



The Journey Westward

In February 1833, John Atkinson and his wife Elizabeth (nee HODGSON) left their home of Westmorland, England, with two sons Thomas and Robert, one daughter Mary, her husband Thomas Brunskill and six Brunskill children.

Based on each traveller's age, a ship fare of three to six Pounds was paid to Lieutenant Joseph Lowe, RN. When they boarded ship in Liverpool they were responsible for their own provisions, food and clothing.

29 March 1833:

When the family arrived in New York City, the British Counsel (namely James Buchanan, Esquire) arranged for their luggage and effects to land duty-free of the customs house.

The remainder of the trip to Upper Canada would take between eight to nine days. The land route from New York City included stops in Oswego (Kendall CO, NY), Buffalo and Albany (Erie CO, NY), before arriving in Thistleton (York CO, ON).

18 May 1833:

Six weeks after arriving in Upper Canada, shy of his 22nd birthday, son Robert died. His cause of death is unknown; although it was noted that in 1833, ten per cent of the 8000 immigrants who came to Upper Canada died from cholera.

1837:

Thomas wed Bethia Kidd, daughter of Richard Kidd and Jane Solton, from Scarborough, Yorkshire, England.

21 December 1852:

Death of Elizabeth (Hodgson) Atkinson, 78 years.

22 August 1857:

Death of John Atkinson. Buried beside wife Elizabeth, in St Philip's Anglican Cemetery, Weston (Markham TP, York CO), Ontario.

NOTES:

[1] It is believed that more children were born to John and Elizabeth, but did not partake of the journey. It was during this trip that three of the Brunskill children died at sea. Their ailment was possibly cholera.

Further information found in Brunskill and Kidd, in appropriate sections.

[2] Researchers concerned with pre-1867 records will need to be able to make the distinction between terms such as "**Upper Canada, 1791**", "**Canada West, 1840**" or "**Province of Canada, 1867**".

FHL and NARA Microfilm Catalog Numbers; M261, 103 rolls

Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1846; (CD-Rom goes to 1850)

NARA # is the catalog number for the National Archives

FHL # is the catalog number for the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City -- these can be ordered for viewing at any local Family History Center for a small fee

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/ny1820.html>

This is an alphabetical index by last name of passenger...

NARA #	Covers	FHL #	
M261-3	Aru-Bal	0350206	Soundex Code for Atkinson = A325
M261-13	Butt-Cam	0350216	Soundex Code for Brunskill = B652