

Kitchen Family of Gaspe

By Andrew Patterson

Cumberland was a small county in the north-western part of England, bordering on Scotland and facing the Irish Sea. In 1974 it, along with a couple of other counties, combined to become the new county of Cumbria which is as the Lake District. Cumberland's position made it the scene of constant invasion by Norsemen, Vikings and Scots, and later, the region endured constant battles between the English and Scottish. Only after the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 did the region become closely affiliated with England and gradually became somewhat civilized.

The Kitchen roots were well established in the southern part of the county, as records show that the Kitchen family had resided there for some 250 years. After the "Dissolution of the monasteries," around 1540, King Henry VIII disbanded the Catholic institutions and sold the properties.¹ It would appear that one of these properties, referred to as "Grounds," came to be known as Kitchen Grounds. Since Irton parish registers don't exist before 1680 we know little of the earliest inhabitants. It is believed that Christopher



Kitchen Ground, Irton



St. Paul's Church, Irton

Kitchen (circa 1580-1622), a Yeoman farmer, was one of the earliest members of the Kitchen family living in Irton.²

In the 13th century the Augustinian monks founded St. Paul's Church in Irton. The present-day structure was constructed in 1857, replacing the medieval building. It is very unusual, situated on a ridge in a rural area surrounded by scattered farms and hamlets east of the village of Holmrook.³ There is no central village in Irton. In the churchyard stands the famous Irton Cross, dating from the 9th century.⁴

Subsistence farming was the only way to survive outside the large urban centers in the

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_monasteries

² <http://rumbutter.info/gen-cumb-nr-fam-kitchen/1>

³ <https://www.britainexpress.com/counties/cumbria/churches/irton.htm>

⁴ <http://irton.southcalder.org/>

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Evidently the Kitchin descendants were numerous, as in Irton and the surrounding area alone, there are thousands of birth records for people with the name Kitchin, usually spelled with an “I.” The forefathers of the Kitchin family of Gaspe resided in this region of north-western England.

Below left, is a map of England, showing Cumberland County in red. To the right is a detailed map of Cumberland County, and the red dot is the approximate location of Irton.



John Suddard, likely of Cumberland County or the neighboring Lancashire County, was ordained into the ministry of the Anglican Church. He was assigned to Lower Canada (now Quebec) under Bishop Mountain. For some time, the Gaspe region had been requesting a minister because the English population was growing significantly. In 1820 Rev. Suddard was assigned to the Gaspe area and took up residence in Gaspe Basin.⁵ Shortly thereafter, John’s brother, Thomas Suddard with his wife, **Bridget Kitchin** (Born about 1790), and their five children settled in Gaspe as well.

Around the same time, four other people with the family name “Kitchin” arrived in Gaspe. They were **Isaac Kitchin** (Born about 1795), **Elizabeth Kitchin** (Born 2 Apr 1807), **Jane Kitchin** (Born 28 March 1808), and **Hannah Kitchen** (Born 29 April 1808). From the parish records of Cumberland County, it is clear that Elizabeth, Jane, and Hannah are daughters of Isaac Kitchin and Eleanor Borrowdale.⁶ Only the father is listed on the birth certificates of Isaac and Bridget, though, in both cases the father’s name was Isaac Kitchin. Most genealogists include all five people in family, but I was unable to locate any concrete evidence. For the balance of this report,

⁵ Gaspe of Yesteryear, Article 252 – Records of Rev. John Suddard. Available in the history section of GoGaspe.com

⁶ "England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch*

though it hasn't been confirmed, they will be assumed to be one family, and the spelling "Kitchen," (with an "e") will be used, as it was adopted upon their arrival in Gaspé. The complete family is found in Appendix 1

Since most of these Kitchen arrivals were girls, it wasn't long before the Kitchen name was lost in Gaspé, but without a doubt, many Gaspésians have descended from this family. All five married Gaspésians, and had a total of 43 children. An excellent source for tracing your Kitchen ancestry to this family is "Our Gaspé Roots," found in the history section of GoGaspé.com.

Tracing their ancestors has proven very difficult, if not impossible. If one searches the multitude of family trees on Ancestry.com or other sources, they will frequently find several generations of ancestors listed. But either the records they used have eluded me, or these researchers have not properly checked their sources. From weeks of searching parish records, it is certain that the parents of Elizabeth, Jane and Hannah are indeed Isaac Kitchen and Eleanor Borrowdale. But then the trouble begins.

