



Our Holliston Ancestors

by
James C. Retson
Last Revised at
<http://www.retson.ca/holliston.pdf>
August 1 2021

Note: This file is under construction and should be regarded as incomplete and unverified as to content

Contents

Our Holliston Ancestors	1
Holliston Context.....	1
The Holliston Surname - Origin and History.....	1
1. Adam Houliston abt 1695 - Alison Waddle b. 1699.....	2
2. John Houliston 1730 Margaret Thomson	2
3. Adam Holliston 1756 - Agnes Cairns.....	2
4. James Holliston 1803 -1876 and Mary Wylie 1811-1894.....	3
5. Margaret Holliston 1836 – 1900 Thomas Atkinson 1830-1919	4
Appendices.....	6
Abbreviations.....	6
Resources	6
Websites.....	6
Relationship of Hollistons to author	7

Holliston Context

Our Holliston Ancestors were Scottish Ancestors who eventually emigrated to Canada. The earliest of the Holliston line found to date is Adam Houliston born about 1695. James Holliston, wife and two children emigrated to Canada between 1828 and 1832. The last Holliston in our line of ancestors married Thomas Atkinson in Ontario

This file located at <http://www.retson.ca/holliston.pdf> will be updated as time permits. A list of all Holliston descendants may also be found at <http://www.retson.ca/hollistondescendants.pdf>

The Holliston Surname - Origin and History

The Holliston surname is the 2,107,428 most common surname in the world¹. Approximately 78 people bear this surname with most prevalent use is in Canada. Holliston surname variants and similar names include Hollston, Holiston, Houliston, Howliston, Holleston, Halliston, Hollisten, Holston, Hollistein,

¹ <http://forebears.io/surnames/holliston> as of January 25, 2020

Houlston, and Holliston. The most common among our ancestors besides Holliston were Holiston, and Houlston.

1. Adam Houlston abt 1695 - Alison Waddle b. 1699

Adam Houlston was born about 1695. He married Alison Waddle (or Waddel). They had at least two children

- i. Adam Houlston b. 18 Jun 1721 at Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland
2. ii. John Howlston b. 08 Sep 1730 b. Langton, Berwickshire, Scotland, d. m. Margaret Thomson

2. John Houlston 1730 Margaret Thomson

John Howlston was born 09 Aug 1730 in Langton, Berwickshire, Scotland. He was baptised on 08 Sep 1730. He married Margaret Thomson 09 Jun 1752 Eccles, Berwick, Scotland. They had 10 children,

- i. Howlston b. or bp. 09 Sep 1754 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
3. ii. Adam Houlliston Howlinson 28 May 1756 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland,
- iii. Agnes Houlston b 6 Jun 1758 and baptised 8 Jan 1758 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland, m. John Archibald
 - I. John Archibald b. 10 Sep 1778 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
 - II. Elizabeth Archibald b. 21 Feb 1784 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland d. 18 Jan 1858 Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland
 - III. Agnes Archibald b. 04 Oct 1785 at Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- iv. Heleen Houlestone b or bp 28 Apr 1760 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- v. Mary Houlston b. or bp Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- vi. George Howlston b or bp 25 Jun 1764 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- vii. Margaret Houlston b or bp 27 Nov 1765 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- viii. Janet Houlston b. or bp. 03 Mar 1767 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- ix Richard Houlston b. or bp. 21 Jul 1768 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland
- x. Alexander Houlston b. or bp. 05 Nov 1769 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland

3. Adam Holliston 1756 - Agnes Cairns

Adam Howlinson was born May 28 1756 and baptised two days latter at Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland. He married Agnes Cairns 1800 at Of, Ednam, Roxburgh, Scotland.

There is a transcript of a Roxburghshire, Kelso Dispensary Patient Registers 1777-1781 for an Adam Howlston Age 22 Birth year 1756 in 1778 whose residence is Kelso. The date is 27 July 1778, the disease Remitting Fever, Recommender Mr. Charleton, Event type Aug 22D. Cured²

The Kelso dispensary was founded in 1777 for the treatment of people living around the Borders area. People of all walks of life were admitted for a range of diseases such as ulcers, broken ribs, small pox, palsy, melancholy, abscess, scabies, and more. The registers also recorded the patients' outcomes: whether the patient was cured, relieved of symptoms, or died. Patient registers are a pre-civil registration resource for genealogists. The market town of Kelso, found in the Scottish Borders region, was once described by Sir Walter Scott as, 'the most

² National Records of Scotland, Archive reference HH71/7 p. 8, Record set, Roxburghshire, Kelso Dispensary Patient Registers 1777-1781, Collections from Scotland, Great Britain Graham & Emma Maxwell

beautiful if not the most romantic village in Scotland’.

