

Bradley Museum

a piece of country in the heart of the city

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Welcome to Bradley Museum

1620 Orr Road, Mississauga



The Anchorage

Open the doors to the 19th century and discover the Bradley Museum. Your journey begins at our Visitor Centre in **The Anchorage**, an Ontario Regency style cottage on the grounds of the museum. Once the retirement home of Royal Navy officer, John Skynner, the early 19th century home was moved from its original site on the shores of Lake Ontario to the Bradley Museum in the mid 1970s. The Anchorage now houses changing exhibits, gift shop, meeting room, the Museums of Mississauga administrative offices and collections storage space.

A short walk across the grounds brings you to a small saltbox style farmhouse that was constructed in 1830 by *Lewis and Elizabeth Bradley*. After 20 years in a rugged cabin, this United Empire Loyalist couple and their seven children called this modest house home. **Bradley House** is restored to reveal the everyday life of early settlers in Ontario.



The Bradley House



The Log Cabin

Across the drive, sits the delightful, award-winning **Log Cabin**, added to the Bradley Museum site in 2007. Originally slated for demolition at its Port Credit location, the cabin was rescued and reconstructed through a great community effort, and now offers year round use for educational programs, meetings, receptions, special events and sleepovers for children's community groups.

About Lewis and Elizabeth Bradley

Lewis Turner Bradley and his twin, William Brown Bradley, were born in Savannah, Georgia in 1771. Lewis's parents were Richard and Sarah Turner Bradley. Lewis had one older sister, Jestin.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Richard Bradley was enlisted in the British Army Commissary. Richard Bradley died prior to 1783 as records indicate that Sarah Bradley remarried a Lieutenant John Jenkins and moved with her three children to Saint John, New Brunswick. Lewis and his brother William petitioned for land near Saint John and both received grants. Lewis later lost this land as he had not fulfilled his settlement obligations. It is assumed that Lewis was too busy with his step father's farm to make the necessary improvements on his own land at this time.



Lewis's stepfather died in 1804. He provided for Lewis in his will by stating that Lewis should be able to live on his farm as long as he remained "industrious" and "unmarried". He also stated that if Lewis should marry, he should be provided with 20 pounds. 1808 saw two key actions in Lewis's life, he married Elizabeth Merigold who had been born in Kingsclear, New Brunswick, around 1792. Lewis moved with her family and other Loyalists to Upper Canada. Lewis had probably been concerned with his future having no land if he stayed put.

Lewis and Elizabeth lived for approximately a year and a half in Niagara and then successfully petitioned for land. They received land in 1810 located in the 3rd Concession, south of Dundas Street in the Township of Toronto. The lot was adjacent to his wife's father, Thomas Merigold. This area became known as Merigold's Point and the Bradley's were the third family to settle there. Lewis fulfilled his settlement duties this time and successfully petitioned for further land.

Elizabeth had been 19 at the time of her marriage and Lewis 37. They had seven children, three girls and four boys. All their children survived into adulthood. Lewis died suddenly on April 1st, 1843 from what appears to have been a stroke. He was buried at Springcreek Cemetery. He left no will and Elizabeth was left with five children still living at home. The youngest son, Richard, was only 12 years old. William, the oldest son, gave his mother power of attorney so that she could sell the house. The Bradley family moved to Trafalgar Township until 1848 when Elizabeth remarried.

Their original homestead at Merigold's Point is now the Bradley Museum although it has been moved from its original lakeshore site.

Little is known of Lewis's personality. He was described by neighbour William Thompson as "a very affectionate and kind attentive husband...always cheerful and lively....and highly esteemed by all who has the pleasure of his acquaintance..." Lewis was also known to be community minded as he participated in many civic activities including twice attending the Grand Jury in the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

*All information compiled from The Families of Merigold's Point, by Dorothy L. Martin, Mississauga Heritage Foundation, 1984

Lewis and Elizabeth Bradley's Children

1st Daughter: Mary (1811 to ?)

Mary was born in Lewis and Elizabeth's first home at Merigold's Point. She married at 28 and moved to Vittoria in Norfolk County, Ontario. Egerton Ryerson - the founder of Ontario's education system and a Methodist minister in Mississauga - was born in Vittoria in 1803.

1st Son: William (1815 to ?)

The first son of Lewis and Elizabeth, William was expected to inherit the family farm. However, he moved to Boston to become a broker around 1841.

2nd Son: John (1817 to 1871)

John married at age 24 and took over the family farm at 26, after Lewis' death. He may have lived at a second home on the property, at what is now 1715 Sunningdale Bend. He moved to Port Dover in 1846 after selling the farm, then to Stoney Creek in 1855 to run an apple orchard and a fanning mill. John died there but was buried at Spring Creek Cemetery, near Benares, alongside his father, Lewis, and his infant daughter.

2nd Daughter: Eliza (1819 to 1872)

Eliza married at 35 and moved to Norfolk County.

3rd Son: Charles (1824 to 1915)

Charles married at age 25 and moved to Niagara County.

3rd Daughter: Cornelia (1828 to ?)

Cornelia married at 24 and moved to Brampton.

4th Son: Richard (1832 to 1908)

Richard was the only child born in the present home. At age 21, he took over his oldest sister's farm in Vittoria after the death of Mary's husband. Richard became a commercial traveler in 1861 and finally settled in Detroit.

For Further Reading

The Families of Merigold's Point: Dorothy L. Martin, 1984

Move to Upper Canada

Westward, Ho!

With such crowded living conditions and poor soil, the Saint John River valley was a temporary refugee camp for many loyalists. After 27 years in New Brunswick, Lewis decided to follow his father-in-law to Upper Canada with three other families. Each of the four families had its own reasons for seeking prosperity outside New Brunswick.

The stepfather of **Lewis Bradley** bequeathed his farm in Kingsclear to John Jenkins, Jr. – his oldest son, by his first wife, leaving none to Lewis. **Thomas Merigold** had farmland of his own, but with the future of 11 children in his hands, Upper Canada was a promised land. When the crown disbanded the militia forces, army officer **Stephen Jarvis** saw, in Upper Canada, opportunities for advancement that were not open to him in New Brunswick. Napoleon's recent blockade of European timber to Britain sent the value of hardwood masting timber in New Brunswick soaring and this encouraged **Cornelius Thompson** to sell his land while prices were high.

An Arduous Journey

Lewis left for Upper Canada in the summer of 1808 with his new wife and the Merigold and Thompson families. (The Jarvises moved a year later to the lot of land on which The Anchorage was later built.) Of the 26 members, 16 were children. The youngest of these was less than a year old. The only possessions brought along were family records, basic clothing needs and only the most valuable of heirlooms, if any. These were carried in a small chest. Everything

else - furniture, animals, tableware and tools - were sold in New Brunswick before heading west. The families traveled 275 km up the Saint John River on birch-bark canoes. From here, they walked 50 km to the nearest road at Riviere-du-Loup in Lower Canada and then by coach to York (Toronto). This journey took almost a month.

Tenure in Niagara

With the £200 (\$7,000 today) that he had earned

from selling his farm in Kingsclear, Thomas Merigold moved directly to his new lot in the area that soon came to be known as *Merigold's Point*. Without property in New Brunswick to sell, Lewis and Elizabeth moved to Newark (Niagara on the Lake, today) and opened a store. They may have lived with one of Lewis' step-sisters while in Niagara Township. After one year in Upper Canada, Lewis was able to petition for land. Stephen Jarvis - a recent arrival himself - approved Lewis' petition for land.

Arrival at Merigold's Point

Lewis arrived in August 1810 and was granted 81 hectares of free land, as was his due for being the son of a United Empire Loyalist. (His father, Richard, died in service of the king and this conferred UE status on Lewis.) Only 2 ha was immediately granted by the crown. This had to be cleared, a subsistence farm ploughed and a house of at least 35 square metres completed before the remaining 79 ha was transferred. With the help of his in-laws next door, the farm and home were completed in January 1811. Thomas Merigold was 50 and had three teenage sons to help Lewis and Elizabeth prepare for life in Upper Canada.

Bradley House Architecture

Date of Construction?

Most sources say that this home was completed specifically in 1830 while other sources identify the construction date more cautiously as "the early 1830s". Anthony Adamson (former professor of architecture at the University of Toronto) identifies 1828 as the year of its completion. More likely, Lewis probably expanded the original log home in stages as time and money permitted, the house we know today was probably completed over the span of many years. If it was completed before 1832, then Lewis's youngest son, Richard, was the only child born in this expanded home.

The Second Floor

The second floor was completed in the early 1830s but there is no indication of stairs leading to the upper floor at this time. The present stairway extends into the summer kitchen, so the stairs we use today to get upstairs were apparently added when the summer kitchen itself was completed sometime in the early 1840s by the family that moved into the home after the Bradleys had moved on. Access to the second floor before then may have been by way of a rope ladder located where the door to the downstairs bedroom is now located.



Materials

The new home was made of 'clapboard' purchased by Lewis from one of the sawmills that sprang up in the years after the Bradley's first log home. An unaccredited source says that the clapboard was sawn at a mill owned by a Mr. Hyett and located, "close by where the stream crosses Clarkson Road South." Sheridan Creek would have been of insufficient volume to power a saw blade, although local author Betty Clarkson has identified what she claims to be the ruins of a mill at this site. Likely the sawn lumber was purchased by Lewis in Springfield (Erindale) or Streetsville - both on the Credit River. Some logs were still used for structural support. One log can still be seen today at the top of stairs.

Disposition of the Farm

Lewis left the farm to his second son, John, in 1843. Normally the first son would acquire the land but William had already moved to Boston. Of his four sons, only Charles remained a farmer, but he acquired the land of his in-laws in Niagara Region (Lincoln County, at the time). With no one to work the farm, John sold it to Lewis' stepfather's son-in-law, Bartholomew Beardsley, in 1846. He purchased the lot as a gift to his new son-in-law, James Upham. This ended the Bradley's tenure in Clarkson.

Severing the Property

After the Bradleys sold the farm, the original 90 ha property was broken up into smaller farms. Descendants of Thomas Merigold purchased the eastern half of the lot in 1860, and Upham sold the northern half of his remaining half-lot to Thomas Mason that same year. Other families to farm the Bradley property include the Ryries (friends of the Harrises) and Flemingtons. Each successive family farmed the land less and less until the final 'cottagers' probably only grew fruit crops for personal use.



Saltbox Style

Lewis Bradley's second home is a simple wood frame home and is a typical example of the kind of homestead built by middle-class Upper Canada farm families in the period from the 1820s to 1850s. The house is about 215 square metres (or about 2,300 sq. ft., for you imperialists). Typically, the Bradley's home faces south and is one and a half storeys, sloping back gracefully to one storey. (A

'half-storey' is a level with a sloped ceiling.) Houses built in this style are often nicknamed 'saltbox' homes. The saltbox style was popular in New Brunswick, where Lewis lived for 27 years before moving to Upper Canada. Houses of similar design in the US are said to be in the 'American Federalist' style. By whatever name, it is a practical hand-built style for a family of modest means.

'Neo-Classic Elegance'

Anthony Adamson, a Mississauga resident and former professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, had this to say of the Bradley House.

"The restored and relocated Bradley House built at Clarkson in 1828 [this date conflicts with later data] is representative not only of the houses built on the shore of the lake before the Lakeshore Road was serviceable, none of which now remain, but also representative of the simple Peel County farm house with a degree of Neo-Classic elegance. The symmetric exterior, the large fireplace chimney, the one storey projection of the kitchen with the three stove chimney, the simple but elegant mantels, remarkable cornerboard and the six panel doors go to make an excellent example of the good sense and taste of a Methodist farmer."

Architectural Landmark

In his thorough two-volume work, *A History of Canadian Architecture*, Vancouver architect Harold Kalman used the Bradley Museum as the definitive example of middle-class domestic architecture in Upper Canada during the Loyalist period.

"The Lewis Bradley House in Clarkson . . . is sheathed in clapboard and covered with a saltbox roof which extends further and is lower at the rear than at the front. Its 24-pane (12 over 12) windows, classical door surround and fireplace mantels reveal a high standard of craftsmanship despite the modest size of the house."

For Further Reading

A History of Canadian Architecture: Harold Kalman, 1998
Peel County Houses Before 1867: Anthony Adamson, 1967

United Empire Loyalists

About 70,000 men, women and children fled the United States at the end of the War of Independence. Many returned to Great Britain, some migrated to British islands in the Caribbean and a few even "begged for atonement" and accepted the new republican government. Most loyalists (about 50,000) migrated northward. Many in New York state moved into the Niagara region or to new settlements across Lake Ontario and in the St. Lawrence valley. Lewis and his stepfamily were among the 14,000 refugees transported to New Brunswick between April and November 1783.

A Mark of Honour

In 1789, Lord Dorchester (the commander of the British army in America and the man who oversaw the safe evacuation of loyalists) declared "that it was his [George III] wish to put the mark of honour upon the families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire." The head of each loyalist family received a formal letter of honour that read as follows.

"Those loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their children and their descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following capitals, affixed to their names: U.E."

After the war, many non-serving loyalists and even a few patriotic Americans moved to Canada in an attempt to get free land, so the *U.E.* title made it easier for administrators in British North America to distribute free land only to those who had proven their loyalty through military service.

United Empire Rights

Each family member with 'United Empire Rights' was granted a minimum lot of 80 ha. Officers in the British military received additional land depending on their rank and the size of their family. The population of the American colonies, at the time of the peace treaty was about 3.9 million. The 70,000 granted 'U.E. rights' constituted less than two percent of this colonial population. Lewis and the members of his two families were part of this exclusive two percent.

For Further Reading

On-line Institute of Advanced Loyalists Studies: <http://www.royalprovincial.com/>

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada www.uelac.org