


THE LEGACY OF
ISAAC MOSS KENYON

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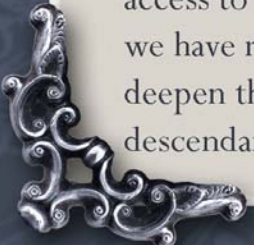
FAMILY

History



The year 2007 marks the 140th year since Isaac Kenyon emigrated to Canada. This scrapbook looks at his life and how it was shaped, as well as how his life has shaped subsequent generations of Kenyons.

This book would not be possible without the excellent and thorough work done by Nancy Kenyon to research and document the family history. I have borrowed heavily from her text. Her work was based on notes, research and letters left to us by Isaac, Isobel McKay, William A. Kenyon and Amy Ricchi among others.



The current generations of Kenyons are fortunate to have so much recorded history, and to live in an age when access to more genealogical data will be available. Best of all, we have real, tangible links to our past. This book strives to deepen those connections for current and future Kenyon descendants.



*Back Row L-R- Hartley Kenyon, William Kenyon, Henry Kenyon Jr.,
Front Row L-R- John Kenyon, Henry Kenyon, Nancy Kenyon
circa 1843*

John Kenyon



Kenyon Pedigree



We know little about the Kenyon background. The Kenyon family roots in Lancashire can be traced back to the early 1200's. Members of the Kenyon family joined the Wesleyan (Methodist) movement of the mid-1700's and were disinherited by Lord Kenyon.

We only know of Isaac's father Hartley's family through photographic and anecdotal evidence – no pedigree chart has been found. Hartley was born in 1823 and lived in Newton Heath, Manchester at the time Isaac came to Canada.

Henry Kenyon



Mary Kenyon



John Kenyon

Ben Kenyon

*Ellen Kenyon
Gregory*

*Mary Kenyon
Wilding*

*Hartley Kenyon
b 1823*

The family of Ellen
Kenyon Gregory in Buckley,
Wales. Ellen Gregory was a
'Colliery Proprietor' (owner of
a pit-mine). This could have
been a clay and brickworks
or a coal mine.



John Kenyon with his wife (right) and
his son (above).

KENYON *Family Lore*

Isaac's father Hartley was a devout Methodist and a Manchester Industrialist. His listed occupations include Manufacturing Chemist, Inventor and Investor.

Hartley's second wife Elizabeth Fildes Kenyon (Isaac's step-mother) was reputed to be the sister of Sir Samuel Luke Fildes, a very famous and influential painter. Although genealogical data does not support this claim, it is likely that she was in some way related as a cousin.

Hartley's brother John Kenyon was friends with Robert Browning and related to Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Upon his death he bequeathed to them a "generous sum of money - enough to ease their financial burden".

At some point a Kenyon married a "Dickens" as Fanny Dickens, cousin to Charles Dickens, was also second cousin to Isaac Kenyon. The Canadian Kenyons corresponded with the Manchester Dickens' for years.



Hartley Kenyon



Fanny Dickens

The Family of Hartley Kenyon and Eleanor Moss

m. 2/23/1846 at Eccles

Hartley Kenyon

b. 3/21/1823

christened at St. James, Accrington

Eleanor Moss

b. 1819

Daughter of Alderman Moss of Stockport

d. 3/5/1857 (age 39)

interred at Cheetholmhill

Isaac Moss

b. 1/15/1847

d. 3/22/1928

age 81 yrs

Thomas Enoch

b. 7/27/1848

d. 2/17/1852

age 3 yrs

George Abraham

b. 6/?/1850

d. 10/?/1850

age 5 mths

John Henry

b. 8/28/1851

d. 7/21/1853

age 1 yr

Mary Eleanor

b. 9/19/1853

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN HENRY KENYON;
OF HASLINGDEN,
Who died on the 21st day of July, 1853,
Aged 1 Year and 10 Months.

AN! lovely flower, soon snatch'd away,
To bloom in realms divine:
Thousands shall wish, at Judgment Day,
Their lives were short as thine.
While we desired thy longer stay,
In such a sinful world as this,
By angels thou wert borne away
To share with them a world of bliss.

All of the Kenyon children were born at Haslingden. Of the 5 children only Isaac and Mary survived infancy.

Mary never married and we have no record of what happened to her.

We have little information about Eleanor Moss. We do know that Isaac was named after his maternal Grandfather, Isaac Moss.

The Family of Hartley Kenyon and Elizabeth Fildes

m. 9/16/1858

Hartley Kenyon

b. 3/21/1823

Elizabeth Fildes

b. 7/17/1831

Emma Maud
b. 3/12/1861



Adelaide
b. 8/8/1862



Hartley Davy
b. 8/31/1863



Amy Elizabeth
b. 6/12/1866



Clara Grace
b. 1/23/1870



Henry Fildes
b. 6/10/1875

no photo
available



Kenyon Descendents



Harry Chapman



Amy Elizabeth Chapman

The Chapmans lived in Falmouth. There is no evidence they had children.

