

The Lawrence Loyalist Rose Helps Solve Lawrason Genealogical Mystery



The Lawrence Loyalist Rose

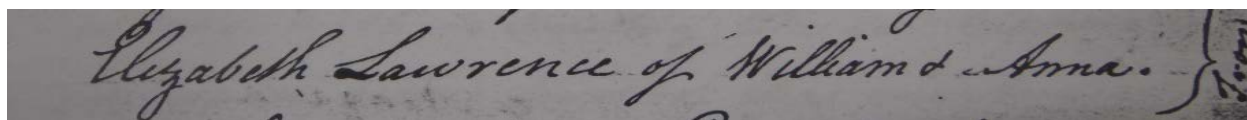
Jim Lawrason had been troubled during his genealogical research. The names “William and Anna” *Lawrason* were included in the *The Annals of the Forty* describing local Grimsby Loyalists. It reads “On the 4th of May 1804 Rev. Addison, of Niagara’s St. Mark’s Church, baptized Elizabeth daughter of William & Anna *Lawrason*.”¹

He was never able to find any further records of William & Anna. However in subsequent research of the Loyalist families, that travelled from the New Jersey area, he discovered a record of a William & Anna *Lawrence* who brought their *Loyalist Rose* to Canada.

William and Anna *Lawrence* nurtured a treasured rose in their Conestoga wagon in 1787, and travelled up the Susquehanna River Valley with a large Loyalist group to Grimsby Ontario. This rose continued to grow in the *Lawrence* family’s garden for several generations.

Then in 1946 this rose was transplanted to a Toronto garden, and in 2015 Jim & Colleen *Lawrason* were kindly given an offshoot by Mrs. Mary Williamson UE. The St. Catharines *Lawrasons* now have a *Lawrence Loyalist Rose* to enjoy, and pass to other United Empire Loyalists.

Jim recently visited St. Mark’s Church Niagara-on-the-Lake and viewed the May 4th 1804 baptismal registry, as shown below:



***The Annals of the Forty* had mistakenly given Elizabeth, and her parents William & Anna, the surname *Lawrason*. This record showed that William & Anna’s correct surname was *Lawrence*; the purveyors of the *Lawrence Loyalist Rose*!**

¹ Abridged. *THE ANNALS OF THE FORTY*, No. 6, Loyalist and Pioneer Families of West Lincoln 1783 – 1833, The Grimsby Historical Society, 1955, Revised and Reprinted 1965 – 1968, page 13.