



October 15, 2024

This newsletter may interest particular those related to persons related directly or indirectly to Grace and Clifford Retson. My genealogy website is located at <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html>

## Setting and Revising Goals

On September 24, 2024, I completed the last course requirement for a certificate in Canadian Records and Methodology, which authorizes me to employ the letters PLCGS after my name. I started in the middle of February 2016, so it has only taken 8 and 7/12 years. By February 2016 I had already achieved the original interest that had attracted me to genealogy -determining whether my heritage was Scottish or English. In 2015 I had taken my first DNA test and within a year determined that it was virtually useless for any goals I had at the time and so determined to sign up for courses to make the DNA test relevant to the goals I had in 2015. Some tips to genealogical goals. The original goal or goals may and most likely will change over time. Reevaluate and re-adjust goals as you go along. Further, recognize that other's goals may differ. Some are only interested in what ethnic heritage they come from, some about health-related aspects or personality traits. DNA testing is relevant to some of these goals.

After completing the certificates for Methodology and Canadian Records I have decided to return to DNA studies. At the same time my interests have moved from genealogy to family history.

Genealogy is primarily concerned with the collection and documentation of facts about ancestors, such as names, dates of birth, marriage, and death, and relationships between individuals. The main goal is to establish lineage and connections between generations, often to trace one's ancestry back as far as possible. Family History goes beyond just the facts and aims to provide a richer, more comprehensive picture of the lives of ancestors. The object is to build a narrative that provides insight into the personalities, experiences, and social conditions that shaped the lives of one's ancestors. In essence, genealogy is about establishing the framework (the "who" and "when"), while family history is about filling in the details (the "how" and "why").

## Pathways to United States Ancestors

In last month's newsletter I suggested two groups of pathways to United States Ancestors and described two families in the Post War of Independence groups who came to Sothern Ontario. The second group was the pre-war ancestral groups who came to Nova Scotia. This group contrasted with the first group in being pro-American and its primary reasons for coming to Canada was more for free land than escaping Religion persecution.



The Hoar family was one such family. David Hoar, son of Leonard and Esther Hubbard was born at Brimfield, Massachusetts on February 23, 1713. He married Abigail Hitchcock who was born June 1, 1718, daughter of John and Abigail (Stebbins) Hitchcock on May 27, 1741.

David and Abigail's Hoars had 8 children,

- i. David Hoar born May 14, 1742, Brimfield, MA d. 10 Nov. 1743 Brimfield
- ii. Abigail Hoar born October 9, 1744, Brimfield, MA
- iii. Mary Hoar born July 26, 1746, m. Alexander Mackenzie d. 1787
- iv. Solomon Hoar born September 24, 1748, Brimfield, MA, m. Mary Lynds, 1 Apr 1773 at Onslow, Colchester County, N.S. [Onslow Book of Records available at Colchester Historical Society], d. 09 Apr 1828 Onslow,
- v. Ebenezer Hoar born May 13, 1751, Warren, MA, m. 1775 Catherine Downey 05 Jan 1775 Onslow, d. 06 Aug 1819 Onslow,
- vi. David Hoar bet. 1751 and 1760 Warren, MA m. Ruth Lynds 20 Jan 1779 or 30 Jan 1770 Onslow, Colchester, Nova Scotia, d. November 1813 Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick, Canada, Notes from William S. Hoar, By Way of New England suggest that David Hoar Jr was Progenitor of the Albert County Hoar family. Further notes from a previous website suggest he moved that he moved along with the McCully and Tackles families of Onslow. He purchased 400 acres from Abiel Peck Sr on November 2, 1798. The 1851 census indicate his son James came to New Brunswick in 1797
- vii. Ruth Hoar b. 17 Oct 1756 Warren, Massachusetts, m William Pitt Whippe 05 Dec 1771 Onslow, d. 08 Dec 1848 Onslow,
- viii. Prudence Hoar 29 Jul 1760 Warren, Massachusetts, Joseph Weatherbee 22 Nov 1781 Onslow, d. 05 Jan 1799 Onslow

David Hoar appears to have carried on a partnership with Captain Ephraim Hayward a least from 1752 operating a Grist Mill and Sawmill in Sitate, Massachusetts.

