



September 15, 2023

Retson Genealogy

Newsletter

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/retsongenealogy.html>

“Ralph Shepard was a tailor from Stepney, England, who dreamed of a new life in America. He had married Thankslord Perkins, a young woman with a peculiar name and a strong faith, in 1632 at St. Bride’s Church in London. They had a daughter, Sarah, who was born in 1633.”

This begins the Artificial Intelligence (AI) story of Ralph Shpard. The question is whether the “story” is fiction or non-fiction or a mixture of both. The AI story gives 2 sources for the story:

- 1: <https://www.americanfamilyhistory.com/Shepard%20Family/ShepherdRalphThankful.html>
- 2: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Perkins-3692>”

The first reference takes you to a website maintained Roberta Tuller , a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to Amazon.com. As an Amazon Associate, she earns from qualifying purchases from the website. There are little sources given for the story.

The second site <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Perkins-3692> is a site on wikitree which is a public website dedicated to building an online world public tree . This is the site for Ralph Shepard’s wife Thankslord Perkins and from that site you can get the Wikitree for Ralph Shepard: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Shepard-1151> From these two sites we start getting documented sources for information that went into the story.

The source that gives the information about the family’s travel to North America is “Hotten, John Camden (editor). *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality: Emigrants, Religious Exiles, Political Rebels, Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years, Apprentices, Children Stolen, Maidens Pressed, and Others, who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700.* London: John Camden Hotten, 1874 and several subsequent editions. You can get a copy of the book (Use Google to find download sites). Most Genealogist would get this information on a specific individual from a paid genealogy dataset such as ancestry.com

Another transcription website can be found Tate, S., Ed. (1999). *Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild: Abigail.* Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild at <https://www.immigrantships.net/v2/1600v2/abigail16351008.html>

Another source found at the wikitree sites is Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635*, 7 vols., (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999–2011), 6 (2009): 262–269 ([AmericanAncestors.org subscription web site](#), [Ancestry.com subscription web site](#)) The links will only work for you if you have a subscription to both which most experienced genealogist will purchase on an annual basis. I have so many family roots that go back to the 1629-40 period in New England I have over the years purchased both series by Anderson which covered those who arrived in New England up to 1633 as well as those who arrived in 1633 And 1634. That series provide citations for most statements made most of which can be found at various websites previous mentioned or books available to be downloaded from <https://archive.org/>, google books and others:

In 1635, they decided to join the Great Migration of Puritans who were seeking religious freedom and economic opportunities in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They boarded the Abigail, a ship that carried

about 220 passengers and livestock, under the command of Captain Richard Hackwell. The ship left Plymouth on June 4th and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.

After four long months of hardship and danger, the Abigail finally arrived in Boston on October 8th, 1635. The passengers were greeted by their fellow Puritans who had settled there earlier. They were happy to see land again and eager to start their new lives.

Ralph and Thankslord settled first in Watertown, then moved to Dedham, Weymouth, Rehoboth, and finally Malden. I have no idea where AI gets the birth of 30 children, but one starts with the position that only children that have a credible source citation are recognized. I recognize 9 children.

Ralph Shepard died on April 20th, 1693, at the age of 87. He was buried at Bell Rock Cemetery in Malden. Thankslord Shepard died on February 25th, 1694, at the age of 82. She was buried next to her husband. Again ancestry.com provides reliable sources for this information. For those who don't have a subscription to ancestry most libraries have an institutional subscription which will serve most purposes.

The Advent of Spatial Computer, Biological Computers and Quantum Computers

The second level of technological advancement is in the "hardware". This "hardware" is almost beyond our comprehension. The advent of the microcomputer in the early 1980s, followed by the internet and smart phones radically changed culture towards the end of the 20th century. On June 5, 2023, Apple announces the first spatial computer, Apple Vision Pro which starts at \$3499 (US) and will be available early next year. At that price it will be several years before I will purchase one. However, most likely this invention will continue the culture revolution. What is a spacial computer? A spatial computer is a device that enables the physical and digital to co-exist and interact. It can retain and manipulate referents to real objects and spaces. .

If don't exactly understand the concept of spacial computers, I am even further removed from understanding the further development of two new inventions: the quantum computer and the biological computer.

