



Ella
1886-1959

Ella was the first child born to Isaac and Annie. She was raised by her maternal Grandparents William and Isabella Acheson who lost their youngest daughter (also named Ella) about the same time that Ella was born. She kept close ties with her birth family however; and she grew up not far away from the Otty Lake farmhouse.

At Otty Lake she got to know her half-sister Annie Battles and her husband Willard (Ward) who frequently visited from Oswego with their 3 children. Annie Battles died of tuberculosis in 1911 and a couple of years later, Ward and Ella were married. Ella was 27 years old when she became stepmother to Anna (13), Ruth (10) and Donald (7). They lived in Oswego, New York and had a dairy farm and milk route.

Ella and Ward had two children:

- Amy (1919)
- Willard (1924)

The Battles continued to be frequent visitors to Otty Lake and close connections were made between Amy and Willard and their Canadian Kenyon cousins.



Ella in 1894 age 8

Amy left home after high school and stayed with her half-sister Ruth in Iowa where she obtained a B.A. and taught school for two years.

Ward Battles died in 1941 from a heart attack. Willard Jr. worked with his mother to carry on the family dairy business and Amy returned home to help her mother.

Woman Died From Heart Attack In Farm Grass Fire

Flames Called Contributory Cause In Death Of Mrs. Ella Battles

A verdict of death from coronary thrombosis, with fire as a contributing cause, was given by District Attorney James C. Feeney in the fatal burning Tuesday afternoon of Mrs. Ella Battles, 75, widow of T. Ward Battles, of 158 East Oneida street, whose body was found in a burning grass fire on her farm just east of the Oneida street bridge.

Firemen attached to Engine Co. 3 of the Oswego Fire department found the body while fighting the grass fire which had spread over most of the southerly 30-foot slope of the east approach of the bridge. Virtually all of Mrs. Battles' clothing had been burned off and her hat was smoldering. The fire department company responded to a call received at 3:25 o'clock.

Dr. Joseph B. Ringland, who went to the scene in a Police Department car, pronounced Mrs. Battles dead. District Attorney James C. Feeney, who went to the scene with Chief John J. Reed of the Police Department, released the body to the John E. Cullinan funeral home and later it was removed to Dain's funeral home where an autopsy was performed by Dr. David D. Chapman, Oswego county pathologist. The latter made his report to the district attorney's office.

Fire Cause Unknown

Mrs. Battles left her home to go to her farm shortly before 2 o'clock in the afternoon. In the area that was burned over there was considerable dry hay which had been cut with a mowing machine. Whether the fire was started by Mrs. Battles to destroy weeds along the bridge approach or whether it was started from a cigarette, tossed by a passing motorist, is not known. Police, however, believe that Mrs. Battles' clothing became ignited while she was endeavoring to prevent the flames from spreading to the mowed area. The body was found near the bottom of the steep slope.

The Battles farm consists of several acres lying along and east of the New York, Ontario & Western right-of-way, between East Oneida and East Albany streets. For many years Mr. Battles maintained a dairy there and served his own milk route. His death occurred several years ago.

Mrs. Battles was born at Otty Lake, near Perth, Ont., Dec. 23, 1884, a daughter of the late Isaac and Elizabeth Acheson Kenyon. She attended the Baptist Tabernacle and was active in its missionary society.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Amy I. Battles, this city, a teacher in Mexico Academy and Central school; a son, Willard Thomas Battles, a teacher at Port Lyden; five sisters, Miss Grace Kenyon, Montreal; Miss Isabel MacKaye, Perth; Mrs. Mary MacGowan, Montreal; Mrs. Laura Bell, Napanee, Ont., and Mrs. Jessie Mott, Perth, Ont.; two brothers, William Kenyon, Toronto, Ont., and Hartley Kenyon, Balderson, Ont., and several nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services will be held at the home, 158 East Oneida street, Friday afternoon, Aug. 11, at 2 o'clock. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery.

Willard graduated from College and became a teacher. He married Ruth McCann in 1946 and they had nine children.

