

NICHOLSON-MCKIM FAMILY

by John Lynn Bell

This report of Lynn Bell's March, 1997 presentation about his 3rd-great-grandmother first appeared in *Cataraqui Loyalist Town Crier* (May, 1997), 16(3):3-4.



Nancy Nicholson was born in Cambridge, New York in 1785 to William and Comfort Nicholson. By age eighteen in 1803 Nancy was married to William McKim, son of Sgt. James McKim of Jessup's Rangers, U.E.L.

The McKims had lived nearby the Nicholsons. After their Loyalist trek in 1786, they settled in McIntyre's Corners just north of Bath. Their son William, 17 years later, returned to Cambridge to marry Nancy. They then travelled up Lake Champlain and on to Sorel, and up the St. Lawrence in the spring of 1804. Among their few possessions then was Nancy's table, a 20-inch Pembroke-Hepplewhite table made in Baltimore,

Maryland between 1790 and 1800 and given to her as a wedding present. Nancy and William too lived at McIntyre's Corners and then moved to tenth township, later named Selby, north of Napanee.

The venturesome spirit of these McKim ancestors appears in several details. Before 1813 William and Nancy and their baby made one more winter trip back to Cambridge. They travelled by horse and open sleigh along the St. Lawrence to Montreal and then south to Cambridge where they settled their affairs. Nancy closed her bank account and on the return journey held the baby in her arms and kept the thousand pounds from the bank tucked into her bosom. William tested the weakened river ice by walking ahead of the horse.

Nancy's table passed down the generations of McKims, Switzers and Bells until received by Lynn's grandmother, Olive Switzer Bell about 1940. Many coats of paint left it chocolate brown in colour. When this was stripped off they found this 20-inch top, beautifully crafted table was solid mahogany inlaid with maple and walnut. To quote Burns "O what a glorious sight--If only it could talk!"