
The Upper Family

Elizabeth Upper Caughell and George Rueben Caughell

It seems that the first members of the Upper family to enter Canada were George Upper his wife, Anna Upper, their three sons, John, Jacob and Antony, two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth, and an unknown number of sons and daughters-in-law.

The Jubilee History of Thorold, Township and Town States: "The Uppers came from New Jersey, crossing the Niagara River at Fort Erie. They brought a small herd of cattle with them and stopped at a spring just north of Allanaburg. Here they decided to make their home, and the first log building was very near the site of the present large stone house owned by one of their descendants.

There seems to be no record of the exact date on which they crossed into Canada but it must have been late in the seventeen hundreds since the history referred to above also states that the crown allotted land to them as follows:

Jacob Upper allotted 200 acres of land (lots 44 & 67) in 1798, in Thorold.
George Upper allotted 400 acres of land (lots 43, 66, 89 & 112) in 1801. Anthony Upper allotted 100 acres of land (lot 95) in 1801.

The fact that Jacob Upper was allotted land in 1798 and that his father and brother were allotted land in 1801 might indicate that the Jacob Upper family preceded the others entering Canada.

The will of of George Upper, who died July 15, 1817, was registered as number 765 in the Registry Office at Welland, Ontario, Canada, on the 27 of May 1829, at the request of his son Jacob Upper. The will contains the following provisions:

He gave his son Jacob the farm on which he lived, being lots 43 and 66 the Township of Thorold, subject to certain legacies. This farm that was subsequently known as the Andrew Upper farm. It or at least part of it is now (1947) owned by Arthur Upper, a great-great grandson of of George and Anna Upper. It is the fifth and sixth generation of Uppers to live in it.

He gave his son, John, the north half of lot number 112. To his grandson George Landon, son of his daughter Catherine Howit, the North half of lot 112 containing 50 acres, he paying his sister , Elizabeth Landon 10 pounds N.Y. currency also to his sister, Elizabeth Caughell, widow, the south half of lot 89 afterwards the James Sidney Upper farm.