



FAMILIES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 63 | NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2024



Downtown Toronto on December 11, 1944.
(City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Item 450).
See Linda Leschak's article on a Snowfall to Remember!

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Grandma's Sister Came to Visit
A Story Needing Telling: A Snapshot of Donald Campbell and Laurel Sims' Lives
Coral's Corner, Book Reviews, a Letter to the Editor, and more!

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From the Editor



Heather McTavish Taylor,
Managing Editor

Happy new year and welcome to 2024! For me, each time the clock strikes midnight on January first, it ushers a period of renewed focus and clarity of purpose for the coming twelve months. This year, I am committed to developing both my writing and editing skills. So, my volunteer work on *Families* remains an important part of helping me to achieve my genealogy goals this year. Write more, edit more, publish more, and continue to use this way to engage with the genealogy community. I am looking forward to a challenging and successful year in 2024! What are your genealogy goals for this year? How will you share your passion for family history with your community?

This issue is another full issue, so full in fact that one article has been delayed until the May 2024 edition. This is the first time that I have had too many articles to include and for it to still be “foldable”! But, I hope you will be thrilled to read all about Walt Disney’s Huron County connections in May. I am very pleased to welcome back four authors who have submitted articles to *Families* in the past, and of course to thank

four others for consistently sending in book reviews, blogs, and columns every edition. I would also like to give a big shout-out to the three new authors who sent in their first submissions and for two others who reached out to me with their personal stories. I do very much appreciate making these connections and feeling that *Families* is important enough for people to put “pen to paper”. Thank you!

◆————◆
What are your genealogy goals for this year? How will you share your passion for family history with your community?
◆————◆

As I have reviewed all the submissions, I am struck by the idea that each of these articles offers some kind of new information and learning for our readership. In this issue, Nancy Casey takes a deeper look into what it means to have been a “moulder”; Drew von Hasselbach discusses some of the additional information one might find in the various Canadian censuses; Robbie Gorr looks at how second and third marriages can affect how children are named; and Alan Campbell shares his parents’ experience in Toronto, during WWII. In a new section that I am calling Reminiscences, Linda Leschak has shared her mother’s story of the Toronto Blizzard of 1944. I was so interested to hear her recollections of that day, and I wonder what other short stories our readers might want to share in future *Families*? Please send them to me; I would love to hear from you!

As always, we value your feedback and I sincerely hope that you will engage with us and let us know your thoughts. Please feel free to email me at Heather.McTavish.Taylor@ogs.on.ca.

Heather

Heather

FAMILIES

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Radios, Insurance and Death: Making Sense Out of Some Census Nonsense

Drew von Hasselbach

Drew von Hasselbach, a journalist and lawyer living in Toronto, has been doing genealogy for more than three decades. He has a PLCGS with distinction from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. He got his first radio for his birthday in 1973.

The arrival of the *1931 Census of Canada* came with a quirky piece of information – radio ownership. You may not have noticed this, because odds are it's not something you thought you need to know. Most genealogists focus on the census information directly relevant to family history research, like the birth years you can imply from recorded ages, or the family relationships you can construct out of a list of household members.

The radio data is a reminder that census records come stuffed with surprises, little Easter eggs that are waiting for you to find them. They're often hidden in the far right-hand columns that you won't see on your computer screen unless you scroll all the way to the edge of the page. That's the message I wish to impart. When you tackle a census record, don't restrict yourself to the obvious data. There are quirks connected with each census year, and you should become familiar with them in case they provide you with a genealogical or biographical tidbit that you weren't expecting to find.

Maybe you don't need to know whether your ancestors numbered among the roughly 10% of Ontario residents who owned a radio in 1931, a percentage that rose to 13% for urban residents, and dropped to 5% for those living on farms.[1] It may not answer a genealogical question about a family relationship or date, but it is an interesting biographical detail. Early radio adopters were the movers and shakers of the early 1930s. Having a radio in 1931 would have been like having one of those brick-sized cellular phones that were the epitome of status in 1987, or one of the first iPhones that hit the market in 2007.



Above: Two children listen to a radio, ca. 1924
[City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 8054].

Data points like this may seem like some random nonsensical dots. But working with data can be as much an art as a science. It's up to you to connect those dots into a picture that might make some sense in the story of your family. If you find out your ancestors had a radio in 1931, you've got some data that suggests they were fairly avant-garde and reasonably well-to-do. Or maybe they were just nerds. Either way, you've tuned in to a new way to look at your ancestors.

That said, you don't always need to get creative in how you use this information. Some census records harbour some secretive genealogical data. It's just that you might not know it's there and know how to find it.

I discovered this myself while doing a project last year that aimed to track the source of an inherited illness. I needed to track a matrilineal lineage across several generations to look for clues that might point to the presence of this illness. So, I started out by looking for details of any recorded infirmities. You'll find dedicated spaces for a short list of conditions on the census returns from 1851 to 1911.

When I got back to 1861, I found the real surprise. *The 1861 Census of Canada West* provided a space where enumerators were supposed to make note of family members who had died during 1860. I found one household that listed all members – including four with a cross beside their names indicating they had recently died.[2] On the far right of the form, there is a column titled “Deaths in 1860.” I suspect enumerators paid little attention to it, but in the case of this family from London, Ontario, a particularly diligent census worker recorded age and cause of death for each deceased family member:

- + William Moore ... Deaths in 1860: “M, 63 yrs Inflammation”
- + John Moore ... Deaths in 1860: “M, 7 yrs Sun Stroke”
- + Alexander Moore ... Deaths in 1860: “M, 2 yrs Inflammation”
- + Patrick Moore ... Deaths in 1860: “M, 1 yr Inflammation”

I later discovered parish burial records that revealed two of those recorded deaths had actually occurred in 1859. But this was still genealogical gold. Comprehensive civil registration for Ontario is not available until mid-1869, so finding any earlier original source that describes a vital statistic is a moment for a high-five.

The 1861 census comes with another surprise. There is a column called “married in year.” When I first saw this, I thought it was asking respondents to indicate whether they had married during the previous 12 months, which would be a way for the government of the day to gauge how often couples were getting hitched. And maybe it was. But whoever enumerated

my wife’s 3x-great-grandparents used it to ask couples when they had married, and my wife’s ancestors gave an answer: 1831.[3] Being some 33 years after the fact, this answer might not qualify as contemporaneous information. But it’s the only document we have that mentions anything about their marriage, and this has been a crucial detail for a Loyalist lineage application we’re working on.

The 1911 census has one of the weirdest items the federal government has ever collected – life insurance coverage. One researcher has suggested the decision to collect the 1911 life insurance data might have resulted from interest in the industry following a 1907 royal commission report.[4] I think the data can be interesting in that if your ancestors provided insurance details, you can surmise they must have been reasonably comfortable financially. A family that is struggling to put food on the table might not have had the liquidity to buy financial products. But a family who did have the means – maybe 20 years later they were wealthy enough to own a radio.

Right: Insurance columns on the 1911 Canadian Census.

So, there can be more to any given census record than first meets the eye. Look beyond the obvious, and you might be surprised.

References:

- [1] Dominion Bureau of Statistics, *Radios in Canada, 1931*, (Ottawa: Minister of Trade and Commerce, Census and Vital Statistics Branch), p 2.
- [2] *1861 Census of Canada, Canada West, Middlesex, Township of London*. pages 43 and 44. Ancestry.com, images 43 and 44 of 2889.
- [3] *1861 Census of Canada, Canada West, Oxford, Village of Otterville in the Township of Norwich*, page 59, line 32. Enumeration date 13 Jan 1861.
- [4] Peter Baskerville, “The Worth of Children and Women: Life Insurance in Early Twentieth-Century Canada,” p. 454. In Gordon Darroch, Ed., *Dawn of Canada’s Century* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2014) pp 452-480. See page 454.

An Old Register Holds Histories and Mysteries Related to Methodist Marriages in Ontario

Mary Gomide

In August 2018, I caused a small traffic jam at a thrift store in Southeastern Ontario when a book caught my eye from the bottom shelf in the locked, “special items” case which was inconveniently located just inside the door. As I waited for the case to be unlocked, and then examined the book, impatient shoppers maneuvered past me through the narrow aisle.

The book turned out to be an original, circa 1858 Wesleyan Methodist marriage register! As an amateur genealogist, I recognized that it was a treasure and, with the help of my Tuesday Seniors’ Discount, I bought it and brought it home.

I believe that genealogy is more than just a compilation of names and dates. With that in mind, combined with my habit of going off on tangents while researching, my examination of the old register became a wonderful adventure.

It was surprising to discover that only the first five pages had been used to record a total of 72 marriage records. The pages were adorned with two watermarks which I discovered were those of the paper-maker Alexander Pirie of Scotland and an intricate design called the Strasburg Lily. A label pasted inside the

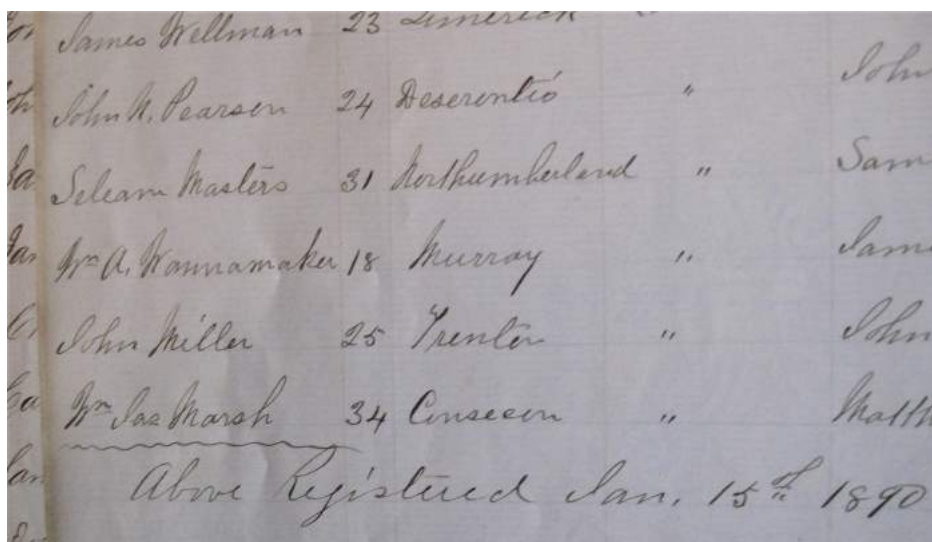
front cover named the publisher as Maclear & Co., Toronto.

My next surprise was to see that there were two handwriting styles. Comparing the register’s entries to records on Ancestry, I discovered that the first 36 entries were made by Reverend Richard CLARKE in the Registration District of Peterborough. The remaining 36 were recorded in Trenton by Reverend Daniel GEE.

Rev. Clarke’s first entry, that of Freeman WEEKS and Mary E. MASTIN, was solemnized on September 17, 1874. Rev. Clarke’s final entry was made on February 1, 1877 for the marriage of John Jacob CORNEIL and Phoebe TERRILL.

Rev. Gee’s first entry in the register was the marriage of Halton SPENCER and Cassie QUIN on July 19, 1888. He put down his pen and closed the register for the final time after recording the January 14, 1890 marriage of Wm. Jas. MARSH and Ella MASTIN.

By a remarkable coincidence Mary E. Mastin and Ella Mastin were first cousins!



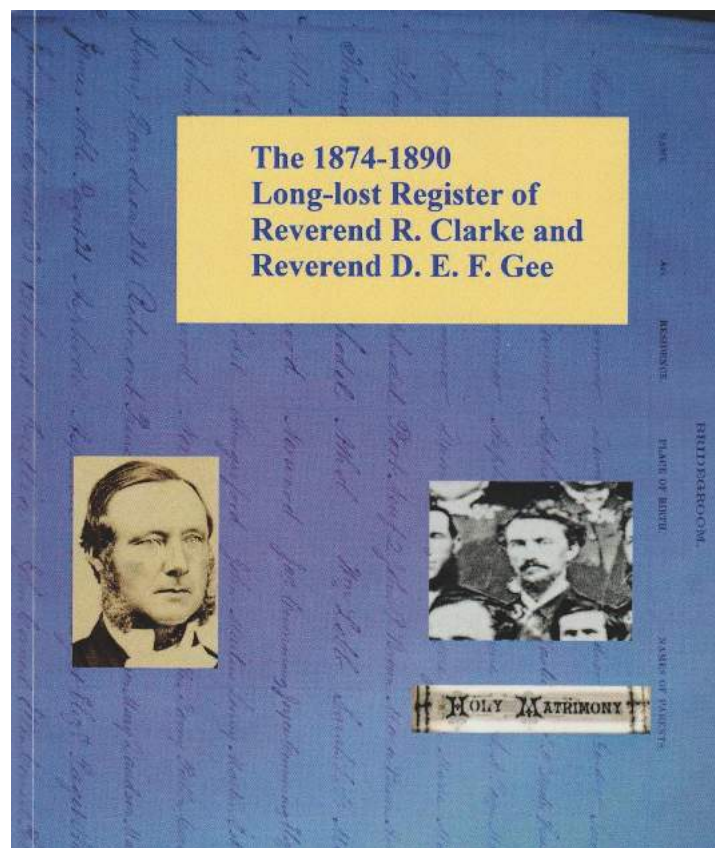
Left: An example of the registrations from 1890, contained in the Register [Photo courtesy of the author].

Names have always intrigued me. The old register contained a number of unusual ones. I researched Jas. G. SCRUGHAM from Kentucky who married Etta McCOLL of Trenton on April 11, 1889. The name Ammon BRISTOL proved to be somewhat of a mystery until I realized that Rev. Gee had made a mistake. It was Ammon Bristol ROGERS who married Rilla DAVIDSON on October 3, 1888. Library and Archives Canada holds an 1869 composite photograph which includes one of each of the Reverends. Researching the Toronto photographer Robert CARSWELL, one of the entries in the register, has led me down several interesting paths.

My purchase of the register was an offshoot of my hobby of buying vintage, family bibles and photograph albums with the goal of researching them and returning them to descendants of the original owners. In June 2021, based upon my research, I published a non-fiction book named “The 1874-1890 Long-lost Register of Reverend R. Clarke and Reverend D. E. F. Gee”. The e-book version was published in August 2023.

Please visit my Facebook page named “The 1874-1890 Long-lost Register” for more information about “The 1874-1890 Long-lost Register of Reverend R. Clarke

and Reverend D. E. F. Gee”. If you are curious about whether or not an ancestor is named in the book, please request an Index lookup. You just never know who you might find!



Above: Cover of the e-book published by the author.

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Origins: The Story of one UEL Family

David Woodcock

David Woodcock is an engineer, history buff, aspiring writer and amateur genealogist who has been researching his family history since he was in public school.

In the 1690s, the Upper Hudson River Valley in New York was just about the edge of the English-speaking world. In fact, it was so remote, there wasn't much English spoken there at all. After being settled by the Dutch West India Company as early as 1620, it was surrendered to the English in 1664. Retaken by the Netherlands in 1673, it was finally ceded to the English again in 1674 under the Treaty of Westminster.

