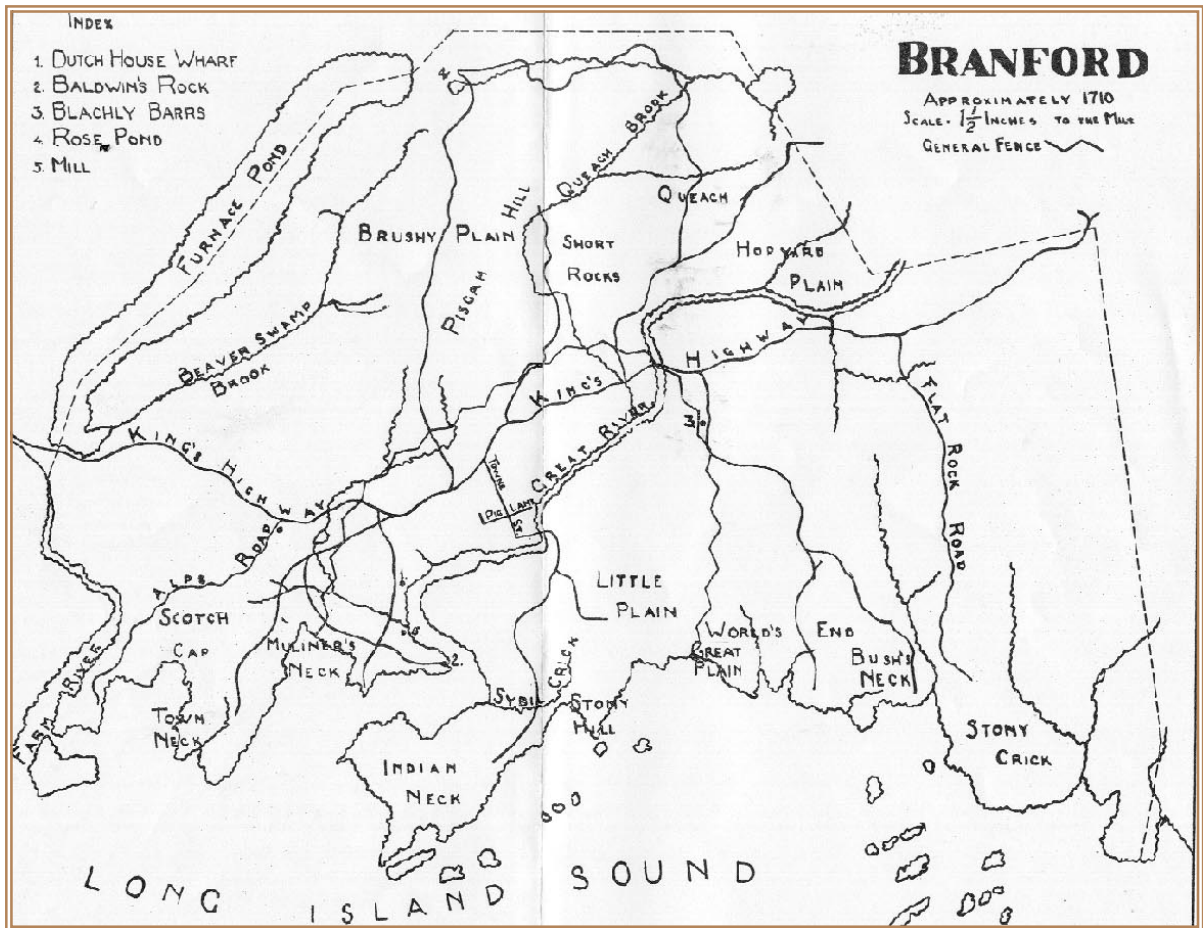


or gap or hole until it be made & also paie the damages that shall come theron defalte of not making; and this fence is to be 4 foot 2 inches high.

The fence is seen on the Branford map.³⁰

The name Branford probably came from the town of Brentford on the Thames in England. It was close to London. Some of the early settlers in Branford came from the vicinity of the English town.³¹



