



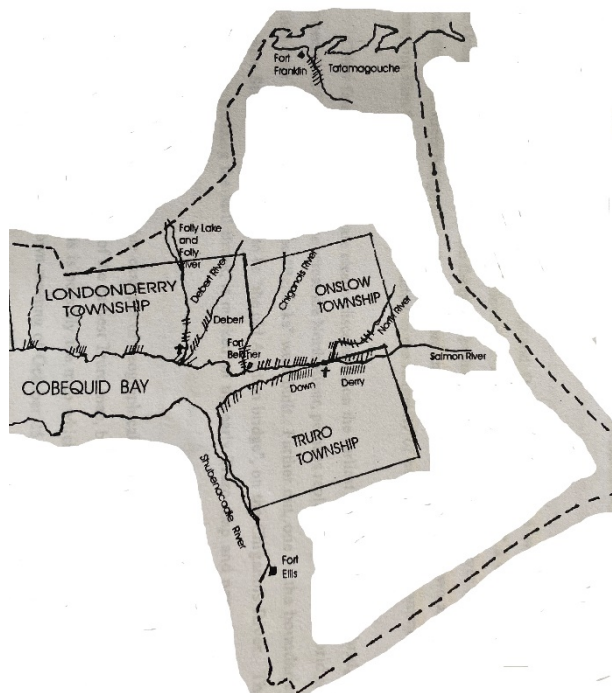
This newsletter may interest in the genealogy and in particular those related to persons related directly or indirectly to Grace and Clifford Retson.

## Archibalds in the Early Truro Township

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

Our earliest ancestors in Nova Scotia were the Archibalds. Our Ancestor John Archibald born about 1691 in Ireland emigrated to New Hampshire, United States about 1719 due to the inferior position enjoyed by Presbyterians in Ireland in the early 1700s. He died in Londonderry New Hampshire on 10 Aug 1751. Many of his children including our direct ancestor Samuel arrived in Nova Scotia in either the late 1750s or early 1760s.

John and Margaret had the following children,



i. David Archibald, b. 20 September 1717 Maghera, Londonderry, County, Ireland, married Elizabeth Elliott (born 10 Jun 1720 in Ireland) in Ireland, 19 May 1741 and died Nov 8, 1797 Truro Township, Colchester, NS. At 80 years.

2. ii. Samuel Archibald, b 1719 in Maghera, Londonderry, Ireland m. Eleanor Taylor in 1743 in East Derry NH, d. July 15, 1774 in Truro, NS (See below) at a relatively young age of 55 years.

iii. Robert Archibald, b. 15 May 1722 /1723 in Londonderry, NH, USA , m. Ann Boyd, d. 27 Dec 1776 Londonderry , New Hampshire.

iv. Eleanor Archibald, b. 5 June 1724 in Londonderry, NH, USA Married William James Fisher (b. 1716 in Londonderry, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA) in Londonderry, NH, USA in 1743, d. Oct 13, 1791 Truro Township, Colchester, NS,

v. Elizabeth Archibald, b. 20 June 1726/27 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. Matthew Taylor (b. in Nutfield, Londonderry, New Hampshire on 30 Oct 1727, brother of Eleanor Taylor who married Samuel Archibald see above) abt 1750 in Londonderry, NH, USA. d. in St. Mary's Guysborough, NS in Feb 4, 1809.

vi. John Archibald, b. 25 January 1729-30 in wife unknown, Londonderry, NH, USA, d Oct 11, 1828

vii. James Archibald, b. 25 January 1731/32 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. Rebecca Morrison in Chester N.S. about 1757 d. in Truro, Colchester, NS, Bet. 27 Jan-08 Mar 1785

viii. Thomas Archibald, b. 1733 in Londonderry, NH, USA d. Jun 27, 1796 in Salmon River. He married Janet Orr about 1757. He married Elizabeth Long July 15, 1785

ix. Margaret Archibald, abt 1735

His first and second sons David and Samuel (our Direct ancestor) were also born in Ireland, emigrated to Nova Scotia along with other siblings. Eventually in addition to David and Samuel, Eleanor, Eleanor, Elizabeth, James, and Thomas arrived in Nova Scotia in the 1770s.

