

BRUCE BULLETIN

THE BRUCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Please visit our Bruce County Genealogical Society Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1244653066363730>

and our Bruce County Genealogical Society page:

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

Thoughts from the President

I sometimes pretend to myself that I have insomnia...

When what I really have is a genealogy addiction and inadequate respect for tomorrow



I'm sure all of you will identify with this quote. Why sleep when there is a brick wall to breakdown...right?

I remember early on in my research, before I even owned a personal computer, spending almost an entire weekend away from the house, using my work computer, to input a family into a very new tree. This with total disregard for time, the need to feed my family or to spend my days off with them.

Nothing much has changed except that my passion continues from home, my boys are grown and gone and my husband is so used to seeing me eyes deep into a computer screen, that he no longer questions my addiction.

So, to all of my fellow genealogists, continue to dig deep into your roots, but remember that those recently found records and photos will still be there for you to delve into tomorrow...after a good night's sleep!

Glenys

Membership Matters Feb 2024

Welcome to a new year of genealogical possibilities! Did you know that Bruce County Genealogical Society is celebrating its 35th year in 2024? Welcome aboard our new members who have joined since our last edition of the Bruce Bulletin: Joan Lyons, Cheryl Subject, Ruth Anne Robinson, Cindy Lochert and Agnes M. Benson. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2024 and a reminder to anyone who has procrastinated. You can renew by e-transfer to our treasurer annegoeden.bcgsg@gmail.com, or pop a cheque into the mail addressed to: The Bruce County Genealogical Society, Box 1083, Port Elgin N0H 2C0. We welcome your support.

Please encourage other family historians to join us too. You can even buy a gift membership to say thank you, or to celebrate a birthday or other special event. Being able to read newsletters from other Societies is just one benefit of membership. Did you know we exchange newsletters with 21 other Societies and they are all posted on our Member-only section of the website, except for those which have asked us not to share. If you have any suggestions for other membership benefits, or if there's a question I can answer, email bcgs.membership@gmail.com, or call my cellphone 519-881-7304.

Jan Briggs-McGowan, Membership Secretary

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Genealogy A to Z: A Trivia Adventure

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

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Trivia contests seem to be all the rage now. But if you were ever a fan of the television show Jeopardy or the game Trivial Pursuit, here's a way to test your genealogy knowledge. With genealogy expert Thomas MacEntee as presenter, you can participate in a fun, fast paced, and educational genealogy trivia game. Every participant will receive a handout at the END of the adventure complete with genealogy trivia questions and answers!

Genealogy Trivia Alphabetically

Here are genealogy and family history related terms and concepts you may or may not know!

- **A is for ...Archives**

What is the best ONLINE resource to locate archives with primary source materials in the United States, Canada, and Australia?

ArchiveGrid

<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>

- **B is for ...Birth Records**

[Pathfinder to Birth Registration in Ontario *](#)

- **C is for ...Census**

Search the 1931 Census for Canada and find some people you haven't been able to find. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/info/1931-census-of-canada> *

Genealogy A to Z: A Trivia Adventure Continued

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

- **D is for ...Disasters**

What is the most common disaster in the United States/ Canada and other countries impacting access to records for genealogy research?

FamilySearch Burned Counties Research

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Burned_Counties_Research *

- **E is for ... Evidence**

What is “evidence evaluation” or “evidence analysis” and why is it an important part of the GPS (Genealogical Proof Standard?)

Evidence Explained QuickLesson 17: The Evidence Analysis Process Map

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map>

- **F is for ...Female**

What is one of the best resources (book, website, record set) for locating female ancestors?

<https://familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/research-maiden-names-tips/> *

- **G is for ... GPS**

What does “GPS” stand for in genealogy and what organization maintains the standards for GPS?

Board for the Certification of Genealogists: Genealogical Proof Standard

<https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards/>

- **H is for ...Handwriting**

What is the best resource for deciphering handwritten records used for genealogy research?

FamilySearch: Handwriting Helps

<https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/help/handwriting>

- **I is for ... Intellectual Property**

How do you determine whether a record – a vital record, a high school yearbook – is protected by copyright AND if you can still use the record for genealogy research?

Archives of Ontario Public Policy on Copyright and Terms of Use for Archival Materials - Expired Copyright

<https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/about/copyright.aspx> *

* Changed by editor to Canadian or World References from US References

More in May

BCGS February Webinar

February 12 at 7pm on Zoom

Heather will start by showing us how to navigate the Research section of the website. Then she will dive into how to search the Online Collection focusing on key terms, names, and the Krug Collection.

