

STILLMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No. 9

September 29, 2008

First of all, I must apologize for the delay in creating the current Newsletter. Hopefully, it won't take as long to produce the next one!

The bulk of this issue is dedicated to the branch of the Stillman family headed by Edward Stillman, the son of George and Sarah Stillman, the first of our Stillman line in Nova Scotia. Much of this information has been provided by Maryellen Canfora, Marsha Gaddis (who descends from Edward), Andrew Stillman and researcher Janice Fralic-Brown.

1) Edward Stillman and Family

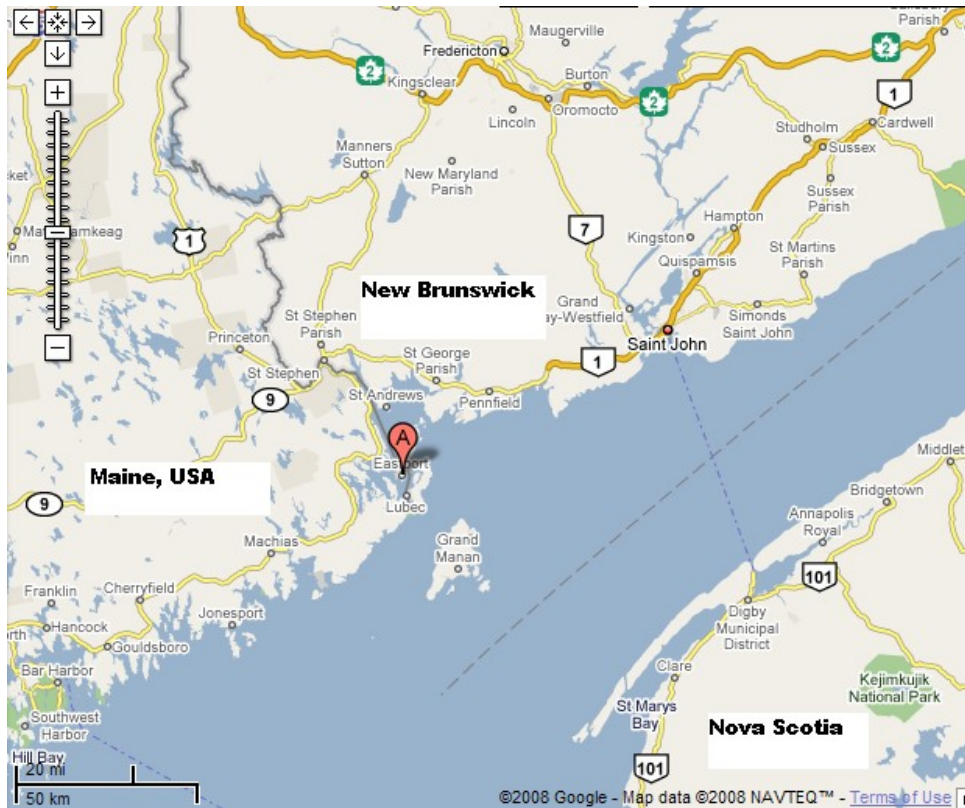
Edward Stillman's family has long been an enigma for Stillman researchers. Maryellen had found reference to his family in a February 1818 Land Grant, which noted that Edward was born in N.S., had a wife, 2 boys and 2 girls¹. From this we know that Edward had progeny. However, there was no trace of them following this. The first Nova Scotia Census in 1861, which only listed heads of households, did not provide any further information. It seemed as if Edward's family moved away or were deceased.

Through diligent research, record keeping and a desire to pursue the pieces of the puzzle, the life and circumstances of Edward Stillman and his family have been uncovered. The story begins thus.

Edward Stillman was probably born in the spring of 1788, as the Parrsborough Township Records indicate that he was baptized on the 8th of June 1788² at St. George's Anglican Church, Parrsborough, which at that time was in Kings County (now Cumberland County), Nova Scotia. St. George's was initially the family church of George and Sarah Stillman and several of their children were baptized here. Significantly, it was also noted that Edward had been born at Eastport. There is no Eastport in Nova Scotia today. The most likely candidate is Eastport, Maine. It should be remembered that the border between the United States (Maine) and Canada (New Brunswick) was often disputed. In fact, up until 1812 Eastport, Maine was considered to be on the New Brunswick side of the border. (The orange A marks Eastport, Maine on the map below)

¹ NS Archives & Records Management mfm# 15724, Land Papers, RG 20, Series A, Vol. 72-73, Reel 49

² St. George Anglican Church Records, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, Canada, NSARM mfm# 11757.



