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## OBADIAH HARTFORD AND HIS CANADIAN & USA FAMILIES

Obadiah Harford was the youngest child on William Harford and Deborah Boffen. Obadiah was christened at Heytesbury on 23 February 1817 and he was my great, great, grandfather Samuel Harford's youngest brother and the youngest in the family.

With such an unusual name we expected there would be little difficulty in tracing Obadiah's life. However, this has not been the case. He is not shown in Heytesbury parish burial records (up to 1837) and we have not located a civil marriage or death record in the UK after 1837. Obadiah is also not recorded in English Census records which are a basic starting point. The first available census was 1841 by which time Obadiah would have been 24 and old enough to have left Heytesbury and possibly England.

After wide searching, we have located an **Obadiah Hartford** and his family in Canada. While we cannot be certain that this is Samuel's brother it is of interest and the research will be recorded here.

There are three reasons why Obadiah Hartford might be Samuel's brother:

- The very unusual name.
- Obadiah Hartford's death record of 31 March 1897, at age 80, gives a birth year of 1817 which corresponds with Obadiah Harford's birth year.
- We know from Census returns that Obadiah Hartford was born in England. We have also been told by another Hartford researcher In the USA<sup>1</sup> that he originated from Wiltshire. Hartford family trees published on ancestry.ca commonly show an Obadiah Hartford born 1821 in Hertfordshire and also one born in 1817 in Wiltshire. However, we have not seen any documentary evidence in Canadian or USA records to support this.

There are three issues of concern:

- The "t" in the name. This is not a big issue as it is something that we Harfords are well used to. As well, in the USA and Canada the more common spelling of the name includes a "t". In fact, it is rare to see the name "Harford" in the USA and Canada.
- The Ontario Census returns give a variety of birth years for Obadiah Hartford. This also is not particularly unusual but in this case in each of five census years from 1851 there are five different estimated birth years ranging from 1815 to 1821. The age provided was closer to his actual age as he got older indicating that he put his age up when he was younger.

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<sup>1</sup> Ronald G. Martin ancestry.ca

- The absence of other convincing data. For example, the county or town of his birth.

Obadiah married Sarah Ann Thompson at the Baptist Church, Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario on 18 October 1836.<sup>2</sup>

This may certify that I Eliza Card  
 Minister in The Baptist Church  
 of Haldimand  
 Did marry Obadiah Harpord of Hamilton  
 & Anna Thomson of Haldimand By License  
 Witness — — — Eliza Card  
 Oct the 18. 1836 Molly Card

#### Marriage Record Obadiah & Sarah Ann Thompson

We were hopeful that this record would show the names of Obadiah's parents and also where he was born or came from in England. However, there is one small detail in the spelling of his name without a "T" that takes us a small step closer to believing we have the correct person. The marriage in 1836 also strengthens the position that it was Obadiah from Wiltshire born in 1817 rather than an Obadiah from Hertfordshire born in 1821. While Obadiah was quite young at almost 20 the alternative born in 1821 would have been four years younger. While it is still possible that it could have been him, it is far more likely for it to be the older Obadiah.

At the time of their marriage Obadiah was Christened at Heytesbury on 23 February 1817 implying he was born a month or so earlier. Sarah's age, deduced from the age on her burial record, was about 25. This age difference seems to be a very good reason why Obadiah overstated his age in Census returns in his younger years. He would have wanted people to believe he was about the same age as her.

Obadiah and Sarah had four children. These have been identified from Census returns and other sources.<sup>3</sup> The children were:

1. **Eliza Jane.** Born 1838. Died 1839. Obadiah was about 21 when Eliza was born.

<sup>2</sup> Thanks to Eileen White, South Australia, for identifying the reference location, [ontariogenealogy.com](http://ontariogenealogy.com)

<sup>3</sup> [ancestry.ca](http://ancestry.ca)

2. **William John.** Born 1840 at Haldimand, Northumberland West, Ontario. Married **Martha Palmer Tuck** (born 1840, died 7 December 1885 at Haldimand Township). They had eleven children. It is of interest that Obadiah gave his eldest son the names of Obadiah Harford's father, William, and grandfather, John Harford, of Heytesbury, Wiltshire.

