

William John "W.J." Craig 1866 -1935

By

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Last revised at

<https://www.retson.ca/craigwilliamjohn1866.pdf>

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William John "W.J." Craig, son of William John Craig and Martha Wagner, was born 16 Dec 1866 in Kingston, Ontario. He married Charlotte Jane Cowan 5 Oct 1892 in Carleton, Ontario. They had four children:

- 1 i. William George Craig b. 9 May 1894 Carleton, Ontario m. Esther Isabelle Fraser 19 Sep 1923 Keewatin Ontario, d. 9 Dec 1954 Kenora Ontario
- 2 ii. Gordon Maxwell Craig b. 7 Aug 1897 Carleton, Ontario, m. Nellie Ann Ricks 29 Feb 1924, d. 8 Nov 1963 Boulder City, Nevada, buried in Rose Hill Memorial Park , Whittier, Los Angeles County, California
- 3 iii. Mildred Craig b. 25 Apr 1902 Keewatin, Ontario, m. Carey Vincent Lee 31 Aug 1929 Keewatin, Kenora, Ontario, d 20 Dec 1993 Victoria
- 4 iv. Elnora A. Craig b. 13 Sep 1905 Keewatin, Ontario, d. 16 Aug 1947 Kenora, Ontario

- 5 v. Lorna Shirley Craig b. 8 Feb 1912 Keewatin, Ontario, m. Charles William Roark 17 Sep 1935 Kenora, Ontario, d. 24 Apr 2000 White Rock, British Columbia

William John Craig was a municipal councillor in Keewatin in 1901, 1902 and 1903. Ed Sweet in Keewatin Reflections, page 72 indicates,

W.J. Craig municipal clerk from before the time of incorporation until 1935, came to Keewatin to join the staff of the gold refinery and also worked for Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing for several years. During his tenure as clerk he acquired the reputation for being an efficient and conscientious servant of the town. During Keewatin's early development there were numerous emergencies, financial and otherwise, and W.J. proved himself equal to every situation. As a side line he engaged in the insurance business and built up a sizeable clientele, indicative of the popularity he enjoyed. He was also fire chief for many years, and a good one too.

Mrs. Craig was prominent in church circles and an active community worker, performing numerous acts of beneficence in her own quiet way. She was an ardent Red Cross workers during the first world war. W.J. beyond any doubt had a lot to do with Keewatin's early growth and success. Regrettably he dies in harness without the Privilege of the joys of retirement.



*John Craig Family and first four children Photo
Curtesy of Tim Roark*

He died on 24 Feb 1935 in Keewatin. His wife died in 1947.

1. William George Craig 1894-1954 Esther Isabelle Fraser

William George Craig was born May 9 1894 in Carleton, Ontario. He married Esther Isabelle Fraser September 19 1923 Keewatin Ontario. He died December 9 1954 Kenora Ontario.

George Craig joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police September 28 1914. He served 2 years at Dawson, Yukon before transferring over to the Canadian Expeditionary Force . During his time in the north he had the opportunity to participate in "The Long Patrol" of approximately 1,100 miles by dog team on snow shoes during the coldest time of winter when temperatures were usually minus 10F to minus 50F back then.

The Kenora Great War Project at <https://www.kenoragreatwarproject.ca/canadian-cavalry/craig-william-george/> describes his service as a member of the Lord Strathcona Horse.



2. Gordon Maxwell Craig 1894-1954 Nellie Ann Perkins Ricks

Gordon Maxwell Craig was born August 7 1897 Carleton, Ontario. His military career in World War 1 is described at <https://www.kenoragreatwarproject.ca/canadian-army-service-corps/craig-gordon-maxwell/>.

In the 1921 census Gordon's occupation is described as engineer and his residence is in Keewatin. He moved to the United States two years later and at that time his occupation was auto mechanic.

He married Nellie Ann Ricks(née Perkins) February 29 1924 in Santa Ana, California. She was born in 1889 in Iowa. Gordon and wife relocated to Keewatin and lived there for several years. He was employed at the Lake of the Woods flour mill. In early September 1927 he was seriously injured on the job when he fell 30' into a wheat bin. He broke both legs and injured his ankle.

Gordon and Nellie returned to California in 1929 and was employed as a millwright. He became an American citizen in 1935.

He died November 8 1963 at Boulder City, Nevada and buried in Rose Hill Memorial Park , Whittier, Los Angeles County California.

3. Mildred Craig 1902 – 1993 Carey Vincent Lee 1898-1977

Mildred Craig was born on April 25 1902 in Keewatin. She married Carey Vincent Lee August 31 1929 in Keewatin.

They sold the house and moved to Victoria, BC just one week before the flour mill burned down. She died December 20 1993.



Painting of Craig House on Ottawa Street in Keewatin by Iris Sweet- MacGarva. Photo curtesy of Tim Roark

4. Elnora A “Nancy” Craig

Elnora A. “Nancy” was born September 13 1905 Keewatin, Ontario. She died August 16 1947 Kenora, Ontario.

5. Lorna Shirley Craig 1912- 2000 Charles William Craig 1906-1990

Lorna Shirley Craig was born February 8 1912 in Keewatin, Ontario. She married Charles William Roark 17 Sep 1935 in Kenora, Ontario. She died April 24 2000 at White Rock, British Columbia

Charles William Roark was born in Camolin, County Wexford, Ireland on November 24 1906. He moved to Kenora in 1929. He died February 3 1990 in Victoria

They had three children,

- i. Shaun Craig O’Roark b. 06 Nov 1936
- ii. Aidan Anthony Roark b. 24 Apr 1938, d. 05 May 1945
- iii. Timothy David Roark 02 Nov 1945

Charles William Roark was employed by the Ontario Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company where he was Woods Manager for some years prior to his retirement to Victoria in 1968. He died February 3 1990 in Victoria BC.

Resources: Sweet, Ed Keewatin Reflections Total Printing and Reproductions Services (available in Kenora Public Library), Tim Roark, Surrey, B.C. 778-574-1188 tim.roark@shaw.ca

