

DELLA'S STORY July 1988

Both of my Grandfather's came to Canada from Dublin, Ireland. Both were farmers in the old country.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG: Grandpa Armstrong's wife died in Ontario, (probably in Parry Sound). Thomas and his wife had the following family:

- Samuel
- Henry
- John
- Ettie
- Annie
- Jenny
- Robert
- Matilda

Grandpa Armstrong farmed in the Parry Sound district of Ontario, and my mother, Matilda was born there. Grandpa Armstrong travelled with us to Saskatchewan in 1904. From Saskatchewan he struck out to New Norway, Alberta where he "proved-up" his homestead. Grandpa Armstrong was a stern man and did not have as much patience with children as did Grandpa Bierness. Before he died, he returned from New Norway to stay with us at Asquith on the farm. Shortly thereafter he died and is buried at Asquith.

GRANDPA THOMAS BIERNESS:

He also sailed from Dublin, Ireland. They were on the sailing vessel for approx. six weeks until they landed at Halifax. There was a rumor that one of the relatives died on the boat during the voyage. He eventually settled in Muskoka County, Ontario near the village of Rosseau. Many of their records could be obtained from the Methodist Church they attended at Hekla. His wife was Welsh/English and their children were:

- Frank
- Samuel
- Thomas
- Robert
- Will
- Joseph
- John (My Father)

Grandpa Bierness was especially loved by his grandchildren. He came west with us (Grandpa Armstrong too) in 1904 and after leaving us in Osler with Uncle Joe and Aunt Emmy, he found a homestead near Ruthilda, Saskatchewan. He had a great respect for the Indians in his area. They would occasionally use his yard as a stopping off place on their journeys. The Indians taught him many of their medicinal cures using herbs etc. He was said to have healed polio victims in this way. Grandpa Bierness was a great story teller and loved to scare us kids with his ghost stories. The homesteads were all cleared by horse and plow, and

this heavy work took it's toll on many of the early settlers; Grandpa Bierness died of a heart attack at Ruthilda and was buried at Asquith Cemetary.

JOHN BIERNESS:

My father was born in Guelph, Ontario. When he was a young man, he worked as a lumberman, cutting down trees. He used to walk some 8 miles to see Matilda Armstrong while they were courting. Dad was married twice; his first wife and child died in childbirth. He and his second wife (Matilda) had the following children:

- Thomas
- Dolly (Sarah Elizabeth)
- James
- Della
- Harland
- Clinton (Dick)
- Neeta
- Wilfred
- Cecil
- Ada
- Velma

Ada and Velma were the only two born in Saskatchewan. In 1904 we all headed west with our two Grandfathers; Armstrong and Bierness. I was only 9 years old at the time. We came by train. We brought all our belongings, including a colt, 2 cows and a heifer; all the way from Muskoka Ontario! The train tracks had been flooded out at Lumsden and we had to cross the Quepelle Vally by barge, taking all our belongings with us and loading up again on a waiting train on the other side. The same procedure was repeated at Saskatoon. We continued by train to Osler. The train crews had run out of coal and were burning straw in the engine. It was a very slow journey ! We stayed then at Uncle Joe's and Aunt Emmy's in Osler until father found a homestead at Juniata, Saskatchewan, near Asquith. While we stayed on the homestead dad occasionally worked for John Caswell near Saskatoon tending stock. Aunt Emmy was a Caswell. Mother was a great provider and we were never hungry or cold. We were Methodist and had church services at the school in Juniata. The services were conducted by ministers of various denominations. (Some were student ministers from Saskatoon) During th 30's the homestead was reposed. Shortly thereafter, he moved into the village of Asquith and lived there on his pension. My brother, Harland and his wife had come to Victoria in the late 1930's. Mother and Father came out to the Island in the early 1940's. In 1945, at Matilda's coaxing, they returned to Saskatoon. A preacher had warned them that an invasion to the Island was coming and all the old people would be taken away. Father vowed that he would die if he returned to Saskatchen. Two days after he arrived in Saskatoon he died. I stayed with my mother until she died and then returned to

Victoria.

NEETA BIERNESS:

My sister was born in Ontario. She was full of life. In her teens, she had a very serious accident while riding a horse. The horse stumbled, fell and rolled over Neeta. She could have been killed.

She worked in the telephone office in Saskatoon. She met Earl one night while each of them was with someone else. She liked Earl right off and soon they were dating. Neete was very "sporty".

When she was pregnant with Clayton, she went to the farm at Juniata to be with her mother while her first child was born. Neeta and Velda came to Victoria in the summer of 1943. Ron and Lorraine came in July of 1944. Dolly and Herbert had come in the early 40's and Harland and Amy had come in the late 30's.

MILITARY MEN:

The Bierness family was heavily involved in the "Great War". My brothers James, Harland and Clinton (Dick), and my Uncle Henry Armstrong, all served in the 96th Battalion of Saskatoon. Clinton was a stretcher bearer and saw a lot of the horrors of war. They were all at Vimy Ridge. My husband, Wilbur McFadden was also a member of the 96th Battalion.

1. John Gordon Beirnes:
Aunt Della says he was called Gordon. He was Uncle Joe's son. He was Albert's cousin.
2. Ed Beirnes:
Ed was Albert's brother. Yes, Aunt Della does remember the hailstorm of 1910. There were dents in the side of the homestead. Anyone who had westerly windows had them broken. Yes, she does remember the Beirnes boys caught in the storm. They were the brothers of Cele and Ethel. She believes they were Wilburt & Gordon?
3. Albert Beirnes:
Albert was a cousin of Grandpa Beirnes. He was Cele's, Ethel's, Wilburt & Gordon's father.
4. Thomas Henry Armstrong:
This could not have been a relative because he was too young to be Aunt Della's grandfather and to her knowledge he doesn't belong to us.
- 5, 6, & 7. Aunt Della not clear on any of this.

Questions arising out of Della's statement:

1. Thomas Armstrong:
 - a) Doesn't remember his wife's name.
 - b) His wife is buried in Parry Sound.
 - c) Henry, Sam, Frank & Bill came west with him.
 - d) He died of a stroke.
 - e) Buried at Asquith.
 - f) Albert Beirnes at Asquith not Ruthilda was a cousin.
2. Albert Beirnes:
 - a) Died of a stroke.
 - b) The family did not settle in the Maritimes. They came from Ireland to Ontario to Juniata (Asquith).
 - c) His wife's name was Maggie (Margaret?). Auntie doesn't know how she died but she is buried at Asquith.
3. John Beirnes:
 - a) Doesn't know the name of his first wife. Baby not named. They are buried at Parry Sound.
 - * Interesting sidelight. John's first wife was his first cousin and John thought that they both died because it was God's judgement.
 - b) the family came West because Uncle Joe and Aunt Em talked them into it.
 - c) This should be Springwater, Saskatchewan. Wilbur McFadyen and Tom Beirnes lived there. Della kept house for Tom.
 - d) The Beirnes family in Juniata prior to Della's family must have been Uncle Joe and Aunt Em.

