



Edith C. Slater

OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY

Guiding Voices
and Other Poems

BY
EDITH CATHERINE SLATER



LONDON, ONT.
HAYDEN PRESS LIMITED
1932



Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater

1872–1941 • LY4F-SMM

Vitals

Name

Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater

Sex

Female

Birth

9 April 1872

Thamesford, Oxford, Ontario, Canada

Death

23 June 1941

Woodstock, Oxford, Ontario, Canada

Burial

25 June 1941

North Embro Cemetery, Embro, Oxford, Ontario,
Canada

Other Information

Residence

31 Mar 1901

Oxford (north/nord), Ontario, Canada

Residence

1911

Oxford North Sub-Districts 1-49, Ontario, Canada

Immigration

9 June 1939

Buffalo, Erie, New York, United States

Race

English

Spouses and Children



Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater

1872–1941 • LY4F-SMM

Parents and Siblings



James Alexander Slater

1846–1925 • LRL8-R3L



Catherine Allen

1848–1902 • LR2G-DH2

Marriage

30 May 1868

Perth, Ontario, Canada

Children



George Ellsworth Allen Slater

1869–1946 • LRL8-DBN



Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater

1872–1941 • LY4F-SMM



James Milton Slater

1874–1914 • LJR7-J55



Ethel Mae Slater

1877–1941 • L1PG-2MX



Georgina Alberta 'Agnes' Eleanor Slater

1880–1956 • LY4F-7WR



Jessie Charlotte 'Bertha' Slater

1882–1961 • LYPQ-ZTX



Wilhelmina Robina 'Grace' Henrietta Slater

1884–1940 • LYJ3-4DK



Frederick Eustace Slater

1888–1955 • LBT4-9CW



Myrtle Sales Slater

1890–1978 • LCR7-7MG

Brief Life History

Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater b. 9 Apr 1872 d. 1941.

A spinster teacher and poetess. Her book "Guiding Voices And Other Poems" by E.C. Slater was published in London, Ontario by the Hayden Press, Ltd in 1932. A copy of it was purchased in 1932 by the Library Board of the Lawson Library at the University of Western Ontario, London. The daughter of two teachers and the granddaughter of a published poet, Edith Catherine Slater (1872-1941) grew up in Zorra, Ontario and soon found herself following familial footsteps. A public school teacher in the small town of Embro, she published most of her poems in local newspapers. During the First World War she acted as press correspondent for the communities of Embro and Brooksdale, many of her poems commemorating incidents and figures prominent in the Canadian war effort. She embellished her single volume of poetry with letters of recognition from Queen Mary and several Canadian notables. An enthusiastic royalist, she penned the title poem of GUIDING VOICES AND OTHER POEMS (1932) after being presented to the Prince of Wales. She also wrote at least one set of lyrics to a song, "Springtime" (1922), composed by George Graff Jr. Following her death in 1941, she was buried at her family plot at North Embro Cemetery.

Slater Family History by Mrs. G. Lockwood

James Alexander Slater (my maternal g-grandfather) had a dairy farm on Lot 24, Con 6, on the 7th line of West Zorra. He was also active in the operation of the local cheese factory. Prior to farming, he served in the American Civil War. Five of his grandsons served in World War II - one of them died in Italy: [James Murray Slater, 21 June 1918 – 22 March 1944]

Born 02 Jan 1846 in Inverness Township, Megantic County, Quebec, James was the 4th of 8 children of Henry Ingram Slater [2 Sep 1818-29 Aug 1891] & Mary Steele [28 Apr 1811-27 Dec 1885]. Mary was the 2nd of 7 children of James Steil/Steele & Ann 'An' McNeil from Scotland. About 1853, James' parents moved to East Nissouri Township, Oxford County, Ontario. Henry had a farm on Lots 32-34, Con 10, East Nissouri Township. Mary's brother, Robert Steele, farmed on Lot 35, Con 9, East Nissouri Township.

In late 1863, James visited his older brother in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 26 Jan 1864 James enlisted to fight in the American Civil War. Some family members believed he did this in place of his newly married brother. His military/war records do not make mention of that fact however they do indicate that he was a volunteer and he was paid a bounty. The following information is from pg 129 of "Record of Service Of the Michigan Volunteers":

Slater, James. Enlisted in company G, Fifth Cavalry, Jan. 26, 1864, at Grand Rapids, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered Jan. 26, 1864. Joined regiment at Stevensburg, Virginia, Feb. 15, 1864. Transferred to company K, First Cavalry. Transferred to company E. Nov. 17, 1865. Mustered out at Salt Lake City, Utah, March 10, 1866.

Note:

- His transfer to company K, First Cavalry was 23 Jun 1865.
- The Michigan Volunteers were also known as the Wolverines.
- After peace was signed at Appomattox, the Wolverines were sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to harry hostile tribes on the Great Plains.
- James was mustered out of his company at Camp Douglas in Utah after he contracted black fever. Records show that he bought his carbine (a Spencer Carbine, Cal. 52) and kept his sabre.
- He received a pension from the U.S. Government for his Civil War service.

After being discharged from the U.S. Army, James returned to East Nissouri and went back to school to complete his education. He became a school teacher and taught in several schools in West Nissouri and throughout Oxford County including the Harwood school near Hickson. 30 May 1868 James married Catherine ALLEN in St. Marys, Perth County, Ontario.

