



**Matthew and Roberta (Piper)
Cassidy**

Prologue

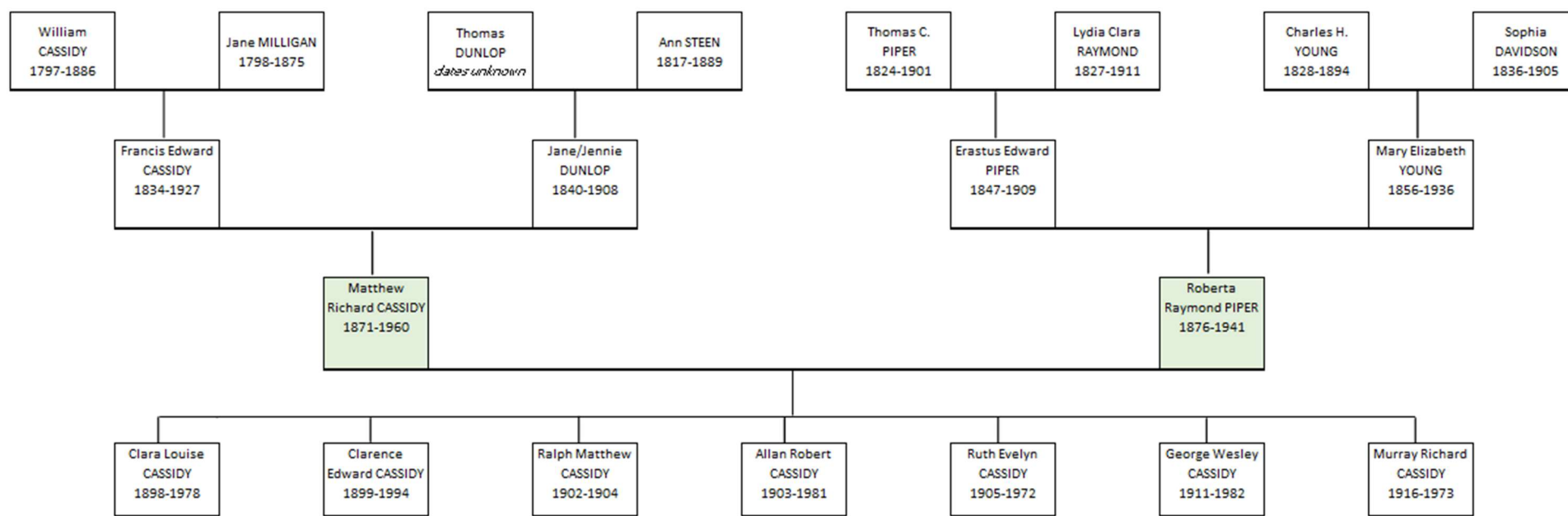
I didn't know much about my great grandparents, Matthew and Roberta, except for the fact they had lived in Boston, Massachusetts for a while before living in Norton, NB, and that Matthew was a carpenter. I decided to do some research to try to get to know them better. These are my findings.

Anne L. Renwick








Great grand-daughter, via their son Allan


January 2026


*Ancestors and Descendants Chart for
Matthew Cassidy and Roberta Piper*



Family Group Sheet for Matthew Richard Cassidy

Husband:		Matthew Richard Cassidy	
	Birth:	29 Jan 1871 in Clover Hill, Kings Co, NB, Canada; at home	
	Marriage:	04 Jul 1897 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA	
	Death:	07 Apr 1960 ; Riverbank Community Cemetery, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Father:	Francis Edward Cassidy	
	Mother:	Jane Dunlop	
Wife:		Roberta Raymond Piper	
	Birth:	16 Jun 1876 in Boston, Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Death:	17 Feb 1941 in Norton, Kings Co, NB, Canada; Riverbank Community Cemetery, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Father:	Erastus E Piper	
	Mother:	Mary E Young	
Children:			
1 F	Name:	Clara Louise Cassidy	
	Birth:	21 Jan 1898 in Boston Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Marriage:	04 Oct 1918	
	Death:	Nov 1978	
	Spouse:	Byard Gordon Archibald	
	Other Spouses:	William H. Pollock (01 Nov 1950 in Petitodiac, Westmorland, New Brunswick, Canada)	
2 M	Name:	Clarence Edward Cassidy	
	Birth:	26 Jun 1899 in Boston Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Burial:	1994 in Sussex, Kings Co, NB, Canada; Riverbank Community Cemetery, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Death:	16 Jul 1994 in Norton, Kings Co, NB, Canada	
3 M	Name:	Ralph Matthew Cassidy	
	Birth:	19 Nov 1901 in Boston Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Death:	02 Jul 1902 in 16 High Street, Boston, Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Burial:	Mount Hope Cemetery, Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA; Lot 1678 Walnut Ave, Plot 11	
4 M	Name:	Allan Robert Cassidy	
	Birth:	04 Apr 1903 in Boston, Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Marriage:	03 Aug 1929 in Lower Millstream, Kings Co, New Brunswick	
	Death:	16 Apr 1981 in Fredericton, York Co, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Spouse:	Mildred Verna Folkins	
5 F	Name:	Ruth Evelyn Cassidy	
	Birth:	17 Jul 1905 in Boston Suffolk, MA, USA	
	Marriage:	24 Dec 1924	
	Death:	07 Dec 1972 in Norton, Kings Co, NB, Canada; Riverbank Community Cemetery, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Spouse:	Eneas F. Gillcash	

