

The Route to Our Abode



*The Family Roots of Joseph Lloyd Pelot
and June Aileen Flanagan*

By Maryanne Webber

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Cover photos: June and Lloyd Pelot on their wedding day, June 4, 1949. The background is an historic scene of Ottawa and Gatineau by Stent and Laver.

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Book design by Stephanie Pelot

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Author's Note

Joseph Lloyd Pelot and June Aileen Flanagan are my parents. I began researching our family roots a few years ago and wrote up “fact sheets” on some of our ancestors, focusing on vital events. The research was gripping for me, but the end product was hardly a compelling read. Instead of continuing to document my parents’ ancestry systematically, I decided to write about episodes in their family history that seemed particularly interesting. This account is the result. It is dedicated to my wonderful parents, Lloyd and June.

About the title: All his life, Lloyd has had a passion for singing, everything from casual sing-alongs to leading church choirs to performing on stage in operas. Now an octogenarian, his repertoire of lyrics has been stolen by memory loss. But he holds on tenaciously to one song, and sings it at every opportunity: *Indicate the Route to My Abode*, an upscale version of *Show Me the Way to Go Home*, with a few French verses thrown in for added lyrical interest. All family members and caregivers are now familiar with the lyrics of *Indicate the Route to My Abode* and can sing along with Lloyd but happily there is usually a CD compilation playing in the background, providing welcome musical variety for one and all.

Acknowledgments: This was truly a family affair. June (Flanagan) Pelot offered many insights into her heritage, drawing on her prodigious memory. Until her death in June 2014, she was an ardent supporter of this project and a steady source of anecdotes, old photos and memorabilia. My siblings Jackie Pelot, Luke Pelot and Peggy McNally took the project to heart and offered invaluable comments and editorial assistance. I am greatly indebted to my sister Stephanie Pelot for the layout and visuals, and also for offering to host the end product on Pentafolio, her family’s multimedia company website. Many thanks to experts who helped with the research for this book, including staff at the Ottawa Room of the Ottawa Public Library, Library and Archives Canada, the Pontiac County Archives, the Bonnechere Union Public Library in Eganville and the Isle of Man Family History Society. The Newmarket Era Archives proved to be a wonderfully rich on-line resource. I am grateful for the kind assistance of Elsa-Ann Pickard of the King Township Archives and Ron Pilfrey of the Newmarket Historical Society. Thanks also to my friends Diana Trafford who helped me get started and Hank Hofmann for help and advice on all sorts of things. Earlier research by Gerard Pelot, supported by his brothers Bernard, Lloyd and Peter, provided much of the substance of the Pelot and Gauthier family histories. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to Dick Carter who served as a sounding board for two years and provided comments on the text along the way.

This Magic Moment



n June 4, 1949, Joseph Lloyd Pelot and June Aileen Flanagan were married in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in the Village of Billings Bridge, a small community south of the Ottawa city limits.

The village has long since vanished under the tidal wave of Ottawa's southern expansion. Billings Bridge is now just that – a bridge spanning the Rideau River at Bank Street. A nearby shopping centre helps to perpetuate the name, as does the Billings National Historic Site, tracing the history of the Billings Family.

Lloyd and June were born within a few kilometres of each other – Lloyd in Billings Bridge, June in Centretown – but their family roots are strikingly different. This story is about their adventurous ancestors, who made tracks from Europe to different parts of Canada over a period of several centuries. Few made the history books, but many were truly astounding characters. Settling in different parts of Quebec and Ontario, their paths ultimately converged on Ottawa, setting the stage for Lloyd and June to meet and marry.



Lloyd and June's wedding in June 1949. From left to right, Nora Sprague and Peter Flanagan; June Flanagan and Lloyd Pelot; and Éliane Gauthier and William John Pelot.

Seen through the prism of history, Lloyd and June's magic moment depended on twists of fate outrageous enough to make a penny novelist blush. As their ancestors rarely left written records, we cannot know precisely why they leapt into the unknown. But they were creatures of time and place; by understanding their historical context we can gain some insight into their reasons for making such life-changing decisions.

Lloyd and June's family stories include Huguenots fleeing the European continent in the 17th century, Irish labourers driven to Canada by poverty, Empire Loyalists rewarded after the American Revolution by land grants in Canada, young people leaving the Isle of Man in search of work, and lovers eloping and assuming new names.

The stories in this book offer a flavour of the times and events that Lloyd and June's direct ancestors lived through, what triggered their moves to Canada and how they lived once here. There are many gaps and sometimes the source of information is more akin to family lore than hard evidence.

Lloyd and June have nine children, fifteen grandchildren and, to date, seventeen great-grandchildren. We owe our existence to the happenstance of their meeting, to the decisions of their ancestors and accidents of fate that resulted in these two people being born in Ottawa in the 1920s. This story is for us, the products of Lloyd and June's romance and for our close cousins, whose family stories are intertwined with our own. It's also for local family history enthusiasts who may find useful tidbits or be able to help fill in some of the gaps.

The Pelots

Joseph Lloyd Pelot was born in 1927, in Billings Bridge, the second son of William John “Jack” Pelot and Éliane Gauthier.

The name Pelot is a bit unusual, not to say rare. Back in the days when we had phone books, all Pelots in the Ottawa phone book were related. Our ears perk up when we hear of someone with the same name. Chances are, it’s a relative.

That feeling of kinship extends back to the very first Pelot from whom a descendant can be traced: Niquilli Pelot, who lived in La Neuveville, Switzerland in the 15th century.¹

There is circumstantial evidence that the Pelots were Huguenots. The Huguenots were Calvinist Protestants living in Switzerland and France, some of whom escaped religious persecution by fleeing to England, Holland or the Western hemisphere.² Our branch of the family may have emigrated to England. Three Huguenots named Pelot are recorded in the registries of the French Protestant church in Soho Square, London, as witnesses to baptisms: Madeline Pelot (1674), Marie Pelot (1694) and Gaspard Pelot (1700). Also, a Peter Pelote is listed in the registry of another Huguenot community in Norwich on England’s east coast (1581).³ Whether or not there are Huguenots in our ancestry, our branch of the Pelot family came to Canada from Liverpool, England and has been Catholic since at least 1846.

While the name Pelot looks French, it has proven to be phonetically quite malleable. In the words of Lloyd’s brother Gerard: “In its original pronunciation, the *t* in Pelot is silent and the *o* sounds as in *hello*. Over the centuries in England, different branches of the family used spelling variants of the name such as Pellow and Peleau. In the case of (our) lineage, however, the anglicization occurred not in the spelling but in the pronunciation: the *t* was voiced, the *e* and *o* were pronounced as in *the lot*.”⁴ Modern-day Pelots who are bilingual shuffle back and forth like chameleons between the two pronunciations, perpetuating the tradition of phonetic elasticity.

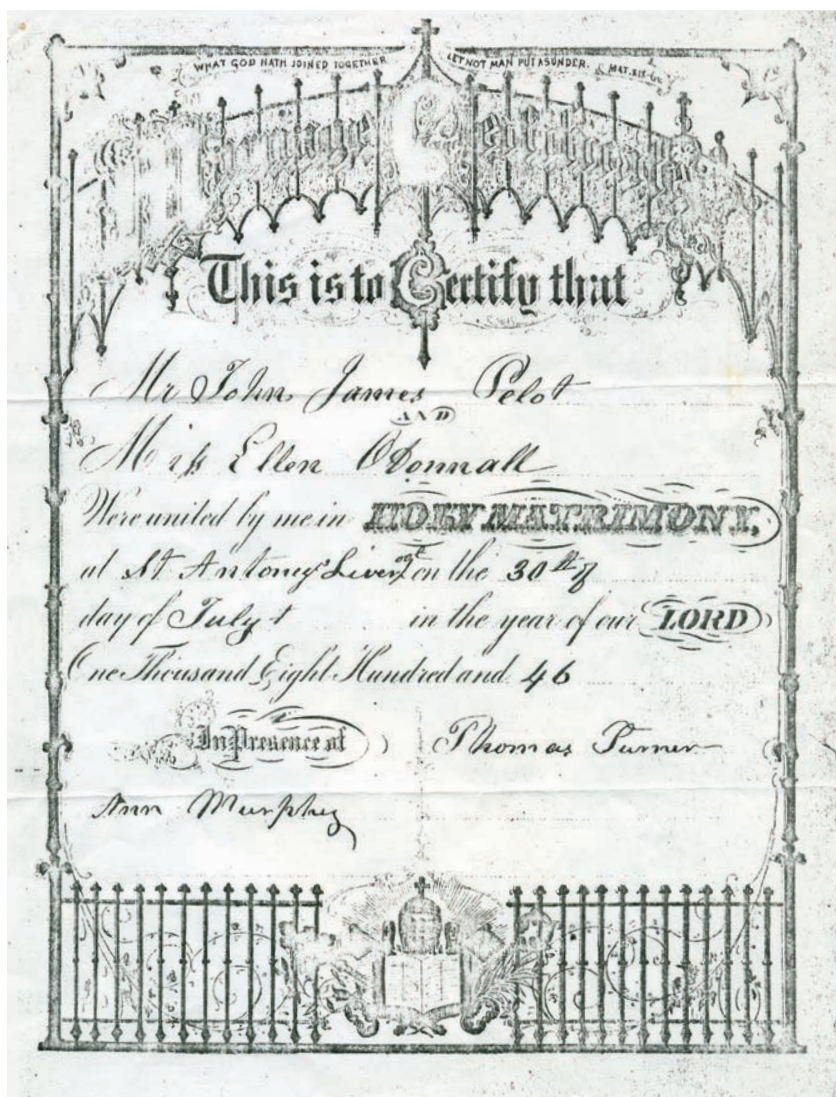


1 Colket, 1980.

2 For a history of the Huguenots see www.huguenotsociety.org.uk

3 Letter from Joyce Wheatley, Research Assistant, Huguenot Society of London to Gerard Pelot, October 9, 1973. The church used to be in Threadneedle Street but it burnt down and was rebuilt in Soho Square.

4 Pelot, 1987.



Marriage certificate of John James Pelot and Mary Ellen O'Donnell, dated July 30, 1846, Liverpool, England.

LLOYD'S great-grandfather, John James Pelot, took the leap and emigrated to Canada. John James was born c1816, reputedly on the Isle of Man. His parents were John Pelot, a merchant, and Julie Welsh.⁵

John James Pelot married Irish-born Mary Ellen O'Donnell in 1846, in St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Chapel, Liverpool, England.⁶ Mary Ellen was born in 1827, the daughter of a shoemaker named Charles O'Donnell. At the time of his marriage to Mary Ellen, John James was employed as a "block maker," possibly a craftsman who made blocks for holding pulleys used to raise and lower ships' sails.

5 The 1871 Census of Canada states John James Pelot's place of birth as the Isle of Man. He was enumerated as "John Pelotte" in South Pontiac, Township of Onslow and Oldfield.

6 See www.liverpoolhistoryprojects.co.uk/liverpoolrcmarriages/1846.htm

John James and Mary Ellen emigrated to Canada c1850 with one child, Annie.⁷ The rest of their children were born in Canada. They settled in the Ottawa River Valley, in Quyon, Quebec, upstream from Ottawa. Quyon was founded by lumber baron John Egan (after whom Eganville, Ontario is named) in 1848. To attract settlers, Egan built a sawmill, gristmill and general store in Quyon.

In those days, immigrants heading up the Ottawa River took a steamboat from Montreal to Wrightsville, now Gatineau (Hull). Wrightsville and Bytown (now Ottawa) were a natural stopping and staging place for trips further upstream because the Chaudière Falls presented a major obstacle. The solution of the day was to disembark and travel by stage coach about fifteen kilometres on the Quebec side to the calmer waters of Deschênes Lake at Aylmer. There, another steamboat took travellers on the next leg of their journey to Pontiac Bay where the next formidable barrier, Chats Falls, lay in wait. John and Ellen may have made their voyage on *The Emerald*, a steamship owned by John Egan and partners that plied the waters of Deschênes Lake daily.

Travellers heading further up the Ottawa River to Portage-du-Fort or Fort Coulonge had to bypass Chats Falls. For a short, rather magical period in the Ottawa River's history, a unique horse-drawn train ran through the woods on wooden rails. Passengers disembarked below Chats Falls and climbed up forty-five steps while their luggage was hoisted up the hill by pulleys operated by horse power. At the top, they boarded the train for their three-and-a-half mile ride through the forest.⁸

But John James and Mary Ellen likely did not go that way. Instead they headed for Quyon, downstream from Chats Falls. Interestingly, they did not settle in booming Pontiac Village, where they would have landed. Though it has now vanished, Pontiac Village was at its peak when it served as the transfer point for travellers heading further up the Ottawa River (or back) by steamboat. The decline of Pontiac Village was brought on by the arrival of the railway in 1886, which passed through Quyon, not Pontiac Village.

Why did John James Pelot and Mary Ellen O'Donnell choose Quyon? It's possible that they were responding to the call of John Egan, who was doing his best to draw settlers to the area to work in the lumber trade and supporting services; John James had skills that would be useful in a frontier setting. Also, in the latter half of the 19th century, Pontiac County was home to several O'Donnells, among them, Arthur, John, Charles, Hugh, Kate, Neal, James, Margaret, Patrick and Thomas. Some were born in Ireland, some in Canada.⁹ Did John James' wife, Mary Ellen, have local relatives?

7 Annie's Census of Canada return for 1901 (as Annie McLellan) states her year of immigration to Canada as 1850.

8 Robinson, 2006.

9 Census of Canada data, as reported in Robinson, 2006.

John James Pelot set up shop as a carpenter and cabinet-maker in Quyon. He was versatile, his repertoire ranging from furniture to boats, pike poles and axe handles.¹⁰ Lloyd, his great-grandson, owns a dresser made by John James; Lloyd described it in loving detail in a note penned some decades ago. Apparently, the dresser lived in Billings Bridge for most of the 20th century. It grew heavier and blacker over the years with the addition of many coats of dark paint. Through an agreement with Lloyd's mother, June obtained the dresser, stripped off the old paint, refinished it and surprised Lloyd with the finished product. He has cherished it ever since.

In 1861, John James Pelot and Mary Ellen O'Donnell were living in a one-storey frame house on a 1¼-acre lot. In 1881, John James received a land grant of one hundred acres; the following year, he secured a further fifty-two acres.¹¹ He was in his late sixties at the time, quite an age to start a farming career.

He was a stocky, muscular man – features he passed on to Lloyd's grandfather and father – and the local innkeeper relied on him to restore the peace when pub brawls broke out.¹² Not that John James was a teetotaler: family speculation has it that his patronage of the tavern might have given him an edge in securing the job of peacekeeper.

John James and Mary Ellen had four daughters and two sons who lived to adulthood:

- Annie (1849-1914) married John McLellan in Quyon in 1871. A John McLennan lived in Pontiac Village in 1857, possibly Annie's husband or father-in-law. John McLellan, age fifty, was working as a carpenter in Quyon in 1901.¹³
- Charlotte Maria (1855-1921) married Hugh Coyle in Quyon in 1877. Hugh Coyle was a native of Ontario who crossed the Ottawa River in search of land. In 1901, at age forty-seven, he was employed as a lumberman.¹⁴
- Ellen (1857-1931) married Robert Armstrong in Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario in 1886.
- Theresa (1863-1943) married Harvey Thompson Parker in Ottawa in 1882.
- Charles (1868-1948) married Annie Kyle in Portage-du-Fort in 1902 and Martha Walsh in Pakenham in 1914.
- John Henry Albert (1872-1953), Lloyd's grandfather, married Cecilia Jane Smith in Quyon in 1894.

¹⁰ Pelot, 1998.

¹¹ Robinson, 2006.

¹² Pelot, 1998.

¹³ 1901 Census of Canada.

¹⁴ Robinson, 2006.

John James Pelot died in Quyon in 1890 at the age of seventy-three. He is buried in the pioneer Pontiac Roman Catholic Cemetery, although there is no legible headstone marking the site.

After his death, Mary Ellen lived with sons Charles and John in the village of Quyon, along with daughter Ellen and her family. Maria and her husband Hugh Coyle and their son William lived next door.¹⁵ Mary Ellen died in 1894 around age sixty-five and is buried in the same cemetery as her husband.

John James' descendants can thank him for an interesting mixture of French, English and possibly Manx blood coursing in their veins, and give a fond nod to Mary Ellen for adding Irish to the brew. Ethnically, we could be forgiven for some internal confusion. Religiously, the picture is just as complex. As Huguenots, an escape to England and the Isle of Man is understandable but, with this heritage, for John James to have ended up as a Roman Catholic in a Protestant-dominated society is surprising.

Once in Canada, the Pelots were members of the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Mary's in Quyon. John James is said to have carved wooden statues of saints for the church.¹⁶



JOHN HENRY PELOT, the youngest child of John James and Mary Ellen, was Lloyd's grandfather. He grew up in Pontiac County helping his father with farm chores. The 1891 Census, after his father's death, listed him as a stable boy, age nineteen.

His future wife, Cecilia Smith, was born in nearby Ladysmith, Quebec, in 1875. By age sixteen, Cecilia was on her way to becoming a practical nurse. She worked for the local doctor, Dr. Astley and his wife, a nurse. Cecilia met John Henry through the Astleys.¹⁷

They married in Quyon in 1894. Around the turn of the century, John Henry travelled to the Prairies by train, as part of the Canadian Pacific Railway's "Harvest Excursion," to supplement his meager income by working as a farm labourer. He later found work in a lumber camp on the French River, near Georgian Bay, which kept him away from home for long stretches of time.

Meanwhile, Cecilia moved to Ottawa with her parents and four children, also in search of better income. They rented a house on Elgin Street and took in lodgers. In 1909, Cecilia bought a house on Metcalfe Road (now Bank Street) at the corner of Rooney's Lane, in the Village of Billings Bridge. The move to Rooney's Lane began a sixty-year liaison between

¹⁵ 1891 Census of Canada.

¹⁶ Pelot, 1998.

¹⁷ Pelot, 1998.

the Pelots and Billings Bridge. Located south of the present-day Billings Bridge Shopping Centre and separated from Ottawa by the Rideau River, it consisted of a small cluster of short streets on either side of Metcalfe Road.



*Home of John
Henry Pelot and
Cecilia Smith
at the corner of
Bank Street and
Rooney's Lane,
1939.*

In the early 20th century, the transportation link between Billings Bridge and the City of Ottawa was still quite tenuous. It depended on a bridge fording the Rideau River at what is now Bank Street. The first bridge was built in 1830 but, well into the 20th century, the bridge was not a wholly reliable topographical feature as it was periodically swept away by ice floes in the spring break-up.¹⁸

Despite the long and frequent separations, John Henry and Cecilia's family grew steadily. Six children lived to adulthood:

- Mary Agatha (1896-1950) married James McCurrie in Billings Bridge, 1913.
- Muriel Ellen (1897-1978) married George Blackburn in Billings Bridge, 1918.
- William John (1900-1969) married Éliane Gauthier in Ottawa, 1925.
- Joseph Lloyd (1901-1927) died unmarried.
- Mary Cecilia (1907-1974) married Walter Gillis in 1934, later marrying Raymond Epp.
- Viola Maria (1911-1990) married Walter Purcell, 1940.¹⁹

¹⁸ Pelot and Pelot, 2001.

¹⁹ Pelot, 2002 and Purcell, 2008.

This excerpt from an article²⁰ in the local newspaper *Vistas* (March 2000) offers insights on life in Billings Bridge:

Way Back When... at Kilborn Avenue and Rooney's Lane

In the early years of the 20th century a large white frame homestead stood on Metcalfe Street at Rooney's Lane. Jack and Cecilia Pelot lived in this house which earlier had belonged to Bernard Rooney, a retired farmer from South Gloucester.

Cecilia Pelot, an accomplished pianist and Jack, a violinist, kept the house filled with the sound of music. The family's celebrations always included a lot of singing and square dancing.

The children attended St. Thomas Aquinas School (the old Children's Aid) which was destroyed in a fire. A later St. Thomas Aquinas School, adjacent to the church, was demolished in the early 1970s.

Jack Pelot served on the St. Thomas Aquinas School Board for 20 years and played an active role in the construction of the new school.

Near the Pelot homestead was the Greenberg General Store where Billings Bridge residents did their shopping.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church featured prominently in the lives of the villagers. Many of their social activities revolved around the church.

Behind the Pelots' home at the bottom of Rooney's Lane was an old Ottawa landmark. It was the Sabourin and Henry Icehouse, 50 feet high and 100 feet long. The icehouse could easily hold 50,000 large blocks of ice. The ice was cut on the Rideau River near Billings Bridge and transported on horse drawn sleds.

The icehouse, built in 1922 and later enlarged, had foot-thick walls insulated with sawdust. It could store ice all summer.

The company supplied ice to hotels, the General Hospital, the Governor General's residence and several businesses. In the summer months, the company's horse wagons could be seen delivering small blocks to local residents.

When Canada entered the First World War, John Henry signed up for the Overseas Expeditionary Force in September 1915, with his underage son William John. After the war, John Henry worked for the federal Department of Public Works until his retirement in 1937. He died in Ottawa in 1953; Cecilia outlived him by fifteen years. They are buried in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Ottawa, on Albion Road just west of Bank Street.



*John Henry Pelot and Cecilia Smith
on their 50th anniversary.*



²⁰ Tower, 2000.

LLOYD’S FATHER, William John Pelot, was born and baptized in Quyon, Quebec. William John’s family moved to Ottawa and ultimately to Billings Bridge when he was still young. The 1911 Census found him, at age eleven, in Gloucester Township, which at the time encompassed the Village of Billings Bridge.

William John accompanied his father to England to serve in the First World War, though only age fifteen at the time. In fact, family lore has it the other way round: William John announced to his parents that he was planning to enlist and Cecilia thought it best that his father go too, to keep an eye on the youngster.

After the war, William John took a commercial course and became a stenographer. Assigned to the Experimental Farm, he met Éliane Gauthier, an employee there, who claims in her memoirs that he “caused a furor among the female staff; he was so good-looking.”