Edward's mother, Sarah Stillman, must have been on a sea journey, presumably on the return portion and anxious to return home for the birth of her first child. It is possible Sarah had been visiting family, perhaps in Eastport, which was a very tiny settlement at this time, or perhaps further down the Atlantic seaboard.

Nothing more is known of Edward's early life, other than he was the eldest of a growing family of 3 sisters and 5 brothers, along with an infant sibling who died in 1796 (baptized 1 Jan 1796, buried 1796³).

The next known event in Edward's life was his marriage on 12 February 1811⁴ to Rachel Foley, as recorded by Marsha Gaddis' grandmother, Mary (Jonas) Mosher. Fortunately, these records have come down to us and have been shared by Marsha. Mary Mosher's husband, Richard Mosher, was Edward Stillman's great-grandson through his eldest child, Sarah Elizabeth, who was born 27 October 1811.

Following his marriage, and with the assistance of his father, George, Edward purchased from Jonathan Crane 250 acres in Lot #9 on the west side of the main road leading from Partridge Island in Parrsboro. This purchase took place on 29 May 1811⁵. In this land transaction, both George and Edward were referred to as Dillman.

Three more children were born to Edward and Rachel as follows: Edward Nelson on 12 November 1813⁶, Silas Hilbert on 20 November 1815⁷, and Rachel Mary on 31 December 1817⁸. Clearly, these were the 2 boys and 2 girls noted in Edward's land grant in 1818.

On 28 August 1816⁹, Edward, this time recorded as Stillman, completed paying for Lot #9, purchased in 1811. On 24 March 1821, Edward's father, George, relinquished control over the

³ Parrsborough Township Records, NSARM mfm#13256.

⁴ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis.

⁵ Andrew Stillman research; Family History Library MFM# 0496343, page 180. Full record was transcribed and appeared in the Stillman Family Association Newsletter 7, October 2005.

⁶ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

remaining 50 acres of land in Lot #9 to Edward, which they first purchased jointly in 1816¹⁰. Significantly, the deed of sale for this property listed the surname as Dillman. It is also possible that this transfer may indicate that George had passed away at this point and they were tidying up the property ownership following the death.

Next, Edward and Rachel had another daughter, Emily Jerome on 23 June 1820¹¹. Edward and Rachel's sixth child, a daughter, was born 4 September 1822¹². They named her Freeloove Ann.

On 16 December 1822¹³, Edward mortgaged his property, Lot #9, to James Ratchford for £60. In this Deed of Mortgage, Edward was referred to as Dilman: "I Edward Dilman of Parrsborough in the county of Kings and Province of Nova Scotia, marriner"¹⁴ Significantly, we have Edward stating his profession as being a mariner.

The following appeared in the Halifax Weekly Chronicle on Friday, 6 May 1825, p. 3:

"The schr. Shamrock from Parrsborough to Passamaquoddy was lost in a heavy gale on the night of the 20th ult. within a few miles of Eastport. The crew consisting of Mr. Stillman, the master, and Abraham and Daniel Brown (coloured men) were unfortunately all lost. Capt. Stillman has left a large family in Parrsborough to lament their bereavement."

This Captain Stillman of Parrsborough, who drowned on 20 April 1825 when his ship was lost, can be none other than Edward Stillman. At that time, Edward would have been approximately 37 years old and he and Rachel had 6 children. A seventh child, John William, was born 27 September 1825¹⁵, 5 months after the death of his father.

The Shamrock was built in Parrsborough in 1821 and was owned by John McGrath and Patrick Gibney¹⁶. It had a gross tonnage of 47 tonnes. The registration, H821058, was closed in 1825 with a place of closure listed as being St. Andrew's, New Brunswick.

The estate of Edward Stillman went through Probate on 19 November 1825. The estate was administered by John Stillman, Edward's younger brother. (Edward had two other brothers, Andrew and Samuel who were older than John; however they were married with young children, so presumably too busy to undertake this task.) John completed an Inventory of Edward's goods, chattel and credits. The Inventory was completed December 8, 1825 and was valued at £150, including £100 for a lot of land containing 250 acres (presumably Lot 9 which was mortgaged to James Ratchford in 1823). Other items in the inventory included among others: 7 cattle, 2 ewes, 3 lambs, various farm implements, furniture and household goods.

No further records for this property, Lot #9 have been located. It isn't clear whether James Ratchford, as the mortgagor of the property took it over or if Rachel was able to pay off the mortgage or sold the property. Rachel was bereft of her husband and had to support 7 children ranging in age from 14 to a newborn son. Clearly, Edward's untimely death had left his family in a serious situation, about which we have no information.

