



Rowanwood, 276 Oxford Street, Ingersoll

Mary Margaret
Chadwick,
1850-1933
&
Aaron Napoleon
Christopher
1835-1907

Mary Margaret Chadwick was born on 14 March 1850, in Ingersoll to parents: Charles Eli Chadwick & Jane J. McCartney. She married local Ingersoll building contractor, Aaron Napoleon Christopher (1835–1907) on 14 December 1869.

INGERSOLL CHRONICLE,

DECEMBER 16, 1869

Fashionable Wedding.

An unusual excitement took place in town on last Tuesday morning, the cause being the marriage of A. N. Christopher, Esq., of this place, to the eldest daughter of our respected fellow-townsmen, Charles E. Chadwick, Esq. The ceremony took place in the new Church of St. James, at half-past eleven, long before which hour, the Church was filled by the youth and beauty of the town, particularly the fairer portion. As Ingersoll can boast of handsomer women and braver men than can be found in any other town, the scene at the Church was, as may be imagined, attractive in the highest degree. As the bride entered the Church precisely at the hour named, leaning on the arm of her father, and accompanied by the four handsome and gaily-dressed bridesmaids, the bridegroom and groomsmen having previously arrived, the organ pealed forth, by which time the "flutter" had reached its height. The bride and bridegroom, bridesmaids and groomsmen, then took their places, and the ceremony was proceeded with, the incumbent, the Rev. Mr Hincks, officiating. This being the first wedding that has taken place in the Church, and the parties being well-known and highly respected, the event was one of more than ordinary interest. At the close of the ceremony, the clergyman presented the bride elect with a beautiful copy of the "Prayer Book." The party then proceeded to the residence of the bride's father, and in a few hours after took the train for New York and other points east. We heartily wish long life, happiness and prosperity to the young couple, whose married life has commenced under auspices so favorable.

Dated 25th January 1870

Charles Eli Chadwick
Esq

vs

Aaron N. Christopher
Esq

Deed



Mary Margaret Chadwick & her new husband, Aaron Napoleon Christopher purchased a lot on the west side of Oxford Street, south of Ann Street from her father Charles in 1870, just a month after their wedding. A grand house was to be constructed by Aaron & his brothers: Christopher Brothers, building contractors, Ingersoll for his new bride. Known as 'Rowanwood', 276 Oxford Street, was to represent one of the best addresses in town. Built in the Italianate style, which was introduced in England at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign as a model suburban housing for the rising mercantile class, Rowanwood features a central Tuscan Tower with tall rounded Italianate windows and deep, bracketed eaves.

Between Charles Eli Chadwick of the Town of Ingersoll in the County of Oxford and Province of Ontario Esquire of the First Part Jane Chadwick his wife of the same place of the Second Part and Aaron Napoleon Christopher Gentleman and Mary Christopher his wife both of the said Town of Ingersoll of the Third Part



Rowanwood featured a white marble fireplace in the living room, the oversized mirror, with its intricately carved wooden frame and the low marble topped table in the front entranceway. The tall archway to the hall is flanked with two red stained glass panels resembling side lights. As was the custom, a lady would designate one day of the month as her "Calling Day" at which time she would be at home to receive guests. Fashionable women would leave their calling card as evidence of their visit. One former Ingersoll resident recalls, as a child, donning her white gloves and with her mother paying a visit to the Christopher home. This house with its large double living room was the scene of many memorable parties.



Mary Chadwick & Aaron Christopher had two daughters, Jean Helen (1875-1942) & Frances Neilson (1877-1964).

Jean & Frances never married and lived together at Rowanwood, 276 Oxford Street, all of their lives, until their respective deaths.