Marie Stella Éliane Gauthier was born in Ottawa in 1898. Éliane also grew up in a musical household and her first job was at Rae’s Department Store (corner of Rideau Street and Sussex Street), playing piano non-stop to support the sale of sheet music. A stint as a telegraph operator followed, and then she applied to the Civil Service. She wrote a three-day exam, coming fifth among all applicants across Canada in her category. Éliane secured employment as a stenographer in the Department of Agriculture and was stationed at the Experimental Farm. She worked there until her marriage.

*Éliane Gauthier in 1918 and
John William Pelot in 1922 or 1923.
They married in 1925.*



William John Pelot and Éliane Gauthier married in Ottawa in 1925. There is something magical about their blooming relationship, and not just because of Éliane’s perception of William John as a hearthrob. She was “pure laine” – her roots in Quebec and Eastern Ontario extended back several centuries, consistently French and Catholic. William John, an ethnic and religious potpourri, speaking no French and his English underlined by an Irish lilt, must have seemed quite exotic. Despite the differences, both were heartily welcomed into their future in-laws’ households. The only concern, expressed by Cecilia, was



Éliane Gauthier and William John Pelot on their 40th anniversary.

that Éliane was very thin, with just ninety-seven pounds on her five-foot-seven-inch frame. Cecilia prophesied with the judicious eye of an expert: “That one will never have children.”²¹

Cecilia was wrong: William John and Éliane built a house on Rooney’s Lane in Billings Bridge where they raised eight children, all born in a ten-year time span. The house expanded to accommodate the growing family. In addition to their children, it sheltered, at various times, Éliane’s father, her sister Marie-Antoinette, and a revolving door of maids. The house was built on land bought from the ubiquitous and generous Barney Rooney, within sight of the home of William John’s parents.

William John and Éliane’s children were:

- John Gerard (1926-2009) married Vi Keegan in Ottawa, 1950.
- Joseph Lloyd (b. 1927) married June Flanagan in Ottawa, 1949.
- Joseph Bernard (1929-2006) married Kate Coffin in Ottawa, 1953.
- John Anthony (b.1930) married Myrella Trépanier in River Valley, Ontario, 1955.
- William Ivan (1931-2009) married Madge Dawson in Thunder Bay.
- Mary Vivian (b.1933) married Mike Going, Don Pettis and Bill McKim, all in Ottawa.
- Peter Aurèle (b.1934) married Shirley Frederick and Janice Kelly in Ottawa.
- Robert (b.1935) married Adrienne Castonguay in Ottawa and Suzanne Thérien in St-Janvier, Quebec.²²

²¹ Pelot, 1985.

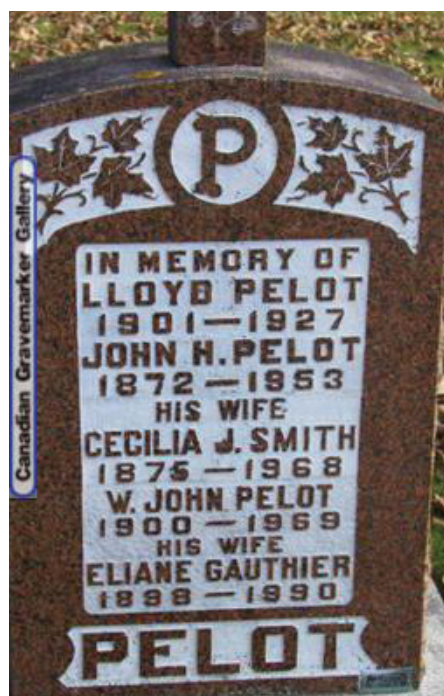
²² Pelot, 2002 and Purcell, 2008.

William John transferred from the Experimental Farm to the Post Office where he worked until retirement. Apart from cribbage, his passion in advancing years was gardening. He died suddenly at age sixty-nine, working in the garden on a hot summer day. Éliane lived to age ninety-two, spending her final years in a nursing home in Clarence Creek, Ontario, near Lloyd and June's home. William John and Éliane are buried in St. Bernard Cemetery, Ottawa, with William John's parents and other Pelots.



ÉLIANE GAUTHIER was a passionate family chronicler. Apart from her memoirs and countless family photos, she kept precise biographical files on her children that would be the envy of the Canadian intelligence community.

From these notes, we know that her second son, Lloyd, was born at about 4:00 AM on December 22, 1927, with the following people in attendance: Dr. Gardiner, Cecilia Smith, and a maid named Annie Brûlé. Lloyd weighed in at 8 lbs. He was christened the following day by Father Peter Bélanger. His godparents were John Henry Pelot and Cecilia Smith.



Joseph Lloyd Pelot sharing a resting place with his parents, John Henry and Cecilia, his brother, William John and his sister-in-law, Éliane. Many thanks to the Canadian Gravemarker Gallery.

The choice of name and probably also of godparents was intended to honour the memory of his uncle, Joseph Lloyd Pelot, who had died of a stroke in New York State four months earlier. He was only twenty-six years old at the time and working in Rochester. He was due home for a visit and arrived on schedule, but in a coffin. The family speculated that his demise may have been caused by a tonsillectomy he had recently undergone. His funeral was at St. Thomas Aquinas church and he is buried in St. Bernard's Cemetery, sharing a headstone with his parents, his brother and sister-in-law.²³

Young Lloyd attended St. Thomas Aquinas elementary school in Billings Bridge, followed by Lasalle Academy (1940-1944) and St. Patrick's College (1944-1946). He completed a one-year course in architectural drafting, which helped him to secure his first full-time job as a cartographer with the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys (now Natural Resources Canada).

²³ Pelot, 1998. The Rochester City Directory published in 1928 also noted that resident Joseph Lloyd Pelot had died in August 1927, p.1156.



Lloyd, about age 5.

Growing up, Lloyd was an avid football and softball player, playing quarterback for the Ridgemont Roamers and pitcher and first-baseman for the Pineland Softball Team. As a choirboy at St. Thomas Aquinas, he learned to sing, which would eventually lead to many stage parts in the Ottawa Grand Opera Company.

Lloyd and June met in 1947. Though they lived in different neighbourhoods and belonged to different gangs, their paths crossed on sports fields and in dance halls. June was an avid horsewoman and stabled her horse next door to a favourite haunt of Lloyd's known as Bill Grant's place.



LLOYD AND JUNE married in 1949 with prospects and talent but little money. Their honeymoon was an adventurous bike trip to Quebec City, where they were down to their last nickel before the train ride home – luckily the tickets were prepaid. They built their



Lloyd and June on their honeymoon: after cycling to Montreal, they shipped the bikes home and hitch-hiked to Quebec City.

first home in 1949 in William John and Éliane's back yard, having the plans approved as a hen house because a second house on the property would not have been permitted. The labour was provided by Lloyd and his brothers and the wood came from an old dismantled barn. June claimed that the house smelled of its previous occupants whenever it rained. This tiny home was a base from which they constructed a two-storey stucco house next to William John and Éliane's on Rooney's Lane, where they lived with their growing family until 1958.

The village of Billings Bridge is no longer and the Pelot houses – John Henry and Cecilia's house on Bank Street at the corner of Rooney's Lane, William John and Éliane's on Rooney's Lane, and Lloyd and June's two houses – have all been demolished. When the demolition notice for William John and Éliane's house went up, Gerard Pelot wrote the following evocative article, which appeared in *Vistas* in 2001.

The Old Homestead Disappears

The Demolition Notice in front of my old homestead at 1215 Rooney's Lane, Billings Bridge, evoked many memories of yesteryear. Jack Pelot, my Dad, and his future bride, Éliane Gauthier, planned and built their dream home, a lovely cream-coloured stuccoed bungalow in 1925.

Jack had met Éliane at the Experimental Farm where she was the executive secretary to Sir Charles Saunders, the famous inventor of Marquis wheat. Shortly after their engagement they bought a double lot from Barney Rooney for \$800, and their house was ready for occupation when they were married in June. Mom, an assiduous record-keeper, detailed all of the building costs: lumber, shingles and nails \$606, plastering and stucco by Edgar Morin \$235, carpentering by Eddie McCartin @ 50 cents an hour, \$200, wiring by Norman Lecuyer \$30. The total construction outlay amounted to \$1221.09. The following year, Jack and Éliane welcomed their firstborn, and by 1928 they had spent another \$600 to add two and one-half rooms to the house, as the family increased.

They found Billings Bridge a great place to raise their seven boys and one girl. They had ample opportunity to play, to roam, to pick wild strawberries and a few hundred yards from the house, gather mayflowers in the nearby bush, go fishing for carp or rock bass on Sawmill Creek, and even

hollow out a cave for a "clubhouse" in the slope of the gulley.

In the village, it was not uncommon to farm on a small scale to supplement salaries. Dad kept a flock of at least 100 chickens in his henhouse, and from year to year, he might raise a couple of pigs, a sheep or half a dozen ducks, and he pastured one cow in the field across the lane and we all learned to milk. We had pets of all kinds: rabbits, bantam hens, pigeons. Two tall Carpathian walnut trees shaded the front of the house from the hot summer sun, and in the back yard a tiny orchard produced a good quantity of apples and crabapples, though a lot of them were eaten before they had a chance to fully ripen.

In 1950, the City of Ottawa pushed its southern boundary past the Rideau River and directly through the old village. It brought running water, sewers and sidewalks. Inevitably the fields had to yield to housing and commercial developments, pavements and smooth lawns replaced wild grasses and the open spaces vanished.

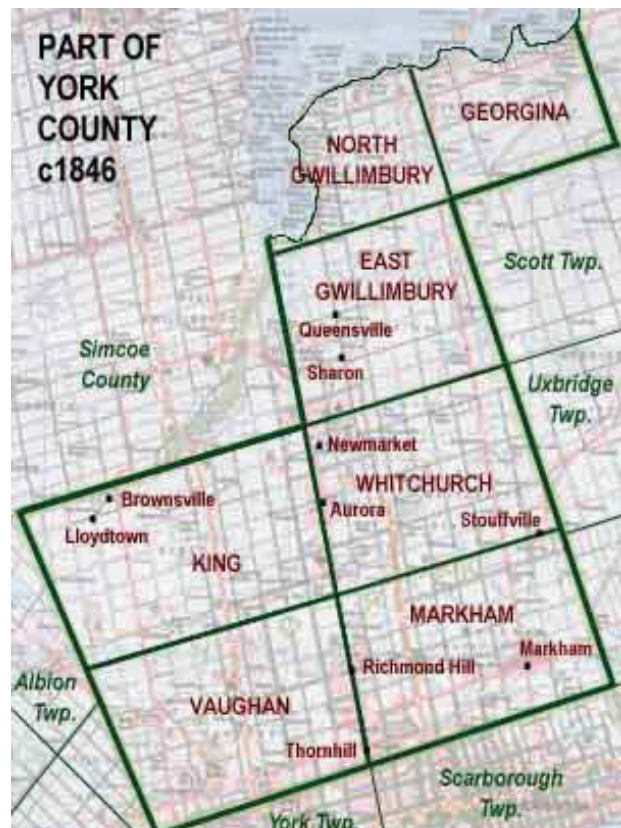
Dad died in 1969 and within a couple of years Mom sold the old homestead to a small business enterprise, the lane having been zoned commercial. Soon, all that will remain of those wonderful years, the bungalow, the trees and the livestock, are family snapshots and cherished memories to be told to our children and grandchildren.

The Flanagans

June's great-grandfather, Peter Flanagan, was born in Ireland in 1811 and emigrated to Canada. There are two plausible scenarios for the timing of his arrival in Canada. The first is that he wed Margaret McGowan in Ireland and they emigrated as a married couple with their eldest child Mary, born 1837. This would place their emigration around 1840, as their next child was unambiguously born in Canada in 1841. The second scenario is that they emigrated, separately or together, as early as 1833, got married in Canada and had all their children here.

It hinges mainly on what one chooses to believe about where their daughter Mary was born. According to the 1851 and 1861 Censuses, all Peter and Margaret's children were born in Canada. But Mary's marriage record states that her birthplace was Ireland. Her death record disagrees, specifying Thornhill, Ontario instead.

Also, an intriguing 1834 marriage record exists for "Peter Flanigan" and "Margaret McGown". The ceremony was performed at St. Paul's Church in Toronto by W. P. McDonaugh. The marriage record provides no specifics to corroborate that they were in fact June's great-grandparents: age, occupation, place of residence and parents' names were all left blank. However, the marriage record does name two witnesses, William Grimes and Patrick Gettings. The latter may have been a neighbour of the Flanagans; a Patrick Gettings was enumerated in 1851 in King Township, York County where they settled.



The Flanagans and most of June's other ancestors settled in the townships of King and East Gwillimbury and in Newmarket, between Toronto and Lake Simcoe. (Map from York Region Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society)

Whether they emigrated around 1833 or 1840, their voyage predated the period of mass emigration from Ireland triggered by the potato famine. Peter's early years in Ireland

unfolded in an era of economic depression and unemployment. The hard times could be traced in part to the union of Ireland and Britain, which resulted in the elimination of tariffs protecting Irish industry from cheaper English goods. There were also minor potato failures in the 1830s and rural unrest triggered by population pressures.²⁴ Emigration was on the rise; Peter and Margaret were among those who thought it was time to leave.

One can assume their sea voyage was difficult since they were not well-off. We do not know what Peter did for a living in Ireland but, once in Canada, he took up work as a labourer.²⁵



PETER AND MARGARET had five children:

- Mary (1837-1911) married Matthew Clancy in 1862 in York County.
- William (1841-1922) married American-born Harriet Maybee about 1870.
- John Joseph (1844-1927) married Emma White in 1866.
- Peter Joseph (1846-1910) married Eleanor Collins.
- Thomas (1848-1933) married Hannah White in 1875.

Peter Flanagan Senior died young. The 1861 Census lists Margaret, age forty-nine, as a widow living with the five children and no apparent source of income. Although there must have been some very tough times, all in all, the Flanagan children did remarkably well.

Mary and her husband Matthew, Irish-born and forty years her senior, lived most of their lives on the farm. In Flanagan family lore, Mary is recalled for commenting on her starched apron, in a pronounced Irish lilt: “’Tis so stiff and so short, I’m ashamed of it.”

Two of Mary’s brothers, John and William, were also farmers. William’s trials and tribulations with horses were routinely reported in the Newmarket Era: he lost a thumb while examining a horse’s mouth, was kicked in the head by a different horse and broke some fingers trying to tie up a skittish colt in a barn.²⁶ Despite his equine misadventures, William lived to a ripe old age. He died at age eighty, a well-respected citizen of Newmarket. According to his obituary, he lived in Kettleby for most of his life, moving to Sharon in his sixties and finally to Newmarket. His wife Harriet was with him throughout these moves, predeceasing him by a few months.²⁷

24 O’Riordan, undated.

25 1851 Census of Canada

26 Newmarket Era reports, April 9, 1897 and October 1, 1909.

27 Newmarket Era, April 7, 1922, Sudden Death of an Octogenarian.

Peter Flanagan and Margaret McGowan's two youngest children, Peter Joseph and Thomas, became innkeepers. Peter Joseph owned the Eagle Hotel in Newmarket, among others. He and his wife Eleanor moved to Selkirk, Manitoba and later to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Through several moves and the birth of at least nine children, Peter and Eleanor owned and operated hotels. Thomas Flanagan and his wife Hannah ran the Dominion Hotel in Newmarket for many years. Hannah Flanagan, nee White, was the sister of Emma White, who married Thomas' brother, John Joseph Flanagan. At the time, it was not unusual for two sisters to marry two brothers.

In later life, Margaret McGowan lived with her children. In 1881, she was living with daughter Mary and her husband Matthew Clancy in King Township. Though by then he was eighty-five years old, Matthew was still farming. By 1891, Matthew had died and Margaret and Mary had moved to Newmarket.

A letter from a descendant of Peter Flanagan and Margaret McGowan published in the Newmarket Era, March 30, 1977, tells us that both Peter and Margaret are buried in the Newmarket Cemetery. Their tombstones describe them as native of Ireland.²⁸



AMONG THIS COLOURFUL and industrious lot, John Joseph Flanagan, middle child of Peter and Margaret, was June Flanagan's direct ancestor.

John married Emma White, a woman of mysterious heritage, in 1866. Emma was born in Canada, the daughter of an English emigrant named Hannah White. But who was her father? According to the 1851 Census of Canada, Emma, then age five, lived in King Township with her mother, three siblings, an English-born man named David Ramsden, his elderly parents and a Ramsden child. As we will explore in the closing chapter, Mr. White is missing in action.

The two words that best sum up John and Emma are farming and family. They would eventually have ten children over a period of twenty-one years. In 1871, they were living in King Township with three children under age five: Mary, Margaret Emilia and Roseanne. Their next-door neighbours were Emma's mother Hannah White and David Ramsden. A few doors down were John's brother William and his wife Harriet. They moved at some point between 1882 and 1891 from King Township to East Gwillimbury Township, where they continued to farm.

Mary Flanagan, John and Emma's eldest child, married a cabinet maker named Albert Wilson in 1889. Two years after their marriage, the Census found the young Wilson couple

28 Briggs, 1977.



John Flanagan, Emma White and their family c1910. Left to right, back row: Roy, George, Thomas, Peter, Eugene. Middle row: Elizabeth, John, Emma, Mary. Front row: Nellie (Margaret's daughter), Margaret.

living in King Township next door to Mary's grandmother. Mary and Albert took up residence in Toronto sometime after 1911.

John and Emma's second child, Margaret Emilia (1868-1943), better known as Maggie, married Louis Delima in Toronto in 1890. She was twenty-one and he was thirty-six, a tailor born in Gibraltar. Either the marriage failed or Louis died at a young age, because Maggie was back in the parental household in East Gwillimbury by 1901, along with daughter Mary Ellen ("Nellie"). Maggie became a respected community member; when she died in 1943, the *Newmarket Era* wrote "Loved by Community, Margaret Delima Dies." Her one daughter, Nellie, married Frank Duncan in November 1911 but sadly died of heart failure four months later.²⁹

²⁹ Ontario marriage record, November 1911; Ontario death record, March 1912.

Next in line was Rose (1869-1892), who died suddenly of a congestion of the lungs the very day she was to be married.³⁰ Elizabeth Ann (1872-1938) married William Henry “Harry” Helmer in 1895. Her obituary described her as a “charming, unselfish and much-loved woman” who had suffered from chronic health problems following a car accident fifteen years earlier.

Thomas (born 1874)³¹ married Rose Sedore in 1907; he was thirty-three and it was Rose’s second marriage. Her first husband, William Sedore, died in 1904, leaving an inheritance of close to \$1000 to Rose and their two daughters, a significant amount at the time.

The next child, Ellen, lived only ten years (1875-1885). She was followed by four boys: John Eugene (1878-1953), Peter Francis (1882-1952), George (1883-1959) and Frederick Roy (1888-?). John Eugene (“Gene”) became a farmer in Queensville. He married Lulu Fairbairn in 1903, who died in 1927 at age forty. Peter Francis, June’s father, moved to Ottawa in mid-life. George (“Jud”) also moved to Ottawa, where he lived on Elgin Street with an Englishwoman. He worked as a salesman until his retirement at age sixty-seven in 1956; he died three years later.³² Roy moved to Toronto where he married Anna Victoria Benson in 1922.



AFTER A MARRIAGE that lasted fifty-seven years, Emma Flanagan died in 1922, at age seventy-six. Her obituary in the Newmarket Era noted “the community loses another of those quiet, earnest Christian ladies whom it delighted to know.”³³ John outlived Emma by four years. When he died, the Newmarket Era carried the following report (February 11, 1927):

30 Newmarket Era, October 14, 1892.

31 Thomas Flanagan died sometime between 1938 and 1943.

32 Ottawa Citizen obituary, September 18, 1959.

33 Newmarket Era, November 17, 1922.

An Old Resident Passes Away

The funeral of the late John Flanagan, who died on Saturday evening, February 5th after a very short illness, took place at St. John's Church from his late residence on Simcoe Street, Newmarket, on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by Father Wedlock. Quite a number of friends and relatives were present.

The pallbearers were his five sons (Tom, Gene, Pete, George and Roy) and his son-in-law Mr. W.H. Helmer.

Mr. Flanagan was born in King Township in the year 1844, where he lived a number of years and

made many warm friends. From there he moved to East Gwillimbury Township where he resided until the family moved to Newmarket to their present place of residence. Mr. Flanagan was very well known and most highly respected. He leaves a very wide circle of old friends who all feel the loss of a very old and respected citizen. His wife, who was Emma White, predeceased him four years ago.

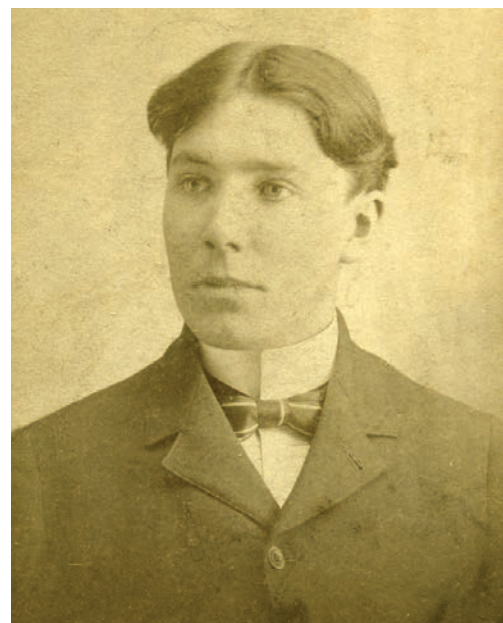
He leaves to mourn his decease three daughters (Mrs. Wilson of Toronto, Mrs. Delima and Mrs. Helmer of Newmarket) and five sons – Tom, Pete and George of Newmarket, Eugene of Queensville and Roy of Toronto.



JUNE'S FATHER, Peter Francis Flanagan, was born in King Township in 1882, the eighth of John and Emma's ten children. At age twenty, Peter was still at home, his occupation according to the 1901 Census being a "farmer's son."

Peter married Nora Alberta Sprague (1888-1985) in Newmarket in 1906. In some ways the match was a surprising one, as the Spragues were relatively well-to-do Protestants and not overly impressed with their daughter's choice of husband. It may have chilled relations between Nora and her family for a time, but the marriage was an enduring one.

