

Parkinson: 200 Years at Rawdon

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This celebrates the arrival of the John Parkinson family at Rawdon in 1824. It summarizes what was published in UP TO RAWDON in 2013 and includes material corrected or added since then and published in the 'Text Updates' portion of <https://uptorawdon.com/>. There are many photographs of the in the text of UP TO RAWDON and some additional images are found in 'Photo Updates' on the website.

Settlers at Rawdon, who arrived after the Township opened in 1820, came from England, Ireland and Scotland. These families have connections through marriage to the Parkinsons and may be followed in UP TO RAWDON: the Brown family arrived in 1824, Burns in 1820, Copping came to Canada in 1812 & to Rawdon in 1822, Holiday to Canada 1820 & Rawdon 1823, Holtby to Canada 1821& Rawdon in 1823, Irwin 1823, Kirkwood 1820, Kite 1821, Marlin and Law 1823, Scroggie 1823-1824, Gracey 1827-1828, Rourke 1826. Somewhat later to arrive - Blagrove 1841, Boyce 1831, Sharp 1832-1835, Smith in Canada c.1828 to Rawdon 1832. They are part of the Parkinson connection to Rawdon Township and the British and American families who made homes and farms in what were called the "waste lands of the crown."

John Parkinson was born May 29, 1768 in a farming village, Ellerton-on-Swale in the rolling Yorkshire Dales, east of Catterick, near Northallerton - it was named in the Domesday Book in 1086. As a young man John migrated to the Ryedale area of Yorkshire, near the North Sea, where in 1797 he married **Elizabeth Chapman**, at Kirkbymoorside and they lived near her family. They had a son Ralph born in 1798 and a daughter Mary in 1801 and moved to Brawby, where six more children were born – George 1807, John 1810 and Daniel 1819 and three other children who died at young ages in 1809, 1818, 1821 – their births and deaths were recorded at St. John of Beverley Church at Salton, a Norman structure that dates from the year 1100.

John was literate and was a farm worker in some capacity. There was a village school at Brawby and his children learned to read and write. Brawby was an area of fertile and prosperous farms that had been settled many generations before by Danes and Anglo-Saxons.

Why did the Parkinsons, and others from East Yorkshire, leave Brawby at this time, and choose to emigrate to Canada? The post Napoleonic era in England was a time of economic depression, poor harvests, growing inflation, with high unemployment among soldiers returning from the wars. Canada promised free crown land to John and to his three eldest sons. This proved a good opportunity because his sons were able and hard workers in their new home. His daughter Mary was the mother of an illegitimate son (in October 1823) and they came to Canada with John's family. One wonders if Mary being an unmarried mother influenced the family's decision to leave their community.

The Parkinsons, looking for a better life, left on the bark *Diana* from Whitby, which is 25 miles north of Brawby, on the North Sea coast, on May first 1824 and arrived June 22, 1824 at the Port of Quebec with a manifest of sixteen settlers. A week later on June 30, 1824, the passenger list of the steamboat *Quebec* (travelling from Quebec to Montreal) included "John Parkison [sic] & wife & six children, three above 12 & three under 12 years" for 3 shillings and 5 pence. Ralph and Mary were young adults, George was a youth of 17 and it appears that 14-year-old John passed, with Daniel who was 5, as under 12. The additional child must have been the infant, Robert Parkinson baptized to Mary Parkinson at Brawby in October 1823 (he has disappeared from our sight). Also on the *Quebec's* passenger list on that day were Mr. and Mrs. (Christopher) Dresser and five children who settled at Iberville. Their daughter Susan Dresser married John Luccock, a ropemaker from Lacolle, Lower Canada; he was a brother of Thomas Pearson's wife Hannah Luccock, who became the Parkinson's Rawdon neighbours.

In 1826, Tickets of Location were issued for 400 acres of crown land, with equivalent letters Patent issued in 1833. The family were located side by side – John Parkinson, senior at 9th Range, 21 North, Ralph Parkinson 9th Range, 21 South, John Parkinson junior at 9th Range, 22 North and George Parkinson at 9th Range, 20 North. Ralph later, after his marriage, farmed at 9th Range Lot 26 on what is now called Parkinson Road and George bought a farm and moved south to 8th Range Lot 21, on Lake Morgan Road, to be near schools for his children.

