

# *Suzanne Davidson*

“engineering and adventure”



Suzanne Elizabeth Davidson U.E., B.Sc., P. Eng.

Suzanne Davidson married Eugene Herbert Peters in 1980 and they have 2 children; Lisa Marie Peters and Isaac George David Peters shown below. Photos courtesy of Suzanne Davidson



Suzanne was born in Toronto, Ontario and grew up in Mississauga. Upon graduation from high school, she went to university at Queen's in Kingston, Ontario, where she studied Chemical Engineering. During university, she had summer jobs in Falconbridge, Kanata and Fort McMurray, Alberta. After graduation, she decided to search for a job in Alberta since that was where her last summer job had been. The opportunities for Chemical Engineers were in Toronto, Montreal, Sarnia and the west. She chose the west. After a couple of months of searching, a small consulting engineering firm hired her and she worked on small projects at DPH Engineering for a year and a half, then moved to a larger firm, MHG and worked on the first expansion of the Suncor Oil Sands plant in 1979. She was there until the down turn in the economy in the early 1980s. She was out of work for nearly two years, during which time she gave birth to her daughter. She then went back to work at MHG which had become Monenco when Lisa was about six months old. Shortly after going back to work she requested to work part time and worked part time for over fifteen years at Monenco, Optima, Lavalin and Delta Engineering. She has worked on a number of gas, chemical and oil sands plants over the years. She also had some times when work was slow and she was at home with the children. Over the years, Delta Engineering became Jacobs Canada due to a number of take-overs.

Suzanne was also active in the Parent Council of the elementary school that her children attended and after being president of the parent council, she became involved in the Community Association. When Lisa started playing soccer at age six, Suzanne started coaching. She continued coaching soccer for about 15 years, mainly for her daughter but then later for her son. She volunteered on the board of the soccer association and helped with the organization of teams. After coaching for a couple of years, Suzanne also started playing and has now been playing for twenty years. Suzanne started skiing (both cross country and downhill), hiking, and continued canoeing after moving to Calgary and continues to do so in 2012 when she can.<sup>1</sup>

## LOYALIST ANCESTOR INFORMATION

Suzanne has 2 certificates proving 2 Loyalist ancestors. They will be listed separately. She also has other ancestors, which she does not have official certificates for as of yet. One additional lineage is included.

**First Loyalist ancestor is as follows<sup>2</sup>:**

Generation 1: **Suzanne Elizabeth Davidson**

Generation 2: **Beatrice Elizabeth Maclean Howard** (b. 1929; m. 1953)

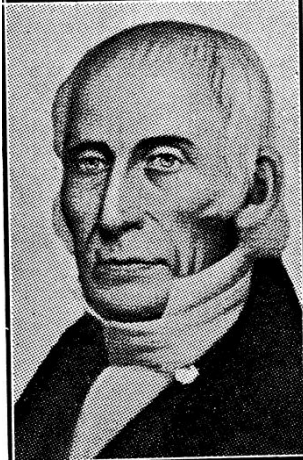
Generation 3: **Emily Caroline Alexandria Merritt** (b. 1903; m. 1926; d. 1986)

Generation 4: **Louis Alexander Merritt** (b.1872, m 1898. d 1904)

Generation 5: **Jedidiah Prendergast Merritt** (b. 1820; m. 1864; d. 1900)

Generation 6: **William Hamilton Merritt** (b.1793; m. 1815; d. 1862)

Generation 7: **Thomas Merritt Jr.** (b. 1759; m. 1781; d. 1842)



Thomas Merritt Jr. from a portrait<sup>3</sup> about 1820 Photo courtesy of Suzanne Davidson

Thomas was born in Bedford, Westchester County, New York. He was educated as a Physician at Harvard University, according to his memoirs.<sup>4</sup> After the disbanding of Emmerick's Chasseurs,<sup>5</sup> Thomas transferred to the Queen's Rangers<sup>6</sup> as a cornet under John Graves Simcoe, the future lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. After initially settling in 1783 in St. John, N.B. with his father and brothers, he returned to America<sup>7</sup> where a number of his children were born in Bedford, N.Y.

