

CURTIS BILLING

Maternal 3rd Great-Grandfather



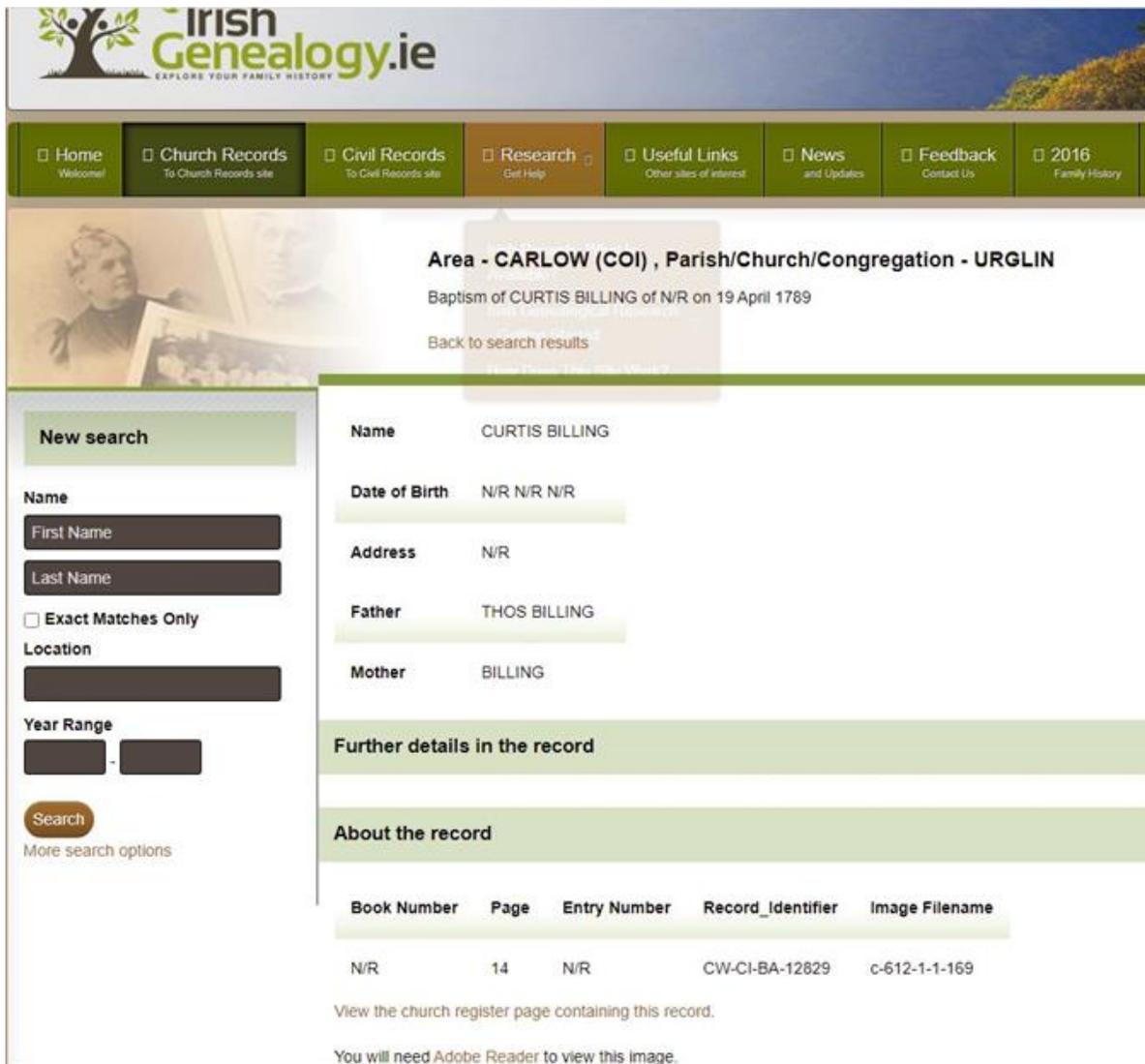
ANCESTOR PROFILE

NAME (S)	Curtis Billing
DATE OF BIRTH	About 1789
PLACE OF BIRTH	County Carlow, Ireland
DATE OF DEATH	28 January 1872
PLACE OF DEATH	St Gabriel de Valcartier West Quebec County, Quebec
DATE OF MARRIAGE	1823
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Quebec City
FATHER	Thomas Billing
MOTHER	
SPOUSE (S)	Mary Ann Abraham (1797-1881)
CHILDREN	Thomas (1824-1893) Mary Ann (1826-1892) Elizabeth (1826-1908) Joseph (1828-1828) John Abraham (1828-1904) Curtis (1829-1906) Elinor (1831-1898) Joseph (1833-1915) Frances (1835-1874) William (1838-1918) Catherine (1842-1914)

