

ANDREWS

LOT 3, SOUTH SIDE OF 10th CONCESSION, YARMOUTH TOWNSHIP

The son of John Andrews and Mary Bennett, Richard Andrews, was born in 1794 on a farm in the Parish of Cranworthy near Holsworthy in the County of Devonshire, England. Holsworthy is a small market town in the north-western corner of Devon, a county known for its beauty, its protecting hills, its sea coast, north and south, its farms and seafaring men.

Richard's mother died in 1795 at the age of 37, the year following his birth, and his father died in 1832, at the age of 80, the year following the emigration of his son Richard and daughters Martha and Mary to North America.

It would be nice to know of Richard's childhood and youth. We only know that he was well educated, was master of seven languages, among them Hebrew, that he studied at Oxford and Dublin Universities. His name is not listed among the graduates, although he is reputed to have graduated. Although he began University with a view of entering the Church of England ministry, he left the established church. At that time, I believe, a university graduate must be of the established Church of England. Richard was evidently a man for freedom and reform. I am unsure what denomination he became - reading different articles, he is referred to as a Wesleyan or Free Menodist, a Bible Christian, a Congregationalist or an Independant! He travelled a good deal in his ministry. There are 1823 records of baptisms and marriages in Cornwall. Later records show him at Brighton, England. In 1825 there are records of travels through Wales, through Ireland, and the Island of Jersey, as well as many places in Devon and other parts of England. There is much book-keeping re distributing magazines and books, and the address of a Peter Elliott, in North Carolina, America. By 1828 he had become the pastor of the Independant Church in the town of Holsworthy, where he also conducted a private school. His school and living quarters above, were in the former hat-making shop of the late Mr. Slee. Richard Andrews rented this building from Mr. Slee's widow. One of his pupils at this time was his nephew, Matthew Gilbert, then a little boy, who lived above the school during the week with his uncle Richard.

Richard Andrews was quite dark and well built. He became very ill, and at this time his fiancee showed herself quite uncaring. Mary Slee, born Feb. 11, 1809, the eldest daughter of the Slee family, a devout Wesleyan Methodist, nursed him back to health. It was Mary whom Richard married on Jan. 23, 1831. About two months later 1. Richard and Mary Andrews, 2. Simon Westlake, his wife and two sons George and Edmund Westlake and one daughter, later Mrs. E. Miller, 3. Richard Gilbert, his wife Martha (Andrews) and five sons, Richard, William, Matthew, John and Marwood and 4. Richard Penhale, his wife, Mary (Andrews) and three sons Tomas, Matthew and John and two daughters later Mrs. A. Miller and Mrs. James Cole, all set out for the new world. They hoped they would be taking their families to a new home where they would be free of oppression and also the unrest and poor economy in England following the Napoleonic Wars. What a partine it must have been. Never to return to home, loved ones, and lives of comparative comfort and ease. How those left at home must have longed to see them too!

These four close families sailed from Bideford, Devon, on April 12, 1831 on the "Clipso", a wooden sailing ship. In all there were 120 passengers on board. You may read of their eight week voyage in the Rev. Richard Andrews' diary.

"They finally reached New York harbour and from there pushed on to the Bethany, but receiving a bad report from that locality they decided to go on to Ohio. In Bethany they saw a steam boat for the first time, and on it proceeded via the Hudson River to Albany. There Mary (Slee) Andrews would have liked to settle as she had relatives there. However, they pushed on to Buffalo in a tow boat on the Erie Canal, a distance of about 325 miles. Buffalo was then about the size of Aylmer.

Once again their entire plans were changed. While their baggage lay on the wharf on Canal St., Buffalo, ready to be sent to Ohio, a hotel keeper, Miller by name, noticed it and approaching the group asked them where they were going. On being informed, he said "Why not go to Canada and remain under the old British flag?" Richard Gilbert's reply to this was that they had heard that it was so cold in Canada that they had to show the geese to keep them from freezing. Miller, however, persuaded them to come to Canada, and engaged the schooner "Niagara" under Capt. Scott. Arriving in Port Stanley, which then was composed of an old warehouse on the banks of Kettle Creek and an old tavern kept by Mrs. Whitcombe, the little company were much incensed at Miller for having sent them to the wilderness.

