



Family of Tristram Coffin and Dionis Stevens in Upper Canada

compiled by [John A. Brebner](#)

02 March 2023
Version 1.3

Generation One

1. **Tristram Coffin** #213494, b. 11 March 1605 in Brixton Parish, near Plymouth, Devon, England,¹ d. 20 October 1681 in Nantucket Island, Dukes, Massachusetts.¹

He married **Dionis Stevens** #213495, b. 04 March 1609 in Brixton, Devon, England,¹ d. after November 1681 in Nantucket, Dukes, Massachusetts.¹

Children:

2. i. **James Coffin** #213490 b. 12 August 1640.
3. ii. **Peter Coffin** #213496 b. 18 July 1630.

Generation Two

2. **James Coffin** #213490, b. 12 August 1640 in Brixton, Devon, England,¹ d. 28 July 1720 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.¹

He married **Mary Severance** #213491, b. 05 August 1645 in Salisbury, Massachusetts Bay Colony (daughter of **John Severance** #213492 and **Abigail (unidentified)** #213493), d. 28 July 1720 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Children:

4. i. **Nathaniel Coffin** #213488 b. 16 October 1671.
3. **Peter Coffin** #213496, b. 18 July 1630 in Brixton, Devon, England,¹ d. 21 March 1715 in Exeter, Rockingham, New Hampshire.¹

He married **Abigail Starbuck** #213497, b. c. 20 October 1640,¹ d. after 1680.¹

Generation Three

4. **Nathaniel Coffin** #213488, b. 16 October 1671 in Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire, d. 29 October 1721 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

He married **Damarais Gayer** #213489.

Children:

5. i. **William Coffin** #213486 b. 01 December 1699.

Generation Four

5. **William Coffin** #213486, b. 01 December 1699 in Nantucket, Massachusetts,¹ d. 20 June 1774 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,¹.

He married **Anne Holmes** #213487 (daughter of **Ebenezer Holmes** #243182 and **(unidentified)** #243183).

Children:

6. i. **William Coffin** #213462 b. 11 April 1723.
7. ii. **Nathaniel Coffin** #212232.
8. iii. **John Coffin** #243191 b. 02 June 1727.
9. iv. **John Coffin** #213101 b. 19 August 1729.
10. v. **Anne Coffin** #243192 b. 15 December 1730.
11. vi. **Rebecca Coffin** #243197 b. 01 March 1732.
12. vii. **Ebenezer Coffin** #243198 b. 29 August 1733.
13. viii. **Rebecca Coffin** #243199 b. 10 October 1734.
14. ix. **Ebenezer Coffin** #243200 b. 21 May 1736.
15. x. **Isaac Coffin** #243201 b. 03 July 1738.
16. xi. **Elizabeth Coffin** #243202 b. 30 September 1741.
17. xii. **Isaac Coffin** #243204 b. 22 January 1743.

Generation Five

6. **William Coffin** #213462, b. 11 April 1723 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 02 December 1803 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA.¹.

He married **Mary Aston** #213463, b. 01 October 1727 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ (daughter of **Thomas Aston** #213484 and **Rooksby Mackman Aston** #213485), d. 01 December 1803 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA.¹

Children:

18. i. **Thomas Aston Coffin** #212243 b. 31 March 1754.
19. ii. **Anne Coffin** #213465 b. c. 1755.
20. iii. **Jane Smith Coffin** #213478 b. 02 July 1755.
21. iv. **William Coffin** #213464 b. 29 January 1758.

22. v. **Mary Irving Coffin** #213475 b. 29 January 1760.
 23. vi. **Rooksby Harris Coffin** #213466 b. 19 April 1762.
 24. vii. **Ebenezer Coffin** #212245 b. 06 May 1763.
 25. viii. **Francis Coffin** #213467 b. 20 December 1767.
 26. ix. **Margaret Coffin** #213476 b. 16 April 1769.
 27. x. **Elizabeth Coffin** #213477 b. 1771.
7. **Nathaniel Coffin** #212232, b. in Boston, Massachusetts Bay Colony,² occupation Farmer and Landowner, occupation Collector of Customs in Boston, d. May 1780 in Atlantic Ocean, near New York.

New Brunswick Loyalists Lists, The Loyalists of New Brunswick," Esther Clark WRIGHT.

1776: Accompanied Royal Army to Halifax with family of three persons, July 1776, set sail for England.

1780: On the return trip to New York, he died the day before the vessel "Royal Oak" docked.

From: O. A. Cooke, "COFFIN, NATHANIEL," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 7, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_nathaniel_7E.html.

COFFIN, NATHANIEL, surveyor, politician, jp, office holder, and militia officer; b. 20 Feb. 1766 in Boston, fifth son of John Coffin* and Isabella Child; brother of Thomas; d. 12 Aug. 1846 in Toronto, apparently unmarried.

Nathaniel Coffin left Boston in the summer of 1775 when his family fled that place for Quebec. He was commissioned an ensign in the 40th Foot on 21 March 1783, but did not join the regiment until after it had left Staten Island (New York City) for England in November. On 11 Jan. 1786 he exchanged to half pay, perhaps because of a breach of discipline committed in Ireland.

Coffin then returned to Quebec, where he was appointed a surveyor on 19 July 1790. Over the next few years he worked in various parts of the province, particularly along the Rivière Bécancour and in the Portneuf region. In 1793 he joined William Vondenvelden*, Jesse Pennoyer*, and others to organize the masonic lodge Select Surveyors No.9. The following year Coffin and his father were founding members of an association dedicated to upholding the government in Lower Canada.

Between 1795 and 1802 Coffin was active in the area around Missisquoi Bay, and he was a member of the committee formed by Pennoyer, Samuel Willard*, and others to press the government to speed the processing of applications for land. Coffin's involvement in the region's affairs was reflected in his election from Bedford County to the House of Assembly in July 1796, but he was not conspicuous during his four years in the house. On 14 Dec. 1796 he was commissioned a jp for the district of Montreal, a post he held until around 1810. Coffin was employed by Governor Robert Prescott* in 1797 to collect witnesses for the prosecution in the trial for treason of David McLane*.

On 31 Aug. 1802 Coffin was among those granted 1,200 acres in the newly established township of Compton, where he had already made a start at settling. Over the next decade his whereabouts are largely unknown. He appears to have been in Quebec in July 1812 when he was appointed provincial aide-de-camp to his brother-in-law Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe*. For his service with Sheaffe at Queenston Heights he was mentioned in dispatches, and he was with him in the battle at York (Toronto) in April 1813.

Coffin was appointed deputy adjutant general of the Upper Canadian militia in January 1814. As such, he looked after administration from the department's office in Kingston while the adjutant general, Colley Lyons Lucas Foster, moved with the army headquarters. On 25 March 1815 Coffin was made adjutant general, the only militia officer retained in full-time service after the war. He kept his rank of lieutenant-colonel, which he had received in October 1812, and was promoted colonel in 1820.

In 1816 the business of the general board of militia claims, which dealt with back pay for the wartime militia, was transferred to the adjutant general's office. Accounting for pay claims and preparing payment necessitated Coffin's presence in Quebec for the first six months of 1818, and payment itself occupied much of his time over the next several years. Not until about 1821 was this duty being displaced by the problems attendant on the formation of new units and the issuing of equipment.

After the war Coffin fell increasingly into disfavour with the reform-minded House of Assembly. There were objections in 1818 to his hiring a clerk, and an act authorizing part of the adjutant general's allowances, which lapsed in 1820, was not renewed until 1822, and then only after considerable pressure from Coffin and Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland*. Although in 1821 a committee of the assembly investigated the duties of the adjutant general and recommended a larger staff, the necessary funds were not voted. In 1823 an assistant adjutant general, James FitzGibbon*, was appointed, but contingency funds allowing Coffin to travel were insufficient. Further financial restraints imposed in May 1825 meant that the department could not even pay its own postage, and FitzGibbon resigned in 1827 when the assembly reduced his pay. These difficulties were not eased by Coffin's long-running quarrel with the assemblyman François Baby* concerning the amount of land due to Baby for his services as a militia officer during the War of 1812. Coffin's problems with the house culminated in March 1828, when he and the superintendent of Indian affairs, James Givins, were summoned to appear before a select committee investigating a dispute over government land involving William Forsyth. They were refused permission to attend by Maitland, and the reform element had them jailed for contempt until the end of the session a few days later.

Between 1833 and 1836 Coffin was increasingly involved in the affairs of the 1st Northumberland Regiment, whose commanding officer, John Covert, was attempting to block the activities and promotions of some of his officers because he disagreed with their political views. When Covert's behaviour finally resulted in his court martial, he blamed Coffin for having let the case go that far.

Old and sick by the 1830s, Coffin applied for retirement. Although a bill providing him with a pension and making other changes in his department was passed in the assembly, it failed in the Legislative Council. Coffin was still adjutant general on the eve of the rebellion of 1837, but his assistant, Walter O'Hara*, was doing the work, and much was left undone. When revolt broke out, Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head* replaced Coffin with FitzGibbon.

Nathaniel Coffin did not begin his militia career until he was well into middle age. He received his appointment in 1812 because of a family tie, and had little experience of leading troops in action. Consequently he appears not to have been held in very high regard as head of the Upper Canadian militia in the post-war years, whatever his merits as an administrator. He was the senior staff officer during a period of great growth for the militia, when new units were organized throughout the province as a result of the influx of settlers. However, these units were never more than nominal, being for the most part unequipped and seldom mustered.

O. A. Cooke.

He married **Elizabeth Barnes** #212234, b. 1730,³ (daughter of **Henry Barnes** #212250 and **(unidentified)** #212251), d. 12 February 1784 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.³

Elizabeth:

New Brunswick Loyalists Lists, "The Loyalists of New Brunswick," Esther Clark WRIGHT.

1776: Accompanied Royal Army to Halifax with family of three persons, July 1776, set sail for England.

1780: On the return trip to New York, he died the day before the vessel "Royal Oak" docked.

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general and recommended a larger staff, the necessary funds were not voted. In 1823 an assistant adjutant general, James FitzGibbon*, was appointed, but contingency funds allowing Coffin to travel were insufficient. Further financial restraints imposed in May 1825 meant that the department could not even pay its own postage, and FitzGibbon resigned in 1827 when the assembly reduced his pay. These difficulties were not eased by Coffin's long-running quarrel with the assemblyman François Baby* concerning the amount of land due to Baby for his services as a militia officer during the War of 1812. Coffin's problems with the house culminated in March 1828, when he and the superintendent of Indian affairs, James Givins, were summoned to appear before a select committee investigating a dispute over government land involving William Forsyth. They were refused permission to attend by Maitland, and the reform element had them jailed for contempt until the end of the session a few days later.

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Old and sick by the 1830s, Coffin applied for retirement. Although a bill providing him with a pension and making other changes in his department was passed in the assembly, it failed in the Legislative Council. Coffin was still adjutant general on the eve of the rebellion of 1837, but his assistant, Walter O'Hara*, was doing the work, and much was left undone. When revolt broke out, Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head* replaced Coffin with FitzGibbon.

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O. A. Cooke.

Children:

28. i. **Nathaniel Coffin** #212252 b. 1749.
29. ii. **John (Jonathan) Perry Coffin** #212233 b. c. 1762.
30. iii. **William Coffin** #212253.
31. iv. **Isaac Coffin** #212236 b. 16 May 1759.
32. v. **John Coffin** #212240.
33. vi. **Ebenezer Coffin** #212241 b. 1725.
34. vii. **Elizabeth Coffin** #243184 b. c. 1757.
35. viii. **Christian Coffin** #243185 b. c. 1760.
36. ix. **Christian Coffin** #243186 b. c. 1763.
37. x. **Anne Coffin** #243187 b. c. 1765?

38. xi. **Catherine Coffin** #243188 b. c. 1769.

8. **John Coffin** #243191, b. 02 June 1727 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 30 October 1728.
9. **John Coffin** #213101, b. 19 August 1729 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, occupation 1775 Merchant and Distiller in Boston, d. 25 September 1808 in Quebec, Lower Canada,⁴ buried in St. Matthew Anglican Cemetery, Quebec, Quebec.⁴ .

(Eleven children)

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_john_1729_1808_5E.html

COFFIN, JOHN, businessman, militia officer, and office holder; b. 19 Aug. 1729 in Boston, Mass., son of William and Ann Coffin; d. 25 Sept. 1808 at Quebec, Lower Canada.

At the outbreak of the American revolution John Coffin was established in Boston as a merchant, distiller, and shipowner. Although usually discreet and reserved, he did not conceal his loyalist sentiments; nor did other members of his family, some of whom decided to emigrate. He himself reached Quebec early in August 1775 on his schooner Neptune, with his wife, Isabella Child, their 11 children, and a few belongings.

Upon arrival Coffin bought a lot at Près-de-Ville, on the St Lawrence at the foot of Cap Diamant, and set about building a distillery there. But with American troops on the verge of attacking Quebec, the site was hastily converted into a defensive post and fitted out with guns. Coffin volunteered for the militia and joined a small force which early on the morning of 31 Dec. 1775, during a violent storm, stopped the attack led by Major-General Richard Montgomery*, killing him and turning back his men. Governor Guy Carleton, militia captain Thomas Ainslie, and lieutenant-colonels Henry Caldwell and Allan Maclean* attributed this success to the militia officers and to Coffin himself. In July 1776 Maclean paid him tribute: "To your resolution and watchfulness . . . in keeping the guard at the Pres-de-Ville under arms, waiting for the attack which you expected; the great coolness with which you allowed the rebels to approach; the spirit which your example kept up among the men, and the very critical instant in which you directed Capt. [Adam] Barnsfare's fire against Montgomery and his troops, – to those circumstances alone do I ascribe the repulsing the rebels from that important post, where, with their leader, they lost all heart."

In May 1778 Coffin, through William Grant (1744 -1805), the attorney acting for Sir Thomas Mills* who was away in London, bought the house on Rue Saint-Louis which had formerly belonged to Michel-Jean-Hugues Péan* and in which Louis-Joseph de Montcalm* had died; Coffin had already been living in it for "about three years. "He was unable, however, to pay immediately the £1,000 that the land, house, sheds, and other outbuildings were worth. In the period 1778 - 1781 he borrowed £465 from Thomas Dunn, and in March 1780 he signed a note to Grant for £1,058 to pay for his property, yet at the end of that year he in turn lent £2,500. In February 1783, as a result of "the misfortunes suffered in his business through the present war," Coffin could not honour his obligations to Grant and therefore ceded him his house as repayment for the debt. He went to live at Près-de-Ville, on the site of his distillery, and then after 1785 returned to Rue Saint-Louis. In 1790 he obtained a loan of £190 from Jacob Jordan*, to whom he still owed £150 in March 1801.

As a loyalist Coffin presented numerous claims to the government, for example in 1776, 1778, 1783, and 1784. He estimated the rebel damages to his establishment and his ship at £961, not counting the confiscation of his property by Massachusetts in 1779. He also asked the British government for a land grant, and in 1802 received a certificate generously promising him, his wife, and nine of their children 1,200 acres of land apiece. These grants were to be taken up in the townships reserved for loyalists, but no exact place or period of time was specified. Because the letters patent for each 200-acre lot cost £5, Coffin and his immediate family did not follow up this offer; one of his grandsons, Lieutenant-Colonel William Foster Coffin*, did avail himself of it and obtained 1,200 acres of land in 1864.

Nevertheless John Coffin probably found compensation in the various offices he held. He was made a justice of the peace for the District of Quebec in 1785, and a lieutenant in the Quebec Battalion of British Militia in 1787. Late in December of that year Carleton, now Lord Dorchester, appointed him one of the commissioners to inquire into the whole matter of the Jesuit estates [see Augustin-Louis de Glapion*]. By 1788 at the latest, he held the posts of deputy surveyor general of woods and deputy inspector of police at Quebec. The following year his name was listed as one of the owners of the first bridge across the Saint-Charles, which was called the Dorchester Bridge; in this capacity he was authorized to levy tolls for its use [see David Lynd]. In July 1794 he became commissioner of police for the town and district of Quebec, with a salary of £100 a year, and in August was made a captain in his militia battalion. In 1795 he received another promotion, this time to the post of surveyor general of woods for Lower Canada, a sinecure with an annual salary of £200 which he enjoyed for the rest of his life. In subsequent years Coffin received various commissions, including one for administering the oath to members of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly and another for examining applications for crown lands. He was also one of the commissioners named to superintend the House of Correction at Quebec. He carried out these responsibilities until his death on 25 Sept. 1808. On three occasions his widow petitioned for a pension, but no action was taken upon her requests.

A confirmed loyalist, John Coffin helped to support the British crown in his adopted country by his own actions and by his family's influence. From the time of its founding at Quebec in June 1794 he had been a member of an association established to uphold the British government in Lower Canada. Of his family, to which two more children had been born after his arrival in Canada, two sons, Thomas* and Nathaniel*, were members of the assembly, as was his son-in-law John Craigie, who was married to his daughter Susannah. His son William became a captain in the 15th Foot, James was assistant commissary general in the army at Quebec, and John, perhaps preceded in office by his father, held the post of deputy commissary general from 1794 to 1800. His daughter Margaret married Roger Hale Sheaffe*, who succeeded Sir Isaac Brock as military commander in Upper Canada.

