

JOHN RISEALY: son of Christian and Catherine Sipes :::

John Risealy b. 1803. d. Mar. 10, 1874.
marr. Catherine Miller: 1802- 1891.
bur: St. Paul's Cemetery.

Children of John & Catherine Risealy:::

Wilhelmena	b. Apr. 12, 1829. d. marr: James Smith Graham. 2. Thomas Kennedy. bur:
Cranmer	b. May 3, 1831. d. Dec. 14, 1900. marr; Margaret Laur: bur: St. Paul's Cemetery.
Teresa	b, Feb. 21, 1834. d. marr; Charles Graham; no issue. bur:
Egerton	b. June 15, 1836. d. July 27, 1854. marr; bur:
Margery	b. Aug. 14, 1838. d. marr: Frank Kivell no issue. bur:
Adela Sophia	b. Nov. 24, 1841. d. Aug. 9, 1844 bur: St. Paul's Cemetery.
Edla	b. Mar. 19, 1846. marr; William Miller. double first cousin. bur:

4. Mary Riselay, daughter of Christian and Catherine (Sipes) Riselay, born 1795 [date from Miller record] married Jacob Willson of Bertie. Mary's land petition [Public Archives of Canada, W14/36] dated 14 Jan 1823 describes her as "Mary Willson of Bertie, daughter of Christian Riselay, U. E., and wife of Jacob

Willson of Bertie." Jacob Willson was born 11 Dec 1793 in Bertie son of John and Esther (Haun) Willson. [See TOR 1: 94] Jacob left Lot 23 Con 2 of Bertie by the will of his father, and on Feb 21, 1828 Benjamin Willson of Brantford and Matthias Willson "two of the heirs at law and sons of the late John Willson" released their interests in Lots 23 and 24 to their brother Jacob. This land passed to Jacob's sons who subdivided some of it as part of the Town of Ridgeway. Jacob was buried by the Rector of St. Paul's, Fort Erie, on May 22, 1843 in the old Ridgeway Cemetery, the inscription on his stone reading: "Jacob Willson died May 20, 1843 aged 49 yrs 5 ms 9 ds."

His will, dated 19 Aug 1840 and proved 10 Nov 1843 (on file at St. Catharines) names his wife Mary; "my two eldest sons William Powell and Edmund Horatio" and sons John Alexander, Francis Gore and Robert Bruce who were minors. He mentioned daughters but did not name them. Executors were his wife Mary, William Powell and Edmund Riselay.

Mary (Riselay) Willson lived in Bertie for many years after the death of her husband. She was still living on April 1, 1875 (at which time she would have been nearly 80 years old) when she released all her claims under the will of Jacob Willson to her son Robert Willson and to the heirs at law of John Alexander Willson. No subsequent record regarding her has come to light. No gravemarker has been found for her in the old cemetery in Ridgeway nor has a death record been found so far.

As for the children of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson, it is possible that the list presented below may be incomplete. It is noted that Jacob's will does not name his daughters, and the Miller record names only Charlotte and Jane, although these very probably are the only daughters who reached maturity.

10. William Powell Willson, son of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson, born c.1818, also known as Powell Willson. He was a merchant residing in Bertie, Welland County, at the time of the census of 1851 (aged 34), a member of the Church of England. On 14 Nov 1853, then described as being of Middlesex County, he, with wife Euretta barring her dower, conveyed Lot 24, Con 2 of Bertie to his brother John Alexander Willson. William and family apparently resided at Strathroy, Middlesex County, and in the census of 1861 for that village his household consisted only of himself, aged 43, a merchant; his wife Elizabeth aged 34, and Mary Sophia aged 14. Neither a probate nor a death record has so far been found for him.

He married 21 Jan 1846 at St. Paul's, Fort Erie, his first cousin Elizabeth Euretta Riselay [TOR 1:106], daughter of Edmund Riselay. She was generally known by her middle name. They apparently only had the one child:

- i. Mary Sophia Willson, b. 29 Apr 1847, bapt. at St. Paul's in Fort Erie on 18 July 1847. [TOR 1:153]

11. Edmund Horatio Willson, son of Jacob and Mary (Riselay) Willson, b. c.1819, generally known as Horatio. He apparently took an interest in politics, being appointed an assessor by the first Bertie Township Council in 1850 and in 1857 was described as Coroner, a kind of under-sheriff.

With the exception of the baptismal records of Horatio's three daughters, and data gleaned from the census returns of 1851 and 1861, little was known of his family by the compilers until coming into correspondence in 1974 with Mrs. Eleanor Willson, wife of Charles William Willson of St. Thomas, a grandson of Horatio. Mrs Willson's researches indicated that in addition to the three daughters, there was a son William P. Willson b. 25 Aug 1862. By the time he was five years old, both of his parents as well as an elder teen age sister were deceased. William was raised in the home of James and Sarah Zavitz of Ridgeway while his only remaining sister, Jane, was raised in the home of Alex. Haun on the Lake Road outside Ridgeway.

A copy of a newspaper death notice for William P. Willson, kindly provided by Mrs Eleanor Willson, states that he was a son of Horatio Edmund Willson and his wife Jane Maxwell. Additional family data found by Mrs. Willson suggests that they were married in June 1848 at Chippawa. Census data indicates that Jane, wife of Horatio Willson, was born c.1831. She apparently became a Methodist in the 1860's which would account for the absence of a baptismal record for her son William in the records of St. Paul's Anglican Church. Eleanor Willson located the burial record of "the wife of Horatio Willson" (her first name not stated) who died, or was buried, 28 Dec 1867, the cause of death being consumption. She was buried by the Rector of St. Paul's at the Methodist Meeting House, Ridgeway. Additional information in this matter has not come to light. To date, neither a probate nor death record nor grave stone has been found for Horatio.

Children of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson:

- + 10. William Powell Willson, b. c. 1818
- + 11. Edmund Horatio Willson, b. c. 1819
- 12. Mary Catherine Willson, b. 1821, "daughter of Jacob & Mary Willson died Sept 18, 1829 aged 8 yrs & 3 mo." [gravestone, Ridgeway Cemetery]
- + 13. John Alexander Willson, b. 1822.
- 14. Francis Gore Willson, b. 28 Nov 1825. He was referred to as Frank in the Miller record. He is buried next to his father, and the inscription on his gravestone reads: "In Memory of Francis Gore son of Jacob & Mary Willson who died March 18, 1846 aged 20 yrs 3 ms 20 days." He was buried 20 Mar 1846 by the Rector of St. Paul's, Fort Erie, and it is sated in the register that he died 18 March aged 20 years.
- + 15. Robert Bruce Willson, born 1827.
- + 16. Charlotte Willson, b. 8 Oct 1829, md. Andrew R. Hardison.
- 17. Ann Willson b. c. 1831. The inscription on her stone in Ridgeway Cemetery reads "In memory of Ann, daughter of Jacob & Mary Willson who died Jan 12, 1836 aged 4 years.
- 18. Jane Willson, b. c. 1833-34. She resided with her mother at the time of the census of 1852 (aged 19) and also at the time of the census of 1861 (aged 28). No further record.
- 19. Hellen Willson, b. 12 July 1836. The inscription on gravestone in Ridgeway Cemetery reads "In memory of Hellen, daughter of Jacob & Mary Willson who died July 24, 1836 aged 12 days.

10. William Powell Willson, son of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson, born c.1818, also known as Powell Willson. He was a merchant residing in Bertie, Welland County, at the time of the census of 1851 (aged 34), a member of the Church of England. On 14 Nov 1853, then described as being of Middlesex County, he, with wife Euretta barring her dower, conveyed Lot 24, Con 2 of Bertie to his brother John Alexander Willson. William and family apparently resided at Strathroy, Middlesex County, and in the census of 1861 for that village his household consisted only of himself, aged 43, a merchant; his wife Elizabeth aged 34, and Mary Sophia aged 14. Neither a probate nor a death record has so far been found for him.

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Children of Horatio & Jane (Maxwell) Willson:

- i. Horatia Malvina Willson, b. 28 July 1849.
- ii. Frances Jané Willson, b. 31 Jan 1852. She and her sister (above) were baptized at St. Paul's, Fort Erie, on 22 Aug 1852. [TOR 2:16]
- iii. Alice Olivia Willson, b. 2 Oct 1854, bapt. 29 Oct 1857 at St. Paul's, and was buried by the Rector of that church 27 Nov 1857.
- iv. William P. Willson, b. 25 Aug 1862, d. 23 Nov 1941 at Union, Elgin Co., having resided previously at Coldstream, Muncey and Sparta; buried in Friends' Cemetery, Coldstream; md. 4 May 1887 Caroline Marsh, b. 21 Apr 1866, d. 3 Dec 1957, dau Joseph DeCamp & Cynthia Scott Marsh. An account of the descendants of William P. Willson was prepared by Mrs Eleanor Willson in conjunction with a family reunion held in 1974.

13. John Alexander Willson, son of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson, b. 1822 [date from g. s.], generally known as Alexander Willson. He was a farmer and hotel keeper at Ridgeway. The inscription on his stone reads: "Alexander J. Willson died Mar 22, 1875 aged 52 yrs & 8 ms." A deed executed in 1875 states that he died on March 22nd of that year without leaving a will, and a subsequent deed dated 11 April 1877 concerning part of Lot 23 Con 2 of Bertie states that the only heirs at law of Alexander J. Willson were Alfred G. Willson and Jeanette A. Morin.

His wife Elizabeth Ann is buried next to him in the cemetery at Ridgeway, the inscription on her g. s. reading "Elizabetha wife of Alexander Willson died Feb 8, 1908 aged 80 yrs 10 ms 21 ds."

- i. Jeanette Ann Willson, b. 29 Nov 1848 [TOR 2:15], died 21 Nov 1910 at Welland, Ont., as the result of an unfortunate accident [People's Press, Nov 22, 1910, page 1]. She md. 14 Sept 1870 at St. Paul's, Fort Erie, Lt. Col. James Morin, M. P. P., Registrar of Welland County, b. 10 May 1849 in Limerick County, Ireland, son of Michael & Ellen (Nash) Morin. His father came to Canada in 1851 settling at Port Robin-

son where he is said to have died the following year. [Hist. Welland Co. (1887) p. 428] James Morin died 7 Oct 1902. He and his wife were buried at Ridgeway. They were survived by several children.

