

## 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.

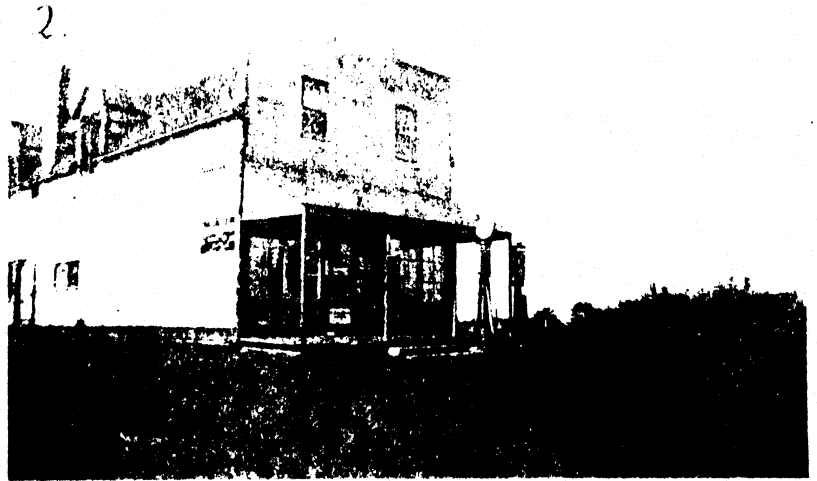
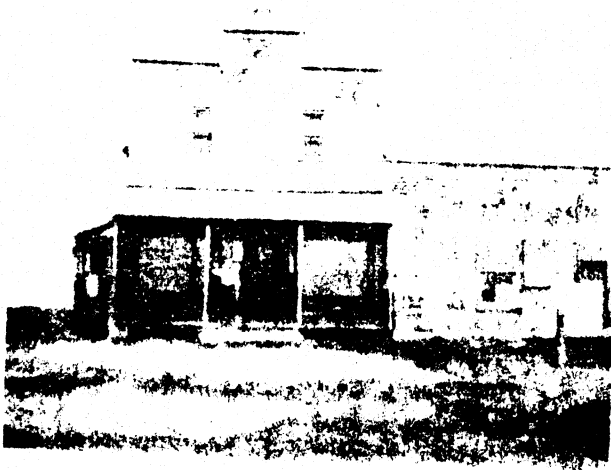
Note: Back to Mrs. Suter's diary again:

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.)

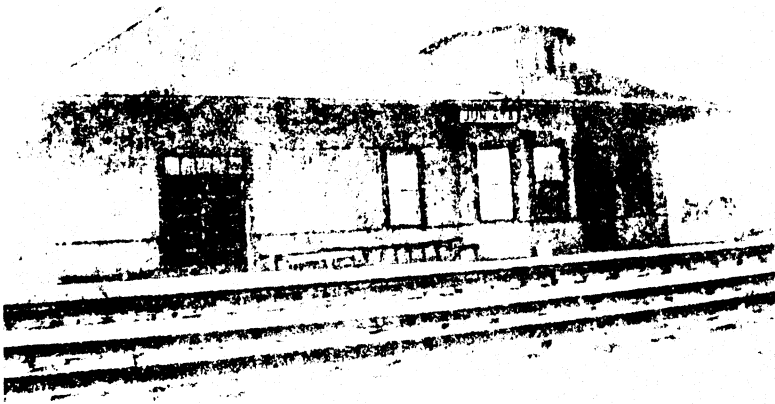
Prior to this, neighbours used to bring one another's mail from Saskatoon until Asquith was built on the Canadian Pacific Railway, five miles distant and where we had a mailbox at the Post Office. We picked up the mail when we took our butter to exchange for groceries.

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



General Store



G.T.P. Store Station  
Grand Trunk Pacific

- 1. George & May Sadler  
storekeepers  
1910 -
- 2. General Store
- 3. Part of Juniata

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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' <sup>Henry - Beirnes only</sup> 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.

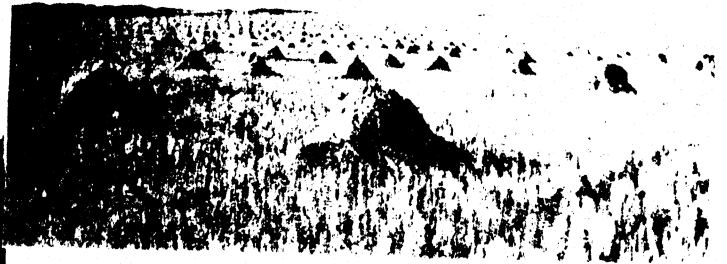
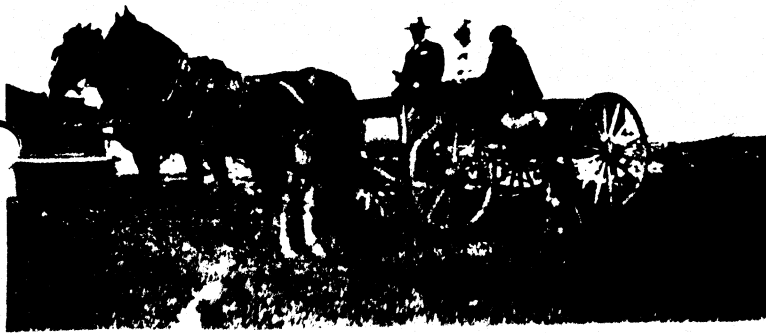
So much has been written about the first World War. To us it meant more and more letters edged in black for so many of Sam's and Ellen's relatives had joined up but didn't return.

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*Sam & Emily 1911 or 1912*

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



*wheat field*



*Sam  
Ellen  
Emily  
Harold  
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. *James*  
 Beimes, J. H. *Clint.*  
 Beimes, C.  
 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  
Wettlaufer, 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 grandpa-nter, 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 Boar 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

*The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League*

*Sack* Command

R-265564A *Hinchliff* N.H.

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

*Kelfield* Branch  
*Leo Weese* Legion Officer

*J.M. Harris* 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

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

## 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 1912, 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 are,

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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