Ella died in 1959 in a tragic accident at the farm. She was 73 years old.

Amy married Frank Ricchi in 1964.



Willard Battles 1940



Amy Battles Ricchi with brother Willard Battles and his 9 children.



Mary was the second-born. She left home in 1910 at age 23 and went to Dauphin, Manitoba to train as a registered nurse. She worked for the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal and joined the Brethren.



Mary
1887 - 1965

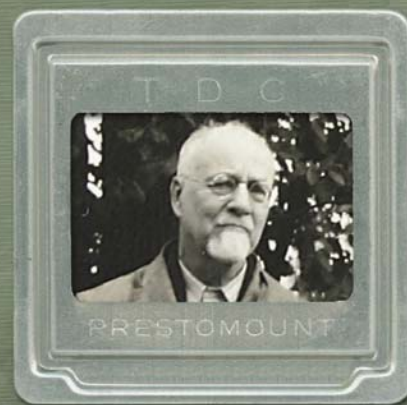
Mary met S.J.(Joe) MacGowan in Montreal. He was a teacher who had recently immigrated to Canada from Ireland by way of Belgium, Germany and England. Joe was a drinker and a smoker, so Mary required him to reform his ways before they could marry.

Joe reformed and completed his religious conversion in 1915. They were married in November 1916. Their first children, twins named Amy and Hartley, were born in 1917. A sister Evelyn was born in Sherbrooke in 1921. The fourth and last child, Stanley, was born in Montreal in 1924.

Mary's family spent their summers at Otty Lake which may explain why two of their children, Amy and Evelyn kept close ties to the area as they grew older. Mary and Joe had a cottage built at Otty Lake which now belongs to their daughter Amy's family. Amy and her husband Hans Pokorny built a home adjacent to the cottage in 1975.

Mary is remembered as a compulsive worker and for her devotion to her gardens. She had stern views about entertainment at home and frowned on card games and music. She died suddenly in 1965. Joe lived to be 94 and passed away in 1972.

Their son Hartley married and had 5 children - none of whom are connected to Otty Lake. Amy and Hans Pokorny adopted two children Louise and John. Evelyn married Cliff Campbell and had two children. They summered at a tiny cottage at Otty Lake. Stanley and his wife Clara became missionaries and lived for a time in Senegal. They had 4 children.



Joe MacGowan



Mary with her twins Hartley and Amy MacGowan. On the left is Mary's mother Elizabeth Kenyon and her maternal Grandmother Isabella (Allan) Acheson. Taken 1918



Amy
1888-1949

Amy is remembered as pretty, sweet natured, practical and hard working.

In 1910 Amy headed West at the age of 22 to attend Normal School in Yorkton Saskatchewan. She was a quick and able student and a strict but capable teacher. After a brief teaching job in Inisfree, Alberta Amy returned to Ontario in 1914. She taught at the Lower Scotch Line school and her youngest sister Jessie was one of her pupils.

Amy eventually followed her sister Mary to Montreal where she trained as a nurse at Montreal General Hospital. She returned to Perth and married George Wood in 1924. They lived at the Wood family home in Rideau Ferry.

Her sister Isobel described Amy as, "a gift to any household. No duties were too heavy or demanding and she could accomplish more in half a day than most folk could in half a week.

She never needed to ask for help for we all felt it was a privilege to work with her - speedy and conscientious as she always was, though small of stature."



Amy and George were devoted Brethren and raised 5 children:

- Grace (Wood) Wills b Sept 1929
- Isobel (Wood) Covell b. Sept 1931
- James Wood b. May 1932 d. 1983
- Norman Wood b. Dec 1935
- Arthur Wood b. 1936 d.1969

All children went to the local one-room school-house in South Elmsley with exception of Arthur who had special needs and was hospitalized first in Orillia and later in Smiths Falls. Grace, Isobel and Jim completed high-school in Perth, boarding with their Aunt Isobel during the week. Norman took the bus every day to high-school in Smiths Falls.

