

Emigration to Canada, 1902-1913: Elizabeth, Alfred, William and Rebecca

Four children of Alfred Faux (b 22 December 1849) emigrated to Canada during the early part of the 20th century (Elizabeth, Alfred, William and Rebecca). Alfred had died in 1889 and these children, plus Mary, Fanny and Emily had been looked after by their mother Mary Ann (nee Syrett).

At the beginning of the 20th century, emigration to the United States of America and to Canada was encouraged both by the British government and by the governments of North America. Canada, as a British colony, was an especially popular destination. Cities such as London were over-crowded and the idea was that the Canadian economy would be boosted by the influx of workers, thus creating demand for British-made products.

For Canada, the period between the turn of the century and 1913 involved years of hope and vision. The population increased by more than a third, from 5.3 million to 7.2 million, thanks to immigration. Vast stretches of the Prairies were settled, two transcontinental railways were built and industrial production increased dramatically. Prospects for continued growth began to dim, however, in 1913 (the peak of immigration) and the country started to slide into a severe depression. Unemployment figures soared, especially in urban areas.



In London, posters such as the one above were commonplace. Indeed there was a set of offices dedicated to arranging emigration to Canada and Alfred, William, Elizabeth and Rebecca may have visited one at some stage.



The emigration offices in London, 1911

<http://www.theshipslist.com/Research/canadarecords.htm>

From 1865, the vast majority of immigrants to Canada arrived via the port of Quebec, and during the winter months, via the ports of New York, NY, Boston, MA, Portland, ME and later to Halifax, NS and Saint John, NB. Annually, Quebec had a shipping season of approximately 24 weeks, as the St. Lawrence River was closed to shipping during the winter months.



The map shows the most important ports in Europe in terms of emigration traffic to Canada.

Alfred Faux

Alfred Faux probably married in January-March 1902 in Mile End Old Town according to the BMD indexes (1c 536). This code indicates that he either married Mary Ann Goodwin or Elizabeth Ann Seward. Two children followed, Alfred (Jan-Mar 1903) and Ida Elizabeth (Apr-Jun 1904).

The following birth entry then appears in 1907 in Canada.

IF THIS FORM IS USED BY ANY OTHER THAN THE FATHER OR THE MOTHER, IMPORTANT TIME MAY BE SAVED BY OBSERVING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE FORM.

Dominion of Canada
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
To Wit:

Declaration

In the Matter of Registering a Birth which has not been registered.

NAME OF CHILD	John William Faux		
DATE OF BIRTH	April 20 th 1907	SEX	Male
PLACE OF BIRTH	Sault Ste Marie	COUNTY	Algoma
NAME OF FATHER	Alfred Faux		
ADDRESS	62 Knox Ave	OCCUPATION	Carpenter
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Elizabeth Ann Griggs		
NAME OF PHYSICIAN	Dr. S. E. Fleming		
NAME OF INFORMANT	Mrs Elizabeth A Faux		
ADDRESS	62 Knox Ave Sault Ste Marie		

I, Elizabeth A Faux of the City of Sault Ste Marie
in the County of Algoma DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE that:

- (1) I am the Mother of the person whose birth is desired to be registered.
(Relation to Child)
- (2) I have personal knowledge of the matters herein set forth, and the same are true in substance and in fact.

901695

Bk. 75

AND I MAKE this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of THE CANADA EVIDENCE ACT.

Declared before me at the City of Sault Ste Marie, County of Algoma, Ontario, this 27th day of February, 1929.
Elizabeth Ann Faux (Signature of Declarant)
Signature R. G. Campbell (Notary Public, Commissioner, etc., of Justice of the Peace)
FAUX, John W.
901695

This records the birth of John William Faux on April 20th 1907. The parents are Alfred Faux and Elizabeth Ann Griggs. The maiden name, Griggs, does not correspond with the BMD marriage entry. Perhaps Elizabeth entered her mother's maiden name (not hers) or perhaps her maiden name was Griggs and she had married a Seward who had died, prior to marrying Alfred. The address is 62 Knox Avenue, Sault St. Marie, Algoma County in Ontario.