Marie-Paule LaBrèque.

He married **Isabella Child** #213102, 05 December 1758 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,⁵ b. c. 1733, d. 1814.

Children:

39. i. **Charles Coffin** #243178 b. c. April 1773.
40. ii. **John Coffin** #243169 b. 28 March 1760.
41. iii. **William Coffin** #213111 b. 18 February 1761.
42. iv. **Thomas Coffin** #213104 b. 05 July 1762.
43. v. **Francis Coffin** #243175 b. 1764.
44. vi. **Nathaniel Coffin** #213103 b. 20 February 1766.
45. vii. **Susannah Coffin** #243164 b. 12 February 1767.
46. viii. **Francis Holmes Coffin** #243176 b. 12 July 1768.
47. ix. **Isabella Coffin** #243174 b. 19 July 1768.
48. x. **Anne Coffin** #243177 b. 06 August 1769.

- 49. xi. **James Coffin** #243168 b. 09 June 1771.
- 50. xii. **Margaret Coffin** #243170 b. 18 August 1779.

10. **Anne Coffin** #243192, b. 15 December 1730 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 24 January 1807.

She married **Gilbert DeBlois** #243193.

Children:

- 51. i. **Betsy DeBlois** #243194.
- 52. ii. **Stephen DeBlois** #243195.
- 53. iii. **John V.S. DeBlois** #243196.

- 11. **Rebecca Coffin** #243197, b. 01 March 1732 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 03 August 1732.
- 12. **Ebenezer Coffin** #243198, b. 29 August 1733 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 20 December 1733 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- 13. **Rebecca Coffin** #243199, b. 10 October 1734 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 01 October 1735 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- 14. **Ebenezer Coffin** #243200, b. 21 May 1736 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,⁵ d. 07 May 1805 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.⁵
- 15. **Isaac Coffin** #243201, b. 03 July 1738 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 04 September 1739 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- 16. **Elizabeth Coffin** #243202, b. 30 September 1741 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 17 June 1833 in Nantucket, Nantucket, Massachusetts, USA.

She married **Thomas Fisher Amory** #243203, 08 November 1764 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Thomas:
(nine children).

- 17. **Isaac Coffin** #243204, b. 22 January 1743 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 13 March 1743 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

Generation Six

- 18. **Thomas Aston Coffin** #212243, b. 31 March 1754 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 31 May 1810 in London, England,¹ occupation Baronet.

Left on the last boat of evacuation from New York, 25 NOV 1783
1784: Accompanied Sir Guy CARLETON to Lower Canada

1810: Returned to England

- 19. **Anne Coffin** #213465, b. c. 1755 in Boston?¹.

She married **Abel Harris Merritt** #213468.¹

Abel:

Surname also appears as "MERIT".

20. **Jane Smith Coffin** #213478, b. 02 July 1755 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 1829.¹ .

She married **Oliver Smith** #213479,¹ occupation Medical Doctor.¹

21. **William Coffin** #213464, b. 29 January 1758 in Boston, Massachusetts, d. 13 December 1804 in Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario, buried in St. Paul's Churchyard, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario.
22. **Mary Irving Coffin** #213475, b. 29 January 1760 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 1833.¹ .

She married **Shirley Irving** #213483,¹ occupation Medical Doctor.

23. **Rooksby Harris Coffin** #213466, b. 19 April 1762 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 06 July 1833.¹ .

She married **Abel Harris** #213469.

Children:

54. i. **William Coffin Harris** #213470.
55. ii. **Theodore J. Harris** #213471.
56. iii. **Herman Brimmer Harris** #213472.
57. iv. **Frances Mary Harris** #213473.
58. v. **Thomas Aston Harris** #213474.
24. **Ebenezer Coffin** #212245, b. 06 May 1763 in Boston, Massachusetts Colony,¹ d. 09 May 1817 in Coffin Point, Saint Helenas Island, South Caroline, USA.¹ .

Moved to South Carolina.

He married **Elizabeth Matthews** #212246, b. 05 January 1774 in South Carolina (daughter of **Benjamin Matthews** #213481 and **Sally (unidentified)** #213482), d. December 1813 in South Carolina.

Children:

59. i. **Thomas Aston Coffin** #212247.
25. **Francis Coffin** #213467, b. 20 December 1767 in Boston, Massachusetts Colony,¹ d. 1800.¹ .
26. **Margaret Coffin** #213476, b. 16 April 1769 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 21 November 1855 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USA.¹ .
27. **Elizabeth Coffin** #213477, b. 1771 in Boston, Massachusetts,¹ d. 1772 in Boston, Massachusetts.¹ .
28. **Nathaniel Coffin** #212252, b. 1749 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts Colony, occupation Barrister at Law in Boston, occupation Collector of Customs at St. Kitts, d. 1831 in London, England, buried in St. Marylebone, London, England.

Is this the same man who owned Lot 12 on the west side of the Cataraqui River at Kingston in 1795?

29. **John (Jonathan) Perry Coffin** #212233, b. c. 1762 in Boston, Massachusetts Colony,³ occupation British General, Revolutionary War, occupation 1785 - 1816 Member of Provincial Legislature (New Brunswick), religion Church of England, d. 12 May 1838 in Alwington Manor, Grand Bay - Westfield. New Brunswick *,⁶ buried in Saint Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Woodmans Point, Kings County, New Brunswick.⁶ .

Ten children, United Empire Loyalist, moved to New Brunswick.

COFFIN, JOHN, army officer, businessman, politician, jp, judge, and office holder; b. c. 1751 in Boston, son of Nathaniel Coffin, the last receiver general and cashier of British customs for Boston, and Elizabeth Barnes; brother of Isaac Coffin and nephew of John Coffin*; m. 21 Oct. 1781 Ann Mathews (Matthews) of Johns Island, S.C., and they had ten children; d. 12 May 1838 in Westfield Parish, N.B.

Born into a prosperous mercantile family that had connections with the governing élite of colonial Massachusetts, John Coffin spent his childhood in Boston, where he received a respectable education and was introduced to the doctrines of the Church of England. Coffin and his family probably had many reasons for remaining loyal to the British crown during the American revolution; certainly the family's prosperity depended on a continued attachment to the existing order.

John Coffin launched his military career on 17 June 1775 at the battle of Bunker Hill. His activities thereafter are unclear until 19 Jan. 1777, when he was commissioned a captain in a newly formed provincial corps, the Orange Rangers. After serving with the Rangers in New Jersey and New York, he exchanged into the New York Volunteers on 19 July 1778. This regiment was transferred late in 1778 to the southern colonies, where Coffin saw action in both Georgia and South Carolina. His distinguished service at the battle of Eutaw Springs in September 1781 led to his promotion as major of the King's American Regiment on 28 Aug. 1782. When his unit was disbanded in 1783 he was placed on half pay. Even though he would see only a brief period of military service following the Revolutionary War (during the War of 1812 he raised the New Brunswick Fencibles), he received regular promotions, becoming a full general on 12 Aug. 1819.

Following the withdrawal of British troops from the southern colonies, Coffin spent much of 1783 in New York attempting to secure his future once the war had officially ended. He was to relocate in territory destined to become New Brunswick. Edward Winslow* obtained property for him on the west side of what would be named Saint John Harbour, and Henry Nase, formerly under Coffin's command in the King's American Regiment, received a contract to construct the major's house. After making these preparations, Coffin and his family embarked for Parrtown (Saint John), where they landed on 26 Sept. 1783.

Coffin immediately set about establishing himself. Probably taking advantage of his position as one of the loyalist land agents, he acquired from Beamsley Perkins Glasier* an interest in Glasier's Manor, a 5,000-acre estate situated at the confluence of the Nerepis and Saint John rivers. In 1790 he obtained ownership of the property, by then enlarged to 6,000 acres. Coffin was involved in numerous other land transactions, primarily in Kings County, and erected both a grist-mill and a sawmill on the manor. Not confining his business ventures to real-estate speculation and agricultural pursuits, he also retailed fish, lumber, and rum. His shrewd business sense, drive, and financial resources ensured him considerable success, although he was never able to enjoy an aristocratic way of life or to accumulate a vast fortune.

Despite his active participation in the campaign for the partition of Nova Scotia and his association with many of the loyalist élite, Coffin had not achieved immediate political success when New Brunswick became a reality in 1784. He was not offered a high-ranking government appointment, though he would become a justice of the peace and a judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas. On the fringe of political preferment, he was obliged to seek election to the House of Assembly in order to have a voice in provincial affairs. Returned as a representative of Kings County in November 1785, he served for 25 years. He was twice accused of manipulation: in 1796 he was charged with distributing provisions to voters and in 1810 his seat was declared vacant because of irregularities in his election the preceding year. As a member of the assembly, Coffin emerged as a leading defender of the principles of church and state and revealed his contempt for the champions of democracy. During the legislative session of 1802 eight assembly members under his leadership passed a revenue bill despite the fact that a quorum was not present [see Samuel Denny Street*]. Coffin's fiery disposition involved him in several duels, one of them with the radical James Glenie*.

In Kings County, an oligarchy was established with Coffin and George Leonard* as dominant members. From 1786, when he was appointed to the bench, Coffin accumulated many county positions, including that of chief magistrate. In company with Lieutenant Governor Thomas Carleton*, Chief Justice George Duncan Ludlow*, and others he was a founding member of the New England Company's New Brunswick committee in 1786, and in 1807 he became superintendent of the Indian school the company had established at Sussex Vale (Sussex Corner) [see Oliver Arnold*]. His many positions, including that of assemblyman, gave Coffin great power in all matters both secular and religious within Kings County.

In 1812 Coffin received an appointment that he must have felt was long overdue: he became a member of the New Brunswick Council. As usual, controversy dogged his footsteps. In 1824 a situation arose which led the members of the Council to consider whether or not he had forfeited his seat. Coffin had moved to England in 1817, but had not relinquished his seat or received official permission to be absent. The matter was referred to the colonial secretary, who concluded that Coffin had indeed forfeited his position. After giving Lieutenant Governor Sir Howard Douglas* the impression that he would return, however, Coffin was reinstated. Though he made periodic visits to the province thereafter, he was no more attentive to his duties and was removed from the Council in 1828. John Coffin's political ascent had ended.

Coffin did eventually re-establish residence in New Brunswick, where he spent the remaining years of a life marked by a determination to succeed in every endeavour.

Robert S. Elliot

OTHER NAME(S)

Alwington Manor

Domaine Glasier

Domaine Glasier

LINKS AND DOCUMENTS

n/a

CONSTRUCTION DATE(S)

LISTED ON THE CANADIAN REGISTER: 2013/01/24

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

A section of the 6000 acre Alwington Manor has been designated as a local historic place. This landscape was part of the original estate of General John Coffin. Its natural beauty with vistas of the Nerepis and Saint John rivers is valued by local residents for its historic and aesthetic value.

Alwington Manor

HERITAGE VALUE

The intrinsic heritage value of this important landscape resides in its association with General John Coffin and that it has retained its sense of place despite the passage of time. Alwington Manor was the home of General John Coffin (1756-1838), a significant figure in the history of Grand Bay-Westfield. A Loyalist officer and descendent of an aristocratic British family, Coffin resided in Boston prior to his arrival in the province in 1783. Stories abound about this controversial individual who served in the Kings American Regiment with Henry Nase, another figure prominent in the area's history who became Coffin's business partner. Coffin is credited with developing the area; he assisted in the construction of mills and farms, even importing farming stock and "implements of husbandry" from England and the United States.

Coffin originally lived in a home built for him by Henry Nase on land acquired on his behalf by Edward Winslow. In 1790 he acquired Glasier's Manor from Beamsley Perkins Glasier consisting of 6000 acres. He renamed the property Alwington Manor after his ancestral home in Devon, England. The property was described in John McGregor's *British America, Volume 1* (1832) as a "beautiful and picturesque spot" overlooking the confluence of the Saint John and Nerepis Rivers. Remnants of the extensive apple orchard still stand as a reminder of the impressive estate that Coffin built.

* some histories suggest he died at the house of his son, Admiral Isaac COFFIN, in King's County, New Brunswick.

He married **Ann Matthews** #212235, 21 October 1781 in Charleston, South Carolina,³ b. in Johns Island, Charleston, South Carolina.

Children:

60. i. **Guy Carleton Coffin** #212254 b. c. 1783.
 61. ii. **John Townsend Coffin** #212255 b. c. 1785.
 62. iii. **Caroline Susanna Maria Coffin** #211135 b. 14 February 1785.
 63. iv. **Nathaniel Coffin** #221717 b. 1787.
 64. v. **(unidentified) Coffin** #212257.
 65. vi. **(unidentified) Coffin** #212259.
 66. vii. **Isabella Coffin** #221718 b. 1790.
 67. viii. **Anne Coffin** #221719 b. 1791.
 68. ix. **Henry Edward Coffin** #212256 b. 1794.
 69. x. **Sophia Wilhelmina Coffin** #212261 b. 1799.
 70. xi. **Mary Aston Coffin** #212263 b. 02 March 1804.
30. **William Coffin** #212253, occupation Merchant in St John, New Brunswick.

1776: Immigrated to Halifax

31. **Isaac Coffin** #212236, b. 16 May 1759 in Boston, Massachusetts Colony, occupation Landowner in Quebec, d. 23 JUN/July 1839 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England, occupation Officer, Royal Navy.

W. A. B. Douglas, "COFFIN, Sir ISAAC," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed May 7, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_isaac_7E.html.

COFFIN, Sir ISAAC, naval officer and seigneur; b. 16 May 1759 in Boston, Mass., son of Nathaniel Coffin, a customs officer, and Elizabeth Barnes; m. 3 April 1811 Elizabeth Browne Greenly and assumed the name and arms of Greenly for two years; d. 23 July 1839 in Cheltenham, England.

Isaac Coffin entered the British navy on the North American station as a volunteer in 1773 and was promoted lieutenant only three years later. He commanded the schooner *Placentia* off Newfoundland in 1778–79, survived a shipwreck in the armed vessel *Pinson*, also under his command, on the coast of Labrador late in 1779, and in 1781 was Rear-Admiral Mariot Arbuthnot's signal lieutenant on the *Royal Oak* during operations off Cape Henry, Va. On 3 July 1781 he received promotion to commander. In January 1782 he served as a volunteer under Sir Samuel Hood in a brilliant action off St Kitts, in the West Indies, and on 13 June of that year, through Hood's influence, was made post captain, in command of the 74-gun *Shrewsbury*.

Coffin was evidently a capable young officer, and his subsequent career bore out the energy, competence, and bravery which won him early promotion. It also revealed an affinity for controversy. Within weeks of joining the *Shrewsbury* he refused to accept three unqualified midshipmen appointed to the ship as lieutenants by Admiral Lord Rodney, commander-in-chief in the West Indies. Brought before a court martial on 29 July 1782, Coffin was acquitted. In 1783 he was given command of a smaller ship, the *Hydra*, which he paid off in England before going on half pay.

In 1786 he returned to sea in command of the *Thisbe*, in which he took Lord Dorchester [Carleton*] to Canada. Two years later he was maliciously accused by its master of signing false musters. The practice was common but Coffin claimed he had made an honest mistake. The charge was nevertheless proved, and he was sentenced by a court martial to be dismissed from his ship. The first lord of the Admiralty, Lord Howe, changed the sentence to cashiering, and Coffin successfully appealed the punishment, which was pronounced illegal. Howe then reinstated Coffin because he "did not consider it advisable to exercise the right of the Admiralty arbitrarily to dismiss him from the navy." The case established legal precedents concerning the limits of the Admiralty's interference in sentences pronounced by courts martial.

In 1790 Coffin took command of the 20-gun *Alligator*, and in 1791 he brought Dorchester back to England, going on half pay again until the resumption of war in 1793, at which time he received command of the 36-gun *Melampus*. In 1794 he aggravated an injury he had acquired around 1790, when he jumped overboard to save the life of a seaman, and was never again fit for active service. He became regulating captain at Leith, Scotland, in 1795 and in October of that year went to Corsica as a civil commissioner of the navy. Evacuated to Lisbon when Corsica fell into French hands in 1796, he served there and in 1798 on Minorca. The following year he was appointed commissioner of the dockyard at Sheerness, England, but was sent instead to Halifax, where he became acting resident commissioner of the royal dockyard. The commissioner, Henry Duncan*, who was in England for medical treatment, took up Coffin's post at Sheerness.

