

STILLMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No. 2

September 25, 2004

Hi Everyone,

This is the 2nd Newsletter that I have created for people who are researching the Stillman family from Nova Scotia. Please feel free to pass along to others who may be interested.

For those who are new to the list, there have been several DNA tests that indicate that George Stillman family of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia are very closely related to the Dillman family. To see more on this, please visit the Dillman family website at: www.DillmanFamilyAssociation.org or if requested, I can send out the 1st Newsletter (entitled Update on Stillman Family Genealogy) to those who missed it.

As indicated in the first Newsletter, I was about to make a trip to Halifax for a few days of research at the Archives there. I returned on the 8th of September. However, I wasn't able to find anything that I would call a "breakthrough". I am still going through and transcribing everything I found and I will send it along periodically. I will try to keep these Newsletters brief and readable, and that way, I will be able to send something for the next few months. I hope you find these useful and interesting.

Also, if others would like to contribute items such as pictures, documents, lineages, please feel free to do so and I will send them to the rest of the group. I don't want this to end up being me eulogizing....

1) Wills of Sponsors at Early Stillman Baptisms

Many researchers have noted with great curiosity the names of the sponsors for the baptisms of the children of George and Sarah Stillman at St. George's Anglican Church in Parrsboro. These sponsors are candidates for possible parents of Sarah Stillman.

The sponsors included Col. Edward and Mrs. Cole and Thomas Potts. Thomas Potts also sold the first known piece of property purchased by George Stillman in Parrsboro in 1788 (transaction transcribed by Maryellen Canfora). So little is known about Sarah Stillman.

I have looked at the Wills for these two (Edward Cole and Thomas Potts) recently to see if they listed bequests to their children. Unfortunately, Edward Cole left all his property to his wife, Elizabeth (PANS MFM# 19712, pages 144, 152, 135). His will was dated 18 Oct 1792 and was probated on 6 Mar 1793 at Windsor. I am attaching a transcription of the will and probate documents for Edward Cole.

Thomas Potts also left his estate to his wife (PANS MFM #19418). I didn't copy the will of Thomas Potts since it was so similar to that of Edward Cole. Thomas Potts will was probated Feb 20, 1793.

I also looked at the will of Silas Crane. He and his wife were two of the first English settlers in the Parrsboro area. He died on 9 Apr 1792 and his will was administered on 17 May 1792. (PANS MFM# 19784). Again, he left his entire estate to his wife, Mary. What was interesting about this

case, was to be found in the "Inventory and Appraisement of the Goods And Chattels, Lands and Tenements belonging to the Estate of Silas Crane, late of Parrsborough, deceased,...". In the section on Notes of Hand (i.e., monetary loans Silas made), was George Stillman. He owed Silas' estate 3 pounds sterling, 1 shilling and 4 pence. George Stillman was one of about 25-30 people who owed Silas money.

Conclusion: The wills don't rule out the possibility of Sarah Stillman being a daughter of any of these people.

Next Steps: Should investigate the wills (if they exist) of the wives of these men since the "estates" would then be passing on the next generation.

2) Early Cumberland County Church Records

I was interested mainly in looking at the records for Cumberland County (parts were formerly Kings County) for the early 1800's to see if there were any mention of the Stillman family. Particularly, I was interested in anything on George and Sarah Stillman. I searched all the church records for the area, most did not begin very early. I wasn't able to find anything definite. Specifically, I looked at the following:

- a) St. George's Anglican Church Records, Parrsboro (for the third time!!!) PANS MFM 11757-11762 (more on this in item 3)
- b) Maccan Methodist records PANS MFM# 11657 (list of members from 1824-1840)
- c) Marriages performed by Samuel Wilson (1805-1814). PANS MFM# 9658
- d) Trinity United records. PANS MFM# 11763-11766 (records starting from 1854)
- e) Nappan Methodist records. PANS MFM# 11692 (records starting from 1869-1899)

In the Maccan Methodist records, I found references to Elizabeth (Stillman) Nelson as being a member of the Maccan Methodist Circuit. It was very interesting to note that the first year she signed up, she was accompanied by someone listed as Sarah Nelson. Elizabeth's husband, Peter, did not have any siblings in Canada, let alone Nova Scotia. There do not seem to be any other Nelson families in that area (listed as Maccan Mountain, now known as Leamington). And finally, Peter and Elizabeth did not have any daughters named Sarah. This leads me to **SUSPECT that the person listed as Sarah Nelson was actually Elizabeth's mother, Sarah Stillman.** This can never be proven and is just a hypothesis. I am attaching excerpts from the members lists. I had to write it down by hand since the Archives does not allow the photocopying of Church Records.

3) Rachel Stillman - common mistake

I have seen many times the same error creep into Stillman genealogies. I just wanted to make it clear that the Rachel Stillman who married James Henry Benedict was not the daughter of Andrew Stillman. I saw this again recently from someone on this mailing list (no names mentioned!!). In the St. George's Anglican Church Records, on MFM# 11757, there is the baptism record of Rachel Stillman on Jan. 11, 1827, daughter of Andrew Stillman and Lottie Henwood. However, if you look further on the same reel, there is a burial record for the very same Rachel Stillman. She is listed as having died on January 22, 1827. Hence, the wife of James Henry Benedict can not have been the daughter of Andrew Stillman. In the application for marriage of Rachel Stillman to James Henry Benedict, the applicants for the license were listed as George Henry Stillman and Harris Harding Foley. I would argue that George Henry Stillman was Rachel's father. Later on, Henry Benedict was one of the applicants for the marriage of 3 of George Henry Stillman's other children. (more on the marriages in another issue)

4) Other news from my recent trip

This will be the final item this time around. Wanted to let people know that while I was on my trip, I visited another Stillman research by the name of Donna Parker. She is legally blind and does not have access to a computer. She graciously allowed me to photocopy her entire genealogy of the descendants of Rachel Stillman and James Henry Benedict. I have also acquired the last available copy of the "Descendants of Peter Nelson and his wife Elizabeth Stilman" from Mrs. Ernest (Audrey) Coates.

Also, the Cumberland County Museum is putting together a listing of all tombstones in cemeteries in Cumberland County. Some are available already on their website. Their contact info is:

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