6	Name:	George Wesley Cassidy	
M	Birth:	23 Nov 1911 in Clover Hill, Kings Co, NB, Canada	
	Marriage:	15 Mar 1941 in Sussex, Kings Co, NB, Canada	
	Death:	13 May 1982 in Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland; Larlee Creek Cemetery, Perth, NB	
	Spouse:	Edith Gertrude Ryder	
	Other Spouses:	Jean Stewart	

7	Name:	Murray Richard Cassidy	
M	Birth:	24 Jun 1916 in Clover Hill, Kings Co, NB, Canada	
	Marriage:	24 Dec 1940 in Norton, Kings Co, NB, Canada; Riverbank Memorial Church	
	Death:	1974 ; Riverbank Community Cemetery, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada	
	Spouse:	Marie Jean Hall	

The Boston Years

Matthew Meets Roberta

Francis Edward and Jane/Jennie (Dunlop) Cassidy had been married almost five years when their son Matthew Richard, was born on 29 January in 1871 at the Cassidy family homestead at Cassidy Lake in Kings County, New Brunswick. He had two older siblings: Clara, age 3, and William, age 2.

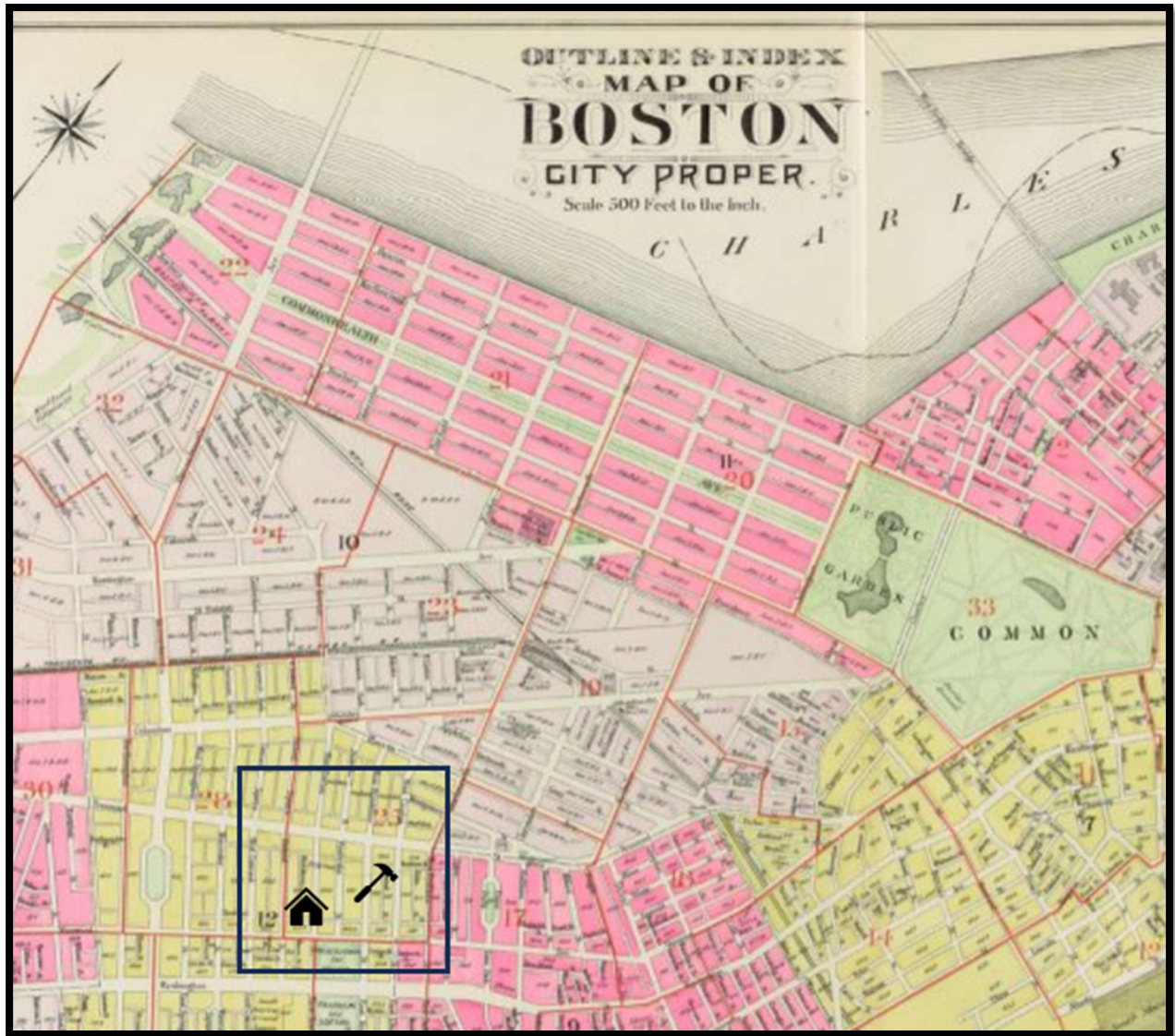
Francis and Jane had independently emigrated to Boston for work, met there, and married in 1866. Francis' brother Richard had moved there that same year eventually finding work with the builder's firm of Erastus E. Piper.ⁱ It was most likely Richard's suggestion when Matthew was in his early 20's that Matthew come and join him. Boston was booming and there was a strong demand for carpenters.

