

# **Aiton Families in New Brunswick: The Scottish Immigrant Hugh Aiton (1784-1862) and His Descendants and Relatives in Canada**

by

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## **The Search for Aitons in Scotland: From Berwickshire to Ayrshire**

These pages tell the stories of Hugh Aiton (1784-1862), his influential Presbyterian minister Andrew Donald (1806-1891), Andrew Aiton (1803-1881), Andrew Aiton (1853-1924), and their families and communities primarily in the Province of New Brunswick, Canada. The search for my ancestor Hugh Aiton began after I first set out to discover the ancestry and life of my great-great-great grandmother, Semple Aiton. She was born about 1791 and died between 1841 and 1851. In 1808, she married my great-great-great grandfather Thomas Paterson, who was born in 1791 and died between 1851 and 1859. Both were born and passed away in the handloom-weaving and coal-mining city of Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

In searching for Semple Aiton of Lanarkshire I found Hugh Aiton of the neighboring county of Ayrshire. His 1824 uprooting from his native land, transatlantic journey, and resettlement in Hampton, New Brunswick, and his family's farm and community life for decades thereafter, became a well-rewarded research project in itself. Exploring his story then led to his Aiton descendants and relatives to this day. Official documents, newspapers, photographs, cemetery gravestones, local histories, contemporary accounts, church registers, education reports, family recollections, and many other sources have yielded a detailed history of the Aitons in New Brunswick.

Hugh Aiton and Semple Aiton shared an ancestor, James Aiton (1635-1719), who became a farmer in Score Tulloch, Ayrshire, Scotland (see below). James was

Hugh Aiton’s great-great grandfather and Semple’s great grandfather. That is, Hugh was the second cousin of Semple once removed.<sup>1</sup>

We find Aitons—the spelling is sometimes Aytoun or Ayton—dating back to the twelfth century in Scotland, when a member of the de Vesci family from Normandy, living in Eytoun, Berwickshire, took the village’s name as his family’s surname.<sup>2</sup> From there, Aitons began to branch to Fifeshire in the fourteenth century and to Lanarkshire and Ayrshire in the sixteenth century. On November 22, 1504, for example, King James IV of Scotland granted lands in Kilgour, Fife, to Andrew Aytoun, “Camp Captain at Sterling.” The king also later “conceded to his familiars Andrew Aytoun...and to his heirs, the lands of Glenduky” in Fife.<sup>3</sup>

James Aiton (1635-1719), son of Andrew Aiton (about 1600-before 1668), first farmed Langrighead and Stoneyhill lands in the county of Lanarkshire. James also may have “bought” the farm at Score Tulloch (or Tilloch), in the Parish of Galston, in the neighboring county of Ayrshire.<sup>4</sup> No date is certain for such a purchase. Stoneyhill was just over the county line in Lanarkshire from Score Tulloch in Ayrshire, about 29 km (18 miles) apart.

Observers of Scottish history have written admiringly about the Ayrshire land of the Aitons. Galston’s history has included a Roman camp, a chapel (built in 1471), and the now gutted but still standing Loudoun Castle, at least as old as the fifteenth century and sitting less than 1.6 kilometers (km) (one mile) from Galston. The landscape of Galston, where the Aiton farm at Score Tulloch sat, was distinguished by hills, woods, and dairy and vegetable farms. The religious dissenters of the Covenanter movement became very active in the area in the 1600s.

According to a 1694 Galston tax record, an Andrew Ayton farmed “Tilloch,” which was listed next to a farm named “Scorecraig” (another name for Score Tulloch).<sup>5</sup> (This Andrew may have been James’s brother, or the recorder made the

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<sup>1</sup> Robbie Wilson (hereafter RW) of Scotland helped me identify their relationship. E-mail to Thomas G. Paterson, July 8, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the Aiton family: William Aiton, *An Inquiry into the Origin, Pedigree, & History of the Family or Clan, of Aiton in Scotland* (Hamilton: A. Miller, 1830) (<https://archive.org>); Thomas G. Paterson, “Aiton, Paterson, and Related Families in England, Scotland, Canada, Australia, and the United States Since the Eleventh Century” (2018); and RW, “Aitons,” Rootsweb (hereafter Rweb).

<sup>3</sup> Quotations from documents in the possession of Howard Aiton, sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Heather Aiton Landry, September 2018. See also “Ayton,” Fife Place-name Data ([fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk](http://fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk)).

<sup>4</sup> Aiton, *Inquiry*, p. 28. This source identified James as the first laird of Score-Tulloch. Another source agrees: “James Aitoun” (<https://www.geni.com>, managed by Susan Muir). Still, there is no record to demonstrate that James became the *owner* of Score-Tulloch.

<sup>5</sup> “Andrew Ayton,” Hearth Tax Records, 1691-1695 (Ayrshire), vol. 1 (E69/2/1/4), Historical Tax Rolls, Records, ScotlandsPlaces (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>).

mistake of listing James as Andrew). Andrew was identified as a “vassal,” meaning that his land, under old feudal rules, was owned by another (in this case, the laird of Cessnock—a Campbell) to whom he paid a fee. Although Andrew as a vassal did not own his land outright, it was heritable. In essence, then, he was the landowner because he could pass on the farm to a family member.<sup>6</sup>

James’s son John (1673-1755) succeeded his father at Score Tulloch. A 1727 Galston Parish document indicates that “John Aiton of Tilloch and Growcraig” was a “heritor”—an inheritor of an estate. In this record, too, he seems to be labeled as a “small proprietor.”<sup>7</sup> So, it seems reasonable to suggest that an Aiton (John) owned Score Tulloch as early as 1727, but that James probably bequeathed the property to John about 1719, and, more, that Score Tulloch was in Aiton hands years before then with James as the landowner.

As a small landowner, John and his father James before him, ranked as a “bonnet laird,” distinct from “lairds” and “great landlords.” Bonnet lairds constituted more than half of Scotland’s landowners, but they controlled only five percent of Scotland’s agrarian wealth. With about 50-60 acres, bonnet lairds “farmed their own lands with help from agricultural laborers.”<sup>8</sup> The writer Walter Scott defined a bonnet laird as a “petty proprietor” who wore the garb of a yeoman.<sup>9</sup> That is, he wore a broad, flat, knitted wool cap or “bunnet,” because, opined another writer, he was “more comfortable in the homespun bonnets of the era than in the finery of a feudal baron.” Such a farmer, then, was a “laird of a lesser Scottish estate.”<sup>10</sup>

John Aiton’s son Andrew (1698-1770) farmed Score Tulloch after John retired to Ralstonhill, Parish of Kilmarnock, to teach school, which he did until about 1755, his apparent death year. John “gave up” Score Tulloch to his son Andrew, who, in turn, passed on Score Tulloch to his son Andrew (1747-1811).<sup>11</sup>

The 1747-born Andrew, about 1775, married Mary McKutcheon (or McCutcheon, born about 1750). They had five children, all born at Score Tulloch.<sup>12</sup> An 1803 tax

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<sup>6</sup> “Vassal,” *Dictionary of the Scots Language* ([www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk)); “Land” (<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2003/07/16977>).

<sup>7</sup> James Paterson, *History of the County of Ayr: With a Genealogical Account of the Families of Ayrshire* (Edinburgh: Thomas George Stevenson, 1852), II, 72.

<sup>8</sup> Loretta R. Timperley, *Landownership in Scotland in the Eighteenth Century* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 1977), pp. 165, 198. Numbers for about the year 1770.

<sup>9</sup> Walter Scott, *Notes and Illustrations—Novels and Tales*, vol. V, *The Antiquary*, p. 204 (<https://babel.hathitrust.org>).

<sup>10</sup> Colin Thornton-Kemsley, *Bonnet Lairds* (Montrose, Scotland: Standard Press, 1972), p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Aiton, *Inquiry*, p. 29.

<sup>12</sup> “Mary McKutcheon” (RW posting, Rweb); RW, “Aitons” (<http://boards.ancestry.co.uk>).

roll for Galston lists Andrew Aiton of “Scorecraigs” as a small-farm owner.<sup>13</sup> The first child of Andrew and Mary was John, born April 28, 1778.<sup>14</sup> He succeeded his father Andrew at Score Tulloch in 1811. John married Grizzel (Grizel or Grace) Haddow on August 17, 1802, in Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire. She was born in that town before August 1775.

John and Grizzel had five children, all born on the Score Tulloch farm in Galston: Andrew (July 25, 1803–November 16, 1881); Isobel (Isabel or Isabella) (September 18, 1805–September 22, 1874)<sup>15</sup>; Mary (November 21, 1811–November 15, 1875); Adam (April 23, 1814–May 7, 1875); and John (September 21 or October 5, 1816–February 27, 1879).<sup>16</sup> In 1841, John resided at “Scorecraigs,” Parish of Galston. Thomson’s 1832 atlas of Scotland placed “Scorecraig” exactly where Score Tulloch is now located.<sup>17</sup> The 1841 census, which estimated ages, noted that John (60 years-old) lived with Grizzel (60), their daughter Isabella (30), son John (20), Grace Aiton (6), probably a grandchild, and Marion Young (15) and Archibald Dunn (12), both servants.<sup>18</sup>

The 1851 Scotland census identified the elder John as 73 years-old and residing at Score Tulloch, which then consisted of 50 acres, which, by the standards of the day, counted as a small farm. There was a “housemaid” (servant) in the household.<sup>19</sup> Grace likely died between April 1851 (census time) and April 1853 (when John sold his property at auction) (see below).

As we will chronicle, John was the last Aiton to own and farm Score Tulloch. Today the handsomely restored and expanded Score Tulloch farmhouse still stands on a hill overlooking a beautiful countryside of narrow roads lined with trees, wildflowers, fences, and pastures—a “landscape that remains pretty much

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<sup>13</sup> “Andrew Ayton,” Land Tax Rolls (Ayrshire), 1645–1831, vol. 5 (E106/4/5/17), Historical Tax Rolls, Records, ScotlandsPlaces (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>).

<sup>14</sup> “Grizal (or Grizzel) Haddow” (RW posting, Rweb), “John Aiton” (1851 Scotland Census, <https://www.freecen.org.uk>), and entries in ScotlandsPeople ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk); hereafter cited as SP).

<sup>15</sup> Isobel’s birth record reads September 18 as her baptism day. “Isobel Aiton,” baptism record in the Howard Aiton family history collection, sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Heather Aiton Landry, September 7, 2018; “Isobel Aiton” (Scotland Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>16</sup> Birth (or baptism) and death dates for the five children: Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP; RW postings, Rweb; Aiton, “The Aitons of Little River.” For the latter study, see note below.

<sup>17</sup> “John Thomson’s Atlas of Scotland, 1832,” “Northern Part of Ayrshire. Southern Part” ([maps.nls.uk/view/74400169](http://maps.nls.uk/view/74400169)).

<sup>18</sup> “John Aiton” (1841 Scotland Census, <https://www.freecen.org.uk>); “John Aiton” (RW posting, Rweb).

<sup>19</sup> “John Aiton” (1851 Scotland Census, <https://www.freecen.org.uk>).

unchanged [from the time of James Aiton] apart from a huge windfarm on the other side of the valley.”<sup>20</sup>

To return to Andrew Aiton and Mary McKutcheon and their offspring born at the Score Tulloch farm: After their first child, 1778-born John, their second child was Robert, born April 12, 1780. He married Helen Haddow, who was born in 1790 in Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire. Robert became a farmer and they had at least nine children. When their first child Isabella was born July 11, 1813, they lived in the village of Closeburn, Dumfriesshire, a county adjacent to Ayrshire. In 1823, Robert’s family resided in the Parish of Dunscore in that county. In the 1841 and 1851 census reports they lived and farmed in Riggfoot, Parish of Glencairn, Dumfriesshire. These three locations were about 80 km (50 miles) from Galston. Robert died in Riggfoot in 1856 and Helen passed away there in 1870.<sup>21</sup>

Mary’s and Andrew’s third child was Andrew, born November 11, 1782. Andrew married Agnes Ronald and they had a son, Andrew, born February 1, 1816, in Slateford, a farm near Score Tulloch. They lived at Score Tulloch in 1821 and in Riccartonmoss in 1830, about eight km (five miles) from Galston. This 1782-born Andrew was listed as an “agricultural labourer” in 1841, working on his brother Robert’s farm in Glencairn. Andrew passed away between 1841 and 1851.<sup>22</sup>

The fourth child of Mary McKutcheon and Andrew Aiton was Isobel (or Isabella), born November 11, 1782.<sup>23</sup> She was Andrew’s twin. On November 22, 1811, in Galston, Isobel married John McIlwraith (McIlwrath, McIlraith, or Micklerieth).<sup>24</sup> He was the laird of the farm Black Clauchrie (Black Clochry<sup>25</sup>) in Barrhill, a village in Colmonell Parish about 19 km (12 miles) from Girvan and 19 km (12 miles) from Barr, in a hilly, sheep-raising area of Ayrshire.<sup>26</sup> Barrhill had about 100 inhabitants.<sup>27</sup> At the time of the marriage, Isobel’s brother Hugh lived in

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<sup>20</sup> Caroline Houston to Thomas G. Paterson, February 7, 2017. This owner of Score Tulloch in 2017 also provided several photographs.

<sup>21</sup> For Robert, Helen, and their children, based on birth and census data: RW, Rweb.

<sup>22</sup> “Andrew Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP); 1841 Scotland Census (from RW to Thomas G. Paterson, October 15, 2018).

<sup>23</sup> She was baptized November 21. RW to Thomas G. Paterson, August 5, 2018.

<sup>24</sup> William Aiton, in his 1830 book on the Aiton family, misidentifies Isobel as “Jean” in Black Clauchrie (Aiton, *Inquiry*, p. 28). “Isobel Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Marriages, SP); “John Micklereith (or McIlwrath)” and “Isobel Aiton,” RW, Rweb; “John McIlwrath” (Scotland Select Marriages, 1511-1910, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>25</sup> So spelled in 1747-1755 on the Roy Military Survey map of Scotland (National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk/roy/>).

<sup>26</sup> “Colmonell, Ayrshire, Scotland Genealogy” ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).

<sup>27</sup> 1837 figure. *The Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland* (Edinburgh: A. Fullarton, 1954), I, 294.

Pinwherry (Girvan), only about 7.2 km (4.5 miles) from Barrhill. Perhaps the Isobel-John relationship developed through Hugh.

The Black Clauchrie farmhouse was built in the early 1740s, was remodeled in 1898, and still stands today.<sup>28</sup> The farmhouse, near the village of Barrhill, was a one-story “low slated,” partly “thatched” building. Ordnance surveyors wrote further that “attached to the house is a tract of good moory pasture which affords excellent feeding for sheep throughout the year.”<sup>29</sup> By 1855-1857, according to the Ordnance Survey, a John McIlraith [sic] was then one of the “proprietors” of Black Clauchrie and joint owner of the pasture.<sup>30</sup>

We know little about Isobel and John after their 1811 marriage. Records detailing their lives are scarce and incomplete.<sup>31</sup> More, several men with the name “John McIlwraith” (with a variety of spellings) appear in census, birth, death, and other documents. None seem to match up with Isobel’s spouse.<sup>32</sup> Children have not been identified for Isobel and John. Did Isobel and John remain at Black Clauchrie? When did they and any offspring die? Where are they buried? Neither Isobel nor John appears in the 1841 or 1851 Scotland Census.<sup>33</sup> Was the John McIlraith (sic)

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<sup>28</sup> “Black Clauchrie” (<https://www.onthemarket.com>).

<sup>29</sup> “Black Clauchrie,” Ordnance Survey Books, Ayrshire-OS-Name Books, 1855-1857, Ayrshire, vol. 10, p. 114 (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>).

<sup>30</sup> The pasture was jointly owned with John Lusk (a merchant/grocer in Girvan). For this pasture, John was identified in the Ordnance Survey as being from Laggan, another farm. He may have resided in Laggan and farmed Black Clauchrie? Or, is this John a person other than Isobel’s spouse? In the period 1785-1798, a John McIlwraith (sic) of Laggan paid horse taxes. “Laggan” means in the shadow of the hill (“John McIlwraith,” Horse Tax Rolls, 1785-1798, Ayrshire, vol. 12, E326/9/12/26, <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>). A John Lusk married a Barr-born Mary McIlwraith, January 25 and 28, 1851 (RW to Thomas G. Paterson, October 27, November 2, 2018; “John Lusk,” Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Marriages, SP). He (age 38) and Mary (30) lived in Girvan in 1851 (“John Lusk,” 1851 Scotland Census, <https://freecen2.org.uk>).

<sup>31</sup> The Old Parish Registers for Barrhill before 1855 have “irregular entries” for births between 1781 and 1831; marriage records only for 1838-1854; and no death records (“Colmonell, Ayrshire, Scotland Genealogy,” FS, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)). A clergyman in 1845 in nearby Barr Parish declared: “The parish registers are not very exact, many parents neglecting their duty to register their children” (“Barr, Ayrshire, Scotland Genealogy,” *ibid.*). Also, some ministers and church elders were simply lax in registering vital statistics. Moreover, the “Disruption” in the Church of Scotland in the 1840s, during which the breakaway Free Church of Scotland was formed, had a negative impact on record-keeping (RW to Thomas G. Paterson, November 4, 2018).

<sup>32</sup> To cite one example: A “John McIlraith,” age 40, appeared in the 1841 Scotland Census for the Mark Farm, next to Black Clauchrie. This John could not be Isobel’s spouse or son, but may have been John’s son with an earlier wife who died. This John may have been the co-owner of the pasture with Lusk (see above). RW to Thomas G. Paterson, October 27, 2018.

<sup>33</sup> Two possibilities, however: (1) An Isabella McIlwraith [sic] appears in the 1841 census for Barr (as distinct from Barrhill): She was a 60 year-old (thus born about 1781) “farmer” with no spouse in the household. Marion McIlwraith, age 14 (relationship?), lived with her, as did three male and two female servants. Could this Isabella be Isobel Aiton? (“Isabella McIlwraith,” 1841 Scotland Census, <https://freecen2.freecen.org.uk>); (2) A second, less likely possibility: In the 1851 census for Barr, an Esiaballa McIlwraith (sic) appears as 74 years-old (thus born about 1777) with a granddaughter Jane (age 18). But, this Esiaballa was born in Colmonell, not Score Tulloch (“Esiaballa

who owned Black Clauchrie and adjacent pasture land in 1855-1857 (see above) Isobel's husband, child, or relative?<sup>34</sup> Many questions and few answers impede a full and accurate story for Isobel Aiton and her husband.

The fifth and last child of Andrew and Mary was Hugh, born December 26, 1784. He emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1824 Hugh is a primary subject of this study (see below).

### **Transformation: Rural Life and the Score Tulloch Farm, Galston, Ayrshire**

Let us explore the “world” that the Aitons, including Hugh, inhabited at Score Tulloch and similar agricultural settings for so many years. Most Scottish people in the early 1800s still “labored on the land, at home or in the workshop,” not in urban or industrial places.<sup>35</sup> In fact, in 1800, two-thirds of the population of Scotland lived in the countryside and in towns and villages of fewer than 2,500 people. Whether landowning lairds, tenant farmers, or farm laborers, the “rhythms” of life for them were set by the regular seasons of sowing in the spring, harvesting in the late summer or autumn, and breaking ground and ploughing in the winter.<sup>36</sup>

Such was the case from the late eighteenth century into the early nineteenth century, when a major, yet gradual, “transformation” of farming changed the lives of the people who owned, leased, or toiled on lands in Scotland.<sup>37</sup> Some historians argue that Scotland underwent an “agrarian revolution” as the country transitioned to a market economy.<sup>38</sup>

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McIlwraith,” 1851 Scotland Census, <https://freecen2.freecen.org.uk>). Isobel's John McIlwraith does not appear in the 1841 and 1851 census reports. He may have died before early 1841.

<sup>34</sup> A John McIlwraith was born July 3, 1775. He married Nicolas McGill, and died February 3, 1856. In the 1851 Scotland Census for Barr, a John McIlwraith, age 75, is recorded as an “agricultural labourer” married to Nicolas McGill. This is not Isobel's spouse John. “John McIlwraith” (Larsen Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)), “John McIlwraith” (1851 Scotland Census, SP).

<sup>35</sup> Mairi Stewart and Fiona Watson, “Land, the Landscape and People in the Nineteenth Century,” in Trevor Griffiths and Graeme Morton, eds., *A History of Everyday Life in Scotland, 1800 to 1900* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010), p. 28.

<sup>36</sup> Elizabeth Foyster and Christopher A. Whatley, “Introduction,” in Elizabeth Foyster and Christopher A. Whatley, *A History of Everyday Life in Scotland, 1600 to 1800* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010), p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> T.M. Devine, *The Transformation of Rural Scotland: Social Change and the Agrarian Economy* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994).

<sup>38</sup> J.H.G. Lebon, “The Process of Enclosure in the Western Lowlands,” *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 62 (Issue 3, 1946), 100-110; Timperley, *Landownership*, p. 54; Michael Lynch, ed., *Oxford Companion to Scottish History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 198, 544.

Landowners (especially large ones) who sought higher profits increasingly “enclosed” their land. They put up fences and hedges to prevent livestock from damaging cultivated fields, and they planted trees to make “shelter plantations” for their animals. They drained marshes and lakes and built dykes to expand arable land. The lairds reshaped farm boundaries to make rectangular, equi-sized fields. They applied more scientific methods of farming, such as crop rotation. Landowners also erected “stone and slated farm buildings” to replace the “huddles of poor thatched roofed sheds and byres [barns] scattered indiscriminately across the face of most estates.”<sup>39</sup>

In this agrarian transformation, landowners concentrated farm lands into larger units—“the throwing together of farms.”<sup>40</sup> Many tenant farmers, who leased land for a fee through a contract (“tack”) with a landowner, were forced off their acreage in a process of “tenant reduction” or “tenant displacement.”<sup>41</sup>

Tenants had few—some would say no—ways to challenge evictions or to obtain reimbursement for the improvements the tenant had made on the property. They became victims, as one tenant put it, of “legal robbery” by landowners.<sup>42</sup> Some farm tenants, facing higher rents and living costs, simply failed. They went bankrupt. Population statistics tell us that many rural people who lost or departed their farms relocated to cities and towns.<sup>43</sup> Others pursued new opportunities by becoming emigrants.

For a place such as Score Tulloch, farming entailed gardening, crops of potatoes, grains, and turnips, and horses, black-faced sheep, cattle, and Ayrshire dairy cows. Marketing a farmer’s products in local fairs, towns, and the city of Glasgow took on more and more importance, especially after the Ayrshire Turnpike Acts of 1766 and 1774 that promoted a network of roads that facilitated transport. We can wonder to what extent Aiton farmers became part of intra-Scotland and even international trade. The Aitons helped “fill the stomachs of the great Glasgow population,” about 48 km (30 miles) away.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Thornton-Kennedy, *Bonnet Lairds*, p. 109.

<sup>40</sup> Quoted in Foyster and Whatley, “Introduction,” in Foyster and Whatley, *Everyday Life, 1600 to 1800*, p. 4.

<sup>41</sup> Devine, *Transformation*, pp. 113, 125, 127.

<sup>42</sup> Quoted in Andy Wightman, *The Poor Had No Lawyer: Who Owns Scotland (and How They Got It)* (Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2010), p. 237.

<sup>43</sup> Devine, *Transformation*, pp. 112, 115.

<sup>44</sup> “Aspects of Local History” ([www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk](http://www.kilmarnockhistory.co.uk)).



In Scotland, births and deaths were a “family experience,” because, regardless of farm or town location, class or status, they happened at home.<sup>45</sup> Most births occurred without a doctor present, although a midwife might assist delivery. Scots preferred large families. Infant mortality stood at a high rate. Because “ill-health had no respect for social status,” outbreaks and even epidemics of measles, typhus, whooping cough, and tuberculosis, among other diseases, troubled everybody.<sup>46</sup> Life expectancy was low. A figure for 1790, for example: In the Lowlands, where Aitons lived and worked, life expectancy was 36.19 years.<sup>47</sup>

Christianity, the Presbyterian (“the Kirk”) church, parish church elders, and the minister helped people deal with family crises. Scots appealed for godly guidance and prayed for good harvests. Local Kirk leaders sought to monitor sins and discipline sinners with a strict moral code. Historians know little about levels of disbelief, fear of damnation, or even compliance for ordinary people. Divorces were very uncommon.<sup>48</sup>

More archival research is needed to tell us if, when, and how many Aitons served and perhaps died in the British military. Great Britain (England and Scotland became a “union” in 1707) repeatedly battled for power and dominance in Europe, against France and Spain (1701-1714), against France and Prussia (1740-1748), against France and other countries (1793-1815), and in the Crimean War (1853-1856) against Russia. Britain also fought imperial wars in India, China, Africa, and the Middle East, especially in the nineteenth century. In most of these conflicts, Scots joined the military through voluntary enlistment or forced impressment. Scots accounted for 36 percent of the British volunteer soldiery in 1797.<sup>49</sup> The death toll for Scottish soldiers ran high in defense of the empire.

