

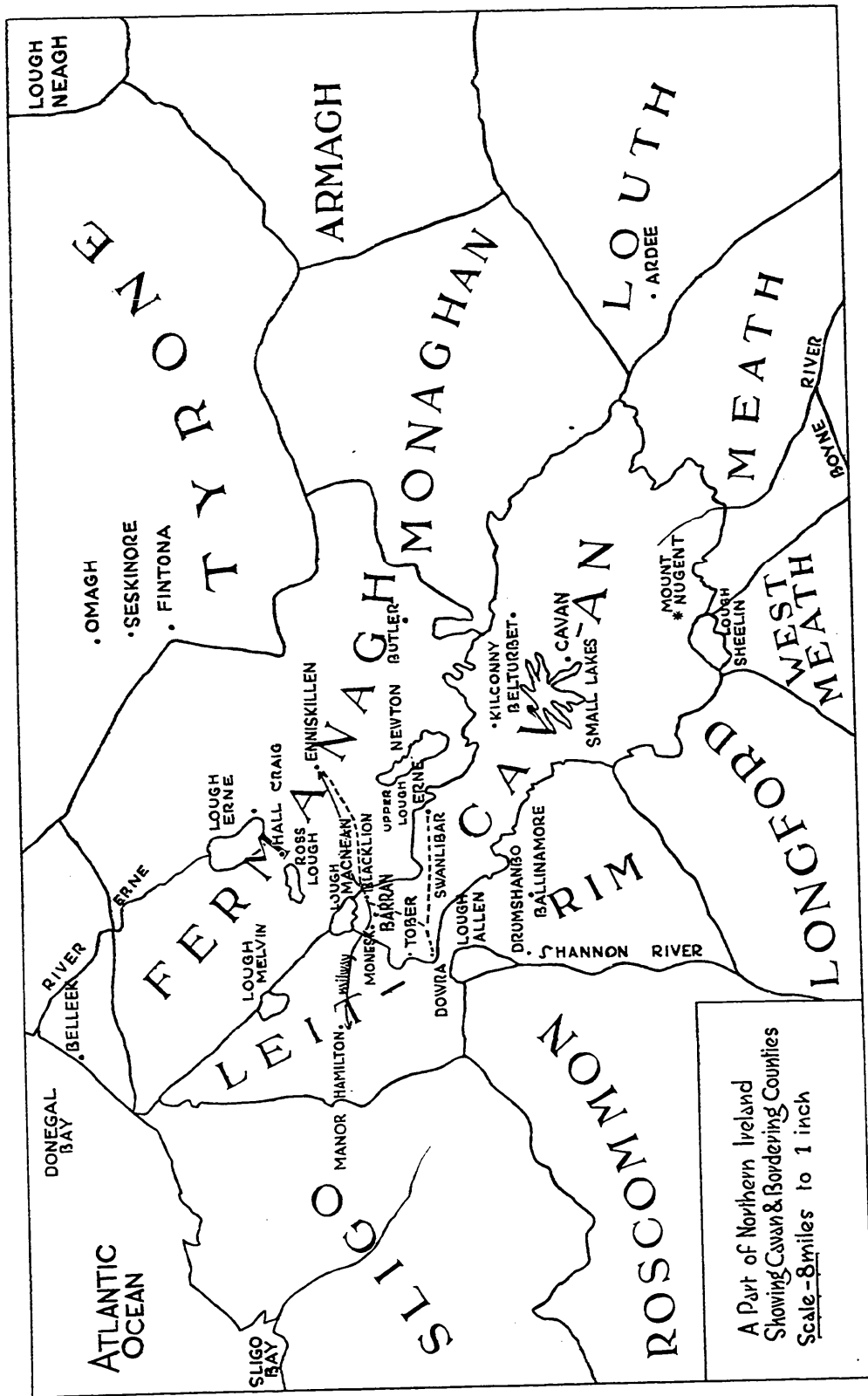
The Craigs of Goulbourn and North Gower.

by
James Beverley Craig.



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DEDICATION



A Tribute to the Past.

A Record for the Present.

A Message for Posterity.

A 6619



In presenting a record of the Craig families of Goulbourn and North Gower, thanks are due to so many that space does not permit of mention of all. In addition to the members of my immediate family, whose encouragement and assistance have been inexpressibly helpful, I wish to acknowledge particularly my debt to the following who have given time and effort with unfailing kindness, as well as those whose names are specifically mentioned throughout the volume;

Horace A. Craig, Esquire.....Edmonton, Alberta.
Robert A. Craig, Esquire, Senior.....North Gower, Ontario.
The late Nixon CraigNorth Gower, Ontario.
The late Robert J. Ball.....Hanover, Ontario.
Newman R. Craig, EsquireToronto.
Jonathan Craig, EsquireOttawa.
Thomas A. Craig, EsquireKemptonville, Ontario.
Reverend Eber E. CraigAttleboro Falls, Massachusetts.

