

Wilcox Family History

Philip Wilcox

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Cover Picture



Buckshaw Hall, built in the 1650's, was the home for many early generations of Wilcock in Euxton, Lancashire, England.

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INTRODUCTION

This release of the history of the Wilcox family is based on the recollections of family, relatives, some old notes and documents that a few ancestors had the foresight to write down and, of course, the wonders of the internet. Much historical and genealogical information was available through the reach of the internet and it was the means for making contact with remote branches of the family who shared the same research interests.

In putting this history together there was an active correspondence with 8-10 relatives (usually 3rd cousins) in Lancashire, England. Links have been made to other Wilcox relatives in Ontario, California, B.C. and even Australia. Some Bryce 1st cousins have also been located in England and they were able to “return” a few family pictures taken in B.C. long ago.

Information from all these sources has been rolled into our family tree database and into this document. References are provided for the various sources, including the anecdotal. You will see here much use of words like “maybe” or “possibly” or “probably”. Some of these reflect a certain amount of guesswork; others reflect a healthy skepticism of anecdotes. One quickly learns that memory is a fragile and uncertain thing, i.e., memory of an event or conditions are usually found to have some valid basis, some grain of truth, but will be skewed or off base in the details. One also gets tales that are contradictory and you have to decide which is most likely to be accurate. Opinions, as you might expect, can be the most variable and so a certain amount of filtering is done, especially for the all too often derogatory and libelous views (but not too much filtering, as this tends to be the most interesting part).

Where did all this start? Thomas J Wilcox was the one to scribble down family notes on any scrap of paper he could find. His mother Alice would have been the source for much of his information and Tom’s wife added to the mix (she was a history buff). This pile of notes was passed on to son Robert (Bob&Eva) and they took the next step to add to the pile by visiting relatives in England in 1973. They had the clever notion of advertising in local Lancashire newspapers, saying who they were and what they were looking for. They received a large number of replies and the letters themselves are today still a wonderful source. They met most of the people that replied and a few more besides. The accumulated pile of notes was finally assembled, organized and printed in 1984 by Bob & Eva’s son Rick.

That document came my way in December 2005, thanks to niece LaVern, and a year later I became interested and thought it was due for a new round of updates and some much needed computerization. This book plus the family tree database is the result.

In addition to those named above and immediate family members, the following people have contributed to the family tree project.

Lancashire England (3'rd cousins)

Brian Ainscough
Joe Wilcock
Lesley Paterson
Terry Irving
Bernard Hayes
Margaret Tyrer

United States

Denise Fischer (Santa Clara – married to a Moore)
McClary – several contacts in the U.S. (as well as B.C. and Ontario)
Sue Clifford Tambasco – Billington descendent

Canada

Collier – a few contacts only (Ontario)
Colleen Bryce (B.C., daughter of Ian Jack Bryce)
Peggy Howard (B.C., daughter of Ina Bryce)
Mark Dupont (B.C., son of Eileen Hutchison)
Doris Wilcox (B.C., daughter-in-law of Thomas J Wilcox)
William Cunningham (Ont., descendent of the Ontario Wilcock branch)

For the second release of the book there were many small corrections, however the main reason to update was newly arrived information on the Billington family. It turns out a branch of this family came to Canada long before any Wilcock's and paved the way, so to speak, for the Wilcock's. Some of these Billingtons show up as question marks in our photo records. Fortunately, a Billington descendent found our web page and got in touch. These particular updates in the book are flagged with the label *[Rel2]*. In the third release more small corrections were made (e.g. incorrect photo on p 184). The fourth release adds more information on the Ontario Wilcock's (Thomas), including the fact that Thomas actually went to B.C. with Michael and tried farming an adjacent property. Main updates are flagged with the label *[Rel4]*.

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Michael (b1780) -> Thomas -> Michael -> Harry -> Phil

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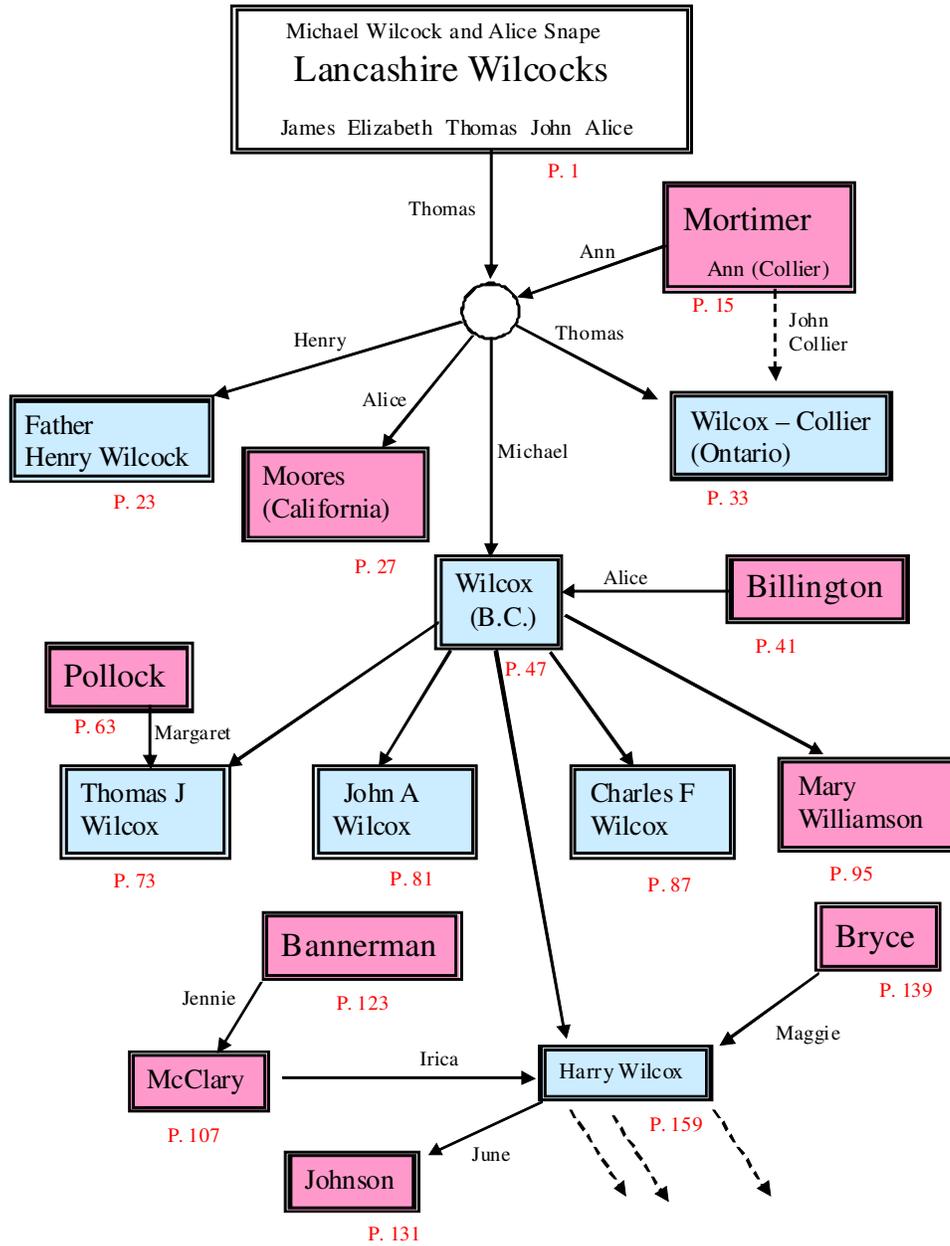


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Lancashire Wilcock

The starting point for our Wilcock family line is in Lancashire, a county in the northwest of England. Lancashire and the adjacent county of Yorkshire account for most of the Wilcocks in the U.K., no doubt to the detriment of all surrounding counties. The 'lusty' and the 'aggressive' survived some tough centuries in England and the family generally prospered and grew. They followed the usual emigration paths to other parts of the world and today, besides a large contingent in England, the few that we have traced can be found in Australia, the U.S. and Canada. In researching we have tripped over other and apparently unrelated Wilcock families from the exactly the same small towns and in the same business of farming. This book is about our Wilcock family, from the earliest we can find in the Lancashire records to where we are today, with particular emphasis on those that wound up in B.C., Canada.



Wilcock Etymology

The name may be the combined *wil*, meaning 'will' or 'desire', and *cock* the 'male bird or fowl', as applied to a young lad who strutted proudly like a cock, or to a **lusty** or **aggressive** individual. What's not to like? The more prosaic, and likely more accurate, source is simply "son of Will"^{1b}.

A Victorian Definition of Lancashire

In 1842, Barclay's Complete and Universal Dictionary described Lancashire as ". . . a county of England, lying on the Irish Sea, and bounded by Cumberland, Westmoreland, Yorkshire, and Cheshire. It is 75 miles in length, and 30 in breadth. It is divided into 6 hundreds, which contain 27 market towns, 62 parishes, and 894 villages.

This county comprises a variety of soil and face of country; there being mountains of more than 2000 feet high, in the north and eastern parts, with wide moorlands or heaths amongst them; extensive bogs or mosses, which yield only turf for fuel, and are very dangerous; and some most fertile land for agricultural purposes. It yields iron, coal, slate, and other building-stones; salt, etc. Grazing is more attended to than agriculture.

The fisheries, both in the rivers and the sea, are valuable. As a commercial and manufacturing county, Lancashire is distinguished beyond most others in the kingdom. Its principal manufactures are linen, silk, and cotton goods; fustians, counterpanes, shalloons, baize, serges, tapes, small wares, hats, sail-cloth, sacking, pins, iron goods, cast plate-glass, etc. . . .

The Victorian Definition does not dwell on actual living conditions and thus a bit of background on the Lancashire environment might be useful. The civil/religious wars of the 17th and 18th centuries had a defining influence on family fortunes. Although there were many Wilcocks who were not Catholic, our branch of the family were very staunch RC and therefore suffered many tens of years of third class citizenship. Our Wilcock family was, at least in the later years, from the region around Euxton and Chorley (one of the 'market' towns). A circle drawn ten miles across would likely cover the range of the clan up to the 20th century.



A more detailed map of the Chorley to Leyland area appears later. Chorley to Leyland is about 7Km.

Maps are Copyright Google

A Wee Trace of History

The mid 1600's were a rather messy period in English history, and any attempt to describe it in detail is beyond this author. What follows is a minimalist summary (with apologies in advance to true historians) that tries to capture a bit of the living environment for a catholic in Lancashire. Suffice to say, Kings with illusions of divine right were squaring off against parliamentarians who thought otherwise, battles were being fought with Scotland (probably via Lancashire), and all with religious overtones as Catholics and Protestants tended to have their favourite sides. The risk was high for owners of estates as being on the wrong side was detrimental to continued estate-hood.

In the 1600's and 1700's the Wilcocks would have kept their heads down, at the risk of losing them. Being catholic didn't preclude one from owning land, however land ownership likely had more to do with the prerogatives of class. The early Wilcocks were all tenant farmers, which perhaps was a less complicated life. Some of the big estate owners (e.g. Andertons⁸) were Catholic and their fortunes waxed and waned, and one might expect some affect on the tenants, especially if of the wrong persuasion. It is not surprising that our early ancestors, before 1800, are hard to trace, as they probably were reticent to record all the family details in the parish registers.

The culmination of the liberalization of the anti-Catholic laws came in 1829, when Parliament passed the Catholic Emancipation Act, giving Catholics almost equal civil rights, including the right to vote and to hold most public offices.

Inserting a family note here: Alice Billington^{5a} recorded, "When the Relief Act was passed in 1791(sic) Michael (b1780) helped to build the first legally new Catholic Church in England at South Hill near Chorley, by helping his father cart every stone for the building of the church by the congregation". This note may be overstatement as there were^{1c} places of worship, but perhaps not "legal".

In the 1800's the Catholic population started to finally grow, largely by immigration from Ireland, as a result of a liberalizing environment plus an expanding job market. It seems an anomaly for the area but few, if any, of the Wilcocks were engaged in the cotton trade. However, as farmers, they would have indirect benefits as the influx of people represented customers for their farm goods. In any case, the good times did not continue much past 1861 as the cotton industry was dependent on the U.S. south for the raw material and that fell apart during the U.S. civil war. The

*"The English Civil Wars³ of 1642-1659 saw the religious divides of England come to a head. By this time the county had divided almost in half with the north and west remaining staunchly Royalist and the remainder being predominantly Protestant. Bolton was a particularly fervent seat of Parliamentarianism and anti-Royalist and many great battles were fought on the surrounding Lancashire countryside, at Strandish and at Wigan. By 1643, battles at Warrington, Wigan, Preston and Lancaster had secured these towns in Parliamentary hands, though subsequently some changed hands several times. In 1664 Royalists under Prince Rupert besieged and sacked Bolton before going on to recapture Wigan and Liverpool. **Oliver Cromwell** himself led his "roundheads" onto the field at Ribblesdale Moor in 1648 to fight the Battle of Preston. Townships often changed hands, and sides, several times during the conflict, with vicious and brutal reprisals often taken against the unfortunate inhabitants. The Royalists were frequently led by James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby, local hero and scourge of the Parliamentary forces - in the end he was captured and beheaded in Bolton Market Place for his pain . . . By the end of the conflict in 1650, many Catholic and Royalist estates had been confiscated and their former owners severely punished for their part in supporting the losing side. Their lands were handed over to Protestants on a 'temporary' basis . . ."*

*"The years⁹ from 1688 to the early nineteenth century were in some respects the nadir for Catholicism in England. Although the persecution was not violent as in the past, Catholic numbers, influence and visibility in English society reached their lowest ebb. Their civil rights were severely curtailed: their right to own property or inherit land was greatly limited, they were burdened with special taxes, they could not send their children abroad for Catholic education, they could not vote, and priests were liable to imprisonment. There was no longer, as once in Stuart times, any Catholic presence at court, in public life, in the military or professions . . . In 1778 a '**Catholic Relief Act**' allowed Catholics to own property, inherit land and join the army . . ."*

cotton economy of Lancashire, based on a different form of “slavery” to that on the other side of the Atlantic, collapsed (the Cotton Famine), never to regain its previous level. The farmers would get by but they had the problem of very large families and a surprisingly high survival rate. You would not think that to be a problem, but they couldn’t all farm and other job prospects were or became slim. Likely this was one of the driving forces for subsequent emigration of many Wilcock, perhaps along with a desire to own their own piece of land and to escape an oppressive environment.

Inserting another chilling family note here: RMW² can remember his grandmother Alice Billington telling him, in an unusual moment of quiet confidence, that when she was 5 years old she observed an uncle killed by being crucified on a barn door. This would be about 1863, in the middle of the cotton riots, in this case perhaps overlaid with religious vendetta. There is some scepticism about this happening as late as 1863 and so far we have not found an uncle missing at the appropriate time, so the question is still open. It is perhaps best to interpret this note as representing a frame of mind.

The Farms

Moving on to less chilling themes, there were numerous farms in the Chorley-Euxton-Leyland region occupied by Wilcocks or related families⁸. Some of these farms are Higher Buckshaw, Lower Buckshaw, Culbeck, Boarded Barn, Whinney Lane, Nixon’s Hillock, Daisy Hill, Runshaw Moor, Bouth End, Burgh End, Spout Hillock, Spout House, Ackhurst, Astley Hall, Tomlinson’s, Sellery, Pear Tree Lane, etc., etc. Several of these farms were owned by the Anderton’s, a very old land owning family in and around Euxton and, at least up to fairly recently, still owned Euxton Hall that was first built in about the fifteenth century.

The Anderton family appeared to recover

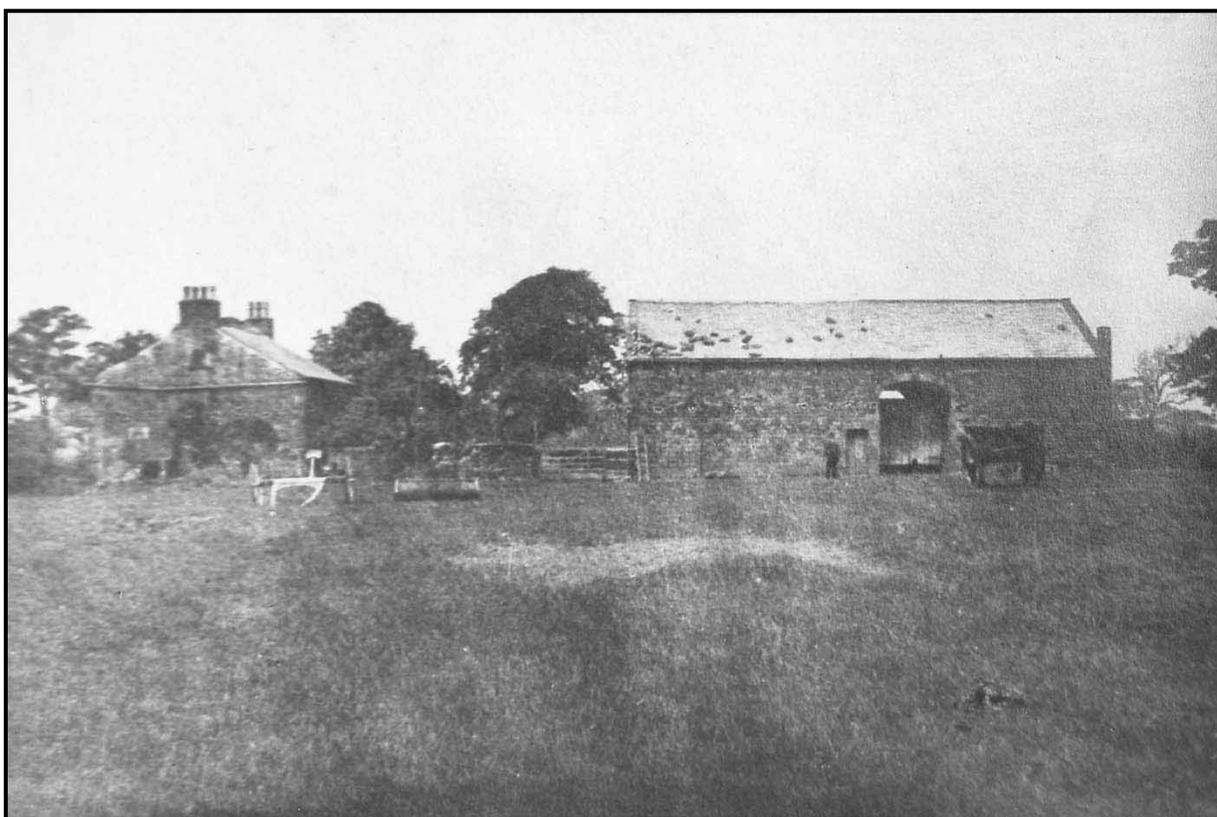
*“The industrialisation of Lancashire⁶ was fast and furious from the 1750s onwards. Towns, factories and industry developed rapidly amongst the many small villages of central Lancashire as textile industries were established within the county”. . . “by the middle of the 19th century the county had become the major manufacturing base of Britain. As the burgeoning factories needed expanding labour forces, mass migrations took place from agricultural Lancashire into towns.”. . . “It was to become the model for worldwide industrialization. Canals and railways made the importation of raw materials and exportation of finished manufactures feasible and inexpensive and many fortunes would be made by irresponsible and callous mill owners at the expense of their workers. The typical working day was 14 hours long, but many were much longer.”. . . **“Cotton dominated Lancashire.** By the mid-19th century Lancashire cotton dominated the world market in textiles - by the end of the century its output exceeded 1 billion kilos and contributed around 11% of the national economy, employing around 5% of the population of England.”*

“Charles II lodged at the Andertons' house at Euxton in 1651 when on his way south to Worcester. There are remains of an ancient cross. The stocks are standing.”. . . “The family adhered to the Roman Catholic religion, and at the outbreak of the Civil War Hugh Anderton, son of William, zealously espoused the king's side, was appointed commissary-general by the Earl of Derby and had the rank of major; he took part in the fighting alike in Lancashire and in Ireland and surrendered at Dublin. His estates and those of his mother Isabel were sequestered by the Parliament, and his were ordered for sale in 1653.”. . . “In addition to Hugh Anderton and his mother, several others of the township had their lands sequestered in the time of the Commonwealth for religious or political reasons, . . .”⁷

well as in the 1800's the descendents still had extensive lands, several occupied by Wilcocks⁸. The census records provide data on which families were on which farms. They seemed to be quite mobile as every ten (census) years particular families will have moved on to another farm. It is not known why this should be so.

Boarded Barn Farm

One exception to the pattern of farm-turnover was Boarded Barn farm (about 40 acres) that was occupied by our 'earliest confirmed ancestor' from before 1841 to 1863 and whose son was there until at least 1881 and likely until his death in 1886. With reference to the family tree chart a few pages on, our 'earliest confirmed ancestor' is Michael (b1780) and wife Alice Snape. His son Thomas (b1811) and wife also lived out their lives on Boarded Barn. The picture of Boarded Barn was in the RMW² collection, perhaps dropped off by Father Henry (more later) when he visited, either in 1893 or some time in the 1920's. However some Canadians visited the U.K in the 1920's so the photo could also be from that visit.



That is supposed to be Father Henry standing in front of the barn at Boarded Barn farm. The house in the back to the left and the barn still stand today. There was a cottage beside the barn, chimney just visible on the right, which perhaps is the 'original' farmhouse from the 1500's. *Photo courtesy the RMW² collection.*

Buckshaw Hall^{4,7}

Buckshaw was a residence for Wilcock only after 1850, at least as far as we know for sure; some of the prominence we give it is due to having a nice picture. Estate ownership went through several hands (but never a Wilcock): Robinson -> Whalmsley -> Parkers -> Crosse. The lands also were divided in some fashion as the census, which started in 1841, refer to Higher Buckshaw and Lower Buckshaw, and there is even reference to a Chapel Buckshaw. Chapel Buckshaw also shows up in the Poor Law Rate Book⁸ although it could be just a simple residence. Higher Buckshaw is listed as 111 acres and Lower is 97 acres. We believe Buckshaw Hall to be on Higher Buckshaw farm.

"Buckshaw was long the seat of a family named Robinson, who were considerable landowners in the district; they recorded a pedigree in 1664. Buckshaw Hall, now a farm-house, is situated in the north-east corner of the township, and is a house of the H-type of plan, originally a timber and plaster building, probably of the 16th century, on a stone base. The house was considerably restored in 1885, when the spaces between the timbers were filled in with brick and the roofs covered with blue slates. Four stones found in an adjoining field, bearing the initials E.R., three of them dated 1654, are now built into the house, one in the north gable and the others at the back. The front, which faces west and is about 56 ft. in length, retains many of its original characteristics, though all the windows and the barge-boards are new."⁷

Michael's (b1780) oldest son James occupied Higher Buckshaw in 1861 and 1871. James's son Michael started out at Lower Buckshaw in 1871 then moved to Higher Buckshaw in 1881. In the various RMW² letters there are numerous references to family comings and goings at Buckshaw.

The last Wilcock at Buckshaw was likely around 1927; the tenant at that time was a Richard Stock, whose mother was a Wilcock^{2a}. Around 1937 it was purchased, with the accompanying farmland, by the Royal Ordnance Factory to build a munitions factory.⁴ Today the Hall is being restored and the surrounding land developed.



Buckshaw Hall

Photo Copyright Lancashire County Library

The farming life did not appear to be a deprived life as the few pictures available show rather palatial houses and, when you peruse the census records, you see households listed with servants and youngsters listed as scholars (i.e. in school). The latter likely were boarders and would be there either as family favour or to earn a bit of cash. No doubt the 'scholars' did a fair amount of the chores.

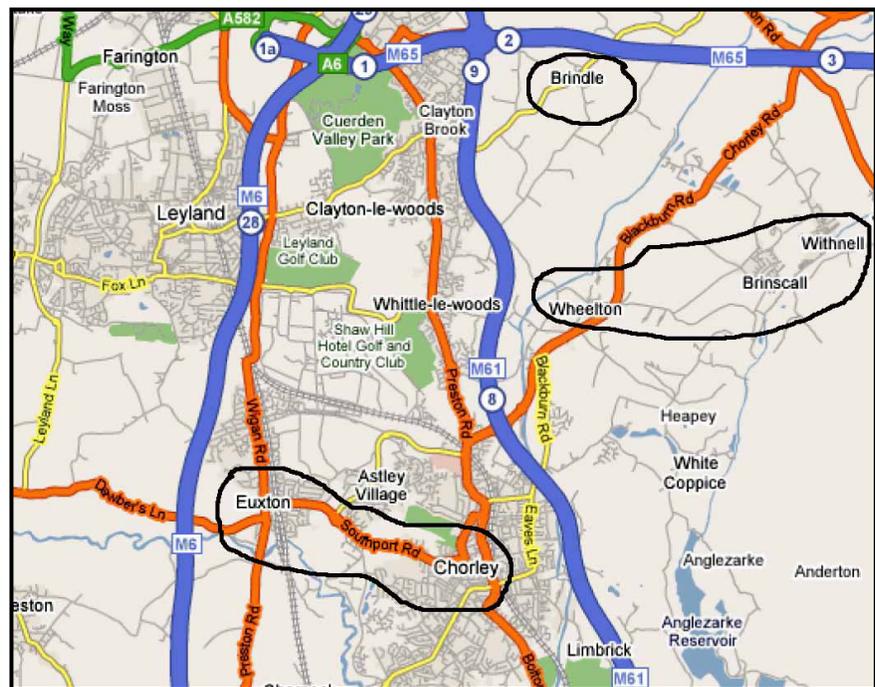


A typical farm lane scene, circa 1898. One of the ladies is Lesley Paterson's^{1d} great grandmother Elizabeth Wilcock and the other, her sister Emma. The family line is: Michael (1780) -> James -> Michael -> Elizabeth.

Photo courtesy of Lesley Paterson

The Early Family (pre 1800's)

Several notes provided by earlier family researchers^{2a, 5a} indicate two more generations above the 'confirmed' Michael (1780), but these have never been authenticated. In fact Terrence Irving^{1a} provided the only clue as to where this data might have come from. He said his wife (a Wilcock) obtained a copy of details in a bible that her Uncle James Wilcock (1915-1996) had possessed. Today, the whereabouts of any family bible is unknown. He thought it might have come via the Burgh Hall part of the family but it could also have been from Father Henry (more later), as it seemed everyone knew him. In Canada, Alice Billington^{5a} (or her son Thomas J), also recorded similar information, though we don't know if it was still the same source or whether Alice had some other source.

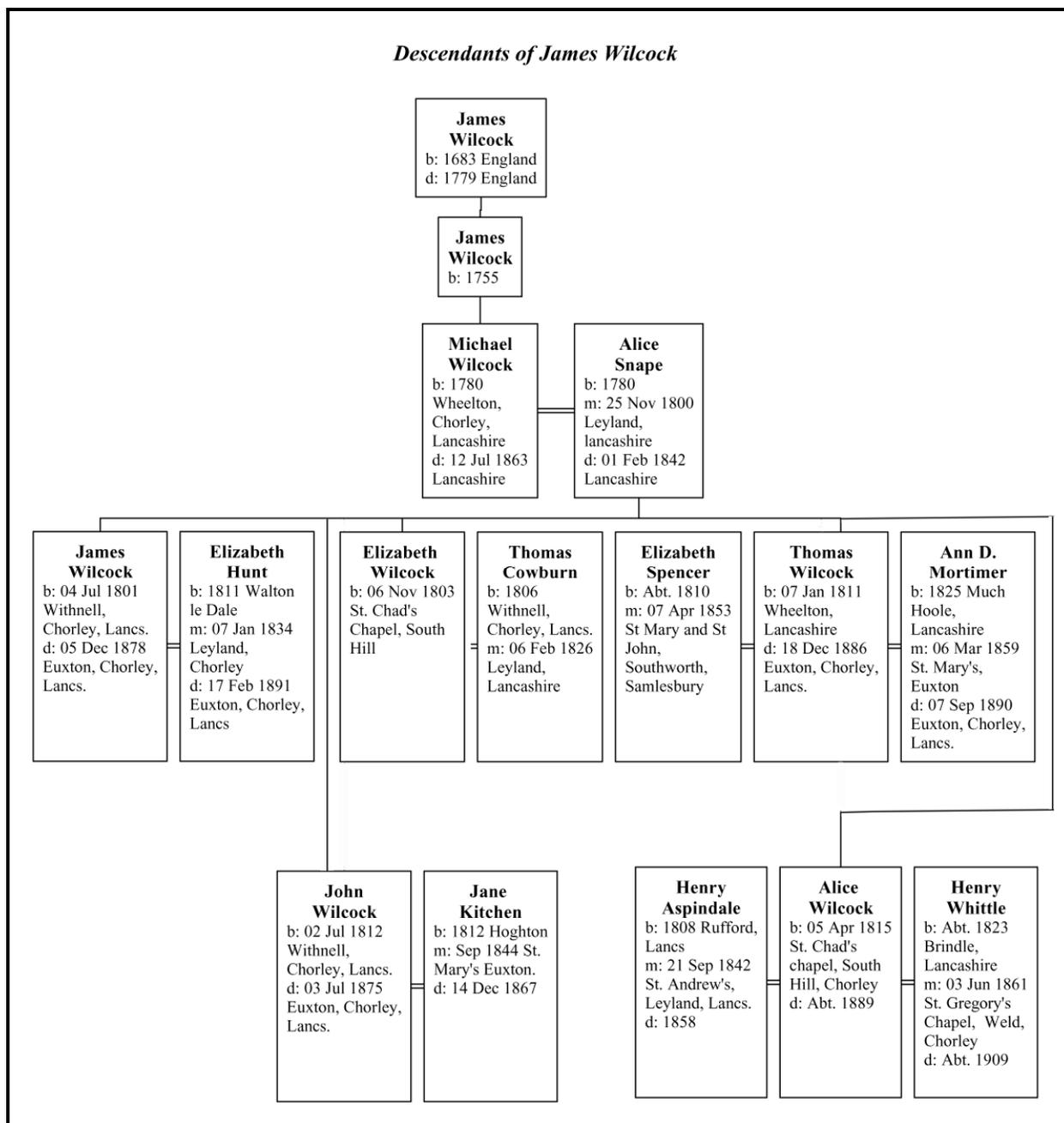


Wilcock Locales

Maps are Copyright Google

Research continues and there is a suspicion this is not accurate, but until demonstrated we will take on faith what a couple of people have stated with seeming assurance; all our relatives descend from James Wilcock of Buckshaw Hall (1683-1779).

Descendants of James Wilcock



Culbeck Farmhouse, another humble abode occupied by many Wilcock farmers.

Photo Copyright Lancashire County Library

His son James (b1755) was then the father of Michael (b1780). *[Just to add a picky detail, the notes of Alice Billington^{5a} actually label James(1755) as the man at Buckshaw].* The notes have James (1683) fathering the next James at age 72, getting married a second time at age 82 and living to the ripe old age of 96. Truly a lusty old 'Wil' 'Cock'; as good a reason as any to accept the tale.

Speaking of Michael (b1780) now, up to 1810 or so he was probably in the Wheelton/Withnell area as that is where he and children were born. Only later, it seems, did they start farming in the Euxton area. There is a strong hunch within the current researchers that the family origins are in the Brindle area. Terrence^{1a} believes he has traced a brother of Michael to Brindle. There is a large contingent of Wilcock in the Brindle area^{1b}, which is next door to Withnell and Wheelton, although as yet we have not been able to cross connect these families. It is also curious that Michael would be buried at South Hill church, which is at Wheelton, even though he died at Euxton, so there was very likely a connection^{1b}.

Brindle also has a Wilcock Farm and recently a place called WILCOCK COTTAGE, Brindle, sold in December 2007 for 961,538 pounds. Some cottage!

Another memory from Alice Billington^{5b} relates a story that there were two Wilcock Hall farms in England, "Upper" and "Lower" and that Cromwell took one of them (about 1650). The Upper/Lower designation makes one think of Buckshaw, but that split is thought to have come much later. Another avenue of research yet to be explored! The "James of Buckshaw" also seems quite specific and cannot be completely ruled out.

If all these nebulous details are essentially true then there was a Wilcock at Buckshaw in the 1700's. For whatever reason, perhaps religious refuge, he moved on to Brindle.

To now we have bounced around some at the top level of the family tree. Following are notes on the next generation, with some expansion on son Thomas as, after all, this is a B.C. Wilcox centric document and Thomas is our man.

Michael Wilcock (b1780)

As mentioned already, Michael was born in 1780 in Wheelton. This information basically comes from much later census data, and the grave marker, as no birth or baptismal record has been found. In 1800 he married Alice Snape in Leyland. We also have no trace on her. From the 1841 census and onwards they lived on Boarded Barn farm.

BRINDLE⁷

"A large proportion of the inhabitants have from the Reformation onwards remained faithful to Roman Catholicism. Very little is known of the priests who ministered to them in the first part of the penal times, but from 1704 the Benedictines have been in charge, and a chapel and residence were built. The present church of St. Joseph dates from 1786; "

WHEELTON⁷

*"The estate of John Whittle the elder was confiscated under the Commonwealth. William Blacklidge, yeoman, and James Critchley, linen-weaver, as 'Papists,' registered small estates in 1717. In 1783 the chief contributors to the land tax were **John Wilcock**, widow Blacklidge and Edward Simpson, who together paid over a third of the tax."*⁷

Michael and Alice had five children, all of whom lived and died in Lancashire. They all married and moved out, except for Thomas who, as previously mentioned, married but stayed on Boarded Barn. Michael and Alice are buried at St. Chad's Chapel, South Hill, Wheelton.

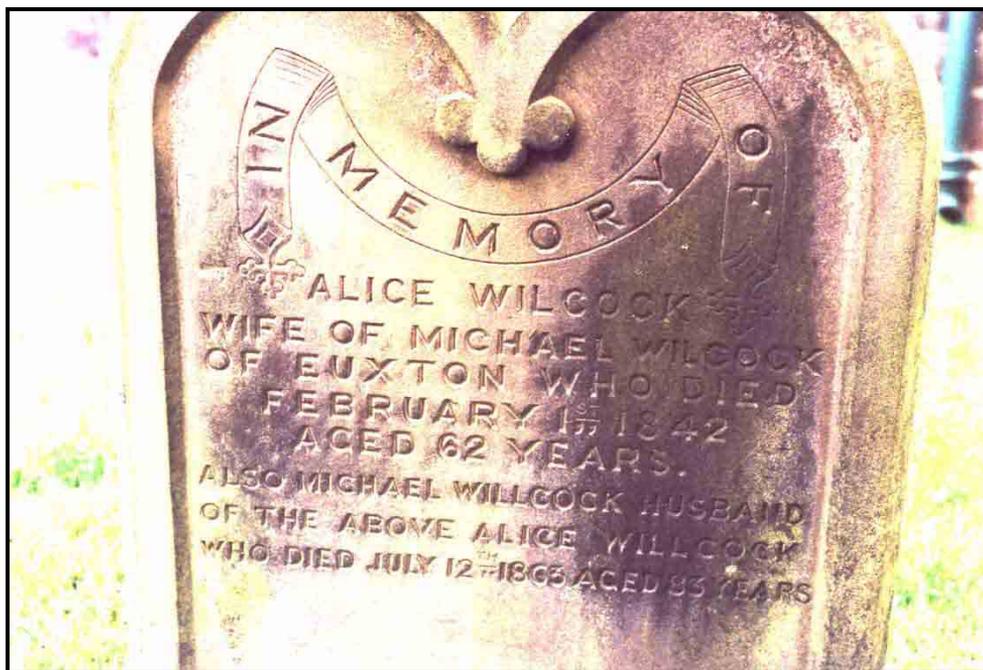


Photo courtesy of Joe Wilcock^{1b}

James (b1801)

The oldest son, James, married Elizabeth Hunt in 1834. For the 1841 census they lived in Euxton village. Later they were at Bouth End Farm, Burgh End Farm and then Higher Buckshaw where they lived at Buckshaw Hall. They had eight children and some of the current family contacts in England are from this family line. James's oldest son Michael carried on at Higher Buckshaw. James and Elizabeth are buried at St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton¹⁰. A few family names down this line include Bowling, Worthington, Kayley, Cornwell, Ormerod, Ainscough, Paterson, etc.

Elizabeth (b1803)

The second child and first daughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas Cowburn in 1826 and went back to the Withnell area to farm. In 1841 and 1861 they were living at Pike Low Farm (40 acres), Withnell. They cannot be located in the 1851 census, which is not too significant, as this is often the result of a transcription error. In 1871 they appear (as Cowborn's), just the two of them, living as retired farmers at Spout Hillock. They had thirteen children and some of the contacts made by RMW² are down this line. These contacts did not have their complete family line identified, possibly because the oldest son of Elizabeth, named Michael, shows up on no census with the parents and Michael was the missing link. An appropriately aged Michael Cowburn does show up on an 1841 census and just happens to be living at Boarded Barn with Elizabeth's parents. The marriage certificate for Mary (Lambert) Cowburn shows her father as a Michael Cowburn. The 1871 census for a Michael Cowburn shows a daughter Mary of the right age and gives us an age for Michael (born 1826). Thus we assume he is the son of Elizabeth, maybe born

just slightly out-of-wedlock. The marriage certificate of Michael confirms his father was Thomas Cowburn. All to say, the records do require a bit of processing. The Ronksleys (an RMW² contact) and Lamberts are down the Michael line, as well as Winnifred Poulton².

John (b1812)

The fourth child, John, married Jane Kitchen in 1844. At various times they lived at Runshaw Lane, Whinney Lane farm and Nixon's Hillock farm. They had seven children and some of the current family contacts in England are from this family line. A few family names down this line include Clitheroe, Ormerod, Tyrer, Jackman, Ball, etc. John and Jane are buried at St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton¹⁰.

Alice (b1815)

The youngest (5'th) child, Alice, married Henry Aspindale in 1842. The 1841 census for Michael Wilcock (1780) shows a 4-month-old Elizabeth Wilcock in residence, along with Alice. This is no doubt Alice's first daughter, born in 1841, before she married Henry Aspindale. In the 1851 census they were on Loy Farm (17 acres) with one labourer. Henry had a relatively short life, dying about 1858 at age 49, though long enough to produce nine children. In the 1861 census Alice (now spelled Aspindall) is listed as a widow on Spout House Farm (84 acres) with two labourers, though by June of that year she married Henry Whittle (from Brindle). On the marriage certificate she (and the witnesses) sign with a "mark", indicating illiteracy, though this Henry signs his name. In the 1871 census most of the children show up under the name Aspinall, living with the Whittle's on Spout House Farm. No contact has been made with anyone of this family line. Henry Whittle died about 1909 and Alice died about 1889 at age 74.

Thomas (b1811)

The third oldest, Thomas, stayed on at Boarded Barn (40 acres) and took over the farming duties from his father. Thomas was also on Nixon Hillock and Whinney Lane Farms^{1b}, presumably before the first census in 1841. In the 1851 census there is a 21-year-old Michael Wilcock at Boarded Barn, listed as the son of Thomas and born at Withnell. We don't know of any early marriages so if the record is accurate this might be an illegitimate son of Thomas (when he was 19). This Michael subsequently disappears from any census record. At the age of 42 (1853), Thomas married Elizabeth Spencer^{1c}. We don't know what happened with that marriage, there were no children that we know of, but in 1859 Thomas then married Ann Mortimer, widow of Adam Collier (see Mortimer chapter).

Thomas and Ann had five children, although the youngest Dorothy only lived 2 years. One son, Henry Mortimer, became a Priest and served at Bolton-le-Sands, in the northern part of Lancashire. That is supposed to be Father Henry standing in the picture of Boarded Barn farm. Father Henry's name keeps coming up in the RMW letters² so he got around. People would want to 'know him' as having a priest in the family was a source of pride. The other three siblings, Michael, Alice and Thomas, went to Canada in the 1880's along with their half-brother John Collier. In 1881 Michael and wife Alice Billington lived in the cottage beside the (Boarded) barn.

Separate chapters are devoted to each of the four children as well as to the Mortimer family line. Thomas and Ann are buried at St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton¹⁰.

In one of those 'research nirvana' moments, RMW² happened to remember overhearing table gossip to the effect that his father Michael, on departing England, had a place to go in Canada. And he further recalled it was a half-brother and the name Collier sounded right. Sure enough, John Collier was then traced to Middlesex Ontario, which seemed to be a common destination for the émigrés. However the dates didn't line up, as it appeared that John left England three years after Michael. A good example of memory being basically right but just a little off in the detail.

Closing Notes

It appears that Wilcocks had pretty much departed Euxton by the 1920's, at least as far as farming is concerned^{1b}. Michael, son of James (b1801), died in 1912 and was the last male Wilcock at Higher Buckshaw. A Richard Stock was there in the 1930's and it is thought^{1b} his mother was a Wilcock. In 1915 Thomas Wilcock, son of John (b1812), was still at Culbeck Farm.

There was obviously more emigration of Wilcock than those noted above. There are numerous cryptic notes^{2, 5} inferring some relative showed up somewhere, but these were often difficult to pin down. There are question marks beside a Michael, a son of John (b1812), alluding to a death in B.C. Similarly for a Thomas⁵, son of James (b1801) also thought to have moved to B.C. A Fred Wilcock^{2b}, from the James (b1801) -> Michael line, was traced to B.C. and contact was made with the last single thread of that family. Also mentioned was a Mrs. Jones (ne Kaley, or Caley), from the James (1801) -> Agnes line, who might have been in Brandon, Ontario⁵ or Vancouver^{2c}.



Fred Wilcock and granddaughter Freda, about 1935, and wife Alice Bolton, in B.C.

Pictures courtesy of Freda's daughter Carol Ann Hart.

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com), the General Register Office (London) for birth, marriage and death records and similar record bases in Canada.

1) Contact was made with several relatives in England who were researching the family tree. Some information in this chapter came from these sources:

- a) Terry Irving – wife’s line is John(b1812) -> James -> John -> Margaret -> Veronica
- b) Joe Wilcock – line is James (b1801) -> John -> Joseph -> John
- c) Brian Ainscough – line is James(b1801) -> Michael -> Alice (Ormerod) -> Lucy (Ainscough)
- d) Lesley Paterson – line is James(b1801) -> Michael -> Elizabeth (Cornwell) -> not sure

2) RMW Letters – Robert Michael Wilcox (from the line Michael (b1780) -> Thomas -> Michael -> Thomas) and wife Eva (Bob&Eva) did the major initial assembly of the family tree in B.C. They visited the U.K. in 1973, meeting many family members they had previously contacted by simply placing ads in local Lancashire newspapers. The letters received were full of useful little family connection nuggets. Relevant ones here include:

- a) Barbara Porter – family line not known.
- b) Miss A. Berry – family line not known. She provided the clues to the Fred Wilcock that went to B.C.
- c) Dorothy Hayes – from the line James(1801)-> John -> Mary
- d) Margaret Tyrer – from the Mortimer line.
- e) Mrs. A Grimbaldston – from the Billington line

3) “English Civil War”, <http://history.boisestate.edu/westciv/english/>

This site is a college course in European history from ancient times to the early modern era, offered by Dr. E.L. Skip Knox. History of Western Civilization. Boise State University

4) Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society – Chorley Halls

<http://www.boyd.harris.btinternet.co.uk/hist/sys2004.htm>

5) Alice Billington was the wife of Michael (from the line Michael (b1780) -> Thomas).

- a) Many of the early family notes captured and organized by Alice’s grandson, RMW², came from Alice
- b) Memories of June Johnson, granddaughter of Alice. June often talked with Alice and related the story about two Wilcock Hall farms, “Upper” and “Lower” and that Cromwell took one of them.

6) From “Manchester UK”, <http://www.manchester2002-uk.com/lancashire1.html>

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7) “British History Online” at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 6 (1911), pp. XXI.

8) Excerpts from the Euxton Poor Law Rate Book for the dates noted. The Poor Law Act of 1601 placed the responsibility for poor relief in the hands of each parish. Overseers of the Poor in each parish collected poor rates from occupiers of land and property. The money collected was then used to help the destitute.

<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Euxton/>

PLACE	RESIDENT	OWNER
Culbeck	Thomas Wilcock -- 1880	W.J. Anderton
Boarded Barn	Thomas Wilcock	"
Euxton Lanes	Clitheroe	"
Dawber Lane	Fishwick	"
Lower Buckshaw	Michael Wilcock	"
Lower Buckshaw	John Cropper -- 1887	"
Boarded Barn	Thomas Cropper	"
Runshaw Moor	John Mortimer -- 1897	"
Culbeck Farm	Thomas Wilcock -- 1910	Major Anderton
Rose Hill	Ralph Moon -- 1880	T.B. Crosse
Chapel Buckshaw	Fred Wilcock -- 1887	Coll R. Crosse
Higher Buckshaw	Michael Wilcock	"
Pear Tree Lane	James and Michael Aspinall	Robert Arnold
Know House	Ralph Moon -- 1880	"
Higher Buckshaw	Michael Wilcock	T. Parker

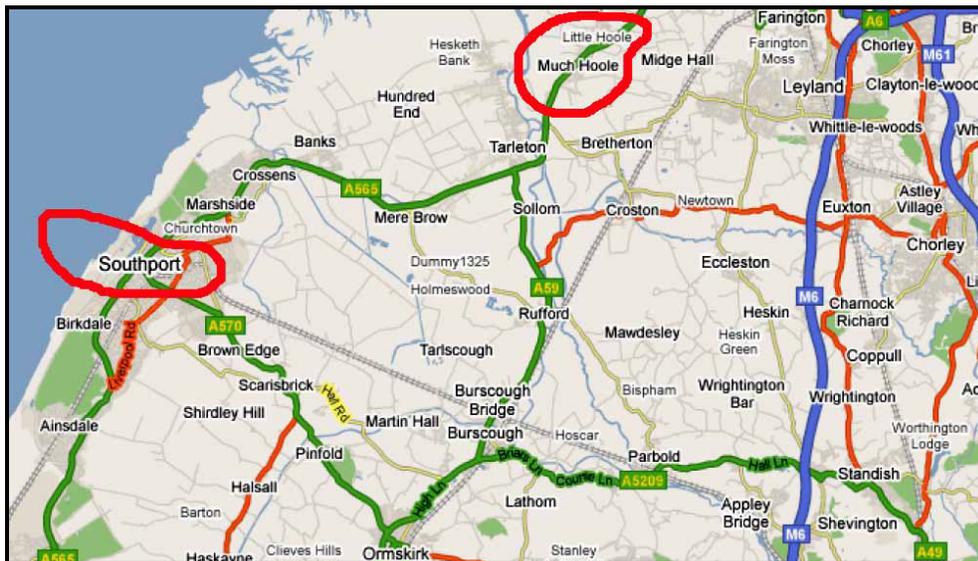
9) Roman Catholicism in Great Britain

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church_in_Great_Britain

10) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many Wilcock are buried in the graveyard of this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm

Mortimer

A maternal line comes in at each level of the Wilcock tree. At the 'known' top there is Alice Snape, about whom we know nothing. At the next level down, Ann Mortimer marries Thomas Wilcock (b1811) and that Mortimer line is the topic of this chapter. This particular family seemed to stay connected to Wilcock through subsequent generations and was the subject of some research by a Moore² in California, as well as a Mortimer^{1a} in England who responded to the original family search by RMW¹. The Mortimer line may be the closest the Wilcocks come to any Royal connection. Much of the information in this section comes from Margaret Tyrer^{1a}.



Mortimer Locations

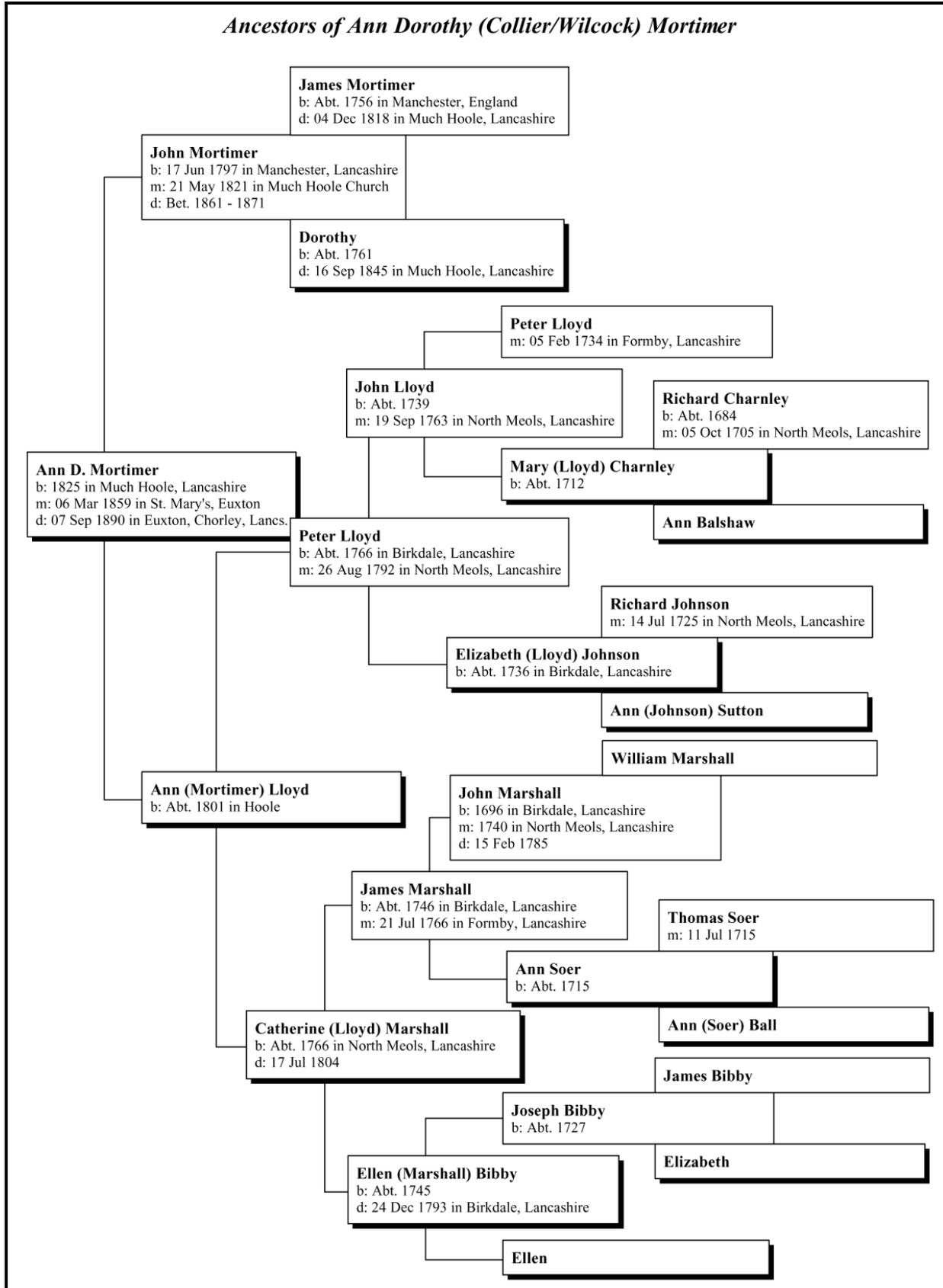
- Southport
- Much Hoole

Maps are Copyright Google

Another Wee Dose of History

Family lore has it the Mortimers came from France with William the Conqueror and that a branch of their descendents married into the Royal family in the 14/15'th century. If the tale were true, it would seem that other branches of the family did not benefit from any such connection, i.e. they were ordinary working souls that had to slog along just like the rest of us. This might be expected in a society where number one son inherited all and the rest were left out, as well as relegated to less propitious marriages. An outline of the possible early Mortimer line is included at the end⁵ and covers from about 1060 in Normandy to about 1460 in England. This entire line was close to the leaders and Royal families of the day, so family lore is consistent with history, we are just not so sure that too much is not being read into the historical Mortimer name. There is a big gap that has not been covered, from the years between about 1450 to about 1750, where we pick up the trace of the modern day family.

Ancestors of Ann Dorothy (Collier/Wilcock) Mortimer



Mortimer Lineage

At the top of the 'known' line is James and wife Dorothy (maiden name not known). The research by Margaret Tyrer indicated James came from Kent and settled initially in the Southport area, then later moved to Much Hoole, where they remained for the rest of their lives. He was a farmer and tried (unsuccessfully) to grow hops, as was grown in Kent. Mortimers were a relatively new family to Lancashire as in 1841 there were fewer than 130 on the census although next door in Yorkshire there were a over a thousand. Most of the early birth and death dates came from the Much Hoole church gravesite^{1a} and various Parish records. James was buried as a Catholic, whereas Dorothy had an Anglican funeral, which is rather odd for the day.

Richard, the youngest son of James, born 1799, only lived 6 years. The oldest, John, apparently was born in Manchester in 1797, however he was baptized in North Meols (near Southport) in 1801. He married Ann Lloyd in 1821 in Much Hoole. As well as being a farmer John and his father were also weavers, likely silk weavers as Manchester was a site for that trade, as was North Meols. The 1841 census shows a 35 yr old "weaver" living with, what is becoming, the large family of John and Ann. The 1841 census 'image' also shows mother Dorothy, aged 75 and listed as a rag gatherer, living with them. She lived to about 84 years, which is rather exceptional for the time. We would expect these people to be healthy, strong and well fed from their farms (plus access to lots of rabbits, shell fish, etc.). Weaving would be done as a home craft on small looms, perhaps to bring in some money.

Tyrer^{1a} and others⁴ have traced the maternal side lineage of Ann Lloyd back several generations, further than we know the Wilcock line. Reference 4) is an interesting little booklet about families and rural life in the area south of Southport (Birkdale to Ainsdale on the map) and it talks about various Lloyd ancestors (Marshall, Balshaw, Soer or Sawyer, Bibby etc.). One quote of interest (p.35), referring to the 1700's, "*It was quite usual at this period for brides to be pregnant, since it was accepted as important that marriages should be fertile*". This seemed to be the practice with the Wilcocks in the 1800's, likely for the same reason.

Another interesting tidbit from the book relates to "transporting", a legal punishment of the day which was basically banishment to the colonies for seven years. The baptism record for the 3'rd son of the Ann Soer in the family chart reads "*1746 ba May 11 s. of John Marshall of Birkdale & Anne his wife transported*". She was convicted of stealing 22 shillings and sentenced to seven years transportation. They waited for the child to be born before she was shipped off, never to be heard from again. That son lived to the ripe old age of 92.

Ann Dorothy Mortimer had nine brothers and sisters, each with numerous children, so it was a very large clan. Our prime source, Margaret Tyrer^{1a}, is from the line of Ann's brother Nathan. We also have contact with other descendents of that brother. Margaret refers to Father Wilcock being a great friend of her Grandfather Richard and their love of racing pigeons (see Father Henry chapter). Margaret's Grandmother greatly treasured a silk handkerchief gift from Alice (Billington) on her visit from Canada.

Ann Dorothy (Collier/Wilcock) Mortimer

John Mortimer

b: 17 Jun 1797 in Manchester, Lancashire
d: Bet. 1861 - 1871
m: 21 May 1821 in Much Hoole Church

Ann Lloyd

b: Abt. 1801 in Hoole

Adam Collier

b: Abt. 1830
d: 13 Oct 1856 in Aspull, Lancashire
m: 25 Oct 1852 in Parish Church of Preston, Lancashire

Ann D. Mortimer

b: 1825 in Much Hoole, Lancashire
d: 07 Sep 1890 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancs.

Thomas Wilcock

b: 07 Jan 1811 in Wheelton, Lancashire
d: 18 Dec 1886 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancs.
m: 06 Mar 1859 in St. Mary's, Euxton

James Collier

b: 12 Feb 1854 in Charnock, Lancashire

Sarah Ann Worsley

b: Abt. 1857 in Alderney, Gurnsey, Channel Islands
m: Abt. Feb 1876 in Preston, Lancashire

John Adam Collier

b: 27 Jul 1856 in Haigh, Lancashire
d: 24 Mar 1921 in Middlesex, Ontario, Canada

Margaret Lancaster

b: 15 May 1857 in Longton, Lancashire
m: Abt. Sep 1880 in Blackburn, Lancashire

Michael Wilcox

b: 17 Aug 1859 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire
d: 24 Mar 1920 in Websters Corners, B.C., Canada

Alice M. Billington

b: 22 Apr 1858 in Euxton, Lancashire
d: 03 Jan 1947 in Victoria, BC, Canada
m: 21 Jun 1880 in St. Andrews Chapel, Leyland, Lancashire

Henry M. Wilcock

b: 12 Dec 1861 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire
d: 22 Dec 1936 in Bolton-le-Sands

Dorothy Ann Wilcock

b: 09 Mar 1871 in Euxton, Lancashire
d: 04 Dec 1873 in Euxton, Lancashire

Thomas Wilcock

b: 08 Sep 1863 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire
d: 02 Feb 1912 in Westminster, Middlesex, Ontario, Canada

Caroline Lancaster

b: 10 Dec 1867 in Little Hoole, Lancashire
m: 08 Jan 1891 in Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada

Mary A. Wilcock

b: 19 Oct 1866 in Euxton, Lancashire
d: 10 Jan 1926 in Santa Clara, California

Joseph Austin Moore

b: 01 Sep 1854 in Sheffield, Yorkshire
d: 12 Jul 1938 in Santa Clara, California
m: 14 Apr 1885 in St. Mary's, Euxton, Lancashire

Ann Dorothy Mortimer (b1825)

The oldest child of the family of 10 was Ann Dorothy, who married Thomas Wilcock in 1859 and became mother of the North American Wilcock contingent. This was a second marriage for Ann as there was a previous marriage to an Adam Collier. Digressing, for a moment, to that marriage:

Adam Collier (b1830)

Ann Mortimer married Adam Collier at St John's Parish Church in Preston in 1852, in an Anglican church, perhaps showing the influence of her grandmother in this regard. As far as the usual records go we cannot get a trace on this Adam Collier. We have a copy of his marriage certificate, from which we learned his father was a James and both were black smiths. One witness appears to be Anabella, or perhaps Isabella, Collier. Adam and Ann plus the witnesses (Isabella and Ann's father John Mortimer) all signed with a "mark", indicating all were likely illiterate. He is listed as 22 years old in 1852. A death certificate for Adam that seems to fit the place and dates shows he died 23 Oct 1856 in Aspull (just off the lower right corner on the map). He was listed as a 27-year-old journeyman Blacksmith. He died of "Febris Typhoides" and was attended by a William Collier of Chorley. William also signed with a 'mark'.