Admiral Lord St Vincent was to observe in 1800 that “nothing but a radical sweep of our dockyards can do any good, and that can only be accomplished in a peace.” By then, Coffin had already imposed some radical reforms on the Halifax dockyard. In December 1799 he had reported extensive irregularities: “a field was consequently opened for all kinds of frauds and embezzlements.” Coffin stopped warrant officers and seamen from collecting ships’ stores without supervision, removed the right of ships’ captains to issue orders to dockyard officers, began a monthly rather than quarterly issue of provisions and spirits in order to curb drunkenness, and insisted on adherence to Navy Board regulations in the repair and refit of ships. He went on to pay off horses on the dockyard establishment (boats provided cheaper transportation), dismiss 50 labourers, survey the master attendant’s stores, and restrict landing or embarkation in the dockyard to those on official business. He capped off these measures by discharging the master shipwright, Elias Marshall, who had 48 years of service, 37 in the Halifax yard.

In April 1800 Coffin returned to England, bringing with him the evidence on which he had acted, so that it would not be “lost,” but Duncan and Admiral Sir William Parker, commander-in-chief at Halifax, reinstated some of those he had removed from office, including Marshall, “as the Public have suffered very little from his irregularity.” Coffin took up his post at Sheerness, where he applied himself with such efficiency and energy that he was brought back to the sea service (not normally allowed in the case of civil commissioners). He was promoted rear-admiral of the white on 23 April 1804. On 19 May he was made a baronet and became admiral superintendent at Portsmouth, a position he held until 28 April 1808, after which he had no further employment with the navy.

Promoted vice-admiral of the blue, Coffin continued to advance on the flag list until he became admiral of the blue on 4 June 1814. From 1818 to 1826 he sat as member of parliament for Ilchester. He was made a gch in 1832. His wife’s death, on 27 Jan. 1839, was followed by his own on 23 July of the same year.

In 1787 Coffin had alerted the Legislative Council of Quebec to American exploitation of the fisheries and to the existence of a flourishing illicit trade on the Îles de la Madeleine. A committee of the council, presided over by Chief Justice William Smith*, favoured Coffin’s solution, which was to become proprietor himself. The matter lay dormant until 1795, when Coffin raised it again with the Treasury in London. The Treasury having concluded that “the fishery at these islands, unless granted to an individual will remain waste and be used by Foreigners as well as the King’s subjects,” letters patent were issued to Coffin on 24 April 1798 for the seigneurie of Îles-de-la-Madeleine. According to the terms of the grant, Coffin was obliged to allow free access to the beaches and shores for the fishery.

Because of Coffin’s professional abilities and his reputed knowledge of the fisheries, much “public utility” was expected to derive from his proprietorship. As an absentee landlord acting through agents he himself obtained nothing but aggravation. Like other proprietors in British North America of British origin, he wanted English-speaking settlers, but the islands offered them little. The Acadian inhabitants, who engaged in the walrus, seal, and cod fisheries, were reluctant to accept directions from Quebec rather than from Newfoundland as they had been accustomed to doing, and also resisted paying rent. After Coffin made his first and only visit to the islands in 1806, he tried in vain to have 22 families who had come from Saint-Pierre and Miquelon in 1792 with their priest, Jean-Baptiste Allain*, deported as “Frenchmen Enemies to the King who . . . live in open defiance of all law & carry on a contraband trade with the Americans to the great detriment of his Majesty’s subjects.” In 1822, having received no return on his investment, he attempted to sell or lease the islands to the United States. Two years later he wanted to settle friends and kin from Massachusetts, and in 1828 he proposed to annex the islands to Nova Scotia, to facilitate the administration of justice. None of these ideas was adopted.

The Îles-de-la-Madeleine venture failed, largely because the seigneurial system was in a state of flux and the British government, although prepared to admit Coffin’s claims, was out of sympathy with his cause. Lord Dalhousie [Ramsay] called it “a mad speculation.” After a visit to the islands in 1831 Lieutenant Frederick Henry Baddeley*, referring to criticisms of the Madelinots such as those made by Coffin, remarked that “smuggling, on these islands, is scarcely a breach of the law, for no law but the law of God is preached upon them. . . . As long as they are abandoned . . . to their own resources, it would be unjust to deprive them of the advantage which a free trade offers.” As a seigneur, motivated no doubt by instincts natural to a naval captain who was the son of a customs

officer, Coffin had good intentions but no understanding of his tenants, and he left an archaic legacy to his heirs. His situation as seigneur was ironic, because he is remembered principally for the reforming zeal that marked his naval career.

W. A. B. Douglas.

He married **Elizabeth Browne Greenly** #242588, 03 April 1811,² d. 27 January 1839 in Cheltenham.²

- 32. **John Coffin** #212240, b. in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 33. **Ebenezer Coffin** #212241, b. 1725 in Boston, Massachusetts Colony, occupation Merchant in Boston.

He married **(unidentified)** #212248.

- 34. **Elizabeth Coffin** #243184, b. c. 1757 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- 35. **Christian Coffin** #243185, b. c. 1760 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. c. 1761 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
- 36. **Christian Coffin** #243186, b. c. 1763.
- 37. **Anne Coffin** #243187, b. c. 1765? .
- 38. **Catherine Coffin** #243188, b. c. 1769 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. 15 April 1847 in London, Middlesex, England.

She married (1) **Richard Barwell** #243189, 24 June 1785 in Stoughton, Sussex, England, occupation Member of Parliament.

She married (2) **Edward Miller Mundy** #243190, 19 October 1811 in St. Thomas a Becket, Warblington, Hampshire, England.

- 39. **Charles Coffin** #243178, b. c. April 1773,⁵ d. in childhood.
- 40. **John Coffin** #243169, b. 28 March 1760,⁵ occupation 1794 - 1800 Deputy Commissary General, d. 1837 in Quebec, Lower Canada.⁵ .
- 41. **William Coffin** #213111, b. 18 February 1761 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, d. c. 1836 in Quebec. Lower Canada.

He married **Mary Forster Hendy** #213112, b. 01 January 1779 in Saint Peter, Barbados, d. 23 March 1855 in Redland Green, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Children:

- 71. i. **William Foster Coffin** #213113 b. 05 November 1808.
 - 72. ii. **Isabella Coffin** #243214 b. 12 December 1813.
- 42. **Thomas Coffin** #213104, b. 05 July 1762 in Boston, Massachusetts, occupation 1782 Merchant in Montreal, occupation 1792 House of Assembly for Saint-Maurice, occupation 1786 Seigneur, Pointe-du-Lac, occupation Militia officer, politician, d. 18 July 1841 in Trois-Rivieres, Lower Canada, buried 22 July 1841 in Ursuline Chapel.

1825: Thomas COFFIN and a family of five lived in Trois Rivieres; (1825 Census of Lower Canada). Note that there was a "James GRANT", and family of 5, as well as a "David GRANT" with a family of 6 enumerated on that same census page.

COFFIN, THOMAS, businessman, seigneur, office holder, politician, and militia officer; b. 5 July 1762 in Boston, son of John Coffin* and Isabella Child; d. 18 July 1841 in Trois-Rivières, Lower Canada.

Thomas Coffin arrived at Quebec early in August 1775 with his parents and ten brothers and sisters. His father, a Boston businessman, had decided to leave the American colonies when revolution broke out. While several of Thomas's brothers took up careers in the army or public service, among them Nathaniel, who became a provincial surveyor in 1790, he himself went into business. By November 1782 he was established in Montreal, where he sold, among other things, West India rum, French and English brandy, port, Spanish wines, molasses, tea, soap, butter, and fruit. When he met Marguerite Godefroy de Tonnancour, daughter of Louis-Joseph Godefroy* de Tonnancour, the course of his life was, however, changed.

The couple were married in Montreal on 22 Feb. 1786 by Anglican minister David Chabrand* Delisle and went to live on the seigneurie of Pointe-du-Lac. Coffin then devoted himself to his new role as a seigneur, for in addition to the sum of 66,902 livres 5 sols 3 deniers Marguerite's dowry included a share in the seigneuries of Yamaska, Pointe-du-Lac, Roquetaillade, Gastineau, and Godefroy. Through various transactions in 1786 and 1787 Coffin became sole owner of Pointe-du-Lac. In the following years he gave his attention to developing this seigneurie and made many land grants. On 8 April 1791 he donated to the fabrique of Pointe-du-Lac the church, the presbytery, and a property measuring 60 arpents. A prominent figure in his community, on 1 July 1790 Coffin obtained the office of sheriff for the district of Trois-Rivières, which he held until December 1791. Before long, however, he was facing serious financial problems. Since he could not repay a long-standing debt of £1,200, the seigneuries of Pointe-du-Lac and Gastineau were seized by the sheriff in June 1795 and sold to Nicholas Montour* on 25 October for £3,740.

While continuing to manage his much reduced estate, Coffin took part in political life. In July 1792 he had been elected to the House of Assembly for Saint-Maurice, which he represented until June 1804. He sided for the most part with the English party. In 1793 he voted against the choice of Jean-Antoine Panet* as speaker, supporting Jacob Jordan* instead. That December he succeeded in having a committee set up to draft legislation concerning highways and bridges in the province, and he was named to chair it. A bill he introduced early in 1796 to join the seigneurie of Gastineau to the parish of Pointe-du-Lac aroused great anxiety, because it raised the question of the legislature's right to establish or divide parishes without the bishop's prior consent and without their being established canonically. Bishop Jean-François Hubert* saw in it an attempt to usurp episcopal powers. The assembly hesitated and finally decided to set the bill aside. But Coffin, who had been appointed a commissioner for the building of churches and presbyteries in June 1796, introduced another bill in March 1798 to set up a new parish. The coadjutor bishop designate, Joseph-Octave Plessis*, tried in vain to have it amended, even meeting with Governor Robert Prescott*, who assured him of his good intentions with regard to the church and his opposition to the bill. The ending of the session made it possible to avoid any decision on the matter, and Coffin did not succeed in getting the bill passed when he brought it before the house again in 1800.

Coffin did not seek re-election in 1804, but ran in the 1807 by-election in Trois-Rivières. Defeated by Ezekiel Hart, he got Benjamin Joseph Frobisher* to present a petition for him contesting the right of Hart, a Jew, to sit in the assembly and demanding his place. Even though Hart was expelled, Coffin did not benefit in any way. The following year Coffin won the election for Saint-Maurice and he sat in the assembly until October 1809. In the ensuing election, he withdrew after seven days of polling when he saw that he had received few votes. Subsequently, he represented Trois-Rivières from April 1810 until March 1814.

While an assemblyman, Coffin continued to be interested in business. On 18 Sept. 1798, in partnership with his brother-in-law John Craigie*, he founded the Batiscan Iron Works Company to carry out ambitious plans for exploiting iron ore on the seigneurie of Batiscan. In exchange for a 99-year lease to the company of four pieces of

land, Coffin received a share equal to an advance of £1,000. He was also appointed manager until 1 Jan. 1800 at an annual salary of £200. From its earliest years the firm had serious problems. In December 1800 a fire destroyed the building in which the forge was located, causing a loss estimated at more than £818. In the hope of re-establishing the business, the owners tried to obtain the lease to the Saint-Maurice ironworks, which ran out in April 1801 [see Mathew Bell], but they did not succeed. Coffin and Craigie then decided to take in two other partners, Thomas Dunn* in 1801 and Joseph Frobisher* in 1802, each holding a one-sixth share. Through various transactions in 1802 the company also acquired at least 10,125 acres in Radnor Township, an area rich in ore and timber, and in 1803 the partners bought the seignury of Champlain from Alexander Ellice* for £2,000.

Modelling its operation on the Saint-Maurice iron-works, the Batiscan company mainly produced stoves, which were in great demand, sugar and potash cauldrons, kitchen kettles, and bar iron. It nevertheless regularly experienced financial difficulties. Thus in December 1808 Coffin, as manager of the ironworks, acknowledged that £2,300 was owing to McTavish, Frobisher and Company for various goods purchased in the period 1804 - 6; to repay this sum he assigned £800 of the company's accounts receivable to them as well as all its bar and pig iron and manufactured wares, valued at £1,500. These problems were probably not unconnected with Coffin's decision to hand his share over to Craigie on 13 Nov. 1811 for £7,538. The effort to put the ironworks back on a firm footing was unsuccessful and it closed around 1814.

After leaving the company Coffin devoted himself chiefly to his role as an assemblyman and to the numerous offices he had received through government patronage. He had been a justice of the peace since 1794, and in October 1811 Sir George Prevost* appointed him chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions in the district of Trois-Rivières, which brought him an annual salary of £200. Since 1803 he had been colonel of the three Trois-Rivières battalions of militia, and in April 1812 he became commissioner of transports in the district of Trois-Rivières. On 16 Feb. 1813 he was appointed inspector of the town's police, a responsibility he discharged for several years. Coffin was also made commissioner for numerous other matters in the district. His appointment to the Legislative Council on 8 May 1817 came in recognition of his importance in public life, and he served until March 1838.

From the autumn of 1835, however, Coffin no longer attended council meetings. He was 73 by then and in poor health. On 18 July 1841, a year after abjuring Protestantism, he died at Trois-Rivières, leaving at least one son, William Craigie Holmes. He was buried on 22 July in the Ursuline chapel, where his wife, who had died in 1839, already lay.

Huguette Filteau.

He married **Marguerite Godefroy de Tonnancour** #213107, 22 February 1786 in Montreal, Lower Canada, b. 30 January 1762 (daughter of **Louis-Joseph Godefroy de Tonnancour** #213108 and **(unidentified)** #213109), d. 03 August 1839, buried in Ursuline Chapel.

Children:

73. i. **William Craigie Holmes Coffin** #213110 b. 1805.
43. **Francis Coffin** #243175, b. 1764,⁵ d. 1765.⁵
44. **Nathaniel Coffin** #213103, b. 20 February 1766 in Boston, Massachusetts, never married, occupation 1783 Joined British Army, occupation Colonel, British Army, occupation 1790 Land Surveyor in Quebec, occupation 1796 Member, Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada in Bedford County, d. 12 August 1846 in Toronto, York County, Ontario.

(fifth child)

From Wikipedia:

Nathaniel Coffin (February 20, 1766 – August 12, 1846) was a surveyor and political figure in Lower Canada and a militia officer in Upper Canada.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1766, the son of John Coffin, and left there with his family in 1775 at the start of the American Revolution. He joined the British Army in 1783. Coffin later returned to Quebec where he was appointed a surveyor in 1790.

In 1796, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada for Bedford County. Coffin was named a justice of the peace for Montreal district later that year. He served with the militia during the War of 1812. Coffin was named deputy adjutant general of the Upper Canadian militia in 1814 and adjutant general in 1815. He was replaced by James FitzGibbon as adjutant general at the start of the Upper Canada Rebellion.

His brother Thomas also served in the legislative assembly.

Coffin was friends with the Edinburgh-born New England bookseller and publisher John Mein.[1]

He died in Toronto in 1846.

O. A. Cooke, "COFFIN, NATHANIEL," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed September 24, 2021, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_nathaniel_7E.html.

COFFIN, NATHANIEL, surveyor, politician, jp, office holder, and militia officer; b. 20 Feb. 1766 in Boston, fifth son of John Coffin* and Isabella Child; brother of Thomas; d. 12 Aug. 1846 in Toronto, apparently unmarried.

"Nathaniel Coffin left Boston in the summer of 1775 when his family fled that place for Quebec. He was commissioned an ensign in the 40th Foot on 21 March 1783, but did not join the regiment until after it had left Staten Island (New York City) for England in November. On 11 Jan. 1786 he exchanged to half pay, perhaps because of a breach of discipline committed in Ireland.

"Coffin then returned to Quebec, where he was appointed a surveyor on 19 July 1790. Over the next few years he worked in various parts of the province, particularly along the Rivière Bécancour and in the Portneuf region. In 1793 he joined William Vondenvelden*, Jesse Pennoyer*, and others to organize the masonic lodge Select Surveyors No.9. The following year Coffin and his father were founding members of an association dedicated to upholding the government in Lower Canada.

"Between 1795 and 1802 Coffin was active in the area around Missisquoi Bay, and he was a member of the committee formed by Pennoyer, Samuel Willard*, and others to press the government to speed the processing of applications for land. Coffin's involvement in the region's affairs was reflected in his election from Bedford County to the House of Assembly in July 1796, but he was not conspicuous during his four years in the house. On 14 Dec. 1796 he was commissioned a jp for the district of Montreal, a post he held until around 1810. Coffin was employed by Governor Robert Prescott* in 1797 to collect witnesses for the prosecution in the trial for treason of David McLane*.

"On 31 Aug. 1802 Coffin was among those granted 1,200 acres in the newly established township of Compton, where he had already made a start at settling. Over the next decade his whereabouts are largely unknown. He appears to have been in Quebec in July 1812 when he was appointed provincial aide-de-camp to his brother-in-law Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe*. For his service with Sheaffe at Queenston Heights he was mentioned in dispatches, and he was with him in the battle at York (Toronto) in April 1813.

"Coffin was appointed deputy adjutant general of the Upper Canadian militia in January 1814. As such, he looked after administration from the department's office in Kingston while the adjutant general, Colley Lyons Lucas Foster, moved with the army headquarters. On 25 March 1815 Coffin was made adjutant general, the only militia officer retained in full-time service after the war. He kept his rank of lieutenant-colonel, which he had received in October 1812, and was promoted colonel in 1820.

