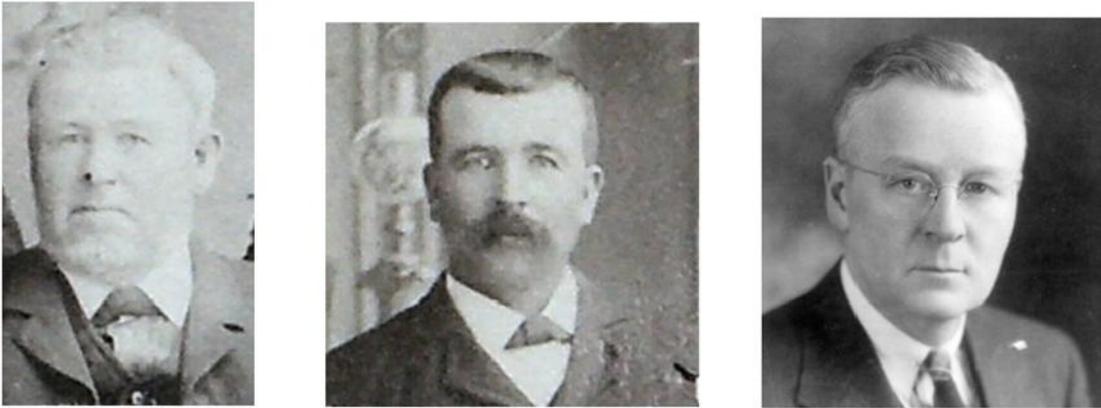


In the Line of David – Three Generations of David Hossie

by Tamara Langford



Pictured above: (L to R) David Hossie and son David Walker Hossie (circa 1880) and his son, David Neil Hossie

The Hossie surname is one with several connections in early Moore Township and surrounding areas of Lambton County. The family arrived from Scotland in 1833. There were the parents Andrew Hossie and Janet Wilson, seven of their nine children, as well as all their worldly possessions ... a trunk (no doubt filled with some clothing, blankets and a few other bits and bobs), a weaver's loom and a spinning wheel. They first settled near the St. Clair River close to Froomefield in the hopes of trying to continue with the family's Scottish profession of weaving, but when that would not suffice to sustain the needs of the family they applied for a land grant and eventually moved in to Concession 12 (now La Salle Line) of Moore Township.

Like many Scots, the Hossies followed some traditions and the Scottish naming scheme was one of them. This means that the first-born son is named after the paternal grandfather, the first daughter after the maternal grandmother, the second son after the maternal grandfather and the second daughter after the paternal grandma, then the third son is named after the father and the third girl named after her mother. Additional children might have been named after other relatives or in some cases when an earlier child died in infancy they would reuse a name or choose one that was popular at that time. I am a descendant of Andrew Hossie and Janet Wilson through the line of Andrew's ... their son Andrew being my second great grandfather and his son Andrew being my great grandfather. For this family story however, I would like to focus or follow 'in the line of David'.

David Hossie was the second son of Andrew Hossie and Janet Wilson. According to the aforementioned naming scheme then you will understand he was named after Janet's father David Wilson. David Hossie was born in Scotland in 1823 and arrived in Canada when he was 10. He had no formal education ... being self-taught or from lessons at church and Sunday school (learning to read and write), working alongside his father and brothers in establishing a home, farm and livelihood for all. In 1848 he married a fellow Scot, Isabella Galloway and the newlyweds settled on a section of the Hossie land on Lot 16, Concession 12, Moore Township. David Hossie and his wife Isabella had twelve children during their married life, with nine surviving to adulthood.

By 1856 David Hossie, now a family man was elected Reeve of Moore Township as well as being appointed a Justice of the Peace, allowing him authorities that went with that office. During that same decade, he was also appointed as an ensign of the 3rd Battalion Lambton Militia to patrol the St. Clair waters and shoreline during the period of the Fenian raids. He eventually was made a lieutenant. In 1863 David Hossie was appointed as the First Post Master at Logierait. By the end of the 1860s, their family was complete and life seemed good for this line of the Hossie family.

As the family grew, several of their children married and remained in the area. Some of the surnames that joined with this Hossie line through marriage might sound familiar to local Lambton readers with such names as Rattray, McKellar, Crone, Milliken, Burr and Gauld. Continuing however with the theme of this story ... their seventh child, son David Walker Hossie, married Sarah Crone. Although they were married in her home in Warwick Township in 1887, the couple resided first in Moore Township then Sombra Township before moving west. Their only children, two sons, were both born in Lambton County, first David Neil Hossie in 1890, followed by his younger brother Joseph Carlyle Hossie in 1897. In an early voters' list, David W. Hossie was listed as a farmer and joint owner of that partial plot of land ... lot 16 Concession 12 Moore Township. His father, the first David Hossie in this story, had retired to Sarnia and died in 1895.

From 1867, the year of Confederation, the Canadian west had truly opened up for settlement. Those people seeking a new life in the Canadian west were not only from abroad but the second and third generations of the early pioneers that had settled first in the east in areas that were known as Upper and Lower Canada. Surprisingly Upper Canada was called Canada West from 1841 to 1867 when it became known as the province of Ontario under Confederation. By 1901 and a new century, the second David Hossie, his wife Sadie (nee Crone) and their sons had left Moore and were living in Marquette, Manitoba where David was listed as a farmer once again. By the next federal census, the family had moved farther west to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. In the 1916 Census for the Canadian Prairie provinces, David W. Hossie was now living an urban life and his occupation was listed as a switchman for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Both their sons were listed on this same census; however, David Neil Hossie was abroad fighting in World War I. The census listed Joseph C. Hossie as a student of law. He also served in World War I but was injured and returned to Canada. Joseph remained in Saskatchewan the longest, becoming a barrister and also serving as mayor of Shaunavon, Saskatchewan in 1940. In records for December 1940 it has been listed that Mayor J. C. Hossie was the one to declare Boxing Day as a holiday.

Returning however to follow in the name of David ... D. W. Hossie and his wife remained in Saskatchewan at least until the return of their son David Neil Hossie from Europe in 1919. When D. N. Hossie returned, he took up practising law in the firm of Davis, Pugh and Davis in Vancouver, British Columbia which eventually became known as the law offices of Messrs. Davis, Pugh, Davis, Hossie, Ralston & Lett. At some point between that year and 1933 (the year of D. W. Hossie's death), David W. and his wife Sadie moved to British Columbia. For some reason this line of the family cannot be found in the Canadian archives for the 1921 Census in any province.

David Neil Hossie born in Moore Township, Lambton County, Ontario prospered in the West. In 1912 while studying in Saskatchewan, he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University in England. He accepted the scholarship and is listed as being at New College of the University of Oxford from 1912 until 1919. During his university years, there was the outbreak of World War I. Like many, including other Rhodes scholars, David Neil enlisted for duty and by the time he was 24 he was a lieutenant in the Imperial Army. During the war he was in France as well as Salonika (now Thessaloniki), Greece. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for being

mentioned in dispatches at least three times, as well as the Serbian Order of White Eagle with crossed swords medal. He earned his B.A. as well as his M.A. from Oxford for Law (Jurisprudence second class) before returning to Canada.

In 1926 David N. Hossie married Mary Gordon Stuart in Vancouver. She was the daughter of Brigadier General James Duff Stuart. David became a well-respected attorney of law and by 1932 he was named as K.C. (King's Counsel) for British Columbia. He was listed as D. N. Hossie Q.C. at the time of his death in 1962. He is proudly represented in the archives of the University of Saskatchewan and his legacy has been an award (prize)* for law students studying corporate law at the University of British Columbia. David N. Hossie and his wife Mary had two daughters and one son also named David. While most of his life was spent away from Moore Township, in some humble ways, it is securely attached to his father's and grandfather's family who were early settlers of the area.

Notes:

* David Neil Hossie, Q.C., Prize in Corporation Law. The prize is awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Law to a student attaining high proficiency in the field of Corporation Law.

-- Tamara Langford, January 2018

Information taken from family notes and research including records from Canadian and British archives. David Neil Hossie was my maternal grandfather's second cousin.

Biographical profile for Tamara (nee Veres) Langford:

I was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. I left in 1988 to teach in Yokohama, Japan for two years, which turned into three. During my third year, I met my British husband there and have lived in the northeast of England since 1991. While it is lovely to be surrounded by so much history here (and I live only a few miles from the home of Lord John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham and Governor-in-Chief of British North America in 1838), I have been researching my family history for many years which means a lot of my focus centres around Lambton County, Ontario. Names of interest to me include: Hossie; Mowbray; Stewart; Leys; Burdick; Sanderson; and McMechen; as well as several others that weave through laterally.

(FYI, I still call Canada home!)