English sovereignty in the region was established when Fort Frederick was constructed in 1676. The fort was located at the top of State Street hill in the town of Albany, in front of what is now the New York State Capitol building. Hardly impressive, it was merely a wooden stockade surrounding two small buildings.

This was the frontier. It was the northern limit of New York colony and the English presence in North America. There was a small Dutch settlement in Schenectady, about 16 miles further north-west of Albany along the Mohawk River, but beyond this there was nothing but wilderness until you reached the French settlements in Cataraqui (present day Kingston) or Montreal, each about 225 miles distant. At Schenectady, the French and their native allies massacred 60 people in February 1690, showing just how dangerous and vulnerable the area was.

Given the importance of this area for the fur trade and the risk of attack from New France, two companies of English soldiers had been sent in January 1690 to garrison the fort at Albany. By the mid-1690s they were in bad shape. For the soldiers, a promised three-year enlistment had dragged into four and five years. Terrible conditions and regular skirmishes with the French and natives led to attrition and desertions. By the spring of 1694, there were only about 245 soldiers and perhaps 50 grenadiers protecting the entire area. With a growing threat from the French in Canada, the

Governor of New York was regularly writing to the King, begging for more troops to protect this valuable region.

In the spring of 1694 the request was granted, and the order was given to raise four additional companies of men for Albany. These would become known as the "Four Independent Companies of New York". The reason for this distinction was two-fold. First, unit commanders usually reported directly to the King but in this case, they were to report to the Governor of New York. Furthermore, they became at least partially funded by the colony itself, as opposed to the Crown. Thus, although they were considered to be part of the regular army, they were somewhat independent of the normal command structure. This would not be to their advantage.

It proved to be difficult to find enough men willing to "enlist". In May 1694, when Captain John Evans of *H.M.S. Richmond* reported that he was twenty men short for his crew for a voyage to North America, "orders were issued for the public houses to be searched and the men to be provided". In other words, men were forcibly conscripted, and it is plausible that volunteer soldiers were found the same way. By the beginning of June 1694, about 340 men had been raised. Sir Gilbert Heathcote of Chesterfield, Derbyshire reported that he had raised 50 men himself. Although we cannot know for certain, it is highly likely that one of these men was John Woodcock, a young man from Yorkshire.

Despite much research, we aren't sure what part of Yorkshire John Woodcock came from. Given the involvement of Sir Gilbert from neighbouring Derbyshire, it seems likely that he came from South Yorkshire, perhaps from towns such as Barnsley or

Darfield where the Woodcock surname remains common to this day.

Our young John likely didn't intend for his enlistment to become a permanent move to the New World. And he couldn't have known how his life was about to change, or the significance it would have for generations to follow. The men embarked for New York in August 1694 with two months provisions for the voyage. However, records indicate that they began to suffer a strange illness, with men complaining about their heads and backs.

Of 152 soldiers and 21 crew on one of the ships, not 40 of them escaped this plight. To make matters worse, on the fifth of October, they were attacked and suffered losses at the hands of three French privateers – pirate ships sponsored by King Louis XIV of France. With provisions and medicines depleted, they returned to Plymouth in late October to resupply and to wait out the winter.

By May of 1695, the new recruits had reached Boston and by July they had arrived at Albany to bolster the garrison there. Unfortunately, things did not get any better for John and his fellow soldiers. He was a member of the company of grenadiers commanded by Colonel Richard Ingoldsby. Although Ingoldsby was in charge of a company of grenadiers on the frontier in New York, the Colonel himself was in England from 1696 to 1702, leaving the day-to-day operations of the company to his junior officers, such as one Captain John Bennet. Unfortunately, he didn't leave Captain Bennet with the means to supply them with food or clothing. Or pay them.

During this period of history, the Crown would pay the unit commander (in this case Col. Ingoldsby) who would take a cut. The Colonel would pay his junior officers, and they in turn would take their cut. The remainder would be paid to the men. Due to a shocking combination of incompetence and greed, very little (if any) of the money reached the troops in Albany.

Even if they had money, there was nowhere to purchase basic necessities. In England, soldiers were expected to find their own lodging, buy clothes,

bedding, food, and other supplies. It didn't occur to the establishment in England that Albany was unlikely to be able to provide these things. Albany was a small frontier town. It had perhaps 200 houses and was less than a mile in circumference. There were fewer than 1,500 people in all of Albany County, and barely 4,000 in the town of New York, more than 150 miles to the south. The Governor of New York would write many letters trying to explain this to his superiors in England. He met with little success.

As a result, conditions faced by the soldiers were wretched. In the middle of winter, "half the men were bare-legged and bare-footed, and several without a shirt to their backs." The wooden stockade itself was in such poor repair that a man could walk through it in many places. It is no wonder that scores of men deserted. Colonel Ingoldsby's company was eventually paid in May 1698 by a local gentleman, Robert Livingston. John Woodcock's name was one of only 66 men on the muster roll. By July 1698, there were only 45 names.

The situation was miserable by any measure. Without pay, proper clothing, food, lodging, defenses, or even a commanding officer, it would have seemed like England had forgotten about them completely. Morale must have been terrible. It is frankly amazing how anyone could have endured such hardship, but this would continue until at least 1700.

By this time, most of the men had found work in the local community and would only show up at the fort to muster as required. We can imagine that John Woodcock was one of those men who began working for a local resident. It was probably the Gardinier family, local Dutch carpenters and millwrights whose farm was on the south side of Kinderhook Creek, near the village of Kinderhook, a few miles south of Albany.

Jacob Gardinier had been one of the first European settlers of North America, having arrived in New Amsterdam on March 28, 1638. This is only 29 years after Henry Hudson first explored the river that would be named after him. Jacob was a colourful character also known by the nickname of "Flodder". In addition to being a carpenter, he also owned a sloop that sailed

the Hudson River between New Amsterdam and Orange (Albany). Between 1656 and 1665, Flodder owned the north side of Wall Street in Manhattan, between William and Pearl Streets. In March 1667, he received one of the first land patents granted in the Albany area, near Kinderhook.

Jacob had a son named Jan Gardinier who became a carpenter and millwright like his father. Jan had a daughter named Ariaantje, who must have caught the eye of young John Woodcock. According to the records of the Dutch Reformed Church in the village of Kinderhook, they were married on May 3, 1702. The marriage was with the consent of Captain Bennet, who had been given command of the grenadiers at Albany while Colonel Ingoldsby was indisposed in England. Their first child Johanna was born in October and they would have six more children. With this successful union, the Woodcock family became a permanent fixture in New York for almost three generations.

Their fourth child Isaac, was born in 1707. He would go on to marry Dina Janzen, the granddaughter of Peter and Dina Cornelius. Peter had been a local Mohawk chief of the Turtle clan and Dina was black and may have come to North America as a slave. Isaac and his wife would have nine children themselves between 1733 and 1752. Their seventh child, Nicholas, was born about 1749 in Kinderhook.

Nicholas Woodcock would grow up to marry Annatje (Hannah) Kerrel on April 21, 1773, in Kinderhook. Hannah was the great-granddaughter of the same Peter and Dina Cornelius, reinforcing the native and African bloodlines, traces of which are still detectable in Woodcock family DNA today.

The American War of Independence didn't stop Nicholas and Hannah from starting their family – they would have twelve children between 1774 and 1796. During this period, the community in the Hudson Valley was quite divided in their support for independence. Living in New York after the revolution must have been difficult for the grandson of a former (and clearly loyal) English grenadier. So, Nicholas packed up his young family and began the long trek to Canada.

The 1790 United States census has a Nicholas Woodcock recorded in Caughnawaga, New York. According to this census, he was accompanied by one male over 16, five males under 16, five females and no slaves. According to other sources, he did not have this many children at that time, so it's possible he was travelling as part of a larger group.

When he finally arrived in Upper Canada, he petitioned Governor John Graves Simcoe for land, his property in New York having been confiscated because of his loyalty to the British Crown. On January 19, 1794, Nicholas was granted 200 acres in the Township of Fredericksburg. All six of his sons would go on to serve in the militia during the War of 1812, continuing his grandfather's legacy of military service to the Crown. Nicolas Woodcock would eventually lose his sight and live until the ripe old age of 86 years. He and his wife are buried in the Old Woodcock Cemetery, located south-west of Napanee on the very same land granted to him as a Loyalist in 1794.

This land is considered to be cottage country now. However, the cemetery is still there and will always be a permanent memorial to the achievements of Nicholas, his father Isaac, and his grandfather John. Three generations of Woodcocks who created a thriving family in the New World, literally out of almost nothing. This tiny patch of land in the middle of a forest, peacefully overlooking the Mohawk River is the Canadian ancestral home of nine generations of Canadian Woodcocks and counting.

Key Sources:

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What's in a Name?

The Step-Parent Effect

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. Both of his maternal grandparents were raised by step-fathers that they remembered fondly.

Genealogists are very aware that remarriage was a fact of life for our early ancestors in the face of high mortality rates due to disease, lack of medical knowledge or available care, multiple childbirths, hard physical labour, inconsistent diet and shorter life expectancy. And later, changes to the law and the increasing ease of obtaining a divorce meant that many marital alliances could easily be broken. As a result, many of our forebears may have been involved in several conjugal unions through the course of a lifetime. These multiple marriages and the introduction of step-parents may have generated some unexpected issues, especially with regard to the children being raised in the household. The resulting inconsistencies, variances and anomalies in identity, parentage and heritage have the potential to hinder, mislead and even obstruct genealogical research. It may be worthwhile to be aware of such occurrences that are frequently encountered as a result of “the step-parent effect”.

Both of my maternal grandparents shared a common experience in having been raised by stepfathers, both mothers remarrying soon after their fathers’ deaths. Each of them, however, was affected differently by their step-parent experience and some of those stories were passed down to recent generations. Among my other ancestors were multiple remarriages, with two of my great-great-grandparents each being married three times, doubling the number of step-parents in the household, and even these distant step-family relations provided tales that were passed along in regard to the treatment of and the influence on the children in the household.

Statistics on the subject of remarriage in past generations show that the younger a man or woman when they lost their spouse, then the more likely they were to marry again. Those whose partners died young tended to remarry more quickly especially when there

The introduction of step-parents in a family may have generated some unexpected inconsistencies and anomalies concerning identity, parentage and heritage that have the potential to hinder, mislead and even obstruct genealogical research [Photo from author’s family collection].



were minor children. A second mate was often necessary to balance the workload of daily life in a time when the men primarily worked outside the home and women did domestic labour and raised the children. In general, the presence of young children in a widowed household tended to increase the likelihood of remarriage by the surviving spouse whereas the presence of grown children tended to decrease the probability of remarriage, the need for nurturing and parenting no longer an immediate necessity.

Another Man's Children

Men remarried for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it was looking for a partner to fulfill certain needs and roles and other times it was the requirement of a workmate to share the responsibilities and burdens of life. If a man remarried soon following the death of his first wife, it was likely that he was looking for and expecting someone to care for and raise any young children of his first marriage. A woman accepting such a role might not be ready or willing to take on the responsibility of instant motherhood especially if she were younger than her husband or if her age were closer to that of her stepchildren. And when her own natural children were born there was often some difference in the way she treated them compared with the children of the previous marriage. It is from situations like these that the stereotype of the wicked stepmother was born.

A woman seeking a second husband would also be looking for a spouse willing to support her and raise



Left: Margaret Ann Hudson seen here with her second of six husbands. Before marrying him, the younger children of her first marriage had been adopted out. Sympathetic stories say that a young widowed Margaret Ann could not care for them but the question remains why she did not retrieve them after remarrying. Other family stories explain that her second husband was not interested in raising another man's children [Photo from author's family collection].

any children she might have had from her own first marriage. But not every man was interested in starting a marriage with a ready-made family or in shouldering the burden of raising another man's children, offspring that were not his own blood relations. Such attitudes toward stepchildren could cause contention and hard feelings in the new family unit. There are many cases where undesired children of a first marriage were sent away to relatives or school, apprenticed out, or even adopted out when their mother remarried.

Changing Names

If it was the father who remarried then the family surname would remain unchanged for all children born to his wives but the introduction of stepchildren, the offspring of a wife from a previous relationship, into the marriage would add a second surname in the same household. The situation would be much more complicated by a mother who had remarried several times and had had children by the different husbands so that within one household there could be several surnames, all related. In census records it was a common occurrence for the census taker to list all of the children under one surname, usually the name of the head of household, and some other records may also be listed in error under one of the other surnames used in the household. A good tip for researchers would be to check for records under all the household names, especially the stepfather's name, just to be certain of not overlooking anything because it may have been incorrectly or mistakenly recorded.

When a widow with children remarried, especially if her children were very young, then it was possible that those children might be adopted, whether informally or legally, by the stepfather and would, rightly or not, adopt his surname and continue using it until they left home or even throughout their life. Similarly, if outcast stepchildren were dispersed to extended family, neighbours or even as apprentices, this might also result in name changes for those children as members of their adopted families.

In my own family there is even a case where a child's first name was altered by a step-parent.

197	119	Emilia	4	26					
		Mary	4	24	Oct				
200	200	Brismont William	16	16		Germany			Samuel
		Brother	17	12					16
		Charles	16	17					Samuel
		William	16	14					
198	200	Ferdinand	16	12					

Above: What appears to be an ordinary nuclear family in the 1871 census for Renfrew County, Ontario is not what it seems at first glance. The three sons are actually children of the wife's first marriage but are listed under their stepfather's surname instead of their own, a common occurrence in census records [Image from Ancestry.ca].

My grandfather, born posthumously and christened by his widowed mother as Basil, had his first name changed to Robert by a stepfather who had come into his life when he was just a year old and who was realistically the only father figure that he had known. The name change was not random but was actually the name of his stepfather's own father, that particular name likely given because his stepfather had no biological children of his own. As a result, my grandfather grew up using and being addressed by both his legal name and his new name. This duality of designations caused some documental difficulties during his years of employment as well as when he retired and applied for his government pensions.



Above: The author's great-grandmother Lucinda Stubbs Halliday was a young widow with eight children when she remarried. Her husband changed the first name of her youngest child Basil (the author's grandfather, center), calling him after his own father Robert, thereafter causing a lifetime of confusion with official documentation but especially among family members, many of whom, like the author, were named after him [Photo from author's family collection].

Who's Your Mama?

Occasionally there are occurrences where it becomes difficult to identify whether a man's first wife or a second wife was the biological parent of some or all of the children born especially when a death record for the first wife or a marriage record with the second wife have not been located. In the case where a man has remarried and there are young children from his first marriage, there can be issues where those young children, raised by their stepmother, will list her name as a parent on official documents later in life. After all, the stepmother may be the only mother figure of whom they have knowledge or memory and it would be natural to name her, whether on purpose or by misinformation, on the records of memorable life events such as marriage records or death certificates.

