

A short history of the Charlton/Hutchings family on Kennebecasis Island

William Charlton (b. c1800, in Ireland) and his wife Sarah (née Donald, b. c1796) immigrated to New Brunswick from Ireland in May 1828. With them was Sarah's sister, Isabella. By the early 1830s, the Charlton family was living on Kennebecasis Island. William and Sarah raised five children there - Isabella (b. c1825), Catherine (b. c1827), Francis (b. 1833), Mary Jane (b. 1838) and Sarah (b. September 1, 1839). William and Sarah Charlton spent the rest of their lives on the Island and are buried in the Hutchings private cemetery on what was their property. Sarah died on September 29, 1874; William passed away on December 21, 1886.

William and Sarah's daughter, Sarah, married John Hutchings (b. May 3, 1835) on April 22, 1864. John was an immigrant from England who operated a saloon. John's saloon was destroyed in the "great fire" of June 20-21, 1877 that destroyed much of the "uptown" area of Saint John! John and Sarah Hutchings lived in the Charlton farmhouse and raised five children on the Island - Herbert (b. 1865), John Jr (b. December 6, 1866), Francis (b. 1868), George (b. May 23, 1870) and Sarah (Sadie) Victoria (b. May 24, 1874).

Sarah's older sister, Catherine (who was married to Thomas Johnston and later to James Carter) and her family lived nearby.

In 1870, William Charlton sold his property to his daughter, Sarah. In 1879, Sarah purchased a piece of land bordering on her father's property from Elizabeth Saunders (Elizabeth and her husband, William, are buried in the Hutchings private cemetery). Therefore, after 1879, Sarah and John Hutchings owned about 100 acres of land in the southeast corner of Kennebecasis Island. The Saunders property that Sarah purchased had previously been owned by her brother, Francis (b. 1833; d. April 16, 1903), and his wife, Catherine (née Noble; b. 1846; d. December 6, 1921). Francis and Catherine left the Island in the late 1870s.

Sarah's sister, Mary Jane (b. 1838; d. October 30, 1905), was married to John Hutchings' brother, George. Mary Jane and George were living on the Island when the census was taken in 1861 but are not listed in any Island census thereafter. Family lore says that they moved to Australia in about 1870. However, their son, William (b. November 3, 1865; d. September 16, 1926), was living on the Hutchings property when the 1921 census was taken.

John and Sarah Hutchings' son, John Jr (b. December 6, 1866; d. April 20, 1951), married Rebecca Squires (b. September 26, 1864 in Newfoundland; d. June 20, 1940) on March 25, 1889. John Jr and Rebecca had five children - John Ernest (b. June 6, 1890, d. November 29, 1963), George Gordon (b. July 6, 1892, d. January 1968), May Victoria (b. May 3, 1894, d. November 5, 1989), Francis Norman (b. November 11, 1895, d. November 16, 1983) and William Stanley (b. March 16, 1902, d. October 27, 1989). Soon after John Ernest's birth, John Jr and Rebecca moved to Massachusetts

where they remained for more than 25 years before returning to Kennebecasis Island - possibly to look after John's mother, Sarah, who by then was in her 70s.

John Hutchings Sr died in 1914; Sarah died on May 15, 1923. Both John and Sarah lived on the Island until their deaths and both are buried in the Hutchings private cemetery. At the time of Sarah's death, her son, John Jr and his wife, Rebecca, and their children, Victoria and Norman, as well as Mary Jane's son, William, were living on the Hutchings farm. John Jr and Rebecca had purchased the farm from Sarah in 1921. After Rebecca's death in 1940, John Jr moved to Brookline MA, close to where several of his children, including his daughter, Victoria, and son, William, were living. John Jr died in Massachusetts on April 20, 1951. John Jr and Rebecca are buried in the Summerville United Church cemetery, a short distance from Kennebecasis Island.

Family lore says that the Charlton/Hutchings farmhouse was built by Robert Strayhorn. Robert, who was born in c1811, was a stone mason and later a grocer in Saint John. He was married to William Charlton's daughter, Isabella. It's not known how or when he became associated with the Charltons who came to Saint John from Ireland in May of 1828. The Charlton farmhouse was built in the early 1830s when Strayhorn was about 20 years old so he may have helped Charlton build the house. There's no record of when Strayhorn married Isabella. However, an Ann Strayhorn, age 10, was attending classes at the Island school in 1850. The Strayhorns are not listed in any New Brunswick census records although Robert's name appears in the Hutchison Directory (an early "business directory"; see New Brunswick Provincial Archives) from the 1860s where his occupation is given variously as stone mason and grocer. Robert Strayhorn died on July 29, 1877. His death was noted in the local newspaper where it was reported that he was living on Main St. in Saint John's North End. Isabella died on February 1, 1902. Robert and Isabella are buried in the Hutchings cemetery on Kennebecasis Island.

The 1851 Census includes a second Charlton family living on Kennebecasis Island - Walter and Catherine Charlton, aged 39 and 38, respectively, and their 8 children, 5 of whom were attending school on the Island in 1850. Walter and Catherine are listed as Irish immigrants who came to Canada in the early 1830s. Their farm is described as including 20 acres of cleared land. It's likely that William and Walter Charlton were brothers although there are no records which confirm this. Walter Charlton and his family seem to have left the Island in the 1850s as none of them appear in any of the later census records for the Island.



The people in the photo (left to right and excluding the 2 young boys on the grass) are:

Catherine Carter (widow of Thomas Johnston - Johnston Farm)

George Hutchings (sitting, b. c1870, son of John Hutchings and Sarah Charlton)

John Hutchings Jr (b. c1867, son of John Hutchings and Sarah Charlton, husband of Rebecca Squires)

Sarah Irvine, née Johnston (b. Feb. 6, 1845, daughter of Thomas Johnston and Catherine Carter, wife of Arthur Irvine, sister-in-law of Andrew Irvine)

John Hutchings Sr (sitting in wagon, b. May 3, 1845, wife of Sarah Charlton)

Frank Irvine (b. May 25, 1884, son of Arthur Irvine and Sarah Johnston, grandson of Catherine Carter)

Rebecca Squires (b. c1867, wife of John Hutchings Jr)

The boys lying on the grass are : (left to right) George Gordon Hutchings (b. 1892, son of John Hutchings Jr and Rebecca Squires) and John E. Hutchings (b. 1890, son of John Hutchings Jr and Rebecca Squires)

Charlton-Hutchings Cemetery

William Charlton	c1800 - December 21, 1886
Sarah Charlton (née Donald, William's wife)	c1796 - September 29, 1874
Robert Strayhorn	c1811 - July 29, 1877
Isabella Strayhorn (née Charlton, William's daughter)	c1825 - February 1, 1902
John Hutchings Sr	1835 - 1914
Sarah Hutchings (née Charlton, William's daughter)	1840 - 1923
James H. Carter	c1821 - December 18, 1896
Catherine Carter	c1827 - May 18, 1911
(née Charlton, daughter of William and widow of Thomas Johnston and James Carter)	
Arthur G. Irvine	1846 - 1913
Sarah J. Irvine	1845 - 1932
(née Johnston and granddaughter of William and Sarah Charlton)	
William L. Saunders	c1815 - June 23, 1879
Elizabeth Saunders (née Christie)	d. 1879
Thomas and Walter Irvine - young sons of Arthur and Sarah Irvine	

