

The Devonshire Elliott/Seldon/Prouse/Hamlyn/Wilson Families of 1843 Ingersoll and surrounding townships

Book 1

Revised March 2024

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Preface:

There are three deaths every person experiences.

The first is when the body ceases to function.

The second is when the last person that heard their voice or cast eyes on them dies.

The third is that moment, sometime in the future, when their name is spoken for the last time.

My hope is that by compiling these records, my ancestors' names are never spoken for the last time.

It all started with this portrait:



When I was a youngster growing up in this massive stone farmhouse on Lot 19 Con 2 of North Oxford Township, Oxford Co. Ontario, this portrait hung in the upstairs hallway on the way to the “scary” unused rooms of the farmhouse. Anytime I passed this portrait, the hair would stand up on the back of my neck and I would hustle a little faster. I swear his eyes followed me.

Years later, my parents would move out of the farmhouse and into a nice suburban home on John Davies Drive in Woodstock, Ontario to live out their lives. The portrait made the move as well, finding a home near the basement furnace.

After their passing, I was much braver in my older age, and had the portrait shipped to my home near Vancouver, B.C. Why? I was always curious as to the story of this distinguished gentleman with the probing eyes. My father and mother did not know other than it was an Elliott from long ago. No one was certain. He has graced the walls of my suburban split level having a prominent place in the living room, not front and center, but still seen every day. His eyes still follow you.

Work, kids, and life in general all got in the way of concerning myself with the mystery man. After many years, life has slowed and my gaze has swung around again to the portrait. When Covid 19 reared its head, I was looking for some activity that I could do while entrenched in my house and decided to find out who this man may be. And the great adventure had begun.

Genealogy is an inexact research project. What seems right in one moment can be proven wrong in the next. Additional facts will always be found that will change the narrative. Speculation is a common tool when delving into ancestor's lives. Common sense is another tool.

There will be debate about my research and conclusions and I hope in the future this work can be either verified with certainty, modified or proven wrong. I fought many times with dates that did not match on documents and clippings and used a best guess principal. That is what genealogy is all about. In this case, I have taken on the project of family history while using a genealogy framework. I have compiled family stories and timelines that hopefully create an understanding of the history of the Elliott family that arrived in Oxford County, Ontario in 1843.

With the help of websites like Ancestry, Find My Friends etc. I went searching. I scanned government, newspaper and library records, made phone calls, sent emails and travelled on multiple research trips back home to Ingersoll, Ontario. I have harassed library staff and cemetery administrators. I have met many new friends and conversed with distant relatives. I reintroduced myself to close relatives and have listened to many of their unheard recollections. It did not take long to dig into the Elliott family background. I felt like the detective in a mystery novel. I have dealt with roadblocks, dead ends, mystery children and lost souls. I have witnessed terrible deaths and worthy accomplishments. Some answers have evaded me. There is even an infamous gun toting family feud. I have a whole new respect of what my ancestors went thorough in eras past and am grateful that I live in my present time span.

With this mindset, I set off to run up the family tree of each child of my great, great, great grandmother and grandfather that arrived from North Devon to the Atlantic shores of Canada in 1843. My hope was to identify histories and stories of at least three generations of descendants of each of the nine children of patriarch and matriarch John and Mary Elliott. With help from many others, three and even four generations have been fleshed out.

Each child will have a "book" or section about their family. I suggest that the first book be read before reading the other books or even just the book about the family you are interested in. This will give the reader some background on the family.

And always remember that the acronym:
IRC is the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
Con is Concession

Chapter 1: Some Background History

Since my early teens when I first asked about my Elliott ancestors, I was told we were from the English / Scottish borderlands. What a group of sheep and horse rustlers we apparently were. I remember my second cousin, the late Jimmy Elliott, giving me a soft covered book about the history of the Elliott clan and the Borderlands of Scotland. I have relatives that toured the Scottish border country and visited the clan's ancestral home. I own an Elliott tartan tie.

With that in mind, iPad in hand and a hockey game on TV, I started back tracking my father's history beginning with the 1921 Ontario census. The fact that these documents are scanned and freely available on the internet made tripping back into the late 1800's fairly easy. I marvel at how long it must have taken earlier generations of genealogist to track this information down.

The first major wall was the Atlantic Ocean. I found growing evidence via Ontario census records that the Elliotts were not from Scotland. I stumbled onto an invaluable website. The well researched 1843 North Devon emigration website (noted below) listed the names of those that travelled to North America from North Devonshire in the 1840s and 1850s. By cross indexing the names on this list with the names of my relatives I had traced in Oxford County, I had found the location of my ancestors' old country shire. What a great stroke of luck that my family chose the year 1843 to emigrate. More about that later.

The Elliotts are English and from Devonshire.

Who were these Devon Elliotts and where did they come from?

The most comprehensive article I could locate says that the Elliott name has existed since at least 1000 AD and variations of the name was first located in Normandy, France. There have been up to 23 different spellings noted over the years.

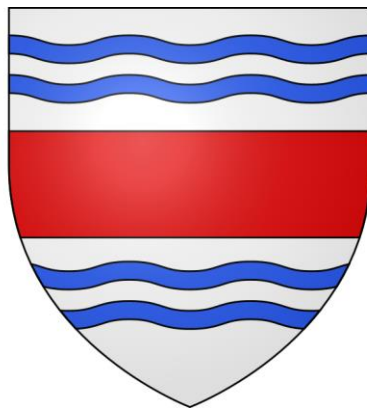
The "Eliots" earliest known ancestor is Norman knight Sir William de Aliot, who hailed from Normandy and held a distinguished rank during the Norman conquest of England in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. History books about the Battle of Hastings state that when William the Conqueror first stepped on British soil, de Aliot proclaimed, for all to see, that he would defend William's right to England with his life. There is one legend that William the Conqueror had fallen face first onto the Hastings plains, was helped to his feet by his knights and turned to face his 5000 strong peasant and farmer army. Unfortunately, he had a great clod of grass stuck in his face shield, a bad omen to his soldiers. Sir William de Aliot is said to have stepped forward, removed the clod, and shouted to the assemblage that their leader had tasted the soil and it was fit to be conquered (or something along those lines). The army's angst was removed with those words. As a reward for his bravery and loyalty (or quick thinking), William the Conqueror gave de Aliot an honourable coat of arms and large tracts of land in Cornwall and Devonshire.

From this valiant knight are likewise descended the Earls of Minto and St. Germain, Sir William Francis Eliot and the family of the celebrated Lord Heathfield.


Although debated, some research supports the idea that after the Battle of Hastings, several Elliots relocated to northern England adjacent to the Scottish border and are the forefathers of the Scottish arm of the family.

Sir John Eliot of Devonshire (born 1375) is given credit as the common ancestor of the Eliot's of Devonshire. De Aliot's descendants include among other spellings, the surnames Eliot, Elliot, Elliott, Elyot and Alyotte.

Several prominent Devonshire Elliots in England and North America include: Samuel Eliot (banker), Harvard president Charles William Eliot, Washington University founder William Greenleaf Eliot, Reed College founder Thomas Lamb Eliot, Nobel Prize winning poet T.S. Eliot, Sir Earl Minto Governor General of Canada, Charles Eliot (landscape architect), Roger Elliott Governor of Gibraltar and James Elliott, Baron of St Germans who was a parliamentary representative jailed in the Tower of London.



COAT OF ARMS – DEVON ELLIOT

Country	 England
Earlier spellings	Aliot, Elyot, Elliott
Founded	1066;
Founder	Sir William de Aliot
Current head	Albert Eliot, 11th Earl of St Germans
	Earl of St Germans
Titles:	Baron Eliot Count Eliot

Wikipedia has a more substantial overview of the history of the Devon Elliotts. This includes property, famous members and military accomplishments.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliot_family_\(South_England\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliot_family_(South_England))

The Clan estate of Port Eliot is situated in Cornwall, 15 minutes west of Plymouth, England. The present Earl of St. Germans lives on site. However, as with other castles in England, the site is open to tours,

weddings and has hosted medieval fairs, jousts and not so medieval rock concerts. Accommodation is available at one of the many farmhouses on the estate.



More information about the castle can be found at these web sites.

<https://www.porteliot.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uSsiuD07AM>

Why was there an Exodus from North Devonshire?

During the 1840's there were numerous changes occurring in the North Devon area where John and Mary Elliott and family were living.

1/ The farms were basically fully developed. The soil, which was water logged clay, did not suit food crops as was found in South Devon lands. The land was mainly suitable for sheep, even though lime kilns dotted the area supplying fertilizer to enrich the soil. On top of that, a price depression and poor crops in the 1840's pushed many families into poverty.

2/ Although the advent of large families and premature death was prominent, more young people were having to search out industrial jobs that were just coming into being in the English cities. Because family kinship and close family ties were important to residences of North Devon, the desire for more land for younger generations to use in close proximity to the family was a priority that could not be achieved anymore in North Devon.

3/ Many families had relatives who had already moved to Upper Canada and had sent back reviews of good soil and free or cheap land via Canada Company grants. These grants allowed for the opening up of the lands, especially the wilderness of western Upper Canada (now southwestern Ontario). Conditions for grants included clearing a portion of acreage each year, building a house, raising stock and becoming self sufficient. Maintaining the log road in front of your property was a necessity as dictated by the government of the time. Each family was expected to support relatives or kin when they arrived.

4/ In Devon, Tithe apportionments and maps were drawn up under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 (Wikipedia has a good explanation), which regularised the payment of tithes or taxes to the church. These were payments in kind being one tenth of any produce or livestock raised on any land in a parish which was to be given to the incumbent of each parish. This arrangement was fine as long as the country was mostly agricultural, but social and industrial change meant that this system became archaic and hard to enforce. Parliament drew up the act in the 1830's which instructed each county to appoint a commissioner to survey each parish noting every field, building etc. and giving each a number which corresponded with the number on maps which were drawn up at the same time. This then was used to turn the payment in kind into a cash amount which was then due each year. This was fine if the land occupier was a member of the established church, but with the many non-conformists, which most peasant and yeomen farmers were in North Devon, this was a problem. They questioned why they had to give money to a Vicar/Rector whose church they did not belong to. Many refused to pay and in some cases were prosecuted. Many and maybe patriarch John Elliott was one of them, thought it was time to go somewhere where tithes did not exist. It was noted in the North Devon Journal, non conformist children were being expelled from some local schools in 1843. Many thousands that migrated to Canada, the United States and Australia thrived in the 1840s and 1850s in their new homes.

5/ Another contributing reason for the emigration was the local growth of the nonconformist Bible Christians sect, a spin off from the Methodist Church, that was prominent in North Devon. Their strong belief in supporting those in poverty was opposed to that of the Methodist church in which Church and God came first, led to intolerance of them in many towns and villages in North Devon. Meetings were held in barns or in homes supported by the local yeoman farmers. Large groups of these Bible Christians emigrated to Canada, enough that the Bible Christian church sent missionaries and preachers with the emigrants. A good overview is given at this website.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Emigration/NDevonExodus>

So why did so many North Devonians choose Canada? This was primarily due to which Devon harbour town they emigrated from. In south Devon, large groups of emigrants were leaving for Australia's gold rush and New Zealand via the southern port of Plymouth. Bideford was a ship building and trading port on the north Devon shore. Towns along the northern coast built many boats each year for the British Navy, ships for wood importation from Scandinavia and passenger use. Unfortunately, the import of wood sources from Europe to build these ships had dried up in the early 1820's. Canada became a new source of wood and a new destination for passengers. Every year many ships from the northern ports made the trek to Canada. As well, numbers of local fisherman made the Atlantic trip to fish the cod stocks off Newfoundland. The ship Captains were well versed with the North Atlantic. The timber carriers would bring the lumber from the Maritime provinces in early spring, retrofit for passengers for the summer and sail back to PEI, Quebec City or Newfoundland. The link below has a much more in depth look at the Atlantic crossing and travels to Upper Canada during that era.

<http://www.bidefordheritage.co.uk/emigration.html>



Photo: A departing passenger ship leaving from Bideford Harbour around 1855 awaiting the incoming tide.

When I first started my research, it was relatively easy to follow the family back through Upper Canada census rolls. Prior to 1851 I hit a wall. Where were they before 1851? My first assumption was that they still were in the 'olde country'. The 1851 Upper Canada census said they were from England which initially caused me concern as I was always told my family was from the Scottish borderlands Elliot Clan. Hunting through English web sites, I found the Devon Emigration Exodus site:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Emigration/NDevonExodusListing>

This site is an index of listed names of North Devon families that emigrated from the area in the 1840s and 1850s. My Elliott family names and birthdates coincided with a group of Elliotts on the Index list. They were from Marwood, Devon. Raymond Blight is the administrator of the link to the Elliott's portion of the Devon Index and has an extensive 18,000 name private family tree website. This tree includes family names that crop up over and over again on the North American side of the Atlantic as well. The names Nancekivell, Prouse, Hamlyn, Seldon, Sutherland, Wilson, George, Downing and Raymond were often linked via marriage to Elliotts. These last names were common in Devon as well as Oxford Co. where the family settled. Mr. Blight was quickly able to direct me to my great, great, great grandfather and mother, John and Mary Elliott and he was able to be my "eyes" on the English side of the Atlantic.

Chapter 2: Introduction to North Devon and the Elliott Family

John and Mary Elliott

JOHN ELLIOTT Occupation: Yeoman Farmer

Birth: prior to Dec 26 1789 in Bideford, Devon, England.

