

Atkinson

William Atkinson	1785 – 1865
Thomas Atkinson	1828 - 1919
Edward Atkinson	1858 - 1944
Edward Albert Atkinson	1887 - 1957
Grace Elizabeth Atkinson	1916 - 2008

Atkinson Surname

According to George F. Black, The Surname of Scotland, the surname Atkinson comes from the diminutive Adkin with the d sharpened to t meaning 'son of Adam' Other names Acheson, Aicheson, Aitcheson, and Aitchison come from the diminutive Atty also have the meaning 'son of Adam' While the Atkinson surnames that I have discovered to date come from Ireland, it may be that they earlier came from Scotland.

Atkinson's Web sites

<http://n.webring.com/hub?ring=atkinsonfamilyge>

William Atkinson 1785 – 1865

William Atkinson was born in 1785 in the County of Armagh, Northern Ireland. He married Jane Coulter (b. 1810). He immigrated to Canada in 1839. William settled on a farm about three miles south of Merrickville on which a nice two storey house, ship lapped on the outside. The barn and stables were of log construction. He died 1865. The inscription on his monument reads in part

William Atkinson born 1785- died 1865
Jane Coulter his wife born 1810 died 1880
Moses, Mary A. and Anne, their children

Their children include,

Mary A Atkinson, buried in cemetery with Father William Atkinson

Anne Atkinson buried in cemetery with Father William Atkinson.

Moses Atkinson, Moses was a captain of a boat whose boiler exploded at Oswego, N.Y. on Lake Ontario. He is buried in the same Cemetery as father William.

Adolphus Atkinson may have settled at Adolphustown, near where the ferry crosses to Picton.

Jefferson Atkinson

Edward Atkinson, a tailor in Smith Falls, Ontario

Frank Atkinson, a cobbler at Manotick, Ontario

James Atkinson, b. 1822; age 15 or 16 when he arrived in Canada (1837-1838) Occupied adjoining farms near Gananoque and Washburn Locks on the Rideau Canal.

William Atkinson Occupied adjoining farms with James near Gananoque and Washburn Locks on the Rideau Canal. M. Nancy Holliston

Thomas Atkinson (See Below)

Robert Atkinson resided in father William's house about 1890.

Elizabeth Atkinson resided in father William's house for a few years from at 1890 on ward. She married Alfred Little about 1890 and subsequently Kemptville, Ontario where they ran a boarding house. Alfred Little operated a bus service from Kemptville Station to the Junction.

Merrickville located on the Rideau River and Canal was settled by William Merrick in 1793, 46 years before the arrival of William Atkinson in 1839. Merrickville was once one of the largest industrial centers on the Rideau with grist mills, woollen mills and sawmills, all powered by the river. When Colonel By constructed the Rideau Canal (1826-1832), he built three locks in Merrickville. The original lockhouse, built for defence purposes, still stands beside the Canal. For overnight accommodation, there are two inns plus a number of bed and breakfast establishments located within the village, and several other B&B's are located in the nearby countryside. Merrickville was named Canada's Prettiest Village in 1998 by Communities in Bloom and is a delightful village to visit.

Thomas Atkinson 1828 - 1919

Thomas Atkinson was born in 1828. He married Margaret Holliston. Thomas was about 5'10" in height and weighed about 190 lbs had thick curly hair and a beard about four inches below his chin, trimmed square. He had a quiet disposition. He neither smoked nor drank. He was a goods woodman and quickly transformed virgin trees into four foot lengths, marketing the wood in Merrickville. Sometimes two of the boys, Edward and George would take the load of wood to market while Thomas would get another load ready.

He also worked on the macadamized road which went through from Merrickville to Brockville. The base of the road consisted of flat stones broken with a sledge hammer, raised up a couple of feet, and surfaced with fine stones or gravel.

Thomas was capable of delivering a mighty punch with his left fist and was sometimes called upon when in Merrickville to settle a fight whom a bully had invaded the town and attempted to take over.

Thomas owned and farmed the third farm west of his father William. He purchased a second farm adjoining on the east side from a neighbour, William Lang. He later purchased a farm near Easton Corners on which was a brick yard. The brick made from this clay was a light colour and many of the houses in the district were built of this light coloured brick. After retiring from the farm near

Easton's Corner he built a house in Merrickville, in which town he lived until his death.

