

## A Short History of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church and its Cemetery

### Part 3: Some Short Family Histories – The Dagg Chapter

A few of the principal founding families of St. Mary the Virgin will be explored in Part 3. Using information gleaned from the 1879 survey map of Gloucester Township, census returns, Township Assessment (Tax) Rolls, and family histories and vital statistics records found on Ancestry.ca, a brief snapshot of these families can be discerned.

The illustration below helps to visualize the family farms of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century against Google Earth images of the modern village of Blackburn Hamlet and the Chaple Hill subdivision of Orleans.

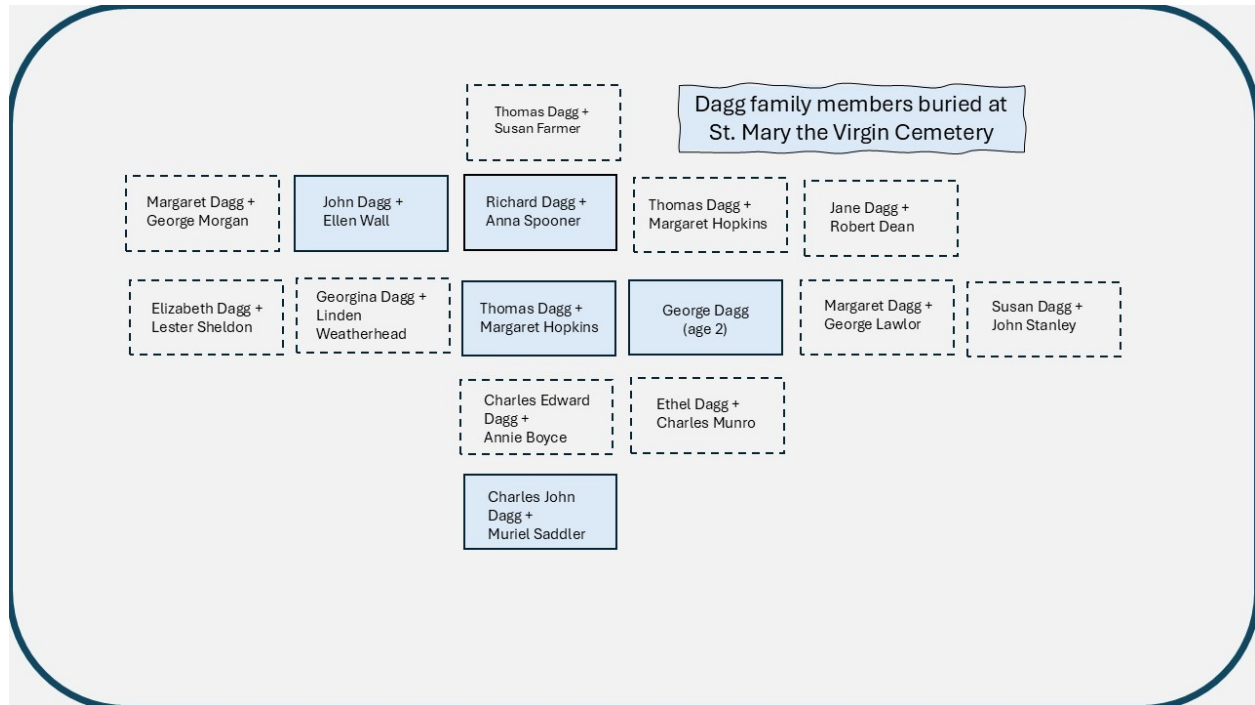


Route 30 is Innes Road and route 28 is Navan Road,

The family farms for the Farmer, Purdy, Dagg and Bradley families are indicated with a coloured dot and were located within concession 3, Ottawa Front\*, Gloucester Township.

\* Ottawa Front was the easternmost part of Gloucester Township.

## The Dagg Family

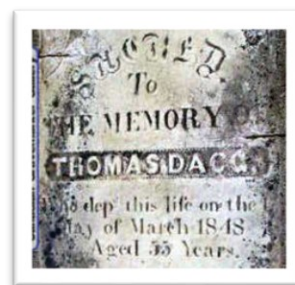


While the Dagg family may not be the earliest family to settle in the Blackburn area, it was, Richard Dagg who deeded part of his land to the Diocese of Ontario for St. Mary the Virgin church and cemetery in 1879 [A Short History – Part 1 – Origins].



## First Generation

**Thomas Dagg** was the patriarch of the Dagg family in Gloucester Township. He and his wife, Susan Farmer, were born in Tipperary, Ireland, c1793, and had five children: Margaret (1819), and Jane Ruth (1824), John (1826), Richard (1830) and Thomas (1834). The family immigrated from Ireland between 1834 and 1837\* and settled in what was then the Russell District of Gloucester Township.

