

Iola May (Northrup) Fisher Her Story! 1866-1942

By Barb Pearson & Robert Fisher

From Kingston, Kings Co., to Collina, Kings Co., to Long Creek, Queens County, N.B.

Iola May Northrup's Family connections: Cox, Dominick, Ganong, Barlow, Benson, Northrup, Fisher, Arnold, Gibbon, Kaiser, and Gilson.

Iola May Northrup was born to Harvey Hartt and Margaretta Ann (Benson) Northrup on May 10th, 1866, at Kingston, Kings Co., N.B. By 1868 the Northrup family had relocated to Collina, Kings County, where Harvey was a farmer and a blacksmith. The family attended the Collina Baptist Church, and were members of the Temperance Society there. Five more children were born to Harvey Hartt and Margaretta Ann Northrup at Collina by 1879.

Iola May was descended from Loyalists; Benejah and Sarah (Keeler) Northrup; William and Ann (Dominick) Cox; Thomas Ganong and Joanna Barlow; Daniel B. Benson and Joanna Ganong. She was given her personal copy, #146 of the Ganong Family History Book of which only 300 were printed in the year 1893.



Iola May Northrup, age 18, Collina, Kings County, N.B. (Fisher Collection)

Iola May Northrup was married to David Francis Fisher of Long Creek, Queens Co., N.B. on February 8th, 1899, at the Baptist Church in Collina, by Rev. E. R. Ganong. She and her husband then took up residence on the old Fisher farm at Long Creek. Iola left an amazing legacy of family history to her grandson, Robert Fisher of Long Creek.

Iola May Northrup's Ganong Family Connection

From "A Genealogy of the New Brunswick Branch of the Descendants of Thomas Ganong, a Loyalist from New York State to New Brunswick by the Spring Fleet of 1783. Compiled by William Francis Ganong of Cambridge, Mass. Published and presented to those therein by Gilbert White Ganong of St. Stephen, N.B. Graves and Henry, Printers, 1893, Cambridge, Mass."

Thomas Ganong The Loyalist-From the Ganong Family History -1893

"Of the life of Thomas Ganong before he came to New Brunswick in 1783, we know nothing, except that he was born in New York State, probably at Lake Mahopac, about 1745, that he married Joanna Barlow in New York State about 1775, and that three sons were born to them before they left the State. Even as to the part he took in the Revolution, if any, we have no information; and we can only infer from his subsequent history that he was one of that numerous class, the best of the best of the Loyalists, who while disapproving strongly of what was unquestionably unjust treatment of the American Colonies by Great Britain, nevertheless held that the way to redress their wrongs did not lie through revolt. The true character of the Loyalist movement has been greatly misunderstood. It has been usual among their descendants to represent them as a body of men who were too loyal to the King to be content to live where he did not rule, and that hence they followed the British flag from the new States to the Provinces of British America. As a matter of fact, the majority of the Loyalists were true patriots who loved their own country but

at the same time desired British connection, just as and even more strongly than the great majority of Canadians today love their country and desire to retain their connection with England. The consequence was that, as the extreme party became more successful, the conservatives, counselling moderation and opposed to revolt, became more and more obnoxious to their revolutionary neighbours. Many of these conservatives, or Tories, held offices under the crown, and naturally took an active part in efforts to maintain its supremacy; others not in office, but strongly British in sympathies, took up arms for Britain and drew others with them, and this in itself helped to intensify the popular feelings against the non-combatants. Hence it came about that when the Revolution was brought to a close by the peace of 1783 all persons who had favoured the British cause, whether in arms or not, including men of all classes, were so obnoxious to their successful fellow countrymen, that confiscations of their property, persecution of themselves and families, and even in many cases direct banishment from the country, compelled them to leave the new United States altogether and remove to British America. Probably very few indeed of the Loyalists left the United States who would have been allowed to remain; indeed, many of them afterwards when permitted returned to the States. That for which they deserve our admiration and respect, is not, as popularly supposed, their refusal to live under a foreign flag, but their steadfast devotion to what they thought was right in the face of violent and extreme opposition, and their refusal to use rebellion instead of constitutional means for righting what they knew to be wrong and unjust.

