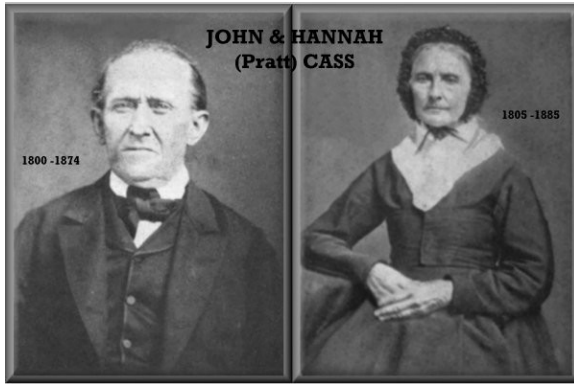


The 100th Annual Cass Family Reunion



On August 6, 2011 from 2 pm to 10 pm at Greenfield Park the descendants of John & Hannah (Pratt) Cass will be gathering to celebrate their 100th Annual Family Reunion.

The John Cass family originally came from Yorkshire, England. By way of religious beliefs they were non-conformists. John's birth record was found in the Farsley Particular Baptist Church where his grandfather, William Roe, was pastor. His occupation in England was that of a cabinet maker and his father's occupation was that of a clothier.

On July 6, 1842 John and Hannah (Pratt) Cass along with their 7 children left Rodley, Yorkshire, England on a canal that passed their house to Liverpool where they set sail on the good ship "Sheridan". On arriving at New York they sailed up the Hudson River to Albany where they took the Erie Canal to Buffalo then sailed on to Erie arriving on September 5th. After their arrival they lived at 2nd and French while John was employed working on the construction of the USS Wolverine, the world's first iron clad war ship.

In 1844 John moved his family to South Harbor Creek where he formed a partnership with 5 other men, purchasing some land in Six Mile Creek Factory Gulch and built the Harbor Creek Woolen Factory. Within 10 years John had bought out all his partners to become sole owner.

John was an abolitionist and participated in the "Underground Railroad", using the mill as a hiding place for escaped slaves waiting to be transported to Canada.

John and Hannah Cass are buried at Wales Cemetery along with many from the early generations of the Cass family.

Other Cass/Pratt Relatives Who Immigrated From Yorkshire England

- (1) Benjamin Coates, a first cousin of Hannah (Pratt) Cass, lead a party of 21 people to settle in Erie in 1832. He worked for the first foundry in Erie & made the first pattern for a casting in Erie County.
- (2) John Thornton, who's wife was Martha Coates a cousin of Hannah (Pratt) Cass, immigrated in 1842. He was one of the original partners with John Cass who built the Harbor Creek Woolen Mill. After John Cass had bought him out he purchased a woolen mill in 1848 in Fairview. Surnames connected with this branch Thornton, Hartley, & Taylor.
- (3) Thomas Thornton, who's wife was Anna Coates a cousin of Hannah (Pratt) Cass, immigrated in 1847 and owned a woolen mill in Albion. Surnames connected with this branch Thornton, Van Camp, Van Sickle, Palmer.
- (4) Edward Cass, a brother of John, immigrated in 1847 and worked in the Woolen Mills owned by his brother John, his brother William and his nephew's father-in-law Ephraim Smith. Married but had no children.
- (5) Matthew Pratt, a nephew of Hannah (Pratt) Cass, immigrated before 1850. He worked at Ephraim Smith's woolen mill in Beaver Co., PA where he settled.
- (6) William Cass, a brother of John, immigrated in 1856. He was owner of the Cass – Grimshaw Woolen Mill in North East. Married but had no children.
- (7) Benjamin Grimshaw, a cousin of Hannah (Pratt) Cass and was married to a niece of Mrs. William Cass, immigrated in 1857 and became a partner with William Cass at their mill in North East. The Wagners of North East are his descendants.
- (8) Joshua & Mary Ann (Pratt) Ross. Mary Ann, a niece of Hannah (Pratt) Cass, immigrated in 1876 and had a farm on Wales Road in Harbor Creek Twp.

