

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

A- Beck family (03-01) p.1
21 NOV 1992 1

HUSBAND: John Walton Romeyn Beck

Born: 13 Jul 1828 Schenectady, NY¹
Born2: 30 Jul 1828 Schenectady, NY²
Marr: 10 Jul 1848 Cobourg, ON³
Died: 7 Dec 1889 Peterborough, ON

Educate:⁴Degree:⁵Empl:⁶

Parents: Natural

Occ: Minister

Father: Nicholas Fairley Beck

Mother: Anna Maria Walton

Other w:

1866: Margaret Brown

WIFE: Georgiana Boulton

Born: circa 1827 Cobourg, ON

Chr:

Died: 8 May 1864 Ashburnham, ON

Buried: 11 May 1864

Census:

Grad:

Parents: Natural

Occ: Housewife

Father: George Strange Boulton

Mother: Elizabeth Boulton

CHILDREN

1: Name: George Fairley Beck

M: Born: 10 Jan 1851 Cobourg, ON⁷

Chr:

Died: 13 Jan 1913 Mimico, ON⁷

Buried: 1 Mar 1913 Peterborough, ON

Degree:

Empl:

Parents: Natural

2: Name: Walton Beck

M: Born: 22 Jun 1852 Cobourg, ON⁸

Chr:

Died: 19 Jul 1852 Cobourg, ON⁹

Parents: Natural

Occ: Infant

3: Name: Harry Thatcher Beck

M: Born: 21 Aug 1853 Cobourg, ON

Chr:

Marr: 23 Dec 1913 Toronto, ON

To: Marian Frances Asbury

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

A-Beck Family (03-01) p.2
21 NOV 1992 2

HUSBAND: John Walton Romeyn Beck

WIFE: Georgiana Boulton

CHILDREN (Continued)

| Died: 16 Jan 1924 Toronto, ON
| Educat:
| Degree:¹⁰
| Empl:
| Parents: Natural
| Occ: Lawyer

4: Name: Arthur Romeyn Beck
M: Born: 11 Feb 1855 Cobourg, ON¹¹
| Chr: Cobourg, ON
| Died: Feb 1880 Azores¹²
| Parents: Natural
| Occ: British Navy

5: Name: Nicholas Dominic du Bois Beck¹³
M: Born: 4 May 1857 Cobourg, ON
| Chr:
| Marr: 17 Nov 1886 St Boniface, MB
| To: Mary Ethel Lloyd
| Died: 1928 Seattle, WA¹⁴
| Educat:
| Degree:
| Empl:
| Parents: Natural
| Occ: Lawyer/Judge

6: Name: Geoffrey Strange Beck
M: Born: 6 Jun 1859 Ashburnham, ON
| Chr: 26 Jun 1859 Peterborough, ON
| Marr:
| To: Lillian M. Buchanan
| Died: 12 Jan 1914¹⁵
| Educat:
| Degree: 1881 Toronto, ON¹⁶
| Empl: Port Arthur, ON
| Parents: Natural
| Occ: M.D./M.R.C.S.

7: Name: Anne Maria Walton Beck
F: Born: 10 Aug 1861 Ashburnham, ON
| Chr: 25 Aug 1861 Peterborough, ON
| Died: 15 Nov 1897 Peterborough, ON
| Buried: Peterborough, ON
| Degree: circa 1880 New York, NY¹⁷
| Empl:

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

A-Beck Family (03-01)

21 NOV 1992

3

P3

HUSBAND: John Walton Romeyn Beck

WIFE: Georgiana Boulton

CHILDREN (Continued)

| Parents: Natural
| Occ: Nurse

|
B: Name: Charles Beauclerc Beck
M: Born: 18 Sep 1863 Ashburnham, ON
| Chr:
| Died: after 1940 Toronto, ON
| Educat: Toronto, ON¹⁰
| Degree:¹⁹
| Empl:²⁰
| Parents: Natural
| Occ: Minister