*Nora Alberta
Sprague and
Peter Francis
Flanagan.*



Peter worked as a mechanic in a factory.³⁴ They would eventually have seven children:

- Grace (1907-198?) married George McInnis in Newmarket in 1924.
- Jack (1910-?) married Marion O'Hara, then Jan Harvey.
- Mary Ellen (c1914-197?) married Ray Chamberlain, then Casper "Slim" Marlin.
- Margaret (1916-2011) married Arthur John Pratt.
- Roy (c1918-1969) married Edna Morel.
- Edward George (1921-1944) died unmarried.
- June Aileen (1928-2014) married Joseph Lloyd Pelot in Ottawa in 1949.

The siblings spanned a full generation. June's eldest sister, Grace, who bore a strong resemblance to Nora, married four years before June was born. Grace and her husband George made their home in the Newmarket area.

June's brothers Roy and Edward ("Eddie") both served in the Second World War. Eddie, a Trooper in the First Hussars, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, died in combat in July 1944. Chapter V chronicles their war experiences.

In 1928, Peter and Nora moved to Ottawa to find work. They lived on Gladstone Street, then on Roslyn Avenue in Ottawa South, finally settling in a rowhouse at 571 O'Connor Street in the Glebe.

In their early Ottawa years, during the Depression, Peter worked as a labourer for the City of Ottawa. June recalled that he fitted makeshift cardboard insoles into his shoes to try to keep his feet warm. He later found work with Otis (makers of elevators) and Ottawa Car, a manufacturer of streetcars that became Ottawa Car and Aircraft during the Second World War. He also worked on the construction of the funicular in Quebec City.

Peter died in Ottawa in 1952. Although it was nearly a quarter century after the family had moved to Ottawa, the Newmarket Era carried the following obituary on March 27, 1952:

34 1911 Census of Canada and John's birth record.

P. F. Flanagan

Peter Francis Flanagan, a resident of Ottawa since 1928, and a former employee of the Public Works Department, died at his residence, 571 O'Connor Street, Ottawa, following a brief illness. He was in his 72nd year.

Born in King Township in 1882, Mr. Flanagan was a son of the late John Flanagan and Emma White. He was educated at Newmarket and was married to the former Nora Alberta Sprague, who survives.

Coming to Ottawa in 1928, Mr. Flanagan was for a number of years with the Public Works

Department. He retired in 1951.

Surviving, in addition to his widow, are: two sons, Jack, of Hull and Roy of Ottawa; another son, Edward, was killed in action overseas in 1944; four daughters, Mrs. George McInnis of Newmarket, Mrs. Mary Chamberlain of Halifax, Mrs. Arthur Pratt of Montreal and Mrs. Lloyd Pelot of Ottawa; and three brothers, Eugene of Queensville, Ont., George of Ottawa and Roy of Toronto. There are also 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Whelan Funeral Home, and then to the St. Thomas Aquinas Church for requiem high mass. Internment took place in Notre-Dame Cemetery.

Peter made many friends during his life and quite a crowd turned out for his funeral. June recalled a multitude of faces she had never seen before, people from places he had worked years before.

Nora lived another thirty-three years, a model of dignity and propriety... almost to the end. In later years, her standards relaxed somewhat. She became quite partial to an afternoon cocktail or two. Once, imbibing gin while enjoying a summer afternoon on a garden swing, the swing collapsed and she found herself lying on the ground amid the debris, happily enjoying the airplane streaks in the beautiful blue sky above, completely relaxed and unconcerned about questions of dignity.



PETER AND NORA'S CHILDREN were all born in Newmarket except for June, who made her first appearance in Ottawa two months after they moved. Peter was forty-six and Nora was forty.

June was baptized at St. Patrick's Cathedral.³⁵ The name "Teresa", which June never used, appears on her baptismal record because of the need to have a saint represented among the given names.

From an early age, it was clear that June had a personality to be reckoned with; her childhood photos show a determined pixie. She attended First Avenue Public School and, in Grade 7 and 8, Glashen Public School. A true child of the Glebe, she could travel from O'Connor Street to Bank Street never putting a foot on the ground, traversing garage

35 Ontario Catholic Church records, Drouin Collection



June, about age three.

roofs, balancing along the tops of fences and so on. She attended Glebe Collegiate at the secondary level, followed by a one-year business course at Commerce High School.

June developed a love of horses and dogs at a young age and, by the time she met Lloyd, she owned a horse, stabled on what is now Riverside Drive. Bill Grant's Place was nearby, a snack bar with a juke box and dance floor; it was a favourite gathering place of the older Pelot boys.

Around 1947, June briefly dated Lloyd's younger brother Bernard. June and Ben were both gifted with strong personalities and their relationship was not destined to last. It came to an abrupt end one day when they both wanted to go to the beach. June wanted to go to Brantwood Beach but Ben wanted to go to Brighton Beach, just upstream on the Rideau River. Being the people they were, Ben went to Brighton while June went to Brantwood, as did Lloyd, aware of the dispute. (Decades

later, when Lloyd's grandson Eric heard the story, he commented: "Ah, the sly dog!") And the rest is history.



IN 1993, LLOYD SURPRISED JUNE with a framed certificate on the history of the Flanagan family name, produced by the Historical Research Center. It states:

"Prior to the introduction of surnames in Ireland, there was a system of clan names which the use of surnames gradually rendered obsolete, except as territorial designations. Groups of families were generally descended from a common ancestor, as is the case with Flanagan. This name is an anglicized form of the Gaelic

*Recent photo of June's childhood home,
571 O'Connor, the unit on the far left.*



‘O Flannagain’ and it simply denotes a red-haired person. Several septs³⁶ of the name emerged independently; however, the Connaught sept was by far the most important. Today Flanagan and its variants Flannagan and Flanigan are still most often found in Counties Roscommon, Galway and Clare where the sept was originally located. Descended from O Flannagain, who was of the same stock as the royal O’Connors, the sept held the hereditary post of High Stewart to the Kings of Connaught, and their chief ranked as a regal Lord of that province. However, other septs of this name were to be found in Ulster and on the borders of Co Tipperary.”

The Flanagan motto: *I have fought and conquered.*



36 A sept is a division of a clan.

Armed Conflict in the New World

Lloyd and June’s ancestors were, on the whole, a peaceful lot but they were occasionally swept up in the conflicts of their homeland, be it the new one or the old one. Chapters IV and V look at a few of these ancestors and close relatives. Some performed heroic deeds and sacrifices, others became embroiled by choice or happenstance in armed conflicts.



PIERRE GAREMAN *dit* le Picard³⁷ was an ancestor of Lloyd’s on his mother’s side, born c1604 in Picardie, France. (See the *Line of Descent* table below.) He and his wife, Madeleine Charlot (1608-c1660) were early pioneers, sailing to New France with two daughters sometime between 1632 and 1638. Two more children, a daughter and a son, were born after the voyage.

Pierre cleared land and farmed. He received a substantial land grant in Cap Rouge, just west of Quebec City. Among the difficulties faced by the French pioneers was a constant risk of attack by the Iroquois.

Before the arrival of the French, rivalries and conflicts existed within the six groups that made up the Iroquois Nation, as well as between the Iroquois, the Algonquin and Wendat



View of Cap Rouge, Quebec, where Pierre Gareman dit le Picard and his family settled and where he and his son Charles were captured by Iroquois. Engraving by Peter Mazell based on a drawing by Captain Hervey Smyth, 1760.

37 “Dit” means “alias” or “also known as”.

(Huron) Nations. In the early 17th century, the Iroquois formed a Confederacy of their six bands to stem the in-fighting and turn their military attention more effectively towards other Nations. Then, into the middle of the dispute stepped Samuel de Champlain.

Champlain is known for many accomplishments but he has also been credited with triggering a century of bad relations between the French and the Iroquois. The Algonquin and Wendat sought his support in their territorial clashes with the Iroquois and Champlain agreed to help.

In a battle in 1609, Champlain killed two Iroquois chiefs with a single gunshot and his soldiers wounded a third. Though greatly outnumbering their adversaries, the Iroquois, who had never seen a gun, were unnerved and fled. However, the consequences were felt by French settlers for decades thereafter. In the words of C.W. Jeffreys: “It was an easy victory, but the attack drew upon the French the hatred of the Iroquois, and for more than a hundred years the settlers of Canada suffered all the horrors of savage warfare for this alliance of Champlain with the Northern Indians.”³⁸

This animosity was at the root of Lloyd’s ancestor Pierre Gareman’s demise. In 1653, he was working in the fields when an attack by the Oneida people of the Iroquois Confederacy occurred. Gareman was captured and killed. His young son Charles, who was about ten years old, was taken as well. As was the custom with the capture of children, Charles was raised by the band. His Oneidan name was Gannonchiasse and he is now referred to as Charles Gareman *dit* Gannonchiasse. Charles married an Oneidan woman, Marie Gonnentenne, in 1676. Sources citing the *Histoire de Notre-Dame de Ste-Foy* written by Abbé H.A. Scott suggest that Charles was “bought” back from the Iroquois by the Jesuits. Charles and Marie had a daughter, Louise. Were the couple living with the Oneidans when the baby was born or were they back in a French settlement? It’s not clear. Baby Louise was brought to the Ursuline convent in Quebec but died there in 1683. Perhaps she was unwell and needed treatment or perhaps Marie had already died and Charles was unable to take care of his daughter.

Sad as the story is, it gets sadder. Madeleine Charlot, widow of Pierre Gareman, soldiered on after her husband was killed in 1653. But seven years after her husband’s death, she was herself captured, this time by Wendat. She managed to escape but died shortly after from injuries sustained during her captivity.

Her eldest daughter, Florence Gareman, is Lloyd’s direct ancestor. Florence married François Boucher and had eleven children, most of whom lived to adulthood. It is said that Florence herself was also captured by the Iroquois but escaped or was released.

38 Jeffreys, 1930.

*Line of descent from Pierre Gareman dit le Picard to Joseph Lloyd Pelot**

- 1. Pierre Gareman dit le Picard** (c1604-1653)
Married Madeleine Charlot in Picardie, France, c1628
Arrived New France 1632-1638
Both died near Cap Rouge, Quebec
- 2. Florence Gareman** (1629-1686)
Born Picardie, France
Married François Boucher in Quebec City
Died in Sillery, Quebec
- 3. Pierre Boucher dit Desroches** (1648-1702)
Born in Sillery
Married Hélène Gaudry in Sillery, 1671
Died in Quebec City
- 4. François Boucher dit Desroches** (1684-1760)
Born in Pointe-aux-Trembles, Quebec
Married Thérèse Le Marié in St-Nicolas, 1709
Died in Quebec City
- 5. Thérèse Boucher** (1713-1797)
Born in ?
Married Clément Urbain Bisson in Ste-Foy, 1734
Died in ?
- 6. Elizabeth Bisson** (1735-1840)
Born in Ste-Foy, Quebec
Married Charles Tassé (born in Normandie) in Ste-Foy, 1753
Died in Laval
- 7. Joseph Amable Tassé** (1759-1832)
Born in Montreal
Married Marie-Josephte Forgues in Laval, 1784
Died in St-Eustache, Quebec
- 8. François Tassé** (1805-?)
Born in ?
Married Monique Lemet/Lemay in Rigaud, 1827
Died in ?
- 9. Marie-Barbe Tassé** (1839-1922)
Born in Montebello, Quebec
Married Félix Gauthier in Papineauville, 1860
Died in Papineauville
- 10. Eugène Gauthier** (1877-1951)
Born in Papineauville
Married Eugénie Barbeau in Ottawa, 1897
Died in Ottawa
- 11. Éliane Gauthier** (1898-1990)
Born in Ottawa
Married William John Pelot in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa
- 12. Joseph Lloyd Pelot**

* Based in part on Bilodeau, Bilodeau and Pelot;
supplemented by birth and death records.

PERHAPS LLOYD’S MOST FAMOUS ANCESTOR – one who did make the history books – was Abraham Martin (1589-1664), after whom the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City are named. We are not alone in this heritage; Abraham was no slouch on the reproductive front and some of his descendants spawned prodigious numbers of children.



Abraham Martin dit l'Écossais as portrayed by Quebec artist Charles Huot, 1908.

Born in France, Abraham Martin first arrived in Quebec in 1619, but returned to France when Sir David Kirke of the Company of Adventurers seized Quebec in 1629.³⁹ The invasion, under the aegis of the Thirty Year War between England and France, was hotly resisted by Samuel de Champlain. Champlain argued that the seizure of Quebec was illegal since a treaty between the two countries had already been signed. King Charles I of England eventually agreed and returned the lands to France in 1632.⁴⁰

Abraham Martin returned to Quebec in 1633 or 1634. A friend of Champlain's, Martin was granted land to clear and farm. There are many stories about how the Plains of Abraham got their name. According to the Canadian Government's National Battlefields Commission:

"The most probable explanation traces it back to Abraham Martin (1589-1664), a friend of Samuel de Champlain's, also known as Abraham the Scot, who came to New France around 1620. A pilot on the St. Lawrence and a high seas fisherman, he was apparently Canada's first 'Pilote du Roi.'

Accompanied by his wife, Marguerite Langlois, with whom he was to have nine children, he moved to Quebec City and in 1635 received 12 acres from the Company of New France. Ten years later he received an additional 20 acres as a gift from le Sieur Adrien Du Chesne, a Navy surgeon... (His property) was sold to the Ursulines a few years after his death."⁴¹

British and French military chroniclers, describing the famous 1759 battle where Wolfe and Montcalm both died, ensured that the promontory would be forever known as the Plains of Abraham. By the time possession of Canada passed from the French to the British, Abraham Martin was long dead and the land was no longer in the possession of his descendants, but the name stuck.

39 According to marginal notes on Gauthier-Tassé pedigree chart, see Bilodeau, Bilodeau and Pelot.

40 Moir, undated.

41 See <http://www.ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/en/>



Illustration of the Plains of Abraham during the battle between the French and the British in 1759. Engraving by Hervey Smyth, aide-de-camp of General Wolfe. (Library and Archives Canada, Reference No. C-139911)

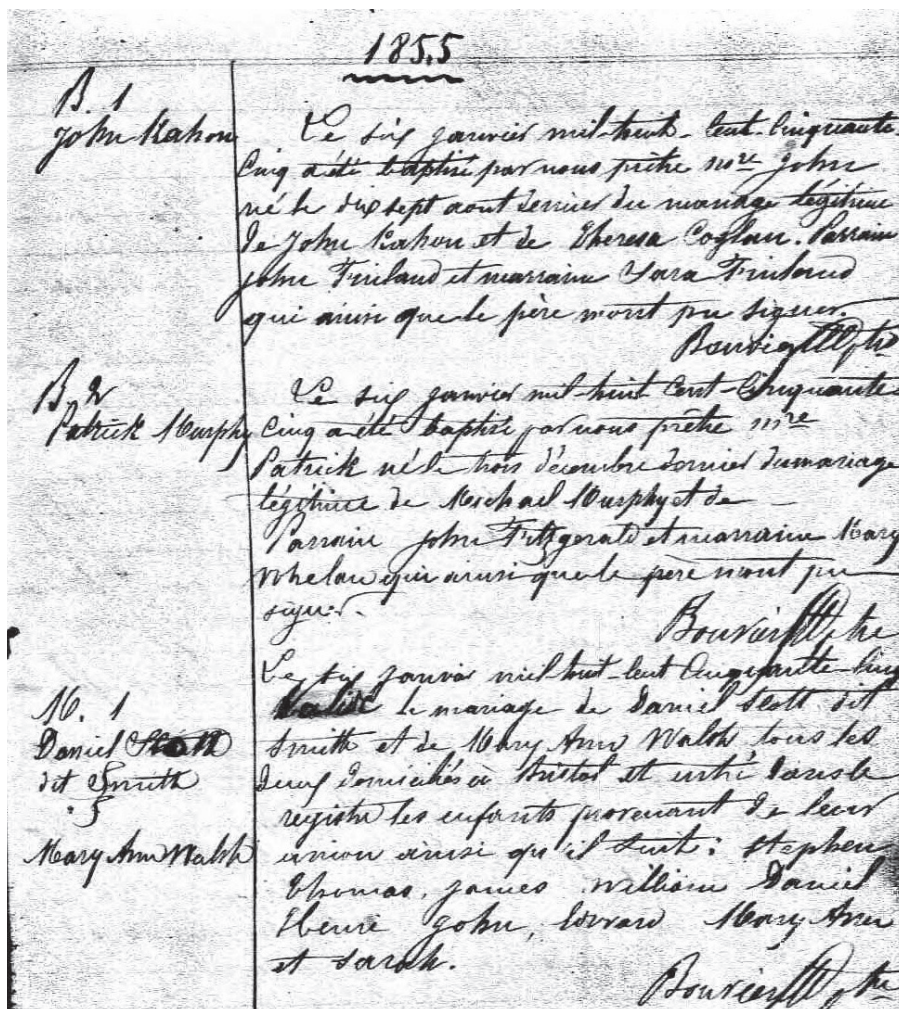
Line of descent from Abraham Martin dit l'Écossais to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

- 1. Abraham Martin dit l'Écossais (1589-1664)**
Born in France
Married Marguerite Langlois, c1620
1st trip to Quebec in 1619, 2nd trip in 1633-34
Died in Quebec
- 2. Marie Martin (1635-1699)**
Born in Quebec
Married Jean Cloutier in Quebec
Died in Château-Richer
- 3. Jean Cloutier (1652-1709)**
Born in Quebec
Married Louise Bélanger in Château-Richer, 1679
Died in Château-Richer
- 4. Joseph Cloutier (1681-?)**
Born in ?
Married Marguerite Lesot in Château-Richer, 1709
Died in ?
- 5. Elizabeth Cloutier (1716-1792)**
Born in Deschambault
Married Joseph Naud in Deschambault, 1743
Died in Deschambault
- 6. François Naud (1748-?)**
Born in ?
Married Marie-Joséphé Courtois in Deschambault, 1770
Died in ?
- 7. Pierre Nault**
Born in ?
Married Angélique Ducasse in St-Roch l'Achigan, 1805
Died in ?
- 8. Angélique Nault**
Born in ?
Married Augustin Gauthier in St-Roch l'Achigan, 1824
Died in ?
- 9. Félix Gauthier (1839-1922)**
Born in Papineauville
Married Marie-Barbe Tassé in Papineauville, 1860
Died in Papineauville
- 10. Eugène Gauthier (1877-1951)**
Born in Papineauville
Married Eugénie Barbeau in Ottawa, 1897
Died in Ottawa
- 11. Éliane Gauthier (1898-1990)**
Born in Ottawa
Married William John Pelot in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa
- 12. Joseph Lloyd Pelot**

OUR NEXT STORY concerns the United Empire Loyalists – settlers and militia who remained loyal to the British Crown at the time of the American War of Independence.

Daniel Smith is a central figure in our story. A great-great-grandfather of Lloyd's, he was born Daniel Scott in England c1793 and is now referred to as Daniel Scott *dit* Smith. He might have been a sailor. His early trajectory is not clear but, in 1813, he settled in Douglastown, Quebec, south of the present-day town of Gaspé.

Douglastown was founded in 1775 by the colonial government of Quebec to settle Empire Loyalists arriving from south of the border. Some were fleeing to Canada to escape reprisals. Others simply preferred to live under the British flag. The British Government rewarded their loyalty by providing land grants and provisions to help in their resettlement. Douglastown is proud of its history and offers quite a lot of cogent information about its origins on the Internet. From about 1790 to 1815, according to the Douglastown Historical Review, the population of Douglastown grew largely through inter-marriages of the children of a handful of founding families. One of these marriages was between Daniel Scott and Elizabeth Lehre, in 1815.



Marriage record of Daniel Scott dit Smith and Mary Ann Walsh, 1855, Portage-du-Fort. It states: "Le six janvier, mille huit cent cinquante-cinq. ... le mariage de Daniel Scott dit Smith et de Mary Ann Walsh, tous les deux domiciliés à Bristol et entré dans le registre les enfants provenant de leur union ainsi qu'il suit: Stephen, Thomas, James, William, Daniel, Henry, John, Edward, Mary Ann et Sarah."

Another was between Mary Kennedy (1772-1846) and the Irish-born Thomas Walsh (1771-1842). Among their children was Mary Ann Walsh (1809-1887) who would one day become Daniel Smith's second wife.

Daniel Scott and Elizabeth Lehre had five children. Daniel then left Douglastown with Mary Ann Walsh, possibly because she was pregnant. They moved to Bytown and lived as a married couple under the assumed name Smith. With a growing brood, they moved up the Ottawa Valley to Fitzroy, then crossed the Ottawa River to finally settle in Bristol Township, Pontiac County, Quebec.

The 1851 Census offers a snapshot of both their trajectory and their progeny. The Smith family was enumerated in Bristol: Daniel, age 60 and Mary, 43; three sons born in Bytown (Stephen, 22, Thomas, 20 and James, 18), a son and daughter born in Fitzroy (William, 16 and Mary Ann, 14) and five more children born in Bristol (Daniel, 12, Henry, 9, John, 6, Sarah, 4 and Edward, 2). Thus, they likely arrived in Bytown in 1829, moved on to Fitzroy in 1835 and finally settled in Bristol in 1839. Back in Douglastown, Elizabeth Lehre had died in 1849. In 1855, Daniel and Mary Ann finally married in Portage-du-Fort. Their ten children are listed in the marriage registry, reputedly all baptized on the same day their parents married.



Daniel Scott dit Smith and Mary Ann Walsh's grave in Bristol Township, Quebec.

After thirty years of farming in Bristol Township, Daniel Scott *dit* Smith died in 1870. In the 1871 Census, he is listed among the “persons who have died in the past 12 months,” at age seventy-eight (born c1793), birthplace England. The cause of death is recorded as “gravel,” a term used to describe kidney stones.

In the 1881 Census, Mary Ann Walsh was enumerated in the household of her eldest son, Stephen (as Mary Smith, age 72). Stephen was a farmer married to Alice who was English-born. By 1881, they had six children ranging in age from 20 to 9, all born in Quebec. Their eldest daughter, Sarah, was a school mistress. The 1881 Census included a question on ethnic origin. Mary Smith's roots are listed as Irish but Stephen's are English, presumably because his father was born in England.

