

This obituary was sent by Wm. Frazer's great granddaughter, Mrs. Fred Ford (Grace Johnston) of Stayner, Ont.

Many were the expressions of sorrow, when the people of Kinloss and surrounding localities heard of the sudden death of Mr. Wm. Frazer, one of the earliest and most respected pioneers in this part of the country. He was born in Edinburgh the capital of Scotland in the 1819, of respectable Highland Scotch parents who had gone to live in that fine old City. Before reaching the years of manhood, he had learned the trade of a blacksmith and by good conduct and perseverance, gained the good will of not only his employer but also a large circle of friends and at the same time saved enough money to make a fair start in life.

He was married to Miss Ellen Travers of Glasgow during the year 1841 and soon after emigrated to America. Shortly after arriving in Canada, he secured a good situation in Toronto, where his eldest son was born, but hearing of the prospects open to first class workmen in Pittsburg the great iron manufacturing centre of the United States, he resolved to try his fortune there. After expending fourteen years working at his trade in Pittsburg and amassing considerable property, he was induced by the glowing accounts of the pleasures of backwoods life, its freedom and enjoyments, and the beauties of the scenery and the grandeur of the forests, to leave the city and purchase a home in the wildwoods of Canada. With whatever romantic ideas of such a life Mr. Frazer had determined on making Canada his home, they were soon dispelled by the rough experiences of reality. However his indomitable courage and perseverance enabled him to make a comfortable home for his family. About 12 years ago he erected lime kilns and commenced the sale of lime. In attending to this business and superintending the affairs of his farm, he was occupied until the time of his death. Shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon of the 26th of August, 1884, he went to examine one of kilns but upon stepping on the burned limestones, it immediately settled about 3 or 4 feet under his weight and there is little doubt that he was instantly suffocated by the volumes of poisonous gases which were escaping from the kiln at the time, although some suppose his death to be caused partly by injury he may have received by falling stones from the wall. Being alone he was not missed until after 4 o'clock in the evening when search was immediately made and he was found by a farm hand and one of his sons. The funeral took place on the 28th when the remains of the deceased gentleman was conveyed to their last resting place attended by a large cortege of friends and neighbours.

He leaves a widow and a family of six sons and 2 daughters to mourn his loss but they have the consolation of knowing that he was a truly pious man, earnest and conscientious in the discharge of his duties both to his creator and his fellow man. He was greatly beloved by his family and highly respected by all his neighbours and acquaintances.

His sons - Simon, William, John, James, Joseph and Charles.

His daughters - Maggie (Mrs. Morgan, Port Arthur) and Ella -Indiana, USA.

James - Grandfather Frazer.

N.B. (1971)

Typed by M. MacKinnon 1970

James Fraser married a sister of Ben Hughes of the 5th of Kinloss and Grace Johnston is their granddaughter. James was a photographer and lived in Lucknow. He built the house where Don Dennis presently lives.