Then she will show us how to research the Newspaper collection as well as learn to just browse.

Then lastly, we will discover how to use Bruce Remembers for research.

There is a treasure trove of information that we can use for our family genealogy.

Click the link below to register for Research at

Home: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VCuKChbwTEuWCs0h-27Nkw

Or email BCGSwebinars@gmail.com



**Research at Home
with Heather Callaghan: Using the
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre**

BCGS March Webinar

March 11 at 7pm on Zoom



**Tips and Tricks on
Irish Research with Anne Goeden**

Anne will be speaking about the Irish Catholic, Protestants, Quakers and the Irish Palentines.

Anne has been a member of our society for over 30 years and has helped numerous people with their genealogy. She has been President, Past President, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. A devoted Bruce County genealogist, Anne also has run genealogy beginners' courses for years with help from other members.

We are so pleased to have Anne share her knowledge of Irish Research.

Click the link below to register for Tips and Tricks on Irish Research:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LP2mYDnIRoGAWV-BUmHXsg

Or email BCGSwebinars@gmail.com

BCGS April Webinar

April 8 at 7pm on Zoom



Genealogy Do-Over™: A Year of Learning from Mistakes

With Thomas MacEntee

It isn't often that we get a "do-over" when it comes to stuff that matters in life. When you first got started researching your family history, did you do some things that now are just plain "embarrassing" such as name collecting, not citing sources and more?

Well now there's hope since genealogists from beginner to advanced are employing new research methodologies and documentation practices. Follow genealogist Thomas MacEntee as he basically starts his genealogy research from scratch but includes sound research practices and methodologies as well as new templates, tools, and the latest technology for better family history research.

Click the link below to register for Genealogy Do-Over :

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nt8lleZkQ8C4_XB9tN1m3w

Or email BCGSwebinars@gmail.com

Military Chats for Members Only on Zoom

You are invited to our military chat with Jan Briggs-McGowan, a few friends and new acquaintances. No agenda, you can talk about your military ancestor or the latest project, ask a question, or share your exciting military find.

Wednesday, February 7 at 10am. Please register by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-ihrt0iE9zpRRDSsWiLGxG4Rz8zacvC>

Wednesday, March 6 at 10am. Please register by clicking the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucO-rrjkjHNzBdSjw_1xG5FOelqNRHOvo

Wednesday, April 3 at 10am. Please register by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlode2vpj8iEtLX1dz6-Bs3c8lYeHuwXzTC>

BCM&CC Launches Young Canuckstorian Project

By Krista Keller, Archival Assistant BCM&CC

The Archives had a busy November with the launch of “Young Canuckstorian – Bruce Remembers” a commemorative video project, facilitated in collaboration with The Young Canuckstorian Project and 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets. This initiative concluded with six 6-8 minute commemorative video vignettes that highlighted the experiences of First World War Bruce County soldiers reflected in BCM&CC’s Archival collection. All six of the videos can be found on the exhibits page on BCM&CC’s website: brucemuseum.ca/exhibits/

Under the direction of Mickey Maple (Young Canuckstorian Project founder) and Deb Sturdevant (BCM&CC Archivist), the 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets took the lead researching some of the soldiers, writing some of the scripts, and narrating the final videos which highlight the life and military experiences of each soldier, nursing sister, and women’s roles on the Home Front. The videos feature Private W. Victor Tranter, Privates and brothers Herbert and Iden Leeder, Private Floyd Halleck Wismer, Lieutenant-Colonel George Whitford Nelson, and nursing sisters Luella Blanche Lee, Mabel Stauch, and Elizabeth Nora Campbell.

To start their research, the Cadets first accessed the Bruce Remembers website and the First World War Service file database found on Library and Archives Canada’s website to gather basic information about each soldier or nursing sister. From there the Cadets referenced the many diaries, letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other artefacts housed at the Museum to learn about each soldier’s personal experience during the First World War. Visit <https://www.brucemuseum.ca/research/research-information/> for links to military diaries and letters, including images of original military diary pages and links from which to download PDF typed transcriptions for interesting reading.