For example: Britain sent troops in a failed attempt to prevent the independence of the United States of America, 1776-1783. Andrew Aiton was “trepanned” (definitions: ensnared, kidnapped, or tricked) into the Duke of Hamilton’s Scottish regiment in 1778. Andrew drowned off the coast of America with about 150 men

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<sup>45</sup> Trevor Griffiths and Graeme Morton, “Introduction: Structures of Everyday Life in Scotland, 1800 to 1900,” in Griffiths and Morton, *Everyday Life, 1800 to 1900*, p. 11.

<sup>46</sup> Foyster and Whatley, “Introduction,” *Everyday Life, 1600 to 1800*, p. 14.

<sup>47</sup> For this statistic and other information in this paragraph: Foyster and Whatley, “Introduction,” *Everyday Life, 1600 to 1800*; Andrew Blaikie, “Rituals, Transitions and Life Courses in an Era of Social Transformation,” in Griffiths and Morton, *Everyday Life, 1800 to 1900*, ch. 3.

<sup>48</sup> Foyster and Whatley, *Everyday Life, 1600 to 1800*.

<sup>49</sup> T.M. Devine, *To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland’s Global Diaspora, 1750-2010* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books, 2011), p. 11.

of his ill-fated regiment. He was the son of James Aiton (1716-1785) and Barbara Paterson (about 1720-1754).<sup>50</sup>

### **Hugh Aiton (1784-1862), Jannet Thomson (about 1785/1789-1848), and Their Decision to Emigrate from Scotland**

At the Score Tulloch farm in Galston, Hugh Aiton was born December 26, 1784, to Andrew Aiton and Mary McKutcheon (see above).<sup>51</sup> Hugh married Jannet (or Janet) Thomson (born about 1785/1789) in Dailly, Ayrshire, October 29, 1806.<sup>52</sup> Dailly, a handloom-weaving and agricultural area of about 2,000 people, lay about 48 km (30 miles) from Galston and about 10 km (six miles) from Girvan, another weaving and dairy-farming Ayrshire town and parish. Girvan also had a harbor that exported coal and agricultural products.<sup>53</sup> The region became known for its sweet-milk cheese made from the cow's milk of the Ayrshire breed. Similar to cheddar, this creamy, textured cheese was named after the village and parish of Dunlop, about 24 km (15 miles) from Galston.<sup>54</sup>

Hugh and Jannet had 11 children, eight in Scotland and three in Canada. (See below for reports on each of their children). The first five were born in Pinwherry by Girvan, Ayrshire. Pinwherry was a village in Girvan. The next three children were born in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, about 80.4 km (50 miles) from Girvan, about 16 km (10 miles) south of Glasgow, and 21 km (13 miles) from the Score Tulloch farm in Galston where Hugh was born. Eaglesham had a population of about 1,900.<sup>55</sup> Its economy relied on oats, dairy cows, and sheep. Glasgow became a market for the town's products, including butter.

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<sup>50</sup> Aiton, *Inquiry*, p. 30.

<sup>51</sup> Hugh was baptized January 5, 1785 (RW to Thomas G. Paterson, August 5, 2018). "AITON," "New Brunswick First Families," based on submitted but unverified family histories in Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) and presented at [www.carandall.com/files/DevonHistory/First-Families/FAMILY-A-2006.pdf](http://www.carandall.com/files/DevonHistory/First-Families/FAMILY-A-2006.pdf), pp. 17-18, incorrectly notes that Hugh Aiton was born in Inchinnan, Allans, Paisley, Ayrshire. A Hugh Aiton (1857-1935) was born at Allans Farm, Inchinnan, Paisley, Renfrewshire, and died there, but he was the son of Mary Dunn and Thomas Aiton, who was the son of 1784-born Hugh Aiton (see below).

<sup>52</sup> "Janet Thomson" (Church Registers, Old Church Registers, Marriages, SP); "Aitons" (RW, [www.ancestry.com/boards](http://www.ancestry.com/boards)).

<sup>53</sup> *Ayrshire Directory, 1851-2* (Ayr: Ayr Advertiser Office, 1851), pp. 147 (Dailly), 195 (Girvan); "Girvan (surveyed in 1857)," Map Images, National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk>).

<sup>54</sup> "A Brief History of Ayrshire's Dunlop Cheese" (<https://food.list.co.uk>); "Dunlop" (<https://www.cheese.com>).

<sup>55</sup> For Eaglesham here and below: "Eaglesham," *The New Statistical Abstract of Scotland*, (Edinburgh: Blackwood & Sons, 1845), vol. VII, pp. 382-405; "Eaglesham—The Story of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Planned Village" ([www.geograph.org.uk](http://www.geograph.org.uk)); Robert Lamond, *A Narrative of the Rise and Progress of Emigration from the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew* (Glasgow: Charles & Collins, 1821), pp. 5-6.

We do not know Hugh's occupation in Eaglesham. Perhaps he was a tenant farmer, an "occupier" of land owned by someone else with whom he had signed a written lease and to whom he paid rent. Most of the land in his area was owned by a very few estate proprietors.

Besides farm production, Eaglesham became known for its handloom weaving. In the early nineteenth century, however, new water-powered cotton mills undermined the weavers, whose diminished income severely impacted commerce in Renfrewshire. The distress hit particularly hard in the years 1816-1820. Scotland's economy as a whole became precarious as hand-loom weaving towns and villages suffered decline.<sup>56</sup> Farmers who produced food for these communities had to worry about the impact of this trend on their own incomes.

In this environment of uncertainty, in 1824, Hugh and Jannet Aiton made a calculated decision to uproot their family, leave Scotland, and undertake a long, difficult voyage to Canada.<sup>57</sup> The majority of Scottish emigrants came from the lower social ranks: Small farmers, artisans, and laborers. The leading scholar of Scottish migration abroad has concluded that from the early nineteenth century to 1914, "more than half of the natural increase in population was likely to leave Scotland." Some British leaders encouraged emigration as a "safety valve" to relieve economic and social tensions.<sup>58</sup> Early nineteenth-century troubles in Scotland, then, provide one explanation for the "diaspora" that created a "greater Scotland" abroad.<sup>59</sup>

### **Why New Brunswick?: The "Pulling Power" of a Maritime Province**

Hugh, Jannet, and several of their children were the first Aitons to emigrate from Scotland to New Brunswick, settling at the start in the dairy, farming, and timber community of Hampton, Kings County. Why did they choose New Brunswick?

Important in explaining why Scots departed their homeland for New Brunswick was Canada's "enormous pulling power" in the nineteenth century.<sup>60</sup> After the

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<sup>56</sup> Lucille H. Campey, *An Unstoppable Force: The Scottish Exodus to Canada* (Toronto: Dundurn, 2008), p. xii.

<sup>57</sup> The 1851 Canada Census (data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca) noted that "Hugh Aiton" and family members entered New Brunswick in 1824. Twelve year-old Thomas and perhaps 15 year-old Jannet remained in Scotland with their uncle, John Aiton (Hugh's brother), and their aunt, Grace Haddow. Thomas never settled in Canada (see below).

<sup>58</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, pp. 29, 85, 92.

<sup>59</sup> T.M. Devine, "A Global Diaspora," in T.M. Devine and Jenny Wormald, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Scottish History*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), p. 181.

<sup>60</sup> Campey, *Unstoppable*, p. xi.

European wars, by 1816, major British ports, including Greenock, Scotland, began trading actively with North America. Britain's trade in timber with New Brunswick—pine, hemlock, spruce, birch, and maple—flourished in the early nineteenth century. New Brunswick's lumber was used to make masts, planks, and boards for ships, as well as buildings. In the 1820s, small-scale farmers harvested much of the province's timber. They cut trees in the winter, their off-season, and dragged the logs or floated them in rafts to sawmills. People across Scotland heard that British merchants were importing timber from New Brunswick's vast forests and that timber shippers were recruiting emigrants to fill their vessels for trips back to Canada.<sup>61</sup> In other words, the timber trade became “the handmaiden of emigration.”<sup>62</sup>

In the 1820s, emigration societies, especially organized by weavers, pressed the British government to subsidize overseas travel to British settlements in North America. These organizations largely proved unsuccessful in achieving free passage across the Atlantic, but their political activity stirred a broad audience, spreading the word about economic opportunities in Canada. Several societies existed in Renfrewshire, where Hugh Aiton resided.<sup>63</sup>

Most emigrants “self-funded” their relocations.<sup>64</sup> The Scots who chose emigration did not take “a random leap into the dark.” They saved to build up the necessary funds. As well, they may have sold some property and personal belongings. They selected “a particular place” because they had heard of the “attractions it was believed to offer.”<sup>65</sup> Dreams of developing a farm in New Brunswick and exploiting its abundant forests drew Scottish emigrants.<sup>66</sup> One of them was 1784-born Hugh Aiton, son of Score Tulloch's Andrew Aiton and Mary McKutcheon. In short, the “lure of opportunity” helps explain Hugh's and Jannet's decision to leave Scotland for Canada.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-41; “Timber Trade History” ([www.the.canadianencyclopedia.ca](http://www.the.canadianencyclopedia.ca)); “New Brunswick Forests of Old,” PANB ([archives.gnb.ca](http://archives.gnb.ca)).

<sup>62</sup> *New Brunswick: With Notes for Emigrants* (New Brunswick: Simmonds & Ward, 1847), p. 300.

<sup>63</sup> The figure for 1830 was 17. Lucille Campey, *The Scottish Pioneers of Upper Canada, 1784-1855* (Toronto: Dundurn, 2005), p. 57.

<sup>64</sup> Campey, *Unstoppable*, p. 55.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 64.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 80.

<sup>67</sup> Devine, “Global Diaspora,” in Devine and Wormald, *Oxford Handbook*, p. 159.

## The Aiton Journey Across the Atlantic Ocean, 1824

Hugh and his family may have begun their 1824 excursion to North America from the busy port of Greenock, Renfrewshire (about 56 km or 35 miles from Eaglesham). Glasgow, Lanarkshire, also may have been their point of departure (about 23 km or 14 miles from Eaglesham). Ships regularly left for North America from these sites, usually from March to September. They returned with cargoes of yellow pine and spruce, among other timber harvests.<sup>68</sup>

The Aiton family may have travelled to New Brunswick on a two or three-masted, wooden sailing ship, a merchant or timber vessel called a “packet” that carried passengers, mail, and cargo. In the early nineteenth century, the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean could take as long as six weeks.<sup>69</sup> Because passenger lists for transatlantic vessels for that time are very scarce, we do not know on which ship the Aitons sailed.

If like other travelers, the Aitons filled their luggage or crates with household items such as blankets (for bedding), candles, pots, dishes, and tin plates.<sup>70</sup> They carried family keepsakes and tools. They were discouraged from bringing furniture. The Aitons certainly would have carried food for the long trip unless they had bought “with provisions” fares. Assuming that they “victualed” themselves, they packed dried beef and herring, tea, sugar, oatmeal, rice, and long-lasting “ship biscuits” (hard-baked with flour, water, and salt).<sup>71</sup>

Although a sailing ship might have several “cabins” (compact staterooms with mattresses and wash basins) for travelers who could afford them, most passengers crowded into “steerage.” They occupied bunks in the dark, damp hold of the ship. Steerage passengers competed to prepare meals in the small “cook shop.” Most voyages “alternated between anxiety and boredom.”<sup>72</sup> Life in steerage could become very uncomfortable. Ventilation was poor. Foul air added to the persistent woes of seasickness. Rats and insects pestered people. Storms with pounding

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<sup>68</sup> Robert Murray Smith, *The History of Greenock* (Greenock: Orr Pollock & Co., 1921), pp. 89-92.

<sup>69</sup> Devine, “Global Diaspora,” in Devine and Wormald, *Oxford Handbook*, p. 166.

<sup>70</sup> Today, a member of Saint Andrew’s Kirk church in Quispamsis, Mickie MacKenny, whose great-great-great grandfather was Hugh Aiton, son of the Hugh Aiton who sailed to New Brunswick in 1824 and is buried in the church’s cemetery (see below), still possesses dishes (perhaps China) that Hugh Aiton brought to New Brunswick in 1824. One of the pieces is a serving dish adorned by poppies and their leaves. Dirk Larooi to Thomas G. Paterson, June 1, July 17, 2018 (with photograph).

<sup>71</sup> James S. Buckingham, *Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick...Emigration* (London: Cradock, 1843), p. 56 (<https://archive.org>); Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 91.

<sup>72</sup> “On the Water—Maritime Nation, 1800-1850: Enterprise on the Water” (The Smithsonian Institution, [americanhistory.si.edu](http://americanhistory.si.edu)).

waves and fierce winds kept passengers below deck. Horror stories of wrecks and outbreaks of disease abounded.<sup>73</sup> Jannet Aiton in particular must have experienced considerable seasickness and discomfort. She was probably pregnant (see below).

We can imagine the worrisome yet exhilarating feelings of the Aitons, who, as “pioneers,” first eyed New Brunswick’s beautiful coastline, forests, and farmlands. After surveying agricultural life and communities in New Brunswick, one student of the subject later identified three “classes of persons” who “ought *not* to come” to the province. First: “Those who are well or comfortably off at home.” Second: “Those who are afraid of hard work and who are likely to be discouraged by early privations and difficulties.” And, third: “Those to whom a severe winter, in a healthy climate, is a matter of dread.”<sup>74</sup> As we will see, this writer could not have been thinking about the Aitons.

### **Stout Hearts and Strong Arms: Settling in Hampton, Kings County**

After their demanding trip across the Atlantic, the Aiton family likely disembarked in the major timber-trading, shipbuilding, and ice-free port of Saint John, on the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick.<sup>75</sup> They no doubt noticed the lingering effects of the destructive 1823 fire on the city, wherein 40 houses had burned.<sup>76</sup>

The Aitons settled in the Parish of Hampton, Kings County, about 20 km (12 miles) northeast of St. John.<sup>77</sup> When, how, and exactly where Hugh acquired land to farm is not certain at this writing, although a local historian identified the area

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<sup>73</sup> Campey, *Unstoppable*, pp. 165-166, describes ship conditions.

<sup>74</sup> James F.W. Johnston, *Report on the Agricultural Capabilities of the Province of New Brunswick* (Fredericton, N.B., 1850), pp. 239-240 (<https://archive.org>).

<sup>75</sup> “Saint John” (<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca>).

<sup>76</sup> George Stewart, Jr., *The Story of the Great Fire in St. John, N.B., June 20, 1877* (Toronto: Belford, 1877), ch. I.

<sup>77</sup> Although there was a very small native and French population in Hampton, the first permanent settlement came in 1783, when United Empire Loyalists from Connecticut moved into the area after the war of the American Revolution. Locals welcomed them with land parcels, tools, and supplies. In 1795, Hampton Parish was formed from parts of Sussex Parish and Kingston Parish. In 1966, Hampton was incorporated as a village and in 1991 as a town. For the history of Hampton and its area, its economy, farming, and railway: Town of Hampton, “History” ([hamptonacc.freesevers.com.history.html](http://hamptonacc.freesevers.com.history.html)); C. Warren Anderson, “European and North American” and R. Ian Stronach, “The European and North American Railway,” No. 206 (January 1969) (both at [www.exporail.org](http://www.exporail.org)); Louis Gentilcore, *Historical Atlas of Canada: The Land Transformed, 1800-1851* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987); Peter Fisher, *History of New Brunswick* (Saint John, N.B.: New Brunswick Historical Society, 1921; first published in 1825 as *Sketches of New Brunswick*); “Hampton” (Place Names of New Brunswick, PANB); “Hampton Town History” ([new-brunswick.net](http://new-brunswick.net)); “Town of Hampton” (<https://www.townofhampton.ca>); David G. Keirstead, *Reflections: The Story of Hampton* (Hampton, N.B.: The Kings County Historical and Archival Society, 2004); Grace Aiton, *The Story of Sussex and Vicinity* (Hampton, N.B.: Kings County Historical Society, 1967); “Hampton,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (<https://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca>).

where they settled as “Hammond River.” Hammond River was part of the Parish of Hampton in 1824. She observed in 1963 that Hugh Aiton’s “home” was still standing.<sup>78</sup> The structure in this reference may have been his second house. Many new settlers started with a log house.

At the beginning, Hugh may have leased land or bought land with his own cash. Perhaps he obtained a loan from the Bank of New Brunswick, which had opened in 1820 in Saint John. Or, he may have received a governmental land grant.<sup>79</sup> It is also possible that Hugh settled on land that had been abandoned by first owners who had moved away.

Over the decades, Aitons expanded into neighboring locations, such as Upham and Sussex. Most of the Aitons became land-owning farmers with large families. They bought and sold properties, sometimes within the cohesive, extended Aiton family. They took care of one another in times of trouble, taking into their homes children and elderly relatives. They realized economic success but also suffered accidents, diseases, and deaths, some at young ages.

The Parish of Hampton sat along the Kennebecacus River, which flooded the marshes of the area while nourishing wildlife and providing a highway for commerce. Hampton’s population about the time the Aitons arrived numbered 1,559. Travel in the region was largely by river, which froze in the winter. Dirt roads were gradually upgraded to “corduroy roads” by placing logs across them. Horse-pulled stage coaches began to run in the 1830s. In 1859, between Hampton and Saint John, the European and North American Railway opened a segment for a few passenger and freight cars. The locomotive was fueled by cordwood bought from farmers along the line. By the 1860s, Hampton had a grist mill, shingle mill, and tannery, among other enterprises. In 1991, when Hampton was incorporated as a town, its population stood at 4,292.<sup>80</sup>

Hampton’s primary economic activities were agriculture, dairy farming, and lumbering. A clergyman who traveled the picturesque area in the early 1840s described Hampton’s “very fine farms.” Rev. Christopher William Atkinson also

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<sup>78</sup> New Brunswick Deed Registry Books and Index Books exist on-line at FamilySearch.org, but they are very difficult to work with and do not seem to record Hugh Aiton as a “grantor” for 1823-1826. Comment in 1963 on the survival of his “home:” Grace Aiton, *Story of Sussex*, p. 58.

<sup>79</sup> The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, however, does not hold a land grant or petition document for Hugh Aiton. These provincial records may not be complete. Crown lands were conveyed from 1784 to 1827 by a fee-based system. In 1827, the practice of disposing land changed to the method of public auction. “Crown Land and County Registry Office Records” (GenealogyFirst.ca).

<sup>80</sup> “Hampton,” *Canadian Encyclopedia*.

judged Sussex, 38 km (24 miles) from Hampton, as being more in a state of “wilderness” with many sawmills. Still, the road from Hampton to Sussex, he declared, displayed “beauty and fertility” and “fine farms.”<sup>81</sup>

Hugh Aiton became a farmer, probably practicing mixed farming, with cows, beef cattle, sheep, and pigs, and fields of oats, wheat, barley, hay, corn, potatoes, turnips, and other crops. He may have bought his first livestock, including oxen and horses, from the few established farmers in the area. He felled trees on his property and sold the wood. As he cleared his land, he put up fences. Hugh needed carts, sleighs or sleds, and small flat-bottomed boats to take his products to nearby towns and the big market in Saint John, as well as to transport to his home such goods as soap, flour, molasses, tea, sugar, and candles.

The Aitons took on challenges and worries they had not experienced in Scotland. Frost could cripple young crops, reducing harvests and thus income. Floods from snowmelt, ice jams, and substantial rains overran fields. Bush and forest fires could break out in hot, dry conditions. The monster Miramichi Fire of October 1825 in northeastern New Brunswick burned three million acres, sending warnings to everybody in the province to beware. Worms, such as the spruce budworm, could attack trees, killing them and also turning them into fire fuel. Hungry black bears and foxes devoured sheep, calves, and pigs.<sup>82</sup> Ice over waterways could crack, sending horses and travelers into a “cold tomb.”<sup>83</sup> Infectious diseases, such as diphtheria, killed children in many families, including Aitons (see below).

A New Brunswick historian, who admitted “pardonable pride,” concluded that “the struggles of the people for existence and advancement, in a new and unsettled country, are made of the hardest kind of battles, for, while nature in the long run gives its rewards, it gives them only to the most courageous and most persistent. The men and women who undertook, at first, the heavy task of the making of New Brunswick, needed stout hearts and strong arms.”<sup>84</sup>

Women in the farm household worked alongside their husbands, sheering sheep, for example, but they also became nurses, teachers, weavers, and cooks in their large families. They colored wool with butternut bark and sewed wool into mittens, socks, blankets, and clothing. They made butter and they cured meat. To

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<sup>81</sup> Christopher William Atkinson, *A Historical and Statistical Account of New-Brunswick, B.N.A.: With Advice to Emigrants* (New Brunswick: Anderson & Bryce, 1844), pp. 88, 92.

<sup>82</sup> Descriptions of flooding and animals appear in *ibid.*, pp. 143-147, 206.

<sup>83</sup> Mrs. F. Beavan (Emily Elizabeth Shaw), *Sketches and Tales Illustrative of Life in the Backwoods of New Brunswick, North America* (London: George Routledge, 1845) (digital.library.upenn.edu).

<sup>84</sup> T.C.L. Ketchum, *A Short History of Carleton County, New Brunswick* (Woodstock: Sentinel, 1922?), p. 5.



refrigerate perishables in the summer, they relied on blocks of ice cut from the river in winter months. The ice was stored in sawdust and delivered by the “iceman” when needed. Salmon, trout, and shad from the river and its tributaries helped augment Hugh’s and Jannet’s family food supply. Deer, bear, moose, and fox, among other hunted animals, supplied meat and pelts. Settlers extracted sugar from sugar maple trees. Blueberries, strawberries, and cranberries grew wild. The indigenous and plentiful cranberry bushes yielded colorful “rubies.” Women of the household hung bunches of berries and used them to make tarts and jellies.<sup>85</sup>

In the early 1820s, when Hugh and family arrived, Hampton had at least one schoolhouse. A “Madras” school, run by teachers of the province-wide Madras Seminary, operated in Hampton as of July 1824. The College of New Brunswick also trained teachers at the time. The public-school curriculum in 1844 offered spelling, reading, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography. By 1867, the Parish of Hampton had 12 schools.<sup>86</sup> Aiton children went to school.

Not long after arriving in New Brunswick, Hugh and Jannet welcomed their tenth child: David Aiton, born October 24, 1824, in Hampton (see below).

### **Presbyterians: The Aitons, Rev. Andrew Donald and His Family, and Their Church**

The Aitons were Presbyterians in Scotland. An historian of Scottish immigration to New Brunswick titled her book “With Axe and Bible” to pinpoint the economic and religious characteristics of the early settlers.<sup>87</sup> We can get a glimpse of the Aitons in New Brunswick by studying their religious life and church.

In 1842, Hugh became one of the founding members of a small Presbyterian church in Hampton Parish, at Hammond River. It is now named St. Andrew’s Kirk United Church. The handsome, well-maintained, white, shingled church still stands today at 196 Hammond River Road, town of Quispamsis, a suburb of Saint John.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Beavan, *Sketches*.

<sup>86</sup> Keirstead, *Reflections*, pp. 257-259; Fisher, *History of New Brunswick*, pp. 76, 103.

<sup>87</sup> Lucille H. Campey, *With Axe and Bible: The Scottish Pioneers of New Brunswick, 1884-1874* (Toronto: Dundurn, 2007).

<sup>88</sup> The church was remodeled in 1880 to seat 100 people. GoogleEarth provides a modern view of the church and its cemetery. At the entrance to the church is a stain-glass window of a barefoot Jesus with this inscription: “In loving memory of Reverend Andrew Donald Placed by his descendants 1988.” Photograph sent to Thomas G. Paterson by

Quispamsis is 16 km (10 miles) from the village of Hampton today. In mid-2018, the active congregation of Saint Andrew's Kirk honored its "Scottish Settlers" in a "Memorial Hymn Sing."<sup>89</sup>

During the 1840s, the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) entered the "Disruption," during which a breakaway group of dissenters formed the Free Church of Scotland in 1843 to protest what they deemed state interference in church affairs. Hugh's Hammond River church became one offspring of that turmoil because of the dissenting activities of a Scottish minister, Andrew Donald. Reverend Donald led an unusual, influential, and respected life that intersected in New Brunswick with Hugh Aiton and his family in time and place.<sup>90</sup>

Andrew Donald was born about 40 km (25 miles) from Glasgow, in the town of Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, on December 22, 1806.<sup>91</sup> In 1841, after education at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow in mathematics, philosophy, and theology, Andrew crossed the Atlantic to Canada as a missionary for the Church of Scotland in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. On September 1, 1842, he married 1821-born Jane Crosier McGill in Shelburne, Parishes of Saint George and Saint Patrick.<sup>92</sup> Andrew gravitated to the reformist movement.

