Completion Report For G. Barry Ashwell

Email George Ashwell at gbabetaleph@gmail.com

Descendant of George Ashwell (1785 -1856)

Part of an Expert Connect Project

By Richard Ripley, UE, MA, APG
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August 9, 2010

A Project spanning records in England, Canada, and the United States.

NOTES: This project is a multi-phase project which required several on-site visits to gather information. For example, the Melrose Cemetery in Middlesex County, Ontario, was located and visited, and family graves were photographed, and the stone records were then interpreted and compared against property and other source records. The location of the family home was identified, and was also photographed. The archives at the London Public Library was consulted, and much family history was located and forwarded to the client. From the location of the possible will of George Ashwell as obtained from these archives, the will was located from The University of Western Ontario. The original document (see transcription below) was then supplied to the client.

This project was accepted in August 2010 by Barry Ashwell, the client. Barry gave Richard Ripley a five-star rating (out of a possible 5), and a high compliment. Richard Ripley subsequently did two more projects privately for Barry Ashwell.

Loyalist note: It was observed that George Ashwell was married secondly to a United Empire Loyalist descendant, and so the client and most of his living relatives would also be entitled to UE status by the bloodline rules of UELAC, but as the client lives in the United States, there was no interest in pursuing this aspect.

Copies of some of the images mentioned above, may be found at the end of this report.

Generation No. 1

1. **GEORGE1 ASHWELL** was born 10 December 1785 in Burgh, Suffolk, England, baptized by his mother only, at Saint Mary's Church, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and died 1856 in London Township, Middlesex County, Ontario. (*See photograph below.)*

   George was the son of William Ashwell (1750 – 1815) and his wife Mary Ann (Hannah) Baker (1750 – 1835) of Suffolk, England (married 03 August 1780 in Grundisburg, Suffolk, England. (All source records found & provided to Barry Ashwell by email. This is the extent to which the client wished to research for this project.)

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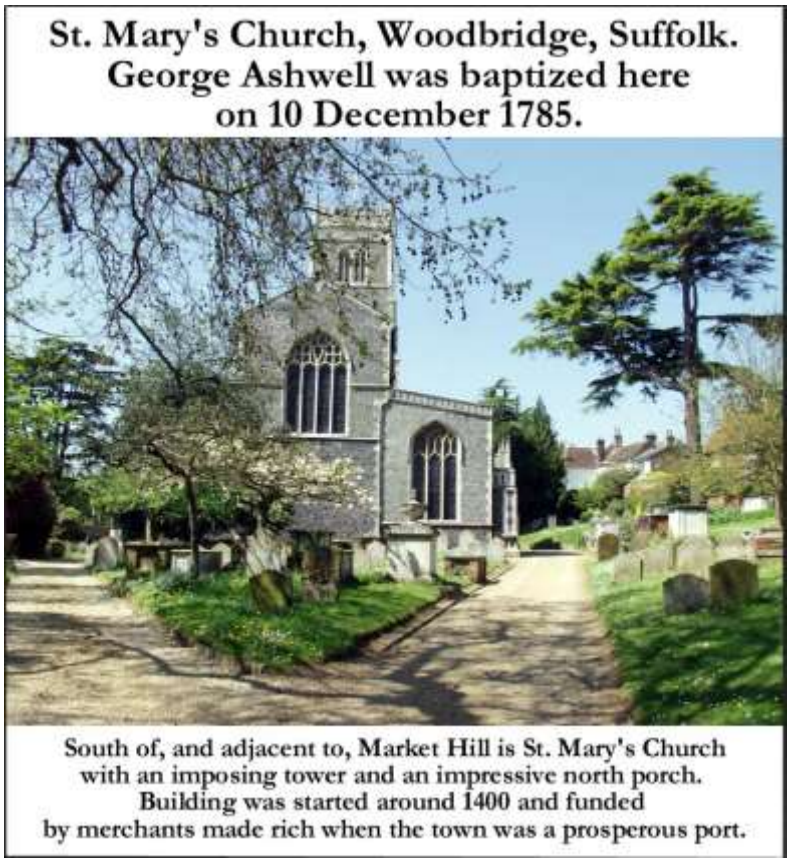
Exact date of death is not determined, but his estate was rendered in the Surrogate Court of Middlesex County on 18 March 1858, which makes clear that he had died over one year prior. The original will was signed by George on March 6, 1855 (see copy below). His gravestone says he died 1856.

