



**Figure 10. The Johnson family. Left: George H.M. and Emily Johnson. Right: Pauline, Henry, Allen, and Eva Johnson. (Strong-Boag and Gerson 2000)**

heavily influenced by her exposure to a procession of artists, writers, scholars, and dignitaries; the latter included Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught.

According to Pauline Johnson (1913:69), her mother and father strove to educate their children in both their Mohawk and English heritages:

These children were reared on the strictest lines of both Indian and English principles. They were taught the legends, the traditions, the culture and the etiquette of both races to whom they belonged; but above all, their mother instilled into them from the very cradle that they were of their father's people, not of hers. Her marriage had made her an Indian by the laws which govern Canada, as well as by the sympathies and yearnings and affections of her own.

On the whole, the Johnson family's time at Chiefswood appears to have been rather idyllic, marred only by the loss of Grandmother Helen Johnson, and several brutal attacks on George Johnson (1865, 1873, and 1878) by non-native timber traders and bootleggers who were plying their illicit trade on Reserve lands.

Pauline Johnson began writing poetry at a very young age. "As soon as she could write, she wrote her poems down. She was influenced by both the Mohawk chants she learned from her grandfather and by the English poetry she had begun to read" (Hartley 1980:15–17). Pauline Johnson was also particularly prone to illness, and was considered to be a frail child (Keller 1999:11, 16). As an adult she struggled with chronic bouts of bronchial and throat infections and one particularly vicious case of the streptococcal infection, erysipelas, which left her face temporarily disfigured and caused her to lose her