

MORRISSEY FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER
DESCENDANTS OF PATRICK MORRISSY AND MARY PHELAN
www.morrisseyfamilyhistory.com

Editor: Stephen Morrissey, Morrissey@champlaincollege.qc.ca
Webmaster: Jake Morrissey, jwmorrissey@videotron.ca

FALL 2004

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.

OBITUARIES:

Hugh Morrissy (25 March 1932 – 3 December 2003): Several years ago Hugh Morrissy of St. Paul, Minnesota wrote to me: “My lineage, that I know of, starts with my great great grandfather Patrick and Mary Phelan from Clonmel, Tipperary, Ireland. They moved to New Castle NB Canada in 1837. They produced six children, my great grandfather was Patrick [Morrissy] who married Rose Farrell. Pat and Rose really produced and had nine children, one of which was my grandfather Francis (Frank). He married Louise Holt and had two boys, John and my father Hugh. My father married Bernice Orth and had three children, Mary Lou, Patricia, and baby Hugh (that’s me). All except me have passed on. I’m still alive and well at 68... I discovered the Morrissy family in Canada from my grandfather’s death certificate saying he was from New Castle NB. I pursued that lead and found a new family. They are wonderful.”

I am told that Hugh found his New Brunswick relatives by phoning the Morrissys listed in the Miramichi phone book, then he flew up to New Brunswick and met them! Hugh died last December 2003 at age seventy-one years, two weeks after surgery for lung cancer. He is survived by his wife Delores (“Dee”), and his three daughters: Rose (Steve) Feesl, Gina (Greg) Mayer, and Toni (Wayne) Malone. Hugh was retired from 3M after thirty-two years.

NOTES ON MORRISSEYS IN WORLD WAR ONE:

Approximately fifty Morrisseys enlisted to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) in World War One. They lived in all parts of Canada, from Newfoundland (which became a province in the late 1940s) to Victoria, British Columbia. Morrisseys who had moved to the United States returned to fight in the war;

there is even listed a Morrissey from Ireland. All of these men are of interest and their Attestation Papers, available on-line at <http://data2.collectionscanada.ca>, give a snapshot of their lives at the moment when they enlisted around ninety years ago. One reads online, from the original document, their birth date, next of kin, home address, religion, condition of health, and can view the signature of some of our ancestors on the day of their enlistment. I regret that due to space limitation, with one exception, I can discuss only Morrisseys that I know are descended from Patrick Morrissy and Mary Phelan. However, they all deserve our thanks for their generous service to Canada.

Morrisseys from Montreal in World War One: Thomas Morrissey and Mary Callaghan had eleven children. One was my grandfather, Martin Morrissey, who was born on 14 June 1874. Another son is Thomas Laurence Morrissey, named after his father and grandfather. On 22 June 1918 “Lawrence Thomas Morrisey” enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. On his Attestation Paper he recorded that he was born on January 28, 1889 (and not in 1879 that I recorded on the Morrissey Family History website) making him twenty-nine years old at the time of enlisting, and that he was married to Emma E. James Morrisey. The couple lived at 1597b Chateaubriand Street in Montreal. Lawrence was five foot seven and half inches tall; his complexion was fair; he had blue eyes and brown hair; and he was employed as a clerk.

I have no doubt that this individual is a son of Thomas Morrissey and Mary Callaghan. However, there is some information that adds special interest to the case. The physician who examined Lawrence when he enlisted and affirmed that he was “Fit for service abroad but not for general service” was Dr. E.J. Mullaly. This is the same Dr. Mullaly who was mentioned in a handwritten letter of 18 June 1956 from Lily McCabe of Montreal to Kathleen “Tally” Morrissy of Newcastle, NB. Tally is a daughter of Charles Morrissy. Lily McCabe is a daughter of Margaret Morrissey and granddaughter of Laurence Morrissey and Johannah Meany. In her letter to Tally Morrissy, Lily McCabe writes, “This week we celebrate the Golden Wedding of Dr. & Mrs. Mullaly at which I was one of the three Brides Maids fifty years ago—and I say it without a blush.” (The complete letter can be read on the Morrissey Family History website)

Lily McCabe died in 1956. But what of her friends, Dr. and Mrs. Mullaly? Father Nicholas Gruner has written “Memories of My Mother”, about Jessie Rosalie Mullaly Gruner, a daughter of Dr. Emmet J. Mullaly and his wife. Father Gruner’s mother died in her eighty-seventh year in 1994. Father Gruner writes:

Just before I left for South America, mother was admitted to St. Mary’s Hospital in Montreal. It was particularly appropriate that she should have gone to St. Mary’s since it was founded by her own father, Dr. Emmet J. Mullaly, nearly seventy years ago. Though of humble origin, my grandfather became one of the most prominent physicians in Montreal and was one of the first English-speaking commissioners on the Catholic School Board. Sixty years ago, he was instrumental in founding D’Arcy McGee High, the first English-language Catholic High School in Montreal (which I myself attended between 1955 and 1959).