REFERENCES

-
- ¹Family Bible: Born at Schenectady at a quarter before twelve a.m.
- ²Stevenson family Bible.
- ³Married when the groom was 20 and the bride 21.
- ⁴Harvard University; Theology at Trinity College, Hartford, CT?
- ⁵Upper Canada College.
- ⁶Rector of St. John's Anglican for 33 years.
- ⁷From notes of Louise Beck.
- ⁸Notes of RP Dennistoun.
- ⁹From the family bible, aged 4 months. Indicate March birthdate.
- ¹⁰LLB University of Toronto.
- ¹¹Notes of RP Dennistoun.
- ¹²Vanished at sea on the H.M.S. Atlantis (Various dates).
- ¹³1883 became a Catholic and added "Dominic" to his name at confirmation.
- ¹⁴Buried in Edmonton. Died in Seattle while on honeymoon.
- ¹⁵Buried July 14, 1914.
- ¹⁶Trinity Medical School, Toronto, ON.

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

A-Beck Family (03-01)
21 NOV 1992 4

p.4

HUSBAND: John Walton Romeyn Beck
WIFE: Georgiana Boulton

REFERENCES (Continued)

¹⁷Bellevue Training School for Nurses, New York.

¹⁸Trinity College, Toronto, ON.

¹⁹Ordained deacon in St. Stephen's Church, Toronto, October 18, 1891.

²⁰Curate in Edmonton, AB.

TIME CHART FOR JOHN WALTON ROMEYN BECK

July 30, 1828: Born at Schenectady at a quarter before 12 on the morning of the 30th day of July, 1828. Family bible. (Other sources state born on the 13th of July, 1827. Memorial window at St. John's born at Albany. Did his wife give this information? She was born in 1827 and possibly did not want to appear a year older than her husband).

1830: His father, Nicholas Fairley Beck dies in Albany and baby brother, Charles Thatcher Beck dies in Schenectady. Anna Maria Walton Beck has taken her ailing small child, Charles Thatcher, and returned to Schenectady where the baby dies. We then have her acting as sort of "head housekeeper" at Walton family home where she lives as a young widow keeping house for her wealthy parents until her marriage ten years later.

1830: It appears from old letters that J.W.R. Beck might have remained in Albany to be raised by his cousin, Catherine Theresa Beck, who later became Mrs. Van Cortlandt. Perhaps the educational and cultural opportunities were greater in Albany in the Theodoric Beck home. Certainly, we know his portrait was painted at Croton on the Hudson when he was 14 years old.

5 July 1839: Death of his grandfather, Jonathan Walton of Schenectady, NY. Anna Maria Walton Beck inherits money from her father's estate and becomes an heiress.

1840: His mother, Anna Maria Walton Beck (age 42) marries George Strange Boulton of Cobourg, Ontario. (Her parents have died, and she may have spent time in Port Hope with her uncle Nathan and met Boulton there. There is apparently a charming sketch book of her pictures of Port Hope in the Peterborough Archives.)

1842: Residing at Croton on the Hudson because there is a painting of him done there when he was fourteen. References in old letters indicate he was placed in the care of Catherine Theresa Beck Van Cortlandt, his first cousin.

1843: Enters Upper Canada College as a boarder. Reference states: born 13 Jul 1828. Ward of George Strange Boulton. For many years minister at St. John's, Peterborough. (This places him in Canada at just about the same time that Margaret Brown and her sisters are thought to have arrived. Beck and Brown would have known each other well in small Cobourg in those years. Could he have loved beautiful Margaret Brown, seamstress, but married Georgiana Boulton? Useless speculation, but undoubtedly these people had a "history.")

1843- 1848: School years. One account has him at Harvard. Where and when does he decide to take Holy Orders?

Clerked for his step-father, George Strange Boulton at his law office in Cobourg, possibly while attending school.

June 22, 1848: Grandmother Margaret Ann Thatcher Walton dies in Schenectady. Inheritance?

July 10, 1848: Marries Georgiana Boulton (born 1827), daughter of George Strange Boulton of Cobourg. Beck was 20; Georgiana 21.

January, 1851: Birth of first living child of record. Walton was 23 years old, Georgiana 24. They had eight children, possibly more. The first five children (1851 - 1857) were born in Cobourg. After 1858, became Rector at St. John's and moved to Peterborough. I believe there may have been a child born and died in Cobourg as the patten of a child a year was in evidence.

