

Whatever Happened to the Romanovs?

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Abstract: - In this paper, we provide the answer to the story of whatever happened to happened to the Romanov's descendants? An Historian has written three pieces in a blog on a man by the name of VanWart. He claimed to have rescued Anastasia from Russia and brought her to Canada. Subsequently, he married her and had children who had a daughter who is in her 50's. A comparison of the facial characterises strongly shows that VanWart did marry Anastasia. The end of the line comes with the present granddaughter of Anastasia.

Keywords: - Romanov's; Russia; Royalty; VanWart.

Introduction

I knew the VanWart granddaughter to see. We went to university together. She had beautiful white blonde hair. I would have married her, but I had zits all over my face. I never spoke to her. I didn't know then that she was a Russian Princess. And I didn't know that I was a descendant of Louis XVII of France. Had I known, I might have gotten married and had kids.

Whatever happened to the Romanov's? I'm not an expert Historian, but I think I may have part of the answer to that question. Ron Jack, a noted Saint John Historian who now lives in Burnaby, BC, has written about Horace Van Wart in his blog "The Lost Valley – An Internet History of Saint John". He tells us how Van Wart made "Big claims" about the Romanov rescue. Ron Jack posted 3 posts on H. W Van Wart. Here is a bit of it here. You are referred to his blog on "The Lost Valley" for the complete rendering:

For the second instalment of this serial on Canada's [SIBERIAN ADVENTURE 1919](#), I planned to publish a profile of several Saint John men who served in the **260th Battalion** of the **C.S.E.F.**, but that can wait. This morning I got the notion that it might be fun to have a look at a single officer from the file. I chose a Frederictonian who served in Russia as a signals officer, but who later made claim to being a much more important figure in the Allied effort to support the White Russian regime. That man was **Horace H. Van Wart**, a forgotten figure

who is now only referenced for his writing a small book on the United Empire Loyalists. Fragments and threads of his life blow through the Internet like tumbleweeds in a ghost town, but nobody has ever examined the record he was trying to create for himself.

How big was Captain Van Wart's claim to fame? BIG! Take a moment to read the biographical profile he submitted to a New Brunswick *who's who* in 1922. In reality he went quietly to Vladivostok as a Signalling Officer with the **259th Battalion CSEF**, but a year after Demobilization he was broadcasting himself as "*Intelligence Observer II*" [sic] with a string of accomplishments that would rival the exploits of a deep-cover British S.I.S. officer. The tale will get even pulpier, I promise.

Horace was on summer break from U.N.B. when the Great War broke out, and he was keen to volunteer. He sailed from Quebec with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and when the **12th Reserve Infantry Battalion C.E.F.**** went under canvas, he was the Signaling Officer. It wasn't long before his photograph appeared in a British magazine and he began compiling his own war record. His habits were likely influenced by the hobby of compiling family genealogies. It is worth pointing out that a fellow Militia officer, **Captain Ronald A. McAvity** of Saint John, was 12th Battalion Quartermaster. The potted profile tells us, Capt. Van Wart was invalided to Canada in October of 1917.

The Canadian office of the **Associated Press** in London distributed a promotions list on February 16, 1916. The news article lead with "*Lieut. Vanwart, General Staff, Canadian Training Division, is promoted captain*". I am not certain at what point the young captain returned to Canada, ** but by the autumn of 1918 he was back in his native province serving with the minuscule engineer detachment at **Camp Sussex**.

A BREATHTAKING CLAIM
If we take Van Wart at his word, he was one of the more important figures in the Allied intervention in Siberia:

I know that he actually left Vladivostok on the 19th of May 1919, sailing for Canada on the liner **EMPRESS OF RUSSIA** and Demobilized through **MD No. 7** in Saint John. I also know that in addition to Genealogical research, Philately was a hobby of Van Wart's. Upon returning to Fredericton he began receiving a steady stream of mail Russia and those philatelic covers survive. Collectors have puzzled over them for decades.

THE ROMANOV CONSPIRACIES - there were many, but only a few suggested Canadian participation.

The entire Romanov family, the Tzar, his Empress and their children were eliminated by a Soviet execution squad on July 17, 1918.

There were errors in the book. That is to be expected in a work which documented the assassination of a King and his family, a murder still denied by the perpetrators. The important thing here is that a large body of evidence was made available to the world, scarcely two years after the murders, and yet there remained sufficient mystery to fuel a chain of well promoted conspiracy theories, including several which still attract a following today, even though the current Russian government and skilled teams forensic investigators have put the crimes to rest.

VAN WART'S TALE

The thrust of Van Wart's presentation, in addition to itemizing the gory details of the mass killing and

destruction of the bodies, was an insistence that Soviet authority in Moscow had not ordered the unlawful execution. In support of his version of events he opened and displayed a folder of photographs and documents, and one must understand that Van Wart was a lawyer, with some training in the presentation of evidence before a jury. In taking questions, he he was honest enough to admit that he had no current knowledge of conditions the Soviet Union, but he made the further boast that he had attempted to re-enter Russia in 1924 and been arrested. The reporter who covered the lecture reported Van Wart's claim that he was living with a Soviet price on his head.

