

## Some of My Ancestral History

submitted by Wendy Crocket

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The programme "Roots" has done much to inspire people to consider their own heritage. Perhaps our ancestors did not have the same struggle but they too must have had many hardships in migrating to a new land.

There is a legend that says that the Indians were waiting on shore and making threatening gestures. The kilt and weapons were donned by the Highlanders, the pipes blew their loudest and the men came ashore. The Indians took fright and fled.

It is often written that the arrival of the Hector at Pictou in September 1773 was the beginning of Scottish immigration to Canada. The Hector was the first immigrant ship but other Scottish settlers had preceded it.

What a shock the immigrants must have received. Everything was totally foreign to them. They knew little of agriculture, less of forestry and nothing at all of hunting. Desperate times must have followed, however, nearly all survived, learned to clear the land, plant, and harvest root crops and grains. They learned to hunt and fish. Pictou County had become their home. It is with a good deal of pride that I can say I am a descendant of two of these brave people: Kenneth Fraser and Alexander MacLean.

Not only do I have a Scottish heritage but as my mother keeps reminding me, her people came from Ireland. As far as I can learn, the first settlers from Ireland found their way to the north of the Shinimicas River and spread themselves along the shore to a small river called Goose River. It was the name given to it by the Indians who used it as a game reserve and trapping ground. Here the forests also hemmed them in and they had to depend for the most part on water as a means of conveyance. To this part of the country came my great, great, grandfather, Rev. W. S. Darragh, who helped build and preached in the Presbyterian Church there.

Unfortunately, we put off learning the story of our ancestors until it is too late to learn all we would wish to know. Through many phone calls, interviews and old scrapbooks I have collected a bit of information on mine.

## The History of the Crockett Family

[7<sup>th</sup> Generation]

John Crockett and his wife Margaret Young immigrated from Dumfriesshire, Scotland to Georgetown, PEI in 1774. They along with others were induced by the proprietors of the Island to come and settle their land.

They commenced their settlement with fair prospects of success when their hopes were blighted by a visitation of mice. They came upon the new settlement in full force. These animals swarmed everywhere, and consumed everything eatable even the potatoes in the ground. [A person can't help but wonder, if the ladies were anything as squeamish as some of us are when it comes to mice.]

During the 18 months that the settlers remained on the island they endured all the miseries of famine. For three months in the summer they survived on lobster and shell fish which they gathered from the shore.

Early the following summer, 1776, they removed to NS and settled along the Middle River, where some of their descendants still live.

Margaret Young Crockett was a sister of John Young an aunt of Sir William and George R Young. She died on September 25, 1817 at an age of 74 years. John Crockett died February 21, 1790 aged 50 years.

Their family –

James

William

Joseph

John

Nancy

Elizabeth

Margaret

Sarah

Margaret Young Crockett and John Crockett are buried in Alma. William Crockett married Mary MacLean daughter of Alexander MacLean. They had a family of five boys and four girls –

John

Alex

Margaret

James

Joseph

William

Katherine

Jean

Mary

William and his family settled in Marshdale and owned a large tract of land and woods including land now owned by Don Crockett, W J Crockett, Margaret Bill Crockett, John McLeod, James McLeod, Gordon Halliday.

It is interesting to note that at the time of their marriage (William and his wife), he, being of Lowland descent was not familiar with Gaelic, she being Highland, spoke Gaelic entirely. Consequently, they could not converse in either language. (Lots of sign language there I'll bet.)

William died in 1837 and is buried in Marshdale. William wrote for the first newspaper which came around his district, The Eastern Chronicle.

William Crockett, youngest son of William Sr. married Margaret Robertson, of Big Island, Merigomish, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1841. She was a descendant of Col. Robertson of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. The Robertsons came from Struan, Scotland. Col. Alex Robertson obtained Big Island as his share hence sometimes known as Robertson Island. He never lived there himself but some of his relatives settled on it. He employed an agent who built a large house upon it, which he called "Struan House".

William and his wife lived at White Hill and had three sons and four daughters. They are –

James William

Mary

Helen

Sophia

Margaret

John

George

William, died in infancy

James William, born November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1842 lived at the homestead and married Katherine Crockett. Katherine was the daughter of Joseph Crockett who was married to Margaret MacLean who was the daughter of Hector MacLean who came from Scotland on the ship Hector. James William Crockett and Kate Jane Crockett had a family of five. They are as follows –

Eva

George, died in infancy, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Luella

Wilfred

Arthur

All but Wilfred are deceased.

Eva Florence Crockett was born on July 22, 1882, she never married. She was a teacher. Eva devoted many years of her life to teaching new Canadians and Indian children. Keenly interested in ancestry she visited Scotland where our ancestors came from. Most of the information I have was carefully saved and written down by her.

