

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

ROYALSTON LEG.

IPSWICH CANADA.

ROYALSHIRE.

DORCHESTER CANADA.

NARRAGANSETT No. 6

NOW IN
GARDNER.

An early diagram of Winchendon, showing original boundaries

time to time to their wild lands; but because of the French and Indian War, settlement of the town was delayed. Finally on January 29, 1752, decisive steps were taken when the proprietors voted one hundred pounds "old tenor" * to each of the first ten men who should build a house and settle a family. Consequently, ten claims were at once established in the township.

The following extract from the Proprietor's Book shows who were engaged in the actual settlement:

March 10, 1752. Thomas Brown sent his claim to be received for one of the first settlers—1.

Edward Eveleth enters his claim for two of the first settling families—2.

March 17, 1752. Ezekiel Jewett enters his claim for one of the first settlers—1.

March 31, 1752. The Hon. Thomas Berry put in his claim for two settling families—2.

April 4, 1752. Thomas Brown desires the privilege of being admitted for two more settling rights—2.

April 18, 1752. Col. Thomas Berry claims a privilege for one more of the first settling families—1.

April 23, 1752. Edward Eveleth desires the privilege for one more settling family—1.

From that time on, new families continued to arrive. Among the pioneer settlers were Richard Day, Thomas Wilder, Gabriel Pouchey, William Holt, John Darling, William Moffat, Benjamin Goodridge, Thomas Jewett, Joshua Priest, David Wilder, Benoni Boynton, Nathaniel Burnham, John Moffat and John Brown.

A feeling of apprehension and constant fear pervaded the new settlement. As a precaution against Indian attacks, several "block" houses or buildings made from hewn logs were occupied as garrisons. Two of these were, in the words of Dr. Whiton, "so well strengthened to be called forts." They were scattered throughout the township and located, as near as can be determined today from an ancient map of the town, in the following places: One was at Old Centre just in front of the property now known as "Sunnyacres." Two were in Bullardville located on what is now Royalston Road North. One of these was in the approximate vicinity of the George Dame house, and the other was on the same side of the street half-way between the mill pond and Bosworth Road. A fourth was located on Hale Street, near the Alger Street end, a fifth, on Ash Street, just beyond the present golf course property. Still another was situated near Robbins Road on what is now School Street.

* Equal to about \$54.00 in today's currency

The anxiety of the people is vividly shown in a petition sent in the spring of 1755 to the government of Massachusetts pleading for relief and protection. It is given here verbatim from a copy of the proprietor's ancient records:

Petition of Ipswich Canada

To his Excellency William Shirley, Esq., Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay; to the Honorable, his Majesty's Council, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, The Petition of the Inhabitants of the place Called Ipswich Canada, in the County of Worcester, Humbly Sheweth, that there are Eight families of us Now Living on the said plantation, which is at Least Eighteen Miles from Lunenburg, the Nearest place that is Settled, or that can possibly afford us any Help in Case of an attack by the Indian Enemy Which we are in daily fear of and altho the proprietors of Said plantation Did in October Last Build two Good and Sufficient forts, yet we Being poor and but New Beginning in a very thick wooden Country and have all our provisions to Buy and to Bring from Lunenburg, Lancaster or Groton, and whereby it Becomes Impossible for us to Maintain our familys and Keep the forts, unless we are Protected must of Necessity Leave the place and go off, which we are Exceedingly unwilling to do and Give Ground to the Enemy, having Laid out all the Small Substance we had here and have no where to Go for Refuge if we must Leave our Crops now on the Ground, we and our familys will be finally undone. We are Sensible that Indians are about us for we hear them Shoot Especially on the Twenty Eighth of May we heard no Less than Seven Guns Shot in the Woods above us. We Scouted the next Day but Made No Discovery. We are all now Shut up in the forts and Know not how Soon we shall be Beset or Destroyed.