Our Ancestor Samuel Archibald sold his farm of 120 acres in Londonderry in April 29 1762. for £5210 and sometime afterwards left for Nova Scotia. His older Brother David had arrived in Nova Scotia at an earlier time. Samuel's wife, Eleanor Taylor, daughter of Matthew and Janet (Wilson) Taylor was born about 1724 in Londonderry, New Hampshire. She married Samuel Archibald, son of a neighbouring farmer. She produced 12 children over the next 28 years. After 8 children it was obvious to the couple that Samuel's holdings in New Hampshire were too small to provide farms for all his sons and dowries for his daughters. Advertisements reached the Archibald family of free lands the British government was giving away to settlers in Nova Scotia. The free land had become vacated by the expulsion of the Acadians earlier in 1755.

Their children included

i. Our ancestor Margaret Archibald b. 1743 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. (1) David Nelson 28 Nov. 1775, (2) Jeremiah Murphy (b. about 1740) June 1789, d. 24 Jan. 1823. Truro

ii. Matthew Archibald Esq. b. 9 Mar. 1745 in Londonderry, NH, USA; m. Janet Fisher d. 18 Jan 1820 in Truro, Colchester, NS, Canada, buried Robie Street Cemetery, Truro, NS, Canada

iii. John Archibald 2nd Major b. 1747 in Londonderry NH, USA, m. Margaret Fisher 4 Mar 1772 in Truro, Colchester County, NS, Canada; d 15 Oct 1813, Truro,

iv. Janet Archibald b. 1750 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. John Hingley d. Jun 10 1818 in Truro, NS, bur. Robie St. Cemetery, Truro

v. David Archibald 2nd Esq. B. 1752 d. Sept 19 d. 1818 in Pictou, NS Married Jane Miller. Grantee of lands in the Township of Truro, receiving lands on South side of the river about 1789 build a mill at Kemptown, Colchester. He subsequent moved to Middle River Pictou County and build another mill but returned to Kemptown in 1802. In September 1818 he was afflicted with a sore leg and went to the doctors in Pictou where his leg was amputated and he died a few days later.

vi. James Archibald Esq. b. 1754 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. Rebecca Barnhill, Feb 25 1779 d. Jun 13 1828 bur. in Robie St. Cemetery.

vii. Agnes Archibald (also known as Nancy b. Mar 15 1756 in Londonderry, NH, USA, m. John Taylor in Truro Township, d.. Dec 21 1816 in Glenelg, Guysborough County.

viii. Robert A. Archibald b. 1758 Londonderry, NH, USA, d. Jun 3 1794 born deaf and mute.

ix. Martha Archibald b. 1760 Londonderry, NH, USA d. in Stewiacke, NS married John Pratt

x. Samuel Archibald b. 1762 Londonderry, NH, USA also known as Lame Samuel d. May 15 1833 in Sherbrook, Guysborough, Resided in St Mary's married Margaret Archibald (daughter of Thomas Archibald and Janet Orr see above)

xi. Elizabeth Archibald b. 14 January 1764 in Truro Township died young

xii. Eleanor Archibald b. 23 January 1768 d. in Ohio, Married Robert Morrison

The Truro Township Grant of 50,000 acres was issued by Governor Montague Wilmot on October 31, 1765.

The official boundaries of Truro Township were,

Beginning at a creek [probably North River] about half a mile up Salmon River on the North side and running east four miles, thence south six 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...

It extended from Valley Crossroads on the East to the Shubenacadie River on the West and included Bible Hill, north of Salmon River. The first division of Truro Township consisted of two hamlets, Derry and Down. Derry included the oldest sections of the present town of Truro and the village of Bible Hill. Down included much of the land of Lower Truro. Samuel and his sons acquired promising sites for future development in the Township of Truro in Derry Village at the head of the tide, an ideal place crossing place and a natural place for a mill. Samuel and his sons John and David were granted lands on the south side of the Salmon River while his son Matthew received a grant on the north side of the river (Bible Hill). Samuel received one and one-third rights, approximately 670 acres of land, part of which was his house lot located beside his older brother David in Bible Hill. Samuel's second child Matthew owned lands bordering the Salmon River where he established a farm and a tannery business. Between Samuel and his sons John and David they held a combine total of 1416 acres of granted land.

