

Powley Family

Genealogy

c1725-1916

READING ROOM

From The Orillia Packet of March, 1893

Marchmont

On the 18th instant of March, death removed one of the old and highly respected residents of this village, Mr. Jacob Hoffman Powley. His grandfather was one of the United Empire Loyalist Pioneers. When the thirteen colonies revolted, Jacob Powley took up arms in defence of the crown which had afforded his family shelter when they fled from Europe for conscience sake. For a length of time he was among the Indians in the vicinity of Kingston, and at the close of the war returned through the wilderness to Schenectady, in the state of New York, and from there conveyed his family to the Township of Kingston, where he received a U.E.L. grant of land for himself and each of his two sons then born. The story of the hardships they endured, both from the hostility of the triumphant republicans at their former home and by reason of the wilderness through which they had to travel and that in which they found a home under the shelter of the flag they loved, is still told and cherished among the descendants of those sturdy pioneers. The younger of the sons of Jacob Powley, who accompanied his parents to Canada, William, was then eight years of age. When he grew to manhood he married Elizabeth Hoffman, daughter of another United Empire Loyalist, and of this union the subject of this sketch was born on the 20th of November, 1808. In 1834 he married Mary Ann, daughter of Andrew Clark an Irish soldier who had settled on the farm adjoining his own. In 1850 Mr. Powley visited Marchmont and purchased a farm, returning the following year with his family, and accompanied by his brother, the late S. P. Powley, who subsequently owned and operated the grist mill since destroyed by fire. Mr. J. H. Powley worked at his trade, carpenter and joiner, and engaged in saw milling in addition to farming. Later he sold the saw-mill business to his son, Mr. C. J. Powley, who still carries it on. About three years ago he sold his farm to Mr. C. H. Moffatt, and resided in his own dwelling at Marchmont until last fall, when he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Stewart, in order that she might render his declining days as comfortable as possible.

In the early days the Powleys were Lutherans, but after their settlement in Canada they were entirely cut off from the ministrations of that and any other church, until the Methodist pioneer preachers came, when they connected themselves with that church, to which they have given several preachers, local and ordained. Mr. J. H. Powley was at one time a class leader, but in consequence of different views severed his connection with that denomination.

When Mr. A. Marshall came here, Mr. Powley connected himself with the gathering of Brethern brought together by the teaching of that evangelist. He lived a consistent life, and died in the assured hope of a glorious resurrection. The funeral on Monday was largely attended, notwithstanding the bad state of the roads. Mr. S. Benner conducted an appropriate service. Of Mr. Powley's seven children, two daughters predeceased him, one in childhood. Mrs. Powley has been an invalid, suffering from rheumatism for the last nine years. The surviving daughters are: Mrs. William Wright of Orillia, and Mrs. Joseph Stewart (widow) of Marchmont. The sons, Charles Jacob of Marchmont; George of Orillia and William of Marchmont also survive.

Frank L. Gillett
15066 Valley Vista Blvd.
Sherman Oaks
Calif.

From the above history, along with family records, we may construct the following genealogy list:

NAME	Birth	Death	Remarks
FRANCIS COTLINS BOOTH POWLEY	approx. 1725		First U.E.L. to settle at Kingston
JACOB POWLEY	approx. 1750		Son of Francis. Took up arms with British, fled to Kingston District, lived among Indians until close of war.
WILLIAM POWLEY	1778 at Schenectady, N.Y.		Son of Jacob, married Elizabeth Hoffman, daughter of a U.E.L.
JACOB HOFFMAN POWLEY	1808 at Kingston	1893 at Marchmont	Son of William and Elizabeth. In 1834 he married Mary Ann Clark, daughter of Andrew Clark, an Irish soldier. Jacob and family moved from Kingston to Marchmont in 1850-51 (along with his brother Simon Peter Powley), three sons Charles, George and William, two daughters, Martha and Mary Ann.
CHARLES JACOB POWLEY	1836 at Kingston	1916 at Orillia	Eldest son of Jacob and Mary Ann. In 1865 he married Caroline Hunt of Jarratt. One son, Hoffman and two daughters, Eva Caroline Powley (Gillett) and May Powley (White). Wife Caroline died in 1883. Remarried Georgina Wood of Orillia and then had six daughters and two sons.
HOFFMAN CHARLES POWLEY	1872? at Marchmont		Eldest son of Charles and Caroline. In ? he married ? They had ? sons and ? daughters.

F. L. Gillett
June - 1954

Frank L. Gillett

THE POWLEY FAMILY IN CANADA

Found in the Los Angeles Public Library

Book entitled: UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS -

CENTENNIAL OF THE SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CANADA

1784 - 1884

This very interesting book records the history of the coming of the Loyalists to Upper Canada (Ontario) and the Centennial celebrations held throughout the Province in 1884, commemorating the first 100 years of progress for this important part of Canada.