Jane and Andrew had two children. The first, Mary Marion Donald, was born September 18, 1843, in Shelburne.<sup>93</sup> The second, Robert Crozier Donald, was born May 11, 1845, after the Donalds had relocated to New Brunswick (see below).<sup>94</sup>

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Dirk Larooi (Saint Andrew's Kirk), June 6, 2018. Quispamsis was incorporated in 1998 as a town. "Quispamsis" (<https://www.the.canadianencyclopedia.ca>).

<sup>89</sup> The June 10, 2018, church ceremony was associated with raising funds for the maintenance of the adjacent cemetery, where Hugh and Jannet Aiton are interred. See below.

<sup>90</sup> For Andrew Donald's life and ministering: "Saint Andrew's Kirk History" (106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saint Andrew's Kirk, June 9, 2002; sent to Thomas G. Paterson from Kings County Museum, May 28, 2018); Dina Maxwell, "Hammond River Church Is 165 Years Proud," *TelegraphJournal.com*, August 18, 2007; "DONALD" (New Brunswick First Families, p. 90, [www.carandall.com](http://www.carandall.com)); *The Presbyterian Witness*, January 30, 1897, and February 13, 1897 (from Maritime Conference Archives, The United Church of Canada, Sackville, New Brunswick).

<sup>91</sup> Andrew's parents were Andrew Donald (1762-December 6, 1822) and Margaret Meikle (1765-October 11, 1839). Both are buried in Lesmahagow Old Parish Churchyard Cemetery. Andrew had at least one sibling, William, who died August 16, 1809; he is also interred in that churchyard cemetery (Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com>; hereafter FGr). Andrew's birth date and parents in "Andrew Donald" (Pedigree Resource File and International Genealogical Index, FamilySearch; cited hereafter as FS) and other sources noted below.

<sup>92</sup> Jane was born January 11, 1821, the daughter of William McGill of Shelburne, Nova Scotia. "Jane Crosier McGill" and "Andrew Donald" (Nova Scotia Marriages, 1711-1909, FS); "DONALD" (First Families).

<sup>93</sup> In 1868 Mary married Mariner Blakney (born October 3, 1841) in Elgin, Albert County, New Brunswick. They had five children. Mary died July 12, 1920, in Sunny Brae, Westmoreland County, New Brunswick. She was buried in Elmwood Cemetery. "Mary Marion Donald" (One Big Circle Blog, Rweb, based on FamilySearch records); "Mary M. Blakney" (New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS).

<sup>94</sup> Robert became a carpenter and building contractor, constructing many churches. Robert married Susanna Campbell. They had six children, one of whom was Lucy Marion Donald, who died July 19, 1877, in Moncton,

Jane suffered complications from giving birth to Robert. She died May 20, 1845, at the age of 24. Jane was buried in Old Kirk Presbyterian Cemetery, Central (or Middle) Norton, Kings County.<sup>95</sup>

By May 1844, Andrew, Jane, and Mary Donald had moved to New Brunswick, where he became the minister of the newly-built Presbyterian church in the Parish of Hampton (Quispamsis). On October 6, 1841, “a few Scotchmen and descendants of Scotch men” had assembled “to devise a plan for obtaining funds” to buy land and erect “a building for public worship.”<sup>96</sup> Hugh Aiton was one of seven men who gathered at the Methodist meeting house. He and William Ross were appointed to find “ground” for the church. Hugh proved successful when David Price deeded one acre for 15 pounds. Hugh and others soon met in the woods to cut timber (“scantling”) for framing the church.<sup>97</sup> Neighbors offered helping hands. The church was framed, raised, enclosed, and finished for the sum of 108 pounds.

The church opened in 1842, and, until Rev. Donald’s arrival in May 1844, visiting clergymen conducted services. At the start, Donald preached not only at the Hammond River church, but also at Norton and Salts Springs (or Saltsprings), for a combined salary of 100 pounds a year.<sup>98</sup>

On March 2, 1848, Reverend Donald of Hampton remarried to Margaret Scott of nearby Upham. The minister of the Presbyterian church in Saint John conducted the service. The marriage record for 1819-born Margaret noted her as a “spinster”—that is, an unmarried woman.<sup>99</sup> Andrew’s two children with Jane McGill, Mary and Robert, joined Margaret in the Donald household in Hampton. The 1851 Canada Census for New Brunswick (Hampton) reported Mary as seven years-old and Robert as six-years old.<sup>100</sup> Andrew’s and Margaret’s child, Lucy

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Westmoreland County. Robert died at age 85, June 1, 1930, in Sunny Brae, Moncton. “Lucy Marion Donald,” Vital Statistics, PANB); “Robert Crozier Donald” (Certificate of Registration of Death, Parish of Sunny Brae, New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS); Keirstead, *Reflections*, pp. 70-71.

<sup>95</sup> “Jane Donald” (New Brunswick Cemeteries, PANB); “Jane McGill Donald” (FGr).

<sup>96</sup> Rev. R.W. Anglin, “Historical Sketch of Saint Andrews Kirk, Hammond River, N.B.,” *United Churchman*, November 25, 1942 (Maritime Conference Archives).

<sup>97</sup> The word refers to squared beams.

<sup>98</sup> Anglin, “Historical Sketch.”

<sup>99</sup> In Scotland, it seems, “spinster” referred to an unmarried woman who was past the typical age for marrying. The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick does not have a marriage record for her before 1848. Margaret’s birth year is calculated from her age reported in 1851, 1861, and 1871 Canada Census reports. “Andrew Donald” (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS).

<sup>100</sup> “Andrew Donald” (1851 Canada Census, data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca).

Meikle Donald, was born May 22, 1855. Lucy died March 2, 1878, in Campbell Settlement (Kings County) at age 23. She was buried in Central Norton.<sup>101</sup>

The “Scotchman” Andrew Donald, a man of “tall form and kindly manner,” was “somewhat reserved,” except when he caught “fire” delivering a sermon in the pulpit.<sup>102</sup> A surviving photograph of him now displayed in Saint Andrew’s reveals a man with somewhat disarrayed hair and a worn and long face.<sup>103</sup>

He became a well-known “traveling” minister, serving not only the Hammond River church, but also congregations in Norton, Salt Springs (now Salina Kirk), Springfield, and Campbell Settlement (now Southfield). His district, 64 km (40 miles) in length and 32 km (20 miles) in breadth, proved “very difficult and scattered.”<sup>104</sup> He traveled over rough terrain “when roads were scarce.”<sup>105</sup>

Whatever the weather, the tenacious Reverend Donald road horseback or painstakingly walked to preach to his congregations.<sup>106</sup> He once remarked, after friends gave him a horse, that he “made better time when not hindered by the beast.”<sup>107</sup> When the snow was deep, he fastened barrel staves to his boots.<sup>108</sup> This clergyman alternated his trips, visiting each of his churches every third Sabbath. What is more, a local historian has written, he “disregarded boundary lines and travelled up and down the county [Kings] and beyond its borders, preaching wherever he found settlers.”<sup>109</sup>

One of the issues Donald passionately addressed was temperance. He apparently witnessed the ill effects of the extensive West Indies rum traffic and the growth of taverns in his territory. The “frolics”—when neighbors gathered to help one another for barn-raising, chopping, planting, or ploughing—were followed by a supper of roast mutton, pot pie, pumpkin pie, stewed apples, “sweet cake,” and rum doughnuts. Consumption of alcohol became a major feature of the partying.<sup>110</sup> One study calculated that in New Brunswick the annual average amount of “spirituous liquor” consumed by every male over the age of 16 equaled 20

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<sup>101</sup> “Lucy Meikle Donald” (Daniel F. Johnson’s New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics, *The Daily Telegraph*, March 5, 1878, PANB). Hereafter cited as Johnson’s Newspaper.

<sup>102</sup> “The Late Rev. A. Donald,” *The Presbyterian Witness*, February 13, 1897.

<sup>103</sup> Photograph sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Dirk Larooi, June 2018.

<sup>104</sup> F.E. Archibald, *Contributions of the Scottish Church to New Brunswick Presbyterianism* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 1933), pp. 166-167 (<https://www.google.co.uk>).

<sup>105</sup> *The Presbyterian Witness*, January 30, 1897.

<sup>106</sup> Keirstead, *Reflections*, p. 71.

<sup>107</sup> Quoted in Aiton, *Story of Sussex*, p. 95.

<sup>108</sup> *The Presbyterian Witness*, January 30, 1897.

<sup>109</sup> Aiton, *The Story*, p. 95.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 115, 131; Beavan, *Sketches*.

gallons.<sup>111</sup> In 1855, the Liquor Prohibition Bill went into effect. Within a year, the unpopular law was repealed.<sup>112</sup>

Andrew Donald preached his farewell sermon at the Hammond River church on October 12, 1856.<sup>113</sup> He then became the minister in Campbell Settlement, Salt Springs, and Londonderry, continuing his habit of walking some distance to meet worshipers in Kings County.<sup>114</sup> In 1859, Andrew Donald founded with others the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick.<sup>115</sup> In 1867-1868, he still served as the minister in Campbell Settlement, which opened a church in 1871.<sup>116</sup> Reverend Donald remained there until 1875, when he and family retired to Hampton.<sup>117</sup>

In his early seventies, he penned a poem about himself, “whose manhood vigor fast declines:”

Time worn  
A few short years at most and I  
Like other men must shortly die,  
The time is near  
Prepare my spirit.  
Lord, to rise  
To blissful seats above the skies.  
Sans fear.

His composition closed with his hope that after his death he would “still speak for good by light I’ve left behind.”<sup>118</sup>

Donald’s mention of his pending death proved premature. It seems that he remained an active clergyman. For example, on October 31, 1889, at his residence

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<sup>111</sup> A figure for 1824-1825. Fisher, *History of New Brunswick*, p. 88.

<sup>112</sup> “This Week in New Brunswick History,” March 27, 1855.

<sup>113</sup> He was succeeded at the Hammond River church by Rev. James Gray. “The Records of The Reverend James Gray, Kings County, New Brunswick, 1857-1898” (Saint John, N.B.: The Saint John Branch, New Brunswick Genealogical Society, 1991), provided to Thomas G. Paterson by the Maritime Conference Archives.

<sup>114</sup> Aiton, *The Story*, p. 95; Free Church of Scotland, *The Home and Foreign Record of the Free Church of Scotland* (Edinburgh: J. Nichols, 1859), III (Google Book).

<sup>115</sup> Queens Printer, *Lois Du Nouveau-Brunswick* (1859), p. 18 (Google Book).

<sup>116</sup> “Andrew Donald” (Hutchinson Directories, 1867-1868, PANB). In the 1861 Canada Census (Sussex), Margaret Donald’s 40 year-old sister Hannah Scott resided in the Donald household (data2.collectionscanada.ca). In 1871, the family, minus Hannah, still lived in Sussex. On December 23, 1871, Rev. Donald assisted at the wedding of Margaret Ann Aiton (daughter of Robert Aiton) and James Harvey Robertson, in Salt Springs, Upham (“Robert Aiton,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, January 2, 1872, PANB).

<sup>117</sup> He and Margaret do not appear in the 1881 Canada Census.

<sup>118</sup> Quoted in *The Presbyterian Witness*, January 30, 1897.

in Hampton Village, he conducted a marriage ceremony for Sarah F. Aiton of Upham and James Reid of Saint John (see below).<sup>119</sup>

The venerable Andrew Donald passed away in Hampton on February 19, 1891, at the age of 85.<sup>120</sup> He was buried in the Old Presbyterian cemetery in nearby Bloomfield. His gravestone reads in part: “Hear my last sermon/There is no Tomorrow in the Gospel call/Today Salvation’s offered free to all.”<sup>121</sup>

Andrew’s wife Margaret Scott Donald had predeceased him on May 5 or 7, 1885, in Hampton Village, at the age of 65 years and 11 months. She was interred in Central Norton Presbyterian cemetery. Her funeral was held in the Baptist church, Hampton Village.<sup>122</sup>

Hugh Aiton and Andrew Donald and their families knew each other well. Both men were Scots, born just about 40 km (25 miles) apart in the Lowlands, in the neighboring counties of Ayrshire (town of Galston for Hugh) and Lanarkshire (town of Lesmahagow for Andrew). We can imagine their conversations about the old country, its history, and its future. The farmer Hugh Aiton and the clergyman Andrew Donald also shared family tragedy: Both suffered the deaths of wives in the 1840s (see above for the death of Jane Donald in 1845 and below for Jannet Aiton in 1848). Hugh Aiton, one of the Hammond River church’s founders, worked with Andrew Donald to serve and sustain its congregation. Hugh’s younger children attended the church. Two of them, Andrew and William, went on to found St. Paul’s church in neighboring Sussex in 1861.<sup>123</sup>

### **The Deaths and Graves of Jannet Thomson Aiton (1848/1849) and Hugh Aiton (1862)**

Hugh’s spouse Jannet Thomson died May 24, 1848 (or 1849), at 60 years-old, in Hampton. She was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew’s.<sup>124</sup> In the 1851

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<sup>119</sup> Sarah was the widow of John Aiton (see below). “Sarah F. Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *Kings County Record*, November 8, 1889).

<sup>120</sup> “DONALD” (“First Families”).

<sup>121</sup> Quoted in Aiton, *The Story*, p. 96.

<sup>122</sup> “Margaret Donald” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, May 9, 1885).

<sup>123</sup> “The Records of...Gray,” pp. 138-139.

<sup>124</sup> Her name in a New Brunswick newspaper was spelled “Jeanett” (“Jeanett Aiton,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Loyalist*, May 25, 1848) and her death date is reported as May 24, 1848. Her gravestone reads 1849 as her death year. In a cemetery record, her death year is also noted as 1849 (“Jannet Aiton,” New Brunswick Cemeteries, PANB). A 1993 list of the 13 engraved headstones in the cemetery that year, compiled by the church, also reports her death year as 1849. Her death (burial) record and notice mistakenly reported that she was a “native of

Canada Census, the widowed 67 year-old Hugh Aiton resided as a farmer in Hampton.<sup>125</sup> By August 1861, he had moved to the Parish of Upham to live with his son Robert Aiton (see below), a 46 year-old farmer, Robert's wife Elizabeth (age 40), and their six children. Upham, a farming-dairy community of about 120 resident families, sat some 22 km (14 miles) from Hampton.<sup>126</sup> Without "farmer" as an identification for Hugh in the 1861 census, it seems that he had retired from farming, perhaps passing on his lands to family members.

The Ayrshire, Scotland native and New Brunswick pioneering immigrant Hugh Aiton died in Hampton, Kings County, on November 20, 1862. He was 78 years-old.<sup>127</sup>

Hugh joined his wife Jannet in St. Andrew's tranquil, grassy churchyard.<sup>128</sup> Their names and death dates appear on a substantial, seven-foot high gravestone that suggests he was well-off.<sup>129</sup> Atop the stone sits a small statue of a resting lamb, representing in Biblical terms innocence and the overcoming of evil.<sup>130</sup>

Carved into the stone, below the names and death dates of Hugh and Jannet, are three sayings. The first, from the New Testament, quotes a portion of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians: "Them who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." The second and third sayings were drawn from a hymn titled "The Resurrection:" "My peaceful grave shall keep my bones till that sweet day I wake from my long sleep and leave my bed of clay." And: "I shall arise and with these eyes my savior see."<sup>131</sup> Evident in these inscriptions is an emphasis on the second coming of Jesus and an eternal life (afterlife) for Christ's devoted followers.

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Renfrewshire." Informants may have confused her birthplace in Ayrshire with her 1824 departure city of Greenock, which was in Renfrewshire. Or, the informants named that county because Hugh and Jannet lived there before their departure for Canada in 1824. Also see "Aitons" (RW, [www.ancestry.com/boards](http://www.ancestry.com/boards)).

<sup>125</sup> "Hugh Aiton" (1851 Canada Census, Library and Archives Canada, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>).

<sup>126</sup> "Hugh Aiton" (1861 Census of Canada, Library and Archives Canada, [data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca)).

<sup>127</sup> "Hugh Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, November 29, 1862); "Hugh Aiton" (RW posting, Rweb).

<sup>128</sup> Hugh's name appears first and the etching style is the same for both.

<sup>129</sup> My thanks go to Kirk Larooi, a member of St. Andrew's Church, for photographs of the Aiton gravestone (Kirk Larooi to Thomas G. Paterson, May 27, 2018).

<sup>130</sup> "Lamb of God," in Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, eds., *The Oxford Companion to the Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 418-419.

<sup>131</sup> William Allen, "The Resurrection," *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship* (Boston: Wm. Pierce, 1835), Hymn 515, p. 631 (Google Book).

## The Children of Hugh Aiton and Jannet Thomson Aiton

In New Brunswick, most of Hugh's and Jannet's 11 children became independent and had their own families as they spread to neighboring parishes and towns. Some did not make it out of childhood and many family members died from disease. Over time, as a family, the Aitons earned the title "respectable."<sup>132</sup> Let us sketch the lives of the Aiton children in birth order, with the caution that lists of them sometimes differ over vital statistics and their actual number.<sup>133</sup> One of the obstacles a researcher faces in finding details on the Aiton children is that until New Brunswick's Vital Statistics Act of 1887 people were not required to register with *civil* authorities provincial births, marriages, and deaths.<sup>134</sup>

### *Andrew Aiton (1806-1874)*

The first child of Hugh and Jannet Aiton was Andrew, born about 1806 in Pinwherry by Girvan, Ayrshire. He immigrated to Canada in 1824 with his parents. After about eight years in New Brunswick, Andrew returned to Scotland. On March 30, 1833, he married his cousin Mary Aiton (born November 21, 1811, in Galston), the daughter of Hugh's brother John Aiton and Grace Haddow.

Andrew and Mary had eight children, five of them in Scotland.<sup>135</sup> In the 1841 census for Scotland, both Andrew and Mary worked as "agricultural labourers."

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<sup>132</sup> "John Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Morning Telegraph*, May 2, 1868).

<sup>133</sup> The information on Hugh Aiton's and Jannet Thomson's children and their offspring is drawn primarily from the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) website (<http://archives.gnb.ca>), including Johnson's New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics. Also, three genealogical sources have been helpful: (1) "New Brunswick First Families" (see footnote above); (2) "Descendants of Hugh Aiton," "Descendants of Andrew Aiton," and "Descendants of William Aiton" (generously prepared by John R. Elliott of Kings County Historical and Archival Society, 2018); (3) Robbie Wilson's extensive postings, especially on Rootsweb, and his instructive e-mail messages to Thomas G. Paterson. "First Families" lists another child of Hugh and Jannet: "Isabella Aiton" (1819-December 4, 1866), who married Andrew Aiton (1801-November 16, 1881). Researcher Robbie Wilson of Scotland questions inclusion of this Isabella as a child of Hugh and Jannet, suggesting instead that she was the daughter of Robert Aiton and Helen Haddow (RW to Thomas G. Paterson, June 2, 2018).

<sup>134</sup> The act went into effect January 1, 1888.

<sup>135</sup> The eight Andrew and Mary Aiton children: (1) *Grizal Haddow (Grace) Aiton*, born December 14, 1834, in Galston; in 1841 Grace lived with her grandparents John and Grizzle (Grace) Aiton at Scorecraigs, Galston; she and her sister Janet Aiton stayed with their grandparents John and Grace at Score Tulloch after their parents Andrew and Mary left for New Brunswick in 1844; Grace immigrated to Canada in 1853; she lived with her brother John in Sussex in 1861; she married Alexander Campbell, July 1, 1867, in Saint John; they had several children; Grace died in 1869, leaving an infant son, Robert Aiton, who went to live with his aunt (Isabella) and uncles Adam and John ("Grizal Haddow Aiton," Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP; "Grace Aiton," 1841 Scotland Census, <https://freecen2.freecen.org.uk>; "Alexander Campbell," Index to Marriage Bonds, PANB; "Grace Grizzal Haddow Aiton," RW posting, Rweb; Aiton, "The Aitons in Little River;" (2) *Janet Thomson (or Thompson) Aiton* was born January 1, 1837, in Galston; in 1841, Janet resided with her parents in Slateford, Galston; she



They lived at “Slateford,” Galston, Ayrshire, with their children Janet (age 4), Mary (2), and Hugh (1 month). Slateford was a farm not far from Score Tulloch. On an 1857 survey map, the Slateford dwelling was labeled “Ruin.”<sup>136</sup>

In 1844, before the birth of their son Andrew in October, Andrew and Mary relocated to New Brunswick, where Andrew settled on a farm with his family in the Parish of Sussex, Kings County, primarily a dairy-farming area near Hampton. Whether he bought or leased land at the start is unknown, but he became a successful farmer whose opinion on soil conditions, climate, and farming operations became valued. A researcher who was hired in 1849 by the New Brunswick government to study the “agricultural capabilities” of the province interviewed Andrew. Andrew told him that an “evil” was that too many men coming to New Brunswick with their families “know not where to go,” because there is no “official guide or directory to be got.” And, “unless they have friends previously settled who will aid them, their means are exhausted before they find a

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remained with her grandparents John and Grace in Scotland after her parents moved to New Brunswick in 1844; she immigrated in 1853 to New Brunswick and married Sanford Lair (in 1864); they had eight children; in the 1871 and 1881 Canada Census reports Janet and Sanford lived in St. Martin’s, Saint John County; Janet Lair (age 50) was with Sanford (age 55) in the 1891 Canada Census; “Mrs. Sanford Lair” died in August 1896; her brothers Andrew and David attended her funeral in Upham (“Janet Thomson Aiton,” Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP; 1841 Scotland Census, freecen2; 1871, 1881, and 1891 Canada Census reports, www.bac-lac.gc.ca; “Mrs. Sanford Lair, Johnson’s Newspaper, *Kings County Record*, August 21, 1896); (3) *Mary C. Aiton* was born December 2, 1838, at Dyke Farm, Galston; she was baptized December 11; Mary married John Trenholm Dobson and they had five children, including Mary Trenholm Dobson, born about 1865, and Joseph Wells Dobson, born April 30, 1871, in Sussex; Mary Aiton Dobson died October 7, 1883, in Sussex, leaving five children; her husband died in June 1890 and was buried in a Presbyterian churchyard in Saint John (“Mary Aiton,” Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP; Howard Aiton Family Chart, from Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson; “Mary Dobson,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *Daily News* (Saint John), October 12, 1883; “Trenholm Dobson,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *Kings County Record*, June 6, 1890; “Joseph Wells Dobson,” Births, Vital Statistics, PANB; “William Robinson,” Marriages (Mary Trenholm Dobson), Vital Statistics, PANB; Aiton, *Story of Sussex*); (4) *Hugh Aiton* was born April 16, 1841, in Galston; (5) *John Aiton* was born May 27 or June 29, 1843, in Galston; he died April 29, 1868, at his father Andrew’s residence at Lower Cove, Sussex, age of 25, from “brain congestion” (“John Aiton,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *Morning Telegraph*, May 2 and 7, 1868); (6) *Andrew Aiton* was born in October 1844, in Sussex; he farmed in Lower Cove, Sussex Vale; he married Martha Matilda Crockett (March 18, 1854–November 28, 1935) and they had several children: Mary Hadda (1875); Margaret Isabel (1877–1951; she married Hugh Robertson Aiton, May 15, 1907, Vital Statistics, PANB); Andrew John (1878–1918); Melbourne David (1880–1957); Herbert Ainslie (1885–1957); Frank Gray (1886–1886); Grace (1888–1963); and Harry Clement (June 21, 1892–February 13, 1952); their father Andrew died November 6, 1914, in Sussex; he was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery (“Harry Clement Aiton” and “Andrew Aiton, Sr.,” FGr; “Andrew Aiton,” Hutchinson Directories, 1865, PANB); (7) *David Aiton* was born October 6, 1848, in Sussex, and died May 24, 1914, in Lower Cove; he married Annie Hazen, April 8, 1896; she was born about 1861; Annie died November 28, 1897, in Lower Cove, perhaps after the birth of an unnamed child on that day; Andrew remarried to Jane McCauley June 16, 1904, in Sussex (“Annie Hazen Aiton,” *Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897–1936*, PANB); (8) *Isabel (or Isabella) Aiton* was born in 1851 in Sussex; she married Charles McMann, May 7, 1879; in July 1888, when she resided in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., she visited her brothers David and Andrew in Sussex (Johnson’s Newspaper, *Kings County Record*, July 27, 1888).

<sup>136</sup> Ayrshire XXIV.4 (Galston), Survey date 1857, Ordnance Survey 25-inch to the Mile, National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk>).

suitable location, or build a cottage or prepare for the winter.”<sup>137</sup> Andrew, of course, had more than friends. He had family members to help him.

