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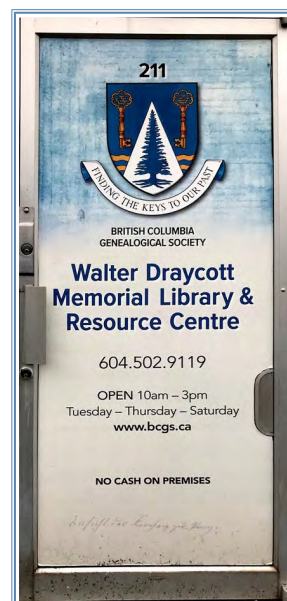
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*The Society promotes and encourages interest in genealogy and family history
in British Columbia.*

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On our [Zoom](#) site.

*Details will be emailed to you prior to
each meeting.*

Meeting Location

Online for the present.

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A message from our President...

I was recently encouraged to do an
in-depth review of my family tree, looking
for any gaps in timelines, or missing
information or records. This was a
revealing exercise, and I was surprised
how much work I had left undone. I like
to think that where I came up lacking, was
caused by my exhaustive searching of the
resources available at the time, however I
can accept that I may have simply moved
on from that person because I was ready
to take a break from a challenging
research problem.

I found the exercise to be very useful and
came out of it with a nice list of research
questions to keep me busy in my study
sessions for a good while. Looking at my
tree with a critical eye clearly identified
more work that can be done.

If it has been some time since you
reviewed your tree, I encourage you to do
it! You will likely discover some areas of
your family history which warrant more
research. I also suspect that after the
review, you will want to pat yourself on the
back for the incredible amount of work
you have already done.

Wishing you all
the best in your
research!

Yvette Howard
President,
BCGS



From the Desk of the Editor . . .

Our Journal this month has some interesting corners for readers to explore – you might find mountains, rebellions, moccasins and even a Tardis !

Our cover recognizes a Canadian War Hero, Corporal Francis “Peggy” Pegahmagabow, a highly decorated Indigenous soldier from the First World War. Janice Kidwell’s Postcard article explores the Corporal’s long military service in WW I, WW II and between those times.

Janice has also contributed three more articles in the Holten series: Private Leslie Butterick, Gunner Richard Hodkin and Private Roy Babcook. Private Butterick served in the Canadian Scottish Regiment, Private Babcook with the Seaforth Highlanders, and Gunner Hodkin with the Canadian Army in the British Columbia Artillery.

Our On The Road Genealogist, Meg McLaughlin, shares her discoveries about the everyday life of her ancestors, and where she travelled to search up these details. Lots of good tips for finding how one’s great grandparents lived.

Gordon Udell explores a little known time in Canadian history, the Rebellion OF 1837/38 and the roles that his ancestors played in those times.

I hope that you find a connection in these reports, and some ideas that will aid your own researches, this summer. Perhaps you will share your discoveries with the Journal reading this coming autumn.

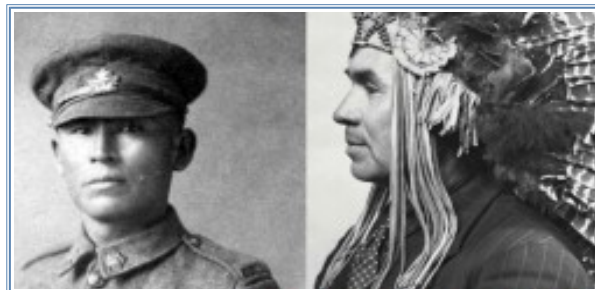
Happy Reading !
Your Island Editor,
Lynne Fletcher

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On The Cover . . .

A composition showing two pictures of Corporal Francis “Peggy” Pegahmagabow, the most highly decorated Indigenous soldier in Canadian military history, and of the medals he was awarded. Janice Kidwell explores “Peggy’s” full life and his contribution to Canada’s military service.



POSTCARDS

Canada and the First World War CORPORAL FRANCIS PEGAHMAGABOW

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member 5033

As we recognize and celebrate **National Indigenous Peoples Day**, on Friday June 21, 2024, this month's B.C.G.S. Postcard features Corporal Francis "Peggy" Pegahmagabow, a Canadian war hero. Corporal Pegahmagabow was the most highly decorated Indigenous soldier in Canadian military history of the First World War.

Francis "Peggy" Pegahmagabow, Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) chief, Indigenous rights advocate and war hero was born March 9, 1891 on Parry Island (now Wasauksing First Nation), in Ontario. In Ojibwe his name was Binaaswi meaning "the wind that blows off". When Francis was three years old his father died. He was raised by Elder Noah Nebimanyquod in a traditional environment where he learned to hunt, fish and use healing methods.

In January 1912, Francis received financial aid for room and board to complete his public school education. He had left school at the age of 12 and worked at lumber camps and fishing camps. He had also previously worked along the Great Lakes and had become a marine firefighter for the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

First World War Service

When the war broke out in 1914, Indigenous people were barred from enlisting in military service. However, by 1916, mounting casualties meant that the Canadian Expeditionary Force was desperate for volunteers to fight overseas. This is when Indigenous people were allowed to join the ranks of Canadian troops.

At the start of the First World War in 1914, the Canadian government Indigenous soldiers (particularly Treaty Indians like Francis Pegahmagabow) were encouraged to enlist. Almost immediately after war was declared in August 1914, he went to the recruitment office, where he was judged physically fit for overseas service. Francis was one of the first to sign on with the 23rd Regiment (Northern Pioneers) overseas contingent in August 1914. When he signed his Attestation Paper at Valcartier Camp on September 15, 1914, Francis indicated his occupation as "Fireman" and added "None" under next-of-kin. Francis also indicated his year of birth as 1891, although provincial commemorative plaques and some historical sources place his year of birth as 1889. Francis was one of the first of more than 4000 Indigenous soldiers to volunteer for overseas service in the war.

POSTCARDS

Within weeks of volunteering, Corporal Pegahmagabow became one of the original members of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion. Francis sailed to England in October 1914 aboard the *SS Laurentic*, one of 30 ships that carried 30,617 Canadian soldiers to England. After a few months of training on Salisbury Plain, Francis and his regiment along with the rest of the approximately 20,000-strong 1st Canadian Division landed in France in February 1915.

First commendation

It was during his first year on the Western Front that he became one of the first Canadians to be awarded the Military Medal. The commendation read:

“For continuous service as a messenger from February 14th 1915 to February 1916. He carried messages with great bravery and success during the whole of the actions at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy. In all his work he has consistently shown a disregard for danger and his faithfulness to duty is highly commendable.”

Corporal Pegahmagabow earned his first bar to the Military Medal during this battle. His citation reads:

At Passchendaele Nov. 6th/7th, 1917, this NCO [non-commissioned officer] did excellent work. Before and after the attack he kept in touch with the flanks, advising the units what he had seen. This information led to success of the attack and saved valuable time in consolidating. He also guided the relief to its proper place after it had become mixed up.

However, he developed pneumonia shortly after the end of the Passchendaele campaign (in December 1917). As a result of the pneumonia and poison gas attacks in 1917, Francis was hospitalized in England and suffered from chest pains for the rest of his life. Despite his serious injuries, he soon returned to action and received a second bar to his Military Medal following his valorous actions at the Battle of the Scarpe in August 1918. Francis Pegahmagabow returned to Parry Island in 1919, where he continued to serve with the Algonquin Militia Regiment.

Pegahmagabow would earn his second bar to the Military Medal during the final months of the First World War in the Battle of the Scarpe (part of the 2nd Battle of Arras). The commendation reads:

"During the operations of August 30, 1918, at Orix Trench, near Upton Wood, when his company was almost out of ammunition and in danger of being surrounded, this NCO went over the top under heavy MG [machine gun] and rifle fire and brought back sufficient ammunition to enable the post to carry on and assist in repulsing heavy enemy counter-attacks."