- ii. Alfred Gore Willson, b. 17 June 1853, bapt. 28 Aug 1853 at St. Paul's, d. 14 Feb 1926 [g. s. Ridgeway Cemetery]. Mr Albert W. Miller of Fort Erie, when being ninety years old, provided the information that in the 1890's Alfred owned a horse drawn livery carrying passengers between Ridgeway and the resort of Crystal Beach. Later he motorized his service. (His son, William Gore Willson, M. P. P., became an automobile dealer). Alfred md. 15 March 1876 in Bertie, Harriet Louisa Haun, second daughter of James Haun of Bertie [Welland Telegraph, March 24, 1876]. She was b. 9 July 1853, d. 23 July 1933 [g. s., Ridgeway]

15. Robert Bruce Willson, son of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson, born 1827. He resided at Ridgeway. He received part of Lot 23, Concession 2 of Bertie by the will of his father. In the 1860's he subdivided his land, and it is now part of Ridgeway. He died in 1895 and is buried in the Ridgeway Cemetery. Neither a death nor a probate record has been found for him which may indicate that he died some place other than Welland County.

Mrs. Helen K. (Teal) Grubel of Mentor, Ohio, a descendant, has in her possession the marriage certificate of Robert "Wilson" and Ann Alexander, 2 Nov 1852 at St. George's Church, Drummondville. Buried with Robert is his wife "Anna" 1833-1881. At the time of the census of 1861 Robert's household, in addition to his wife, consisted of Wm Wallace Willson, aged 7, and Jean I. Willson, aged 5. The family belonged to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Also residing in the household was James A. Rogers, aged 11.

W. Wallace Willson, 1854-1925, and his wife Annie E., 1857-1921, are also buried in Robert's plot at Ridgeway. The daughter Jean Isabelle Willson, b. 5 June 1855, d. 10 or 16 Feb 1896, md. 7 Nov 1876 Irvin E. Teal, b. 17 Feb 1848, d. 22 July 1907. [Information from records of Mrs. Grubel]

16. Charlotte Willson, dau of Jacob & Mary (Riselay) Willson,

born 8 Oct 1829 [date from g. s.]. She md. 5 Jan 1848 at St Paul's Fort Erie, Andrew Rohrbach Hardison of Bertie [TOR 1:107]. A notice of this marriage appeared in "The Church", 14 Jan 1848: "On 5th inst., A. Hardison to Charlotte, eldest daughter of the late Jacob Willson, both of the township of Bertie." [Reid, W. D. Marriage Notices of Ontario (1980) p. 215]. Andrew was born 24 Nov 1822. He and his wife were enumerated in the census of 1861 at which time he was described as a saddler. Their family consisted of Francis J. 13; John M. 11; Edward M. 8; Adolphus A. 6; and Euretta 3.

The following are all buried in a row in the old cemetery at Ridgeway, each with a separate gravemarker: Andrew R. Hardison d. June 30, 1898 ae 75.yrs 7 ms 6 ds. Charlotte wife of Andrew R. Hardison d. Dec 18, 1872 ae 43.yrs 2 ms 10 ds [see also TOR 3:154]. George W. Hardison son of Andrew & Charlotte, d. Jan 30, 1864 ae 2 ms & 3 ds. Francis James Hardison born in Bertie Township May 24, 1848, died May 12, 1921. Hannah Maria wife of Andrew R. Hardison d. [May 17 ?] 1875 ae 25 yrs 7 ms 28 ds. Buried in this same row of gravestones, next to Andrew Hardison is "Susan Smith relict of Richard Thomson, born 27 Oct 1791 died 8 Apr 1863." Buried elsewhere in this cemetery is Richard Thompson Hardison b. Nov 17, 1870, d. May 21, 1924.

HAUN 20. Sophia Regina Riselay, daughter of Edmund & Elizabeth Sophia (Meyer) Riselay, known as Regina, born 14 March 1822 [date from g. s.], baptized 28 Apr 1822 at Trinity Anglican Church, Chippawa [OHSP 8:178], md. 13 Sept 1847 at St. Paul's, Fort Erie, Alexander Haun of Bertie [TOR 1:107] b. c.1816. They are enumerated in the census of 1861 for Bertie at which time their household consisted only of themselves and Regina's mother, Elizabeth Riselay. They are buried next to Elizabeth Riselay in the old cemetery at Ridgeway, the inscriptions on their stones reading: "Alexander Haun d. May 12, 1898 ae 82 yrs" and "Sophia Regina wife of Alex. Haun died May 31, 1891 ae 69 yrs 2 ms 17 ds." They had one child, a son who died young. It was apparently they, however, who took into their home Frances Jane, the orphan daughter of Horatio Willson (no. 11 in this account).

- i. Charles C. Haun, born c.1848 (aged 4 in census of 1851-1852); died young.