In or near Irton, there were at least four children born in the early 1760's with the name "Isaac Kitchen," who could be the father of Isaac. Selecting the right one would require locating a surviving original document from 250 years ago. The Marriage Bond⁷ of Isaac and Eleanor could be the key. [see Appendix 2] The marriage Bond begins, "Know all men by these presents, that we Isaac Kitchen and John Borradaile Yeoman and both of Irton, in the Parish of Irton and County of Cumberland..." This document is dated "the twenty eighth day of November in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight," which is about a week before their marriage. It goes on to say that Isaac was "aged 23 years and upwards" and Eleanor was "aged 23 years." Isaac Kitchen signed the bond with clear cursive writing, demonstrating that he could read and write, and John Borradaile signed with his mark. Despite the fact that all the family trees I have viewed on Ancestry.com show Isaac's father as Henry, and Eleanor's father as William, this marriage bond would imply that their fathers were Isaac and John respectively.

If we accept that as being correct, then the birth of our Isaac Kitchen could be 10 Nov 1765 in Gosforth, Cumberland, England, son of John Kitchen.⁸ That would make him 23 years of age when he married, and his father, John would match the marriage bond. Without further investigation no firm conclusion can be made, except that the Gaspésian Kitchen descendants almost certainly descended from the "Kitchens" who purchased "Kitchen Grounds," located in northwest England.

Eleanor Borrowdale is equally difficult to trace. The only matching birth record the I've located on either Ancestry or Family Search, is that of Eleanor, daughter of John "Borradal" and Margaret from 1771 in Westmorland. That would make her only 17 at the time of her marriage to Isaac. Since the marriage bond specifically states her age at the time was 23, it remains doubtful that this is her birth record. As mentioned earlier, most others who have searched for answers to this puzzle have assumed that Eleanor's father was William. So, the mystery remains.

⁷ Ancestry.com. *Lancashire, England, Church of England Marriage Bonds of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, 1611-1861* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2021.

⁸ Ancestry.com. *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

It can be surmised that the Borrowdale family originated in the Borrowdale Valley, centrally located in the mountainous region of Cambria. This area is famous for tourism, with attractions like the Bowder Stone, Castlerigg Stone Circle, and the Borrowdale Yews, enticing visitors from the more populous south.

The Castlerigg circle would remind one of the more famous Stonehenge of southern England. It is a ring of 38 stones within a ring of mountains.⁹ It was created by Neolithic farming communities around 4,500 years ago. The Borrowdale Yews are three ancient twisted trees that stand out in the Borrowdale Valley as being very unusual. Together, these three curiosities have attracted tourists to this beautiful mountainous region of northern England for centuries.



The Bowder Stone



Descendants of these five children of Isaac and Eleanor would now number in the thousands, though the family name was lost. Despite the fact that life would have been as harsh as in their homeland, most remained in Gaspé and raised large families. Appendix 3 provides a list of the 43 grandchildren of Isaac and Eleanor.

⁹ <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/borrowdale-and-derwent-water/history-in-the-borrowdale-valley>

Appendix 1

Marriage Bond of Isaac Kitchen and Eleanor Borrowdale

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ARR 11 K 1782



Know all Men by these Presents, that We Isaac Kitchen & John Boradale Hermin both of Leton in the Parish of Leton & County of Cumberland

are held and firmly bound unto the Right Reverend Father in God William by Divine Permission, Lord Bishop of Chester, in two hundred Pounds of good and lawful Money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said Right Reverend Father, or to his certain Attorney, his Executors, Administrators or Assigns: To which Payment, well and truly to be made, we oblige ourselves, and each of us, by himself, for the whole, our, and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated the 17th day of November in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty Eight

THE Condition of this Obligation is such that if there shall not hereafter appear any lawful Let or Impediment, by reason of any Pre-contract, Consanguinity, Affinity or any other just Cause whatsoever, but that Isaac Kitchen aforesaid & Eleanor Boradale of Leton Spinster

may lawfully marry together; and that there is not any Suit depending before any Judge Ecclesiastical or Civil, for or concerning any such Precontract; and that the Consent of the Parents or others the Governors of the said Parties be thereunto first had and obtained, and that they cause their said Marriage to be openly solemnized in the Face of the Parish Church of Leton

between the Hours of Eight and Twelve in the Forenoon, and do and shall save harmless and keep indemnified the above-named Lord Bishop, his Commissary, his Surrogates, and all other his Officers and successors in Offices, for and concerning the Premises, then this Obligation to be void or else in force.

Sealed and delivered in the Presence of

L. L. Church Isaac Kitchen
his
John Boradale
Mark

Appendix 2

The family of Isaac Kitchen and Eleanor Borrowdale

(as indicated on their birth record found on FamilySearch.com)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Place birth was recorded</u>
Sarah Kitchin	Baptized 14 Apr 1798 Died Dec 1871	Irton, Cumberland, England Cumberland, England
Mary Kitchin	Christened 24 Nov 1800	Irton, Cumberland, England
Eleanor (Nelly) Kitchin	Born 15 May 1805	Irton, Cumberland, England
Betty (Elizabeth) Kitchin	Born 2 Apr 1807	Irton, Cumberland, England
Jane Kitchin	Baptized 28 Mar 1808	Corney, Cumberland, England
Hannah Kitchin	Christened 29 Apr 1810	Corney, Cumberland, England
Joseph Kitchin	Born 13 Dec 1812	Irton, Cumberland, England

Additionally, these births can be found in various sources. Some are actual birth records with the father listed as Isaac and no mother indicated, and others were simply found in family trees on Ancestry or elsewhere. They all require further research to draw any firm conclusions.