Erastus Piper's business offered multiple types of services which were advertised prolifically in newspapers, directories, and on his business cards.ⁱⁱ



Roberta's father's business cards from 1881, front and back

¹ Richard Cassidy went on to become a naturalized citizen of the U.S.



1898 Map showing location of Piper household (house icon) and shop (hammer icon)

The shop was located at 101 W. Brookline Street in Boston, a few blocks from the Piper's home at 45 Rutland Street.ⁱⁱⁱ

Erastus was known for doing "his work in a first-class and thorough manner... (he was) very highly spoken of by every one and (was) well known all over the city."^{iv}

Though it is not known exactly which year Matthew emigrated, in 1896, at age 25 he was boarding in nearby Cambridge at 152 Pearl Street^v. A family story was that Matthew's first job in Boston was delivering milk by horse and wagon and met his future wife, Roberta Piper, by delivering to the Piper home. However, no record could be found to confirm this story. Roberta was a book-keeper, possibly at her father's office, and it may be in this way that she and Matthew met.

Roberta Raymond Piper was the second eldest of four daughters to Erastus and Mary (Young), born on 16 June 1876².^{vi} Her middle name was from her paternal grandmother, Lydia Raymond. Roberta grew up in and around the city of Boston, as the family moved frequently, possibly to new-builds by her father's firm. Erastus was constantly buying and selling properties, as well as managing building contracts.

However they met, on July 1, 1897, Matthew, age 25 and Roberta, age 21, registered their intention to marry. The wedding took place three days later^{vii} conducted by Rev. Arthur W. L. Nelson from the Trinity Methodist Episcopal^{viii} Church in West Medford, just outside Boston. Though the exact place of their wedding was not noted, the marriage was registered in both Cambridge and Boston.^{ix}

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the <i>city</i> of <i>Cambridge</i> for the Year eighteen hundred and ninety- <i>seven</i>										
No.	DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF RECORD.	NAMES, RESIDENCES, AND OCCUPATIONS OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	RESIDENCE OF EACH OF THEM.	AGE OF EACH IN YEARS.	OCCUPATION OF EACH.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	WHAT MARRIAGE VOUCHER.	NAMES, RESIDENCES, AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSONS BY WHOM MARRIED.
415	<i>Boston</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Matthew R. Goodrich</i> <i>Roberta Piper</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>25</i> <i>21</i>	<i>Carpenter</i> <i>Book keeper</i>	<i>N. B.</i> <i>Boston</i>	<i>Erastus & Jane Dingle</i> <i>Erastus W. Mary & Young</i>		<i>Arthur W. L. Nelson</i> <i>West Medford</i>

The newlyweds started their married life in one of the apartments at 45 Rutland Street where Roberta's parents and younger sisters, Lillian, age 16, and Hattie, age 10 lived. (Roberta's eldest sister, Alice, had since married). The building was owned by Roberta's mother.^x

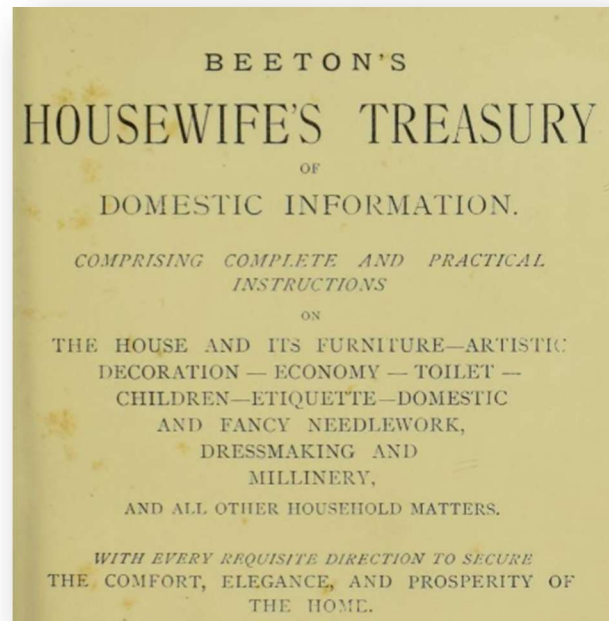


45 Rutland Street (Google Street View 2025)

² Roberta was born a few weeks after Erastus' brother Thomas was executed for murder. (source: "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1845-1915," database with images, Ancestry (ancestry.ca : accessed 10 June 2025), death register image, Thomas W. Piper, 25 May 1876, no. 94 image 821 of 1178; citing Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840–1911. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts; The Boston Globe, Wednesday, October 27, 1875, Page 3, newspapers.com, accessed 6 January 2025)

Transitioning from working single woman to pregnant wife, Roberta may have learned the skills of running a household from her mother. There were also many publications available to advise and entertain her such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies Home Journal*, or *The American Kitchen Magazine*, all with recipes, child rearing tips, fashions, stories, etc.