Their children included

- i. Catherine Houliston b. 17 May 1801 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland
4. ii. James Holliston b. 18 Jun 1803 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland
- iii. Agnes Houliston b. 14 Mar 1808 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland
- iv. Margaret Houliston b. 01 May 1810 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland, d. 29 Jun 1888 in Humebanck, Eccles, Scotland
- v. Robert Houliston 1814 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland d. 05 Oct 1879 Balclutha, Otago, New Zealand

4. James Holliston 1803 -1876 and Mary Wylie 1811-1894

James Holliston was born 18 Jun 1803 in Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland³. 1911 census for his son Adam indicates a year of 1830 for his immigration.

Another possible record for their arrival is for the arrival of James Hillston, 28 May 1831 Departure Place: Quebec, Lower Canada, Canada Arrival Place: Montreal, Vessel: Chambly. His name in Scotland is spelled in various fashion:

His birth name is James Howlison in 1803. His marriage name as James Hawlistone, 1 Jun 1827 Yetholm, in to Roxburgh, Scotland to Mary Wylie.

His name is Holiston in the 1851 (1852) and 1861 Canadian census. In 1871 census it is either Holison or Haliston⁴. In 1911 his son’s name is Houlist



His headstone has his name as Holliston death as 2 Nov 1876 at age 74. His age in the 1852 census was reported as 44 in 1861 53 and in 1871 65.

He died suddenly while he and his neighbour, Ben Mosher were erecting a line fence between their farms. He married Mary Wylie, 01 Jun 1827 in Yetholm, Roxburgh, Scotland. She was born 22 Jan 1805 in Coldstream, Berwickshire, Scotland. The Hollistons emigrated from Scotland sometime between 1828 and 1832

Most of his children took on the name Holliston in Canada.

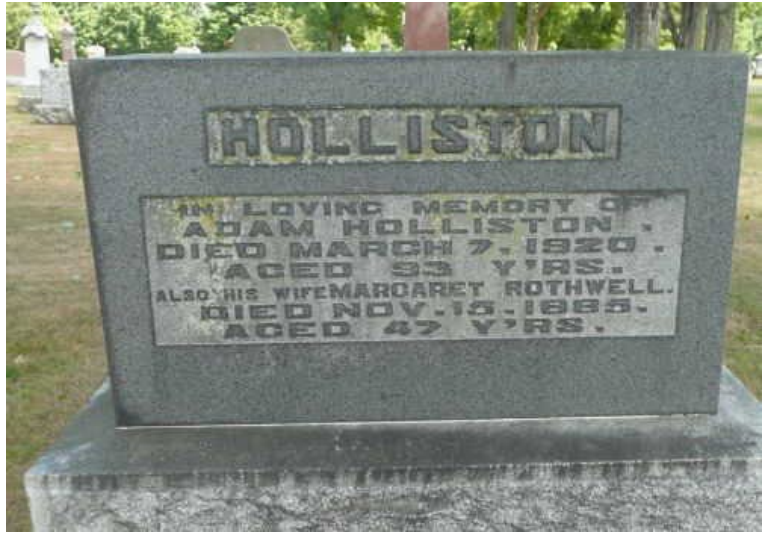
Their children (partly based on notes of William Atkinson in 1963⁵ their entire family would include

³ Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, name James Howlison, birthdate 18 Jun 1803 Roxburgh, Scotland father Adam Howlison.

⁴ <https://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1578&h=294024&indiv=try&ftm=1>

⁵ I believe he has the order of the children right but not positive about the birthdates.

i. Adam Holliston b. 25 May 1827 at Yetholm, Roxburgh, Scotland⁶ a widower, m. (1) Margaret Rothwell b. 1838 in Ireland, she died 18 Nov 1885 in Smith Falls, He had two children by her, (2) m. Jane Donoghue 13 Apr 1886 in Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario, Canada, -a lockmaster on the Rideau Canal in Smith Falls, Ontario d. 07 Mar 1920 at Smith Falls, Lanark County,