George married (1) ELIZABETH TATEHAM 26 August 1819 in Hackney St. John Church, Middlesex, England. (Source marriage record provided in separate message). He married (2) MARY SPRINGER 03 September 1826 in Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario, daughter of DANIEL SPRINGER and RUTH FAIRCHILD.



Notes for GEORGE ASHWELL:

Cemetery Monument at Melrose Cemetery, Lobo Township, Ontario...

(Front of stone) (note inaccuracies) (see image below)

George Ashwell 1787-1856, Native of England, who came to London Township in 1819, his wife Elizabeth 1799-1825, also his wife Mary Springer, 1802-1886, daughter of United Empire Loyalist Squire Daniel Springer, Lt Colonel, and Ruth Fairchild of Delaware Township.
(Back of stone) (records incomplete, missing children & dates)
Ashwell Children - Louisa 1823-1894 m. Timothy Schram; William 1825-1868; Lucinda 1827-1844; Richard 1829-1861; Elizabeth 1803-1909 m. Duncan MacKenzie; Ruth 1835; Margaret 1837-1873 m. Hamilton Sharpe; Daniel 1839- 1915 m. Mary Ann Woods and Isabella Tuckey; Benjamin 1841-1865; Charles 1844-1923 (to California); Jane (no dates) m. James Williams; Mary (no dates) m. William Ferguson.

(Photographs of cemetery markers etc., taken by Richard Ripley, are found below.)

Land Grant Record....

> from LONDON Township Pioneers, by Frederick T. Rosser (The land locations of Richard Talbot's settlers in London Township are as follows: - Abbreviations: S. South; N. North; conc., concession.
> George Ashwell S1/2 lot 31 conc. 4 (c. 1819) (see more detail below)

From "London Township Family Profiles", page 13... (note inaccuracies which are corrected elsewhere in this report).

ASHWELL

George Ashwell (c. 1787 - 1856), according to family stories, was born in Lincolnshire, England. The same sources suggest, however, that the Aswells lived in Hertfordshire, where there is an old town named Ashwell. The 1842 London Township census notes that George had been in Canada for 42 years. It is believed that he was here in the township by 1819. He received 100 acres at S 1/2 Lot 31, Concession 4, from **Colonel Talbot**, and was also the owner of the west 50 acres at S. 1/2 lot 30, Concession 4. George was a farmer but at one time operated a grist mill opposite the Temperane Hall (probably at Melrose). Since he had to use steam, the cost was prohibitive and the project failed. By the 1850s, the Ashwells lived in a one-story brick house on the lot 31 farm.

Note that ***Colonel Thomas Talbot*** was responsible for settlement of virgin lands in the London District, in favour of Loyalist exiles from America. George Ashwell married as his second wife, a United Empire Loyalist daughter who carried this special entitlement.

His first wife, Elizabeth (c. 1799- 1825). is the earliest recorded burial in Melrose Cemetery, and her stone is still legible. They had two or more children. George's second wife was Mary Springer (1802-1886), born at Delaware, the fifth of nine children of Squire Daniel Springer and Ruth Fairchild. She died in Port Hope, Michigan, at the residence of her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Duncan MacKenzie. Her body was returned to Melrose to be buried beside her husband and other children. She was the older sister of Henrietta, wife of Francois Drouillard Jr., who lived on the next farm, west of the Ashwells, at Lot 32. Mary's maternal aunt, Margaret Fairchild, married Francois Drouillard Sr., who also lived at S 1/2 Lot 32, Concession 4. Squire Springer was a colonel of the militia at Delaware where he settled. He took an active part in the War of 1812. As a justice of the peace, he assisted in early marriages in the township. He was also a government agent among the Indians. Springer Creek (now called Oxbow Creek) was named for him.