NOTES

The 1851 Census has him at 64 years old, therefore he may have been born in 1787-8. Curtis was an ex-army man who fought in Canada during the War of 1812 against the Americans. He died on the 28th of January and buried on the 30th.

Curtis Billing was born in Carlow in County Carlow, Ireland. He may have been born in 1789, as I found a baptism record for a Curtis Billing dated 19 April 1789 which had his father listed as Thomas Billing.



The screenshot shows the Irish Genealogy website interface. At the top is the logo for Irish Genealogy.ie with the tagline "EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for Home, Church Records, Civil Records, Research, Useful Links, News, Feedback, and 2016. The main content area displays a baptism record for CURTIS BILLING, dated 19 April 1789, in the area of CARLOW (COI), Parish/Church/Congregation - URGLIN. The record details include the name, date of birth (N/R), address (N/R), father (THOS BILLING), and mother (BILLING). A search sidebar on the left allows for filtering by name, location, and year range. Below the record details, there is a table with columns for Book Number, Page, Entry Number, Record_Identifier, and Image Filename. The table contains one entry: N/R, 14, N/R, CW-CI-BA-12829, c-612-1-1-169. A note indicates that Adobe Reader is needed to view the image.

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Area - **CARLOW (COI)** , Parish/Church/Congregation - **URGLIN**
Baptism of CURTIS BILLING of N/R on 19 April 1789
[Back to search results](#)

New search

Name
First Name
Last Name
 Exact Matches Only
Location
Year Range
Search
[More search options](#)

Name CURTIS BILLING
Date of Birth N/R N/R N/R
Address N/R
Father THOS BILLING
Mother BILLING

Further details in the record

About the record

Book Number	Page	Entry Number	Record_Identifier	Image Filename
N/R	14	N/R	CW-CI-BA-12829	c-612-1-1-169

[View the church register page containing this record.](#)
You will need Adobe Reader to view this image.

Month & Year	Parties Names	Age	Parishes	Baptized, Married or Buried
Feb 15 1786	The Widow of Hugh Lamm	..	Wrighton	buried
Nov 17	Richd. Edward Walsh	..	do	Baptized
21	The Wife of George Goo	..	do	buried
Apr 2	Barnaby Fitzpatrick	..	do	do
30	John of John & Mary Walsh	..	do	Baptized
May 24	Henry Ryan	..	do	buried
June 30	Margret Fitzpatrick	..	do	do
July 12	Mathew Murphy	..	do	do
Oct 1	John Aick	..	do	do
Aug 3 1787	Charles of Peter Crofton	..	do	Baptized
Apr 19 1789	of The Belling	..	do	do
May 21	The Wife of John Graham	..	do	buried

Curtis was listed in the church records as being 87 years of age when he died on 28 Jan 1872, thus making his birth date around 1785. Perhaps this was an error, and should have read age 83?

To further confuse the date of birth, Curtis was listed on the 1851 census as being 64 (1787); the 1861 census as 74 (1787); and 1871 as 81, making his birth in 1790.

