

HANDON, Fred.

Letters rec'd. 1940-56  
from Fred C. Handon

~~MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION~~

READING ROOM

MC

Watertown N.Y. June 1, 1940.

## THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF LANDONS-

Or, What I have discovered of the LANDON Family,  
down to the present, 1940.

Wishing to have in writing the facts I have learned of my  
ancestors, these being taken from old documents which I have  
in my possession.

I have also taken from the writings of Caroline M. widow of  
Daniel B. Landon, as well as those of James Orcille Landon,  
many notes, relative to my direct LINE of the family.

The fact that I am Landon, on both sides, (my mother being a  
daughter of Charles Landon), makes this study very interesting  
to me, and although I will mention many others of the FAMILY name  
it is my intention to record as fully as possible the names of  
those most closely connected with myself.

I will mention here that a problem which has baffled me for  
some years, is not being able to find the burial place of my  
Great-grandfather Joseph", on my father's side, nor anything  
very definite regarding the death of my Great-grandfather  
William", on my mother's side, both of whom I will mention later  
and at some length, in their proper place in this brief history.

## (Gen 1)

Beginning with DANIEL Landon, who was born near Wales  
in England in 1640, and emigrated with his family to Boston Mass-  
in 1680.

In his family was a son, (Gen 2) NATHAN, then about fifteen  
years of age, who from Boston found his way to Southold, in  
Suffolk County, Long Island, where he settled.

About 1689 he married Hannah- (name missing) born in 1672,  
and who died, with one of her children, Feb 26, 1702.  
He died Mch 9, 1718.

His children were all born in Southold, and his Sons were  
named Nathan, James and Samuel.

## (Gen 3)

JAMES" second son of Nathan, married Mary Vaile; who  
died Aug 20, 1722. He married second, Mary Wilmot, in 1725.

He died Sept 19, 1738. She died in 1753.

His children were James, Daniel, David, John, Nathan, Rachael,  
Mary, Lydia and Ann. Five sons and four daughters.

His Will can be found in Library 13, N.Y. City Will's.

(2)  
(Gen 4) DANIEL" second son of James, born in 1713, married May 23, 1736, Martha Youngs; daughter of Rev John Youngs; a Presbyterian Minister of Southold; and afterward removed to Litchfield Conn-. He with his brothers James, David and John were the first of the name to go from Southold.

James went to Salisbury, with John, and married Sarah Bishop, and had children as follows. Sarah, James, Asa, Ezekiel, Thomas, Nathan, Ambrose, Lois, Samuel, Luther, Nabby and Nancy.

DANIEL" son of James, and grandson of Nathan Sr, and who married Martha Youngs, was father of "OLIVER", who went to Canada, with a large family, and settled in Leeds County, Township of Lansdowne.

One son, Daniel Jr, remained in Litchfield. It is also noted in some of the Landon history, that Daniel had a daughter living in Litchfield in 1840; also that his son Seth remained in Litchfield and died there. Seth had a son named after himself; living in 1840. Two of Daniel's other Sons; one fo whom was named Abner, removed to Canada, and died there.

Following are notes taken from Parish records in Litchfield, in connection with DANIEL".

"Account of the beginning of the conformity to the Church of England in Litchfield in the year 1745, which was called on the 5th day of Nov, by Jacob Griswold, Joseph Kilborn, John Davies, James Kilborn, Thomas Lee, Samuel Kilborn, Abid Smith, Joseph Smith, Abraham Kilborn, Elijah Griswold, Isaac Bissell, William Emmons and DANIEL Landon,"

"From the latter are descended a numerous and respectable family. Their descendants have been able and zealous defenders of the Church. Mr Daniel Landon was a man of sound intellect, and extensive reading. He carefully examined the doctrines of theology then much discussed in New England. Not many clergymen were better qualified to explain and defend the doctrines of the Church. He gave to the Church a certain piece of land for a glebe."

"On the 4th of April, 1747, the aforesaid Daniel Landon deeded to Isaac Griswold and Joseph Kilborn, fifty acres in Litchfield, west of the Great Pond, near Little Mount; to be used for the benefit of the Propagation Society for the benefit of the Episcopal minister of the Church in Litchfield, and his successors".

"After the death of the Rev Mr Lewis (the Rev Solomon) Palmer returned to Litchfield, and took charge of this Church, till his death Nov 2, 1771, aged 63 years. A monument was erected to his memory, near St Michael's Church by Daniel Landon"

"During the Revolutionary War times, Episcopalians were regarded as favoring England. Their characters were defamed; impeached and ridiculed. They were insulted, imprisoned, and their estates confiscated,---- As the annual allowance from the English Church was withdrawn on the breaking out of the war, this church in Litchfield was destitute of the services of a minister from 1777 to 1780. Still Mr Daniel Landon and his family, and other members of the Parish, continued to meet regularly in their Church every Saobath; Mr Landon reading the Service and sermon".

"During the War, the Church of St Michael's was a mark for the maliciously disposed, and its windows stood as shattered monuments to the vengeance of its adversaries.

When General Washington passed through this town sometime during the War, the soldiers to evince their hostility to the Church and their attachment to the General, threw a shower of stones through the windows. He reprooved them saying: "I am a Churchman and wish not to see the Church dishonored and desecrated in this manner."

"During the Rev Ashbel Baldwin's ministration Capt Daniel Landon on the 11th of July, 1790, read service and Sermon in St Michael Church a Sunday forenoon, went home and died in the afternoon, aged 77, having been Clerk of the Parish about forty years.

(the inscription on his monument reads "aged 76 yrs)

Inscription on Capt Daniel's monument,  
in the West Burying Ground at Litchfield, Conn,

"Sacred to the memory of  
Daniel Landon of Litchfield,  
who died July 11, 1790, aged 76,  
who served as clerk of the Episcopal  
Church in Litchfield forty years?"

"His God he served with pious zeal  
The sacred dome was his delight,  
Far distant from this holy hill  
He took his everlasting flight."

Composed by himself.

"Lo here I leave this earthly clay  
And fly beyond the ethereal day blue,  
Unchained into eternal day  
To sing the praise of God anew?"

Children of DANIEL and Martha Landon.

Daniel Jr	born Feb 11, 1737.	married Chloe Smith
Abner	" Mch 10, 1739.	" Eunice Gibbs
Molly	" Apr 6, 1742	" Sylvanus Bissell
John	" May 14, 1747	" Abigail Bissell
Seth	" Dec 13, 1749.	" Anna Beach
Nathan	" June 8, 1752.	" Sally Dmith
<u>OLIVER</u>	" Mch 12, 1755	" Aner Watkins
<u>Joseph</u>	" Feb 3, 1758.	died Aug 24, 1775.

Most of the Landon's being closely connected with the Episcopal Church, were Loyalist or Tories, and upon their property being confiscated at the time of the Revolution, they left Litchfield.

Among them was OLIVER, (Gen 5) Son of Daniel, who went to Canada, with a large family of sons, and was granted a large amount of land by King George III, in Leeds County, Upper Canada.

Having been born in Lansdowne, I can easily trace this land; as I have among my old documents the original Deeds which were filed by my great Grandfather Joseph; who was Township Clerk.

Among them being one scalloped sheet showing that Oliver" conveyed two hundred acres to John McNeil in 1795, described as part of Lot number 11, or one hundred acres on each side of the Kings Road, for the valuable consideration of Seventy-five Pounds, Halifax.

The History of Leeds County Ontario, by Leavitt" (1879) devotes two pages to the "Landon" family, and I learn that OLIVER" was among the first settlers in Lansdowne.

It is recorded that he arrived in Lansdowne Nov 5th 1787, after twenty-one days travel with a span of horses and wagon, this being the first wagon that ever passed through the hundred mile woods to Upper Canada.

However I have not yet discovered how or where he crossed the St Lawrence river.

"OLIVER" born Mch 12, 1755, married Aner Watkins, who was born in 1754, and their children were as follows.

Joseph -----	born	Apr	9,	1777
Benjamin -----	"	Nov	13,	1778
Oliver Jr -----	"	Mch	5,	1780
William Henry ----	"	Aug	6,	1782
Erastus -----	"	Oct	7,	1784
Luther -----	"	June	9,	1787
Daniel John -----	"	Dec	7,	1792
Jesse -----	"	Feb	22,	1796
Simcoe -----	"	Aug	20,	1799

A family of nine Sons, all of whom I can trace in old records.

Aner" wife of Oliver died Mch 18, 1800, and on Sept 13, 1801 he married Lois Loomis, born May 22, 1761, in Goshen Conn. She was a daughter of John Beach.

They had one child, Lois" born May 22, 1803, who died young.

Oliver Landon died Jan 29, 1820, and his widow died July 20, 1825.

He with both his wives and the child Lois, are buried in the Lansdowne Cemetery, which is located on Lot No 11, and formerly known as the Landon Burying Ground, and I am informed that his wife Aner" was the first burial there.

In looking over an old Record book kept by my Gr- Grandfather Joseph, as Town Clerk, I find on Mch 5, 1805 what is called a record of the population of Leeds and Lansdowne Front, and also the same census taken in 1808, showing that "OLIVER" had two daughters listed, but I have been able as yet to find only the name of Lois.

This is a very interesting old book, but unfortunately gives only the name of the head of each family; the number of males and females, and the total of each.

The total of white people in 1805, is given as 41 for Leeds, and 90 for Lansdowne; and the total for Leeds in 1808 is 40, and for Lansdowne 126, of which 29 of the latter are Landon.

This old record also has the sheen and cattle marks as registered by Joseph Landon as Clerk, from 1805 to 1826, and continued by my grandfather Abner from 1827 to 1850? It appears to be the first Records of these Townships. There are forty-four of these marks, the last being recorded to Dorothy Willoughby Apr 7, 1849.

It also gives description of some of the land owned by Oliver".

Among the old papers are a number of Deeds and Contracts of other families, which apparently had been left with the Clerk, before the Registry office was established at Brockville.

Oliver Landon had a prominent part in the building up of this new country, and was among the leaders in Township affairs; always ready to assist in building of sawmills and clearing the land; also in establishing and maintenance of a School for his District, and a Church or meeting place for religious services. He died at the age of about 65, in 1820.

An interesting clipping from the Gananoque Reporter of Dec 22, 1923 contains an assessment Roll for the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne Front, District of Johnstown, for the year 1818.

This roll is signed by Oliver Landon and Abel Fulford, as sissors.

There appear six of the name of Landon in that year, as follows; Oliver, Joseph, Benjamin, Daniel and Luther.

The entire roll contains 73 names, and the total taxes footing up to 23 pounds 6 shillings and 2 pence.

"Note-

Referring to the name of one of the daughters of Oliver, I find that sometimes the name of one of his children is written as Jessie", However it is possible he had a daughter Jessie, born between Luther and Daniel J, or between Daniel and Jesse".

'GEN 6)

Joseph" Landon, my great-Grandfather, first of Oliver's children, was born in Litchfield Apr 9, 1777, and went to Canada at the age of eleven.

He first appears among my old records as Town Clerk, in the year 1805, and remains a prominent figure in the affairs of the District through his entire life.

Un fortunately my account of his family is the most disappointing and unsatisfactory chapter of my entire Line".

However I will record here all items which may seem useful in tracing him to the time of his death, and sincerely hope I may yet be able to obtain certain evidence, especially as to his first marriage and his children.

I confess this will be a somewhat rambling report; but the reader must bear in mind the fact that I am still searching.

He was born as I have stated Apr 9, 1777. I am unable to discover the name of his first wife, or when they were married. The nearest clue I have is that the census of the year 1805 shows there were three children listed in his family, one Son and two Daughters.

This son "ABNER" (my grandfather) was born Feb 3, 1804. The first daughter "Antha", born before Abner, I am unable to trace.

The second daughter "ANNA" was born in 1805, and married Henry Kyes, Oct 20, 1825.

She died Nov 13, 1854, aged 49 Yrs 10mo & 13 dys. The census of 1808 gives him one son and three daughters, but I am unable to give even the name of the third.

