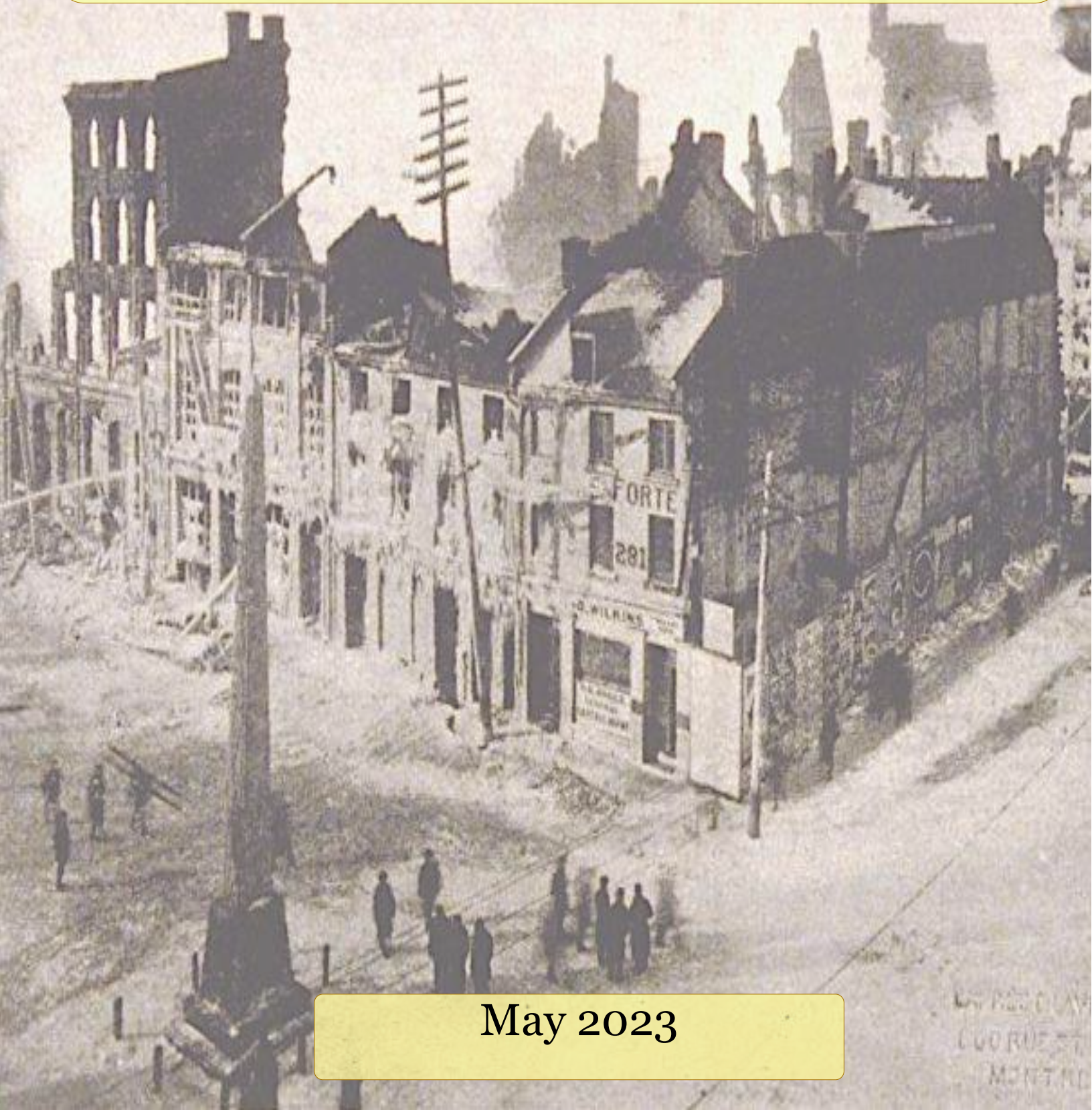


Connections

Magazine of the Quebec Family History Society



May 2023

Connections

May 2023



Cover:

The Montreal Fire, Jan. 23, 1901. The New York Times: "the disastrous fire which took place in the centre portion of the city.....chiefly 30 buildings, mostly warehouses were destroyed together with their valuable stocks." See Robert Wilkin's article in this issue.

Quebec Family History Society

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Website: www.qfhs.ca

QFHS is a federally registered non-profit charitable organization, founded in 1978.

Mailing Address: As above

Heritage Library hours:(when we are open)

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wed. evening 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please phone at the number above if you wish to visit us. Thank you.

Articles and Comments:

Please submit all articles, comments and suggestions to qfhseditor@gmail.com

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Genealogical News by Gary Schoder

Great News for Canadian Genealogists. The 1931 Census for Canada is Coming June 1, 2023

The following information comes from Library and Archives Canada, Family Search and John Reid of Anglo-Celtic Connections:

“On June 1, 2023 Canadians can expect to browse the digitized census images by geographical district and sub-district on the Library and Archives Canada website of more than 10 million people. Following the initial release, LAC will work collaboratively with Ancestry and Family Search International to create a searchable database for Canadians and those with Canadian heritage who wish to look for their ancestors. “

This is very similar to work done on the 1950 United States Census recently. Obviously, you will be able to find your relatives relatively quickly in small towns and villages but you will have to wait for the comprehensive indexes for major urban centres like Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, etc.

Library and Archives Canada has digitized all 234,687 pages of the census which was contained on 187 microfilm rolls. There were 40 basic questions on the 1931 Census.

The images and indexes will be available and searchable online for free through “Census Search “Library and Archives Canada’s new one-stop shop for Canadian national census records. The images and indexes will also be available on Ancestry.ca and FamilySearch.org

On a sad note Senator Lorna Milne who was among the leaders of the campaigns to open up Canadian census records died on March 1, 2023 aged 88. Fuller information on Senator Lorna Milne’s efforts can be read on John Reid’s excellent genealogical blog “Anglo-Celtic Connections “. She was our keynote speaker at one of our Roots Conferences in the early 2000’s. The Canadian Genealogical Community owes her a deep debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts of over 10 years to free census records from government bureaucracy. A kind, intelligent, and caring person. R.I.P.



