

### *John Ryan Families*

**John Ryan**, born in 1775, his wife Mary Burns and seven sons: Matthew, John, George, Michael, Moses, Patrick and Dennis were emigrants to Canada from Westford County, Ireland about 1814. They first settled along the St. Lawrence River, then settled on Lot 19 Conc. 9 N. Plantagenet about 1817. The Land Registry Office in L'Orignal shows John Ryan as being grantee of this property Sept. 28, 1824.

Descendants of this early family to the Pendleton Curran area have been prominent and active in community, church and school affairs. They joined with other families in building St. Luke Parish, many having been born, married and buried in St. Luke's. In this article we will follow the 7 family lines in order to establish Ryan descendants living in the area to-day, 168 years later.

**Matthew**, the eldest son settled in Leeds County where he died in the 1850's. On the death of John Ryan Sr. and according to tradition, Matthew's widow Winifred Findlay and her children John and Julia inherited this property. The E ½ 100 acres was passed down to John (Catherine McAllister) to Thomas (Ethel Moore) to John (Helen Charlebois). This he was sold in 1974 to Larneurux Potvin Growers. The barns were removed and in 1986 the house which was built by John Jr. and his sons Stanley, Karl and Tommy was sold to newcomers in Pendleton.

The W ½ 100 acres was passed down to Julia (James Stewart) to Robert (Beatrice Shupe) to James (Beatrice McCulloch) and later sold to Hubert Harrigan, a descendant of the George line. To-day it is cropped by Doyle and Reg Harrigan. The original log buildings were built on this west section and were demolished in the early 1930's.

Descendants of Matthew besides James Stewart's family were Lena (Harrigan), Ethel (Surch), Stanley's family in Saskatchewan, Tommy's five sons: John, Howard, Bernard, Garry and Murray; Karl's family: Hubert, Lambert, Stanley, Dean, Ernest, Edgar, Mona (McFall) and Rena (McPhee).

**John**, a tailor by trade, died in 1870. It is known that John lived in the Rockland-Cumberland area, that his wife was Margaret McFall and that two daughters returned to Pendleton. Annie married Neil Harrigan and Margaret married William Brown and had a son Reuben Brown. Some Ryans in the Rockland area believe themselves to be descendants of John Ryan the tailor. This is an area for some interesting research in the future.

George lived only on the homestead but died in 1840 at 37 years leaving a family ranging in age from 11 yrs to a baby not yet born. He was buried in Plantagenet. In later years, his widow Mary Catherine McKinley moved with her 7 children to the Riceville-Fournier area. Her four sons John, Moses, Hugh and George together cleared their four farms all with river-fronts. The George Ryan family were then referred to as the "River Ryans".

All four Ryan farms are active dairy and crop farms to-day. They are owned by Victor McKinley (John Ryan), Hans Bauer (Moses Ryan), Howard Ryan (Hugh and George).

George's wife Mary who was blind for many years died in Feb. 1891. She is buried with her daughter Catherine (a McGillivray plot) in Fournier graveyard, surrounded by her children and many grandchildren.

George Ryan had the largest number of descendants so it is difficult to do justice to all within a reasonable space. More information can be found in some family trees.

John married Maria Gates in 1858 and their descendants include the James, George A. and Arthur Ryan families; the Adelia Ryan (Gibbert Share Sr.) family of Pendleton; the Nellie Ryan (John Kelly) family from Fournier; Ada Ryan (Findlay MacEwen) of Maxwell; Catherine Ryan (Nicholson) family in Sask.; Mabel Ryan (Arrow) in Tillbury, Ont.

Descendants of John living and over 80 years are Ada Harkin (James); Carl and Beth (Gusy); George A.; Gerald MacEwen (Ada).

Moses married Anna Barrett in 1859 and his descendants are quite scattered. In 1885 he lost two children Eva, 9 yrs and Helena 6 yrs within 2 days to scarlet fever. His sons were Garrett, George Dean, John and Hugh. Garrett, unmarried was a sheep rancher in Montana, U.S.A. Hugh was ordained to the priesthood and said his first Mass in Fournier. John who married Elizabeth Gregg had two daughters nuns and two sons Phillip and Garrett. He retired in Vanhook Hill and his sons worked in Montreal. George Dean married Mary McCormick and continued on the farm for some years. His daughter Violet (Alfred Bradley) lived in Lemieux and has a daughter Marguerite McGillis in Alexandria. Dean Ryan a son of George Dean lived in Windsor, Ont. Two of his sons are Fr. Michael Ryan, Professor of Theology at St. Peter's Seminary in London and Fr. Timothy Ryan of the Scarboro Missions in Toronto. When George Dean left the Moses Ryan farm, it was taken over by Ernest Ryan, son of George Ryan. Ernest Ryan and his wife Dora Downing lived here until their deaths.

Hugh Ryan was the grantee of Lot 8 Conc. 11 200 acres in 1860.

Five years later, this land was divided into two farms. The E 100 was registered to George Ryan, the family's youngest child. Hugh retained the W 100 acres. Hugh married Mary MacGregor in 1871 and their descendants include Alfred Ryan (Florence Shane) 4 children on the homestead. Lewis Ryan (Catherine O'Byrne) 5 children, Corinne, Sask.; Urban Ryan (Helen Shane) 4 children, Macklin, Saskatchewan. Their daughters were Ellen (Michael Terry) 7 children, Fernaghsvalle; Catherine (Leonard Muir) 2 children, Lemieux; Aune (Howard Bangs) 8 children, Hawkesbury; Jane (unmarried). Jane was buried in Plantagenet with her grandfather George Ryan.

George Ryan Jr. married Charissa Gates in 1870 and had two sons Ernest Ryan (Dora Downing) 1 child, Charles Ryan (Sarah Downing) 7 children, Fournier. Their daughters were Cecelia Ryan (Thomas John Terry) 3 children, Iniquah, Hanna (Henry Terry) 5 children, Ottawa, Clara (Robert Bradley) 1 child, Fournier, Polly (William Cameron), Maria and Elsie unmarried, all of Montreal.

George Sr. also had 3 daughters Catherine (William McGillivray) one child Alexander. She died in 1930 at 97 years. Mary Ann (Alexander McGillivray) children Malcolm, George, Willie, Mary Ann and Isabel (Herb Muir). Mary Ann died in 1874 at 38 yrs. The third daughter Margaret (Alfred Cresser) had six children Alfred, Hugh (Margaret Shane), Margaret (William Bradley), Mary Ann (Isaac Shen), John (MacDonald), Agnes and Maude unmarried.

Michael was hotel keeper in Plantagenet for years, then settled on a farm on the 9th concession directly south of Curran. He had at least two sons John and Patrick who married two Kennedy sisters. John remained on the homestead, Patrick and his wife moved to Buckingham (Quebec).

John's family consisted of John V. Ryan (Mary MacGregor) 9 daughters, Kennedy (unmarried) on the homestead, Minnie (unmarried) on the homestead, Elizabeth (James McKinley) 4 children, Fournier. Some descendants of this family well known in the Curran area are Ruby McKinley, Gertrude McAllister, Victor McKinley, Loreta Ryan, Hamilton and Vivian Ryan Muir. The original Michael Ryan farm is now part of the DeJorne Potato farm.

Descendants of Patrick are still in the Buckingham area. Margaret MacManara and Catherine McFaul, daughters of Virginia Ryan, Patrick's grand daughters keep in touch with their cousins.

Moses was employed at Plantagenet Mills and at 16 years of age while attempting to row a man across the river was carried over the dam and drowned.

Patrick settled on Lot 16 Conc. 9 (across the road from Don Kin-  
near) where he died in 1865. His son Moses Ryan married Rose Shane  
(daughter of John Shane and Margaret Funkong) in 1877 and continued  
on the homestead. Winnie Ryan, a daughter of Moses taught school for  
many years. His son Tommy Ryan and wife Viola Smith from Alfred Centre  
were the last descendants of Patrick on this farm (in the early 1930's).  
The land afterwards was owned by Ernest Darragh.

Dennis, twin brother to Patrick became land owner of Lot 20 Conc.  
9 in the village of Pendleton. He married Bridget McCormick in 1835 and  
had three sons Charles, George and Dennis Jr. Charles died young; George  
born in 1837, married Anne McAllister and lived on Lot 22 Conc. 10 S.  
Plantagenet (now Doyle Harrigan's home).

Dennis Jr. after spending some years in Minnesota, returned to the  
family farm in 1876. His father Dennis Sr. died in 1879. He married Alexina  
Durocher in 1881 and was very active in township and school matters.  
Dennis had four sons: Matthew, John, Phillip and Hugh.

This farm owned in later years by Leslie Shane produced good crops  
of hops (used in beer making) during the late 30's and early 40's. Our  
Lady of Divine Love School was built on 3 acres of this farm in 1933.  
Lamoureux Berry Farm takes up a large portion of the acreage to-day.  
Some private houses have been built but the lot where the original buildings  
stood is now owned by Norman Valleé.

This article has been written in tribute to a prominent pioneer family  
who has left its mark on St. Luke Parish and are the roots of such a large  
number of descendants.

Submitted by the Ryan Families

#### Researched by

Hubert Ryan — Ottawa (Matthew-Karl)

Walter Moore — Ottawa (George-Alfred-Mary)

Gordon Writler — Maryville (John-Ada MacEwen)

M. McGillis — Alexandria (Moses-Violet Bradley)

Norbert & Pauline Ryan — Casselman (Alfred)

Information also provided by Charlie Clark.

Margaret, the oldest member of the family married Peter Clark in  
1905. They first lived on the original Franklin homestead now the home  
of James and Inez Dixon. They had two children: Alice born in 1906 mar-  
ried Eric Benson in 1935 and Charlie in 1908. Charlie and Adelia McCrack  
were married in 1937. At this time Peter and Margaret were living on Lot  
21 NE Conc. 10 S Plantagenet on the western outskirts of Pendleton village.  
These two families make up the only descendants of George and Anne Ryan.

Alice's family consists of:

Charles - (Bernice Bombower) ch. Arlene, Deborah, Patrick, Sharon.  
Walter - (Dona Feichter) ch. Kevin, Brenda Lee.

Michael (Darlene Hallaway) ch. Vicki, Shawn, Chris.

Geraldine (Richard Maisonneuve) ch. twins Craig and Kirk.

Carmelita (Brian Weyburn) ch. Cheryl, Vance.

Dean (Shirley Beaudette) Jennifer, Lisa.

Terrence (Johanne Shane) Lindsay, Andrew.

Theresa (Gerry Letroux) 2 boys.

Peter Clark died in 1952. Alice died two years later in Sept. 1954  
after being in poor health for some time. Twins Terrence and Theresa were  
only 5 yrs. At that time Margaret shared her home with Eric and his  
children. She guided them well and gave them the security they needed  
in those difficult years when Eric had to be working. Margaret died in 1959.

Charlie's family consists of:

Anita (Hubert Robitaille) ch. Patrice, Celeste, Stephen, Michael, Paula.  
Sheila (Desmond Robinson) Anna Marie, James (Rhonda, John deceased).

Colleen (Aldren Robinson) Danny, Lynn and twins: Leslie and Jo Anne.

Mary (John Robinson) Sean.

Ryan (Lise Maisonneuve) Christopher, Trevor.

Monika (William Duggan) ch. Julie, Angela, Kelly, Cathy.

Patricia (James Richards) ch. Jason, Paul.

David (Penny Fookes Wheeler) ch. Dane.

Anne is certainly remembered for her deep love of St. Luke's. She  
was always a most generous parishioner when monetary support was needed.  
She, as well as Margaret always had a very deep devotion to St. Anne.  
Submitted by Charles and Adelia Clark.