He later had another son "Truman" who I can positively trace by a letter written Mch 21, 1839 to his brother Abner" and in which he refers to his sister Antha".

He gives his address as Orford, Western District, Clearville Postoffice, Upper Canada.

I am strongly inclined to believe that "JOSEPH" had another son, much younger, who was named Seth" and the fact that Truman speaks of Seth in his letter to Abner, and further I can recall my grandfather speaking of Seth when I was very young, confirms this belief, although I have no positive evidence as yet, unless the fact that he subscribed for one scholar's tuition in the year 1826 might be considered.

"JOSEPH" married second, Rebecca Elliott; daughter of Mathew Elliott, Aug 22, 1819. Rebecca was about twenty years younger than Joseph. There was no issue from this marriage-

Some time after the death of Joseph, she married a man named Demmon, or Demming; and they adopted a daughter, who married Philip Heaslip of Cananoque. Rebecca later resided with Heaslip, and among my earliest recollections, is seeing this very old lady when my grandfather and I would call on her, but it was years afterward I realised she was his stepmother.

"JOSEPH" had a varied career, during his life of 53 years, as landowner and farmer, sawmill proprietor, Inn keeper, and for about the last ten years of his life, Minister of the Gospel; and in addition he held the office of Town Clerk continuously from 1805 to 1826.

The earliest record I have, is that he was granted Lot #12 in the second concession of Lansdowne in 1804.

An old book shows that he was Tax collector in the year 1829. (ten Landon names appear on the roll that year)

Old account books show him as storekeeper and fur buyer for several years, also partnership papers in sawmill and potash works.

On the fifth day of January 1815, he was granted a Licence as Inn-Keeper, to keep the house known by the sign of the Hart, in the Township of Lansdowne.

I cannot state exactly when he became a Preacher, nor of what denomination, but I find him referred to as the Rev Joseph in an agreement with Joel Stonem made March 8th 1822, and also a letter from C & J McDonald, with reference to their taxes, dated Dec 7th 1830.

In other letters I discover he was in failing health for some time past, and believe that he died shortly after the date of this last letter, from the fact that I visited the Surrogates office in Brockville this year, and found that Letter's of Administration were granted to his widow Rebecca, by Judge Jonas Jones, June 11, 1831.

I will here set down the Grants of land I have discovered.

First" is to James Landon, Lot #6 in the fourth consession, on March 1st 1803.

Second" to Joseph Landon, Lot #12 in the second consession, in 1804.

Third" to Oliver Landon, South half of Lot #11 in the first consession, Feb 19, 1807.

Oliver had aquired considerable land previous to this.

Note- Referring to the Licence granted to Joseph in 1815.

His Inn was located on Lot #12, and in my boyhood days was known as McCormac's Hotel.

Still tracing my Line on my Father's side. I now come to my Grandfather Abner in

(Generation 7)

"ABNER", first son of Joseph" was born Feb 3, 1804. His entire life of about seventy eight years, was spent in the locality where he was born. His death occurred when I was about thirteen, yet my boyhood recollection of him is distinct.

His youth having been spent on his father's farm, he married on March 2nd, 1826, Nancy Gray, and their children as follows.

Charlotte Ann. Samuel Gray. Joseph Sawyer.  
John Watkins. Margaret. Catherine. and Edwin Doty.

Joseph, John, Margaret, and Catherine all died young.

Charlotte Ann married William Buck; and lived to a good old age, in a house on her father's farm, which I will mention later. Samuel, born Dec 6, 1830, died Feb 4, 1918. Edwin, (my father) born Feb 14, 1843, died Jan 25, 1915, and is buried at Omer, N.Y.



Suppliment-

Sept 14, 1947. Traces of Joseph Landon, in Jefferson County, N.Y.

Since writing the foregoing, further search of Histories, reveals these facts relative to the residence of Joseph Landon in Jeff Co.

Taken from Everts history of 1878, and Emerson of 1898.

Joseph Landon purchased land from Nicholas Low, in Town of Adams in 1802. Terms of purchase were \$3.00 per acre; and obligation to clear two acres and build a house within a certain time.

The first Town meeting of Adams, was held at the house of Eliphahet Edmonds, Mch 1, 1803, when officers were elected.

At this time a proposition was under advisement to create a new Town; by taking certain portions from the north side of Adams and Watertown to form a new Town; by name of Newport.

At a special meeting held at Adams Nov 10, 1803, this proposition was rejected; although a petition was framed, and accordingly these sections were set off at the next session of the State legislature Feb 17, 1806; under the name of Hounsfield.

The first Town meeting of Hounsfield was held March 4th 1805, at the house of "Joseph Landon" he having settled in the Town in its early history.

It is also noted that several of the pioneers named, came from Canada.

This confirms my belief that this was my great-grandfather Joseph; even though he became Town Clerk of Lansdowne in 1805.

My description of him is very brief; and shows that he was somewhat of a "rover" consequently I see no reason to doubt that he could be owner of property in Adams, or Hounsfield and maintain residence in Lansdowne at the same time.

I am still making effort to locate this land in Hounsfield; and recently I recieved a letter from Mrs Hazelwood, Historian of the Town; advising me to see Mrs Beatrice Whitney; as she has a book containing Town records, which was found in an old building they were tearing down at Sacketts Harbor; and it is my intention to interview her.

F.C.L.

An item taken from the Jefferson County Gazeteer, shows that at the 4th of July celebration held at Sacketts Harbor in 1807 a statement of expenses was submitted, containing a bill from J Landon, of \$1.00 for two "half dinners" for the musicians.

This item does not state the number of musicians; which most likely was a drum corp.

This information regarding Joseph Landon, was found in a large book, in the library of Mrs Elton E. Coon, at Lowville N.Y, on July 1st, 1951.

"Abner's wife Nancy, died Sept 6, 1843, at the age of 52 yrs, 9 mo & 6 dys.

He married second, Agner Rogers, widow of John Gorman. She died July 11, 1873, aged about seventy four.

there were no children by this marriage.

On Aug 3d 1836, he purchased part of Lot #4 in the first concession of Lansdowne, and resided on this farm the remainder of his life; this being the same farm where my father Edwin, and myself were born.

Although the farm of only forty acres (of which I have the original deed) was small, yet the land being very fertile, he always could produce an abundant crop, sufficient for his family need, and he was considered a successful farmer.

His industry and neighborliness brought him rich reward, and as he grew to old age he was highly respected, and looked upon as a leader in his community.

He was noted for his piety, and was a zealous worker in his Church, (Episcopal Methodist), and this is one of the earliest recollections of my schoolboy days.

A new Church was being built at McCrone's Corners, near our schoolhouse; when I would often go over and walk home with him, after his days work on the Church.

He also was quite prominent as a public speaker; often being called upon to lead the church services etc; and in the debating contests, which were largely attended in that locality, he was usually called upon for argument on one side of the subject of debate.

I have quite a number of his written addresses on various subjects.

He was a strong advocate of the cause of temperance, and held membership in the Good Templar Society, which was quite popular in his day, and among my recollections are several addresses which he gave on the subject of Temperance, as well as religion, and good citizenship.

After his father's long occupancy of the office of Town Clerk, he was called upon to take over the duties of that Office; and was re-elected almost continuously until 1850.

He also held the office of Collector and Treasurer of the Township at different times.

While looking over an account book which both he and his father had used, I find a note written in the margin of a page, dated Dec 9, 1847 which reads, OWE NO MAN ANYTHING;.

In the Militia Roll of Capt Robinson in the year 1840, I find him enrolled as Sargt'. this roll contains 102 names, six of them being Landon", but I never heard grandfather discourse much on military affairs; he was a strong advocate of Peace on earth, and Good will to all men.

Among my fondest recollections are the memories of that grand old man who passed away Jan 30, 1882, when I had just passed my thirteenth year.

He with his two wives are buried in their family plot in the old "Landon" Burying Ground in Lansdowne, and I having so many of my kindred sleeping there since 1800, try to discharge my duty by visiting them at least once each year, and it is great comfort to me to find their resting place always clean and in good order.

I am now nearing the end of my sketches, and come down to my father, in the 8th Generation.

"EDWIN" Doty Landon, seventh child of Abner and Nancy Landon, was born Feb 14, 1843, on his fathers farm in Lansdowne.

His early years were spent on the home farm, and when he grew to manhood he learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed intermittently untill his fathers declining years he took over the old farm, which he inherited at his fathers death.

Having a desire for more land, he sold the farm in 1884, and bought a large farm on the bank of the St Lawrence, about two miles east of Cananoque, and lived there a few years.

Becoming dissatisfied with this farm, he sold it and removed to DeLafarge Corner's Jeff Co, N.Y. where he bought another small farm; where he resided for some years; then sold it, and came to Watertown about 1911.

In that year he built a house in the village of Glen Park, where he lived for a short time, and having lately married a widow who owned property in Odessa Ontario, they rented the house at Glen Park, and moved to Odessa, where he died Jan 25, 1915.

The foregoing is simply a sketch of his varied movements during his life.

"EDWIN" married Emeline, daughter of Charles Landon, July 16, 1862. (she was also born in 1843)

After their marriage they went to Theresa, N.Y. where he conducted a blacksmith shop for some time.

Their first child, Mary L, was born in Theresa Aug 17, 1864 and died an infant, Sept 12, 1864. Is buried at Theresa.

Other children of this marriage are,

Nellie-. born June 23. 1866.

Frederick Charles-. born Jan 18. 1869. (the writer)

Charlotte-. born Dec 6. 1871. died May 5. 1872.

His wife Emeline died Sept 11, 1873, and is buried with the child Charlotte, in Lansdowne Cemetery.

On Jan 20, 1874 he married Catherine Switzer, who was born in 1837. Their children were

Samuel Abner-. born Dec 21. 1875. Died Aug 29, 1931.

David Edwin-. " Dec 27. 1877.

John Clark-. " June 3? 1880.

His wife Catherine" died July 4th 1904, and is buried at Omer, N.Y.

For his third wife, he married a widow, Mrs Emmons, of whom I have spoken, and who lived for some time after his death.

Some dates connected with this marriage not being available, at present I omit details.

"EDWIN" was always what might be termed a natural mechanic; and was for years looked upon as the community repair man.

Although he had never really learned any trade except that of blacksmith, he was always considered competent to take on any sort of job, from butchering the pigs in the fall, repairing your clock; or cutting your hair; or making the finest axe-helves in the winter, or building your house or barn in the spring.

He could do a good job of plastering; tree grafting, or bricklaying; (in fact he put up the fireplace and chimney on the house where I now reside) and during my last years at home on the River farm of which I have spoken, I recall that he made quite a success as a boat builder, and I enjoyed many hours on the river with my young friends in a small fishing or duck boat, he made especially for my use.

I can point out many chimneys in the Lansdowne neighborhood still standing as monuments to his handicraft, also trees which he doctored or grafted, still bearing fruit.

From the foregoing it can easily be seen that a man of this type could not, or would not stay very long in one place.

I recall that about 1880 he made two trips to Michigan, in search of a larger farm; some of our neighbors having moved there, he tried to persuade Grandfather to sell the homestead and go to Michigan; and although very young, I can remember the arguments pro and con on the subject of moving, but my grandfather always vetoed it; which I expect prevented me from being a citizen of Michigan, instead of New York State.

"EDWIN", unlike his forefathers, never held any Township office except school trustee or pathmaster. However he was always ready to discharge his full duty for the good of his neighbors, and was a constant worker in the Churches. Having a fair baritone voice he was often called upon to lead the choir in the church services.

Right here I will recite a story of his connection with the local Churches.

Up to about 1875 the little hamlet of McCrone's Corner's (now called Wilstead) had never had a Church building. The nearest place of worship being at Ebenezer near the Lansdowne Cemetery, and about two miles east; There being none on the west.

The district school which I have spoken of, was located near the Corner's, and in my schooldays had forty-three pupils enrolled.

