



As with many of us, much of the information I initially received about my ancestors came from my older relatives. And, in some cases, they were very right; in others, they were very wrong! Finding documentation is helpful, yet sometimes we may need to try to fill in the blanks with our common human experience.



My great-grandmother, Isabella Hargreaves, was born on July 22, 1854, Burnley, Lancashire, England. She was the fifth of seven children born to John and Elizabeth (Dobson) Hargreaves. There were also four older siblings from John's first marriage. What a full house! The family resided on Godly Lane, which is now called Ormerod Road. There is an interesting article about Godly Lane and the Godly Lane Cross [here](#).

John Richard Hoyle at [St. John the Evangelist](#) in Accrington, Lancashire, England. John and Isabella resided in Accrington where their eldest son, John Richard, was born in 1876. Their second son, William, was also born there in 1879. The family emigrated to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, the same year. Sadly, William died in Hamilton the next year. Imagine crossing the ocean with your husband, toddler, and infant, then losing that little boy in such a short time. Three daughters were born to them in Hamilton: Mary Elizabeth, Annie, and Isabella.

On August 5, 1874, Isabella was married to



By 1888, the family was living in Regina, Saskatchewan, over 2,500 miles from Hamilton. They were enumerated there on the 1891 Canada Census. Interestingly, in 1901, John Hoyle was the enumerator for the census. He very clearly noted that his religion was 'Millennial Star' while Isabella was Methodist. Learning about John's religion was another search

altogether. Four more children were born John and Isabella in Regina: Sarah Ellen, James, Lucy, and Benjamin Hargreaves. Tragedy struck the family again 1902 when their daughter, Sarah, died at the age of 14. Four years later, daughter, Isabella, also died. She was 20. Both died of illness. The family returned to Hamilton shortly thereafter.



Sometime after removing to Hamilton, Isabella visited her son, John R. Hoyle, at his home near MacLeod, Alberta, Canada. Since John immigrated to the United States in 1914, it is most likely her visit was prior to that. Two pictures have been shared with me by a descendant of John's adopted daughter, Nellie Walsh.

Isabella died on September 17, 1925, at the age of 71 in Hamilton, Ontario. Her address at the time was 321 Cumberland Avenue. She is buried in the Bartonville Cemetery in Hamilton.

When I think about the times in which Isabella lived and her thousands of miles of, I am in awe. I can feel her angst as she traveled with a toddler and an infant over the Atlantic Ocean her sadness as she buried her sweet little son and her darling daughters, the excitement (I hope) as she explored new places, and her satisfaction with her family that surrounded her in Hamilton, Ontario. Perhaps, it is possible to relate more closely with our ancestors than we may often consider.

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  - *Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1881 Census of Canada (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009), Year: 1881; Census Place: Dundas, Wentworth North, Ontario; Roll: C\_13256; Page: 49; Family No: 249.*
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