Upcoming QFHS Seminars

The following 2-part seminars will be presented twice on the same date. Firstly, an in-person presentation at the new QFHS premises. Secondly, a Zoom presentation in the evening.

4 Hours Cost: \$40.00 per person

1. How Do I Find My Ancestors in England and Wales?

With Gary Schroder (4 hours)

A comprehensive review of the databases and resources used in modern English and Welsh genealogical research.

In QFHS Library: space is very limited

Part One May 10, 2023, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Part Two May 17, 2023, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

To register, please phone Gary at (514) 695 1502

On Zoom:

Part One May 10, 2023, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Part Two May 17, 2023, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Please register online at our website www.qfhs.ca

2. How Do I Find My Quebec Ancestors?

With Gary Schroder (4 hours)

Quebec Genealogical Research

In QFHS Library: space is very limited

Part One June 7, 2023, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Part Two June 14, 2023, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

To register, please phone Gary at (514) 695 1502

On Zoom:

Part One June 7, 2023, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Part Two June 14, 2023, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Please register online at our website www.qfhs.ca

My paternal grandparents met in Montreal in 1901, and this, my most recent book, is dedicated to their memory. Family tradition has it that Frederick Thomas Wilkins, of Birmingham, England, and Léa Emilie Therrien, of Bedford, Québec, crossed paths during the summer of the first year of the twentieth century in a tourist lodge on Beaver Hall Hill, in the city centre. They married the following January. He was 27, and she was all of 22.

I never knew my grandfather as he died eight years before I was born; a fact I deeply regret to this day. I do vividly recall my French-Canadian grandmother, however, and her charming, almost Acadian-like timbre whenever she spoke to me in English. I was twenty when she died.

Perhaps because I am an ardent local historian, I have often wondered what Montreal was like when they started their life together here that year. The streets, the buildings, the green spaces, might they be effortlessly familiar to me, or, at least, to some lesser degree, recognizable?

And the town's inhabitants in the first year of the twentieth century — Montrealers in their own time and place, my civic ancestors — what were they like? How did they respond to the great issues of the day? When, and about what, did they fret? Did language unite, or further divide them? Through what medium did they grapple with personal crises, when government did essentially nothing for citizens in the course of their everyday lives? These are just a few of the quixotic queries for which I have been, over the years, nimbly and earnestly seeking answers.

In that regard, I have often pondered, like so many others I suppose, what it would be like to time travel; that is to say, climb aboard some sort of 21st century technological contraption that would take me back to, let's just say, Montreal in 1901. Emerging from that time

GRANDAD'S MONTREAL, 1901

by
Robert N. Wilkins



Frederick Thomas Wilkins and Léa Emilie Therrien.

ship on a hot summer day, again just conjecturing, at the intersection of Peel and St. Catherine Streets, what would I first notice; how would I be received?

These interrogatives, and many more, are what motivated me to piece together a narrative about Montreal as it was during the first twelve months of the 20th century. And as time travel does not yet exist, I had to turn to newspapers — two in particular — from which I took all my information.

In short, to pursue my passion for local lore and to better understand the metropolis my grandparents first knew, I assiduously delved into microfilmed copies of *The Montreal Star* (Grandad's favourite!) and *La Presse* for the year 1901. They were by far the two most popular dailies on the district landscape at that time. I reasoned that by examining both an English-language and a French-language paper, I would surely obtain two different perspectives of what was transpiring in this community back in the day. Often, as it turned out, I did, although occasionally, just occasionally, the journals were of the same mind on certain seemingly contentious matters.

I quickly came to realize, through this research, that Montreal, at the turn of the last century, was very much an in-your-face city. This simple fact stemmed surely in part from the very character of

its residents: resilient, obtuse, hard, determined, and, at times, even cruel. These conspicuous features applied to children as well, who were certainly not mollycoddled as so many are today — far from it, in fact. Youngsters were often left to fend for themselves, both in the streets and in their homes.

Incidentally, the year 1901 coincided with the decennial Census of Canada taken on March 31 of the same year. That nose count showed the Island of Montreal with a population of 360,838 denizens, while the city itself came in at 325,653. All these individuals are now “with the great majority”, as *The Montreal Star* was so fond of writing.

Speaking of which, the average life expectancy in 1901 in Canada for a woman was 50 while for a man, it was 47. Only 44% of



The Redpath Mansion, site of the double shooting. Today, the site is occupied by the Port Royal Condo complex.

PROCLAMATION



DAY OF MOURNING

Whereas, at a meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, held on Monday, the 28th day of January, A.D. 1901, it was Resolved:

"That a Proclamation be issued, inviting the clergy of the various religious denominations to arrange for the holding of simultaneous memorial services in their respective churches on SATURDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF FEBRUARY NEXT, the day of the interment of our beloved

QUEEN

"at the hour of ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON, and that all citizens be respectfully requested to attend such services in their respective churches, and further that the attention of all citizens be directed to the ROYAL PROCLAMATION requesting that said day be observed as a DAY OF MOURNING, which it is hoped will be strictly complied with by closing all places of business and entertainment until the hour of sundown."

These are therefore to request the citizens to comply with the terms of the foregoing Resolution by attending Divine Service, and generally observing the said

**SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY NEXT,
AS A DAY OF MOURNING.**

In testimony whereof I have signed this Proclamation and caused the same to be made public this 31st day of January, 1901.

OLIVER A. HOWLAND,

Mayor's Office, Toronto, January 31st, 1901.

MAY

A proclamation on the death of Queen Victoria, and, right, the black-draped statue of the queen in Victoria Square.

shooting deaths ever to have occurred in the history of the town; and, in the late summer, a scrupulously-planned City Hall royal reception, which was cancelled at the last moment.

The first and the last of these four historic happenings would surely have been of keen interest to my grandfather, who was, true to his English origins, very much a fervent royalist.

