



Genealogy of the George Mortimer Family in Upper Canada

compiled by [John A. Brebner](#)

20 February 2026
Version 1.0

Generation One

1. **Harvey Walklate Mortimer #338496.**

He married (1) **(unidentified) #338497**, d. c. 1785 - 1786 in England.ⁱ

Children:

2. i. **George Mortimer #338451** b. 20 May 1784.
3. ii. **Thomas Mortimer #338499.**
4. iii. **Mary Mortimer #338500.**

He married (2) **(unidentified) #338498**, 1787 in England.¹

Generation Two

2. **George Mortimer #338451**, b. 20 May 1784 in England,¹ occupation 1812 Minister of Wellington, Shropshire, occupation Rector of Thornhill, d. 15 June 1844 in Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹

1832: Left England for Upper Canada. Family of three sons and three daughters.

Richard E. Ruggle, "MORTIMER, GEORGE," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003—, accessed February 19, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mortimer_george_7E.html.

MORTIMER, GEORGE, Church of England clergyman; b. 20 May 1784 in England, son of Harvey Walklate Mortimer, a gunmaker on Fleet Street, London; m. 21 Feb. 1812 Mary Barford; d. 15 June 1844 in Thornhill, Upper Canada.

George Mortimer's mother died while he was a baby, and he was placed in the care of a relative in Birmingham, where a long illness left him deformed. After his father remarried in 1787, he returned home and was privately educated. For seven years, beginning in 1798, he apprenticed at Mr Otridge's bookstore in the Strand. He became a spiritual disciple of philanthropist Joseph Butterworth, a seller of law books at whose house William Wilberforce and others of the "Clapham sect" gathered.

While preparing for college, Mortimer studied the church fathers, whose writings would inspire the Oxford movement, and at the same time widened his acquaintance with evangelical leaders. A sensitive young

man, he was often moved to tears by his reading of Christian authors. After graduating in 1811 from Queen's College, Cambridge, he worked in a Shropshire parish. Though his bishop regarded this earnest young evangelical with some suspicion, he ordained him to a curacy there in May 1811. Mortimer later served at Bristol and in Somerset.

Discouraged by political and economic circumstances in England and convinced that clergymen who were "the unbeneficed-unpatronized heads of large families must . . . sooner or later decamp," Mortimer left for Upper Canada in 1832. He was offered the parish of Thornhill, where two years earlier a frame church had been erected on land donated by Benjamin Thorne and others. Bishop Charles James Stewart assured him of an income of £100 from the clergy reserves, and the parish promised to pay a further £40 - 50 and supply a home at a moderate rent. Especially at first Mortimer was distressed by his situation. His house was small and he believed the reserves provided people with an excuse to neglect his needs. Since he had a private income, however, he did not suffer. Indeed he identified politically with "the more loyal and opulent" class and was able to devote a tithe to the poor and to other benevolent causes. When in 1836, his spirits worsened by bad health, he prepared to move, his parishioners begged him to stay. He decided to build a substantial house at his own expense, and his health improved.

The rebellion of 1837 was an uneasy period for Mortimer. As the recipient in 1836 of one of the 44 rectories granted by Sir John Colborne*, he feared himself a target for the rebel parties that passed his door on the way to Toronto in December 1837 [see William Lyon Mackenzie*]. Though he was spared, he buried one victim, Colonel Robert Moodie, in the churchyard, surrounded by mourners armed with swords and fowling pieces. The demonstration was, he remarked, "altogether uncalled for."

As time passed, Mortimer felt his circumstances improved. The church building was enlarged in 1840, and in 1841 he was able to write, "In England all was struggling and difficulty, and no possibility of settling my family; while here, I am enabled to call every reasonable comfort around me." His custom was to spend most of the day in his study, and to devote two or three hours to driving about the parish. He visited each family, including Roman Catholics and dissenters. Though he did not regard episcopacy as essential to a church and was friendly towards dissenters, he did warn them against the sin of schism. He delivered a similar admonition to his own parishioners when he suspected they were neglecting his evening services to attend Methodist meetings. He established a Sunday school and a temperance society, but not all his initiatives were successful. Weekday meetings along Methodist lines were discontinued because of people's reluctance to discuss religion. Only a dozen people availed themselves of the books in the village's Library of Useful Knowledge, to which he had contributed.

