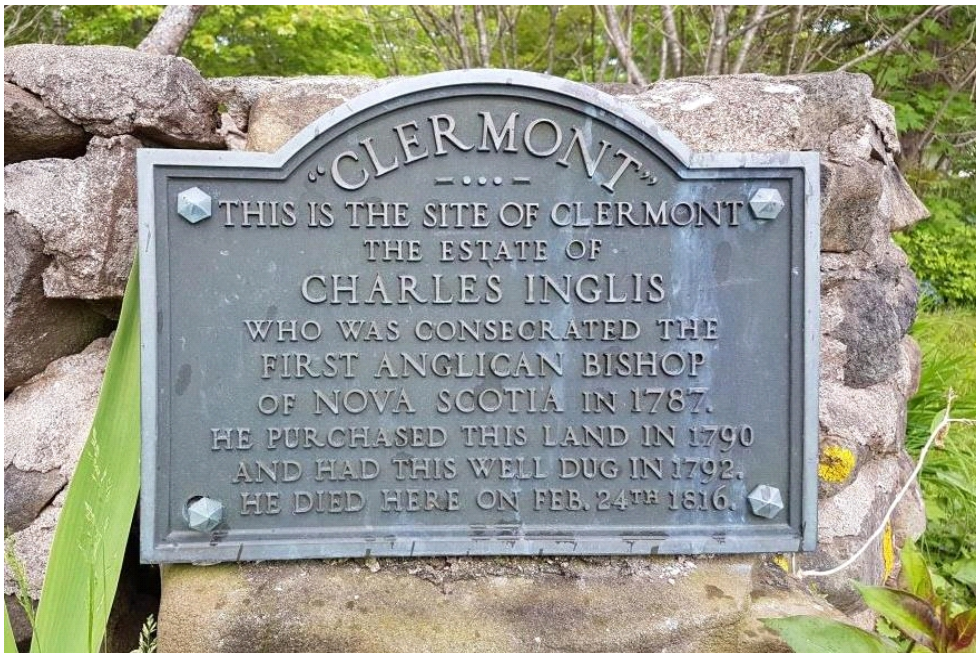


Clermont & a Nova Scotia Heritage Apple - The Bishop's Pippin

By Brian McConnell, UE

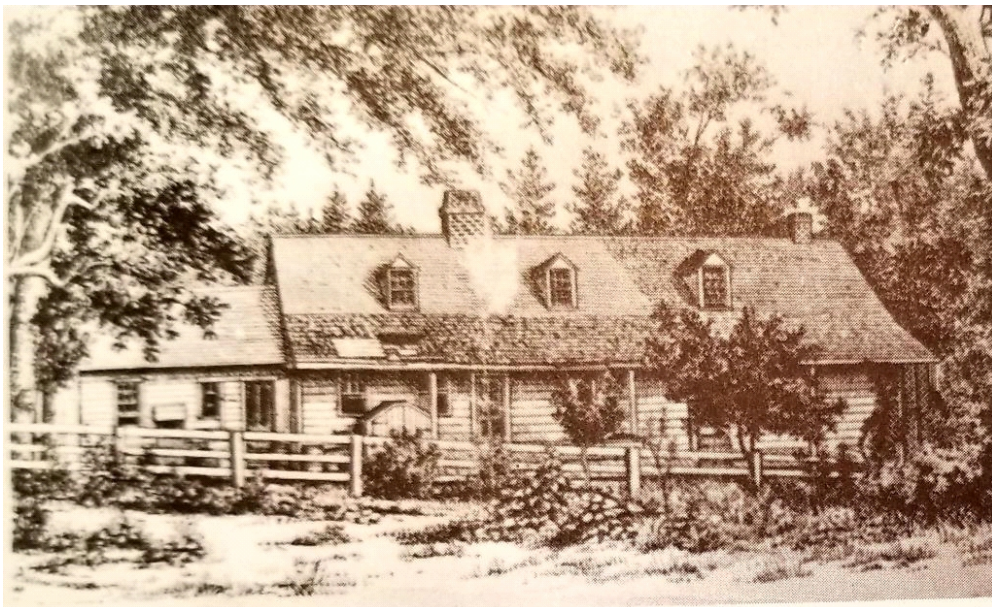
At Kingston, Nova Scotia is a plaque attached to an old well showing the location of *Clermont*. It was the summer home of Bishop Charles Inglis, known for producing a Nova Scotia heritage apple - the Bishop's Pippin. Nearby are Clairmont Road and Clairmont Provincial Park, spelled differently but rooted in the name Inglis chose for his home. (1) He left England on August 26, 1787 to sail to Nova Scotia upon being appointed that year the first Anglican Bishop of the Province with jurisdiction initially also over Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, and Newfoundland.



Plaque for Clermont at Kingston, Nova Scotia

Bishop Charles Inglis was born in 1734 in Glencolumkille, County Donegal, Ireland and came to America in about 1756 to teach in Pennsylvania. (2) After becoming a Deacon in the Anglican Church and serving for several years in Delaware he joined Trinity Church in New York as a Rector. When the American Revolution began he remained loyal to Great Britain and spoke out in favour of support for the government and the Crown. He left New York in 1783 when the Loyalists evacuated and spent time in England before his appointment as Bishop.(3)

After Inglis took up his position in Halifax as Bishop he established a summer home on lands he had purchased near Aylesford in Kings County. He called this home Clermont after a manor house on the Hudson River in New York that he was familiar with from his time spent in America. The home was originally shared with a tenant family, however, after finding the space insufficient he built a separate dwelling for them. The home was built as a one and a half storey farmhouse, with sloping roofs and dormer windows. He also erected a barn, laid out an extensive garden, and planted an orchard with fruit trees that he imported from New York. (4)



Clermont, the Aylesford residence of Bishop Inglis

Clermont was part of lands amounting to over 10,000 acres owned by Bishop Inglis in the Annapolis Valley, a portion of which he purchased and others that he was granted as a United Empire Loyalist. He leased out a portion of his lands to tenants who like himself had recently arrived in Nova Scotia, some of whom were also like himself originally from Ireland like the Duggans and also one Black family, the Browns.

According to the diary of Bishop Inglis he wrote on October 29, 1798 "Transplanted 32 apple trees in orchard out of the nursery in the North Garden. These trees I raised from seeds of New Town Pippins from New York." (5) Inglis was a serious farmer and horticulturist, who tried to improve Nova Scotia agriculture. He was critical of the unscientific farming methods of the pre-Loyalists. This included farming without crop rotation and improper feeding of cattle. In 1789 he was a principal founder of a provincial agricultural society with branches set up throughout the province. Inglis worked with fellow Loyalist Timothy Ruggles, who had settled in neighbouring Wilmot Township, to produce varieties of apples adapted to the Nova Scotia climate by making grafting experiments. He is best remembered for the yellow Bishop's Pippin variety of apple which is still grown in the Maritimes. (6)

The Bishop's Pippin is known as a very prolific apple tree with big, conical apples. Some say it is a bit coarse but rather tasty right off the tree. Through his work in transforming the apple that still bears his name Bishop Inglis is credited with helping to establish the potential of the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia for commercial production.



Bishop's Pippin apples growing on Tree

Although it was original intention of Bishop Inglis to use Clermont as his retirement home he decided to move there from Halifax permanently for his health in 1796. He was an early riser, getting up at five in the morning and when the weather permitted he rode or walked for exercise. As well he attended to his garden, fields, and orchards. On February 24, 1816 Inglis passed away at his beloved Clermont. In his Will, he left his Halifax residence and most of the Clermont property to his son John, who had trained for the Anglican Ministry, and would in 1825 become the Bishop of Nova Scotia. On the death of John on October 25, 1850 his Will devised Clermont to his son Charles, who was educated at King's College in Windsor, Nova Scotia, the learning institution which his grandfather Bishop Inglis helped to found in 1789 as the first in Canada to receive a Charter and oldest English speaking one in Canada. (7) After college Charles trained in London, England as a medical doctor.

Dr. Charles Inglis, grandson of the Bishop, returned to Nova Scotia and took up residence. He never practiced medicine and farmed at his own farm called Oakhill which was located to the west of Clermont. When he died in 1861 his Will bequeathed Clermont to King's College in Windsor and left his own farm to St. Mary's Church at Auburn. Dr. Inglis, like his grandfather took an interest in the education of young people and helped support the local school for children which was established at Auburn beside St. Mary's Church. Both his father and grandfather had preached at the Church. (8) It was his request to be buried beside the Church which was done, although his grave was eventually covered by an extension of the Chancel.

After the death of Charles Inglis, Clermont did not immediately pass to King's College. Some members of the Inglis family objected to the terms of the Will. Eventually, almost three years later, by Deed dated January 21, 1864 the remaining Inglis heirs in England agreed to release any claim to Clermont and executed a Deed to the Governors of Kings College of Windsor, Nova Scotia. (9). It described the lands as:

"All that certain tract of land at Aylesford in the County of Kings County in the Province of Nova Scotia, aforesaid, being formerly part of the Estate of the Right Reverend John Inglis and by him devised to the said Charles Inglis and known by the name of Clermont and bounded and described as follows: on the south by the Old French Road, on the East by lands owned by John Patterson, on the westerly by Oakhill Farm, on the north by the road at the foot of the North Mountain together with the houses, outhouses, and buildings..."

NOTES:

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(1) See Clairmont Provincial Park at <https://parks.novascotia.ca/content/clairmont>

(2) Eaton, Arthur Wentworth Hamilton, "Charles Inglis and his Descendants", published in *Acadiensis* July, 1908 Volume V111. November 3. Charles Inglis was the youngest of three sons of Rev. Archibald Inglis, Rector of Glen and Kilcarr, Co. Donegal, Ireland. He was married twice; first wife Mary Viner died in 1764 during child-birth and second wife Margaret Crooke died in 1783. Four children born during his marriage to Margaret were Charles, who died in 1782, Margaret, Anne, and John. View online at <https://www.inglis.uk.com/bishopcharlesandhisdescendants.htm>

(3) McConnell, Brian, "Fear God, Honour the King - Bishop Charles Inglis, Loyalist", published in *Loyalist Trails*, newsletter of the UELAC, 2015-11: March 15, 2015 and at <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/INGLIS-Charles/INGLIS-Charles-by-Brian-MCCONNELL.pdf>

(4) Cuthbertson, Brian, "The First Bishop - A Biography of Charles Inglis", Waegwoltic Press, Halifax, 1987

(5) Vroom, V.W. "Charles Inglis -- An Appreciation", *NSHS*, Vol #22 (1933), p. 41

(6) "Heritage Apples", *Saltscape Magazine*, accessed on April 14, 2020. See: <https://www.saltscapes.com/roots-folks/837-heritage-apples.html>

(7) See history of University of Kings College <https://ukings.ca/campus-community/about-kings/history/>

Also see Roper, Henry, "King's College, New York and King's College, Windsor: Their Connection in Fact and Legend", published November 2018. Accessed April 11, 2020 at <https://ukings.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/20190204KingsandKingsNYbyHenryRoper-November2018.pdf>

(8) DeCoste, John A, and Robar - DeCoste, Twila, "The Little Wren Church - A History of St. Mary's Anglican Church", Lancelot Press Limited, Hantsport, NS, 1990

(9) Deed from Jane L. Inglis, Arabella P. Inglis, Catherine A.P. Inglis, Elizabeth J. Kelvington and Thomas Inglis to Governors of Kings College dated January 21, 1864 and registered in the Land Registry for Kings County, Nova Scotia on May 17, 1864 in Book 26 at Page 259.