

The Mick Family of Micksburg

The Mick family has been holding a family re-union at **Micksburg** near Pembroke, Ontario, every year and now every second year since 1961. The community is named after the family who arrived in the Upper Ottawa Valley, Ontario, Canada in 1848 from near Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland. **Peter Mick**, and his wife, **Elizabeth Shoemaker**, emigrated along with their family of five sons and one daughter (at least two children had died young in Ireland). The **Mick** family, along with other Palatine families, had been in Ireland for about four generations (140 years), having arrived from the Palatinate in 1709. The German Principality as it was at that time is now partly in France, but the larger piece, which is now in Germany, is known as Rheinland-Pfalz. A family historian has identified the family founder as one **Henry Mick**, who arrived in Ireland with his wife, two sons and two daughters. This family was recorded as settlers on the Southwell Estate in County Limerick, Ireland in 1715 and 1720.

Many German surnames were anglicized as they moved into the English-speaking milieu in 1709 (e.g. the ships' lists at the time of their embarkation for England etc). Other surnames changed over time. **Mick** is thought to have been originally Mich (although this is not certain). If so Mich could be a shortened form of **Michael** (pronounced *Mish-ah-el* in German) – compare Mick or Mike for Michael in English. **German** (Palatine) names associated with the Mick family in Ireland were **Shoemaker** (probably **Shumacher**), **Miller** (probably **Mueller**), **Doupe** or Dobe, and **Fitzell**. Although the Palatine families mainly married among themselves in Ireland, there was some intermarriage with their **Irish** neighbours, as the names **Sheehan** and **Walsh** attest to.

In the mid-19th Century many Irish-Palatines immigrated to the North American Continent. This actually was a 'delayed' journey, 'delayed' for 140 years because the original families from the Palatine in 1709 (18th Century) had expected to go to the British Colonies of North America under the aegis of Queen Anne who wanted to people the Colonies with Protestant settlers. However, her Government had run out of money and so the Palatines were settled on the Estates of some of the English (Anglican) Landlords in Ireland, Lord Southwell being one of them. They made good tenants and a commentator of the period states, "in short the Palatines have benefited the country by increasing tillage and are a laborious, independent people."

However, times became hard. Revolts and disturbances, economic depression, crop failures, partial famines, and of course the Great Potato Famine of 1845 to 1848 all combined to send 2.5 million refugees out of Ireland between 1840 and 1855. Many Palatines were among them.

As stated formerly the Mick family arrived in Canada in 1848. **Peter Mick** lived to the ripe old age of 104 years and died in 1885. He had seen his five sons and one daughter all married and settled on lands in Stafford Township in the Micksburg area. There were land grants to each farmer of 200 acres and another 100 acres could be bought for 50 cents per acre. The family was: **Mary Anne** (1812-1887), **George** (1814-1898), **John** (1818-1902), **Peter** (1819-1915), **Daniel** (1826-1912), **Mountiford** (sometimes spelled Montford) (1829-1913).

Mary Anne married James Walsh in Ireland but after being widowed married Adam Miller and they emigrated some years after the rest of the family to Ontario. **George** married Rachel Miller in Ireland. **John** was also married in Ireland to Elizabeth Sheehan who bore a son, Samuel, but Elizabeth later died in childbirth along with an infant daughter. **John** then married Anne Dobe in Ireland, and she immigrated with him and Samuel to Canada. **Peter** married Ellen Fitzell in Ireland, but he also became a widower. He was remarried in Canada to Catherine Sweeney. **Daniel** married Catherine Libby in Canada, and **Mountiford** was also married in Canada to Janet Campbell. The **Mick** brothers and their families settled on Lots 1,2,3,4 & 5 on the south side of County Road 11, Concession 5, Stafford Township, and their one sister, **Mary Anne** (Miller) along with her husband and family also settled nearby. **George Mick** kept the Post Office, and it was because of this that the community was named **Micksburg**. **Daniel Mick** was a Councilor in Stafford Township for 7 years, and **Mountiford Mick** was a Tax Assessor in the Township for 14 years.