After Martha died William married **Aurora Russ** (born 27 March 1870. Died 6 September 1936 at Toronto) on 7 September 1896 at Cramahe, Northumberland. She was the daughter of Harrison Russ and Eliza Warner. Aurora and William had five children the first of whom was born in 1890. The 1891 Census recorded Aurora as William's Housekeeper. William died at Cobourg, Northumberland on 11 August 1900.

3. **George.** Born 9 January 1843 at Haldimand, Northumberland County. Married **Caroline Sweet** (born 11 September 1847. Died 5 May 1935). George died 24 April 1915 and is buried at Baltimore United Cemetery, Northumberland. His death record<sup>4</sup> confirmed his parent's names. George and Caroline had three daughters and one son.

4. **Obadiah.** Born 1850. Married 28 March 1882 to **Jane Broomfield** (born 25 August 1848 at Haldimand Township. Died 9 November 1925 at Cobourg, Northumberland.) at Grafton, Northumberland County, Ontario. Obadiah's parents were confirmed from his marriage record. Obadiah died on 4 August 1936 at Toronto, Ontario<sup>5</sup>. We have not identified any children for Obadiah and Jane.

Obadiah was a farmer. The 1851 Census<sup>6</sup> was in two parts: an agricultural census and a personal Census. The agricultural census recorded an O. Hartford at the Township of Haldimand, Northumberland County, Ontario. This township is located about 15km north of the shore of Lake Erie and south of Toronto.

Obadiah's land was described as part of Concession 6, Lot 27 and was 100 acres in area. Of this 60 acres were described as Wood or Wild and of other 40 acres were under cultivation with crops. The Census shows production details so we know the kind of farm it was. 10 acres were under wheat producing 100 bushels; 8 acres of peas producing 200 bushels; 4 acres under oats producing 100 bushels and 3 acres were under potatoes producing 100 bushels.

The farm also produced 7 bundles of hay and 7 yards of flannel. It had 5 bulls or steers and 2 milking cows which produced 150 pounds of butter. It also had 3 pigs which produced 3 barrels of pork.

The farm's production enabled Obadiah and his family to adequately live off the land and to sell the excess. The conclusion is that he was well established in Canada by 1851.

The 1851 Personal Census recorded the full details of Obadiah and his family. However, there have been inconsistencies with Obadiah's age in each subsequent census. He overstated his age in 1851, giving it as 39, five years older than he actually was **and making**

<sup>4</sup> Family Search LDS yr 1915 cn 23280, film number:1862172, digital folder number:4170228, image number:22

<sup>5</sup> Family Search LDS ref. 005851 film number:2425797 digital folder number:4530527 image number 00797

<sup>6</sup> Library&Archives1851 Census County 24 Northumberland Sub district 226 Township of Haldimand Page 157 Line 19

him the same age as his wife. This overstatement was progressively corrected in later returns. The other major mis-statement was his place of birth as Ireland. However all subsequent returns showed it as England. There was never a county or town recorded.

A more significant detail of the 1851 Census was that his wife, Sarah, was not shown and neither was their son Obadiah (Jr.) who we believed was born in 1850 although his headstone below indicates 1848. This may be simply because they were elsewhere when the census was carried out.



Headstone Obadiah and Jane Centreton Cemetery Northumberland

We have now located the burial record for Sarah Ann. She died and was buried at Haldimand on 10 January 1852.

Burials.					
NAME.	AGE.	QUALITY, TRADE, OR PROFESSION.	OF WHAT PLACE.	DATE OF BURIAL.	OFFICIATING MINISTER.
Sarah Ann wife of Obadiah Hartford	41	Farmer	Haldimand	January 10, 1852	Henry Bate Joseph

Burial Record Sarah Ann Hartford

By the 1861 Census, Obadiah "*Heartford*" and his three boys, now aged, 20, 18 and 11, are living with Lucy and two further children. It appears that Sarah had died around the time of the 1851 Census and Obadiah had married **Lucy Tucker** in about 1853. Lucy was the daughter of James Tucker and Mary Elizabeth Bradley. She was born about 1838.