For a radius of about two miles, the neighborhood was very thickly settled, and consisted of all denominations from Catholic through the various Protestants.

The great need of a nearby place to hold Church services being recognized, meetings were held, and it was decided to build.

However the different Creeds could not reach an agreement, and finally two Churches were built at the same time; One at the Corner, by the Episcopal Methodist, to which my grandfather Abner belonged, was called Bethel".

The other a few rods away in a little hickory grove, was built by the Presbeterian, Baptist and old time Methodist, and was known as the Union Church, and different services were held twice, and sometimes three times each Sunday.

My father would attend at all meetings at the Union" Church, but I never discovered that he was strongly in favor of either of these denominations, being what I might call a sort of unionized Christian.

He afterward became affiliated with the Sect known as Free Methodist; and continued to adhere to that belief during the rest of his life.

He was considered a faithful leader and exhorter, and was often called upon in the absence of the Minister to take charge of the meetings which in addition to the regular Sunday services, were held evenings during the week.

As I have before said, my grandfather gave his time and labor to the building of the Bethel", and at the same time my father was giving his time and best effort to the Union" Church.

I recall many spirited arguments between them at the supper table, as to the merits of their respective jobs.

It is with profound sorrow that I must now relate, that the Bethel (the steeple being removed) was turned into a cheese factory, and at present is used as a garage, while the Union" or Church on the hill; as it was called, though still used, the services have become very infrequent, which is a great disappointment to me, from the fact that I have a strong desire to go into the old Church on my visits to that neighborhood..

see back of sheet-

My father was noted for integrity, and his honesty in dealing with his fellow-men; and it has been said that he sometimes leaned over backward to be on the side he considered right.

I always held him in profound respect, and gave attention to any counsel he chose to give.

He was never harsh in the correction of his children;. I can testify to this from the fact that usually my most severe punishment for the sin of disobedience; I would be sentenced to the woodshed, for about two hours with the bucksaw.

My affection and esteem grew as we became older; and we spent many enjoyable days together, especially during the latter part of his life; in which we might be considered as comrades or pals. as for quite a number of years we would take our annual camp and fishing trip together, among the familiar scenes of Halstead Bay on the St Lawrence, where we would put in a solid week of sport and comfort on the islands there.

We would select a pleasant spot where we could entertain our relatives and friends who might visit us, of which there were many during our stay. I have snapshots of these groups, and particularly one, showing fourteen rugged and hungry gentlemen gathered around the dinner table, for a fish banquet.

As I write these lines, and my thoughts keep racing along through the years of close association with my father; the wish keeps constantly arising, namely; if we could only enjoy those things once more; but fully realizing that cannot be; for he passed out of this life Jan 25, 1915; and is peacefully sleeping in the little cemetery at Omar, N.Y.

As I now come to the 9th Generation, it is my intention to write only enough of my personal history to complete the 300 years.

"Frederick" Charles; (myself) son of Edwin D. and Emeline Landon; born Jan 18, 1869, resided on his father's farm until young manhood when he left the home place in the spring of 1886, at the age of seventeen, and came to DeLafarge corner's, Jeff Co, N.Y.

Having an uncle on his mother's side (Lewis Landon) residing there, he visited them for a short time, then hired to a farmer named Hagen; on a large farm on the road to Plessis. Remaining there for five months; and in the autumn of that year returned to Lansdowne, where his father was operating a blacksmith shop, in addition to the farm on the river; at a place called Ried's Corner's.

He stayed there with the family through the winter, when he again crossed the river; this time to Theresa, N.Y, to visit a cousin, Mrs George A. Coe; daughter of his father's brother, Samuel C. Landon. While there he found employment in a grocery store owned by Wm L. Root, and served as clerk for one year.

The pay being so small (two dollars per week) he became discouraged with that job; and left in the early spring.

He came back to DeLafarge Corner's, where he soon found work with the local carpenter, John B. Baltz.

Liking this type of work much better, and the pay being far greater, he remained with Baltz for three years, helping to build several houses and barns in the neighborhood, and working in the repair shop during the winter months.

In the spring of 1891 he decided to make a visit to some friends in Watertown.

A few days after arrival, he again found employment as carpenter with W.H. Smith, real estate dealer, who at the time had just began the erection of the "Smith" building, at the corner of State St, and Public Square.

He worked through the entire construction to completion of that building, doing some of the most expert work on the job.

In fact it fell to him to finish Mr Smith's private suite of offices; which were done in quite elaborate style.

After completion of the Smith job, he built a house for himself, on upper Franklin Street.

During the succeeding years he has been engaged as Carpenter, Mill Superintendent and General Contractor; with moderate success; and now at the age of seventy-one, is retired.

On Oct 4, 1893, he married Ada, daughter of Charles Watterhahn, and took up residence in the new house in Watertown.

They have two children, of the "Tenth Generation".

Marion Emeline, and Charles Edwin, of whom I will speak at more length in writing up the "Line" on my Mother's side of the Family.

This completes my recital of the principal events in the lives of my forefathers, during three hundred years; written in simple story like fashion, down to the present 1940.

Later I hope to continue this Story by taking up the "Line" on my Mother's side of the Family, in which I can extend my writing one Generation farther, including my Sister's children and grandchildren.

F.C.L.

July 1951. Bethel continued-

The Bethel is now used as a Town storehouse.

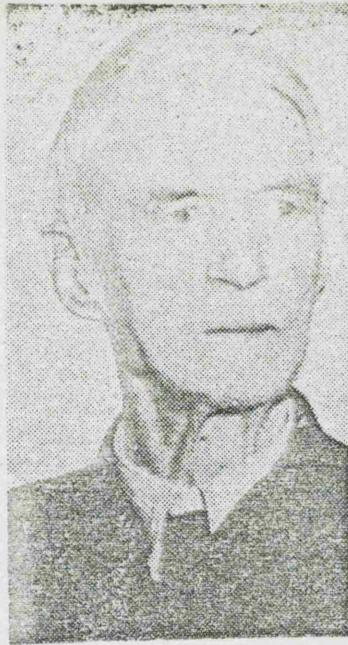
The Union burned about six years ago; and a new Church later built on its foundation is now known as the Bethel United Church.

It is my intention to visit the old Home places in August of this year, and hope to be able to attend church service there once more.

F.C.L.



[Copied from the  
Dr. Fred. Landon Papers,  
University of Western  
Ontario - March, 1972]



Fred C. Landon

## FRED C. LANDON EXPIRES AT 88

August 18, 1957

Former Contractor, Retired  
Mill Superintendent of  
Lumber Firm Dies in  
Hospital.

Fred C. Landon, 88, of 421  
Moffett street, one-time mill su-  
perintendent of the lumber firm  
of G. W. White & Son, Inc.,  
died about 9 Sunday night in the  
Jefferson county hospital, where  
he had been a patient since June  
27. Death was attributed chiefly  
to infirmities of old age.

The funeral will be Wednes-  
day afternoon at 3:30 at the  
Northam & Fox funeral home.  
Rev. Robert F. Smith, pastor of  
the First Baptist church, will of-  
ficiate. Burial will be at La-  
Fargeville.

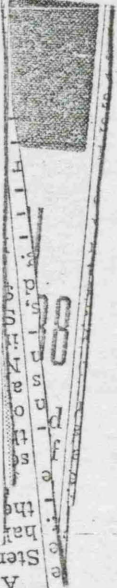
Surviving are his wife, Mrs.  
Ada M. Wetterhahn Landon;  
two children, Miss Marion E.  
(Landon, 421 Moffett street, and  
Charles E. Landon, 1005 Gotham  
street, and two brothers, David  
E. Landon, DeLaFarge Corners,  
and Clark J. Landon, Omar. His  
only sister, Mrs. Elton E. (Nel-  
lie) Coon, Lowville, died Sept.  
16, 1951.

Mr. Landon, a resident of this  
city for more than 66 years, had  
been ill about two months. He  
was a retired carpenter and  
contractor.

He was born at Lansdowne,  
Ont., Jan. 18, 1869, a son of  
Edwin D. and Emmeline Landon,  
his mother being a Landon be-  
fore her marriage. His ancestors  
came to DeLaFarge Corners.  
Coming to this country at the  
age of 16, he was employed on  
a farm near Plessis.

A member of the Odd Fellows fraternity for more than 65 years, having joined the local lodge Feb. 25, 1892, Mr. Landon was a member of Watertown City lodge, 291, I.O.O.F., and with one exception had served in all elective and appointive offices of the lodge. He also was a member of the Lincoln league and former secretary of the Quarter Century lodge of Odd Fellowship.

He had been interested in tracing his ancestry. In 1940 he wrote, "300 Years of Landons." He was a direct descendant of Oliver Landon, sr., who left Litchfield, Conn., with his family. It is recorded that he drove the first span of horses and wagon through the many miles of forest to the Lansdowne district, where he settled in 1787. The journey required 21 days' travel.



A comm...  
Served  
A comm...  
Served  
A comm...  
Served

Later, he worked at various places, including a farm at De-LaFarge Corners, and the William L. Root grocery store, Theresa, where he was a clerk in 1886. Then for three years, from 1887 to 1890, he was a carpenter at LaFargeville, where he worked for John B. Baltz, a contractor.

He came to this city in the spring of 1891 as a carpenter for W. H. Smith. Construction of the Smith building, later known as the Mohican building, having begun, he worked on that project for a year and in 1892 built the house at 1013 Franklin street.

Later, he was employed by various building contractors and lumber firms, including Case & Folsom lumber company, C. D. Hodge & company and Lou B. Cleveland. He helped build the army post of Pine Camp, now Camp Drum, when it was first established, and worked on the city hall building in 1895.

While with Mr. Cleveland, he served as assistant superintendent on construction of the Ogdensburg filtration plant and city water system, the Brown's Falls power dam, the Express building in Watertown and overhead crossings at Black River and Cole's Crossing.

On May 15, 1915 he formed a partnership with William H. Carter and engaged in the general contracting business. Their first contract was the construction of Glen Park's village hall. They also built Dexter's brick pavement, the Hygienic Dairy company plant here and St. Regis Paper company plant at Deferiet.

The partnership was dissolved in 1922, at which time he became building superintendent for the old Northern New York Utilities, Inc., of the storehouse and garage on Front street.

After a period of retirement, Mr. Landon was mill superintendent and order clerk for the White Lumber company from 1928 to 1934. During the World War II period he was an employe of the W. A. Sullivan Lumber company, retiring in 1944.

Mr. Landon built his Moffett street family residence in 1900 and since then resided there.

On Oct. 4, 1893, he married Miss Ada M. Wetterhahn of the Depauville area. They observed their 63rd wedding anniversary last October.

Watertown March 20, 1947

As I have now passed my 78th Birthday, at which time I completed my "Life Story" after due consideration I have decided to add another Chapter; which probably should be a continuation of my 300 Years of "Landon" written seven years ago, in 1940.

In this I will relate all I have learned to date, connected with my Mother's side, of the Family.

The name "LANDON" derives from the word 'Lande Sabulatum' or ground covered with heath-

The Family was of French origin; One of them having been raised to the Chair of Saint Peter Dec 4th in the year 914.  
He died the following April 26th.

It was originally of Normandy, and apparently became divided in two branches; One a Protestant, which emigrated to England;  
The other Catholic, remained in France.

From this Protestant Branch, I am able to clearly trace my ancestry down to the present, through ten generations.

I am unable yet to trace my Mother's Family beyond the fifth, in which the name 'William' is my only guide.  
Somewhere beyond the fifth there were Brothers.

I consider myself fortunate in clearly establishing the name William from a conversation with my uncle Wellington, many years ago, which I will later relate.

There having been a difference in age of my grandfathers Abner and Charles of nearly a generation; sixteen years in fact, for some time lead me to believe that one of "Oliver's" sons, William Henry born in 1782, possibly may have been father of Charles born in 1820.

I have abandoned that idea in favor of a William Landon whose name first appears in the old Lansdowne records in the year 1840 when his Sheep Mark was registered in the old book kept by grandfather Abner as Town Clerk.

