinct; the one in the 1958 tree cannot be Isaac’s daughter.

Together, the evidence eliminates all but the three daughters named in the 1819 will and the possible older son Abraham.

Conclusion

Annals of the Forty remains a useful resource, but its own caution that the listed children “may” belong to Isaac has often been overlooked. The evidence presented here revises that list. Three proven daughters – Elizabeth, Sarah, and Catherine – were born between 1801 and 1807, supported by Isaac’s 1816 militia pension file and the 1819 will of William Walker Sr. A fourth child, Abraham, fits the documentary and chronological circumstances more closely than the long-repeated 1808-1848 dates suggest. The remaining names assigned by the 1958 tree lack evidentiary support. The combined and correlated evidence indicates that Isaac Walker had three confirmed children and probably four, but certainly not eight.



Endnotes

- [1] Library and Archives Canada, *Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865)*, “W” Bundle 2, RG 1, L 3, Vol. 522, No. 13, John, Isaac and Ralph Walker, 30 June 1796 ([CollectionsCanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization, film c-2950, image 669 of 1280](https://collections.canada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/film/c-2950/image/669_of_1280) : accessed 14 December 2025). The petition states Isaac had reached age 21, so he must have been born before 30 June 1775. His North Carolina origin is confirmed by his father’s 1794 land petition, which says he arrived in Canada from North Carolina. Library and Archives Canada, *Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865)*, “W” Bundle 1, RG 1, L 3, Vol. 522, No. 9, William Walker, 10 July 1794 ([Collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization, film c-2950, images 372 and 373 of 1280](https://collections.canada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/film/c-2950/images/372_and_373_of_1280) : accessed 14 December 2025)
- [2] “Walker”, *Annals of the Forty, Loyalist and Pioneer Families of West Lincoln, 1783-1833*, Vol. 9, pp. 52–57, Grimsby: Grimsby Historical Society, 1958.
- [3] Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. (Nashville: Ancestry, 2019), esp. Standards 1-5, 40-47, 48-54; Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2013).
- [4] *Annals of the Forty*, Vol. 9.
- [5] Carol Whitfield, “The Battle of Queenston Heights,” *Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History*, No. 11, Parks Canada History (<http://parkscanadahistory.com/series/chs/11/chs11-1c.htm> : accessed 14 December 2025).
- [6] Library and Archives Canada, “Return of Person’s Place on Pension List, 4th Regiment of Lincoln Militia,” *Civil Secretary’s Correspondence*, Upper Canada, Upper Canada Sundries, September-December 1816, MG 5, A, 1, Vol. 30, page 14119.
- [7] Ontario, Surrogate Court (Lincoln County), *In the Matter of Isaac Walker*, 12 Feb 1813; Archives of Ontario, RG 22-235, Lincoln County Surrogate Court Estate Files, 1794-1859, film MS 8240.
- [8] Ontario, Surrogate Court (Lincoln County), Probate papers 1813-1833, *In the Matter of William Walker*, deceased, filed November 1819. FamilySearch.org, image group no. 008200820, images 394 to 398 of 1457.
- [9] Library and Archives Canada, *Upper Canada Land Petitions*, “H” Bundle 2, 1795-1797, RG 1 L3, Vol. 223, no. 137 (Peter Hare petition).
- [10] Library and Archives Canada, *Upper Canada Land Petitions*, “W” Bundle 5 (1763-1865), RG 1 L3, Vol. 523(a), No. 25, Isaac Walker and Catherine Walker.
- [11] Library and Archives Canada, *Marriage Bonds, 1779-1858 – Upper and Lower Canada*, RG 5 B9 Vol. 28, bond 4425 (Abraham Walker and Catherine Merrill), 17 Dec 1834, item no. 6867.
- [12] Beamsville Baptist Church (Ontario), *Canadian Baptist Historical Collection*, Beamsville Baptist Church, 1807-1924, FamilySearch.org, image group no. 008130501, image 55 of 855.
- [13] Beamsville Baptist Church (Ontario).
- [14] *1861 Census of Canada*, Canada West, Oxford, Village of Otterville, page 59, line 32 (marriage year reference).
- [15] United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, *Loyalist Directory*, “William Walker Sr.,” ID 8772; Ontario, Oxford County Land Registry Office, LRO41, no. SN478, Deed of Bargain and Sale, Daniel Templeton and Charles E. Bauslaugh, 17 October 1870 [signed by Edmond Buck as witness]; Ontario, Oxford County Land Registry Office, LRO41, no. SN1604, Deed of Land, Martin Hicks to Daniel Hicks, 13 April 1874 [signed by Edmond Buck as witness].
- [16] Corlene Taylor, *Beamsville Baptist Cemetery* (St. Catharines, Ont.: Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch, 1987).
- [17] Taylor, *Beamsville Baptist Cemetery*, p. 2.
- [18] Janet Carnochan, *Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula* (Niagara Historical Society, 1910), pp. 80-83.
- [19] Marion Whitman Dawdy, *Baptists of Beamsville, 1788-1988*, p. 41.
- [20] *1851 Census of Canada West*, Lincoln County, Clinton, page 87. Ancestry.com, image 87 of 101. This is described as 1851/52 because enumeration actually took place in January 1852.
- [21] Beamsville Baptist Church (Ontario).
- [22] *Annals of the Forty*, Vol. 9, p. 54.
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Left Out of the Story

Andrea Lister

Andrea Lister, B.A., is the principal of Absolutely Literate specializing in research, editing, and writing. She regularly writes and speaks about researching your family history. This essay claimed second prize in the 2025 Keffer Essay Writing Contest.

Mehitabel Street was about thirty years old when the American Revolution began on 19 April 1775. Her life had already been marred by death but her next forty years would be lived in the shadow of war and family division.

Mehitabel's ancestors had been in British Colonial America for over a hundred years when Mehitabel was born in 1744/45. Mehitabel's third-great-grandfather, the Reverend Nicholas Street, was part of the wave of Puritan arrivals to the colonies settling in Taunton, Massachusetts about 1637. Mehitabel was the third child born to Samuel and Elizabeth (née Smith) Street. She was baptised 6 January 1744/45 in the British colony of Wilton, Fairfield, Connecticut. [1]



The Reverend Nicholas Street, 1789. Oil painting by Reuban Moulthrop, The New York Historical Society, Image 1962.9.