Even with all these names as clues we cannot find anything for sure of Adam or possible family in the census or other general records. There is one family from the Blackrod/Aspull area that might fit. It is George Collier (b1802/1803), wife Bridget (b1801) and two of their children with names William (b1835) and Isabella (b1833). From IGI⁶ we find George's mother is a Betty and a Betty (maybe not the same Betty) had a son James (b1799) of Astley. Perhaps this James is Adam's father.

Ann's two children, John (born in Haigh) and James (born in Charnock), in 1861 were living in Much Hoole with Ann's parents, John and Ann Mortimer. In 1871 the now 14-year-old John A. Collier is at Boarded Barn with the rest of the Thomas/Ann Wilcock family and brother James (17 yrs) is still with his grandmother Ann Mortimer (who is farming 12 acres, is 70 years old, no husband listed, and has a 11-year old granddaughter in residence). John A. Collier would thus be well known to his half brothers and sister, who were only a few years younger than he. It is curious to note that John was baptized at St Mary's Euxton¹⁰ in 1868 at about age 12. By 1881 John A. (now a Railway Lorry Driver) is married to Margaret Lancaster (a Weaver) and has a son John J. In 1887 he and family moved to Ontario along with most of his half-siblings. In 1881 the older brother James is married to Sarah Ann Worsley and farming at Irlam in Barton on Irwell. By 1901 they had moved to Astley and he was a Market Gardner. Astley is possibly where his grandfather James Collier originated so James might have been migrating to where there were relatives. The census shows a lot of Colliers in that area.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 115289-1

1852. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Preston in the County of Lancaster

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
25	1852	Adam Collier	22	Bachelor	Blacksmith	Pitt St	James Collier	Blacksmith
		Ann Mortimer	26	Spinster	Servant	Pitt St	John Mortimer	Farmer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by James Mortimer or after Banns by me, St. Oswalds Curate

This Marriage was solemnized before us in the presence of us, Adam Collier his + mark Ann Mortimer her + mark John Mortimer his + mark Isabella Collier her + mark

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Preston

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

18th

day of

April

2008

MXD 746656

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

1007021 13448-1107 3M3P5L 010354



GF



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 122518-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT WIGAN

1856 DEATH in the Sub-district of Aspull in the County of Lancaster

Columns: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

88	21st Nov 1856 Aspull	Adam Collier	Male	27 years	Journeymen Blacksmith	John's Typhoid Certified	X The Mark of William Collier In Attendance Chorley	21st Nov 1856	William Subs. R. Registrar
----	-------------------------	--------------	------	----------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	--	---------------	----------------------------------

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

21st

day of

April

2008

DYB 811542

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

1004885 12758 0207 3M3P5L 010374



SWP

Thomas Wilcock and Ann Collier (nee Mortimer)

We have no idea how Thomas and Ann might have met, however meet they did and married in 1859. They lived out their life on Boarded Barn farm, raising four children (a fifth, the youngest, Dorothy, only lived 2 years). One son, Henry Mortimer, became a Priest and served at Bolton-le-Sands, in the northern part of Lancashire. The other three siblings, Michael, Alice and Thomas, went to Canada in the 1880's, along with their half brother John Collier. These are covered in other chapters.

Closing Notes

Thomas and Ann are buried at St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton³. Thomas lived to 75 and Ann to 65. From the same online registry we can see that Ann was a witness at the marriage of her sister Maria to a John ball in 1865. The name John Collier pops up regularly as a witness to one event or other.

In the Ontario records John Collier and wife Margaret show up in the census with several children, only one of which was recorded in the Ontario birth records (one way of verifying the mothers maiden name). She was a Lancaster, same as the wife of Ontario Thomas, and it turns out they were sisters. This is covered in more detail in the chapter on Ontario Wilcock's.

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com), the General Register Office (London) for birth, marriage and death records and similar record bases in Canada.

1) RMW Letters – Robert Michael Wilcox (from the line Michael (b1780) -> Thomas -> Michael -> Thomas) and wife Eva (Bob&Eva) - letters exchanged (1973) with relatives in Lancashire.

a) Margaret Tyrer – Ormskirk, Lancashire, from the line Nathan(b1842) -> Richard -> Anne

2) Denise Fischer - Married to a California Moore. She can trace her own lineage back to Edmund Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March, who would be an 18th great grandfather. He married Philippa of Clarence, granddaughter of Edward III, King of England.

3) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many Wilcock are buried in the graveyard of this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm

4) Sylvia Harrop, *Families and Cottages of Old Birkdale and Ainsdale*. Lancashire: Carnegie Publishing, 1992. ISBN 0 948789 83 2.

5) Wikipedia provided a trace of the Mortimers from about 1100 in Normandy to about 1460 in England. Refer to Appendix II for details

6) IGI – International Genealogical Index

Father Henry Mortimer Wilcock



Father Henry Wilcock², undated but likely 1890's.

Henry Wilcock, born in 1861, was the second oldest of Thomas and Ann. He entered the priesthood in 1887 and served most of his life at St. Mary of the Angels, Bolton-le-Sands, near Morecambe. He was very well known and well liked as there are numerous references to him in various letters exchanged¹ in the 1970's. Fr. Henry was the only Wilcock of his family to stay in Lancashire. He made at least two visits to North America to visit and check on the flock.

From one of the letter writers, Margaret Tyrer^{1b}, there was family memory of Fr. Henry often visiting his cousin Richard Mortimer in Much Hoole (Margaret's grandfather). They shared an avid interest in racing pigeons and Fr. Henry would send pigeon eggs to Richard who would hatch and rear the birds. Fr. Henry called his pigeon lofts "Angel Lofts", a reference to the parish church he served. Apparently Fr. Henry also regularly visited Squire Anderton of Euxton, one of the main landholders of the area, including Buckshaw and Boarded Barn where Fr. Henry was raised.

There was at least one trip to North America in the 1890's. The Moore family² in California has one picture of Fr. Henry taken in Chicago in 1893 that looks very much like the above photo. There was another visit in, we believe, the 1920's, although this is a very rough guess. RMW¹ relates that Fr. Henry traveled for several months and spent considerable time at Harry's in Forest Grove. He mentioned that Fr. Henry, while



riding, had an unfortunate accident with a saddle horn that left him a little disabled and required the use of a cane. There is one picture of him with a cane. The Williamson family still has one of the dolls he sent as a gift to the daughters.

In the reverse direction, various family notes indicate that Alice Billington and her sister-in-law Mary Moore visited Lancashire in about 1924. The adjacent photo is of them with Fr. Henry, dated 1924, and we assume it was taken in England. It must have been a notable event as it was mentioned in letters written 50 years later^{1a,1b}. Margaret Tyrer^{1b} writes, "... apparently my grandmother had a beautiful silk

handkerchief, richly embroidered, which had been a gift from her {Mary Moore}. In fact, she never used it, but dearly treasured it and kept it wrapped in tissue paper all her life.”

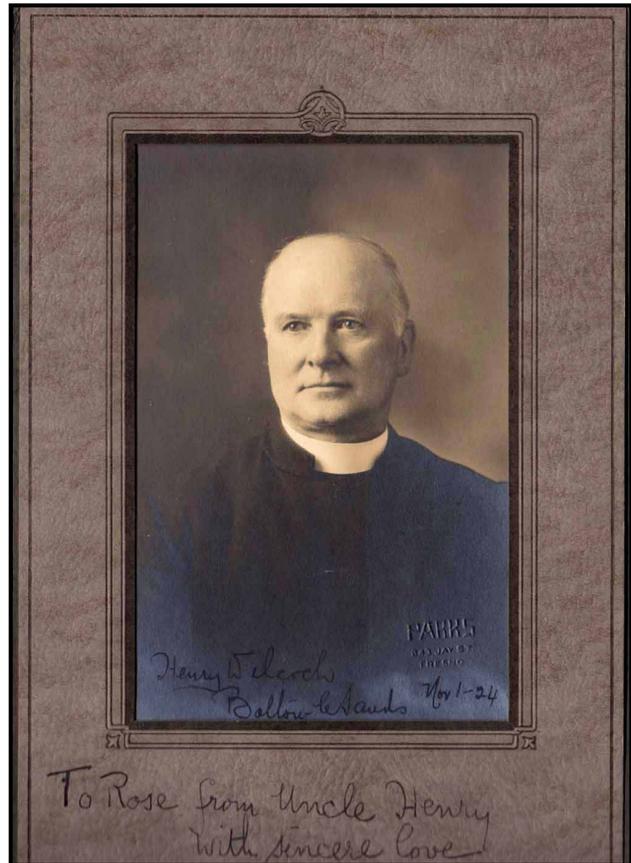
The adjacent photo² is also dated Nov 1924, and just to add confusion it might have been taken in “Fresno”. We suspect it was taken in England and perhaps presented to Rose Moore, with her mother Mary providing the delivery service.

Much of the information we have on Fr. Henry comes from his obituary. The following was copied from a local newspaper³.

OBITUARY

THE REVEREND HENRY WILCOCK

Father Henry Wilcock, son of Thomas and Ann Wilcock (née Mortimer), was born at Euxton, Chorley on 12th December, 1861. Having completed his sacred studies at St. Edward’s College, Liverpool, and at Upholland, he was ordained on 4th June, 1887. His priestly work began at Our Lady Immaculate, Everton, and after curacies at St. James’s, Bootle, Star of the Sea, Seaforth, and Garston, he was sent in September, 1897, to Bolton-le-Sands, to assist Father Henry Gibson, whom he succeeded as Parish Priest of St. Mary of the Angels, a church described by Archbishop Whiteside as “the gem of the North”, and reputed to be a miniature copy of Lincoln Cathedral. In this Arcadian setting Father Wilcock passed forty fruitful and happy years until his death on 22nd December 1936, a few months short of the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood. After Requiem Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Lancaster, in the presence of many of his brother priests, his devoted people, and school children from Bolton-le-Sans, Carnforth (where in 1926 he founded the new Mission of Our Lady of Lourdes), and Yealand, he was laid to rest in St. Mary’s Cemetery on the Eve of Our Lord’s Nativity, with the De Profundis for his soul melting into the glad Christmas hymns. Thus



*“An old age serene and bright
And lovely as a Lapland night”*

Led this happy priest to his grave.

“Seraphically free from taint of personality,” Father Wilcock would not wish even the tribute of a friend to be gemmed with posthumous praise. And so we say “Farewell” to this true priest of God, consoled to think that a Catholic loyalty will guard his quiet grave, and that St. Michael, titular patron of his parish in bygone

days, still holds sword and shield before his Sanctuary, while Mary, enthroned in the great west window, smiles down upon the altar at which he so often offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for his flock, who surely will not forget to pray for him now. May he rest in peace. P.J.D.

From other Obituary related notes, same source³, we have:

“Father Wilcock, like his predecessor found time amidst his parochial duties to tend his plot of land behind the church. Not only was he interested in the fruits and vegetables, but he also kept hens and pigs. Many parishioners remember the boys going from school during their dinnertime, or before school, to help Father Henry tend his livestock. He also specialized in pigeons and bred many champions, his best flying as far away as Nantes and Marennes.”

“Not only was he interested in pigeons, hens and poultry, but he was quite an expert on bees and spent much of his free time wandering the lanes of the village, studying the flowers and the bees. On one of these walks, apparently, he met some holidaymakers, a man and his wife from Scotland. They were not Catholics but a long lasting friendship grew from this meeting. The man, it seems, was the manager of the John Brown Shipyard in Glasgow and when the “Queen Mary” was launched in 1934 he sent a Rolls Royce for Fr. Wilcock so that he could attend the ceremony and bless the ship.”



Photo courtesy of Bernard Hayes, Lancashire

**“PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF
FATHER HENRY WILCOCK
WHO DIED 22 DEC 1936
AGED 75
HAVING SERVED THIS MISSION
40 YEARS
R.I.P”**

REFERENCES:

1) Wilcox Letters – Robert Michael Wilcox (RMW) and wife Eva . “Letters” refers to communication between RMW and the UK kin. Anecdotes are from the memory of RMW.

a) Letter to RMW from Mrs. A. Grimbaldeston, wife of Thomas who was a nephew of Alice Billington.

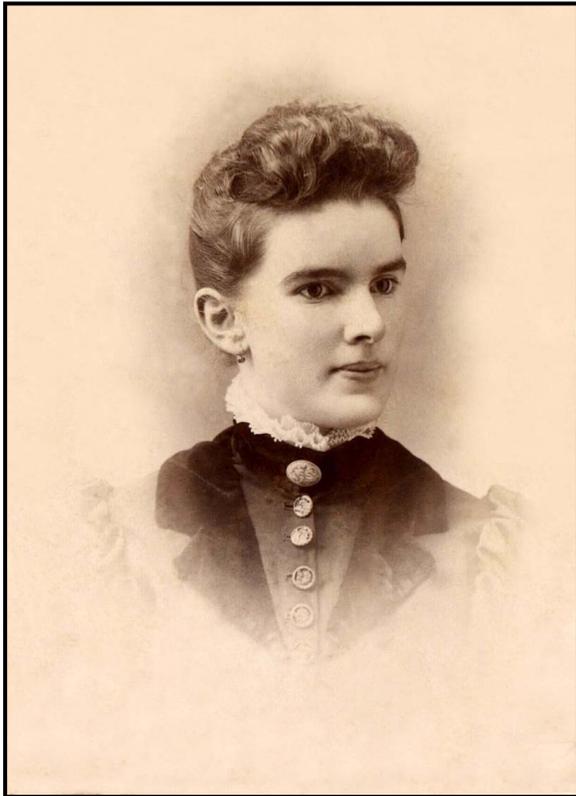
b) Letter to RMW from Margaret Tyrer, a remote cousin in the Mortimer line, and still in contact today.

Family line is: Nathan Mortimer -> Richard Mortimer -> Anne (Taylor) -> M.Tyrer

2) Photos of Henry are courtesy of Denise Fischer, Moore family contact and family historian in Santa Clara, California.

3) Terrence Irving, Lancashire, was the source of the photocopies of the obituaries, which were published in the Lancaster Guardian, December 1936.

Moore



Mary Alice (Wilcock) Moore. London, Ontario, circa 1885-1890

Joseph Austin Moore married Mary Alice Wilcock at St. Mary's, Euxton, Lancashire, on 14 April 1885 and on 16 April they boarded the ship Sarmatian for Canada. Mary Alice was the sister of Michael and one of the four siblings that made off to Canada in the 1880's.

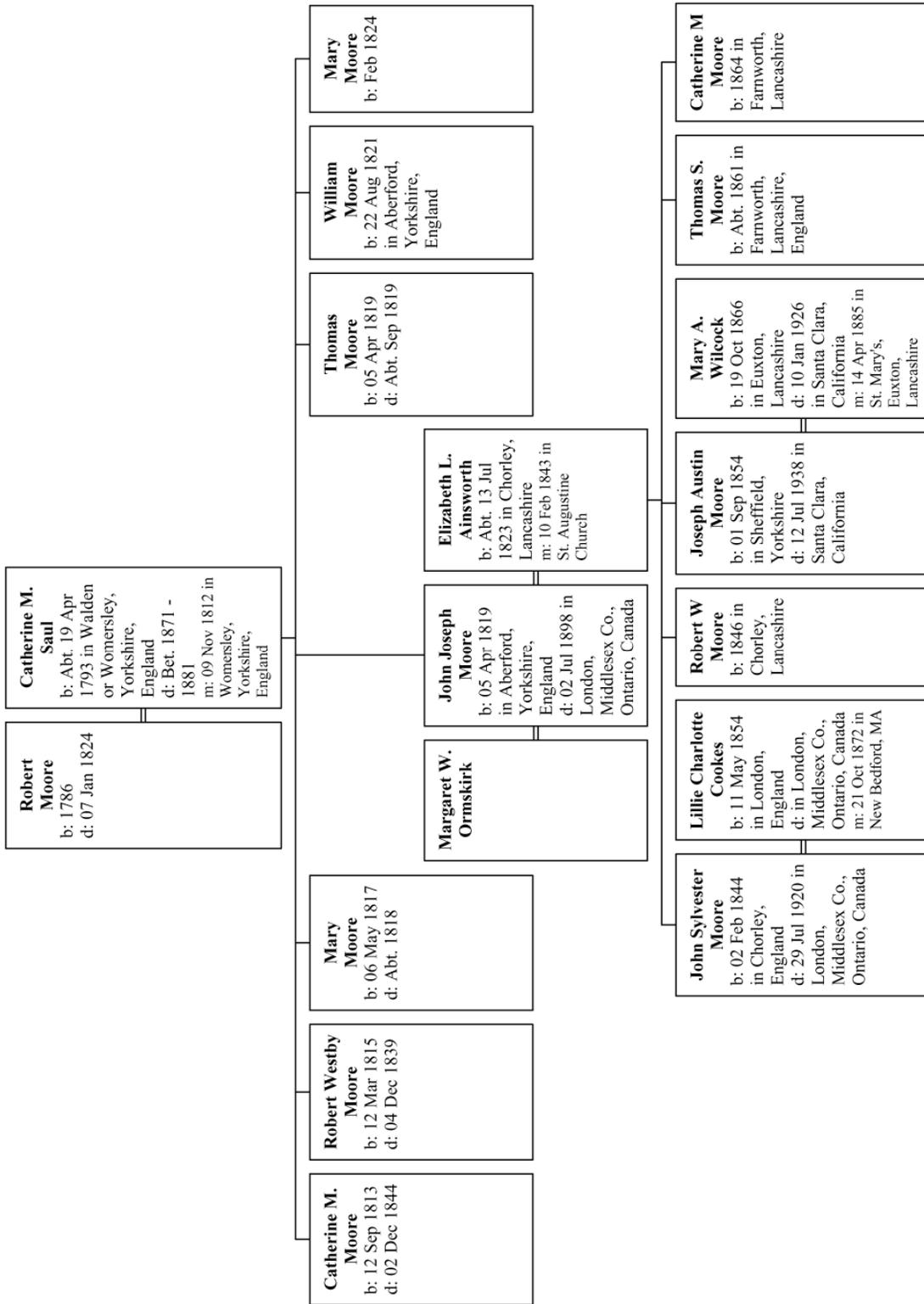
The Moore family had been in the copper, iron and tin plate business over a number of generations. The early generation of Moore's started in Yorkshire then moved south a bit into Lancashire. "Family legend has it that the old family name was Shuttleworth, which was carried by a young lad who was displaced during the troublesome years of religious strife centuries ago. Being Catholic, according to the legend, the lad was adopted by a loving Irish family by the name of Moore who gave him their family name and sheltered him through the years of turmoil."³

A curious note in the St. Mary's marriage register⁴ lists Joseph's address as London, Ontario. There is no record of him having been to Canada then returning to England to get married, although this is not impossible. However, according to information in a family bible¹ his

father, John Joseph, and a much older brother, John Sylvester, had moved to the eastern US in the 1870's and later, by 1883, moved to Ontario. Family memory¹ has it that Joseph, Mary and parents all migrated together to Ontario although there are no supporting records for this. The family was already in Ontario by 1885 when Joseph Austin arrived in Halifax with his new bride. John Sylvester was in the Meter Manufacturing business in Ontario. We don't know what Joseph Austin was doing, presumably something to do with tin plating.

There may have been some family realignment when various members moved to the U.S., if the 1881 England census can be taken at face value. Joseph was in England at that time but his father John Joseph is not listed so it is possible he did head to the U.S. with the older son. Joseph's mother appeared to stay behind and is now listed as the wife of his uncle Robert. Joseph's father did die in Ontario in 1898 but no record has been found for his mother's death (in Ontario). This might simply be due to one of those genealogy gremlins. Moore seems to be a complicated name to spell as the Ontario records use names like Moone and Marre. The photo of John Joseph¹, next page, is inscribed "In Affectionate Remembrance Mr. J Moore to Miss Alice Wilcox" and is believed to have been taken in England about 1885, before her marriage.

Descendants of Robert Moore

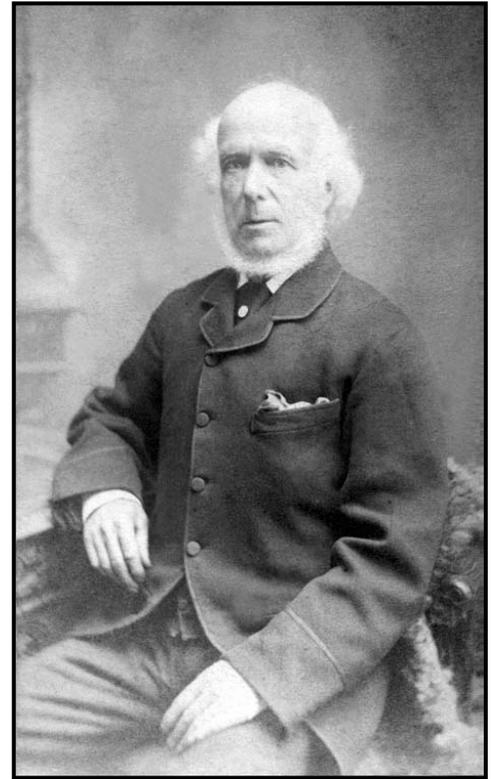


Maybe John returned to England for the wedding? The transcribing of the inscription is a little suspect as the name should be Wilcock, not Wilcox.

The Moores settled near London, Ontario, as did Mary's brother Thomas Wilcock. Thomas immigrated in (most likely) 1884 and took up farming near London. No doubt there were 'family' gatherings, perhaps even with brother Michael Wilcock and his wife Alice. Michael immigrated in 1884 however we believe he was in the Welland canal area as a laborer. Joseph's first child was born in Ontario (recorded as a "Marre") but soon thereafter (1888-1891) they headed west to B.C. They may well have traveled about the same time Mary's brother Michael was heading west (1888), attracted by the ease of transport with the new railroad. The next six Moore children were born in the Ladner/Haney area of B.C., the same general area where Michael settled.

Joseph, although a tinsmith by trade, spent most of his life as a merchant. In Ladner B.C. he owned and operated the Delta Tin and Copper Works and was a retail dealer of general merchandise. By 1904 they had moved to California, where their last two children were born.

There he operated a grocery in Oakland and two different groceries in Alameda². The chapter on Father Henry has a picture of Mary Alice Moore and her sister-in-law Alice (Billington) on a visit to England, 1924. Shortly thereafter, in 1926, Mary Alice died at the age of 59 as a result of a complicated heart problem; relatively young but what seemed typical of the rest of her Wilcock siblings. Her husband Joseph Austin died in 1938 at 83 years of age.

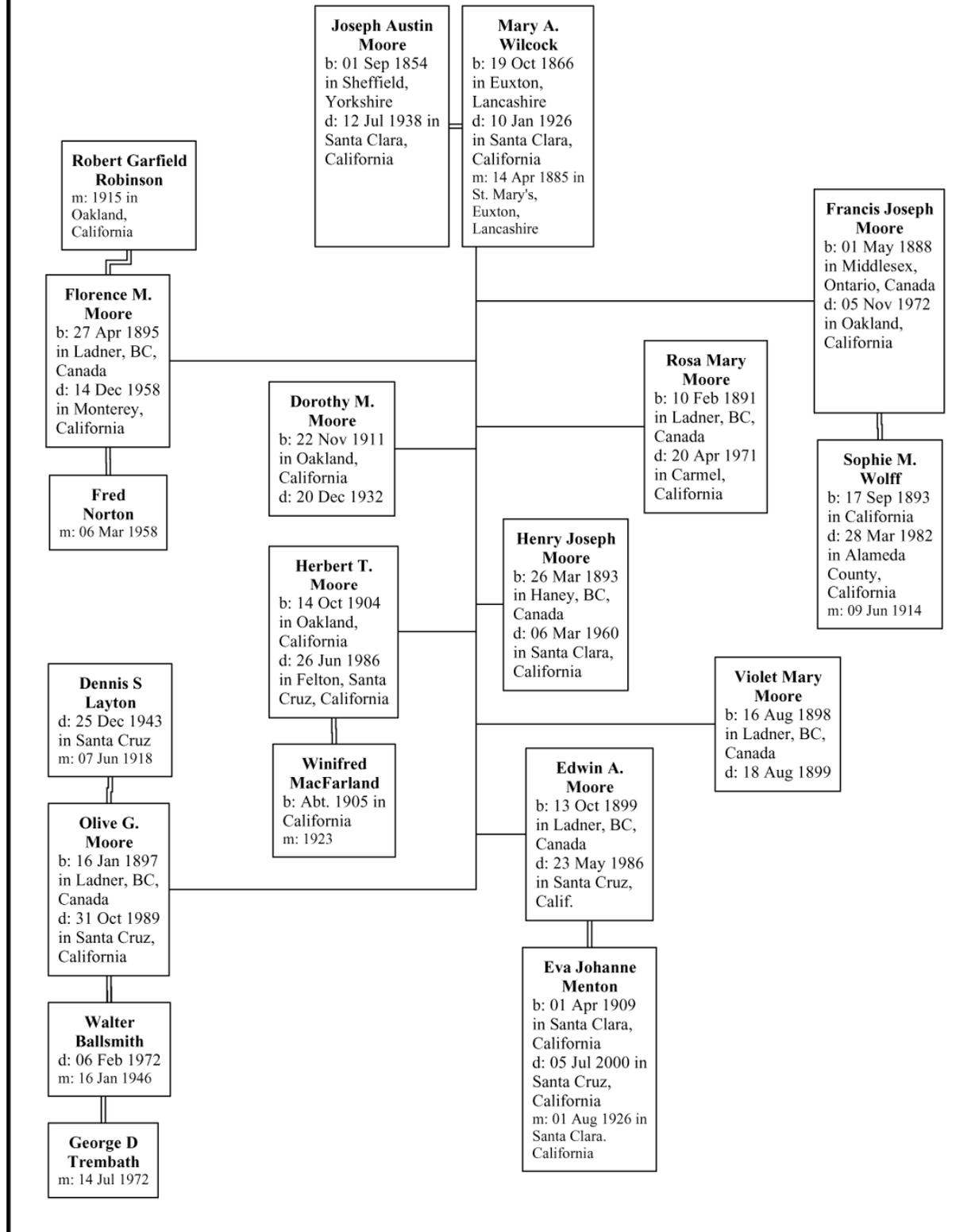


John Joseph Moore, circa 1885, likely Euxton, Lancashire.



Joseph Austin Moore Family, about 1900, New Westminster, B.C.

Descendants of Joseph Austin Moore



Ontario Births, 1869-1907

Ontario Deaths, 1869-1932

Name:	Francis Marre	Name:	John Joseph Moore
Date of Birth:	1 May 1888	Death Date:	2 Jul 1898
Gender:	Male	Death Location:	Middlesex
Birth County:	Middlesex	Gender:	Male
Father's name:	Joseph A Marre	Estimated birth year:	abt 1819
Mother's name:	Mary A Wilcock	Birth Location:	Yks;Eng
Roll Number:	MS929_88	Source Citation:	Roll: MS935_87.

A transcription of St Mary's Marriage Register for the period 1849 to 1935:

Date Married	Groom Forename	Groom Surname	Of	Groom's Father	Groom's Mother	
14/4/1885	JOSEPH A	MOORE	London, Ontario	John		
Bride Forename	Bride Surname	Of	Bride's Father	Bride's Mother	Witness	Witness
MARY ALICE	WILCOCK		Thomas		Thomas Wilcock jnr	Margaret Houghton

Canadian Immigrant Records, Part One

Name:	Mary A. MOORE Joseph A. MOORE
Year of Record:	1885
Source/Event:	Passenger List: Port of Halifax
Comments:	Arrived on the 'Sarmatian'
Age:	19 , 29
Reference:	National Archives of Canada: Microfilm Reel No. C-4512 page 3

The Sarmation departed Liverpool 16 April 1885 and arrived Quebec City, 30 April 1885, after stops in Ireland and Halifax.

References

1) Denise Fischer – a Moore by marriage in Santa Clara, California. She has copies of key pages of a family bible, which is now missing. It was believed the bible had been given to Mary Alice Wilcock as a gift from her future father-in-law at the time of her marriage. All photos in this chapter are from Denise's archive.

2) Eva and Edwin Moore - in 1973 they assembled a complete family tree of the Moore's in California. Ed and Eva are grandparents-in-law of Denise¹, and a source for much of the family memory. Denise lives (2007) in the house Ed and Eva built in 1947.

3) An extensive article on the Moore family appeared in "The Santa Clara American, October 28, 1987", written by Edwin J. Moore and Austen Warburton.

4) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton, has put on-line their birth-marriage-death records.

<http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/>

Ontario - Wilcox and Collier

All the family that left England in the 1880's wound up, at least initially, around London Ontario (Middlesex County). Michael and Alice arrived in 1884 and moved on to B.C. in 1888. Mary Alice and Joseph Moore arrived in 1885 and moved on to the B.C. sometime after 1888, and subsequently on to California. Prior to 1884 Joseph Moore's brother and father were in Ontario and they stayed on in Ontario. The third son of the Lancashire Wilcocks, Thomas, moved to Ontario, possibly in 1884 (the same year as Michael and Alice), settled in Middlesex County, stayed put and, became Wilcox rather than Wilcock.

And there is yet one more family, the Colliers, who arrived in Ontario about 1887. John Adam Collier was a son from the first marriage of Ann Mortimer and was thus a half-brother to all the Wilcock that came to Canada. In Lancashire he lived with his mother and was thus close to the Wilcocks.

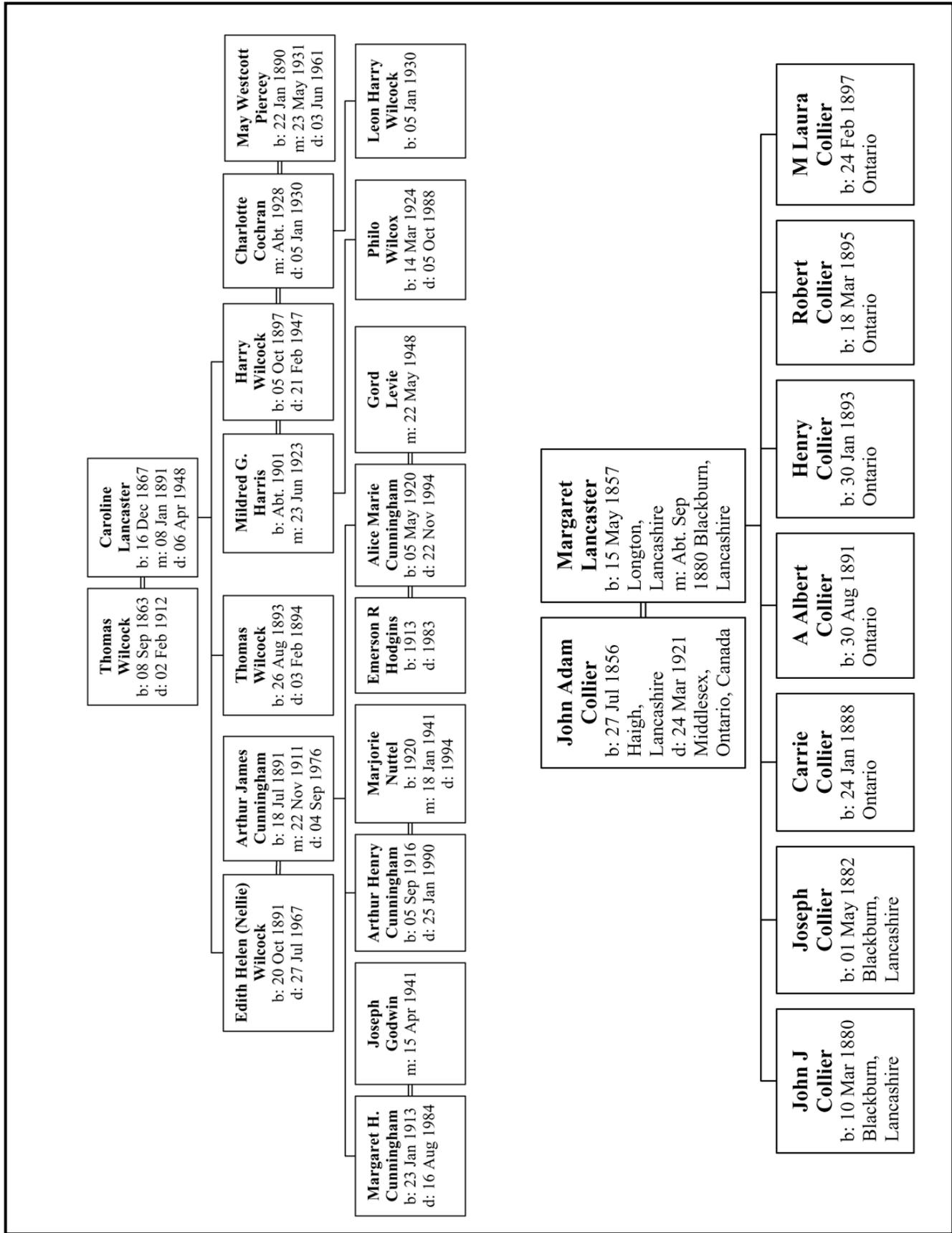
Both these families farmed in Westminster Township, Thomas in Belmont/Derwent villages and John Collier in Nilestown village. Their descendents are in that area to this day. And if you really want to locate the farms, Thomas was on Lot 15, Concession 3 and John was on Lot 15 Concession 1.

The census records can be quite inconsistent on immigration dates, birth dates and the like, which is the case here. So, with a bit of educated guesswork, the family movements might be as follows: assuming Michael left England in a bit of a rush (see chapter on Michael and Alice) and Alice followed 4 months later, than it is likely that Thomas accompanied Alice and her two small children. The general family rumour was England became hot due to a poaching offence, at one time a hanging crime, and still a serious offense in 1880. One family member³ thought that Thomas was also caught up in it and left for the same reason. Colliers arrived in 1887, most likely with a young sister-in-law in tow. John Collier's wife was Margaret Lancaster and her younger sister Caroline likely came to Canada with them in 1887 (in agreement with at least one census). In 1891 Caroline married Thomas Wilcox so perhaps this was all part of an original plan.

Nathan Thomas Wilcox

The baptism record at St Mary's, Euxton¹, gives the first name as Nathan. That seems to be the first and last time the name Nathan was used, as it never again appears in any record. When Thomas married Caroline in 1891 he was listed as a labourer so presumably he was still working toward getting his own farm. John Collier was a witness at the wedding. New information⁵ [Rel 4] shows Thomas actually went to B.C. with his brother Michael in 1888 and took up an adjacent property. He returned to marry Caroline and then changed his mind, or had it changed, about farming in B.C. Ontario certainly had better farm land!

This family had only three children, unusual for the day, and one of them died young. It is curious that the only child to show up on the Ontario Birth registry is the one that died. Of the survivors, Edith (Nellie) married a Cunningham and had three children, from which there are many descendants in Ontario today.





Thomas, Nellie, Harry and Caroline Wilcox, about 1910, Ontario



Nellie with husband Arthur Cunningham and son Arthur (on left), 1930's

Their son Harry married three times and had two sons (different mothers). Updated information⁵ [Rel 4] indicates Harry moved to the US in 1920, residing in Michigan then Ohio. Harry died relatively young while shoveling snow² and as far as we know the family line ends with the two sons. Thomas also died young, in 1912, age 49, of “valvular heart disease”.

John Adam Collier

John married Margaret Lancaster (cotton weaving trade) in Lancashire and their two oldest were born there. Based on the 1901 census at least another five children were born in Ontario and their descendents are still there today. John had one brother, James, who stayed in Lancashire. In what appears to be a trend, John died at age 65 of heart failure.

DEATHS

183

County of Middlesex

Division of London Sp.

	No. 21.	No. 22.	No. 23
Surname of Deceased	Ardul ✓	Collier ✓	Hill ✓
Full given Name	Selma L.	John A.	Edna May
Place of Death, street and number or <small>If in a Hospital or Institution give name</small>	Lot 5 Con & London Sp.		Broughdale
(a) Sex, (b) Racial Origin, (c) Single, Married, Widowed	a. F. b. English	a. M. b. English	a. F. b. English
Age	65 yrs. 18 yrs. 18 yrs.	65 yrs. 20 yrs.	5 yrs.
(c) Place of Birth (d) Date of Birth	London Sp. July 22	England July 22	Broughdale March 2/0
Trade or Occupation	Widow	Farmer	
Kind of Industry			
Date from which to which employed	from | to	from | to	from | to
Trade or Occupation		Farmer	
Kind of Industry	022093	022094	022095
Date from which to which employed	from | to	from | to	from | to
Length of Residence	at place of death | in Ontario | in Canada	4 years at place of death | 20 years in Ontario | in Canada	5 days at place of death | in Ontario | in Canada
Name of Father	Morris Robert	Collier Adam	Hill Harold Sidney
Birthplace of Father	England	England	Worcester England
Maiden Name of Mother	Konmacoth Grace	Martimer Ann	Wells Alice
Birthplace of Mother	England	England	Birmingham Eng.
Name of Informant	Ardul John W.	Collier Margaret	Hill Harold Sidney
Address	Lot 5 Con & London Sp.	Lot 1 Con, London Sp.	588 Hill St
Relation to Deceased	Son	Wife	Father
Place of Burial	Silvam	London	Woodland
Date of Burial	March 11 th. 1921	March 28 th 1921	March 26 th 1921
Name of Undertaker	Logan, Geo E.	Stillingworth E.	Griffiths A. J.
Address	London, Ont	London, Ont	London, Ont.
Cause of Death if no Physician attended			Convulsion
Date of Death	March 9 th 1921.	March 24 th 1921	March 25 th 1921.
	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Name of Deceased	Selma L. Ardul	Collier John A.	Hill Edna May
Date of Death	March 9 th 1921	March 24 th 1921	March 25 th 1921
Dates from which to which Medical Practitioner Attended Deceased	from | to March 8 th 6 years	from | to C	from | to
CAUSE OF DEATH	Primary: Cancer	Primary: Aegina Pectoris	
Duration	yr. | mo. | dy.	yr. | mo. | dy.	yr. | mo. | dy.
Contributory		Heart failure	
Duration	yr. | mo. | dy.	yr. | mo. | dy.	yr. | mo. | dy.
(c) Did an operation precede death? (d) Was there an autopsy?	a. No | b. No	a. No | b. No	a. | b.
Name of Physician	Stevenson W. J.	Sweeney P. J.	
Address	London, Ont.	London, Ont	
Date of Report		March 26 th 1921	
Date received by Division Registrar	March 19 th. 1921.	March 29 th 1921.	March 31 st. 1921.

I certify that the foregoing are correct registrations of deaths made to me during the month of March 1921.

Mary Grant D.R.

Address 110 Dundas St. London, Ont.



This photo, believed to be about 1911, is labeled on the back as Alice Billington (on left) visiting “cousins” in Ontario. The word cousin was often used rather loosely and so these are likely the Ontario Wilcox. The woman in the middle is probably Caroline Lancaster (based on appearance) with her older sister Margaret on the right.

[Rel2] – The woman on the right has now been identified⁴ as Annelena Helena Billington, a first cousin of Alice.

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the usual U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com), the General Register Office (London) for birth, marriage and death records and similar record bases in Canada.

- 1) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many family members were baptized, married and buried at this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm
- 2) Thomas J Wilcox – his notes provided much of the data on the Ontario relations. All photos in this chapter likely came from Thomas as they were in the collection held by his son Robert.
- 3) Doris Wilcox – wife of Joe Wilcox, who was son of Thomas J Wilcox (a nephew of the Thomas in this chapter).
- 4) Billington descendent Susan Lim was able to identify Annalena Billington.
- 5) William Cunningham – descendant of Nathan Thomas Wilcox. His recent research has provide much detail on his branch of the family.

Billington



A maternal line comes in at each level of the Wilcock tree. At the 'known' top there is Alice Snape, about whom we know nothing. At the next level down Ann Mortimer marries Thomas Wilcock (b1811). Next level down Alice Billington marries Michael Wilcock (b1859) and that Billington line is the topic of this chapter. Being a bit closer in time we should know more detail on this family than, say the Mortimers, as Alice Billington and son Thomas J did capture quite a few notes on the family¹. However Alice captured nothing earlier than her grandparents on the Billington side or the (maternal) Cowley side. The notes of Thomas J and Alice had the Cowley family pretty well mapped, leading one to infer Alice felt closer to them than the Billingtons. Alice's one sister married a Grimbaldeston and that family is covered here as well.

Alice Billington, April 1915⁴



- Family Locations**
- Croston (Cowley)
 - Thurnham (green arrow, Billington,)
 - Garstang (Charnley)
 - Mawdesley (Wrights, near Croston)

Maps are Copyright Google

Descendants of Charles Billington

**Anne
Clarkson
Billington**
b: 1791
Wighton,
Lancashire,
England
d: 28 Apr 1868
Euxton, Chorley,
Lancashire

**Charles
Billington**
b: 1791
Wighton,
Lancashire,
England
d: 28 Apr 1868
Euxton, Chorley,
Lancashire

**Mary
Billington**
b: 1823
Thurnam,
Lancashire
d: 16 Jan 1904
Charnock
Richard,
Lancashire

**Richard
Tyrer**
b: 1831
Ulneswalton,
Lancashire
m: 1854
Chorley,
Lancashire
d: Jun 1880
Ulneswalton,
Lancashire

**Ellen (Tyrer)
Billington**
b: 16 Jul 1825
Thurnam,
Lancashire
d: Aft. 1871

**Elizabeth
Cowley**
b: 1827 Croston,
Lancashire
m: 13 Jul 1854
St. Andrews
Chapel, Leyland
d: Bet. 1858 -
1861

**John R
Billington**
b: 30 Sep 1827
Thurnam,
Lancashire,
England
d: 11 Jun 1906
Garstang,
Lancashire

**Elizabeth
Rutter**
b: Abt. 1822
Charnock
Richard,
Lancashire
m: Abt. Feb
1868 Chorley,
Lancashire
d: Abt. May
1881 Chorley,
Lancashire

**Alice
Ibiston**
b: Abt. 1829
Ellet, Lancashire
m: Abt. Nov
1884 Chorley,
Lancashire
d: Abt. May
1906 Garstang,
Lancashire

**Elizabeth
Billington**
b: 04 Jun 1829
Thurnham
Parish,
Lancashire
d: Abt. 1853
Kirkham,
Preston

**Catherine
Scaife**
b: 13 Aug 1835
Stonegrave,
Yorkshire,
England
m: 1857
Birkenhead,
Wirral, England
d: 03 Jul 1867
Port Maitland,
Ontario, Canada

**William
Billington**
b: 19 Jan 1834
Thurnham
Parish,
Lancashire
d: 09 Feb 1911
Dunnville,
Ontario, Canada

**Robert
Barrow**
b: 1819 Bartle,
Lancashire
m: 1851 Chorley
d: 21 Feb 1899
Charnock
Richard,
Lancashire

**Ann
Billington**
b: 1856 Leyland,
Lancashire
d: 1861 Preston,
Lancashire

**Mary A.
Billington**
b: Mar 1856
Euxton,
Lancashire
d: 28 Jun 1913
Preston,
Lancashire

**John
Grimbaldeston**
b: Abt. 1857
Mawdesley,
Lancashire
m: Jun 1879
Chorley,
Lancashire
d: 28 Jun 1913
Preston,
Lancashire

**Alice M.
Billington**
b: 22 Apr 1858
Euxton,
Lancashire
d: 03 Jan 1947
Victoria, BC,
Canada

**Michael
Wilcox**
b: 17 Aug 1859
Euxton, Chorley,
Lancashire
m: 21 Jun 1880
St. Andrews
Chapel, Leyland,
Lancashire
d: 24 Mar 1920
Websters
Corners, B.C.,
Canada

**Richard
Billington**
b: 1859 Leyland,
Lancashire
d: 1861 Preston,
Lancashire

**Annie
Bain**
b: 1829 Scotland
m: 1891 Ontario
d: 11 Feb 1917
Dunnville,
Ontario, Canada

Charles Billington

The Billingtons were farmers in and about Euxton, where the Wilcock were also concentrated. In the first release of this book the earliest name we knew was Charles (b1791). We are not quite sure where Charles was born; one census has Hughton, another has Wighton, neither of which could be located on a map today. [Rel2] Charles had three daughters and two sons that we know about, all born in Thurnam, in the northern part of Lancashire (green arrow on map), so possibly that is also where “Wighton” is or was. At some point they moved south as in 1841 and 1851 Charles was farming 34 acres at Runshaw Moor, near Euxton. By 1861 Charles, likely semi-retired, is living with his son John, who is now also farming 76 acres at Runshaw Moor. The spread out locations for the various family connections indicate a bit more mobility than was usual for the day. In the first book release the son William (b1834) went missing. He showed up on one census as a 5 year old, and then disappeared from the census records so it was assumed he died young. Not the case, as he left for North America in 1858 and wound up in the Port Maitland area of Ontario, which just happened to be the destination of the Wilcock’s (next chapter). The Billington tree has been extensively mapped by descendants⁵ of this William.

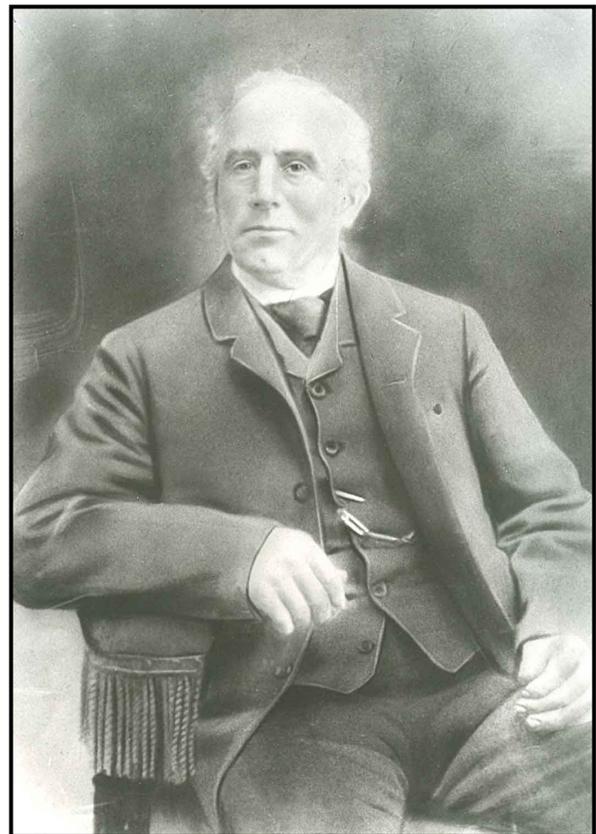
John Billington

John is not with father Charles on the 1841 census (he would have been 13 years old), although there is the 5-year-old William. John Billington was a fairly common name in Lancashire so tracking his whereabouts was not feasible, although one 13-year-old John does show up with a Hall family near the same area he was born. It appears that John farmed on Runshaw Moor most of his life, or at least up to the 1881 census.

To quote from one of the Alice/Thomas J notes¹, "John Billington had been married three times and (daughter) Alice talked of living with a very strict stepmother". John must have “got around” as the wives seemed to come from scattered locations.

#1 - John married Elizabeth Cowley in 1854. They had two daughters, Mary and Alice. By 1861 Elizabeth had died, most likely in 1858 when Alice was born. The Chorley records³ show three Elizabeth Billingtons died in the right time frame in the same area so we are not sure which the correct one is.

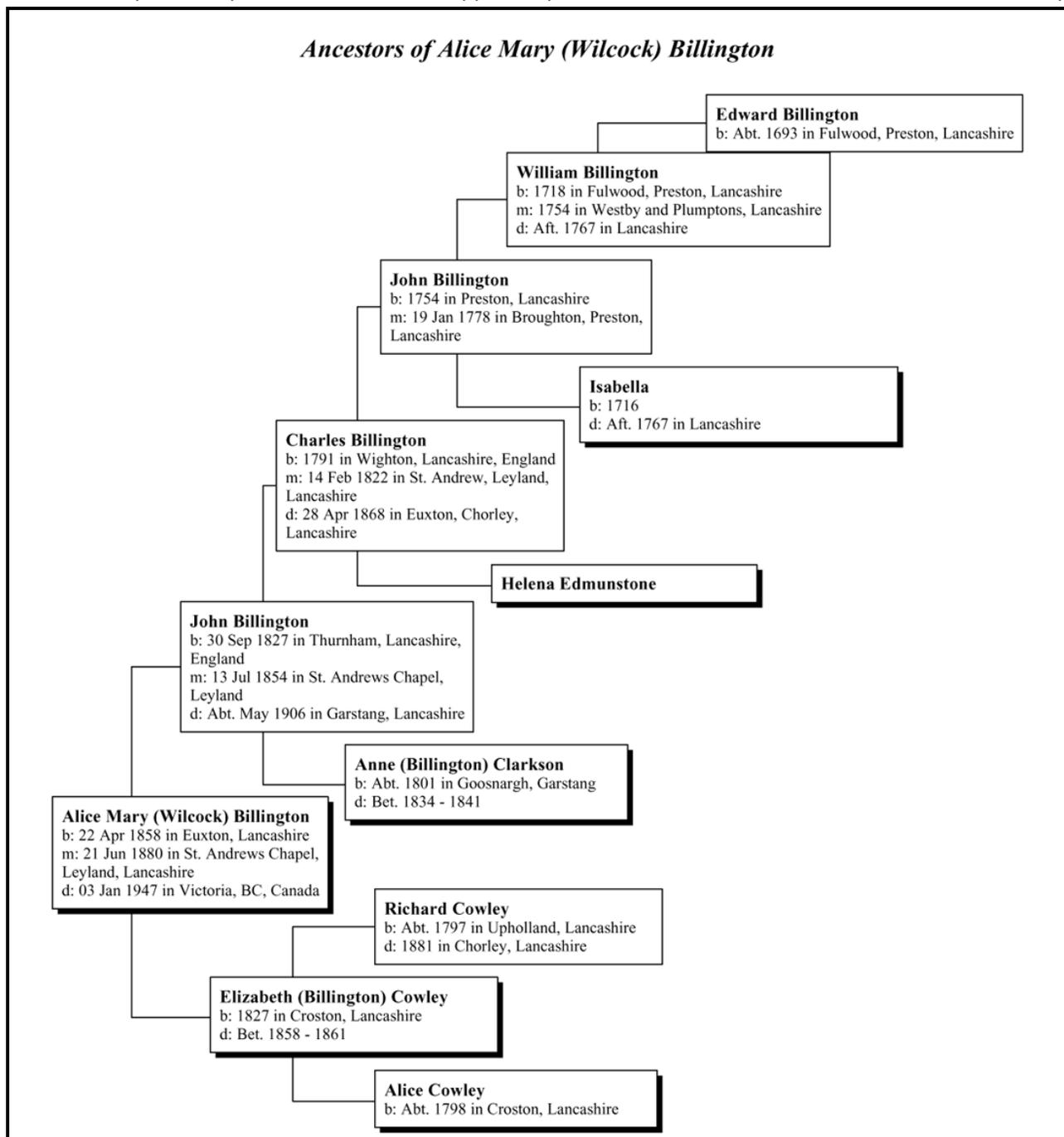
#2 - Based on the census, by 1871 John was married to another Elizabeth, and this was probably the “strict stepmother” referred to by his daughter Alice. A good match can be found in the Chorley marriage records³, from which we get the name Elizabeth Rutter and the marriage date of first quarter 1868. We



John Billington, photo taken from a much larger picture⁴.

don't know too much about this person other than 1851 and 1861 she shows up on the census as working as a servant. There was no sign of any earlier marriage so this may have been the first for the 46 year old. Through the GRO records³, and knowing she likely died before 1891, we found a death record for 1881.

#3 - By 1891 a third wife, Alice, is now on the (census) scene. Browsing the GRO records we find an Alice Charnley married John in 1884. Tracing her past via census records we find she was previously married to John Charnley, a man 20 years her senior. They show up on the 1881 census but not on any previous one. John Charnley shows up on the 1871 census, apparently unmarried at that time, thus this looked like a fairly



short marriage. A GRO death record for John Charnley, Garstang, is dated 1883. An interesting aspect to this latest marriage of John Billington is he may have given up farming at Runshaw Moor about the same time and moved to the location of his new wife in Garstang (Bonds Lane), probably to the farm she was on with her previous husband. Garstang is up north near Thurnham, where John was born and likely where Charles came from so, full circle. In 1891 they were at Bonds Lane and in 1901 they did not appear on the census. From the GRO records both John and Alice died in the second quarter of 1906.

Cowleys

The maternal grandparents of Alice Billington were the Cowleys, a large family of 14 children. The Cowleys were from a farming area on the southern edge of Euxton, so not that far from the Billingtons. The Alice/Thomas J notes had every one named, including spouses. In 1851/61 Richard was listed as farming 26 acres at Banister House and, although such a place can be located today, it does not seem to be near Euxton and so is likely a misleading reference. One curiosity with the family is that 3 of the sisters married 3 brothers of a Wright family; seems they did not stray too far in search of mates. There were a number of dressmakers in the family, which carried through, as Alice Billington was also a dressmaker.

Grimbaldeston

Alice Billington had an older sister, Mary Ann, who married John Grimbaldeston. These two sisters kept in contact over the years and one granddaughter of Mary and John corresponded with Robert Wilcox¹ in 1973. One daughter Anne traveled to Canada, arriving in April 1920, and stayed with Alice and her son Thomas J for a while. [Rel2] Her immigration record noted she came to Canada for work as a dressmaker. In 1923 she emigrated to the U.S. She went to California and stayed with a (indirect) cousin Rose Moore (see chapter on Moores). Subsequently she entered St. Josephs Presentation Academy, Berkeley and became Sister Mary Martha. The 1930 US Census lists her as a Sister but the name is misspelled as Ann Grainbaldeston.

The family tree prepared by R.Wilcox¹ and letters (W.Poulton) refer to a woman named Mary Moon, daughter of Mary Ann, and it is assumed that "Moon" is a married name. No marriage record has been found however the Annie Grimbaldeston immigration record noted her nearest relative was a sister, Mrs. R? Moon. There are numerous Moons in Lancashire and a number of them seem to be connected with various Wilcock².

Closing Notes

In the Wilcock chapter an anecdote by Alice Billington was related^{1a}; “when she was 5 years old she remembers seeing an uncle killed by being crucified on a barn door”. This would be about 1863, give or take a few years to adjust for childhood memory. The only uncle on the Billington side can be accounted for, unless we also consider uncles by marriage. It would seem most of the uncles on the Cowley side can be accounted for. The numerous Cowley uncles by marriage have not been tracked but a few seem to be missing in the 1871 census, so just maybe It might be safer to interpret this anecdote as a mindset rather than hard fact. It could even be a tale from an earlier day when religious disputes were the norm. We don't have much insight into the catholic beliefs of the people discussed in this chapter, but presumably

the environment had something to do with the ferocious devotion of Alice Billington. She had a very uncompromising view on religion and it is hard to say whether her memories as a 5-year old led to that or, the exact opposite. Her strong beliefs and a view that being an RC was continuous battle could lead to creating supporting memories.

Alice married Michael Wilcock in 1880 and a few years later moved to Canada. This part of their life is covered in a separate chapter. As far as we know she made only one trip back to the U.K., probably about 1924 after Michael died. We have one picture from that date with Father Henry and her sister-in-law Mary Moore from California, which could have been taken in England, but then Henry did visit Canada in that general time frame so we can't be sure. The U.K trip must have been memorable as in one letter to RMW^{1b} a Mrs. Thomas Grimbaldeston remembered a visit of 50 years ago (i.e. ~1923). In another letter Marg Tyrer^{1c} relates how her grandmother, who was a Mortimer, treasured an embroidered silk handkerchief gift from Mary Alice Moore when Mary traveled to England.

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com), and the General Register Office (London) for birth, marriage and death records.

