# Book 7 Chapter 7 – 1 Grandchildren of John Elliott and Mary Elliott Children of William Elliott and Eliza Rogers

**Last Child: Melissa Jane** B 27 Sept 1857 Goderich, Township, Huron Ont.

D 03 Mar 1944 Hamilton, Ont.

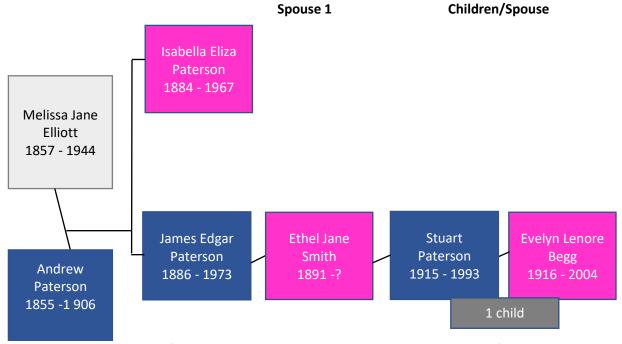
M 07 Feb 1883 London, Ont.

Spouse: Andrew Paterson B 06 Dec 1855 N Oxford township

D 04 Jan 1906 Ridgeway, Ont. (near Ft Erie)

## **Melissa Jane Elliott Family Tree**

Melissa – youngest child of JR Elliott and Betsy Elliott



Melissa was born when the family was living in a shanty on 50 acres beside the Bayfield River in Goderich Township, Huron County. Sometime around the time she was 10 years old the family seems to come apart. It can be speculated that her mother and father either went through a divorce or he simply left with another woman. Divorces in that era were never discussed because of the stigma would put on the family. In fact, Melissa's mother referred to herself as being "widowed" in censuses when her husband was alive and living in Minnesota where he would outlive her by over 5 years.

The family was back in Ingersoll by the 1871 census. I expect they were in town by the mid-1860s. Life was probably financially difficult for the family. The older children left the family as soon as possible. The younger ones were mostly likely farmed out to relatives to work as farm labour for the boys and as house servants for the girls. As an example, Melissa's older sister, Josephine, was a 15-year-old house servant for her aunt Maria Seldon in 1871 and Melissa's teenage son Edgar was likely working on a farm. Only Edwin, Thomas and Melissa were at home. Sons Edwin and Thomas were labourers and probably sources of income for the group.

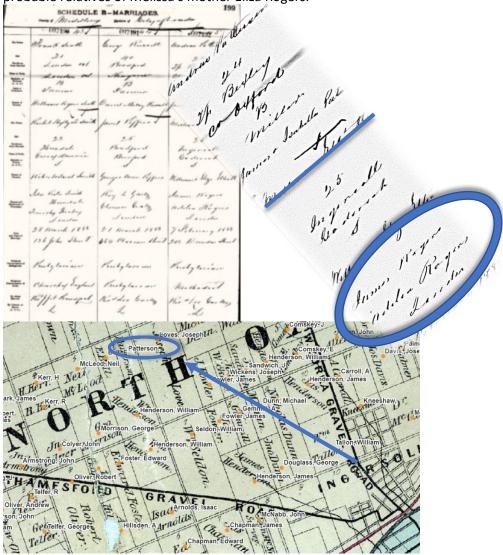
In the census year 1881, mother Eliza was 60 years old and living with her son Thomas and his wife Elizabeth. Where was Melissa?

There was a Melissa Elliott boarding in Ingersoll in 1881. That would be a possibility, however I am concerned the census age is out a few years. The census listed her as being 18 years of age. In 1871 she would have been 15. Since her mother had moved in with her son Thomas and family and all her other siblings had moved on in the 1871 census, this may have been Melissa and she had given an older age to perhaps satisfy the landlady or enumerator. It would make sense that she was boarding in town as she was not married in 1871 and not living with her mother. No other Melissa Elliott was found in Ingersoll.



Melissa living in a boarding house 1881.

In February of 1883 Marissa married Andrew Paterson. As a sidebar, they were married in London, Ont. The two witnesses were James and Adelia Rogers who were discussed in Chapter 1 of Book 7 as probable relatives of Melissa's mother Eliza Rogers.