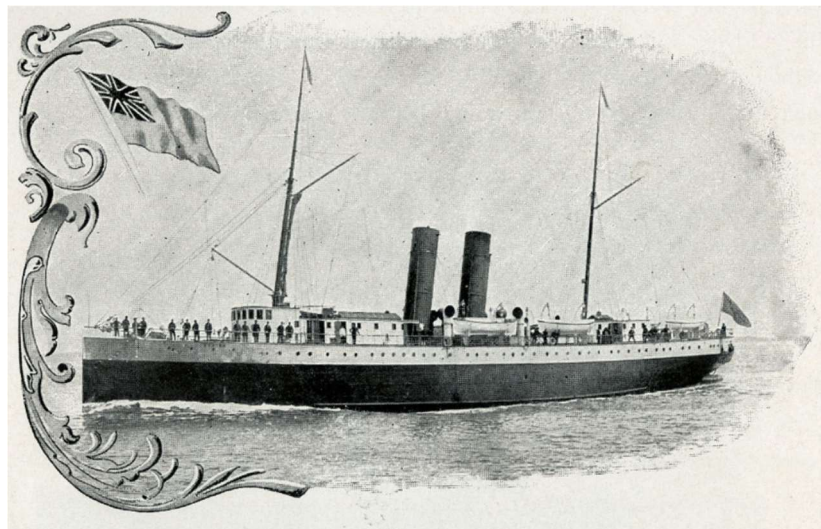
She may even have had a copy of the very popular and comprehensive “*Mrs. Beeton’s Book of Household Management*”, which incorporated “*Beeton’s Housewife’s Treasury of Domestic Information*.”^{xi}



Source: Internet Archive

In January of 1898 Matthew and Roberta’s first child, Clara Louise, was born.^{xii} Women were expected to remain in bed for up to two weeks after a birth, so it is hoped her mother and/or sisters came to help.

That summer, the family, with Matthew’s in-laws, visited the Maritimes, most likely to introduce the baby to the Cassidys in New Brunswick and the Youngs, (Roberta’s maternal family) in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. They may have visited often as there were frequent steamships at the time between Yarmouth and Boston. This trip’s return was on board the SS Boston, arriving on 24 Sept. 1898.^{xiii}



SS Boston

In June of 1899, Roberta gave birth at home to a second child, a son whom she and Matthew named Clarence Edward.^{xiv}

1900 was an eventful year: on New Year's Day, Roberta's sister Lillian married one of Matthew's co-workers, Elmer Ellis, a carpenter from Nova Scotia.^{xv} Later, Roberta's parents and 12-year-old sister Hattie (Harriet), moved in with Roberta's paternal grandparents, Thomas and Lydia (Raymond) Piper. Their home was about three miles away, in Dorchester.^{xvi} That summer, Matthew's sister Clara came to visit her brother and sister-in-law and their two little children.^{xvii}

Later that year Matthew and Roberta also changed homes, and were living at 11 Rollins Court in Roxbury, a suburb of Boston.^{xviii} In November, their second son, Ralph Matthew was the first of their children to be born at a hospital: the New England Hospital for Women and Children.^{3xix}



Source: Wikipedia, 2025

³ This hospital was unique at the time as not only was it a training hospital, it only employed women physicians.

Sometime between 1901 and 1902, the family again moved, this time to the house owned and lived in by Roberta's parents at 16 High Street in Dorchester.

At the time of the move, a smallpox epidemic was raging in and around Boston. Though vaccines were voluntary, a program of house-to-house vaccination was initiated in January 1902 for the most affected areas, including Roxbury and Dorchester where the Cassidy and Piper families lived.^{xx}

It is possible the Cassidys had the vaccine as tragically that summer Ralph contracted meningitis,^{xxi} a rare side effect. He died on July 2, and was buried in the Piper/Young family plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston^{xxii}.



16 High Street, Dorchester (Google Street View, 2025)

Owner: **Ida L. Gould**
23 Meyers Lane
Milton, Mass.

Transferred; 4-9-62
Lillian G. Heoffne,
Sgeep Pond,
Brewster, Mass.

Mount Hope Cemetery.
P.C.

Lot No. 1878

Location. Walnut Ave.

Dimensions. 15' x 20'

Area in sq. ft. 300

Monument. Center

Grave Markers.

Interments.

1	-	24976	-	Charles S. Piper
2	-	13053	-	Hattie A. Piper
3	-	17601	-	Charles H. Young
4	-	27169	-	Sophia Young
6	-	1838	-	Alice S. Young
7	-		-	Child
8	-	10009	-	Henrietta Raymond
	-	18365	-	Gould (S. B.)
11	-	23618	-	Ralph M. Cassidy
13	-	32515	-	Erastus E. Piper
14	-	30726	-	James H. Lawrence
17	-	60707	-	Charles L. Kimball
18	-	61931	-	Mary E. Piper
15	-	65314	-	Emma J. White
18	-	71058	-	George W. Gould
16	-	76945	-	Inez L. Mercer
17	-	83349	-	Florence Kimball
18	-	91428	-	Ida L. Gould.

Reservations for the following:
Grave # 15 William Young - Emma Young
" 16 Inez Squires - John Squires
" 17 Florence Kimball - Charles Kimball
" 18 Ida L. Gould - George Gould

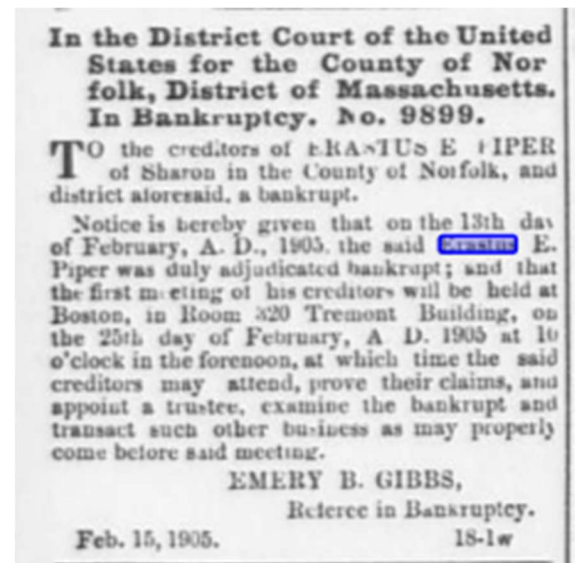
The remaining vacant spaces reserved for grandchildren of Chas. H. Young, deceased owner, their wives and issue only.

Young plot information provided by Mount Hope Cemetery, 2025

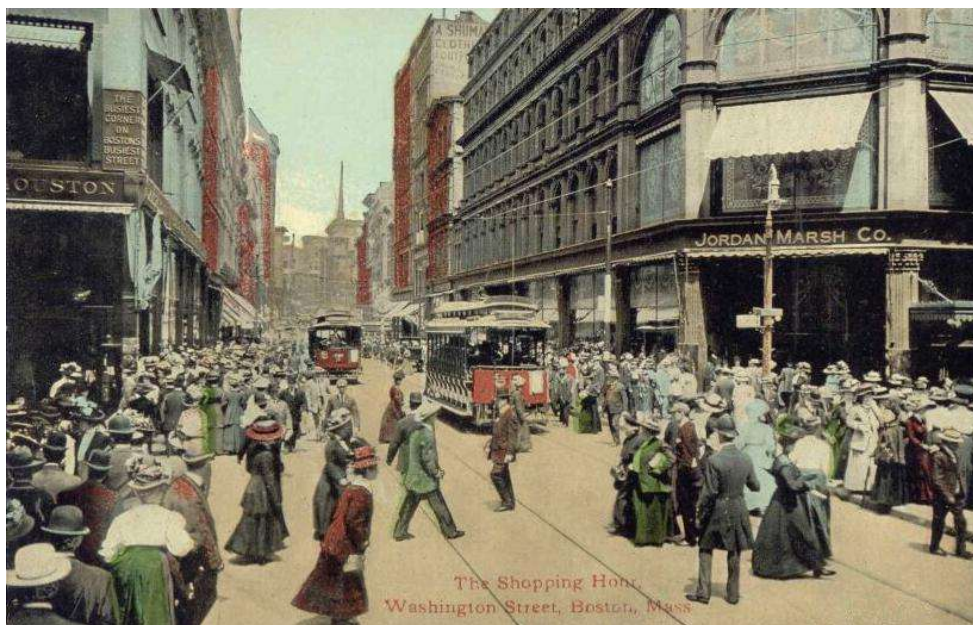
It was in December of that year that Matthew purchased a piece of land at Cassidy Lake, perhaps with the view of eventually moving back and away from a city.^{xxiii} Roberta was again pregnant and in April of 1903 she gave birth to another son, Allan Robert.^{xxiv} He too was born at the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

Their lives seemed steady until February 1905 when Roberta's father, Erastus, was declared bankrupt.^{xxv} It is likely Matthew would have lost his job. Roberta was three months pregnant at the time, and when their daughter, Ruth Evelyn, was born in July^{xxvi} the family had relocated once again, this time to 89 Maxwell Street in Dorchester.

By now the Boston area was a highly congested bustling city. "People, streetcars and horse-drawn wagons are seen engaged in free-for-all pandemonium. There are no stop signs, lane markers or speed limits. Boston didn't install its first traffic lights until 1925, well after other major cities. Intersections [were] basically survival of the fittest."^{xxvii}



Bankruptcy Notices, "The Quincy Patriot", 18 February 1905



The Shopping Hour, Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts - public domain

Matthew and his family moved further out of the city and in 1907 they were living at 49 Judson Street in Roxbury.^{xxviii} (This may have been a boarding house as the 1908 tax valuation shows also a clerk, driver, and electrician living at this address).^{xxix} Roberta's parents and her sister Hattie were now living about 25 miles away in the town of Sharon, Massachusetts.

