

After the Model School I taught the public school at Calton - on the Townline between Malahide and Bayham, a few miles north of Lake Erie, eight or so miles from Port Burwell. Then I attended Toronto University (Victoria College) 1903-1907, graduating that year with a B.A. degree. Afterwards I attended the law school at Osgoode Hall, 1907-1909 for two years, and then went West in the summer of 1909 and finished the law course in Calgary, Alberta in May 1910, and was admitted to the Bar of Alberta in October 1910. I returned to Ontario to be married, October 29th, 1912, to Kitty A. Evans.

I became City Solicitor of the City of Calgary February 7th, 1913, and remained so for 9 years until early February 1922, when I resigned and took my position as head of the law firm of Ford, Miller and Harvie, that had been organized some years before. In 1935 this firm continued as Ford and Miller.

In May 1942 I was made a judge of the District Court of Southern Alberta and in this capacity was rent control judge for Southern Alberta during the war years. In May 1945, I was elevated to the position of a Supreme Court Justice of Alberta. In January 1957 I was elevated to be Chief Justice of Alberta.

In the year 1960 a Court of Appeal for the NORTH WEST Territories was created - this consisted of the five judges of the Alberta Court of Appeal and the resident judge for the Yukon District, and also the resident judge of the present North West Territories. Thus, by reason of this statute I became the first Chief Justice of the present North West Territories, that extend from the Yukon District on the west to the eastern point of Labrador on the east, excepting throughout that portion belonging to Newfoundland, and include the islands in Hudson's Bay and in James Bay, - a territory of over one million square miles of land, in fact it is nearer to $1\frac{1}{2}$ million square miles.

In October 1960 the Appeal Court for Yukon and the Territories opened the first Court at the new Court House in Yellowknife, N.W.T., I had the great honour to preside at this opening court - one greatly appreciated - not the less because my daughter Helen and her husband Charles A. Perkins, both practising lawyers, had opened a law office there back in 1937 and organized and published the first newspaper printed in Yellowknife. They are now in Vancouver, B.C.

This has been rather lengthy, - but it ends abruptly enough, By an amendment of the B.N.A. Act of 1960, that became operative on March 1st, 1961, all supreme Court Judges in Canada who had attained the age of 75 years, ceased to hold office on that date. Reference to the date of my birth given above, will convince anyone that this meant me, - I, with 12 others across Canada, making 13 in all - the perfect baker's dozen, - were consequently retired.

However, so far I have made no reference to any of my outside activities.

I was a member of North Hall Methodist Church, and can vividly recall some of the Ministers; The Rev. Byron Snell, about 1898, a lame man with an ardent and clear message; a Rev. Mr. Yelland of years before; A Rev. Mr. Haylock and his two daughters, more modern, about 1902-04; and another one later, the Rev. Mr. Mundy, who prayed one Sunday morning for all those in jail, and all those out but who should be in. He very wisely took in the whole field of the doubtful ones.

I do remember vividly the Sunday School where I grew up, with Mr. Thomas Hatch, of sacred memory, as its superintendent for many years, and how he used to catechize the boys and girls after the lesson had been taught.

I remember the local preachers, whocame to fill in when the regular minister was at another appointment. We had five churches; North Hall, Maple Grove, Eden, Straffordville and Guysborough. Two of the best preachers came from Tillsonburg, - one an Englishman, worked at Tillson's Mills. He was Mr. Wold, - or Woold - pronounced "Wold". The others were Mr. Hogarth, and Levi J. Hatch. All were very devoted and brought well thought-out messages. I remember another from another village, who used to remind us he needed the collection to pay for the wear and tear on his buggy and horse.

In Calgary, I have been a member of Central Methodist Church, now Central United Church, and on the Board of Elders for several years. I joined this church in the fall of 1909.

I was a voting member of the United Church Canada at Amsterdam in 1948, and helped to vote into existence the World Council of Churches.

The French Family

William French came from Kingston to east of Eden. His wife's name was Eleanor. They are buried in the north Middleton cemetery.