In the Canada Census of 1851, Andrew, Mary, and their children Mary (13), Hugh (11), John (8), Andrew (6), and David (4) lived in Sussex. Janet, who would have been about 14 years-old, was not with them, because she and her sister Grace had remained in Scotland with their grandparents John and Grace Aiton when their parents Andrew and Mary moved to New Brunswick. Janet and Grace were “scholars” in the 1851 Scotland Census, residing at the Score Tulloch farm.<sup>138</sup> In 1853 Janet and Grace moved to New Brunswick, married, and had children (see above).

Their father Andrew became one of the parishioners, with his brother William (see below), who oversaw the fund-raising and construction for the Presbyterian church in Sussex (“the Kirk”), which was dedicated in 1863. It sat on a hillside and had a cemetery. Thirty years later, the church with its tower was moved to flat land near the town center. Today, after some name changes, congregational reconfigurations, and relocations, the church is St. Paul’s United Church of Canada, Sussex.<sup>139</sup>

In 1871, Andrew (age 64), his spouse Mary (60), and their children Andrew (23), David (20), and Isabella (18), lived in Sussex. On the census document of that year, the three males in the household were recorded as farmers. Andrew died in Sussex, at Lower Cove, on January 5, 1874. He was interred in Kirkhill Cemetery in that community. Mary died at the Aiton farm on November 15, 1875.<sup>140</sup> Today, there is an Aiton Road in Sussex.

### ***Jannet Aiton (1809-????)***

The second child of Hugh and Jannet was Jannet Aiton, born March 20, 1809, in Pinwherry by Girvan, Ayrshire. She was christened April 7. Except for her birth

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<sup>137</sup> Quoted in Johnston, *Report on the Agricultural Capabilities*, p. 243.

<sup>138</sup> “John Aiton” (1851 Scotland Census, <https://www.freecen.org.uk>).

<sup>139</sup> John Elliott to Thomas G. Paterson, August 26, 2018.

<sup>140</sup> For Andrew, Mary, and family: “Mary Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP); “Andrew Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Marriages, SP); Johnson’s Newspaper, various family members and years; “Andrew Aiton” (1841 Scotland Census, <https://freecen.org.uk>); “A. Aiton” (1851 Canada Census, [data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca)); “Grace Aiton” (1861 Canada Census, [www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)); “Andrew Aiton” (1871 Canada Census, [data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca)); “Records...Gray,” pp. 138-139; “Andrew Aiton” (FGr); RW, “Aitons;” “Andrew Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, January 10, 1874, PANB); “Mary Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, November 16, 1875, PANB).

and christening record, we know nothing about her.<sup>141</sup> She does not appear in “New Brunswick First Families.” The ScotlandsPeople and Provincial Archives of New Brunswick websites do not list her for marriage or death. It does not seem that she travelled with her parents to Canada in 1824. Whether she ever joined them there remains unknown. Perhaps she died before December 1826, when Hugh and Jannet named their newborn child of that date Jannet, their tenth (see below).

### *John Aiton (1811-1887)*

The third child of Hugh and Jannet Aiton was John Aiton, born January 16, 1811, in Pinwherry by Girvan. On February 13, 1836, in Hampton, John married New Brunswick-native Isabella (or Isabel) Mungar (or Munger). She was born about 1795 of Loyalist descent. John became a landowning farmer (proprietor) in Hammond River, Parish of Hampton. In the 1871 Canada Census, John and Isabella farmed in Rothesay, about 26 km (16 miles) away, also in Kings County. She died November 10, 1872.<sup>142</sup>

John remarried about a year later, on November 13, 1873, in Rothesay, to 1831-born Sarah F. Porter. She was the daughter of James Porter and Catherine Mungar and the niece of John’s first wife. Sarah lived in John’s household in 1871 in Rothesay. She was then recorded as 40 years-old and John was noted as 60. An “Isabel Aiton,” age 14, also resided in the household. Her relationship is unclear.

No children came from either of John’s marriages. In 1881, John, listed as age 67, resided with Sarah (50) on their farm in Hampton. With them was a 10 year-old female named “Ada,” perhaps Ada Clair, a neighbor’s child.<sup>143</sup> John’s farm abutted that of his brother Robert (see below).

John Aiton died August 20, 1887, in Salt Springs, at the age of 76. On October 31, 1889, 58 year-old Sarah remarried to the widower John Reid (age of 60), a hotel keeper in Saint John. Both were Presbyterians married by Reverend Andrew Donald (see above).<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> “Jannet Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP); “Janet Aiton” (Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, FS).

<sup>142</sup> “John Aiton” (1871 Canada Census); “Isabella Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, November 12, 1872).

<sup>143</sup> Ada’s last name is difficult to read, but may be Clair. Residing in Hampton in 1881 was Judson Clair . Was this Ada counted twice? (1881 Canada Census (data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca).

<sup>144</sup> “John Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, February 20, 1836, *The Daily Telegraph*, December 2, 1873 (marriage), and *The Daily Telegraph*, August 30, 1887); “Isabella Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper,

### *Thomas Aiton (1812/1813-1872)*

The fourth child of Hugh and Jannet was Thomas Aiton, born about 1812-1813 in Pinwherry by Girvan, Old Cumnock, or Auchinleck, Ayrshire.<sup>145</sup> He did not travel with his parents to New Brunswick in 1824 and remained in Scotland his entire life, most likely never seeing his mother and father again. We can imagine that on occasion they corresponded by letters. On November 1, 1833, Thomas married Mary Dunn (born 1815 or 1819) in the parish of Cathcart, which rested partly in Lanarkshire and partly in Renfrewshire, 4.8 km (3 miles) from Glasgow. She was born in Carmunnock, Lanarkshire.<sup>146</sup> They had five children. Their first child, Janet Aiton, arrived January 25, 1835, in Cathcart.<sup>147</sup> In the 1841 Scotland Census for Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, Thomas, listed as a 25 year-old farmer (estimated age), resided at Meikle Binend with his spouse Mary (age 25), and daughter Janet (7).<sup>148</sup>

In 1851, in Eaglesham, at East Bennan (Binend?), Thomas, recorded as 38 years-old, had become a successful farmer working 250 acres. His daughter Janet was then attending school and he and Mary had added another daughter to the family: Mary, born June 13, 1845 (see below). Mary Dunn Aiton's widowed mother Margret [sic] (age 70) lived with them, as did two farm servants.<sup>149</sup> On the farm, April 2, 1852, Thomas and Mary welcomed a third child, Isabella.<sup>150</sup> Their next offspring was Hugh, born June 16, 1857, at Binend (see below for his life). On March 21, 1859, Mary gave birth to her fifth child, Richard Dunn Aiton, also on the Eaglesham farm. This offspring died in 1860 at 17 months-old and was buried in the Eaglesham Parish Churchyard.<sup>151</sup>

In 1861, 49 year-old Thomas Aiton farmed 120 acres in Binend. Perhaps his tenancy had been reduced by his landlord, or, if a landowner himself, Thomas may have sold acreage. Their 1834-born daughter Janet married James Hall, June 7/12,

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*The Daily Telegraph*, November 12, 1872); "Sarah F. Porter" (Index to Marriage Bonds, 1810-1932, PANB); "John Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, December 2, 1873); "Sarah F. Aiton" (Vital Statistics from Government Records, PANB); "John Aiton," 1851 and 1881 Canada Census).

<sup>145</sup> For a major listing of Thomas Aiton, his marriage, his five children, and their descendants, I am indebted to Robbie Wilson (RW postings, Rweb, for "Thomas Aiton" and RW to Thomas G. Paterson, May 29, 2018).

<sup>146</sup> "Thomas Aiton" (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Marriages, SP).

<sup>147</sup> See below for Janet's life, marriage, and death.

<sup>148</sup> "Thomas Aiton" (1841 Scotland Census, SP).

<sup>149</sup> For census data and children here and below, see RW, "Aitons."

<sup>150</sup> Isabella married 1849-born Alexander Thomson in 1876. He was a blacksmith in Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire. They had seven children. Isabella died in 1941 in Kelvingrove, Glasgow.

<sup>151</sup> "Richard Dunn Aiton" (Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, FS); "Richard Dunn Aiton" (FGr).

1863, in Eaglesham.<sup>152</sup> They had two children: William (born May 24, 1864, in Bonhill, Dunbartonshire) and Thomas Aiton (born March 1, 1867, in Govan, Glasgow, Lanarkshire). Janet died in 1868 at the Binend farm and was interred in the Eaglesham Parish Churchyard.<sup>153</sup> Thomas's and Mary's daughter Mary died there just two years later in 1870 at the age of 25.

By the next census, that of 1871, Thomas and family had moved some 40 km (25 miles) to Gartconnel Farm, New Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire. He farmed 97 arable acres and employed four farm servants who lived in the Aiton household that included the "Head" Thomas, Mary, Isabella, and Hugh. Also in the household were William Hall (six-year-old grandson, the child of deceased Janet Aiton and James Hall), Thomas A. Hall (four-year-old grandson, the child of Janet and James.), and Elizabeth Hall (17 year-old niece, described as a farm servant).<sup>154</sup>

Hugh Aiton's and Jannet Thomson's son Thomas died of a paralytic stroke on February 21, 1872, at Gartconnel Farm. He was 59. According to the 1881 census, his widow Mary Dunn Aiton, age 64, head of household and a "farmer" of 80 acres at Gartconnel, New or East Kilpatrick, resided with her son Hugh (age 23), her grandsons William (16) and Thomas (14) Hall, niece Elizabeth Hall (26), a "dairymaid," and two servants.<sup>155</sup> Hugh married 1853-born Elizabeth Hall in 1886 in Kelvin, Glasgow.<sup>156</sup>

In 1891, at her son Hugh's farm in Allans, in the village of Inchinnan, very near the town of Paisley, Renfrewshire, Mary Dunn Aiton, an "annuitant," lived with Hugh (age 33), then head of household, his wife Elizabeth Hall (35), their children Thomas (4)<sup>157</sup> and Elizabeth Dunn (2),<sup>158</sup> and six servants, one of whom was Thomas Hall. Mary passed away in 1892 at the age of 77 in Partick, a district of Glasgow. Both Thomas and Mary were buried in Eaglesham Parish Churchyard.<sup>159</sup> In 1932, their 1857-born son Hugh died at 75 in Paisley, Renfrewshire.<sup>160</sup> In 1937,

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<sup>152</sup> James was born in Eaglesham, July 2, 1840. After Janet's death in 1868, James remarried to Helen Stirling. He may have lived in Govan, Glasgow, in 1871 ("James Hall," Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910, FS; "James Hall," 1871 Scotland Census, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>153</sup> "Janet Aiton Hall" (FGr).

<sup>154</sup> "Thomas Aiton" (1871 Scotland Census, FS); "William Hall" (Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, FS).

<sup>155</sup> "Mary Aiton" (1881 Scotland Census, SP).

<sup>156</sup> "Hugh Aiton" (Statutory Registers: Marriages, SP).

<sup>157</sup> Thomas Aiton was born in 1887 at Allans Farm, Inchinnan. He died in 1894 at that farm.

<sup>158</sup> Elizabeth Dunn Aiton was born at Allans Farm in 1889. She died in Paisley in 1977.

<sup>159</sup> "Thomas Aiton" and "Mary Dunn Aiton" (FGr).

<sup>160</sup> "Hugh Aiton" (Statutory Registers: Deaths, SP).

Hugh's wife Elizabeth passed away at 81 in Glasgow's housing district of Pollok.<sup>161</sup>

### ***Robert Aiton (1815-1892)***

The fifth child of Hugh and Jannet was Robert Aiton, born October 14, 1815, in Pinwherry (Girvan), or Auchinleck, or Old Cumnock in Ayrshire, or in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire. He traveled with his parents to New Brunswick in 1824. Robert married 1821-born Elizabeth Robertson, January 3, 1840, in the Parish of Upham, New Brunswick. They settled in Salt Springs in that parish and had nine children.<sup>162</sup>

The 1851 census identified Robert as a farmer-proprietor in Upham, living with his wife Elizabeth and his children Jannet, James, Hugh, and Margaret. Like most Aitons, they were Presbyterians. Two carpenters (perhaps lodgers) also resided in Robert's household. An 1854-born son, Robert, died in 1858. By 1861, Robert and Elizabeth had added two more children (Elizabeth and John) to the family. Robert's widowed, 78 year-old father Hugh, who had given up farming, lived in Robert's home in Upham. In 1871, Robert still farmed in Salt Springs, and he and Elizabeth lived with four of their children: Margaret (age 23); Elizabeth (17); John (17); and Jabez (2).

Robert's and Elizabeth's son James married Sarah Ann Tays in the late 1860s. "Annie" was born in Ireland in 1850 and worked at some point as a housekeeper. They had seven children between 1868 and 1881.<sup>163</sup> In the 1871 census, James and Annie lived in Upham Parish.

<sup>161</sup> "Elizabeth Aiton" (Statutory Registers: Deaths, SP); "Elizabeth Hall" (RW posting, Rweb).

<sup>162</sup> Children of Robert Aiton and Elizabeth Robertson: (1) *Janet (or Jennet)* (1841-February 4, 1884); "Janet Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, February 5, 1884); (2) *James* (1842-after 1911); see text; (3) *Hugh Robertson* (1845-October 12, 1927); he married Margaret; he died in Oakland, California ("Hugh R. Aiton," Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936); (4) *Margaret (or Margret) Ann* (1846-after March 1911); (5) *Elizabeth* (November 8, 1854-July 3, 1933); (6) *Robert* (November 8, 1854-August 25, 1858) ("Robert Aiton," Johnson's Newspaper, *Religious Intelligencer*, September 10, 1858); (7) *John Ure* (August 26, 1861-after March 1921); he married 1869-born Lydia Ann Smith, April 18, 1893; they had three children: John (January 19, 1894); Ensley Robert (October 22, 1895); and Hugh Miller (September 19, 1901); in 1901 the family lived in Upham (RW, "Aitons"); (8) *Jabez* (1869-between 1897 and 1901); (9) *Andrew* (1870-after 1881). Other sources: RW, "Aitons;" Canada Census reports; "Robert Aiton" (McLaughlin Family Tree, www.ancestrylibrary.com).

<sup>163</sup> Children of James Aiton and Sarah Ann Tays: (1) *Amanda* (about 1868-January 29, 1941); she married John W. Smith, June 15, 1897, in Sussex; she died in Salt Springs, Upham (Vital Statistics, PANB and "Amanda Aiton Smith," Salt Springs Baptist Cemetery, FGr); (2) *Thomas B.* (about 1872-May 28, 1878); (3) *Sarah E.* (1873-June 6, 1878); (4) *William B.* (about 1874-June 5, 1878); (5) *Hugh S.* (1877-June 4, 1878); (6) *Robert* (1879-August 10, 1927); he married Bessie Maud Stackhouse in 1913; they had two children; he died in Southfield at 48 (Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB); (7) *David* (September 8, 1881[in Hanford Brook,

Disease decimated their family in May-June of 1878, when four of James's and Annie's children were stricken by diphtheria and died in Bloomfield, a farming settlement of about 200 people very near Norton in Kings County: Thomas (7 years, 3 months), Hugh (1 year, 6 months), William (3 years, 6 months), and Sarah (5 years).<sup>164</sup> Diphtheria over time killed other Aiton children (see below for the tragedies of 1861, 1863, and 1879). This infectious disease did not discriminate by class or age, although children were most susceptible. Princess Anne, for example, the 35 year-old daughter of Queen Victoria, died in 1878 from the disease. Not until the late nineteenth and early twentieth century did medical specialists develop anti-toxins and vaccines to combat diphtheria.<sup>165</sup>

Diphtheria spread quickly from person-to-person through the air via respiratory secretion. Diphtheria killed its victims within a few days. The afflicted suffered inflamed throat tissue, sores, fever, headache, upset stomach, swollen lymph nodes, nasal discharge, and gangrenous odor. "The Strangler" disease made it difficult to swallow. A physician recalled seeing a young girl, one of four in a family suffering diphtheria, who "literally choked to death.... I watched the death of that beautiful child feeling absolutely helpless to be of any assistance."<sup>166</sup> Another doctor wrote that he was "totally unprepared" when he visited a family with six children: "I know of but few more appalling scenes to the conscientious physician than that of an entire family prostrated with the malignant form of this disease."<sup>167</sup> These doctors were not at the bedside of the Aitons, but their words help us imagine the horror James and Sarah Ann experienced in 1878.

In 1881, the farmer James, Sarah Ann, and their children Amanda and Robert, resided in Saint Martin's, Saint John County.<sup>168</sup> By 1891, James and family had moved again, to Sussex. His household then included his spouse Sarah Ann and Amanda, Robert, and David. James Aiton died after 1911, probably in Sussex.<sup>169</sup>

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Kings County]-May 1959); he married 1900-born Eddis Isabel Price, September 22, 1919; he died in Sussex. Data for James's children: RW, Rweb; Vital Statistics, PANB; and 1871, 1881, and 1891 Canada Census.

<sup>164</sup> "Thomas B. Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, June 16, 1878).

<sup>165</sup> For the history of diphtheria: "Medical Definition of Putrid Throat" (<https://www.medicinenet.com>); Wooster Beach, *The American Practice, Or, The Family Physician* (A.J. M'Alister, 1848; Google Book); Deborah Neill, "Vaccinations and the Decline of Diphtheria" (2015; ActiveHistory.ca); "Diphtheria: Vaccines and Immunization: Epidemics, Prevention, and Canadian Innovation," Museum of Health in Kingston (2018; [www.museumofhealth.ca](http://www.museumofhealth.ca)).

<sup>166</sup> Quoted in "Diphtheria: A Popular Health Article," *The Public Health Journal*, 18 (December 1927), 574.

<sup>167</sup> Bedford Brown, *Reminiscences of Personal Experience in the History of Diphtheria* (St. Louis: Lambert, 1885), p. 5.

<sup>168</sup> "James Aiton" (1881 Canada Census).

<sup>169</sup> "James Aiton" (RW, Rweb).

Sarah Ann Tays Aiton passed away at age 74, September 4, 1924, in Southfield, New Brunswick. Her son Robert reported his mother's death.<sup>170</sup>

To return to Hugh's son Robert: In 1881, Robert, at the age of 65, was identified as a farmer living with Elizabeth (60), son John (19), and Andrew (11). Robert's farm abutted his brother John's (see above). In the 1891 Canada Census, Robert and Elizabeth lived in the household of their son, John, a 30 year-old farmer. Robert died February 12, 1892, at 77, in Salt Springs, Upham Parish. Elizabeth Robertson Aiton passed away August 23, 1907, also in Salt Springs.<sup>171</sup>

### ***Hugh Aiton (1816-1880)***

The sixth offspring of Hugh and Jannet was Hugh Aiton (Junior), born September 11, 1816, in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean with his parents in 1824. On September 17, 1839, in Hampton, New Brunswick, he married Mary Sophia Sherwood (born 1820/1821). They settled in Salt Springs. Hugh and Mary had three children.<sup>172</sup> In 1851 they farmed in Upham Parish. There, Mary died January 14, 1852, at the age of 31.<sup>173</sup> That year Hugh remarried to Sarah Ann Smith (November 11, 1824-April 1903).<sup>174</sup> They had nine children.<sup>175</sup>

In August 1861, disease invaded Hugh's and Sarah Ann's home. Three of their daughters perished, dying from "putrid sore throat," the *New Brunswick Courier* reported.<sup>176</sup> This aggressive bacterial disease was most likely diphtheria (see

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<sup>170</sup> "Sarah Ann Aiton" (New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS).

<sup>171</sup> "Robert Aiton," Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, February 15, 1892; "Robert Aiton" (1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891 Canada Census, data2.collectionscanada.ca); Vital Statistics, PANB; "Elizabeth Aiton" (Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB).

<sup>172</sup> Children of Hugh Aiton and Mary Sophia Sherwood: (1) *Isabella* (July 1, 1842-March 5, 1920); (2) *Mary* (November 19, 1845-November 19, 1895); she married Alfred Smith and they had eight children (RW, Rweb); (3) *Janet Catherine* (1849-August 8, 1861). RW, "Aitons." RW also lists the children of Hugh's children and their spouses.

<sup>173</sup> "Mary Sophia Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, January 24, 1852).

<sup>174</sup> "Sarah Smith" (1901 Canada Census).

<sup>175</sup> Children of Hugh Aiton and Sarah Ann Smith (1) *Hannah H.* (1853-August 7, 1861); (2) *Sarah Jane* (1855-August 8, 1861); (3) *Lynomah (Jemina?)* (1857-after March 1880); (4) *Betsy* (1859-????); (5) *Catherine Smith* (October 5, 1859-January 30, 1938); (6) *Hannah Jane* (October 4, 1861-after March 1911); she married Richard Hosford, July 2, 1895; both were Presbyterians; he was a farmer in St. Martins, Saint John County; (7) *Phebe* (or *Phoebe*) *Rebecca* (October 13, 1863-after March 1911); 1901 Canada Census reports her birth date as October 17, 1865; she married Robert A. Hamlin, May 19, 1887, in Upham; (8) *Elizabeth* (1865-????); (9) *Sarah Esther* (March 21, 1867-between March 1901 and May 1911). Sources: RW, "Aitons" and RW to Thomas G. Paterson, June 25, 2018; "Hannah Jane Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Sun*, May 23, 1887).

<sup>176</sup> "Hannah Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, August 24, 1861).



above). Hannah H. Aiton (age of 7 years, 10 months) died on August 7; Janet Catherine Aiton (11 years, 5 months) died the next day, August 8; and Sarah Jane Aiton (5 years, 10 months) lost her life on August 8. The three children were interred in the small Aiton Cemetery, Salt Springs.<sup>177</sup>

Hugh Aiton's first child, Isabella Aiton (July 1, 1842-March 5, 1920), survived the August 1861 disease attack on the family. But, she had to endure another horrible family experience in September 1879. Isabella had married John Dalling (December 23, 1835 or 1838-January 1, 1911) on March 6, 1865, in Upham. They settled on a farm first in Sussex and then in neighboring Waterford, both Kings County. They had seven children between 1866 and 1878.<sup>178</sup>

In September 1879, five of their children succumbed to a ferocious disease, very likely diphtheria, the bacterial assault on the nose and throat (see above). John and Isabella's 1875-born daughter Mary M. died September 4 (age of 4 years, 6 months); their son Hugh (born in October 1876) followed on September 6 (2 years, 11 months); the next day, both 1872-born Charlotte (7 years, 3 months) and 1870-born John Edwin (9 years, 4 months) collapsed; finally, on September 12, Janet, their first-born (1866), passed away (13 years, 8 months). Gravestones for these children stand in the Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery in Waterford.<sup>179</sup>

The Dalling family survivors were not recorded in the 1881 Canada Census. In the next census in 1891, John, Isabella, daughter Elizabeth, and son Lemuel resided on a Waterford farm, adjacent to that of William Dalling and his family.<sup>180</sup> Elizabeth died at the age of 26 in 1895. In 1901, John, Isabella, and Lemuel still farmed in Waterford next to William's property.<sup>181</sup> John Dalling died January 1, 1911. His widow Isabella Aiton Dalling moved into the household of her son Lemuel and his family in Chambers Settlement, a village in Waterford.<sup>182</sup> She died from pneumonia on March 5, 1920, in Chambers Settlement.<sup>183</sup> John and Isabella are buried near their children in the Waterford cemetery.<sup>184</sup>

<sup>177</sup> Cemetery data for the three Aiton children at FGr.

<sup>178</sup> Children of John Dalling and Isabella Aiton: (1) *Janet* (1866-September 12, 1879); (2) *Elizabeth Ann* (1869-May 17, 1895); (3) *John Edwin* (1870-September 7, 1879); (4) *Charlotte* (1872-September 7, 1879); (5) *Mary M.* (1875-September 4, 1879); (6) *Hugh* (October 1876-September 6, 1879); (7) *William Lemuel* (December 1878-1946). List and dates: "Isabella Aiton," Ye Olde Family Tree ([www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)).

<sup>179</sup> These deaths were not officially recorded and do not appear in the various lists of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick on its extensive website. See "Hugh Darling" and "Isabella Aiton Dalling" (FGr) for the death dates and ages of the five Dalling children who died in 1879.

<sup>180</sup> "John Dalling" (1891 Canada Census, Library and Archives Canada).

<sup>181</sup> "John Dalling" (1901 Canada Census, *ibid.*).

<sup>182</sup> "Isabella Dalling" (1911 Canada Census, *ibid.*)

<sup>183</sup> "Isabella Dalling" (Death Certificate, Vital Statistics, PANB).

<sup>184</sup> "Isabella Aiton Dalling" (FGr); "Isabella Aiton" (Ye Olde Family Tree).

