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Dear Cousin,

Since my retirement 4 years ago, there have been many distractions, but for the past three months I have been highly focused on family history. I have spent many hours in the study, working hard to reduce my feelings of guilt and a horrendous backlog of emails and correspondence. The emails are now almost up to date; an area of my desk is seeing daylight for the first time in two years (I know by the dates of letters that were at the bottom of that particular pile); the family tree has grown significantly and, at long last, here is another Teskey Newsletter! I do apologise for the erratic appearance of Newsletters and for the delays in replies to correspondence.

Almost two years have passed since Newsletter 34, with the inevitable consequence that there is an extended list of obituaries later in this edition. I am grateful to all who keep me updated with such family events. I am interested in births and marriages too, but space generally allows only for reports of deaths.

There was much excitement in the Teskey clan in January 2006, when Laureen Teskey shared centre stage as her husband became Prime Minister of Canada. They are pictured here with their children Benjamin and Rachel.



Those of you in my email address book received early word from me of Stephen Harper's election victory. If you have an email address but did not receive my message please email me and tell me your current electronic address.

I should know by now that a simple email to 300 Teskeys is guaranteed to generate a few responses, but it was like waking a sleeping giant. All sorts of queries and reminders came flooding back, as well as comments on the election result. Those comments ranged from euphoria to downright rude. I had forgotten how passionate Canadians can be about their politicians. I have little appreciation of Canadian party politics, but am sure the country has a decent, honest couple at the helm. I hope all Canadians will give them a fair chance to show what they can do for their country.

I sent my personal congratulations to Laureen and was surprised, indeed greatly honoured, to receive a personal reply. First thing in the morning after a hectic election night, and Canada's new first lady chose to write to me! Wow!! Never underestimate the power of the Teskey Newsletter!

Laureen said she had met my second cousin Barbara Teskey only a few days before. Barbara, now Pittam, later told me that she had attended Stephen Harper's final election rally. The place was



packed and she couldn't get anywhere near to attract Laureen's attention, so afterwards waited outside at a side door. When an official-looking chap emerged, she stepped forward, said her name was Barbara Teskey and asked to have a word with Laureen. Barbara had the forethought of holding the last edition of the Teskey Newsletter with the picture of Laureen and Stephen on the front cover to show that she was genuine. On shaking Stephen Harper's hand and producing the newsletter, he laughed and said he was certainly a lot thinner then. It is quite astounding what lengths some people will go to just to get a mention in this Newsletter!

Two years ago, when Stephen Harper became Leader of the Opposition, Laureen offered to host a Teskey gathering at his official residence. I rather ungraciously declined, adding that we would wait until he got the top job. I shall pursue the possibility of a Teskey reunion in Ottawa, hopefully with a visit to 24 Sussex Drive. Whilst all Canadians are familiar with this address, having a similar status to 10 Downing Street in the UK or the White House in the USA, it serves a different function. 24 Sussex Drive is the official, but private, residence of the Prime Minister, whilst the equivalents in London and Washington are also the leader's place of work.

I would like to get a feel for how popular a Teskey Reunion in Ottawa could be, so if you might be interested please drop me an email or a letter. I hope this may be possible during the summer of 2007. All attendees will, of course, be required to produce a Teskey Newsletter as proof of identity! I have been warned that minority governments do not usually last long in Canada, but I will put my faith in Stephen and Laureen to do a fine job and still be in residence.

Now, after all that excitement, back to some family history.

TESKEY ORIGINS

The article by Hank Jones in the July 2004 Teskey Newsletter generated much interest. This revealed strong indications that before leaving Germany in 1709, the earliest known Teskey, Jacob 1659, lived in Osthofen and had the surname Tesch. Angela Kavanagh, a descendant of Gideon 1826 Teskey and now a resident of Texas, felt frustration that she once lived only 10 miles from Osthofen without knowing its significance. Others have sought advice about the precise location (5 miles north of Worms) so they might visit, whilst yet more have been scouring the internet for references to the Tesch name and other variations. I have no new facts to add to what was reported in 2004.

THE LIFE AND FAMILY OF LILLIAN 1875 TESKEY 1875 - 1924

In previous editions I have referred to aspects of the life of my great aunt, Lillian Teskey, who has always been rather a mystery. For a while last year I focused my attention on her life and in so doing traced and made contact with several cousins of whom I had previously been unaware. I hope you will enjoy this in-depth account of her life.

First, I will take a couple of steps back prior to Lillian's birth . . .

John Nunn served with the British Army. Whilst a gunner with the Royal Artillery, he was based in Ireland, where he met and married Eliza 1855 Teskey in 1872. This somehow led to their siblings, Eliza Nunn and James 1851 Teskey making contact and then marrying in 1874.



James Teskey (1851 - 1916) came from Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland. Although born in Ireland, he was probably of 100% German origin, his ancestors all being descendants of the group of refugees from the German Pfalz who settled in Ireland in 1709.

Eliza Nunn (1850 - 1933) was born at Honington in Suffolk, the daughter of unmarried Hannah Cutting (1831 - 1893). Eliza took the name Nunn two years later when her mother married John Nunn (1829 - 1895).

James Teskey and Eliza Nunn, pictured above, were married at Norwood in Surrey on 21 July 1874 and settled in South London. They lived on a Peabody estate in Southwark, one of several such estates in London funded by wealthy American philanthropist George Peabody. The Peabody Estates were amongst the first and finest examples of social housing in London. Constructed from 1864 onwards they comprised groups of blocks of flats, providing living accommodation, baths, lavatories and washrooms, a standard far in advance of the norm for poorer families. The Teskeys were amongst 1,600 residents of the estate in Southwark. The Peabody estate is still there today and in a fine state of preservation. Block R is pictured here.



Lillian Teskey (1875 - 1924) was the first child of James and Eliza Teskey. She was born on 5 May 1875 at number 19 Block R, Peabody Square, Southwark, South London. Six more children were born there, although by 1891 they were living in Block T, which hopefully provided more spacious accommodation. Like many of her family, Lillian had chestnut hair and a good singing voice.

This photo, probably from around 1950, shows four of Lillian Teskey's siblings. Standing, from the left, are Naomi (Omie), Peter's wife Cissie and Pollie. Peter is sitting and in front of him is Miriam. James is missing, perhaps in Singapore, where he was a missionary.

Like so many teenage girls at that time, Lillian left home to go into service. The 1891 Census shows that she was living at 30, Princes Gardens, Knightsbridge, London, one of four domestic servants who looked



after a retired barrister, his wife and adult daughter. Her age is shown as 18, although she was really only 15.

Lillian's daughter Gladys told me that Lillian was proud of her Irish connections. "In her concert days" she used to sing all the traditional Irish songs. I have not ascertained the level at which she performed in concerts.

On 24 April 1896, Lillian gave birth to the first of her five children. Violet Eva Thompson (right) was born at 7 Shorts Gardens, in London's theatre area. The birth certificate shows her parents as **William Thompson**, seaman, and Nellie Thompson, formerly Teskey. I have found no evidence of any marriage between Lillian and William Thompson, no other example of Lillian being referred to as Nellie, and no other reference to William Thompson.



Violet Eva Thompson (1896 – 1968) was known as Eva.