If the information presented should be found inaccurate or if the style of presentation appears awkward, these contributors should not be held responsible. The data have been difficult to obtain and often impossible to verify; the faults of composition are my own.

If readers will be so good as to use the form, (enclosed in duplicate with the work,) to advise me of corrections in the record, or criticism of the narrative, I shall be exceedingly grateful.

While the chief object throughout the volume has been to record facts, I have also endeavoured to refrain from direct eulogy, in a personal work of this nature, but rather to express such through the medium of fact. As there must be a large store of interesting items connected with the various families, hitherto impossible to obtain, I should be especially pleased to have further information regarding the ancestral or contemporary members, whether by way of record or tradition. A fact may be commonplace in Rouleau but unknown in North Gower; an anecdote may be trivial in itself but illustrative of a period forever past. Should it be possible to issue a supplementary edition at some future date, such contributions would add immeasurably to the value and interest of the work.

North Gower, Carleton County,
Ontario, Canada.
November 1929.

CONTENTS

Preface.

Introductory Ode.

Part One.

The Origin of the Name.

Ancestral Traditions.

Explanatory Notes re Plan of Book.

Family of Thomas Craig, Oldest Known Ancestor.

Voyage of First Craig Party to Canada.

Voyage of Second Craig Party to Canada.

Part Two.

Descendants of Hugh, son of Thomas Craig.

Part Three.

Descendants of William, son of Thomas Craig.

Part Four.

Descendants of Thomas, son of Thomas Craig.

Part Five.

Descendants of Jane (Ball), daughter of Thomas Craig.

Part Six.

Descendants of Dorothy (Fiddes), daughter of Thomas Craig.

Part Seven.

Descendants of Mary (Graham), daughter of Thomas Craig.

Appendix.

Some Craigs who have attained prominence in various callings,
past and present.

The Irish Migration of 1847-48.

Table showing the average span of life, by decades, of all deceased
members known, 1834-1927.

Glossary.

(A) Of Names of Places.

(B) Of Abbreviations.

Corrections and Contributions Offered.

From Ireland's shores, one morn in May,
A ship was leaving Sligo Bay;
A sparkling sunrise hailed the day.

Slowly her graceful sails unrolled,
With wistful colonists, young and old,
And stores of corn and wine in hold.

A gilded treasure was not the quest
Of these who braved Atlantic's crest,
As the "Richardson" journeyed out into the west.

"Give us a home in the wildwood deep,"
They sang, "With lands wherefrom we'll reap
"Fair harvests,—with oxen and cattle and sheep."

Three families left the dear "ould sod"
That day, with simple faith in God,
To hew out homes in forests broad.

And other members bade adieu
To Ireland's Emerald Island true,
At later dates to cross the blue.

From Cavan to Carleton's forests that sway,
To Red Stone's plains and hills of Grey,
At different times they made their way.

Almost a century of years
Has passed since those brave pioneers
Set forth 'mid varied hopes and fears.

Where they first settled, lived and died,
Where their descendants now reside,
And other facts you'll find inside.

Fragments of History and Family Trees,
Sheaves from the Scythe of Time are these;
Tales since our Ancestors crossed the Seas.

PART ONE



The Origin
of the Name with
a Brief Account of the
Older Members in Ireland.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

The surname "Craig" (a) comes from the old Gaelic word "creag,"—a crag, rock or steep cliff—a word often forming a part of the names of places in hilly or mountainous districts in various parts of Scotland, as for example, Craigellachie or Ailsa Craig.

The Welsh form of the word is "craig," and as the Welsh once inhabited parts of Southern Scotland, it is possible that the surname came originally from the Gaelic, through the Welsh.

These forms are quite distinct from those of an allied word of similar import, Gaelic,—"carraig," Welsh,—"carreg," the former of which is the source of the place-name and the surname,—"Carrick."

Although "Craig" is derived from the Gaelic, those who first bore the name were Lowland Scottish. There was no clan or sept of Craig and it appears that various families received the surname from association with those hilly localities inhabited by them called in whole or in part "craig." Thus, it may be evident that the name, "John of the crag" could evolve through years of usage into "John Craig." It is also probable that, as there were many of these rocky districts throughout Scotland, the various families bearing the name would in many cases be quite unconnected with each other.

There are Craigs now in all parts of Scotland but they are more numerous in the northern and eastern portions of the country. Allied forms of the surname are Craigg, Cragg, Craik, Craigie, Gregg and Greig.

(a) Courtesy of Professor Sir W. A. Craigie of Chicago University.

ANCESTRAL TRADITIONS.

The first ancestors of the family, recorded by tradition, were two brothers named Craig, (given names unknown) who left Scotland for Ireland between 1700 and 1750. If their migration was due to the rebellion of 1715 or 1745, there is no tradition to that effect.

In moving from Scotland to Ireland, it is probable that the two brothers were not going among strangers. According to Wright's History of Ireland, there was a Craig in Londonderry before the siege of 1690. The settlement of Ireland by the English commenced under Queen Mary and was carried on under Queen Elizabeth, when Scots were introduced as well, and large tracts of land were cleared for occupation by immigrants from Scotland and England. The settlement was continuous for over a century, Oliver Cromwell being less active in the movement than his successors. (b). Some of the previous immigrants, therefore, must have been known or related to the two brothers.

They both settled first in County Fermanagh but sometime later, about 1760, one of them removed with his wife and two children to the adjoining County Cavan. The children's names were Thomas and Elizabeth. *Thomas is the first of whom there is any authentic record and is the subject of further observations on another page.*

On the map-sketch, in County Fermanagh, will be observed the hamlet, Hall Craig, which, as far as any connection it may have had with the family, is now only a matter of surmise but its name and location are at least interesting.

ELIZABETH CRAIG married John McMullen who altered his name to Mullen, owing to the belief current among Protestants that the prefix indicated a taint of Roman Catholicism. (The Boyne had been fought only in 1690 and was more in the minds of men in 1760 than it is in 1929.) There is still an affectionate tradition of "Aunt Betty Mullen."

Two relatives of Thomas Craig and Elizabeth Mullen appear to have lived in Cavan,—JOHN and CHARLIE CRAIG. The latter confessed to being an atheist and was once in imminent danger of drowning, when the ice gave way while he was crossing a small lake in winter. His cries for help brought his wife, Alice, who threw him the end of a blanket and pulled him to safety. Some days afterwards, when dis-

(b) Courtesy of Dr. G. F. Black of New York Public Library.

cussing his rescue, he was asked by a friend, "Now, Charlie, won't you believe in God and that It was He Who saved you from drowning?" "Oh! No," he replied, "It wasn't God at all; it was Allie and the blanket that saved me." One wonders if he were as brave when he was in the water.

THOMAS*, Elizabeth's brother, married but his wife's name is now unknown. They appear to have settled on a rented farm near Monesk about 1760. The name of one landlord was Lord Daly, a very charitable man, and another was Lord Weir, a clergyman. When the landlord would make one of his regular visits, all tenants were required to stand at attention with heads bared while he addressed them, often on horseback, perhaps on a hunting-trip for rabbits. Occasionally he would ask where the best rabbit-burrows were and on receiving their reply would throw them a coin, and dash off on his quest for game. One landlord's name may have been Hamilton, as the name of one landlord of that name was held in such grateful recollection that "Hamilton" became a family name.

It seems probable that the family belonged to the Church of Ireland, as tradition states that the Anglican clergyman stationed there, later in 1840, was the Rev. Mr. Nugent.

It is related that when the fertility of a farm had become exhausted, it was the custom to dig clay from the bottom of wells and spread it over the land, on the assumption that the richness of the soil increased with depth.

MONESK is now described by the General Registry Office, Dublin, as follows,—

"Monesk is a townland, (sub-division of a parish,) in the Parish of "Killinagh and in the Barony of Tullyhaw, District Electoral Division "of Eskey and County Cavan, and is situated near the border between "that county and County Fermanagh."

Tradition informs us that it is located twenty miles east of Sligo Harbour, twelve from Enniskillen, twenty from Manor Hamilton, and not far from it were situated the villages of Black Lion and Red Lion. Reference to the map-sketch of County Cavan shows the location of Monesk in relation to other places.

* The name Thomas is said to be derived from the Gaelic, "tomailt," meaning "provisions" and came to signify "a man of hospitality." The root is "tomhas"—"a measure." (From "Irish Pedigrees" by John O'Hart.)

The Keeper of the Four Courts, Dublin, has furnished some slight additional information regarding Thomas, his letter in part being quoted below.

“The Registers (Church of Ireland) of Killinagh were deposited here
“but were destroyed in 1922, when the Office was burned, while in the
“occupation of Insurgent Forces. Public Registration of Births in Ireland
“commenced only in 1864. No entry of the proving of the will of
“Thomas Craig has been found in our indexes, 1760-1810. The Registers
“of the other religious denominations are in the custody of the respective
“clergy.”

Some thirty miles north-west of Monesk was Mohill, the birthplace of Dr. William Henry Drummond who wrote,—

“The breeze that blows o’er Mullaghmore
“I feel against my boyish cheek,
“The white-walled huts that strew the shore
“From Castlegal to old Belleek.”

EXPLANATORY NOTES re PLAN OF BOOK

The names of Thomas' family of nine members will be found on the two pages following. From them are all the Craig, Ball, Fiddes and Graham families of the connection descended.

The sons, Hugh, William and Thomas are the ancestors of the North Gower and Goulbourn families of Craigs. One daughter, Jane, (who came to Canada with her husband, James Ball,) is ancestress of the Ball Branch. Another daughter, Dorothy, (who married James Fiddes but did not emigrate,) is ancestress of the Fiddes Branch. From another daughter, Mary, (who came to Canada with her husband, James Graham,) are all the Graham members descended. The other members of Thomas' family follow in order.

The sons and daughters of the "branches," Hugh, William and Thomas are each shown on a separate page, along with descendants, in Parts Two, Three and Four respectively. A brief sketch is given relating to each member in these three families, with portraits where available, following which are recorded births, marriages, war services and deaths, where the terms apply.

Collateral Branches of the Ball Families follow in Part Five, the Fiddes Families in Part Six, and that of the Graham Families in Part Seven, with blank pages to continue them down to the present if desired.

Part One may be called the "parent" chapter, as therefrom are descended all members in the later six chapters or "Parts."

The reader's attention is especially drawn to the following rules observed throughout.

1. *As a means of more ready reference to the three first and oldest generations, they have been designated by the following names;—*

- (a) Thomas, oldest-known ancestor, is known as the "tree."*
- (b) His children are designated by the name "branches."*
- (c) His grand-children are designated by the name "stems," thus following in the natural order of a growing tree.*

2. *To further simplify reference to many of the older members bearing similar Christian names, a system of numbers is used. This plan,*

if carefully noted, should enable readers to refer immediately to any member in any part of the book.

- (a) Thomas, oldest-known ancestor, is No. 1.
- (a) His children are designated by two numbers, as Robert, the eldest, is No. 1-1, Hugh, the second, is No. 1-2, etc.
- (c) His grand-children are given three numbers, as, Hugh Craig, —father of the late Nixon Craig, North Gower,—would be 1-2-5, being the fifth son of Hugh, who was the second son of Thomas, No. 1.
- (d) It will also be evident that one number indicates the first generation, two numbers—the second, and three numbers—the third generation, etc. This system may be carried down indefinitely.

3. Where two members,—whether Craigs by name or descent,—have intermarried, the names of the children appear under the father's name only.

4. It will be observed that while the names of all members appear on the "tree" pages to the left, not all are to be found on the "particulars" pages to the right. As it would be obviously impossible to do this, the rule has been generally followed to include on the "particulars" pages only those falling within the category below:—

- (a) Married members, including name of partner and address.
- (b) Members having a Municipal or Parliamentary record.
- (c) Members having a record for war services.
- (d) For deceased members only,—date born and died and where buried.

A few exceptions to this rule will be noted in Part Three, where all particulars were not as readily obtainable.

5. In certain cases, where dates were obtained from two or more sources, they were found to disagree. Those given herein have been based on the following relative order of authenticity;—

- (a) Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths.
- (b) Family Bibles.
- (c) Monuments.
- (d) Oral Tradition.

6. As it has been impossible, in most cases, to obtain more than one Christian name, that by which the person has been best known only has been quoted. A few exceptions to this rule occur, for example, where the member was commonly known by two Christian names. So, where the best-known name of a member was not obtainable, the first name and initial(s) of the subsequent name(s) are used.

THE TREE	THE BRANCHES	THE STEMS
	1. Robert.	
	2. Hugh (Turn to Part 2, for descendants.)	1. Thomas 2. Mary 3. Jane 4. Robert 5. Hugh 6. James 7. William 8. John 9. Elizabeth
	3. William (Turn to Part 3, for descendants.)	1. James 2. Mary Ann 3. Jane 4. Elizabeth 5. Frances 6. William 7. Hugh
1. Thomas	4. Thomas (Turn to Part 4, for descendants.)	1. Robert 2. Hugh 3. Charlotte 4. Thomas 5. John 6. William (Twin) 7. James (Twin) 8. Richard 9. George 10. Mary Ann
	5. Susan (Hassard)	
	6. Jane (Jennie) (Ball) (Turn to Part 5, for descendants.)	1. Thomas 2. Elizabeth 3. Annie 4. John 5. James 6. Hugh 7. William
	7. Dorothy (Dolly) (Fiddes) (Turn to Part 6, for descendants.)	1. Elizabeth 2. Alexander 3. Thomas 4. Jane 5. Dorothy (Dolly) 6. Elizabeth (Bessie) 7. Margaret 8. Frances 9. Mary 10. Hugh
	8. Elizabeth (Nixon)	
2. Elizabeth (McMullen).	9. Mary (Graham) (Turn to Part 7, for descendants.)	1. James 2. Robert 3. Thomas 4. Susan 5. Mary

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

re FAMILY OF THOMAS CRAIG. (1).