1946 - G/ROLET

HERBT A (SARAH E) RTD. 2514 EMPIRE

JOYCE BKPR LEWIS CTB 2522 EMPIRE

KEN H (JOYCE) CONF 2201 CHAMBERS
R. 2522 EMPIRE

MCADYEN - WID. H 2510 EMPIRE

Questions arising out of Della's statement:

- 1) Thomas Armstrong: A] What was his wife's name?
B] Where is his wife buried?
C] Did any of his children come west with him?
D] What was the cause of his death?
E] Where is he buried? (I could not find his gravestone at Asquith Cemetery)
F] Was the Albert Bierness at Ruthilda related to you?
- 2) Thomas Bierness: A] What was the cause of his death?
B] Did the family settle in the maritimes prior to moving to Ontario?
C] What was his wife's name? How did she die? Where is she buried?
- 3) John Bierness: A] What was the name of his first wife? What was the name of the baby? Where are they buried?
B] Why did the family come west?
C] What was the family connection with Sweetwater Saskatchewan?
D] There was a Bierness family in Juniata prior to your family settling there. Were they related?

is named for one of the East Indian
Java. The word entered our
language in the early 1800s as a slang
word for coffee. It is rarely heard now; an
example of how language changes.

JAYS

is between Glenside and Hawar-
n a CPR line. It was named after
a lake nearby which in turn was
named for Mr. Jays, one of the first
settlers in the district.

JEDBURGH

wild tribes of the Gad and Gadeni
named the Cheviot Hills at the time
of the coming of the Romans gave the
name to Jed and the city of Jedburgh in
Scottish County, Scotland, its present
name. As one of the "Border" towns, and
being at the geographic centre of
the district, it has an old and rich history.
Jedburgh in Saskatchewan is on a
branch line of the CNR that runs north-
west of Yorkton and ends at Parkerview.
Because of the rapid influx of settlers in the
1900s and the building of a school,
demand for mail service grew. Finally,
in 1900 Mr. Peter Hoy was hired to drive
mail in twice a week from Theodore.
He was a democrat and team of horses he
used Gladwin, Jedburgh and Beaver-

ed with the necessity of finding a
postmaster for the new district, Mr. Joe Clark,
postmaster at Yorkton, and Mr. Wil-
Barber went into conference. From
two men came the suggestion that
the district be named after the birthplace
of the first mailman, Mr. Peter Hoy—Jed-
burgh, Scotland.

Jedburgh is an important grain delivery
point; in 1970 it still supported four
elevators. Here they are with their agents:
Pool—Bert Pearce; Grain Grow-
ers—Tony Bogdasavich; Federal—John
Lewich; Searle—Joe Lasco.

JONESVILLE

Jonesville was an inland post office
located five miles south of the present town of
Yorkton. Dave Santy was the postmaster
and he had a country store in connection
with it. The post office was named for a
prominent family (Jones) in the district.

Herbert across the river by Mr. Lupin.
The post office closed out when the CNR
reached Beechy in 1922.

JORDAN RIVER

Jordan River is an inland post office on
the Jordan river a short distance east of
Arborfield in the Carrot River Valley. It's
interesting to know how the Jordan river
got its name. Settlers moving north from
the drought-stricken prairies of the 1930s
were so impressed with the verdant
growth of the land that as they crossed
the little river they jokingly remarked
that they had crossed the "Jordan river
into the promised land." Henceforth they
called it the Jordan river and when it
came time for a post office, Bob England
and Albert Hirsch, two of the earliest
settlers, sent that name to the postal
officials at Ottawa. The name was grant-
ed.

JUNIATA

Fourteen miles west of Saskatoon the
GTR resumed their practice of naming
stations in alphabetical order with Gran-
dora, Hawoods, Iwona (now South As-
quith), and in 1906 they reached and
named Juniata.

One of the first homesteaders in the
district was Albert Warren who filed in
1902. Before the railway came he hauled
his grain to Saskatoon with one horse and
one ox. This "team" was also used in the
haying season and proved very frustrat-
ing at times when the ox would take the
horse, mower, AND man into the middle
of a slough to cool off.

With the coming of the railway three
elevators were built at Juniata—The
Atlas, the Standard, and the Co-op. J. B.
King operated the first store. At one time
there was an implement business, a lum-
beryard, and a blacksmith shop. In 1933
an attempt was made to start a co-op farm
but it never got beyond the planning
stage.

Albert Warren's son, Norman, bought
the store in 1945 and when he closed it in
1967 there was only the Pool elevator left
and it also closed in July of 1968. So
officially there is no more Juniata. How-
ever, when people hear the noted pianist,

JUNIPER

Juniper is a railroad siding one stop
south of Dinsmore. The Canadian North-
ern reached there in 1913 and gave the
railroad siding its name. This is how it
happened.

As the grade for the railroad was being
built in June it extended along the side of
a long narrow lake where a lot of bushes
were loaded with saskatoon berries.
Some of the workmen thought they were
juniper berries and made a request to the

KALYNA

Kalyna is near Prince Albert on the
Garden river. The district is predomi-
nantly Ukrainian and they named their
post office, Kalyna, which in their lan-
guage is a cranberry-like fruit. This they
found in abundance around their new
home.

KALIUM

Kalium is on the CPR just west of
Regina. After years of research and ex-
perimentation, Kalium Chemicals has
been successful in developing a process
for the solution mining of potash.

In 1964, near Belle Plaine, it brought its
refinery into production. The rail site was
named Kalium. Kalium is the Latinized
form of the Arabic word for potash.

KAMSACK

The following information is taken
directly from Encyclopedia Canadiana.
"Kamsack, Sask., town on the Assin-
iboine River, 14 miles from the Manitoba
border; divisional point 278 miles N.W.
of Winnipeg on the CNR line through
Dauphin to Saskatoon. Its name was that
of a post office established about 1888,
which was named after a well-known
Indian. The general area was fur-trading
territory for many years. Grant's House
was established by the North West Co., in
1791, a few miles S.E. on the river. Later
posts were established by the same com-
pany, the Hudson's Bay Co., the XY Co.

JUNOR

Mrs. Donald Junor operated a post
office named Junor in her home four
miles north of Robinhood. When the steel
came to Medstead in 1927 her office was
closed and she moved into town as the
first postmistress. When the CPR built
north Mr. Cook, the chief engineer on the
line, named a townsite in her honor.

Junor is 25 miles north of Medstead on
the line to Meadow Lake.

K

and free traders, mainly N.W. of the
present town. The best-known of these
was Fort Pelly, 10 miles N.W."

KANDAHAR

Kandahar is on the south shore of Big
Quill lake. The first settlers arrived from
Norway in July of 1904. The group
included Odin Granhus, Henry Skjerven,
Bert Lorensen, Amund Hagen, and Gil-
bert Sather. At that time the railway
reached only as far as Sheho. This left the
settlers with a 50 mile trek with horses or
oxen over winding prairie trails whenever
they needed supplies. They usually con-
fined their trips to twice a year.

In 1909 the CPR extended its line to
Kandahar and named the station in mem-
ory of the site of a famous battle won by
the British army under Roberts during the
Afghanistan War.

KAPOSVAR

Kaposvar was a rural post office (now
closed) near Esterhazy. It opened in 1891.
Several names were suggested by post
office officials but no agreement could be
reached. Many of the earliest settlers
were from Hungary, the same as was the
case of Esterhazy. The officials in an
attempt to settle the question of a name
asked for a map of Hungary and one
placed his finger on the map and asked
the name of the place nearest to it. It
happened to be Kaposvar. The name was

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

016 89016 017 4

39 BEIRNES J. HARLAND (AMY H) LAB H 1131 GRANT ST

40 { NIL BEIRNES
GIRDLER HERBT - 1168 CALEDONIA

41 - BEIRNES J. HARLAND (AMY) CLK. R. 1141 CALEDONIA
BEIRNESS EDW HLDR HORTON CEDAR MFB. H. 11-402 RAY
GIRDLER KEN WHSMN RAYS
- LOUIS (JESSIE E) H. 139 RENDALL?