A biological computer is a type of computer that uses biologically derived molecules such as DNA and/or proteins to perform digital or real computations. The development of biocomputers has been made possible by the expanding new science of nanobiotechnology. Biocomputers use biologically derived materials to perform computational functions. A biocomputer consists of a pathway or series of metabolic pathways involving biological materials that are engineered to behave in a certain manner based upon the conditions (input) of the system. Many examples of simple biocomputers have been designed, but the capabilities of these biocomputers are very limited in comparison to commercially available non-bio computers. The potential to solve complex mathematical problems using far less energy than standard electronic supercomputers, as well as to perform more reliable calculations simultaneously rather than sequentially, motivates the further development of "scalable" biological computers, and several funding agencies are supporting these efforts. How fast these developments will lead to substantial changes in our lives has yet to be determined.

Quantum computers is the other computer of the future. Quantum computers are fundamentally different from classical computers in the way they process information. They use quantum bits or 'qubits' which can exist in a superposition state of both zero and one simultaneously. This means that a set of two qubits can be in a superposition of four states, 00, 01, 10, and 11 at the same time. This allows quantum computers to perform certain calculations much faster than classical computers. Quantum computers work by preparing a superposition of all possible computational states. A quantum circuit, prepared by the user, uses interference selectively on the components of the superposition according to an algorithm. Many possible outcomes are cancelled out through interference, while others are amplified. This type of computation may in the future

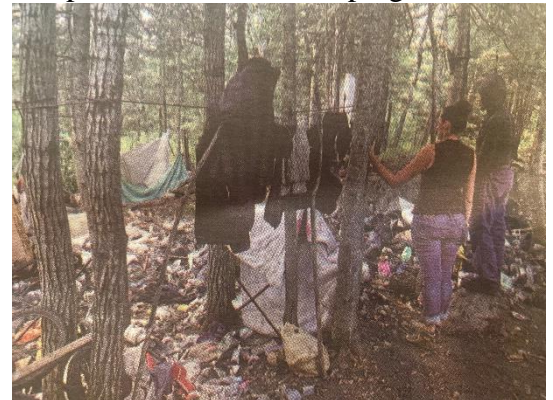
increase the size and speed of calculations beyond our present imagination. AI consists of the computer searching the world wide web for information, then sorting the information according to set categories of sub-subjects. Contradicting information has to be analyzed and selection made between alternative positions. Then these individual sub-subjects have to be recombined into a larger coherent narrative. . The greater the size and speed a computer has determines the level, complexities and precision of work that can be done.

Freedoms, Conflicts of Freedom, The Right of the Many versus the Right of the Few, and Regulation

During the past few years, as never before, we have been bombarded by claims of denials of freedom. Freedom of speech (Mainly American), freedom not to take vaccinations, wear masks or to be served when not vaccinated, freedom to occupy private and public property to protest or simply set up tents and residency have arisen in many countries, and communities within.

This month addiction and homelessness covered the pages of the local paper. "Campers behind Seven Gens evicted, threatened with \$2000 fines if they return" read one caption. "This is a human rights violation, and Gen, Kenora's HIV crises will worsen" reads another. A third reads: "You Can't Brush Society's worst Problems Under the Rug" .

According to sources quoted in the local Kenora Miner & News 10 to 13 persons had been camping behind Seven Generation news on a "longer -term basis" and " They kind of let it go for a while because they wanted to be sensitive to people doing that thing, but it got to a point where they were having stuff stolen from their property, mischief and \$4000 worth of damage to their fence (Jeff Duggan Detachment Commander for the Kenora OPP). While housing is in short demand there are shelters "but the bottom line is that there are people that refuse to accept service or use shelter".



I have a friend that I take out for lunch once a week. He spent several years living behind Seven Gens until he ultimately found that life without rules was more intolerant then accepting the minimal rules of social housing.

This institution is located on one side of my home property and in a previous year the city covered a grassy knoll on the other side of my property to prevent tents to be located there. The city does not wish to provide another location for tents because of health conditions that follow from such encampments.