- 1-1. ROBERT,—Married a daughter of Thomas Johnston of Kildernab, Ireland, emigrated to Red Stone, Pennsylvania.
- He corresponded with home for some years and then gradually lost touch with them. The family was last heard of about 1857, when Mr. Alex. Moore of North Gower, (a relative of the Nixon family there,) visited Red Stone and met three sons between the ages of 45 and 55 and all unmarried.
- While travelling through that neighbourhood about 1924, Dr. Allen Delmer Craig, (1-2-1-5-1-1) of Chicago, met an insurance agent named Craig, who claimed descent from the above-named.
- There is a large Craig settlement at Craig's Forks on the Delaware River, Pennsylvania, whose ancestors came from Scotland about 1700, relationship unknown to the writer.
- 1-2. HUGH,—Born 1772, Ireland, Died Nov. 19 - 1849, Goulbourn Township. Married in Ireland, Frances Nixon,—Born 1778, Ireland. Died May 26 - 1858, Goulbourn Township. Both are buried in the Union Cemetery, Kars. An account of their voyage to Canada appears on another page.
- 1-3. WILLIAM,—Born Ireland, Died 1836, Goulbourn Township. Married in Ireland, Mary Gaw. Born 1782, Ireland. Died 1880, Goulbourn Township, where they are buried. An account of their voyage to Canada appears on another page.
- 1-4. THOMAS,—Born 1793, Ireland, Died Feb. 14 - 1859, North Gower Township. Married in Ireland, Elizabeth Moffatt, Born June 24 - 1798. Died Sept. 26 - 1880, North Gower Township. Both are buried in Methodist Cemetery, Kars. An account of their voyage to Canada appears on another page.
- 1-5. SUSAN,—Married Hassard in Ireland and did not come to America.
- 1-6. JANE—Born Ireland. Died , Married in Ireland, James Ball, Born , Ireland, Died 1866. They came to Canada, with their family, about 1840 and settled in Bentinck Township, Grey County, Ontario.
- 1-7. DOROTHY,—Married James Fiddes in Ireland and did not come to America. Several members of their family came to Canada about 1852.
- 1-8. ELIZABETH,—Married Nixon and did not come to America. Both of them, with their only child, were killed by a tree falling on their house, when they were indoors.
- 1-9. MARY,—Born Ireland, Died , North Gower Township. Married in Ireland, James Graham, Born Ireland, Died North Gower Township. Both are buried in Methodist Cemetery, Kars. An account of their voyage to Canada appears on another page.

P.S. It is generally agreed that all the above members were born at Monesk, County Cavan, Ireland, where they resided till as stated above.

VOYAGE OF THE FIRST CRAIG PARTY TO CANADA.

Hugh and William appear to have lived on rented farms at Moneck for some years, where their families were born. This was their home until they were notified by their landlord that he was about to raise their rent, and it was for this reason that they decided to emigrate to Canada.

By a curious co-incidence their migration occurred exactly three hundred years after the first French explorers set out on their expedition also for "New France," so picturesquely described by Thomas D'Arcy McGee in his poem beginning with the following lines,—

"In the seaport of St. Malo, 'twas a smiling morn in May,
When the Commodore, Jacques Cartier, to the Westward sailed away."

On Friday, May the 2nd, 1834, The First Craig Party sailed from Sligo, Ireland, on the ship "The Richardson," in charge of Captain Mc-Vernon.

Whine of the cable, smart of the foam,
Terror of unknown seas,—
O, for another last sight of our home,
The haunt of our memories!

The party was composed of the following members,—

1. HUGH CRAIG, with his wife and seven of their nine children, (two married daughters, Mary and Jane, remained in Ireland,—Jane only temporarily.) Hugh's eldest son, Thomas, being married, brought his wife and three children. It is also probable that Hugh's fourth son, Robert, was married before leaving and that his wife came in the party.
2. WILLIAM CRAIG, brother of Hugh, with wife and family of seven.
3. MARY, sister of Hugh and William, with her husband, James Graham and four members of their family, (the eldest son, James Graham, Jr. and wife having emigrated to Oswego, New York State, five years previously). Their married daughter, Susan, and husband, Robert Moffatt came out at this time. In addition to being a relative by marriage, Mr. Moffatt was a great friend of his wife's uncle, Hugh Craig, and they refused to allow the party to leave without them. This brought their number to a total of thirty members in all.

Restless and angry gulls that wheel
And scream with the swing of the swell!
Mountains of water with crests that reel,
Ireland, Ireland, farewell!

Sometime after leaving Sligo Harbour, the vessel encountered high winds and a heavy sea. After the storm had raged for several days, a large block became unfastened from the top of the mast and was swinging loosely in the wind. The captain climbed up the mast to repair the damage but the block hit him on the head and knocked him into the sea where he was drowned.

From there the journey appears to have been uneventful till the party reached the St. Lawrence. Here, Mary Ann, William's daughter, also lost her life by drowning. Wishing to draw water from the river in order to prepare breakfast, she threw over the side a pail attached to a rope. But she did not realize the power of the current, which pulled her overboard and carried her down the river, never to be seen again. This was the second and last calamity experienced during the voyage of the First Party.

After a voyage of seven weeks and three days, the travellers landed at Quebec City on the 23rd of June.

O, blest was the sight of rock Quebec,
And the shore of Montreal;
More blessed the Power That watched our deck
And brought us safe through all!

At Quebec, Hugh's sons, Thomas and Robert were sent out through the district to the South, to explore the country and ascertain if it appeared suitable for farming, with a view to settling there. They reported unfavorably on the appearance of the land as seeming too rocky and hilly for agricultural purposes.

The means of transport from Quebec to Montreal is not altogether certain but it seems very probable that the party came this distance by steamboat. (Rev. Wm. Bell of Perth, in his "Hints to Emigrants," published in Edinburgh, 1824, describes his journey by sailing vessel to Quebec, thence by steamboat, a journey of 36 hours to Montreal, afterwards by "bateau" from Lachine to Prescott. The steamboat to Montreal is confirmed by other evidence; the Molson Boat Accommodation was a steamer and was commissioned about 1820.)

From Montreal the travellers continued their arduous journey up the St. Lawrence by means of flat-bottomed Durham boats (also called "scows" or "batteaux,") towed by oxen from the shore and steered by poles from the shore and the boats.

They landed at Brockville and made their way inland through the forest by wagons and oxen. They probably crossed the Rideau at Rideau Ferry, (the only crossing-place along that part of the river at

that time and for years later.) It is also likely that they passed through Perth and from thence followed the "old Perth road."

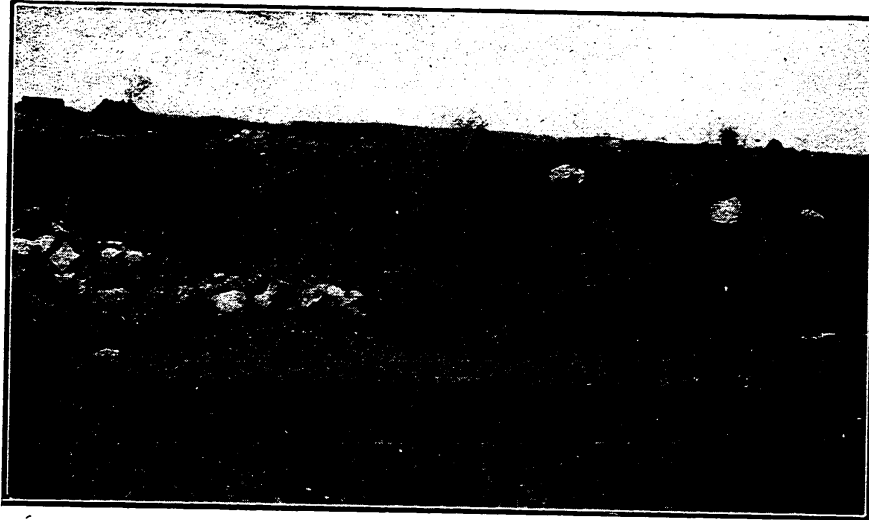
They finally arrived at Goulbourn Township, Carleton County, where Hugh settled on the East half of Lot 3, Con. 4, and William on the West half of the lot.

The Graham family settled in the adjoining Township of North Gower, on Lot 14, Con. 3.

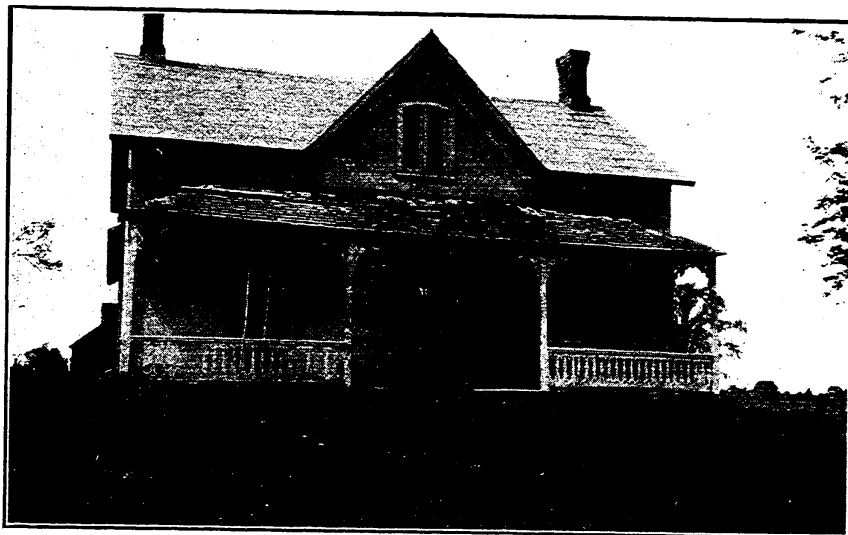
Some years later, Hugh bought 400 acres in North Gower Township, consisting of Lots 16 and 17, Con. 3, which he divided as follows,—

To Robert Moffatt	West half, Lot 16
To son James.....	East half, Lot 16
To son Robert	West half, Lot 17
To son Hugh	East half, Lot 17

William died two years after coming to Canada, through an accident, when a tree, which he was cutting down, fell on him in the bush, where he was working with his son James.



Site of the old home where Hugh Craig and family first settled, on coming to Canada in 1834, showing ruins of the old house and buildings.



The present house, where his grandson, Allen Craig and wife now reside, Allen and James E. Craig standing at front.

VOYAGE OF THE SECOND PARTY TO CANADA.

There is a characteristic generally evident among members of the Craig families and descendants in the present day; that is the deep attachment that is maintained for the home and the family circle, regardless of the fact that many have roamed to, and settled in, parts far remote from the place of their birth. And under conditions prevailing over eighty years ago, it is most probable that family ties existing among the members of the family of the Ancestor Thomas, (1) were at least no weaker than they are to-day.

No telegraph connected the Emerald Isle with the young Canadian Colony; an ocean voyage took at least seven weeks; railways scarcely existed; letters and parcels therefore seemed an endless time on the way.

Thus we find Thomas, jr. (1-4) fourth son of Thomas, (1), carrying on back home in Monesk for some years after his brothers, Robert, Hugh and William had emigrated to America.

His wife was Elizabeth (Bessie) Moffatt, a daughter of Robert Moffatt of Thubber, some six miles distant. (See sketch of Monesk on a previous page.) They were married about the year 1815. It is related that she was "converted" to the teachings of Methodism in their own house, through the preaching of Gideon Ouseley, a prominent Wesleyan leader of that time.

The home in Ireland is described as on the town line of Monesk and therefore in the same locality as those of his brothers. It was near a river and had a rabbit burrow, where rabbits could be secured at almost any time. The house was remembered as "lovely and large," with a sundial at the front of the property.

Their older children attended school at the nearby village of Barran, going across the "steps." One of the teachers here was a Mr. Sweeney, a Roman Catholic, who later came to Canada and taught school at Malakoff and on the Second Concession of North Gower Township. Having taught them as children in Ireland, he retained quite an intimate friendship with the Craig families in Canada.



Thos. Craig, and (Bessie) Eliz. Moffatt, 1-4.

In his latter years, his stooped figure would often be seen trudging along the road with his belongings tied up in a red handkerchief on the end of his cane and slung over his shoulder. A quaint old character, unusually well-read and with a remarkable memory, he was accustomed to "visiting around" among the neighbours of the vicinity. On his travels, he often stayed several days at the home of James Craig Sr. (1-2-6) of North Gower, whose house he described as "Hospitality Hall." A peculiar habit of his was to adorn his coat promiscuously with an array of buttons, chiefly brass, that were intended to mark some event of significance in his memory. It was, presumably, through this method that he was able to quote dates, events and figures with remarkable accuracy. "Wandering through space" would be his reply when asked where he had come from. A man of ornate language, a favourite remark of his to a young lady was "You still retain your juvenile beauty." It is to be deplored that a man of such scholarly attainments should have had such an obscure and nomadic ending.

Having been preceded to Canada by his older brothers, Hugh and William in 1834, and probably also by Robert who emigrated to the United States, Thomas, considering especially the religious and probably the economic conditions as well, then prevailing in Ireland, decided to follow their example. The landlord of the estate—a Mr. Fawcett, said to have been a cousin—sought to dissuade him, pleading with him to remain, as he would be "the last of the Craigs." He even offered to "do for" six of the boys, but Thomas declined. It is said that "the very garden of Mr. Fawcett was afterwards ploughed up and planted to potatoes, and a notice was posted up, threatening any who should disturb them."

Accordingly, about April the 1st, 1840, he set out, with his wife and family of eight sons and two daughters, on the vessel "Industry" for the new land. The journey is said to have lasted "seven weeks and three days" but as the same period has been assigned to the voyage of the First Party in 1834, it is possible that the record became confused in later years. However, if the periods of the voyages were not identical, it is likely they were approximately the same.

Several of the Moffatts, who were related to Thomas' wife, came with the Second Party at this time. Other members of the Moffatt family (the mother of John Kerr, North Gower) came from Ireland in 1842, two years later.

The voyage across would be incomplete without reference to the love episode of their fair daughter, whose charms appear to have captured the heart of the ship's captain. The incident has been vividly described

by her grand-niece, the late Miss Alma Craig of Smith's Falls, Ontario, in the following poem:

"THE ROMANCE OF AUNT CHARLOTTE."

