

Makepeace's grandfather farmed in Cramahe

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A railway had been built within the complex walls for wagons carrying such heavy loads as cannon balls. It was reconstructed between 1868 and 1873 as the narrow-gauge steam-powered railway (referred to as the Royal Arsenal Railway or RAR). The first of the original 12 steam locomotives was delivered just before Edward was hired. Eventually, it would expand to 80 narrow-gauge locomotives, 2,500 wagons, 22 carriages and 147 miles of railway line in an area of two square miles — the most complex and densest railway network in Britain.

The workers got a break in 1894, when the standard work week went to 48 hours (42 for clerical workers). At that time, some 20,000 people worked at the complex.

Frederick's son Albert (Sterling's great uncle) became the third generation of the family to work at the factory, starting in 1901.

The factory continued to grow. At its peak, during the First World War, it employed 75,000 to 80,000. By 1917, 28,000 of the employees were women, working four 12-hr. shifts each week.

The factory eventually closed in 1994, and is currently being developed into a housing complex.

Farming was the life for Bea Makepeace's grandfather John McCubbin, who was fairly young when his parents James McCubbin and Janet McEwan sent him to work for his uncle David McEwan in Colmonell, Scotland. McEwan had two other employees (19-year-old Joseph Bell and 18-year-old Elizabeth McKelvie). An article Makepeace has read claimed John McCubbin won numerous awards for sheep that were shown in local areas.

McCubbin left for Canada when his uncle and his family sold the farm to come to Canada themselves. He continued to live with his uncle's family in Morganston though, when the McEwens later returned to Scotland, he did not.

He married Mary Ann Campbell in 1877 and, for the next few years, lived

on farms in Haldimand, Percy and Cramahe townships as their children came along. Sons George and James were born in Percy Township, William in Haldimand and John in Percy. Daughter Agnes Janet was born in Bowmanston, Sarah Jane in Percy Township. His youngest children, Mary and Thomas, were born in Red Cloud in Cramahe Township.

They eventually wound up in Warkworth on their own 200-acre farm. He raised sheep and bred Ayrshire cattle and Clydesdale horses. When their farmhouse was sold, she understands it went for \$600,000.

McCubbin was also interested in politics, serving as roads superintendent for some years. He was also reeve of Percy Township at different times and, in 1921 and 1926, was Warden of Durham and Northumberland Counties.

After his wife's death in 1916, he married a Mrs. Ada Leonard of Brighton. It didn't last, and he would move in with his youngest daughter's family. His health eventually failed, and he died in 1938 — but not without leaving behind a surprise.

In 2013, a second cousin (a descendant of McCubbin's daughter Agnes) contacted Makepeace with the news that her DNA had been checked, as had her father Donald's. They heard from a member of the McKelvie family that his DNA had a McCubbin match — and there was no McCubbin in his family, as far as he knew.

The McKelvie family member investigated the 1871 Scottish census and determined that McCubbin must have been the father of the baby his old coworker Elizabeth McKelvie bore in 1872.

Makepeace has seen pictures of John McKelvie, Elizabeth's son, and John McCubbin, and agrees that John McKelvie was her grandfather's first-born child.

"I just wish my mother was alive to hear this news," Makepeace said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Lakeshore Genealogical Society member Bea Makepeace shares the story of her farmer-politician grandfather at the group's recent Mystery Ancestor Night.