And while Victoria's demise at the age of 81 was anything but a surprise, what transpired in Montreal in

females could expect to reach the age of 65 and for males this figure dropped to just 38%. Life was short and, at times, cheap. These were the damning demographic facts with which my kinfolks were surely familiar.

As for the year itself, I quickly picked up that several events occurred that are particularly noteworthy for the borough — the death of Queen Victoria in January (after all, Canada was still a member of the British Empire!); a major conflagration that same month in what is today Old Montreal, which rapidly destroyed the relatively-new Board of Trade Building; in June, two of the most bizarre



September of that same year certainly was. In a word, a colourful, much anticipated Town Hall levee for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (the future King George V and Queen Mary) was abruptly mothballed due to an event that took place hundreds of kilometres away from the burgeoning municipality. Over four thousand Montrealers had been expected to attend the September 18th eye-catching soir e, perhaps even my Grandad.

In a nutshell, the September 14 death, in Buffalo, N.Y., of U.S. President William McKinley, occasioned by an assassin's bullet, commandeered the date for other purposes. A day of national mourning was proclaimed throughout the United States for September 18th and the Governor-General's office in Ottawa thought it best that the Montreal royal gala be deftly and judiciously scrubbed. Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

As strange as it may seem, while masterminding my family history fact-finding, I

Jocelyn Clifford Redpath, presumed to have murdered his mother and then killed himself, in June, 1901.

All images supplied by the author

'Grandad's Montreal, 1901' can be found at Argo Bookshop, 1841 St. Catherine Street West; Paragraph on McGill College; Librairie Bertrand, 430 rue St. Pierre 'dans le Vieux Montr al'; De Stiil Bookshop on Duluth Street in the Plateau-Mont-Royal; Bonder's on Westminster in Montreal West; Indigo-Pointe Claire; and Librairie Clio in the Plaza Pointe Claire.

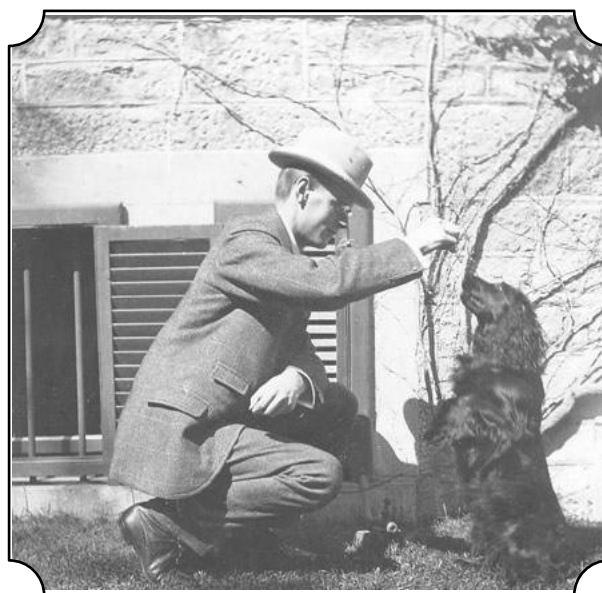
It is also available through me by writing to:

robertnwilkins@yahoo.ca

It should be noted that the book, which is 660 pages in length, sells for \$39.95, 25% of which is divided up between two city charities that cater to the needs of this city's many homeless — St. Michael's Mission and Chez Doris.

found myself developing an empathetic, almost enigmatic bond with the people who lived in this town in 1901. Perhaps it was because my grandparents were among them, or maybe it stemmed from the distress I felt for numerous turn-of-the-twentieth century Montrealers, given how arduous and relatively short their lives were.

By and by, in my waning years as a high school teacher in this metropolis, I frequently told my pupils that, in looking back on my own life, I was most pleased with where and when I was born. Nothing, in this, my on-going virtuous pastime, has caused me to put into doubt that assertion.



Moonlighting: A scrapbook records the turbulent times in 19th C Ireland

by
Donna Claridge



John Curtin and his daughter, Nora. The background is Castle Farm, near Tralee. Right: front cover of the scrapbook

Agrarian agitation, coupled with a demand for Home Rule from England, resulted in turbulent conditions across Ireland during the 1880s. Secretive, shadowy, bands of raiders, known as Moonlighters, frequently carried out operations in rural areas at night against landlords and other members of the establishment.

In County Kerry a group of Moonlighters raided the home of my great-great grandfather, John O'Connell Curtin of Castlefarm, Firies. The intruders were looking for arms on that night of Friday 13 November 1885. John was a law-abiding farmer from a nationalist

background. However, he was fatally injured in the raid, as was one of the Moonlighters. During the fracas one of John's sons, Dan, also apparently struggled violently with another Moonlighter, ably assisted by his sisters Lizzie and Nora. A second son, George, was responsible for quickly alerting the Royal Irish Constabulary and they conducted an extensive search for



