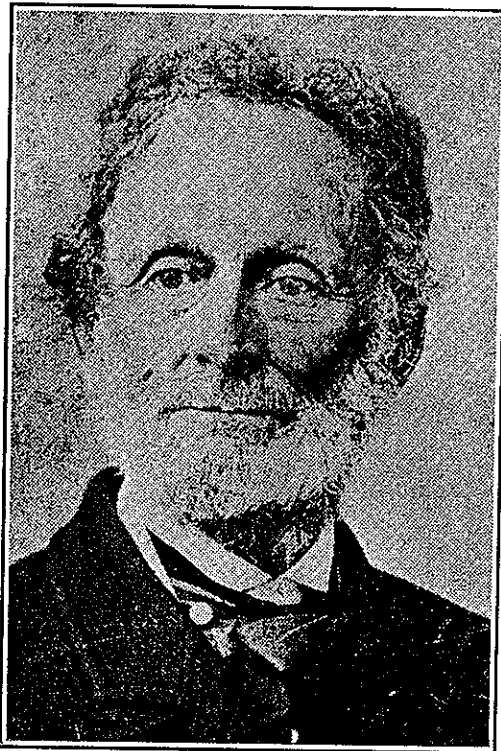


## GEORGE AND JOHN S. BRUCE

Alexander Bruce, a soldier of fortune, left Scotland about 1745, and settled in New York, marrying Margaret, daughter of Cornelius O'Sullivan. When the rebellion broke out, he, along with his eldest son, joined the King's Royal Regiment.



JOHN S. BRUCE

After the war, and when the troops were disbanded, they came to Canada in 1784, and settled in Cornwall, which, as is well known, is the earliest settled town in what is now Ontario. There still stands on lot 14, on the south side of First Street, Cornwall, the remains of the first frame house erected in that town, which was owned by Alexander Bruce. He must have died shortly after coming to Canada, as the deeds of land granted were drawn in the names of his widow, his two sons and two daughters.

The Bruces do not seem to have suffered the reverses of fortune experienced by most of the Loyalists. There are in the Archives, records of the money lent by the widow of Alexander Bruce to William Chewett, afterwards Surveyor General of Upper Canada. She was a woman of great energy and ability, and although left a widow in those times of trouble and hardship, she managed her affairs so well that she not only kept her family in comfort, but she was able to render assistance to many of her less fortunate compatriots. Many anecdotes are told of her indomitable, some might say, overbearing, will.

Of the two daughters of Alexander and Margaret Bruce, the elder, Margaret, married Donald McAuley, a prominent lumber merchant, and a Captain in the Stormont militia. Mrs. Charlotte Bruce Carey, of Toronto, has portraits of Margaret Bruce and her husband, Donald McAuley, painted about the

year 1800. Their eldest daughter married Alexander Mac-Donell (Greenfield), Sheriff of the County of Prescott, and a member of the North-West Fur Company. There were also two sons, Dr. James McAuley and Wellington McAuley, barrister-at-law, both of whom died when comparatively young, that branch of the family becoming extinct.

Sarah Bruce, second daughter of Alexander and Margaret Bruce, married Mr. VanKoughnet, uncle of Colonel Philip VanKoughnet. She had three daughters, Ann, Eve and Margaret. The eldest, Ann, married Solomon Chesley; Eve married David Chesley, his brother; and Margaret died unmarried.

This Solomon Chesley, when quite a young boy, spent a great deal of his time across the river from Cornwall at the Indian village of St. Regis, Indians then, as now, possessing characteristics fascinating to the small boy. Not only the habits but also the language of the Indians must have interested him, for at the time of the war of 1812, when an officer asked for an interpreter to the Indians, Solomon Chesley, then about sixteen years of age, was the only one who was able to act in that capacity. He acted as interpreter during the war; afterwards he was appointed Indian Agent. He represented Cornwall in Parliament from 1840-1846; was Mayor of the same town in 1860; and afterwards was appointed head of the Indian Department at Ottawa.

We now turn to another family by the name of Alguire living in New York State. We find them at the beginning of the Revolution, taking different sides, the father fighting on the side of the British, the elder sons joining the revolutionary forces.

In the spring of 1784, John Alguire, the father, came to Canada, accompanied by his wife and younger children, and settled in Cornwall. His daughter, Mary, married William, the elder son of Alexander Bruce. They had eleven children.

Alexander and Duncan, the two eldest sons, were associated with their uncle, Donald McAuley, in the lumber business. Dr. William Bruce, Lieutenant in the first Stormont militia, represented Stormont in Parliament during the years 1834-37. He is referred to in Judge Pringle's "History of the Eastern District" as follows: "The names of Hon. Philip VanKoughnet, the Hon. Archibald McLean, Donald Æneus Mc-Donell, William Bruce and Alexander McLean will be remembered as those representatives of the county (Stormont) and leaders in many a hard fought political contest.

Sarah Bruce, second daughter of William Bruce, married William Brown, Land Surveyor, a graduate of Dublin University, and Captain in the second Stormont militia, whose house was for years a haven for any Irishman coming to Canada without money or friends. The names of Dr. Bruce or Captain Brown do not appear in any of the engagements of 37 or 38, as they both died a few months previous to the outbreak.

Margaret, the eldest daughter of William and Mary Bruce, died unmarried.

The fourth son of William and Mary Bruce was John Strachan, a god-son of Bishop Strachan, born at Cornwall 20th April, 1814, and died in 1884. He married Marianne Grimes, and became a Land Surveyor on the 14th November, 1835, and held a commission in the Stormont militia. His widow is a descendant of a U.E.L. family named Wagner. He studied Surveying with William Brown, after receiving his education at the old Grammar School in Cornwall. He practised his profession in Cornwall and surrounding district. In a consulting capacity his work extended into Quebec and the Lake Superior district. After some thirty years of survey work, he entered the service of the Canadian Customs at AuRasin, now Aultsville, Ont. His children were Amelia, the youngest, being the wife of Dr. A. B. McCallum, London, Ont.; Duncan E. Bruce, who went to the Western States; Miss A. Bruce and Mrs. T. P. Davis, on the original homestead in Cornwall. Mr. C. Bruce Davis, a son of Mrs. Davis, resides at 3447 Wilson Ave., Montreal, Que.

George, the fifth son of William and Mary Bruce, was appointed a Land Surveyor on the 17th January, 1833. On February 22nd, 1841, he married Laura Agnes Gibbs, the issue being Agnes Fraser, born October 17th, 1843; George, born 13th February, 1848, died fighting for the cause of the North in the American Civil War; Laura Euphemia, born 1st September, 1851; all buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery situated in the 5th concession of Osnabruck; David Bruce, born 18th May, 1854, became a preacher and married a sister of the Hon. Senator George P. Graham, and now resides in Sheridan, Wyoming, U.S.A., P.O. Box No. 23. David says he has the sextant of his father, and in his teens held one end of the chain for him. He says he has no photo of his father, and does not think he ever had one taken. But if a photo or likeness is found it will be published. The attached photo is of John S. Bruce.

Cecelia, the ninth child of William and Mary, married Isaac Read, of the Reads of Augusta, United Empire Loyalists, in Leeds County, and was born on the 24th May, 1819, the same day as Queen Victoria. Her eldest daughter married Henry J. Arnold, a descendant of the historic Major Benedict Arnold.

The last work of George Bruce was cleaning out the Au-Rasin river.

The Bruce Arms:—Or, a saltire and chief gu, on a canton arg. a lion rampant az. Crest, a lion passant az. Motto, Fuimus.

P.S.—David G. Bruce says he was the only one of the four children of George Bruce who ever married, that the parents of his mother lived in England and were Scotch. She was born the same month and year—1819—as Queen Victoria. George and she were married the 22nd February, 1841. She died in her 82nd year, and he died 28th February, 1892, at the age of seventy-nine, and was an Episcopalian or English Churchman. Their son, David George, on July 11th, 1876, in Iroquois, married Anna Elizabeth Graham, daughter of the Rev. W. H. Graham, by the Rev. T. W. Pickett, who was the father of Mrs. Geo. Henry, the Premier of Ontario.

The following children were born to David—son of George—and Anna:

(1) Eleanor May Englebert, of Hot Springs, S.D., born September 2nd, 1877, at Riceville, Ont.

(2) William Henry Bruce, born November 1st, 1879, in Renfrew. He is a mail carrier.

(3) Edward Fraser Bruce, born February 15th, 1882.

(4) Robert Graham Bruce, born January 25th, 1884. He is an engineer at the flour mill.

(5) Laura Blanche McLaughlin, born January 15th, 1887.

(6) Carrie Jennie Hudson, born December 17th, 1889. She is now treasurer of Sheridan County, Sheridan, Wyoming.

(7) David Cleveland Bruce, born July 4th, 1892. He works in the iron works in Sheridan. He was in the World War, and in several large battles—the Meuse, Argonne and others.

(8) Percy Clifford Bruce, born July 9th, 1895. He also is an engineer at the Sheridan flour mills.

David and Anna have twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

George never had a picture taken of any kind.

Yours truly,

Fraser Aylsworth.