



Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter

September, October & November 2001 - Issue # 74

2001 Executive Officers

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Vice President - *Myno Van Dyke*
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Florence Taylor
Curator - *Pat Macdonnell with*
help from Helen Schmid

Next General Meeting

Harvey Lorne Medland, author of the OHS. publication, "Tombstone Tales from Ontario's Cemeteries", will be our speaker at the general meeting on October 1. Among his subjects for the night will be botanist Alice Eastwood, William Zimmerman and the Rice Lake Railway, and the three Fires of Northern Ontario, Matheson, Porcupine and the "Great Fire of 1922". Mr. Medland's forty minute presentation will include a slide show and will be followed by a question period. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Lions Room, Newcastle Community Hall.

President's Remarks

by Ron Locke

What a great pleasure to put this newsletter together, not that I am getting pleasure from writing items, but rather I have such talented people who take the

time to research and put to paper such interesting and worthwhile articles. I thank them all!

Mabel Goode has a file with every piece of paper that has been published by this society since it's inception and she has it perfectly organized, so that when she needs information she knows where to get it. This issue Mabel looks back on our first twenty years.

When **Pippa Schmiegelow** saw the theme Mr. Medland's presentation, she researched and wrote an article early female botanists. **Myno VanDyke** goes out for a walk with his dog and comes back with an interesting, historical article on an early Newcastle family and decides to share it with us.

Balfour LeGresley often sends me an e-mail with interesting research that he is doing and quite often it becomes another story that needs telling. Balfour's "two F.W. Gibsons" is very timely as it is published just prior to Remembrance Day.

Leslie Wilson leaves no stone unturned in her quest for the right answers and has shared some stories with us that may help to keep us on the right path as we wander down the long dusty halls of the past.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I did putting it together

A Good Reason to be Proud

by Mabel Goode

This being the 20th Anniversary of the Newcastle Village and District Historical Society, and realizing how important this organization has been due to dedication and hard work on the part of many, we offer Best Wishes for continued success.

Where did we come from? The first meeting took place with a group of dedicated citizens at the Anglican Church Hall, Newcastle, on July 16, 1981 and became known as "The Newcastle Village and District Historical Society". Plans to preserve our Heritage were being offered as early as 1980.

It is interesting to recall the Board of Directors elected at that meeting and presented by Chair Bob Willsher; Co-Chairs: Peggy Moorhouse and Pat Macdonnell. Secretary: Lorraine Lover; Directors: Keith Barr, Pat Eilbeck, Jack Gordon, Lena Graham, Alan Haldenby, Murray Patterson, Brenton Rickard, Pippa Schmiegelow, Pauline Storcks, Father Walsh, Murray Walton, Lynda Willsher and Mary Ormerod.

By September 2, 1982, the Historical Society had a Constitution in place and the Ontario Historical Society issued By-laws. In November 1983, we became a Registered Charitable Organization. This enabled us to issue receipts for donations. We were given a small space on the second level of the Community Hall, about 8' x 10', and were proud to welcome people there at our first Heritage Day event. Later, we were given space in the Centennial Room graduating to the former Memorial Library Room, signing a lease in June, and having an official opening in December 1993.

In 1983, the Society consisted of 18 family members and 12 single members in good standing. In 2001, it rose dramatically

to 108 paid members and 18 complimentary members. The newsletter goes out three or four times a year to 126 destinations. To date, we have published 73 issues. Fifty-six of these newsletters are credited to one member. A number of our members have had the honour of receiving the Volunteer Service Award from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Also, to some that are not with us to-day, we will remember them for their kind ways and willingness, always ready to help. We do miss them.

Now to reminisce; a lot of fun and good times, a bonding of members and friends, some frustrations, no known pitfalls, and a lot of time well spent. I will only give you a few of the highlights throughout the 20 years. Our 1st event in June 1982 was a Heritage Day putting nearly \$3000.00 in our bank account. In 1983, the Society held a Variety Show and the next year a hugely successful Bicentennial Ball. In 1984, the Society also reprinted Professor John Squair's *The Townships of Darlington and Clarke*, first published in 1927. Sold across Canada and into the United States, this reprint was a financial success. We have held three Collector Shows, the 1st drawing over 400 people. A House Tour and Quilt Show had good responses and our monthly meetings have had exceptional speakers. A nice display was presented at the 140th Anniversary of Orono Fair in 1992, and the Society participated at the Waterfront Trail Opening in 1995 and at the 200th Anniversary of Clarke Township's early settler, 1796-1996. Various older citizens have been video taped reminiscing about their early lives in the village. The Massey Show, held this year on 16th June, was a huge success. Many more events, too numerous to mention, have also taken place.

