



April 15 2022

Retson Genealogy Newsletter

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

Some of Our Ancestors were Refugees

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

From our perspective of April 2020 we are witnessing the greatest mass exodus of refugees from Ukraine as a result of the unprovoked War by Russians and unconscionable bombing of civilians contrary to international laws of war. In Canada we are waiting expectantly upon the first arrivals of either temporary or permanent refugees. It is expected that they will be well received due to the continuous news coverage of their treatment by the Russians in Ukraine and the fact that so many of their country men have already settled in Canada. Most Canadians are aware that we are a nation of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants but not so well known is that we also have a fair number of refugees and descendants of immigrants.

The first refugees to North America among our ancestors were refugees from persecution by the State of England and in particular Archbishop Laud appointed by Charles 1. When Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church he established the Church of England, often referred to as the Anglican Church. All English citizens were required to join the church and to contribute to its support. There were those who felt that the Anglican Church was too much like the Roman Catholic Church and they wished to simplify or purify the church from within. This group became known as Dissenters or Puritans. Eventually some within the Church felt they had no alternative but to leave the Church. They wished to belong to a free church where the people were the church, where they could choose their own ministers and ministers and where they were answerable only to God. This group became known as Separatists.

James 1, successor to Elizabeth 1 Henry's daughter was not impressed with this new found democratic spirit and subscribed to the entrenched doctrine of the divine right of Kings. His response:

If they apply democracy in the church they will want to practice it in government...I will make them conform or harry them out of the land!

Years of persecution in England, including fines and imprisonments drove them to flee to the more tolerant climate of Holland where they stayed for 12 years. There they struggled with language barriers, differences in culture and lifestyles, poverty from low paying jobs (due to local laws depriving them of higher opportunities), no homes of their own no church buildings to call their own. After 12 years they departed Holland for North America. Our Ancestors Francis Cooke his son John Cooke and his future father-in-law arrived in North America on board the Mayflower.

In subsequent years many of our ancestors following continued persecution of the puritans left for religious freedom including Joanna Hoare who emigrated to New England with 5 children in the early 1640s, claiming,

We were of the people called by their revilers Puritans, to whom civil liberty, sound learning, and religion were very dear. The times were treubious in England and the hands of prices and prelates were heavy upon God's people. My thoughts were turned to the new England, where precious Mr. John Harvard had

just lighted that little candle which has since throws its beams so far, where there seems a providential refuge for those who desired a church without a bishop and a state without a king

Other of our Catholic and Presbyterian ancestors left for North America during the 17th and 18th century with mixed motivations of religious freedom and prospects for a better economic future.

The second wave of ancestral refugees followed the War of Independence and entered Canada to Lower Canada (Now Quebec) as American refugees. Our ancestors, Ezekiel Spicer and family was located at Fort Edwards (near Johnstown). when the revolution broke out. In late March 1780, Johnson's agents returned to Quebec with information that the loyalist there were suffering severe persecution. They were also threatened with being forced to serve with the rebels in the coming May. Those who refused would be sent to Albany in irons, their houses confiscated, and their real and personal property sold for the use of Congress. Forced service meant acting against their fellow loyalist; bringing them in for examination, taking their cattle, sheep and hogs, and at times destroying their were buildings. The loyalist asked for a pilot to be sent to lead them to Quebec, but Johnson instead proposed an expedition to Johntown , which would collect the threatened loyalist and punish local rebels. His expedition was a marked success. Ezekiel and his two sons joined the Loyalist unit known as the "Loyal Rangers" and his family relocated to Quebec.

A copy of a rebel newspaper published in Fishkill, New York on April 17 arrived in Quebec making it clear the loyalist were not welcomed home :

The article of giving the Renegadoes or Tories a temporary residence among us is a bitter ingredient in this cup of happiness, and I am confidant from the well known characters of our worthy commissioners they would never have consented to it had thee been any other mode to have avoided it but by the calamitous war, and even this, I doubt not would have been preferred by those Gentleman had they put entire confidence in your Spirit, Virtue and Patriotism believing that these would effectually prevent what they could not. Vizt. The Return of those abominable Wretches, those Robbers, Murderers and Incendiaries even to come near us, no method is left us to prevent this great Calamity but by a general Association to render their Situation by every means in our power so unhappy that they will prefer a voluntary Banishment to the proposed return, let it be a Crime abhorr'd by Nature to have any communication with them -
-Like Cain of old they will carry their mark on their foreheads, let them be avoided like persons Contaminated by the most deadly contagion and remain as their just demerits as Vagabonds on The face of the Earth

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. The family were shortly after relocated to Royal Township 7 subsequently renamed Augusta.

Our latest refugees to Canada from Syria and Ukraine differ little from our American Ancestors. Many were forced to leave merely to survive. Many lost their property and had to start again from scratch. Many longed to return to their homeland until their dying days and it was only their children identified with the new Country to which they came as refugees.

One of the characteristic of an individual, family or community is the degree to which it holds a nationalistic sentiment. What is meant by nationalism? Nationalism is an ideology that emphasizes loyalty, devotion, or allegiance to a nation or nation-state and holds that such obligations outweigh other individual or group

interests. What encourages nationalism. Generally, a community becomes more nationalistic when it is attacked or threatened by a foreign power or similarly its homeland or country of origin is threatened.