George Whitford
Nelson A994.058.006

For example, Lieutenant-Colonel George Whitford Nelson took his camera with him during his time training and overseas. He took many photographs of the places he visited and the soldiers he served beside. From his letters the Cadets learned that on February 14, 1916, George’s hand was shattered by an artillery shell bursting nearby. He was hurled several feet and knocked unconscious by the blast. He returned to England to get well, but his wound became infected and healed very slowly. In March 1916, his wife Edna and two young children braved the Atlantic by ship to travel to England to be with George while he recovered. This was a daring act for the young family as just four months before, the hospital ship SS Anglia sank after striking a mine laid by a German U-boat. The Museum also holds letters written by Edna about her time in England during the First World War. In one she mentioned that they could hear the war taking place across the English Channel. Nelson was eventually sent back to Canada where he assisted with training and recruiting until the end of the war.



Herbert Nicholas
Leeder A991.027.004

In Herbert Leeder's many letters home he revealed his internal struggles between his sense of civic responsibility and his religious beliefs. Leeder and his brother Iden were two of at least 125 soldiers from Bruce County drafted to the war under the Military Service Act established in 1917. Herbert Leeder remained morally conflicted throughout his military career, but persisted and completed his training by June 1918. By late August he was transferred to the 31st Battalion and was stationed in France. On October 11, 1918, the 31st Battalion started their offensive campaign in the Battle of Iwuy. They encountered heavy enemy fire before even reaching Iwuy village and Herbert Leeder was killed in action that day. The Leeder brothers were just two of the over 24,000 conscripted Canadian men sent to France to execute a continuous series of offensives by Allied troops which led to several successes in the final campaign of the First World War, known as the Hundred Days.



Luella Blanche Fraser
A959.067.001

More than 2,800 nurses served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps as officers and at least 51 women with a connection to Bruce County served in the military during the First World War. Furthermore, Canada was one of the first of the allied countries to give nurses relative rank and equal pay to men. Nursing Sister Luella Blanche (Lee) Fraser started with the British Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Sister Reserve in 1916, and a year later, she enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. She was stationed in Malta, Italy, England, and France with #13 and #3 Canadian General Hospitals, and with the Bearwood Convalescent Hospital.



Mabel Stowe AX2004.0087 Studios/Library
and Archives Canada/e002414864

Mabel Stauch joined the British Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Sister Reserve in 1916. On October 17th, 1917, she enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a Nursing Sister and was assigned to #16 Canadian General Hospital in Metro London. This Hospital had more than 1,000 beds for wounded Canadian soldiers.



Elizabeth Nora
(Campbell) McLeod

Elizabeth Nora Campbell enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps on April 7, 1915 and served much of her time with the #4 Canadian General Hospital unit. Nora arrived in France in June 1915 and worked in France and England until October. Then she left for the Mediterranean due to violent fighting in Northeastern Greece where she served until December 1916. She was then stationed at a newly built hospital in Basingstoke, England where she stayed until the summer of 1919.

The cadets utilized the many soldier diaries, letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, and artefacts at the Museum to retell the unique and brave stories of each soldier and nursing sister. These archival records revealed the diverse, personal, and deeply human experiences of the war felt by Bruce County soldiers.

If you want to get directly to the vignettes, click on this link:

<https://www.brucemuseum.ca/exhibit/bruce-remembers-the-young-canuckstorian-project/>

A Wee Bit of History
A Compendium
By Sylvia Hasbury

Compendium, a two-dollar word if I ever heard one!!!! My pocket Oxford tells me it means, a abridgement or summary. Well, that suits me just fine because I am planning to share with you some of the information and photos I came across after I had submitted my column to Editor Lolly Fullerton.

In no particular order, Robin R. Hilborn in his book *'Heart of the Great Lakes'* devotes a whole chapter to the adventures of the MacGregors. He closes this chapter with, "The family name lies scattered across the map. South of Port Elgin is MacGregor Point Provincial Park. At Cape Croker on Bruce Peninsular is MacGregor Bay, after Ojibway Chief W. Bruce McGregor. Further north the spelling changes. At the Northeast of Manitoulin Island you will find McGregor Bay, McGregor Island, McGregor Point, McGregor Bank, McGregor Harbour and McGregor Channel.

One of Hilborn's sources, author Valerie McGregor, outlines how Alexander McGregor came to be married to four women at the same time. Making his way to the Whitefish River Reserve on Manitoulin Island, he acquired two wives who were the daughters of the founder and first chief of the Whitefish River Reserve, Shawanosowe. Meanwhile, MacGregor's European wife was keeping the home fires burning at home in Goderich, Ontario.

Alexander died and is buried at Birch Island, on Manitoulin in 1863. At that time, he was married to his fourth wife Mary Wahbahdick.

One of the questions Lolly asked me that I didn't have an answer to, was "Why are home children called Little Immigrants in the local history book Families and Farms of Huron with its hub – Ripley 1852 – 1984. Some people referred to home children

as "Street Arabs" as well as a few other disrespectful names. I am assuming the "Far West" sign refers to Huron, Kincardine and Bruce Townships!

The woman without the sign is Mrs. Barnardo! She accompanied several batches of children to Canada delivering them to Barnardo homes in Toronto. Many years ago, I read an autobiography of Dr. Barnardo. I knew he had been born in Dublin, Ireland where his father was an Italian who operated a tailor shop in Dublin city. But a wife, hmm hmm?



This is a photo taken by William James, a prolific photographer, who spent 30 years taking photos of Toronto and its financially diverse inhabitants. His sons followed their father into the photography business taking similar photos in other upcoming towns such as Owen Sound. The caption accompanying this photo describes Sifton as one of the ablest politicians of his day and the one responsible for the settlement of the Canadian West. He built this estate in 1923. It is now the Toronto French School (1999). So much for the poverty days in Winnipeg, Manitoba!

I am going to end this article with a story I hope to find a complete family tree for some day soon. The Owen Sound Advertiser contained small article on July 19, 1895 about Andrew A. Gawley who while working at the sawmill in the village of Spry perhaps lost his balance. When he reached out to steady

himself the saw loped off both of his hands. A fellow worker grabbed what was left of his arms and shoved them into a barrel of saw dust in an attempt to stop him bleeding to death. He was rushed to Lion's Head for medical treatment. When stabilized he was moved to the Owen Sound General & Marine Hospital for further treatment. This accident happened when Andrew was seventeen years old.

The Gawley family were living in the Village of Elsinore, in Arran Township. Andy's Mum Maria was born in St. Vincent Township. She married Royal Gawley on October 18, 1870. Royal Gawley is listed as a storekeeper of Irish background (Belfast) and 35 years old. Even though Royal had a serious sight impairment most of his life he designed and carved wooden hands that allowed Andrew to hold a pencil.

Andrew would design his first set of steel hands with that pencil. An Elsinore blacksmith named Sy Kobb helped Andrew fine tune and improve the hands over time. Each hand had five points of grip, including a hook for carrying loads.

For a complete outline of his life check out the internet listing for the Grey Roots Museum under the Man with the Steel Hands.



<https://greyroots.pastperfectonline.com/byperson?keyword=Gawley%2C+Andrew+A.>

Waterdown Kerr by Jan Briggs-McGowan jansgenes@gmail.com

Part 3 of the search for the parents of Samuel Kerr

In **Part One, *KERRstory***, I summarized my 10-year search for the parents of Samuel Kerr, my 3x great-grandfather. From family lore and the Irish Naming Pattern, his parents were likely named Samuel and Isabella. Samuel Jr was born in Ireland, sometime between 1809 and 1815, but the earliest record I had found was the 1843 birth of his eldest daughter in East Flamborough Township. I had used census and land records, Methodist baptisms and various family trees to track Samuel and his wife Margaret, all their children and descendants, even their neighbours, hoping, in vain, to confirm the names of his parents.

In **Part Two, *HUNTING for the parents of Margaret Earl Kerr***, my research focus shifted to Samuel's wife, to see whether their two families might have known each other in Ireland and emigrated together in 1821. I gained a research partner when DNA revealed a match to a descendant of Margaret's sister Amanda (who had also married a man named Kerr). We tracked Margaret's other siblings, their descendants and more neighbours. We were also able to use tax records and Land Petitions to build a solid family tree for Margaret's parents Ann Hunt and Robert Earl, and to confirm their County of origin in Ireland and date of emigration. Yet I still could not draw any firm conclusion that Samuel Kerr's family and that of his wife Margaret Earl, knew each other in Ireland or emigrated at the same time. All DNA links were to the descendants of Amanda and William Kerr, but none to any Kerr further back. However The Earl and Kerr families had definitely been neighbours in Waterdown so I now turned my attention to that area.

Which brings me to Part Three, *Waterdown Kerr*.