George Ashwell's twelve children were Louisa, Jane, William, Lucinda, Richard, George Jr., Elizabeth, Ruth, Margaret, Daniel, Benjamin, and Charles. Mary Ashwell of the township, who married William Ferguson, in February 1848, may be another daughter. Of these children, William (1825-1868), Lucinda (1827-1844), and Richard (1829-1861), all sinble, were buried in the Melrose Methodist Cemetery with their parents.

1851 CDN Census at Lobo, Middlesex, Ontario, online at Ancestry.com.
***NOTE* only sons Richard and William are found in Lobo Township, near their half-sister Mary, who is wife of William Fraser.**

both appear to say ethnic origin SCOTTISH
William, born Canada, age 29;
Richard, born Canada, age 23.

The 1851-2 Census for London Township **<u>has been lost</u>**, and hence there i*s no listing for their father George Ashwell*, but the OGS has reconstructed that census by cross-referencing property & other records, and has found that George and Mary were living in London Township in 1852. George Ashwell Jr. is living in a separate household nearby.

Notes for MARY SPRINGER (a widow in 1881):

Household Record 1881 Canadian Census
Name Marital Status Gender Ethnic Origin Age Birthplace Occupation Religion
Daniel ASHWELL M Male English 42 Canada Grocer Methodist
Isabella ASHWELL M Female English 25 Canada Methodist
Ida ASHWELL Female English 13 Canada Methodist
Elma ASHWELL Female English 2 Canada Methodist
Daniel L ASHWELL Male English 2 Canada Methodist
Mary ASHWELL W Female German 79 Canada Methodist (Daniel's mother)

Source Information:
Census Place - Ward 6, London, Middlesex, Ontario; Family History Library Film 1375906; NA Film Number C-13270; District 170; Sub-district F; Division 2; Page Number 21; Household Number 103
Springer - **Fairchild Genealogy says that Mary Springer was daughter or RUTH FAIRCHILD and DANIEL SPRINGER (other sources also cited here).**

Children of GEORGE ASHWELL and ELIZABETH TATEHAM are:
(**NOTE** errors & omissions in the detail below, which are corrected in this report. The records immediately below are as provided in the ***Families*** book op. cit…)

2. i. LOUISA2 ASHWELL, b. 14 January 1823, London, Middlesex, Ontario; d. Aft. 1871, McGillivray, Middlesex, Ontario.
3. ii. MARY ASHWELL, b. 1824, London, Middlesex, Ontario; d. Aft. 1881, Lobo, Middlesex, Ontario.
Children of GEORGE ASHWELL and MARY SPRINGER are:
iii. WILLIAM2 ASHWELL, b. 1826, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario.
iv. LUCINDA ASHWELL, b. 1827, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario; d. 1844, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario (Bur. Melrose UCC Cemetery).

Notes for **LUCINDA ASHWELL: Death Record.**
•Name: Lucinda ASHWELL Sex: F Birth: 1827 Death: 1844; Burial: Melrose United Church Cemetery, Con. 3, Lot 15; Lobo Township, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada, UID: number on file

v. RICHARD ASHWELL, b. 1829.
4. vi. GEORGE WILLIAM ASHWELL, b. 16 April 1831, London Twp, Middlesex, Ontario; d. 17 March 1900, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario.
vii. ELIZABETH JANE ASHWELL, b. 05 May 1833, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario; d. 03 April 1909, Elm Lawn Cemetery, Bay County, Michigan; m. DUNCAN ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, 1853, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario.

