



# Our Nelson Ancestors

by  
James Retson  
Last Revised  
November 27 2022

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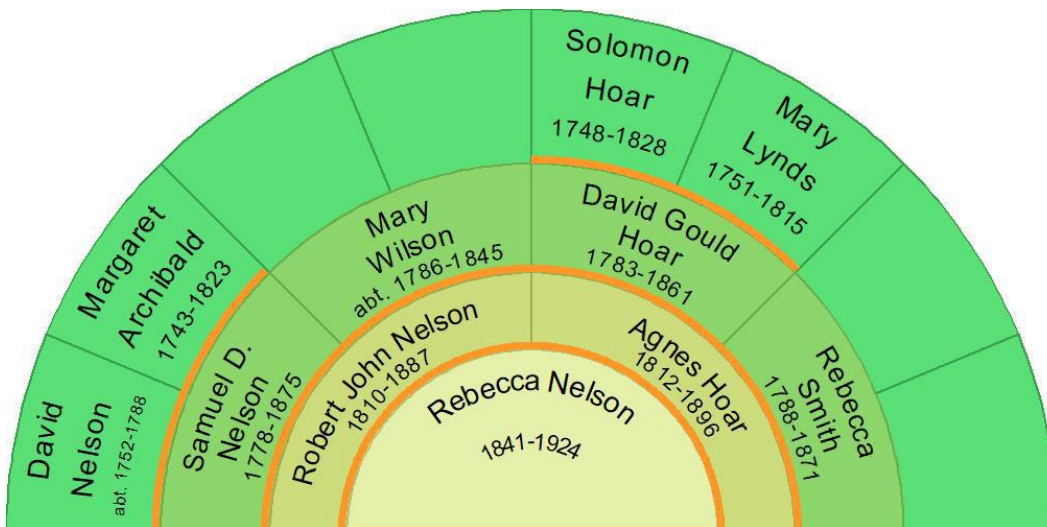
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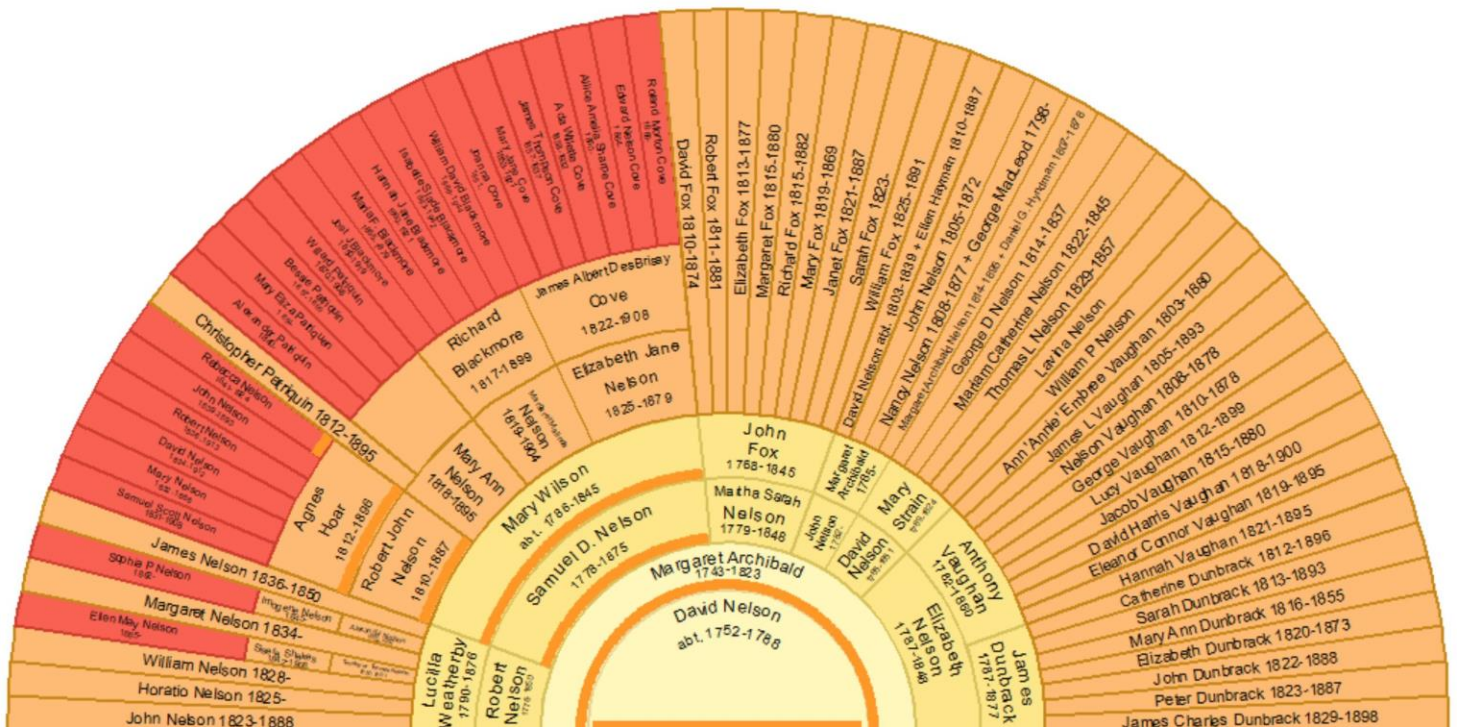
## Nelson Context