"In 1816 the business of the general board of militia claims, which dealt with back pay for the wartime militia, was transferred to the adjutant general's office. Accounting for pay claims and preparing payment necessitated Coffin's presence in Quebec for the first six months of 1818, and payment itself occupied much of his time over the next several years. Not until about 1821 was this duty being displaced by the problems attendant on the formation of new units and the issuing of equipment.

"After the war Coffin fell increasingly into disfavour with the reform-minded House of Assembly. There were objections in 1818 to his hiring a clerk, and an act authorizing part of the adjutant general's allowances, which lapsed in 1820, was not renewed until 1822, and then only after considerable pressure from Coffin and Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland*. Although in 1821 a committee of the assembly investigated the duties of the adjutant general and recommended a larger staff, the necessary funds were not voted. In 1823 an assistant adjutant general, James FitzGibbon*, was appointed, but contingency funds allowing Coffin to travel were insufficient. Further financial restraints imposed in May 1825 meant that the department could not even pay its own postage, and FitzGibbon resigned in 1827 when the assembly reduced his pay. These difficulties were not eased by Coffin's long-running quarrel with the assemblyman François Baby* concerning the amount of land due to Baby for his services as a militia officer during the War of 1812. Coffin's problems with the house culminated in March 1828, when he and the superintendent of Indian affairs, James Givins, were summoned to appear before a select committee investigating a dispute over government land involving William Forsyth. They were refused permission to attend by Maitland, and the reform element had them jailed for contempt until the end of the session a few days later.

"Between 1833 and 1836 Coffin was increasingly involved in the affairs of the 1st Northumberland Regiment, whose commanding officer, John Covert, was attempting to block the activities and promotions of some of his officers because he disagreed with their political views. When Covert's behaviour finally resulted in his court martial, he blamed Coffin for having let the case go that far.

"Old and sick by the 1830s, Coffin applied for retirement. Although a bill providing him with a pension and making other changes in his department was passed in the assembly, it failed in the Legislative Council. Coffin was still adjutant general on the eve of the rebellion of 1837, but his assistant, Walter O'Hara*, was doing the work, and much was left undone. When revolt broke out, Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head* replaced Coffin with FitzGibbon.

"Nathaniel Coffin did not begin his militia career until he was well into middle age. He received his appointment in 1812 because of a family tie, and had little experience of leading troops in action. Consequently he appears not to have been held in very high regard as head of the Upper Canadian militia in the post-war years, whatever his merits as an administrator. He was the senior staff officer during a period of great growth for the militia, when new units were organized throughout the province as a result of the influx of settlers. However, these units were never more than nominal, being for the most part unequipped and seldom mustered."

Is this the same "N. COFFIN" who held lands on the Cataraqui River, south of Kingston Mills? Given his tenure in Kingston by 1814, that seems likely.

45. **Susannah Coffin** #243164, b. 12 February 1767.⁵ .

She married (1) **James Grant** #243165, d. before 1792 in Montreal?

She married (2) **John Craigie** #243166, 13 November 1792, b. c. 1757 in Kilgraston?, Scotland,⁷ occupation 1793 Batiscan Iron Work Company, d. 26 November 1813 in Quebec, Lower Canada.⁷

John:

CRAIGIE, JOHN, office holder, businessman, and politician; b. probably in 1757, possibly in Kilgraston, Scotland, third son of John Craigie; d. 26 Nov. 1813 at Quebec, Lower Canada.

Christian Rioux, "CRAIGIE, JOHN," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 23, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/craigie_john_5E.html.

Third son of John CRAIGIE.

John Craigie came to Quebec in 1781 to replace John Drummond as deputy commissary general for the British army in Canada. He had been recommended by Lord Adam Gordon, who described him to Governor Haldimand as a man with considerable experience in bookkeeping. When the commissary general, Nathaniel Day, left Canada in 1784, Craigie was appointed by Haldimand to succeed him as head of the commissariat, which was responsible for purchasing, storing, and distributing the army's provisions and building materials. The next year Craigie became private secretary to Lieutenant Governor Henry Hope*, who in April 1786 recommended him unsuccessfully for the seat on the Legislative Council left vacant by the death of Conrad Gogy*. Craigie also carried out the responsibilities of storekeeper general and deputy inspector general of public accounts in Lower Canada.

On 13 Nov. 1792 he married Susannah, daughter of John Coffin and widow of James Grant. The following year Craigie and his brother-in-law Thomas Coffin* went into partnership with Thomas Dunn and Joseph Frobisher to found the Batiscan Iron Work Company, which operated iron mines and ironworks on the east bank of the Rivière Batiscan, near Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan. Along with these various concerns he pursued a political career: elected for Buckingham in 1796, he sat in the Lower Canadian House of Assembly until June 1804. During the 1797 session he secured the passage of an act regulating trade with the United States and he proposed the establishment of public schools, particularly in rural regions, and the creation of workhouses or other buildings to provide shelter for the needy. In 1802 he was chairman of an assembly committee which recommended that the growing of hemp be encouraged.

Nevertheless, Craigie maintained his interest in the Batiscan ironworks, which he and his brother-in-law ran from 1800. That year the company, which had sought to lease the Saint-Maurice ironworks, was thwarted by Mathew Bell*'s group; with the complicity of Lieutenant Governor Robert Shore Milnes*, Bell won out, beating Craigie's group by a tender that offered £50 more than whatever his competitor bid. In October 1800, however, Milnes recommended Craigie for appointment to the Executive Council, pointing out that he had always supported the government in the assembly. In fact Craigie from 1797 to 1800 had rather divided his support between the Canadian party and the English party, although he favoured the latter; he was appointed an honorary member of the Executive Council in 1801. From that moment on he became the most steadfast representative of the English party in the second parliament.

Craigie also had several temporary responsibilities: in 1794 he was a director of the Quebec Library, and in 1801 he was appointed commissioner for the care of the insane, for the building of the Anglican church (Cathedral of the Holy Trinity) at Quebec, and for the construction of a bridge over the Rivière Jacques-Cartier; he acted as commissioner for the construction of a new building for the Hôpital Général of Quebec in 1803. His successes were mirrored in his social life. By 1792, at least, he was living on Rue Sainte-Anne, in the most fashionable quarter of Upper Town, and in 1804 he purchased a house on Rue Saint-Louis from Adam Mabane*'s sister Isabell for £1,300.

Among the godparents of the Craigies' 12 children were Milnes, Dunn, Frobisher, George Allsopp, Roger Hale Sheaffe*, Henry Caldwell, and Isabell Mabane.

But Craigie's success proved more apparent than real. He did not have the money for his new house and paid only an annual interest of £78. In 1805 he began to use funds belonging to the army for his personal undertakings; when he was found out, he was dismissed as commissary general in 1808 by Governor Craig, who unsuccessfully proposed replacing him on the Executive Council as well. Moreover Craigie was sentenced to pay back the money that had been misappropriated. In 1811 his stables on Rue Haldimand were destroyed by fire, and in the course of the following year the mines and ironworks at Batiscan were abandoned, after they had consumed the funds that Craigie had filched from the state. In November 1813, at about 56 years of age, Craigie died. He had still not paid for his house, he owed £24,000 to the government, and he had a host of small debts. On the other hand he was the principal owner of the Batiscan Iron Work Company's holdings and had a piece of land on the Plains of Abraham. In March 1815 his wife renounced the estate in her own and her children's name.

John Craigie represented what was probably a fairly common breed of person in Canada. Coming from a prominent Scottish family, he was to try his luck in a French colony which had been conquered by Great Britain and in which those of English tongue were well placed to assume positions of authority in the midst of a French-speaking population. With some political backing, he tried to climb the ladder of success and make his fortune with the state's money. In his case the attempt ended in failure.

Christian Rioux.

- 46. **Francis Holmes Coffin** #243176, b. 12 July 1768,⁵ d. 1835,⁵ occupation Rear Admiral.
- 47. **Isabella Coffin** #243174, b. 19 July 1768.⁵

She married **(unidentified) McMurdo** #243179.

- 48. **Anne Coffin** #243177, b. 06 August 1769,⁵ never married.
- 49. **James Coffin** #243168, b. 09 June 1771,⁵ occupation Assistant Commissary General at Quebec, d. 1835 in Quebec, Lower Canada.⁵
- 50. **Margaret Coffin** #243170, b. 18 August 1779.⁵

She married **Roger Hale Sheaffe** #243171, 29 January 1810,⁸ b. 15 July 1763 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts,^{7,8} (son of **William Scheaffe** #243172 and **Susannah Child** #243173), d. 17 July 1851 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, occupation Military Commander in Upper Canada.

Roger:

(Two sons, four daughter, all died before 1851)

Family moved back to England, then to Edinburgh in 1817.

Carol M. Whitfield and Wesley B. Turner, "SHEAFFE, Sir ROGER HALE," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 8, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 23, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/sheaffe_roger_hale_8E.html.

HEAFFE, Sir ROGER HALE, army officer and colonial administrator; b. 15 July 1763 in Boston, third son of William Sheaffe, deputy collector of customs, and Susannah Child; m. 29 Jan. 1810 Margaret Coffin, daughter of John Coffin*, at Quebec, and they had two sons and four daughters, all of whom predeceased Sheaffe; d. 17 July 1851 in Edinburgh.

As a young boy Roger Hale Sheaffe became the protégé of the Duke of Northumberland, who during the American Revolutionary War had established his headquarters in Boston in the boarding-house run by the widowed Susannah

Sheaffe. The duke initially sent the lad to sea, but then transferred him to Locke's military academy in Chelsea (London), England, where he was a class-mate of George Prevost*. Northumberland subsequently bought most of Sheaffe's commissions, beginning in May 1778 with that of ensign in the 5th Foot, of which the duke was colonel. After serving in Ireland for six years, Sheaffe arrived at Quebec in July 1787 with his regiment, which was transferred to Montreal the following year. The 5th was subsequently stationed at Detroit, from 1790 to 1792, and then at Fort Niagara (near Youngstown, N.Y.) until 1796, when it returned to Quebec. In August 1794, prior to the signing of Jay's Treaty, Sheaffe had acted as Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe*'s emissary to Sodus, an Indian community on the south shore of Lake Ontario, where he protested seizures of Indian lands by a settlement agent, Charles Williamson. Described by Simcoe as a "Gentleman of great discretion, incapable of any intemperate or uncivil conduct," Sheaffe was promoted captain in May 1795.

As a result of his regiment's being drafted, he returned to England in September 1797 and three months later purchased a majority in the 81st Foot. The following March he became junior lieutenant-colonel of the 49th Foot. At this point his career became linked with that of Isaac Brock*, the senior lieutenant-colonel. They served in north Holland together in 1799. The next year, when Brock left Sheaffe in command of the regiment, then stationed on Jersey, Sheaffe became unpopular with the men. After serving in the Baltic campaign of 1801, the two officers were ordered to the Canadas in 1802, arriving with the 49th in Lower Canada late that summer and taking up commands in the spring of 1803 in the upper province: Brock at regimental headquarters in York (Toronto) and Sheaffe, with a wing of the regiment, at Fort George (Niagara-on-the-Lake).

It was there that Sheaffe's abilities as a military commander were first subjected to serious question. In August 1803 he and other officers warned Brock of an incipient mutiny at Fort George, which Brock quickly suppressed. Brock believed that the fort's proximity to the American border had been the major cause for the attempted desertion. But, conscious of Sheaffe's past conduct when in command, he also censured him for being "indiscreet and injudicious," particularly by behaving like a martinet, working his men too hard, and disciplining them too harshly for small lapses. Brock identified his reduction of "too many non-commissioned officers" as another contributing factor. Writing about the incident to Lieutenant-Colonel James Green* in 1804, he mentioned that Sheaffe possessed "little knowledge of Mankind" and had many enemies, although he could not offer any reasons for this enmity other than the bitter feelings which existed between Sheaffe and the men he commanded. William Dummer Powell*, and possibly other friends of Sheaffe, claimed after the War of 1812 that some of the submerged hostility in 1803-4 was based on Sheaffe's American origin which raised doubts about his loyalty; Powell at least believed it to be faultless. Sheaffe's actions in wartime would provide both his critics and his friends with support for their opinions. In 1808 he attained the brevet rank of colonel; three years later, as a result of his promotion to major-general, he was obliged to give up his command in the 49th and with it at least half his income.

In July 1812, some time after Sheaffe had returned from a trip to England, without specific duties, Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, who had become governor-in-chief and commander of the forces, was anxiously looking for general officers to fill various wartime commands. Aware of Sheaffe's financial plight, he also believed him to be well qualified to serve in Upper Canada because he would be a "Valuable Officer to the service from his Ability to command and his extensive local information." In addition to his long service in the colony, he had useful connections within its social and political élites, principally through Powell, a pillar of the "family compact" and a long-time friend of the Sheaffe family. Without knowing if Sheaffe had been posted elsewhere by the military authorities in England, Prevost appointed him temporarily to the army staff in the upper province, thus putting him under Brock's command once again.

Sheaffe arrived at Fort George on 18 August to find himself, as a result of Brock's departure to repulse the American invasion on the Detroit frontier, in command of the forces on the Niagara frontier. Within days he learned of Prevost's truce with Major-General Henry Dearborn. Having received news of Brock's capture of Detroit before it reached Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer, the opposing American commander on the Niagara River, Sheaffe slyly arranged with him a codicil to the armistice whereby no reinforcements or supplies could be forwarded to the upper Great Lakes, which meant that neither side could reinforce Detroit. Prevost, however, was incensed, for the

truce had placed no restriction on troop and supply movements by either side. At the same time, he admitted to Brock, disavowal of Sheaffe's initiative would embarrass the British, so no action was taken.

Late in August Sheaffe relinquished command to Brock, who had returned to the Niagara peninsula. The general armistice was ended on 4 September and both Brock and Sheaffe worked determinedly to strengthen the frontier's defences. Early on 13 October the Americans attacked at Queenston. Brock hurried quickly from Fort George to take command on the battlefield, leaving Sheaffe to assemble and bring up the main body of defenders. When Brock was killed in a daring direct assault, Sheaffe took command, leading his force from the fort in a wide flanking movement to join with the Indians and a party from Chippawa under Captain Richard Bullock to attack the American flank on high ground. The invaders were routed and almost 1,000 prisoners were taken, with insignificant British losses. John Beverley Robinson*, a militia officer at the time, recalled Sheaffe's conduct in battle as "cool though determined and vigorous." His manoeuvre had been brilliant and on 16 Jan. 1813 he would receive the deserved honour of a baronetcy for his achievement, though in the public's memory Brock was the victor.

Following the battle, a three-day armistice had been immediately arranged by Sheaffe to allow each side to attend to its wounded and dead and to exchange prisoners. After he agreed to the American request for an indefinite extension, however, Prevost criticized him for not seizing the chance to cross the river instead to take Fort Niagara and for not getting prior approval of the extension. Many commentators in both Upper and Lower Canada, including the Quebec Gazette, thought that his leniency betrayed weakness and benefited only the Americans by giving them time to reorganize.

On Brock's death, Sheaffe had succeeded him as military commander of Upper Canada, and also as president and civil administrator of the province's government. He transferred his headquarters to York and on 20 October took the oath of office. During his term the effects of the war became fully evident. The problems of the dependability and loyalty of civilians plagued Sheaffe as they had Brock. On 9 November Sheaffe appointed alien boards at Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake), York, and Kingston to examine all persons claiming to be American citizens and therefore exempt from military service [see Michael Smith*]. As military commander, Sheaffe had to deal with a weak militia force and with the inefficiencies of several army departments, particularly the barrack department and the commissariat. Despite his serious, sustained efforts to remedy organizational weaknesses and the attendant shortages of military supplies, such fellow officers as Thomas Evans* and Christopher Myers knew that Sheaffe would be blamed for problems inherited from Brock, who had been more interested in action than in bureaucratic efficiency. By January the first signs of food shortages had begun to appear, in the Western District, where Colonel Henry Procter* was empowered by Prevost through Sheaffe to impose a partial operation of martial law to force farmers to sell produce to the army.

During the winter of 1812–13, most of which Sheaffe spent on the Niagara frontier (probably at Fort George), he seldom dealt with civil matters because of poor health and preoccupation with military defence. The armistice negotiated after the battle of Queenston Heights ended on 20 November. After an unsuccessful American invasion near Fort Erie on the 28th, the commanding officer of the British forces there, Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Bisshopp*, feared a second attempt and requested reinforcements. Sheaffe wisely responded that troops could not be sent to that distant position, where they could easily be isolated and defeated, and advised him to retreat to Chippawa if the Americans attacked. An indignant Bisshopp presented Sheaffe's proposal to a council of officers, who were outraged that their commander should countenance retreat. Although the suggestion was theoretically a valid military plan, Sheaffe was seen to be injudicious in recommending it before it became a necessity, and rumour quickly labelled him a traitor. He lost standing with many regular and militia officers, notably Captain Andrew Gray, the deputy quartermaster general, and with a significant portion of the civilian population, a shift in opinion that alarmed Prevost.