Rawdon neighbours from Yorkshire – Thomas Pearson and his father John Pearson were born at Kirby Wiske, North Yorkshire, some thirty miles west of Brawby but had lived in John Parkinson's part of that county. They had farms at Rawdon on the ninth range, lots S20 & S22. In 1828, Ralph Parkinson witnessed the baptism of a Pearson son. On October 21, 1831, when Thomas Pearson was fulfilling his obligations for his Letters Patent, his neighbours John Parkinson and John Holiday certified that he had "built a dwelling house, barn, stable" and was a resident settler (LAC 2553, vol 155, p. 76144). Holiday's son, John, was to marry Thomas Pearson's daughter Sarah Pearson. Hannah Luccock (Mrs. Thomas Pearson) was baptized in 1798 at New Malton, Yorkshire; they had two older daughters baptized at Kirby Misperton, which is three miles from Brawby, where the Parkinsons once lived; there was no church at Brawby, the Parkinsons went two miles in another direction to Salton, for baptisms. One feels that these Yorkshire connections were relevant to their being neighbours in Lower Canada.

A tragedy befell the Rawdon family on July 9, 1834. Elizabeth Chapman Parkinson and her son John were standing in the door of their cabin when lightning struck the chimney and exited through the open door. The minister wrote in his burial register "both called to Eternity and in the twinkling of an eye by a shock of electric fluid." The deaths were reported incorrectly in *The Vindicator and Canadian Advertiser*, of July 15, 1834, as death of Atkinson [sic] mother and son at Rawdon. They were buried on the Parkinson farm. One can only imagine the father's shock and horror at the loss of his hard working wife of nearly forty years. Elizabeth was 61, caring for a husband and three working sons, the youngest fifteen. The eldest, Ralph, was already married. There is no indication on the 1831 Census that the family had a servant to help Elizabeth with cooking and washing. The effect of her death on her four men and a teenager would have been overwhelming for them.

John was an active churchman. He was a member of the Anglican select vestry and was senior church warden in 1834. On Sunday, June 25, 1839 George Copping noted in his Journal that there was no minister present (at church) and that Mr. Parkinson had preached.

John Parkinson left Rawdon before 1851 probably going to the farm of his son-in-law John Tate at (St-Malachai Township) Ormstown. This led to his youngest son relocating there. John died and was buried on March 18, 1853 in St. Paul's Church of Scotland [now United Church] Cemetery, Ormstown, where a stone for him is reportedly against the church wall. He was 85 and had spent almost 29 years in Canada.

The immigrant children of John Parkinson and Elizabeth Chapman and their families.

Ralph Parkinson was born 22 July 1798 at Kirby Mills, East Yorkshire and was baptized August 5, 1798 nearby at All Saints Parish Church, Kirkbymoorside.

Ralph married **Margaret Gracey** on March 22, 1830 at Rawdon, as recorded in the Anglican register. She was a daughter of William Gracey and Elizabeth Scott, settlers from County Down, Ireland circa 1828. Their daughter Betsy Parkinson (named Elizabeth for her two grandmothers) was born in December

1830 and died, unmarried, December 1854. Margaret and Ralph Parkinson in June 1838 had been baptismal sponsors for a daughter of Margaret's brother James Gracey and his wife, Mary Scroggie. Margaret Gracey was a sponsor at the baptism of a neighbour's child, in June 1844. It is not recorded but we assume that Margaret died c. 1845. Ralph, in August 1845, had witnessed the burial of an infant daughter of Mary Scroggie Gracey. As an indication of how close the families were, he married Mary Scroggie Gracy's sister **Esther Scroggie** on March 31, 1846.

