

**MORRISSEY FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER**  
**DESCENDANTS OF PATRICK MORRISSY AND MARY PHELAN**  
[www.morrisseyfamilyhistory.com](http://www.morrisseyfamilyhistory.com)

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*Welcome to the Morrissey Family History Newsletter. This, and future issues of the Newsletter, will contain Morrissey news and updates for the family history website. I hope you find something of interest in the Newsletter. Please email me if you have news you would like included in the Newsletter or if you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list. Please email me if you would prefer to not receive the newsletter and I will delete your email address from the list.*

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**NOTES ON DOROTHY MAGRANE MORRISSEY:**

Gerry and Claire Bisailon of Rochester, New Hampshire have recently communicated with me regarding their relative Dorothy Magrane. Of course, I immediately recognized the name as my Aunt Dorothy who married my Uncle Herb Morrissey. They had two children, Linda and Bob Morrissey and lived almost next door to us when we were growing up on Oxford Avenue in Montreal's Notre Dame de Grace neighbourhood in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Dorothy Magrane and Herb Morrissey married at St. Patrick's Church in Montreal in 1939; my father, Edgar Morrissey, was the best man at the wedding. In the 1936-1937 edition of *Lovell's Montreal Directory*, Herb is listed as living at the family home at 2226 Girouard Avenue and employed as a musician. He had a band in which my father played guitar, banjo, and string bass. Music was always a part of the Morrissey family. There was an upright piano as you entered the living room of the flat on Girouard Avenue and I remember, when I was around ten years and staying for the day at my grandmother's flat, asking her to play the piano. I think she played a few notes before she said she had forgotten how to play. There was also a cabinet in the living room, between the large maroon couch and a big easy chair, with old sheet music in it. In the dining room there was an old Victrola record player, the kind that required winding, and it still had a container of steel needles once used to play records. In 1937-1938, again according to *Lovell's*, Herb worked for North End Motors. In 1940 he worked as an accountant at Leduc Auto and he and Dorothy lived at apartment # 4, 3811 Prud'homme Avenue, several blocks west of Girouard.

The following information is from an informative genealogy prepared by Claire and Gerry Bisailon. Dorothy Magrane was born in Montreal in 1917. Her parents were Bernadette Gagnon and George Raymond Magrane. Bernadette Gagnon was one of four

daughters and two sons of Elzear Gagnon and Emma Blanchette. Elzear Gagnon married Emma Blanchette on 17 July 1876 in Windsor, Quebec. Windsor, located in Quebec's Eastern Townships, is a few miles north of Sherbrooke. Elzear Gagnon was born on 28 February 1853 in Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Quebec and died possibly in Montreal around 1932-1933. Emma Blanchette was born on 18 April 1857 and her parents were Damase (Pierre) Blanchette and Rosalie (Marie) Lemieux. Emma Blanchette died at the Montreal home of her daughter, Bernadette Gagnon Magrane, on 8 December 1928. The funeral was held a few days later at Biddeford, Maine where she is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery. (See note # 1 below)

Bernadette Gagnon Magrane was born in Windsor, Quebec on 18 November 1898; she died on 1 April 1941 at the home of her daughter, Dorothy Magrane Morrissey. My mother remembers supplying a mattress for this last illness of Dorothy's mother. It is possible the family lived on Decarie Boulevard near Queen Mary Road at this time. There is a restaurant on Sherbrooke Street West between Oxford Avenue and Marcil Avenue, formerly called "Ma Heller's", that Dorothy frequented when young; apparently she and Ma Heller were friends. The restaurant is now called "Maz" and is probably under different ownership. Bernadette Gagnon and George Magrane divorced possibly in the 1930s and George returned or moved to the United States; it wasn't until after the death of George's second wife that he re-entered Dorothy's life. By this time Herb and Dorothy had two children, Linda and Bob.

At this point I refer to my brother John Morrissey's memories of our Aunt Dorothy. He recollects that Dorothy's father was from Albany, New York and remembers him visiting Herb and Dorothy when they lived on Oxford Avenue in the 1950s or early 1960s. He believes that George was fairly wealthy and drove a big car, maybe a Hudson, as he recalls seeing it in their driveway. My mother, Hilda Nichols (né Parker), Dorothy's sister-in-law, believes that Dorothy's father left the car to her in his will. She also believes Dorothy went to Protestant schools. (See note # 2 below)

Another, sadder memory, is that of my father who died in 1956. He had rheumatic fever as a child, as did his brother Herb, and the two boys were quarantined at home together with their mother. One of their brothers, Alex Morrissey, stayed at his maternal grandparents during this time and would tap on the window when he returned home to talk with his mother. Herb and Edgar were the youngest children in the family, Herb was born in 1910 and Edgar in 1912, and were very close. There is a photograph of the two boys together on the Morrissey Family History website. However, because of this illness, as was common with rheumatic fever, my father's heart was damaged. Many years later, in 1956, it was necessary for him to go to Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston regarding his heart disease. When it was evident that the end was near, my mother was joined by Dorothy at the hospital in Boston. My father died in the presence of both women.

Another memory is that of two of the sisters of my grandmother Edith Sweeney Morrissey. After she died in 1965 the sisters, Edna and Essie, continued living at the Girouard Avenue flat. Both sisters were old, Essie had been deaf for many years and was

now also blind, and Edna had bad nerves. I remember visiting them with my brother for several Christmases after our grandmother died. However, it was Dorothy who seems to have helped out the most with them, she must have visited them regularly and bought their groceries for them. I remember Edna being quite upset when the Dorothy was visiting her daughter Linda in the United States and couldn't buy their groceries that week.

I was in Vancouver in January 1998 when Uncle Herb died, returning to Montreal a few days after his funeral. I had always been interested in family history and it was at this time that I began this history of our family. Dorothy died on 7 May 2003. Bob Morrissey retired a few years ago from the Montreal Gazette; his sister Linda Morand worked for many years teaching at St. Monica's School, only a few blocks from where I live, in Notre Dame de Grace. Dorothy and Herb's grandchildren are Jim, Dan, Kimberly, Marnie, and Donna.

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Note: 1. The connection to Biddeford, Maine could be due to the exodus of hundreds of thousands of French-Canadians to the New England states in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They found work in the mill towns and factories of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, parts of New York State, and so on. In the United States, many French names were anglicized, thus "Drouin" became "Drown"; a phonetic spelling was given to other names, so "Lefevre" became "Lefave".

2. Until a few years ago, public schools in the Province of Quebec were divided along linguistic and confessional or religious lines; that is, Roman Catholics went to Roman Catholic schools, Protestants (and other non-Catholics) went to Protestant schools. The schools were further divided between French and English speaking Roman Catholics and French and English speaking Protestants.

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## **NOTES ON THE CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF EDITH SWEENEY AND MARTIN MORRISSEY:**

The names below are the eight children of Edith Sweeney and Martin Morrissey:

Edith Mabel Morrissey (1896 – 1960) never married.

Victoria Margaret Elsie Morrissey (1897 – 1911) died young.

Stella Gennett Agnes Morrissey (possibly 1898, otherwise 1901 – 1905) died young.

Frank Morrissey (1898 – 1938).

Luke William Morrissey (1900 – 1977).

Alexander Martin Patrick Morrissey (1905 – 1972).

John Herbert Morrissey (1910 – 1998).

Edgar Raymond Leander Morrissey (1912 – 1956).

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The first names below are the seven grandchildren of Edith Sweeney and Martin Morrissey:

Patricia Edith Morrissey, daughter of Frank Morrissey and Eva Dubois; she is deceased.  
William Chipman Morrissey, son of William Morrissey and Lilian Bateman; he is diseased.

Herbert Morrissey, son of Alex Morrissey and Ivy Lewis; he is deceased.

Linda Morand and Bob Morrissey, children of Herb Morrissey and Dorothy Magrane; both are living.

John Morrissey and Stephen Morrissey, sons of Edgar Morrissey and Hilda Parker; both are living.

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The first names below are the fourteen great grandchildren of Edith Sweeney and Martin Morrissey:

Francis Donald, Peter David, Christopher Michael, Patricia Joanne,  
children of Patricia Edith Morrissey and Peter Robb.

Jo-Anne Morrissey-Steen, daughter of William Chipman Morrissey:

Kim and Daniel Morrissey, children of Herbert Morrissey and Shirley Howe.

Jim and Dan Morrissey, children of Bob Morrissey.

Kimberly, Marnie, and Donna Morand, children of Linda Morrissey Morand.

David and Heather Morrissey, children of John Morrissey and Katherine Thompson.

Jake Morrissey, son of Stephen Morrissey and Patricia Walsh.

Note: I would appreciate any corrections or additions to the above list.

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#### **MORE NOTES ON EDWARD A. MORRISSY:**

The last issue of the Newsletter included information on Edward A. Morrissy, a son of Patrick Morrissy of Newcastle, NB, and a brother of the Honourable John V. Morrissy, Member of Parliament in the 1920s. Edward A. Morrissy is a grandson of Patrick Morrissy and Mary Phelan, who arrived in New Brunswick with their family around 1837. To help position the relationship with the Morrisseys in Montreal, Edward's father, Patrick, is a brother of my great great grandfather Laurence Morrissey. I want to thank Sue McWilliam Stevenson of Ottawa, Ontario for sending this information.

Edward A Morrissy appears in the 1881 census, living with his parents.

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**Vital Statistics from NB Newspapers**

From the 19 July 1876 of the Union Advocate, Vol. 54 - #1438

North Shore boys who gained honors at the examinations at St. Joseph's College, Memramcook (West Co.) James Connors of Chatham s/o Moses Connors; Francis X. Robichaud of Neguac; Michael Quigley of Newcastle; **Edward Morrissy of Newcastle**; Wm Power of Derby; James McInerney of Kent; Thomas Murphy of Restigouche, John Fitzpatrick of Chatham; Edward O'Brien of Bathurst; David Harnett of Kingston.

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Vol. 49 - #2572

Complete list of rank and file of the Newcastle Field Battery of Artillery: Major R. R. Call; Lieutenants: Jas. Mitchell, Chas. F. Bourne, Chas E. Fish; Surgeon J. B. Freeman; Vet. Surgeon James Brown; Sgt. Major Patrick Wheeler; Qtr. Mas. Sgt. Hiram Fish; Orderly Sgt. Jas. P. Mitchell; Sgts: William J. Miller, Chas. Maltby, John Morrisey, Richard Maltby; Gunners: **Edward Morrissy – Newcastle**, Advocate 28 August 1879 TIMES (Moncton Times).

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Vol. 57 - # 351

A letter written by the son of John Harriman, now in Menominee gives the particulars of Donald Thompson's death. Thompson went from Chatham (North Co.) to Menominee last fall in company with Jos. Harris. **Edward Morrissy s/o P. Morrissy of Newcastle was there at the time of the accident.** It appears that the men were employed to work on the drive on Hemlock Brook. They were next sent to break rollways on the point on the main river which were high and dangerous. Some of the men were heaving on a windlass, in the endeavour to break a jam with a warp. A large log had to come down which the men could not get at with their peevies. Thompson went to put the hook on it, when the current took the log. Three logs passed over him and another log, scaling about 600 feet struck him in the breast. He was picked up and carried to camp where he died that night. Harris, **Morrissy** and Harriman started for Florence with the remains of their comrade, a distance of 32 miles.

They had a hard time of it. Coming to one stream, they could not take their team over on account of the logs. Leaving the team, they carried the body over between them, walking upon the logs. Obtaining another team, they travelled on. The night was wet and dark, one of the men having to go ahead of the teams with a lantern. Reaching Florence, they obtained a coffin, conveyed the remains back to Menominee on 13th inst., where they were interred the following day. 25 May 1881 U.A. (Union Advocate).

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Vol 72 - #1150

Says the Vancouver, B. C. "World" 23 Oct. **E. A. Morrissy and bride** passed through the city yesterday on their way to Victoria. **Mr. Morrissy** was at one time bookkeeper for Keefer & McGillvray and now has charge of the Matsqui Dyke Co's boarding house. He is a native of Newcastle (North Co.) N.B., his brother being a member of the local Legislature for Northumberland Co. 6 November 1889 U.A. (Union Advocate); #1156: 9 November 1889 NBR (New Brunswick Reporter).

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**Web Stats:** There have been over 8,700 visitors to the MorrisseyFamilyHistory.com website. This is close to thirty people consulting the site everyday.

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It is still very cold and snowing here in Montreal, in early March 2005. However, the days are getting longer and spring is not far away.

Best wishes,

Stephen Morrissey

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