However, they were here, and the following day Richard Gilbert and Simon Westlake walked from Port Stanley to Port Talbot to see Colonel Talbot. The fiery little Irish Colonel must have been in a mellow mood for he received them very cordially and remarked that they were the kind of men this new country needed. As a result they were allotted large adjoining holdings on the Edgeware Road, north side, just east of the north and south road to Yarmouth Centre. From Port Stanley the party rode in a wagon through unfroken forest to the hamlet of St. Thomas. In 1831 St. Thomas had only three stores, a blacksmith shop and two taverns." (This section is from Mrs. Ina (Gilbert) Gloin's history, written in 1931 for the 100th anniversary of the beginning of their new life in Canada.)

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Richard Penhale opened a blacksmith shop in St. Thomas. Richard Andrews, whose dream had always been to open a place of learning in the new world, began teaching in the St. Thomas Seminary, one of his subjects was Hebrew. There by his records he seems to have taught until at least 1836. One roll call shows 47 pupils, with many of the original St. Thomas settler's names.

Richard Andrews became the first elder to minister to the St. Thomas Baptist Church as there were none of the Congregational denomination in the neighbourhood. (From records of Centre St. Baptist Church.) Later he ministered to the New Sarum Baptist congregation. He was also a land surveyor, and laid off a portion of the future city of St. Thomas. Judging from his account books he also did surveying in Yarmouth township. A good deal of payment for his teaching services appears to be in wood, meat, butter and eggs.

While Richard and Mary Andrews lived in St. Thomas two sons were born to them. John was born Oct. 1, 1831 and baptized Nov. 6, 1831 and Richard was born June 18, 1833 and baptized July 21, 1833.

About 1833, Richard and Mary Andrews and their two sons settled on the homestead of 100 acres assigned them by Colonel Talbot. It was situated on the south side of what is now County Road 52, just east of the L. and P. S. tracks. (Note: The correct designation of this lot is Lot 3, Second north of Edgeware Road, or south side of 10th Concession, Yarmouth. The patent to the 100 acres was received by John Andrews, March 16, 1857).

Near this location, perhaps a 1/2 mile east on the north side of the road (at the intersection of Concession 10 and the road running north from the St. Thomas dam) he founded another school where he had a good number of student - often over 30 - with such names as Sinclair, McLarty, Cole, Eastabrook, Penhale, Jones, McGill, McBrine, Miller, Walker, Whitwam and Anderson according to an 1843 roll call. Hazel (Eastabrook) Archibald always said that her father said Richard Andrews was an outstanding teacher.

In this period he performed many marriages and baptisms in Yarmouth and Southwold. In his ministry he seems to have travelled considerable distances, north into Middlesex County, and also as far as Wallaceburg in a north-westerly direction.

Richard and Mary Andrews had eleven children in all. After John and Richard came:

3. William, born February 25, 1835. He went to Oregon.
4. Elizabeth Slee Andrews, born June 9, 1836. She married Charles Whitwam and lived where Nick and Donna Doelman live, on the north side of County Road 52. They later moved to St. Thomas. They had two children: Martha Whitwam Bell, 1859-1900; and Christopher Whitwam, ? - 1937. Elizabeth died in 1909. The Whitwam family are all buried in the next plot to the Andrews in the St. Thomas Cemetery, West Ave.
5. Marha Gilbert Andrews, born Jan. 20, 1838 died Dec. 20, 1867. She was a teacher and graduated from Toronto Academy of Music. Her last school was in Dunwich Township. Martha taught and trained her younger sister, Mary Anne, to be a teacher. Martha is buried in the Talbotville Cemetery.
6. Alfred Andrews, born Jan. 4, 1840, died September 17, 1845.
7. Albert Andrews, born September 8, 1841, became a farmer in Ingham County, Michigan. He has descendants there.
8. Matthew Henry Andrews, born Aug. 7, 1843.
9. Thomas Octavius, born Aug. 3, 1845. He went to Oregon.
10. James Andrews, born September 27, 1847, died July 14, 1848.
11. Mary Anne Andrews, born June 28, 1849. She was a teacher at 16 years of age. She took over her sister Martha's school in Dunwich township in the fall of 1867, when Martha was too ill to teach. She taught there until 1869. Mary Anne married Donald MacRae, and lived near Glencoe. She had 9 children and was left a widow at a young age. She later moved to Glendale, California with some of her children. One son was Richard Andrews MacRae, a Detroit attorney, who was very interested in family history and to him we are indebted for much of the information we have today. He was the one who kept his grandfather's Hebrew Bible, record books and other books. His daughter, Norma M. MacRae, of Seattle, has given these books to our area and using her father's information and what she has since discovered is writing a complete history of the Rev. Richard Andrews family.

Rev. Richard and Mary Andrew's lives must have been full of hardship and struggle. Richard probably was more suited to the life of a scholar than a pioneer. Richard, in following his ministry to other, was often away and Mary would be left with the sole responsibility of family and pioneer home. Sadly after such a rigorous life they were worn out too young. Rev. Richard Andrews died May 30, 1849 almost exactly one month before the birth of Mary Anne.

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On the day of his death his will was made, leaving his two brothers-in-law, Richard Gilbert and Richard Penhale as executors. Witnesses were his eldest son John, Richard Bilbert and R. F. Carey. With his son John, being only 17 years old, he had to become head of the home. On Jan. 26, 1855, Mary Slee Andrews succumbed to the winter and was found departed in her bed, with her 5 1/2 year old daughter beside her.

Rev. Richard, his wife Mary, and daughter Martha are all buried in the Talbotville Cemetery. Rev. Richard's inscription reads: "In memory of Richard Andrews, Baptist Minister, who died May 30, 1849, aged 55 years. He lived and died a Christian."

On Oct. 31, 1855, John Andrews married a neighbour Isabella McLarty, born July 26, 1830 in Scotland. John's youngest sister, little Mary Anne, grew up with the. Richard MacRae recalls his Uncle John with great affection remembering how after his mother Mary Anne MacRae was widowed, his Uncle John would come from north of St. Thomas to Glencoe by train, and then walk out to their home about once a month, always with a pocket full of candy for the children. From family letters it is so good to feel the great bond of affection and much loving kindness between Richard and Mary's children and grandchildren.

John Andrews and Isabella McLarty had five children:

1. Richard Alexander (Dick) Andrews, born Jan. 10, 1859, died 1922. He married Agnes Fulton and had one son, John Fulton Andrews. They lived on the old homestead which John Fulton Andrews owned until his death in 1961. In 1963 the homestead was sold to Lloyd Taylor. All this family are buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery, West Ave.
2. Mary Jane Andrews, born Nov. 13, 1860, died Oct. 18, 1946. Mary Jane (May) married her cousin Fred Andrews, who came out from Torquay, Devon to visit his cousins. They lived in Vancouver and had one daughter, Gladys, who died of Scarlet Fever at five years of age. Mary Jane, Fred and Gladys are buried in Vancouver.
3. Margaret Wenona (Noni) born Nov. 30, 1862 died Dec. 3, 1937. She married A. M. Hutchison and lived at 49 Hincks St. St. Thomas. They had no children. They are buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery, West Ave.
4. Albert Edward (Ed.), born Oct. 17, 1864 died 1910. He married Edith Kimble who lived across the road. They had two children: Edna May, born Sept. 25, 1907, died 1909 and Albert John, born July 3, 1911. Edna May is buried in the Andrews plot in the St. Thomas Cemetery.
5. Isabella Lavina Andrews (Bella), born Oct. 11, 1866 died June 20, 1939. She married John Currie. They had one son, Stanley. They lived in the U. S. A. many years. Stanley lived at San Diego, but although married he had no children. He is now deceased.

In 1867 John and Isabella Andrews purchased the Andrews farm on County Road 52 in Southwold Township, the first farm west of the Wellington Road on the south side of County Road 52. John also owned the block of land east of Talbotville on the north side of the road, but sometime in the early 1900's that land was sold. In 1884 John and Isabella built the present home "Fairmont" and enjoyed making it beautiful. There were seven bedrooms, front hall, two large sitting rooms, a large dining room, kitchen, pantry and wash room and a very large summer kitchen and wood shed. It was heated by six wood stoves. Two large verandahs, four bay windows, ornate wood trim, painted beige or cream with dark brown trim. John Andrews loved trees and planted many shade, evergreen and fruit trees, current bushes and rhubarb added to the large garden east of the house. Shorthorn cows and Southdown sheep were raised.

Grandmother Isabella Andrews jokingly said that if there was no guest for dinner her husband John went out on the road and stopped someone. It was also a joke that when Grandmother Andrews tried to "fuss up" her husband to look his best at a meeting, he would soothingly say, "Don't fuss, little Ma, (his name for her), they all know me there."

John Andrews died, surrounded by his familyk Friday evening at 7:30 Jan 31, 1902, aged 75. The road was so blocked with snow that his body had to be taken to the cemetery on a sleigh across the fields. Scripture lesson was Romans Chapter XII and First Corinthians Chapter XIII. Hymns used at the funeral were "Jesus Lover of my Soul" and "Nearer my God to Thee."

His wife, Isabella, died on June 20, 1913, aged 82 on a Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. All her daughters were at her bedside. Ministers at her funeral were Dr. Dougall, Rev. Rogers and Rev. McGillivray. Mrs. Hindley sang beautifully "Lead Kindly Light."

After Edward Andrews' death in 1910, his wife Edith lived across the road with her parents and later she re-married living on a farm about 1/2 mile west of her former home. Fairmont, which was rented, fell into some disrepair. In 1928 the barn was struck by lightning and burned and was rebuilt in 1930 with a steel bank barn. The woodshed and summer kitchen had been torn down and the front deck removed. In 1930 Albert Andrews and his mother moved back to "Fairmont" and began putting in repairs again. In 1946 hydro was installed.

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On Aug. 20, 1949, Albert Andrews married Marjorie Prideaux, daughter of Basil and Katie Prideaux, of South Malahide Township, Elgin County. They had two sons, John Geoffrey, born Oct. 18, 1950 and Richard Albert, born Feb. 25, 1954. "Fairmont" was much enjoyed by all of them, and the home was shared with Albert's mother until her hospitalization in Dec. 1979. We were especially grateful for the trees planted by John Andrews and did our best to make flower beds, plant shrubs and keep a lawn cut. In the early 1950's running water in the kitchen was a great convenience over the pump in the 50' deep house well. In 1958 a bathroom and kitchen cupboards made life still easier. In 1967 came "Puff, the magic dragon", a furnace which heated all the downstairs and the next year even the upstairs. White aluminum siding and black shutters added in 1975 made a great improvement. Albert and his family took great pride in their Guernsey cows and many good friends were made with other Guernsey cow owners. John and Richard enjoyed showing them in 4-H and at Aylmer Fair.

In 1970 John Andrews married Mary Sanguine of St. Thomas. They had three sons - Jason, born 1973 and Joshua born 1976 and Jamie, born 1978. There was a traffic separation in 1979 ending in divorce in 1982. John re-married in July, 1982 a widow Jane Schipper Garrow, the mother of two children, Angela born 1974 and Jeff, born 1976. We wish them great happiness in their home at the south-west corner of the "Fairmont" Andrews Farm.

In Oct. 1980, Richard Andrews married Susan Gaspirc, daughter of Cyril and Marine Gaspirc of St. Thomas. They now reside at "Fairmont" with their daughter Katherine Nicole, born Dec. 12, 1981. They also love the old home and have been making improvements - a front verandah, bathroom upstairs and a sun deck. Guernsey and Holstein cows and Suffolk sheep and bees are kept on the farm. John and Richard have bought 78 acres east of the original "Fairmont" farm to replace 26 acres lost to the Ministry of Transportation and Communication in 1973. Two paved roads were built through the farm fields and woods. In addition to the dairying, John and Richard grow cash crops of soy beans, corn, white beans and peas for freezing. Additional land is rented and in 1979 John and Richard built a shop and implement shed and now sell snowmobiles and kerosene heaters.

The farm history would not be complete without a tribute to many cats, "Little Joe" the pet raccoon and our beloved four-legged canines - Carlo, Toby, Sport, King and finally our black Labrador, Badger, all now gone to rest.

On March 18, 1983 Edith (Kimble) (Andrews) Simkins died at the age of 97 in the Rest Haven Nursing Home, St. Thomas and was buried in the Kimble plot in the St. Thomas Cemetery.

In conclusion, we can only say how much affection and gratitude we feel for those departed family members who, against great difficulties, worked for a better world. We treasure your legacy and hope it may go on for the generations to come.

Marjorie Andrews - April, 1983

Note: Dr. Ian Begg has visited Holsworthy and traced the Andrews generations back to 1597.