1865 Paterson farm location (McGill Maps)



Andrew Paterson grew up on his family's farm NW of Ingersoll on Con 2 Lot 6 N Oxford according to the 1856 Tremaine Maps from U of Toronto. One of their neighbours to the south was the recently arrived Seldon/Elliott Family from Devon. By the time Andrew was 22, his occupation was listed on the 1881 census as a miller. A miller was a person who operated the equipment to grind grain or corn into flour. There were several mills in Ingersoll and the surrounding area in the 1880s. With proximity to Ingersoll and Marissa living in that town in the 1881 census, they met and were married. By the 1891 census the couple and 2 children were found in the Eldon township area of Victoria County in the Kawartha Lakes, north of Toronto. This

would have been a major move for the couple as the distance from Ingersoll was about 280 kms. This would be comparable to moving to a different province today.



Andrew was listed as a store clerk and they appeared to live on a few acres in or near a village. I have not been able to identify which village but am leaning towards Woodville. Daughter Isabella was six and son James Edgar four at the time of the 1891 census. Other records show the children were born in Eldon township so it is easy to surmised they arrived in Eldon by 1885 at the latest. It would be safe to assume they moved there soon after the couples August 1884 London wedding. The reason for the move is unknown. Photo – Eldon township 1890s – Kawartha Lakes Library

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1891 census - Eldon

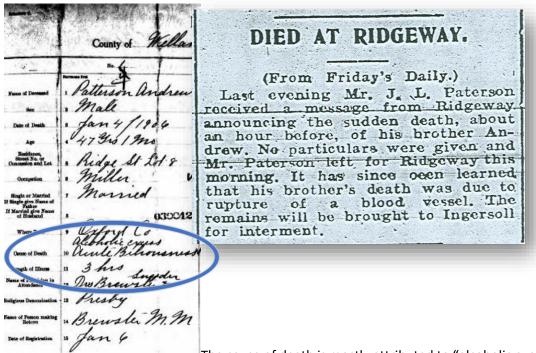


The family was on the move again and by 1901 they were in Ridgeway, Ontario. Ridgeway is in Welland County on the shore of Lake Erie and five kilometers west Fort Erie. It is famous as the major battle site of the Fenian Raids that Melissa's brothers JR and Thomas fought in 1866.

Andrew was again listed as a flour miller and was making a healthy \$624 per annum, well above the average wage. Again, this can be looked at as a substantial move for the family.

Major events happened soon after that. Andrew died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1906. His death was in the county of Welland and according his death certificate information probably near or in the small village of Ridgeway. A notice posted in the Ingersoll newspaper of the day indicated such. In the notice, J L

Paterson was Andrew's younger brother and a successful Ingersoll lawyer. Andrew's death certificate gives some insight to the reason for his death.



The cause of death is mostly attributed to "alcoholic excess." It would not seem a stretch that alcoholism may have been the reason that the family moved so often and when doing so moved relatively long distances. He may have had trouble maintaining a job and by moving far away from his previous job he was able to make a fresh start with employment elsewhere.

There is a good chance that several moves were missed due to the fact the censuses were 10 years apart. Homelife may have been very difficult for his wife and children. There were no services to assist families dealing with alcoholism in the late 1800s and Melissa's siblings were not close by. Unless widowed, there was still the stigma of a wife leaving her husband. Melissa witnessed the hardship of a separated family when her mother and father parted company when she was six to eight years old. A question does present itself at Andrew's death. Were the children and wife living with him in Ridgeway at the time of his death? There was several Paterson's living in the Welland area at the time. Did he go live with these relatives and the family moved back to Ingersoll? The only fact we know is that Melissa and daughter Isabella were in Ingersoll soon after Andrew's 1906 death. Isabella was a stenographer at her uncle's law firm in 1908. Melissa lived on King St. east of Mill St. in Ingersoll. This was a few buildings up the street from her sister Josephine Toull's grocery store that the Toull's owned a

few years previously.



Ingersoll Gazetteer directory 1908

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## **Great Grandchildren of John Elliott and Mary Elliott Grandchildren of William Elliott and Eliza Rogers**

## **Children of Melissa Jane Elliott and Andrew Paterson**

Child: Isabella Eliza B 10 Aug 1884 Victoria Road, Eldon, Kawartha Lakes, Ont.

D 22 Sept 1967 Hamilton, Ont. As per IRC Index Never married.

Child: James Edgar B 10 Aug 1886 Victoria Road, Eldon, Kawartha Lakes, Ont.

D 23 Mar 1973 Hamilton, Ont. As per IRC Index (age 86)

M 05 Sept 1915 Hamilton, Ont.

Spouse: Ethel Jane Smith B 06 July 1891 Hamilton

D unknown

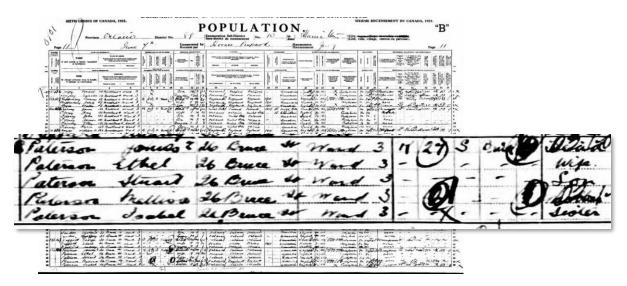
It seems that son James Edgar did not make the trip back to Ingersoll but struck out on his own at age 19. By the 1911 census, Edgar had established himself as a draftsman working in Hamilton. Melissa, by

that time was 53 years old and she and daughter Isabella had moved from Ingersoll to live with Edgar at 117 Kent St. Hamilton. Melissa was noted as head of the house and widowed. Isabella at 26 was contributing to the household income as a law office stenographer while James Edgar, age 24, added income as a draughtsman (draftsman).

James Edgar's marriage to Edith Smith was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 1915 and the immediate addition of son Stuart a year later increased the household to five. Both Edgar and Isabella continued in their occupations in the 1921 census. This time they were living at 26 Bruce St. near the base of the Hamilton escarpment where Edgar was named as head of the house. Ten years later Melissa and spinster daughter Isabella are living at 316 Herkimer St in Hamilton. There was some kind of split ownership agreement between Melissa and widow Ella Cummings who also lived in the house.



Isabella Paterson



Was Edgar a WWI veteran? I have not found any records to indicate his involvement. I also wonder if there was any contact between Melissa and her niece Josephine Beckett. They both lived close to each other during the 1930s when Josie moved from Windsor to Hamilton to be closer to the Beckett family. It would be a shame if they never crossed paths.

This is where the census trail runs out. Several voter lists records spread over 3 decades indicate that Melissa and Isabella and eventually Edgar moved to 316 Herkimer St. in Hamilton

Voters lists 1935, 1953, 1963.



The 1935 voters list still had Melissa and Isabella at 316 Herkimer. Edgar was not with them at that time as I suspect he had moved with his family to another house. He would later return once his wife passed and his only son married. By that point, Melissa had died and Isabella and Edgar lived out their lives in the house.

316 Herkimer St Hamilton Ont.

Melissa died in Hamilton 30 Mar 1944 and was removed to IRC.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CERT	FICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH 022097						
1. PLACE (County or District of Sullativette)	Township of Day And						
DEATH (If in City, Town or Village Namulton Street	(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the name instead of street and number)						
2. LENGTH OF STAY (in years, months and days) (a) In City, Town or Township where death occurred							
3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED PATER	SON, ME/ISSA JANE						
RESIDENCE No. 3/6 Street ALLAUMAN City, Tow. (Residence means usual place of abode.)	n. Village or Township damilton Province Ontario.						
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9. DATE OF BIRTH September 27 1857 (real)	and last saw h & alive on March 30 19 4						
10. AGE in Your Months Days If less than one day old	I. 131-2 CAUSE OF DEATH						
hrs or min.	Immediate exists Company Mightailine						
spinner, teamster, office clerk, etc.	Give disease, hitpy or complication with classification which caused death, med the mode of dying, such as beart failure, nephysin, nathenia, etc. title to						
12. Kind of industry or business, as cotton- mill, tumbering, bank, etc.	Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to (b)						
8 13. Date deceased last worked Sathages this occupation	proceeding backwards from im- mediate cause).						
15. If married give name of wife or husband of deceased	Other morbid conditions (if important) Chronic Rephrilis						
m 11:00: - 0 00:-+	contributing to death but not surrounding author felicosis						
16. NAME MILLIAM GILAM	26. If a communicable disease is mentioned on this cor-						
17. BINTEPLACE & NGLAND	tificate, give (b) Duration of disease. days						
# 18. MARDEN NAME Coling Rodgers	27. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy?						
B A D	28. Was there a surgical operation? 22 Date of operation 19.						
Z 19. BINTHPLACE 6 MG (Province or Country)	State findings						
20. Person giving information Isabel Paterson	23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:  Accident, suicide or homicide?						
Address 316 Hakiner Street	Accident, suicide or homicide? Date of injury 19 Manner of injury						
Relationship to deceased anyther	Nature of Injury						
21. Place of Burial, Cremation or Removal Angus sef Ontario	Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.						
Date of burial or removal Mprif 2 nop 19 44	Signed by M.D. M.D.						
22. Burial Permit was issued by A Puny	Address of Med Out Bldg Dato March 3/ 1944						
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14 Than street week dame	Ola N. h.						