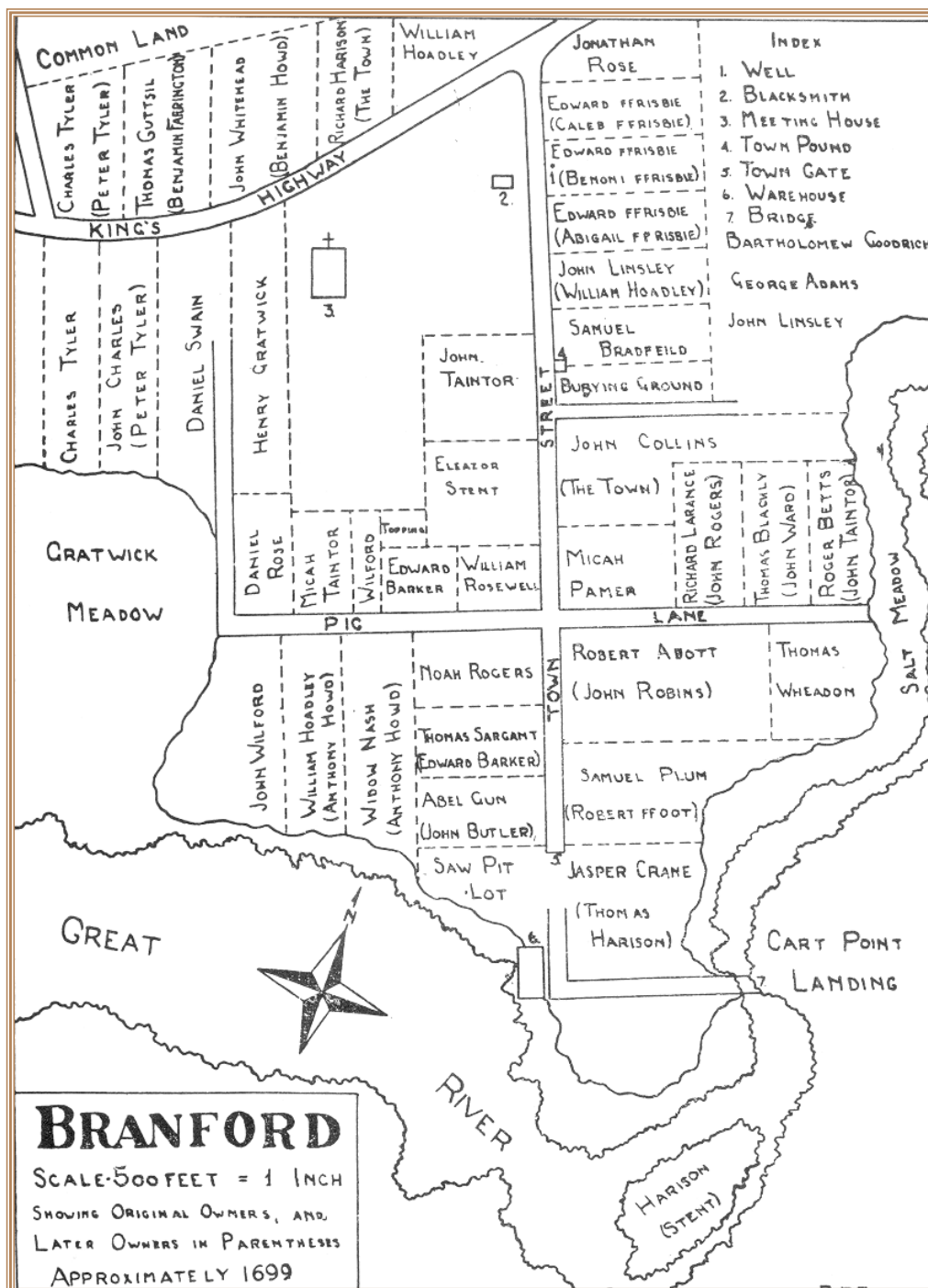
Town Street and Pig Lane, the primary streets in early Branford, are seen in the center of the lower half of the Branford area map. The map is used with the kind permission from the Branford Historical Society.

John Butler had arrived in Branford by 1676. His house was listed by the assessor as being worth £23. In the same listing, the houses and estates ranged from £148 to £18. Since his holdings were not assessed in the 1663 listing, he must have arrived in Branford between the two dates of the assessment lists. As he was granted land by the town in 1674, his arrival must have been about that year.

“Samuell plum William palmer lisy Bradfeeld planetives against franses norton and Mrs. Persons fence for the (fences) damage it appearing that there senses where defecktive but espeasially goodman norton it being allways found defecktive but Mrs. Persons by the vewers once judged sofesient the court doth therefore sentence that frances Norton shall bare three fourth parts the hoggs and Mrs. Person one fourth part.”