In 1773 Truro paid Matthew Archibald to construct a canoe for travel and transport up the Salmon River, possibly from the Boardlanding up to his farm. The main thoroughfare between Truro and Onslow was a place where horses and sometimes people could ford the river at low time. Leaving the "Common" people passed "The Great Elm" and continued down the gravel path to the "Fording Place". leaving names for such streets as Elm and Ford Street.

Samuel Archibald became the first Recorder and Proprietor Clerk for the Township of Truro and on May 30 1763 initiated a Record of Marks of Catle and Sheep registered by Township proprietors. He also maintained the first Register of Births.

Margaret Janet Hart, a descendant of the Archibald in her Book "Janet Fisher Archibald" gave a stark but probably realistic assessment of the Archibalds:

These mothers, whose lives we have been looking into, had vision as well as the true pioneering spirit, brave hearts and capable hands. Their husbands were men of extraordinary force of character, but there is no doubt they were bigoted and contentious as well as upright and prosperous (page ix).

Both David and Samuel were men of education and standing. Samuel owned six books at the time of his death, 3 Bibles, a volume of Erskine's Sermons, a book described as a Confession of Faith, and a book entitled Gospel Sonnets. Sometime July 28, 1770, and September 13, 1770, the first local Presbyterian Elders were elected. Among the seven were David and Samuel Archibald, brother-in-law William Fisher, and John Savage, husband of David's daughter Margaret. On September 13 both David and Samuel Archibald were among 50 Subscribers

who signed a Call to the Reverent Daniel Cock to become minister in Truro. On February 1771 David and Samuel were among 30 signatories and guarantors of Truro's terms of remuneration for Cock's services.

According to Miller, a local historian Mathew was responsible for the name Of Bible Hill on the North side of Salmon River due to his pious nature and careful use of his bible.

The Presbyterian Church or as it was called "The Church of North Britain, was the predominant Church in the Townships for well over fifty years. The Anglican Church was opened only in 1821. In 1782 Henry Alline an evangelist passed through Truro but was not warmly received. He was refused logging in the only Inn in the village As late as 1809 Baptist evangelist were threatened with arrest for attempting to hold evangelistic Meetings.

The Presbyterians could also fight among themselves as well. In August 2 1786 when the first Presbytery in Canada was held in Truro Nova Scotia, Reverent James McGregor of Pictou refused to join because he was a Burgher and the others anti-burghers. objected to the Confession of Faith which he claimed was "no more the Westminster Confession of Faith than was the Creed of Pope Pious the IV". He was summoned to the Church session for coming into another man's parish. The point that most offended McGregor was the fact that Reverent Cock owned a coloured slave girl.

The Archibalds families had slaves at this time . Mathew Archibald had at least three and possibly more.. The purchase of one was registered in the Registry of Deeds in Halifax (Colchester had not yet been separated from Halifax County)many more, Mrs. Archibald had two slave servants in the household.

Samuel died intestate, on July 15 1774 before the American war of Independence. His wife Eleanor His wife Eleanor May 1 1781. His estate was valued at £204 13 s 7 d.

A number of great resources for the life and history of the Archibalds also contains number of errors with respect to births dates and locations. The most reliable resource for this family is Dr. Alan Marbles book "The Archibalds of Nova Scotia". Almost every two years a reunion of descendants of this family is held in Nova Scotia.

Books on Life in the Early Cobequid Townships available at the Colchester Museum include.

Carol Campbell, The Cobequid Township, Truro, Onslow, Londonderry 1760-1780

Caro Campbell and James F. Smith, Neccaries and Sufficiencies, Planter Society in Londonderry and Truro Townships, 1761-1780

Carol Campbell and James F. Smith, Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nopva Scotia 1761-1780

Additions to <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html> since July 1 2021

Archibalds <http://www.retson.ca/archibald.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](mailto:jretson@shaw.ca) and indicate so.