1) Wilcox Notes – much of the information in this chapter came from the notes of Alice Billington and/or her son Thomas. Robert Michael Wilcox (RMW), son of Thomas, and Robert's wife Eva added this data, post 1973, based on their visit to relatives in the U.K. in 1973.

a) The Alice anecdote was related by RMW. He was told this story by Alice when he was 8 years old.

b) Letter to RMW from Mrs. A. Grimbaldeston, wife of Thomas who was nephew of Alice Billington.

c) Letter to RMW from Margaret Tyrer, a remote cousin in the Mortimer line. Family line here is:

Nathan Mortimer -> Richard Mortimer -> Anne (Taylor) -> M.Tyrer

2) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many Wilcock are buried in the graveyard of this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm

3) GRO – General Register Office of England. The source for birth, marriage and death records in the U.K.

4) Photos are courtesy of RMW¹.

5) Sue Clifford Tambasco filled in the Billington family tree. Another Billington descendent, Susan Lim, made the connections when she found the Wilcock website.

Michael Wilcock & Alice Billington

Other chapters have covered the Lancashire Wilcock and Billington family lines and this chapter brings them together and follows the journey of Michael and Alice to a new world. Michael Wilcock and Alice Mary Billington married at St Andrew's Chapel, Leyland on 21st June 1880 "according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholics", perhaps the first instance of their penchant for doing things a little different. It would be the norm to get married in their local parish church in Euxton rather than Leyland. It is further curious because St Andrew's chapel was the first RC mission in Leyland, but only lasted from 1845 until 1854 when a church dedicated to St Mary was opened².

See offences relating to falsifying or altering a certificate issuing a false certificate. © Crown copyright

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE Pursuant to the Marriage Act 1949

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.
[Printed by the authority of the Registrar General.]

AB 177187
M. Cert. S.R./R.B.I

Registration District Chorley

1880. Marriage solemnized at St. Andrews Chapel in the District of Chorley in the County of Lancaster

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
	<u>Twenty First</u>	<u>Michael Wilcock</u>	<u>20</u> years	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Farm</u>	<u>Boarded Barn</u>	<u>Thomas Wilcock</u>	<u>Farmer</u>
<u>73</u>	<u>June 18 80</u>	<u>Alice Billington</u>	<u>21</u> years	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Dress Maker</u>	<u>Village Euxton</u>	<u>John Billington</u>	<u>Farmer</u>

Married in the St. Andrews Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholics by Coverture by me, James Proctor Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Michael Wilcock and Alice Billington in the Presence of us, John Gumbaldeston and Mary Ann Gumbaldeston John Goulding Registrar

ted to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody, Cristine Broughton Deputy Superintendent Registrar 22.8.2006 Date

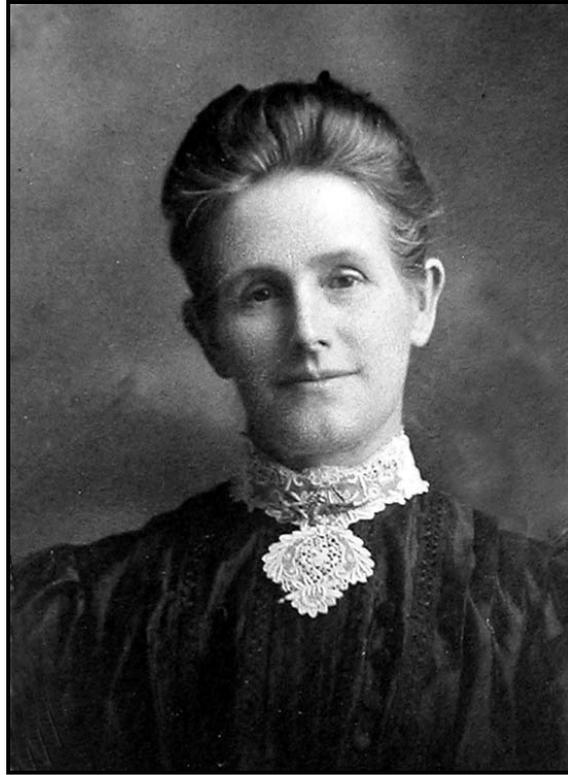
At the time of the 1881 census the couple were living in a cottage (thought³ to have been built in the 1580s) adjacent to the barn at Boarded Barn farm. Michael was listed as an agricultural labourer and she was a dressmaker. At this time the only people on the farm were his parents, siblings Thomas and Mary, and two younger scholars who were from Liverpool.

A note^{1a} by a grandniece indicated they lived in Mawdesley (15 miles, or so, from Euxton) prior to emigrating to Ontario, Canada in 1884. Their sons Thomas and John were baptized in Euxton St Mary's, John in mid 1883 so they were likely in Euxton in 1883. We have no idea why they moved to Mawdesley, though there was possibly family, aunts of Alice, in the area. It could have been just a matter of work, or possibly a safe spot till the ship came in!

This practice of having young non-family scholars about seemed to be quite common but we are not sure why. Perhaps low cost household help? Maybe boarders were a way to earn a few pennies? On the other side of the coin, perhaps parents wanted to ship their kids out of an unhealthy city environment.



Michael Wilcock, about 1880



Alice Billington, 1907

Much of our sense of Michael and Alice comes from Robert Michael Wilcox¹, his sister in-law Doris⁵ and notes from Jill Green⁶, gathered from her mother Ruth. Robert described himself as “the fly on the wall”, listening in while the adults talked. Young ears, absorbing it all, piecing together the adult code, interpreting the innuendo and circumlocutions, and perhaps making up what he couldn’t figure out; the Wilcox family was not noted for talking much about themselves, and certainly not for being forthright on any topic that might be deemed embarrassing or perhaps merely critical. One item of much interest was why they left England. It was a pretty standard tale in the family that Michael was caught poaching and had to leave, although by 1880 it was unlikely that anyone would be hung for poaching. The “fly-on-the-wall” sensed it was a hurried departure and Michael might have had to leave Alice and the two children behind. Alice did leave about 4 months later, with Michael’s brother Thomas, we suspect, who was also thought⁵ to be caught up in poaching. As alluded to above, perhaps the reason for the move to Mawdesley just before emigrating was to get out of Euxton. On the other hand, it could simply have all been planned that way. A story via the Greens⁶ relates Alice wanted to get as far away from her stepmother as possible so they emigrated to Canada.

Canadian Immigrant Records, Part One

Name:	M. WILCOCKS
Year of Record:	1884
Source/Event:	Passenger List: Port of Halifax
Comments:	Arrived on the 'Caspian'
Age:	24
Reference:	National Archives of Canada: Microfilm Reel No. C-4512 page 2

Ontario

It is often difficult to find immigration records but there is one entry for an M. Wilcocks who left Liverpool 6 March 1884 on the Allan Ship Liner Caspian. The right age and the only passenger listed with a line scored through the married column, interpreted as married but wife not with him. Family notes¹ attributed to Alice mention he arrived in Ontario in June and she followed in August, so the time fits fairly well. So far no record has been found of Alice's voyage or her brother-in-law Thomas.

Why Ontario? As good a place as any if going to Canada! There was also the distinct possibility Michael had an initial place to go to. The family will have been acquainted with the Moores, after all Michael's sister did marry one the next year, and some of the Moore family would have been in the London, Ontario region in 1884 (see Moore chapter). [Rel2] Also, Alice's uncle William



Maps are Copyright Google

Billington settled in the Port Maitland area, which is where they eventually went. We don't know if he spent any time in the London area (Middlesex county) as Michael was a labourer and would have to go to, and take on, what he could get. The collection of family notes¹ on this time was a little imprecise. One note says he arrived "Stromness on Conestoga River, or Grand River, near Pt. Maitland on Lake Erie, June 1884". Another note (attributed to Alice) says he worked on the Welland canal. These two notes work together as Pt. Maitland is located on the North shore of Lake Erie at the mouth of the Grand River and not too far from the Welland canal. And there was work to be had as the "third" building phase of the Welland was completed by 1887. In those days there was also a canal connecting the Welland Canal to the Grand River. Another note says he worked for a farmer named Galbraith. We don't have times for any of this – all we can say for sure is they arrived in 1884 and left for B.C. in 1888, probably after the canal work had dried up. One daughter, Mary Ann, was born in 1885 but we can find no Ontario record for the birth. A son Henry was born in 1887, thus in Ontario, and a record for this has recently come to light¹⁰ (birth from the records at St. Michael's Church in Dunnville). The Moores were stand-in godparents for this birth.

Between 1885 and 1888 more family arrived in Ontario (see Moore and Ontario Wilcock chapter) so no doubt there would be visits and the like, but we have no records of any interaction. There were visits between B.C. and Ontario kin after 1900 as we have a photo record of that. Many Wilcock related children

were born in Ontario and whether or not they show up in the Ontario registry seems random. Another one of those Wilcox traits - ignore all things bureaucratic!

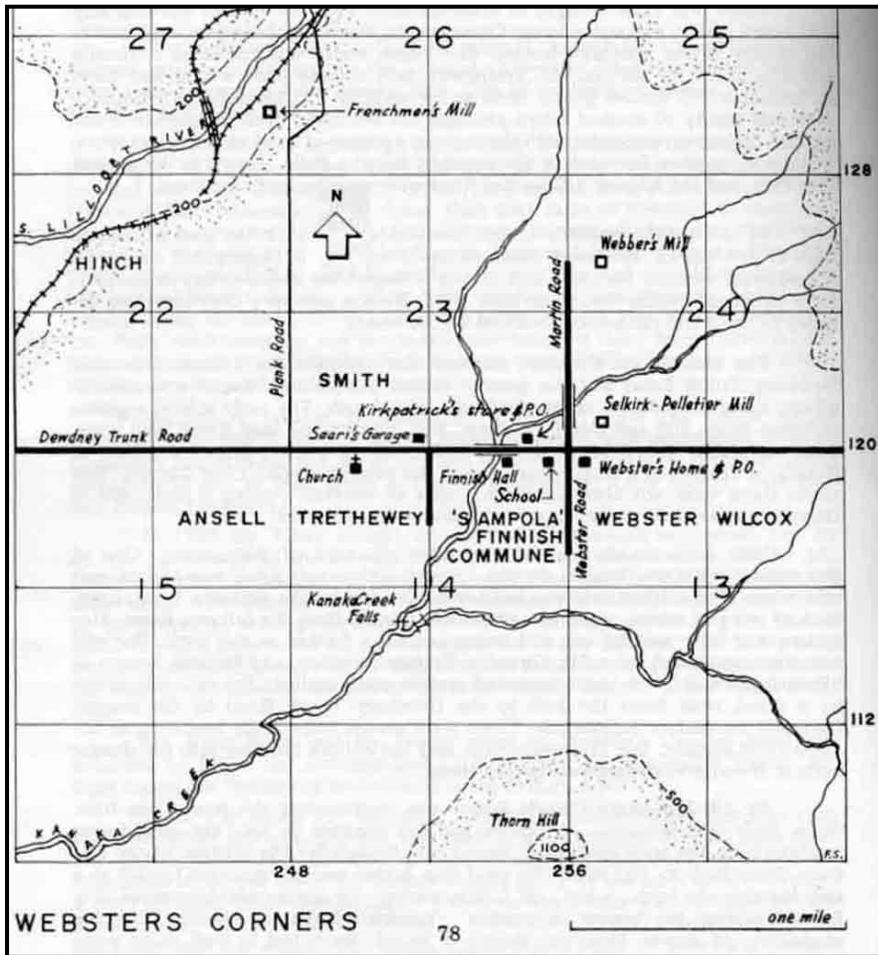
British Columbia

According to family notes they moved to B.C. July 1888 and took up farming in the Haney/Webster's Corners area (Dewdney Riding, New Westminster). At that time the area was heavy west coast forest, enough to break the back of anyone trying to clear the land. Today this area, still known as Maple Ridge, is a suburb of Vancouver. A book published by a Maple Ridge Historical Society⁴ makes occasional mention of Wilcox at Webster's Corners. It covers early pioneer days and shows just how harsh life was for these people. As farmland it might have been okay, but stumbling around in the bog and mosquitoes, trying to clear 5-foot diameter cedar trees, was not for the faint of heart. The earliest settlers in the region arrived only in the 1860s and they generally chose accessible land along the Fraser River⁴. Fort Langley, just across the river, was the closest major settlement and was the source of many of the earliest farmers looking for land. Port Haney and Hammon were the hubs of this development. The first settler in the jungle to the east of Haney was a cantankerous soul named James Murray Webster and for whom that area was named⁴. He arrived in 1882 from Ontario, about 3 years before there was a Port Haney station on the CPR, and was reputed to be a hard one to get along with. The Dewdney Trunk Road was a forest path and the whole was a wilderness area. By 1887 people could get on/off the CPR at Port Haney station.

Michael and family took up a quarter section beside the Webster property. The quarter section of land they farmed was not part of the usual Crown Grant system in B.C., rather it was a Western Land Grant which means, at least in B.C., it was part of the Railway Belt and thus Federal Crown Land. The picture below shows a bit of the country, after there were a few roads. Land was cheap, homesteaders getting their 160 acres for \$1 per acre⁴. Often they could sell the wood they cut clearing the land to the steamships on the Fraser. The land was deeded to Michael in 1904.

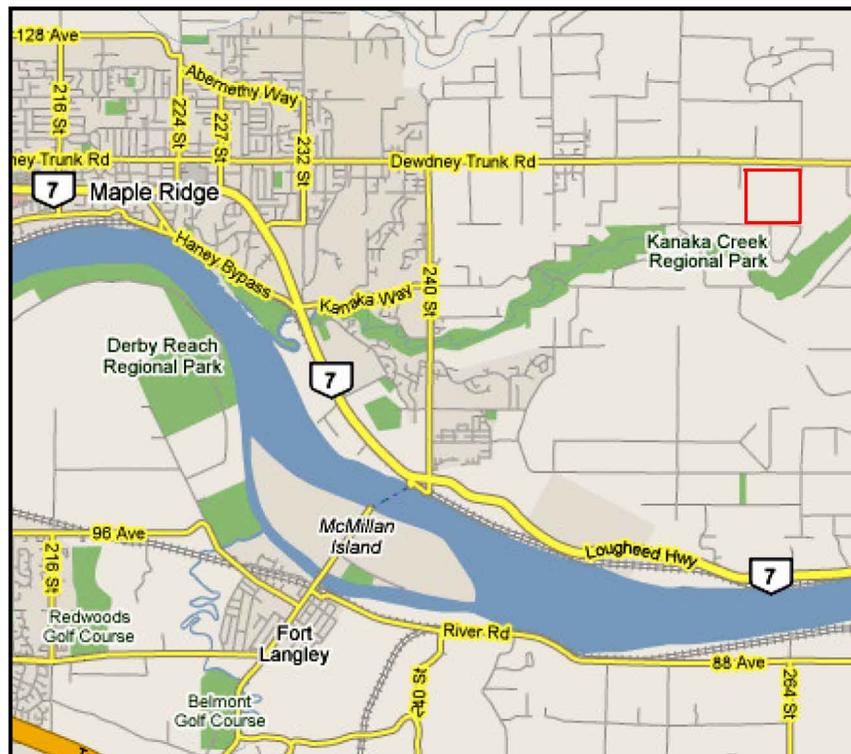
The tenant farmers in England were probably better off, but the lure of 'owning' your own quarter section perhaps made it all worthwhile.

It was told⁶ they had originally planned to settle in the Fraser valley but someone persuaded them to get off at Haney, a decision they probably came to regret. Recent information¹¹ [Rel4] indicates Michael's brother Thomas came to B.C. with him in 1888 and apparently took up adjacent land. Thomas only stayed a year or two then returned to Ontario, was married, and never came back. There are no land grant records in Thomas's name so presumably he just walked away without proving up the property.



The Fraser River is about 3 miles to the south of the Wilcox land.

See reference 4) for copyright



Wilcox quarter section was between current 260'th and 264'th Street, as marked in red.

Map is Copyright Google

Webster's Corners Life

Family memory has it the early years of Michael and Alice were very deprived. All the family tales line up on this point. RMW¹ recalls Alice telling him that in one bad winter they had about \$1.50 to spend, possibly 1894-5, the year of a huge Fraser River flood that caused much destruction. What they couldn't get by barter they did without.

Schooling was a bit erratic for the children. The Maple Ridge book⁴ mentions, *"The children of Webster's Corners first attended the Lillooet School at the Dewdney Trunk Road and the present 232'nd St., walking the several miles to school along deep forest trails piled high with brush . . . The early school registers included . . . Mary, John and Jack Wilcox . . ."*. Presumably the name John was in fact Tom. In another part of the book it mentions *"The Haney School, sometimes called Lillooet . . . opened on the sixth of August, 1888 . . . The first register lists . . . John Wilcox . . ."*. The family would have just arrived in 1888 and it is curious that only John appears in that years school register. One of the family notes⁶ had the statement *"The 5 children had to ride 4 miles [7Km on today's paved roads] to school & back everyday. Once, they were pursued by a mountain lion but managed to get back home safely. The next morning, the horse was found dead in the corral, his neck slashed open."* Subsequent events would conspire to keep the oldest, Tom and Jack, from getting much education, maximum grade 6.

Three more children were born to Michael and Alice in B.C. From family notes¹ the Henry born in Ontario lived only 4 years, to 1891. In these family notes (probably captured by the wife of Thomas J⁹), *"Alice Wilcox wife of Michael had an obsession to have a son named Henry. The second child named Henry lived only a very short time. It appears that while she was carrying this child to be, there was an unfortunate incident of the roof catching fire on the homestead house at Haney, and among the many things done to bring it under control, Mrs. Michael Wilcox was up on the roof with the bucket brigade of just the boys at home at the time and this was felt to be the main contributing cause of bring on the early birth of their premature child. The present Henry has managed to fulfill her need to have a son carrying the name of Henry."*

For a long while it was not clear how to interpret this quote as it refers to a "second" son Henry dying young. The rough sequence would seem to be the 4 year old dying in 1891, the second 'premature' Henry dying before 1892 and the third Henry being born in 1893. As was the pattern, none of these events show up on the B.C. government records. The part about wanting a son named Henry rings very true, as Alice would have been much taken with her brother-in-law, Father Henry. It seems quite reasonable she would like a son with that name, perhaps even with visions of the Priesthood for him. Alas, not to be. This is Harry we are talking about! There are no records of any early burials in the Maple Ridge Cemetery so presumably the two small children were buried somewhere on the farm.

Life went from tough to worse in 1893. The harsh life, calamities, incessant work and worry, finally took its toll on Michael. He "snapped" in October of that year and Alice took him to Essondale⁷ (the psychiatric facility of the day) on October 25. The following is what she wrote on the admission form:

18. Whether the friends of the prisoner, or any of them, if such there be, are able to contribute to the maintenance of the prisoner while in an asylum, and which, if any, of such friends, and how much they, or any of them, can contribute

We live 5 miles in the bush from Port Haney, it is 4 years since Mr. Wilcock took up the land, it is very heavily timbered, there was not a stick cut down, so consequently he has had to work very hard to build up a home, & endure great hardships & privations & we have had a large family, & he has been greatly worried how to get along & pay his way & pay off the store bill. There is a neighbor here that is very ugly & disagreeable to get along with, Mr. Wilcock has worried himself greatly about him, it was meeting with him last Sunday that seemed to upset him. If there is any change in him I shall be very pleased if you will kindly let me know & tell me what you think of him. I am truly yours Mr. Wilcock's Webster's Corner. B. C.

19. The information required by section 11 of this Act.

By way of confirming an earlier point, Alice filled in a question on the form about family size with "5 children living & 2 dead". Staff notes in the documents from Essondale indicated both violent and passive behaviours on Michael's part. The records show he was discharged 18 August 1901 - eight years locked away. Unless Alice paid visits with the children, young Harry would not have seen his father for the first 8 years of his life.

Few of the current families knew anything about this turn of events. The Green notes⁶ contain one sentence about Michael being institutionalized. Doris and Joe Wilcox⁵ were aware of it. The rest were in the dark.

So, 1893, Alice was left on a rudimentary bush farm, isolated, with children aged 12, 10, 8, 4 and 10 months. This, no doubt, is what ended the schooling for Tom and Jack. They would have been conscripted into working the farm and taking on any paying task that could be found. Being a pioneer community there would be help from the neighbours (perhaps not the "disagreeable" Webster), as they were able. Also, the Moore relatives (see Moore chapter) were not too far away in Ladner so they probably pitched in.

One story is related¹ about Tom and Jack trying their hand at fishing (probably when a bit older than 10 and 12), for the cannery at Steveston. They used nets from 2-man boats and on their first trip out they filled the net so full they wound up losing the net. The Maple Ridge book⁴ said much the same "Salmon abounded in the Fraser during the run, when one drift of the net could almost swamp a boat". Doris Wilcox⁵ relates that the older boys got into lumbering at one point, most likely in Haney, though we don't know time and place for sure. She also mentioned that John A worked on the paddle wheeler for a time and quite enjoyed the work. It was largely due to Tom and Jack working that the younger children were able to spend more years in school. As the years went by Thomas seemed to take on much of the responsibility for the family, a role that Alice might have needed and no doubt encouraged.

There was time for a bit of fun as Doris⁵ relates that Jack and Charlie rowed downriver to New Westminster to get a better view of the fire that destroyed the city on 10 September 1898. What they forgot about was the long haul back rowing against the current.

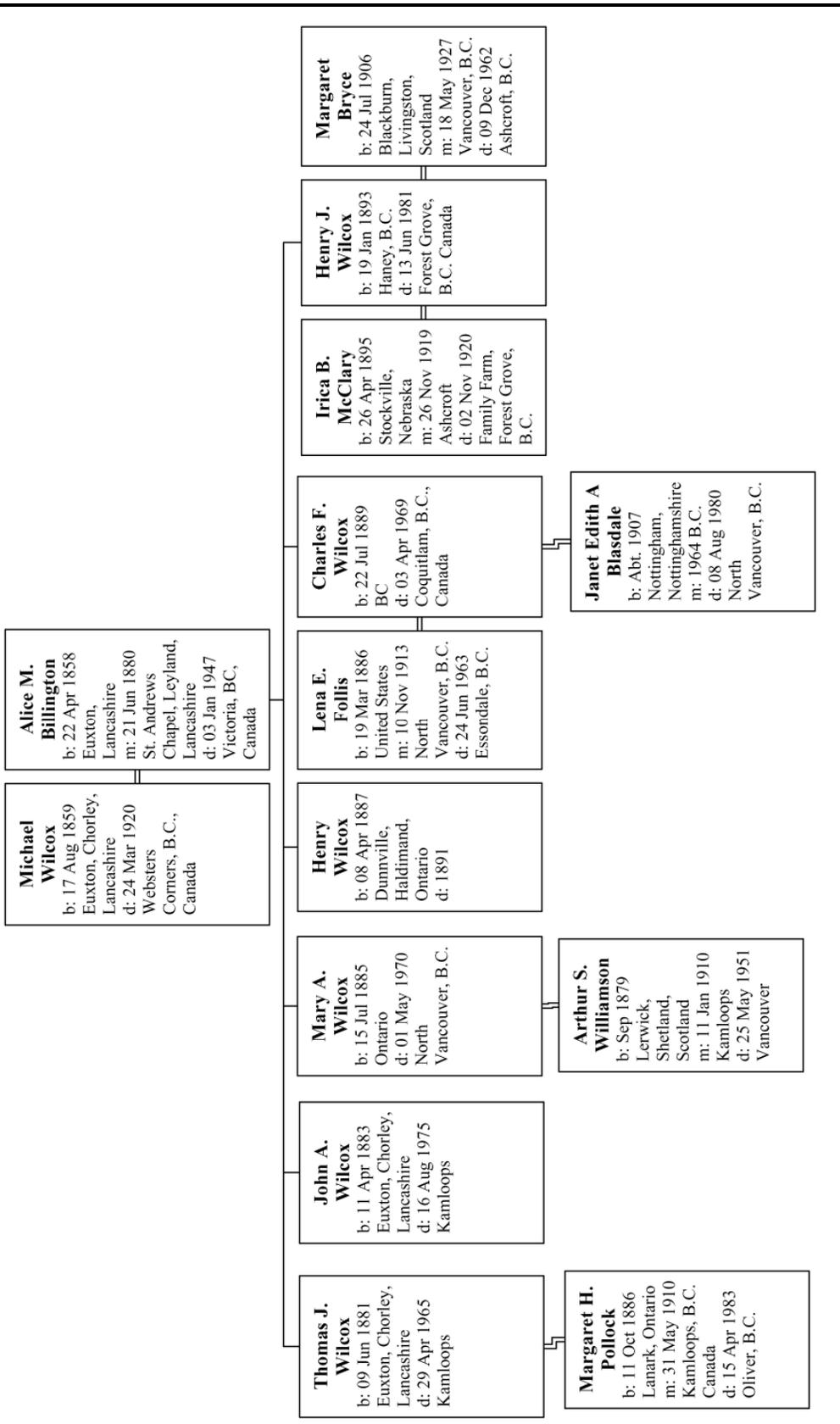


This picture was labeled "Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Haney, 1897"

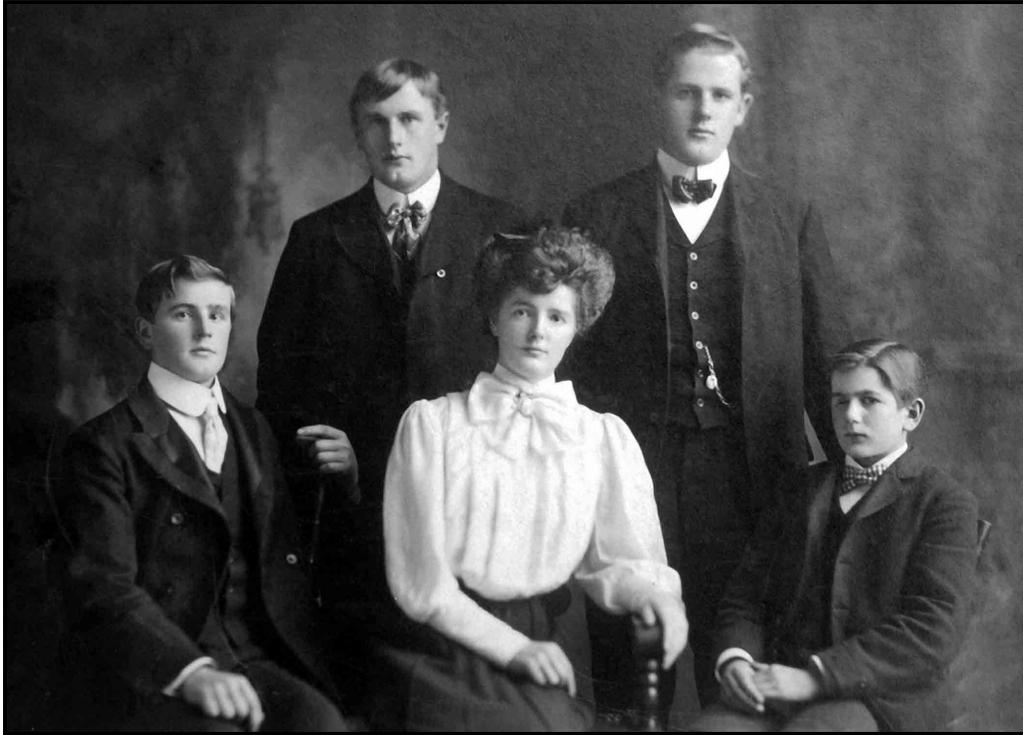
Alice must have put her sewing skills to work, as the family in the above picture seems well dressed. The Jubilee picture was carefully labeled except for Harry, where an ink line ran off the edge to a name that was somehow cut from the picture we have. We assume that line was pointing to Harry as he looks about the right age. There is also a small boy sitting in front of Tom, so who knows? The youngsters look older than their years; Mary is 12 and John 14 at this time but then they were fairly large and strong people. It would also have been about this time that Harry lost his right eye however the picture is not good enough to discern that.

Speaking of which, this is another little family incident that was not much talked about. We were led to believe Harry lost his eye from a piece of wire, or perhaps medical misadventure after damaging it. In his older years Harry never did want much to do with doctors, disparaging them all as quacks. The Williamson⁶ family thought a brother threw a tin can and hit him in the eye. Our fly-on-the-wall¹ picked up a different

Descendants of Michael Wilcox



story on the lost eye. This story goes that Thomas was out to get a hawk that had been raiding the chicken coop and spotted it while looking out the door of the root cellar. He let fly with his shotgun from the cellar just as Harry had the misfortune to walk into the way.



The family of Michael and Alice. From the left: Charles, John, Mary, Thomas and Harry. Well dressed so a more prosperous time, thus likely in Kamloops. Harry looks 12-13 years old, so perhaps 1905. Tom is sporting his railroad watch.

Even after Michael was released, things did not go well with the family. We are not sure of all the issues at play but by 1905 or so Alice had packed up the (younger) set and moved to Kamloops where both Thomas and Jack had found steady work on the railroad. The Green⁶ notes have proven quite accurate and (besides mentioning Alice running a boarding house in Kamloops), they contain one statement by Ruth

“Alice had a fiery temper and once, in a fit of anger, told her husband that the only reason she had married him was to get away from home . . . Years later, she rather sadly told her granddaughter, Ruth, that he was never the same to her again”.

This aligns with another note¹ we have that Alice and stepmother did not get along.

From RMW¹ memory, Thomas joined the CPR about 1904 out of Revelstoke. John joined a few years later, also at Revelstoke, but as train crew, not roaders. Thomas worked his way up and got located to Kamloops about 1907-08 and started building houses in his off time, including a house to bring Alice and the rest of family from Haney. These dates may be a little off as we have pictures of Harry in high school in Kamloops for 1907 and 1908. He could have been there on his own, but more likely Thomas and John were into home building before 1907 and the family, sans Michael, was there as well. There are other family pictures labeled 1907 in Kamloops and they would certainly be well established by 1910, as that year both Mary and Thomas were married in Kamloops.

Alice may well have been on his case about money as the same source⁶ suggests Alice expected Michael to be paid for his work at Essondale and when that didn't happen she decided to leave. "For a while there, he looked after the flowers, in return, he thought, for his pay being sent to his family. However, they did not receive any money and Alice, furious at his lack of support, took the children and left him". The gist of this quote was corroborated by a letter in the Essondale file, written by Michael, regarding what he feels he was owed for his work on the grounds. It is unlikely he would have received any money as, if you look at the portion of the admission form above, the question is about who will or can pay for the patients time in Essondale and Alice's note is to some extent explaining why they can't afford anything. Any payment for work on the grounds would probably go against his cost of upkeep. The letter might be read as a sad attempt on Michael's part at keeping domestic peace. It is also odd in a way, as it says March 16 while the records show he was admitted in October. Perhaps this is just understandable confusion.

New Westminster
 June 11
 Came for labor
 in the Asylum
 and on the grounds
 since March 16th 1893
 at 3 Dollars a day
 to June 10, 1900
 6828 Dollars
 yours truly
 Michael Wilcock

A Mrs. Hawley, another early pioneer in Haney who knew Michael and Alice fairly well, provided another view on all this was. Doris⁵ relates the discussion when she and husband Joe, along with uncle Jack visited Mrs. Hawley when uncle Charlie was buried in 1969. She was of the opinion Michaels incarceration was a travesty and she described him as an extremely hard working, devout and a nondrinker. There was also the opinion that Michael was 'much put upon', nit-picked, criticized etc., and she was not necessarily referring to Alice. She thought this extra strain helped push Michael over the edge. There is no doubt some bias in this secondhand story as, at both levels of telling, an animus to Alice is apparent. The Essondale admission records indicate Michael did indeed go unstable (strait jacket used) and would have been unmanageable for Alice and the children. Mrs. Hawley would appear to be voicing her opinion about the 'why' of it, with a sympathetic echo from Doris.

The Kamloops family (of Thomas J) had always been lead to believe Michael was a drunk^{1,5}. This bothered Joe Wilcox⁵ and he asked Mrs. Hawley about it. She said no way! Charlie and Jack, when asked, said the same thing.

Mrs. Hawley was born Elizabeth Mary Haney (1884-1981), from whom Port Haney was named. There is the tale that Alice thought the Haney daughters would be a good match for her sons. The sons thought otherwise and behaved in a manner to successfully discourage their intentions. Jack and Charlie apparently often visited Elizabeth Hawley⁵.

As far as we know Michael stayed on the farm until his death in 1920. Charles was in the Vancouver area after 1910 so he and daughter Marguerite were likely visitors (see chapter on Charlie). While there are lots of pictures of Alice, the family, weddings, etc., not a single one of Michael taken after 1880 is to be found. The old albums look like they had been "filtered". We also don't know for sure the movements of Alice, or how she supported herself. Up to 1910 or so she was no doubt in Kamloops in a house built by the boys.

Closing Notes

In the 1901 census the family were still Wilcock however by 1911, when most of the family was in Kamloops, they now used the spelling Wilcox. This was the more usual American way to spell the name and we guess it was simply easier to go that route. However they might well have used the Wilcox spelling quite early on. Most of the citations in reference 4) use the Wilcox spelling, such as John registering for school in 1888, the year they arrived. The land map photo included here uses Wilcox, however in the back of reference 4) is a much larger land grant map and it uses Wilcock. In 1900 Michael signed his name Wilcock.

As far as we know Alice made only one trip back to the U.K. to visit relatives, probably about 1924 after Michael died. We have one picture from about that date with Father Henry and her sister-in-law Mary Moore from California, which was probably taken in England, but then Henry did visit Canada in that general time frame so we can't be sure.

What became of the Haney farm? Charlie's daughter Marguerite (see the chapter on Charlie) implied that Charlie rebuilt the house and tore down the barn after Michael died. He wasn't into farming so this was likely to fix it up for sale or perhaps fix it up so Alice could live there. She may well have done so. The sale would have provided her with a bit of money to live on.

In 2008 the Haney quarter section shows not much sign of development in 100 years. A few homes line the sides where there are roads, perhaps a small horse farm, a few greenhouses, and that is about it. The south (abutting the park) and central parts remain a cedar jungle. A stream cuts across the southeast corner, as shown in the 2008 photo below, and indicates what Michael and Alice had to deal with. Somewhere on this property there are probably two small graves.





Michael and Alice Headstone, Maple Ridge Cemetery. Sons Charlie and Jack are buried in adjacent (unmarked) plots.

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the usual U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com), the General Register Office (London) for birth, marriage and death records and similar record bases in Canada.

1) Wilcox Notes – some of the information in this chapter came from the notes of Alice Billington and/or her son Thomas J. Thomas's son Robert Michael Wilcox (RMW) retained these records. Some of the anecdotal information is attributed to the keen memory and imagination of RMW. References to "Letters" refer to communication between RMW and the UK kin, when Robert and Eva met many family members during a 1973 visit.

a) Letter to RMW from Mrs. A. Grimbaldeston, wife of a Thomas who was a nephew of Alice Billington.

2) Brian Ainscough – a U.K. family contact and family historian

3) Bernard Hayes – a U.K. family contact and family historian

Bernard checked out Boarded Barn farmhouse, the barn and, at one time, the cottage attached to the barn. There is a date stone over the door of the farmhouse that says "ANNO D 158X I A. A Mr. Saunt now farms from Boarded Barn Farmhouse now and he said a lady had told him that the stone was from the cottage adjoining the barn. He did not know when the stone was removed and placed over the house door, but he said he had demolished the cottage, which was in poor condition. It had two downstairs rooms with one room upstairs. The stairs were stone slabs inserted into the outside of the cottage. You had to go outside to go to bed. There was no internal staircase . . . The "I A" stood for the surname of the family that built and owned the Cottage, namely the Ince Anderton family of Euxton Hall . . ."

4) Maple Ridge – A History of Settlement, by the Maple Ridge Branch, Canadian Federation of University Women. Copyright 1972 (fifth printing 1989).

5) Doris Wilcox – wife of Joe and sister in-law of RMW¹. Recollections and memories from their close association with John A and Charles Wilcox and visits to an early settler in Haney.

6) Jill Green – daughter of Ruth Green who was daughter of Mary (Wilcox) Williamson. Jill had notes from discussions with her mother as well as from Marguerite Taylor, daughter of Charles Wilcox.

7) Essondale – a long-standing psychiatric facility in B.C. Records for a Michael Wilcox were requested from the B.C. Archives, and (surprise) promptly delivered. The file included the admission forms, summaries from a couple of doctors and two affidavits from Haney acquaintances attesting to Michael's residency.

8) Marjorie LaMarche – daughter of Thomas J Wilcox

9) Margaret Hamilton Pollock – wife of Thomas J Wilcox

10) Sue Clifford Tambasco, a William Billington descendent.

11) William Cunningham – descendent of Nathan Thomas Wilcock (b1863)

Pollock



Margaret H Pollock - 1930

Margaret Hamilton Pollock was the wife of Thomas Joseph Wilcox. She was from Ontario and met T.J in Kamloops, B.C., somehow, under unclear circumstances. The Pollock's were of Scottish ancestry, arriving in Canada in the mid 1800's. They settled in Almonte, Lanark County, just west of Ottawa, perhaps attracted by place-name familiarity. Just next-door to Lanark is Renfrew County and both sides of the family are from similarly named counties in Scotland. Margaret Hamilton Pollock was one of four children born to William A.M. Pollock and Helen McPherson Hall.

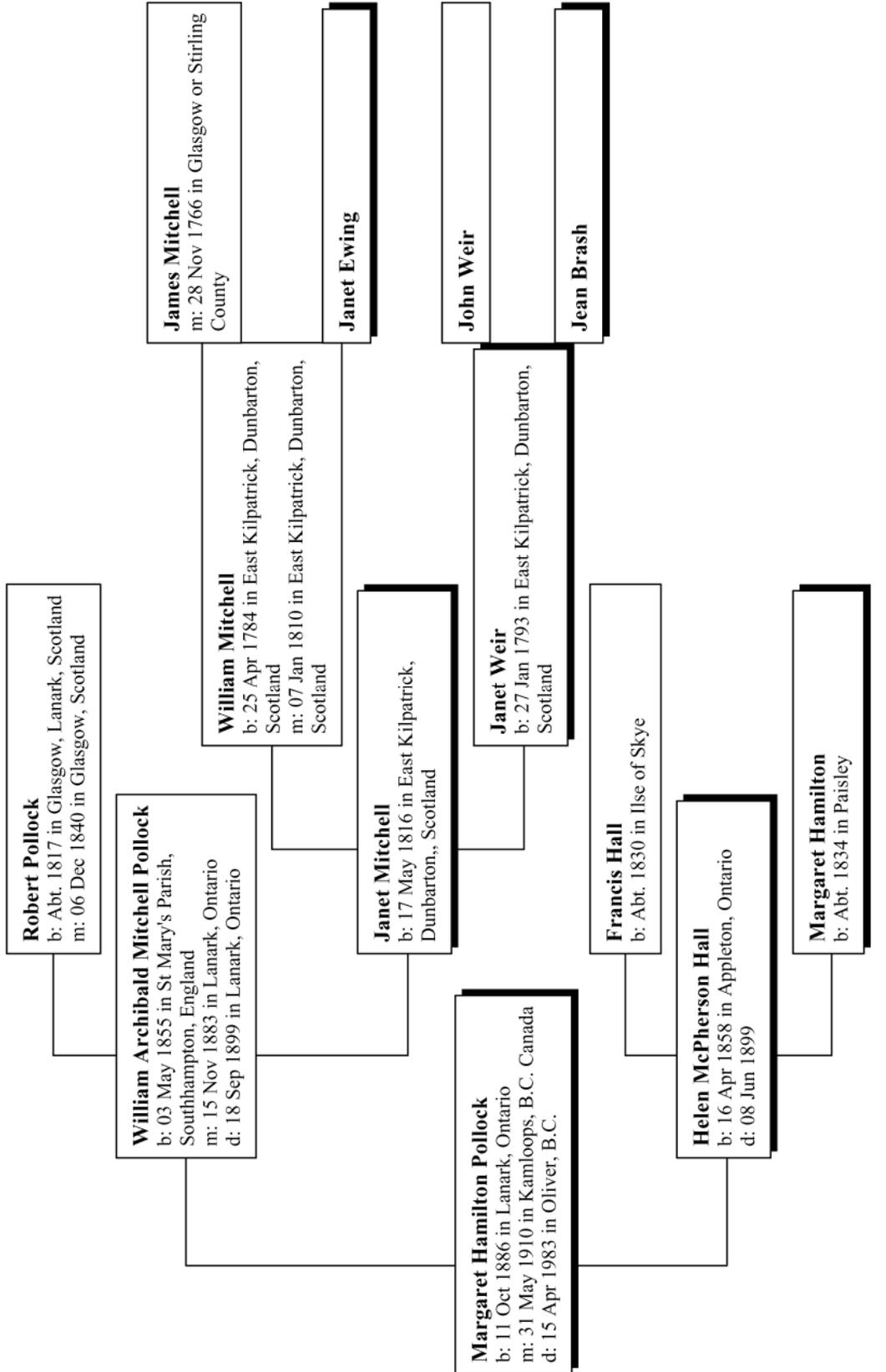
William Pollock Predecessors

It has proven a little difficult to trace the paternal predecessors of William and the movements of the family. When he died, still quite young, family memory had it that a brother took in his children. Ontario records³ were enough to identify Robert Pollock as the (much older) brother. Based on Ontario marriage records for William and Robert the parent's names were found to be Robert Pollock and Janet Mitchell. The Scottish marriage record (1840) for the parents was located but unfortunately does not include the names of any earlier parents.

Robert and Janet Pollock

The Scottish 1841 census shows Robert and Janet, aged 25 and son Robert at 2 years. The next record found is the 1851 England census that placed some of the family in St Mary's, Southampton, now with two daughters, **Mary Jane**, who was born in Liverpool Lancashire in 1847 and daughter **Elizabeth**, who was born in Southampton in 1850. So sometime between 1841 and 1847 they had left Glasgow and headed south. Son Robert did not show up on this census, however two possibilities show up on the 1851 census in Glasgow, where he is either a student staying with friends (McKellars) or he is working as a servant on a farm. The former seems the more likely as education and a professional life did seem to be the family norm. Son William was born in Southampton² in 1855 and they emigrated to Canada some time after that. The family may have been on separate timetables as Robert was married in Ontario in 1861, but his sister Elizabeth immigrated in 1872 (according to 1901 Canada census).

Ancestors of Margaret Hamilton Pollock



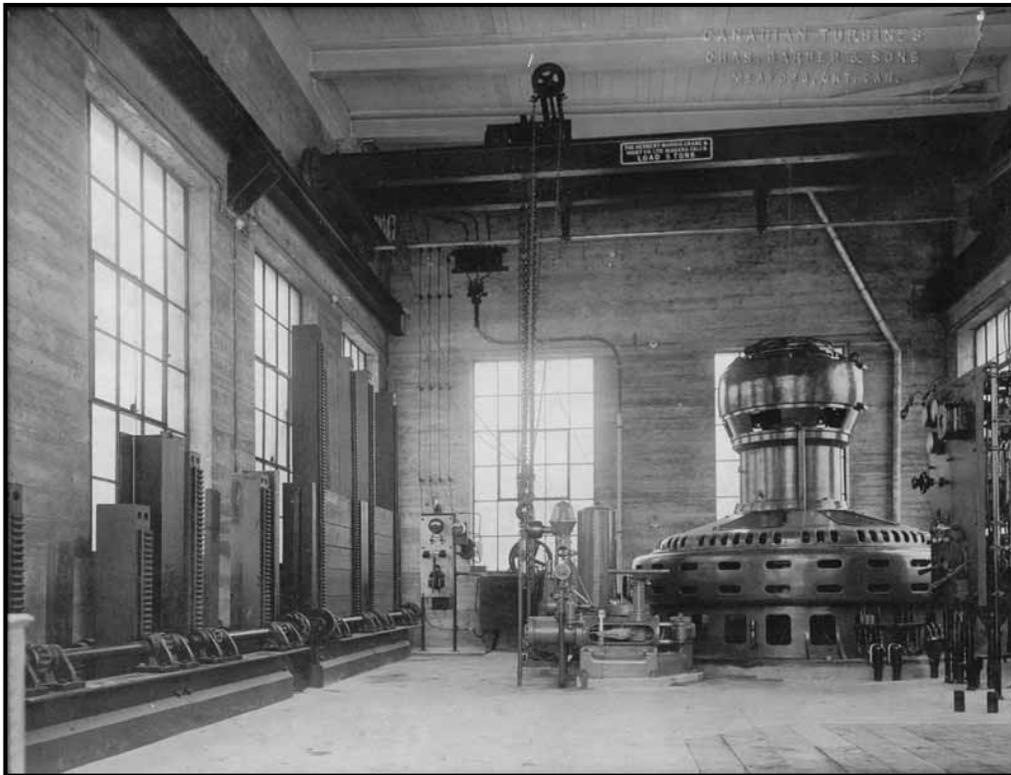


Almonte - Mill Street, circa 1900⁴

A historical record for Lanark County¹ offered a couple more clues about the Pollock family. One entry recorded the death of a George Rutherford, 30 Apr 1902, who had the misfortune of being murdered in India. The entry also said he was married (in about 1857) to a sister of Robert Pollock and that he was the uncle of W. C. Pollock of Almonte. Unless there is another sister that we don't know about, this should refer to **Mary Jane**.

Another interesting hint is an entry¹ about the death at age 91 on 18 May 1910 of William Mitchell, of Glasgow Scotland. Two sisters for William were listed, a Mrs. Robert Pollock of Winnipeg and a Mrs. Andrew Sim of Perth Ontario. This would be referring to Robert senior, as his wife was Janet Mitchell, and we know some of the Pollock's, Robert junior at least, moved to Winnipeg in the early 1900's. This is the only indication we have that Robert and Janet were in Canada as, so far, they have not been found on any census or death record. However this hint allowed a fairly extensive trace on Janet Mitchell.

Janet Mitchell and predecessors were from Dunbarton County, Scotland, which is just next door to Glasgow. Her parents were William Mitchell and Janet Weir (a name which shows up in the grandchildren) and, besides the aforementioned brother William, she had a sister Jean. Further back on the Mitchell side is James Mitchell and Janet Ewing. On the Janet Weir side, her parents were (most likely) John Weir and Jean Brash. This takes us to about the mid 1700's, which is about as far as we can go.



Interior of Power House⁴



5712. POWER HOUSE. ALMONTE.

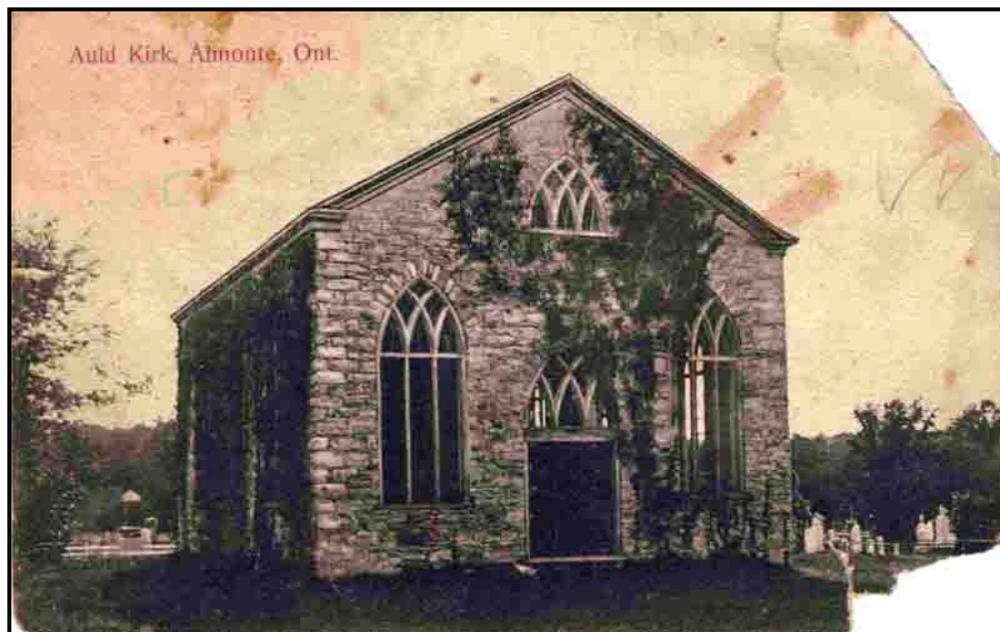
Old Power House No.1⁴

William Archibald Mitchell Pollock

William married Helen McPherson Hall in 1883 and they had 4 children between 1884 and 1894. He was an engineer, as was his father, and he worked in the power station in Almonte, Ontario. This particular family was not blessed, as one day in 1899 he had turned off the water to the turbine and was servicing the generator and/or turbine when a co-worker came in and flipped the system back on. William died soon after from the injuries suffered but, apparently, was able to give instructions his family was to be taken in by his brother. His wife Helen had died just a few months earlier, apparently of a kidney disease (known in the day as Bright's disease).

Family memory has it that the children went to a brother in Manitoba. All a matter of timing however as the 1901 census has them living in Almonte with Uncle Robert, but between 1901 and 1905 they had moved to Winnipeg. Only two of William's children went to Manitoba as one daughter Janet Weir seems to have disappeared from all records (likely died very young) and another daughter Elizabeth was a blue baby and was thought to be in an institution (deaf, mute). In Winnipeg Margaret Hamilton worked as a Milner. The oldest of the children, Robert, played professional hockey but suffered a leg cut from a skate, wound up losing the leg and then died in 1905 when only 20 years old. Truly not a blessed family.

We don't know why brother Robert and extended family moved to Manitoba, although perhaps his parents were already there. Robert was married to Mary Ann Jones (in 1861) and had three children of his own, all adults by the time they moved. Two of these, sisters, looked like determined spinsters as they were still living at home in 1911, when they were over 35 years old. Their one son, William Caldwell, stayed in Almonte and his descendents are probably there to this day. Many of the Pollock clan are buried in the Auld Kirk Cemetery, Almonte.



Dinwoodie

To complete the picture for the Pollock's, attempts were made to trace the two female siblings of William and Robert. The older, Mary Jane cannot be traced, although if reference 1) were accurate this would be the one married to George Rutherford, of death in India fame. The other sister, Elizabeth, married a Frederick Dinwoodie in Ontario and had 10 children. On checking the 1901 Ontario census a 7-year-old Elizabeth Pollock was found to be living with them. Thus the 'blue baby' that was thought to be in an institution was, at least in 1901, living with her aunt. It is quite possible Elizabeth lived with this aunt until they were no longer able to care for her. Fred was a Mill Wright when married so might have worked in the Almonte mill with William Pollock. This family did not stay around Almonte and apparently farmed in central Ontario. The 1911 census has Fred and two sons farming in Humboldt Saskatchewan but no record found for the rest of the family. Fred and Elizabeth retired and died in Northumberland, Ontario, in the 1930's.

Hall's - Hamilton's

Tracing back on Helen Hall was not much more productive than for the Pollock's. Family notes⁵ provided her parents names, Francis Hall born on Isle of Skye and wife Margaret Hamilton born in Paisley, Renfrew County. For Francis, born about 1830 according to an 1881 Ontario Agricultural census, the closest match we can find in the Scottish records is Clackmannan, which is some way from Isle of Skye. The parents of this Francis are James Hall and Christian Moir. There are no Halls on Skye (county Inverness) born anywhere near 1830.

For Margaret, born about 1834 according to that 1881 Ontario census, the closest match in the Scottish records is a Margaret born in 1836 to Hugh Hamilton and Sidney Stevenson. No marriage records can be found in Scotland or Ontario for Francis and Margaret, so there is no sure way of verifying these connections.

Closing Notes

How did Margaret Hamilton Pollock get to Kamloops and meet Thomas Wilcox? Family memory⁵ has it that Margaret was visiting a cousin in Kamloops, ones she 'called' Uncle William and Aunt Margaret. Calling them Aunt/Uncle might infer they were somewhat older. A search for Pollocks with these names turns up nothing. It is possible they are Hall's or even Rutherford's or almost any married name as there were lots of female Hall's. In any case, they were running a boarding house, occupied largely by railroaders, and that is where Margaret met and was wooed by Tom. She never returned to Winnipeg. They were married in 1910 and went on to raise nine of the finest.

Elizabeth (Bessie), the blue baby, was eventually brought to Kamloops by her sister Margaret, probably about 1915. It is presumed she lived with the Dinwoodies up to that time. Elizabeth died on the Heffley Creek farm in 1938, after a chilly outing in the carriage. Bessie apparently could write and compose well⁵ and she and Margaret could one hand sign at high speed. Robert⁵ was the only one of the kids who picked up a bit of sign. He thinks Bessie got a lot of training by being part of a Graham Bell study of deaf/mute problems.

Descendants of Robert Pollock

1 Robert Pollock b: Abt. 1817 in Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland
.. +Janet Mitchell b: 17 May 1816 in East Kilpatrick, Dunbarton,, Scotland
..... 2 Robert Pollock b: 11 Jan 1839 in Glasgow, Scotland d: 22 Jul 1927 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
..... +Mary Ann Jones b: 29 Jun 1841 in Lanark, Ontario d: 21 Feb 1927 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
..... 3 Jessie L Pollock b: 28 Nov 1869 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 3 Helen Elizabeth Dinwoodie Pollock b: 15 Dec 1874 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 3 William Caldwell Pollock b: 04 Aug 1865 in Lanark, Ontario d: 06 Apr 1957 in Lanark, Ontario
..... +Bertha Cole b: Abt. 1862 in Almonte, Ontario d: Abt. 1940 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 4 Robert Cole Pollock b: Aug 1893 in Lanark, Ontario d: 11 Nov 1900 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 4 Francis Jones Pollock b: 08 Mar 1896 in Lanark, Ontario
..... +Elsie Sara Paul b: Abt. 1896
..... 4 William Weir Pollock b: 02 Oct 1900 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 2 Mary Jane Pollock b: Abt. 1847 in Liverpool, Lancashire
..... 2 Elizabeth Janet Pollock b: 29 May 1850 in St Mary's Parish, Southhampton, England d: 10 Oct 1932 in Northumberland, Ontario
..... +Frederick Maxwell Dinwoodie b: 25 Sep 1841 in Wellington Square, Nelson, Ontario d: 26 Mar 1933 in Campbellford, Northumberland, Ontario
..... 3 William Dinwoodie b: 27 May 1873 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 3 Janet Dinwoodie b: 24 Nov 1875 in Northumberland, Ontario
..... 3 Robert McKune Dinwoodie b: 21 Nov 1877 in Northumberland, Ontario
..... 3 Elizabeth Jane Dinwoodie b: 24 Apr 1880 in Peterborough, Ontario
..... 3 James Frederick Dinwoodie b: 18 May 1882 in Peterborough, Ontario
..... 3 Margret Elizabeth Dinwoodie b: 14 Dec 1884 in Peterborough, Ontario
..... 3 Frederick Adam Dinwoodie b: 31 Oct 1887 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 3 Rollan G Dinwoodie b: 09 Oct 1890 in Ontario, Canada
..... 3 John Roddick Dinwoodie b: 23 May 1893 in Northumberland, Ontario
..... 3 Frederick Dinwoodie b: 25 May 1893 in Northumberland, Ontario
..... 2 William Archibald Mitchell Pollock b: 03 May 1855 in St Mary's Parish, Southhampton, England d: 18 Sep 1899 in Lanark, Ontario
..... +Helen McPherson Hall b: 16 Apr 1858 in Appleton, Ontario d: 08 Jun 1899
..... 3 Robert Pollock b: 21 Sep 1884 in Lanark, Ontario d: 27 Feb 1905 in Winnipeg, Manitoba
..... 3 Margaret Hamilton Pollock b: 11 Oct 1886 in Lanark, Ontario d: 15 Apr 1983 in Oliver, B.C.
..... +Thomas Joseph Wilcox b: 09 Jun 1881 in Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire d: 29 Apr 1965 in Kamloops
..... 4 Alice Mary (Millar) Wilcox b: 03 May 1911
..... +James Millar
..... 4 Francis (Frank) Edward Wilcox b: 29 Dec 1912
..... +Vi Fiddick
..... *2nd Wife of Francis (Frank) Edward Wilcox:
..... +Barbara Willerton
..... 4 Joseph Henry Wilcox b: 18 Apr 1915
..... +Doris Perry
..... 4 Helen Margaret (Standen) Wilcox b: 23 Oct 1916 d: 2006
..... +James Standen
..... 4 Nora Elizabeth (Belcham) Wilcox b: 11 May 1918
..... +William Belcham
..... 4 Albert John Wilcox b: 01 Jul 1920 d: 18 Dec 2007 in Vernon, B.C.
..... +Olga Shinduke
..... 4 Robert Michael Wilcox b: 30 Apr 1922
..... +Eva Elizabeth Bartlett b: 04 Sep 1924
..... 4 Dorothy Anne (Bonnett) Wilcox b: 23 Feb 1925
..... +Ronald Victor Welstead Bonnett
..... 4 Marjorie Agnes Wilcox b: 27 Dec 1926
..... +Andre LaMarche
..... 3 Janet Weir Pollock b: 21 Jun 1889 in Lanark, Ontario
..... 3 Elizabeth Janet Pollock b: 25 Feb 1894 in Lanark, Ontario d: 14 Oct 1938 in Cahilty District, B.C.