Canadians traveling abroad are proud of their heritage and wear their Canadian flags as much to indicate that they are not Americans, as to indicate they are Canadians. As a broad statement, Canadians are not perceived to be particularly nationalistic. We had our own distinctive Canadian flag only as late as 1964. "O Canada", our national anthem, was originally commissioned by Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Théodore Robitaille for the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony. Calixa Lavallée composed the music, after which, words were written by the poet and judge Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The original lyrics were in French and an English translation published in 1906. Multiple English versions ensued, with Robert Stanley Weir's version in 1908 gaining the most popularity, eventually serving as the basis for the official lyrics enacted by Parliament. These lyrics have been revised three times, most recently when An Act to amend the National Anthem Act (gender) was enacted in 2018. At events such as the Olympics, many Canadians continue to sing the version they learned as children.

The French lyrics remain unaltered. "O Canada" had served as a de facto national anthem since 1939, officially becoming the country's national anthem in 1980 when Canada's National Anthem Act received royal assent and became effective on July 1 as part of that year's Dominion Day (today's Canada Day) celebrations.

Pro-American Early Ancestors

Our earliest ancestors to Canada are often described as Scotch-Irish and emigrated from what was still British North America - south of what is today is United States. However of the earliest ancestral families, Archibalds, Lynde (subsequently Lynds) and Hoar(e)s, only the Archibalds were Scotch-Irish. The other two families emigrated from England.

Samuel Archibald was actually born in Northern Ireland but emigrated with his parents and older brother David within a year of his birth. His wife was also of Northern Irish stock, from the same County of Londonderry as the Archibalds, but was actually born in America. The mistreatment of Catholic Ireland is popularly well known in North America but Presbyterian in Ireland fare little better. The power base in Ireland was the Anglicans and there was little love lost on the other denominations. The Hoares had been persecuted by the establishment in England, particularly Archbishop Laud. The matriarch Joanna Hoare indicated her family left their homeland "seeking a church without a Bishop and a state without a King". In summary, our early ancestors bore little sympathy for the British authorities.

In Nova Scotia, particularly during the War of Independence, our ancestors were definitely pro-American and Anti-British. Within 50 years the Anti-British sentiment had disappeared and like the rest of Canada our ancestors became loyal to the crown.

Canada, as an independent Country is relatively new. We celebrated our birth as a National state as of July 1 1867. The Statute of Westminster passed on 11 December 1931, increased the sovereignty of Canada from the United Kingdom. The statute removed nearly all of the British parliament's authority to legislate for Canada making Canada largely a sovereign nations in their own right. Finally in 1982 by The Constitution Act, 1982, Canada achieved full independence by allowing the country to change its Constitution without approval from Britain. It also enshrined the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Canada's Constitution, the highest law of the land. Canada has generally not been a nation that celebrates its history or shown a great deal of nationalism. A number of reasons have been suggested for this lack of enthusiasm. One reason is that we lack a dramatic breakaway revolution to establish our independent status no Declaration of independence, no Bastille day no

battle. Another reason given is our two nations (French-English) composition.) Another view is that because of our high immigrant to long term natives we have yet developed a stabilized National identity.

Until the First world war Nationalism was never a strong factor in the country. Commencing with the Boer War and continuing to at least the end of World War 2 the Country stood for King and Country. Canada has been and continues to be a land of immigrants. Many Canadians continue too have divided sympathies between their homeland and their adopted Canada. Canada has been a land of immigrants since the first European colonizers



of the 16th century, a trend that continues today. Canada's appeal as an immigration destination has been increasing over the past two decades, with a total of 226,203 people immigrating to the country between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This figure is a decrease from 2018-2019, when about 313,601 immigrants came to Canada, but is much more than the estimated 199,170 immigrants arriving in 2002-2003. This is one of the highest rates per population of any country in the world.¹ As of 2020, there were just above eight million immigrants with permanent residence living in Canada - roughly 21.5 percent of the total Canadian Population.



These two pictures were taken on Australia day. These two young ladies have dual citizenship Australia and Canadian. Unless the laws of Canada

change or they choose to reject their Canadian citizenship they will maintain the dual status all their lives. There are more than 2.8 millions of Canadians living abroad – a figure eclipsing the population of most Canadian provinces. Parliament passed a Liberal bill in 2018 saying all Canadians abroad have the right to vote – a right which the Supreme Court then confirmed in 2019. That bill revoked a previous policy which limited voting rights to Canadians who have been abroad for less than five years, although that had been only loosely enforced until the Harper Conservative government made it a firm policy The new law made a difference in the 2019 election when 34,144 Canadians from abroad voted, out of an international register of about 55,000 electors.

Additions to <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html> since May 1 2022

February Newsletter	https://www.retson.ca/retsongenealogynewsletterfeb2022.pdf
March Newsletter	https://www.retson.ca/retsongenealogynewslettermar202.pdf
Our Spicer Ancestors	http://www.retson.ca/spicer.pdf
Our Warren Ancestors	https://www.retson.ca/warren.pdf

This newsletter was sent to individuals who have expressed an interest in this genealogy at some time. If you do not wish to receive future updates, please email me at jretson@shaw.ca and indicate so.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/443063/number-of-immigrants-in-canada/>