Luella Irene Crockett was born on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1890. She also remained unmarried and became a teacher. Luella taught in Newfoundland. Later she went to the Presbyterian training school in Toronto for the training of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. From there she went to South China to serve in the Kong Moon Mission field. Later she went to North China. For four years she was in a Japanese internment camp at Weisheim. Her release came with the defeat of the Japanese. The effects of her internment in the camp took their toll and shortly after her arrival home she died.

Wilfred remained on the farm where he lived all his life until two years ago when he went to live at the Oddfellows Home in Pictou.

Arthur married Ena Fraser and they bought a farm in Fox Brook. They had one son, Francis Struan. They were both killed instantly in an accident crossing a railroad tract on September 28, 1960.

Luella Irene Crockett died March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1950 in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow. Eva Florence Crockett died -- ? All except for George are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

## History of the Fraser Family

Kenneth Fraser was born in Lairg, Sutherlandshire, Scotland in 1752. He immigrated to Pictou with his family on the ship "Hector" in 1773. Settling first in Londonderry for thirteen years, they moved back to Pictou County in 1786 to hear the gospel preached in their native Gaelic by the Rev. James McGregor, and to take up a grant of land consisting of four hundred and fifty acres in what is now known as Union Centre.

Kenneth Fraser married twice, his first wife being Miss Gordon from Scotland, the second Christene MacKay. Kenneth had six sons and two daughters:

Alexander

James

Thomas

William

John

Donald

Nancy Jean

Phillipa

Four of the sons, John, Thomas, William and Donald travelled up a brook going up over Millbrook Falls and took up grants of land consisting of one hundred and sixty acres each. Kenneth died in 1792 and is buried in Alma Cemetery.

Thomas was born in 1755, he married Janet Blackie of Durham. They had ten children. They were the first to settle in Millbrook, Pictou County where Thomas built a grist mill at the foot of the falls in 1880. A freshet carried this mill away. After this, the mill was rebuilt at the top of the falls where he had stones for grinding wheat and oatmeal, the second such mill in the county. Thomas had five sons and five daughters.

Duncan (m. Rebecca Blackie)

Charles (m. Jennie MacDonald)

Jean (m. William MacDonald)

Kenneth (m. Ann Blackie)

Alexander (m. Betsy MacKenzie)

Catherine (m. William Ross)

Richard (m. Janet Blackie)

Jessie (m. James Fraser)

Lillias – spinster

Letetia – spinster

Thomas died in 1856 at an age of 81 years he is buried in the Millbrook Cemetery. Following Thomas death, his son Kenneth born in 1810, took over the running of the mill. Kenneth and his wife Ann Blackie had two sons.

Alexander Fraser married Betsy MacKenzie of Millbrook. They had four children –

Thomas

Alexander

James Murdock

Mary

Mary Frasers son Allan married Margaret Mann.

## The Mann Family

Robert Mann and his wife came from Aberdeenshire, Scotland to Bathurst, NB. They had three sons –

Alexander

Francis

Robert

Alexander was a sea captain and worked in pleasure boats running to Boston. He married and they had three children –

Madge

Ethel

Clara

Robert, also went to sea but remained a bachelor and wasn't heard of for years at a time.

Francis was a master mason. He moved with the railroad to Pictou County. He built many of the culverts in the area including the one at the subway in Hopewell. He married Jessie Bill Grant and they had three children –

Ena

Francis

A baby who died shortly after birth

## The Gunn and Grant Families

John Gunn came out first from Caithness, Scotland to Pictou County and after a year or so went back to Scotland for the rest of the Gunn family. His parents were both dead. John Gunn and his three sisters came back in a sailing vessel and were weeks on the ocean. His three sisters were –

Margaret

Elizabeth

Isabel

Isabel Gunn married Donald Grant of Marshdale. She was the youngest of the Gunn family and was only fifteen years old when she arrived in Nova Scotia. Soon after her arrival she went to live with Mr. MacDonald a Pictou merchant. She remained there until her marriage to Donald Grant. They had nine children –

Jessie Bell

Donald

David

Alex

John

Catherine

Peter

Margaret

A boy who died in infancy

Jessie Bell Grant married Francis Mann they lived on the old manse property near St. Columba Church. Their children were –

Margaret Elizabeth

Elsie Isabel

Daniel Robert

Margaret Elizabeth married Allan Fraser of Millbrook and they had a family of three children –

Ena Delina

Francis

Thomas – a boy who died in infancy

## History of the Moore Family

I guess the first bit of interesting history I can find is back in the late 1700's when Lord and Lady Troupe of Troupe Manor somewhere in the North of England had a daughter Sarah. She eloped with their gardener, John Angus. They promptly disowned her and the new couple moved from England to Ireland where they met with the Moores. John Moore my great, great, great, grandfather was born at County Down, Ireland in 1788. He married Anne Watson and they had two sons –

James

Alexander

The she died leaving him a widower. When he was 29 years old in 1817 he married Sophia Angus, daughter of John and Sarah Troupe Angus. In 1818 John, Sophia and his two sons, Sophia's parents – John and Sarah Angus and their family and another family by the name of Achin chartered a boat to bring them to the New World. They landed at Saint John, New Brunswick and hired another boat to bring them to Amherst. From there they went to Shinimicas, Northport and Goose River (Linden).

