

## **Pioneers in Ontario**

William Nodwell was born in Ireland some time around 1775. He had two sons with his first wife, Mary Dawson, whose names were William and Matthew. Sometime after she died, he married again (probably around 1808). His second wife was Letitia Dunn. His eldest son William remained in Ireland when he emigrated, but Matthew had already gone there in 1834. The eldest son of the second family, Andrew was already married before the rest of the family left Ireland but came to Philadelphia the following spring. He went from Philadelphia to Ontario after deciding not to remain in the new United States of America.

It is these Nodwells we trace through history to present day, the ancestors of (probably) all Nodwells in North America.

### William Nodwell

Written by Jennifer Nodwell Tuesday, 27 January 2009 12:51 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 November 2009 19:58

It wasn't easy. Having lost a stock of horses to anthrax in Ireland, the Nodwells came to Quebec City in the fall of 1838 and then traveled by wagon to Erin Township where they bought land and raised a log cabin. It burned to the ground within the year, and all was lost, but they rebuilt and carried on.

William died in 1845. His will mentions his sons William (still in Ireland), Matthew, Andrew, Thomas, Robert, and Samuel. Samuel is enjoined to care for his mother, and census records indicate that he did just that. To his daughters Mary, Jane and Nancy, he left a cow, each.



Grand Valley Church, Ontario

Wife Letitia survived William by seven years, and in that time she is listed as a charter member of the pioneer church in Grand Valley, Dufferin County, Ontario. Amongst woods and swamps in the little-developed township of Luther, was a village called Little Toronto. This name in time became Grand Valley, because that river rises in the vicinity. At this spot, as an outpost from Erin Centre and Eramosa churches, some preaching in farm homes and in schoolhouses was done in 1861, by evangelists James Black and Alex. Anderson. A church was formed about the fall of 1862, the charter members being Daniel McLellan and wife, John McDougall and wife, Hugh McDougall and wife, John King and wife, Stephen Beals and wife, Amelia Dixon, Letitia Nodwell, Daniel McArthur, Robert Dixon, and Richard Kin. The church met in the schoolhouse in Grand Valley, this being the first church organized in Luther township. In 1866, a frame building was erected in a business block, which was dedicated by James Black. This building served the needs for twenty-six years, when it was replaced by a brick and stone structure and re-dedicated in December, 1892. <sup>1</sup>

## Body of Will:

In the name of God, Amen. I, William Nodwell of the township of Erin in the County of Waterloo in the Wellington district German, being of sound mind and memory, do make this my last will

### William Nodwell

Written by Jennifer Nodwell Tuesday, 27 January 2009 12:51 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 November 2009 19:58

and testament and hereby revoking all other wills by me at any other times made: I hereby give and bequeath untio William Nodwell, my eldest son now in Ireland the sum of one pound five shillings, Matthew Nodwell my second son

in St. John, the sum of one pound five shillings, Andrew Nodwell of the township of Erin the sum of one pound five shillings, also to Mary Lang wife of Henry Lang one cow to be deliverd one year after my decease, to Jane Collins wife of Joseph Collins one cow to be delivered one year afer my decease, Nancy Nodwell one cow to be delivered when she leaves or settles in life. I bequeath unto Robert Nodwell his heirs or assigns fifty-five acres of land being composed of part of lot number twenty four in the eighth concession of Erin as may be otherwise known, forty acres of land (clearing), commencing at the Hills corner to be divided through the center of the lot commencing from the front - and fifteen acres of woods joining Henshaws wood, to be measured through the center from the concession line. I will and begueath unto Thomas Nodwell his heirs or assigns fifty-five acres of landbeing composed of part of lot number twenty four in the eighth concession of Erin or may be otherwise known as the remainder of the aforesaid lot begueathed to Robert Nodwell. I will and begueath unto Samuel Nodwell thirty seven pounds ten shillings when he becomes of age, from Robert Nodwell seventy five dollars, and from Thomas Nodwell seventy five dollars, the aforesaid Samuel Nodwell to be bound to the equal support of his mother during her natural life. Samuel Nodwell to have my gun, also a yoke of steer calves kept on shiplace to the age of four years. Loose property to be equally divided between Robert Nodwell and Thomas Nodwell. I also appoint William Erendell Iron and Andrew Nodwell to see this my last will and testament carried into action.

Witnessed 2 Aug 1844: William Stow, Joseph Collins, Henry Laney

# **Descendants of William Nodwell**

<?php include\_once \$\_SERVER['DOCUMENT\_ROOT'] . "/genealogy/tngtree/register1.php";
?>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Disciples of Christ in Canada Since 1830, Reuben Butchart, 1949.