18 November 1852: Assists the Rev. J. Shortt, Rector of Port Hope in a marriage ceremony at St. Peter's, Cobourg. Assisted by the Rev. Walton Beck, M.A. (Received honorary M.A. Trinity College, Hartford, CT).

1851 - 1857: Missionary at Rice Lake and several small parishes surrounding Cobourg. A missionary was a "priest in charge" of a parish that lacked an endowed rectory. The Rice Lake parish had three points: Gore's Landing, and probably Harwood and Bewdley.

1853 - 1857: Walton Beck's salary was paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a missionary society. This probably resulted in Beck's being awarded an honorary M.A. at Trinity College, Hartford, CT as the degree would have been awarded in recognition for his missionary work. Influential Trinity was attempting, at that time, to advance the cause of missionary work, especially among Native Americans.

1 November 1857: First record of Walton Beck at St. John's, officiating at a baptism. (The plaque in the church states that Beck arrived in 1856.)

Becomes Rector of St. John's Church, Peterborough at age 29. Considered young to have this post (and with five children). However, reading the town history of Peterboro, it appears there were other young ministers with large families, so this may not have been unusual. Walton Beck's independent means were noted when it was decided to give him the position. He is believed to have had an income of 600 pounds a year, possibly in income from Clergy Reserves as well as private means. Some sources state that he was a protege of Bishop Strachan. He was also known to and influenced by Bishop Bethune of Cobourg who would have been responsible for placing him at Rice Lake and in Peterborough. It should also be noted that his wife Georgiana Boulton Beck's father was a member of the powerful Family Compact.

January 27, 1858: House in Cobourg advertised for rent, and the family moves to Nichol's Oval, a lovely property on the other side of the Otonobe River from St. James.

As there was no rectory provided, it is more likely that the church welcomed the independent means as an indication that the Beck family would be able to provide their own housing.

1860: Builds a large house in Ashburnham called St. Leonard's.

12 December 1862: Anna Maria Walton Beck Boulton dies in Peterborough at age 63 while visiting her son and daughter in law at their new home. Inheritance?

May 8, 1864: Georgiana Boulton Beck dies at 37. Buried at Cobourg.

July 19, 1866: Marries his second wife, Margaret Brown. Service performed by the Rev. Mark Burnham. Some townspeople remark that Beck has "married his cook." Does this indicate that Margaret Brown came to Peterboro to take care of Walton Beck and his eight children after Georgiana died? What happened to the dressmaking business in Cobourg? CHECK THE DIRECTORIES IN COBOURG.

May 30, 1867: Georgina Maud D'Eresby Beck born.

13 February 1869: George Strange Boulton dies. Did his father-in-law ruin Walton? Apparently there were many worthless mortgages taken out on St. Leonard's which was encumbered with debt. ("They were always hocking the silver," Robert Maxwell Dennistoun.) Was Northumberland Hall sold now? There is a story of Margaret Brown Beck traveling to Cobourg to buy at auction the "Beck silver" with her own money that presumably belonged to Anna Maria Walton Beck Boulton. George Strange's daughter, Harriet, and son, Edward, were still alive. All family members should have been left well provided for, but this does not appear to be the case.

January 6, 1871: Mary Mildred Louise Beck born.

1874: St. Leonard's was sold. The family had had a severe reversal of fortune. Walton Beck believed the house was being sold to the church, but it passed to a Mr. Campbell, lumber merchant, an ideological opponent of his churchly beliefs at St. John's.

1874: Rectory/Residence at 438 Sheridan Street, probably built in 1869. From the Peterboro Examiner, December 10, 1869, House to let. Newly furnished dwelling with stable and sheds. Corner Church and Brock Streets. Apply to James Sheridan." It was used at the rectory, rented from Miss Sheridan.

February, 1880: Arthur Romeyn Beck is lost at sea while serving in the British Navy aboard the Atalanta.

December 7, 1889: Rev. Walton Beck dies at Peterborough after a lingering illness and an incapacitation of many months. His family leaves the Rectory there is indication that Margaret Brown and her daughters move to Toronto. He was age 61.

