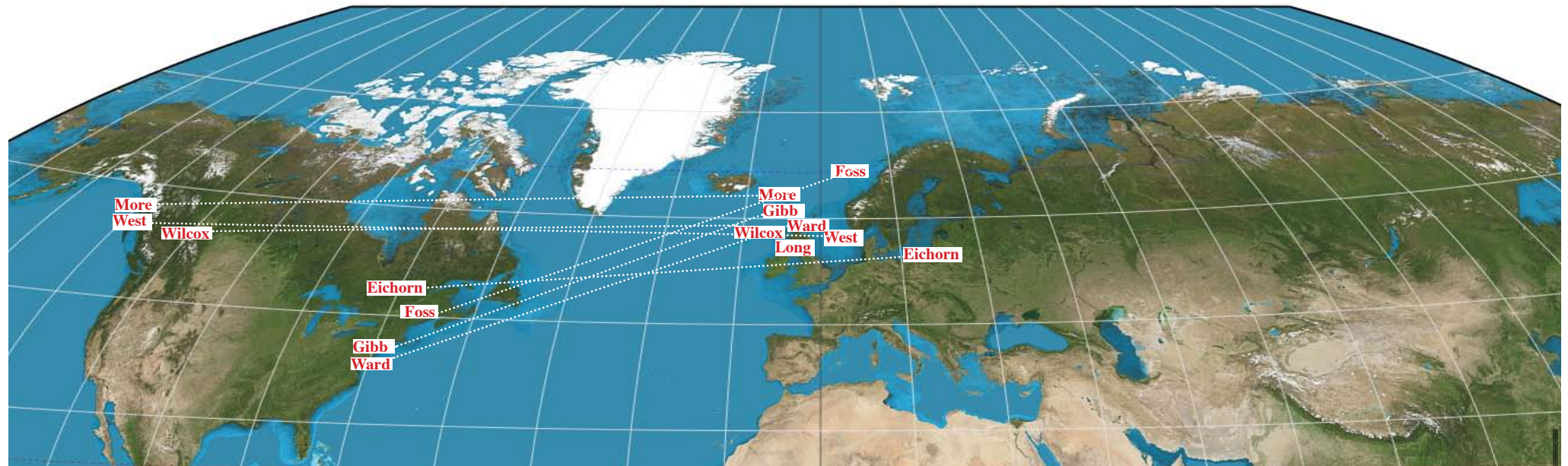


# The Roots of Alexis More



## More

Scotland - Ontario  
Saskatchewan  
British Columbia

Andrew Muir 1547 - 1627  
Agnes Mill 1550 - 1630

John Muir 1587 - 1653  
Marion Lindsay 1589 - 1657

John Muir 1612 - 1668  
Jean Stirling 1625 -

William Muir 1655 - 1702  
Barbara Findlay 1650 - 1680

John Muir 1680-1710  
Janet Barr 1680 - 1710

John Muir 1702 -  
Mary Meicklejohn 1709 -

John More 1734 -1809  
Ann Mitchel 1737 -

John More 1757 -  
Elizabeth Fairie 1765 -

William More 1770 - 1835  
Barbara Kirkwood 1782 - 1832

John More 1803 - 1854  
Mary Murray 1818 - 1882

Daniel More 1840 - 1912  
Sarah Jane Belfry 1843 - 1885

William Arthur More 1871 - 1917

### Wilcox England-British Columbia

Elisha Wilcox b. 1768  
Elisha Wilcox b. 1796  
Elijah Wilcox 1825-1905  
Frances (Fanny) Parks 1827 - 1918

Daniel Wilcox More 1908-1971

### West England-British Columbia

James West ca. 1690  
Catherine Shippon  
Daniel West 1720 -  
Sarah Keate 1732 - 1793  
Daniel West 1759 - 1817  
Mary Walters  
James West ca. 1780 - 1857  
Mary Bearfield 1798 - 1827  
Susanna Witherall Street 1798 - 1769  
Daniel West 1813-1883  
Jane Westell 1815-1886  
William Westell West 1847 - 1924  
Sarah Aldworth 1845-1939

Elsie Harriet West 1906-1970

### Long England

George Long  
Lydia Long  
Philip Long 1804 - 1993  
Mary Phillips  
Philip Augustine Long 1843 - 1909  
Harriet Long 1839 - 1905

Emma Long 1877 - 1942

### Gibb Scotland - Eastern Shore, Virginia

William Gibb (MacDonald) 1750 - 1821  
Hannah Bell Gibb (m. 1773)  
George Thomas Gibb 1788 - 1832  
Comfort Bull (m. 1809)  
George Thomas Gibb Jr. 1813 - 1891  
Mary Ann Beason Gibb 1825 - 1863  
Flavius Josephus Gibb 1848 - 1923  
Laura Parmelia Neely 1853 - 1916  
John Edward Gibb 1869 - 1942  
Alice Franklin Doughty Gibb 1872 - 1959