## Nelson Ancestors



The origin of the Nelson is unknown. Suggestions have been made that they were either Irish or Massachusetts but to date no evidence of this has been found. The first Nelson in our line is David Nelson born about 1752 . The Nelson line in our family ends with the marriage of Rebecca Nelson on 27 May 1863.

## Nelson Descendant



For further descendants go to <http://www.retson.ca/nelsondependants.pdf>

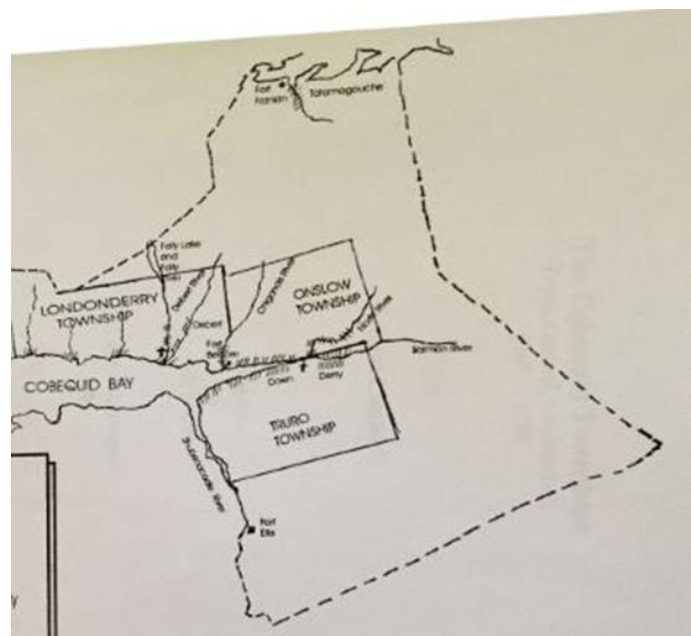
## Nelson Surname

The surname O'Neil comes from the Irish Gaelic. It means 'son or descendant of Neil (or Neal)'. This first name was originally Nial, and came from the Old Irish 'niadh', meaning 'champion'. Nelson is the 483rd most common surname in the world.<sup>1</sup>

## Truro Township

The Truro Township where David Nelson is found extended from the Valley crossroads on the east to the Shubenacadie River on the West and included Bible Hill, north of Salmon River south of the Cobequid Bay. Its official boundaries were:

Beginning at a creek about half a mile up Salmon River on the North side and running east four miles and a quarter, thence south 87 degrees west 12 miles and a quarter, more or less till it meets the Shubenacadie River, thence is bounded by said river and Cobequid Bay to the first mentioned boundary...containing on the whole by estimates 50,000 acres more or less . The area had been occupied by the French Acadians before 1755 but had been expelled to New England



<sup>1</sup> <http://forebears.io/surnames/nelson>

and beyond in that year. The area of the Town ships of Truro, Onslow and Londonderry were known by the English as Cobequid.

## **Colchester County and the American Revolution**

Relations between Great Britain and her colonies. Deteriorated after 1763 of Treaty of Paris. The Stamp Act of 1765 (Duties in American Colonies Act 1765; 5 George III, c. 12) imposed a direct tax on the British colonies and plantations in America and required that many printed materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper produced in London, carrying an embossed revenue stamp. Printed materials included legal documents, magazines, playing cards, newspapers, and many other types of paper used throughout the colonies. Like previous taxes, the stamp tax had to be paid in valid British currency, not in colonial paper money. The purpose of the tax was to pay for British military troops stationed in the American colonies after the French and Indian War, which was the North American theater of the Seven Years' War. However, the colonists had never feared a French invasion to begin with, and they contended that they had already paid their share of the war expenses. The Stamp Act was very unpopular among colonists. Many considered it a violation of their rights as Englishmen not to be taxed without their consent—consent that only the colonial legislatures could grant. Their slogan was "No taxation without representation." The tax was never effectively collected.

The Quebec Act of 1774 formally known as the British North America (Quebec) Act 1774, an act of the Parliament of Great Britain (citation 14 Geo. III c. 83) was also resented by New England. The province of Quebec's territory was expanded to take over part of the Indian Reserve, including much of what is now southern Ontario, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota. Reference to the Protestant faith was removed from the oath of allegiance and free to practice the Catholic faith guaranteed. It restored the Catholic Church's right to impose tithes. The Americans interpreted the Act as an "establishment" of Catholicism in the colony. The Quebec Act was seen as threatening the colonies of their elected assemblies. It seemed to void the land claims of the colonies by granting most of the Ohio Country to the province of Quebec. The Quebec Act had been passed in the same session of Parliament as a number of other acts designed as punishment for the Boston Tea Party and other protests, which the American Patriots collectively termed the "Intolerable" or "Coercive Acts".

