

THE NORMAN FAMILY

FREDERICK STAFFORD NORMAN

submitted by: Alvin Rendall Norman



Frederick Stafford Norman

My father, FREDERICK STAFFORD Norman was the third son and sixth child of CHARLES Norman and JOSEPHINE (nee Paterson) Norman. He was born on June 1, 1884 in Bridgetown, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. They were Irish Baptists and according to Dad, Empire Loyalists, but on which side of the family, he wasn't certain.

As a young teenager, Dad worked for local farmers. When you come from a family of eleven brothers and sisters, everyone had to help out. The last farmer Dad worked for was a fruit farmer named James Dodge. When James Dodge decided to go west to homestead, Dad decided to go along. It was 1906 and Dad had just turned twenty-two.

They arrived in Yorkton, Sask., then on to Orcadia where the Dodge family took a homestead. Dad got work at Robert McKen's, Robert Sinclair's and later at Robert Rousay's. He learned how to handle horses, the different types of vehicles and machinery and cattle. He bought a saddle and a pony and became quite a good rider. A "Bachelor's Club" was formed and he became a member, often singing at these functions. He attended local skating parties, dances, picnics and basket socials at the Orkney Church and School. It was here he met SUSIE FERGUS REID, the third daughter of John F. and Ida Reid. They were married in 1912 at Saltcoats, Sask. by a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. James M. McLaren.

They made their home on 5th Avenue in Yorkton, Sask. Dad got a job at the Yorkton Milling Company.

In 1913, a daughter, IDA JOSEPHINE was delivered by her grandmother, Ida Reid. She was named after her two grandmothers, Ida Reid and Josephine Norman. Next year, my oldest brother, HOWARD FREDERICK, joined the happy family.

Two years later, I, ALVIN RENDALL, arrived on the scene. The three of us certainly kept our mother busy. I can vaguely remember one of our neighbours, a Mr. Rendernacht, who generally had an afternoon nap. We three would sneak up to his house and beat on the walls. Poor soul, he'd come out angry and scolding. We'd get a licking but within a week we'd be thinking up new ways to annoy him. Nice brats eh?

My brother, JOHN WESLEY, was born in 1918 in the Queen Victoria Hospital. Our mother's health wasn't very good, so we all moved to the same farm that I own today. At the time it belonged to my grandfather, John F. Reid. It was one mile south from grandpa's, so we'd visit there often.

The flu epidemic hit the family, the one to be affected the most was our mother. Baby Wesley had to be taken to grandmother Reid's where he was looked after by she and Aunt Mamie, mother's eldest sister. After the flu, mother was diagnosed as having T.B. and sent to Fort San, Qu'Appelle, for treatment. We kids were all taken to grandpa and grandma Reid's. I still remember how Howard and I sat together on the old couch in the kitchen, feeling very lonesome and lost. Everyone was so serious and sad!

Dad didn't stay at the farm, he moved in with us. However, this didn't last long, as he wasn't earning any wages, so he found himself a job at Robert Rousay's.

Our mother wasn't strong enough to fight this affliction and died on February 25, 1920. Our parents had been married only eight short years. She was laid to rest in the cemetery behind the Orkney Presbyterian Church, not far from her grandfather, William Rendall.



Susie (Reid) Norman
with her children just before
she went to the San at Fort
Qu'Appelle, Sask.
(L to R): Josephine, Wesley
(on lap), Howard, Alvin
(in front).

In 1925 our grandmother, Ida Reid, died of pneumonia. She was buried next to our mother in the Orkney Cemetery. Aunt Mamie became our mother figure. Grandpa Reid was busy with his different organizations, so Uncle Bob (mother's brother) became our Boss.

Our dad couldn't work and look after us so we became permanent residents at grandpa Reid's.

We attended the Orkney School #97 and the Orkney Presbyterian Church. Grandpa made us sit in the front pew, I guess he knew we'd get into some mischief if we sat elsewhere.

We were real inquisitive, had to know everything! This particular day, grandpa came home in his new car. This might have been his third trip out. We noticed at once that the front bumper was missing. "What happened to the front bumper, huh Grandpa?", we asked. "Just you never mind!", he replied sternly, as he went past us and into the house. It turned out that when he went to park the car, a Ford touring model that had a foot feed instead of a lever, he stepped on the foot feed, the car jumped the sidewalk and hit a brick building on Fourth Avenue.

We walked to school, joining the Patterson's who lived about a quarter of a mile south of the Reid farm. In the summer, walking was fun but during the winter the roads were full of snow banks and the 25-30 below temperatures were very unpleasant. We caught rides with the Patterson's until one winter Dad came to live with us and he built a cutter that would be pulled by one horse. We were thrilled! We were given an old spark plug called "Old Jim" and we drove ourselves. We used to race with the Patterson's and many times we'd negotiate the snow drifts improperly and we'd upset. Our "Northern Dancer" never ran away.

When I was about twelve I took sick with Scarlet Fever. It was very seldom that anyone survived this disease. Dr. Portnuff attributes my recovery to Aunt Mamie's good nursing. I was weak for a long time. My feet and hands peeled and I lost a lot of weight as well as some hair.

In winter we played hockey, both at school and at home. We had no skates and our hockey sticks were cut from willow trees. Pucks were any small object, eg. rounds cut from a small pole, old boot heels, frozen horse droppings and if one was lucky, a small rubber ball.

Sometimes a well aimed shot would deflect and our bodies or nose would suffer the consequences. It's a wonder no one lost an eye as we didn't have any masks for protection.

Howard, Wesley, Fred Parker and I looked forward to the February thaw. A slough on grandpa's yard generally always formed at this time and when it froze again, it made a nice rink. It wouldn't be long and it would snow and cover everything. So we'd have to clean the snow off. Another place we'd make a rink was in the ravine south of grandpa's barn. I recall one incident where Fred Parker obtained a pair of skates from someone. He didn't master the art of turning, so he'd dash across the ice and as he also didn't know how to stop, he'd go head first in the snow bank. What great fun!

School picnics were really enjoyed. We used to run in all the races. I usually came home with money earned in this way.

The Reid farm was a stopping place for settlers and travellers. I recall an incident that happened with our miserable gobbler that used to chase and fly at the back of anyone walking away from it. This particular day a Mr. Jim Baldrick brought his stallion to the farm. After putting all his animals in the barn he came up the walk. The old gobbler gobbled a few times then took a flying leap at Mr. Baldrick's back. He shoved him away but the old bird came at him again. Mr. Baldrick quickly turned and grabbed the old gobbler by the neck with one hand and his feet with the other. He was a great tobacco chewer so he proceeded to spit into the turkey's eyes and mouth saying, "(Spit) Tak that ye flyin' beasty, (spit) Tak that (spit) and here's another for good measure!" He then threw the bird to the ground and came to the house. That old gobbler flopped around a few turns, then started running in circles and finally taking off and flying in all different directions, finally settling on the barn roof. Here he scolded and gobbled for a time. Old Jim figured he had him cured but the "old beasty" was back at his old tricks the following week.

I finished my grade eight in 1930 then took my grades nine and ten by correspondence. It was the first time that correspondence courses were allowed to be taken at school. I took my grade eleven course at home and wrote the final exams at the Yorkton Collegiate. Mr. J.T.M. Anderson, the Minister of Education for Saskatchewan signed my diploma. My education was over, now I stayed home and farmed for Uncle Bob.

I enjoyed baseball and played for the Orcadia Elephants. I played on second base while my brother Wesley was the pitcher.

I was a member of the Yorkton Swine Club. In 1936, Harvey Wood and I won the Swine Club Competition in Yorkton. This entitled us to take part in the Saskatoon competition at the University of Saskatchewan. I won that competition and I was to take part in the competition at the Toronto Royal Fair. However Uncle Bob needed me on the farm and I had to forego this opportunity.