Four years after settling at Rawdon, on October 1, 1828, Ralph signed a petition, begging that patent fees, (what settlers paid to the Crown to process their claims) should not be raised. On May 3, 1832, Ralph petitioned "that he [had] received a valuable consideration for his improvements and prayed "that patent for [his lot] do give in favour of John Parkinson, Sr." The Holtby Map shows Ralph living at Ninth Range, Lot 26 that had been granted to David Scott in 1837; he left for Essa and Maryborough Townships in Upper Canada and was related to both Margaret Gracey (daughter of Elizabeth Scott) and to Ralph's second wife, Esther Scroggie.

Ralph and Esther had eight children born at Rawdon.

Margaret Parkinson was born January 9, 1847 and possibly was named to honour Margaret Gracey. She married **Robert Foster**, born at Rawdon, in 1847 at Grace Anglican Church, Pointe St. Charles (Montreal) on March 10, 1873. She died at Carsonville, Sanilac County, Michigan on October 24, 1881 and was buried there. Her sons lived for a while with their grandmother Esther Parkinson and uncle John Parkinson at Rawdon. George W. Foster returned to live in Michigan and Charles Edwin Foster served as a sergeant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI and later received crown land at Ashcroft, BC, where he farmed.

Mary Jane Parkinson was born April 1, 1848 and married **William Sharpe** of Rawdon on May 22, 1867 at Christ Church, Rawdon. Their seven children included sons George Henry Sharpe and Thomas Albert Sharpe who raised families at Enderby, BC, where their mother's siblings lived. Her other children had no descendants. Mary Jane died at Rawdon on October 19, 1939 and William Sharpe died October 27, 1933; they are buried in the Rawdon United Church Cemetery.

Thomas Parkinson was born July 2, 1849. He emigrated from Canada c.1870 and married **Abbie Sarah Knight** of East Swanzey, New Hampshire in 1873. Abbie died in 1893 and Thomas raised his three daughters, aged three to 19 years, as a widowed father. Thomas Parkinson died November 21, 1931 at Baltimore, Maryland. His many descendants live in the United States.

James Parkinson was born October 24, 1850 and was known as 'Big Jim' because he was taller than his first cousin, James Ernest Parkinson. He inherited his father's farm and married **Frances Elizabeth Copping** on March 2, 1874, at Christ Church, Rawdon. They had two daughters and two sons, of which the younger son, William Thomas Parkinson is the grandfather of **Brent Evans Parkinson** and **Merle E. Parkinson** Campbell who live and are active at Rawdon, as is their mother **Lillian Evans Parkinson**. William Thomas Parkinson is also the grandfather of **Dudley Parkinson**, for years a Rawdon businessman and presently a resident of Ste-Julienne. Jim Parkinson died at Rawdon, April 23, 1930 and Frances Elizabeth died September 30, 1907; they are buried in Christ Church Cemetery.

John Parkinson was born March 17, 1852 and married **Mary Gray** (of Rawdon) on June 19, 1888 at Rawdon Methodist Church. John had a farm at Ste-Julienne, southwest of Rawdon, with his mother Esther in 1881 and until her death in 1889. As mentioned, his sister Margaret's sons lived with them. In 1891, John was on a farm, some miles from Rawdon village and the country school near them was to close; John and Mary wanted to relocate to a farm with better agricultural prospects and where their family could live at home and attend school and not board in the village. John thought of homesteading on the prairies but instead, in 1903, was persuaded by a descendant of the Rawdon

Harkness family to settle on a farm at East Clifton in Compton County, near Sawyerville, Quebec. Mary and John had seven children and many descendants, especially through their daughter Carrie Elizabeth Parkinson Gorringer. Their third son was killed in action in France in 1916, six months after enlisting. Mary Gray died on November 13, 1915 and John on January 30, 1937 and are buried in the East Clifton Cemetery.

Prudence Parkinson was born November 18, 1853 and lived with her brother Thomas Parkinson at Keene, NH before his marriage. She went to her sister and brother at Hullcar, BC, and married on February 28, 1895, at Enderby, BC, **Alfred Taylor**, a Shropshire lad, nine years her junior. He returned to Newport, Shropshire, England, where the birth of a son was registered in 1897. They immigrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1899-1900. Prudence died on May 1, 1933 at Iredell, North Carolina.