In the Autumn of 1775 following the outbreak of the Revolutionary War and American incursions into Quebec, Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor became concerned about defenceless state of the Capital and his concerns were escalated with the beginning of American Privateers raids along the coast of Nova Scotia. Government legislated the raising of a mobile Militia force ready to meet enemy threats in any part of the province and to impose a tax to pay for it.

The officers commanding the militia units in King's County and the districts of Windsor, Truro, Onslow and Londonderry, were directed to make returns of what powder and ball were needed to give their men with 12 rounds each. Richard Upham looked after the distribution of ammunition at Cobequid.<sup>2</sup>

Rumours persisted of an American invasion by rebel attack from New England. Not that the New England Settlers in Colchester County had nothing to fear. Up until 1776 the settlers in Colchester County carried on considerable trade by water with the New England communities. They depended on Boston for their supplies as there existed no road to Halifax. When the Revolutionary War came, they were as much New Englanders as when they had come. The Townships of Onslow and Truro objected strenuously to the Militia and tax and petitioned the Governor and His Majesty's Council<sup>3</sup>. Authorities in Halifax were concerned with the loyalties of those from Colchester.

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<sup>2</sup> Murphy, J.M. Londonderry Heirs, page 105

<sup>3</sup> See Onslow Petitioners of 1776 in Planters and Grantees of Cobequid 176-1781, Vol 2. Page 791

Jonathan Eddy, a Massachusetts-born resident of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, where Fort Cumberland was located was a prime mover of Patriot agitation Eddy believed that with military assistance from the Thirteen Colonies, he might be able to bring down the strongly Loyalist administration of Nova Scotia. Early in 1776, Eddy went to Massachusetts in an attempt to interest political and military leaders there in supporting action in Nova Scotia, while his friend, John Allan worked to raise interest in Nova Scotia. Eddy returned empty-handed to Nova Scotia in June 1776. Eddy returned to Massachusetts in August. While the Second Continental Congress and George Washington would not authorize, fund, or otherwise support military activities in Nova Scotia, Eddy was able to convince the Massachusetts Provincial Congress to provide some material support (primarily muskets, ammunition, powder, and other military supplies) for an attempt on Fort Cumberland. Later that year he actually lay siege on Fort Cumberland but was easily defeated.

On April 14 1777 given the threat of a second attempt on Fort Cumberland His Majesty's Council called for the Inhabitants of the Townships of Truro, Onslow and Londonderry<sup>4</sup> Only four inhabitants agreed to take the oath of Allegiance including our Ancestor David Nelson.

## **1. David Nelson Abt. 1752 - 1788 Margaret Archibald 1775 - 1823**

The origin of earliest Nelson ancestor David Nelson is uncertain. Campbell and Smith claim that "Lancaster MA or Northern Ireland are equally viable but seem flawed and lack documentation<sup>5</sup>. Two possibilities have been suggested, North Ireland and Massachusetts. An approximate date for a birth is 1752.

On 24 March 1768, a list of persons that are to have lots laid out for them on the North side of Minas Basin between Londonderry, and the Grant passed to Benjamin Gerrish Esquire, Votes of Council Having passed Purpose, advised that David Nelson was to have one share of five hundred acres.<sup>6</sup>

On 3 January 1776, he was one of 64 signatories of a Petition of the Inhabitants of the Township of Truro opposed to new Provincial Militia Acts .

On 5 May 1777, his name appears on a list of names who refused to swear an oath of Allegiance. However, a notation in a different hand indicated that David Nelson took the oath along with three William Logan, Luke Upham and Nathan Upham. No action was ever taken against those who refused to take oath of Allegiance.

In 1777 the local government in Nova Scotia sent two magistrates to Truro and the surrounding Townships of Onslow and Londonderry to administer the oath of allegiance to the inhabitants. All but 4 male inhabitants refused. David Nelson was one of only four who swore allegiance. Whether this was due to his devotion to His Majesty or done for business reasons can only be speculated.

On 21 June 1770 he purchased 500 acres and 100 acres in Derry Village in Truro. NS. from Andrew McQuon [Andrew McCawan in 1765 Truro Grantees and 1788 Supreme Court Summons<sup>7</sup>]

A map entitled "David Nelsons Farm Containing 500 Acres Survey'd for him Oct 1, 1771 by Samuel Archibald Dep. Survey shows Nelson's land in Truro Township with various topographical features such as Salmon River...The Black Rock...The Black Rock Hole, very high bankes...A and McNutts House.<sup>8</sup> The author

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<sup>4</sup> See Cobequid Recusants of 1777 in Campbell and Smith 2011 Vol 2. P 175

<sup>5</sup> Campbell and Smith, Vol 2, page 773-775

<sup>6</sup> Campbell & Smith 2011 Vol 2 page 774 citing NSARM RG1 v.359 #35

<sup>7</sup> Campbell & Smith Volume 2 page 939-941

<sup>8</sup> Campbell & Smith (2011) p. 774 citing NSARM Maps F/230-1771 Colchester

believes this was the house that he took refuge in during a May long weekend solitary hike at the end of his first year in University. Other property purchased and grants to Nelson may be found in Campbell and Smith page 774 indicating that Nelson was a substantial land holder.

