

## **A short history of Charlton/Hutchings family on Kennebecasis**

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 three children there - Francis (b. c1834), Mary (b. c1836) and Sarah (b. September 1, 1840). 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) in the early 1860s. John was an immigrant from England. John and Sarah lived in the Charlton farmhouse and raised five children on the Island: Herbert, b. c1865; John Jr, b. c1867; Francis, b. c1869; George, b. c1870; Sarah Victoria, b. May 24, 1874. After Sarah inherited her father's land upon his death in 1886, the Charlton farm came to be known as the Hutchings farm.

In 1879, Sarah had purchased a piece of land (section B in figure 4) bordering on her father's property from Elizabeth Saunders (Elizabeth and her husband, William, are buried in the Hutchings private cemetery). Therefore, after 1886, Sarah and John Hutchings owned about 100 acres of land (corresponding to PID 222521 and PID 222604) in the southeast corner of Kennebecasis Island (see figure 5). The Saunders property that Sarah purchased had previously been owned by her brother, Francis, and his wife, Catherine. Francis and Catherine left the Island sometime in the late 1870s. Sarah's older sister, Mary, married George Hatchery, a seaman. Mary and George were living on the Island when the Census was taken in 1861 but are not listed in any Island Census thereafter.

Sarah's son, John Jr, married Rebecca Squires (b. c1867 in St. John's, Newfoundland) on March 25, 1889. John and Rebecca had at least four children - John E., b. c1890, George Gordon, b. c1892, Sarah Victoria, b. c1894 and Norman, b. c1896. Sarah's daughter, Victoria, married James Gamble who lived on the Kingston Peninsula.

John Hutchings 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, were still living on the Hutchings farm. John Jr and Rebecca fell heir to the farm.

Family lore says that the Charlton/Hutchings farm was originally owned by Robert Strayhorn and that he built the farmhouse. Robert and his wife, Isabella, are buried in the Hutchings cemetery. However, they are not listed in any of the Census records for the Island. William Charlton arrived in New Brunswick from Ireland in 1828 and settled on Kennebecasis Island before 1835. If Strayhorn built the farmhouse, he must have done so in the early 1830s when he was a very young man (b. c1811). 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. In the Hutchison Directory (see New Brunswick Provincial Archives) from the

1860s, Robert's occupation is variously given as stone mason and grocer. Isabella died on February 1, 1902.



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)

## Hutchings private cemetery

In section C of figure 4, on land that belonged to William Charlton and later Sarah Hutchings, not far from where the present-day ferry from the Kingston Peninsula docks, is the Hutchings private cemetery. Kennebecasis Island residents buried there include:

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

Also buried in the cemetery (pic below) are Arthur and Sarah Irvine's sons, Thomas and Walter, who died young.