Isaac Kitchen	Born about 1890	Irton, Cumberland, England
Sally Kitchen	Born 1791	Irton, Cumberland, England
Bridget Kitchen	Born 13 Jul 1794	Irton, Cumberland, England
Henry Kitchen	Born 24 Oct 1801	Irton, Cumberland, England

Appendix 3

The five “Kitchen” families of Gaspe are as follows:¹⁰

Isaac Kitchen married [1] Mary Poole of Manchester, Cumberland, England
Henry Sidney Kitchen B 23 Jan 1825

[2] Sarah Simpson of Gaspe
Mary Kitchen B26 Jul 1829

Bridget Kitchen and Thomas Suddard of Corney, Cumberland, England
[the first five children were born in Cumberland County, England]

John Suddard	B 13 Jan 1813	D 1895, age 82
Elizabeth Suddard	B 20 Feb 1813	M Nicholas Mullin
Ann ‘Nancy’ Suddard	B circa 1816	M John Adams
Frances Edith Suddard	B 1818	uncertain
Thomas Suddard	B 1820	M Jane Coffin
Henry Suddard	B 12 Sep 1822	M Sarah Grant
Ellen Bertha Suddard	B 15 Oct 1825	M Joseph Tripp
Edward Alexander Suddard	B 21 Dec 1826	M [1] Sarah Harbour [2] Eliza Grant
William Suddard	B 14 Aug 1829	M Christie Harbour
Mary Jane Suddard	B 13 Aug 1831	M Jonah Mabe
Joseph Eden Suddard	B 10 Mar 1834	M Sophia Gaumond
Samuel Kimbel Suddard	B 13 Jul 1836	M Mary Coffin
James Suddard	B 02 Apr 1839	M Melinda Harbour

Elizabeth Kitchen (Betty) M [1] John Bennett

Mary Bennett B 29 Jul 1829

M [2] Daniel Patterson of Gaspe

Margaret Ellen Patterson	B 17 Oct 1830	M Richard Miller
Mary Sophia Patterson	B 27 Dec 1832	M Benjamin Bechervaise
Julia Ann	B 13 Mar 1835	M William Davis
John Douglas	B 20 Feb 1838	D 1862, age 24
Laughlin James Patterson	B 31 Mar 1840	M [1] Margaret Williamson [2] Emma Thompson

¹⁰ From “Our Gaspe Roots,” available from the history section of GoGaspe.com

Jane Kitchen and Adam Williamson of Corney, Cumberland, England

William Williamson	B 25 Nov 1826	M Eliza Harbour
Mary Ann Williamson	B 29 Nov 1828	M Jean McRae
Jane Williamson	B 13 Jun 1831	M George Thompson
Ellen Julia Williamson	B 19 Dec 1833	D 1856, age 23
George Williamson	B 16 Nov 1836	M Elizabeth Cunning
Henry Eden Williamson	B 10 May 1839	M Julia Miller
Margaret Elizabeth Williamson	B 07 Feb 1842	M Laughlin Patterson
Sarah Caroline Williamson	B 29 Mar 1849	D 1849, age 3
James Edward Williamson	B 1847	D 1856, age 9

Hannah Kitchen and John Patterson of Sunny Bank, Gaspe

Henry William Patterson	B 01 Aug 1828	M (1) Mary Clark M (2) Ellen Bechervaise
Edmund John Patterson	B 29 Nov 1829	M Martha Patterson
Margaret Jane Patterson	B 31 Mar 1831	M James Patterson
Maria Patterson	B 20 Sep 1832	M James Palmer
James Thomas Patterson	B 23 Mar 1835	M Ellen Patterson
George Felix Patterson	B 12 Oct 1838	M Anne Coleman
Peter Benjamin Patterson	B 26 May 1840	D 1914, age 73
Mary Ann Patterson	B 02 Apr 1842	D 1929, age 87
Charles Robert Patterson	B 01 Sep 1843	M Margaret Annett
Elinor Sophia Patterson	B 28 Jul 1834	D 1853, age 19
Julia Isabella Patterson	B Aug 1850	D 1857, age 7
Martha Emmaline Patterson	B 1852	D 1857, age 5
Albert Patterson	B 08 Jan 1848	M Margaret Ascah