

## Lawrence Loyalist rose

The rose bush currently residing at 207 Glencairn Ave., Toronto, was moved in 2004 from the garden of Florence Lois Hawke Wightman UE (1911-2005) at 181 Glencairn Ave., at the time the house was sold. Lois and her husband moved into the house in 1946, and planted a cutting from the original rose bush which was at 61 Main Street East, Grimsby, the home of Lois' grandparents Jesse and Mary Ann Lawrence. This house and its garden no longer exist. The family tradition is that the rose bush was brought to Grimsby from Pennsylvania in the 1780s by William and Anna Lawrence, United Empire Loyalists.



In 2006 I corresponded with Malcolm Manners of the American Rose Society. He shared my query with Stephen Scanniello who wrote that this rose is not the “Banshee” rose, which is the rose known as “the loyalist rose” now in the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. However, “by all means, this rose could have been in PA in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.” Garrett H. Pittenger wrote in 2007 that “from my limited knowledge of the older roses, it looks like a Gallica, a good portion of which were hybrids of the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but some are of considerable

antiquity. This is the class that has most of the purple to lavender-grey coloured blooms.

Illustration right: Lawrence Loyalist rose at 207 Glencairn Ave., Toronto.

Note bloom, right, at its deep pink perfection stage, and to the left in its mauve faded stage. Various rose experts have examined the photos but so far are unable to identify precisely the type of rose. The buds come out into full bloom from around mid-June to July 6, depending on the year. No second blooming.

Several cuttings have been taken from the rose, and one from 2008 is now in the Lieutenant-Governor's garden at Queen's Park. This cutting is probably 5 years old.

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