

## **A short history of the Morrow family on Kennebecasis Island**

When James and William Morrow purchased lots 1-6 on Kennebecasis Island, they were living in the Fairville area of what was then Lancaster (now Saint John West) NB. Their father, William John Morrow Sr, was foreman of a brick yard. The deed to their property on Kennebecasis Island describes James and William Jr as "lime burners". Likely they were employed at one of the many lime kilns that existed at that time in Saint John and Lancaster. James and William Jr had three brothers, Joseph (1846 - 1917), Robert (1850 - 1922), and Albert (1859 - 1931), and a sister, Jane (1853 - 1930). Their parents, William Morrow Sr (1811 - 1880) and Mary (née Linton, 1819 - 1922), were Irish immigrants who had arrived in New Brunswick at a young age.

James and William Morrow Jr were in their thirties when they took up residence on Kennebecasis Island in 1880. James was born on October 22, 1845 while William was born on July 31, 1848. The Morrrows' neighbours were the Keefes and within a few years of establishing themselves on the Island, James and William had both married into the Keefe family.

In late 1881 or early 1882, William married Caroline Frances Keefe (b. April 19, 1860). Caroline was a daughter of William Lloyd Keefe and Elizabeth Saunders, and a granddaughter of Thomas Keefe, whose father, James, was one of the first non-natives to settle on Kennebecasis Island. William and Caroline had four children (Hattie Fern, b. September 7, 1882; Henry Thomas (Harry), b. September 1, 1886; John Wellington, b. April 26, 1888; Revilla Leona, b. February 14, 1896) who were raised on the Island. William died on April 23, 1923 when he was struck by a horse in a barn on his farm. He was found dead by his son, John. By the early 1920s, some of William's children had married and moved off the Island. By 1926, Caroline and at least her son, Harry, were living at 24 Adelaide St. in the North End of Saint John. This was Caroline's address when at the age of 66 she married George Frederick White on September 9, 1926. There is no record of Caroline's death in the Provincial Archives.

On January 14, 1884, James Morrow married Catherine Adelaide Keefe (b. December 15, 1861). Adelaide was a daughter of John Thomas Keefe and Letitia Kerr, and a granddaughter of Thomas Keefe. Adelaide and Caroline Keefe were first cousins. James and Adelaide raised six children (Ethel Pearl, b. January 20, 1885; Clarence George, b. June 20, 1887; Evelyn Clara, b. May 7, 1889; Delila Emma, b. August 8, 1893; Vincent, b. May 22, 1897; Dorothy, b. 1900) on their Island farm. James was still living on the farm at the time of his death on August 3, 1930. By this time, most of the Morrow children had married and all had left the Island. Adelaide moved to Saint John soon after James' death. She died there on April 26, 1940.