There is also a certain curious and little-known family naming tradition that involved the first daughter born to a second wife. If there were no surviving child of the first marriage that had been named after the first wife, then the first daughter born in the second marriage would be named after that first wife. It was seen to be a compassionate tribute and memorial to the previous wife. It was also considered a way to honour the dead woman who would produce no further offspring and thereby reduce the possibility that her name would be carried into posterity. And a second wife knew that if she, too, were to die, then her husband's next child with a successive wife would probably be named after her. A name given to a child to memorialize someone who has died is called a necronym, a term that comes from the Greek and literally translates as 'death name'. Such a tradition, however, could create confusion over which wife was actually the biological parent since the child would carry the name of a previous wife and not her own biological mother.

NAMES OF PARTIES (Surname first.)	AGE	RESIDENCE WHEN MARRIED	PLACE OF BIRTH	Bachelor Widower, Spinster, Widow.	OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION	NAMES OF PARENTS (FATHER—F. MOTHER—M. N.B.—Always give Maiden Name of Mother.)
Groom. Joseph Merchant	33	Guffeth	Island ² N.	Farmer		Urbie Merchant. F. Orelia LeCrosse. M.
Bride. Johamel McCarthy	25	"	Guffeth	S.	#16645	Eugene McCarthy. F. Margaret Morally. M.
Groom. Charles E. Gorr	23	Millar	Millar	B.	Farmer #16646	John Gorr. F. Lizzie Douglas. M.
Bride. Mary A. Hutson	18	Matawata	Mat.	S.	Servant	William Hutson. F. Lizzie Thompson. M.

Above: In this marriage record the groom Charles Gorr lists his parents as John Gorr and Lizzie Douglas. In reality, Lizzie Douglas was not his biological mother but rather the stepmother who had raised him from infancy. These types of intentional errors are common and can cause confusion to researchers [Photo from author's collection].



Right: The joint tombstone of Olive and Hannah Goodwin, wives of Daniel Goodwin of Oxford County in Maine. Hannah, the second wife, gave birth to a daughter that they named Olive in memory of his first wife, an example of the necronym naming tradition [Photo by fishermansdaughter on Creative Commons].

“In Loco Parentis”

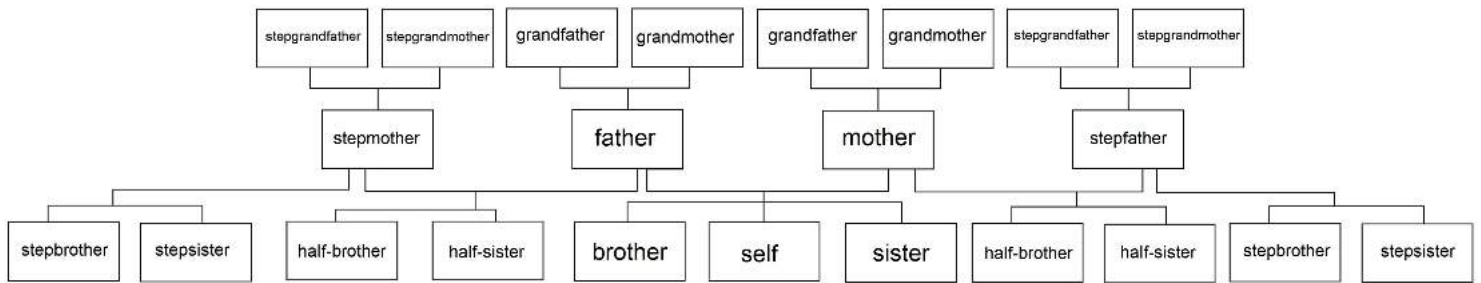
Despite the established, and perhaps occasionally justified, image of the wicked step-parent, those who acted in loco parentis, or in the manner of a biological parent, were often well respected and even well loved by their stepchildren. Many stepchildren experienced the guidance and support of these surrogate parents in little different fashion from any of their step or half-siblings in the same household. In today's blended families there are many such examples where the step-parent will even legally adopt any prior children their spouse may bring to the marriage to solidify those relationships and family bonds.

In my own family there is a case where my grandmother's stepfather was so respected and well-loved that she and several of her siblings named their own children after him. However, since those same stepchildren had not named any of their children after their biological parent, it would have created an occurrence causing some question had the tale been removed several generations in the past and not well known in recent generations. For the genealogist or family historian such tributes to step-parents that appear in official documents can cause endless confusion and difficulties confirming or proving a lineage.

Setting the Record Straight

A valuable point for family researchers to bear in mind is that descriptive and relational terms change over time and may not have the same meaning today as they did when they were recorded. The pertinent terms here are that step-sons and step-daughters, as we know them today, were not always known by those designations. In the nineteenth century and earlier, court papers and other legal documents like property records and wills and testaments would refer to the children of a spouse from a previous relationship as “sons-in-law” and “daughters-in-law” as they were considered sons and daughters, the responsibility of the head of the household, “in the eyes of the law”.

It is always recommended that step-parents and step-families be included in any family tree whether an online site or a family tree program along with appropriate notes to explain relationships. But it is of utmost importance to clarify relationships as biological, adopted or step. Incorrect labelling can lead to some inaccuracies and problems. For example, one of Ancestry's useful DNA options is ThruLines that can show you how your DNA matches may be related to you based on the information you and the matches have posted online. One common problem with such mistakes in family trees is that ancestors may



Above: It is always recommended that step-parents and step-families be included in any family tree, whether an online site or a family tree program, along with appropriate notes to explain relationships. Incorrect labelling can lead to some information inaccuracies and research problems [Photo from Misterpoww on Wikimedia Commons].

be suggested through step-parents' lines instead of their biological lines.

Today it is estimated that over fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce and remarriages and frequent common-law partnerships are prevalent and commonplace. Also including remarriage following the death of a spouse, the result would seem to indicate that a large percentage of current family units contain step-parents in some form. In North America there is

even a National Step Family Day in mid-September to recognize this widespread circumstance of modern life. Genealogists and family history researchers need to have an awareness of the effects that step-parents had upon the lives of their ancestors and forebears but who knows what new challenges future researchers will meet when considering modern families and the impending "step-parent effect"?



Right: Genealogists and family history researchers need to have an awareness of the ramifications and repercussions that step-parents had upon the lives of ancestors and forebears, issues better known as "the step-parent effect" [Photo from author's family collection].

No Valentines but Wedding Ceremony Notices Are Plentiful

Alan Campbell

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Note: A version of this article was originally published as a blog for the OGS on their website in February 2020.

I had planned to write about the older Valentine cards that I had in my collection of memorabilia but I discovered that they were birthday cards instead. Since Valentine's Day cards and events often lead to marriage, I decided instead to indulge you with newspaper records of wedding ceremonies found during my research.

This report of a wedding came from the *Manitoba Free Press* on May 10, 1882:

Another of those happy events, the joining in the "holy bonds" of "two hearts that beat as one," took place in this village on Tuesday, the 18th inst., the contracting parties being Mr. John Cameron, foreman for Armitage & Douglas, and Miss Mary Campbell. Rev. J. M. Wellwood tied the connubial knot, and our best wish for the happy couple is that they may never have occasion to regret his having performed this interesting ceremony.[1]

The last sentence left me wondering if the author of this report knew John personally because he was later to become the tamer of the lawless frontier that the town of Minnedosa was to become. He was to deal out rough justice to the point that he was fired, just maybe because, while nursing a hangover, he struck one of the town councillors.

Sharp eyed genealogical researchers have already caught the term "inst.". Knowing that it means previously in the same month they are having difficulty reconciling the 18th day for the marriage and the 10th day for publication of the nuptials in the paper. A check of this particular column reveals that at the bottom of it is written the date of submission to the

editor, "April 23rd, '82". A wise move is to check these "gossip" columns for a date in order to save research headaches.

Some wedding notices were to the point. This notice is courtesy of the *Elora Observer* on February 15, 1872:

Marriages

On Thursday 8th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Barker, at the residence of Mr. George S. Armstrong, Nichol, Mr. Joseph Sanderson to Miss Maria Sims, both of Eramosa.

Sadness followed this marriage because some 7 years later Maria died two weeks after the birth of her second child Lavinia Sanderson.

This wedding notice is courtesy of the *Toronto Star* on March 29, 1941:

Noted Figure Skater Miss Ruth Hall Wed Becomes Bride of Pilot Officer Guy Moore at St. George's United

An interesting marriage was solemnized yesterday afternoon in St. George's United Church when Miss Ruth Hall, noted figure skater, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bertram Hall of Beaver Lodge, Alta. Rev. Willard Brewing officiated against a setting of spring flowers, with Mrs. G. T. Mitton at the organ.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white sheer and lace, her finger-tip veil caught to the head with a halo of the same lace. She carried roses. Miss Marion Scott attended her as bridesmaid, in a forget-me-not blue frock of tulle trimmed with tiny pink bows. She wore a small flower hat with long blue velvet streamers and carried a colonial bouquet of forget-me-nots, roses and sweet peas. Edward

Moore, cousin of the groom, was best man and the ushers were fellow-officers of the groom in the R.C.A.F.

A small reception followed at the home of the bride's parents, the bride's mother wearing a navy sheer wool ensemble with corsage of sweet peas. The couple left later on a motor trip, the bride wearing a navy-blue herringbone tweed suit with navy accessories, corsage of orchids. They will reside in western Canada.[2]

The stress on flowers and frocks leaves me wondering if a woman was writing the wedding announcements for the paper. I would certainly not have picked up on all the accoutrements if I had been there to report the event!

The expression “noted figure skater” refers to Ruth being one of four skaters, including William Caulder, Elizabeth Chambers and John Milson, who won the Four skating championship at Ottawa in 1940. According to Wikipedia, “Four skating is a figure skating [and artistic roller skating] discipline. Fours teams consist of two women and two men. The sport is similar to pair skating, with elements including overhead lifts, twist lifts, death spirals, and throw jumps, as well as the elements of single skating in unison, pairs elements in unison and unique elements that involve all four skaters.”[3]

Family members note that Ruth qualified for the Winter Olympics in 1940 but they were cancelled due to World War II. Ruth wrote a novel using fictitious characters, *A Special Courage*, based upon her teenage

years as a figure skater.[4] I had the pleasure of visiting with Ruth while on one of my research trips to Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

I cannot close off this post without sharing with you an ad that I found in the Forest Free Press on August 27, 1914:

Wanted - A Wife

Wanted a wife who can handle a broom, to brush down the cobwebs and sweep up the room; to make decent bread that a fellow can eat, not the horrible compound you everywhere meet; who knows how to fry, to boil and to roast, make a cup of good tea and a platter of toast; a woman who washes, cooks, irons and stitches, and sews up the rips in a fellow's breeches; a common sense creature, but still with a mind to teach and to guide, exalted, refined.

Will ladies between 20 and 28 correspond with Mr. John Loyd, Camlachie, Ont.[5]

I don't know if John received any responses. Perhaps one of my readers will recognize the name and will be able to tell us if John received any valentines after his ad ran in the paper. Perhaps it was all in jest.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

References:

- [1] “Minnedosa,” *Manitoba Free Press*, 10 May 1882, p. 2.
- [2] “Noted Figure Skater Miss Ruth Hall, Wed,” *Toronto Daily Star*, 29 March 1941, p. 25.
- [3] “Four Skating,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_skating, accessed 2 February 2020.
- [4] Ruth Moore, *A Special Courage* (Pencil Point Press, 2010). For more on the book, see goodreads.com/book/show/10576084.
- [5] “Wanted – A Wife,” *Forest Free Press*, 27 August 1914, p. 6.



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Edward Joseph Baker: An Ontario to Cleveland Migration Story

Nancy Gilbride Casey

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Keywords/placenames: Edward Joseph Baker; Port Dalhousie; St. Catharines; Cleveland; McKinnon's Dash and Hardware; iron moulding; immigration



Left: Ontario-born Edward Joseph Baker [Photo courtesy of author].

October 2023 marked the 137th birthday of my great-grandfather Edward Joseph Baker (1886-1961), the son of Joseph Baker (Abt. 1828-1905) and Barbara Schiltz (Abt. 1832-1907). Edward was born in Port Dalhousie, Ontario, Canada, but came to the United States in 1910. I wondered what brought him to the U.S., why he chose Cleveland, Ohio, and why he and his family stayed there and never rejoined their Canadian families. His wife, Catherine Cassidy (1886-1955), was also Canadian born.[1]

To understand Edward's motivations, I began my research by analyzing documents pertaining to his migration and what they meant. Edward's immigration was documented on both sides of the U.S./Canadian border by officials complying with U.S. immigration law:

Form-1 titled "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers Applying for Admission to the United States from Foreign Contiguous Territory," was a document created by border inspectors. It listed

all individuals who entered the United States each month as aliens. For years, many immigrants to the U.S. had circumvented border inspection by entering Canada first, then continuing to their ultimate U.S. destination. Form-1 was required by the Department of Commerce to screen all immigrants to determine if they could legally enter the country. Beginning in 1906 immigrants from Canada were treated as though they had entered a U.S. port first. This included both those born in Canada and those who arrived in Canada from other countries.[2]

Form 548-B was a smaller card, a manifest of alien arrivals to the United States, also completed by U.S. border officials.[3]

Twenty-three-year-old Edward J. Baker immigrated to the United States on February 23, 1910 through the Port of Niagara Falls, New York. He travelled on the Niagara Street Railway via the Upper Bridge, later known as the Honeymoon Bridge.[4]

The alien manifest recorded that Edward was married, born in Port Dalhousie on 1 October 1886, and had last lived in St. Catharines, Ontario; his nearest relation in Canada was his father, Joseph. His destination was Cleveland, Ohio, but Edward gave no address where he was going specifically and named no relative or friend to whom he intended to go. He gave his occupation as an iron moulder. Edward disembarked the train on February 24, 1910, which became his official immigration date.

The form also noted that Edward had paid for his own

260
 NIAGARA FALLS 2/24/10 Primary E

Family name BAKER		Given name EDWARD		Accompanied by	
Place of birth (town, country, etc.) Port Dalhousie Canada		Age 23	Sex M	Mar. S. S	Prof. or occ. IRON MOULDER
Nationality German Canada		Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.) PORT DALHOUSIE, CANADA			
Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence ailed came John Joo					
Ever in U.S.	From	To	Where	Passage paid	
no				✓	
Destination, and name and address of relative or friend to join there Cleveland Ohio no address To look for work					
Money shown 114	Ever arrested and deported or excluded from admission			Held tax status	
Height 5 9 1/2	Complexion dk	Hair brn	Eyes blue	Distinguishing marks	
Port and date of landing and name of steamship New York N.Y. Feb. 23 - 1910					

Form 548-B. **WB**

Left: Edward's Form 548-B completed on 24 February 1910.

passage and had \$114 with him. This was far more than the suggested \$50 that immigrants were encouraged to carry when crossing the border. Why did Edward bring so much money? Of course, he would have had to cover the costs of travel, meals, and lodging to get to Cleveland and while there. Perhaps he wanted to find a job, but also a place to live; his funds could have been used to rent a home or apartment for his family.