POSTCARDS

Sniping was the specialty of the man his fellow soldiers called "Peggy." It has been written of him, "His iron nerves, patience and superb marksmanship helped make him an outstanding sniper." Corporal Pegahmagabow also developed a reputation as a superior scout.

Corporal Pegahmagabow engaged in fierce fighting at the **Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915**, where the Germans used chlorine for the first time on the Western Front. Francis was promoted to lance corporal in 1915.

In June 1916, Francis fought at the **Battle of Mount Sorrel**, where many German prisoners were captured. Over the course of the war, he was credited with the capture of approximately 300 prisoners. Months later, while fighting at the **Battle of the Somme** in 1916, Francis suffered a gunshot wound to the leg. Despite his injuries, Francis returned to the 1st Battalion as they moved to Belgium and the battlefield. He received his first Military Medal in 1916 for facing enemy fire to dispatch critical messages.

In November 1917, the 1st Battalion joined the assault near the village of Passchendaele. Here, roughly 20,000 Allied soldiers crawled from shell crater to shell crater, through water and mud and under heavy fire to help the Canadians capture the Passchendaele ridge.. With two British divisions, the Canadian Corps attacked and took the village, holding it for five days, until reinforcements arrived. The Allies suffered 16,000 casualties during this battle.

Many Indigenous soldiers practiced their traditional customs and beliefs during the First World War. For example, many snipers and scouts wore moccasins in the field, as they were much quieter than army boots. Francis Pegahmagabow carried a spiritual item with him into battle, a medicine bag given to him before the war:

"When I was at Rossport, on Lake Superior, in 1914, some of us landed from our vessel to gather blueberries near an Ojibwa camp. An old Indian recognized me, and gave me a tiny medicine-bag to protect me, saying I would shortly go into great danger. The bag was of skin tightly bound with a leather thong.



POSTCARDS

Sometimes it seemed to be hard as a rock, at other times it appeared to contain nothing. What was really inside I do not know. I wore it in the trenches.”

Pegahmagabow and some other Indigenous soldiers also chewed a dead twig in times of danger, believing that it offered protection.

Second World War

During the Second World War, Francis Pegahmagabow worked as a guard at a munitions plant near Nobel, Ontario as a sergeant-major in the local militia. He continued to defend Indigenous rights. As part of a national delegation in 1943, he took part in a demonstration on Parliament Hill, calling for the exemption of income tax and conscription for Indigenous peoples. In 1945, Francis served two terms as supreme chief of the Native Indian Government, an early Indigenous political organization. He was also a member of the National Indian Brotherhood, a precursor to the current Assembly of First Nations.

Military career

Following the outbreak of World War I, Pegahmagabow volunteered for service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in August 1914, despite Canadian government discrimination that initially excluded minorities. He was posted to the 23rd Canadian Regiment (Northern Pioneers). After joining the Canadian force he was based at CFB Valcartier. While there he decorated his army tent with traditional symbols including a Caribou, the symbol of his clan. In early October 1914 he was deployed overseas with the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion of the 1st Canadian Division—the first contingent of Canadian troops sent to fight in Europe.

The war ended in November 1918 and in 1919 Pegahmagabow was invalided back to Canada. He had served for almost the whole war, and had built a reputation as a skilled marksman. By the time of his discharge, he had served in the appointment of sergeant-major and had been awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Significance

Francis Pegahmagabow is remembered for his First World War military service and for his participation in Indigenous rights movements. Survived by his children and grandchildren, Francis' memory continues to live on.

During World War II Pegahmagabow worked as a guard at a munitions plant near Nobel, Ontario, and was a Sergeant-major in the local militia. In 1943, he became the Supreme Chief of the Native Independent Government, an early First Nations organization.

POSTCARDS

He is a member of the Indian Hall of Fame at the Woodland Centre in Brantford, Ontario, and his memory is also commemorated on a plaque honoring him and his regiment on the Rotary and Algonquin Regiment Fitness Trail in Parry Sound. He was honored by the Canadian Forces by naming the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group HQ Building at CFB Borden after him.

Post-war life

Upon Francis' return to Canada he continued to serve in the Canadian Militia as a member of The Northern Pioneers (known today as the Algonquin Regiment) as the non-permanent active member. Following in his father's and grandfather's steps he was elected chief of the Parry Island Band (now Wasauksing First Nation) and later a councilor.

A husband and father of six, Francis Pegahmagabow passed away at Parry Sound, Ontario on 5 August 1952 at the age of 64. He died of a heart attack after suffering for years from badly damaged lungs.

Francis Pegahmagabow rarely spoke of his military accomplishments but he did tell both his wife and son at different times of enemy captures and going behind enemy lines without being caught. His son remembers that his father felt very strongly about his Canada.

Awards and Honours

Medals

- He was first awarded the Military Medal while fighting at the second battle of Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy, for courage above fire in getting important messages through to the rear.
- Earned his first bar to the Military Medal at the Battle of Passchendaele.
- His second bar to the Military Medal came at the battle of The Scarpe, in 1918. Only 38 other Canadian men received the honour of two bars.
- The 1914–15 Star
- The British War Medal
- The Victory Medal

In 2003 the Pegahmagabow family donated his medals and chief head dress to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa where they can be seen as part of the World War I display.

Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow received the following honours:

- In 1967 Corporal Pegahmagabow was inducted into the Indian Hall of Fame at the Woodland centre in Brantford, Ontario.

POSTCARDS

- Over 90 years after his participation in the First World War, the Canadian armed forces honoured Francis with a monument at CFB Borden and named the building of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol group after him in 2006
- A monument in his honour was erected at the Canadian Forces Base Borden.
- A life-sized bronze statue of Pegahmagabow was erected in his honour on National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2016 in Parry Sound, near Georgian Bay.
- The artist Tyler Fauvelle spent eight months sculpting the statue, which spent a further year in casting. Fauvelle chose to erect it in Parry Sound rather than Wasauksing to reach a larger public and educate them on the contributions of First Nations people to Canada
- The 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group building has borne his name since 2006.
- His memory is also commemorated on a plaque honouring him and his regiment on the Rotary and Algonquin Regiment Fitness Trail in Parry Sound.

Legacy

- Francis' life inspired the central fictional character in Joseph Boyden's novel *Three Day Road* (2001).
- .In 2019, the Swedish history-themed heavy metal band Sabaton released a song dedicated to Pegahmagabow, titled "A Ghost in the Trenches" on their album *The Great War*
- Corporal Francis 'Peggy' Pegahmagabow was also mentioned in an article in *The Vancouver Sun* - April 13, 2024 edition, page C3. The article is entitled "Stories of those who pay the price of our freedom must be told." The article also has a photo of Corporal Pegahmagabow.

Postcard

This postcard features the following on the front: in both English and French:

CANADA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR/LE CANADA ET LA PREMIERE GUERRE MONDIALE and show four medals

At the bottom of the postcard is the following in both French and English:
www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar Hundreds of images. Thousands of stories.
One address. www.museedelaguerre.ca/premiereguerremondiale

POSTCARDS



This postcard which was issued by the Canadian War Museum and Canadian Heritage has the following message – in both English and French – on the back:

Canada's most decorated First World Aboriginal soldier

Francis Pegahmagabow was awarded the Military Medal with two bars, the 1914 – 1915 Star, the British War Medal 1914-1920, and the Victory Medal 1914-1919.

Medal Set – Tilston Memorial Collection of Military Medals – CWM 20040035-001

www.warmuseum.ca/first world war

There is neither a stamp nor a message on the back of the postcard.

