

# *Linda McClelland*

“preparing to be spontaneous”



Linda (Cronk, Whelan) McClelland, U.E., B.A., M.Ed.  
Graduation Photo from the University of Western Ontario, 1961  
Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

Linda McClelland grew up in Port Rowan on the north shore of Lake Erie, part of what was considered the “Long Point Settlement” in Loyalist days. She was second eldest in a family of four children: Karen Louise Bosworth, Linda Whitney McClelland, John William Cronk, and Elizabeth Ann Jamieson.



Left) Port Rowan childhood home built about 1867 by Phineas Reeves is the home of Linda’s sister, Karen (Cronk) Bosworth, U.E. in 2013.

Water colour painted by Linda in 2010. Printed with permission from Linda McClelland

Linda received a B.A. majoring in zoology at the University of Western Ontario in 1961 and taught high school science and post-secondary science in Ontario and Alberta. Linda and Barry Leslie Whelan were married in 1962 and when Barry had completed his schooling as a geologist, they moved to Calgary. They had two daughters and Barry's career took them to Nigeria, Zaire, Denmark, and back to Calgary. In 1981, Linda and Barry divorced. <sup>1</sup>

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1984, Linda married Frederick Hugh McClelland, a chartered accountant. Hugh's father and his parents had arrived in Calgary from Northern Ireland, in 1910. His mother and her parents had travelled to Calgary from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1910. They lived three blocks apart in Parkhill. Hugh's grandfather Malcolm worked as a machinist for the Canadian Pacific Railway and his grandfather

McClelland was a finishing plasterer who completed the ceiling designs in the Palliser Hotel and the Palace Theatre. Hugh's father worked as an insurance agent. <sup>2</sup>



Linda and Hugh kayaking in the Broken Group Islands, B.C., in 2010 Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

Following her M.Ed. degree from the University of Calgary in 1988, Linda moved into high school administration. In 1995, she retired from the Calgary Board of Education and worked for several years as a sessional instructor in science education and as a research assistant at the University of Calgary. Throughout much of her career in Alberta, she was a writer of science and environmental curriculum materials. <sup>1</sup>

Linda has two daughters, Samantha Whelan Kotkas and Whitney Rockley. Samantha has two daughters, Nora and Katarina. Whitney has a son, Rowan, and a daughter, Kasey. All of them have received their UEL certification.



Photo of Whitney Rockley, U.E., B.Comm., M.B.A. (left) and Samantha Whelan Kotkas, U.E., B.Mus., M.Mus., London, England, 2010.

Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

Linda's hobbies include writing, painting, reading, golfing, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, quilting, and travelling.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Linda McClelland's Publications:**

2014: *Alberta Bound: Voices of Loyalist Descendants*, Calgary branch of the UELAC  
2013, *The United Empire Loyalists – Alberta Bound*, Calgary Branch of the UELAC, ISBN 978-77136-177-4  
2009-10, A variety of issues in *Habitat in the Balance*, SEEDS Foundation, Calgary  
2002, *Environmental Chemistry, Science in Action 9*, Pearson Education Canada Inc.  
1995, *Science, Technology, and Society: Analyzing Issues*, Trifolium Books Inc.  
1991, *Teaching to a Gender Balance*, Science Resource Guide, Alberta Education  
1991, *Environmental Science, Science Directions 9*, Nelson Thompson, Toronto  
1989, *Studies in Marine Biology*, Calgary and District Biology Teachers' Association  
1987, *Biology 20, Science and Society: A Role-play of an Energy Public Hearing*, ERCB, Calgary

### **LOYALIST ANCESTOR INFORMATION**<sup>3</sup>

Generation 1: **Linda Whitney (Cronk) (Whelan) McClelland** (b. 1940)



Generation 2: **Leighton Llewellyn Cronk** (b. 1914; m. 1935; d. 2001) and Helen Louise (Betty) Smith (b. 2012; d.2008)

Leighton Llewellyn Cronk and Helen Louise (Betty) Smith Cronk circa 1937

Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

Both Leighton and Betty received high school certificates. Leighton and his brothers took over their parent's general store after their father died in a duck hunting accident in 1942. When Leighton

retired from the grocery business in the 1970s, he became interested in painting, carving, and golfing. Betty ran a successful seasonal greenhouse business for several decades and retired in 1977. Her hobbies included needlework, refinishing antiques, golfing, decorating, and reading.<sup>1</sup>

Generation 3: **John William Cronk** ( b.1880 ; m. 1911: d. 1942) and Ethel Grace Pierce

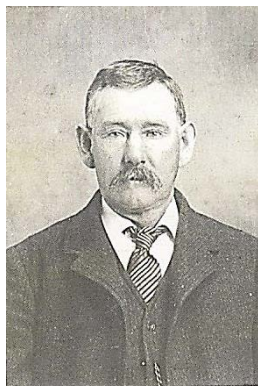


(Left) Linda's paternal grandparents: John William Cronk and Ethel Grace (Pierce) Cronk Photo, circa 1941, courtesy of Linda McClelland

(Below) The Port Rowan home built by Killmaster around 1905 in which J.W. and Ethel lived is currently the home of Wendy and David Cronk, U.E. Picture courtesy of Linda McClelland



Generation 4: **James Cronk** (b. 1848; m. 1877; d. 1930) and Sarah Mowat



James H. Cronk (left) Sarah (Mowat) Cronk Photos courtesy of Karen Bosworth

Generation 5: **William Cronk Jr.** (b. 1818; m. 1839; d.1861) and Sophia Barrett;

Generation 6: **William Cronk Sr.** (b. 1780) and Merriam Cronkheit

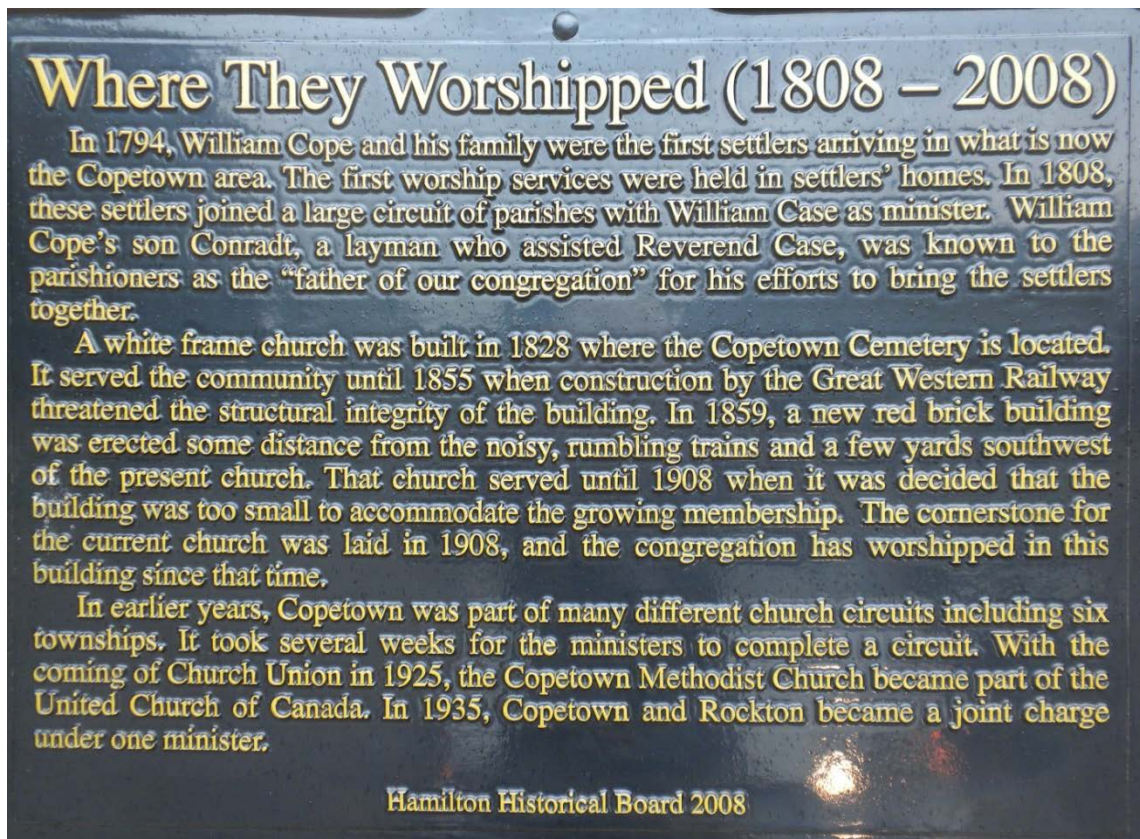
Generation 7: **Tunis Cronk** (b. 1758; d. 1795) and Mary Cope (b. 1761; d. 1841)

Generation 8: **William Cope Sr.** (b. 1719; d. 1813) and Phoebe Ellsworth

Wm. Cope Sr. is Linda's 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. He was born in England or Scotland in 1719. He fled from there during the Jacobite rebellion, moved to Germany where he married Phoebe Ellsworth. He and his wife travelled to America (Pennsylvania and then NY) in 1739. During the American Revolution, he and his son fought with the Queen's Rangers.<sup>3,9</sup>

In 1785, the Copes and Tunis Cronk travelled up the Hudson River past Albany and through tributaries of the Hudson River to the south shore of Lake Ontario, to the Niagara River and the Loyalist community of Queenston. They travelled and carried their belongings in flat-bottomed boats that had to be portaged for a total of 30 miles. Most of the family received land grants and settled in an area that became known as Cope Town, near present day, Hamilton, Ontario.<sup>4,7</sup>

Below is a photo of a plaque outside the United Church in Copetown.



Tunis Cronk and his brothers-in-law, Conrad Cope and Jacob Darby, in 1793, travelled to the shore of Long Point Bay near what is now called St. Williams. In the late 1700s, that area was known as Cope's Landing. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1793, Conrad, Jacob, and Tunis sent a letter to Governor Simcoe requesting title to the property on which they had made improvements.<sup>4</sup> But Simcoe was establishing settlements for his old Queen's Rangers near Hamilton, Ontario, and gave land there to the Cope family. Conrad and Jacob decided to establish themselves near Hamilton and that settlement later became known as Copetown.<sup>4</sup>



Conrad Cope U.E., son of William Cope (from a daguerreotype taken shortly before his death in 1861, aged 96)<sup>9</sup>

William Cope Jr. replaced his brother, Conrad, and joined Tunis and Mary at Cope's Landing. After Tunis died in 1795, his son, William Cronk, and William Cope again put in a claim for land in 1796. They were again turned down because the land had not yet been surveyed. William Cronk finally received land after a third claim in 1808.<sup>5,6,8</sup> He and his mother sold most of the land but they kept a small portion where their house (Wilderness House) was located in St Williams.

William Cronk, was a private in Captain John Bostwick's flank Company of the First Regiment of the Norfolk Militia commanded by Lt. Col. J. Ryerson, 1812.<sup>8</sup>

Mary, first married to Tunis Cronk who died young in 1794, married secondly an itinerant Methodist minister, George Neal, whom she first met in Queenston. He was a Loyalist as well, having served as a Major in the Cavalry.<sup>9</sup>



Wilderness House" (as seen in 2013) built by William Cronk Sr. and George Neal in the early 1800s. This home is the oldest home in the St. Williams village.<sup>10</sup> Photo courtesy of Karen Bosworth



When Linda was a young girl, she attended Sunday School at the Neal Memorial United Church in Port Rowan. Classes were held in the basement of the church and there were two grave stones embedded in the wall. One was in Memory of Rev. Geo. Neal and one was in Memory of Mary (Cope), wife of Rev. Geo. Neal.<sup>9</sup>

Linda comments, *I vaguely wondered about them but never asked. It wasn't until I researched my Loyalist (UEL) past that I knew that Mary Cope was actually buried there. The church members dug up her grave (and George Neal's) and put them near the basement of the church in 1911 when the church was built. The actual tombstones are set into the basement wall. The Neal Memorial United Church received a UEL Burial Site official plaque in 2011.*<sup>1</sup>

Photo courtesy of Karen Bosworth

## EMIGRATION WEST OF ONTARIO

Linda was the first in her immediate family to move west. That move took place in 1965 after she had taught science at Ancaster High School for four years and had married Barry Whelan in 1962.

Barry had been offered jobs in Montreal and Calgary in 1965. He and Linda thought the smaller city of Calgary (300,000 people in 1965), would be a better place to raise children so Barry decided to work for the British American Oil Company in Calgary. BA Oil was acquired by Gulf Oil and renamed Gulf Oil



Canada Ltd. in 1969. At that time, Barry accepted a position with Gulf Oil in Lagos, Nigeria and then, in 1971, the family of four was transferred to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Denmark (1974-1975) was the final foreign posting before returning to Calgary.

Tinubu Square, Lagos, Nigeria, 1970 Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

Linda currently resides in Calgary, Alberta.

## Literature Cited

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2. McClelland, Frederick Hugh, Personal Communication, 2013
3. UELAC certificate application for William Cope, 2007
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5. Mutrie, R. Robert, *St Williams: The History*, Second Avenue Printing Ltd., Simcoe, Ontario, 1988, p. 98, ISBN 0-9692812-2-6
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8. Mutrie, R. Robert, *The Long Point Settlers*, Log cabin Publishing, Ridgeway, Ontario, 1992, p.51 ISBN 0-9692812-4-2
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10. Mutrie, R. Robert, *St Williams: The History*, Second Avenue Printing Ltd., Simcoe, Ontario, 1988, p. 41, ISBN 0-9692812-2-6