Although Mortimer felt his first responsibility was to prepare his flock for heaven, he was conscious of his own "latent infidelity, as to the reality of the coming world." While preaching on the afterlife, on the evening of 10 Oct. 1841, he suffered a nervous attack from which he never fully recovered. Care of the parish was entrusted to his curate, the Reverend Adam Townley, and the rector undertook less demanding work at the German Mills, some four miles distant. He resumed charge of the parish in 1843. On 15 June 1844, having learned that his bookseller in Toronto had received a new shipment, he set out for the city. He was thrown from his carriage and died of his injuries.

Mortimer was a man to whom family relationships mattered deeply. He had great affection and respect for his stepmother and formed a close attachment to his brother Thomas and sister Mary, with whom he corresponded throughout his life. His views on matrimony reflect the growing emphasis in his time on the importance of love and companionship to marriage. Before his wedding with Mary Barford, his "dearest

friend," he made himself a series of resolutions, promising to avoid "pettishness," "pertinacity," and "self-will," and to "cultivate a tender and affectionate manner . . . sharing every domestic and maternal anxiety." He vowed that he would "consult her in everything . . . give her the freest access to all my papers, letters, &c." and "commit to her entire management all my money concerns." "As to the arrangement of domestic concerns, "he wrote, he would "interfere as little as need be." Their relationship indeed turned out well. When his sister was about to be married he wished her the same happiness that he enjoyed. He was the father of three sons and three daughters, in whom he took much pride. His decision to emigrate for their sake was probably sound. By 1844 Arthur was already a rector, and Herbert became president of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Richard E. Ruggle

He married **Mary Barford** #338452, 21 February 1812 in Saint Mary, Islington, London, England,^{ii,1} b. c. 1783 in England,ⁱⁱⁱ religion 1861 Church of England, d. before 1871? in Ontario. **Mary**: 1851: Markham, York County Agricultural Schedule, land at Lot 33, Con. 1., Markham.

Children:

5. i. **Cecil Mortimer** #166400 b. c. 1810 - 1813.
6. ii. **Maria Mortimer** #338503 b. 10 May 1814.
7. iii. **Arthur Mortimer** #338471 b. 12 September 1815.
8. iv. **Louisa Mortimer** #338506 b. 17 May 1817.
9. v. **Phoebe Mortimer** #338505 b. 1818.
10. vi. **Basil Mortimer** #338504 b. 1819.
11. vii. **Herbert Mortimer** #338453 b. 07 December 1820.

3. **Thomas Mortimer** #338499, b. in England.¹

4. **Mary Mortimer** #338500, b. in England.¹

Generation Three

5. **Cecil Mortimer** #166400, b. c. 1810 - 1813 in Wellington, Shropshire, England,^{iv} baptized 11 August 1813 in Wellington, Shropshire, England, occupation 1851 Clerk, County Court; Deputy Clerk and Agent for Marriage Licenses in Picton, occupation 1861 Esquire in Tunbridge Wells, occupation 1881 Accountant in West Hackney, London., occupation 1891 Cashier in Hackney St. John, London, d. 13 January 1892 in Hackney, London, England.^v

1832: Parents emigrated from England to Canada.

1851: Lived with family in Hallowell Township, Prince Edward County, Ontario. Eleanor LOWDEN/LOWDER, 20, and Sarah M. COOPER, 28, were enumerated as servants in the household.

(Note that the 1851 ancestry.ca census index shows his surname as "MARTIMER.")

In 1853 he was the Secretary Treasurer for the Canada Grand Trunk Telegraph Company in Toronto, and posted a notice of their Annual General Meeting to be held in the St. Lawrence Hall, in Toronto on 20 JUL 1853.

It would appear that he did not remain in Picton. His wife Mary Isabella died in London in 1858, so they must have returned to England before that date.

1861: Visitor in the Richard HEARNDEN household in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Shown as widowed.