Thomas Jr. and his wife, Mary, with his 2 surviving children, settled in 1796<sup>8</sup> at Twelve Mile Creek near the town of Niagara, Upper Canada, where St Catharine's, Ontario is now. He served as Sheriff of Niagara District from 1803 to 1820.<sup>9</sup>

Generation 8: **Thomas Merritt Sr.** (b. 1729; d.1821)

Thomas Merritt Sr. was born in Westchester County New York<sup>10</sup>. In 1775 he signed a protest against the rebellion and afterwards took refuge in New York City with the British Army. He arrived in Parrtown (St. John, N.B.) in the July fleet of 1783 on the ship Montague<sup>11</sup> with two sons<sup>4</sup>, David Daniel and Nehemiah. Both were successful in St. John, N.B.

### More about the Merritts

Thomas Merritt Jr. was part of the battles in South Carolina. He was taken prisoner near Georgetown and managed to escape in April 1781. After this he was offered a Lieutenancy, but declined the offer.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas Merritt Sr. was a Major of the Provincial Dragoons<sup>12</sup> in the battle of Queenston Heights and was a pall bearer for the funeral of General Isaac Brock.<sup>4</sup>

Photo below is of Wm. Hamilton Merritt (circa 1850) Photo courtesy of Suzanne Davidson

Thomas junior's son, William Hamilton Merritt, was born in Bedford, N.Y. in 1793. In 1809, he started farming his father's land grant at Twelve Mile Creek and opened a general store. He, along with his father participated in the battle at Queenston Heights in 1812 as part of the Dragoons, who were a cavalry unit mainly used for communications. Later at Lundy's Lane, William Hamilton Merritt was captured and held as a prisoner until the end of the war. At age 19, he was made a captain of 50 members of the provincial dragoons. William was also a mill owner, promoted the building of the first Welland Canal that opened in 1829 and was elected to the Upper Canada Assembly (1832-1860) for Haldimand and Lincoln. In 1850-1851 he was Chief Commissioner of Public Works.<sup>13</sup>



**Second Loyalist ancestor is as follows<sup>14</sup>:**

Generation 1: **Suzanne Elizabeth Davidson**

Generation 2: **Beatrice Elizabeth Maclean Howard** (b. 1929; m. 1953)

Generation 3: **Vaughan Maclean Howard** (b.1892; m. 1926; d.1961) married to Emily Caroline Alexandria Merritt (b. 1903; m. 1926; d. 1986)

Generation 4: **Allan Maclean Howard** (b. 1852; m. 1890; d. 1934)

Generation 5: **Allan Maclean Howard** (b. 1825; m. 1852; d. 1908)

Generation 6: **Salome Mclean** (b. 1791; m. 1822, d. 1858)

Generation 7: **Archibald Mclean** (b. about 1754; d. 1830)

Archibald Mclean is Suzanne's 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. He was an ensign with the New York Volunteers in 1777, a lieutenant in 1779, a captain in 1781, and was injured at the battle of Eutaw Springs, S.C. He settled in 1784 in Nashwaak, County of Sunbury, New Brunswick,<sup>15</sup> where he was an active militia officer and a justice of the peace. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly for York County, New Brunswick for about 16 years. Archibald was born about 1753 on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

Archibald's son-in-law, James Scott Howard (photo on left taken about 1835)<sup>16</sup> built a home with a post



office in 1833 that is now being used as a museum in Toronto. He was the first postmaster of Toronto until the 1837 Rebellion, when he was relieved of his duties by Sir Francis Bond Head for suspicion of sympathizing with the rebellion. After an appeal, the conclusion was that he was unjustly removed but he did not get the job back although he was eventually made Treasurer. From 1842-1866, he was Treasurer of the Home District, he was Secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and served on the Board of Education from 1846 to his death in 1866<sup>17</sup>. His son, Allan, was President of the Toronto UEL Branch as was his grandson, Vaughan. Vaughan also formed the Governor Simcoe Branch of the UELAC in 1933. Allan Maclean Howard was President of the United Empire Loyalists of Ontario (the precursor to the current UELAC) in 1900. Vaughan Maclean Howard was President of the UELAC from 1930 to 1933<sup>18</sup>.