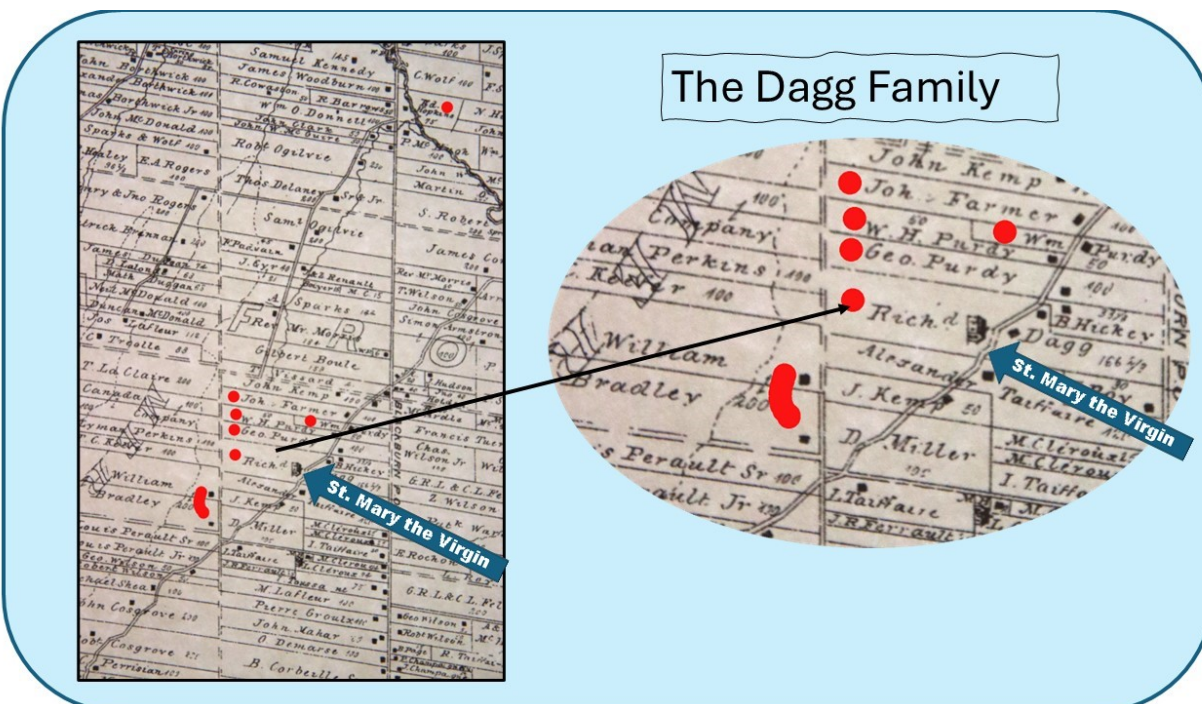


- \* Date of last child born in Ireland and date of first marriage in Canada.

It wasn't until 1852, however, that the Daggs actually owned the land on which they settled.

| REGISTRATION NUMBER | PURCHASER | DATE OF PURCHASE | REGISTRATION DATE | GRANTOR                             | GRANTEE                  | CONVEYANCE ETC. | LAND AND REMARKS             |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
|                     | Patent    | 11 Oct.<br>1811  |                   | Crown                               | William Lee              |                 | All, with lot 7 - 400 acres. |
| RD 808              | B. & S.   | 28 July<br>1827  | 1 Sept<br>1827    | William Lee                         | Geo. King &<br>W. H. Lee |                 | All, with lots, 400 acres.   |
| RD 809              | A. C. D.  | 13 Aug.<br>1827  | 1 Sept<br>1827    | George King                         | W <sup>o</sup> Henry Lee |                 | All, with lots, 400 acres.   |
| RD 5803             | B. & S.   | 20 Mar.<br>1852  | 18 June<br>1852   | W <sup>o</sup> Henry Lee<br>et. ux. | Richard Dagg             |                 | 53 - 100 acres.              |

In fact, it was Richard, the eldest son who acquired the south half of lot 8 on concession 3, in Gloucester Township, from William Lee on 20 March 1852.



## Second Generation

Their eldest son **John**, married Ellen Jean Wall from County Marta, Ireland on 20 April 1852 in March Township and by 1891 was raising a family of seven children on a farm in Russell District. John died at Navan on 20 August 1907 and Ellen on 15 February 1910. Both are buried in St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery in Navan, Ontario.



**Richard**, their second son, married Anna Spooner, who was also born in Ireland, on 4 June 1858 in Ottawa. By 1861, Richard's parents, Thomas and Susan, were living on the farm with Richard, his wife Anna and their newborn son, Thomas. The Township Tax Roles of 1868 indicate that Richard was the freehold owner of 100 acres of land on east half of lot 8 on concession 3, Ottawa Front, of the Township, of which 30 acres had been cleared for farming.

