

### Who is James Sutherland?

James Sutherland was born in Scotland, came to America, engaged in the general merchandise business for a while in New Brunswick, where he was a member of the General Assembly, and then spent four years in the gold mines of Australia, later coming to the United States and engaging in farming in Wisconsin.

*The History of Redwood County, 1915*

The only offspring of James ever to live in Redwood County was his daughter Phebe so she must have been the source of the information. Surprisingly, it turns out to have two important errors. He was not born in Scotland, his grandfather was. And he was not in a general assembly. Is this a reference to an ancestor or two of his wife?

What is the story about James Sutherland? Evidence of his interest in Massachusetts is indicated by the signature of "J. Sutherland" inside the cover of *The Massachusetts Register of 1827*. This small book, 3 ½ x 6 inches, has legal, political and business information. Perhaps it aided him in trade. Lowell Watson tells us:

Years passed swiftly and James grew to manhood. He lived in Oromocto and later in Fredericton. He was a tanner and courier of leather. He became a wealthy man at the time. He owned a large establishment in Fredericton, having a shoe shop and a harness maker's shop. Then he had a general store which dealt with mercantile business. He furnished lumber camps in which he had an interest.

Watson seems to indicate James began in business by tanning and transporting leather, and perhaps this was in Oromocto. There he encountered people with roots in New England who half a century before had been sympathetic to the American Patriots. He was different from them, grandson of men who had served in the Black Watch, fighting for the king during the American Revolution. The Scottish traits of James were so pronounced that one of his youngest daughters thought he was born in Scotland! Instead he was of the third generation in the New World. She was also mistaken in thinking he had served in the general assembly. Could this be a memory from the Stephenson side and refer to activities of Israel Kenney and Asa Kimball in the committee of Sunbury County, the committee that condemned Great Britain and reached out to merge with Massachusetts?

In 1837 he married Hannah Stephenson in Oromocto, Burton Township. The day they were married was reported in the *New Brunswick Royal Gazette*

Married in Oromocto, Sunbury County, 05 Jan 1837 by Rev. Henry Daniel, Wesleyan minister, John Lincoln and Miss Sarah Stephenson, daughter of Collin Stephenson, and married the same day by same were James Sutherland and Miss Hannah Orcutt Stephenson, the second daughter of Collin Stephenson.

### The Extended Family of the Stephensons

Witnesses to the marriages were uncles of the brides, Samuel and William Kimball, and their brother, William G. Stephenson. No witness represented the Sutherland family.

Lowell Watson tells of the marriages and includes another sister, Isetta: \*

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\* Carroll Kimball does not include Isetta as a sister of Hannah and Sarah Stephenson, and the newspaper account of the double wedding does not mention Isetta. However, Isetta and Warren Lincoln named a daughter Rebecca Stephenson Lincoln, obviously after the mother of Hannah and Sarah. Isetta was born in Maine in 1850. Hannah's brother, William G. Stephenson chose that unusual name for a daughter born in 1847, one of seven daughters.