Obadiah and Lucy had the following children:

1. **James Smith**. Born 1854 at Haldimand. Married **Lucinda Zufelt**<sup>7</sup> (born 1865) on 5 December 1883 at Warkworth, Northumberland. James died on 25 February 1936.
2. **Zipporah Spora Ann**. Born 21 Sep 1861. Married **Otis Sammis** 24 September 1882, Northumberland. Zipporah died in 1943.
3. **Frederick**. Born 14 September 1862 at Haldimand. Married **Margaret Ellenor** on 31 December 1884 at Northumberland. Frederick died on 4 July 1916 and is buried at Centenary Cemetery, Alnwick Township, Northumberland County, Ontario.
4. **Isaac**. Born 1870. Isaac did not appear in any later Census returns and we presume he died at an early age.
5. **Emma Elizabeth**. Born 1 June 1873 at Haldimand. Married **George Stone** (born c1857 Percy Northumberland) on 23 December 1893 at Castleton, Ontario.
6. **William**. Born 5 February 1878 at Haldimand. Married **Nellie Bright** (born c1869 at Snowdon Ontario) on 19 December 1902 at Northumberland. Died 2 January 1945 at Haldimand, Northumberland County.

The 1871 Census showed Obadiah and Lucy at Percy, Northumberland East. Percy is located on the north shore of Lake Ontario to the east of Toronto. Obadiah was 54 at the time and was recorded as a Farmer, born in England with his religion being Episcopal Methodist. The family had moved back from Percy to Haldimand by the time the 1881 Census came around.

Obadiah died at Haldimand on 31 March 1897 at the age of 80. The cause of death was shown as Senectus.

## The Families of Obadiah's Children

### 1. William John and Martha Tuck

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<sup>7</sup>Family Search LDS Ref: Reg.No: 008359 film number: 1869763 digital folder number: 004529139 image number: 00147

William John and Martha had the following children:

- **William John** born c1859. Died 1949 at Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, USA
- **Elizabeth.** Born 1861 at Haldimand, Northumberland.
- **Franklin.** Born 1867 at Haldimand, Northumberland. Died 27 October 1885 at Haldimand.
- **Stella (Tilla) Evalina.** Born 23 May 1869. Married **Alfred Henry Poltair Mathew** (born 1864 at Helston, Cornwall, England. Died 20 August 1958 at New Westminister, British Columbia.) on 13 January 1886 at Campbellford, Ontario. Stella died 23 June 1922 at New Westminister British Columbia. Tilla and Alfred had four sons and six daughters who were born in Ontario, British Columbia and Kansas USA.
- **Jane.** Born c1871 at Haldimand, Northumberland County, Ontario.
- **John.** Born c1873 at Haldimand, Northumberland County, Ontario.
- **.Stanley.** Born c1875 at Haldimand. Married Irene<sup>8</sup> (surname Unknown) Died 1904, Kansas City, USA. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Wyandotte County, Kansas, USA.
- **William Henry.** Born July 1876. Died 13 March 1877 at Haldimand, Northumberland County, Ontario.
- **Norah Martha.** Born 11 July 1879 at Haldimand, Northumberland. Married **John Woodson Goforth** on 1 June 1903 at Kansas City, Jackson, Kansas, USA. Norah died 22 May 1958 at San Bernardino, California, USA. She is buried at Hillside Memorial Park, San Bernardino, California, USA. They had two sons Thomas and Robert and a daughter, Bessie. Thomas is also buried at Hillside.
- **Thomas.** Born 1882.

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<sup>8</sup> Kansas City Directory 1904



**Norah and Thomas**

- **George Albert.** Born 31 January 1884. Died 2 February 1884 at Haldimand, Northumberland County.