In 1878, Richard sold about an acre of his lot for the building of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church to the Diocese of Ontario for the sum of \$1.

Anna died on 16 October 1912, at her son-in-law J.F. Stanley's residence and Richard died in April 1917, at his son Thomas' residence. They are buried in plot 57, graves 1 and 2 in St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery. Their headstone includes the names of their infant son **George** and their son Thomas and his wife Margaret Hopkins.



**Thomas** was the last born to Thomas and Susan Daggs, and he married Alice Walsh in 1859 in Osgoode Township. Both are buried in St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery, Navan.

Thomas and Susan's two daughters, Margaret and Jane Ruth, both married in Canada and emigrated to the United States with their husbands. Margaret died in 1894 and is buried

with her husband, George Morgan, in Vernon County, Wisconsin. Jane Ruth died in 1898 and is buried with her husband, Robert Dean, in Olmsted County, Minnesota.

### **Third Generation**

The third generation of the Dagg family living in Gloucester Township included the children of Richard and Anna Spooner: Thomas (1860), Margaret Alice (1863), Susan (1864) George (1867), Georgina (1875) and Elizabeth (1886).

**Thomas**, born on 12 May 1860, was married three times. His first marriage was to Margaret Mary Hopkins on 15 Feb 1887. They had two children, Charles Edward (1887) and Ethel Margaret (1889). Margaret died due to complications of Ethel's birth eight days later 16 June 1889. Margaret is buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery in plot 57, grave #6 (see gravestone image above).

Five years after Margaret's death, Thomas married Mary Ann Moore from Hawthorne, Gloucester Township on 31 January 1894, (likely St. George's Anglican Church). They had four children: George Clayton (October 1894), Annie Ellen (1896), Arthur Cecil (1898) and Stella Maude (1900). Mary Ann died on 17 January 1929 and was buried in the Hawthorne cemetery at St. George's Anglican Church.

Thomas' third marriage occurred in 1936 in Navan to Lydia Bickerton who was born in Navan on 9 September 1865. This marriage produced no further children for Thomas. Two years after his marriage to Lydia, Thomas died in 1938 in Ottawa and was buried in St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery in plot 57, grave #7 (see gravestone image above).

**Margaret Alice** married George Lawlor at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Ottawa, and both are buried at Notre Dame Cemetery in Ottawa.

**Susan** married John Fredrick Stanley on 10 March 1885 and had three sons: Walter, Norman and Richard Alexander. Susan and her husband are buried in St. George's Cemetery, Hawthorne in Gloucester Township.

**Georgina** married Linden Weatherhead from New York State. It is not clear if Georgina married Linden in Canada or the United States but the 1910 census of Croghan, New York, indicates that she entered the States in 1903. That census also records her parents, Richard and Anna "immigrating" in 1909 and living with her and Linden. Richard and Anna may have been just visiting their daughter and son-in-law as both returned to Canada at some point before their deaths. Georgina and Linden are buried in Sandy Hill Cemetery, Jefferson County, New York State.

**Elizabeth (Lizzie)** married Selester Sheldon, an American from the state of Kansas. Their marriage took place in Gloucester Township on 8 April 1903. Later that year they relocated

to a farm in Croghan, New York in the same enumeration district as Georgina and Linden. Both are buried in Sandy Hill Cemetery, near her sister Georgina.

#### **Fourth Generation**

None of the fourth generation of Dagg's appear to have been buried at St. Mary the Virgin. Thomas and Margaret Hopkins' son Charles Edward was married twice, and he and both of his wives are buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Merivale.