The Watsons also lived in Falmouth. We do not know what became of their daughter.

Henry Fildes Kenyon married Jessie Clark. They emigrated to Canada. Their daughter Joan married Frank Copeland.

Little is known of the offspring of Isaac's half brothers and sisters. His full sister Eleanor never married. All his half-siblings married, but there were few children and what is known about the families has become lost.



Clara Grace married Jack Watson

Kenyon Descendents



Hartley Davey Kenyon



Nancy Ann Knight

Hartley Davey and "Annie" Kenyon had a daughter named Kathleen Knight Kenyon. They lived in St. Austell, Cornwall.

Addie and Edwin Hargreaves lived in Nottingham and had no children.

Maud took the name Ringrose upon marriage and had at least 2 daughters. This portrait was taken in North Wales.



Edwin Hargreaves



Adelaid Hargreaves



Elsie and Amy Ringrose

MANCHESTER



It was the best of times...

Manchester during the mid-19th century was one of the most dynamic cities in the world. The scientific community saw unprecedented growth and new ideas. These in turn spawned the industrial revolution as new methods evolved to process metals, chemicals, textiles and manufacture goods en masse. As a result, Manchester became the most powerful manufacturing city in the world and its schools were the among the most prestigious. Owen College (now the Victoria University of Manchester) was considered the largest and finest school of Chemistry in England.

Isaac Kenyon, from a well-off family, studied at Owen College winning the Queen's prize two years in a row for science and chemistry. The Rt. Hon. William Gladstone (Chancellor of the Exchequer and later the Prime Minister for 4 terms) once presented Isaac with a prize for public speaking. He graduated a first-class chemist in 1863 and took evening classes the same year at the Levenshulme Mechanics Institute. He likely studied the decimal system, a requirement for his apprenticeship. He served his apprenticeship with John Tomlinson Brunner who later formed Brunner Mond, still one of the largest mining companies today. Brunner later became a member of Parliament, and the Grandfather of HRH The Duchess of Kent.



Manchester Town Hall



Levenshulme Mechanics Institute



Isaac M. Kenyon
22 yrs

It was the worst of times...

The social effects of industrialization were immense. Factory work was brutal and dangerous. Isaac spoke of his memories of seeing children picking food off streets to have something to eat. Housing conditions were appalling; it is reported that in some parts of the city the number of toilets averaged only two to 250 people. Only 40% of the children living in Manchester reached their fifth year. There are heartbreaking stories of children as young as 5 and 6 years old working upwards of 12 hour shifts in factories - 6 days a week. Factory shift workers in 1874 worked 84 hour weeks for less than £2 per week.

Mary Fildes, the Grandmother of Elizabeth Fildes (Isaac's step-mother), was a radical suffragette and was a key figure in the factory reform movement. Campaigning for better working conditions, she was a key speaker at a 1819 public meeting where over 50,000 people were gathered for a peaceful protest. When the military tried to arrest the leaders a riot broke out and many were killed or seriously injured, including Mary Fildes (she later recovered). The event, known as the Peterloo Massacre, prompted legislative reform of working conditions in 1819.

John Brunner, Isaac's first employer, was considered a paternalistic employer and went to great lengths to improve the situation of his employees. Later, in Parliament, he supported radical welfare reforms.

Given the influence of Elizabeth Fildes on young Isaac, the social conditions of industrial Manchester, and the example of John Brunner in his professional life, we can see how Isaac's strong social conscience was formed.



John Tomlinson Brunner of Brunner-Mond

Isaac's Life and Travels

When Isaac was 20 he travelled to Canada as an analyst for the Anglo-Canadian Phosphate Co. His father and others had invested in mining rights in North Burgess and Isaac was their representative. The mineral apatite had been found in abundance around the Perth and lower Ottawa Valley area. Apatite ore was mined and shipped to England and processed into fertilizer. The mines were less profitable than expected and within a year, Isaac was working for the McKinley Mine Company.

Isaac met and successfully courted Annie McKay, daughter of George McKay who lived on the South shore of Oty Lake. Before they married, Isaac headed to New York and Pennsylvania to work for various coal-mining operations.



Isaac immigrated in May of 1867. He wrote of sailing into Montreal on the birthday of Queen Victoria (May 24th) and being impressed with the view of the fireworks from the harbour. Records show that the voyages similar to Isaac's would have taken just less than 2 weeks.



1870 Fenian Raids

Isaac spent less than 6 months in the Pittston area of Pennsylvania and he disliked mining coal. While in the area, Isaac became interested in the activities of General John O'Neill, the head of the Fenian Brotherhood. This group of Irish ex-patriots planned to seize Canada's key transportation areas to force Britain to grant Ireland's independence in exchange for possession of Canada.

Isaac joined the militia upon returning to Canada in 1870 and was mustered to service on May 24th and 25th to stand guard at Brockville against an expected raid. The raid into Ontario never happened, but Isaac was awarded the Canada General Service Medal as well as a tract of land near Sudbury for his service.



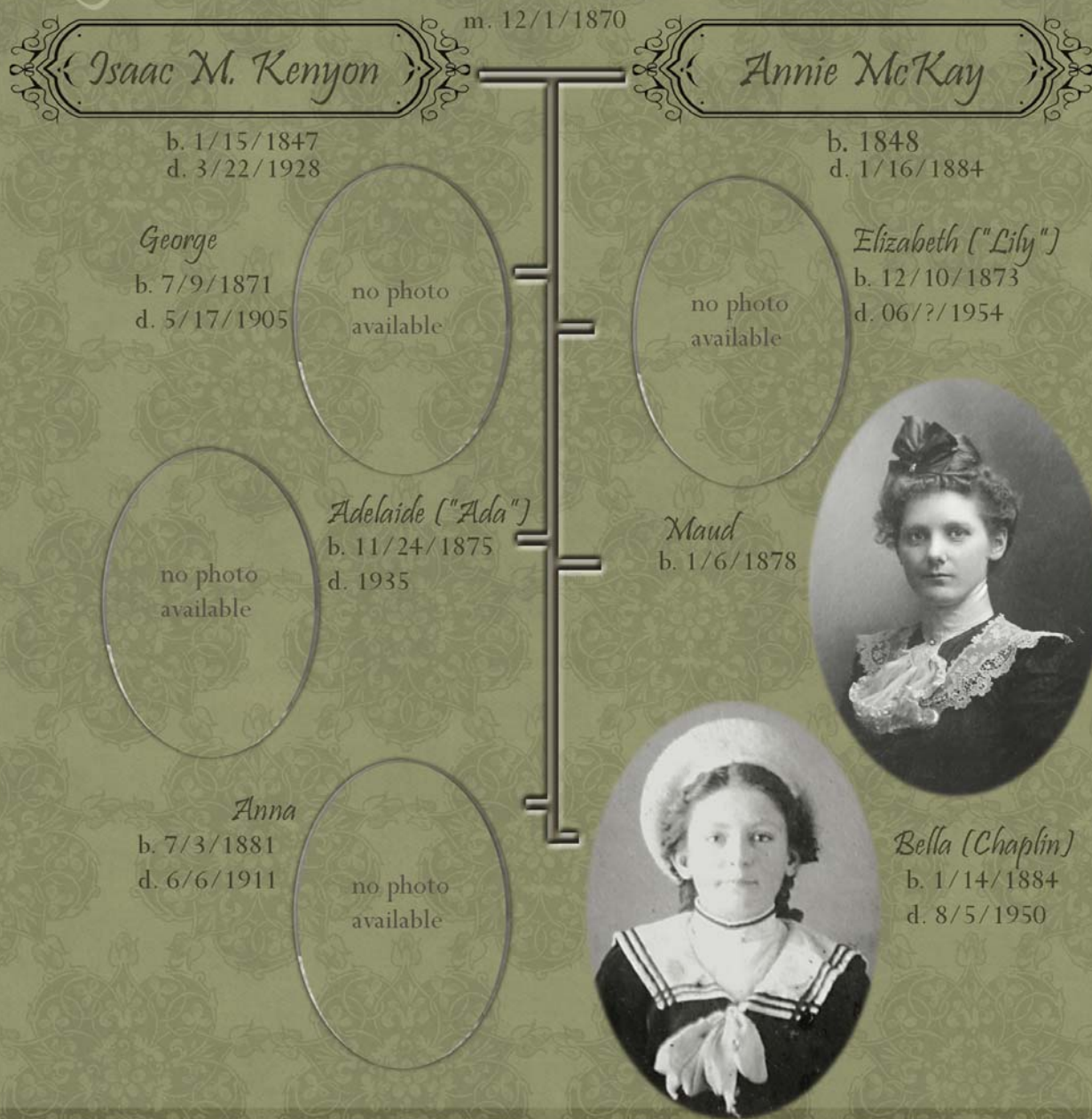
*Private Isaac Kenyon,
age 22, of the
42nd Battalion
Royal Canadian Infantry.*



*Isaac Kenyon married
Eliza Ann McKay
Dec 1, 1870*

Annie was the oldest of 10 children born to George and Elizabeth McKay (nee Gallagher). They lived on the South shore of Otty Lake. The ties between Isaac and Annie's family were amiable and close. The McKay house and property is still habitated, although it is no longer owned by the McKay family.