Branford Town Records, 1655

There was a reference to a man who could have been John Butler Sr.'s, father: "Henry Butler came to New England about 1642 from some part of Kent, married Ann, daughter of John Holman and had John. He taught school in Dorchester."⁴¹ Some early colonists did go from Dorchester to settle in Connecticut.⁴²



The 1699 Branford map shows John Butler as the second owner of Abel Gun's lot on Town Street. Eleazor Stent's lot is in a prominent place in the middle of town. Map used with permission from the Branford Historical Society.

SECOND GENERATION of the PEARSON FAMILY

858. **Nathaniel William Pearson** (James-1) was born September 25, 1752. He died February 25, 1813 in Whitchurch Township, York County, Ontario, Canada. He was buried in February, 1813 in the Yonge Street Orthodox Meeting Burial Ground, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. Nathaniel married **Ann Bunting** (#917, daughter of Joseph Bunting, #910, and Sarah Bidgood, #922) April 11, 1774 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Ann Bunting was born December 10, 1755 in the area of the Falls Monthly Meeting, Falsington, Pennsylvania. She died in 1840 in the Yonge Street community. Her death was recorded in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Ontario, Canada.

Nathaniel Pearson (33) of the Township of Whitchurch County of York the home District and Presence of Upper Canada (Son of James Pearson and Charity his wife, of the Township of Bucks and State of Pennsylvania, was born the 25th 9th mo. 1752 and married to Ann Bunting Daughter of Joseph Bunting and Sarah his wife of the County and State aforesaid the 11th 4th mo. 1774. her birth being on the 10th 12th mo 1755

	Days	mo	year	Days	mo	year
Nathaniel Pearson	25	9	1752	25	2	1813
Ann Pearson	10	12	1755			

Sons and Daughters born unto the Above of Name are as follows

	Day	mo	year	Day	mo	year
Benjamin Pearson	25	11	1775			
William Pearson	13	5	1781			
James Pearson	15	6	1784			
John Pearson	9	12	1786	2	10	1809
Jusanah Pearson	28	3	1789			
Esther Pearson	7	11	1792			
Samuel Pearson	6	2	1797			

A copy of a page from the original Yonge Street Monthly Meeting Register of Members, 1804-182? The original is stored in the Quaker Archives of Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario.

FOURTH GENERATION of the PEARSON FAMILY



873. **Ruth Pearson** (William-3, Nathaniel William-2, James-1) was born March 10, 1807 in Whitchurch, Ontario, Canada. She died April, 1863 in Scott Township, Ontario, Canada. She married **Samuel Birchard** (#841, and son of Elisha Birchard, #1052, and Jerusha Butler, #805)

Ruth Pearson and Samuel Birchard had the following children. More details appear in the Birchard section of the book:

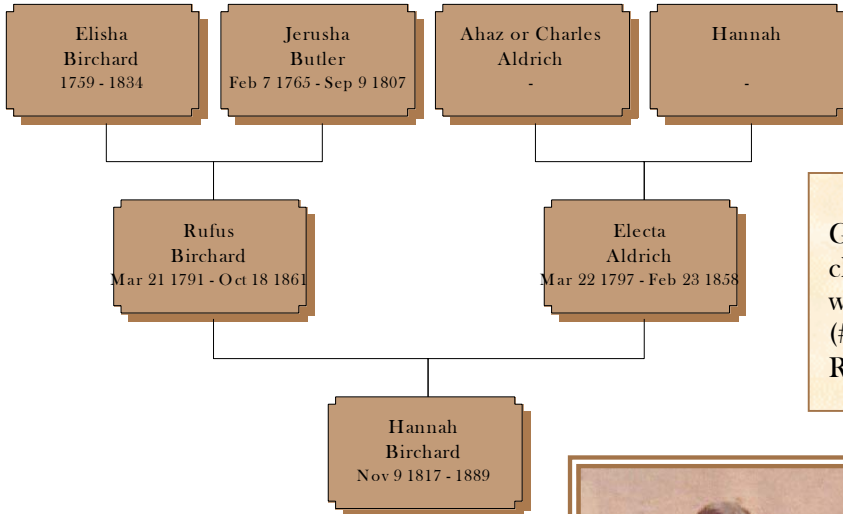
- +882 i. **Jane Birchard** was born January 16, 1824 in Birchardtown, Ontario, Canada. She died before April, 1860.
- +883 ii. **Eli Birchard** was born January 20, 1826 in Birchardtown. He died in 1864.
- 884 iii. **Lydia Birchard** was born February 1, 1830. She married **Lewis Bonnell**.
- 885 iv. **William Birchard** was born June 6, 1832 in Birchardtown. He died in infancy in Birchardtown.
- +886 v. **Nathan Birchard** was born March 12, 1834.
- +887 vi. **Mary Ann Birchard** was born July 19, 1836.
- +888 vii. **Harvey Birchard** was born May 15, 1838.
- +889 viii. **Esther Birchard** was born June 6, 1840.
- +890 ix. **Martha Birchard** was born October 20, 1842.
- 891 x. **Eliza Birchard** was born November 4, 1844 in Birchardtown. She died in 1872. She married **John Blackie** October 8, 1863 in Ontario, Canada. Her birth was recorded in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting records as Orthodox.
- 892 xi. **Sarah Birchard** was born June 27, 1847 in Birchardtown. She died in 1877. She married **George Clark** April 21, 1869 in Ontario, Canada. Her birth was recorded in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting records as Orthodox.
- +893 xii. **Isaac James Birchard** was born October 11, 1850.