NAMES	REG.		AGE	DESCRIPTION	WHERE BORN			TRADE or Occupation	ATTESTATION, &c.				FORMER SERVICE IN ANY CORPS APPLICABLE TO FOREIGN SERVICE.			
	At Enlistment	At Discharge			County, City, or Town	Parish	Place		Date	For what Period of Service	By whom attested	In what Corps, or if on the Out Post	Period, deducting Service prior to the Age of 16 Years, and the Time absent by Discharge		Actual Service in the East or West Indies, or elsewhere	
													From	To	From	To
Curtis, John	57	79	18	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Warkings, Wm	58	87	29	Dark stout man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Billing, Curtis	56	81	25	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Andrews, James	56	79	23	Fair stout man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Bucclough, Chas	58	81	23	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Robinson, William	55	86	31	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Miller, Hugh	54	81	27	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Travers, James	56	85	29	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Mason, George	54	81	27	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				
Fitch, John	55	82	27	Fair young man	Carlow	Carlow	Carlow	Yeoman	22 July	1807	10 years	19th Dragoon Guards				

There is a record of Curtis Billing joining the **19th Dragoon Guards** in 1807. On the record, he is listed as being 18 years of age, making his birth in 1789. Curtis was 5'6", of fair complexion, with grey eyes and brown hair with a round face. The record indicates he was born in the town of Carlow in Carlow Parish, and his trade was that of a Yeoman. A Yeoman was a class between gentry and the labourers. A yeoman was usually a landholder and farmer of a small parcel of land. He joined the unit on 22 July 1807 and he signed up for a period of time (I believe it was ten years).

The 19th Light Dragoons (source: Wikipedia)

The 19th Light Dragoons had been stationed in India but embarked for England on 20 October 1806, and remained in Britain until the outbreak of the war with the United States in 1812. The 19th were one of three British regular cavalry units that served in North America during the War of 1812, and the only one to serve in Canada. The regiment's first three squadrons arrived at Quebec City in May 1813 and were mounted on horses procured in Lower Canada.

Two squadrons were sent to Upper Canada where they were involved in the blockade and re-capture of Fort George, and the destruction of Black Rock and Buffalo in New York State. Elements of the two squadrons participated in Colonel Thomas Pearson's delaying action against Brigadier General Winfield Scott's brigade during the American invasion of 1814. They subsequently fought at the Battle of Chippawa in July 1814, the Battle of Lundy's Lane later in the month and the Siege of Fort Erie in August 1814. Another troop pursued American raiders who had struck at Battle of Malcolm's Mills in November 1814. For these actions, the regiment earned the battle honour of "Niagara".



The other squadron had been stationed south of Montreal at The Halfway house (Saint Luc area as well as Fort Lennox and The Block houses along the Lacolle border) and participated in the Battle of Plattsburgh in September 1814. In the autumn of 1814, the two squadrons serving on the Niagara rejoined the other squadron. The regiment served south of Montreal until the end of the war. Most of the Regiment were sent back to England in August 1816.

Officers of the 19th Lancers, 1818

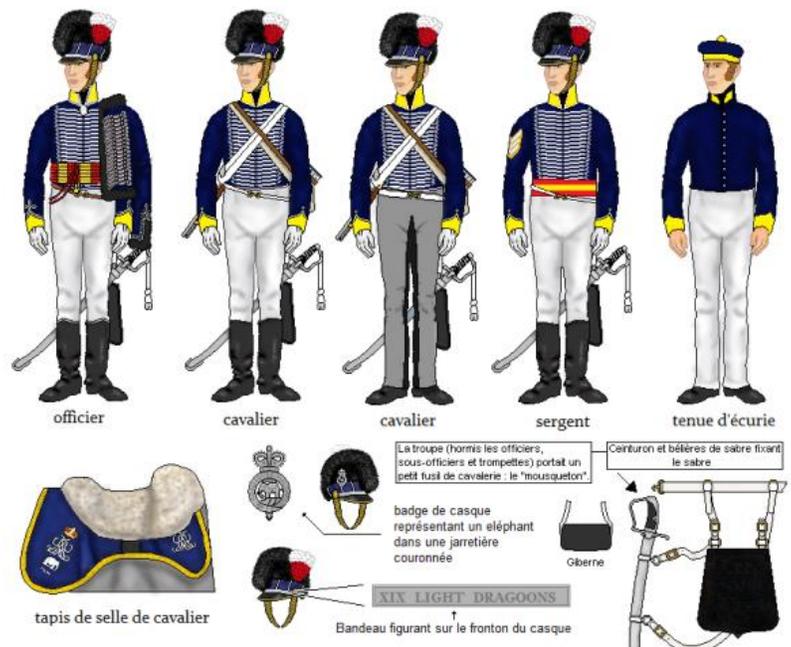
The 19th Light Dragoons were re-equipped as lancers in September 1816 and renamed the **19th Lancers**. The regiment remained in Britain until it was disbanded on 10 September 1821 due to reductions in size of the British Army.