It was in the early forties
On a sailing ship at sea,
This romance of poor Aunt Charlotte
And the Captain chanced to be.
Just to think that on the ocean
For six weeks or even more
They were tossed on foamy billows
Yet dreamed not of the shore.

With his little brood about him
Stout of heart with brawn and brain,
Came a pioneer from Ireland
O'er the perils of the main.
Sailing onward in fair breezes,
Trimming sail in angry gales,
Sometimes floating, scarcely moving,
With no wind to cheer their sails.

What a bonny, homey picture
Made this family out at sea!
See the sweet-faced little mother
With her baby on her knee.
'Round her gather bright-eyed laddies,
Some just toddling, others spry.
But a lassie, fair and smiling,
Takes the Captain's watching eye.

He invites them to his cabin,
To a wonderful repast,
Tries to win the father's favor,
Which he cannot do,—alas!
"She shall dress in silks and satins,
"Never soil her pretty hands,
"In my lovely home in Jersey
"With its fair and fertile lands."

"Let me talk it o'er with Mother,"
Said her father, then and there,
And, methinks, I see her swiftly
Lift her eyes in silent prayer.
Now you know it takes a woman
Just a moment to decide.
"Thomas, can you see our Charlotte
"As the Captain's bonny bride?"

"No, my dear, I cannot trust him,
"Let us call our daughter here."
And as wistful Charlotte entered,
In her eye there gleamed a tear.
Then they tell her all about it,
See her brown eyes glow and dance,—
As, forsooth, the clever Captain
Was a very handsome lance.

And she thought he was perfection,
So she begged of them to yield.
But they told her that they loved her
And her life from harm must shield.
"Wed our daughter to a stranger,
"To a rover of the seas?
"All her lifelong to regret it!"
Heart-strings could not think of these.

So the father's plain refusal
Met the Captain's waiting ears.
But he sees the lassie standing
On the deck, one night, in tears,
When the voyage nears its ending,
And reveals to her his love,—
"I'll come back for you and claim you
"In a year, my pretty dove."

In the meantime, see the family
Settled on a forest farm.
See the sturdy youngsters thriving,
Naught the parents' hearts alarm.
But a message comes from Bytown
That a Captain, bold and gay,
Has been asking for the family
And is driving out that way.

So they send the daughter, Charlotte,
To a friendly neighbor's home,
Asking them to keep her sheltered
Until they for her would come.
Eagerly the cross-roads scanning,
'Round the homestead, what a stir!
Till up rides the Captain, smiling,—
"I have come for Charlotte, sir."

"She is gone," the father answered.
"What!" the Captain fairly roared.
"I have left my ship to get her,
"I will take her back on board.
"She is gone?" he cried in anger,
"Where?" "She's gone," the father said.
So the Captain, slowly mounting,
Rode away with drooping head.

Yet the years were kind to Charlotte,
She became a happy wife,
'Round her fireside, children gathered,
And she lived a peaceful life.
And 'twas fun to hear her telling,
In the evening's darkening ray,
Of her youth's "Romance" and sorrow,
When her Captain rode away.

(By kind permission of the author's family and of Miss Sarah Mitchell, Manotick,
Ontario, a daughter of Charlotte.)

Another event of interest is related regarding the twins, William and James, who at that time were just seven years of age. Wishing to explore the underneath workings, they climbed over the side of the vessel and down a rope ladder, as James said, in later years, "to see what was under the ship." Fortunately they were soon discovered by one of the sailors and speedily restored to safer quarters, where they received, to quote James again, "a sound thrimmin'."

On arriving in Canada, The Party followed the St. Lawrence route as far as Montreal, where they took a shorter course up the Ottawa River to Bytown, and from thence continued their way to North Gower Township. They were met at Bytown by Hugh's son, James Craig, Senior, (1-2-6) who carried the infant, Mary Ann, in his arms through the forest to their destination.

They lived for three months with Thomas' cousin, Robert Graham, and first considered the purchase of West half of Lot 20, Con. 3, upon which Robert Allen Craig, Senior, (1-2-6-6) now resides. Upon the advice of his brothers, however, he settled on a bush farm, Lot 12, Con. 3, the present occupants of which are his great-grand-daughter, Sarah Anne and her husband, Matthew Arbuckle. They lived here for about one year, when they permanently removed to the West or Rear half of Lot 13, Con. 2, North Gower Township, the Moffatt family settling on the East or Front half of the same lot.

Death and Love, Grief and Mirth,—
Parted by every sea;
Here be Craigs of all the earth
In this Family Tree.



The original home (since enlarged) built by Thomas Craig, (1-4), and family where they permanently settled on coming to Canada in 1840.