There are several other Morrisseys living in Montreal at this time whose Attestation papers can be viewed online, and it is possible that some are descended from Patrick Morrissy and Mary Phelan. For instance, there is Edward Morrissey, whose next-of-kin is his sister who lived at 76 St. Joseph Boulevard East, Montreal. There is also William John Morrissy of 1493 St. Urbain Street, Montreal, who was born on 6 January 1892 and whose next-of-kin is his mother, Elizabeth Morrissey.

There is also another interesting case, that of Thomas Sydney Morrisey who was born in St. John, NB on August 30, 1890. He lists his vocation as an engineer. This family first came to our attention in the 1893-94 edition of Lovell's Montreal City Directory. At that time T.L. Morrisey, Thomas's father, resided at 55 Park Avenue and was the resident manager of Union Assurance Society on St. Francois Xavier. From 1897 to 1905 the family's address was 1207 Dorchester, and then 949 Dorchester to around 1911. In 1912 the address is 85 Church Hill Avenue, Westmount, and this is the address Thomas gives on his Attestation papers. However, in 1916-17 Thomas's address is 4444 Montrose Avenue, Westmount, which is literally just around the corner from the Church Hill Avenue address. After enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force he resides again at 85 Church Hill Avenue. In 1924, T.L. Morrisey's office is located at 260 St. James Street. The son, Colonel Thomas Sydney Morrisey reappears in 1931-32, he is now vice president and general manager of Combustion Engineering Corporation Limited, and his address is 3275 Cedar Avenue, Westmount.

There is a purpose to this discussion of Thomas Sydney Morrisey. First, the addresses where T.L. Morrisey and his son Thomas Sydney Morrisey resided are all well to do. I often drive on Montrose near Church Hill Avenue, a location that is distant not in miles but in social privilege and wealth from the Irish Griffintown, or the rest of the "city below the hill". Second, in the early 1940s, just after my parents married and were living on Avonmore Avenue in Montreal, my mother remembers receiving a phone call from a Colonel Morrisey inquiring after Morrissey genealogy, and this is probably the same person of whom I am now writing. Third, when one does a search of "Morrissey" under photographs at the Bibliotheque Nationale de Quebec, two interior photographs of the office where T.L. Morrisey worked on St. James Street are displayed. Frozen in time, there is even a large ledger on the counter where, no doubt, many people came to do business regarding their insurance policies.

Morrisseys from New Brunswick in World War One: John Veraker Morrissy is famous in the family for his role in New Brunswick and Canadian politics, and the Morrissy Bridge. He served in both the provincial legislature of New Brunswick and as a Member of Parliament in Ottawa. John V. Morrissy's son, John Thomas Morrissy was born in Newcastle on 25 April 1889 and enlisted in 1917 when he was twenty-eight years old. John Thomas Morrissy's birth date above is confirmed in the 1901 census. Parenthetically, we also learn in this census report that John Veraker Morrissy's wife's father, Peter Dunn, resided with the family at that time, and that he was born on 2 June 1819.

Richard Herbert Morrissy, one of three sons of Edward Morrissy, enlisted on 1 March 1916. He gives his birthplace as Sumas, Washington; his birth date is 25 May 1895; he was a student at the time; and he lived with his Aunt Jane Morrissy Quinn in Newcastle. The place where he enlisted was Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where he attended St. Francis Xavier University. Herb Morrissy's height is five foot six and a half inches; his complexion and hair colour is fair; and he has grey eyes. As I have written before, it was Dr. Herb Morrissy who was mentioned in our family in Montreal when they visited Newcastle at least seventy to eighty years ago. Jane Morrissy Allan, who I came to know through this family history, is a daughter of Dr. Morrissy.

Note: Variant spellings above of "Morrissy" are as found in original sources.

A note on Edward Morrissy's first wife, Sarah Campbell:

Edward Morrissy is a grandson of Patrick Morrissy and Mary Phelan. Edward was born in Newcastle, New Brunswick in 1858; he left Miramichi and worked on the railroad in Washington State and British Columbia, where he died in Penticton, BC on 17 December 1940, age 82 years. He married Sara Moore Campbell and they had three children, Edward, William and Herbert (later, Dr. Herbert Morrissy).

Jane Morrissy, one of Edward Morrissy's grandchildren, told me that Sara Moore Campbell was fourteen years Edward's junior. She would therefore have been born in 1872, and according to Jane died in 1964. According to the BC Archives Edward Anelrose Morrissy married Sara Moore Campbell on 22 October 1889 in New Westminster, BC. On 21 August 1899, a Mary Moore Campbell married James Nelson Aitchison in New Westminster, and this could be a sister of Sara Moore Campbell. While Campbell is a very common Scottish surname, the practise was to place the mother's maiden name before the surname, thus "Moore" may have been Sara Campbell's mother's maiden name.

According to the BC Archives, James Nelson Aitchison died in New Westminster on 13 June 1927. He can also be found on a BC voters list in 1898 in Cordova, BC where his employment is listed as a "tailor".

Web stats: As of mid-November 2004, there have been over 7,500 visitors to the Morrissyfamilyhistory.com website and over 46,500 hits.

It is a grey and rainy Remembrance Day here in Montreal. The leaves have almost all fallen and winter is just around the corner.

Best wishes,

Stephen Morrissey

Copyright © Stephen Morrissey, Montreal, Canada, 2004