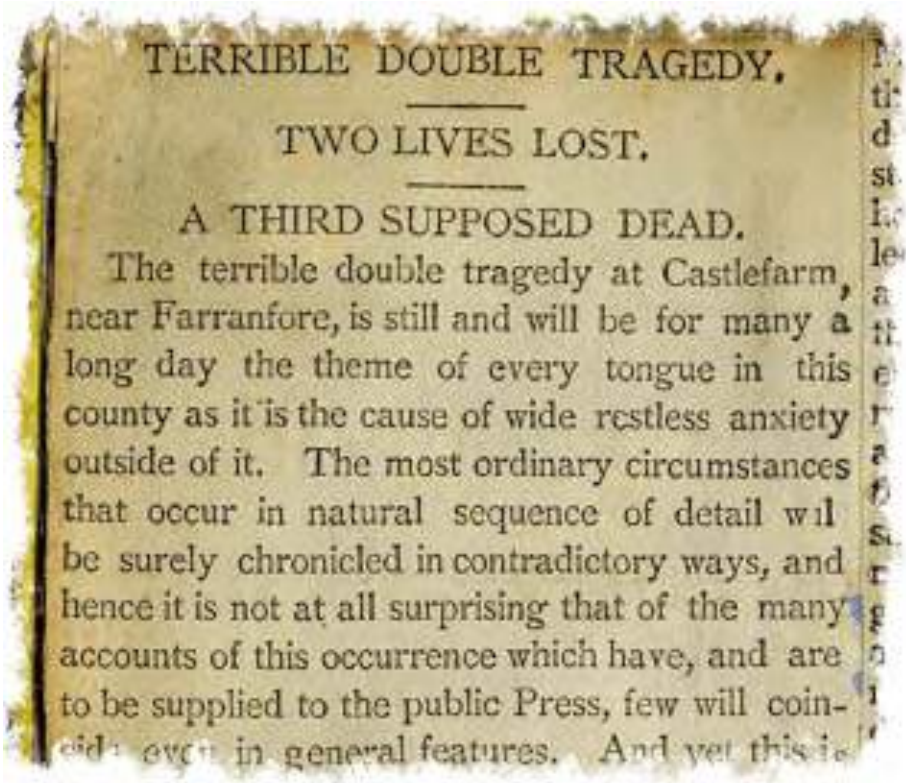


to live with her daughter Nora, in Killorglin. When Nora's husband, Robert Dodd, later died Nora emigrated to Canada c. 1910. She appears to have brought with her this scrap book. It contains many newspaper accounts of the raid. More importantly, it details subscriptions donated to a Testimonial Fund established by Gertrude Browne Lady Kenmare. This fund was

the perpetrators.

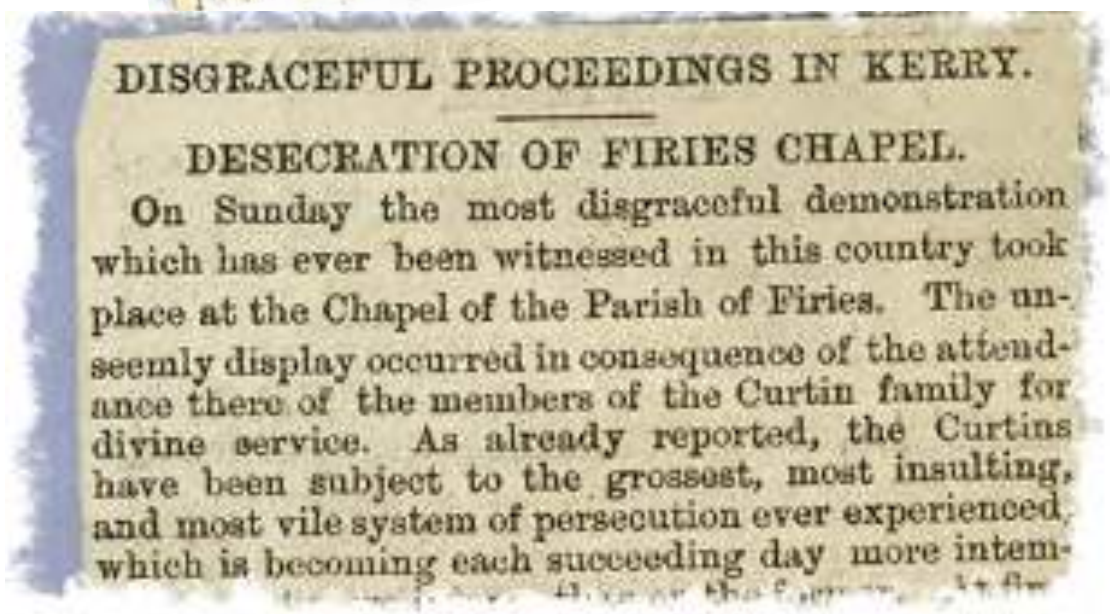
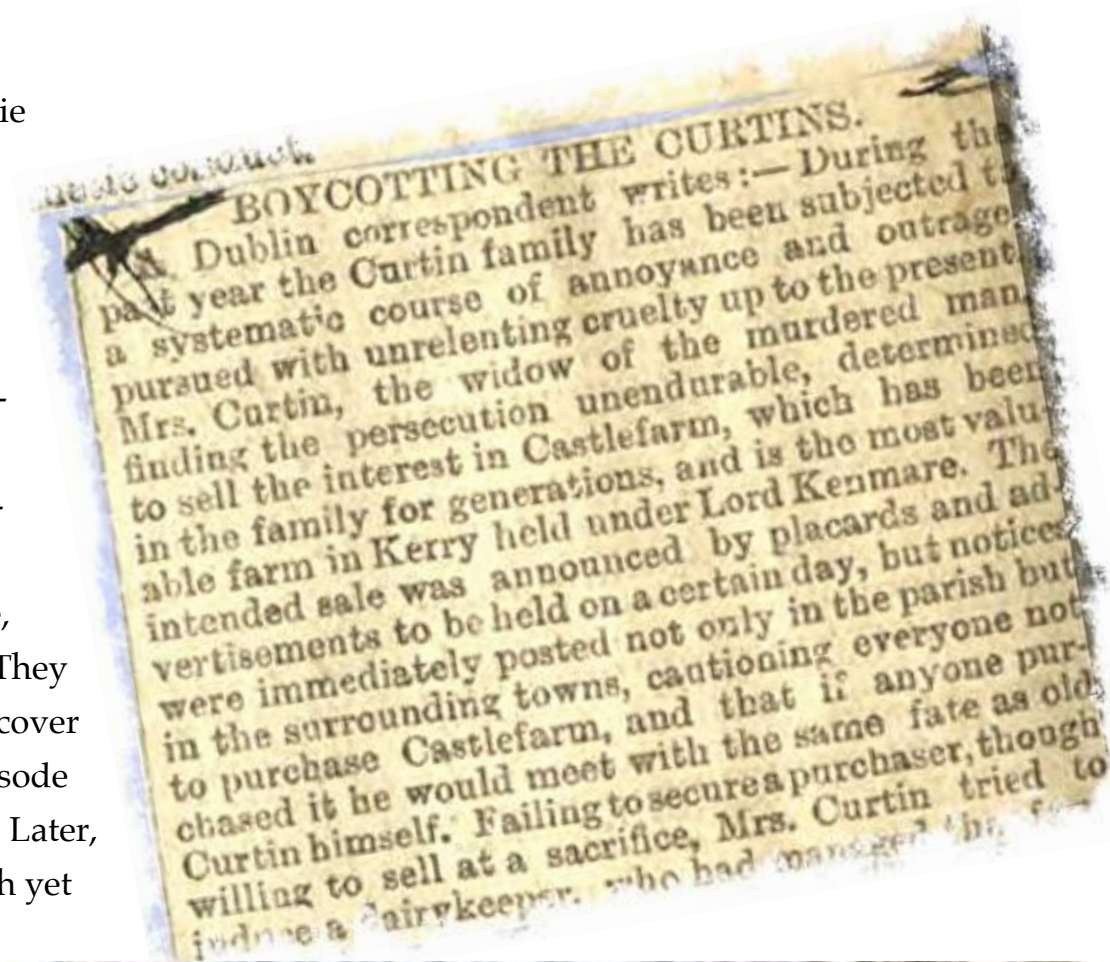
The activities of the police resulted in widespread antagonism and resentment towards the O'Connell Curtin family.

