

HASSETT / BLENNERHASSETT family from the community of Hassett, in the District of Clare (New Tusket), Digby County (Annapolis County), Nova Scotia, Canada.

This community has always been named "Hassett", although sometimes referred to by local people as "Hassetts". In 2004 the Municipality replaced existing "Hassett" roadsigns with new signs reading "Hassetts" - why is this?



Inscriptions, Churches etc at Hassett, Nova Scotia

Portraits of the Hassett family from Hassett, Nova Scotia

Blennerhassett Family Tree (BH20_NovaScotia_NS.xlsx) revised March 2014, copyright © Bill Jehan 1968-2014;
Thanks to all who have contributed to these pages - please send additions & corrections to email: bjehan@BlennerhassettFamilyTree.com

[WILSON] = "A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia" by Isaiah W. Wilson, published by Holloway Bros., Halifax, Nova Scotia 1900, p.144; reproduced in 1975 by Mika Publishing, Belgrave, Ontario; reprinted in 1999 for the Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society by Sentinel Printing, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, ISBN #0-919302-50-5. Copies are available from the Admiral Digby Museum & Archives at Digby (town), Nova Scotia.

NS 0

>>>>>>| William Hassett >>>>>>>| William Hassett Sr >>>>>>| Jennifer "Jennie" Hassett; perhaps(?) married....

| (perhaps Blennerhassett) (formerly Blennerhassett)
| b. Ireland b.c1790/4 Ireland
| / his death record shows
m. Ellen <??> he d. aged 86 (b.c1790)
? but the 1871 census
? indicates he was b.c1794

emigrated to St John, New Brunswick; At St John he was employed by John Heavyside, an enterprising lumber merchant who c1828-1829 took 21 lumberman (all, with the exception of John Alridge, from Ireland) from St John to operate existing sawmills located at the first falls of the Sissiboo River (now named Weymouth Falls) in Digby County (then a part of Annapolis County), Nova Scotia. Heavyside made extensive improvements to these mills and appointed William Hassett as foreman. The lumber was sourced from forest in the area around the head of the Sissiboo river [WILSON p.144]; William Hassett is believed to be first of the name to settle in Nova Scotia

in 1835 William Hassett Sr married (Katherine) Margaret "Maggie" McAlpine, a daughter of Daniel McAlpine; he prospered as lumberman, subsequently acquiring land at New Tusket in Digby County, south of the Meteghan River near Sissaboo (now named Weymouth) and by 1838 had established himself there as a successful farmer; Around his farm grew a village community, taking its name from William Hassett and his homestead; their son William Hassett Jr & his family lived with them on their farm at Hassett but the property was inherited, not by William Jr, but by their eldest son, James Hassett

In 1839 William Hassett Sr and John Alridge of New Tusket built the earliest sawmill in that vicinity, "...on the North side of Southville Rd, nearly opposite Joseph Cromwell's house..."; the sawmill was sold to Stephen Steele & John McAlpine (MacAlpine) but destroyed by fire some ten years after its erection [WILSON pp.144 & 147]; Lumber remains an important local industry to this day William Hassett Sr opened the first Post Office at Hassett and was its first postmaster, his son William Hassett Jr succeeding him in that position; That Post Office closed in November 1892 following the death of William Hassett Jr (d. 1/3 11.1.1892). /

William Hassett Sr d.11.7.1876 at Hassett, NewTusket; he was Anglican (Church of Ireland/Church of England) his children being raised as C.O.E., but he died before the Anglican Church of St James was built at Hassett in 1889; he is said to be buried with his wife, their son William Hassett Jr and his wife "alongside the main road from Hassett" at the RC St.Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Corberrie; these burials are not verified; Hassett & Corberrie are separate communities, with Havelock and New Tusket lying between them, but is probable Corberrie was at that time the closest burial ground, used by all denominations; Hassett now has its own cemetery, also by the main road

>>James Hassett >>>>>>>>> (Carrie) Jane Hassett >>>:>> (Millie Sabean		
b.2.10.1836 (or b.3.5.1836) (1901 census has b.2.10.1836)	b.16.3.1870 Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co., NS; of Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co. (Bellevue, St.Bernard)	b.1.10.1897 Boston, Mass; d.17.4.1989 Dayton, Yarmouth Co., NS
1871-91; eldest son; Anglican (C.of E.); Millwright, later a wealthy farmer, inheriting his father's homestead / farm at Hassett	Waltham, Mass., USA /	/
/	m.17.3.1894 (not 1893) Weymouth, Digby Co., Nova Scotia; Arthur "Art" Milton	m.16.11.1927 William Robert Koenig; b.22.2.1889 Scranton, Pennsylvania, USA; d.13.1.1978
d.25.6.1907 bur. Lakeside & Nolan Cem. Havelock (Plot 26) [WILSON pp.144 & 185?]; [HMSA 1881, No. 1, page 1]	Sabean b.2/2.10.1866 Weymouth (one source has b.16.3.1870 in error); 1472.1871 Weymouth	

[Marginalia] Nova Scotia Directory" for 1896, section "Digby County", p.856]	/	G.17.6.1.954 Weymouth	/	>> Theta Pearl Sabean >>>> >>>
m.3.12.1868 Weymouth (or St.Mary's Bay?), Digby Co. Nova Scotia; Amanda "Mandie" E. McNeill (1901 census has her named "Laura" in error); Baptist; b.20.10.1849 N. Range, Digby		See note on the Sabean family (NS 03)		b.11.10.1899 Hassett, New Tusket; d.18.5.1985 Yarmouth, NS
/				/
d.21.8.1907 New Tusket; bur. Lakeside & Nolan Cem., Havelock, Digby Co. (plot 26); <i>dau. of Charles & Martha</i>		>> Adelia "Adelie" "Ida Lee" Hassett b.25.10.1872 Hassett, New Tusket, Nova Scotia; Baptist; d.18.1.1946; /	m.1st 22.10.1919 Somerville, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, USA; Gifford Varley Greene b.23.5.1898 New Tusket; d.24.12.1965 Yarmouth NS	
		m.3.12.1868(?) St.Mary's Bay, Digby Co.; Albert Davis	/	m.2nd 17.1.1969 Thurston Melvin Mullen b.29.8.1903 d.31.1.1983

McNeill



>> Francis "Frank" A. Hassett
b.9.9.1874 (twin) Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co., NS;
d.19.9.1874 New Tusket;
bur. Lakeside & Nolan Cemetery, Havelock (plot 27)

>>(Charles) William "Willie" Hassett
b.9.9.1874 (twin) Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co., NS
/

d.22.8.1890 (not 1896) on a visit to North Range,
Digby Co.; drowned while bathing in Porter's Lake
(aka "Mistake Lake"), N.R., where he had been fishing;
bur.Lakeside Cemetery, Havelock; a letter from his father
dated 27.8.1890 was pub. in ["*Digby Courier*"];
report of the accident in ["*Digby Courier 29.8.1890*"];
bur. Lakeside & Nolan Cemetery, Havelock (plot 27)



NS 07

Harman & Margaret Blennerhassett had no descendants after their two grandsons & no Blennerhassett nephews, and any family connection with the Hassets of Digby Co. is improbable; other USA & Canadian Blennerhassett families have acquired traditions of being "descended from" or "heirs of" Harman and Margaret BH, but no investigation such legends have shown the family in question to descend from different BH families, usually one of 3 quite distant cousins of Harman who emigrated from Ireland to N. America in early 19th C., settling at St.Louis, Missouri (K 12); at Iowa (K 34) & at Montreal, Canada (K 32); however, the Digby Co. Nova Scotia Hassett family arrived in North America from Ireland before c1828, which is before any of the three families mentioned left Ireland

HASSETT village in Nova Scotia, Canada

In Digby Co. there are two townships, Digby & Clare; New Tusket is in Clare Township; Hassett lies on highway 340, approx. 12km from Weymouth (previously Sissiboo); Hassett had 138 residents in 1996

/
At one time there were two schools in Hassett, one older than the other but both called 'The Hassett's School' by the people who attended them; Both schools closed in 1961;
The only church at Hassett was St.James' Anglican, opened 19.10.1889 and demolished in 1956; Local cemeteries are "Hassett's Anglican Cemetery", Hassett, Digby County (C.of E.); St.Jean Baptiste, Corberrie, Hassett, Digby Co. (RC); and "Lakeside & Nowlan Cemetery, Havelock, Digby Co.

/
William Hassett Sr opened the first Post Office at Hassett and was its first postmaster, his son William Hassett Jr succeeding him in that position; That Post Office closed in November 1892 following the death of William Hassett Jr. (d.1/3.11.1892)

/
(Edward) Byron Hassett, another son of William Sr, opened the second post Office at Hassett. Byron told his own son Percy that his father William Sr had founded the community of Hassett and also changed his surname, from Blennerhassett to Hassett, because as postmaster the name Blennerhassett was "...too damn long for the forms...";
In all there have been four Post offices at Hassett

/
It has been said that when the community of Hassett was named this was not the first choice of the people, but their preferred name for the village not being permitted, the name of the postmaster was used instead;
This community was named Hassett until 2004 when the municipality erected new signs reading "Hassets", an error that hopefully has been or will be corrected; they were still in place in 2011

/
the last of the name Hassett to live in the community of "Hassett" is believed to have left the area in 1994

SABEAN FAMILY

A group of "*United Empire Loyalists*" arrived from newly independent USA in 1782 & settled in the Digby area; more loyalists arrived 1783, on the ship "Atalanta" from New York under the protection of Rear Admiral Robert Digby, the settlement being later named Digby in his honour;
One of these 1783 settlers was a man named Sabean, ancestor of Fanny Augusta Sabean (NS 03) and Arthur Milton S. (NS 01); The Admiral is commemorated by Admiral Digby Museum (home to the "Admiral Digby Library & Historical Society") at Digby, Nova Scotia; see also:
"The Sabin Family of North America" by Gordon Alan Morris

<p>NOTE: Sisters Helen & Ida (below) visited North Range, Digby Co. 1907</p> <p>>> Ercel (Ersel?) Olive Mullen; b.7.9.1924 / m. Donald Hazen Connor; b.1916 d.1972</p> <p>>> Edsel Craig Mullen; b.25.10.1928 / m.?.1970 Ernmary Rideout; b.1945 Newfoundland, Canada; d.1998</p> <p>>> (Flora) Ida Hassett >>>>>>>> Marjorie Lee Hallett b.15.7.1887 Hassett, b.20.9.1919 d.29.4.1983 New Tusket, Digby Co., / Nova Scotia; d.22.12.1879 m. Francis Arthur Brown / m. Harold Edward Hallett >> Helen Louise Hallett b.10.3.1889 d.10.6.1968 b.4.7.1927 / m. Richard Ellsworth Robsham; b.1924</p> <p>>> Bertha Hassett >>>>>>>> Ester Hughes b.28.12.1919 b.11.12.1889 Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co., >> Ruth Hughes; b.25.10.1924 Nova Scotia; d.5.8.1979 / m. Richard Willis Stanley; b.1923 / m. Frank Alger Hughes b.25.10.1890 d.19.1.1975 >> Edith Ellen Hughes b.16.7.1929 / m. Joseph Paul Doyle; b.1929 d.1985</p> <p>>> Clifton Scova Hassett (1901 census transcript names him Cliford' in error); b.22.12.1891 Hassett, New Tusket, Nova Scotia; of St.Bernard, Digby County 1901; d.27.10.1971; bur. with his parents at Lakeside & Nolan Cemetery, Havelock, Digby Co. (plot 26)</p> <p>>> William Henry Hassett Jr >>>> >>> Cora Ann Hassett b.13.6.1838 Nova Scotia; C.of E.; Farmer m.27.2.1894 Harry James Wright / living with his parents on the farm at Hassett, New Tusket, Clare Township, Digby Co. 1871-91; second postmaster at Hassett; William Hassett unm. in census of 1871 & 1881, widowed in 1891; d.1/3.11.1892 Weymouth; obit. in ["Digby Courier" 4.11.1892] indicates he d.1.11.1892 / He was C.o.E., but one source reports him buried with his parents and his (1st?) wife at the RC St.Jean Baptiste Cemetery at Corberrie, Hassett ["NS Directory" 1871, p.185]; his 2nd wife Jennie Hassett is bur. at Hassett (C.o.E.) Cemetery, Digby Co. / m. 1st1871 Mary E. Sherwood / m. 2nd est.c1880 Hepsibeth Jane "Jennie" >>>>>>>> Inez Gould Hassett Gould; b.14.7.1883 (not 25.6.1883); Tibbets; b.c1851 adopted 28.4.1904 by her uncle & aunt, Salma A. Gould & Inez B. Gould of Somerville, Massachusetts; / d.27.5.1990 unm.; bur. Woodlawn Cem., Everett, Massachusetts; d.8.12.1889; bur. Hassett Anglican Cem., >> Grace Elinor "Jane" >>>>>>> Herbert Hassett Yeaton >>>>>>>> Hassett, Digby Co., N.Scotia Hassett; b.15.4.1884 b.13.12.1903 at Rye, New Weymouth, Nova Scotia; Hampshire, USA; edu. d.19.11.1965 Portsmouth, Portsmouth High School New Hampshire; bur. Rye shipfitter at Portsmouth Central Cem., Rye, N.H. Naval Shipyards (shop 11) >> / mem. of Rye Volunteer m.3.7.1903 Everett Herbert Yeaton Fire Department; son of Sylvester Yeaton ten-pin bowler; & Lucena Adeline Yeaton for 25 yrs of retirement (2nd cousins) he wintered in Florida; / d.5.7.2001 >> >> Charles William Hassett; m. Arlene "Betty" <???> b.25.12.1888; d.23.3.1890; bur. Hassett Anglican Cemetery, Digby Co.</p>
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DANIEL McALPINE (or MacAlpine)

"Daniel McAlpine lived south of Sissiboo River and in 1806 took possession of an extensive block in New Tusket, north of Meteghan River [WILSON p.138]; He was listed as resident taxpayer over 21 yrs of age in the district comprising the present township of Weymouth for the year 1816 [WILSON p. 457]; In 1822 he built a camp on his lot in New Tusket, intending to make a clearing and remove thither at an early day..."; a man named Kerrigan built a camp that same year [WILSON p.140-1

McAlpine settled on his tract in 1824, this land later owned by Alfred S. Mullen"; with the Primes, he was the earliest settler of New Tusket [WILSON p.140];

From Land Grants File at P.A.N.S.: "McAlpine, Daniel, 1815 Petitioner was born in Perthshire, Scotland and brought up in Nova Scotia. He resides at Sissiboo and has a wife and three children. He asks for land in Annapolis County. Served as volunteer in H.M. Navy. Warrant for 300 acres, Dec. 1815." [OneWorldTree, courtesy Gordon Smith]

The strange tale of HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT'S VIOLIN

Ray Swick, historian of Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park in West Virginia, reveals that Harman Blennerhassett did have a violin, of good quality, made at Cremona, Italy, and that Harman "...had been quite proud of it and told his friends that it was over 100 years old and had cost him 100 guineas..."

(The maker of Harman's violin is unknown, but Cremona has been the world centre for violin making since the 17th C.)

This instrument, with other inherited Blennerhassett Island relics, disappeared following the death at New York, in poor circumstances, of his son Harman Blennerhassett Jr (K 4), who d.10.8.1854 of cholera "...after a protracted illness..." in an almshouse at Blackwell's Isle, New York City
It is interesting to conjecture that this violin, with the other objects, may perhaps have been auctioned or otherwise sold to be later purchased by (Edward) Byron Hassett, because of his interest in the family:

THE FOLLOWING NEED INVESTIGATING:

- THE FOLLOWING NEED INVESTIGATING:

 - 1 local Digby Co. newspaper reports of the house fire
 - /
 - 2 the name of the person who sold the violin to Harman Blennerhassett, and what their family crest had been
 - /
 - 3 It is interesting that the owner of the Digby Co., N.Scotia violin was named "Byron".
perhaps(?) there may be a family or other connection with Richard Byron Blennerhassett (b.c1841 at NY, unm.), the son of Richard Spotwood Blennerhassett (attorney, of St.Louis, Missouri) & Therese Martini Blennerhassett (nee Byron), which lady was author of a Ms. "Notes on the Life of Harman Blennerhassett" and who edited a Ms. "Poems by the late Mrs Harman Blennerhassett...etc"; these and other MSS (one in the possession of Therese Martini Byron BH) are among "Blennerhassett Papers" now at Campus Martius State Museum, Marietta, Ohio
(see p.K 24)

NOTE: one of (Edward) Byron Hassett's daughters was curator of a natural history museum at Boston, Mass. There is no record of her at the "Museum of Science" in Boston (which opened as the "New England Museum of Natural History" in 1864) so perhaps (?) it may have been Harvard Museum of Natural History.

>> Daniel O'Connell Hassett >>>> b.c.1846 Farmer	William Henry Hassett b.4.2.1873 St.Mary's Bay		
/			
m.19.8.1871 Weymouth, Nova Scotia; Elizabeth Jane McNeill b.c.1855			
(another source says he m.19.8.1871 Mary S. Marr, dau. of Henry & Sarah Marr)			
>> John Hassett; bapt.30.8.1847 at Sainte Croix Church (RC), Plympton, Digby Co.			
>> Mary Ellen "Nellie", "Ella" >>>> b.c.1845/7 (one source has her Margaret, in error); Her mother & her sister Susan lived with them 1881 / m. Amos Barr; b.26.1.1842 d.2.5.1918 Weymouth		Otis Warren Barr b.1.5.1873 / m.3.9.1902 Clara Jane Alude(?)	->> Otis Barr; b.1918 d.1983
		>> Edna Barr b.16.10.1872	
		>> Sophie Barr b.c1879	
>> (Edward) Byron Hassett >>>> b.2.9.1851 (one source says another says b. New Hampshire, USA; b. Weymouth, Digby Co., NS); moved to Massachusetts, USA 1899; at Melrose (Ward 3), Middlesex Co., Mass. 1900 / d.15.7.1901 Worcester, Worcester Co., Mass., USA; Farmer; Anglican (C.of E); of St.Bernard, Digby Co. 1881; of Hassett, Digby Co. c.1892/3 /		->> Frances "Fanny" Hassett b.8.10.1877 New Tusket; "Annie" in 1920 census; went to USA 1876; naturalised in USA 1919	->> Dorothy E. Sabean b.c.1912 Massachusetts, USA >> dau.
postmaster; he opened the second Post Office at Hassett /		>> m.1900 New Tusket; Frank H. Sabean; b.28.12.1873 Ashmore, Digby Co.; moved to USA 1908; Naturalised 1919; Finisher in leather tannery 1920	
Their house at Hassett was burnt c1892/3; lost in the fire were said to be papers and objects belonging to Harman & Margaret Blennerhassett of Blennerhassett Island, including Harman's violin (see NOTES on NS 02) /		>> Percival "Percy" Hassett b.22.1.1881 (US SS death index has b.13.1.1880) at Hassett, New Tusket, Digby Co., Nova Scotia; bapt.26.2.1882 /	->> John P. Hassett b.c.1903 d.c1920 >> Herbert E. Hassett b.c.1905 of Oakland, Calif., USA >> m. <??>
Freeman Johnson, b.c.1870 USA lived with this family in 1881 /		->> the house he grew up in was burnt c1892/3; of Boston, Mass. until c1900 when moved to Seattle, Washington; following d. of his wife moved to LA, California to live with dau. Grace /	->> Grace F. Hassett b.c1906 of Los Angeles, Calif. >> m. Warren Seabold(?) >> Margaret Ann Hassett b.1907/8 >> b.14.2.1976 W.Hollywood, Los Angeles, California; bur. Calvary Cemetery .(RC), Seattle, Washington, USA /
m.16.1.1876 Weymouth, Digby Co.; Frances "Fanny" Augusta Sabean b.2.6.1858 Weymouth, Digby Co.; dau. of Haines & Statira Ellen Sabean /		->> m. Annie Laurie Miller of Weymouth, Mass. USA; bur. Calvary Cem. (RC), Seattle, Washington; Her father & g.father were ship masters and ship owners out of Weymouth, Mass., USA	->> Murphy
d.1955 Worcester, Mass. USA /		>> Daniel "Dan" Hassett; b.25.10.1881 New Tusket	
She told her son Percy, when he was a child, "...Percy, the Irish will be the ruination of you, but remember you have a good Scots Grandma..."		>> Herbert E. Hassett b.c1882/3 New Tusket; of California /	
		->> Merchant Seaman for most of his life, "...calling San Francisco home when not at sea...", until he "...ran off to the last Nevada gold rush c1900..." /	
		->> m.<??>	
		>> Benjamin Ellerton Hassett; b.19.9.1883 New Tusket	

|>> Susan Hassett b.c1856

Perhaps (?) identical with

Susannah Hassett; living >>>>> >>|> **George Harmon (perhaps Harman) Hassett**

m.27.6.1867 Weymouth, Digby County; George W. Johnson
NOTE: if these two identical, her c1856 date of birth must be wrong...