1871 Bethnal Green, London, England census shows him widowed but with sons Herbert , 23, and son Alfred, 16, both born in "Picton. Canada." His brother, Herbert, 50, lived with the family . He was shown as a "Lawyer and Public Notary. Canada." but also born in Shropshire.

The family group lived at 22 Approach Road, Bethnal Green, and included three visitors: the widow Frances C. (BARRON) BURROW, 40; her daughter Juliet, 18 and son Arthur Alfred , 12.

1881: Cecil was again living the widow BURROW and her two children at "The Nest,' Pond Lane, West Hackney, London.

1891: Cecil was still living with the BURROW family.

1892: National Probate Calendar, Died at 157 Evering Road, Middlesex; Left estate to Rev, Alfred Edward BURROW. Clerk and Charles Joseph HOLDSWORTH, Solicitor; Effects of GBP 572/15s/10d.

He married **Mary Isabella Jane (unidentified)** #166401, about 1844? in Upper Canada?, b. c. 1817 - 1819 in Ireland,^{vi} d. 25 November 1858 in Camden, London, England,^{vii,viii} buried in Highgate Cemetery West, Borough of Camden, London, England.⁷ FindAGrave: 285485050. **Mary**..

Children:

12. i. **Herbert Barford Mortimer** #166402 b. c. 1845 - 1847.

13. ii. **Alfred Tracey Mortimer** #338450 b. c. 1855.

6. **Maria Mortimer** #338503, b. 10 May 1814 in Wellington, Shropshire, England,^{ix} baptized 11 September 1814 in All Saints, Wellington, Shropshire, England.⁹

7. **Arthur Mortimer** #338471, b. 12 September 1815 in Shropshire, England,^{x,xi} baptized 03 October 1815 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,¹⁰ religion 1851 - 1864 Church of England, occupation 1851 Episcopalian Parson in Adelaide, Ontario, occupation 1861 Clergyman in Westminster, Middlesex, Ontario, occupation Minister, Thornhill, Ontario, d. 27 March 1864 in Thornhill, York County, Ontario,^{xii} buried in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹² FindAGrave: 46801164.
Arthur was the second son of the Rev. George MORTIMER.

1851: Family lived in a log house in Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario

1861: Family lived in Markham Township, York County, Ontario

National Probate Calendar; effects under GBP 300.

He married **Mary (Marie) Frances White** #338472, 20 February 1844 in St. Ann's Church, Adelaide, Ontario, b. c. 1824 in Ceylon/Sri Lanka,^{12,11} (daughter of **(Captain) White** #338476 [British Army, 66th Regiment of Foot] and **(unidentified)** #338477), d. 15 January 1897 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA,^{12,xiii} buried 22 July 1898 in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹² FindAGrave: 46801440. **Mary:**
Adelaide was the only daughter in this family.

Children:

14. i. **Arthur Lee Mortimer** #338501 b. 05 January 1845.
 15. ii. **George B. Mortimer** #338502 b. c. 1845.
 16. iii. **Mary Frances Mortimer** #338473 b. 12 February 1847.
 17. iv. **John Strachan Mortimer** #338474 b. 25 June 1848.
 18. v. **Charles White Mortimer** #338475 b. 20 April 1852.
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8. **Louisa Mortimer** #338506, b. 17 May 1817 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,⁹ baptized 22 May 1817 in Madeley, Shropshire, England.⁹
 9. **Phoebe Mortimer** #338505, b. 1818 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,⁹ baptized 16 August 1818 in Madeley, Shropshire, England.
 10. **Basil Mortimer** #338504, b. 1819 in Shropshire, England,⁹ baptized 27 September 1819 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,⁹ d. October 1819 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,^{xiv} buried 05 October 1819 in Madeley, Shropshire, England.¹⁴
 11. **Herbert Mortimer** #338453, b. 07 December 1820 in Madeley, Shropshire, England,^{xv,xvi} baptized 07 May 1821 in Madeley, Shropshire, England, occupation 1844 President of Toronto Stock Exchange,¹ occupation 1861 - 1871 Notary Public, Commissioner, Queen's Bench and Stock Broker (in Toronto),^{xvii} occupation 1881 Stock Broker in Toronto,¹⁶ religion 1881 Church of England, d. 19 April 1893 in Toronto?,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 90216788.
1861: Couple lived at 16 Lanark Villas, St. Mary Paddington, Middlesex, England
1871: Visitor at brother Cecil's home in Bethnal Green, London.
1881: Family lived in St. Patrick's Ward, Toronto, Ontario. George MARSH, 19 and Walker MARSH, 18 lived with the family... related to wife Sophia MARSH.