1899: Northumberland Hall sold to General Charles Fitzhugh. Has the house remained vacant all these years? When were the effects of G.S. Boulton auctioned? Possibly the home sold upon the deaths of Edward Trevor and Harriet Boulton who passed away about this time.

1903: Margaret Brown Beck dies in Peterborough at age 75. She had returned to a small house on Water Street. Her two married daughters live nearby.

Margaret Brown, Dressmaker of Coburg, Ontario 1859- 1866

Margaret Brown, the eldest of four daughters of Allen and Catherine Brown was born August first 1826 at Newbridge, County Fermanagh, Ireland. Three younger sisters were Catherine, Jane and Eliza.

In June 1843, after leaving Catherine with "Uncle Hugh" in Ireland, the rest of the family emigrated to Canada to join Mrs. Brown's brother, Mr. Benjamin Hall.

Mr. Brown died either at sea or shortly after arrival in Canada. Mrs Brown placed Jane and Eliza with relatives in Coburg and accompanied by Margaret sought to reach Mr. Hall, who had moved to North Sterling, Cuyana County, New York.

Mrs. Brown became ill when they had made their way to Albany, N.Y. They were taken into the house of Reverend Dr. Potter, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Albany. Margaret was a great comfort, taking all care and nursing her mother till Mrs. Brown died November 10, 1843. The Bishop of Albany provided burial space in his own lot in the Albany cemetery.

Margaret, an orphan, was taken in charge by Rev. Dr. Potter. A letter was sent to Mr. Hall announcing Mrs. Brown's death but there is no indication that he was in a position to do anything about his niece and she remained for the time being with the household of Dr. Potter.

We may assume that during her stay in Albany, under the care of the Bishop and Dr. Potter, she became known to members of the Walton family. Mrs Walton was noted for her charities, with particular interest in assisting women and girls. We may further assume that Mrs. Walton's daughter, then Mrs. George S. Boulton of Coburg, spent some time at the Walton family home, Walton Manor House, at Schenectady, and became interested in the orphan Margaret Brown.

Margaret went to Coburg, possibly to join her uncle, or it seems more probable from later correspondence that she was taken to Coburg by Mrs. Boulton, as a help and nurse. Mrs Boulton was the wife of a prominent Upper Canada lawyer and lived in a large house, "Northumberland Hall", at Coburg, built in the late eighteen-twenties. Mr. Boulton's brother, Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, had been a well known lawyer in Toronto and had built about 1821 "The Grange", one of the first brick houses in "Little York", on wooded property, extending from Queen Street North to Bloor. "The Grange" became for a time the center of social and political life of Upper Canada and was visited from time to time by the Boultons from Coburg.

Mrs. George Boulton, (nee Walton) had in her younger days been married to General Nicholas Fairley Beck, Adjutant General of the State of New York, and had been a "belle and fashion plate" in Albany and Schenectady. If Margaret Brown was "good with clothes" and a competent seamstress she would find a welcome place and be useful to the Boulton ladies. It therefore seems most possible that Mrs. Boulton was instrumental in arranging for Margaret to go to Toronto to be trained as a dressmaker at Mrs. Lyon's Establishment.

The warm and friendly relationship that developed between Mrs. Boulton and her protegee Margaret Brown is shown by a letter.

Coburg
Northumberland Hall
August 17, 1858

My dear Margaret:

I have intended writing you for the last few weeks but I have suffered so much from the intense heat that I have not felt as if I could make the least exertion.

As you very well know I take a great interest in you, it gave me much satisfaction to hear that you were with good and kind Mrs. Ellah, who I am sure makes you very comfortable. I hope your health is better than it was when Mr. Boulton saw you last. Be sure to take all the exercise you can and do not sit too long at your work. I think a walk every day is very necessary for you. I saw your sister Jane some few days ago, she was not then looking well I think she is better now as she has been spending a few days with Mrs. Ingram.

Mr Beck, (her son) and his three little boys here with me for four days week before last, as you well know I enjoyed their visit very much, I miss my darlings every hour.

My own health continues to be tolerable, I am of course a burthen to myself and I try hard to bear all this patiently, but you know more of my bodily discomforts than anyone else and many are the hours you have spent in trying to relieve me. May God reward you for all your kindness.