England Births & Christenings record of John Elliott B. Dec 26 1789

Death: April or May 1864, in Ingersoll.

With some speculation, there is a Christening record with the appropriate dates for a John Elliott that took place in Bideford, Devon and show his parents as being John Elliott (1754 – 1810) and Elizabeth Fisher (1761 – 1803). This element will likely require feet on the ground additional research in Devon, and is only speculation based on matching dates and common sense.

John Elliott
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

SAVE EDIT SHARE

Name	John Elliott
Sex	Male
Father's Name	John Elliott
Father's Sex	Male
Mother's Name	Elizabeth
Mother's Sex	Female
Event Type	Christening
Event Date	26 Dec 1789
Event Place	Bideford, Devon, England

MARY ELLIOTT Occupation: Homemaker

Birth: 1786 likely in the Bideford or Bradworthy Devon area.

Death: 1848, in Ingersoll

Marriage: MARY*, Dec 28 1808 Bradworthy, Devon.

*There are genealogical arguments to be made that Mary's maiden name was Gould, Hodge, Hamlyn or even Elliott. The word printed "prefence" on the Banns marriage register is an old-fashioned way of spelling the word "presence". The letter "f" was often used instead of "s" in the middle of words at this time. So, in the prefence are two witnesses, as required on the register. The entry shows John's wife's maiden name as Elliott. She also signed the

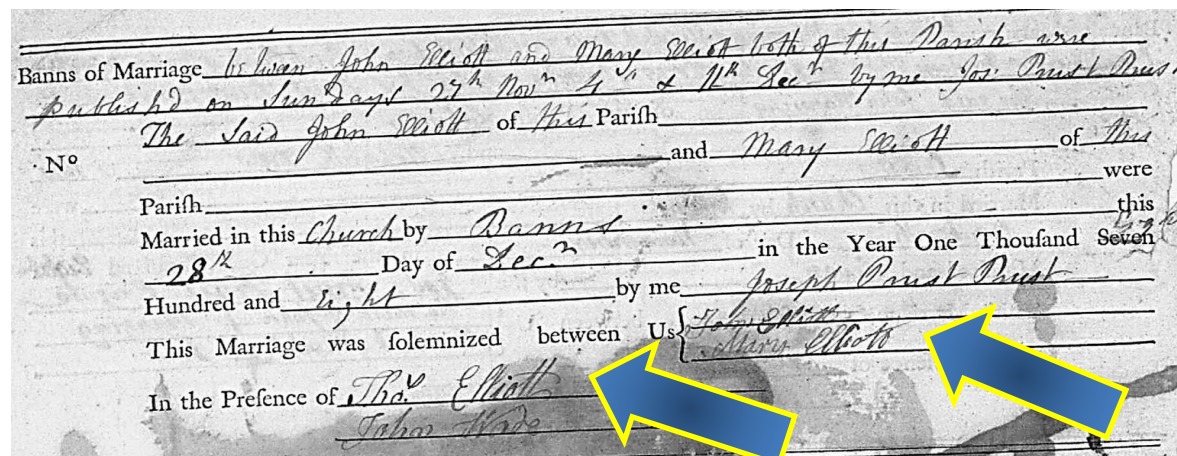
Devon, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1920

This Record

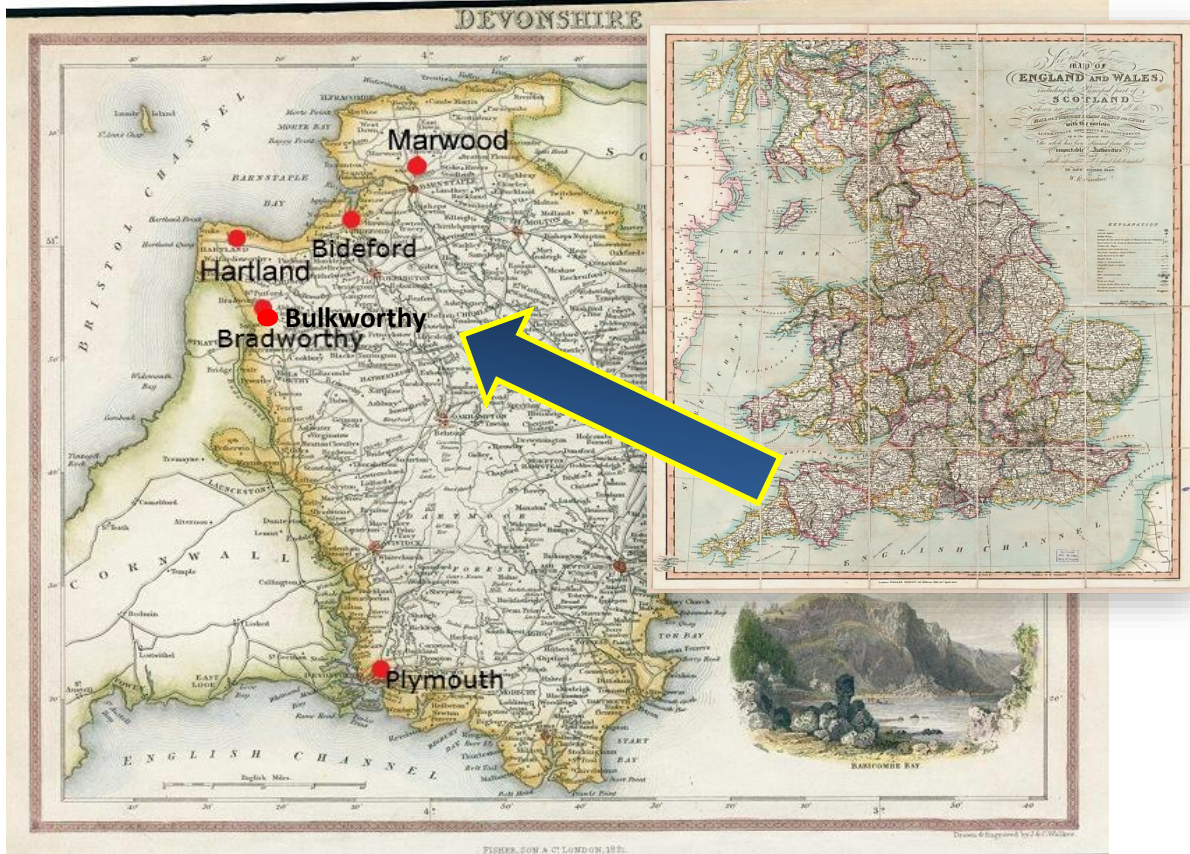
Name	John Elliott
Residence Date	Abt 1780
Residence Location	Bideford
Marriage Date	Apr 1780
Wife	Elisabeth Fisher

document as such. It was the normal practice for the bride to sign her maiden name on the register thus indicating an Elliott-to-Elliott marriage, a union of relatives that was not uncommon in the area at the time. The witness "Thos" Elliott could be John's brother. The other witness, John Wade, I expect was the Parish Clerk as clerks signed as a witness on most of the marriages at this time. There are also arguments about both John and Mary's death dates that will be discussed later. As an aside, their first child, Mary, was born two months after the marriage as confirmed as per her baptism record and grave marker. Pregnant lower-class brides accounted for up to one third of marriages in the early 1800s as it was often the grooms desire to see if the bride could bear children before agreeing to marriage.

An "English Banns Record" exists of John Elliott's marriage to a Mary in 1808 in Bradworthy, Devon.



The Elliots were Bible Christians from the Bideford / Bradworthy / Hartland area of North Devon. The Devon index of their marriage banns records that their residence after marriage was the tiny village of Bulkworthy. These four villages were just a few kilometers from each other in the north west coastal area of Devonshire. The family later moved northwards to Braunton / Marwood. Christening records for their children place them in Bradworthy / Bulkworthy area until at least 1826 and the census of England places them in Braunton / Marwood in 1841.



Marwood Village 1925



Hartland Town Square



North Devon countryside



All these listed below have christening records in Bradworthy and Hartland with parents recorded as John & Mary Elliott. Several of the records were recorded under various spellings of Elliott.

<u>Mary Elizabeth</u>	(B 17 Feb 1809) christened on 05 Mar 1809 at St Nectan's church in Hartland.
<u>Elizabeth</u>	(B 11 Nov 1810) christened 25 Dec 1810 Bradworthy
<u>Maria (or Mariah)</u>	(B 29 Dec 1812) christened 12 Feb 1813 All Hallows Church West Woolfardisworthy, Devon
<u>Eliza</u>	(B 01 Jan 1815) christened 20 Jan 1815 All Hallows Church
<u>John</u>	(B 23 Mar 1817) christened 27 Apr 1817 Bradworthy
<u>William</u>	(B 04 Apr 1819) christened 23 Apr 1819 Bradworthy
<u>Thomas</u>	(B 05 Jul 1821) christened 29 Jul 1821 Bradworthy
<u>James</u>	(B 28 Mar 1824) christened 16 Apr 1824 All Hallows Church
<u>Samuel</u>	(B 28 Aug 1826) christened. 17 Sep 1826 in Hartland



All Hallows Church Woolfardisworthy St. Nectan's Church Stoke Hartland

NOTE: The birth years were not part of the original document. They are calculated from the ages given in the census and as such they may be off by as much as one year depending on the birth month as it relates to the census date. Some enumerators even rounded the age to the closest five-year mark.

In all likelihood, there were also unaccounted for children that did not survive to adulthood in the John Elliott family.

In total, 9 children were accounted for, all part of the family that left North Devon between 1843 and 1846 and settled in the Oxford County area in what was then known as Upper Canada. Later Canadian censuses and other records confirmed the family spread through the townships of North and West Oxford, West Zorra, Dereham and East Nissouri as well as the towns of Ingersoll, Woodstock and Embro. Later generations migrated to Michigan and Illinois. Others left in the early 1900s for the then opening of the Canadian prairies. Even later generations took to the urban centers of Ontario, Michigan and British Columbia. Some even found their way to Texas, California and the eastern U.S. states.

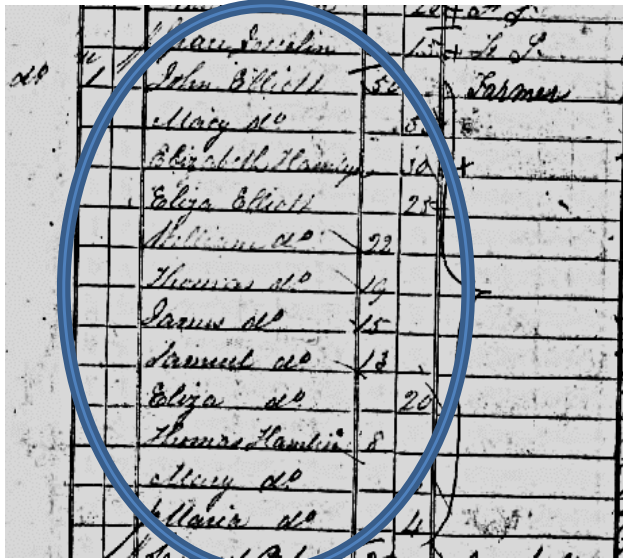
Even as the Elliott tree spread; my research led to one interesting conclusion about family life in the mid 1800s into the mid 1900s. I was surprised at the amount of family bonds that existed. Documents and correspondence I located showed that the members of the extended family were constantly in touch. Shared experiences were as common as family reunions. Family members were not only aware of second or third cousins and the lives they led but interacted with them. Farther distances apart only

meant more letters and longer trips. Unlike today, where people seem to not keep track of family members; in that era relatives spent time together and were bonded in their relationships.

1841 census of Marwood Parish

The transcript from the 1841 English Census reads as follows – Ancestry.com:

1841 in Prieford, Braunton, parish of
 Marwood, Devon Piece: HO107/205/1 Place:
 Braunton -1841 Devon Enumeration District: 17 Folio: 9 Page: 12 Address: Prieford
 Surname First name(s) Sex/Age



Born * ELLIOTT John Male,
 Age 50 Devon Yeoman Farmer Born 1791
 ELLIOTT Mary F 55 1786
 HAMLIN Elizabeth F 30 1811
 ELLIOTT Eliza F 25 1816
 ELLIOTT William M 22 1819
 ELLIOTT Thomas M 19 1822
 ELLIOTT James M 15 1826
 ELLIOTT Samuel M 13 1828
 ELLIOTT Eliza F 20 1821
 *Children of widow Elizabeth (Elliott) Hamlyn
 and deceased husband James Hamlyn
 HAMLIN Thomas M 8 1833*
 HAMLIN Mary F 6 1835 *
 HAMLIN Maria F 4 1837 *

* NOTE: The birth years were not part of the original document. They are calculated from the ages given in the census and as such they may be off by as much as one year depending on the birth month as it relates to the census date.

Noteworthy is the order the names appeared in the Census record. This is important because of Elizabeth Hamlyn’s position in the list, where at first glance, it would appear she is out of order. She is listed as if she is was a daughter of John and Mary. Census records listed the parents first followed by their children (daughters first followed by sons) in order of birth, then any other people living at the same location. Therefore, it would indicate that Elizabeth Hamlyn was a daughter of John and Mary and her age relates well to the England Christening record from Bradworthy in 1810. Later records from Canada provided further support for this conclusion and the fact that she did marry a Hamlyn and that the 3 “Hamlin” children in the census list were hers. The most conclusive fact was her obituary in the Ingersoll Chronicle in 1899 which reads,

*“Mrs. Hempswell was the second daughter of the late John and Mary Elliott, and was born in Devonshire, England in 1810. In 1882 (sic)*correct date 1832- she was married to James Hamlyn, by whom she had three children... After four years of happy married life her husband died.”* Elizabeth remarried Joseph Hempswell in Ingersoll in 1857.

