

The Fullertons of Scotland and Nova Scotia

- submitted by John H. Fullerton

Fergus Fullerton and his wife Mary Fullerton were both born and raised on the island of Arran in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland. The baptism on January 7, 1778, of Fergus, son of Donald Fullerton in Mause (later Mayish), is recorded in the Old Parochial Register for the Parish of Kilbride, County of Bute, Scotland. The birth date for Mary, daughter of another Donald Fullerton and Margaret Stuart, is found elsewhere as May 14, 1782.

On June 4, 1803, "Fergus Fullerton, shoemaker and Mary Fullerton both in this parish gave in their names for proclamation of Banns were lawfully proclaimed and married" according to the Old Parochial Register of Ardrossan. Fergus was 25 years old and Mary had just turned 21, three weeks earlier. From the wording of the parish record, it would appear that Fergus and Mary were both living in the parish of Ardrossan and that Fergus had established himself as a shoemaker. Eight months later their first child, Jean (Jane), was born on January 29, 1804. For most of the next 14 years they lived in the adjoining town of Saltcoats, where Fergus operated a shoe store. In the Spring of 1818 they emigrated to Pictou, Nova Scotia, with their four children, Jean age 14, Daniel age 9, John age 7 and Alexander age 1.

The Fullertons settled in Lyons Brook, Pictou County. Fergus must have had reasonable financial ability for those times since he brought with him two grandfather clocks and paid full passage for the whole family. On July 18th of the year he arrived, he paid 120 pounds for a 174-acre farm. On this property at Lyons Brook, family sources say, he "built the first frame house in the District."

Fergus was brought up in the Presbyterian Church and was a teacher in the Sabbath Evening School in Pictou. However, due to a disagreement with the Rev. James MacGregor, Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod, over the way he was teaching the doctrines of the Church to his students "he was asked to leave the Society and to teach where he pleased." Subsequently he played a role in forming a church at River John, Pictou County, that became the first Disciples of Christ Church in Nova Scotia. River John is a town on the north shore of Nova Scotia. James M. Cameron, in his book "Pictou County's History" (pg. 40), describes the formation of that church as follows: "The beginning of the Baptist Church in Pictou County was at River John on June 18, 1815, the time of

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Waterloo. James Murray from Scotland to Pictou in 1811, a member of the 'Scotch Baptists' or 'Disciples', was the founder." This sept rejected belief in the need of official ministers, considering each of its members to be a disciple. We learn from another source that Alexander Fullerton, Fergus's son, lived in River John for a period and was a member of this congregation.

It wasn't until 1838, three years after Fergus died at the age of 57 and about 10 years after he was told to "go out from the (Presbyterian) Society and teach where he pleased" that the Church was incorporated in Pictou. Odds are Fergus had gone out and taught and that he was influential in his children becoming principals in this church. By 1857, and after the death of a number of prominent members of this church, including Fergus's sons, Daniel Fullerton (age 48) and James Fullerton (age 33, who left his property to the Church of Christ), this church lost its visibility. However some years later the Church was revived once again by Fergus's youngest son David.

In 1838 when the Pictou Church was first formed, David Fullerton, would have been only 13 years old. When he was a very young lad he began to work for his brother-in-law, Thomas Renton, who had married his older sister Jean. Thomas had established a business manufacturing ships' blocks, dead eyes and pumps. For two years following Thomas' death in 1845, David operated the business for his widowed sister. However, in 1847, at the age of 22 he went to Dedham, Massachusetts, where he worked as a wood turner and carpenter. In September of 1850 in Boston he married Elizabeth Jane Adamson, who too had been born and raised in Pictou County. In 1854 he returned with his wife and two children, John D. b. Dec. 1851, and George W., b. 1853. In Pictou David established a successful wood working business. The company made furniture and did general mill work including manufacture of sashes and doors.

During the next eighteen years, David and Elizabeth Fullerton had ten more children, all born in Pictou. Unfortunately, there is very little information available on the religious activities of the Pictou Fullertons from 1857, when the fledging church, initiated by David's older brothers and Thomas Renton, his brother-in-law, had slowly disappeared. But in 1896, David, then a prosperous businessman, built a meetinghouse in order to once again form the Disciples of Christ Church in Pictou. In 1980 the location of the Church in Pictou was described as: "The George Street Christian Church was located where the former Legion Hall, and later, the Kinsmen Hall were located, adjacent to the present Advocate (newspaper) office."