A lot has gone on in our “Room”; cataloguing donated items, identifying and dating old photographs, creating scrapbooks, cleaning, preserving and displaying old artifacts. Some think we go to the “Room” just to sit in the old armchairs around the big antique table, but we are soon called to order and “let’s get down to business”. After a year of work, we all look forward to relaxing at our summer picnic, ongoing since 1992.

As you may have noted, I have excluded any names because there is not one of you we can do without. I would feel remiss tho’ if I did not mention one of our most dedicated 20 year members. I pay tribute to our Archivist, Pat Macdonnell,

always faithful and a seemingly tireless worker. Pat’s enthusiasm over the past years has produced a multitude of treasures about the village and the surrounding area. They make our Room special.

Work for one generation becomes a wonder for succeeding generations. Pride in Yesterday, Pride To-day and a Proud Tomorrow.

Mabel L. Goode

Orono, July, 2001

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Women and Botany

by Pippa Schmiegelow

It is worth noting that while their activities were severely limited by the prevailing notion of “propriety”, botanical exploration and scientific experimentation were acceptable pastimes for British and Colonial women in the last half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century. The large number of published botany books written by women of the period supply ample evidence of this. But it is through their letters that we learn just how much these pastimes were woven into the daily fabric of many women’s lives.

Following my work as a research assistant for Ann B. Shteir, award winning author of *Cultivating Women, Cultivating Science: Flora’s Daughters and Women & Botany in England, 1760-1860*, I was fortunate enough to discover an extensive collection of letters written by Harriet

Beaufort to her surrogate daughter, Frances Stewart, in the archives at Trent University. These letters date from 1822 when Frances & her husband Thomas first arrived in Upper Canada from Ireland to settle on the Otonabee river in Douro Township, until Harriet’s death in 1865. Further letters to Frances and Thomas Stewart’s daughter, Ellen, extend the period.

Henrietta (Harriet) Beaufort (1778-1865) was one of a group of progressive British and Anglo-Irish women who wrote instructive botany books for children in the early nineteenth century. Her sister, Louisa, also produced an introductory book for children, this one on insects. Both Harriet’s *Dialogues on Botany* and Louisa’s *Dialogues on Entomology* were published anonymously in England in 1819. In the world of early nineteenth century British

women, it did not do to reveal yourself as a bluestocking, the derogatory term applied to “Learned Women” of the period. While definitive evidence of Harriet’s authorship was not established for over one hundred and fifty years, Irish novelist and pedagogical writer Maria Edgeworth, related through marriage and a close friend of the two women, revealed their secret to a North Carolina friend and plant collector, with a proviso that she keep the knowledge a closely guarded secret. In April 1824, Maria wrote to Rachel Lazarus:

As soon as I get an opportunity I will send you the little work on Entomology.....I will also send you Dialogues on Botany. These two books are written by Mrs. Edgeworth’s two sisters, but their names are not put to the works and you will keep them to yourself.

The Mrs. E. referred to by Maria was Harriet & Louisa’s eldest sister, botanical illustrator Frances Beaufort, fourth wife of Maria’s father, Richard Lovell Edgeworth. A collection of 100 of her botanical illustrations, in colour and, according to the Curator of Manuscripts “quite lovely”, can be found in the archives of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

In her letters to Ellen, Harriet adopts a mentoring position common to instructive botany books for children. The conversation that takes place in these letters integrates scientific information into the current of everyday life, making it accessible to her young reader and encouraging her to accumulate a botanical inventory.

Ellen and her sisters are encouraged, even entreated, to keep botanical journals. They receive frequent requests to send Harriet dried plants and flowers, ferns, seeds and shells for her collections and the collections of family members and others in Ireland. Harriet’s enthusiasm may have been

tempered somewhat when Ellen offered to send her dried squirrel skins but, to my knowledge, they were the only things she ever refused from her young relative!

