

The Croft Family of Withernwick and Ontario

John William Croft was born in about 1802 in Withernwick, Yorkshire County, England. He married **Frances Thompson** on November 30, 1824 in Withernwick (Figure 1). Frances Thompson was born in about 1805 in West Newton. John died in 1872 in the Skirlaugh District and Frances died in 1882.

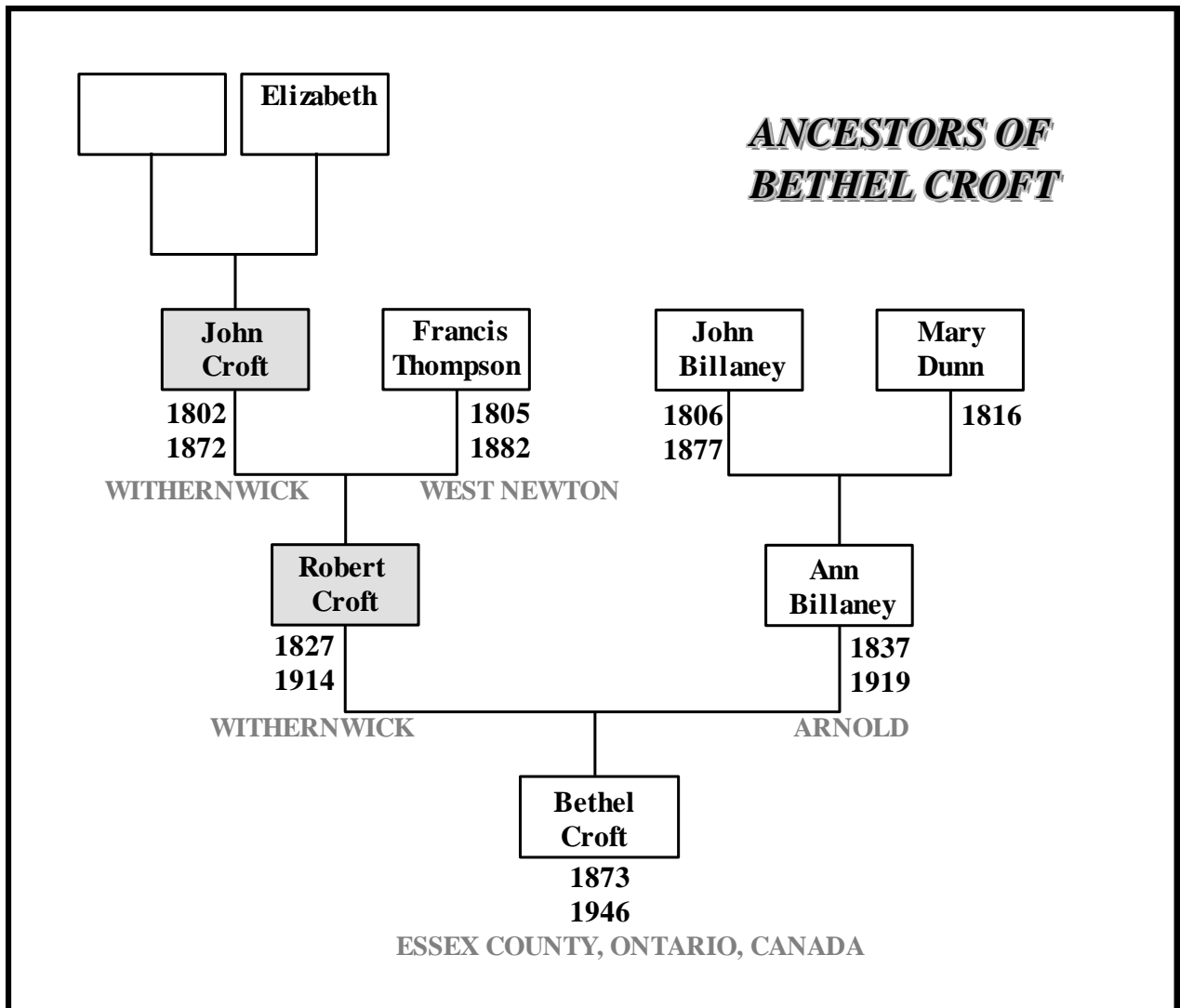


Figure 1: Bethel Croft's ancestors

John and Frances had ten children, seven sons and three daughters; one son and a daughter died as infants. In the 1841 census of Withernwick, Elizabeth Croft who is most likely John William's mother, is living with John's family (Table 1). The 1851 Census of Withernwick lists the Croft family living on West Lands Road. In 1861 and 1871, John William is listed as a retired

NAME	TITLE	Withernwick		Hornsea		
		1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Elizabeth Croft		72				
John William Croft	Head	39	49	59	69	
Frances Croft	Wife	37	46	57	67	78
William	Son	16	26			
Robert	Son	14	24			
John	Son	11	20			
Elizabeth	Daughter	8	18			48
Mary Ann	Daughter	4	14	24	32	
Bethuel	Son	1	11		31	
Thomas	Son		8			
Albert	Son		4	14		
John Billaney Croft	Grandson				5	
Mary Croft	Granddaughter				11	

Table 1: Family of John William Croft and Frances Thompson in UK census.

farmer in the census of Hornsea. John William is not present in the 1881 census and Frances is living with her daughter Elizabeth.

John Croft's children, Robert Taylor, Elizabeth, Bethuel and Thomas came to Canada in the 1870s.

John's first son William went by the name William Croft Thompson. He was christened October 13, 1824 and John Croft and Frances Thompson were married November 30, 1824, so John probably wasn't William's biological father. William married Mary Robinson on April 11, 1855 and stayed in the Withernwick area as a Beer House keeper and gardener. William died December 5, 1874 in the Skirlaugh District at the age of 50.

John Hardy Croft was christened May 28, 1830 in Withernwick and married Fanny Arksey on January 2, 1866. He was a farmer in Withernwick before 1891 and then a Beer House keeper at the "Salutation" in Kingston-upon-Hull until his death on March 5, 1898.

Mary Croft was unmarried and living with her parents in Hornsea in the 1871 census. Albert Croft died in 1865 at the age of 18

Robert Taylor Croft, William and Frances' second son, was born on March 8, 1827 in Withernwick, Yorkshire County, England. He married **Ann Billaney** on September 13, 1860. Ann Billaney was born on June 15, 1837 in Arnold, the daughter of John Billaney and Mary Dunn. Robert and Ann had eleven children, eight boys and three girls.

In the 1861 census of Withernwick Ann's mother Mary (Dunn) Billaney is living with the family (Table 2). Robert and Ann's son, John Billaney Croft, isn't in the 1871 Withernwick census

NAME	TITLE	Withernwick		Canada		
		1861	1871	1881	1891	1900
Robert Croft	Head	36	46	54	64	74
Ann Croft	Wife	23	33	44	53	63
Mary Billaney	Mother-in-law	52				
Mary J.	Daughter		9	19	29	39
William	Son		7	17	27	37
John B.	Son			15	25	35
Frances E.	Daughter		3	13	22	
Robert T.	Son		1	11	21	
David	Son			9	19	
Bethel T.	Son			7	17	
Henry J.	Son			4	14	
Alfred	Son			3	13	
Richard	Son			1	10	
Ann	Daughter				7	

Table 2: Family of John William Croft and Frances Thompson in UK and Canada census.

with his family, but can be found in the 1871 census of Hornsea with his grandfather's family (see Table 1). In 1871, Robert and Ann were living on Tantom Terrace Road in Withernwick. Ann's parents, John Billaney and his wife Mary Dunn were also living on Tantom Terrace Road and Robert's brother John Hardy Croft and his wife Fanny Arksey were living on West Lands Road.

On May 4, 1871, Robert left England from Liverpool aboard the Prussian with his wife Anne and their children Mary J, Wm (William), John, Francis, and Robert. They arrived in Quebec City on May 15, 1871.

Robert Taylor Croft died April 12, 1914 and is buried in the town of Essex, Essex County, Ontario, Canada (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Gravesite of Robert Taylor Croft in the town of Essex, Essex County, Ontario, Canada.