

# GAMBRILL, FRANK ROBERT JESSE



Ancestry

## EARLY LIFE

**May 3, 1877**

Born in Kent, England to Daniel and Selina Jessie (Smith) Gambrill. He is the older brother of *Sidney Gambrill*.

**1881 Census**

Age 3

Lived at 8 City Brickfield Cottages in Kent, England with Daniel Gambrill (father – head of house, age 35) Jessie Gambrill (mother, age 28) and Charles Gambrill (brother, age 6).

**1891 Census**

Age 14

Lived in Kent, England with Daniel Gambrill (father – head of house, age 45) Jessie Gambrill (mother, age 38), Alfred Gambrill (brother, age 8), Arthur Gambrill (brother, age 5), Sidney Gambrill (brother, age 3) and Ellen Gambrill (sister, age 1).

**May 21, 1894**

Age 17

Along with his brothers, Alfred, Arthur and Sidney, Frank left England and arrived in Montreal, Quebec on the S.S. Mongolian and they were sent to live with relatives, as their mother had died in 1892.

**Mar 27, 1901**

Age 23

Married Rachel Voake, daughter of Toler and Sarah (Willson) Voake of Whitchurch, Ontario.

**1911 Census**

Age 34

Lived in King, Ontario with Rachel Gambrill (wife, age 37), Hazel Gambrill (daughter, age 9), Veryl Gambrill (son, age 7), Reeva Gambrill (daughter, age 3) and Clara Gambrill (daughter, 3 months).

## MILITARY SERVICE

**Feb 1, 1916**

Attested to the 127<sup>th</sup> York Rangers, Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force

**Attestation**

**Paper**

- **Number:** 778618
- **Present address:** King, Ontario
- **Next of kin given:** Rachel Gambrill (Wife) in King, Ontario
- **Trade or calling:** Labourer
- **Married:** Yes
- **Previous military experience:** No
- **Religion:** Methodist
- **Physical attributes:**
  - **Age:** 35 years
  - **Height:** 5'5 ½"
  - **Complexion:** Dark
  - **Eyes:** Blue
  - **Hair:** Dark Brown

**Oct 26, 1916**

Age 39

Landed in Havre, France.

**Sep 15, 1917**

Age 40

Suffered a gunshot wound in the back, while in France.

**Apr 16, 1918**

Age 40

Private Frank Gambrill was discharged because he was physically unfit. He had abdominal pain and every four to five hours after a meal, he would develop nausea followed by sharp shooting pains.

#### AFTER THE WAR

**1921 Census**

Age 44

Worked as a mailman and lived in King, Ontario with Rachel Gambrill (wife, age 47), Hazel Gambrill (daughter, age 20), Veryl Gambrill (son, age 17), Reeva Gambrill (daughter, age 13), Clara Gambrill (daughter, age 10) and Audrey Gambrill (daughter, age 7).

**Dec 12, 1938**

Age 61

Rachel Gambrill (Frank's wife) died at age 65 in King City, Ontario.

**Aug 16, 1941**

Age 64

Married Sarah Emily Bentley in Toronto, Ontario.

**Jul 10, 1965**

Age 88

Frank Gambrill died in King City, Ontario. He is buried in King City Cemetery in King City, Ontario.

#### MENTIONED IN EARL CAMPBELL'S LETTERS HOME

##### *Letters Home: Messages from the Trenches*

Oct 29, 1917 pg. 4

Aug 9, 1918, pg. 2

Mar 13, 1919

#### MENTIONED IN THE EARL CAMPBELL STORY

##### *Early Life*

Frank and Rachel Gambrill's daughter Hazel was married to Earl Campbell.