Grace and Isobel trained in Ottawa and became teachers. Jim took over the family dairy farm, and Norman became first a dentist, then after post-graduate work in Chicago became a faculty member at Loyola University School of Dentistry. He retired as Dean of the Dentistry College at the University of Alberta.

At the age of 61 Amy had a stroke and did not survive it. Her children were still teenagers, her youngest not yet 12 when she died on June 17th 1949. George lived another 8 years before his death in 1957 at the age of 80.



George Wood



Hartley
1890-1973

Like his siblings, Hartley did well at school but enjoyed farming more than education. He worked alongside his father on the farm. He journeyed West to visit his brother Bill in Saskatchewan but after his visit he did not pursue the notion of homesteading any further.

He returned home in 1911 but had picked up Scarlet Fever along the way. He was sent to live down at the “camp” (cottage) by the lake for 5 weeks so as not to contaminate ‘ the rest of the family. Isobel remembers carefully bringing him his meals and washing his bedding. No one else caught the contagion!

Hartley purchased a lot from his father in 1919 and married Anne Affleck of Middleville in 1921. Anne was trained as a teacher and taught at various schools near Carleton Place, Lanark and Perth. Anne is remembered for the poetry she wrote. Originally staunch Baptists, Hartley and Anne converted to and became founding members of the Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church.

Hartley and Anne purchased the rest of the farm from Isaac in 1921 for a sum of \$7000. Isaac, Lizzie and the remaining adult children at home (Amy, Isobel and Jessie) moved into Perth and purchased a house at 22 Gore St. W.

Hartley worked hard at improving the farm for 6 years. Hartley and Anne had 3 children who were all born at the Otty Lake farmhouse;

Albert (1922),
Helen (1924)
Glenn (1925).

However greener pastures called, and in 1927, Hartley and Anne sold a parcel of their best farmland (now Maple Glen subdivision) and purchased a 100 acre farm in Balderson. This farm was much more fertile and included a farmhouse, so Hartley and Anne left the farmhouse at Otty Lake unoccupied and moved North. Hartley continued to use the remaining parcels of land at Otty Lake for several decades for wood, hay and to pasture his cattle and sheep. It must have been quite a site in Perth to see the cattle drive between Balderson and Otty Lake each winter and spring!

Hartley sold cottage and farm lots slowly over the next 30 years. Many family members bought lots including:

- Isaac's half-brother H.F Kenyon (1923),
- Bill and Mildred Kenyon (1935),
- Mary and Joe MacGowan (1937),
- Clarence and Jessie Mott (1948 – purchased the farm house and adjacent land).

Hartley and Anne sold the last lot from the original farm in 1959. Hartley farmed in Balderson until 1960 when his son Glenn took over the farm.

Albert used his war experience as an engine room stoker in the Navy to train as a mechanical engineer. He finished his career at the Ottawa Civic hospital and was responsible for their power plant. He had two daughters. Helen trained as a nursing assistant and lived in Kingston where she raised two children.

Anne, confined to a wheel chair in 1938 with rheumatoid arthritis, died in 1970.

Hartley died of cancer in 1973.



Hartley, Glenn, Anne and Albert



BLUE-BIRD STREET

By ANNE KENYON

There are six posts in our lane.
On each I set
A bird house hoping
Tenants to get.

Now it is middle May.
They all are rented;
The lane is dewy
And lilac scented.

But when I waken early
In the cool, sweet dawn,
I collect my rental
In a blue-bird's song.

I wonder there at twilight
To hear the nestlings peep,
And the mother blue-bird
Hush her babes to sleep.

I do not ask a high rate
For my labors—
Just the joy of having
Such very pleasant neighbors.



William
1891-1965

Bill completed his five years of secondary school education at Perth Collegiate Institute taking a break for two years to work on the farm. He chose to attend Normal School in Yorkton Saskatchewan in 1910/11 as his sister Amy was attending at that time. He taught for 2 years in Rowington, Saskatchewan before enrolling in advanced studies at McMaster University in Toronto. Bill studied Classics, winning the Classics prize in his first year and the Greek prize the next. He captained the soccer team.