Vaughan Maclean Howard and Emily (Merritt) Howard (dated in 1930s)  
Photo courtesy of Suzanne Davidson

**Suzanne's third Loyalist ancestor (still to be proven) is as follows <sup>19</sup>:**

Generation 1: **Suzanne Elizabeth Davidson**

Generation 2: **Beatrice Elizabeth Maclean Howard** (b. 1929; m. 1953)

Generation 3: **Emily Caroline Alexandria Merritt** (b. 1903; m. 1926; d. 1986)

Generation 4: **Bertha Wilson Gregory** (b.1874, m 1898. d 1963)

Generation 5: **Caroline Pawling** (b. 1850; m. 1873; d. 1935)

Generation 6: **Nathan Henry Pawling** (b.1819; m. 1844; d. 1899) married Matilda Secord (photo below)

Generation 7: **Henry Pawling** (b. 1787; m. c.1818; d. c. 1847)

Generation 8: **Jesse Pawling** (b. 1756; m. ?; d. c. 1805)





Nathan Henry Pawling about 1860

Photo courtesy Suzanne Davidson

Jesse Pawling was born in Pennsylvania. He and his brother Benjamin made their way to Quebec by boat and foot after escaping Pennsylvania to Nova Scotia and joined the British forces in 1777. Jesse served as quartermaster with Butler's Rangers. He settled in Grantham Township near the current Port Dalhousie with his brother in 1794.<sup>20</sup> He was registered as a Provincial Land Surveyor.<sup>19</sup>

A brother of Caroline Pawling and son of Nathan Henry Pawling, Henry Yale Pawling was the first mayor of Wainwright, Alberta in 1910.

## EMIGRATION WEST OF ONTARIO

In late June of 1977 Suzanne Elizabeth Davidson was the first of her immediate family to leave Ontario and move to Alberta.

She came to find work as a junior Chemical Engineer.

Suzanne comments, "Initially I lived in apartments, one by Chinook Centre and one in Scarboro. I also lived with some friends in Silver Springs. After marriage I moved to the house my husband had bought in Whitehorn".<sup>1</sup>

In 2013-14, Suzanne lives in Calgary with her family and is a Professional Engineer working as a Process Engineer with the consulting firm of Jacobs Canada.<sup>1</sup>

Photos of homes and monuments of Suzanne's family shown below are all courtesy of Suzanne Davidson.



Above left: Statue of William Hamilton Merritt in St. Catharines Ontario



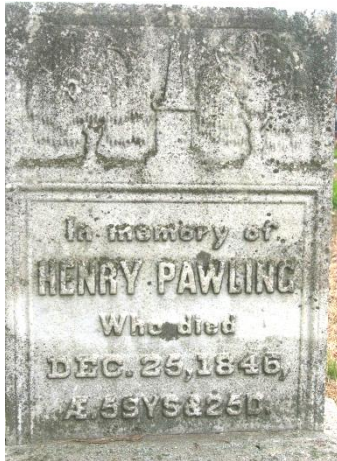
Above right: Former home of William Hamilton Merritt and his son Jedediah and in 2013, the studios of CKTB radio in St. Catharines, Ontario (Oak Hill, corner of St. Paul St. West and Yates St.)



Above left: Former home of James Scott Howard (late 1833-1837) and in 2013, the York Post Office, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario



Above right: Former home of Allan Maclean Howard late 1800s), Maclean Ave. and Queen St., Toronto Ontario



Inscription on above stone: *In Memory of Salome The beloved and much loved wife of James Scott Howard Treasurer of the United Counties of York & Peel And Eldest daughter of The late Captain Archibald McLean Of St Mary's Fredericton, New Brunswick Born 5th, April 1791 died 25th February 1858 Asleep in Jesus Also of Archibald John Son of the said James and Salome Born 10th April 1830, died 27th December 1834*

Top left: Henry Pawling monument, St John's Church, Port Dalhousie, Ontario

Top right: Merritt monument and burial plots at Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines

Bottom left: Tombstone of Allan Maclean Howard (1825 – 1908) and Allan Maclean Howard (1852 – 1930) and their wives at St. James Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario

Bottom right: Tombstone of Salome (Maclean) Howard 1791 – 1858 at St. James Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario



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