Isabella's father Hugh Aiton, a farmer and "lumberer," died at his Salt Springs, Kings County residence in Upham on July 23, 1880 (age 64).<sup>185</sup> He was buried in Aiton Cemetery, Salt Springs, next to his daughters Hannah, Janet, and Sarah.<sup>186</sup> His wife Sarah died in April 1903. Her funeral was held in Salina.<sup>187</sup>

### *William Aiton (1818-1875)*

To return to the children of Hugh and Jannet: William Aiton was their seventh child, born November 16, 1818, in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire. In 1824, this child travelled to New Brunswick with his parents and most of his siblings. He grew up in the Hampton area. On April 11, 1844, in Sussex, he wed Mary Jeffries (November 16, 1816-March 26, 1857).<sup>188</sup> She had immigrated in 1816 to New Brunswick from Somerset, England. They had no children. After her 1857 death at the age of 40 in Sussex, Mary was buried in Trinity Anglican Cemetery in Sussex Corner.<sup>189</sup>

William remarried on April 22, 1858, to Mary Plummer Dole. She was born in 1827 in England.<sup>190</sup> They settled on a farm in Dutch Valley, Sussex. William Aiton received a 200-acre land grant in Sussex from the New Brunswick government on August 12, 1865.<sup>191</sup> This was very likely the property in Dutch Valley upon which he built a substantial farmhouse. Dutch Valley then had about 60 resident families.<sup>192</sup>

The white, clapboard house, in the "Gothic cottage" style, sat on a knoll surrounded by grass and fruit trees. An undated, fuzzy photograph shows that the main block of the house was two stories, probably with four rooms on the first floor and five sleeping rooms on the second floor. An attached story-and-a-half

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<sup>185</sup> His designation in 1867 in *Hutchinson's Directory* (PANB).

<sup>186</sup> For Hugh and his families: "Hugh Aiton" (RW posting, Rweb); "Hugh Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, September 21, 1839, and *ibid.*, *The Daily Sun*, July 26, 1880); "Hugh Aiton" (FGr); Canada Census reports.

<sup>187</sup> "Sarah Aiton" (Kings County Newspaper Record: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB).

<sup>188</sup> "Aiton," FIRST FAMILIES.

<sup>189</sup> "Mary (Jeffries) Aiton" (<https://billiongraves.com>); "Mary Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Morning News*, March 30, 1857).

<sup>190</sup> For William and Mary: "William Aiton" (Index to Marriage Bonds, 1810-1932, PANB); "William Aiton" (1871 Canada Census, [data2.collections.ca](http://data2.collections.ca)); newspaper stories of December 29 and 30, 1875, on "William Aiton," in Johnson's Newspaper; RW, "Aitons;" "Mary P. Dole" (FGr); "Descendants of William Aiton" (Elliott, Kings County Museum, 2018); "Mary Aiton" (1901 Canada Census, [data2collections.canada.ca](http://data2collections.canada.ca)); photograph (about 1898) of Mary Plummer Dole Aiton (John Elliott to Thomas G. Paterson, August 2018).

<sup>191</sup> "William Aiton" (Index to New Brunswick Land Grants, 1784-1997, PANB).

<sup>192</sup> 1866 figure. "Dutch Valley" (Place Names of New Brunswick, PANB).

extension (ell or wing) on the backside, with its own door, served as the kitchen. The upper level of the ell was used for storage space and perhaps sleeping quarters for hired hands. On the front of the main building, ornamental scalloping adorns the window at the center of the second floor. Over the other windows are decorative, triangle-shaped pediments of slender boards. An unattached structure (logically, a barn) sits behind the ell, and another barn, possibly with a grain elevator, is close by. A windmill to generate power appears in the photograph. A privy is not apparent, but one would have been near the house in the 1860s before indoor plumbing.<sup>193</sup>

William and Mary had six children.<sup>194</sup> Two of them died very young: Mary at age two in 1865 and Augusta at age five in 1869. Both were buried in Sussex's Kirkhill Cemetery. In the 1871 Canada Census for Sussex, William and Mary lived with their four remaining children: Nelson (age 12); Hugh (10); William, Jr. (8); and Maud (2).

The elder William died December 28, 1875, at age 57. He suffered an accident in the woods near his home when he and a son were cutting firewood. William fell backwards and hit his head on a log, breaking his neck. Saint John's newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, described William as "one of the wealthiest farmers in Sussex" who "employed a large number of men on his farm."<sup>195</sup> William (Sr.) was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery.

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<sup>193</sup> Old photograph of William's house (John Elliot to Thomas G. Paterson, August 2018). Interpretive description of the house (based on the photograph) by Holly V. Izard, Curator of Collections, Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts, to Thomas G. Paterson, September 3, 2018.

<sup>194</sup> Children of William Aiton and Mary Plummer Dole: (1) *Nelson* (March 1859-November 6, 1889); (2) *Hugh* (December 8, 1860-February 24, 1929); a farmer, he married Ada E. Marven (1866-1942); Hugh died at Sussex Corner; he and Ada were buried in Trinity Cemetery, Sussex Corner ("Hugh Aiton," Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB; "Hugh Aiton," Vital Statistics, PANB); "Hugh Aiton" and "Ada E. Marven Aiton," FGr); (3) *William, Jr.* (March 15, 1863-January 17, 1900); see text for his life; (4) *Mary* (June 15, 1863-June 3, 1865); she was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery, Sussex (FGr); (5) *Augusta* (December 30, 1864-February 8, 1869); (6) *Maud Mary* (January 27, 1869-October 7, 1901); she married Henry (Harry) Thomas Hayes (1867-after 1911), a farmer, on April 16, 1890, at her mother's residence in Sussex, with her brothers Hugh and William as witnesses; Maud and Harry, who resided in Sussex, had four children: The first was Alice May (born June 8, 1891; died September 3, 1930 in Sussex) ("Girl" [later identified as Alice] with no name on the birth certificate); their second child, Elsie Aiton Hayes, was born July 25, 1893, at Sussex Corner; their third child was Mary Frances Hayes, born in 1896; she married Donald Cooper Oxley, February 27, 1924, in Springfield, Kings County; the fourth child of Maud and Harry was Stanley M. Hayes, born August 2, 1897, in Sussex. Sources for Maud Mary Aiton and Henry (Harry) Hayes: "Maud Mary Aiton" and "Henry Thomas Hayes" (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS); "Girl" and "Alice Hayes" (New Brunswick Provincial Returns of Births and Late Registrations, 1810-1906, and New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS); "Elsie Aiton Hayes" (reported birth by her Aunt Eleanor Hayes in 1958; New Brunswick Provincial Returns of Births and Late Registrations, 1810-1906, FS); "Mary F. Hayes" (1901 Canada Census, FS); "Alice Hayes" (New Brunswick Provincial...Late Registrations, 1810-1906, FS); photograph (about 1898) of Maud Aiton, Harry Hayes, and family (with Mary Dole Plummer Aiton) from John Elliott to Thomas G. Paterson, August 26, 2018).

<sup>195</sup> "William Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, December 30, 1875).

William's and Mary's son Nelson took charge of the "large farm," but on November 6, 1889, Nelson died of typhoid fever at the age of 31. This disease was caused by a virulent bacteria which spread through contaminated water and food. The victim descended into high fever, headache, abdominal pain, fatigue, and delirium.<sup>196</sup> Nelson Aiton, too, was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery.<sup>197</sup>

His brother William Aiton, Jr. also died from a painful illness. On January 17, 1900, in Waterford, he succumbed to "consumption" (tuberculosis) at 36 years-old. Victims of this contagious bacterial disease, which especially attacked the lungs, "wasted away" (hence the word "consumption") because there was no treatment that could stop it.<sup>198</sup>

William, Jr. had had an extraordinary life. Unlike most Aitons, he did not enter the world of farming. Rather, he became a scholar and a clergyman. William first attended school in Sussex and then entered the highly regarded Pictou Academy in Pictou, Nova Scotia, more than 300 km (186 miles) from his birthplace. After his graduation from Pictou, William entered Dalhousie College in Halifax. The college awarded him, after a competitive examination "open to the world," an "exhibition" (financial aid) of \$200 annually for two years.<sup>199</sup>

William graduated from Dalhousie on April 29, 1885, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree after four years.<sup>200</sup> He counted as one of 14 graduating students. In his formal senior class photograph, in black gown and mortar board, he strikes a serious pose, his right hand tucked into his robe near the top. He is appropriately pensive, with a slightly forlorn look.<sup>201</sup> William won awards that year. In the category "Honours," he ranked first in "Classics."<sup>202</sup> He won the Governor-General's Gold Medal and the University Prize in the Faculty of Arts for Classics, Fourth Year.<sup>203</sup>

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<sup>196</sup> "Typhoid Fever" (<https://www.mayoclinic.org>).

<sup>197</sup> "Nelson Aiton" (two articles on his death in Johnson's Newspaper, November 9 and 19, 1889).

<sup>198</sup> "Medical Definition of Consumption" (<https://www.medicinenet.com>).

<sup>199</sup> "Exhibitions," *Dalhousie Gazette*, November 11, 1881, Vol. 4, Issue 1, p. 2 (Dalhousie University Library).

<sup>200</sup> "Dalhousie University Directory of Graduates and Former Students of the University Corrected to 1937," "William Aiton, B.A., 1985," p. 5 (<https://findingaids.library.dal.ca>); "Calendar of Dalhousie College and University, 1885-86," pp. 60-62, Archives, Dalhousie University (<http://hdl.handle.net/10222/11549>).

<sup>201</sup> Senior class photograph, class of 1885 (Archives, Dalhousie University).

<sup>202</sup> Classics study consisted largely of Greek and Latin. William also probably took courses in "Classical History and Geography" for this category. In his fourth-year examinations, he was required to translate passages from Greek and Latin into English, and vice-versa. He had to identify and state grammatical rules. And, he had to demonstrate mastery of classical texts by Homer, Plato, Virgil, and Cicero, among others. "Examinations" appear in the "Calendar of Dalhousie College and University, 1885-86."

<sup>203</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 62.

After graduation, William travelled abroad for further education, studying at Edinburgh University in Scotland and then in London.<sup>204</sup> In both places he earned a diploma. With these achievements, William headed to the American West, hoping to find employment as a professor. Such a position did not materialize. He returned to New Brunswick. Although raised a Presbyterian, William joined the Church of England.

William married Julia Jane Sharp on August 5, 1892, in Waterford. The daughter of a farmer and miller, she was born November 10, 1873. They had one child, Franklin Peveril Aiton, born June 3, 1893, in Sussex. About that time, William began his journey to become a clergyman in the Church of England, which had three ranks: bishop, priest, and deacon. William's goal, it seems, was to become an Anglican priest. After two or three years' "reading," William was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Fredericton on May 31, 1896.

William was first assigned to St. George's Anglican Church in Bathurst, Gloucester County, New Brunswick, some 300 km (186 miles) from Waterford and the Sussex area. In a eulogy for William in 1900, a bishop reviewed the last few years of "gentle" William: "His love for a studious life grew upon him, accentuated as it was by feeble health, and he found himself unfitted for the active life of a parish priest in this country."<sup>205</sup>

After William's 1900 death, his spouse Jane resided in Waterford with her father Marshall Sharp and her mother-in-law. William's and Jane's son Franklin was not listed with Jane or his grandfather in the 1901 Canada Census. Jane died in 1963 and Franklin passed away in 1983 (see note below).<sup>206</sup>

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<sup>204</sup> *Journal of the Thirty-Second Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, 1900* (General Synod Archives, Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto), pp. 32-33; *Dalhousie Gazette*, February 4, 1888, Vol. 20, Issue 7, p. 92 (Dalhousie University Library).

<sup>205</sup> *Journal of the Thirty-Second Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, 1900*, pp. 32-33; Laurel Parson (General Synod Archives, Anglican Church of Canada) to Thomas G. Paterson, August 30, 2018.

<sup>206</sup> William's burial site is not known at this writing. Julia went on to marry John Wilson Brundidge (January 4, 1880-1933) on January 12, 1907, in Stoneham, Massachusetts. He was born on Prince Edward Island. They had two children: Emmaline (January 2, 1908-July 11, 1991) and Aiton Adalbert (May 27, 1910-October 2, 1990). Julia died in 1963 and was buried in Lindenwold Cemetery, Stoneham, near her husband. Franklin eventually married, in 1918 and in 1957, and died in Florida, November 20, 1983. He was buried in Lindenwold. Sources for William, Julia, and Franklin: Elliott, "Descendants of William Aiton;" "Julia J. Sharp" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, August 5, 1892); "William Aiton" (Vital Statistics, PANB); "Julia J. Sharp" and "Marshall Sharp" (1901 Canada Census, data2.collectionscanada.ca); "Julia Jane Sharp Brundidge," "John Wilson," and "Franklin P. Aiton" (FGr); photograph of William (with book in hand and wearing a white clerical collar), Julia, and Franklin (John Elliott to Thomas G. Paterson, August 2018); "Clergy List" book and Rev. Thomas W. Street letter of March 1896 to Bishop, Anglican Church Records, PANB (Joanna Aiton Kerr to Thomas G. Paterson, August 29, 2018); John Elliot to Thomas G. Paterson, August 29, 2018 (on Julia and Franklin after William's death).

By 1901, William's mother Mary Plummer Dole Aiton lived with her daughter Maud, her husband Harry Hayes, and their family in Sussex. Mary died February 14, 1905, at 77. She had endured a difficult life. Not only did her spouse William predecease her in 1875, but so did five of her six children—Mary (1865), Augusta (1869), Nelson (1889), William (1900), and Maud (1901). Mary Dole Aiton was interred next to her spouse William in Kirkhill Cemetery.

### *James Aiton (1821-1901)*

James Aiton was born May 15, 1821, in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, the eighth child of Hugh and Jannet. He was a three-year-old when he emigrated from Scotland. On April 3, 1847, in Hampton, he married a widow, 1823-born Isabel (or Isabella) Nimo (or Nimmo) of Hammond River. She was born a Dunn.<sup>207</sup> James and Isabel had at least eight children, several of whom died young.<sup>208</sup> In 1851, 30 year-old James and his family (Isabella, 28; Janet, five; Richard, three; and Hugh one) resided with his father Hugh Aiton in Hampton.<sup>209</sup> On October 19, 1856, James's and Isabella's child Richard Aiton died at the age of eight years, two months, and three days.<sup>210</sup>

By early 1861, James had moved to the settlement of Little River, Elgin Parish, Albert County, about 81 km (50 miles) from Hampton and about 49 km (30 miles) from Sussex. James then "owned or occupied" 50 improved acres and 450 unimproved acres. This farmer also had one horse, four milk cows, two oxen, 10 cattle, six sheep, and four swine. He employed two "hands" to help him on his farm and no doubt with his timber harvesting.<sup>211</sup>

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<sup>207</sup> Isabella Dunn was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 3, 1823. She died September 30, 1903, in Southesk, Northumberland, New Brunswick, after a wagon wheel rolled over her, crushing her to death ("Isabella Dunn," RW, Rweb).

<sup>208</sup> Children of James and Isabella: (1) *Janet* (1845-1884); she married Robert Robertson, December 7, 1865; Andrew Donald was the minister at the ceremony; the first child of Robert and Janet was Thomas William Robertson, born April 1, 1870 (he died January 10, 1938, in Hampton); Janet died a few days after giving birth to Martha Elizabeth Robertson on January 28, 1884 ("Janet Aiton," Index to Marriage Bonds, 1810-1932, PANB; "Janet Aiton," New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS; "Thomas William Robertson," New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS; "Martha Elizabeth Robertson," Index to Late Registration of Births, PANB); (2) *Richard* (1847-November 19, 1856); (3) *Hugh Daniel* (November 5, 1851-January 3, 1943); (4) *Thomas Alexander* (1853-February 17, 1863); (5) *David* (1855-????); (6) *Isabella* (1857-February 18, 1863); (7) *James* (1859/1860-February 8, 1863); (8) *daughter* (1865-June 21, 1880).

<sup>209</sup> "James Aiton" (1851 Census, [www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)).

<sup>210</sup> "Richard Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, November 25, 1856).

<sup>211</sup> Isabel and the children were not recorded in this census (1861 Canada Census).

In February 1863, in Elgin, utter tragedy struck the family. Diphtheria (see above), the disease caused by bacteria in the mouth, throat, and nose and spread by coughing and sneezing, killed three of James's and Isabella's children. On February 8, James died (three years and eight months-old). On the fourteenth of the month, daughter Isabella fell to the disease (age of six years and one month). Then, on the seventeenth, Thomas Alexander died at the age of nine years and 10 months. About two years later, on September 2, 1865, the Aitons lost another child when daughter Mary died at three years and eight months.

In 1871, James farmed at Elgin Corner, Elgin, with Isabella and their 20 year-old son Hugh Daniel in the household.<sup>212</sup> Calamity visited the Aitons once again, on June 21, 1880, when James's youngest daughter (name unreported), age 15, drowned while bathing in the Pollett River in Elgin.

By the Canada Census of early 1881, James, Isabella, and Hugh Daniel had moved from Elgin to the village of Salisbury in Westmoreland County, about 30 km (19 miles) away. He continued to farm. By 1891, James had relocated again, to the forest-industry town of Newcastle, Northumberland County, about 135 km (54 miles) from Salisbury. His occupation had changed to "lumber merchant" and he employed six workers. The town had a large pulp and paper mill. His spouse Isabella and daughter Isabella (age 25) joined him in his household. At the age of 80, still a lumber merchant in Newcastle, James passed away from heart failure on January 21, 1901. It appears that his 1855-born son David took over the Newcastle business. Isabella passed away April 11, 1911.<sup>213</sup>

### *David Aiton (1824-1901)*

The ninth child of Hugh and Jannet Aiton was David Aiton, born October 24, 1824, in Hampton, Kings County, New Brunswick, not very many months after his parents had crossed the Atlantic. His mother Jannet, it appears, was pregnant with David during that multi-week oceanic trip. David was baptized on August 12, 1827, by Rector James Cookson of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Hampton. David's father Hugh was then identified as a "farmer."<sup>214</sup>

<sup>212</sup> "James Aiton," *Lovell Directory 1871*, PANB; 1871 Canada Census. In the 1871 census, P (?) Sarah (age 20) and A (?) Marian (6) also lived in James's household.

<sup>213</sup> For James and family: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901 Canada Census reports; Johnson's Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, April 3, 1847, October 25, 1856, and February 28, 1863; *Saint John Globe*, September 6, 1865; *The Daily Sun*, June 22, 1880; "James Aiton" (1901 death; Vital Statistics, PANB).

<sup>214</sup> Baptismal records of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton (microfilm reel F8158, PANB). Notes by John Elliott, who thoughtfully shared them with Thomas G. Paterson, July 22, 2018.

On January 11, 1849, David Aiton married 1824-born Caroline Jeffries. They settled in Dutch Valley, Sussex, where they had six children.<sup>215</sup> The 1851 Canada Census recorded David as a 27 year-old New Brunswick-born farmer-proprietor in Upham and the father of a daughter, Frances (Fanny), born in 1849. The 1871 census reported that David and Caroline and their six children had a servant in their household. Their farm sat very close to the farm of his brother William. At the age of 51, Caroline died in Upham on September 8, 1875. She was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery, Sussex, where later two of her children, Frances and Hugh, also would be interred.

On May 23, 1876, the farmer David Aiton remarried to the spinster Isabella Shaw of Covehead, Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.). She was born about 1833 in that province.<sup>216</sup> Records do not indicate any children from David's union with Isabella. In the Canada Census of 1881, David continued to farm in Sussex. David's son Hugh Aiton, born in 1860 (see above), farmed land adjacent to his father's property.

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<sup>215</sup> Children of David Aiton and Caroline Jeffries: (1) *Frances* ("Fanny") (1849-January 16, 1920); buried in Kirkhill Cemetery, Sussex; (2) *Mary Caroline* (about 1852-November 16, 1916); she married William McMaster Bonar, May 3, 1876, in Dutch Valley, Sussex; he died before 1916; she died in Oakland, California; (3) *Janet Annette Thompson* (about 1854-buried July 5, 1880); she married John Jeffries, December 10, 1874, in Sussex; she was buried in Trinity Cemetery, Sussex Corner; (4) *William* (May 15 or 19, 1855-June 2, 1920); a farmer, he married Catherine Adair (born in Ireland about 1853), July 21, 1881; they had two sons; the first was David James (October 10, 1882-March 11, 1948); he had four children (Hazel, Anton, David, and Emilie) with Anna (Annie) Eveline Andretta Hollander (1874-1942), whom he married February 15, 1911; in early 1926 he and family immigrated to St. Paul, Minnesota; he was naturalized April 19, 1938, in Chicago; David James worked for Lincoln Construction Company as a laborer; after Annie's death, he remarried to Julia Teonlinda Sandine (1894-1960); David James died in Chicago, Illinois, and was buried in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines, Illinois; the second child of William and Catherine was Herbert (February 12, 1889-after 1935), born in Salt Springs; Herbie worked on his father's farm; during World War I, Herbie was arrested as a "defaulter" on August 22, 1918, apparently for failing to register for the military draft which was required for all men between the ages of 20 and 45 or because he did not show up in 1917 when he was conscripted; on September 8, 1918, he was released at Camp Sussex "by reason of being medically unfit for service owing to disability received not due to service"—that is, "deficient mentality;" Herbert reported his mother Catherine's death (April 25, 1935) at the age of 80 years and 11 months in Bloomfield; she was buried there; Herbie's father William was buried in Salt Springs Baptist Cemetery; (5) *John Jeffries* (June 26, 1857-June 19, 1913); he was buried in Salt Springs Baptist Cemetery; (6) *Hugh* (May 12, 1860-August 21, 1886); (see text above for his story). Sources: "William Aiton" (Vital Statistics, PANB); "William Aiton" (New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS); Elliott, "Descendants of Hugh Aiton;" "Mary Caroline Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, May 4, 1876); "William Aiton" (Salt Springs Baptist Cemetery, FGr); "John Jeffries Aiton" (Salt Springs Baptist Cemetery, FGr); "Catherine Adair" (Vital Statistics, PANB); "Catherine Adair Aiton" (Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB); "Catherine Adair" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Daily News*, July 27, 1881); "David James Aiton" (Marriage, Vital Statistics, PANB); "David James Aiton" (Manifest, U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration Service, Vermont...Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954, FS); "David James Aiton" (Illinois, Northern District Naturalization Index, 1840-1950, FS); "David J. Aiton," Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1878-1994, FS); "David J. Aiton" (U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," FS); "David J. Aiton" (FGr); "Herbert Aiton" (1911 Canada Census); "Herbie' Aiton (4062486)" (Military Heritage, First World War, Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>).

<sup>216</sup> Isabella had six siblings. James Shaw, "The Descendants of Neil Shaw and Catherine McInriver" ([www.islandregister.com/shaw1.html](http://www.islandregister.com/shaw1.html)).



Hugh's story is tragic. On May 5, 1880, he married Annie Gray, who was born about 1851. They had at least two children: One female child—labeled “no name” in the 1881 census—was seven months-old at that time (thus born in 1880). She has not been located in records.<sup>217</sup> Another daughter was Mary Caroline (born September 6, 1882), when Hugh and Annie lived in Dutch Valley, Sussex.<sup>218</sup> Hugh's 1886 newspaper death announcement reported that he had three children, but the third has not been discovered in available documents.

Hugh became a “well-to-do farmer” in Sussex, but he suffered sickness. In May 1886 he departed Sussex for California, United States, “in search of his health.” He found no relief. His unidentified health problem steadily deteriorated. Hugh returned to Sussex. On August 21, 1886, he died at the age of 26. Hugh was buried in Kirkhill Cemetery, Sussex, beside his mother Caroline's grave.<sup>219</sup> His spouse Annie died March 21, 1915, at the age of 64. She was also interred in Kirkhill.<sup>220</sup>

To return to Hugh's father David, who does not appear in the 1891 or 1901 Canada Census reports. He and Isabella moved to Prince Edward Island before January 22, 1896, when she died there. David remained in Prince Edward Island after her death. On May 24, 1901, he passed away in Summerside at the age of 77. He and Isabella were buried in Wilmot Valley Scotland Cemetery, Wilmot Valley, Prince County, Prince Edward Island, where a substantial monument marks their gravesite.<sup>221</sup>

### *Jannet Aiton (1826-1837)*

The tenth child of the “farmer” Hugh and Jannet Aiton was Jannet (or “Jennett”), born in Hampton on December 10, 1826. The Rector James Cookson of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Hampton baptized her on August 12, 1827.<sup>222</sup> Jannet died in

<sup>217</sup> “Hugh Aiton” (1881 Canada Census).