According to the records of the Uxbridge Preparative Meeting of Women Friends, Ruth was appointed to attend the Uxbridge Monthly Meeting on June 14, 1848. This may have been in the capacity as a representative to the larger meeting.

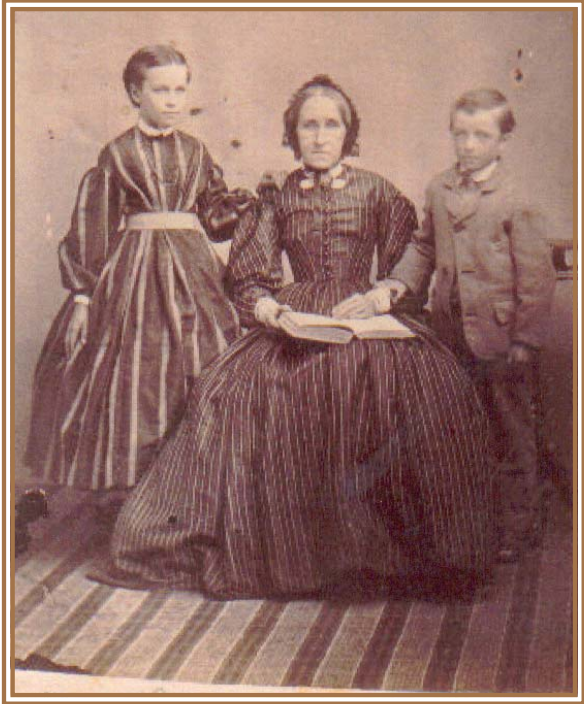


Rufus Birchard's Descendants:

The Author's Second Birchard Great Grandmother, Hannah Birchard Rear (#1218)



Hannah married George Rear and had twelve children. The two youngest were Alice Electa Rear (#1240) and Alfred Walter Rear, (#1241), below.



The flyleaf of George Rear's Church of England Book of Common Prayer contains the record of Hannah's birth and marriage.

*Hannah Rear
the daughter of Rufus
and Electa Birchard born
the 9th of November 1817
well agreed and was married
on the 18th day of June 1838
as follows*

The following year Samuel was listed as a town warden: “Voted Nathaniel Fairfield, Wm. Brattle, Wm. Barber, Oliver Root, and Samuel Birchard be Wardens. Voted March 6, 1773.”¹³ This listing of Samuel’s first name substantiates his residence in Pittsfield.