Both Daniel Scott *dit* Smith and Mary Ann Walsh are buried in St. Edwards Cemetery on the Aylmer Road in Bristol Township. Pelot family lore has it that there are United Empire Loyalists in our background. While Daniel may or may not have been one himself, Mary Ann certainly was from Loyalist stock.

Line of descent from Daniel Scott dit Smith to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

1. **Daniel Scott *dit* Smith** (c1793-1870)
Born in England
Married Elizabeth Lehre in Douglastown, 1815; Mary Ann Walsh in Portage-du-Fort, 1855
Died in Bristol, Quebec
2. **James Henry Smith** (c1835-c1910)
Born in Bytown
Married Maria Jane Perrigo in Eganville, 1872
Died in Ottawa (?)
3. **Cecilia Jane Smith** (1875-1968)
Born in Ladysmith, Quebec
Married John Henry Pelot in Quyon, 1894
Died in Ottawa
4. **William John Pelot** (1900-1969)
Born in Quyon
Married Éliane Gauthier in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa
5. **Joseph Lloyd Pelot**



FAST-FORWARD ABOUT SIXTY YEARS from the American War of Independence to the Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada, led by William Lyon Mackenzie.

Emily Ellen Willson, June's great-grandmother, often told of "Richard Graham and Mr. Stiles" being captured in the home of her father, Hugh Henry Willson, during the Rebellion of 1837.⁴² Emily was only about seventeen at the time and the incident evidently stuck in her mind.

The Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 took shape and gained momentum in the area north of Toronto, which was home to the Flanagans, Willsons and Spragues in June's ancestry. None of her direct ancestors were leaders of either the Rebellion or its suppression, but a close relative played a part and was an articulate chronicler: Richard Titus Willson. He was the brother of Hugh Henry Willson, June's great-great-grandfather.

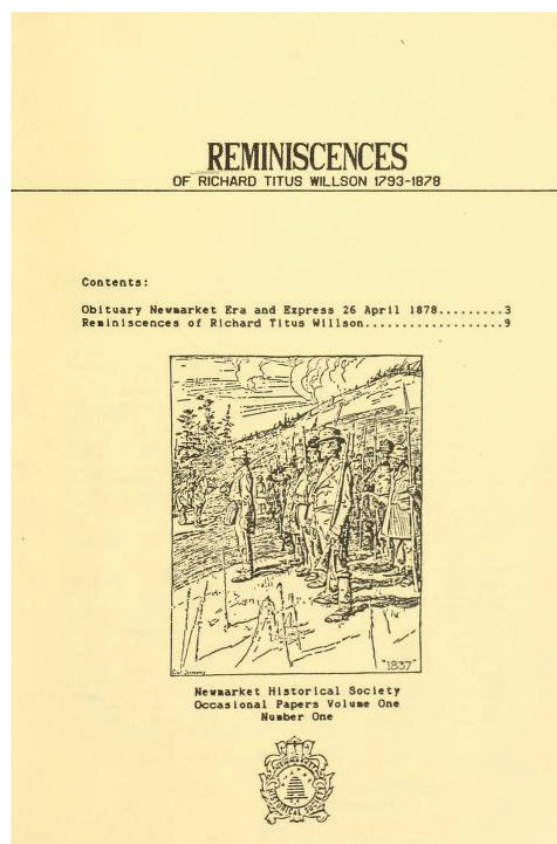
42 As recounted in her obituary, *Newmarket Era*, February 2, 1918.

Richard Titus, a Tory loyal to the Government, squarely opposed the rebels. It's likely that sympathies within his family were divided. David Willson, founder of the Children of Peace, was Richard Titus' uncle. Richard's own brother, Hugh Henry, was an Elder of the Christian Church. David and Hugh Henry may have supported at least the aims of the Rebellion (though not the use of violence).

The Reform Movement began in the 1830s to promote a more participatory form of government in Upper Canada, now Ontario. A parallel movement occurred in Lower Canada, now Quebec. Although an elected Parliament existed, virtually all political decisions were in the hands of a small elite known as the Family Compact. When attempts to shift power away from the Family Compact by peaceful means failed, a radical plan took form to seize power by force. In Upper Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie was the central figure among the radicals in the Reform movement. He advocated armed action and US-style republicanism. Local "political unions" formed throughout Upper Canada, to express the popular will for change, but rarely did these unions support the use of violence.

The focus of the Mackenzie uprising was Toronto. Mackenzie led a group of poorly-armed rebels from the north towards Toronto but the British Army, with the support of those loyal to it, defeated the rebels. During the skirmish, two people were killed, one on each side. After the uprising was quashed, Mackenzie and other rebel leaders fled to the United States but two of the leaders, Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews, were caught and hung. The short-lived rebellion gave way to a gradual, non-violent approach to effecting political change in Ontario. It demonstrated to the British the will and readiness of the settlers to assume self-government, setting the stage for Confederation.⁴³

Richard Titus Willson's memoirs described the trajectory of the Willson family from England to Ireland, to the United States and finally to Ontario. He also offered a personal account of the Rebellion of 1837. When the uprising occurred, Richard was in East Gwillimbury and saw groups of men on the



Front cover of the memoirs of Richard Titus Willson, reprinted by the Newmarket Historical Society.

43 Read and Stagg, 1985.

march. Passion was seemingly in greater supply than order and organization. Finding someone who confirmed that the men were on their way to Toronto, he was told that they were planning to “take Toronto, rob the bank, hang the Governor, and when they come back they will hang you.” Undeterred, Willson, a Lieutenant in the British Army, tried to rally some men to go to Toronto in support of the government, including his brother John. John’s wife disapproved and threatened to shoot her brother-in-law. Richard eventually succeeded in collecting a small group of poorly-armed men to march on Toronto but the Rebellion had fizzled out. He did help to round up and guard the rebel prisoners.⁴⁴

The incident recalled by Emily Willson, daughter of Hugh Henry Willson, and recounted in her obituary, was of her father sheltering two rebels, named Graham and Stiles. They were taken prisoner but her father was not, as he was a “peaceful man.”

Line of descent from Hugh Henry Willson to June Aileen Flanagan

- 1. Hugh Henry Willson (1803-1871)**
Born on Wolfe Island, Ontario
Married Sarah Wilson (?), in East Gwillimbury, Ontario, 1821
Died in North Gwillimbury Township, York County, Ontario
- 2. Emily Ellen Willson (1820-1918)**
Born in York County, Ontario
Married John Tomlinson Everingham (1814-1904), 1851
Died in Newmarket, Ontario
- 3. Mary Ann Everingham (1853-1948)**
Born in North Gwillimbury Township
Married David Frederick Sprague (1839-1925) in Queensville, 1881
Died in Elgin Mills, Ontario
- 4. Nora Alberta Sprague (1888-1985)**
Born in Newmarket
Married Peter Francis Flanagan (1882-1952) in Newmarket, 1906
Died in Ottawa
- 5. June Aileen Flanagan**



44 Willson, 1946.

Family Patriots in Two World Wars

Lloyd and June both had close relatives who served in the First or the Second World War. Lloyd's father and grandfather joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War One. June's uncles Fred and Ed Sprague served in World War One and Fred also served in World War Two, along with June's brothers, Roy and Eddie Flanagan. The war experiences of the Pelots were meticulously researched by Lloyd's brother, Gerard Pelot. Beyond the family sources, Library and Archives Canada offers a wealth of data to round out the picture.



WHEN CANADA entered the First World War, John Henry Pelot and his son William John Pelot signed up for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. John Henry, age forty-three, soon rose to the rank of sergeant.

William John, age fifteen at the time he signed up, necessarily lied about his age. It seems he chose to “lie big” – his attestation paper gives his year of birth as 1887 rather than 1900, making him twenty-eight years old and a mere fifteen years younger than his father. Given that Cecilia Pelot was listed as mother and wife on their respective attestation papers, someone was clearly looking the other way or, at the very least, not very good at math.

World War One recruitment poster aimed at forestry workers.





Fire on Parliament Hill in 1916 in which seven people died. William John Pelot was among the Army recruits called in to assist that night. Published in the New York Times, February 13, 1916, photographer unknown.

During their training over the winter of 1915-1916, they were in barracks, first at Rockcliffe Camp, then in downtown Ottawa. They were close at hand when fire broke out on Parliament Hill on the night of February 3, 1916, and Private William John Pelot was among seventy recruits who assisted police and firemen. The Centre Block was completely consumed and seven people died in the blaze.⁴⁵

The Pelots were drafted into the newly-formed 224th Canadian Forestry Battalion, possibly because of John Henry's bush camp and lumberyard experience. They sailed for England in April 1916. They made their way to Devon, where they felled and processed trees to support the war effort.

During the months they spent in England, they were invited to a fête at Bovey Tracey, a



John Henry Pelot and his son William John Pelot signed up for the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

⁴⁵ Pelot, 1991.



John Henry Pelot competing in a log-rolling contest (and winning) at a fundraiser at Bovey Lacey, Devon, England, near the Canadian forestry battalion base, 1916.

stately manor, where the objective was to raise money for local hospitals. There were several competitions including log chopping, rolling and carrying. The Canadians excelled, in particular the Pelots! A photo of the log-rolling contest, a water event, shows John Henry in a bathing suit, looking extremely fit and confident.

In April 1917, the 29th Company of foresters was formed, including the Pelots, and sent to northeastern France because German submarines in the English Channel were threatening the lumber supply line. The logging operations continued not far from enemy lines. Their arrival in France occurred just days after the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which Canadian troops captured from the Germans, though at the cost of thousands of Canadian lives.

They continued forestry operations in France until a few months after the end of the war, when they were sent to the United Kingdom. The Pelots were among 17,400 Canadian troops assembled in Kinnel Park Army Camp, North Wales, to await transport back to Canada.

What should have been happy and optimistic times turned out to be nothing of the sort. Over two hundred Canadian soldiers died in the 1919 influenza outbreak. Delays in sending troops home occurred because of lack of transport. These delays, plus squalid living conditions in camp and poor communications, triggered a riot on March 4, 1919. In the violence, five Canadians were killed and twenty-eight wounded.⁴⁶ William John witnessed this conflict and recalled details vividly years later.⁴⁷

The Pelots returned to Canada in March 1919. In all, 31,000 lumbermen served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, providing seventy percent of the lumber used by the Allies on the Western Front. The father and son team had stayed together through three years of war – almost to the end. William John sailed home from Liverpool to Halifax on the S.S. Cretic, departing March 13, 1919 and arriving March 22, 1919. John Henry sailed on

⁴⁶ Leroux, 2010.

⁴⁷ Pelot, 1991.

the H.M.T. Royal George, departing March 15, 1919 and arriving March 25, 1919.⁴⁸ They must have made the last leg of their trip, from Halifax to Ottawa, together. As Gerard Pelot wrote: “Spirits were high as the train rolled rapidly westward and, as the train drew into Union Station, the cheering crowds gave the survivors of four years of hellish war a heart-warming reception. Sergeant John and Private John rushed into the waiting arms of wife and mother Cecilia and the rest of the family, Agatha, Muriel, Lloyd, Cecilia and Viola.”⁴⁹



ON JUNE’S SIDE OF THE FAMILY, two uncles served in World War One, both brothers of June’s mother Nora.

Frederick Alexander Sprague was a civil engineer when he signed up in March 1915. Born in 1884, he was thirty-one at the time.⁵⁰ He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles (by then no longer mounted). He signed up as a private, spent a full four years overseas and returned a lieutenant.

In 1916, a letter to his mother was published in the *Newmarket Era*. The letter was dated October 13, when the Canadian troops were engaged in the Battle of the Somme, which lasted from July to November. The tone of the letter reflected the growing awareness among the Allies, the Germans and the Canadians themselves that Canadian troops were a force to be reckoned with on the battlefield. Fred was especially proud of his battalion. He was also proud of the Canadian troops in general, who provided First Aid to wounded Germans taken prisoner. But he bemoaned the state of some of the French villages they arrived in, as nothing was left, “these towns exist only in name.”⁵¹

Frederick Alexander Sprague was awarded the Military Cross in 1918. The commendation: “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He successfully led a raid into enemy trenches and cleaned them up, bringing back valuable identifications as to enemy killed. Previous to this, he had led three reconnaissance patrols, which enabled him to find gaps in the wire through which he led his raiders. He did fine work.”⁵²

Frederick married a Scottish woman, Christiana Liddle, in Richmond Hill, Ontario, year unknown. They had a son, Richard Alexander Sprague, who sadly died in 1929 shortly before his third birthday.

48 Library and Archives Canada, service records of John Pelot and John H. Pelot.

49 Pelot, 1991.

50 Attestation paper, Library and Archives Canada, Soldiers of the First World War – Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), Registration No. 107547. The attestation paper states his year of birth as 1886, but according to his birth record, it was 1884.

51 *Newmarket Era*, November 17, 1916.

52 Library and Archives Canada, L.C.30901, September 16, 1918.



Captain Frederick Alexander Sprague, front row, third from left. Scout Section, Second Canadian Mounted Rifles, France.

In World War II, Fred became a captain and served as an adjutant aboard ships transporting troops across the Atlantic. Based in Halifax, he made twenty-eight crossings of the Atlantic on troop transport ships. He was discharged in 1944. An interview conducted at the time of his discharge stated that he was physically fit and his age was “the only limiting factor.” The interview notes describe him as a pleasant officer, looking younger than his sixty years. There were positive comments on his intelligence, organizational skills and outdoor work experience. He was recommended to support the rehabilitation efforts aimed at returning soldiers.

During World War II, Christiana lived on O’Connor Street in Ottawa with June and her parents. June had fond memories of her Aunt Chris. After the war, Fred and Chris lived in Toronto for a while, then moved to Little Rock, British Columbia where they lived out their lives. Frederick Alexander Sprague died there in 1959 and Christiana Sprague in 1968.



Fred's younger brother, David Edward (Ed) Sprague, had a very different war experience. When he signed up for World War I in May 1916, he was a twenty-four year old photographer working in Edmonton.⁵³ His attestation paper states his date of birth as February 3, 1893 but his birth record shows it as one year earlier.⁵⁴

He served initially with the 202nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which drew its numbers from around Edmonton. He sailed to Liverpool from Halifax in November 1916 aboard the *Mauritania*. In May 1917, he was transferred to the 31st Battalion, also of Alberta origins.

He served in France for ten weeks and was severely wounded in Avion on July 8, 1917. He was hit in the right arm and shoulder by shrapnel, where it lodged, fracturing his humerus. Edward was admitted to the British Red Cross Hospital in Calais, and placed on the dangerously ill list. He spent three weeks there battling infection. He gradually improved, to the point where he could be shifted out of critical care. He began a long convalescence, transferring to three more hospitals and simultaneously making his way north. In April 1918, he was admitted to No.15 Canadian General Hospital in Liverpool, ten months after he was wounded.

He was invalided back to Canada in May, 1918, sailing from Avonmouth to Halifax on the *Acaguaya*. David Edward Sprague was discharged from the Army on July 27, 1918 as "medically unfit for further service on account of wounds received in action."⁵⁵ His conduct and character while in service were deemed "very good." At the time of his discharge, he had very limited use of his right arm, which was expected to interfere with the resumption of his pre-war career as a photographer.



June and her Uncle Ed c1935.

53 Library and Archives Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, Attestation Paper No. 23156.

54 Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1913.

55 Information drawn from David Edward Sprague's service file, Library and Archives Canada.

June recalled that her Uncle Ed's war injuries resulted in part from a gas attack but the focus in his service file is entirely on the "GSW" (gunshot wound) and its consequences.

After the war, Ed married Ida Belle Crampton. Born in Innisville, Ontario to Benjamin Crampton (1846-1930) and Elizabeth Wright (1845-1933), Ida trained as a nurse. Her birth record gives her year of birth as 1876 but, according to the Canadian Great War Project (an on-line database dedicated to men and women who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force), she was born in 1883, age thirty-two when she enlisted in 1916. At that time she was living in Quebec City and had been working in the Quebec Military Hospital for fifteen months.

In July 1917, she was posted to No. 15 Canadian General Hospital in Liverpool, where Ed would eventually be sent to finish recuperating from his wounds. Although we don't have proof, their paths may well have crossed there.

Be that as it may, Ida did not return to Canada until September 1919, some sixteen months after Ed. Somehow, they got together and married. We don't know when or where they were married but, thanks to a tiny yellowed clipping that survived in the family for a good ninety years, we know what Ida wore to her wedding: "... a suit of Elizabeth blue with hat to match and navy accessories."

They settled in Elgin Mills, in North York and their names appear on voters' lists there between 1945 and 1968. Although the information on voters' lists is sparse, we learn that Edward worked as an engraver and also that his mother, Mary Ann (Everingham) Sprague lived with them after her husband Fred's death.⁵⁶ Both Ida and Ed are buried in Newmarket; Ida died in 1970 and Edward in 1986.

Ida Crampton was related to the Pelots as well as the Spragues through marriage. Her younger brother, George Charles Crampton (1886-1977) had a son, John Charles Crampton (1925-1997) who married Patricia Blackburn (1923-2013). Patricia Blackburn was the daughter of James George Blackburn (1891-1965) and Muriel Ellen Pelot (1897-1978). Muriel was the older sister of Lloyd's father, William John Pelot. To state it as succinctly as possible: Ida's nephew, John Crampton, married Lloyd's first cousin, Patricia Blackburn.



⁵⁶ 1949 Voters List; also 1968 Voters List, but by then David Edward was retired.

JUNE HAD THREE BROTHERS all potentially of an age to serve in World War II. Jack, born in 1910, had respiratory health issues that prevented him from enlisting. Her other two brothers did serve. Edward signed up for the Governor General's Footguards. Roy joined the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Edward "Eddie" George Flanagan was born in Queensville in 1921 and was about age seven when his parents moved to Ottawa. He completed elementary school and two years of secondary; when he enlisted, he was working as a lawyer's clerk in the office of Hill, Hill and Hill. It was 1941 and he was nineteen years old.

Eddie joined the 21st Regiment of the Canadian Armoured Corps (Governor General's Footguards).⁵⁷ He received his military training in Sussex, New Brunswick, where he completed infantry and gunnery training, interspersed with a couple of bouts of absence without leave and its consequences, loss of pay and even detention. The motivation for these absences may have been boredom or simply poor planning rather than alienation or fear. Eddie's letters home made it clear he was determined to serve overseas. He crossed the Atlantic in late September, 1942. Before embarking in Halifax, he had dinner with his Uncle Fred (Frederick Alexander Sprague) and Aunt Chris. In fact Fred and Eddie were on the same ship, one as adjutant, the other as a trooper.

While training as a tank co-driver in the south of England, Eddie ran into a bit of trouble by punching a Special Constable of the Somerset Constabulary, which earned him ninety days' detention, though through good behaviour he



*June's brothers, Eddie and Roy,
World War II.*

57 His service number was C58855. The information that follows was drawn from Eddie's military file at LAC, supplemented by letters from Eddie to his parents and sister June.

only served sixty. While serving that sentence, he was stricken by appendicitis and moved to hospital for an appendectomy.

He was released from hospital in August 1943 and after further training sailed for France in June 1944. He served almost seven weeks as a tank co-driver and gunner before being killed in action on July 26, 1944, in Verrières, southwest of Paris.⁵⁸ He was twenty-three at the time. He was buried in a cemetery on the road between Caen and Falaise, in northwest France. He was later reburied in a nearby Canadian military cemetery at Bretteville-sur-Laize. Documents sent to Eddie's mother Nora, as well as correspondence between her and a French couple who "adopted" the grave, identify the location as Grave 2, Row C, Plot 3.

In 1950, Nora was awarded the Memorial Cross. Also known as Silver Cross, it was granted to the wife or mother of Canadian Armed Forces personnel who died in the line of duty.⁵⁹

Eddie served a total of 946 days, of which 602 (roughly twenty months) were overseas, and was awarded several medals: the 1939-1945 Star, for service in active operations of six months or more; the France and Germany Star, for service of one day or more in France, Belgium or Holland between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945; the Defense Medal, for six months service in Britain between September 3, 1939 and May 8, 1945; the War Medal, awarded to all full-time personnel for serving twenty-eight days between September 3, 1939 and September 2, 1945; and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, for voluntary service on active duty.⁶⁰



JUNE'S OTHER BROTHER, Roy Francis Flanagan, was twenty-one when World War II broke out. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and worked as an aircraft engineer overseas. He attempted to qualify as air crew but was not successful.

Roy did not write as many letters home as Eddie did, or at least not as many were found among those kept by June. Being older than Eddie, it is perhaps not surprising that his letters had a more sophisticated tone.

He served fifty-five months as an aero-engine mechanic, of which forty-two months were overseas. He was promoted to corporal and the highest trade level.

Roy and Eddie saw little of each other in the United Kingdom, though they did manage to meet up once while both were on leave. An Ottawa paper ran side-by-side portraits of the

58 Location according to memorial notices published in newspapers by Eddie's family in later years.

59 Registration Number 9638.

60 Library and Archives Canada, File Number 405-F-11844.

pair with a short story on their meeting after not having seen each other for more than a year.

Roy returned to Ottawa after the war. According to his discharge interview, he was quiet and sincere, with a good appearance, and was expected to do well in a mechanical field involving responsibility and contact with the public. His intention was to open a service station, possibly in partnership with his brother-in-law, John Arthur Pratt, in Montreal. But life unfolded differently for him; he married Edna Morel and worked at a desk job in Ottawa. He died young: Roy and Edna had just bought an apartment on Meadowlands Drive in Ottawa. He collapsed at home and died in hospital shortly thereafter from an aneurysm at age fifty-one.



Moving off the Farm

Many of Lloyd and June's ancestors were farmers. Lloyd's forebears laboured mainly in the fields of West Quebec while June's were centred in York County, Ontario.

Farm families were typically large and the offspring could not all be sustained indefinitely on the farm. They frequently branched out into other lines of work, running the gamut from innkeeper, shoemaker and professional musician to pastor, nun and nurse. Some of their stories follow.