Sources:

- “Francis Pegahmagabow”, *Anciens Combattants Canada/Veterans Affairs Canada*.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Pegahmagabow
- “Francis Pegahmagabow (1889-1952)”, *Government of Canada*.
- Article written by *Emilie Bernier* for *Je Me Souviens*. <https://www.ebnumerique.ca/ac-cueil>. Translated by *Amy Butcher* (www.traductionsamyb.ca).
- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/francis-pegahmagabow>
- <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/francis-pegahmagabow>

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

PRIVATE LESLIE KEITH BUTTERICK

October 6, 1925 – April 21, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell

Member #3053

Leslie Keith Butterick was born on October 6, 1925 in Edmonton, Alberta, to parents Leslie Harold and Abigail Isabel (Hull) Butterick of Vancouver, British Columbia. Pte. Butterick's father was born in London, England, his mother was born in Whonnock, B.C. Another source lists Keith's mother as having been born in Glen Valley which is part of Langley. The name Whonnock is derived from a Halkomelem word for humpback salmon or pink salmon, the only kind of salmon to ascend Whonnock Creek. Leslie had one sister – Ariel.



Keith reported for a medical on May 16, 1944 and reported for NRMA (National Resources Mobilization Act) Service on June 6, 1944. His Serial Number was K-171280.

On June 6, 1944 and at the age of 19, Keith enlisted in Vancouver and he was to serve with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C. His Regimental Number was K/3626.

It was noted in Pte. Butterick's military application that he had attended Kitsilano High School in Vancouver and was a member of the Church of England. Keith had worked as an Aircraft Worker at the Boeing aircraft factory on Sea Island in Richmond, B.C. He worked there for four months. His sister Ariel also worked at the same factory as a woodworker - aircraft as did her husband who was a machinist apprentice.

Private Butterick had the traditional medical examinations and vaccinations. His training took place in Calgary, Alberta and Debert, Nova Scotia.

Pte. Butterick's training was at 133 CABTC (Canadian Army Basic Training Centre) in Vancouver where he took traditional courses with marks of "very good".

This training ended July 5, 1944. His military file remarked that Pte. Butterick was "a smart soldier, enthusiastic and grasps instruction readily".

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

On July 6, 1944 he was TOS (Taken on Strength) and posted to Wetaskiwin, Alberta. On September 2, 1944 he was posted to Calgary, Alberta.

Pte. Butterick left Canada on December 24, 1944, disembarking in the United Kingdom on December 31, 1944. On February 10, 1945 Pte. Butterick deplaned in North West Europe and was taken on strength on March 26 to the Canadian Scottish Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. His Regimental Number was K3626. He fought as a member of the 'D' Coy near Emmerich and Deventer.

Pte. Butterick was deemed missing in that location after an action on April 21, 1945 during the first attempt to liberate Wagenborgen. It later appeared that Leslie was captured, heavily wounded, and died of these wounds on Saturday April 21, 1945 in a rowing boat over the Dollard to Emden Germany.

Pte. Butterick's initial burial took place on May 9, 1945 at Bolandus Friedhof Cemetery, Emden Germany Grave G72. This news was reported by S.G. West of the Canadian Scottish Highlanders Regiment, R.C.I.C.

A message from Canada was sent May 31, 1945 to the family and on June 8, 1945 a Royal message was sent to the family.

On March 12, 1946 a respectful reburial took place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. On June 8, 1946 a letter was sent to the family to advise them of this. Pte. Butterick's Grave Reference is VII. F. 16.



Canadian Scottish Badge



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Private Butterick received the following medals:

- The 1939-45 Star,
- The France & Germany Star,
- The War Medal 1945, and
- The CVSM with Clasp.

Pte. Butterick's Service was a total of 320 days:

- Canada: June 6, 1944 to December 23, 1944,
- U.K.: December 24, 1944 to February 12, 1945 and
- North West Europe: February 13, 1945 to April 22, 1945.



War Memorial Wagenborgen

Private Butterick is commemorated on the monument plaque in Wagenborgen, The Netherlands.

Private Butterick's name also appears in the Scotland War Memorial Index 1914-1945.

Private Butterick is also remembered at his former high school – Kitsilano High School in Vancouver - as his name appears on the IN MEMORIAM 1939 – 1945 Brass Plaque.

Private Butterick has a B.C. Geographical Feature named in his honour– Mount Butterick. Mount Butterick's location is between the heads of Machmell and Sheemahant Rivers, south west of the south end of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park and southeast of Bella Coola, Range 2 Coast Land District.

There were Notices in both The Vancouver Province and The Vancouver Sun newspapers both from family and also a long time friend with captions of "missing", In Memorium and In Remembrance. Included in Pte. Butterick's Report are three of those notices.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



K 3626 PRIVATE
L.K. BUTTERICK
CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
21ST APRIL 1945 AGE 19



IN MEMORY'S GARDEN
WE MEET EVERYDAY



Private Butterick is commemorated on [Page 500](#) of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on October 24.

Sources

www.ancestry.ca

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bcarchives/search-our-collections>

https://csri.nl/persons-en/?_page=27 Note: newspaper article/photo on this website

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whonnock>

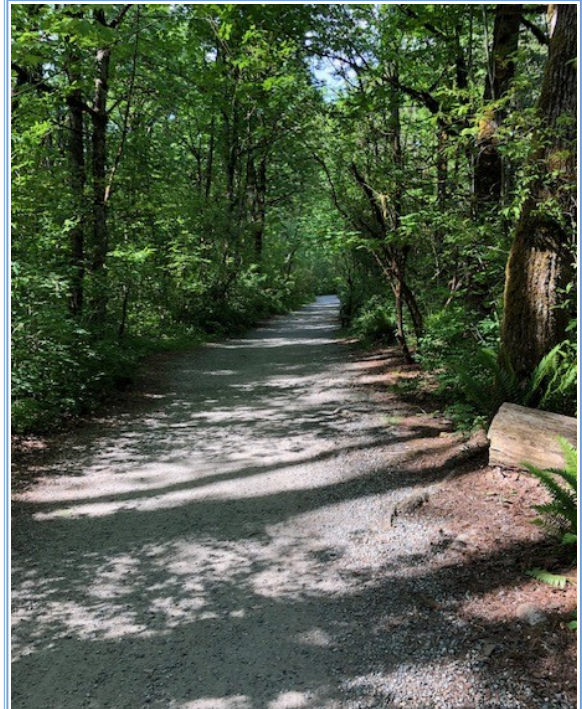
GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

Genealogy on the Road

Submitted by Meg McLaughlin
Member #3847

I live less than a block from a hiking trail by a river so that's one of my go to spots on a sunny day. This is BC so it's wise to keep a wary eye out for critters while communing with nature. Sometimes it's best not to get too close. Today I was happy to see that the "cougar in the area" sign had been taken down but it is spring so any bears in the vicinity may have cubs in tow, a factor that may make any encounter fraught. But the chance of encountering wildlife comes with the territory.

That's something I've had to get used to since I moved to BC. But every place has things that are unique to the area. Experiencing the climate and lifestyle that go with the villages, towns and cities where ancestors have lived adds an extra dimension to the understanding of an ancestor's life.



Coquitlam River Trail



Tenement House Glasgow

Being there can help make sense of their lives and help explain the choices that they made. Too bad there wasn't a time machine as well.

Since the Tardis hasn't materialized yet the next best thing are museums. They can give a glimpse into the past and how our ancestors may have lived. Ranging in size from small spaces concentrating on a limited time and area to whole historic villages, museums can give an idea of common objects and the setup of rooms our forebears would have encountered in their lives. Of course, many museums can be found in castles and stately homes. I don't know about you, but my lot would be more likely to be found in something represented by a tenement museum.

GENEALOGY ON THE ROAD

I've been to a few of those in the various cities I've visited. Unfortunately, in my many visits to London, I've never seen a tenement museum there and it is a city many of my ancestors called home. I have, however, seen the accommodations in similar buildings in Dublin and Glasgow which are likely similar to the kind of housing that existed in England's largest city.