This lengthy digression has been rendered necessary to explain what we believe to be the position taken by Thomas Ganong in the Revolution. We have no evidence that he was a soldier, nor yet in public office; he was probably a farmer, and like many of his neighbours was forced to leave New York because of his British sympathies. It is very interesting to note that very many of the ancestors of families now living on the Belleisle were likewise residents near Lake Mahopac, and came with him to New Brunswick in 1783. The above-mentioned list of 1747 contains as residents of that part of New York such well-known names as Perkins, Gray, Cory (Corey), Peters, Akely (Akerly), Jenkins, Crawford, Sprag (Sprague or Spragg), Travis, Burns, Huson (Hughson), Drake, Brundage, Paddock, and others, now well known in Kings County, New Brunswick. The true history of the

Loyalist movement, the value of which to New Brunswick is beyond all estimate, has yet to be written.

That Thomas Ganong came to New Brunswick as a Loyalist in 1783 is the universal tradition amongst his many descendants in New Brunswick; and that he came by the first or spring fleet, which reached Saint John in May, is not only likewise supported by tradition, but is confirmed by a paper left by the late John E. Ganong, a grandson of Thomas, who knew better than any others his grandfather's history. The paper was a copy of an inscription for a monument intended to be, though it never has been, erected to the memory of Thomas Ganong, and it reads:"

**To the Memory of Thomas Ganong
and Joanna Barlow, His Wife,
Loyalists, by the first fleet, 1783.**

In New Brunswick Thomas Ganong settled as a farmer at Midland, Kings County. It is not known when he first broke ground there, but doubtless in 1784 or 1785. His grant, however, was not made until February 10, 1800, and it is numbered 356 in the Crown Lands Records. It was Lot No. 9 in the grant to Hezekiah Hoyt and others, and included 184 acres. As in many other cases, his farm was doubtless assigned him by lot long before the formal grant was issued. On this farm he lived until his death in 1810, after which it was occupied by his son Thomas until 1854, when it passed out of possession of the family, and is now occupied by Mr. John Piers.

The exact date of Thomas Ganong's death is unknown, as the Kingston church records of this date have been lost, but it must have been in June or very early July 1810. The vestry book of Kingston church shows that he was alive May 31, 1810, and the date of probate of his will, July 4, 1810, shows that he died before that date. He was buried in Kingston church-yard, but the position of his grave is unknown.

**His Will is of such interest
that we give it here entire:**

In the name of God, Amen, I, Thomas Ganong, of Kingston, Kings County and Province of New Brunswick, being weak in body but sound in memory (Blessed be God), do this twenty-fourth Day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following (that is to say): First I give unto my beloved wife the one-

third of all my estate, real and personal, so long as she remains my widow (that is to say, my present wife Joanna Ganong), and to my son John Ganong I give five shillings; and likewise I give unto my son Isaac Robertson Ganong the sum of five shillings; and also I give unto my son James Ganong the sum of ten pounds; and likewise I give unto my son James Ganong's daughter, Mary Ann Ganong, the sum of five pounds, to be paid to her when she shall arrive at the age of ten years old; and to my son Thomas Carleton Ganong I give all the remainder of my estate, as well after the decease of my wife as mine, real and personal, whatsoever, moveable and immovable, and I make and ordain my wife Joanna Ganong, Executrix, with my son Thomas Carleton Ganong Executor of this my will, in trust for the intent and purposes in this my will contained; and I make my friend David Pickett Senr. overseer of this my will, to take care and see the same performed according to my true intent and meaning thereof. In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Ganong, have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said Thomas Ganong as and for his last will and testament in the presents of us who were present at the signing and sealing thereof.

Signed-Jeremiah Mabee.

Signed Amos Perkins; Thomas Ganong (seal)

Signed William Mabee

It is signed in a bold hand, though a trifle shaky, as though the writer were feeble. The will was proved July 4, 1810, and the inventory on file shows that his estate consisted of £250 (\$1250) real estate, and £156.10 (\$780) personally, a very considerable amount, taking into account all the conditions.