In 1759 David Hoar was among 121 Yeoman and one woman from the Province of Massachusetts Bay who subscribed a petition requesting land in Cobequid, Nova Scotia under Daniel Knowlton. A preliminary grant of 500 acres was issued on October 26, 1759. in the Township of Truro. Eventually most of the grantees were assigned land in Onslow Township. In the spring of 1761 He immigrated to Onslow Nova Scotia. Miller indicates that 20 men came up the Bay of Fundy from New England to Truro and Onslow in the fall of 1759 to make preparation for a settlement. They returned to New England for the winter but returned the spring 1760. All the women returned to New England in the fall of 1760. They returned in the spring of 1761 with a number of other settlers.

The following Onslow Township Record:

"Att a meeting of the Proprietors of the Township of Onslow at sd. Onslow the 28th day of July, Anno Dom. 1761, The Following Vots were passed-Capn Ephraim Hayward chosen moderator

Granted unto Capn Ephraim Hayward, David Hoar, and Jams Wilson, the Privilege of a Mill-place on a Stream Lying west of sd. Wilson's first Devison Lott Next Ajoying to the ed. Lott: Joyntly and Eaquilhy to have the above mentioned Mill Place with the pondage and privilidges Belonging Thereunto –for the above mentioned Hayward to Build a Grist-mill, and for said Wilson and hoar to Build a Saw Mill. Both said Mills to be built on One Dam against or near above sd. Wilson House.

The above mentioned Priviledges Granted to the above sd Wilson and Hoar on Condition that they build a saw Mill in the Place before mentioned or Granted in Three months from the Date and keep the same in Good Repair for the Terms of Seven years, on neglect or failure there said Last Grant is to be Forfeit and of no Effect.” [Miller]

On February 21, 1769, David Hoar was allocated One Share and half (750 acres) in Onslow. [Campbell and Smith, Planters and Grantees 2011 page 466] In 1775 with the outbreak of the American revolution, Nova Scotia Governor Francis Legge, became concern about the defencelessness of the defence of Halifax and in reaction to such threats legislated the raising of a Militia force ready to meet any threat to the Province and imposed a Tax to pay for it.

On the January 1, 1770, Onslow Township Census containing data for 1769 David Hoar master of an 8 person family: 3 men, 2 women, 1 boy & 2 girls, all protestant & of American origin. Stock & substance – 3 horses. 4 oxen/bulls, 4 cows 5 young neat cattle, 23 sheep, 3 swine. Produce – 60 bushels of wheat, 10 of pease, 40 oats, 5 of flaxseed, 1 ½ Hundred [NSARM RG1 v443#26]

On the January 1, 1771, Onslow Township Census containing data for 1770 David Hoar master of a 7 person family: 2 men, 2 women, 1 boy & 2 girls, all protestant & of American origin. Held 1000 of granted land (4 arable acres, 11 mowing acres & 985 wooded acres) Stock & substance – 3 horses. 4 oxen/bulls, 4 cows 5 young neat, cattle, 20 sheep, 4 swine. Produce – 6 bushels of wheat, 4 of pease, 16 oats, 10 of flaxseed, 2/8 100 of Flax 1 ½ Hundred [NSARM RG1 v443#25]

On the January 1, 1774, Onslow Township Census containing data for 1773 David Hoar master of a 7 person family: 3 men, 2 women, 1 boy, all protestant & of American origin. Held 1250 of granted land (20 arable acres, 20 mowing acres) Stock & substance – 3 horses. 6 oxen/bulls, 8 cows 10 young neat cattle, 5 sheep, 4 swine. Produce – 50 bushels of wheat, 12 of pease, 2 of barley, 35 oats, ½ Hundred [NSARM RG1 v443#27]

On January 3, 1776, David Hoar was one of 56 signatories of a Petition of the Freeholders of he township of Onslow who opposed the new Provincial Militia Acts.

