

# THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS OF QUEBEC CONNECTOR

First Edition

FALL 2008

## Our Goal

Is to serve as a communicator for researching and tracing the families of the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Thank you for your interest in our first newsletter.

Sharon Osgood Norton and Laverne Aitchison share a common interest in the families in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. This led us to publish this Newsletter to inform our readers of sources that are available for research in the Eastern Townships.

We hope to make our readers more aware of the collections that are already published or will be published in the near future.

We would love your feedback so we know if we can make a difference in the search for your Eastern Township Ancestors.

We hope to publish **The Eastern Townships of Quebec Connector** twice a year. We will be featuring different families from the area and hope to include a picture with the article.

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## Granby, Shefford County

Granby township was given its name by King George III to honour a member of the English aristocracy, John Manners, Marquis of Granby. Catherine Day writes that: "A tract of land, bounded north by Milton(twp), east by Shefford (twp), south by Farnham (twp), and west by the French seigneuries was erected into a Township named Granby by Letters Patent dated January 8, 1803." The land was granted to the officers and privates of the Canadian militia and the widows and orphans of those who had died. In all there were 99 grantees.

In 1818, land in Granby Township was given to soldiers who had been discharged from the British service, but most of them did not settle here, instead choosing to sell their claims. Following the War of 1812-1814, Richard Frost from New Hampshire, received a grant of 500 acres in the township. In addition, he purchased the tract on which the City of Granby now stands from the agent of the absent proprietor, a man named McWaters. In 1826, a post office was opened in the village on the direct mail route between Chambly and Stanstead, and a mill was built on the Yamaska River in 1828 by John Horner Jr.

In the religious sphere, the early Anglican settlers in Granby had to be satisfied with occasional visits from whatever pastoral care neighbouring Church of England ministers could give them. The first record of a service in Granby is during a visit by Archdeacon Mountain in 1829, who stopped here after first visiting Stanstead, Georgeville and Waterloo.

The Rev. Thomas Johnson arrived in Abbotsford in 1830, and soon after opened missions at Granby, Farnham, Rougemont, St-Hyacinthe and Milton. In 1907, the old wooden church was torn down, and on June 11 the following year, the cornerstone for a new brick building was laid by the Rt. Rev. James Carmichael, Bishop of Montreal. During the ceremony, the rector, Canon Longhurst, called attention to the presence of two longtime parishioners, Edward Seale, then 93 years old, who had helped in the construction of the first church, and Josiah Payne, who as a lad of 17, helped carry timbers for the erection of the first church 64 years before.

St. George's centennial anniversary was celebrated in 1943, and an interesting book outlining the history of this church since its inception was written by Archdeacon Lidstone.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**The Eastern Townships of Quebec Connector  
will be e-mailed as a PDF file.**

## ARE YOU CONNECTED TO THE FAMILIES OF GRANBY?

Our goal is to help researchers on common or related families to work together to find their common heritage in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

By sharing our information and pictures we hope to break down some of the brick walls we have all encountered on researching these families.

In order to respect your privacy we will not publish anything that is not 100 years old. If an article is written and the person is still living we will want your written permission to include the information in The Eastern Townships of Quebec Connector.

There were a number of families who settled in the Granby, Shefford County, Quebec area that were neighbours from Roxburghshire, Scotland. Did they come on the same ship or did they make their own way to Montreal before settling in Granby? The 1864 Walling Map of Granby shows the following families owning property close to each other: **J Copeland, S Kennedy, F. Copeland, Wm Atchison, J Atchison, R Atchison, J. Aitchison, R. Rutherford, Mrs. Brock, J. Ainslie, R. Ainslie, Mrs. Payne** to name a few.

