

One Family Connection to Scotland

As the great, great granddaughter of Sir Oliver Mowat, a father of Canadian Confederation, and George Grieg, both of Scottish descent, I am quite excited to have an opportunity participate in this historical fiber art initiative.

In 1816 Mr. John Mowat of Caithness, Scotland came to Canada and settled in Kingston, Ontario. He was a soldier, merchant and founder of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He is referred to as the founder of the Mowat family in Canada whose spirit of adventure was passed onto further generations.

Shortly afterwards he was married to Miss Helen Levack, also of Caithness, who had come to Canada. They had five children the eldest of which was Oliver Mowat who was a Father of Confederation and Premier of Ontario.

Oliver Mowat married Jane Ewart and one of their children, Fredrick, married Lucy Waterston Greig (George Greig's daughter).

Fredrick Mowat is my great grandfather and Oliver Mowat is my great great grandfather.

Second Family Connection to Scotland

James and Catherine Greig were born at Kinghorn, Fife, Scotland and immigrated to Boston when their daughter Isabella, born in 1821, was a young girl.

Their son George, born in 1815 accompanied them.

James was a commission merchant importing and exporting cotton.

George carried on the family business. He married Lucy Augusta Hayes Waterston at Boston in 1847. They had several children one of whom was Lucy Waterston Greig.

During the civil war they ran the blockade set up by the North against the South in order to bring cotton to Scotland. As a result, they had to leave the United States after the Civil War was over and come to Canada, first to Beamsville, Ontario and then to Toronto.

George Greig is my great, great grandfather.