On the United States side of the border, Edward's Form 548-B manifest card was prepared. He stated his intention in coming to the United States was "to look for work" in Cleveland, Ohio. Again, he gave no address, and named no one to whom he was going. He stated that he had never been to the United States before. The information given on this form was largely the same as on Form-1.[5]

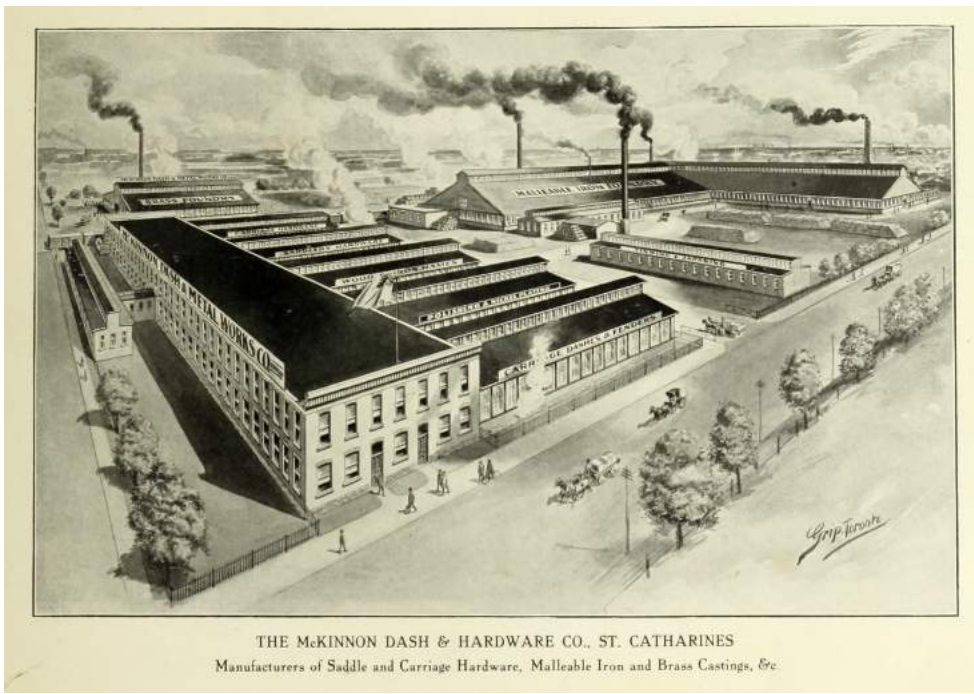
Edward likely began his career as an iron moulder in his early twenties in St. Catharines, Ontario. It is possible that his older brother Joseph V. Baker introduced him to the occupation, as he was a moulder as early as 1906, living in Port Dalhousie, Ontario, but working at McKinnon Dash and Hardware Shop in St. Catharines. At the time, McKinnon's specialized in brass and iron fittings for carriages and harnesses, and later for autos.[6]

Edward may have gotten his start at McKinnon's. A newspaper clipping held by a cousin shows Edward "Eddie" Baker as a member of a championship McKinnon's lacrosse team. Edward could have begun learning the foundry trade at McKinnon's shop, and later took this knowledge to Cleveland to secure work. [7]

Moulding & Moulders

What exactly is moulding? "Casting (or "moulding") is a manufacturing process where molten iron is poured into a mould containing a hollowed-out shape to create various objects. Once solidified in the mould, the iron is called a casting, which is then either broken out of the mould or ejected from it. Smaller castings were done at a bench or on the floor with the moulder carrying molten iron in a hand ladle from furnace to mold. Larger floor castings could require a crane ladle to pour the iron. Moulds are created from various materials, but the most used historically – and what Edward used – was sand, which was economical and offered flexibility in creating smaller and more complex pieces." [8]

Iron moulders required various skills, as described in a 1918 book of occupations: "The iron and brass moulder must be a thoroughly experienced practical moulder on miscellaneous large iron and brass foundry work. He



Left: McKinnon Dash & Hardware was likely Edward's first foundry employer in St. Catharines [From *St. Catharines, The Garden City: Souvenir* (1904)].

should have a thorough knowledge of general foundry practice and be able to produce first-class work for simple or intricate castings. He should be familiar with the nature of moulding sands...core making and setting...lifting and handling small and medium size moulds and should have some knowledge of the use of moulding machines and best mixtures of sand and have a knowledge of the casting temperatures of iron and brass.”[9]

“The moulder was supreme. He was supposed to be core-maker, moulder, and cupola tender all in one... had very little to work with except iron, fuel, sand and a few simple tools...Tho rough and dirty, moulding was a highly skilled trade requiring considerable proficiency, and in which the processes, many of them apparently simple, demanded long training and experience.”[10]

Both physical and practical dangers were part of the moulder's job. Inexperienced or inattentive moulders could suffer burns or explosions. If a worker made a mould improperly, any number of circumstances could ruin the casting. In these cases, the moulder's “...time and the material had been wasted.”[11]

Edward As Moulder

Edward must have been a quick study. Once in Cleveland he was very quickly employed. Though he

arrived in the U.S. in late February 1910, by April he was already working as a moulder in one of the more than forty foundries then located in Cleveland, and he, wife Catherine, and son Charles were settled on the city's near west side.[12]



Above: Edward's athletic nature could have been an asset in his career. Here, he is shown playing hockey in Cleveland.

Physically, Edward seemed primed for success. In period photos, young Edward appears healthy and athletic, with a powerful build—characteristics well suited to iron moulding’s demanding physical nature. Playing lacrosse and hockey were not only hobbies, but a way for him to keep in top form for his occupation. [13]

Though his earliest Cleveland employer is unknown, by 1917 Edward was working as a moulder for Allyne-Ryan Foundry at Aetna and E. 91st Street in Cleveland, Ohio. Allyne-Ryan was founded in July 1913 to manufacture gray iron castings for use in automobiles; it was one of many specialty auto shops around Cleveland and Detroit, Michigan, which made such castings. At the time, one specialty was a four-cylinder crank case and flywheel housing cast in one piece.[14]

Allyne-Ryan of the early 1900s used state-of-the-art machines to draw the patterns for the moulds and cores. The equipment sped up the part output and standardization. Fewer workers were needed, and more castings were produced on an average day than when all moulds were done by hand. For example, a crew of two moulders such as Edward and a helper, could produce seventy twin cylinder casting in a day using Allyne-Ryan’s modern equipment; the previous average output was five moulds per man per day.[15]

Edward continued to work as an iron moulder throughout his life and was a longtime Allyne-Ryan employee. He rose through the ranks, starting out as a moulder, and was made a foreman in about 1942. By 1950, at age 63, he was promoted to supervisor. He worked through to about 1954 at Allyne-Ryan and gave 40+ years to the company.[16]

Edward’s Migration: Canada’s Loss

Edward’s lengthy career success in the moulding profession proves that his migration from St. Catharines was a shrewd choice that paid off.

And he was one of many Canadians to immigrate in the late 1800s and early 1900s for better opportunities in the United States. Canada lamented its population loss to its southern neighbour, “...there was a continuous

exodus of young and enterprising men and women, who were born, nurtured, and educated in Canada, only to leave the country when they reached maturity.” These migrants tended to move to various cities immediately south of the border – like Detroit, Buffalo, and Cleveland.[17]

What could the impulse to migrate be attributed to? “The prizes which await even the moderate success in the United States have an appeal that will not be denied; they make their home across the border. Once established there, they soon find reasons for remaining.” Like so many of his ‘compatriots, Edward found success in the United States – and made it his family’s home.[18]

Though he called the U.S. home and seemed to have the intention of becoming a citizen, Edward never completed the process. He declared his intention to naturalize twice – once in 1919 and once in 1941 – but never submitted his final papers. He, his wife Catherine, and son Charles remained Canadian citizens their whole lives, though Edward and Catherine’s five daughters were all Cleveland-born, U.S. citizens. It appears that Edward returned to Ontario only once after immigration, to attend the funeral of his sister, Kathleen, in January 1941.[19]

It appeared that Edward was the “pioneer” ancestor who brought our family back into the United States, but later research uncovered that his wife Catherine’s uncle Phillip Cassidy was likely the first to make that move. In fact, her brother, also named Phillip, made the trek from St. Catharines to Cleveland about a year before Edward to go to his “Uncle Phillip Cassidy” in Cleveland, a terrific example of chain migration within our family.[20]

Edward’s migration to Cleveland set the stage for his descendants’ century-long tenure in the area; many of the Baker family and the Gilbride clan, into which they married, still live in the area. Like Edward, many of them enjoyed long careers in various local industries and called Cleveland their home their whole lives. And even though I live in Texas now, I am indebted to Edward that my roots stretch all the way back through Cleveland to his birthplace in Ontario.

Right: Edward “Eddie” Baker was a member of the 1906 McKinnon’s champion lacrosse team in St. Catharines. The caption reads, in part: “When the former Factory Lacrosse League flourished in St. Catherines, around the turn of the century, rivalry was keener than it is in senior O.L.A. today. Shown above are the winners of the 1906 city championship, McKinnons, which title series was contested just 40 years ago this month.”



Sidebar – Finding the Missing Puzzle Piece

As excited as I was to discover more about my great-grandfather Edward Baker’s migration story, I was equally excited to sleuth out the original photograph from this family clipping of the 1906 St. Catharines, Ontario, Factory Lacrosse League championship team, published about 1946. Edward “Eddie” Baker is pictured in the middle row, fourth from the left.[21]

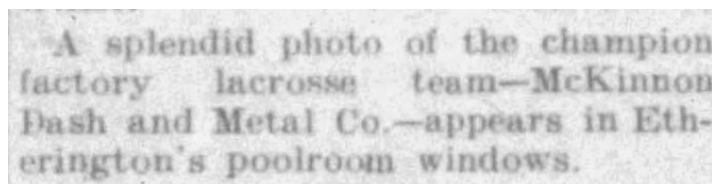
The clipping contained a great clue to Edward’s early career in the iron moulding trade: the lacrosse team’s sponsor was noted as “McKinnons.” Using Google, Wikipedia, and city directories, I learned that McKinnons was a metal foundry operating in St. Catharines right around the time of the championship, and it appeared that both Edward Baker and his brother Joseph worked there.[22]

My search to identify when and where the original photo was published took my inquiries from [Brock University’s Archives and Special Collections](#) to the [St. Catharines Public Library](#) (SCPL), and finally to the [St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre](#).

The SCPL found that an identical photo also ran in 1961 in the *St. Catharines Standard* but were unable to find the 1946 issue. I imagine the photo was published as a “this day in history” feature – much like our

“Throwback Thursdays” or Facebook Memories. The library suggested that I contact the St. Catharines Museum to see if they had the image in their collection of the Standard’s original photographs.[23]

The St. Catharines Museum staff also could not find the photo in their archives. On a whim – and knowing it was a “Hail Mary” – I sent the staff another 1906 newspaper clipping which stated that the “splendid” photo was currently on display at the Etherington poolroom.[24]



Above: This 1906 *St. Catharines Standard* clipping was an important clue to finding the original photo.

This clipping was the missing puzzle piece! Using it, the museum staff were then able to identify the photo in the museum’s collection! It had been donated to them in 1971 by Mr. William (George) Hope. Perhaps Mr. Hope was a descendant of the poolroom owners or inherited the photo in some other way. Regardless, the original 117-year-old image still exists. One form and a phone call later brought this amazing high-resolution copy to my inbox.[25]



McKINNON FACTORY LACROSSE TEAM, 1906

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| E. AUSTIN | S. YOUNG | J. BRADT | F. BAKER | I. TUFFORD | J. McCANN | C. HONSINGER |
| C. SHAW | F. HAYNES | G. MACK | P. BARNETT | J. BOWDLER | G. DAY | |
| J. IMMEL | H. STEEL | | | | E. ENGLAND | |

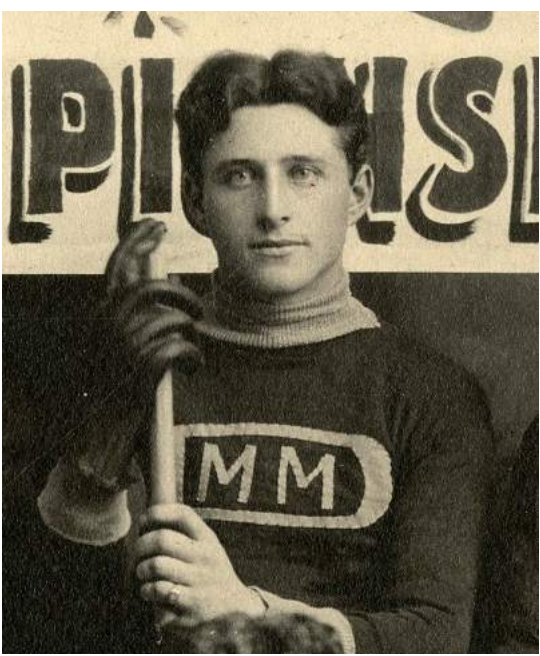
I am struck that this lacrosse championship must have meant something to the local community. Not only did the team have their photo taken, but it was proudly displayed for all to see, and the newspaper advertised its whereabouts so it could be viewed. People rally around their champions, don't they? They did so then with the McKinnon's team, much as I cheered on our Texas Rangers baseball team last fall as they fought the Houston (Texas) Astros for a World Series berth.

And what a point of pride that this important piece of St. Catharines and our family's history is preserved in a museum. You can bet that when I get to St. Catharines someday, I will be paying that photo a visit!

Author's Note: My thanks to Charity Blaine, James A. Gibson Library, Brock University; St. Catharines Public Library; and William MacEachern, St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canal Centre, for help in locating the photo.

Above: McKinnons Championship team photo [St. Catharines Museum, George Hope Collection, N 1999].

Below: Edward "Eddie" Baker, 1906.



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Book Reviews

Heather Oakley

Letters from Canada Written during a Residence There in the Years 1806, 1807, and 1808

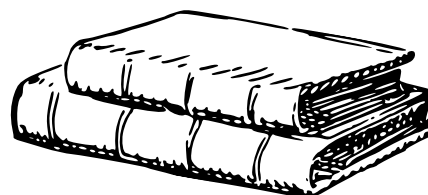
by Hugh Gray (originally published in 1809 by Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme. Facsimilie edition reprinted by Coles Publishing Company in 1971).

These letters were originally published by Hugh Gray in 1809 and republished in 1971. This collection was published as “illustrative of the Laws, the Manners of the People, and the Peculiarities of the Country and Climate” mostly in Quebec. Mr. Gray, in the Preface of the book, says he “was led to direct his attention, in a particular manner, to the laws and commerce of the country.” Well, in my opinion, he had a lot of opinions! He travelled from England to Canada, and described his sea voyage, his travels via Cape Breton and the St. Lawrence River to Quebec and then to Montreal. He writes about the weather, the people, the system of government, relations between English and French, future possibilities of trade and commerce, and relations with the United States. He has penned his views of fishing rights on the Grand Banks, how Canada got its name (a version I had never heard before), the rights of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, how Britain should change the laws that were made in 1763 when the British beat the French in Canada, how the Canadians treat the Indigenous peoples, the French Civil Code used in Quebec, the boundary with United States, commerce and trade, etc. I was surprised by the vehemence of his negative comments about Canada. Regardless of my feelings of his opinions of our country, he does show much about how life was lived at the time that he was there including transportation routes (or lack thereof), social activities and managing our weather. He even includes reports on duties being paid, imports/exports with Great Britain, the United States, and the West Indies. Overall, I found this book quite interesting and providing a different view of life in Canada for that time.

