

O B I T U A R Y

(1) Samuel Hollingsworth, Picton, Ontario, Canada - 1920.

Mr. Samuel Hollingsworth, one of the old and well known residents of Picton, passed away at his home on Main St., on Thurs. June 3d, aged 79 years. Mr. Hollingsworth was born in Wexford (County-Ed.), Ireland, coming to Canada at 12 years of age and first settling in Brockville. Coming to Picton he learned his trade as tinsmith and plumber with the late J. N. Carter. He started in business in Wellington, returning to Picton about 45 years ago. Since that time he has conducted a tinsmithing and plumbing business in this town.

Mr. Hollingsworth was highly esteemed for his true worth of character. As a young man he volunteered for service in the Fenian Raid and was the owner of a medal for service at this time. He was a strong Conservative in politics and a member of the Masonic Order. Two sisters, Mrs. Wm. Mills of Belleville and Mrs. George Porte of Grand Forks, North Dakota, predeceased him about seven years ago.

Mr. Hollingsworth was twice married. The first wife who was a sister of the late James Johnston of Consecon only lived one year after they were married. The 2nd wife who survives was Miss Sarah Webster of Wellington. Of (their-Ed) a family of nine, five have passed away. John and Edward died in infancy; Mollie died in 1901; Rose was drowned

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at Queen Charlotte Sound in 1914, and Mrs. Frank Rice lost her life in the Halifax explosion (See below-Ed.). Those surviving are Dalton of Los Angeles, who was unable to attend the funeral and Samuel, Annie and Daisy at home. Mr. H. had been in failing health for some time, being unable to work for the last 7 or 8 years, but was only confined to his bed for a few weeks before his death. The funeral was held at his late residence, Main St., on Sat., June 5th, at 2:30 p.m. Rev. F. L. Barber officiating. The interment in Glenwood cemetery was under Masonic auspices.

Mr. Thomas Hollingsworth and sisters, Annie and Marguerite, nephew and nieces of Toronto motored down for the funeral, returning on Monday. Miss A. Mills of Belleville, another niece, was also in attendance at the funeral. (Picton, The Gazette, Thu, 10 June 1920, by kindness of the Picton Public Library, 16 Jan 1988.) Note: Of course, this is one of our Wexfords. His death certificate, among other records, names his parents: William and Elizabeth (Jones) Hollingsworth. The names of the sisters, Anna Mills and Matilda Porte, prove it beyond doubt. Their baptisms as children of those parents are recorded at Ballycanew, Co Wexford, Ireland (HR Sept 1970, p. 115). The final paragraph above was a considerable shock. Daisy Hollingsworth Richards later came to L.A. and lived the last years of her life in Glendale, dying at 87 on 12 Apr 1982 (see a future HR). But she thought your editor had died, and he thought the same about her since 1970! None of above (William) Samuel Hollingsworth's children are now living, to clear up the mystery raised there. Thomas Hollingsworth and his sisters, Marguerite and Annie, were the only children of Frederic James Hollingsworth who burned to death in a boxcar fire in 1910 (HR Sep 1970:100). Said Frederick James Hollingsworth was always by tradition (and his baptism at Ballycanew proves it Sep 70:117 item 3), a son of Thomas and Alice (Robinson) Hollingsworth, who also were early settlers of Ontario, but stayed near Brockville in Leeds County. Oddly enough, they had a son William, baptized 28 Feb 1841 (op. cit same page) who is assumed to have died in infancy. More oddly,

no baptism is there for our William Samuel (born 12 April 1842 according to his death certificate). Can it be that because William & Eliza had no male children that his cousin Thomas gave them their son William Samuel? (Only a theory. Don't quote us without "theory.") Of course, the reporter on the Picton Gazette probably 'did err,' and that would end it. But your editor is as suspicious as Tomas de Torquemada. (Decedent was usually called "William Samuel Hollingsworth.")

(2) Mrs. Clara Evelyn (Hollingsworth) Rice - Canada 1917.

Mother Killed, Eight-year-old Evelyn Rice Saves Younger Children
The following particulars regarding the death of Mrs. F. D. Rice (nee Clara Hollingsworth) are taken from the Winnipeg Free Press of Dec. 20. The Free Press prints a group picture of the Rice family and a picture of the wrecked home where Mrs. Rice was killed. Winnipeg was formerly Lieut. Rice's home: Mrs. Frank D. Rice, wife of Lt. F. D. Rice, of Winnipeg, who was killed in the recent explosion at Halifax, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hollingsworth, of Picton, Ontario, formerly matron of the Methodist missionary hospital Hazleton, B.C., where Mr. Rice met her when on a government survey. They were married Christmas Eve., 1908. Lt. Rice was on duty at Sydney, N.S., when the explosion occurred, and he could not get any word. Knowing that their house was in direct line he started at once for Halifax, reaching there Friday evening. Then he learned that his wife was killed. Evelyn, the eldest girl, 8 years old, was just starting for school when the explosion occurred which demolished the house. The greater part of the roof was in the basement. The little heroine, her mother

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being killed, rescued her brother, Samuel Dwight, 4 yrs old, and her sister, Emma Rose, 2 years old, and got them to a safe place. Some kind friends took them out 8 miles from Dartmouth where their house was located and this was where the father found them.

Lt. Rice is second in command with Canadian Engineers for the Maritime Provinces and was on duty at Sydney at the time. He has lived for the past 18 years in British Columbia, and practices his profession, provincial surveyor and civil engineer, and (?purposes) taking the children back to (?Sydney) with him. Mrs. Rice was buried at Dartmouth on Tuesday, Dec. (11th). (A portion torn away-Ed.)

A brother of Lieut. Rice, Corp. Hugh A. Rice, is musketry instructor at Canadian headquarters, Shorncliffe. Another brother, Lieut. Robt. S. Rice was killed in Sept., 1916, on the Somme, and the youngest brother, Signaller Fred C. W. Rice, is in the Masonic Hospital in London, England, suffering from a shrapnel wound in the hip. Word was received yesterday that after being wounded he was in a wet trench for 24 hours. Then he was put on a stretcher and carried by five stretcher bearers for a distance of 25 miles in relays of five miles each before he was put in an ambulance. He has been through the Vimy Ridge, Lens and Passchendaele and it was at the last mentioned place where he was wounded, on Nov. 6th, and reached the hospital in London on the 17th.

Lieut F. D. Rice is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Rice, 209 Donald Street, and a grandson of the late Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., first general superintendent of the Methodist Church of Canada.

Lieut. Rice expects to return to Halifax in about 3 weeks and will be put on reconstruction of Halifax. In the disaster, 2 square miles of buildings were completely blotted out; 15,000 people were rendered homeless; 3,000 were wounded and 1,250 killed. There were 350 people blinded, some lost both eyes while others lost one eye. (From a paper (possibly the Picton Gazette) kept by the late Louis Hollingsworth Belleville, Ontario. given to Mrs. Rose (Hollingsworth)

Hassen, of Armstrong, British Columbia, who sent it to your editor on Jan 25, 1988. We had not corresponded with Rose since about 1971. She is the Emma Rose, aged 2 years, named in the horror story above told.

In Halifax Harbour, a munitions ship collided with a steamer, by a mistake or misunderstanding of signals. The munitions master was able to manoeuvre the ship to avoid a direct hit of the hold which contained the explosives cargo. But 20 barrels of benzol were upset, which poured into acid in the hold beneath and ignited it. The crew, before they fled the ship, desperately attempted to sink it. But at 9 a.m. on 7 Dec 1917 it blew up. The explosion was heard by ships at sea 50 miles distant. It leveled most of the northern sector of Halifax. Two square miles burned to the ground. Eleven million, five hundred thousand Pounds (\$30,000,000.) in damage was done. A severe snow storm struck soon afterward, depositing 3 feet of snow, which was a terrible hindrance to rescue work. 200 children were found dead in one school. A horrible duplication of that disaster was at Texas City almost 30 years later, on Wed. Apr 16, 1947, doing \$50 million in damage and killing 592 people. The Halifax disaster was obviously much worse, if only in lives lost. (Was there no attempt to evacuate the city?) The 300 who were blinded were all injured by flying glass!