He died on 15 January 1919

Their children include

George Atkinson m. Ada Parks

William Atkinson b. about 1867, d. 17 July 1871 age 4 1/2

Tommy Atkinson m. Margaret Barry

Jane Atkinson m. Thomas Burchill

Margaret Atkinson m. Henry Kerford

Mary Atkinson d. 16 June 1945

Elizabeth Atkinson b. about 1878

Edward Atkinson b. 16 Feb. 1858 (See Below)

Edward Atkinson 1858 - 1944

Edward Atkinson, First of 8 children - four boys and 4 girls of Thomas and Margaret (Holliston) Atkinson, was born 16 February 1858. He married Abigail Almeda Spicer on 3rd December 1879. Grace Retson indicates this family farmed in Ferland Saskatchewan before returning to Merrickville. Grace Retson indicates this family farmed in Ferland Saskatchewan before returning to Merrickville.

When Edward married Abbie Spicer, his father gave his son a quarter section across and opposite his farm, along with a team of horses a cow some machinery and equipment. He did this for each one of his other sons until the last son Tommy who got the homestead.

Ed and his family stayed on this farm until about 1897. Ed and a man name of Burchall entered into a butcher business in Perth. They subsequent moved to Smith Falls.

He died 9 January 1944. He is buried in Merrickville Union Cemetery #510

Their children include,

Ethel Atkinson b. 9 Jan 1881, d. 22 Apr. 1884

William Thomas Atkinson b. 15 May 1882 m. Jennie Otto 2 August, 1909, d. 26 April 1978

Etta Atkinson m. Howard Phillips 7 Dec. 1912. Howard died 11 July 1954. They had 6 children, Orval (d. 8 Oct. 1933), Clare, Cecil (m. Dorothy Britton 3 June 1946), Wilbert (Served overseas in WW2 and was wounded in Holland), Freddie and Ethel (m. Jack Bailey, a test pilot who was killed on 28 June 1944 at Emma Lake, near Prince Albert. They had three children, Etta, Beverly and Jack. This last Etta married Al Richards). All of Howard and Etta Phillips children except Wilbert (Winnipeg) resided in Vancouver.

Edward Elbert Atkinson b. 26 February 1887. m. Esther Jane Burns in Wascada Manitoba. d. 14 Jan 1957 Vancouver BC.

Edward Albert Atkinson 1887 - 1957

Edward Elbert Atkinson the second child of Edward Atkinson was born 26 February 1887 at Merrickville, Ontario. He lived in a farm at Merrickville. His father was a butcher in Smith Falls. He went to school until he was 14 years. He played the Trombone in the Town band. When he left for the West the band presented him a gift of a white vase in the possession of his daughter Grace Retson.

Ed worked for Frost and Woods, a Manufacturing plant. He went out on a harvest excursion to Manitoba and at Waskada, Manitoba met and subsequently married Esther Jean Burns on 25 Jan 1912. They lived in Waskada from 1912 to 1917.

When ever a hobo would come into town and ask for a meal. Ed would send them to the Chinese restaurant for a meal and he would pay the owner. In 1924 when Ed was laid up for three months in bed with what was thought to be lead poisoning there was a message from the owner that his wife and children were to come for dinner each day at no charge. Jean never went once. He would install furnaces in the summer time for up to 50 miles of Kerrobert. When the farmer would get paid for their crops they would pay him. In the thirties the farmers couldn't pay and Ed cashed in his entire life insurance to pay Ashdown's Wholesaler where he had purchased the furnaces. Both he and his wife though that debts should be paid. Money was lent to you on good faith and you should honour that faith. He was one of the few allowed to charge credit on Ashdown's

Edward worked in Timmins taking a course in air conditioning. In the winter of 1942-43 he worked his trade at an internment camp in Medicine Hat. In the fall of 1943 they moved to Meyerthorpe, North of Edmonton. In the summer 1944 he set up a gunsmithing and plumbing business in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. In 1948 they moved to Vancouver. Ed died in 1957 and Jean in 1962.

He died 14 January 1957. He was buried in Mountain view Cemetery, 5455 Fraser St.

Jones new Block 20 A, Plot 14

Esther Jean Grave 14 Disc 214

His children: Ethel Jean born 30 October 1913 m. Alex McRae

William Burns, 24 July 1915. William (Billie) died of an obstructed bowel at three months and was buried in the Burns plot in Neepawa Cemetery

Grace Elizabeth, 11 December 1916. M. George Clifford Retson

Robert Donald born in 1 November 1920 had an appendectomy operation and died thirty days latter at age 8. He was buried at Kerrobert.