He enlisted and served in the Shorncliffe barracks during the first World War as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Before leaving Europe he taught in Edinburgh and completed a First Class teaching certificate. In 1919 he took a Master's Degree at U of Toronto and began to teach at various collegiates in Toronto.

He met and married Mildred Dyke in Toronto. They settled in Toronto and had 4 children:

- Ruth Porter b. 1928
- Peggy Molloy b. 1932
- Nancy Kenyon b. 1935
- Bill Kenyon Jr. b 1942

Bill continued to teach high-school English, Latin, Greek and history. He became head of the English Department in 1942.



Mildred Kenyon

Bill retired in 1957 but continued to teach until 1961 due to a teacher shortage.

Bill, Mildred and the family spent the summers at Otty Lake in the old mining shack at the lakeshore. They built a larger cottage in the mid-1930's and it was a favorite retreat for their family. The family took home each September a bushel of apples from the farm, raspberry preserves and a wheel of Balderson cheese.



Bill died suddenly of a heart attack in 1965 at the age of 74. Mildred and her family continued to spend the summers at Otty Lake. Mildred died in 1998.

Ruth obtained an Arts degree and worked in Prague for External Affairs Canada, taught school and finished her career as a librarian. She had no children. Peggy had two children in Canada, then remarried and emigrated to Australia. She had two more daughters and pursued her educational interests in music and Greek culture. Nancy obtained a Political Science and Economics degree, had one daughter, worked for three provincial governments and completed her career with the federal government. Bill completed an electrical engineering degree, did post-graduate work at Princeton and worked for Schlumberger. He married Winnie Holtz and settled in Connecticut. The raised one son and a daughter.



*Bill and Nancy Kenyon
Otty Lake 1941*



Grace is remembered for her happy disposition as well as for being quiet and thoughtful. She was an outstanding scholar and had an excellent memory but was very humble and unselfish.

Grace was an able pupil at school achieving a first place standing in Lanark County for entrance into high-school. She studied at Queens in the Faculty of Education and taught for 2 years before taking a Bachelor of Arts in Classics, English and History at McMaster University in 1917. Grace was convinced that education provided the means to improve the general condition of the poor and disadvantaged – a notion instilled in her by her father and encouraged by her mother. However, after a few years of teaching Grace decided that she would be better suited to missionary work. She decided to volunteer with the Baptist Mission Board and work in India.

In 1922, at the age of 28, Grace left the train station in Perth for Montreal where she boarded a boat to India. Her first posting was at Vizagapatam (on the Bay of Bengal near the Tropic of Cancer) managing a hostel for Christian girls who boarded there while attending a Christian high school.

Grace
1893-1977

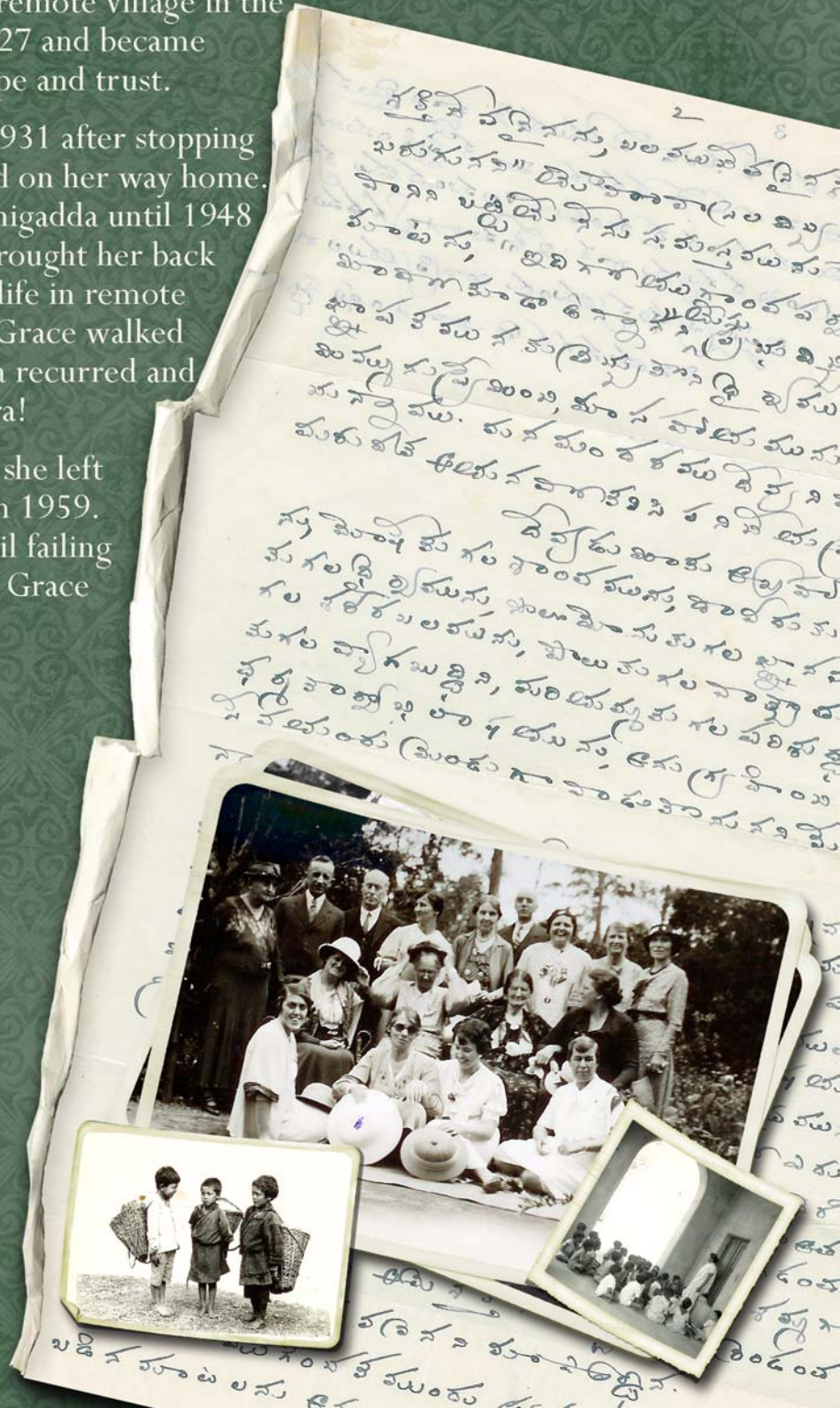
She became fluent in Telugu. She was transferred inland to rural Bimlipatam, a posting that she loved.



Grace was then stationed at Parlakimedi, a remote village in the Serango Hills. She contracted malaria in 1927 and became seriously ill but suffered through it with hope and trust.

She returned to Otty Lake on furlough in 1931 after stopping in Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Italy and England on her way home. Upon returning to India she worked in Avanigadda until 1948 when a combined sick leave and furlough brought her back to Otty Lake until 1952. The conditions of life in remote India were very difficult and primitive and Grace walked for miles each day between villages. Malaria recurred and it is rumored she was even bitten by a Cobra!

Grace's final service in India lasted 8 years; she left unwillingly for the last time due to illness in 1959. Her final years were spent with siblings until failing health forced her to live in a nursing home. Grace died in 1977 in Perth.



Isobel

1895 - 1984

Isobel, the 7th child, was born to Lizzie and Isaac on June 27th 1895. Much of what we know about the Kenyon family history is a legacy of her letters and memoirs. She writes of a blissful childhood at Otty Lake.



Like her sibilings she excelled at her studies, earning a Carter Scholarship for the highest grades in Lanark County in Upper School examinations. Isobel studied Teacher Training at the University of Toronto in 1914/15 and taught in Westport for a number of years. She completed a certificate in Stenography and Typewriting at Mt. Royal Business College in Montreal in 1920.