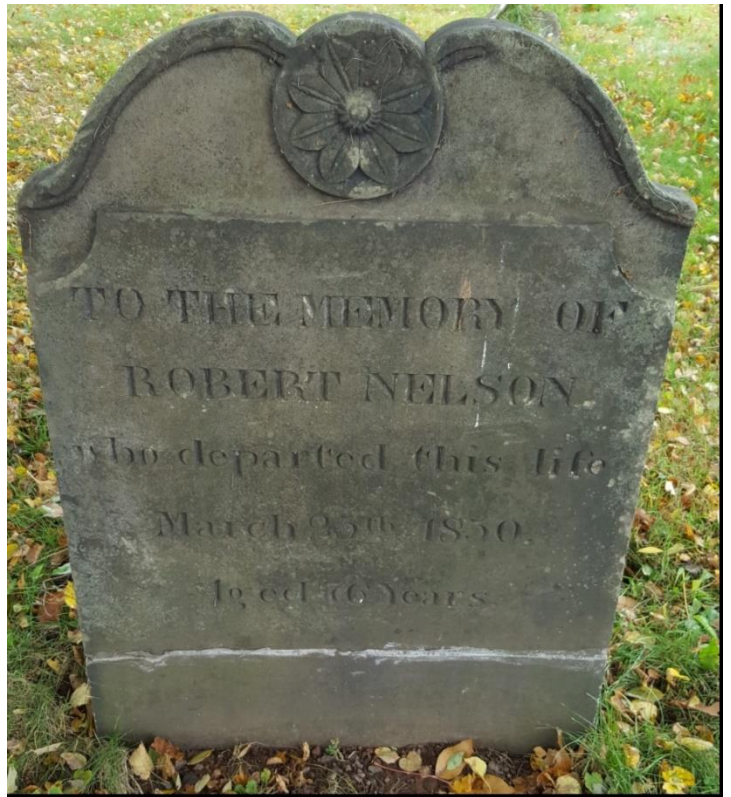
On 13 September 1770 David Nelson was one of 50 Subscribers Elders Freeholders and Other Inhabitants of the Township of Truro and Members of the Presbyterian Congregation who signed a Call to Rev. Daniel Cock to come to Truro<sup>9</sup>. At one time the author owned two communion tokens of this Reverent which he sold to Ira Peppard for \$5 a piece. On 21 Feb. 1771 David Neilson was one of 30 signatories and grantors of Truro's terms of remuneration for the services of Rev. Daniel Cock.<sup>10</sup>

David Nelson married Margaret Archibald 28 November 1775 at Truro Nova Scotia<sup>11</sup>. She was born 1743 in Londonderry New Hampshire, USA. She died in Truro 24 Jan 1823 at age 80<sup>12</sup>. His wife Margaret (Archibald) Nelson remarried within a year of David Nelson's death to Jeremiah Murphy by whom she had further issue.

Children of David Nelson and Margaret Archibald<sup>13</sup> include ,

i. Robert Nelson b. 24 Aug 1776 in Truro Township, Colchester, NS m. Lucilla Weatherby in 1822 Campbellton, NB, d. 25 Mar 1850 in Elliot River, Queens, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Old Protestant Burying Ground, Charlottetown, Queens County, Prince Edward Island. Robert and Lucilla had seven children:

- I. John Nelson b. 10 May 1823 Campbellton, New Brunswick, d 1888, m. Hannah Smith Moore 25 Nov 1850 at Dalhousie, New Brunswick
- II. Horatio Nelson 1825 Campbellton, New Brunswick,
- III. William Nelson 1828 Campbellton, New Brunswick
- IV. Timothy or Thomas Nelson, b. 1830 Campbellton, New Brunswick, d. 24 Mar 1891 Union, Northern Territory, Australia, m. Sisera Shakes
- V. Margaret Nelson b 1834
- VI. Alexander Nelson b. Aug 1834
- VII. James Nelson b. 1836



[www.findagrave.com/memorial/142320348/robert-nelson](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142320348/robert-nelson)

2. i. Samuel Nelson b. 15 March 1778 (See below)

ii. Martha Sarah Nelson b. 8 Dec 1779 in Truro Township, Colchester, NS<sup>14</sup>, m. John Fox 1809, d. 28 Oct

<sup>9</sup> Campbell & Smith, page 774

<sup>10</sup> Campbell & Smith page 774 citing NSARM Truro Town Records, NSARM MG\$, v.150

<sup>11</sup> TT, NSARM MG4 Vol.150

<sup>12</sup> Both birthdates calculated from age at date of death and death, NSARM MG4 vol. 150 Truro Township Book, p 112

<sup>13</sup> Register of Marriages Births & Truro, David Neilson & Margaret Archibald was married November 28<sup>th</sup> 1775. Robert Son of D<sup>o</sup> born Aug<sup>st</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1776. Samuel Son of D<sup>o</sup> born March 15<sup>th</sup> 1778. Martha Daughter of D<sup>o</sup> born December 8<sup>th</sup> 1779. John Son of D<sup>o</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup> 1782. David Son of D<sup>o</sup> born Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1785. Elizabeth Daughter of D<sup>o</sup> born March 6<sup>th</sup> 1787. This data was recorded by John Harris Truro Clerk, 1783-1790 [Nova Scotia Archives MG4 v 150]

<sup>14</sup> See footnote under children of David and Margaret Children above

1848 in Meaghers Grant, Nova Scotia<sup>15</sup>

- I. David Fox b. Middle Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, d. 19 Mar 1874 Bay City, Bay, Michigan, USA
- II. Robert Fox b. 1811 at Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, d. 1881
- III. Elizabeth Fox b. 05 Mar 1813 Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, d. 26 Feb 1877 in Penobscot County, Maine, USA
- IV. Margaret Fox b. 20 Apr 1815 Middle Musquodoboit, Halifax, Nova Scotia d. 20 Mar 1880 Burlington, Penobscot, Maine, USA
- V. Richard Fox 15 Sep 1815 Nova Scotia, d. 28 May 1882 Burlington, Penobscot, Maine, USA
- VI Mary Fox b. d. 21 Mar 1869
- VII. Janet Fox b. 1821 Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia
- VIII Sarah Fox b. 1823 Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia
- IX. William Fox b. 1825 Nova Scotia 25 Sep 1891 at Elderbank, Nova Scotia

iii. John Nelson b . 12 Mar 1782 in Truro Township<sup>16</sup>; m. Margaret Archibald (b. 1785 Musquodoboit, Halifax County, NS daughter of John Archibald 1st and Alice Moore). They had 8 children including,

- I. David Nelson Abt. 1803
- II. John Nelson b. 12 Feb 1805
- III. Nancy Nelson b. 1808,
- IV. Margaret Archibald Nelson
- Others unknown<sup>17</sup>

iv. David Nelson b . 22 January 1785 in Truro Township<sup>18</sup>,

v. Elizabeth Nelson b . 6 Mar 1787 in Truro Township, m. (1) Anthony Vaughan 1809, (2) James Dunbrack 1815, d. 28 Oct 1848 in Meaghers Grant, Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, she had several children by both husbands.

- I. Catherine Dunbrack b. 12 Feb 1812 at Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, Canada
- II. Sarah Dunbrack b. 1813 Musquodoboit Harbour, Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia d. 12 Jul 1896 at Marshall, Lyon, Minnesota, United States
- III. Mary Ann Dunbrack b. 1816, d. 05 Jul 1855 Leavenworth, Kansas, United States
- IV. Elizabeth Dunbrack b. 1820, d. 30 Jan 1873
- V. John Dunbrack b. 1822 d. 09 Sep 1888
- VI. Peter Dunbrack b. 1823 Meaghers Grant, Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- VII James Charles Dunbrack b. 1829 at Jeddore, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, d. 14 Jan 1898 at Meaghers Grant, Halifax, Halifax, Nova Scotia

David Nelson died intestate 28 August 1788 at Truro Nova Scotia.

## **2. Samuel Nelson 1778 – 1875 Mary Wilson 1786 - 1845**

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Nelson-11140>

Samuel Nelson, son of David and Margaret Nelson was born 15 March 1778 in Truro Township. Possibly same as Samuel Nelson and Mary Wilson who were issued Marriage bond on July 19 1809. His occupation was Cordwainer / saddler. He died on 7 May 1875 in Onslow, Colchester County. He is buried in Crossroad Cemetery Valley Nova Scotia, Colchester County. Samuel was blind the last years of his life and

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/132297019/martha-sarah-nelson>

<sup>16</sup> See footnote under children of David and Margaret Children above

<sup>17</sup> Wile (2003) p. 24

<sup>18</sup> See footnote under children of David and Margaret Children above

lived with his daughter Malinda Blackmore and her husband Richard.