He married **Sophia Harriet Marsh** #338454, b. 27 November 1827 in St. Servan, France,^{15,16,17} (daughter of **G.W. Marsh** #338458 and **Harriet Ellen (unidentified)** #338459), religion 1881 Church of England, d. 26 November 1914 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 90216789.

Children:

19. i. **Louisa Mortimer** #338460 b. c. 05 September 1850.
20. ii. **Harriet Mortimer** #338463 b. c. 1854.

21. iii. **Thomas Mortimer** #338455 b. 10 August 1856.
22. iv. **Herbert Mortimer** #338461 b. 30 May 1863.
23. v. **Edward Mortimer** #338462 b. c. 1866.

Generation Four

12. **Herbert Barford Mortimer** #166402, b. c. 1845 - 1847 in Canada,⁶ d. 4Q 1871 in Bethnal Green, London, England.^{xviii}
13. **Alfred Tracey Mortimer** #338450, b. c. 1855 in Picton, Prince Edward County, Ontario,⁴ occupation 1861 Scholar, Moravian School, occupation 1871 Clerk in Tea Merchant's Office in London.
1861: Boarded with the Samuel WILSON family (Moravian Minister and School Director) at the Moravian Settlement, Ockbrook, Derbyshire, England.
14. **Arthur Lee Mortimer** #338501, b. 05 January 1845 in Ontario,¹¹ d. 23 July 1867 in Thornhill, York County, Ontario,¹² buried in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹² FindAGrave: 76553716.
15. **George B. Mortimer** #338502, b. c. 1845 in Ontario.¹¹
16. **Mary Frances Mortimer** #338473, b. 12 February 1847 in Ontario,^{12,11} d. 01 June 1893 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA,¹² buried in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹² FindAGrave: 46801642.
17. **John Strachan Mortimer** #338474, b. 25 June 1848 in Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario,^{xix} d. 16 May 1876 in Paris, France,¹⁹ buried in Cimetiere d'Auteuil, Paris, France.¹⁹ FindAGrave: 217034671.
18. **Charles White Mortimer** #338475, b. 20 April 1852 in Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario,¹² d. 07 October 1920 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA,¹² buried in Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.¹² FindAGrave: 76553736.
19. **Louisa Mortimer** #338460, b. c. 05 September 1850 in Thornhill, York County, Ontario,^{16,xx} never married, occupation (never worked), d. 10 September 1940 in Burlington, Hatton County, Ontario,^{xxi} buried 12 September 1940 in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.^{21,15} FindAGrave: 77492824.
1861: Lived with grandmother Mary MORTIMER in Markham Township, York County, Ontario.
20. **Harriet Mortimer** #338463, b. c. 1854 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,¹⁵ religion 1878 Church of England, d. 25 January 1919 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 68952145.

She married **William Thomas Boyd** #338464, 15 May 1878 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,^{xxii} b. c. 1830 - 1837 in England,¹⁵ (son of **Francis Boyd** #338465 and **Elizabeth (unidentified)** #338466), occupation 1878 Barrister in Toronto, religion 1878 Church of England, d. 1916 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ **William:**
1879: Family lived at 125 Bloor Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Children:

24. i. **Valentine Boyd** #338467 b. 14 February 1879.
25. ii. **Alice M. Boyd** #338468 b. 1881.

26. iii. **Francis Arthur W. Boyd** #338469 b. 1890.

21. **Thomas Mortimer** #338455, b. 10 August 1856 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,^{xxiii,16} occupation 1881 Clerk in Toronto, occupation Manufacturer's Agent in Toronto, d. 14 December 1937 in 20 Rowanwood Avenue, Toronto. York County, Ontario,²³ buried 16 December 1937 in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.²³ FindAGrave: 77494450.