Throughout the winter months of 1812–13 Sheaffe continued his efforts to remedy defensive weaknesses in the province. One of his major concerns was the need to ensure naval supremacy on the lakes when the shipping season opened [see George Benson Hall*]. He was well aware that Commodore Isaac Chauncey of the United States

Navy had virtually seized control of Lake Ontario just before the winter freeze-up. By mid December Sheaffe and others had devised a plan “for the improvement of our marine establishment” by fitting out and arming additional vessels at Kingston, York, and Amherstburg. During part of January and February, however, Sheaffe’s illness so interfered with his work that Prevost ordered the next available senior officer in Upper Canada, Colonel John Vincent*, to proceed to Fort George and to be ready to take over the command of the province. In spite of his sickness, Sheaffe was able to endorse the formation of new corps as another obvious means for bolstering the province’s defences. He welcomed the suggestion initiated by Procter and promoted by Colonel William Caldwell* to form a corps of rangers similar to Butler’s Rangers in the American Revolutionary War. In February, Sheaffe supported Caldwell’s proposals before Prevost. The Western Rangers, also known as Caldwell’s Rangers, was formed in March and part of the credit may belong to Sheaffe.

He opened the Upper Canadian legislature on 25 Feb. 1813 and prorogued it on 13 March. This was the only session that he presided over but it acceded to most of his requests. The principal measures passed were the recognition of army bills authorized by the Lower Canadian legislature as legal tender in Upper Canada, the authorization for the lieutenant governor to prohibit the export of grain or its distillation, and the provision of annuities for disabled militiamen and for the widows and children of those killed. Amendments to the militia laws formed perhaps the most significant legislation, for these were intended to improve the efficiency of Upper Canada’s militia, an end Prevost had been urging on Sheaffe along with an expansion of the militia force. Under these amendments existing flank companies would be replaced by battalions of incorporated militia made up of volunteers who enlisted for the duration of the war. To attract volunteers a cash bounty was offered. Sheaffe claimed credit for this inducement but was disappointed that the amount authorized by the House of Assembly was only eight dollars. Drawing from the military chest, he raised the bounty to eighteen dollars and offered land grants to all ranks at the end of their service. Although it was expected that two or three battalions would be raised, only one was recruited in 1813, with its officers coming from regular regiments.

In his conduct of the war, Sheaffe consistently declined to take risks, a position which accorded with Prevost’s policy of a defensive war based on holding Montreal and Quebec. In March 1813 he exhorted Sheaffe to conserve his resources “for future exertion” and to adopt “activity and perseverance in the measures of defence, for which your present force and recent preparations are so well calculated.” A cautious and methodical commander, Sheaffe opposed John Vincent’s proposal to attack Fort Niagara that spring because not enough boats or Indians were available at the time. He sought to strengthen the defences of York but efforts there were abruptly cut short.

On 26 April an American fleet appeared west of the capital and the next day the invading force began landing, quickly establishing a beach-head. Sheaffe had about 700 regulars and militia and between 50 and 100 Indians with which to oppose some 1,700 United States regulars, supported by the guns of 14 ships. All he could do was fight a delaying action; nothing would have been gained by getting himself killed or captured, or by exposing his forces to heavy losses. After a brief engagement, he decided to retreat eastward to Kingston, destroying first a partially built ship, the marine stores, and the grand magazine. The town’s senior militia officers were left to make terms with the Americans. This was a sound military decision and perhaps the clearest evidence of its validity is contained in the reaction of the American secretary of war, John Armstrong: “We cannot doubt but that in all cases in which a British commander is constrained to act defensively, his policy will be that adopted by Sheaffe – to prefer the preservation of his troops to that of his post, and thus, carrying off the kernel leave us only the shell.” Unfortunately for Sheaffe, the post he had abandoned was the provincial capital, the home of such influential citizens as John Strachan*, William Allan, and William Chewett*, whose bitter criticisms of Sheaffe’s conduct and withdrawal helped to finish his career in the Canadas. Disagreement over his actions at York persists to the present day.

The problem of civilian loyalty increased following the American capture of York and during fighting on the Niagara peninsula in May and early June, at which time Sheaffe was still in Kingston. Prevost, who along with Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo* had joined Sheaffe there, authorized him after his retreat to impose martial law if necessary in order to sustain his troops and control disaffected elements [see Elijah Bentley*]. Sheaffe saw no benefit in using

martial law, however, and declined to employ this power, claiming that as president of the province he had no constitutional authority to do so.

After the American invaders had been forced back on the peninsula, Prevost removed Sheaffe from his civil and military commands, in which he was succeeded on 19 June 1813 by Major-General Francis de Rottenburg*. Four days earlier the members of the Executive Council then “resident” in Kingston, William Dummer Powell, Thomas Scott*, and John McGill*, had praised Sheaffe for his administration and for his part in the battle of York; apparently the general still had important friends in Upper Canada. Still, Prevost was so dissatisfied with him that he informed Lord Bathurst, the colonial secretary, that Sheaffe had “lost the confidence of the Province by the measures he had pursued for its defence.” In the opinion of William Dummer Powell, probably Sheaffe’s closest adviser on civil matters, he “was sacrificed to Ignorance & Jealousy of those who had not souls to comprehend his character in which truth & honor so much predominated as to give his Conduct the appearance of weakness.”

Sheaffe was subsequently ordered to take command of the troops in the Montreal District, a position which entailed little responsibility since there was no fighting taking place in that area. In July, Prevost nevertheless criticized him for “indifference” in the discharge of his duties and demanded his “active support.” The charge mystified Sheaffe. Although their correspondence does not make clear precisely how he was failing in his duties, Prevost was completely disillusioned with him. Though Sheaffe had been more assiduous than Brock in conducting the defensive war envisaged by Prevost, he had failed to keep Prevost well informed of his plans and thoughts and was unable to convince him that he was following his instructions. Even when faced with removal from his Montreal command, he feebly protested that Prevost was misinformed but made no attempt to set the record straight. On 27 September he was superseded by Prevost, who had returned to Montreal from Upper Canada, and was placed in charge of the reserve forces. Prevost, however, had already written to London about Sheaffe’s recall. Orders to that effect were sent in August 1813, but his departure was delayed until November.

On returning to England, Sheaffe and his family lived in Penzance and then Worcester, and in 1817 they moved to Edinburgh, where Sheaffe spent most of his remaining years. Although his appointment to the army staff on 25 March 1814 was later recalled and deferred, he was promoted lieutenant-general in 1821 and general in 1838. He had become colonel of the 36th Foot in 1829.

Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe was an experienced professional soldier who attempted to conduct the War of 1812 in Upper Canada in accordance with the defensive strategy of Sir George Prevost – an approach which undoubtedly suited Sheaffe’s cautious personality. It is, therefore, ironic that Prevost lost confidence in him for carrying out this policy, and that Brock, not Sheaffe, is known for the one battle Sheaffe won by a brilliant, offensive manoeuvre.

Carol M. Whitfield and Wesley B. Turner.

51. **Betsy DeBlois** #243194.
52. **Stephen DeBlois** #243195.
53. **John V.S. DeBlois** #243196.

Generation Seven

54. **William Coffin Harris** #213470, b.¹
55. **Theodore J. Harris** #213471, b.¹
56. **Herman Brimmer Harris** #213472, b.¹
57. **Frances Mary Harris** #213473, b.¹
58. **Thomas Aston Harris** #213474, b.¹
59. **Thomas Aston Coffin** #212247.

Family lived in Charleston, South Carolina.

60. **Guy Carleton Coffin** #212254, b. c. 1783 in New Brunswick *, d. 1856 in Greenham Lodge, Greenham, Berkshire, England, occupation Major General, Royal Artillery.

Some researchers shown birthplace of Charleston, South Carolina...

He married **Henrietta (unidentified)** #213498,^{1,3} b. c. 1798 in Blackheath, Kent, England,³ d. 08 August 1885 in Cleveland Square, London, England.³

61. **John Townsend Coffin** #212255, b. c. 1785 in New Brunswick?, d. 29 April 1882 in York, Yorkshire, England,³ occupation 1841 Admiral, British Navy, occupation Owner, Magdalene Islands.

He married **Sophia Emily Wallis Donaldson** #221726, b. 23 May 1816 in New Brunswick,⁹ d. 20 December 1856 in St. Andrews, Charlotte County, New Brunswick,⁹ buried in Loyalist Cemetery, St. Andrews, Charlotte County, New Brunswick.⁹

Children:

74. i. **Isaac Tristram Coffin** #221727 b. 1836.
75. ii. **Mary Aston Coffin** #221728 b. 1838.
62. **Caroline Susanna Maria Coffin** #211135, b. 14 February 1785 in Nerepis, Westfield Parish, Kings County, New Brunswick,¹⁰ d. 02 June 1868 in Marysville, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario,¹¹ buried in Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario.¹¹ .

Eldest daughter. Owned much of the property on Wolfe Island. The 1856 map of Marysville, Wolfe Island shows that "Madame de Longueuil" lived at Elm Lodge, a property just east of the old Roman Catholic Church. (and nearby the home of Mrs. ALLEN, likely Ardagh/Ardath, although not named as such on the map. That is likely the "Thorn Cottage" seen on later maps.). Elm Lodge was purchased, along with its surrounding four acres, from the Baroness by Father Stafford of the Catholic Church to be used as the second Catholic Rectory following the loss of the original building by fire.

1861: Lived in a 1 1/2 storey frame house (Elmlodge) on Wolfe Island. Widowed Enos ALLEN and daughter Elizabeth are shown as family members in the 1861 census. Were Aaron WILLIAMS and family living in Ardath Castle, enumerated consecutively as a "stone house with outbuildings."

1863: Elmlodge and its accompanying four acres was purchased by Father STAFFORD of the Catholic Church to replace the original rectory destroyed by fire.

She married **Charles William Grant** #211134, b. c. 1782 in Quebec City, Canada,¹² (son of **David Alexander Grant** #212269 [Captain, 84th Regiment of Foot] and **Marie-Charles-Joseph Le Moyne** #212270 [4th Baroness de Longueuil Le Moyne]), baptized 04 February 1782 in Anglican Church, Quebec,¹³ occupation Fifth Baron of Longueuil, d. 05 July 1848 in Alwington House, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario,¹¹ buried in Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario.¹¹

Charles:

Charles William GRANT received his education in Aberdeen, Scotland. The family lived at Ile Ste. Helene until 1817, when financial pressures forced Charles to sell St. Helene, Ronde and aux Fraises to the British military. One of the reasons for the financial hardship in Montreal was the influx of low-priced wheat from Upper Canada, by 1871, over thirty years in settlement with established farms. It was agreed that Grant could keep hold of the machinery at the mills, and some sources suggest that it was shipped to Blairfindie. But in 1820 the mill building was lost to fire. The building stones were used in the construction of the British fortifications of the island. Some remains of the original buildings were seen as late as the early 19th century, but by 1870 the island was turned over to the Canadian government and used for ammunition storage and a militia camp. By 1870, no remnants of the Grant or Le Moyne heritage remained on the island.

The three islands became one by Expo 67, and today serve as a place of recreation for Montrealers in the summer months. No traces of that early heritage remain.

(from the History of Wolfe Island, Ruth Hawkins, 1967)

In 1675, Robert CAVALIER, Sieur de Lasalle, was granted the Seignury of Frontenac by King Louis the 14th. Ten years later (c. 1685), he conferred ownership of Wolfe Island to James CAUCHOIS. He died in 1708, leaving the island to his daughter, Madeleine, who married a CUROT. in 1713. After her death, the island passed to Jacques-Francois CUROT, who entered the priesthood. In 1784 he conveyed his interests to his half-brothers, Amable and Michael CUROT, who, around the beginning of the 19th century, sold their interests to David Alexander GRANT and Patrick LANGAN for 1500 pounds for 30,000 acres.

From a "History of Wolfe Island, Frontenac County":[21]

A letter dated Montreal 29 Sep 1800 from David Alexander Grant and Patrick Langan states: "We purchased the Grande Isle [Wolfe Island] on the 6th May, 1795 from [brothers] Michel and Amable Curot [Curotte],[22] to whom the Island devolved by right of Descent, and soon after we caused it to be surveyed, erected a Dwelling House and placed Settlers[23] on the Island, who are now improving it."

Upon the death of Grant in 1806, the land was passed to his son, Charles William Grant, the 5th Baron de Longueuil. Charles' daughter owned a large part of the island at her death in 1894. The other owner of the island, Patrick Langan, died in 1813, his portion of the land went to his daughters, Julia, Charlotte and Marie.

The Grants and Barons de Longueuil lived on the Island until 1825 when they moved to Kingston. A last note, the Baroness de Longueuil gave the land for the Anglican Church and Rectory on the Island.

Notes on Wolfe Island in the early 1800s:[25]

With the arrival of Governor Simcoe and the Loyalists, the name of the island was changed to "Wolfe" from the French "Grande Isle" in 1792. The French landowners sold the island to two retired British Officers in 1795. Both Captain David Alexander Grant (of the 84th Regiment) and Lieutenant Patrick Langan (of the King's Royal Regiment of New York) were stationed on Carleton Island during the American Revolution and likely became familiar with Wolfe Island during that time. Neither Grant nor Langan immediately settled on the island but instead built a house for Richard Davis, a former drummer in the KRRNY, and his family and set them to improving the land.[26]

Despite this presence, Grant and Langan had difficulty controlling Wolfe Island. In 1800, Langan complained that the Provincial Marine was illegally removing timber from the island for use at the Kingston naval yard. Presumably the navy stopped at his request but timber theft remained a problem. In 1808, Langan again complained to Lieutenant Governor Francis Gore of "persons on Grande Ile taking wood and staves and acting in a lawless manner". In an attempt to forestall some of this theft, the trees around the bays of Wolfe Island were marked so that they could be identified. The stealing of timber was endemic in early 19th century Ontario, and Langan's

repeated efforts to protect the island's timber indicates that he saw it as a major asset of the property; developing that resource may have been one of his reasons for purchasing the island. Langan and Grant's desire to control profits from timber export is also a possible explanation for why settlement on Wolfe Island lagged behind the adjacent mainland. While settlement near Kingston was expanding rapidly, there were only 15 families on Wolfe Island ca. 1820.

According to the Treaty of Paris (1783), Wolfe Island was part of the United States; however, the British were concerned about placing the international border so close to their naval base at Kingston and disputed the U.S. claim. The claim was finally settled in 1822 by exchanging Wolfe Island and a few small islands near Cornwall for Grande Isle near Niagara, essentially trading one Grande Isle for another. This action brought Wolfe Island completely under the control of the British government, which did not consider land titles descending from French seigneurial title as valid. The Langan and Grant heirs were consequently required to secure their claims and to relinquish two-sevenths of the island as Crown and Clergy reserves. These actions seem to have convinced the owners that it was time to commence selling portions of the island, and the population began increasing steadily after 1826

Built Alwington House in Kingston, 1832, enlarged to serve as vice-regal residence in 1841.

1842: The family was enumerated in the city of Montreal., next to the family of Charles-Nicholas-Fortune de Montenach (married Mary Elizabeth GRANT)

Grant also held properties on Wolfe Island, including Ardath Chateau (The Castle). Built in 1828, it was a 25 room baronial-style manor, complete with a dungeon, carriage house. In 1929, the house, unoccupied for 15 years, was razed by fire, some say, "of a suspicious nature."

(Was "Ardath" a reference to Ardagh, County Longford, Ireland. That would connect more closely to the ALLEN family's Irish roots, although Ardagh is further north than the ALLEN and ANTISELL family homes in County Tipperary...)

Children:

76. i. **Charles James Irwin Grant** #212271 b. 01 April 1815.
 77. ii. **Charlotte Catherine Ann Grant** #211132 b. c. 25 June 1817.
63. **Nathaniel Coffin** #221717, b. 1787 in Boston?,³ d. 1802 in Port-au-Paix,³ buried in Saint Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Woodmans Point, Kings County, New Brunswick.⁶
64. **(unidentified) Coffin** #212257.
- She married **Thomas Pearson** #212258, occupation General, KCB.
65. **(unidentified) Coffin** #212259.
- She married **(unidentified) Kirkwood** #212260, occupation Colonel, British Army.
- (unidentified):**
Family lived in Bath, England.
66. **Isabella Coffin** #221718, b. 1790 in Boston?,³ d. 1871 in Prince Edward Island.³
67. **Anne Coffin** #221719, b. 1791 in Boston?.³

68. **Henry Edward Coffin** #212256, b. 1794 in Alwington Manor, Kings County, New Brunswick, d. 31 August 1881 in Henley, Oxfordshire, England,³ occupation 1856 Admiral, British Navy.

Granted land at Salmon River, New Brunswick.

69. **Sophia Wilhelmina Coffin** #212261, b. 1799 in New Brunswick, d. 21 October 1860 in Dresden, Saxony (Germany).

She married **John Barnett** #212262, b. 1797 in Bishopthorpe, Oxfordshire, England,³ d. 23 February 1855 in Dublin, Ireland,³ occupation Officer, British Army, occupation Government position in Ceylon.