Isobel began working at Perth Collegiate Institute in 1922. She worked at PCI for 22 year in teaching and secretarial roles as well as being head of the Commercial Department for 15 years. Isobel's students gave her a 5 piece silver tea set at a surprise party when she left PCI in 1944 and she was fondly remembered by her many students and colleagues. She in turn keenly followed the lives of her graduates.



Isobel married George McKay in 1949. George was the nephew of Isaac's first wife Annie, and he and Isobel lived at the original McKay farm homestead across Otty Lake from the Kenyon farm. When George died in 1959 she sold the farm and returned to live at the family home in Perth.

Isobel and George McKay 1959

Isobel was close to her family all her life. When Isaac and Lizzie moved into Perth in 1921 Isobel (then age 26) and Jessie went with them. Isobel cared for her mother until 1935 when Lizzie's care became too much of a challenge for one person.

Isobel continued to live in the family home at 22 Gore St. for a short time and then chose to rent out the house and take an apartment for herself. She returned to the Gore St. home after George's death and lived there with her sister Jessie Mott and her family until Jessie's death in 1965. Isobel assisted Jessie's husband by providing accomodation for him during the winter months for many years after Jessie's death.

Isobel was also devoted to her sister Grace, managing her affairs in Canada while she was overseas, and caring for her diligently when she returned home in 1960 until her death in 1977.

Isobel also took an active role in the families of her many other nieces and nephews and corresponded with most of them regularly.



Isobel was very attached to Otty Lake and purchased 3 property lots that were subdivided from the farm. Her lake properties (including the cottage built by Isaac's brother H.F) are now owned by her nephews Bob and Ken Mott. The access road to these lake properties is named 'Isobel Lane' in her honour.

Isobel loved travelling and visited Grace in India, her nephew Bob in Yellowknife and the Holy Lands with her sister Jessie.

Isobel enjoyed good health until her death in 1984 when she suffered a stroke.

Laura was the second to last child born to Isaac and Lizzie. In 1916-17 she attended Ottawa Normal School to train as a teacher. Upon graduation she took a school in Hay Bay, on Lake Ontario outside of Napanee. There she met William (Willie) Blanchard Bell, a gentle giant of a man who farmed locally.

After marrying in 1921, the Bell's settled into Willie's family farmhouse. Laura continued to teach. The Bell's kept dairy cattle – selling their milk to the cheese factory next door- and grew produce which they took to the Kingston Farmer's Market. In addition, Laura kept the books for the cheese factory. Laura made such sparking stories from the foibles of her neighbours that for years her family tried to get her to complete a written account of them provisionally titled, "Nothing Ever Happens Here".

The demands of farming meant that the Bell's were not often able to travel to Otty Lake to visit or take part in family gatherings. As a result, they often hosted various

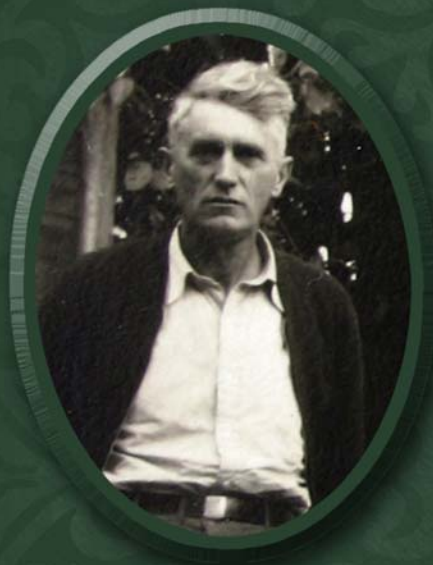
Kenyon siblings and their families.

Bill and Mildred Kenyon and their children would stop to visit on their way to Otty Lake and Laura's younger sister Jessie's family spent summers at the Bell's playing on the shores of Lake Ontario.