Curtis Billing and the 19th Light Dragoons

were deployed 17 April 1813 to Quebec City as part of a general reinforcement command of the Canadas. It was an uneventful crossing but was very cold. They arrived in Quebec City on May 15th. The regiment came ashore on the 16th and were quartered in the fortress's extensive barracks. Military duty was light for the Dragoons while stationed in Quebec City. As the War was not going very well in Upper Canada with the fall of York and Fort George, the Dragoons embarked on transports for Montreal on the 21st of May. As progress was very slow on the crowded transports, it was decided that the Regiment would continue on foot. Provisions were scarce and food was hard to find, which lent itself to some pillaging along the way. The Officers had to buy bread for their men from their own pockets. They covered upwards of twenty miles a day in warm weather through rough countryside on bad roads with little or no provisions, all without the benefit of their mounts. It took four days to reach Trois Rivieres. They reached Montreal by the 28th and remained in Montreal until 16th of July. The Regiment was divided into three squadrons of which two were sent to the western front, and one to Fort Chambly and defensive positions south of Montreal. It is unclear to me where Curtis Billing was deployed at this time. The Dragoons saw action in

19th LIGHT DRAGOONS

CANADA
1812 - 1813



many skirmishes in the Niagara region during the late summer and fall of 1813 and where involved in several battles in 1814.

Fort Chambly was strategically located on the Richelieu River, and formed an essential component of Canada's defence system during the War of 1812. During this period, the British built a vast military complex to support the defence of the colony against an American invasion. The British built several block houses along the Richelieu at Fort Lennox and at Lacolle. This squadron participated in the Battle of Plattsburg in September 1814.



Fort Chambly c1840; painting by William Henry Bartlett.

On Ancestry.ca, I found Curtis Billing listed in Muster Books based from Fort Chambly from 25 Dec 1814 until he was discharged on 17 Sep 1817. These books were broken down in three-month segments, and they recorded where the men were stationed as well as how much they received. He was stationed in and around Chambly for most of the first year, with one stint in Upper Canada. Between 25 Dec 1815 and 24 Sep 1816, he was back in Upper Canada. From 25 Sep 1816 until 24 March 1817, he was stationed in Drummondville, Quebec. For his last quarter 25 June until 17 September, it states that he was demoted to private and discharged as his period of service had expired.

Drummondville was founded in June 1815 by Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Heriot. The purpose of the town was to provide a home for dismissed British soldiers who fought in the War of 1812, and to guard the Saint-François (St Francis) River against American attacks. The town was named after Sir Gordon Drummond, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada between 1813 and 1816. Did Curtis remain in Drummondville after being discharged? The Governor of Canada was keen on settling this area with ex-soldiers so in case of hostilities with the United States starting up again, there would be trained loyal soldiers to call upon to help defend Montreal.

It is unknown whether or not Curtis remained in Quebec, or returned to the United Kingdom. The next known record, is that Curtis was married in 1823 in the Anglican Cathedral Holy Trinity Church in Quebec City. Unfortunately, the actual written marriage record for 1823 is missing, but the marriage was listed in the index for that year. It probably took place early in 1823 as their first-born child was Thomas, born 16 Mar 1824. Thomas was baptised in the Anglican Cathedral Holy Trinity Church in Quebec City. The church record reads: "Thomas, son of Curtis Billing, of the City of Quebec, Butler to the Honorable H.W. Ryland, and of Mary his wife, was born on the sixteenth of March and baptized on the eighteenth of April in 1824."

Herman Witsius Ryland, was born in Northampton, England in 1760 and served as treasurer for the Office for the Management of the Jesuits' Estates. He played a prominent role in advising the Governor Generals appointed to Canada. The role of a butler in this time period most likely involved duties as greeting guests at the door, helping employer into his coat, being in charge of the dining room and wine cellar, waiting at the table, locking up the house at night, cleaning the knives and the shoes, as well as looking after his 'master's' clothes.

The next children born to Curtis and Mary Ann were born in August 1826 – twins Mary Ann and Elizabeth in the settlement of Valcartier.