Thomas French married Ella (Mrs. Wm. Berry)
Hannah married Charles Mudge
Sarah went to the U.S.A.
Elizabeth married Acel Ostrander
George married Edith (when she died he married her twin sister)
Frank married Sarah lived in Tillsonburg
Bruce married Aggie Hillis
Mary married Henry Stilwell (Windsor)
Patience
James married Rebecca (Jack Sprague)
John
Isabelle (Belle) married Thomas Ball.

Alfred French married Fanny Jane Phelps b. Jan. 27, 1881
d Apr. 5, 1937

children were

Ida Bell b. 1883-1951 married Austin Weeks 1880-1948 They had ten children
the first died , Alfred 1904, Stanley 1906, Mary 1907, Alvin 1909
Harry 1911, Wesley Earl 1913, Russell 1916, Thelma 1918, Murray 1923

James b. 1884-1952 married Florence Bates no children

Harry twin b. Mar. 26, 1887 married Winnie Ferris 1895-1926
d May 21, 1926

Hattie twin b. Mar. 26, 1887 married Harry Johnson 2nd John Meeuse
1 dau. Ruby 1911

Blanche b. Mar. 14, 1889 married Wilfred Nelson 1897-1959 - no children.

Jane b. Sept. 31, 1892 married Alfred Bunt (by Rev. Loveday)
died of T.B. May 12, 1918
1 child Olive b. 1912 Olive had 2 children

Pearl b. July 26, 1894 married ~~John~~ Scott - had no children.
1981

Violet b. Nov. 20, 1894 married Clifford Johnson - no children
d 1980

A family story tells of the children sliding down the entrance way of the outside cellar on a tin (in the wintertime) at their Aunt Melinda's in a house at the east side of Alton's roadway.

Fanny Jane Phelps - sisters and brothers were:
Clinton Phelps married Electa Elizabeth Carty Caswell
Laura married Archie Kennedy
Emma married William Kennedy
John married Rena Kennedy
Lewis married Tina Reidt
Ida married Alex Lester

Grandma French wore a little frilled cotton bonnet and smoked a white clay pipe according to Blanche in Mar. 12, 1973 via phone. Jane and Alfred Bunt lived in the old Nathan Gray house, in the south part of Eden and worked for Mr. Gray. Jane died of T. B. when her daughter Olive was four years old. She went to live with her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Alf French. Mr. Bunt remarried Myrtle Linley.

The French Family

Olive's father, Mr. Bunt went to Windsor and worked for the Ford Motor Co. When he died Olive inherited it all, house, furnishings and insurance, the second wife having also died.

Blanche was born at Mabee's Corners - moved to house where Ray Roloson's house is. Blanche had two aunts and 6 or 7 uncles on the French side. (See previous page).

Fanny French had a half sister (Electa Elizabeth) who was short and weighed 300 lbs. - lived in S. Dakota and was married to (Uncle) Billy Carty - St. Paul, Minn. He loved garter snakes and put them in his pocket and tried to put them down girl cousins' neck. She told of hurricanes and Tornadoes that picked their small house up with her in it and deposited it some other place.

Olive Bunt who was raised by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Alf French married Gerald Roy Petrie who was the son of Inez Valentine Petrie (she remarried Clarke Travilla).

Olive Bunt's two children were Sandra Jane born June 4, 1948 who married Louis Mead (two children Monica Jane & Novella Joy)

and Sally May Petrie b. Dec. 3, 1950 who married Robert Whitmore.(3 children - Benjamin Roy, Matthew Larry and Janice Kathleen.)



RAZING OF GEORGE FRENCH BARN

Garnham's of the Township of Bayham, in the County of Elgin
and the
Township of Houghton, in the County of Norfolk, Upper Canada (Province of Ontario)
In the Dominion of Canada.

Robert Garnham, Father was John Garnham of Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

The late Robert Garnham (1790-1881) and his wife, Maria Ester (Kieble) Garnham (1800-1887) of Ipswich, Suffolk, England, sailed for America in 1832 with five children, Robert Jr., Sheriff K., John and Henry and one child was buried at sea on the way across. Also one little girl (Maria) supposed to have been drowned in the horse pond in the old country.

