

Catherine Letitia (Richardson) Harradence, U.E.

1928-2017



Catherine was born in Western Hospital, one of the 4 hospitals in Calgary where her father worked as a surgeon .

She attended Earl Grey elementary school, a sandstone building that has since been replaced. She fondly remembers teachers such as Miss Braithwaite, her grade 4 teacher, who visited her weekly when she was home sick for one year with rheumatic fever. During that time the milkman would deliver milk to the back door but would never pick up the empty bottles.

From Earl Grey school, Catherine attended St. Hilda's School for Girls (12th Avenue and 8th Street S.W.) where Miss Shand was the head mistress. St. Hilda's School (1904-1949) had both resident students and day pupils and they taught young women fine arts and higher education. During World War II, the School took students from England and at one point, they had a population of 130 students with 12 teachers. Ten years after the closure of St. Hilda's, Tweedsmuir, an independent day School for Girls, was opened and then in 1971 a large donation from St Hilda's trust fund was used to amalgamate Tweedsmuir with Strathcona School for Boys.

In 1950 Catherine married Asa Milton Harradence (b.1922: d.2008) who had arrived in Calgary from the University of Saskatchewan Law School in 1949 and together they had three children. She was a member of the Junior Service League of Calgary (later becoming the Junior League of Calgary), the Pioneer Association of Calgary, and the Calgary Branch of the UELAC (United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada) where she served as secretary in 1970. The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities. Catherine's father, Dr. Richardson, was a president of the Calgary Branch of the UELAC for several years after Clifford Jones, K.C. in 1928 when the Calgary Branch was first organized. Catherine

accompanied her father to meetings and was an active member herself, helping to organize banquets and communicate with members.

LOYALIST ANCESTOR INFORMATION

Generation 1: **Catherine Letitia Richardson Harradence**

Generation 2: **James Wilson Richardson** (b.1882; m. 1917; d. Sept. 1, 1979) and Elizabeth Ann (Skinner) Richardson (b.1891; d.1961 or 1962)

Elizabeth Ann's father was T.J.S. Skinner who was an early Calgary settler. According to Skinner Management's web site, he arrived on horseback in the small village of Calgary in 1883. He became very successful in the real estate business as can be seen by the home (photo below) that he built in Mount Royal in 1912. Catherine says that T.J.S. Skinner first delivered mail to the workers on the C.P.R. ¹

Generation 3: **Letticia Wilson** (b. 1846; m. March 19, 1865; d. June 8, 1884) and Albert Richardson (b. 1842; d. July 7, 1909)

Elizabeth Jackson. James Wilson's mother was Letticia Wilson (b. 1846; m. March 19, 1865; d. June 8, 1884), also of Loyalist descent.

Generation 4: **Elizabeth Jackson** (b. October 12, 1803; m. about 1831) and John Voux Richardson (b. August 19, 1807) They lived in Mountain, Ontario. Elizabeth applied for a land grant on March 9, 1837 and again on June 29, 1837.

Generation 5: **James Jackson** (b. 1744) was a Loyal Ranger P.L. 1786 of the 7th Company of Jessups Rangers. He was born in 1744 in England and moved to Chester County, New York, in 1770. A biography states,

Jackson was employed by Joseph Galloway as a scout before the Battle of Brandywine Creek, receiving twenty guineas for that service. In 1779 he was arrested on suspicion of possessing forged currency, but released on bail. Jackson learned of Cornwallis's surrender while he was bringing dispatches to him; as a result, he decided to go to New York, where he received 12 pounds and ten shillings per quarter until his departure for Digby, Nova Scotia in 1783. In 1784 Jackson returned to Pennsylvania to retrieve his family. There he was tried but acquitted on the charge of forgery. He returned to Digby in 1785, and estimated his loss at 78 pounds sterling. Jackson's property was confiscated.

Jackson lived in Augusta Township and later in Ernestown and Mountain Twsp. He had 11 children.