

## DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

### Robert Brunton (~1849 - 1898) and Harriet Stickney (1860 - ?)



**Robert Brunton & Harriet Stickney**  
**Believed to have been taken around the time of**  
**their wedding.**

**(From Wellington County Museum and Archives)**

We may never be absolutely certain who Robert Brunton's parents were or exactly when he was born. He first appears in the 1851 census of Scotland living with Robert Slimmon (~1790) and identified as Robert's grandson. He next appears on the 1861 census of Scotland living with William and Elizabeth Slimmon. That record states that Robert Brunton was William Slimmon's nephew. However, that is contradicted by oral family history that indicates Robert was actually William's illegitimate son. That certainly seems plausible since 1) illegitimate children were usually given their mother's maiden name so he was not likely to have been a nephew as a result of being the son of any of the Slimmon sisters; 2) according to the 1851 census (when Robert Brunton was two years old), he had been born in Lamington—the parish immediately adjacent to Kilbucho parish where William had been working at the time of the 1841 census; and 3) Robert moved to Canada around the same time as William and Elizabeth and 4) in both Scotland and Canada Robert was living with William and Elizabeth as a family unit.

In the end, there can be little doubt that Robert was a descendant of Robert Slimmon and Helen Lindsay and that there is a very high probability that he was, in fact, William Slimmon's son.

Robert has not yet been found in the 1881 Ontario census. He certainly wasn't listed as living with any of his Slimmon relatives. At age thirty-one, there could be many reasons why he might have been missed by the census including being out of the country.

Documents from the Wellington County Museum & Archives (WCMA) indicate that Robert married Harriet Stickney on October 5, 1881 in Glenallan, ON. Happily, the WCMA

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documents also include a photo of the young couple, possibly taken at the time of their marriage or engagement. Harriet had been born in Ontario in 1860 and was the daughter of English immigrants, John and Ann Eliza Stickney who had obviously settled in Peel Township some time earlier.

The WCMA documents indicate that Robert and Harriet had two children; Clara Ethel, born 30 March, 1883 and John Stanley, born 30 March, 1892. Clara Ethel died June 1, 1886 at age 3.

At the time of the 1891 census of Ontario, Robert and Harriet were living in Puslinch Township which wraps around the south side of the City of Guelph. Robert's occupation was listed as "Farm Foreman" which indicates that he was managing a farm for someone else.

Robert Brunton died 27 July, 1898. According to oral family history, he had fallen off a load of hay causing a critical injury to his neck. He is also believed to have lived for some time before his death. It is ironic that one of the documents provided to the WCMA with regard to Harriet Stickney and Robert Brunton is a threshing scene with a wrack of sheaves being unloaded into a stationary, tractor-powered, threshing machine. Robert was buried in the cemetery in Ethel, Ontario.

Although Robert was reported to have been "the love of Harriet's life", she remarried on 25 April, 1900, this time to Alex Begg (1850-1915) of Mornington Township, north of Stratford, Ontario. Following Alex's death, she again married, this time to William Nurse (1863-1944). Following their deaths Harriet and William were buried in Linwood Cemetery. Harriet's date of death has not yet been established.

### **Children of Robert Brunton & Harriet Stickney:**

#### **1.8.0.1 Clara Ethel**

- Born 30 March, 1883
- Died June 1, 1886 at age 3
- Buried in the cemetery of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Goldstone (now Goldstone United Church)

#### **1.8.0.2 John Stanley**

- Born 30 March, 1892
- Married Annie Victoria Duncan
- Farmed near Beulah, MB
- Died 1971
- Annie died 1942
- Both John Stanley and Annie Victoria are buried in Hamiota Municipal Cemetery, MB