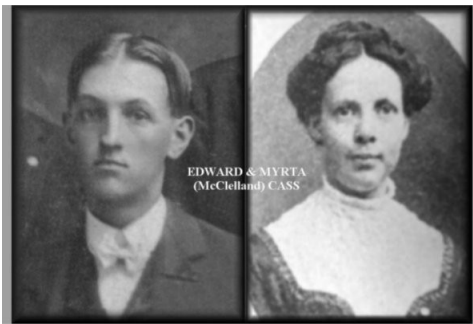
The Three Main Branches of the Cass Family & Their Sub-Branches

(C1) Edward W. (1825-1904) & Elizabeth (Smith) Cass Branch.

Edward took over running the Woolen Mill from his father, John, and also purchased a farm on Backus Road. Elizabeth's father, Ephraim Smith, owned a woolen mill in Beaver Co., PA and while her

brother, Alexander Smith, was visiting her he met and eventually married Hannah Backus daughter of John & Lydia (Chambers) Backus. Regular travel between Erie & Beaver Counties was by way of the Erie Extension Canal. There are three sub-branches descended from this couple through their children were Ephraim, George and Mary. Descendants of this branch who were Valedictorians at Harbor Creek High School were Neff Smith Cass 1911, Helen King 1922, Robert Evans 1925 (husband of Helen King), Dorothy King 1923, John King 1927, Roger Evans 1951, Neil Evans 1954, & Everett Swift 1966.

(C11) Ephraim Cass married Caroline Neff, a first cousin of Jackson Koehler who owned the Erie Brewing Company. Caroline's grandmother was Susannah Kuhl whose family Kuhl Road was named after. Nearly all of those with the name Cass who live in Harborcreek and Greenfield Twp. are descendants of Ephraim's two sons Edward J. who married Myrta McClelland & William E. who married Frances Hughes. Most who have been attending the reunion in recent years are descendants of these two sub-branches of the Cass family. Surnames connected to these two branches are Alcorn, Bowen, Orton, Lafferty, DeDionesio, Ellsworth, Foster, Whaley, Butterbaugh, Pierce, Prindle, & Extein. Surnames connected to Ephraim's daughter, Mabel, are Shaner & Swift.



Edward J. & Myrta Cass



William E. & Frances Cass

(C13) George Cass married LuElla Cole. His great granddaughter, Beth (Evans) Simmons, was the founder of the Harborcreek Historical Society. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are King, Evans, Burgess, Travis, Meehl, Hooks, & Christ. The Cass name from this sub-branch survives in CA, FL & Australia.

(C14) Mary Cass married George Roberts. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are Roberts, Kienholz, Maryan, Butts, Robertson, Slodownik, Firestone, Skelly, Johnson, & Parker.

(C4) The Ann (Cass) Mitchell Branch.

Ann married William Mitchell. They owned a farm on the south side of Harbor Green Road near Kuhl Road. There are three sub-branches descended from this couple through their children Mary Jane, Clara, & Hetta.

(C42) Mary Jane Mitchell married Nathan Hill. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are Hill, Evans, Bull, Wright, Yost, Skellie, Pierce, Greenman, Dailey, Reisenweber, Will, Kresse, & Weed.

(C43) Clara Mitchell married William Fuller. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are Fuller, Desin, Albertson, Watkins, Rounds, & Courteau.

(C46) Hetta Mitchell married Wilson Lorenzo Smith. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are Smith, Coover, Thompson, & Mitchell.

(C5) The William Roe Cass Branch.

William Roe Cass married Esther Davies. They owned a farm at the corner of Depot and Station Roads. There are two sub-branches descended from this couple through their children Mary & William.

(C51) Mary Hannah Cass married William Jennings. Surnames connected with this sub-branch are LeBaron & Shannon.

(C53) William Henry Cass married Josephine Stelle & Jenny Olson. There are two from this sub-branch with the Cass name who live in the Erie area.

For more info on the descendants of John Cass up to 1942 go to <http://jncass.tripod.com/preface.html>.

For more info on the 2011 Cass Family Reunion go to <http://jncass.tripod.com/c-reunion.html>.

Dennis G. Cass