So just what was the calibre of the average New Brunswick soldier who volunteered in 1918 for the **Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force**? Up till now it was impossible to find out because the published literature on the CSEF ignored Maritime-Canadians and played up the contributions of where else? Quebec, Ontario and the West.

That was unfortunate because his was the battalion which included New Brunswick soldiers and we would like to know more. At least a dozen historians and graduate students have mined the men and miseries of the C.S.E.F., but none seem to have found virtues in the volunteers from east of Montreal. The most recent book, **FROM VICTORIA TO VLADIVOSTOK** (UBC Press 2010) certainly does not include men from Saint John, and the one soldier who is alleged to have been a "druggist" from Saint John, (simply because he said so) wasn't. He was actually a semi-literate drifter from Nova Scotia, now celebrated for his barrack room doggerel. I will return to him later.

A lot of mystery surrounds Horace Van Wart. What I present next are convincing photos that prompt one to think maybe Horace Van Wart was truthful in his stories of the Romanov rescue.

Below is a blow up of Fantasia who later married VanWart. It is not disclosed where they now live. They have a daughter who is not of child bearing age any longer.

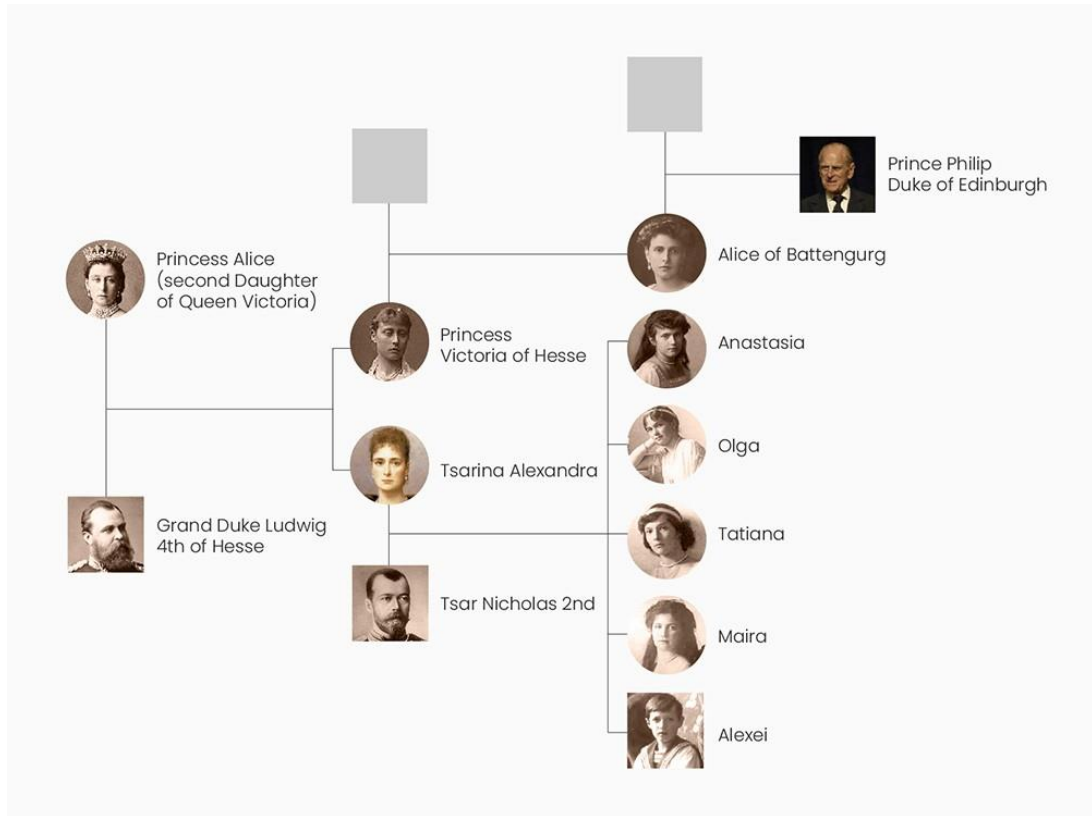


Figure 1 Romanov family. Source : Genebase .com



Figure 2 The Romanov's



Illustration 3A & B3 Blow up of Anastasia (left) & SUBJECT A(below) -A VanWart



Illustration 4A & 4B Projection of what Anastasia should have looked like based on forensic evidence.

These illustrations comparing SUBJECT A's facial structure to Anastasia lead me to think that what happened to Anastasia was that she followed Horace to Saint John (of Sussex), where she married and/or took the name Van Wart.

A simple mtDNA test commercially available at [genesbase.com](https://www.genesbase.com) who allow for comparison of the maternal DNA of Anastasia and SUBJECT A. It would prove conclusively that she descends from Anastasia or not.

The mystery remains solved but unproven. DNA tests could be undertaken. The Romanov DNA is available at genealogy testing sites (Genebase.com has an extensive analysis site)

Ron Jack provides several sources for the interested reader, but non mention Van Wart and the covert mission he conducted.

There is a way to settle it. DNA tests could be done on the surviving VanWart. The supposed DNA of the Romanovs is online at genebase.com of which I'm a member.

References

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The following references [2]-[8] are taken from Ron Jak's Blog on the Romanov Conspiracy.
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