

Chapter Seven

James Francis & Mary Helena Guiney



Pic 61: James and Mary (Guiney) Francis with son Henry and Mabel (Cole) Francis

James Francis (*Elisha Francis, James Francis*)³ was born August 06, 1859 in Kilmarnock, Wolford Twp., Ontario. He married¹¹⁷ **Mary Helena Guiney** November 13, 1889 in Renfrew, Renfrew Co., Ontario, daughter of Cornelius Guiney and Jane Joyce. Mary was born⁴ May 22, 1868 in Griffith Twp., Renfrew Co., Ontario. Mary was the sister of Emily Guiney, wife of Jim's younger brother Allen.

Jim at age 30, and Mary age 21 were married by Rev. R. Campbell. Witnesses were Peter Francis of Admaston, and Jane Guiney of Griffith.¹¹⁷ Jim purchased 100 acres of land⁵⁶ from his father on Lot 25 Concession 2 W1/2 on October 31, 1889, a few weeks before he was married. This farm was later owned by his son Henry until 1933 when it was sold to J.B.Briscoe. Jim was a farmer^{53,55,58,59,60} however he must have supplemented his income in the forestry industry. A letter¹¹⁸ written by Jim to his brother Stewart in 1917 is as follows....

Flagstone Sept 23, 1917

To Steward

From Jim

Dear Brother a few lines to let you know that I am pretty well and Mary told me in her letter that you were pretty well and you had another trip to Toronto and was keeping well which I was glad to hear that and I hope you are keeping well yet. Well Stewart I am working in a Lumber Camp driving a team hauling logs on a wagon they haul all Summer here they have 12 teams hauling on trucks they don't have scarcely any winter here that is Snow to haul on some winters 6 weeks and other winters no Snow wagon all winter it is Jim Joyce from Griffith we are with

he is a Cousin of Marys so we know someone in BC this is a nice Country to work in not very rough just here but BC take it all through is a very rough Country of Mountains Some of them 2 or 3 thousand feet high Where we were nearly all Summer that was till we came back to the Prairie we could see Snow on the mountains that was about 1000 miles north of where we are now but here now the weather is very warm and dry and lots of dust when we were coming out here from Calgary we stopped at a place called McLeod and saw Elisha Muldoon and Jonathan they live at McLeod and they seem to be well off doing nothing worth ten or fifteen thousand dollars and nice places in town; we were at Jim Curtises for a few days he lives in Calgary has a nice woman and three nice little girls: we have not seen many people we knew we were out to the Coast only about 600 miles from Vancouver to up to Prince Rupert that was a nice trip on the ship it was fine weather off the Coast that trip on Ship was 608 miles I have kept mitty well have some sick spells yet but not very bad. Well Steward I hope you will keep well and rite and let me know how you are keeping I think I will Say good bye for this time hoping to hear from you soon Address to Rock Creek Lumber Co Ltd, Flagstone BC

It is not known if the letter reached Stewart in time, as he died in October of that year. Jim and Mary stayed in their home on the farm which is pictured below circa 1922.



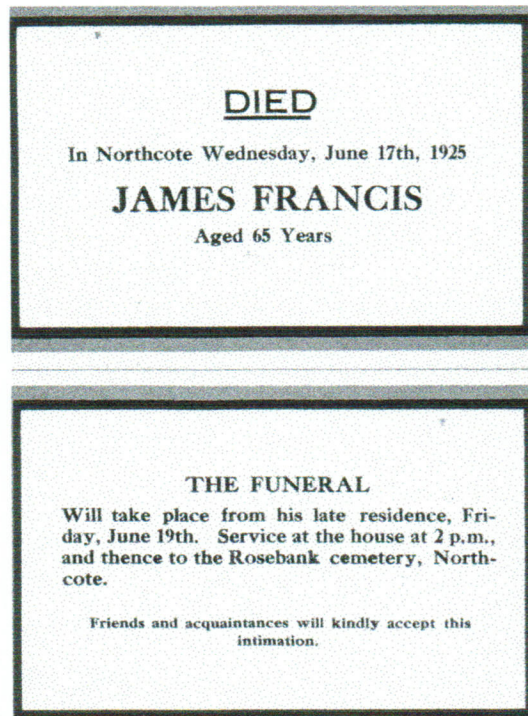
Pic 62: James and Mary Francis

NORTHCOTE

Like a bolt from the blue came the last call on Wednesday, June 17, to a loving husband and father and a highly respected neighbor in the person of Mr. James Francis. At his work as usual on Wednesday morning, by seven-thirty o'clock in the evening he had passed away. It was a peaceful though sudden ending to a splendid life. The deceased had no enemies but many staunch friends and his passing has shed a gloom over the entire community. Mr. Francis was in his 65th year. His birth-place was Kilmarnock, Walford township, Ont., but he spent most of his life in this neighborhood, making a decided success of farming. He leaves to mourn his loss his loving wife, one son, Henry Francis, one sister, Mrs. T. G. Peever, and four brothers—Richard of Enniskillen, Peter of Brockville, Samuel of Trenton and Allen of Northcote. The funeral took place on Friday, June 19th, to Rosebank cemetery and was conducted by Rev. Mr. Bishop, the service being held in house at 2 o'clock. Deceased was for many years a member of Rosebank Methodist church. The pall-bearers were members of the Middlebranch hunting club, of which deceased was a prominent member—Messrs. James McMillan, X. Plaunt, Chris Crozier, P. Brisco, Charlie Briscoe, T. Atkinson. Some of those who sent flowers were: Middlebranch Hunting Club, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Frances, a wreath; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Gibbons and family, wreath; Miss Jennie Guiney, sheaf; Thomas Stack, a sheaf; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brisco, flowers; Mr. and Mrs. John E. Plaunt, flowers; Miss Kaddatz, flowers; the family, flowers.

Pic 63: Obituary of James Francis

Jim died at age 65 on June 17, 1925 in Northcote, Renfrew Co., Ontario. Mary died 3 years later at age 60, on November 24, 1928 in Northcote, Renfrew Co., Ontario. They are both buried in the Francis plot at Rosebank Cemetery.⁵⁴



Pic 64: James Francis Funeral Card

Child of James Francis and Mary Helena Guiney was as follows:

i **Henry S Francis**, born March 8, 1890 in Renfrew Co., Ontario. He married on September 22, 1914 in Admaston, Renfrew Co., Ontario to **Mabel Cole**, daughter of James COLE and Margaret Mary MASON. She was born August 8, 1892 in Horton Twp., Renfrew Co., Ontario. Henry predeceased Mabel by 44 years. He died November 14, 1946 in Renfrew, Renfrew Co., Ontario and is buried in Rosebank Cemetery. Mabel married again June 1954, to **John Lester Hodgins** who was born September 28, 1896 in Admaston Twp., Renfrew Co., Ontario. He had been married previously to **Ida Dell Luker** March 1917, daughter of James Luker and Mary Crozier.

John L. and Mabel lived well into their senior years. Mabel died October 09, 1990 in Renfrew, Renfrew Co., Ontario at the age of 98. She is buried at Rosebank Cemetery with her first husband. John L. died October 30, 1995 in Renfrew, Renfrew Co., Ontario at the age of 99. He is buried in Cobden Union Cemetery with his first wife.