A second notable anomaly in the census list is the presence of two individuals named Eliza Elliott. Christening or birth records for Eliza, age 25, has her clearly listed as a daughter to John and Mary. Eliza, age 20, on the other hand was not a daughter. A marriage record from Barnstaple (a government town near Marwood) from 1840, indicated that the younger Eliza (my great, great grandmother) was in fact the new wife of son William Elliott (my great, great grandfather) and her maiden name was Rogers. Once again, records from Canada provided further support for both identities.

William Elliott and Eliza Rogers bans of marriage Sept 21, 1840

1840. Marriage solemnized in the Church in the Parish of Marwood in the County of Devon								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
18	Sept 21	William Elliott Eliza Rogers	of full age 19	Bachelor Spinster	Shoemaker Servant	Marwood do.	John Elliott William Rogers	Farmer Lab ^r
Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, W. Kelly								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		William Elliott Eliza Rogers		in the Presence of us,		William Seldon Maria Elliott		
<p><i>certifies that the above entries Nos 17 & 18 are truly copied from the Duplicate Register having been omitted through negligence in this Book -</i> <i>F. W. P. Collier</i></p>								

Three of the John and Mary Elliott children are missing from the 1841 census at Prieford, Marwood. Mary (B 1809) married Thomas Prouse in 1841 and at the time of the 1841 census she was recorded as living with her new husband in Hartland, Devon. The reference in sister Elizabeth's obit that she was, "the second daughter," supports the existence of an elder sister and although there is no actual record of this relationship, there were several later references that provide support for the conclusion that Mary Elizabeth (B 1809) is that person. Daughter Maria (B 1812) married William Seldon in 1841 (an English Marriage record exists) and was living with him in Morwenstow, Cornwall at the time of the census. They were witnesses to William Elliott's marriage (noted above). William Seldon's history is an interesting study in terms of family relationships. More on him in the Seldon Book 4. That only leaves John (Jr.) unaccounted for. He was the eldest son and at age 23 or 24, he was known to have been single (he later married in Canada). Could he have been working elsewhere or may had already left for Canada? His obituary in the Ingersoll Chronicle Newspaper for Sept 29, 1883 stated that he lived in Scarboro, Ont. for 10 years prior to moving to Oxford County. Since he purchased his first farm in 1848, that would mean he could have conceivably been in Scarboro as early as 1838. He would have been 21 years old at that time. The Book, History of West Zorra, indicates that his younger brother Samuel and the rest of the family wintered over in Scarboro with relatives in 1843. Perhaps John Jr. was staying with "John72", a character you are soon to meet. Although there is no concrete explanation as to his whereabouts at the time of the English census of 1841, circumstantial evidence points to him being found in Canada at that time. Later Ontario references clearly link him to this family.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Emigration/NDevonExodusListing>

Here is the list of the direct Elliott family that emigrated in the summer of 1843 as per the N Devon list

Name	Location	Destination	Administrator	
Elliott Eliza	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott James	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott John *	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott John	Hartland	Ingersoll, Ontario	D.F.H.S. journal	
Elliott Mary	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott Samuel	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott Thomas	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Elliott William	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com

* The second "John" listed on the Devon Emigration list is William and Eliza (Rogers) Elliott's son John Rogers Elliott (my great grandfather) who was born in June 1841 and was only 2 years old when he crossed the Atlantic.

Hamlyn Eliz. (widow)	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Hamlyn Maria b.1837	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Hamlyn Mary b.1835	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com
Hamlyn Thomas b 1833	Marwood	Ontario 1843	Raymond Blight	devonian47@gmail.com

These names were all familiar as I found them and their families throughout the 1851/61/71/81 Oxford Co. censuses, cemetery records and newspaper articles. I have no doubt this is the correct family group.

Chapter 3: Life in Marwood Devon and Preparing for the Trip



John was a yeoman farmer. A yeoman was a farmer that existed between the gentry class and the common farm labourer. He owned his own small estate or paid rent to a landowner to allow him to have farm labourers work his land. Being a yeoman implied that he had some financial resources at his disposal. According to the 1841 English census he lived at a farm called **Prixford Barton** in Marwood Parish near Barnstaple, Devon. The property still exists today but in a much-changed state. The house is now a vacation rental property. It has 6 bedrooms and an indoor pool on 6 acres. Photos in the accompanying link show the modern-day kitchen in which the walls of the original home have been

incorporate into inside walls. The property is now considered a Grade II period farmhouse. A **Grade II** listed building is defined as a **UK** building or structure that is "of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve it". Buildings listed on the register are legally protected from being demolished, extended or significantly altered without special permission from the local planning authority.

<https://big-cottages.com/properties/united-kingdom/england/devon/north-devon-district/marwood/prixford-barton>



Located within easy reach of the surfing beaches at Croyde, Woolacombe and Saunton Sands

Prixford Barton Prixford, Barnstaple, North Devon

Barnstaple 3 miles • Braunton 4 miles • Croyde 8 miles • M5 Motorway 38 miles

**A beautifully presented Grade II Listed Period farmhouse
commanding delightful westerly views**

Entrance Hall • Hall • Cloakroom • Study • Dining Room • Sitting Room • Garden Room • Kitchen/Breakfast Room • Utility Room
Office • Studio • 2 Bedroom Suites • 3 Further Bedrooms • Family Bathroom

Indoor Swimming Pool • Games Room/Gymnasium

Stabling • Barn • Garaging • 2 Bay Implement Store

Paddocks • Woodland • Ponds • Stream • Landscaped Gardens • Ha Ha

The whole amounting to approximately 7 acres

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Prixford Barton Prixford, Barnstaple, North Devon

The property stands in a delightful sought after rural location on the edge of the small village of Prixford which lies just to the northwest of Barnstaple in attractive North Devon countryside yet within a few minutes drive of the world renown surfing beaches of Woolacombe, Croyde Bay and Saunton Sands.

The villages of Prixford and neighbouring Marwood have a local pub, an excellent village school and church. Nearby Barnstaple provides a wider range of shopping facilities including retail parks and a choice of schools, further education establishments, entertainments and a railway station providing regular services to Exeter with connecting services beyond.

Junction 27 of the M5 motorway together with Tiverton Parkway station are both within 1 hour travelling distance and provide easy



access to the rest of the country. Exeter and Bristol International Airports are both within 2 hours travelling distance.

The countryside surround Prixford is typical of the North Devon area comprising rolling hills and wooded valleys with streams and rivers. The dramatic North Devon coastline where Exmoor meets the sea includes plunging cliffs and sheltered coves and bays at locations such as Lee Bay and Woody Bay.

Safe bathing and surfing can be enjoyed at a number of locations and the rivers Tav and Torridge provide yachting and boating at both Appledore and Instow. The surrounding countryside offers miles of delightful walks, riding and cycling and there is a choice of golf courses in the area, the nearest being at Barnstaple and Saunton Sands.



Muddiford House

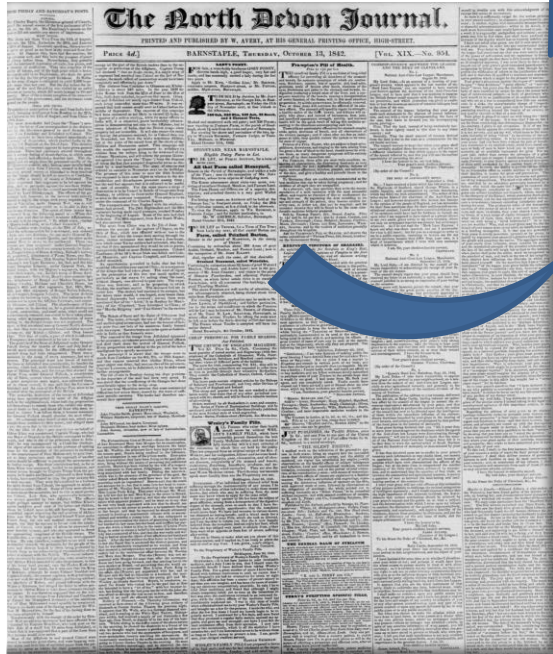
According to the Devon Tithe records of 1840 John Elliott also had a property in the village of Muddiford, a few kilometers to the north of Marwood. This house was likely the family home until he purchased or leased Prixford Barton in 1841.



In the fall of 1843, the fateful decision was made to sell and move. Was this precipitated by any of the reasons to emigrate? The answer appears to be lost. John Elliott's PRIXFORD Barton farm was for sale.

TO BE LET BY TENDER, for a Term of Ten Years from Lady-day next, all that capital Barton and **Farm, called PRIXFORD Barton,** Situate in the parish of MARWOOD, in the county of DEVON; Containing by estimation about 190 Acres of good Arable, Orchard, Meadow, and Pasture Land; now in the occupation of Mr. JOHN ELLIOTT. And, together with the same, all that desirable **Overland Tenement, called Waterlake,** Containing by estimation about 62 Acres of good Watered Meadow, Orchard, and Arable Land; now in the possession of Mr. JOHN CORNEY; and situate in the parish of *Heaton Punchardon*, and adjoining PRIXFORD BARTON, on which latter estate there is an excellent Farm-house, with all convenient Out-buildings, and a good Thrashing Machine. The above Premises are well worthy of attention, and are advantageously situated, being distant about three miles from *Barnstaple*. For viewing the same, application may be made to Mr. JOHN LYNCH, of *Muddiford*; and further particulars, (as to the terms and conditions on which the Premises will be Let) may be known of Mr. BROWN, of *Bittadon*, or of Mr. THOS. H. LAW, SOLICITOR, *Barnstaple*, at whose office written Tenders for taking the same must be left on or before the thirty-first day of October instant. The Person whose Tender is accepted will have due notice thereof. Dated Barnstaple, 4th October, 1842.

North Devon Journal of Oct 13, 1842



Further proof that the family was moving was this poster, held by descendant Richard Seldon Elliott (1868-1929), and located in the attic of his home by his second wife Fannie Elliott and made available by the Owen Elliott family. The poster advertised an animal and equipment sale in October of 1842 as follows:

“At Prieford Barton, in the Parish of Marwood

The Whole of the Farming Stock and Implements in Husbandry, The Property of Mr. John Elliott.”

FARMING STOCK,
And Implements in Husbandry for Sale.

TO BE SOLD BY
AUCTION,
BY MR. J. STEVENS,

At Prieford Barton,
IN THE PARISH OF MARWOOD,
On WEDNESDAY the 19th day of OCTOBER instant,
THE WHOLE OF THE FARMING
STOCK
AND IMPLEMENTS IN HUSBANDRY,
THE PROPERTY OF
Mr. John Elliott,
WHO IS ABOUT TO DECLINE BUSINESS.

Consisting of upwards of Thirty-Six Head of Cattle,
ALL OF THE BIRTH DEVON BREED.

Comprising 14 Cows and Heifers in Calf, 1 superior young Bull, coming two years' old, 6 Plough Steers, and 15 young Steers and Heifers of different ages;—ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SHEEP of the north breed, consisting of 30 Fat Sheep, 60 Breeding Ewes, and 40 Ewe and Wether Lambs.—The Sheep being of a superior breed, they will be put up and sold in lots of six each.—Also, 6 superior Labour Horses, 1 three-year-old Colt, and 1 two-year-old Ditto;—2 Boar Pigs;—a Donkey, Cart, and Harness; 1 double-shaft Waggon, nearly new; a light covered Waggon; Carts, Butts, and Wheels; Ploughs, Harrows, and Drags; wood and stone Rollers; a Scuffler; Tormentor; Peat Rake; and various other Implements.

Refreshments on the Table at Twelve o'Clock, and the Sale to commence precisely by Two.

Dated October 1st, 1842.

W. BROOKS, PRINTER, ROBERTS-STREET, BARNSTAPLE.

The description of items for auction would indicate that John Elliott was a man of some means. The sale would have preceded the departure of John & Mary and the family to Canada, which likely occurred in the following spring of 1843 and would further confirm the emigration list noted previously.

The Atlantic Crossing:

One of the most significant features of the Canadian emigration is that most of the North Devon migrants did not depart from the southern Devon port of Plymouth. Only one ship sailed from Plymouth to Canada in the spring of 1843 (the John Bromham) with 11 passengers.

http://www.islandregister.com/ship_data3.html

Most sailed from the north ports of Appledore and Bideford in 1843 (counted as a single port for customs purposes) and that they did so as paying passengers rather than assisted emigrants. According to the Bideford 500 website, in 1830 Thomas Burnard Chanter advertised in the North Devon Journal that his ships Collina, Calypso, Sappho and Euphemia had been:

“Conveniently fitted up for Families and will take out passengers on moderate terms to Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick”

In the following year the North Devon Journal described some 5000 people lining the Quay and Long Bridge at Bideford to wave farewell to the Apollo, Calypso and Bacchus, bound for New York, St. Andrews (Newfoundland) and Montreal.

A James Hamlyn (likely not closely related) was another Bideford shipowner engaged in the emigrant trade. He charged between £3 15s and £4 7s 6d for the voyage. The different fares may relate to port of disembarkation as well as distinctions between cabin and steerage class. His advertising contained details about the weekly food allowance given to each passenger on the voyage to North America.

