

Letter to the Editor

Darlingford, Manitoba,
April 16, 1970.

Dear Sir:

I saw your inquiry in our Winnipeg Free Press re Hollingsworth history. I am a descendant of them and my name is Gordon Cram. Firstly I will tell you something of myself. I am 57 years of age, married with 2 children. We are farmers with 480 acres of which 450 are cultivated. Darlingford is a small town 90 mi. S.W. of Winnipeg and our home is 16 miles from the North Dakota border. We grow wheat, oats, barley, flax, rye, rape, buckwheat, etc. My mother was Caroline Hollingsworth, the youngest of 10 children (born 1870) at Melrose, Ontario. My Grandfather was Edward Hollingsworth, born at Nottingham, England, in 1817 (NOTE: all census readings show "Ireland"-Ed.). We have his papers showing where he enlisted in the Royal Artillery in England in 1838. At that time he was a shoemaker.

My Great Grandfather was Captain Richard Hollingsworth, born about 1796 also at Nottingham, England. He served in the Army in Ceylon and married a Daughter of the Governor of Ceylon. He died while serving there. We also have a Hollingsworth "Who Are You" history including the "Coat of Arms" which states that the family settled in the northern part of Cheshire, England, as early as 1022 (reader: don't believe that stuff - Ed.). Also that they arrived in America in 1682. (Wrong again, as faithful readers know-Ed.) The name has almost disappeared in Manitoba and Saskatchewan although descendants by other names remain. There are about 7 or 8 in Manitoba. There are some Hollingsworth Cousins in Sault Ste Marie and Richards Landing in Ontario and others in Sault Ste Marie and St Ignace, Michigan. Also some at Silverton and Woodburn, Oregon and Cousins by other names at Lebanon, Oregon, Stockton, Cal. and Honolulu. We have travelled a lot and know them all.

I will contact an 82 year old Cousin near here and she is very good at family history and may write you. Also, I will contact a Lynn Hollingsworth at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and hope he will help you as he is much older than I and very well informed. I hope this bit of information is of some value to you as it may well be the same family at one time. There is much more detail I could relate but I am a poor letter writer anyway but will get you more if you request it.

Besides being a farmer, I am an Antique collector. I have eight old tractors to 1912, a 1917 Ford "T" roadster, a 1928 Essex Super Six sedan (both like new) and a 1939 Nash sedan. Also a nice collection of small articles in the loft of my workshop. I also play in a brass band and we have several bookings for this summer as it is our Province's 100th birthday and many celebrations are planned along with parades for the old cars.

Well, enough about myself for now and we would issue an invitation to you to come to Manitoba and visit us and we would have you meet the others around here. Please answer and let me know if this is any good to you and also something of yourself.

Your "Cousin,"
Gordon Cram, Darlingford,
Manitoba, Canada.

P.S. Grandfather Hollingsworth's wife died when my mother was 13. He and some of the children came to Manitoba about 1885 and he is buried in a small country cemetery near here.

Notes on the Darlingford letter. HR has never found the elusive Capt. Richard Hollingsworth, but there are many Richards - perhaps we have published him here without recognizing him. But his son, Edward Hollingsworth, is another matter. Almost as soon as we could lay hands on the wonderful Canadian Census schedules, we located Edward with his family. Nearly all his descendants whom we contacted tell the same history, but some affirm that Edward was born at Drogheda, Co Louth, Ireland, when his father was stationed there in the British Army. HR has examined many of the annual "Army Lists" published by the British Government, but not in the 1800s. These lists only give names of commissioned officers, mind you, so no enlisted men or "men of the ranks," (non-coms) are shown. Maybe we will find the Captain in a pertinent volume. But your editor's manic cynicism tells him that many family stories tend to elevate the ranks of their military ancestors. Perhaps Richard was a serjeant and if that is true, finding him will be pretty difficult. Nor have we tried to locate Edward in the Royal Artillery. This would be a different trail to follow, since our correspondent had Ed's actual enlistment paper. (Those your editor has seen usually give birthplace. We wonder if "Nottingham, England," or "Drogheda, Ireland" was on the record?)

Years before we received this letter, we had contacted Lynn (Fremlin Edward) Hollingsworth at Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario - in 1961, actually. He was a noted authority on wolves, with published articles on the subject. He sent his own pedigree along on a canine pedigree chart! He lived to be 90. Also, we had correspondence with a Lloyd Hollingsworth, Richards Landing, Ontario. He was the man who told us of "another Hollingsworth family around Mallorytown, Leeds County," Ontario, which proved to be our own Wexford family cousins. Also, we had contacted another of the Capt. Richard descendants at Silverton, Oregon, and several others, not of the surname, all before Hollingsworth Register was born. Of course, that was when we just knew that our work on our own family would reap a wonderful treasure and be completed in jig time. Here it is over 31 years and nothing of the kind is even in sight ... no light at the end of any tunnel, thanks mainly to Eamon DeValera and his treacherous, terrorist buddies! (We are not smokescreened by the "Kennedy-Reagan-We Love Ireland" myth.)

Ironically, we finally answered Mr. Cram on April 22, 1972, over two years after he wrote to us. No further correspondence was had. The 1851-61-71 census for Edward's family has been published here in our earliest issues. Edward married Annie Mundell, of a County Derry family. He is given as age 40 in 1861. (HR Dec 1965, pp 176-178.) Our letter from Lloyd Hollingsworth is dated Apr 17, 1961, one day less than 9 years before Mr. Cram's letter. Our Dec 65 HR shows that Caroline Mary Hollingsworth married Wm. J. Swain and had two children; then married second, Alexander Cram, and had one son. Caroline was born Nov 27, 1870. The family lived at that time in Huntingdon Township, near Belleville, Hastings County, Ontario, Canada West (now Ontario), hence, for identification, we have always referred to this family group as "The Belleville Hollingsworth Family."

If you chance to meet one of these distant cousins, you may be quickly aware of it, if he (or she) says "aboat" or "about" in place of "about." But then, too, that could be one of our Leeds County kin too. Although Edward was a Presbyterian according to the Canada Census, we have always wondered if he was of our Wexfords after all.