The next we hear about this family is when Sarah Elizabeth Stillman, Edward and Rachel's eldest child, was married on 26 February 1829¹⁷ to Noah Mosher, the son of Jehu Mosher and Eleanor Foley. Sarah and Noah were probably related through the Foley line. Marsha's records indicate that this couple was married in Connecticut, although a record has been found that states:

⁹ Andrew Stillman research; Family History Library MFM# 0496344, vol 3, page 65. Full record was transcribed and appeared in the Stillman Family Association Newsletter 7, October 2005.

¹⁰ Maryellen Canfora's research: Family History Library Film# 0496344 Parrsboro, Nova Scotia Registry of Deeds, Vol. 3, 1820-1836, page 66. Full record was transcribed and appeared in the Stillman Family Association Newsletter 7, October 2005.

¹¹ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Andrew Stillman research; Family History Library MFM# 0496344, vol 3, page 67-68. Full record was transcribed and appeared in the Stillman Family Association Newsletter 7, October 2005.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis

¹⁶ Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada, compiled by Maritime History Archive, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

¹⁷ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis

"Married at Newport by Rev. R. H. Crane: Mr. Noe Masure [Mosher] and Miss S. E. Stillman, Parrsborough."¹⁸

Noah and Sarah (Stillman) Mosher's first child was born 10 Dec 1829¹⁹ and was named Salome Rachel Mosher. The baby's second name Rachel naturally was for Sarah's mother. The second of 8 children was born 31 Dec 1831²⁰ and named Omen Edward, after Sarah's father.

Noah appears in the 1838 Census for Newport Township, Hants County, Nova Scotia. His household is listed as having 9 members; 1 male under the age of 6, 3 females under the age of 6, 1 female between 6 and 14, 1 male above 14 and 2 females above 14. Noah and Sarah would have had 4 children by 1838 with a fifth born in September of that year. It is probable one or two of Sarah's siblings were residing with her and Noah at the time of this Census.

All 8 of Noah and Sarah (Stillman) Mosher's children were born in Hants County, Nova Scotia. According to Marsha, this family moved to Connecticut in 1851.

It also appears that Edward and Rachel's daughter, Rachel Mary, married Zubal Baker on 20 June 1839²¹ in Newport, Hants County, Nova Scotia. As this wedding took place in Newport, Hants County where Noah and Sarah Mosher were resident, it is quite likely that prior to Rachel's marriage, Rachel was living with her sister, Sarah Mosher and was one of the females over 14 years old in the household of Noah Mosher in 1838 above. Further information concerning Zubal and Rachel Baker is not known.

No information is known about Edward and Rachel's sons, Edward Nelson, Silas Hilbert, or John William or the remaining daughters, Emily Jerome or Freelope Ann. If anyone has further clues as to descendants of this line of the Stillman family, please do not hesitate to forward them to me.

2) Sorting Out Various John Stillmans

We seem to keep finding additional John Stillmans! Maryellen has located and transcribed the following death notice that appeared in the Provincial Wesleyan on Saturday May 15, 1852. (page 360, vol 3, no. 45, [no. 149]):

On Friday morning, the 7th inst., John Stillman, an industrious and healthy young man, who has just passed his 24th year. While engaged in fishing on the Creek side below the Aboiteau, between Amherst and New Brunswick, he fell into the water and was drowned. His companion on the opposite side heard the splash, and saw his arm rise a little above the water; but though every effort that sympathy could suggest was used his body has not been restored to his deeply afflicted parents. He was a man against whom none could complain, but in a moment has he been called upon to give an account of his stewardship. His death should be a call upon all who may hear, to prepare to meet their God:

In midst of life in death we are
O then take warning and prepare,
Before your endless doom is sealed;
Christ sends you now an earnest call,
And offers grace and life to all,
The wounded may be healed.
Afflicted parents, mourn no more,
You soon shall reach the happy shore,
Where all our troubles end;
O look in this afflicted hour.
To Him who has the will and power
To be the sufferer's friend.

¹⁸ Maryellen Canfora, researcher: Punch, Terrence M. (Comp.), "Nova Scotia Vital Statistics From Newspapers", Vol. 2 - 1829-1843, Publication #6. Acadian Recorder, Saturday, 14 March 1829.

¹⁹ Family Notes made by Mary Mosher in possession of Marsha Gaddis

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Newport Church Records, NSARM mfm #11733.

This John Stillman passed away on 7 May 1852 in his 24th year, meaning he wasn't yet 24. This would place his birth in 1829.

As we have seen, Edward and Rachel above had a son John William, but he was born on 27 September 1825.

