

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

Part 3: Some Short Family Histories – The Purdy 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 19th Century against the Google Earth images of the modern village of Blackburn Hamlet and the Chaple Hill subdivision of Orleans.

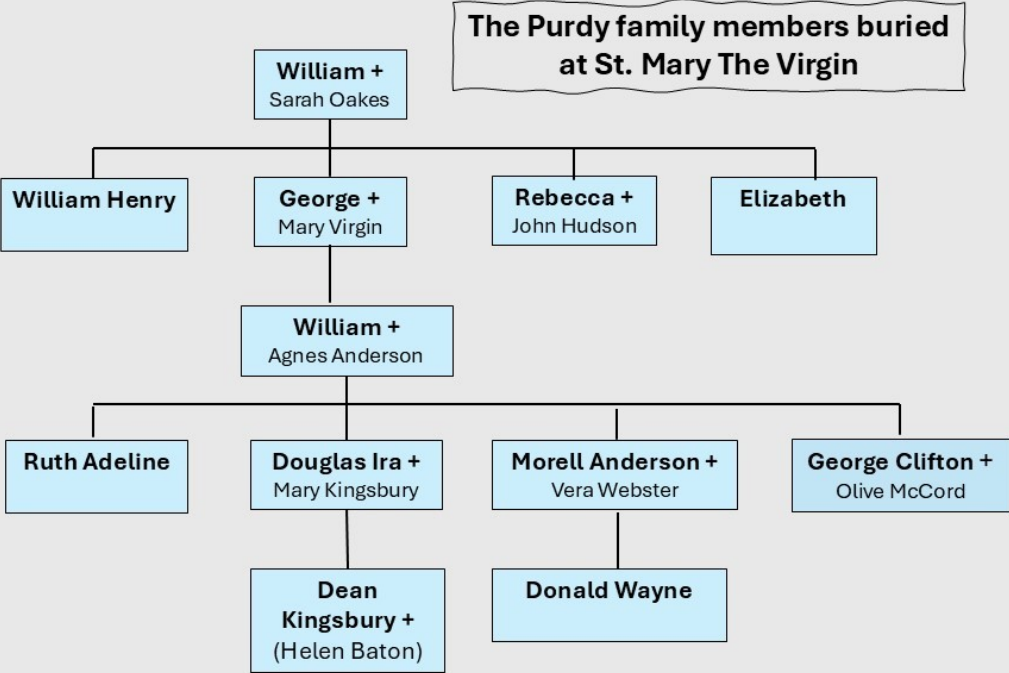


Route 30 is Innes Road and route 28 is Navan Road,

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.

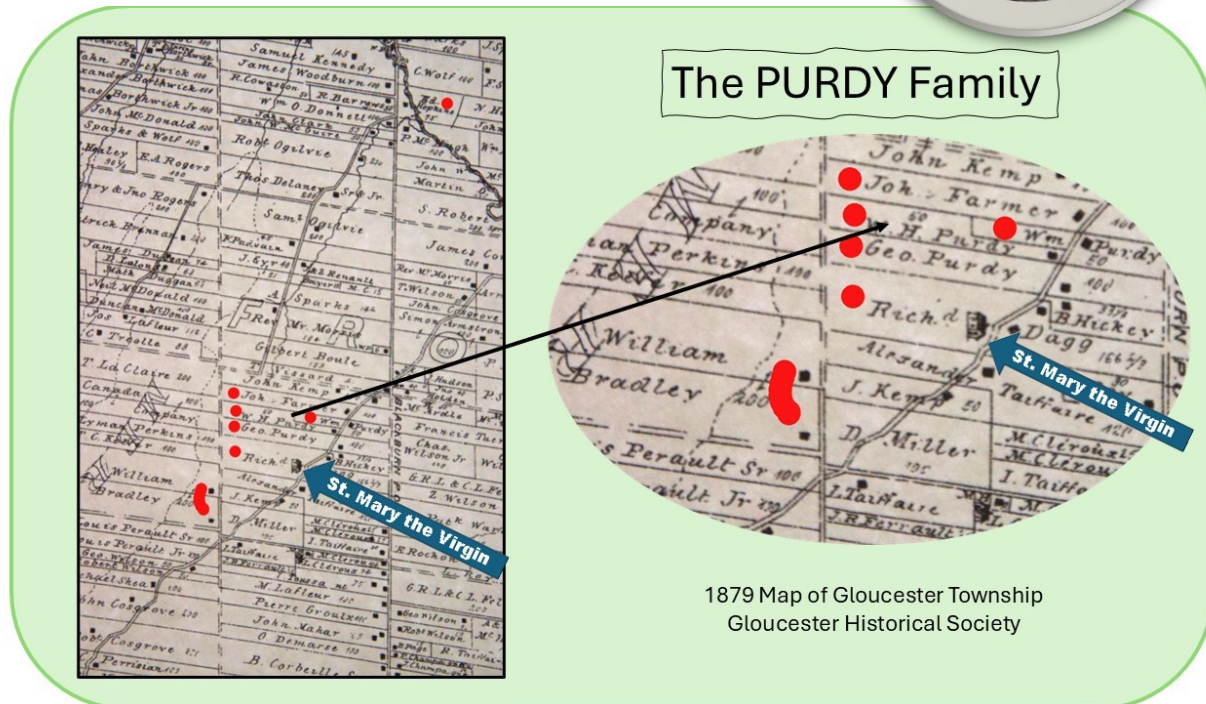
* Ottawa Front was the easternmost part of Gloucester Township.

The PURDY Family



The First generation in Canada

The Purdy family in Gloucester Township begins with **William Purdy** who was born c1800, in Antrim, Ireland and immigrated to Upper Canada in 1814. He and Sarah Jane Oakes, also born in Ireland, were married by Banns at Christ Church Bytown on 15 April 1833 [Christ Church did not become a Cathedral until 1869]. Both William and Jane signed over their names with an "X".

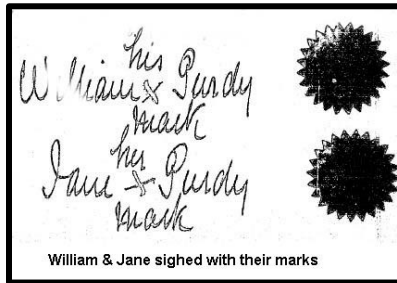


By 1851, William and Jane were well established with the first six of their children on a farm on lot 9, concession 3 in the District of Russell, Gloucester Township. That lot, consisting of 200 acres, was part of a 400-acre parcel of land acquired from the Crown in 1811 by William Lee. On 19 January 1863, the sale of 200 acres of that lot was registered in the County of Carleton to William Purdy for £1200. A copy of that instrument from Ontario Lands is found in Annex A. The early census records of Gloucester Township show a good mixture of Irish immigrants claiming Church of England or Roman Catholic faith. It is not surprising then that the Church of England Purdy family employed a Roman Catholic farm labourer over the years.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	INSTRUMENT	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	REGISTRATION DATE	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	CONVEYANCE	LAND AND REMARKS
808	Patent	11 Oct 1811		Crown	William Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
809	B + L	28 July 1827	1 Sept 1827	Wm Lee	Geo. King & W.H. Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
13164	A.C.D.	13 Aug 1827	1 Sept 1827	George King	Wm Henry Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
20194	B + L	18 Nov 1858	20 Nov 1858	Wm H Lee et al	Chas Armstrong		All see last
	B + L	19 Jan 1863	21 Jan 1863	C. Armstrong	William Purdy		All see last

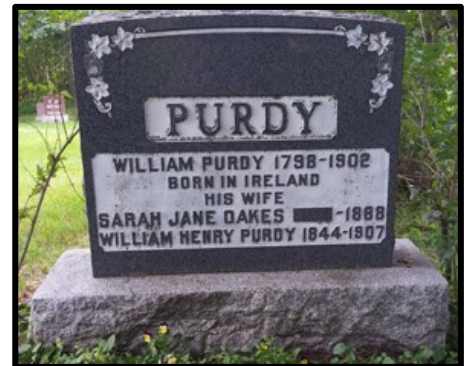
William Purdy acquires 200 acres of Lot 9, Concession 3, 1863

As was typical of farming settlements of Upper and Lower Canada, the land was often divided up among the sons following the patriarch's death. In William's case, however, he and his wife Jane, sold parts of lot 3 to his sons before his death: George, as the eldest, bought the largest share of 100 acres in the east half of lot 9 on 10 January 1872 for \$1,000; William Henry bought 50 acres on 20 April 1876 for \$1250, and John bought two parcels of 50 acres each, the first on 6 July 1876 and the second on 4 June 1878.



Sometime in the early 1880s, William, and two of his sons, George and William Henry, joined eight other founders of St. Mary the Virgin church and signed a petition that resulted in the Bishop of Niagara consecrating the church and its cemetery on 30 October 1886 [A Short History – Part 2, Consecration].

Sarah Jane died in 1888 and is buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 56 grave 7. William was living with his son William Henry when he died of old age of 103 on 24 April 1903, and is buried beside Sara Jane in plot 56, grave 8.

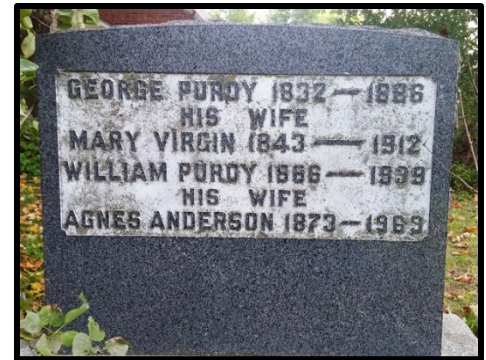


2nd generation in Canada

William and Sarah Jane had nine children: George (13 April 1833), Sarah (27 Jan 1837), Mary Jane (1839), William Henry (17 Mar 1844), Robert (1846), Charlotte (1847), Elizabeth (8 Apr 1854), Rebecca (13 Sep 1855) and John (1857).