Children:

- 78. i. **John Osborne Barnett** #221720 b. 1824.
- 79. ii. **Frederica Sophia Ann Barnett** #221721 b. 1824.
- 80. iii. **William Townsend Barnett** #221722 b. 1825.
- 81. iv. **Maria Caroline Barnett** #221723 b. 1831.
- 82. v. **Elizabeth Henriette Barnett** #221724 b. 1834.

70. **Mary Aston Coffin** #212263, b. 02 March 1804 in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, USAS,¹⁴ d. 10 July 1827.¹⁴

She married **Charles Richard Ogden** #212264, 24 July 1824 in Walcot, Somerset, England,¹⁴ b. 06 February 1791,¹ (son of **Isaac Ogden** #213499 [Chief Justice of Montreal] and **Sarah Hanson** #213500), d. 1866,¹ occupation Attorney General, Lower Canada.

Children:

- 83. i. **Henry Aston Ogden** #221594.

71. **William Foster Coffin** #213113, b. 05 November 1808 in Bath, Somerset, England, occupation 1842 Sheriff of Montreal, d. 28 January 1878 in Ottawa, Carleton County, Ontario.

1842: Enumerated in Montreal with a household of nine people.

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_william_foster_10E.html

COFFIN, WILLIAM FOSTER, soldier, author, and civil servant; b. at Bath, Eng., on 5 Nov. 1808, son of an army officer and grandson of John Coffin*, a loyalist from Boston who moved to Quebec in 1775 and played a distinguished part in its defence against the Americans in 1775-76; d. at Ottawa, Ont., 28 Jan. 1878.

In 1813, William Foster Coffin's family came to Quebec. His father being in the army, Coffin was aware as a child of the echoes of the War of 1812. He learned French at this time, at the home of the parish priest of Beauport. In 1815, with the war at an end, the Coffins returned to England and William spent the next nine years at Eton. Perhaps because his uncle Thomas* was living at Quebec and had become a member of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, William looked to the colony for a career. In 1830 he came to Canada, articulated in Montreal, and,

after reading law with Charles Richard Ogden* and Alexander Buchanan*, was called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1835. Two years later, he was active among the volunteers organized against the Patriotes, serving as an interpreter and intervening to protect the habitants and church property from pillaging by these volunteers.

This background of law and loyalty helped to shape Coffin's career in the ensuing years. In 1838 he was chosen by Sir John Colborne* to be assistant civil secretary for Lower Canada "an office created with a view to organizing a police force for the province " and in 1839 he became a police magistrate. In 1840, Coffin became commissioner of police for Lower Canada; two years later he was named joint sheriff of the District of Montreal, a post he resigned in 1851 when the legislature suddenly cut in half the income of the office. Coffin was frequently called on as a commissioner to investigate matters of law and order. In 1840 he looked into the state and condition of the Montreal jail; in 1841 he inquired into troubles on the Indian reserve at Caughnawaga and into election riots at Toronto [see George Monro]. In 1854 he investigated accidents on the Great Western Railway and, in the following year, he studied the affairs of the University of Toronto. In 1855 also, he was sent to maintain order on the Gatineau "then seriously threatened by refractory characters to the great disquietude of the lumbering interest."" Meanwhile, Coffin was acquiring land, wealth, and important interests in railways linking Montreal and New York.

In 1855, as a result of the Crimean War, Britain reduced her garrison in Canada to its lowest level in decades. Patriotic enthusiasm and anxiety at the possibility of war with the United States combined to persuade the government of the united province to revise the Canadian militia system. For the first time, formal authority was granted for the creation of units of volunteer militia. Coffin, a major in the older militia organization, was one of many who took advantage of the new legislation, forming the only militia field battery in Montreal. Since organizing field artillery involved hiring horses, recruiting men, and storing equipment, as well as mastering relatively complex training, only a man of enthusiasm and wealth could have managed so difficult a task.

To encourage Canadians to make permanent provision for their own defence, the British government decided to hand over, in 1856, most of its ordnance lands in Canada to the provincial authorities. With some misgivings, the Canadian government accepted the gift. At the suggestion of the governor general, Sir Edmund Walker Head*, Coffin was appointed commissioner for ordnance lands, a position he was to hold for the rest of his life. Choosing to establish himself in Ottawa, Coffin resigned his command of the Montreal battery, and received promotion to lieutenant-colonel as a final reward for his services.

Predictably, Coffin struggled hard to make Canadian government policy fulfil British expectations. The ordnance lands, he claimed, "represent a capital, the annual interest of which, if estimated as proposed, will exceed the present requirements of the militia of the Province." Rent from land and buildings in Ottawa alone would yield a million dollars a year for defence purposes. Coffin's efforts to secure the ordnance funds for Canadian defence were unavailing and his office and its revenues were soon swallowed up in the massive Crown Lands Department. For 18 more years he continued as a civil servant of first the provincial and later the dominion government.

Throughout his life, Coffin elaborated his claim that his grandfather had played the key role in saving Quebec in 1775 and, consequently, British power in North America. In the 1860s, with new threats of war with the United States, Coffin turned to a wider patriotic task in publishing 1812, the war and its moral. Although his younger contemporary, John Charles Dent*, condemned the book's unflagging patriotic bias, he merely underlined Coffin's own purpose: to combat the sensational American versions of the war and to offer "an antidote to the American literature of the day." The heroism of Sir Isaac Brock*, Tecumseh*, Laura Secord [Ingersoll*], and the Canadian militia is presented with enough fervour to contribute significantly to a mythology known to a century of English Canadian schoolchildren. By accentuating the significance of Charles-Michel d'Irumberry* de Salaberry and the battle of Châteauguay, Coffin did his best to provide both the founding races of Canada with the heroic legends he felt were necessary for their common nationalism.

After his first book, Coffin continued to write, chiefly lectures. Those which survive in print, such as Thoughts on defence, from a Canadian point of view and Quirks of diplomacy, exhibit an increasing sense of Canadian

nationalism. Even after the withdrawal of British troops from central Canada in 1870 -71, Coffin argued that Canadians could defend themselves from the United States. If the British chose to be generous at Canada's expense in their diplomacy with the United States, Canadians should be recompensed.

In 1873, Coffin declined the appointment of lieutenant governor of Manitoba. Five years later he died at his home, "Aux Écluses," near Ottawa. In Boston, on 6 July 1841, he had married Margaret Clark, herself of loyalist and military stock. She and one son, Thomas, survived him.

Desmond Morton.

He married **Margaret Clark** #213114, 06 July 1841 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA,¹⁵ d. after 1878 in Ottawa?.¹⁵

Children:

84. i. **Thomas Coffin** #213115.

72. **Isabella Coffin** #243214, b. 12 December 1813 in Great George Street, Liverpool, Lancashire, England, d. 07 July 1885 in The Terrace, Staplegrove, Somerset, England.¹⁶ .

Estate of GBP 902/10s/1d.

She married (1) **Hugh Williams Austin** #243218, b. 4Q 1757 in Holetown, Saint James, Barbados, d. 01 February 1802 in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England.

Children:

85. i. **William Austin** #243219 b. 27 August 1799.

86. ii. **Thomas Austin** #243220 b. 27 January 1801.

She married (2) **Hugh Vaughan** #243215, b. 17 February 1810 in Frenchay, Gloucestershire, England, d. 20 September 1876 in Staplegrove, Somerset, England.¹⁶

Hugh:

(at least 15 children, to be added)

Estate of effects under \$25,000. probated to sons Hugh Coffin VAUGHEN, Torquay; and Alexander Henry VAUGHAN, Aldershot.

Children:

87. iii. **Hugh Coffin Vaughan** #243216.

88. iv. **Alexander Henry Vaughan** #243217.

73. **William Craigie Holmes Coffin** #213110, b. 1805 in Trois Rivieres?, d. 20 December 1865 in Montreal, Quebec, baptized 1805.

He married **Luce Guy** #215327, 10 November 1828 in Notre Dame Basilica, Montreal, Lower Canada, b. 23 August 1804 in Montreal, Quebec (daughter of **Louis Guy** #215328 and **Lucette Curotte** #215329), d. 17 January 1850 in Montreal, Quebec.

Children:

89. i. **Francois-Benjamin Coffin** #243180 b. 24 December 1838.

Generation Eight

74. **Isaac Tristam Coffin** #221727, b. 1836 in St. John, New Brunswick,³ d. 1929.

He married (1) **Maria Van Antwerpen** #221730.³

He married (2) **Harriet Green** #221731, b. 1848 in Brussels, Belgium, d. 1894.

Children:

90. i. **John Tristam Coffin** #221732 b. 1871.

91. ii. **Henry Coffin** #221733 b. 1873.

92. iii. **Louis Edward Coffin** #221734 b. 1875.

75. **Mary Aston Coffin** #221728, b. 1838 in St. John, New Brunswick,³ d. September 1928 in Upton, Buckinghamshire, England.³

She married **Robert Rollo Gillespie** #221729, 01 October 1863 in Weston All Saints, Bath, Somerset, England,³ b. 18 September 1830 in Mumbai, India,³ d. 17 November 1890 in Bombay, India.³

Robert:

(at least seven children).

76. **Charles James Irwin Grant** #212271, b. 01 April 1815 in Montreal, Lower Canada,¹⁷ d. 26 February 1879 in Pau, Basses-Pyrenees, France,¹⁷ buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, France,¹⁷ occupation Served 79th Regiment, British Army.

1844 - 1862: Lived at Alwington House, Kingston until he and his family moved to France. The 1855 Kingston Directory shows him as resident at Alwington House.

16 APR 1879: Estate probated to William Hume TRAPMANN (sic), Gibraltar House, Monmouth; Amount under 7,000 GBP.

On the death of his father in 1848, the following indenture was produced to provide for the support of the Allens and Baroness Grant,:

This Indenture in three parts made the Twenty fourth day of October in the Year of Our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and forty eight

Between Charles James Irwin Grant, now of Kingston in that part of the Province of Canada which heretofore constituted the Province of Upper Canada, Esquire, Baron de Longueuil, of the one part, and the

Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen of Alwington House in Kingston aforesaid, Clerk, and Catherine Charlotte Grant, his wife and by him duly authorized to and for all and every the intents and purposes of these Presents, of the second part, and Carolina Coffin, Dowager Baroness de Longueuil of the third part, Witness -eth - Whereas in and by a certain contract in contemplation of marriage afterwards duly celebrated bearing date and executed before D'Arigny and his Colleague, Public Notaries, at Quebec in the then Province of Lower Canada, the fifth day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, Between David Alexander Grant, Esquire, Captain in the Eighty fourth Regiment then residing at Quebec aforesaid of the one part, and Mademoiselle Marie Charles Joseph Lemoine de Longueuil, Baroness de Longueuil et Dame de Beloeil, fille majeure, of the other part, it was agreed amongst other things as follows: "seront les dits futures epoux du jour de leur epousailles uns et communs en tous biens meubles, acquets et conquets immeubles, meme dans leur propres reciproques echus et a echuer? pendant leur futur mariage, les ameublissant des a present comme des lors, voulant et entendant par conventions expresses, par raisons, et parceque telle est leur volonte que tous leur biens de quelque nature qu'ils soient et puissant? etre, entrent dans leur future communaute renoncant et derogant expressement et particulierement pour cet article, a la coutume de Paris suivie en cette Province, et a toutes lois, coutumes et dispositions a ce contraires," That by another clause in the said contract it was agreed, "a ete expressement convenu entre les dits futures epoux que les biens meubles et immeubles tant nobles que roturiers qui se trouverent appartenir ci chacun d'eux lors de leur deces, appartiendront entierement a leur fils aine, Baron de Longueuil, qui se trouvera lor du deces des dits futures epoux, et a son aine male, et ainsi de male en male en legitime marriage, derogant pour cet article a la Coutume de Paris suivie en ce pays, ou par leur dit fils aine et ses descendents fils aines de male en male payant a dire de prudhommes et d'experts par egale portion a leurs freres puisnes et sours si aucuns se trouvent quand il n'y en auroit qu'un ou plusieurs le tiers de la valeur des dits biens, les dettes des successions prealablement payees ou deduites dans laquelle Estimation n'entera point la valeur du Chateau de Longueuil ou du manoir principal que vaine voudra choisir, avec l'Enclos en dependant, ainsi que la rente ou interet legal la dite rente ou interet a commencer des que les successions seront ouvertes, et le paiement du capital sail est exige un an après qu'ils seront maries ou majeurs, le tout endemiers ou autres droits des successions ou choisis des dits aines pourvu neanmoins que leur pere et mere, ou aucuns d'eux n'eussent dote leurs dits enfants puisnes, males ou femelles, ou ne leur eussent donne ou assigne une somme d'argent ou autres biens particuliers a tous ou a chacun d'eux dits enfants puisnes de leur vivant, ce que les dits futures epoux se reservent de faire soit par donation, desposition de dernieres Volontes ou autres, et en ce cas l'enfant ainsi dote ou pourvenu se tiendra uniquement a sa dote, ou a ce que lui aura ete donne et assigne."

And Whereas in and by a certain other contract in contemplation of marriage, afterwards duly celebrated, bearing date and executed before Hurteau(?) and his colleagues, Notaries Public, at St. John's or Dorchester in the said Province on the second day of September which was in the year of Our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and forty three Between The Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen of the first part and Catherine Charlotte Grant of the second part, and The Honorable Charles William Grant of the Town of Dorchester, Baron de Longueuil, and Carolina Coffin his wife, Baroness de Longueuil, the father and mother of the said Catherine Charlotte Grant of the third part, which said parties to the said last mentioned contract did declare, contract and agree to and with each other as is therein mentioned, and amongst other things the said contract did witness that the said Baron de Longueuil, in consideration of the said marriage and out of love and affection for the said Catherine Charlotte Grant, have made a settlement and provision as well for the future support and maintenance of the said Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen and Catherine Charlotte Grant during the subsistence of the intended marriage; as for the said Catherine Charlotte Grant, in case of her surviving the said Joseph Antisell Allen, which settlement and provision having for effect to convey, affect and encumber lands in the then late Province of Upper Canada, and bearing even date with the said last mentioned contract was an Indenture of lease and release duly signed, sealed and delivered between The said Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen of the first part, the said Catherine Charlotte Grant of the second part, the said Baron and Baroness de Longueuil of the third part and Thomas Kirkpatrick of Kingston in the said Province, Esquire, and Stafford Kirkpatrick of the same place, Esquire, of the fourth part, and it was thereby covenanted and agreed by and between the said parties thereto that the said Indenture of lease and release and all and every the covenants and agreements, provisions, conditions, limitations, matters and things therein contained, should be

taken, held and considered to form part and parcel of the said last mentioned contract, in like manner and as effectively to all intents and purposes as if the same and every part thereof had been and were set forth and contained therein: which said contract in contemplation of marriage among other things did set forth that the lands and premises therein mentioned were to be held by the said Thomas Kirkpatrick and Stafford Kirkpatrick in trust to and for the purposes following: that is to say, to pay two hundred pounds per annum of the rents and profits of said premises to the said Catherine Charlotte Grant during the life of the said Charles William Grant, Baron de Longueuil and the residue of the said rents and profits to the said Charles William Grant, Baron de Longueuil, and after his decease, in the event of the said Carolina Coffin surviving him, then in trust to pay the said residue of the said rents and profits to the said Carolina Coffin for the term of her natural life, and after her decease the said rents and profits to go to the said Catherine Charlotte Grant or the issue of the said intended marriage, And Whereas the said Honourable Charles William Grant departed this life at Kingston aforesaid on or about the fifth day of July now last past, having first made and published his last will and testament bearing the date the twenty third day of November in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six, wherein among other things he did give, devise and bequeath to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her heirs and assigns forever, that certain parcel of land and the tenement and premises known as the Stone Store situated on Water Street in the City of Montreal, then occupied as a Barrack, and the land whereon the same is built, and which belongs thereto, to have and to hold the same to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her heirs and assigns forever And did further give, devise and bequeath the lands and tenements known as the Brick house in Notre Dame Street in the said City of Montreal, then occupied as a Commissariat Office, and the land whereon the same is situated and which belongs thereto to the said Carolina Coffin during her natural life and from and after her death unto the said Charles James Irwin Grant, his heirs and assigns forever. And the same will doth further order and direct that if it should happen that he had not the power to devise the said Stone Store and the land whereon it is built to his said daughter Catherine Charlotte Allen, then the said devise last mentioned of the Brick house in Notre Dame Street should be void and he did in such case give, devise and bequeath the said Brick house to his said daughter Catherine Charlotte Allen, her heirs and assigns forever.