East Flamborough 1843 Taxation Records placed Samuel and Margaret Kerr on ¼ acre Waterdown village lot part of Conc 3 lot 7¹. Across the road on 200 acres Conc 4 lot 7 were Margaret's parents and her brothers John and Robert. I got pretty excited when 1840 Taxation records showing a "Mrs Kerr" on 90 acres Conc 7 lot 3 East Flamborough - Samuel's ¼ acre had been carved from Mrs Kerr's property! It sure was tempting to think her deceased husband was likely related to Samuel, maybe even his mother, but reality sunk in after placing her on my Unrelated Tree. I had transposed the lots and concessions and in fact the widow Kerr's property was several miles north of Waterdown. I continued to research the widow Kerr, "just in case" and was able to establish that her maiden name was Jane Hamilton. There were three known children: Hamilton, John and Alexander Jr, and the family had emigrated about 1834. Her husband Alexander Kerr 1778- 1836 was buried in Carlisle, but had been born in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland². I spent some time tracking the family of Alexander and Jane Kerr and their neighbours, without success. Samuel Kerr and his wife Margaret Earl followed the Irish Naming Pattern and there was no Alexander among any of their descendants. I've concluded it's likely just a coincidence and that they were not related to Samuel Kerr, nor even to his brother-in-law William Kerr.

¹ img 48 <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLG-V31L-5?cc=4130007&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A6Z83-RX29>

² FindAGrave 133184414

I searched Bill Martin's transcription³ of Ancaster Parish Records found among his Early Ontario Records. Nothing applying to Samuel and Margaret, but I did find a record of the marriage of her uncle John W Hunt to Hannah Robb, which at least was a little consolation.

In my research I found several more records which showed that Margaret's parents first settled in Beverly Twp and then about 1823 moved to Waterdown with her mother's family, but no more clues to help in my search for Samuel Kerr. He still appeared to be dropped into Waterdown by the stork as a married man and the parent of an infant daughter. Allowing a year or two before Samuel and Margaret married, I figure Samuel must have emigrated before 1840, so I turned to the Land Petitions of Upper Canada and lo and behold, I found a Samuel Kerr Sr, John Kerr and Samuel Kerr Jr petitioning for land 22 Sept 1819, having arrived from Armagh, Ireland 9 June 1818⁴.

To His Excellency
Sir Peregrine Maitland K. G. B. T.
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper
Canada and Major General Commanding His
Majesty's Forces therein in the
In Council

The Petition of Samuel Kerr Sr? Sam^r Kerr Jr
and John Kerr, now of the Town of York
Farmers.

Humbly Sheweth,
That Your Petitioners were natives of
Armagh in Ireland, that they have just
arrived in this Province, that the first
named is Father of the other two, and that
he has a Wife and three Children more,
that having the Means to cultivate new
Farms they are desirous to become Settlers
that they have taken the Oath of
Allegiance required by Law and have
never received any Land or order for
Land from the Crown.

Wherefore Your Petitioners pray
that Your Excellency may be pleased to
grant them each an allotment of Land
as — Emigrant Settlers subject to the
payment of Fees under the present
regulations.

And Petitioners will ever pray

Samuel Kerr
John Kerr
Samuel Kerr

22nd Sept 1819.

These Petitioners are of the number -
represented by Mr. P. Mearns on the
9th June last.

This is my latest working theory: If Samuel Sr was his grandfather, Samuel Jr his father and John Kerr his uncle, my Samuel Kerr could have been one of those three children with the grandmother.

That would mean that my Samuel's mother stayed in Ireland, perhaps died in childbirth.

Another tantalizing item in the Land Petitions was finding an Alexander Kerr, also of Armagh, arrived in April of 1823. Alexander's recommendation to emigrate reflects he lived in Drumgaw, District of Lisnadil in 1820. (He wasn't the Alexander Kerr I was researching earlier) Since this Alexander wasn't able to sign his own name, he may not at all be related to Samuel Kerr family who arrived in 1819.

If I ever get to the end of this theory, I'll be back with another story for the Bruce Bulletin.

