

JAMES WILSON - MY GRANDFATHER

Since Grandpa was seventy-one years older than I, I never remember when he didn't seem old, with white hair and whiskers, and most of the hair missing on the top of his head. He never had his face shaved, but went regularly to our neighbour, Tom Dolan to have his hair and beard trimmed. Only once I know of him visiting a barber, and that trim, was a special treat from one of his grandchildren, who was a barber in Westboro.

Grandpa was a son of Broughton Wilson and his wife Mary Ann Tripp. He was raised on the townline between Fitzroy and Torbolton on the property now owned by Nelson Dolan. He was born May 17, 1845. In his early twenties he married a close neighbour Mary Dolan. Our bedding box is the hopechest, which Grandma brought to our place, and which was made by one of her brothers. Grandpa used the box in his room, as long as I can remember for his personal belongings and it was out of bounds for us. When he went shopping, he often bought round smooth peppermints, which he passed out sparingly to us, telling us a bird had come in through his window and layed these candy eggs. Between treats the candy was stored in Grandma's box.

Grandma and Grandpa lived in a small log house on our farm. The downstairs had two rooms. One was the combined kitchen and living room. The other was the bedroom for my grandparents and whichever child was the baby. The upstairs was reached by a ladder. It was one large room divided by a curtain. One side was the bedroom for the girls - the other for the boys. There were plenty of occupants for both sides, because there were seven sons and seven daughters.

William married to Mary Carr;

Mary Ann born May 17, 1870 -died September 1, 1921;

James first married to Rachel Sadler and after her death to Susannah Tripp;

Frances married to Harry Saunders;

Andrew married to Edith Tripp;

Samuel - bachelor;

Margaret married to George Anderson

Henry married to Rebecca Tripp;

George married to Charlotte Wilson;

Thomas married to May Gibson;

Florence married to Welland Lowrie;

Jessie married to James Wilson (not related);

Charlotte who died at age 7 ;

Charlotte's twin died at birth.