Catherine was the 6th of 9 children of Jacob D. ALLEN [12 Jun 1805-26 Jul 1876] & Maria Congdon [1819-1893]. Catherine and her family lived in Thamesford and the later St. Marys. Like her father, Catherine was also a school teacher. Her father was also a poet with two books published, [*The musings of Uncle Jake: the Wandering Bard*](#), published in 1866 in London, Canada West by J. Cameron and "Poems" published in 1869 in London, Ontario by The Advertiser. Both books are available at the National Library of Canada, Ottawa and in the Treasure Room at the Lawson Library at the University of Western Ontario as part of the John Davis Barnett collection.

James quit teaching in 1881 and received half of his pension money in 1882. After 1882, James farmed Lot 24, Con 6, on the 7th line of West Zorra. James and Catherine had 9 children:

1. George Ellsworth Allen Slater [26 Sep 1869-13 Aug 1946], married 27 Apr 1922 to Mary Ann Rosenblath [1 Aug 1892-10 Nov 1986]. They had 7 children.

2. Mary Elizabeth 'Edith' Catherine Slater [9 Apr 1872-1941]. A spinster teacher and poetess. Her book "Guiding Voices And Other Poems" by E.C. Slater was published in London, Ontario by the Hayden Press, Ltd in 1932. A copy of it was purchased in 1932 by the Library Board of the Lawson Library at the University of Western Ontario, London.

3. James 'Milton' Slater [5 Nov 1874-28 May 1914], married 30 Dec 1908 to Annie McDonald [24 Aug 1879-6 Feb 1941]. Annie was the daughter of William E. McDonald and Frances 'Hariett' Kittmer who farmed Lot 27, 8th line, West Zorra, Maplewood, Ontario. Milton & Annie farmed on Lot 23, Con 9, West Zorra. They had 3 children.

4. Annie Louise 'Ethel' May Slater [13 May 1877-12 Mar 1941], married George 'Victor' Wye [1877-29 Apr 1921]. They had 1 child.

5. Georgina Alberta 'Agnes' Eleanor Slater [9 May 1880-15 Jan 1956] married, 9 Nov 1900 to Charles Edward McDonald [16 Jun 1876 or 1877-1954. Charles was the son of William E. McDonald & Frances 'Hariett' Kittmer (see info above re: his sister, Annie). They had 4 children.

6. Jessie Charlotte 'Bertha' J. Miltlena Slater [30 Apr 1882-13 Feb 1961], married 12 Mar 1901 to William John Valentine Bell [14 Feb 1876-13 Aug 1956]. Bertha and William farmed the west 1/2 of Lot 23, 7th line of West Zorra. They had 3 children.

7. Wilhelmina Robina 'Grace' Henrietta Slater [24 Oct 1884-1940] married W. R. Klee. Married Charles Norwood [5 Jun 1887- Aug 1975]. She had no children.

8. Frederick 'Fred' Eustace Slater [31 May 1887-23 Jul 1955] married 5 Jan 1910 to Alice Dolena Murray [10 Apr 1887-25 Feb 1959] (my maternal grandparents).

Alice was the 1st of 8 children born to Alexander 'Alex' Murray [17 Oct 1858-2 Dec 1927] & Margaret Jane McBurney [9 Jan 1863-18 Sep 1933]. Her parents farmed on Lot 21, Con 8, West Zorra and then moved over to the 4th line between Braemar side road and Hickson side road on the left hand side going north. After Alice married, her parents moved to the stone farm house on the East side of Embro that was later farmed by her brother, William 'Bill' A. Murray and his wife Hazel J. McLeod. Alice's parents are buried in the North Embro Cemetery.

Fred's family lived on the 7th line of Zorra. Alice's family lived on the 8th line. They both attended the 8th line school on the left hand side of the road between Hickson side road and Cassel side road. After their marriage, they farmed the east half of Lot 20-21, Concession 13-14 on the 14th line of East Zorra, Tavistock. They moved to Woodstock in 1914 where Fred had a feed business. Fred and Alice had 9 children:

- Anson Eustace Slater [6 Jun 1911-28 Dec 1975], served in WW II
- Agnes Helen Slater [29 May 1913-20 Jun 1947]
- Frederick 'Alan' Slater [16 Jul 1915-1 Oct 1968], served in WW II
- Hilton 'Lloyd' Slater [13 Jan 1917-11 Jun 1918]
- James 'Murray' Slater [21 Jun 1918-2 Mar 1944], served in WW II. Lance Corporal (L/CPL #B-36823) in the Irish Regiment of Canada RCIC. Death verified by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Buried in Italy at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Commune of Ortona, Province of Chieti, Italy - Grave Memorial Reference # V I. F. 16. His name is engraved on the Slater headstone in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada along with the names of his mother, father, and siblings. His name is also listed on the War Memorial in Woodstock.
- Vera Mae Slater [11 Feb 1920-10 Sep 1993]
- Alice 'Madeline' Slater [12 Oct 1921-5 Aug 1993] (my mother)
- Ralph Gordon Slater [29 Mar 1924-2 Feb 2000], served in WW II
- Alexander 'Alec' Hall Slater [17 Dec 1929-1 Nov 1980]

9 . Lucy Cornelia 'Myrtle ' C. Janette Slater [24 Aug 1889-2 Apr 1978] married to Anson E. Fletcher. They had 1 child.

The James Alexander Slater & Catherine Allen plot is in the North Embro Cemetery, Embro, West Zorra Township, Oxford County. In the same plot are 4 of their 9 children: Edith, Agnes, Myrtle, and Milton. Milton's wife (Annie) and 2 of their 3 children (James & Kathyleen) are also in the same plot .