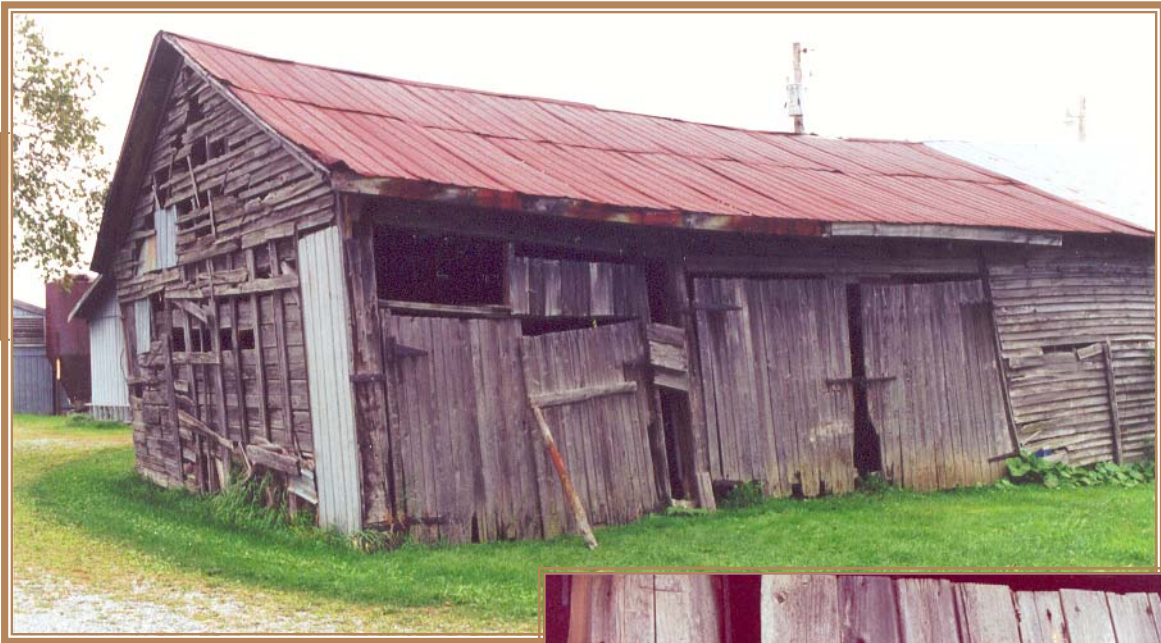
Wife of M^r. Birchard was received into full communion
 The Wife of Noah Dewey Amos Delano & his Wife
 Elizabeth Brattle Daughter of William Brattle &
 the Wife of Amos Root were received into full
 Communion.

On July 2, 1775 the records of the First Congregational Church of Pittsfield show that “Wife of Mr. Birchard was received into full communion”.¹⁴ Her first name is not given in the church record, and the author has been unable to find a record of Samuel’s marriage. At this time it is unknown where and when the marriage took place. Since Danbury was sacked and burned by Benedict Arnold and the British in April, 1777 many records were lost. It is possible Samuel’s marriage record went up in flames along with much of the town. However, there are several records of Samuel’s wife’s name. The Williamstown, Massachusetts’s vital records list Elizabeth Hamilton, who was born in 1734 and died February 12, 1814 as Samuel’s wife.¹⁵ In addition, the church roll in Williamstown lists Samuel Birchard and Elizabeth Hamilton Birchard as members.¹⁶ The book, Origins in Williamstown, clearly state Elizabeth Hamilton was Samuel’s wife.¹⁷ The Vital Records of Williamstown list Elizabeth as Samuel’s wife under the death listings.¹⁸

Elisha Son of	(Samuel)	Birchard	Born
Elizabeth Daughter of	(Anna)	May 18 th 1759	Dec 23 - 1767

Even with the other documents and records listed, the author strongly felt a record with both Samuel’s and Elisha’s names on it was needed. The above record came from the Pittsfield Town Meeting Records, Volume 1, 1753-1796. After much searching, this is the only record found in which both names appeared on the same paper.

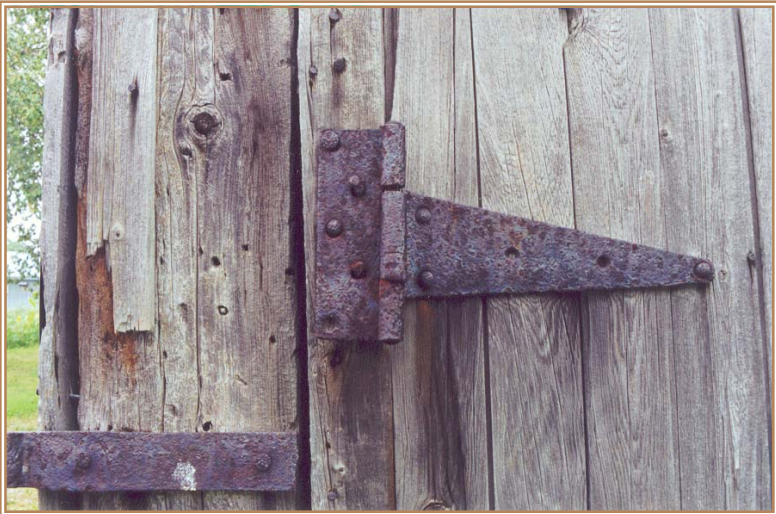
In spite of the above references to Elizabeth Hamilton being Samuel’s wife, there is still some confusion. There are two other records of the mother of Samuel’s children claiming their mother to be Anna. Volume I of the Pittsfield Town Meeting Records, 1753-1796 show two of Samuel’s children, Elisha and Elizabeth, are the children of Samuel and Anna Birchard. In addition, Connecticut Vital Records from Tolland County show the mother of Samuel’s daughter, Phebe, to be Anna Birchard.¹⁹ There are two possibilities to explain the discrepancy in names: Samuel’s wife may have been named Elizabeth Anna or Anna Elizabeth; or his first wife, the mother of the three children, was Anna, who died in mid-life. Later he may have married Elizabeth Hamilton. An extensive search of Massachusetts and Connecticut records have not yielded a solution to the puzzle. However, there is one clue. There is a perplexing church record at the First Congregational Church of Pittsfield. In 1778 there was a record of a “Birchird” dying of pleurisy. Again, no first name or age of the deceased is given. During the time of this death, no other Birchard family is listed as living in Pittsfield.²⁰ The death could not have been Samuel’s, as the author found deeds showing he bought and sold land in Williamstown after that date.