The Moonlighters were very influential locally and the O'Connell Curtins were subsequently the victims of a relentless campaign of boycotting. Powerless to work the land or sell its produce, Agnes, John's widow, departed Castlefarm in 1888



intended to assist Lizzie and Nora following their father's untimely death.

One hundred years after the raid at Castlefarm two of Nora's Canadian great grandchildren, Joanne and Donna Maria Claridge, found the scrapbook. They were astonished to uncover this long forgotten episode in their family history. Later, they made contact with yet another O'Connell Curtin descendant, Gay MacCarron from Dublin. The decision was subsequently taken to return the scrapbook to Ireland and so it came into Gay's possession. He very kindly donated it to Muckross House Research Library.



*The diary was donated to the Trustees of Muckross House (Killarney) CLG and is currently available online at <https://www.muckrosshousereseearchlibrary.ie/mccarron-book.php>
We thank Muckross House for permission to use material from their site.*

Attention to all Youngs of Québec. The Youngs of Scotland Society (Canada) is pleased to announce that a Young Family Convention will be held at The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh on Saturday, 2 September 2023, commencing at 2 pm to nominate a Commander.

Details of this Convention can be found at <https://courtofthelordlyon.scot/YoungFamilyConvention.pdf>

The Youngs of Scotland are considered an armigerous clan, without a Clan Chief. As such, the Society is proposing the nomination of a Commander to preserve the legacy of the Young family name around the world.

The Youngs of Scotland Family Convention

by

Christopher Young

*Young Clan Motto:
Robore Prudentia
Praestat (Prudence Excels
Strength)*



May 2023

The person nominated will require approval and appointment by the Lord Lyon King of Arms,

the chief heraldic officer of Scotland and Great Officer of State and a judge in the judiciary of Scotland. Those who are of the name Young or descended from the name Young and approved by the Supervising Officer are entitled to vote. Online voting will be made available during the convention. The Lord Lyon King of Arms has appointed Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary Professor Gillian Black, as Supervising Officer to the Young Family Convention.

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Anyone of the name Young or descended from anyone of the name Young is eligible to attend in person. Those wishing to attend should immediately contact Robert C Young, Commissioner for United Kingdom and Ireland, Youngs of Scotland, 18 Jacobsen Terrace, Dundee, Angus DD3 9TD or email him on ryoung18@virginmedia.com for further information. All Youngs are invited to join us afterwards at the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games on Sunday, 3 September 2023.

Those wishing to be considered for the position of Commander may also do so by contacting Robert. Three candidates have submitted their candidacy from Canada, Australia and the USA.

To stay apprised of details, please follow us in our Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7406984642/>.



Better yet, please become a member by contacting me at chris.young.ca@icloud.com.

Christopher Young

Québec Regent

Youngs of Scotland Society (Canada)

Aldbar Castle, Brechin, Angus, considered the ancestral home of the Young clan. Now demolished.



The Life of Daniel Schwerdtfeger

A research-based narration by Reena McCaw McBride

In the early light of a September morning in 1810, Daniel looked down into the small coffin with great sadness, at the little baby girl who had only lived a few months. She was baptized Nancy Rachel, the last of thirteen children and the eleventh child to die in infancy. Her funeral was that morning at Christ Church Cathedral, just down the street East of Place d'Armes. What heartbreak and pain her parents felt.

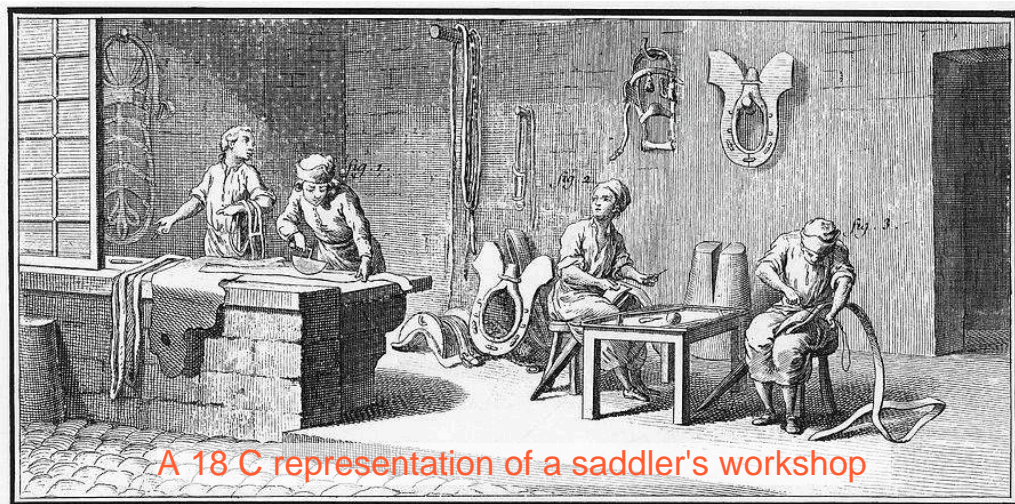
Daniel's wife Francoise was not well and was quietly grieving with her two young daughters Elizabeth and Mary, who were both a great comfort to her. This would be the eleventh sibling whose death the girls had witnessed. The house, at 31 Notre Dame St., Montreal, was small and most activities took place in the one main

room close to the fireplace. A place where few secrets could be kept and sadness reigned.