So, when and where did Curtis meet his wife Mary Ann Abraham, and when did they move to Valcartier? As Curtis was an army veteran, he was entitled to a grant of land. He applied to the Commissioners of the Jesuit estates. As being the Butler of the Treasurer of the Board, he had an excellent chance of being granted some land.

There is a reference to Curtis being granted Lot#28 in the Second Concession of Riviere aux Pins, south side of the river. (Source: Web site: Quebec Archives online at <http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/>. Source is Fonds Ministère des Terres et Forêts (Land Records). Cote (reference)#E21,S64,SS5,SSS2,D336. The deed was dated 4 Nov 1823.

Curtis also received a grant of land on 6 Jul 1829 for Lots #13 and 14 in the 3rd Concession NW of the Jacques Cartier River - 3 arpents by 30 arpents each. (Source: Notarial record #393 of notary Roger Lelievre show a Land Grant (cession) in the Seigneurie of St. Gabriel from John Stewart, Esq. to Curtis Billing).

The only other reference I have encountered for Curtis Billing around this time, was he signed a petition dated 29 April 1829 to build a scow across the Jacques Cartier River.

I believe he arrived in the Valcartier settlement sometime after the September 1825 census and the one taken in 1831. In 1831, his household contained 10 people.

For potential settlers to the Jesuit lands north west of Quebec City, they had to write a letter requesting land and the person was favoured if they had someone to sponsor them or vouch for their character. The Commissioners were looking for settlers that would work to clear the land and remain on the property. Nicholas Abraham wrote a letter to the Commissioners of the Jesuit Estates in 1819 requesting grants of land for him, six sons, his son-in-law and his brother-in-law.

In a petition for land, Herman Witsius Ryland decided to support this group of emigrants who desired to take up residence in the Seigneurie of Saint Gabriel. In his letter dated 21 Sep 1819, he described them all (but two) simply as 'farmers'. He wrote:

- Thomas Abraham, Farmer, aged 30 prays for lot#10 in the 4th Concession
- John Abraham, Farmer, aged 24 prays for Lot#9 on the 4th Concession.
- James Abraham, Farmer, aged 28 prays for Lot#8 in the 4th Concession. He has a wife and 4 children.
- Nicholas Abraham, Farmer, and Father of the above, aged 55, and having five sons and six daughters, the youngest of his children being 12 years of age, prays for Lot#7 in the same concession.
- Joseph Abraham, son of the above Farmer, Mason, Carpenter, Taylor, and shoemaker aged 32 prays for Lot#6 in the 4th Concession
- James Roark, son-in-law to Nicholas Abraham, Farmer, Mason, Wheelwright and Carpenter having a wife and four children prays for Lot#5 in the same concession
- William Bethel Senior, Brother-in-law to Nicholas Abraham, having three sons and two nieces grown up, and residing with him prays for Lot#4 in the 4th Concession
- William Bethel Junior, 21 years of age, Farmer and Shoemaker, prays for Lot#3 in the 4th Concession.
- J. Heney who has for some time just been employed on Lands conceded to Mr. Stuart. He appears to be a very intelligent Scotch Farmer and at his request I have put his name down for Lot#1 and #2 in the 4th Concession.

Ryland attested to the very comfortable shoes that William Bethel had made for him. It was approved 9 May 1821.

Did Nicholas Abraham write the letter once he arrived in Quebec City in 1819, or did he write it in Ireland before immigrating to Canada? If this large family did arrive in 1819, perhaps his daughter, Mary Ann, had the opportunity to meet Curtis Billing somewhere in Quebec City.

I believe the Abraham's settled in Valcartier West in 1821.

Whilst in Quebec, Curtis always belonged to the Church of England or Anglican church. In Ireland, he belonged to the Church of Ireland, which was an independent Anglican church within Ireland. The Act of Union of 1800 united the parliaments of England and Ireland, and the church became part of the United Church of England and Ireland.

There was an Irish Rebellion in 1798 (May until September) comprising of a republican revolutionary group (made up mainly of Irish Catholic's) that were angry at being shut out of power by the Anglican establishment. In May of 1798, the rebels advanced on the town of Carlow where the British were on high alert and had set up an ambush. About 600 people died that day, about half the rebel force. Although the Rebellion was short lived, social unrest persisted and tensions between the Catholic and Anglican populations remained.

