

A GENEALOGIST'S NOTEBOOK

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Author of			
1	<i>BEHIND THE RESERVE</i>	<i>The Quick Family of Colchester, Essex County, Ontario, Canada, 1601-1820</i>	2003, 2015, 2016
2	<i>YEOMEN, TRADESMEN AND LABOURERS</i>	<i>A Skinner Family of the Kent-Surrey Weald</i>	2015
3	<i>CAMPBELLS FROM LOCHTAYSIDE</i>	<i>Immigrants to Essex and Halton Counties, Ontario, and Quebec, Canada, 1833, 1849</i>	2022
4	<i>AHEAD OF THE FAMINE</i>	<i>A History of the Charles Little Family of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and Essex County, Ontario, Canada, 1600-1900</i>	2024

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**Dedicated to the Memory of
my dear Friends and Colleagues**

Patricia Taylor Smith and Dorothy Lamarsh Zak (deceased),
for their invaluable contributions to genealogy
over 50 years and their inspiration to me.

About this Collection

This is a collection of notes I made over a fifty year period engaged in the research into my own extended family. They are from little-known sources held in Canadian and American archives. I offer them to the general public at a late stage in my life, as they are in danger of being lost. They should prove of general interest containing as they do the names of many families.

This work will be of interest mostly to advanced researchers who are occupied in the genealogy and history of early families of Essex County. The sources may be new and the documents unfamiliar, but the notes should convince a researcher, if such be necessary, of the value of research in the public archive. Even today with much family research being conducted online, the public archive is still the best source for evidence of individuals long pursued without success who have been delegated to a bucket list of to-do DNA projects. Online research has its limits in that many documents have yet to be indexed and placed online. In spite of the time that has passed since this collection was begun its contents are largely unindexed and unread by family historians today. Though internet research is here to stay it can be argued that the quality of genealogical scholarship has declined due in part to uncritical acceptance of internet postings and the large amount of hearsay in circulation.

To minimize the tedium of deciphering my handwriting, I have typed some pages, rearranged material and purged it of irrelevant clutter and speculation much of which has been proven wrong in subsequent research. I have included comments and appendices.

This work is mostly concerned with 18th century people who played some role in the history of the Old Northwest (Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan territories prior to statehood) and the area along the north shore of Lake Erie in Essex County, Ontario, once called the New Settlement. The families named (Askin et. al.), by choice or otherwise, were among the British partizans and indigenous peoples who in the period leading up to the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the surrender of Detroit were promised assistance from the British in their resistance of the Americans' advance (a promise treacherously withheld). For various reasons—the prospect of cheap land, loyalty to Great Britain or the basic quest for survival—many of these people subsequently crossed the Detroit River to settle in Essex County in the area of the present-day city of Windsor and along the north shore of Lake Erie. Many of their descendants live there to this day.

Caveats must be mentioned. I recorded these notes as a hobbyist venture in competition with professional commitments, which limited the thoroughness I was able to muster. Many times I intended to return to a document to examine it in detail but was unable to do so. The interested reader, with the help of these notes, should be able to uncover information valuable to their own research.

Readers of my book "BEHIND THE RESERVE" will find here much of the evidence in support of it.¹ Wherever possible I have made the task of identifying the evidence in the following pages easier by highlighting it with a **bold red** border.

Last but not least I attempt to address the many misconceptions about the Quick family history that persist even today, mainly from a lack of reliable data and the reluctance to venture into the often-considered forbidding public archive.

¹ BEHIND THE RESERVE: *The Quick Family of Colchester, Essex County, Ontario, Canada, 1601-1820* (Private Publication, 2016) and AHEAD OF THE FAMINE: *A History of the Charles Little Family of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and Essex County, Ontario, Canada, 1600-1905* (Private Publication, 2024).