The historic villages that I've toured have been in Ontario. It was a relatively short drive to Upper Canada Village from my family home in Quebec and I used to enjoy roaming the historic site to see the people at work in the various home industries on display. They also had very good cheese, as I remember. Due to my family ties to the Owen Sound area, I spent time in the Grey Roots Museum going through their archive collections and found information about my family, including a photo of my grandmother as a child. That museum also has an historic village attached to it, a perfect place for a walk after being hunched over books and boxes in the archive all afternoon. By the time I took a look at Fanshawe Pioneer Village I had found out that some of my ancestors were in Ontario when it was still Canada West so some of the earlier dwellings had more meaning to my own genealogy.



*Part of the Interior -
Tenement House Glasgow*



Some games at the Kelvington Museum

While thinking about the museums I visited, I've been checking to see what they have in various places, like London, and it's making me think I'm due a trip or two to check things out in person. Added to that, on my one and only trip to Skye, I was unable to fit in a trip to the Skye Museum of Island Life, another village museum this time including croft houses. Maybe it's time to start planning.

Meg writes about history and genealogy in **A Genealogist's Path to History** at <http://genihistorypath.blogspot.ca/>. Read more about her findings in her blog.

GUNNER RICHARD HARDY HODKIN

August 3, 1915 – April 10, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
Member #3053

Richard Hardy Hodkin was born August 3, 1915 in Prince Rupert, B.C. to parents Edwin and Beatrice Alice (Frost) Hodkin. Richard had one sibling Edwin.

The 1921 Canadian Census has the family living in Kitwanga, Resident District of Skeena, and B.C. The 1931 Canadian Census also shows the family living in the Resident District of Skeena and noted that Richard was a labourer on his father's farm.

On August 1, 1940 Richard enlisted in Prince Rupert. He was living in Kitwanga Village at the time. His employment at Enlistment was as a General Labourer, his employment as a farmer (mixed farming) for W. C. Little in Woodcock, B.C. Richard had 15 years farming experience. Amongst his duties he drove a tractor. His salary was \$30.00 per week. Other work experience was hard rock and placer mining at Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co in Stewart, B.C. Richard worked here from 1936-1938. Richard indicated that he wished to return to farming but elsewhere and to do mixed farming. Another type of employment he noted in his Attestation Papers would be logging. Richard belonged to The Church of England.

Richard has the traditional medical examinations, x-rays and vaccinations. Richard's Department was listed as correct, appears neat and clean, physically healthy, cheerful and co-operative. He enjoyed sports – badminton, tennis, soccer, baseball, softball (catch) as well as hunting, fishing, camping, boating and woodwork.

From August 1, 1940 to July 1, 1941 Richard served with the Royal Canadian Army - 102nd British Columbia Artillery - with his principal duty being coast defence. His rank was Gunner. Richard's Service Number was K10210.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

While there Gunner Hodkin took part in various types of training with his scores rated as Good+.



On July 8, 1941 Gunner Hodkin was Taken on Service to the 4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Canadian Aircraft and posted to 62nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery RCA. On November 29, 1941 Gunner Hodkin qualified as Class 111 Anti-Aircraft Gunner.

Gunner Hodkin set sail from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on August 24, 1941 disembarking at Glasgow, Scotland Sept. 2, 1941.

Richard was granted private leave from April 16 to 23, 1942. On May 20th 1942, Gunner Hardy submitted an 'Application To Marry' with permission granted June 18th 1942.

On October 22nd 1942, Richard and Helen Kilpatrick (born in Dumbarton, Scotland), who was a Telephonist at Blantrefarme Camp in Scotland, were married in South West Surrey, Kent, England. In April 1943 Richard and Helen welcomed a baby girl.

On January 25, 1944 Richard was awarded the CVSM Medal. On June 29, 1944 Richard embarked from the U.K. and disembarked June 30, 1944 at France.

In October 1944 Richard and Helen welcomed a baby boy. In March 1945 Richard was granted nine days leave following the birth of his son.

On April 10, 1945 Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin was Killed in Action. His temporary burial took place at the Canadian Cemetery in Deventer, on April 11, 1945 with the Service presided over by a Chaplain from the 14fd Regiment Royal Canadian Army.

A letter dated 25th April 1945 was sent to Richard's mother telling her of Richard's death and that "any additional information received will be communicated to her". "We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made". Gunner Hodkin's respective reburial took place at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holland. His Gravesite is 11.A.V.

Gunner Hodkin's Service was:

Canada: August 1, 1940 – August 23, 1941,

UK: August 24, 1941 – June 29, 1944,

N.W. Europe: June 30, 1944 – April 10, 1945.

Total qualifying Service was 1714 days including 1322 of overseas service.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT



Gunner Hodkin received the following Medals:

1939-45 Star,
France-Germany Star,
Defence Medal,
War Medal and
CVSM with Clasp.

Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin is Commemorated on Page 525 of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on November 6th.

A Notice published May 10, 1945 in both the *Province* and *Vancouver Sun* newspapers published the names of recent casualties and amongst the names was Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Pte. James Laurence Auchterlonie, son of Mrs. Florence Newmham, 305 Huntington place, Victoria.

Cpl. Frank Arthur Cherry, M.M., son of Herbert F. Cherry, 521 Simcoe, Victoria.

Pte. Robert Jens Craik, son of Mrs. Margaret Craik, Suite 2, Odd Fellows' Hall, Saskatoon.

Pte. Clinton Richard Hetherington, whose wife, Pauline, lives at 421 Northeast Sixth street, Calgary.

Gnr. Richard Henry Hodkin, whose wife, Helen, lives at Flobern Pondtrail Road, Horsham, Sussex, England, son of Mrs. Beatrice Alice Hodkin, Kitwanga.

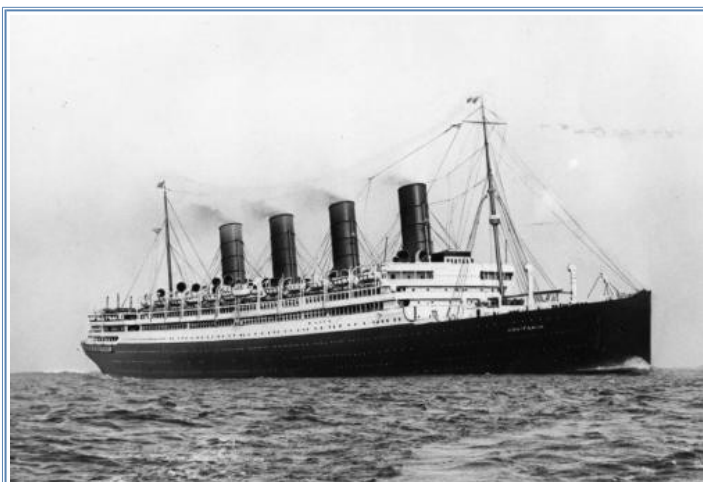
Sgt. James Wilson McWilliams, whose wife, Ellen, lives at 3332 Neville, Burnaby.

Pte. Philip Arthur Marzoff, whose wife, Doreen, lives at Eleventh and Argyle, Port Alberni.

Pte. Alfred Arthur Murray, whose wife, Alice, lives at 611 East Eleventh.

Tpr. Alfred Harold Pearce, whose wife, Evelyn, lives at 437 North Fifth avenue, Saskatoon.

Pte. Alexander Serediak, son of Sam Serediak, 12138 Thirty-ninth street, Beverly, Edmonton.



RMS Aquitania

An article in *The Province* newspaper, dated Friday March 22, 1946 and on page 11 had the title: 'Wives of B.C. Servicemen Due Soon Aboard Aquitania'. Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin's wife and two children were amongst those coming home.

K10210 GUNNER
R.H. HODKIN
ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY
10TH APRIL 1945 AGE 30

AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER HIM



Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin has a Geographical Feature named in his honour – *Hodkin Lake*.

*Hodkin Lake was named to remember Royal Canadian Artillery Gunner **Richard H. Hodkin, K10210**, of Kitwanga. Hodkin was the son of Edwin and Beatrice Alice Hodkin and husband of Helen Hodkin, of Deep Cove, British Columbia. He was killed in action 10 April 1945. Hodkin is buried at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery.*

Hodkin Lake drains East into Teigin Lake, East of head of Unuk River, Cassiar Land District.