Samuel, Mehitabel's father, was a blacksmith and a fur trader with his brother Timothy in the Niagara region. Mehitabel was only nine years old when her father died at age thirty-two in 1753, leaving his widow Elizabeth with seven children, the oldest only twelve and the youngest two. Women had little legal status in the 1750s so Elizabeth had to petition for an allowance from the estate to bring up her children to the age of seven. [2]

By the mid-1760s, Mehitabel's family dynamic changed again. In 1765, Mehitabel's mother Elizabeth married Captain Timothy Benedict, a widower of Ridgefield, Connecticut. [3] In August 1766, Mehitabel's youngest brother, Samuel, age fourteen, became the ward of Lindal Fitch. [4] The same year, their sister Mary was wed to Joseph (Thomas) Darling.

In her mid-twenties, in May 1769, Mehitabel received a share of her father's estate when her mother, Elizabeth, and Timothy Benedict deeded the estate to all the living children and heirs of Samuel Street. "Nehemiah Street of Farmington in the County of Hartford, Elizabeth Street, Hannah Street, Mehitabel Street, Nathaniel Street, Samuel Street all of Norwalk in said county of Fairfield & Mary the wife of Thomas Darling of sd [said] Ridgefield." [5]

By the time that the troubles began in 1775, all of Mehitabel's siblings were married: Elizabeth Street to Lemuel Wilmot; Nehemiah to Thankful Moody; and

Hannah to Joseph Pierson Meeker. Samuel was likely also married as his daughter Mary was born about 1776, but unfortunately his wife's name has not been discovered. [6]

Like many families, the Street family was divided by the American Revolution. Mehitabel's uncle, John Street, had enlisted alongside his sons, Nathaniel, David, and John, in supporting the American cause. John was killed at the Battle of White Plains in 1776. [7] Mehitabel's sisters, Mary and Hannah, and their families remained in Connecticut, one of the Thirteen Colonies that broke away from the British Crown. Her brother Nathaniel had moved to New York City, which was still controlled by the British, and married Elizabeth Rogers; but by 1790 the family had settled in North Carolina, which was on the side of the American Rebels.

Despite the family having been in British North America for over a hundred and thirty years by the time the American Revolution boiled over, some members of the Street family became Loyalists. In 1778, Mehitabel's brother Samuel left his wife and daughter in New York "due to his attachment to the British Cause" and moved to the "then Province of Quebec." [8] He operated as a civilian merchant at Fort Niagara providing provisions to the British military. [9] Mary's son, John Darling, joined his Loyalist cousins in the Niagara area of Upper Canada by 1790. [10]

It is likely that Mehitabel was also in the British controlled New York area during the American Revolution with her sister Elizabeth and her family. Elizabeth's husband, Lemuel Wilmot, was a captain with the British Royal American Regiment garrisoned in New York. [11] By 1783, Mehitabel, in her late thirties, had fled to York County, in the Province of Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick), with her sister Elizabeth and her family and thousands of other Loyalists.

While adjusting to a new life after the disruption of the

American Revolution, word would have reached Mehitabel and Elizabeth of their brother Nehemiah's death on 1 September 1787. Nehemiah was murdered and robbed by James Gale on his way back from Niagara Falls after delivering a shipment of cattle. [12] Two men were arrested for the murder, but as the borders between the newly formed United States and Upper Canada were still unclear, it was determined that Quebec did not have jurisdiction, and that it was too expensive and inconvenient to send the men to England for trial. [13] In 1792, the men were acquitted by His Majesty "on condition of quitting his dominions." [14] After the Streets' loyalty to the British Crown, the injustice of how Nehemiah's murder was handled must have rankled.

In 1810, now in her sixties, Mehitabel joined her brother Samuel Street, his daughter Mary, and her husband John Usher on Samuel's Grove Farm in Willoughby Township, in what was then Upper Canada. [15] Mary and John had five children under the age of twelve.

The War of 1812 brought battles to Mehitabel's doorstep again. The Niagara area suffered the heaviest fighting and the worst devastation. Samuel had been a captain in the 3rd Lincoln Militia since 1809. By 1813 he was acting deputy paymaster of the militia.

As recounted in her signed statement for the war losses claim, on the afternoon of 4 July 1814, British General Phineas Riall ordered Mehitabel to drive twenty-three head of cattle away from the farm to the north side of the creek. Samuel was away on duty at Chippawa. [16]

By 5 July 1814, American forces were camped on the land around Samuel Street's farm. That morning, a Mrs. Street applied to American Brigadier-General Winfield Scott for protection. As Samuel's wife was dead by 1814, it is likely that Mrs. Street was actually Mehitabel. She proceeded to sell milk and other food to the American troops. She invited Scott to join her for breakfast. He later recounted, "I had just prepared my

first cup of coffee, and was about to raise it to my mouth” when his aide, George Watt, yelled in alarm that they were about to be surrounded by Indigenous forces who supported the British. Scott’s interview continued, “I set down my untasted coffee, rushed from the room, cleared the piazza and steps at one bound, and ran ‘like a man’ for the bridge...the whole thing had been arranged by Mrs. Street [Mehitabel] with the intention of murdering and scalping me. She had given the signal by waving something from the house as soon as we sat down to breakfast.” [17]

A CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL SCOTT.
To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—The following is the substance of a conversation at an interview with Lieutenant-General Scott, had by appointment, April 15, 1865, at the Hoffman House, corner of Twenty-fifth street and Broadway, New York City.

Lieutenant GEORGE WATTS, of the United States Dragoons, major by courtesy, was my aide-de-camp during the campaign of 1814. He was of a very affectionate nature and a very brave man—it might be said, the bravest of the brave. He looked very like PHILIP KEARNY, his nephew, likewise, subsequently, my aide-de-camp. If one man is more brave than another, PHILIP KEARNY was that man. He was the bravest man I ever knew, and a perfect soldier.