Their children include,

3. i. Robert John Nelson, born 22 Jun 1810 (see below); m. Agnes (aka. Nancy) Hoar (daughter of David Hoar and Rebecca Smith) on 9 Jan 1831; d. 10 August 1887.
  - ii. Mary Ann Nelson b. 1818 in Onslow Township, Colchester County, NS, Canada; d. 14 Jan 1895 in Colchester County and buried in Crossroad Cemetery, Valley Colchester County, m. Christopher Patriquin (b. May 1812 in Tatamagouche son of David Patriquin and Catherine Perrin) abt. 1854. He already had three children by an earlier marriage to Maria Miller. They had three additional children,
    - I. Mary Elizabeth Patriquin 1854 at East Mountain, Colchester County
    - II. Bessie Patriquin 1857 at North River d. 12 Oct 1899
    - III. Willard Patriquin 1870 at North River, Colchester, Nova Scotia, Canada, d. 1908
  - iii. Margaret Malinda Nelson b. 25 Apr 1819 m. Richard Blackmore 20 Apr 1848 in Onslow, Colchester County.
    - I. Jost J Blackmore b. 1850 Onslow Township, Colchester County, NS, Canada
    - II. Maria F. Blackmore b. 1855 d. 25 Mar 1879 Onslow Township, Colchester County, NS, Canada
    - III. Hannah Jane Blackmore b. 03 Apr 1860 T Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, d. 1921
    - IV. Isabelle Slade Blackmore b. 07 Jan 1863 Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, Canada
    - V. William David Blackmore b. 24 Jun 1866 Truro, d. 09 Jun 1944 at Onslow, Colchester
  - iv. Unknown Nelson
  - v. Elizabeth Jane Nelson b. bat 1825; 1879 Wallace, Cumberland, Co., NS, m. James Albert DeBrisey Cove 13 Jul 1850, buried in River Philip United Cemetery, Cumberland



### 3. Robert John Nelson 1810 – 1887 Agnes “Nancy Hoar 1812 - 1896

Robert John Nelson, son of Samuel and Mary Nelson, was born 22 June 1810. probably in Colchester County Nova Scotia. He married Agnes (AKA Nancy) Hoar (daughter of David Hoar and Rebecca Smith) on 9 Jan 1831. They resided in East Mountain, Colchester County. His occupation was merchant/ Farmer/ Saddler. He died 10 August 1887. He is buried in Crossroad Cemetery Valley, Colchester County

Their children include,

- i. Samuel Scott Nelson b. 7 Feb 1831 m. (1) Mary May Bailey 12 Jun 1853; m. (2) Melissa Archibald, 3 April 1870; d. 1908 in Yazoo, MS, USA. Children of Samuel Scott Nelson and Mary Baily include,
  - I. Elizabeth J Nelson b. 18 Apr 1855 in Mobile, Alabama, m. Louis Lanpheir, d. 1930 New York, US
  - II. Robert Burnell Nelson b. 16 Aug 1857, d. 19 Nov 1858
  - III. Mary Catherine Nelson b. 15 Nov 1859, d. 23 Feb 1944 at Sarnia, Lambton, Ontario, Canada m. Thomas H Wilson 08 Sep 1875 at Acadia Mines
  - IV. Charles Samuel Nelson b. 15 Dec 1863, d. 1898, Mississippi, USA?
  - V. John Ford Nelson b. 23 Apr 1865, d. 1933
  - VI. Leonidas Edward Nelson b. 30 Jul 1867, d. 1868

- ii. Mary Nelson b. 24 Sep 1832 in East Mountain, Colchester County, Nova Scotia; m. Jacob Slack; d. 28 May 1888 in East Mountain, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. Children of Mary Nelson and Jacob Slack,
  - I. Nancy Ann Slack b. 04 Feb 1855 d. 17 Nov 1929 Scotch Village, Windsor, Hants Co., Nova Scotia, Canada m. George Manning Knowles 11 Jul 1895 East Mountain, Colchester County
  - II. William Slack b. 1857 Nova Scotia
  - III. Charles Spurgeon "Purdy" Slack b. 19 Jul 1859 East Mountain, Colchester, Nova Scotia, d. 29 Sep 1933 at Trenton, Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada, m. Eliza Bezanson 01 Nov 1893 Manganese Mine, Colchester County
  - IV. Rebecca Angeline Slack b. 30 Jun 1861 at Truro, d. 03 Apr 1912 Armstrong, BC, m. Hance Baker McElhinney 17 Mar 1898 at Truro, NS
  - V. John Slack b. 1863 in Nova Scotia
  - VI. David Nelson Slack b. 01 Nov 1865 at East Mountain, Colchester, Nova Scotia, d. 27 Oct 1947 Windsor, Hants, Nova Scotia,
  - VII. Mary Slack b. 1868 m. Howard Oliver
- iii. David Nelson b. 16 Nov 1834 in East Mountain, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, m. Eliza Jane Bailey; d. 18 June 1912 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA
- iv. Robert Nelson, Jr. B. 20 Nov 1836; m. Frances Harriet Lynds; d. 21 April 1913.
- v. John Nelson b. 17 Feb 1839; m. Elizabeth Slack on 28 Apr 1865 in Truro, NS, d. 10 February 1893 at Truro, NS.
- 4. vi. Rebecca Nelson b. 4 Apr 1840 See below; m. James Clifford 27 May 1863; d. 18 March 1924. See below