I. Adamina Holliston b. 02 Mar 1862, m. James Francis Corbett 01 Oct 1880, d. 06 May 1946

Kempville, Grenville, Ontario, Canada

II. William M Holliston b. 10 May 1876 Smith Falls, Ontario, m. Jessie Young 1911, d. 12 Jun 1961 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

ii. Christine “Christie” Ann Holliston b. 21 Sep 1828 Yetholm, Roxburgh, Scotland

iii. Agnes [Nancy] Holliston[aka Houliston] b about 1832, d. 08 Aug 1913 at Merrickville, m William Atkinson of Gananoque

iv. George Holliston b. 1835 Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, Canada d. 28 Dec 1905 at Altamont, Manitoba, farmer, m. Catherine Mussell 1860 at Merrickville

5. v. Margaret Holliston b. 1836 Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, Canada, d. 08 Aug 1900 in Merrickville, Married Thomas Atkinson

vi. Barbara Holliston b. 09 Feb 1840 at Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, Canada d. 04 Jan 1918 of Merrickville, m. Thomas Edwards 1861 in Wolford

vii. Mary Holliston, b. 09 Jan 1839, d. 09 Apr 1924 in Merrickville, m. Frank Lesson 15 Oct 1863 in Wolford Township

viii. Robert Holliston, b. 04 May 1845 in Wolford, d. 25 Dec 1921 Sibbald, Alberta, m. Eliza Jane Kirkland 20 Mar 1863 in Merrickville

ix. Jane Holliston b. 20 Mar 1848 13 Oct 1850 d. 29 Apr 1931 in Merrill, Saginaw, Michigan, United States, m. Richard Donoghue 11 Jan 1871 in Merrickville,

x. Elizabeth Holliston b. 1849

5. Margaret Holliston 1836 – 1900 Thomas Atkinson 1830-1919

Margaret Holliston, daughter of James Holliston and Mary Wylie was born in 1836, in Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, Canada. She married Thomas Atkinson on 01 Jun 1827 Yetholm, Roxburghshire, Scotland. They lived near Newmanville, three miles south east of Merrickville, in the district known as the Scotch line. Thomas owned and farmed the third farm west of his father William. He purchased a second farm adjoining on the east side from a neighbour, William Lang. He later purchased a farm near Easton Corners on which was a brick yard. The brick made from this clay was a light colour and many of the houses in the district were built of this light coloured brick. After retiring from the farm near Easton's Corner he built a house in Merrickville, in which town he lived until his death. Margaret and her family attended the Church of England.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122225370>, Death reported by son in law J. Corbett. Age 92 years. Reported as a widower. Occupation: Locks Labourer. Undertaker J. J. Marsh. Date of death: March 7, 1920., Part:2, Section:1, Plot: 199, Grave: 2. Same grave as Adam Michael Holliston and Wife Margaret Holliston.



She died in Merrickville, Ontario on 8 Aug 1900.ⁱ Thomas died January 15, 1919 in Merrickville, Grenville Ontario at the age of 91 according to his headstone.

Their children include

6. i. Edward Atkinson b. 16 Feb.1858 in Merrickville, Ontario, Ontario m. Abigail Almeda Spicer 03 Dec 1879 at Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario⁷, d. 09 Jan 1944 in Merrickville, now Merrickville-Wolford, Leeds and Grenville,

ii. George Atkinson 01 Jan 1860 at Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, m. Ada Louise Parks Feb 01, 1888 in Merrickville d. August 2, 1926 at Bishop Mills, Leeds and Grenville, Ontario. They had three children

I. Elmer Ross Atkinson, 15 Jun 1892 in Bishop's Mills, Wolford Township, Grenville m. Jean Freeland Wilcox, 07 Oct 1935 Ottawa, d. 03 Aug 1978 in Vancouver

II. George Roy Atkinson, 16 Jul 1893 in Bishop's Mills, Wolford Township, Grenville, m. Alma Myrtle Eagley 28 Apr 1920 at

Carleton, Ontario, Canada, d. 10 Aug 1974 Kemptville, Ontario

III. Eva Mae Atkinson b. 28 May 1899, m. Charles John Sherrard 04 Sep 1923 in Grenville, Ontario, Canada, d. 07 Aug 1961 in Kingston, Ontario

iii. Jane Atkinson b December 25, 1862 at Wolford, Leeds & Grenville, Ontario, m. Thomas Burchill on 10 Feb 1851 at Montague, Ontario, d. 28 Jan 1940 Wolford, Leeds & Grenville (North

