

Three Generations of Medical Practice in Warkworth 1860-1926

By Margaret McKague

Ed. Note — In a recent issue of the Journal it was mentioned in a story of Percy W.I. of a presentation made by Mrs. McKague of medical care in the village of years gone by. Following is the presentation made by Mrs. McKague. We are sure you will find it of interest.

Dr. J. N. McCrea 1819-1891

In the latter part of the 18th century, following the American War of Independence of 1776, two young Loyalist families, the McCreas and the Knapps, left New York State. They were harassed and robbed of their possessions by recently discharged American soldiers. They settled at Merrickville in Grenville County, Ontario. Here Edward McCrea met and married Margaret Knapp. During the rebellion of 1837 and 1838 Edward McCrea served in the Patriot's Army.

There were four children of this marriage — James, Amos, William and Mary. William lived in Peterborough, and I have no information about Mary beyond the date of her birth in 1828. Amos became a medical doctor, graduating in 1851. He married Agnes Reid and practised medicine in Roseneath, Hastings, Norwood, Campbellford and Stoney Creek.

James also studied medicine at Victoria College in Cobourg (originally meant to be the present University of Toronto). He served his internship under his brother at Roseneath and five years later moved to Warkworth. He married twice, the first wife being Bessie Bryce, who died at the age of twenty-two. His second wife was Margaret Forbes, daughter of Daniel Forbes and Janet Kennedy, another United Empire Loyalist family who came to Eastern Canada. According to the information I have, one of her sisters was married to Moses Linton of the Campbellford area.

James McCrea and Margaret had two children — Ezra Sanford, a cripple who died in 1870 at the age of 14 and Margaret, who married Nicholas Dennis Richards. She died in 1897 at the age of 39. Dr. James McCrea died in 1891 at the age of 72. He had relinquished his practice in Warkworth to his son-in-law, Dr. N. D. Richards and had moved to Campbellford to practice for a number of years, before returning to Warkworth where he died.

Dr. N. D. Richards 1852-1918

I have always understood that the Richards family was of Welsh origin and that the first one on record in Canada was a surveyor for the British Government in Upper Canada. His name was John and he is presumed to have married a daughter of an Indian Chief at Brantford. Dates are a little vague here, but their son Daniel (1769 to 1865) married Lucretia Dusenbury who died in 1876. Their son, John Oliver, born early in the 19th century, married Eliza Bibby, daughter of Robert Bibby and Rachel Mills. They produced nine children — seven girls and two boys, one of whom was Nicholas Dennis Richards. He graduated in medicine at the University of Toronto with honours and a silver medal in 1877. His sisters operated a carpet factory at their home near Castleton, which helped finance his education.

married again, Lulu Curtis of Warkworth. They moved to Belleville where he practised medicine until his death in May 1918. Dr. Richards was known as a kindly gentleman, an ardent Presbyterian and a strong "Tory".

Dr. J. N. Richards 1885-1926

James Nelson Richards, son of N. D. Richards and Margaret McCrea, was educated at Warkworth Public School, Warkworth Continuation School, Ripley Collegiate and Upper Canada College. He took his medical training at the University of Toronto and graduated with honours in 1910. After some months of postgraduate study in Boston and Germany, he joined his father in the established practice in Warkworth.

In March 1911, he married Clara Jessie Wilson. She was the daughter of William Wilson and Ruth Ann Osterhout. She was also the great granddaughter of two other United Empire Loyalist families. The home farm was one of the Crown grants to the Loyalists. Her maternal grandmother, Clara Bennett, wife of James Osterhout, came as a child from New York State to Prince Edward County. Her father was an officer in the British army and she, with her mother and six sisters, travelled to Canada by oxcart at night, hiding during the day, from marauding soldiers.

William and Ann Wilson had six children — Lillian May, William Edgar, Isabella Grace (who died in infancy), Thomas Franklin, Samuel Arthur and Clara Jessie. None of these are now living. The Wilsons had always, like the McCreas and the Richards, been staunch supporters of the Presbyterian Church in Warkworth.

James Nelson Richards left his practice in Warkworth when war broke out in 1914. He was commissioned as a Captain of the Medical Corps, and served in Britain and France after basic

training in Deseronto. During his absence his home was destroyed by fire and the family found temporary quarters in a house belonging to Mrs. Richard's father. On his return from overseas, Dr. Richards purchased a home at the east end of the village and maintained his office in this home until his death in 1926.

Like his father, he was an ardent Presbyterian, a dedicated Conservative and a Mason.

James and Clara Richards had four daughters — Edith McKenzie of Cobourg, Margaret McKague of Castleton, Clara McDonald of Peterborough and Doris Siple (deceased).

may 2/79
may 2/79

Around Castleton...

with
Joyce Buchegger
344-7870

Quote: "The measure of a person's life is not duration, but donation."

The community was saddened Wednesday by the death of Mrs. Flossie Welton and sympathy is extended to her family. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. G. Ficko and the Rev. D. Potter at the Castleton United Church.

It was Baptist Women's Missionary Society Sunday throughout the country and the ladies of the Cramahe Mission Circle were in charge of the service. Guest speaker was Mrs. R. Hendren of Lakefield, and Mrs. B. Newell, also of Lakefield, supplied special music. Lunch and a fellowship time followed.

Congratulations to Glen and Carolyn Jones on the arrival Thursday of their chosen daughter, Dayna, a sister for Mark and Chris.

The Story Hour was very pleased to be the recipient of a lovely record player, hi-fi set, a gift from the Castleton Community Club.

Thursday several mothers visited the Castleton Public School and sat in on classes for a close up view of some of the children's daily learning activities. Among other things, they viewed the Video Tape Resource, over which was shown The Prince and the Pauper. The parents appreciate the dedication of the teachers and the modern teaching aids being used to assist the children. Visitors couldn't help but notice the effects of the absence of the striking janitor and hope

that the matter may soon be settled.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McKague of Ogema, Saskatchewan, and Mrs. Albert Leonard of Winfield, B.C., spent some days visiting relatives Mr. and Mrs. Eric McKague, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. and J. E. McKague.

Friday afternoon visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Blakely were Mrs. H. White, Mrs. L. Craven and Mrs. E. Donnelly, all of Kingston, and Mrs. J. Yardy of Brighton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bailey spent the weekend in Shawville, Quebec, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Rush Bailey.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell King of Lakefield called on Mr. and Mrs. H. Buchegger Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Irene Somerville and Mr. Jack Lively were dinner guests Thursday of Mr. and Mrs. James Stark, Newtonville.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Somerville, Toronto, called on Mrs. Irene Somerville Sunday evening.

The annual meeting of the Castleton Women's Institute was held at the Cramahe Baptist Church Sunday School room on April 11. The roll call was answered by ways to improve our Institute. Members rejoined for the following year and annual reports were presented by the convenors of the standing committees. Lunch was served by Muriel White and Myrtle Ducie. The next meeting, May 9, will be at the home of Mrs. Myrtle Ducie and the Northumberland Dairy Princess, Miss Sharon McComb will be present.

Castleton WI holds annual meeting

AT HOME
The family of Albert and Verna Rusk invite relatives and friends to an "At Home" on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. To be held at Castleton Town Hall Saturday, May 5, 1979 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Best wishes only please.

He married Margaret McCrea and joined his father-in-law in his practice in Warkworth until Dr. McCrea moved to Campbellford. From this marriage there were five children — Lillian Frances, James Nelson, Mary Edith, Margaret and Johnny.

His son "Dr. Jim" joined him in the practice in Warkworth upon graduation from the University of Toronto Medical School. Following the death of his first wife, "Dr. N. D."

The annual meeting of the Castleton W.I. was held at the Cramahe Baptist Church SS room on April 11. The roll call was answered by ways to improve our Institute. Members rejoined for the following year and annual reports were presented by the convenors of the standing committee.

The list of officers for 1979-80 are as follows:

President, Mrs. Myrtle Ducie; 1st vice, Mrs. Muriel White; 2nd vice, Mrs. Eunice Gaudaur; secretary, Mrs. Linda Tait; treasurer, Mrs. Bernice Tait; district director, Mrs. Myrtle Ducie; alternate, Mrs. Beth Carr; branch directors, Mrs. Eleanore Young and Mrs. Ruth McGregor; curator, Mrs. Irene Osborne and Mrs. Nina Fischer. Convenors of standing com-

mittees were installed as follows:

Citizenship and world affairs, Beth May; education and cultural affairs, Mrs. N. Usher; agriculture and Canadian industry, Beatrice Turney; family and consumer affairs, Mrs. Pat Hayes; public relations, Beth Carr; pennies for friendship, Eunice Gaudaur; federated representative, Beatrice Turney.

The meeting was closed with the Institute Grace and lunch was served by Muriel White and Myrtle Ducie. The next meeting will be on May 9 at the home of Mrs. Myrtle Ducie and we will be pleased to have our dairy princess, Sharon McComb, with us. New members always welcomed.