Sault Ste. Marie (pronounced *Soo' Saint Mub ree*) is the oldest city in the State of Michigan and one of the oldest in the entire United States. It is located at the eastern edge of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, on the Canadian border, separated from its twin city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario - the oldest city in the Canadian province of Ontario - by the St. Mary's River.

Assuming this is our Alfred, the emigration occurred between about April 1904 and April 1907.

Alfred then appears in the 1911 Canadian census in Knox Avenue, West Algoma, Ontario (indexed as Finy) with his wife, Elizabeth, and the three children, Alfred, Ida and William. The childrens' stated months of birth are January 1903, May 1904 and April 1907 respectively and all correspond with the other sources. Alfred and his wife's dates of birth are August and December 1875 respectively, the former is not consistent with the BMD index record. There is an Elizabeth Ann Griggs born in Marylebone who was registered Jan-Mar 1876 but no Elizabeth Ann Seward at this time.

All are listed as born in England except, of course, William (registered as John William but now called William). Note that Rebecca referred to Alfred's son as William in her letter of 1952 (see later) but there was no mention of Alfred Jnr. The census records that the family came to Canada in 1906. Alfred is again listed as a carpenter and he works in a factory 52 weeks/year, 60 hours/week for 640 Canadian dollars (I assume) per year. All can read and write except William.

Alfred's sister Elizabeth lives in the same street.



The passenger lists (under "Fause") show that the family (Alfred, wife, Alfred Jnr and Ida) left the port of London for Quebec on 20 April 1906 on the SS Sarmatian owned by the Allan Line. The SS Sarmatian was an elderly ship manufactured at Greenock by Robert Steele and Co. in 1871. The ship served the Liverpool-Canada line until 1890 when it was re-fitted. Alfred is listed as a Farmer, age 29. There were 463 passengers.

The Allan Line, more properly the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, was founded in 1854 and began sailing in 1855. They continued to sail until about 1911 when negotiations with the Canadian Pacific Line took place. The company was merged and became known as the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services Limited in 1915.




The SS Sarmatian was scrapped at Rotterdam in 1908.

Elizabeth Faux

In the 1911 Canadian census, Elizabeth Constable and her family are living in the same street as Alfred, namely, Knox Avenue, Algoma County, Ontario. Her husband, Charles, is an engineer at a nail mill. She had married Charles Constable in 1900 in Mile End Old Town and they had four sons, Charles, Oscar, William and George. Elizabeth's month of birth is August 1876 and the children are, respectively, July 1902, June 1904, March 1907 and March 1908. It would appear Oscar and William were born in Canada, at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. It is possible that the family moved across the border into the United States for a time as George Constable's Canadian birth certificate cannot be located.

The emigration date is very hard to read – it looks like 1899 but the couple's marriage was on 10 June 1900 in Mile End Old Town. The emigration date might be 1902.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 470800

Year	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
1900	June	Charles Constable	32	Bachelor	Engineer	20, St. Paul's Road	Wm Henry Constable	Bookbinder
1900		Elizabeth Faux	24	Spinster		20, St. Paul's Road	Alfred Faux	Bricklayer


Married in the district Church, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or other Person, by me, _____

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Charles Constable } in the presence of us, { Alfred Faux }
 { Elizabeth Faux } { Rebecca Faux }
 { _____ } { _____ }
 { _____ } { _____ }

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Mile End Old Town
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 10th day of January 2005

MXB 881115

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTRING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. SCROWN COPYRIGHT
 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.



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The on-line passenger lists (findmypast.com) confirms the emigration date as 1902. I cannot locate Charles Constable on any passenger list but Elizabeth left England on 11

September 1902 with her son, Charles, about 2 months old. Mother and child were on the SS *Tunisian* (Allan Line) which left Liverpool for Quebec. She is age 26, married and described as a “wife”. It is possible, of course, that Charles Constable left on an earlier voyage but, if so, I cannot find him in the indexes at present (there is a Charles Constable on a sailing to Halifax, Canada, on 10 April 1902, but he is described as single and a labourer – although his age at 34 matches).