George Parkinson was born October 10, 1855. He went west in 1875, travelling by train to St. Louis, Missouri and from there, by stage coach to San Francisco and on coastal sailing ships to Hastings Harbour, (now called Vancouver). He took the steamer up the Fraser River to Yale and by horseback along the Dewdney Trail to the Okanagan. He had intended panning for gold in Cherry Creek in the Monashee Mountains but, a farm boy at heart, he opted for a homestead at Hullcar, near Enderby, instead. Train service from Vancouver to Montreal began in 1886 - 1887. George went home and married **Jane Anne Copping**, a younger sister of his brother James' wife, at Christ Church, Rawdon on November 11, 1886. They had nine children, of whom three died as infants. George prospered in his new home and Jane Anne was able to return to Rawdon in 1894 for the baptism of a son, Stanley Copping Parkinson. I am grateful to Stanley's grandchildren the late Hazel Parkinson Thompson and Jack Parkinson for help with the British Columbia family. Also, to Joy Parkinson Clark now of Australia and her parents Douglas and Thelma at Revelstoke, BC.

Caroline Edith Parkinson was born at Rawdon, August 20, 1858. Caroline may have accompanied her brother and sister-in-law to Enderby or joined them later. She married at Vernon, on October 12, 1887 to **John Sibbald Pringle**, a native of Scotland. They farmed at Hullcar and had three children, none of whom married. Caroline died on May 12, 1920 and John Pringle on September 3, 1922 at Hullcar, they are buried with their children at Armstrong.

Mary Parkinson was born March 27, 1801 at Kirby Mills, Yorkshire and baptized on the following April 3 at Kirkbymoorside. She emigrated with her parents in 1824, as mentioned previously. She did not settle with then Rawdon with them, but as far as we know, remained at Montreal where she married **John Tate** of Wigginton, Yorkshire on September 17, 1828 at Christ Church, Montreal. His brothers, George and William Tate, were prominent Montreal businessmen with government defence contracts and owned a line of steam boats running between Quebec and Montreal, dry docks and shipyards. John and Mary Tate farmed in St-Malachie Township, (Ormstown), Quebec as did his brothers. Mary and John Tate had three children: Elizabeth Tate (Betsy), Mrs. Edward Sadler (1832 - 1915); Jane Tate, Mrs. John Sadler (1834 - 1907) and George Tate (1837 - 1847).

George Parkinson was born December 25, 1807 in Brawby, Yorkshire, England and baptized on December 30, 1807 at St. John of Beverly Parish Church, in Salton. He married **Susanna Brown** on April 17, 1838, Christ Church Anglican, Rawdon. She was born September 8, 1815, in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, a daughter of settlers Robert Brown and Margaret McMullen, who settled on the Seventh Range on the north half of lots 25, 26, 27, 28 in 1824-1825. George Parkinson died September 11, 1891 and Susanna died on December 4, 1898 and they are buried in the Rawdon United Church Cemetery. George and Susan had eleven children.

John Parkinson was born September 8, 1839 at Rawdon. He married **Sarah Elizabeth Boyce**, daughter of settlers Richard Boyce and Mary Ann Richardson, on March 21, 1865 at St. John's

Anglican, Kildare, Quebec. John Parkinson died May 10, 1900 and Sarah Boyce died on August 15, 1904; they are buried in the Rawdon United Church Cemetery. They had eleven children, seven reached maturity and lived in New York, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Ontario.

Robert Parkinson was born February 5, 1841 at Rawdon. He married **Anne Marlin** of Rawdon on November 7, 1862 at Christ Church, Rawdon. She died April 18, 1882; they had six children who lived in Vermont, Massachusetts and Quebec. One son was George Chapman Parkinson of Vermont but no one in my father's generation realized that his name honoured Elizabeth Chapman, their great grandmother. Robert then married his cousin, **Jane Ann Brown**, August 14, 1883 at Christ Church, Rawdon; they had children but no descendants. Robert was a farmer at Rawdon but later joined his daughter Maggie Law living at Randboro, Quebec and died there May 5, 1922 but he was buried at Christ Church, Rawdon.