After harvest in 1941, I applied to join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. While I was waiting for the reply I moved to Brandon, Manitoba to where my brother Howard was living. I worked at his Auto Electric Shop rewinding armatures for motors. This was tough on the fingers as all rewinding was done by hand.

Meals were cheap by today's standards. Breakfast which consisted of coffee, one egg and several slices of toast cost fifteen cents. Dinner and supper cost twenty-five and thirty cents. Included in these meals were soup, meat, potatoes, vegetables, dessert and tea or coffee.

I still hadn't heard from the R.C.M.P. early in 1942, so I decided to go along with Howard and sister-in-law Mary to Edmonton. Howard and I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Two weeks later I received my acceptance to the R.C.M.P.!!

At Edmonton, we attended a pre-enlistment school for three months, then for further training out to the Manning Depot. My rank a L.A.C. with pay at \$1.50 a day.

Our next posting was to a brand new station at Souris, Manitoba. Here our training consisted of ground school, rifle drill, wireless and radio operations. We also got all our needles and had sore arms for a long time.

Our next move was to Initial Training School (I.T.S.) at Regina, Sask. Here we took Elementary Service Flying in twin engine Cessna's. Next we took aircraft recognition and last we did Elementary Flying in Tiger Moths. Howard and I parted company here, he was posted to St. Thomas and I to Dauphin, Manitoba.

This was No. 10 Service Flying Training School (S.F.T.S.) in Dauphin Course 87. Here we did Service Flying in twin engine Cessna's. I received my wings on November 24, 1943 and became a Pilot Officer. My pay increased to \$6.25 a day.

From Dauphin I was posted to Summerside, Prince Edward Island. What a scenic place! I received navigation and general reconnaissance training and flew twin engine Ansons.

Next posting was to Sidney, Nova Scotia. After being on squadron for six months I applied for and received my commission with the rank of Flying Officer. Yes, now I was Flying Officer, Alvin Rendall Norman #J38984. I flew a Canso and I had a crew of my own. I also became richer as my pay increased to \$7.00 a day. At this station we supplied air cover.

It was here at Sidney that one of our hangars blew up. One of the planes was all bombed, gassed up and ready to be taken out when one of the depth charges that was attached under the wing accidentally dropped. It blew up the hangar, killing three and injuring twenty-one. The hangar burnt down and all contents were destroyed. Our lockers were located in this hangar. I lost some personal keepsakes, plus my most important item, my log book.

I next did temporary duty at Goose Bay, Labrador and St. John's, Nfld. Sidney station closed and we were posted to the R.A.F. Y Depot at Moncton, New Brunswick.

Next move was to Transport Command School, at Penfield Ridge, New Brunswick as Staff Pilot flying D.C. 3's and twin engine Beechcraft. I had the chance to go to Magnetic Hill. It is really a strange phenomena.

My next move was all the way across Canada to Comox, B.C. We ferried 19 aircraft to this station, five D.C. 3's and fourteen Beechcraft.

I received a posting to the Pacific but before I had a chance to leave, the Americans dropped the A Bomb and my assignment was cancelled.

My discharge papers were signed by F/L Lawrence Kirsh at Regina, Sask. It was over three and a half years from the time I enlisted to the day I again became a civilian.

I returned to Orcadia, acquired some land through the Veteran's Land Act and returned to farming.



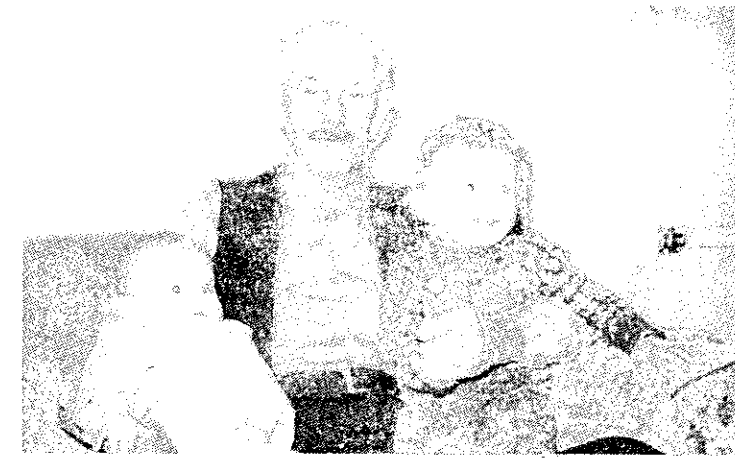
Wedding of Helen A. Sagan & Alvin R. Norman

In 1947 I met a sales clerk at Croll's Department Store, HELEN AUDREY SAGAN. She's the only daughter of Adam Sagan and Katherine (nee Stelmach) Sagan. We were married December 1948 in St. Andrew's United Church in Yorkton. After a short honeymoon in Regina we made our home at Uncle John Munro Reid's farm. Our two eldest children, DOUGLAS ALVIN (1951) and AUDREY MAUREEN (1952) made up our family. It was also during this time that my Dad, Frederick, suffered a heart attack at Mrs. Wilcox's. After a stay in the hospital he came to live with us. He really took a shine to Audrey and he spoiled her badly. We had him with us for only eight months, he suffered a stroke and died September 1953. He's buried in the Orkney Cemetery at the base of our mother's grave. Couldn't put him beside her as both areas were taken on either side.

We moved to John F. Reid's home in 1954. In 1955 our DONALD JAMES GRANT joined our family. In 1957, DAVID "KENNETH" BRUCE and finally SUSAN KATHRYN in 1958.

Douglas (Doug) and Audrey were going to school at Orkney #97. The roads were not very passable during the winter so we moved to Orcadia to the J.G. Stainger home in 1960. We later purchased this home.

In 1960, John Munro Reid passed away and we acquired his farm, the same farm where our mother and dad lived when she took ill. I drove the school bus and farmed. In 1968 we built a home on our farm and moved in.



Fred Norman with grandchildren Audrey & Doug Norman

In 1970 my wife Helen, started as a sales clerk at Zeller's in Yorkton. After four and a half years she changed jobs to a clerk-cashier with the Yorkton Co-op. She retired two years ago and is enjoying her hobbies, collecting cookbooks and filling in the "Family Tree" (Genealogy). She's President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Yorkton Exhibition, secretary of the Yorkton Branch of the Sask. Genealogical Society, historian on the Orkney Historical Society and treasurer of the Orkney United Church Women.

I belong to the Orkney United Church; the Westview United Church; the Orcadia Sask. Wheat Pool, having served as chairman and secretary on this committee for 25 years; the Yorkton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion; and the Orkney Historical Society.

Our eldest son, DOUG, has taken over the farm. This farm has been in the family since 1883, through my grandfather John F. Reid. After Doug graduated from the Yorkton Regional, he took Electronic Technology at Moose Jaw, Sask. He worked for several years at the Morris Rod-Weeder Plant before starting to farm with me.



Doug & Dianne (Stout) Norman

He's married to Dianne Lynn, daughter of Peter and Ivy (nee Wales) Stout. Her grandparents (Mainland and Stout) are from the Orkney Isles (Papa Westray and Egilsay). Dianne is a Public Health Nurse with the Yorkton Melville Health Region. Both Doug and Dianne belong to the Yorkton Scottish Country Dancers.

Our eldest daughter AUDREY, graduated from the Regional High School. She also took a French Course at Laval, Quebec. Audrey was a member of the Springside 4-H Homecraft Club, winning a trip to National 4-H Conference at Ottawa, Ontario. She attended the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon and received her degree in Nursing. She's presently a Manager of Nursing at the City Hospital, Saskatoon. Audrey has her grade X piano and her favorite pastime is hiking and canoeing. She's married to Ronald Joseph Sereda, who is a Power Engineer with City Hospital at Saskatoon. They have a son, Jeffrey Lee, who will be three years old on October 6, 1989.