Who was Daniel Schwerdtfeger?

Daniel was my 4th great uncle. He was born in May 1763 in New Holland, Pennsylvania, the son of Rev. Johann William Samuel Schwerdtfeger and Anna Dorothea Schwab. Rev. Schwerdtfeger was a Lutheran minister who originally came to America from Bavaria in 1753 preaching in different communities in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York before finally in 1791, coming to Williamsburg Township on the St. Lawrence River in Upper Canada. Rev. Schwerdtfeger was loyal to the British Crown and eventually was granted land in

Upper Canada as a United Empire Loyalist. However, it appears that Daniel did not follow his father, mother and siblings to Upper Canada, but remained in Albany where he may have apprenticed in the leather trade becoming a saddler. He would have been 28 years old. Whether he took the "Oath of Allegiance" to



A 18 C representation of a saddler's workshop

the new America is not known, but to avoid imprisonment, he probably did. As a child, he travelled with his family from town to town as his father changed parishes. He spoke German (the language of his father), English, and when he met Francoise, he must have learned to speak French as well. Having grown up and travelled New England as a child and adult, Daniel may have retained an unspoken loyalty to the New America.

When he met John Godfrey Glasgow in Albany, also a saddler and a German Lutheran, they must have hit it off as mutual friends as soon as they met. John Godfrey may have offered Daniel a job working in his shop on Notre Dame St. in Montreal.

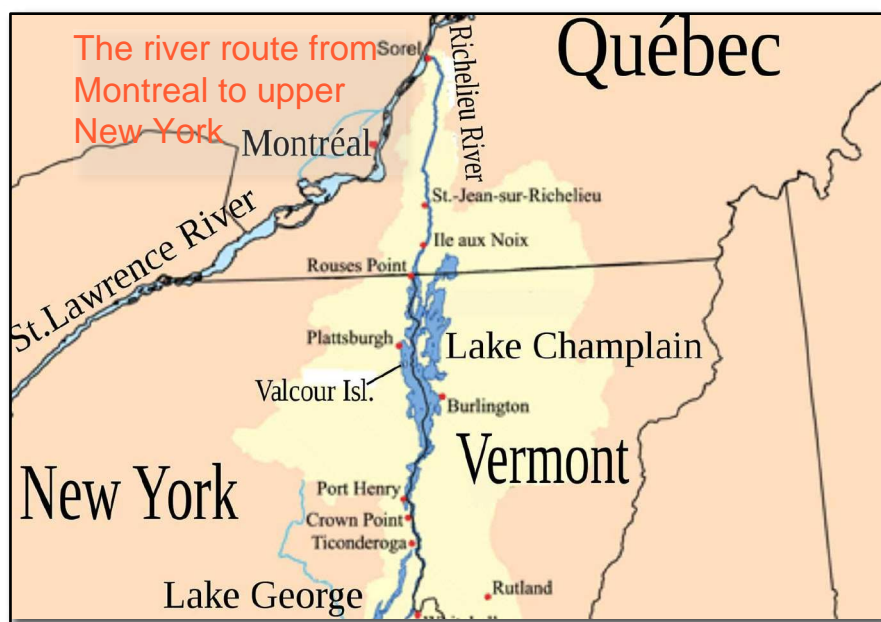
When Daniel met John Godfrey's sister-in-law Francoise it may have further influenced his decision to relocate to Montreal. John Godfrey would also have known that Francoise had an inheritance from her father of over nine hundred and ninety seven pounds and owned the house at 30 Notre Dame St., in Montreal, just down the street from John Godfrey Glasgow and Marguerite. Also, with a move to Montreal, Daniel would be much closer to his parents and siblings, in Williamsburg, Upper Canada, where his father had taken the position of Lutheran Minister in 1791.

Who was Francoise Hardy?

She was born December 27, 1776 and baptized Marie Francoise Hardy the same day in Basilique Notre Dame in Montreal. She was the 15th child of Joseph Hardy and Marie Agathe. Joseph and Marie Agathe had nineteen children, and they lived at 30 Notre Dame St. in Montreal.

How did They Meet?

Daniel and Francoise's love story starts in the Winter of 1796, when they in Albany, New York, and he fell in love with her the moment he saw her. The question arises as to why Francoise Hardy



was in Albany, N.Y., a long way from Montreal. There is the possibility that Francoise may have accompanied her younger sister Marguerite and brother-in-law John Godfrey Glasgow to Albany from Montreal. John Godfrey was a saddler/harness maker in Montreal and he may have travelled to Albany to purchase supplies for his shop and to hire a fellow

saddler to help in his business.

It was a long journey from Montreal to Albany and having the two sisters travel together with John Godfrey made the trip a little less stressful. They would have travelled to St. Jean sur Richelieu and taken a boat down the Richelieu River to Lake Champlain. At Fort Ticonderoga they would have portaged to Lake George and then onto the Hudson River to Albany. No doubt, it was easier to travel in the Winter months, and as Daniel and Francoise were married in March, it suggests that she had been in Albany during the Winter, where she had the opportunity to meet Daniel at Winter functions.

Marriage and Children

Daniel and Francoise were married March 13, 1796 at the First Lutheran Church in Albany, N.Y. As Daniel was not Catholic, he and Francoise would not have been able to marry in the Catholic Church in Montreal. For this reason they may have decided to marry in the Lutheran Church in Albany.