In 1925 he married Hazel Gambrill and lived on W 1/2 of Lot 8, Con. 4, King Township. Earl and Hazel had five daughters - Clara, Gloria, Gerry, Earlene and Shirley. During the 1930s he began a silver fox farm, which he named "Vimy Ridge" Fur Farm. Earl was an avid sportsman, playing soccer and he won a medal in speed skating competitions. Earl sold the farm in 1967 and built a new house on a reserved two acres. In his later years, Earl was the caretaker of the King City Cemetery. Earl died March 14th, 1971.

## IN THE NEWS

### The 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rachel Gambrill's Death

The Toronto Star

Wednesday, December 12, 1945 pg. 27

**GAMBRILL** — In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Rachel Rebecca Gambrill, who passed away Dec. 12, 1938. Oft and oft our thoughts do wander 'o the grave not far away. Where we laid our dear mother Just seven years ago today. —Ever remembered by her loving Husband and Family.

### Marriage Announcement between Frank and Sarah (Bentley) Gambrill

#### GAMBRILL—BENTLEY

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at the Church of St. Edmund, the Martyr, Toronto, at 4 o'clock, Saturday afternoon of August 16th, when Mrs. Sarah Emily Bentley became the bride of Frank Robert Gambrill of King. The altar was decorated with choice blooms of salmon, pink double gladioli and the ceremony was conducted by the Rev. R. S. Toppett, while Mr. Everett Wiltshire of King, sang "O Love Divine."

Given away by her son-in-law, Mr. William Reid of Toronto, the bride was becomingly attired in an ensemble of navy blue and white silk dress and navy blue triple sheer redingote; a small navy blue felt hat and matching accessories. She wore a corsage of Richmond roses and Bouvardia. The attendants were, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick MacDonald of Toronto, as matron of honour, Mrs. MacDonald wore light blue with navy accessories and a corsage of pale pink roses. The ushers were Mr. Donald Cudworth and Mr. Richard Chaplin, both of Toronto.

The groom's gift to the bride was a wrist watch.

A reception was held at the Royal York Hotel, following the ceremony, Mrs. W. Cudworth the bride's daughter receiving with the bridal party and wearing a rose sheer gown, small black hat and black accessories and wearing a corsage of gardenias.

For a motor trip to North Bay and other points in Northern Ontario, the bride added a blue wool coat to her ensemble.

One hundred guests were present from Toronto, King, Uxbridge, Stouffville, Sutton, Bancroft and Buffalo, N.Y.

Mr. Gambrill, who is giving excellent service in the mail service of the locality will bring his bride to his home in King City. We congratulate them both and hope Mrs. Gambrill will find King a pleasant place in which to live.

MENTIONED IN SNOWBALL TWEEDSMUIR

Women's Institute - Snowball Volume 2



"The mail must go through . . ." and here are the men who, in King Township, make sure that it does. From left to right they are Robert O'Reilly, who operates R.R. 1; Ernest

Cummins, courier on R.R. 2; King City Post Office prior to Frank Gambill, operator of R.R. 3. They are shown outside of

vice to their credit, as told in the accompanying story. Photo by F. J. Diamond, Aurora.

Through Snow And Sunshine

THE BANNER, AURORA, FEBRUARY 28, 1952

This has been a good winter for delivering mail in the rural area of King Township, although we had a hard time for a few days in November. "The Township has been generous with the snow plough," is the opinion of the three mail carriers of Rural Routes 2 and 3, operating from the Post Office of King City. "There was a year when it snowed so bad that we were blocked in for over a week. The mail didn't get out from Saturday till the following Monday week," said Ernest Cummins, who has been on the route for 23 years. The senior mail man, Frank Gambrell, who has been carrying the mail since his discharge from the Army in 1918 remembers when he had to keep two horses for his route of 30 miles. "The winter roads were

so bad you had to work your horse only three days a week. Only the mail carrier worked every day. In those days a road was broken if a cutter had made tracks ahead of you." Mr. Gambrell still believes that two is better than one, for he keeps two cars, so that one will always be ready for the job, even in the worst weather.