In the record of the Town meeting of 1841, I find that William Henry was elected Pound keeper; and William was elected Overseer of highways the same year; and reelected to various Town offices continuously until 1849. The records ending in that year.

The identity of these two men is clearly established by their signature as one signs himself Wm H, while the other is always William, in altogether different handwriting.

I am now fully convinced that this William was my great Grandfather, and will proceed along that line.

In about the year 1917 when my Father and I made one of our annual camping trips to Halsteads bay; as usual we made a visit to the old home places along the main highway, and on one occasion we stayed over night with my uncle Wellington.

During the evening conversation it occurred to me to ask him the name of his Grandfather. He replied, the name was William; I then inquired, where he was buried. He then explained that he was not buried, for he had lost his life on a boat named 'Ocean Wave' that burned while coming down the Lake, and that his body was never found; and could give no further details.

Bureau

Some years later through correspondence, I received from the Bureau of Public Archives at Ottawa Canada, a photostat copy of two columns of the Toronto Weekly Leader of May 4th, 1853 giving an account of the loss of the Steamer Ocean Wave by fire.

In this disaster 33 of the passengers and crew lost their lives, while three cabin, and seven deck passengers were reported as missing, names unknown; I am forced to believe "William" was included in this list.

Later in an old Jefferson County History; published in 1878. I find this catastrophe occurred about two miles from the Ducks islands on Lake Ontario. at one O'Clock in the morning. The fire quickly destroyed the lifeboats, while the steersman was driven from the wheel, thus leaving the ship helpless.

The vessel was a new wood-burning steamer, owned by the Ogdensburg and Boston Railroad Company.

As I have stated I am unable as yet to trace the family in which this William Landon was born, or the year of his birth.

He was listed as a Volunteer in the militia in 1840, and certainly he must have been a landowner and taxpayer to be eligible to hold Township office, therefore I assume he owned Lot #5 in Lansdowne at this time.

Having no documentary proof; my reasoning may seem rather vague, in view of the fact that in my boyhood the west half of this Lot was often referred to as the Purvis place, while the east was called the Bowen place.

There were two of the Purvis name, John and Andrew; listed among the Town officers in these early years.

I find the name of Israel Bowen (spelled Bein) in the census of 1805, and his Sheep mark recorded in 1807 by Joseph Landon as Town Clerk. This mark was transferred to William Landon in 1840.

This confirms my belief that William purchased Lot #5 from Purvis and Bowen and resided on the east half, while his son Charles occupied the west side farm during his life.

The names of Israel and John Bowen appear in the tax list of 1818, while in the Roll of 1829 the name is spelled Bowin.

Now, having established William Landon as a resident of Lansdowne in 1840, we proceed from that date; and will mention any item which may assist in clearing up his identity, and that of his family.

It is my belief that William was a descendent of "Abner" a brother of Oliver. Abner went to Canada and settled in the sixth Concession of the Brockville district, where some of the name still reside.

Watertown N.Y. Mch 1, 1952

Prof. Fred Landon,  
London, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Having obtained your address from Mr Frank Wright, of Gananoque; I take the liberty of writing in hope you may be able to assist in tracing my ancestry.

To introduce myself, I will say I am 83 years of age; born on a farm about five miles east of Gananoque.

My curiosity was aroused when Mr Wright mentioned that you had visited their fine little Town, on the occasion of the unveiling of a Historic Monument there; and had inquired as to the location of Landon's Bay, with the remark that your ancestors once owned the land there.

I have original papers showing ownership by my gr-gr-grandfather Oliver Landon, of the land bordering on the Bay, and for some distance on the St Lawrence river.

These Records were kept by my gr-grandfather Joseph Landon as Township Clerk, from 1805 to 1826; and continued to 1849 by my grandfather Abner Landon, as Clerk.

I have had these old papers and Record books of the Township in my possession for about 65 years; and last summer, while on a visit with relatives in Gananoque, I interviewed Mr Wright as to a proper place to leave them, for whatever Historic value they might contain.

As it now appears there is no Historical Society in the Town, he proposes publishing them in the local paper; and I have given consent for that.

Now Mr Landon; I wish to explain, that I am "Landon" on both sides. My Mother was daughter of Charles Landon; while my Father was son of Abner.

Your given name being identical with my own, I became curious to learn the names of your forefathers.

I can clearly trace my ancestry on my fathers side; and on the request of two nephews in 1940, I wrote "Three Hundred Years Of Landons". Unfortunately on taking up my mothers Side' I find myself stopped at the year 1840; when the sheep and cattle mark of my gr grandfather William Landon was registered.

I will explain here, that 'William' lost his life in a steam-boat disaster on lake Ontario, in 1852.

My principal object in addressing you, is the hope you might be able to provide some information regarding the ancestors of William Landon, who was a resident of Lansdowne at the time of his death.

Respectfully Yours,

*Fred C. Landon*

421 Moffett St  
Watertown, N.Y.

*ack  
March 11/52*

171  
Abraham Lincoln (1850-04)

son of Abraham Lincoln

Elizabeth Rogers

both of vicinity of Harrodsburg

both died in Marine City

during 1855

brother Lincoln of grandfather

Lincoln is loss of Abraham Ward

Grandfather of 1855

Grandfather d. 1855

mother d. 1860

but  
massachusetts

5 brothers & one sister

Albert or Albin

Edwards d. 1902

Charles

Samuel

William

May, and d. 1876

(Robinson John)

(3)

So far as William's family is concerned, I have only the names of three Sons, Elisha Stephen and Charles. *Note: Back this sheet*

I have Elisha's Will, dated Dec 24, 1870 and registered Mch 7, 1872. He held several Township offices between 1840 and 1848, and I clearly recall hearing him referred to as Uncle Elisha when I was very young.

Regarding my Grandfather Charles" born in 1820, who died Nov 4, 1878 shortly before I had reached my 9th year, I have clear recollection, especially of the manner of his death, which I have fully described in my own Life Story.

He married Elaner Yates; and their children were as follows.

Emeline,	Born 1843,	Died Sept II,	1873	
Lucy,	" 1844,	" July 29,	1924	
Wellington,	" 1848,	"	1939	
Lewis,				<i>deceased at Birch Run Michigan</i>
William	" 1855	" Apr 4,	1876	
Mayr, <i>Mary</i>	" 1857	" Feb 26,	1949	<del>(still living)</del>
Clara	" 1859	" Sept II	1883	
Chs Edwin	" 1862	" Aug 18,	1882	

He resided on the west half of Lot #5, and it is my opinion that he once owned the entire Lot, as well as considerable land on the south side of the main highway.

On this Lot, were two nearly similar native stone houses, built within a few rods of each other, with a fine orchard of large apple trees between. My uncle Wellington resided in the stone house on the east half to the time of his death in 1939; and the entire property is now owned by his Son William.

For a long time I have been curious to know who were the builders of these fine old houses; and the year in which they were built; but like many other interesting things connected with this locality where I was born, I failed to make inquiry at least a half century ago.

I question many of my old friends and relatives each year when I visit there; but none can give definite answers.

Grandfather Charles although considered an industrious and successful farmer and good neighbor; never took any prominent part in the affairs of the Township, except serving in the militia and some of the minor Town offices.

As he passed away when I was very young, my acquaintance and association with him was very brief, nevertheless I recall him as of a kindly disposition, and like grandfather Abner, never profane or having any bad habits, except that both chewed black plug tobacco.

I have thought that some of his neighbors envied him for his success as a farmer; and I now know this was due to his practice of hard work.

He kept a moderate sized dairy, and a large flock of sheep; as well as poultry; always having a big flock of geese; and I can imagine I yet hear the squalling of the ganders as they came waddling up from the brook to the barnyard each evening.



I especially remember the last day of his life; as upon coming home from school, I noticed the smoke from many stump fires in the plot of land where he had worked that day, preparing for the plowing bee, to which he had invited the neighbors, for next day.

His sudden death was a severe shock to the entire neighborhood; and especially to his family and many close friends.

His success also was largely due to the industry and help of my grandmother Elaner, which I will briefly describe.

I recall that for several years she manufactured the milk produced on the farm into cheese; using a small vat kept in the woodshed with the hand presses, and continued for some years after his death making the cheese each fall, after the factory had closed.

It was a custom for many of the patrons to apply for a small, or half cheese for home use, but as my father had no large dairy, we with several others in the neighborhood considered Aunt Elaner, as she was commonly called; made the best cheese.

Aside from her cheesemaking and poultry flocks, was the large garden where fine strawberries and vegetables grew.

In addition to all this, she was an expert weaver using the wool from their sheep, after being made into "Ralls" she would then spin into yarn, and then weave into the finest blankets and cloth.

I can remember both grandfathers wore gray woollen trousers and shirts which were of her manufacture.

Many enjoyable hours I spent with my grandmother, watching as she whirled that old spinning wheel; then making the yarn into "Skeins" by winding it from the "Spindle" onto the "Swifts" from which she would allow me to wind it into large balls.

Next these balls were wound on the "Bobbin" of the "Shuttle" which she passed back and forth between the threads of the weaving "Loom" in making these fine blankets.

This whole picture comes back vividly of sitting beside her on that old Loom bench, watching while both her hands and feet worked in unison with the treddles and shuttle.

I have no doubt she wove thousands of yards of rag carpets; which were popular in those days as floor coverings for bedroom and hall, also as runners for dining room and kitchen.

In many of the farm houses they were used for the Parlor; when made from selected wools; colored in all shades from white and black to red-blue-yellow and green.

She was an artist at combining these colors, and an expert at making them so that the stripes would exactly match when laid.

This was much heavier work than the cloth weaving, as it usually required three strokes of the "Beam" to drive this coarse material evenly between the warp threads.

It is with intense pleasure, and some emotion, I now recall these childhood days with my Grandmother, who was spared to me until March 7th 1893, when I had reached the age of 24.

I am unable to trace her ancestry; as the name Yates appears but once in the old records and papers; this being Thomas Yates, in the assessment roll of 1829.

*Fred C. Landon.*

Note: Grandfather Charles must have had another brother in addition to Elisha and Stephen. Elisha's Will gives to his 'Nephew' Orville Hiram Landon a certain Lot, in the village of Lansdowne, and a hundred dollars in money



FROM THE LIBRARIAN

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

March 14, 1952.

Dr. Fred Landon,  
846 Hellmuth Ave.,  
London, Ont.

Dear Dr. Landon,

It was very good of you to write to me about the township records in possession of your namesake in Watertown.

I have just now written to him suggesting that he deposit these records in the university library for safe keeping. They would be a fine addition to our archives.

About a year ago, I secured the Minutes of the Municipal Council of Sturington, 1850-69 which contain a great deal of interesting information about the development of the back concessions.

I very much hope that Mr. Landon will see fit to send us his records, and again I am greatly indebted to you for bringing this matter to my attention.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

*H. Pearson Gundy*  
H. Pearson Gundy,  
University Librarian.

Watertown N.Y, Mch 19 / 52,

Dear Mr Landon:

Your very interesting reply of Mch 11, inclines me to believe we may soon be able to establish close acquaintance and possibly near relation with each other in addition to bearing the same name.

I had expected to find you a far younger man; from the fact that I had never before heard of you.

In order to further introduce myself, I will state that I graduated from the Third Reader Class of the local school of Lansdowne, at the age of thirteen; remained on my Father's farm untill seventeen, then came to Jefferson Co, N.Y.

A short sketch of my movements will be found in the last pages of my "300 Years Story" which I am pleased to present to you.

Taking up the question of my "Mother's" family, in which I am now interested, you have given me a clue; and am sebbing what little I have been able to learn.

I wish you would take careful notice of my mention of the Ocean Wave disaster; (correct date 1853).

You appear to be a bit cloudy' as to the exact name of your Gr-grandfather. If your information is reliable concerning the Ocean Wave, I see no reason why you could not accept the name "William".

Similarity of names has led me up several blind alleys; as the name William always has been common in the family; however my uncle Wellington readily gave positive answers to my questions, leaving no doubt in my mind.