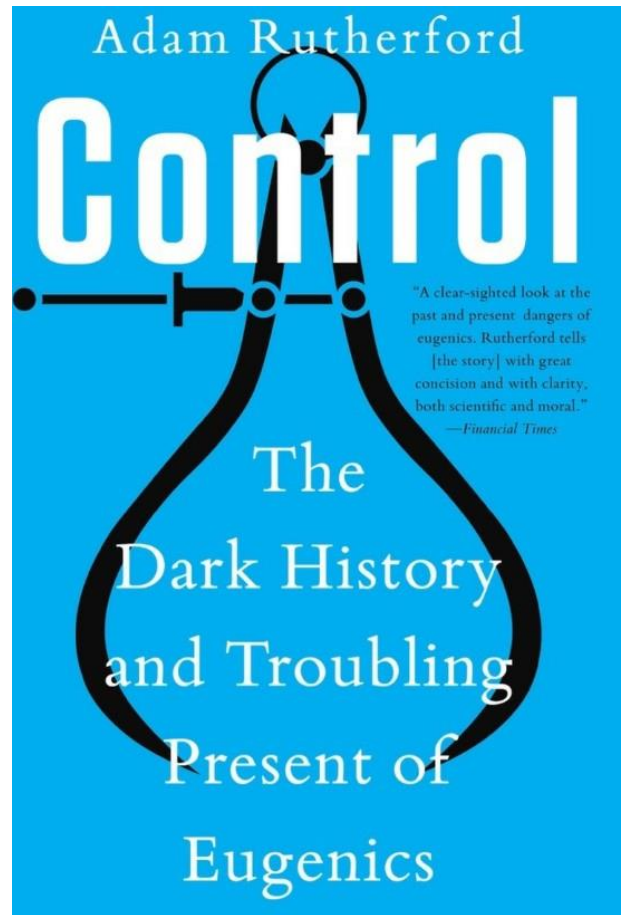
During the Covid-19 Pandemic the same issue of the right of a certain portion of the population versus the rights of others arose. The right of many to be protected from a new virus was pitted against the right of the many who mistrusted science, did not want to be vaccinated but were not happy about the consequences of not being vacated imposed by Government to protect the former population. The Freedom Convoy descended on Ottawa to exercise their right to protest. They too learned that the right to protest has rules to protect the public at large. Criminal and civil litigation continues to this day to determine the consequences of braking such rules. Politics is rife with the conflict between the right of society and its government to regulate to protect the greater society. Government relies on science to defend their actions.

Mistrust of science has reached new levels. Scientist are supposed to strive to describe the objective world as it is. But Scientist are not free from cultural biases. All science is transitional. Rules which restrict freedom must

be constantly challenged but ultimately we elect Governments to choose what rules and regulation will benefit us all.

Science is in the service of knowledge and of people. The knowledge does not exist independently of people. There is, arguably, a moral obligation within the study of humans that the knowledge accrued should improve our lives, as societies and individually, and where possible, it should reduce suffering. (Rutherford, Adam. *Control: The Dark History and Troubling Present of Eugenics* (p. 153). W. W. Norton & Company. Kindle Edition)

Nowhere is this mistrust of science more justified than in the history of Eugenics. *Control, The Dark History and Troubling Present of Eugenics* by geneticist Adam Rutherford calls “a defining idea of the twentieth century.” Eugenics has “a short history, but a long past,” Rutherford writes. The first half of *Control* is the history of an idea, from its roots in key philosophical texts of the classical world all the way into their genocidal enactment in the twentieth century. The second part of the audiobook explores how eugenics operates today, as part of our language and culture, as part of current political and racial discussions, and as an eternal temptation to powerful people who wish to sculpt society through reproductive control. He reveals the intellectual bankruptcy of the idea, and the scientific impossibility of its realization. The most robust science survives the scrutiny of challenge, of falsification and of testing. But even when it does, as in the case of Darwinian evolution by natural selection, it is subject to everlasting refinement. Science is always political.



Additions to <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html> since August 1, 2023
Frost Ancestors <http://www.retson.ca/frost.pdf>
Shepard Ancestors <https://www.retson.ca/shepard.pdf>
Retson Genealogy Newsletters from January 2023 to September 2023 see links at
<https://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html>

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.