

THE HOLLINGSWORTHS OF PRESCOTT, ONTARIO

SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH came to Grenville County, Ontario, in British America, early in the 1820 period. He joined with one Daniel Mooney in making a Petition to the Governor (His Grace, Charles Duke of Richmond) for lands in the "Township of Edwardsburgh" in Grenville County. His petition shows that he was a native of Ireland, and had arrived at Quebec in the summer of 1817. He had been employed in the Engineer Department at Fort Wellington a while, but when work slackened he was discharged. Hence, the petition. There is no evidence such a grant was made. However, not long thereafter, Samuel Hollingsworth purchased the West Half of No. 16, King Street,

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North Side, including 20½ perches of land, for the sum of £25., in the town of Prescott. The deed is dated 26 March, 1822. He obtained another lot of 41 perches at No. 22 King Street North Side for £175. under date of 15 March, 1831. We think it was for a livery stable, because his sons John & Samuel were engaged in the business. (References: RG5, A1, vol. 256, Public Archives, Ottawa, Petitions; Abstract Index to Deeds, Prescott, at Dept. of Public Archives, Toronto, Canada.)

Samuel Hollingsworth died on the 14 September, 1833, at Prescott at the age of 32. He is buried in Sandy Hill Cemetery. The memorial stone has the inscription: "a native of Wexford, Ireland." (The expression refers to the county of Wexford.) See the list of other burials in the next article following. Because his will is short, we publish it in full:

"In the name of God, Amen, The fourteenth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, I, SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God; therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body knowing that it is appointed once unto all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say, principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth.

"And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and First I give and bequeath unto MARY my dearly beloved wife one third of my property moveable and immoveable conjointly with her two children as long as she remains unmarried. And in case she gets married she is to receive two hundred and fifty pounds currency only and the remainder to be equally divided amongst the children. I also appoint as my legal executors to this my last will ALPHEUS JONES, Esqr. and ALEXANDER McMILLAN Esqr. both of Prescott, Uper Canada.

(Signed) SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by the said Samuel Hollingsworth as his last will and testament in the presence of us the Subscribers, (signed) HENRY MOUNT, M 12 CSL, JOHN HAYES, JOHN ANDERSON, Surgeon, CURTIS CROSSMAN." (Filed 1st Nov., 1833. Johnstown District Surrrogate Court Records, now at Archives, Toronto, Canada.)

The signature in the above will is very weak and smeared. The Bond and Inventory are also in the papers, dated 1 Nov., 1833 & 15 July, 1835, respectively. The widow had evidently married a Mr. Burke in the interim, signing as "Mary Burke, Admx." Wm. Candell & Moses Murphy appraised the personal property at £68.16.0d. The only interesting items in this inventory are "2 jackets, one blue and one green - valued at 17/6d." They may be the Military attire of the Irish Yeomanry or the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Please see "ONTARIAN HOLLINGSWORTHS," (REGISTER, VOL. 2, p. 163) et seq. for Church records dealing with this family.

This Samuel Hollingsworth was born about 1801 "in Wexford (Co.), Ireland." This much we know. More to be known.

... THIS MUCH WE KNOW. NOW: WHO WERE HIS PARENTS? We think we have the answer. (See REGISTER, Vol. 1, p. 71, Baptism 4.)

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There, the reader will see the abstract of the Baptismal Register for the Church of St. Mogue (also called St. Aedan), Ballycanew, Co. Wexford, Ireland, and the baptism of "SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, son of Nicholas & Mary Hollingsworth, baptized Dec. 21, 1801." There are virtually no other Samuels (tho' there are assuredly plenty of them) who fit this age and birthplace. It is a possibility he was the brother of Thomas Hollingsworth of Yonge township, in the adjoining county of Leeds, Ontario, who came to Canada in 1846, because a similar baptism of another child of the same Nicholas and Mary fits the known age of Thomas. (See article CORRECTIONS ON LEEDS COUNTY CENSUS in this issue.)

The town of Prescott is situated upon the St. Lawrence River, directly across from the town of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York. There may have been correspondence and some visiting between the Prescott Hollingsworths, and those living in the vicinity of Morrisville in Eaton, Madison County, New York. We have no evidence of this.

Following are the only two children of Samuel & Mary Hollingsworth:

1. Samuel Hollingsworth, Jr., born 1831; died July 5, 1914, AT Prescott, aged 84 years. Buried in Sandy Hill Cemetery.
2. John Hollingsworth, born 1832; baptized Dec. 27, 1832 at Augusta Episcopal Church. Last heard of in 1861, when he was living with his brother Samuel. Occupation: Livervman. (1861 Census, Prescott.) (NOTE: There was a John Hollingsworth working as a fireman in Sacramento, California in 1880 (Census) who was single, born in Canada. The age is not exactly right, but this might be the same man.)

Samuel Hollingsworth, Jr., was married three times. His first wife, Nancy Barnett, whom he married in 1853, died in 1859 leaving him with children John (born 1854) and Mary Ann, (born 1856). He then married Catharine Campbell (date unknown, but about 1866) by whom he had Catherine (1867), Samuel Lyman (1868) who died in Syracuse, New York, U.S.A. about 1942, and Clara Eugenia (born April 18, 1870) and her mother died at that time, shortly after. (Bur. May 2, 1870 in Sandy Hill Cemetery age 24. He then married (Dec. 28, 1870) Elizabeth Turnbull, who was born about 1836 and died in 1926 aged ninety. By her he had James Gilbert Hollingsworth, born 1872. (By the first marriage, a child Gilbert had died in infancy in 1855.)

A fine letter from Phyllis Stephenson, Corresponding Secretary of the Grenville County Historical Society, 744 King Street West, Prescott, dated January 4, 1967, conveyed to us (besides the list of burials following) the information that the name Hollingsworth has been known there many years. The Hollingsworth residence stood on the north side of King Street across from what used to be the old "Starch Works" but now owned by the Canadian Government. It stood not far from the Alexandra Hotel. Both buildings are now gone, and a gasoline (petrol) service station stands where Sam Hollingsworth (Sr. and Jr.) lived for about eighty years! (A mechanical "Car Wash" stands where the hotel stood!) At the time of his death, Sam Hollingsworth, Jr., was His Majesty's Custom's Agent, and his oldest son John Hollingsworth was Registrar at Prescott until his own

about July 8, 1914, just three days after his father! He was sixty.

Miss Stephenson advised us that a descendant of this man was living a few years ago at P.O. Box 635, Durham, North Carolina, and her name was Dea Townsend, nee Ernst, probably the daughter of Walter & Mary Louise (Hollingsworth) Ernst. Mary Louise was the daughter of John & Agnes (Kennedy) Hollingsworth and granddaughter of Sam Hollingsworth, Jr. (REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 164.) Our letter to Mrs. Ernst was neither returned nor answered! (It should be noted here, that, while the descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth are always most cordial and helpful in replying to this writer's queries - even though he is no relation to any of them - the Wexford's make it a chronic custom of ignoring letters altogether! To be sure, some of them are more than helpful, making up for the others, but to those others we can't help but say BAH!)

The enumeration of the 1871 Census for Prescott informs us that the Hollingsworths were all of "Irish Descent," except Elizabeth the third wife, who was born in Ontario, but of "Scotch" descent. (Naturally, she was a Turnbull!)

(References: Death Record 1914-05-019095 Registrar General, Toronto, Canada, Samuel Hollingsworth;)

Samuel Hollingsworth, Jr., deeded both of the lots by quitclaim to his brother John under date 28 Dec., 1859. We do not understand this. But it is evident he again acquired title to them, perhaps by the sudden death of John. Samuel Jr. made his own will dated 2 Aug., 1901 but proved 1<sup>st</sup> Oct., 1914. He named neither his wife nor any of his children by name, calling them "my wife" and "all my children." Executors James Turnbull and John Kelley Dowsley, both of Prescott. His wife was to receive an annual income of all the balance of the estate not to exceed the sum of \$400.00 a year. After her death the real and personal estate to be sold and divided equally among the children. (We haven't looked for this document.) Liber 11, folios 1106-1108, Surrogate Registrar of Prescott.

The 1857 Directory for Prescott lists the name of Samuel Hollingsworth as a liveryman. He also was a joiner by trade, as was his father.

This is the sum of our present information about the Prescott family. In 1905, Prescott had a population of 3,500. Today there are 5,100. A Du Pont Chemical company and Brockville Chemical plant are nearby, bringing a rise in population. The citizens hope to keep it "scenic", according to Miss Stephenson. Old Sam Hollingsworth, we know, would say "Amen" to that!

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HOLLINGSWORTH TOMBSTONES IN SANDY HILL CEMETERY, PRESCOTT, ONTARIO.

1. SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, a native of Wexford, Ireland, d. 1833 ae 32.
2. JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH, born 1855; died 1914.
3. AGNES HOLLINGSWORTH, wife of John, born 1860; died 1930.
4. CLIFFORD HOLLINGSWORTH, 1887-1910.
5. ELIZABETH (BESSIE) R. N., 1894-1950.
6. GWENDOLYN HOLLINGSWORTH, 1896 - (living.)
7. SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, 1831-1914.

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8. HOLLINGSWORTH, CATHARINE CAMPBELL, wife of SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, /born 1846; died 1870.
9. HOLLINGSWORTH, NANCY BARNET, wife of SAMUEL HOLLINGSWORTH, /born 1835; died 1859.

(Courtesy Grenville Co. Historical Society, Phyllis Stephenson, Sec.)

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