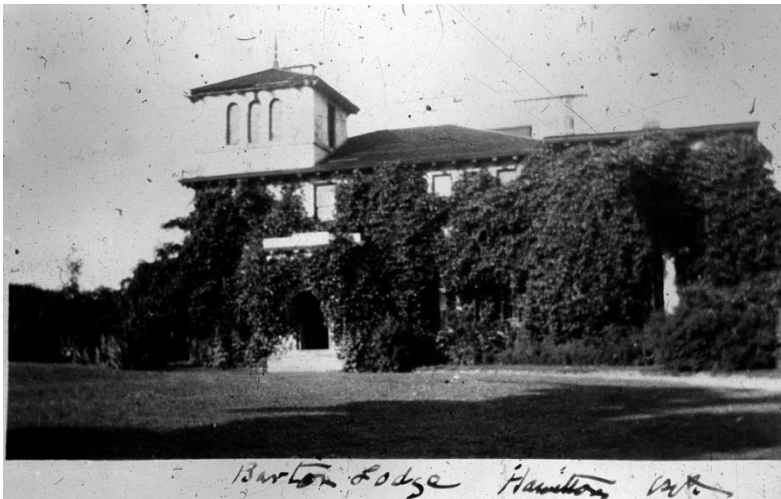


## Was Mrs Gourlay a half-sister of Queen Victoria?

King George III reigned for 60 years (1760-1820), his extensive offspring (9 sons and 6 daughters) included George IV (1820-1830) and William IV (1830-1837), both were old by the time they reached the throne and neither had legitimate surviving offspring. They were predeceased by the 2nd son, Frederick Duke of York in 1827 who had no offspring and the 4th son Edward Duke of Kent who married Victoria of Saxe-Coberg in May 1818, sired a daughter (Alexandrina in March 1819), and died Jan 1820 (aged 52). Alexandrina became Queen Victoria in 1837. All four sons had a reputation for mistresses and illegitimate offspring, banishing them to Canada could be a convenient solution.



Mourning letter sent from Edinburgh to Mrs Gourlay at Barton Lodge, Hamilton, Canada West on 1 Jun 1867 (1 month before Confederation). 6d stamp cancelled with a Brunswick Star (Arnot Type IVc). 6d paid the (slower) Canadian route but 'First Packet Principle' resulted in letter being sent via the USA (8d rate). Resulted in 2d due converted to 5c due Currency with weak circular MORE TO PAY handstamp.



Barton Lodge, Hamilton, Ont. Built in 1830's part burnt down in 1930, demolished 1953.

'Julie' (Isabella Hyde) conceived a child (Emily) with Edward Duke of Kent c. 1817. Later, Isabella Hyde married John Lionel Whyte to give legitimacy to the birth. Julie's daughter, Emily Whyte married Colonel William Gourlay in 1850 to become 'Mrs Gourlay'.

Family legend maintains that the Whyte family was selected by the Duke of Kent to provide a husband and protection for Isabella and that in recognition of this the plantations in Jamaica were bestowed upon them; John later sold these holdings and moved to Barton Lodge, Hamilton, Ontario. The name change was a further **disguise of the Duke's and Julie's firstborn.**