Kenyon Children



Settling at Otty Lake

In the early years Isaac mined the Matheson phosphate mines, hauled phosphate, and cut and sold timber. He began to purchase and lease land and farms. He farmed more; raising geese and hens and breeding cattle, horses and sheep.

In August of 1876 Isaac bought land overlooking Otty Lake for \$400. Isaac and Annie built a house, barn, stables, boat house and sheds. They and their 4 children moved in on November 20th 1878.

Annie contributed to the farm income by sowing vegetables, making and selling butter and selling eggs. In 1879 Annie was recorded killing 29 turkeys in 2 days.



By 1878 Isaac had made a substantial place in the community. He was a Mason and was elected to Township council in 1879. He was elected Reeve of Burgess Township, a position he would hold for 5 consecutive terms (7 terms in total).

In January 1884 Annie gave birth to her 6th child and died two days later. The baby, Isobel (Bella), was raised by her mother's sister Jessie McKay Chaplin in Glen Tay. She took the name Chaplin from her adoptive family, but there is evidence she stayed in close contact with her siblings and father as she grew up.

George, Lily, Addy and Maud all moved out West. George lived in North Dakota. The girls settled in Winnipeg. Annie married Ward Battles (a McKay cousin) and settled in Oswego, N.Y.

Marriage to Elizabeth Acheson



Isaac and Elizabeth Kenyon married 02/23/1885

Isaac married Elizabeth Drysdale Acheson in 1885. He was 39 and she was 20. They would have 9 children and live at Otty Lake until 1921. Isaac and Lizzie moved into Perth and he only returned twice to Otty lake before his death.

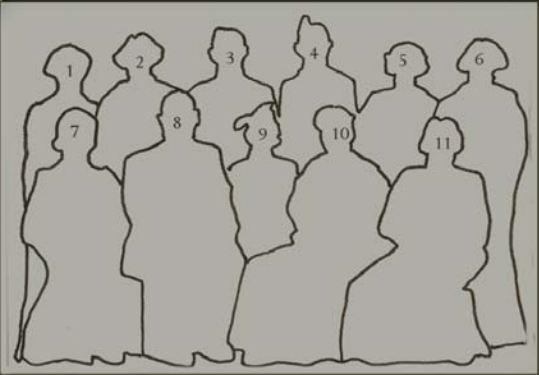
After his second marriage, Isaac continued to work at mining and prospecting as well as farming. He was Reeve for 2 more terms. He was very involved in various civic organizations such as the Masonic Lodge, the Orange Lodge and other charitable groups. He was known for fundraising to support local families in need and supporting social causes. He was made Justice of the Peace and attended meetings of the Agricultural and Horticultural societies.

Isaac was very fond of music and singing and was an avid fisherman. His home was known for it's hospitality. An avid reader, he read all of Dicken's books at least 4 times. He was strongly religious, changing from Methodist to Baptist after developing a family friendship with the Baptist pastor.

Isaac died in March of 1929 from prostate cancer at the age of 81.



Kenyon Family



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Amy Kenyon Wood | 7. Ella Kenyon Battles |
| 2. Grace Kenyon | 8. Isaac Kenyon |
| 3. Hartley Kenyon | 9. Jessie Kenyon Mott |
| 4. William Kenyon | 10. Lizzie Acheson Kenyon |
| 5. Isobel Kenyon McKay | 11. Mary Kenyon MacGowan |
| 6. Laura Kenyon Bell | |

Family Times



These photos were taken when Annie (Kenyon) Battles visited with her family. There must have been many such reunions during the summers at Otty Lake.



Farming at Otty lake

At its largest, the Kenyon farm involved 3½ lots in North Burgess and 2 lots in North Elmsley. Although it was a few hundred acres, the land was too rugged to grow large quantities of grain. Instead land was used to support 100 sheep, 40 head of cattle and 3 horses.



The livestock to be sold was shipped live by train to Montreal each fall. In a letter to his friend John McKay, Isaac describes his trip to Glasgow on a steamship to take his sheep to market there.





The family raised hens for eggs and meat. As the children grew, Lizzie went into the bee and honey business in a large way. She was reported to be an excellent cook and bread was her specialty. The grain for flour was grown on the farm and milled at Allan's Mills.

All the children had chores to do on the farm and were very involved in the upkeep of the home and property and the preparation of meals. After chores, there was plenty of fun to be had playing board games, or swimming and boating in the summer and skating in the winter.

Miss Sarah Mackler came twice a year to sew wardrobe items for the children. Winter clothing was particularly important as the children had to walk for about an hour each way to school.



Jessie with her pet sheep and milking a cow (opposite)

Fresh fish from the lake was a common sight on the table. The farm also had an enviable apple orchard and Isobel recalls large bins in the cellar that held the apples, potatoes and other vegetables. Large pieces of ice were cut from the lake in the winter and stored in the cellar in sawdust for use all year.