The SS *Tunisian* served 28 years. It was built by Alexander Stephens and Sons in Glasgow and was launched on 17 January 1900 (<http://www.norwayheritage.com>). This crossing was the sixth of the year and the ship arrived in Quebec on 18 September 1902. There were 987 passengers aboard.



SS *Tunisian*

“Refrigeration first appeared on the *Bavarian* in 1899. This ship was the first of the 20th century fleet of the Allan Line. She was followed in 1900 by the *Tunisian* which boasted good heating and ventilation. It also had hot and cold fresh, and salt, water on tap and four-birth emigrant cabins with spring mattresses.”
(<http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/allan.html>)

During the war, the SS *Tunisian* was used as a German POW ship at Ryde, Isle of Wight, and also made several troop voyages to Bombay and Gallipoli. In 1917 it was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Line until 1928 when she was laid up in Southampton and then finally scrapped at Genoa.

Meg Wolfe, who has made contact, is a great granddaughter of Elizabeth.

William Faux

William Faux emigrated as a single man and took his wife, Ada Rowe, in Algoma County on 16th January 1913. Ada was four years his senior and was also born in England (father William Rowe, mother Jane Richards). She was a Methodist, William an Anglican. Both were living in Sault Ste. Marie.

William’s location in the Canadian 1911 census is not certain but he may possibly be the servant at 161 Huntingdon, Godmanchester township, Quebec. This William was born in England in about 1888 and arrived in Canada in 1909. He is a labourer, given age 23,

on a farm owned by Irish immigrants working “standard hours”, in other words, 52 weeks/year and 60 hours/week, earning about 200 Canadian dollars/year.

I cannot at present locate William’s emigration from England in the passenger indexes.

William (24 and single) and Ben (22 and single) appear to be living with the Bailey family at 62 Dixon Street, Limehouse at the time of the 1911 Census [courtesy Debbie Hillyer (nee Bailey)] indicating that William’s emigration was 1911-12.

Rebecca Faux

Rebecca married William Leslie in the summer of 1900 and the pair is recorded in the 1901 census at 65 Alston Road, Edmonton, and William's occupation is Gas Fitter. The first three children were born in Edmonton district, Lilian Mary (1901), Rosina Emily (1906) and William (1910). The fourth, Thelma, was born following emigration to Canada, thence to the United States of America.

Rebecca Leslie is recorded in the 1920 US census (7th January 1920) in Cuyahoga, just outside Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband and three children, Rosina (age 13), William (age 10) and Thelma (age 6). The husband is a machinist and a manufacturing plant. The family arrived in the United States in 1914.

Rebecca Leslie is again recorded in the 1930 US census at Cuyahoga with her husband and two children, William (age 20) and Thelma (age 17). William was born in England and Thelma in Canada. The family are recorded as arriving in 1913. I assume that the family arrived in Canada in 1913 (confirmed by the letter below) and maybe went to the United States in 1914. The husband was a machinist at a Nuts & Bolts company and his son was a Telegraph Clerk at the Telegraph Company. Thelma was still at school.

Shortly after the death of his wife, William Henry James ("Will"), cousin of the four expats', started to contact relatives. He wrote to Rebecca in the United States. Rebecca replied - the letter is dated January 13th and she says that her age is 73, the same age as Will, with the birthday the previous October. The best guess, therefore, is that the year of the letter is 1952. The letter was passed to Will's son Benjamin Joseph who provided a copy to Ben Faux of Harlow. It is reproduced in full here:

Dear Will,

Thank you for your nice letter, I was very pleased to hear from you. I get lots of letters from the Leslie family but not many from the Faux family. Now the first thing I must tell you is that I am Rebecca, your father and my father were brothers, so we are cousins. Perhaps you remember two young girls came to your house on Odessa Road one Sunday afternoon, that was many years ago. Those girls were my sister Elizabeth and myself. I saw Beatrice and Nancy and a young boy on that visit, and I think that must have been you. My father was your Uncle Alf, he passed on at thirty eight years old, leaving my mother with seven young children. Uncle Ben, your father, came to the funeral. That was the first time I saw Uncle Ben, I don't think our families did much visiting, but we did live next door to Uncle Harry. I remember Uncle Ted, do you remember any of these uncles? My dear father passed away so young that it seemed we didn't have him very long, but what a wonderful memory I have of him, kind and gentle, yet I think those boys had a hard time after their mother passed away. I don't think grandfather Faux bothered very much about the boys. I was thinking one day not so long ago that the Faux family was dying out, but I have two brothers Alfred and William living in Canada. They each have a son William. Elizabeth passed away two years ago. She and her family also lived in Canada. When we