Laura
1898 -1994





Willie Bell

In 1929, Laura's sister Jessie, who had just moved to Bath, told Laura and Willie of a young family who had tragically lost their mother in childbirth. Laura and Willie adopted two of the children – six year old Emily Beggs and her younger brother Walter.

The Bell's, through savings or inheritance, owned at least two properties in addition to their farm. They had a house in Napanee into which their daughter Emily eventually moved, and a house on Stuart St. in Kingston which her sister Jessie lived in for many years.

In 1954, after farming together for more than 30 years, the Bell's entered partial retirement and moved into Napanee. After two devastating fires the Bell's left the farm altogether. Initially they both worked in a canning factory in Deseronto. Laura later worked in a nursing home and became curator for the Lennox and Addington County museum from 1974 to 1977.

Laura's eyesight and her memory began to fail and her personality began to change - perhaps the result of early Alzheimer's disease. Willie cared for her until then mid-1980's when he became too tired and ill himself (at the age of 91) to continue as sole care giver. Emily assumed their care until Willie's death in 1986. Laura eventually was placed in a nursing home where she died in 1994 at the age of 96.

Emily married Bill Harachka in 1950 and settled in Napanee in a house owned by Laura and Willie. Their three children, now grown with families of their own, all live nearby. Walter married Sheila Pappas and lived in Bath. They have two children.



*Fr. Row - Emily Begg, Jessie Mott, Walter Begg, Clarence Mott
Bk. Row - Laura Bell, Willie Bell*



*Jessie
1905 - 1965*

Jessie, the youngest child of Isaac and Lizzie, was born in 1905. She attended the Ottawa Normal School from 1924-25 to become a teacher. She taught briefly in Lanark, then in Minnesing and in 1929 went to Bath to teach. Her closest sibling Laura lived in nearby Hay Bay.

Jessie met Clarence Delos Mott of Bath and they married in 1931 in North Fredricksburg. They are remembered as a sociable, lively and fun-loving and were often stylishly dressed and enjoyed outings. Jessie enjoyed theatre, gardening and art (she was a self-taught painter). Clarence was an avid fisherman – a hobby he enjoyed his whole life.

Clarence worked at first at his family's General store in Bath. In the 1930's he became Secretary of the Bath Hydro Commission and the Clerk Treasurer of Bath. At some point they relocated to Kingston and lived on Stuart St. in a house owned by Laura and Willie Bell.

Their son Ronald George Kenyon (Ken) Mott was born in 1935 and their second son Robert (Bob) was born in 1936.



Jessie in 1907



Clarence trained as a cook and pastry chef and enlisted in the Army in 1940.

He was stationed in Kingston which enabled him to stay home with his family during the war. Jessie was a supply teacher and took in boarders to supplement their income. Summers were spent at the Otty Lake farmhouse.

In 1948 Jessie and Clarence bought the farmhouse and 100 acres of land from Hartley. They stayed in Smiths Falls when not at the farmhouse. Jessie taught at local one-room school-houses before finishing her teaching career at Queen Elizabeth Public School in Perth. Clarence worked in the kitchen at Rideau Regional Hospital until his retirement. They moved to Perth in 1953, staying with Isobel for the winters at the family home at 22 Gore St.

Jessie enjoyed traveling and visited the Holy Land, the British Isles and Europe. Her slide shows about her travels were much in demand with Service Clubs in Perth. Jessie died suddenly in 1965 at the age of 60 from a heart attack. Clarence lived until 1990, spending winters with his sister-in-law Isobel and summers at the lake. His last years were spent in a nursing home.

Ken married Ruth Anne McDowell in 1962, they have two daughters. Bob married Letitia Jo Yates and had one son. Ken and Bob still own the Kenyon farm property; although the farmhouse was removed in the early 1990's to site a new home for Bob and his wife Jo. Many of the trees and the flowers (now wild) that Jessie planted are still in evidence around the property.



*Clarence, Jessie, Bob and Ken
1942*



Clarence Mott