On the 1861 Census FHL Film #0517421 for Granby Twp, Shefford County, Quebec the following families are listed on page.70 Note the spelling of "Copland" (Copeland) and "Atchison" (Aitchison) *Names in bracket from family records.*

### LINE 9

Robert t **Rutherford**, farmer, born Scotland, Congregational, 40 yrs  
Elisabeth Rutherford, 34 yrs (Elizabeth **Brack**)  
William Rutherford 10 yrs  
Mary Rutherford 8 yrs  
Alexander Rutherford 6 yrs  
James Rutherford 4 yrs  
Agnes Rutherford 3 yrs  
Julia Rutherford 1 yr

### LINE 19

John **Copland**, farmer, Episcopalian 33 yrs  
Mary A Copland 30 yrs (Mary Ann **Woolley**)  
James Copland 7 yrs  
Catherine Copland 6 yrs  
Helen Copland 4 yrs  
Margret Copland 1 yr

### LINE 25

James **Copland** farmer, no place of birth Episcopalian, 70 yrs? (age is blotted)  
Mary Copland 69 yrs (Mary **Brown**)  
Frederick Copland, farmer, 30 yrs

### LINE 28

William **Atchison**, farmer, Born Scotland, Congregation, 50 yrs  
Elizabeth Atchison 6 yrs (his daughter)

### LINE 30

John **Atchison**, farmer, Episcopalian 45 yrs  
Mary Atchison, 25 yrs (Mary **Copeland**)  
William Atchison, Labourer, 16 yrs  
Isabella Atchison, 14 yrs  
Catherine Atchison 8 yrs  
James Atchison 6 yrs  
Agnes Atchison 4 yrs.  
Mary Atchison 1 yr

### LINE 38

Robert **Atchison**, Farmer, Congregational, 55 yrs  
Janie Atchison 53 yrs (Jane **Wood**)  
James Atchison 25 yrs  
Agnes Atchison 22 yrs  
Catherine Atchison 20 yrs  
Walter Atchison 18 yrs  
Robert Atchison 16 yrs  
Mary Atchison 13  
Janie Atchison 3 yrs  
Martha Atchison 3 yrs  
Catherine Atchison 3 yrs

## RUTHERFORD & ENNIS FAMILIES OF GRANBY

Rutherford Contact: [osgoodnorton@gmail.com](mailto:osgoodnorton@gmail.com)

Ennis Contact: [ingram-rod@sympatico.ca](mailto:ingram-rod@sympatico.ca)

One must never overlook the value of old newspaper clippings. While sorting through a box of my grandmother's keepsakes, I stumbled across an old, black, leather-bound bible. This well-loved bible with missing and dogged-eared pages had seen better days. To my pleasure, the inside cover of the bible was signed by my paternal great-grandmother, Kate **Osgood**. I have few tokens from this great-grandmother, and what little I have, I cherish. As I was flipping through the bible, hoping to find some valuable birth entries, I came across a newspaper clipping with a photo of an elderly couple.



The article proclaimed the golden wedding anniversary of Alexander & Elizabeth **Rutherford** of Granby, Quebec.

I had never heard of this family, nor could I link them to our family tree. However, after much pondering, I realized the **Rutherfords** and my **Osgoods** only lived a few blocks from each other, and may well have been good friends. Let me summarize what little I know of this Granby couple:

The article stated Mr. and Mrs. Alex **Rutherford** feted their golden anniversary in the presence of family and friends at their

home at 7 Mountain Street in Granby, Quebec. The year of their golden anniversary was not mentioned, nor was the article dated. With some quick calculations and the help from their marriage record indicating they were married April 12, 1888, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary most likely took place in 1938.

Alexander, bachelor son of Robert Rutherford and Elizabeth **Brack** of Granby Township, married Elizabeth **Ennis** on April 12, 1888. Elizabeth **Ennis**, daughter of Christopher **Ennis**, farmer, and Christina **Aitchison**, were both from Granby Township. Witnesses to this marriage were Robert A. **Payne** and his wife Isabella (Bella). Unfortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Payne were not amongst the invited guests, as they were pre-deceased.

Alexander, of Scottish descent, was born around 1855 in the province of Quebec. According to the article, Mr. and Mrs. **Rutherford** owned and operated a farm at Granby Hill. Having retired from farming life around 1910, they settled in the village of Granby, in what was considered the "English quarter". They had one son, Nelson, and two grandchildren, Lois and Stuart **Rutherford**.

Alexander & Elizabeth **Rutherford** were well regarded in their community. Mrs. **Rutherford** was presented with numerous gifts from the Rebekah Lodge, the Ladies Aid of the United Church, Granby Hill Woman's Institute and the W.C.T.U. Many friends and family were present for the celebration, as well as Rev. Thomas **Scott**. The article mentioned Mrs. **Rutherford's** living siblings as being Thomas **Ennis** and a sister Mrs. [Jennie] G. W. **Williams** while Mr. **Rutherford** only had one living sister, Mrs. John **Irving**, all of Granby.