She seems to have spent some, if not most, of her childhood with her grandparents, James and Eliza Teskey at 95 Manor Road, Leyton, London. She was certainly there on the 1901 census and wrote to my grandparents, Peter and Cissie Teskey, from that address. I have not located Eva's mother, Lillian, anywhere on that 1901 census.

Eva "married" Alfred Ernest Gunning (1894 – 1981), although I have not found any official evidence of a marriage. In their earlier years they lived in various parts of London, eventually settling in Barnet. They had three daughters: Yvonne (now Steward) born 1921, Betty Joyce (Smith) (1924 – 1990) and Patricia (Haskell) born 1932 and now living in New Zealand. Yvonne lived in Suffolk with her grandmother Lillian until she died, and then went to live with her mother Eva in London.

On 5th November 1898, Lillian Teskey, "spinster", married **Frank King (1869 - ??)**, widower. The marriage took place at the Register Office in the London District of St Giles (previously known as Bloomsbury and now within the borough of Camden). The marriage certificate tells us that Lillian was still a domestic servant, now living at 178 Drury Lane – in the heart of London's theatre land. Frank, described as a miner, was living at the County Council Lodging House, Parker Street. His father is given as William King (deceased), a navy pensioner. The witnesses were Naomi (Lillian's sister) and Naomi's husband Richard Aked.

James Gordon King (1899 – 1977) was born to Lillian on 10 February 1899 in Lambeth registration district. He was always known as Gordon and was brought up at Culford, just North of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk by David and Alice Balls. Alice was his great aunt, a younger sister of Eliza Nunn, Gordon's maternal Grandmother.

During his service in World War I, Gordon King became so frustrated with wrongly-delivered mail to someone with his relatively common surname that he changed it from King to Teskey-King. He married Sarah Sutcliffe Leeman (1898 – 1984) in 1917.

Gordon and Sarah had four sons, Gordon (1918 – 1919), Edmund (Ted) (1920 – 1992), Arthur (born 1921) and Eric (1923 – 1993). The family lived, and still live, in Kingston-upon-Hull. Gordon was a company accountant, a Justice of the Peace and an active member of the Labour political party. He served as Lord Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull in 1963-64 and the Teskey-King School is named after him.

Alexander Chappell King (1903 – 1935), Lillian's third child, was born on 18 July 1903 at 70 Pearcroft Road, Leytonstone in North-East London. His birth certificate names his father as William Richard King, brick layer. I assume this is the man recorded as Frank King on the certificates of Lillian's marriage and Gordon's birth.

I have no further information about Frank King (or William Richard King). I have been unable to trace a record of either his birth or his death.



Alexander grew to be exceptionally tall, perhaps 6 feet 7 inches. He was usually known as "Alec". He served in the Royal Horse Guards and could be seen on duty in London's Whitehall.

Alec married Violet May Miles (1899 – 1991) on 28 January 1926 at St Pancras Register Office, London. At that time he was a Lance Corporal, residing at Combermere Barracks, Windsor. The marriage certificate records his father as simply "- King (deceased)". Violet was recorded as living at Mornington Road, London NW, the daughter of Thomas Miles, a retired mechanical engineer. Violet was born 18 March 1899 in Plumstead, Kent, the daughter of Thomas and Emily Miles.

After Alec left the army he worked as a flower seller at Covent Garden market. He and Violet lived in South London. Alec contracted tuberculosis (TB). At that time there was no available antibiotic treatment. He became gradually more ill and died at the age of 31 at 11 Greycot Road, Beckenham. His widow, Violet, lived to the age of 92 and died in 1991 at Poole, Dorset.

Alec and Violet had one child, Alec Ivor King (1928 – 1978). He was born on 11 February 1928 at 17 Mornington Road, St Pancras, North London. His birth certificate shows his father as Alexander Chappell King, a flower market salesman.



Young Alec grew to be a tall man, like his father. He was known by some of the family as Little Alec, his father then being Big Alec. Little Alec married his first wife, Sheila Patricia Major (1928 - 1981) in Lechlade, Gloucestershire in 1949. At that time he was an aircraft engineer. His marriage is the first record I have found where the hyphenated surname Chappell-King is used. Thereafter, all references to Little Alec and his descendants use Chappell-King. The "Chappell" part of the name first appeared in 1903 as a middle name on Alexander's birth certificate. I have no idea what inspired the choice of this name.

Alec and Sheila Chappell-King had three children: Paul in 1952, Nicholas in 1954 and Carole in 1956. Alec and Sheila separated and Alec married Gillian Helen Timbs in Oxford in 1970. A son Toby was born to them in 1973. Little Alec was my second cousin, so I was really pleased that my researches brought me into contact for the first time with all four of his children.

On 21 January 1907, Lillian King married **Alfred George Chamberlain (1860 - 1924)**. The marriage certificate shows Lillian as a widow of 31 and Alfred as a widow of 46, a cow keeper, son of Henry Chamberlain, retired blacksmith. The marriage took place at the Register Office, West Ham, at that time in Essex and now in London. Lillian's address is given as 12 Westerham Road, Leyton and Alfred's as 95, Manor Road, Leyton (the home of Lillian's parents James and Eliza Teskey).

Alfred was a Suffolk man, born at Barnham near Thetford. After their wedding, Alfred and Lillian retreated to Suffolk, where they lived for the rest of their lives. They had two children: **Gladys Miriam Chamberlain (1908 - 1994)** and **William Albert Chamberlain (1912 - 1988)**. They were born in Walsham le Willows, near Stowmarket.

This family photo, taken in 1919, is the only one I have of Lillian.



The family moved to Chevington, just South of Bury St Edmunds. Gladys recalled happy times there, and that her parents were contented.

Tragically, those happy times came to an abrupt end in August 1924. Lillian died on the 3rd, following a heart attack, followed by Alfred on the 13th, undergoing a prostate operation. They are buried in an unmarked grave in Bury St Edmunds cemetery. Grave number 57a lies close to the chapel. It is in the centre of this photo, between the horizontal and upright gravestones.



Lillian's 4th and 5th children, Gladys, just 16, and William, 11, soon left their Suffolk home behind. Taking only their cat, they went to live with their aunt and uncle, Omie and Richard Aked in Leyton, north-east London.

Omie, Lillian's younger sister, was famous for her generosity in taking in waifs and strays. Gladys and William became part of her family. So much so that six years later Gladys married Omie's son Jack Aked, her 1st cousin. They lived in Leyton and had two children: Tony (born 1934) and Eileen (1936 - 1990). I also lived in Leyton for my first 28 years, but did not meet Gladys until many years later, when I became interested in family history. She gave me lots of encouragement and was active in putting me in touch with relations. She was a very energetic lady and had retained the Suffolk accent of her early years.

When Gladys's brother William grew up he spent some time in South Africa before returning to settle in England. He married Sarah Lines and had daughters Sheila in 1936 and Doreen in 1938.

Omie Teskey once told Gladys that the first wife of her father Alfred Chamberlain had been a sister of Eliza Nunn / Teskey. I have been unable to find any record of such a marriage, but perhaps one day it will emerge. I have also failed to establish marriages for four of Eliza Nunn's sisters.

Lillian Teskey's abbreviated family tree (omitting current generation)

James Teskey (1851 - 1916)

+ Eliza Nunn (1850 - 1933)

Lillian Teskey (1875 - 1924)

+ William Thompson

Violet Eva Thompson (1896 - 1968)

= Alfred Ernest Gunning (1894 - 1981)

= (1) Frank King (1869 - ??)

James Gordon King (1899 - 1977)

= Sarah Sutcliffe Leeman (1898 - 1984)

Gordon King (1918 - 1919)

Edmond Teskey-King (1920 - 1992)

Arthur Teskey-King (1921)

Eric William Teskey-King (1923 - 1993)

Alexander Chappell King (1903 - 1935)

= Violet May Miles (1899 - 1991)

Alec Ivor King (1928 - 1978)

= (1) Sheila Patricia Major (1928 - 1981)

= (2) Gillian Helen Timbs (1946 - 1990)

= (2) Alfred George Chamberlain (1860 - 1924)

Gladys Miriam Chamberlain (1906 - 1994)

= John Aked (1905 - 1981)

William Albert Chamberlain (1912 - 1988)

= (1) Sarah I Lines (1913 - ??)

= (2) Rose Nelly ?? (1916 - 1996)



There has been little contact between the families of Lillian's children, largely because they had been scattered by their Mother around England. Arthur Teskey-King never met his uncle Alexander or cousin Alec. Tony Aked recalled visiting cousin Alec around the time of World War II – the lasting memory for young Tony was that Alec, who was several years older, had an aeroplane propeller in his bedroom. Perhaps it's not too late to revive some contacts.

To date, I have established the names of over 130 descendants of Lillian Teskey. I would not be surprised if there are more to be found.

SOURCES OF NEW FAMILY CONTACTS

My searches of prime family history documents (births, marriages, deaths and censuses) have focused on older records, especially outside the UK, and in any case have concentrated on occurrences of the Teskey name. This is such a large, and seemingly endless, challenge that I do not usually pursue female lines once the Teskey name has been lost through marriage. It is therefore fortunate that the internet provides opportunities to make contact with descendants from female Teskeys, in whom I am just as interested. Such contacts often lead to the appearance of a whole new branch of the family. I am always very happy to enter such new information on my master family tree, albeit that such input does not always happen immediately.

There are two particularly fruitful sources for new family contacts: our own www.Teskey.org and also www.genesreunited.co.uk. The Teskey website is ably managed by Tom Upshaw. New visitors tend to leave a message in the Guestbook, which I then follow up. On GenesReunited subscribers enter their own family tree and are advised of potential links with trees submitted by other subscribers. The Teskey name has been recorded by a growing number of contributors, providing another avenue for making contact. The next two items relate to 'new' cousins who I have 'met' through GenesReunited.

CANADIAN DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW 1845 TESKEY

Reed Winstone is an avid recorder of his extended family on GenesReunited. At the last count, he had entered over 4,000 names. I spotted his tree because he had listed his great grandmother, Mary Adeline Teskey, born in 1874 and henceforth MARY1874B (to distinguish her from MARY1874A, Mary MacLeod Teskey who married William Beers – but that's another story!) Through an oversight I did not even have MARY1874B on my family tree. That has now been corrected.

Over the years I have accumulated many records of Teskey events, most of which have been entered onto a database. I should be adding to that list and going through it systematically to add any new information into the family tree, but it rarely works like that. Usually, as in this instance, I carry out a search of the database in connection with a particular line of enquiry. This helped me to establish that Andrew 1845 Teskey and his wife Sarah Ann Bunston had 5 children, not two as I had first thought. Sadly, three sons died young, one a few months old and two when they were just 17. Life was hard in the late 1800s before we had the life-saving medicines and healthcare facilities we take for granted today.



The premature deaths of their sons left Andrew and Sarah with two daughters. The older, Mary Adeline, married William Bowman in 1895. Reed Winstone's research found that they had eleven children. These eleven are 1st cousins of Morley Teskey, Velma Eveleigh and Sadie Tiffin, recipients of this Newsletter. I have added all eleven plus their offspring onto my Teskey tree - in total well over 200 additional descendants.

Mary Adeline's younger sister, Martha 1880, married Jacob Randall in 1902. For now, I have lost sight of her, but perhaps she will come into view again when a descendant embarks on family history and makes contact.

ENGLISH DESCENDANTS OF ELIZA 1855 TESKEY

Paul Carter is another recent contact through the GenesReunited website. We discovered we were 3rd cousins. In fact we are double 3rd cousin because Paul's great grandparents Eliza 1855 Teskey and John 1852 Nunn were both siblings of my great grandparents James 1851 Teskey and Eliza 1850 Nunn.

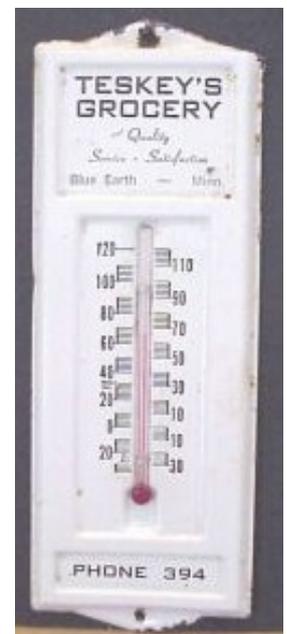
Having exchanged lots of information with each other, Paul came to visit with his family. It's an uncanny feeling when someone you have never met before produces photos of your own grandfather!

THE TESKEYS OF BLUE EARTH, MINNESOTA, USA

I suspect most computerized folk who read this Newsletter will be familiar with eBay, an internet-based worldwide auction house. It is possible to buy and sell just about anything through this medium and I have purchased a number of items of Teskey memorabilia. Last year, somebody offered for sale a thermometer that bore the name Teskey's Grocery. I was surprised by the number of people who bid for it. Having failed to win it I contacted the other bidders. If the helpful responses I received are typical of the folks in Blue Earth, it must be a really nice, friendly place. I put together parts of the replies I received from 5 of the bidders and sent it to all who had responded. All their information was news to me. I hope you will enjoy the different perspectives of those who bid for that thermometer. Here goes . . .

1: I have no ties to the Teskey family. I just reside in Blue Earth here with my family. My husband remembered the grocery store. He's out hauling corn as we speak but when he gets in I'll ask him if he knows anything.

2: Blue Earth is where I and most of my family originated. I remember my folks (now deceased) several times talking about some far-off...through marriage, I guess...relation to the Teskeys. We lived in Blue Earth (City) from 1945 to 1959 when I left for the Navy...never to return again! Back then, we lived 2 corners away from the Teskey grocery...and would often walk there...it was directly on route home from school....and Dad had a "charge account" there.





3: I am from Blue Earth and collect Blue Earth collectibles. As for the Teskeys, I used to live 2 blocks from the Grocery Store in Blue Earth when I was a little boy. I remember going there and buying groceries as a young boy both alone and with my mother. They were always such a happy and delightful couple. It brings a smile to my face when I think of them and that is why I wanted this memory.

4: I am a life-long resident of Blue Earth (57 years) and collect any memorabilia about it. The Teskeys ran a VERY small neighborhood grocery store here when I was a kid. His name was Walter and I believe his wife's name was Marie. I remember him as a jovial person who was always smiling. The store was located about three blocks from where I grew up. At the time there were 7 grocery stores in town all making a good living----now there is only one. I liked it better back then! There was also an Edger Teskey (brother or cousin) who ran an auto repair shop here in town. He passed away a couple of years ago. His son (I hope this is the correct lineage) Bob worked at the local fleet store for many years. He is in his 70's now. Bobs' son Jeff lives in Wells, MN and is a good friend of mine. Hope this info helps in your research!

5: I collect a lot of local advertising stuff from the Blue Earth, MN area so I was bidding on the Teskey item. I also have a few items with the Teskey name on them and would be willing to sell some since I am getting older and my children have little interest in them. Let me know if you are interested and I can let you know what I have and price.

With help from the American censuses, which are available as recently as 1930, I have been able to establish that the shopkeeper was Walter William Teskey (1904 to 1995) and his wife was Mae Genevieve (1905 to 1988). Walter was a grain farmer in 1930, so presumably changed career. Walter's father was William 1874 Teskey, whose father came from Germany.

Now, there was an Edgar Alfred Teskey (1908 to 1994) in Blue Earth. He was the son of Herman 1877 Teskey, who also had a German father. I have not yet established a link between Walter and Edgar, or the original family surname, for there are plenty of options in the earlier Blue Earth censuses. However, I am sure we have found yet another source (or perhaps two sources) for people with the Teskey name today. One of those is a long-established contact, James 1934 in Wisconsin, a son of Edgar. I hope he enjoys this story and can perhaps add a little to it.

In pursuing this enquiry, I have gleaned lots of data on the Teskeys of Minnesota and will carry out some more work to try to link them together.

TESKEY MEMORABILIA

I have collected several works of art from a number of talented Teskeys. The opportunity arose recently to acquire another on eBay - a painting by Donald 1956 Teskey. However, his works are a little out of my price range and this one sold for 50,000 euros (about \$60,000 or £30,000). Donald was brought up in Rathkeale, the son of Norman 1927 and Maureen, and is probably Ireland's best known present day artist.





FALLEN LEAVES

I am sorry to report that many leaves have fallen from the family tree since I last wrote.

ADA EVELYN TESKEY (1909 - 2005)

Ada was a descendant of pioneer John 1769, the 6th and youngest child of the first Dr Luke Teskey. She never married and died at Thornbury, Ontario, not far from Collingwood and Owen Sound. She had been a secretary until retirement some 30 years ago.

DEBORAH ANN BOYES (1948 - 2004)

Debby was one of my longstanding correspondents, one of several grandchildren of Ethel 1873 Teskey. Ethel's father John Adam 1837 Teskey owned the woollen mill in Appleton, Ontario. Debby was only 55 when she passed away in June 2004 after 3 weeks in hospital with an undiagnosed illness. Janice and I met her about 10 years ago when she, husband Bayne and son Graham hosted a family gathering at their home in Vancouver. Debby was a very active, caring person and will be missed by many people from many walks of life.

GERALD LUCIAN MORGAN SMITH (1909 - 2005)

Brigadier Smith was the father of Debby Boyes and also of Sally Koonce, another long term contact. He was married to Edith West, the daughter of Ethel 1873 Teskey.

DEAN CORBITT (1923 - 2005)

Dean was married to Fran, another descendant of pioneer John 1769. Before retirement he had been a Vice President of Bank of America. They were keen family historians and travelled extensively from their home in San Francisco, California. We met Fran and Dean on several occasions and some of you will remember them from the "Teskeys in Ireland" vacation of 1999.

WILLIAM HENRY TESKEY (1914 - 2005)

Bill was a grandson of pioneer John 1832. He had a career in banking which on one occasion brought him into contact with the British royalty, playing tennis with the Duke of Windsor (England's former King Edward VIII) and dancing with the Duchess. In later life he was known as an organist and maker of children's toys for charity. I met him at his home in Toronto in 2001 and he was pictured in Newsletter 32.

WARREN TESKEY / HAWLEY (1928 - 2005)

Warren was a great grandson of pioneer John 1832 and 1st cousin once removed to Bill, whose death is recorded above. He was born Teskey, but changed his name to Hawley when his Mother divorced and remarried. He lived in Los Angeles and came to visit us in England six years ago with his wife Vivian.

GEORGE HENRY TESKEY (1927 - 2005)

George was from the Orillia branch, a great grandson of pioneer Joseph 1805. He was the co-founder with his brother Howard of the Teskey Concrete and Construction Company in Toronto. They started as young men with a van and a wheelbarrow and through hard work grew the business into one with scores of cement mixers. I recall the thrill of my first sighting of one of these during our first visit to Toronto. George left a host of sons and grandsons to carry on the family name.



RUTH ELEANOR TESKEY (1922 – 2005)

Ruth Richardson was a young nurse when she came to work at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. There she met and married Willis 1921 Teskey, a descendant of pioneer Hugh 1788. They married and ran a fuel depot. Willis served as town mayor for several years. They had three sons, Bob, Glen and Tom. Bob is known to many of us as the lawyer who overcame diabetes. After a full and active life, Ruth died in 2005 at the age of 83. Janice and I were made very welcome when we stayed with her in Rocky in 1995.

WARREN GLEN TESKEY (1971 – 2005)

Warren was Ruth's grandson, son of Glen. He suffered from a rare blood disorder and died after an unsuccessful bone marrow transplant. He leaves a young wife Bev and 9 year old daughter Brittany.

BORDEN McLEOD (1942 – 2006)

Borden's photo appeared on the front page of the last Newsletter. He and his wife Pat (nee Teskey) hosted the reunion at their home in Calgary which allows several members of the Teskey clan to claim that they know the Canadian Prime Minister. Both Pat and Borden were in the teaching profession and took full advantage of the long vacations, travelling extensively to many fascinating parts of the world. Borden designed learning programmes. He died of cancer at the age of 63. Janice and I are very pleased that Pat (who is descended from the Appleton Teskeys) will soon be making a second visit to our home. I am sure we will recall memories of several previous occasions when we were all together with Borden.

MERLE EUGENE TESKEY (1931 – 2004)

It is rather sad when my first sighting of a Teskey is their obituary. Merle was one of these. He died in Brownsburg, Indiana, just outside Indianapolis, and is survived by his wife Beverly, seven children and fourteen grandchildren. I have recorded his branch on the family tree, but so far I'm not 100% certain how they fit into the bigger picture. I suspect Merle was the son of Francis 1888 Teskey (Frank) and his wife Ruth. Frank started out life as a Tuskey, but his father Henry 1861 Tuskey changed it to Teskey "because that's what it used to be". Henry's father James 1821 Tuskey migrated around 1850 to Susquehanna, Pennsylvania from Adare, Co Limerick, Ireland. He was almost certainly descended from the Teskeys. All of Henry 1861's descendants are now Teskey, whilst most of their American cousins are Tuskey!

AUDREY MAVIS TESKEY (1917 – 2004)

Audrey was the wife of Rupert Teskey. Janice and I met them about 10 years ago when Rupe treated us to a flight in his plane over the California desert. Rupe's father John 1889 (known as Walter) had lived in the house known as "Rockfield Castle", just outside Rathkeale, before emigrating to Toronto, where he established a trucking business and brick yard.

HONOR GLADYS FERGUSON (1922 – 2004)

Honor 1922 was the sister of Rupe and sister-in-law of Audrey, mentioned immediately above.

ANTHONY PATRICK TESKEY (1948 – 2005)

I was sorry to read of the death in West Virginia of Anthony Teskey, with whom I had corresponded for a while. I established that he was the great grandson of a Polish immigrant, also called Anthony, whose son had simplified the family name from Tzrebietowski to Teskey.



MURIEL ISABELLA PERSSE (1924 – 2005)

Muriel lived in Manchester and was one of my first English Teskey contacts. She was born in Dublin as Muriel Keatinge, the granddaughter of Henrietta 1874 Teskey and great granddaughter of Solomon 1838. She was very interested in her family and willingly shared her collection of memories and photographs. She was delighted to make contact with Solomon's descendants who had scattered around the world, and drew particular pleasure from a friendship that developed after she met up with 2nd cousin Dianne Teskey, who lived not far away in Wigan.

HELEN ("TEAK") PARKER (1923 - 2005)

Helen Parker was known as "Teak", a nickname acquired as a child from her parents. She was born Helen Doreen Teskey in 1923, the daughter of Alvin 1897 and Tina Teskey of Sarnia, and a granddaughter of George 1870 and Annie Gough. Teak was a registered nurse for 45 years at the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital, Petrolia, Ontario and later served on the hospital board. She had no children and was pre-deceased by husband Ken Parker. Her death was reported to me by Jane Teskey, wife of Mark 1958 and resident of Petrolia. Jane knew Teak personally, although Teak and Mark were descended from different Teskey pioneers.

ROBERT WILLIAM TESKEY (1950 – 2005)

Bob Teskey was a descendant of Orillia pioneer Joseph 1805 Teskey and a grandson of George 1870 and Annie Gough. He was a 1st cousin of Teak, referred to immediately above. He was a popular teacher for 30 years in Sarnia, Ontario, and with his wife Barbara raised sons Matthew and Adam. In his spare time, Bob enjoyed painting and writing. He had been a contact of mine and a Teskey Newsletter recipient for 12 years.

DOROTHY TESKEY (1915 - 2005)

Dorothy was the widow of Doug 1922 Teskey, another first cousin of Teak and Bob, whose deaths are recorded above. By a strange coincidence Dorothy and Bob died on the same day, 12th April 2005. Doug had been a sea captain on the Great Lakes. Janice and I once had breakfast with Doug and Dorothy at their home in London, Ontario– a rather odd experience as Doug insisted on videoing the occasion!

BEN (1913 – 2004) and BETTY (1921 – 2005) TESKEY

Both Ben and Betty Teskey of Guelph, Ontario died over a year ago. They filled a special place in our hearts. Ben was my first Teskey contact outside the British Isles. We were introduced by Gladys Aked, daughter of Lillian Teskey whose story is told earlier in this Newsletter. Gladys and Ben were distant cousins and shared their interest in the Teskey family history. They visited one another some 20 years before and remained good friends. Ben's great grandfather, Joseph Teskey, was born in Courtmatrix, Rathkeale, in 1805, a 1st cousin of Gladys's ancestor, Jacob 1790 Teskey. Joseph 1805 migrated to Canada in 1842, settling in the Orillia area.

Ben and I engaged in regular correspondence. In 1992 he and Betty accepted our invitation to visit us in England. They were non-committal about how long they would stay, but we got on so well that we spent two happy weeks together, based at our home but also visiting Gladys Aked in London and Rathkeale in Ireland. Later, we stayed several times at their home near Guelph and shared vacations in Germany and Ireland.

Ben was always keen to relate the history of his Orillia branch of the family. His children and grandchildren were brought up with a sound knowledge and pride in their roots. Some years ago Ben responded to my request for personal profiles and it now seems entirely appropriate to repeat the one he wrote about himself . . .



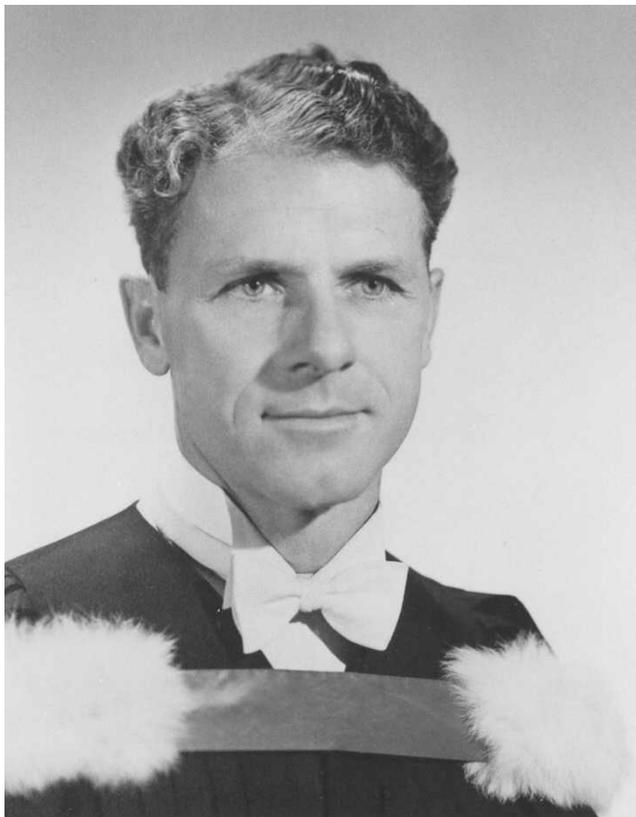
Benjamin James E Teskey – a profile

Birth: Oct 13 1913 at "Rosemount Gardens", Calverly St, Orillia Township, County of Simcoe (adjacent to town of Orillia, now part of Orillia).

Parents: Joseph James Teskey (1876 – 1960) and Adeline Ella Willson (1874 – 1961) – Irish Norman ancestry.

Marital: married Jane Steele 1936 – they had 6 children: Robert, Dennis, Maureen, David, Patricia and Donald. Jane died 1967. Married Betty Jane Skinner 1969.

Early life: born and raised on fruit and veg farm – production and wholesale buying and selling. Helped on farm and in business from early age – as matter of course.



Education: (formal) Rural elementary school; Orillia & District Collegiate Institute (high school) – senior matriculation; Teacher's College 1932-33 – First Class Certificate (temp); met Jane Steele; granted permanent Teacher's Certificate 1940. After meeting all requirements, University of Guelph (BSc) 1949; University of Toronto (MSc) 1953.

Activities: Taught elementary school – Moonstone, Ontario. Principal elementary school – Creemore, Ontario. Enlisted in RCAF 1940. Competitor in swimming, running, wrestling and boxing (never an Olympian!). Active in music (singing, piano, guitar, harmonica), canoeing, painting & sketching, camping, naturalist.

In 1945, took advantage of Government offer to Veterans and registered at University of Guelph in 4 year honours – science degree course – majoring in Agricultural Biology. Engaged 1949 by University of Guelph as lecturer, research scientist and extension specialist in Horticultural Science. Clawed way up to full professor – in time author of 2 textbooks.

Won British Council Travel/Study Award 1965 – based at Malling Research Station (University of Reading), Kent, England. Sabbatical in Britain 1975, based at Long Ashton Research Station (University of Bristol).

*Honorary Life Member, Canadian Society of Horticultural Science.
President, American Pomological Society.*

Physical (during prime years): fair, eyes blue, 5ft 9ins, 170 lbs.

PS: Would have been more attractive, had he been better looking. Would have won more athletic prizes, had he been a better athlete. Would have accomplished more, had he been blessed with better brain. Would have been wittier, had he more wit. Would have made more use of talents, had God given him more. Would have – oh well! What's the use!

That was Ben's account of his own life, closing with some typical wit!

Ben and Betty were lovely people and had a wonderful relationship with each other, always full of wit and charm. They shared many interests and lived for each other. Janice and I knew them only in the autumn of their lives, but they were a joy and an inspiration. Ben died on 23 November 2004 and Betty on 4 March 2005.

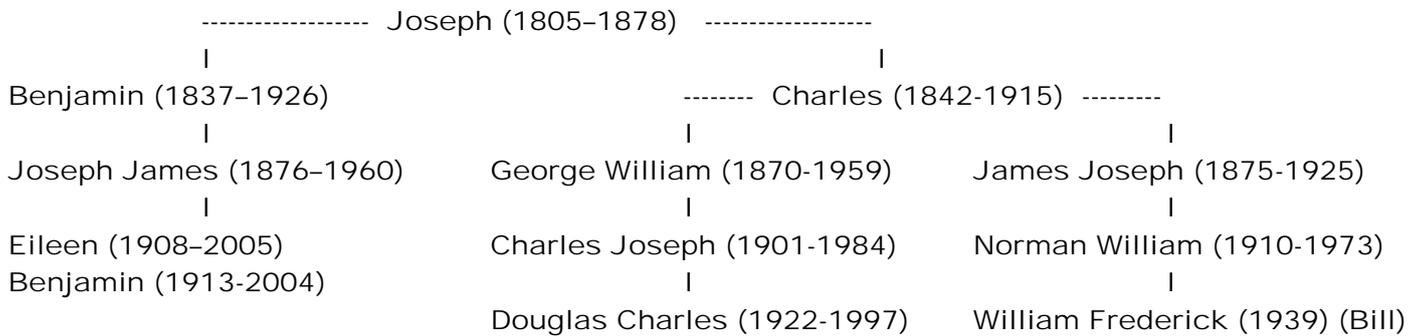
EILEEN GRACE MARGARET TESKEY (1908 – 2005)

Ben's older sister Eileen died a week before her sister-in-law, Betty. She was raised in Warminster, just outside Orillia, spent much of her life teaching in Cambridge, Ontario and in later years moved back to Orillia. She was well over 80 when I first met her and I shall remember her as a charming and energetic lady. She must have been nearly 90 when she had a road accident, turning her car over. Her immediate reaction was not to let anyone down, so she telephoned a friend to arrange a lift to the engagement to which she had been driving. That was typical of her passion for etiquette and zest for life.



The photo above was taken at a family reunion held at Ben's house in 1993. Eileen is pictured with Doug (centre) and Bill Teskey. Doug's widow Dorothy and first cousins Bob and Teak all feature in the obituaries above. Bill and his wife Lisa (the photographer on this occasion) are regular helpers and supporters at Teskey events and also had a special relationship with Ben and Betty. All in the photo are descended from pioneer Joseph 1805.

The chart on the next page shows how they are all related. Just the male ancestors are shown and all, of course, are Teskeys . . .



I was recently sent this photo of Bill's grandfather, James Joseph Teskey (1875 - 1925). It came to me from Don Walton, a relation of James's wife, Edith Walton. The family research community is a friendly and helpful one. I am most grateful to Don and to many other researchers who have stumbled across the Teskey name during their activities, and then taken time to send me information and photos.



PERSONAL PROFILES

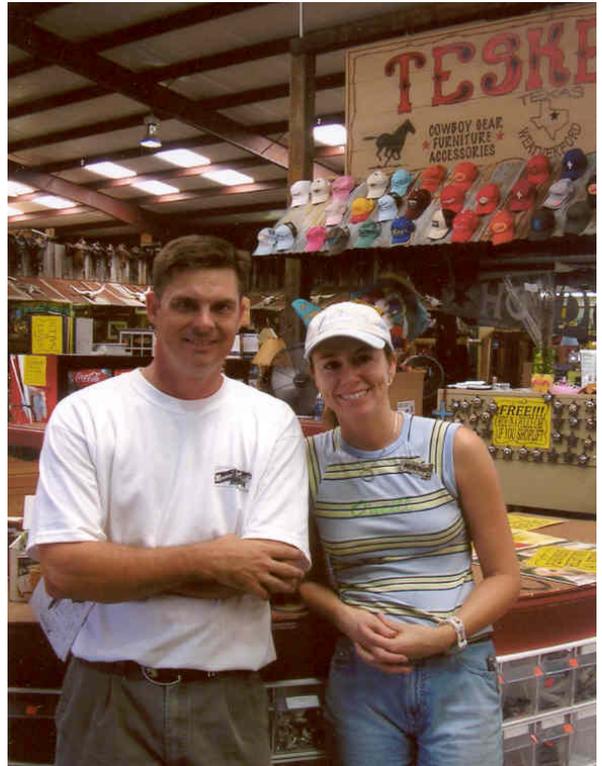
I encourage all who have not yet given me a personal profile to do so, either of themselves or of a close relative. You may never see it in print, but others might enjoy it after you are gone. One day it might even appear in the Teskey book I keep threatening to write.

THE TESKEYS OF TEXAS

Tom Upshaw is a great great grandson of Gertrude 1837 Teskey. He very generously created and now maintains the www.teskey.org website and also www.irishpalatines.org. His computing skills and interest in family history are a great help to many family researchers, yet he somehow finds time to live a fairly active life. Since the last Newsletter he and his wife Guylaine have moved with their jobs from New Jersey to Houston, Texas. They had been in Houston for just a year when the whole city was evacuated as Hurricane Rita threatened similar destruction to that inflicted on New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina just a few weeks earlier. The mass exodus north was filled with incident and drama, but I'm pleased to report that they were able to return home after a few days, finding little damage.



We all know how big Texas is, so when Tom visited his nearest Teskey neighbours it entailed a 500 mile round trip to Weatherford, near Dallas. Some advertising for their Teskey*s Saddle Shop appeared in the last Newsletter. Tom kindly sent me some brochures and Teskey*s baseball caps. I must get in the habit of wearing one as a means of identification when meeting family for the first time at stations and airports. Tom took this photo of the store owners, brother and sister Michael and Traci Teskey. As far as I know, they and their immediate family are the only Texans sporting the Teskey name. Whilst I have pulled together a mini family tree, I have not yet established the pioneer from whom they are descended.



A TESKEY RETURNS TO ROMANIA

You may recall that there is a Teskey family which originated in Romania and is then thought to have had the name Tutefski. The family is Jewish and fled to Canada in the 1920s. Some family members who stayed behind perished in the Holocaust. My regular correspondent, Ginger Teskey, now Sedlarova, a great granddaughter of Josef 1873 and Leah Teskey, has lived for several years in the Czech Republic. In 2004, she became the first of her family to return to Romania, albeit for only a day.

IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION PFALZ TOUR 2004

The last Newsletter was produced soon after Janice and I had organised and led the IPA's Pfalz Tour. An excellent report on the tour appears in the Association's latest Journal. The report by Carolyn Heald is accompanied by some great photos, mostly taken by Carolyn's sister, Brenda. They are descendants of another Irish Palatine family with the name Doupe. There are further photos of this adventure on the IPA's website www.irishpalatines.org

I am pleased that contacts and friendships that evolved during the Pfalz Tour have been maintained, especially between the Irish Palatine Association based in Rathkeale and the residents of Assenheim, the place of origin for the Switzer family.

A HARD LIFE FOR SOME IN THE 18th CENTURY

Recent contact Reed Winstone drew attention to an inconsistency in presentation in the family tree that is available on www.teskey.org. He referred to Elizabeth 1765 Teskey, the 9th of the 12 children born to Jacob 1720 Teskey and Julianna Switzer. Elizabeth appears to have children older than herself. This anomaly arises because the online tree does not distinguish between children and step-children (something to seek to resolve one day when Tom Upshaw and I tackle the major task of updating the online version).



Elizabeth 1865 Teskey married widow John Sparling in 1784, 'adopting' ten children from his first marriage. They had a child of their own, Henry, in 1785, but John died in 1786. What a desperate situation Elizabeth then found herself in. Married at 18 and widowed at 20, she was left with her own 7 month-old baby plus ten stepchildren aged from 25 to 5. I wonder how they coped. Five years later she was fortunate to find a new husband, Adam Miller. But her own son, Henry, was still only 15 years old when Elizabeth herself died in 1801 aged 35.

ONLINE TESKEY FAMILY TREE

If you would like to explore the online family tree, go to www.teskey.org, select *Family Trees* from the index on the left of the screen, then *Teskey Family Tree*. From the explanatory page, the easiest way to access your own branch of the tree is probably to select *Surnames* at the top of the page and then select a surname of one of your non-Teskey ancestors. This will lead you to a family group. From there you can click on any underlined name to take you up or down the tree. In order to preserve privacy we do not display details of living people. At the present time the online tree shows only known descendants of Jacob 1659.

The online tree consists mainly of names and dates, but from some of the information it is possible to get an idea of life for our ancestors. For example, the picture painted of Elizabeth 1765, recalled above, is of a tragic and short life.

I should repeat a word of caution about the presentation of dates in the online tree. Generally they are shown in the English format of dd/mm/yyyy, but if both the day and the month are 12 or less the date appears in the American format of mm/dd/yyyy. The years always appear correctly.

PIONEER JAMES 1830 TESKEY

I am grateful to Tracy Bruce for sending me this photo of her great great grandfather, James 1830 Teskey. As a boy, he was left in Ireland when his widowed father William 1787 emigrated to Canada with James's six older siblings. It is believed that James was cared for by an Anglican priest. Later, he also emigrated, settling in Camden East, Lennox & Addington County, Ontario, about 10 miles north-west of Kingston and close to many of his family.

It is not known when James arrived in Canada, but he may be the same James who appears on the 1851 census with his uncle Solomon 1796 Teskey. Solomon married but had no children and later lived with James's brother Benjamin 1820, who also married but had no children. In 1867 James married Mary Ann Thompson in Camden.

My family tree includes over 1,000 descendants of William 1787, of whom some 300 are descended from James 1830. This Newsletter has been mailed to 25 households descended from William 1787, including Lauren and Stephen Harper.





SOME OUTSTANDING TESKEY QUESTIONS

There is much to do to unravel the many remaining mysteries of the Teskey family, piecing together family tradition, documentary evidence and little scraps of clues. In particular, there are many Teskeys whose birth was recorded in Ireland but whose subsequent life is uncharted, and on the other hand there are family groups whose origin remains a mystery.

On the present Teskey tree there are a few major conundrums, the worst of which relates to pioneer William Edward Teskey, born 1797, and his son Joseph born in 1807. This apparent mismatch has been around for years, so it's about time I solved it!

My version of the family tree now includes more than 9,000 people, of whom over 8,000 are descended from Jacob 1659.

INTERNET UPDATE

Firstly, may I remind you that the version of the Teskey family tree that appears on the Teskey family website, www.teskey.org, is now several years old and getting progressively outdated. To replace it will require a big joint effort by myself and Tom Upshaw, so it's not likely to happen for some time.

The amount of family history material that is available online continues to grow dramatically. It was not long ago that searching for someone on a Census entailed hours of concentration on a microfilm viewer in the country where the census was taken. Now, for a modest fee, anyone can interrogate indexes in a matter of seconds from anywhere in the world. There is a trade-off between volume and quality, but I can live with that. Much material has been indexed by low cost contractors outside the country being indexed – people not familiar with English names and especially places. However, their work frequently saves days of effort and a lot of travel cost.

I recently signed up to www.ancestry.com – this contains probably the largest collection of genealogy material. For a relatively modest cost subscribers can search many sources from the English-speaking world including censuses, newspapers and a host of databases of material relating to family history. For example, ancestry.com has indexed all the English censuses that are publicly available – every 10 years from 1841 to 1901.

www.genesreunited.com continues to provide me with a steady flow of new contacts, both from Teskey descendants and distant relations from other elements of my ancestry. Like so many 'popular' websites, the quality of information here cannot always be relied upon, but it may provide a shortcut to knowledge that can then be verified from source material such as censuses and records of birth, marriage or death.

As new internet ideas become popular I try to ensure that there is an appropriate Teskey presence.

Researchers may now find outline information about the Teskey family on www.wikipedia.org, the massive online encyclopaedia. There is also a page on www.one-name.org, the site of the Guild Of One Name Studies, of which I am a member.



LIVING WITH ROYALTY

Ancestry.com recently proved to me how online indexes can be invaluable in locating people who might otherwise never be found. Ancestry's newly-produced index to the 1841 English census included just two Teskey couples, including the record that I had already found the hard way for William 1800 and Ann, living at Deptford in Kent. However, the index also revealed Robert 1814 Teskey and Alice Teskey. Robert was a professional soldier, so moved around. In 1841 he was resident at Buckingham Palace, home today of the British monarchy and at that time the official residence of the young Queen Victoria and her husband Albert. I don't suppose Robert Teskey enjoyed the same facilities as Victoria and Albert, for he was living in the barracks with other members of the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. Nearby, at Bull Inn Court, just off The Strand, lived Alice Teskey, a dressmaker. I reported in an earlier Newsletter how Robert and Alice were married in the Tower of London. Alice's father was a steward at the Tower. That marriage between Robert Teskey and Alice Moore took place in 1845, four years after "Alice Teskey" appeared on the census. I presume they were the same Alice.

Sadly, there are no living descendants of any of these Teskeys from the 1841 Census of England. Those of us who are here today are descended from Irishmen who came later.

AN INVITATION FROM APPLETON, ONTARIO

In previous Newsletters I have pictured some of the grand family homes that were built in the 19th century in Appleton by the Teskeys who owned the mills there. They were the sons and grandsons of pioneer John 1769. Whilst the final Teskey left Appleton 50 years ago, three of those homes are still in use. I know that several of my correspondents have visited one or more of them. I am delighted that my mailing list now includes the present owners of two of those houses.

I was contacted recently by the owners of the old Joseph 1799 home, Lynn and Mark Attley. They are very proud of their home and the work they have done to restore it to prime condition. Their house was originally called "Burnbank", but is now "Stoneacre". They have very kindly offered to give a tour of the house to any Teskey family members who may be in the area. Don't be shy!



AN INVITATION FROM TENNESSEE

Ken Bloomfield lives near Knoxville in East Tennessee. He is descended from pioneer Joseph 1805 and is the grandson of Agnes 1871 Teskey. There is a photo earlier in this Newsletter of Agnes's older brother, James Joseph 1875. Ken and I have been exchanging information and his side of my tree has been expanding as a result. He has kindly offered a welcome to any of the Teskey clan who might visit his area, with the added attraction of a cruise on the Tennessee lakes in his boat, pictured on the next page. His invitation relates to the big one in the background, not the dinghy in the foreground! I can give Ken's email address to anyone that might be interested.



I could not resist including this super picture for two reasons – firstly Ken Bloomfield's generous cruise offer and also the lad steering the dinghy. He is Brendan Whieldon, Ken's great nephew and a 6th generation descendant of Joseph 1805. He's a rather special lad, for he has an incurable form of cancer called Neuroblastoma. At seven years of age he has fought through all kinds of medical treatment and has impressed all who know him with his fighting spirit. Brendan lives in Langley, British Columbia, and has been making local news by taking up karate. He is also well known in his neighbourhood as a

calendar salesman. Last year he sold over 300 copies of the Kourageous Kids Art Calendar to raise funds to support kids with cancer. Some of you may be aware that I lead a team that produces a calendar of local views in support of our campaign against expansion of Stansted Airport, so I know a thing or two about calendar selling. I wish Brendan was on my sales team!

GRAHAM TESKEY

My second cousin Graham 1954 Teskey has also been hitting the headlines for medical reasons. Six years ago he was diagnosed with throat cancer and given 6 months to live. However, after 14 months when he was unable to speak and had to be fed through a drip, he underwent successful surgery in London. His voice box and part of his tongue were removed and skin from his back was transplanted into his mouth. Graham can now eat again, and he breathes and speaks though a hole in the neck.

Graham returned to work in 2002. In 2004 his wife Jane gave birth to twins, Geordan, a boy, and Molly. I had been unaware of Graham's massive problems, only finding out when he emailed me with all the wonderful news. I have never met Graham although he currently lives only 50 miles away – I must try harder!

THE LUKE TESKEYS

Continuing the medical theme, many of the descendants of pioneer John 1769 Teskey entered the medical profession. Probably the best known have been the Luke Teskeys – four generations of doctors. The medical tradition was founded when Luke 1849 ran away from his father's home in Middlesex County at the age of 14 and became a dentist and surgeon. His descendants followed the name and the profession, with doctors Luke born in 1898, 1925 (sister of Ada – see obituary above) and 1958. A fifth generation Luke arrived in 2004, when Luke Alexander Teskey was born in White Rock, British Columbia, Canada. I wonder if Luke V will follow the career of his predecessors. Worldwide, I am aware of only three other Luke Teskeys, the earliest of whom was Luke 1817, the uncle of the first Doctor Luke.

ONTARIO EDUCATION IN 1898

I am indebted to Jim Keller for sending me this lovely picture. It comes from the Napanee Museum Archive. The photo was taken in 1898 of the pupils and schoolmaster of Croydon School, near Camden East, a few miles north-west of Kingston, Ontario.



The three boys circled are Teskeys - from the back: Ernest, Claude and Stanley. Stanley is partly hidden by the boy whose head I have bisected.

Ernest Teskey (1884 - 1981) was the son of pioneer James 1830, who is pictured earlier in this Newsletter. Ernest became a minister of the Anglican Church and spent most of his life in the Newboro area, not far from Croydon. Jim Keller tells me that he was confirmed by Ernest. I have a copy of a letter sent by Ernest in 1963 to Laura Cockell, an Appleton descendant who was researching the family history at that time.

Claude (1886 - 1955) and Stanley (1889 - 1977) were sons of Joseph 1855, a first cousin of Ernest. This family moved to Wellington a few years after the photo was taken. Claude became a professional horticulturalist and Stanley a farmer.



CORRECTIONS TO NEWSLETTER 34 and WEBSITE



I have discovered that the photo which appeared on page 12 of the last Newsletter was incorrectly identified. I thought the smart young man was Frank Teskey, born in the 1880s, but I have since learned that it was his older brother, William Herbert 1882, known as "Herb".

Here is a photo of Frank. Both the appearance and pose are remarkably alike, but the identities have been confirmed by Frank's daughter Elaine 1909. Elaine Harger, as she now is, lives in Hawaii.

Another wrongly-identified photo has appeared on the website for several years. This is photo number 3007 in the "Meet the Ancestors" section. I am grateful to Connie Farrar for clarifying that the couple are

not Adam 1840 Teskey and his wife Mary Shier, but rather Adam's sister Frances 1831 Teskey and her husband Jacob Switzer. Connie had a copy of the photo clearly annotated by her grandmother who was the granddaughter of Frances and Jacob. The error has now been corrected. Connie also sent me this individual photo of Frances 1831.



Our presence on the internet can lead to some unexpected contacts. Henry Regier, Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto, has no family connection but chanced upon the last Newsletter where I sought to interpret the German description of Teskey founder Jacob 1659. In the Osthofen records he appeared as a "Gemeinsmann", which I thought meant "citizen". I am most grateful to Professor Regier for taking time to comment. He suggested that Gemeinmann may alternatively have meant that Jacob had responsibility for managing the village commons - shared land that may have included pasture.

FUTURE TESKEY NEWSLETTERS

A copy of this Newsletter should soon be added to the collection on www.teskey.org. Some earlier editions also appear there. If you are satisfied to view future editions online, please let me know. I will email you when a new one appears. If you wish to continue to receive a printed copy there is no need to make contact, for I am happy to keep mailing copies as long as you keep me updated with family news!

I started this Newsletter by reporting lots of progress in dealing with correspondence, but I am under no illusion. I still have masses of older correspondence to deal with and many hundreds, if not thousands, of vital records to assimilate into the family tree. I hope it's not another two years before I pull enough of such information together to produce Teskey Newsletter number 36. There's never any shortage of things to say, just the time to say them.



A FEW REMINDERS

Please:

- Let me know if you might like to attend a Teskey Reunion in Ottawa in 2007. This will not commit you, but I need to get a feel for likely numbers. If we do go ahead with such an event, I will seek firm bookings later, probably towards the end of 2006.
- Let me know if you would like to attend a Teskey Reunion at our home in 2007. The popularity of these occasions appeared to have waned so we have not organised one for a few years. However, if there is sufficient interest we would be pleased to arrange another.
- Advise me of any births, marriages, deaths or other major events in the family. Please don't assume that I will spot it in the newspaper, or that somebody else will tell me.
- Let me know if you move home or if you have a new e-mail address.
- If you have email but have not received a message from me this year, please send me a message asking to be added to my Teskey emailing list.
- If you have not already done so, please prepare a Personal Profile of a close relative, either living or deceased, or of yourself. This does not have to be very long or detailed. A suggested framework appears on www.teskey.org.
- Let me know if you would be happy to view future Newsletters online.
- Suggest, or even write, an article of general interest for the next Teskey Newsletter.
- Send me copies of any good old family photographs.
- Don't take offence if I don't reply to you as promptly as you would like!

Be good,

Ken McDonald

PS: I could not let this space go unfilled, so can anyone throw any light on tokens like this that were issued by the Barr & Teskey hardware store in Merlin, Ontario . . . Which Teskey? When? What purpose did they serve?