Aaron Napoleon Christopher

1835-1907 • KL93-3BS

Spouses and Children



Aaron Napoleon Christopher

1835-1907 • KL93-3BS



Mary Margaret Chadwick

1850-1933 • GCS8-Q2Y

Marriage

14 December 1869

Ingersoll, Oxford, Ontario, Canada

Children



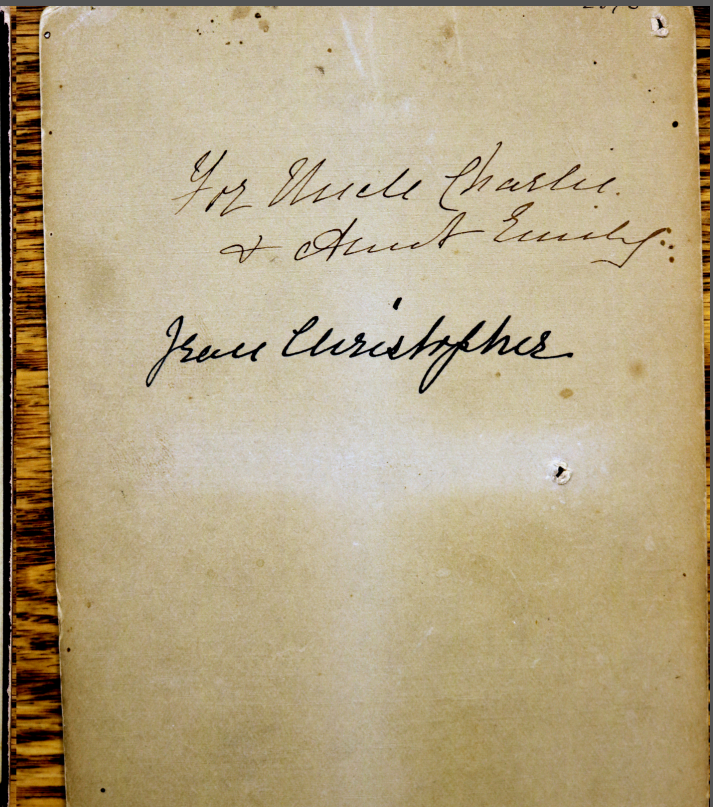
Jean Helen Christopher

1875-1942 • 9WVN-H2J



Frances Neilson Christopher

1877-1964 • 9JD5-8M6



Portrait of Jean Christopher, gifted to her Uncle Charles Walter Chadwick & Aunt Emily Mason Chadwick of Kenora, circa 1900



Above: Portrait of Frances Christopher, gifted to her Uncle Charles Walter Chadwick & Aunt Emily Mason Chadwick of Kenora, circa 1900



Above: Portrait of Jean Christopher, circa 1890



R to L.
Mrs. Irwin
Jean Christopher
Frances

Centre: Jean Helen
Christopher, 1875-1942
Right: Frances Neilson
Christopher, 1877-1964
Left: Mrs. Irwin
Photograph by Frank
Kiborn, Ingersoll, circa
1910

Ingersoll Tribune

CHRISTOPHER--In Ingersoll on Thursday, September 17th, 1942, Jean Helen Christopher, beloved sister of Frances Neilson Christopher. Funeral, (private), was held from the Fred S. Newman Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Service was conducted by Rev. H. E. Merifield, rector of St. James' Anglican Church. The bearers were John Lee, F. C. Rich, A. S. Crawford, W. E. Cragg, George Bartlett, and J. M. Wilson

Ingersoll Tribune

MISS FRANCES CHRISTOPHER DIES IN 92nd YEAR

Following a long period of ill health, a well known and highly esteemed resident of Ingersoll, in the person of Miss Frances Christopher, 276 Oxford Street, passed away on 10 May 1964. Miss Christopher who was in her 92nd year was born in Ingersoll to Mr. & Mrs. A. N. Christopher and had been a life long resident of Ingersoll and her quiet and kindly nature had won for her a host of friends. She was a member of St. James Anglican Church. Left to mourn her passing are two cousins, Miss Nora Chadwick & Mrs. Crete Marlin, both of Ingersoll. Miss Christopher rested at the Walker & Clifton Funeral Home, where services were held on Wednesday afternoon, 13 May, with Rev. R. R. Sadleir, rector of St. James Anglican Church, officiating. Interment was made at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery, casket bearers being Donald Wilson, H. A. Lambert, Edgar Gill & Ronald Skinner.

