

Retson Ancestor Occupations

By
James Retson
Last revised at

<https://www.retson.ca/retsonancestoroccupations.pdf>
January 27 2022

Civil Servant

George Clifford Retson was employed by Federal Government ending up in Department of Agriculture Director of Atlantic Region <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/83239032:2983>

Clergy

John Cooke, Baptist Minister

Cordwainer, saddler

Samuel Nelson, Saddler, cordwainer, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cordwainer>: A cordwainer is someone who makes new shoes using new leather, whereas a cobbler is someone who repairs shoes.

Court Officials

Jean /john Cooke, Deputy in the General court of Plymouth Colony in 1638-1639, 1641-1644, 1647 and 1653 to 1656. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cooke-19#Occupation>

Farmers

John Clifford 1871 Census
James Clifford 1871 Census

Farm Foreman

William Retson 1921
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8991/images/1921_041-E002905551?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pId=8551120

My Great Grandfather George Retson had a farm of 80 acres in Ayrshire with an annual rental of \$800 (1903) where he maintained about 60 Ayrshires (a breed) of which 25 to 30 were in milk year around. Before leaving Scotland my Grandfather William Retson acquired a great deal of knowledge from his father and work on the farm and in 1903 came to Nova Scotia with a prized Bull to start a dairy heard for what was to become the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in 1905 and subsequently part of Dalhousie University. He and his brother John ran a business on the side called the Retson Brothers delivering milk and eggs. Many publications in the early part of the 1900s contain records of his exploits in Nova Scotia including him winning the early records for best Rhode Island Red Poultry, egg laying contests and dairy herds. While I have never looked up the Land records I am familiar with his farms and a fair chuck of his last farm ended

up as part of the lands of either the Nova Scotia Exhibition Grounds or Nova Scotia Agricultural College grounds in Bible Hill, Colchester County.

1882 Census of Scotland <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1339885:1119>

Grist and Saw Mill Operator

David Hoar, Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761-1780, Page 465, Registry of Deeds, Israel Longworth, A Chapter in the History of Colchester County,

Labourers

The category is a general category used for persons in unskilled trades

Example John Clifford worked in a stone quarry in Cork county Ireland

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8758/images/40910_29396-00469?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.106862017.317073062.1642098498-76294777.1635193055&pId=8096080

Liquor Merchant

Jeremy Belcher “License to sell strong waters”, The Great Migration Volume 21 pages 231-237

Molecatchers

<https://www.molecatchersguild.co.uk/>

<https://mendipmolecatcher.co.uk/mole-facts-and-history-of-molecatching.html>

Many ancestors bearing the surname “Retson” were mole catchers possibly in addition to other occupations such as farmers from the early 1700s and 1800s. Example: George Retson 1861 Census of Scotland <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1951793:1080>

Police

Appointed Constable

Saddler

Robert John Nelson Sadler, Merchant Farmer, Bible entry

Shoe Maker

Luke Hitchcock 1614 - Nov 01, 1659 <http://www.retson.ca/Hitchcock.pdf>

Tanner

Matthew Archibald Necessaries and Sufficiencies

Weaver

Margaret Noble

Woolcomber

<https://wovember.wordpress.com/2013/11/13/a-short-history-on-wool-combing/> A Short history of Wool Combing

Francis Cooke (1583-113) in Leiden 1603

Genealogy Sources for Occupations

1. Voting Lists, Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Voters Lists, Federal Elections, 1935-1980 available on Ancestry
2. Canadian Census give occupations for 1921, 1911, 1901, 1891, 1881 available online at Library and Archives Canada, Ancestry
England, Scotland, Ireland Census give occupations for 1911, 1901, 1891, 1881, 1871, 1861, 1851, 1841
US: Census gives occupations for 1850 and every 10 years thereafter with Census public up to 1930
3. Newspapers: Advertisements, News items, Notices of funerals etc.
4. Obituaries, Found in Newspapers, Online
5. Directories
 - a. City Directories
 - b. Business Directories
 - c. Professional Directories
 - i. Law
 - ii. Medical
6. Vital Stats
 - a. Birth,
 - b. Marriage Records
 - c. Death Records
7. Directories
 - a. City Directories
 - b. Business Directories
 - c. Professional Directories
 - i. Law
 - ii. Medical
8. Periodicals and Journals
 - a. New England Historical and Genealogical Register
9. Histories, Books, Compilations, Articles, Profiles
 - a. Local Histories Example Neccessaries and Sufficiencies; *Israel Longworth, A Chapter in the History of Colchester County, Nova Scotia*
 - b. Compilations: Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia 1761-1780
 - c. Great Migration Study Project: The Great Migration Begins and Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Jeremy Belcher, also available on Ancestry
10. Bible, Diaries John Nelson Sadler Merchant Farmer Private Bible
11. Military Records
 - a. Attestation Documents from World War 1

- b. Military Files
- 12. Business Records - Employer, Employee, Owners
- 13. Corporation and Business Records
- 14. • Small Business
- 15. • Corporations
- 16. Labor Unions
 - a. Member
 - b. Union Organizational Leaders
 - c. Union Periodicals
- 17. Church Records
- 18. Court Records
- 19. Land Records
- 20. Passenger Records U.S., Atlantic Ports Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1959 Publications of the U.S. Government; NARA Archive : The National Archives in Washington, DC; NARA available on Ancestry. John Clifford
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8758/images/40910_29396-00469?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.106862017.317073062.1642098498-76294777.1635193055&pId=8096080
- 21. Passport Records
- 22. Derivative Sources and Repositories,
 - a. Online Databases, Ancestry, My Heritage, Find My Past
 - b. Archives
 - c. Family Search
 - d. www.wikitree.com
 - e.