Ron & Audrey (Norman) Sereda with Jeffrey



Don & Kari (Sedlick) Norman

DONALD (Don) graduated from the Yorkton Regional High School then started work with the Toronto Dominion Bank at Yorkton. He was with this institution for thirteen years and working at eight different towns and cities. His last position was as Manager at Regina, Sask. He is presently with Confederation Life at Regina with the position as Sales Manager and Representative. Don married Kari Lynn, only daughter of Walter and Helen Sedlick of Yorkton. Kari is a Library Technician with the Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs at Regina with the Provincial Government.

KENNETH is a graduate of the Yorkton Regional High School and Red River College in Winnipeg, where he received his degree in Commercial Art. Kenneth loves hunting and fishing. At present he's with Dowie Quick Print in Yorkton. He's married to Karen Mary Ann, only daughter of John and Helen Mandziuk of Yorkton. Karen works at Royal Ford Motors as Warranty Clerk. Her hobby is golfing and knitting.

SUSAN is the Manager of the Yorkton Branch of the Saskatchewan Western Development Museums. She graduated from the Yorkton Regional High School then went to the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences in Saskatoon. She graduated, majoring in Recreational Technology. Susan was a member of the Springside Homecraft Club and has her grade VIII piano. She enjoys knitting, curling and golfing.



Ken & Karen (Mandziuk) Norman



Susan Norman & John Mandziuk



Alvin & Helen (Sagan) Norman



Ida Josephine Norman

My sister JOSEPHINE, finished her grade eight at the Orkney School then had to go to Yorkton to get her High School. She lived and boarded at her Aunt Peggy's home, then at Mrs. Neelin's and finally with her Uncle Wally and Aunt Ida. She finished her grade twelve when only sixteen, and was too young to go in training for a nurse. Grandpa Reid had her take a business course.

Grandpa Reid was a Board Member of the Queen Victoria Hospital and he was pleased that his granddaughter was going in for nursing, carrying on the Granny Fergus tradition.

In 1931, Josephine entered nursing training. The student nurses lived in residence, and had their room, board and uniforms supplied. There was no tuition fee. After six months they were paid five dollars a month.

Josephine graduated in 1934. There were only five in her class. Josephine became a night supervisor, a position she held until her marriage.

When W.W.II broke out, the Yorkton Voluntary Nurses Service was formed in June 1940. Its' first president was Josephine Norman. In 1944, this group disbanded and a Chapter of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Assoc. incorporated.

Josephine married THOMAS EDWARD DARROCH (Budd) in 1940, at St. Andrew's United Church, Yorkton. They had two children.

THOMAS EDWARD JR. (Ted) and SUSAN LORRAINE. Josephine died after a lengthy illness in 1952. She is buried in the Yorkton City Cemetery.

Both Susan and Ted were very young at the time of her death. In 1953 Budd married MARION DODDS and she became a wonderful mother to the two children.

Both Ted and Susan received their education in Yorkton. Ted was Canada's top Air Cadet and Piper, winning a trip to Scotland and England.

Susan entered the School of Nursing in Winnipeg and received her R.N. in 1968.

Ted finally settled in Vancouver, marrying Janice Rodgers. He passed away in 1984.

Susan married Scott Brooke. Scott is a lawyer and they reside in Calgary. They have two sons, Kenneth and Jeffrey.

Budd and Marion are retired and make their home in Calgary.

HOWARD FREDERICK NORMAN

HOWARD FREDERICK Norman finished his primary education at Orkney then left home and worked for a local farmer for a short time. His next job was at Art Mills Auto Electric in Yorkton. He worked for six months just learning and receiving no pay. While here Howard came down with measles. He had to be hospitalized. It took a long time to pay off that bill. He moved to Brandon, Manitoba and got a job with Continental Auto Supply. Several years later, a co-worker and he started a business of their own, called Auto Electric. Their business was rewinding armatures for motors. A few years later Howard sold out his share to his partner.

In 1941, he married a Brandon girl, MARY BURKE. They moved to Edmonton in 1942, where Howard enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He spent three months at a pre-enlisting school then on to Manning Depot at Edmonton. L.A.C. H.F. Norman R-187179.

Howard's next move was to Souris, Manitoba, a brand new station. Drill, ground school, rifle, wireless and radio training plus all the immunization needles were given here. Regina, 1942 (I.T.S.) Initial Training School, ground school in Aircraft recognition and elementary flying. In 1943, Howard re-mustered to St. Thomas. He went to Boundry Bay, B.C. This was the last posting as then the war was over.

A daughter, DOROTHY JEAN was born in October 1944. She was baptized by Howard's great uncle, Rev. W.S. Reid, in his home "The Cedars", Vancouver, B.C.

After the war Howard and family returned to Brandon, where they resided until 1964, when they moved to Chilliwack, B.C. In March 1966, Dorothy married Norman Taylor. They have two children, Shaileen and Cory. Mary died in 1966 after a lengthy illness.



Howard & Mary (Burke) Norman

THE WESLEY NORMAN FAMILY

submitted by: Molly Norman

JOHN WESLEY Norman was born March 16, 1918, the youngest child of Fred and Susie (Reid) Norman. Wesley was two years of age when his mother passed away. Following her death, the Norman children, Josephine, Howard, Alvin and Wesley were cared for by their Grandpa and Grandma Reid and Aunt Mamie and Uncle Bob Reid.



Wesley & Molly (Wood) Norman

Wesley received his education at the Orkney School. There were many good laughs enjoyed from the stories told from those early school years! There was quite a rivalry between Grunert and Orkney Schools when it came to softball games. The competition was quite keen and the spectators were treated to many well played games.

On July 14, 1942 Wesley married MARY (MOLLY) WOOD of the Orcadia District. The wedding was held at the farm home of the brides parents, Ernest and Alice Wood, located 2 1/2 miles northwest of Orcadia. The newlyweds moved into their own home located on the Reid homestead, where they took up mixed farming.

Wesley was a 25 year director of the Yorkton and District Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Association. In 1969 he received an Honorary Life Membership in the Yorkton Fair Board.

He was well known for raising and showing purebred Yorkshire Swine and Suffolk Sheep and derived much pleasure out of entering his animals in the show rings at the Yorkton, Saltcoats, Regina and Saskatoon Exhibitions.

As a young 4-H member, Wesley was the recipient of several trips offered by the organization. Later, he served as a leader of the Yorkton 4-H Swine Club for ten years.

Wesley was a member of the Yorkton and District Horticultural Society and was a long time contributor and winner in many of the vegetable and flower categories.

He was a faithful member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and served in the capacity of committee member, secretary and chairman of the Orcadia Wheat Pool.

Wesley was active in sports circles and particularly enjoyed softball and curling.

He was a member of the Orkney United Church and in more recent years Westview United Church in Yorkton.

Wesley passed away suddenly on July 3, 1977 at the age of fifty-nine years. Molly still lives in their farm home on the Reid homestead.

Wesley and Molly had two sons and a daughter, who all received their primary education at Orkney and Orcadia Schools.

JOHN WAYNE Norman was born May 22, 1945. He attended Yorkton Composite and Yorkton Collegiate. Wayne was an active member of the Yorkton 4-H Swine Club. He was an exhibitor at regional seed shows and also took a great interest in the Yorkton Horticultural Society's vegetable and flower shows, often being a ribbon winner.

Wayne was age 16 when he died after fighting a losing battle against a lengthy illness.