42 BEIRNES JOHN H (AMY H.) ACT SEV. H-114 CALEDONIA
GIRDLER HERBT A (SARAH) H 719 COOK
KEN (JOYCE) DRVR R 719 COOK

43 BEIRNES JOHN H (AMY H) MAIL PORTER PD H-1141 CALEDONIA
GIRDLER HERBT A (SARAH) H 719 COOK
- KEN (JOYCE) DRVR R 719 COOK
MRS JOYCE CASH RAY'S RES 719 COOK

44 - BEIRNES - JOHN H (AMY H) EMP. NEW METHOD ~~LDY~~ LNDRY 1141 CALEDONIA
FULLER MRS NITA (SP) R 719 COOK
GIRDLER HERBT A (SARAH) H 719 COOK
MRS JOYCE CASH RAY'S R 719 COOK
KEN (JOYCE) R 719 COOK

45 - BEIRNES J HARLAND (AMIE H.) EMP NEW METHOD LNDY H 1158 MASON
JOHN (MATILDA) RETIRED H 5-2220 COOK
THOMAS H. BARBER - A HEWISON R. 1042 PANDORA
FULLER - MRS N. FCTY VIC PHOENIX BREW R 719 COOK
GIRDLER HERBT. A (SARAH E) RETIRED H 2514 EMPIRE
MRS JOYCE CASH RAY'S R-2522 EMPIRE

BEIRNES EDWARD APPR. WHITAKER & REVER COMB R. 3516 CALUMET
J. HARLAND EMP NEW METHOD LNDY. R " "
JOHN F (MATILDA) RETIRED H 3-2321 COOK
THOMAS H. BARBER ALBERT'S BARBERSHOP R. 1042 PANDORA
FULLER - LORRAINE CASH SAFEWAY H 1042 PANDORA

Bennies

SE. 1/4 - Sect 6. TWP 34 Range 17
NE. 1/4 - " " " " West of 3rd.

Armstrong

NE 1/4 - Sect 36 - TWP 33 Range 18
West of 3rd.

Caswells (Sam, David 1902) original
founders of Junata.

Adam Borthwick family built log
barn.

Sam & Ellen Wright -

JUNIATA

Most of the information on Juniata is taken from a letter sent to me by my godmother, Mrs. Alice E. Suter, at this time a resident of Mount Royal Lodge in Saskatoon. She kept a diary from the day they arrived in Saskatoon in 1904 and there is no doubt that she referred to her diary when answering my request for information on the origin, etc. of Juniata.

Some of the first settlers in the district later to be known as the Juniata district were the Adam Borthwick family in 1902. (The log barn that he built still stands.); the Caswell brothers, Sam and David, in 1902; Sam and Ellen Wright in 1903, (The Wright home was a stopping place - "Wright on the trail"); the Hardy family, 1903; the Cowards - father and son - from England (Mr. Coward had travelled in South America.); David and Alice Suter, their two girls, Kathleen and Violet, and a five-octave piano and a mandolin in 1904.

From the heart of London, England, came Charles Seymour and his wife. Charlie was indispensable at concerts for his Cockney songs. In 1905 two more Suter families arrived to take up homesteads. Also Charlie Hirst from England and Charlie Moran from the United States.

Note: The following information re Eagleholme School is from the Archives Office in Regina. This was the school I attended for eight years.

Eagleholme School District No. 1457 was first proposed in 1905. One could probably consider the men who started the petitions for a school to be responsible for the building of it. Adam Borthwick, Samuel Wright and Albert Beirnes headed the petition committee in 1905 - 1906. In addition to these names, the following men signed also: S. Caswell, A. McGowan, Norman Dingwall, Russell Borthwick, Albert Moran, John Beirnes, David Suter, Albert Pooch, Ed. Beirnes. The school was built in 1906.

Note: Back to Mrs. Suter's diary again:

In 1907 the Grand Trunk Railway line was laid from Saskatoon to Biggar, thirty miles west. In 1908 the first grain elevator was built and William (Billy) Dawson was the first operator. In 1909 a railway station was built and the place was named Juniata because J happened to be the next letter, alphabetically, along the line. Mail could now be addressed direct to Juniata, Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan having been proclaimed a Province in 1905.)

Prior to this, neighbours used to bring one another's mail from Saskatoon until Asquith was built on the Canadian Pacific Railway, five miles distant and where we had a mailbox at the Post Office. We picked up the mail when we took our butter to exchange for groceries.

In 1908 Mr. J.B. King opened the first General Store in Juniata. In 1910 the two Levenick brothers came and built a larger store which was opened in 1911. The earlier store was then remodelled and made into a rooming house and restaurant run by Jim Dawsons. In 1909 the two Chasmar brothers, Cecil and Leslie - carpenter and seaman - came to the hamlet and were there for a year or two. In 1910 a dentist, Charles Van Doren, from

Juniata



1.



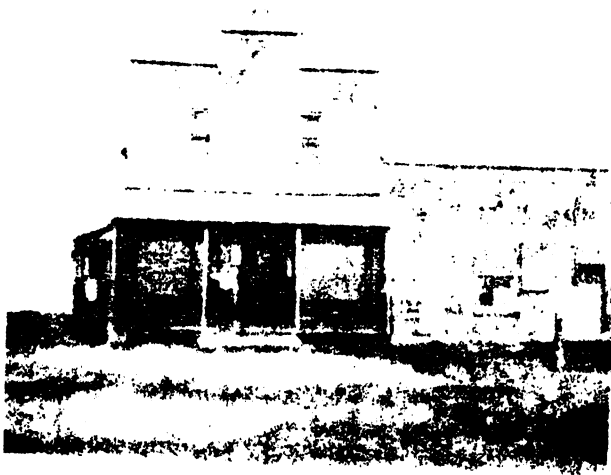
2.



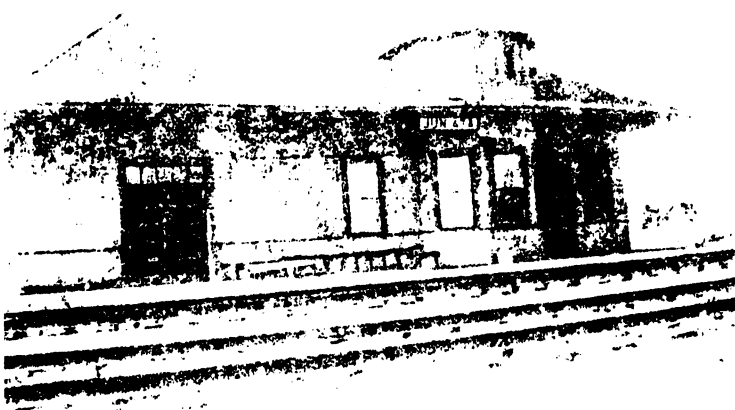
1. George & May Sadler
storekeepers
1910 -

2. General Store

3. Part of Juniata



General Store



G.T.P. Store Station
Grand Trunk Pacific

the United States came and did dental work at his home.

In 1910 the Ab. Hutchison family took over the Tom Dawson house (brother of Jim) and made it into a boarding house. Near the Dawson house there was a blacksmith shop and a livery stable. Later a hall was built for community gatherings.

George and May Sadler came in 1916 and took over the store. By this time the farmers around had tried to do some co-operative bulk-buying on their own. They used a shed on the railway siding for the housing and distribution of their merchandise. However, when the Sadlers arrived, things returned to normal. That was Saskatchewan's first attempt at Co-operative buying and this incident is recorded in a paper-back booklet on "The Co-operative Movement in Saskatchewan".

End of Quote.

My personal memories of Juniata and the surrounding district are happy ones. The people were friendly, co-operative and most were willing to lend a hand when help was needed. There was a bit of rivalry but nothing too serious.