The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research

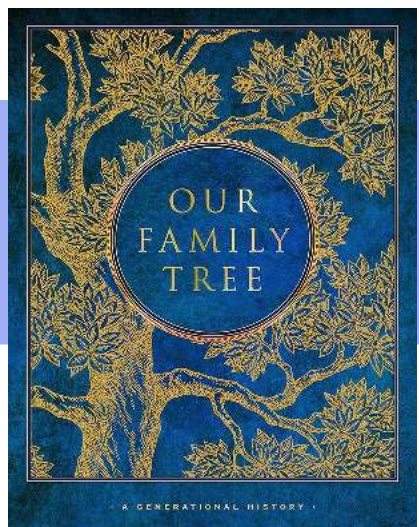
by Emily Anne Croom (Genealogical Publishing Company, 2000).

So, do you like mysteries? Of course, you do – you are a genealogist! Well, Ms. Croom uses our love of mysteries to help illustrate strategies for better family history research. She sprinkles quotes from some of our most favourite fictional sleuths to illustrate various aspects of genealogical research. In the first chapter, “Putting a Down Payment on Success”, the section entitled First Things First: Getting Organized, has a quote from Hercule Poirot: “To work with method, one must begin from the beginning.” That is only one of the many quotes Ms. Croom uses to show us how other fictional characters would handle investigating a mystery. There are quotes from Agatha Christie characters, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes, Dorothy Sayers, Elliot Roosevelt, and Mark Twain. I am an avid reader of mysteries so seeing my familiar investigators talking about research techniques was fun! She addresses methodology, planning your research, documenting your research, analyzing evidence, writing up your genealogical reports, and even cluster genealogy. Emily Anne Croom starting writing about genealogy in 1983 with her series called *Unpuzzling Your Past* (last updated in 2010). I own that book as well! Though her books and case studies are US-centric, I find her writing style clear and concise. Ms. Croom provides helpful information and useful case studies. Check out your local library or used bookstore for a copy of *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists* and put your deer-stalker cap on!



Our Family Tree: A Generational History

A Review by Art Taylor



Author: Julie Bunton, Intro by Sharon Leslie Morgan

Publisher: Wellfleet Press (Quarto Publishing Group, 2023)

Hardcover, 160 pages

ISBN-10: 1577153731

ISBN-13: 978-1577153733

This book is designed to be completed by hand to create a presentation volume of a couple's genealogy. My suggestion is that one read through the individual headings and sections, then create a separate document on computer, or separate paper, as a draft copy for each page. With the information already written, it can be carefully transcribed in legible handwriting, ideally by the individuals whose information is being recorded. Page ten is a dedication page with space for the compiler's name, signature, and start date. Three pages of Introduction and Research Guide follow.

The rest of the book contains pages for: Names of spouses (Our Family); pages for their vital statistics; pages for each individual's genealogy; each partner's parents' vitals; each partner's grandparents' vitals; grandchildren and descendants' vitals; "My Ancestral Chart" for six generations; My Siblings and Their Friends; Emigration and Citizenship; Weddings, Partnerships, and Commitment Ceremonies; Religious and Spiritual Occasions; Places of Worship and Spiritual Importance; Our Homes; Our Ancestral Homes; Schools and Graduations; Notable Achievements; Clubs and Organizations; Work History; Military and Public Service; Political

Affiliations; Our Friends; Our Pets; How You Traverse the World; Our Favourite Things as a Couple; Our Favourite Things with Children; Favourite Films, TV, Books, Restaurants and Food Spots; Favourite Hobbies and Pastimes; Vacations; Reunions; Family Traditions; Collections and Heirlooms; Meaningful Events and Memories; Oral Histories; Illnesses and Hereditary Maladies; In Memoriam; and several pages for Photos and Keepsakes.

These topics provide insight into a couple's and their families' lives. It could be included in a genealogy program, where space for additional details would be available. Many of the first topics have only one or two pages for one person, but the same topics are then repeated on following pages for the second person.

The book should be a joint project for both partners to complete together. When completed, ideally it will provide samples of each person's handwriting, preserving valuable information to be shared with current family and future generations. The completed book should be digitized at high quality for easy sharing with family and genealogy societies, local historical societies, archives, libraries, and museums in or near the places mentioned by the authors. At least one copy should be submitted to Family Search and others to Library and Archives Canada and the Internet Archive for permanent preservation.

Pearson Family - Hello from the UK!

A Letter to the Editor

My name is Paul Robert Pearson, and I am a new OGS member from Bournemouth, UK. I have just seen your request for articles in the next Families. I wanted to share a short story about my family with you.

My grandfather was Robert Walker Pearson and in 1881 he was living in Patrick Brompton, Nr Bedale, North Yorkshire in the United Kingdom. He was living with his father John who was a shoemaker and a seedsman. Robert had five brothers and five sisters ranging in age from the eldest William Thomas Wilson (17 years) to the youngest Mary Ellen (1 year). Robert's mother Jane, had died in July 1880 following the birth of Mary Ellen, her eleventh child. The other siblings were Maria Jane, Margaret Ann, James Bowland, John, Augustus, Octavius Whitton, Dora and Emily. Interestingly Walker, Wilson, Whitton and Bowland were family surnames but that's another story!

His father, John had decided that young Robert would be apprenticed out to a Bedale draper, Mary Cannon, and a legal indenture document was drawn up. This was signed by John and Robert Pearson, Mary Cannon and an independent witness named William Peacock, on December 9, 1881 for a five-year term. This original document has been handed down to me.



Above: Apprenticeship contract for Robert Pearson from 1881
[Photo courtesy of the author].

With such a large family to bring up on his own a decision was made to emigrate to York in Ontario, Canada. As yet I haven't searched Passenger Lists, but this took place before Robert had finished his apprenticeship and so Robert stayed in the UK. He subsequently married Eliza Wilkinson in Coventry Cathedral and they had my father Albert and two siblings. That is how I have come to be here, otherwise Robert would have emigrated with his father and siblings to Canada!

My Pearson family remained in Canada and John subsequently remarried Maria Pegg at York, Ontario on 21 April 1887, and had a daughter whom they named Mabel. John died on December 19, 1907 and is buried in the Prospect Cemetery in Toronto as is his eldest son William Thomas Wilson Pearson. I have recently learnt that there are many Pearson graves in both the Prospect and Mount Pleasant Cemeteries in Toronto.

Back in the 1980's I did correspond with Jean Watsham of Richmond Hill who was descended from Dora Pearson but sadly she died in 1988 and was buried in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Jean's prize possession was the Pearson family bible which I hope is now stored somewhere safe and being looked after!

My grandfather Robert Walker Pearson disappeared circa 1905, feared drowned in the Manchester Ship Canal or the River Mersey, but my grandmother Eliza never considered that to be the case or describe herself as a widow. She believed that Robert had emigrated to Canada and abandoned her to bring up their three children. She was a strong-willed lady and was headmistress of an Infants School in Coventry.

I would be interested in corresponding with anyone who has a similar interest in the Pearson family surname. You can email me at ppjrms@ntlworld.com. Thank you.

Coral's Corner

Adage, Jargon and Monikers - Part I

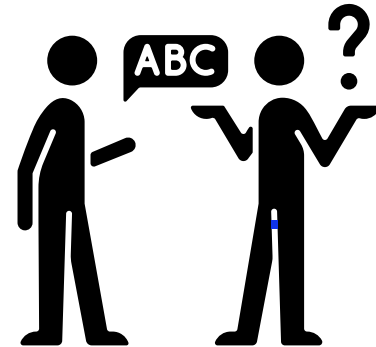
Coral Harkies

When we look at documents, letters, and diaries in our collections it is important that we understand the language used in them. If we do not understand the terms or expressions from that area and time period, we could misinterpret the information and thus draw the wrong conclusions. Even today if you order a regular coffee in Ontario, we know it has cream and sugar but elsewhere in Canada that could mean something different. When travelling to the United States what we call pop, they call soda, and what we call iced tea, some areas would call it sweet tea. These are only a few examples of how location can affect even our reference to simple things.

Would you know the following terms - copper, hassock, or a lorry? Language is fluid and ever evolving. The meaning and usage of words changes over time and new words are added to our vernacular. This can be influenced by innovation, pop culture, world events and more. Our ancestors would not know the terms phishing, bitcoin, self-isolate or influencer. As the world around us changes, some words and terms will no longer be used or needed like whippersnapper, hootenanny and rolodex or percolator.

Family historians review old records but if there is a lack of understanding of the vocabulary of that time, it can lead to misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the records.

Occupations and medical terms are two more examples of changing language. Some historical occupations no longer exist, or their relative terms have become obsolete or the meaning has changed completely. Some examples of occupations that are no longer common (or mean something entirely different) are: cooper, hooker and striper or confectioner. Medical terms change as



more understanding and knowledge is gained about certain conditions. Some of these would include consumption, hysterical cancer, or milk fever. Our ancestors would not have been programmers or graphic designers and they would not have understood DNA, Covid or SARS.

The development and evolution of language is constant and continuous. It is affected by multiple factors including time, location and necessity. The language that we use today will likely be as baffling to our descendants as some of the more archaic terms that we encounter in our research today.

Below are some sites that might help you to understand some occupations and medical terms you might find in the course of your research:

Occupation Lists

<https://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php>

<https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~george/oldprofessions.html>

http://www.capitalareagenealogy.org/page_96f.htm

Medical Terms

<https://www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html>

<https://fentonhistsoc.tripod.com/id121.html>

<https://accessgenealogy.com/america/old-medical-terms-diseases.htm>

Here are the answers to the terms given as examples.

How many do you know?

Copper – a penny

Hassock – footstool with no feet

Lorry – a truck in the United Kingdom

Whippersnapper – young, impertinent person

Hootenanny – informal gathering with music

Rolodex – desktop spindle of contact cards

Percolator – stove top coffee maker

Cooper – barrel maker

Hooker and Stripper – people who worked in the tobacco industry

Confectioner – candy maker

Consumption – tuberculosis

Hysterical cancer – uterine cancer

Milk fever – mastitis or symptoms of ingesting tainted milk

In the next issue of *Families!*

Part II of **Adage, Jargon
and Monikers**

And an article from a new author,
Mike Miles, entitled:
“**Pioneering Spirit – Walt Disney
and Huron County**”



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Reminiscences...

A Snowfall to Remember

Linda and Barbara Leschak

Linda Leschak has recorded this story based on her mother Barbara's (nee Norwell) recollection of the Toronto blizzard in December 1944.

We had some hard winters growing up as children. I remember one particularly harsh spell when the whole city was snowed in so that no one could get on with their work or go to the shops. Toronto had a record-breaking snowfall, and everything was at a standstill. I recall my twin sister Helen and I getting ready for school that dark morning of December 11, 1944. We were 11 years old and bundled up in our matching winter coats, scarves, mittens and goulashes. We were sent out to walk the half mile from our home on Cornwall Street to Park Public School in Toronto, through thick, deep snowdrifts. We tried our best to keep plodding on, though it was difficult to walk. In places the drifts were up to our chests, and snowflakes kept falling down the backs of our necks. We trudged on, one slow, sinking step at a time. We could see nothing but white snow whirling into our eyes, nose and mouth. We were both frightened that we would not make it, but afraid at the same time that if we did not, we would be in big trouble for not going to school. Our father valued education and would never let us miss a day of school. Somehow, we made it and when we reached the school the principal Mr. McKay stared at us, his mouth wide open, horrified. "What on earth are you two doing here? It is a snow day. The school is closed. You both will have to go straight back home. I cannot imagine what your parents were thinking, sending you two out this morning, in this weather. It is too dangerous!" I guess he saw the tears beginning to form in Helen's eyes and the look upon my weary tired face that he then said, "Come with me to the staff room and I will make you each a cup of hot chocolate to warm you up before you head back home." And so, he did, and when we were done drinking our much-appreciated warm beverages, we battled all the



Above: Twins Barbara and Helen Norwell dressed for the snow [Photo courtesy of the author].

way back home, planting our feet in our earlier footsteps where we could, but the fresh and blowing snow had obliterated many of them. We finally reached our home, ice-cold and exhausted. Our dad could not believe they closed the school because of the weather. It took us all day at home just to warm up, but Helen and I can surely say we survived the Toronto blizzard of '44!

The *Toronto Daily Star* newspaper later stated that 19 inches of snow was dumped in Toronto's downtown, while gale force winds piled snow into huge drifts. In

two days, 22.5 inches (57cm) of snow fell! In all, 21 people died – 13 from over-exertion. Funerals were postponed, expectant mothers walked to hospitals and there was no delivery of milk, ice or fuel. Of major concern, factories producing war ammunitions also had

to close temporarily. Phones rang off the hook in the coroner's office as men all over the city suffered coronaries trying to tackle the snow. Even Eaton's and Simpson's, rival Queen Street department stores, were closed by weather for the first time in their histories.



Above: Downtown Toronto on December 11, 1944 [City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Item 450].

Looking to share your research?

Families accepts submissions from members of The Ontario Genealogical Society and from anyone with a serious interest in Genealogy.

We are accepting articles on a variety of topics and formats, including:

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



SAVE THE DATE

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Genealogical Society will take place VIRTUALLY on Zoom on

**SATURDAY
JUNE 8, 2024
at 11 AM ET**

The official notice, and the associated documents including the 2023 Audited Financial Statements, will be posted in May 2024. This page will also feature a registration link for the meeting on Zoom, please have your OGS Member # available, as it must be put into the form for your registration to be accepted.



REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN MAY
Check the OGS website for more details
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2024 Call for Candidates for Members of the Board of Directors

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

As per the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 – Part IV: Directors and Officers, elections will occur at The Ontario Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting to be held virtually in June 2024.

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

- President – to serve for two years (2024-2026) – [click here for a description of duties of the President](#)
- Vice President – to serve for two years (2024-2026) – [click here for a description of the duties of the Vice President](#)
- [Directors-at-Large](#) – to serve for two years (2024-2026); two to four positions to be filled – [click here for a description of the duties of a Director-at-Large](#)

The Society is seeking Board members who:

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

The Society is specifically seeking candidates who have expertise in any of the following areas:

- Financial Management
- Information Technology
- Membership Development – Growth & Engagement
- Fundraising / Giving
- Communications & Marketing
- Volunteer Management

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

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

Additional information is available by contacting elections@ogs.on.ca

Interested members are invited to review additional explanatory material and/or apply on our website at <https://ogs.on.ca/board-of-directors-call-for-candidates-2024/>

*Deadline for submission of applications is **March 30, 2024***

Grandma's Sister Came to Visit

Mary Jane Sayles

Mary Sayles has been a part-time genealogist for more than 40 years. Since she retired from full-time work, she enjoys spending time researching genealogy and local history, plus teaching genealogy classes and working with other genealogy researchers. Mary has taught genealogy in the Sacramento region and in Halifax, Nova Scotia; is a genealogy docent at several area libraries. She also has published multiple genealogy articles, writes the "Did You Know" column in the PRESERVES, a Root Cellar – Sacramento Genealogical Society Journal, and shares genealogy information with family in an occasional "newsletter". In addition, she publishes the Roseville Genealogical Society newsletter and is the President of the Sacramento Regional Genealogical Council. Mary earned a MS Degree in Nursing and a Bachelor's Second Major in Sociology. She can be reached via email research4genealogy@comcast.net.