And Whereas doubts have arisen what estate the parties above named respectively take in some of the premises hereinbefore referred to, and for the purpose of obviating difficulties and lawsuits which might grow out of the said in part recited settlements and will, it has been agreed between the parties to these Presents as follows, 1st. That the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, shall pay or cause to be paid to his mother the said Carolina Coffin Dowager Baroness de Longueuil during the term of her natural life the annual sum of eight hundred pounds of lawful money of Canada by equal quarterly payments, on the first days of January, April, July and October in each and every year. And also that he the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil shall pay or cause to be paid to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her executors, administrators or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of like lawful money within ten years from the day of the date of these presents, with interest on the same at the rate of six per cent per annum payable half yearly on the first days of January and July in each and every year. And also that he will pay or cause to be paid a certain mortgage on Alwington House now held by the representative of Admiral Vansittart, and the interest on the same half yearly. 2nd That the said Carolina, Dowager Baroness de Longueuil, shall release to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her heirs and assigns all her life interest in and under or arising from the lands, tenements and premises, except Alwington House, named in the said settlement of marriage of her the said Catherine Charlotte Allen in like manner as if the said Carolina Dowager Baroness de Longueuil was deceased. And also that the said Carolina Dowager Baroness de Longueuil shall release and renounce to the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, his heirs and assigns, all right, title and interest to the said Brick House in Notre Dame Street, which she might claim under and by virtue of the said above in part recited will. 3rd that the said Catherine Charlotte Allen shall, subject to the exceptions and limitations hereinafter set forth, renounce and release to the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, all her right and title of, in and to the premises mentioned in the above in part recited will, To have and to hold the same to the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, his heirs and assigns forever as well as any claim she may have to, for or in any of the real or personal property of which her father died possessed in that part of the Province formerly Lower Canada.

Now these presents witness that the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil doth covenant and agree to and with the said Carolina Dowager Baroness de Longueuil that he will, during the term of her natural life, pay or cause to be paid to her the said annual sum of eight hundred pounds in manner aforesaid. And he, the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, doth further covenant, promise and agree to pay to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her executors, administrators and assigns the said sum of two thousand pounds with interest half yearly in manner aforesaid and also to pay, acquit and discharge the said debt due on mortgage to the representative of Admiral Vansittart with the interest on the same payable half yearly. And the said Charles James Irwin Grant doth hereby covenant and agree that he will pay all the debts due by his late father at the time of his decease, and that he will hold the said Catherine Charlotte Allen and her said husband and the said Carolina Dowager Baroness de Longueuil harmless from any demand that may be made against them, or any of them, for or by a reason of any debt or other liability contracted or incurred by the said the Honorable Charles William Grant. And the said Carolina Dowager Baroness de Longueuil doth hereby remise and release to the said Catherine Charlotte Allen, her heirs and assigns, all her said life interest in the said property, except Alwington House, mentioned in the said settlement dated the second day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three, and also doth renounce and release to the said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, all her right and title to the said Brick house mentioned in the said will of the said late Baron de Longueuil. And the said Catherine Charlotte Grant duly authorised as aforesaid doth renounce all right, title, claim and pretension right of inheritance, droits de succession contractuels which she might have of and in the said real estate and property of the said late Honorable Charles William Grant situated in Lower Canada aforesaid, as well descending under the said contract of marriage between the said David Alexander Grant and Marie Charles Joseph Lemoine de Longueuil or in any other way whatsoever of, in and to all and every the personal estate and successions of the said late Honorable Charles William Grant, save and except the household furniture and other personal property bequeathed by the late Honorable Charles William Grant to the said Carolina Baroness de Longueuil in and by the said last will and testament of the said late Baron de Longueuil. And it was and is hereby specially agreed by and between the said parties to these presents that nothing herein contained shall bar, prevent or exclude or shall be considered to ban, prevent or exclude the said Catherine Charlotte Grant and her heirs and assigns, failing legitimate issue of the said Charles James Irwin Grant, from having and exercising all and every her or their lawful rights of inheritance in and to the said estate and succession of her said brother the said Charles James Irwin Grant, the same to all intents and purposes as if the present renunciation had never been made and executed, and such is the intent and meaning of the parties to these presents, And it was and is hereby specially agreed by and between the parties to these presents that, in the event of the decease of the said Charles James Irwin Grant, should default be made for the period of six months after the same becomes due in the payment of the said annuity of eight hundred pounds or the said sum of two thousand pounds with interest thereon as aforesaid, that these Presents and every thing therein contained shall be void and of no effect and the parties respectively shall be at liberty to make good their claim to any of the said property under either of the deeds of settlement hereinbefore mentioned or under the said will of the late Baron de Longueuil, And the said parties to these presents do lastly agree to and with each other to make, do, execute and perform all other acts and matters or things for effecting the premises either by instrument or instruments executed before Public Notaries in Lower Canada according to the forms there lawfully used or otherwise, whenever requested by the other, as shall be advised, devised or required by the counsel learned in the Law of either of them.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents (executed in quadruplicate) have hereunto set their hands and seals. To wit. The said Charles James Irwin Grant, Baron de Longueuil, at the said City of Montreal, on this twenty fourth day of October in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight, And by the said Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen and Catherine Charlotte Grant his wife, and the said Carolina, Dowager Baroness de Longueuil at Kingston aforesaid on the twenty sixth day of October in the said Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight.

Signed Sealed and delivered by the said
Charles James Irwin Grant, In the presence of
Charles James Irwin Grant

A B McLean(?) of the City of Montreal, Advocate
John Radiger of the same place, Advocate
and by the said Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen
Catherine Charlotte Grant and Carolina Dowager
Joseph Antisell Allen
Baronell de Longueuil, in the presence of
Catherine Charlotte Allen
Thos. Kirkpatrick of the City of Kingston, Barrister
Carolina de Longueuil
JJ Burrows(?) of the same p[lace, Barrister.

He married (1) **Harriet Gregoe-Colmore** #212273, 1842,¹⁰ b. c. 1820 in Canada,¹⁰ (daughter of **Frind Gregoe-Colmore** #213504 and **Elizabeth Sarah Roberts** #213505), d. 25 April 1847 in Canada.¹⁰

Children:

93. i. **Charles Colmore Grant** #212272 b. 13 February 1844.

He married (2) **Anna Mary Catherine Trapmane (Trapman)** #212266, b. in South Carolina? (daughter of **Lewis Trapmane** #212267 [Merchant in Charleston] and **(unidentified)** #212268).

Children:

94. ii. **Reginald d'Iberville Charles Grant** #212274 b. 24 January 1856.

95. iii. **John Moore Charles de Bienville Grant** #212275 b. 1861.

77. **Charlotte Catherine Ann Grant** #211132, b. c. 25 June 1817 in Montreal, Lower Canada,^{18,19} baptized 1817 in Christ Anglican Church, Montreal, Quebec, religion 1894 Church of England, d. 15 April 1894 in Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁹ .

1843: Lived in Christieville, Quebec when married.

Death Record not yet found....

She married **Joseph Antisell Allen** #211131, 02 September 1843 in Iberville, Quebec,²⁰ b. c. 27 February 1814 in Arbourhill, County Tipperary, Ireland (son of **Henry Francis Allen** #212284 [Barrister at Law, Limerick, Ireland] and **Eliza Josephine Antisell** #212285), occupation 1840 Minister, Christieville, (Saint-Saveur), Quebec, occupation 1848 - 1851 Minister, Holy Trinity Church, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario, occupation 1861 Farmer on Wolfe Island, lived in Portsmouth, occupation 1868 - 1873 Clerk in Holy Orders, religion Church of England, d. 07 October 1900 in Alwington House, Portsmouth, Frontenac County, Ontario,²¹ buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston. Frontenac County, Ontario.

Joseph:

The 1860 H.F. WALLING map shows the Rev. J. ALLEN as resident in Alwington House.

"Rev. J.A. ALLEN" is shown as resident in Alwington House in city directories up to 1900.

1842: Emigrated to Canada.

1845: Attended corner-stone laying of Trinity Anglican Church, Wolfe Island. The cost of this church was borne by the Baroness de LONGUEUIL. A visit to the church in September 2021 does not show any inscription on the corner-stone.

After the death of the Baroness in 1848, Joseph Allen renamed Longueuil Castle "Ardath", supposedly after his birthplace in Ireland, although Ardagh/Ardath is quite a distance north of Limerick where the ALLEN family originated.

1851: Family lived in a one and a half storey stone house on Wolfe Island (Ardath Castle?) with six servants. Note that there were three children?, Miss ALLEN, 23, Miss D. ALLEN, 21 and Henry ALLEN, 12 all shown as being born in Ireland. These were siblings to Joseph.

1861: Enumerated in Portsmouth in a three storey stone house (Alwington), but shown as "Farmer on Wolfe Island." Note that wife is shown as "Charlotte." Employed four servants.

1861 - 1861 Family lived briefly in New Haven, Connecticut

1866: City Directory does not show him in Kingston; perhaps listed in Portsmouth?

1871: Family enumerated in Portsmouth.

He owned land on Wolfe Island, Lots 4 - 15 in Concessions V and VI in 1860, likely inherited through his wife's GRANT ancestors.

Located on the north shore of Wolfe Island just west of Marysville, Lot 7 had the house in which his son Grant was born.

1878: Owned a small parcel of land on Wolfe Island (site of Ardath Castle).

Reverend Joseph Antisell Allen was born at Arbourhill County Tipperary Ireland in about 1814. He was the son of Henry Allen and Eliza Antisell. He was educated at Private schools and entered Trinity College in Dublin. He did not complete his course and moved to London where he lived for 5 years and did much literary work especially for Baxter Publishing house, for whom he bought out a Concordance to the New Testament. He declined an appointment in Tinnevely College, India, he came to Canada in 1842 and was ordained by the late Bishop Mountain of Quebec. "1842 - Deacons:" Joseph Antisell Allen, formerly of Trinity College, Dublin". His first charge was at Huntingdon, and his next at Christieville P.Q. He married Catherine Ann Grant in 1843, the only daughter of Charles William Grant, 5th Baron de Longueuil and Caroline Coffin. He removed to U.C. living for some years at Ardath, Wolfe Island where he took charge for no remuneration of Trinity Church, built by the Baroness of Longueuil. He gave up Church work in 1861 and took his family to New Haven Connecticut. Subsequently he returned to Canada. He had several works published including: Day Dreams of a Butterfly (1854), Orangeism, Catholicism and Sir Francis Hincks (1877), the true and romantic love story of Col and Mrs Hatchinson (1884),

He lived at Wolfe Island, Ontario, Canada. He passed away in 1900. He also lived at Alwington House, just east of the Kingston Penitentiary in Kingston.

22 FEB 1929: Fire destroyed Ardath Castle on Wolfe Island.

The Globe, 11 OCT 1900

" The funeral of the late Rev. J.A. ALLEN took place this afternoon from his late beautiful residence, Alwington House, around which clings so many historic memories. Here Lord Sydenham lived and died, here the famous novelist and historian, Grant ALLEN spent his boyhood days, learning Greek and Latin at the knee of him who was to-day borne to rest in the quiet cemetery at Cataraqui. The pallbearers were: - Principal GRANT, Prof. FERGUSON, Col. SMITH, Ald. WALKEM, Revs. C. CARTWRIGHT and F. DOBBS. Rev J. O CRISP conducted service at Saint John's Anglican Church, Portsmouth, assisted by Rev. Mr. DOBBS. Among the hymns sung were "Rock of Ages" and "Saved by Grace," two favorites of the deceased. The flag on the tower of Queen's University main building was flying at half-mast to-day out of respect to his memory."

Children:

- 96. i. **Caroline (Lina) Elizabeth Allen** #212370 b. c. 1844.
 - 97. ii. **Henry (Harry) Allen** #212371 b. c. 1846.
 - 98. iii. **Charles Grant Blairfindie Allen** #211130 b. 24 February 1848.
 - 99. iv. **Edith Harriet Allen** #212299 b. c. 1850.
 - 100. v. **Dora Maud Carleton Allen** #212300 b. c. 14 March 1852.
 - 101. vi. **Mary Gertrude Coffin Allen** #212372 b. c. 1854.
 - 102. vii. **Frederica Emily Blanche Allen** #212302 b. 07 May 1856.
- 78. **John Osborne Barnett** #221720, b. 1824, d. 1899.
 - 79. **Frederica Sophia Ann Barnett** #221721, b. 1824, d. 1903.
 - 80. **William Townsend Barnett** #221722, b. 1825, d. 1870.
 - 81. **Maria Caroline Barnett** #221723, b. 1831, d. 1894.
 - 82. **Elizabeth Henriette Barnett** #221724, b. 1834, d. 1901.
 - 83. **Henry Aston Ogden** #221594, d. c. 02 July 1827.¹⁴
 - 84. **Thomas Coffin** #213115, b.¹⁵ d. after 1878 in Ottawa?¹⁵
 - 85. **William Austin** #243219, b. 27 August 1799 in London, England, d. 17 May 1884 in Essequibo, Demerara-Mahaica, Guyana, occupation Minister.
 - 86. **Thomas Austin** #243220, b. 27 January 1801 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England, d. 26 May 1880 in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England.
 - 87. **Hugh Coffin Vaughan** #243216, occupation 1876 Superintendent of Police, Torquay, Devon.¹⁶
 - 88. **Alexander Henry Vaughan** #243217, occupation 1876 Captain, HM 11th Regt of Infantry, Aldershot, Hampshire.¹⁶
 - 89. **Francois-Benjamin Coffin** #243180, b. 24 December 1838, d. 23 November 1876.

He married **Lemaitre Philomene** #243181.

Generation Nine

- 90. **John Tristam Coffin** #221732, b. 1871.³
- 91. **Henry Coffin** #221733, b. 1873.³
- 92. **Louis Edward Coffin** #221734, b. 1875 in Scheveningen, Netherlands,³ d. 1956.³

(at least five children).

He married **Fanny (unidentified)** #221735, 1900 in St. George Hanover Square, London, England,³ b. 1873.

- 93. **Charles Colmore Grant** #212272, b. 13 February 1844 in Montreal, Lower Canada,²² occupation Seventh Baron de Longueuil, d. 13 December 1898 in Holland House Hotel, New York, New York, USA,²² buried in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, Quebec. Canada.²²

In 1880, he claimed a royal recognition of his right to the Barony of Longueuil. By the Treaty of Quebec, the sovereignty of Canada passed from the Kings of France to the Kings of Great Britain but with the reservation that all

rights and privileges should be reserved and secured to all individuals of French descent to which that had been previously entitled.

Queen Victoria recognized the claims of Charles Colmore Grant to the title of Baron de Longueuil.

In 1898, his usual residence was Birchwood, Pitlochry, Aberdeenshire.

No children, his title passed on to his half-brother, Reginald Charles GRANT.

The New York Times, 14 DEC 1898

"Dropped Dead in a Hotel.

Baron de Longueuil, seventh Baron de Longueuil, of Longueuil, Province of Quebec, Canada who registered at the Hollah House on Dec, 5, from London, dropped dead in the cafe of the hotel about 10 o'clock last night, and a doctor, who was called in, said heart disease was the cause. The body was removed to and undertaker's, where the coroner will hold an inquest today.

"The Baron was an invalid when he arrived at the Holland House, and complained particularly of throat trouble. He had consulted a throat specialist here, and had planned to go to Florida. The Baron was accompanied by Miss Dawson, a nurse who, he said, had been with him for years. Miss Dawson declined to be seen last night. The Baron was born April 18, 1844, and had succeeded to the title in 1879."

He married **Mary Wayne** #212348, 1878 (daughter of **Thomas Wayne** #212349 [of Glendare, Aberdare, Glamorganshire, Wales] and **(unidentified)** #212350).

94. **Reginald d'Iberville Charles Grant** #212274, b. 24 January 1856 in Bath, Somerset, England,²³ d. 31 July 1931 in Caudebec-en-Caux, Haute-Normandie, France,²³ buried in Bath Abbey Cemetery, Widcombe. Somerset, England,²³ occupation Eighth Baron de Longueuil.

On his death in 1931, his brother John Charles Moore GRANT succeeded him.

95. **John Moore Charles de Bienville Grant** #212275, b. 1861 in Bath, Somerset, England,¹⁷ d. 17 August 1935 in Pau. Aquitaine, France,¹⁷ buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, France,¹⁷ occupation Ninth Baron de Longueuil.

He married **Maria Carlotta Barron** #212279, 1886,¹⁰ b. 13 September 1866 in San Francisco, California, USA,¹⁷ d. 31 December 1944 in Pau, Aquitaine, France,^{17,10} buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, France.¹⁷

Children:

103. i. **Ronald Charles (Ronnie) Grant** #212280 b. 15 March 1888.

96. **Caroline (Lina) Elizabeth Allen** #212370, b. c. 1844 in Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario,^{24,18} d. 18 December 1923 in 50 William Street, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario,²⁵ buried 21 December 1923 in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario.²⁶ .

She married **John Maule Machar** #212389, 27 November 1879 in Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario,²⁷ b. 09 July 1841 in Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario,²⁸ (son of **John Machar** #212390 [M.A., King's College, Aberdeen] and **Margaret (Agnes?) (unidentified)** #212391), occupation 1871 - 1879 Lawyer in Kingston, occupation 1881 Barrister in Kingston, occupation 1899 Master in Chancery, Kingston, d. 02 April 1899 in

19 Sydenham Street, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario,²⁹ buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario.²⁶

John:

1881: Family lived in Ontario Ward, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario. Mother and sister lived with the family. No children.

