

Laura Gertrude Hazel (b. 1879 – d. 1950)  
as *Scotch Village Station Master's* Domestic

In the year 1900 the Joseph & Augusta Hazel family from Kings County made their way to Hants County to settle in Scotch Village, NS. The specific person I am going to write about is my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Gertie Hazel (nee Pineo) who in 1904 married the eldest son of Joseph & Augusta. Her husband was Wm. Havelock Hazel, locally known as “Man” Hazel. Gertie and “Man” proceeded to have seven offspring. These were years of economic depression and scarce jobs in the country, and in 1922 “Man” went west to find work, as many from the area had done. He did not return until 1943, 7 years prior to his own death. So Gertie was pretty well the same as a single mother.

How would she provide for her children, as he was not diligent on sending her money from the West? She did exactly as she had done prior to her marriage; she worked as a domestic in other people homes. One such job was in the home of *the Scotch Village Station Master, Mr. John Henry Parker. John was a Presbyterian farmer of Irish descent, as well as Station Master. He was the son of Zadok Parker and Elizabeth Clarke.* Their home was by the station on what they called, “The Station Road”. We know of one child John had named Dorothy. Gertie would wash clothes on a scrub board, she would iron them with an iron heated on top of the stove with a removable handle, she baked, she cooked, and she cleaned, often scrubbing floors that were nothing more than wide wooden boards sanded so there were no splinters. They used a “scrub brush” on them, and then waxed them with hard wax, letting it dry and then polishing it with an old woollen sock. Difficult work for a lady who had to feed her own children and get them off to school, go home and get them supper, bath and put them to bed. It was over a mile and a half, one way to walk to her work regardless of the weather conditions, summer and winter. There was no Social Assistance in those days, and it would be a disgrace to have to ask for food, wood to keep warm or money. Grammie often accepted eggs in payment for her services, and my uncle told me they would on many days have boiled eggs for lunch, just boiled eggs, no bread. I have no way of knowing what the pay may have been, but when Grammie worked at the Village Hotel owned by Mrs. Northup and her daughter Greta, she was paid up to \$1.00 per day. However, her little son Emory left school to work and help support the family and he said he was paid .25 Cents a day working for Uncle Ern Hazel. Every little bit helped.

The Hazel property when it was purchased from Captain Leslie Macumber, originally contained 100 acres from the road, along Harry’s fence, Brent’s fence up to the *Scotch Village Railway tracks* and cost \$1,000.00.



The train whistle no longer serenades the community of Scotch Village; the tracks have been removed, the buildings torn down. It only remains in the dim memories of our elders and the rich imaginations of those left behind. I trust this small tidbit of information may help to enlighten anyone interested in the history of the railways and communities of long ago in Nova Scotia.

*Written and contributed by:  
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*Info gathered from notes belonging to the late Laurie Munroe, Lidy Barkhouse,  
Kenneth Ross & NS Stats.*