Those of us older McCann cousins may remember a time during our childhood when Grandma's sister came to visit. Grandma's name was Sadie Mae McNamara McCann. Her sister's name was Ruth Sophia McNamara. The visits happened once or twice, or three times at most, before the oldest McCann cousin turned 16 years old. She travelled across the United States from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to Redwood City, San Mateo, California, USA; a long journey in the 1950s and 1960s. After Grandma died in December 1965, I don't think her sister visited again. Who was this elusive person and what do we know about her?

Auntie Ruth - Ruth Sophia McNamara/Macnamara

[Author's Note: The family last name was spelled at least two ways by various members, McNamara and Macnamara. All are members of the same family.]

I vaguely remember Auntie Ruth visiting as a child. She was "old", according to my childhood reasoning, but in reality, she most likely was in her early to mid-50s. I do remember Mom talking about Auntie Ruth multiple times during my growing up years.

Ruth's Early Years

Ruth Sophia McNamara was born on December 18, 1901, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada to Clara Mae Wiseman (1867-1909) and Walter Howard McNamara (1863-1911). Clara and Walter were married on

October 3, 1888 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada[1], and lived there where Walter was a Railway Clerk and a Railway Checker and Clara was a "stay-at-home Mom"; though the term usually used at that time was housewife.[2] Ruth was the second girl and seventh of nine children born to Clara and Walter. The birth years of the children spanned 1889-1909.[3]

The McNamara family lived in Halifax County, Nova Scotia from 1889 through 1911. Until the summer of her 7th year, Ruth's childhood was not unusual. Two weeks after she turned 8, Ruth's mother died from long-term complications related to the birth of her youngest brother, Howard, five months earlier. Shortly after his birth, Howard went to live with Aunt Phoebe, Clara's sister, because Clara was too sick to care for him. Clara died on 31 Dec 1909[4], and is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia.[5] At the time of her death, the children's ages were: Ralph-20, George-19, Herbert-16, John-14, Sadie-13, Arthur-9, Ruth-7, William-3, and Howard-5 months.

Walter cared for all the children except infant Howard, with the help of the older siblings and local family members. The 1911 Census of Canada shows Walter living with eight of his children at 236 Creighton Street in Halifax.[6] Howard had returned to living with the family.

Name	Relationship	Birth Date	Age	Church
MacNamara Walter	Head M	October 1863	48	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Ralph	M Son	March 1890	21	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara George	M Son	December 1898	13	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Ruth	M Daughter	March 1901	10	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Sadie	F Daughter	November 1901	9	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Arthur	M Son	March 1901	10	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Ruth	F Daughter	December 1902	8	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Robert	M Son	August 1905	5	Anglican Canadian Methodist
MacNamara Howard	M Son	July 1911	0	Anglican Canadian Methodist

Above: 1911 Census of Canada showing the Walter MacNamara family [Photo from ancestry.com].

Ruth's older brother, Herbert, was then living in Brandon, Manitoba, working as a labourer on a farm, with the family of Gertrude and James Fraser.[7]

Walter had progressive muscular atrophy,[8] which might explain why the older children were still living at home; although in that era, families tended to live together in multi-generational groups. Adult children did not move out on their own, as people tend to do today, unless they married, and even when married, some families lived together on the same land, or in the same home.

August 1911 brought more tragedy to the McNamara Family. On the fourth of that month, Walter died, leaving the McNamara children orphans. In addition, the day Walter died was his son William's birthday. Walter is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia.[9]



Left: Headstone for Walter H. McNamara in St. John's Cemetery and Columbarium in Halifax, Nova Scotia [Photo from findagrave.com].

Upon the death of their second parent, Ralph and the older children tried to keep the family together. According to a family story told by Sadie's daughter – Doris, after about 18 months the family unit was split. This is verified in a copy of a letter from Ruth to her niece Margie, which stated: "Ralph, the eldest, kept us together, with a housekeeper for a year and a half, but finally had to break [it] up." [10] Howard went with Phoebe Wiseman Frank (Clara's sister), William went to live with Mrs. Jones, Sadie went to live with Aunt Clara, and Ruth went to live with Aunt Ella. The four oldest boys; Ralph, George, Herbert, and John; all were considered adults. At this time, it is unknown where Arthur went to live.[11]

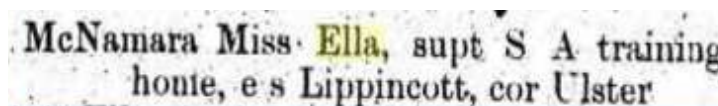
Separation of the family was a very traumatic event for the McNamara children. Sadie rarely spoke about that time with her own children or grandchildren. Ruth added a little genealogical health information on the McNamara siblings in a letter(s) to nieces, but most of the information in this article is the result of genealogical research.

Ruth's life changed drastically after the family split following their father's death. Leaving Halifax behind, she moved to Toronto, Ontario to live with her Aunt Ella (Macnamara), who was an Officer in the Salvation Army.

Who is Aunt Ella?

Aunt Ella, sister of Walter Howard McNamara, was born Ella Marie McNamara on August 3, 1866 in St. Croix, Hants, Nova Scotia, Canada to Sophia Louisa Bissett and Robert Young McNamara. Robert was a shoemaker in St. Croix, and the family's religion is listed as Wesleyan Methodist. Ella was the first girl and second of five children in a family that included Walter, Ella, George, Lillie and Bertie.[12] [13]

Aunt Ella lived with her family until sometime in the early 1890s. An 1894 Toronto City Directory shows Miss Ella working as the Superintendent at the Salvation Army training home located at e s [east side] Lippincott, cor [corner] Ulster.[15]



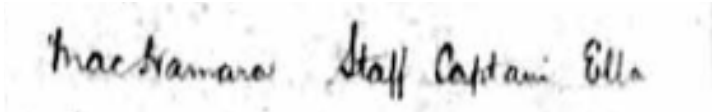
Above: Toronto City Directory in 1894, p. 1064, showing Ruth's Aunt Ella McNamara [Photo from Ancestry.com].

An April 1900 ship's passenger list for the *SS Halifax* shows Ella MacNamara, age 31 years, returning from Boston, Massachusetts, USA.[15]

Miss E. Bouchie	22
Mrs. B. V. Davies	38
Ella MacNamara	31
Maggie Ritchie	26

Above: Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935, showing Ella McNamara returning to Halifax from Boston, Massachusetts, USA on 31 March 1900 [Photo from Ancestry.com].

October 1911 finds Aunt Ella living in Toronto, Ontario, and travelling internationally doing the work of the Salvation Army. Ella's name is seen on the arriving passenger list, as a Staff Captain in the Salvation Army, returning to Canada and her home in Toronto via Quebec City, Quebec, from an international trip.[16] The document does not show the country from which the ship left.



Above: Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935, shows Staff Captain Ella MacNamara returning to Toronto, Ontario in October 1911 [Photo from Ancestry.com].

During Ruth's childhood, Aunt Ella may have seemed to be a "world traveller" to a young girl. It is unknown when Aunt Ella visited her brother and his family (Clara Mae and Walter Howard) but being that she became guardian for Ruth around 1912/3, Ella most likely kept in touch with family members.

Ruth's Teen and Young Adult Years

On August 14, 1914, when Germany refused to withdraw its army from Belgium, the British Empire declared war on Germany. As Canada was part of the British Empire, their foreign affairs were guided in London, and many young men enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force (CEF).[17] Three of Ruth's brothers enlisted as well. Now besides being separated at home, they were separated by an ocean.

Ralph M. enlisted in the 14th Battalion out of Quebec on November 20, 1914 and sailed for Europe on the *SS Missanabie* on February 23, 1915. He returned home to Halifax aboard the *Maurentania* from Southampton, England on July 3, 1919. Ralph was wounded in combat several times and achieved the status of Lance Corporal (L/cpl). He was an anti-gas instructor.[18]

Herbert enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) out of Halifax on March 13, 1915, and sailed for Europe on the *SS Saxonia* as a Private. He fought in France, was promoted to Corporal on June 15, 1916, and was injured on September 21, 1916. Once discharged from the military hospital, he travelled to

Halifax for further medical treatment in Canada. He was discharged from military service in Halifax with a disability on October 20, 1917.[19]

Arthur enlisted in the CEF on August 23, 1916, listing his birth year as 1898. His birth year was actually 1900. He was too young to enlist, so he was discharged.[20]

Family history documents show little about Ruth's life living with Aunt Ella except for the Census of Canada, Canada Voter (registration) Lists, and Border Crossings; from Canada to the US. These documents show us more about Ruth's life.

When Ruth was 16 years of age, the 1918 flu epidemic (also called the Spanish Flu) arrived in Canada with troops returning from WWI.[21] It brought illness and death, along with social and economic disruption. "Children were left parentless, and many families found themselves without their chief wage earner. Armies on both sides of WWI were temporarily debilitated. Municipal governments, in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease, closed all except necessary services. Provinces enacted laws regarding quarantine and enforced the wearing of masks in public... The influenza strain, although decreasingly virulent, remained active in Canada until the mid-1920s... The establishment of the federal Department of Health in 1919 was a direct result of the Canadian epidemic." [22]

One effect of the 1918 flu epidemic was that when the City of Windsor in Essex County, Ontario was struck during the fall of 1918, its single hospital, Hôtel-Dieu was overrun.[23] This event would prove to be important in Ruth's life.

As a result of not enough hospital beds in Windsor, in 1918, the Salvation Army built and opened a second hospital in the city – the Grace Hospital. As Aunt Ella was an officer in the Salvation Army in Toronto, Ontario, she may have participated in the planning for the new Grace Hospital. In addition to opening a hospital to provide hospital spaces for those sick with the Spanish Flu, Grace Hospital also opened a School of Nursing, training nurses to help with the pandemic. Ruth would later attend this Nursing School.

Ruth and her sister, Sadie (Sara Mae), were the only two girls of nine children in the family. Most likely they kept in touch as children, but we know they kept in touch as adults. Sadie attended and graduated from the Provincial Normal College in Truro, Colchester, Nova Scotia, Canada. Sadie was awarded a First Rank Diploma from the Provincial Normal College and a First Class License (Class B) No. 138 in 1917. Sadie returned to Halifax and continued living with Aunt Clara. No information has been found regarding Sadie working as a teacher upon graduation.

In January 1919, Aunt Clara, who raised Sadie, died. Sadie now had the option of choosing a teaching position somewhere other than in Halifax, as the area had too many teachers for the number of positions available. With ties to Halifax now lessened, Sadie answered an advertisement for a teaching position in Readymade, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Packing her belongings, Sadie was ready to begin her new life, six provinces away.

As Ruth and Aunt Ella lived in Toronto, Ontario, three provinces away, and in the path of Sadie's trip to Alberta, the author assumes Sadie visited Ruth and Ella during her travel to Readymade. On November 1, 1920, Ruth's sister Sadie and Orville McCann were married in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, by Charles E. Cragg, Clergyman.[24] It is not known if Ruth and/or any other McNamara relatives attended the wedding ceremony and celebration.

The 1921 Census of Canada shows Ruth and Aunt Ella lodging with their friend Margaret Stobbs in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. All members of the household are listed as being able to read and write, and their religion is listed as Salvationist. Both Ella and Margaret are Officers in the Salvation Army, and Ruth is listed as a Stenographer.[25]

Ruth Becomes a Nurse

The next information available reveals that Ruth attended and then graduated from the Grace Hospital School of Nursing, in Windsor in 1927. The Grace Hospital is the same hospital built to provide care for victims of the Spanish Flu.



Above: Ruth McNamara and her graduating class from the Grace Hospital School of Nursing in 1927. Ruth is third from the left.



Right: Ruth McNamara on right.

[Photos courtesy of Lori Langille-van Der Velden]

I was lucky enough to have received these photos from my second cousin, Lori Langille-van Der Velden, in December of 2020. Lori is the grand-daughter of Howard McNamara.

[Author's Note: Nurses seem to run in the McNamara – Macnamara family besides Auntie Ruth. They include: Ruth's Aunt Clara in Massachusetts; and Ruth's three Grand Nieces in two branches of the family tree: Lori, her sister, Donna, and Mary (the author).]

Lori received some personal effects from Auntie Ruth's after she had passed away. They include pictures from nursing school, books, and the Grace Hospital's gift to the graduating nurses: a glass syringe for use in her nursing practice, in a silver engraved case. At that time, nurses were "independent contractors". The age of "hospital nursing" as we know it today, did not exist.





Above: Auntie Ruth's nursing graduation gift of a glass syringe and engraved case [Photos courtesy of Lori Langille-van Der Velden].

The 1931 Canada Census and those going forward are not available as of this writing, due to privacy issues. Each will become available 92 years after it was taken. While the 1931 census was released in 2023, it has yet to be consulted. As a result of the more recent censuses being unavailable, Voter Registration lists and any cross-border trips are important tools to learn where Ruth lived over the years.

On September 25, 1931, Ruth's youngest brother Howard Walter McNamara married Marie Katherine Petre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.[26] On July 12, 1936, Ruth travelled with her sister Sadie's family (Sadie, Orville, Eileen, Doris, and Marjorie) to visit Yellowstone Park, staying in the USA about 10 days. Ruth's occupation is listed as a Nurse in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.[27]

On October 10, 1939, Ruth's youngest brother Howard Walter signed military papers for active duty in what was termed World War II as a Rank Sergeant. His service file is #F34858.[28]

In 1940, Ruth is shown as registered to vote in Winnipeg South Centre District in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She was residing at 6 East Gate with 10 other people, and working as a Nurse. It is possible that this was a boarding house.[29]

On December 14, 1943, Ruth's brother Howard Walter, died while on active military duty in Italy during WWII.[30] Then on October 16, 1944, Ruth's brother Ralph died in Savant Lake, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.[31] Other family members were unaware of his residential location and death until many years later.

