

Title: Excerpts from the Grant Family History. Page 1/4

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ALEXANDER

ALEXANDER NELSON GRANT

Alex Grant was born in Nova Scotia where he learned the milling business from his father. He came to Centreville, Ontario, where he operated a flour and grist mill on the 4th line of Albion Township, Peel County. This is where he met and married Sarah Ann, daughter of William and Selina Squier. Their first two children were born here in Centreville. As a millwright Alex came to Alliston and built a flour and grist mill for William Fletcher in 1853, on the Boyne River (L.1, C.1, Essa Twp.) In 1854 Margaret (Maggie) was born. She was the first white girl born in Alliston. (Several years earlier a "Fields" boy was the first white child, only Indians before them). While in Alliston he built 2 other mills, one in Tossoronto Twp. where Earl Rowe Park is now. It was operated by John Fletcher. The other flour & grist mill was built in L.1, C.3, Essa Twp. It was operated by George Fletcher. There were 2 or 3 large stencils on the walls reading "Fletchers Mill, Alliston East, Ontario." In later years it was known as Tuer's Mill. It also had a cider press, and on the north side of the dam a shingle mill. The flour mill burnt to the ground June 4, 1970. While in Alliston Alfred was born in 1856 and John in 1858. In September 1861 he was building a mill for Mr. Nicol in Carluke (now Nicolston) when Elizabeth (Lizzie) was born. Alexander Aaron was also born in Carluke in 1865. His next mill was in Bethesda, Innisfil Twp. where Sarah Lavinia was born in 1868. After building that mill he went to Utopia on Bear Creek, L.30, C.6, Essa Twp. where he became miller following James Spink. In 1871 their youngest daughter Minnie was born. In 1872 Alex helped build the Methodist Church in Utopia. Then in 1873 he came down to Thompsonville, Tecumseth Twp. where he operated a mill until his death in 1877. His wife Sarah spent the rest of her life in Thompsonville.

Alex is buried in the Squier plot in the Methodist Churchyard at Centreville, along with his two daughters who predeceased him. Sarah died in the winter and is buried in the Banting plot in the Alliston Union Cemetery.

Alexander Aaron Grant was born at Carluke on 15th of September 1865 and was baptized by Rev. John K. Hislop, 18th November 1865 in Carluke Presbyterian Church, Essa Township. Sarah Lavinia Grant born in Innisfil Township 29th March 1868 and baptized by Rev. John K. Hislop, 13th July 1868.

(From the Presbyterian baptismal records in St John's United Church Archives, Alliston, Ontario).

STORY told by Margaret Grant, wife of Norman Stewart Grant, 1970.

One of the Grant brothers of Merigomish was married in Pictou, County, Nova Scotia. Since he could not get along with his wife, he just left her, and without bothering to get a divorce, completely disappeared. As her parents were quite wealthy, there was no problem at home. Years later another brother left home and went to Upper Canada, where he worked around in different places. At one time selling from door to door, possibly apples, when suddenly at one house, by chance he met his brother face to face. They threw their arms around each other; the long lost brother repented for what he had done, and the emotion was so strong that they both cried. It is said that this meeting took place at Alliston.

Margaret Grant (page 75 #31) E.K.B. 1985.



TOP: Alex Grant's house in Alliston, Ontario. It was built in 1853 of hewn logs pegged together. No nails were used in its construction. It was on the north side of Victoria St., facing east, and at a spot that would be directly west of the Public Utilities Building near Paris Street.

BOTTOM: Fletcher's flour and grist mill was built in 1853. Across the river on Victoria Street, there was a cooper shop, (I think Edward Nolan's) where the barrels were made and slid down a wire to the mill. Flour was then all sold by the barrel. This mill burnt to the ground on January 1st 1911.

The building, lower right corner, was an electric power plant for Alliston. The building above it was a later electric plant driven by a wood fired steam engine.



MAGGIE & WILLIAM BANTING

1 Angus Nelson Banting	1881 Apr 22	1941 Jul 25	1906 Jul 18
Margaret Elizabeth Drennan	1886 Nov 13	1953 Jul 31	
2 William Thompson Banting	1882 Oct 24	1964 Jul 4	1910 Apr 6
Emma Lena Knight	1889 Feb 25	1963 Apr 12	
3 Alexander Kenneth Banting	1884 Feb 28	1930 Jun 5	1916 Feb 23
Eliza (Ida) Agnew	1883 Dec 25	1933 Apr 18	
4 Alfred Grant Banting	1886 Aug 16	1886 Oct 28	
5 Esther Alena (Essie) Banting	1887 Aug 6	1936 May 20	1915 Sep 22
John Edgar Jackson	1879 Aug 21	1975 Jan 26	
6 Sir Frederick Grant Banting	1891 Nov 14	1941 Feb 21	1924 Jun 4
Marion Wilson Robertson	1896 Jul 22	1944 Sep 5	div. 1932/4/25.
Dr. Henrietta Elizabeth Ball	1912 Mar 14	1976 Jul 26	1939 Jun 2