JUNE'S GREAT-UNCLES, Peter Joseph Flanagan and Thomas Flanagan, were hotel owners in York County, Ontario. Their comings and goings were routinely chronicled in the Newmarket Era. Profiles of their innkeeping roles also appear in the Census, the 1878 County Atlas of Ontario and Lovell's Ontario Business Directory for 1882.

Hotels became very important in Ontario in the 19th century as frontier roads opened up and travellers sought places to stay and to shelter their horses. The hotels were also critical to market towns and their hinterland. An important part of the hotel trade was to accommodate farmers bringing goods to market.

In 1871, twenty-four year old Peter Joseph (PJ) Flanagan and twenty-one year old Thomas Flanagan were already innkeepers in King Township, Ontario.⁶¹ By 1878, Thomas owned the Queen's Hotel in Queensville and PJ owned Mansion House in Sharon.⁶² The proprietorship of the Queen's Hotel changed hands between the brothers; in July 1885, the Queensville hotel "owned by Mr. P.J. Flanagan" burned to the ground in a fire caused by lightning.⁶³

61 1871 Census of Canada

62 McGill University, 2001.

63 Newmarket Era, July 10, 1885 reported: "About 11 o'clock on Monday night another heavy thunderstorm passed over the Town, the sharp flashes of lightning and loud claps of thunder sending terror to the hearts of the timid. ...The hotel and stable at Queensville, owned by Mr. P.J. Flanagan and occupied by Mr. Geo. Randall, were entirely consumed, with nearly all the contents. The inmates had all retired and barely had time to escape with necessary clothing. "Green Mountain Morgan" was the only stock in the stable at the time and fortunately it was got out, but Mr. Randall's loss is considerable as the furniture removed was badly damaged and he was without insurance. Mr. Flanagan's loss is also heavy..."



The Union Hotel and innkeeper's lodge, now designated as heritage properties, Newmarket, Ontario. Many thanks to photographer Susie Kockerscheldt and www.yorkregion.com.

Eventually, the brothers moved their trade to the larger town of Newmarket, Ontario. In 1882, PJ owned the Union Hotel in Newmarket. The hotel and its companion innkeeper's lodge are still standing and have been designated as heritage properties.⁶⁴ In 1897, PJ bought the Eagle Hotel, also in Newmarket.⁶⁵

But PJ possessed a spirit of adventure and, interspersed with these business dealings in Ontario, he travelled west to Manitoba and Saskatchewan several times to open frontier hotels.

He died a prosperous man in 1910 in Melfort, Saskatchewan, about ninety-five kilometres southeast of Prince Albert. His remains were brought back to Newmarket by train.⁶⁶ Nearly



Closer view of the Union Hotel. Many thanks to the Newmarket Historical Society.

64 Information obtained from Ron Pilfrey, Secretary, Newmarket Historical Society.

65 Newmarket Era, April 2 and June 4, 1897.

66 Newmarket Era, December 2, 1910.



Newmarket, 1918. The Eagle Hotel is possibly the large white building in the upper left corner. It was demolished in 1927. Many thanks to the Newmarket Historical Society.

two years later, the *Newmarket Era* reported on the disposition of his estate. It was valued at over \$30,000, the most valuable part being real estate (including land and a hotel) in Melfort. His posthumous priorities were seemingly to finance a priest in Prince Albert to say masses for the repose of his soul, and to direct his wife Eleanor to manage the Melfort hotel until it could be sold.⁶⁷

Eleanor went on to run the Eagle Hotel in Newmarket, where she made the news in 1915, in a high-profile court case. Despite a “spirited defence,” she was fined \$100 for selling liquor during Prohibition.⁶⁸ It is also interesting that Eleanor rather than one of their nine or more children took over running the hotels after PJ’s death.

PJ’s brother Thomas was not as inclined to roam. He built the sixteen-bedroom Dominion House Hotel in Newmarket in the late 1880s and ran it until 1903. Thomas married Hannah White in 1875. Like Eleanor, Hannah became an active partner in the business; her name appears on applications for liquor licenses for several years.

⁶⁷ *Newmarket Era*, August 19, 1912.

⁶⁸ *Newmarket Era*, March 5, 1915, article entitled *Cleaning Up the Town*.

The Dominion House was the scene of a drama in 1889, when \$200 was stolen from Thomas' bedroom while the family was eating breakfast. As reported in the *Newmarket Era* of March 24, "Constable Savage was at once notified and he suspected a couple of tramp painters who were decorating shop windows and boarding at the hotel." The resourceful constable discovered that the culprits had boarded a train for Orillia and he wired ahead to have them detained at the Barrie station stop. He took the next freight train to Barrie to collect the thieves and bring them back to justice.

Thomas sold the Dominion House Hotel in 1903, three years after Hannah's death. The *Newmarket Era* of July 3 carried a story about Thomas Flanagan selling a hotel and its contents; a desk was inadvertently sold before Thomas had removed his papers. The story offers no explanation for the apparent haste of the transaction. The building, located on the west side of Main Street, still exists and currently houses an interior design business and a beauty salon.⁶⁹

Other hoteliers in the family:

- Félix-Augustin Gauthier (1865-1939) owned the Hôtel Impérial in Gatineau (Hull). He was Lloyd's great-uncle.
- David Ramsden (c1800-after 1881) was an innkeeper in King Township, York County, according to the 1861 Census. Later censuses show his occupation as farmer. He may have been June's great-grandfather, as discussed in Chapter X.
- Lloyd's great-great-grandfather, James Perrigo (c1800-?) was a woodsman in the lumber trade on the Bonnechere River in Renfrew County, Ontario. He also ran an inn or tavern.⁷⁰
- Lloyd's great-great-great-uncle, Samuel Sunstrum built a hotel in Golden Lake circa 1860. The Sunstrum family ran the hotel for over forty years. The building is still standing.⁷¹



LLOYD'S GRANDFATHER Eugène Gauthier made his living as a shoemaker and a musician. Eugène grew up on a farm just north of Papineauville, Quebec. He was at the tail end of a gaggle of ten children raised by Félix Gauthier and Marie-Barbe Tassé.

Eugène moved to Ottawa at age eighteen to apprentice as a shoemaker, a profession he chose because he had club feet and suffered severely from ill-fitting shoes. By learning

69 Information obtained from Ron Pilfrey, Secretary, Newmarket Historical Society.

70 Bennett, 1991.

71 Eganville Leader, 2002.



Eugène Gauthier was buried in the Gauthier family plot, Notre-Dame Cemetery, Ottawa.

how to make shoes, he reckoned he could alleviate his own misery as well as the misery of others.

He boarded with the Barbeau family in Lebreton Flats and eventually married the youngest of three daughters in that household, Eugénie Barbeau.⁷² Eugénie had attended the only French girls' secondary school in Ottawa, run by nuns on Sussex Street near Rideau Street. She obtained her teaching certificate and taught school for three years before her marriage.

By all accounts, Eugène was a very meticulous man with high standards of workmanship. He cared far more about the quality of his product than about the bottom line and his business acumen was unfortunately less than stellar. He managed to progress from a shoe repair shop in Rochesterville (near present-day Booth and Gladstone) to a retail boot and shoe shop on Rideau Street, which

he opened in 1907. The shop was on the route that Sir Wilfrid Laurier travelled from his home on (what is now) Laurier Avenue to Parliament Hill. Lloyd's mother Éliane recalled that Sir Wilfrid sometimes stopped to chat with her father.

Eugène went bankrupt c1910 and the family moved back to Rochesterville. Eugène operated a shoe repair shop on Somerset Street at the corner of Rochester and, at night, he played the violin at theatres in Hull.

Eugène and his daughter Éliane also played every Saturday night at the home of a lively French family, the Tapps of Lowertown. The Tapps held weekly dances for their family and friends. For a fee of \$5, father and daughter played from 8:00 PM to midnight. Then, as a matter of course, the guests passed the hat to collect coins to keep the music going, sometimes until 6:00 in the morning. Afterwards, Eugène and Éliane would head straight to the Basilica to attend early morning mass on the way home.

For health reasons, Eugène changed occupations in favour of less physically-demanding work. With some coaching by his wife and daughter Marie-Antoinette – both trained

72 Pelot, 1985.

teachers – he passed the federal government entrance exam in 1910. According to Marie-Antoinette, he had a natural aptitude for arithmetic. He became a confidential messenger for the Department of Public Works. The family, now eligible for government-subsidized housing, moved to 107 St. Patrick Street. He retired in 1945, at age sixty-eight.⁷³

Other shoemakers in the family:

- John Tomlinson Everingham, June's great-grandfather, brought his craft to Canada from Leeds, England.
- Charles O'Donnell, Lloyd's great-great-grandfather, plied his trade in Liverpool, England.



HUGH HENRY WILLSON, June's great-great-grandfather, was a pastor of the Christian Church.

The Willson family traces its roots back to Norman times, travelling from France to England with William the Conqueror. In the 17th century, our branch of the family moved to Ireland to become linen merchants in County Antrim.⁷⁴

Sometime between 1768 and 1775, our ancestor John Willson emigrated from Ireland to New York State. He settled in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. John was a widower with two young sons who were temporarily cared for by an uncle back in Ireland. Once John got himself established as a farmer, he sent for his sons to join him. John remarried and had several more children.

When John Willson died, the care of the family farm passed into the hands of his Irish-born son, Hugh L. Willson (1768-1828). He would have been about twenty-seven at the time. Hugh married Mary Titus (1768-1857) in 1790. She was the daughter of a blacksmith and Quaker minister. They were wed in Nine, Dutchess County, New York.

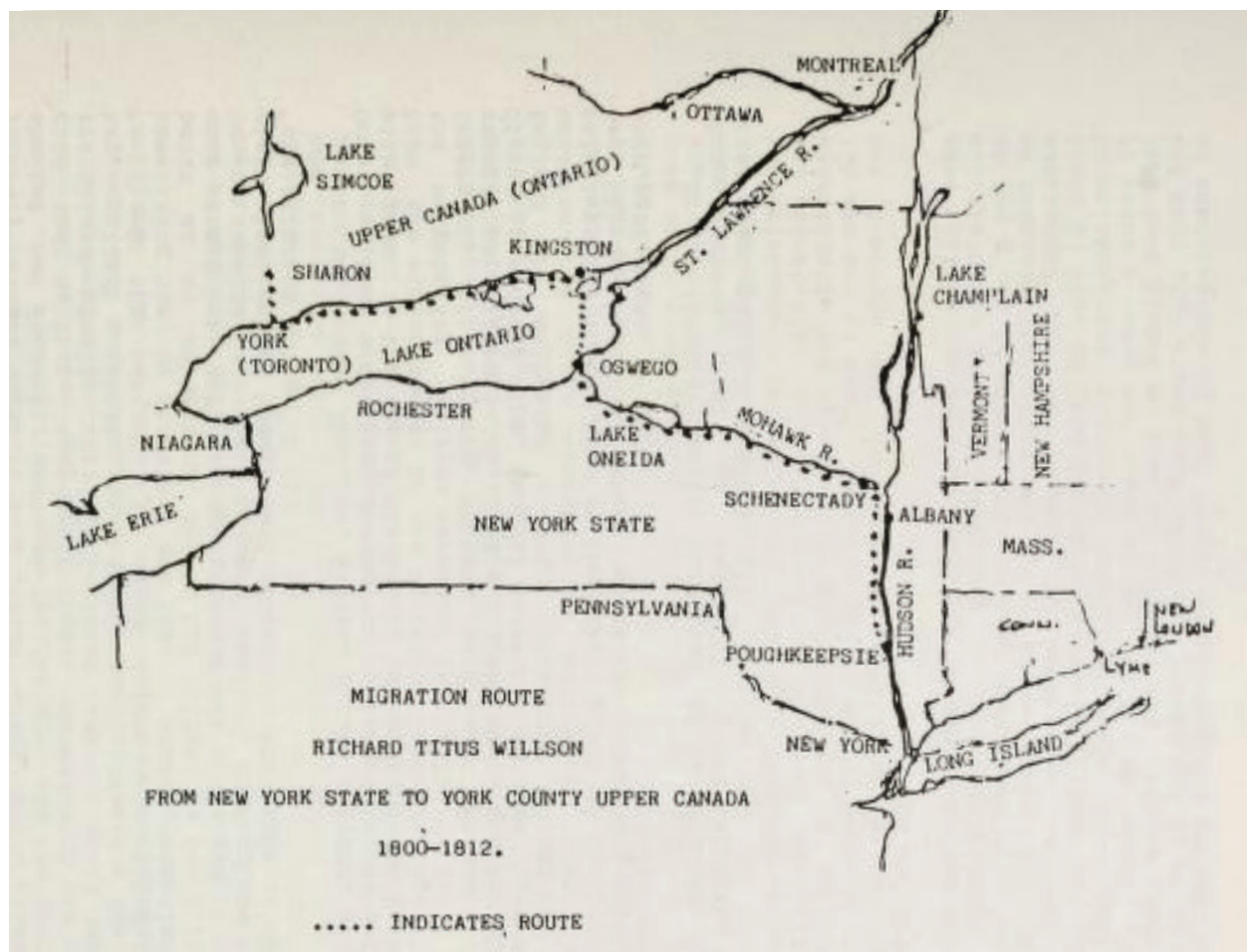
Hugh L. Willson and Mary Titus moved to Canada in 1800, preferring British rule to American independence. After a voyage full of danger and privations, they settled on Wolfe Island in Lake Ontario. Located some three kilometres offshore from Kingston, life on Wolfe Island must have seemed very isolated.

Hugh and Mary raised twelve children. Their second child, Richard Titus Willson (1793-1878), published his reminiscences, providing insights into his family's history.⁷⁵ Their eighth child, Hugh Henry (1803-1871), was June's direct ancestor. He was born on Wolfe Island.

⁷³ Pelot, 1990.

⁷⁴ Many of the details are drawn from the Genealogy and Resources section of <http://www.sharontemple.ca/>

⁷⁵ Willson, 1946.



Trajectory of Willson family from New York State to York County via Wolfe Island, where Hugh Henry Willson, June's great-great-grandfather, was born. From the memoirs of Richard Titus Willson.

In 1810, the family moved again, this time to a farm in East Gwillimbury, close to the Temple of the Children of Peace in Sharon, York County. The Children of Peace were a cult that broke away from the Quakers. Their founder was David Willson, June's great-great-great-uncle. Their church and outer buildings are architectural wonders, now a national historic site.

Against this backdrop, with a mother raised as a Quaker and an uncle across the road leading a religious community, it may not be too surprising that Hugh Henry Willson became a man of the cloth. He joined and in fact pioneered the Christian Church in Ontario, serving as its first settled pastor.⁷⁶

Hugh Henry Willson married Sarah Ann (1801-1887), whose maiden name may also have been Willson or possibly Wilton, in 1821. They had at least nine children, among them,

⁷⁶ Luck, 1957.

Emily Ellen Willson (1820-1918), who in turn married John Tomlinson Everingham and gave birth to June's grandmother, Mary Ann Everingham.

Hugh Henry Willson died of bronchitis at age 58. When her husband died, Sarah travelled to Michigan to live with a daughter.

Others in the family who took up religious occupations:

- Reverend Herbert Laurence Troyer, who married June's aunt Emily Sprague, was associated with the Toronto Bible College.
- Jean Smith (1918-2000), daughter of Lloyd's great-uncle Stephen Smith (the brother of Lloyd's grandmother Cecilia), entered the Congregation of Notre-Dame and eventually became the principal of Notre-Dame High School in Toronto.
- Alice Hurtubise (1903-1944) was a grand-daughter of Félix Gauthier, as was Lloyd's mother Éliane. She joined the Grey Nuns and rose to the station of Sister Superior at the convent in Alfred, Ontario.



LLOYD'S GRANDMOTHER, Cecilia Jane Smith (1875-1968), was born in Ladysmith, Pontiac County, Quebec. From a rather impoverished youth, she had managed by age sixteen to obtain training and experience that would launch her on a career in nursing.

After moving to Ottawa around 1910, she completed her training at the General Hospital. She found and bought a house in Billings Bridge that would become the Pelot homestead. Cecilia became a midwife serving Billings Bridge and the surrounding rural community for thirty-five years, travelling to homes by horse and sleigh or buggy.⁷⁷

Other nurses in the family:

- Emily Ellen Sprague (1883-?) was June's aunt, the eldest of her mother Nora's siblings. Emily trained as a nurse in Toronto and worked for a year in the Mission Hospital in Wakaw, Saskatchewan.⁷⁸ Wakaw is near Prince Albert and, according to the online Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan, a hospital was built close by Wakaw Lake in 1906. Emily married Herbert Laurence Troyer in 1911 in Toronto.
- Ida Belle Crampton (c1883-1970) joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I and served in a hospital in England. After the war, she married David Edward Sprague who was severely wounded in France and spent time recuperating in England before being invalided back to Canada. They may have met in England.

⁷⁷ Pelot, 1998.

⁷⁸ Newmarket Era, September 30, 1910.

Deep Roots

In 1629, twenty-year-old William Sprague boarded a ship in England bound for Massachusetts. His destination suited him, so he stayed, married and started a Sprague dynasty. Nine generations later, Nora Sprague, June's mother, was born.

Less than thirty years after William left England, fourteen-year-old Joseph-Élie Gauthier set sail from France to Quebec and eventually started his own dynasty. By one of those quirks of fate, nine generations later, Lloyd's mother Éliane Gauthier was born.

Nora and Éliane could lay claim to vastly different cultural backgrounds but they shared a couple of fundamental traits. Both were women of noted strength of character. And both had very long patrilineal taproots anchored in North American soil.



(Left) June's mother, Nora Sprague, about age two, c1890 and (right) Lloyd's mother, Éliane Gauthier, age one, 1899.



ÉLIANE'S ADVENTUROUS FOREFATHER, Joseph-Élie Gauthier, was born in 1643 in Poitou, France, the son of Samuel Gauthier and Hilaire Gourlatier.⁷⁹ For reasons lost in history, Joseph-Élie, as a fourteen-year-old, travelled to Quebec without his parents. However, someone was seeing to his soul because he was confirmed in 1660 in Château-Richer, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.⁸⁰

Joseph-Élie wed Marguerite Moitié in Château-Richer in 1663. He married well: Marguerite was a *fille du Roi*, one of the young ladies sponsored by King Louis XIV to journey to New-France, marry settlers and help in colonization.

The couple certainly did their bit, raising thirteen children. After several decades of working the land, Joseph-Élie died in Île-d'Orléans in December 1700, at the age of fifty-seven. Marguerite followed suit six months later.

Among their thirteen children was André Gauthier (1678-1730), who married Catherine Tournois in Boucherville in 1712. Boucherville is on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, close to Montreal. It is one of the oldest municipalities in Quebec, named after Pierre Boucher who began agricultural exploitation of the area in 1668 and gained a seigneurie for his efforts.

The seigneurial system was used in New France as a way of encouraging settlement of the land. The “seigneur” was granted large tracts of land in exchange for a commitment to bring in settlers to clear and farm the land. By 1760, there were 250 seigneuries in Quebec, clustered mainly along the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries.⁸¹ The seigneurial system was in effect until 1854.

Successive generations of Gauthiers moved up the St. Lawrence River and Ottawa River. André Gauthier and Catherine Tournois' great-great-grandson, Augustin Gauthier (c1796-1887) married Angélique Nault in St-Roch l'Achigan in 1824, northeast of Montreal. Augustin and Angélique migrated to Papineauville on the Ottawa River, possibly in the 1830s.

The region encompassing Papineauville is called the Petite-Nation. At its heart is the Petite-Nation River, which rises in the Laurentians and empties into the Ottawa River near Plaisance.

In 1803, Joseph Papineau, a notary and politician, became the new seigneur of the Petite-Nation. The Papineau family brought in settlers and developed the region agriculturally.

79 Cournoyer, 2001.

80 Gerard Pelot wrote an article on Joseph-Élie's early years for *Le Droit*, entitled *L'ancêtre Élie Gauthier a ses souches dans le Poitou*, May 17, 1993.

81 See the Manoir-Papineau Labelle National Historic Site of Canada on the Parks Canada website.

Line of descent from Joseph-Élie Gauthier to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

- 1. Joseph-Élie Gauthier (1643-1700)**
Born in Poitou, France
Arrived in Quebec 1657
Married Marguerite Moitié in Château-Richer, Quebec, 1663
Died in Ste-Famille, Île-d'Orléans
- 2. André Gauthier (1678-1700)**
Born in Ste-Famille, Île-d'Orléans
Married Catherine Tournois, Boucherville, 1712
Died in Boucherville
- 3. Joseph Gauthier (1716-1778)**
Born in Boucherville, Quebec
Married Marguerite Mimaux in Lanoraie, 1741
Died in Terrebonne
- 4. André Gauthier (1741-1805)**
Born in Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec
Married Geneviève Paradis in St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, 1765
Died in Ste-Anne-des-Plaines
- 5. André Gauthier (1767-1847)**
Born in St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, Quebec (?)
Married Josephe Boutin in Terrebonne, 1794
Died in Ste-Anne-des-Plaines
- 6. Augustin Gauthier (1796-1887)**
Born in Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec
Married Angélique Nault in St-Roch-l'Achigan, 1824
Died in Papineauville
- 7. Félix Gauthier (1839-1908)**
Born in Papineauville, Quebec
Married Marie-Barbe Tassé in Papineauville, 1860
Died in Papineauville
- 8. Eugène Gauthier (1877-1951)**
Born in Papineauville, Quebec
Married Eugénie Barbeau in Ottawa, 1897
Died in Ottawa
- 9. Éliane Gauthier (1898-1990)**
Born in Ottawa, Ontario
Married William John Pelot in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa
- 10. Joseph Lloyd Pelot**

Joseph Papineau's son, Louis-Joseph, led the 1837 Rebellion in Lower Canada, seeking a more participatory form of government. With the failure of the rebellion, he fled to the United States. He lived in exile until 1845, whereupon he was granted amnesty and returned to Quebec. He built the estate of Montebello and spent most of his remaining years managing it.

Augustin Gauthier and Angélique Nault were in the Petite-Nation region by the time Papineau was exiled. They raised their family (of at least seven children) on the farm. Their son, Félix (1839-1908), lived his whole life in the Papineauville area, marrying Marie-Barbe Tassé in 1860.

Félix and Marie-Barbe raised ten children on their farm a couple of kilometres north of Papineauville. Eight of their children, including Éliane's father, Eugène, moved to Ottawa.



THE SPRAGUES' LANDFALL on North American soil predates the Gauthiers' by nearly thirty years. William Sprague (1609-1675), June's direct ancestor, landed at Salem, Massachusetts in 1629, age twenty.

William was born in Upwey, Dorset, England, the youngest of six children. His parents were Edward Sprague (1576-1614) and Christiana Holland (1580-1651). Edward was a "fuller," an occupation in the production of cloth. (To "full" is to cleanse cloth.) The Sprague family operated a mill, still standing in Upwey today.



*The Sprague mill
in Upwey, Devon,
England. As shown on
the website Pilgrims
from Fordington: The
Sprague Family from
Fullers to Founding
Fathers.*

Their father died when William was only five years old, possibly precipitating the marriage of the eldest sibling, Alice, to Richard Eames. The Sprague and Eames families were drawn together and William got to know his future wife, Millicent Eames, in Dorset.

William sailed to the New World with two older brothers, Ralph and Richard. The three are credited with a part in the founding of Charlestown, Massachusetts. William eventually settled in Hingham, Massachusetts, assisted by land grants, where he and Millicent raised eleven children.

William's great-grandson, Joshua Sprague (1729-1816), became a major and is listed among the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War. Joshua's son, Frederick, moved to Canada, drawn by the availability of free land. He settled on the shore of Lake Simcoe in North Gwillimbury in the early 1800s. When war broke out between Britain and the American colonies in 1812, the Government of Canada expected settlers to join the fight but Frederick would not do so out of loyalty to the Yankees. He was arrested for remarking that a British Army captain looked like a Yankee outhouse, a reference to his ruddy complexion. Once the war was over, Frederick sold his land to his son-in-law William Crittenden and returned to the United States, where he lived the rest of his life.⁸² Frederick had an insatiable appetite for exploring and settling in remote wilderness. He was also a promoter of education and not only for his own children; he paid for the schooling of local children who would not otherwise have been able to afford it.

Frederick's eldest son David was about thirty when he moved to Ontario with his father. Unlike Frederick, David stayed on in Ontario, becoming the first in his line of Canadian Spragues. David married Diadamia Draper, who was also American-born.⁸³ David's occupation was listed as *Yeoman*⁸⁴ in the 1851 Census of Canada and *Gentleman* in the 1861 Census. According to *Sprague Families in North America*, David Sprague was an "estimable gentleman, and one of the stable men of the community; strong, self-reliant and very kind-hearted. He engaged in farming in his earlier days and was also a merchant and postmaster. His home was exceedingly pleasant and he was possessed with ample means to furnish him with every comfort. He presented each of his children with a farm. He was at the head of all the affairs and business of North Gwillimbury Township until too old to attend to it..."⁸⁵

One of David and Diadamia's children, also named David, was born in Roches Point, North Gwillimbury Township, where he lived his whole life, marrying Nancy Ann Young along the way. Like his father, David Jr farmed successfully, in fact, was one of the best

82 Sprague, 1913.

83 1851 Census of Canada.

84 A yeoman is a person holding and cultivating a small estate, a landowner below the rank of gentleman.

85 Sprague, 1913.

farmers in the area, and he progressed over time to the status of *Yeoman* and *Gentleman*.⁸⁶

David and Nancy had four children who reached adulthood. By 1871, the two elder children, Juliette and Isabella, had married and set up homes of their own. The other two, David Frederick (age thirty-two) and William Selby (age twenty-one) were still at home, working as farmers. Also in the household in 1871 were Martha Draper (age fourteen) and Sarah Young (age eighty-four). Sarah was probably Nancy's mother. Martha was the daughter of Bethuel Draper and Martha Ann Young, possibly Nancy's sister. Martha Ann Young died in 1864 at age forty-seven.⁸⁷ Young Martha may have been sent to live with her aunt and uncle.

The year 1881 must have been an exhausting one for the Spragues and the nearby Everingham homestead.⁸⁸ Three weddings that year linked the two households:

- David Frederick Sprague, June's direct ancestor, married Mary Ann Everingham.
- Fred's younger brother, William Selby Sprague, married Mary Ann's younger sister, Sarah.
- Martha "Mattie" Draper married Thomas Everingham, Mary Ann and Sarah's brother.⁸⁹



June's grandparents, Fred Sprague and Mary Ann Everingham, at their home in Elgin Mills.

86 1851, 1861 and 1871 Census of Canada.

87 Rolling, 1967.

88 According to the 1878 Ontario County Atlas, John Tomlinson Everingham had a lot bordering on Cook's Bay, Lake Simcoe. The 1891 and 1901 Census show John and Emily (Willson) Everingham living on nearby Snake Island, in Lake Simcoe.

89 Thomas and Mattie Everingham moved to Saskatchewan, where they were enumerated in the 1906 Census with six children.

June recalled a family story that her grandfather Fred retired from farming to marry and raise a family. If so, he retired at the enviable age of forty-two. By all accounts, he followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and was a financially successful farmer. Fred and his young wife, Mary Ann, raised six children in East Gwillimbury, including June's mother Nora, born in 1888.



AMONG THE SPRAGUES, June was especially close to her aunt Gertrude (1885-1940).

June was much younger than her older siblings and June's mother was well down the line in her own family. The age spread between June and her oldest aunts and uncles was more like two generations than one. But June's Aunt Gertie, forty-three years her senior, bridged the age gap.

Gertie had spunk and a sense of humour. June's father once issued a challenge to pick up a dinner chair with their teeth. Both succeeded and tooth marks on the chair backs decades later bore testament to their dental prowess.

She did not lose her sense of fun and adventure as she got older. In the family album, a stern-looking Gertie, about age thirty, posed in her brother Fred's World War I uniform. Another photo of about the same vintage captured her up a tree. In 1909, she was attending normal school in Toronto. Back home in Queensville for a winter weekend, she showed up at an outdoor skating masquerade ball dressed as "Starlight."⁹⁰

Gertrude was a keen traveller and in 1939, a year before her death, she and her mother, Mary Ann Everingham, went on a long and adventurous trip to Mexico, California and British Columbia. Thomas Everingham, Mary Ann's brother, settled in California; perhaps they paid him a visit during their trip.

Gertie was still working when she died in 1940, about age fifty-five. She had been teaching at Bedford Park School in Toronto for twenty years at the time of her death.

90 Newmarket Era, February 19, 1909.

Line of descent from William Sprague to June Aileen Flanagan


- 1. William Sprague (1604-1675)**
Born in Upwey, Dorset, England
Arrived in Salem, Massachusetts, 1629
Married Millicent Eames in Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1635 (1 year after her arrival)
Died in Hingham, Plymouth County, Maine
- 2. Jonathan Sprague (1648-1741)**
Born in Hingham, Plymouth County, Maine
Married Mehitable Holbrook, 1670
Died in Hingham, Plymouth County, Maine
- 3. William Sprague (1691-1778)**
Born in Providence, Rhode Island
Married Alice Brown in Providence, Rhode Island, 1714
Died in Smithfield, Rhode Island
- 4. Joshua Sprague (1729-1816)**
Born in Providence, Rhode Island
Married Abigail Wilbur in Rhode Island
Died in Coal Run, Washington, Ohio
- 5. Frederick Sprague (1762-1839)**
Born in Coal Run, Washington, Ohio
Married Rebecca Nichols in Conneticut, 1786
Died Truro, Franklin, Ohio
- 6. David Sprague (1783-1866)**
Born in Adams, Berkshire, Massachusetts
Married Diadamia Draper in Keswick, Ontario, 1808
Died in Keswick, Ontario
- 7. David Sprague (1811-1873)**
Born in Roches Point (on the shore of Lake Orillia)
Married Nancy Ann Young in the Home District, Ontario
Died in Roches Point, Ontario
- 8. David Frederick Sprague (1839-1925)**
Born in Queensville, Ontario
Married Mary Ann Everingham in Queensville, 1881
Died in Elgin Mills, Ontario
- 9. Nora Alberta Sprague (1888-1985)**
Born in Newmarket
Married Peter Francis Flanagan in Newmarket, 1906
Died in Ottawa
- 10. June Aileen Flanagan**



June's mother, Nora Sprague, age sixteen, first row standing, second from right. The photo is of the Queensville Presbyterian Choir in 1904. Nora's sister Emily is in the same row, second from left.



Gravitating towards Ottawa

hen they came to Canada, none of Lloyd and June's direct ancestors settled immediately in Ottawa (Bytown). This is hardly surprising considering how wild the area was well into the 19th century.

In the early 1800s, the site of the future capital of Canada featured beautiful, dramatic scenery – and major transportation headaches. The Chaudière Falls were a formidable barrier to water transportation further up the Ottawa River. Slightly downstream, at the confluence of the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, the Rideau Falls tumbled impressively over a steep cliff. The turbulent Ottawa River was on the fur trade route. In fact, both the French and the British initially discouraged settlement of the area for fear it would disrupt the fur trade.

Then an American, Philemon Wright, visited the area and was impressed by its potential for water power. He persuaded a small group of families to follow him from his native Woburn, Massachusetts, to start the colony on the north shore of the Ottawa River. Initially known as Wrightville, it would eventually become Hull, then Gatineau.

Wright's initial design was an agricultural settlement but he soon began exploiting the timber in the area. It took some years to breach the barrier of the Chaudière Falls; Wright's own son, after studying the timber trade in Scandinavia, designed a log chute to move timber by river past the falls.⁹¹

Meanwhile, development on the Ottawa side began slowly after the War of 1812. British troops, disbanded at Quebec, were offered an opportunity for free land, supplies and rations if they chose to stay and settle in certain locations. The British were anxious about future American military incursions and were planning to build the Rideau Canal as a means of moving troops and goods safely between Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. The plan called for strategically located settlements sympathetic to the British along the proposed canal route. Who better than British soldiers turned homesteaders?

One such enclave of soldier-settlers was already in place at Perth. Richmond was selected as the site of a second settlement in 1818. The soldiers and families destined for the new settlement travelled up the Ottawa River and disembarked at "Richmond Landing," now Lebreton Flats.

91 Jenkins, 1996.

The soldiers built the 35-kilometre Richmond Road to allow them to reach the new settlement. Meanwhile, their families waited on the Flats, living in tents and shanty houses, the first sizeable group of Europeans on Ottawa soil.

The construction of the Rideau Canal (1826-1832) brought many Europeans and Quebecois to the area. On the upside, it paved the way for the founding of Bytown in 1826. On the downside, it sowed the seeds of fifteen years of Irish-French violence over access to jobs. Known as the Shiners War, the feud lasted from 1828 to 1843. Bytown in the spring was a recurring scene of fights and rowdiness as Irish “Shiners” (so named because they were “chêneurs,” or loggers of oak trees) arrived on the river drives.

Bytown eventually came to grips with the violence. The City of Ottawa was incorporated in 1855 and Queen Victoria chose it shortly thereafter as the capital of the United Provinces of Canada. Its cliffs, its distance from the American border and the dense intervening forests made the site defensively attractive. Its location on the Quebec-Ontario border added political appeal.

The first of our direct ancestors to spend time in Bytown were Daniel Scott *dit* Smith and Mary Ann Walsh, who stayed about six years, circa 1829-1835, before moving on to Fitzroy, Ontario. They had three children during their stay. Their voyage to Fitzroy, bypassing the



Ottawa in the 1850s. In the foreground is the lip of the Chaudière Falls, looking at the Ottawa River below, with Ottawa on the right and Hull on the left. Print by Stent and Laver. (Library and Archives Canada, Reference No. C-002813)

Chaudière Falls with small children and possessions, must have been challenging. Above the falls, they may have boarded the steamboat that serviced the Ottawa River between Aylmer and Chats Falls, including stops in Fitzroy.

Our other ancestors began migrating to Ottawa about a generation later, Lloyd's ancestors arriving first. Jean-Baptiste Barbeau settled in Bytown circa 1850. Rosalie Michaud, and possibly her parents, arrived around the same time. Eugène Gauthier moved to Ottawa in 1895. John Henry Pelot and Cecilia Smith (grand-daughter of Daniel Scott *dit* Smith and Mary Ann Walsh) followed in 1910. June's parents made the move to Ottawa in 1928. Over the decades of their influx, Ottawa changed dramatically.



JEAN-BAPTISTE BARBEAU, Lloyd's great-grandfather, was born in St-Eustache, Quebec c1835. His parents were Joseph Barbeau (1808-1875) and Marie Payette, who married in St-Eustache in 1829. By 1851, seventeen-year-old Jean-Baptiste was working as a servant in Bytown. In 1871, his parents, now in their sixties, were also living in Bytown, specifically in Ottawa Ward (Lowertown).

In 1863, Jean-Baptiste Barbeau married Rosalie Michaud. Rosalie was born in Crysler, Ontario and the circumstances of her move to Ottawa are not known. The wedding took place at the Notre-Dame Basilica on Sussex Street. The couple settled on Ottawa Street in Lebreton Flats.⁹² The Flats have a colourful history, fascinatingly recounted by Phil Jenkins in *An Acre of Time*.

In 1818, after the aforementioned soldier-settlers left for Richmond, the Flats were all but deserted. The site was initially owned by Robert Randall who, insolvent, lost it through foreclosure. The new owner was Captain John Lebreton, who had distinguished himself in the British Army in the War of 1812, participating in nine military actions against the Americans.⁹³ He had acquired land at Britannia, upstream from the Chaudière Falls, and bought the Flats with a partner in 1820. The price: £449.

Captain Lebreton became embroiled in an acrimonious dispute with both the previous owner, who believed the foreclosure unjust, and Governor-General Dalhousie, who wanted the site for a depot. The Flats were also a potential terminus for the future Rideau Canal. The matter was resolved in court: Lebreton retained ownership and locks were built further east by what is now the Chateau Laurier.

⁹² Pelot, 1990.

⁹³ Roberts, 1988.

Lebreton Flats grew into a working-class community, with small wooden houses built for lumbermen and their families. The Barbeaus lived there until the late 1890s. Jean-Baptiste Barbeau died in 1896 after freezing his feet while working and developing gangrene.

The location of the Flats, immediately adjacent to the stately Parliament Buildings, eventually spelled their doom as a residential working-class neighbourhood. In the 1960s, nearly three thousand people were expropriated and the buildings razed to improve the view of the western approach to Parliament Hill.



LEBRETON FLATS were important to Lloyd's coming into being: it's where his maternal great-grandparents met and married, where the Barbeau and Gauthier families linked up.

Jean-Baptiste Barbeau and Rosalie Michaud lived in the Flats with their three daughters. They took in a young lodger named Eugène Gauthier. Eugène was born on a farm near Papineauville. Like most of his siblings, he left the farm to settle in Ottawa. He was eighteen at the time, and boarded with the Barbeau family to apprentice as a shoemaker. In 1897, two years after his arrival, he married the youngest of the Barbeau daughters, Eugénie.

The young couple set up house on Anderson Street, in Rochesterville, south of Lebreton Flats. In addition to their own children, they housed Eugénie's mother and sister, both named Rosalie.

The home on Anderson Street doubled as a business location for Eugène's shoe-making and shoe-repair trade. It was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1900, which started in Hull and swept across the Ottawa River to consume most of Ottawa's west end. The Gauthiers were among twelve thousand Ottawans, one-fifth of the city's populace, who lost their homes in the fire.⁹⁴

For a while, the family rented a house nearby on Bell Street. In 1907, they moved to Rideau Street, opposite Dalhousie Street. From this location, Eugène ran a shoe store for a few years but was unable to compete with cheaper, lower quality products. (Admittedly, this view of events is filtered through the immense admiration the family had for Eugène.) When the business failed, they moved again, probably around 1910, to 26 Anderson Street.

For health reasons, Eugène changed careers, becoming a government confidential messenger. As a federal employee, he was eligible for highly-coveted subsidized housing. In 1916,

94 Walker and Walker, 1968.



Billings Bridge home of William John Pelot and Éliane Gauthier, 1215 Rooney's Lane. Their son Gerard commissioned this painting before the house was demolished.

the family moved into a brick row house on St. Patrick Street, likely the best quarters they had ever occupied – and affordable at \$18 per month.⁹⁵

Lloyd's mother, Éliane Gauthier, would have been about eighteen at the time the family moved from Lebreton Flats to St. Patrick Street. She lived there until her marriage to William John Pelot in 1925, when the couple moved into their new home on Rooney's Lane in Billings Bridge.

The Gauthiers moved quite often but Éliane and her siblings thought of themselves mainly as folks from the *Basse-Ville*, in other words, Lowertown. It may be that the house on St. Patrick Street was where they felt most at home.



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING SIDE of Lloyd's family has its roots in Pontiac County, Quebec. Lloyd's grandparents, John Henry Pelot and Cecilia Smith, had four children when they moved to Ottawa – except John Henry was away working in a bush camp at the time, so Cecilia made the move on her own with the four kids, plus her parents, James Henry Smith and Maria Jane Perrigo. The extended family lived for a while in Centretown, where they ran a boarding house. By 1911, the Pelots had bought a house on Metcalfe Road (now Bank Street) at Rooney's Lane, in the Village of Billings Bridge.

⁹⁵ Pelot, 1990.

The bridge and village were named after Braddish Billings, who settled on the south shore of the Rideau River in 1812 and left a lasting legacy, the Billings Estate.⁹⁶ The first house he built was a small log home on the banks of the river. He married Lamira Dow in Merrickville and brought her to their new home by canoe in 1813, undoubtedly a memorable trip since it included an unplanned ride over Hog's Back Falls, which amazingly left them unscathed.⁹⁷

Billings was a farmer but also an entrepreneur. He built a sawmill in 1823 and rallied the small group of homesteaders south of the Rideau River to build a bridge over the river to link them to Ottawa. The first bridge was built in 1831. It was washed away in spring break-up in 1847, rebuilt and washed away again in 1862. It was not until 1914 that a bridge truly capable of withstanding the seasonal flux in water levels was put in place.

Thus Billings Bridge was quite remote from Ottawa at the time the Pelots settled there. Consider that, until 1907, the southern limit of Ottawa proper was McLeod Street, well north of where Highway 417 currently crosses Bank Street.

An image of Billings Bridge as it was: Sawmill Creek ran through it, named after the sawmill built by Braddish Billings. Sawmill Creek flows into the Rideau River just east of Bank Street. In the 1930s, when Lloyd was growing up, Sawmill Creek was a swimming and fishing hole in the summer; a skating and hockey rink in the winter. The creek is no longer a feature of the landscape around Billings Bridge, having vanished underground.



THE LATECOMERS TO OTTAWA were June's parents, who arrived in 1928. By then, Peter and Nora Flanagan had six children and a seventh (June) on the way. The spread in the age of their children was such that the two eldest, Grace and Jack, did not make the move to Ottawa. In fact, Grace was already married.

The family's arrival in Ottawa left a lasting impression on Nora. June recalled her reminiscing about leaving Newmarket on a warm and sunny spring day, close to Easter, and arriving in Ottawa in a blizzard. Easter Sunday in 1928 fell on April 8. Perhaps they arrived on April 14; according to Environment Canada's remarkable historical records, it was a pretty nasty day. Over fourteen millimetres of precipitation fell, about half as snow and half as rain. Welcome to Ottawa weather!

96 See City of Ottawa website, Billings Family Virtual Exhibit.

97 Walker and Walker, 1968.



This 1924 watercolour by David Milne, entitled Old RCMP Barracks, conveys the bone-chilling dreariness of the Ottawa winter the Flanagans faced upon their arrival. (Carleton University Art Collection)

Like the Pelots, the Flanagans were drawn to Ottawa by the larger labour market and prospects for a better living standard. However, their arrival coincided with the start of the Depression. Peter managed to get work as a labourer for the City but the cardboard insoles in his work shoes speak volumes about their financial circumstances. Nora had no choice but to be very frugal and her penny-stretching tricks were evident in the newspaper clippings she kept for decades, some of which survive in family memorabilia to this day. Inexpensive solutions for removing stains, growing plants indoors, silencing squeaky furniture, home remedies for dry skin...

Their first home was on MacLaren Street, close to Bronson Avenue. Over the next few years, they moved around, first to Gladstone Avenue, across from McNabb Park and then to Roslyn Avenue, in Ottawa South. They finally settled at 571 O'Connor Street in the Glebe. All in all, inner city folks.

On O'Connor Street, they lived in a rowhouse and took in roomers to help cover the cost of the rent. This was June's home throughout her school years. She attended nearby First Avenue Public School up to Grade 6, then Glashen Public School on Catherine Street for Grades 7 and 8. She completed her secondary education at Glebe High School. After that, she obtained a one-year business diploma from Commerce High School.

The Flanagans lived on O'Connor Street into the 1950s. Peter died there in March 1952 and Nora moved eventually to smaller quarters on Creighton Street in New Edinburgh.



WHEN LLOYD AND JUNE MET, Lloyd was living in Billings Bridge and June was living on O'Connor Street. Their homes were not exactly poles apart, but they attended different schools and lived in different communities. How did their paths cross?

June had a horse in the late 1940's, named Kenwood. He was stabled at Cloverdale Stable, south of the Rideau River. To get there from her home on O'Connor Street was always a mission, the exact character of which depended on the season.

If there was no snow on the ground, June cycled to Bank Street, crossed the Canal, continued down Bank, crossed Billings Bridge, turned left onto what is now Riverside Drive and cycled on to the stable, located near the current Smythe Road Bridge, a distance of roughly five kilometres.

In freeze-up and break-up, June walked that same route. But when the Rideau Canal and Rideau River were frozen, she charted a straight-line course across the ice, much quicker unless deep snow on the surface of the ice slowed her progress.

At the same time, Lloyd and some of his brothers frequented Bill Grant's Place, a hamburger joint with a small dance floor next door to the Cloverdale Stable, a few kilometres from Rooney's Lane. The horsey crowd from the stable, including June, would drop into Bill Grant's for snacks. Thus, Lloyd and June's paths first crossed at Bill Grant's.