Ellen’s mother Frances befriended Catherine Parr Traill when Catherine first arrived in this country. Frances shared her knowledge of the woods, plants and herbal remedies with her new friend. (St. John’s Wort and Figwort as cures for hives and scrofula). While suitably modest about her initial limited knowledge of native wild plants, she had scarcely set foot in her new country before she wrote from Quebec to tell Harriet of the brilliant patch of blue Iris and the familiar Irish weeds she had seen. From Cobourg she wrote of the pink Lady’s Slipper spotted on the banks of the St. Lawrence, the wild strawberries, bilberries, raspberries and Wood Sorrel she had observed on her walks, the Yarrow, Hawkweed, Scabious, Campanula, Common Oenothera (Evening Primrose) she had found growing wild in the Canadian woods.

At the time these letters originated, collecting, particularly of anything pertaining to the natural world, was at its height in both the old and the new world. Specimens sent from the Americas wound up in private and public, amateur and professional collections. Harriet Beaufort consulted with leading botanical experts of her day with whom she shared her trophies. Mr. McKay of the Dublin Botanical Gardens lent Harriet a copy of Frederick Pursh’s “Flora America”, (1812), described by Catherine Parr Traill as “the only work that treated in any way of the Wild Plants of Canada”. (Preface, *Canadian Wild Flowers*, 1868). He encouraged the young Ellen to send multiple samples of all her Canadian plants to the Botanical Gardens for identification and classification. Harriet translated Pursh’s Latin nomenclature for

Frances Stewart and sent her seeds and cuttings so that she might create an Irish garden in her woodland clearing. Frances, in due course, lent her copy of Pursh to Catherine Parr Traill.

In the backwoods of Canada, in the first half of the nineteenth century, a young girl's botanical and scientific curiosity was nurtured and authorized by her Irish grandmother. Carefully preserved and transcribed by her descendants, Frances and Ellen Stewart's letters from & to Harriet Beaufort allow privileged readers a glimpse into their lives.

1. Frances Browne Stewart became ward of Harriet's great-uncle in 1797 on the

death in Ireland of her father, the Very Reverend Francis Browne. Twenty-two year old Harriet became her governess and, on the death of her mother in 1809, the child's surrogate mother. The town of Peterborough owes its name to Frances who, with her husband Thomas, was among the earliest white settlers in Douro Township, now Peterborough County. (Hall, 45-51)

2. For more on Harriet Beaufort & the Stewarts, see Elizabeth Shearman Hall, *A Sense of Continuity: The Stewarts of Douro*. Toronto: Pro Familia, 1993. For more on women and botany see, Ann B. Shteir, *Baltimore & London*: John Hopkins UP, 1996

The Verandah

by Myno Van Dyke

Over the past few months, I have witnessed one of my neighbours painstakingly building a spectacular verandah on two sides of the old brick farmhouse just north of the CPR tracks on Arthur Street in Newcastle. My curiosity finally got the better of me one day when we were walking our dog past their house. "Looks great! Its just like the picture I have." I shouted to the man working on a ladder.

This got his attention and he came right over. I quickly explained that my friend, Bob Northrup, had given me two old yellowed photos of the farmhouse. He rushed into the house and brought out a different, neatly framed black and white photograph with three people and the front end of a car that looked like a 1915 to 1920 Model T Ford. The three people in the photograph are believed to be John Allin and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Adah. The

latest owners of the old farmhouse are Doug and Bridget Rombough. The former Oshawa residents purchased the house, garage and one acre of land in 1997 from David and Jerryann Hamilton. "We wanted to move out of the suburbs and liked the Newcastle community" Doug explained. They had a large family gathering there that Christmas and very quickly the well went dry.. They found that the well was not only dry but what little water they got was contaminated. The easiest solution, they thought would be to tap into the village water line running in front of their home, however the Region balked at the idea. Eventually, after several years of "red tape" they were able to tap into the town water.

In 1843, Richard Allin and his wife Ann (Brimacombe) sold the family farm in Sutcombe, England and along with their eight children left for Canada. It was a long arduous six week voyage across the Atlantic

and down the St. Lawrence into Lake Ontario. In April of 1843, they arrived in Port Darlington and settled on 200 acres near Bowmanville.

One of the children, William and his wife Jane (Blackburn) settled in Newcastle. They purchased 200 acres at Concession 2 Lot 27 in Clarke Township. This land was on the west side of Arthur Street running from King Street north to Concession 3. A note from an Allin family member indicates that they purchased this land in 1873 from the Clergy Reserve which was represented by Rev. Canon Brent.

William died in 1889, but his son John and daughters Elizabeth and Adah remained on the farm. Another son, Mark, also worked on the farm but lived in Newcastle Village at 132 Church Street with his wife, Beatrice (Toms) and their daughter Evelyn (Northrup). Later, some of the farm land south of the C.P.R. tracks was sold to Fred Graham. The Graham farmhouse still



Adah and Elizabeth Allin on the verandah with brother John in the 1920s

stands on the south side King Street on the east side of the entrance to Parkview.

