

A history of the Sutherland family was written by Lowell K. Watson, a great-grandson of James Sutherland. His writings came from family stories and from his memories in Wisconsin.

He assumed there was just one Robert Sutherland, whereas a father and son carried that first name. In the selection below "Jr." has been inserted for the second Robert.

Robert is thought to be buried in the Old Highland Cemetery near the Nashwaak River. A cairn or monument has been erected in the Cemetery where on November 11th of each year Scottish bagpipes play and their music can be heard echoing throughout the valley. On the cairn are the names of all the original members of the 42nd Scottish Regiment. Robert Sutherland's name is one of them although there is no tombstone for him.

James Sutherland was born February 23, 1812 in Nashwaaksis near Fredericton, New Brunswick Canada. He was the son of Robert Sutherland, [Jr.] and Nancy Anne McCloud (McCleod) of Scottish decent. He had three sisters who died of typhoid fever and a brother, Roderick, who died of smallpox, and a sister Anne who lived to be over ninety years old.²³

As stated earlier, Nancy Ann McLeod was a daughter of Roderick McLeod, Jr. and granddaughter of Roderick, Sr. Both of these men served in the 42nd Foot and had received grants of land along the Nashwaak River in Saint Mary's Parish. Just when Nancy and Robert, Jr. married is not known. Five surviving children are listed by a researcher²⁴ while Watson mentions two who survived plus four who died.

Robert Sutherland, Jr. died in 1814, very likely in his thirties. Watson says he was killed by a falling tree. Was he clearing land for farming or could he have been working in the extensive lumber industry of the country? The timber trade and shipbuilding flourished, white pines being especially valuable for masts. His son, James, was only a few years old at the time.

When her husband was killed Nancy Anne was pregnant with Ann. Her mother-in-law, Elizabeth, a woman in her fifties or older, might have been a member of Nancy's household. (A woman named Elizabeth Sutherland died in the Nashwaak area in August of 1819.) Nancy Anne Sutherland took a second husband, John Casey, in March of 1819 in Saint Mary's Parish, four or five years after losing her first husband. Witnesses at the wedding were James Howard and Angus McBean. (The latter is also the name of a soldier in the 42nd.)

Over a decade later in July of 1833, Nancy's daughter, Ann, married Peter McNabb in Saint Mary's Parish, and James Sutherland was witness.

²³ Watson was quoted by Wayne Guyant in his *History and Memories of Belmont Township*, 13-14. This is held in the Archives of the Univ. of WI in Stevens Point. Watson lived in Garrettsville, Ohio.

²⁴ Bob Sutherland, researcher in Archives of N.B., lists the children as Margaret (1806-1888), James (1812-1871), Ann (1815-1902), Roderick and Charles. This conflicts with Watson writing later in Wisconsin, who does not mention Margaret or Charles.