They landed at New York after a very trying voyage, and then sailed up the Albany River to Albany where Robert Sr. worked in the print, Cotton Mills, his address in August 1833 was:

Robert Garnham Sr.,
at Mr. Thomas 197 Bowery
opposite Spring Street
New York, North America.

Bowery, old Dutch word meaning a farm,

And lived later in the state of New Jersey where George was born July 26th, 1834, And a letter written Oct. 28, 1834 by Robt. Garnham to Mr. J.C. Rowden at London, England, telling of their increase (baby son George) and mentioning their soon leaving for the new country (which would be Canada). The letter was answered by Mr. Rowden on Feb. 11th, 1835, and Robert Garnham address was then at Mr. Trusleu, Ralway, New Jersey, near Elizabethtown, North America, And so the desire to again be under the British flag induced them to come to Canada, in or around 1836 or 1837. They suffered many hardships by the way and for many years after, as they pioneered near Lake Ontario, in the gore district, and in 1838 leased and settled on the north half of Lot 13 in the first concession, containing fifty acres of woodland, in the Township of Saltfleet, in the County of Wentworth at Stoney Creek, in Upper Canada (in Ontario). In March 1837 Mary Ann was born at Stoney Creek. Robert Sr. being in military service during the McKenzie rebellion in 1837, and stood guard over the rebel prisoners with a flint lock gun with the lock broken off.

And a letter from Mr. John Brown, Toronto dated Feb. 5th, 1838 to Mr. Robert Garnham, Post office, Stoney Creek near Hamilton II, Canada,

(This John Brown was Maria (Kieble) Garnham's uncle and he was laid to rest in Guysboro cemetery.)

Telling about the McKenzie rebellion on the 4th of December 1837, and what he saw in Montgomery's Tavern at the outbreak of the rebellion.

Robert remained at Stoney Creek nine years more or less, on May 20th 1840, Louisa Maria was born and on May 5th, 1843 Edwin Ambrose was born. By this time there were six sons and two daughters.

It is believed that in 1848 Robert and family moved to Bayham, for Mary Ann Garnham died July 11th 1848, and was buried in the Guysboro cemetery. They settled on the farm now known as Garnham homestead. This land had been taken up from the Crown on May 7, 1823 by Henry Wistmore at that time 200 acres.

On April 20th 1850 Robert Garnham Sr. purchased 170 acres for £ 162, 12 shillings (about \$780.00) at Straffordville, in Township of Bayham in the County of Elgin, province of Upper Canada, (being parts of the north half of Lots 125-126 South Talbot Road) from James Haight, which had a log house, and little more than the settling duties done on it.

A receipt dated May 23rd and November 3rd 1849 for Medicine

1848 January 7th and January 8th at a cost of 25 shillings from Dr. Long, on the back of receipt, Mr. Garnham, Bayham.

An article of agreement entered into this Nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

Between Robert Garnham Junior, and Sheriff K. Garnham and Henry W. Garnham, of Houghton Township, of property Real or personal, Lands, Mills, houses, moveable property or money equal.

This was three of Robert Sr.'s sons.

In 1859 Robert Garnham Sr. was appointed Justice of Peace, a position his strong sense of Justice eminently fitted him for.

From the original copy (Oct. 4, 1958)

Know all men by these presents that I Neoma C. Finton for and consideration of Five Shillings currency, and for and in consideration of James Lester of Saltfleet having entered into a certain lease from the late Thomas Pettitt

to
Robert Garnham have released the said Robert Garnham from any and all conditions or agreements in/ said lease so far as affects my Interest. In Witness thereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this 8th day of November 1849

Sgd. Thomas J. C. Finton

Witness (sgd.) John

From the original copy (Oct. 4, 1958)

Article of agreement made at Saltfleet in the county of Wentworth, in the Gore District, and province of Upper Canada, between Thomas Pettitt of Saltfleet a foresaid Farmer of the one part, and Robert Garnham of the same place Yeoman of the other part.