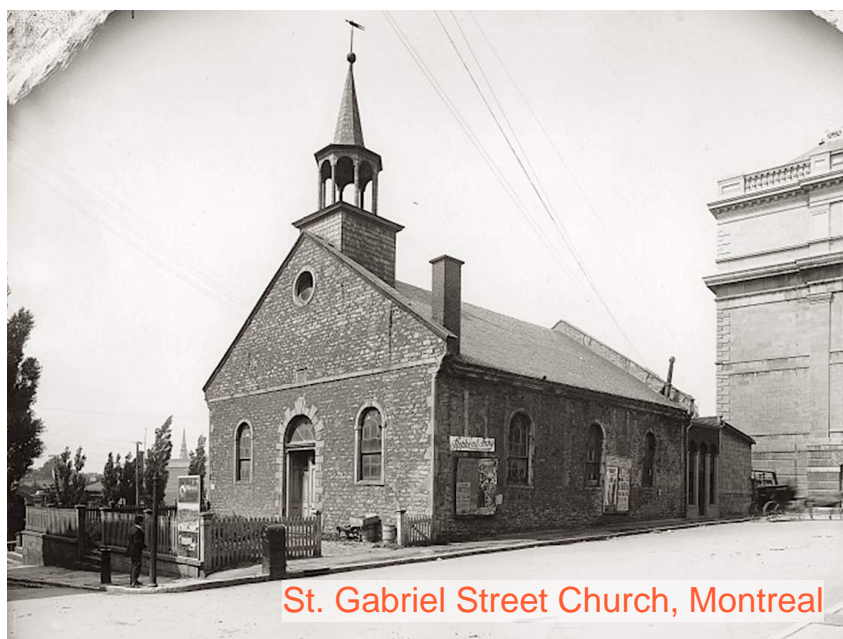
Daniel and Francoise returned to Montreal from Albany, N.Y. as husband and wife, in 1796. They saw a Notary to cancel Vincent Hardy's Guardianship over Francoise. Daniel might have used Francoise's inheritance to set up his own saddler business in the back of their house on Notre Dame St.

Elizabeth, Daniel and Francoise's first child was born in 1797 and was baptized at St. Gabriel Street Church. She was definitely a support to her parents

through the coming years. Unfortunately, she died at the age of 22 in La Prairie.

Their second child, Daniel, was born a year later. Sadly, he only lived about seven weeks and died in August, 1798. He was buried from Sault au Recollet Catholic Church in Montreal North.

In February of 1799, Francoise's sister Marguerite died at the age of 24, two



months after her third child died, and was buried from Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal. The two sisters were no doubt very close, they lived down the street from one another and their husbands worked together. Francoise would have missed Marguerite terribly.

Daniel and Francoise's third child, Mary, was born in 1799. The only record of her baptism is in the Parish records of Williamsburg, Upper Canada, Aug. 6, 1799. She was probably baptized by her Grandfather Rev. Johann William Samuel



Schwerdtfeger.

The following year, Jacob Schwerdtfeger was born in September 1800. He only lived a few weeks. He died Oct. 29, 1800 and was buried from Sault au Recollet Catholic Church.

A child may have been born in 1801, however, the records for St. Gabriel Street Church for 1801 are missing. There is no record of a burial of a Schwerdtfeger child at Sault au Recollet Catholic Church for 1801.

John Godfrey Schwerdtfeger was born Aug. 19, 1802 and was baptized Sept. 5, 1802 at Christ Church Cathedral. He was obviously named after Daniel's best friend John Godfrey Glasgow. Sadly, Baby John Godfrey died Oct. 10, 1802 and was buried from Sault au Recollet Catholic Church.

George Schwerdtfeger, Daniel and Francoise's sixth child, was

born Aug. 28, 1803 and was baptized Sept. 25, 1803 at St. Gabriel Street Church. He was named after Daniel's friend George Wurtele. It is possible George did not die in infancy, as a George Schwerdtfeger was witness to the 1826 baptism of Margaret Smith, his cousin Margaret Glasgow Smith's daughter.

In October 1803, Daniel's father, Rev. Johann William Samuel Schwerdtfeger, died in Williamsburg, Upper Canada, at the age of 69. He will be remembered as the "Saint of the St. Lawrence Seaway".

Between 1804 and 1808, five more children were born and died in infancy. Julie, Jean, Daniel and Sarah were all buried at Sault au Recollet Catholic Church, William at Notre Dame Basilica.

Sarah Juliana Schwerdtfeger was born in June, 1809 and was baptized in Williamsburg, Upper Canada. Her Godparents were Jacob and Sarah Wurtele and Mary Glasgow). Sarah was named after her Great grandmothers Juliana Oberlander and Juliana Koch. There is no record of when she died.

Nancy was the last child born to Daniel and Francoise.

Sadly, Marie Francoise died very young, July 24, 1814, at the age of 38, no doubt, heartbroken and worn out, having given birth to 13 children in 14 years. She was buried from Basilique Notre Dame Catholic Church in Montreal, leaving behind a bereaved husband and two teenage daughters.

What caused these children to die?

Was it genetic, was it environmental, or was it a disease, such as tuberculosis. We know that fourteen of Francoise Hardy's eighteen siblings died in infancy, so it is safe to say, there may have been a genetic cause to the babies' deaths.



Sault au Recollet Church, Ahuntsic

There is a pattern that develops after listing the baptisms and deaths of the thirteen children. Daniel was brought up a Lutheran and must have felt very strongly about the Protestant Church. All the children were baptized in the Protestant Church. However, Françoise was brought up a Catholic and she too felt strongly about her religion. All the children were buried at Catholic churches except Nancy Rachel, their last child. There must have been a discussion and agreement as to the baptism and burial of their children; they were to be baptized in the Protestant faith and buried in the Catholic faith. A true compromise.

