



This newsletter may interest in the genealogy and in particular those related to persons related directly or indirectly to Grace and Clifford Retson.

Maternal Side:

## Our Spicer Ancestors

My genealogy website is located at <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html>  
On the left side you will see a list of Family Roots.

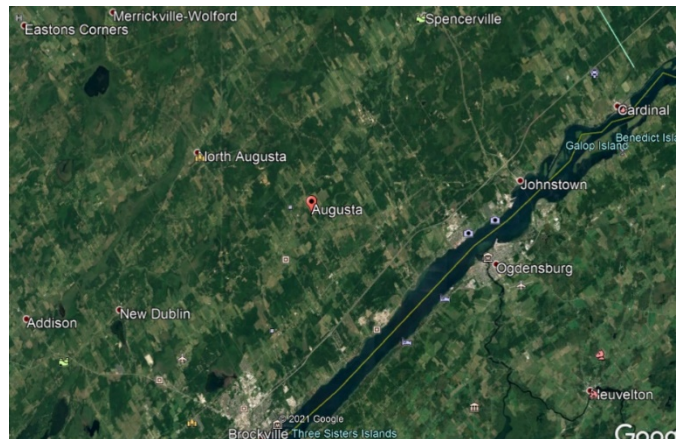
Research on this family

root was delayed several years due to my inability to move from the nickname of Abbie in Abigail Almeda Spicer to her formal name Abigail where many additional records were found. I appreciate the research and assistance of the Perrin sisters, Bonnie Gaylord and Patricia MacKay over the years, but in particular in braking the brick wall of Abigail Spicer.

In the 2020s I started to increase my research on Spicer descendants as a result of the ever increasing Spicer descendants' DNA cousins. I have added at least 100 additional descendants since the beginning of 2020. Today some of that research may be found at <http://www.retson.ca/spicer.pdf>. I am slowly discovering many of their descendants so if you don't see your roots here check at <http://www.retson.ca/spicerdescendants.pdf>

The Spicers first came to Canada as United Empire Loyalist from the Mohawk Valley area sometime after 1783. The Mohawk Valley is located in the U.S. state of New York. In the area surrounding the Mohawk River, sandwiched between the Adirondack Mountains and Catskill Mountains.

Ezekiel served with the militia, the Loyal Rangers with his two sons Ezekiel and Daniel from 1781 to 1783 and then moved to Riviere Du Chene, and Fort St. John's. On November 24, instructions were sent from headquarters in Quebec City to disband the regiments in lower Quebec on December 24, 1783 (including the Loyal Rangers). The veterans and their families were permitted lodging and provisions for the winter. Crowding, measles and smallpox became a problem. The preliminary articles of peace with the United States were signed November 30, 1783. Following the war, they were not welcomed in their homeland so they could not return. Many of the loyalists were settled in eight townships were laid out beside the upper St. Lawrence. Ezekiel Spicer came to Johnstown and his son Daniel to Augusta Township. Some of their petitions for land can be seen at Library and Archives Canada.



William Spicer, son of Daniel Spicer and Phoebe Martin was born in Augusta Township in 1787. He married Sophia Mosher in 1829 in Augusta, Ontario, Canada. She was born in Ontario in 18 Apr 1800 and died on her birthday on 18 May 1880 in Augusta, Ontario. Their son Robert Nicholson Spicer born August 11 1832, married Elizabeth Jane Perrin on June 2 1857 in Maynard, Ontario and died November 29 1904 in Smith Falls, Ontario. His wife died April 8, 1915. [See picture below]. Robert Nicholson Spicer and Elizabeth Jane Perrin daughter, Abigail Almeda Spicer was born September 13 1860 in Prescott, Ontario, married Edward Atkinson on December 3 1879 in Maynard, Ontario and died July 10 1940 in Merrickville, Ontario. She was my longstanding brick wall.