The children of the five brothers (Micks) and one sister (Millers), numbered 49, although some children had died in childhood. Some of this next generation moved north-west to pioneer in Powassan

(Chisholm Township). Sons of **John Mick** (Peter, Charles, and William Henry) took up land in that area in 1886. Peter was a blacksmith, and Charles was a carpenter. William Henry Mick was a carpenter and barn-framer, and many of the barns of Chisholm and Himsforth were reminders of his work. A cousin of those brothers **Panella Mick**, (Mrs. Boxwell, daughter of **Daniel**) settled in a different part of Chisholm Township with her husband in 1885. Panella was reputed to be the second white woman in the settlement. A sister of Peter, Charles, and William Henry, **Mary Anne Mick** (Mrs. Miller) along with her husband and family, also later took up land in the area (1904). Likewise the many descendants of the other original siblings who remained in Micksburg have scattered across North America, although a few still remain in the area.

Sources:

People Make Places: The Story of the Irish Palatines by **Patrick J. O'Connor** (1989)

The Irish Palatines in Ontario: Religion Ethnicity and Rural Migration by **Carolyn Heald** (Aug 1994)

Some information that was used is from a J. Bond in a follow up to Alberta Callender's "The Irish Palatines Mick Family", he has not referenced his sources. It is unfortunate that Mr. Bond has not made notations for his source of information, we do know that that Elizabeth Staples has done much research, in the Henry (brother of Peter) line.

Henry (Mich, Mick) Micks was born in the Palatinate - the Pfalz- in Germany in 1674. At age 35 in 1709 left Germany with his wife and 2 sons and 2 daughters. He is listed as the head of a Palatine family on the Southwell Estates. The names of his children are unknown due to the records being destroyed in the Troubles of 1922. What is known is that he had a grandson John who married Mary?, their children were Joseph, John, Frederick, Henry and Peter who emigrated to Canada and was the founder of the Micksburg Mick Family.

Name:		Peter Mick

Birth:	0 NOV 1780	Ballingrane, Limerick Co. Ireland.
Death:	16 Jan 1885	Micksburg, Ontario.
Burial:		Mick Pioneer Cemetery
Occupation:	Farmer	
Marriage:	29 Oct 1807	Nantinan Parish, Co. Limerick, Ireland

Spouse:	Elizabeth (Schumacher) Shoemaker	

Birth:	0 ___ 1787	Ireland.
Death:	0 ___ 1861	Micksburg, Ontario.
Burial:		Mick Pioneer Cemetery

Children

1 F:	Mary Ann Mick	
Birth:	8 Nov 1812	Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death:	0 ___ 1887	
Spouse:	James Walsh	
Marriage:	ca 1836	
Spouse:	Adam Millar	
Marriage:		Ireland.

2 M:	George Mick	
Birth:	abt 1814	Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death:	3 Jul 1898	Stafford Twsp. ON
Spouse:	Rachel Millar	

3 M: John Mick
Birth: 0 ___ 1818 Rathkeal, Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death: 28 Oct 1902 Micksburg, Ontario.
Spouse: Elizabeth Shehan
Marriage: 1 Aug 1843 Rathkeale, R.C. Church
Spouse: Anne (Doupe) Dobe
Marriage: 7 Sep 1847 Antinan, Ireland

4 M: Peter Mick
Birth: 0 SEP 1818 Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death: 17 Nov 1915
Spouse: Ellen Fitzelle
Marriage: 29 Sep 1843
Spouse: Catherine Sweeney

5 M: Daniel Mick
Birth: 0 ___ 1826 Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death: 16 Mar 1912
Spouse: Catherine Libby

6 M: Mountford Mick
Birth: 0 ___ 1829 Limerick Co., Ireland.
Death: 10 Nov 1913
Spouse: Janet Campell

Notes for Peter Mick

He came to Canada with his family in 1848 and settled in Micksburg, Ontario.

Notes for Elizabeth (Schumacher) Shoemaker

Her year and date of death and place of burial has never been established. Her name appears on the 1861 census but not on the 1871 census.

By Mary and Omer Mick, Orillia, and Lorne Monahan, Eganville, and Faye Mick-Johnston, Haley Station, Ontario.

For more information on the Mick's check our website: www.micksofmicksburg.ca