The U. E. Loyalists were citizens of the New England Colonies at the time of the Revolutionary War, who were in favor of loyalty to the British Government and, rather than join the Revolutionists, many of them took up arms in defense of the Mother Country. When the British lost the war and recognized the independence of the Colonies in 1783, these Loyalists found themselves to be without homes, their properties confiscated and they not wanted, and records show that in the next few years over 30,000 of them migrated to Canada, mainly to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, then Quebec and finally to the then forest wilderness of Upper Canada, the settlements being at Frontenac (Kingston), York (Toronto) and at Niagara.

During the war the soldiers and their families were fed from the British military supplies, but when the military returned to England many families were left destitute. To alleviate these conditions, the British Government immediately offered free land and other help to those Loyalist families who could move to British territory.

Many families availed themselves of this offer in 1784 and 1785, moving into the extreme eastern parts, mostly by means of boats along the Atlantic Coast, but in 1786 many arrived at Kingston and other inland centers by overland routes.

At each important center, British provisions were brought in for the Loyalist families, first food and some clothing, then simple pioneer implements as axes, hoes, shovels, etc., and finally many kinds of seeds.

When a Loyalist established his title or right to these provisions, his name was listed on "The Provision List" of that locality. In this way the names of these pioneer Loyalists have been preserved. Ontario has three on these "Provision Lists", namely, the P.L. of Kingston; the P.L. of Toronto and the P.L. of Niagara, and these lists are now all in "The Crown Lands Department at Toronto".

On the Kingston Provision List of 1786 are the following names:

- JACOB POWLEY - Son of Francis Cotlins Booth Powley
(Note by F.L.G.: Jacob had two sons, William the youngest being about eight years old when they arrived at Kingston.)
- FRANCIS POWLEY - Father of Jacob. (Recorded as the first settler in Kingston district.)
(Note: his family were Lutherans and had fled from the Religious Wars and persecutions of Europe and had been afforded shelter by the British Crown in the New England States.
- HOFFMAN - The Kingston P.L. records six Hoffmans, namely, Two Jacobs, David, Ellias, Ludowick and Philip. Therefore, we do not know which one was the father of Elizabeth who married Wm. Powley, son of Jacob.

NOTE: Another book: The Parish Register of St. George's Church at Kingston records a baptism in 1811, in which the God-mother was Amelia Powley. She may have been the wife, mother, sister or daughter of Jacob Powley.

In the first years of the Loyalists, surveyors were sent into the district and the land laid out in townships, concessions and lots, and each Loyalist was given a grant of 200 acres of free land. Later in 1789 at a council meeting in Quebec, it was ordered that said land boards may in every such case provide not only for the sons of those Loyalists as they arrive at full age, but for their daughters also of that age or on their marriage, assigning to each a lot of 200 acres more or less.

Frank L. Gillett
15066 Valley Vista Blvd.
Sherman Oaks
Calif.

F. L. Gillett
June - 1954

From The Orillia Packet of Jan., 1916

Charles Jacob Powley, who had been ill since last summer, and was confined to bed for fourteen weeks, died at his home, 222 Mary Street, Orillia on Saturday morning, January 1, 1916, at the age of 79 years. Deceased was born in Kingston, being a son of the late Jacob Huffman Powley. When 15 years of age Mr. Powley came to Marchmont with his parents. He and his father ran a saw mill and a grist mill at Marchmont, and after his father died, Mr. Powley operated both for a number of years in addition to his farm. For the past 18 years Mr. Powley had lived in Orillia.

He was twice married, first to Caroline Hunt of Jarratt, who died about 33 years ago. Three years later he married Georgina Wood of Orillia Township, who survives. He also leaves a family of three children by his first wife and eight children as a result of his second wife. Mrs. Geo. Gillett of Marchmont; Mr. Huffman Powley of Swift Current, Saskatchewan; and Mrs. Robert White of Marchmont constitute the first family and the second are: Miss Edna Powley, Mrs. George Hallett, Miss Minnie Powley, Mr. Jacob George Powley, Misses Hazel, Lottie and Lulu Powley, all of Toronto and Harold at home. Two brothers and one sister also survive: Mr. George Powley of Toronto; Mr. William Powley of Matchedash street, Orillia and Mrs. Joseph Stewart, formerly living at Marchmont, but for the past year residing in Orillia.

The funeral of the late Charles J. Powley was held on Tuesday afternoon to St. Andrew's cemetery, service being conducted by Mr. S. W. Benner. The pallbearers were the Messrs. Albert Wright, Charles Clark, Frank Nelson and Z. Babcock.

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