The 1949 Voter Registration list shows Ruth living in two locations. Most likely the York District entry occurred first and later Ruth moved back in with her Aunt Ella, who was then 83 years of age and retired, and her friend Margaret Stobbs, who was 74 years of age. Ella and Margaret continued to live at 47 Hillsdale Avenue East in the Eglinton District of Toronto, Ontario.[32]

The 1953 Voter Registration list shows Ruth continuing to live at 47 Hillsdale Avenue East in Toronto, Ontario and working as a Nurse. Aunt Ella and Margaret Stobbs were also residing there.[33]

On November 4, 1955, Aunt Ella McNamara died in Toronto. She was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Her headstone lists Ella as a Brigadier in the Salvation Army.[34]

USC - NR (S)		MANIFEST Part of SWEETGRASS, MONT. JUL 12 1936	
Family name	Given name	Accompanied by	Serial No.
McCANN	ORVILLE	Wife-Sadie (USC)	
(USCs)		McNamara (Adm TS)	
Children-Eileen, Dorris, Marjorie -Sister in law- Ruth			
C.I.V. No.	Place and date of issue	Section and sub-section	Quota country charged
Place of birth (Country, County, etc.)	Age	Sex	Occupation
Botenau, N. Dak.	40	M	mechanic
Language or description	Nationality	Last permanent residence (Town, country, etc.)	Wife
Eng.	Irish	Lethbridge, Alta.	Yes
Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whose name same			
Mother-Catherine McCann, 635 14th St. S. Lethbridge, Alta.			
Ever in U.S.	From	To	Where
Yes	Birth 1910		A various dated back & forth
Qualifications, and name and complete address of relative or friend to join there			
Yellowstone Park			
Money shown	For printed and stamped, or excluded from admission	Purpose of visiting and time remaining	
	No	Visit 10 days	
Head tax status	Height	Complexion	Hair
	5 ft. 11 in.	med.	ben
			blue
Import and date of landing, and name of steamer		Car. in. Identification card No.	
Records by	Previously examined at	Date	Previous disposition
WAB	No Reg		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form 548.		10-5148	

Left: Border Crossing Manifest Card from Sweetgrass, Montana on 12 July 1936. Ruth was travelling with Sadie and Orville McCann and their three children-Eileen, Doris, and Marjorie [Photo from Ancestry.com]

Below: Cemetery Headstone for Aunt Ella, buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto. Ella was a Brigadier in the Salvation Army [Photo from findagrave.com].



The 1963 Voter Registration lists shows Ruth and Margaret Stobbs still living in the same home together on Hillsdale Avenue East in Toronto. Ruth is working as a secretary and Margaret is retired.[35] Their residence remains the same in 1968, with Ruth's occupation now listed as private secretary.[36]

In 1971, Margaret Stobbs died in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She is buried beside her good friend Aunt Ella in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. Margaret's headstone lists her as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Salvation Army.[37]

1972 finds Ruth living alone at 47 Hillsdale Avenue East in Toronto, and working as a secretary.[38] Indications point to Margaret leaving the house to Ruth as she continued to live at that address in Toronto until her own death. Up until about 1977, Ruth and her niece Doris communicated by mail. Sometime after that, Ruth's communication with the California McNamara branch stopped.

In approximately 1983, Ruth's niece, Paulene, moved from Nova Scotia to Toronto, Ontario, to live with Auntie Ruth. Recent research and information from second cousin, Lori, provided information that Ruth had dementia, and needed care. Paulene stayed with Ruth until Ruth died on January 18, 1985 in North York, Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 83 years.[39] She is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, Section 28, Lot 1951. Currently, there is no headstone on her gravesite.[40]

Ruth lived a life that included participation in activities that many single women of that time did not usually do. Though an independent person, family was important to Ruth, as evidenced by her maintaining connections with her siblings across North America [Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, New Brunswick, and California], and later returning to Ontario to care for Aunt Ella and Margaret.

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- [2] "Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906", Ancestry database online (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3789/images/30819_103532_0003-00121? : accessed 02 December 2023), Year: 1888, p. 233, McNamara Walter, clerk, bds 86 Lockman.
- [3] 1911 Census of Canada, Halifax, Nova Scotia, population schedule, enumeration district Sec I, subdistrict 72, p. 18, dwelling 155, family 212, MacNamara Ruth; online image *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8947/images/e079_e001971285 : accessed 02 December 2023); citing Library and Archives Canada.
- [4] Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics Births, Marriages, Deaths: Halifax County, *Nova Scotia Archives* database online (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=87615> : accessed 02 December 2023), Year: 1909, Book: 8, Page: 198, Number: 1186, Clara McNamara [Clara Mae Wiseman McNamara] 31 December 1909.
- [5] *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143459633/clara-mae-mcnamara> : accessed 02 December 2023), memorial page Clara Mae McNamara (1867-1909), created and maintained by Mary S., citing St. John's Cemetery and Columbarium, Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Gravestone photograph was taken by Mary S.
- [6] 1911 census of Canada, Halifax, Nova Scotia, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) Sec I, subdistrict 72, p. 18, dwelling 155, family 212, entries for MacNamara Walter Family; online image *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8947/images/e079_e001971285 : accessed 02 December 2023); citing Library and Archives Canada.
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- [8] "Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics, Birth Marriages, Deaths: Halifax County" *Nova Scotia Archives* (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=89165> : accessed 02 December 2023), Walter Howard McNamara, Progressive Muscular Atrophy, Registration Year: 1911 - Book: 8 - Page: 456 - Number: 2736.
- [9] *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143459542/walter-howard-mcnamara> : accessed 02 December 2023), memorial page 143459542, Walter Howard McNamara (1864-1911), created and maintained by Mary S; citing St. John's Cemetery and Columbarium, Halifax, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, Canada; gravestone photograph by Mary S.
- [10] Letter from Ruth Macnamara to Margie McCann Benham, 05 July 1970, photocopy in possession of the article's author.
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citing Library and Archives of Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; and “Canada, Voters Lists, 1935-1980”, database image online, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2983/images/33022_302242-01268 : accessed 02 December 2023); image 70 of 412; 1949, entries 92-94, for Stobbs, Mis Margaret, Mcnamara, Miss Ruth, and Macnamara, Miss Ella; Urban Polling Division No. 34, Electoral District of Eglinton, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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VOLUNTEER AWARDS

It's that time of year again when we want to acknowledge our many member-volunteers and their contributions to the OGS and communities!



As members, you can choose to recognize...

- an OGS individual member-volunteer for their contributions to the OGS
- an OGS Branch or SIG that went “above and beyond” in 2023
- an outside organization that has furthered the cause of genealogy in 2023
- a special OGS member-volunteer who also helps the community at large

DEADLINE: May 1, 2024

FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE [OGS.ON.CA/ABOUT/OGS-AWARDS/](https://ogs.on.ca/about/ogs-awards/)

A Story Needing Telling: A Snapshot of Donald Campbell and Laurel Sims' Lives from Prior to the Second World War to the Immediate Post War Period

Alan Campbell

Alan Campbell is a passionate family history researcher and writer who enjoys being able to share what he has found with others. Contact Alan at alan.acsresearch.campbell@gmail.com.

After the death of Laurel (Sims) Campbell many World War II artifacts were found that her children had not seen before. From these artifacts it was possible to build a picture of her and her husband's war time experiences.

First some background – both Donald and Laurel were born in western Canada. Donald was born 17 June 1905 in the Northwest Territories near Yorkton shortly before Saskatchewan became a province. Laurel was born 26 September 1910 near Saltcoats, Saskatchewan. They were first cousins as their mothers were sisters, Ellen Trafalgar (Atkey) Campbell and Alice Carrie (Atkey) Sims. By 1919 Laurel's father, Percy Sims, had given up homesteading and brought his family back to his township of birth, Keppel Township, Grey County.

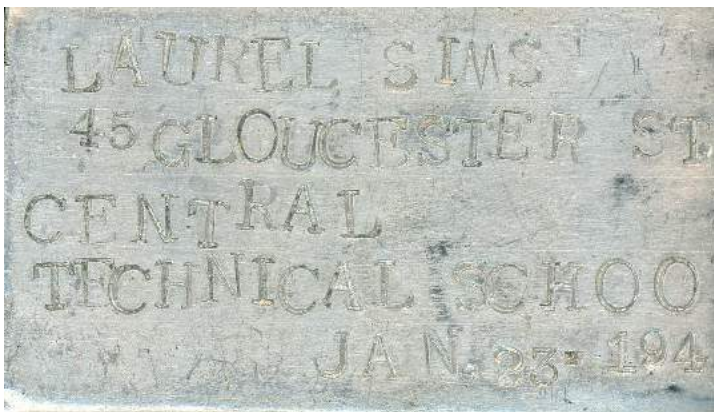
According to the Dominion of Canada National Registration form that Donald completed sometime prior to 19 August 1940 when he was officially registered, he was then living at RR#3, Owen Sound, Ontario with Laurel's family.[1] By this time, Laurel was already living in Toronto because the 1940 Finally Revised Urban List of Electors, Electoral District of Rosedale, City of Toronto, captured Laurel living at 15 Castle Frank Crescent and working as a domestic for John R. Harper, director, and his wife.[2]

The Small Arms Ltd. advertisement for Girls and Women Operators age 18 to 35 would certainly have caught Laurel's eye.[3] With training in machine shop



Above: Small Arms Ltd. Ad for female workers
[Photo courtesy of author].

practice that would lead to guaranteed employment at a pay rate better than that of a domestic, I am sure that she didn't hesitate in applying. Based on a piece of metal with a soft metal wrapping on which Laurel had stamped the following information, "Laurel Sims, 45 Gloucester St., Central Technical School, Jan. 23, 1942" this would appear to be the technical school to which she was assigned.



Above: Image of metal stamped with the address of the Central Technical School that Laurel attended [Photo courtesy of author].

The information in her Insurance Book from the Unemployment Insurance Commission indicates that she officially started working for Small Arms Ltd. (SAL) on 30 March 1942.[4] She worked 6 days a week. Laurel's daughter Laurel remembers her mother talking about working in the barrel rifling department. Ironically, although she kept a number of Donald's pay envelopes, she kept none of her own from her time at Small Arms Ltd.

4203 CAMPBELL 2.6.1941

EMPLOYEE NAME ~~STAS. H.~~ EMPLOYEE NO. 1942 - 1943

PERIOD	ENDING	EMPLOYEES' CONT.	ACCUMULATIVE	1942 - 1943	
MONTH	DAY	DAYS	AMOUNT	DAYS	AMOUNT
9	March	15	9.12		
10	03	6	3.6		
10	10	6	3.6		
10	17	6	3.6		
10	24	6	3.6		
10	31	5	3.0		
11	07	6	3.6		
11	14	1	6		
11	21	4	2.4		
11	28	3	1.8		
12	12	—	—		
12	19	—	—	194	11.64

EMPLOYER'S NUMBER 300932

SMALL ARMS LIMITED

PER [Signature]

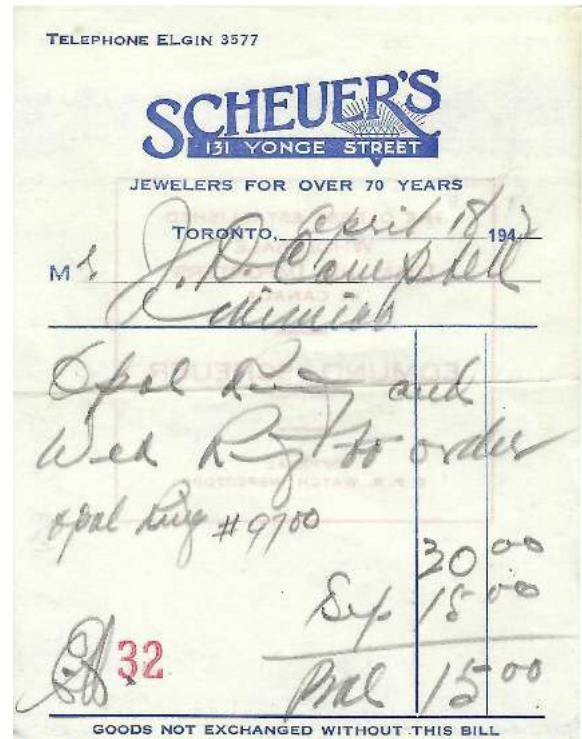
EMPLOYER

CERTIFIED THAT CONTRIBUTIONS AS INDICATED HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION FOR THE PERSON WHOSE NAME APPEARS AT THE TOP OF THE ACCOUNT.

N.B. IF ALL SPACE IS NOT USED THE EMPLOYER SHALL RULE OFF THE ACCOUNT BY DRAWING A DIAGONAL LINE FROM THE LAST ENTRY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ACCOUNT AND SHALL SIGN IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE LAST ENTRY.

Above: Unemployment insurance booklet showing Laurel's working career at SAL [Photo courtesy of author].

No records found to date indicate when Donald first arrived in Toronto. The earliest record that places him there is an invoice in his name dated 18 April 1942 from Scheuler's at 131 Yonge Street for an opal ring and a wedding ring.[5] Both rings cost a total of thirty dollars.



Above: Don and Laurel's wedding ring invoice [Photo courtesy of author].

Don and Laurel were married 12 June 1942 at Jarvis Street United Church, Toronto, Ontario.[6] The certificate given to them after their marriage did not include their parents' names. In the official record of the marriage, Don's mother's maiden name, Atkey, was noted but for Laurel's mother no surname [Atkey] was provided, only two given names, Alice and Carrie so the minister and the registrar were probably unaware that the mothers were sisters.[7] Canadian law did not restrict their ability to marry as first cousins. Perhaps the United Church was not as amenable? Both Don and Laurel were recorded as armament workers with 141 Lakeshore Road, Mimico, Ontario to be their residence once married. The wedding photo is telling as well. None of Donald's family were in attendance as his father died in 1940 and his mother and brother were living in Saltcoats, Saskatchewan. Laurel's family was represented by James Percy Sims, her father, and her brother Ivan Sims. Her mother, according to family

lore, refused to attend the wedding. It is possible that the other three people in the picture were armament workers as well, Lorraine Ashbury, Harold Balittio, and a woman not yet identified.

Small Arms Limited published an inhouse newsletter beginning 15 May 1942 called Fore Sight.[8] This first edition recorded that summer sports for employees were being organized like softball and horseshoe leagues. Successive issues recorded names of employees involved in sports events, particular departments of SAL and employees who enlisted. Pictures of employees were included in the newsletter. Employees had come from all over Canada to work at SAL. Engagements and marriages of the employees and the births of children were reported. In scanning issues from 15 May 1942 to 25 November 1943 [there were only two issues from 1942] no mention was found of Don or Laurel. Either the issues in which they were mentioned were not part of the run scanned or they maintained a low profile and did not involve themselves in the various company social activities.

A National Selective Service Notice of Separation for Laurel recorded her as a machine operator in the barrel department at Small Arms Limited, Long Branch, Ontario.[9] She gave her notice on 14 December 1942 due to her pregnancy with Joy, her first child with Don, and worked until 31 December 1942. At the time she left she was making \$0.40 per hour.

A pay packet for Don places him in the employment of Small Arms Limited on 23 October 1943.[10] For 57 straight hours his gross pay was \$45.60, 5 hours of overtime added \$4.00 and a C. of L. bonus added \$4.25 for a total gross pay of \$53.85. The deductions from the gross pay were \$12.05 income tax, \$0.36 unemployment insurance, \$4.00 Victory Bonds, \$0.10 E.M.B.S & R.C, and \$0.15 donations so his net pay was \$37.19. In his Mechanics Vest Pocket Reference Book, he had written "Tool Room, S.A.L., G [C?] 239, J. D. Campbell, 144 Lakeshore Rd. [stroked out], 27 Superior Ave., Mimico, Ont." [11]

PAY PERIOD ENDING				EMPLOYEE'S NAME				RATE		CLOCK NO.				
MONTH	DAY	YR.		LAST NAME	INITIALS	PRENOMS								
10	23	43		CAMPBELL	J	D		80	162	78				
WORKED			D.T. & ALLOWANCE			NIGHT SHIFT		INCENTIVE		C. OF L.		GROSS PAY		
HOURS	AMOUNT		HOURS	AMOUNT	BONUS	BONUS								
57	045.60		5	0	4.00					4.25	53.85		12.05	
DEDUCTIONS													NET PAY	
UN. INS.	LIVING ACC.	WAR SAV.	VICT. BONDS	E.M.B.S. & R.C.	SALES & ADVANCES	LAUNDRY	DONATIONS							
36			400	10			15						37.19	

GIVE US THE TOOLS
FOR OUR WINNING CERTIFICATES
Small Arms Limited

SMALL ARMS LIMITED

SMALL ARMS LIMITED CONTRIBUTES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCORDING TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT. KEEP THIS STATEMENT AS YOUR PERMANENT RECORD OF EARNINGS.