Over the years his children continued to play a prominent role in the Church's influential progress within Pictou as well as other communities

in the United States and other parts of Canada. As an example, in December 1897, George Weaver married David's youngest daughter Laura and in April 1899 when their first child was born they had removed to New Holland, Ohio, to preach. David's son George, who had moved from Pictou in 1898 to Kenora, Ontario, with his wife and six children repeated his father's good works.

(Editor's Note: This article is a brief summary that was taken from a 29 page paper written by John H. Fullerton, who is a descendent of Fergus Fullerton of Scotland and Pictou.)

A Paper on David Donkin Mills (1827-1913) of Cumberland Co., NS

- submitted by John Selwyn Mills, Riverview, NB

For a number of years David, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Donkin) Mills, has been excluded from their family history. Mainly, I presume, because he is not included in Daniel's will (NSARM mfm # 19257), where Daniel named all of his other ten living children, but not David. And perhaps, based on the transcription of David's marriage registration to Christina Morrison on 29 Dec. 1868, daughter of John and Margaret Morrison (Cumberland Co. Marriage Records on-line). Also, because no one has been particularly interested in tracing the ancestry of David Donkin Mills.

From a large Family Bible in the possession of his grandson Douglas Mills, living on the homestead in Rockley, Cumberland Co., NS, in 2003, we find the following entries. (Although it is likely to be David's Bible, someone else perhaps wrote the entries at a later date).
Marriages: (1) David married Christy Robertson 28 Dec. 1869 (We will learn that this marriage is actually for Christina Morrison, possibly intentionally entered wrong, or by someone else at a later date).

Births: (1) Harriet Minnie was born 19 Jan. 1870
(2) George Rufus was born 3 Feb. 1873
(3) James Evan was born 23 Nov. 1879

Turning to Cumberland County censuses, we find the following information:

1827...Mills, Daniel, Rel=Methodist, Occ=Farmer, Town=Nappan, births to Oct. 27=1

1861...Mills, David D, District=Amherst, 2 males, 5 females

1871...Mills, David, Hd of Amherst, 42, M(arried), (wife) Christy 31, dau Harriet 1

1881...Mills, David (now in) Pugwash, 52, M Christy 40, Harriet 11, Geo 8, James 2

1891...Mills, David, Pugwash, 63, Christy 51, Minney 20, George 18, Evan 12

1901...Mills, David, Pugwash, 73, b. 25 Oct. 1827, Christie 62, b. 3 Aug. 1838, Evan 21, b. 28 Nov. 1879, and Florence Robertson, niece, and Mitchell Robertson, nephew.

So it would seem that David's birth date, as he had recorded in the 1901 Census, confirms that it is likely David's birth recorded to the Daniel Mills' (and Elizabeth Donkin's) household, of Nappan, for the year 1827 (births for that year, up to Oct. 27th). From the IGI records we find Margaret Coates, b. 1825, marries David Mills in 1852 at Nappan Station, daughter of Robert Coates and Martha Kiever.

From the Coates family genealogy we learn that Margaret and David are living in Leicester, Cumberland Co., and have a family of six. Four of the children, and Margaret, die in an epidemic in 1863. The other two being Daniel, b. 1853 and Ada, b. 1862, lived with relatives while growing up. (Daniel named after his grandfather, surely). There is a marker in Leicester Cemetery, #223 for Margaret, d. 30 Mar. 1863, wife of David Mills.

By the 1871 census we find David in Goose River, (not named in Linden until 1882), married to Christy. So it would appear that Christina Morrison died sometime in 1870, likely during childbirth of Harriet, and a year and a half later, at census time, he is married to Christy (Robertson), and they have a daughter Harriet. (Surely it is Christina's daughter Harriet.)

David dies 31 July 1913, and is buried in Rockley Cemetery, with his inscription written as "David Donkin Mills, 1827-1913." The second name, "Donkin," nearly proves in itself that he is a son of Elizabeth (Donkin) Mills. Also on the marker "his wife Christy Robertson, 1840-1922, buried in Boston" (at stepdaughter Harriet's).