He married **Alicia Gertrude (Lissa) Greene** #338456, b. 10 July 1851 in Port Nelson, Halton County, Ontario,¹⁵ (daughter of **Thomas Greene** #338517 [Minister] and **Catherine Jane Emma (Kate) Killaly** #338518), d. 10 July 1926 in Burlington, Halton County, Ontario,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 774944492.

Children:

27. i. **Evelyn Gertrude May Mortimer** #338457 b. 01 May 1883.

22. **Herbert Mortimer** #338461, b. 30 May 1863 in Ontario,^{16,15} religion 1881 Church of England, d. 03 December 1927 in Toronto, buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 77492852.

He married **Elizabeth Beatty** #338516, b. c. 1860,¹⁵ d. 18 September 1941 in Toronto,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 77492884.

23. **Edward Mortimer** #338462, b. c. 1866 in Ontario.¹⁶

Generation Five

24. **Valentine Boyd** #338467, b. 14 February 1879 in Toronto, York County, Ontario,^{15,xxiv} d. 1919,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵
25. **Alice M. Boyd** #338468, b. 1881, d. 1969,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵
26. **Francis Arthur W. Boyd** #338469, b. 1890,¹⁵ d. 1977,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵

He married **Mary G. Bombas** #338470, b. 1890,¹⁵ d. 1974,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵

27. **Evelyn Gertrude May Mortimer** #338457, b. 01 May 1883 in Toronto?,¹⁵ d. 04 May 1868 in Toronto?,¹⁵ buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.¹⁵ FindAGrave: 77494623.
1937: Informant at father's death. lived at 20 Rowanwood Avenue, Toronto.

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- ⁱ Richard E. Ruggle, "MORTIMER, GEORGE," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 7, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003 -, accessed February 19, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mortimer_george_7E.html.
- ⁱⁱ Church of England Marriages and Banns, St. Mary, Islington Upper Street; Witnesses: Richard BARFORD, Saah WATTS.
- ⁱⁱⁱ 1861 Markham Township, York County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^{iv} 1871 Bethnal Green, London, England census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^v English Statutory Death Index, ref. 001b-0444.
- ^{vi} 1851 Hallowell Township, Prince Edward County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/assumed relationship.
- ^{vii} findagrave.com, Highgate Cemetery West, Borough of Camden, London, England.
- ^{viii} English Statutory Deaths, ref. 002a-0098.
- ^{ix} Church of England Births and Baptisms, Shropshire, England.
- ^x Shropshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813 - 1900.
- ^{xi} 1851 Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^{xii} findagrave.com, Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Thornhill, York County, Ontario.
- ^{xiii} Los Angeles Deaths; c/d" Pneumonia.
- ^{xiv} Church of England Deaths and Burials, Shropshire, England.,.
- ^{xv} findagrave.com, St. James Cemetery, Toronto, York County, Ontario.
- ^{xvi} 1881 Toronto, St. Patrick's Ward, York County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^{xvii} 1861 St. Mary Paddington, Middlesex, England census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^{xviii} England Civil Registrations Deaths Index, ref. 001c-0211.
- ^{xix} findagrave.com, Cimetiere d'Auteuil, Paris, France.
- ^{xx} 1861 Toronto St, James Ward, York County, Ontario census; age/birthplace/relationship.
- ^{xxi} ONVS Deaths, ref. 018430-1940; c/d: Coronary thrombosis, arterio-sclerosis; Informant: Miss Evellyn MORTIMER, Niece, 20 Rowanwood Avenue, Toronto.
- ^{xxii} ONVS Marriages, ref. 013272-1878; Witnesses: Louise MORTIMER, Frank N. GREENE; both in Toronto.
- ^{xxiii} ONVS Deaths, ref. 008173-1937; c/d: Dilated heart. mitral and tricuspid regurgitation, many years; Senile Decay; Informant: Evelyn Gertrude May MORTIMER, Daughter, 20 Rowanwood Avenue, Toronto.
- ^{xxiv} ONVS Births, ref. 037321-1879.