

## David Bucklin Johns (1813 – 1876)

David Bucklin Johns was the namesake of his great-grandfather David Bucklin. To our knowledge he is the youngest son of David and Sarah Johns. When he was about 20 years of age his parents and family moved to Marmora Township, North Hastings County. He likely helped his father and brothers clear the land and build their home there.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1835 David B. Johns purchased 400 acres in North Marmora, adjoining the two 400-acre parcels of land purchased about that time by his brothers Daniel and Bartholomew. In 1837 he bought his mother's D.U.E. lot in Kitley Township, Leeds County and immediately sold it to the Hon. Peter McGill for 200 pounds; this gentleman was an owner of the Marmora Ironworks.

There was an agreement of sale drawn up in 1842 between David and Sheldon Hawley for David's property in North Marmora. However, that agreement was not registered until 1867 when Sheldon appeared to be settling his affairs prior to his death the following year. It seems that young David did not settle on this land, or cultivate it. Sheldon sold part of that property to David's brother Bartholomew in 1853, but that sale was not registered until 1861, after Bartholomew's death.

Actually, David did not remain long in Marmora with his family. He made several land transactions during the early 1840's in Sidney Township (now western Belleville), Hastings County. Mary Fralick became his bride in 1847, at the Belleville home of her father, Jacob Fralick.<sup>1</sup> David B. Johns was noted in the 1851 census as being a merchant in Sidney Township where he and Mary were residing with their two young sons, Richard and Henry. In that year David purchased a lot in Rawdon Township, Hastings County - by 1857 he was operating a general store in the town of Stirling, on the border of Rawdon and Sidney Townships. As well, he was noted in the 1857 Ontario Directory as being a Justice of the Peace, a Commissioner of the Queen's Bench, and a School Trustee. Sadly his wife Mary died in 1864, leaving him with his two sons, then aged 17 and 15, and his 12-year old daughter.

Emma Johns Bull, David's sister, was also residing in Stirling at that time with her husband George and their children. She looked after David's daughter Mary Jane until at least 1871. Emma appears as a kindly woman - she also took in her nephew Richard Hilton while he was apprenticing as a clerk around 1851; later her niece Margaret Johns attended school while living with Emma's family, according to the 1861 census.

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 1869 the Marmora Township Council granted to D. B. Johns and Lucius Munroe the mineral rights of the road allowance between Lot 8, 8<sup>th</sup> Concession and Lot 8, 9<sup>th</sup> Concession. In the prior month the Council allowed the erection of a quartz mill upon the road allowance between Lot 9, 8<sup>th</sup> Concession and Lot 9, 9<sup>th</sup> Concession.<sup>2</sup> Oddly, from 1842 to 1847 David owned half of one of those lots. By 1870 many prospectors were actively mining gold and silver in Marmora and nearby townships.

In 1871 D. B. Johns is listed as a miner on that year's census. It is noted there that he had seven men working for him. He may have also tried his hand at gold mining on the Johns properties in North Marmora. His sister-in-law Annabel Johns had granted a mining option in 1866 on the homestead of her late husband.<sup>3</sup> To this day there are occasional gold prospectors drilling on that property.

David Bucklin Johns died of consumption in 1876; his death registered by his eldest son Richard. There was a burial service at the Anglican Parish of Marmora, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1876. However, as there is no record of his remains at the Marmora Protestant Cemetery, we assume that David was buried on his brother's homestead in North Marmora. The Johns family cemetery is located on one of the lots that David originally purchased in 1833, but that was eventually sold to his brother Bartholomew.

<sup>1</sup> Marriage Notices of Ontario, William D. Reid

<sup>2</sup> Early Records of Marmora Township, compiled by W. J. Cottrell, Marmora Herald, 21 April, 1932

<sup>3</sup> Land Abstract for Lot 17, Concession 4, North Marmora