#### 1. William John and Aurora Russ

William John and Aurora had the following children:

- **Carman.** Born 7 April 1890 at Cobourg, Northumberland. Married **Florence Stephens** (born c1893 at Uxbridge, Ontario.) on 12 November 1913 at Toronto, Ontario.
- **Ruby.** Born 5 October 1891
- **Rose Ann.** Born 25 September 1893. Married **Joseph Knapp** (born December 1881) on 15 October 1910 at Toronto, Ontario.
- **Flossie Mae.** Born 17 March 1896 at Castleton, Ontario. Married **Gordon Clenton Brown** (born 1891) on 2 May 1917 at 13 Wyatt Ave Toronto, Ontario.
- **Wilson Vernon.** Born 21 Sep 1899. Married **Ethel Mildred Parrott** on 25 September 1926 at Oshawa, Ontario.

#### 2. George and Caroline Sweet

George and Caroline had the following children:

- **Ruth.** Born 1870 at Haldimand. Married **James Garns (or Gains)** (born c1867 at Norwood, Ontario) on 15 February 1894 at Norhan, Ontario.

- **Emma.** Born c 1872 at Hamilton, Ontario. Married **David McBride** (born c1864 at Hamilton, Ontario) on 23 February 1898 at Peterborough. Ontario,
- **Obadiah Thompson.** Born 26 February 1873 Burnley, Northumberland, Ontario. Married **Anna Jane Miller** (born 5 June 1874 at Hillier, Prince Edward County, Canada. Died 15 February 1905 at Waterloo, Ontario) on 21 September 1897 at Warkworth, Northumberland, Ontario.

They had two children **Ruth May** born 1897 and **Frank Lorne** born 25 February 1901. Frank married **Agnes Meagher** on 26 February 1926 at St Gregory's Church, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. We have identified only one child, a daughter.

Obadiah died on 15 March 1902 at Kansas City, Jackson, Kansas USA and is buried in Kansas City.

- **Ida Ann.** Born c 1873. Married **William Small** (born c1868 in England, the son of Richard Small and Eliza Heron) on 30 October 1889 at Campbellford, Ontario.

### 3. James Smith and Lucinda Zufelt

James and Lucinda had the following children:

- **James Wilbert.** Born 13 April 1895 Northumberland, Ontario. Died 18 November 1934 at Cobourg, Northumberland, Ontario.
- **Loyal Henry.** Born 22 Oct 1897 Northumberland, Ontario. 1965, Ontario.
- **Mary Lorena.** Born 25 Aug 1900. Cramahe. Northumberland, Ontario. Married 1 March 1922 to William John Calberry (born 1900, died 1971) Died 1981. Buried Castleton Cemetery, Northumberland County. They had three boys **William John**, **Norman Vincent** and one name unknown.
- **Harold Claude.** Born 23 January 1904 at Cramahe. Northumberland, Ontario. Married **Muriel Luella Rightmyer** (died 19 December 1984) in 1927 at Cramahe. Northumberland, Ontario. Harold died 27 March 1984.

### 4. Zipporah Spora Ann and Otis Sammis

Zipporah and Otis had the following children:

- **Moses.** Born 30 July 1883 at Cramahe. Northumberland, Ontario.
- **Lucy.** Born 8 June 1884, at Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario. Died 1907.



- **Lottie.** Born 19 September 1886 at Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario. Married **Lionel Town** on 2 Dec 1902 at Cramahe, Northumberland, Ontario. Died August 1976.

