

Bea's Yeo Family Remembrances

My mother, Beatrice, was born in 1908 in Port Hill, Prince Edward Island. She died in 2007, at the age of 99, in University Place, Washington. I think her life was hard, but she lived in many places, traveled a lot and had a variety of experiences, moreso than most women born in the early 1900s.

The following are writings done by my mother, Beatrice Yeo Melvin, over several years. She was very interested in her family's history. Part of her motivation was to dispel some of the 'legends' surrounding her great-grandfather, James Yeo III who was characterized by some as a "Robber Baron", most especially the writings of Basil Greenhill, co-author of "Westcountrymen in Prince Edward Island" which became known in our family as "that book" (usually followed by a hiss).

Comments in italics are mine. Text in italics are transcripts of articles I found in my mother's papers. I have organized this by my mother's paternal parentage or the Port Hill Yeos, followed by her maternal parentage or the Lot 16 or Harmony Yeos. I didn't understand what my mother meant when she referred to the Lot 16 or Harmony Yeos until I visited Prince Edward Island in the late 1990s. Lot 16 is about 10 miles from Port Hill. Harmony is a small settlement in Lot 16.

The Port Hill Yeos or Bea's Paternal Parentage

James Yeo II, my great-great grandfather was a shoemaker and cordwainer in Kilkhampton, Cornwall. He married Ann Osborn (*below in the passage written by Basil Greenhill the spelling is Orsborn*) and they had a son, James Yeo III, who was born February 13, 1790 (he was my paternal great-grandfather) *Note: in subsequent documents I found in her files, James Yeo III was said to have been born in 1789 and baptized on February 13, 1790 – not a hugely important difference.* After Ann Osborn died, James Yeo I remarried Grace Francis and they had a son, Lawrence Yeo, born in 1815. Lawrence Yeo was my maternal great-grandfather. *Note: this isn't the only instance of confusing family relations.* Lawrence and another son, Samuel H. Yeo, emigrated to PEI at the urging of their half-brother, James II. Samuel Yeo settled in Lot 16 on PEI and is buried in the Methodist Cemetery there.

James Yeo III – was a small man with powerful arms and a stern expression. He had a small carrier business between Kilkhampton and Bideford, Devon. He married Ann Francis, Grace Francis' sister. They had a son, William, born in 1812. Ann Francis died in 1818 and he married Damaris Sargent in 1819. They emigrated to Prince Edward Island Canada. James III was employed by Chanter and Company, shipbuilders. Since James had good business habits and was noted for his honesty and integrity, he was put in charge of the books of the company. It is said that he was like a walking calculator, able to add up three columns of figures at the same time and as quickly as three fingers could be drawn steadily down the page. He had a phenomenal memory and could go for hours without sleep.



James Yeo Sr.

James' employers, the Chanters, resolved to return to England, and they assigned their outstanding debts to him as remuneration for what they owed him. With this capital, he began building ships. Tiny Prince Edward Island had become a source of timber for Great Britain during the Napoleonic Wars. Later, the Island became a ship building center. Port Hill, leading down to a channel that was at least eight feet deep and surrounded by suitable sources of timber (maple, birch, beech, juniper and black spruce) proved to be an ideal location for building ships. Pine was imported for the mast and spar.

The shipbuilding was set up so that there were saw pits with deep trenches. A pair of workmen cut rough timber into four-inch planks with long, two-handled pit saws. The sawyer in the pit provided the power for the cut, but the man on top guided the saw. Nearby was an oblong steam box. Here the freshly sawed planks were steamed, allowing the shipwrights to

curve them as the shape of the hull demanded.

James III had a gift for driving men and his business flourished. A competent shipwright and a crew of twelve to twenty men could turn out a finished vessel in four to six months.

In 1840 James III expanded his business. In 35 years he built at least 155 ships, from the *Marina* (1833) to the *Magdala* completed three days before his death in 1868. Among the largest ships were the *James Yeo*, *Palmyre* and the *William Yeo*. Many of these ships were launched from sites on Prince Edward Island and were sailed unfinished to Britain for completion in Appledore near Bideford in Southern England by William, the oldest son of James II. William and his father owned at least twenty ships sailing with cargoes bound for ports all over the world.

James' wife, Damaris, was a good business woman who managed the stores in Port Hill, stocking them with manufactured goods from England, such as clothing, linens, woolens and other wearable materials. She was assisted by her family, Susanna and her husband, William Richards, Mary Jane and her husband John Ings, Isabella and her husband, J. R. Sanders and Caroline and her husband, John Maynard.

When money was scarce, James made loans to settlers and by 1860 he was making large loans to the Prince Edward Island government. The newspaper the "Islander" claimed his wage bill to his employees exceeded the total government revenue. Since he could total

figures quickly, he was able to make rapid assessments as to the value of timber, crops, ships and cargo.

It is said that he supervised his operations by riding horseback all over the Island and often slept in the saddle.

It is claimed that he was an expert seaman. The story is told of a ship coming into Malpeque Bay and he received word that the ship was having difficulty landing. He borrowed a horse, swam to the ship, turned the horse around and sent it home, while he boarded the ship and brought it safely ashore. He bought the horse and kept it until it died.

James was land agent for Sir George Seymour's holding in Lot 13. He purchased 16,000 acres from Seymour and eventually owned Lot 13.

The system of Lots was established by the British when they first occupied the Island – they divided it into 67 lots and granted practically all the land to British proprietors, who made vague promises of colonization. Few of the grantees migrated to the Island. As a result, the Island was plagued with the problems of absentee landlords for many years. In 1773 the first elected Assembly for the Island met, and colonial self-government was granted in 1851.

James III was elected to the Island Assembly in 1839 as a conservative member for the first electoral district of Prince County. He remained a member until 1846, when he stood aside to allow the election of James Warburton. About this time he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. There is a story (unconfirmed) that a young couple stopped James on his way to a business meeting and asked him to marry them. He said, "I pronounce you man and wife" and they went on their way.

In 1848 he was elected to the Assembly again and served until he was defeated in 1863. A month after his defeat he was elected to the Legislative Council, where he served until 1867. It is said that he was concerned principally with practical issues such as road building and ferry service and that he controlled the legislature not only by his wealth but also through his strength of character.

His obituary states: 'He was no orator but stated his views on the questions before the House of Assembly in a few terse Saxon terms strictly to the point. As a legislator, he was worth a dozen frothy orators. He died deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends. His public and private benevolence will be long and gratefully remembered.'" In his will, he advised his executors not to force any person out of his home if he was not able to meet the rent.

Stone #131 St. James Anglican Cemetery in Port Hill reads: "*Sacred to the memory of Damaris, the beloved wife of Honorable James Yeo, who departed this life May 27, 1868, age 72, she stretcheth out her hand to the poor, she stretcheth out her hands to the needy.*"

Sacred to the memory of the Honorable James Yeo, who departed this life August 25, 1868

The following is taken from a photocopy I found in my mother's files. It is apparently written by Basil Greenhill (the villainous author of "Westcountrymen on Prince Edward Island) and is taken from Dictionary of Canadian Biography Vol IX 1861-70, editor Frances Halpenyy, University of Toronto Press, Toronto 1976, pg 855-7. I do not know how my mother came across this. Her writings quoted above are not in all cases consistent with Greenhill's, but there are other passages that are remarkably similar, so I suspect she used this as a source when she didn't have other sources on which she could rely.

Yeo, James, shipbuilder and owner, merchant, landowner and farmer. B. 1789 (baptized 13 Feb. 1790) at Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England, eldest son of James Yeo and Ann Orsborn; m first in 1812 Mary Francis, by whom he had three children and secondly in 1819 Damaris Sargent of Kilkhampton, by whom he had five daughters and two sons. d. Aug. 25, 1868 at Port Hill, PEI.

James Yeo, the son of a shoemaker, was a labourer until 1814 or 1815 when he set up as a carter between Kilkhampton and Bideford, Devon. After his first wife's death in 1818 this business failed, partly as a result of Yeo's drunkenness. In May 1819 he married again and the couple probably immigrated the same year to Port Hill, Prince County, Prince Edward Island. There Yeo worked as a superintendent of the lumbering gangs and helped with the management of the stores in the lumbering, shipbuilding and mercantile business established by Thomas Burnard in 1818 and at that time managed by Thomas Burnard Chanter. In 1826, after Burnard's death, Chanter disposed of the business at Port Hill to William Ellis, a master shipbuilder who had also emigrated from the Bideford district. The business had a large number of outstanding accounts, many of which Yeo collected in the name of the Burnard family, with whom he was known to be associated; he then retained the proceeds, though they were in fact the legal property of Ellis. In this way Yeo acquired capital to set up on a small scale as a lumber dealer, storekeeper and owner and master of the 35-foot merchant schooner Mary Ann, which he sailed from 1829 to 1832.

