

Thomas Hollingsworth Problems - Leeds Co., Canada

Part Two

We continue from March, 1989 page 13. Cousin Marion L. (Hollingsworth) Young holds that Thomas's father was a "Henry" and his mother a "Miss Rathwell." I do not contest the Rathwell suggestion or tradition, nor do I wish to comment on it here. But in Mar 1989 I showed that the only Thomas baptised at Ballycanew in the right time frame was a son of Nicholas and Mary Hollingsworth, Ballycanew. No Henry ever figured

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in the Hollinsworths of Ballycanew until the mid 1800s, and the official index to the Ferns (and other diocesan) Marriage licence bonds made up in the Public Record Office, Dublin, show Thomas took his licence to marry Alice Robinson in 1827, not "1824," as Cousin Marion Young contended and later insisted. (Who is authority here - a private family record which cannot be documented earlier than the turn of the century, or the official index made from the original bond?) If a family record could be produced of contemporary date, this would add considerable weight to her statements. If the original bond could now be consulted, I would have long ago done that, but DeValera's gang blew the whole shebang up into the clouds on 30 June 1922 and the index volumes came perilously near meeting the same fate except they were "down the hall a bit."

A number of leases for lives are available - every one published here over the years - which used Thomas's life as one of the securities for the length of the holdings. In fact, his life was posted in a considerable number of them. See HR Dec 1971 p. 136 for the 1836 auction catalog which calendars the various leases. Also, see HR 6:114 for baptism of Thomas Hollinsworth, May 18, 1804, Ballycanew register, book beginning 1799. Finally, see HR Dec 1969 pp. 161, 162:

(a) Lease of 30 Aug 1818, Earl of Mount Norris to Henry Furney of Ballycanew, 22 acres, townland of Ballycanew, for the lives of Henry Furney, Jr., aged 7 years, son of the lessee, William Barnev, aged 6 years, and THOMAS HOLLINGSWORTH, aged 14 years etc. (Incumbered Estate Rental Books, Vol 79; PRONI, Belfast, duplicates in National Library and P.R.O., Dublin, and filmed by FHC in Salt Lake.)

(b) Lease of 10 Aug 1844 from Andrew Thunder, Aston Park, Co Dublin, Esqr. to William Maguire of Ballycanew, 54 acres for (one) life of THOMAS HOLLINGSWORTH, aged about 40 years. (Same source.)

These and other similar documents all use this same Thomas, born in 1804 as computed by all said clauses for "lives in being." The Incumbered Estates rental showed he was still alive in 1857, not saying where he was living. (It made no difference unless he were unheard of for an extended number of years.) I say he went to Canada, and was the same man, same age, in Leeds County, Canada West, in the 1851 census, as follows: (Page 35, Front of Kitley Twp., lines 18-23.)

Thomas Hollinsworth,	43, married, farmer,	born Ireland
Allev (female)	50, Do.	Do.
Nicholas	17, single labourer	Do.
Samuel	15, Do. Do.	Do.
Frederick	8, Do.	Canada
Mary J. Newsom	4, Do.	Do.

Thomas was listed also in the agricultural census with Lot 19, Concession 5, 100 acres etc. Neither I, the Public Archives in Ottawa nor

that one in Toronto, nor the Registry of Deeds in Brockville could in any way confirm this agricultural census reading. (Exasperation!) Cousin Marion in her Nov. 23, 1980 letter, says: 'Now, I wonder how far my cousin (Harry) is prepared to go to defend HIS point of view?' She then quotes my letter, Feb 18, 1967, in which I sent her the 1851 above, and continues: 'Our Thomas was at least 47 and our Frederick James was born in IRELAND... So - everyone must be wrong - but not Henry, alias Harry Hollingsworth! ... No one used nicknames in my father's family in that generation. Alice always Alice...' She said the above is another Thomas altogether and "Alley" not her Alice! Marion never showed me the original 'family record!' (Suspicious!)

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I didn't invent or alter the census! I reported it (HR June 1967, p. 81) as found. But Marion has held to her family record (actually, a collection of word-of-mouth traditions all put together before she was born) in spite of all my findings. When she received the issue of December, 1969, with the article, "Nicholas Hollingsworth of Ballycanew, Farmer (pp. 156-161)," she wrote a hostile letter in February, 1970, which soon caused a "cessation" of all correspondence until March, 1980. On beginning again, it soon was seen that nothing had changed, and so we again cut off all communication. This series of articles is my spiteful rejoinder, since I was cheated of ever being able to have my say-so! (Call me a spoilt brat! So what!)

I must boast that it was I alone who paid for, and researched, ALL the Irish and Canadian records, church, tombstone, deeds and probates over an extended period of years. Marion only collected "family records," and to my knowledge, never once wrote to or entered any public record facility to do research. Yet she staunchly campaigned and lobbied for her "findings," down to a nit-picking series of criticisms, such as saying that because the Thomas I found on a tombstone "died Feb 7, 1858," and wife "Alley" died "July 16, 1880," and her family "record" says her Thomas died Feb 8, 1858 and her Alice on July 17, 1880, that this is a totally different Thomas and Alice, especially since nobody in her family used nicknames! With arguments like these, I cannot win, can I? But I want to just yell my head off at stubborn cousins like that. WRONG, COUSIN. YOU ARE WROOOONNG! The old fuddy-duddy days of etiquette for honor's sake are gone. No longer is it cause for dueling when somebody challenges another's statements! The Ante-Bellum world is dead and gone. "Honor" is no longer held above truth. (I am not speaking about the Federal bureaucracy here.)

"What I have written you in confidence about my family wasn't for broadcasting...you have certainly mixed a variety of fact and fiction to suit yourself, haven't you? MY Thomas Hollingsworth is not the one you think he is." This from the Feb 23, 1970 letter. The article in the Dec 1969 issue has not become out of date, even 21 years down the road. No agreements were ever made about any confidentiality. So what is so confidential about an old family record, anyway?

The will of Thomas is published in HR Sept 1968 p. 123, and it again confirms what I had found that the man in Ballycanew is the man in Canada. There is not (never was) another Thomas and wife Alice. If that were so, we could dig up Rod Serling and tell him we have found a marvelous plot for a new Twilight Zone! The 1861 census, Leeds Co., Ontario, Yonge Township, p. 49, lines 25-30:

Ellice (sic) Hollinsworth	60, widow,	Ireland	Church of Eng.
Samuel	22, farmer	Do.	single.

Nicolas (sic)	24,	Do.	Do.	Do.
Fredrick	16,	Do.	Do.	Do.
Mary Ann	12,		Uppr Canada	Single.
Andrew Radwell	50,	labourer	Ireland	Do.

This Radwell (Rathwell) is a great indication that Tom's mother was who Marion's records say she was. This lines up pretty well with 1851 but you be the judge. It is ironic that Marion freely quotes my Irish findings against me on my Canadian findings! (Somebody! HELP!)

A final statement, bigoted though it may be: Thomas Hollingsworth who married in 1827 - NOT 1824 - Alice Robinson - was the son of Nicholas and Mary (?Rathwell?) Hollinsworth of Ballycanew, NOT OF any mythological "Henry Hollingsworth!" Now take me away.