

JOHN WILLIAM “JACK” KETCHESON UE, PhD

Inducted 2017 September 9

John William “Jack” Ketcheson was born November 8, 1918 on the family farm near the village of Wallbridge in Sidney Township, Ontario. His Ketcheson ancestors had resided on that property since 1800.

On September 23, 1942 Jack married Betty Jean Foster, born June 7, 1923. Both Jack and Betty could claim Ketcheson ancestry. Jack passed away on May 2, 2017 and Betty followed on June 18. They were both interred in the Ketcheson Cemetery, which is located on the family farm. They were survived by daughter Ann, and sons Larry and Bill as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Branch Charter Member Griffin Ketcheson UE is a younger brother of Jack.



Jack graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph in 1944 and followed that in 1956 with a Ph.D. He spent forty years as a professor and researcher at the University of Guelph, retiring to a farm in Sidney Township, Hastings County where they specialized in asparagus production. Jack belonged to numerous organizations including a term as President of the International Soil Tillage Research Organization, the Ontario Institute of Agrologists and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He was a Past Master of Waverly Masonic Lodge in Guelph and a member of Bay of Quinte Branch UELAC.

Jack was also very active in the Ketcheson Family Association, serving for many years as its president. In addition, he assisted with the large revision to the Ketcheson Family History book published in 2000. He has been described, “as a balance between academic expertise and grass roots practicality”. Jack was a direct descendant of William Ketcheson UE. William was from Yorkshire, England but a resident in New York prior to the Revolutionary War. William Ketcheson served initially in Emmerich’s Chasseurs and then the British Legion. He settled in Nova Scotia for a time, but was in Upper Canada early enough to be one of the Founders of Old Hay Church. Jack was also descended from Philip Roblin UE. Perhaps not as well-known was his descent from Capt. John W. Meyers UE and John R. Bleecker UE.

Jack Ketcheson was inducted into our Loyal Americans Hall of Honour by our President Peter Johnson at our branch meeting on September 9, 2017.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thanks to Peter Johnson UE for the above article on Jack Ketcheson.