George Parkinson was born November 15, 1842 at Rawdon. In family recollection, he was carrying axes across a lake on November 14, 1865 when the ice broke and he drowned. George was probably working in a *chantier* or lumber camp for the Hunterstown Lumbering Company. Francis P. Quinn, a land surveyor from Rawdon was mapping Chilton Township, north of Chertsey and named the place Parkinson Lake in honour of the young man who drowned there a month earlier but the name is different on several maps and it is either Lac George, Lac Prévost or Lac à l'Île, all in the area around St-Sauveur. George was not married and no doubt was earning money to buy a farm.

Agnes Parkinson was born July 29, 1844 at Rawdon and married **George Irwin** on March 24, 1863 at Christ Church, Rawdon. He was the son of Andrew Irwin and Catherine Robinson, settlers from Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. George and Agnes farmed at Rawdon and had six children, only one married. A grandson was Dr. Clifford Brown of Montreal.

James Ernest Parkinson was born August 8, 1846 at Rawdon and baptized at Christ Church. In 1870, 23 year old James Parkinson, was a farm labourer in Dorset, Vermont. James' sister Suzanne had married at Dorset, VT in 1870. His bride, Mary Holtby, was a domestic at Brantford, Ontario in 1871 for a Wesleyan minister's family, she was one of the fourteen children of Alfred Holtby and Susan Norrish English immigrants. James and Mary married on September 6, 1873 in Rawdon Methodist Church. James and Mary lived on her father's farm, which they purchased in December 1890 from her brother George Holtby, who had inherited it. In 1909, they retired to a house in the village and the farm passed to their son George Parkinson. James died May 15, 1929 at Rawdon and Mary on July 21, 1930. They are buried in the United Church Cemetery.

James and Mary Parkinson had six children born at Rawdon who lived at Rawdon and Montreal. Their many descendants live throughout Canada and the USA. The Parkinson name survives at Rawdon partly through the family of their eldest son Fred Parkinson and his wife Dora Copping.

Allan Edgar Parkinson has always lived in Rawdon. His twin brother, **Arthur John Parkinson** lives in Montreal but spends weekends in Rawdon. **Stephen James Parkinson**, their eldest brother, returned from Ontario to live in Rawdon. Their sister **Laura Eudora Parkinson** resides in Montreal and brings their mother **Alice Neville Parkinson** (Mrs. James Parkinson) to Rawdon for family functions.

George Ernest Parkinson, the second son of James and Mary Parkinson, married Maggie Burns from an old Rawdon family and is the grandfather by his son Clifford George Parkinson of **Dudley Parkinson** of St-Julienne. George is also the grandfather of **Robert Parkinson** and **Albert Parkinson** of Rawdon by his son Douglas Maby Parkinson.

James and Mary Parkinson have many Rawdon descendants from the children of their daughters Hattie Parkinson Kirkwood and Mabel Parkinson Blagrove.

The youngest son of James and Mary Parkinson was Edwin Parkinson and is the maternal grandfather of **Daniel Parkinson** of Toronto, who has compiled this account.

Mary Hannah Parkinson was born May 25, 1848 and died January 1, 1851.

Susanne Parkinson was born May 22, 1850 at Rawdon and married **John Kirkwood**, a Rawdon native, of Scottish and Québécois parents on April 27, 1870 at St. James Episcopal Church, Dorset, Vermont. They lived and farmed at Rawdon. Suzanne died January 2, 1919 and John died May 14, 1914. A lovely stained glass window *The Childhood of Christ* at Christ Church, Rawdon is dedicated to their memory. They had seven children and have many descendant at Rawdon through their son James Kirkwood and his wife Hattie Parkinson.

Mary Olive Parkinson was born February 19, 1852. She married her cousin **John Lindsay** on October 20, 1874 in Christ Church Anglican, Rawdon. He was a son of Elizabeth Brown of Rawdon and Scots-Irish settler John Lindsay. She had two daughters who died as infants and she died October 27, 1876. John Lindsay later married Sarah Morgan of Rawdon and had a family with her.