George was baptized on 3 February 1834 at Christ Church Bytown. At age 28 he was still single, living on the family farm in Gloucester but five years later he had moved the Griffith in Renfrew County. It was there he met Mary Morrill Virgin, the daughter of Ira and Abigail Virgin, originally from the Stanstead region of Quebec. He and Mary were married on 7 February 1866 in Renfrew County. When his father, William, dispersed his farm to his sons, George, Mary, and their family of three children, returned to Gloucester Township and by 1881 was paying taxes on 100 acres of the east half of lot 9.

George died on 28 March 1887, leaving Mary to raise their eight children on the farm until she died on 14 June 1912. Both George and Mary are buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 56, graves 1 and 2.



Sarah Purdy was born on 27 January 1837. She married George Robert Wilson, from Tyrone, Ireland on 11 July 1862 in Bytown (Ottawa). She died in 1901, probably in Carleton County as did her husband in 1883.

Mary Jane Purdy was born in 1839 and was baptizes at Christ Church Bytown in 1841.

William Henry was born on 17 March 1884 and baptized as Henry at Christ Church Bytown. He married Sarah Ann Melvina Sparks on 27 November 1873 which linked him into the generations of the Sparks family who founded and contributed to the growth of Bytown. Sparks Street, one of Ottawa's oldest main streets, was named after Nicholas Sparks. Nicholas was Sarah Ann's grandfather, George Sparks, cousin. The genealogical chart illustrating the family ties between the Sparks and Purdy's can be found in Annex B.

In April 1876, William Henry acquired the south half of the west half lot 9 from his father where he lived with his family until at least 1901. In February 1904, however, he made an application for a land grant in Saskatchewan where it appears he considered moving to live with his son Ira who had moved the year earlier to a homestead near Tate, about 137km north of Regina.

William Henry either never relocated to Saskatchewan or moved “home” very soon after as he died of pneumonia on 10 October 1907 in Blackburn, Gloucester Township, and is buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 56, grave 6 next to his parents.

Sarah moved to her son Ira's homestead, who by 1911 was living in Chocicland, in the Humbolt District of Saskatchewan (another 219 KM north of Regina). Sarah later moved to her daughter Georgiannia's home where she died on 4 June 1936 and is buried at the Blue Fox Cemetery in Chocicland.



Robert Purdy had a very short life. His baptism is record in the Parish of March, Carleton County, in 1846. He died at the young age of twenty-two months in December 1847. There is no record of his burial with his parents at St. Mary the Virgin.

Charlotte Purdy

Elizabeth Purdy was born on 8 April 1854, likely on the family farm in Blackburn, Gloucester Township. On 26 November 1872 she became Abraham Albert Sparks' second wife. Abraham was an Irishman from the townland of Dranagh, Kilcormick, Wexford County. Elizabeth's was the first marriage between the Purdy and Sparks families. Abraham was a first cousin, once removed from Nicholas Sparks, one the early founders of Bytown and whose name still adorns one of Ottawa's main core streets. Following their marriage, Abraham and Elizabeth established their homestead in Calvin Township (a rural township between Mattawa and North Bay) raising a family of four children by 1901. Their youngest son, George Purdy, died at the age of three in 1892 and is buried in the Union Cemetery in Calvin Township. Abraham died in December 1903 and is buried with his young son George.

Elizabeth died at her daughter's home in Barrie, Ontario, on 26 November 1934 following a short illness and was interred on 28 November at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot unknown.

Abraham's first marriage was to Sarah Jane McCullough in 1854 in Carleton County. Their daughter, Sarah Ann Melvina Sparks was born on 4 October 1855 and her marriage to William Henry Purdy became the second family link to the Ottawa Sparks family.

[illegible]

Rebecca Purdy was born on 13 September 1855 and married John Hudson on 6 April 1874, both declaring themselves to be Wesleyan Methodists. John and Rebecca had seven children by 1891, living on lot 11, concession 2 in Gloucester Township. John died in 1901 and Rebecca in 1893. Both are buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery along with George, their son who died at age 30, plot 83, graves 5, 6 and 7.

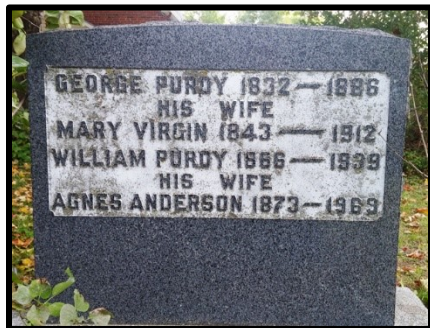


John Harry Purdy was born on 20 March 1857 in the Nepean District of Gloucester Township with his baptism recorded in the Parish of March that year. The 1881 census records John farming in Gloucester Township with his parents, William and (Sarah) Jane living with him. By 1888 he had moved to British Columbia and was working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, supervising the transport of Chinese immigrants. On 27 November 1895, he married Anna Clokey. Anna and John died a year apart in 1938 and 1939 and both are buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Vancouver, British Columbia.

3rd generation in Canada

George and Mary Morill Virgin had eight children: Lauristina (1865), William (1866), George (1869), John (1874), Ira (1877), Harriet Mulvina (1878), David (1880) and Mary (1884).

William married Agnes Isabella Anderson from the Bearbrook area of Gloucester Township on 14 February 1903 at St. James Cathedral in Toronto. The couple, however, continued to farm in Gloucester Township on the east half of lot 9 on concession 3, Ottawa Front, where they raised six children. The Assessment Rolls for 1913 indicate that William paid taxes on 100 acres of cleared land in 1913 and on 24 acres on the west center part of lot 8. William was an active member of the Anglican church in Blackburn, a member of the Loyal Orange Lodge, 445 Blackburn and served on the Section 21 school board.



William was in poor health when he died in hospital on 22 January 1939 at the age of 72. After William's death, Agnes moved into Ottawa to live with her daughter, Agnes, where she died suddenly in hospital on 15 December 1969.

Both William and Agnes are buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 56, graves 3 and 4.

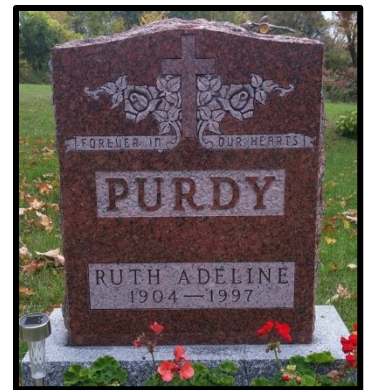
All George and Mary's other children ended up in various parts of western Canada.

4th generation in Canada

William and Agnes Isabella had six children: Ruth Adline (1904), Doris Agatha (1905), George Clifton (1907), Douglas Ira (1909), Morell Anderson (1912) and Stewart Ogilvie (1917), four of whom are buried at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery: Ruth Adeline; George Clifton and his wife Olive Mary McCord; Douglas Ira and his wife Mary Grace Kingsbury, and Morell (Moe) Anderson and his wife Vera G. Webster.

Doris Agatha Mary married Ellsworth Pierson, an American from New York, on 17 June 1930 in Batavia, Genesee, New York. Both are buried in Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston, Niagara County, New York.

Stewart (Stuart) Ogilvie married Jean Antoinette Rhodenizer from Kentville, Nova Scotia, on 20 July 1953 in Vancouver, British Columbia. He lived in various parts of the Lower Mainland including the Cities of Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam and his last 21 years in New Westminster while working for Shell Oil Company. Stewart died on 4 December 2000 and Jean on 8 January 2015.



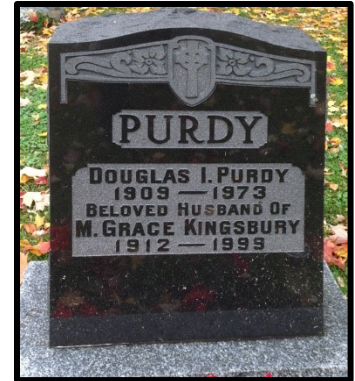
Ruth Adeline was born on 24 January 1904 on the family farm in Blackburn with no doctor present. She remained unmarried, living with her widowed mother and later her brother George Clifton. The census records to 1931 record her without an occupation or as a housekeeper. Later voting lists refer to her occupation as “typist” and “CS” which probably means that she eventually worked as a civil servant for the Federal Government. “Miss Ruth Purdy” was often mentioned in the social pages of the Ottawa newspapers and frequently in association with the Glen Ogilvie Woman’s Institute. 1965 found her living in an apartment on Cooper Street with her widowed mother, Agnes, and two other retired ladies. She regrettably ended her days at the Medex Extendicare Nursing Home in Ottawa and succumbed to cancer at the age of 94 on 31 October 1997. In her will, she left a sizable bequest of \$49,000 to the St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery Board to support its care and maintenance of the cemetery. That bequest, deposited with the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Diocese of Ottawa, continues to provide the Cemetery Board with supporting funding should it be needed. Ruth is buried in plot 54, grave 5.

Douglas Ira was born on 29 July 1909 in Ottawa. He married Mary Grace Kingsbury, a Roman Catholic, from Arnprior, Ontario. They married on 5 December 1933 in a Holiness Movement ceremony in Ottawa.

The **Holiness movement** is a Christian movement that emerged chiefly within 19th-century Methodism.

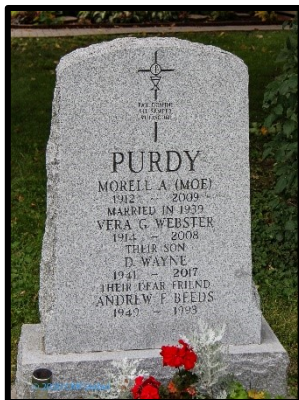
Wikipedia

Douglas Ira was a service station employee when he married Mary Grace but later in life became an instrument mechanic. Douglas and Mary Grace had five children: Lyn Adelyn Joyce, Dean Kingsbury, Dianne, Gail and Sharon. Just before he died in 1972, he was living with Mary Garce and their daughter, Sharon, a registered nurse, in Ottawa West. Douglas Ira died on 1 January and is buried at St. Mary the Virgin cemetery, plot 35, grave 1.



Mary Grace was living in the West End Villa when she died on 10 February 1999, and is buried with Douglas Ira in plot 35, grave 2.

Morell Anderson's birthplace on 12 February 1912 was registered as Blackburn, Gloucester Township. He lived on the family farm at RR #1, Cyrille until his marriage to Vera Gertrude Webster at St. Luke's Anglican Church on 26 August 1939. Morell, or Moe, as he was known, spent his career as a civil servant in the Federal Government. Moe and Vera had three children: Donald Wayne, April 1941, Norma Jean, March 1945 and Lynn, March 1947. The family may have been one of the first families to move to Parkway Park, a newly built suburb in Ottawa west in the late 1950s.

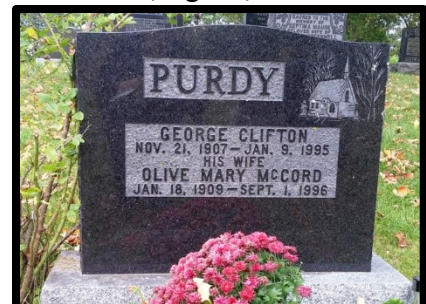


Vera died on 11 April 2008 and Moe died on 17 December 2009. Both are buried at St. May the Virgin Cemetery, plot 58, graves 1 and 2.

The Purdy's lived at 1241 Parkway Drive, just around the corner from 2410 Iris Street where my family moved in 1959. Lynn, and perhaps Norma Jean, and I went to Woodroffe High School

George Clifton was born on 21 November 1907 and lived on the family farm in the Blackburn/Cyrville area (lot 9, Concession 3) until his marriage to Olive Mary McCord on 5 December 1940 at St. Paul's Eastern United Church in Ottawa. George and Olive had four children: William, Bruce, Janet and Philip. George continued the family farm tradition and when his father died in 1939, his widowed mother with George and family. Later, by 1958, his sister, Ruth Adeline, had also moved in with the family, until she and their mother, Agnes, moved into Ottawa when Ruth became a civil servant with the Federal Government.

George died suddenly at age 88 on 9 January 1995, followed shortly thereafter by Agnes on 1 September 1996. Both are buried in St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 41, graves 7 and 8.

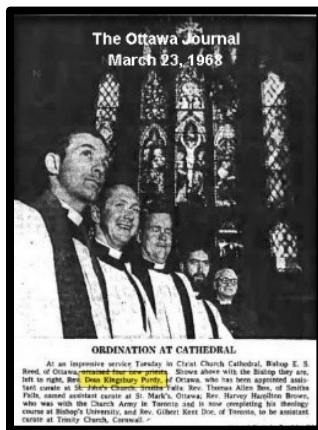


5th generation in Canada

Donald Wayne Purdy was born at the Grace Hospital in Ottawa on 11 April 1941 and he is listed with his parents, Moe and Vera, on their gravestone as D. Wayne, 1941-2017. He was cremated and buried in plot 58, grave 3, urn 7.

Very little else can be found on Donald Wayne or Wayne except that at age 27 he was not listed on the Federal voters list for 1968 with his parents and sister Lynn. There is an entry for a Wayne Purdy, a “designer” living on Baseline Road in Ottawa that year but with no collaborating evidence, it cannot be concluded that this is Moe and Vera’s son. The gravestone marking does suggest that he was not married.

Dean Kingsbury was born on 8 December 1935 in Ottawa and was baptized at All Saints Sandy Hill, Anglican Church on 29 March 1936. He married Helen Isobell Barton at St. John’s Anglican Church, Vankleek Hill on 11 September 1971. Helen was a nurse-in-training at the Cornwall General Hospital. Helen and Dean had four children: Kevin, Jennifer, Laura Grace and Elizabeth.



Dean was ordained as Priests of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Diocese of Ottawa by Bishop E. S. Reed on March 19, 1968. He ministered in various parishes, including Smiths Falls, Metcalfe, Vernon, Greely, Russell, St. Stephen's Ottawa,

Huntley, Navan, Bearbrook, Vars, St. Lawrence East and Cornwall. Additionally, he served as a Chaplain at Lakefield College School. Following retirement from the Anglican Church on 31 March 2001, he and his wife Helen, adopted his mother, Mary Grace’s Catholic faith and was Ordained in the Archdiocese of Kingston four years later in 2005. He served in the parishes of Perth, Lanark and Spencerville until his retirement from active ministry in 2019.



Dean died on 19 January 2024 and lay in state at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Smiths Falls on Thursday, 25 January. His ashes were interred at St. Mary the Virgin Church Cemetery on 1 June 2024 in plot 35, grave 3, urn 6.

Lyn Adelyn Joyce, commonly known as Adelyn, was born in Ottawa on 5 June 1934. She married Ronald David Kerr on 3 September 1955 at All Saints Anglican Church, Westboro in Ottawa. Both were cremated and interred at St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery, plot 35, grave 5, urns 2 and 6.



Annex A
Ontario Lands Memorial number RO20199
Purchase of Lot 9, Concession 3 by William Purdy

THE TOWNSHIP OF CLOUD, LOT 9, CONCESSION 3, O.F.

PAGE 44

REGISTRATION NUMBER	INSTRUMENT	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	REGISTRATION DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	AMOUNT PAID	LAND AND REMARKS
RO 808	Patent	11 Oct. 1811		Crown	William Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
RO 809	B & L	28 July 1827	1 Sept 1827	W ^m Lee	Geo. King & W.H. Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
RO 13164	B & L	13 Aug 1827	1 Sept 1827	George King	W ^m Henry Lee		All with Lot 8. 400 acres
RO 20199	B & L	18 Nov 1858	20 Nov 1858	Wm H Lee et al	Chris Armstrong		All see inst
GL 1103	B & L	19 Jan 1863	21 Jan 1863	Chris Armstrong & W	William Purdy		All see inst
GL 2996	B & L	10 June 1872	26 June 1872	Wm Purdy & W	George Purdy		to 1/2 see inst
GL 3156	B & L	20 Apr 1876	25 Apr 1876	W ^m Purdy et al	William H Purdy		5 1/2 of W 1/2 see inst
GL 4257	B & L	6 July 1876	18 July 1876	W ^m Purdy et al	John Purdy		7 1/2 of W 1/2 50 acres see inst
GL 4619	B & L	8 July 1878	11 June 1878	W ^m Purdy et al	John Purdy		7 1/2 of W 1/2 50 acres see inst
GL 4620	B & L	2 Apr 1879	2 Apr 1879	W ^m H. Purdy et al	Chris Elmstedt		5 1/2 of W 1/2 50 acres see inst
GL 6077	Deed	12 Dec 1882	20 Dec 1882	Chris Elmstedt et al	George Wilson		7 1/2 of W 1/2 50 acres see inst
GL 17809	B & L	3 Oct 1900	6 Apr 1904	David Purdy	W ^m Purdy	\$1.00	W 1/2 100 acres see inst
GL 17810	B & L	1 Jan 1897	6 Apr 1904	Ina Purdy	W ^m Purdy	\$1.00	to 1/2 + care subject see inst
				Mary M. Purdy			see covenant Re support
				Lauristone Beach			to 1/2 subject see covenant
				H. M. Beach			Re support of
				George Purdy			Mary M. Purdy
				H. M. Purdy			
				John Purdy			see inst.
GL 18833	B & L	7 Apr 1906	11 Apr 1906	George Wilson & W	Allan Wilson	\$1,000	W 1/2 100 acres see inst.
GL 35156	B & L	6 May 1910	16 Sep 1910	Mary Purdy	William Purdy	\$1.00	to 1/2 lot 9. subject to
GL 35554	Easement	24 July 1930	30 Jan 1931	Allan Wilson	The Hydro-Electric Power Com. of Ont.	\$30	to 1/2 lot 9. subject to
							to 1/2 lot 9. subject to
GL 35647	Easement	6 Apr 1931	21 Apr 1931	Wm Purdy	The Hydro-Electric Power Com. of Ont.	\$19	Right to erect 5 poles, wires & cable on part lot 9 plan attached see inst.
GL 36178	Easement	28 June 1932	3 Oct 1932	William Purdy	The Hydro-Electric Power Com. of Ont.	\$10	Right to erect 3 poles, wires & cable on lot 9, plan attached. B.O.P. see inst.
GL 36261	Easement	1 Oct 1932	16 Dec 1932	Allan Wilson	The Hydro-Electric Power Com. of Ont.	\$75	Right to erect overhanging wires on part of 1/2 lot 9. see inst. plan attached see inst.
							Right to erect 1 tower, wires & cable on part lot 9. see inst. plan attached see inst.

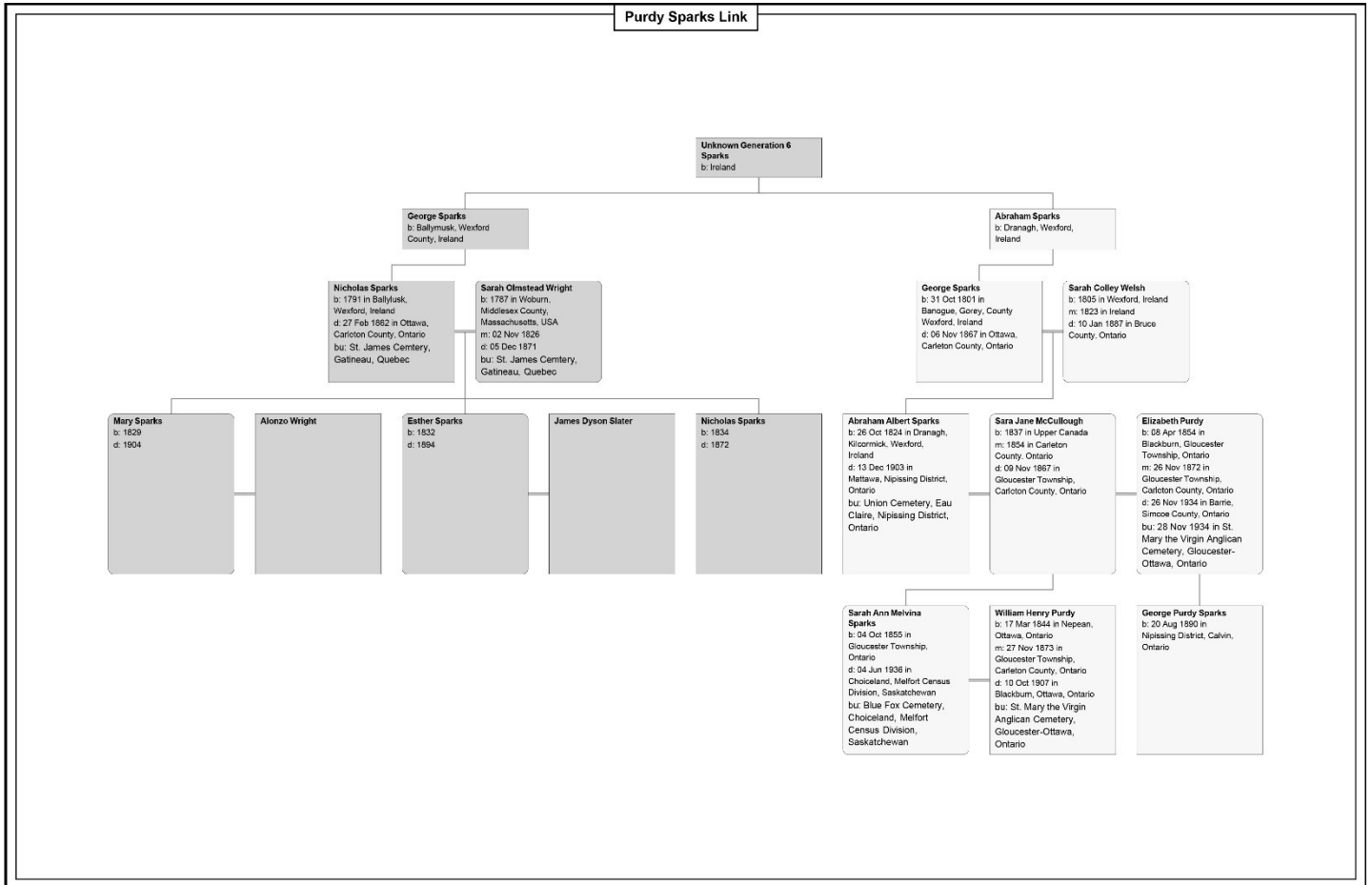
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44

of 270

Next

Annex B
Genealogical Chart Linking the Purdy's and the Spark's



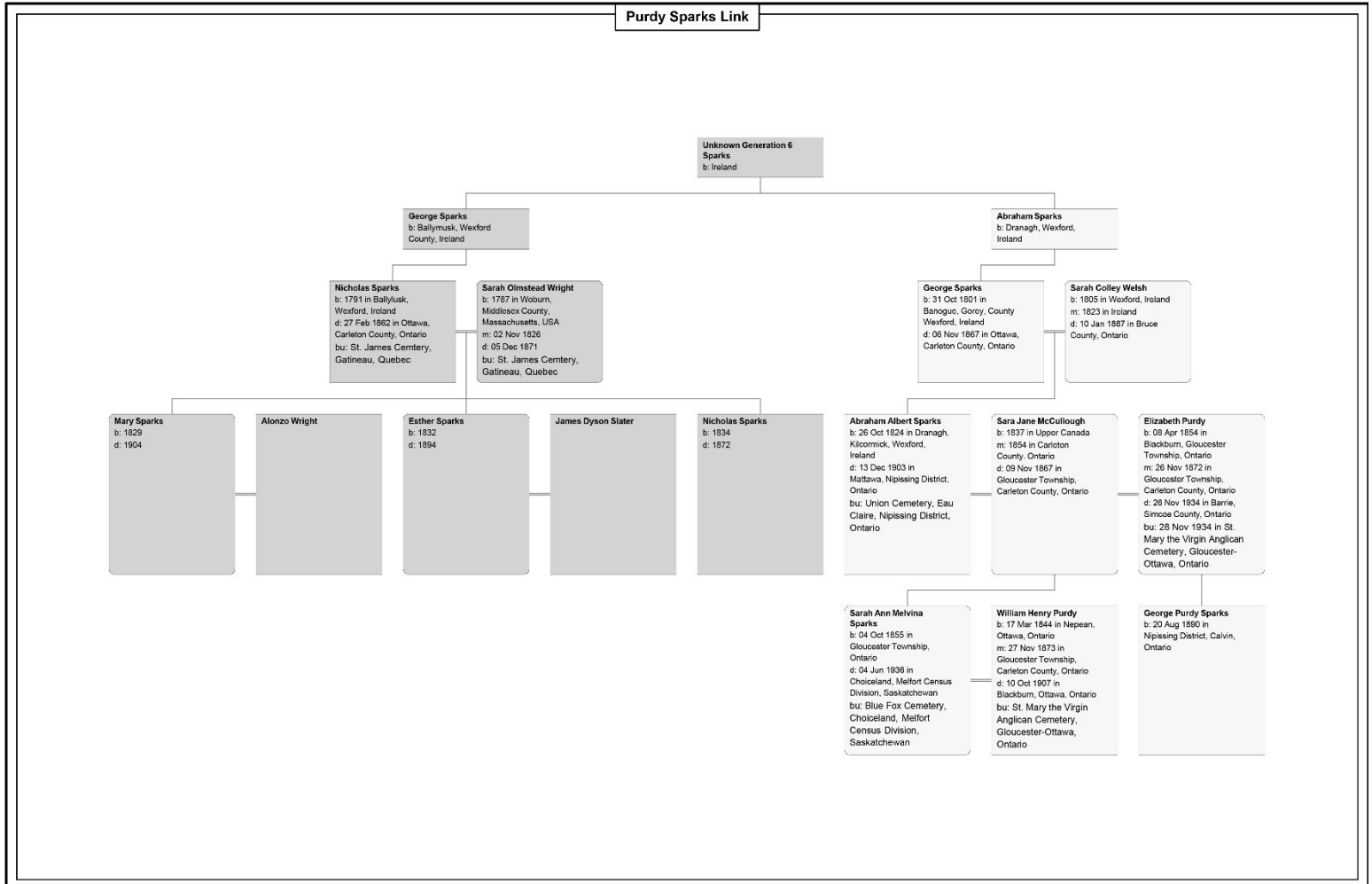
Annex c

Burial locations of the Purdy Family at St. Mary the Virgin



St. Mary the Virgin Burial Index		PURDY						
Name	Born	Died	Interred	Plot	Grave	Urn	Generation	Relationship
Sarah Jane Oakes Purdy	1812	1888		56	7		1	William's wife
William Purdy	1798	1902		56	8		1	First generation in Canada
George Purdy	1832	1886		56	1		2	William & Sarah Oakes' son
Mary Virgin Purdy	1843	1912		56	2		2	George's wife
William Henry Purdy	1844	1907		56	6		2	William & Sarah Oakes' son
William Purdy	1866	1939		56	3		3	George & Mary Virgin's son
Agnes Isabella Anderson Purdy	1873	1960		56	4		3	William's wife
Douglas Ira "Doug" Purdy	1909	1973		35	1		4	William & Agnes's son
Mary Grace "Grace" Kingsbury Purdy	1912	1999		35	2		4	Douglas Ira's wife
Olive Mary McCord Purdy	1909	1996		41	7		4	George Clifton's wife
George Clifton Purdy	1907	1995		41	8		4	William & Agnes's son
Ruth Adeline Purdy	1904	1997	1997-11-03	54	5		4	William & Agnes's daughter
Morell Anderson "Moe" Purdy	1912	2009		58	1		4	William & Agnes's son
Vera Gertrude Webster Purdy	1914	2008		58	2		4	Moe's wife
Dean Kingsbury Purdy	1935	2024	2024-06-14	35	3	6	5	Douglas Ira & Mary's son
Donald Wayne Purdy	1941	2017		58	3	7	5	Moe & Vera's son

Annex Sparks – Purdy Link Chart



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