The Juniata Hall hummed with activity - dances, concerts, plays, etc. - because in the early years entertainment had to be home-made. Church services were held in Eagleholme School which was located one half mile south of the village site.

As far as I know, the old school still stands but has been used as a granary for many years. Today, Juniata is "no more". The station was closed and torn down. New highways enabled people to drive their cars to Saskatoon in search of lower prices so the local storekeeper could not compete. The building was torn down and some of the lumber used to build a house in Saskatoon. The David Suters had moved into Juniata from the farm later but they, too, finally moved their house into the city. One by one other buildings disappeared. I think the Tom Dawson house was about the last one left standing and the last time I was in the area (1974) there was talk of removing the grain elevators.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY

When we think of drought on the prairies, our minds go back to the thirties - The "dirty thirties" they were called. There had been periods of dry weather as far back as 1910. In fact, Sam had looked hopefully at the sky more than once during the summer of 1910 but the weather remained dry and hot.

Earlier in the spring crops looked good. In May a second daughter was born to Ellen and Sam and they named her Alice, after Mother's sister, I believe. Neighbours said she was a beautiful baby, just like a little doll. When Mrs. Albert Beirnes saw her, she remarked to another neighbour that Alice was too good for this world and that she knew she wouldn't be here long.

Gypsies used to camp across the road on an open section each year. Their covered wagons and colourful attire added a touch of glamour to the scene but some of them were light-fingered and they were always begging. When they came across to Wickenbank Farm to beg oats for their horses, they brought the largest sacks they could find and often went back to their caravans with a few eggs, a bit of butter, a quart of milk or whatever seemed most likely.

Sarah was churning one day when they came. She never had any patience with them and chided Sam for letting them talk him into being so generous. This particular day they had asked for some butter and before Sarah could intervene, one gypsy had put her hand into the churn to scoop out a good handful of the golden goody. I was never told what Sarah said but I'm sure her Lancashire dialect flowed freely. Too bad that they wouldn't understand what she had said.

They were always wanting to tell Sam's fortune but he had held them off because fortune telling wasn't his "cup of tea". Finally one day he gave in to get rid of them and they told him that 1910 would be the best year yet - good crops and all sorts of added good luck.

July was hot and dry. The crops had done well so far but by then they were badly in need of a good rain. The dry weather had been ideal for the building of a new frame barn. It was almost finished and the windows were carefully stacked inside until Sam could instal them. That barn was farther up the hill but not too near the house.

Sam continued to look hopefully at the sky and occasionally a few clouds would gather only to dissipate in the heat. Hope was turning to despair for some but Sam was an optimist. Sure enough, one Sunday clouds gathered in the west again and they looked more promising. Sam stood at the door watching them and turning to Ellen and Sarah said, "I believe we're really going to get it this time." Out in the yard a mother hen was busily clucking to her little ones to share some tasty morsel she had found. Sam and Ellen went out to see that soft-water barrels and tubs were in place and they were sure they could even smell rain. Too good to be true.

First the distant rumble of thunder, an occasional flash of

lightning. The sky became a dirty orange colour and a silence fell. Suddenly the wind began and all hell broke loose. A deluge of rain followed by hailstones larger than hens' eggs and winds of cyclonic proportions. The hail came horizontally and Ellen and Sam tried in vain to save the windows on the west side of the house by holding cushions and pillows against them. The windows shattered and hailstones and rain poured in.

Sarah sat in the middle of the room holding Alice on her knee while I crouched at her feet holding onto her skirts. Nobody dare go outside; there was such a helpless feeling. It was all over just as suddenly as it had begun and calm settled over the landscape. People were left dazed and unbelieving.

Slowly Sam and Ellen wandered outside to assess the damage, Heartsick, they saw what had happened to the new barn. It was not there. It had been lifted from its foundation, carried and scattered over half a mile. Every one of the new windows had been smashed. The sod kitchen which had been built onto the east end of the house saved it from a similar fate.

Suddenly they noticed something completely incredible. The mother hen and her brood were safely nestled in the V provided by a side and an end of an apple box right in the middle of the yard. They couldn't believe their eyes. Cyclones do - and don't do - strange things.

After a cup of tea, thoughtfully prepared by Sarah, Sam and Ellen went out to see how their crop had fared. There was no crop. It had been clipped off shorter than any binder or mower could have done. What about all the trees they had planted a few years previously? As they wandered among them, they discovered that the bark had been stripped off the west side of every tree. That meant that they had to cut the trees off below the damage line and wait patiently for them to regain their lost growth. (The trees are still standing on the old homestead today.)

Little by little, news of neighbours arrived. Half a mile to the south Charlie Seymours had just finished building a new frame house to replace their sod shack. They hadn't moved into it yet which was fortunate, because the new house was lifted, carried across the yard and deposited on top of the hay rake.

Two of Albert Beirnes' ^{George - Beirnes only} boys had been out herding the cows when the storm struck. They crouched in the lowest spot they could find but were battered and drenched. The hailstones had shredded the backs of some of the cows. Imagine the terror in the hearts of those two boys.

So many farmers lost their crops and suffered varying degrees of damage to buildings. Seymour's house had to be made smaller but they were able to move it back to its original site. Sam almost always came up whistling in the face of disappointments and Shattered hopes and this new setback was no exception. He and Ellen set about "picking up the pieces" and planning for the new year. There was much to be thankful for. No one had been killed and that was the most important consideration.

Greater tragedy was yet to come. Baby Alice had reached the stage where she was full of surprises. She recognized the familiar sounds of her daddy coming into the room and would turn her head and smile at him. Suddenly she became ill in August and the doctor had to tell them that she had infantile paralysis for which there was no cure at that time. This dread disease is known as polio today. Alice's condition rapidly worsened and she slipped away in Ellen's arms. Both Sam and Ellen were heartbroken.

By 1910 there was a cemetery about a mile from Asquith and that is where little Alice was laid to rest. At the graveside service, as the tiny casket was being lowered, Sam stepped forward and placed a small box wrapped in white linen on Alice's casket. This box contained the remains of their first-born child and had been lovingly removed from Willow Dell and now given a proper Christian burial. That was one more example of Sam's fortitude in the face of heartbreak.

AFTER 1910

Although one can hardly consider the years following 1910 as pioneer years, this story wouldn't be complete without a brief summary of events until Sam's retirement. It was now seven years since their arrival in Saskatchewan and their hopes of returning to the Old Country for a visit seemed to dwindle with the years. They must have wished that such a trip could be possible but there never was enough money left over to allow one.

Ellen's sister, Alice, and her husband had come to Canada again and finally settled about thirty miles west of them but visits were infrequent. I can remember going on the train and being completely over-awed by the approach of the huge steam engine. First the whistle in the distance, then the rumbling sound and the slowing of the train and as it pulled into the station great billows of hissing steam. Then the final "All aboard." and we were off.

My brother, Harold, was born in 1913 and so the Wrights finally had a "son and heir" to carry on the name. Sarah was still with us and I have fond memories of a happy family unit. As the years passed, letters edged in black began to arrive from England. These black-edged envelopes were common in those days to bring the news that someone had died. So many times Ellen would hesitatingly slit the envelope and quickly scan its contents to learn who else was missing from the family circle.

Many more settlers had moved into the Juniata-Asquith area and community life flourished. As always, Sam and Ellen were in demand at concerts and social gatherings for musical contributions. Sometimes Mrs. Suter would join them with mandolin. Ellen also became midwife for many new mothers - in some cases seeing each of a family of three or five into the world through the years.