Other candidates are Andrew and Charlotte (Henwood) Stillman. They were married in 1819 and their first known child was Rachel, born and died in January 1827. None of their known sons were named John.

Samuel and Mary (Casey) Stillman had a son, John Wesley Stillman. He was born approximately 1827 and was living in Carleton County, New Brunswick with his wife and 3 children in May 1852.

John Handover and Mary Stillman had a son, John Edgar Stillman, but he was born in 1833. They were living in Carleton County, New Brunswick at the time.

George Henry Stillman was not yet married at this point. Neither was David Thomas Stillman. The Stillman daughters in the first generation had long been married by 1829 and can be ruled out as John's possible mother.

If we look back at Samuel, however, we see that he sold property in 1849 to John Brown Stillman and Daniel Stillman. Daniel was clearly Samuel's son and Samuel was residing in the Amherst area at the time of the death of this John Stillman above. Further, when this property was sold back to Samuel in 1853, there was no mention of John Brown Stillman. It appears that the wrong John Stillman has been assigned as a child of Samuel and Mary (Casey) Stillman. It appears that John Brown Stillman was their son.

That would mean that John Wesley Stillman does not belong to Samuel and Mary Stillman. I should point out that the Census records for Carleton County in 1861 list this John as being John W. It is only later that one researcher, Terrence O'Rourke, stated that John W.'s middle name was Wesley. Further, the 1827 birth assigned for this John W. Stillman came from his tombstone. In certain Census records, John W.'s birth date is variably given as September 1824 or September 1825. Terrence O'Rourke provides John Wesley's birth as being 27 September 1824. It is becoming clearer that John Wesley Stillman, born 27 September is in fact, John William Stillman, son of Edward and Rachel Stillman. (It should be noted that it is also possible that he is a son of Andrew and Charlotte Stillman despite them not having been known to have a son John.)

Should anyone have thoughts on these different John Stillmans, please don't hesitate to bring them forward. Additionally, if there are any other records available, please share them.

3) Elizabeth McDonald Stillman

Maryellen Canfora has found a puzzling record. She has found a cemetery record in the Hants County inventory of markers for Cemetery #4, marker 184 as follows:

In Memory of
Elizabeth McDonald
Stillman
Born
Mar. 18, 1866
Died
Mar. 28, 1944

The dates are such that it rules out Eliza Scott, born ca. 1842, who first married a McDonald, and subsequently married Francis Stillman, son of George Henry Stillman and Sarah Jane Foley, in April 1873 in Newport, Hants County, Nova Scotia. However, the Elizabeth above would have been 7 years old. Also, it is believed that Eliza (Scott) (McDonald) Stillman passed away between 1881 and 1890 when Francis remarried to Hattie Foley and had a family.

Any clues as to who this Elizabeth McDonald Stillman is?

4) Dillman Mega Reunion

The 4th Bi-Annual Dillman Mega Reunion was held August 7-9, 2008 in Indianapolis. There were many new Dillmans in attendance, including a family of Dillmans from Alberta, Canada and another from Ontario, Canada. The Dillman Family Association's (DFA) website will be updated shortly with information on the presentations.

Several things of interest arose at the meeting. The first is that the DFA will begin issuing a Newsletter to their members. The first is due out imminently and the first few issues will be freely available to anyone who wants them. Afterwards, they will be for members only and I believe the membership fee is set at \$10 for every 2 years. Should anyone wish to receive the introductory Newsletters, please e-mail either myself at andrew.stillman@unb.ca or Chris Dillman at dillmanc@telus.net.

Additionally, the DFA is looking into a trip to Germany in October 2009 to visit locations where several of the Dillman family ancestors originated. The Dillman DNA project has identified at least 10 distinct Dillman families residing in North America. The itinerary is the process of being developed and includes the location of the ancestors of the Dillman family that our Stillman DNA matches. More information will be available in the DFA Newsletter or from myself.

Finally, I was roped into accepting the position of Vice President of the DFA. The functions assigned to this role, thankfully, should not be overwhelming.

5) DNA Testing Update

As mentioned above, the Dillman DNA project has been able to determine that there are at least 10 distinct Dillman families in North America. One such Dillman family represented is the Dillman family from Halifax County, Nova Scotia. Their DNA profile is so different from the DNA profile of George Stillman of Nova Scotia that any common ancestor would have existed 10,000 years ago.

Additionally, several other Stillman participants have joined the Stillman DNA Project that I had set up. I have not yet received their ancestry; however, it is clear from their results that again, they do not share a common ancestor with our Stillman family within the last 10,000 years or more.

It is interesting to note that the George Stillman family DNA matches are with the Hans Georg Dillman family of Neureut, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany.