

Finding Aid for the Ross Graves Collection—For the East Hants Museum, November 2025

1. Framed family record for the Thomas and Elizabeth (Withrow) Fenton of Lower Rawdon.
Made by Libbie Britton, granddaughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (her mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth) and given by Libbie's sister Janet to Alma Fenton of Upper Rawdon (daughter of William, of Robert, of Thomas and Elizabeth)
2. Framed watercolour painting by Rhoda MacDougall of West Gore, signed RMD.
2 x27 cm; brown frame, white mat
Scene: country road, fencing along sides of the road, birch tree on right, house in distance.
This is the view in front of Rhoda's parents' home, West Gore, looking east to the house where lived Rhoda's aunts Ethel, Emma, and Myrna MacDougall. Rhoda gave it to them, and when the last aunt died and their brother Munroe cleaned out the house, he gave it to me. a distant relative.
3. Autograph book of Ethel MacDougall of West Gore.
Contains autographs and name cards of relatives and neighbours, 1890s and on. From Munroe.
4. Autograph book of Annie (MacDonald) Barker of Centre Gore.
Contains autographs of relatives and neighbours, 1893 and on. From her daughter Nellie, another distant relative, 1960s.
5. Bible of John Dodds of Centre Gore.
Leather bound. Inscribed: John Dodd's Book, May 5th 1858
He was a ship's carpenter, died 1879 aged 28 from a fall while at work in Avondale; buried in the Kennetcook cemetery.
See comments penciled in on inside back cover.
6. Poetry scrapbook of Jessie Blackbum of Milford Station (later. Mrs Harry Purple, Milford Station).
Contains two poems of interest: one 'Memories of My Boyhood Days in Selma', by Charles Sweeny, and the other the once widely known ballad 'Babes in the Woods' about the Mahar children lost in the Dartmouth woods, by Devil Dan' Blois.
7. Homespun linen, made from flax grown on the John MacDougall place at Riverside Comer, spun and woven by his daughters Mary Ann and Janet, who raised Marion Williams, who when old gave it to my grandmother Jennie Sim of Centre Gore.
(Mr MacDougall was M.L.A. for Hants East at one time; there is a large picture of his house, with Mary Ann and Janet in the picture, in box #17.)
8. Homespun tablecloth, spun and woven from flax grown on the James Gordon farm, West Gore; made by his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (Madill) Gordon, wife of James Jr., who lived on the homestead. From Helen (Purple) Nichols of Truro, a distant relative and great-grand-daughter of Elizabeth.
9. Skein of wool, spun by Elizabeth (Madill) Gordon (1827-1899) of West Gore, from sheep raised on the James Gordon farm. West Gore. From Helen Nichols.
10. Wooden kitchen paddle, from James Gordon home. Passed down in the family.
11. Coffin plate of Alexander Sim, bom 1817 in Rothies, Morayshire, Scotland; died 1897 at his home. Centre Gore; buried in Upper Rawdon. Passed down in the family; he was a brother to my gt-gt-grandfather.
12. Family Bible of Benjamin and Freedom (Strong) Sanford, early settlers in West Gore. Contains family record, 1763-1814.
25 by 40 cm, leather bound. Heavy. Inside binding badly twisted. Inscribed on inside back cover: 'B. McDonald'.
Poor condition. Missing up to Genesis XV and from Philemon on.
The family lived for many years in the western end of what is now West Gore, on what was later called the antimony mines road. Remains of the cellar can still be seen in what is now woods. Many descendants in East Hants: McPhees, MacDonalds, MacDougalls, Sims/Simms, etc.
Of interest: seven sets of twins in four generations of this family, beginning with Benjamin and Freedom's daughters Drusilla and Cinderella (spelt 'Syndarilla' in the record). See chart inserted next to the family record, between the Apocrypha and the New Testament.
Bought in 1960s from Nellie Barker of Centre Gore, daughter of Annie, daughter of Benjamin, son of Cinderella.

Notes on history and families of eastern Hants County

compiled by Ross Graves in the 1950s and 60s

Box 1

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Micmacs | |
| 2. Acadians | |
| 3. Settlers along the shore | |
| 4. Douglas township grant, 1784, 1786, &c | 38. Hants Co. deeds |
| 5. Douglas - Haliburton Associates | 39. Hants Co. probate |
| 6. Douglas-misc. | Deeds -1 |
| 7. 84 th Regiment - muster rolls,
copied from originals at PRO, London, 1959 | Deeds-2 |
| 8. 84 th Regiment-papers &c | East Hants Historical
Society |
| 9. Rawdon township grant, 1784 | J.W. stones |
| 10. Rawdon town meetings, 1810-1875 | Grade 10 history notes |
| 11. Rawdon - Loyalist claims | |
| 12. Rawdon Baptist Church | |
| 13. Rawdon - misc. | |
| 14. Eastern Hants names in Newport records | |
| 15. Eastern Hants names in Windsor records | |
| 16. Everyday life in early days | |
| 17. Shipbuilding | |
| 18. Churches, ministers | |
| 19. Roads, bridges, railway | |
| 20. Maps | |
| 21. Place names | |
| 22. Literature | |
| 23. Miscellaneous | |
| 24. Hants County histories | |
| 24a. Ralph Whittier's history | |
| 25. PANS work notes | |
| 26a. 26b, 26c-schools | |
| 27. school returns - Douglas | |
| 28. school returns - Rawdon | |
| 29. school returns - Newport &c | |
| 30. Squire Densmore's diary | |
| 31. William Mosher's necrology | |
| 32. S.P.G. reports | |
| 33. census lists | |
| 34. gravestones | |
| 35. Crown land grants | |
| 36. PANS land grants-A | |
| 37. PANS land grants-B | |

Community files

Admiral Rock
Belnan
Burntcoat
Centre Gore
Centre Rawdon
Clarksville
East Gore
East Noel
East Uniacke
East Walton
Elmsdale
Enfield
Five Mile River
Georgefield and Glencoe
Greenfield
Hardwoodlands
Hillsvale
Indian Road, East and West
Kennetcook
Lantz

Box 2

Lower Selma
Maitland
Maitland clippings
Maple Grove
Milford Station
Mill Village
Minasville
Moose Brook
Mount Uniacke
Nine Mile River
Noel
Noel Road
Noel Shore
North Noel Road
North Salem
Northfield
Rawdon Gold Mines (Pleasant Valley)
Renfrew
Riverside Corner
Ryans Creek
Selma
Shubenacadie
South Maitland
South Rawdon
Stanley
Tenecape
Upper Kennetcook
Upper Nine Mile River
Upper Rawdon
Urbania
Walton
West Gore - general
West Gore - antimony mines
West Gore - cemetery -1
West Gore - cemetery - 2
West Gore - church
West Gore - college
West Gore - schools
West Gore - news clippings

Family Files

Ainslie
Aitken
Aker
Alexander
Allen
Allison
Ambrose
Anderson
Andrews
Angevine
Annand
Anthony - 2 folders
Archibald
Armstrong
Arnold
Ashley
Aubray
Aylward

Banks
Barbrick
Barclay
Barkhouse
Barr
Barrett
Barron
Bartlett

Box 3

Beach
Beattie
Bechman
Bell
Benere
Bennet
Best
Bilby
Bishop
Blackburn
Blades
Blair
Blake
Blois - 6 folders
Boate
Boggs
Bond - Upper Rawdon
Bond - Lower Rawdon
Boomer
Boudreau
Bowman
Braden
Bradley
Braughan
Brazil
Breachin
Brennan
Brightman
Brimicombe
Brison
Britton
Bruce-West Gore
Bruce - Musquodoboit
Bryden
Buchanan
Burgess
Burnett
Burris
Burton

Caddell
Cahill
Caldwell
Cameron

Campbell
Canavan
Carr
Carroll
Carter
Casey
Chisholm
Church
Clark - Clarksville
Clark - Musquodoboit
Clark, Ellis - Halifax
Clooney
Clow

Box 4

Cochrane - clippings
Cochrane - Felix and Terry
Cochrane - East Gore
Cochrane - Minasville
Colbert
Colburn
Cole
Collins
Colter-see Coulter
Conley
Connors
Conrad
Cook
Copeland
Corbett
Corney
Cotta m
Coulter
Courtney
Cox
Crawford
Creed
Crocker
Croft
Crossley
Crossman
Crowe
Crowell
Cruickshank
Cunard
Curren
Currie
Custance

Dalrymple
Daniels
Dartt
Davidson
Davis
Davison - 2 folders
Dawes
Day
Deal
Dearman

Dechman
Demont
Densmore - 2 folders
Dewis
DeWolf
Dick
Dickie
Dill
Dillman
Dimock-2 folders
Dingle
Dixon
Dodd(s)
Dodge
Donaldson
Dorey
Dotten
Douglas
Douthwright
Dow
Dowell, Doull
Dowling
Doyle
Drillio
Dunbrack
Dunn
Dunton and other Black families

Eagles
Eaton
Eddy
Edgett
Edwards
Eisan
Eldridge

Box 5

Elliott
Ellis
Ells
England
Erskine
Esdale
Etter
Ettinger-3 folders

Fahie
Fancy
Farnell
Faulkner
Fenton-6 folders

Ferguson

Fielding

Findlay

Fish

Fisher

Fisk

Fitzpatrick

Flemming

Fletcher

Flynn

Foley

Forbes - 5 Mile River, 9 Mile River

Forbes - Old Barns

Fowler

Fox - Northfield

Fox - Musquodoboit

Frail

Frame

Franklin

Fraser - Nine Mile River

Fraser - Musquodoboit

Fraser - Parrsboro

Freize

Fulmore

Fulton

Gaetz

Gale

Gallant

Garby

Garden
Garland
Gass
Gauld
Gay
Gibbon
Gilbert
Gilby
Gill
Gilroy
Gladwin
Glennie
Goff

Box 6

Gordon -13 folders
Gorman
Gorvette
Gould
Gow
Graham
Grant - East Gore, 7 folders
Grant - Hardwoodlands
Grant - Fort Ellis
Grant - Musquodoboit
Grantmyre
Graves - 3 folders
Gray
Green
Greeno
Grono
Grumley

Haley
Hall
Hamilton - Centre Gore
Hamilton - Rawdon
Hanes, Hines
Hanna
Hare
Harris
Harrison
Harvey-West Gore
Harvie, Harvey-Noel Road
Hawkins
Hay

Box 7

Hayes
Hayward-see Howard
Hazel
Helpard
Henderson
Henley
Hennigar-4 folders
Higgins - Rawdon - 3 folders
Higgins - Musquodoboit
Hilchie
Hill
Hiltz
Hines
Hingley
Hirtle
Holland
Holman
Hood
Hopkins
Horne
Horton
Howard, Haywood
Howe
Howlett
Hoyt
Hughes - Kennetcook
Hughes - Princeport
Huntley
Hurley
Hutchinson - Rawdon
Hutchinson - Musquodoboit
Hutt

Irving, Irvin(e)
Ingram, Ingraham
Isenor

Jackson
Jamieson
Jennings
Johnson, Johnston
Joudrey, Jodrey
Joy
Joyce

Kavanagh
Keating
Kehoe

Kellough
Kelly
Kennedy
Kenty
Kerr
Keyes
Kilcup
Kilian
Kindervater
King
Kirkpatrick
Kitchen
Knowles

Lacey, Leacy
Lade
Laffin - 2 folders
Lahey
Lake
Landerkin
Lane
Langille
Lantz
Lattie
Lavers
Lawrence
Laws, Law
Lawton
Lay, Leek
Ledwidge
Lee
Leighton
Lemmon - Rawdon
Lemmon - Musquodoboit
Lennerton
Lennox
Leslie
Letson
Levy
Lewis
Lindsay
Lingard
Liswell
Little
Lively
Locke

Box 8

Lockhart
Logan
Loomer- 2 folders
Loughead
Lowe
Lunn
Lynch
Lyttle, Lightle

MacAloney
MacArthur
MacAskill
MacAulay
McBane
MacCallum
MacCormick
MacCulloch
McCurdy
MacDonald - Centre Gore
MacDonald - Riverside
MacDonald - Indian Road
MacDonald - others, 2 folders
McDonnell
MacDougall - Riverside
MacDougall - Maitland
MacDougall - Belnan
MacDowell
McDuffie
McFetridge
McGinnis - see McInnes
McGuire - see Maguire
McHardie
McHeffey
McInnes
McIntosh
MacKay
McKeen
McKeil
McKenna
Mackenzie - 2 folders
McKillop
McKinnon
McLachlan
McLaughlin of Economy - 3 folders

Box 9

McLean

McLearn-4 folders

McLellan

McLeod

McMichael

McMillian

McMullin

McNeil

McNutt

McPhee - 20 folders

McQuarrie

Box 10

Macumber
Madden
Madill
Maguire
Main
Malcolm
Manley
Mann
Marriott
Marsh
Marshall
Marsman
Marsters
Martell
Mason
Matheson
Mattatal
Meadows
Meehan
Meek
Messervey
Metlin
Miller - Kennetcook - 6 folders
Miller - Newport
Miller-Musquodoboit, Fall River
Millett
Milne
Minard
Mitchell
Monteith
Moody
Moore
Morris
Morrisey
Morrison
Morton
Mosher
Moxon
Moxsom
Mumford
Murdoch
Murphy-Gore
Murphy - Rawdon
Murray

Neil
Nelson
Newcomb
Nichols
Nieforth
Nix
Noble
Nolan
Nolter
Norman
Northover
Northrup
Nowlan

O'Brien - Noel
O'Brien - Rawdon
O'Donnell
O'Neil
O'Rourke
O'Toole
Oatley
Ogilvie
Olson
Orechia

Box 11

Osborne

Oxley

Pace

Page

Parker - Rawdon

Parker - Shubenacadie

Parker - Nine Mile River

Parker - Musquodoboit

Parks, Park, Parke

Parks - Noel

Parr

Paterson - Five Mile River

Patterson

Patton

Pearson-2 folders

Pemberton

Peters

Phalen

Pineo

Pollock

Pooley

Porter

Potter

Powell

Power

Pratt

Preeper

Prescott

Price

Proctor

Putnam

Queripel

Rafter

Ramsay, Ramsey

Rand

Rankin

Rath, Rathe

Ray

Reader

Redden

Redmond

Reid - Moose Brook

Reid - Musquodoboit

Reid - Centre Gore

Reynolds

Rhind

Rhyno

Richardson

Riley

Rines-3 folders

Robertson

Robinson

Rolph, Rolfe

Rose

Ross

Roulston

Roy

Royles

Russell

Ryan

Salter

Box 12

Sanford-7 folders
Sargent
Saunders
Savage
Schwartz
Scothorne
Scott - East Gore - 8 folders
Scott - Minasville
Scott - Belnan
Scott - Musquodoboit
Seaboyer
Sedgewick
Seeton
Sharpe
Shaw
Sheehy
Sheridan
Shortt
Shunaman
Sim, Simm - 3 folders
Simmonds
Simpson
Sinclair
Singer - 2 folders
Skaling
Smeltzer
Smiley
Smith - Irish
Smith-Yorkshire
Smith-Scotch Village
Smith-Rawdon
Smith - Rev. David
Smith-others
Smith-clippings

Box 13

Snide
Soley
Spares
Spearing
Spencer
Sprott
St. John
Stairs, Stanfield
Steadman
Steck
Stephens
Sterling
Stevens
Stevenson
Stewart-Wallace
Stewart - Indian Road
Stoddard
Streach
Strong
Stuart
Sullivan
Sutherland
Sweeney
Sweet
Swift

Tracey
Trenholm
Tucker
Tufts
Tulloch
Tully
Turner
Turple

Underwood
Urquhart

Vance
Vaughan

Waddell
Walker
Wall
Wallace - Rawdon - 6 folders
Wallace - Kings Co.
Waller
Walsh
Walters
Ward
Wardrop
Watson

Taggart
Tanner
Tarr
Taylor
Tays
Teasdale
Temple
Tennyson
Terhune
Thomas
Thompson - Oxford
Thompson - Nine Mile River
Thomson
Thurrott
Tipping
Tobin
Todd
Tomlinson

Weatherhead
Webb
Webber
Webster
Weldon
Wellwood
Weiner
West
Whalen
Wheadon, Wheaton
Whidden
White - Noel Road - 4 folders
White - South Maitland
White - Musquodoboit

Box 14

Whitman
Whittier
Wickwire
Wier, Weir, Wyre - 2 folders
Wilcox
Wile
Williams
Wilson
Withrow - 3 folders
Wood - white - 2 folders
Wood - Black
Woodworth
Woolahan
Woolaver
Wright

Yeadon
Yohnke
Yorke
Young
Yuill

Zwicker

General file:

Index, 13 pp.

A, B

C

D-F

G

H-J

K, L

Mac

M

N-Q

R

T-V

W-Z

1. Scribblers containing interviews made in 1950s and 60s. Earlier and later interviews were written on loose pages which I discarded after incorporating the data into the family folders. (Notebook marked 'Book 11' contains some data from earlier interviews not incorporated.)
 - A. Harry Withrow, Belnan, 1957
 - B. Harry Withrow, Belnan, 1957-58
 - C. Harry Withrow, Belnan, 1958
 - D. Harry Withrow, Belnan
 - E. Will MacDougall, West Gore, 1957-58; Dr. Eliza Brison and sister Nellie Sim, West Gore, 1958; Harry Withrow, Belnan, 1958
 - F. Alma Fenton, Upper Rawdon, 1958
 - G. Bertie Madill, Centre Rawdon, 1958; Gertie Moxon, Centre Rawdon, 1958; Alvah and Vera Campbell, Greenfield, 1958
 - H. Alvah Campbell, Greenfield; Shirley Parker, Greenhill, 1961
 - I. Annie Grant, East Gore, 1957, 1960
 - J. Annie Grant, East Gore
 - K. Myrtle MacDougall, West Gore, 1958
 - L. Leila McCulloch, Noel Road, 1957
 - M. Leila McCulloch, Noel Road, 1958 Creighton White and dau..Thelma, Noel Road, 1957, 1958
 - N. Howard Allison, Georgefield, 1958; Jim Miller, Indian Road, 1958
 - O. Gladys Parker, North Salem, 1961; Ethel Cruickshank, Shubenacadie
 - P. Lizzie Snide, 1961; Margaret Reid, 1961; Frances Annand, 1961; all of Shubenacadie
 - Q. Margaret Wickwire, Louise Custance, Mary MacDonald, Adeline Fox, Milford Station, 1961; Gladys McPhee, Hardwoodland, 1961; Alice Caldwell, Nine Mile River, 1961
 - R. Dutch Settlement area, various informants, 1961
 - S. Fred and Jennie Brimicombe, Admiral Rock; Murray MacDonald, Ryans Creek, 1961
 - T. Billy and Kate Nelson, Shuby; Mary MacDougall, Mary Putnam, Maitland, 1961
 - U. Lou Eaton, Hannah Lawrence, Maitland; Roy sisters, Maitland, 1961; Mattie Densmore, Halifax, 1961
 - V. three Roy sisters, Maitland, 1961, 1965
 - W. Chester Hennigar, East Noel; Pearl O'Brien, Noel; Colin Faulkner, Noel
 - X. Chester Hennigar, East Noel
 - Y. Ruth Miller, Lower Selma, 1958; Milton and Alice Reid, Moose Brook, 1958; Woodbury Dalrymple, Lower Selma, 1957; Mary Ells Canning, Noel Shore, 1958
 - Z. Milton and Alice Reid, Moose Brook, 1958; Pearl O'Brien, Noel, 1958
2. Five smaller size scribblers containing data copied in 1958 and 1959 at the PRO in London: extracts from documents regarding the Royal Highland Emigrants who settled in Douglas and the South Carolina Loyalists who settled In Rawdon.
3. Nine smaller size scribblers containing data copied in 1958 at the office of the Registrar General of Scotland In Edinburgh: baptism and marriage records for families of settlers in Douglas whose origin in Scotland I knew; e.g., Rothes in Morayshire for any Sim baptisms 1770-1807.

Box 15 - p.2

4. Cemetery inscriptions, 2 volumes
5. Rawdon Anglican Church records marriages, baptisms, and burials, 2 volumes
6. Newspaper extracts, marriages and deaths in eastern Hants County; 2 volumes
 - copied by Annabel (Siteman) Ells of Halifax at PANS
 - copied by me at Acadia University Library: Christian Messenger extracts, 1837-1857
7. Indices: loose pages held together by large paperclips:
 - Index to Rawdon Anglican Church records
 - Index to newspaper extracts copied by Mrs. Ells
 - Index to Christian Messenger extracts
 - Index to Helen Whidden's Smith history
 - Index to Rawdon poll tax lists, 1791-1795
8. Small record book giving key to sources given by number rather than name on family pages