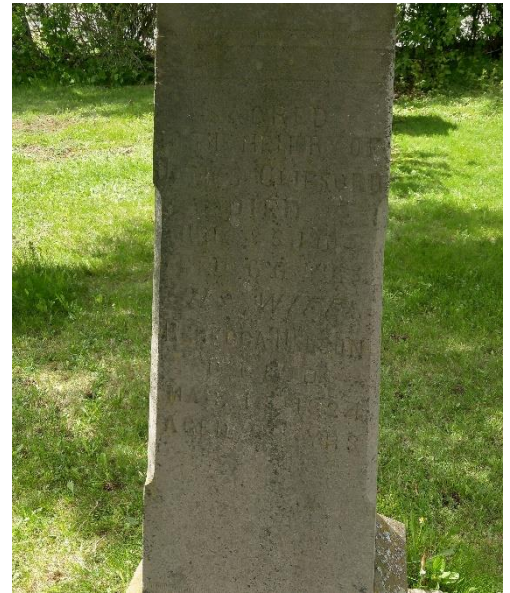
#### **4. Rebecca Nelson 1841 – 1924 James Clifford 1838 - 1905**

Rebecca Nelson, daughter of Robert John and Agnes Nelson, was born in Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia on 4 April 1841. She married James Clifford on 27 May 1863 in Truro. The family faced one tragedy after another. 1878 brought the death of David and Noble of diphtheria. Two girls who looked after others with TB also succumbed in 1901-02. Another child was born stillborn. Only 4, Mary, Nettie, Benjamin Scott, and Beatrice lived long enough to marry and leave offspring. Their children include,

- i. Infant Clifford, a stillborn, evidence for the existence of this child is sketchy
- ii. Mary Alice Clifford b. 1863 in Manganese Mines, Colchester County, N.S. Canada, m. John Henry Archibald on 02 Sep 1889 in East Mountain Colchester County, NS; d. 15 April 1899 in Manganese Mines. They had two children,
  - I. Maynard Brown Archibald b. 26 Jan 1891 in Manganese Mines, Colchester County, N.S. Canada, m. Helen McGregor Dustan on 21 Dec 1921 in Windsor Nova Scotia, d. 09 Jul 1953 in Halifax, NS
  - II. Rebecca Dell Archibald b. 09 Apr 1892 in Manganese Mines, m. Frederick Johnson on 15 Dec 1915 at Valley, Colchester County, NS, d. 02 May 1957 in Truro, NS.
- iii. David Lorenzo Clifford b. 1868, d. 29 May 1878 in East Mountain, Age 12, died of Diphtheria
- iv. Nanette known as Nettie Clifford b. 1869, Married Howard Mills (b. 1854), d. 25 May 1896 and buried Acadia Mines. They had two children,
  - I. Faye Christine Mills in 30 Dec 1888 d. 26 Jul 1981 in Newton, Massachusetts
  - II. Max Howard Mills b. 21 May 1894 in Londonderry, NS, d. Feb 1979 in Magna, Salt Lake, Utah, USA
- v. Benjamin Scott Clifford b. 13 Aug 1871 in Brookside, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, m. Lilly Taylor on 27 Dec 1899 in home of Bride, Brookside, d. 3 Jul 1965 in Truro, NS. They had two children,
  - I. Mrytle Mae Clifford b. 23 Sep 1900 in Brookside, m. Roy Vance d. Bef. Nov. 1991
  - II. Matthew Lloyd Clifford b. Nov 1909 m. Cora Lavenia Anderson 10 Nov 1932 at Valley, Colchester



- County, d. 18 Aug 1979 in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada
- vi. James William Clifford b. 1873, East Mountain Colchester County, NS; m Ethel May McNutt (b. Feb 3, 1884) Brookside (daughter of William McNutt and Mary B. McNutt known as May, moved off to Chase BC. D.21 May 1946
- vii. Noble Clifford b.1876, East Mountain, d.1878 died of Diphtheria d. 26 May 1878 East Mountain, age 1 yr.10 Months
- viii. Lena M. Clifford b.1879 East Mountain, d 1901 died of TB 27 Feb 1901 age 21 yrs.
- ix. Sarah Pearl Clifford (a.k.a. Sadie) b. 25 June 1882 East Mountain, d. 20 Jan 1902 in East Mountain, died of TB age 19 yrs.
- x. Beatrice Clifford b. 16 February 1887 in East Mountain, m. William Rankin Retson, 25 December 1905, d 16 Sep 1958. They had 4 children
- I. Mary Doris Retson b. 19 Aug 1909 in Bible Hill, Colchester County, NS, m. Lawrence Thomas Hancock on 29 Jun 1933 at 101 Ryland Ave, Bible Hill, d. 31 Oct 2008 in Truro, NS.
- II. George Clifford Retson b. 19 Dec 1912 in Truro, NS, m.
- III. Rebecca Jean Retson 18 Nov 1917 in Bible Hill, m. William Angus Jenkins on 1 Jul 1943 in Truro, NS
- IV. William Armour Bateman Retson, b. 16 Mar 1925 in Bible Hill, m. (1) Eldora Poirier (2) Clara Emma Parlee