#### **Fifth Generation**

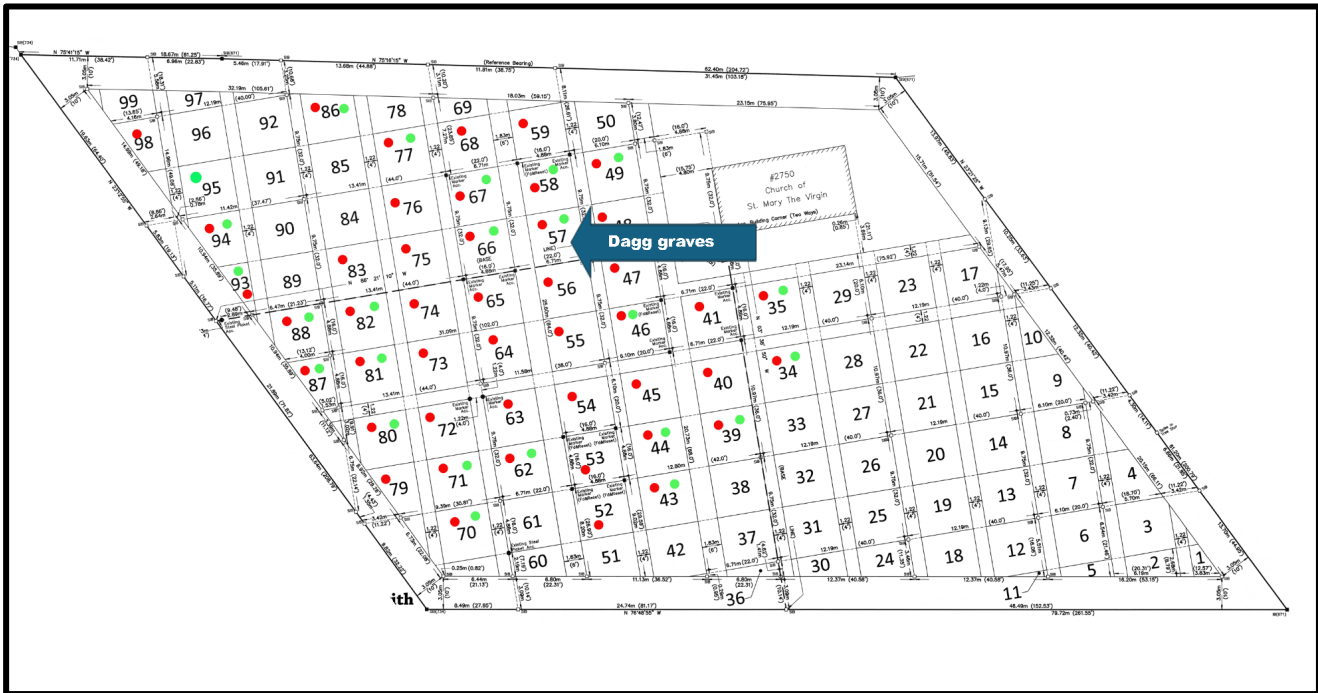
Charles Edward and his first wife, Annie Sparling Boyce, must have moved around the province as their son, Charles John, was born in Schumacher, Cochrane District, Ontario, in 1919.

**Charles John** served in the Canadian Armed Forces between 1939 and 1945, serving with the 51st Anti-tank Battery, 1st Division Artillery in England, France, Italy and Sicily. Following his military service, he married Muriel Jean Sadler in 1947 at Westboro United Church, Ottawa, and worked for the Department of Immigration for 35 years until his retirement in 1979. He died on 12 May 2008 at May Court Hospice in Ottawa and Muriel died in 2011. Both are buried at St. Mary the Virgin in plot 57, grave #3, urn numbers 4 and 8.





## All the Dagg's are buried in Plot 57



| St. Mary the Virgin Burial Index |      |      | DAGG       |      |       |     |            |                             |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------------|------|-------|-----|------------|-----------------------------|
| Name                             | Born | Died | Interred   | Plot | Grave | Urn | Generation | Relationship                |
| Richard Dagg                     | 1829 | 1918 |            | 57   | 1     |     | 2          | Thomas & Susan Farmer's son |
| Anna Bridget (Spooner) Dagg      | 1827 | 1912 |            | 57   | 2     |     | 2          | Richard's wife              |
| George Dagg                      | 1867 | 1869 |            | 57   | 5     |     | 3          | Richard & Anna's infant son |
| Margaret Mary (Hopkins) Dagg     | 1867 | 1889 |            | 57   | 6     |     | 3          | Thomas Dagg's second wife   |
| Thomas Dagg                      | 1860 | 1938 |            | 57   | 7     |     | 3          | Richard & Anna's son        |
| Charles John Dagg                | 1919 | 2008 | 2008-08    | 57   | 3     | 4   | 5          | Charles Edward Dagg's son   |
| Muriel Jean (Saddler) Dagg       | 1920 | 2011 | 2011-05-11 | 57   | 3     | 8   | 5          | Charles John Dagg's wife    |

Sources:

1. Ancestry.ca
  - a. Census records - Library and Archives Canada
  - b. Birth, Marriage & Death records – Ontario Archives
  - c. Tax Assessment records – City of Ottawa Archives
  - d. Various family genealogies – public family histories (not all information sourced)
2. Newspapers.com
  - a. Obituaries
  - b. Marriage notices
3. Findagrave.com
  - a. Gravestone inscriptions and gravestone images
4. St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery Committee documentation
  - a. Plot and grave numbers
  - b. Sketch map of St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery
5. Gloucester Historical Society
  - a. 1879 map of Gloucester Township
6. Google Earth
  - a. 2022 snapshot of Blackburn area
7. Ontario Land Registry (Ottawa-Carleton LRO 04)
  - a. Land Registry Index
  - b. Deeds
8. Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives
  - a. Parish registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths