

St. Andrews East,
Co. of Argenteuil,
Prov. Que -
Feb. 1, 1960

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spraggs,

The material which I have about the Harrington family is rather sketchy, I am sorry to say; I shall try to answer your questions in order.

(1) As I mentioned in my note, John Harrington (the grandfather of Dr. Bernard) was the pioneer. He came with a group of young men from Boston about 1802, and may or may not have been a United Empire Loyalist. For the most part this particular group had been sympathetic towards the revolutionists, as were many eminent British statesmen of the time, though they retained their regard for the Mother Country and became loyal British subjects. The U. E. Loyalist group came to St. Andrews before the turn of the century, in the years immediately following the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

(2) Mr. John Harrington helped with the building of the paper mill, 1803-04, and was the first millwright. In 1806 he became part owner of the mill. He married Charlotte McArthur of Carillon. They had five sons and four daughters. John Luck, the eldest son remained on the home farm. He was unmarried and in later years his sister, Sarah, kept house for him. John Sr. bought a farm property of 240 acres, fronting on the main street of St. Andrews. There, in the

eighteen-twenties, he built the fine, two-storey brick house which we all remember as "the Harrington House." This building was destroyed by fire early in 1918. The brass knocker which you have, must, I think, have come from that lovely old house. My cousin distinctly remembers seeing "John Harrington" on the knocker of the front door.

(4) When William Harrington left Montreal and returned to St. Andrews he received from Capt. Johnson (the son or grandson of the Seigneur, Sir John Johnson) the appointment of acting agent for the Seigneurie, which position he held till the time of his death towards the latter part of the century. According to the historian, Cyrus Thomas, Capt. Johnson still owned the property in 1896, several years after William Harrington's death. However it is possible that the phrase "the property" referred to the Seigneurie domain and did not include the Manor House. I am not aware that the Harrington family ever lived there. The maple syrup

(6) which you remember probably came from the maple groves on the Harrington estate. Mr. Antoine Paré, the present owner of the Manor House property, tells me that he will examine the old deeds and let me know if there was a period of Harrington ownership. If not, it is possible that Mrs. Kenrick who corresponded with my father (see page 53 Memories of Old St. Andrews) confused the "agent" with the "owner." We had a digging party at the Manor House last summer (the invitation cards read "Please bring your own rakes!") but discovered nothing more

exciting than a pair of fire-tongs and broken, willow-ware china.

(1) I well remember hearing that your father was very musical and was the author of several compositions, among them the "Harrington March" which had won much local popularity. Miss Laura played it by ear. It was always in demand at the soirees and parlor concerts of the period and was played as a request number on more formal occasions. I am afraid that it was never written down. I had urged Miss Laura to preserve it on paper and had offered to help her but she became ill before we had undertaken the work. I still recall the major part of the March and I have started to write it (a bar or two a day!) but I have forgotten the richer harmonies. However, Mme. Robin, one of our fellow townswomen who is a talented composer, promises to help me re-harmonize the piece if I can get the melody and chords written down.

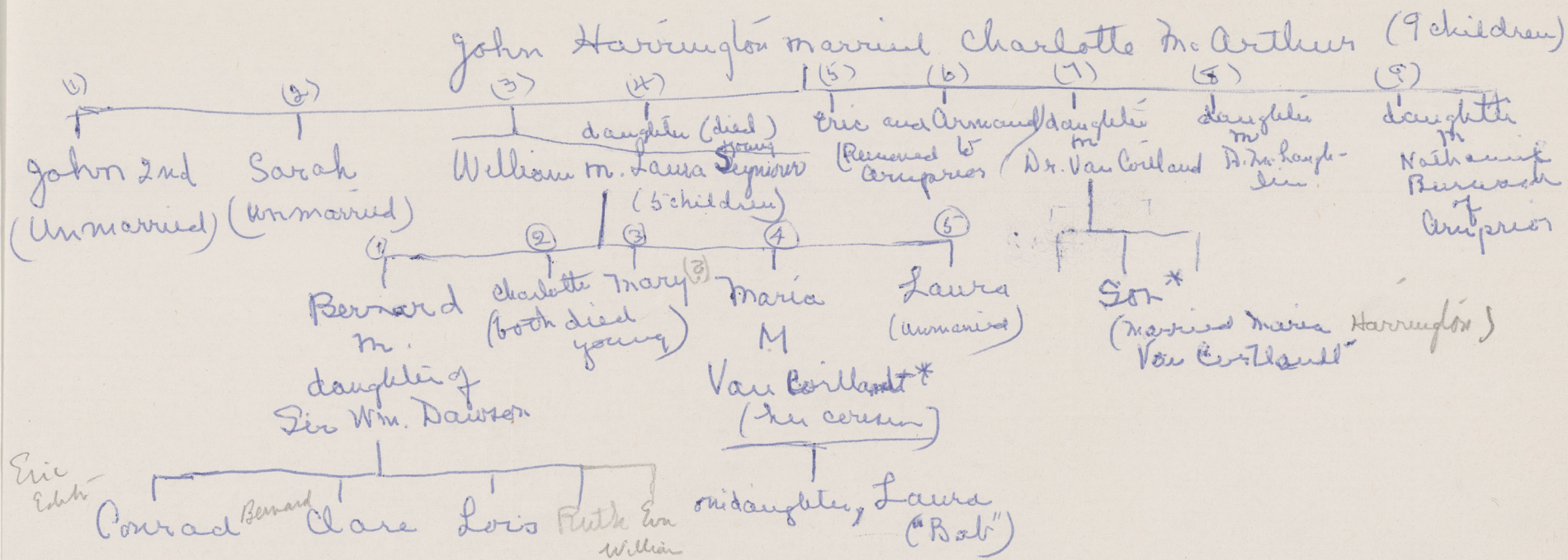
To return to the older generation: Eric, the third son of John Harrington, was a St. Andrews merchant. In 1852 (105 years ago) he sold his store and merchandise and removed to Annapolis. I have a copy of the printed announcement of his sale. It gives a picture of the period in its list of goods. The ladies of the period bought rich materials for their formal costumes - their crinolines and bonnets, their carriage cloaks and pelouaïses. Here is a partial list: "Selicias and Fancy Orleans

"Jacquet ... Mull
 Plain and Striped Doe skins
 Mole skins, Fustians,
 Plaid and Wool cloakings
 Cashmeres, Persians, Ribbons and Laces." etc

In Victorian days the young ladies all had "accomplishments." Besides their household skills, they painted, embroidered and played musical instruments. Your Aunt Laura was a skilled pianist; Her sister Charlotte painted quite charmingly. Mary (I think?) had a trip abroad with Mrs. Nelson and her letters, written to her family from Europe, were prized by the sisters. I wonder what happened to them after Miss Laura's death. Perhaps Miss Brewster of Aruprior would have known. We should be able to trace Miss Charlotte's painting of the old St. Andrews Mill. I think Miss Harrington gave it to the Walshes.... One of my aunts, a contemporary of your aunts and father, kept a diary before her marriage. I hope to have access to her records within the next few months and shall let you know if I find anything of interest about the Harringtons.... I have made the above notes from my father's records and from The History of Cergate and Prescott by Cyrus Thomas, 1896.

I do hope that you will call on us next spring or summer - Our friend, Mrs. Stuart Forbes, would also like to see you. With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,
 Letitia Wales



John 1st's wife, Charlotte McArthur, was the daughter of Peter McArthur (the first settler at Cavillon) and his wife Phoebe Lane, a sister of Jedediah Lane, one of the founders of the Town of Lacerte (which was first called "Lane's Purchase.")

William went to Montreal when quite a young man, entered a hardware establishment where in a short time he became a partner. Later he returned to St. Andrews and received from Capt. Johnson the appointment as acting agent for the Seignior, which position he filled till the time of his death.