Lieutenant GEORGE WATTS, my aid, saved my life the morning before the battle of Chippewa. The circumstances are as follows: At the mouth of Street’s Creek, which empties into the Niagara River, immediately adjacent to the battle-field of July 5th, stood a house, occupied by a Mrs. STREET. As there were no males belonging to her family, she had applied to me for protection, and I had given her a safeguard, which was perfectly respected, and she made money by selling milk and different articles to the American troops. She invited me to breakfast with her, and I accepted the invitation. I had just prepared my first cup of coffee, and was about to raise it to my mouth, when I experienced the truth of the proverb that “there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.” My aid, GEORGE WATTS, perspiring very freely, had risen from the table and stepped across the room to another table, near the window, to get his pocket-handkerchief out of his dragoon helmet or casque which he had previously placed there. My cocked hat lay upon the same table, and I lost it in consequence. Looking out of the window, he turned to me and said, quietly but significantly, “In three minutes the house will be surrounded by Indians.” I set down my untasted coffee, rushed from the room, cleared the piazza and steps at one bound, and ran “like a man” for the bridge which communicated with our own side of the stream. Thus GEORGE WATTS, by his promptness, saved my life, for the whole thing had been arranged by Mrs. STREET with the intention of murdering and scalping me. She had given the signal by waving something from the house as soon as we had sat down to breakfast.

The same night, after my victory at Chippewa, I made Mrs. STREET’s house our hospital, and its rooms and the courtyard, in which I had caused tents to be pitched, were filled with our wounded. When I visited the house I found the treacherous woman and her daughter, a very pretty person, engaged in attending to the wants of the wounded British officers in the second story. I saw the latter carrying refreshments to a wounded British officer to whom she was engaged to be married. As she had been moving through the rooms filled with blood from injuries and amputations, her dress was completely drenched to the knee. Both mother and daughter avoided catching my eye, and I avoided any attempt to make them catch mine; for they were women, and, as such, I could not feel vengeance, although they had attempted to compass my death. As I said before, upon this occasion I owed my life to Lieutenant WATTS.

After what has become known as the Battle of Chippawa, in which the British forces under the command of General Riall were defeated, Brigadier-General Winfield Scott used the Street’s house and courtyard as a hospital. Scott’s story continued:

“When I visited the house, I found the treacherous woman and her daughter, a very pretty woman, engaged in attending to the wants of the wounded British officers in the second story. I saw the latter carrying refreshments to a wounded British officer to whom she was engaged to be married. As she had been moving through the rooms filled with blood from injuries and amputations, her dress was completely drenched to the knee.” [18]

Mehitabel’s presence on the Street property has been completely left out of the story of the Battle of Chippawa or conflated with the story of her niece, Mary Usher. [19] While this story has not been found in other accounts of the battle, it does paint an interesting possible picture of Mehitabel and her niece Mary. Mary’s husband, John Usher had been a captain in His Majesty’s Fifth Regiment of Foot during the American Revolution and was likely active in the militia during the War of 1812.

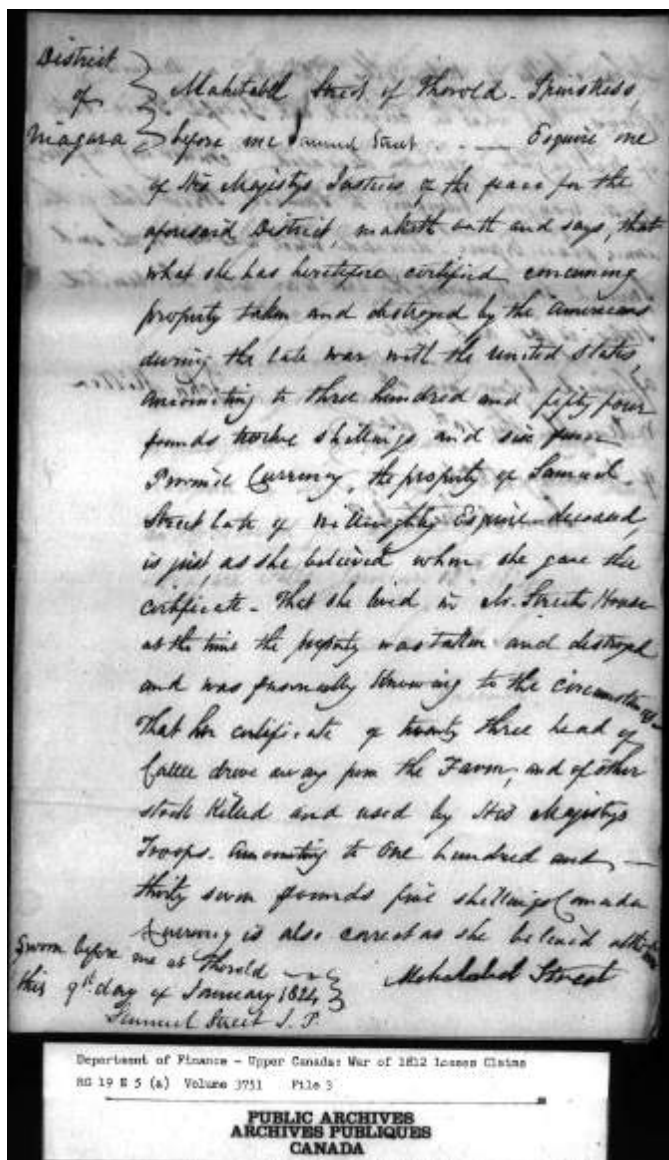
The aftermath of the battle was horrific. Captain William Hamilton Merritt of the British Niagara Light Dragoons arrived in Chippawa shortly after the battle with his troops. His men slept out in the fields as “every house being filled with the wounded.” He “stopped at Street’s, and spent a very unpleasant night; many officers were lying wounded, groaning with pain.” [20]

The Street and Usher family suffered heavily from the war. Samuel did not live to see peace; he died 3 February 1815, just fourteen days before the end of the conflict. Samuel’s estate was awarded £1,333 in compensation for the destruction from both the American and British forces. The statement of property