## Mrs. Melissa Paterson

on Friday of a former well known resident of Ingersoll, in the person Miss Ella at home and a son, Edgar Elliott, and James Elliott.

of Mrs. Melissa Paterson, widow of in Hamilton. the late Andrew Paterson, in her Passes At Hamilton 87th year. The family moved to on Sunday at Hamilton and motored Hamilton a number of years ago and Mrs. Paterson is fondly remembered pall bearers were nephews of the The death occurred in Hamilton as the former Melissa Elliott.

Funeral services were conducted deceased, Chas. Downing, Albert El-

Isabella continued to live on Herkimer St. until her death 22 Sept 1967 and is buried in IRC.

Edgar is buried with the family at IRC after his death 23 Mar 1973 at age 86.

Edgar's wife Ethel Jane Smith was not buried with him and has not been located. It is interesting to note that Melissa's nephews were pall bearers, proof that the John Rogers Elliott family that lived in the Ingersoll region remained in close contact.





#### **Child of James Edgar Paterson and Ethel Smith**

Child: Stuart S. B 07 Sept 1915 Hamilton, Ont.

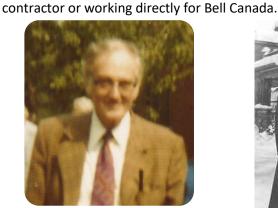
D 28 Aug 1993 Guelph, Ont.

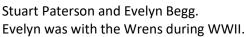
B 30 July 1916 Hamilton Spouse: Evelyn L Begg

D 30 Dec 2004 Cambridge, Ont.

I have not been able to locate any other child of Edgar's except Stuart.

The 1949 Voters list had Stuart and his wife living with his in laws in Hamilton. He was listed as a wire splicer (likely phone company). At some point prior to 1963 the couple moved to Metcalf St. in Guelph. Stuart appears to have spent his life working in the telephone cable installation business either as a









Stuart died 26 Aug 1993 and is buried in Guelph's Milgrove cemetery with his wife Evelyn and her parents.

### End of Book 7.

## Next Book 8: The Thomas Elliott and Laura Lewis Family

#### Acknowledgments

It has been thirty-four months since Covid led me to this journey of connection to my family. Traipsing through the past has enriched me with knowledge of where I was born and raised in Oxford County. I also understand more about my extended ancestorial family and the lives they led. I wish to thank the following people and organizations that put up with what may have seemed as unending requests and constant badgering. I apologize to those I have missed. This project is as much yours as mine. Take a bow.

Vicki Brenner - Oxford County Library Ingersoll

Staff on the Clinton Ontario Library

Lyle Elliott Terry McCorry Mark Legacy

Paul Wilson Terry Elliott

Staff of London Room London Library Carol Jackman

Paul Chesterman

Scott Gillies -Ingersoll Cheese and Agriculture Museum Elizabeth Kerr

Mary Lois Cooper

Bonnie Courchesne – Esquesing Historical Society

Lyle and Mary Rooke

Dr. Stephanie Radu – Beachville Museum Raymond Bight – Devon Exodus Database

Janet Hilliker - Norwich Museum

Ron Faulkner

Carmen Merrelles – Surrey BC Library

**Shirley Hanlon Bryan Daniels** 

Terry Murdoch Lynne Elliott Leslie Brown

Owen Forbes Elliott family

Pat Adam – Oxford Branch Ontario Ancestors

Marg Thorogood

Keith and Marjorie Brown Jane Fleming – Embro Library

Leigh Hart Elsie Elliott Dawn Lussier **Bob Johnston** Leslie Seldon

Mathew Griffis - Tillsonburg Library

Josh – Norfolk County Archives

Larry Jeffery Pam MacKenzie

Caroline French – Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

Joseph Coulson Reed Elliott

Susan and Gary Gilleran

Lynda Carrington Katherine Auty Megan McDermott

Ruth Seldon Len Elliott Wayne Smith

And to my immediate family – I am sorry that I caused so many eye rolls as I regaled them with stories from past generations. To my lovely wife and patient editor – you were right. Their patience and encouragement were always welcome and at times needed.

Glenn Elliott

Great, Great Grandson of William Elliott and Eliza Rogers.

June 2023.