Therefore Your Petitioners Humbly Pray your Excellency and Honours would take our Distressed Case into your Wise and Compassionate Consideration and Grant us Relief and protection as in your Great Wisdom and Goodness Shall Seem Meet. and your Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall Ever Pray.

Ipswich Canada

June 7, 1755	(signed)	Gabriel Pushey	David Wilder
		Richard Day	John Brown
		Thomas Jewett	Nathaniel Blodget
		William Holt	Joshua Priest
		John Moffet	William Moffet

There is no recorded evidence that the earnest petition was answered. That it was not unheeded is indicated by the reported testimony of an aged man who lived during the time Marvin was

writing his history. This elderly gentleman related that he and a few other soldiers were for a time stationed at Winchendon. It is likely they were here for the purpose of protecting the settlers from the Indians. Gradually peace came to the stricken settlement. The Indians put away their tomahawks and scalping knives and withdrew from this territory, never again to threaten Ipswich Canada. Despite the anxiety and fear that the presence of the Indians caused, records indicate that not a drop of blood was shed by them.

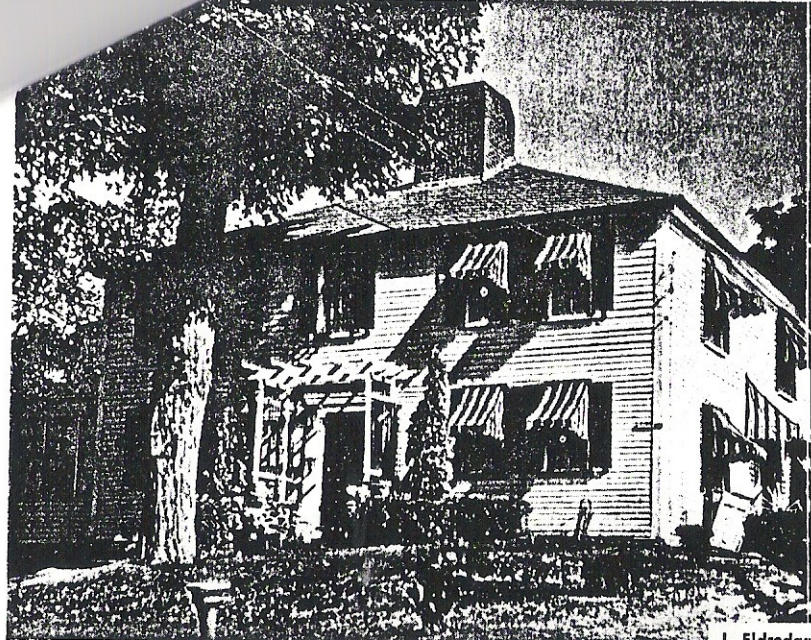
Between 1755 and 1761 the following persons were added to the settlement: Thomas Brown, Jacob Gould, Charles Tuttle, Henry Hodgkins, William Hodgkins, Samuel Craig, Philip Goodridge, David Poor, Joseph Fuller, Samuel Reed, Samuel Darling, Silas Darling and Timothy Darling.

Nearly all of the original settlers were native Americans of old Puritan stock and thus formed a homogeneous society in the new little town. The Days, Poors, Tuttle and Darlings are known to have come from Ipswich, Mass., while the Goodridges came from Lunenburg, the Wilders, from Leominster, and the Browns, in part, from Lexington.

In the beginning there were only six women residents in the town. One of these must have been the wife of William Holt as the records show that their daughter Mary born November 15, 1763, in the block house at Old Centre was the very first child born in the town of Winchendon.

Richard Day and Abel Wilder were considered the leading men of the town in both church and government. Although Richard Day came here from Ipswich, he is believed to have been a native of Ireland. * Tradition says that at one time Day owned nearly a third of the township. This is perhaps because land was of such little value in this remote place; many of the first proprietors are known to have sold their lots "for a mug of flip." Day built the best house in town in 1752. It is still standing today as the oldest house in Winchendon and is presently owned by the Finn family. The house is situated on the high ground a little west of the south end of the Common at Old Centre and it was used for a while as a public house. Richard Day also built a log-house tavern in the orchard west of the present home of Ralph G. Diehl. Day met an unusual death in 1774 when he was killed by a falling tree, a casualty which was not uncommon in the early days of the town.²

* A small hand trunk that belonged to Richard Day is in the collection of the Historical Society.