The British Columbia Geographical Names Office adopted the naming of Hodkin Lake on 29 October, 1982.

The Royal Canadian Artillery Association
Lest We Forget

Gunner Richard Hardy Hodkin

Born Prince Rupert, B.C. 3 Aug 1915; labourer; 102nd Heavy Battery, RCA, CASF; 11th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA, CASF; 62nd Battery, 4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA, CASF; killed in action 10 Apr 1945; interred Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

Name: HODKIN, RICHARD HARDY

Initials: R H

Nationality: Canadian

Rank: Gunner

Regiment/Service: Royal Canadian Artillery

Unit Text: 4 Lt. A.A. Regt.

Age: 30

Date of Death: 10/04/1945

Service No: K/10210

Additional information: Son of Edwin and Beatrice Alice Hodkin, husband of Helen Hodkin, of Deep Cove, B.C.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: II. A. 5.

Cemetery: HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY

Sources:

- Ancestry.ca <https://www.ancestry.ca/>
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- B.C. Geographical Names <https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/38168.html>
- <https://rca-arc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LestWeForgetEnglish25Aug2022.pdf>
- <https://www.online-begraafplaatsen.nl/zerken.asp?command=showzerken&bgp=1876&page=3>
- BC place name cards & correspondence, and/or research by BC Chief Geographic & Geographical Names Office staff.

THE HOLTEN PROJECT

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PRIVATE ROY FRANCIS BABCOOK

February 3, 1918 – April 12, 1945

Submitted by Janice Kidwell
BCGS Member #5033

Private Roy Francis Babcock was born February 3, 1918 on a farm in Radisson, Saskatchewan to parents Norman Levelle and Una Theresa (Bissell) Babcock. Another source lists his birthplace as Fielding, Saskatchewan. The difference between the two locations is 12.7 km. *Radisson* was named after Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1636–1710), an explorer who was instrumental in creating the *Hudson's Bay Company*. Radisson is located 66 km. west of Saskatoon and 72 km. east of North Battleford on the Yellowhead Highway. Pte. Babcock had 12 siblings – seven brothers and 5 sisters.

The 1921 Canadian Census had the family living in Fielding, Municipality of Mayfield, Saskatchewan. The 1931 Canadian Census shows the family living in North Battleford, Saskatchewan where the family farmed.

Roy was farming the homestead when he was called up for NRMA (National Resources Mobilization Act) training in Regina, Saskatchewan. Private Babcock served with the NRMA from August 10, 1942 to June 25, 1944. His Service Number was L606670. It was two years later before he switched to regular force at Wainwright.

Roy was 'Taken Off Service (TOS)' from the NRMA and enlisted June 26, 1944 in Regina, Saskatchewan. He served with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Unit: 25th RCA. His Service Number was L155642. Roy's trade was listed as a farmer. He spoke both English and Dutch, belonged to the United Church and liked reading light fiction.

Private Babcock had the traditional medical examinations and vaccinations which took place in Wainwright, Alberta. Following this Roy completed Basic Training in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan and in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

He was also part of the 25L Anti-Aircraft Battery at Hastings Park in Vancouver. In December 1942 he moved with the unit to Port Alberni, Wainwright (buffalo training), Terrace, Nanaimo and back to Wainwright in May 1944. He also spent time in Esquimalt and Field. Pte. Babcock did volunteer and was considered suitable for Paratrooper Training but was not accepted due to the lack of training facilities.



HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY PROJECT

Pte. Babcock left Canada October 15, 1944 and disembarked in the U.K. on October 21, 1944. This is when Roy started to serve with the Second Canadian Artillery in the Rifleman Unit.

Pte. Babcock embarked in the United Kingdom on January 23, 1945 and disembarked in Italy February 7, 1945. On March 13, 1945 he embarked in Italy and disembarked in France March 15, 1945.

On April 12, 1945 - less than a month after arriving at the front in Holland - Pte. Babcock was Killed In Action near Deventer during the liberation of the Netherlands. Pte. Babcock's temporary burial took place on April 13, 1945 in the 2 CIB cemetery, sh 3702 E. Holland MR Cemetery 933023. At a later date Pte. Babcock's remains were respectfully reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands. His Grave Reference is I.D.12.

Pte. Babcock had filled in an Application For Permission To Marry, which was approved but unfortunately what was to be a happy occasion did not take place.

L155642 PRIVATE

R.F. BABCOOK
THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA
12TH APRIL 1945 AGE 27

+

NOT JUST TODAY
BUT EVERYDAY
IN SILENCE WE REMEMBER



Private Babcock received the following Medals:
1939-45 STAR, Italy STAR, France-Germany STAR, War Medal 1939-45, CVSM and Clasp, Defence medal

Pte. Babcock's medals and the Memorial Cross were given to his mother.



1939-45 Star



France & Germ. Star



Defence Medal



Canadian Volunteer Service Medal + Clasp



1939-45 War Medal



Star of Italy

Nine Dead in April Fighting

34 B.C. CASUALTIES INCLUDED IN 3 LISTS

Canadian Army casualty lists originally issued for release on Friday, Saturday and Monday but which may now be published are from both Northern Holland and Germany with Seaforths in Holland suffering most. These listings are from the early part of April, heaviest about the 11th and 12th.

Of the 34 British Columbia men in these lists, eight were killed in action, one died, one is still posted missing, the others injured, 12 of the latter only slightly.

KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. John William Boltz, B.C. Regt., son of John Boltz, Greenwood.

Pte. Dan Cheer, B.C. Regt., whose wife lives at Brackendale.

Pte. Roy Francis Babcock, Sask. Regt., son of Mrs. Eunice Babcock, Lower Capilano.

Sgt. Glen Edmund Miller, Alberta Regt., son of Mrs. Ruby MacIntyre, 1057 East Thirteenth, Vancouver.

to enlisting he was employed at the Alaska Pine mill. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. William McWilliams live at 3231 Royal Oak, Burnaby. A younger brother, PO F. C. McWilliams, a Spitfire pilot, was killed in action in 1943.

Sgt. Glen Edmund Miller, 23, son of Staff-Sgt. and Mrs. F. MacIntyre, 1057 East Thirteenth, was killed in action April 13 while fighting in Holland with the 49th Edmonton Regiment. He went overseas in 1943, served in Italy and moved to the western front in March.

Gnr. Richard "Dick" Hardy Hodkin, son of Mrs. Beatrice A. Hodkin, Kitwanzo, was killed in



R. WALMSLEY Killed **J. W. McWILLIAMS** Killed

5 B.C. Men 'Missing' on RCAF List

Five British Columbia fliers, one of whom is now officially believed killed, are reported missing in an RCAF casualty list issued today.

They are **Flt.-Sgt. Gordon Roy**

In the May 10, 1945 edition of the *Vancouver Sun Newspaper* there is an article reporting that Pte. Babcock had been Killed In Action.

OVERSEAS
OFFICERS—INJURED
Canadian Armoured Corps
McNUTT, J. C., Lt., Winnipeg.
W.O's, N.C.O's AND MEN
KILLED IN ACTION
Canadian Armoured Corps
MICHLOSKY, S., Tpr., Sandhill.
Reconnaissance Units
WICKSTROM, K., Tpr., Kildonan.
Central Ontario Regiment
KOSOWAN, James J. G., Rfn.,
G. Kosowan (father), Kalyna.
Manitoba Regiment
ILASEVICH, H., Cpl., Sadlow, Man.
JANUIK, F., Rfn., Whitemouth.
LELOND, L., Pte., Minlota.
SLYZUK, J., Pte., Ashville, Man.
STUBBS, K. E., Sgt., Winnipeg.
WALLACE, F. F., Rfn., Winnipeg.
British Columbia Regiment
BAILEY, John, Cpl., J. Ripplin
(step-father), Regina.
BOLTZ, J., Pte., Greenwood, B.C.
Saskatchewan Regiment
BABCOOK, R. F., Pte., Capilano.
ELL, Canisius J., Rfn., I. Ell
(father), Sedley, Sask.
WILSON, George S., Rfn., Mrs. E.
Wilson (wife), Orcadia, Sask.