Now to address the marriage transcription. From the Cumberland Co. marriage records, David's parents are written as "Daniel and Elizabeth Mills," not "David and Elizabeth Mills," as widely circulated. The handwriting does leave a little to be desired, but when studied, it surely is Daniel. Note the second name as Duncan, and on his tombstone it is Donkin, the two names often interchanged.

In Daniel's will of 1882, why would Daniel not include David? Although father Daniel names and bequeaths something to all ten children (Sarah having previously died, 1863), he does not mention David in his will. Two possible reasons might be; father and son were estranged, or father Daniel was indeed very sympathetic to David and had just recently helped to set David up on a new farm in Rockley, therefore, no further inheritance was necessary for David. Likely the latter applies, further remuneration not required. However, there does seem to be some estrangement over the years as connections between descendants of the two families are rare, and little is known, or remembered, of distant cousins in Linden, or Springhill, by either side. Then further confirmation can be found in Phoebe Ann (Mills) Wood Hull papers, as recorded in Mike Mills' *Mills Ancestry*, issue 24, where she lists the families of Jesse Mills. (Phoebe Ann Mills, b. 1866-1946, was a daughter of >Samuel, >Peter, > Jesse, therefore a first cousin to David, once removed). She lists Daniel's family as eight boys (including a David), and four daughters, total of twelve. By the time the will is made in 1882, as mentioned, daughter Sarah is dead, so Daniel lists all others except David in his will.

Phoebe does list another David, son of >Samuel, son of >Jesse, who she says never married. He has to be discounted because by the 1901 census we can confirm the birth dates for our David as "25 October 1827," and for a brother of the other David, that of Simon, as "10 August 1827," only three months difference in their ages. That pretty much precludes the possibility that our David and Simon were not brothers, or that our David even belongs to that family. Perhaps another David, living in Amherst, is actually the David listed by Phoebe, but if he is, he certainly was married. His wife is Eliza, but with an altogether different family. Listed in the 1871 and 1881 Censuses, aged 56 and 66, he therefore was born in 1815. Our David, on at least two occasions, listed himself as David "D" Mills, as though to identify himself from someone else.

Turning to the likelihood that our David is a descendant of the Old Loyalist David (who was the father of Martha Mills, Jesse's wife), we find that most, if not all, of this family removes to Ontario in the early 1800s, as early as nine years before David is born, and no known descendants were left to raise David. On his death certificate, undertaker F. M. Brown indicates he was born in Linden, however, I would assume his own declaration, on his marriage certificate to Christina Morrison, that he was born in Maccan would be the most accurate. Son George Rufus reporting to the undertaker must have known that his father was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Donkin) Mills, but possibly did not know that they lived in Maccan at one time. So I see little doubt that Daniel and Elizabeth did indeed have a son named David, and he must have to be included

in further accounts of *The Descendants of Daniel and Elizabeth (Donkin) Mills*.

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

News From the NSARM

- submitted by Lois Yorke, Manager, Public Services, NSARM

Update Information on Vital Statistics Project:

~As of January 2005, marriage registrations for 1929 and death registrations for 1954 have been transferred to NSARM custody, in accordance with the Release Policy of the Vital Statistics Office, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

~As of 31 December 2004, there are one million 19th- and 20th-century Vital Statistics registrations in NSARM custody.

~An agreement has been negotiated with The Genealogical Society of Utah, whereby all original records will be digitized by 31 March 2006 and integrated with accompanying name indexes, the latter in electronic database format. Digitization is proceeding on schedule.

~Not all indexes accompanying the transferred records were electronic. A phased Vital Records Database Index Project, now underway at NSARM, will address this deficit. Data entry is proceeding on schedule.

~Volunteers from the Genealogical Association of NS are working on an electronic database index for two death registers, City of Halifax, 1890-1908, transferred with the main body of Vital Statistics. Upon completion, the database will be posted to the NSARM Website, Spring 2005.

~Onsite and online access to all Vital Statistics indexes and records now held at NSARM is planned for April 2006.

~Update information is posted regularly to the NSARM Website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/vitalstats

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