Various Records

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1922

Name: **William Archibald Mitchell Pollock**
Birth Place: Southampton - England
Age: 27
Father Name: Robert Pollock
Mother Name: Elizabeth Pollock
Estimated birth year: abt 1856
Spouse Name: **Helen McPherson Hall**
Spouse's Age: 25
Spouse Birth Place: Beckwith
Spouse Father Name: Francis Hall
Spouse Mother Name : Margaret Hall
Marriage Date: 15 Nov 1883
Marriage Place: Lanark
Marriage County: Lanark
Family History Library Microfilm:MS932_43

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1924

Name: **Robert Pollock**
Birth Place: Glasgow, Scotland
Residence: Lanark Township
Age: 22
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1839
Father Name: Robert Pollock
Mother Name: Janet Mitchell
Spouse Name: **Mary Ann Jones**
Spouse's Age: 19
Spouse Estimated Birth Year: abt 1842
Spouse Birth Place: Lanark Township
Spouse Residence: Lanark Township
Spouse Father Name: John Jones
Spouse Mother Name: Margaret
Marriage Date: 10 Mar 1861
Marriage Place: Lanark Township
Marriage County: Lanark
Family History Library Microfilm:1030059

Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1907

Name: **Margaret Hamilton Pollock**
Date of Birth: 11 Oct 1886
Gender: Female
Birth County: Lanark
Father's name: Mitchell Pollock
Mother's name: Helen Mac Pherson
Roll Number: MS929_77

England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983

Name: **Elizabeth Janet Pollock**
Year of Registration: 1850
Quarter of Registration: Jul-Aug-Sep
District: Southampton
County: Hampshire
Volume: 7
Page: 203

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1924

Name: **Elizabeth Pollock**
Birth Place: Southampton
Age: 22
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1850
Father Name: Robert Pollock
Mother Name: Janet Pollock
Spouse Name: **Frederick Dinwoodie**
Spouse's Age: 30
Spouse Estimated Birth Year: abt 1842
Spouse Birth Place: Wellington Square Nelson
Spouse Father Name: James Dinwoodie
Spouse Mother Name: Margaret Dinwoodie
Marriage Date: 21 Mar 1872
Marriage Place: Lanark
Marriage County: Lanark
Family History Library Microfilm: MS932_7

References

- 1) "The Lanark Era" [ISBN 0-9682524-2-7, Global Heritage Press], BMD records for 1895-1911.
- 2) Although family memory has William A.M. Pollock born in Glasgow, both his marriage and death records indicated St Mary's, Southampton, England.
- 3) Reference to Ontario records usually means census data (1851, 1881, 1901 and 1911) and the Ontario records of births, deaths and marriages.
- 4) Almonte photos courtesy of "A Virtual Walking Tour of Almonte" at <http://almonte.clal.ca/>
- 5) Family notes, anecdotes, mostly from Robert M Wilcox, son of Margaret Hamilton Pollock.

Thomas Joseph Wilcox – Margaret H Pollock



Thomas, 1903

Thomas (or Tom, or TJ) was the oldest of the Michael and Alice family, born in 1881 in Euxton, Lancashire, and baptized at St. Mary's, Euxton¹. As the oldest he (along with brother Jack) started work at a young age to keep the family solvent and, as noted in another chapter, allowed the younger ones to get more schooling. The big opportunity was to get on with the railway and he managed this around 1903 or 1904 when he joined the CPR road crew out of Revelstoke. He soon moved up and got out on the road in engine service. Within a few years Jack also hired on with the CPR, as train crew (conductor) and by around 1906 both were based out of Kamloops. The family dynamics are uncertain here but it appeared this was also the opportunity for Alice, Tom's mother, to move the family out of Maple Ridge and up to Kamloops. Access to high schooling was also on Alice's mind². The whole family was into house building in their off time.

One of the family stories² is involved with the hold-up of the passenger train, Bill Miner's nefarious Great Train Robbery at Ducks (March, 1906). The engineer of the held up train was so shaken with this episode that he booked off and didn't work for something like three or more weeks. Tom, a fireman written up as engineer at the time, was the only spare man and was called for the next trip. He managed to stay on for the few weeks and subsequently earned an upgrade to "the first class job".

At some point, certainly prior to 1910, Tom got into the union side of the job and became a union rep for the train engineers². He may have been overzealous at this sideline and earned the displeasure of the Railroad brass³, in any case he left the CPR by 1915, apparently one step ahead of the boot, and went on to other ventures. Memory is a little wobbly on this but one daughter³ thinks Tom was a public accountant for a while (perhaps surprising, considering his maximum of grade 6), and maybe even had a term on city council. By 1916 he had teamed up with a railroad buddy to start a hardware store in Kamloops.

The Pride of the Watch
Comments by Bob Wilcox² on the railroader's pride and joy, the watch chain and fob prominent in many pictures of TJ and John A:
"Any railroader who had to have a railway grade watch would naturally have the full shot showing he was in road service. Probably an 18 size with a 21-jewel movement. A 1908 Eaton catalogue showed a cost of \$100.00 . Strange but in 1946 when I got my Waltham 16 size etc. it cost me \$115.00 and I didn't start at 10 cents an hour wiping like he did."

The hardware business prospered and they even had two other locations, Vernon and Salmon Arm. This lasted until the depression hit and wiped them out – too much credit, no one able to pay anything. Still having a large family to feed Tom and Margaret bought a place on Heffley Creek, just north of Kamloops, and went back to farming. They moved to Heffley on 30 Dec 1930³ [this date suggests the business went down hill really quickly as the depression only got going in 1929]. The Forest Grove family (Jack) has memory of visiting there in 1936. The farm was sold in 1953 and they moved, presumably, back to their house in North Kamloops.



Text on back says Bessie and Thomas J.

Margaret Hamilton Pollock

The Pollock chapter covers her background more fully. Apparently Margaret left Winnipeg to visit relatives in Kamloops who were running a boarding house, occupied largely by railroaders [A small claim to fame for the boarding house² - Apparently Robert Service lived there before heading to the Yukon]. We have not yet figured out who these relatives might be, and though they were referred to as Uncle William and Aunt Margaret, they were more likely older cousins. That is where she met Tom (likely around 1909). They married in 1910 and honeymooned in St Paul's, Minneapolis. Tom was doubling up here as he was also there as a union labour rep for the train firemen convention. On the way back they side tripped to Almonte Ontario to visit relatives, where Tom supposedly created a rift by demanding an accounting of money or something that he thought Margaret was somehow owed² by her side of the family [this makes no sense on the surface as the relevant relatives would be in Manitoba but, maybe a visit had been coordinated in Ontario. See Pollock chapter].



Tom and Margaret, May 1910

Family Historian

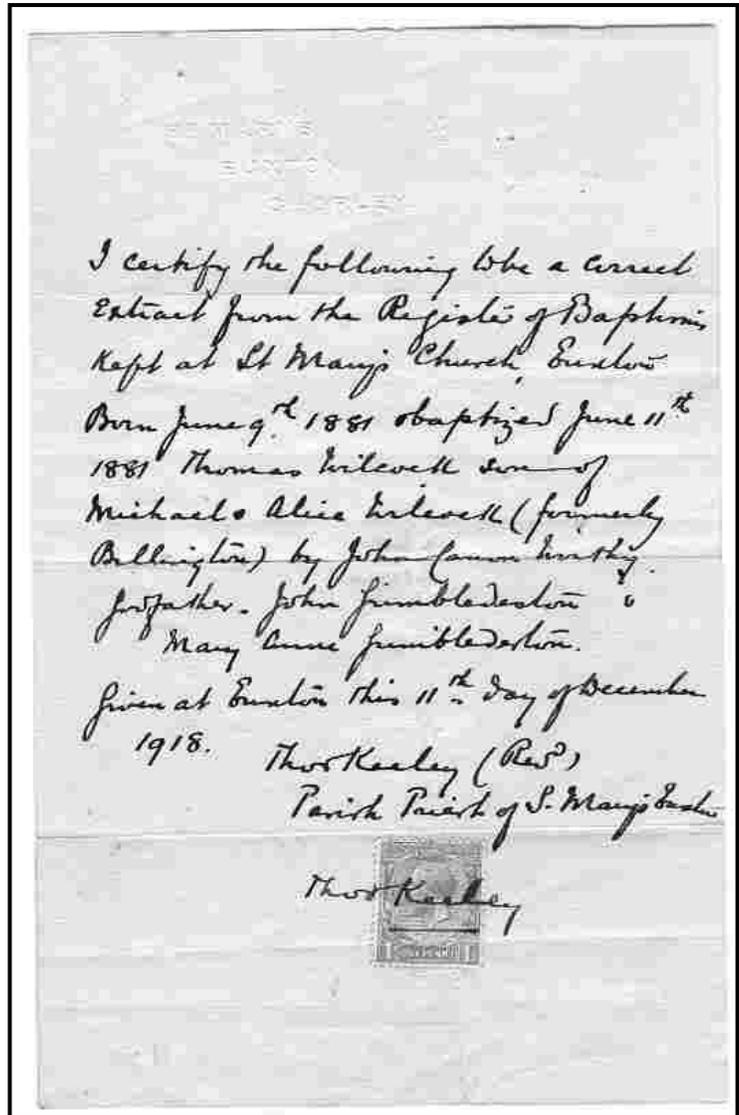
Tom was the family historian, writing down on scraps of paper bits of family tree information. His mother was probably active in this as was his wife Margaret. Margaret had more education than Tom and was interested in history. In her 'old age' in a nursing home she took some history courses, passing with flying colours⁴. Their notes formed the basis of the family tree, which was subsequently added to by their son Robert². A connection was maintained with the Ontario Wilcox family and the California Moore family, although this pretty much disappeared after the first generation died. From the adjacent transcript, it appears that in 1918 Tom ordered up his baptismal record.

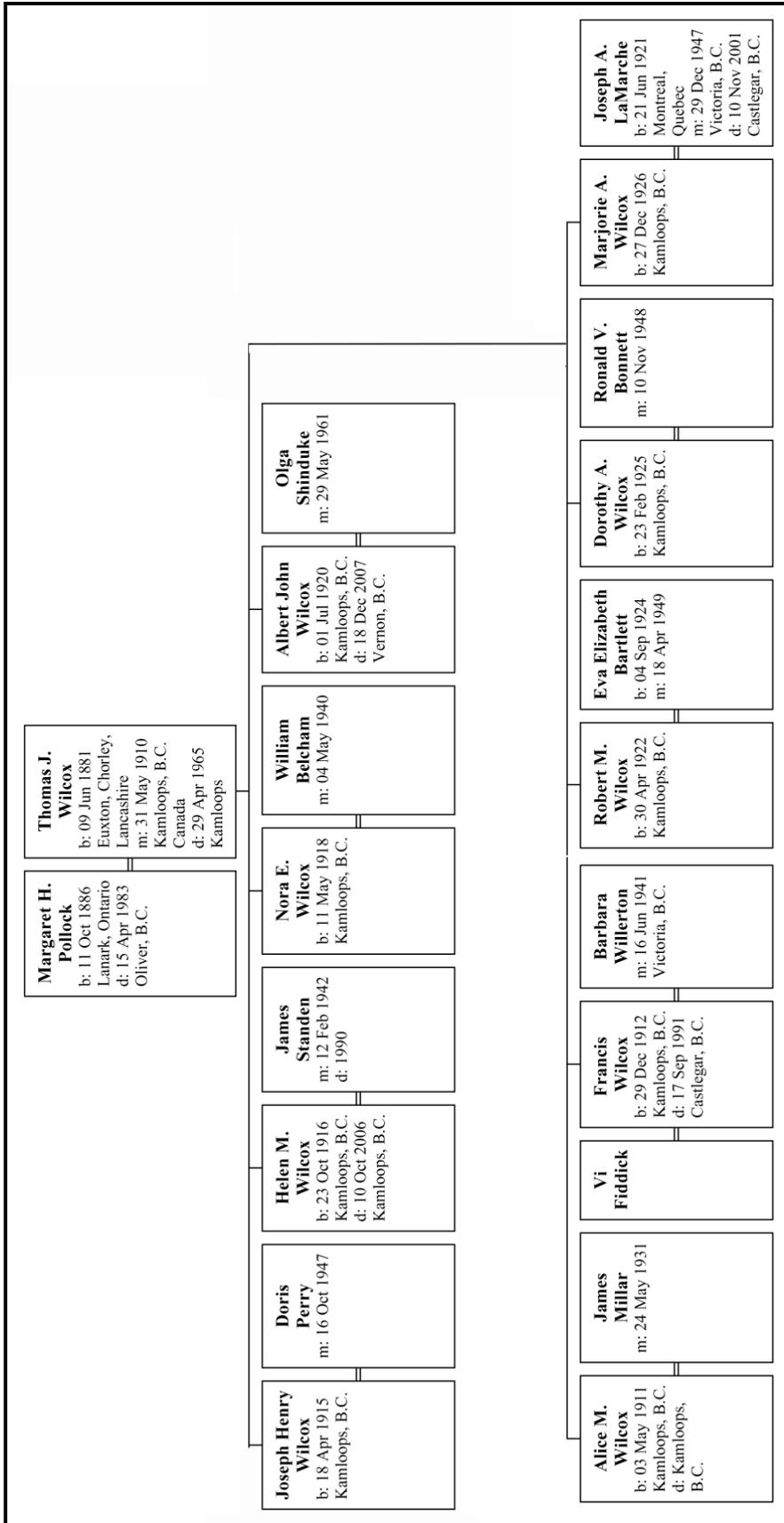
On Religion - again

Tom and Jack were the devout members of the family. Mother Alice had a strong influence on her two eldest – she did demand a lot from them and perhaps her religious drive stuck with the boys. Margaret was a Scotch Presbyterian however she converted to RC. In his retirement years Tom would putter about in his old car handing out religious tracts and pamphlets. However, much like his brother Harry's family, not much of this fervor carried through to their family. The children went their own independent way, not wanting much to do with anything smacking of enforcement.

Closing Notes

Margaret's deaf and mute sister Bessie came to BC to live with them probably about 1915 or 1916. Bessie had been with the Dinwoodie cousins, in Saskatchewan we believe, and when they retired back to Ontario is the most likely time for Bessie to have been moved. She died in 1938 at Heffley Creek.





**Descendents of
Thomas J Wilcox
and
Margaret Hamilton
Pollock**

Tom lived to 84 and died in Kamloops. Margaret lived to 97 and died in Oliver, B.C. As of this writing, three of their nine children survive.



Golden Wedding Anniversary, May 31 1960, with the family.

Back Row Left to Right: Nora, Marjorie, Frank, Helen, Albert (Bert), Robert (Bob) and Joseph (Joe)

Front Row Left to Right: Alice, Margaret Hamilton (née: Pollock), Thomas Joseph (TJ), and Dorothy



Four generations of Wilcox at the ranch. Tom, mother Alice, daughter Alice and grandson Douglas. 1933.

50'th Anniversary with siblings.

From the right, John A, Tom, wife Margaret, Harry and wife Maggie



REFERENCES:

- 1) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many Wilcock are baptized, married and buried at this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm
- 2) Robert Michael Wilcox, son of Thomas J. and Margaret.
- 3) Marjorie LaMarche, daughter of Thomas J and Margaret.
- 4) Doris Wilcox, wife of Joe, who was son of Thomas J. and Margaret.

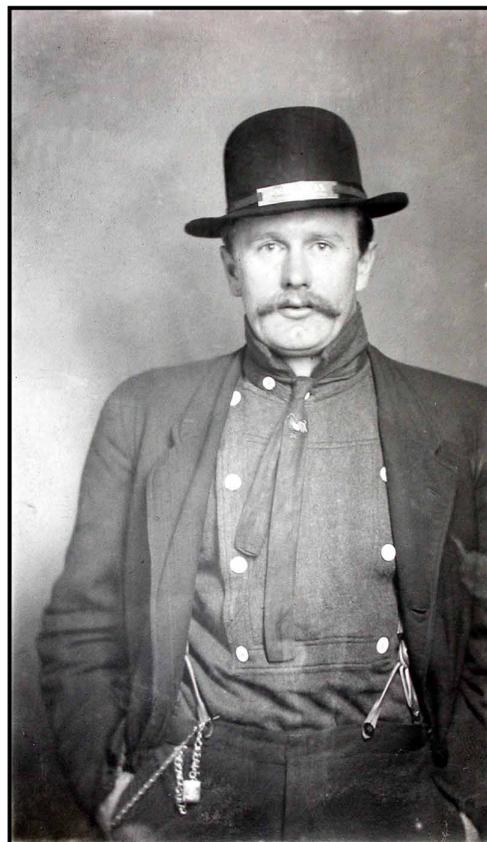
John Anthony Wilcox

John, the second son of Michael and Alice was known as John A or Jack, and to all the nieces and nephews, Uncle Jack. Jack was born in Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire in 1883, baptized in St. Mary's, Euxton², and lived for 92 years. Although a striking young man he never married and, rather, seemed to devote himself to simply looking after his 'extended family'. Everyone liked Uncle Jack. Like his brother Tom, he didn't get much schooling, instead going out to work to help the family in tough times and give the younger set more opportunity.

Marguerite Taylor¹ remembered Jack well - "I remember Uncle Jack when I was a little girl. He would come to visit us, a big, broad-shouldered, long-legged, thin man with sandy coloured hair, pale blue eyes and a big nose." She also relates "Grandmother (Alice) told me once that someone had once asked all her children what they would like to be when they grew up. They all came up with various answers but Jack answered that he would like to be a man. This was typical of his simplicity!"

Jack followed Tom into railway work. While Tom worked on the railroad, Jack worked on the trains as a conductor. In many of the photos you can see the watch fob and chain that all railway types seemed to carry. The CPR was steady, stable work and even through the days of the depression he worked although sometimes only part time. To further quote from Marguerite¹ "He supported his mother all of his life & he loaned money to almost all of his brothers & to his sister & to his in-laws & to all his nephews & nieces, whoever needed it". Marguerite was also a major beneficiary of his kindness.

Jack lived simply, reportedly his residence being a room at a YMCA for many years. He also had time to travel and visit, no doubt simplified by no cost train travel. He shows up in pictures in California with the Moore clan and he was a regular fixture around Forest Grove with brother Harry. In fact Jack had Crown Grants for a number of properties in the Forest Grove area, although we are not entirely sure what the arrangements were (the McClary chapter has a map of one area). It is unlikely he had the time to do any work on the land and meet the improvement requirements so Harry did all this. Perhaps it was a way for Harry to hold more land, or perhaps Jack saw it as a simple investment. Jack puts up initial capital, Harry does the work and somehow they split the proceeds.



John A, about 1906 when working out of Revelstoke on the CPR



Jack, on the right, in what must be a California scene with Frank Moore. Probably no later than 1910. The person on the left is likely another Moore – it is certainly not John Billington who died in 1906 at 78 years old.

[Rel2] –It is indeed a John Billington, but from that other branch of the Billington family. He and a brother were well known photographers in San Francisco and the back drop is in their studio.

Again quoting from Marguerite’s well written notes, “After working 50 years on the railroad, he retired. Some paid him back some of the money owing him but he did not have very much money, just enough to buy a small dilapidated looking house. He had a pension & when he reached 70, he received another small one. The government decided to build a highway through Jack’s property so they bought it from him. He made a profit so he went out one morning and bought a nicer house with a view. He had very little furniture - just a bed he’d had for years, a record player, all of Jimmy Roger’s records & a big bookcase, full of books. All the children in the neighbourhood loved him and he walked to mass every morning. In the summer time, he would strip to the waist & sit in the sunshine getting a tan, while listening to Jimmy singing his story songs. During his lifetime, he had two stomach operations for ulcers. He never knew what it was like to be really hungry and he enjoyed a big, rich meal. In his lifetime,

he had the experience of traveling over most of Canada and the United States. He also had the experience of being part of a large family & seeing that family growing up around him.” Doris and Joe Wilcox³ also knew Jack (and brother Charlie) very well and cared for both of them in their later years. Doris relates Jack was in the Mayo clinic for his stomach operations.



Jack (on right) with brother Harry, outside his second retirement home “with a view”. On Gilmore street in Burnaby, near the 2nd narrows bridge.

He retired in about 1947 (when he got ill) at age 65. Aside from the land titles that carried his name, she says Jack also had other property around Vancouver. It is hard to imagine he had much to invest after loaning so much to other family members, but perhaps he borrowed to buy rental properties. Railway conductors weren't paid that well! Both Doris and her brother-in-law Robert have said that Jack lost all his property investments in the depression when he couldn't pay the taxes.

We remember his visits to the farm in Forest Grove and a few simple memories come to mind (author Phil speaking here). Uncle Jack used to ride the horses, which were in the care of the sisters of the clan, and I guess he had a habit of fiddling with their manes and putting little knots in it. Said sisters of the clan would grumble loudly as they tried to comb the manes afterwards. And there was the memory of the Viewmaster. Uncle Jack had one of those devices that gave very neat 3-dimensional pictures, ideally of cartoon characters and such. Uncle Jack's collection of reels was entirely of a religious nature and nephew Phil had the temerity to ask if he had any interesting stuff, like Bugs Bunny. Phil was then excluded from viewing and spent his time thinking that maybe looking at religious themes was better than looking at nothing.

Around 1970 (at age 87), just after his brother Charlie died, Jack got the notion he would like to stay with Charlie's wife Janet in her North Vancouver home³. This may well have been Janet's idea, however Doris and Joe strongly advised him against it, as they were somewhat skeptical that Janet would be good for Jack. Jack went ahead anyway, sold his house and moved in with Janet. Very soon he was asking Doris and Joe to help him move out. Jack wanted to live with his brother Harry, but when retrieved from Janet the Millars (Jack's niece Alice) were visiting with Doris and Alice offered to take Jack to Kamloops with them. Doris and Joe acceded, again with misgivings. When Alice pressured Jack to change his will (he still had the money from the sale of his house) Doris and Joe once again moved him (about 1973), this time to where he wanted to be, with Harry. The will got changed again. The two old guys got along fine, in spite of Harry's acerbic wit on John A's religion and his lack of restraint in drinking the beer. For all the RC religion that mother Alice drilled into the family, only Jack and his brother Tom retained it throughout their lives.

Jack had only one or two good years remaining. He was able to entertain his grandnephew (Aaron in the picture, 1974) with the old harmonica but the mind was starting to slip and it wasn't long before he had to be put in a home in Kamloops, where he died in 1975.



1974 – John A and grandnephew Aaron

Jack had always requested that he be buried in Haney and Joe and Doris once again took another Wilcox out to the family plot in Maple Ridge Cemetery. They had already buried Charlie there.



Harry and John A, 1974, in front of Harry's house in Forest Grove.

REFERENCES:

1) Marguerite Taylor – daughter of Charles, and is covered more fully in the Charles Wilcox chapter. Her notes come to us via Jill Green, a Williamson granddaughter.

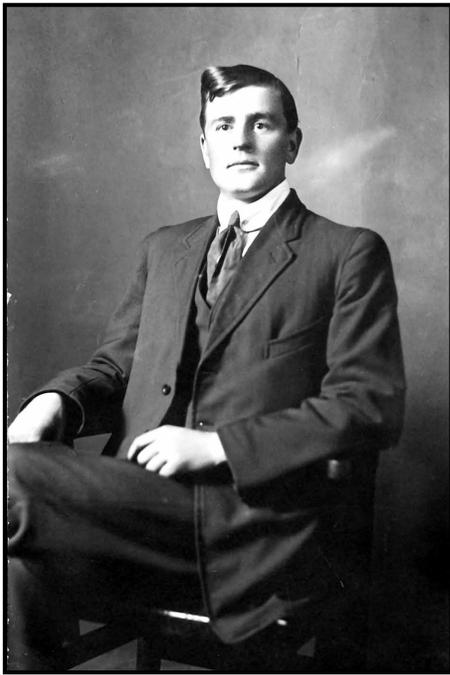
2) St Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton – many Wilcock are baptized, married and buried at this church. An on-line record can be browsed at http://www.stmarys-euxton.com/parish_registers.htm

3) Doris and Joe Wilcox – notes from discussions with Doris. Joe is the son of Thomas J Wilcox

From the Baptism Registry at St Mary's

Name	Date Born	Date Baptised	Father	Mother	nee	Sponsor 1	Sponsor 2
THOMAS WILCOCK	9/6/1881	11/6/1881	Michael	Alice	Billington	John Grimbledeston	Mary Ann Grimbledeston
JOHN WILCOCK	11/4/1883	11/4/1883	Michael	Alice	Billington	Thomas Wilcock	Mary Alice Wilcock

Charles Francis Wilcox

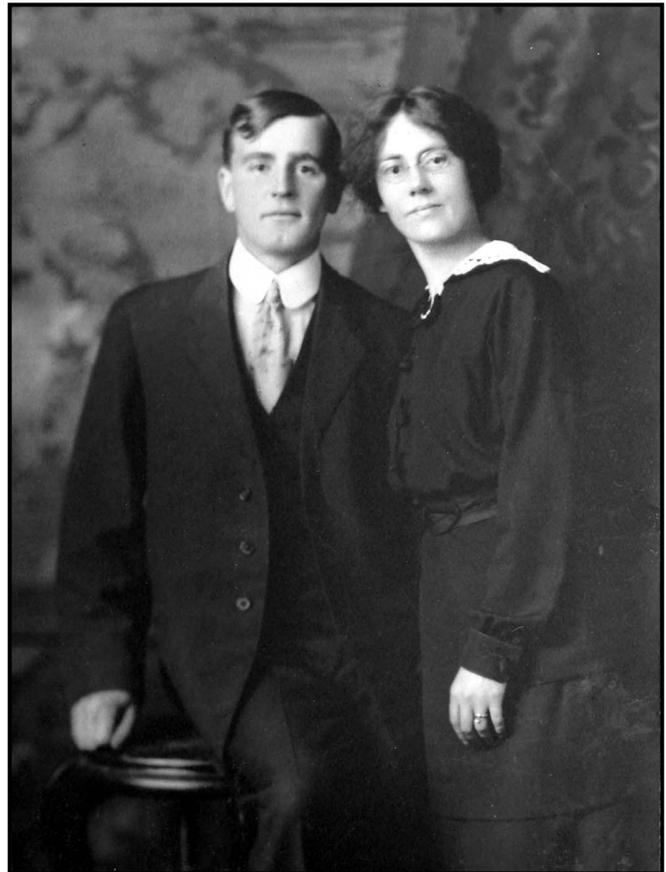


Charlie, about 1906

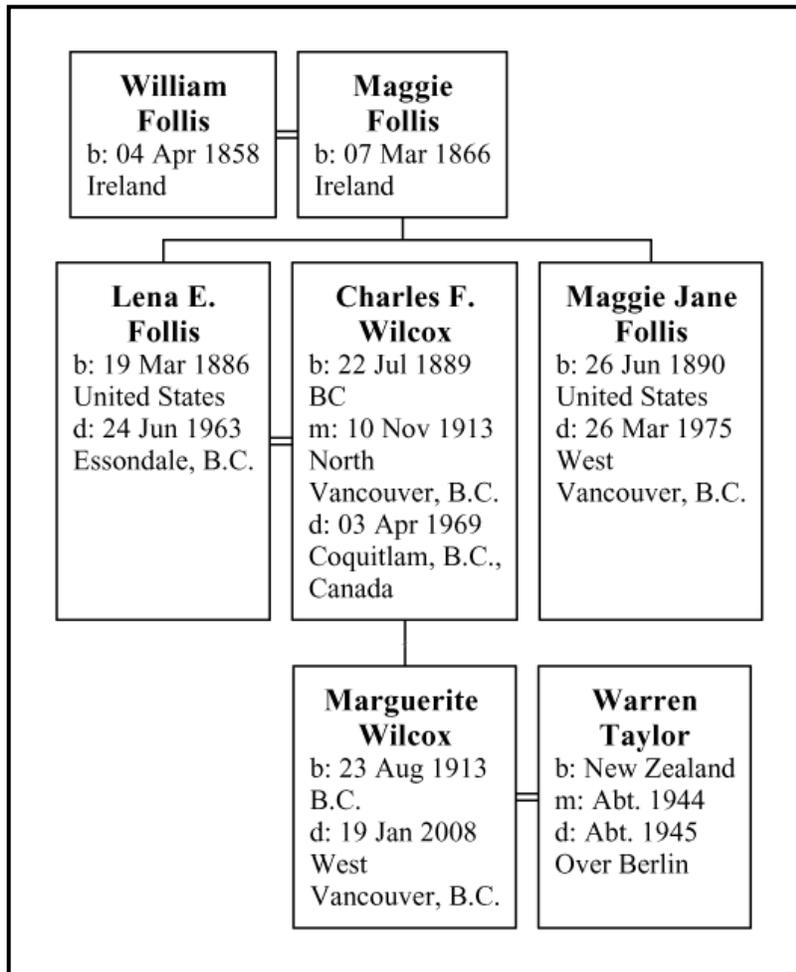
them out⁵.

Charlie married an Irish girl, Lena Follis, in November 1913. Technically Lena and her sister Maggie would be Americans as they were born in the U.S. but their parents were Irish. It appears they left Ireland about 1880 and entered Canada in 1896. Charlie and Lena had one child, Marguerite, born in August 1913 (there are a number of different dates but this one seems the best bet). It was not a happy life for this family¹ as Lena developed mental problems and by the time Marguerite was 10 her mother had to be admitted to an insane asylum (Essondale). Her aunt, Maggie Follis, then raised Marguerite. We have more information on Marguerite than we do on Charlie or Lena, largely due to her long time acquaintance with Jill Green¹, from the Williamson side of the family.

Charles was the third son of Michael and Alice, born only a year after they arrived in B.C. Unregistered of course, so we can only presume he was born in Haney. Charlie didn't visit around as much as say, his brother John A did, and so he was a bit more of an unknown to the relatives. He was an unusual Wilcox in that he seemed to live and enjoy life to the full. During WW II he lived in a hotel in the Chinatown district of Vancouver, loving the whole area and getting a great laugh out of all the bullet holes in the elevator³. He spent his life in the construction business, no doubt getting his start with the houses the family built in Kamloops. He lived and worked on the lower mainland of B.C., perhaps especially in North Vancouver as that is where he married. Charlie built the house in West Bay, West Vancouver that Mary and Arthur Williamson eventually settled into, about 1945. Apparently Charlie and Arthur did some development work together and they both lost their shirts when a dishonest partner of Arthur's cleaned



Charlie and Lena, about 1913



Vital Event Marriage Registration

Groom Name: Charles Francis Wilcox
Bride Name: Lena Elizabeth Follis

Event Date: 1913 11 10 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Event Place: North Vancouver

Reg. Number: 1913-09-073797
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B11377
GSU Microfilm Number: 1983705



Hollis Family: Lena lower left, mother Maggie upper right. Of the other two, one will be Lena's sister Maggie and one (likely) an unidentified sister.



Lena and mother in a museum piece.

Marguerite

We are not sure what part Charles played in the raising of Marguerite, perhaps not enough, as apparently she developed a very deep bitterness towards her father and retained this bitterness until late in her life⁴. What Jill¹ picked up were feelings like “he was a self-centered man who treated her Irish mother very badly . . . he ignored his daughter and never did build her the house he had promised . . . she never had a real home but lived in rented basement suites most of her life”. At this point we can't determine whether her perceptions were accurate or had more to do with a young girl suddenly without a mother and for reasons she might find difficult to understand. We cannot know what was promised and not delivered, or how Charlie coped with a wife in an asylum. Perhaps he did withdraw and maybe he didn't provide everything she thought she should have. She was part of the Williamson milieu on the north shore, Ruth and Alice with their nice homes (and husbands and children, one might add), and maybe expected the same.



Marguerite in uniform



Warren and Marguerite, 1944



Marguerite- a birthday in West Vancouver



Flight-Lieutenant J. W. Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor, of Takapau, reported missing on air operations. He was educated at the Auckland University College and Teachers' Training College and taught at Campbell's Bay School and in Hawke's Bay.

Obituary for Warren

It is possible the marriage was not what Charlie expected, likely of a shotgun nature as Marguerite was born a few months before they were married. At this point we can't be certain of any of these perceptions. Doris Wilcox⁵ knew Charlie very well (and his brother Jack) and her view was that Charlie got excessive abuse from all around, especially from the Williamsons who were often on his case about his shortcomings.

With that out of the way and moving on, Marguerite 's talents tended to the artistic, though it took her many years to settle into that as a career. Her father did provide for a business course at Sprott-Shaw School of Business but as far as we know it was never applied. She was a very talented musician and graduated from the Toronto Conservatory of Music as a concert pianist. This was likely before the war. During the war she served as a WREN in both Canada and London and she used her piano skills to entertain the troops². While in England she apparently did visit some Wilcock relatives³.

Marguerite + Warren Taylor

During WWII Marguerite married¹ Warren Taylor, a New Zealander. He was a navigator for a bomber. Unfortunately, they had only been married a short while when, in one of the last bombing raids over Berlin, his plane was shot down and he was killed. She never remarried.

Warren loved art. "We could never pass an art store in Montreal without gravitating towards its doors looking for pens and coloured inks etc. "

He also adored music. (Marguerite met him during a music concert they were putting on for the troops.) "During our courtship, I was showered with piano music and cello records, accompanied by the inevitable dozen red roses as was fashionable to give among young New Zealand airman at that time. "

After the war and to support herself, Marguerite taught piano lessons in Seattle for about 10 years. She later returned to Vancouver and obtained her Social Work Degree from U.B.C. However Social Work was not her bag and she didn't practice it for very long as she had more of an artistic rather than a practical bent. She next obtained her Teacher's Degree from U.B.C. and tried teaching high school but was unsuccessful as discipline was also not her forte. After that she focused on her original interests of art, music and literature¹. Jill noted that her Uncle Jack paid for most of these U.B.C. career ventures and also thought Jack might have paid for the Conservatory of Music training. If so, that meant that Charles backed out after paying for the business course.

Sometime after 1952 when Arthur Williamson died and Mary seemed not to be caring for herself, Marguerite and her aunt Maggie Follis moved into a basement suite of Mary's home and cooked her meals in exchange for rent. Since music and art was not a very profitable career Marguerite might have needed this assistance every bit as much as Mary did. Jill¹ said Marguerite had a US pension of about \$360/mon and there was a New Zealand pension so she may have been able to scrape by. It is unlikely Charlie left her anything, as his second wife would have taken it. We are also told⁵ she loved the horses and was prone to a bit of gambling (perhaps Uncle Jack covered some of this).

Marguerite lived out her senior years in West Vancouver. She loved to paint, travel, to cook and entertain, and for 17 years lived at the senior's residence at the Kiwanis. At 84, because of her increasing dementia, Jill Green¹ moved her to The Inglewood Care Center, which she loved. The nurses there really loved her because she was such a kind, cheerful, considerate person who never complained and never gave them any trouble. Marguerite Taylor died January 19, 2008, in West Vancouver.

Lena Follis

From Jill Green's notes, Lena would have entered the Essondale asylum in about 1924. In the Wilcox fashion, this was not generally known and in fact the Forest Grove family were always led to believe that Lena had died. Again from Jill's notes we have "She stayed there (Essondale) for years. When she finally became well enough to be released, she was too afraid to go out into the world and so remained there until her death". In this regard there is more information that would suggest otherwise. Bernice Wilcox (daughter of Harry) went through nursing training in Vancouver in the early/mid 1950's and was one of the few students to take some psych training at Essondale. In her graduation year, 1955, she worked for 4 months in Essondale. At this point her mother Maggie Wilcox, breaking the taboo, mentioned she might see Lena there. Bernice subsequently visited Lena regularly. She described Lena as a pretty, bright eyed, lively looking little lady who liked to chat but, was in some way disconnected. Her mind seemed to be locked at some date in the past and she was always saying that she must have her coat ready, as Charlie and Marguerite were just about to come and get her. She was a sad case in her isolation and was definitely not ready for the street. Essondale was also a big TB ward (warehousing might be one way to describe it) and, given the knowledge and care levels of the day, Lena might well have caught and then died from TB. Doris Wilcox⁵ mentioned that Charlie was a regular and faithful visitor to Lena.

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Lena Elizabeth Wilcox
Event Date: 1963 6 24 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 76
Gender: female
Event Place: Essondale

Reg. Number: 1963-09-008122
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13262
GSU Microfilm Number: 2033586

Closing Notes

After Lena died in 1963 Charlie married Janet Edith A Blasdale in 1964. Apparently he had been with her for some time prior to the marriage⁵. Janet was born in Nottingham, England (1907) and worked as a lawyer's secretary. They lived in Vancouver around 54th street for a time, then Charlie built a beautiful home for Janet on Lonsdale in North Vancouver. After a few years he started to suffer from confusion and would wonder off. At some point Janet decided he should be in Essondale and Doris and Joe⁵ reluctantly co-signed the admission form. Doris and Joe were the only ones there when he died in Essondale in 1969. Doris did not have high regard for Janet and thought her screaming (at Doris, Charlie and even Jack) drove Charlie into withdrawal. No doubt some loyalty here to her friend Charlie, but she was on

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Charles Francis Wilcox
Event Date: 1969 4 3 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 79
Gender: male
Event Place: Coquitlam

Reg. Number: 1969-09-006077
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13296
GSU Microfilm Number: 2034057

the receiving end a few times, which tends to bias the opinion. Janet died in 1980 in North Vancouver. The photo below is from the mid 1960's, at his brother Harry's house in Forest Grove. This is the only photo we have of Janet Blasdale. That is Harry on the right and a young granddaughter (D. Jago) hidden behind.

From the poem in reference 6) one might infer that Charlie took possession of, or at least looked after his father's property in Haney when Michael died in 1920. He may well have looked after it for his mother but it is unlikely he would have stayed there, as farming was not his interest. Doris and Joe buried Charlie in the family plot in Haney (Maple Ridge Cemetery).



Janet Blasdale and Charlie – mid 1960's.

REFERENCES:

- 1) Jill Green – daughter of Ruth Green who was daughter of Arthur and Mary Williamson. Jill knew Marguerite for many years and looked after her care. Much of the information in this chapter comes from Jill's notes, some of which came from conversations with her mother, but most from conversations with Marguerite. There were also notes written by Marguerite. Most of the photos are from Jill's collection.
- 2) Marjorie LaMarche and Robert M Wilcox - daughter and son of Thomas Wilcox, respectively. Both cited Marguerite's musical talent and work during the war.
- 3) June Johnson – daughter of Harry Wilcox. Knew Marguerite and mentioned her visit to Wilcock family in England during the war. June was in Vancouver during WW II and Charlie would take her out in his car visiting relatives, Chinatown friends, etc.
- 4) This is an observation by Jill Green re Marguerite not being bitter in her older years. It can be assumed she had no animosity to others in the family, e.g. she bothered to visit relatives in England, there was some fondness for her grandfather as the poem item below indicates, and she no doubt appreciated her Uncle Jack's generosity. So, some mellowing with age, a bit more understanding?
- 5) Doris and Joe Wilcox – from discussions with Doris. Joe is a son of Thomas J Wilcox.

6)

In Memory of My Beloved Grandfather Michael

By Marguerite Taylor

*Grandfather Michael rode his white horse, across the meadow, onto the lane.
A wind whipped the trees.
Grandfather Michael sat tall in the saddle, his hair floating white,
like his white horse's mane. Thin was his face.
And the child came running, running towards him.
Carefully, he lifted her up & they rode on together.
He stopped at the pear tree to pick a golden pear for the child.
He also called to his son (Charles) to pick some fruit for the child's mother. (Lena).
That winter, Grandfather Michael's house burned down and he moved into the barn.
He had five sons but it was the neighbours who found him
among the chickens with the cow needing milking
and he, lying dead in the hay.
With his great white horse in a stall nearby.
He died of pneumonia!
After that, the child's father who inherited the land
built a house for himself and tore down the barn.*

Mary Ann Wilcox - Arthur Shewan Williamson



Mary Ann Wilcox, 1907

Although his early career was prospecting and mine development, his exploits still in the press during WWI, by 1911 (the census) he was listing himself as a real estate developer and was living in Moodyville. Moodyville is in North Vancouver, around the current location of the Second Narrows Bridge. As far as we know they resided on the North shore for the rest of their lives. During the 30's, they moved to West Vancouver and rented several houses around 31st, below Marine Drive. Probably the first house they actually owned was built in 1945 by Charlie Wilcox, in the West Bay area of West Van. Arthur developed the first Grouse Mountain Chalet in the 1930's (Norman McClary worked on this, see McClary chapter). For a period of time Mary joined her husband in selling Real Estate and their son Vincent followed them into the Real Estate business.

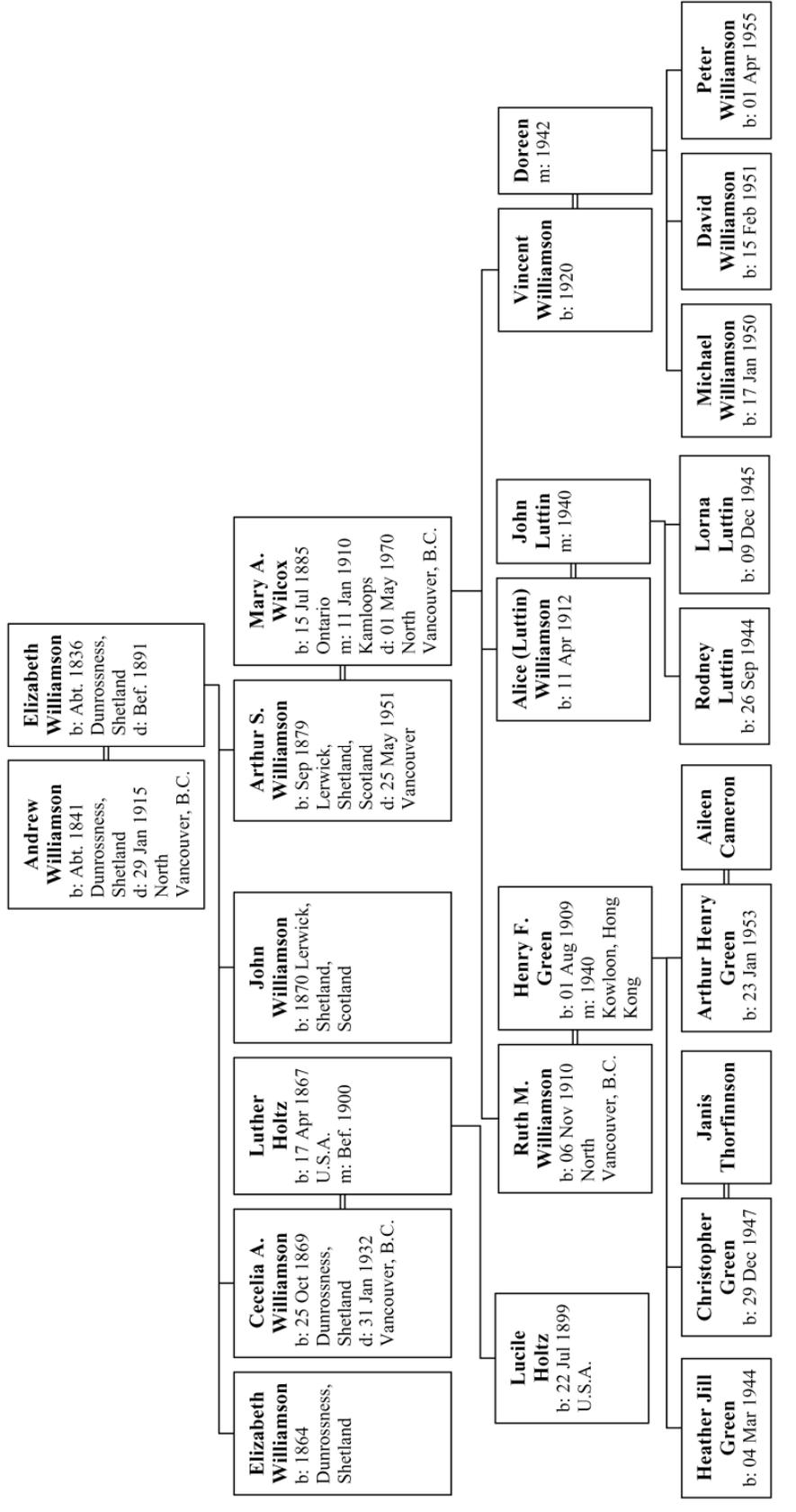
Arthur and Mary, 1910



Mary was the third child and only daughter of Michael and Alice, born in 1885 in Ontario. Some records indicate 1887 but the first date is likely the most accurate. No registration has as yet been found in Ontario. We have no particular information on what she was doing after the family moved to Kamloops, however by 1909 Arthur no doubt looked after that.

Mary was an exceptional beauty and, as the story goes¹, when in her early 20's she met Arthur Williamson in a local grocery store she was already engaged but, Arthur, totally smitten, told the clerk that she was the woman he was going to marry. And that was that as Arthur, with his flair, boundless enthusiasm and money in the bank would have been hard to resist. They were married January 11, 1910 in Kamloops. Mary was the first in the family to marry, just 5 months before her brother Tom was married.

Descendants of Andrew Williamson



For all his early mining successes and entrepreneurial skills, they didn't seem to have all that much money in the end. One source⁶ says a crooked partner wiped them out at one point, including brother Charlie who was involved with their property development. They raised three children³: the first, Ruth, born in November 1910, then Alice in 1912 and Vincent in 1920. The Ruth Lake at Forest Grove is named after Ruth² and there is a diary record of Arthur and Mary spending several weeks in 1916 on Harry's farm (See Harry Wilcox chapter and Appendix). For some reason no children are mentioned in this diary and we are not quite sure why, or who might have been doing any babysitting.

Arthur Shewan Williamson

From family notes⁴ we know Arthur's father was a seaman (Clipper Ship captain in family lore) named Andrew, that they were from Shetland, Scotland and that Andrew left with his family after his wife (whom he referred to as the Dame of Hoi) died of cancer. They came to B.C. via the U.S. (where he had been a sheriff in a mining town) about 1898 (although there is no record of Andrew or Arthur in the 1901 Canadian census). Arthur had one brother and one sister, or so it was thought. This was enough information to find them in the Scottish records and in the immigration records for New York. The only discrepancy, there appears to be one brother and two sisters. The family tree subset shows what was found. Family notes have 'the' sister coming to B.C. identified only as Mrs. Holtz, who had a daughter named Lucille. Again, this was sufficient to locate her in B.C., in both the 1901 and 1911 census, as the sister named Cecilia. Best guess is the sister named Elizabeth stayed in the U.S. The brother John is also hard to pin down, although he also may have been in Moodyville with the rest of them in 1911.

No.	NAME IN FULL	AGE	SEX	CALLING OR OCCUPATION	ABLE TO		THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THEY ARE CITIZENS	NATIVE COUNTRY	LAST RESIDENCE	INTENDED DESTINATION, STATE OR TERRITORY, CITY OR TOWN.
		Yrs. Mos.			Read	Write				
6	Elizabeth Williamson	29	Female	Housekeeper	.	.	.	.	Glasgow	Idaho
7	Cecilia	26	.	Keep	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Arthur	16	Male	Labour	.	.	.	.	.	.

An excerpt from the New York Passenger Lists for the Steamship Ethiopia, 5 April 1893, arriving from Glasgow with Elizabeth, Cecilia and Arthur.

No.	NAME IN FULL	AGE	Sex	Calling or Occupation.	Country of which they are Citizens	Native Country.	Intended Destination or Location, State or Territory.	State of passengers other than Cabin whether Citizens of the United States.	Transient In Transit, or intending protracted sojourn.
		Years. Months.							
1	A. Williamson	54	.	Unill.	Scotland	.	.	.	Idaho
7	J. G. de	34	.	Unill.	.	.	.	.	.

An excerpt from the New York Passenger Lists for the Steamship Campania, 18 November 1893, arriving from Liverpool with Andrew and John (we think). The occupation column is illegible.



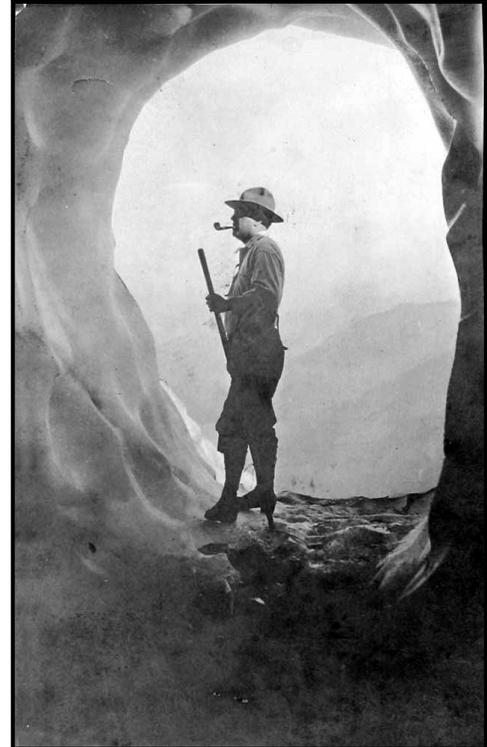
*Marie with Ruth & Alice in the Back Seat
& Arthur & his father Andrew in the front.*



*Andrew Williamson with Mary, Ruth and Alice. Appears to be Maggie Follis
on the right with Marguerite Wilcox (see chapter on Charlie Wilcox). Photo
taken at Lion's Gate lookout, Stanley Park.*

Quoting from family notes¹, “Arthur Williamson was a Shetland Islander and an entrepreneur. He had left school at 15 and took pack trains into the mountains to look for gold & silver. (He found a sizable gold deposit when he was 18 and sold it to a large mining company for \$250,000.) . . .”. The ages might be a little off, but Arthur was certainly working the mining industry around Hope, B.C. up to and through WWI.

Quoting from a document written by his daughter Ruth Green⁴, “Hope was a booming mining town in the early part of the century. My father was a well-known mining figure in Hope during the First World War & for some time afterwards. He did development work on the “Silver Eureka” and the “Eureka Victoria mines” for the owners of these mineral claims, Foley, Welch & Stewart . . . (they) had extensive claims above Silver Lake to the West, on Silver & Holy Cross Peaks, and above Jones Lake. My father did development work on their claims during W.W.I. He built a trail to the 5,000-foot level of Silver & Holy Cross Peaks where the ore was - silver, copper, lead and moly with a very little gold. He also built a 15 mile trail to the “Lucky Four” claims, now the Rica Copper Mine, above Jones Lake, at the 6,000 foot level, above timberline. . . . He was in advance of his time re pollution. The biffy he built for his men was on top of a 2,000-foot cliff and it was a dizzying experience to look into the infinite space through the hole. . . . At the “Lucky Four” mine, a glacier poured down over the face of the mountain in which, my father suspected, was the copper ore. So he had his men make a tunnel through the Glacier to the ore body behind & beneath it. This photograph was taken in the mouth of the glacier tunnel. He found rich copper ore, but it was not until much later that this mine became a producing mine, “Rica Copper” and this was when helicopters could be used to ship out the ore.”



On one of his prospecting trips Arthur returned with a bear cub, which was a family pet until it was turned over to the Stanley Park Zoo. In the Johnson chapter is an image of a postcard sent by Arthur to Mary in 1914 while Arthur was traveling the Cariboo Road. Perhaps an odd chapter to locate this image however the topic was mule trains and the card seemed to fit.

Arthur has been described as a bon vivant, very warm, outgoing and friendly, someone who is enjoyable to be with. Sounds like his sister Cecelia, who was described as someone “that could charm the birds out of the trees”.

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: **Arthur Shewan Williamson**

Event Date: 1951 5 25 (Yr/Mo/Day)

Age: 74

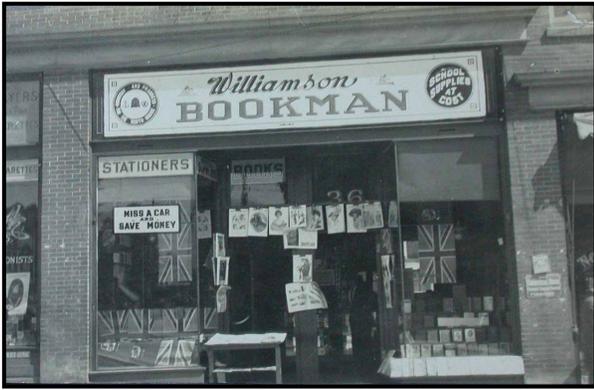
Gender: male

Event Place: Vancouver

Reg. Number: 1951-09-005367

B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13208

GSU Microfilm Number: 2032700



The Williamson bookstore



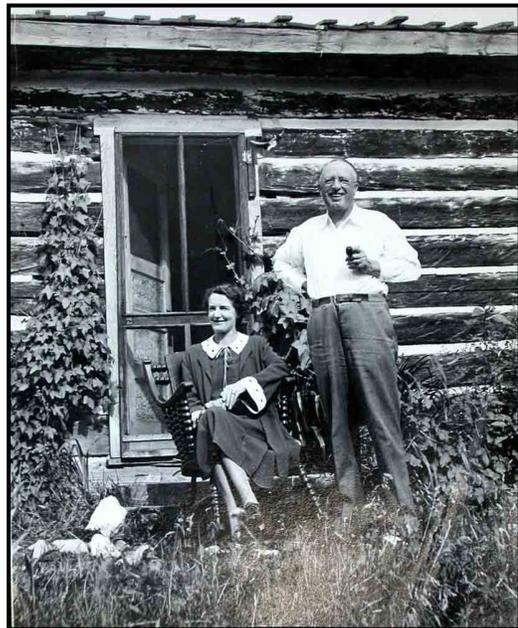
Vincent Williamson with the bear cub



Mary, Ruth and Alice – North Vancouver home



Williamson family - 1920



*Mary and Arthur at their cabin,
location unknown.*

Arthur loved to read and at one point in time owned a bookstore¹. He was a spiritual man and left a “memo to his family” encouraging them in his faith⁷. Arthur died of a heart attack in 1951 and is buried (with Mary) in the Capilano View Cemetery, West Vancouver.

Mary Ann Wilcox

Mary often complained of tiredness⁴, perhaps a case of mild depression. Ruth remembers that her mother often sat alone in her bedroom and combed her hair while the rest of the family sat in the living room before the fire and did their homework and Arthur sat in his rocking chair and read. Of course she had a good reason to be down as sometime around 1930 she was operated on for vaginal cancer and (as they didn't know any better in those days) was given mega doses of radiation¹, which scarred her badly and caused much discomfort. The cancer apparently reoccurred when she was much older. In the 1930's her daughter Alice took over looking after the house and her younger brother Vincent.

She was 60 before she got her own house at West Bay, something she planned down to the last detail and which seemed to lift the spirits though within a few years Arthur died and she lived alone. She loved gardening and was always puttering about her garden. In her 60's, the owner of a near by grocery store told her daughters that all their mother bought was tea and Fig Newtons. They then arranged for Marguerite (Charlie's daughter) and her Aunt Maggie Follis to live free in the basement in exchange for cooking her meals. For all this, she still lived to 83. Marguerite thus knew the family well and wrote an interesting perspective on the family (and herself?), which is included below⁸.

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: **Mary Ann Williamson**

Event Date: 1970 5 1 (Yr/Mo/Day)

Age: 83

Gender: female

Event Place: North Vancouver

Reg. Number: 1970-09-006397

B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13303

GSU Microfilm Number: 2034211

Closing Notes

As it turns out, the Wilcox/Williamson genetics were an unfortunate combination. The three children and many in subsequent generations suffered from bi-polar disorder. This used to be referred to as manic-depressive but that term has been dropped, as it tends to simplify what is a complex disorder. The disorder seems to be triggered by hormonal changes and can be very devastating for everyone. There is a genetic basis to it (evident from the prevalence in one family) but what little is known suggests it is a minor contribution from several genes that, together, bring on the disorder. Being simplistic (a little pop science here), if Mary did have a (slight) tendency to depression and Arthur was a bit manic, then perhaps the combination proved to be very unfortunate. This is not too much of a stretch as the personality description we have of Arthur is that of a (mild) manic.

It surprised Jill Green¹, who has been researching this in the Williamson clan, that virtually none of the other Wilcox exhibits any such disorder. From her mother she learned that Michael (Mary's father) had been institutionalized at some point and she assumed he was the source of the genetic problem. While he

might have had a depression problem that got passed on to Mary, we really don't know that and the evidence with the rest of the Wilcox suggests otherwise.

What follows is a snapshot of the Williamson clan.

Greens

Ruth was the oldest and very much the outdoors type who loved to hike about with her father. In 1940 she sailed to China on the Empress of China to marry Henry Green, an Englishman, who worked for the S.B. Asiatic Petroleum Company. Her mother accompanied them as a chaperone. She was supposed to stay a month in China but as she was anxious to get back to prepare Alice's wedding so she left by return boat¹. Apparently Henry Green got the last boat out of Hong Kong in WWII⁵. Ruth and Henry shared a love of the outdoors and they bought the Westlake cabin (Hollyburn ridge, West Vancouver). Ruth, while a concert level pianist, enjoyed the business world and was one of Vancouver's top-earning women bookkeepers at a \$100/month. Ruth suffered severely from Bi-Polar I from age 55 to 85, with swings from suicidal to an equally disturbing manic behaviour that included paranoia. Only one of their three children developed bi-polar, but a milder form labeled Bi-polar II.



Ruth & Henry on Their Wedding Day in China

As a curious side note, Greens bought their West Van chalet from Max Zuest, a brother of Mary and Arthur's next-door neighbour in West Vancouver. Well, the son of that neighbour just happened to be a high school friend of this author (Phil speaking here) and Phil spent many a weekend visiting there (between 1956-1960), and never knew Aunt Mary was living right next door.