I shall always be glad to hear from you. Believe me my dear Margaret, to be your affectionate friend.

A.M. Boulton

Upon completion of her training as a dressmaker in Toronto Margaret Brown returned to Coburg and opened her business there as announced April 2, 1859, and continued at a new location May 1, 1863.

She continued her business until she married the Rev. J.W.R. Beck July 19, 1866, as his second wife and moved to Peterborough, where he was Rector of St. John's Church. She lived in Peterborough until her death February 24, 1903 at age 77 years.

In considering other interesting aspects of Margaret Brown's later life and her continuing relationship with Mrs. Boulton, we must try to understand the complicated Boulton-Beck family relationship.

Mrs. Boulton the daughter of Jonathan Walton was born at Schenectady, N.Y. in 1799. Ann Maria Walton. She married Nicholas Fairley Beck, of Albany and they had one son J.W.R. Beck born at Schenectady July 30, 1828.

On the death of her husband June 30, 1830, Ann Maria returned with her infant son to live with her parents, (two brothers and a sister) at the family home in Schenectady.

Her father Jonathan Walton and his brother Nathan had each received in 1796, as United Empire Loyalists, large grants of Crown Lands, where Fort Hope was later established. Nathan remained in Canada and Jonathan returned to Schenectady from whence he was instrumental in sending new settlers to Fort Hope and his vessels traded across Lake Ontario calling at Port Hope and Coburg harbors. He was selling off his Ontario properties and we assume that Ann Maria was a visitor in Canada with her father and knew her Uncle Nathan and his circle at his home in Port Hope.

In Coburg six miles along the Lake lived Mr. George S. Boulton a widower who had one daughter Georgina born in 1827.

Family legend has it that Mr. Boulton met the widow Ann Maria Beck and travelled down to Schenectady to court her. In 1840 they were married and thereafter lived in his large house, Northumberland Hall, built in the late eighteen-twenties at Coburg.

The next step in the Boulton-Beck relationship occurs on July 10, 1848 when J.W.R. Beck, aged 20 is married to Georgina Boulton, aged 21.

Of this marriage there were eight children:

George Fairley	born at Coburg	1851
Walton	" "	1852, died young
Harry Thatcher	" "	1853
Arthur Romeyn	" "	1855
Nicholas	" "	1857
Geoffrey Strange	" AsKburnham	1859
Ann Maria	" "	1861
Charles Beauclaire	" "	1863

Georgina Boulton Beck died at Peterborough, May 8, 1864 at age 37.

The Reverend Beck had been appointed Rector of St. John's Church, Peterborough in 1856. He was then 28 years old and considered very young to be entrusted with such a large and important Parish. However, the salary was only \$600.00 a year and the fact that he had "private means" to enable him to do justice to his position was considered in his favor.

On the death of Georgina in 1864 Margaret Brown was carrying on her business dressmaking in Coburg. Two years and two months later on July 19, 1866, Margaret Brown was married to Rev. Beck by Rev. Mark Burnham, at St. John's Church, Peterborough.

At age 40 Margaret assumed the position of the Rector's wife with the responsibility for the care of his house and the bringing up of the Beck children at ages of 15, 13, 11, 9, 7, 5 and 3.

J.W.R. Beck and Margaret had two daughters of their marriage. Maud born in 1867, later married Arthur Stevenson and Mildred born in 1871, later married Robert M. Dennistoun.

Margaret proved herself to be a fine wife for the Rector, taking her full place in the life of the Parish. Through unwise investments and bad business advice her husband had lost his "private means" and lived with his large family on his rector's salary. She handled the finances and proved herself to be an exceptional character fulfilling her role as wife of the Rector and family obligations. It was important that the boys be given an education, and through her unswerving efforts and economies at home Harry and Nicholas became lawyers, Prof. Brown a doctor of medicine, Arthur an engineer in the

British Navy and Charles took Holy Orders and became a clergyman and school-master. This represented a tremendous accomplishment for those times with very little money for any of the family.

After her husband's death in 1889 Margaret continued to give of her fine administrative abilities to her family and the good works and charities connected with the Parish and the whole community.

She suffered a good deal from "rheumatism" in later years but lived a busy life according to her favorite maxim, "In life it is better to wear out than to rust out."