ROBERT WESLEY was born April 21, 1948. He graduated from Yorkton Composite and in 1970 he received a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan. Following this he spent two years working in Kemptville, Ontario. In 1973 he returned to Saskatoon and worked with Can Farm for eight years before becoming President of Norman Management Services Ltd. in Saskatoon. In 1988, Bob (as he is known by family and friends) married Cheryl Cougan, a B.Comm. graduate from the University of Saskatchewan, who works as a Stock Broker with Scotia McLeod Inc. in Saskatoon.

Bob and Cheryl each have two children by previous marriages. Bob has a daughter Tracy and son Trent and Cheryl has two boys Brian and Michael.



Bob & Cheryl Norman

(L to R): Brian, Trent, Tracy, Cheryl, Bob, Michael.

MARJORIE EILEEN was born September 26, 1953. She graduated from the Yorkton Regional in 1971 and received a B.Ed. degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1975. Since this time she has been employed by the Yorkton Public School Board.

Marjorie married Bernard Wlock in 1978, who is employed as a parts clerk with Royal Ford Lincoln Mercury in Yorkton. Marj and Bernie have three children, Jesse Norman, born June 2, 1980; Brett Bernard, born August 21, 1983; and Jana Jean, born March 24, 1986.



Bernie & Marjorie (Norman) Wlock

(L to R): Brett, Bernie, Marjorie, Jana, Jesse (in front).

THE FERGUS FAMILY

submitted by: Greta Fergus Devins

On June 5, 1853 the Proclamation of Bans were read for the third time in the United Presbyterian Church, North Leith for JAMES FERGUS, Shipmaster and MARY RENDALL, Prince Regent Street, North Leith. She was the daughter of William Rendall and Ann Munro Rendall of Papa Westray, Orkney Island, Scotland.

The marriage was performed by Rev. James Harper, minister of the United Presbyterian Church, North Leith on June 7, 1853. This couple had a family of five.

GEORGE MUNRO, WILLIAM SEATTER, JAMES, SUSANNA MARGRETTA and DAVID MUNRO FERGUS. They were our grandparents and David (Dave) Munro Fergus was our father. Their home was Savrook, in the Parish of St. Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland.

Susanna Margretta, the only daughter died at age 17. She was a member of the riding club in Kirkwall and was thrown off a horse, which resulted in her death.

Grandfather, Captain James Fergus was a Shipmaster, Merchant Service, of the schooner Paragon. He was the son of William Fergus, a seaman and Margaret Seatter Fergus.

Before her marriage, our grandmother trained as a nurse at Morning-side Hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1849 she went to Petersburg, Russia to nurse members of her brother's, George Rendall, family who were ill. George was a shipbuilder for the Emperor Czar of Russia. George died in Russia. Remaining members fled Russia in 1917.

Grandmother had shares in the schooner Paragon, as did her uncle, James Rendall.

Our uncle, George apprenticed with George Patrie, Sheriff Clerk of Orkney for four years, 1870 to 1874. The salary was five pounds sterling for each of the first three years and ten pounds sterling for the last year.

Grandfather Captain Fergus died April 1875. It was about this time that Grandmother Fergus and Uncle George invested in an insurance business which did not prove viable and their home, Savrook, which was used as collateral, was lost.

In 1883, our father DAVE and uncles George, James and William decided to go to Canada. They joined their aunt, Charlotte Stevenson Reid and cousins, Robert, James and William, who were going to join a member of their family at York Colony, N.W.T., Canada. This person was John F. Reid.

They all arrived May 28, 1883 at Point Levi, Quebec, then boarded the train for Winnipeg. From Winnipeg to Broadview, where they bought oxen, wagons and equipment. This was all loaded on another train bound for the last rail stop, Whitewood.

The journey from Whitewood was slow and exhausting. They all were inexperienced in driving oxen.

The biggest problem was going down the steep hills and inclines. Must of been a funny looking sight, a wagon with ropes from the back axle and every person available hanging on as the vehicle was slowly inched down the hill. Their prayers were answered when a passing rider showed them how to lock the back wheels when going downhill, making the rest of the journey so much easier.

They slept in tents or in the wagons. Daytime travel was quite bearable but by evening the mosquitos came in hordes, causing much misery to the family and the oxen.

It was towards evening when they arrived at the tent town of York Colony. John F. Reid was waiting to welcome them. What a reunion!!

Next day they went to the land office and took homesteads and pre-emptions. I have the Interim Homestead receipt my father paid ten dollars for No. 27826, June 8, 1883. N.E. quarter, section 32, township 26, range 4.

Uncles William and James also took homesteads, N.E. 32-26-4 and S.W. 30-26-4. Uncle George didn't take a homestead due to ill health.

In 1884 the Colony organized a small fall fair. Our father, Dave, won first prize for his wheat exhibit. He cut and threshed one hundred bushels of wheat from four acres of land. He also won first prize for his cabbage!! It was said that the vegetable crop was magnificent due to the rich soil.

On October 8, 1884 at Broadview, N.W.T., our Uncle William Seatter Fergus married a cousin, IDA ESTELLA RAE RENDALL. She had just come over from Kirkwall, Orkney. In August 1885, Uncle William died at Whitewood, N.W.T. They had gone to Whitewood for safety during the Riel Rebellion. He is buried there. Aunt Ida married John F. Reid the following year.

Uncle George was also ill and he accompanied Uncle William and Aunt Ida to Whitewood. He never recovered, also died at Whitewood. He was buried on father's homestead.

In 1885 when the Riel Rebellion stirred up the Indians and half-breeds, our father helped to build "The Stockade" in York Colony. He hauled more than 100 logs himself for this structure.

He told of the time when James Reid and he returned from York Colony to Granny's Reid's cabin, only to find about twenty-eight Indians scrambling out through the door. Granny Reid came behind them, shaking her broom and giving them a calling down in broad Scotch, "Ye dirty looking tykes, to think that ah fed ye, and noo ye're comin' raidin' ma hoose".

Later our father talked to Ann Jamison, an English halfbreed who was one of the wives of Chief Little Bone. She told father the reason the Indians went out raiding and stealing was because they were hungry.

This was the same band that came from an encampment on Cussed Creek. John F. Reid and John Willbury entered that camp and convinced the Indians to go back to their reservation.

Our father was on the board of managers for the Orkney Presbyterian Church, 1893 to 1897. He also served on the programme committee.

In 1897 he was chairman of the building committee for the stone Orkney School #97. He supplied wood for both the log school and stone school and the church.

In 1886 our grandmother, Mrs. Mary Fergus, arrived from Kirkwall, Orkney. She was the first white genuine nurse in the district. Dr. Stevenson had moved on to parts unknown, so it fell to Granny Fergus to attend to the sick. Granny made it a practice to go by ox team relay all the way to Kamsack. A young man had a very serious leg injury. Granny had to literally sew it back on. The fellow lived to a ripe old age. His leg was stiff and he walked with a limp. He considered himself very fortunate to have had Granny Fergus.

Most of the babies in the district which were delivered by Granny were called "Mrs. Fergus's Babies!" Our cousin, Mrs. Ida (Reid) Markham is the only known baby to be alive. She's a guest at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home.

Granny died on October 8, 1901 after a short illness and was buried in the Orkney Cemetery.



Granny Fergus
Mary Rendall Fergus - nurse
& mid-wife.

When the Orkney District first organized for a school district in May 1887, Uncle James was on that first school board, serving as secretary.

In 1890 when the Orkney Presbyterian Church elected a managing committee, he was one of the members. The following year they were called the "Church Board".

Uncle Jim married ELIZABETH (BETSY) SINCLAIR, a sister of Robert Sinclair. They had no family but adopted twin girls, CLARA and SUSIE. Their mother had died at their birth.

In February 1900, Uncle Jim was returning home from Yorkton during a blizzard. He never made it home. His frozen body was found beside his sleigh not far from home. One of the horses was also dead. He was buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

In 1907 Aunt Betsy died of heart failure. She is also buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

The Fergus twins attended the Orkney Church and School. They lived with the John F. Reid family.

Both Clara and Susie married men from Toffield, Alberta. Clara to Ernie Rodgers and Susie to Al Innes. They raised their families not too far from each other. Both are deceased.

Our father married ISABELLA SMITH HOURI on December 2, 1902 at the home of John F. Reid. Rev. M. Henderson performed the ceremony.

Mother was a sister of John Houri, who farmed north of Yorkton. He had written home to Orkney for one of his six sisters to come out to Canada and become his housekeeper. However on her arrival at Yorkton, he handed her a roll of money, telling her he sold his farm and she should return to Orkney, as he was going to New Zealand. She replied that after being seasick for six weeks on the trip over, no way would she return! She worked as a domestic for the McGrath's before meeting and marrying our father.

Six children were born of this union.

WILLIAM, MUNRO, MARY ISABELLA, SUSANNA MARGRETTA, WILLIAM DONALD and IDA LAURA.



Dave & Isabella Fergus
Back (L to R): Isabella (Smith Houri), Dave
Front: Susanna Margretta, Mary, Munro.

First born William lived only a few hours. He's buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

We attended Orkney School #97 and the Orkney Presbyterian Church.

Munro Fergus died May 3, 1914 in the Yorkton Hospital. His death resulted from wounds received in a shooting accident near his home. He was out shooting gophers with a 22 rifle and in some unknown manner accidentally discharging it, the charge entering his stomach. The funeral was May 7 from the Methodist Church in Yorkton and burial in the Orkney Cemetery. Rev. W.S. Reid, a cousin officiated.

Our sister Mary died in the Yorkton Hospital in 1922, after a short illness, typhoid fever. She is buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

Our father moved the family to Yorkton in the fall of 1914. I imagine the loss of Munro that May made the decision to leave the farm necessary. He had various means of employment, including stationary engineer at Beck's, the Flour Mill and finally in the Yorkton Power House from which he retired in 1935.

Our mother died March 16, 1936 and was buried in the Orkney Cemetery. The funeral service was in the Orkney Church.

Our father lived at 97 Irwin Avenue for several years with his dog Tippy. He would take his old Model T, Tippy and drive out to visit the Reid's, Patterson's, Stout's, Rousay's and many others. Sadly, his eye sight began to fail and both eyes had to be removed. He spent his remaining years in the Yorkton Auxiliary Hospital. He died April 8, 1953. Funeral services were held in St. Andrew's United Church, Yorkton and burial in the Orkney Cemetery.

Our brother WILLIAM (Bill) DONALD FERGUS married Florence Sherwin in 1941 in Yorkton, Sask. She nursed at the Queen Victoria Hospital and the new Yorkton Union Hospital. Bill passed away in 1964 after a lengthy illness. They have an adopted daughter, Wendy. Florence is retired in Yorkton.

Our sister IDA(Isla) LAURA Fergus married Cecil Spence in 1940. They reside in B.C. They had a family of two, Vernon Donald Spence and Claudia Jessie Spence.

I, SUSANNA MARGRETTA(Gretta) married John(Jack) Edgar Devins in 1928. We had a family of five. Our first born, a baby girl, lived only a few hours and is buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

The others are John(Jack) Fergus Devins, William(Bill) Fergus Devins, Valarie Margurite Elane Devins and Gordon Edgar Devins.

My husband Jack passed away in 1964. I'm retired and live in Kenora, Ontario.

My daughter Valarie and sons Bill and Gordon live in nearby areas in Ontario, while Jack resides in Souris, Manitoba.

JAMES and BETSY REID (Sinclair) FERGUS

submitted by: Verna Brenner



James Fergus

JAMES Fergus left Orkney in May, 1883. Prior to this, James and his brother George and William spent some time in South Africa looking for farm land before finally turning to Canada. The Fergus family arrived at the settlement of Orkney and homesteaded on the SW 30-26-4 W2nd.

Jim Fergus first lived in a dugout shanty with a log front and he had what you might call immovable furniture. Having some nice large poplar trees in the correct position where he wanted to build the house, he simply cut them down with a saw leaving enough of the stump for a chair.

Jim was a very shy Scotsman and how he became engaged to BETTY SINCLAIR was somewhat of a puzzle. They had to wait for the Sky Pilot to come around and when Betty ran over to tell Jim that the pilot had come, Jim laconically said, "I've given up the notion". Betty went back in tears but I guess Jim took one look at his lonely shack and then sauntered over and the happy couple were married. They were like all the Fergus's, a very hospitable couple. No one was ever turned away from their door, as long as they were willing to share their humble fare. (The above two paragraphs were taken from the book "Ox-Trails to Highways" by H.S. Swallow). James and Betsy were married September 11, 1886.

James was a natural musician - he could play the bagpipes, the fiddle and the concertina. He was a favourite in any company because of his musical and ventriloquistic abilities especially imitating animals or insects.

James died in a terrible snow storm on February 7, 1900 at the age of 41. He had sold his oxen for a team of horses and soon after he had left Yorkton in a blizzard. The team, it was thought, started in the direction of their old home. James body was found a few days later. Betsy died on April 26, 1907 at the age of 43 years.

James and Betsy had twin girls - MARY ST. CLAIR (CLARA) and SUSANNA MARGARETTA (SUSIE). The twins stayed with Robert Sinclair Jr. until 1910, then they moved to Tofield, Alberta to stay with Barbara (Sinclair) and Alexander McCauley. Both girls married Tofield men. Clara married Ern Rogers. Clara died in 1977. Susie married Al Innis. They are retired and live in Tofield, Alberta.

THE NEILSON FAMILY

submitted by: Georgina (Neilson) Hepp

Our grandfather, NELS HOLOR Neilson was born in Norway in 1859. He came to Canada in 1881 and worked for several years in the quarries at Stonewall, Manitoba.



Nels & Elizabeth (Seatter) Neilson & Family

In 1883 he came to York Colony and took a homestead on N.E. 16-26-4 west of the second meridian.

Nels married ELIZABETH SEATTER on April 18, 1884 at Stonewall, Man. The Presbyterian minister was James Lawrence, with witnesses Catherine Hutchinson and George Seatter, brother of the bride. Elizabeth was born on the Isle of Westray, Orkney, Scotland.

Nels, a stonemason was hired by the Orkney settlers to build the Orkney Presbyterian Church in 1893. He cut all the stones himself. He assisted to build the Orkney School #97.

When the first log school Orkney Protestant School #97, later Orkney School was built, Nels served as chairman of that first school's board on May 1887. He served as first president of the second Fall Fair in York Colony in 1884 and as a director on the first official Yorkton Agricultural Society of 1886. In 1900 he served as secretary-treasurer of the Yorkton Agricultural Society.

Nels was a Justice of the Peace in 1897. This same year he took second prize at the Yorkton Exhibition with his team of general purpose horses in harness and wagon and second prize for a pair of ducks.

Nels and Elizabeth had a family of three. Their son, GEORGE HENRY was the first white boy born in the Orkney settlement on February 1, 1885, during the Riel Rebellion. Next was GERTRUDE FRANCES, born on May 15, 1889 and MARY, March 23, 1891. She died when only nine years old.

Grandpa died in 1902, at the early age of only 43 years. The United Societies of which he was a member were in charge of the funeral, which was the largest ever held in Yorkton. The Foresters, Oddfellows and Orange-men marched in a body to the Methodist Church where the funeral sermon was conducted by the Rev. Magnus Henderson. Burial was in the Yorkton Cemetery.

Grandma Neilson and her children moved to Kylemore, Sask. It must have been a hardship to earn a living and bring up the family.

Our father, GEORGE HENRY married LILLIE OVIDA OLSON, formerly from North Dakota, on December 17, 1919. To this union four children were born.

ELIZABETH MARIE who married CHESTER BROOKS. They have three children, Sylvia, Colleen and Richard.

GEORGINA LILLIAN married MICHAEL HEPP. They have four daughters. Debbie, Delma, Linda and Velda. Velda's twin sister Veda, died as an infant.

GEORGE HUBER married INEZ WALLESTER from Hendon. They have a family of six. Wendy, Kevin, Terry, Randy, Brent and Twila.

FRANCES ISABEL married ELLIS BROOKS, deceased. Their family consists of Valarie, Larry and Dean.

Dad used to break horses to sell also breaking horses for others. Many a runaway we watched and couldn't do anything to help.

Dad passed away on July 17, 1953 after a lengthy illness. Mom passed away in November, 1969. A link in the chain is broken.

Dad's sister, Gertrude Frances married Edward Koehler, son of Carl Koehler and Maria Ottman. Carl was born in Ontario while Maria came from Germany. They had five children, Evelyn, Carl, Howard, Mona and Jack. They all live in Ontario.

Uncle Ed and Aunt Gertie have both passed away.

THE SINCLAIR FAMILY

ROBERT and MARY (Reid) SINCLAIR SR.

submitted by: Verna Brenner

ROBERT Sinclair Sr. and family left Eday Island, Orkney, Scotland September 15, 1884 arriving in Glasgow, Scotland, September 19, 1884 to board the ship "Siberian" to set sail for Canada. They arrived in Yorkton, North West Territories (then merely an encampment of half a dozen settlers with one log house) on October 12, 1884. One week of this was spent travelling from Whitewood to Yorkton with ox team and wagon. The family consisted of ROBERT - 54 years, wife MARY - 49 years, children BETSY - 19 years, ROBERT - 18 years, JAMES - 15 years, WILLIAM - 11 years and BARBARA - 8 years. Another family was travelling with them. They were Mathew and Ann Peace and family. Ann was a niece of Mary.

Their first purchase upon arriving were a team of oxen which cost \$180 and a cow which cost \$75.

The winter of 1884 was spent with the Reids, who immigrated the year before and what a winter it was. There were hunting experiences for the younger members and log hauling from "old section four" for the grown men and visitation by the neighbours from far and near for the women. A shanty was built on their own land (SW 24-26-5 W2) and they moved in March.

The following year, the Riel Rebellion broke out and Mrs. Sinclair and her youngest son, William, were forced to yoke up the oxen and take refuge with her family at the stockade in Yorkton. Their home was raided by Leach Lake and File Hill Indians who stole many articles and killed some of their cattle. Mr. Sinclair and the other sons, Robert and James were at that time on volunteer service.

By 1894, Robert had acquired 640 acres of land of which 105 acres was cropped yielding 447 bushels of wheat from 28 acres, 1290 bushels of oats from 62 1/2 acres, 202 bushels of barley from 14 acres, 175 bushels of potatoes from 1/2 acre. The poor yield for oats and barley was attributed to the dry weather. Also he had acquired 23 cows, 12 milking; 11 steers and 13 calves, 6 working horses, a team of driving horses, 3 ponies, 9 pigs and a number of poultry. Equipment acquired from 1884 to 1894 included a binder, mower, horse rake, seeder, plow, harrows, wagon and sleigh.



Robert & Mary (Reid) Sinclair Sr.

In 1888, Robert donated 2 acres of land to the community of Orkney for a school. The first school was a log structure. Later the stone school was built. It was not until 1899 that the actual transfer of land was made, but title was not issued until June 17, 1911.

Robert and Mary left Orkney to live with their son Robert, who had acquired land 4 miles west of Yorkton.

Robert died November 14, 1911 and his wife Mary, July 9, 1916. Both are buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

ROBERT and ANNIE (Foster) SINCLAIR

submitted by: Verna Brenner

ROBERT was the oldest son of Robert and Mary Sinclair. Much of the hardships of making a home in a new land fell to him. During the first year at Orkney, he went to Regina and got a job which paid \$27 a month. He worked out during the summertime and returned home to spend the winter with his parents.

In the spring of 1885, when many of the Indians were joining the Metis in their uprising at the time of the Riel Rebellion, Robert and his brother James joined the volunteers of the Home Guard. For their participation in the uprising, they were granted a military bounty land warrant. Robert claimed SW 30-25-4 W2.



Robert & Annie (Foster) Sinclair

In 1905, Robert married ANNIE FOSTER from the Saltcoats area. Robert and his family left the Orkney district and settled on his land claim 4 miles west of Yorkton. Here he and his family built a new home. They named their farm "Glen Orkney". The Sinclairs were the first in the district to raise bronze turkeys. The turkeys had to be government

inspected before they could sell the hatching eggs. Annie exhibited these turkeys in the surrounding fairs and won many prizes with them. Annie was an ardent gardener and peonies were her specialty. She won many prizes at the local fairs.

Being of a public spirited mind, many of the duties that were necessary for the building up of a community were willingly assumed by Robert. He served as Reeve and as councillor for the R.M. of Orkney and was a director of the Beaver Rural Telephone System.

The Sinclairs took a deep interest in the education and training of the children and they worked hard in organizing and building the St. Magnus School. Robert was on the school board from the beginning of the school, including the building of until the time of his death. St. Magnus School was named after a cathedral in his native Scotland. Robert was involved in the church at Orkney and later was involved in the building of St. Andrew's Church in Yorkton and was later elected as an elder of the church.

Robert died in a farming accident July 23, 1930, while trying to undermine a large rock in a field. The rock slipped and fell on top of him. After Robert's death, Annie and family moved to Saltcoats and there she made her home until her passing on January 29, 1953. They are both buried in the Yorkton City Cemetery.

Robert and Annie had five children. VERNA - RN (deceased) married Ronald Branscombe (deceased) of Kelvington, Sask.; ORA - teacher (deceased) married Amos Border of Yorkton, Sask.; FOSTER - farmer married Florabelle Kittel of Yorkton, Sask. and they are now living in Churchbridge, Sask.; IVIS - music teacher - married Joseph Laycock of Saltcoats, Sask. and they are now residing in the town of Saltcoats, Sask.; MARGARET - RN (deceased) married William Westbury (deceased) of Yorkton, Sask.



Robert & Annie (Foster) Sinclair & Family

(L to R): Ivis, Ora, Robert, Foster, Margaret, Annie & Verna Sinclair - 1919

JAMES and FLORENCE (Wood) SINCLAIR

submitted by: Verna Brenner

In an article written by Rev. W.S. Reid, Rev. Reid relates the tale of himself and his cousin, Jim Sinclair walking down to enlist when the news of battle of Riel's men at Duck Lake broke. They called on Mr. Joel Reaman who informed the two lads, hardly more than in their teens, that they were taking a serious step and inquired if their parents had been consulted. On being assured that such was the case, he took them to Major Watson, who looked them over and said he was afraid they were too young and that they had better go back home. However, while they were still standing in front of him, he seemed to change his mind and said they would be accepted. As with all the other volunteers on the Home Guard, James received a land grant for service which was the NW 10-27-5 W2nd.

On December 27, 1899, JAMES enlisted in the First Canadian Mounted Rifles to serve with the British Forces in South Africa. He served until January 14, 1901. The troop was later named the Royal Canadian Dragoons. He received the Queen's Medal with 5 clasps. The five clasps were for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast, Cape Colony and Orange Free State. The land grant he received for service was the W1/2 24-36-1 W4, which he later sold.

James moved to The Pas where his brother William lived. At The Pas they started the Gateway Wholesale Company which James was Manager. When the business was sold to Western Grocers, James then bought into a photo studio. Later, he went back to work for Western Grocers until his retirement.

James married FLORENCE WOOD, October 13, 1903 in Yorkton. They had two children. IRIS (deceased) married Ernest Love (deceased) and LESLIE (deceased) married Anne Madill.

James died in 1945 and Florence in 1946. They are buried in The Pas, Manitoba.

WILLIAM and HELEN (McBeath) SINCLAIR

submitted by: Verna Brenner

WILLIAM came to Canada with his parents at the age of 11 and was raised on the farm. He did some teaching in the area before attending the Manitoba Medical College in 1902. He was licensed to practise medicine in the North West Territories in 1904 and later in 1905, Saskatchewan and Alberta. He practised his profession in Saltcoats, Sask., Manitou, Man., and later at Manor, Sask. While in Manor, he attended the organizational meeting held February 17, 1911 of the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League. This group met in Regina to meet with Premier Walter Scott and present their case concerning the need of a sanatorium and hospital for tuberculosis patients.

William then went to England for a postgraduate course in Medicine. On his return, he settled in The Pas and opened up the Gateway Drug Store (which is still in operation under the same name today) and later the Gateway Wholesale Company. He was a member of The Pas Town Council in 1913 and served on the Board of Trade.

William submitted a report on a canoe trip he took with two guides down the Nelson River to the Roblin Government. Years later, this report was mentioned in a lecture by Dr. Wallace, head of the Geology Department at the University of Manitoba and of this contribution made by a private citizen to the knowledge of the terrain of that region and its possibilities. William had high hopes for Northern Manitoba.

William married HELEN McBRATH July 29, 1903 at Kildonan, Manitoba. They had three children. FLOYD, who died at 5 years of age at Manor, Sask.; TANNIS who married Henry Bickford (deceased) and lives at The Pas; MARY ISOBEL who married Roy Arbuckle and lives at Kitchener, Ontario.

Due to ill health, William had to give up his medical practise in The Pas. William died May 17, 1922 and Helen, June of 1962. Both are buried in the Kildonan Cemetery.



William Sinclair



Barbara (Sinclair) McCauley

ALEXANDER and BARBARA (Sinclair) McCAULEY

submitted by: Verna Brenner

BARBARA was eight years old when her family settled in the Orkney area. She attended both the Orkney School and Church. While at home, she was active in the Orkney Church helping to put on various social functions for the community.

In 1897, she went to Regina to attend Normal School. Schools she taught at were Orkney, Sheho and Manor, Sask.

Barbara went on to further her education and attended Manitoba College. It was here that she met ALEXANDER McCauley. Alexander McCauley had served in the South African Boer War with the Strathcona Horse Special Service in 1900-01. After returning from the war, he served as an accountant for Port Arthur Elevator. He then returned home to Edmonton to help his father in his real estate and insurance business. This business then took him to Tofield, Alberta.

In Tofield, the McCauley's were very active in the church. Alexander played the organ for the First Presbyterian Church, while Barbara taught Sunday School and led the C.G.I.T. group. Barbara belonged to the WMS Ladies group and the I.O.D.E.

The McCauley's were ardent curlers. Barbara belonged to the Northern Alberta Curling Association. They curled in Edmonton, Camrose and Jasper and usually came home with prizes.

Being a very musical family, the choir often practised at their home. Music lovers seemed to gather at their home for an enjoyable evening of music.

Barbara and Alexander were married November 23, 1909 at Yorkton at the home of Robert and Annie Sinclair. They had three children. HELEN - teacher and RN married Dr. Alex Gemeroy (deceased) lives in Victoria, B.C.; MARGARET - RN - married Rennie Wood and lives in Edmonton, Alberta; and WILLIAM - musical director of O'Keefe Theatre and conductor of North York Symphony married Pat Bacholz and lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Alexander McCauley died March 14, 1948 and Barbara on December 20, 1951. Both are buried in the Tofield Cemetery at Tofield, Alberta.

THE PEACE FAMILY

MATTHEW PEACE SR.

submitted by: Gunna Peace

MATTHEW FISHER Peace, son of John Peace and Mary (Reid) Peace was born at Eday, Orkney on June 17, 1847. He was named after the minister who baptized him, Rev. Matthew Fisher.

On November 30, 1876, Matthew married ANN REID, only daughter of Robert Reid and Charlotte (Stevenson) Reid of Windywall, Eday, Orkney.

On September 15, 1884, Matthew, Ann and their three sons, JOHN REID, MATTHEW JR. and ROBERT, left Eday, boarded the ship, S.S. Siberean and sailed for Canada to York Colony, Assiniboia, North West Territories. They were to join Ann's mother, Charlotte Reid and three brothers, Robert, James and William, who had emigrated the previous year. Her other brother, John F. Reid, had emigrated in 1882. They were accompanied by Robert Sinclair Sr. and family, who were also destined for York Colony.

The group arrived at the homes of Charlotte and John F. Reid after a long gruelling trip, first the Atlantic, then by train to Whitewood, N.W.T. where supplies were obtained and then the last seventy odd miles by ox-cart and wagons, drawn by oxen. They took out homesteads on October 24, 1884. Matthew's was the N.E. 1/4 section of 34, township 26, range 5. It was just across a creek from Charlotte Reid's homestead.

That winter they all lived with the Reid's. The men hauled logs and towards spring, dwellings were erected. The women knit, sewed and enjoyed having another person to share their feelings and work.

The following spring of 1885 brought the Riel Rebellion. Bands of rebellious Indians were wandering about, killing some cattle, raiding the odd homestead and scaring families. Some left their homes for the security of the stockade at the little village of York Colony.

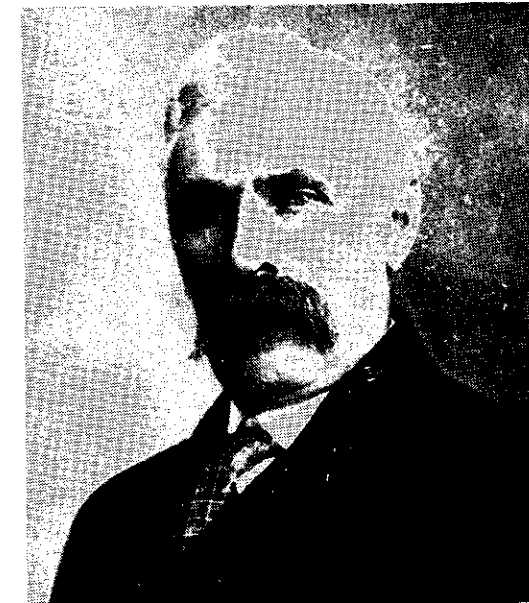
A band of about twenty-eight braves invaded the Matthew Peace home. They took food and a pocket watch that was hanging on a nail on the wall. From here they proceeded to Charlotte Reid's home. Charlotte was resting up in the loft and when the braves invaded the sanctity of her home, she came down, grabbed her broom and literally "swept" them out the door,

exclaiming in Gaelic, "Ye thieven' spalpeen, hae I noo been feedin' ye all winter and now ye come raidin' ma hoose!". They certainly came out faster than when they went in, almost dislodging the door frame.

Several years later, about 1897, Charlotte Reid, son Robert and the Peace family decided to drop the "Orkney" homesteads and take up homesteads at Fishing Lake. Their herds of cattle, sheep and horses had greatly increased and because of the increase in settlers taking homesteads around Orkney, pastures and hay meadows decreased. So the only solution was the move to Fishing Lake, to S.W. section 36, township 26, range 5 west of the second meridian.

In 1903, Matthew Peace and family established and developed one of the finest farms in this area and built the first two storey house on the plains. The success of his farming operations led to his selection as Immigration Delegate to Scotland in 1911. The railroad came through in 1904 and Wadena was formed.

A log building was erected on S.W. 1/4 of 16-34-3, W2nd to look after the stock and where Matthew Jr. later farmed. Owing to failing health and vigor, Matthew Sr. took up residence in Wadena, leaving the active work of the farm to his two sons, John Reid Peace and Matthew Jr.



Matthew Fisher Peace Sr.

One of the most highly respected of the Wadena district pioneers, Matthew Peace Sr. died on November 23, 1919 at his home in his 73rd year. Of a quiet unassuming disposition, Matthew was a leader by deeds rather than affairs and took an intelligent interest in public affairs. In the early days of the settlement he was always ready to extend help to neighbours.

He was on the first school board of the log Orkney School #97 (May 14, 1887) and on the first Orkney Presbyterian Church board 1890.

The public school and all places of business were closed as a mark of respect to the departed. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Dex assisted by M. Mahon, the former paying high tribute to the fine character and long, useful life of a sturdy pioneer. He was laid to rest in the Wadena Cemetery.

After Matthew's passing, Ann Peace made her home with her daughter, MARY FIELD in Los Angeles, California. Ann passed away on March 15, 1940 in her 89th year. In spite of her life of personal tragedy, great hardships and hard work, she kept a strong and simple faith in God. The funeral services were held in Wadena with Rev. Purves officiating. Burial was in the Wadena Cemetery beside her beloved Matthew Sr. and sons Robert and William.

All of Matthew and Ann's children have passed away since then, John Reid Peace in 1947, Matthew Peace Jr. in 1961 and Mary (Peace) Field in 1966.

Matthew Peace Sr.'s great grandson, WAYNE Peace, continues to farm the N 1/2 of 16-34-13. Wayne is the eldest son of Kenneth and Gunna Peace and a grandson of Matthew Peace Jr.



Anne (Reid) Peace and her daughter Mary (Peace) Field

Matthew and Ann's family consisted of:

MARY married ED FIELD. They had a son, ALLEN.

JOHN REID Peace married ELLEN CARLSON. Their family consisted of WILLIAM ROBERT, JOHN ARCHIE, ROBERT ALLEN, MARY HELEN, NORMAN MATTHEW, MARGARET ELIZABETH, IDA MARY.

MATTHEW JR, Peace married INGA TAIT. They had a family of four EVA, KENNETH, ETHEL and DONALD MATTHEW.

Robert and William predeceased their parents, Matthew and Ann.

Statement Made and Sworn to by.....

Matthew Peace in support

of his application for *Homestead* Patent for *N.E. 1/4* of

Section 34, Twp. 26, Range 5 N of 2nd Meridian.

Homestead N.E. Pre-emption S.E.

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address? *Matthew Peace No. 10 Yorkton*
2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, when and where? *birth*
3. What is your trade, profession or calling? *farmer*
4. When did you obtain entry for this homestead? *22 Oct 1884*
5. When did you build your house thereon? *finished Jan 1885*
6. When did you perfect your entry to your homestead by taking in your own person possession of the land and beginning continuous residence thereon and cultivation thereof? *28 April 1885*
7. What portion of each year since that date have you resided thereon? State each month. *continuously*
8. When absent from your homestead where have you resided, and what has been your occupation? *None*
9. Of whom does your family consist; when did they first commence residence upon this homestead, and for what portion of each year since that date have they resided upon it? *wife & children since 1885 continuously*
10. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you obtained entry, and how many acres have you cultivated each year? *In 1885, cropped 14 1/2 @ Canada land on 10th range In 1886 10 @ 5 on 19th In 1887, 20 @ 5 on 14, 20 @ 11 on 20th 16 summer fallow acres In 1884, 3 cattle, In 1885, 4 cattle, 2 pigs*
11. How many horned cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs have you had on your homestead each year since date of perfecting entry? Give number in each year. *1886 6 " 10 pigs
1887 7 " 3
1888 11 " 3 " 1 horse*
12. What is the size of your house, and what is its present cash value? *14 x 20 \$50 limits \$20*
13. What extent of fencing have you made, and what is the present cash value thereof? *30 acres \$40*
14. What other buildings have you erected? What other improvements have you made, and what is the cash value of the same? *2 stables & shed \$50 well \$15*
15. Are there any indications of minerals or quarries on your homestead? If so, state nature of same, and whether it is more valuable for agricultural than any other purpose. *No*
16. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what became of it? *No*
17. Have assigned or transferred or agreed to assign or transfer your homestead or pre-emption right or any part thereof? If so, when and to whom? *No*

Matthew Peace's Land Title

THE GARRY FAMILY

THOMAS GARRY SR.

THOMAS GARRY, his wife COLENA (nee Kennedy) and family, DAN, JOHN, TOM, FRANK, MARY-ANN, KATHERYN, COLENA and ELIZABETH, came to the Orkney settlement in 1884.

Mr. Garry was one of the first three elders of the Orkney Presbyterian Church. His son Dan, was one of the early trustees of the Orkney School and his other son John was secretary-treasurer of the Orkney School Board.

Thomas Jr. was M.L.A. for the Yorkton Constituency from 1905-1929.



The Thomas Garry Family

Back Row (L to R): Colena (Garry) Muir, Thomas, Daniel, Frank *Front Row:* Catherine (Garry) Muir, Mrs. Thomas Garry, Mary Anne (Garry) Moggey, Thomas Garry Sr., Elizabeth (Garry) Rousay.

T. H. GARRY

In March 1883, Mr. Garry left Kippen Station in Huron County, Ontario, destination High Bluff, Manitoba. Here he worked for a while on a farm. His father T. Garry and brother Dan had secured one of the famous pamphlets issued by the York Farmer's Colonization Company and were heading West, so T.H. joined them. Leaving the train at Whitewood they walked as far as the Qu'Appelle River where Mr. Benjamin Boake operated a ferry. The accommodation there consisted of a campfire and some brush piled up to break the wind. Next day they proceeded to the Cut Arm District where the stopping place consisted of a tent but no bedding.

They pulled a quantity of long dry grass, laid down and covered themselves with it. Next night was spent in a bluff near a farm. They finally reached York Colony (Yorkton) where they met the hospitable Joel Reaman. They took homesteads the following day. June 14, 1883 they then walked back to High Bluff, Manitoba where they worked until the following spring. During that winter T.H. drew cordwood through to Portage la Prairie making a thirty-two miles each day for the alluring pay of eight dollars per month.

Returning to York Colony in 1884 with the rest of family, the work of pioneering the homestead was begun. In March 1885 when the Riel Rebellion broke out, T.H. joined the Homeguard.

In 1886 the crops were very poor so T.H. was given a job by Joel Reaman to work in the stone grist mill. He remained at this job for two years.

In 1889 he worked with R. Insinger at the Insinger Ranch. He stayed with this job until he purchased the ranch for himself.



Thomas Jr.



Nellie (Sharp) Garry

In 1900 T.H. married NELLIE SHARP, daughter of Jim Sharp, first postmaster and Justice of the Peace, in the Armstrong District.

T.H. was elected to represent the Yorkton Constituency December 1905, in the first Government of the new Province of Saskatchewan. He held this constituency until 1929 when he was defeated by A.C. Stewart, an Independent.

LLOYD GRANT GARRY

LLOYD GRANT Garry was born in 1918. Joined the Army in 1940 serving from 1940 - 1945. He moved to Willowbrook in 1947 and purchased the Thomas Garry farm. He was married in 1952 to EDITH LESLAR of Willowbrook, Sask. They have three children. Two sons, GRANT Garry age 35 of Willowbrook, Sask.; GLENN Garry age 34 of Calgary, Alta; and one daughter SANDRA Garry age 26 of Willowbrook, Sask. and five grandchildren.