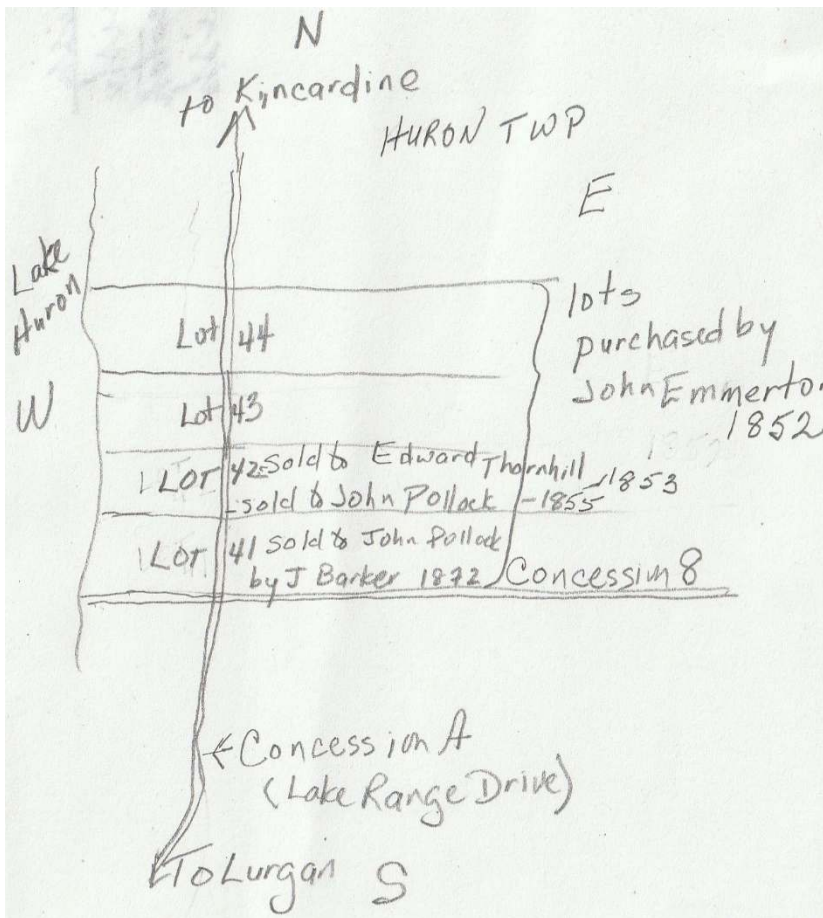
³ <http://my.tbaytel.net/bmartin/earlyont.htm> Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records, Volume 5, 1904, records of Rev Ralph Leeming and Rev John Miller pages 91 to 177

⁴ Image 404 on Microfilm C-2118

FAMILY LEGEND *by Ruth Anne Hollands Robinson*

A Farm for a Pair of Boots?? My version!

In May of 1847, surveyor Alex Wilkinson was directed by the Commissioner of Crown lands in Upper Canada to make a survey "along the shore of Lake Huron, northerly from Ashfield" in order to open up the Queen's Bush for settlement. This survey was completed by the following summer and settlers were soon choosing lots on which to establish themselves. By 1850 a goodly number of them obtained a Licence to Settle on Concession A and began clearing the land and building a shanty and log barn. These lands were designated as School Lands and became available for purchase on July 31, 1852. The price was ten shillings per acre, payable in ten yearly installments. Clearing was to begin immediately, with five acres cleared each year for five years.



Families and Farms of Huron tells us that the John Emmerton family along with the Henry Robinsons and Chris Barkers arrived in Upper Canada from England in the summer of 1849 and claimed lots 41-44. The Township Papers list John as occupying lot 42 and 43 in 1850. In 1853 he transferred the rights to lot 42 to Edward Thornhill who transferred it in 1855 to John Pollock. The history book tells it this way: "Being a bridge builder and framer by trade, John (Emmerton) was not expressly eager to clear and farm land so traded lots 41 and 42 to (John) Pollock, a cobbler, for several pair of boots."

Now there is no mention in our family history of the Pollocks having skills as cobblers but consider John Thompson. In Dec 1853 he received

a Licence for lots 36 and 37 on concession 7. Lot 37 would have met the corner of lot 41 concession A if not for the road allowance intervening. He had come from Ireland as did the Pollocks and the Thompson story describes him as a shoemaker.

In my imagination John Pollock read the notices about the opening-up of the Queen's Bush and came to the area looking for available land. Huntingdon and Rawdon townships in Hastings County where his older brother William was settled had been well established by 1850. I think he likely found work with families needing help to meet their obligations, perhaps with the Thompsons whose daughter Jane he married a few years later. Thus, he would have access to a supply of sturdy boots.