“3 and a half lbs. of bread, 1 lb. flour, 1 and a half lbs. oatmeal, 1 and a half lbs. rice, 1 and a half lbs. peas, 1 and a quarter lbs. beef, 1 lb. pork, 2 lbs. potatoes, 2 oz. tea, 1lb. sugar, 2 oz. salt, half oz. mustard, quarter oz. pepper, 1 gill vinegar, and 3 quarts of water daily”. An average trip was about 23 days.

There are no actual records of the family journey from North Devon, but it is certain that they did not all cross at the same time. John (Sr) purchased land in West Zorra township in August of 1843 (as per Onland.ca land title records) therefore between the time of the Devon farm sale and the Oxford County land purchase, the most logical travel time was the spring of 1843. Atlantic ice and storms prevented winter sailings. There were no less than six sailings from Bideford, Devon that spring, five of which could carry enough passengers to accommodate the Elliotts entourage.

Emigrant Ship Sailings From Bideford 1842-1844

Ship	Tonnage	Date of sailing	No. of Emigrants
Mary Ann	179	16/9/1842	40
British Lady	254	31/3/1843	42
Civility	247	15/4/1843	2
Arab	184	18/4/1843	55
Mary Ann	179	18/4/1843	82
Saint Ann's	535	26/4/1843	309
Isabella	180	26/4/1843	12
Arab	184	26/8/1843	36
John Hawkes	173	7/9/1843	3
Lady Sale	184	3/9/1844	12
Flo	186	18/4/1844	8
Lord Ramsay	346	20/4/1844	18
Hartland	487	30/4/1844	80
Total Passengers			699

The family likely travelled sometime between March 31 and April 26, 1843 on one of these ships that sailed in that time period.

There was a strong possibility as seen in the following quote that some of the family may have left earlier in the year in order to smooth the way for the rest. Once again daughter Elizabeth Elliott Hamlyn's obituary in the Ingersoll newspaper of the time provides a clue, reading,

"She came with her parents, a sister, and three brothers..."

We can also presume she had her 3 children with her as well. The sister would have been Eliza and the brothers most likely Thomas, James and Samuel. John and Mary's son William, wife Eliza and young son John Rogers may have come over on different ship. There are at least two references in family obituaries to the family spending some time in Scarboro Township near York (Toronto) before finally moving to Oxford County. Son John's obituary as mentioned earlier indicated he was in Scarboro awaiting the family. Port Hope, Durham County and Scarboro were a "hot bed" of Elliotts. There are records of Elliotts in the Scarboro area who may well have been related to John and had arrived earlier.

A large hint that there were relatives waiting in Scarboro (now an eastern suburb of Toronto) can be found in Janet Few's Ph.D. dissertation "Faith Fish Farm and Family – the emigration from N Devon 1841-1901". In her writing she states that a local funeral in Scarboro in 1840 was attended by over forty Elliotts.

Chapter 4: A new life in Oxford County: the mystery of the two Johns

The Port Hope area was well settled in 1843 and there was no land available to clear and settle. Meanwhile, the southern part of Upper Canada including the Oxford County area was still mostly considered wilderness. Oxford land was very cheap when purchased from locals or granted via the Canada Company. How the Canada Company reconciled the ownership of the lands and the treatment of the Indigenous population is the subject of other writings. Large acreages were owned by a handful of influential men that were granted the land in return for military or political favours. They were more than willing to parcel off farm lots to newcomers. Leaving his family with friends or relatives in Scarboro would have been a most logical move for John Sr, while he homesteaded in Oxford County. He likely had help from his older sons John Jr and William. He purchased land in 1843 at Concession 1 Lot 7 ½ East 100 acres, in West Zorra Twp., Oxford County. This property is three kilometers north of Rayside on County Road #31 where it crosses the middle arm of the Thames River. Most of his neighbours were transplanted Highland Scots named Sutherland, McKay, MacDonald, Ross and McLeod. The winter of 1843 was noted in the book the History of Beachville, to have been one of the snowiest on record at that time with 12-foot-high drifts. I am sure the Elliott men were put to the test the first year they were in West Zorra township.

West Zorra: Lot No. 7, in the 1st Concession.

John paid £995 to David Graham for 100 acres of the east half of Lot 7 Concession 1 of W Zorra Township on 14 Aug 1843. This location is north of Ingersoll. In 1849, he held the mortgage when he sold the 100 acres to his youngest son Samuel.

GRANTEE	QUANTITY	CUSP.N.	REMARKS
Thomas Elliott	200 acres		
David Graham	100 "		E 1/2
<p>at the S.E. of the said E 1/2 lot. Thence N 22° 5' W has been pl'd at the S.E. of the said 1/2 lot. Thence S 68° 25' of the 0th line then S 22° 5' E 30' more to the S.E. limit S 33° 33 1/2' more to the place of beginning</p>			
Charles Lewis	100 acres		W 1/2
<p>beginning at a angle of 0° 1/2 lot & contg 30' front - 433' 33 1/2' deep</p>			
Mortgage 2 May 1843 3 May 1843 David Graham			
6 } Mary C R Becher 10 "			off & comes
George 7 Aug 1843 7 Aug 1843 Mary C R Becher			release of \$5288
13 rd 14 Aug 1843 15 Aug 1843 David Graham			
Wife } John Elliott 100 "			E 1/2 same as £995
13 rd 27 Aug 1849 26 Jan 1849 John Elliott			E 1/2
Mortgage 27 Aug 1849 26 Jan 1849 Samuel Elliott			E 1/2
Mortgage 19 Feb 1852 26 Feb 1852 Alexander W. Hume			E 1/2
Charles Lewis	100 "		£250
			£250

It was incredibly hard work to start your own farm in those days. The land was mostly swamp. In John's case, the Middle Thames River ran through the property which was a significant advantage for the family in later years for the establishment of the Elliott Family (later Red Star) cheese factory. It was required by the government of the time that a specific number of acres were to be cleared each year. It was obviously necessary to construct, at minimum, a two-room wooden cabin with a fireplace. If the winter weather was severe enough, one of the rooms could become a stable for animals. The first year of life on the property often included living in a shanty while the cabin was built. It was imperative to have a barn, domestic animals and chickens as soon as possible to supply fresh meat, milk and eggs. Pigs were often a necessity and it was common to borrow a cow from a more established neighbour, feed and breed the animal and if it delivered a heifer, the calf was yours. Owning more than one cow was a luxury. Oxen were often used as work animals before the purchase of a horse.



photo courtesy
From Forest to Farm

The local government also mandated that each farmer was to maintain the road in front of their property. The numbers of days maintaining the road was based on the length of property front and size of the property owned.

From the first arrivals until the 1870s, births were mostly at home with the assistance of a neighbour's wife. Still born children and death in childbirth were not uncommon. As well, disease often swept through the countryside. Multiple family deaths in a short

period of time can be seen on local cemetery tombstones and in Ingersoll Rural Cemetery burial records. Burials were often in family farm cemeteries where members of related families would place the deceased. With the formation of the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery in April of 1864, burials took place there.

During 1843 and 1844, the whereabouts of the two oldest brothers John Jr. and William (and his wife Eliza Rogers) remained a mystery. Marriage & birth records indicate that both of them were in Upper Canada by 1845. John Jr. married Alice Richardson in November of 1844 and their first child was born in 1846. William likely left his wife and child in Scarborough while the Elliott men built the Oxford homestead. Later that family was found in East Nissouri township with a second child born in Upper Canada in 1846. Logic would therefore support that the two eldest sons spent 1843 and 1844 helping their father prepare his newly acquired land in West Zorra. It is certain that by 1852 both sons owned their own land, John in North Oxford township and William in East Nissouri township. Both were found in the Upper Canada 1851 census with their families. It could also be concluded that either son John Jr. or William, or both, preceded the main family in the journey to Canada. As noted, John Jr's obituary, if correct, confirmed this. This would account for John Sr's rather timely land acquisition just a few months after arriving as John Jr may have scouted and brokered the deal. The three younger brothers meanwhile remained in Scarborough and likely moved to Oxford County with the rest of the family in 1844 or early 1845. Son Thomas is recorded in Onland.ca as acquiring land in West Zorra in 1845.

The two married sisters, Mary Elizabeth (Prouse) & Maria (Seldon) and families, came to the Oxford area from Devon and Cornwall a few years after the main family. They may have been motivated by letters from the Elliotts in Oxford County praising the abundance of cheap land and temperate summer weather. Winters would have been a shock to the family. Prouse family researchers claim that Mary Elizabeth Elliott and Thomas Prouse came over in April 1847, on the ship Arab, landing in Trinity Bay Newfoundland, where a daughter Maria Trinity was born. They then made their way to the Oxford County area. The Oxford County Atlas of 1877 and Onland.ca records Thomas Prouse as a landowner in Dereham Township (Oxford Co) at Concession 1 Lot 22 in 1846. It is possible that his land was purchased prior to his arrival, with his father-in-law John Elliott acting as an intermediary and purchasing the land for him. A ship called 'Civility' arrived in Prince Edward Island in the spring of 1846 carrying 2 emigrant families while the Arab arrived in Quebec later, in August 1846, carrying 14 passengers. This would make travel on 'Civility' or the "Arab" in 1846 a possibility as well. There is also some consideration to be made that the Prouse and Seldon families travelled on the same ship.

While there are only a few records to validate these events and the timing, it is clear that the entire family arrived in Canada some time between 1843 and 1847, and by 1848 they were all in the Oxford County area surrounding the Village of Thames (later named Ingersoll). Thereafter, the life events of the children increasingly validate their connections as siblings. On the other hand, information on the parents, John & Mary, becomes increasingly confusing after their arrival in the new country.

Which John and Which Mary?

The arrival of John and Mary Elliott to the Ingersoll area has created much confusion in the Genealogy research community. It seems that there were several John and Mary Elliotts living in the region and to isolate the exact couple has been difficult. The John and Mary Elliott family of Mt. Elgin was dismissed due to being American emigrants of Scottish origin. The Elliotts of Blenheim township east of Woodstock were Irish. Others more distant have been easy to eliminate via later census records that supply wrong children's names or other incorrect details. There were two almost identical John and Mary Elliotts that were left. I will now review the pros and cons of each couple in the context of their relationships and why I chose one over the other as the family heads.

John64 verses John72.

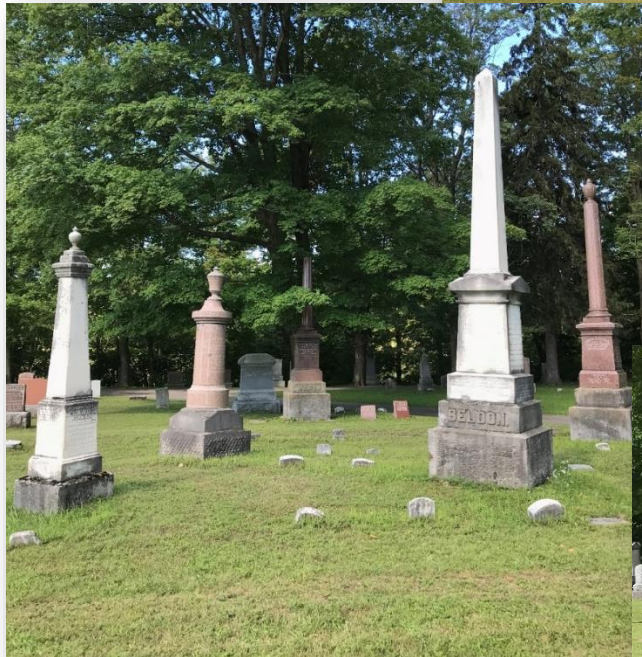
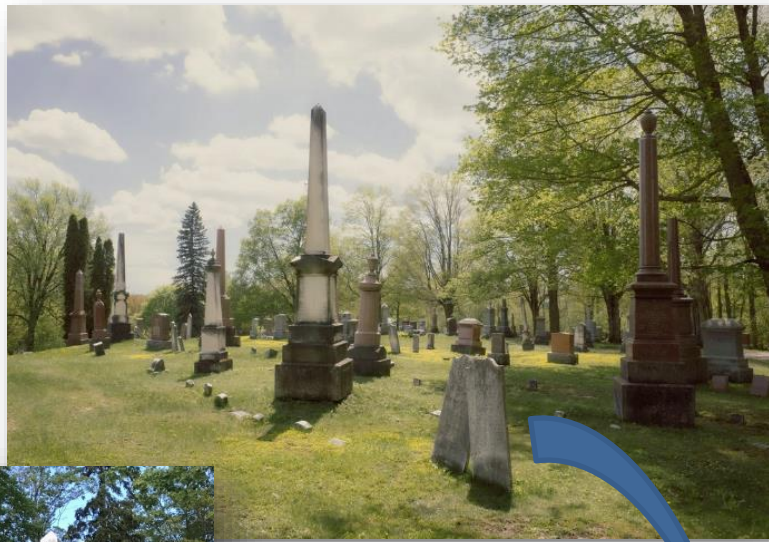


For clarification I will refer to them as John64 and John72 (years of death). My choice for patriarch is John 64. My first reason starts with the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery (IRC)

Reason 1

IRC (Ingersoll Rural Cemetery) was founded in 1864. As an aside, the second person buried in the cemetery was an Elliott. Most of the Elliotts occupy Plot E, now renamed Section H Lot 19. The numbering system has changed since the opening of the cemetery. The family are located at the top of the hill north of the mausoleum. This is up on the high point of the hill in the cemetery overlooking the Thames River. I have a theory they chose that site because it overlooks an area that was strongly reminiscent of their Devon home landscape. The family grouping is huddled close together with each family being identified by tall family named monuments with various generations buried surrounding each limestone or granite column. These closely placed columns are identified as the Seldon, Prouse, Wilson, John Elliott, James Elliott, Thomas Elliott, Samuel Elliott and Hamlyn families. On the highest point and on one of the first numbered lots in this grouping are the markers for John Elliott D 1864 and Mary Elliott D 1848.

The cluster of family monuments on the crest of the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery hill.



John and Mary Elliott markers in relation to other family markers near to them.



In the 1841 census of Devon, John & Mary's noted age would indicate they were born in 1791 and 1786, respectively. These dates fit well with the 1808 marriage banns recorded in Bradworthy as noted previously and the tombstones in IRC. An agriculturally based census was taken in Upper Canada in 1841 and no Elliots were listed in the W Zorra region. This was a basic census that listed only the landowners and minor details. John's stone notes his birthplace as Hartland as does Mary's. Mary's stone also includes an inscription that states:

Inscription: *In memory of Mary, wife of John Elliott, from Hartland, Devonshire, England, who died August 21, 1848 in the 65th year of her age, ____, her husband, 5 sons, 1 daughter and 22 grandchildren*



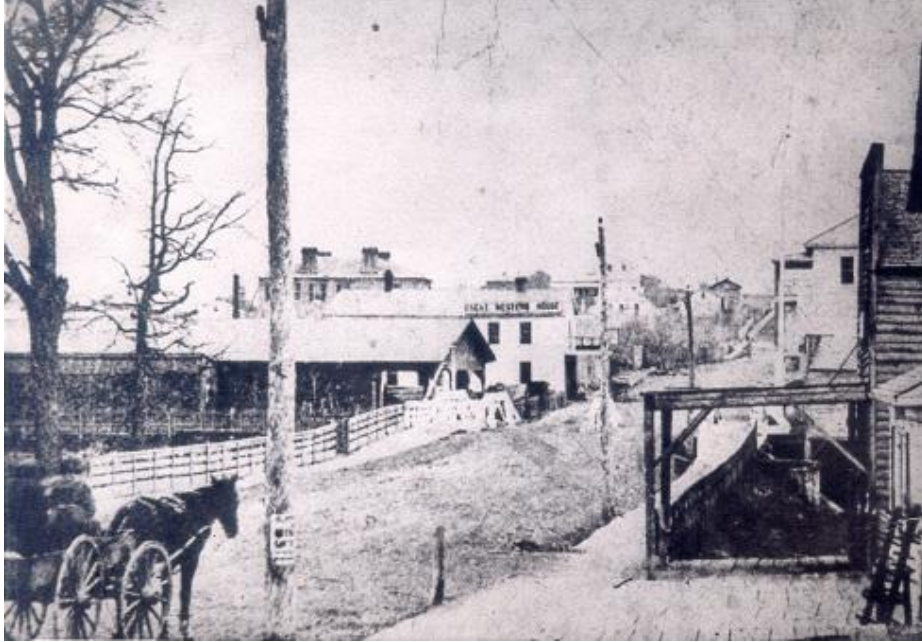
I did a quick count of her grandchildren that I found in my research that existed as of 1848 and discovered 21 children. Possibly I am missing one that has not been accounted for due to an early death. The reference to five sons matches but the reference to one daughter is open to interpretation. A head count indicated two daughters made the trip. Was it possible one daughter was illegitimate? Indeed, daughter Elizabeth (Hamlyn) Hempswell's marker indicated she was born in Cornwall (see below). With Mary and John's prominent location in Plot E (now named section H) - Row1 #3, the first buried in the section, this leads me to believe they were the original parents.



Daughter Elizabeth's tombstone indicates birth in Cornwall not Devon. Was she an illegitimate child?

Reason 2

The first indication of a family farm was the purchase in August 1843 of Con 1 Lot 7 West Zorra township. This property eventually became son Samuel's 100-acre farm in 1849. It was in 1849 that John and Mary moved to the site of Carnegie village Lot 11 Con 4 N Oxford (north of the Thames River) on Thames St. in what would become the Village of Ingersoll. The records are hard to read and decipher but it appears that John purchased several lots on the west side of Thames St., north of present Bell St. The lots were north of the Thames River (lot #11 to lot #17). Lots were also subdivided on the east side of newly constructed John St. from Bell to the north end of John St. (Lots 1-16). Ingersoll planners had no desire to incorporate lots of the north side of the Thames into the village but were convinced by the north side land owners to include them if they assisted in the building of a proper bridge linking the two sides. This land was absorbed into the Village of Ingersoll when it was incorporated in January 1852. The entire area was named "John Elliott's subdivision" on the newly formed town of Ingersoll plans as per Onland.ca. I suspect that John was a 64-year-old "gentleman" land developer by that time. These properties were sold to family members through the 1850's. Several onland.ca property sales and transfers coincide with the 1864 death of John⁶⁴. Some of the properties were held onto by the family estate trustees as late as 1869 before all were sold.



Courtesy Ingersoll Library

Ingersoll Thames Street looking North towards the John Elliott Subdivision in the distance - 1854.

Onland <https://www.onland.ca/ui/41/books/62803/viewer/143858571?page=79>

June 1849	John Carnegie & Wife	John Elliott	July 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
along John St. in Village of Carnegie Town commencing at Bell St. & extending along John St. across to Bell St. & also including the rear part of lot 17 extending back to the boundary line between John Carnegie parcel &			

Feb. 22, 1849 John Carnegie sold 1/4 acre to **John Elliott** recorded as "No. 17 on Thames St. being in front 1c [chain] and in depth 2-1/2 chains." (10 square chains = 1 acre). A few months later, on **June 9, 1849**, Carnegie sold another piece of land to **John Elliott** described as "Nos. 7 to 16 (inclusive) along John St. in Village of Carnegie Town commencing at Bell St."

From Forest to Field book:

At the same time as the lot 17 purchase, lot 1 to 16 of the east side of John St was also purchased. The layout of some of the lots is unusual as Lots 13 -20 are narrow lots between the lots facing Thames and John streets and had no street

access. I envision that John Sr. saw these lots as extra space for his outbuildings and orchard and the house itself was built after the 1851 census. The 1851 census listed him living in a frame house on John St.



57 John Elliott Sen Gentleman
to Bell & John 9.10

Tax roll for John Elliott late 1850s.
"John Elliott Sr gentleman

N Bell and John Lots 9.10". This indicates the lots that the house was on.

NOW BLOCK 87 PLAN 219.

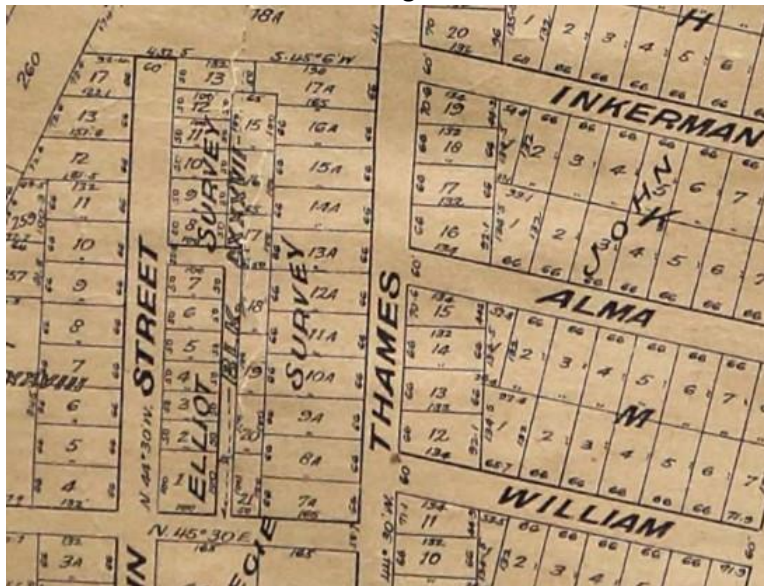
*John Elliott's Subdivision. Plan registered
29th August 1854.*

*East side of John Street,
No. 1.*

PL	DEPT	DATE	REGISTER	GRANTED	GRANTED	GRANTED	GRANTED	REMARKS
2181	Dist	2 Jan, 1857	24 Sept 1863	John Elliott & Co	Thomas Hamlyn	James		2 1/2 acres John Sr
<i>No. 2.</i>								
15790	Dist	2 Jan, 1857	24 Sept 1863	John Elliott & Co	Thomas Hamlyn			2 1/2 acres John Sr (includes 2 1/2 of John Sr's share) 2 1/2 of James Elliott's share
29247	Grants Custodian	24 Sept 1863	24 Sept 1863	James Hamlyn, Sheriff of the County of Oxford	Thomas Hamlyn James Hamlyn James Hamlyn			
<i>No. 3.</i>								
15790	Dist	2 Jan, 1857	24 Sept 1863	John Elliott & Co	Thomas Hamlyn			2 1/2 acres John Sr, 1/2 acre land
<i>No. 4.</i>								
24923	Dist	24 Sept 1863	24 Sept 1863	John Elliott & Co	James Hamlyn			2 1/2 acres John Sr
29251	Grants Custodian	24 Sept 1863	24 Sept 1863	James Hamlyn, Sheriff of the County of Oxford	James Hamlyn James Hamlyn			2 1/2 acres John Sr (includes 2 1/2 of John Sr's share) 2 1/2 of James Elliott's share
21824	Dist	24 Sept 1863	24 Sept 1863	James Hamlyn, Sheriff of the County of Oxford	James Hamlyn			2 1/2 acres John Sr

Previous 262 of 388 Next

Located on Onland.ca website: Ingersoll Book 15 Plan 46 Block 87



Several of the John St. lots were sold to the Hamlyn/Hempswell side of the family in following years, indicating another family link with this property. According to Onland.ca property ownership records, the remaining properties were eventually sold off. Most of them were sold by 1863. The property of 1/5th acre lot 11A and also lot 12A on Thames St. that John Elliott owned, appeared to be transferred to all the sons via his executors in 1870. The names listed were noted as his sons Thomas, John and James Elliott. This would lead me to believe that the property was held in the family after John Sr's death

before being sold via son “John Elliott and others” in 1875. This leads me again to support John64 as the father.

The Ingersoll Chronicle and General Intelligencer for the County of Oxford
31 Oct 1862, Fri - Page 2

Valuable Property FOR SALE BY AUCTION.

WILL be sold by Public Auction, on the Premises, on

Thursday, November 6, 1862,

At one o'clock, the residence of the undersigned on John Street, together with the Land attached. The House is

A BRICK COTTAGE!

With Stone Cellar, contains fourteen rooms, with every convenience for water. Attached to the House is a beautiful lawn and

FIVE VILLAGE LOTS,

Each of which are well decorated with Fruit and Ornamental Trees. The Outbuildings consist of Carriage House, Stables, Wood House, Piggery, Henery, Brick Ash House, &c.

Also at the same time and place, will be offered for sale at Auction, Lot No. 11, West side of Thames Street, North of the River, containing $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, on which is erected a large Frame Building. Terms easy, and made known at time of sale. Possession given immediately. For further particulars apply to

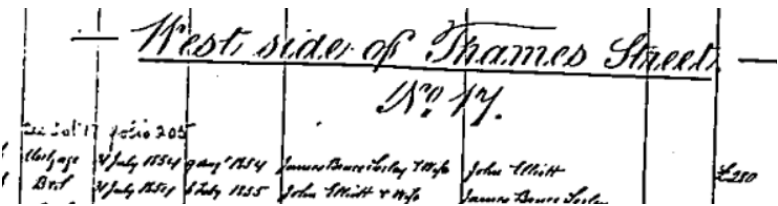
JOHN ELLIOTT, Senr.

H. MACNIVEN, Auctioneer.

Ingersoll, Oct. 31, 1862.

479w

There is an interesting ad in the October 1862 Ingersoll Chronicle that shows that John Sr. had put up some of his John St. property for sale. Included in this was his house and yard. The house was listed with 14 rooms and several outbuildings. The only brick houses found in that area today are on Thames St. The only other option would be that the house fronted John St. but has since been torn down. The large size of the house would have been a tight fit on Lot 17 so it likely spilled onto Lots 9 and 10 on John St. Such a property shows some degree of wealth for the era. Since Lots 1 - 7 were sold to Hamlyn relatives, amongst others, in the 1850s, the lots to be sold in the ad, (likely #8 – 13 -see map above) would be farther



north on John St. and would back onto his house. The house in the ad appears to have not sold at auction as onland.ca shows the property transferred to his wife Mrs. M G Elliott in 1864 and prior to John’s death as note on in the section on her life. (see Pg 37)

As noted in the 1851 census, John and what I believe to be his second wife Mariah (Mary), appeared to be living in a frame house on John St. They were adjacent neighbours of remarried daughter Elizabeth (Hamlyn) Hempswell. John had sold the lot to the Hempswells after Elizabeth’s remarriage. Elizabeth lived there during multiple censuses. John’s house in the 1851 census was listed as a wood frame. The 1861 census had John and Mary no longer living beside the Hempswells but in a brick house in the immediate area. Only one brick house was built on John St and was located on Lot 9 and 10 of John St. This property was transferred to Mrs. M G Elliott in 1864 from John Elliott (more on her later). It is probable that this second wife named Mary G lived there until her death in 1872. It appears that the family home was destroyed to make way for an apartment complex that was built on Johns Lot 9 and 17 on John Street in the mid 1970s. Unfortunately, Ingersoll Onland records have missing pages in the 1862 -1878 section in some of the land transactions for a few of the lots on John east and Thames west. Further digging is required.