Frank Gambrell, R.R. 3, Ernest Cummins, R.R. 2, and Robert O'Reilly, R.R. 1, are known from the Town Line on the South, to the 8th Con., West, Mulock Side Road, North, and Yonge Street, east. Mr. Gambrell, who has served for 33 years, has the longest route of 30 miles, with 175 mail boxes. His route wanders up the 3rd Con. to Mulock Side Road, down through Temperanceville to the Town Line on the 2nd with all roads between. He has

four bad hills. This is a lovely drive in June, but in muddy or blustery weather it is no picnic. Mr. Gambrell also is the dependable man who brings the mail to and from the train, twice daily. He carries, on an average day, 15 bags of mail at a time. When Christmas or catalogue time comes along his car is loaded three or four times a trip, with from 50 to 60 bags. Mrs. Gambrell often goes along with him on his deliveries to help her husband, who was badly wounded as a private with the First Canadian Division in 1917. "This is my last winter on the route," he said. He hopes to retire in September. He has lived most of his adult life in King Township, having been employed in the building of Lake Marie farm at the time of Sir Henry Pellatt prior to 1914.

## Frank Gambrill Honoured For 34 Years As Carrier

A really comfortable chair and foot stool for a man who has spent 34 years of his life delivering mail on the concession roads of 2 and 3 of King Township, in all kinds of weather, seemed the best gift that the people on his former route could bestow upon him. Frank Gambrill was the most surprised man in the world on Wednesday evening, November 19, when over 50 of these people representing R.R. 3 and his associates in the local Post Office, gathered in the Masonic Hall to do him honour. Twelve tables were filled, and euchre was played. It was not until the tables were cleared and made ready for refreshments that Mr. Gambrill realized that this was his very own party.

Mr. and Mrs. Gambrill were invited by E. S. Reddick to be seated so that they faced their friends, who sang "For they are jolly good fellows". Mr. Reddick told them that he had never before had such pleasure in organizing any event, for he had been astounded at the wonderful response that he and his committee had received when they decided it was time to show Mr. Gambrill how much they appreciated his faithful service. His committee included someone 1 1/4 miles on the route, and were Mrs. W. McDonald, Aubrey Wade, Jim Ball, Douglas Wellesley, Charles Casey, Allan Connor, Leonard

Hall, Harry Mills, John Banks, Jack Adams, Charles Ewart Jennings, Jim Gilham, Wilbert Jennings and

This committee had received donations from Mr. Gambrill's friends, and with the money had purchased this very comfortable armchair, and large footstool to match, for the ex-mailman. For his wife, they had purchased a handsome floor lamp. There was still a substantial sum of money in an envelope for an extra gift.

Ewart Jennings read the address which accompanied the presentation. He said that Mr. Gambrill had earned the highest respect of everyone in the community, as had his courageous wife, for it was remembered that on many occasions she had helped him to deliver the mail over roads that were unfit for travel. Obviously surprised and overcome, both Mr. and Mrs. Gambrill responded cheerfully to the delight of everyone present, who were assured that their gifts would be greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Gambrill has since stated that if all goes well they hope to take a trip to the State of Washington next year.

## Obituary

The Toronto Star

Monday, July 12, 1965 pg. 25

**GAMBRILL, Frank R. J.—At Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, on Saturday, July 10, 1965, Frank Gambrill of King City, husband of the late Rachel Voake, and dear father of Hazel (Mrs. Earl Campbell), Reeva (Mrs. E. Wilkshire), Clara (Mrs. J. Miller), Audrey (Mrs. R. Moore) and the late Varyl Gambrill, in his 89th year. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 29 Victoria St., Aurora. Service on Tuesday, July 13, at 2 p.m. Interment King City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gideon Bible Society.**

## PHOTOS

Sarah Emily and Frank's Wedding Day with Sarah Emily's daughter Lillian Bentley in 1941



Frank and Sarah Emily Gambrill