She died at Peterborough, February 24, 1903 aged 77 years.

The great changes in attitude and patterns of living in the last 100 years permit, today, some speculation and questions about the Woman Margaret Brown and her marriage to The Reverend Beck when she was 40 years old and able to support herself by her own business.

Were there pressures and promises made to induce her to marry and accept the responsibility and care of his household of seven motherless children and manage on very little money?

Margaret must have been aware of the Victorian standards that put such a high value on "family connections" and expect to encounter some prejudice against her as a "peniless Irish emigrant" who had been forced to earn her own living. One group of parishioners is reported to have referred to the Rector as a gentleman who had married his cook. Was there for Margaret a chance to improve her "social standing" ?

Was Margaret an angel of mercy, touched by feelings of compassion for the children, remembering her own difficult life as an orphan?

Could Margaret have feelings of love and affection for her husband whom she had known for years as a married man and father of a large family?

Was it Mrs. Boulton, who had guided Margaret in her earlier life and was fully aware of the qualities and character of a strong woman able to meet the challenge, who arranged one more step in the life of her son and Margaret?

This profile of Margaret Brown was prepared by Robert P. Dennistoun at Corona del Mar, California, April 22, 1972 from family records. All names, places and dates are factual. The presumptions and speculations are solely my own.

R. P. Dennistoun

MISS BROWN

Has much pleasure, while thanking her old friends for their former very liberal patronage, in respectfully announcing to them and to the public generally that she has resumed business at her old stand on King street, between the Globe Hotel and the Registry Office, immediately opposite the residence of Dr. Reid, where she trusts, by strict attention, to merit an increased continuance of the same.

Geelong, Ist. May, 1863.

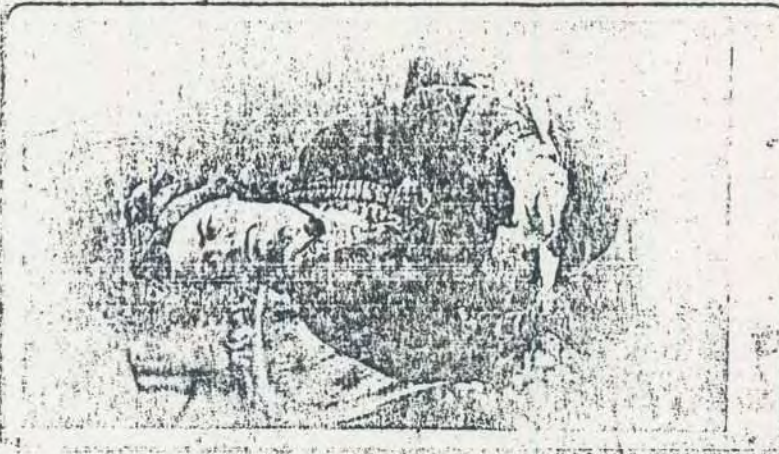
Dress-Making.

MISS BROWN

Begs to inform the Ladies of Geelong and vicinity, that she has commenced the above business. Having lately received instructions at Mrs. Lyons' Establishment, Toronto, she feels confident of giving satisfaction to those Ladies who favour her with their patronage.

Henry Street, Geelong, Feb. 1st. 1863.
Patrons & friends.

April 2nd, 1859.



Margaret Brown Beck. She was the second wife of Rev. J. W. R. Beck. A very kind and capable woman.
Died at Peterborough, Ont. Canada February 24, 1903

over

Dress-Making.

MISS BROWN

Begs to inform the Ladies of Coleridge and vicinity, that she has commenced the above business. Having lately received instructions at Messrs' Establishment, Toronto, she feels confident of giving satisfaction to those Ladies who favor her with their patronage.

Henry Street, Coleridge, West of St. William's residence.

April 2nd, 1852.

Died
Tuesday 24, Feb. 1903
ROUGH, MONDAY;

LATE MRS. BECK

Mentioned in the Sermon at St. John's Church.

At St. John's church yesterday morning the Rector spoke at some length on the sad death of the late Mrs. Beck, widow of the late Rector of Peterborough. A memorial anthem entitled "Crossing the Bar," was rendered with much pathos by the choir.