Notes for ELIZABETH JANE ASHWELL:
Substantiated by information from "Volker Haus Family Tree" at Ancestry.com.
Household Record 1880 United States Census
Name Relation Marital Status Gender Race Age Birthplace Occupation Father's Birthplace Mother's Birthplace
Duncan A. MCKENZIE Self M Male W 52 CAN. Carpenter SCOT. SCOT.
Jane MCKENZIE Wife M Female W 49 CAN. Keeping House CAN. CAN.
Hannah MCKENZIE Dau S Female W 24 CAN. Helps In House CAN. CAN.
Libbie MCKENZIE Dau S Female W 22 CAN. Helps In House CAN. CAN.
Willie MCKENZIE Son S Male W 13 CAN. At School CAN. CAN.

Source Information: Census Place East Saginaw, Saginaw, Michigan, Family History Library Film 1254602. NA Film Number T9-0602 Page Number 350C.

viii. RUTH ASHWELL, b. 1835.
ix. MARGARET ASHWELL, b. 1837.
x. DANIEL ASHWELL, b. 1839; d. Aft. 1881, London, Middlesex, Ontario; m. ISABELLA TUCKEY, 28 December 1876, London, Middlesex, Ontario.

Notes for DANIEL ASHWELL:

Family marriage record… 6301-76 Daniel ASHWELL, 35, widower, farmer, London twp., same, s/o George ASHWELL & Mary, married Isabella TUCKEY, 20, London twp., same, d/o John TUCKEY & Margaret, witn: William TUCKEY of Lobo & John KENNEDY of London twp., 28 Dec 1876 at London twp

Household Record 1881 Canadian Census
Name Marital Status Gender Ethnic Origin Age Birthplace Occupation Religion
Daniel ASHWELL M Male English 42 Canada Grocer Methodist
Isabella ASHWELL M Female English 25 Canada Methodist
Ida ASHWELL Female English 13 Canada Methodist
Elma ASHWELL Female English 2 Canada Methodist
Daniel L ASHWELL Male English 2 Canada Methodist
Mary ASHWELL W Female German 79 Canada Methodist (Daniel's mother)

Source Information:
Census Place - Ward 6, London, Middlesex, Ontario; Family History Library Film 1375906; NA Film Number C-13270; District 170; Sub-district F; Division 2; Page Number 21; Household Number 103
xi. BENJAMIN ASHWELL, b. 1840.
xii. CHARLES ASHWELL, b. 1843.

Generation No. 2

2. LOUISA2 ASHWELL (GEORGE1) was born 14 January 1823 in London, Middlesex, Ontario, and died Aft. 1871 in McGillivray, Middlesex, Ontario. She married TIMOTHY SCHRAM 06 September 1847 in London, Middlesex, Ontario.

Notes for LOUISA ASHWELL:
Marriage: 1846 - Sept. 6 Timothy SCHRAM? to Loisa ASHWELL both of London. Wit: D.B. Birch, Margaret Ashwell.

1871 CDN Census at McGillivray, Middlesex North, Ontario

Household 104-106
SCHRAM (all show Wesleyan Methodist religion)
Timothy, 49, born Ontario, Dutch ancestry, farming;
Lousia, 48, (wife), born Ontario;
George, 24, unmarried, born Ontario, Preacher;
Jeremiah, 21, unmarried, farmer;
William, 20, unmarried, 20, farmer.

From "London Township Family Profiles" (op. cit., page 13, under the George Ashwell family...

Louisa Ashwell (1823-1894) married Timothy Schram (1821-1904). Their eight children were George Ashwell (1847), Jeremiah Burwell (1849), William (1851), Mary Elizabeth (1853), Louisa Jane (1856), Harriet Ann (1860), Alice Cordelia (1865), and Galbraith (1860).

Children of LOUISA ASHWELL and TIMOTHY SCHRAM are:
i. GEORGE ASHWELL3 SCHRAM, REV., b. 31 May 1847, Delaware Twp, Middlesex, Ontario; m. ELIABETH MARY MORGAN PLATT.

Notes for **Reverend GEORGE ASHWELL SCHRAM**:

SCHRAM, George Ashwell was born in Canada and was received on trial in 1870 at Glanford/Ainleyville, Wesleyan Methodist, 1869 Binbrook, 1871 Wingham, 1872 Drayton (Wellington Co.), 1873-1874 student Montreal Theo Coll, 1875 Vienna, 1876-1877 Bismark/West Lorne Aldborough Twp. (Elgin Co.), 1877-1878 Ravenswood... (From ***Canadian Methodist Ministers 1800-1925***)

Household Record 1881 Canadian Census

Name Marital Status Gender Ethnic Origin Age Birthplace Occupation Religion
George SCHRAM M Male German 33 O <Ontario> Minister Methodist Canada
Mary SCHRAM M Female English 26 Quebec Methodist Canada
Sarah SCHRAM Female German 2 O <Ontario> Methodist Canada
John SCHRAM Male German <1 Born: <Jun>; 10/12 O <Ontario> Methodist Canada
Allia SCHRAM Female German 17 O <Ontario> Methodist Canada

Source Information:
Census Place St Thomas, Elgin East, Ontario; Family History Library Film 1375901; NA Film Number C-13265; District 163; Sub-district C; Division 2; Page Number 65; Household 313

ii. JEREMIAH SCHRAM, b. 1850, McGillivray, Middlesex, Ontario.
iii. WILLIAM SCHRAM, b. 1851, McGillivray, Middlesex, Ontario.

3. MARY2 ASHWELL (GEORGE1) was born 1824 in London, Middlesex, Ontario, and died Aft. 1881 in Lobo, Middlesex, Ontario. She married WILLIAM FRASER 02 February 1848 in London, Middlesex, Ontario.

Notes for MARY ASHWELL:
1848
Marriage Feb. 2 1848, William FRASER to Mary ASHWELL both of London by license. Wit: Ann E. Ferguson, William Ashwell.

1851 CDN Census at Lobo, Middlesex, Ontario
FRASER
William, millwright, born Scotland, age 37 (birth year c. 1814)
Mary, wife, born Canada, age 26 (birth year c. 1824) (*Mary Ashwell*)
Meary, daughter, Canada, 3;
Elizabeth, daughter, Canada, 1.
(living next to Richard Ashwell and William Ashwell, brothers of Mary)

Household Record 1881 Canadian Census
Name Marital Status Gender Ethnic Origin Age Birthplace Occupation Religion
Mary FRASER W Female Scottish 59 O. <Ontario> Baptist (indicates bd 1822, born Ontario)
Donald FRASER Male Scottish 23 O. <Ontario> Farmer Baptist
Archibald FRASER Male Scottish 21 O. <Ontario> Agent Baptist
Ann MCDONALD W Female Scottish 37 O. <Ontario> Baptist
Isabella MCDONALD Female Scottish 25 O. <Ontario> Baptist
Catharine MCDONALD Female Scottish 15 O. <Ontario> Baptist
George FRITH Male English 21 England Laberor Church of England
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Source Information: Census Place Lobo, Middlesex North, Ontario; Family History Library Film 1375906; NA Film Number C-13270; District 169; Sub-district E; Division 2; Page Number 14; Household Number 68.

Children of MARY ASHWELL and WILLIAM FRASER are:
i. MARY3 FRASER, b. 1848, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario.
ii. ELIZABETH FRASER, b. 1850, Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario.

4. GEORGE WILLIAM2 ASHWELL (GEORGE1) was born 16 April 1831 in London Twp, Middlesex, Ontario, and died 17 March 1900 in Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario. He married RACHAEL SHARPE 10 February 1864 in Wentworth County, Ontario, daughter of ALLEN SHARPE and RACHAEL SHANKLIN.

Notes for GEORGE WILLIAM ASHWELL:
Marriage record...
Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1801-1926
about Rachel Sharpe
Name: Rachel Sharpe; Birth Place: Ireland; Residence: London; Age: 22; Estimated birth year: abt 1842
Father Name: Allen Sharpe; Mother Name: Rachel Sharpe
Spouse Name: George Ashwell; Spouse's Age: 32; Spouse Birth Place: London; Spouse residence: London; Spouse Father Name: George Ashwell; Spouse Mother Name: Mary Ashwell
Marriage Date: 10 Feb 1864
Marriage County: Wentworth; Archives of Ontario Microfilm: MS248_17
Source: Indexed by: Genealogical Research Library

From "London Township Family Profiles" (op. cit.) , page 13...

"George Ashwell Junior became a merchant in London and later in Strathroy. In 1864, he married Rachel Sharpe (c. 1842-1916) of Wentworth County, daughter of Allen and Rachel (Shanklin) Sharpe, natives of Ireland. Their eleven children were: Alice Viola (c. 1865), Ada Rachel (c. 1867), Jane (c. 1868), George William (1870-1922), Elda Eva (1872), Allan (c. 1874), Annie E. (c. 1876), Frederick Dixon (1878-1900), Charles Hamilton (c. 1880), Bertha Mabel (c. 1881), and Lula Maud c. 1883-1967). The parents are buried in Strathroy Cemetery."

Allen Sharpe & his wife are buried at Melrose Cemetery in Lobo Township, as per the photograph of their monument.
1881 CDN Census at Strathroy...
1 16 18 Ashwell Alice 7
1 16 14 Ashwell Alley 15
1 16 19 Ashwell Annie 5
1 16 21 Ashwell Charles 1
1 16 15 Ashwell Edith 13
1 16 17 Ashwell Elda 9
1 16 20 Ashwell Frederick 3
1 16 16 Ashwell George 11
1 16 12 Ashwell George 41
1 16 13 Ashwell Rachel 38
Family information from Volker Haus Family Tree at Roots Web, mostly confirmed by other family research.

•Name: George ASHWELL; Suffix: Jr.; Sex: M; Birth: 1831; Death: 1900
•**Burial**: Strathroy Cemetery, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada; Occupation: Became a merchant in London and later in Strathroy
•_UID: F0704135A4E2446AB134C7E8398AEFB909D6
•Change Date: 5 Jun 2008

Father: George ASHWELL b: Abt 1787 in Lincolnshire, England
Mother: Mary SPRINGER b: 1802-1803 in Delaware, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada
Marriage 1 Rachael SHARPE b: Abt 1842

•Married (Change Date: 21 Nov 2008)
Children
1. Alice Viola ASHWELL b: Abt 1865
2. Ada Rachael ASHWELL b: Abt 1867
3. Jane ASHWELL b: Abt 1868
4. George William ASHWELL b: 1870
5. Elda Eva ASHWELL b: 1872
6. Allan ASHWELL b: Abt 1874
7. Annie E. ASHWELL b: Abt 1876
8. Frederick Dixon ASHWELL b: 1878
9. Charles Hamilton ASHWELL b: Abt 1880
10. Bertha Mabel ASHWELL b: Abt 1881
11. Lula Maud ASHWELL b: Abt 1883