Daniel Parkinson was born October 15, 1853 and married **Jane Ellen Smith** of Rawdon on October 20, 1880 in the Rawdon Methodist Church. They purchased a farm at Waterville, Compton County, in 1901, from Jane's sister, Mary Smith, the widow of J. E. Hamilton of Rawdon. They had ten children all born at Rawdon, six daughters and four sons. Members of the family tried life in various American states and Alberta but lived and died mainly near Waterville, except their second daughter Annie Parkinson Young who settled and raised a family in Winnipeg. My father Elton Smith Parkinson farmed successfully with his eldest brother Walter as Jersey breeders. Daniel died March 1, 1910 at Waterville, Quebec of pneumonia and chronic asthma and Jane died on July 6, 1937. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Waterville.

Elizabeth Parkinson was born July 8, 1856 and married **Thomas Odlum Rourke** on July 11, 1877 at Christ Church, Rawdon. He was born at Annagharry, Kings County, Ireland, from whence the Rourke family began emigrating to Rawdon in 1826. Tom and Lizzie had twelve children ten of these married and raised families and they have numerous descendants, some still at Rawdon. Tom died August 28, 1921 and Elizabeth on February 25, 1936 in Montreal and both are buried at Christ Church, Rawdon.

Margaret Jane Parkinson was born November 21, 1858 and married her cousin **David Brown** on October 26, 1880 at St. John's Anglican Church, Kildare. Maggie Parkinson Brown died April 18, 1939 and David Brown October 25, 1940 at Rawdon and they are buried at Christ Church. They had three daughters.

John Parkinson was born November 10, 1810 at Brawby, Yorkshire and was baptized at Salton, nine days later. In 1828, John junior received a Ticket of Location at Rawdon, he was turning 18, in November for one hundred acres, at Lot 22 N of the Ninth Range beside his father and north of their family friend Thomas Pearson on 22 south. John was living with his parents and an experienced settler working with his brothers and neighbours. Six years later on July 9, 1834. John and his mother, standing at their door, viewing a fierce summer storm, lightning killed them both and destroyed their home and possessions, after only ten years as Canadian settlers.

Daniel Parkinson was born in June 1819 at Brawby, Yorkshire his father was 51 and his mother was 46. He was baptized at their parish church at Salton on the 24th. Daniel married **Caroline Kite** on May 5, 1842 at Christ Church, Rawdon. She was born in Wiltshire, England early in 1821, the year her father John Kyte / Kite arrived at Rawdon. Daniel purchased a farm near the Tates and moved his wife and family to Ormstown in 1852 before his father's death in March and the birth of a daughter Jane, in July 1853. Four daughters of Daniel and Caroline Parkinson were born at Rawdon, then two and a son at

Ormstown. Caroline Kite Parkinson died at Ormstown on March 16, 1891 and seven weeks later, Daniel died on June 5. They are buried in St. James Anglican Cemetery, Ormstown.

The children of Daniel and Caroline Parkinson of Ormstown.

Mary Parkinson was the eldest, born in 1843, and married J.T.W. McBain who farmed at Ormstown: they had seven children. Elizabeth and Caroline Parkinson married and lived in Wisconsin and Harriet Beecher Parkinson was in Michigan and her granddaughter the late Ellen Shaw provided history on Daniel's American family. Maria and Jane Parkinson remained single and much loved at Poplar Farm, Ormstown. The youngest, Albert Thomas Parkinson, 1858 – 1937, married Sarah Jane Geddes of Odelltown at St. James Anglican Church, Ormstown on January 20, 1886. He maintained the family farm and had three daughters and two married sons – a grandson, the late Harley Malcolm Parkinson was the last male descendant of this family with the Parkinson surname. He has two married daughters at Montreal and Ottawa. Albert's youngest Andrew Chapman Parkinson preserved the name of his great grandmother Elizabeth Chapman Parkinson who died in 1834.