

Excerpt from "Staying the Run: A History of the United Townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay"

by Jennifer Mercer (1998)

Staying the Run

on the original 1861 Personal Census (original spelling has been maintained).

Buchanan Township was less populated in 1861; however, the first houses were recorded as early as the mid-to-late 1840s, Table Two.

Notes on the Accuracy of the Census Records

As well-intentioned as the census enumerators may have been, they occasionally erred in the recording of vital statistics. It must be understood that in the 1860s, few individuals were blessed with a proper education, in fact, a high percentage of the population of Upper and Lower Canada was illiterate. Enumerators gathered their information through personal interview, and, assuming that many of the interviewees could barely read and write, there were bound to be some inaccuracies in the transfer of information. Family names, particularly those of French descent were frequently misspelled by English enumerators, and in times of doubt, they often employed a phonetic spelling of the name derived from the way the

Table One: Rolph Township Census Information, 1861

Occupant Name	Lot	Range or Con.	Members	Non-	Year Built
1. Hugh Fitzpatrick	22	9th	1	—	1853
2. William Waters	27	'A'	1	—	185?
3. Thos. Carroll	46-48	'A' & 'B'	4	1	1848
4. Margaret McCarthy	28	'A'	6	—	1855
5. Ettienne Larochelle	50	13th	8	—	1857
6. Joseph Desjardin	49	'A'	4	12	1857
7. Robert Colton	5	'B'	1	—	1858
8. Mary O'Brien	32	'A'	8	—	1853
9. James O'Brien	31	'A' & 'B'	1	—	1846
10. Mary Rebecca Miner	26	'A' & 'B'	5	—	1846
11. Louis Robichaud	30	'B'	6	—	1849
12. John Lundregan	18	7th	4	8	1860
13. Will'm McConnell, jr	22	'A'	1	—	1859
14. Will'm McConnell, sr	22,23	'A' & 'B'	8	—	1849
15. Tho's Brasenham	28,29	'A'	5	2	1855
16. Jeremiah Sullivan	22	'B'	3	—	1855
17. Lydia Gutcher	18	6th	9	—	1854
18. Joseph St-Cer	24	'A'	5	—	1855
19. Tousseant Gardepied	20,21	'A' & 'B'	3	2	1847
20. Joseph Gougroun	18,19	6th	1	16	1853
21. John McCormick	16,17	5th	16	—	1858
22. Robt McConnell	17-19	'A' & 'B'	10	—	1849
23. Benj McConnell	17-19	'A' & 'B'	9	5	1847
24. Joseph Paul	14	3rd	4	—	1857
25. Louis Francour	12	4th	4	—	1857
26. Colbert Rondeau	19	4th	1	—	1860
27. John McKinley	25	'A' & 'B'	5	3	1860
28. William Beastly	8,9	1st	3	—	1857
29. John Moor	8	3rd	0	—	1847
30. John Moor	40-43	'A' & 'B'	18	1	1847
31. James Holley	10	3rd	0	—	1855
32. John Byrons	8	3rd	1	1	1846
33. Catherine Beastly	?	?	1	—	1858
34. Jeremiah Shea	?	?	7	—	1860
35. Thos Thibedeau	?	?	6	—	1860
36. John Lane	14	13th	6	5	1861
37. John Young	38-39	?	5	21	1858
Number of Members and Non-Members:			179	77	
Population of Rolph Township in 1861:					256

family members pronounced their names. The result of these errors is quite visible on the census records for Rolph and Buchanan Townships, and in some cases, the improper spelling was adopted as the correct form.

One example from Rolph Township is Louis Robichaud. Several other forms of this name appear in nearby regions and subsequent census records including Abichaud, Rabichaud, and Abishaw. Today, the descendants of the Robichaud family still reside in the townships, however the present name of the family is Rabishaw. Another from Rolph Township is William Beastly, whose name has alternately been listed as Beasly and Beasley. In Buchanan Township, there are two rather blatant examples of erroneous translation of French names. Joseph Nadeau, whose descendants currently reside in the townships, had his family name recorded as 'Neddo', a reasonable phonetic spelling if neither party knew the correct form. Fortunately, the Nadeau name endured in its correct form. The second example is that of Baptiste Trickey, whose name was listed on several early maps of the township. Trickey resided at the southeast corner of the township where the A.E.C.L. laboratories are located today. One of the earliest maps created by Robert Hamilton listed what might be the only correct spelling of the name - Baptiste Trottier. By 1861, when the census was taken, the name was corrupted into Trickey. We do not know what name the descendants use today as the Trottier/Trickey family vacated the townships after the 1871 census was taken.

In addition to the misspelling of family names, enumerators frequently recorded an incorrect lot number for specific individuals. Those attempting to trace their family roots to a definitive lot or concession through the use of these records must be aware of the flaws which may have occurred in the transfer of information. Some of the more apparent examples are the following:

John Lane is listed as residing at lot #14, 13th Concession in Rolph Township, however, there is no lot #14 on this Concession line. Lane was a clerk for the



Leonard Nadeau and Ida MacLeod. Leonard's father, Joseph, was an original settler to Buchanan Township in 1858. The MacLeods succeeded the McQuestion family as lighthouse keepers at McQuestion Point.

Table Two: Buchanan Township Census Information, 1861

Occupant Name	Lot	Range or Con.	Members	Non-	Year Built
1. James Holley	42	'B'	5	—	1857
2. Joseph Neddo	36	'B'	6	—	1858
3. Batist Leduke	38	'A'	3	—	1856
4. Isidore Richard	38	'B'	4	1	1856
5. Patrick Foran	37	'B'	3	—	1848
6. Simon Leroy	35	'B'	2	—	1850
7. Andrew Shields	34	'B'	8	—	1850
8. Hugh Shields	29	'B'	1	—	1850
9. James McQuestion	27	'B'	7	3	1850
10. Baptist Trickey	23	'A'	8	—	1849
11. Charles Young	12-16	'B'	11	—	1846
12. Robert Law	27,29	'A' & 'B'	9	15	185?
Number of Members and Non-Members:			67	19	
Population of Buchanan Township in 1861:				86	