97. **Henry (Harry) Allen** #212371, b. c. 1846 in Wolfe Island?, Upper Canada.²⁴ .
98. **Charles Grant Blairfindie Allen** #211130, b. 24 February 1848 in Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario*, occupation Science Writer and Novelist, d. 25 October 1899 in Hindhead, Haslemere, England.

* Death notice suggests he was born at Alwington, Kingston.

Educated at home until age 13, then family moved to the United States.

1873: Lived at Merton College, Oxford when married.

Was good friends with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who published ALLEN's last unfinished novel, "Hilda Wade" in 1900.

1899: Estate of 6455/3/3 GBP to second wife, Ellen ALLEN.

From the Sheffield Weekly Telegraphy, 30 October 1897:

"Mr Grant Allen was not christened Grant, but Charles Grant Blairfindie; and it must be a puzzle to how a man and a Christian came to be called Blairfindie, it may be worth stating that he derived his name , through his mother, from a landowner in the north of Scotland, one Charles Grant, who owned the estate of Blairfindie, in Banffshire, and who was , therefore, more Scotorum, known as Grant of Blairfindie. Mr. Allen, in his family, however, was from the outset called "Grant."

He married (1) **Caroline Anne Bootheway** #211136, 30 September 1868 in Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, Kensington and Chelsea, England,³⁰ b. 19 February 1846 (daughter of **William Bootheway** #214733 [Labourer in London] and **Eliza Anne (unidentified)** #214734), baptized 17 August 1846 in All Saints, Loughborough, Leicester, England, d. 1871.

Caroline:

1868: Lived in Brompton, London when married.

He married (2) **Ellen Jerrard** #211137, 20 May 1873 in Lyme Regis, Dorset, England,³¹ b. 1853 (daughter of **Thomas Jerrard** #214735 [Butcher in Lyme Regis] and **(unidentified)** #214736).

Children:

104. i. **Jerrard Allen Grant** #211138 b. 1878.

99. **Edith Harriet Allen** #212299, b. c. 1850 in Upper Canada,^{32,24} never married, d. in Scotland? .
100. **Dora Maud Carleton Allen** #212300, b. c. 14 March 1852 in Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario,^{32,24} d. 4Q 1939 in Surrey South Western, Surrey, England.³³ .

1882: Lived in Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario when married.

1922: Wolfe Island property transferred to ??

She married **Robert Arklay Fergusson** #212373, 26 April 1882 in St. John's Church, Portsmouth, Ontario,³⁴ b. c. 1851 in Dundee, Angus, Scotland (son of **Robert Ferguson** #212374 and **Matilda Arkley** #212375), occupation 1882 Gentleman in Kingston, occupation 1883 Merchant in Coventry Park, London, occupation 1891 Lived in Monifieth, occupation 1901 Jute Manufacturer in Monifieth, occupation 1914 Landed Proprietor, Ethiebeaton House, d. 19 August 1914 in Ethiebeaton House, Monifieth, Angus, Scotland.³⁵

Robert:

1891: Family lived at No. 5, Fintry Place, Monifieth, Fifeshire, Scotland. Family had four servants.

1901: Family lived at Ethiebeaton House, Monifieth. Wife not present...

1914: Estate of 20,071/1/6 GBP. Estate probated to " Dora Maud Carleton ALLEN or FERGUSON, Ethiebeaton aforesaid, his widow, William Henry Fergusson, Merchant, The Bughties, Broughty Ferry, David ANDERSON, The Cliffs, Dawlish, Devon, and Robert Allen Arkley FERGUSSON, Merchant, Ethiebeaton aforesaid, his son..."

Children:

- 105. i. **Maud Olive Fergusson** #212381 b. 1883.
- 106. ii. **Robert Allen Arklay Fergusson** #212382 b. c. 1887.
- 107. iii. **James Grant Fergusson** #212383 b. c. 1889.
- 108. iv. **Gertrude H.M. Fergusson** #212384 b. 1891.
- 109. v. **Henry William Esme Fergusson** #212385 b. c. 1894.

101. **Mary Gertrude Coffin Allen** #212372, b. c. 1854 in Wolfe Island?,²⁴ never married, religion 1897 Church of England, d. 20 May 1897 in Toronto, York County, Ontario.³⁶ .

1897: Used name "Gertrude."

102. **Frederica Emily Blanche Allen** #212302, b. 07 May 1856 in Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario,^{32,24} d. 19 January 1927 in Santa Clara, California, USA.³⁷ .

1888: Lived in Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario when married.

She married **Henry Rushton Fairclough** #212376, 29 August 1888 in St. John's Church, Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario,³⁸ b. 15 July 1862 in Barrie, Ontario,³⁹ (son of **James Fairclough** #212377 and **Elizabeth (unidentified)** #212378), occupation 1888 College Lecturer in Toronto, occupation 1900 Professor, Leland Stanford Junior College in Santa Clara, California, occupation 1918 - 1920 American Relief in Montenegro, d. 12 February 1938 in Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California, USA,^{39,37} buried in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, San Mateo, California, USA.³⁹

Henry:

1894: Family immigrated to California.

1900: Family lived at 14 Alvarado Row, Leland Stanford Junior University, Santa Clara, California.

Children:

110. i. **Katrine Hilda Emma Rushton Fairclough** #212379 b. 25 August 1889.

Generation Ten

103. **Ronald Charles (Ronnie) Grant** #212280, b. 15 March 1888 in Pau, Aquitaine, France,¹⁷ occupation 1915 Lieutenant, England, occupation Tenth Baron de Longueuil, d. 12 July 1959 in Navarrenx, Aquitaine, France,¹⁷ buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, Aquitaine, France.¹⁷ .

He married **Ernestine Hester Maud (Tenie) Bowes-Lyon** #212281, 04 OCT1918, b. 19 December 1891 in Glamis, Angus, Scotland,¹⁷ (daughter of **Ernest Bowes-Lyon** #212351 [Diplomatic Service] and **Isobel Hester Drummond** #213506), d. 06 January 1981 in Pau, Aquitaine, France,^{17,16} buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, Aquitaine, France.¹⁷

Ernestine:

First cousin to Queen Elizabeth !!.

1915: The divorce petition outlines Ernestine had, on the 12th and 13th days of November, 1915, committed adultery with Ronald GRANT in Room 41, Central Station Hotel, Newcastle, passing as man and wife. her husband asked to be granted custody of the children. But the story continued to unfold...

Ernestine followed her lover, Ronald GRANT to the Western Front , where she was spurned by her former lover, GRANT, She then decided to end her life by shooting herself, a bullet which failed to kill, her, but remained lodged below her hear for the rest of her life.

The scandal resulted in her cousin, the Queen Mother (Elizabeth BOWES-LYON never again speaking to her.

1981: Left estate of 3600 GBP. (National Probate Index, 812804400W).

Children:

111. i. **Raoul Charles Grant** #212282 b. 07 July 1919.

112. ii. **Raymond David Grant** #212283 b. 03 September 1921.

104. **Jerrard Allen Grant** #211138, b. 1878, occupation 1913 Theatrical Agent/ Stage Manager, d. 1964 in Florida? .

1916: Left Liverpool for New York.

1930: Family lived in Norwalk, Connecticut, USA.

c. 1939: Couple retired to Lake Worth, Florida.

He married **Maud Violet Englefield** #211139, 1913, b. 1881 in Hounslow, London England (daughter of **Joel Englefield** #215277 and **Ellan Cashel Bevan** #215278), occupation Actress and singer, d. 22 March 1946 in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA.

Maud:

Retired from stage in 1925.

Children:

113. i. **Reginald (Reggie) Grant Allen** #211140 b. 1910.
105. **Maud Olive Fergusson** #212381, b. 1883 in London?,⁴⁰ baptized 31 July 1883 in St. Anselm's, Streatham, London.
106. **Robert Allen Arklay Fergusson** #212382, b. c. 1887, occupation 1914 Merchant in Ethiebeaton.
107. **James Grant Fergusson** #212383, b. c. 1889 in Scotland?,⁴⁰ d. 1916.

The Globe and Mail, 09 AUG 1916

"Few Canadians who saw the reports of the death of James Grant Ferguson (sic), a Lieutenant in the Black Watch, knew that he was the son of Robert Arklay Ferguson (sic) of Ethiebeaton, Forfarshire, and that his mother was Miss Maude Allen of "Alwington," Kingston, and that his uncle is Grant Allen, the Canadian novelist. Another aunt is Mrs. John Maule Machar. The young officer, who was twenty-six, was twice wounded, dying while on duty eight days after his last wounding. He gave up a good position in New York on the outbreak of war."

108. **Gertrude H.M. Fergusson** #212384, b. 1891 in Monifieth, Angus, Scotland.
109. **Henry William Esme Fergusson** #212385, b. c. 1894 in Monifieth?,⁴¹ occupation 1914 Merchant in Broughty Ferry, d. 23 November 1972 in Brush End, Burley, Hampshire, England.¹⁶ .

1972: Estate of 81,017 GBP.

He married **Pamela Violet Nancy West** #212386, 17 September 1918 in St. Mary's Bryanston Square, St. Marylebone, London, England,⁴² b. c. 1896 in London? (daughter of **Horace Charles George West** #212387 [Clerk, House of Commons] and **(unidentified)** #212388), d. 15 January 1973 in Brush End, Burley, Hampshire.

Pamela:

1973: Estate of 46,572 GBP.

110. **Katrine Hilda Emma Rushton Fairclough** #212379, b. 25 August 1889 in Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario,^{43,44} d. 03 September 1939 in San Francisco, California.⁴⁵ .

She married **Rufus Hatch Kimball** #215360, 25 February 1925 in Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford, California,⁴⁶ b. 20 July 1883 in New York State,^{47,45} (son of **W.A. Kimball** #215361 [First Vice President, Pacific Mail Steamship Line] and **(unidentified) Hatch** #215362), occupation 1925 Attorney in San Francisco, occupation 1930 Corporation Lawyer in Palo Alto, d. 02 May 1967 in Mountain View, Santa Clara, California.⁴⁵

Rufus:

1910: lived with brother Sherman KIMBALL on Washington Street, San Francisco, California.

1920: Lived with first wife, children on Benito Avenue, Millbrae, San Mateo, California.

1930: Family lived at 1005 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, California.

1940: Widowed, lived with son Roger and daughter Dorothy in San Francisco.

Generation Eleven

111. **Raoul Charles Grant** #212282, b. 07 July 1919 in Sus, Aquitaine, France,⁴⁸ d. 23 February 1942 in At Sea, World War Two,⁴⁸ buried in Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Hampshire, England.⁴⁸ .

(de Longueuil)

112. **Raymond David Grant** #212283, b. 03 September 1921 in Sus, Aquitaine, France,¹⁷ buried in Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, Aquitaine, France,¹⁷ occupation Eleventh Baron de Longueuil, d. 2004 in Navarrenx, Aquitaine, France.¹⁷ .

He married **Patricia Ann Maltby** #212352.

Children:

114. i. **Michael Grant** #212353 b. 1947.

113. **Reginald (Reggie) Grant Allen** #211140, b. 1910, d. 1985.

Generation Twelve

114. **Michael Grant** #212353, b. 1947, occupation Twelfth Baron de Longueuil, occupation Medical Doctor, Oncologist in Nottingham.

2021: retired, Isle of Arran, Scotland.

He married (1) **Isabel Padua** #212354, d. before 2020.

Children:

115. i. **Angela Grant** #212355 b. 1974.

116. ii. **Rachel Grant** #212356 b. 1977.

117. iii. **Rebecca Grant** #212357 b. 1982.

118. iv. **David-Alexander Grant** #212358 b. 1984.

He married (2) **Susan Casey** #212359, d. before 2020.

Children:

119. v. **David Alexander Grant** #213513.

Generation Thirteen

115. **Angela Grant** #212355, b. 1974 in Nottingham?, occupation Director, London School of Dance.

116. **Rachel Grant** #212356, b. 1977 in Luzon, Philippines, occupation Actress, Model, Ballet School Operator.

Starred in such films as Die Another Day with Pierce BROSAN, , Brotherhood of Blood, as well as television cameos.

117. **Rebecca Grant #212357**, b. 1982 in Nottingham?, occupation Actress, Dancer, Singer.
 118. **David-Alexander Grant #212358**, b. 1984 in Nottingham?, occupation Geologist and Mountaineer.
 119. **David Alexander Grant #213513**.

¹ www.geni.com, MAY 2021.

² W. A. B. Douglas, "COFFIN, Sir ISAAC," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 7, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_isaac_7E.html.

³ Genealogy of COFFIN Family, ancestry.com, SEP 2021; egoldes compilation.

⁴ findagrave.com, St. Matthew Anglican Cemetery, Quebec, Quebec.

⁵ WikiTree genealogies, MAY 2022.

⁶ findagrave.com, Saint Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Woodmans Point, Kings County, New Brunswick.

⁷ Christian Rioux, "CRAIGIE, JOHN," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 23, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/craigie_john_5E.html.

⁸ Carol M. Whitfield and Wesley B. Turner, "SHEAFFE, Sir ROGER HALE," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 8, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-, accessed May 23, 2022, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/sheaffe_roger_hale_8E.html.

⁹ findagrave.com, Loyalist Cemetery, St. Andrews, Charlotte County, New Brunswick.

¹⁰ Charles E.G. PEASE, Isle of Mull, 2021.

¹¹ Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Ontario; photograph SEP 2021; Image 21-02667.

¹² geni.com, 2021.

¹³ La Famille Grant et Son Moulin A Eau de Ile Sainte-Helene 1778 - 1818; Paul-Yvonne Charlebois, 2014.

¹⁴ ancestry.com, Family Genealogies, kylahart, SEP 2021.

¹⁵ http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/coffin_william_foster_10E.html.

¹⁶ National Probate Calendar, 1858 - 1995.

¹⁷ findagrave.com, Pau Urban Cemetery, Pau, France.

¹⁸ 1871 Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.

¹⁹ ONVS Deaths, ref. 021706-1894; c/d: La Grippe, four days; Informant: Dr. Albert A. MACDONALD.

²⁰ Indenture between Charles James Irwin GRANT following the death of Charles William GRANT, Baron of Longueuil.

²¹ ONVS Deaths, ref. 010122-1900; c/d: Chronic atrophy of the liver; Informant: Robert J. REID (Undertaker).

²² findagrave.com, Mount Royal Cemetery, Outremont, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

²³ findagrave.com, Bath Abbey Cemetery, Widcombe. Somerset, England.

²⁴ 1861 Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.

²⁵ ONVS Deaths, ref. 014898-1923; c/d: Cerebral thrombosis, cerebral softening; Informant: R.J. REID, Undertaker.

²⁶ Canadian Headstones, Catarauqui Cemetery, Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario.

²⁷ ONVS Marriages, ref. 0026666-1879; Witnesses: Lucy BETTS, John K.C. DOBBS; both in Portsmouth.

²⁸ Scots in the USA and Canada.

²⁹ ONVS Deaths, ref. 009227-1899; c/d: Internal cancer, rectum, 15 months; Informant: R.D. FARRELL, M.D.

³⁰ London, England Marriages, ref. 0148-1868; Witnesses: L.J. Exley PERCIVAL, James SPENCER.

³¹ Dorset England Marriages, Lyme Regis Parish Church, ref. 0470-1873; Witnesses: Thomas JERRARD, Netty YEALE?.

³² 1881 Portsmouth, Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Ontario; age/birthplace/assumed relationship.

³³ English Death Record Index, ref. 002a-0974.

³⁴ ONVS Marriages, ref. 003147-1882; Witnesses: Hilda G. de LONGUEUIL, J.A. FERGUSON, George W. BEARDMORE.

³⁵ National Probate Index for Scotland, 1914.

³⁶ ONVS Deaths, ref. 002335-1897; c/d: Pneumonia, one week; Informant: A.M. MCPHEDRAN, M.D.

³⁷ California Death Index.

³⁸ ONVS Marriages, ref. 003757-1888; Witnesses: George FAIRCLOUGH, Toronto; Gertrude ALLEN, Portsmouth.

³⁹ findagrave.com, Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, San Mateo, California, USA.

⁴⁰ 1891 Monifieth, Fife, Scotland census; age/birthplace/relationship.

⁴¹ 1901 Monifieth, Angus, Scotland census; age/birthplace/relationship.

⁴² Church of England Marriages, London; St. Mary's Bryanston Square; Witnesses Horace WEST, Abimon? WEST.

⁴³ 1900 Leland Stanford Junior University, Santa Clara, California , USA census; age/birthplace/relationship.

⁴⁴ ONVS Births, ref. 009769-1889.

⁴⁵ California Death Index.

⁴⁶ Oakland Tribune, 22 FEB 1925; Marriage Announcement.

⁴⁷ 1930 Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California, USA census; age/birthplace/relationship.

⁴⁸ findagrave.com, Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Hampshire, England.