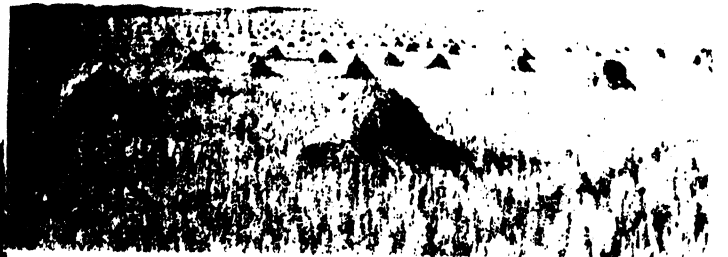
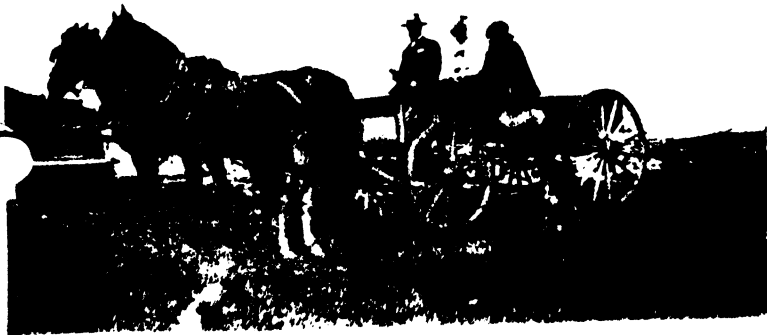
So much has been written about the first World War. To us it meant more and more letters edged in black for so many of Sam's and Ellen's relatives had joined up but didn't return.

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Sam & Emily 1911 or 1912

*Sam, Ellen, Sarah
off to Saskatoon
1904 - 1905*



wheat field



*Sam
Ellen
Emily
Howard
1913*

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In the earlier years, most of the threshing had been done by Andy Lunn who owned a steam-driven outfit. It may have been partly fuelled with straw. Later gasoline -powered tractors became available and Sam was induced - pressured would be a better word - to buy one by a so-called friend. As it turned out, Sam's venture into custom threshing was more successful than Ellen's hopes.

The outfit was large, was able to dispose of a crop of wheat in much less time than the old straw burner, and, to the happy satisfaction of the farmers' wives, it included a cook car and a bunk car. It made quite a procession when lined up ready to move from one farm to another. First the Hart-Parr engine, then the separator, followed by the cook car, bunk car, oil wagon, racks (sometimes ten to twelve) and grain-hauling wagons.

If the weather remained favourable for threshing - the sheaves had to be perfectly dry - things went well for Sam. But if rains came, the men still had to be fed and that took care of some of the profits. The cook car and bunk car were brought home and Sam tried to find work there for the idle men, many of whom had come west from Ontario during harvest time.

During one wet spell Sam decided to get the potatoes dug. At breakfast table he announced, "Well boys, you're going to be digging potatoes today and maybe tomorrow and this time you'll be working for honour and glory." Reluctantly the men picked up shovels and spades and began digging. After an hour or so, one man leaned on his shovel and asked, "Say, what did Wright mean by 'honour and glory'?" Several chaps laughed then one explained, "It means we're working for nothing - no pay in other words."

Another time the men, who were trained in various trades built a new frame barn to replace the sod one. A couple of Polish chaps undertook the concrete work and they were master craftsmen. The inside walls were as smooth as plaster and are still standing in this year 1976. When it was completed, the men printed their names on the north wall.

Working in a cook car was a harrowing experience at times. Sam got good cooks and very bad cooks. One Norwegian woman was an excellent cook but an expensive one and to add to the financial burden there was some pilfering. The cook car had two long tables down each side, an aisle in the middle and a cook-stove and shelves, etc. at the far end. If the outfit had to move while a meal was being prepared, the driver had better drive as though he were delivering unpacked eggs. The car was on steel wheels (no rubber tires) and the smallest bump sent things rattling. One day the stove pipes fell down right into what was supposed to have been the men's dinner. The cook opened the door, hollered at the driver who stopped to see what was wrong, and proceeded to call him everything but a gentleman.

After a few years this friend who had sold Sam the first tractor came to see him again. This time he urged Sam to trade it in on a new and bigger one. Sam, being the trusting soul that he was, didn't realize what was behind the friend's urgency.

Asquith and District Honour Roll World War I - 1914-1918

Arthurs, Wm. (wounded)
 Armstrong, T.
 Anderson, E.
 Bailey, Reg.
 Beimes, J. H. *James*
 Beimes, C. *Clint*
 Bowers, Earl
 Brandvold, Carl
 Chambers, H.
 Colboirnsen, Al
 Condy, Albert
 Cowan, J.
 Cull, James
 Conboy, Leighton
 Dimmer, John
 Dougan, Herbert
 Dougan, Harold
 † Forest, Scottie
 Fawcett, D. E. (wounded)
 Frost, Francis. (prisoner of war)
 Forsyth, Oliver
 Gannon, J.
 Geall, George
 Glennie, George
 Graves, Frank
 Gregory, Andrew
 Holgate, Colin
 Hamilton, Murray
 Harris, William
 Harris, Foster
 Hawkins, John
 Kitchin, Gilbert

Haviland, Mills
 Haviland, Jack
 Johnston,
 Johnson, Alma
 † Jenson, Robert
 Junop, Lan
 † Knapp, Ben
 Lake, Ingram
 Lake, William
 Lake, George
 † Lake, Thomas
 LeValley, L.
 Lauve, L. M.
 McIntosh, James
 McGarva, G.
 McKenzie, C. M.
 McKenzie, Allan
 McPhedran, Frank
 McFadyen, E. (wounded)
 McFadyen, R. (wounded)
 McFadyen, W. H.
 McDonald, J. A.
 McKenzie, C. (wounded)
 McGill, James
 McTavish, Duncan
 McTavish, Donald
 Mather, T. J. L. (wounded)
 Martin, G. A.
 Moore, Albert
 Minty, Gordon
 Millar, John L.
 Millan, C.

Owen, J. F.
 Owens, J. E. (wounded)
 O'Brien, E.
 O'Keefe, A.
 Oliver, Ted
 Pack, Teddie
 † Pask, Edmund
 Picketts, William
 Parkyn, Major
 Parker, C.
 Rose, J. L.
 Rivett, William
 Richardson, Fred
 † Richardson, Harry
 Ristau, William
 Richmond, Tom
 † Sanders, R. (wounded)
 Summers, Joe
 Sutherland, John
 † Suter, Arthur
 Sheffield, William
 † Small, W. A.
 Schneider, Jack
 McSorley, Charlie
 Thomas, W.
 Trask, C. N. (prisoner)
 Turnell, W. H.
 † Topham, B. M.
 Tuckett, T.
 Wylde, Frank
 Wells, T.
 Winnacott, Floyd

(† indicates died on field of honor)

For King and Country World War II Volunteers of Asquith and District On Active Service With the Canadian Forces Royal Canadian Army 1939-1946

Abel, Robert
 Anderson, Neil
 Aune, Larry
 Alcorn, W.
 Burwood, J. K.
 Burwell, Hyle (prisoner of war)
 Burwell, C. C.
 Burwell, M.
 Beimes, C.
 Conboy, R.
 Clark, Edgar
 Cutts, Leslie
 Cowan, D.
 Cooke, F.
 Caswell, J.
 Dingwall, D.