Jim Hammond grew up next door, in the 1950s and 1960s, to the John St home of John Elliott Sr. Here are his reminiscences.

“The house directly north of our old John Street home was a large old clay brick house that had been divided into two rental properties as far back as I can remember. It was demolished in the early 1970s to make way for the apartment building. From the time I was about 5 years old until I left for college the Deveau family rented the half of the house directly beside our home. They they had two sons, Carl and Bernard, who I grew up with and were my childhood best friends. About 1970 they purchased a home a



few blocks away and the old John Street house fell into disrepair. Growing up I spent a lot of time in that house, as I recall it had many rooms it's quite possible there were 14, some were just used as storage. It had a stone foundation dirt floor basement with an old relic of a coal furnace and lots of spiders! I remember seeing an old photo of the place when it had a huge wrap around veranda. The veranda was long gone when I came along. There was a big woodshed on the north side of the house where we made many forts as kids. An old derelict 1920s vintage car sat behind the house and there were a couple of abandoned brick lined wells in the back yard. I remember one of the neighbour kids falling through the rotted wood cover into the well. The kid survived the fall into the well but it was quite the commotion at the time. Although the house had seen better days, I think it had been quite a large grand home at one time. The rooms were very large with lots of windows although it was always cold in that place in the winter. I can't remember the name of the owners of the house, they didn't live there but did have old furniture stored in a couple of the bed rooms, we used to play in there as kids." In the 1960s, the house had one bathroom shared by both rental families.

Estate sale of Thames St. property in 1870 of "John Elliott deceased"

TOWN OF INGERSOLL LOT 11 A WEST OF THAMES
CON. BLOCK - 87 - PLAN 277

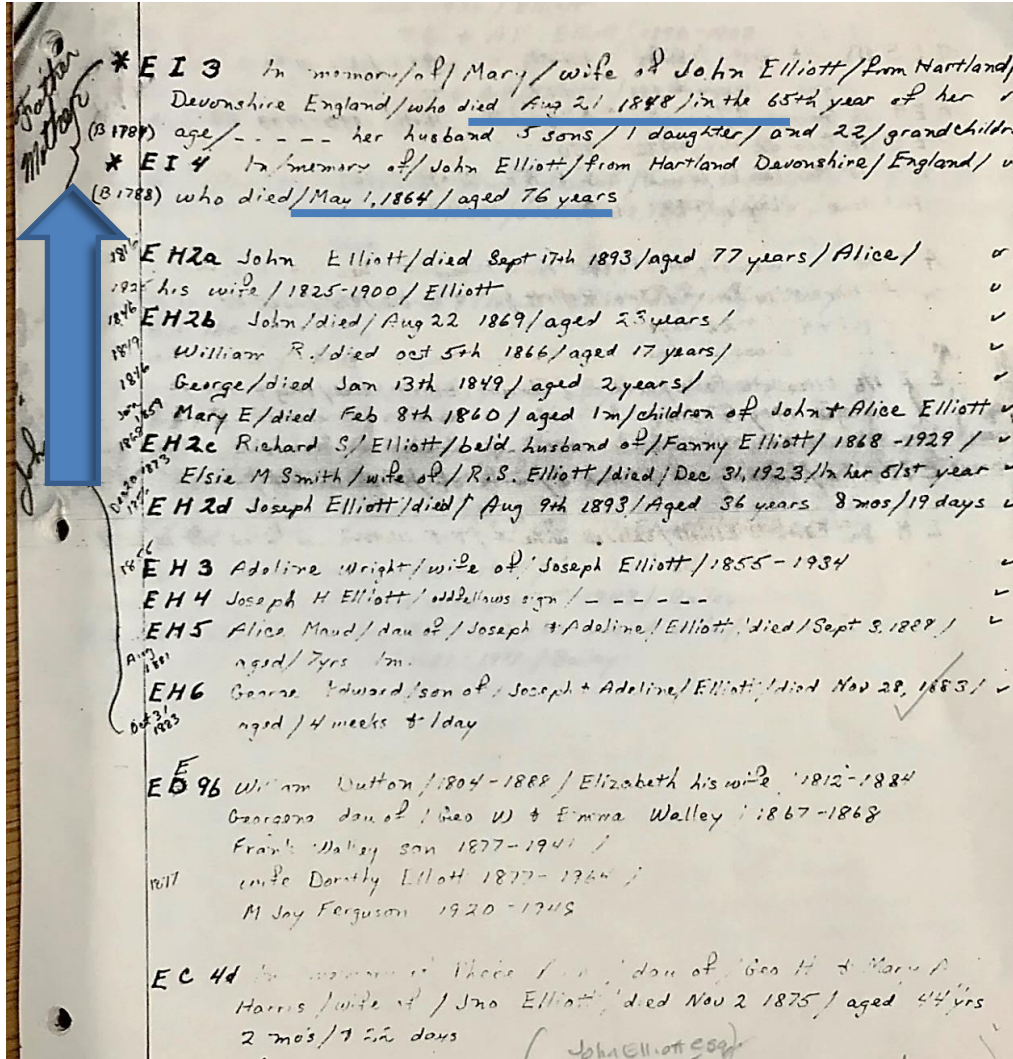
INST	DATE	REGISTRY.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	QUANTITY	COSEK.
1118	15 June 1870	27 Dec 1877	William Keable & wife	John Elliott & James Elliott	1/5 acre	
1119	15 June 1870	27 Dec 1877	Thomas Elliott (1 wife) and of his executors of John Elliott deceased	John Elliott & James Elliott	1/5 acre	
1120	15 June 1870	27 Dec 1877	James H. Keable & wife	John Elliott & James Elliott	1/5 acre	
1121	15 June 1870	27 Dec 1877	James H. Keable	Philip Wisner et al his executors	1/5 acre	
1122	22 May 1873	31 May 1873	John Elliott & others	Philip Wisner & others	1/5 acre	
1123	22 May 1873	31 May 1873	Philip Wisner et al	James Alexander Stark	1/5 acre	
1124	7 June 1873	9 June 1873	James Alexander Stark	Olive Hand Caldwell	1/5 acre	\$1000
1125	10 June 1873	12 June 1873	Olive Hand Caldwell	James Alexander Stark	1/5 acre	

Reason 3

A great grandson of John and Mary's tried his hand at family genealogy. Roy Elliott (1895-1936) was the grandson of William Elliott. I located his research book and letters in the Norwich Ontario Museum (thanks to Janet Hilliker). His research appears to have been compiled in the late 1920s and was further updated by his grandson Reed Elliott in the 1970's. Roy's life was 100 years closer to the time when events occurred and he had resources that included family oral histories and now lost family correspondence and records. His records also listed a large number of family births and deaths up until 1925. The Norwich library also sent me, via scanned copies, Roy's letters to home from his multi-year tour of the United States between 1914-1923 as he avoided being conscripted into WWI and then as he searched for employment in the States. The letters were fascinating reads of the life and times of that

era. I believe his records and family bibles also confirm that John64 and Mary48 were the family patriarch and matriarch.

Roy's research notes list cemetery plots and names attached. He listed John64 as father and Mary 48 as mother.



Reason 4

At this point it must be remembered that Mary died in 1848, so her appearance on any Canadian censuses would have been impossible. However, the first census in Canada of any depth was taken in January 1852 (known as the Census of 1851), and there is a 'John Elliott' and 'Mariah Hamlyn' living in a frame house in the village of Ingersoll. Although the name Ingersoll cannot be read, the enumerator for that Ingersoll census page at that time was a Mr. Doty, a resident of Ingersoll, so it would be safe to assume this was Ingersoll (Carnegie town). As it has been shown that John had purchased property in the village, it would make sense that this was John64.

The 1851 census for John Elliott64 had his age recorded as 65 supporting a birth date of 1787 or 1788. The census confirms he was a Methodist and also noted that he was living in a house with a Mariah Hamlyn. The record of Mariah Hamlyn's age is not quite so clear. It appears to have been corrected to be 56 (B 1796). Some researchers have speculated that this Mariah was not John's wife because it was not normal to list a married woman by her maiden name and they concluded that she may have been a domestic servant or possibly a partner. I am of the belief that Mariah Hamlyn had, in fact, become John's second wife. Mr. Doty, the enumerator, may have listed her as Hamlin instead of the married Elliott name as it was likely they were acquaintances and that is how he knew her and inadvertently wrote her maiden name. I have found no record of Mariah Hamlin prior to the 1851 census. A key hint can be found on the page following the name list census page in Ancestry.ca.

Page 1 of 1851 census with John and Mariah Hamlin

1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia for
Canada West (Ontario) > Oxford County > Ingersoll

46	John Elliott	65	Methodist	7	65
47	Mariah Hamlin	56	Methodist	4	60

Page 2 of 1851 Ingersoll census – show they were married.

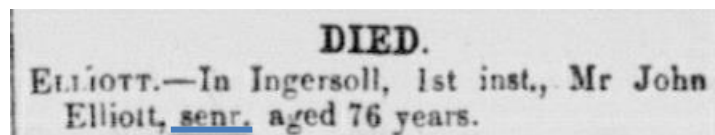
IN THE COUNTY OF *Oxford* COMPRISING

No. of Single.	Married or Single.	Members		Deaf & Dumb.		Blind.		Lunatics.		Attending School.		Births during the year 1851.		Deaths during year 1851.		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
4	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	46	M								1						
	47	M								1						

There was a second page of the census for the enumerator to fill out in the 1851 census. It listed information such as type of house or the ability to read or write. It also listed whether a person was married or single. Mary Hamlin and John Elliott were listed as married. John64 was found living in Ingersoll. The 1861 census confirmed this as well as the ages for the couple which are correct in relation to the 1851 census (10 years older), he is listed as a yeoman and they are still listed as Methodists. It was common to find names interchanged in the old records, Mary, Maria and Mariah were often intermixed.

Ingersoll Chronicle Index

Id 7906
Type of Notice Death Notice
Newspaper Ingersoll Chronicle
Newspaper Date May 6 1864

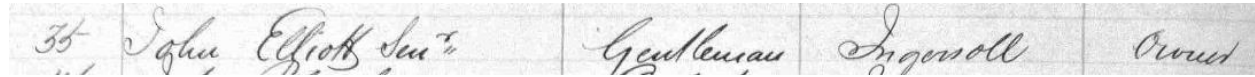


Ingersoll Chronicle 01 May 1864

Surname Elliott
 First Name John
 Date of Event May 1, 1864
 Text of Notice ELLIOTT--In Ingersoll, 1st inst., Mr. John Elliott, Senior, aged 76 years

John64 was identified as John Senior in records of the day. His son was identified in records as John Junior.

Voter's list 1861 – "John Elliott Senior "



This would indicate a link between John64 and his son John Jr. who lived in North Oxford and who had John72 as a lodger for the 1861 census.

Arguments for John72 as the patriarch.

	General No.
Name and Surname of Deceased.	John Elliott
When Died.	14 th May 1872
Sex—Male or Female.	M
Age.	87 Years
Rank or Profession.	School Teacher
Where Born.	Windsor England
Certified cause of Death, and duration of Illness.	Old Age 3 Months
Name of Physician, if any.	Mr. M. C. South
Signature, description and residence of informant.	John Elliott Steward North Oxford
When Registered.	16 th May 1872
Religious Denomination of Deceased.	Baptist
Signature of Registrar.	Mr. H. Wilson
Division.	North Oxford
County.	Oxford

There are a number of reasons to possibly conclude that John72 is our man. He can be located on the 1851 census living in the "township". We can only assume that this would be North Oxford. This conclusion can be reached because the census lists a Mary A Elliott age 1 and Clista Lawrence age 16 directly above his name on the 1851 census. Since these names were at the top of the census page it was necessary to backtrack through the census to find little Mary's family. Some searching found that Mary A Elliott was the daughter of Thomas Elliott and Clista Lawrence was likely brother James Elliott's sister-in-law (his wife was Sarah Lawrence). Clista was probably a house servant in the Thomas Elliott household. John72 and his wife Mary appeared to live on the Thomas Elliott property at Lot Broken Front (BF) 15 Con 3 West Oxford township in Centerville.

Tax roll 1851 – Oxford Library

170	Thomas Elliott	Owner	do	15157
171	William Oreck	do	do	169 4
172	John Elliott	Teacher	do	15157

John72 was found in the 1861 and 1871 census living with Maria (Elliott) Seldon and family in N. Oxford. His age is correct as well. He was a widower meaning his wife (also named Mary) died prior to 1861 but later than 1851. He died in 1872 at age 81.

A couple of items tend to question that John72 is not the patriarch.

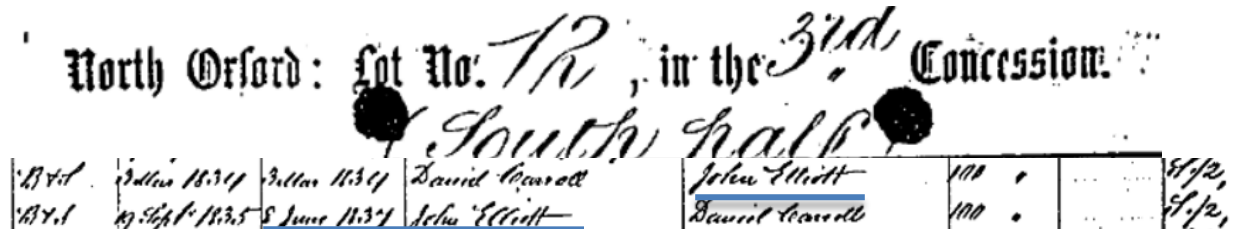
1. He was listed in all census as a Baptist while the rest of the family including children were Methodists or Bible Christians.
2. His occupation was listed as school teacher on his death certificate. I have found no record of the patriarch being a school teacher. As an aside, I found a John Elliott living next door in Middlesex County in the 1841 census who was listed as a school teacher. Is this the same person?