## 5. Frederick and Margaret Ellenor

Frederick and Margaret had the following children:

- **Anna Elizabeth.** Born 18 November 1885 at Haldimand Township, Northumberland, Ontario. Died January 1973 at Rochester, New York, USA.
- **Clive Frederick.** Born 12 September 1886 at Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario. Married **Marie P. Hartford** (born 1904) on 17 August 1934 at Jackson, Missouri, USA. Clive was naturalized as a USA citizen on 28 January 1955 at Tuscon, Arizona. He died in August 1964 at Arizona USA.
- **Clifton Edward.** Born 2 December 1888 at Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario. Married **Ada.** Clifton migrated to the USA in 1910 and in 1930 was a Truck Driver living at Avon, Livingstone, New York, USA. He died there in 1955.
- **Nellie Lucy May.** Born 8 February 1892 at Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario.
- **Kenneth Clark.** Born 30 June 1895 at Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario.
- **Althea Pearl.** Born 8 June 1901 at Haldimand, Northumberland, Ontario. Died 6 April 1902 at Haldimand.

## 6. Emma and George Stone

Emma and George had one son, George.

## 7. William and Nellie Bright

Nellie died on 19 September 1910 and we have not identified any children.

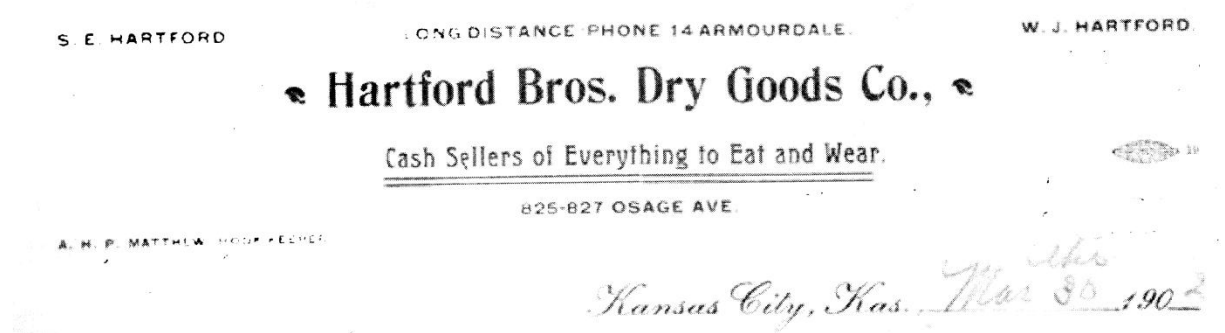
## The American Hartfords

With Ontario having a border so close to the USA, it was inevitable that there would be migration of some Hartfords to the US. While there were a few individuals that migrated there was one branch of Obadiah's family where a number of members went. These were all children of Obadiah's eldest son, William John.

In 1902 the Kansas City Directory showed Stanley working as the manager of the grocery department of the Western Cooperative Association and there were no other entries for any of his siblings. This probably reflects the delays in the publication of these directories which

required a large amount of time to collect and compile all of the entries and then go through the printing process. The final product was likely to be about 18 months out of date.

William John's eldest son also called William John (so as to confuse genealogists) also went to Kansas City and together with Stanley they established a grocery business. The letterhead of the business indicates they were operating on 30 March 1902:



#### Hartford Bros Letterhead

This shows the brothers were operating from 825-827 Osage Ave, Kansas City. It also reveals that their brother in law Alfred Mathew, husband of Stella had joined them as their Bookkeeper. Alfred was a schoolteacher and he had taken his family to New Westminster, British Columbia. They had at least one child and probably two in Kansas City with one born in 1903 before returning the British Columbia where they had another child in 1905.

The letter of 30 March 1902 was to "Uncle Obey" probably from William advising him of the death of their cousin "Obey" (Obadiah Thompson Hartford) from asthma and measles. He died on 15 March 1902 and was buried in Kansas City.

Another sister Nora Martha was also in Kansas City and she was listed in the 1900 USA Census as a Lodger at 756 Osage Avenue. Her occupation was shown as "Saleslady Grocer" so we presume she was also working with her brothers and this would indicate that their business was already established at that time. Nora married an American, John Woodson Goforth, on 1 June 1903 at Jackson, Kansas City.