Obed Cecil Gibb 1897-1978

Dorothy Lois Gibb 1923

### Ward England - Eastern Shore, Virginia

William Ward (England) 1615-1673  
Ann Stockdell (England)  
Michael Ward Sr (England) 1650-1720  
Tabitha Littleton 1684 -1746  
Michael Ward Jr 1700-1779  
Elizabeth White 1700-1770  
Littleton Ward Sr. 1738-1810  
Nancy----- 1740  
Golding Ward 1762-1813  
Nancy Bagwell Turner  
James N. Ward 1803-1867  
Margaret A.C. East 1806-1872  
William South Ward 1831-1907  
Tabitha Joyce Doughty 1833-1916  
John James Ward 1860-1936  
Emma Gladstone 1862-1922

Emily Tabitha Ward 1903-1987

Albert Canute Foss Jr. 1919-1994

### Foss Norway - New York

Siguard Christensen Foss 1856-1898  
Aletta Samuelsen 1854-?

Albert Canute Foss Sr. 1889-1968.....Grace Darling Eichorn 1896 -1953

### Eichorn Germany - New York

Conrad Eichorn ca. 1800  
(Elingenweiser, Baden, Germany)  
Ignatius Eichorn 1819-1859  
Anna Henki ca. 1819 (Fridolin-Nuningen)  
Henry Eichorn 1845 - 1930  
Elizabeth Ross 1844 - ?

Bruce Edward More 1942 Constance Grace Foss 1946 -

Alexis Katalin More 1978

Eric Lamontagne 1978

■ - designates point of immigration

# Daddy, where did I come from?

*The cover image is taken from Alexis's birth announcement in 1978.*

*The question is one that some parents dread from their kids. For my own part I love the notion that I can pass on information of my daughter's roots and (sex education aside) can show her hundreds of years of widely divergent ancestors that she is descended from. This effort focuses upon the families of her grandparents with a precis, accompanied by at least one interesting anecdote on each.*

*Bruce More*

## More

The Mores are Scots, having emigrated from that “bonnie land” in 1830 and settled in Nottawassaga County of Northern Ontario. Unlike the Wests, where in Scotland they came from remains a mystery. Assuming they were peasants (there is no family “lore” to suggest otherwise), these ancestors lived in extremely difficult circumstances at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. The Enclosure movement took place largely during the late 18th century and early 19th. In Scotland, it encouraged Lords to enclose their properties (usually with stone walls) for the purpose of raising sheep. The communal element was abolished, and individual landowners and tenants took over separate private control of defined areas of land. The community no longer had rights over most of the land, and the poorer members of village society were frequently disadvantaged in consequence. (Not unlike today’s tendency of governments to sell off public resources to the private sector - Ed.) This was much more profitable than the previous system that had peasants paying rent to the “Lairds”. The presence of the peasants on “their” land was increasingly incompatible with the enclosure system.

“The Highlander, although he had always paid tribute to the chief in cash or kind, erroneously regarded the land as his own. Steadily the glens began to be emptied of people and populated with Cheviot sheep. The peasants were not actually driven from Scotland. They were moved to miserable little plots on the rocky coastlines to scrape a living from smallholdings and fishing and, quite often to die.....And it was a heavy burden. To move to the coast he had to take his dwelling with him, or at least the roof timbers, since there were virtually no trees in the area. (This might explain the family’s move from their traditional home in Aberdeen to Islay, a short time before their emigration). But for some, there was another removal available - removal to the New World. Even before the famine in 1831, 58,000 Scots emigrated to Canada. Their original settled property is still in Creemore, Ontario with only a small corner occupied by a modern house. The ruins of old house and barn are still visible. The family lived in this area for a couple of generations and expanded over time into various parts of Ontario and particularly the St. Catharines area. Like so many Canadian settlers, the Mores eventually moved to the Prairies. Alexis’s grandfather Bill (Daniel Wilcox) was born in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. His father, a farm equipment salesman, died young, after which the family moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

## Ward

On Connie’s side, the Wards and Gibbs have been the closest relatives, especially through the many visits to her Granny’s extended family in Baltimore. They came from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and although the earliest record of their family is from ca. 1762, there is a family verbal tradition that the Wards are descended from Captain John Ward who came to the shore sometime before 1619. This means that the Wards were among the original settlers of North America, since the Jamestown settlement dates from 1607 (IPlymouth and New Amsterdam [New York] from 1609. Although much of the focus of civilization in those years was tobacco production, the Wards seem to have been farmers, teachers or clergymen, and in the case of several ancestors all three in one lifetime. By the Great Depression, the livelihood of Connie’s mom’s family had simplified to truck farming, and by the end of the Second War, most had moved to the Baltimore / Washington D.C. area.