“A Conversation with General Scott”, *Army and Navy Journal and Gazette of the Regular and Volunteer Forces*, June 9, 1866, pp 666-667.

outlines the extent of the losses. Several buildings on the property were damaged or destroyed by the occupation of troops and the militia. Their stable was damaged as it had housed artillery horses. The blacksmith's house and shop were destroyed and their cider mill burnt. A log home on the property was used for fuel. Hay was furnished for the 19th Light Dragoons' horses and a brown mare was taken from their pasture. The American troops destroyed part of their crops of oats, peas, corn, and potatoes. Mehitabel described how their livestock had been killed and used by the British forces. [21]

Mehitabel, now in her seventies, submitted her own land claim as a Loyalist in 1817. [22] She had to rebuild her life again in the aftermath of war. In 1825, her nephew John Darling, son of Mehitabel's sister Mary, left "Aunt Mehitabel a good house as long as she wants it." [23] Mehitabel died 12 February 1830, about age eighty-six, and is buried in the Street family plot in Drummond Hill Cemetery, Niagara Falls.



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The Silent Sentinel

A Tale of Lot 29, Concession 2, and Newmarket's Ancient Maple

Dean Sprung

Dean Sprung is a dedicated Newmarket, Ontario resident of 29 years and the owner of a thriving renovation business specializing in home improvements. An accomplished author and publisher, he has penned insightful works including *House Effects*: a guide to home ownership in Ontario and *Gretzky: History of the O-Pee-Chee Rookie Card*, sharing expertise on real estate and collectibles. His passion for community and craftsmanship shines through his professional endeavours.

Nestled on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe peoples, Lot 29, Concession 2 in Whitchurch Township – now part of the Town of Newmarket, Ontario – spans a landscape bordered by Bayview Avenue to the west and Leslie Street to the east. Today, this 200-acre parcel is crisscrossed by suburban streets, in whole or in part, like Ivsbridge, Northern Prospect, Foxcroft, Newpark, and others, forming a quiet residential enclave and industrial factories for Magna International. But for nearly two centuries, it was home to a majestic sugar maple tree, a living chronicle of history that germinated around 1847 and grew to over 59-inches in diameter before its necessary removal on 17 November 2021. This tree, standing sentinel through empires, rebellions, and transformations, witnessed the evolution of a frontier settlement into a bustling town. Its story is intertwined with the owners who shaped the land, reflecting the broader narrative of Newmarket's founding amid Quaker ideals, colonial struggles, and industrial progress.

Newmarket's origins trace back to the early 1800s, when Vermont Quaker Timothy Rogers explored the fertile lands along the Holland River in search of refuge for his persecuted community. Fleeing the violence of the American Revolution, Rogers and his followers

secured grants for 8,000 acres in what were then the Townships of Whitchurch and King. They cleared the dense forests for farms, mills, and homes, laying the groundwork for a community that would thrive on agriculture and trade. Lot 29 began as Crown land in 1800, a vast, untamed expanse under British sovereignty. By 1803, it was granted to **James Fulton**, who held the full 200 acres briefly before transferring it in 1805 to **Richard Lippincott Denison**, a notable United Empire Loyalist whose family had fled revolutionary turmoil in New Jersey. Lippincott, a captain in the New Jersey Volunteers during the war, was infamous for his role in the 1782 execution of Patriot Joshua Huddy, an act that sparked international controversy but ultimately spared him punishment. After relocating to Upper Canada, he received land grants, including in nearby Vaughan Township, though his time on Lot 29 was short-lived.

This maple's life paralleled Newmarket's: from Quaker clearings and 1837 unrest, through railway booms and Confederation, housing development to industrial giants like Magna. Though gone, its legacy endures in the backyards that it shaded, a reminder of the land's layered past.

In 1808, the lot passed to **Andrew Clubine**, a Quaker-

born farmer from New Jersey who arrived with the second wave of settlers. Born 23 April 1764, Clubine embodied the industrious spirit of the early Quaker community. He held the full 200 acres until 1838, clearing fields, planting crops, and likely tapping the first maples for syrup – a tradition that would have included the very sapling that would one day tower over the property. Clubine died on 5 October 1839, at age 75 (though his monument curiously reads 1889), and is buried in the Newmarket Cemetery. His long tenure marked the land’s transition from wilderness to working farmland. By 1838, the lot began to subdivide: Clubine retained 150 acres, while **John Bogart Jr.** acquired the eastern 50 – a pattern that would repeat as Newmarket grew.



*Clubine headstone in the Newmarket Cemetery.
Photo Courtesy of the Author.*

The year **1847** is pivotal. It was then, under the ownership of **Joshua Bogart** (who took the 50-acre eastern parcel from his relative), that a sugar maple seed – perhaps dropped by a bird, carried by wind, or planted deliberately – took root near the boundary line. It’s precise location is 44° 2’ 32” N, 79° 25’ 58” W (specifically today, 1003 Northern Prospect Crescent). This was no ordinary year. The Province of Canada was in its infancy, formed in 1841 from Upper and Lower Canada. The potato famine in Ireland was driving waves of immigration. And in Newmarket, the

Rebellion of 1837 still echoed. Local farmer **Samuel Lount**, executed for his role in the uprising, had marched from nearby fields. The maple sprouted in soil still raw from political blood and colonial ambition.

By 1840, **Jared Irwin** had purchased Clubine’s 150-acre western portion briefly before selling 100 acres to German-born settler **Lot Hartman** in 1842 and the remaining 50 acres to Hartman in 1844 while Joshua Bogart kept the east portion. It was on this divided but fertile land – likely near the fence line separating the two parcels – that the maple began its slow climb toward the sky.

The Bogart Era: Millers, Farmers, and Community Builders

The **Bogart family** was synonymous with progress in early Newmarket. **John Bogart** had built a sawmill in 1805, founding the hamlet of Bogarttown just north of Lot 29. His descendants carried the legacy forward. **Joshua Bogart**, owner of the eastern 50 acres from 1847 to 1890, farmed the land intensively. His fields of wheat, oats, and pasture likely surrounded the young maple, which by the 1860s – now 13 years old – stood tall enough to cast shade over a plow horse. The 1860 Tremaine Map marks “Joshua Bogart” clearly, with the maple’s future location noted near the lot line. By then, the **Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway** (1853) had transformed Newmarket into a commercial hub, and Bogart’s grain would have rolled south to Toronto markets.