In 1935, John died and his brother Mark died in 1937. The two spinsters, Adah and Elizabeth, then moved into Newcastle at The Towers, which is where the Guardian Drug Store is now. The farm was sold to Herman Schmid and his wife Bertha and Herman's brother Hooldy (Huldreich) Schmid in the fall of 1937. The Schmid's had immigrated from Switzerland in 1927 and first moved to the Enfield area. Mrs. Schmid died in 1940 at a young age and their son Herman Jr. also died at a young age. The Schmid's were known to raise chickens and apparently at one time they had about 500 chicks in the large attic on the north side of the house. Herman remarried to Hermina (Scharer) in 1947 and sold the farm around 1967 to the Frew family. Herman and Hermina built a new bungalow just south of the farm on Arthur Street.

Helen Schmid's late husband, Emil, immigrated to Canada in 1949 and spent his first summer on his uncle's (Herman Sr.)



The Allin Homestead as it stands to-day

farm. Apparently Herman had been to Switzerland for a visit and paid for Emil's passage back to Canada. Emil worked all summer harvesting and delivering tomatoes and other farm chores to repay the debt.

The house was eventually severed off with one acre of land and the remaining farmland was sold to Selby Farms. There have been several others living in the farmhouse after the Frews. Poppy Black lived there for a number of years before selling it to the Hamiltons.

After seeing the old photograph of the farm house, Doug and Bridget decided to re-built the verandah as it was in the old days. Doug scanned the photograph and enlarged the area of the sculpted designs and had them made up identical to the original

ones. The vertical posts were also made the same. Doug used various dimensions of brick and windows as an accurate comparison to ensure they would be the same size.

On the north-west wall of the house, about five feet from the ground someone has neatly carved the following into the mortar between the bricks, AE. Allin 77". This could have been done by Ernest Allin, one of William's sons who was born in 1865.

Although the Rombough's have spent considerable time and money restoring the house it is obvious that it is a labour of love for them. Doug and Bridget are looking forward to it being finished so they can finally be able to enjoy their verandah. Just like the Allin family did so long ago.

In Memory of Two F.W. Gibsons

by Balfour LeGresley

During 2000-01 I was happy to solve a nagging Gibson problem. The WW 1 memorial tablets in the Newcastle Community Hall record two F.W. Gibsons who died in November 1917. Both were buried overseas and a memorial stone to one of them exists at Bond Head Cemetery. Several years ago Nora Storey in Bowmanville told me that one of these soldiers was her eldest brother, but the other was unknown as none of my Gibson family records showed such a person.

A search of the War Memorial Records in Ottawa available on the internet showed that two Fred Wm. Gibsons died in 1917 and confirmed one as Nora's brother. But it took several months and a request for copies of the original army records to learn that the mysterious second one was an unknown son of Joseph Gibson and his wife Elizabeth Hill. This Joseph was the fourth

son of immigrant Francis Gibson and was a younger brother of Captain Frank Gibson. This explained the memorial stone in Bond Head in memory of Joseph's son Frederick Wm as it is close to the grave of his grandparents, Francis and his wife Mary Luck and his brother Capt. Frank Gibson.

Frederick Wm. Gibson was born on a farm near Markdale Apr 13, 1891 and died Nov 17, 1917 in France. But his father later moved the family to a farm near Fort William just off Hwy 17, about 10 km north-west of the present Thunder Bay Airport which explains why it was in Fort William that Frederick enlisted in Fort William in 1916.

The mystery was solved but finding this son who died in the war was the first proof that his father Joseph, who was born in England, had existed or grew to manhood as the records of that period are very poor.

The search was exciting and the discovery was far better than reading a mystery story. I also found that Joseph and Elizabeth Gibson had at least the other children born in Artemesia Twp. near Markdale; Ida Elizabeth born Sept. 22, 1886 and Gordon Joseph born Dec 16, 1895. If any descendants of these are known we would like very much to learn of them.

Just for the record, The other Freerick Wm. Gibson, elder brother of Nora, was the son of David James Gibson and

Mary Burnham, born in Clarke Twp. Jan 7, 1894, died at Paschendale Oct 26, 1917 and buried Nine Elms, Belgium.