<sup>218</sup> “Mary Caroline Aiton” (Index to Late Registration of Births [November 12, 1941], Vital Statistics, PANB).

<sup>219</sup> Quotations and story in “Hugh Aiton,” Johnson's Newspaper, *The Times* (Moncton, Westmoreland), August 25, 1886. See also “Hugh Aiton” and other Aitons in Kirkhill Cemetery, FGr.

<sup>220</sup> “Annie Aiton” (FGr).

<sup>221</sup> For David, his wives Caroline and Isabella, and his children: Canada Census reports, 1851, 1871, 1881; “Caroline Aiton,” “Frances Aiton,” and “Hugh Aiton” (Kirkhill Cemetery, Sussex, FGr); “Isabella Shaw” and “David Aiton” (Prince Edward Island Marriage Registers, 1822-1888, FS); “David Aiton” (Island Cemeteries, PEAncestry.com); “Isabella Aiton” and “David Aiton” (Wilmot Valley Scotland Cemetery, FGr); Elliott, “Descendants of Hugh Aiton;” RW, “Aitons;” “David Aiton” (Kings County Record Newspaper: Death Index, 1897-1936, PANB).

<sup>222</sup> Rev. Cookson was a native of England who took charge of the Anglican church in Hampton in 1819. He resigned in 1829 and eventually returned to Portsmouth, England, where he died in 1857. R. Herbert Lee, *An Historical Sketch of the Church of England in New Brunswick* (Saint John, N.B.: “Sun” Publishing, 1880), Chapter XIV ([anglicanhistory.org/canada/lee-nb.html](http://anglicanhistory.org/canada/lee-nb.html)).

Hampton at the age of 10. She was buried on May 24, 1837, perhaps in St. Paul's cemetery, on the same day her brother Donald was interred (see below). Rector William W. Walker oversaw their burial. Their cause of death is not recorded, but with two children in the same household dying at about the same time, we can wonder if they had an accident, such as the capsizing of a boat, or if an infectious disease killed them.<sup>223</sup>

### ***Donald Aiton (about 1831-1837)***

The eleventh and last offspring of Hugh and Jannet was Donald, born about 1831 in Hampton. A burial record for him at St. Paul's Anglican Church indicates that Donald, at the age of six, was buried on May 24, 1837, with Rector William W. Walker conducting the ceremony for both Donald and his sister Jannet.<sup>224</sup> Their cause of death was not recorded (see above). Perhaps Donald was interred next to his sister in St. Paul's cemetery.<sup>225</sup>

### **Family Upheaval: John Aiton (1778-after 1853/before 1861) Relinquishes Score-Tulloch in Ayrshire and Immigrates to New Brunswick, 1853**

Let us now return to Ayrshire, Scotland, to focus on the year 1853 and the upheaval in the family of 1778-born John Aiton, which ended almost two centuries of Aiton farming at Score Tulloch, the place where John and his 1784-born brother Hugh were born. None of John's and Grace's three sons (Andrew, Adam, and John) inherited the Score Tulloch farm because their father sold the property in or before 1853. At the time, Andrew (born 1803) worked his own farm, Dyke, in Darvel (see below). Adam (born 1814) and John (born 1816), both unmarried, and their sister Isabella, resided with their father John at Score Tulloch.<sup>226</sup> The elder John's daughter, 1811-born Mary, had married her cousin Andrew in Scotland and in 1844 had traveled with him to settle in New Brunswick, leaving two daughters at Score Tulloch.

(Today the handsomely restored and expanded farmhouse of Score Tulloch still stands on a hill overlooking a beautiful countryside of narrow roads lined with

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<sup>223</sup> Baptismal and burial records, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton (microfilm reel F8158, PANB). Notes by John Elliott sent to Thomas G. Paterson, July 22, 2018.

<sup>224</sup> Rev. Walker went to Hampton in 1830. He was still there in 1880. Lee, *An Historical Sketch*.

<sup>225</sup> Baptismal and burial records, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton. Notes by John Elliott.

<sup>226</sup> "Adam Aiton" (1851 Scotland Census, Ayrshire, Civil Parish Galston, <https://freecen.org.uk>).

trees, wildflowers, fences, and pastures—a “landscape that remains pretty much unchanged [from the time of James Aiton] apart from a huge windfarm on the other side of the valley.”<sup>227</sup>)

In early-to-mid 1853, several events and family decisions explain why and how John Aiton, four of his children, and two of his granddaughters left Ayrshire for New Brunswick. A detailed, revealing document, titled “The Aitons of Little River,” most likely written by an Aiton who had access to family archives, has provided us with essential facts and creditable speculations.<sup>228</sup>

John’s spouse Grace Haddow died between April 1851 and early June 1853. By April of 1853, John was “operating as a tenant a farm which had once been his own property, Score Tulloch.”<sup>229</sup> At some point, John sold his farm to the large landowner Thomas Brown (Esquire) of the nearby Lanfine estate.<sup>230</sup> When exactly John relinquished his ancestral farm and became a tenant is unclear, but his “Roup Roll”—record of a public auction with a list of his goods and possessions sold, the buyers, and prices paid— occurred in April 1853.<sup>231</sup>

John Aiton may have sold Score Tulloch simply because he was too old (about 75) to continue farming or maintain the farmhouse, with his spouse having died and his three sons making plans to move to New Brunswick. Another *possible* explanation for John’s departure from Ayrshire is that he was a tenant farmer forced off Score Tulloch by Thomas Brown because Brown sought to consolidate his land holdings for efficiency and higher profits. In other words, John (and his sons) may have

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<sup>227</sup> Caroline Houston to TGP, February 7, 2017. This owner of Score Tulloch also provided several photographs.

<sup>228</sup> The typed, three-page report is not signed or dated. Yet, it displays considerable familiarity with Aiton-family history and Aiton individuals. The author also quotes from various original documents. Perhaps the study was written by Grace Aiton (1888-1963) of Sussex, a family member and local historian. Grace was born in August 1888, in Sussex. Her parents were Andrew Aiton (born in October 1844 in Sussex, son of Andrew and Mary Aiton) and Matilda Crockett (born March 18, 1854, in Prince Edward Island). Andrew’s parents were Andrew Aiton (born in 1806 at Pinwherry by Girvan, Ayrshire, to Hugh Aiton and Jannet Thomson) and Mary Aiton (born in 1811 at Score Tulloch, Ayrshire, to John Aiton and Grace Haddow). See above for the stories of these parents and grandparents. After education in Sussex schools, the 1888-born Grace Aiton received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Brunswick in 1912. She became a teacher and a newspaper writer. In retirement, Grace wrote numerous articles for the New Brunswick Historical Society. Her book, *The Story of Sussex and Vicinity* (Hampton: Kings County Historical Museum, 1967) appeared four years after her death (June 11, 1963). A biography of Grace Aiton appears in Robbie Wilson’s posting on her at Rweb. The unpublished “Little River” study, part of Howard Aiton’s family-history collection, was sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Heather Aiton Landry, September 4, 2018.

<sup>229</sup> “Aitons of Little River.”

<sup>230</sup> Brown was the owner as of 1855. He also owned Dyke Farm then (see below). Ordnance Survey Name Books, Ayrshire OS Name Books, 1855-1857 (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>).

<sup>231</sup> “Roup” (*Dictionary of the Scots Language*, [www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk)).

been caught up in the major Scottish rural transformation from the late eighteenth century onward of tenant removal (see above).

Yet another reason for John's leaving Ayrshire *may be* that he had gone bankrupt. Bankruptcy was a feature of the agricultural transformation. Small farmers faced rising rental and living costs. Some simply failed. Population statistics tell us that many farmers who lost or gave up their farms relocated to towns and cities.<sup>232</sup> Some moved abroad. In John's case, monetary returns from the sale of his land and possessions and his son Andrew's giving up of his Dyke Farm about the same time, combined with assistance from the large Aiton family already established in New Brunswick, may have helped pay the expenses of his transatlantic voyage.

Troubles in Scotland factor into any explanation for why some Scots decided to migrate abroad in the 1840s and 1850s: A population increase while opportunities in rural areas became "stagnant;" growing numbers of non-inheriting sons; a potato famine in the Highlands; land evictions; the disruptive movement of Highlanders to the Lowlands; the consolidation of farms (see above); more rigid regulations on land use; the faltering weaving industry; and the costly Crimean War of 1853-1856, in which Scottish troops fought and died as members of the British army. In short, some Scots concluded that industrial and agricultural opportunities had shrunk, persuading them to leave Scotland.<sup>233</sup> Like their predecessors decades earlier, they made conscious choices and self-financed their trips to Canada.

Here we return to 1853: Thomas Brown, the purchaser of Score Tulloch, composed a "certificate of character" for John Aiton, dated June 11. Brown wrote that John Aiton, "an old man," and his family "are as respectable and industrious people as I ever knew." Their neighbors "universally" held them in esteem. "The whole family are well skilled in farming."<sup>234</sup>

The pastor of the Presbyterian church in Galston wrote similarly in a June 15, 1853, letter, which John also intended to use to establish his credentials: "I hereby certify that John Aiton and his Daughter Isabella, and his sons Adam and John and his granddaughters Grace Haddow Aiton and Janet Thompson Aiton, all Communicants, have resided in this Parish from infancy and that they are all persons of irreproachable character."<sup>235</sup> Because there is no mention of John's wife

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<sup>232</sup> Devine, *Transformation*, pp. 112, 115.

<sup>233</sup> Devine, "Global Diaspora," for conditions in Scotland and the effects of improved transportation. Quotation: Devine, *To The Ends*, p. 99.

<sup>234</sup> Aiton, "Aitons of Little River."

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*

Grace in this declaration or in Brown's, we can assume that she had died by early June 1853.

Two people in John's family are missing from the minister's declaration. John's daughter 1811-born Mary was already in Sussex, New Brunswick (see above). And, John's son 1803-born Andrew had emigrated from his Dyke Farm, arriving in New Brunswick in mid-May of 1853 (see below).

We may never discover the exact reasons why in 1853 John Aiton and four of his children left Score Tulloch and Dyke. We can more fully answer the question why they chose in particular to resettle in New Brunswick, Canada. First, John's brother and Andrew's uncle was Hugh Aiton, who immigrated to Canada in 1824 (see above). With Hugh were most of his children—Andrew's cousins, several of whom became successful landowning farmers in New Brunswick (see above). Hugh and his children undoubtedly influenced John's and Andrew's decisions to give up their Ayrshire farms for New Brunswick in 1853.

Letters from emigrants sent to family members and neighbors in the old country, after all, "had always been the most influential medium for spreading information about overseas conditions."<sup>236</sup> Newspapers and returning migrants also informed people about North America. From the late 1820s to the 1850s, moreover, the New Brunswick government published and distributed in Europe brochures, booklets, and advertisements extolling life in the province.<sup>237</sup> In the 1850s, economic prospects in New Brunswick seemed bright: An expanding shipbuilding industry; new railways; prospering timber industry; growing trade with the United States; and plentiful, arable land for mixed farming. Canada became a "magnate" for rural folk.<sup>238</sup>

The year 1853, when the Aitons went to Canada, scored one of the highest percentages (7.5 %) of emigrants per 1,000 Scottish people in Scotland's history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Overall, between 1825 and 1914, two million Scots departed their homeland for non-European destinations, with the United States and Canada the most popular.<sup>239</sup>

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<sup>236</sup> Devine, "Global Diaspora," p. 168. Also, as noted above, in 1833, Hugh's 1807-born son Andrew returned from New Brunswick to Scotland to marry his 1811-born cousin Mary Aiton (daughter of John Aiton and Mary McKutcheon). Andrew surely discussed with his relatives the promise of Canada. Andrew sailed back to New Brunswick with Mary in 1844 (see above).

<sup>237</sup> "Introduction" (Index to Land Petitions: Original Series, 1783-1918, PANB).

<sup>238</sup> Devine, *To the Ends*, p. 101.

<sup>239</sup> Angela McCarthy, "The Scottish Diaspora since 1815," in Devine and Wormald, *Oxford Handbook*, pp. 512, 517-518.

It is possible that the Aitons in 1853 travelled on one of the new, faster (and more comfortable) steamships that were joining sailing vessels in conveying passengers across the Atlantic from Scotland. The steamers took only two weeks to navigate that ocean compared to the six weeks common for sailing ships (see above). In either case, transatlantic travel was challenging, especially for someone of John's age.

A family plan must have been crafted that John's son Andrew (of Dyke) would go to New Brunswick first. He would find work or acquire a farm and establish lodging, however temporary, perhaps in Saint John, or with Hugh Aiton in Hampton, or with Mary and Andrew Aiton in Sussex. Then, the elderly John and his family would follow.

The "old gentleman" John Aiton, about 75 years-old when he arrived in Saint John with his children and grandchildren, "apparently...remained but a short time in New Brunswick." Indeed, "no one seems to remember his ever being here." Nonetheless, "it is authentic family lore," the author of the "The Aitons in Little River" study has written. She/he adds that John "may have found the rigor of winter and the hardships of pioneering unbearable after the comforts of a well-developed region like that from which he had come."<sup>240</sup>

Did John stay but a brief time in New Brunswick and then return to Ayrshire, where he died before the 1861 Scotland Census?<sup>241</sup> We do not know if or when he left New Brunswick.<sup>242</sup> No death or burial documents for John have been found in either Scotland or Canada. But, an 1855 "Valuation Roll" for Darvel Park, Parish of Loudoun, very near Score Tulloch and Dyke, recorded a "labourer" John Aiton as the tenant and occupier of the place.<sup>243</sup>

As for John's (and Grace's) five children in New Brunswick, Andrew remained in Saint John after the 1866 death of his wife Isabella and died there in 1881 (see below). Mary and her husband Andrew continued to farm in Sussex, where he died in 1874 and she died in 1875 (see above).

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<sup>240</sup> "Aitons of Little River."

<sup>241</sup> The 1861 Scotland Census was conducted April 7/8.

<sup>242</sup> At least two genealogical sources mistakenly report that John and his wife moved to Woodstock, Carleton County, New Brunswick. No records confirm such a relocation and it is evident that none of his children settled in Woodstock. "Hugh Aiton" (First Families) and "Andrew Aiton" (<https://www.wikitree.com>, managed by Terry Phillips).

<sup>243</sup> "John Aiton" (Valuation Rolls, 1855, Darvel Park, p. 87, National Records of Scotland, SP). A gravestone has not been located for John or his spouse Grace in the Darvel (Old) Cemetery, Galston Churchyard, or Galston Kirkyard. But, it is possible that they are buried in one of these cemeteries.

The other three children, Isabella, Adam, and John, bought 400 acres of land at Little River, Albert County, near where their cousin James (Hugh's son) farmed (see above). Little River was a farming community some 62 km (38 miles) from Sussex. The settlement had a population of about 44 families (1866 figure).<sup>244</sup> Adam and John built a log house which they later removed in favor of a house constructed from lumber they prepared from their land. Adam and John remained bachelors. The younger children of 1803-born Andrew, after their mother died in 1866 in Saint John, moved to Little River to live with their two unmarried uncles. Janet and Grace, daughters of Mary and Andrew, also lived with their uncles and aunt at Little River until their marriages—1864 and 1867 respectively (see above). “There seem always to have been young people in the house.”<sup>245</sup>

Isabella, Adam, and John led “busy and useful lives, more than ordinarily mindful of the welfare of others.” Isabella, “a large, fleshy woman,” suffered a bronchial infection in her last years. Janet Lair went to her house every day to help with household chores. Isabella died September 22, 1874. Her brother Adam “had been educated for the ministry,” but after a horse threw him off, his health deteriorated so much that he could not pursue his professional goal. He died May 7, 1875, in his sleep from a heart attack. As for John, he was especially called upon by others in times of illness and death. Because of his strong accent, he became known as “Scotch John.” A “jovial” man who loved a good story and a good joke and played the violin, John passed away February 27, 1879.<sup>246</sup>

### **Andrew Aiton (1803-1881) and Family: From Dyke Farm, Ayrshire, to Saint John, New Brunswick, 1853**

In 1853, Andrew Aiton, born July 25, 1803, in Score Tulloch, the son of 1778-born John, the brother of Isabella, Mary, Adam, and John, and the nephew of Hugh Aiton, immigrated to New Brunswick just before his father and siblings, joining the “chain of people following each other” from Scotland to Canada.<sup>247</sup> In mid-May 1853, 50 year-old Andrew landed in New Brunswick with his spouse Isabella (see below) and family. We can estimate the arrival time of their ship as mid-May 1853, because their son Andrew was born April 2, 1853, in Ayrshire, and his 1924

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<sup>244</sup> “Little River (Elgin)” (Place Names of New Brunswick, PANB).

<sup>245</sup> “Aitons of Little River.”

<sup>246</sup> Information and quotations from “Aitons of Little River.” The author of this study remarks that the violin “is now in the possession of Grace Aiton of Sussex, a grand niece.” She may have been the author of that study (see above).

<sup>247</sup> Campey, *Unstoppable*, p. 4.

death certificate (see below) reads that he “was brought to Canada when 6 weeks-old.”<sup>248</sup>

Before exiting Ayrshire for New Brunswick, 1803-born Andrew had resided as early as 1841 with his growing family (see below) at Dyke Farm, in the village of Darvel, Parish of Loudoun and Galston.<sup>249</sup> Dyke Farm sat only 5.8 km (3.6 miles) from Score Tulloch, which his father farmed.<sup>250</sup> Dyke contained 60 acres, a small farm. Either as a land-owning bonnet laird or a tenant, in 1851 he hired a “farm servant” and a “house servant.”<sup>251</sup>

Darvel was a small community near Loudoun Hill, Priestland, Newmilns, and Galston. The large burgh of Kilmarnock, known for the manufacture of fine carpets, lay about 13 km (eight miles) from Darvel. As for Darvel itself, the weaving of muslin (plain-woven cotton fabric) ranked as its primary economic activity. Farms such as Dyke dotted the countryside. The River Irvine flowed nearby. Darvel had two schools.<sup>252</sup> Three of Andrew’s and Isabella’s children attended school in 1851 as “scholars”—Isabella, Grace, and Helen (see below).

Stone walls and grassy fields marked the 60 acres of Dyke Farm, which rested on a hill overlooking Irvine Valley. For the Aitons at Dyke, the village of Darvel was in clear sight. Trees hugged “burns” (streams) near the farm. Two undated photographs of the Dyke farmstead, preserved by members of the Aiton family, picture four or five attached structures in one row. The tallest of them (two stories with windows above and below) was no doubt the main house with family living quarters. A chimney stands atop a small structure attached to this house, perhaps serving as the kitchen. The other structures may have housed servants, farm

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<sup>248</sup> The certificate also notes that when he died January 9, 1924, he was 70 years, nine months, and seven days-old and that he had been in the province for 70 years. See death certificate below.

<sup>249</sup> Although Darvel was listed in the 1846 report, *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland* (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk>), as located in the Parish of Loudoun, in the census reports for 1841 and 1851 it was counted as part of the Parish of Galston. In fact, Darvel was mostly in Loudoun and partly in Galston. Andrew’s eight children born at Dyke Farm were designated as born in Galston. “Andrew Aiton” (1841 Scotland Census, Ayrshire, Civil Parish Galston, <https://freecen.org.uk>). 1851 census cited below.

<sup>250</sup> 1857 Ordnance Survey Sheet NS53 ([maps.nls.uk/view/91578822](https://maps.nls.uk/view/91578822)).

<sup>251</sup> “Andrew Aiton” (1851 Scotland Census, Ayrshire, Civil Parish Galston, <https://freecen.org.uk>). Also, *The Ayrshire Directory, 1851-52* (Ayr: Ayr Advertiser Office, 1851) included Andrew Aiton as a farmer in Dyke, p. 188 (<https://archive.org>).

<sup>252</sup> “Darvel Burgh” (Gazetteer, ScotlandsPlaces); “Darvel” (Ordnance Survey Name Books, Ayrshire OS Name Books, 1855-1857, Ayrshire vol. 43, OS1/3/43/29); “River Irvine” (Ordnance Survey Name Books, Ayrshire OS Name Books, 1855-1857, Ayrshire, vol. 33, OS1/3/33/99). All three at <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>.



animals, or equipment.<sup>253</sup> The address of Dyke Farm today is “Dyke Farm, Lanfine, Darvel, KA17 0NG.”<sup>254</sup> It is located near the large Lanfine estate.

The 1851 census enumerator recorded Andrew as 47 years-old and living at Dyke with his 32 year-old spouse Isabella Aiton. She was born July 11, 1819, in Auchinleck, Ayrshire, about 16 km (about 10 miles) from Galston. They married August 13, 1837, in Galston, and August 30, in nearby Girvan.<sup>255</sup> Isabella and Andrew had eight children at Dyke.<sup>256</sup> The first child, Isabella, was born in 1839.<sup>257</sup> Then followed, in birth order: Grace (1840)<sup>258</sup>; Helen (1842)<sup>259</sup>; John

<sup>253</sup> Photographs sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Heather Aiton Landry, August and September 2018.

<sup>254</sup> “Dyke Farm” (<https://www.google.com>).

<sup>255</sup> Isabella was the daughter of Robert Aiton and Helen Haddow. “Andrew Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Marriages, SP); “Isabella Aiton” (Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910, FS).

<sup>256</sup> For Andrew’s children, see citations below and “Andrew Aiton,” “Adam Aiton,” and “John Aiton” (RW posting, Rweb); 1861 Canada Census.

<sup>257</sup> Isabella (or Isabel) was born in Galston Parish on March 11, 1839, or March 15, 1842. She married Scotland-born David Jamieson (1826-September 5, 1906) on August 17, 1860, in Saint John. In 1867, David worked as a “cartman.” In January 1891, Isabella’s residence at 98 Dorchester Street, Saint John, was the site for the funeral of her sister Grace Aiton (see below), who died December 30, 1890. Isabella died at age 81 on August 4, 1921. She is interred with her husband David in Fernhill Cemetery, Lot 1423, Saint John. David Jamieson and Isabella had five children: (1) *Marion Isabel* (July 22, 1861-April 4, 1951) married William McVey, a piano tuner, May 18, 1898. She was buried in Fernhill; (2) *James* (about 1867-December 17, 1916) became a cabinet maker. He was interred in Fernhill; (3) *Robert Aiton* (March 31, 1870-June 11, 1924) became a bookkeeper (accountant), married, and died at 93 Elliott Row, Saint John; (4) *Margaret* died February 28, 1874, at the age of two months and 17 days, at her parents’ place at Brussels Street, Saint John; (5) *Jessie* was born about 1875 and died at 66 Spring Street, Saint John, September 20, 1896. At her death, she was 21 years-old. *Jessie* was buried in Fernhill, also in Lot 1423. Her father, the “yeoman” and “teamster” David, died September 5, 1906, of a heart attack at 66 Spring Street, Saint John, at age 80. Her mother Isabel passed away August 4, 1921, in Saint John, at age 81. Her death certificate reads that she was born February 24, 1840. Both are buried in Fernhill. Sources: Fernhill Cemetery (Saint John) to Thomas G. Paterson, November 9, 2018, identifying Fernhill’s Lot 1423 as the burial site of the Jamiesons and Aitons mentioned in this footnote; “Isabel Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Church Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP); “David Jamieson” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Head Quarters*, September 5, 1860); Hutchinson Directories, 1867, PANB; Johnson’s Newspaper, *Saint John Globe*, December 31, 1890; FGr; Vital Statistics, PANB); “Robert Aiton” (Vital Statistics and Brennan’s Funeral Home Records, Saint John, PANB); “Margaret Jamieson” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, March 2, 1874); “Jesse Jamieson” (Vital Statistics, PANB); Johnson’s Newspaper, *Kings County Record*, September 25, 1896; “David Jamieson” (Index to Saint John Burial Permits, PANB) “Isabel Jamieson” (Death Certificates, Vital Statistics, PANB).

<sup>258</sup> Grace (July 8 [baptized 15], 1840-December 30, 1890) became a Saint John dressmaker. In 1871, she lived at 29 Exmouth Street. She never married. She died in Boston, Massachusetts, and was buried at Fernhill Cemetery, Lot 1423, Saint John. Grace was the original owner of Lot 1423 where many Aitons and Jamiesons are interred. William Donald Aiton, Isabella Aiton, and Adam Aiton were buried elsewhere but were removed to Lot 1423, July 19, 1872. Lot 1423 is 150 square feet. One white marble stone sits at the center of the lot. Sources: Fernhill Cemetery to Thomas G. Paterson, November 9, 2018; “Grace Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP); Lovell Directory, 1871, PANB; “Grace Aiton” (Saint John Burial Permits, PANB); “Grace Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *Saint John Globe*, December 31, 1890, and *The Daily Sun*, January 2, 1891, reporting that the funeral was at her sister Isabel Jamieson’s Saint John home.

<sup>259</sup> Helen was born March 4 and baptized March 15, 1842. In Saint John, Helen married Samuel H. Parks, October 14, 1863. They had at least one child, Jennie J. Parks (born about 1865). Jennie married Thomas A. Crockett, a druggist, on June 8, 1892. Helen died in Welsford, Queens County, on January 16, 1871, at the age of 29. “Helen Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Church Registers: Births and Baptism, SP); “Helen Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, October 13, 1863); “Jennie J. Parks” (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950,

(1844)<sup>260</sup>; Robert (1847)<sup>261</sup>; Mary (1849)<sup>262</sup>; Adam (1851)<sup>263</sup>; and Andrew (1853) (see text below for extensive coverage of his life). Two other children were born after the family moved to New Brunswick: Mary (1856)<sup>264</sup> and William Donald (1861).<sup>265</sup>

For whatever reason—tenant eviction, bankruptcy, unforced relinquishment, opportunity in New Brunswick, family reunification—Andrew, in 1853, made a momentous decision to leave Dyke Farm, Darvel, Ayrshire, Scotland. Dyke became the property of Thomas Brown, Esquire of Lanfine, the same major landowner who took over Score Tulloch.<sup>266</sup>

After his ocean voyage, Andrew likely went ashore at the port of Saint John. He may have met a government agent assigned to that city to advise immigrants about jobs, routes to travel elsewhere, and other topics that could help ease the transition of a new arrival in Canada.<sup>267</sup> There is no evidence to indicate that Andrew bought land or took up farming. No records identify his occupation then or later. Andrew no doubt greeted his siblings and his father John at the dock when their ship later arrived. Where any of them stayed initially is unknown—with Hugh Aiton in

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FS); “Helen Parks” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, January 18, 1871, and *Daily Morning News*, January 18, 1871).

<sup>260</sup> John (December 16 or 27, 1844-April 19, 1890), when he was 16 years-old, resided in 1861 with his uncle John Aiton in Upham, Kings County. Also in that household were his brother Adam and his sisters Isabela and Grace. John the younger married 1855-born Agnes Maria Belyea of Petersville, Queens County, May 31, 1871, at Exmouth Street, Saint John, where his father Andrew lived. John’s death date and place have not been located in records, although a “John Aiton” died in Eureka, California, April 19, 1890, and was buried in Myrtle Grove Memorial Cemetery there (but with a birth year of 1848, not 1844). “John Aiton,” Church Registers, Old Parish Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP; Rweb; “John Aiton,” 1861 Canada Census, data2collectionscanada.gc.ca; “John Aiton,” Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, June 3, 1871; “John Aiton,” Index to Marriage Bonds, PANB); “John Aiton,” FGr.

<sup>261</sup> Robert (1847-July 15, 1867) died while swimming in a river. See text below.

<sup>262</sup> Mary was born February 26, 1849. Her death date has not been found. “Mary Aiton” (Church Registers, Old Church Registers: Births and Baptisms, SP).

<sup>263</sup> Adam was born January 28, 1851. On April 21, 1872, at age 21, he died in Saint John. His funeral was held at his father’s residence on Exmouth Street. Adam was buried in Fernhill Cemetery, Lot 1423, Saint John. The 1851 Scotland Census, <https://freecen2.freecen.org>; Johnson’s Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, April 22, 1872); Fernhill document).

<sup>264</sup> Mary (about 1856-after 1892) was the ninth child of Andrew and Isabel, born in New Brunswick (see text below for Mary).

<sup>265</sup> The tenth offspring of Andrew and Isabel was William Donald (1861-May 12, 1864). He died at age three in Saint John and was buried in Fernhill Cemetery, Lot 1423. Johnson’s Newspaper, *New Brunswick Courier*, May 14, 1864; Fernhill document.

<sup>266</sup> James Torrence was the occupier of the Dyke farmhouse in 1855. Matthew Cameron of Changue was also associated with the farm. Ordnance Survey Name Books, Ayrshire OS Name Books, 1855-1857, vol. 28, p. 88 (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>).

<sup>267</sup> John Ramsay McCulloch, *A Dictionary, Practical, Theoretical, and Historical of Commerce and Commercial Navigation* (A. Hart, 1851) (Google Book).

Hampton or with Hugh's children elsewhere?<sup>268</sup> Or, in Saint John, New Brunswick's largest city? If there, it was not long before Andrew and family faced distress.<sup>269</sup> An epidemic of Asiatic cholera broke out in July 1854. By the end of Summer, the disease had killed some 1,000 people in Saint John.<sup>270</sup>

The city of Saint John became Andrew's and Isabella's home. About 1856, in Saint John, Andrew and Isabella had another child, Mary, their ninth.<sup>271</sup> A newspaper, dated September 5, 1860, reported that David Jamieson married Isabella Aiton, daughter of Andrew Aiton—"all now of St. John."<sup>272</sup> The 1861 Canada Census recorded Andrew's daughter Mary Aiton, five years-old, as the niece of Andrew's brother, 38 year-old John. She lived on her uncle's Salt Springs, Upham Parish, Kings County farm with her brothers John (age 16), Robert (14), and Andrew (8).<sup>273</sup> Their parents Andrew and Isabella, however, do not appear in the 1861 census—not in Saint John or anywhere else.<sup>274</sup> Isabella's and Andrew's tenth and last child, William Donald, born in 1861, died May 12, 1864, in Saint John.<sup>275</sup>

Newspapers reported that Isabella, age of 47, wife of Andrew Aiton, passed away December 3, 1866, in Saint John. She died from a burst blood vessel. One story noted her place of death: The corner of Pitt and Elliott Row, Saint John.<sup>276</sup>

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<sup>268</sup> Howard G. Aiton, grandson of David Albert Aiton (1881-1959), remembered that his grandfather had told him that 1803-born Andrew and Isabella initially went to Harvey, York County (see below), before settling in Saint John. Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, October 26, 2018.

<sup>269</sup> One source declares that young Andrew "came to Canada in 1853 from Scotland, and settled in Saint John, N.B." "Descendants of Marshall Robison I (1787-11 Apr 1862) and Jane Dickson (1788-8 Oct 1871)" ([history.earthsci.carleton.ca/harvey/genealogy/family/pafs/robinson/pdf](http://history.earthsci.carleton.ca/harvey/genealogy/family/pafs/robinson/pdf)).

<sup>270</sup> "This Week in New Brunswick History," July 5, 1854 (Tourism, Heritage, and Culture, [www1.gnb.ca](http://www1.gnb.ca)).

<sup>271</sup> A "Mary Aiton," possibly Andrew's daughter, had four children. This "Mary Aiton," recorded as 34 years-old in early 1891 and married to George King Cochrane (or Cochran), gave birth to Frank Inches Cochrane on February 19, 1891, probably in Saint John. She had at least three other children: George Cochrane, born April 24, 1887, in Saint John, and Grace Margaret Cochran, born March 3, 1892, in Saint John. The three children are listed in Vital Statistics, PANB, with Frank and George as "Late Registrations." Edith Cochrane, noted as the sister of George, signed his late birth registration, November 4, 1949 ("Mary Aiton," Vital Statistics, PANB). A "George Cochrane," perhaps Mary's husband, died in May 1912 in Saint John (Index to Saint John Burial Permits, 1889-1919, PANB).

<sup>272</sup> "David Jamieson" (Johnson's Newspaper, *The Head Quarters*, September 5, 1860). In January 1891, Isabella Aiton Jamieson's residence at 98 Dorchester Street, Saint John, was the site for the funeral of her sister Grace Aiton, who died December 30, 1890, in Boston (Johnson's Newspaper, *Saint John Globe*, December 31, 1890, and *The Daily Sun*, January 2, 1891).

<sup>273</sup> Also in John Aiton's household were John's sister Isabella, his brother Adam, and his niece Grace (the record notes her as a sister, age 23). No wife is listed for John. "Andrew Aiton" (1861 Canada Census, [data2.collectionscanada](http://data2.collectionscanada)).

<sup>274</sup> Also, as noted below, Andrew Aiton was not recorded in the census report of 1871. Was he away from home, perhaps traveling for his work?

<sup>275</sup> See William Donald in footnote above.

<sup>276</sup> "Isabella Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Morning News*, December 4, 1866, and *Christian Visitor*, December 6, 1866). Isabella's death data does not appear on Find-a-Grave or New Brunswick Provincial Deaths (FS). "Aitons of Little River" states the cause of her death. On July 19, 1872, her remains were removed to Lot 1423, Fernhill Cemetery, Saint John (see below).

On July 15, 1867, an accident took the life of Isabella's and Andrew's son Robert, age of 21. Robert, who lived with his Little River relatives, traveled by horseback to Sussex to visit his cousin David, who was very ill. Robert went swimming in the Kennebecasis River and drowned after trying to save another swimmer. Robert's father was identified as Andrew of Saint John. Andrew went to Little River to "report the tragic news." The family suffered a "great sorrow."<sup>277</sup>

Andrew was not recorded in the 1871 census, but in April 1872, he resided on Exmouth Street in the city of Saint John, a district of two-three story tenement buildings. No occupation was mentioned for Andrew.<sup>278</sup> In June 1877, he witnessed the massive fire in Saint John which "raged with overwhelming violence." Blinding smoke and a wall of flames engulfed the city, destroying 1,000 houses and ravaging 200 acres. The "leaping demon" killed people and horses in its path. Destroyed was Saint David's Presbyterian Church, a church not far from where Andrew and Isabella lived over time.<sup>279</sup> Andrew survived. In the April 1881 census for Saint John, the widowed, 78 year-old Andrew, with no occupation, was recorded in the Kings Ward electoral sub district of the city.<sup>280</sup>

The 1803-born Andrew Aiton, son of John Aiton and Grizzel (Grace) Haddow, who had emigrated from Ayrshire, Scotland, in mid-1853, died at the age of 78, November 16, 1881. He then resided at 88 Dorchester Street, Saint John, Saint John County, where his funeral was held.<sup>281</sup> Andrew was buried next to his wife Isabella in Lot 1423, Fernhill Cemetery, Saint John, where one white marble stone rests at the center of the 150 square-foot lot.<sup>282</sup>

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<sup>277</sup> "Aitons of Little River." The *Morning Telegraph* reported the river where Robert drowned as Salmon River. "Robert Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Morning Telegraph*, July 16, 1867).

<sup>278</sup> Andrew's Saint John Exmouth address in 1872 appeared in a funeral notice for his son Adam, who died at the age of 21 on April 21 ("Adam Aiton," Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, April 22, 1872). A "Miss Grace Aiton" was living at 29 Exmouth in 1871 ("Grace Aiton," *Lovell Directory 1871*, PANB). Also, a John Aiton, living on Exmouth Street, married Maria Belyea on May 31, 1871 ("John Aiton," Johnson's Newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, June 3, 1871).

<sup>279</sup> Stewart, *Story of the Great Fire*, Ch. I; Saint David's Presbyterian Church (built in 1849) sat at 83 Sydney Street in Saint John (<https://www.calvarytemplesj.com>).

<sup>280</sup> "Andrew Aiton" (1881 Canada Census).

<sup>281</sup> "Andrew Aiton" (Johnson's Newspaper, *Daily News*, November 17, 1881). Andrew appeared in the 1881 Canada Census (conducted in April) as a 78 year-old widower in Saint John. "Not given" was written in the category for occupation. The transcribed website record reads 48 for his age, but the number on the original document reads 78 ("Andrew Aiton," 1881 Canada Census, [data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca](https://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca)).

<sup>282</sup> Fernhill Cemetery to Thomas G. Paterson, November 9, 2018.

## **Andrew Aiton (1853-1924), Isabel Coburn (1858-1935), and Family in York and Carleton Counties**

We now chronicle the life of Andrew Aiton, the eighth child of Andrew and Isabella, born April 2, 1853, at the Dyke Farm in Scotland. Although Andrew may have spent his childhood in Saint John, he probably lived at times on the farms of relatives. Andrew married Isabel (or Isabella or Belle) Coburn (or Cockburn) before 1878, which is the year of their first born. Isabel herself was born November 8, 1858, in Harvey Station, York County, New Brunswick.<sup>283</sup> They had ten children.<sup>284</sup> In the next section we will explore the lives of their children in birth order.

Andrew became a railway maintenance worker. For the years 1878-1886, Andrew, Isabel, and family lived in Manners-Sutton and its village of Harvey Station, York County.<sup>285</sup> The railroad—New Brunswick Railway, which became part of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR)—passed through Harvey Station. A photograph of Andrew, Isabel, and three of their children (David, Bessie Jane, and Frank) reveals a well-dressed and well-groomed family. And, as was typical of most pictures of the era, the Aitons strike a serious pose before the camera.<sup>286</sup>

By 1890, the family had moved to Upper Brighton in the Parish of Brighton, Carleton County, a small village some 100 km (62 miles) north of Manners Sutton. The Aitons next resided in Hartland, a town of about 400 people adjacent to Upper Brighton. Hartland became a commercial center based on a thriving agricultural economy. The Canadian Pacific Railway operated a station there. Andrew worked for that major railroad.<sup>287</sup>

The 1891 Canada Census recorded Andrew (age 37, “railway section foreman”), his wife Isabel (33), and their children David (11), Bessie (9), Frank (7), Robert

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<sup>283</sup> She is “Coburn” on her gravestone. A marriage record has not been located for Andrew and Isabel. “Isabelle Cockburn” (RW posting, Rweb); “Isabelle ‘Belle’ Coburn” (“Descendants of Marshall Robison I”); “Isabel Coburn Aiton” (FGr).

<sup>284</sup> Many of the basics about Andrew’s and Isabel’s children are presented online by name in Vital Statistics, PANB. Other sources: Greenwood Cemetery, Hartland, Carleton County, FGr; Canada Census data (Library and Archives Canada); and Robbie Wilson’s data posted on Rootsweb. Other sources are noted below for each child.

<sup>285</sup> Dates and locations here and below based on the births of their children and census data.

<sup>286</sup> Probably a late 1890s photograph. From the Aiton family collection of Howard Aiton and sent to Thomas G. Paterson by Heather Aiton Landry.

<sup>287</sup> “Upper Brighton” and “Hartland” (Place Names, PANB). 1871 figure for population.

(5), and Herbert (10 months) as residents of Brighton.<sup>288</sup> In 1901, the Aiton family lived in Brighton when Andrew worked as a “master on RR.”<sup>289</sup>

In the 1911 census, Andrew (“roadmaster” for the CPR, age 58) and Isabel (53) resided in Hartland with their children Herbert (21, a CPR “telegrapher”), Helen (18), Tressa (16), and George (14).<sup>290</sup> Ten years later, having been promoted to “railroad manager,” Andrew still lived in Hartland with Isabel (“Fanny” in this record). He was then identified as a Methodist.<sup>291</sup>

The 1853-born Andrew Aiton, who had crossed the Atlantic as an infant to settle in New Brunswick, died in Hartland, Carleton County, on January 9, 1924. He was 70 years, nine months, and seven days-old.<sup>292</sup> Isabel Aiton passed away in Hartland on October 30, 1935. They share a gravesite in that town’s Greenwood Cemetery, where many of their family members also rest.<sup>293</sup>

## **The Children of Andrew Aiton and Isabel Coburn Aiton**

### ***Grace W. Aiton (1878-1891)***

Grace W. Aiton was the first child of Andrew and Isabel. She was born in 1878 and died in March 1891. She was a blind child. A formal photograph of her, probably taken when she was about six years-old, reveals a pensive girl, head slightly tilted forward with eyes lowered. She is wearing a dress with a white lace collar, and she is seated on a padded chair. It is a beautiful, poignant portrait.<sup>294</sup> When exactly Grace was “deprived of sight,” or became “differently abled,” to use a modern term, is not recorded in available documents.

During the school year of December 1, 1889-December 1, 1890, when Grace was about 12 years-old, she attended the tuition-free Halifax School for the Blind in Nova Scotia, founded in 1871 as the first residential school for blind students in Canada. In the late 1880s New Brunswick and other Maritime Provinces began to

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<sup>288</sup> “Andrew Eaton” (*note spelling*) (1891 Canada Census, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>).

<sup>289</sup> “Andrew Aston” (*note spelling*) (1901 Canada Census, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>).

<sup>290</sup> “Andrew Aiton” (1911 Canada Census, FS; incomplete information); “Andrew Arton” (*note spelling*) (1911 Canada Census, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>).

<sup>291</sup> “Andrew Aiton” (1921 Canada Census, [central.bac-lac.gc.ca](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)).

<sup>292</sup> “Andrew Aiton” (1924 Certificate of Registration of Death, Department of Health-New Brunswick, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Andrew Aiton” (New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938, FS). Andrew’s birthplace is mistakenly written as “Darwen” in Scotland. The place is “Darvel,” near Dyke Farm.

<sup>293</sup> “Isabella Coburn” (FGr); “Isabella Coburn” ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>294</sup> Photograph from Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, August 2018.

provide modest grants to this institution. Grace enrolled for a second school year (1890-1891), receiving instruction in literature, music, and mathematics. For “girls,” who made up about one-third of the pupils, needlework was offered in the curriculum.

In early March 1891, Grace died at the school. Superintendent C.F. Fraser explained in his 1890-1891 report that an epidemic of “La Grippe” (“the flu”) had overtaken the institution, “case after case.” He described “one sweet little girl, named Grace Aiton,” who “succumbed to the effects of the disease.” After a funeral service at the school for Grace, her “sorrowing” parents boarded a CPR train with her remains and returned home. They buried Grace in Hartland’s Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>295</sup>

### *David Albert Aiton (1881-1959)*

The second child of Andrew and Isabel was David Albert Aiton. He was born January 11, 1881, in Manners-Sutton. A Presbyterian, he married Annie Melissa Hayden (1888-1958), a Baptist, on June 29, 1906, in Hartland. He then worked as an accountant. They had three children: Helen Mildred (March 28, 1911-1989)<sup>296</sup>; Andrew Samuel (July 10 or October 7, 1914-June 24, 1994)<sup>297</sup>; and Evelyn Doreen

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<sup>295</sup> For the Halifax School for the Blind, Fraser’s statements, and Grace’s death and burial: “Superintendent’s Report to the President and Board of Directors of the Halifax School of the Blind” for 1890-1891 (Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority to Thomas G. Paterson, July 16, 2018); “Grace W. Aiton” (Johnson’s Newspaper, *Saint John Globe*, March 18, 1891); “Our History, School of the Blind” (<https://apsea.ca>); “Grace W. Aiton” (FGr).

<sup>296</sup> Helen married Theodore Robert Johnston on December 13, 1935. She was then a dietician and he was a paper maker. “Helen Mildred Aiton” (Births, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Helen Mildred Aiton” (Marriages, Vital Statistics, PANB).

<sup>297</sup> Andrew Samuel Aiton married Marie Hatheway (1918-1978), December 5, 1934. Andrew served in World War II as a Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Andrew and Marie had three children: (1) The first was *Howard Glendon*, born in 1935, in Plaster Rock, Parish of Gordon, Victoria County. He served in the Air Force and Army in Canada and France. On July 5, 1958, at Saint Andrew’s United Church of Canada in Plaster Rock, 23 year-old Howard married 21 year-old (born 1937?) Phyllis Jeanne Cochran, a Baptist born in Lewis Mountain, Westmoreland County. He was a “route salesman” and she was a teacher. They had four offspring: Janice (born 1959); Joyce (1960); Jeffrey (1962); and Jocelyn (1965). Today Howard lives in Plaster Rock and is active in his community; (2) The second child of Andrew and Marie was *Weldon Andrew*, born about 1941. On September 21, 1963, in Gordon, Victoria, he married Marie Emma Michaud (born about 1946), a Roman Catholic. Andrew, a member of the United Church of Canada, worked as a “garage operator”; (3) The third child of Andrew and Marie was *Sandra Marie*, born March 13, 1943, in Moncton, Westmoreland. She married Frederick Russell Bradford (1934-2002), June 25, 1966, in Gordon. They had three children: Karen, Kevin, and Kyle. She was a member of St. Andrew’s United Church. Sandra died June 29, 2015, and is buried in Plaster Rock Community Cemetery next to her spouse. Andrew Samuel and Marie are buried in Three Brooks Cemetery, Three Brooks, Victoria. “Andrew Samuel Aiton” (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS); “Sergeant Andrew Aiton” (*Legion: Canada’s Military History Magazine*, November/December 1994); “Andrew Samuel Aiton” (FGr with a birth date of July 10, 1914); “Marie Hatheway Aiton” (FGr); “Sandra Bradford” (FGr); “Weldon Andrew Aiton” (Marriages, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Sandra Aiton” (Marriages, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Sandra Aiton” (<https://genealogiequebec.com/necro/obituary/1662795->

(March 23, 1922-May 31, 2006).<sup>298</sup> The first two were born in Riley Brook, Victoria County, New Brunswick, and the last was born in Plaster Rock, Victoria, where David Albert was a “store-keeper” or merchant. Annie died in 1958. The next year, David Albert died in Lorne, Victoria. They are buried in Riley Brook Cemetery.<sup>299</sup>

### ***Bessie Jane Aiton (1881-1951)***

Bessie Jane Aiton was the third child of Andrew Aiton and Isabel Coburn. Bessie Jane was born August 18, 1881, in Harvey Station, York County. She married, in Hartland, 1880-born Alfred Cookman Carr, June 8, 1908, a merchant and Methodist. She was a Free Baptist. They had a son, Howard Aiton, March 21, 1908, in Hartland. Bessie Jane moved to British Columbia, where she remained close with her brother Robert Leslie (see below). She died December 13, 1962, in Vancouver, and was interred in that city’s Mountain View Cemetery.<sup>300</sup>

### ***Frank Andrew Aiton (1883-1960)***

Frank Andrew Aiton became the fourth child of Andrew and Isabel on June 12, 1883, in Upper Brighton, Carleton County. In Hartland, on September 1, 1909, he married Janet Myrtle MacMullin (1885-1969), whose grandfather was a Baptist minister. Frank became a druggist. He died March 22, 1960. After his funeral service at the Hartland United Baptist Church, Frank was interred at Greenwood

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AITON-Sandra); “Howard Glendon Aiton” (Index to New Brunswick Marriages, PANB); “Howard Aiton” (Military Service Recognition Booklet: The Royal Canadian Legion, New Brunswick Command, 2009, p. 5, nb.legion.ca); “Howard Glendon Aiton” (Howard Aiton Family Chart).

<sup>298</sup> Evelyn married William Simmons, September 15, 1945, in Kingsclear, York County. He was born in the Province of Alberta. At the time of their marriage, William was serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force and she was serving in the W.R.C.[or G.]N.S. Evelyn remarried to Harold Witherly (who died in 2006). Evelyn died May 31, 2006, in Plaster Rock. “Evelyn Doreen Aiton” (Births, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Evelyn Doreen Aiton” (Marriages, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Evelyn Doreen (Aiton) Witherly” (<http://lists.rootsweb>); “Harold Norman Witherly” ([www.inmemorian.ca](http://www.inmemorian.ca)).

<sup>299</sup> “David A. Aiton” (Vital Statistics: Marriages, PANB); “David Albert Aiton” (DeWitts of New Brunswick Family Tree, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)); “David Albert Aiton” (Simmons Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “David Albert Aiton” (Moore Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “David A. Aiton” (FGr); “Helen Mildred Aiton” (Births, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Andrew Samuel Aiton” (Index to Late Registration of Birth, PANB; his birth date is October 7, 1914, in this record); “Annie M. Aiton” (FGr).

<sup>300</sup> Bessie Jane’s birth date affirmed in a Late Birth Registration by her brother David Albert Aiton on December 28, 1951, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Bessie Jane Aiton” (Canada Births and Baptisms, 1661-1950, FS); “Bessie Jane Carr” (British Columbia Death Registrations, 1872-1986; 1992-1993, FS); “Bessie Carr” (FGr); “Bessie Jane Aiton” (DeLong posting, Rweb).



Cemetery. His spouse Janet MacMillin died in 1969. She, too, was buried in Greenwood.<sup>301</sup>

Frank Andrew and Janet had three children: Howard Paul; Harold Frank; and Donald Steven. The first, Howard Paul (April 14, 1913-July 15, 2005), was born in Brighton. He attended Acadia University (Nova Scotia), class of 1936. Howard married Hyla Marion Bowlby (September 28, 1919-April 7, 2009). During the Second World War, Howard served in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a tail gunner and flew missions over enemy territory. In 1949, he and Hyla purchased a tourist business in Auburn, Nova Scotia. They adopted a child: Donald Paul Aiton, born June 1, 1954. In the 1950s they moved to Florida, and in Howard's later years they spent summers in Hartland. Howard died in 2005 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. He and Hyla, who died in 2009, are interred in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>302</sup>

The second offspring of Frank Andrew Aiton and Janet MacMullin was Harold Frank (October 10, 1914-April 7, 2006), born in Hartland. Harold received a Bachelor of Science degree from Acadia University in 1937. On August 29, 1942, he wed Irma Louise Clark (March 14, 1916-September 26, 2007). Irma graduated from the Saint John School of Nursing. During World War II, Lieutenant Harold Aiton served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps with Service Number L171961. In 1944, attached to the British 14<sup>th</sup> Army, a multinational force, he participated in "The Burma Campaign" against Japanese forces. His corps supplied medical services—ambulance, surgical, and hospital. After the war, Harold became a druggist like his father. For many years, he owned and operated Aiton Drug Company Limited in Hartland, a pharmacy and wholesale distributor still active today at 20 Aiton Cres, Hartland.

Harold and Irma had two children. The first was John Charles (born April 25, 1947). He became a teacher and married, on August 4, 1973, Linda Diane Brannen from Barrington Passage, Nova Scotia. She was born August 5, 1951, and became a teacher. They had two children. The first was Heather Dawn (born October 8, 1974), who married Bryan Gordon Landry, July 31, 2004. They had a daughter,

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<sup>301</sup> "Frank Andrew Aiton" (FGr); "Frank A. Aiton" (Howard Aiton Family Chart); "Frank Andrew Aiton" (Births and Late Registrations, New Brunswick, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com); birth reported by a friend, June 6, 1944); "Frank A. Aiton" (New Brunswick, Canada, Marriages, 1789-1950, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); "Harold Frank Aiton" (DeLong posting, Rweb); "Howard Frank Aiton" (Late Registration, September 10, 1942, Vital Statistics, PANB); Joanna Aiton Kerr to Thomas G. Paterson, August 15, 2018; Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, August 16, 18, 2018, with photographs of Greenwood headstones; "Janet Myrtle MacMillin" (FGr).

<sup>302</sup> "Howard Paul Aiton" (obituary, FGr); "Howard Aiton" (Vital Statistics, PANB); "Howard P. Aiton" (*Legion: Canada's Military History Magazine*, March/April 2006); "Howard Aiton" (*Acadia Bulletin*, 88 [Fall 2005], 44); "Howard Aiton" (*ibid.*, 18 [June 1932], 3).

Rose Elisabeth (born September 16, 2005). Heather is now an archivist at Trent Valley Archives in Peterborough, Ontario. John's and Linda's second child was Joanna Elizabeth (born September 7, 1976). She married John Mark Andow, June 28, 1998, and they had two children: Shirley Elizabeth (born July 7, 2002) and Margaret Louise (born October 31, 2004). Joanna remarried to James Conrad Kerr on September 17, 2010. She is now an archivist at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Fredericton.<sup>303</sup>

The second child of Harold and Irma was Sandra (born May 21, 1950). She married Herve Robert Depow on December 28, 1971. They had three children: Justin Charles (April 30, 1973); Jeremy Ryan (February 12, 1976); and Sarah Elizabeth (June 5, 1979). Today Sandra works at Sabian Cymbals of Meductic, New Brunswick, a company that designs and makes cymbals.<sup>304</sup>

Harold Frank Aiton died in Woodstock, April 7, 2006, at the age of 91. After a service at the Hartland United Baptist Church, he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. His wife Irma Louise Clark Aiton died September 26, 2007, at 90 years-old. Her funeral was also conducted at the Hartland United Baptist Church. Irma was interred in Greenwood, where she and Harold share a gravestone.<sup>305</sup>

To return to Frank Andrew and Janet: Their third child was Donald Steven (or Stephen), born April 20, 1922.<sup>306</sup> Donald married Margaret Isabella Hayward (1920-1986), October 20, 1940, in Sunny Brae, Westmoreland, New Brunswick. During World War II, with Service Number R60514, Donald held the rank of Aircraftman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Margaret and Donald had three children: Donald Hayward (born September 13, 1941); Karen Lynn (June 1945); and Janet (Jane) (May 2, 1949-January 22, 2002).<sup>307</sup>

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<sup>303</sup> Joanna Aiton Kerr to Thomas G. Paterson, September 6, 2018.

<sup>304</sup> For Sandra and family: Notes of Irma Louise Clark Aiton (from Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, September 2018).

<sup>305</sup> "Harold Frank Aiton" (obituary, FGr); "Irma Louise Clark Aiton" (obituary, FGr); "Harold Frank Aiton" (*Acadia Bulletin*, 23 [July 1937], 9); "Lieutenant Harold Aiton" (*Legion: Canada's History Magazine*, November/December 2006).

<sup>306</sup> "Donald Stephen Aiton" (Vital Statistics: Births, PANB); "Donald Steven Aiton" (Vital Statistics: Marriages, PANB); "Donald Steven Aiton" (New Brunswick, Canada, Marriages, 1789-1950, www.ancestrylibrary.com); "Donald Steven Aiton" (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS); "Aircraftman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Donald Steven Aiton" (*Legion: Canada's Military History Magazine*, April 1988).

<sup>307</sup> Janet (Jane) graduated Gordon College in Massachusetts. She worked in the tourism division of the Canadian Consulate General in Boston. Jane married R.F. (Bob) Taylor. In 1995 they moved to Fort St. John, British Columbia. She and Bob founded a company (Paladin Inspections Services), which serviced the B.C. energy sector. Jane died in Fort St. John, but is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. "Janet [Jane] Aiton Taylor" (obituary, FGr).

***Robert Leslie Aiton (1884-1945)***

Robert Leslie Aiton was the fifth child of Andrew and Isabela, born December 8, 1884, in Brighton. His name and dates (“Robert L. 1884-1945”) are etched on a side of his father Andrew’s gravestone in Greenwood Cemetery, Hartland, New Brunswick. The words “Buried Vancouver BC Veteran of World War I” also appear on the monument. Robert is interred in Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, British Columbia.

During the First World War, Robert, with Regimental Number 687880, served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, first in the 172<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and then in the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion. When he joined the military on March 7, 1916, he was working in British Columbia as a “log scaler” who measured cut trees to determine their volume and quality, being alert to defects. Thirty-one year-old Robert was unmarried, a Methodist, and mustachioed (as a photograph of him at the Find A Grave website reveals). He stood five feet and seven and three-quarters inches. Medical examiners reported that a healthy Robert had a scar over his left eyebrow and was flat-footed.

He became an infantryman. Robert crossed the Atlantic from Canada on the converted ocean liner *Mauretania*, disembarking in England in November 1916. On February 2, 1917, Robert entered Le Havre, beginning his long and difficult tour of duty on the Western Front in northern France, which earned him a military medal for “Bravery in Action” and promotion to Sergeant. His November 16, 1917, citation read:

As company scout he did invaluable work, in guiding the men into position and keeping direction during the advance. After reaching the objective he acted as a N.C.O., and showed splendid initiative and leadership. As well as acting as an N.C.O., in the line during the day, he patrolled the company frontage every night.

On January 11, 1918, a German mustard-gas attack caused conjunctivitis (inflammation) in Robert’s eyes and a sore throat, but he made a good recovery from the effects of the chemical. Robert played a role in the final defeat of Germany in the “Hundred Days Offensive,” which began August 8, 1918, and ended November 11. The toll on Robert and on his 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion was tremendous. Canadian forces counted 45,835 casualties during that offensive. On November 1-2, at the Battle of Valenciennes in the town of that name, British and Canadian forces, including Robert, pushed back German

fighters. The next day, as the warfare continued, Robert suffered another German attack of mustard gas. He was “gassed” by a shell that burned his eye tissue.

Because of Robert’s gas poisoning, medics evacuated him to Étapes, a port in northern France. His conjunctivitis became “severe,” with substantial watering of his eyes. He was hospitalized. Medical personnel determined that he should not return to the battlefield and that he should avoid “bright light.” The First World War ended November 11, 1918, about a week after Robert’s wounding. With demobilization, Robert was discharged from the military on April 4, 1919. He returned to North America on the ship *Aquitania*.

We know little about his postwar life, except that he married Margarette (Gertrude?) Hill in Everett, State of Washington, December 1929. She brought two children to the marriage, but she and Robert did not have children.<sup>308</sup> On April 14, 1945, 60 year-old Robert was buried in British Columbia (see above).<sup>309</sup>

### ***Herbert John Aiton (1890-1951)***

Herbert John Aiton, born June 21, 1890, in Upper Brighton, became the sixth child of Andrew Aiton and Isabel Coburn, born in Upper Brighton. He married Vella (or Vela) Pearl Hatfield (1893-1988), who immigrated to Canada from the United States in 1914. She was born in Limestone, Aroostook County, Maine. They had three children listed in the 1921 Canada Census: Dazie Isabelle (born November 1,

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<sup>308</sup> “Application for License to Wed,” December 16, 1929 (From Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, September 5, 2018); Family Chart by Howard Aiton.

<sup>309</sup> “Robert Leslie Aiton” (Vital Statistics, PANB); “Robert Leslie Aiton” (Index to County Birth Registers, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Sgt Robert Leslie Aiton” (FGr); “BC Archives: Genealogy” (search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca); “Robert Leslie Aiton, First World War, Military Heritage” (Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>); “Canada’s Hundred Days” (<https://www.resolvvy.com>); “Western Front 1918, Advance to Victory, Valenciennes, 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Brigade (<http://www.cwgc.org>); “47<sup>th</sup> Battalion (British Columbia), CEF” (<https://www.resolvvy.com>); “Army Nurses Care for Mustard Gas Patients during WWI” (<http://e-anca.org>); “Sergeant Robert Leslie Aiton Military Medal” (Canadian Great War Project, <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com>); “Robert Leslie Aiton” (British Columbia Death Registrations, 1872-1986; 1992-1993, FS).

1915)<sup>310</sup>; Edythe Aileen (May 3, 1917)<sup>311</sup>; and Grace Werdlew (1919).<sup>312</sup> Herbert worked as an “operator.” He died December 1, 1951, at the age of 61. He, Vella, and Dazie are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>313</sup>

### *Helen Grace Aiton (1892-1986)*

The seventh child of Andrew and Isabel was Helen Grace Aiton, born June 18, 1892, in Upper Brighton. A few months after her birth, she became “a dreadful sufferer from eczema,” her father Andrew explained in a newspaper advertisement for Dr. Chase’s Ointment. When she was three-and-a-half years-old, “her body was completely covered.” The local druggist William E. Thistle recommended Dr. Chase’s Ointment. Four boxes “effected a complete cure and saved our child.”<sup>314</sup>

Helen Grace married Bruce Maitland Berry (1891-1947), December 27, 1916, in Hartland. He was a Moncton-born businessman (insurance) and school principal and she worked as a legal secretary. They had four children: Howard Aiton (December 23, 1917-1994); Robert (Bobbie) Aiton (April 10, 1921-September 4, 1923); Bruce Maitland (1925- ); and Margaret (“Margie”) (1930- ).<sup>315</sup> Helen Grace died in April 1986 in Edmundston, New Brunswick. Bruce predeceased her in 1946 in Hartland. Both were buried in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>316</sup>

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<sup>310</sup> Born in Hartland, Dazie received a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Brunswick, Class of 1936. She chose a career in education, teaching math and chemistry. She taught at Hartland High School. In 1958 she joined the faculty of Montreal West High School, Quebec, from which she retired in 1975. She married Peter Rouleau and they had three daughters: Roberta, Rebecca, and Karen. Dazie died February 4, 2009, in Dorval, Quebec. She was interred at Greenwood Cemetery. Dazie’s Find A Grave record incorrectly reports her death as December 1999. “Dazie Rouleau” (obituary, <http://www.brittonfh.ca/obituaries/47170>); *UNB Alumni News* 18 (Fall 2009), 29; “Dazie Isabelle Aiton” (obituary, <https://www.genealogiequebec.com>).

<sup>311</sup> Born in Hartland, Edythe went by Peggy. On May 3, 1941, in Sheffield Parish, County of Sunbury, New Brunswick, she, then a stenographer, married Nevelle (“Bud”) Hayward Belyea, a soldier born in Coldstream, Carleton County, December 8, 1917. He died in 1999 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. “Edythe Aileen Aiton” (DeLong posting, Rweb); “Edythe Aileen Aiton” (Vital Statistics: Births and Marriages, PANB); “Neville Hayward ‘Bud’ Belyea” (FGr).

<sup>312</sup> On December 11, 1946, Grace married Donald Wickett, a radio news editor. She was a nurse. “Grace Werdlew Aiton” (Vital Statistics: Marriages, PANB).

<sup>313</sup> “Herbert John Aiton” (Late Registration by his brother Frank Andrew, July 26, 1940, Vital Statistics, PANB); “Herbert Aiton” (1921 Canada Census, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>); “Herbert John Aiton” (FGr).

<sup>314</sup> Newspaper advertisement for Dr. Chase’s Ointment, “It Strikes Home!,” *Manitoba Morning Free Press* (Winnipeg) (about 1896), from Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, August 16, 2018.

<sup>315</sup> Margaret married Hector MacLean. She founded the Dental Hygiene program at the University of Alberta. Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, September 2018.

<sup>316</sup> “Grace Helen” (<https://www.myheritage.com>); Late Registration by her brother Frank A. Aiton, October 1, 1957 (Vital Statistics, PANB); “Bruce M. Berry” (Vital Statistics, PANB); “Helen Grace (Aiton) Berry” (WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com>, managed by Arthur Owen); “Grace Helen Aiton” (Fillmore Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “Bruce Maitland Berry,” “Robert Aiton Berry,” and “Howard Aiton Berry” (Rweb); Howard Aiton’s Family Chart for Bruce Berry (Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, September 4, 2018).

### *George Webster Aiton (1896-1957)*

George Webster Aiton, born June 25, 1896, in Hartland, was the eighth child of Andrew and Isabel. In May 1917, he lived in Kingston, Ontario, worked as a bank clerk, and worshipped as a Baptist. On May 18, 1917, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in its “Forestry Reinforcing Draft” (Canadian Forestry Corps). Forestry Battalions logged British and French forests for timber in order to reduce imports and save transatlantic ship space for other transport such as food, ammunition, and troops. Each camp had a mill to saw large logs dragged to the site by teams of horses. The corps in France cleared more than 100 airfield sites and produced 814,000,000 board feet of sawn wood during the war. Although they were called noncombatants, these men received some weapons training.

George was posted to France, August 8, 1917, and soon got himself into trouble “for creating a disturbance” in a French village. It cost him 21 days in jail. In November 1917, he was denied promotion to Corporal for “interfering” with a non-commissioned officer by using “obscene language” and punished for another incident—“out of bounds.” After the armistice, George went back to Canada in early 1919. His medical record for March 19, shortly before he returned to Montreal, noted that the second finger on his left hand was missing. He was also missing the first and second phalanx of his thumb and forefinger on that hand.

On March 29, 1921, George crossed from Montreal, Canada, into Detroit, Michigan. On September 7, 1921, in Landwich, County of Essex, Ontario, he married Anna E. Becigneul (1890-1970). In 1930 they lived in a rented house at 1325 Cadillac Street in Detroit. They had two children, Josephine (born about 1926) and George (about 1927). By 1940 George had become a naturalized U.S. citizen. That year the family lived in a rented house on Webb Avenue in Detroit. George worked as a department-store auditor/book-keeper for J. L. Hudson Company. He died March 14, 1957.<sup>317</sup>

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<sup>317</sup> His burial site is unknown at this writing. “George Webster Aiton” (Richardson Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “George Webster Aiton” (Late Registration by brother Frank A. Aiton, September 19, 1940, Vital Statistics, PANB); “George W. Aiton (2158528)” (Military Heritage, First World War, Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.bac-lac.ca>); “Canadian Forestry Corps” (<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com>); “Canadian Forestry Corps, C.E.F.” (<http://www.russiansinthecef.ca>); “George W. Aiton” (U.S. Border Crossings from Canada to the United States, FS); “George W. Aiton” [“Aston” on record] (Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928, 1933-1934, Lindas Family Tree, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “George W. Aiton [“Aston” on record] (1930 U.S. Census, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)); “George Aiton” (1940 U.S. Census, FS); “George Webster Aiton” (U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942, [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)).

### *Tressa Werdlew Aiton (1898-1967)*

In Hartland, on March 13, 1898, Tressa Werdlew Aiton became Andrew's and Isabel's ninth child. She graduated from Mount Allison University and taught music. On October 2, 1919, in Hartland, she married Roy Leonard Stevens (October 17, 1896-1969), born in Somerville, Carleton County. He worked as a bank clerk. They had two children in Hartland: Victoria Isabell Aiton (born August 7, 1920) and Doris Bessie (December 18, 1921). Tressa died December 24, 1967. Both Roy and Tressa were interred in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>318</sup>

### *Howard Paul Aiton (1900-1905)*

The tenth and last child of Andrew Aiton and Isabel Coburn was Howard Paul Aiton, born October 5, 1900. At the age of five he drowned in a mill pond near Becaguimec Stream, a tributary of Saint John River, close to Hartland. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>319</sup>

### **Afterword**

Although this study of "Aiton Families in New Brunswick" ends on a particularly sad note, there is really no ending to Aiton stories of success and setback in the province's history. I recognize that my study is incomplete and that more records will be discovered. It is my hope that others, especially Aiton descendants, will expand on this work. I also invite the people of Kings County, Carleton County, and other Canadian places, and genealogists, archivists, and historians in Canada and Scotland, to continue to research and write about these families and come to understand and appreciate the Aiton heritage in the history of North America.

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<sup>318</sup> Records conflict over whether Victoria Isabell and Doris Bessie were born in Hartland or Florenceville, the latter small town sitting about 20 km (12.4 miles) from Hartland. Isabell never married. Doris married Edward Alan. Although the Family Chart compiled by Howard Aiton includes a third child for Tressa and Roy, this child, (Betty) Elizabeth Jean (born August 5, 1923, in Hartland), who married Alfred Johnson, appears to have been the offspring of another Stevens. "Tressa W. Aiton" (Vital Statistics: Marriages, PANB); "Tressa W. Aiton" (DeLong posting, Rweb); "Tressa W. Aiton" (New Brunswick Provincial Marriages, 1789-1950, FS); "Tressa W. Aiton Stevens" (FGr); "Roy Leonard Stevens" (Births, Vital Statistics, PANB); Family Chart by Howard Aiton; "Victoria Isabel Aiton Stevens" (Vital Statistics, Births, PANB); "Doris Bessie Stevens" (Vital Statistics, Births, PANB).

<sup>319</sup> "Howard P. Aiton" (DeLong posting, Rweb); "Howard P. Aiton" (FGr); Heather Aiton Landry to Thomas G. Paterson, September 5, 2018.

## Abbreviations Appearing Frequently in the Text and Footnotes

eds. = editors

FGr = Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com))

FS = FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org>)

km = kilometer or kilometers

PANB = Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (<http://archives.gnb.ca>)

RW = Robbie Wilson (Robert Hay Ferguson Wilson, researcher in Scotland; especially his postings on Rweb)

Rweb = Rootsweb ([wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com); especially WorldConnect)

SP = ScotlandsPeople (<https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>)

## Acknowledgements

Many individuals and institutions in New Brunswick assisted me in my quest to discover the history of the Aitons in their province. I thank them heartily for their knowledge and for their preservation and presentation of history. A thoughtful and generous *Dirk Larooi* of Quispamsis, chair of the official board of Saint Andrew's Kirk United Church in that town, guided me again and again, answering my frequent questions. He explained the geography of Kings County. He provided key information about his church's history, took photographs of church features and gravestones, and commented on a draft of this study. I never imagined that my initial e-mail inquiry to his church—the church of Hugh Aiton and his family—would yield so much information about the New Brunswick branch of my Aiton ancestors. *Doreen Saunders*, treasurer and life-long member of Saint Andrew's, also helped advance this project.

*Debbie Hickey* of the *Kings County Museum* in Hampton searched its collections and publications for relevant information, which she kindly forwarded to me. She also asked *John R. Elliott* of the *Kings County Historical and Archival Society* to pull together information on Hugh Aiton and his family. He compiled and sent to me substantial data, including church baptismal and burial records for three of Hugh Aiton's children. As well, John read a draft of this study and explained the history of parishes and place names. He also shared old photographs of the farmhouse and family of William Aiton. *Sarah Wallace*, Archivist, *Maritime Conference Archives*, The United Church of Canada, Sackville, New Brunswick, provided revealing nineteenth-century documents about Saint Andrew's and the



life of Reverend Andrew Donald, as well as a 1942 anniversary report on the history of the church.

In my quest for vital information on the unusual life of William Aiton (1863-1900), I was especially helped by *Laurel Parson*, of the *General Synod Archives*, Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto, Canada. *Creighton Barrett* of the archives of *Dalhousie University* in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which William Aiton attended, is another dedicated and talented archivist who worked to uncover the Aiton story by searching numerous records to find the studious William.

I have been very fortunate to make contact with two descendants of Andrew Aiton and Isabel Coburn. These descendants proved central for this study in researching and recounting the history of the Aitons, especially 1853-born Andrew Aiton and his family. *Heather Aiton Landry*, an archivist at *Trent Valley Archives*, Peterborough, Ontario, shared photographs, stories, family records (especially those compiled by Howard W. Aiton), and research leads. Her sister *Joanna Aiton Kerr*, Manager of Services and Private Sector Records, *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick*, Fredericton, sent church records and a genealogical profile of her Aiton ancestors that opened more avenues of research. Heather and Joanna demonstrated that skilled archivists are essential to the work of historians.

I also applaud the archivists and historians who have made available on accessible websites a large amount of Canada's and New Brunswick's vital statistics and other collections. The online *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* is an absolutely essential reservoir of information for birth, marriage, and death data, places, and maps. Also valuable on that website is the collection titled Daniel F. Johnson's New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics, which includes a name index that guides the researcher to newspaper stories. For census reports, the online *Library and Archives Canada* provides a name index by province that links to images of the original documents.

The local historians *Grace Aiton* and *David G. Keirstead*, among others, have written town and regional histories that provide information and stories about the communities where Aitons lived. They are much appreciated.

*Holly V. Izard*, an architectural historian with a Ph.D. in American and New England Studies from Boston University and who currently works as Curator for *Worcester Historical Museum* in Massachusetts, worked from a fuzzy, old photograph of the Dutch Valley, Sussex farmhouse of William Aiton to describe its features and place them in historical context.

In Scotland, a knowledgeable *Robbie Wilson* (Robert Hay Ferguson Wilson), has gathered a huge amount of data and stories on Aiton and related families over centuries and posted it on the website Rootsweb. He has answered my numerous e-mail queries, helping me puzzle through conflicting data and link Aitons over generations. I so appreciate that he became my teacher. He has demonstrated that historical research is a collaborative undertaking. For the Aitons in Scotland, I also drew on the essential, massive website *ScotlandsPeople* and its data for births, marriages, deaths, censuses, and properties and their occupants. Detailed maps for centuries are available at the *National Library of Scotland* website. Descriptions of farms, burns, rivers, villages, and more appear in the Ordnance Survey Name Books on the *ScotlandsPlaces* website.

The extensive and free-access *FamilySearch* website is a necessary tool for international research, although one has to be alert to occasional inaccuracies and cross-check other sources. The website *Ancestry* (fees) and its duplicate *AncestryLibrary* (free), which is accessible at libraries that subscribe to it, also have been useful in discovering vital statistics, although the data on “family trees” needs to be compared to other records to ensure accuracy and consistency.

### **About the Author: Thomas Graham Paterson**

I was born March 4, 1941, in Oregon City, Oregon, to Thomas Paterson, Jr. (born March 24, 1909 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, of Scottish parents) and Suzanne Virginie Monchamp (born June 10, 1910, in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Manitoba, Canada, of French parents). I have five children and six grandchildren and now live in Ashland, Oregon. In preparation to become an historian, I earned my B.A. from the University of New Hampshire (1963) and my M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (1968). The History Department at the University of Connecticut was my wonderful and stimulating professional home for 30 years. I now serve as Affiliate Professor of History at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. I have authored or edited 16 books, including *Soviet-American Confrontation*; *Contesting Castro*; *On Every Front*; *Kennedy's Quest for Victory*; *A People and a Nation*; and *American Foreign Relations: A History*.

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations elected me its president and honored me with the Graebner Award for “lifetime achievement.” The New England History Teachers Association gave me its Kidger Award for teaching and

mentoring excellence. Besides the United States, I have lectured in Canada, China, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, and Russia, and I have traveled to Canada, France, and Scotland in search of my family's origins. I am pleased to continue to mentor students and to research and write about my family's history. My book *You Must Remember This: Thomas Paterson, Jr., Suzanne Monchamp Paterson, and Their Many Families Through History* appeared in 2011 and is available in many libraries and on FamilySearch. Studies of my Bibault, Monchamp, Paterson, and Graham families can be found on many websites.

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*I welcome corrections and suggestions for improving this study.*