But how does Edward Thornhill come into the picture? John Pollock paid him one hundred and seven pounds and ten shillings for lot 42 on May 8, 1855. Edward and his wife Martha, perhaps a Barker (an older son was Edward Barker Thornhill), had four children between May 1853 and June 1860. They were all baptised at the Church of Messiah where records indicate that Edward was a resident of Kincardine Village and a bailiff. Two Barker families obtained Licences for lots 45 and 46 by 1854. Perhaps Edward was convinced there was a benefit in owning land nearby. However, by 1855 the lot was sold. Had he been unable to fulfill the requirements? Did he or his wife not wish to leave an easier existence in the village? Or had he not paid John Emmerton?

I can imagine that John Pollock's Irish wit and some fine boots made by his future father-in-law convinced Mr. Emmerton that a deal would be advantageous! Now that's my story!



Left to right:

-Back row: Sadie, Tom, Alice, John Jr, Elizabeth, Robert Andrew, Isabelle

Front Row: William, Charles Wesley, John Sr, Margaret, Jane Thompson, Alfred, Mary Jane, James David

These are the seven sons and six daughters of John and Jane Thompson Pollock who grew to adulthood on lots 41 and 42, concession A.

Published in the Kincardine Record in May 2023

References: Families and Farms of Huron

History of the County of Bruce Norman Robertson Vol 1

Records of the Church of Messiah, Kincardine

More notes: Fannie C Thornhill, age 23, daughter of Edward Thornhill and Martha *Barker* was married in Kincardine in 1885.

Ruth Anne Holland Robinson has taken on writing a story every week on one of her ancestors. Should we all do at least one a month! Please send one of yours to newsletterBCGS@gmail.com

*Reprinted from the August Newsletter of Bruce Grey Branch of Ontario Ancestors
with their kind permission*

**“From the Past – 100 Years Ago
FIRST SETTLER OF LION’S HEAD PASSES
Richard Tackaberry Pioneer of Bruce County**

The Grim Reaper again visited our community for the fifth time this year, on July 28th, 1923, and took from us another of its old pioneers, in the person of Richard Tackaberry, the dearly beloved husband of Mary Jane Bradley, at the age of 77 years, 2 months and 20 days. The deceased gentleman was born in the County of Carlow, Ireland, in the year 1845. When two years old he came to Canada with his parents, Mr. Nathaniel Tackaberry, who was married to Margaret Fernel and settled in Elma Township in Perth County.

When 19 years of age Richard Tackaberry went to Forest, Mich., and worked in the mills. Later he came back to Canada and then sold out and moved to Lion’s Head which was nothing but a dense forest and moved into the house which they had to build. He then started to clear the land on the farm at present occupied by Grenville Mitchell. This was the first clearing done in Eastnor. His parents then moved onto the farm, now occupied by Mr. James Spiers, which is known as the Tackaberry Homestead. That was in the year 1870. In 1871 the first Government road was being built on the West shore and he worked at it for two years. The East Road was being built shortly after at which he assisted. In the early days they had to bring every thing from Wiarton or Owen Sound. They used to come as far as Adamsville the first day and stay with Mr. William Chisholm and his parents and the second day as far as the late Mr. Joseph Waugh’s at Hope Bay and then home the third day. Waggon could be used the first part of the journey but only the sled hauled by oxen the second part. Many a time he walked and carried provisions from Owen Sound to Lion’s Head in a day. This was some of the pioneer life on the Peninsula.

In the after years when the township was made he was appointed tax collector, which position he held for some time. In 1871 he was married to Mary Jane Bradley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Bradley of Kincardine Township, who came to this part and helped to make a home and improve the lands. Their work was not in vain – at the time of his death he has a farm of one hundred and thirty-eight acres with a huge stone house which was the first one built in this part and a bank barn which is the largest north of Wiarton. From this marriage they were blessed with six children, three girls and three boys, of whom five were at home at his bedside when he died. The children are John N., general merchant of Lion’s Head; Mrs. Carter of Timmins, New Ontario, Ida M. who was at home and assisted her mother; Ernest (R.E.W.) of town; [illegible] who has leased the farm and is working it and Irene who predeceased him 10 years ago. A year on [lines missing]leman was troubled with abdominal and kidney trouble which caused him to be taken to the General and Marine Hospital in Owen Sound in May 1920, where he was operated upon and since that time, although the operation was successful, the wound never healed properly and during the last three years he has been unable to do any kind of work worth mentioning. During the last six months his condition has been growing worse until this last couple of weeks he was continuously bed fast and on July 28th, just after midnight, he passed peacefully into rest with very little struggle.

On Saturday the funeral was conducted by Rev. J. W. James and Rev. J. E. Anderson who spoke reverently of the deceased. Besides the widow and her children, 12 grandchildren were able to attend, but the other three were absent with their mothers on account of sickness in their family. His brother John, of Lion's Head was there but Thomas of the American Soo, was unable to attend. Mr. Carter; his son-in-law, and also two daughters-in-law were absent because of sickness, but the nieces, namely Mrs. George Hurd of Belmore, Mrs. Norval Seammel of Meaford and Mrs. George Webster of Owen Sound and Miss Mildred of St. Thomas who is at home were at the service and funeral. During the service his favorite hymns – namely, Safe in the Arms of Jesus and When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, were sung.

The casket, which was of oak, was covered with beautiful flowers, one thing which the deceased was a lover during his life time. The following flowers and bouquets namely "the Gates Ajar" was from the family; two bouquets of roses from Mr. and Mrs. John Tackaberry and their three married daughters, a spray of roses from the Willing Workers of the Anglican Church and a basket of roses and flowers from the True Blue Association, Orange Lily Lodge No. 386, Lion's Head; a bouquet from Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Davidson, also a bouquet from Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Moore and Mrs. R. E. Moore.

The Orange Lodge attended the funeral in a body to pay their respects to the deceased member of which he was a charter member from the opening of the Lodge, also was made an Honorary member and also was a member of the Scarlet Chapter. The True Blue Lodge joined in the ceremony and also attended in a body to show sympathy and respect to the deceased and their work was in co-operation with the Orange Association. The pall bearers were chosen from people who have been old settlers, namely Mr. David Scott, Mr. Charles Webster, Mr. John Pettigrew, Mr. S. F. Warren, Mr. William Shaw and Mr. R. W. Brady. The service was held at 2 o'clock at his family residence from which the cortege proceeded to Eastnor where his remains were interred in the same plot beside his daughter Irene who predeceased him ten years ago. Those coming from a distance were his brother-in-law Mr. John Dagg, of Kincardine Township; Mrs. Dagg being unable to attend through sickness and his nieces mentioned before. The whole community wish to extend their sincerest sympathy to the bereaved people in the loss they have sustained.

Mrs. Tackaberry and family wish to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the people of the neighbourhood and societies that have been so kind in helping and assisting them in their hours of sad bereavement and also for the beautiful flowers and the letters of condolence that were sent."



Store with a "R.E.W. Tackaberry" sign over the front door. This was a general store.

Courtesy of BCM &CC's online collection

A2014.008.0467 -

<https://brucemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/Photo/44DC691A-E2EA-4D23-B97A-707108917048>

24 Places Where You Can Find Your Ancestors Occupations

If you are like me, you want to know as much as possible about the lives of your ancestors. Determining their stories is a challenge, especially if there is no one alive who remembers the ancestor that you are researching.

But fortunately, there are a number of documents that record at least, the occupation of the target ancestor, and that can tell you a lot about the person.

Knowing how the ancestor worked tells you a lot about how they lived and possibly their standing in the community.

- Census Records
- City Directories
- Draft Cards
- Death Certificates
- Passenger Lists
- Birth Certificate/Record of child – the parents occupations are often provided
- Military Enlistment and Other Records
- Photographs – although not written – if in some kind of uniform, this can be a good hint as to occupation
- Marriage Certificates
- Voter Registrations
- Mortuary Records
- Naturalization Records
- Passport Applications
- Patent Applications
- Social Security Applications – Employer's name is often included
- Obituaries
- Membership in Fraternal Societies
- Union Membership Documents
- Wills/Probate
- Newspaper Articles of all kinds – Legal notices, advertisements and classified ads are often useful
- Miscellaneous Court Documents
- Apprenticeship Records
- Recorded local and town histories
- Alumni Directories

Was one of your ancestor's occupation a word that you don't understand?

Make sure and check out the "280 Old Occupations Used in the Census and Newspapers in the U.S. and U.K." Quicksheet. Click on the blue link to download the list of [Old Occupations](#) pdf