Rebecca, on her mother's side came from a long line of puritans known for their great purity or strictness of life and religious principles. On her father's side, her great Grandfather, David Nelson in 1777 was one of only 4 residents of Truro, Nova Scotia who swore allegiance to George III. She lived with her daughter Beatrice (Clifford) Retson the last few years of her life on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agriculture College Campus. She died 18 March 1924. She is buried at the Crossroads Cemetery Valley, Colchester County<sup>19</sup>

## Appendices

## Abbreviations

abt.	About	aka.	also known as	b.	born	d.	died	m.	married
MA	Massachusetts	NB	New Brunswick	NEHGR	New England Historical and Genealogical Register	NS	Nova Scotia	NSARM	Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management
		p.	page	PEI	Prince Edward Island	TT	Truro Township		
	Book, Location, NSARM Vol. 150	yr.	year	yrs.	Years	US	United States		

## Resources

- Campbell, Carol, The Cobequid Townships, Truro, Onslow, Londonderry 1760 – 1780, Truro: Colchester Historical Museum 1995
- Campbell, Carol and James F. Smith, Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761-1780, Volume 1 (A-K), Volume 2 (l-Z) Truro: Colchester Historical Society, 2011 (Excellent genealogy, historical and geography resource for Colchester County)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/190748789/rebecca-clifford>

Campbell, Carol and James F. Smith, *Necessaries and Sufficiencies: Planter Society in Londonderry, Onslow and Truro Townships, 1761-1780*, Sydney, NS: Cape Breton University Press, 2011 (An excellent resource for both history and culture of this period of Nova Scotia  
Creighton, S.F *Colchester County: A Pictorial History*  
Longworth, Israel *History of Colchester County, Nova Scotia*, Truro: Bob and Ada Mingo, 1989

Miller, Thomas, *Historical and Genealogical Record of the First Settlers of Colchester, down to the present time*, compiled the most authentic sources, Halifax, 1873, (Facsimile edition printed by Mika Studio, Belleville, Ontario, available at <http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/miller/Miller.pdf> )  
Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management, Halifax, NS formerly PANS (currently abbreviated NSARM)  
Murphy, J.M, *The Londonderry Heirs*, 1976 (Excellent resource for the relevant history of Ireland and Colchester County, available from Colchester Historical Society)  
Nelson, Joan *Family of Robert John Nelson, Nelson Family File*, Colchester Historical Museum, Archives  
Punch, Terrance M. *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia*, Halifax: Nimbus Publishing 1998  
Wile, Jane, *The Descendants of Samuel & Eleanor Taylor*, December 2003

## **Websites Resources**


<https://novascotia.ca/archives/townships/exploring.asp> Link to Nova Scotia Archives description of Township Records. The NS Archives holds original township books for six New England Planter communities – Cornwallis, Falmouth, Liverpool, Truro, Onslow and Yarmouth. See also  
<https://novascotia.ca/archives/townships/planters.asp> for more extensive information and  
<https://novascotia.ca/archives/townships/resultsx.asp?Search=Truro> for selective items on Truro on line and  
<https://novascotia.ca/archives/townships/archives.asp?ID=16> for particular items the most significant of which are Truro Township, Colchester County, 3 reels of microfilm: 15057, 15058, 16917.  
Births: 1770-1837, Marriages: 1770-1837, Deaths: 1770-1837, Minutes of Meetings: 1770-1824 and Church Records, Reference: MG 4 vol. 150 and 150a  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Colchester County, Nova Scotia Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Colchester_County,_Nova_Scotia_Genealogy) Familysearch Wiki guide which provides useful links  
<https://www.colchester.ca/communities-cc> provides information on surrounding communities.

# Relationship of Nelsons to the Author


4th great grandfather

	<b>David Nelson</b> b: Abt 1752 Northern Ireland d: 28 Aug 1788 Truro Township, Colchester Coun
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3rd great grandfather

	<b>Samuel D. Nelson</b> b: 15 Mar 1778 Truro Township, Colchester Coun d: 07 May 1875 Onslow, Colchester County, N.S.
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2nd great grandfather

	<b>Robert John Nelson</b> b: 22 Jun 1810 Colchester County, NS d: 10 Aug 1887 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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Great grandmother

	<b>Rebecca Nelson</b> b: 04 Apr 1841 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d: 18 Mar 1924 Salmon River, Colchester County,
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Paternal grandmother

	<b>Beatrice Mary Clifford</b> b: 16 Feb 1887 Brookside, Colchester County, N. d: 16 Sep 1958 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Father

	<b>George Clifford Retson</b> b: 19 Dec 1912 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti d: 17 Feb 1997 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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<p>James C. Retson The Author</p>
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