

JESSE PENNOYER

Robert Pennoyer, of Rye, Sussex, England, twenty-one years of age, embarked at London, on the 8th September, 1635, on the "Hopewell," landing at Boston, U.S.A. He married the widow of Richard Schofield in 1671 and died in 1680.

Thomas Pennoyer, eldest child of Robert, was born at Stamford, Conn., 29th March, 1658, and died November 21st, 1721. He married Lydia Knapp, on 22nd May, 1683, who died on the 9th February, 1709 or 1710.

John, the sixth child of Thomas and Lydia, was born on the 26th May, 1698, and died on the 11th December, 1785, aged 85 years. He married Abigail Ferris (first) April 15th, 1725, who died April 4th, 1737. For second wife, he married Elizabeth Bishop on February 10th, 1738.

Joseph, third of four sons of John, just named, was born October 5th, 1734. He married Lucy Hamblin, who was born April 17th, 1737, and died March 14th, 1819.

Jesse Pennoyer, second child of nine of Joseph, just named, was born at Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y., April 16th, 1760. He died at Compton, Quebec, December 1st, 1825, and was buried at the Union Church, Hatley, Quebec. Much is recorded about his military services and loyalty to the British Crown during the American Revolution.

Jesse married Martha Ferguson, daughter of Alexander Ferguson, a United Empire Loyalist, of New Jersey, whose property was confiscated by the Revolutionary party. Jesse's mother was Isobel Cameron of Scotland. Jesse's wife died at Compton, Quebec, October 21st, 1822, aged 39 years. Jesse Jr., the third son had to assume much responsibility, in the raising of the large family of thirteen children. The following indicates something of that large family, and of the numerous descendants:—

First—John Cameron, born at Missquoi, Que., December 31st, 1800, who died at Compton, Que., unmarried, July 18th, 1820.

Second—George Ferguson, born April 7th, 1802. Married first, in Hatley, Que., 1824, Hannah Shurtleff; second, — Shurtleff, had Eliza, Charles, George and Hannah, and moved to Ontario.

Third—Jesse Jr., born September 2nd, 1803, died 1889, married about 1832 or 1833, Pamela Blossom, descendant of Pastor John Robinson and Thomas Blossom, respectively, the pastor and first deacon of the Leyden, Plymouth (Mayflower)

Pilgrim Church. Pamela's family came from Richmond, Vermont, and before that from Burnstable County, Cape Cod, Mass. The only son of Jesse was Henry Jesse, born July 2nd, 1835, died November, 1911. He married Mary Emma Huntington, June 17th, 1862. She died February 3rd, 1896, born April 24th, 1842. Rev. C. H. Pennoyer, son of this last union, born June 8th, 1878.

Fourth—Caroline Matilda, born May 16th, 1805, died March 21st, 1891, married Henry Smith; several children.

Fifth—Charlotte Marie, born July 30th, 1807, died October 10th, 1843, married Joseph Pennoyer, son of Amos, the half-brother to Jesse, born 1760. One daughter married Dr. S. T. Brooks; another married Col. Wm. E. Ibotson, and another a Lomas.

Sixth—Amelia Juliana, born March 12th, 1809, married William Wilson Williams, died February 24th, 1879, at Burnston, Que. One of eight children was Fannie Margery, married H. R. Needham. She is a widow, and now resides at 62 Glenville Avenue, Allston, Mass., and has kindly contributed much towards this biography.

Seventh—Joseph Charles Stewart, born March 22nd, 1811; eight children, including Dr. Darwin, George W.; George W., who married, first, Jane Ross, daughter of Dr. James Ross, M.P., and one son is the famous Dr. A. R. P., Montreal. Daughter Mary E. married Horace Sawyer, nephew of Hon. John Henry Pope. She had Jesse's diary as a surveyor, which is now in the Archives at Ottawa.

Eighth—Lucy Isabella, born November 27th, 1813, married Hubbard and went to Vermont.

Ninth—Phebe Eliza Peabody; married, first, Ottis Shurtleff, had eight children; married, second, after 1872, Andrew Pennoyer, another son of Amos. A daughter is Mrs. Althea P. Lang, Coaticook, Que., living.

Tenth—Martha Cornelia, born February 10th, 1818; married Henry Fling.

Eleventh—Mary, born March 7th, 1820; unmarried.

Twelfth—John, born October 21st, 1822, went west; married.

Thirteenth—James Cameron, unmarried; date of birth uncertain.

As to a photo of Jesse Pennoyer, the Rev. C. H. Pennoyer, from whom much of the material for this biography was secured, writes, on December 2nd, 1929: "However, how could I get a picture from the miniature? My wife says to tell you

that this picture cannot be sent away." In another letter, dated February 12th, 1930: "I have waited till the latest to see if I couldn't see that miniature somewhere. I have failed. It is this way, &c." Rev. C. H. Pennoyer is a son of Jesse Jr., born June 8th, 1878. We believe that is the only source to find the picture.

Jesse Pennoyer made many surveys in Quebec and Ontario. On August 31st, 1802, he and Nathaniel Coffin, and Captain Joseph Kilborn were granted a tract of land near Three Rivers in Quebec. It may be noted that he was a witness to the marriage of Mary Collins, daughter of John Collins, to James Rankin.

Many connections of Jesse Pennoyer, in Canada, and also in the United States were very distinguished personages.

Jesse Pennoyer was appointed a Land Surveyor for Ontario on the 20th October, 1788.

Besides making many surveys in Lower Canada, Jesse Pennoyer, in 1791, surveyed the outlines of the townships of Oxford and Mansfield, and also seven hundred acres for Joel Stone, on the Thomas, now Gananoque River. And in 1790, he surveyed the road from Cornwall. As there are many unique conditions in his instructions, and as this road is, what we now know as the historic Kingston Road, it may be of much interest to publish his instructions:—

Surveyor-General's Office, Quebec, May 20th, 1790.

Sir,—His Excellency the Governor-General having been moved on behalf of the Loyalists in Western Canada, so far to assist them in opening the land communication between Cornwall, in the District of Lunenburg, and Kingston, in the District of Mecklenburg, as to cause the routes of the interval proper for the intended highway to be traced and marked, you are appointed for that service, and are allowed ten men to assist you, and to proceed in the execution of it without delay, and when it is finished to report a protraction of it to this office.

Intimations of this service have already been given to the inhabitants of Cornwall, the place of setting out, that they may meet you with such information as you may want as to the line to be run, which is to depart from the general course only so far as the intermediate country on account of the soil, rivers, lakes and hills, &c., shall necessarily require.

As you advance through the new townships, you will premonish the magistrates, and chief inhabitants of the day of your intended arrival, that they may be ready with similar

information concerning their countries for your intended work.

Let the line of the road be well marked and ascertained, that the inhabitants, if they think fit, may employ themselves upon it, where and as their strength and conveniences may admit. You'll be careful in running the line, to set up durable posts of cedar, at the end of every statute mile, and to mark the distance thereon, giving it in charge of the inhabitants to have an eye to them, as boundaries that may be referred to, or property, of utility, as preventing disputes, and charging the Magistrates as they decay, to fix up others with competent public solemnity and notoriety in their stead.

His Lordship is very desirous that this work be performed with as much economy as will consist with the execution of it, in a useful, accurate and workmanlike manner, and I am therefore charged to apprize you that besides the return to me of a map and field book, you do also account for the time spent on it in a journal to be kept for that purpose, with such minuteness and certainty, as will enable you to answer questions respecting the business upon oath, if the same shall be required.

It is trusted to your good sense and fidelity, to diverge from the main course of the whole line from one end to the other, upon good reason and sound local information, to be noted in your journal, and special regard to be had to such circuits or bendings as may be necessary to avoid places impassable, on account of swamps, rocks, streams, over which it may be difficult to throw bridges.

You and your people are to spend no part of your time in making roads, but you will do well in directing the inhabitants of the country you pass through, as the best manner in which it ought to be performed, and in noting the places requiring ditches, bridges, and the greater efforts necessary to render the same practicable.

And you are in your way up to communicate these instructions to the Land Board of the District of Lunenburg, and transmit a copy thereof by the first opportunity to the Land Board for the District of Lunenburg for their information, and to follow such additional directions as their local knowledge and experience may enable them to point out to you, for the more perfect accomplishment of the object of your appointment. Sgd., John Collins.

Read 31st May, 1790, and approved by His Exy. Lord Dorchester the same day. (Signed) Henry Motz.