Next we will refer to my note on back of page 3 of "Methers family; To me the question quickly arose? could your grandfather Abram be the missing brother of my grandfather Charles.

Question 2; Did you ever hear of Orville Hiram Landon. If you can use the name William, in place of Abram as your Gr-grandfather, the Ocean Wave incident would furnish almost positive proof that Abram and Charles were brothers.

Several years ago I streightened out the brother "Stephen" for some of his descendents, here in Watertown.

Have you ever read the Landon Genealogy; I have access to a copy belonging to Harry Landon; managing Editor of our Daily Times.

His people came from the Brockville district- I have been able to assist two inquirers; one in Sauk Rapids, Minn. the other in Saco, Maine, in establishing close blood relationship as well as marrage; simply by checking the names in the book and then referring to my old Lansdowne Records.

I being Landon, all the way. I can usually set them in the right place for at least three; and at times five geberations.

As memory remains keen; I have made this a sort of hobby" for the past few years.

Referring to the 300 Years Of Landon, it may not prove of much interest except as a Story of my direct Line of the Clan, written at request of my student gr-Nephwes. Since the death of my only Sister September last, I have become Patriarch" and among my five nieces and five gr-nephews, it appears to have become quite popular; the copy you get is #14) In frequent letters they ask for more History, but for some time past I have switched to a series of Recollections of School Days; all eagerly listen to Uncle Fred recite those old Poems Songs and Story's learned more than seventy years ago, which remain firmly fixed in memory.

I have made phonograph Records of several of these.

A few days ago having the radio turned on while getting out a letter to one of my Girls" above the clatter of my old machine, the great Bow bells of London rang out announcing a program of the story of Dick Whittington and his Cat. I suddenly became a Boy again; could almost hear my grandfather Abner talking; just as I sat with my sister while listening to that wonderful Story 75 years ago.

The short Play' of this program told only part to the tale as we heard it; only one sentence of it comes clear to me now, and I would like to find the printed Story.

It impressed me to the extent that I have written my own version, of two full pages, which I expect will be found incorrect in a number of instances.

As to the old Township Records, I will explain that I left them with Mr Wright with a request that he examine them and advise me as to where they should be placed. He agreed to do this; and gave me his receipt for them. Later he wrote me asking permission to have a Review, which he was making, published in the local Paper; it still is understood that the books and papers belong to me.

I had considered going to the County Clerk at Brockville; but now feel inclined to follow your advice by taking them to Kingston.

My interest in them now is purely sentimental; but I believe they have a Historic value in which the people of the Township are now interested; for instance; the Census taken in 1805 and again in 1808 by my Gr-grandfather Joseph; which I find as very first records, they surely are worth preserving; even though they give name of the head of each family, and number of women and children.

I made exact copy of these before leaving them with Mr Wright.

I was greatly interested in your column clipping, Soldiers in the White House. Yes; several of our great Presidents held prominent place in the military history of the Nation.

The question we must decide in November is; do we now require a military man as Commander in Chief. My present answer to that is Yes; provided we were able to find one of the type of Teddy Roosevelt; A man with "Guts" as well as ability to preside over the destiny of the nation, in what many of our citizens now consider a period of peril.

I do not care to make any long comment; however I am willing to say that a MacArthur best fits into the picture.

When our President takes office he becomes Chief of our armed forces; we certainly do not want a civilian with a twelve year old mind, to issue orders to them, as was the case in World war two.

Eisenhower probably could win by his popularity at present; just as the second Roosevelt did by his illustrious name.

We could forgive that man for many of his sins while in office, if he had not violated the unwritten Law of the Third Term.

The greatest obstacle Eisenhower has to surmount, is that he must fully complete his present job before accepting nomination, or he becomes a Dead Duck; next he will be compelled to explain who in the last war, gave the Order to halt the armies under his command within a half day march of Berlin; and permit the Russians to come forward and surround that City; even Patton was ordered to retreat to allow them to take over the City of Prague.

All our present European trouble is a consequence of those orders; and if Gen-Ike gives honest answers, the then Commander in Chief does down in the history of this great Nation, as the Forgotten President; which he richly deserves; having coined the phrase forgotten Man himself

Prejudice as a disease almost equal to hatred, is difficultly to cure.

I became a Republican in 1888 when Benj Harrison won his election though I lacked two years of being able to vote.

While at times I have not always agreed with the Party principals as laid down, I have voted the ticket with one exception ever since.

Oddly enough, that happened to be 1936, when Gov Alf Landon ran against Roosevelt.

I had been out of Town, visiting my brothers, and arrived home just nine minutes too late to Register. I was not much grieved at loss of my opportunity to vote for my namesake, when the result showed he had carried only two States.

Poor little Harry; at present taking baths in Florida to rid himself of the terrific odor of scandal floating through the corridors of the White House, declines to comment on the Eye-Wash in the New Hampshire primaries. The Eisenhower promoters are jubilant; while the Taft crew of engineers are very glum; but this is only the first skirmish in the battle that will rage from now to November, and everything now points to as hot a battle at Home, as the Police war in Korea, which turns out to be the most disgusting episode in our Nations history, and as now, no one can foresee when or where it will end.

The many facilities like radio and television which we enjoy, so far surpass anything our grandfathers could imagine, there is no comparison in our mode of life. Mine saw electric lights in Gananoque, but never had his ear to a telephone; yet I sometimes doubt that we are happier than they were.

Happiness springs from a contented mind; and the ability to provide comfort for ourselves as well as those we love and protect; and the many friends we associate with. I consider myself fortunate in that respect.

To return to the Family again; you state that your grandfather Abram and his wife (Elizabeth Rogers) both came from near Gananoque.

That could mean anywhere from one to eight miles.

I recall seeing the name Abram; but am not sure whether it was in the Genealogy, or among the old Records.

Having never studied it; I know very little Canadian History; however several years ago I saw a Leeds County history owned by Andrew Edwards of Gananoque, in which two pages are devoted to the Landon family; I found some items of interest in this.

I wonder if you have ever traveled about seven miles east of Gananoque on the Provincial highway; and if so had stopped to look over the many white slabs and other small monuments marking the resting place of so many bearing our name. I dare say you would count at least sixty.

My Mother has slept there alone; in a large plot for 79 years. I visit the old place at least once each year and it is always very comforting to find that thin white slab bearing the name of Aner and Olliver Landon with the date 1800 standing straight and true.

Many others have fallen and broken. Three years ago I found that of my mother had toppled; then went to the farm where she was born and selected a fine large fragment of red granite, which I set in a suitable white concrete base; and last year I was able to procure a bronze Tablet to attach to it; and now feel confident it will stand forever, and as I grow old, now consider my work there is complete.

I always carry a camera, and have taken many pictures there, as well as views of the "scenes of my childhood" landscape and buildings; some of which I may send to you later. One particular rock formation might be classed as Natural History.

Now Fred: (I get quite a 'kick' in addressing you in that manner) while my letter necessarily has been very long; I hope you will at least find interesting reading in the bundle I am sending, and though I would much prefer to meet and talk with you, I will be pleased to have you express yourself on what it contains; bearing in mind that I am constantly searching for any item or clue connected with Landon family history.

I received a letter Monday from Queens University regarding the placing the Lansdowne records in the Library there, in which your letter to them was mentioned.

I am now fully convinced this is the proper place for them; and will write Mr Gundy and explain my agreement with Mr Wright.

He surely should have his Review completed about June 1st, and I will then bring them to Kingston.

In addition to these, I have quite a number of papers which I considered of value to my family only; such as copies of Deeds; account books; partrenrship contracts ect; including lectures delivered by my grandfather Abner.

How these came into my possession about 60 years ago, is a Story in itself. Sorry to say I did not bring away more than a tenth of them; and so far as I can learn the others were lost in a house that burned in Odessa Ont, about the year 1917. They may have been destroyed before that time. I have never made any incestigation.

In the Leeds County History to which I have referred, it is found that at a Town meeting (sorry I can't recall the date) a resolution came up for adoption that the meetings be held alternatly between Cananoque and Landonville.

I doubt there are ten people in the County who ever heard of the settlement called Landonville. It was the little Hamlet in which Joseph Landon was Innkeeper in 1815.

All records; legal documents etc, which I have, refer to the District as Leeds & Lansdowne Front; (I take it for granted the Rear was uninhabited; except possibly by Indians).

At Town meetings the Officers were elected to serve in both Townships.

A question that has puzzeled me for some time; is that the Census of 1805-8, shows only 41 people in Leeds.

? Was there a settelment at Cananoque prior to that date.

no one I have been able to contact can give answer.

*Yours Truly*  
*Fred C. Landon*

Old time song of, the Good Old U S A,

Tell me daddy tell me  
Why these men in that big crowd;  
Can you tell me why they're cheering  
What makes one act so proud.  
Listen lad he answered  
Tis the tune the brass band plays,  
Tis the song 'My Country Tis Of Thee'  
As you'll know one of these days.  
Years ago in battle,  
Both our grandpas fought and fell  
Mid the cannon roar and rattle,  
So of freedom we could tell.  
Washington and Jackson,  
Here Lincoln, Grant and Lee,  
They'r the men who made us what we are  
On the land and on the sea.  
And it makes no difference where you wonder,  
Makes no difference where you roam;  
You dont have to stop and ponder  
for a place to call your home.  
When they ask, where were you born lad,  
Speak right up; be proud to say  
That your home is the land of Uncle Sam,  
The good old U S A.

I give you this for what it may be found worth.

F.G.L.



Now Fred; if at any time my stuff should become tiresome, just give one stroke of the bell for continue; or a sharp jingle for stop; at any rate lets change the subject for a while.

As our Congress has now resumed the summer session, with the exception of giving over a few weeks to Joe McCarthy, and then hustle back home for the Nov elections; reminds me of a story.

A young man having quietly served his first term in office, went to an old Senator and inquired; just what is the most important thing I should do during the vacation? the old fellow answered in two words- Get reelected- that will be the problem a great many must solve in the next three months

How well I recall my experiences of the first campaign I took part in; as we would gather at the Hotel and after a few glasses of beer, someone would start-hail,hale;the gangs all here; this usually led to a few black eyes and bruised noses; which at that time was part of the game.

At anyrate I like to recall these days of long ago; when the covered wagons still were moving on the plains; and the order was,'go west young man' while now it would be 'go north' if you feel crowded.

I have always felt proud; with deepest respect for the land of my birth; why should I not with so many of my ancestors now sleeping there; who left what was spoken of as the colonies and went to a place where they could serve God in their own right, and enjoy that same freedom for which some of their own brothers still were fighting; They believed that their oath to King George was sacred; therefore I claim the right to have faith in, and reverence for both these great North American Nations; with a faint hope they may some day be united as one.

The present work of St Lawrence development now beginning as partners, binds them closer; particularly as to Ontario and the State of New York.

At times I grow quite reminiscent; as sometimes a small adventure or occurrence may prove to be the change; I might say the turning point, in the life of a farm boy of fifteen; such was mine as I noticed the track of a black mink in the snow, and followed it to a hole in the ice; where I found my destiny.

That story is too long to recite here; though I have repeated it many times for those nieces and Gr nephews when I feel like talking about the good old days of long ago.

Another is an old song I often sang for them- has a fine tune- in form of a conversation between a father and his little boy; possibly you have heard it; I will put it on the separate sheet.

I near omitted mention of our Family Reunion which was held on June 27th at Omer this year.

Actually I had expected to be hearing something from you; or possibly seeing you at that time, as we now have a Secy in Ontario as well as here. Mrs Marold Dempster, Gananoque, serves as such, and was expected to notify you.

Rain fell constant all time we were there; but 49 members of the Tribe gathered for the grand feast; we had arranged to use the Grange Hall, and the weather was mostly inconvenience; prevented a few coming; as we had 71 at Grass Point last year.

Again I carried off the prize for oldest present and received many good wishes; as Patriarch of the Clan; only ten of which came from Lansdowne and Gananoque this year.