3. There are records as to where he is buried in Section 29H of IRC. With the importance that the family appears to have placed on grave markers and the close proximity of the family plots, you would assume if John72 was the father, his grave marker would have a prominent location or at least be locatable. There is potential that John72's ground marker was destroyed by mechanical lawn mowing over the years but regardless he was not given the prominence of John64. Although his marker is not found, cemetery plot sale records do show that he was buried with John64 and Mary48 as well as other Mary Elliotts that I will address later.

INGERSOLL RURAL CEMETERY						
Owner	Section	Row	Lot	No	Purchased	
John Elliott	H		29		July 6, 1866	
Burials NW NE CW CE SW SE	Interred Apr. 6, 1867					
	Mary Elliott Age 65 Born Eng. Died N. Oxford. Aug. 21, 1848					
	Interred Apr. 6, 1867					
	John Elliott Age 76 Born Eng. Died Ingersoll May 1, 1864 C6					
	Interred Apr. 6, 1867					
	Mary Elliott Age 66 Born Eng. Died W. Oxford. Sept 5, 1855 N6					
	John Elliott Age 84 Born Eng. Died N. Oxford. May 14, 1872					
	Mary Elliott Age 77 Born Eng. Died Ingersoll Mar. 30, 1872					
John Thomas Seldon Age 6 wks Born and Died N. Oxford. Dec. 6, 1						

Courtesy Ontario Ancestors (Oxford Co branch)

The only assumption I can make is that John72 was a close relative of the family that either was already in southern Ontario or perhaps the Port Hope Durham region and moved to the Ingersoll area when the rest of the family did. One intriguing element to this story is the appearance of a John Elliott in N Oxford township in 1834. This John purchased (B+S – bill of sale) 100 acres in 1834 due north of Ingersoll on Lot 12 Con 3 N Oxford. He sold three years later. Ironically, this property was right in the middle of several of the children's property purchases in later decades. Since this transaction happened 10 years before the arrival of the family, this could not have been son John Jr, who would have been 17 years old in 1834. Could this have been John72?



As John72 aged, he ended up living with the Elliott children. The seeming coincidences that surround the two men are confounding to say the least. For the time being I will live by my belief that they are related in some way in Devon and stayed close throughout their time in Ingersoll and surrounding area. This conundrum of which of the two John and Mary Elliotts are the forefathers will be an interesting question for future genealogists to tackle and revise as needed.

This problem leads to the next wall that has been run into. Which of the Mary Elliotts located in Ingersoll in the 1860 to 1870 timeframe is the wife of which John Elliott. We assume that the family matriarch Mary died in 1848 as can be seen by the prominent location of her grave marker and the inscription on it as noted prior. But what about John64's second wife Mariah (Mary) Hamlin (sp) and John72's wife Mary?

Confirmation of matriarch Mary Elliott that came over from Devon

Ingersoll Rural Cemetery (IRC) opened in 1864. After it opened there were a number of bodies that were "removed" or added to the cemetery in the years after it opened. These people were reinterred from family farm plots that dotted the countryside. One of these groups that were interned is a group of Elliotts, Prouses and Seldons who were removed April 6, 1867. I screen grabbed the Elliotts list from the IRC burial index.

IRC Burial register Part 1

John Elliott	76	Scotland	1800	19	Christ
Mary Elliott	65	England	Household	May 1/1848	Re
George Elliott	2	England	2. April	Sept 21/48	
Mary Elliott		N. York	2. April	May 30/49	
Hannah Elliott	16 mos	N. York	2. April	July 8/60	
Mary Elliott	66	N. York	2. April	May 13/64	
		England	1. April	Sept 5/65	

Let us address the three Mary Elliotts on the above burial list. Mary Elliott who was 65 years old (B 1783 D 1848) is, I expect, the matriarch that arrived from England. The birth age on the index is within 3 years of the one listed on the 1841 English census. This is within tolerance levels depending on date of birth and when the census was taken as well as possible errors made by the enumerators. The Mary Elliott without an age was a small child. The register notes that she was buried above George Elliott who is listed on this register page as well. That would make them brother and sister. Mary A Elliott was the 1-month-old daughter of John Elliott Jr. in 1860. The third Mary from this list was born in 1789 (age 66) and died in April 5, 1855. A check on the Mary Hamlyn census of 1851, when she was listed living with John64, had her listed as being 56 years old. That would make her birth year around 1794. The 5 years difference in age between these two Marys would indicate they are not the same person. However, an Ingersoll Chronicle obituary has a Mary Elliott passing in 1855 that confirms the birth and death years of 1794 and 1855.

Type of Notice	Death Notice
Newspaper	Ingersoll Chronicle
Newspaper Date	Sep 7 1855
Surname	Elliott
First Name	Mary
Middle or Maiden Name	
Text of Notice	In Centreville, near this place, on Tuesday evening last, Mrs. Mary Elliott, aged 62

There is one interesting discrepancy. The IRC removal index has her death as April, 1855 and the Ingersoll Chronicle lists it as Sept, 1855. Her death location was listed as near Centerville. Son Thomas Elliott owned land on both sides of the Thames River at that time. They were lot 15 Con 3 N Oxford and south of river at Lot 15 Broken Front Concession W Oxford in Centerville. The death location of Centerville would be appropriate if she was on the south property at the time. The family plot index shows that she had died in W Oxford in which Centerville is located.

Mary Elliott Age 66 Born Eng. Interred Apr. 6, 1857 Died W. Oxford. Sept 5, 1855 Ne

The Ingersoll Chronicle and General Intelligencer for the County of Oxford
07 Sep 1855, Fri Page 1

Ingersoll, August 26, 1855

BEING a part of LOT No. 15, broken front Concession West Oxford, known as a part of the McCartney Farm, containing about 70 acres, 40 of which are under improvement Being only 1 1/2 miles from Ingersoll, having a good view of Ingersoll, the G. V. Railway, and the surrounding country, it is well calculated for a gentleman's residence.

ALSO,
The EAST HALF of LOT No. 15, North Oxford, containing 100 acres, 60 acres of improvement, in a good state of cultivation, with frame House, Barn, and a good supply of water.

TERMS LIBERAL,
As the proprietor is about going into other business. For further particulars apply to THOMAS ELLIOTT, if by letter post-paid. Direct Ingersoll P. O.
North Oxford, June, 1855. 43-3m*

If this was John72's wife, in the 1851 census she would be living with the Thomas Elliott family and with John72. Confirmation that Thomas also owned property in Centerville can be found in the 1862 Ingersoll Gazetteer, a council member list in the 1852 Gazetteer for W Oxford and a property sale notice in the Chronicle identifying his farm locations, (which oddly coincides with her death date). The IRC removal index above notes she was living in W. Oxford at the time of her death in 1855. This strongly hints that she was still living at Thomas Elliott's farm when she died. The obit indicates that she was 62 years old at her death in 1855 whereas the removal record had her age as 66 years old.

Elliott, James	B. F. 17
Elliott, Richard	4 9
Elliott, Thos.	B. F. 15
Elliott, Wm.	B. F. 15

The Gazetteer list of farm ownership of both sides of Thames River in Centerville 1862. B.F. (broken front) indicates the property was to the rivers edge.

Was the Mary Elliott that died in 1855 John72's wife? The 1861 census was when John72 was first noted to have lived with the Seldon's and indicated he was then a widower. It appears he moved in with the Seldons after his wife's death. If so, the 1855 death of Mary Elliott would work as proof she was John72's wife. As noted before, both are buried in IRC but do not have any prominent marker locations such that John64 and Mary48 have.

So that leaves this woman:

Type of Notice	Death Notice
Newspaper	Ingersoll Chronicle
Newspaper Date	Apr 4 1872
Surname	Elliott
Associated Surname	Elliott
Associated First Name	M.
Note	
Text of Notice	ELLIOTT--In Ingersoll, 30th ult., Mrs. M. G. Elliott, aged 77 years
Associated Middle or Maiden Name	G

Calculating her birth year would have meant she was born in 1795 or 1796, so she fits perfectly with John64 and Mary Hamlin censuses records of 1851/61. Disappointedly, I cannot locate any record of her during the April 1871 census of Ingersoll. However, her name does appear in the Ingersoll Chronicle as she was a participant in the Oxford Agricultural fair of 1858. The M. G. initials helped locate her name in other records.

The Ingersoll Chronicle and General Intelligencer for the County of Oxford
15 Oct 1858, Fri ·Page 2

SOUTH RIDING OF OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. Mr a first

distance had a fine effect. They were exhibited by Mrs M. G. Elliott. The two Ottomans worked in Berlin Wool, marked No. 4, were also splendid articles and would certainly have taken the prize had the pictures of Mrs Elliott been absent. Among the Quilts, the most conspicuous was one of a most gorgeous pattern by Mrs M. G. Elliott which took the first prize. We also particularly admired a Quilt marked No 1, which although not so gorgeous in appearance as Mrs Elliott's was a splendid article of the kind. And now we approach

The research book "From Forest to Field" located in the Ingersoll Library has tied in Mrs. M G Elliott and John64 very nicely.

Sheard and Edward Barker.

April 24, 1864 In his will John Elliott made his wife, Mary G. Elliott the beneficiary of his property. The Land Registry wasn't made aware of this until a year later on April 20, 1865.

August 11, 1864 Warner F. Getman sold the Robert Kneeshaw property, under Power of Sale, to Charles Cicero

John64s dead date was early May 1864, a few days after he transferred ownership of the John St. home of the couple. As noted previously, other properties on John St. were transferred to all the sons in 1871 by the executors of his estate. At that time John72 was still alive so it

would not be feasible that the property would have been his. This paperwork evidence links the Mary that died in 1872 to John64. Mary's obituary in the Ingersoll Chronicle lists her as Mrs. M G Elliott, the same as the land registry above. She is buried in IRC in the same plot as John64, Mary48 and John72 and his wife.

In conclusion, I believe the original Mary died in 1848 and John was remarried to Mary Hamlin or Hamlyn who later died in 1872. Perhaps Mary Hamlin was known to John Sr from the old country and came to Canada to be his wife. Records indicate that John72 was married to a Mary Elliott who died in 1855.

Thank you for bearing with me on the John and Mary issues. If this research is to be useful for future genealogists and family historians then this discussion and my reasoning had to be presented. I hope that this was not too convoluted and I wait for future genealogists to follow up with new evidence.

I believe we have identified the patriarch and matriarch that arrived in 1843 with their brood. The rest of the "books" will deal with each of their children's lineage. I am presenting at least 4 generations that followed with a little bit about their lives. Highlights of great deeds or tragedies of further generations that follow will also be pointed out if warranted.

Ingersoll Chronicle and General Intelligencer for the County of Oxford
17 Apr 1863, Fri ·Page 3

Niagara Annual Conference.

The following is the list of homes for the preachers of the Niagara Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, to be held at Ingersoll, commencing on Wednesday, the

D. Canfield: H. Lock, S. Short.
W. Berry: E. A. Terwillager.
S. H. Swan, M.D.: B. Bristol.
Noah Elliott: W. Yokum, J. Draper.
J. Elliott, sen: T. M. Smith.

So where did John and Mary's children live? As would be expected they lived within close proximity to Ingersoll. This era was prior to long distance travel. Your family, friends and eventual spouses would inevitably be living within the social circle of up to about 10 kilometers. A trip into town for supplies would be a day long affair.

The Elliott family and married daughters socialize often. The church was a common thread and meeting place. A new brick Methodist Church was built in the 1850s in Ingersoll. The Elliotts were one of the initial families to attend services there. It had a solid core of Elliott families

and marriage related families as parishioners. Several were church elders and trustees. Likely, they would share cutters or buggies to travel to the church on Sundays. After church, there was probable family gatherings of sorts to catch up on the family news before heading back to the surrounding farms. John Elliott Sr. was heavily involved in the church as noted in this 1863 listing from the Ingersoll Chronicle as he volunteered to board preachers during a church convention in Ingersoll.

Methodist Church attendance list. 1850s

Oxford **Church Register, M. E. Church.**

No.	NAME	RESIDENCE	WHEN RECEIVED.		PRESENT RELATION
			MONTH.	YEAR.	
<i>Ingersoll, classes</i>					
1	John M ^c Donald	Ingersoll - Thoms St			M. trustee
2	Mrs J M ^c Donald	" " "			M
3	Mrs Catherine Cartwood	" " "			M
4	Robert M ^c Donald	" " Chubs St			M
5	Mrs R M ^c Donald	" " "			M
6	John, Bennett	Westford			M trustee
7	Mrs J Bennett	" " "			M
8	Samuel, Elliott	" " "			M
9	Mrs S, Elliott	" " "			M
10	Joseph, Hempwell	Ingersoll			M steward & elder
11	Mrs J Hempwell	" " "			M
12	Mrs Sarah, Basford	North Oxford			M
13	Mrs James, Bogan	Ingersoll, Thoms St			M
14	John, Elliott	North Oxford			M steward
15	Mrs J, Elliott	" " "			M
32	Thomas, Brouse	Sucham			M steward
33	Mrs J, Brouse	" " "			M
34	Thos, Brouse - jr	West Oxford			M
35	Mrs J, Brouse	" " "			M
36	James, Elliott	" " "	Janus	1859	M, Pres
37	Mrs J, Elliott	" " "			M
38	Mrs S, Haughton	" " "			M
39	Thomas Elliott	Ingersoll, green St			M
40	Thomas Hamlin	" " "			M, withdrawn
41	Mrs J, Hamlin	" " "			M
42	Mrs A, Marr	" " "			M
43	Mrs Walter Berry	" " "			M P
44	Mrs G, Gallagher	" " Thoms St			M
45	Mrs W, DeWolfe	North Oxford			M steward
46	Henry, Elliott	Dos "			M P

Why Settle in Oxford County?