John and Sophia's first child, Anna, was born on the way across the Atlantic. They came to Goose River where John was granted 250 acres of land. Half of this is still owned by David Moore, my mother's brother (great, great grandson.) At first he and his wife lived in a log cabin near the water. Later he built a house and barn a little further up the hill from the shore and that house many years being occupied by one of his sons. John built a third house where Tomlinsons now live. While he lived in his second house, where most of his family was born, he built a mill. This mill was used for grinding grain and was powered by the wind with large sails. Great Uncle George can remember the old building. It was later moved to where Great Great Uncle John lived and used for a barn. It was about thirty feet square with a square roof and in the centre of the roof there was a large wooden bearing where the mast of the windmill turned. This mill was not very successful and when John built his third dwelling he built near a brook. This time he powered his mill with water. This mill was much more successful. John had ten children, six sons and four daughters and seventy-two grandchildren.

John Moore Jr. was the man who invented the double harpoon for pitching of hay. Up until a few years ago Eatons used to still catalogue it as the "John Moore Fork". He also built the Gothic windows for the Renwick Church.

The old stones that John Moore ground the grain with were moved to Oxford. At present they are used as a doorstep at the Millstone Hotel.

John Moore's (Sr.) fourth daughter, my great, great, grandmother, Rachel Moore married Rev. W. S. Darragh. They had nine children –

George (m. Clara Kent)

Wylie (m. Joanna Duncan)

John William – died when young.

Martha (m. David Mitchell)

Anna – spinster – wrote poetry

Alice – spinster

Wilhelmina (Minnie) (m. Thomas Moore)

Ada – died young.

Sophronia (m. Amos Mitchell)

Great Grandfather Thomas Moore married (Wilhelmina) Minne Darragh. They had three children –

Rachel May (m. Everett Mitchell)

Wylie David (Grandfather) (m. Grace Mitchell)

George William (m. Ruth MacArthur)

Wylie David Moore and Grace Louise Mitchell had seven children –

Louise Martha – school teacher

David William – (m. Beth Webster)

Geraldine Alice (mother) (m. Francis Struan Crockett)

Andrew Wylie – (m. Inez Webster)

Elva Grace – (m. James Sinnis)

Edith Marie – (m. John Weeks)

Kathleen Bernice – (m. Donald Logan)

David William Moore who is now living on the original Moore farm has three sons –

Scott

Alan

John

It looks like there has been a John Moore in every generation thus far (almost).

Uncle Andrew has five children –

Marion

Harry

Dana

James

Gordon

Lots more Moores to come!

## The Darragh Family

Andrew Darragh was born near Ballyboyland, Ireland in 1798. He was the son of \_\_\_ Darragh and Angus Hamilton. He married Jennie Warnock who was born near the same place in 1794. They had four sons and a daughter

William Stanley

James

Margaret

Joseph

Adam

James Darragh a merchant in the area moved to USA.

Margaret married David Mitchell.

Joseph drowned on the way over from Ireland. He fell overboard near Newfoundland.

Adam Darragh was killed while fighting with Indians. He was in the British Army.

William Stanley Darragh was born in Ireland on June 15, 1824, the eldest son of Andrew Darragh. At the age of eighteen he crossed the Atlantic to Philadelphia. Sometime in 1842 he arrived on this side of the Atlantic. He spent three months at sea. Friends and relatives in Philadelphia helped him to further his education. He spent 6 years at the college in Philadelphia after which he came directly to Goose River in 1853. It was the following year, 1854, that his parents and sister and brother joined him in the area. They lived on a farm in Shinimicas. The one owned presently by Carl Miller.

Shortly after his arrival the people of Mt. Pleasant wanted to have a church of their own so the older people would not have so far to go for worship services. They built a small but very fine church in 1849. Great, great, grandfather helped by felling and hewing some of the logs. This church is still in use.

He served in this church as part of the Goose River charge until his retirement in 1891.