Robert Nicholson Spicer 1832 – 1904



*Photo Courtesy of Robert Ackney*

Elizabeth Jane Perrin 1840 – 1915



*Photo Courtesy of Robert Ackney*

Abigail Almeda Spicer, married Edward Atkinson on 3 December 1879 in Maynard, Ontario.

Paternal Side

### **Our Hamilton Ancestors**

Work is continuing on the Hamilton line on our Paternal side. The Hamilton name of ancestor come into play with the marriage of Jean or Jane Hamilton to John Retson son of John Retson and Ann Bateman on 14 Mar 1834 at Ayr, Parish of Sorn. Scotland. Others researching this line have gone further back then I am comfortable confirming to date.

### **Jane “Jean” Hamilton 1811 – 1886 and John Retson 1809 - 1891**

Jean Hamilton, daughter William and Margaret (Templeton) Hamilton, was born in 27 Aug 1811 in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland. From the Old Parish Records her baptismal record the christening event as occurring on September 8 1811 at Mauchline, Scotland, her father as William Hamilton and mother as Margaret Templeton

John Retson was born about Aug 1809 in West Kendal, Westmoreland, England. They married in Sorn, Ayrshire County Scotland on March 14 1834.



Sorn is a small village in East Ayrshire, Scotland. It is situated on the River Ayr. My Wife and two children visited this small quaint village in 2006. It has a population somewhere between 400 to 500. a pub, a church, (See below), a general store, a motorbike shop and a television shop. We were invited to see the inside of the church by the care taker who suggested we also go to the television shop. At the television shop we met a distant relative Billy Gibson who was just happened to be coming to

collect his mail. He invited us to his home and provided us with a computer printout of many Retson relatives and research provided by a Nana Clarke. He informed us that every male in his family had taken the middle name of Retson in gratitude for the Retsons that had taken in the family on the death of the first Gibson father who died on Christmas day. I was never able to conform this as we lost contact with Billie and believed he has since passed away.

Jean or Jan died at Lintmill, Sorn, Ayrshire on 22 Apr 1886. John Retson He died on Nov 11, 1891 in Low Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland.



*Missing from picture Roberta Retson who took the photo*

3rd great grandfather

	<b>William Hamilton</b>
	b: 19 Dec 1785
	Elderholm, Parish of Sorn, Ayrshir
	d:

2nd great grandmother

	<b>Jean Hamilton</b>
	b: 27 Aug 1811
	Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland
	d: 22 Apr 1886 Lintmill, Sorn, Ayrshire

Great grandfather

	<b>George Retson</b>
	b: 09 May 1848
	Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
	d: 01 Dec 1910 Gardrum Farm, Fenwick, Scotlan

Paternal grandfather

	<b>William Rankin Retson</b>
	b: 22 Feb 1884
	Townhead, Fenwick, Ayrshire, Sc
	d: 14 Jul 1975 Bible Hill, Colchester County, Nov

Father

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

Self

	<b>James Clifford Retson</b>
	b: 28 Jul 1948
	Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
	d:

Their children included,

- i. Margaret Retson b. 14 May 1834 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Alexander Thomson 3 Jul 1863 Woodhead of Gilmiln, Sorn; d. 16 Jan 1883 Thomsons land, Baillieston, Old Monkland, Lanark
- ii. Anne Retson b. 5 Sep 1836 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. William Hendry Reid, 13 Apr 1855, Lintmill, Sorn, Catrine; d. 24 Nov 1884 St Cuthbert St., Catrine
- iii. Jane Retson b. c. 1839 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Alexander Fraser Hamilton, 23 Mar 1868, Lintmill, Sorn, Ayr, Scotland; d. 05 Aug 1873 at age 34 at 30 Townholm, Kilmarnock.
- iv. John Retson b. 5 Feb 1841 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. (1) Jane P. Russell 13 Apr 1866 High Church, Paisley, Renfrew, Scotland; m (2) Agnes Craig 09 Aug 1883 Paisley d. 05 Jun 1901 Auldon, New Sneddon, Paisley
- v. William Retson b. 2 Nov 1843 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Elizabeth Bradley 27 Jul 1866 Kirkmichael, Ayr; d. 13 Oct 1900 Halliday Hill, Dalton, Dumfriesshire.
- vi. James Retson b. 12 Dec 1845 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Mary Anne Cunningham, daughter of Alexander Cunningham & Mary Fisher 5 June 1868 in West-Town, Sorn, Ayrshire;
- vii. George Retson b. 6 Apr 1848 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Mary McManus, 31 Dec 1871 d. 1 Dec 1910
- viii. Janet Retson b. 4 Dec 1850 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. William Hendry , 5 Jun 1871 Sorn Parish; d. 1 Apr 1909 50 East St. Darvel, Ayr
- ix. Anne Thomas Bateman Retson b. 9 Jun 1852, in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Agnes Jamieson 10 Dec 1879, Lintmill, Sorn Parish; d. 21 Jul 1921 Partick, Glasgow, Lanark
- x. Agnes Dodds Retson b. 29 Mar 1854 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. 4 Nov. 1923
- xi. Mary Retson b. 26 Feb 1857, in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Robert Murdoch Gebbie 31 Jul 1879 Lintmill, Sorn

Prior to Jean Hamilton we have found a William Hamilton, son of James and Sarah Hamilton born on 19 December 1785 in Elderholm, Parish of Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. He married Margaret Templeton. 31 May 1807 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was born on 14 May 1780 at Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, Scotland. She died 20 Jun 1866 in Sorn. Scotland. In addition to Jean, they had a son William Hamilton born July 30 1809 Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland.

I also believe that Jean's grandfather was James Hamilton born at Berryhills, Sorn, Scotland on December 27 1758. He died at New Street, Sorn on 31 Dec 1843. He married Sarah Howat. on Aug 05, 1785 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was born on Dec 27, 1758 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. They had the following children:

- i. William Hamilton b. 19 Dec 1785 in Elderholm, Parish of Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. D. ? m. Margaret Templeton on 31 May 1807 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland.
- ii. Andrew Hamilton b. 22 Jul 1787, m. Marion Kirkland on 29 Jul 1810 in Sorn, Ayr, Scotland, d. 29 Nov 1852 at Beansburn, By Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland
- iii. James Hamilton b. 13 Jun 1789, m. Jean Ferguson, d. 12 Apr 1868 Ayr, Scotland
- iv. Christina Hamilton b. 1794 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, m. Samuel Begg 07 Apr 1811 at Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, d.
- v. David Hamilton 1799
- vi. Matthew Hamilton 26 Jul 1801

Research on this file is ongoing and I will return to it at a later date. Further details are provided at <http://retson.ca/hamilton.pdf> and <http://retson.ca/hamiltondescendants.pdf>.

Mauchline became something of a stronghold for the Covenanter movement. Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet came to live on the outskirts of the village at Mossgiel farm in 1784. Many of his poems are believed to have been written whilst he was there. Many of his poems were directed towards the perceived hypocrisy of the Church. The Church was particularly fanatical in Mauchline, which conflicted with the liberal attitude of Burns and his friends.

Additions to <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html> since March 1, 2020

Hamilton	<a href="https://www.retson.ca/hamilton.pdf">https://www.retson.ca/hamilton.pdf</a>
Spicer	<a href="https://www.retson.ca/spicer.pdf">https://www.retson.ca/spicer.pdf</a>
Martin	<a href="https://www.retson.ca/martin.pdf">https://www.retson.ca/martin.pdf</a>
Preston	<a href="http://www.retson.ca/martinpreston.pdf">http://www.retson.ca/martinpreston.pdf</a>
Retson	<a href="http://retson.ca/retson.pdf">http://retson.ca/retson.pdf</a>
Irish Ancestors	<a href="http://www.retson.ca/SomeofmyancestorswereIrish.pdf">http://www.retson.ca/SomeofmyancestorswereIrish.pdf</a>
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