J. Eldredge

Oldest house in Winchendon, built in 1752 by Richard Day

Ruth Pushey's
Husband

Abel Wilder came to Winchendon in 1762 and from that time until his death from small pox in 1792 he was constantly in public employment. He was the first town clerk and the first representative to the General Court after the Constitution was adopted. Also he represented the town in the first Constitutional Convention.

Gabriel Pushey, or Pouchey, another of the first settlers, was a French refugee from Nova Scotia or Cape Breton. His son Nathan was the first born male child in the new settlement. For this reason, when young Pouchey reached the age of twenty-one, he received a plot of land from the proprietors. Soon after, he died in the Revolutionary War. Gabriel Pouchey left a widow who lived for many years after his death. An anecdote is told of Mrs. Pouchey by a Dr. Manning who had given her, when she was young, "a cake of chocolate with the direction to prepare it for him against his return to dinner. Being unwilling to acknowledge her ignorance of the article, she came to the sage conclusion that it was to be boiled with pork and potatoes. After some time, exploring the dinner pot with a fork, to see if the cake was done, she was astonished at its disappearance."

I believe this
to be incorrect
Nathan Sr was born
in 1758
Nathan Sr Born 1722
in Ipswich

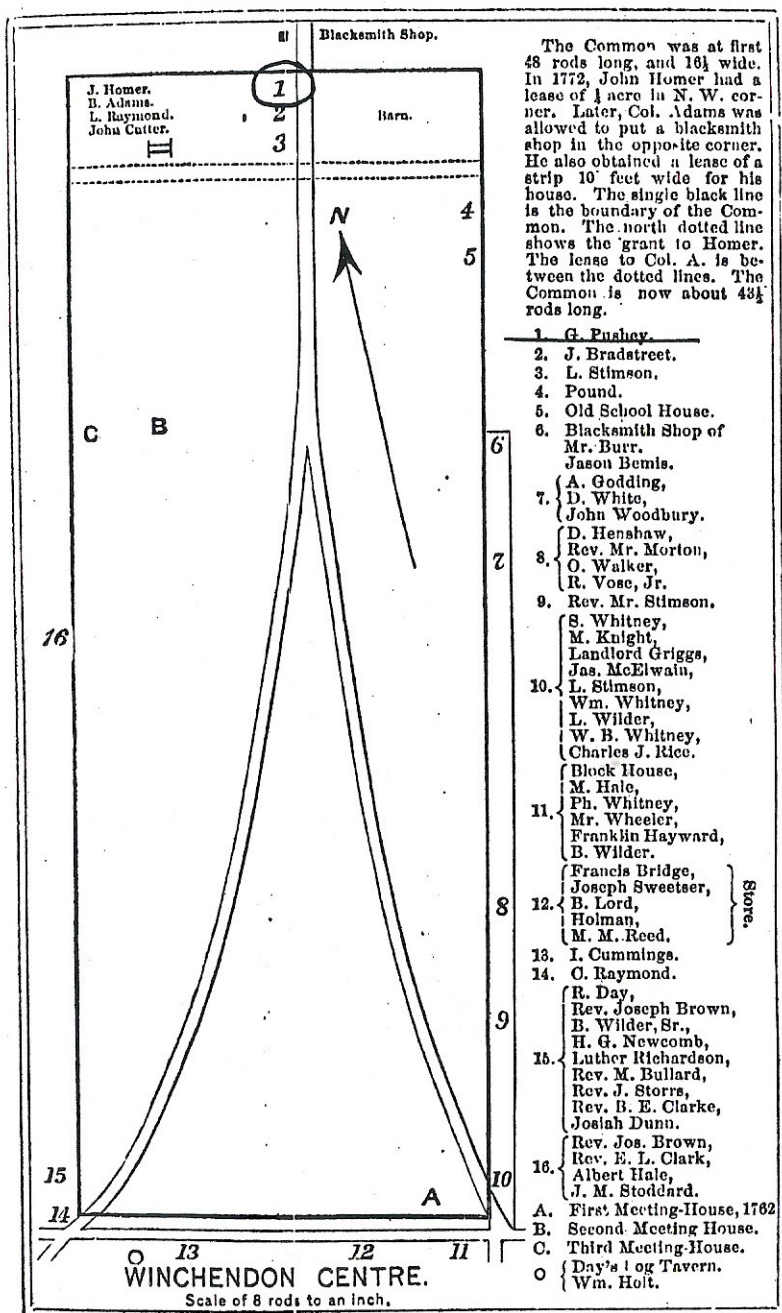
In addition to the above mentioned "boiled pork and potatoes," baked and boiled beans were also staples of living in those days as well as broths of various kinds — corn, barley and bean