As to his personal character, his granddaughter, Margaretta (Mrs. Daniel B. Crawford) writes as follows: "He is spoken of by the oldest inhabitants now living as a man of exemplary character and a Christian. If he could not go to church on Sundays, he would take his Bible and go amongst his neighbours to read and pray with them; visiting the sick to pray with and comfort them, taking particular care as to the teaching of the children of the neighbourhood. He was a most zealous member of the Church of England." In person he is described as being rather short and stout, of complexion neither especially dark nor light. He was a member of the vestry of Kingston church, in the record book of which his name frequently occurs, the last entry

being under date May 31, 1810, on which day he was one of six who voted that the pews in Trinity Church still continue to be free.

His wife, Joanna, survived until 1832. She died January 11, and was buried in Kingston churchyard beside her husband on January 13. After her husband's death she lived with her son, Thomas, in the old homestead, and she is well remembered by some of her descendants. Her parentage is unknown, but from the association of her husband's name with that of Moses Barlow in the pledge of 1775, it is possible that she was his daughter. Moses Barlow and his brother Nathan are known to have been sailors and to have come to Dutchess County from Cape Cod in 1756. It is a pleasant speculation that Thomas Ganong may have been in Amenia, Dutchess County, to marry Joanna Barlow when the pledge of 1775 was passed around, and hence signed it with his father-in-law. At all events, their marriage must have occurred about that time.

It is sincerely to be regretted that no memorial marks the last resting place of Thomas Ganong. He was a good man and loyal; may he live in the memory of his descendants.

The Children of Thomas Ganong

We have already spoken of the limitations of tradition. A remarkable example of this confronts us in the fact that none of the descendants of Thomas Ganong in New Brunswick have any knowledge or information as to his two elder sons mentioned in his will, John and Isaac. Even his living grandchildren have never heard of these two uncles of theirs. Of them we know practically nothing with certainty, but it is very probable that they returned to the United States as they grew up; it is evident from the father's will that both were supposed to be alive in 1810, and there is no trace of them or their descendants to be found in New Brunswick.

Either John or Isaac, returning to New York, married about 1800, a Miss Howard, and they had two sons, Luther A., born 1802; and William, born 1804. The latter died young, but Luther married while residing in Grenada, Miss., Cynthia Smith. They had six children: Lydia V., born 1824, who married James Mitchell of Mississippi; William L., born 1825, who married Marietta Sims; Luther M., born 1827, who married Louisa Womble; John A., born 1829, married (1) Caroline Abell, and (2) Sarah Holcomb; James F., who died early, and Cynthia M. who married R.J. Alcorn of Grenada, Miss.. Of these William L. has left six children; Luther M., six children; John A. one child; all these

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of course bearing the name Ganong. Mr. John A. Ganong lives in New York, and the others in Mississippi and Louisiana.

James, the third son, was born in New York State in 1781. He was a farmer and received a grant of land from the Province of New Brunswick (No.610) on February 5, 1812. It was Lot 11 in the grant north of Belleisle Creek, made to Rev. E. Scovil and others, about half way between the Corner and Collina Corner, included 200 acres, and adjoined the school and glebe lots on one side and grants of James Crawford on the other. It does not appear, however, that he ever lived upon it. Like his brother Thomas, he was a Baptist. He is described by his grandchildren as a man of medium height, fine looking, and straight as an arrow. He died in 1850, and is buried in the burial ground at Hatfield Point, and his wife is buried at Keirstead Town.

Thomas Carleton, the fourth son, was born in 1785 at Kingston. He lived on the homestead with his father, and after his father's death until 1854. He then removed with his wife to St. John, and lived there with his son, John E. Ganong, until his death. He and his wife are buried in the Methodist burying ground at St. John. He is described by his daughter Margaretta, as a man of medium height, slight, erect, with a smooth round face, dark blue eyes and dark brown hair, quick-tempered but kind-hearted, neat and particular in all work, very careful in business affairs, and a very strict Baptist.

In addition to the four sons, there was one daughter, though we do not know when or where she was born. Her name was Mary, though she was called Polly by her brothers. She married a sea captain named Roane. They sailed away on their first voyage and were never again heard from. It was supposed they had been taken by pirates.

The entire New Brunswick Branch of the family, then, is descended from James and Thomas Ganong. These two married sisters, Margaret and Elizabeth Cox. They were the two elder daughters of Captain William Cox and Ann Dominick, Loyalists from New York. As we are descended from them equally with Thomas Ganong and Joanna Barlow, the following record of their family, the original of which is now in our possession, will be of interest. It was made in the life-time of William Cox, and is undoubtedly accurate and complete as far as 1893.

William Cox, born 31 Oct 1757, married 15 April 1784, Ann Dominick, born 10 June 1759, died 26 Dec. 1802

Children:

- i Margaret, b. 22 Mar 1785, m. 7 October 1802 to James Ganong
- ii Elizabeth, b. 11 Sepep 1787, m. 27 March 1807 to Thomas Ganong
- iii Ann, b. 19 March 1789, m. 20 March 1811 to William Northrup
- iv John, b. 26 Jan 1791, John drowned in Belleisle Bay, 15 Oct. 1802
- v Mary Anne, b. 1 Nov 1793, m. 9 January 1809 to John Northrup
- vi Francis Daniel, b. 14 March 1795. Francis drowned in James Peter's Mill Dam 8 Sept 1809
- vii Blanche Fanny, b. 22 May 1797, m. 8 March 1818 to Daniel Crawford
- viii Susannah, b. 22 Feb 1799, m. 8 January 1818 to James Northrup
- ix William Blanchard, b. 10 Sept 1801, m. 9 October 1825 to Margaretta Dominick

It will be noticed how much the Ganongs have intermarried with the Keirsteads. Of them it is known that they are descended from Dr. Hans Kierstede, a physician of Magdeburg, Prussian Saxony (see Schoonmaker's History of Kingston, L.I.) He came to America in 1638, settled on Long Island, and married, June 29, 1642, Sarah Roeloffse, daughter of Roeoff and Anneke Jans. They had several children, from one of whom the Keirsteads of New Brunswick are descended.

Of the other families with which the grandchildren of Thomas Ganong intermarried, those of Crawford, Northrup, Perkins, Erb, etc. all are of Loyalist descent. Indeed, upon the Belleisle, first settled by the Loyalists, and to which there has been practically no later immigration, there is to be found as unmixed a Loyalist community as exists anywhere in Canada, perhaps the most unmixed of all.

Decendants of Thomas Ganong (1893)

The two sons of Thomas Ganong, James and Thomas Carleton, had twelve and eleven children respectively. Most of these married and had large families, which again have married, until there are now living several of the great-great-grandchildren, i.e., the fifth generation from our ancestor, the sixth generation all told. An analysis of the five generations after Thomas, based upon the records which follow, gives the following result:

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Of children he had in the New Brunswick branch, both of whom left children.

Of grandchildren he had 23, of whom 5 are still living.

Of great-grandchildren he has had 161, of whom 107 are still living.

Of great-great-grandchildren he has had 339, of whom 274 are living.

Of great-great-great-grandchildren he has had 75, of whom 58 are still living, the oldest being 20 years of age.

In synopsis, Thomas Ganong has left 599 descendants, of whom 445 are now living. Of the 599, 304 have been men and 295 women, an unusual result. Of these, 205 have borne or bear the name Ganong, of which number 113 have been men and 92 women. Of this number bearing the name Ganong 67 are dead, and 138 living. Of the 138 living and having the name Ganong, 73 are men. There is hence little present danger of the name becoming extinct.

As to occupations, it is not so easy to make an analysis, as several have followed different trades at different times. But the great majority of the men have followed the foundation trade of all others, the ancient and honourable calling of farmer. In the trades some have been carpenters, several blacksmiths, two or three sailors. In business several have been merchants, three manufacturers, and several clerks. In the professions there has been no doctor and no lawyer, but several schoolteachers, and five ministers, all Baptists. The latter are: Seth Wellington Keirstead, Elias Miles Keirstead, Elias William Kelly, Frank Melbourne Kelly, and Joshua Burnett Ganong.

There have been two college professors; Elias Miles Keirstead, at Acadia College; William Francis Ganong, in Harvard University. Five are college graduates; Elias Miles Keirstead, A.B. 1873, University of New Brunswick, A.M. 1883, Acadia College; Elias William Kelly A.B. 1876, Acadia College; Frank Melbourne Kelly A.B. 1884, A.M. 1887, Acadia College; William Francis Ganong A.B. 1884, A.M. 1886, University of New Brunswick, A.B. 1887, Harvard University; Joshua Burnett Ganong A.B. , 1892, Acadia College.

Considered geographically, the centre of distribution was Kingston. The greater part of the family still lives in Kings County, principally in Kingston, Springfield, and Studholm parishes, but also in other parts of the county. Some live in St. John, others in St. Stephen, others at Woodstock, and Lakeville in Carleton County, at Pokiok in

York County, and in Albert County. A very few live in Nova Scotia and a few in Ottawa. Others, again, have gone to the United States, with a hope, by no means always filled, of bettering their condition, and live in Boston, Cambridge, Arlington, Somerville, Worcester, and in Providence, while a few have gone as far as Chicago and Wisconsin.

There have been three cross marriages between descendants, as follows: Absalom Erb and Mary Effie Lake, Melbourne Erb and Deborah Louisa Lake, Charles Wilmot Ganong and Deborah Adelia Ganong.

The families have not been remarkably large, the largest, that of Charles Ganong, having 16 children. The oldest living resident is Mrs. William Keirstead (Elizabeth Ganong) of Collina, who is aged 78. The members of the family are not especially long-lived, only 6 of them so far having attained more than 70 years of age. In religion the great majority are Baptists.

With respect to morality and freedom from offences against the civil and criminal law, the record of the family has been singularly good; there have been the inevitable black sheep, it is true, but they have been unusually few in number, and mostly not of a very sable variety. Few families can point to a cleaner sheet than we can.

A marked characteristic of most of the members of the family is a great appreciation of the value of education, and many of the older members have given their children all of the advantage they possibly could. This is most wise, for it is only through education that true advancement in life is possible, and without exception those of the family who are succeeding in the higher walks of life are those who have received the best education.

None of the family have as yet been involved in provincial affairs, or especially so in learning or business. But a time will come when the race virility accumulated through generations of outdoor work in the field, at the forge and on the sea will show itself in grand moral or mental force, and our race will yet see a day of great achievement.

Thus from Thomas Ganong and his wife Joanna there has sprung in New Brunswick a sturdy, independent, honest, moral race, such a race as makes the strength of nations.

May our children preserve our best traditions and add lustre to our name and history." William Francis Ganong, Cambridge, Mass. 1893

The Legacy of Iola May (Northrup) Fisher

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Iola May Northrup treasured her personal copy of the Ganong Family History written in 1893. This she kept for her descendants along with her personal album; the Harvey Hartt and Margareta Ann (Benson) Northrup Family Bible; the Fisher Family Bible; the Fisher family album; her Keepsake Box filled with Calling Cards from social events of years gone by; her High School and Teacher Assistant documents, Bible Cards from her time as a Sunday School Teacher at the Collina Baptist Church; her Temperance Society Membership Card from the Collina Baptist Church, and many pictures of the early residents of Collina, Kings County.



Fisher Family Portrait - 1908
David Francis, Iola May (Northrup)
Alwyn Northrup and George Melbourne Fisher

Iola May Northrup grew up in a family of three girls and three boys in Collina village, and attended the old log school near the Baptist cemetery at Collina until 1880. She then received certification for admission to High School classes in county districts on Nov. 1st, 1880 by D. P. Wetmore, Inspector for District #4. She later received a Classroom Assistant's Temporary Local License-Third Class on Oct. 31st, 1882. She was authorized to act in the capacity of Class-Room Assistant in an Ungraded School having fifty pupils or more in the Collina School situated in School District #15 in the parish of Studholm in the county of Kings

during the school term closing Oct. 31st, 1882, dated 5 June 1882, signed by D.P. Wetmore, Inspector for District #4.

Iola May's family does not know whether she attended High School, or whether she did work as a classroom assistant in the Collina School. They do however, know of her work in the Collina Baptist Church from the Church records.

Iola May Northrup and David Francis Fisher met while she was dressmaking at the Noddin home in Long Creek, Queens County. They married on February 8th, 1899 at the Baptist Church in Collina. Iola then gave up her duties as a Sunday School teacher and Temperance worker at the Collina Church as she and David were moving to the Fisher farm at Long Creek to begin their married life. In Iola's Album there is a clipping from the Messenger and Visitor of 1899, which tells of her departure from the Collina Church family.