Lloyd always had a soft spot for Bill Grant. Over forty years after Lloyd and June married, he penned this grateful tribute to Bill Grant and his establishment:⁹⁸

98 Slightly abridged.

I was initiated into society in the summer of '42, age fourteen. After a ball game, my team, the Billings Bridge Bluebirds, was invited by the host team to a local lunch spot called Bill Grant's. Walking into Bill Grant's that night was like entering the Promised Land. I can't explain why. It certainly wasn't the elegant appointments. But it was love at first sight and it lasted six years.

Bill's place was on Riverside Drive about one mile east of Billings Bridge, surrounded by fields and bush. Once a construction shack, it boasted a 12' x 12' dance floor, benches around three sides and a serving counter in one corner where Bill dished out hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and advice. In the opposite corner was a large jukebox, never silent.

Bill himself was larger than life. He could have played offensive tackle for the Ottawa Rough Riders. Bill spoke only in loud, affirmative phrases: "If you can't behave, get out!"; "No booze on the premises!"; "That's no way to talk to a lady!" He was a fascinating figure, far tougher on us than our fathers, a fact I accepted without reserve.

Most of us teenagers rode bicycles and I'm amazed at how far Bill's clientele travelled to get to his place. Our gang from Billings Bridge was close but others came from as far away as the West End, travelling up to ten miles round trip.

Other patrons came from the nearby Veterans Rehab Centre, injured soldiers recovering from their wounds. Some performed world-class jitter-bugging while we younger ones watched in wonder. Bill's attitude towards the vets was the same as towards the teenagers: welcoming, genial, gruff but kind. He was always in control, whatever the size or makeup of the crowd.

Bill always closed down in the winter, partly because cycling teenagers could not get there

on icy roads, but mostly because his place had no heating system. But every spring he reopened. There was no advertising, not even a sign out front, but word got around. Old and new gangs would start to congregate. With summer holidays and the new ball season, we packed into the tiny place.

In the spring of '45, those of us with decent marks in the Easter exams got a year-end pass mark if we volunteered to work on a farm for the summer. I got a job at the Experimental Farm. By then, my ball team had progressed and we played all over the city. On a ballgame day, I would rise at 6:00 AM, cycle to the Farm by 7:00 AM, work until 6:00 PM, eat my second brown-bag lunch, cycle to a ball park, play nine innings, cycle to Bill Grant's, eat hotdogs, drink Cokes and dance until 10:00 PM, cycle home and into bed by 11:00 PM ... and rise the next morning at 6:00 AM. I relate this schedule not to show how foolish youth can be, or to marvel at youth's energy, but to underscore just how attached I was to Bill Grant's.

The day the war ended, we had the day off and I cycled to Bill's. There was no one there but Bill. Everyone was downtown celebrating. We sat and chatted. Bill was very quiet and pensive; it was the best chat we ever had.

However, a sea-change was coming. Next door to Bill's was a riding stable and riders dropped in at times. I was suddenly smitten by one of them. I had seen June a few times before. Then one day, lightning struck!

Bill sold to a new owner in '47. I regret not having a farewell party. But I am grateful for the many seasons I spent in his place. June and I would have come together anyway, of course, since these unions are surely meant to be, but Bill's place was just right for that momentous occasion.



Seasoning the Mix

Most of Lloyd and June's ancestors hailed from France, England or Ireland, in some cases via the United States. These origins account for such a high proportion of our ethnic makeup that any other strain is just as exotic as royalty in our midst. In this necessarily short chapter, we salute two lines that add a little *je ne sais quoi* to the ethnic brew: the Sunstrums and the Rhyndresses.



ANDREW SUNSTRUM (1790-c1860) was Lloyd's great-great-great-grandfather. Andrew emigrated from Sweden to Pontiac County, where he married Irish-born Sarah Strip (1794-1880).

Andrew was a carpenter at the time of his emigration but in Pontiac County he became a farmer. He seems to have done well, acquiring significant land grants under his name and his wife's.

Andrew and Sarah had six children, all born in the Quyon area: Samuel (1812-1911), Andrew (1816-1868), Jane (1820-?), William (1824-1923), James (1828-1922) and Margaret (1830-?).

Some of Andrew's children stayed in the Pontiac while others moved to Renfrew County or points more distant. Samuel moved to Golden Lake, Renfrew County, Ontario, where he built an inn around 1860. Judging from a photo in the Eganville Leader's centennial publication, the inn was both substantial and charming. The photo's caption lists two Sam Sunstrums, presumably father and son. Samuel seems to have been a favoured name among the Sunstrums, which makes separating the generations tricky.

A couple of Sam Sunstrums ran the Golden Lake Hotel over the years. It was a busy stopping place for travellers on the Bonnechere River, especially lumbermen. Samuel Sunstrum Sr married twice and had eleven children, living to the ripe old age of ninety-nine. Samuel Sunstrum Jr (born c1855) was still living in Golden Lake at the time of his fiftieth wedding anniversary to Louise Lapolice.⁹⁹ Jane Sunstrum, Lloyd's great-great-grandmother, also settled in Renfrew County after marrying James Perrigo.

⁹⁹ Ottawa Journal article dated January 18, 1927, posted on ancestry.ca by a member. The article describes Sam Sunstrum as a merchant, hotelkeeper, park ranger, hunter and fisherman.

The Golden Lake Hotel, built by Sam Sunstrum, Jane Sunstrum's brother, c1860.

Jane Sunstrum was Lloyd's great-great-grandmother. From the Eganville Leader's centennial publication.

Andrew Sunstrum and Sarah Strip themselves stayed in Pontiac County. It is interesting that their homestead would not have been that distant from Daniel Smith and Mary Ann Walsh's farm. The Sunstrums' grand-daughter, Maria Jane Perrigo, would one day marry the Smiths' son, James Henry. One can speculate that the families knew each other and even though Maria Jane was born and raised in Ontario, the families may have maintained social links across the Ottawa River.



Line of descent from Andrew Sunstrum to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

1. Andrew Sunstrum (1790-c1860)

Born in Sweden

Married Sarah Strip

Died in Onslow, Quebec

2. Jane Sunstrum (1820-?)

Born in Onslow

Married James Perrigo, District of Bathurst, Ontario, 1841

Died in ?

3. Maria Jane Perrigo (1855-1914)

Born in Wilberforce Township, Renfrew County

Married James Henry Smith in Eganville, Ontario, 1872

Died in Ottawa

4. Cecilia Jane Smith (1875-1968)

Born in Ladysmith, Quebec

Married John Henry Pelot in Quyon, 1894

Died in Ottawa

5. William John Pelot (1900-1969)

Born in Quyon

Married Éliane Stella Gauthier in Ottawa, 1925

Died in Ottawa

6. Joseph Lloyd Pelot



SARAH RHYNDRESS (1786-1869) was June's great-great-grandmother. She too added diversity to our ethnic roots: her family came from the Netherlands.

The Rhyndress family has been on North American soil since the 17th or 18th century. The spelling of their name has proved to be very malleable over time.¹⁰⁰ It is difficult to trace the lineage back further than Mynert Reinderse (1725-1803), who was born and died in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York. Poughkeepsie was originally settled by the Dutch. Mynert Reinderse must have been among the earliest generations born in Poughkeepsie.

Meynert Reinderse married twice. His first marriage was in 1751 to Elizabeth Willemse (1719-1769). Elizabeth was born in Westchester, New York and died in Poughkeepsie. June's direct ancestor, James Rhyndress (1761-1834), was born in Poughkeepsie, son of Meynert Reinderse and Elizabeth Willemse.

James Rhyndress married Sarah Hunt (1763-1841) in New York in 1784. Sarah was also a native of Poughkeepsie, the daughter of John Hunt and Elsie Pieters. James and Sarah moved to North Gwillimbury Township when they were in their forties, c1804, with several children in tow.¹⁰¹ James had served in the military from 1779 to 1803 and the family's emigration to Ontario may have been triggered by a desire to live under the British flag.

James Rhyndress and Sarah Hunt's daughter Sarah was born in 1786 and was about eighteen when her parents emigrated. She married Thomas Young in North Gwillimbury, York County, Ontario in 1808, when she was twenty-two. Thomas was born c1778 but his place of birth is unknown.

Thomas Young and Sarah Rhyndress had a daughter, Nancy Ann Young, in 1809. Nancy Ann married David Sprague; they were June's great-grandparents. Nancy Ann and David's parents (Thomas Young, Sarah Rhyndress, David Sprague and Deladamia Draper) are all buried in the Mann Cemetery, Keswick, known in bygone days as the Sprague Burial Ground.

Though they were born two hundred years apart, only five generations separate June from Meynert. It's testament to the longevity of the Rhyndresses – or perhaps to an inclination on their part to having children late in life.

100 Variants include Reinderse, Rindress, Reijnerse, Rheijnerse, Ryness, Rynders. The list goes on.

101 Based on the Cattle Family Tree on Ancestry.ca, which lists nine children born in New York State up to 1804 and two born in Ontario beginning in 1805.

Line of descent from Meynert Reinderse to June Aileen Flanagan

1. Meynert Reinderse (1725-1803)

Born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York

Married Elizabeth Willemse, 1751; Anatje Latson in Poughkeepsie, 1769

Died in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York

2. James Rhyndress (1761-1834)

Born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York

Married Sarah Hunt in New York, 1784

Died in North Gwillimbury Township, York County, Ontario

3. Sarah Rhyndress (1786-1869)

Born in Dutchess County, New York

Married Thomas Young in North Gwillimbury Township, Ontario, 1808

Died in North Gwillimbury Township, York County, Ontario

4. Nancy Ann Young (1809-1882)

Born in Roches Point, Ontario

Married David Sprague in the Home District, Ontario

Died in Newmarket, Ontario

5. David Frederick Sprague (1839-1925)

Born in Queensville, Ontario

Married Mary Ann Everingham in Queensville, Ontario, 1881

Died in Elgin Mills, Ontario

6. Nora Alberta Sprague (1888-1985)

Born in Newmarket, Ontario

Married Peter Francis Flanagan in Newmarket, 1906

Died in Ottawa

7. June Aileen Flanagan



Loose Ends

Lloyd and June's family histories are far from being a completely open book. As in most families, some of their ancestors are mysterious characters who refuse to come out of the shadows. Although frustrating, these enigmas fuel fascinating family stories.



ON JUNE'S SIDE, perhaps the biggest conundrum of the past few centuries is the perplexing question of who fathered Emma White. Emma was June's grandmother, born and raised in King Township, York County, Ontario.

Emma's mother, Hannah White, was born in England in 1819 and emigrated to Canada around 1840. She brought with her a young son, Henry White, born in 1838.

The question is this: Was there a Mr. White and, if so, was he Emma's father? There is no evidence of Hannah ever living with a Mr. White in Canada.

According to a few Canadian vital records, Hannah's maiden name was Butler.¹⁰² There is an 1836 English marriage record for George White and Hannah Butler (Warwickshire County), but no proof this is the same Hannah who a few years later emigrated to Canada.

By 1851, thirty-year-old Hannah White was living in King Township with David Ramsden, age fifty, David's elderly parents, a nine-year-old Canadian-born Ramsden boy of unspecified parentage and four White children.¹⁰³ Her three youngest children, including Emma, were born in Canada. David Ramsden's stated occupation was yeoman.

Hannah lived with David Ramsden for at least thirty more years and she eventually became known as Hannah Ramsden. There is no marriage record but Ramsden is the name on her death record.

The Census faithfully tracked Hannah's passage through a bewildering sequence of family circumstances, all unfolding in King Township. She stayed put while people around her

¹⁰² The records of Emma's marriage to John Flanagan as well as her sister Hannah's marriage to Thomas Flanagan state their mother's maiden name as "Butler".

¹⁰³ The 1851 Census recorded age at next birthday being 32 for Hannah White (born around 1819) and 45 for David Ramsden (born around 1807). Most other sources place David's year of birth closer to 1800.

33	William Ramsden			5		
34	John Ramsden			3		
35	John Ramsden	Ireland	de	40	✓	
36	Bridget Ramsden	"	"	25	✓	
37	Margaret Ramsden	Canada	"	13		
38	Thomas Ramsden			1		
39	David Ramsden	Germany	Episcopalian	40	✓	
40	Sarah Ramsden	"	"	40	✓	
41	William Ramsden	Canada	"	9		
42	David Ramsden Jr.	Germany	Episcopalian	45		
43	Hannah White	"	de	30		
44	Henry White	"	de	13		
45	Emma White	Canada	de	5		
46	Sarah White	"	de	2		
47	Ann Maria White			1		
48	Thomas Quinn	Ireland	R. Catholic	46	✓	
49	John Quinn	"	"	45	✓	
50	John Quinn	Labrador	"	26	✓	

1851 Census of Canada. Hannah White is listed on line 43. Listed above her are David Ramsden, Sarah Ramsden, William Ramsden and David Ramsden Jr. Below her are her children Henry, Emma, Sarah and Ann Maria.

came and went and the labels attached to her, such as her name and marital status, shifted as readily as sand on the shore of nearby Lake Simcoe.

According to the 1861 Census, Hannah was a forty-year-old widow, and David a sixty-year-old single innkeeper.¹⁰⁴ The household included three children: Emma White (age 15) and two younger children making their first census appearance, "Han" White (age 8) and George White (age 7). Hannah's elder son Henry White had moved out. Two White infants who had been enumerated ten years earlier were no longer present, having perhaps fallen victim to one of the influenza epidemics that swept through Ontario in the 1850s. David's parents were also gone. We know that his father died in 1861. The Newmarket Era reported his death, giving his birthplace as Leeds, England. There is no record of David's mother's death. Intriguingly, a note opposite Hannah's name on the Census form stated that a household member, age forty-five, had died of dropsy in the previous twelve months. Could this be the elusive Mr. White whose existence was finally being acknowledged after his death? Or did it refer to David Ramsden's father and the age was simply wrong?

By 1871, Emma had married and moved out. Emma's sister Hannah, age nineteen, was married to Enos Gordon and the young couple lived with David Ramsden and Hannah Sr. No marital status was recorded for David or Hannah Sr. in the 1871 Census. It's as if the

¹⁰⁴ The census form image is rather blurred and afflicted by creative spelling. It tells us "Han" or "Nan" White is living with David "Ramsson".

Census enumerator was at a loss to describe the marital status of this pair. George White, now age seventeen, had become George Ramsden. A one-year old baby, Jane Ramsden had come onto the scene. It's not impossible that she was David and Hannah's daughter, although by now David was about age seventy and Hannah was fifty. Could Jane have been their grand-daughter?

Ten years later, the 1881 Census enumerated Hannah as Hannah Ramsden (age sixty-one) and, according to the census at least, she was finally married to David (age eighty-one). Also in the household: grandson William Gordon and daughter or grand-daughter Jane. Their son George Ramsden was no longer at home, having married Charlotte Johnson in 1875.

In 1891, Hannah was once again a widow, living with Jane (age twenty) and William (age eighteen). Hannah was the head of the household and Jane and William were rather oddly described as lodgers.

In all, Hannah had four or five children who reached adulthood. Henry White (c1838-1898), Emma White (1846-1922), Hannah White (1852-1900), George Ramsden (1853-1925) and possibly Jane Ramsden (born 1870).

Henry White became a farmer. The Ontario County Atlas (1878) shows a parcel of land (Concession IV, Lot 23, King Township) split between Henry White and JP Flanagan, the latter likely Emma's brother-in-law. An 1898 death record for Henry White, age 61, English-born and farming Concession VII, Lot 23, fits his age, birthplace and whereabouts in King Township.

Emma White was next in line. Almost all vital records for her list her maiden name as "White", including her marriage record to John Flanagan, her death record, her obituary in the Newmarket Era and all of her children's marriage records – with one exception. The exception is the marriage record of her son Eugene Flanagan, which refers to her as Emma Ramsden.

The third of Hannah's children who made it to adulthood was also named Hannah. Six years younger than Emma, she married Enos Gordon at about age nineteen. Enos died a few years later. As Hannah Gordon, she remarried; her new husband was Thomas Flanagan, Emma's brother-in-law. On her marriage record to Thomas Flanagan, David Ramsden is identified as her father (albeit with spelling mistakes).

Emma's younger brother George (born 1853) started off life as George White but became George Ramsden. His marriage and death records list David Ramsden as his father.

Jane, possibly Hannah's youngest child, is last seen living with Hannah in 1891, along with Hannah's grandson William Gordon. After that, we lose sight of Jane... though not

of William. He lived with his grandmother until sometime after 1891. He married Edith Irwin in Toronto in 1912. By 1921, they had five children. William earned a living as a machinist.¹⁰⁵ William's birth and marriage records both identify his mother's maiden name as Hannah Ramsden (Jr) rather than Hannah White.

Hannah Ramsden (Sr) died in 1898 in King Township and is buried in King Christian Church burial ground. According to her death record, she was seventy-nine years old. In reporting her death, the Newmarket Era referred to her as "Mrs. R.", suggesting perhaps a friendly older lady known to many in the community:

<p>April 8, 1898 We regret to record the death of Mrs. Hannah Ramsden, an old lady of some 77 years. Mrs. R. had been very feeble and infirm for some time. On Saturday evening, death came to her relief. Her</p>	<p>remains were interred at the King Christian Church burial ground on Tuesday last... Among those from a distance attending the funeral were George, her only son of Erin, Wellington and Mr. William Gordon, grandson, of Toronto.</p>
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So, in the end, was there a Mr. White and, if so, what happened to him? Did he ever live in Canada? Could he have died in Canada prior to the 1851 Census or even en route to Canada, triggering Hannah's move in with David Ramsden? Or did Hannah actually come to Canada with David Ramsden and, if so, is David Ramsden Emma's father?

Line of descent from Hannah White/Ramsden to June Aileen Flanagan

1. **Hannah White/Ramsden (1819-1898)**
Born in England
Married possibly Mr. White in England and possibly David Ramsden in Ontario
Arrived in King Township, York County, c1840
Died in King Township, York County, Ontario
2. **Emma White (1846-1922)**
Born in King Township, York County
Married Joseph John Flanagan in York County, 1866
Died in Newmarket
3. **Peter Francis Flanagan (1882-1952)**
Born in East Gwillimbury Township, York County
Married Nora Alberta Sprague in Newmarket, 1906
Died in Ottawa
4. **June Aileen Flanagan**



¹⁰⁵ 1921 Census of Canada.

THE STORY ABOUT Lloyd's great-grandfather, Jean-Baptiste Barbeau (c1833-1896), is not so much a big mystery as a collection of small mysteries. Much is known about his life. He was born in St-Eustache, Quebec, not far from Montreal. As a young man, he moved to Ottawa, where he met Rosalie Michaud (1838-1931). They were married in Notre-Dame Cathedral in 1863.

They had many infants who did not survive. Three daughters did: Rosalie (1864-1926), who never married; Joséphine (1872-1946) married Hormidas Burelle; and Eugénie (1874-1939) married Eugène Gauthier and produced, among others, Lloyd's mother Éliane.

There are three mysteries about Jean-Baptiste Barbeau who, through his own choice or not, is called "John" in several records... interesting in a family that is proud of its French heritage.

First, thirty-one year old "John" Barbeau was a *voyageur* according to the 1871 Census. What could this mean? He is not on the contract worker list of the Hudson's Bay Company. The grand era of the voyageurs and the fur trade had passed by 1871. Could Jean-Baptiste have travelled to remote parts of the country for work? If not the Hudson's Bay Company, who would his employer have been?

The other mysteries about Jean-Baptiste concern the end of his life. He died on February 6, 1896. According to family sources, he froze his feet while working out of doors in the winter and died of gangrene. At the time of his death, he was working as a blacksmith.¹⁰⁶

One should always feel grateful when one is able to locate an official death record from the 19th century, but are two better than one? At the time of Jean-Baptiste's death, the form used to report deaths in Ontario was designed to record information on six deaths per page. On the same page of the Ottawa death register for 1896, there are two entries for "John" Barbeau.

Both men were apparently born in St-Eustache, Quebec. Both died on the same day. One man was fifty-five years old, the other sixty-three. The younger man was a labourer, the older one a blacksmith. Cause of death: amputation of toes (younger man) versus blood poisoning following an operation (older man). Person reporting the death: Sister St-Raphael (younger man) versus Eugénie Barbeau (older man).

Eugénie Barbeau's version of events is more precise and closer to the facts as we know them. Perhaps Sister St-Raphael's report pertained to a John Doe and random information was used to fill in the blanks. Perhaps the same death got reported twice without being recognized as such.

¹⁰⁶ Pelot, 1990.

SCHEDULE C-DEATHS.				SCHEDULE C-DEATHS.			
City of Montreal				City of Montreal			
Name and Residence of Deceased	When Died	Age	Place of Birth	Name and Residence of Deceased	When Died	Age	Place of Birth
John Barbeau 6 th St. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	55 years	Labrador	Joseph Barbeau 7 th St. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	54 years	Labrador
When Died	21 st Jan. 1896	55 years	Labrador	When Died	21 st Jan. 1896	54 years	Labrador
Age	55 years	55 years	Labrador	Age	54 years	54 years	Labrador
Place of Birth	Labrador	Labrador	Labrador	Place of Birth	Labrador	Labrador	Labrador
Where Born	St. Eustache	St. Eustache	St. Eustache	Where Born	St. Eustache	St. Eustache	St. Eustache
Cause of Death	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Cause of Death	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg
Time of Death	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	Time of Death	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896
Signature of Physician	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Signature of Physician	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.
Signature of Registrar	John Henderson	John Henderson	John Henderson	Signature of Registrar	John Henderson	John Henderson	John Henderson
REMARKS	003347	003348	003349	REMARKS	003353	003354	003355
John Barbeau 21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	John Barbeau 21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896
When Died	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	When Died	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896	21 st Jan. 1896
Age	55 years	55 years	55 years	Age	54 years	54 years	54 years
Place of Birth	Labrador	Labrador	Labrador	Place of Birth	Labrador	Labrador	Labrador
Where Born	St. Eustache, P. Q.	St. Eustache, P. Q.	St. Eustache, P. Q.	Where Born	St. Eustache, P. Q.	St. Eustache, P. Q.	St. Eustache, P. Q.
Cause of Death	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Cause of Death	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg	Amputation of leg
Time of Death	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	Time of Death	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896	2 nd Mon. 1896
Signature of Physician	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Signature of Physician	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.	Dr. H. P. H. H.
Signature of Registrar	John Henderson	John Henderson	John Henderson	Signature of Registrar	John Henderson	John Henderson	John Henderson
REMARKS	003350	003351	003352	REMARKS	003356	003357	003358

Two official Ontario death records for Jean-Baptiste "John" Barbeau, 1896: left-hand page, first and sixth entry.