Portion of the 1860 Tremaine map showing Lot 29, with the maple tree marked. Photo Courtesy of the Author.

On the western 150 acres, ownership shifted rapidly: **John Ironside**, a Scottish immigrant born in 1819, acquired it in 1850. He died young in 1866 at age 47 and is buried in Newmarket Cemetery. Brief owners followed – **Joseph Hartman** (1850–51), **Peter P. Pearson** (1851-60) – before Ironside’s widow or heirs sold to **John Currey** in 1877. Currey, born in 1827, was a prominent farmer and businessman. He held the land until his death in 1905 at age 78, also buried locally. Under Currey, the farm modernized: stone fences, drainage tiles, and perhaps the first windmill for pumping water. The maple, now 30 years old by 1877, would have been a landmark – a “boundary tree” used in surveys and deeds.

Confederation and Agricultural Prosperity

Canada’s birth in **1867** brought stability. The maple, at 20 years, survived the harsh winters of the 1870s. By **1890**, Joshua Bogart sold his 50 acres to **Albert Bogart**, keeping the eastern parcel in the family. On the west, **John W. Currey** (likely a son) inherited or purchased it from his father. The farm was now split into two well-established holdings: 150 acres west, 50 east. From 1896-1905, **Beverley R. and Annie Redditt** owned the east 50. Beverley, a local figure, is remembered in archival photos from the Richmond Hill Public Library.

In **1905**, **Robert J. Wreggit** – born 15 April 1858, in East Gwillimbury – purchased the eastern 50. A farmer and community member, he held it until 1937, dying in 1941 at age 83 in Sharon. His long tenure saw the maple reach maturity. By **1907**, the west was subdivided: John W. Currey kept 112.5 acres, **David M. Currey** took 37.5. This fragmentation reflected rising land values as Newmarket grew from village (1858) to town (1881).

The 20th Century: From Dust Bowl to Suburban Dream

The **Great Depression** hit hard. By **1930**, **Percy Brillinger** owned the main western parcel, selling in 1931 to **William J. Wesley** (born 1870, died 1932). Wesley’s brief ownership ended tragically, but the land

passed to the **Agricultural Development Board** in 1934 – a government effort to stabilize farming. The maple, now 87 years old, stood through the Dust Bowl years, its roots deep in clay soil enriched by decades of manure and crop rotation.

In **1937**, **George H. and Zella West** bought the eastern 50 from Wreggit. They sold in 1955 to **Carson W. Robinson**, who transferred it in 1965 to **William E. and Jessie P. Osler**. The Oslers were part of a prominent Canadian family – descended from **Sir Edmund Boyd Osler**, a financier and politician. William’s father, **Hugh Farquharson Osler**, had been a Manitoban notable. The Oslers used the land for hobby farming, boarding horses. The maple, at 118 years, was likely tapped for syrup – a tradition documented in local histories.



The Osler Farm c. 1969, before the land was purchased by Frank Stronach, with the maple tree in the back right. Photo sent to the author by Hugh and Tracy Osler.

The Stronach Era: Industry Meets Agriculture

Everything changed in **1969**. **Frank Stronach**, the Austrian-Canadian billionaire founder of **Magna International**, purchased the eastern 50 from the Osler family. Stronach, who arrived in Canada in 1957 with \$200, had built a global auto parts empire. He incorporated **Sun-Trac Farms Inc.** in 1975 to manage the land, using it for horse breeding – part of his passion for thoroughbred racing. Streets like *Vice*

Regent, Exceller, and Cresta Rider reflect this equestrian legacy.

In **1977**, Magna itself acquired the western 150 acres from **John Maitland MacIntosh**, who had owned it since 1955. For the first time in 130 years, **Lot 29 was unified under one owner**. Stronach's vision was grand: a corporate retreat, training facility, and potential development site. The maple, now 130 years old, stood in a pasture near Leslie Street, its trunk thick, its canopy wide. Aerial photos from the Osler family show the east lot as open farmland. The west lot, near Bayview and Newpark, had a farmhouse demolished in 2015.

The End of an Era: 1992-2021

By **1992**, Magna sold 100 acres to **Timberbank Construction**, which became **Stonehaven** – a luxury residential developer. The lot was split again: Magna kept 100 acres (later reduced to 60 by 1996), Stonehaven took 100, then 140. Subdivision plans accelerated. The maple, at 145 years in 1992, was surveyed, measured, and left as the urban sprawl had arrived

Other notable current day landmarks are **1076 Vice Regent Place** where the original east lot farm house stood and **1031 Northern Prospect Crescent** where the second residential house stood. The last stewards of the sentinel, **Rob and Sheryl Adley** saw the tree had started bearing few leaves in 2019 to its demise in 2020. After 173 years of drawing life from the clay loam of Lot 29, Concession 2, the tree had surrendered to decline. No storm had broken it, no blight had blackened its bark; only the slow, inexorable drain of age and shifting groundwater beneath a changing landscape had silenced its pulse. On **17 November 2021**, the ancient sugar maple – its once-vibrant crown reduced to brittle, leafless twigs, its sap long dried to a whisper in the veins – stood barren against the late-autumn sky. On that grey morning, with the air sharp and the ground already softening toward winter, the chainsaw's steady drone marked the end.



The Silent Sentinel at its end. Photo Courtesy of the Author.



