

*Transcription de notes rédigées par Mary Gélinas née Grubert.
Par Geneviève Gélinas, 26 décembre 2013.*

Les crochets [] indiquent les pages ou ajoutent des notes explicatives.

[1]The Grubert Family

<u>John Grubert</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>Isabella Graham</u>
Harbour Grace		Harbour Grace
Newfoundland		Newfoundland

Children

Arthur Grubert	born Dec. 2d, 1878
William	went to Chicago – died
One sister	died of diphtheria
One brother	“
One brother	went to Toronto
John Joseph – Uncle Joe	- came to Montreal
	- worked for Daddy at the Union Brewery

I do not know my father’s grand-father’s name unless his grand-father was the one on the tombstone in the cemetery in Harbor Grace which reads

Arthur Grubert
His wife Elizabeth
Their daughter Mary

(Date of death on tombstone 1859 which makes it plausible)

Did this Arthur Grubert have other children later – not inscribed on the tombstone – the six mentioned above – It could have been possible –

There must have been other Gruberts because Daddy had two aunts – [2] Aunt Kate and aunt Betsy, his father’s sisters, [??] spinsters who kept a little handy shop in Harbor Grace. It was aunt Kate and aunt Betsy who paid for Daddy to come to Montreal and take a two years Commercial course at Varennes College – He had finished school in Harbor Grace -- He was very intelligent and was the real “white-haired boy” of these two aunts. Daddy always said his father, or was it his grandfather, was a shoe maker or a “boot builder” as they were called—they not only repaired shoes but made everybody’s shoes to order. Mary Casey told me Daddy’s father was called “John Grubert the Gentleman” – he would walk about Harbor Grace – reading a book – He died before Daddy’s Mother, who died in 1904. He may have been a gentleman but he was not a very good provider - he left his wife with very little to bring up her family. I remember – I

was about ten or twelve - Daddy going to Chicago for his brother's funeral. What became of the two brothers and their family - I do not know. The two of the family who died young in Harbor Grace – died during a diphtheria epidemic.

[3] There were several priests in Newfoundland whom Daddy knew well – Father John Roe was one – Arthur is named after him – Arthur Roe Grubert. There was Big Father Finn and Little Father Finn. As a little girl I corresponded with Big Father Finn whom I think was parish of Heart's Content. The other one I think was in Holyrood. Then there was Bishop March of Harbor Grace - a great friend of Daddy's who stayed a time with us on Hutchison street at the time of the Eucharistic Congress in 1910. All these priests I think must have lent a helping hand to Daddy's mother to bring up her family after her husband died. Then there was friend of Daddy's – Tommy Jlanrahan – with whom I corresponded for a number of years – we saw his tombstone in the cemetery at Harbor Grace – He was an Oxford graduate.

I am told that Daddy gave the stained glass windows in the convent chapel at Harbor Grace. Aunt Kate Grubert came to live with us for 2 or 3 years – she died in St. Jean de Dieu – and is buried in the Grubert lot in Côte des Neiges Cemetery. She was quite an imposing lady who [4] never failed to try to impress on Grandma that they belonged to the Royal Family of the Fitzgeralds and that nothing was good enough for Arthur (Daddy).

Auntie Walsh or Aunt Mary Anne as Daddy called her also came to live with us for a couple of years. She was a sister of his Mother's – she came from Riverhead up the Boy (?) from Harbour Grace. She brought a trunkful of things with her among them all the odd pieces of lusterware which were on Durocher Street – some fine bone china and English figurines - I have some of these – I was about six or seven and Kay was still in her carriage as a baby.

Her son James Walsh. Daddy's first cousin also came to Montreal - he worked for Daddy at the Brewery as a clerk in the office – he had a very fine beautiful hand-writing – when the Brewery closed he worked for the C.N.R. – James married Frances Hickey also from Newfoundland. (*James Walsh children: Theresa, Willis, Arthur, Clare, Paschl (?)*) I remember Frances getting dressed for the wedding at Daddy's cousin's house on Bleury above Ontario - Bill Graham kept a rooming house there. They had six children, I think. There was another cousin - Jim Graham who went to live and married in New Jersey. He lived in Jersey City and [5] and was quite prosperous and had a nice home there. His daughter Maude came to Old Orchard to take care of me when I stayed at the Everett House which has long since disappeared.

Regarding James Walsh's family. His father was a sea captain on a sailing schooner - when he retired – he was so lonesome for the sea – he used to sit rocking himself on his balcony and pay a boy a penny or so to splash buckets of water against the balcony to remind him of the waves splashing against the side of the boat. It may be a “newfie story” - but it is true or at least James Walsh told me so.

When Daddy was at College de Varennes – he was there for two years. He was 18 yrs when he arrived fresh from Harbour Grace – not knowing a word of French! He had ten cents .10 \$ as

spending money for the year. HE had no relatives to visit him. The other boys' parents came to see them and would bring them cake and candies – So Daddy would help them when they were stuck in their homework or could not do their arithmetic – and they would pay him back with cake and candies.

[6] He always kept a 10 cent piece on his desk to remind him of those days in college, even when we lived on Durocher Street. When he left college he had made some good French-Canadian friends and could speak perfect French. Among those friends was Tanocrède Bienvenue later well known in Montreal financial circles. Daddy lived for a time in a rooming house on Cathedral Street kept I believe by Mary or Flora Gillis. His first jobs were as a salesman - selling cigars etc later selling beer. Uncle Joe said he was a wonderful salesman. He never came out of a place without making a sale. The Union Brewery between St-Dominique & Cadieux Street [now DeBullion] below Sherbrooke & above Ontario - was in need of new management and Tanocrède Bienvenue and his friend Henri Gérin-Lajoie - asked Daddy if he would take over as manager & director – which he did – and the Brewwery prospered – but it was the second oldest Brewery in Montreal and badly needed new buildings and new equipment. It was eventually taken over by the National Breweries and later closed.

The Grubert Family

(Postscript)

In a book called "The Golden Jubilee of Father Dowd & Toupin" published in Montreal by John Lovell & Son in 1887 and edited by J.J. Cusson Q.C.- M.P., there is a list of subscribers to the "Jubilee Celebration Fund" of Rev. Father Dowd – 1887 – Thursday 19th of May. Among the subscribers on page 3- there is Lawrence Grubert - \$10.00 – which was a decent sum in those days.

Who was he?

People often say what nationality were the Gruberts. I am almost sure they are of German descent way back. After the conquest many soldiers in the English army stayed in Canada & Newfoundland. Among them were many Hessian mercenaries who fought with the British - a group of these apparently settled in Harbor Grace. A murro (?) of German make & design Biederman was found there and is in the National Archives of St-Johns Newfoundland. In a book called «Une maîtrise d'art en Canada» (p. 65) there is mention of a Major Jean Georges Stabinger, surgeon major in the standing militia of Newfoundland who came to Canada with a «corps de Chasseurs Hessois».