The six children (Hannah, John, Francis, William, James, Joseph) of John and Mary Gibson, along with their parents and their children, emigrated to Clarke Twp. between 1835 and 1844 from the region dividing Durham and Yorkshire in England. There are now a great many descendants spread across Canada and the United States.

Research Pitfalls

by Leslie Wilson

Two cliches are "etched in stone" and "my bible told me so." A genealogical researcher quickly learns to question everything, including stones and bibles. Gravestones are frequently wrong, everything from spelling to birth or death dates or the person's age at time of death can be incorrect. When a newspaper death notice says Mr Richard Coffin of Bowmanville died in October of 1867, but his gravestone says October of 1868 - unless the newspaper editor of the *Statesman* was psychic, it's the gravestone that is wrong. Then again, more than one early newspaper has been found with the wrong year printed on it, but that usually happened in January, not October. The Samuel Street Wilmot family bible has a daughter dying on such and such a date, when it was in fact her wedding day. Perhaps her mother did not approve of the match and entered it as her death date on purpose, or just wrote the wedding date into the death column by mistake. The Wilmot bible also says that Samuel Street Wilmot died in December of 1855, his gravestone says 1856, and his will was probated in February of 1856. Therefore all we can with certainty say is that he's dead.

The location of a gravestone does not always mean that the person was buried in that cemetery. Consider the case of Leonard

Soper Sr, his gravestone was moved from a small Soper family cemetery in Hope Twp, over 60 years ago now, into a cemetery in Bowmanville, Darlington Twp. They never did move Leonard Soper, just his gravestone. So, when checking out early cemeteries it might be best to find out the date when that cemetery was established. If it didn't come into being until 1850 and ggg gramps died in 1848 - he's either re-interred, or not buried there at all, just a stone erected to his memory. Sometimes two gravestones, widely separated in terms of geography, can refer to the same person. Mary Tabor, the second wife of Ezra Gifford of Clarke Twp died in 1833 in Clarke Twp, Ezra sent her home to Mt Tabor Vermont (consider that journey before the era of trains) to be buried. Anybody looking at her gravestone in Vermont would have no reason to suspect that she died hundreds of miles away from the place where her mortal remains lie. Nor would anybody have any reason to suspect that her body does not lie under her gravestone in the Gifford family Cemetery in Clarke Twp Durham County Ontario Canada. By the mid nineteenth century, the age of the bride and groom were usually recorded in the county marriage register. However brides often cheated a year or two on their stated age. Sophia Kimball, widow of Jesse Ford, at

her marriage to Hiram Moulton of Orono in 1860, said she was 45, although it seems, from Hope Twp census information, that she may have been somewhat older than that. Faded ink, bad handwriting and phonetic/creative spelling often mean that transcribers of early documents can only translate a word or name as they think it could or should be. Thirza Gifford therefore becomes Teresyse Gaselrik; Jared & Theodosia Kimball become Gerard & Medonic Knittle; and Austin & Margery Kimball become Hestin & Margery Kinnibal. In many cases, only the gravestone of an individual says who their spouse was and sometimes it is a child's baptismal record that is the only proof of who was married to whom.

A political geography lesson is also required for the neo-phyte researcher. In 1792 Canada was divided into Lower (Quebec) Canada and Upper (Ontario) Canada. It remained thus until the Responsible Government of the Baldwin-Lafontaine era of the 1840s when Upper and Lower Canada became the Province of Canada; however for mailing, census and shipping purposes, Lower (Quebec) Canada during that time was referred to as Canada East and Upper (Ontario) Canada as Canada West. It was not until 1867 that the Atlantic Provinces became part of Canada; they were separate colonies until that time. In 1867 Lower Canada/Canada East became the Province of Quebec and Upper Canada/Canada West became the Province of Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces joined the old Province of Canada and the new country became known as the Dominion of Canada.

Local parlance can also trip up a researcher, many people referred to the Loyalist settlements along the St Lawrence River below Kingston as Lower Canada, when in fact it was actually Upper Canada. More than one descendent has gone looking for great great great gramps in Quebec when they should have been looking in eastern Ontario. Also, in the pre 1880 era, do not confuse "Western Canada" with the North West Territories, that is the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. From about 1830 to 1880 or so, if a family tale relates that Uncle Jim went to Western Canada or that Gramma Jones was born in

Western Canada, they usually meant south-western Ontario! When looking at US census information, English Canada usually means Ontario, but it can also mean the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

French Canada usually means Quebec, but it's possible that it could also mean parts of New Brunswick or the Windsor area of Ontario - in other words, it can refer more to the mother tongue of the former Canadian than where they were from. USA censuses will sometimes show Prince Edward as the origin of the former Canadian - most people take this to mean Prince Edward Island, but a quick search usually indicates that it is Prince Edward County Ontario that the person intended to convey as their birth place. This was a problem well known to "County" residents even at the time, so one occasionally sees "Kanty" or "Kenti" given as their birthplace. It shouldn't take too much of a leap of faith to surmise that they were saying Bay of Quinte.