Grace Atkinson 1916 - 2008

Grace Atkinson, second daughter of Ed and Jean (Burns) Atkinson was born 11 December 1916, "10 to 6 P.M. - she had supper and never stopped eating (according to her mother) third child of Ed and Jean Atkinson. She moved from Wascada to Kerrobert when she 6 weeks old. She attended schools in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. She was almost always first in her class. She sang in the junior choir where she sang solos in the junior choir and quartets with Alexa Baxter, Gladis Hanbidge and a fourth. She started to play the violin in Grade 10. and played in an orchestra for all the church suppers within 20 miles. The Minister, Benson Summers would go to sing solos and Grace would accompany him on the Piano. She sang in the senior choir her last year or two at home. She graduated from grade 12 in 1934 and then attended Success Business College in Saskatoon. She went to Success Business College (Typing and Shorthand) from July 15 until she got a job at Ashdown's Hardware in January and subsequently for W. H. Hellofs in Kerrobert. She worked for 6 weeks before being laid off. She went back to Success Business College to pick up some courses and then in June commenced work for MacDonald's Consolidated, a wholesale for Safeway for the summer.

She passed Civil Service Exams (stenographic) in 1935 and got a job in the Federal seed branch for six months. She next had a job as head stenographer of a group of 12 with Massey Harris at Regina for \$60. She had written the Civil Service Clerical exams in Saskatoon before leaving for the Regina job and came fourth in Canada. She was offered a job with the 1936 census at \$75.00 a month where she worked for 13 months with the Bureau of Statistics. September 1 1937 she transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Economics division on the promise of her getting a Grade two at \$90. month after 6 months or so. After two years at \$60 a month she accepted a position with the Ottawa Journal for \$80 where she worked 6 months or so. She then became secretary to the chief of the legal division of the Department of Munitions and Supply for \$90. In 1940 she joined the Senate staff. She met Cliff Retson in January 1938 and in June 1938 they started going out nightly until he left for a road trip on his job. She would date Cliff when he was in Ottawa 6 months each year. They were married on 26 July 1941. She followed her husband who served as a 1st Lieut. in the Canadian Artillery across Canada. On November 11, 1949 they moved to 2020 Prince St. Colchester County which was latter renumbered 2031 Prince. She was employed as a Court Stenographer in Truro and has the distinction of being appointed the first female Justice of the Peace in Nova Scotia

Grace took an active interest in music, home and school. She was an avid bridge player. She took university courses over the years and graduated with her B.A. from St. Mary University at age 64. Grace also took an avid interest in multiculturalism. She joined the Multicultural Association of Colchester at its inception in 1975, served as a Board member for many years. She served as secretary and then vice-president of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia. In November 2000 at their 25th Anniversary she received Ambassador in the Community Award presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia where she received a standing ovation. In 2001 she was nominated for an Order of Nova Scotia.

Later in life she became an avid traveller. When Cliff and Grace retired in 1977 they travelled to visit son Donald to London, England for a week and then took a 2 week European trip taking in Paris, Munich, Heidelberg, Lucerne, Switzerland, Venice, Florence, and Rome and then returned to France by Hydroplane from Calais to Dover. After another week in London they took a train to An-

nan to visit Scottish relatives. On another trip in 1991-2 they flew to San Francisco, then Hong Kong for 4 days, then a 3 week cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II taking in Xiamem, Tangin and the Great Wall of China, Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan. When she was 84 she travelled to Portugal for two weeks, California for a week, Moosonee, Ontario for eleven days and just after her 85th birthday traveled to Kenora, Ontario for Christmas and then on to Edmonton to visit her children outside Nova Scotia.

Grace was and possibly her sister as well were severely affected by the death of two brothers. At her funeral the minister indicated that she had informed him that she had never been able to pray after she had prayed for the recovery of her bill brother and this requested had been denied.

Stories told by Grace when she was young: she and her brother Donald played house where she would be the mother and nurse and he the father and doctor. On one occasion he was the postman and on a shoe box he wrote "post bocks". She was so mad at him that she wouldn't play with him for the rest of the day. The next day he had an operation, got an infection and died.