† Ewen, J.
 Frederickson, Clarence
 Fairbrother, J.
 Fielden, Russell
 Hoff, Garvin
 Hoff.
 Hungness, N.
 Hungness, C.
 Hanson, A. L.
 Hackett, J.
 Hackett, G.
 Hewak, N.
 Issac, T.
 Jenkins, H.
 Johnston, W. J.
 Johnson, Ralph

Kerr, Jim
 Lake, William
 Lake, Randolph
 Lake, Moira
 Lake, D.
 Laventure, Nord
 Laventure, H.
 Laventure, R.
 Love, E.
 McNab, R.
 † McComb, Mertin
 McQuitty, George
 † Mitchell, M.
 Mitchell, G.
 Mason, G.
 McKay, Inez

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McTavish, R. A.
O'Toole, W.
Paul, J.
Picketts, F.
Picketts, C.
Picketts, Lloyd
Picketts, Lee
Ridsdale, Fred

Ridsdale, D.
Schultz, A.
Summach, D.
Summach, H.
Summach, Mervin
Symon, S.
Symon, Glen
Symon, Gordon
Hanson, H.

Hanson, L.
Taman, Eileen
Taman, G.
Thompson, E.
Thompson, Tom
Thompson, A. H.
Thompson, Stan
Werchenko, J.

Royal Canadian Navy 1939-1946

Henderson, Gordon
McTavish, Angus

Reid, Burt
Wheeler, William

Royal Canadian Air Force 1939-1946

Anderson, A.
Allan, A.
Berg, D.
Burns, M.
Beimes, H.
Burwood, G.
Burwell, A.
Baillie, T.
Clark, Doris
Clark, Reta
Clark, Eva
Cutts, Leslie
Chappell, S.
Davies, C. (killed in action)
Davies, Phyllis
Dingwall, F. (killed in action)
Dingwall, S.
Davidson, W.
Davidson, C.
Dotton, C.
Edwards, E.
Flathery, L. C.

Fairbrother, Frank
Forsyth, Leslie
Forsyth, George
Forsyth, John
Forsyth, William
Forsyth, Jack
Gould, William
Gordon, A.
Hamre, H.
Jenkins, E.
Jackson, W. (missing)
Jones, C.
Kuzyk, Fred
Lake, Gladys
Larson, George
Maxfield, Ken
Mohr, Jack
Mohr, Ted
McNab, Don
McNab, Glen
Mills, E.
McCabe, W.

Mullins, Fred
Nelson, Alex
Nelson, W.
Nickafor, John
Peat, T.
Purdy, R.
Pezderic, J. E.
Potts, Bertha
Robinson, C.
Reid, M.
Reid, G.
Rice, H. (prisoner of war)
Souster, E.
Smithers, R.
Turner, G.
Turner, H.
Thue, K.
Warr, Gordon
Wellwood, R.
Westad, Norman
Wetlauffer, B.
Tripp, D.

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Reginald and Mary Ann Ballard

travelling to the San Francisco World's Fair in 1939 he suffered a heart attack and passed away at the age of 35.

Lillian May, born in 1905, attended school until she was about 15 years of age, when her mother's illness compelled her to remain at home to help care for her. She worked in Baldwin's General Store in Asquith for a short period of time, until she married Marshall Andrews in October, 1930. She passed away in May, 1970 at the age of 64. They had five daughters, Shirley, Dorothy, Jean, Marlene and Joan.

Grace, born in 1908 taught at Dunfermline School before marrying Victor Pinchbeck in January, 1929 and they resided in Saskatoon. They had one daughter, Marion, also one grandson and one granddaughter. Vic passed away in December, 1963 and Grace in September, 1969 at the age of 61. Their daughter, Marion and her husband live on a farm east of Saskatoon.



Grace (Ballard) Pinchbeck, George Ballard, Lillian (Ballard) Andrews.

A younger brother of Reginald's, George Ballard, who might be remembered by some, came west about 1926. For some time he lived on the Andrews farm south of Hawoods, where he took great pride in his gardening and looking after the chickens and turkeys. George passed away Jan. 27, 1961 at the age of 78.

REV. and MRS. J. M. BAXTER

In 1939, Rev. and Mrs. Baxter and family moved to Asquith to pastor the Asquith Baptist Church. Mrs. Pearl Baxter was the daughter of W. G. Ashdown and was born on the homestead south of Asquith in 1904 and lived in Asquith until 1921.

The Baxters had four sons, John, presently pastoring the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Saskatoon; Gordon, who is regional Superintendent of Schools in Weyburn; George is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Regina, and David is Superintendent of Schools in Odessa.

The family moved from Asquith in 1943. Mrs. Baxter passed away in 1973 and Mr. Baxter continues to reside in Vancouver to this date.



Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Baxter and family, 1943

ALBERT and MARGARET BEIRNES

I, Cliff Davidson, submit this in memory of my grandparents, Albert and Maggie Beirnes, early pioneers of the Asquith district.

Albert was born Aug. 5, 1872 in Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the eldest son of Irish parents Sam and Mary Beirnes. Maggie was born in 1866 in the town of Palmerston, Ont., one of five girls born to Mr. and Mrs. E. Case. The Case and Beirnes families later moved to the Muskoka country of Ontario. It was there that Albert and Maggie met and were married at Ace Lake, Ont. on Aug. 10, 1893. Maggie's dad and mother moved west in 1893 and settled in the Warman district.

In 1894 Albert and Maggie came to Saskatchewan and I presume it was because of the location of their relatives that they came to the Saskatoon and Warman area. They

did not take a homestead at this time, but spent the next two years working in the area then decided to return to Ontario. Their first child Ethel, was born in 1895.

They lived for the next seven years, farming in the summer and logging in the winter. Three more children were born making a total of four, two boys and two girls.

In 1903 they returned to Saskatchewan and filed on a homestead, SE 22-36-10-W3 four miles west and two miles south of Asquith. Later Ed Beirnes, a younger brother of Albert's, homesteaded the southwest quarter of that same section. Albert and his cousin John built similar houses on their adjoining farms. These houses stood on a hill about 200 yards apart, Johnnie's to the north, Albert's to the south. The wagon trail used by settlers going further west passed between these two houses. These houses were 30 miles from Saskatoon, about a one day drive with team and wagon. Because of their location and the hospitality of the Beirnes family, who were never known to turn anyone away, their houses became great stopping places and landmarks to the settlers moving further west. They were always referred to as the two houses on the hill. Today my grandparents' house is gone, but John Beirnes' house still stands five miles west of Asquith and about a quarter of a mile south of Highway No. 14.

As the years rolled by their farm grew and prospered. They purchased more land. They had a large herd of cattle and horses, a threshing machine, a car and were planning to build a new home, but Grandpa never lived to see it. He died in 1926, at the age of 55.

Their son George, who was 24 years old, took over the farm. He built the new home on the SW 23-36-10-W3. In December, 1928, George and his mother moved into the new house. I was quite young at the time, but I remember how proud and happy my grandmother was of that new house. My grandmother did not live long to enjoy the luxury of that home, for which she had waited so long and worked so hard. She passed away in 1930 at the age of 64.

There were five children born to the Beirnes.

Ethel was born in 1895. She married Earl Marlatte and they had three children, Muriel, Clarence and Raymond who still live in Saskatoon. Ethel died in 1973.

Celia was born in 1897. She married Francis (Frank) Davidson in 1917.

George was born in 1902. He remained a bachelor and farmed the land until 1976, then retired to Asquith. He enjoys good health, and spends most of his time hunting and fishing.

Ada was born in 1905 and died in 1905.

The land that my grandparents homesteaded and bought still remains within the family and forms part of the farm owned by their great-grandsons, Gordon, Lee and Glen Davidson, sons of Wesley and Pat Davidson.