We are making this a grand Outing day; and I hope to enjoy the pleasure of introducing you as our guest Speaker, to take my place at least once.

Truly Yours - Fred C. Randon

Watertown, Jan 1, 1953.

Prof- Fred Landon  
London, Ontario.

Dear Fred:

Again the clock of time has struck the hour of midnight, and we enter a New Year,

As the time arrives for filing away the numerous letters, documents etc accumulated during the past year, among these I find yours of March 11 and Dec 17.

I assure you I was greatly pleased by the friendly greeting of this last; and the assurance of more to follow.

As age advances and memory concerning recent events becomes more dim I make a practice of keeping copy of all important outgoing letters; and on review of my long March 19 reply, I find very little to add so far as Family history is concerned.

I also received friendly greetings from Librarian J. Pearson Gundy of Queen's; with copy of the Douglas Library Notes; and hope he also sent this to you, as nearly a page is devoted to my presentation last summer- on your advice- of the old Lansdown- Leeds records, as well as several documents concerning early life in that district; the earliest date being 1805.

I presume I should congratulate myself for the prominence given to these old papers, which I believe are the very first Records of that district.

In answer to Mr Gundy, I expressed regret in not having taken possession of the entire collection of documents contained in an old black chest, when I had the opportunity many years ago.

My father never showed much interest in what this large box which locked with a heavy iron key contained; though it always went to wherever he moved; his last residence was in Odessa, Ontario, and I suggested the Librarian should go to Odessa, or write Roy Emmons, there, on the very slim chance it might be found.

Being blessed with excellent health, I spent the Christmas time quietly with my family; then a week-end visit with three of my nieces at Lowville, N.Y. which is only 50 minutes by Greyhound bus.

These five nieces of mine are a very close knit family; and all plead with uncle Fred to visit them often, and since the death of their Mother in Sept of 51 I have tried to discharge my duty to them. Six years ago we held a Reunion at Turin, N.Y. of the Landon-Coon Clan at which about twenty were present; since that time we have met together as near as possible to the date of my sister's Birthday on June 28; last year at our Reunion held at Grass Point (near T.I Park- we formed an Association, with 32 names registered; several of these were from Gananoque and Lansdowne; elected a President and Secy- to carry on and keep records of future meetings, which I hope to enjoy for at least a few more years.

I fully believe that you are eligible for membership in this "Clan" and would receive a very warm welcome if you should find it possible to attend our next meeting: of which I will give you the date advance.

Again turning to direct Family affairs-  
In my letter of March 19/52 you find a question regarding Orville Hiram Landon.

Among documents left at Queens is the Will of Elisha Landon, in which he leaves to his brother Charles all his estate except a certain vacant Lot #24 in the village of Lansdowne; and 100 dollars in money to be paid to his Nephew Orville Hiram Landon when he became of age.

A receipt for this amount, given by Orville to my grandmother Elenor is attached to the will.

This boy appears to have been an orphan, living with Elisha. When I found this old blue paper two years ago, the thought at once came that there was another brother of grandfather Charles of whom I had never before heard, and the question, what was the name of the father of Orville Hiram Landon.

I know of only three Sons of the Ocean Wave William Landon, namely Elisha, Stephen and Charles; and now believe you have added another.

For recreation I have my I O O F lodge, having held membership for 61 years, still take part in fraternal and social activities, and as my 84th birthday is near, two of the Brothers visited me today to offer greetings and congratulations; In addition to this I have a social Club known as the Lincoln League, which I try to attend each Wednesday evening, for the prize games, movies and lunch which are always enjoyable.

As my letter writing requires little time, I do considerable reading having now near finished-for second time- H.G. Wells Outline of History a three Volume set presented me about ten years ago; you may also have it. In Vol 1, of Ancient history, he describes at some length, the World Before Man; and beginning of Life on earth, in which boneless fish were found to exist; last night in my Daily Times, I noticed the inclosed clipping, which explains. This being a news item you may have it in your local paper.

It is a wonderful study, especially when compared with the Testament Genesis story of the Creation.

I can see that I am getting into deep water; more than I can fathom.

The world of 1952 is now passing through a period without precedent. Our most able statesmen appear unable to even predict what will take place in the next few years; some agree that a United States of Europe will solve the problem there, many Europeans agree.

This may be true on the assumption that Russia has again become over-extended, and those slave nations are able to break away and form a real Union on lines similar to North America.

The United States; with Canada included, are now paying the price of world leadership.

The human animal called MAN, by nature learns to fight for existence and preservation.

In my humble opinion, education for the world is a far more powerful weapon than tanks and atom bombs, to bring Peace on Earth, and Good will to all men.

Such is the manner in which my thoughts run on this Jan-1, of 1952, and wishing you all the happiness the new year may bring.

I remain Very Truly Yours,

*Fred C. Landon*

the in the Limburger cheese business.

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**FISH, OF TYPE 50,000,000  
YEARS OLD, FOUND OFF AFRICA**

Durban, South Africa, Dec. 31. (AP)—A South African fish expert has announced "one of the most important discoveries made in science"—a good specimen of a type of fish that scientists once believed had died out at least 50 million years ago.

Prof. J. B. Smith, a noted ichthyologist, arrived here last night by plane from a tiny islet in the French-owned Camoro group between Madagascar and the East African mainland with a carefully-guarded crate which he said contained a Coelacanth. He had made a 3,000-mile dash to collect the fish—caught more than a week ago by an African fisherman—before it decomposed.

The Coelacanth—which bear the scientific name of Latimeria Chalumnae—were the first family of bony fish. They are believed to have evolved between 200 and 350 million years ago and until recently were known to man only by fossils.

The specimen, a five-foot, bluish-colored creature, came into the hands of Capt. Eric Hunt, the master of a schooner trading between Zanzibar and Madagascar, who told the world by cable of its landing.

**14 HURT AS TOWER BRIDGE  
OPENS UNDER LONDON BUS**

London, Dec. 31. (AP)—Fourteen persons were injured slightly last night when London's famous tower bridge opened suddenly while a passenger bus was crossing it. All the victims received their injuries when they were hurled to the front of the bus as it slid safely to the far side.

The bridge—crossing the Thames river just above the city's dock area—has a roadway divided into two sections that lift up in the middle to allow the passage of large ships upriver. A London transport official said a signal warning that the bridge was to be raised did not function.

Watertown N.Y, Sept 27, 53.

My dear namesake Fred:

Having just now reread your very interesting letter of July 19, and in reply will endeavor to give somethingworth notice.

First, regarding the family Reunion held June 23 at Grass Point; although it was a great success with 69 members attending; several from the Lansdowne-Gananoque district; sorry to report I was unable to be with them; This was not caused by my inability to travel, but through misunderstanding as to transportation, untill too late.

I later recieved many letters and phone calls expressing disappointment for not seeing the Patriarch of the Clan present this year.

It is always an enjoyable meeting, and I was very sorry to miss this large one.

Next- taking notice of what you say of your fathers middle name as Loomis; it is uncommon, as I find only eight of the name in our City Directory of near-fifty thousand.

I have never attempted to trace Lois Loomis farther than that she was a daughter of John Beach, and married Oliver Landon after the death of her husband 'Loomis'.

People often have a queer sense in selecting names for their children. For instance- my father was given Doty as his middle name; he never liked or signed it in full; it was given him in honor of an old Preacher who happened to be in the District at the time he was born and probably was proud to baptize him.

Discoveries of this kind often cause doubt, but it will take far more than the name Loomis to convince me that you do not come in on my Mothers side of the family.

The fact of the 'Ocean Wave' though it might be called hearsay evidence with both of us, is most convincing.

In searching old records, perplexing as well as agrivating questions suddenly appear, for which we are unable to find a satisfactory or suitable answer.

I find one of these in the case of the original Oliver Landon. To explain this most clearly I am making copy of first part of the census taken by Joseph Landon for the years 1805 and 1808.

This entire paper can be found among those left at Queens University Kingston, last year.

You will notice the Oliver Sr family in 1805 consisted of 1 man, 1 woman 4 boys and 2 girls; total 8 is correct; understand this is written by Joseph and signed as Town Clerk; then when he again counts noses in 1808 we find the man of the family missing, and total given as 7; my question is; where was Oliver in 1808.

If this record had not been made by his own Son, it might be excused as an error; as Oliver certainly did not die untill 1820; and I have never found any reason for him to abscond, or leave the district at any time; in fact I find him performing official duties in that place and Township down to the year 1818.

Your interesting story of your visit to the Gettysberg battlefield brings vividly to mind memories of 75 years ago when I sat on the rail fence with my step-Uncle John Switzer, while the horses rested on the plow, and listened to him as he told of his experiences in that war, and of gettysberg in particular. I have often had a great desire to see those places which he described. He never talked much with older people, but seemed to get relief from relating incidents fresh in mind, to a youngster.. I will describe him briefly.

He was a bachelor; worked on farms in the neighborhood in summer, lived in a shanty and chopped cordwood during most of the winter, and making his home with us when unemployed.

He had volunteered for service in the U S army in a Wisconsin regiment, served the full term and reenlisted; not having been absent for all these years he obtained a furlough to return home, and before this expired, the war ended. Now comes the sequel to this- Uncle John considering it senseless to travel the long distance back to report after the war had closed, found some years afterward that he had made a great mistake, when he applied for a pension and found himself now classed as a deserter.

I had another uncle, Norman Gardner, who served with the cavalry and enjoyed his pension several years before John made application, and I recall that he made a number of trips here to Watertown to answer questions of James Dolan, pension commissioner and eventually proved his claim; though it required a special act of the US Congress to grant his pension of sixteen dollars per month, after which he retired, and lived comfortably the balance of his life.

I can recite many of the old battle songs he used to sing so long ago and give this little story simply to show the difference in a Soldiers life in those days compared with the present.

I regret to say that I have not visited the old home places this year which I love so well, in Lansdowne, and begin to feel some of the infirmities of age creeping on with my near approach to 85.

I had a request to look up some of the Rogers people; there were three of these families in my boyhood; two on farms near Gananoque later became merchants in the village, while the third named Holmes owned the farm joining that of grandfather Abner.

You will note that Abner married 'Agnes' as his second wife; she was a sister of Holmes. six boys and four girls were born to Holmes, and I attended school with all those girls and one of the boys, only one is now living, Jennie, now past 80 resides in Gananoque; one of the older boys Lewis, became a locomotive engineer hauling trains on the Grand Trunk, and in crossing his fathers farm gave three peculiar blasts of the whistle; I often stood beside the track when he passed, leaning from the cab to wave at us.

This of course is merely reminiscing though pleasant for me. Memory still serves me well in recalling names of my schoolmates of seventy to eighty years ago; A few years ago I typed the names of 103 of these and sent it to my sister, and she being older added a few to my list; in fact that old stone schoolhouse is connected with my very first recollections of life and the day I went there at the age of three and a half years, though I did not attend regularly till near a year later, my only clear recollection of my Mother is connected with that first time, and I have recited that Story many times to both the young and old relatives.

I feel at liberty to talk at some length with you; while memory of recent events often becomes faulty, that of my youth appears stronger. having five nieces and four gr-nephews who always rely on what uncle Fred says, I am compelled to answer many questions of those bygone days; and I am pleased to report that both my own and my wifes health is considered excellent, except for the natural infirmities of age, and one week from today, Oct 4th, we celebrate our 60th wedding Day.

I have not yet heard of anything unusual to take place, but do expect a large number of cards.

I might mention that I have a bath scales, won in a Bridge contest several years ago; I stepped on them just now, and find they register my weight as 131 which seems rather low for a man of 5-10½ who weighed 167 forty years ago while working ten hours per day at a bench in a lumber mill at the immense salary of twenty cents per hour

frequently I pause to make comparison of those days, and find men complaining for working forty hours per week at 2.10 per hour, and find that the dollars I earned and paid a hundred cents for now bring me slightly less than 31 cents when I am compelled to use them in my old age. Yes mister- you and I have lived a long time and experienced many changes in life.