Star-Phoenix Saskatoon - May 11, 1945

In the May 11, 1945 edition of the *Star-Phoenix Newspaper*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan there is an article reporting that Pte. Babcook had been Killed In Action.

Pte. Babcook is Commemorated on Page 492 of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. This page is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa on October 20.

Pte. Babcook's name appears in the *Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial* as well as in the Scotland War Memorial Index 1914 - 1945.

Memorial Information: Saskatchewan Rural Municipality : 406 Mayfield

Honour Roll Location: Fielding, Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan named **Babcook Bay** in memory of Pte. Roy Francis Babcook. Babcook Bay is located in the northeast part of Saskatchewan. The decision date for naming this Bay for Private Babcook was made July 3, 1958. The Saskatchewan Geographical Names program is carried out through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. In the September 29, 1958 edition of the Regina, Saskatchewan *Leader-Post Newspaper* on page 16 there is an article on Babcook Bay.

Sources

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- <https://radisson.ca/home/location/>
- <https://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/search-place-names/unique?id=HACMZ>
- <https://svwm.ca/casualty-lists/wwii-casualties/>
- <https://www.snmw.org/roll-search/?id=2084583&searchid=99905671061627d31e84b706c2427829&page=1>

REBELLION

Rebellion of 1837/38

Lingering Resentments, second edition

Submitted by Gordon Udell

Member #5905

This article was first published in the Ontario Genealogical Society Families Volume 45 – Number 2, May 2006. The original purpose was to bring to remembrance some of the attitudes prevalent in Upper Canada in the period of the rebellion of 1837/38 and to suggest that these events were the cause of lingering resentments long after people had forgotten family involvement in the rebellion. This current article updates and provides some additional information discovered more recently.

My father Gordon Wesley Udell was born at Stettler, Alberta on the 5th of September in 1918. His early records indicate that he was French by ancestry. His father, George Wesley Udell, held a strong dislike for “Englishmen”. I was to discover that other portions of the family held similar prejudices. For example Frank Udell a cousin from Lincoln Nebraska relates, “My Grandfather, and my Father, never spoke well of the English. I am sure my father did not even know why he disliked the English. It was just one of those things that is passed on from generation to generation.” A great number of the original settlers of Sanilac County, Michigan were affected by the problems in Upper Canada in 1837/1838. Many relatives including: Udell, Wixson, Spencer, Bennett, Matthew, and McClure’s all came from Canada between 1840 & 1870. Dr. Jon Udell, a cousin in Madison Wisconsin, advised me that their family tradition was they were descended from a French soldier from Quebec. It wasn’t until the 1970’s that I discovered that our family was descended from a soldier from Quebec but an English soldier! His name was Mathew Udell. Why the strong feelings about “Englishmen”? My theory is that it is due to what happened to the family during the rebellion of 1837/38.

My ancestor Mathew Udell was born¹ in Ellastone, Staffordshire in 1743. The family had lived there at least for 100 years by that time as evidenced by church records. The earliest spelling of the name in Ellastone was Udall. The earliest record of the family in Ellastone is the marriage of Mathew’s gr-gr-gr-grandfather, John Udall, to Elizabeth Bull in December 1640.

Mathew Udell served with the 19th, or Green Howard’s Regiment, for 14 years² before he joined the 26th, or Cameronian Regiment, while they were in Staffordshire in 1780. The 26th regiment subsequently shipped to Quebec in 1787. Mathew had a wife and daughter, names currently unknown, and a son John. John Udell also served 5 years with the regiment.

REBELLION

During this period of time Mathew and John served in various locations in Lower Canada and in Upper Canada at Forts Niagara and Erie. John remained in Upper Canada when the regiment went back to Lower Canada in 1792. He received land³ in the Niagara region of Upper Canada in 1795. Mathew was discharged due to age and infirmity in Halifax in 1800 as the regiment was on its way back to England. He subsequently petitioned for land in Montreal in 1802 after being discharged. This is the first document in which the name is spelt Udell. His petition was denied.

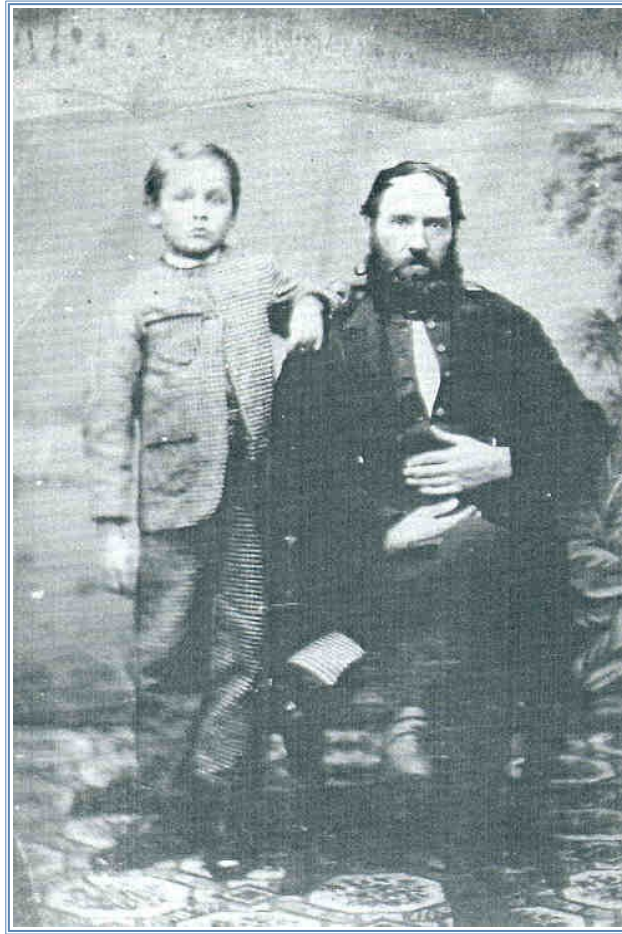
Meanwhile Mathew's son John Udell married Margaret Brown in the Niagara district. Margaret's family had moved up from Pennsylvania. Her father James Brown had been blacklisted⁴ in Pennsylvania because of his service with the British Navy and Army during the Revolutionary War. John and Margaret's first two children, James and Catherine, were baptized⁵ in St. Mark's in Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 21st of May 1804.

The family moved to the Pickering and Markham area just north of Toronto a few years later. In lands records John Udell is referred to as John Udell "the hunter". John Udell "the hunter" was a member of Pickering township council⁶ in 1818. By the mid 1830's they owned several farms in Pickering, Markham and Uxbridge. John and Margaret had ten children: James, Catherine, Mathew, William, Joseph, Nancy, Jane, Hanna, John (my direct ancestor) and George.

Coincidentally, two Wixson brothers⁷, Joseph and Joshua moved into Pickering Township and settled on concession 9, just down the road from where John Udell was raising his family. They had arrived in Upper Canada from New York in 1798 and Joseph had a daughter Mary Ann Wixson born on 9 November 1802 in Scarborough. He petitioned for land in late 1802 and shortly thereafter moved to Lot 17 and 18 concession 9 in Pickering Township. This would later be called Claremont. Joseph served during the war of 1812/13 in Captain Samuel Rideout's Company and others.