Return to New Brunswick

In April 1908, Matthew's mother, Jane/Jennie, passed away suddenly in April after contracting pneumonia.^{xxx} It may have been the impetus for Matthew and Roberta to return to New Brunswick for a fresh start. That fall, they and their children, Clara age 10, Clarence age 9, Allan age 5, and Ruth age 3, boarded a sailing ship to Saint John.

Matthew's grandson Earl Gillcash recalled Matthew saying of the journey: "It was a very rough passage due to a big storm in the Bay of Fundy. Just about everyone on board was seasick, including my grandmother Roberta who was nursing my mother, Ruth Evelyn."⁴ ^{xxxi} (The year of this recollection may have been of a visit, rather than the move back to New Brunswick, as Ruth was three years old at the time. However, it gives an insight into travelling by ship).

Allan recalled "As we came from Boston, Mass. in the early fall...early October 1908...we spent the winter in Norton and moved to the farm at Clover Hill (Cassidy Lake), in the Spring of 1909. Father was busy that summer building the shop as he called it."^{xxxii}

Matthew may have returned to Boston after he settled his wife and children in Norton to tie up loose ends as he was noted in the local social news as visiting the family from there that Christmas.^{xxxiii}



L-R Clarence, Clara, Ruth (seated), and Allan

...Mary Ryan.
Matthew Cassidy, of Boston, spent Christmas here with his wife and family.
D. C. Allen goes to Brockville this week

Telegraph-Journal 29 December 1909

⁴ Ruth Evelyn Cassidy married Enos Gillcash; Earl was her son. (Source: *Matthew Richard Cassidy, Notes, Cassidy Family Tree* website, Cassidys.ca, accessed 15 May 2025)

Matthew was back in Kings County by April of 1909 and the family moved^{xxxiv} into the house he had built on the plot of land purchased in 1902. It was just down the road from the Cassidy homestead at Cassidy Lake^{xxxv} where his father, brother (Robert) Allen, sister-in-law Edith, and their family lived.

Matthew Cassidy is moving his family
this week to his farm at Clover Hill.

Though Roberta and the children had visited before, the peace, quiet, and fresh air of the countryside must have been a luxury and as well as an adjustment after the noise of the over-crowded city.



Roberta and her daughter Ruth (author's collection)



Matthew and Roberta Cassidy's house at Cassidy Lake (author's collection)

Roberta would again have had to adapt, this time to living in the country, having spent her whole life up until that time in a bustling city. There may have been new skills to learn such as how to make soap and candles, weaving the cloth used for sewing, harvesting and preserving food, planting and caring for a kitchen garden, and looking after livestock

This time her two sisters-in-law, Edith, wife of Matthew's brother Allen, and Frances, Matthew's sister, were nearby and probably helped Roberta settle in. There were also Matthew's cousins, the Nesbitts and the Jamiesons on neighbouring farms. Roberta's new social circle would have started with her in-laws, the women she met in the nearby villages of Norton and Sussex, and at the Methodist church services held at the Cassidy homestead when the circuit minister came through.

In December of 1909, Roberta received word her father, had passed away in the hospital in Sharon. He had been admitted in November suffering from manic depression, and died from a cerebral hemorrhage.^{xxxvi} These health issues may have been what led to his bankruptcy. He was buried in the family plot at Mount Hope, next to his grandson Ralph Matthew.

Two years later, in November 1911, Matthew and Roberta welcomed another son, George Wesley.^{xxxvii} His two brothers Clarence and Allan were now 12 and 8 respectively, and his sisters Clara and Ruth were 13 and 6.

Matthew had an excellent reputation as a carpenter and cabinetmaker, and according to his daughter Clara, he "was considered the best."^{xxxviii} Among the tools in his carpentry shop, was a special woodworking machine he had bought from his father-in-law in 1908.^{xxxix} With this he could make custom items, such as mouldings and window sashes. He "was a well-known contractor and builder and among the many buildings he constructed were the Norton Consolidated School, Sacred Heart Rectory, Norton,"^{xl} and a number of farm buildings.