I seldom write much about politics or world affairs, as the air now is so full of these there is no necessity, but in my limited way I try to keep abreast with conditions in all parts of the world, which just now are greatly confused; time alone can tell how and when all these troubles will be settled; I now hope to live to see that period the many advantages we have of learning and keeping up to date are amazing compared with those of our grandfathers who had to rely on a small weekly newspaper, often giving events near a month past, which we now get in minutes after it takes place.

I get much pleasure listening to the ball games, and hope to see my favorite Yanks again win the World series though now many fans vote for the Dodgers to win.

I still enjoy the Bridge and Pinochle games at my Lincoln League club and for many years played billiards, though never considered expert I have won quite a number of prizes at that game, now compelled to give it up on account of failing sight and weakness of various kinds.

Our series of prize games for the winter season opens middle of Oct and as I make practice of riding down town once each week usually spend the evening with the lunch and movies after the games, this generally makes a very late session, which does not interfere in any way as I can always sleep all that is needful next day.

I am glad to say that a clear conscience and contented mind always provides for that.

We set our clocks back an hour this morning, though that makes no difference with me.

I don't want to become tiresome, though by this time you will have become fairly well acquainted with me; and I hope to continue our correspondence for at least a few more years.

The Sunday morning here is sunny; my mind appears very active; and could talk much longer, but as the mail pickup time draws near I will close this 'conversation' by wishing you and yours all the happiness that present life can give.

Sincerely Yours,

Fred C. Randou

Record

Lansdowne and Revus  
Front End 1805

Names	Men	Women	Children		Total
			Males	Females	
Oliver Landon sr	1	1	4	2	8
Joseph Landon	1	1	1	1	4
Benj Landon	1	1	1	1	4
Oliver Landon jr	1	1	1	1	4
William H Landon	1	1	1	1	4
Erastus Landon	1	1	2	3	7
John McNeil	1	1	1	1	4
Paul McNeil	1	1	1	1	4

Lansdowne  
1805

Joseph Landon  
Town Clerk

Names	Men	Women	Children		Total
			Males	Females	
Oliver Landon sr	1	1	4	2	7
Joseph Landon	1	1	1	3	6
Benj Landon	1	1	1	2	5
Oliver Landon jr	1	1	1	1	4
W H Landon	1	1	1	1	4
Erastus Landon	1	1	2	3	7
John McNeil	1	1	1	1	4
Paul McNeil	1	1	1	1	4

90

Town Lansdowne  
March 1808  
J Landon, CLK-

1.2.6 Total



Prof- Landon, M.A.

Watertown N.Y, June 14  
1953

Dear Sir:

I always feel inclined to address you as cousin Fred.

Not having heard from you in the past few months, I have been instructed by our Pres- to inform you of the date of our annual Reunion of the LANDON family; to be held this year on June 28th, which is the birth date of my only sister, who having passed away about two years ago, I have now become the Patriarch of the Clan of which I am fully convinced you are fully entitled to membership.

The date falling on Sunday makes it convenient for all to attend, quite a number coming from the district of Lansdowne and Cananoque; the meeting place selected is at Grass Point, near the river, with fine grove and pavilion, also cabins for those who desire to stay a few days.

It is located only a short distance west of the Collins Landing entrance to the bridge.

I sincerely hope you may be able to include this among your outing trips for the summer; and assure both yourself and wife a cordial greeting by a large number of relatives.

Dinner will be served at 1:30; and we hope you will honor us by having your name placed on our Roll.

Sincerely Yours,

*Fred E. Landon*

*ans  
July 19/53*

Dear Fred:-

I want to express my pleasure on receipt of your very interesting letter of 18th; I at once got out copy of my last to you, and was surprised to find it near a year old; and after reviewing both I hope to be able to give you something of interest; but first will mention your inquiry to Harry Landon.

His Secy- phoned me just as I was leaving for an I O O F picnic; this is a little function put on each year by our Quarter Century Association; we could not have purchased a better day; and 31 of the old Boys enjoyed the feast and games.

Of course I was awarded the prize for oldest member present, with near 53 years in the Order, and 37 Assn; while another got prize for longest distance travel; from Phila- Pa.

I could write a long story of the great benefit membership in this Lodge and Order was to a young man coming to a strange Town knowing only one family here.

On joining I was privileged to meet many professional and other business men; as Brothers; so helpfull in making more friends and associates.

Now as to Harry, I get in to talk with him occasionally, and was curious to know how you came to write him; your letter explains that; but I still wonder if he told you that he is now writing WIGLES ON THE BORDER-in which he claims to have discovered quite considerable new material of the 1812 War.

This is now running a full page of the Times each Saturday and I understand is fourteen chapters; later to be published Book form with many original drawings and portrates.

I have saved much of his previous writing in the Times; and will read this in full at end of the series; he should send this to you.

I am much better acquainted with his brother Clifton; a lawyer; and member of my I O O F Lodge. Fathers-

I may have mentioned that they come in on what I call the Wethers- side of the Family, as their gr gr Grandfather was brother of mine.

There are a good many Landons in and near this city, but they are the only ones I am now really acquainted with.

As you come in on the mother- side, in order to make it a little more clear, I will give what might be called a -run down- of the families of my grandfathers, Abner and Charles Landon; keeping in mind, there was near a generation difference in age of them, and for convenience will put this on a seperate sheet.

I have always made letter wrting something of a hobby, and still write more thwn a hundred each year.

How well I remember my first attemot, when at the age of ten our Teacher offered a prize for the best letter submitted by a member of my class. One of my schoolmates, Sherman Eyes had moved to Michigan, and I addressed my letter to him.

I have no idea what I wrote; but no doubt it started with the pld time salut of Dear Sherm; I now take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same; anyhow I got the prize of twenty five cents.

Like many farm boys, my schooling was very limited; actually for geometry, I hardly knew the difference between a decimal point and a fly sneck untill I took a course of Archetecture in the International correspondence school, after I was married.

This with my great amount of reading, gave sufficient education to make my way through life; with reasonable success.

# Watertown Daily Times

ESTABLISHED 1861  
CIRCULATION OVER 42,000

THE BROCKWAY COMPANY  
JOHN B. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher  
WATERTOWN, N.Y.

TIMES RADIO STATIONS  
W W N Y—790 KC, FM—100.5 MC  
W M S A—1340 KC, FM—105.3 MC  
TELEVISION STATION  
WCNY-TV - CHANNEL 7

August 21, 1957

Mr. Fred Landon  
846 Hellmuth Avenue  
London, Ontario, Canada

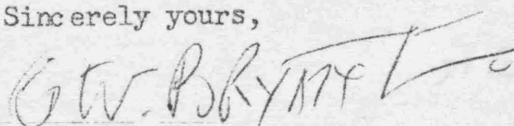
Dear Mr. Landon:

Mr. Harry F. Landon, managing editor of The Times, died November 6, 1954. I am answering the letter addressed to him.

Mr. Fred C. Landon, of whom you write, died last Sunday night at the Jefferson County hospital at the age of 88 years. I am enclosing the obituary of Mr. Fred Landon as it appeared in The Times on Monday night.

Hoping that this information will prove of use to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Gordon W. Bryant,  
Executive Editor

Abner Landon, family

(children)

Charlotte Ann, born 1828

Samuel Gray

Joseph Sawyer

John Watkins

Margaret

Catherine

Edwin Doty, born 1843

Charles Landon, family

(children)

Emeline, born 1843

Lucy

Wellington

Lewis

Mary

William

Clara

Charles Edwin, born 1863

-Grandchildren-

I now find only three living, of Abner; and six of Charles and will give names and seniority of birth for each.

Fred C Born 1869

David E

Clark J born 1880

David resides in Clayton, R D

Clark in village of Omer.

Fred C same as above-  
Susan (Webster) Gananoque  
William C, Lansdowne

(two above, children of Wellington)

George Gardner Gananoque

(Son of Lucy)

Fred Dempster, Sout Lake

Harold Dempster Gananoque,

(Sons of Mary)

*F.L.D.*

June 3, 1955.

14 June 55

My Dear Fred:

As the time again draws near for another gathering of the Landon Clan for our annual Family Reunion, this is to inform you of the date of that great event, which will be held June 26, in the Grange Hall of the little village of Omar; located a short distance from the Collins Landing end of the bridge.

I wonder if you have ever made the journey from Gananoque or crossed those St Lawrence river bridges; particularly the little one that spans the narrow Rift Line channel from Hill island to Wellesley; if not, it would make a fine vacation trip for you, either by Bus or private car.

In my boyhood, Hill island was owned by John Landon. He was generally referred to as 'one arm Johnnie' having lost an arm in a logging accident in which the bones were so badly crushed it had to be amputated near the shoulder.

I have now become Patriarch of the Tribe which consists of four generations of the Landon and Coen families.

You certainly are eligible to join with us; and all would be delighted to find your name on the Register when the Roll is called.

Depending on weather, we usually have from fifty to eighty members at these gatherings; some travel more than 100 miles.

Speaking for myself; as the clock of age ticks along toward 87 I am thankful for good health; my only difficulty now is in walking more than a quarter mile without rest.

My social activities now consist of Club and Lodge; made visits with I O O F to Brockville Apr 21, and Kingston May 10; these were enjoyable with opportunity to again cross the bridges as I had not visited the Lansdowne section for two years.

I fully believe it would be worth your while to drive down through that district and be with us June 26.

I have done very little Family research work in the past year; occasionally pick up an item used for confirmation only; still find a dead end with Gr-grandfather William; can easily trace four of his sons; Elisha, Stephen, Abram and Charles, there must still be another.

I believe that I have before mentioned that I have Elisha's Will; in which he leaves to his nephew Orville Hiram Landon a vacant lot in the village of Lansdowne, and 100 dollars in money which was paid to him by my grandmother Elenor when he became of age.

My unsolved question now is; Who was father of Orville Hiram; those old Lansdowne records which I left at Queens University do not shed any light on this.

So far as I could find I am satisfied with evidence concerning all others.

There are some Landons remaining in Lansdowne village; the Postmaster is one; I would like very much to interview him.

I know you are interested in this search, and if anything turns up I will forward it to you.

I must add just a little more-

Going through my desk I found a book of snap pictures buried in a heap of old clippings.

I recall taking these shots several years ago, of the two old stone houses on the Landon farm located about four miles east of Gananoque, on the Provincial highway.

They are same size and shape except front; built of irregular shaped stone; mostly light colored, with fairly smooth surface

I have not been able to learn when they were built, or the original owner; they were old when I was born on the adjoining farm. The old Lansdowne records sheds little light on this.

They stand on the same lot, about twenty rods apart. You will notice the entrance door at end, and low kitchen part faces east on one; west on the other.

I am confident our Gr-grandfather William owned both, and occupied the one with the roof dormer at the time he lost his life in the Ocean Wave disaster.

My grandfather Charles lived there for balance of his life.

Well Fred; I hope you find a little of interest in all this from your namesake,

Fred C. Landon  
421 Moffett St  
Watertown, N.Y.

Watertown N Y, Jan 6, 1956

My dear namesake Fred:

As in less than two weeks; Jan 16 to be exact; I will pass milestone 87 of the road of life, how often I wish we could go back to the days when the salutation of all our letters ran thus.

I now take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same.

To sprinkle in a few words of an old song of my schooldays;

Many years have passed since that happy time,

But the river keeps rolling along;

And the rippling sounds on its mossy banks,

Are singing the same old song.

Those were the happy days of boyhood of long ago at the farm home in Lansdowne.

All my companions are now gone; I know of only one, now a resident of Gananoque, that I met while on a visit there two years ago.

We had a very enjoyable Christmas with full family dinner; and I made a three day visit with two of my nieces for the New Year weekend at Lowville.

Among the flood of more than one hundred greeting cards, most pleasing of all was yours, with the short letter in which you mention the man at Ottawa. I clearly recall seeing this man last summer; our meeting came about in this way.