Curtis Billing was 'an old soldier' as indicated on a land grant request which stated that he had been a sergeant in the 19th Light Dragoons. The Regiment was disbanded back in Britain in 1821, but Curtis had already been discharged in September of 1817. Was he living in Quebec City at the time the Abraham family arrived in Quebec? It is unclear as to where Curtis was living by the time of his marriage in 1823 to Mary Ann Abraham.

LAND DEED of Curtis Billing, November 4th, 1823

On the fourth day of November, 1823, Curtis Billing residing in the City of Quebec, farmer, was granted in the Seignior of St. Gabriel situated in the District of Quebec being on the south East bank of the River aux Pins, consisting of three arpents in front by thirty arpents in depth, bounded in front by the River aux Pins, and in the rear by the unconceded lands, on one side to the East by lot no.18, and on the west by lot no. 16, the said front of three arpents measured magnetically south fifty eight degrees west. Lot number 17 in Rivière aux Pins, granted by the Commissioners to the Estate herefore belonging to the late order of Jesuits in Canada to Curtis Billing - November 4, 1823.

The first records I could find on Curtis in Valcartier, were 1) he was included on the early mill payroll during the summer of 1829, which recorded how many days he worked at the mill and what he received. Curtis worked a total of 16 3/4 days; and 2) he signed a petition in 1829 requesting a scow to be built over the Jacques Cartier River. Curtis was a school trustee in the early 1830s. He was also an ensign¹ in the local militia by 1834. In January 1837, the Rev. H. Vachell, (who had been in charge of the Cathedral during Archdeacon G. J. Mountain's absence in England where he was appointed and consecrated Bishop) began to minister to the needs of a congregation which now numbered thirty-one families of which Curtis Billing was one of them. He reported that on the 20th of November 1837 more than seventy people were present at the morning service. It appears that a service was held once a month in a wooden house situated near the school. The new stone Christ Church was built in 1863 and Curtis rented Pew #4.

The 1831 census of Valcartier lists Curtis Billing as head with the number in the family as 10. By the time the 1861 census was taken, only Curtis 74, Mary Abraham 60 were living there with two of their children: Curtis, 30 and Catherine ,19.

Mary Ann Abraham was born 21 Dec 1797 in Offerlane Parish, Queen's County (Laois) in Ireland. She was born to Nicholas Abraham and Mary Bethel. Nicholas Abraham was born c1757 in Rushin, Offerlane Civil Parish, Queen's County in Ireland. He married c1784 to Mary Bethel also in Rushin. Mary and Nicholas were from the Deerpark area of Offerlane Parish, according to the Church of Ireland baptismal records of their children. Abraham received a grant of land 21 Sep 1819 in St Gabriel de Valcartier West. He was 55 years of age, and he had five sons and six daughters. He asked for Lot No.7 in the Fourth Range of

¹ An ensign was the lowest rank of a commissioned officer. Also called Second-Lieutenant. The responsibilities were carrying the ensign flag, and assisting the Lieutenants and Captains.

Concessions. Nicholas died 26 Jul 1829 in Valcartier and was his funeral was held in the Anglican Cathedral in Quebec City on 28th of July.

Mary Bethel was born about 1760 in Ireland, and died in 1821 in Valcartier.



This photo was taken in the Anglican churchyard beside Christ Church in the Village of Valcartier. These headstones are close to the entrance way into the churchyard.

*Billing) On the nineteenth day of
 (Sunday) January one thousand eight
 hundred and seventy two the
 body of Curtis Billing Esq.
 (a native of County Carlow Ire-
 land) Farmer of the Parish of
 St. Gabriel County of Quebec hav-
 ing departed this life on the
 twenty eighth day of January
 instant aged seventy four
 years was interred at Christi
 Church Valcartier by me
 Andrew Balfour Incumbent in
 presence of many witnesses*

*Present { Curtis Billing Andw. Balfour
 Margaret Billing off. Minister*

Death

Curtis and Mary Ann had 11 children all born in Valcartier West and all but two died in Valcartier area.