Above: SAL pay packet image for Donald [Photo courtesy of author].

Among Don's artifacts from his wartime work in the armament industry is a steward's badge for the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, certified by the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

EMPLOYEE	NAME NOM		CAMPBELL		Laurel (Mrs.)		A B C D CANADA
	(LAST NAME - NOM DE FAMILLE)		(FIRST NAME(S) - PRÉNOMS)		CHECK POINTER (✓) MALE HOMME FEMALE FEMME <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	ADDRESS ADRESSE		141 Lakeshore Rd., Mimico, Ont.		DEPARTMENT - DÉPARTEMENT		
EMPLOYER	NAME NOM		SMALL ARMS LIMITED		TELEPHONE NO. - NO. DE TÉLÉPHONE		NATIONAL SELECTIVE SERVICE SERVICE SÉLECTIF NATIONAL NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT AVIS DE CESSATION D'EMPLOI EMPLOYEE'S COPY - COPIE DE L'EMPLOYÉ
	ADDRESS ADRESSE		Long Branch, Ont.		AD 8094		
	CHECK (✓) WHETHER NOTICE GIVEN PAR L'EMPLOYEUR		BY EMPLOYER PAR L'EMPLOYEUR		DATE NOTICE GIVEN - DATE OÙ L'AVIS A ÉTÉ DONNÉ		
POINTING (✓) SI L'AVIS A ÉTÉ DONNÉ		BY EMPLOYEE PAR L'EMPLOYÉ		Dec. 14/42		Dec. 31/42.	
CHECK (✓) REASON FOR SEPARATION POINTER (✓) MOTIF DE CESSATION		LEAVING VOLUNTARILY ABANDON VOLONTAIRE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE RENVOI POUR CAUSE	
IF OTHER CAUSE, SPECIFY AUTRES CAUSES, SPÉCIFIER		RATE OF PAY - SALAIRE PAYÉ		\$.40¢		PER PAR hour	
SIGNATURE OF PARTY GIVING NOTICE (EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE)		SIGNATURE OF PARTY DONNANT L'AVIS (EMPLOYEUR OU EMPLOYÉ)		SIGNATURE OF PARTY RECEIVING NOTICE (EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE)		SIGNATURE OF PARTY RECEVANT L'AVIS (EMPLOYEUR OU EMPLOYÉ)	
Laurel Campbell		W. N. Bourke per				DATE	

NOTICE OF AT LEAST 7 CALENDAR DAYS DURATION MUST BE GIVEN
UN AVIS D'AU MOINS SEPT JOURS DU CALENDRIER DOIT ÊTRE DONNÉ

OVER - VERSO

Left: Separation document when Laurel left SAL [Photo courtesy of author].

The badge does not designate for which company he was working when he held this steward's job. Family members remember him talking about how it was difficult to seek performance pay increases for employees who saw others being paid more but whose rate of production of useable piece work items fell below that of those other workers. Obviously there would be no agreement by management in these cases for a pay increase.

A pay packet from Victory Aircraft Limited, Malton, Ontario indicates that Donald was working for the company as early as 30 December 1943.[12] The pay packets do not represent a complete collection but the last one is dated 10 February 1945. Victory Aircraft had started life in 1938 as the National Steel Car of Canada (NSCC) and built Westland Lysanders for use in Europe and, by 1941 was building Avro Ansons for the British Commonwealth Air Training Programme. In 1942 NSCC was declared a Crown Corporation and renamed Victory Aircraft. Don would have been working in tool inspection at the time that the company was building the Avro Lancaster, which were long range, heavy bombers.[13]

VICTORY AIRCRAFT LIMITED
MALTON — ONTARIO

▶ COUNT YOUR MONEY BEFORE LEAVING THE PAY LINE AREA ◀

PAY PERIOD ENDING MONTH DAY YEAR			EMPLOYEE NAME			CHECK NUMBER
DEC 24 43			JD CAMPBELL			M 6484
TOTAL HOURS		NIGHT SHIFT HOURS	HOURLY EARNINGS	PRODUCTION BONUS	NIGHT SHIFT BONUS	TRAVEL ALLOWANCE
111.00		•	111.00			15.00
DEDUCTIONS						TOTAL EARNINGS
INSURANCE UNEMP. GROUP	WAR SAVINGS	INCOME TAX	VICTORY BONDS	PURCHASES	OTHER	AMOUNT PAYABLE
72.00	0.00	14.40	16.00	2.30		92.90

ONLY YOU CAN DO YOUR SHARE
BUY WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES REGULARLY

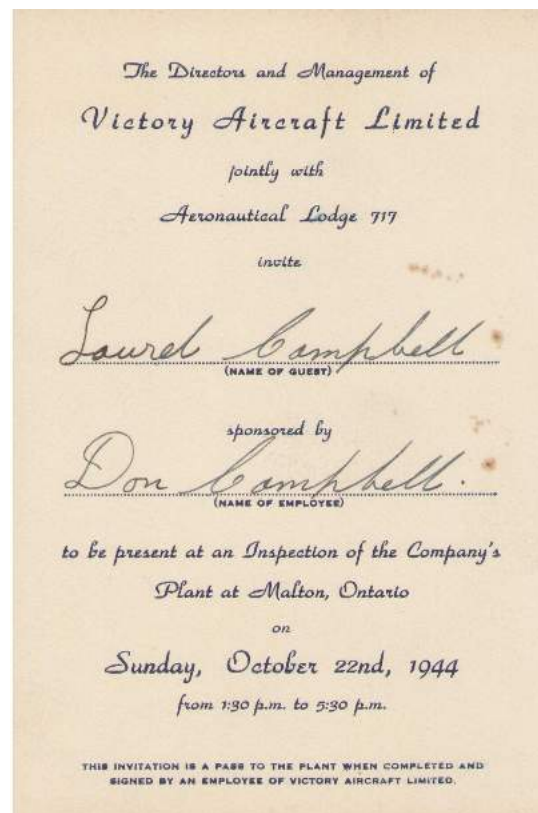
↑ YOUR ENVELOPE CONTAINS

THE ABOVE IS A RECORD OF EARNINGS AND DEDUCTIONS. KEEP FOR INCOME TAX INFORMATION.
NOTIFY PAYMASTER OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR INCOME TAX CLASSIFICATION.
CHAIN PRINTERS LIMITED - IA

Above: Victory Aircraft Ltd. Pay packet image for Donald [Photo courtesy of author].

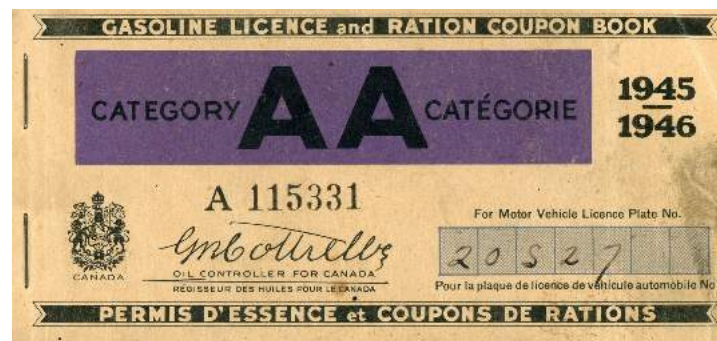
Laurel, sponsored by Donald, was invited to “be present at an inspection of the Company’s Plant [Victory Aircraft Limited] at Malton, Ontario on Sunday, October 22nd, 1944 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.”[14] She left no record behind to indicate that she accepted the invitation and went but she probably did.

According to Rénaud Fortier in an article posted on the Ingenium Channel, “Victory Aircraft tax employees had



Above: Invitation to inspection of the Victory Aircraft Ltd. Plant [Photo courtesy of author].

many tax benefits and services: food services, medical expenses, subsidized housing and transportation, pay-for-performance program for hourly paid employees, and reduction of the work week, from 55.5 to 48 hours. These measures were a credit to the Department of Munitions and Supplies.”[15] Don and Laurel’s son Alan can remember his mother saying that they had more money at this time in their life than at any other time. Laurel remembers her father saying that he and her mother Laurel “waved at each other as their street cars passed.” Donald was a great story teller so Laurel was not sure how accurate this statement was.



Above: Front cover of a ration book of the time [Photo courtesy of author].

Don was a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) which had its headquarters in the



Above: Photo showing an aerial view of Victory Aircraft Ltd. [Photo courtesy of author].

Machinists' Building, Washington, DC.[16] His card number was T37967 and he had paid dues for July, September, October, November and December of 1944. His Journeyman dues book for the IAM carries the record that "D. J. Campbell is most experienced at *tool inspection* work."

Don and Laurel purchased a house at 23 Island Road, Long Branch, York County, Ontario 29 March 1944 from David Solway for \$300 cash and a mortgage of \$500 taken out with Ray Solway.[17] Ian Percy Campbell, their first son, was born 2 June 1945 at Long Branch.

With the end of World War II, probable layoffs and with failing eyesight not suitable for tool inspection, Don and Laurel sold the house at 23 Island Road on 15 March 1946 to Ruby Ethel and George Henry Doughty for the sum of \$5.00 and "...other good and valuable considerations..." [\$1200 was paid in cash and the balance of the mortgage and interest totaled \$400 so the total consideration was \$1600].[18]

Although it did not affect Don and Laurel, the house they had owned was appropriated along with many

others after the damage caused by Hurricane Hazel on 15 October 1954. The land on which it stood is now the Marie Curtis Park.

From what Donald said in later years, his dream had moved from being an auto mechanic to being a farm owner. He and Laurel purchased the S ½ and the E ½ of the N ½ of lot 10, concession 4, Township of Sydenham, Grey County, on 30 October 1946. This farm was near Bognor. Years later, his son Alan could remember him saying that it was considered a worn-out farm. He talked about growing red clover and turning it under to rejuvenate the soil. In the winter he logged for Wilfred Squires, a nearby farmer. He and Laurel's brother, Ivan Sims, were involved in this. Alan Campbell, the second son, was born in 1948 at Owen Sound General Hospital. A second daughter, Laurel Donna Campbell was born in 1952 at Owen Sound General Hospital.

Joy remembers being sent to get the cows and having to cross a "river" or as she said when questioned as to whether it was perhaps a creek, "It was a river to an eleven-year-old!" She also remembers getting into trouble for losing her first pair of glasses while

climbing on the stone fence rows.

Farm life for the Campbell family came to an end 15 July 1953 when they sold the farm to Michael and Elizabeth Wagner.[19] This began a more transient life style for the family but that is a story for another time.

References:

- [1] Dominion of Canada-National Registration Card for John D. Campbell, dated 19 August 1940, Electoral District 108, Grey North, Polling Division no. 2, Derby; card no. 6, received from Statistics Canada December 2020.
- [2] Finally Revised Urban List of Electors, Electoral District of Rosedale, City of Toronto, Urban Polling Division No. 38, p.1, No. 15606, downloaded from www.ancestry.ca 11 March 2020.
- [3] Help Wanted, Female, Girls and Women Operators 18-35, *Toronto Daily Star*, 5 May 1942, p. 30, downloaded from <https://www.proquest.com/hnptorontostar/docview/1432518793/4E171F54D49A48C5PQ/19?accountid=48728> 28 November 2023. This was a typical advertisement of the time period.
- [4] Canada Unemployment Insurance Commission Insurance Book for Laurel Maud Campbell, Small Arms Limited, employee no. L619412. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [5] Original invoice held by Alan Campbell.
- [6] Certificate of Marriage for John Donald Campbell and Laurel Maud Sims, Toronto, Ontario, 12 June 1942, registration no. 1349 provided to the married couple. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [7] Certificate of Marriage for John Donald Campbell and Laurel Maud Sims, Ontario Vital Statistics, registration no. 5614, certified photocopy of original record provided by Deputy Registrar-General of Ontario.
- [8] Images of Fore Site courtesy of Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections Supervisor, Museums of Mississauga.
- [9] National Selective Service Notice of Separation from Employment, Employee's Copy, for Mrs. Laurel Campbell, payroll no. 4203. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [10] Pay packet [envelope] for J.D. Campbell, Small Arms Limited, 23 October 1943. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [11] Mechanics Vest Pocket Reference Guide (Detroit, Michigan: Everett R. Phelps, 1942) with inscription by J. D. Campbell on the blank page following the inside cover.
- [12] Pay packet [envelope] for J. D. Campbell, Victory Aircraft Limited, Malton, Ontario, 30 December 1943. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [13] Information about N.S.C.C and Victory Aircraft Limited downloaded from <http://www.interlog.com/~urbanism/avrodemo.html> 6 November 2003.
- [14] Original invitation held by Alan Campbell.
- [15] Rénaud Fortier, a somewhat forgotten aspect of the history of no. 425 squadron alouette, part 3, downloaded from <https://ingeniumcanada.org/channel/articles/a-somewhat-forgotten-aspect-of-the-history-of-no-425-squadron-alouette-part-3>
- [16] Journeyman record book for J. D. Campbell, International Association of Machinists, card no. T37967. Original held by Alan Campbell.
- [17] Deed of Land, David Solway to Laurel M. Campbell and John Donald Campbell, instrument no. 3670, Long Branch, dated 29 March 1944, Metro Toronto, (66 &64), LRO 80, Etobicoke Book 2013, plan 2172, lot 23, p.55, downloaded from ONland.ca 19 December 2023.
- [18] Mortgage, Ray Solway to Laurel M. Campbell and John D. Campbell as joint tenants, dated 29 March 1944, amount \$500, Metro Toronto, (66 &64), LRO 80, Etobicoke Book 2013, plan 2172, lot 23, p.55, downloaded from ONland.ca 19 December 2023.
- [19] Receipt tendered to Donald Campbell for final payment on the house at 23 Island Road, Long Branch by H. V. Motton, dated April 13th, 1944.
- [18] Deed of Land from Laurel M. Campbell and John Donald Campbell to Ruby Ethel Doughty and George Henry Doughty, 23 Island Road, Long Branch, instrument no. 6054 registered 15 May 1946, Metro Toronto, (66&64), LRO 80, Etobicoke Book 2013, plan 2172, lot 23, p.55, downloaded from ONland.ca 19 December 2023.
- [19] Instrument no. 14720, grant, lot 10, concession 4, Township of Sydenham.



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