RICHARD and DEBRA BONEBRAKE

Richard and Debra Bonebrake came to Asquith in May of 1979 from Saskatoon. Although having no ties here, we chose to move our mobile home into the trailer court because not only was there a vacancy for us, we also noted the cleanliness and the friendliness of this little town.

Dick was born in San Francisco, California, eldest of two sons born to Frank and Bernice Bonebrake. Frank was stationed at the Navy base there at the time.

Although I was born in Saskatoon, the youngest of two children born to Henry and Victoria Koschinsky, I was raised on our farm at Jansen, 97 miles east of the city. My father, only child of Joseph and Bernatina Koschinsky, was born and raised on a farm at Jansen and still farms there today. My mother, Victoria, born to Anton and Sophie Smith at Wynyard, was also raised on a farm and lived there until her marriage to my father in 1951.

Before moving to Saskatchewan in 1973, Dick spent four years in the U.S. Armed Forces, two of those years overseas in France and Germany. When discharged, he became interested in printing, and as an offset web pressman found work in Saskatoon. Meanwhile, I had attended R.C.S. in Saskatoon and we met in 1974 while both were employed at a print shop there.

In July, 1976 we were married and in July, 1977, had a son, Rory. By that time, Dick had left printing to follow up on a long-time hobby and dream. As an electronics technician, a field he had trained for in the forces, and with a little updating, he opened a repair shop and went into business. This brings us to our move to Asquith in 1979 and the birth of our daughter Wendy, in July. Meanwhile, not only was our family growing, but the business as well, so justified our move to 10 - 401 Pakwa Place in the Airport Industrial Area of that city.

We have come to enjoy life in this little town of Asquith and it is home for our children.

JAMES BORTHWICK

by Margaret Atherton

Adam Glover Borthwick - 1838-1930 - born on Prince Edward Island of Scottish parents came in May, 1903 with his two children Robert and James Russell to the SW of 14-36-10-W3. Robert filed on NW 14 and Russell on NE 10. In August of 1903 his wife Sarah (English) joined them.

He built a two storey log house on the homestead and later moved it to Sec. 15. They remained there until their death and are buried in Wheatfield Cemetery. Mr. Borthwick enjoyed reading and the grandchildren remember Mrs. Borthwick for her homemade bread and butter with brown sugar topping and also the tea that went with it, which they weren't allowed at home.

Ruthilda And District Community Organizations

Today, as in past years, the life blood of a community is its organizations. These in turn depend upon the people who make up their membership. Perhaps today, with our decreasing population and tendency towards centralization, it is even more true than in the past that we depend upon those of the surrounding districts to support these organizations. They must be a melting pot of all the districts. Some have given way to the sands of time, others have maintained their appeal and continue to function viably.


Royal Canadian Legion and Veterans Club

The first branch of the organization was formed, in 1919, with members from Kelfield, Ruthilda, and Springwater. It was known as the Great War Veteran's Association. A re-organization took place in 1925, when the name was changed to the Kelfield Branch of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.

Some of the presidents, down through the years, have been: R.C. Weese, Roy Sanders, J. McKenzie, L.J. Chase, M.M., F. Freeman, V. Winfield, T. Perry, E.J. Herbert, F. Radford, B.J. McLennon, C. Leckie, C. Carbin, Jas. Bruce, Jas. Devlin, L. Benedict, G. Nelson, H. Leckie, R.E. Carter.

Some interesting personalities were mentioned by the Legion members. L.J. Chase was the Provincial Secretary of the Legion. Frank Freeman was the Past President of the Prairie Command. R.C. Weese was a member of the Provincial Executive (incidentally, he served as the local secretary for years). James Bruce was a friend of Lord Tweedsmuir, whom he met during the Boer War. Two of these men were awarded medals: H.R. Carter, the B.E.M., and L.J. Chase, the Military Medal.

The Veterans, through their legion, have been very active in this district. Remembrance Day services were held each year in the churches of Springwater, Kelfield, and Ruthilda, as well as



Sack Command

R-265556A-*Hinchliff* & B.

has been accepted as an Active Service Associate member of the Canadian Legion, and is entitled to the use of Branch facilities.

Kelfield Branch
Ho Weese Legion Officer

J.H. Murray General Secretary
Dominion Command

SUBJECT TO PROVINCIAL LICENSING LAWS AND TO REGULATIONS GOVERNING LEGION BRANCHES

Handel. On Coronation Day they sponsored, jointly with other Branches in the Biggar Unit, a rally in the town of Biggar. Poppies, the proceeds from the sale of which is used to help disabled veterans, were sold each fall. Veterans were prominent in local sports days and in curling tournaments. An inter-town curling trophy was provided for them. Trophies were donated to calf clubs of Grassdale and Handel by the Legion. In addition, contributions were made, by the Legion, to many worthy organizations, throughout the area.

No district in Saskatchewan can have such a fine record as has this group without having a number of casualties. Those who were killed overseas were: S. Miller, L. Devlin, K. Beilby, P. Lunt and Edgar Shay.

The History of this Branch is a history of four wars: The Boer War, The First Great War, The Second World War, and the Korean War. It is hoped that this account will recall to many the sacrifices made by these men, and will cause these men to reminisce and look back to those days when, with their buddies, they fought battles of democracy.

The Ruthilda Legion Branch ceased to exist in the late 50's due to decreased membership. Many of the men continued with the Kelfield Branch.

HONOR ROLL

BOER WAR	Booth, A.A. Broley, J.R. Baines, E. Beirnes, G. Benedict, P.	Davies, G.F. Dorholt, N. Dowson, Rev. Devlin, J. Downie, G.	Gould, B. Gould, G. Griffith, M. Humphrey, F. Harding, W. Hetherington, J.	Jackson, L.M. Loaring, R.A. Larson, C. LeBlanc, L. Luce, P.
WORLD WAR I	Collinson, P.F. Chase, L.J. Chilton, J.E. Carbin, C. Clean, S. Carroll, G.	Eyers, V. Freeman, F. Fraser, A. Faucett, D. Godbout, E. Graham, E. Gamble, P.	Herbert, J. Hewworth, W. Hardman, W. Hart, J. Irvin, G. Jackson, H.	McLeod, N. McKenzie, J. Marshall, M. McLennon, J.B. McFadyen, E. McFadyen, R. McFadyen, W. McMillan, D.
	Burns F. Bethune, W.	Diggle, T. Downey, A.S.		

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Family Histories

SASKATCHEWAN'S GREATNESS

What makes thee great, our Province?
This not thy country's vast expanse,
Which by a kindly providence
Has now become our heritage.

Tis not thy mountains, towering grand,
Which o'er the plain grim vigil keep;
Nor mighty rivers rushing deep
Through rocky gorge, or fruitful land.

Tis not thy wealth of lake or mine,
Nor yet thy fields of golden grain
The thousand cattle on thy plain
All nature's blessings most benign.

Tis not thy cities nor thy towns,
Nor other feats by man achieved;
Great things by master minds conceived,
Which bring fair measure of renown.

True, these are great in lesser sense,
As marked by finite mind of man,
But measured by the infinite,
How paltry they, in vain pretense!

But tis our sons and daughters are
The greatest asset we possess,
Greater than all else we profess,
E'en as the sun transcends the star.

For built are they in sturdy mold,
And nurtured near to Nature's heart,
From subtle graces she imparts
May strong and fruitful lives unfold.

God grant as we this vision see,
Wisdom to guide their untried feet,
That with true principles replete
A righteous nation we may be.

Catharine Finnen

FRANK AYLWARD

I was born, third of a family of seven, in Prince Edward Island, and was raised on a farm, south of Duperow, in the Caputh school district. I joined the Army and achieved the rank of Captain.