In 1858, John (1828-1915), George (1830-1919) & Aaron (1835-1907) Christopher formed a partnership: J. Christopher and Brothers steam planing and saw mill. In 1866, they organized the Oxford Land and Petroleum Company, which took oil leases around Oil Springs. In 1867, a company called Cook, Christopher & Company, lumber merchants was formed. Later they began the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Company. By 1892, Aaron was a banker, broker and insurance agent, while John was a liquor and wine merchant.

Above, 1862 advertisement in the County of Oxford Gazetteer, promoting the Christopher Brothers enterprises. The Ingersoll Sash & Door Factory was the first industry on the north side of the Thames River in Ingersoll. Located on Victoria Street in 1844, this was the first factory in Ingersoll to employ steam as a motive power. Later the factory moved to the southwest corner of Carroll and Charles Streets, commonly known as Harmony Hall, destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. The Christopher Brothers constructed many of the large homes in Ingersoll, as well as businesses, including a large block on Thames Street & St. James Anglican Church.

138 COUNTY OF OXFORD GAZETTEER.

INGERSOLL SASH AND DOOR FACTORY,
NORTH OF THE G. W. RAILWAY DEPOT.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER, & BROS.
Builders and Contractors for all kinds of Buildings.

ESTABLISHED IN 1844.

BUILDING MATERIAL
Constantly on hand, an extensive stock of rough lumber of every description thoroughly seasoned and planed ready to fill orders of every kind for building purposes at greatly reduced prices.

SASH, DOORS, BLINDS
MOULDINGS,
BASE FRAMES, CORNICE, &c.,
Constantly on hand and made to order on the shortest notice and newest designs.

Contracts entered into for the erection of
Wood, Brick & Stone Buildings,
in all the various departments, including
MASONRY, PAINTING, PLASTERING, &c.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS DRAWN TO ORDER.
All work turned out by this establishment is warranted. Planing done to order.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER, & BROS.

By 1894, Aaron Christopher was following in his father-in-law's footsteps, according to this advertisement in the 1894 Ingersoll Directory.

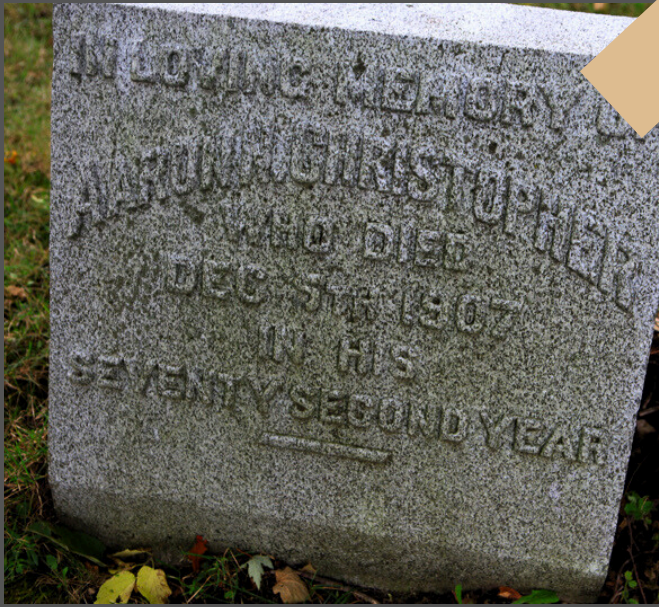
A. N. CHRISTOPHER,
Banker and Broker.

Money Loaned on Notes and Mortgages. Interest allowed on deposits. Agent British Empire Life Assurance Co.

Office Market Building, King Street W.



Portrait of Aaron Napoleon Christopher, 1835-1907, taken by F. A. Baker, photographer, Ingersoll, circa 1880



Ingersoll Chronicle, 1907

LAI D AT REST--The remains of the late A. N. Christopher, were laid at rest in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place from his late residence, Oxford Street, to St. James' Anglican Church, where an impressive service was conducted by the Rector Rev. R. J. M. Perkins, assisted by Rev. Canon Hincks. The town council attended in a body and many floral offerings indicated the high esteem in which deceased was held. The pallbearers were Messrs. Thomas Wells, Dr. Walker, Charles White, Walter Mills, and R. H. Young



The Christophers are interred in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery