

The following is from the records of Dave Hill (son of Earl's sister Vivian)

"George served with the British army as a cavalry officer under Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo. Shortly thereafter he sailed for Canada and took a military land grant in the township of Reach in Ontario County, in the village of Utica near Port Perry. Not much is known about the land grant, but apparently George owned several properties and had different members of his family living on them."

"After George's wife died, Dec 11 1857, the old man spent his time going from one of his children's homes to another, as the spirit moved him. One day he took his old dog and walked out to visit his daughter. Neither he nor his dog was ever seen again.

His disappearance remained a mystery until the turn of the century, when Mrs. Parkes (Elizabeth Kendall) told the rest of the family the story. She and her husband had been renting a parcel of land from her father, in the Village of Prince Albert. Parkes ran a small tavern on the property. One day when the old man signed what he thought was a rental agreement, he inadvertently signed a deed to the property which Parkes had substituted for the agreement. Some time later, on a summer morning, Parkes met the old man and his dog and killed them both. He dropped them down an abandoned well on the property and partly filled it in.

William Parkes had confessed this to his wife, for what reason I'm sure I don't know. Maybe his conscience drove him to tell her. I don't believe he was ever made to account for what he did. At least not in this life.

So much time had passed when the truth finally came out no one had any accurate information as to the exact location of the well. So, although there was talk of trying to find the old chap and giving him a proper burial, it was decided to let sleeping dogs lie. So to speak. Much of this information comes from my cousin Donald Kendall who has done much research on the Kendall and Stretton families.

In Oct of 1854, George Jr. took a wagon load of grain into town and he apparently enjoyed a drink or two in the pub while he was there. On the way home he struck something with the wagon that threw him off the seat onto the road and the wagon wheel passed over his neck. He was found, still alive, and taken home where he died three days later on Nov 1 1854.

Some time later, George's brother Elijah married the widow Margaret. They became my great grandparents. Margaret already had three children by George. Elijah and Margaret went on to have six more children together, Isabella, Margaret, Katherine, Robert, Zella and Edwin.

Robert was the grandfather of my cousin Donald, just mentioned. The youngest, Edwin was my grandfather.

It would seem that there was some kind of falling out within the family and in 1879 Elijah bought himself a farm in Hawkstone, a little town near Orillia. He moved his family and all their belongings to the new home. It is interesting to note that when they made the move they waited until the dead of winter and drove their team and wagon, and perhaps a sleigh, directly to Hawkstone across the frozen Lake Simcoe. I don't think I would like that trip at all. It would be about fifty miles as the crow flies, and almost half of that over the water of that treacherous lake. I think I would have taken the long way around.

The farm they settled is still in use and the house still stands. I visited there recently and it is a beautiful spot, owned for many years, of course by another family. There are a number of houses in Hawkstone, still lived in, that were owned at one time or another by one of the Kendalls, and some descendants still live there

Margaret died in 1903 and Elijah in 1910. They were buried in the Kendall Cemetery in Utica. Son Robert died and was buried at Hawkstone but the other children are scattered.

The farm at Utica, (pt. lot 7, conc. 5, Reach Twp) is still in use and is still held by a Kendall, though the relationship is somewhat vague. It was left untitled and was to go to the eldest male descendent in perpetuity. On the corner of the old farm is the Kendall Cemetery where most of those who stayed are buried."