

Panton and Pense

The Panton Name and Arms

Panton is said to be a habitation name from the Old English *pamp*, hill or ridge and *tun*, enclosure or settlement. Thus, Pantons were likely people who lived in a settlement located on a hill or ridge. The Arms of Panton are described as “Or, an eagle displayed sable in chief a rose gules between two mullets of the second” which means “a gold shield with a black eagle with his wings spread, with a red rose between two black stars above.” However, our Panton family has no tradition of a coat of arms and this may be the arms for some other branch of the Panton Family. Alisaundre de Paunton of Lanarkshire rendered homage to King Edward I in 1296; perhaps our Panton family was of Scottish origin. Our family tree begins with {Captain} James Panton who was born in Ireland. He was either a land owner or an estate manager and was not Catholic. Perhaps his family, like many other poor Scottish families, emigrated to Ireland as managers of an estate.



Generation One

{Captain} James Panton

Born at Kiltalown, County Dublin, Ireland on January 1, 1792

Died on April 18, 1855

Buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Lot 16, Con. 1 SDS, Nelson Twp. Halton County, Ontario. This is on the south side of Dundas Street (Highway 5) just west of the Guelph Line in what is now the City of Burlington.

James married Susannah Spence who was born on December 27, 1795 at Three Castles, County Wicklow, Ireland and died on September 27, 1856. Susannah is buried next to her husband at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery.

{Captain} James Panton and his family resided at Blessington, County Wicklow, Ireland; and they came to Canada in the mid 19th century although it is unclear exactly when. The Pantons were adherents of the Anglican church. They were either landowners or perhaps they managed an estate for an absentee landlord. These were very hard times in Ireland; and the Catholic majority was not treated in a fair manner. The Great Famine of 1845-1851 caused unbelievable hardship. There is a family story that some local (Catholic) persons left a coffin at the gate or front door of their home as a somewhat less subtle hint that they were not welcome in the neighbourhood. Family tradition holds that this gesture was instrumental in convincing the Pantons to emigrate to Canada.

James and Susanna had the following children:

- Susan Francis Panton, born in Ireland, married Charles Randolph Montgomery Sewell (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Eight). The City of Hamilton Directory for 1877-78 shows Mrs. Susan Sewell living at 19 Barton Street East. Susan F. Panton died on October 30, 1902 at 77 or 83, at which time she was residing at 131 Harrison Street, Toronto which was the home of her niece Mrs. W.N.B. Thomas. Susan was buried next to her husband in the Hamilton Cemetery. Charles Randolph Montgomery Sewell recorded a great deal of family history in his Journal circa 1850. Charles Randolph Montgomery Sewell's great X2 nephew is W. Darcy McKeough who kindly shared much data shown here.

- Jane C. Panton who died in October 1869 and was buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Lot 16, Con. 1 SDS, Nelson Twp. Halton County, Ontario.
- James Panton who is named on the tombstone of Susan F. Panton and her husband Charles R. M. Sewell in the Hamilton Cemetery on York Boulevard where he is said to have been "a much loved and ever lamented brother who perished nobly in the discharge of his duty as mail officer and saving the lives of some of the passengers on board the ill fated steamship 'Canadian' which was lost at sea June 4, 1861". The "S.S. Canadian" had left Quebec City for Liverpool on June 1, 1861. She struck an iceberg and sunk on June 4, 1861 about four miles north of Cape Bauld in the Straits of Belle Isle at approximately 51°30'N 55°30'W. A contemporary report reads: "Mr. Panton the mail officer was lost. He worked very hard getting passengers, and some of his mail bags into the boats. He had a seat in one of them; but left it for a short time, and some woman getting it, he told her that he would go to another boat, but he was too late. I saw him hanging by a rope over the ship's side, and he went down with her. She went down in about thirty-two minutes, at a distance of about four miles from land." (*The Hamilton Evening Times*, Saturday, June 29, 1861, Page 3)
- **Maria Panton**, mentioned next.
- Possible additional children. Historical records show many Pantons in Halton County, some of whom were born in Ireland.

Other Pantons, probably related to {Captain James Panton} include the following:

Mrs. Jane Catherine Panton born at Three Castles, County Wicklow, Ireland on November 27 1786 and died at Kilbride, Canada West on February 26, 1853 or 1855 at 68 and buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Lot 16, Con. 1 SDS, Nelson Twp. Halton County, Ontario. Jane appears to have been the wife of Samuel Panton; and their daughter was:

- Jane eldest daughter of Samuel and Jane C. Panton born July 7, 1806 at Crosscobarbor, Blessington, County Wicklow, Ireland; died on January 18, 1863 at Milton, Canada West and buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Lot 16, Con. 1 SDS, Nelson Twp. Halton County, Ontario. (*Note: There appear to have been at least three different persons with the name "Jane C. (Catherine) Panton".*)

William Panton, born 1808 in Ireland. *From Pathway to Skyway* states: "The village of Kilbride was laid out by Francis Baker and William Panton sometime around 1850. Mr. Panton was born in Ireland in 1808 and emigrated to Canada in 1834. He settled on a farm in Nelson township and after spending some time in the Niagara district as Public Works Inspector, he joined Mr. Baker in a milling and lumbering business. Together they laid out a village and nostalgically christened it Kilbride after a town Panton remembered in County Wicklow, Ireland. Panton and Baker (now Kilbride) Streets were named in honor of these fathers of the village." (Emery and Ford, *From Pathway to Skyway*, Burlington, Ontario, 1967, page 80) and "The earliest record shows that in July 1855 William Panton and Francis Baker deeded lot 27 on the present Kilbride Street to the trustees of School Section No. 11 Nelson who later bought lots 28 and 29 as well." (Emery and Ford, *From Pathway to Skyway*, Burlington, Ontario, 1967, page 83)

Samuel William Panton, born at Blessington in Wicklow, Ireland of January 17, 1815; died on October 30, 1843 and buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Lot 16, Con. 1 SDS, Nelson Twp. Halton County, Ontario.

Generation Two

Maria Panton

Maria was born in Ireland between 1835 and 1851; probably circa 1839. Early census records are sometimes ambiguous. In the case of Maria Panton, the 1871 census shows Maria as being “35 yr”; i.e. born as early as 1835. However, the 1881 census shows “38 yr” and the 1891 census shows “40 yr”; i.e., born as late as 1851! Maria was said to be 70 at the time of her death in 1909; so she was likely born circa 1839 which would make her a realistic 20 to 35 years of age at the time of birth of her children.

Maria died on September 30, 1909 at 70. At the time of her death Maria was residing at 131 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. Maria was reported as dying of “oedema of the lung” or the accumulation of excess water in the tissues of the lung; but the immediate cause of death was likely congestive heart failure. She was buried at Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston.

Maria married John Grasse Pense who was born between 1820 and 1831, likely circa 1820, in Upper Canada. He died on May 27, 1903 at 83 at Toronto, Ontario; and was buried at Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston. John’s death was reported as being due to “dropsy” or the accumulation of excess water in the spaces between the cells of the body; but as with his wife Maria, the immediate cause of death was likely congestive heart failure. According to the census records, the Pense Family was living in Kingston in 1871. In 1881 they were living in Lowville, Nelson Township. John Pense was an upholsterer. *From Pathway to Skyway* states: “Lowville had several industries . . . Back of the foundry on the banks of the creek was Mr. Rumble’s furniture factory which supplied the neighbourhood with fine furniture, some of which is still in use. Mr. Rumble, a native of Prussia, has a main factory with another building nearer the street for finishing and sales.” (Emery and Ford, *From Pathway to Skyway*, Burlington, Ontario, 1967, page 90) John Pense may have been employed at Mr. Rumble’s furniture factory.

Maria Panton and John Grasse Pense had the following children:

- **Susan Elizabeth “Suzie” Pense**, mentioned next.
- **Caroline Alberta “Carrie” Pense**, mentioned next.
- **Eliza “Lillie” Pense**, mentioned next.
- Frederick Pense who was born circa 1871 and in 1891 was a Real Estate Agent.
- Charles Pense who was born circa 1875 This may be Charles James Pense who died on October 11, 1942 and was the husband of Amelia A. Chisholm who died on August 22, 1974. Both are buried in the Brampton Cemetery, Brampton, Ontario which is located in Chinguacousy Township, Con. 1 East, Lot 6 (directions say to “enter from Wilson Street, off Queen Street East”)

Grandchildren of Maria and John Pense are said to include the following who had some close connection with the Kingston newspaper, “The Whig Standard”:

- Marjorie Pense (who married Dr. Holmes Hopkins)
- Harry Pense who lived in Kingston.

Generation Three

Susan Elizabeth “Suzie” Pense

Born between 1858 and 1860 at Hamilton, Canada West

Married on September 25, 1883 at Hamilton to Carl Arthur von Wagner Schmitz, son of P.J. and Albertina Schmitz. Suzie was a resident of Waterdown at the time of the marriage. The marriage announcement from *The Canadian Champion*, Milton, Ontario October 11, 1883 page 3 column 4 reads: “Married. SCHMITZ — PENSE. — At Hamilton, Ont., on Wednesday, Sept. 25th, by the Rev. Dr. Carlyle, of New York, Carl A. Van Wagner Schmitz of Cologne, Germany, to Susie E., eldest daughter of Mr. J.G. Pense, and adopted daughter of the late Chas. R. M. Sewell, Esq., of H. M. Customs, Hamilton.”

It would appear that Suzie was brought up in the home of her Aunt Susan and Uncle Charles, Charles Randolph Montgomery Sewell (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Eight).

Caroline Alberta “Carrie” Pense

Born between 1860 and 1862 in Canada West

Died on March 5, 1930

Married on December 29, 1887 at St. Luke’s Church in Burlington, Ontario to **Henry DeQuincy Sewell** (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Ten).

Eliza “Lillie” Pense

Born between 1867 and 1869 in Canada West

Died in the 1930’s (?)

Eliza “Aunt Lillie” Pense was unmarried, and resided for a short time in the the early 1930’s at the home of her nephew, Henry Charles DeQuincy Sewell at 69 Kingswood Road, Toronto. (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Eleven). Aunt Lillie also lived with a niece Marjorie in Kingston. Later, she moved into the home of her brother Frederick in Lorne Park which is now a part of Mississauga, Ontario, west of Port Credit on Lake Ontario.

For the continuation of this line, see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Ten.

Sources

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Many thanks to the following relatives who kindly shared information for this page:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Barnard • Zoë Barnard • Caroline Lange • W. Darcy McKeough | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doroneé Monypenny • Brian Henry Sewell • Robert George Sewell |
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