Rutherford DNA project: <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/rutherford/>

## ROBERT AITCHISON & JANE WOOD FAMILY

Contact: [lk.aitch@gmail.com](mailto:lk.aitch@gmail.com)

There are many variations of the Aitchison name, some you may not have heard of: Acheson, Aitchison, Aitcheson, Atchison, Aytchison, Echison, Eitcheson, Etcheson, Eytcheson, Hatchison, Hitchison

We know from the marriage record below that Robert **Aitchison** and Jane **Wood** were married in Eckford, Scotland in 1830 and arrived in Montreal before their first son William **Aitchison** was born 7 September, 1831 St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, Quebec.

BAPTISM: William **Aitchison**

1832-Baptized- Montréal (Presbyterian Saint Gabriel), Film #2027582 Folio 4

Robert **Aitchison**, Carpenter, Montreal and Jane **Wood** his wife had a son on the seventh day of September baptized the sixteenth day of January 1832 named William H. Esson Morin Minister

Robert **Aitchison**, Jane **Wood**,

Witness: Robert **Wright**, James **Lauder**.

MARRIAGE: Robert **Aitchison** and Jane **Wood**

1830 Eckford, Roxburgh, Scotland Register 787A/2 FR #384

15 May 1830 **Robert Aitchison** and **Jane Wood**, both in the Parish of Eckford gave up their names for proclamation in order to marriage. Given to the poor 1 pence.

(The village of Eckford is located between Jedburgh and Kelso, Scotland)

BAPTISM: James **Aitchison**

1833 -Baptism - Montréal (Presbyterian Saint Gabriel) Film #2027582 Folio 59

Robert **Aitchison**, Carpenter, Montreal, Jane **Wood**, his wife had a son born on this 13 day of November last and baptized this tenth day of July 1834 named James. H. Esson Morin

Robert **Aitchison** - Jane X **Wood**

Witness: Robert **Wright**, Adam **Elder**.



The picture at left is Robert **Aitchison** and Jane **Wood's** son James **Aitchison** b 13 Nov 1833 St Gabriel Church, Montreal, Quebec who married Rachel **Cook** 9 Dec 1865 Granby Methodist Church.

In 1921 James **Aitchison** died at the age of 89 yrs at Sherbrooke Protestant Hospital and buried 28 day of May 1921 at the Elmwood Cemetery, Sherbrooke, Quebec

Some of the names that are connected to this **Aitchison** family so far are:

**Aitchison, Ainslie, Booth, Brack, Carroll, Cook, Coupland/Copland, Donaway, Ennis, Farley, Gauthier, Gladdon, Kennedy, Lauder, Magee/McGee, Mitchell, Morrison, Paige, Payne, Riddle, Rutherford, Waugh, Whitney, Williams, Wood, Woolley** etc.

Note:

*James (Jim) Elmer Bruce **Aitchison** of Vermont passed away 18 April 2008. Jim will be sadly missed by all. He made many trips to Quebec to work on the Aitchison research which he shared with many contacts on both sides of the border. He was successful in connecting with Dottie **Mooney** of Cheyenne, Wyoming; whom has done a lot of research for the John **Aitchison** family of Montevideo, Minnesota. (John **Aitchison** married Mary **Coupland**. In 1866 John **Aitchison** and Mary **Coupland** and their seven children and two children from his first marriage to Elizabeth **Ainslie** emigrated to the USA.)*

# PUBLICATIONS

We have included a listing of available books for sale. For ordering purposes, a contact has been provided next to the publisher's name. The editor of this newsletter is not responsible for orders.

<b>NEIL BROADHURST - AUTHOR</b> <a href="http://broadhurst.shaw.ca">broadhurst.shaw.ca</a>
Protestant Marriages of the District of Bedford, QC 1804-1879

<b>KATHLEEN BROCK - AUTHOR</b> <a href="http://www.qfhs.ca">www.qfhs.ca</a>	
Protestant Births & Baptisms, Shefford County, Quebec 1880-1899	\$35.00
Protestant Marriage Index, Shefford County, Quebec 1880-1899	\$40.00
Protestant Death & Burial Index, Shefford County, Quebec 1880-1899	\$40.00