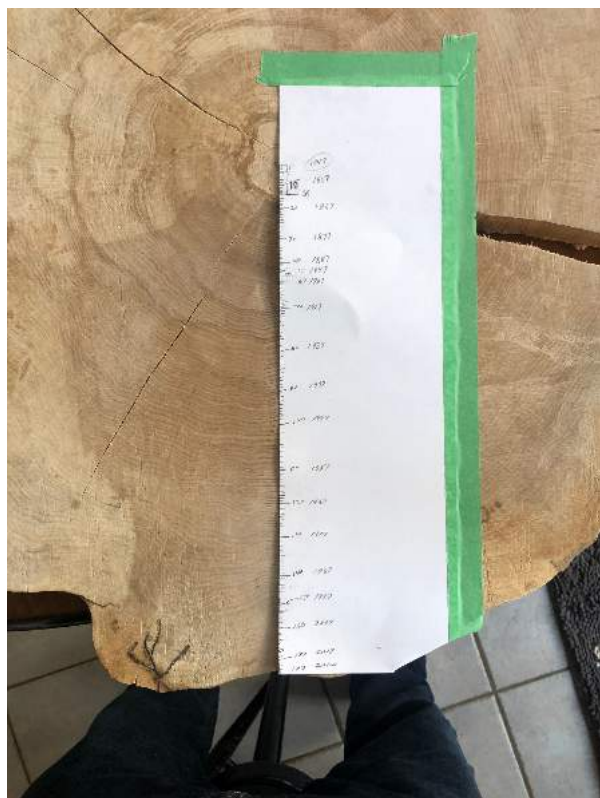
The ancient tree felled. Photo Courtesy of the Author.

Legacy in Wood and Memory

Though gone, the maple's influence endures. Its wood lives on destined for tables made with epoxy, wood chips for the BBQ smoker, coasters from salvaged limbs; its story in local lore. The yards it shaded on *Northern Prospect* – honour no one in particular, but the land remembers.

From **Crown land** in 1800 to **Stonehaven homes** to present day, Lot 29 reflects Canada's journey: Indigenous territory, colonial grant, Quaker refuge,

rebel ground, railway boomtown, industrial powerhouse, suburban enclave. The maple saw it all – rooted in 1847, felled in 2021. Its rings were chapters; its fall, the turning of a page.



Side view of the ancient tree showing annual rings.
Photo Courtesy of the Author.

References

All land records were researched through the OnLand portal.

Stories of the land owners were gleaned from two sources:

1. [A Brief History of the Town of Newmarket - Terry Carter Compilation](#). Found on the Newmarket town website
2. [The History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario, Volume 2](https://archive.org/details/historyoftoronto01mulvuoft/page/n9/mode/2up). Charles Pelham Mulvany, C.B. Robinson Publisher, Toronto, 1885. Found online at:
<https://archive.org/details/historyoftoronto01mulvuoft/page/n9/mode/2up>

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Use of French Canadian Virtue Names

Robbie Gorr

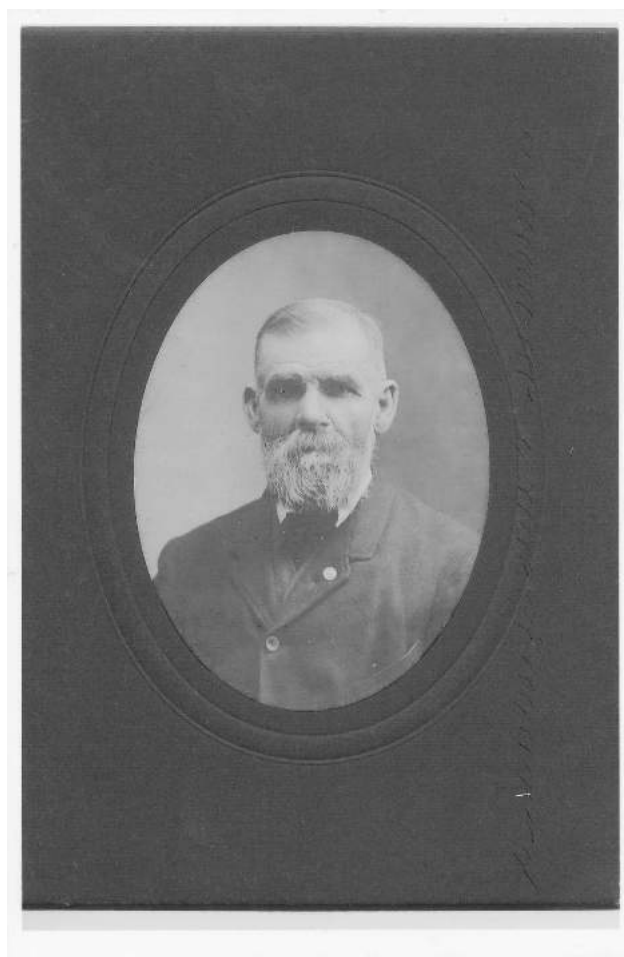
Virtue names, also known as grace names, have been used as personal names for centuries in many countries and cultures. They appear noticeably in times of religious reformation or political and social change. Parents, no longer wanting to follow traditional naming patterns, often choose unusual names for their children in the hope that they will grow to embody the meaning of the name or remind those around them of that virtue.

The religious reformations of the 16th and 17th centuries saw the Puritans take the practice of virtue nomenclature into mainstream usage and in the 17th and 18th centuries, the German Pietists did the same. For the French, such naming traditions became popular in the days of revolution and republic while French Canadians increased their use of virtue names in the 19th century, as they sought to set themselves apart in the newly formed but Anglo-Protestant-dominated Dominion.

Family history researchers with French Canadian ancestry will have noted the limited number of traditional names commonly used by their ancestors in previous centuries. Then, there were so many Josephs, Jeans, Maries and Annes that *dit* surname sobriquets were needed to tell one François from another in the same family or community. By the turn of the 19th century, however, parents were using an increasingly varied selection of names and forms for their children.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the names of well-known and popular saints, popes and biblical characters had dominated the choice of baby names for a long time but it gradually broadened to include a variety of

many lesser-known names. Parents also became more innovative and added more unconventional selections for their children including the virtue names. Some stayed close to tradition with the choice of religiously-inspired monikers like **Dieudonné** (literally, God-given), **Archange** (archangel) and **Magloire** (my [God's] glory) while other abstract virtue names like **Euphonie** (harmony), **Aimé** & **Aimée** (beloved) and **Bonhomme** (good man) became popular alternatives.



