

The Fenton, Landerkin & Leslie Families

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The Fenton, Landerkin & Leslie Families

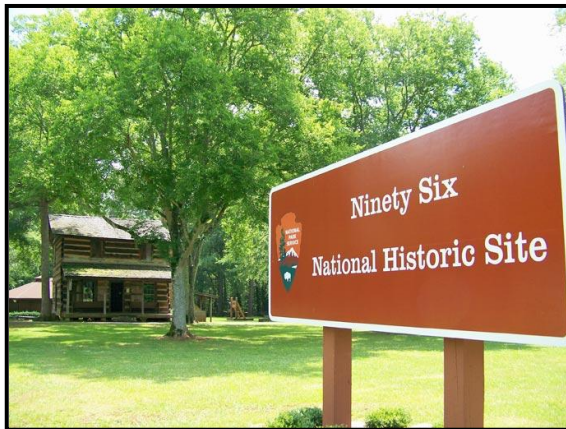
Richard Fenton (1745 - 1841):

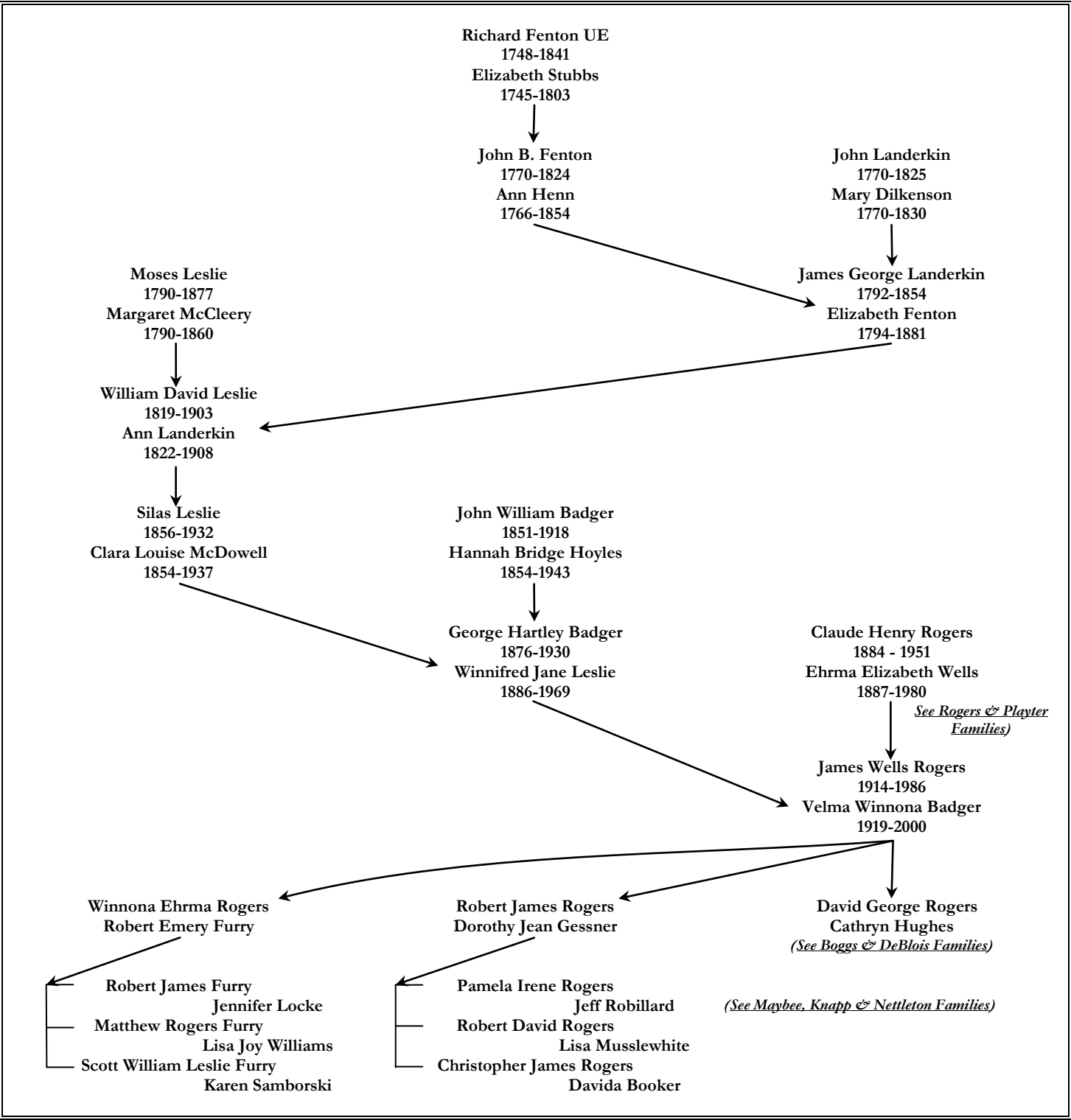
Richard Fenton was a native of Goodland Banks, Eskdale, Yorkshire, England and a linen weaver by trade. He married Elizabeth Stubbs on 17 February 1770 and left England in August 1774 on the ship “Marlborough,” from Whitby, England to Savannah, Georgia with his wife Elizabeth and two small children (John B. & Elizabeth). The family settled in Ninety-six District, South Carolina, an area located about 150 miles west of the City of Charleston on the Saluda River. In 1776, it was a thriving village of some 12 houses, a sizable courthouse and sturdy jail. At least 100 persons lived in the vicinity and the land cleared for more than a mile around the town site. Here he worked for James Gordon who was sometime later a Justice of the Peace in St. John, New Brunswick.