Children of GEORGE ASHWELL and RACHAEL SHARPE - **(NOTE this is the bloodline of Barry Ashwell)**

ii. RACHEL ADA3 ASHWELL, b. 14 October 1866, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario; d. 06 August 1947, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario; m. THOMAS N. DUNN, 01 January 1902, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario.
Notes for RACHEL ADA ASHWELL:
011930-02 Thomas N. DUNN, 43, manufacturer, Elgin Co., Strathroy, s/o John & Margaret, married Rachael ASHWELL,33, Strathroy, same, d/o George & Rachael, witn: Anne ASHWELL of Woodstock & Cecil RACE of Cobourg on Jan. 1, 1902 at Strathroy.
Rachael Ada Ashwell on 14 October 1866. She worked as a Clerk Dry Goods, Strathroy, Middlesex, ON, CA in 1901. She died on 6 August 1947. She was buried at Strathroy Municipal Cemetery, Adelaide, Middlesex, ON, CA
iii. ALICE VIOLA ASHWELL, b. 23 November 1866, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario; d. 05 March 1935, Los Angeles, California; m. CHARLES WESLEY WOODHULL, 25 February 1885, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario.
iv. GEORGE ASHWELL, b. 11 January 1870, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario; m. MAGGIE BARRY, 12 February 1896, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario.
v. ANNIE E. ASHWELL, b. 1876, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario; m. CECIL E. RACE, 22 July 1903, Strathroy, Middlesex, Ontario.

Notes for ANNIE E. ASHWELL:

Marriage: 012996-03 (Middlesex), Cecil E. RACE, 27, teacher, Port Hope, Cobourg, s/o George Robert and Emma, mar. Annie E. ASHWELL, 27, Strathroy, Strathroy, d/o George and Rachal, witn. James L. RACE of Port Hope and Minnie M. NICHOLSON of Strathroy, 22 Jul 1903 Strathroy

I certify this report. Richard Charles Ripley UE, MA. August 9, 2010.
2 of 35 images follow. All images provided by Richard Ripley.

Appendix A – *The Will of George Ashwell*

(transcribed from the original Surrogate Court Records at The University of Western Ontario, as found by Richard Ripley. A copy of the handwritten will was provided to the client by Richard Ripley)

Estate of George Ashwell deceased

(in left margin) do. 110, Canada, County of Middlesex, to wit, (countersigned by John H. J. Harris)

In the Surrogate Court of the County of Middlesex, Probate of the Last Will and Testament of George Ashwell, late of the Township of London, County of Middlesex and Province of Canada, yeoman, deceased.

"In the name of God, Amen.

I, George Ashwell of the Township of London in the County of Middlesex in the Province of Canada, being of sound mind and understanding, do make this my last will and testament, in manner following, that is to say, viz.

In the first place I will and bequeath unto my wife Mary all my personal property my money, outstanding debts, goods and chattels, and effects of whatever nature, and wherever situated, to have hold and enjoy the same according to her pleasures.

And I give and devise unto my said wife Mary all my lands tenements and herdiments wheresoever situated at the time of my decease, to have and to hold the same during the minority of my three youngest sons viz. Daniel Ashwell, Benjamin Ashwell and Charles Ashwell. And after the majority of said three sons I give and bequeath unto my said wife Mary Ashwell one-third of all profit arising out of any said lands and tenements to have to hold and enjoy the same during her life.

And I give and bequeath unto my son Daniel Ashwell fifty acres of land when he comes to the age of twenty-one years, situated and lying in the township of London in the County of Middlesex in the Province of Canada, being the east half of the south half of Lot number thirty-one in the fourth concession of the said Township of London to have and to hold absolutely and solely forever.

And I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Ashwell fifty acres of land when he comes to the age of twenty-one years being composed of the west half of the south half of Lot number thirty in the fourth Concession of the township county and Province aforesaid, to have and to hold the same absolutely and solely forever.

And I give and bequeath unto my son Charles Ashwell fifty acres of land when he comes to the age of twenty-one years, being composed of the west half of the south half of Lot number thirty-one, in the fourth concession of the said Township of London in the County of Middlesex and in the Province of Canada aforesaid, to have and to hold absolutely and solely forever.

And I hereby nominate constitute and appoint Stephen J. Lancaster and Andrew Ferguson both of the Township of Lobo in the County and Province aforesaid, the Executors of this my Last Will and Testament, revoking all former wills.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the sixth day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and fifty-five.