I. Mabel Clara Burchill b. 15 Dec 1886 in Grenville County, Ontario d. 08 Oct 1919 Merrickville, Grenville Co., Ontario

iv. Mary Atkinson b. 14 Mar 1865 at Wolford, Ontario, d. 16 June 1945 at Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario, single age 80 d. 16 June 1945 without issue

v. William Atkinson b. 30 Dec 1866 at Merrickville, Leeds and Grenville United Counties, Ontario⁸, d. 17 July 1871 at Merrickville, Died at 4 years, 6 months and 17 days of age

vi. Margaret Atkinson b 15 Jun 1872⁹ Wolford, Grenville, Ontario m. William Henry Kerford 13 Jan 1897 in Frankville Leeds, County d 1952, d. 1952 at Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario,

I. Raymond Kerford b. 29 Nov 1897 in Wolford Township, Ontario m. Amelia Elma Cross 16 Jun 1937 Wolford, d. 17 Aug 1989

II. Cecil Edgar Kerford b. 26 Jan 1900 in Wolford Township, Ontario (Edgar S Kerford in 1901 Census, Cleil E Kerford born Feb 1900 in 1911 census and Cecil Edgar Census on headstone)¹⁰ married Gladys Loretta Wood b. 1 Oct 1914, d. 18 Dec 1999

⁷ Names misspelled as Atkenson and Abigail's middle name as Alexander

⁸ Birthdate calculated from age and death date

⁹ 1901 Census, Automated Genealogy indexed under Maggie.

¹⁰ In 1901 Census is listed as Stanley Edgar Kerford, in 1911 Census listed as Cleil Kerford and at



III. Elizabeth Louise Kerford b. Nov 1902 in Wolford Township, Ontario, m. Douglas Scott Erb d. 1980

IV. George Stanley Kerford b. 22 Jan 1912 Wolford, Grenville, Ontario m. Elizabeth Myrtle Carley (1926-2007) d. 2002

vii. Thomas A. Atkinson b 8 Sep 1876¹¹ m. Margaret Eliza Barry 01 Jan 1907, d. 1940 at Merrickville,

I. Marguerite Etta Atkinson b. 16 Dec 1905 in Wolford, Grenville North, Ontario, Canada, m. Thomas McKibbon 05 Aug 1925 in Merrickville, Leeds, Ontario, Canada, d. 17 Oct 1989 in Merrickville, Ontario

II. Thomas Harold Atkinson in 03 Sep 1910 in Wolford, Ontario, Freda Barber (1912-1993) d. 1996

III. Jossie Atkinson b. 1918 in Wolford, Ontario,

viii. Elizabeth Atkinson b. 23 Feb 1878 Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario, Canada died Aug 10, 1894 in Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario, age 16 yrs., 5 months 15 days¹²

Edward Atkinson continued our line.

Appendices

Abbreviations

Abt. About b. birth m. Married d. died

Resources

Atkinson, William, William Atkinson of Northern Ireland (and his descendants), Mar 15, 1963 (referred in this document as Atkinson Report)

Durie, Bruce, Scottish Genealogy, Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press 2009

Epperson, Amanda, The Family Scottish Genealogy Guide, Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books 2018

Websites

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118954493/cecil-edgar-kerford> headstone.

¹¹1901 Census <http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/1901/z/z002/jpg/z000077684.jpg>

¹² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101408664/elizabeth-atkinson>, birth calculated from date of death and age as given on headstone.

Relationship of Hollistons to author


6th great grandfather

	Adam Howliston b: 1695 Scotland, United Kingdom d:
---	--


5th great grandfather

	John Howliston b: 09 Aug 1730 Langton, Berwickshire, Scotland d:
---	--


4th great grandfather

	Adam Howliston b: 28 May 1756 Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland d:
---	---


3rd great grandfather

	James Holliston b: 18 Jun 1803 Roxburgh, Roxburgh, Scotland d: 02 Nov 1876 Merrickville, Leeds and Grenville
---	---


2nd great grandmother

	Margaret Holliston b: 1836 Wolford, Grenville, Ontario, Canada d: 08 Aug 1900 Merrickville, Grenville, Ontario, C
---	--


Great grandfather

	Edward Atkinson b: 16 Feb 1858 Near Merrickville d: 09 Jan 1944 Merrickville, Merrickville-Wolford,
---	--

Maternal grandfather

	Edward Elbert Atkinson b: 26 Feb 1887 Merrickville, Merrickville-Wolford, d: 14 Jan 1957 Vancouver, British Columbia
---	---

Mother

	Grace Elizabeth Atkinson b: 11 Dec 1916 Waskada, Manitoba, Canada d: 04 Jun 2008 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
---	--

Self

	James Clifford Retson b: 28 Jul 1948 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d:
---	--

ⁱ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101408536/margaret-atkinson>