In 1850 the Rev. married Rachel Moore. They bought a small farm. In those days a pastoral charge did not provide a manse, neither did the minister receive a guaranteed salary. He would get only what people felt they could give and sometimes that wasn't very much, less than \$100.00 most years. To help support his family of seven he was also Inspector of Schools for Cumberland County.

Minnie Darragh, his daughter, married Thomas Moore son of John Moore (Sr).

## The Mitchell Family

The Mitchells who came to Nova Scotia in 1825 came from Killamallaght, Ireland. They were descended from the seven brothers who migrated from Scotland. Among them were, Dr. Samuel Mitchell and his brother and sister. Margaret married David Mitchell and came with her husband and nine children. In September 1829 David and Margaret landed at Pictou, NS after a voyage of nearly eight weeks from Ireland. En route to their new home they narrowly escaped the perils of shipwreck and were only saved from this disaster by the brave sagacity of the ship's mate.

The vessel in which they were sailing from Ireland was a sailing ship built in NS in 1770. Her captain was a shareholder and planned to run her aground somewhere on the coast of Newfoundland in order to collect insurance. Under the protection of providence, the voyage was completed in safety and in the same year.

The sons and daughter of David Mitchell were –

Robert

Thomas

Samuel

John

David

William

Jane

Marie

Isabella

They moved from Wallace to Middleboro in spring of 1830 and erected a stone house, it was superintended by an old bachelor known as Gilly Ore who came out in the same ship with them. David Mitchell was by no means a poor man when he came to Canada. He had in his money belt 400 sovereigns (about \$2,000.00). He bought 400 acres of land at Wallace River, known as Grant land at \$45.00 per hundred acres. He lived at Wallace River for about twelve to fourteen years then David and Margaret moved to Goose River (Linden) with three of the boys, David, William and Thomas. John, Samuel and Robert stayed at Wallace River. He bought more land in Goose River at the same price and divided it between his three sons.

David and Margaret both died in 1862 and were buried in Linden, two miles from Northport.

Their son David Mitchell married Margaret Jean Darragh from Antrum, Ireland. They had four sons –

David

James

Stanley

Andrew

And five daughters –

Jennie

Rachel

Charlotte

Katie

Maggie

Margaret died in 1915, David died in 1897.

Andrew, their son married Ester Finley. She was the daughter of Edmund Finley and Clementine Parker. They had five children –

Joseph

Glover

Grace Louise

Margueriete

Grace Jeanette (an adopted daughter.)

Their daughter Grace Louise married Wylie Moore. (My Grandparents)

## The Finley Family

The first Finleys of the clan to come to these parts came from Northern Ireland in 1820. They were James Finley and his wife Ester Taylor Finley.

There was a Jane Finley born on the way over near Newfoundland. The boat was the “Nancy” and it is said she was almost named after the boat.

James and Ester had nine children –

Edmund

Robert

Jane

Albert

Susan

William

Ester

Ephriam

Naomi

Edmund married Clementine Parker. He was born in 1833 and died in 1914. She was born in 1839 and died in 1890. They had a daughter Ester who married Andrew Mitchell.

## The Parker Family

In August 29, 1831 in an old South shore town of Lunenburg, Maynard Parker was ordained to the Baptist ministry. Another member of the distinguished Annapolis County family of Mayor Nathaniel Parker. Maynard was the 15<sup>th</sup> of 16 children and one of the more than 40 Baptist ministers who by 1899 could be numbered among the descendants of the Mayor.

Rev. Nathaniel Parker, who died at Londonderry at the age of 54 was known as a plain solid preacher of the gospel. He served in various parts of Nova Scotia. His work in Cumberland County earned for him the credit of being one of the pioneers of the church in the Wallace River area.

His daughter Clementine married Edward Finley.

I realize that this is only a portion of the history of my ancestry. I do hope to be able to add further information to this compilation at a future date, however, it is not available at the present time.

Needless to say there has been a lot of work put into this project and a lot of information has been compiled.

There are many sources for my information as I have already stated in my introduction, however, I would like to close this paper by thanking the people who gave of their time and came to my aid with answers to my "multi-numerous" questions!

Thanks to:

- my mother who has a habit of collecting old papers and "junk". – all of which came in handy.
- Mr. Weldon Fraser, Hopewell
- Mrs. Kay Logan, Amherst Point
- Great Uncle George, Pugwash
- Mr. Francis Fraser, Riverton
- Mr. Mann, Hopewell
- Great Uncle Wilfred, Pictou, who kept Eva's and Luella's belongings and passed them on to my mother.

- The late Miss Eva Crockett who compiled much information of our ancestry in her scrapbooks.
- And any others who helped me in anyway.

Other sources are: newspaper clippings, books, etc.

Thank you for reading this, I enjoyed doing it!