were young we lived on St. Paul's Road; you might know that. When Will and I married we lived on Lady-Smith Road Tottenham, just off of Park Lane. Will worked at the Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Works. Just one year before the first world war started we decided to go to Canada. My two brothers and sister were already there. Will worked at the steel plant there for a while when his foreman told him he has a better position in America and was leaving Canada. Will went along with him and so that's how we came to America. We missed those two terrible wars, how I worried over the folks at home. We would sit glued to the radio then be upset at the news. Let us hope and pray that there will be no war with Russia.

Now for the sad news of Sarah's passing. It is hard to part when you have lived together so many years and worse still when it is so sudden. My brother Alfred has lost his wife, he is 78 years old. He lives all alone, but like you he has his family all living close to him. What comfort our children can be when we need them. My eldest daughter, Lillian, has just got a letter from Beatrice and she said you were writing to me, but I had already got your letter. I have just written a letter to Claude. He don't seem to be getting any better. It is such a lingering ailment. My father died from the same cause, but his was what they called Galloping Consumption in these days.

I see by your Golden Wedding notice you are the same age as I am. I was 73 last October.

I hope you write again for it is a pleasure to hear from the Faux family.

Sincerely, Rebecca and family.

Rebecca was the fourth sibling to seek a new life in Canada. Notwithstanding the evidence above, records (findmypast.com) have subsequently shown that Rebecca and her family sailed on 13th April 1911 from Liverpool to Halifax, NS, on the Victorian, an Allan Line steamship. The family were bound for St. John, NB, and there were 1512 passengers on board.

The Victorian was steam ship built in 1904 for the Allan Line in Belfast, Ireland by Workman, Clark & Co. Ltd. At over 10,000 tons and 520ft x 60.4ft it was one of the biggest in the fleet.



The RMS Victorian

It was taken over by the Canadian Pacific line in 1917 and was laid up in 1926 following a collision with another ship. The brochure published in 1907 states:

“The Turbine Steamers VICTORIAN and VIRGINIAN have proved so popular and are now so well known, on both sides of the Atlantic, that it is scarcely necessary to refer to their splendid accommodation for all classes of passengers here. In the three Seasons which they have been running, 30,000 persons have patronized them, and to those who have tested the Turbine Steamers we can safely leave the matter of their publicity. As they were the first Ocean Steamers of this new method of propulsion, so also have they so far proved to be the most popular of any Steamers built for the Line, both as regards their speed, the regularity of their passages, their freedom from Vibration, and the comforts found on board.”

<http://www.steamships.org/ships/allanline/brochures/1907allanlinebrochure.htm>

The menu in 1907 in the second saloon is also revealed...

2nd SALOON MENU

R. M. S. VICTORIAN. SUNDAY, JULY 21st, 1907.

Breakfast

Strawberries
Oatmeal Porridge
Fresh Milk or Maple Syrup
Fried Plaice
Grilled Ham Fried Eggs
Broiled Sausage
Curried Chicken and Rice
Dry Hash

Fresh Rolls Toast
White and Graham Bread
Cocoa to order

Jam Marmalade

TEA COFFEE Luncheon

Barley Broth

Beef Steak Pie
Corned Beef and Vegetables
Cold Roast Beef

Baked Potatoes Boiled Rice

Sago Pudding Peach Tart
Salad
Biscuits Cheese

TEA COFFEE

Dinner

Spring Soup

Boiled Cod, Parsley Sauce
Stewed Rabbit
Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding
Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce
Ox Tongue
Boiled Potatoes
Cauliflowers

Plum Pudding, Brandy Sauce
Apple Tart
Ice Cream
Dessert
Biscuits Cheese

TEA COFFEE