

I was born and have lived here sixty-four years. I was born 13 November 1842, one year and four days younger than the present King of Great Britain and Ireland. My grandfather was the first man that settled at the forks of the Middle River, that is where two branches of the Middle River meet, one branch coming from Lansdowne Woods, and the other from Glengarry Woods, where the water divides, one part coming to Pictou and the other to Colchester County.

My great-grandfather's name was Alexander Fraser (Ogg), well known in his day, as he was one of the old landmarks. He first settled in Antigonish County, in what is now known as the Big Intervale. On account of the religion of the people living there, he did not like to live among them, so he wandered west until he came to the forks of the said Middle River, and there made a stand. He took up a grant of four hundred acres of land, one half on each side of said Middle River, and covering both branches at the forks, now divided into four different farms.

My father, known in his day as William Grant 1812- was born at his grandfather's, and lived with his grandfather until he was twenty-one years of age. On leaving his grandfather's, he served one year as a farm laborer with the late Rev. Angus McGillivray of Springville. And then he and his brother, Peter Grant, late of Toney River, bought three hundred acres of woodland, where I now reside at Concord, joining Alexander Fraser's (Ogg) property. My uncle, Peter Grant, made a farm by clearing the wood of said land, and they usually cleared about fifteen acres a year. My uncle sold his farm, one hundred acres, to the late Donald McLeod, of the same place, and the remainder to the late Alexander Nicholson, Blacksmith, of Concord. These farms are still owned by descendants of the men that bought of my uncle, one owned by Alexander MacLeod, grandson of the late Donald McLeod, the other part by Alexander Nicholson, son of the late Alexander Nicholson, blacksmith.

The next settlers after my great-grandfather was a man by the name of Henderson. He built the first grist mill at Concord, and was succeeded by his son, Donald Henderson, who built the present mill, now going to decay, like most of the gristmills in this country.

Then about 1852 came the Arthurs of Green Hill, in possession of the Concord Mills, and remodeled them entirely. About the year 1859 came the MacDonalds of Hopewell to Concord, but in the year 1861, the MacDonalds became interested in the gold fever then raging for the time in Goldenville, Guv'sboro County. At the earliest opportunity

McDonalds sold this Concord mill to the present owner, James Murray of West Branch, River John in the year 1874. About the same time came the Douglass-es, McLeods, McQuarr-ies, McInnis-es, McDonalds, McArthurs. They claim to be of Glengarry, but Glengarry is the sister of Concord, as Concord was named much sooner than Glengarry. Concord was named much sooner than Glengarry. Concord was named by the Arthurs about the year 1855. Previous to 1860, Glengarry was named by the late Rev. Simon McGregor, when he was pastor of St. Columba Church, where he had his first charge in 1861.

I will try to describe my great-grandfather as we are an old name in Pictou County. His name was Peter Grant, the first Grant who settled on the East River of Pictou, and the first Elder ordained by the late Dr. James McGregor, the first Presbyterian minister that came to Pictou. On leaving the old country my great-grandfather and a number of others, including the Frasers, (saddlers) known as such. They intended settling in U.S., but on reaching there, found the country in a very wasted state, and came to Halifax, where all the able bodied men were kept to do garrison work, while the war was going on. At the close of the war, they were given grants of lands with the minerals given them.

My great-grandfather took his lands where Bridgeville now stands. That is the way that the present Grants hold the right to the iron ore.

My grandfather's name was William Grant, who settled on a farm at Churchville known as the McMillan farm. He died a young man at the age of thirty-six, or thereabouts, leaving my grandmother a widow with two small children, and my father yet unborn. That is why my father was born at his grandfather's, Alexander Fraser (Ogg) as my grandmother repaired to her father's house after the death of my grandfather. After remaining a widow for ten years, she married the late John Cameron, elder, of that place, the father of the late William Cameron, elder, and grandfather of the present John Cameron, now elder in this place.

One of the old men of Concord, named Wm. McIntosh, eminent in his day, was one of the old elders of the Kirk Church now known as St. Columba. His farm was on the east side of Middle River, containing about five hundred acres. He was killed while chopping wood in his own woods by a tree falling on him about 1850, when I was a young boy. I have a vivid recollection of the occurrence. The property was divided and sold in different lots, the homestead now owned and occupied by Alexander Munro of Rocklin.

I have described my father's people, but not my mother's, but will. My father's people came from Invernessire, Scotland, but my mother's came from Sutherlandshire. She was born 1815, and came here with her parents in 1819 when four years old. Her father's name was Murdoch McKay, an old Highland name, and my grandmother's name was Catherine Matheson. She was noted for her activity and lived to the age of eighty. My grandfather was one of the ablest men in the parish where he resided in Scotland. When they landed in Pictou, they stayed in Carriboo the first winter.

In the spring of the following year, they came to New Lairg and my grandfather carried on his back one hundred pounds of flour and twenty pounds of codfish a distance of 20 miles. My grandfather's family consisted of four men or boys and two girls, all noted for longevity. The eldest son died at 88, the next at 90, next 86, the youngest left here sixty two years ago, and was last heard from forty years ago. At last account he was in New Zealand. If living he would be 83. The youngest of the women died at age 82. My mother is living with me, and is hale and hearty at 92, and from appearance is good for ten years yet.

Written by William P. Grant, born at
Concord, Pictou Co. 1842-1931

1. Robert Fletcher Grant 1880-1963 ?
2. W. P. Grant b.1842 (his brother Peter)
- (3. William Grant 1812 died at 36 years lived Toney River
(and other places
- (3. Peter Grant
4. William Grant
5. Peter Grant