Dieudonné [meaning God-given] Granger (1844-1923), son of Candide [sincere] & Aurélie [golden] Granger of Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec.

Some virtue names were gender neutral like **Amable** (lovable) and **Candide** (sincere) and were given to both boys and girls. Other virtue names were distinctly masculine like **Bonaventure** (good fortune) or feminine like **Espérance** (hope), depending on the gender of the original noun. Still others came in male and female variations like **Félix** and **Félicité** (happiness), **Vital** and **Vitaline** (life-giving, vibrant) or **Séraphim** and **Séraphine** (highest ranking angels).



The author's great-grandaunt Felicitas [meaning happiness] Turcotte (1861-1935) and her husband Michael Chartrand of Petawawa Township in Renfrew County. She was often called Lizzie, for short.

The use of virtue names in French Canada gradually fell out of use in the early decades of the 20th century as other naming trends replaced them as popular choices for baby names.

Other French Canadian Virtue Names...

Amadiou/Amadeus (love of God); **Amédé(e)** (lover of God); **Ange/Angèle** (angel, messenger of God); **Angélique** (angelic); **Auguste/Augustin** (exalted, venerable); **Aurèle/Aurélien & Aurélie** (golden); **Beauregard** (beautiful outlook); **Bénédict(e)** (benediction); **Benoit** (blessing); **Celeste/Celestine** (heavenly); **Chrétien(ne)** (Christian); **Clément & Clémence/Clémentine** (clemency, mercy); **Constant(in) & Constance** (constant, steadfast); **Desiré(e)** (desired); **Eliminant** (vanquished, conquered); **Emérance** (merit, achievement through hard work); **Ésprit** (spirit); **Euphrasie/Euphrosine** (good cheer); **Évangelist(e)** (evangelist); **Fidèle/Fidélité** (faithful); **Fortune** (luck); **Gracieuse/Gracieux** (gracious); **Honoré(e)/Honorine** (honoured, respected); **Joyeux** (joyful); **Libre** (free); **Loyal(e)** (loyal); **Marvel** (miracle); **Miséricord** (mercy); **Modeste/Modestine** (modest); **Pius** (pious); **Prospère** (prosper); **Prudent & Prudence** (sensible); **Sainte/Sainte/Xainte** (saint); **Soleil** (sunshine); **Sophronie** (self-controlled, wise); **Télesphore** (fulfillment); **Théophide** (faith in God); **Théophile** (loved by God); **Théotiste** (justice of God); **Toussaint(e)** (all saints); **Triste** (sorrowful); **Victor & Victoire** (victor, victory)





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Coral's Corner

Coral Harkies

Off the Beaten Branch

Asylum Patient Stories

Discover stories of women who were institutionalized in Canada from the mid-1800s to the 1920s. Explore what their time would have been like in the asylums as well as what their lives may have been like before and after incarceration. This site currently has three stories and more are to be added. It also includes photographs for some of the asylums. Even if your ancestor's story is not yet included, the stories that are there could give you some insight into their experiences.

Canadian Museum of Health Care

This museum in Kingston Ontario has a collection of artifacts and archival documents related to the history of medicine and health care in Canada. Their online catalogue features images of a variety of items including Victorian baby bottles, Nursing School Reunion photos, images of Sanatoriums, and surgical rolls from the 1930's.

Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

Celebrate Canadians who worked to advance health care in Canada. This site includes comprehensive profiles of 167 Laureates who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Explore and Learn on the Society website

Have you explored all that the Society website has to offer? Many people within the Society have been working hard to improve the user experience of our site. Over the next several issues of *Families*, I will highlight some of the areas that we have updated, and

showcase each of the resources that are available to our members.

The Education tab has a wealth of items to help you learn about other resources, research techniques and more. The page is divided into three sections: Live and Upcoming, Watch and Learn and Teacher Resources.

The **Live and Upcoming** section has a link to the full 2026 Society webinar lineup page; a link to the Events Calendar which includes many of the branch events; a link to the Family Tree Maker User group information page; as well as showcasing any special events that we are hosting. This is where you can find registration information and links to upcoming sessions.

The **Watch and Learn** tab houses a large webinar library that includes both free and members only content. In the Free Webinar section there are several presentations from the Archives of Ontario, FamilySearch, OnLand as well as webinars about using the Society's website and our newly updated Research Resource Landing Page. The Members Only Webinar section has over 85 sessions on a variety of topics. You can search for recordings of interest using the tag field to search for specific time periods, topics and speakers. The topics covered include various types of record sets, DNA, research tools and more for Ontario and beyond. The recordings of the Family Tree Maker User Groups sessions are available to members. If you use Family Tree Maker, there are sessions to help users of all levels to get the most out of this software. There is also a series of presentations called the DNA Bootcamp. It includes 18 hours of sessions on using DNA in our research.

The last section, **Teacher Resources**, has resources for teachers as well as genealogy activities for children that would be helpful to parents and grandparents as well as educators.

We hope you will take the time to explore this area of the site and extend your skills and understanding of the diverse world of Family History.

Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards

The Society had the opportunity to attend the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards at Queens Park on Friday, April 17, 2026. Seventeen recipients were honoured for their work in the area of heritage conservation. This was a joint event between the office of the Lieutenant Governor, Ontario Heritage Awards and The Ontario Heritage Trust.

The event began on the Grand Staircase with a greeting from the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edith Dumont; the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Graham McGregor; and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Trust, John Ecker. Each recipient was then presented with their award.



Bottom left - Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edith Dumont and above, the Grand Staircase.

Photos courtesy of the Author.

Following the awards presentation, we gathered in the Lieutenant Governor's suite for refreshments and a chance to mingle with both recipients and other guests. I had the opportunity to speak to a group who have identified those buried in Potter's Field at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. This group won the Excellence in Conservation Award. I also spoke to Daniyal Elahi and Harris Elahi, two brothers who received the group Youth Heritage Leader Award for their work documenting overlooked soldiers of the First World War. All of these recipients were inspiring, showing leadership and dedication to Ontario Heritage.

For more information on all of the award recipients and on the two subjects highlighted above, please see the links below.