Thames River Valley and Floodplain outside of Ingersoll



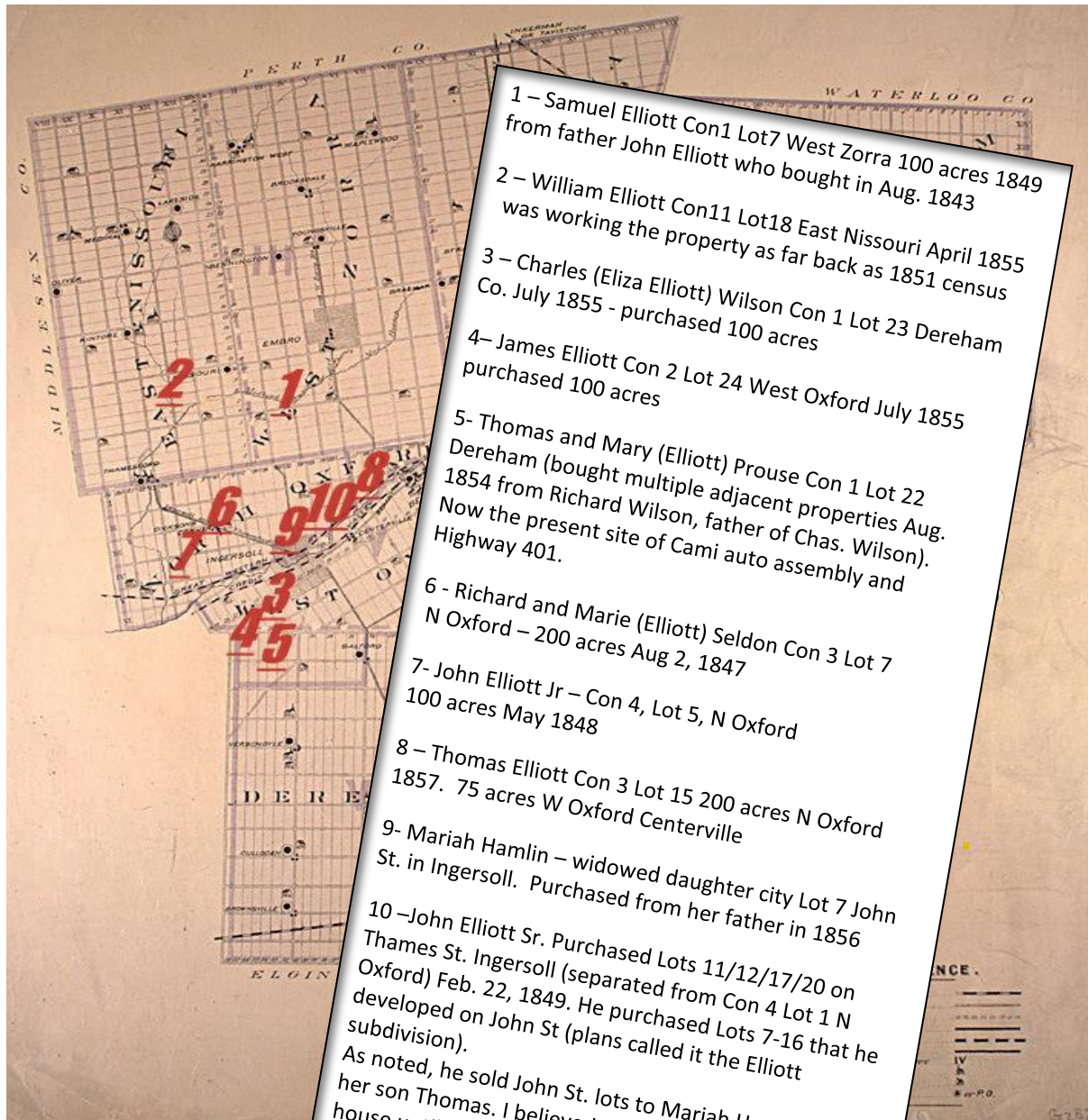
The land was considered very desirable and the area the family settled was located adjacent the middle arm of the Thames River. In all likelihood the rolling hills and valley reminded them of their Devon home. The county was described in the Oxford Gazetteer of 1862 as:

“The land of the County is neither too flat nor too hilly, but beautifully rolling, and although it is an inland County with neither ports nor harbours, it is splendidly and abundantly supplied with mill streams, rivers and creeks (each stream of consequence having been traced by the enumerators on the spot,) and where there may not be living running streams, as convenient as wished for, for domestic purposes, a most abundant supply can most readily be obtained in any place, by digging for it, and that of the very best quality. The whole county in every respect, remarkably well adapted for Cultivation and Agricultural purposes”.

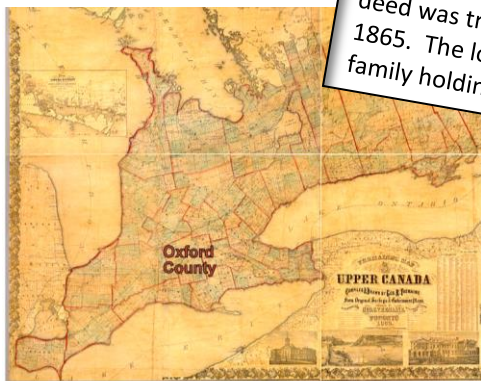
As noted, the first indication of a family farm was the purchase in August 1843 at Con 1 Lot 7 West Zorra township. This property eventually became son Samuel’s 100-acre farm in 1849.

The 1851 census showed that none of their children still lived with John and Mary. As is noted in the following chart of farm locations, the boys of the family purchased farms as they each reached their mid 20’s. The daughters either married locally or travelled with their families from Devon at a later date and bought farms close by. In fact, the Elisa Wilson, James Elliott and Mary Prouse farms were adjacent to each other.

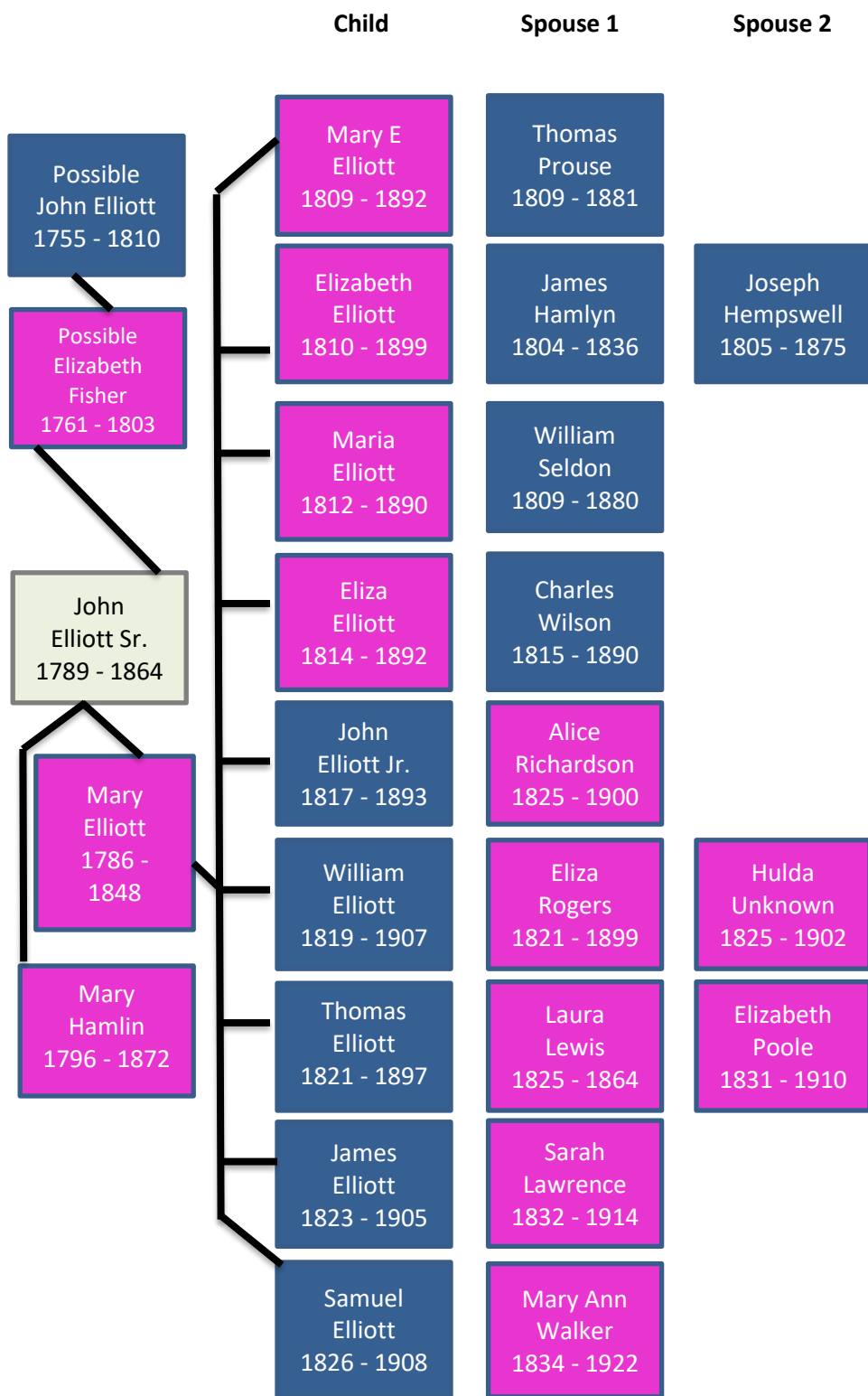
Family Farms first locations



- 1 – Samuel Elliott Con1 Lot7 West Zorra 100 acres 1849 from father John Elliott who bought in Aug. 1843
- 2 – William Elliott Con11 Lot18 East Nissouri April 1855 was working the property as far back as 1851 census
- 3 – Charles (Eliza Elliott) Wilson Con 1 Lot 23 Dereham Co. July 1855 - purchased 100 acres
- 4– James Elliott Con 2 Lot 24 West Oxford July 1855 purchased 100 acres
- 5- Thomas and Mary (Elliott) Prouse Con 1 Lot 22 Dereham (bought multiple adjacent properties Aug. 1854 from Richard Wilson, father of Chas. Wilson). Now the present site of Cami auto assembly and Highway 401.
- 6 - Richard and Marie (Elliott) Seldon Con 3 Lot 7 N Oxford – 200 acres Aug 2, 1847
- 7- John Elliott Jr – Con 4, Lot 5, N Oxford 100 acres May 1848
- 8 – Thomas Elliott Con 3 Lot 15 200 acres N Oxford 1857. 75 acres W Oxford Centerville
- 9- Mariah Hamlin – widowed daughter city Lot 7 John St. in Ingersoll. Purchased from her father in 1856
- 10 –John Elliott Sr. Purchased Lots 11/12/17/20 on Thames St. Ingersoll (separated from Con 4 Lot 1 N Oxford) Feb. 22, 1849. He purchased Lots 7-16 that he developed on John St (plans called it the Elliott subdivision).
As noted, he sold John St. lots to Mariah Hamlyn and her son Thomas. I believe John lived in his John St. house until his death in late April, 1864 – when the deed was transferred to widow Mary G Elliott in April 1865. The lot was eventually sold in 1870 with the family holding the mortgage.



Elliott Family Tree – Generation 1 and 2 in Oxford County.



Next - Book 2: The Mary Elizabeth Elliott and Thomas Prouse Family

About the Author.

Born and raised on a North Oxford farm two kilometers west of Beachville, I spent an idyllic rural childhood with tractors, chores, and farm work. Given a choice, I was one of those who left. A 40-year career in Broadcast Television in Vancouver was a far cry from the solitude of the farm and dairy herd. With retirement at hand and Covid limiting activities, I was searching for a project. This is the result of four years of research and writing that is still being revised and updated as of 2024. I know it is not perfect or error free, family histories never are. It was an eye-opening road to discovery of the exciting, tragic, humourous, and humbling stories of my extended family and all those that preceded us. And I made a whole new group of friends, living and dead, in the process.

Glenn Elliott

Lot 19 Con 2 North Oxford

Acknowledgments

It has been 4 years 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 ancestral 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.

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Dawn Lussier

Bob Johnston

Leslie Seldon

Mathew Griffis – Tillsonburg Library

Elizabeth Kerr

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

Len Elliott

Wayne Smith

Tracey Rizea

Heather Skolly

And to my immediate family – I am sorry that I caused so many eye rolls as I regaled them with stories from past generations. Special thanks to my Editor and wife Gaile, as the grammar police went to work. Their patience and encouragement were always welcome and at times needed.

Glenn Elliott

Great, Great Grandson of William Elliott and Eliza Rogers

March 2024