Donalda Clark, my wife, was raised on a farm north of Duperow, in the Dulmah school district. She was the fourth in a family of five. We were married, in 1951, and have four children.

Adele, (Mrs. Doug McLeod) lives on a farm near Plenty.

Andy works and lives in Calgary.

Les Works in Saskatoon and also helps with the farming.

Leonard is going to high school at Notre Dame College, in Wilcox, Saskatchewan.

Since 1951, we have lived on the former Tom Clemence farm, in the Rowena district. For the past 14 years, we have lived in Plenty during the winter months. We have never had a winter road to our farm.

THE BARTUSEK FAMILY

My father and mother moved to the United States, from Czechoslovakia, in the year of 1906. After two years, they moved to a homestead at Broderick, Saskatchewan, where they were blessed with four sons and two daughters. Mother passed away with the flu, in 1918. Later, Dad remarried and they had a daughter.

In 1930, we moved to the Herschel district, and I married Annie T. Simpson, the daughter of Andrew and Annie Simpson who farmed in the Herschel district. I worked around the area until we moved to Strome, Alberta. In the spring of 1937, we moved to George Krivok's place, where we bought land, in the Dixonville district, in 1938. There, two of our daughters were born, Shirley and Darlene.

In the fall of 1946, we moved back to the Herschel district, and in the spring, our youngest daughter, Lorraine Joyce, was born. I worked for a farmer, Zeb Foursha, in the Wiggins district, until the summer of 1951, when we moved to the farm in the Rowena district, NE 23-33-17 W3, where we now reside.

In 1953, I was hired to drive a school bus, for the Rosetown School Unit, which I am presently still doing. Our eldest daughter, Shirley, married Gordon Dupuis, a Rowena district farmer. They have three children, Gerry, Sherry, and Sandra.

Darlene married Rick Lappa, of Saskatoon, where they presently live with their three children, Scott, Jason, and Tanya.

Our youngest daughter, Lorraine, married Eugene Pflieger, of Watrous. They live in Saskatoon and have three children, Trevor, Gina, and Tamzen.

Sister in Martin Johnson

THE GORDON BEIRNES FAMILY

John Gordon Beirnes was born at Rosseau, Ontario, on May 7, 1897. He came to Saskatoon with his parents at the age of one year. They homesteaded the quarter section where City Hospital is now located. After one year, they moved to the Warman area where they farmed until moving to the Springwater area, in 1915. They again broke up the prairie with the help of oxen.

In 1917, Gordon went to war, returning in 1919, when he started farming for himself in the Ruthilda district. In 1922, he married Eunice Thomson, of the Lydden (Duperow) district. They have five children: Viola, Gertrude, Joy, Harry and Fred. They continued farming, in the Ruthilda area,

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and the family attended Ruthilda School and Church.

In the fall of 1939, with the need of a livery team, in Ruthilda, and not looking forward to the twice-a-day, seven mile trips to town for school, we rented a house and barn, in town, for the winter — took the milk cows, chickens and "Scout and Grace", the high spirited sorrel team of horses, to drive the livery, with us.

Gordon and the ponies travelled many miles each winter, taking travellers from town to town...the veterinarian from farm to farm to test the cattle for T.B....the P.F.A. man on his route...and many a Friday night, they were on the road again, taking a load of town folks to a dance at Rose, Beehive, Grassdale, Daisy Hill or Glengarry Schools to dance away the night.

After several years of the fall and spring moves, they purchased the lot where Archie Pritchard's "Blacksmith Shop" had been. With the help of Jim Patterson's moving equipment from Stranraer, the house from the farm was moved to town, the livery barn was rented and the draying business taken on.

The draying business was, meeting the train at the station and hauling the groceries and supplies to the store, etc. in town, or unloading a carload of coal to the sheds or filling the coal bins around town. Another team of horses was needed for this job. These were bigger horses and very "peppy"; they really did "show their oats" and tender loving care. They would run away at the drop of a hat, or any excuse at all. There was never much damage done, but they surely created some excitement and left a very frustrated Gordon standing where they had been.



Fred, Joy, Harry, Viola, Gordon and Eunice Beirnes and Gertrude.

Through the years, the "house of the hill", has always been a busy place. A home away from home in the winter time for some of the country high schoolers, and after Pat Benedict moved to Ontario, the stool in the kitchen was the spot where many a haircut was given, by Gordon.

The front porch windows are always a warming

sight, in the winter, for chilly passers-by, with geraniums and other house plants blooming their best, a testimony to Eunice's "green thumb". Many a plant slip went home with a visiting neighbour lady or friend after a cup of tea.

Eunice and Gordon were always willing workers for the community. He has served on the school and church boards and the town council. Eunice has served the U.C.W., was a C.G.I.T. and Mission leader, and taught the beginners Sunday School class. I wonder if she and Gladys McLeod have any idea how many pies they have cut at the annual Fowl Suppers!

Harry lives at Ruthilda and farms the Beirnes' land.

Fred married Geraldine Joyal, of Meadow Lake, on January 3, 1964, and they have three children: Sheila, Tracy, and Brent. Fred manages the Cadillac, Saskatchewan, Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, and shares his Dad's love of horses. He raises and works a small number of horses with the help of his family.

THE BENEDICT FAMILY

Russel (Pat) Benedict homesteaded around Ruthilda and joined the Army in World War I. On returning after the war, he rented the hotel from Pat Boone; it burned to the ground a few years later.

In 1927 or '28, he built the present hotel, later adding on the Pool Room, which later became the Beer Parlor. Pat was town barber for some time; he had a chair set up in the front of the hotel. He was well known for his stories and it was said — the longer the story, the shorter the haircut. Those who wanted only a trim, had to give fair warning.

He had a family of four: Bud; Robert(Bob), who served in WWII; Lawrence, who served in WWII and returned to Ruthilda for a time when he served as postmaster; and Jean, who married Wes Freethy and later, Hector Smith.

Spike Benedict operated the bar in Ruthilda for some time and was known for his house painting and paper hanging as well. He was a bachelor.

Jesie May Benedict, sister to Spike and Pat, married Stan McFadyen, in 1917.

—submitted by Viola Waddington

LEON BOISVERT

Leon Boisvert and Mary McGlaughlin were married on July 23, 1930, and lived in the Camberley and Kingsland districts, near Rosetown. They came to the Daisy Hill District in the spring of 1939, and in 1960, bought land in the Rowena District near where they were living.

In the fall of 1967, they retired from farming and moved to Biggar, Saskatchewan. Leo, as he was mostly known, passed away July 23, 1972. Mary still lives in their home on 4th Avenue West, in Biggar.

They had one girl, Doris, who is now Mrs. Ron Rawson. They reside with their three boys in the Kingsland district.

Their son, Melvin, married Marion Boyde, of

ONTARIO

Reirnes, Harold M - William Ferguson

July 27/1852, Wellington
Guelph

Quebec

~~Aug~~ 8318180 - Ser Sht 49

William Fuller / Matilda Black May 10/1831

Quebec

A 458460 - Ser Sht 036

CEC & IDA REIRNES
4 KIDS

ON (BACHELOR (EVERETT))

ON (adopted) m. to VIRGINIA * 3 KIDS

ORLA (STEPHENS) m. to BILL STEPHENS

ON (deceased) m. to NANCY (now remarried)

3 KIDS

SUZANNE KNUTSON m DOUG

3 KIDS

CRYSTAL KIRKPATRICK m. KEVIN

3 KIDS

Tony (deceased)

ROBERT 1/3/53

Adopted & 1 Natural child

SANDY KAISER (6 Children)

SUSAN BURRIS (Utah)

TWIN GIRLS & 1 SON