

Companion Notes for Emma Field, Book One

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11, A5 *Quaker community swept by the winds of Lake Ontario*: The village of Bloomfield, Ontario was first settled by Quakers in 1784. Most of them had come from Dutchess County, New York, what is now an hour’s drive north of New York City. The scene Emma is viewing is east of the village on the land still farmed by distant relatives of John Platt Williams II who is introduced in Book One.

12, A6 *simple frame house and barn belonging to the Coopers*: The Cooper family bought the land across the road from their original log cabin (where Emma and her father later lived) in 1829. The house and barn they built were attached to one another.

18, A12 *The Morgans...fine brick house...Danforth Road*: The Morgan house on the Loyalist parkway was built by well-off emigrants from Dutchess County shortly after the War of 1812. Thomas Morgan was a miller in the village.

26, A20 *Morgan’s Mill*: Trout Creek is now known as Waring Creek. The mill was purchased by John Williams’s father Caleb and neighbour Benjamin Hubbs in 1836. The main building was equipped with picking and carding machinery for wool manufacturing. A lean-to housed a saw mill, shingle mill, edging and planning equipment.

33, A27 *A golden flash caught her eye. The boarding school was a castle*: The author grew up in the setting of Emma Field, Book One. Through her teenage years she owned a horse and pony, which she fed and watered twice a day. For brief periods of time in the winter, the sunlight from the rising sun would reflect off the windows of the old Quaker boarding school to the north. In the ways of a girl who read a great deal, she would imagine that the light was emanating from a castle that only she knew about.

33, A27, *boarding school*: The West Lake Boarding School operated east of Bloomfield from 1841 to 1869. It provided an exemplary education for both boys and girls, Quakers and non-Quakers. It has been a private home since then.

35, A29 *Fry’s Cocoa*: Fry, Cadbury and Rowntree are all names of Quaker families who became famous for their chocolate. The Fry name continues to also live on through the Elizabeth Fry Society.

41, A35 *Lambing*: The author has lived for many years on a sheep farm. All of the details related to sheep are accurate.

65, A61 *Dr. Watson's house*: This house, beside Bloomfield United Church, was in fact built in 1866 for a Dr. Samuel Lake.

132, A129 *John Platt Williams II*: John was one of the non-Quaker students from the community attending the West Lake Boarding School. He returned home in 1849 to farm with his father, Caleb Williams. For many more details about his interesting life see entries 7-10 and 12 of the blogs entitled [Emma and the Williams farm at Bloomfield](#) on this website.

210, A208 *Obadiah Cooper*: Obadiah Cooper came to Prince Edward from Dutchess County, New York in 1802. He was a relative of Fennemore Cooper of Coppertown, New York, the author of "The Last of the Mohicans". Obadiah fought in the War of 1812-1814 and his flint-lock rifle was used in "the killing of the last bear in The County." It was considered such an important rifle that a member of the Williams family purchased it several generations later.

230, A230 *Gershom Butt*: The ties to Dutchess County remained strong generations after the first settlers came to Canada. Not only were family members in both locations, but the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends meant that Quakers from all across northern New York State, and Ontario got together on an annual basis. These times together provided great continuity in family relations as well as great opportunities to share everything from recipes and books to the latest in seeds, cuttings and agricultural techniques. The name "Gershom Butt" came from a list of witnesses at the wedding of Quakers David Macomber and Hannah Brown in 1769. Although the Gershom Butt in the story was fictitious, he became very real to the author! On a side note, research led the author to come across many other great names including Duty Green, Abishni Coffin and Patience Hoag.

241, A240 *Jeremiah's body lay*: In real life, John Platt Williams II's son Edwin died in this manner in 1889. He left a wife, Carrie (formerly a Quaker) and three young boys. More details about Edwin, Carrie and her wedding dress, which appears in Emma Field, Book Two, can be found in the 12th entry of the [Emma and the Williams farm at Bloomfield](#) blogs.

254, A256 *cream coloured blanket*: This blanket, owned by Glorinah Young Williams, was donated to the Prince Edward County Museum by her descendent Anne E. Williams of Vancouver.

259, A261 *Mary Jemima Southard*: This poem comes from an autograph album of Mary Jemima Southard, a student at the West Lake Boarding School. It is owned by her descendent, Melba Pearce of Bloomfield.

271, A273 *Grandmother and Grandfather Williams*: Jemima Platt Williams and Samuel Williams, United Empire Loyalists, married in 1792 and settled at the foot of the Sandbanks. For a short blog entry about them see the second blog entry of the [Emma and the Williams farm at Bloomfield](#) blog. They were buried in the little Pettit cemetery, not far from the West Lake shore.

297, A299 *Nine Partners School*: This Quaker boarding school located near Poughkeepsie, NY provided the basis for the formation of the West Lake Boarding School. To learn much more about it and one of its most famous students: the women's rights leader, Lucretia Mott, read *Emma Field, Book Two*.

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