To His Excellency Francis Legge Esq<sup>f</sup> Captain General and Governor in Chief of Novascotia & and to the Honnerable his Majesties Council for S<sup>d</sup> Province

The Humble Representation and Petition Of the Freeholders of the Township of Onslow:

May it pleas Your Excellency

We his Majesties subjects being Greatly Alarmed at the Cituation of Publick Affairs in this Province Particularly On Account of two Acts lately passed in General Assembly One intitled An Act in addition to the several Acts of this Province Made for the Regulation of the Militia

The other: an Act for raiseing a tax on the inhabitants of this Province for Defraying the Expense of Maintaining and supporting the Militia of S<sup>d</sup> Province and for the Defence of the same. Which acts seem every way Calculated to Destress this Unhappy Province and is by no Means the Sence of the People in General.

For Whereas a Great Number of Families in these parts are Yonger a Number of them on New Farms, and in such a Condition as with all their Labour and industry

are but barely able to suupport themselves and all our former Resourses Cut of.

Should a Number of our industreos Husbandmen who have Large Families Depending Wholly Upon their Labour for a subsistance be ordered away into any other part of the Province, their Land Must be Untilled and Neglected and perhaps their Property May be destroyed in their absence; to the ruin of private Families: the Destress of each society: and hurtfull to the Province in General.

But if Your Excellency in Council should be pleased to Order that the Militia in these parts be put Upon a propper footing, that they May Not be Called into a Distant parts of the Province to Defend the Families and

properties of others while their own are as Much Exposed, but that they May be sufered to Continue in their respective Destricts and Carry on thier Labour in such a Manner as to provide us (With the blessing of God) a Competancy for the support of thier Families or Defend them if invaded.

Being and earnestly praying your Excellency and Councill would be pleased to Take our Case with all its sircumstances into Consideration, se the reasonableness of this our Representtation and order for Us according to these our Desires.

And Your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &<sup>ca</sup>

Onslow <sup>3d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1776

[Signed by 56 men including our ancestors, Ebenezer Hoar, Solomon Hoar, David Hoar, Barnard Lynds, Thomas Lynds, James Downing and David Hoar]

In November 1776 there was a rebellion by a militia of four to five hundred led by Johathan Eddy with minimal logistic support from Massachusetts to capture Fort Cumberland (known as the Eddy Rebellion or the Battle of Fort Cumberland.

The Rebellion was put down by the Royal Fencible American Regiment led by Joseph Gorement with reinforcements from the Royal Marines on November 29, 1776. On April 14, 1777, given the threat of a second attempt His Majesty's Council in Halifax,

Resolved that the Inhabitants of Truro, Onslow and Londonderry be called on to take the Oaths of Allegiance Supremacy & Abjuration at a Special Sessions of the Peace to be held forthwith for that purpose in the Township of Onslow

Two Magistrates proceed to Onslow to administer the oaths but nearly everyone refused to take the oath because they objected to swearing of Oaths by kissing the Bible.

On May 5, the Council considered the Cobequid situation and the residences' frivolous pretences for refusing to swear the Oaths and resolved to proceed against the "Poppish Recusants" by due process of law. Included in the list was David Hoar

On June 11, 1777, the House of Assembly refused to admit Charles Dickson and on June 13 refused to admit our ancestor, Samuel Archibald from the Township of Truro to the House of Assembly for refusal to take the oath.

On June 12 Lieutenant Governor Arbuthhnot advised his superiors in London

"I am proceeding to an outlawery...I will find a Grand Jury, that will do Justice, as to finding the bills for tryal, & Jury to bring the Dlinquents guilty.

David Hoar died April 1783. He was never charged as were other American immigrants to the Cobequid Townships.

The Hoar line of our ancestors can be found at <https://www.retson.ca/hoar.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.