

The Houze Family

Our interest in the Houze family derives from the marriage of Margaret J. Houze and Henry Covell in 1885. Margaret was the daughter of the blacksmith at Lombardy, Henry Houze, while Henry Covell was the son of Arthur Covell who owned a wood shingle/cheese box factory close by.

Henry Houze was married twice. Margaret was the last child by his first wife Elizabeth Moodie of North Burgess. Henry's father, Henry Sr., is believed to have also been a blacksmith in the Perth area. It is not known exactly where Henry Sr. was located because none of the Houzes appear in the 1851 census. Elizabeth died some time after Margaret's birth but no details have been found. Henry remarried in 1869 to Isabella Moodie, a cousin of Elizabeth.



“ Henry Houze took over the Ireland blacksmith shop which he bought from Joseph Willis in 1868. Unlike the previous blacksmiths, Houze thrived and expanded his enterprise in the village. He came to the village from Perth, already an experienced man in the trade, in his early thirties. During the 1880s Houze exchanged his land for that owned by the Gilday brothers, carriagemakers near Klyne's hotel. Houze also bought another property from Thomas Gilday across the street from the old shop next to O'Reilly's hotel. Houze tore down the old forge that was once run by James Ireland in 1888 and later built a frame house on the site. He had a carriage house and wood shed built on his new property across the street. At this point, Houze operated both a blacksmith and a carriagemaking shop in Lombardy. The former was run by Robert Clark, who later started his own, and the latter by John Munroe, who had worked for Houze for about twenty years from the 1870s.

Like so many people in villages and in the country, Houze was the victim of fire. In 1893, the paint shop of his carriagemaking business was destroyed. Nothing was saved, and he had no insurance on the property. The fire spread to the cheese factory operated by the O'Maras but it was promptly extinguished. Houze made do for a while in an old building before rebuilding the carriage works that year. Houze continued to work until the turn of the century when he turned over his business to his son, George. Henry Houze died in 1904.”

Quote from: South Elmsley in the Making, James R. Kennedy, 1984, pages 201-202

The Robert Clark mentioned above would later marry Henry's daughter, Elizabeth.

The Houze family, as far as we have traced to date, comes from Burgess Township, as did the Moodie family to which they are connected.

A fair bit of data has been compiled on the Moodies of North Burgess. This is available in a separate file.

The correct spelling of the family name appears to be with a “z”. In earlier records it appears as House but in later records (including grave stones, the “z” seemed to predominate. The Houze family has been victim of many misspellings at census time, as can be seen below.

Census Records

The search continues for the Houze family in the 1851 census. The census indicates that Henry was born in Ontario so his parents should have arrived prior to 1826. No record of the name is found with any of the original Perth Military Settlement records or early Lanark census records (1817-1822). The first census record of Henry is found in 1861.

The 1861 Census of Burgess Township, Lanark, pg21

House, Henry	Ont	C/S	25	Blacksmith
Elizabeth (Moodie)	Ont	C/S	24	Housewife
Elizabeth	“	“	3	
Sarah	“	“	1	

1871 Census

LEEDS & GRENVILLE NORTH (070), Elmsley (B)

Henry House	M	34	O <Ontario>
Isabella House	F	25	O <Ontario>
Elizabeth House	F	12	O <Ontario>
Sarah House	F	10	O <Ontario>
Christina House	F	8	O <Ontario>
Margaret J House	F	5	O <Ontario>
John Henry House	M	1	O <Ontario>

1881 Census *(as taken from the LDS site)*

Emsley, Leeds & Grenville North, Ontario

District **107** Sub-district **B** Page Number **13** Household Number **57**

Henry HOREZA	M	Male	English	46	O <Ontario>	Blacksmith	Presbyterian
Isabella HOREZA	M	Female	Scottish	36	O <Ontario>		Presbyterian
Sarah HOREZA		Female	English	20	O <Ontario>	School Teacher	Presbyterian
Christina HOREZA		Female	English	19	O <Ontario>		Presbyterian
Margaret J HOREZA		Female	English	15	O <Ontario>		Presbyterian
George James HOREZA		Male	English	10	O <Ontario>		Presbyterian
Maude May HOREZA		Female	English	5	O <Ontario>		Presbyterian

