

A short history of the Irvine family on Kennebecasis Island

George Irvine was born in Fermanagh Co., Ireland in 1789. In 1829, he married Elizabeth Sanderson (b. 1811). The Irvines had ten children, including Andrew and Arthur, born between 1830 and 1851. Since the family did not immigrate to New Brunswick until 1840, some of the Irvine children were born in Ireland and the others in Canada. George bought land from Thomas Johnston on Kennebecasis Island in 1857 and he and his family settled there soon after. In addition to farming the land, George, who was a teacher, offered schooling to the Island's children. George died on July 13, 1866 while Elizabeth died on March 13, 1874.

Shortly before George's death, he sold his Island farm to his son, Arthur. Arthur was born in New Brunswick on March 22, 1846. On June 25, 1866, two weeks before his father's death, Arthur married Sarah Johnston (b. February 6, 1845). Sarah was Thomas and Catherine Johnston's daughter and a neighbour on Kennebecasis Island. In 1867, Arthur sold the Irvine farm to his brother, Andrew. Arthur and Sarah lived on and off the Island and at least one of their children (Francis, b. May 25, 1884) was born there. By 1890, the Irvines were living in the Millidgeville area of Saint John. Arthur died there on March 13, 1913; Sarah died on April 8, 1932. Both Arthur and Sarah, as well as two sons who died young, Thomas (b. c1880) and Walter (b.1875; d. December 30, 1885), are buried in the Hutchings private cemetery on Kennebecasis Island.

Andrew Irvine (b. May 18, 1839 in Fermanagh Co., Ireland) married Martha Kirk (b. July 22, 1848) on September 18, 1867. Andrew had purchased the Irvine farm from his brother, Arthur, only a few months before his marriage. Andrew and Martha had twelve children, born between 1868 and 1890. They lived year-round on Kennebecasis Island until about 1890 and then moved to Saint John. Andrew died on March 6, 1920 while Martha passed away on December 9, 1932.

By 1891 when the Census was taken, there were no Irvines living on Kennebecasis Island.