

## **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. In the 1840s, he owned lot 3 on the Island. The deed to the Morrow brother's property describes James and William Jr as "lime burners". Likely they were employed at one of the many lime kilns that operated at that time in Saint John and Lancaster. James and William Jr had three brothers, Joseph (b. 1846; d. 1917), Robert (b. 1850; d.1922), and Albert (b. 1859; d. 1931), and a sister, Jane (b. 1853; d. 1930). Their parents, William Sr (b. 1811; d. 1880) and Mary (née Linton, b. 1819; d. 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 c1882, 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 the first non-native of record to settle on Kennebecasis Island. William and Caroline had five children - George, who died young, Hattie Fern (b. September 7, 1882; d. June 28, 1957; m. Samuel H. Seely on February 18, 1903), Henry Thomas (Harry) (b. September 1, 1886; d. August 12, 1940), John Wellington (b. April 26, 1888; d. August 7, 1952; m. Marjorie Lane on October 19, 1921) and Revilla Leona (b. February 14, 1896; m. Ralph Sutherland) all of whom 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. Both William and his son, George, are buried in the Keith family cemetery. By the mid 1920s, most of William's children had married and all had moved off the Island. In 1926, Caroline and her son, Harry, were living at 24 Adelaide St. in the North End of Saint John. This was Caroline's address on September 9, 1926 when at the age of 66 she married George Frederick White. 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 five children on their Island farm - Ethel Pearl (b. January 20, 1885; d. June 26, 1964; m. Walter Codner on June 26, 1907), Clarence George (b. June 20, 1887; d. April 26, 1959; m. Margaret Seely on June 30, 1915), Evelyn Clara (b. May 7, 1889; m. Harry Miller), Delila Emma (b. August 8, 1893; d. 1984; m. Walter Stevens on January 10, 1918) and Vincent (b. May 22, 1897; d. 1978; m. Marion Long on November 3, 1920). James was still living on the farm at the time of his death on August 3, 1930. By this time, the Morrow children had married and all had left the Island. Adelaide moved to Saint John after James' death. She died there on April 26, 1940.