(expect the error in the surname was made by LDS workers trying to read census microfilm)

1901 Census of Canada (as taken from the Automated Genealogy web site)

District:ON LEEDS & GRENVILLE (North/Nord) (#82)

Subdistrict:Elmsley (South/Sud) A-1 Page 3

21	Hause Henry	M	Head	M	Jul 12 1835	65
21	Hause Isabell	F	Wife	M	Sep 27 1847	53
22	Hause George J.	M	Head	M	Jul 7 1871	29
22	Hause Janet, MC	F	Wife	M	Dec 12 1868	32
22	Hause Edna O	F	Daughter	S	Sep 27 1895	5
22	Hause Margaret	F	Daughter	S	Nov 9 1896	4

District:ON PERTH (North/Nord) (#104)

Subdistrict:Elma b-4 Page 1

9	Houze John	M	Head	M	May 9 1841	60
9	Houze Emm	F	Wife	M	Aug 27 1850	50
9	Houze E Henry	M	Son	S	Aug 13 1880	20
9	Houze A Charles	M	Son	S	May 25 1882	18
9	Houze A Jno.	M	Son	S	Nov 27 1892	8

1911 Census (as taken from the Automated Genealogy site)

Ontario / Leeds / 8 Elmsby South Township / page 4

37	Hearne George J.	M	Head	M	Jul 1871	39
37	Hearne Jane H.	F	Wife	M	Dec 1868	42
37	Hearne Edna B.	F	Daughter	S	Sep 1895	15
37	Hearne Maggie	F	Daughter	S	Nov 1896	14
37	Hearne Hary G.	M	Son	S	Dec 1901	9
37	Hearne McLean	M	Son	S	Jul 1903	7
37	Hearne Mary	F	Daughter	S	Jul 1906	4
37	Hearne Isabella	F	Mother	W	Sep 1847	63

Church Records

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PERTH, ONTARIO, (Lanark County)

BIRTHS 1830 - 1881

House, Sarah	06-07-1861	Henry	Moodie, Elizabeth	Elmsley
House, Margaret Jane	05-02-1867	"	" "	"

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PERTH, ONTARIO
MARRIAGES 1858 - 1887

Performed by Rev. William Bain and Rev. M. MacGillivray

Name	Born	Father	Mother	Date	Spouse	Born
HOUSE, HENRY	1836	HENRY	SCOTT, MARGARET	01-15-1858	MOODIE, ELIZABETH	1835
HOUSE, JOHN	1840	HENRY	SCOTT, MARY	02-24-1865	WARRINGTON, MARY ANN	1844

MOODIE, ELIZABETH	1835	ANDREW	FARNELL, ELIZABETH	01-15-1858	HOUSE, HENRY	1835
WARRINGTON, MARY A.	1844	HENRY	ARMSTRONG, ELIZABETH	02-24-1865	HOWIE, JOHN	1840

Note: Howie should be House

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERTH, ONTARIO, CANADA

1817-1857 MARRIAGES By Rev. William Bell

HOUSE, ELIZABETH	08-02-1842	FARNELL, JOSEPH	MOODIE, ANDREW	MCLAREN, ALEXANDER
HOUSE, JANE	01-13-1854	ALLAN, JAMES Jr.	SHAW, ARCHIBALD	ALLAN, JOHN

1858-1896 Methodist Church Marriages, Perth, Ontario, Canada

	Father	Mother	Date	Spouse
House, Harry	30 Henry	Scott, Margaret	04-05-1869	Moodie, Isabella
Moodie, Isabella	23 John	Anderson, Jeanette	04-05-1869	House, Harry

News Reports

Perth Courier, April 26, 1895

Houze-McLean—Married, at the residence of the bride's parents on the evening of April 17, by Rev. R.C.H. Sinclair, B.A., George James Houze of Lombardy to Janet McLean, youngest daughter of William Jno McLean of Oliver's Ferry.

Books

South Elmsley in the Making, James R. Kennedy, 1984, at pages 201-202 provides some good information about the business affairs of Henry and his son George.