broth. Milk, brown bread, johnny cake and hasty pudding were also fare at the table. "Their farming utensils," says Dr. John Milton Whiton, "were clumsy; indeed we should deem them intolerable." When the women were not preparing food, they gathered the crops, raked hay, pulled and spread flax and in most cases spun, wove, colored and sewed the clothing for the family. Dr. Whiton describes the homespun clothing as very durable: "The men wore tow shirts, striped woolen frocks and leather aprons; the best suit of coarse woolen was reserved for Sundays and special occasions, and lasted year after year, the wearers giving themselves very little concern about the mutations of fashion."

While the women were engaged in domestic work, the men were busy farming their lands and building their town. As lumbering was the first industry in the colonies, it was not long before an effort was made to construct a saw-mill in this new settlement. This was accomplished in 1756 and was located on the south end of what is now known as Mill Glen Pond. Two years later the people were motivated to build a grist or corn-mill when the proprietors offered to give each person one hundred acres of land "with the stream" for encouragement. In 1759 Bartholomew Parsons (or Pearson) built the first grist-mill in the township. It was located on the Millers River on the mill-site presently occupied by Level of Winchendon, Division of Mason & Parker Manufacturing Company. There can be no doubt that the inhabitants of Ipswich Canada deemed the grist-mill a great acquisition to the new settlement as it saved the people from having to cart their grain to other towns for grinding.

In order to satisfy the spiritual wants of the people, the proprietors voted to build a meeting house. On September 22, 1761, they chose a committee consisting of Benjamin Goodridge, Abijah Smith and Philip Goodridge to "let out the house." The building was to be "forty-five feet long, thirty-five feet wide and twenty-two or twenty-three feet in length of posts" and was to be completed before the last day of September, 1762. Consequently the first building in the town for religious worship was erected on the south end of the common at what is known today as Old Centre. On the fifteenth of December, 1762, a church was organized; Rev. Daniel Stimpson became the first settled minister.

By 1764 through courage, perserverance, and hard labor, many of the material features of the town had been accomplished. The spirited pioneers began to have a feeling of security and permanence. As a result, they petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for the right to incorporate with all town privileges. At that time they applied for the name of *Epesberry*, honoring two distinguished gentlemen from Ipswich, Simonds Epes and Thomas



Plan of the Centre showing residents during the first century

Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online

PUSHEE, NATHAN, farmer, miller, and militia officer; b. October 1758 in Lunenburg, Mass., eldest child of Nathan Pushee and Elizabeth Priest; m. 20 April 1787 Jane Porter, *née* Brown, and they had nine children; d. 31 Oct. 1838 in Newport, N.S.

At the outbreak of the American revolution in April 1775 Nathan Pushee enlisted as a private in Gardner's Massachusetts Battalion and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. In March 1776 he was transferred to the Life Guard protecting General George Washington, serving with it until the end of the year. The following January Pushee re-enlisted in the 3rd Continental Light Dragoons, and was promoted trumpet-major. With this unit he was engaged in the battles of Brandywine, Paoli, Germantown, and Monmouth. In September 1778 Pushee was at Old Tappan, N.J., when the dragoons were surprised at night by British forces, and was one of the few who escaped. Re-enlisting again in December 1779, Pushee became trumpet-major in Washington's Light Dragoons (into which his former regiment was incorporated) and moved to the southern theatre. The commander of the regiment was William Washington, a kinsman of George Washington, and this circumstance accounts for the false tradition that Pushee was George Washington's trumpet-major. On 14 April 1780 Pushee was among the victims of another successful surprise attack by the British when he was captured in the engagement of Moncks Corner.

Taken to Charleston, S.C., Pushee and more than 500 comrades faced almost certain death from disease and poor food in British prisons, and in order to escape this fate they agreed to enlist in the British army provided they did not have to fight their fellow Americans. Pushee joined the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment, a provincial unit, and was sent to Jamaica, where he became a sergeant in Captain Gideon White*'s company. At the end of the war those who had served in British regiments could not return to the United States because they were excluded from the terms of amnesty. The commander of Pushee's regiment, Lord Charles Greville Montagu, arranged for those men who wished land to be taken to Nova Scotia, and they arrived in December 1783.

In the spring of 1784 they went to Chedabucto Bay, where the following year Pushee received 200 acres in Manchester Township.

Pushee and some fellow soldiers did not remain in the area long, since they wanted to find more fertile lands closer to the water. They went to Antigonish Harbour, where disbanded soldiers under Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Hierlihy had already settled at Town Point. The attempt to establish a village at Town Point failed, and Pushee moved to the rich *intervale* lands on the south side of the West River, on what became St Andrew's Street in the town of Antigonish. The Napoleonic Wars brought a demand for timber in Britain, and Antigonish flourished because it was at the junction of two rivers down which timber could be floated. Pushee erected a sawmill, and sold it in 1818 to his son Henry and John G. Peabody. Considered by some as the founder of Antigonish, in the census of 1827 he was listed as a farmer with 35 acres under cultivation, 18 horned cattle, 30 sheep, and 6 pigs. Pushee served as an officer in the local militia and as a school trustee, and was one of the founders of the Dorchester Presbyterian church.

In 1838 a more lenient act of the American Congress and newspaper publicity about a fellow soldier suggested to Pushee that he apply for a pension as an American soldier. In his application from Boston, dated 6 October, he ignored his time in the British army and said only that he was taken prisoner at Moncks Corner and escaped after 11 months' captivity. On the 12th he was paid \$1,056 in back pension and shortly thereafter left for Nova Scotia, where he visited old friends at Newport. There the excitement and strain of travel brought on a fatal heart attack.

[Phyllis R. Blakeley](#)

Antigonish County Court of Probate (Antigonish, N.S.), Estate papers, A69 (will of Nathan Pushee) (mfm. at PANS). Antigonish County Registry of Deeds (Antigonish), Deeds, vols. 1/2, 1–3 (mfm. at PANS). National Arch. (Washington), RG 15, W 13835 (Nathan Pushee). New England Historic Geneal. Soc. Library (Boston), W. P. Greenlaw, “Descendants of Gabriel Pouchi or Pushee.” PANS, MG 12, Misc., 6, no.76; RG 14, 3, nos.6, 16, 63. A. C. Jost, *Guysborough sketches and essays* (Guysborough, N.S., 1950), 117–23, 279–81.

- *ID:* I25983
- *Name:* Gabriel Pouchée
- *Sex:* M
- *Occupation:* Town Official
- *Birth:* CIR 1706 in Port Royal?, NS
- *Death:* 1775 in Winchendon, Worcester, MA
- *Note:* Name & birth also reported as Pushee & Winchendon, MA.

Marriage 1 [Sarah Williams](#) b: 19 MAY 1703 in Manchester, Essex, MA

- *Married:* 26 JUL 1726 in Ipswich, Essex, MA (Parish Hamlet)

Children

1. [Ruth Pushee](#) b: 1727 in Ipswich, Essex, MA
2. [Mary Pushee](#) b: 1729 in Ipswich, Essex, MA (Parish Hamlet)
3. [Nathan Pushee](#) b: 16 Jan 1730/2 in Ipswich, Essex, MA (Parish Hamlet)
4. [Daniel Pushee](#) b: 1734 in Ipswich, Essex, MA
5. [Sarah Pushee](#) b: 1736 in Ipswich, Essex, MA
6. [Elizabeth Pushee](#) b: 1739 in Ipswich, Essex, MA
7. [Abigail Pushee](#) b: 1742/4 in Ipswich, Essex, MA
8. [John Pushee](#) b: 1748

- *ID:* I25987
- *Name:* Nathan Pushee
- *Title:* Sr.
- *Sex:* M
- *Occupation:* Soldier, French & Indian
- *Birth:* 16 Jan 1730/2 in Ipswich, Essex, MA (Parish Hamlet)
- *Christening:* 16 JUN 1732 Ipswich, Essex, MA (prob)
- *Death:* 1776 in Winchendon, Worcester, MA
- *Note:* Birth also reported as Winchendon.

Father: [Gabriel Pouchée](#) b: CIR 1706 in Port Royal?, NS

Mother: [Sarah Williams](#) b: 19 MAY 1703 in Manchester, Essex, MA

Marriage 1 [Elizabeth Priest](#) b: CIR 1737 in Stow, Middlesex, MA

- *Married:* 13 JAN 1757 in Lunenburg, Worcester, MA

Children

1. [Nathan Pushee](#) b: 13 JUN 1758 in Lunenburg, Worcester, MA
2. [David Pushee](#) b: 1760

- *ID:* I26009
- *Name:* Nathan Pushee
- *Title:* Jr.
- *Sex:* M
- *Occupation:* Revolutionary War Soldier
- *Birth:* 13 JUN 1758 in Lunenburg, Worcester, MA
- *Death:* 31 OCT 1838 in Newport, Hants, NS
- *Burial:* 1874 Antigonish, Antigonish, NS
- *Note:*

Death also reported incorrectly as Onslow, NS.

Birth & marriage also reported as Winchendon, MA & 1783.

Remains moved to Antigonish in 1874. Birth also reported as Oct 1758.

Father: [Nathan Pushee](#) b: 16 Jan 1730/2 in Ipswich, Essex, MA (Parish Hamlet)

Mother: [Elizabeth Priest](#) b: CIR 1737 in Stow, Middlesex, MA

Marriage 1 [Jane Brown](#) b: CIR 1760 in Ireland

- *Married:* 20 APR 1787 in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS

Children

1. [Johanna Pushee](#) b: 1789 in Antigonish Co., NS
2. [William H. Pushee](#) b: CIR 1792 in West River, Antigonish, NS
3. [Pushee](#) b: cir 1794? in Antigonish Co., NS
4. [David Pushee](#) b: 12 JUL 1796 in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS
5. [Sarah Pushee](#) b: CIR 1798 in Antigonish Co., NS
6. [Thomas Pushee](#) b: CIR 1798 in Antigonish Co., NS
7. [John Pushee](#) b: CIR 1801 in Antigonish Co., NS
8. [George Nathan Pushee](#) b: CIR 1805 in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS
9. [Sally Pushee](#) b: in Antigonish Co., NS
10. [Nathan Pushee](#) b: in Antigonish Co., NS

- *ID:* I26024
- *Name:* George Nathan Pushee
- *Title:* Sr.
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* CIR 1805 in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS
- *Note:* 9 children. Birth also reported as c1795.

Father: [Nathan Pushee](#) b: 13 JUN 1758 in Lunenburg, Worcester, MA

Mother: [Jane Brown](#) b: CIR 1760 in Ireland

Marriage 1 [Catherine Chisholm](#) b: 5 MAR 1799 in Salt Springs, Antigonish, NS

Children

1. [GEORGE Nathan Pushee](#) b: 1834/5 in Nova Scotia
2. [Duncan Pushee](#) b: in Nova Scotia
3. [Sarah Pushie](#) b: in Nova Scotia
4. [Isabella Pushee](#) b: 1835 in Nova Scotia
5. [Mary Pelly Pushee](#) b: 1845 in Nova Scotia

- *ID:* I203
- *Name:* GEORGE Nathan Pushee
- *Title:* Jr.
- *Sex:* M
- *Occupation:* Carriage Maker
- *Birth:* 1834/5 in Nova Scotia
- *Death:* BEF 1902

Father: [George Nathan Pushee](#) b: CIR 1805 in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS

Mother: [Catherine Chisholm](#) b: 5 MAR 1799 in Salt Springs, Antigonish, NS

Marriage 1 [Elizabeth Eddie](#)

Children

1. [George DANIEL MacGregor Pushee](#) b: 8 DEC 1873 in Nova Scotia
2. [Catherine Pushee](#) b: 1875 in Nova Scotia
3. [Frederick W. "Fred" Pushee](#)
4. [John G. Pushee](#)
5. [Mary I. "Minnie" Pushee](#)
6. [James William Pushee](#)

Marriage 2 [Margaret Brown](#) b: 19 JAN 1857 in Lochaber, Antigonish, NS

- *Married:* 1881

Children

1. [Elizabeth E. Pushie](#) b: 20 AUG 1883 in Nova Scotia
2. [William HAMILTON Pushie](#) b: 15 SEP 1883 in Nova Scotia
3. [ELDORA May Pushie](#) b: AUG 1886 in Nova Scotia
4. [George HOWARD Pushie](#) b: MAR 1889 in Nova Scotia
5. [Dorothy Pushie](#) b: 15 AUG 1892

- *ID:* I26033
- *Name:* George DANIEL MacGregor Pushee
- *Title:* Sr.
- *Sex:* M

- *Occupation:* New England Telephone
- *Birth:* 8 DEC 1873 in Nova Scotia
- *Death:* 28 APR 1937
- *Note:* Birth also reported as 1872.

Father: [GEORGE Nathan Pushee](#) b: 1834/5 in Nova Scotia

Mother: [Elizabeth Eddie](#)

Marriage 1 [Margaret Jennie Nichols](#) b: in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS (of)
Children

1. [William Pushee](#) b: 5 AUG 1900 in Beverly, Essex, MA (of)
2. [Grace Pushee](#) b: 15 NOV 1902
3. [Viola Pushee](#) b: 22 MAR 1904
4. [George Daniel MacGregor Pushee](#) b: 6 NOV 1910 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA
5. [Frances Pushee](#) b: 7 MAR 1911
6. [Howard Pushee](#) b: 1917

- *ID:* I25958
- *Name:* George Daniel MacGregor Pushee
- *Title:* Jr.
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* 6 NOV 1910 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA
- *Death:* 13 AUG 1975

Father: [George DANIEL MacGregor Pushee](#) b: 8 DEC 1873 in Nova Scotia

Mother: [Margaret Jennie Nichols](#) b: in Antigonish, Antigonish, NS (of)

Marriage 1 Spouse Unknown


- *Married:* 28 MAR 1931



GEO D PUSHEES HOME
CHURCH ST ANTIGONISH N.S.



POSHEE'S BRIDGE
ANTIGONISH NOVA SCOTIA



Margaret (Nichols)

George D.M. Pushee Sr.



Aunt Viola,
Aunt Frankie (Drury)
Geo. D. Pushee Jr.



Uncle Bill



Aunt Grace
(MacKinnon)

George DM Pushee III

Louise Ann Pushee (Randall) Deceased



William Randall Pushee

Cynthia AC Brunelle

Margaret Louise Matthews



George DM Pushee III

Christie

Kelsie

George DM Pushee IV