Today, Sault au Recollet Catholic

Church is known as “La Visitation de la Bienheureuse Vierge Marie” and it backs on Riviere des Prairies in Ahuntsic/ Cartierville, Quebec. From the outside, you can see that there is only a small section in the rear of the church that is left from the original structure. The interior is very beautiful.

Daniel's Life Goes On.....

After almost five months a widower, Daniel married Elizabeth French. She was 18 years old, the daughter of Col. Albert French and Elizabeth Empey. Daniel was 52 years old. He may have met Elizabeth on his many trips to Williamsburg over the years.

Elizabeth's mother died shortly after her daughter's birth so she was brought up in Maple Grove by Catherine McIntire, her father's new wife along with her seven half siblings.

Their first child, David Josiah, was born Oct. 21, 1816 and baptized at St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal.

On that same same day and in the same church, Daniel's second surviving daughter Mary, married Gabriel Melotte, a shoemaker, at St. Gabriel Street Church.

Daniel, with his new wife, baby son and daughter Elizabeth, relocated to LaPrairie, Quebec in 1817, a village across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal. Notarial Documents from the time tell us that Daniel is listed as a “Maitre Sellier” or Master Saddler and an “Aubergiste” or Inn Keeper. He also indebted for 1300 pounds sterling for “goods, ware, merchandizes and effects”.

Daniel's Mother, Anna Dorothea Schwab Schwerdtfeger, died May 10, 1818 at the age of 78, in Williamsburg, Upper Canada. Family legend tells us that Dorothea was an excellent violinist and had a beautiful singing voice.

Daniel and wife Elizabeth's second child Caroline was born June 11, 1818 and baptized at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Montreal on Aug. 29, 1818. There is no further information on Caroline.

In 1819, Daniel's eldest daughter Elizabeth died at the age of 22 and was buried from the Catholic Church in La Prairie

Possibly an unpaid debt, as mentioned above, may have influenced his decision to move to Upper State New York. His eldest living daughter Mary had already settled, along with her husband Gabriel Melotte, in Schenectady, N.Y.

Daniel and Elizabeth had three more children, Julia, Samuel and Helen. All who lived to adulthood.

Over a period of 36 years, with two wives, Daniel fathered 18 children.

Unfortunately, we cannot confirm when or where Daniel died nor where he is buried. However, we can say that he died between 1833 and 1850 and he probably died and is buried in or around Schenectady, N.Y.

Daniel's wife Elizabeth, who was much younger than Daniel, went on to live a long life. Having no source of income after Daniel died, as was the case for many widows of that time, Elizabeth lived with several of her children and we can trace her through the Census records.

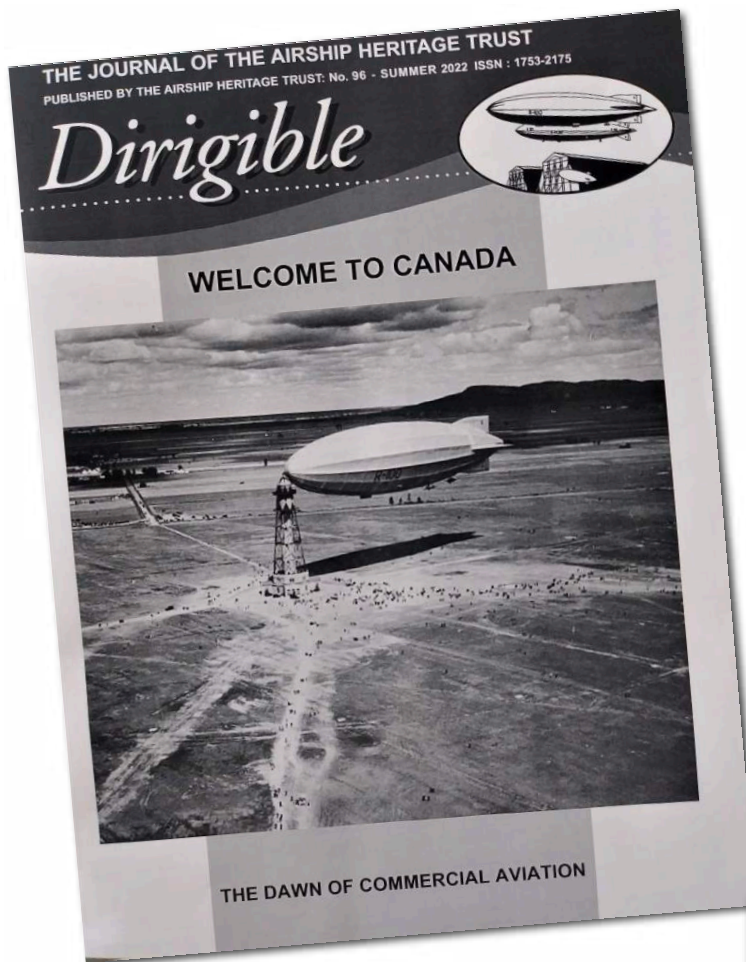
In conclusion, we can only marvel at the amazing life that Daniel lived. As a young child, he was moved from place to place, from wilderness to new frontiers, with his parents and siblings, never settling in one place for very long and, no doubt, the family was on the verge of poverty at most times. Then followed years of tragic deaths while living in Canada.

Did You Know?

The first railway station in Canada was built in La Prairie, Quebec. Rail service began in Canada in 1836 with the opening of the Champlain and Saint Lawrence Railroad. The new building "was a plain, barn-like rectangular structure with a gabled roof and a large arched opening at the end, into which the train entered."

Artist J.D. Kelly's painting of the first railway journey in Canada





News Travels

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The United Kingdom Airship Heritage Trust has reprinted a Connections article in its summer 2022 Journal. The September 2021 Connections article, "The

R-100 at St. Hubert Airport and Helena Jones - August 1930", described the 1930 arrival at St Hubert of the first dirigible (and the world's largest) to cross the Atlantic and land in Canada. During its visit in Montreal, 800,000 people visited it and over 1.5 million watched it as it floated over Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

The Connections article reprinted in the UK Dirigible joined additional articles about the R-100 cross-Atlantic voyage to Montreal.