On the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Richard served the British as a private soldier under Colonel Richard King, in the Long Cane Militia. He was wounded sometime in 1782 and was likely invalided during the evacuation of Charleston on 14 December 1782 with the rest of Colonel King's Regiment. Returning to England with his helpless family, he lived at Whitby, England, from July 1783 to March 1784. In correspondence, it is suggested he was prevented by poverty and distress from laying in his claim with the commissioners within the time limit set and did not receive even “King's Rations.”

In 1784, he took his family to Nova Scotia at the request and support of Colonel Zacharias Gibbs, also South Carolina loyalist who was a grantee of the Rawdon Township in 1784, leaving his oldest son in England. Gibbs had migrated to South Carolina about 1763 and was the owner of a large plantation in District of Ninety-Six as well as having large tracts at Camden. Gibbs served the crown commencing in November 1775 and was captured 14 February 1779 at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia. Sentenced to death, he was reprieved after some 15 months and went to Camden, remaining there on parole until the British capture of Charleston, at which time he was promoted to command his regiment. After the war, Gibbs settled on his grant of 1,000 acres in Rawdon, Nova Scotia, and sought other refugees from South Carolina to settle the Rawdon area.

The community was named after Francis Rawdon-Hastings, 1st Marquis of Hastings (Lord Rawdon) who had rescued the inhabitants of Ninety-Six during the siege of 1781. The British had garrisoned a small fort known as the Star Fort in the settlement because of its strategic location in western South Carolina. During the siege, they were surrounded and outnumbered by some 1500 American Patriots led by General Nathanael Green. Lord Rawdon came to the rescue with the 2nd American Regiment (Volunteers of Ireland) and evacuated the fort, which was subsequently destroyed. The town was reborn as Cambridge in 1787 however; the site of the fort later became a National Historic Site, marking the longest yet unsuccessful siege of the Revolutionary War, some 28 days.





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Richard Fenton lived and worked on the Gibbs lands at Rawdon and he was later at Saint John, New Brunswick, where he worked again for James Gordon, who was then the Justice of the Peace at Musquash near Saint John. In 1787, he received his own grant of 400 acres near Rawdon, which he sold to Gibbs; and subsequently settled in Centre Rawdon, Nova Scotia. In 1801, Richard made another trip across the Atlantic, this time persuading his son John, now married with a family, to return with him to Nova Scotia. Elizabeth died sometime between 1803 and 1813, and Richard married a widow named Mary O'Brien on 14 December 1813.

Richard and Elizabeth Fenton had the following children: John B. (1770-1824), Elizabeth (1772-1848), Gordon 1775-1852), Thomas (1783-1861) and Mary (1784-1865).

John B. Fenton (1770 - 1824):

John B. Fenton was born sometime prior to 22 April 1770, the date he was baptized at the Anglican Rectory in Sleights, Eskdaleside, Yorkshire, England. He remained in England when the family moved to Nova Scotia in 1784, likely being a tailor's apprentice. His father returned to England in 1801, and persuaded John and his wife Ann Henn and family to join them in Nova Scotia. John purchased land at Rawdon from John Landerkin and his wife Mary, a couple who would eventually become his daughter's in-laws, on 10 April 1804.

John applied for a grant of 300 acres adjacent to Rawdon with his wife and five children. He later applied for an additional 200 acres stating his family had increased by two children. His 300 acre grant was dated 23 Mar 1810 and was numbered Lot 1.

John and Ann Fenton had the following children: Elizabeth (1794-1881), Jane (1798-????), Richard (1801-1877), Thomas (1803-1897), Ann (1807-????), and John (1810-????).

Elizabeth Fenton (1794 - 1881):

Elizabeth Fenton, daughter of John and Ann above, married James George Landerkin in Nova Scotia about 1818. James was born in or near Rawdon, one of 12 children of John Landerkin and Mary Catherine Dickinson who had emigrated from Ireland. John was one of the original grantees of Rawdon in the Crown Grant of 1784 when he received 250 acres on the Halifax-Hants boundary. In an affidavit for a court document John indicated that he came to Nova Scotia from Ireland in 1781 via Newfoundland. The assumption is that the family came to Newfoundland in 1776 and moved on to Nova Scotia in 1781 where by 1784 he obtained the land grant in Rawdon.

In 1826, James and Elizabeth Landerkin came to the south half of lot 2, 6 concession, West Gwillimbury Township, Simcoe County, Upper Canada. The 100 acres had been granted to a Mr. Munshaw, but it is unlikely he ever lived there. James and Elizabeth would have been the ones who cleared the land, and built the first house. There is no indication any other close relatives came from Nova Scotia with them at that time. James and Elizabeth had 11 children: Mary, Ann, Elizabeth, James, John, Harriet, Maria, Thomas, Jane, George, and Harry.

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After James passed away in 1854, Elizabeth moved to Maryborough Township, Wellington County, and in 1861 lived with their son Thomas Landerkin and daughters Mary Stone, Ann Leslie, Elizabeth Edmonds, and Jane Fenton, as well as son John Landerkin who had also settled in the area of Maryborough and surrounding communities.

Ann Landerkin (1822 - 1908):

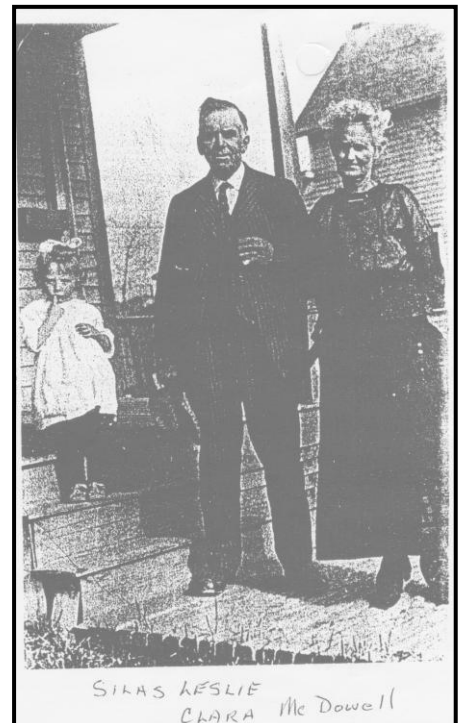
Ann Landerkin, daughter of James and Elizabeth above, was born 13 January 1822 in Rawdon, Nova Scotia, and moved with her parents to Ontario in 1826. On 13 October 1843, she married William David Leslie in Bond Head, West Gwillimbury, Simcoe County, Ontario. William was born in County Lerry now in Northern Ireland, reportedly one of 13 children with no formal education. He left home at the age of 14 and stowed away on a cattle boat bound for Canada according to family tradition. It is believed he never attempted contact with his family in Ireland after his arrival in Canada. He settled in Simcoe, Ontario, where he married Ann Landerkin. The family later moved to Maryborough Township near Listowel, Ontario, about 1853. William died on 11 April 1908, at the age of 85 years.

William and Ann Leslie had the following children: James George (1844-1908), John (1846-????), Thomas Wellington (1848-1932), William Henry (1850-1918), Alfred Mowat (1852-1929), Elizabeth Maria (1854-1948), Silas (1856-1932), David Daniel (1858-1946), Martha Ann (1860-1926), Stephen Milliken (1862-1952), Harriet Jane (1865-1950), I Horat (1866-????), and Mary (1868-1868). Most of the children moved west and settled in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Silas Leslie (1856 - 1932):

Silas Leslie, son of William David and Ann Leslie above, was born 26 August 1856 and married Clara Louise McDowell on 6 September 1878 in Priceville, Grey County, Ontario. Little is known about the McDowell family. Clara's father was born in New Brunswick in 1819 and died in Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan in 1905. It appears he and his wife Jane had four children.

Silas and Clara moved west to Baldur, Manitoba, in 1882 to homestead on NE-26-4-14 W1. The move was made to join his three brothers then farming in the west. This was before the railway so most of the trip was made by boat where possible then overland by wagon. After the crops were hailed out the first year and rusted out the second, Clara insisted they return to Ontario. Silas sold his homestead rights for \$100.00 and returned to Ontario. Correspondence in later homestead papers mention illness in the family as the reason for his return to Ontario. Silas and Clara lost their two-year-old son William in 1882.



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In 1888, Silas applied for another homestead and eventually gained his entry to NW-14-4-14 W1 but it took more than a year and many letters. Because permission was obtained in May, Silas was reluctant to move his young family so late in the season and requested permission to go to Manitoba build a house and clear enough land to meet the first year requirement. Permission was obtained and he spent two months in Manitoba in 1889. The family moved on 25 March 1890 and he applied for inspection to prove patent in January 1893 but was informed he had to wait until he had been a resident for three years. In June 1907, Silas signed an agreement to purchase a quarter section for \$1600 at 10% down and 10% each year for nine years at 5% interest. This was in Macklin, Saskatchewan, shortly after their daughter Winnifred and her husband George Badger had obtained a homestead in the area.

In 1917, Silas sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1926. They were an interesting couple because of their differences. Silas was Methodist and Clara was Anglican who attended regularly while Silas seemed to go to a different church each week. Politics was serious business. Silas was a hard working Conservative while Clara was a determined Liberal. During election time, they made an agreement that neither would vote, as they would cancel each other out. When Clara heard that Silas had sneaked off to vote, she whipped off her apron and hurried off the polling station. Silas died of cancer of the bowel in 1932 at the age of 76 years.

Silas and Clara Leslie had the following children: William (187-1882), John Albert (1882-1957), Percy (1884-1892), Winnifred Jane (1886-1969), Myrtle Annabelle (1889-1969), Russell (1891-1943), Emma Vera (1892-1974), Otto (1896-1983).

Winnifred Jane Leslie (1886 - 1969):



Winnifred Jane Leslie, daughter of Silas and Clara above, was born 26 September 1886 in Priceville, Grey County, Ontario, and married George Hartley Badger in Baldur, Saskatchewan on 28 May 1908. George was the son of John William Badger and Hannah Bridge Hoyles of Vaughan, West York, Ontario and was born 31 December 1876.

On 20 June 1906, George gained entry to the Saskatchewan homesteads and secured a section adjacent to his father's located NE-4-30-25 W4 located within the township of Amazon. Amazon no longer exists and the closest town is that of Watrous, Saskatchewan. George also purchased a half section N35-30-24 W2 upon which he built his home. George and his father worked the land in the summers and finally moved their families on 1 April 1908.

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George and Winnifred were married 28 May 1908. Patents were granted in December 1909. George also had a homestead at Macklin, along the Alberta border about 50 miles south of Lloydminster, and it was here that he started the first custom threshing outfit in Saskatchewan. The farmer would do the binding and stooking using a horse drawn binder equipped with a big spool of binder twine. Traveling down a row the binder would cut and gather the grain. The process was pre-set to wrap twine around the bundles at intervals and drop them to the ground. Men would gather the bundles and stand them upright in teepee-shaped stooks for drying. Threshing took place during August and September. The threshing machine, powered by a gasoline engine, would be set up in the middle of the field and the stooks brought in. Two 12-inch belts kept the machine separating the grain from the chaff and a large movable pipe would direct the grain into wagons. Depending on the size of the farm to be worked, George had a group of men to call upon for help. John Diefenbaker worked for George during the summers while attending law school. If the farmer was a bachelor, Winnifred was called upon to run the Cook Car, a large horse drawn wagon fitted with beds at one end for the family and a large stove at the other with benches and tables in the middle for eating.

After their daughter Dolly died, Winnifred could not bear to return to Macklin so George bought a farm at Imperial, Saskatchewan. George tried to enlist for overseas service during the First World War but was turned down because he had a limp. He studied and took papers as a stationary engineer. After the flu epidemic of 1918, George rented the farm out and moved his family to Saskatoon. He started a taxi company with one car and by the time he sold the company to Black & White Cabs in 1924, he had ten cars. In those days, the RCMP did not have their own cars and would often ask George to drive them when they went on the raid of a still. He was a good candidate, as he never drank. Winnifred was a teetotaler and a very strong advocate of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

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In 1924, George bought a General Store at Silver Park, Saskatchewan, a farming community about 90 miles northeast of Saskatoon. In 1928, he sold the store and decided to retire. He still owned three farms and five houses. The family settled in Vancouver but returned to Saskatchewan after George lost some \$25,000 in the commodities market in less than a year, a considerable sum in those days. George died suddenly of a heart attack on 25 September 1930, at the age of 51 years. In the family plot are George and his wife Winnifred along with his two daughters, Audrey Badger and Velma Rogers, and one of his granddaughters, Winnona Furry.

George and Winnifred Badger had the following children: Audrey Viola (1909-1913), Garnet Aubrey (1915-1995), and Velma Winnona (1919-2000).

Velma Winnona Badger (1919 - 2000):



Velma Winnona Badger, the daughter of George and Winnifred above, was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on 29 August 1919 and married James Wells Rogers on 8 July 1939 in Edmonton, Alberta. James was the son of Claude Henry Rogers and Ehrma Elizabeth Wells of Peterborough, Ontario, and was also a Loyalist descendant. For more information on this family line, see the Rogers and Playter Families elsewhere in this publication. Velma was raised on the farm and after secretarial school worked as a receptionist and secretary for a number of firms in the Edmonton area. In 1957, she moved into the investment business and worked for many years for Dominion Securities then Doherty Rhodehouse, Northwest Trust and finally Cochran Murray investment firms.

Jim Rogers competing in slalom event of the
1935 International Ski Competitions in
Ontario