The following memorial paragraph to the honour of the esteemed lady is to be found in the St. John's Parochial letter:-

A TRIUMPHANT LIFE.

"The sudden death of Mrs. Beck, the highly esteemed widow of the late Rector of Peterborough, occurring as we go to press, casts a gloom over the Parish and town. The flag at once raised to half-mast on St. John's tower was the first general intimation of the earthly ending of a life nobly spent in useful ministrations. It would be impossible to compute the extent or value of the manifold services of Mrs. Beck to this Parish. In times of difficulty she was one of its chief bulwarks, and all through her long life was an honoured leader and devoted labourer in charitable work connected with the Parish and community. A woman of striking character and individuality and of unbounded activity in the practical affairs of life, her career has been one of splendid usefulness and the memory and inspiration of it will long remain.—R. I. P."



Margaret Brown 1858 while at Mrs. Lyon's Dressmaking Establishment, Toronto



Margaret Brown when Mrs. Beck, Peterborough. After her husband's death she dressed only in black and wore a white widow's cap.

PRESENTATION.

Mrs. Beck Presented with an Address as Gift by the Ladies of St. John's.

On Tuesday evening Mesdames C. A. Well and A. P. Pousette, for the congregation of St. John's church and representing a committee of ladies, called at the rectory and presented Mrs. Beck with a handsome purse of money and beautiful satchel, accompanied by the following address:-

DEAR MRS. BECK.—The congregation of St. John's desire to express to you, through us, the warm and deep appreciation of the zeal and energy which you have expended in the work of the church during so many years. They recognize with gratitude your untiring efforts for the reduction of the old debt, the debt on the school house and the debt incurred for the restoration, and your constant solicitude in all matters pertaining to the welfare of our people. Your place at the rectory you have been looked to for guidance and assistance by all who require such and whether in distress or otherwise you have never been appealed to in vain. Indeed to the Rector you have, in the full sense, been a help-mate. At the present time when the opportunity seems to be presented your taking a brief respite from your numerous duties, and, it is to be hoped, some fitting relaxation both of body and mind, is altogether right to the congregation, not only to let them know the affectionate regard in which you are held by them, but also to place in your hands the means necessary for the object suggested and it is earnestly hoped you will accept accompanying gift, as a slight token of the congregation's interest in your welfare. Look forward to welcoming you at no distant date on your return to your home among us.

We remain, dear Mrs. Beck, on behalf of the congregation, sincerely and affectionately yours
C. E. Sherwood G. J. Pousette
M. J. Weller M. E. Archer
T. Buller J. Chamberlain

Peterborough, May 20th, 1889.

Mrs. Beck replied as follows:-

MY VERY DEAR FRIENDS,—I am deeply touched by the kindness which has prompted you at this time to address to me such words of affection and encouragement, and I am more grateful than I can express for the handsome gift, showing as it does how heartily and generously the congregation of St. John's have responded to the call you have made upon me. I thank you and them most sincerely for the manifestation of good will, and remain.

Very affectionately,

MARGARET BROWN

"The Rectory," May 25th, 1889.

P. S.—I desire also to convey to the Children's Guild my sincere thanks for their gift of a handsome prayer book.

A-Beck Family (03-01)

214

best copy available

TIME CHART FOR MARGARET BROWN BECK

by

Robert Peel Dennistoun

1972

August 1, 1826: Born in Northern Ireland. Taken from the church tablet at St. John's. Born 8-1-1826. The Tablet: In loving memory of Margaret, widow of the Reverend Canon Beck, M.A., Born August 1, 1826 at Newbridge, Ireland. Died February 24, 1903 at Peterborough, Canada. She Hath Wrought Good Work. (Where did the parish get this information?) "Newbridge" cannot be placed in Co. Fermanagh, but there was a small hamlet in Co. Cavan in the appropriate time period. Where did Margaret and her family come from?

June, 1840: Death announcement in the "Canadian Churchman" states that Margaret Brown arrived in Canada in 1840 (when she would have been 15 as family lore states. If she arrived in 1843, she would have been eighteen.)