One of his well documented projects was the Clover Hill schoolhouse at Cassidy Lake. In 1912 Matthew was chosen to build it from a number of bidders. Money must have been a bit tight at the time as his son Allan recalled "I remember the elation, jubilation...in our household at that time. Mother was quite happy."^{xli} Matthew drew the plans, and made all the sashes, doors and mouldings. The lumber for the schoolhouse was produced by his brother Allen in a mill on the Cassidy homestead. When choosing the lumber, Matthew "was quite



Clover Hill schoolhouse (courtesy of John Elliott)

anxious [for it] to just be absolutely perfect. No knots or bad spots...straight grain."^{xlii}

Though the contract was fairly lucrative, Matthew had to outlay his own money for supplies. The work started in June, and the schoolhouse was mainly ready by October when class started; however, Matthew had not been paid by the School Board. The respect the community had for Matthew was evident when they organized a pie social to raise money to see the family through



AI-generated image

until he did get paid. According to Allan, the hundred dollars raised by the pie social "was a godsend, made the difference between something to work with and utter poverty."^{xliii}

When they were old enough, the children all attended this school. Before and after the school day there were chores: on summer mornings they would go out to the pastures to get the cows then help milk them, feed the hens, pigs, and chickens, carry in water, and then walk the three miles to school with their books and lunch pails by 7:30.^{xliv}

Matthew also obtained the contract to repair and refurbish the Hillsdale schoolhouse. A tribute to Matthew's craftsmanship: "... when completed, [the] school house [was] second to none in the county."^{xlv}

There were construction projects around the Cassidy homestead as well. Among other work over the years, he helped design and build the verandah roof with tapered columns, and installed a pressed metal ceiling in the parlour.

Meanwhile, another son was born into the family in June 1916. Just after her 40th birthday, Roberta gave birth to her last child, Murray Richard.^{xlvi} His siblings were now aged 18, 17, 13, 11, and 5.



Cassidy homestead (author's collection)

World War I had by now been going on for almost two years. Eldest son Clarence would have soon be of age to enlist but he did not. This may have been around when he had lost an eye when he and his brothers were rough-housing with pitchforks in the barn^{xlvii}.

Accidents, some major, were common. Two months after the birth of his youngest son, Matthew lost half of a finger to a saw while he was working with 13-year-old Allan. It may have happened when he was fulfilling his contract to refurbish the Hillsdale school house.^{xlvi}

In 1918, daughter Clara married Byard Gordon Archibald^{xlix} and gave birth to Matthew and Roberta's first grandchild, Ernest, in 1920^l. On Christmas Eve 1924, another wedding took place at Matthew and Roberta's home when daughter Ruth, now 19, married Eneas Gillcash^{li}, a farmer from Albert County.

In the fall of 1927, Matthew's beloved father, Francis Edward, passed away at the age of 94. Matthew was in charge of the funeral arrangements. His brother Allen, and son Allan carried the casket from the parlour of the Cassidy homestead to the burial ground up the hill behind the house, where he was laid to rest next to his wife.^{lii}

At some point, Matthew sold the farm and he, Roberta and their three sons moved to an eight-room house on Church Street in the nearby village of Norton.

In August 1929 Allan married Mildred "Mid" Folkins at her family home at Pleasant Ridge, near Sussex. They lived with his parents that fall and winter, with Mid helping Roberta with housekeeping.^{liii} Allan and Mid moved to their own house in Norton the following year when their first child was born, another grandson for Matthew and Roberta.

During the Depression, Matthew and Allan were able to get jobs about 46 km away at a mill in Torryburn, NB doing building construction. Later, George and Murray, as well as Allan's brother-in-law Arthur Folkins, found work at the local lime mill and shared the house with Matthew and Allan. Matthew, George and Arthur worked days, and Allan and Murray worked nights. Allan's wife Mid kept house (cooking, baking, cleaning, and sewing) for the five men, and her two little children.^{liv}



Home on Church Street, Norton (author's collection)

Roberta appears to have remained in Norton where she was by now very active in the Women's Missionary Society⁵, hosting monthly meetings at her home and acting as Norton's delegate at the annual meetings in Saint John^{lv}. She also sang in the St. Andrews United Church choir, was active in the Ladies' Guild, and hosted sewing parties with many local women as her guests.^{lvi}



2L-R Mildred Cassidy, Robert (Bob) Cassidy, Mary (Young) Piper, Audrey Cassidy, and in front, Florence Kimball (author's collection)

In 1935 "work was over" and like his father, Matthew and grandfather, Francis before him, Allan sought work in Boston where by now there were plenty of family.

He was hired at the US Gypsum company and he and Mid rented a house just down the street from his mother's aunt Florence Kimball.^{lvii} By now, Allan and Mid also had a daughter, Audrey.

The next year Roberta went to stay with them while visiting her mother, Mary, who was by this time very ill. Mary passed away at the end of November and was buried next to her husband. Roberta stayed on with her son and daughter-in-law until the beginning of January 1937.^{lviii}

In the Spring of 1938 Allan had to give up his job after developing severe allergies to gypsum. He and Mid and their two young children moved back to Norton, staying temporarily with Matthew and Roberta, and Allan's three brothers.

The first week that Allan and Mid were home, Roberta suffered a stroke. As she was bedridden all summer, Mid took on all the housework as well as looking after her mother-in-law. Though "she was a very patient patient"^{lix} the roles of caregiver, housekeeper, and mother became too much, and it was arranged for a practical nurse to care for Roberta during the week, with Mid looking after her on weekends.