## Gibb

The Gibbs descend from William Gibb, who came from Scotland in the mid 18th century. William’s last will and testament tells us much that we already know about the history of the times. Bequests in his will included land (a plantation), currency, a silver watch and particular slaves to specific children (“.....my negro man Moses and my negro men Peter and Stepney now run away provided he can catch them, to him and his heirs forever”) William was clearly very prosperous. The rest of the will itemizes vast holdings of land and slaves. By the mid 20th century, through wars and depression, the Gibb’s livelihood was primarily truck farming. Connie’s grandfather Obed Gibb didn’t own land but (as the Wests in England were tenants in the mills they operated) leased and worked lands.

## Foss

Like the Mores, the Fosses are difficult to trace back to their “old country” roots. Family verbal history has it that Siguard Foss was from Oslo (called Kristiana until 1925) and his brother was Chief of Police there. The huge population growth between 1855 (40,000) and 1865 (1.7 million) must have been a major contributor to the need to leave Norway. Unlike other branches of the family, we can assume that the Fosses were urban dwellers, especially since for the first two generations, they lived and / or worked in Brooklyn: Siguard as a tailor and Albert Canute Sr. in an insurance company. The two sons: Richard and Albert (Connie’s dad) were both successful engineers (Lockheed and General Electric).

## Eichorn

The Eichorns came from Baden, Germany in the mid 19th century. Henry Eichorn’s family lived in Brooklyn near the Fosses and this is most likely where Al Sr. and Grace met. In the early 1900s, tracts of land were purchased in Ramsey, New Jersey, and many of the Eichorns moved there. (Connie was born near Ramsey). They had large families, (which led to John Eichorn’s quip: “Big families from little Eichorns grow”).

## Wilcox

Elisha Wilcox was a United Empire Loyalist who came from the U.S. about 1790. Family verbal tradition tells of an ancestor who hid William Lyon Mackenzie from Samuel Lount’s forces during the rebellion of 1837. Dad’s grandfather Elijah (b. 1825) was big and strong and a staunch Orangeman (anti Catholic). On Canada’s first Dominion Day, he wanted to lead a parade carrying the Canadian flag to celebrate. Apparently some of the Catholics opposed this and tried to forcibly prevent the parade. Elijah stood in front of his detractors, took a large spike and bent it with his bare hands, then picked up his flag and led the parade unmolested. My grandfather (John More) died in Weyburn when my dad was only 9 and the family moved to Salmon Arm to live with Effie’s brother (Uncle Will {Wilcox}), a prominent orchardist in the area. As a teenager, I visited their farm on Shuswap Lake. I remember exploring the attic of the family home and finding a cylinder phonograph (Google that!)

## West

Traditionally, our closest relatives have been my mother’s family, the Wests, thanks to a yearly family reunion, held in Vancouver area in August each year. They came from England in 1906 through Halifax to Kiscoty, Alberta and settled finally in Vancouver. They were from a middle class Oxfordshire (Berkshire) family, many of whom who “ran” mills (as opposed to “owning” them). Farmers (crop and dairy), clergymen and civic officials were also among these relatives. In addition to being a miller, Alexis’s great grandfather William Westell West was all three: farmer, clergyman and local registrar. I am in touch with many of their England descendants, and we count Colin and Barbara Smith among our best friends. There is a great deal of information available on my West Family website: [bruceandmore.ca](http://bruceandmore.ca) / West Family. Of particular historical interest are the “exploits” of Grandpa during the gold rush and the Boer War.

## Long

The Longs were bakers and farmers in East Hanney, Oxfordshire, having come from Chalford and Stadhampton in the previous generation. A Long uncle (William) owned the Garford Manor farm, which was a social centre during the time that the Wests occupied the nearby Venn and Hanney mills. I have found several references to the festivals and evening soirées held in the Manor house during that period. A Norman church yard next to the chapel houses the graves of several Long ancestors. A family story tells of my Grandma Emma Long suffering terribly during the First War. She had to run the family with six children by herself while father was in the war. Communication with Grandpa was sporadic at best, and at one point during the disastrous Edmonton flood of 1915, their house had to be evacuated. She was so distraught at this point that she told of taking her wedding ring off and throwing it into the river.

# Daddy, where did I come from?