On the 20th August 1818 Mary Wixson married George D. Spencer from Hartford, Connecticut, a descendant of Sergeant Thomas Spencer⁸ who arrived in Massachusetts in 1633. George and Mary Ann lived on Joseph Wixson's property in concession 9. One year later their eldest child Eunice Spencer⁹ was born. On 23 December 1840 Eunice Spencer married¹⁰ John Udell, son of John Udell "the hunter". So Joseph Wixson is my great-great-great-great grandfather. His great-great grandfather Robert Wixon¹¹ had arrived in Massachusetts on the Winthrop fleet in 1630 as a 7 year old indentured servant. He married Alice Aspinet, daughter of the famous Chief Nauset Aspinet of the Algonquins' on Cape Cod. Margaret Spencer, a younger sister of Eunice Spencer, married Thomas Matthews, son of Captain Peter Matthews from Pickering.

REBELLION



John Udell born in Pickering 1816
Son of John Udell 'the hunter'
My great-great grandfather
and one of his grandsons

Then the rebellion of 1837/38 occurred. In Upper Canada the "Reformers" were demanding an elected and responsible legislative council and they arose against the "Family Compact". Without getting into the reasons for rebellion it is worth noting that the majority of "rebels" were farmers. Control, of the land and economy were not benefiting the majority of the population. The effect was that the value of farmland was undervalued and farmers struggled to make ends meet.

The leader of the revolt in Upper Canada was William Lyon Mackenzie. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1828 but was repeatedly expelled by the influence of the Family Compact. He was also elected in 1834 as the first Mayor of Toronto.

REBELLION

A somewhat different view¹² of the rebellion is offered in a history book of Toronto, which states:

" It is easy for moderns, knowing only the British freedom that has broadened down from precedent to precedent since 1841, to denounce the Family Compact as a tyranny, but let them put themselves in the place of the loyalists of the day, desperately eager to have security as British subjects. Perhaps they might not be so censorious. It is a significant fact that agitation and rebellion never got any support from Eastern Ontario or the Niagara peninsula, the original settlements of the folk who had been robbed and driven into exile by republicans. Nearly all the "patriots" exercised about the Rights of Man, and deeply concerned about an abstract British liberty were either disputatious immigrants from the British Isles, perhaps not fully aware of the peculiar dangers that threatened Upper Canada, or late settlers from the United States who had lived for twenty years or more under the Republic and had come into central and western districts of the province in the quest for free land."

In any event Mackenzie issued a proclamation on the 25th of November 1837 calling Canadians to arms to overthrow the Family Compact. One of the Patriots gathering places was Montgomery's Tavern, located several miles north of Toronto on Yonge Street. An attack on Toronto planned for the night of the 6th of December proved unsuccessful when the Patriots, having delayed their advance until sufficient numbers had gathered, were met and fired on by the military. The Patriots under Samuel Lount scattered and returned to the Tavern. Provincial Troops under Governor Sir Francis Bond Head and Colonel Allen McNab attacked and disbursed the "rebel" forces on the 7th of December at the Inn.

Close to nine hundred men were arrested¹³ across Upper Canada and thrown in jail over the incident, including Joseph Udell¹⁴, son of John Udell "the hunter". Other relatives included: Joseph Wixson, my great-great-great-great grandfather, jailed between 27 February and 12 May 1838 –Joseph did go to Montgomery's Tavern with Peter Matthews but was not arrested for his participation in the rebellion. He was arrested for alleged patriot activities in February 1838.

The witness against him was of dubious character and the Grand Jury¹⁵ ignored the indictment; Townsend Wixon, son of Joseph, jailed from 15 December 1837 to 20 May 1838, pardoned on the basis of finding security for keeping the peace and being of good behavior for 3 years; Joseph's brother, Joshua Wixson, jailed between 30 December 1837 and 2 January 1838, discharged after examination; Asa Wixson, son of Joshua, jailed 17 December 1837, banished from Upper Canada and relocated to Michigan; Joel Wixson, son of Joshua Wixson, jailed 17 December 1837, banished from Upper Canada and relocated to Michigan;

REBELLION

Randal Wixon, son of Joshua Wixson, jailed 18 December 1837, sentenced to Transportation to Van Diemen's Land for 18 years. Randall was an active Baptist, serving as an elder and was a school teacher and active reformer. When William Lyon Mackenzie was in England Randal edited the Colonial Advocate. He only had one leg. Randal was released¹⁶ from his sentence by the courts while in England awaiting shipment to Van Diemen's Land. This was on condition of him being banished from Upper Canada and so he relocated to Michigan. Finally Peter Matthews, Margaret Spencer's father-in-law, was arrested, tried on charges of High Treason, convicted and hung in April 1838 in Toronto, along with Samuel Lount. So you can see there was a lot of disruption to my ancestors and relatives.

The rebellion was not a great military struggle but the repercussions for Canada lasted for many years. Various "Hunter Lodges" were organized in American Cities along the border and border raids were carried out for several years after the rebellion. Several other international incidents occurred, including the seizure of Navy Island by the Patriots and the burning of the steamboat "Caroline" by the British Military Forces at Niagara with the steamboat going over Niagara Falls as a result.

Considerable hatred and animosity resulted in the communities between the factions. The History of Markham records the following¹⁷:

"Fred Reid of Markham, a descendant of Frederick Eckhart, recalls...Another brother, Gottlieb, remained in jail all winter. He was tried for high treason and sentenced first to be executed, though the penalty was reduced to "transportation" to Van Diemen's Land. However, on May 12, 1838, Gottlieb was released through the offices of Peter Milne, Sr., magistrate in Markham Village. When Gottlieb died in the 1850's, his coffin is said to have been buried beneath heavy, crisscrossed planks – such was the bitterness left from the Rebellion period – to prevent Tories from molesting his body."

The following period of the 1840's was a period of considerable unrest in Upper Canada. A group referred to as the "Markham Gang" reportedly terrorized the Markham and Pickering area. This is the context in which Mathew Udell, the older brother of Joseph and John, was brought before the 1846 Home District Spring Assizes. I quote at length some information, given its significant implications.

The Toronto Examiner of the 29th of July 1846 provided the following commentary:

"(The activities of this gang noticed in several) adjoining townships within the last two or three years --- A number of thefts, in one case of a few yards of cloth, in another of pair of breeches, another of a few pans, and in another of seventy or eighty dollars accompanied by brutal violence, have been perpetrated upon the farmers, by persons who must have acted in concert.

REBELLION

Great terror pervaded the minds of the timid and those living in isolated and remote places, on account of the frequency of these depredations, and the apparent impossibility of detecting these offenders. --- At last circumstances came to light that led to the arrest of two or three, one of them, conscious of his guilt, and apprehensive of it being proven, took it into his head to confess his crimes, and turn Queen's evidence against others. Upon information obtained from him a number of persons in the Township of Whitby, Reach and Pickering were taken up and lodged in goal. --- In the course of trials of these men, it became evident to every reflecting mind that, in the anxiety, which everyone felt to see the villainous gang exterminated, and all who belonged to it brought to condign punishment, there was danger that some innocent persons might suffer with the guilty. It was remarkable fact that several of those charged were the sons of respectable farmers, while others were men with wives and children, cultivating farms of their own, with comfort and plenty around them! What would have induced such men to commit such crimes? --- We must see some sufficient motive, before we can easily believe men, circumstances as we have described, guilty of such crimes. At all events, it does seem to us, that when a conspiracy of this anomalous kind is asserted to be in existence, however desirable it may be to extinguish it, yet it is infinitely more desirable that the persons should be proved, beyond all doubt, guilty --- that when persons hitherto respectable, and in a situation far from want, are charged, and when consequences so serious (affecting not only themselves entirely but a numerous kindred) must inevitable follow a conviction. Juries, if sometimes off their guard, should be watchful and scrupulous then; that Judges, if sometimes lax and one-sided in their interpretation of the law, and the application of its rules, should be otherwise then; that all, in a word, concerned in the administration of justice should take especial care that no improper spirit actuated them, and no undue influence or prejudice biased them. But it has been said by council --- that a spirit has prevailed the late trials far more dangerous to the best interests of the community than anything to be apprehended from the secret combination it was sought to break up to a juryman (of course, there were exceptions) of the necessity of evidence from an unpolluted source, that placed the prisoners quilt beyond all question, you were met with 'Ah, but such scoundrels ought to be punished. "But how do you know that the prisoner is one of them, except from the testimony from a man who has confessed himself the blackest of scoundrels? 'He looks like it; I've no doubt he is a member of the gang!' Is this the kind of reasoning any one of us should like to hear from a man who had our character, liberty and life at his disposal? --- We hope (strange as it sounds) that all persons tried at the late Assizes were guilty.

REBELLION

We should be sorry to think that anyone of those now in the Penitentiary knows that he is the victim of individual malice, and public inattention to the rules of law and justice --- But what would be, what ought to be, our feelings if it appeared that there were political reasons for the extra-ordinary zeal of some of our authorities, and the leanings and one sided views of others? It was hinted more than once during the Assizes there was no need of being very particular, that if the prisoners were not thieves, they were, at all events rebels; that if not punishing offenders, they were crushing political opponents --- It did not seem to us possible that political feeling entered into these proceedings when we heard one of the Magistrates who was particularly concerned in them, in frequent conversation with several of the jurymen who were to try the prisoners, descanting upon the virtues of the informers Stutts and Spencer --- inveighing against the different persons charges, and relating numerous little circumstances within his knowledge which tended to establish their guilt --- We greatly fear that the demon of political hatred has again profaned the temple of justice."

Another Toronto newspaper published a supplement on the "Markham Gang" in which it is stated:

"that the present association grew out of or rather is but a continuation for other purposes, of the associations which were originally organized for the purposes of revolt previous to the late rebellion. The principal families implicated in the present gang were also implicated in the late rebellion --- The cat is now out of the bag. We now have it from one who has had access to the very highest sources of information, that our authorities thought they had discovered a ci-devant of rebels in the "Markham Gang" --- We shall not consume much space in proving the absurdity and falsity of the 'origin and history' which the Colonist has published and the Canadian of last week reiterated --- Whatever were the sins of the rebels, those of plunder and robbery were almost exclusively charges upon the lawless gangs of Orangemen, who undercover of authority, traversed the country, abusing defenseless women, and appropriating to their own use whatever of private property they could conveniently carry off --- We have no doubt some of the 'Markham Gang' were implicated in the rebellion. And it may be that a majority of those apprehended admitted that they were 'democratic' in their principles, for we are told these questions were asked by the magistrates. What the question of their guilt we are unable to perceive --- (The evidence shows that the 'Markham Gang') grew out of the associations founded for the avowed purpose of suppressing revolt --- the notorious Green, --- who was the most hardened of the gang, was a Sergeant during the 'late rebellion' ---

REBELLION

(Colonist was wrong to assert) that none but Canadians and Americans belonged to the gang, for Green was an Irishmen --- the far greater of their number of their robberies were committed upon persons, who, in the vocabulary of the Colonists and Canadian, are radicals, i.e. rebels --- the gang must be a continuation of the Orange Association, Blazers, etc., for they exhibit the same preference for radical property. The truth is, this notion as to the origin and political character of these loafers, is the offspring of some wretched Tory's diseased imagination. They were as devoid of political principles or character, as of every other character but that of unprincipled rogues. And all who answered that description, whatever they might call themselves, were admitted without question to the mysteries of the order."

Mathew was tried for forgery, found guilty and sentenced to be imprisoned at hard labour in the Provincial Penitentiary for five years. James Green is listed in the court records, just below Mathew, as receiving the same sentence of five years. Mathew died intestate in jail on the 1st of September 1848. He is buried somewhere on the old prison site. The letters of administration granted to his wife Mary (Hamilton) Udell state that he left behind five minor children. His daughter Mary moved to Michigan and in one record says her parents were Mary Hamilton, which is correct, and William Udell, a brother of Mathew, which is incorrect, rather than Mathew.

The majority of the Udell family moved to Michigan and Wisconsin. Also other relatives, including George D. Spencer and Mary Ann Wixson and their family and 9 of Joseph Wixson's 10 children¹⁸ moved to Michigan. While there may be varying opinions as to the motives of the "Patriots" one of the positive results of the rebellion of 1837/38 was the British Government sending Lord Durham to Canada to investigate the matter. His report has been referred to as the ablest state paper of the century and made a significant contribution to the way in which the Canadian Government evolved reflected in the British North America Act of 1867. In his report he states that if the Crown "has to carry on the Government in unison with a representative body, it must consent to carry it on by means of those in whom that representative body has confidence."

My great-great grandfather John Udell, born in 1816, is buried in Melvin Cemetery in Brown City, Michigan. My great-grandfather John Eli Udell was born in Pickering just before the infamous spring assize of 1846, lost his mother Eunice when he was about 9 years old and his father moved with his second wife to Michigan a couple years later. John Eli would have heard stories about the events of the 1830's and 40's from his family when he was a youngster, and likewise would have passed some of this on to his children in stories and prejudices. John Eli Udell is buried in Orillia, Ontario.

REBELLION

My grandfather George Wesley Udell left Orillia early in the 20th century and homesteaded in Alberta. As late as the 1950 and 60's he held a lingering resentment to "Englishmen".



Gordon and Kathleen Udell World War II

My parents

I recognize that the Family Compact were not all Englishmen. The compact included people whose ancestry was Scottish, Irish and American. However, I understand how this may have been viewed from the perspective of the English as the dominant group in the nation in control of society at the time. Fortunately this resentment was not evident in my father. While in England during World War II he met and married an English girl, Kathleen Mummery. He was not to discover that the ancestry of the Udell family was English until I had done the research in the 1970's.

REBELLION

1. Ellastone, Staffordshire, St Peter's Parish Records
2. Canadian Archives; Mathew Udell's petition for land dated Montreal, 10 January 1802
3. John Udell's Petition to John Graves Simcoe for land dated 14 August 1795
4. Attorneys-General McKean & Dallas; A list of those Tories who took part with Great Britain in the Revolutionary War and were attainted of High Treason; Philadelphia; 1802
5. St Mark's Parish Registry, Niagara-on-the-Lake
6. J.E. Farewell, Ontario County; published by Whitby Gazette-Chronicle Press, 1907; page 13
7. J.H. Wixom, Ruth S. Widdison & Albert B. Hanner; Wixom to Wixson; Page 50
8. The American Genealogist Volumes 27 – 29; Edited by Donald Lines Jacobus; Picton Press, Camden, Maine 1989; Page 162
9. Rev. Victor Gordon Brown & Letitia Mae Brown; The English Browns of Markham and Uxbridge Townships; 1985; Page 43
10. Rev. William Jenkins: Marriage Register of Rev. William Jenkins
11. Josiah Paine; Early Settlers of Eastham; 1916,page 20
12. The Corporation of the City of Toronto; Toronto's 100 Years; page 34
13. Charles Lindsay; The Life and Times of WM. Lyon MacKenzie; Toronto 1862; publish. P.R. Randall; page Appendix I page 400
14. Brenda Merriman; List of Prisoners in Toronto After Certain Events of the 1837 Rebellion; OGS Families Volume 23 no. 4; page 203
15. The Champlain Society; The Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada; 1985; Footnote on page 352
16. The Champlain Society; The Rebellion of 8137 in Upper Canada ; 1985; Footnote on page 118
17. Markham District Historical Society; 1989; History of Markham; Isabel Champion editor; page 192
18. History of Sanilac County 1834-1984; 1985; inter-Collegiate Press; page 299

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGIST

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1. Author is currently a BCGS member.
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3. Photographs, family diagrams or other illustrations will complement your story, These should be submitted separately as jpegs, tiffs or PDFs. Captions for pictures are helpful.
4. Entries will be between 500 and 2000 words (roughly two to six pages), and should be submitted in an electronic format (PDF, Word document) to the Editor at Journal@bcgs.ca

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