W.M.S. Presbyterial Sessions Open in Saint John Tomorrow

An attendance of about 100 delegates is expected at the seventh annual meeting of the Saint John Presbyterial of the Women's Missionary Society to be held in the Portland United Church tomorrow and Wednesday. Among those from outside points who will be entertained in Saint John and their hostesses here are the following:

Norton—Mrs. S. N. Loughrey, with Mrs. Thomas Rippey, Charlotte street, West; Mrs. Matthew Cassidy, with Mrs. Vernon McCumber, Manawagonish road.

"Telegraph-Journal", (Saint John, NB), 23 January 1933, page 10, newspapers.com

⁵ The Women's Missionary Society supported missions and projects overseas as well as work with immigrants to the Maritime provinces. (*Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives, Records of the Women's Missionary Society (Eastern Division), 1880-1988, presbyterianarchives.ca, accessed 15 Nov 2025*)

When World War II broke out local contractors were called on to enlarge Camp Sussex, the military training camp, to accommodate 10,000 men. Matthew's sons were among the carpenters who were hired in the Spring of 1940, with Allan chosen as foreman of a group of 200 men, and George joined the engineering division.

It is not known if Matthew worked there as well, but that Fall, he sustained another painful injury when he fell and broke his shoulder. With Roberta an invalid, and Matthew, now 69 years old, injured, help was organized to look after them both as well as the three sons still living at home. Allan and Mid had by this time moved to their own home in Norton.^{lx}



*Murray Cassidy and Marie Jean Hall
(author's collection)*

On Christmas Eve 1940, son Murray married Marie Jean Hall, a local stenographer,^{lxi} and they stayed with Matthew and Roberta until their own house was ready the following Spring.^{lxii} Newlywed Marie-Jean most likely assumed most, if not all, the household and care-giving responsibilities.

In February 1941, at age 64, Roberta succumbed to her heart condition and was buried at Riverbank Community Cemetery near Sussex^{lxiii}. One of the mourners was her sister Hattie who came up from her home in Brooklyn, NY for the funeral.^{lxiv}

Son George married in March to Edith Ryder of Sussex.^{lxv} Shortly after, he and his brother Murray enlisted in the Army.^{lxvi} Once work on Camp Sussex was complete, Allan, age 39, signed up for the Naval Volunteer Reserve in March 1942.^{lxvii} All three survived the war.

In 1949, at age 78, Matthew took pride in renovating the little Methodist church he had helped his father and grandfather build by Cassidy Lake in 1883. The church was being rededicated as the Francis Edward Cassidy Memorial Church. Matthew's sons together made the plaque to their grandfather which was installed over the door.^{lxviii}



Sign and interior of Francis Edward Cassidy Memorial Church (author's collection)

Matthew lived a further 19 years after his wife's death, passing away after a lengthy illness in April 1960 at the home of his daughter Ruth.^{lxix} He was buried at Riverbank Cemetery next to Roberta, to whom he had been married for almost 44 years. Later, their son Clarence would be buried with them.

Their lives had been full and witnessed many significant historical events including six changes in monarchy, the assassination of a U.S. president, women's suffrage, two world wars, the invention of flight, the telephone, and electricity. One wonders what their reaction was to each of them.

A devoted Methodist, Matthew was well respected, conscientious, “very stern but lovable, always walked straight and proud.”^{lxx} He tried hard to get along with anyone and was remembered as being never quarrelsome. His mastery of carpentry and cabinetmaking, learned from his father and grandfather, was passed on to his sons.



Matthew's toolbox (author's collection)



Matthew and Roberta's headstone at Riverbank Cemetery, Sussex, NB

They may be gone, but Matthew and Roberta's descendants who never knew them in life, by this story hopefully now know them a little, and have something to remember them by.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Massachusetts, petition for naturalization, Richard Cassidy, 3 October 1895, petition no. 44, "Circuit Court, Massachusetts Naturalization Records, No. 261-1 to 265-104, 19 Sept.-12 Oct. 1895," Ancestry; (Ancestry.ca, accessed 20 May 2025).

ⁱⁱ Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Subject Categories *Building and Construction, Business Records: Marketing Material and Other; Builders, Carpenters, and Manufacturers and Distributors of Building Products*; Piper, Erastus E., Boston, Massachusetts, Box 1 Folder 58; retrieved and emailed by Archivescenter, archivescenter@si.edu, 14 July 2025.

ⁱⁱⁱ "*Atlas of the city of Boston: Boston proper*", Map, Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley and Co., 1898, Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, (collections.leventhalmap.org, accessed 16 May 2025).

^{iv} Charles S. Damrell, *A half century of Boston's building : the construction of buildings, the enactment of building laws and ordinances, sanitary laws, the ancient and modern building, building statistics, Boston's valuation, a chapter of Boston's big fire, fire losses, public lands account, prominent architects, contractors and builders, building materials and their source of supply, inspection of buildings, the building and plumbing associations* (Boston: L.P. Hager, 1895), 263, 481; imaged book, Internet Archive (archive.org/: accessed 20 May 2025).

^v "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995" database, Ancestry, entry for Matthew R. Cassidy Ancestry; citing "Cambridge, Massachusetts, City Directory (Boston, Mass: W. A. Greenough & Co., 1896)," page 151, (Ancestry.ca : accessed 9 January 2026).

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