Signed sealed and declared by the same testator George Ashwell as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in the presence of said testator.

(signed) Wm. Boston
(signed) Robert Ferguson (signed) George Ashwell (diamond mark to certify)
(signed) S.J. Lancaster

In the Surrogate Court of the County of Middlesex, Canada. By the tenor of state Judiciant J. N. Lewis Allan, Esquire, Judge of the Surrogate Court of the County of Middlesex, in that part of the Province of Canada formerly constituting Upper Canada, hereby make known to all it doth or may concern, that on the day of the date hereof, was approved and registered the Last Will and Testament of George Ashwell late of the township of London in the County of Middlesex in the Province of Canada, Yeoman, deceased, a true copy whereof is above written, the said George Ashwell whilst living, and at the time of his death goods & chattels and credits in the County of Middlesex, in which county he usually resided, and having died possessed of goods to the value of five pounds in currency (?) when counted, other than this in which he usually resided, and not having died possessing of goods to the value of five pounds in currency or more severally counted (?) other than the County of Middlesex within that part of the Province formerly Upper Canada.

By reason whereof the proving of the said will and approbation and assignation thereof and committing of this administration of all and (?) parts the goods and chattels rights and credits which were of the said deceased and all the auditing then allowing and finally discharging the accounts thereof are well Resolved (?) to appertain to me and administration of all allowed discharging the good rights credits and chattels which were of the said desceased at the time of his death, and in anyway concerning his said will, is hereby committed to Stephen J. Lancaster and Andrew Ferguson both of the Township of Lobo the executors in the said will named, they having been duly sworn to administer the same according to the Law a true full and perfect inventory of all and describing the goods rights and chattels of the said deceased the same to be exhibited unto the Registry of the said Surrogate within six months and also to render a true and full account of this said administration where (thoronand?) lawfully required.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Surrogate Court this eighteenth day of March in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight.

(signed) Henry Allen J.

Genealogical Notes by Richard Ripley…

1. The will shown here is not the original will written by George Ashwell, but is a certified copy of the original will. The will was certified as signed by George on March 6, 1855. The Cemetery marker says that George died in 1856. The Surrogate clerk, Henry Allen, signing on behalf of the Surrogate Justice J. Allen, grants adminstration of the will to the executors on March 18, 1858.
2. The only beneficiaries named by George in his will, are his wife Mary, and his three underage sons (under 21 years of age), Daniel, Benjamin, and Charles. One assumes that the older children had received gifts or legacies, or were well established, by the time George wrote his will, and were not thought to be in need of a legacy.
3. George was living in London Township, and died there, but his named executors lived in Lobo Township. Hence, George was buried in Melrose Cemetery in Lobo Townhip. George makes reference to his properties in London Township, in legacies to his three youngest sons. The properties are at "east half of the south half of Lot number thirty-one in the fourth concession of the said Township of

London", and "the west half of the south half of Lot number thirty in the fourth Concession of the township", and "west half of the south half of Lot number thirty-one, in the fourth concession of the said Township of London". According to 'London Township Family Profiles', "He received 100 acres at S 1/2 Lot 31, Concession 4, from Colonel Talbot, and was also the owner of the west 50 acres at S. 1/2 lot 30, Concession 4. George was a farmer but at one time operated a grist mill opposite the Temperance Hall (probably at Melrose). Since he had to use steam, the cost was prohibitive and the project failed. By the 1850s, the Ashwells lived in a one-story brick house on the lot 31 farm." At the London Archives, it might be able to find the exact location of the Ashwell Family Home, to locate it on a contemporary map, and to visit the location. His youngest son, Charles, was born in 1843, and was only 12 years old when George wrote his will.

4. The executors listed by George, are "Stephen J. Lancaster and Andrew Ferguson both of the Township of Lobo", and both are accepted by the Surrogate Court to distribute the proceeds. One could assume that they were trusted & cherished friends of George Ashwell.