Where by the Thomas Pettitt hereby agrees to let unto the said Robert Garnham the north half of Lot Number nineteen in the First Concession Saltfleet aforesaid containing fifty acres of Wood land for the term of Twelve years. From the date here of for which the said Garnham agrees to clear the whole by and during the above term of twelve years, and also to put the same under a good and sufficient fence, the said Pettitt agrees to put up a Log house on the premises, and find all material, the said Garnham agrees to do all the labor Except raising the house and building the back wall of the chimney which the said Pettitt agrees to do.

The other half is

The said Pettitt agrees to get out the timber for a frame barn and to pay half the expense to be paid by the said Garnham who is to find all lumber that is necessary and finish the said barn, (half the expense of framing and raising the barn and to furnish the nails and irons that may be necessary, by Pettitt)

The said Pettitt agrees to chop six acres for the purpose of planting an orchard.

The said Garnham is to log and clear off and put it, the said six acres under fence and to have the use of it for 3 years at the expiration of which the said Pettitt is to occupy it.

In Witness where of the parties have hereunto set their hands and Seals this day of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-eight.

Signed by Mr. Thos. Pettitt

And Witness by (sgd.) James Lambeir
(sgd.) Boswell Lambeir

From the Original copy (Sept. 16, 1958)

Mr. Garnham
To Se George Long Dr.

1848

Jany 7th to Journey Bleeding & Medicine E 0 15. 0 q

Jany 8th Do= E 0 10. 0

E 1 5. 0 q

Get by two ten shillings on account

May th 23 1849

Nov. 3rd Rec. fifteen shillings & E in full of the account

157-

(Sgd.) O. W. Saxon
Attorney for Dr. Long

On back of Receipt

Mr. Garnham

Bayham
u s. d.
E1 5. 0 v

A copy of a bond (held by the family) signed by the late Messers. George McLean and Nicholas Phillips proved that Mr. Robert Garnham Sr. was treasurer of the township of Bayham 1856.

And Edwin A. Garnham, Robert Sr's youngest son, for many years was treasurer of the township of Bayham.

Robert Garnham Sr. and his wife Marion Ester (Kieble) Garnham was layed to rest in the Guysboro Cemetery.

And all of their children that landed with them from England or was born after are layed in the Guysboro cemetery.

Answer letter Oct. 1834 by Mr. Rowden on Feb. 11, 1833

Robert Garnham Sr. wrote Oct. 28, 1834 to Mr. J. C. Rowden at London England, telling of their increase (baby son George) and mentioning their soon leaving for the new country. (which would be Canada)

A letter from Mr. John Brown Toronto, Ont. dated Feb. 5th, 1837.

To Mr. Robert Garnham
post office StoneyCreek
near Hamilton, U. Canada

telling about the McKenzie Rebellion on the 4th of December 1837

At Montgomery's Tavern about 9 o'clock that night had gone to bed and about 12 o'clock was awakened, the place was filled with about 700 men armed with rifles & pikes and headed by McKenzie & Gibson and the first thing I saw when I left my chamber which was then filled with prisoners, was Colonel Moody setting in a chair shot through the body. I was near him about an hour when he cried "My God, My King and My Country" and expired.

From the original copy (Oct. 4, 1958)

Hotton or Houghton

1854

Article of agreement entered into this Nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight Hundred & fifty four.

Between Robert Garnham Junior, and Sheriff K. Garnham, and Henry W. Garnham of the aforesaid township, and that we the aforesaid parties have mutually agreed that all property real or personal which we or either of us may now be in possession of or may become possessed of shall be for the Equal Right title and use of the aforesaid parties, their Heirs or assigns, and that this said Copartnership, shall not be dissolved but by mutual consent, and at which time, we do agree to divide all property whatever we may be in possession of as Lands, Mills, Houses, moveable property or money equal, Share and Share alike, except those said Reservations,

That is to say whatever property may come by marriage shall be considered as their own sole property for their own benefit

The aforesaid Sheriff K. Garnham, & H. W. Garnham agrees to allow the aforesaid Robert Garnham his heirs or assigns fifty pounds currency over and above his equal Share, unto this we have hereunto Set our hands ----

Witnesses (sgd) Robt Garnham Sr. (sgd.) Robert Garnham Jr.
Geo. K. Phillip Sheriff K. Garnham
Henry W. Garnham.