A Selection of Names Appearing

A host of names appear here, including European and indigenous:

European	Indigenous
Adams, Askin, Baldwin, Banwell, Bird, Brewster, Bruner, Brush, Caldwell, Clark, Crawford, Elliott, Ferris, Fox, Girty, Hazel, Huckleberry, Iler, Iredell, Knapp, Lidwell, Malott, Mackintosh, McCormick, McEwen, McKee, Munger, Quick, Riley, Scratch, Simcoe, Smith, Turner, Tofflemire, Wigle	Painted Blanket (Cayuga); Peek-ee-lyn, Beaver Hat (Delaware), John Bull (Mingo); Grey Eyes (Mohawk); Moses (Mohecan); Capt. Falldown, Dark Night, Long Coat, John Cockabish, Hendrick (Munsy); Chief Nannigo, Pontiac (Ottawa); Capt. Snake, Blacksnake, Tecumseh, Blue Water, Painter, Blue Jacket (Shawnee); Jacque (Wyandotte); Winnemeg (Pottawatamie)

Abbreviations Used

BHC	Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library
HWC	Hiram Walker Collection, PAO
MG	Military Group (LAC usage)
LAC	Libraries and Archives Canada, Ottawa (formerly known as the Public Archives of Canada)
PAO	Public Archives of Ontario, Toronto
RG	Record Group (LAC usage)
TPL	Toronto Public Library, Toronto
UCLP	Upper Canada Land Petition

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Quick, A. C. *A Genealogy of the Quick Family in America (1625--1942) 317 Years* (Priv. Pub. 1942).²

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Quaife, M. M., ed. *John Askin Papers, Vol. 1: 1747-1795* (Detroit Library Commission, 1928)

Various *Commemorative Biographical Record of Essex County, Ontario (Beers, 1905)*

² The author and this book will be referred to here as ACQ. ACQ's person identifiers will also be used. For example, when convenient John Quick's father, Cornelius, will be written in ACQ's notation, (ACQ, E31), and his grandfather, Tunis, as (ACQ, D8).

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Historical Sources

I. JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Repositories: LAC and BHC

John Askin was an early trader of the Detroit River region. His business papers that survive contain the names of many early immigrant families. There are two major collections: 1) Libraries and Archives Canada (LAC-formerly known as the Public Archives of Canada), and 2) the Burton Historical Collection (BHC) of the Detroit Public Library. There are also a few letters in the AO, Toronto. The LAC and BHC collections are partly in the form of manuscripts and partly in the form of printed books.

IMPORTANT

An effort has been made to include all documents listed by the various finding aids. Also indicated is whether the documents have been examined by the author. Only those were examined that seemed to promise important finds. The researcher is advised to check/reexamine all documents.

1) LAC Collection of the John Askin Papers

Also filed under the John Askin Papers are the papers of his contemporaries, Angus Macintosh, Henry Bird, John White, William McCay, John McEwan and Thomas Smith.

The LAC collection of the John Askin Papers comprises 69 volumes (below) with the call number MG19, A3, Vol (#s 1 to 69).³

MG19, A3, Vol#. From Finding Aid 6.

Vol #	Examined?	LAC Volume Title
1	No	John Askin, drafts of letters, 1786-1803
2	No	John Askin, drafts of letters, 1803-1805
3	No	John Askin, drafts of letters, 1806-1809
4	No	John Askin, drafts of letters 1810-1815
5	No	Charles Askin, drafts of letters 1794-1819
6	No	Charles Askin, drafts of letters 1820-1829
7	No	Charles Askin, drafts of letters 1830-1839
8	No	Charles Askin, drafts of letters 1840-1852
9	No	Letters received, Anon-Abbott
10	No	Letters received, Abbott
11	No	Letters received, Abbott-Audrain
12	Yes	Letters received, Baby-Berczy <i>letter from J. Baldwin 1811 - J. Baldwin of York</i>
13	No	Letters received, Bernier- Blackwood
14	No	Letters received, Caldwell - Cory
15	No	Letters received, Cosgrove-Durand
16	No	Letters received, Eastman-Fry
17	No	Letters received, Gagnier-Grant & Duff
18	No	Letters received, Grant & Kirby-Gurney
19	No	Letters received, Hacket-Hamilton

3 For the latest information see the pamphlet "Askin Family Papers MG 19, A 3 Finding Aid 6" available for download from: <http://data2.archives.ca/pdf/pdf001/p00000006.pdf>