Luttins

Alice was the middle child of Arthur and Mary. She was quite different from Ruth, attuned to Mary as Ruth was attuned to Arthur. Alice was a very talented artist and graduated from the Emily Carr Art School¹ (see Reference 8). As noted above, in the 1930's she looked after the house and family when her mother Mary was having problems. We don't have much more information on Alice. She married a Swiss, John Luttin, in about 1940. He was described as big strong type, rather fierce and domineering, and apparently died recently at age 94. Alice became a very private woman; likely suffering from depression, and eventually became a recluse and would have little to do with relatives or friends¹. They had a son and a daughter and both were affected by the Bi-polar disorder. The son was very bright, graduated from Stanford and managed the set up of the Keg &

Cleaver Restaurant chain. He was forced out of the business world when he was struck by the illness in his early 40's.

Vincent

The youngest Williamson was a very successful property developer in West Vancouver but at age 50 tossed the business and family aside, bought a sailboat and headed south. He was sort of borderline manic all his life, perhaps part of his success, but it kicked into overdrive at age 50. His syndrome was different in that there was no depressive side. His manic mode was characterized by endless grandiose and usually totally impractical schemes. He was always convinced he was on the verge of some great technological invention or incredible discovery and spent every cent he had trying to make it happen. The sailboat venture soon collapsed; he spent many years in Costa Rica, several as a beach bum, and finally the family pulled him back home. Of his three children, two are affected by the disorder¹.

Father Henry (Mary's uncle, see chapter on him) no doubt visited the Williamsons on his few visits to the flock in North America. He gave dolls as gifts to the girls, Ruth and Alice, and it always puzzled them as to why Ruth with the dark hair got the blond doll and Alice with her white hair got a dark haired doll.



***Blond haired doll given
to Ruth by Father Henry***

REFERENCES:

The main general references are the usual U.K census records (accessed via Ancestry.com) and similar record bases in Canada.

- 1) Jill Green – granddaughter of Mary and Arthur was the source for the family insights of this chapter.
- 2) Harry Wilcox – brother of Mary and farmer in Forest Grove, B.C., said a lake just a few miles from his farm was named after Ruth, daughter of Mary and Arthur.
- 3) Thomas J Wilcox – brother of Mary, was the source for some of the early Wilcox family tree detail.
- 4) Ruth Green - notes written by Ruth and passed along by daughter Jill¹.
- 5) Robert M Wilcox – son of Thomas J.
- 6) Doris Wilcox – wife of Joe Wilcox who was son of Thomas J.
- 7) Arthur Shewan Williamson's Memo to his Family - Jan. 24, 1937

This is a memo for the future assurance of my children that Christ lives here and now.

He is omnipresent everywhere and often reveals Himself to His children, even such as myself, just the ordinary child of His, and not always to His saints, of which there are many in the world today, known only to God –in the market place, in the home.

I believe that the experience of God's children even in these modern times are wonderfully similar to what has happened to me, but no one likes to mention Christ's revelations to them, feeling that they would be thought queer, as the things of the spirit are foolishness to the natural man.

My own personal experiences I shall endeavour to write, being no visionary, just a common sinner and a child of God, through belief in the power of his redeeming blood.

Last Spring, worried about an impending lawsuit, sitting in church, or rather kneeling, I had the great blessing of a vision of Our Saviour passing up the aisle of the church - just a glimpse.

As he passed me, he looked at me and smiled. Such a kind, loving smile, full of love and understanding. Pen cannot describe the marvel of it. He appeared in a brown, Eastern costume, bareheaded, with rather long, brown hair, wide and high forehead, large beautiful eyes, well apart, a strong face, wonderfully kind. I was wide-awake. The lawsuit was settled and I had no reason to worry.

The next time in bed but no dream, between sleeping and waking, I saw Him in a doorway of a stone house. I just glimpsed His head and shoulders as one coming out or standing, partly looking out of a doorway. Again, there was the strong face, rather long, beautiful forehead and straight, well shaped nose, the eyes being downcast as if in sorrow, long hair brushed back. This time with a light beard, not straggling. My impression was of the man who carried our sorrows and was acquainted with grief. A strong, able man - fine looking- No weakling in appearance.

Next, I can say like St. Paul, I can't remember whether I was sleeping or waking in my bed.

I saw the Calvary Christ - on the cross.

Just the head bowed down, arms and shoulders. Below was semi-darkness, All, except in one corner at the foot of the cross to the left, was the figure of the Virgin Mary of God on her knees in a royal blue cloak, barely distinguishable through the gloom. But through a rift in the almost black sky, light like a sunset, illuminated the head and shoulders of Our Saviour on the cross. His mother was closest to Him in life and in death, and also now in His glorious ascension into heaven.

8) Marguerite Taylor – in a note that was passed along by Jill¹ and probably written in the 1980's.

The Lugubrious Juices of Art

My cousin Alice was the first one to impress me as an artist.

At this time she was seven, almost white haired, with large blue eyes, a skinny body and a moist nose, which always seemed to be bothering her. (A seven-month baby, whose mother had had German measles at her birth.) Alice was subject to colds and any odd virus that came along. Her parents were happy that they had been able to raise her to seven years, although right now she's doing fine at seventy.

I was two & a half years younger than Alice - a sturdy, freckle-faced, redheaded 5 year old, who at that time showed no particular talent except for struggling with white ducks who did not want to be hugged & squawking brown hens who did not want to be petted. I think they figured I'd grow up to be enamored of & married to a farmer.

Around Christmas I would be invited to the Xmas tree ceremony. Whereupon I would receive a box of handkerchiefs from my grandmother, which seemed odd to me as Alice was the one who always had the runny nose. But there would be paint boxes & brushes, coloring books & pads of water-coloured paper. When the debris was all cleared away we would sit around the big oak table. I would grab a box of crayons & paper & draw faces and stick men figures while Alice would be hooked on the lugubrious juices of art, mouth open, pencil or paint-brush flying, fairy tale figures emerging & graceful clouds & pretty flowers etc. I would look on entranced.

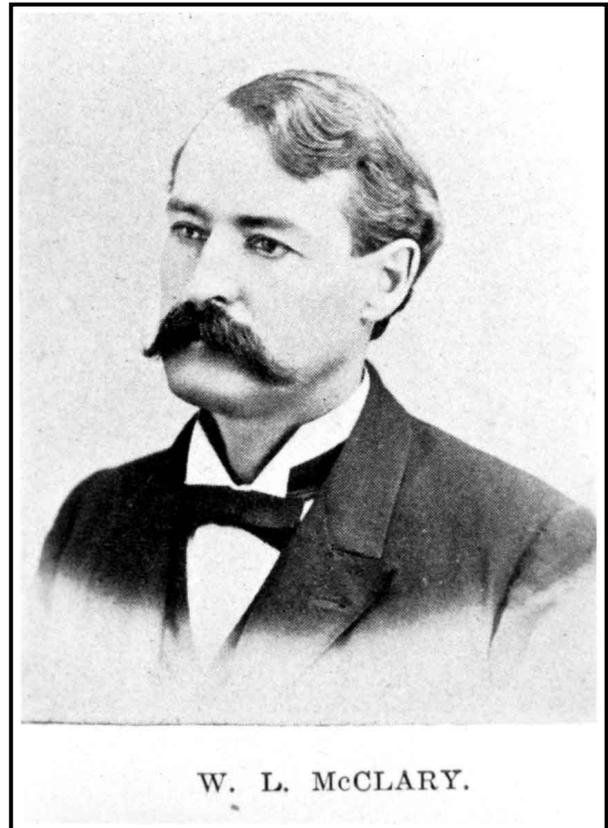
Eventually Alice went to art school. Two of her friends were Unity Bainbridge & Josephine Turney. These girls were as different as two teenagers could be, but they were all bitten by the art bugs' lugubrious juices. All three would drool over the great masters' works and I, not really understanding because my father had given me a business course at Spratt-Shaw, would pore over these lovely paintings as one on the fringe of the lugubrious juices crowd.

McClary

Washington Lafayette McClary (known as “Mac”) and wife Janet (called “Jennie”) were the parents of Irica Bannerman McClary, the first wife of Harry Wilcox. Irica died in childbirth when their daughter June was born.

Mac visited the Cariboo in 1912, liked what he saw at Chub Lake, just northeast of 108 Mile, and moved there in 1913. This was about the same time Harry Wilcox was exploring the same region and they homesteaded the same valley system, a half dozen miles apart, though connected only by trails. Harry and brother John had crown grant land near Chub Lake and their respective trap lines probably overlapped.

Mac was from the US (Ohio, Nebraska) and Jennie was from Ontario, so how did they wind up in B.C.? It was a long and winding trail, starting in Virginia (or Pennsylvania). Based on anecdotal information¹, a McClary family operated a plantation based on slave labour. One son, Joshua, quarreled with an older brother over the ethics and principles of slavery and, being the dissident, departed the family, severing all connection. Joshua moved to Ohio, married Eliza Cobb, worked a farm and raised a family of eight, of which Mac was the youngest. The McClary name was apparently⁷ the maiden name of Joshua’s mother.



Mac’s mother died when he was about two and his father died when he was about nine¹, which would be around 1860 when the US Civil War began. We are not sure what to make of the 1860 census that shows a 51-year-old Thanos McClary in residence, but it may refer to Joshua. An older sister (Eliza Lydia perhaps) looked after the family after the parents died. At 13 years old and fed up with school, Mac headed west into the new territories. Although the various family notes don’t mention it, he might have been in the company of an older (and only) brother, Thomas Dyghton McClary. Family memory indicates this Thomas might have got caught up in the civil war, and there is a record of a Thomas D McClary in the West Virginia Cavalry, on the Union side. In any case, the 1870 US census places Thomas in Princeton Missouri and Mac in a nearby place called Morgan (county Mercer), so it is reasonable to presume they might have been fellow travelers. Thomas appears to have lived out his life in Princeton Missouri. Throughout his life Mac kept a diary^{2,8} that provided some of the information used here. His son¹ provided much of the “romantic” view of his life.

Mac worked odd jobs on his travels west, one of which was reputed¹ to be a stable boy on the Pony Express, somewhere in Kansas. *[This is unlikely as the Pony Express ended in 1961, though he could have worked at a stable once used by the Express]*. Over the years he ranged through Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas and Nebraska. He worked as a buffalo hunter, trapper and guide. His roaming was largely in the area of the Sioux Nation and he developed a high regard and deep respect for the Indians and learned to fluently speak, read and write the Sioux language¹. He was a friend of the Sioux Chief “Red Cloud” and was adopted by the Sioux Nation as a “blood member”. Mac was acquainted with many people of the “wild” west. Those he esteemed included Bat Masterson, the sharp shooter Doc Carver, and a good friend Wild Bill Hickock. Others he thought much less of were Buffalo Bill and General Custer. He took part in the cleanup and burials after the Custer massacre at The Little Big Horn (1876)¹ *[Dubious, as that was a fair distance from Stockville Nebraska]*.

Over a period of time there was a settling down to ranching and business in the new county of Frontier, Nebraska. The family notes suggest he played a part in Frontier becoming an official county in 1872 and in the founding of the town of Stockville. Mac is credited with laying out the town of Stockville in 1872 on part of his own homestead. To quote from a Frontier, Nebraska website⁶: “Two years before the county was officially established, cattlemen came to know the W.L. McClary ranch as the place where information could be exchanged or left for those who passed back and forth through the area. This site was located near the geographic center of the county and would be the forerunner to the settlement that would become known as Stockville, the county seat.”

Seems like a lot to accomplish for someone just 21 years old⁹, but much of the ‘remembered’ activity could have taken place in later years. As was the practice for founders of towns, Mac established several of the businesses such as hotel, store, blacksmith, etc. There was also a period where he acted as a purchasing agent for a Chicago packing plant, buying and shipping cattle to that market. There are also references in earlier years to hunting buffalo for the same purpose. The town prospered and grew for a time, however the railroad did not pass through Stockville as hoped and the town ebbed away in the 1900’s.

Mac managed the ranch of David Coulter Ballentine for about 2 to 3 years, likely just after the death of David². Still in the McClary family is a treasured Elgin gold watch and chain. The inner cover is engraved “1879. To W.L. McClary from Mr. & Mrs. Ballentine”¹¹.

Annie Eliza (Ena) Ballentine

The aforementioned D.C. Ballentine was a wealthy man, rancher and was to become a republican senator in 1880³. In 1876 he married Annie Eliza (Ena) Raymonde, a native of Spring Hill, Georgia, and daughter of D. B. Palmer. She was the sister of William H. (Paddy) Miles, one of the earliest settlers in Frontier County and a founder of Frontier⁵. Her brother took the name Miles to (as speculated) isolate him from a murder charge in Georgia. Ena had been married to a Raymonde in Georgia and one of her biographical notes¹⁰ indicates some of her poetry was under this name. Ena arrived from Georgia in March 1872, after her husband died, and obviously adapted well, becoming an excellent rider and marksman. One reference has her hunting buffalo from horseback⁴ and had acquired the Sioux name Paheminnieminsh, or



Ena Ballentine Copyright Nebraska
Historical Society

“Little Curly Hair”. Multitalented, Ena was also an author of short stories, poetry and articles for eastern magazines.

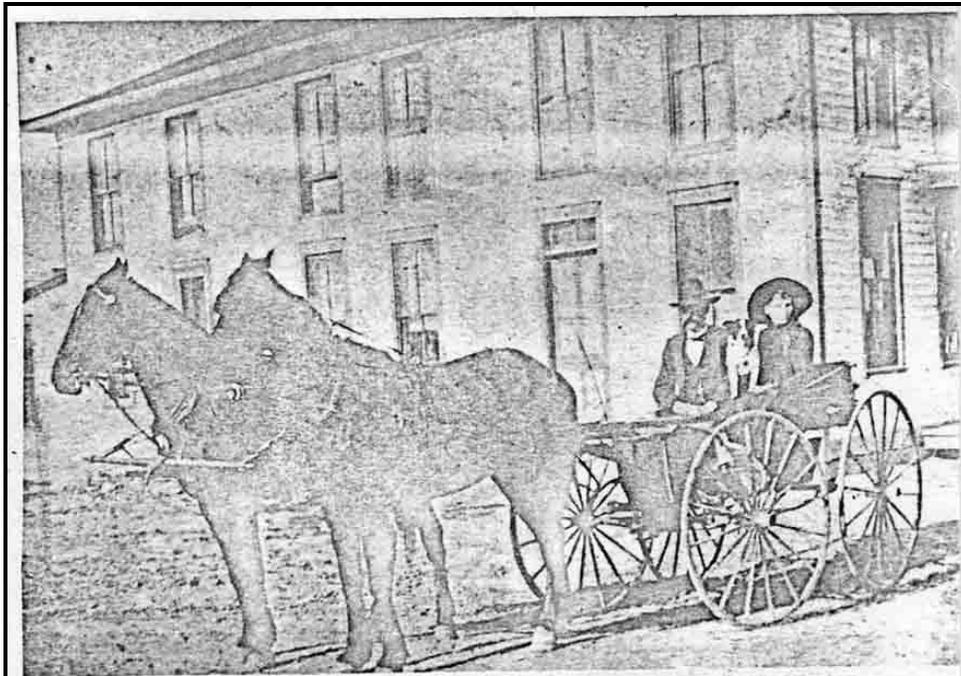
D.C. Ballentine died in 1882 after a fatal accident with a train, leaving two children, David Coulter (b1876) and a daughter Ena (b1881). A couple years later Annie married W.L. McClary. The details from here on are both murky and tragic. One researcher² claimed they were married in 1884 in McCook, Nebraska. Two references in the IGI¹³ indicate Iowa, one for 1 Jan 1884 Iowa and one for 12 September 1883. The latter is likely the right one as another researcher¹⁴ has confirmed this record. By July 1884 Ena was dead and buried in Sunset Point cemetery (headstone has 1849-1884), which is located on Medicine creek between Stockville and Moorefield. As to how, one report² has it that on the wagon ride home from the marriage the team bolted, Annie was thrown off and died from her injuries. However the records in the Historical Society^{10, 14}

indicate she died in July 1884 and a Nebraska State Mortality record¹⁴ listed cause of death as “abortion”. Another letter in the file¹⁰, written years later by Ena’s cousin in Georgia to Ena’s son Coulter, says “. . . Mr. McC. wrote me that she was paralysed.” Another historian^{2a} thinks there was a baby buried with Annie in one casket, a notion that seems to be confirmed by the following entry in Mac’s diary for 26 Oct 1892 that reads, “Do not know what to do in regard to my first wife and our child that are buried up by Moorefield”. All these bits seem to come together - serious accident that led to a miscarriage and subsequent death.

Relatives in Lincoln raised the two Ballentine children. Apparently¹⁴ there is quite the story surrounding the children, their uncle Paddy and wrangling over land ownership etc.

Lillian J Rummell

Mac married Lillian in Indianola, Red Willow County, Nebraska, on 28 Oct 1885⁸. Little is known about her. Presumably they lived in Stockville where Mac managed his various enterprises, but it did not end well. After six years or so, it seems she took off with someone else. An official divorce was granted 21 June 1892². This was a period of great personal turmoil for Mac as he even excised the 86 pages of his diary prior to Aug 16, 1892. There was an entry about him purchasing his own headstone, which preceded the entry above about his Annie and child burial problem. The diary entry for Jan 16, 1893 records he sold his place on the hill, presumably the house in town where he lived with Lillian



This picture, of the first hotel in Stockville, shows one of the owners, Mac McClary, with his wife Lillie Rummel McClary. Other owners of the hotel and partner was Wm. Hopton. His son, Jim, still resides in Stockville. This picture of the Baldeagle Hotel, taken about 1885, was loaned to us by Jim Hopton. It was torn down in 1945 by Leila Shinley, who sold the lumber to be used in a motel at North Platte.



Janet Bannerman (Jennie)

To get away from it all Mac did a bit of traveling. A diary entry for 16 Sep 1892 was about a "Reunion celebration" at Curtis, with many old friends from the Platte, White, Powder and Yellowknife rivers. From 1 March to 28 April 1893 he went back to Ohio, visiting friends and family. Somewhere about midsummer he starts writing about the dating scene, then references start to appear about getting a letter from J.B. An entry for 24 June 1893 mentions Jennie and Aunt Kitt coming down from Gothenberg for a visit. There is no indication of how or where he met Jennie (and her chaperone), maybe in Chicago, maybe a mutual friend. Anyway, he moved quickly and managed to convince the chaperone that a rough westerner was just the thing for this (in the florid terms of Norman McClary¹) "sheltered, innocent, demure, quietly cheerful lady of the proud, conservative Bannerman family from an elite area of Bruce County, Ontario". Consent was granted Sept 11 and they were married 6 Feb. 1894 in Colorado Springs.

Stockville

Mac and Jennie lived in Stockville from 1894 to about 1906. There are no references to ranching so presumably he was an entrepreneur/businessman. He owned Bald Eagle Hotel, which was operated (or leased to) William Hopton who was married to Mac's sister, Eliza Lydia McClary. Eliza died (no children) in 1898 and is buried at Arbor cemetery, Stockville. A Mr. Misner managed the Enterprise, Mac's general store (see business ad).

Three children, Irica, Bryan and Norman were born in Stockville. Bryan was a school buddy of Robert Van Pelt² and he states that Bryan was named after the Democratic contender in 1896, William Jennings Bryan.

For land in Lewellen, Garden County, Nebraska:

LAND PATENT NUMBER 325341, 9 APRIL 1913, issued at Land Office at North Platte, Nebraska to Washington L. McClary for the "south half, the northwest quarter, and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section nine and the south half of the southwest quarter of Section four in Township seventeen north of Range forty-two west of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Nebraska, containing six hundred forty acres." BLM Serial Nr. NENP 0003311.

Around 1906 Mac became bored with town life, sold out and moved 100 miles northwest to a ranch on Blue Creek, near Lewellen. The twins, Wayne and Dorothy were born in Lewellen. Six years after that, when fences appeared on either side, and at the ripe old age of 61 he (or they) once again decided to move on. As to why B.C., you have to read the chapter on Bannerman. There was a property on Chub Lake, owned by a Bannerman, that Mac viewed in 1912. He thought it was one of the most beautiful places he had seen so in 1913 Mac and Bryan came and built a house. Bryan stayed there while Mac went back to Nebraska, sold everything (it appears he had just obtained land ownership in 1913), collected the family and was back in Vancouver by May 1914.

While Jennie, Irica and twins visited (uncle) Alex Bannerman in Victoria, Mac purchased breeding stock (cattle, horses) and had them shipped to Ashcroft. Going north, Jennie and children went straight thru to 108 Mile House where Bryan had stayed. In Ashcroft Mac bought more stock, equipment, food, wagons, etc. and he and a helper drove the wagons while Norman herded the stock (at 10yrs old).

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STATE BANK OF STOCKVILLE.
 BYRON G. LANE, CASHIER.
 Commercial Collections a Specialty.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW **THE ENTERPRISE STORE.** **THE PHOENIX DRUG STORE**
 AND NOTARY PUBLIC. H. J. LOGAN, Prop.
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 SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO PRESCRIPTION WORK.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW **COUNTRY & PRODUCE,** **ATTORNEY AT LAW,**
 NOTARY PUBLIC. BUTTER AND EGG DEPOT. Notary Public, and Bonded Abstractor.
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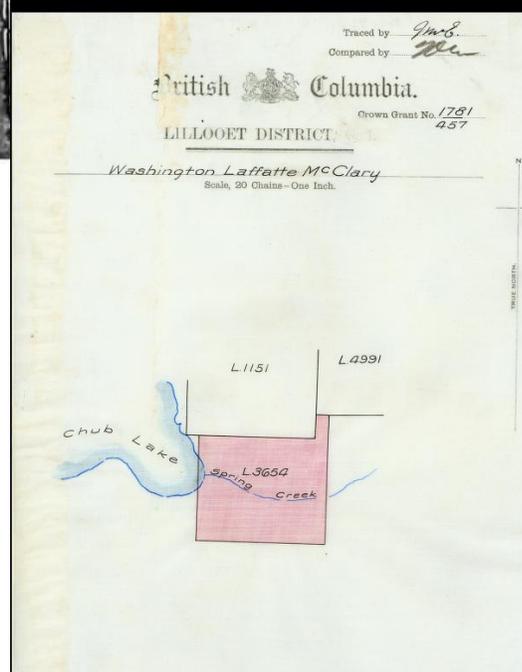
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STOCKVILLE BOOT AND SHOE STORE **Stockville Opera House** **Livery and Feed Stable**
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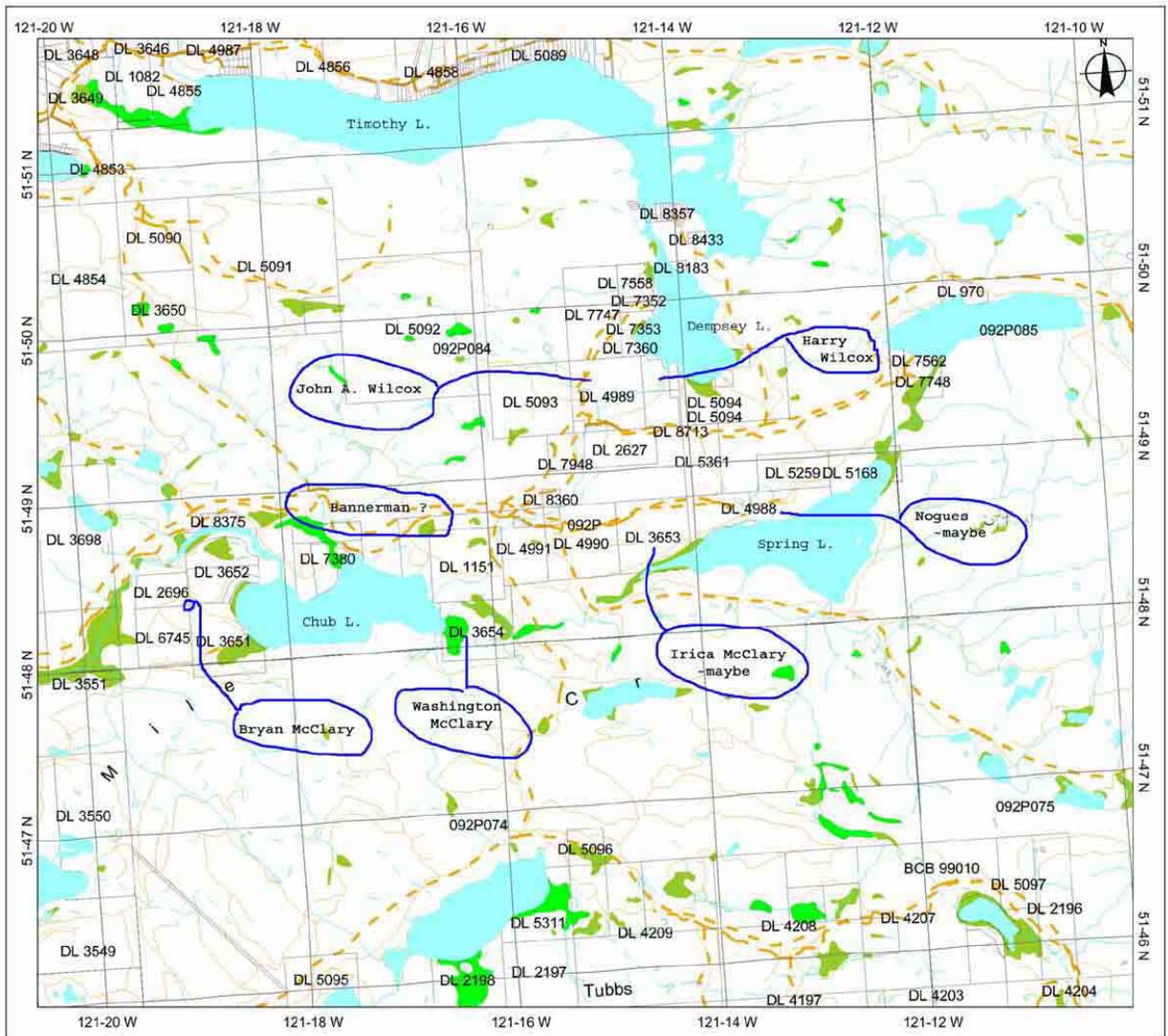
C. H. CRONK, **ELABORATE SCENERY.** **JAMES WILLIAMS,**
Real Estate Agent 500 SEATING CAPACITY. **LAWYER**
 Lands bought and sold, and exchanged for Stock or Goods. A. S. SANDS, Manager. S. A. HARLAN, Director.

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Chub Lake was the last move for the McClary's. They farmed, raised their family, and became citizens. Like all pioneers in the Cariboo, the early years would have been tough, with hunting and trapping being the mainstay. Over the years they added land to the original homestead. Mac appears on one crown grant registration in 1921, presumably the first addition to the original Bannerman property, which was a large acreage around the north side of Chub Lake⁷. Bryan and Irica also show up with crown grant registrations in 1922 and 1918 respectively. Jack and Harry Wilcox claimed two properties in the area and there was also an Annie Nagues nearby, on Spring Lake, who was related to Bryce/Wilcox (see Bryce chapter).



***Crown Grant Map of Chub/Spring Lake Area.
The Wilcox farm is just a few miles to the east.***

The W. L. McClary family, in brief:

Ivor Bryan McClary

Bryan never married, stayed on the farm except for a WW I stint, and looked after his parents into their old age. On their death he lost interest in the farm and finally sold it in 1964.

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Ivor Bryan McClary
Event Date: **1968 1 21** (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 71
Gender: male
Event Place: Coquitlam

Reg. Number: 1968-09-001933
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13287
GSU Microfilm Number: 2033931



Wayne Robert McClary

Wayne worked as a game guide and in the electrical trade in northern B.C. He and wife Laura had two children, Marvin and Jim, who served in the Canadian armed forces and retired to the Ottawa area of eastern Ontario.

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Wayne Robert McClary
Event Date: **1979 9 18** (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 70
Gender: male
Event Place: Oliver

Reg. Number: 1979-09-014312
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13598
GSU Microfilm Number: 2051382

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Dorothy Lila Dixon
Event Date: **1984 1 6** (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 73
Gender: female
Event Place: Matsqui

Reg. Number: 1984-09-001220
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13636
GSU Microfilm Number: 2073153

Dorothy Lila McClary

Dorothy was the twin of Wayne. She married Howard McNeil, who operated the first garage in Forest Grove, and they had one daughter Sonia. Howard died at age 44 in Forest Grove and Dorothy remarried a Mr. J. Dixon and lived in Ocean Falls, B.C.

Vital Event Marriage Registration

*Groom Name: Howard Laurence Mcneil
Bride Name: Dorothy Lila McClary
Event Date: 1930 12 13 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Event Place: Williams Lake*

*Reg. Number: 1930-09-382733
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13760
GSU Microfilm Number: 2074556*

Vital Event Death Registration

*Name: Howard Mcneil
Event Date: 1954 4 15 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 44
Gender: male
Event Place: Forest Grove*

*Reg. Number: 1954-09-005713
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13220
GSU Microfilm Number: 2032966*

Norman Harold Gordon McClary

There is a bit more information on Norman as he recorded in some detail the events of his life, with the curious exception of marriage and family. He was a teller of tales and prone to self-aggrandizing and was clearly focused on ensuring his fathers place in Frontier history. However you can still see he was a bit of a 'chip off the old block'. Dynamic, restless, curious, he trapped, guided, drove passenger stage on the Cariboo road, and then slowly worked his way up to more professional construction and engineering work. During the depression there was a stint as a leader of a Country music group that played all over Vancouver, including a radio slot. After that he went back to engineering project management, got professional certification (from a formal education base of grade 4) and worked for the government building airports all over Canada. Post 'retirement' saw him with a government foreign aid project in Africa. He was the family historian and collected some of the information that went into this chapter. Norman married Kathleen Grahame and they had two children, Norman and Maureen. They divorced and Norman remarried a widow (Heather ?) with three daughters.

Vital Event Marriage Registration

*Groom Name: Norman Harold G McClary
Bride Name: Kathleen Olivia Grahame
Event Date: 1929 8 23 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Event Place: Vancouver*

*Reg. Number: 1929-09-353259
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13757
GSU Microfilm Number: 2074553*

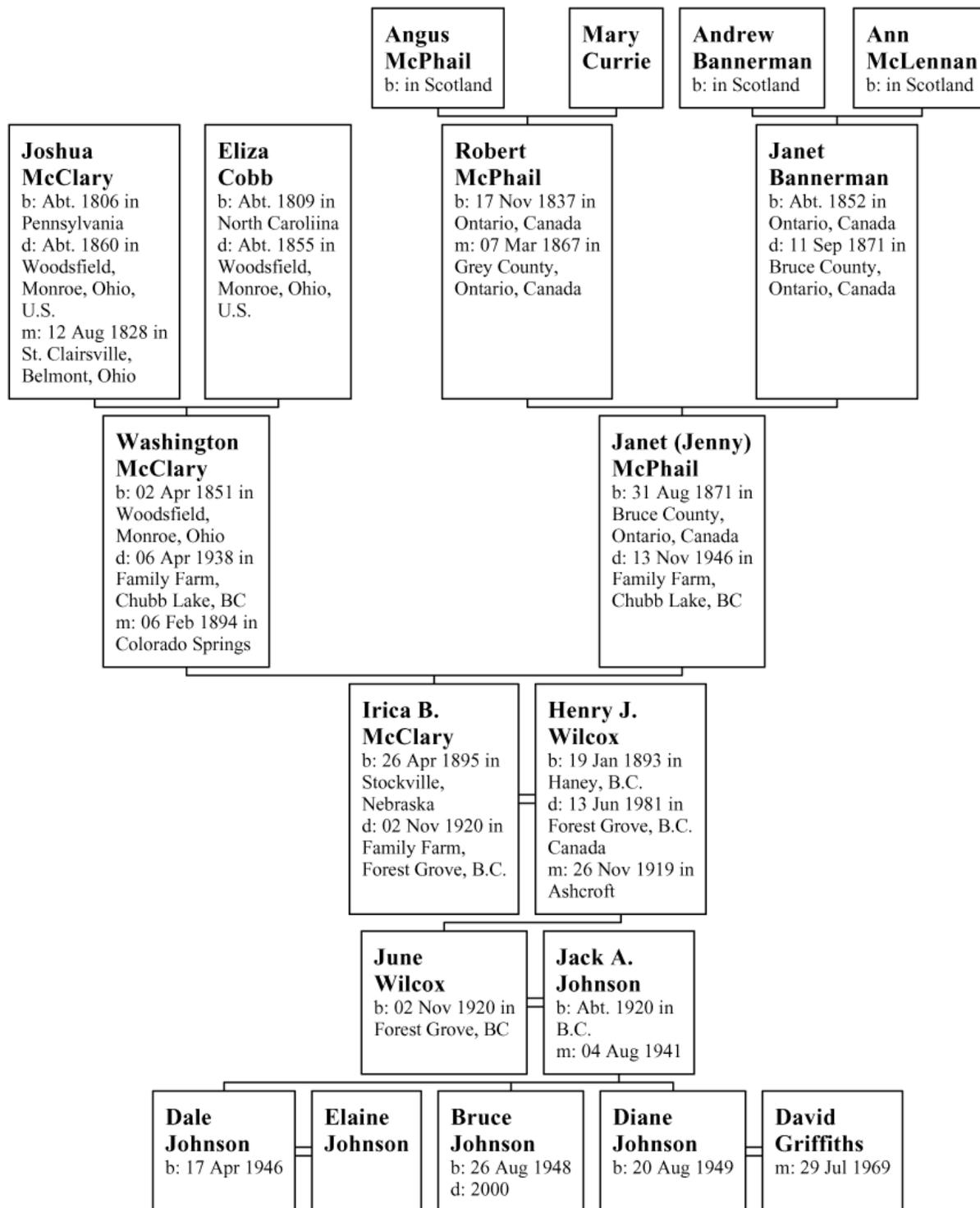
Vital Event Death Registration

*Name: Norman Harold Gordon McClary
Event Date: 1987 6 1 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 83
Gender: male
Event Place: Comox*

*Reg. Number: 1987-09-009322
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B17103
GSU Microfilm Number: 1669936*

As a side note, Norman knew Arthur and Mary (Wilcox) Williamson quite well in North Vancouver. Arthur was a "high level businessman" and Managing Director of Grouse Mt, Scenic Resort Ltd, original developers of the chalet and access road. Norman was there for all of it, doing road surveys, logging operations for chalet materials, supply transport, machine operator etc. His car was the first over the road, with Arthur as passenger.

Hourglass Tree of Irica Bannerman McClary



Irica Bannerman McClary

Irica was the oldest of the McClary children. She started her own homestead on Spring Lake but this likely did not get too far and was set aside when she married Harry Wilcox. She died in childbirth at the age of 25 and was buried on a small grassy, poplar covered knoll on the Wilcox farm. Her daughter June was taken in by her McClary grandparents and essentially raised as a McClary. The June story is continued in a separate chapter.

Vital Event Marriage Registration

Groom Name: Henry Wilcox
Bride Name: Irica McClary
Event Date: 1919 11 26 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Event Place: Ashcroft

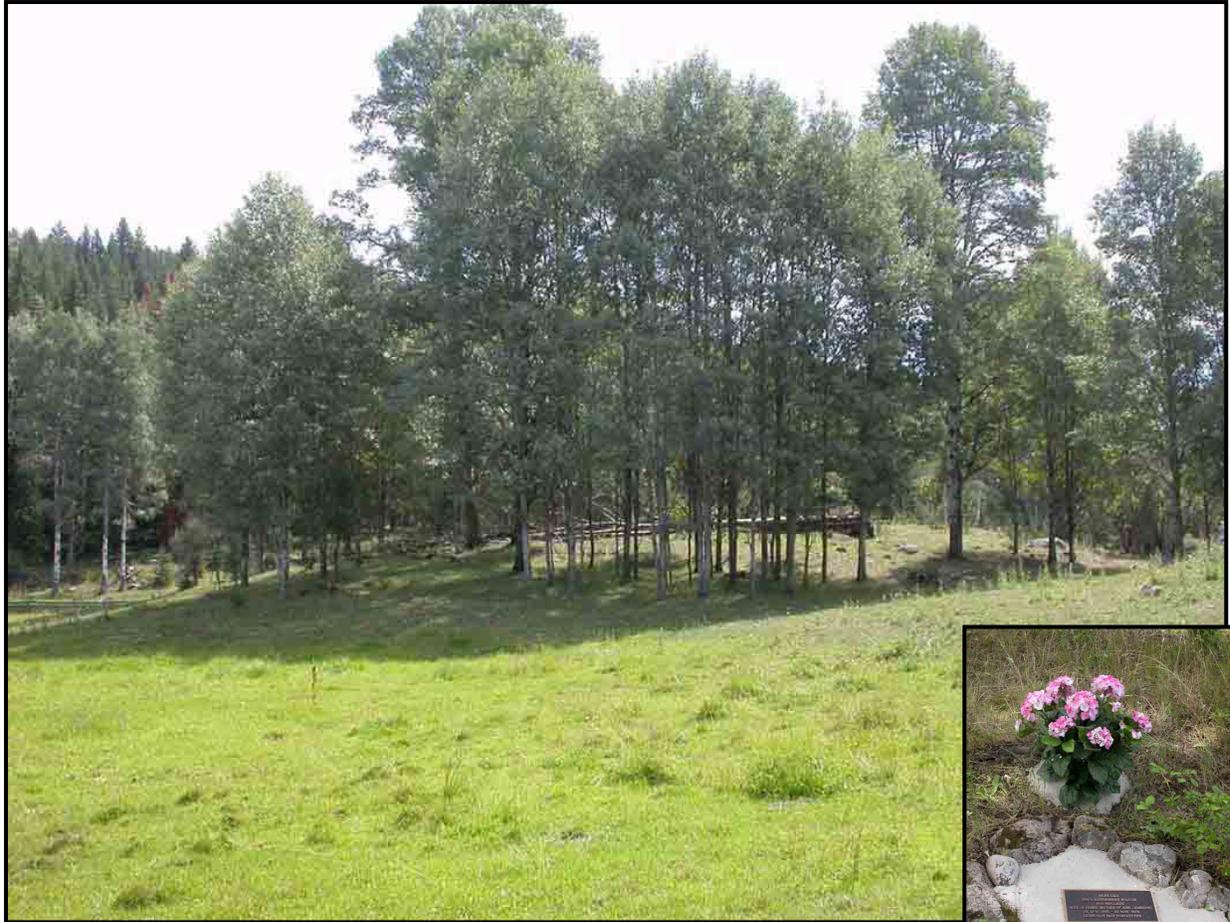
Reg. Number: 1919-09-204192
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B11390
GSU Microfilm Number: 1984111



Irica McClary



***Irica McClary on
her homestead
near Spring Lake***



The poplar knoll where Irica was buried is beside the road the Wilcox children trudged to school each day. We could see the little pole fence that over the years slowly fell and disappeared. It was a peaceful site, though to some of us kids it had a lonely feel, and remained neglected and all but forgotten. A small step to correct this was taken in 2008 when, 88 years after her death, the gravesite was marked with a small remembrance plaque¹⁵.

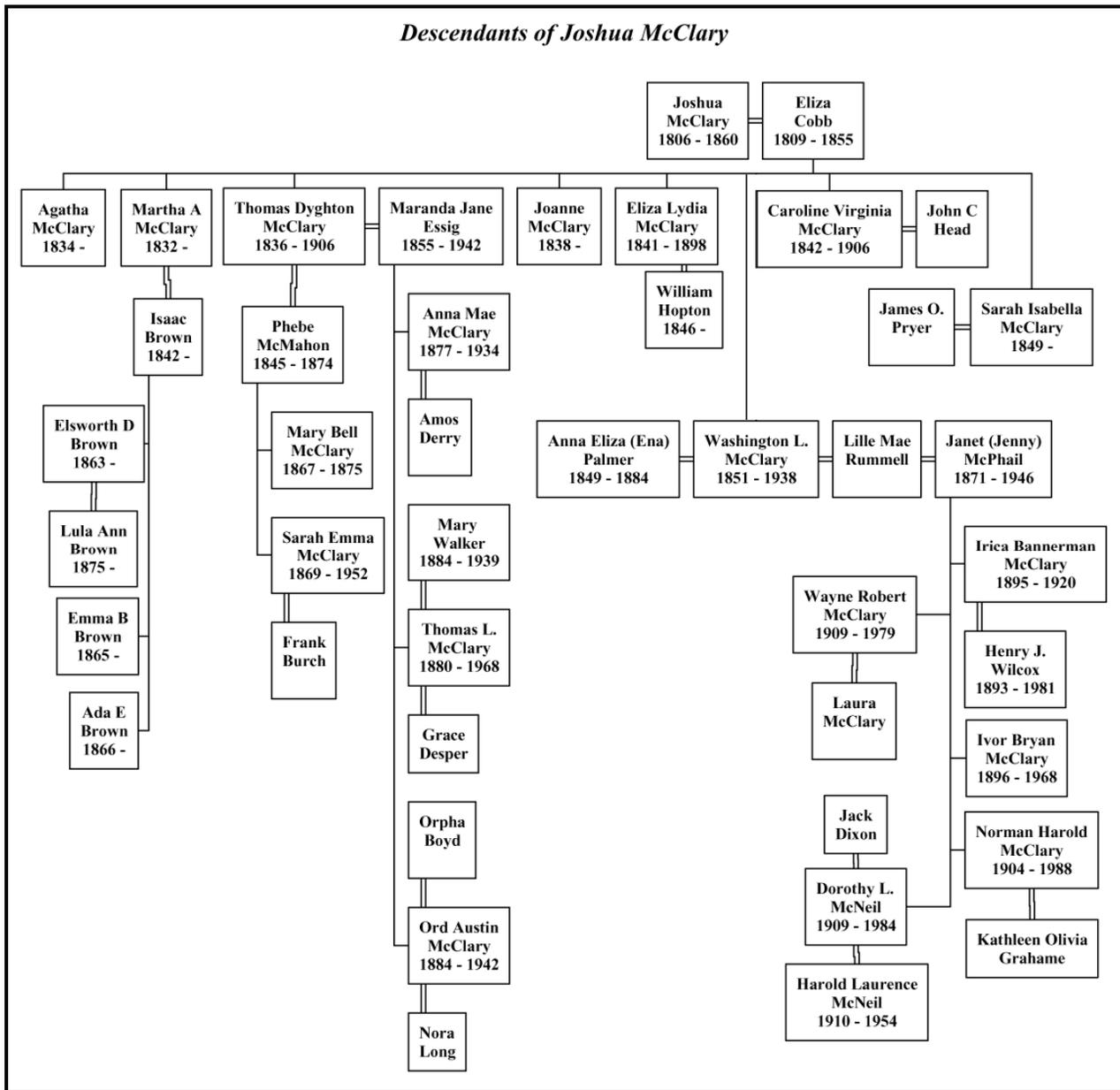
The Joshua McClary family, in brief:

We have solid information on only three of Mac's seven siblings:

Martha A. – married Isaac Brown. One son, Elsworth, was the District Court clerk in Stockville and he shows up often in Mac's diary as E.D. Brown and wife Lulu. They were in touch with Norman¹ and visited the relatives in B.C.

Thomas Dyghton – married twice, with many descendants from both marriages. He lived in Missouri most of his life. Some of the family history compiled by Norman came from an Abbie Irene Watkins, granddaughter of Thomas. This part of the family is active in genealogy¹².

Eliza Lydia – married William Hopton and lived in Stockville. No children, she died relatively young and William remarried.



References:

- 1) Norman McClary - letters and collected 'memories', polished with much telling about the campfire.
- 2) Judge Robert Van Pelt - letters and memories, including those of a fellow historian (2a) Bill Shelley. Robert van Pelt collected historical information about Frontier County and actively supported the Nebraska Historical Society, now based in Lincoln. Between 1965 and 1986 he and Norman McClary exchanged numerous letters and in 1972 Norman sent the diaries of W.L.McClary to R. Van Pelt who then transferred them to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Although some of the McClary family thought R Van Pelt was related (cousin?), there is no evidence of that and R Van Pelt's son Samuel thought it highly unlikely (as discussed in 2007).
- 3) Document by Art Carmody of Trenton, Nebraska, active in State Historical Society, referring to data provided by an R.E.Dale. This document provided by R Van Pelt (1980 letter). Similar data is in the Ballentine diaries¹⁰.
- 4) Spirit Gun of the West – a book by Raymond W Thorp about Doc (W.F.) Carver, another frontiersman, note for his marksman ability. Doc had the homestead next door to Ena Ballentine. Did she teach him how to shoot, or the other way around?
- 5) William H Miles (Paddy) – a grandson of Paddy sent R Van Pelt 10 pages of Paddy's diary (1867-to arrival of his mother and Ena in March 1872). Paddy seemed a poetic, artistic chap, though family letters indicated he was thought of as a rogue. He departed Spring Hill, Georgia May 1867 under mysterious circumstances. Paddy owned Wolfs Rest Ranch.
- 6) From <http://www.nacone.org/webpages/counties/countywebs/frontier.htm>
Nebraska Association of County Officials
- 7) June (Wilcox) Johnson recollections.
- 8) W. L. McClary's diary entries, as quoted by Norman McClary
- 9) Question re Mac's birth date. A diary entry by Mac on 18 Apr 1893 has "Today I am 40 years old", which puts his birth date in 1853. Other records have it as April 1851. At least two census records indicate 1851, and at least one of these was totally dependent on input from Mac himself, so it is hard to know which to believe. The 1851 date is being used here.
- 10) Annie (Ena) Ballentine – her diaries and letters are in the Nebraska State Historical Society.
<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/index.htm>

11) The Elgin National Watch Company - Elgin was founded in 1864, right as the civil war was coming to an end. The first watch Elgin made, an 18-sized B W **Raymond** railroad grade watch, was finished in 1867 and over the next 100 years, they went on to produce about 60 million watches.

12) The descendents of Thomas Dyghton McClary are active in genealogy research. Two websites capture some of this information:

<http://www.essigmcclary.com/>

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/search/AF/pedigree_view.asp?recid=5797577&familyid=3945342&frompage=99

13) IGI –International Genealogical Index

14) Kathy Auman, a distant relative of Ena (Ballentine) Palmer¹⁰, is active in researching the Palmer/Ballentine family and is the source for much of the detail presented here on Ena.

15) Irica's gravesite on the Wilcox farm was fixed up by Terry and June Wilcox and Terry's son Jim.

Footnote:

There was an idea that the McClary of McClary stove fame might be related. Norman McClary had been contacted by a McClary in Manitoba who stated that in a very early time three brothers had come to Canada with one settling in Manitoba, one in Ontario and the other heading off to the U.S. (Virginia). The Ontario McClary founded McClary Manufacturing Co. of London, Ontario, maker of stoves, furnaces and enamelware. If we ignore the detail about Virginia then there may well be a connection, given that Pennsylvania is common to both families. Various Ontario records show that the parents of the John McClary and brother Oliver who operated the manufacturing company were from Pennsylvania and in fact the older brother Oliver was born in Pennsylvania. So far no solid connection can be made with the Joshua McClary born in Pennsylvania.

Bannerman

Washington Lafayette McClary (known as “Mac”) and wife Janet (called “Jennie”) were the parents of Irica Bannerman McClary, the first wife of Harry Wilcox. Jennie was from the Bannerman clan of Bruce County, Ontario, a clan described by Norman McClary² as proud, conservative and elite, a description he picked up from a visit to a Bannerman family in Chesley Ontario in the 1960’s.

For an elite family, they are certainly hard to pin down in the public records. In fact the only part of the family that is readily found³ is that one thin thread involving Jennie. The family tree diagram comes from a very rough and somewhat obscure outline generated by Norman, little of which can be confirmed by public records.

At the top we have an Andrew Bannerman, married to an Ann (Katherine Ann) McLennan, who had nine or ten kids, sometime between 1850 and 1870². One of these was Janet, born in 1852. In 1867, at 15 years of age, she married Robert McPhail and four years later, Aug 31, 1871, a daughter was born named Janet (this is Jennie). Days later, Janet died of complications and Jennie was taken in and raised as a Bannerman by her maternal grandparents. This tragedy was to repeat itself in the next generation, with Jennie’s daughter Irica also dying at childbirth and the daughter June being raised by the maternal grandparents.

Jennie Bannerman was actually Janet McPhail, and not a Janetta or Jeanette as shows up in various places, although she may have used these names at some time. The name Janet is spelled out in the death certificate for Irica (McClary) Wilcox as well as Jennie’s birth record.

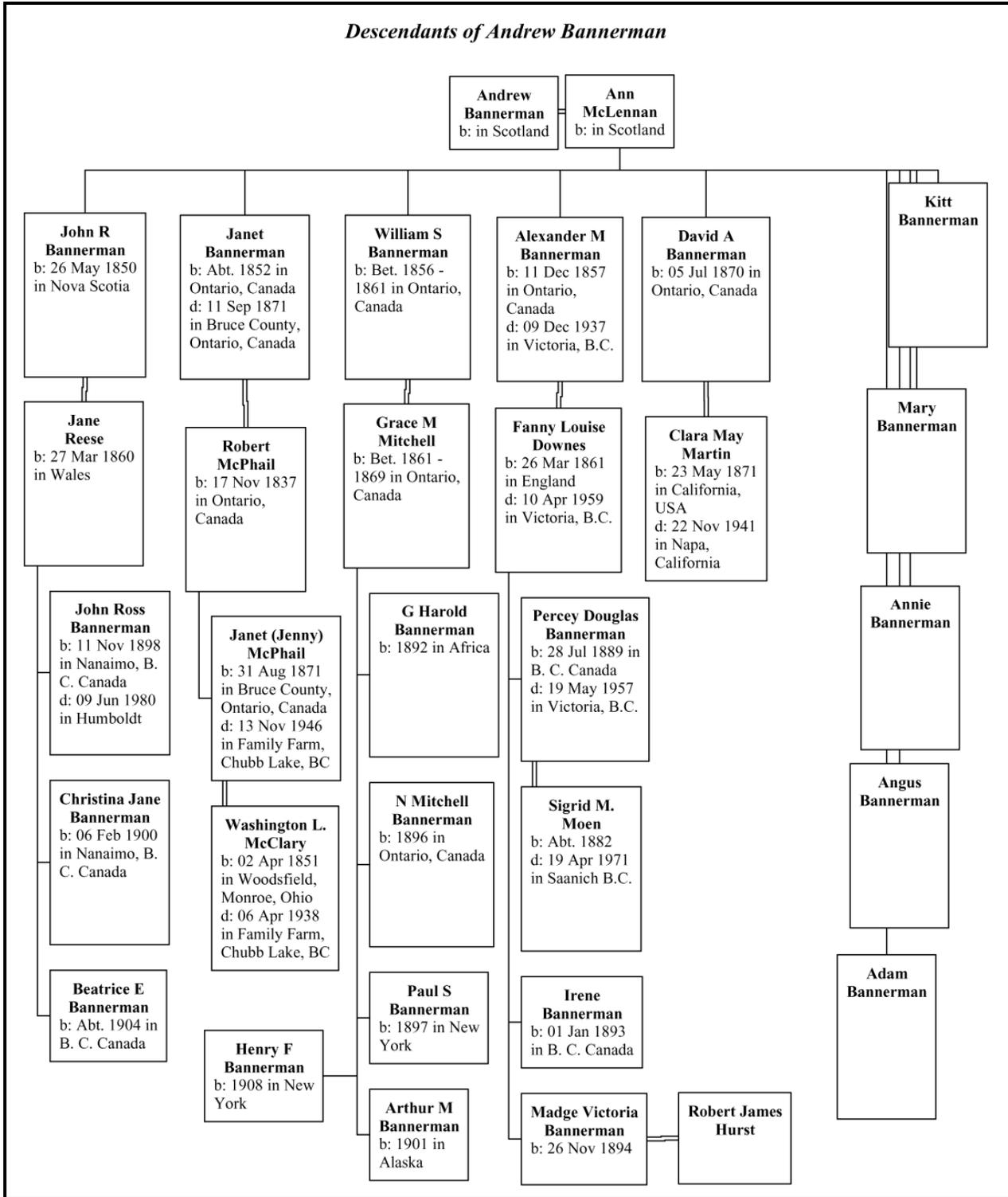
Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1907

Name: Janet McPhail
Date of Birth: 31 Aug 1871
Gender: Female
Birth County: Bruce
Father's Name: Robert McPhail
Mother's Name: Janet Bannerman
Roll Number: MS929_7

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1922

Name: Janet Bannerman
Birth Place: Canada
Residence: Sullivan Township
Age: 15
Father Name: A.
Mother Name: A. McLennan
Estimated Birth Year: 1852
Spouse Name: Robert McPhail
Spouse's Age: 27
Spouse Birth Place: Scotland
Spouse Residence: Carrick Township
Spouse Estimated Birth Year: 1840
Spouse Father Name: A. McPhail
Spouse Mother Name : C. Currie
Marriage Date: 7 Mar 1867
Marriage County: Grey

Descendants of Andrew Bannerman



		General No. <i>0</i>
Name and Surname of Deceased.	<i>x</i>	<i>Janet M: Phail</i>
When Died.		<i>11th September 1871.</i>
Sex—Male or Female.		<i>Female</i>
Age.		<i>19 Years</i>
Rank or Profession.		
Where Born.		<i>Canada</i>
Certified cause of Death, and duration of Illness.		<i>Eight days</i>
Name of Physician, if any.		<i>Dr. Murphy Mildmay Dr. Fleming Jesswater</i>
Signature, description and residence of informant.		<i>Robert M: Phail of Carrick Farm</i>
When Registered.		<i>12th January 1872.</i>
Religious Denomination of Deceased.		<i>Presbyterian</i>
Signature of Registrar.		<i>Edmund Savage</i>
Division.		<i>Carrick Tp</i>
County.		<i>Bruce</i>

Ontario Death Record for Janet McPhail

After the death of his first wife Robert McPhail soon remarried, another youngster it would seem, and went on to raise another family. The census record following lists the 'half-cousins' of the B.C. McClarys.

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1922

Name: **Robert McPhail**
Gender: *Male*
Marital Status: *Married*
Age: *63*
Birth Date: *17 Nov 1837*
BIRTHPLACE: *Ontario*
Relation to Head of House: *Head*
Spouse's Name: **Chatarina**
Racial or Tribal Origin: *Scotch (Scottish)*
Nationality: *Canadian*
Religion: *Presbyterian*
Occupation: *Farmer*
Province: *Ontario*
District: *Bruce (East/est*
District Number: *48*
Sub-District: *Carrick*

	Name	Age
	Robert McPhail	63
	Chatarina McPhail	44
Household Members:	John McPhail	22
	Niel McPhail	21
	Chatharina McPhail	20
	Mary Jain McPhail	18
	Cora May McPhail	10

1901 Census of Canada

Name: **Robert McPhail**
Birth Place: *Nb*
Age: **30**
Father Name: **Angus McPhail**
Mother Name: **Many Currie**
Estimated Birth Year: *abt 1844*
Spouse Name: **Catharine McDonald**
Spouse's Age: *18*
Spouse Birth Place: *On*
Spouse Father Name: **Neil McDonald**
Spouse Mother Name : **Mary Black**
Marriage Date: *3 Mar 1874*
Marriage Place: *Grey*
Marriage County: *Grey*

The Bannerman's were thought to be a well-educated and quite mobile family, the latter perhaps explaining the difficulty in pinning them down. Based on family notes^{1,2}, at least four of the brothers visited the west during the Cariboo gold rush days, which would be about 1860-1870. The youngest, David, was a lawyer who started a freight business in Barkerville and we believe ended up living in California, perhaps Pasadena. Another, John, apparently farmed on Lulu Island in B.C and in lived in Sumas B.C. as well as Washington State. Another, Alex, was involved with a trust company in Victoria B.C. while the fourth, William, was a minister. William had served¹ in Africa then served in Barkerville and eventually retired to the eastern U.S, likely New Jersey. William was the man who originally checked out the Chub lake area, loved the land, and bought a farm property for cash (apparently an alternate to the Crown Grant and proving-in process).

The various official records give a somewhat different picture for a few of these brothers. The notes on Alex in Victoria were accurate and records of his marriage, birth of children and death were found. William the minister was also pretty close as he could be located in the New Jersey census records up to 1930.

William had five sons, the oldest born in Africa and one other born in Alaska. Clearly he had touched on the parts of the world of family memory. A Dave and John can be found in the B.C. records, with John heading to Washington in 1909 and Dave to California in 1908. But, Dave instead of being a lawyer was a grocery merchant in B.C. and a hotelkeeper in Napa California. John was a miner in Nanaimo B.C. and a sawmill worker in Washington state. By these records Dave was the youngest, born in 1870, but certainly not in time for the Cariboo gold rush. Now the Klondike gold rush, that might fit better, given it started in about 1897 and was right beside Alaska where one son of William was born in 1901.

The scattered Bannerman's stayed in close communication over the years and when William was called away from the Cariboo, he decided that, **since niece Jennie had not benefited from any Ontario estate, she should get the Chub Lake property¹. This led to the visit by W.L. McClary in 1912.**

There were a couple of Bannerman sisters, aunts to Jennie, and one of these was a teacher in northern Canada¹. At some point she moved south and into the U.S where she married and settled. Around 1893, Jennie and chaperone Aunt Kitt visited this aunt and perhaps traveled in various parts of the U.S. Midwest. Somewhere, Chicago, maybe in Ohio, they encountered Mac, which takes you back to the McClary story.