Their children:

1. Thomas Billing was born 16 Mar 1824 and died 28 Apr 1893. He married Caroline Amelia Wolff 13 Apr 1847 at the Anglican Christ Church in Valcartier. They had ten children of which only three (maybe four as one child may have died young) remained in Valcartier. Caroline was born 13 Apr 1824 and died 2 Nov 1895 in Valcartier. She was the daughter of Alexander J. Wolff (another ex-army man) and Hannah Alert.
2. Mary Ann was born 19 Aug 1826 and died in Valcartier 13 Feb 1892. She married in 1844 to Thomas Brown (1819-1891) the son of William Brown and Marion Graham who lived on what was called the 'flats' along the southeast side of the Jacques Cartier River on the 5th Concession. They had ten children all born in Valcartier.
3. Elizabeth was born 19 Aug 1826 and died 30 Nov 1908 in Rivière aux Pins. She married 17 May 1842 to Arthur McBain (1817-1878) the son of David McBain and Mary Arthurson. David was a

soldier stationed in Quebec City in 1806. His grandfather was said to have fought on the Plains of Abraham. David was born in Inverness, Scotland and Mary in Lerwick, Shetland, Scotland. Arthur was born in Quebec. Arthur and Elizabeth had seven children and all but one, Agnes, remained in the Valcartier area.

4. Joseph was born 21 Feb 1828 and died 10 Oct 1828.
5. John Abraham Billing was born 21 Feb 1828, the twin of Joseph. He lived until 16 Mar 1904 and died in Valcartier. He married 17 Jun 1858 in the Presbyterian St Andrew's Church in Valcartier to Agnes Janet Neilson (1838-1918). They had seven children, of which three remained in Valcartier. Their son, Curtis Collin (1861-1905) who married Isabella Hamilton and they had one daughter; Margaret Elizabeth (1870-1956) who married Thomas A. 'Buzz' McBain in 1888 and they had twelve children; and Lillian Gertrude (1876-1918) who was married in 1901 to John Walter Thompson and they had two children.
6. Curtis Jr. was born 11 Dec 1829 and died in Quebec City 17 Aug 1906. He married 06 Apr 1864 in Valcartier to Margaret Anne Brown (1846-1900) the daughter of John Oakley Brown and Ann Ward. Curtis and Margaret had six children all born in Valcartier West. They remained on the family farm until sometime after the 1891 when it is believed they moved to Montmorency area. Both Curtis and Margaret died there. They had six children: Mary Alice, Curtis John, Walter Brown, Annie Charlotte, Caroline Louise and Emily 'Emma' Frances.
7. **Eleanor (Elinor)** was born 26 Dec 1831 and died 5 Nov 1898 in Rivière aux Pins. She married 23 Feb 1848 in the Presbyterian Church to John Clark (1825-1901) and they lived in Rivière aux Pins. They had 12 children. By the 1860s, they were living on Lot#10 and #11 on the 4th Concession. They ended up moving to Rivière aux Pins about this time.
8. Joseph Billing was born 14 Aug 1833 and died in St Mary's Ontario 9 Oct 1915. He left Valcartier early on, marrying in Ontario and raising his family there. He married 3 Oct 1856 in London, Middlesex County in Ontario to Tamzin Box (1839-1919) who was born in Devon, England.
9. Frances Billing was born 20 Sep 1835 and died from inflammation of the bowels on 9 Feb 1874 in Valcartier. She married William Hornby 27 Apr 1854 and they had 10 children between 1855-1872. William was born 10 Jun 1831 and died 30 Apr 1910 in Valcartier. He was the son of John Hornby and Mary Ann Doyle.
10. William Billing was born 19 Mar 1838 and died in Valcartier on 8 Dec 1918. He married 2 Apr 1861 to Sarah Brown (1841-1899) the daughter of Henry Austin Brown and Eleanor Calback. They had seven children of which most stayed in Valcartier.
11. Catherine was born 21 Mar 1842 and died in Orford Township in the Eastern Townships on 13 Mar 1914. She married in the Presbyterian St Andrew's Church in Quebec City to David McKinley. David was born 9 Aug 1837 to Andrew McKinley and Sarah McCune of Rivière aux Pins. David died 9 Sep 1931 in Auburn, Androscoggin, Maine. I believe he is buried in the Presbyterian cemetery in Valcartier. They had nine children.