<b>COLBY CURTIS MUSEUM/STANSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>	
<a href="http://www.colbycurtis.ca/eng/archives.html">http://www.colbycurtis.ca/eng/archives.html</a>	
1825 Census, Stanstead County	\$10.00
1861 Census for Stanstead Township and Stanstead Plain	\$25.00
Marriage Contracts/Contrat de mariage from/de 1840-1950 at/a Stanstead - <i>Stanstead Historical Society</i>	\$20.00
Sherbrooke Daily Record Vital Statistics, Vol. 1 & 2, 1897-1906 – <i>Elaine Wilson</i>	Price
Stanstead County Vital Statistics, Vol. I-II, 1845-1963 – <i>Elizabeth Brock &amp; Jackie Tilton</i>	Varies
Forest and Clearings – The History of Stanstead County, reprint – <i>H.B. Hubbard</i>	\$38.00
Wills/Les Testaments – from/de 1840-1950 – at/a Stanstead	\$20.00

<b>MATTHEW FARFAN - AUTHOR</b> <a href="mailto:home@qahn.org">home@qahn.org</a>	
Cemetery Heritage in Quebec	\$12.00

<b>SHARON OSGOOD NORTON - AUTHOR</b> <a href="http://granbynewspaperextracts.googlepages.com/">http://granbynewspaperextracts.googlepages.com/</a>	
Granby & Eastern Townships Newspaper Extract 1855 - 1910	\$40.00

## Queries

Alice Mckelvey  
[familytribs@hotmail.com](mailto:familytribs@hotmail.com)

I am Alice Coupland's great grand daughter. She was married to a Thomas Mckelvey. I am looking for birth or death records for the Coupland side. Do you have any other information on Fred Coupland?     Alice

**FRED COUPLAND SR**



Agnes (**Aitchison**) Coupland with either Alice or Fred Coupland Jr

## Quebec and the Eastern Townships of Quebec Genealogy Websites:

**Marlene Simmons Website** <http://simmons.b2b2c.ca/>

My specialty is the English speaking Protestants of Quebec; I'm not as strong for French-Canadian records. Those French-Canadian records which I do have are largely concentrated in the counties of Brome, Missisquoi and Shefford.

**Pam Waugh Website** <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~qceastwn/>

Genealogists researching the English speaking Protestant families in the Eastern Townships will find there is a wealth of information available. Church records, cemetery inscriptions, census records, etc. are available through a variety of sources.

Counties Covered: Arthabaska, Brome, Compton, Drummond, Megantic, Missisquoi, Richmond, Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead and Wolfe.

**Links to the Eastern Townships** <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/9917/lketgen.htm>

**Canadian Genealogy and History Links** <http://islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/quebec.html>

### **THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS RESEARCH CENTRE**

<http://www.townshippersheritage.com/Eng/Articles/Research/etrc.html>

#### **Richard Roy**

Interested in leaning more about the Eastern Townships? Researching your family tree?

If you answer yes to either of these questions, the Eastern Townships Research Centre (ETRC), located in McGreer Hall at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, would be an excellent place to visit.

ETRC executive director Marie Thibault explains,

"We have two goals here.

The first is the preservation of Eastern Township heritage, and the second is to promote multi-disciplinary research pertaining to the Townships."

The ETRC holds the complete United Church archives for the Eastern Townships, as well as lists of lands granted by the Crown in the Province of Quebec from 1763 to 1890. Genealogists should be aware of these resources, which, Daniel Bromby says, are very useful in locating ancestors who were original settlers of the region. "Visitors can even refer to maps indicating property lots and who was living there at a given time. These can be used in conjunction with an index to narrow down a search." Also available at the ETRC are the Guide to Eastern Townships Genealogy, vital statistics recorded in The Stanstead Journal (1845-1958) and The Sherbrooke Record (1897-1906), cemetery records for Stanstead County and northern Vermont, the 1901 census available in the microfilm archives, and much, much more.

This is a free service and we will do the search necessary, but if we don't find anything, we will inform the person and suggest alternative routes like contacting the Eastern Townships Genealogy Society in Sherbrooke."

#### **Please Note:**

For further information on the Eastern Townships Research Centre, Jody Robinson may be reached at (819) 822-9600, ext. 2261, or at [etrc2@ubishops.ca](mailto:etrc2@ubishops.ca). The ETRC does not charge entry, membership, or research fees.