

Sandra Gordon

My grandmother on my mom, Jessie Miller's side of the family, emigrated from England. Her heritage was English and Irish. Jessie's father was German. Her mother died during the flu pandemic in 1918, leaving four little girls, ages two to eight years old.

My father's name was Oliver Strack. His ancestors were entirely French. They settled in Quebec, Canada where many of their descendants still reside. Oliver's parents owned a farm in Oxford MA. They had six children.

My father's mom was Salome (nee Paradise) Strack. My street address is Paradise Road in Swampscott. I have seen tombstones in the old cemetery nearby, a peaceful place where we often walk, with the name Paradise on them. My daughter, Judith, an expert in genealogy, says they are Italian and do not pertain to our family. I prefer to pretend or hope that they do.

Judith in her research has found one, quite illustrious, family member from my father's side. Louis Hebert, (1575 – 1627) established his home and practice as a pharmacist in Quebec City, Canada, New France, as it was then called. He was the first pharmacist in the New World and the first to farm in Quebec. He had three children. There is now a monument erected to him on the City Hall Square in Quebec City.

