

Thomas Hollingsworth Problems - Part One

Thomas Hollingsworth (1804-1858) of Co Wexford, Ire. and Yonge Front, Leeds Co., Ontario, Canada, is my subject. Rebuttal to Mrs. Marion L. Hollingsworth Young's Dec 1965 HR article (pp 174-176) is the problem.

One day in 1961, an old friend visited me with his friend. We talked about my "new genealogy hobby." He told me of a man he once met, Lloyd Hollingsworth, Richards Landing, Ont., a lumberman. Lloyd replied and I learned of his family from Nottingham, England, including the late Fremlin E. Hollingsworth, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., the famous wolf expert and sometime HR subscriber who died in his 90s (and sent me his lineage on canine pedigree charts!). Lloyd also told me of "another, unrelated family" out of Mallorytown, Leeds County, who claimed to be Irish. That blew it wide open. In a few months, I had piles of data, and begun correspondence with new cousins, including Mrs. Young, then of Toronto (of Samuel³ Hollingsworth; Samuel²; Thomas¹). (Aside: What a relief to type that sequence and not have it be from Valentine!)

The Wexford-to-Ontario family came out in many emigrations; Thomas was a later one, in the late 1840s. I sent many reports to her, beginning in 1962 and have many papers, nearly all her letters, and most of mine (copies) to her up to 1982.

In her 1965 treatise, she made use of much of my research in the Ballycanew registers, Irish land records, wills, Canadian census etc. but did not give your editor one ounce of credit in her article, even though it was submitted for publication in his own magazine. Her disagreement with my findings from legal records, in favor of her "family history, was apparent even at the outset. She states Thomas was a son of a Henry Hollingsworth and a Miss Rathwell." Later, in quoting Ballycanew entries, she remarks "if this is fact."

I located the only Thomas, bapt. 18 May 1804, "son of Nicholas and Mary, Ballycanew" (HR Jul 65:71 and Sep 70:114). I located the marriage bond index Thomas Hollingsworth & Alice Robinson - 1827, but she continued to state it was 1824, following her family hearsay. (Perhaps she feared a hasty wedding, too.) The eldest child, Nicholas James was born 5 Dec 1827, which indicates the paternal grandfather was a Nicholas. I have never found a Henry in our Wexfords whose Henry did not originate from the maternal side. The Rathwells did have Henrys. So, the 2nd child was Henry Samuel, born 6 Jul 1829. Also, when I located Thomas, Alice, and their 3 children in the right name-and-order in the Leeds County Census of 1851/2, MLY categorically disavowed it saying it was another family, because it was not in Yonge Front! She said I must be of the clan, for I am as stubborn as her father! Well BRAVO, SAM HOLLINGSWORTH! More in the next issue. Plenty to come.

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MY REFERENCE

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