

## The Harmony Yeos or Bea's Maternal Parentage

**Lawrence Yeo**, my great grandfather and half-brother to James Yeo II was born in Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England in 1815. He was the son of James Yeo I and his wife Grace Francis.

As a boy of 14, Lawrence emigrated to Prince Edward Island and worked closely with his half-brother, James, who by this time was establishing himself as a merchant and shipbuilder. In 1859, he was appointed Commissioner of Highways for Prince County,

He also served the area as an auctioneer. In 1851, Lawrence auctioned the furniture and other household articles that came ashore after the well-known Yankee Gale. American fishermen were fishing off the coast of PEI and a storm came up, very suddenly. Several ships were wrecked as the captains were unable to steer them to a safe cove. As a result, the ships were smashed up on the shore and several people lost their lives. (*I looked up Yankee Gale on Wikipedia – it began the night of October 3, 1851 and continued two days. In addition to local ships, the storm wrecked much of the New England fishing fleet that was working in the waters, giving the gale its name. At least 74 ships were destroyed, and 150 crew were killed.*)

On December 13, 1840, Lawrence married Catharine McIntosh, daughter of Donald McIntosh Sr. and Nancy McKay of Lot 14. The first few years of their married life was spent in Indian River, where Lawrence looked after his half-brother James' interests. In the mid 1840s, Lawrence and Catharine moved to Lot 13.

Lawrence and Catharine had six sons.(Samuel, William, John, James, Daniel (*and one not listed*) and four daughters (Annie, Jane, Mary and Susan). Daniel was my material grandfather.

**Daniel Yeo**, my maternal grandfather, was born in 1845 and died in 1925. His home was in Harmony (in Lot 16) about ten miles from Port Hill. He raised the usual crops of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and vegetables, as well as livestock. Daniel was tall with large blue eyes. A Presbyterian, he studied the Bible, taught Sunday School and went to church every Sunday, He was a devoted Liberal and enjoyed talking about politics.

Daniel married **Annie Murray** of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Annie was born in 1851 and died in 1922. She was of medium height and also had large blue eyes, like Daniel. They had five sons (Albert, Major, Henry, William and Edwin) and four daughters (Mary Jane ((my mother)), Belle, Catherine and Helena).

My mother said Annie made her children wait on her and never moved around as much as she should have. She had a stroke, which affected her speech. The only time I remember her visiting us was after she had the stroke and she was drooling. She died soon after her stroke.

When Daniel would visit us, he would stand up and jiggle the change he had in his pockets, and give us dimes and quarters. My brother Cedric advised me never to let people know that you had no money, but to do like Grandfather Daniel, pretend you had lots of money.

Albert, the oldest was born in 1875. He was a quiet man, and, unlike his brothers, he settled down to farm life. His farm adjoined his father's and he raised the same crops. He married Ella Ellis and they had two daughters, Kathleen and Gladys. Kathleen went to the Prince of Wales College about the same time I did and became a teacher. Uncle Albert's only son was Wyman Yeo. I remember visiting my grandparents one day and Uncle Albert came to their house while I was there. He had ulcers, which he treated with mixed soda and water. Unfortunately, the ulcers hemorrhaged and he died on the way to the hospital.

Sons Major and William went west, Major to Saskatchewan to harvest wheat, William to find work. William started working in a grocery, but later became a salesman for a manufacturer of farm equipment. He and his wife, Annabelle, had no children of their own, so they adopted Donald, son of one of their friends who had died in childbirth. I remember when William came back to the Island after my Grandmother had her stroke – I thought he was the most handsome man I had ever seen. It was said when he got on a train, all eyes were upon him. During his travels, he caught a disease called “Sleeping Sickness” and died. His widow married Edwin (her brother-in-law) and they lived in Calgary. Uncle Willie, as we called him, left a large insurance policy, so Annabelle was well provided for. Later, Annabelle and her adopted son, Donald, moved to Southern California.

Mother's sister, Belle, moved to Boston at the invitation of a family member. There she met Tom Chislolm and they went together some years before they married. Tom was involved in liquor smuggling during Prohibition in the United States – he would drive to Quebec, buy liquor and take it back to Boston.

Mother's sister, Catharine was a very smart and attractive girl. She was tall and had the large blue eyes of the Yeos. She played the organ in the church and led the singing. Her first job was as a telephone operator. In those days, the telephones were very large and hung on the wall (*the MacKendricks, who own the home in which Bea grew up have one of these telephones in their kitchen to this day*). I remember that our telephone number was '4'.