Possessed of enormous physical and mental energy and business acumen, Yeo greatly prospered. By the mid 1830s he already exercised considerable influence in Prince County, having bought the original business at Port Hill from Ellis in circumstances which generated legends of an Esau-like misappropriation of Ellis' inheritance persisting on the Island to this day.

In 1840 Yeo began shipbuilding on a large scale and soon became the greatest of the Island's shipbuilders. As such he played a vital part in the colony's economic development in the middle years of the century, when new ships built for sale in Britain were by far the most important Prince Edward Island export. He was responsible for the construction of at least 155 ships, from the Marina (1833) to the Magdala (completed

three days before his death in 1869). Of these, several, especially James Yeo, Palmyra and William Yeo, were among the largest ships ever built in Prince Edward Island. Yeo's youngest sons, James and John, and his sons-in-law and their associates built at least another 200 vessels. Many of these ships, launched from sites all around the shores of the Island were sailed unfinished to Britain for completion at a shipyard established in Appledore near Bideford by James Yeo's eldest son, William, who returned to Britain in 1843 to act as his father's principal agent. William Yeo's position in England was of great importance to his father's success in shipbuilding: both were also at any one time usually the owners of up to 20 ships sailing with cargoes bound for ports all over the world.

James Yeo had many other business interests, through which his wife and children and brothers and sisters were incorporated into the management of his affairs. He took advantage of the uncertainty of many of the settlers' titles to send his men to cut timber as long as it lasted; in this way he built up a sizeable export business. Moreover, his stores at Port Hill, ably managed by his wife Damaris, were the largest in the western part of the Island and were operated on a credit basis. Many settlers became indebted to him and through the resulting 'power of the Ledger' he was able to exploit their labour and time. He was also de facto land agent for Sir George Seymour's holdings in Lot 13, a position that was formalized in 1846 and in 1857 he purchased Seymour's 16,000 acres, which together with extensive properties already acquired elsewhere in the Island he held for many years.

Yeo also became a large-scale exporter of agricultural products, including oats, potatoes, and livestock, and by the late 1840s was loading ten ships a year for Britain as well as 40 schooners for the neighbouring provinces. A decade later, 11 of his ships, laden with cargoes of lumber and agricultural produce, arrived in British ports within one month. In the 1830s and 1840s relatively little money was in circulation in the colony and it was said that in this period Yeo was the only man in Prince County from whom settlers could obtain cash. He built up a role as financier until by the 1860s he was making large loans to the government. At that time, the Islander claimed that his wage bill to his numerous employees alone exceeded the total government revenue. For the last ten years of his life he was frequently referred to in the Island newspapers as the richest man in the colony.

Yeo's great success was achieved by unflagging energy and ability, He could total figures quickly, and was able to make rapid assessments of the value of timber stands, crops, ships and their cargoes, and business enterprises, He personally supervised his operations, riding on horseback off over the Island and often sleeping in the saddle. A contemporary American visitor once said that "for six months he's never go to bed (sic)." He was spoken of, even by his admirers, however, as a hard man who retained the rough manners of his youth to then end of his life.

Yeo was first elected to the Island assembly in 1839 as a Conservative member for the first electoral district of Prince County, He remained a member until 1846 when he stood aside to allow the election of James Warburton, later one of his bitterest opponents.

About this time he was appointed a justice of the peace. In 1848 he was elected again and sat until he was defeated by 50 votes in 1863. After the election of 1859, when the Conservatives held power by a majority of four, Yeo held a position of particular advantage in the assembly, with control over the votes of his son John and of David Ramsay, a close associate. He undoubtedly used his position to his direct advantage in such matters as the appointment of relatives and associates to offices of influence in local administration. A month after his defeat he was elected to the Legislative Council on which he served until 1867. He was also a member of the Executive Council from 1859 to 1867. During much of his time as a member of the assembly Yeo wielded great influence in Island politics because of his wealth and the power this brought him with his numerous debtors. Contemporaries consequently nicknamed him the "Ledger Baron of Port Hill" and the "Driver of the Government."

Throughout his long political career, Yeo was concerned principally with practical issues of local administration. In the 1830s he confined himself to such questions as road-building, the issuing of treasury warrants, ferry service, and a custom house at Cascumpec. Lieutenant Governor Charles Augustus FitzRoy noted the Yeo tended to follow Joseph Pope's lead in politics. He could operate his business best under the existing proprietorial system of land ownership, and it is no surprise that his politics were conservative; he was bitterly opposed to the land reforms espoused by William Cooper and the Escheat party, whom Yeo branded "Malignants," and to the granting of responsible government, as advocated by George Coles and the Liberals.

James Yeo's part in the development of shipbuilding, shipping, and the export business in Prince Edward Island in the mid 19th century was unique both in scale and in the breadth and complexity of his operations. For all his ruthlessness he made a material contribution to the economic development of the province and indeed to the merchant shipping industry both in British North America and in Britain at the same period.

After his death in 1868 Yeo's fortune was split between a number of descendants. His eldest son, William, probably the largest single beneficiary, died four years later without a male heir, and his assets passed into other hands. John Yeo continued his father's business in PEI with considerable success and enjoyed a long career in the provincial and federal governments, dying a senator in 1924.

The above passage cites records from Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England Parish registers from 1790-1819, containing unusually complete records of the births, marriages, and deaths of James Yeo's complex family. His early career in Prince Edward Island is traceable through PAPEI, PEI Supreme Court records, 1770-1900, and to a small extent through PAPEI, Port Hill papers. His career as a shipbuilder and ship owner can be followed in great detail through PAC, RG 42, I, 150-69, 391-93, and National Maritime Museum (London), Reports of Lloyds surveyors of the port of Bideford (mfm. At PAC). His career as a landed proprietor can be followed in PAPEI, PEI and Registry Office. Land conveyance registers, and there are a number of references to him in Warwick County Record Office (Warwick, Eng.), CR 114A (Seymour of Ragley papers). The activities of his son and agent in Britain, William Yeo, are the subject of numerous

references in the North Devon press, notably the North Devon Journal (Barnstable, Eng), 1840-72. There are also some useful references in Devon County Record Office (Exeter, Eng.), Northam parish registers, 1792-1820. James Yeo's political life was reported in the Prince Edward Island press, notably the Islander, 1830-68, especially September 1868. "that book" (Westcountrymen in PEI) "gives a detailed account of Yeo's career". (The detailed account is a little bit of tooting his own horn as the author of the passage and the author of 'that book' are the same.- MMH)

William Yeo, eldest son of James and his first wife, Frances, was born in Kilkhampton in 1812. He emigrated to Prince Edward Island with his father and step-mother, Damaris, in 1819. When his father started shipbuilding on a large scale, William returned to England, to Appledore, a village situated between the River Taw and Torridge on the Devon coast. Ships built by his father, James in Port Hill, PEI, were sent to Appledore, where they were re-rigged and re-caulked, and sailed back to Port Hill filled with supplies for the settlers.

In 1856, James and William had constructed the largest dry dock in Europe, Richmond Dock, in Appledore. It was used to refit and repair the ships trading between Appledore and the Yeo business on PEI.

William built a mansion on a high hill overlooking the wharf and planted a tree from every country in the world. He had two daughters. The legend is that when one of them, Jane, married, the splendor was greater than a Royal Wedding. (The house still stands in Appledore, but has been converted to flats).

Sadly, William was killed four years after his father's death. A child's scarf flew in front of the horse he was riding and the horse bolted. William apparently was tossed from the horse and died from the resulting injuries. Without William to oversee the business, it collapsed.

James IV was my grandfather. He was born in 1832 in Port Hill. At the age of three, he fell off a horse. The fall left him with a peculiar gait, but in no way limited his very active life. Following in the footsteps of his father, he was a prominent merchant, shipbuilder and ship owner. He established his business at Green Park on Campbell Creek. He inherited his father's shrewd business sense and was capable of taking over the business in the busy 1860's when Island shipbuilding reached its peak.

Between 1820 and 1890, he and his brother, John, built 325 vessels. Their business spanned the Atlantic.

In 1856 he built the Victorian house, Green Park, a three-story residence. It has a cupola on the roof in order to watch for ships coming into Campbell Creek. (*Pictured below*).



He was a prominent figure in the political arena. For some years, he represented the Second District of Prince County, and for some time was a member of the Executive Council. In 1873, after the Island entered the Canadian Federation, he resigned his seat in the Local House and was returned as a member of the House of Commons in Ottawa for Prince County. He was reelected in 1874, 1878, 1882 and 1886.

It is said that he made politics come alive. In that period, debates were held in the community hall, where a leader of the Liberal Party faced a Conservative, Grandfather was a Liberal (*NB – his father was a Conservative it states above – somewhat unusual to have father and son in politics in different parties, perhaps there is an error*). He was a keen debater. I remember people coming to our house and telling of the amusing tactics he employed.

Young politicians tried to imitate his style. When he met a woman with a baby, he would say, “What a beautiful baby, he looks just like his mother” even if the baby’s mother were homely. He had a way of making people feel good about themselves. When he met a man who had voted against him, he would say “Next time be sure to vote for me.” My mother said if the women had the vote they would all have voted for James Yeo.

In 1891 my grandfather retired from public life. He died suddenly of a heart attack on February 13, 1903.

His obituary read: “The career of the late Mr. Yeo was one that cannot fail to have left a deep impression for good on all who came within his usefulness. Among public men who labored for the welfare of their country, Mr. Yeo held a conspicuous position. He was a keen debater, a man of sound judgment and rare strength of character. He was moreover, a whole-souled, upright man who rose above entertaining harsh feelings towards his

political opponents and his friendly greeting and open-heartedness made it a pleasure to form and retain his acquaintance,”

Sarah Jane Glover was my paternal grandmother. She was born in Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England on April 23, 1834 and died on January 10, 1912. She, along with her family emigrated to Northam, Prince Edward Island, in one of Grandfather's sailing vessels. She was tall and slim, had hazel eyes and brown hair. Grandfather met her in Northam and after an engagement of about a year, they married on January 25, 1854. Grandfather had a home in Port Hill, where they lived until 1865 when they moved to Green Park.

Their first child was Charles Sargent, born December 15, (1854) and died April 7, 1887. Their other children were sons James, John E. Arthur, Collingwood and Herbert (my father) and daughters Edith and Jane. Son James died at the age of 35 from food poisoning. (*there seems to be a rumor in the family that this was a deliberate poisoning, that is, murder*).

My uncles Arthur and John E. Yeo each inherited farms of over one hundred acres. John E. married Mary Jane Mackay and lived in Northam. They had three daughters (Annie, Myrtle and Lula) and one son, Horace, who enlisted in the Canadian Army when he was seventeen years old, and was killed in WWI.

Aunt Jane married Donald Nicholson Forbes and they lived in the village in Tyne Valley. The story is that Jane fell in love with Donald, who worked at Green Park. Grandfather objected to their marriage and forbade her to see him. She wrote notes, put them in a slipper, and threw them out the window where they were fetched by a co-conspirator and delivered to Donald. One evening, while Jane and her sister Edith were washing dishes, Jane heard a horn, threw off her apron and went out to join Donald. They eloped to New Brunswick and were married.

Another story is told of my grandfather riding a horse in Tyne Valley several years later when an eleven year old boy said to him, “What a beautiful horse.” Grandfather asked the lad, “What is your name?” the boy replied, “Cecil Forbes.” My grandfather knew that this was his grandson and became reconciled with his daughter.

My uncle Collingwood fell in love with a girl of whom his parents did not approve and would not allow him to see her. He later met Cora Ballum and his parents approved of the match. Collingwood and Cora had several sons and one daughter. His sons were big, rough men, uneducated and suited only for manual labor. Uncle Collingwood went to church regularly and often visited us. He would say, “If only I had married the right woman, I would have had a family of which I would be proud.” Aunt Cora was a woman of low intelligence and unable to set a good example for her children. (*I wonder if these were the boys that my mother told me about – she said they were always getting into ‘trouble’ and I will never forget when she said “and, you know, each one of those boys got their girlfriends in trouble.”*)

My father's sister, Edith, lived at Green Park and worked with my grandmother, keeping the house in shape, especially the floors. My mother told me that in order to keep them shining, they used egg whites which were whipped with a hand beater and then applied to the floors. When my grandmother died, Aunt Edith and Uncle Collingwood made a financial agreement that she could remain in Green Park. When Edith was in her fifties, she went to Vancouver and lived with Blanche, my half sister.

Green Park was the home built by my grandfather in 1865 in Port Hill. It is open to the public today and on the premises there is a shipbuilding museum. The house has decorative eave trim, an exotic cupola and a wide veranda and apparently is typical of the type of building of the period. The ground floor houses the 'public' spaces of the Victorian period. Important guests were received in the formal parlor, business visitors in the study. Family friends might be entertained in the informal parlor, which connects the dining room.

Green Park was a fun place. Parties were held there frequently and people from the surrounding communities attended them to exchange gossip and chat. At these parties, the season's first blueberries, baked in delicious home-made pies and cakes, were served with tea and coffee. Musical groups would perform at these gatherings.

John Yeo was the youngest son of my great grandfather James III and Damaris Sargent. He was born in 1825 in Port Hill. When he was of school age, he was sent to England for his education. Upon completing school, he joined his brother James IV (my grandfather and his brother) in the ship building business. Before the 19th century was over, the last Yeo vessel slid off the ways. Strangled by dwindling timber supplies and the popularity of steam power, my grandfather and John built their last barkentine, "Daisy" in 1893, saw her launched and closed their shipbuilding business.

John had wonderful control of the men who worked for him – one look from John was all it took to keep the men in their places.

He had a large farm in Port Hill, and raised Hereford and Shorthorn beef cattle imported from England. His farm adjoined ours and I remember being very frightened by the big bulls in his pasture.

In 1853, when John was 24 he was elected to the Island Assembly and was chosen Speaker of the House.

The first meeting for the Canadian Federation was held in Charlottetown in 1864. The terms for the Confederation were not satisfactory to Prince Edward Island. Quebec, with the largest population of any province in Canada, wanted the members to be chosen by population. However at a later meeting in Quebec, the Island was allowed two senators and four representatives.

After grandfather retired from public life, John ran for Prince County as a representative and was elected in 1891. He was appointed to the Senate in 1898 and served until his

death. (*My mother and her siblings always referred to John as Senator Yeo or The Senator*).

John attended St. James Church regularly. His pew was on the right side, about a quarter of the way down from the pulpit and our pew was behind this.

Every Christmas Uncle John (The Senator) gave a party in the community hall and Santa gave a gift of candy, oranges and apples to each child.

Senator Yeo brought the Masonic charter from England to Port Hill, and a Masonic Hall was built there. Every New Year's Eve he gave a party for the Masons and their wives (usually turkey dinner, which he carved). After dinner, the guests had a dance. New Year's Eve was the only time my mother and father stayed out late.

Senator Yeo was chosen as the First Grand Master for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Senator Yeo was referred to as "The Grand Old Man of Prince Edward Island." *Although the record may no longer stand, at one time Senator Yeo held his office longer than any other Senator ever in the British Empire.*

Uncle John died in 1924 and the flag at the capital in Charlottetown was at half mast in his honor. He had served his country for 66 years.

The Senator never married. Mrs. John Richards, the wife of Uncle John's nephew, was executrix of his will. His fortune was divided between his many nieces and nephews. It was said that the Senator's fortune 'went to wheels' because they all bought cars.

Herbert Yeo was my father. He was the son of James Yeo IV and Sarah Jane Glover. He was born in Port Hill, PEI on August 5, 1857 and died June 28, 1952.

He attended grade school in Port Hill and the Prince of Wales College. On one occasion he went to Appledore, England on a vessel built by his father, to visit his uncle, William Yeo and to see the drydock which James III and William built.

He had beautiful handwriting (*the family Bible that my Uncle John Yeo showed me several years ago has family records written by Herbert and they are beautiful*). Herbert liked to recite poetry – his favorite was "Battle of Waterloo" which he often recited at the Masonic Lodge. One evening when I was still a home I was reciting this poem. He said: "That is not how it should be read" and proceeded to recite it to me in a manner flowing and dramatic.

My father lived the life of a gentleman and was not prepared for the life he eventually had to live as a farmer. He inherited 120 acres of rich farmland. (*the will of James Yeo III gives Herbert 81 acres, so I don't know how this reconciles to the 120 acres stated here*). There was a grist and cloth mill on the land (*I can't tell if this means that he inherited the*

mills or built them himself) with a creek on one side and a large pond on the other side. Father planted wheat, oats, barley and hay. He also planted potatoes, which were the main cash crop, and vegetables for the family.

He had a house built, two stories with a cellar for potatoes and vegetables. The main floor had a large kitchen with a wood range and a dining room for the family, a bedroom and a living room with large pictures of my grandfather and a cupboard for special dishes. The picture of my grandfather, along with all our memorabilia was stolen one day when my mother was not home. *(I found a random note in my mother's papers that when Green Park was deeded to the Province, some people came to her parents' home when Mary Jane was away and talked to Herbert, at that time quite elderly and not necessarily in full possession of his faculties. The note claims that these people took the portrait of her grandfather and the memorabilia for Green Park, without her father understanding what was going on and without her mother being at home. At any rate, there is a portrait of James IV at Green Park and there is a platter there that my Aunt Adele swore belonged to her mother.)*

His favorite sports were hunting and fishing. He owned a boat and fished in Richmond Bay, now called Malpeque Bay. In the spring and fall he went shooting wild geese on Lennox Island, not far from Port Hill. When he went on these expeditions, he prepared clothing and food for a week.

My father first married Mary Johnstone and they had five children, but only two survived to adulthood. Arthur Vernon (born April 20, 1885, died September 21, 1886); Florence Isabel (born April 26, 1887, died April 9, 1890); Percy (born February 25, 1889 died in Medicine Hat in 1957) Mabel Gertrude (born December 29, 1890, died September 19, 1894); Mary Edith Blanche was born *(there has got to be a mistake here)* September 19, 1894 and died in Vancouver, BC.

Mary operated the cloth mill and my father operated the grist mill. Mary died of tuberculosis when Blanche was a baby and Percy was five years old. Aunt Edith *(I think she was one of Herbert's sisters)* who lived at Green Park took Blanche and my father took Percy to Medicine Hat, Alberta, to live with his mother's sister.

Percy stayed in Medicine Hat the rest of his life. He went to school in Medicine Hat and after school he delivered parcels for the Pringle Drug store. When he graduated from high school, he got a permanent job at the drug store. He took a course in pharmacy in Toronto and started buying shares in the Pringle Drug Store and eventually owned the business. A chain drug store came from Montreal to Medicine Hat and asked Percy to sell the drug store. Percy refused and they told him that they would build next to his store and Percy was asked to name a price. He did, asking a price he thought they would refuse, but it was accepted. He married Mae Farr and they had one son, Jack. Sadly, Jack died after he fell into a tub of hot water. They had a daughter, Margaret.

When Blanche grew up she married Harry Johnson and they moved to Vancouver, BC. Blanche worked for the Hudson Bay Company in the cafeteria for many years. Harry

worked for the Princess Boats. They had a daughter, Eileen. It was Eileen whom Aunt Edith, my father's sister, cared for when she moved to Vancouver.

After his first wife's death, my father left PEI and traveled to western Canada.

He returned to the Island and met my mother, Mary Jane Yeo of Harmony PEI who was visiting her uncle James at his home across the road from Herbert's property. They fell in love and were married on September 2, 1904 at the Strathcona Hotel in Summerside. My mother was 27 and my father was 47. Mother was only five feet, two inches tall and she had the Harmony Yeo large blue eyes. Father was five feet eleven inches. Mother said that she admired his broad shoulders and good form.

They had ten children: Cedric Arnold, Loman, me, John, Mary, Alma, Adelaide (*we all called her Adele*), Arthur, Nora and Isabel.

My parents lived on PEI until 1947 when they moved to Ottawa.



Mary Jane Yeo