

## ACTON FAMILY

This concerns the family of Arthur and Harriett Acton whose son, Robert, married Louisa McCarger. They are of interest only because Louisa was the daughter of Albert McCarger who was the servant (read 'hired man' likely) of John Mains who married Sarah (Montgomery) McCurdy after the death of he husband, David.

The Acton family were generally of Actons Corners, a community in Oxford-on-Rideau township, Grenville county, Ontario. Whether or not those who appeared in the North Gower census in 1891 were related to them is not known.

Arthur and his family appeared for the first time in the North Gower census in 1891. This was the group in the census of 1891 and 1901:

			<u>1891</u>	<u>1901</u>
Acton,	Arthur	Eng	57M	67M
Acton	Harriett	Ont	52M	
Acton	Robert E	Ont	21M	30M
Acton	Louisa	Ont	23M	33M
Acton	George	Ont	1	10
Acton	Albert L	Ont		8
Acton	William H	Ont		7
Arthur	Myrtle M (adpt)	Ont		2

Although Arthur was listed as 'married', it is likely that he was a widower.

It was not until 1891 that the North Gower township voters list had an entry for Arthur and Robert Acton. They were associated with 57 Wellington Street in North Gower village. In the early years there was no reference to occupations but in 1897 they were both listed as undertakers. In 1900 only Robert was on the voters list but the 1905 voters lists recorded Robert as an undertaker and Arthur to have been retired. Both were still at 57 Wellington Street. A recent map (1998) of North Gower village shows Wellington Street to be the street running east from Main Street towards Kars (Wellington, in the early years). A map of 1879 shows that street to have been Church Street.

The 1901 census of North Gower reports that Arthur entered the province in 1860. The 1871 census of Ontario lists two 'Arthur Actons', of which the following best fits the description of Robert's father;

Acton, Arthur    37    England   C/E   Farmer   Renfrew S.   Brudenall Twp

This man would have been 57 in 1891.

There is no sign of local gravestones for Arthur or Harriett. Robert (31/05/1870 - 30/09/1908) and Louisa (16/04/1868 - 21/12/1949) are buried in the Rideauvale cemetery at Kars. Their adopted daughter Myrtle E. May died on April 14, 1902, aged 3 years, 4 months. As for

George, Albert L. and William H., there can only be speculation yet, although in the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid, there is a stone recorded for a 'George' Acton in the Prescott Road Union cemetery in Osgoode township.