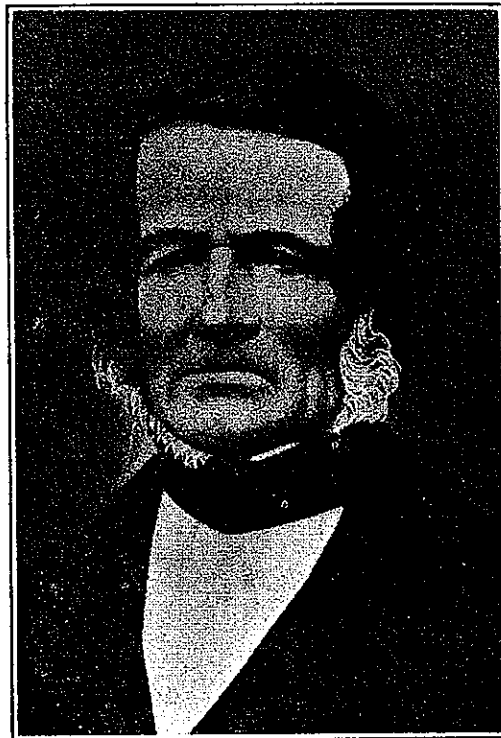


W. H. KILBORN

Evidence of the existence of Kilborn may be traced back in England through the centuries to the year 1070. There were many distinguished public and professional men there of that name as far back as 1233.

From the year 1635, when Thomas Kilborn and his wife, Francis, and a portion of his family embarked from "Old England" to the "New England" colonies his descendants have numerically increased and multiplied so rapidly that by the year 1850 many of them were residing in every state of the American Union, and also in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, many of them having distinguished themselves in the various professional, clerical, agricultural, commercial and military walks of life, and are doing the same to-day, many of them during the pioneering days displaying a "penchant" for surveying. If it is not the most unique family on the North American continent, it is at least among the major league of families of consequence. There has been a "Kilborn Historical and Genealogical Society" and Kilborn family reunions since Thomas and his wife, Francis, first settled in Connecticut in 1635.



Thomas Kilborn, the common ancestor of all the Kilborns on the western continent, was born in the parish of Wood Ditton in the county of Cambridge, England, in 1558, where he was baptized on the eighth of May of that year. In 1613 certain properties were bequeathed to him in trust for benevolent purposes, and for the faithful execution of which he was to receive "at the end of every seven years a ring of gold,

the price of seven shillings." He was a pioneer warden of the Anglican church. He married Francis —, and had eight children, one of whom was John. On the 13th April, 1635, he embarked with a portion of his family from London for New England in the ship "Increase," and settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut, where he died previous to 1639. Francis died in 1650.

John Kilborn, youngest child of Thomas and Francis, came with his parents to New England, settled in Wethersfield, on the west side of the Connecticut River, six miles below Hartford. He was locally known as Sergeant Kilborn, and was a conspicuous town citizen, sometimes acting as a Land Surveyor for a period of forty years. He married Naomi — in 1650. She died 1st of October, 1659, leaving three children. He then married Sarah, daughter of John Bronson, of Farrington, by whom were born six children, one of whom was Joseph. He died 9th April, 1703, in his 79th year. Sarah, his widow, died on the 4th December, 1711, aged 70 years, or "something more," as the records have it.

Joseph Kilborn, son of John, born in Wethersfield about 1662, married Dorothy, daughter of Deacon Samuel Butler, June 4th, 1696. She died 17th August, 1709. Second wife, Hester, daughter of Jacob Gibbs, of Windsor, June 29th, 1710. Joseph was a leading town citizen. One of his children was Joseph.

Captain Joseph Kilborn, son of Joseph, born in Wethersfield, July 9th, 1709. Moved to Litchfield with his parents in 1721. Married Abigail Stockwell, November 12th, 1723. She died May 20th, 1748. His second wife was Hannah —. He was frequently elected a surveyor. In 1752 and in 1753 he was representative in the Legislature of Connecticut. His children were Elisha, Benjamin, Jeremiah, Ruth, Soloman, Charles, Catherine, Anna, Abigail and Samuel.

Lieutenant Benjamin, son of Captain Joseph, born Litchfield, April 14th, 1728, married Hannah Stoddard December 5th, 1751. She died October 3rd, 1756, aged 24 years, and on the 14th March the succeeding year he married Lucy Bishop. Among his nine children were William and Polly, who were twins. Polly married Reuben Sherwood, of Elizabethtown. She died leaving a family. Reuben Sherwood was by profession a Land Surveyor, and is said to have laid out and surveyed

more townships than any other man in Canada. He was an active and useful public man. When the war of 1812 commenced he was one of the first to raise a rifle company, which he commanded at the capture of Ogdensburg. He was often employed at the quartermaster's department. was several times sent across the line on secret service, and on one or two occasions he narrowly escaped capture. Indeed no one could or would attempt, with any hope of success, some of the daring enterprises in which he engaged. After the war he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Military Settlement in the Perth District, and by his minute knowledge of the back country contributed greatly to its improvement and success. He died in October, 1850.

William Kilborn, the son of Benjamin, and the father of William Henry Kilborn, the subject of this sketch, born in Litchford, May 6th, 1778, married Miss White and settled in Kingston. Then he removed to Stanstead, where he remained a few years, but returned to Kingston in 1835. Being a man of remarkable intrepidity and address, he was often employed in the secret service of the British Government during the war of 1812. In one of his visits across the line, in 1814, to observe the movements and ascertain the number and position of General Hampton's army near Plattsburg, on Lake Champlain, he was seized and carried to Greenbush, where he was tried by a court marshal and sentenced to be executed as a spy. Fortunately for him, a friend assisted his efforts to escape, and in disguise he found his way back to Canada after much suffering and many hardships. He died in Chili, in Monro County, N.Y., in 1847, in the 70th year of his age. His second wife was Catharine Powell, of Sutton, Canada.

William Henry Kilborn, son of William Kilborn, was appointed a Land Surveyor on 2nd June, 1821, and resided in the city of Kingston. He was formerly a very successful medical practitioner of the Batonic system, especially during epidemic seasons. He was a zealous and prominent member of the Irvingite church. He married Sarah O'Keefe, of Kingston, and had eight daughters. Marie married Mark Bishopric. Margaret married Thomas Austin Cook, of Ottawa, whose daughter is Mrs. Charles Howell, of 24 Rose Avenue, Toronto, who kindly loaned the writer the accompanying photo. Catharine died in infancy. Susannah married William Holgate, of Ottawa. Sarah married Augustus Merrill, of Prescott. Lydia married Nathan Curtis, of Ottawa, civil servant. Harriet died

in Ottawa, unmarried. Twin brother of Harriet died in infancy. Mary married Charles Sangster, journalist and poet.

William Henry Kilborn died in 1857, aged 59. In 1825 he and John Stuart McDonald, of Gananoque, were instructed by the government to survey the township of Kingston. Mr. Kilborn practised surveying in the counties of Frontenac and Leeds.