I was down town for the afternoon; had transacted all my business then went to the Hollywood restaurant for a glass of beer; there was one vacant stool at the bar; as I sat sipping my beer the man beside me asked my age; as he did not appear to believe me I paid little attention until he said: I'll bet your name is Landon; surprised at this I pled guilty to the charge; and told him he had won the bet; he then asked if I had any relatives across the line; to this I replied that I was proud to say that I was born within little more than a mile from the St Lawrence, and some years ago had many relatives there.

This about ended our conversation, as I seldom stay in those places more than a few minutes unless I happen to meet an old friend to talk with.

What interests me now is the fact that he should be able to take notice of a resemblance between us; and I now want to exchange photos. I have a very good one taken at Lowville on my birthday of three years ago; and have arranged with my niece to have more made; you will receive one of these before long; and I hope you can send me one of yours, taken within the last five or ten years if only to prove this man was not nearsighted.

I also have a strong desire to see and talk with you; and as the Landon Clan will hold its Reunion at Wilstead Ont. this year thought possibly you might arrange to meet with us; right near the place where I am confident your ancestors lived, on the Provincial highway, about four miles east of Gananoque.

The date of our gathering is made as June 28, in honor of the birthday of my only sister; and the Coon family join with us in this celebration.

We now have two Secy's, Mrs Paul Grey of Gananoque represents the Clan for Ontario.

If weather is good we generally have about sixty present for the Roll Call and dinner.

You will receive advance notice of exact date of meeting, and all sincerely hope you and your Lady can be with us in person, or at least by letter, same as last year.

I have given you this information in detail; though probably will write you again before long.

Speaking for myself; am glad to report general health excellent; have not found it necessary to consult a physician in more than twenty years; though as age creeps on I find some difficulty in walking; especially in winter; don't get out much except to Club and occasionally Lodge meetings; enjoy life quietly at home with plenty of good reading and the radio; also do considerable of writing; as my five nieces always want to know how uncle Fred gets along; often find an item of Family History worth looking up all this keeps me quite content..

I might add that now I am making a review of the entire History of the I O O F fraternity, since it was established in England, as the Manchester Unity Of Friends, about 300 years ago.

That story is far too long to relate here; though I am supposed to have written report for the Quarter Century meeting in April.

This may prove of little interest to you, as practically all of it is beyond my 64 years as a member, is taken from a large book of 900 pages containing the entire history of the Order.

This book was found in an old house while being torn down several years ago; I must first discover the history of the book itself; as no one now seems to be its owner.

Taking note that I am running along to far greater length than intended, I must soon shut down the press with little mention of our 64 thousand dollar question as to who will be our candidates for Pres-.

How well I recall my first political campaign in 1888 when we set up a tall flag pole in the little village of Omer; an orator came from Watertown, and when those speeches ended I became a confirmed Republican, though I would not be old enough to vote for two years.

I still have a strong hunch that Ike' will fully recover from his recent disability, and again accept nomination; and of course win in a walk; as near all expect.

He is too good a soldier to quit or desert us now, when his service is required more than in world war two.

So with these few remarks, hoping this finds you in good health and can find time to write me again soon, I remain

*Yours Truly*

*Fred C. Landon*



Dear Fred:

Feb 23, 1956.

Just a short note this time, to explain delay in shipping promised photo; caused from not being able to find the negative in order to have more prints made. They were taken at Lowville N.Y. my niece had made the large nicely decorated Birthday cake; first shot is admiring the cake; the other shows the old Boy prepared to cut it together they show present features plainly and you should be able to know if, or how, the Ottawa man could notice a resemblance between us.

I am pleased to report feeling exceptionally well after passing 87; though fing hearing has become a bit dull, and leg muscles now prevent much walking; cant play the billiards any more; must be satisfied with Bridge and Pinochle; Doctors pronounce general health all right; may last a couple years more.

That sounds like the verdict for Ike; though all hope he will go much longer; we need a Soldier in the White House for some time yet.

I greatly enjoy your letters; and if you have a photo taken within the last five or ten years I would be much pleased to receive it.

Sincerely Yours,

Fred C. Landon,

421 Moffett St.,  
Watertown N.Y.

F. C. L.

Watertown N.Y/ Jan 18, 1957,

Dear Cousin Fred:

As I pass milestone 88 today, it appears far different and more important than any of the others along the road of a long life.

As I review your last three letters of 1956, I feel constrained to add a little to the strength of the tie which binds us together; and am sending along two pictures which I will explain later.

As I have made reply to your first two letters, this might be considered as answer to your short one, with the Christmas card. First I will say; we had a Happy Day; with a big family dinner and exchange of Gifts; too numerous to mention.

The picture on your Card of the red barn, reminded me of a little song we sang in those schooldays of long ago

Here is the chorus-

The cows are in the clover;  
They've trampled there since morn.  
Go and drive them Maggie,  
To the old red barn.

I have a large portfolio of these old time Songs and Poems stored up in memory; and having five nieces and four Gr-Nephews all demand these along with my frequent letters; I have written a great many in the last ten years.

Next I will say that my general health is pronounced excellent have not found it necessary to consult a Doctor in twenty years can sleep soundly eight to ten hours, and eat four times per day but as age creeps on I find hearing has become quite dull; cant enjoy the Lodge and Club meetings so well; though I still keep up membership, as our Lincoln League Club located on the Public Square, makes a good place to rest when down town, though I have not been out for some time.

No doubt you heard radio reports of our severe cold spell, when Temp went 55 below zero at nearby Boonville; this was an all time record for N.Y State; though 32 was lowest in Watertown.

Then along with this extreme cold, came break in our gas pipe line which for two days drove many people from homes heated by gas; fortunately we use oil, and it was no great inconvenience as we have a supply of dry hardwood slabs to use for cooking in the combination kitchen range; though the furnace had to work overtime to keep the radiators hot and Temp up to 71 in our eight rooms.

Now for those pictures. I feel sure you will find interest in them; as they were taken on the farm on which my Mother was born also this farm was owned by your Gr-grandfather-(and mine) William Landon at the time he lost his life in the Ocean Wave disaster.

My grandfather Charles, must have married Elenor Yates at about that time; as their first child- my Mother- was born in 1843.

He must have taken over the property and lived there rest of his life; while all his brothers except one, Elisha moved away.

You must remember there was three of those Landon brothers who moved from Litchfield Conn- to upper Canada shortly after the Revolution. I have not yet been able to trace our Gr-grandfather William, beyond the dates given in the old Record books and papers which I left at Queens Library in Kingston.

The little square picture is what I consider as a wonderful example of the work of nature.

This snapshot was taken with the camera looking streight down into a hole in the solid granite rock. I never measured exact, but would say it is about 18 inches in diameter and same in depth, with perfect oval bottom and smoothly polished sides.

At first it may appear as a black spot painted on the rock as all interior is discolored by dirty water standing all year round; brim full in spring, evaporates considerable in hot dry weather; I had to bail out some water when I took the picture; then placed a light colored stone about size of a baseball to show the rounded bottom.

In my boyhood there, we were told that the Indians made this hole for a place to grind their corn; we now know this was a fable; as it was slowly ground out by a whirlpool, during the glacial period; long before any Indian or other living creature existed there.

Another of these holes a short distance toward the road on a ledge about ten feet lower down is same depth, but different shape and size; I have not been able for fifteen years to climb down for a look at this one.

As I recall it is near pear shaped with round ends and bottom length about three feet; large end two feet and small end about fifteen inches across.

The engineer that ground that one out appears to have set the drill on a slight slant, or moved it a little down stream as the work progressed.

In the round hole picture nothing is visible on the rock there except the old tin can I used to bail out the water and the toe of my right shoe.

I dont claim to be much of a student in the works of nature; but with common sense and a little thought, it is easy to explain how all this was done.

In this locality all the farm land to Lansdowne village, and north farther than I ever travelled, is practically level; with some swamp and wood land north of the railroad and along the consession line; there is a tract farther north known as the Drowned Lands; I have no idea where this is located.

We will now take a look at the other picture; taken with same camera at distance of fourteen feet.

You should take particular notice of where the round hole is located, close to the edge of the rock where I am sitting. I have sat there many times, more than eighty years ago.

This gives a fairly good view of where the ravine begins; looking north-east at an angle with the close by Provincial highway in the background; the culvert under the road is shown with the tiny stream of water fed by two large springs; one of which is on the Landon farm; the little stream which flows year round, curves at this point, then flows streight for more than a mile to where it widens out in a shallow marshy Bay of the St Lawrence.

This ravine about 80 feet deep at its lowest point has these same granite rocks on north side, extending across four farms; the land is useless for anything except sheep pasture, while the south side is composed of nicely rounded clay soil.

The only brake or fracture of these hard rocks is along about fifty feet west from the Hole; the perpendicular streight face is fairly smooth; shows eight to ten feet above the soil which slopes down into the ravine.

I have often wondered how the immense ice pressure failed to destroy the work done there, by only a few inches; as we then would have known nothing of it; also how deep the broken part of that rock may be buried.

There is another example of this rock splitting on the north side of Landons Bay; this Bay was the south boundary of the large tract of land granted to Olliver Landon; he was among the first settlers of that district.

At a place known as the Indian Rock, the story goes with this name; an Indian chasing a wounded deer came near the high precipice; the deer swerved to one side, while the man running at full speed plunged over and drowned in deep water below; this legend might very well be true.

No game fish come that far up the Bay; I have fished there several times, for perch and rock bass, but have not seen it in sixty years.

This break, as I recall, has a straight and plumb face about 40 or 50 feet wide and around 25 feet high from the water, in same red granite rock.

The Scenic highway from Gananoque to the Bridges, crosses the mouth of Landons Bay; where it opens into the large Halstead Bay to the north.

I think this along with the old stone house pictures will give some idea of what the home place of our ancestor now looks like though I know of no change there in my lifetime.

I advise that you go there and see for yourself; stop at the Wm C. Landon place they take care of tourists; and see the finely moulded ceiling of the parlor room of the old house.

To again mention your Christmas letter, regarding the man you talked with at Ottawa. I dont recall meeting this man in the restaurant here.

There is nine Landon families listed in our City directory; I know only one of them personally; Clifton H. a Lawyer who lives on the North side; was far better acquainted with his brother, Harry; he was managing Editor of our Daily Times up to time of his death about two years ago; their parents came here from vicinity of Brockville about 100 years ago.

So far as the Birthday is concerned; I am thankful to be feeling so good; in fact seem a little stronger than usual. but as the zero weather prevents getting out, it is spent quietly at home; with numerous cards of congratulation from near relatives, and phone calls from old friends.

My greatest hope now is, that I may be able to write you something of this style for at least a couple more years.

Fred C. Landon

G R A N D F A T H E R

Abner Landon familie

Charles Landon familie

Charlotte Ann . 1828

Samuel Gray

Joseph Sawyer

John Watkins

Margaret

Catherine

Edwin Doty, born Feb 1843

Emeline, born Apr 1843

Lucy

Wellington

Lewis

Mary

William

Clara

C.Edwin, born 1861

This sheet is merely to give a quick run down  
of both sides of my Family.

421 Moffett St.  
Watertown, N.Y.

August 29, 1957

Dear Mr. Landon,

My Mother and I and my Brother Charles appreciate your kind letter of sympathy.

Father had been failing slowly for some months. I gave up my position after thirty-one years' service with a wholesale mill and industrial supply company in Watertown to come home and give more time to Mother and Father. Mother is very keen.

During the summer he came down with a circulatory condition, which later developed into gangrene in one leg. Due to his advanced age, amputation was not advised by the doctor. Through the use of modern drugs his condition improved some for a short time. However, we were reconciled that there would not be any permanent recovery.

Father kept your letters and picture. Sometime I will pass them on to other members of the family. Otherwise, they would be destroyed, as I am unmarried and my brother has no children, and there would be nobody coming after us to be interested in such records.

I enclose clipping from Watertown Daily Times which gives a very accurate account of my father's life.

Mr. Fred Landon  
846 Hellmuth Ave.  
London, Ontario

Sincerely,

(Miss) Marion E. Landon