2025 Heritage Award Recipients
[Potter's Field Identification project](#)
[Our Shared Sacrifice](#)

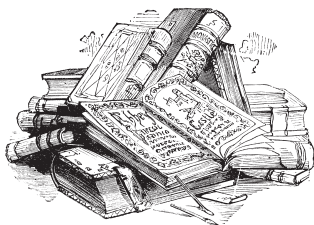
Planning a Future for Your Family's Past (Second Edition)

by Marian Burk Wood

Book Review by Heather Oakley

This is a topic that every genealogist needs to think about. Sure, publishing your findings is the best way to ensure your research does not go to waste. But what if you never publish? Is the person clearing away your stuff going to realize that all those family group sheets, pedigree charts, and notes are worthy of keeping? What about original letters you have acquired? Photos? Medals? Heirlooms? This book attempts to address all those issues.

Marian Burk Wood has a four-step process she calls PASS (Prepare, Allocate, Set up, Secure). The book goes through each step, with a few parts to each step. She starts by telling you to organize your research findings and other family history memorabilia. Different organizing methods are discussed as well as storage methods. Your digital files are also addressed – and backing them up!!! The author suggests indexing your collection so anyone clearing up your stuff will know exactly what it includes and where it is stored. She talks about how you should determine who to give your research to as well as your other family tree objects and heirlooms. The topic of donating documents and items to immediate or extended family, archives, libraries or historical societies is discussed. Finally, the author makes suggestions about addressing the disbursement of your family history collection after you are gone.



I am going to repeat myself. **This is a topic that every genealogist needs to think about.** This book will help you by giving you a step-by-step guide about how to do that. Everyone should read this book (or something like it) before all your research ends up in the trash.

**Thousands of resources
at the tip of your fingers
in an instant...**

.....
**Census Documents
Cemetery Transcripts
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SENIOR CYBER –

Best Security Practices for Your Golden Years

by Scott N. Schober with Craig W. Schober

Book Review by Art Taylor

Cyber security should be of concern to everyone, not just seniors. Some seniors might be more vulnerable to potential security concerns, like cyberattacks, hacking, and scams, than some younger generations. Scott Schober, a cybersecurity expert, and his brother Craig, an accomplished writer, have published this important book. It defines numerous technology terms; compares the Google and Bing search engines on their tendencies to record personal data, often without the users being aware what is being recorded; the Orwellian nightmare of personal privacy being exchanged for the ability to use enhanced features in software; dumpster diving, which involves people searching through garbage to find personal information on discarded, but not shredded, mail, packaging, receipts, medical prescriptions on medication bottle or carton labels, etc.; Phishing, where individuals or organizations dupe a person through deceptive email, phone call text message, or letter, into providing personal or confidential information that can then be used illicitly. Two Factor Authentication (2FA) is explained, along with the reasons for its use.

Visit www.HowSecureIsMyPassword.net to see how much time various passwords can take to crack. Try various lengths of passwords, using easy-for-you-to-remember phrases that are more difficult for somebody to guess. Also try various combinations of upper-case, lower-case letters, keyboard symbols, and numbers for individual passwords. The less obvious a password is, the harder it is to guess. 123, abc/ABC, Password/password, likely birthdate formats, current or recent phone numbers, Social Insurance Numbers /

Social Security numbers, are all extremely poor passwords, although many people are reported to use them, often using the same passwords for multiple sites.

Another chapter is devoted to a discussion of SPAM, but not the food product that was widely known during and after WW II. Several countermeasures are provided.

You might be familiar with so-called “security questions”, like “what is your mother’s maiden name?”. In years before widespread use of social media and the internet, such questions were reasonable. Whenever possible, replace such questions with Two Factor Authentication (2FA). This 2FA usually requires the use of two devices, such as a laptop and cell phone. When you try to log into a site that uses 2FA, such as an online bank account from one device, you’re asked to enter a numeric code which will be sent to an email account or a cell phone number. Since anyone trying to access that account, needs access to both devices, unauthorized access is much more difficult to achieve.

Other chapters offer suggestions about preparing for the worst, potential for identity theft, and examples of common scams against seniors. Throughout the book are sprinkled useful Senior Cyber Tips. In this age of Artificial Intelligence, an awareness of cyber security is of greater importance to *everybody, not just seniors*.





SCHÜRCH FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA REUNION 2026

THE STOUFFVILLE LEGION
150 MOSTAR ST., STOUFFVILLE, ON
JULY 24 & 25, 2026

As our present and our future are entwined with our past we look forward to exploring our roots at the July reunion.

The Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville area is where Casper Sherick/Shirk, H44, an older brother of Joseph H46, settled in 1804, along with 13 other families and individuals from Pennsylvania. This is their story.



A Schürch reunion was held in Markham in 1996. The town has grown significantly since then. Whitchurch-Stouffville is a small town north of Markham up Highway 48 and is surrounded by farms.

The local legion is the site of the 2026 reunion. The Stouffville Legion supports veterans in many ways. For one, they provide a space for veterans to gather and socialize. They also offer their building for public use. Rick Evans, the reunion co-chair has used this facility a number of times for local hockey events. We have hired the Legion's Women's Auxiliary to provide lunches and snacks for our reunion.

REGISTRATION

The registration form is included in this newsletter. Additional copies of the registration form can be downloaded from the web site. <https://www.schurchfamilyassociation.net/>.

Everything, including meals, is on site except for the bus tour.

Submit your registration form by **June 20, 2026** to secure a spot.

Registration fee includes the following during the reunion: snacks and beverages throughout, lunch (Friday & Saturday), concert, pizza supper, and bus tour. The **Gourmet Barbecue Banquet** is a separate fee..

During our time together we are only able to accommodate vegetarians and those with a gluten intolerance.

Don't let your memories fade™



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



Shirley S. Wang
July 19, 2017

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



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



Reminiscing and novel learning promotes neurogenesis and brain plasticity



Restore photos, documents and even mementos



Record memories and feelings to describe people, places and more



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

pRT assists family and professionals to engage with loved ones



Prompts assist caregivers to communicate with loved ones



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