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The Short Life of George John Liffiton

By Thomas Liffiton

Born in London England in 1845, George John Liffiton travelled by ship at the age of four with his parents, George and Jane Liffiton, to Montreal, Canada. The son of a tailor, he learned his father's trade, and was working in his father's shop at the age of sixteen in 1861.

Eight years later he was still working with his father at 616 Lagauchetiere, Montreal, but by 1871 at the age of twenty-six, George John was working 147 kilometers to the southwest in Dundas, Winchester, Ontario.

At the age of thirty-one, in 1876, George married Emma LeMay, nineteen, at Detroit, Michigan. She was from Amherstburg, Ontario. They settled in Thorold, Ontario, further southwest near Buffalo, New York. Three of their children were born in Thorold.

In 1877 Emma gave birth to Augusta Jane Rose Liffiton, who went by the name Elsie. Their second child, Georgina Amelia, born in 1878, lived only three months. A third, George Henry, was born at Thorold, Ontario, in 1879.

About the same time George and his family moved to Seaforth, Ontario, about 240 km northeast of Detroit. He worked as a cutter in Duncan and Duncan, a clothing establishment. On April 24th, 1883, at Seaforth, Emma gave birth to their fourth child, Richard, but eight days later Emma died. She was about twenty-six.

Besides his work as a tailor, George was active as a member of St. Thomas Church, a teacher in the Sabbath School. He was also a member of the Canadian Order of Foresters. After the death of Emma, George's widowed mother, Jane Liffiton, resided with the family most of the time.

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For several years George suffered from Bright's disease of the kidneys, and he outlived his wife by only seven years. In 1890 after a short confinement at his home, he died at the age of forty-five. Initially at least his children were left the care of his sixty-six year old mother.

His eldest child Elsie died just four months after her father of "brain fever" at the age of fourteen in Kingston, Ontario. As adults his sons immigrated to the United States, George Henry settling with his family in Freehold, New Jersey, and Richard living with his wife in the Los Angeles area.

George John Liffiton is buried at the Maitlandbank Cemetery located at Roxboro near Seaforth, Ontario, Canada. A large number of people took part in the funeral procession on Saturday, 13 December, 1890. Emma's grave is yet to be identified.

You can download this article and its list of sources in pdf format from the Canada folder in the archives section.

Sources:

Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth, UK General Record Office (22 April, 1845)

1861 Canadian Census, Montreal

1869-70 Montreal City Directory

1871 Canadian Census, District 71, Dundas, Sub-district of Winchester, Ontario

1877 Ontario Birth Record 031820-77 (20 May, 1877)

1878 Ontario Birth Record #010339-78 (1 July, 1878)

1878 Ontario Death Record #005375-78 (28 September, 1878)

1879 Ontario Birth Record #012678-79 (6 October, 1879)

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1884 Ontario Death Record #006928-83 (2 May, 1883)

1890 Ontario Death Record #007190-90 (12 December, 1890)

1891 Ontario Death Record #004719-91 (2 April, 1890)

1891 Canadian Census, Seaforth

1901 Canadian Census, Montreal

Cataraqui Community Cemetery Section E Burial Register Vol. III, #6101 - #9150, Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, 1987.

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"The Late Mr. Liffiton" *The Huron Expositor*, 19 December, 1890, page 8

1997 Geo. J. Liffiton Maitlandbank Methodist Cemetery, Section A., Huron Co., McKillop Township, Ontario - Gravestone Photograph by David and Mardy Elliott, Sherbourne, Ontario.

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