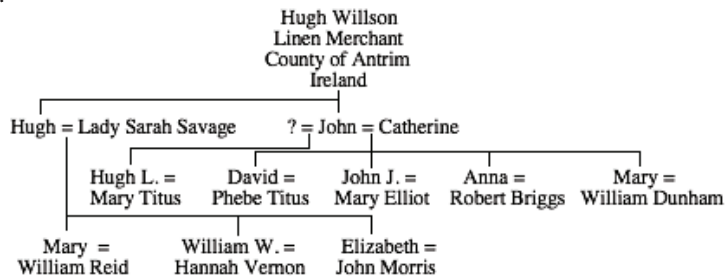


The Willson Family

The Willson family was descended from two brothers, Hugh and John, the sons of an Irish linen merchant. A grandson recorded that “there lived in the City of Carrickfergus, in the county of Antrim, one Hugh Willson, a merchant, who death largely in the linen trade as his father had done before him. This Hugh Willson had two sons, Hugh, the grandfather of the Reids of Sharon, and John, grandfather of R.T. Willson and others, to whom he gave a liberal education.



Hugh, (the older of the brothers), was intended for the church, Presbyterian, to which the family belonged, but to which he never acceded. In consequence of the long war between England, France and Spain, as well as the continued trouble in Ireland, Hugh (the father), was reduced and had nothing to give to his sons. Hugh, the younger gave up the idea of the church, married and settled on a small farm in the County Down in the year 1768, over 100 years ago. My father, the first born of the aforesaid John, was born in County Down (I think). soon after this, my grandfather left Ireland and came to America. I forgot what became of my grandmother, but I recollect, as told me, that my father, then an infant, was brought over to America by his uncle Hugh, in whose family he had been then some time living. This was in the year 1775, the beginning of the Revolutionary War between England and the United States of America. My father was then seven years old. On arriving at New York, they proceeded up the Hudson River to Poughkeepsie, the capital of Dutchess County, and twelve miles east, near Connecticut, where they found my grandfather married to the woman who was afterwards the mother of David and John Willson and Anne and Mary [Catherine Willson, born 1754]. There my father lived with my grandfather until 1788 when the old man died.” The fate of Hugh and his wife, Lady Sarah Savage is not known. Catherine Willson, widow of John, accompanied her children, first to New York and later to Upper Canada. There she married the unrelated John Willson Sr., a miller and a United Empire Loyalist, born 1739 in Middlesex County, New Jersey. John Sr.’s first wife died 6 June 1804 and on 18 Sept. 1805, Catherine and John Willson Sr. were married by the Rev. John Strachan in St. James Cathedral, York. They probably lived at York Mills for some time where John Sr.’s son, John Jr. operated a mill. John Jr. was the trustee for a small chapel at York Mills which the Children of Peace used to hold services. It is not known exactly when the elderly couple moved to Hope - it might have been with Hugh L. Willson who returned there from the York Mills area in 1819. John Sr. died 8 July 1829, aged 90, and his funeral was conducted by the Rev. Strachan in the meeting house of the Children of Peace. This is highly ironic as the Rev. Strachan preached in the same little chapel at York Mills as did David Willson “much to the annoyance of the inhabitants.” Soon after the death of John Willson Sr., the Rev. Strachan took control of this

chapel without the consent of many of those who had contributed to its building, and banned David Willson from using it. Catherine Willson died 10 Feb. 1840, aged 86. Both John and Catherine are buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

1) Hugh L. Willson was born 1768 in County Down, Ireland, son of John Willson and his first wife (who died shortly after his birth). Between 1768 and 1775 John Willson immigrated to America, and Hugh L. was left in the care of his uncle Hugh Willson until the entire family left for America in 1775. On the death of John Willson (1794/5?), Hugh L. Willson took over the rented family farm near Poughkeepsie NY. He had married in 1790 **Mary Titus**, eldest daughter of Israel Titus, a Quaker minister and blacksmith, and Waite Giddley, a “Dutch” woman. In 1798 Hugh moved to New York city where he purchased a share in the sloop, *The Farmer*, which ran between New York and the West Indies “where he had been several times before while on the farm, as it was a good market for much of their produce, such as flour, pork, horses &c.” In the spring of 1800, he sold his share in *The Farmer*, and moved to Upper Canada, first settling about 4 miles from Kingston where he “worked on Mr. Ferris’s farm for two summers and taught school in the neighbourhood in the winters. In the spring of 1803, we moved upon Wolfe Island ...” In 1810, the family again moved, this time to East Gwillimbury, “leas[ing] the farm opposite the Temple in Sharon.” In 1815, the family moved again, this time to “the farm on the east side of Yonge Street known as No. 1 opposite Montgomery’s Tavern” (in Toronto), no doubt to be closer to Hugh Willson’s step-mother Catherine, who had remarried to the unrelated Squire John Willson of Thornhill. They remained there 3 or 4 years before returning to East Gwillimbury where Hugh died 3 Jan. 1828. Mary Titus Willson lived until 3 June 1857. They are both buried in the Sharon Cemetery. [For more details, see [Reminiscences of Richard Titus Willson](#), Newmarket Historical Society Occasional Papers, Vol. 1 No. 1].

Children:

a) **John Hugh Willson**, born 10 July 1791, died 29 Dec. 1863. He purchased his farm, “Spruce Dale” on Lot 13 and 14, Conc. 2, in 1815 with money he and his brother Richard made during the War of 1812. It had 15 acres cleared and a small house and barn. He often told the story that during the initial settlement of the village he had been forced to grind his flour by placing it in a hollow stump and pounding it with a stone attached to a sapling. Richard worked the farm alone the first year, as John was hired to help build a schooner for the Hon. Peter Robinson at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River. In 1821 John married Rebecca Burr, daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth Cleaver Burr, born 3 Aug. 1802 in Catawissa, Pa., died 5 March 1874. They were Quakers, and Rebecca was disowned for her marriage to a non-Friend 13 Dec. 1821. Her family had immigrated to Whitchurch twp. in 1805 (Lot 85, conc. 1). After a short stay near Richmond Hill, the Burr family had moved to Lot 17, Conc. 2 of E.G. in 1816. Rebecca’s sister Jane was married to Jeremiah Graham, another member of the Children of Peace. John was a member of the Children of Peace for only a short time; Rebecca never joined. John and Richard worked for two years providing fresh

The Willson Family

beef for the naval establishment at Penetanguishene, but in 1823 split up the farm they had worked together. Although John had originally settled his farm with his brother Richard's help, they were on opposite sides in the Rebellion of 1837. Richard wrote "I was then a Lieutenant and my brother John, a captain in East Gwillimbury. When I went to my brother's (John), to ask him to turn out he was not at home, but at Sharon. His wife said "He would not and should not go." I then asked her for his arms, for we were in great want of them. She said "I know nothing about them." I then went into another room to look for his rifle, which I could not see, but I saw his sword hanging by the head of his bed. This I took down and as I did so his wife (who had followed), caught hold of the hilt and jerked it partly out. To save myself from being stabbed I was obliged to pull her close to me and at the same time towards the door. I then wished myself clear of both her and the sword, but I dared not let go of her and seized the hilt of the sword giving her a heavy push, and walked off with it. But instead of following me she ran into the house and called for the rifle, the children following her. It was ridiculous to see one of her Britannic Majesty's officers, with a sword in his hand, running from a woman, but run I did, and in a different way to what she had expected. I ran around the house when she looked for me in front, and before she saw me I got some 25 rods away. She, however, levelled the rifle at me, but did not fire. She told me afterwards her reason for not firing was that, as I was some distance away and in motion, and she greatly excited, she might not kill me, etc. She, however, went immediately for her husband who in short time came to my house not well pleased. I then demanded of him, in Her Majesty's name, to either turn out in defense of the government or lend me his sword. He choose the latter and I still have the sword, as I bought him a new one some time after." John was elected a Township Commissioner (Councillor) in 1836-38, and again in 1850. John and Rebecca are both buried in the Sharon Burial Ground.

Children:

- i) Jane Willson, born 1825. *It was probably she who married Ephraim Dunham, born 15 October 1823 of Thomas Dunham and Betsy Lewis. His half-sister Fanny was married to Jacob Hollingshead (see below) and his half-brother was Elijah Dunham, married to Anna Maria Briggs (see below).*
- ii) Rowland Willson, born 1829. *Died 28 June 1863; married Sarah Ann Doan, daughter of Jesse and Wait Ann Brooks Doan (see above)*
- iii) May Willson, born 1831.
- iv) Rodney Willson, born 10 Aug. 1833, died 25 July 1904; *married Adeline McCarty, daughter of Ranselar McCarty of E.G., in 1857. She was born 16 April 1837, died 18 April 1911. They lived for twelve years on the 5th conc, eventually settling on his father's farm on the third conc. in 1882. They had one daughter. 1 They are both buried in the Newmarket cemetery.*
- v) Reuben Willson, born 1835; *married a daughter of John Evans.*
- vi) Franklin Willson, born 16 June 1837, died 5 July 1839. *He is buried in the Sharon Burial Ground.*
- vii) Charlotte Willson, born 1838; *married 1862 George M. Doan, son of Jesse Doan and Wait*

Ann Brooks (see above). They moved west.

viii) Stephen Willson, born 1842; *married 1864 Esther Jane, daughter of John Travis of the 5th conc.*

ix) John Albert Willson, born 1844; *married a daughter of Francis Smith of Whitchurch.*

b) **Richard Titus Willson**, born 5 April 1793, died 18 April 1878; married Aug. 1814, Eleanor Emes, daughter of Calvin and Martha Drury Emes of Georgina Township. For further details see the notes for his brother John above. Richard served under Captains Selby and Traviss, both of East Gwillimbury, in the War of 1812, for which he was later granted a pension. He became a Mason in 1814, and at the time of his death was said to be the oldest Mason in the Dominion. He served as a magistrate for a number of years and was twice elected reeve of Holland Landing. His lengthy reminiscences were republished by the Newmarket Historical Society as one of their Occasional Papers (No. 1). He was a member of the Children of Peace for only a short time.

Children:

- i) David Titus Willson, born 1815, died 4 May 1899; *married first, in 1835 Catherine Peregrine, born 5 July 1817, died 2 July 1849. Married secondly, Suzanna Mitchel, died 24 Feb. 1907, aged 84 years. David and Suzanna are buried in the Queensville cemetery.*
 - ii) Martha (Patty) Willson born 12 Aug. 1818, died 3 Jan 1892; *married 9 May 1837 David Michael Peregrine, born 4 Dec. 1814, died 3 June 1896. They lived on Lot 21 of the 4th Conc. E. G. David was a Methodist preacher.*
 - iii) Hiram Willson, born 1819; *married Harriet Gager, daughter of Noah Gager, born 1817, died 1887.*
 - iv) Hugh Willson, born 1820; *married Jane Pollock, born 1819. It was probably he who married secondly, Esther Lundy (see above).*
 - v) Mary Willson, born 1821; *married 21 Nov. 1836 James Lang, born 1824. They were Methodists.*
 - vi) Harvey Willson, born 1822, died 24 Dec 1888.
 - vii) Maria Willson, born 1824, died 19 March 1895; *married Robert Robinson, born ca. 1815, died 29 Sept. 1871. They are both buried in the Newmarket cemetery.*
 - viii) Calvin E. Willson, born 1826; *married ? Jerome, daughter of Jason Jerome on 5th Conc. E. G.*
 - ix) Lucinda Willson, born 1826; *married Alex. Dickson of Holland Landing.*
 - x) Minerva Willson, born 1828; *married 24 May 1854 Thomas Earle.*
 - xi) Anna Willson, died June 1873; *married Alfred Dickson.*
 - xii) Alfred Willson, born 1832.
 - xiii) Albert Willson, born 1840, died 7 Feb. 1895; *married 1864 Sarah J. Kempshall. He became a Church of England minister.*
- c) James Harvey Willson married a sister of the Hon. Benjamin Seymour of Kingston. They moved to the US in 1832 after experiencing financial difficulties. They were never members of the Children of Peace.
- d) Catherine Willson, born 1795; *married a Mr. Phelps. Never a member of the Children of Peace.*

The Willson Family

Child:

i) *May Phelps, born 1832.*

e) **Hiram R. Willson** was born Jan. 1800, died 30 Aug. 1876; married in 1823 **Caroline P. McLeod**, daughter of **Murdoch** and **Rachel Terry McLeod** (see above) born 13 Feb. 1803, died 28 Feb. 1884. She was disowned by the Quakers 12 Feb. 1824 for marrying outside of the Society of Friends. 2 Richard Titus Willson recounts that in 1830, he Hiram and their brothers Harvey and Alfred went in partnership to operate a "tanning and currying business, Harvey being of that trade." In 1832, Harvey, pressed for outstanding debts, moved to the United States leaving Alfred in charge of the business, and "Hiram worked his trade (carpentering)" to pay off their debts "as produce was very low in those times." After these debts were paid, Hiram sold his share to his brothers, and according to the 1834 Tax assessment role, they were farming 28 acres of Lot 9, Conc. 2. This was land they had been renting, and 25 acres of it was purchased in 1835 for \$400. They remained members of the Children of Peace until the Rebellion of 1837. Both are buried in St. Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Churchill, Ont.

Children:

i) **James Wellington Willson**, born 27 Oct. 1824, died 8 July 1917; married 28 Feb 1849 *Johanna Gleason, daughter of Ira and Joanne Hill Gleason, born 7 Oct. 1830, died 24 Feb. 1916. They moved to Lot 14, Conc. 4, Innisfil twp. where they lived until 1883 when they moved near Aurora.*

Children:

- 1) Arabella Willson, born 3 Jan. 1850, died 7 April 1913; married 15 Oct. 1872 Robert Gilmore Reive, boen 9 March 1845, died 25 June 1934. Children: Joanna, born 9 July 1873; Thomas Gilmour, born 4 April 1875; Annie Winnifred, born 13 Sept. 1876; Walter Scott, born 15 May, 1878; James Wellington, born 31 March, 1880; Vincent, born 23 Nov. 1882; Ida Maude, born 28 Dec. 1884; Morley Willson, born 17 Sept. 1887; Nelson Ambrose, born 27 Nov. 1889; Marshall William, born 21 Oct. 1891; Emily Irene, born 1 June 1893; Robert Harvey, born 17 May 1895.
- 2) Almana Willson, born 7 April 1851, died 15 Oct. 1916; married John Thornburn of Buffalo, NY. No children.
- 3) Walter Scott Willson, born 9 Oct. 1852, died Jan. 1936; married 22 Feb. 1883 Agnes Gardner, died 1935. Children: Elizabeth, Ella, Irene, Dorothy.
- 4) Joel Alexander Willson, born 22 Sept. 1854, died 5 Dec. 1933; married 31 March 1886 Annie Campbell Morrison, born 15 Feb. 1867, died 9 Feb 1950. Children: Catherine May, born 3 Feb. 1887; James Wellington, born 4 July 1891; Stanley Alexander, born 19 Sept. 1893; Joanna Alberta, born 19 Sept. 1893; Walter Scott, born 5 Nov. 1906.
- 5) Marshall Henry Willson, born 15 July 1856, died Dec. 1946; married 15 March 1899 Rebecca Jane McKee, born 6 Nov. 1870, died April 1949. Children: Walter Earle, born 19 Dec. 1899; Robert, born 1901; Lambert Dwight, born 6 March 1902; Audrey Fennel, born 1903.

- 6) Joanna Caroline Willson, born 20 Dec. 1858, died 30 Nov. 1935; married John Alfred McMillan, born 7 Oct. 1858, died 26 Oct. 1887. Child: Harvey Reginald, born 9 Sept. 1885.
- 7) James Harvey Willson, born 30 May 1861, died Feb. 1920; married Jean Patterson Thornburn, born 1861, died 1 Jan. 1942. Child: Walter Thornburn, born 22 Dec. 1892, in Auburn, Ind.
- 8) Mary Emily Willson, born 12 Sept. 1863, died 5 Oct. 1956; married 1898 James Alexander Baldwin, born 7 May 1865, died 28 Jan. 1924. Children: George, born 3 May 1900; Gordon Gwyneth, born 29 Aug. 1901; Wyatt Cysworth, born 22 Aug. 1903.
- 9) Martha Adeline Willson, born 27 July 1864, died 24 March 1920; married first, William Patterson, secondly, Dec. 1931 James Hunter. Children: Mary Isobel, born 4 April 1890; Mabel Jean, born 12 Feb. 1893; Florence Alberta, born 24 March 1895; Thomas Lorne, born 11 March 1897; Irene Willson, born 11 Nov. 1901; Olene Hunter, born 11 Nov. 1901.
- 10) Egbert Charles Willson, born 24 May 1872, died 6 Feb 1957; married first, Nov. 1901, Jennie Taylor, died 1910, secondly, Anna McElroy. Children: Helen, born 12 Aug. 1913; Wellington; Marshall George, born 26 Oct. 1916.
- 11) Alberta Louisa Willson, born 19 March 1874, died 20 Aug. 1920; married Hugh Ferguson Scott, born 5 Nov. 1870, died 4 July 1934. Children: Marjorie Agnes, born 7 Aug. 1900; Walter, born 12 April 1902; Edna Alberta, born 24 Oct. 1903; Laura Mildred, born 29 Dec. 1905; Robert Alexander, born 21 Sept. 1907; Thomas Harvey, born 30 Oct. 1909; Florence Irene, born 29 March 1913; John Douglas, born 15 Oct 1915.
 - ii) **Lambert Willson**, born 17 April 1828, died 24 April 1902; married Mary Doan, daughter of James H. and Susannah Kinsey Doan (see above), born 30 Jan. 1834, died 7 Nov. 1911.
 - iii) **Louisa Willson**, born 8 Nov. 1831; married Daniel Ambrose Lundy, son of Enos and Margaret Bostwick Lundy, born 1827.

Children:

- 1) Alberta Lundy, born 10 April 1854; married William Roche. Child: Mazo De La Roche, noted author of the Jalna series of novels.
- 2) Frank Lundy, born 8 Jan. 1856. He died in an accident in Newmarket.
- 3) Wellington Lundy, born 3 April 1857.
- 4) Emma Lundy, born 23 June 1859; married first James Smith, second, Fritz Pierre Mansmandel.
- 5) George Hunt Lundy, born 4 Nov. 1862; married Rhoda Wicks.
- 6) Walter Ernest Lundy, born 2 April 1873, died 30 Oct 1964; married Jessie Johnstone.
 - iv) *Martha Willson, born 1835; married James Clement of Churchill, born 25 June, died 27 Aug. 1894.*

Children:

- 1) Mary Elizabeth Clement, died age 11.
- 2) Harvey Clement, born March 1869, died 31 Dec. 1919.
- 3) Caroline Louise Clement, born 4 April 1879.

The Willson Family

- v) Mary Catherine Willson, born 1839, died 20 July 1924. Married 19 Dec 1866 Richard Rogerson of Simcoe County, born 1838, died 15 July 1927.

Children:

- 1) Mary Caroline Rogerson, born 27 June 1871, died 10 March 1967; married 27 June 1899 Irving Nelson.
- 2) Hiram Dwight Rogerson, born 20 May 1877, died 21 April 1967; married 30 May 1906 Ida Maude Reive.
- 3) Ida Grace Rogerson, born 6 April 1875, died 12 Aug. 1896.
- 4) Martha Jane Rogerson, born 17 Oct. 1879, died 7 Feb. 1964; married 5 Nov. 1912 John Wallace, born 1879, died 1947.

vi) Franklin Willson, died in infancy.

vii) Isabella Willson, died 22 Sept. 1833, aged¹.

- f) **Hugh (W.?) Henry Willson**, was born in 1803, and died 22 Aug. 1871; married Sarah Ann Willson, daughter of James Willson, died 1887. He later became a minister of the Canada Christian Conference. They remained members of the Children of Peace for a short period only.

Children:

i) Sarah Willson, born 3 Feb. 1825, died 4 June 1827. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

ii) Susan Willson, born March, died 18 April 1829. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

iii) John Willson

iv) Leonard Willson

v) Hannah Willson

vi) Charlotte Willson

vii) Catherine Willson

- g) Alfred Willson, born 1810, died 26 Feb. 1888; married Martha ?, b. 1812. They moved to Lot 16, Conc. 2, Cherry Creek near Barrie after the Rebellion of 1837, and then to Bell Ewart where he opened a store. He was also a Justice of the Peace. They were never members of the Children of Peace.

i) Ann Willson, born 1839

ii) John Willson, born 1842.

iii) Jane Willson, born 1844.

iv) Harvey Willson, born 1846.

v) Ada Willson, born 1849.

vi) Seymour Willson, born 1853.

- h) **Waite Willson** was born in 1811, and died 3 Sept. 1898; married **Elias Doan**, son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Paxson Doan (see above).

i) Louisa Willson, married Elias Jones. Never a member of the Children of Peace.

- 2) **David Willson** was born 7 June 1778 in the Nine Partners Grant, Dutchess County, New York, approximately 12 miles east of Poughkeepsie. He was the second son of John Willson and the first of his second wife, Catherine, "poor but pious Presbyterians." Left fatherless at the age of 14, he remained on the family farm, perhaps apprenticed to a carpenter, as he "inclined to mechanical business in joining timber one part unto another." His obituary noted that he married before he attained his majority; sometime before 1797 he married **Phebe Titus**, daughter of Israel Titus. Phebe's sister had married David's brother Hugh L. Willson.

Phebe was born 18 October 1777, a birthright member of the Society of Friends, and was disowned by the Creek Monthly Meeting 17 Sept. 1794 for "going out from plainness and keeping company with one not of our society," presumably Willson. In 1798, David appears to have joined his brothers in purchasing shares in the sloop, The Farmer, which sailed out of New York harbour for the West Indies. In the spring of 1800, the elder brother, Hugh, sold his share in the ship and emigrated to Upper Canada (Ontario) to be followed the next year by David and the rest of the family. Willson acquired a Crown grant in East Gwillimbury, Lot 10, 2nd Concession, in 1801, and remained on his farm there until his death in 1866. He joined the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends in 1804, and became increasingly active over the following seven years. In 1811, he began to preach, only to have his ministry rejected by an elder in the Yonge St. Meeting. "Fleeing controversy", he opened his own home to meetings for worship in 1812, and founded a group which eventually took the name, the Children of Peace.

They founded the village of Hope (now Sharon), where they built a replica of Solomon's Temple after Willson was inspired by a vision to "ornament the church with all the glory of Israel." For many years, Willson also served as superintendent of the sect's boarding school. Willson was politically active for the reform party, which sought to bring democracy to Upper Canada; he was the main speaker at their first political convention in 1834. After the Rebellion of 1837, Willson was an ardent supporter of Robert Baldwin, MP for the riding and Premier of the province. It was under Baldwin that Responsible Government (cabinet rule) was granted to Canada by the British. Willson was also a prolific writer, publishing a number of books, pamphlets and hymnals; his largest work was Impressions of the Mind published in 1835. Willson remained the principal minister of the sect until his death 19 January 1866. Phebe Willson died 14 January 1866. They are both buried in the Sharon Cemetery.

The Willson Family



David Willson, Founder of the Children of Peace

Children:

- a) **John David Willson** was born 28 August 1797 in New York state. Before he married he taught school for a number of years, after which he became a school inspector and farmer. John's life was marked by a number of tragedies, including the death of his first two wives in childbirth. On 21 November 1825 he married Sarah Lundy, daughter of **Israel** and **Rachel Hughes Lundy** (see above). She was born 30 July 1804 in East Gwillimbury, and died 2 Nov. 1826. Following her death, David Willson wrote one of his most moving memorials: "My spirit rent in twain, and I was but part, no Bride without the Bridegroom, nor Bridegroom without the Bride was like the mourning of my soul. I sought for rest and found none. I wept and knew not the cause.

The pillow gave no rest to mine eyes, nor food contentment to my heart. I sought her spirit through all the watches of the night, and found her not. In vain I sought for her whom I would see. I mourned for a communication from her lips again. I mourned to know where she was, and what she had to communicate to me, for I could not live without her conversation. I drew near her bed, I thought I could discover a spark of life to move within her heart although her person was deceased. I put mine ear to her breast to know if I could discover any symptoms of life in her, whether spiritual or personal; I could discover nothing but the breaking of a bubble within her. In despair I left her and mourned again. Disconsolate, I returned to her person and thought I heard a language in her breast saying I will soon come to thee. (I had offered myself a sacrifice to death to be with her but unacceptable to God - I had to remain to weep).

This was the production of the spark of life I had discovered within. Her language seemed comfortable and was the first relief I got after many hours of deep sorrow. I began to think that heaven had heard my prayer, and that her spirit would give me some satisfaction. I retired with hope and was in some measure comforted. I rested for a moment in one of my neighbor's dwellings, and left her in the room with God alone until I heard her desires sound in mine ears that she now wanted me, as she often had done when she was sick.

Without delay I obeyed the call and immediately came to her person hoping for an alteration to take place. I saw a language was in her lips and that she was ready to speak, but that I must retire and leave her alone as I had done before. I staid but a short time as I could not give up her person, still hoping that some singular instance would appear in her unwelcome death. I saw that she had communicated her sentence to the Lord, that life had gone out of her, and that she certainly was dead. I retired to get a little rest to my weeping eyes, with remembrance how I had in days past refused to be taught by the flesh of any person because my communion was so dear with the Lord. But at the opening of my eyes after a few moments of restless kind of sleep, truth presented itself before mine eyes, and discovered unto me that her desires was for my heart through life, and that we were reconciled together, and that God had given her spirit to me and was within me, and the heavenly vision gave me peace."

John then married **Hannah Dennis**, daughter of Enos and Sarah Hughes Dennis on 7 Feb. 1830 (see above). Hannah was born in 1810, and died 22 Nov. 1830. Lastly, John married Maria Thorpe, daughter of John Thorpe Sr., on 27 March 1841. She was born on 24 Feb. 1819, and died in 26 Oct. 1894. Her sister Elizabeth was married to Job Hughes (see above). John took part in the Rebellion of 1837, carrying the weapons of the East Gwillimbury rebels in his waggon; however, he returned home with his father David before the battle of Yonge Street (see the statement of his brother-in-law, Charles Doan, reprinted above).

Although he didn't take part in the battle, he was jailed for almost five months in harsh conditions in Toronto in the same cell as Lount and Matthews, whom he saw executed. After the Rebellion, John was elected as a Town Councillor in 1841. He is recorded in the assessment rolls as both a farmer and the coroner. He had extensive land holdings, including village lots in Sharon, 75 acres on Lot 16, Conc. 5, 50 acres on Lot 23, Conc. 5, 25 acres on Lot 19, Conc. 2. His property was assessed at \$3,520 in 1865. By 1873, he had sold off all of his holdings, and settled down in Sharon. He played a prominent part in the activities of the Children of Peace Band, a band once judged the best in North America; he played the violincello. In 1845, he is listed as the "Clerk" of the Monthly Meeting of the Children of Peace, and after the death of his father, John acted as the sect's minister, reading his father's old sermons until illness caused him to stop in 1886, and confined him to bed until his death. He died 14 March 1887. Both John and Maria are buried in the Children of Peace Cemetery, Sharon.

The Willson Family

Children:

- i) **Job Willson**, born 1829/30; married 21 Nov. 1858 Maria Graham, daughter of William and Elizabeth Doan Graham, born 20 March 1834 (see above). Maria was determined to study music, hence carried the melodeon to the pig pen where she could be by herself. She was self-trained. He received Lot 10, Conc. 4 from his father, but sold it to William Malloy, husband of his cousin Rebecca Willson. They moved to San Francisco, California where he became a noted (and wealthy) doctor.



Dr Job and Marian Graham Willson

Children:

- 1) Mary Willson, born 22 Dec. 1861, died 21 Jan. 1862. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- 2) William Willson born 21 July 1864, died 12 Oct. 1865. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- ii) *Hannah Willson, born 5 July 1843, died 11 April 1907; married Israel Lundy 20 Sept. 1866, son of Reuben and Mary Ann Armstrong Lundy, born 8 Feb. 1839, died 1 Nov. 1885. Hannah played cornet in the Children of Peace band (see above).*
- iii) *Phoebe, born 1845, died 15 April 1868; married 21 May 1863 Charles Graham, son of William (see above).*
- iv) *Elizabeth Willson, born 22 Nov. 1846, died 2 Oct. 1915; married John D. Graham (brother of Charles - see above), born 11 Jan. 1846, died 1 Oct. 1923. They are both buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.*
- v) *Absalom Willson, born 24 April 1849, died 11 March 1939; married Harriet Stokes, daughter of John T. and Martha Stokes (see below), born 11 June 1852, died 18 Aug. 1935. In his youth he was a member of the band, playing first drum, and then a tenor horn. By 1879, he was farming 106 acres of Lot 10, Conc. 2, his grandfather David Willson's farm. By 1882, he had added 30 acres on Lot 10, Conc. 3. When the Children of Peace dissolved in 1889, he owned the Sharon Temple and Meeting Houses; he was one of their last members. Absalom sold the Second Meeting House for lumber, the funds from which were supposed to pay for the upkeep of the Children of Peace cemetery. He initially gave the Temple to the Christian Church, in the hopes that they would start a congregation in Sharon and*

thus maintain the buildings. When they were unable to do so, they returned the Temple to Absalom. He sold the farm and Temple on his retirement, and the Temple was then sold to the York Pioneer Historical Society in 1917. His wife and children were members of the Church of England. He was a prominent Mason for more than 50 years, being first accepted in 1870; he had a perfect attendance record for 11 of those years "even though he had to walk miles to go to lodge". he was master of the Sharon lodge in 1889, 1890 and 1896. They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.

Children:

- 1) Emily Roberts Willson born 29 Jan. 1874; married Willard Grosse on 7 June 1908. They lived in Sharon. Children: Marion Georgina, Gertrude Willson, Kathleen Roberts.
- 2) Frank Russell Willson, born 29 July 1876; married Annie Brammar (probably the daughter of John and Mary Brammar). They lived in Souris, Man. Children: Marjorie, Hugh, Jack, Ruth.
- 3) Georgina Thorpe Willson, born 20 Nov. 1878; married Charles Montgomery 9 Oct. 1900. They lived in Toronto. Children: Herbert, John.
- b) Israel Willson was born 5 Dec. 1799 in New York city, died 5 July 1883 of general debility. 4 An oft repeated legend states that when David Willson and his family were moving to Ontario, they were ship-wrecked during a violent storm on the voyage across Lake Ontario. The Willson family only survived by lashing the two children to their spinning wheel, which David managed to drag ashore. Israel married Mary Hughes 21 July 1827 in Sharon. Mary was the daughter of Amos and Rebecca Chapman Hughes (see above), born 28 Feb. 1809 in King township, died 8 June 1876 in Sharon of inflammation of the lungs. 5 They continued to live in his father's homestead for several years, finally obtaining their own farm, 125 acres on Lot 6, Conc. 2 in 1841. 6 By 1851, they had added 100 acres on Lot 23, Conc. 5, and by 1862 a further 37.5 acres on Lot 16, Conc. 5. By 1865, they had sold the land on Lot 23 (to his brother John), and the assessed value of their property was \$3,300. By 1869, he appears to have retired and was farming Lot 6, Conc. 2 with his son David, cultivating 70 of the 125 acres they owned there. They were members of the Children of Peace until 1871, when they are listed in the census as Quakers. By 1881, a widowed Israel is again listed as a member of the Children of Peace. They are both buried in the Newmarket cemetery.

Children:

- i) *Rebecca Willson, born 27 Nov. 1829, died in Newmarket, 28 July 1889 of Brights disease; 7 married William Mulloy (Malloy), son of Timothy and Mary Malloy born 1822 in W. Gwill, died 7 Aug. 1894 of gastric enteritis in Yatton, Peel County. 8 They lived in a town lot on Lot 9, Conc. 3, in Sharon in 1851. At that time, William was listed in the census as a yeoman, but had no land holdings in East Gwillimbury. By 1862, they had moved to a new house on Lot 10, Conc. 2. William's occupation was listed as a shoemaker (or cordwainer) until 1867, when he became a bailiff. By 1869, they had purchased 75 acres on Lot 11, Conc. 4, and farmed a further 50 acres on the same lot. By 1873, they had purchased an additional*

The Willson Family

30 acres on Lot 10, Conc. 3, which was farmed with their son Israel. The family disappears from township records after 1879. The family remained members of the Children of Peace until after 1871. They are both buried in the Newmarket cemetery.

Children:

- 1) Mary Malloy, born 17 July 1850, died 1 July 1917; married William A. Ewing, born 8 Jan. 1849 in Aberdeen, died 16 May 1933. They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.
 - 2) Israel Malloy, born ca. 1851, married Alice ? They lived on Lot 10, Conc. 3. Child: Bernice, born ca. 1880.
 - 3) Ellen H. Malloy, born 1852; married first William T. Helmer, born 1853, died 6 Feb. 1883. William and the children are buried in the Children of Peace cemetery. Children: Bertie, Freddie, born 1880, died 14 Sept 1881. Bertha, born Jan., died 5 March 1883. She married secondly, ? van Allen. She died 9 July 1915 and is buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
 - 4) William G. Malloy Jr., born 27 July 1857, died 3 Jan. 1896 in Waterloo of apoplexy 9; married Anne Maria ?, born 1861, died 14 Aug. 1886. Both are buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
 - 5) Catherine C. Malloy, born ca. 1863.
- ii) Amos Hughes Willson, born 13 May 1835, died 29 Aug. 1912; married 16 Oct. 1856 Mary Ann Graham, daughter of William and Elizabeth Doan Graham, born 18 June 1836 (see above), died 18 March 1923. They initially lived on Lot 11, Conc. 3, in the village of Sharon. His property was assessed at only \$300 in 1865, which makes his later success all the more remarkable. He was a "tobacco pedlar" who later turned to farming. They owned 437 acres of land in the township. They purchased 50 acres on Lot 12, Conc. 3, and 13 acres on Lot 11, Conc. 3 about 1882. Amos was one of the trustees of the Children of Peace in its last years, but he left the sect in 1881 after a dispute with his uncles about letting a Presbyterian congregation use the Meeting Houses. They are both buried in the Newmarket cemetery.*



Mary Ann Graham and Amos H. Willson

Children:

- 1) Robert Reid Willson, born 12 Oct 1857, died 16 July 1883 by drowning in Port Huron, Michigan.¹⁰ Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
 - 2) William Graham Willson, born 4 Sept. 1859, died 23 Dec. 1861 of Scarlet Fever.¹¹ Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- iii) Catherine Chisolm Willson, born 8 April 1841, died 18 July. 1935; married 24 May 1868 in Sharon William Dodds of Lloydstown, born 25 Oct. 1841, died 15 Nov. 1919.*

Children (all born in Sharon):¹²

- 1) Amos Willson Dodds, born 3 June 1869, died 23 Jan. 1941; married 3 June 1911 in Winnipeg Margaret Robertson.
 - 2) Mary Naomi Dodds, born 2 Aug. 1870, died 9 Sept., 1943; married 24 Jan. 1898 in Brandon, Manitoba Arthur Stanley Rhodes, born 9 April 1867, died 19 Nov. 1946.
 - 3) William Webb Dodds, born 24 August 1871, died 24 Feb. 1961; married about 1904 Rose Penrose, born 11 Feb. 1875, died 21 Dec. 1947.
 - 4) Anna Eugenia Dodds, born 6 Dec. 1873, died 19 Feb. 1874.
 - 5) Ernest Linton Dodds, born 9 Aug. 1876, died 13 Sept. 1876.
 - 6) Fred Linton Dodds, born 7 May 1878, died 12 July 1878.
 - 7) Evelyn Myrtila Dodds, born 3 July 1879, died 21 Sept, 1879.
- iv) David Lee Willson, born 1848, died in Newmarket 31 Dec. 1886 of typhoid fever;¹³ married 20 Oct. 1869 Eliza Jane Stokes, daughter of John T. and Martha Stokes (see below), born ca. 1850. Eliza Jane was a teacher, she receiving her teaching certificate 31 Aug. 1865. By 1871, he is listed in the census as a Quaker, she as a member of the Church of England. They later became Presbyterians. They were farmers, inheriting Israel Willson's farm on Lot 6, Conc. 2. By 1885 they had moved to Newmarket. David is buried in the Newmarket cemetery.*



Catherine Willson and brother David Lee Willson

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Children:

- 1) Henry T. Willson, born ca. 1870.
- 2) Eva Marion Willson, born ca. 11 Jan. 1873, died 17 Aug. 1883 of inflammation of the bowel. Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- 3) Mary Willson, born ca. 1875.
- 4) Russell Willson, born ca. 1877.
- 5) Emma Jane Willson, died 28 March 1883 aged 11 months 14 days of scalding.¹⁴ Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- 6) infant daughter, died 3 Jan. 1884. Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- 7) Fred Stokes Willson, died 10 May 1885 of convulsions, aged 8 days.¹⁵ Buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- c) Hugh David Willson was said to be the first white child born in East Gwillimbury. He was born 22 Aug. 1802. In his youth, Hugh played trombone and concert horn in the Children of Peace band. He married in 1823¹⁶ Phebe Willson (his cousin), daughter of William H. and Hannah Vernon Willson (see below), of New York, born 1805, died 1887. They lived on a quarter acre Town Lot in Sharon on Lot 10, Conc. 2, and never had any extensive land holdings. For a short time, he was a shop keeper in Sharon, in partnership with Charles Doan, his brother-in-law, but later took up farming. Hugh and his brother John both participated in the ill fated Rebellion of 1837 led by William Lyon Mackenzie. As a result, he was jailed until Oct. 1838.¹⁷ Despite his participation in the Rebellion, Hugh took played a large role in local politics. He was first elected as the District Councillor for East Gwillimbury in 1842. He then served as Township Clerk of East Gwillimbury between 1845-50. In Feb. 1855, Hugh moved to Toronto, where he worked as a "landing waiter", "tide waiter" or "exciseman" (that is, a customs officer). His family remained living in Sharon. In 1875, he retired and returned to Sharon where he remained a bastion of the declining Children of Peace. He moved to Stickton, California in 1889 (where he is buried), and the sect disbanded thereafter.

Children:

- i) Clinger Willson born 1823; married 15 Feb. 1847 Angelina Harold, born ca. 1828, daughter of Samuel Harold and ? Barber, of Lot 5, Conc. 4. Her sister married Calvin Reid (see below). They lived on a Town Lot in Sharon, Lot 9, Conc. 3, and owned 11 acres on Lot 9, Conc. 2. By 1861, they had moved to Ontario County, but Clinger still remained a member of the Children of Peace.

Child:

- 1) Satira Willson, born ca. 1847.
- ii) David Willson, born Sept. 1825 and died 25 April 1827. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- iii) Phebe Ann Willson born 1826; married Robert Brodie, born ca. 1829 in Scotland. He was a Presbyterian, although Phebe and her children remained members of the Children of Peace according to the 1851 census. He is listed in the census as, alternately, an architect, carpenter and joiner. They lived on Conc. 3, lot 9, but moved to Water Street in Newmarket about 1855. He advertised in the Newmarket Era as a Carpenter and Builder "prepared to

take contracts and execute all descriptions of work in the above branches with punctuality and Economy." Brodie was also instrumental in helping form a mutual "protection society" of joiners and carpenters in Newmarket in 1854. By 1861, the family had moved to Port Hope.

Children:

- 1) Mary Brodie, born 1852; married William Reid, born ca. 1837.
- 2) Ellen Brodie, born ca. 1854.
- 3) Hugh Brodie, born ca. 1856. He moved to Chicago.
- 4) Thomas Brodie, born 11 May 1857, died 11 Sept. 1938; married Margaret Smith, born 23 Dec. 1857, died 22 Dec. 1929.
- 5) William Wallace Brodie, born Jan. 1859, died 28 July 1859.
- 6) Annie Brodie, born 1868, died 1953.
- iv) Ellen (or Helen) Reid Willson born 30 Oct. 1829; married Henry Chaplin Mosier, born ca. 1825, son of Thomas and Nancy Ann McNolty Mosier. He and his children were members of the Church of England in 1871, although his wife remained a member of the Children of Peace, until some time before 1881, when they all became Quakers. They owned 300 acres of wood land on conc. 6 (Lots 15 & 16), where Henry operated a water powered saw mill. They also owned 70 acres on Lot 16, Conc. 2, and 50 acres on Lot 15, Conc. 3. In Aug. of 1874, he purchased the Queensville Steam Mills, 18 which he then resold in 1880. Helen died 1 Aug. 1881, and is buried in the Sharon Cemetery. Henry moved to California where he died in 1898.

Children:

- 1) Hugh Willson Mosier, born 1853 (he was the only member of the family that stayed with the Children of Peace in 1881).
- 2) Henry Chaplin Mosier Jr., born July 1855, died 8 Sept. 1855. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- 3) William H. Mosier, born 1858; married Beaubetta Borngasser, daughter of Hannah Haines and Adam Borngasser. (see above). They moved to Stockton, California in 1881.
- 4) Josephine Mosier, born ca. 1862.
- 5) Charles H. Mosier, born ca. 1863.
- 6) Henrietta Mosier, born and died ca. 1863. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- v) Isabella Willson, born 21 Aug. 1832, died 22 Sept. 1833. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
- vi) Sarah Ann Willson, born 23 Nov. 1834, died 10 March 1865; married 12 Sept. 1854 Moses G. Bell, born 1833 in the USA. Sarah is listed on the 1845 membership list for the Children of Peace, but appears to have left the sect after her marriage. By 1861 they had moved to Newmarket, where Moses was a marble dealer. They are listed as having no religion. Sarah is buried in the Sharon Cemetery.

Children:

- 1) Henry Bell, born ca. 1855.
- 2) Ida G. Bell, born ca. 1858.
- 3) Elizabeth Bell, born ca. 1859.

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- 4) Sarah Willson Bell, born 1865, died 2 May 1874. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
vii) Robert Willson born 23 Nov. 1834, the twin of Sarah, above. Died 21 Sept. 1835. Buried in the Sharon Cemetery.
viii) William Nelson Willson, born c1840; married 3 May 1866 Susan Ausman, born c1845 in tecumseth, daughter of Jacob and Maria.
ix) Mary Harriet Willson, born c1843; married 28 March 1876 Havilah Pembroke Eldred. They moved right after the marriage to Stickton, California. He died 4 Jan. 1914 in Alameda, California.
- d) Sarah Willson was born 5 April 1804 in East Gwillimbury, and died 18 April 1853; married John Reid (see below).
- e) Mary Willson was born 24 Oct. 1814 in East Gwillimbury, died 6 Sept. 1848 in childbirth; married Charles Doan (see above).
- 3) John J. Willson was born August 1781 in Dutchess County N.Y. of John and Catherine Willson. He joined his brothers when they moved to New York, and purchased the schooner The Farmer . His nephew wrote he “went to sea at about 15 years of age: was pressed on board an English man-of-war; served several years, was discharged and afterwards became a sea captain.” He married Mary Elliott in August 1807 in New York. In the spring of 1808, they moved to East Gwillimbury, living on the west half of David’s property, Lot 10, Conc. 2. His Oath of Allegiance on 11 March 1805 in York describes him as “John Willson of Gwillimbury, Yeoman, Twenty three Years old a Protestant, Dark Brown Hair and Hazel Eyes five feet six Inches high.” John became a Quaker on 16 March 1809, but was disowned on 17 Sept 1812 for joining the Children of Peace; he was one of the original 5 members. John J. served as the custodian of the Yonge Street School operated by the Children of Peace, but in 1818, the family emigrated to Sugar Grove, Pa. where they became Methodists.

Children:

- a) Catherine Eliza Willson, born 3 Nov. 1809 in East Gwillimbury. She was the second wife of Charles Doan (see above).
- b) Mark Willson, born 1815 in East Gwillimbury, died 12 April 1900 in Winona, Minn.
- 4) Anna Willson was born 1786 in Dutchess County, NY, daughter of John and Catherine Willson. She died in childbirth 24 Dec. 1824, in Sharon and is buried in the Children of Peace cemetery. She married Robert Caleb Briggs, born Nov. 1778, and died 15 Jan. 1834 in Sharon. According to the 1825 Assessment roll, they were farming 40 acres of a 200 acre farm on Lot 14, Conc. 4. Little is known of them, but the conditions in which they lived in East Gwillimbury are reflected in a story written by David Graham: “Briggs on one occasion killed a bear and my father [Jeremiah] and my uncle John Willson palmed it off upon their wives for beef and then laughed at them for eating it.”

Children:

- a) Abigail Briggs, died 1865; married Samuel Proctor, died 1879. Children:
i) Enoch Proctor born 1832, died 1914; married Dorah Garbutt, born 1840, died 1865.
ii) Henry Proctor, born 1840; married Louisa Walton?
- b) Catherine Briggs, born 6 March 1811, died 23 April 1879; married Selby Evans, born 1809, died 1885.

Children:

- i) Robert Selby Evans, born 1834, died 1913; married Elizabeth Watson, born 1841, died 1924.*
ii) Ann Evans, born 1836, died 1905; never married.
iii) Lydia Evans, born 1838; married John Miller, born 1831.
iv) John Evans, born 1839; married Eliza Jane Miller, born 1839.
v) Walter Evans, born and died in 1841.
vi) Abigail Evans, born 1843, married John Irwin, born 1839.
vii) Walter Evans, born 1845, died 1932; married, Jane Hammell, born 1848, died 1875.
viii) Catherine, born 1849; married George Irwin, born 1846.
- c) Anna Maria Briggs, born 28 April 1813; married before magistrate Thomas Selby 25 Nov. 1832, Elijah Dunham, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Travers Dunham, 19 born 24 April 1810. Although they are not listed as Builders of the Temple, they are included in an 1845 membership list. They farmed Lot 28, Conc. 5 of East Gwillimbury until 1848, when they moved to Peel Township. They spent a year in Iowa in 1866, but finally settled down in Warford in Lambton County in 1870. Elijah died 19 July 1893. Anna Maria died 29 May 1899. They donated the land used for Zion Cemetery, Peel township, Wellington County.

Children ²⁰:

- i) Elizabeth Ann Dunham, born 6 Sept. 1833, died 14 Aug. 1862; married Matthew Ebenezer Lowe 24 June 1852.*

Children:

- 1) Abner Lowe, a travelling salesman living in Winnipeg in 1905.
2) Theresa Lowe, worked at a Hudson Bay store in Calgary.
3) Thomas Henry Lowe, worked as a printer in Vancouver.
ii) Thomas Dunham born 16 Feb. 1836, died in the 1860s. A sailor presumed lost at sea.
iii) Robert Dunham born 19 Feb. 1838, died 28 Sept. 1917 in Arkona; married Louisa Green, daughter of William and Ann (Thorndyke) Green of Wellington County, born 1 Feb. 1848, died 2 Oct. 1894. They left Wellington County in 1870 for Biddulph Twp. in Middlesex County. In 1872 they moved to Lobo in the same county. In 1878, they settled on a farm north of Arkona in Lambton County. Unless noted, all their children remained in the Arkona area.

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Children:

- 1) Maria Dunham, born 9 Sept. 1865 in Peel Twp., died 25 Dec. 1946; married Thomas Brett of Drayton, Wellington Co. where they lived. In 1914 they moved to Toronto. Children: Elgin, Florence, Vincliffe, Dunham.
 - 2) Walter Dunham, born 1 Oct. 1867, died 5 Jan. 1882 in Bosanquet Twp. Lambton Co.
 - 3) Herbert Dunham, born 17 March 1870 in Biddulph Twp., Middlex Co., died 29 June 1954; married Isabelle Leland. Moved to B.C. Children: Royden, Delmyer, Orville, Myrtle.
 - 4) Mabel Dunham, born 18 Sept. 1872 in Lobo Twp., died 1950; married Philip Stanley Austin. Children: Florence, Lawrence, Robert Austin.
 - 5) Cecil Dunham, born 19 July 1875, died 9 Oct. 1962; married Lorena Jane McChesney, born 1879, died 1951. Children: Ethel Lorena, Cecil Hazel, Thomas Milton.
 - 6) Ethelbert Dunham, born 18 Oct. 1877 in Lobo Twp., died 24 Oct. 1964; married Lottie Crothers. Moved to Creelman, Sask. Children: Viola, Lloyd, Roy, Elgin.
 - 7) Loftus Dunham, born Jan. 1880 in Bosanquet Twp. Lambton Co., died 19 July 1881.
 - 8) Loftus Lloyd Dunham, born 25 May 1884 in Bosanquet Twp. Lambton Co., died 8 April 1954; married Ida Carrol. Moved to B.C. Children: Robert, Mary
 - 9) Myrtle Louisa Dunham, born 18 Jan. 1887, died 31 Jan. 1919. Never married.
 - 10) Florence Hazel Dunham, born 27 Oct. 1890, died 26 Dec. 1984; married William Campbell. Children: Bruce, Macklin, Clarence, Kathleen, Lloyd, Lorena, Elmer, George.
 - 11) Heather Dunham, born 14 March 1894, died 24 April 1977; married ? Woolvett. Children: Reid, Lorne, Jack, Donald, Orville.
- iv) William Henry Dunham, born 30 July 1840, died 6 May 1905; married Jane Farrow, born 1844, died 1924. He was a carpenter. He built a church in Pipestone, Manitoba.*

Child:

- 1) Adolphus Victor Dunham, born 1878; married Charlotte Critendin 1904. Died in Edmonton.
- v) Jonathan Dunham, born 12 Aug. 1843, died 10 July 1925, in Orillia; married 27 Dec. 1877 Edith Walker. Jonathan was a school teacher and Edith one of his pupils. He spent his later years as an insurance agent in Orillia.*

Children:

- 1) Edith Lyndella Dunham born 17 July 1881, died 23 Oct 1911; married E.J. Kelly.
 - 2) A. Vincliffe Dunham, a furniture dealer and undertaker in Edmonton.
 - 3) Gertrude Dunham, a missionary to China.
 - 4) Walter Briggs Dunham, born 25 April 1891, died in army service 8 Oct. 1916 in Europe.
- vi) Walter Gage Dunham, born 26 Dec. 1845, died 10 Jan. 1860 and buried in Zion Cemetery, Peel township.*
- vii) John Wilmot Dunham, born 30 Aug. 1848, died 9 Sept. 1934; married first, Julia Emes.*

Child:

- 1) Cecil Washington Dunham, born 25 April 1878, died 22 Oct 1954. Married second, Sarah Emma Waldo, 4 Jan. 1882.

Children:

- 2) Lorne Keith Dunham, born 6 Sept. 1885.
 - 3) Walter Buell Dunham died 1916 overseas.
- viii) Martha Willson Dunham, born 30 June 1856, died 7 March 1926 at Queensville. She remained at home with her parents until after her mother's death in 1899. She taught school to help support the family. She later moved to Queensville where she met and married William Cole, a widower, about 1902-3.*

Children:

- 1) Willard Cole, married Cora Waggle, died 11 Sept. 1974.
- 2) Tommy Cole.
- d) Jonathan Briggs, born 1816, died 20 May 1886 in Queensville; married Eliza Sackett, born ca. 1827, died 21 April 1908. They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.

Children:

- i) Amy Briggs, born 19 May, 1850, died 27 Feb. 1939. Never married. Amy and her brother Orville lived in a house across from the Temple, where they remained until they died. Buried in the Queensville cemetery.*
- ii) Caroline Briggs, born 1854, died 10 Jan. 1859, Sharon. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.*
- iii) Orville Sackett Briggs, born 4 Jan. 1855, died 24 Jan. 1946. Never married. Orville left his money to the township of East Gwillimbury, and it was used to build the township hall. Buried in the Queensville cemetery.*
- iv) Abigail Briggs, born 4 Sept. 1857, died 14 Feb. 1944. She married Robert Briggs, son of Caleb and Mary Briggs (see below).*
- e) Caleb Briggs, born 1819, died 11 May 1901; married first, Mary, daughter of Martha Reid (see below), born 1819, died 8 Feb. 1853. She is buried in the Children of Peace cemetery. They initially lived on Conc. 4, Lots 13 & 14, a 150 acre farm he inherited from his father. Caleb married secondly, in the Methodist Church on 12 March 1855, Jane McShane, born 1835, died 17 Feb. 1911. 21 By 1862, they also owned a town lot in Sharon (Lot 10, Conc. 3) which they rented out. Their holdings had an assessed value of \$2,300 by 1865. As their son Robert grew older, they expanded the farm, and by 1873, had purchased an additional 100 acres on Lot 20, Conc. 6. Caleb was the inspector of liquor licenses in East Gwillimbury between 1870 and 1875. They remained members of the Children of Peace until after 1871, when they became Quakers, and then Presbyterians. Jane was well known for her charity, "for no friend or neighbour, nor even stranger ever appealed to her for help in vain."²² They are buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

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Children (by Mary):

- i) Robert Briggs, born 11 Nov. 1841, died 7 Dec. 1931. In the 1861 census he's listed as a hand for Israel Willson. By 1871, he had returned to his parent's home, where he remained until at least 1889. He married his cousin Abigail (see above). They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.

Children:

- 1) Walter C. Briggs, died 13 May 1889 aged 17 months. Buried in the Queensville cemetery.
- 2) Roscoe Briggs born 18 May 1885, died 12 Jan. 1905. Buried in the Queensville cemetery.
 - ii) Anna Briggs, born 1842. She was listed as working as a servant for Rachel Hughes in the 1861 census.
 - iii) David Willson Briggs, born June 1845, died 12 Feb. 1847. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
 - iv) William Henry Briggs, died 13 Dec. 1848, aged 3 weeks, 2 days. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Children (by Jane):

- v) Mary Briggs, born June 1855, died 27 June 1869. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- vi) William Edward Briggs, born 1858, died 1 Feb. 1862. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- vii) Henry Briggs, died 6 Nov. 1861 aged 2 months. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- f) Susan Briggs, born 30 Aug. 1822, died 6 Feb. 1911. 23 She was left an orphan at a young age, and lived with her sister Maria (Mrs. Elijah Dunham). At the age of 17 she was converted "at the evangelistic services conducted by Bro. Matthew Whiting [Methodist] in the Old English Settlement." She married in 8 Feb. 1844 George Y. Moore, born 30 Nov. 1816, died 30 July 1896. He was the son of Robert Moore, a former English army officer from New York, and Maria Yonge of Boston. Although a loyal Englishmen, both Robert and son George had joined the Rebellion of 1837. Susan and George moved to Lot 28, Conc. 3, East Gwillimbury (Queensville) on Dec. 14th, 1851, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Susan broke her hip on 28 Aug. 1910, dying of the injury six months later. They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.

Child:

- i) Susan Moore, born 7 Jan. 1858, died 17 Jan. 1937; married Gilbert Johnston, born 6 Oct. 1848, died 18 Feb. 1911.²⁴ They are both buried in the Queensville cemetery.

5) Mary Willson born 1792 in Dutchess County, NY of John and Catherine Willson, died 22 June 1858; married William Dunham. He was born 1781, and died 25 Feb. 1844 in Sharon. He purchased the south half of Lot 17, Conc. 4, 100 acres, for \$200 in 1828. According to the 1834 tax assessment roll, he cultivated 40 of these 100 acres. They are both buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Child:

- a) Benjamin Dunham born 22 Aug. 1802 in East Gwillimbury, died 4 Dec. 1883; married Anna Sevilla Doan, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stockdale Doan (see above).

6) Mary Willson, daughter of Hugh and Lady Sarah Savage Willson, was born 25 Jan. 1768 (1772 according to her tombstone). She married William Reid was born 17 Feb. 1765 in Banffshire, Scotland by 1794. He was said to have been a "man of more than ordinary intellect" with "an excellent English education." The date of his immigration to America is not known, but by 1794 he had joined the Creek Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends in the Nine Partners Grant of New York. By 1798 he had moved to New York City, perhaps with the rest of the Willson clan involved in the schooner The Farmer. He was in financial difficulties at the time, and the New York City (Flushing) Monthly Meeting investigated a complaint that he "left the [Creek] meeting without satisfying his creditors." A subsequent minute stated "he was in insolvent circumstances but appeared disposed to do all in his power towards satisfying his creditors." During the period in New York, Mary became a Quaker. Their financial position improved enough in New York that they were able to settle their debts and save enough money to purchase land in Ontario. In June 1809 the Reids immigrated to Upper Canada, purchasing 80 acres of Lot 8, 2nd Conc. of East Gwillimbury (two lots to the south of David Willson). His occupation is listed as saddler on that land transaction. In 1812, William became involved in a dispute between David Willson, his cousin by marriage, and Isaac Wiggins, the Elder who would not allow Willson to minister in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting. Reid sided with Willson, and was disowned for having "denied the Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by declaring his belief that he was no more than the apostle Paul or any other inspired man." Reid was the only member of the Children of Peace who was disowned for doctrinal reasons (even David Willson was disowned for having established an unsanctioned meeting for worship, not for theological reasons). The Children of Peace thus appealed only Reid's disownment from the Quakers, using him as a test case of their position. The case was appealed first to the Canada Half Year's Meeting, and failing there, in the New York Yearly Meeting in 1815. Reid, Willson and Rachel Lundy travelled to New York for the appeal, and then on to Philadelphia to drum up support. The Yearly Meeting refused to allow Willson to speak, however, and the appeal was lost. On his return to Upper Canada, Reid became a teacher in the Children of Peace's school on Yonge Street. It is not known for how long he retained that position. Religion appeared to form the basis of his life; his obituary notes that "for some years he seemed wholly abstracted from the world, his mind peaceful and quiet like one in daily communion with his God." William then became a prominent figure in local Reform politics; there were few political meetings in the area where he was not the secretary. His passion for justice led him to take part in the Rebellion of 1837; he is said to have been the oldest participant at age 72. William was elected as Chairman of the Township Council in 1842, and was elected again in 1845, and 1846. He is recorded as a Justice of the Peace for East Gwillimbury in 1846. At the time of the 1851 census, William was living with his son William Jr., and his occupation was listed as harness maker. He retained his faculties to the end, and served as a clerk in his son's store until several weeks before his death at age 90. He

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died 25 May 1855. Mary Willson Reid died 15 Aug. 1833. Both are buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Children:

- a) Pamela Rebecca Reid, born 31 Oct. 1789. She was 20 when her father emigrated to Upper Canada, and may have already married in New York since her father's "certificate of removal" (a letter of introduction) from the New York Quaker Meeting lists only Alexander and Martha.
- b) Alexander Reid, born 8 Sept 1791. He was disowned from the Yonge St. Meeting for "taking spirituous liquors to excess and absenting himself from his parents" 18 April 1811. He is recorded as living on Lot 10, Conc. 3 in 1837. He is not listed in any of the membership lists of the Children of Peace.

Children:

- i) *William Reid*
- ii) *John Reid*
- c) Martha Reid was born 18 Dec. 1794, and died 24 Dec. 1843, in Sharon. She is buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Children:

- i) *Mary Reid, born 1819, died 8 Feb. 1853; married Caleb Briggs, son of Robert and Anne Willson Briggs (see above).*
- ii) *an unnamed son, mentioned in her memorial.*
- d) John Reid born 25 July 1798, died 1 Aug. 1864; married 6 May 1821 Sarah Willson, daughter of David and Phebe Willson (see above), born 5 April 1804, died 18 April 1853. John and Sarah ran an Inn (the Mansion House) opposite the Temple in Sharon, but by 1837 opened a shop in what is now Queensville. John took part in the Rebellion of 1837, and was jailed in unsanitary conditions in Toronto; he developed smallpox there, was transferred to the hospital, and finally released. He later returned to Sharon to manage the Mansion House once again. He was elected to town council in 1840 (serving as tax collector), and again in 1847. He abandoned innkeeping to become an "Inspector" after 1854. He married secondly, Ellen Hughes Henderson, widow of James Henderson (killed in the Rebellion of 1837), and daughter of Amos and Rebecca Chapman Hughes (see above). She was born 28 June 1815, and died 27 Feb. 1905. John quit the Children of Peace after 1845 and became a Quaker, although his wife and children remained members of the sect. By 1861, he had rejoined the Children of Peace. John Reid died 1 Aug. 1864. They are all buried in the Sharon Cemetery, although John's tombstone is now illegible.



John Reid

Children (by Sarah):

- i) *Mary Ann Reid, born ca. 1824, married John Elder, a Presbyterian, born ca. 1825. In 1851, they were living with her father in the Mansion House. No occupation was given for John, so he probably assisted in the running of the Inn. By 1861, John and the children had become members of the Free Church. By the time of the 1871 census, the family had moved from East Gwillimbury.*

Children:

- 1) Mary Elder, born ca. 1852.
- 2) David Elder, born ca. 1853.
- 3) Robert Elder, born ca. 1856.
- 4) William Elder, born ca. 1857.
- 5) Calvin Elder, born ca. 1859.
- viii) *Pamalia Reid, born 23 Sept. 1821 in Sharon, died 23 Aug. 1876 in Toronto of "general debility";²⁵ married widower James H. Willson, born ca. 1817. His first wife was named Priscilla. He was apparently a tailor of extraordinary talent. They initially lived in Sharon, but in 1865 James went to work for Robert Simpson in Newmarket. Simpson had just opened the first of what was eventually to become the Simpsons department store chain there. Simpson's ad proclaimed "Clothing made for the million! in the latest styles by the celebrated cutter and tailor James H. Willson!"²⁶ He owned several uninsured buildings in Sharon which were destroyed in a fire in Jan. 1866.²⁷ They do not appear in East Gwillimbury records thereafter. Pamela is buried in the Newmarket cemetery.*

Children:

- 1) Sarah C. Willson (by Priscilla), born ca. 1839.
- 2) John Willson, born ca. 1856.
- ii) *Abner Nelson Reid, born ca. 1827 in Sharon, died 11 May 1880 of Kidney disease in Newmarket.²⁸ With his brothers, Calvin and David, he started a marble and tombstone business on Lot 10, Conc. 3, in Sharon. Many of the monuments in the Sharon Burial Ground bear their mark. Abner and David sold the business about 1865 to Charles McArthur and moved to Newmarket where they continued the same trade. Abner married Jennie Fry, born ca. 1837, died 29 Nov. 1913. They were members of the Church of England by 1861. Both are buried in the Newmarket Cemetery.*

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Nelson Reid

Child:

1) premature son died 12 May 1882. Buried in the Newmarket Cemetery.²⁹

iii) Calvin Pomeroy Reid, born 1828. He moved to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1849, and then Cincinnati, before returning to Sharon in 1852. He and brothers Nelson and David then began a monument business in Sharon, but he later moved to Toronto in 1857 to form a successful wine, liquor and cigar store. He married 19 Jan 1862 Eliza A. Harold, daughter of Samuel Harold and ? Barber of Lot 5, Conc. 4., East Gwillimbury.³⁰ In 1868, he began to manufacture cigars and opened a store at No. 29, Front Street. By 1877, he was the only successful cigar manufacturer in Canada, employing 100 people in peak season. By 1887 the family was living in New York. He was a firm believer in the adage "nothing bears fruit except by labour of mind and body." He was also a horse breeder, keeping a stable of trotters.



Calvin Reid

- vi) David Willson Reid, born 1830, died of cholera or typhoid in Newmarket 15 Sept. 1887; 31 married 1866 Isabella J. Doan, daughter of William Doan (see above). He started a monument business with his brothers Calvin and Nelson, which they later moved to Newmarket. He was said to have been reticent, unostentatious, "as a husband he was exceptionally kind, particularly fond of home and prided in the mental attainment of his two boys - particularly the eldest." David is buried in the Newmarket cemetery.
- v) Josephine Reid, born ca. 1832, married Eli Doan, son of John and Elizabeth Stockdale Doan (see above). They moved from East Gwillimbury after 1851. He died in San Joaquin, Cal.
- vi) Robert B. Reid: A simple stone marker, and an empty grave, remind us of the tragic death of Robert B. Reid at sea. This marker, in the Children of Peace burial ground, records his death "on his way home from California on the night of the 12 Sept. 1857, with the wreck of the steamship Central America in the Gulf of Mexico." Burdened with a billion dollars worth of gold, the ship went down in a furious hurricane. The wreck of the Central America was the worst peacetime maritime disaster in American history, with more than 425 lives lost. When news of the lost gold reached New York bankers, the Panic of 1857 sparked a recession which set the stage for the Civil War.

Robert B. Reid was born in Oct., 1835, and grew up in the Mansion House, an inn run by his father which stood on the opposite side of the road from the Temple. By the time he was in his teens, his older brother Calvin had already left home to seek his fortune, moving first to Louisville, Kentucky then Cincinnati, before returning to Sharon in 1852. Calvin eventually became the largest manufacturer of cigars in Canada, employing more than 100 people. Hoping to follow in his older brothers footsteps, young Robert moved west, panning for gold in California by the tender age of twenty.

He was on his way home when the hurricane struck. The Central America was a sidewheeler steamship almost a football field long. It had successfully made the trip from California 44 times before. It served as the pipeline for the gold, and the gold seekers, which flowed to and from the California gold rush. But a week out of Panama, having just rounded the Florida Keys, it encountered a storm which stopped it dead in its tracks.

On the first day, the ship sprung a leak, soaking much of the coal which drove the massive paddlewheels. Without steam, the ship would not be able to hold its bow into the waves. After three days of crashing into massive wave after wave, the boilers finally ran out of fuel. The powerless ship was blown sideways, and battered broadside by waves "as tall as hotels," like the one Reid had been born and raised in.

For thirty hours, every able bodied person desperately bailed to help keep the ship afloat. By midday, Sept. 12, the storm had not yet abated, and the ship's captain knew the ship would soon sink. That afternoon, a saviour in the shape of a brig sailing out of Boston appeared on the horizon. Though battered by the storm itself, the crew of the Marine courageously offered assistance. The Captain of the Central America ordered all women and children to the

The Willson Family

lifeboats, for the difficult crossing to the waiting brig. By nightfall, all but one of the women and children were safe.

By that point, the battle aboard the Central America was lost. The ship was filled with water. The precious gold which had driven these men across a continent, was fruitlessly tossed overboard to lighten the load. At 8 p.m., the bow of the Central America went up, and the ship sank into the seething sea. Although another ship, the Ellen, managed to rescue 50 men from among the flotsam, another 425 men lost their lives. Among them, Robert B. Reid.

The news of the loss of the Central America put a continent in mourning. No one was untouched by the tragedy, including the small village of Sharon. David Willson, stung by the death of a grandson barely 21 years of age, tried to capture his grief in a lengthy published poem, which reads in part:

*Oh how I see the living weep,
Their cheeks are bath'd with flooding tears,
For them that in the ocean sleep,
And' s past away their happy years.*

*The air is fill'd with sighing breath,
And mingled with a mournful groan;
How every day they think on death,
Nor yet forget the watery tomb.*

*Oh! gold where is thy treasure now?
The watery deep's thy hidden store;
Oh! none but God could tell us how,
That we should die and live no more.*

*Oh! that my soul may take a part,
With them that's gone and is now no more;
And feel with every sighing heart,
And feel with them the griefs they bore.*

vii) *William John, born 1844. It was probably he who was serving as a deputy Reeve for East Gwillimbury from 1869 to 1875. By 1887 was living in California.*

e) *Anne Reid born May 1803, died 29 Oct. 1833 and is buried in the Children of Peace cemetery. Never married. She apparently played an important role within the sect: Willson penned a memorial to her, published in his book Impressions of the Mind (1835). "These records were transcribed thus far by a beloved sister, Anne Reid. Her virtues were excellent, she walked foremost in the flock; she was a diligent singer, and a wholesome pattern for the young. But on the 29th of October, 1833, she deceased, after a short and painful illness. She desired death in her best days, as the world afforded her but little pleasure. She never inclined to marriage or male company as*

could be discovered. She often said it was her place to serve the congregation, and nurse the records of the Church, rather than to raise up children in a troubled world. She travelled much abroad, spending her hard earned money with a willing mind. She cared for the company, and always when able raised the tune in worship, abroad, and at home. She walked after our banners in York with her sisters a few days before her departure. The last time she left her little habitation (which was after she was seized with her last illness) was to worship God. She was unable to perform her common service. She has left her seat empty to be lamented evermore."

f) *William Reid Jr . was born 1806, and died 1 Feb. 1860; married in May 1831 Mary Hill , daughter of George and Lucy Hill (see below). He was a bailiff by occupation. In 1828, Reid followed a notorious murderer from Uxbridge to the States in an attempt to apprehend him: "The shocking circumstances attending the commission of the crime and the reward offered by the government in this case stimulated many to action, who rushed in every direction in pursuit of the murderer. William Reid, of Sharon, a high-spirited young fellow, was amongst the foremost. Enquiries at Hamilton first placed him on the track, which he had no difficulty in following up, on account of the remarkable appearance of the team of dappled-greys (horses stolen by the murderer). He travelled rapidly on horseback until he reached Troy, distributing along the route taken by him printed copies of the proclamation offering the reward and containing a description of the murderer and of the team. He posted up a copy in a bar-room at Troy, and there related the circumstances of the murder to an eager crowd present. Amongst those present, he noticed particularly one young man, carefully reading the document, and who asked him for 'a copy of the hand bill,' saying, 'he was going into the country, and would stick it up.' he got one, and started for a farm, about three miles outside the city, where he had seen a team and a man answering the description, at work in a cornfield earlier in the day. On the strength of this, he arrested Christie (the murderer), without resistance, and brought him into Troy. This man's name was Brown, a 'cute Yankee. He refused to give up the prisoner to the Canadian, who had the warrant, stating that he would deliver him to the Canadian authorities himself, which he did, and got the reward. In less than a week from his arrest, Christie was lodged in the gaol of York, and as the court was sitting at the time, he was immediately placed on trial. He made a full confession of his guilt, and was hanged." 32 William also took part in the Rebellion of 1837, for which he was jailed in Toronto, 25 men packed to a room; to protest the unsanitary conditions, he kicked the boards off the windows. William and Mary lived on Lot 12, Conc. 3 in the heart of the village of Sharon, but also owned land on Lots 22 & 23, Conc. 5 North Gwillimbury, and in Mariposa twp. William died 1 Feb. 1860, after he was thrown from his winter cutter, receiving several contusions. He died of "Erysipelas". He is buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.*

Children:

- i) Simpson Reid born June 1832, died 15 Nov. 1832. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.*
- ii) Emily Anne Reid, born ca. 1837; married William Robert Edmand.*
- g) Elizabeth Reid , born 1808, died 1893; married 12 July 1827 Abraham Doan , son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Paxson Doan (see above).*

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h) Sarah T. Reid, born ca. 1809, died 25 Jan. 1876; married Joseph Terry, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Lepard Terry (see above) born ca. 1805, died 1838. The 1837 Directory of the Home District places him on Lot 11, Conc. 3, and the will of Amos Hughes (see above) states that in 1834 Joseph was residing in a house built by the Children of Peace for the poor, sick and orphaned (probably as its custodian). He appears to have died between March and Aug. 1838, since Willson's Memorial for Anne W., his daughter, begins:

Behold I need no father's care,
Nor father dear had I,
Whose ear could hear my dying prayer,
Whose ear could hear me cry.
A widowed mother left alone,
My fathers far away,
And I have left a mournful home
And all my friends this day.

Little else is known of this family. They are not included in the 1845 membership list.

Children:

- i) David J. Terry erected the tombstones for his four sisters who died in infancy.
 - ii) Elma Terry, born April 1825, died 19 Sept. 1841. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
 - iii) Mary Terry
 - iv) Anne R. Terry, born March 1831, died 22 Dec. 1834. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
 - v) Rachel Terry, born July 1833, died 30 March 1838. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
 - vi) Anne W. Terry, born 4 Aug., died 25 Aug. 1838. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- i) Willson Reid, born 1810, died 14 June 1885; married Hannah Gray, born 1810, died 30 Oct. 1886, Toronto. In 1851, he was operating a tannery with Lemuel Doan (see above), and manufacturing shoes with the help of three employees, as well as operating a shoe shop in Sharon (Lot 10, Conc. 3). By 1861, they had moved to Lots 20, Conc. 4 where they had purchased a 40 acre farm. By 1865, they had expanded the farm to 90 acres, and had also purchased another 9 acres for their son Stephen Henry on Lot 11, Conc. 3, two other houses in Sharon (Lot 10, Conc. 3) as well as 50 acres in partnership with George Cook on Lot 21, Conc. 4. This property had a total assessed value of \$2,750. Their son Stephen bought George Cook's share in Lot 21 by 1869. Willson Reid was elected deputy reeve several times for East Gwillimbury (1869, 1871-3, 1875). Politically, he was a reformer just as his father was. He joined the Rebellion of 1837; he was jailed first in Toronto, but when he was transferred to Kingston, he escaped. He and his family had become members of the Church of England by 1861.



Willson Reid

Children:

- i) Stephen Henry Reid, born ca. 1840; married Emma Woodcock. He inherited the family farm.

Children:

- 1) Robert Willson Reid
- 2) John David Reid
- 3) Mary Letitia Reid
- ii) Elizabeth Ann Reid, born 9 March 1844, died 12 April 1911; married in 1861, Richard Henry Howard Jr. of Gerard St. Toronto, born 3 Dec. 1835, died 30 May, 1895.³³ Both are buried at St. James Church, Toronto.

Children:

- 1) George Albert Howard, born 2 Jan., died 23 Jan. 1862. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- 2) Willson Howard, born 1863, died about 1936; married Margaret ?, 4 children: John, Marge, Shanley and Harry.
- 3) Frank Howard, born July 1867, died 5 Dec. 1884.
- 4) Lewis Alexander Howard born 22 March 1870; married 22 June 1892 Ella Aneil Rupert. 4 children: Helen, Lewis, Lois, Frank.
- 5) Richard Howard, born ca. 1873; married Eleanor ?, 4 children: Adeline, Evelyn, Dick and Ross.
- 6) James Ross Howard born 24 Aug 1886, died 21 Dec. 1975; married 28 Sept. 1910 Maud Mary Pattison, born 21 Nov. 1887, died 27 Jan. 1940. 1 child: Audrey. James married secondly Jeanne Muriel Steele.
- iii) Mary Louisa Reid, born ca. 1844; married 22 Dec. 1868 in King, John M. Smith, eldest son of prominent Newmarket merchant R.H. Smith.³⁴
- iv) Julia Ann Reid, born ca. 1846.
- 7) William W. Willson, born 1771, died 5 May 1820, was a son of Hugh Willson and Lady Sarah Savage. He married Hannah Vernon, no doubt a relation of the Yonge St. Quaker Vernons (in Whitchurch township). She was born in 1774, and died 3 Aug. 1854 in Sharon. They are both buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Children:

- a) John Varnell Willson born 1800, died 21 July 1864 and buried in the Children of Peace cemetery; married Rebecca Doan, daughter of Mahlon and Rebecca Hartley

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Doan (see above).

- b) William Henry Willson , born 5 Dec. 1803, died 5 Dec. 1882; married Sarah Harrison, born ca. 1804, died 29 March 1863. According to the 1837 Directory of the Home District they lived on Lot 16, Conc. 2, a clergy reserve. They did not purchase this land until 1843, when they acquired the east half of the lot (100 acres). By 1851, they owned 125 acres, having sold 25 acres on Lot 16, and purchased 50 acres on Lot 15, Conc. 3, cultivating 70 acres. The farm had an assessed value of \$2,250 in 1865. The family were staunch members of the Children of Peace, remaining members long after the death of David Willson. They are both buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.

Children:

- i) *Charles Doan Willson , born ca. 1825, died 9 July 1863 in Mt. Albert; married Elizabeth ?, born ca. 1825, died 9 Oct. 1907 in Mt. Albert. He was a carpenter by trade, living in Sharon (Lot 11, Conc. 3) in 1851. They moved from East Gwillimbury after 1861, although both are buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.³⁵ His tombstone is now illegible, and hers is missing.*

Children:

- 1) Joseph W. Willson, born ca. 1850, died 28 May 1855. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- ii) *Juliett Willson born 1832, died 3 March 1879; married Silas Lepard , son of Peter and Elizabeth Phillips Lepard (see below), born 1829, died 20 Sept. 1906 in Zephyr. After their marriage, they moved in with his widowed father Peter, on Lot 8, Conc. 3 where they had a farm of 50 acres, and 5 acres on Lot 8, Conc. 2. By 1862, they had added 33.3 acres on Lot 11, Conc. 6. This property had an assessed value of \$1,825 in 1865. By 1869, they had moved to the 4th concession, selling the property on the third Conc., and buying 50 acres on Lot 30, and 75 acres on Lot 29 of the fourth concession. They cultivated 80 of the 125 acres. They remained members of the Children of Peace until this move, when they joined the Christian Church. In 1877 they moved to Scott township, and from 1894 they lived in Zephyr. They are both buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.*

Children:

- 1) Peter Lepard, born Jan., died 7 March 1858. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- 2) William Lepard, died 1857.
- 3) Sarah Jane Lepard, born ca. 1854.
- 4) Elizabeth A. Lepard, born ca. 1856.
- 5) Mary Lepard, born April, died 27 June 1859. Buried in the Children of Peace cemetery.
- 5) Julia M. Lepard, born ca. 1860.
- 6) Emma A. Lepard, born ca. 1861.
- iii) *Jane Willson , born ca. 1835, died 4 March 1901; married S.C. Webster and moved to Belle Ewart where they operated a grocery and post office. For the last 8 years of her life she suffered a serious illness which confined her to bed.*

Children:

- 1) Viola Webster
- 2) Jean Webster
- 3) William H. Webster, a minister.
- iv) *Priscilla Willson, born 18 Sept. 1841, died 24 Oct. 1906 of typhoid; married the Rev. George Brown, born 18 June 1836, died 5 Aug. 1907 at Saginaw, Mich.. Priscilla died just as the family was to move to Calgary. Rev. Brown, a minister in the Methodist*