Both brothers and the business were shown in the 1903 Kansas City Directory but their address was now 4112 Shawnee Ave one block north of Osage Avenue. Another directory, Hoyer's, had an entry:

**HOYE'S 1903**

Hartfelder Geo lab r 237 n Mill  
 Hartfield Frank J lab r 529 Reynolds  
 Hartfield Robt lab M P Ry shops r 529  
 Reynolds  
 Hartford Bros (W J & S E) grocers 726  
 Central  
 Hartford John W r 1320 n 7th  
 Hartford Nora M r 236 n 15th  
 Hartford Stanley E (Hartford Bos 726 Cen-  
 tral) r 831 Neb av  
 Hartford Thos B driver r 236 n 15th  
 Hartford Wm J (Hartford Bros 726 Cen-  
 tral) r 1320 n 7th

**Hoye's 1903 Directory**

This shows a different business address at 726 Central and also Nora and Thomas both residing at 236 North 15th Street. It also shows another sibling, John, at North 7<sup>th</sup> Street. This means there were five siblings, including Stella, in Kansas City.

We have located a marriage of a Stanley Hartford to Jennie Radcliffe on 14 February 1901 but there was no wife named in the directories and we cannot be certain this is a correct finding. This is supported by the Hartford directory entry for 1904 (below) which shows the business now in the names of Mrs. Irene and W.J. Hartford. Irene's entry shows she is Stanley's widow. The entries show three of them quite close together at South 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

HARTFORD BROS (Mrs Irene & W J Hartford)  
 grocers 825 Osage  
**HARTFORD FIRE INS CO** of Hartford Conn  
 608 Kas av J L Klein agt  
 Hartford Irene (wid Stanley E) (Hartford  
 Bros 825 Osage) r 824 s 8th  
 Hartford John W r 824 s 8th  
 Hartford Thos B team r 2925 n 17th  
 Hartford Wm J (Hartford Bros 825 Osage)  
 r 823 s 8th  
 Hartford Chas W mach H N Strait Mfg Co

**1904 Kansas City Directory**

We have not located a death record for Stanley Hartford other than one in 1927 which we have observed has been used by other researchers. However, we have located a burial that meets the birth and death dates and reflects the directory entries which imply his death in 1904.



**Stanley's Headstone Woodlawn Cemetery, Wyandotte, Kansas**

In 1905 Williams appears to take in Thomas as the other member of Hartford Bros but the next year records Thomas as a Labourer at the Kansas City Box Packaging Co. He returned to the grocery business in 1907 where he is shown as a Clerk and no longer as a co-owner of the business.

In 1908, William's wife, Maud, who he had married about 1900, was employed as a Clerk as was Thomas. Also shown in directories was a Lora Hartford at the same address as John and they had obviously married. William and Maud had a child, Helen, who was born in 1909. She was their second child and their first child had died<sup>9</sup>. They also had another child, Dorothy, born in 1912.

After 1910 William's business was at 3837 Summit Street with their home being just around the corner at 619 W38th Street. By 1917 Maud was back working in the business as a Cashier and Clerk. In 1920 they moved their home to 1009 W40th Street.

In 1924 the business was shown at 1739 Swope Parkway and also a Clyde Hartford was shown as an employee. He also had the same home address as William. The next year the directory entry indicated that this was Clive the son of Frederick and grandson of Obadiah and Lucy Tucker. Clive was still living with William and Maud but he was now working as a Clerk for a Peter S Pollard. He later worked as meat cutter for the same person.

Helen started work as a Stenographer at a gas company in 1927 and in that year William had moved from the grocery business and his occupation was given as a Salesman. In 1928 John returned to live with them and he was an attendant at a community service station. William's occupation was also given as an attendant which we presume was the same role as John's. Clive continued to live with William and Maud until he married Marie in 1934 when they were shown at Westport Rd.

We do not have a record of William's death but he was not found in any documents after 1930<sup>10</sup>. A 1934 document recorded Maud as a Widow so William has died between those two years. We have found

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<sup>9</sup> 1910 USA Census.

<sup>10</sup> Kansas City Directory 1930

references to Maud up to 1955 her last address being 1009 W41st Street. We believe William died at about 70 years of age but Maude would have been in her 80's.