Finally, where is Jean-Baptiste buried? His wife and daughter (both named Rosalie) are buried in Notre-Dame Cemetery, Ottawa. Their names are inscribed on the tombstone belonging to the Gauthier family. The Gauthiers bought the plot in 1925, not soon enough to receive Jean-Baptiste's remains.

At the time of Jean-Baptiste's death, his family attended the architecturally impressive St-Jean Baptiste Church, overlooking Nanny Goat Hill and Lebreton Flats in Ottawa. The details of Jean-Baptiste's funeral are unmistakable, recorded in a cramped hand in the parish register two days after his death. But where did parishioners bury their loved ones in the 1890s? The church now has a college attached to it. Next to it is a large parking lot. Could that have once been the parish cemetery? Among those consulted, the current parish priest thought that Notre-Dame Cemetery in Ottawa was the most likely location of Jean-Baptiste's grave; the genealogist of the Ottawa Public Library suggested the Notre-Dame Cemetery in Gatineau. Neither cemetery has a record of his grave.

In all likelihood, we just have not yet looked in the right place for his grave. But the mystery of his *voyageur* role in 1871 may never be solved.

Line of descent from Jean-Baptiste Barbeau to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

1. **Jean-Baptiste Barbeau** (c1833-1896)
Born in St-Eustache, Quebec
Married Rosalie Michaud in Ottawa, 1863
Died in Ottawa
2. **Eugénie Barbeau** (1874-1939)
Born in Ottawa
Married Eugène Gauthier in Ottawa, 1897
Died in Ottawa
3. **Éliane Gauthier** (1898-1990)
Born in Ottawa
Married William John Pelot in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa
4. **Joseph Lloyd Pelot**



MARIA JANE PERRIGO (1855-1914), Lloyd's great-grandmother, was graced with a Spanish-sounding name. But, according to the Internet Surname Database, the name Perrigo is of French origin and harks back to either the province of Perigord in southwest France or its capital, Perigeux. By the 16th century, Perrigos could be found not only in France but also in England and Italy.¹⁰⁷

Maria Jane's parents were James Perrigo and Jane Sunstrum. Although evidence is in short supply, James' year of birth may have been c1800 and Jane's c1820. They were married in 1841. According to their marriage record, they were Catholics residing in Onslow, Quebec married by a Presbyterian minister in the District of Bathurst, Ontario.¹⁰⁸

Apart from the marriage record, we know precious little about James Perrigo but what glimpses we have are quite tantalizing. Much of Perrigo's life unfolded in Renfrew County. One local historian and writer depicts him as a "pioneer lumberman."¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁷ www.surnamedb.com

¹⁰⁸ The District of Bathurst was later split into the Counties of Renfrew and Lanark.

¹⁰⁹ Bennett, 1991.

By the Rev. Alexander Macdonald Presbyterian Minister.

Names	Residence	Date	Witnesses	Publication	Other
Joseph Flett & Elizabeth McPherson	Edmonton	19 th October 1840	David McPherson & Peter McPherson	Publication of Banns	Robert McPherson
James Perrigo & Jane Sunstrum	Edmonton	5 th June 1841	Alfred McPherson & George Macdonald	Edmonton	James & Mary
Nelson Lohr & Ellen McLaughlin	Edmonton	25 th Sept 1841	David McPherson & David McPherson	Edmonton	George & Elizabeth
Matthew Bates & Jane Macdonald	Edmonton	22 nd Sept 1841	Nicholas McPherson & James McPherson	Edmonton	Archibald & Isabella
James Perrigo & Jane Sunstrum	Edmonton	20 th October 1841	David McPherson & John McPherson	Edmonton	John & Isabella
John McPherson & Margaret McPherson	Edmonton	23 rd January 1841	David McPherson & Mary L. Macdonald	Edmonton	James & Isabella
James McPherson & Isabella Macdonald	Edmonton	10 th February 1841	David McPherson & James McPherson	Edmonton	James & Isabella

Marriage record of James Perrigo and Jane Sunstrum, 1841 (fifth entry on the page).

The website of the Bonnechere Museum in Eganville provides a lively account of the life of another Renfrew County pioneer named Charles Thomas, who died in Golden Lake in 1874. Thomas kept a diary, which is now in the possession of Library and Archives Canada. The diary includes references to Perrigo and other “timber makers” travelling the Bonnechere and Little Bonnechere River by canoe in 1850 and 1851. At one point, Perrigo worked for or with John Egan, founder of Eganville.¹¹⁰

How did James meet Jane, whose family lived in Onslow, Quebec? Perhaps John Egan was the link. John Egan also founded Quyon and, if James Perrigo was in Egan’s employ, he might have worked on both sides of the Ottawa River.

James Perrigo took part in some river drives on behalf of James Bonfield, who once worked for Egan but became a lumber baron in his own right, as well as an MPP. Square timber rafts were floated down the Bonnechere River and onto the Ottawa River in the spring and eventually to Quebec City where they were loaded onto ships. By all accounts, they were wild times and the raftsmen were a rough bunch. The taming of the industry came with the deployment of the circular saw, which ultimately turned the woodsmen and raftsmen into sawmill workers.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ www.bonnechere.ca/cul_charlesthomas.htm

¹¹¹ Ottawa River Heritage Designation Project, Background Study. See http://www.ottawariver.org/html/news/whatsnew_e.html

In addition to woodsman and river driver, James Perrigo operated a tavern or an inn.¹¹²

Some family history buffs attribute six children to James Perrigo and Jane Sunstrum. Lloyd's direct ancestor, Maria Jane, was the youngest, born c1855. The others were James (1838-?), John (1841-1910), Rebecca (1844-1929), Andrew (1846-1924) and George (1849-1926). Some but not all of the dates are supported by vital records or headstone information.

The first thing of note about James Jr is that he appears to have been born three years before his parents' marriage. There is very little by way of vital or Census records to corroborate his existence and year of birth. The 1861 Census enumerated a single, Catholic wagonmaker, age twenty-three named James Perrigo in Eganville. The demographics fit but there is no definitive link to the older James Perrigo and Jane Sunstrum.

The 1861 Census enumerated the other five children in a household in Wilberforce Township, Renfrew County: John, (current) age eighteen; Rebecca, age sixteen; Andrew, age fourteen; George, age twelve; and Mariah, age six.¹¹³ The approximate years of birth of the children derived from the 1861 Census information are in some cases off from the dates listed above by a couple of years, but the birth order is the same. The big mystery concerns the only person in the household past their teens. The information on this person – listed as the last household member and implicitly *not* the head of the household – is contradictory and confusing. It looks like “Jane”, age 60, but the age seems to be crossed out. The columns on the census form for gender and marital status are blank. Under “Deaths in past 12 months”, we learn that a female in the household aged forty-six recently died of consumption. Perhaps the most likely explanation is that the census enumerator made a mistake and actually listed Jane as a household member even though she had recently died. In this event, where is James?

Unlike their mysterious parents, the children of James Perrigo and Jane Sunstrum left traces all over Renfrew County throughout their lives. Andrew was born in Admaston Township, Renfrew County. He married Pellagie Jeffrey in Eganville in 1875. Andrew was a farmer.¹¹⁴ He died in 1924 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Golden Lake.

George was baptized at Mud Lake (now Wilber Lake) by a pastor from Mount St. Patrick. He married Margaret Furlong in Douglas, a village between Renfrew and Eganville, in 1874. Both George and Margaret lived in Eganville at the time, where George worked as a blacksmith. In 1906, when he would have been about age fifty-seven, the company of George Perrigo & Son was granted a contract to erect two windmills on the Bonnechere

¹¹² Bennett, 1991 and 1992.

¹¹³ The 1861 Census asked for age at next birthday, so one year was subtracted from the age recorded on the form.

¹¹⁴ According to the 1901 Census, he was farming in the Township of Hagarty, Sherwood and Jones, as was his brother John.

River to supply water to the residents of Eganville. In 1911, when a devastating fire raged through the north side of Eganville, George Perrigo's house was spared but not his outbuildings. The damage was estimated at \$600. Like most residents, he had no insurance; the cost was prohibitive because the village had virtually no fire protection. George Perrigo's house was on the south side of the river and the Eganville Leader commented that, had his house not been saved, damage to the south side of Eganville would have been as extensive as it was north of the river.¹¹⁵

John Perrigo was living in Wilberforce Township when he married Irish-born Jane Battle in 1861. Like his brother Andrew, he was a farmer. He died in 1910 in Richards Township, which is north of Killaloe, Renfrew County.

Rebecca Perrigo, who married Barclay Farrell, was enumerated in South Algona Township in 1881 and 1901. She died in 1929 at age 85 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Golden Lake.

Lloyd's direct ancestor, Maria Jane, was born in Wilberforce Township c1855. In 1871, at age seventeen, she was working as a servant in a farm household in Algona Township, Renfrew County. Later that year, she married James Henry Smith (c1836-c1912) of Quyon, Quebec. The couple made their home in Pontiac County, Quebec. They moved frequently in search of more productive farm land and raised sheep to supplement their crop income.¹¹⁶ In 1891, James and Maria Smith were enumerated with seven of their children in Quyon Village; James was working as a general labourer. They eventually moved to Ottawa with their daughter Cecilia, Lloyd's grandmother. James Henry died sometime between 1911 and 1914. Maria Jane died in Ottawa in 1914, age fifty-eight. Her address at the time was 69 Rosedale Avenue.

So while we can draw a reasonably good picture of Maria Jane Perrigo and her siblings, we are missing very basic information about her father. Where and when was James Perrigo born? When did he die and where is he buried?

¹¹⁵ Eganville Leader, 2002.

¹¹⁶ Pelot, 1998.

Line of Descent from James Perrigo to Joseph Lloyd Pelot

1. **James Perrigo** (c1800-?)
Born in ?
Married Jane Sunstrum in Bathurst District, Ontario, 1841
Died in ?
2. **Maria Jane Perrigo** (1854-1914)
Born in Wilberforce
Married James Henry Smith in Eganville, 1872
Died in Ottawa
3. **Cecilia Jane Smith** (1875-1968)
Born in Ladysmith, Quebec
Married John Henry Pelot in Quyon, 1894
Died in Ottawa
4. **William John Pelot** (1900-1969)
Born in Quyon
Married Éliane Gauthier in Ottawa, 1925
Died in Ottawa.
5. **Joseph Lloyd Pelot**



LLOYD'S PELOT ANCESTRY presents a double conundrum: Huguenot roots and a connection to the Isle of Man.

Jonas Pelot, the first Pelot known to have set foot on American soil, was a Swiss Huguenot who emigrated to South Carolina in 1734. His descendants have done a remarkably thorough job of documenting their roots.¹¹⁷

Our branch of the Pelots may also have been Huguenots who fled France or Switzerland to England. Lloyd's ancestor, John James Pelot, was a Liverpuddlian Catholic when he set sail for Canada with his bride circa 1850. What happened to the families in between? When and why did the Pelots convert to Catholicism? Or was this branch of Pelots Catholic all along, migrating from the continent to England for reasons other than religion?

A tenuous link between our branch of the Pelots and the American descendants of Jonas Pelot is Samuel George Pelot, a fourth-generation descendant of Jonas. Samuel's father owned a plantation and, like others of his ilk, he may have favoured marriage between his children and merchant families in England to promote trade and develop export markets for his products. Perhaps in that vein, Samuel George Pelot, a master mariner, married Charlotte Maria Ann Rathbone in Liverpool in 1815.¹¹⁸ Thirty years later, John James Pelot

¹¹⁷ Colket, 1980.

¹¹⁸ Colket, 1980 and Liverpool, England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1923.

married Mary Ellen O'Donnell in the same city. Was there a family connection between Samuel and John James Pelot?

Equally intriguing is the Pelot association with the Isle of Man. There appears to be one slim piece of evidence – a Canadian census return for 1871 stating that John James Pelot's place of birth was the Isle of Man. But it has not been possible to support this either through online sources or even with the assistance of the Isle of Man Family History Society. No other Census returns corroborate the Manx connection. They invariably list John James Pelot's place of birth as England. (This includes information on parents' place of birth collected on his children's census returns.)

But the census by no means *disproves* the Manx connection. The Pelots could have reported "England" as John James' place of birth because it was simpler. Census enumerators might have mistakenly thought the Isle of Man was in England. In fact, one might be inclined to believe the 1871 Census return simply because such a reply could hardly come out of thin air.

If there is a connection, did John James' parents, John Pelot and Julie Welsh, also live there? Or was their home in England and the birth on the Isle of Man simply an occurrence on a trip? Family lore has it that John Pelot Sr was a merchant. He may have had trade links with the Isle of Man. Could he and Julie have been there as visitors when their son was born?



JUNE GREW UP BELIEVING that her family roots include some Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors.

The Pennsylvania Dutch are mainly of German extraction, emigrating to Pennsylvania in the 17th and 18th century. The majority came from southwestern Germany but some were Alsatian, Swiss or French Protestant.

After the American Revolution, John Simcoe, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, invited pacifists to settle in British North America. As a consequence, small communities of Pennsylvania Dutch were established in Ontario, settling mainly around the Twenty (in the Niagara Peninsula), Waterloo and York County.

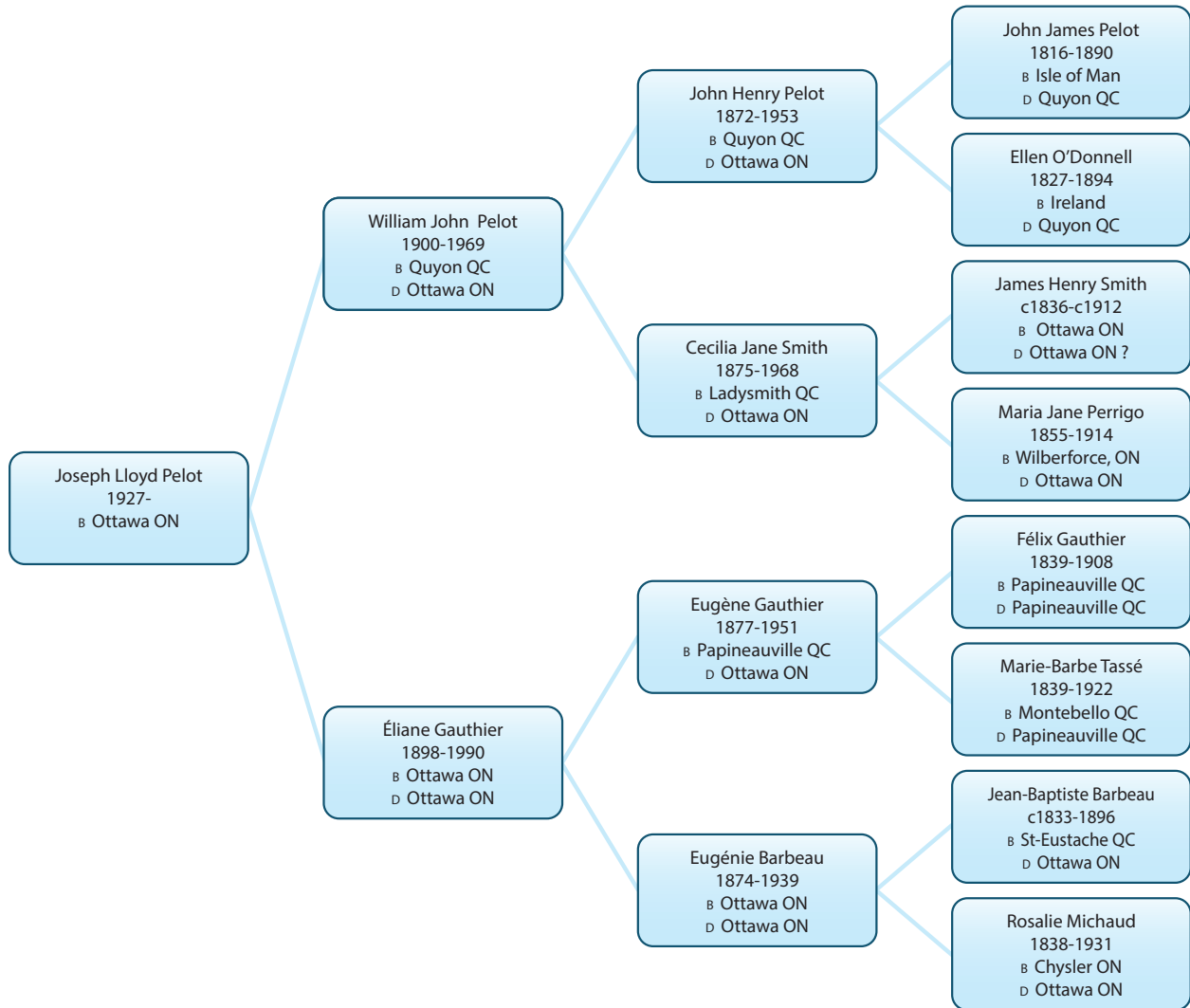
Given the York County connection, it would not be too surprising to find Pennsylvania Dutch among June's ancestors. No Pennsylvania Dutch have thus far stood up to be counted. So for the time being it's a mystery, which time will hopefully solve.



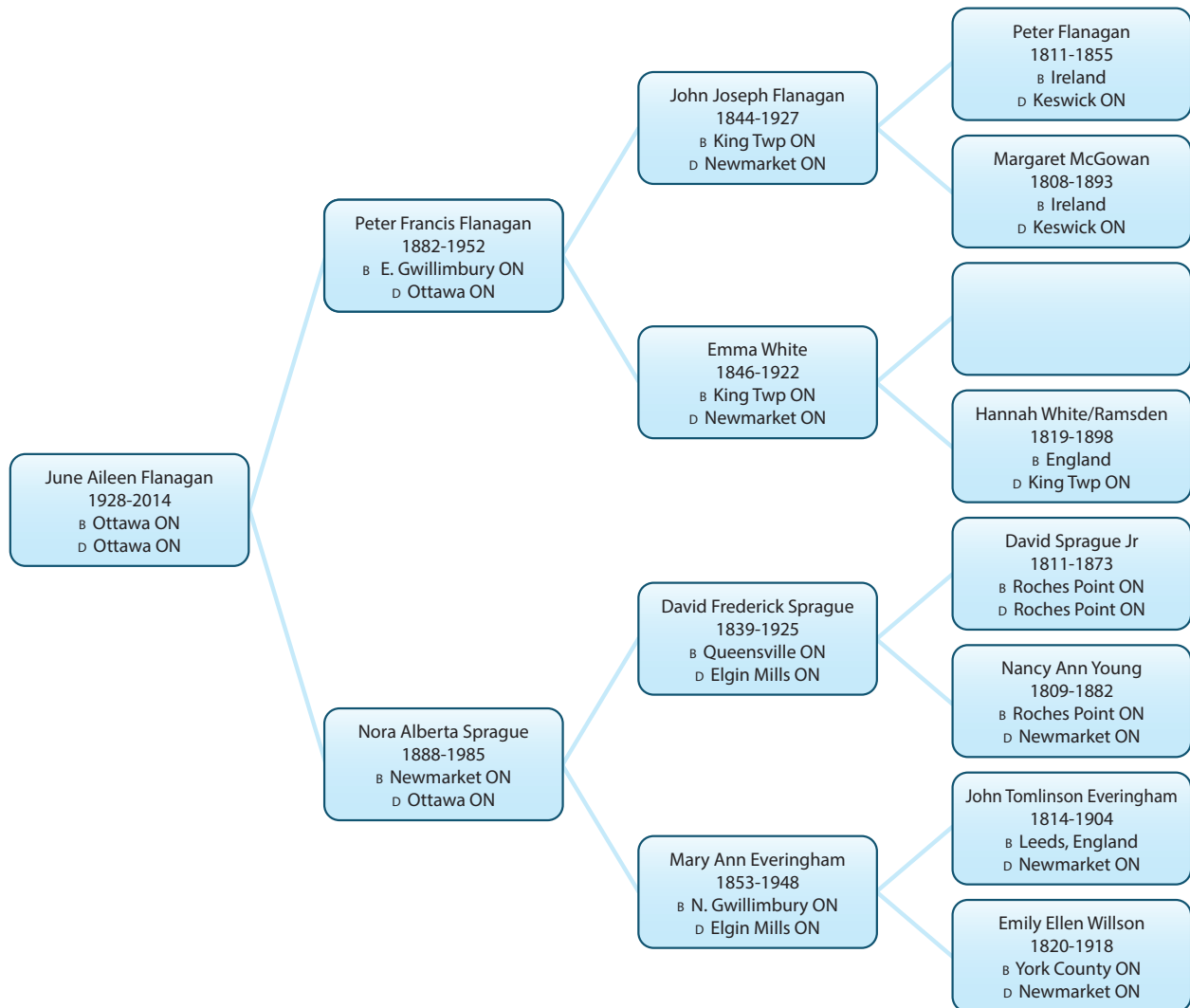
Appendix

JOSEPH LLOYD PELOT AND JUNE AILEEN FLANAGAN'S ANCESTORS

Joseph Lloyd Pelot's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents



June Aileen Flanagan's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents



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June Aileen Flanagan and Joseph Lloyd Pelot in 2009.

Certificate of Marriage

This is to Certify that on the fourth
day of June A.D. 1949, at Billing's Bridge
in the Province of Ontario, I solemnized the Marriage
of Lloyd Pelot and
June Flanagan pursuant
to due Proclamation of Intention to Intermarry.

Witnesses to marriage:
Walter Pelot
Peter F. Flanagan

M. Leo Lacroix
(name of officiating minister)
Billing's Bridge Ont
(address)
R.C. Priest
(denomination)
13510
(registration certificate number)

Their wedding certificate dated June 4, 1949.