The driving shed behind the house is very old. Eric Horst felt it dates to at least the time of Nathan Birchard, Samuel's son. A buggy or wagon could be driven directly through the wide doors.



The hardware for the driving shed was hand forged.



Scott Township
Scott Township was named after Thomas Scott, a lawyer from Scotland who was appointed Chief Justice of Upper Canada in the early 1800's. The first post office there was called Scott, and was open at Ashworth for only a few years in the 1850's.

T. E. McMillan went to help during the typhoid fever outbreak among the family of his sister, Alma McMillan Rear, who lived in Manitoba. He stayed between January 20, 1906 and February 7 when he returned home to Leal, North Dakota. The following April 5, T. E. and Ella, his wife, returned to Manitoba. On April 10, T. E. returned to North Dakota leaving Ella to care for Martha:

- July 17, 1905 *Got N. Y. Draft for Mother \$10.00 to send to Manitoba.*
- Aug 1905 *This evening I took Mother to the train to go to Gladstone, Manitoba. I gave her \$40.00 for her own use and \$5.00 to give to Bertha Rear for a wedding present.*
- Oct 31 *I went to town to mail Mother's cape to her.*
- Jan 15, 1906 *Sent \$50.00 to Mother.*
- Jan 22 *I took Mother, Elwood and Edna Rear to the train at Woodside and thence to Portage la Prairie and placed them in the general Hospital where they, together with Emerson Rear, have typhoid fever.*
- Jan 31 *I went to the Hospital. Not much change in our patients condition. I phoned home this afternoon. \$1.60.*
- Feb 3 *Blustery at Portage. I visit the hospital-not much change in our people yet.*
- Feb 4 *Sunday. I went to the Methodist Church twice today in Portage la Prairie.*
- Feb 13 *I drove to Wimbledon for the mail and got a card from the Hospital saying Mother is about the same.*
- Apr 5 *Ella and I got to Portage at 5:30 P. M. Went up to the hospital to see Mother. She is very, very poor.*
- Apr 9 *at 2 P. M. we started for Woodside taking Alma Rear with us to Portage to see her mother.*
- Apr 18 *Ella phoned down from Portage la Prairie that she would start for home Friday morning. Evelyn and I went up town this afternoon. I telegraphed \$35.00 to Ella at Merchants Bank of Canada at Portage la Prairie.*
- Apr 20 *This afternoon the little boys and I went up town and bought an iron bed and spring and mattress. Also a commode. \$4.50-\$3.25-\$3.50-\$14.50. Total \$27.75-for cash \$23.00.*
- Apr 21 *I went to Wimbledon early to meet Ella and mother but they failed to come.*
- Apr 22 *Sunday. Up early this morning to meet Ella and mother. They came. I had to carry Mother. She is helpless as a child.*
- Apr 23 *Mother seems none the worse for her trip and glad to be home.*
- May 20 *Dr. came to see Mother. I went up town this afternoon to get some medicine for mother.*
- June 17 *Mother begins to walk alone.*

night when Clinton, Alma's oldest son, lay desperately ill, someone called Martha to come and help. She raced down the hall without noticing the pup Jeff, who lay stretched out across her path. She fell, badly injuring her hip. Undaunted, she continued to help around the house, pushing a chair before her, until she was struck with typhoid herself. She spent the remainder of the winter with three of Alma's children in the hospital at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, until her son Thomas Elwood came for her in early spring and took her back to North Dakota.

Before a school was built, Martha taught Thomas Elwood's children at his farm outside Leal, North Dakota. They set up a room in the barn, and she held school there. T. E.'s children said they learned more Canadian history than American. The school built later was named Uxbridge for the town in Ontario where Martha grew up.