An interesting sidebar to the Bannerman story is Mary Florence Bannerman (b1872). About the same age as Jennie, they were 'cousins' and good friends in their youth. Mary married a W. Diefenbaker and became the mother of John George Bannerman Diefenbaker, Canada's 13'th Prime Minister. Although Jennie and Mary probably were cousins, a solid linkage cannot be obtained from existing records.

1910 United States Federal Census

Name: William S Bannerman
Age in 1910: 49
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1861
Birthplace: Ontario
Relation to Head of House: Head
Father's Birth Place: Scotland
Mother's Birth Place: Scotland
Spouse's Name: Grace M
Home in 1910: Hopewell, Mercer, New Jersey
Marital Status: Married
Race: White
Gender: Male
Year of Immigration: 1880
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

	Name	Age
Household Members:	William S Bannerman	49
	Grace M Bannerman	39
	G Harold Bannerman	18
	N Mitchell Bannerman	14
	Paul S Bannerman	13
	Arthur M Bannerman	9
	Henry F Bannerman	2

1901 Census of Canada

Name: Alex Bannerman
Gender: Male
Marital Status: Married
Age: 43
Birth Date: 11 Dec 1857
BIRTHPLACE: Ont Canada
Relation to Head of House: Head
Spouse's Name: Fanny
Racial or Tribal Origin: Scotch (Scottish)
Nationality: Canadian
Religion: Presbyterian
Occupation: Merchant
Province: British Columbia
District: Victoria
District Number: 4
Sub-District: Victoria (City)
Sub-District Number: D-11
Family Number: 31
Page: 4
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

	Name	Age
	Alex Bannerman	43
	Fanny Bannerman	29
Household Members:	Percey Bannerman	12
	Irene Bannerman	8
	Madge Bannerman	6
	Alice Doroner	36

References

- 1) June Johnson (granddaughter of Jennie) anecdotes and memories
- 2) Norman McClary letters and memories
- 3) Public records used include Ontario Births, Deaths and Marriages, Canada Census data, US Census data, and the BC Vital Statistics Archive.

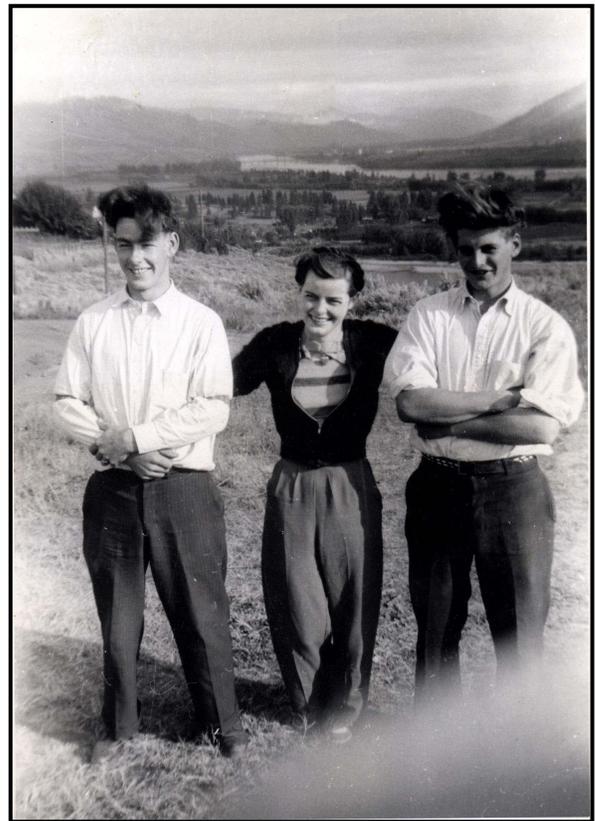
Johnson

We complete the McClary family line with June, daughter of Irica and Harry Wilcox, and her husband Jack Johnson¹. As mentioned in a previous chapter, June was raised by her grandparents Mac and Jenny McClary on the Chub Lake ranch. One or both of the grandparents must have had a real southern drawl as it always puzzled this writer (Phil, speaking here, and not knowing they were from the U.S.), why June sounded like someone from the Carolina's. Accent aside, it was very much a pioneering outdoor existence, riding horses everywhere, fishing for brook trout in the stream, hunting, and of course the ranch work of haying, looking after the livestock and ensuring the food and wood piles were high enough for the coming winter. As was often said about the early days, you had to be able to look after yourself and you only ran out of wood once.

Johnson Background

Jack's mother, Amy Louise Farnden, was from London England. Her life was marked by significant hardship and amazing courage³. In 1908 she married a George West and had three children, that survived, George, Dorothy (Dolly) and Amy (Molly). It is noted³ that two children died in the influenza that followed the war however no records can be found for these two births. When her husband was killed in WWI their comfortable life working for the gentry fell apart and there were family stories as to how she burned her furniture for warmth (there was apparently some falling out in the family). There was a liaison with someone on the estate she was working for and became pregnant, which effectively ended her work there. At this point, 1919, she decided to come to Canada and landed in Lynn Valley (North Vancouver) with five pounds in her pocket. George was 12 and worked to help support the family. Jack Arthur West Johnson was born two months later. Amy worked in Lynn Valley for a while then responded to an advertisement for a housekeeper in the Cariboo and wound up working as a housekeeper in Forest Grove (it is believed). There was a very brief marriage to a Charles Williams (he was already married) then a Sven Johnson approached her because he needed a caregiver for his elderly mother, and the rest is Johnson history³. Sven and Amy went on to have two more children - Jim and Joan. Jack and Amy's other children adopted the name Johnson or West-Johnson.

John Andrew Sven Johnson arrived in the U.S. by sailing vessel, moved to Canada in 1912 or so, and took up ranching near 100 Mile House¹. John and Amy settled on a farm just west of 100 mile House, described by son Jack as all meadows and mosquitoes. Farming in those days was not enough to live on, so John did

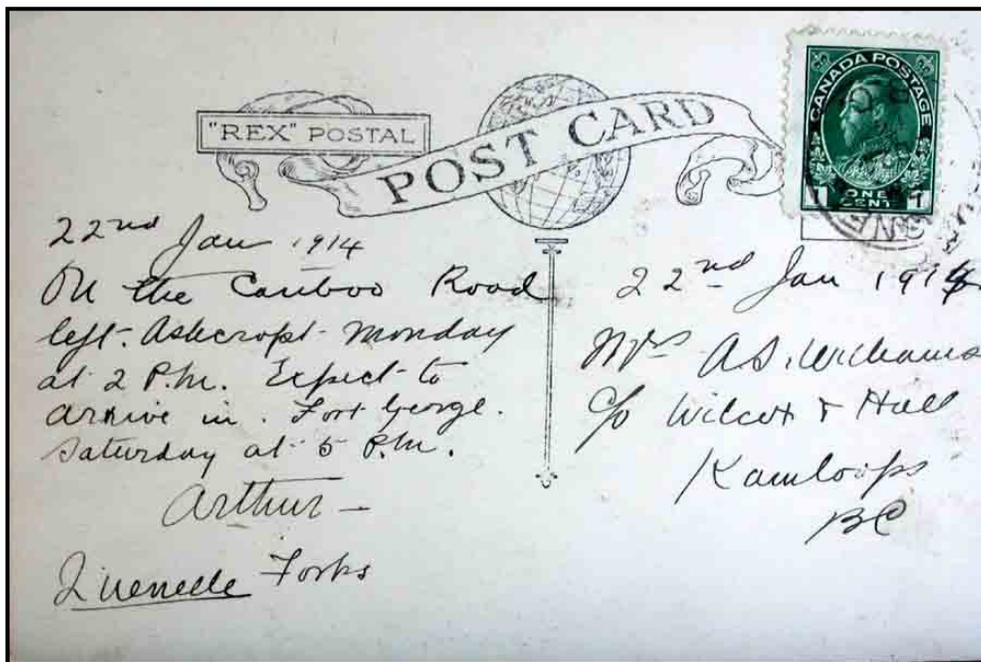


Jack and Jim Johnson, with June, about 1939

lots of contract work such as putting up hay for the 100 and 105 Mile House Ranches. Like everyone else in that country, you did what was needed to survive. Hauling supplies was another source of cash and John would use a 6-horse team to haul freight in from Lillooet and Lytton. Construction of the PGE Railway provided much needed work as it went through the area about 1917 or so². PGE construction slowed or halted during WWI (and the company was bankrupt, supposedly) but when going again there was work on the rail gangs and also the hauling of supplies.



This postcard of a mule train on the Cariboo road is about 1914. Arthur Williamson sent the card to his wife while he was traveling the road on mining business.



Vital Event Death Registration

Name: Amy Louise Johnson
Event Date: **1954 6 5** (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 66
Gender: female
Event Place: Brocklehurst

Reg. Number: 1954-09-006103
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13220
GSU Microfilm Number: 2032966

Vital Event Death Registration

Name: John Andrew Sven Johnson
Event Date: **1954 2 3** (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 74
Gender: male
Event Place: Kamloops

Reg. Number: 1954-09-002235
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: B13218
GSU Microfilm Number: 2032872

Education

Education in the 1902's was a sporadic affair for everyone. Often there were no nearby schools so boarding out was not uncommon. June was sort of home schooled from age 4, and only got to a 'real' school at 8yrs old. For a while she boarded with the Houseman family at Buffalo Creek (which is between Forest Grove and 100 Mile House) and attended Buffalo Creek School. She relates that she felt she was sent to whichever school needed the pupils to justify staying open. Presumably there might have been an option at Lac La Hache though this also depended on having a trustworthy place to stay. Over time the odd school year was missed however she found school easy and when at school she usually did two years in one. By 16 years, when she quit, she was essentially caught up to her age group. There was one interval near the end of schooling when her Aunt Dorothy was in 100 Mile running a taxi and June stayed with her. At 16 her grandfather Mac McClary died and as Jennie had been and was sickly, June hung around to help take care of her.



June in the 1930's

Jack started school at 6yrs old at Lac La Hache and for that he boarded out. Then for a spell there was a cabin on the ranch turned into a classroom and a women came in to teach. Jack also spent some time (1928) boarding with the Houseman family at Buffalo Creek, along with two sisters, which is where he first met June. It was antagonism at first sight and they were always scrapping. June reflected that the Houseman's spoiled her and being the 'favorite' she got away with lots. At age 13-14 yrs Jack quit school

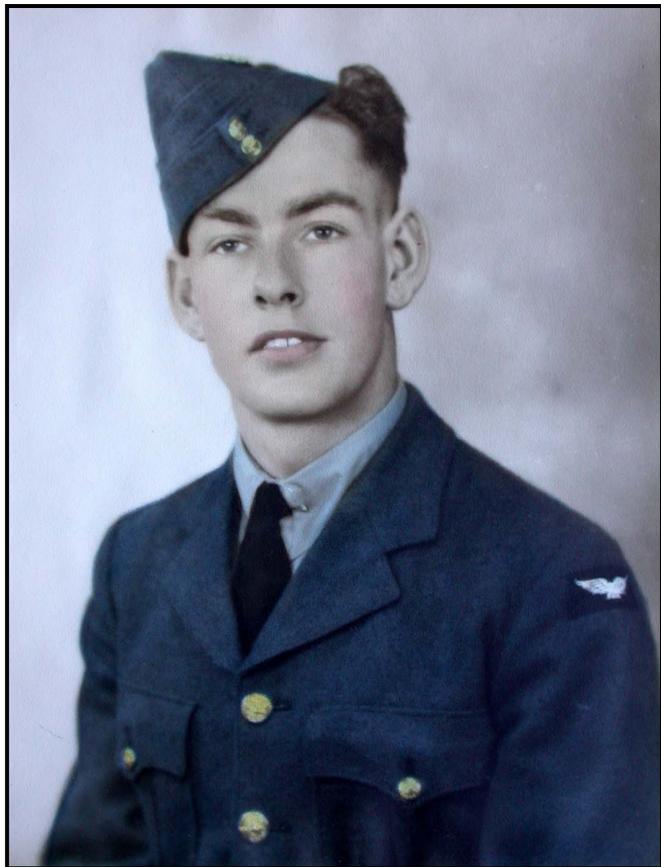
and started to work at whatever could be found, no doubt some of that on his fathers ranch. This was during the depression so work and money were scarce and, as always, you did what you could. People in the country were generally okay for food (there was always hunting and the garden) but had little cash. People in the cities could not be sure of even the food. One much used technique in the absence of cash was to work off your taxes by doing government roadwork.

Life's Progress

At one point Jack got to work on a rail crew, a unionized job that paid the princely sum of 41 cents per hour. He couldn't believe how nice it was to work an 8 hr day, as he was more used to putting in almost that much time before breakfast (story telling was also an art in those days). At 41 cents/hr he had money to burn, bought an old car and drove all around the country, no doubt often in the company of June. This was just prior to and entering into the war years so the economy was starting to pick up.

In 1941 June and Jack married. For the first few years they looked after his fathers ranch then, in 1943 they both entered the services. *[When his parents retired the ranch was taken over by Jack's brother Jim, who ran it for many years before it was sold to the 105 Mile Ranch]³.* Jack went into the Air Force as an airframe mechanic. He managed to use the service to learn every trade that interested him. Whenever the Air Force posted you to a different place they always asked your trade and Jack always told them whatever he had picked to learn next. Once posted, he would find the local expert in his 'new' trade and make sure he was that experts most valued apprentice. In this way he picked up welding, machine work, blueprint reading etc.

June went into the army and studied 'law', which involved helping the returning injured and retired to understand what help was available and what were their rights. She left the service in 1945 (pregnant). Jack left in 1946. After leaving the service they returned to the Dempsey Lake area and, making use of the Veterans Act, bought the John A Wilcox property on Dempsey (see Crown Grant map in the McClary section). While John A had preempted the property, his brother Harry had probably done the necessary improvements to get title. Harry used it essentially for putting up hay but by 1946 it was apparent he had not been doing this for some years. Presumably his home place was adequate for his needs, though he still showed up on occasion to fish in Dempsey Lake. An old mower was still there but some disrepair had set in and the fences were starting to fall.



Jack, about 1942

June and Jack lived there 21 years, to about 1967, and raised two sons and a daughter. At one point Jack developed health problems and couldn't work for a few years, which made for tough times as they were trying to put three kids through university. Jack was in demand as a machinist so when they sold the place he readily found work so long as no heavy lifting was involved. June went to work in a building supply and became their paint expert (for 5 yrs).

Life in the Country

Building and surviving on a homestead had the same challenges for everyone in the region. There was always wood for the fire, so long as you got out and cut it. Meat was never a problem as there was hunting and of course the livestock (cattle, sheep, etc.) and the usual domestic fowl. Everyone grew a garden for some of the winter staples, canned or stored in a root cellar, as appropriate. Any cash on hand was used to order-in other necessities.

Home pizza delivery today had nothing on the delivery system used in the Cariboo through to the 1950's. The catalogue for Woodward's of Vancouver was a fixture on every homestead (including the outhouse). Bulk dry goods, canned goods and all the finer items of a kitchen could be ordered. The goods were shipped, and very reliably, by PGE². Spare cash to pay for all this might be earned from stock sales but more likely from trapping or guiding. A number of farms earned a bit of cash with the dairy business. They would ship cream in 5-gallon cans to a creamery in Quesnel. Given there was no refrigeration the cream was good for making butter even if it went 'off' a bit.

Protecting your livestock was another ongoing problem. Jack and June had sheep and the bears, coyotes and even the odd cougar found them quite tasty. In later years there were government hunters to hunt down specific predators, in one instance a cougar that wiped out a fair number of their sheep, but generally everyone had a gun and could look after the odd nuisance animal on their own. They actually had a case where a coyote family denned on the property and never bothered the sheep.

And for entertainment? Old timers were always good storytellers; much practice was gained around the barrel stove. Many people could play some kind of instrument, something like a mouth organ, so there was always talk and music to while away the long winter evenings. A lot of effort was made to get to the occasional 'dance' at the nearest village; after all, the young folk did have to meet.

Conservation

The early pioneers in the Cariboo seemed to practice conservation as a matter of habit. Yes they hunted, they trapped, and with the possible exception of the beaver, they never took more than they needed. The beaver were trapped out prior to WWII but by after the war they came back in droves and since no one was trapping them they became a nuisance. Even at the small level the people looked after their resources. June recalls she was only allowed to catch a quota of brook trout (several every 2-3 weeks, say), just to ensure the pools would not be depleted. [The stream on the farm had brook trout and was the domain of the children].

Another practice the locals adopted from the natives was the brush burn. Jack relates spring and fall they would be “sent out with a box of matches” to open up the bush. These burns did open up the woods and had the benefit of providing good viewing for hunting, clearing the underbrush to reduce summer fire hazards, and also reducing the wood ticks. When the government “experts” stopped this practice the woods became impassable with underbrush and prone to large nasty fires. Such government experts were often viewed with derision. Jack recalls one instance when he and many other guides met with a couple of government “experts” in Clinton to define the rules on bull and cow moose hunting seasons. All the guides were unanimous on certain cow moose hunting rules, which the experts promptly ignored and which resulted in overkill of the cow population.

After WWII, with a big influx of workers and people “not of the land”, there was a shift in general attitudes. The old timers would be disgusted with outside hunters that would kill anything for the fun and show general disrespect for their environment. With this influx also came a change in the native groups and in interactions with the native tribes.

Natives

The old timers had really good relations with the natives. The Williams Lake and Canim Lake bands were always riding back and forth, especially when there was a stampede, and they usually passed through the Chub/Dempsey Lake area. They would stop in for supper, stay the night and be off. One old guy was a band hunter and might drop in for a week, talking about hunting and methods and skills in the woods. Lots of natives worked with Jack’s father during haying and they were always a cheerful, joking, hard working bunch. But if there was a funeral or a stampede (rodeo) to go to, they were gone, hay be damned. They did have different priorities. The McClary sons were often on hunting trips and just plain exploring ventures with native friends. Jack relates learning an Indian trick for keeping fresh meat longer in the summer heat, by covering it with a certain type of willow leaf and set out in it the sun to dry and crust over. Seemed to defeat the blowflies. Rather than keep meat past the green stage it was more usual, if you got a deer for instance, to simply divide it up and pass it around. There was an easygoing relationship between the homesteaders and the natives. This seemed to change after WWII with the influx of new people, with different attitudes and less appreciation for surviving on the land, and also the native themselves may have changed but not at the same rate or necessarily in the same direction as the growing community that surrounded them.

Religion

Organized religious gatherings were not exactly easy in the pioneer life and so played a small part. Religion, if practiced, was usually a family affair. June’s grandparents represented two distinct contrasts. On the one hand were the McClary’s, who were deeply religious (Jack thought Jenny the most religious/spiritual person he knew), but it was personal. Jenny encouraged the kids to read the bible at least once and she read a small excerpt at breakfast time as a prayer, but that was it. She thought most religions were basically the same and whichever one you preferred was just fine. There was no proselytizing and nothing was ever pushed on the kids. Mac had similar views but was perhaps even less overt about his beliefs. In his view there was no time in life to be spared for preachers or lawyers – time to move on when they arrive. On the other hand was Alice Wilcox, Harry’s mother. Very strongly catholic in her beliefs, she

was against Harry marrying Irica, as Irica was not catholic. June called Alice a “fine” woman, always kind, but not warm. Alice would send June religious pamphlets, and once voiced the thought that perhaps Jenny and Mac might not let her read them. Jenny and Mac were very open minded about this or anything else and the kids could read whatever they wanted, a view that was perhaps foreign to Alice. While Harry might have started out with heavy duty catholic training, he soon got away from that and in the end really wanted not much to do with it. June and Jack followed much the same path; managing to lead a good life, thoughtful and considerate of others, basically following all the commandments without the baggage.



***June and Jack Johnson
50th Wedding Anniversary, 1992***

References:

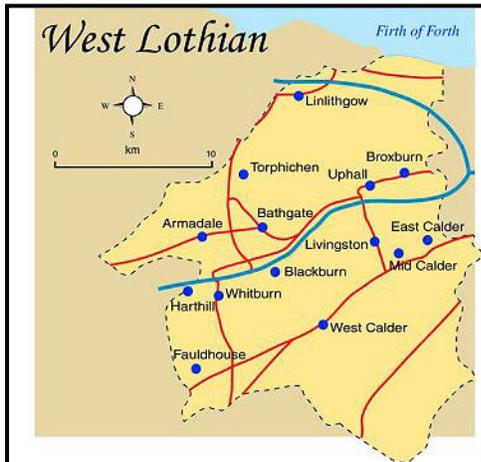
- 1) Most of this chapter is based on the anecdotes and memories of June and Jack Johnson.

- 2) It is not clear when the Pacific Great Eastern Railway reached 100 Mile House. One authoritative sounding web page (http://www.landwithoutlimits.com/About_the_Region/History/Railway) says the PGE reached Clinton in 1916, than idled while finances were sorted out. Construction started in the winter of 1919 and is claimed to have reached Williams Lake in Sept 1919, which at the time was a grain field. That is a lot of rail to lay in less than 9 months. An early 100 Mile House heritage site (<http://www.bridgecreek.ca/History.html>) says the line reached there in 1917.

- 3) Based on notes from Diane Griffiths, daughter of June and Jack Johnson

Bryce - McQueen

Margaret Beveridge Smellie Bryce (Maggie to all) was the second wife of Henry Joseph Wilcox (Harry to all). Maggie supposedly came to the Cariboo to visit two relatives, but in rather short order met Harry and never returned to Scotland. Maggie had a curious name to say the least, however the practice of the day was to recognize ancestors with the middle names of children and we will see that “Beveridge and Smellie” do show up. The Bryce family was from Blackburn², in West Lothian County, Scotland. Once known as Linlithgowshire County, the area was situated about 20 miles from Edinburgh and about one third the way to Glasgow. Various members of the family tree came from surrounding towns and parishes, such as Livingston and Linlithgow.



“A small industrial town 5 miles (8 km) west of Livingston in West Lothian, Blackburn originally developed as a cotton manufacturing town. In the mid-19th Century it became a centre for coal mining. “

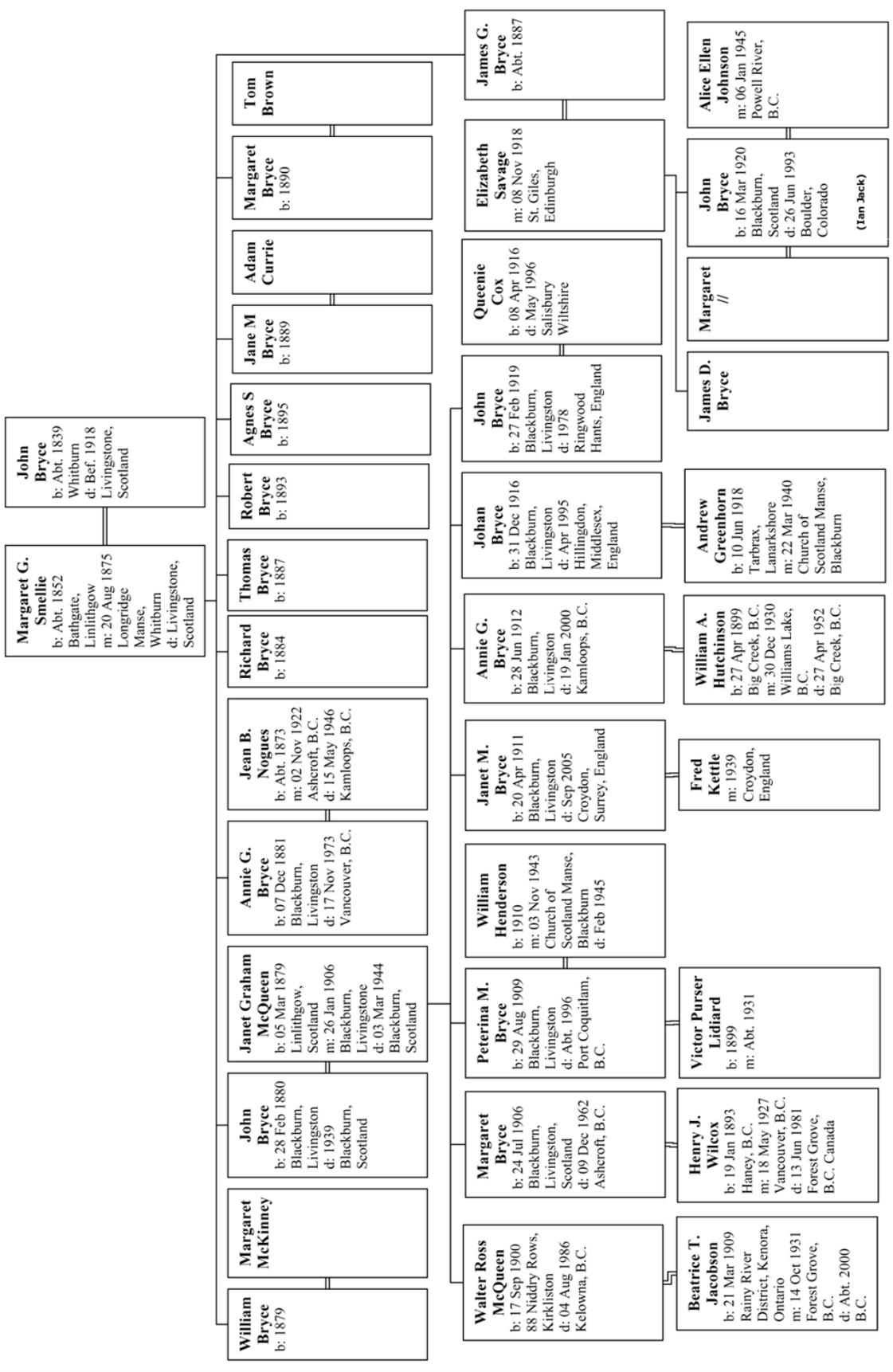
[From 1995-2007 The Editors of The Gazetteer for Scotland](#)

"LINLITHGOWSHIRE, (or West Lothian), maritime Co. in SE of Scotland; is bounded N. by Firth of Forth, SE by Edinburghshire, and W by Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire; greatest length, NE. and SW., 19 miles; greatest breadth, E. and W., 14 miles; area, 76,806 ac., pop. 43,510. The coast is low; the surface is varied, but there are few hills of any height; the chief rivers are the Avon

on the W. and the Almond on the E. border. Much of the soil is fertile, and agriculture is in an advanced condition. Linlithgowshire is one of the richest mineral counties in Scotland, coal, shales, ironstone, freestone, limestone, &c... being very abundant. Paraffin oil is largely manufactured at Bathgate, Broxburn, and Uphall." [\(Bartholemew's Gazetteer of the British Isles, 1887\).](#)



Descendants of John Bryce



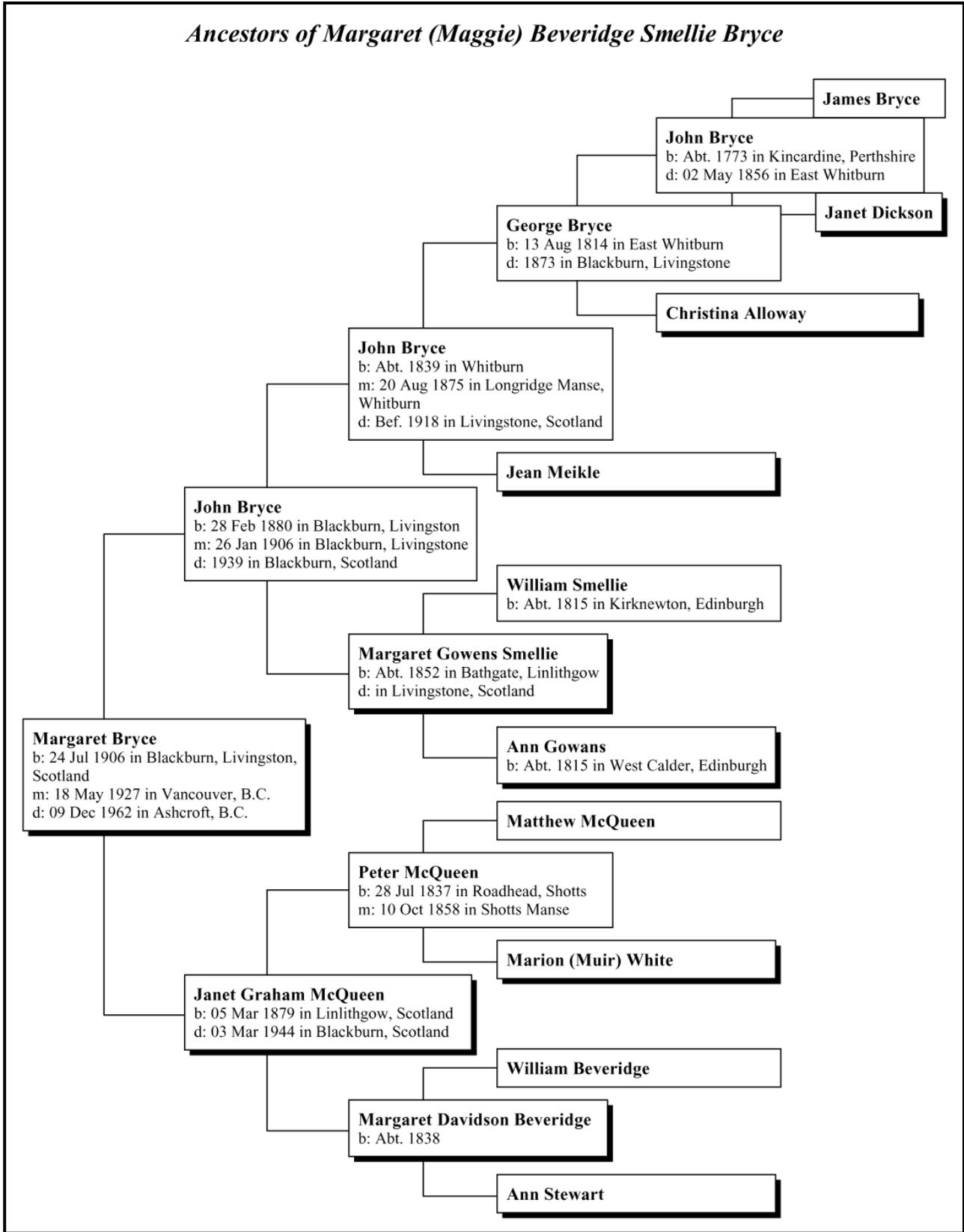
The Scottish records made tracing the Bryce family line relatively easy and we were able to go back to about the late 1700's, as far the records exist. The earliest ancestors were James Bryce and Janet Dickson. Their son John was born in Kincardine, Perthshire that is not too far to the north of Blackburn. The tree chart on the next page shows the path from John to George to another John who married a Margaret Gowans Smellie in 1875. Margaret's parents were a Gowans and a Smellie, names that show up in future generations. One of their son's, another John, married Janet McQueen. Janet's mother was a Beveridge, thus finally explaining all those middle names that Maggie had. Beveridge and Beverage seemed to be used interchangeably in the documentation. Look closely at one of the Blackburn Gala Day photos and you see a shop run by a Daniel Smellie; a common name in the area though no connection has been established with our line. Maggie's father John came from a family of ten, which included the Annie Nogues we know from Dempsey Lake.

Blackburn was a cotton-weaving center up until about 1880. The Almond River was initially the source of power, later to be supplanted by steam. On the finer materials side they were in fierce competition with Lancashire, England⁴. The industry had its ups and downs, with the workforce usually taking the brunt of any downs. The industry effectively died when the largest mill, owned by Gilkison & Co. burned in 1877. The male labour force was able to turn to a burgeoning coal and oil shale industry but the women, many of whom had found work in the weaving mills, were not so fortunate. Janet McQueen, for instance, was a knitting machine worker. Most of the male of the families, Bryce, Beveridge, McQueen, etc., by the 1900's laboured in the coal or oil shale mines and from the census it appeared they started quite early, say 14 years old. One exception was John Bryce (b1773) who is listed as a "Toll Keeper", perhaps related to the toll roads that connected Blackburn to Glasgow, Edinburgh and other centers. The McQueen's worked at the Benhar Coal Co. in Whitburn, which is just to the west of Blackburn, and they lived in company housing (Benhar Coal Coys Houses). Coal was in high demand right through to the 1920's so employment was steady, then things got tough for miners until the second world war created a demand that lasted to the 1960's. That downturn in the twenties might have been the push needed for the Bryce's and McQueen's to emigrate. Maggie's father John worked the mines and died underground in an accident with a coal car^{1d}. Maggie's grandfather Peter McQueen, a miner, lost a leg to cancer and ultimately died from cancer^{1d}.

Child labour was common in the early days of the mills, although by 1819 no one under the age of 9 could be employed and later on working children had to spend at least two hours a day (half timers) in schools provided by the mills. By 1872 schooling was compulsory to age 13 and the resulting increased enrollment led to a new school being built in 1909 called the Redhouse. No doubt this is where our immediate Bryce ancestors and related kin received their basic education. And without these laws in place they may well not have received any. Religion, if any, was probably Scotch United, but was obviously not central to the Bryce or McQueen lives.

Maggie's family lived in Almond Park, the name of a four-house unit right on Main Street^{1d}, which at that time was the highway from Edinburgh to Glasgow. There was a large garden in back, the site for many of the family photos we have, with the miners welfare hall in back and the rest being council housing. Most people, it seems, lived in council flats or in housing provided by the cotton or coal industry.

Ancestors of Margaret (Maggie) Beveridge Smellie Bryce



Those of the family that had not left the country were probably in the Blackburn area up to the WWII years, however after that they ended up near London England. Today, Blackburn is still a small place, less than 5000 people, many pensioners, no industrial base, basically a struggling community. In spite of this it still manages an annual Gala day. Blackburn always had fair days and games days but starting in 1912 the first Gala day specifically for children was started and continues to this day. It starts with a large parade of the children then goes on to games, contests, food, music etc. There may well be a few Bryce's in the accompanying photos. Referring to the Gala pictures with the "Daniel Smellie Grocer & Wine Merchant" sign, this street corner is a main junction called the Cross and is right by the Almond Park building where the Bryce's lived. In the 1930's, across the road from Almond Park was a pub operated by Robert Savage^{1d}, a relative of Elizabeth Savage (exact link not known, likely a nephew), the mother of Ian Jack Bryce who was raised by Annie Nogues.

Tracking The Individuals

After WWI living conditions no doubt continued to be tough and opportunities were slim, especially for women in a coal-mining town. Getting away must have been an attractive option, and lots of Scots did indeed turn to Canada.

Annie Gowans (Bryce) Nogues

The first Bryce to make the move was Annie Gowans Bryce, sister of John (b1880), an aunt of Maggie. Annie was a nurse in WWI, and in fact was a decorated war veteran. She was engaged to a doctor, also serving, who was killed in the war^{1a}. To get away she answered (some time after 1919) a newspaper ad from the Cariboo^{1a}, in B.C., by a **Jean Baptiste Francis Nogues**, who was looking for a housekeeper with wife potential. Jean himself was a recent immigrant from France and thought^{1a} to have arrived after the McClarys arrived in the Cariboo (say, 1915, perhaps due to WWI in France). Some time prior to 1922 Annie made the trip, which ended with a lengthy walk from 108 Mile House into the Nogues farm on Spring Lake, near to the McClarys on Chub Lake. Jean must have charms that outweighed his story telling as she stayed; they married 2 Nov 1922 and apparently had rousing good arguments every day thereafter. Without this Annie there would be no Forest Grove Wilcox clan, or McQueen's, as we know them.

There were no children however Annie 'adopted' a nephew, John Bryce (son of Annie's brother James and Elizabeth Savage). Family memory^{1a, c} has it that John was too much of a handful for his parents and was shipped off to his aunt at about 5 years of age (this would be about 1925). Colleen^{1c}, his daughter, thought his parents had separated and that he and his mother came to Canada in 1924. Arriving in Montreal his mother came down with pneumonia, died, and young John was somehow shipped from Montreal to Lac La Hache, by rail, with name and address pinned to his shirt.

Burla Bourgeois^{1e} provided a variation on this saga. She knew John well from Forest Grove days and he dropped in for an unexpected visit in the 1980's, where they gossiped for hours about the "old" days. Burla believes that John told her he came alone on the boat, in the care of the purser. Who knows how he got across the country but he arrived in Lac La Hache on the PGE and was put out into the lean-to of a station in the winter cold. Somehow Jean Nogues knew he should be there as he showed up shortly thereafter.

Long-time LLH resident

Mrs. Annie Nogues dies at Shaughnessy

By Molly Forbes

Mrs. Annie Nogues, a resident in the Lac La Hache area for more than 50 years, died Nov. 17th in Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B.C. aged 91 years.

Born in Blackburn County, Scotland, almost in the shadow of Linlithgow Castle December 7, 1881, she celebrated her 90th birthday but a few days before entering hospital.



ANNIE NOGUES

Her long life was one of service which began at an early age on her parents' farm. It continued through a nursing career which took her to the battlefields of France during the first world war, and finally to 20 years of pioneering on the Bellevue Ranch at Spring Lake, Cariboo. Her services just behind the firing lines in the 1914 - 18 War, earned her citations and medals.

Mrs. Nogues came to Canada when the war was ended

where she met and married Jean Nogues who had recently taken up the land at Spring Lake. Together, through their ingenuity and hard labour they turned what was once a wilderness into a productive ranch. It was sold to Slim Bathgate in 1941, but Mrs. Nogues, now a widow, was permitted to live on the property until it was re-sold. In 1956 she bought a house with considerable garden space and moved into the village of Lac La Hache. There she did what she could for the community and proved herself a good neighbour. She was always a familiar figure at church bazaars, dinners and teas.

In 1964, at the request of her Scottish relatives, she sold all and went back to her homeland expecting to finish out her days among them. However, this was not to be. She found the bond with Canada could not be broken and she returned to her adopted country within the year.

Except for this period and a few months spent in Kamloops on her return, Lac La Hache was Mrs. Nogues' place of residence for over 50 years.

Her independent spirit, together with her strength of purpose must class her among the builders of Cariboo. She will be missed by her friends who knew her for her true worth.

She is survived by a sister in Scotland and numerous nephews and nieces both in the old land and in British Columbia.

Mrs. Nogues was buried in Vancouver November 20th., 1973.

Annie was a war vet and thus could make use of the Shaughnessy veteran's hospital.

So far the latter story is likely the “true” story, unlikely as that may seem. Much time was spent looking for immigration records or even a death record for an Elizabeth (Savage) Bryce in Montreal, without success. Then new records were made available on-line (Sept 2008) and “Ewen Bryce” popped right out of the first search. There were no other Bryce or Savage on the S.S. Letitia, so John was indeed traveling on his own.

THIRD CLASS		S. S. "LETITIA" FROM GLASGOW, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1925.					
FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE	COUNTRY AND PLACE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY (COUNTRY OF WHICH A CITIZEN OR SUBJECT)	RACE OR PEOPLE	IF BETWEEN PERIOD
			M. F.				
BRYCE	IWEN	Nephew	5 1/2	S. Scotland	Blackburn	British Scottish	No
ARRIVING AT QUEBEC, 15 NOV 1925 19 25.							
LINE	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	6	Scholar	Farming	Aunt - Mrs. ? Noques, Bellevue Ranch, Lac Le Hoche, B.C.	Father - Mr. James Brycesq West Main Street, Blackburn, Bathgate.	No	

The really bizarre part of this tale is he arrived in Quebec on 15 Nov 1925 while Maggie arrived two weeks earlier. They left from the same port, arrived at the same port, and they were going to the exact same place, Annie Nogues at Spring Lake. Hard to imagine why they would not have traveled together. While it was not unusual at that time to have groups of youngsters traveling, and so presumably it was standard procedure for someone to look after them along the way, this takes a “hands-off” approach to the extreme. Colleen^{1c} tells of visits in later years by an Aunt Sally Savage so we guess John was not entirely abandoned by his relatives in Scotland.

For reasons of his own, John adopted other name(s). He was known for awhile as Francis but later he settled on Ian Jack. Ian Jack was exactly the same age as, and good friends with, June Wilcox who was being raised by her McClary grandparents on the farm next door. Ian spent much time there as he wasn't too happy at the Nogues'. They both got some of their schooling at Buffalo Creek School, living with the Houseman family, and also at Forest Grove School, while living with the Richardson family. Burla^{1e} remembers this guy, of smallish stature, with this great head of golden hair that could be seen for miles.

Alfred O. Davis

President of the British Red Cross Society.

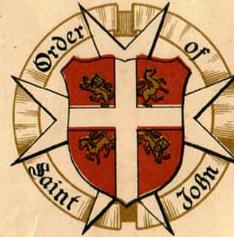
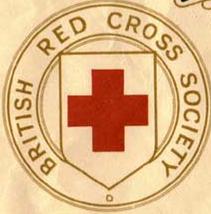
Arthur

Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

PRESENTED

by the Joint Committee of the
British Red Cross Society
and the Order of St. John of
Jerusalem in England to

Miss Annie Gowans Bryce.
in recognition of valuable services
rendered during the War.



Countersigned

J. C. Davis

Secretary.

1914 - 1919.

83, Pall Mall, London.

Arthur

Chairman.

Bryce

Vice Chairman.



The War of 1914-1918.

Voluntary Aid Detachment

Nurse Miss A.G. Bryce

was mentioned in a Despatch from

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B., M.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E.

dated 16th March 1919

for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.

I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's

high appreciation of the services rendered.

Lord Curzon

Secretary of State for War.

*War Office
Whitehall, W.
1st July 1919.*

Ian Jack served in WWII, suffering a very serious leg injury, and in post-war years was on a 100% disability pension. He didn't let that slow him down as Jack Johnson^{1a} recalls him working in the bush with Roy Wilcox, stubbornly dragging a useless leg behind him as they hauled their saws through deep snow.

Ian died of a heart attack in 1993 while visiting a SPA in Colorado and is survived by a daughter and a son.

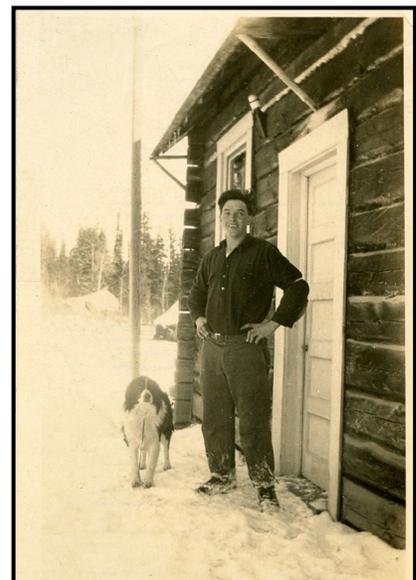


Ian and wife Alice

Walter Ross McQueen

The second person to leave Scotland was Walter Ross McQueen, older half-brother of Maggie. His aunt Annie Noguez sponsored him^{1b} so he also ended up in the Cariboo, working as a farm hand and general laborer. The Noguez ranch was in from the 108 Mile House and near to the land farmed by the McClarys on Chub Lake. As one might expect, Walter got to meet Harry Wilcox and apparently showed him pictures of all his sisters back in Scotland. A variant on this tale is that Harry noticed the pictures that Walter was carrying and, as Walter was then courting Theresa Jacobson, this offended Harry's sense of propriety, which he made known to Walter. End result, Harry showed much interest in one of these sisters, which perhaps led to yet another Bryce leaving Scotland. This all would have been a few years after Harry's first wife Irica McClary died.

Walter



Bryce/McQueen

Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960

Name: *Walter MCQUEEN*
Date of departure: *10 October 1924*
Port of departure: *Glasgow*
Destination port: *Quebec*
Destination country: *Canada*
Age: **24** Marital Status:
Sex: *Male*
Occupation: *Farmwkr*
Ship: *MARLOCH*
Steamship Line: *Canadian Pacific*
Square feet: *5426* Registered tonnage: *6473*
Passengers on voyage: *271*

Vital Event Marriage Registration

Groom Name: *Walter Ross Macqueen*
Bride Name: *Beatrice E T Jacobson*
Event Date: *1931 10 14 (Yr/Mo/Day)*
Event Place: *Forest Grove*
Reg. Number: *1931-09-398478*
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: *B13762*
GSU Microfilm Number: *2074783*



S/S Caledonia: Anchor Line steamship built 1925 at Glasgow by Alexander Stephen and Sons³

Immigration Records (1925-1935)

Surname: **Bryce**
Given name: **Margaret**
Age: **19**
Sex: **F**
Date of arrival: **1925/11/27 (YYYY/MM/DD)**
Port of arrival: **Halifax , Nova Scotia**
Ship: **CALEDONIA , Anchor Line**
Reference: **RG76-IMMIGRATION, series C-1-b**
Volume: **1925 volume 7**
Page: **92**

Ships Log: Annie Gowans Bryce

Sailed on the Vessel S.S. Minnedosa, Leaving Glasgow on the 19th of July, 1929. Ported in Quebec City 28th July 1929.

She was 17 years old & Single at the time.

*Mother; Mrs. Janet Bryce
Almond Park, Blackburn, Scotland
Bathgate*

*Brother In Law; Mr Harrold Wilson
Forest Grove, B.C.*

at that time she had \$25.00 Can.

Passage paid - E33 / 222935 Gov.

Landed Immigrant.

*Found on Page 26 of the Log Book RE:
S. S. Minnedosa*

Vital Event Marriage Registration

Groom Name: *William A Hutchinson*
Bride Name: *Annie Gowans Bryce*
Event Date: *1930 12 30 (Yr/Mo/Day)*
Event Place: *Williams Lake*
Reg. Number: *1930-09-398439*
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: *B13762*
GSU Microfilm Number: *2074783*

Theresa Jacobson was born in Ontario and her family slowly worked their way west until finally, about 1915, they took up homesteading and running a dairy farm in Forest Grove. Walter married Theresa Jacobson in 1931 in Forest Grove however they did not stay in that area much longer. In the mid-1930's they moved to Matsqui then Ladner in the lower mainland of B.C. During the war he worked in the North Vancouver shipyards^{1b}. Following that they settled in West Vancouver where Walter worked with the maintenance team for the local school board. They retired to Kelowna. Two sons, Peter and David, and numerous grandchildren survive them. Note that some time between 1924 and 1931 the spelling changed from Mc to Mac. Walter died in 1986, age 86.



Walter and Theresa, Forest Grove.

Margaret Beveridge Smellie Bryce

Born in 1906, Maggie would have been no more than a young teen by the end of WWI, so the pictures with uniforms and motorcycle courier garb must have been post-war. In 1925 the then 19-year-old Maggie came to B.C., traveling via the Anchor Line S/S Caladonia, presumably to visit her aunt and brother, but perhaps also to check out this Harry fellow. He must have checked out as they were married in 1927 and went on to produce a large family of nine. This story continues in the Harry Wilcox chapter.

Maggie



Annie Gowans (Bryce) Hutchinson⁵

The next Bryce to arrive, in 1929 on the CP ship Minnedosa, with only \$25.00 Canadian in her purse, was 17-year-old Annie Gowans. She shared the same name as her aunt Annie Gowans Nogues. The ship's log (mis) names her brother-in-law in Forest Grove, "Mr Harrold Wilson". As to why she came, the central tale is she came to help Maggie with her growing family, one variant being Maggie asked her to come^{1g}, the other variant being she was told to go^{1f}. Possibly a bit of both, as another characteristic of this Bryce clan was a tendency to hot-headedness. We guess Annie and Maggie didn't see eye-to-eye on raising kids, or perhaps anything else for that matter.

Burla Bourgeois^{1e}, who can remember back to 3-4 years old, relates meeting Annie, probably in 1930. She remembers this woman with a gorgeous tartan skirt who had a few chocolate sweets to share. She remembers Annie had this small suitcase full of household notions, small items, which she was trying to

sell. Perhaps trying to raise a few pennies for a move as Annie had replied¹⁸ to a job ad for a housekeeper with the Church family of Big Creek, in the Chilcotin area. She went there, soon met another rancher (just a few miles away from the Church's) by the name of Bill Hutchinson and was married by the end of 1930. It was a hard life for them but they survived and raised a family of four daughters, Norah, Eileen, Mary and Lucille, and one son William. A poem by Eileen, describing life on the Big Creek ranch, is at the end in Appendix III. It provides insight and reflection on what pioneer life was like up to the 1950's and is similar to what was experienced on the Spring/Chub Lake farms or in Forest Grove. No early pictures of Annie have come to light, except the adjacent one. Annie died in 2000, age 88.

Peterina (Bryce) Henderson

The last Bryce sister to arrive was Peterina, known as Ina. She arrived in 1953 with her two children Peggy and David. Ina left Blackburn in the late 1920's to find work in the London area where she met and married Victor Lidiard. Their daughter Peggy was born in 1932 in Croydon, near London, and shortly thereafter they divorced whereupon

Ina returned to Blackburn. Her grandparents, from 1933 into the war years, raised Peggy while Ina found work in Edinburgh. Ina enlisted in 1940, with the title Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service, and was discharged in 1943 when she was diagnosed with heart valve problems. A month later she married a man she met in the services, William Henderson, had son David, then lost her husband to the war in 1945. A lot of ups and downs in Ina's life.



Ina, during WWII

I (Phil speaking) can remember David arriving at the Wilcox farm, probably 1954, and being teased unmercifully for a super-thick Scottish accent, which he retains enough of to this day to be called Scotty. That summer Phil and brother Pete spent some weeks in West Vancouver with David, no doubt being a general nuisance to Ina and Peggy. In those first years in B.C. Ina worked in West Vancouver as a waitress and Peggy worked in a bank and a real estate



Annie and sister Ina, Vancouver, likely 1960's. Annie on the right, maybe.

Ina and family moved to Fauldhouse (near Blackburn) about 1945, where they bought a big house and shared it with sister Johan and her husband Andrew. They all had jobs sewing in a local hospital. This only lasted a short while, until Andrew got a better job in Ireland, so they moved again, new job, new place, until they decided to emigrate. They arrived in Canada Christmas morning 1953 and were at Walter and Theresa's place in West Vancouver in time for New Years.

office. At some point Ina moved to Vancouver and worked in a doctor's office until retirement. Ina died March, 1996, age 86.

Peggy

Peggy was (she died Sept 13, 2008) probably the last member of the Bryce family with memory of living in Blackburn and she filled in much of the detail we have on family movements and connections. Peggy married Charles Knowles, mid 1950's, and moved to Vancouver Island. Charles worked as a tree topper, and they even lived on a workboat for a bit with some beachcombing thrown in. This hazardous job claimed Charles life in 1970 and Peggy moved back to Vancouver with her daughter Sharon, where she met and married John Howard in 1975. John and Peggy have been in the hobby/business of making miniature dollhouses for the past 25 years. If you happen to be in Taiwan some day, visit the "Doll House Museum of Taipei" and you will see a number of their creations on display. John died Dec 31, 2008.

David

We have lost track of David. He had worked for many years in a Vancouver camera shop and is still believed to be in B.C. He married once, separated and that is about all we know.



A Howard Doll House

***Back: David Henderson and
wife Karen
Sitting: Ina, Peggy and
John Howard
Vancouver, 1980's.***

The other three siblings of Maggie stayed in the U.K. Theresa McQueen communicated with them and it was her address book that allowed us (in 2008) to figure out where they lived, locate the next generation and zero in on some official records. They all moved to the London area, including Croydon, where Ina had lived in the 1930's



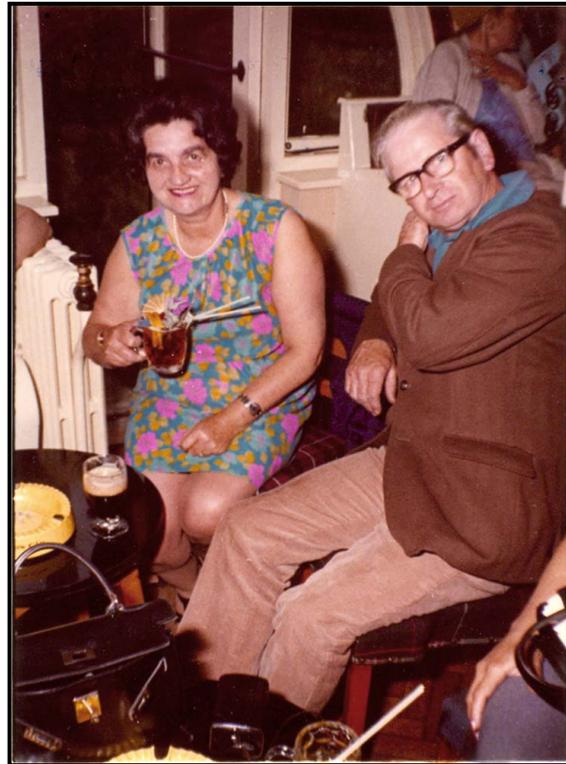
*Hutchison Family (missing William and Annie)
From left: Lucille, Mary, Bill, Eileen, Norah*



Annie Hutchison, 1995



*Fred and Janet (Nettie) Kettle
1940's, Blackburn*



Queenie Cox and John Bryce

Johan (Bryce) Greenhorn

Johan married Andrew Greenhorn and had two children, Andrew and Jennifer. They lived in Blackburn through the war years, where Andrew tried to ply his trade as a bricklayer/carpenter. As noted above they shared a house with Ina before moving on to Ireland. They returned to England in 1956. Contact has been reestablished with these cousins and Jennifer (Collett) provided some pictures that had been sent to Johan by Maggie. Jennifer has two children and five grandchildren. Andrew junior is unmarried and spends the winters in Austria as a ski instructor. Johan died in 1995, age 78. *[Johan was supposed to be Joanth, but papa got it wrong when he registered the birth. Too much celebrating?]*



Janet (Bryce) Kettle



Janet was always known as Nettie. We believe she also left Blackburn for England before the war and met and married Fred Kettle in Croydon. They had two children, Charles and Janet, and contact has been made with Charles. He mentioned that his mother would never respond to letters or cards from anyone and she got rather reclusive at the end. Nettie died in 2005, age 94.

John Bryce

Many photos of John show him in uniform so we presume the military was his career. John married a woman named Queenie Cox, in the later 1940's or early 1950'sth. We know very little about Queenie and have had little success in tracing her in any official records. It is presumed that Cox is a married name. She apparently had two sons although there is one picture with a question mark beside a 'daughter'. John and Queenie had no children of their own. John died in 1978, age 59.

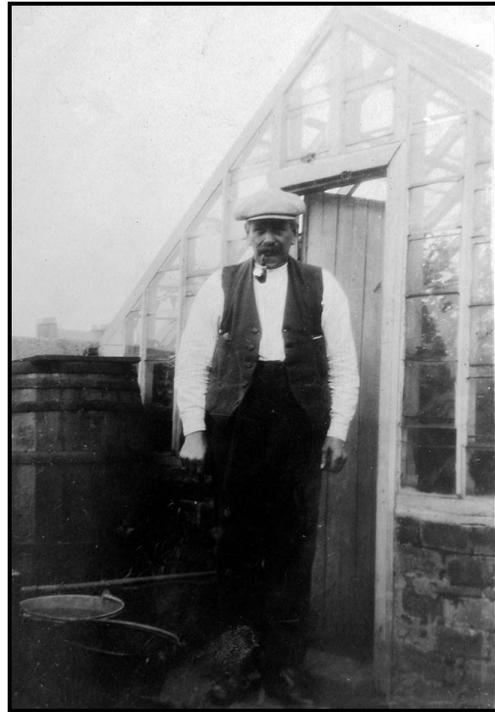


Closing Notes

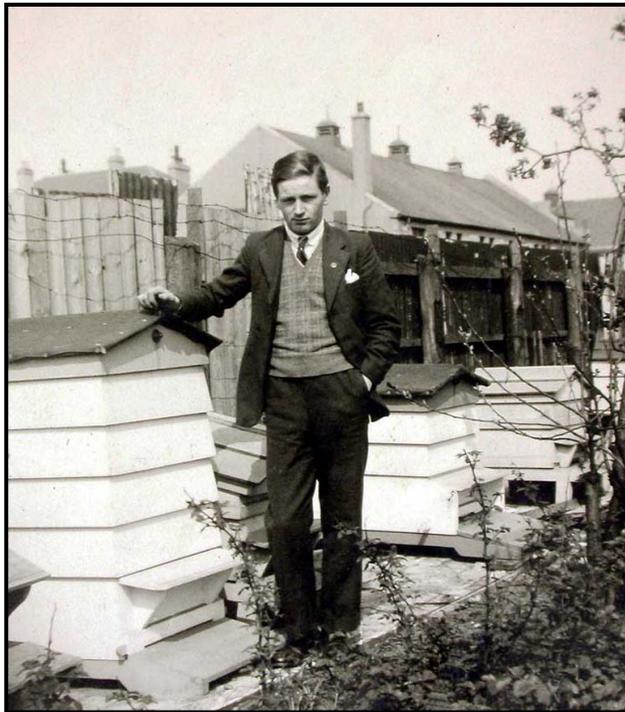
In spite of medical conditions many of the Bryces lived reasonably long lives. Diabetes was a theme as Janet McQueen had it^{1d} and it certainly made its way to Ina, Peggy and her daughter Sharon. Peggy said that Annie Hutchinson died of Crohns and she herself had colitis at a young age, and had a recurring bout with cancer that took her life Sept 13, 2008. John died young, reportedly of heart problems, and Maggie's early death was probably related to her Cushing's disease.



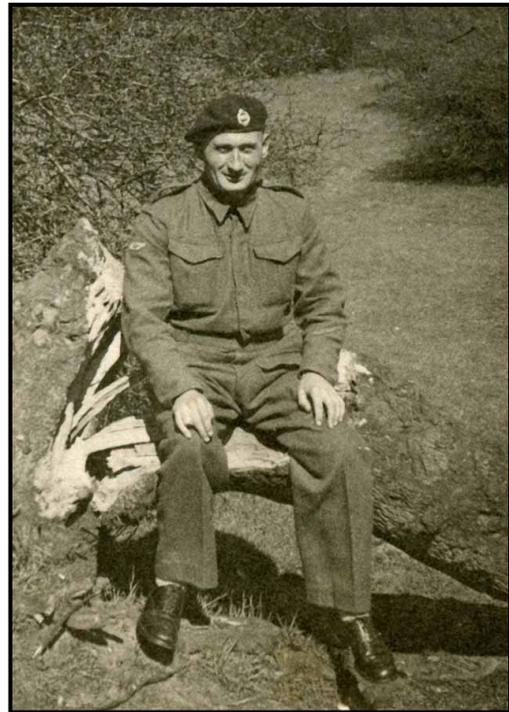
"Grandma" Janet McQueen – washing day



"Grandpa" John Bryce – with the long, curled, soft-as-silk, red moustache



John Bryce – 18yrs old, 1937, Almond Park



***Bill Henderson (1910-1945)
Ina's second husband***



**Left: Janet (Nettie) Kettle
Blue: Johan Greenhorn**

**Front & Back: Jennifer and
Andrew Greenhorn**

**Children (of Jennifer):
Mandy and Jason Collett**

**Picture taken by John Howard,
1980's.**



**Annie Nogues with Maggie's children, Jack and Roy
(sailor suits), Terry and Sheila (baby). Beda Jacobson
in door of her house in Forest Grove.**

**1931 – Wedding day of Walter McQueen and
Theresa Jacobson.**

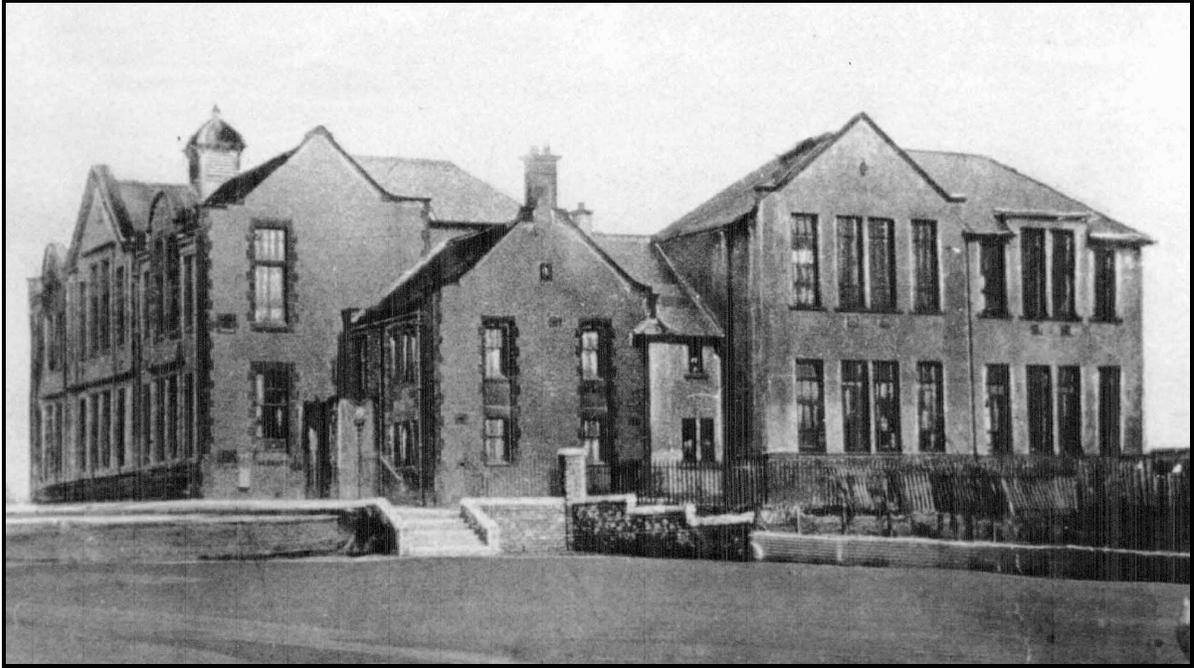


**Janet, Johan and Peggy Lidiard.
Back garden, Blackburn, 1930's**

BLACKBURN IMAGES



GALA Days in the 1920's



Redhouse School – built in 1909



Miners Housing, Blackburn

References

- 1) Recollections and memories of:
 - a) June (Wilcox-McClary) and Jack Johnson,
 - b) Peter McQueen (son of Walter),
 - c) Colleen Bryce (daughter of Ian Jack Bryce),
 - d) Peggy Howard (daughter of Ina Bryce) – source for some of the photos,
 - e) Burla Bourgeois (b1926, daughter one of the early Forest Grove settlers),
 - f) Bernice (Wilcox) Mariani (daughter of Maggie Wilcox),
 - g) Eileen (Hutchinson) Beblow (daughter of Annie Bryce)
 - h) Jennifer (Collett) Greenhorn (daughter of Johan Bryce) – source for some of the photos.

 - 2) Etymology: Blackburn means "the black burn (stream)", from Old English blæc "black" and burna "stream". The name was recorded as Blachebrine in 1152.

 - 3) Photo complements of Norway-Heritage www.norwayheritage.com
- The logo for Norway-Heritage is set against a light yellow background. On the left is a circular compass rose with a wooden frame. To its right, the words "NORWAY-HERITAGE" are written in a large, bold, dark red serif font. Below this, there is a small graphic of two hands shaking, with the text "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA" in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font to the right.

- 4) "Blackburn – The story of West Lothian's cotton and coal town." – by Sybil Cavanagh
Published 2006 by Luath Press Limited, Edinburgh
ISBN (10): 1-905222-40-8
ISBN (13): 978-1-9-0522240-7

5) Mark Dupont (son of Eileen Bebelow^{1g}) was the source for much information on the Bryce family, including a number of the photos.

6) Family tree detail comes largely from Scottish parish records, government census records, and the BC Vital Statistics Archive.

Henry Joseph (Harry) Wilcox – Margaret (Maggie) Bryce



Harry, July 1925

Harry was the youngest of the Michael and Alice family, born in 1893 in Haney, B.C., the same year his father was admitted to Essondale clinic. By his teen years, and just a few years after his father was released from Essondale, he had moved to Kamloops with the rest of the family where he went to high school. The last school photo we have was 1908 and it was unlikely he would be in school past 1910 or 1911. His brothers were already working with the CPR or construction but for some reason he chose another path. Instead, he went northwest, up the Cariboo trail to the 100 Mile House region and took up homesteading in a dot on the map called Forest Grove (topic of another history work in progress¹). The best guess by the family is he 'may' have visited the area in 1911, met a few of the locals (no doubt the Bourgeois family) then returned in 1912 to start carving a home and farm out of the bush. The government was encouraging such development. Harry may not have spent the first few winters there, say up to 1915, but after getting a home completed he would have stayed as winter trapping was a lucrative and a major source of money to develop the farm².

The 1911 census captured Harry in Moodyville (North Vancouver), no doubt with his sister Mary and family. One could

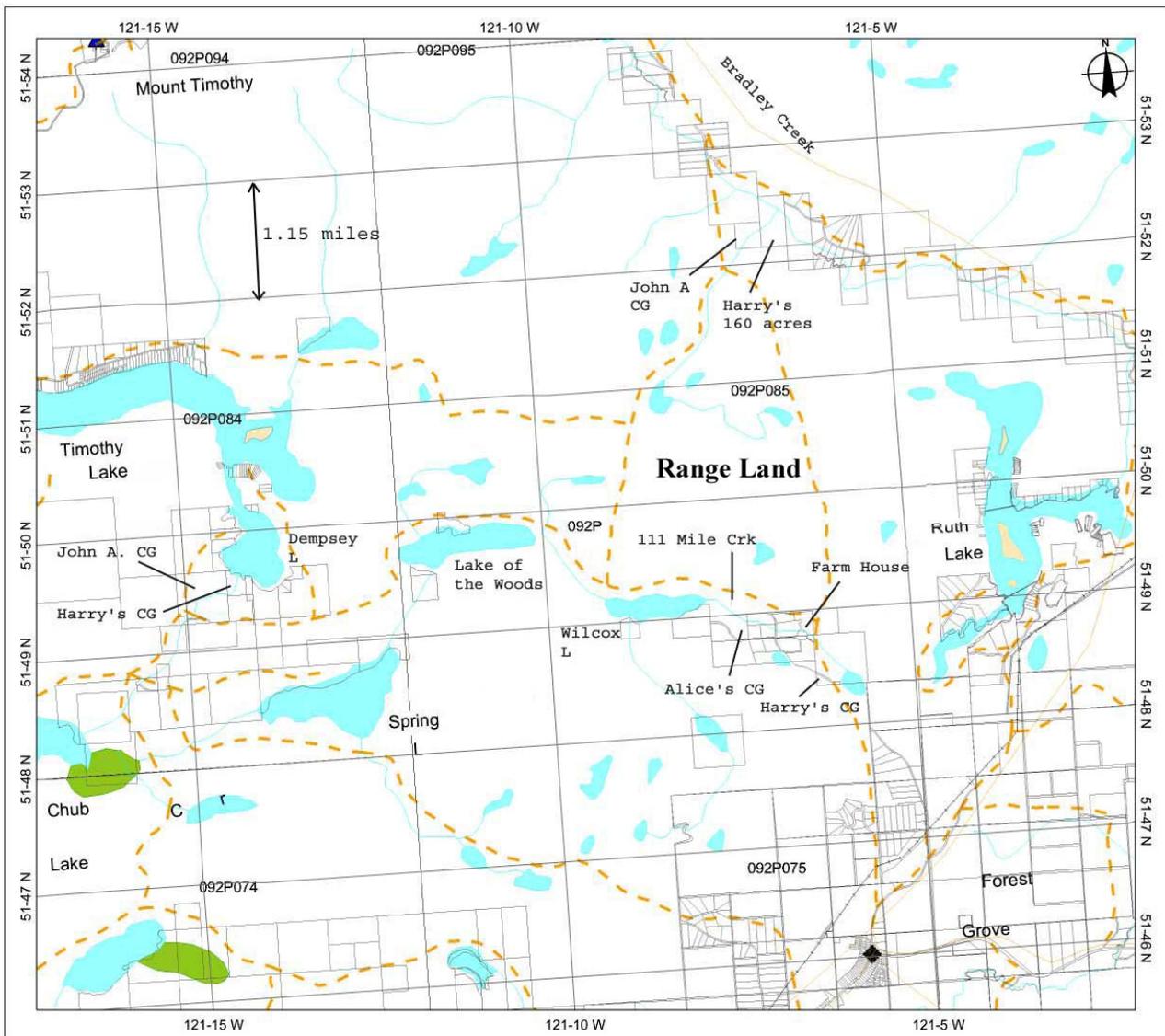
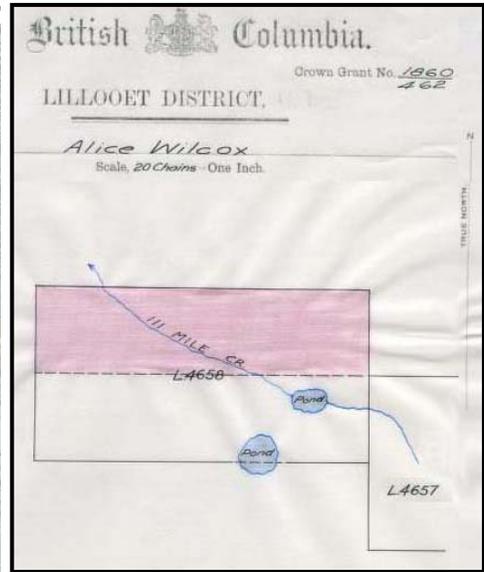
speculate that Arthur Williamson, a mining entrepreneur who traveled all over B.C. might have suggested this area to Harry.

This was stagecoach days in the Cariboo and one of Harry's stories was about freezing his butt off one late fall day on the stagecoach to Ashcroft. He went there to pick up the CP train, apparently heading for Vancouver rather than Kamloops for the winter. Perhaps Vancouver would be warmer or, he wanted to visit his father and/or his sister Mary Williamson. In another story he was on the last stagecoach into 100 Mile House just before the new PGE train arrived (1917 or so).

Harry did an incredible amount of work to open up the land. The flat parts were creek bottom and willow choked, all of which had to be cleared for hay fields so he could start to grow his herd of Poll Angus beef cattle.



Harry and one of his building projects



Half a dozen miles to the west, by Dempsey Lake, there were more open meadows and he took up land there (as did brother John A) for the hay, likely before he had cleared what he had selected as a home place. We are not sure why he just didn't go there and take that as the home place. An acre per month for clearing works out to about 20 years of work. Winters would be cutting shakes from dried poplar, the ever-present softwood; also much used as low-grade firewood. The home farm had, eventually, at least 3 big barns, numerous sheds and other buildings, all of which had shingle roofs cut by hand. Curiously enough, it was his mother Alice who had the Crown Grant (CG) for the land on which the home place was built. It is likely that the family were somewhat involved with Harry's venture. His brother John A. had crown grants beside Harry's properties and when his son Terry was pulling the thin plywood ceiling off the original old farmhouse the backside still showed the shipping address – "Wilcox Brothers". As John A had regular work on the railroad we presume their arrangement was Jack provided some money and Harry did the work to prove-in the land.

In later years Harry took up some land in the Bradley Creek area, 4 miles north over the hill in the next creek bottom valley. More barns, outbuildings, and another log home were built and more land had to be cleared. There would be 'cattle drives' back and forth between the two places to make use of the hay stored at each place. At peak Harry probably had about 150 head of cattle. [See map in McClary section for Dempsey Lake detail]. We always knew Wilcox Lake on the adjacent map as Silver Lake.

By 1916 Harry was "established". The Eva Doyle diaries³ cover a few month period of that year and Harry was entertaining family. His mother was there as was Mary and Arthur Williamson, although no mention is made of the two Williamson children. He must have had a big enough house to accommodate (or the Williamsons stayed elsewhere – diaries are unclear). Also, over by the aforementioned Dempsey Lake, the McClary family had arrived, including daughter Irica, and taken over the Bannerman property (see related chapters). Life was looking good! It is likely about this time that a lovely fishing lake a few miles to the east, presumably still unnamed, was given the name Ruth Lake⁴, after the first daughter of Mary and Arthur. One gets the sense that Mary and Harry were fairly close. Being 8 years older Mary no doubt did a little mothering of her young brother. As noted, Harry was likely with them in North Vancouver in 1911, not in Kamloops where his mother was still living with Thomas. Mary must have visited often enough in the 1930's to make a strong impression on Harry's second family. Burla Bourgeois⁵ recalls in primary school a teacher was trying to get Roy to recite, "Mary had a doll . . .", over and over again, and all Roy could say was "Aunty Mary had a doll . . .". By the 1940's the Williamson visiting seemed to have stopped. Three of Harry's daughters were born in North Vancouver in the 1930's so no doubt their mother stayed with the Williamsons in their North Van home.

In the first decade or so trapping was the main winter activity. Beaver were numerous and the pelts in demand. Mink, weasel and muskrat were also trapped (leg hold traps, of course), skinned, stretched, dried, bundled and shipped off. By the 1940's the beaver were pretty much trapped out and it was no longer a viable business. It was still okay for the kids, good pocket money, as we could trap a few red squirrels and get 50 cents for each good skin. That was not bad change in the 1940's and 1950's when 50 cents bought you a box of 22 caliber shorts. The trappers would often have long trap lines that would take days to get around, so they would have their trap cabins built at strategic spots. The next picture is unlabeled but one

guess is this would be one of Harry's early trapping cabins. It is either that or the first crude shelter Harry built in 1912 or so. We are not sure when the first main house was built, likely by 1916³, and it served until 1942 when 7 children and more on the way dictated a bigger house be built. The original was relegated to storage or a bunkhouse for mill crews when the older boys entered that business.



Trapper Cabin?

Irica McClary

The McClarys arrived in 1914 (see the McClary chapter) with their five children. Irica was the oldest and had taken up her own homestead property (1918 Crown Grant by Spring Lake), but this changed in 1919 when she and Harry married. One year later Irica died with the birth of their daughter June, whereupon the McClary grandparents took in June and raised her (see McClary chapter). It was a home birth and Irica is buried on the farm. There were no more home births after that.

Maggie Bryce

Some time prior to 1922 Annie Gowans Bryce arrived to "housekeep" for Jean Nogues, who had a home over by the McClarys near Dempsey Lake. She married Jean in 1922 and later sponsored a nephew, Walter McQueen, to come to Canada in 1924. Walter worked as a general farm hand and laborer, did work for Harry, and probably spent much time around Forest Grove courting the fair Theresa Jacobson. As was mentioned in the Bryce chapter⁶, Walter's pictures of 'other women' in his wallet while squiring the fair Theresa perturbed Harry. When learning they were his sisters and all was above board and okay, he became intrigued and somehow Walter arranged for his sister Maggie to visit her aunt Annie Nogues.

Margaret Beveridge Smellie (Maggie) arrived in 1925 and promptly got together with Harry. They married in 1927 and went on to raise nine of the finest (no bias here).

Harry and Maggie

From here on in this chapter the more comfortable terms Mom and Dad will be used for Maggie and Harry. When the pronoun "I" is used it is the author, Phil, putting in his 2 cents worth.

Mom and Dad lived a simple basic survival kind of life. Between building the herd and farm and raising kids it was never ending labour for both of them, with not much in the way of excitement except farm disasters and more kids. I wonder if Mom had any idea what was ahead when she hopped on the boat; must have required a spirit of adventure. Some idea of that basic life can be gleaned by looking at all those things that consumed their time:



Maggie and Harry, 1927

Food On The Table - The Garden

Dad had a huge garden to feed the ever growing flock and the many relatives that would drop in “for a week or two”. In the spring it was order seeds, cut up the seed potatoes, plant, then weed, weed, weed all summer. Late summer and fall it was harvest and store. Mom would be canning anything that could be canned. The potatoes were dug up, dried, sacked and stored in the root cellar along with onions, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, etc. For a while there was sauerkraut percolating in a vat behind the living room wood heater, with a rock to hold the lid on and keep the mice out. After harvest manure was hauled from behind the barn and spread over the garden, ready for the next season.

In the fall there was usually a produce trip to Lillooet for tomatoes, apples, pears, plums, and squash, things that would not grow in the Forest Grove climate. Mom canned much of this produce. Similar trips were also made to Kamloops – also a

big deal to the kids - eating in restaurants, going to a movie, sleeping in a hotel. Didn't get any better! There were also annual or semiannual supply runs to Williams Lake (80 miles one-way) to buy many sacks of flour for the bread. The kids that got to go along much enjoyed these road trips, crammed in the back of the pickup under the homebuilt cover. By the end of summer the pantry shelves were pretty loaded. Any of the “finer” stuff came from Woodward's, a Vancouver store that offered mail order anything. Sugar, spices, some canned goods (Spam).

On the food theme, another annual rite, probably in the spring, was the order for chicks (not sure if this was Woodward's). This box of 30 or 40 peeping leghorn chicks would arrive, to be set up in a warm spot in the living room until the chicks were big enough be put out in the chicken coop, ready for the hawks. Eggs to sell and chickens to eat, the latter always requiring someone to take an axe to a chicken neck, a task much hated by me as a youngster because it usually meant the fidgety chicken lost its head a little bit at a time (but nowhere near as gross as being told to get rid of excess barn cats). The chicken coop was Mom's



The First Farmhouse. This picture was sent to (and obtained from) Maggie's relatives in Scotland. It is likely no later than 1930 as there are almost no outbuildings.

*Dad loved to garden and grew one even when he didn't have to. More than once he mentioned he should move to the Fraser valley for really good gardening. He may have remembered hungry years and probably wondered about his father's choice of Haney for farming! Security of food was indeed high on his mind as Sheila remembers him once saying that **he always worried about the garden not providing** and where that would leave the family!*

domain but the kids would often be hauled in to help clean the coop – an awful job as the smell was absolutely terrible by the end of winter. Geese were also kept but that was before my time. Janet can recall her and Mom always having an egg for lunch - Janet a chicken egg and Mom a big goose egg.

Our diet was pretty basic, especially in the winter when what you ate came from the root cellar (potatoes, parsnips and carrots), along with tough beef (or deer), always fried to “well done”, and whatever home preserves remained. Breakfast was always oatmeal porridge and if you got up late it was pretty solid stuff. In later years there might have been seasonal fresh fruit, whenever a fruit vendor from the Okanagan showed up.

HAYING

Putting up hay was essential to keeping a herd through the winter and there were always prayers for good weather at the right time. Mid to late summer the hay would be cut, left to dry a few days, raked into windrows, stooked, pitch forked into a wagon then hauled to the barn or hayshed. It was very labour intensive and had to be done for the two farm locations, maybe a third if the Dempsey Lake property was hayed at the same time. Dad hired a couple of fellows each summer in the old days to help put up the hay, paying a top wage. Some of those who helped out over the years were locals like **Gordon Tubbs, George Rhodes, Alonzo Judson, Daymond Morris, Walter Van de Camp, and Alan Holden** (or Holder). Uncle Jack always lent a hand if he happened to be around.

As kids it was fun (if not forking hay) to watch the big horses haul a huge load of hay up the sloping ramp into the loft. It was even more fun to jump from the rafters into the new hay, which was frowned upon by Dad, but then he couldn't be watching all the time. Horses were the mainstay until the mid 1940's when tractors arrived. Roy enjoyed farming and haying and in his ever-inventive way figured out you didn't have to fork hay into a wagon to get it into a barn. He just made very large stooks in the field, threw a rope around the bottom and simply towed the whole stook along the ground. It seemed to slide along very well and didn't fall apart. About this time hay bailers came to the fore and put an end to the old way of storing loose hay.



Haying in the 1950's. From left – Janet, Roy, ?, Neil Clarke

Cattle Feeding

Over the summer the cattle were out on rangeland but come fall they had to be gathered, calves were branded and some 2 year old steers selected for sale. The fall roundup involved anyone that could ride. The grazing land was not fenced but some control was maintained by putting out strategically placed salt blocks. In the early years Jack can remember driving about 25 head out to Exeter station (about 20 miles), enough for one boxcar load on the train. They probably brought just pennies a pound on the hoof – not a great amount. The remaining cattle were driven over to the Bradley Creek place for feeding through the first part of the winter. Initially the whole family would be there, which is why Jack was home schooled in grade 1. After that Dad was at Bradley Creek on his own doing the feeding, getting home for the odd weekend and for Christmas. Josie can remember riding over to deliver fresh bread to Dad. Later in the winter when the hay ran out the cows would be moved back to the home place for the remaining winter. Frozen fingers were a normal a part of for winter-feeding. Jack remembers April 19 being some kind of magic date when the cows were turned out to range (government leased grazing area). Jack and Roy were the only boys involved in winter-feeding.

Other Daily and Ongoing Jobs

There were two milk cows to be tracked down (usually the kids job) for the twice daily milking. We always had fresh milk and for some reason rather liked ‘warm’ fresh milk. Mom usually did the cream separation, which included the tedious task of cleaning the separator discs. Mom and/or kids would also churn the butter. During haying season Sheila and Bernice would often have the milking chore. Sheila can recall Dad giving them each a calf for doing this work, which they sold at a Williams Lake auction for about \$40. Big money!

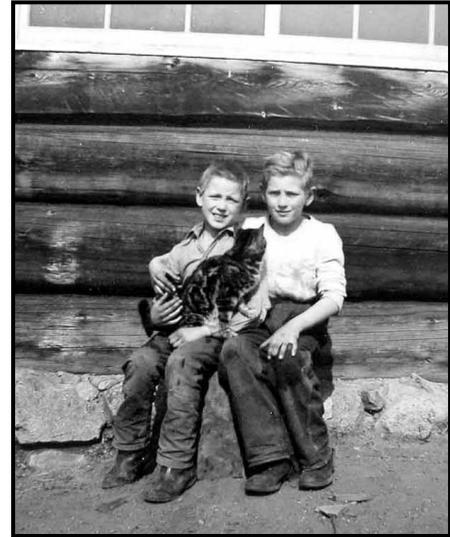
Mom was chief cook and tended to the kids, the latter sometimes amounting to just an occasional headcount. The girls usually got tasked with washing dishes, which often took hours when Mom was cooking for the mill hands. In earlier days she used to card and spin wool, to be used for knitting socks and sweaters. The saddle horses had to be cared for, usually the domain of the girls, as they tended to take ownership of their rides. The barn had to be mucked out daily, onto the pile that eventually made it back to the garden.

Laying in a supply of firewood was another essential task, usually done in the winter between the other chores. There was almost no hardwood to speak of in this area (other than birch, maybe) but plenty of poplar, a soft, low heat wood which required immense stacks to get through a winter. It also produced lots of ash. When the older boys got into saw milling fir sawdust became readily available so the old wood stove was converted to a sawdust burner. Pure luxury – you could almost get through a night with one hopper full.

There were fences to be built or to be kept in repair, especially along the creeks. Another regular job was walking the creeks to see if a cow had bogged. That was always pretty interesting, trying to get the cow out. It usually meant a rope around the neck and a tractor or team hauling away until the cow’s eyes bulged. I recall one time one of the bulls went in. It had horns and when they hauled away the horns would dig into the willow roots of the creek bank. The tractor (the bigger heavier one we had) was spinning its



Maggie, Harry, Jack and Roy, about 1929.
This picture came from Scotland via Maggie's sister Ina.



Pete and Phil, around 1952



Josie, Terry, Sheila, Jack, Roy, Bernice – late 1930's

Fenced in flower garden on left.



**Back: Sheila, Bernice
 Front: Janet, Phil, Josie,
 about 1945**

tires while the poor bull's eyes rolled back in its head. I always wondered why their neck didn't break. Josie recalls Dad once hauling a cow out of the creek near the house with the horses, the cow then going berserk and charging everyone. Dad got the rope around a post in the yard and tried to keep up as the steer charged in circles. Mom was in circle range and barely escaped being nailed by rolling out of the way.

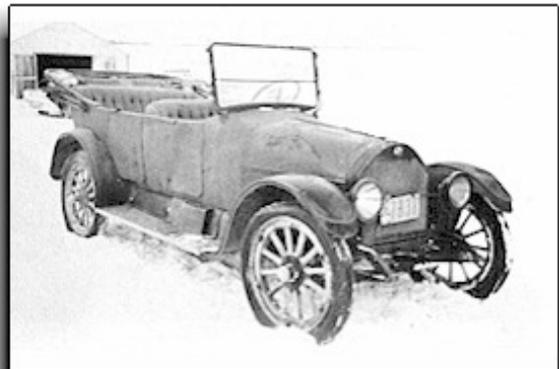
The focus of activities changed over the decades. In the 1920's clearing land and putting up buildings were the first priorities (plus winter trapping). Some of this would continue into the 30's but building the herd became the main focus and dependence on trapping of less importance. By 1940 everything was fairly stable and the last major build was a new house in 1942. Dad had about 100 head of cattle, at the most 150. They were sold off by 1950 when tuberculosis was found in a bull. This meant he had to sell and the rangeland could not be used for 5 years. He got beef price plus so much per head from the government. In any case, by then he was ready to retire from ranching. Retiring meant a bit of work with the logging, maybe some millwork and helping several of the family to build houses. Of course he continued with the big vegetable and potato garden, some of which Mom used when she cooked for the mill crew. Maybe he remembered being hungry as a child as Mom had stated (most likely overstated) that some of his family starved to death in the 1890's. The 1950's was our saw-milling era and Mom helped the older sons along in their ventures by doing the books and providing room and board for the mill crews.

Transportation

In the early years horse and buggy were the only way around, unless you chose to walk, and in the winter it would be horse drawn sleigh or cutter. The country was more open in those early years, you could ride quite unhindered anywhere. This might have had something to do with the natives doing fall burns² to clear out underbrush and make it easier for hunting as well as more open space for wild berries. By the 1950's and 60's trying to ride across country would be a challenge. The farm work was all done with horses, at least up until the mid 1940's when tractors started to make an appearance (an old Fordson, something called a Pony and later a bigger Massey Harris were used). Two big old draft horses, Belle and Maud, were the main power and there were always several saddle horses, required for moving cattle and otherwise owned and ridden everywhere by the children.

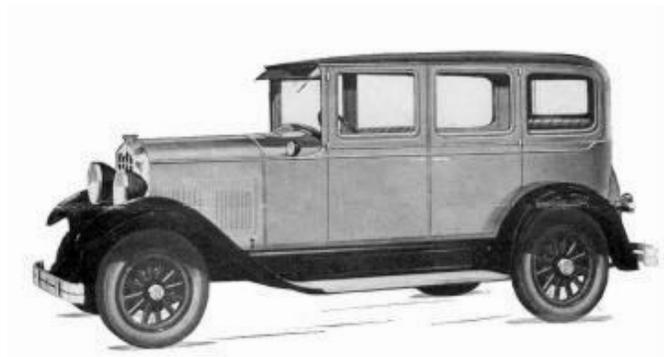
Dad's earliest attempt at a motor vehicle was a 1917-18 Overland touring car, with the wooden spoke wheels. We are not sure it ever went anywhere as the oldest of the family (Jack) only ever remembered it sitting in a shed and being something to play on.

Their second car was a 1928 Durant, probably black coloured, which they bought from a local named Bill Tubbs. As he had only one eye Dad was not keen on driving and apparently Walter McQueen, when he was around there, did the driving for him. Their third vehicle



1918 Overland model 90 Touring

was a new 1939 International pickup, red with black fenders. It served up until they bought another International pickup, about 1952, which was flipped and wrecked on a trip from Williams Lake (or Lac La Hache?). Next came a 1953-54 model, the peculiar pastel coloured one in the next farmhouse picture. This pickup lasted, remarkably, the rest of Dad's life. It suffered a lot of hard miles, put on by the youngest two of the family. When the oldest boys were into their teens they accumulated all sorts of old jalopies, including a Roy homebuilt. Around 1948 Mom, wanting independence from the cranky old 1939 pickup, bought her own vehicle, a new 1948 Austin. She was an active member of the Forest Grove Women's institute and with her little Austin could more reliably get around to do the things she wanted. We are not sure how that was paid for; best guess it came out of selling the herd. She may also have been saving all those family allowance cheques. Later on Mom earned some cash by providing crew room and board and also doing the bookkeeping for the mill business.



1928 Durant, M2 Sedan



The farmhouse, Sept 1962. Built in 1942, the house was abandoned in 1960 when Harry and Maggie moved into Forest Grove. The original old house is the one behind on the left.

Farm Life

Beyond the chores there was life on the farm, what you might call the social whirl of the day. A steady flow of relatives, friends and local characters passed through the farm, knowing they could rely on the hospitality of Mom and Dad. This section, for the most part, is farm life as seen through the eyes of the children and, as it turned out, really a multigenerational set of eyes.

The family of nine was spread out over 19 years. Due to the rapidly changing times it was almost like three separate little families in terms of what they experienced and the opportunities available to them. The oldest three (Jack, Roy, Terry) were all born before 1930 and they were the first to be pulled into farm work and the first to be out of school and working. Then four sisters (Sheila, Bernice, Josie, Janet) were born between 1931 and 1937. They got tagged with some of the farm work, but more likely pulled kitchen duty and looking after their favourite horses. There was a bit more emphasis on education and a few more opportunities available (a career in the forestry industry was not considered one of them). The last two to come along were Phil and Pete, 1942-45, and by the time they could remember anything it was the logging and saw milling era; the farm operations were just a faint memory. They had it easy, as chores were largely nonexistent. And, there was even more emphasis on education plus much more opportunity in this regard.

A Few Local Characters

A frequent visitor to the farm was a bent little old man by the name of **Paul Blaze**. He lived on the upper Bradley creek in a little log cabin. Rumour had it that he may have been in hiding from someone or something. He was never seen on a horse and must have walked everywhere with just a sturdy walking stick. He admittedly ate ants and would sometimes take off and live in the bush for a week or two. He made the best cookies, even winning 1'st place at the Fall Fair, and on occasion would bring some for the Wilcox clan. He was a hermit like fellow who one day started acting strange at the local store, someone reported this to the RCMP and they picked him up at our home as he was hiking through. He was taken to Essondale, never to be heard from again. Josie thought he got tired of sleeping under trees and it was his way of a warm bed. Another regular visitor from up Bradley Creek was an American named (Old Man) **Jack Pogue**. He liked to drink and shared a few with Dad when he came by.

During the war years many things were rationed, including rum. I can remember Dad saying that they would not often buy a bottle, but when you were rationed to one bottle a month you made sure you bought it anyway.

Native groups traveled through as well and were often by in hunting season, guiding and the like. The **Archies** (Indian family) and **English Decker** did the most guiding around home. Mom always thought English Decker just sat in camp and ate and drank etc. One hunter under his keep died – who knows why – exposure, heart attack, got lost, etc. Janet remembers Mom not wanting them watching when they brought the body out. At the time Janet wondered why just the body and not the arms and legs. Needless to say they all watched and were happy to see legs. The ideas kids get! No one in our family ever did any guiding but they did hunt when we needed game. Roy always had the most interesting tales. He always saw game, was always stalking, circling etc. He wasn't such a great shot we guess as Jack and Terry wouldn't see anything but when they did they usually hit it. On the other hand Roy liked to hunt so was out more and in the end brought home more game.



***The first and last complete family photo - 1952 –
l:r, b: Jack, Sheila, Bernice, Terry, Roy. f: Phil, Janet, Josie, Maggie, Harry, Peter.***

Not in the 'character' category but there were of course the various people that came by for haying. **June and Jack Johnson** rode through often, going from Dempsey Lake into Forest Grove. Our nearest neighbours were about 2 miles (the **Wolf's** and an old hermit named **Humpage**), then the **Buckleys**, and at 3 miles were **Gene and Opal Bourgeois**. The metropolis of Forest Grove was about 4 miles distant. The Bourgeois were good friends and when the families were small and manageable Mom and Dad would alternate Christmas's with the Bourgeois.

Things We Did

Our first movies were in the late 1940's, in a pasture at the Sandback's place in Forest Grove. Engar Sandback got a projector and Friday was movie night. Later on the movies moved to the hall. Eventually a few Indians came and always sat in the left or back section – for some reason not very integrated. I often wondered what they thought of the standard Cowboy and Indian fare that was presented. The community hall was also used for dances and other events, sometimes music and a stage show by small traveling bands (e.g. Evan Kemp and his Trail Riders!). Jack, Roy, Terry, Sheila, Bernice, Josie all loved to dance and had a lot of fun. Roy was the best dancer of the boys and seemed to really enjoy it.

Dances and getting out usually meant getting cleaned up (usually, not always). This was a challenge if many were in line as there was never any power or running water on the farm. Coal oil lamps and pressure gas lanterns gave us light, wood gave us heat and a trip to the well gave us water. Understandably, washing was not quite the priority it is today. I can't remember baths being a weekly thing, so it might well have been only biweekly or monthly. The stove was wood with one of those little tanks on the end to warm some water but that was not very big so water had to be heated on the stovetop for the galvanized tub that would be set up in the pantry. The water was very hard, soapsuds were scarce, and if you were fourth in line for the water in the tub it is not obvious how much cleaning was accomplished. But, everyone smelled the same so perhaps no one noticed.

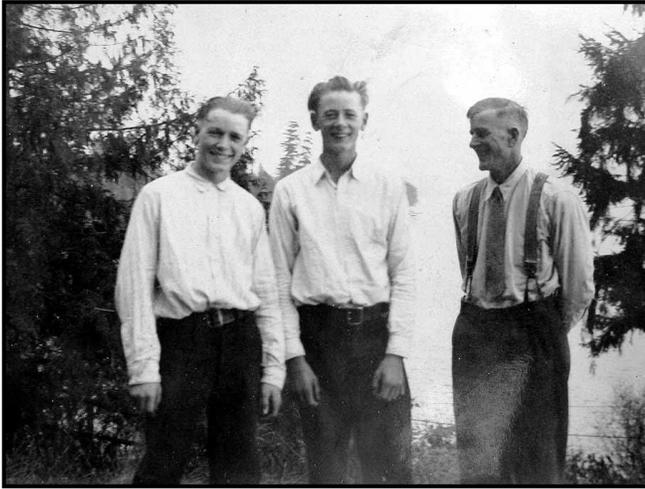
On the plus side, the well was cold spring water that tasted just great, the likes of which I've never had since.

Related to looking after horses, Josie mentioned, "We always had wet feet – heavy dew in mornings. Don't remember any comment from the teachers but we were really small hillbillies".

Speaking of hillbillies, the sidebar was written by Henry Green sometime between 1942 and 1946. Henry was the wife of Ruth Green (of Ruth Lake name), who was daughter of Mary Williamson, Dad's sister. Henry was a pedantic sort, well educated, and kept diaries⁷ throughout his life. We wonder to which Wilcox teenager he referred! [Jack has admitted to remembering a visit with Roy and Dad to the Greens. They were on trip to Lillooet for

"An amusing incident occurred while we were still at Cyprus Park. One of Ruth's uncles, I think Harry, with two of his teen-age sons stayed overnight with us, and one of them asked what I did for a living; when I told him that I was a clerical worker, he put his thumb and forefinger together in the motion of writing, and - I can still hear the scorn in his voice - said; "What, you push a pen?" With my usual 'esprit d'escalier', I omitted to mention that an old white bearded German expatriate (Marx?) did more, for good or ill, to change the course of human history, than battalions of 'practical men.'

fruit, using precious gas rations, and for some reason hopped a train for a week visit in Vancouver. He also remembers them tearing up and down escalators and elevators in a department store until they were tossed out.]



Roy, Jack and Dad. About the right age, and wearing a tie for a visit to the relatives?

Continuing on the washing theme; Mom did all the laundry, which did progress from a tub and wash board to an old hand operated machine, to be followed by a motorized contraption with a Brigs and Stratton motor that would never start easily and have Mom cursing mightily. In the winter the laundry was hung out to freeze dry. I'm sure it was just a tale about those who put their Stanfields on in the fall and peeled them off in the spring.

We all remember another farm pleasure, the outdoor biffy. A mighty cold place in the winter considering it was suspended over a small creek (spring runoff was the only big flushing) and the wind could blow through underneath. However it did come with an Eaton's catalogue.

Entertainment was home made. In the long winters card games were popular (rummy, canasta, cribbage) and board games when they were available (Monopoly). Dad was always ready for a game of cards though Mom never seemed to participate in these. They read a lot and Mom would knit or embroider and Sheila, Bernice and Mom kept the old Singer sewing machine busy. Music was a big part of our lives. There was a big old organ in the living room (pumped by two treadles) that a few could bang away on, though fiddle and guitar were the chosen instruments. A small trio was even formed by Jack (fiddle), Terry (guitar) and an accordion played by a Bourgeois son, Bobby. *[Bobby always came with the best local gossip as he had access to a party-line phone.]*

Everyone tuned in Friday night to the Grand Old Opry, broadcast from Nashville. The radio was an old tube job that required an expensive and short-lived big dry cell battery to run it. In this part of B.C., AM radio was a little erratic as we could never receive a Vancouver station but California (Bakersfield) would often be quite clear. Another radio show was Inner Sanctum (very scary according to Janet – couldn't go upstairs to bed by yourself after that one). An old 78RPM record player [with mostly worn out needles] filled in the music gaps.



George Ruddy and Albert Carnegie, fiddle teacher

Photo from R. White¹

Jack got a few fiddle lessons from a fellow called **Albert Carnegie** who lived way up Bradley Creek (his place referred to as Carnegie Hall by the kids). It was about a 15 mile hike and he would stay several days so Mom would load him down with potatoes and canned goods, preserves, all kinds of stuff, a big enough load to almost ensure he didn't get there.

Roy was also pretty accomplished on the guitar. He was the engineer of the family and built a guitar using only the crude tools found on the typical farm. He played that for quite some time and it sounded pretty good even though, after several years of drying, it developed a crack.

Sports were also a big part of our entertainment. Softball was a core activity for young and old alike and we were always playing catch or practicing. Many games were played between Forest Grove and other communities such as Lone Butte, 100 Mile, Lac La Hache etc. Jack always played 1st base and I think Terry was an outfielder. Josie and Janet were also big on the game, beyond just the usual school games. Janet had a wicked pitch that I sure hated to catch. School track meets were also a big annual event and Josie and Janet, the real athletes of the family, usually cleaned up.

Christmas was always very special – going out and getting the tree, hanging the tinsel perfectly. Mom's stuffing and steamed pudding were the best. The gifts were not elaborate, small things usually, but it was fun. When we had cattle Dad had to trek over from Bradley Creek. Josie recalls one Christmas when it just did not stop snowing and it took Dad 3 days to get home. It was too much for the horses and he had to break trail a little at a time until he could make it through. "Us kids were so happy Dad would be home for Xmas." In the early years the Bourgeois' would come for Christmas and Gene and Dad would start to drink Rum Toddy's. They would sing and dance and get quite drunk. The kids would usually play outside, skating or tobogganing. Mom used to bake Christmas cakes, shortbread and candy and send to her family in Scotland. It probably took 6 wks to get there but they would write and say it would arrive just fine. I can personally vouch for the taste of Mom's shortbread – maybe it was that real butter. By the mid or late 1950's only Pete and I were around the farm and finding and decorating a tree was a somewhat lonely exercise. There would be a get together Christmas day but the season was no longer as much fun.



Christmas gifts, about 1939. Terry, Sheila, Josie, Bernice. Horses and sleigh in background.

In Janet's words, "school was fun, much better than staying home and the Christmas concerts were a hoot. As little kids we really looked forward to these." The Women's Institute made sure everyone got a little gift and a bag of candy. After the concert there would be a dance. I can remember practicing for the concert took up a great deal of classroom time in the fall. We had no complaints, much more fun than the English grammar we didn't get (see later).



The Women's Institute, early 1940's.
Standing, from left:
 -Mrs. Sandback,
 -Granny Jones,
 -Flo MacDougall,
 -Opal Bourgeois,
 -Maggie Wilcox,
 -Helen Woods,
 -Mrs. Dean,
 -Mrs. Hunter,
 -Velma Graham.
Sitting, from left:
 -Mrs. Fred Rix??,
 -Doris Gibbs,
 -Mary Richards,
 -Myrtle Dare.

Mom was very active in the Women's Institute and also served on the school board. She was a great little organizer and loved to get out. When the hall burned down she took charge of organizing work bees, obtaining donations from businesses and people and getting **Tom Auld's** Mill to donate lumber and the very generous use of their trucks (Josie was with Mom while she was doing this). The Women's Institute

also put on school picnics with lots of races and goodies for everyone. During the war years and after Mom was very involved with Forest Grove dances and supplied coffee and sugar from her ration coupons (9 kids, lots of coupons). The Institute meetings would occasionally be at our house. The good china with the peacock pattern would come out and goodies of course. All the members took turns hosting the meetings. Dad did not have any similar activities and other than picnics and the like did not seem to get out very much.

In the midst of all her work Mom found the time to hammer together some flower boxes (on the new house, plus out front of the old house) so there were always nasturtiums, pansies, marigolds and the like adding a bit of colour. I don't remember the house getting much spiffing up, though I imagine a bit of paint did get splashed around. If the house was not tidy and clean it wasn't because Janet (self described neatness freak) didn't try hard enough, just that two small boys were more successful.

Mom was a superstitious sort; apparently she wouldn't paint anything green when they lost livestock to a cougar after painting the kitchen green. As kids she used to read our fortunes in the tealeaf patterns - we believed every word (at least for awhile). And there was something about throwing salt over your left shoulder?

I can't remember any birthday cakes and the only party I can remember was Jack's 21'st birthday in 1947. Lack of cakes might have had something to do with eleven people in the family and a birthday in every month but one. Jack's 21'st was a surprise party and Roy had the job of getting Jack home from a mill camp for the event. It must have been quite the bash.

We were probably much better off than most of the other scratch farmers in the country and I can remember kids in school who had a lot less. The basics were covered, food, clothing, but spending money was scarce unless you found a way to earn it. Trapping seemed to be a way to do that. Dad did very well early on and Roy ran a good-sized trap line. Roy made good money on red squirrel, with weasel bringing a few extra bucks and the odd mink even more. Roy showed Bernice (12 yrs old) how to set up a little trap line, how to skin then stretch them on a board to dry the hide. She did this for one winter, with Janet there as well, and made \$25. The girls thought it was quite a sight (no doubt influenced them to go into Nursing). As a 12-year-old Dad showed me how to set up a trap line and in the mid 1950's I could get 50 cents for a squirrel and 2 dollars for weasel. He also bought me a new 22 rifle at that time, which I had to find as Mom made him hide it away.

Roy made some skis one year, perhaps to tend a trap line or just get around in the bush. He steamed the wood to get the curve and cut up leather to make the harness.

Our own idle time entertainment on the farm was outdoors and pretty simple. Josie and Janet loved to run and would spend hours playing horsy with sticks. They would run for miles all over the many cattle and horse trails. None of the others were quite that keen or competent at running. Trying to walk the split rail fences was always a skill test at which Josie was good and the rest of us found it better in winter when you could land in soft snow. Josie for sure, and maybe Janet, spent lots of time teaching Peter and I, preschool

age, to read and write. Probably an extension of their playing house games, as I didn't see how their pin curling my hair had any educational benefits.

Sheila and Bernice were more into sewing, knitting etc. though they were involved with all the usual school sports. Sheila, when 13, can remember knitting her Mom a sweater. We all probably wandered a lot, the sisters would ride off to visit school friends, and Mom and Dad often had no clue where anyone was. We were probably pretty lucky to have no serious accidents out in the bush. Mail was a weekly thing and the kids would sometimes ride out to get it, and of course maybe get a candy bar or one of those huge BB bat suckers for 1 cent.

Pete and I were small when the mill crew bunked out in the old house behind our main house. Some tended to be a bit rough and crude, perfect company for and quite fascinating to a 10-12 year old. The better one, of course, became an in-law. Actually, they were all okay people to us. The fields near our house were solid dandelions and I can recall these guys realizing they could make dandelion wine. Who knows what recipe they followed, or if they had one, but this stuff stewed away in a big crock for a while. In an image that still stands out, they filtered the brew through a greasy grimy pillowcase and proceeded to get quite sick when they drank it. Maybe the teaching habit was passed on from Josie and Janet as I recall one guy, physically huge, who was illiterate and I kept trying to teach him how to read. Never really got anywhere and probably annoyed him to no end.

(Mis)adventures

The farm geese and big roosters could be scary when you were small. Big cows even more so. One of our milk cows, Jenny, was a bit flighty at the best of times and downright ornery when she had a new calf. Bernice and Josie were in the corral for some reason when the cow decided to charge. You never saw two kids move so fast. Bernice went over the big log fence and Josie went between the buildings with the cow hot on her heels. Josie cleared a high fence without so much as a scratch. Later, of course, they all thought it was such a laugh.

Janet recalls she used to walk out the road (preschool) to meet the other kids coming home from school. Sometimes she would have a little nap off the road and miss them. They would then start looking around for her. No one seemed to have any concern or fear of wildlife. There seemed to be no major accidents, other than Roy trying to cut off his foot with an axe and Phil falling on his head on the rocks once too often.

There were more serious misadventures but all in all the Wilcox were a pretty fortunate bunch. As a teenager Jack enjoyed going hunting with his friend **Cache Bourgeois**. It was a sad day for all when Cache was reported missing in action in 1944. He was a year or so older than Jack so Jack was not called up, though he did get a letter in 1944 saying there was no more conscription. In his very early trucking days Terry worked with a good buddy **Billy Hunter** hauling logs for the Auld's mill. Billy got on the wrong side of some logs coming off their truck and was killed in 1949, age 19. **Clint and Mabel Hunter** were devastated at the loss of their only child. And Roy, died at age 42 when he got careless and crawled under a poorly supported farm vehicle.

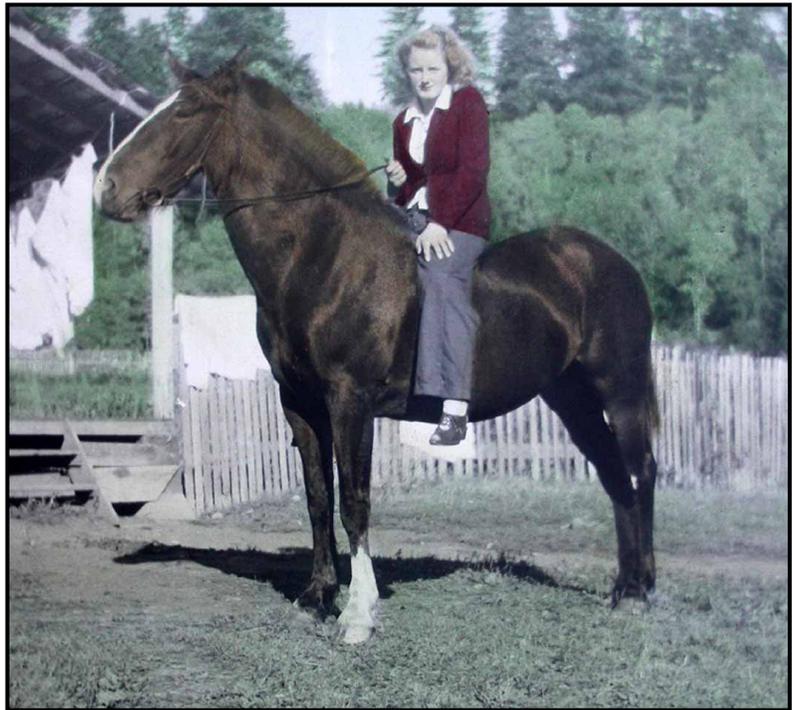
Schooling

Late summer was preparation time for school – the T. Eaton catalogue. It was quite a big deal picking out clothes, usually a size too large of course. Every fall meant a new pair of ankle high leather boots (just for the boys, it should be mentioned), no matter how much we desired and argued for the “pretty” shoes.

The schools were certainly one-room affairs in the early years, if they existed at all. The family did get an education, Mom made very sure of that. Anything beyond grade 8 was usually done by or supplemented by correspondence courses, even into the 1950’s when there was a 3-room school. Getting there (4 miles) meant walking or horse back. Jack, the oldest was home schooled in grade 1 and started grade 2 in 1934, along with Roy in grade 1. By some coincidence Jack was the sole student in his grade throughout his 8 years there. They often rode a gentle old swaybacked nag with a long neck called Lippy (part donkey maybe) and in the winter Lippy pulled a cutter for them. Lippy always seemed to have about 3 kids on her back. Josie can recall Jack driving the cutter, filled with hay and blankets, to school in winter. By 1941 Jack was working, helping Dad, then he went into the logging business, closely followed by Roy and Terry.

The 4 girls did their grade 8 then followed various paths beyond that. This detail is included in the section on the individuals. Like the older boys, the sisters made their way to school by horseback or walking. Sheila rode a horse called Ginger, which was later passed along to Josie. Josie and Bernice doubled on an uncontrollable horse called Tony. He was big, strong, liked to run and tended to terrify the kids. Janet started out behind either Bernice or Josie then rode Tex (described as another sharp backboned horse).

There was a second Ginger that Bernice also rode. All riding was of course bareback – saddles were used only when the horses were “working”. Janet and Josie thought they walked as much as they rode and in fact would often run the whole distance from school. Not surprising they cleaned up on trophies at the school track meets.



Sheila on Ginger

I can remember riding to school in grade 1 (1948, behind Josie) but cannot remember beyond grade 1. There is still a vivid memory of a day with freezing rain, and the horse’s feet going out from under one way and one small rider being tossed a good distance the other way. By 1950 Forest Grove School had combined with Bradley Creek and Canim Lake schools and there was now a bus service that cut our walking

distance from 4 miles down to 3, so the two youngest boys had it really soft. I don't even remember walking all that much, though I guess we did. By the early 1950's there were lumber trucks trundling by the house most days and we would hitch a ride. That usually meant arriving at school a little late, more often a lot late, and catching hell from the teacher.

It was curious but almost none of the local natives went to the Forest Grove School. If they moved from the reserve apparently they could go to school there but otherwise they usually went to school in Williams Lake, to be taught by catholic priests and nuns. This was no doubt rough on them; Janet can recall a trip to Williams Lake and some of the native kids riding in the back of the pick-up with them. They just sort of huddled, not saying much and looking scared to death.



***Forest Grove School – 1950'ish. Some future sisters-in-law.
L-R: Arlene Duke, Iris Clarke, Josie Wilcox, Bev MacLeod,
Bernice Wilcox, Doris Teslo.***

Fading of the Faith

Up until the 1950's there was a flow of clergy through the farm, trying to keep the catholic faith alive and well. In the early days Dad's mother Alice was there to keep an eye on things. She was opposed to Dad's marriage to Irica² as Irica was not catholic and probably had no intention of converting. I guess this did not bother Dad too much as he went ahead anyway. The same could be said about Mom as her background was Scotch United and you can be sure no one was going to tell her what to do. This all must have disappointed Alice but she seemed not to hold any resentment as June (daughter of Dad and Irica) said she was always kind, not necessarily warm, but kind, and always sending pamphlets in the hope they might influence. June also mentioned that a female relative of Dad visited, stayed quite awhile and also tried to make June a good Catholic. We are not sure who this was. It could have been Alice's sister (Mary Grimbaldeston), but more likely the daughter Anne of this Mary, who we know did visit the BC relatives. Anne joined the Moore relatives in California and then entered a convent in San Francisco as Sister Mary Martha.

Father Henry, the uncle (see chapter on him), also spent time on the farm when he visited from England. It is said the cane he sported in later years resulted from an unfortunate incident with a saddle horn on Dad's place. Through the late 1930's and into the 1940's, Josie recalls a Father Redmond (from Williams Lake) and sisters Bernadette and Alicia visiting the farm. They would set up a confessional in the living room and do the catechism, in which Dad participated (maybe he was the only one?). In the late 1940's, perhaps into the 1950's I can remember nuns and even a priest visiting who, as I recall, got a very rough ride at the hands of the mill crew boarding on the farm. They showed the poor sermonizing priest no kindness whatsoever.



*Sisters with Sisters, late 1940's.
Harry and Maggie's daughters, (l-r) Janet, Josie, Sheila, Bernice.*

That was the end of any religious influence, as they never showed again. By then, Dad may well have been going his own way; there was no longer the mother pressure (Alice died in 1947) and there were other external influences building over time. Another early pioneer, Gene Bourgeois, had a farm nearby and was a family friend. Gene was from a French family in eastern Ontario (from St. Albert's of cheese fame), fourteen kids, devout Catholics, and when Gene was able he got as far away from there as he could. From his childhood he perceived how badly their local clergy treated people, even the poor, and thereafter he was vitriolic in his disdain⁵. This would probably have some influence on Dad, as he and Gene shared many a drink. Gene's daughter Burla⁵ recalls nuns getting off the mail truck and heading off to the Wilcox farm, with Gene not too thrilled about letting her visit while they were there. By then Dad had also seen enough discrepancy between professed belief and behaviour, which offended his own very clear ideas of right and wrong, to be turned off. Always the tolerant type, his more faithful brothers only had to put up with his acerbic wit. Such as his comment² on John A "John would every day walk 3 miles to church. He didn't think the church did him any good, but the walk sure did", or "he doesn't seem to do anything that is fun, but then he is too old to have much fun anyways, so why take any chances".

*Not many things bugged Dad and he didn't chatter on. So if he mentioned something more than once, you knew it really bugged him. All the family heard the story of "the Millar and the slice of bread". And the pious merchant with the "thumb on the scale" was another story told more than once. We all learned something from these simple grumbles. In Jack's words:
" One thing learned from the old folks that mattered was honesty and fairness".*

Closing Notes

Mom and Dad moved off the farm in 1960 to a house in Forest Grove (which was moved from the farm, the same house son Jack and wife Bev had built). Finally, after nearly 50 years, running water, indoors plumbing and electric lights. And weekly bingo games at the community center. Unfortunately Mom got to enjoy these for only a few years. Around 1950 Mom's health started getting bad, not helped by the fact she started smoking. It turns out she had Cushing's disease, which wasn't diagnosed for quite a few years. In 1962 Mom got quite ill (flu or something similar) and went to a small-town hospital in Ashcroft. Probably not a good choice, given her fragile medical condition. The night before she was to be released she was found dead in her ward bed. Cause was not determined. She was buried in the Forest Grove cemetery, December 1962, age 56.



***Grandma surrounded by some of her many grandkids, on the farm, about 1958.
Four families here, Jago, Vaugeois, Wilcox (Jack and Terry).***

Dad soldered on for another 20 years, getting into various things he never had time or opportunity to do on the farm, such as golf and bowling. Golf must have been a challenge with just one eye. He had a garden of course and more strawberries than he had ever had in his life. He looked after his brother John A (see chapter on John) in John's last few years of life, 1974-75. By 1980 his resilience was waning. He had been a pipe smoker most of his life and had migrated to cigar like things (cigarillos?), which he wouldn't give up. He dealt with his bronchial problems with massive concentrations of some medicate like Vick's Vapour Rub which he boiled on the stove. It permeated the house! His amusements were the TV, crossword, jigsaw puzzles and reading. As his eyesight started to make these more difficult, and the internal aches and pains were getting harder to ignore (doctors were out of the question – they were all quacks), and having seen three brothers suffer ignoble mental declines, this proud, independent old guy let the ancient pick-up truck do one more service. June 1981.



The farm, January 1962

For Harry Wilcox

Forest Grove flag flies at half mast

FOREST GROVE - The Canadian flag in front of the Forest Grove Elementary School flew at half-mast Friday morning, June 19, as friends and family members gathered at the neighboring community hall to pay tribute to pioneer Harry Wilcox, who died early this week at the age of 88.

Mr. Wilcox was born at Webster's Corner, Haney, in 1893.

His parents emigrated to Canada from England in the mid 1880s, settling first in Cornwall, Ontario, and then moving to British Columbia. Mr. Wilcox' older brother Jack, who died in 1976, was born in England.

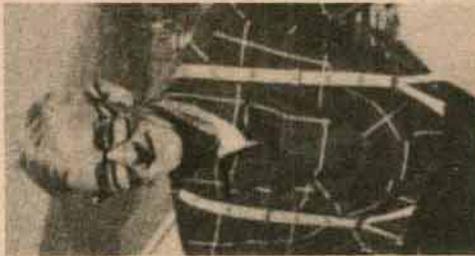
late area, the Hawkins, the McNeils, the Bougeois, the Lillys, the Ladoucers, Slim Hendrix and the Bowers. The Pinkham and Phillips families arrived in 1914.

Between 1918 and 1922 or 23 there was an influx of people into the area and the population began to grow.

Mr. Wilcox' first wife, Erica, died in 1919. The couple had a daughter, now Mrs. June Johnson of Hedley B.C.

In 1927, he married his second wife Margaret. The couple had eight children. Margaret Wilcox died in 1962, and is buried in the Forest Grove Cemetery, as is their son Roy, who was killed in a logging accident a few years ago.

Funeral services were conducted for Mr. Wilcox at the Forest Grove Community Hall on Friday morning.



HARRY WILCOX

Harry Wilcox came to the Cariboo from Haney in 1912 or 1913. In 1913 he took up a homestead on what is now Wilcox Road, part of which is now owned by his son Terrance.

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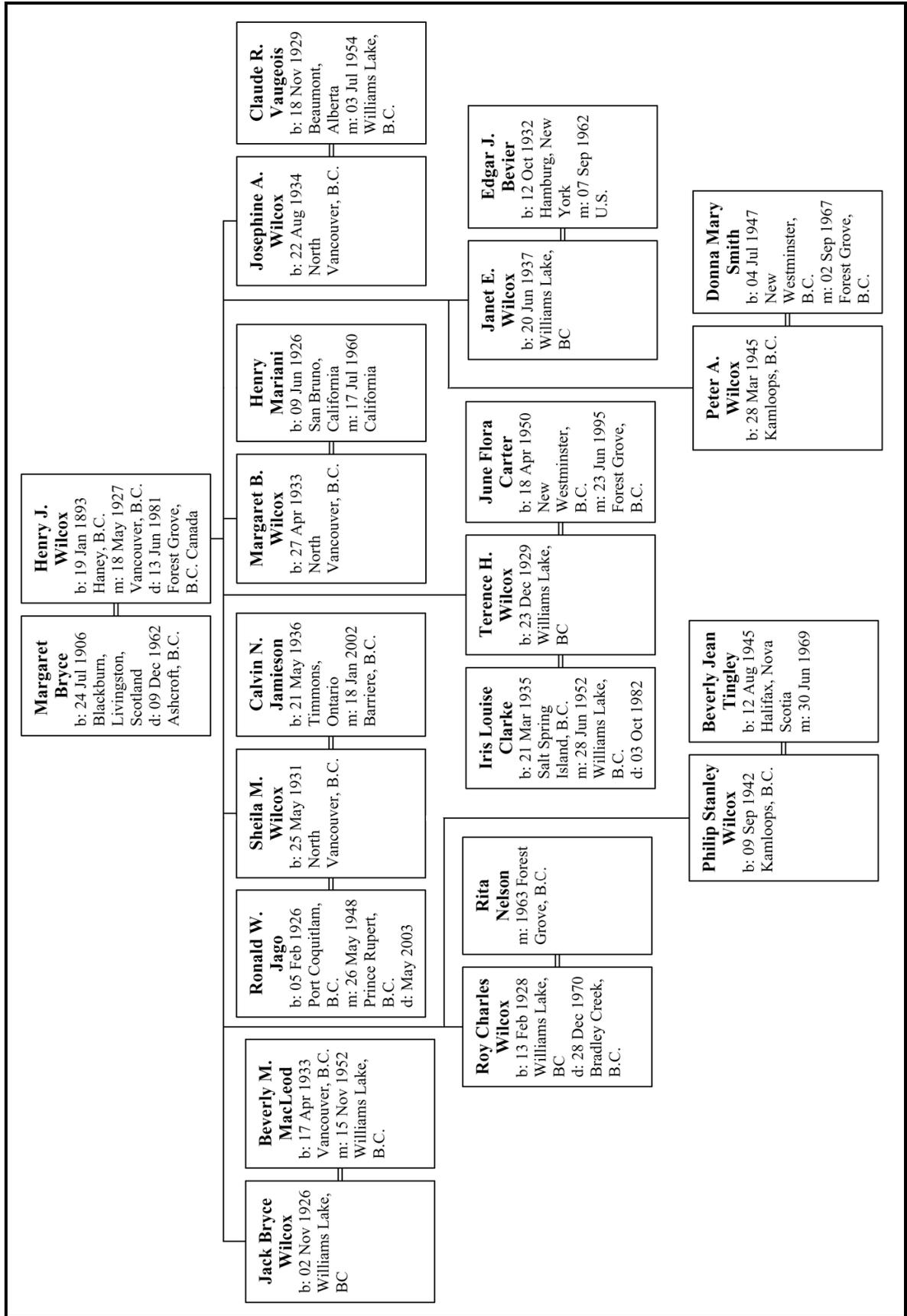
Following the service, he was buried in the Forest Grove Cemetery near his wife and son.

Mr. Wilcox is survived by his five daughters; Mrs. June Johnson of Hedley, B.C.; Mrs. Sheila Jameson of Clearbrook, B.C.; Mrs. Bernice Mariane of Mount Sha-

During his first years in the Cariboo, he earned part of his living by trapping fur, garnering as much as \$2,000 worth in a winter season. Much of the spring and summer months were spent improving the farm, which at one time consisted of three 160 acre sections. Eventually he was able to build a herd of 150 head of cattle and did not have to depend completely on the furs for a living.

He gained full title for the homestead in 1918, and lived on it until he retired and moved into Forest Grove in 1960.

When he first arrived in the Forest Grove area in 1912, there were only seven white families in the immed-



JACK



Jack on left, about 1930



Jack and Bev 1963



*Jack and oldest son Bruce,
by the campfire, 2008*

Family Sketches

This next section is a brief sketch of the 9 kids. More could be written but perhaps that can be left to the next generation. The section on Jack also has bits on Terry and Roy as their work lives were intertwined.

JACK

Jack's first job away from the farm was canting at **Aulds**, who ran a steam-operated sawmill. Roy also worked there for a few months doing odd jobs, one of which was assisting **Albert Carnegie** (who was a ticketed steam engineer) in firing wood into the boiler. Jack and **Mac MacLeod** (future father-in-law) fell and bucked timber on the Auld place around 1943/44. In the fall of 1944 Roy and Jack bought a chainsaw from **Paul Graham**, one of the first in the country, a 2-man IEL beast weighing about 136 lbs.

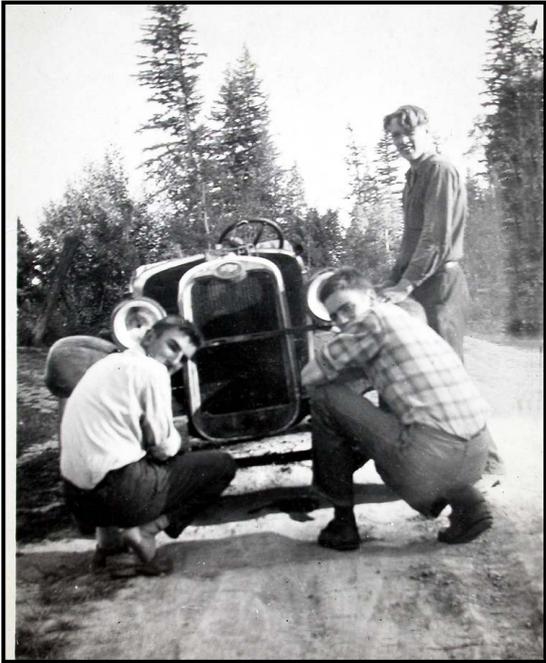
By 1949 Jack and Roy were ready and built their first mill, basically a head saw and trimmer (Janet ran this) and as I recall, initially powered by the Massey Harris farm tractor. They made money so they expanded, Terry got in on the action, and they moved closer to their timber leases. They were 5 years at Wilcox Lake when that mill burned. By 1956 they were rebuilding at Lake of the Trees, a mill they eventually sold to Canim Lake Sawmills in 1960. Throughout this Roy was largely on the logging side, Terry on the hauling side, and Jack pretty much did all the hard grunt work at the mill. Sawing all day, going back at night to do maintenance or haul another log boom up the lake for the next days cut, scouring beer parlors for workers and shopping to keep the cook camp going. By 1960 Terry and Roy were part time back to farming while Jack, not much wanting anything to do with farming, continued in the forestry industry, building and operating several portable mills including being a partner in a Cedar Products venture.

There seemed to be a lot of war surplus hardware around the mills. An old Bren Gun carrier provided a Ford V8 engine as a power plant. There was an army 6x6 truck turned into a logging truck and various other power plants came from military surplus sources.

In his limited spare time Jack was either target shooting, playing the fiddle or pursuing **Bev MacLeod**. He was good at the target shooting as he and **Claude Vaugeois** always came home with the limit at the turkey shoots (this is target shooting, not real turkey shooting). He became very good at the fiddle and in later years entered contests all over B.C., collected trophies and even got in on the judging side. And he was good at wooing as he did catch Bev, or vice versa, much to the delight of the whole family.

The family lived, initially, in a house on the farm. Somewhere around 1960 they built in Forest Grove where their 4 children were (for the most part) raised. There was some moving around with millwork and they eventually settled and retired in Prince George.

ROY



Roy (standing) and his home made truck.



Terry, Roy and Jack – building the mill roof, early 1950's.



Roy and Rita wedding, 1963



ROY

Roy was a warm-hearted soul, a very sociable guy who loved animals and farming. If any one was getting cleaned up on the weekend to go visiting, it was Roy. He loved to dance, play his guitar and build things. When haying he was one who always seemed to have added help, usually with the same guys year after year.

It seemed his time in the logging business was purely commercial, something to tide him over until he could make a go of farming, although he certainly used the opportunity to satisfy his engineering bug. Roy was truly an engineer at heart and lack of any academic training didn't seem a hindrance. As a teenager he assembled a vehicle from spare parts and drove it for quite a while. Janet got her driving lessons on this peculiar machine. For whatever reason it had two transmissions, back to back, and a super low forward gear was obtained by having both in reverse. As noted before, he built a good sounding guitar from scratch. His own music taste tended to bluegrass and banjos.

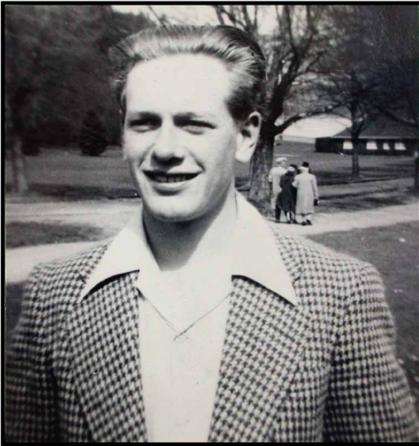
He was always working on some machinery thing for the sawmill. He built a forklift from scratch which was used for a number of years – built very strong and solid, just a little short on refinements like working brakes. Roy would get a gleam in his eye when thinking about bulldozing a new road or when talking of his plans for building a modern barn. He took up flying after Terry did and had a little Aercoupe for a while.

He liked Bradley Creek, took over the farm there in the 1950's and did build his modern barn. I can remember working on this barn one summer (probably 1958 or so) and can also recall living on canned peaches and canned soup. Cooking was a low priority, at least for the next 4-5 years. After 1960 he was still logging and cutting, as the farm was not self-sustaining. The notion of building things took more of his attention than mundane items like making a living.

Roy put off marriage longer than anyone else in the family then, in 1963, married **Rita Nelson**, a widow with 4 children. They lived on the Bradley Creek place, in the same house that Dad had built many years before. I guess Rita did not share a strong interest in isolated Bradley Creek as they eventually separated.

Clever as he was at building, Roy was a little careless in some ways; not always seeing the downside of his actions, and this blind side in the end was what got him. He was working under a truck that was not well supported on a jack, it slipped and he died at the young age of 42 in 1970.

TERRY



Terry, late 1940's



*Iris and Terry wedding
1952*



Terry and June 2006

*June and Terry wedding,
1995*



TERRY

When the boys pulled out of school to get into the logging and lumbering business Terry was attracted to the trucking side. He started working at 16 and did a lot of hauling for **Gordon Graham** and also for the Auld's sawmill (lost his friend, Billy Hunter, there). Terry had a good eye for business and did well in forestry and trucking. In what seemed a significant change of direction he decided farming and cattle were of more interest than hauling so he bought the home place in 1960 and started running a few cattle. Over the years he acquired quite a bit of property up Bradley Creek, some used for haying, but with an eye to timber value and longer term appreciation. This all worked out very well and helped pay for his main indulgence.

Terry's prime hobby was flying. He bought his first plane in the early 1950's (Cessna 170) but then switched to a Piper Cub, more of a bush plane (he had 4 planes in all). He loved to explore the country by air and drop in on isolated little lakes that teemed with fish. In his youth he explored a lot of country, probably on foot, and got to know it very well. The plane allowed him to satisfy this same curiosity over much more terrain. He had a little side hobby, collecting interesting looking rocks from wherever he traveled, chosen with an eye to colour, shape, mineralization, etc. He built up a nice rock pile. Oh, and he has a nice start on a fire engine collection.

Terry married **Iris Clarke** in 1952, built a house in Forest Grove and they went on to raise 4 children. After a dozen years or so they started work on a new house on the farm and moved in about 1970 (power was put into the farm at that time). This house was Terry's pride and joy and he put many years into building it. The fireplace and chimney were something special, a work of art incorporating that large collection of rocks Terry had gathered over the years. Unfortunately, they only got to use it a few years as it burned in 1976. Shortly thereafter, Iris's life was cut to a very short 47 years, related to the drugs used to deal with medical problems and serious chronic migraines.

By 1995 Terry had fixed up a nice little home on Wilcox Lake, right beside his plane hanger and married **June Carter**. Full circle in a way here, as June was from Webster's Corners, Haney, where the original Wilcock clan settled in B.C. June is quite familiar with the old families in that area.

Current photos of the home place will show the farmhouse moved back about 75 yards so it now sits back of the original house. When the lower logs started to decay Terry did some preservation work and moved it to a new foundation.

SHEILA



Sheila and Cal, 2007

*Sheila with her youngest,
Phil, and oldest, Margaret*



*Sheila and 'all' the sisters, 1963:
Harry's five daughters
(and Maggie's four),
l-r: Janet, June, Sheila, Josie, Bernice*

SHEILA

Sheila was the oldest of the girls and was thus the backup housemother. When Phil and Peter were born Sheila did all the cooking for 2 weeks to a month, at age 11 and 14 respectively. Other than that Sheila was into everything just like the rest of them, loved school, wanted to be a teacher and with Mom's encouragement (and organization) started the trend to depart Forest Grove for better schooling. She went to West Van, stayed with McQueen's for a bit than moved in with a family that wanted some domestic help. Grade 9 at Inglewood High School was tough treading, without a lot of support from teachers or relatives. Unfortunately that one bad year was enough and any desire to be a teacher was erased. On the plus side, Sheila was one of the musical ones and took guitar lessons while in West Van. Her subsequent life, being rather busy, left little time for such pleasures.

Back on the farm Sheila worked at a tourist lodge for a time but restlessness, a wanting to move on, coincided with meeting a fellow, **Ronald Jago**, who appeared to offer that opportunity. She was married at 17 in Prince Rupert. It was not the smoothest life by any measure as they bounced around, following jobs or whims. They were even on the farm for a few years and built a house, probably the early 1950's. Most of the following years were on the coast, Surrey, etc. Ron was not good husband or father material (made worse by drink) and was out of their lives by 1960⁸. Sheila raised their 5 children on her own; basically a constant struggle requiring a lot of stamina and backbone to keep food on the table and house and home together. Mom helped out a lot (probably help with a sharp tongue), as did Dad. The crowning achievement in Sheila's life was raising 5 wonderful children under really tough conditions.

Sheila and **Cal Jamieson** got together about 1971 and have enjoyed life together ever since. They've moved around some, 100 Mile House (working in Cedar mill), lower mainland (donut shop, food mall), Shuswap a couple times, but they finally retired to 100 Mile House, near the old home and near some of the children.

BERNICE



Bernice, early 1950's



Bernice and Henry, 1960

The Mariani family, 2005

T: John, Michelle, Joe, Gail, Ritchie

M: Joe, Henry, Bernice, Sami, Annabell, Aunt Lucy

B: Angela, Vincent, Isabella, Emmy, Maggie



BERNICE

Bernice always seemed to be the most laid back one of the girls, no sharp edges, easy going. Well, my perception anyways. Closest to Sheila in age so was second backup to Mom. She knew early on that Forest Grove wasn't going to offer anything she wanted (tourist lodge work, mill work, or get married) and, following Sheila, headed to Vancouver for schooling. The McQueen's found a family a few doors away that wanted domestic help so Bernice stayed there and went to West Van High for grade 9. She did not find it any easier than Sheila did. However she did come back to Forest Grove for grades 10-12, largely on the premise that those grades would be available. Well, maybe, but the teacher had a large multi-grade class and little or no time for individuals so Bernice largely did self study at home, especially when she discovered she had to write provincial exams. She (and Bev MacLeod, same grade) got through, with the help of certain novel exam review techniques.

Bernice had a major stroke of luck on a summer job at one of the lodges. A tourist at the lodge, Dr. McNair, took an interest and offered a place to stay (and work) in Vancouver so she could get her grade 12 there at Magee High School. He turned out to be the chief of medicine at St. Paul's hospital and also helped to get Bernice into the nursing program. Bernice did not see herself as the academic type, but I imagine this doctor recognized someone that would make a good nurse. And academic or not, academic, she was always taking courses on things that interested her, e.g. sewing and other handiwork skills.

Bernice graduated from nursing in 1955 and then spent 4 months working at Essondale, an asylum, where, at a hint from Mom, she looked up Lena, Uncle Charlie's wife. Up till then we had been told she was not alive. Another secret revealed.

Canadian nursing salaries did not compare well with U.S. rates so she headed south to work. Bernice was in Portland, Oregon for two years, built up some savings, then, with nothing particular in mind headed for California with a friend. They wound up in the Santa Clara area (where some cousins, the Moores, resided). By 1960 Bernice had met and married **Henry Mariani** and they have been there ever since. They raised 3 children and to this day Bernice is still looking after kids, grandkids and great grandkids. Mother to all and more power to her.

JOSIE



Josie, late 1940's



Claude and Josie, 1963



Josie, keeping an eye on her prize trophies



JOSIE

Josie, along with Janet, was the outdoors kid. Always running around, playing horsy, walking the fences, riding horses to meet a best school friend (**Dorothy Devore**), playing sports, you name it. There was a bit of a domestic side, playing house over the garage or tack shed, teaching Peter and I schooling, etc.

Josie stayed in Forest Grove for grades 9-12, taking specialized GP courses by correspondence (accounting, bookkeeping, etc) that teachers couldn't otherwise handle. She left school at 18 when Mom was running a cookhouse and doing mill books. She helped Mom for a while and like all the girls spent some time working in one mill or other. There was also the almost obligatory work at a local tourist lodge.

By age 20 Josie had met and married **Claude Vaugeois**, one of the men working with the mill. They spent a few years in a house they built on the farm but by 1959 had moved to 100 Mile House (99 Mile really) where they lived until their 3 children were raised and gone. They ran various enterprises, Josie putting to good use the business courses she took in High School. They had a Royalite Gas Station, owned and operated 100 Mile Taxi until they decided they had lost enough sleep, bucking and falling work, power saw repairs, plus owned and managed some rental units. Claude then drove school bus until retirement.

Josie continued to be very involved in her special love of sports. Softball leagues and lots of tournaments all over the province, same for badminton and also racquetball locally. Josie won lots of trophies and awards in all these sports. She was proudest of the school trophies for track and field – 5 different entries that had to be won 3 consecutive years in order to keep the cup. Had to work for these ones - says it kept her in school!

At 54 Josie went to work full time (and quit playing softball) as housekeeping manager at a Best Western. After 15 years of that she retired to a simple single life of family, basic tasks and cutting firewood and kindling to heat the house - but not packing water, that would be going too far. She is thankful her early farm years provided the grounding to enjoy a simple life.

[Just have to mention this but it always intrigued why Josie was the only one in the family with really really dark hair. After doing the family research, finally realized this is the early Wilcock colour. Check the picture of Mary Alice Moore. Sheila was the really really blond one, which came from somewhere on the Scottish side]

JANET



*Janet
Late 1940's*



*Nursing
Graduation
1958*



*Janet and Jack,
1962*

Family Reunion, 2008



JANET

As a youngster Janet played a lot with Josie. They were 3 years apart but out on the farm they had to make do, and in any case they were both inclined to the outdoor active life. The 5 years between Janet and me was a fairly big gap, learned more than once by trying to catch her bullet softball pitches. There were lots of school sports and a best school friend to hang out with (**Arlene Duke**, an early Roy infatuation).

Janet recalls one teacher, **Alice Morris**, grades 7-8, that went out of her way to encourage her to do well in school, improve her grammar etc. That encouragement plus a strong push from Bernice were enough to change her direction for grades 11-12. Janet went to Magee High School in Vancouver, same place Bernice went to, also worked for room and board, and got the by now usual rude awakening. After some struggle she settled in and did well – more so in Math and Science. In B.C. you had to pass a grammar test to graduate from High School and it was assumed you had been taught this before grade 9, so there was no high school grammar course available. Guess Forest Grove didn't get the memo. Maybe hillbillies ain't got no use for grammar.

After graduation Janet stayed at McQueens and worked several months at a Bank. She went into nursing because it was affordable and she had a good reference going in (nothing to do with being able to skin squirrels). The nursing career proved enjoyable and lead to some great long-term friends. Upon graduation Janet followed Bernice to the U.S. to work and as soon as she had some money in the bank promptly went back to school at San Jose State. She was very much the academic one. Janet met and married a student at San Jose State, **Jack Bevier** and had one son who is an electrical engineer at Boeing. They now have 4 grandchildren.

Still very active, Janet says her great stress reliever is a good run – or sometimes even a bad run. As an adult Janet ran quite a few 5K and 10K – won quite a few in her age group (Google Portland Marathon and Janet Bevier).

Does Janet see as a crowning achievement getting the top scholastic award at her nursing training graduation, or doing the same thing when graduating with her BSc. in nursing from San Jose State University? No, she is much more satisfied with scampering faster than anyone else in her age group. In her mind a 2 miler stands out, won in a time of 11min 15sec (much wheezing afterwards!) Another standout was the last Portland Marathon, which she went into because her son Terry and some of his friends were running it as well, where she decreased her time from the previous two. Today, not doing any more marathons, her life is family plus the hobbies of gardening and getting more art into her painting.

All in all she thought they had a pretty interesting childhood, totally different from anything today.

PHILIP



*Phil
1947*



*Robert White
and Phil, 1956*

Bev and Phil 1969



*Visiting grandpa
Phil, Aaron, Alana, Dad, 1978*



PHILIP

Roy and I were probably the accident-prone members of the family, either curious or dumb, but drawing enough blood for everyone. I can remember dancing on the kitchen table while watching my reflection in the window and toppling onto a coal oil lamp globe. Mom was not at home so this was likely March 1945, when Peter was born. Bernice and Sheila yelled and shouted at Dad to get to a hospitable and finally forced it some days later. Thanks sis's – having a double sized mouth would have been hard. There was another major scar on the head from bouncing off some rocks but the others seemed to think the worst was poking my finger into the gears of the old manual washing machine and grinding the end flat. Anyway, got all that out of the way by 4 years old.

Unlike the others in the family Pete and I grew up when the farm was winding down and had no real chores to do. Cutting heads off chickens and drowning excess cats were a few commandments, usually avoided. I occasionally did some work at the mill, such as feeding the boomed logs onto something like a green chain. Got my driving practice from Jack as we went to and from the mill and by 14 was driving all over in Dad's pickup, usually down to Ruth Lake to visit the Whites.

Having lots of precedents, getting out of Forest Grove for school was pretty natural. The school only went to grade 8 and like Bernice there was simply nothing there I wanted. We had a good teacher in grade eight, **Mr. Madryga** (he lasted the whole year!), who pushed us a bit, and my school buddy **Robert White** was heading to Victoria, so Mom prevailed on McQueens to take in yet another hillbilly. Had to work hard on that grammar but as with Janet, math and science compensated by being easier. My last 2 years I boarded with a nice English family. I was quite unaware of all our Williamson relatives in West Van and even spent a lot of time at a friend's house that was right next door to Aunt Mary. Lots of help from Mom and Dad in all of this – Dad was surprised by a big dental bill (country folk not expected to do dentists, I guess)

Anyway, finished at West Van High third in my grade and went on to University of B.C. in physics and math (a mistake). For a paying job, spent the summers in Navy cadets (learned the military was not my thing), more help from Mom and Dad of course plus various grants got me through. After graduation a friend, **Don Maltby**, thought we should "broaden ourselves" and talked me into doing some traveling. We started around the world; he bailed after a few months while I continued for over a year. An indulgence for sure but, a worthwhile indulgence. Back home, I returned to UBC and took the engineering program I should have started with in the first place. Another 2 yrs and with MASc in hand, "finally" got my first real job (only 27 years old). There wasn't much going in the high tech field in B.C. so, unfortunately, if I wanted to work it had to be Ontario.

In my second sojourn at UBC I met **Bev Tingley** at an outdoors club. She was in education taking a teaching degree. We married in 1969 (by her father, a minister) and went on to raise 2 children in Ottawa.

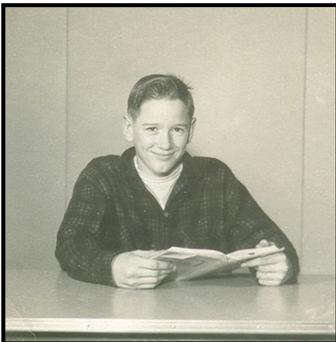
PETER



*Peter
1949*



*Donna
and
Peter
1967*



Pete, about 1956



*Pete and Donna,
1997*

PETER

Pete was at the tail end of the family, the last one to live with Mom and Dad on the farm and the last one to live with them in Forest Grove. As a little kid, under 4 years, he was bright eyed and wouldn't speak a word. This worried Mom a lot (Dad did not seem too fussed) but in the end proved not a problem. When he decided he had something to say, or perhaps could get a word in edgewise, Pete could hold his own at the table.

Pete did his grade 1-8 at Forest Grove, walking out the farm road to catch the bus or waiting for a lumber truck to go by. By the time he reached high school age (and living in Forest Grove by then) there was a high school at 100 Mile House so he chose to go there. He finished there in 1964 and in 1965, with work being scarce, went to California where he stayed with Bernice for a while and started back to school. This was Vietnam days and when he received a medical call up notice he had 3 days to vacate the country without there being long term repercussions.

Back in B.C. Pete worked on Vancouver Island for a time, high lining (logging, basically), than went back to Forest Grove and into trucking. He started out using one of Terry's trucks and hauled for Jack and Terry (1966), bought that truck and added a second one. By 1983 he decided enough of ownership, sold the trucks and went to just driving. With the first release of this book he was still hauling for West Fraser Timber.

Like the other brothers Peter took up flying in about 1975. He had 2 different planes over the years up to 1995 and at one point obyained a license for flying gliders. As there was no local club with facilities or planes this potential hobby went nowhere. The picture shows another hobby – the Harley.

In 1967 Pete married **Donna Smith**, the secretary/administrator for the local school. They raised 2 children who now live in the Ladner/Surrey areas of B.C.

REFERENCES and NOTES:

Janet, Josie and Bev/Jack provided extensive notes on family memories. That plus notes collected from conversations with family members form the basis of this chapter. Raids were made on everyone's picture albums for the pictures included here.

1) Robert White – History of Forest Grove, a work in progress.

2) June and Jack Johnson – notes from discussions, 2007

3) Eva Doyle Diary - R. White¹ obtained this document (MS-2470) from the British Columbia Archives and the text transcription is borrowed from Robert. Eva Doyle married Oliver Phillips in 1917. When this diary segment was written in 1916 she may have been traveling to Forest Grove with members of the Phillips family. Ulva Phillips, her daughter, later transcribed the original handwritten diary. The diary is included at the end in Appendix I. The Phillips family gave us the name Forest Grove.

4) Harry Wilcox – always claimed a lake just a few miles east of his farm was named after his niece Ruth, daughter of Mary and Arthur Williamson.

5) Burla Bourgeois – notes from discussions, 2008

6) Peter McQueen (son of Walter), June Johnson – essentially similar tales.

7) The Henry Green diaries are in the hands of his family (Chris, Jill, Arthur)

8) On a positive note, it appears that later in life Ron Jago sorted out some of his problems and settled down, remarried and discovered a talent for wood carving in the Haida motif. This provided a good living. Many of his children and grandchildren have items of his work and they also are found in museums of Haida art.

Appendix I - Memoirs of Eva May Doyle

Eva Doyle, who married Oliver Phillips of Forest Grove in 1917, wrote this diary segment in 1916. The document is from the British Columbia Archives (MS-2470). It makes reference to Harry Wilcox, his mother and his sister Mary and brother in-law

May 15, 1916: Left North Vancouver the morning of May 15/16 and caught the Ballena at 9:15 for Squamish. Had a lovely trip ... the weather was grand. We had dinner on the boat which we did justice to. Caught the train for Clinton at 10:00. We had a very slow trip. The train went off the track going around Anderson Lake. Had supper at D'Arcy and had a regular wild west feed.

After we left Lillooet, the train followed the Fraser River. The scenery was simply grand. We seemed to be hundreds of feet above the river and followed the mountain on a ledge only wide enough to carry the train. Before we arrived in Clinton, the train stopped many times for little slides had blocked the way. Turning a corner, the steps on the coach we were in were ripped off.

We arrived in Clinton 2:30 a.m., tired to death and the hotel a long way from the station. The conductor told us when we left the train, to follow the track until we came to the road and turn to our right, which we did and we went a mile in the opposite way from the hotel. There were two small children, four women, two girls beside myself and two men in the party. We were a pretty tired and discouraged crowd when we found out that we were all but lost. We turned around and tried the other direction and at last struck the hotel only to find the hotel filled to overflowing. This nearly clapped the climax. We were all disgusted with everything in general, country included. The man that owned the hotel was very indifferent about putting us up. He couldn't put us out, so he gave us the sitting room to sit up in. Anything looked good to us. We were so tired. Some slept on the floor, others on chairs and some in rockers.

May 1916: Morning came after hours of waiting and with morning breakfast which was enough to sicken even the strongest person. After our hearty breakfast, we made ready to take the auto to our pre-emp. After a little trouble, we at last got started, loaded with baggage to the eyes. The trip through the country was equally as lovely as the trip by train only of a different kind. We passed several caravans on our way, also autos carrying people. We stopped for dinner at the 83 mile house and ate everything in sight ... everything was so good.

We did not stop again until we came to the 100 mile house where we met [Jack] Lloyd who made arrangements to have our things taken in to the cabin and he also promised to come and see us. We arrived o.k. only to find no windows in the place; mattresses, pillows and a box of things burnt. By now we were indeed blue and worst of all, no-well dug. After some hurrying around, Oliver Phillips brought hay, pillows, 2 blankets for us so after a good night's rest, we looked at the world in a very much brighter light.

May 17: First thing we did was to open boxes and straighten things up a bit. Before the morning was over, Mr. Williamson and his brother-in law [*Harry*] came in and put up shelves and cupboards for us. From this on, things went just fine. We spent the rest of the day getting acquainted with the country and the people

May 18: Had breakfast. Cleaned the house. We made a big bonfire. Did some cleaning up around the outside of the house. Carried enough water to do the day from Mr. Caspars and some from Jack Williamson. Had dinner, carried in wood. Made window curtains. In the evening, Oliver Phillips took us in a democrat to Mr. Mathews. Came home singing at the top of our lungs, After that, played cards, told fortunes, etc.

May 19: Some more cleaning both inside and out. We went to Mrs. Jack Williamson's about a mile away and carried two pails of drinking water and bought our first dozen eggs. We met an Indian and a spare horse on the way, also a dead dog which was frozen in the winter. In the evening, four boys came up to see us.

May 20: Had our garden plowed and made ready for seed. Jessie Phillips and I rode on the disk and had a great time (this is the life). After dinner we helped make bonfires and cleaned up in general. That evening, we spent alone for the first time and hung curtains.

May 21: Slept in late. Had breakfast; got cleaned up and had lunch. After we had a read, took a walk around our place, picked violets and saw several rats nests and we also took some pictures. We wrote some letters about 3:00, Oliver Phillips and his brother took Mother, Jessie, Rita and I to Canim Lake. On the way we were caught in a rain and hail storm. After we were soaked, it cleared up and we had a lovely return trip. In the evening, we all walked down to Mrs. Phillips' and spent the evening, also walked back.

May 22: Jessie and Rita went for the milk. I washed dishes, swept and made a cake and also carried water. Spent the afternoon lazy because we are going to have a wild time this evening at Mrs. Elliots, four miles down the road. Oliver Phillips took mother up to Mrs. Arthur Williamson's in a rig this afternoon.

May 23: Didn't get home until 3:30 a.m., all tired to death. Mrs. Wilcox [*Alice Billington*] stayed all night. We three girls slept in one bed. About noon, Jessie took terribly sick and was sick the rest of the day. Harry Wilcox and Oliver Phillips were up before dinner. Harry took his mother home while Oliver Phillips stayed for dinner. In the afternoon, we looked around and after supper went to bed early.

May 24: Did a big washing. Had rest in afternoon. Did a lot of clearing and burning in evening.

May 25: Did ironing. Jessie and Rita went for milk. We carried water. Mrs. A. Williamson [*Mary Williamson, sister of Harry*] came on horseback to see us in the afternoon. In the evening, planted flower seeds and did some more burning.

May 26: Carried water. Marie, Jessie and I walked to Mrs. A. Williamson's. Stayed for supper, went to Silver Lake (2 miles return) [*now called Wilcox Lake*]. Came home taking turns riding Mr. Williamson's horse. Changed our shoes and walked home with Marie (2 miles return). Slept at night like logs.

May 27: Got up late. Did our cooking. Went for milk; carried water; had lunch and a bath. Planted spuds, peas and beans; hung netting on windows and washed them; made curtains for bedroom.

May 28: Spent a very quiet day: got up late; lounged around; read and wrote letters. Had company in the evening.

May 29: Carried water for washing tomorrow. Got milk; did cleaning; had three large bonfires and burnt up a lot of branches and chips. Had a rest in the afternoon. Mr. & Mrs. A Williamson came to see us and caught us asleep. Had a great talk and they left just before supper. After supper, Oliver and his brother came bringing eight lovely rainbow trout which certainly looked good to us. We also had some bear meat sent to us by a man we have never met. This must be our lucky day.

May 30: Did a big washing. Got two cakes cooked. In the evening, fourteen people came and we set off seven huge bonfires; played games; sang and danced. We all had a ripping time. They didn't leave until 2:30 a.m. Before they left, it started to rain.

May 31: Slept in until 10:00 a.m. when we heard someone call our names. It turned out to be O. Phillips. He had come to see if we had been soaked during the night. But as it happened we were o.k. and we all hurried and dressed. While we were dressing, he carried two big pails of water and stayed for breakfast and we all talked till about 1:00 p.m. when the rain came down (also hail) almost like a cloudburst. Then our roof started to leak and before we were through, the rain came through the roof as if it were a sieve and there wasn't an inch in the house the rain did not soak. We were fortunate enough to have a canvas to cover our beds which kept them dry. This has certainly been a day of days. But, before evening we managed to get everything dry which wasn't so bad. Everybody slept without rocking that night.

June 1: Got up about 9:00 a.m.; carried water; went for milk; cleaned the house; made beds and ironed. Had dinner; cleaned up; took a walk over some property near the house; picked flowers and returned to the house had something to eat and did some sewing. Some Indians came up and had a little talk with us and then went away.

June 2 to 5: Same old routine as before; more cleaning and burning; 3 bonfires and several rats' nests. We were to Mrs. Mathews on the 4th; came home and had supper at Mrs. Phillips' and had a lovely ride home. Monday, the 5th, we left home in the morning for the 105 mile house. Day was grand. We took two rigs ... one broke down twice before we got to the 100 Mile House. Stayed there for dinner ... were guests of Mr. [Jack] Lloyd. We had a great time. Quite a lot of excitement there for the P.G.E. have started to advance their line ... expect to be at the 100 Mile by fall. We left the 100 mile for the 105 ... had supper at the Provincial Experimental Farm and left for home about 8:00 bringing back two heavy horses and two colts. We had a slow trip home but a lovely one for the country we came through was grand. Arrived home 5 to 12:00 p.m.

June 5: Oliver came before we were up and he and Mr. Caspar carried enough water for our washing. The day was too wet to wash. We lounged around the rest of the day.

June 6 to 21: Had a trip to Mr. A. Williamson's on horseback. We went through my property going and come through a new trail coming home. This was my first ride of the season and I certainly enjoyed every moment of it. Coming home, we climbed a very steep hill. When on the top, we seemed to be on a level with the surrounding mountains. The view from that point was grand. We had dinner at Mrs. A. Williamson's and supper at Mrs. Mathews and came home for a minute and then on to Phillips' where we left the horses and then walked home. Next morning I felt great, not a bit stiff. Rita had a lovely ride with Mr. Lloyd. On the 13th, Rita, Jessie and Marie went to Canim Lake for the mail (16 miles return). They had a lovely time. When they were away, I went hunting duck nests with Oliver Phillips and found a lovely one with nine eggs in it in a swamp on our place. When the girls came home, Mr. A. Williamson was waiting for his mail.

About the 15th, Mrs. Phillips gave us five lovely little wild ducks, but they didn't live they were too young. On the 17th, Oliver and I went to see his sister, Ida, 13 miles or more from his place. The day was dreadfully hot, but we eventually got there. We did some fishing and I caught about 3 dozen rainbow trout. We didn't get home until Monday morning because we had a rainstorm and all the brush was as wet and I only had a thin silk sweater with me. During the night, the wind blew the moisture from the trees, so on Monday morning, we left even if it did look as if we were going to have another shower. On our way home, we stayed off at Mrs. A. Williamson's for a little while to dry off and we also left her some fish which she was delighted to have. About 1:00 p.m. we left there for home. We were too busy talking when we came home to eat.

June 21: Mrs. Phillips gave a big bonfire party for Jessie and Eclus for it was their birthday. We had all kinds of fun and we didn't get home till after one.

June 22: Jessie's birthday we gave her a good beating to start the day and one to finish. The day was horrid for it rained nearly all day. When we went for the milk, we had a terrible time for the roads were nothing but mush to the ankles.

June 23: We weeded the garden; burnt more brush and made ourselves useful, generally. Oliver came down and cut wood. We all stood around and kept him company, by talking to him, setting wood was a hardship for us so this help was very much appreciated.

June 24: Did our big ironing early so we had the rest of the day to do as we liked and that usually went to reading or fancy work. Rita went with Oliver for a ride but a shower came up and they had to return home.

Appendix II – The Mortimer Line

Wikipedia provided the following trace of the Mortimers from about 1100 in Normandy to about 1460 in England. Refer to Mortimer chapter.

Ranulph de Mortimer (Ralf de Mortemer-en-Bray, Ralph) was born in Normandy before 1070 and died soon after 4 August 1137. He was Seigneur of St. Victor-en-Caux in Normandy and founder of the English House of Mortimer of Wigmore in the Welsh Marches, lands granted by William the Conqueror, in what is today the county of Herefordshire.

Hugh de Mortimer (before 1117 to 26 Feb 1180/1), son of Ranulph, was a Norman English medieval baron.

Roger de Mortimer (died before 8 July 1214), son of Hugh, was a medieval marcher lord, residing at Wigmore Castle.

Ranulph or Ralph de Mortimer (before 1198 to before 2 October 1246) was the second son of Roger de Mortimer and Isabel de Ferrers of Wigmore Castle in Herefordshire

Roger Mortimer (1231-1282), son of Ralph de Mortimer and his Welsh wife, Princess Gwladys Ddu, 1st Baron Mortimer, was a famous and honoured knight from Wigmore Castle in Herefordshire. He was a loyal ally of King Henry III of England.

Edmund Mortimer, 2nd Baron Wigmore (1251 – July 17, 1304) was the second son and eventual heir of Roger Mortimer.

Roger de Mortimer, 1st Earl of March (25 April 1287 – 29 November 1330), son of Edmund, was for three years *de facto* ruler of England, after leading a successful rebellion against Edward II. He was himself overthrown by Edward's son, Edward III. Mortimer was also the lover of Edward II's wife, Isabella of France, who assisted him in the deposition of her husband.

Roger de Mortimer, 2nd Earl of March (c.1328 – February 26, 1360) was an English nobleman.

Edmund de Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March, (c.1351 – 1381) son of Roger Mortimer, 2nd Earl of March, married the granddaughter of Edward III, King of England.

Roger de Mortimer, 4th Earl of March and 6th Earl of Ulster (11 April 1374 – 20 July 1398), son of Edmund, was the heir presumptive to Richard II of England between 1385 and 1398.

Edmund de Mortimer, 5th Earl of March and 7th Earl of Ulster (6 November 1391 – 18 January 1425) son of Roger, was, while a young child, briefly heir presumptive to King Richard II of England. Edmund was also a

younger brother of Anne Mortimer, who married their cousin Richard, Earl of Cambridge, another descendant of Edward III.

Anne de Mortimer (December 27, 1390 – September, 1411) was the daughter of Roger Mortimer, 4th Earl of March.

Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York (21 September 1411 – 30 December 1460), son of Anne, was a member of the English royal family. Although he never became king, he was the father of Edward IV and Richard III.

Appendix III - Beckoning Echoes Of Big Creek

<p>Back in the wilds of the Chilcoten hills, Where often you hear the wild whippoorwill; It's nature's grazeland for the moose and the deer, And the snow capped mountains are white all year.</p> <p>The ranches were hewn from the wilderness vales, And acres were cleared with fences of rails; The homes and buildings were of dovetailed logs, And the roofs were mostly split timbers and sod.</p> <p>The water was carried from the creek in pails, And the wood was chopped for the stoves without fail; Hot biscuits or buns with the beans or the stew, Made a welcome meal when a hard day was through.</p> <p>The fields were plowed and harrowed for seed, And the crops were for the stock's winter feed; Irrigation helped when the rains were few, And the ditches were cleaned when the season came due.</p> <p>The summers were busy with extra hired hands, To keep all the work that's required in command; The range work was done before crops were mature, After that the hours were long to endure.</p> <p>During summers the cowboys would ride the rangeland, To round up young calves and give them a brand; The chuck wagon cooks kept the meals on the go, And they camped out each night 'neath the stars till dawns glow.</p> <p>The clatter of the mower and rakes in the field, And the hopes that the crops would be a good yield; A toss of the horses heads as they sneeze, And the smell of new mown hay on the breeze.</p> <p>Hot tea and cake we took out to the crew, Who enjoyed the refreshing break that came due; The light hearted banter in the shade of the stack, Was ended too soon so the cooks could get back.</p> <p>The stock grazed the fields when the haying was through, And their bells in the distance could be heard strong and true; Dad's guiding would start as the hunters arrived, And fulfilling their wish was the ultimate strive.</p> <p>One of the last big jobs of the year, Is the fall cattle drive with some ornery steers; The riders worked hard through dust, sweat and grime, So none went astray but kept up in line.</p> <p>At the end of the day near the chuck wagon fire, And the smells from the steaming pots hung from a wire; The cowboys would gather around for their meal, And sit up against the chuck wagon wheels.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>While cook washed the dishes and put them away, Someone would have a harmonica to play; Soft mellow tunes soothed the aches of the crew, With an answering chorus from a coyote or two.</p> <p>A misty moon rose as the camp fire dies low, Hear the restless movements as the cattle low; The cowboys took shifts riding herd through the night, And a new day begins with dawns early light.</p> <p>But the day they reach town and the cattle are penned, The sales are arranged with a few bucks to spend; A room and a bath before fun on the town, With a wagon load waiting to start home ward bound.</p> <p>Sometime through the year after work in the fall, The community would hold a dance in the hall; Between local talent and cranked grammophone, The crowd was kept hopping till well in to morn.</p> <p>The children would sleep on a quilt on the floor, Behind the wood stove near the old kitchen door; When the supper waltz played partners gathered to dance, And the supper was served in the light of gas lamps.</p> <p>Coming home from the dance in the back of the car, The moon seemed to follow along with the stars; And once we were wakened and the sun was well up, And we went home to bed as they were'nt staying up.</p> <p>On Sundays was badminton up at the hall, And tea 'round the fire whether sun or a squall; The visits and laughter that good friendships bring, Then home to do chores and look after things.</p> <p>I remember the nice warm days of the summer, With the grouse and the fool hens and a distant drummer; The rustling balm of gillias as they quake in the breeze, And the wood peckers off in the whispering trees.</p> <p>So many wild birds were so pretty in flight, The blue birds and robins meant spring was in sight; The junkos and chickadees flitting through trees, And the humming birds soar through a cool summers breeze.</p> <p>Before the turn of the century was here, Supplies were usually brought in once a year; Our grandfather had a mule pack train, To deliver supplies o'er that rough terrain.</p> <p>Later Dad talked of the long wagon track, That took a month down to Ashcroft and back; A large covered wagon with a four horse team, Each dusty days haul came to rest by a stream</p>
	<p>2</p>

Besides the home place there were the back meadows, **3**
The Night Hawk because of the hawks and their echoes;
And the Blue Bird because the house was so small,
But the haying was done for the cattle by fall.

He always went back to the Night Hawk to hay,
And hayed at the Blue Bird a couple of days;
We'd camp at the creek near the old corrals,
And enjoyed a few brook trout we fished for as well.

The cabin was just a "country bird house" you know,
On a small meadow land of 40 acres or so;
An 18' x 18' was originally planned,
But the weather turned cold and they were freezing their hands.
They halved up the logs and made a 9' x 9' ,
We'll ad a room on to it another time;
But all through the years it remained the same size,
Like a log blue bird house in a human disguise.

Dad always slept with one foot out the covers,
And something was bothering his foot he discovered;
He looked and a mouse was looking back at him,
He kicked and it fell beneath the blankets and them.

Mom gave a scream waking up the small house,
And Dad only laughed over such a small mouse;
It found its way out of the blankets and muss,
And scampered away from all of the fuss.

Coming home from the Night Hawk with the old team and sleigh,
We'd stop and have a nice lunch on the way;
A fire to keep warm while the horses would rest,
Then onward to home through the snowy wilderness.

In the spring the indians would fish Fletcher Lake,
He often got lake trout to take home and bake;
With the extras we'd can for use later on,
And the rest of the fish went up stream to spawn.

How many times we sat down by the lake,
And a lonely loon would call to his mate;
And the chipmunks so busy with errands to do,
And the kildeers and mac macs enjoying life to.

The garden irrigation came down passed the house,
And a spout was put in to get water for the house;
It was closer than carrying the pails from the creek,
And was relaxing to listen to while falling asleep.

In the spring of the year with the melting snows,
The creeks and the river banks would over flow;
On the lower flats where the out house sat,
A make shift bridge was set up to use that.

While little we played with our cars on the floor, **4**
Pushing them the length of the room to the door;
Norah's red roadster would beat my sedan,
And we ran back and forth while we raced them again.

Many times neighbours gave Mom some old clothes,
With the new coats she made we were warm from the
snows;
And the hand knitted socks we all learned how to make,
And even some mitts with out many mistakes.

We first learned to knit fairly young in childhood,
Granny made us all needles from slim sticks of wood;
She rounded and shaped them and sanded them smooth,
And we learned how to pick up the stitches we'd lose.

I still remember my first new shoes,
Which I hid 'neath my pillow afraid I might lose;
We wore hand me downs so this was a treat,
Shiney black patent that were just for my feet.

When changing the wall paper on ceiling or walls,
Mom used a "Sleeping Jesus" as she wasn't that tall;
Just two pieces of boards in a "T" like shape,
It propped up the paper till she tacked it in place.

Painting was done with calcemine then,
A powder mixed up with water to blend;
There were'nt any stores for easy repairs,
So you did best you could with what ever was there.

Many an evening hearing stories retold,
And the logs of the house would crack from the cold;
Dad would go out with his slippers in the snow,
And confirm that it was about 40' below.

Mom often read to the family at night,
The Songs Of The Sour Dough or a western plight;
I enjoyed the sound of the rhythm and rhyme,
And thought how I'd like to write it sometime.

Around about day break the coyotes would yipe,
Whether down at the home place or Night Hawk alike;
We knew they were'nt far in the brush passed the field,
We were safe but my fears were hard to conceal.

We learned to trap squirrels and set our own traps,
And we checked them each day after school for our catch;
Dad taught us to pelt them with out hurting their hides,
And each job you do you should do it with pride.

Dad sold all the pelts and gave us our share,
And the T. Eaton catalog we went through with care;
It was a big thing to be buying our own clothes,
And we shopped and compared before approval arose.

<p>One Easter I remember Mom did'nt have eggs, 5 She made home made candies and hid them instead; We were excited as how could we know, It's the bunny who remembers all the houses to go.</p> <p>We often took Billy to fish at the creek, As he was just little and the creek was deep; Sometimes we'd catch one or two while we'er there, And we'd cook them for supper and everyone shared.</p> <p>We often made derricks while pretending to hay, And scraped up pine needles for our stack in our play; Old Sport decided being up off the ground, Was warmer for sleeping and enjoyed our big mound.</p> <p>Many a time on top the big hill, Our echoes from shouting would come back at will; Then laughing and leaping 10 feet at a time, Right down to the bottom and see who'd remain fine.</p> <p>The rambling kinic kinic that spread 'neath the trees, With their pretty red berries, we picked them with ease; And the indian paint brush and fire weed grew wild, And the roses and tanzies with their perfume so mild.</p> <p>Many an hour we wandered at play, While pretending and playing in our country life way; 'Tween the hummics and buck brush we usually played house, Or out on the hill side and often seen grouse.</p> <p>We took correspondence as there was'nt a school, At home or the Night Hawk our work was the rule; Mom gave instructions and none of us failed, And our lessons went out with the weekly mail.</p> <p>A long waited promise for a school they would build, With donated labour their wish was fulfilled; A one room log cabin with a wood stove for heat, And an out house out back with a rough lumber seat.</p> <p>The concerts we had in our one room log school, And the halloween parties and valentines too; It was an experience that all kids should know, The comrades and friendships help life through the flow.</p> <p>We walked two miles to school every day, Sometimes in the winter Dad used team and sleigh; A moose would'nt step o'er the snow banks one morn, And we had to walk passed in just the width of the road.</p> <p>In the winters the moose were a nuisance at times, The hay that they'd eat and trample was a crime; But they'd come 'round the barn and stack yards alike, As stealing was easy when the snow drifts were high.</p>	<p>Norah and Dad caught a gosling one day, 6 And he stayed in the barn with out getting away; She fed him his grain and warm water in the cold, And it seemed like he knew every thing he was told.</p> <p>One day we were playing and heard a loud rush, And a wolf ran out of the trees and the brush; Too frightened to run, we tended to freeze, And we crawled to the house on our hands and knees.</p> <p>He'd likely be old our dad later said, Poor eye sight and teeth meant he'd long been well fed; They usually don't prowl through a place in day light, And we heard his lone howls through the darkness that night.</p> <p>We built a play house while at the Night Hawk, Of sticks leaned against a wind falls's big stock; We played on our knees, there's no room for standing, When returning years later it was partly still standing.</p> <p>One summer a storm took the roof off the house, And the rain trickled through and every thing got soused; We kept moving our dolls with their small wooden beds, But they got wet again as the leaks were wide spread.</p> <p>Dad hurried home to try patching the roof, But shingles were needed to make it rain proof; A rubberoid roof would prevent further leaks, And new shingles went on when haying was complete.</p> <p>There was no electricity for power and lights, Coal oil and gas lamps were used every night; Home canning was used to preserve extra food, And those jobs were just part of the livelihood.</p> <p>Mom canned many moose on the old wood cook stove, And a meal was made quickly as nothing was froze; Many times company remarked on the meals, And sometimes it seemed there wasn't much for appeal.</p> <p>If Dad got some beef or pork from a friend, It was put down in brine of a special blend; They used wooden barrels with rings 'round the sides, And scrubbed with out soap to cleanse the insides.</p> <p>Then to kill any germs that may still be there, They boiled out the barrels with hot rocks with great care; Granny made a big fire and we helped her find rocks, And while they heated we filled the barrels up.</p> <p>Many trips to the creek to bring water in pails, And we helped best we could with our smaller sized pails; When the fire was ready the rocks would be hot, With a shovel she filled each barrel to the top.</p>
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<p>They bubbled and boiled like a pot on a stove, 7 And left to cool down till morning arose; They rinsed them out well then the work began, Preserving the meat in the brine as was planned.</p> <p>The animals would come from far down the trail, When ever we'd make a smudge in a pail; The smoke seemed to ease them from insects and bites, And they'd gather around well in to twilight.</p> <p>Dad often fixed culverts and did road repairs, Most taxes were paid with work sweat and prayers; With Mom's monstrous garden and often wild meat, There was food for us all and a few company treats.</p> <p>Mary and I picked berries for jam, Saskatoons and strawberries and cleaned them by hand; We also learned how to cook a nice meal, And sometimes our helper was the youngest, Lucille.</p> <p>A '22 Whippet was the car that Dad had, And most of the repairs were taken care of by Dad; Then a '28 Hudson was a real stroke of luck, Then over the years a more modern truck.</p> <p>Sometimes but not always when the winters came due, Dad made some white lightening from a small batch of brew; A hot drink with some sugar before supper each night, 'Twas good for what ails you he said and winked tight.</p> <p>So seldom there's a night of entertainment or dance, Even with failed car lights you don't miss a chance; Dad's friend on the hood held a lantern in place, They left a bit early and didn't worry 'bout haste.</p> <p>It's day light in the swamp, was Dad's early call, Whether summer sun or a fresh snow fall; And you never waste lamp fuel after early light, As that'd be burning a hole in the day light.</p> <p>On bread baking day we'd have moccasin bread, 'Twas always the best lunch anyone had; Then later there'd always be fresh loaves and buns, We'd have some with tea before chore time begun.</p> <p>As we got a bit older Dad taught us to play, The violin and guitar to our own dismay; We often sang songs and played music for friends, It was considered hospitable for company back then.</p>	<p>There was skating on the creek and gatherings at friends, 8 Everyone bringing a dish was the trend; Such pot luck suppers there was none could compare, With an evening of music and singing to share.</p> <p>Some jagged ice crystles have formed 'round the lake, And the quaking waves glisten in the light of day break; A white frosty farewell to the colorfull leaves, And the geese leave the sight in a brisk chilly breeze.</p> <p>With the mails arriving only once a week, If a parcel has missed them the Christmas is bleak; Mom sewed for a week from that catastrophe, And on Christmas morn there were gifts 'neath the tree.</p> <p>The candy that Mom made for the Christmas events, Hospitality to guests were always well meant; In our later years with boy friends around, An evening of pulled toffy made fun all around.</p> <p>When getting a Christmas tree the snow would be deep, We'd start up the hill and come back to the creek; After trudging through snow drifts up passed our knees, We'd finally find the one good enough to please.</p> <p>The candles were lit for just a short while, And that magical moment will stay with a child; It's Christmas and joy is with everyone, And company for dinner and laughter and fun.</p> <p>The designs on the window panes covered with frost, As delicate and perfect as silken embossed; And then there'd be days with such dazzling sun, When the gentle chinooks had already begun.</p> <p>Even though we were poor with no grandeur obtained, A king couldn't find very much for complaint; As far as the meals go they were always just great, And I still like a breakfast of hot cakes and steak.</p> <p>The beckoning echoes that silently call, To come back and visit and remember that's all; For recalling events from our memory lane, Are like treasured scenes in a golden frame.</p>
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Eileen Annie Hutchinson (daughter of Annie Gowans Bryce)
Oct 20, 1994