A note in Mildred Beck Dennistoun's handwriting (not found) says that her grandfather, Allen Brown, died in Ireland. The Brown family came to New York in 1840. "My grandfather having died in Ireland, my grandmother brought the..."

June, 1843: Leave Ireland for Canada. A letter from Margaret to M.B. Hall, North Sterling, Cayuga County, NY dated November, 1843. She was 15. (This does not jibe with her birthdate. Where is this letter. Does she say she is 15? It appears rather that she was 18).

Her mother, Mrs. Brown has died. Margaret now in the family of Dr. Potter, Episcopal clergyman at Albany. This letter is to My Dear Uncle: saying that they left Ireland last June and landed in Canada. Catherine was left behind with Uncle Hugh. Jane was brought to Canada and left with Mr. Leary and Eliza was left with "My father's sister." She ends, "his affectionate niece." Another scrap of paper in my possession states that Catherine Ann Smith Brown died in New York in 1841.

November 1843 - August 1858: No known record of where Margaret Brown lived. Thought to have lived with Mrs. Boulton (who was married to George Strange Boulton in 1840) to help her with the three children left by his first wife. If that is the case and Margaret Brown cared for/helped with Harriet (17 in 1843), Edward Trevor (13 in 1843) and Georgiana (16 in 1843), it would explain why Harriet and Edward were buried in the Beck lots at Peterborough). (Need to find all available censuses for Cobourg 1840-1866 for record of Margaret Brown).

1851: Little Lake Cemetery incorporated (relative to burial of Georgiana Boulton Beck who was buried in Cobourg).

August 17, 1858: Margaret Brown in Toronto studying to be a dressmaker at Mrs. Lyon's establishment. Letter from Anna Maria Walton Beck Boulton in my possession written on that day from Northumberland Hall.

April 2, 1859: Announcement of dressmaker at Cobourg.

1859/1860: A second reference to St. Leonard's being built during these years. Beck still has money.

May 1, 1863: Resumed business of dressmaker at Cobourg.

1864: Georgiana Boulton Beck dies leaving eight children.

1860 - 1874: The Beck family lived at St. Leonard's in Ashburnham. Previously, the Beck family had resided in a pleasant family home "Trafalgar" now on Nicholl's Oval. A second source indicates St. Leonards was built in 1865. Which?

July 19, 1866: Married to John Walton Romeyn Beck at St. John's Church, Peterborough by the Rev. Mark Burnham.

May 29/30, 1867: Georgina Maud D'Eresby Beck born.

January 6, 1871: Mary Mildred Louise Beck born.

1874: St. Leonard's sold due to loss of Rev. Beck's independent fortune. "The family was always hocking the silver," Robert Maxwell Dennistoun. Move to Sheridan Street with probably Charles Beauclerc and Anne Maria Walton Beck, the two youngest children of Rev. Walton Beck. It is known that some of the older children disliked Margaret Brown and lived elsewhere.

December 7, 1889: Death of husband John Walton Romeyn Beck. Does Margaret have to leave the Rectory now and move to Toronto?

September 6, 1889: Marriage of Mildred Beck to Robert Maxwell Dennistoun in Peterborough, ON. At some point, Margaret Brown returns to Peterborough where she has a small home on Water Street. (Robert Maxwell Dennistoun's mother takes to her bed for three days upon hearing the news that her son is to marry Millie Beck).

July 13, 1892: Marriage of Maud Beck to Arthur Stevenson at Toronto in Bishop Strachan's School chapel. (Living in Toronto?)

February 24, 1903: Margaret Brown Beck died at Peterborough, age 76 years, at the home of her daughter, Mildred Beck Dennistoun. (Did this date come from the Death Certificate? Who gave the information. Would confirm birthdate of 1826.)

Notes from Mildred Beck Dennistoun's bible (in her handwriting): Death of John Walton Romeyn Beck, Saturday, December 7, 1889. Aged 61. Anna Maria Boulton, on 12th inst at residence of her son, John Walton Romeyn Beck, wife of George Strange Boulton of town of Cobourg, in 64 year. Shepherd (mother's sister) October 13 at 133 Park Street, north of ? Catherine Brown, wife of Francis Shepherd of H.M. Customs, age 56 years.

COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY 11 1904