Ages as stated on a census can also drive a researcher to consider strong drink. Men were just as prone to this vanity as women, but when a father eventually ended up being younger than his son, or a widow did not age one year in thirty; did anybody really believe them? Birthplaces as stated on a census can also be problematical, one Durham County lady gave her birthplace for the first 30 or so years of her life as Upper Canada, ten years later for some reason she decided it should be Ireland, and 10 years later, possibly not wishing to be confused with the great number of newly arrived people from Ireland, she gave it as England.

One can only surmise the response of some people to "Whar y'all from?" the householder gazed at the enumerator and unsure of whether he was being asked for birthplace or ethnic origin, decided to give origin and said "Germany"; thus a person who was born in Canada and whose family had been in North America since the early 17th century, in 1861/71 found himself recorded as being born in Germany. The

ethnic origins "Dutch" and "German" on 19th century Canadian censuses should therefore possibly be taken with a good dose of salt as compared to merely a pinch of it.... Deutchce, Dutch, German, Dutchess County New York, German Flats New York, and other locations of origin, most likely wound up being very freely interpreted by enumerators, probably quite inaccurately. Deutchce of course is not Dutch and many people from Dutchess County New York were neither Dutch nor German. Somebody from the German Flats of New York could as easily have been Dutch, English, Scotch or French Canadian as well as German, but the poor enumerator had to settle upon something - so "tossed a coin" so to speak between German and Dutch.

18th and early 19th century given names are a world unto themselves. Try to locate an 18th century bible that contains an appendix of given names and their meanings, this will be very helpful in searching for ancestors of that era. For instance, Jesse, Jessia and Josiah are not the same name to somebody of that era, but are frequently transcribed interchangeably today. Jeduthan was a legitimate name, but usually is transcribed as Jonathan, Jedediah or Jedethan (the latter not being a proper spelling at all). Nehemiah - would you think that it could be Meyer? "R" on the end of a spoken "ah" word was very common, shorten Nehemiah to the 'familiar' name of Miah and thus the 1822 Hope Twp enumerator spelled Nehemiah Vail as Meyer Veale. Ashbel and Asahel are two names frequently mixed up in the transcribing, and Asahel of course was often shortened to Asa. For some reason Jonathan was shortened, interchangeable, to Nathan or John, but Nathaniel was usually just Nathaniel. Did you know that Thomas means "twin of"? If a Thomas crops up and it's not a typical given name for that family, examine birth dates of his siblings. Eli, Elihu and Eliud were three separate names, unfortunately the latter two are often recorded and/or transcribed as Eli. When looking at pre 20th century families, it is not at all unusual to find a census

recording a 65 year old woman and her 70 year old husband with a ten year child in the house. It is not safe to assume that the ten year old is their grandchild. If the woman was married young and had a child every two or three years, she could remain fertile well into her fifties. A man in those days owed his services to his father until he was 21 years old, he could leave the family household before that time, but could be forced, by his father or siblings, to swear that he would make no claim upon his father's estate in the future; therefore few men married before their 21st birthday. Girls generally married between their 16th and 18th birthdays, although brides as young as 13 were not uncommon. Some 1793 -1813 Durham County families however seemed to encourage their daughters not to marry until they were well into their twenties. While it wasn't a hard and fast rule, a man at marriage was supposed to take up his father in law's politics and his wife's religion, and his children took their ethnic origin from his wife, who of course had taken it from her mother and so on.

Junior - now that can be a real pit fall. Today it always means the son of a man who had the same name, Thomas Jones Sr being the father of Thomas Albert Jones Jr. However, in earlier days that was not always the case; Thomas Jones "Sr" could be the father, uncle, cousin or grandfather of Thomas Albert Jones "Jr" back then. All that can safely be assumed from those early records is the Jones family had two Thomases and one was older than the other, but Albert was not necessarily the middle name of Thomas Jones "Sr", if indeed, the senior Thomas had a middle name in the first place.