Presentation at Collina-1899

The following address, accompanied by a handsome present, was delivered recently at Collina:

TO OUR BELOVED SISTER, IOLA FISHER:

We, the officers and members of Collina Baptist Sunday School, wishing to give an expression of our good will and kind wishes for you, present you with this token of our respect for you and ask you to receive it as a manifestation of our love and esteem for you. Your very faithful labours as teacher in our school and your success in seeing all your class converted to God is a matter of rejoicing with us as well as yourself.

Your faithfulness in the prayer meeting and willingness to do all you could to make it a season of refreshing and also to help in all other Christian work.

Your love for the house of God has inspired many to attend its gatherings.

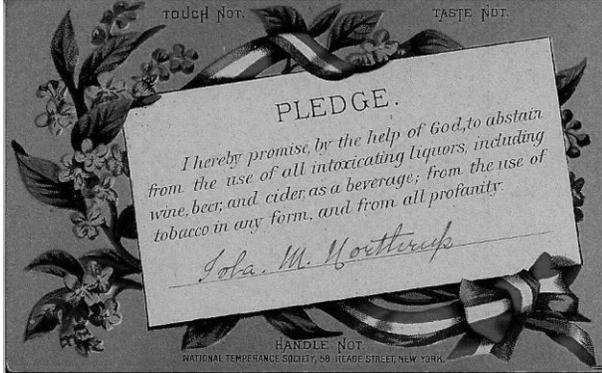
We shall miss you in the temperance work in the Division as one of our best temperance workers, and now while we are sorry you are leaving us and are certain we shall miss you, we are glad your presence will grace a Christian home and dwell in a Christian community where you have an opportunity to use the gifts that God has given you for His glory and the good of His chosen.

And now, dear sister, while I present you with this small token of our love in which you may see the likeness of your friends so may your own life

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be such that others shall see in you the likeness of Him Who went about doing good.

Signed in behalf of Collina Sunday School.
Francis Keirstead
Superintendent



Iola's Temperance Pledge

I hereby promise, by the help of God, to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors, including wine, beer, and cider, as a beverage, from the use of tobacco in any form, and from all profanity.

Iola May and David Fisher farmed at Long Creek, Queens County from 1899 to 1942, when Iola passed away on October 8th, 1942. Three children were born to them; Laura Idella, born 16th March 1901, whom they lost at 18 months on 26th September, 1902; Alwyn Northrup, born 27 July 1903; George Melbourne, born 13 Jan 1906.

George Melbourne married Audrey Bernice Crawford on the 6th of February 1943 in Saint John, N.B., the year following Iola May's passing. A son, Robert Douglas, was born to them on August 27th 1947. George and Audrey took over the family

farm at Long Creek and looked after his father, David Francis Fisher until he passed away on August 3rd 1950. Iola May and David Francis Fisher rest in the Coles Island Baptist Church Cemetery with many family members.

It was not until Robert Fisher's mother, Audrey Bernice, passed away on April 14th 1993, that Robert Fisher discovered the Legacy that Iola May had left to him. He had known nothing about the hidden Albums, Bibles, Keepsakes, and more that Iola May had so carefully preserved. She had also taken care to identify the pictures of her relatives. From over 200 of these, only twenty-nine are unknown and these are very old tin type prints.

The oldest portrait in the collection is that of Mary D. Vincent, born 25th April 1798 at Long Creek, Queens County. Mary married David Blakeney Noddin in 1823, and they farmed at Long Creek. Nine children were born to them.

A daughter, Hannah Noddin, married Peter Fisher of Granville, Nova Scotia about 1850. Hannah and Peter lost 5 of their nine children to diphtheria in 1860, 1864, and 1865. Only Isaiah Wallace, Margaret Elizabeth, David Francis, and George Edmond Fisher, survived. These children later married into the Lawson, Crawford, Northrup, and Jenkins families of Kings and Queens Counties.

Robert Fisher and family are very fortunate to be able to trace their heritage to all these families through the foresight of his grandmother, Iola May Northrup Fisher.

From the Fisher Collection of Family History and Portraits