

FAFARD, Armand And Laurette

Armand Fafard was born on May 6, 1897, in St. Germain de Grantham, Quebec. His wife, Laurette Beauregard, was born on November 11, 1900, in Windsor Mills, Quebec. They were married on December 12, 1922, in St. Victor, Saskatchewan.

Armand arrived West with his parents at Grayson, Saskatchewan, in 1907, where he grew up. He was called for duty in the army during the First World War but didn't go overseas.

In 1920 he bought a quarter section of land near St. Victor. He sold this quarter and in 1922 rented land south of Assiniboia; three years later he bought a half-section near the rented land. The family lived in Lisieux and Lebret but came back to Scout Lake in the spring of 1945. He had the dray business, was school janitor and mail courier. Laurette was the postmistress. They retired to Assiniboia in August of 1966.

Fafard's had a family of three children. Armance, Lucien and Anita (deceased).

When the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1974, Mr. Fafard was awarded a plaque in honor of his charter membership.

Mr. Fafard passed away May 25, 1976; Mrs. Fafard lives in Assiniboia Pioneer Village and enjoys her retiring years.

FAFARD, Emile And Marie-Anne

Emile was born in St. Germain, P.Q. in 1902. In 1907 he came to Grayson, Sask. He spent the years from 1924 to 1926 at Assiniboia. In 1926 he homesteaded at Lisieux where he remained until 1929 when he moved to the Twin Valley district.

Marie-Anne Verville was born in Marleval where she resided until her marriage to Emile. They were married by Father Carriere, in the Roman Catholic church in Marieval in 1925.

They lived in the Twin Valley district where they farmed and had the post office until it closed in 1964.

In 1968 they retired to the town of Assiniboia, Emile is still busy going out to the farm to help his sons with odd jobs.

FARNHAM, Walter And Paula

Walter Farnham was born at Milbank, South Dakota in 1902. He had two brothers and two sisters. The family immigrated to Canada in 1904 to Oxbow. Four years later, in 1908, his father died and the family returned to the United States, living with his grandmother and uncle on a farm.

In 1911 they returned to Canada, a mother with five children all under the age of ten years. They were met at Lang, Saskatchewan, by an aunt and uncle. His mother and youngest brother remained there, as she cooked on a threshing crew. The rest of the family came to the Little Woody district, staying with their aunt and uncle. Their mother and brother joined them after harvest. They stayed with their relatives about two years. His mother proved up a homestead his father had claimed before he died and one for herself. They lived there and she taught at Little Woody School, which was held one year in a small house, and later in the proper school building.

Walter's mother re-married in 1916. In 1918 he took over his mother's farm and began his career as a farmer at the age of sixteen.

In 1920, Walter got his first car for six hundred dollars. It came equipped with two seats, side curtains, a crank and high and low speed. It was shifted by foot as there were no gear shifts then. With such a vehicle, Walter was ready to go courting.

Paula Farnham was the daughter of Maria and John Dighans. She came to Canada from Goch, Germany in 1924, with her parents, three sisters and one brother. She was one of two sets of

twins in the family. They came to Verwood, Saskatchewan, being met by an uncle, who took them to stay with him and his family on a farm southwest of Rockglen. They stayed for almost a year. They then moved to Peerless, Montana for a short time. Mr. Dighans was a carpenter by trade and obtained work at Scobey. In 1925, they returned to Canada, to a farm north of Constance. Mr. Dighans farmed some, but did carpenter work in Regina to make extra money. He did a lot of work there in 1926 and 1927.

In 1928 Paula met Walter.

Walter and Paula were married on August 5, 1930 in Fife Lake. They lived on Walter's farm, northeast of Constance. Their two daughters, Marie (Mrs. Niels Hansen) and Donna (Mrs. Gordon Mattson) were born while they lived and farmed there.

In 1939 they moved west of Rockglen and farmed rented land, as well as the land at Constance.

Clara (Mrs. Ernest Hansen) came to live with them, at the age of five, when her mother became ill. At age seven when she lost her mother, she became a part of the family and grew up in their home.

In 1945 they purchased the farm that Niels and Marie now own and farmed there until moving into Rockglen in 1952. They continued to farm just outside Rockglen and at Constance until they sold their farm at Constance in 1967, and retired.

Their home, family and farm were their main interests. They especially lived to dance and would rarely be seen sitting out a dance at the many dances they were able to attend.

FERTICH, Joseph And Elizabeth

The corn had to be hilled higher, the land owner complained! Jobs were scarce; pay was small; a meager field lunch of cheese and bread: a family to support – it was all too much! That day in 1900 Joseph Fertich and his wife Elizabeth, made a decision.

The only cow was sold and, with enough money, Joseph left his homeland of Hungary for the nearest ocean port to buy a ticket to America – the land of freedom and opportunity.

Thirty-two days later he arrived at New York with only seventy-five cents in his pocket and no knowledge of the English language. But some money was necessary for an unsponsored immigrant to remain. A Russian man, whom Joseph had befriended on the ship, came to his rescue. The man had seventy-five dollars and, after having passed through customs himself, he lent the money to Joseph and he too safely entered into a new country.

Barbering was Joseph's trade, so he was fortunate to be shown to a shop in need of a barber. He met the employer – the first black man he had ever seen. Nervously he displayed his talents by giving the man a shave. There he remained, working and living with his family for eighteen dollars a week, until enough money had been saved for a ticket to Winnipeg, where he started his own barber shop.

In 1903, Elizabeth Fertich with their two sons, Matt and Joseph Jr., arrived in Winnipeg. Shortly after their arrival disaster struck! Joseph Jr., five years old, died of diphtheria; however, the routine of everyday living had to go on, and there was the task of settling a family into a new land. In 1905 Annie, now Mrs. Percy Patterson, was born.

The dream of being a land owner was strong amongst many new Canadians and the Fertichs were no exception. In the early spring of 1910 they loaded their belongings on a train which took them as far as Rouleau. There they collected their possessions into a horse-drawn wagon and, in the company of Mrs. Fertich's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Spies and their three sons, Joseph (with his wife Katie), John and Paul, headed for Willow Bunch.

After the slowness and discomfort of a long journey, the 'city' of Willow Bunch, as Mr. Fertich had called it, was quite a disappointment. This small settlement could hardly fit the description!

In May 1910 they reached their homestead, now the home of the Herschel Knoss'. A few days later on May 10th the family, living in a tent, experienced a three-day snow storm.

The business of homesteading meant long, weary hours — a soddie had to be built and land had to be broken. Gradually permanent barns and granaries were built, as well as a new house.

In 1927 Joseph built a beer store in the newly incorporated town of Rockglen. The following year he and his wife moved into town. Their son Matt worked the farm until the drier years of the thirties, when the land was left unfarmed. Then daughter Annie and her husband lived and worked the farm for several years.

Joseph died in 1934 at age sixty-seven. Elizabeth died in 1954 at age seventy-eight. Both were buried on the northeast corner of their homestead 'quarter'. It first began as a family plot when Joseph's parents died in 1915 first his mother, then six weeks later, his father. Other relatives and neighbors were buried there and soon it became the Rockglen Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Their son, Matt, died in British Columbia in 1959. Annie and her husband, Percy, are residing on their farmstead southwest of Rockglen.

FESER, Fredrick And Anna

Fredrick Feser was born in Russia, December 12, 1883 and moved to Romania with his parents when he was three months old. He came to Canada in 1902 and worked as a farm laborer in the Winnipeg district for two years. He then moved to Linton, North Dakota, where he took up a homestead and remained there until 1924 when he came to Assiniboia. He rented a farm south west of Assiniboia and lived there for nine years.

He was predeceased by his first wife, the former Anna Marshall, in 1927. In 1928, he married the former Magdalena Hausser.

Mr. and Mrs. Feser moved to Scout Lake where they farmed from 1934-36. Next they moved to the Coal Creek Bench where they resided until retiring to Assiniboia in 1963.

Son, Edmund, and daughter, Pauline (Mrs. John Hepper) reside about twenty miles west of Rockglen. Daughter, Hilda Gleask, is at Terry, Montana. Two step- sons, John and Fred Williams are in B.C. The five step-daughters and Mrs. Jack Ellis of Coledale, Alberta; Mrs. Bertha Mielke of Killdeer, Mrs. Lily Brown. High River. Alberta; Mrs. Emma Sutter of Swift Current and Mrs. Martha Biffart, Kelowna, B.C. Five children died in infancy. Son, Edwin was killed overseas in 1944. Son, Arthur (Art) passed away in 1971.

FISHER, John And Annie

Mr. John Fisher was born in 1894 in Czechoslovakia. The government sent out books to the old country, which described the life in Canada. It showed pictures of sod houses and it said that they needed people in Canada. This is what encouraged Mr. Fisher to come to Canada in 1913. He came over by boat. When he got here, he worked around Assiniboia for two or three years.

Mrs. Annie Fisher was born in 1900, in Czechoslovakia and came to Canada in 1906. She traveled with relatives, by boat, then to Regina, by train. On the boat, everyone seemed to be sea sick except her. She can remember a little boy, about her age, trying to push her over the boat. She has been afraid of the water ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were married on August, 15, 1917, in Assiniboia. They homesteaded in the Scout Lake area.

In the 1930's they lived in a fourteen by fourteen foot granary. At that time they had four children. At the end of the 30's they had eight children. They received twelve dollars a month for food and sixty a month for clothes, from the government.

The closest doctor was in Assiniboia. It was very seldom that they needed him, as neighbor women helped with the births.

During the thirties, Eaton's company would write to the school and ask the teacher how many girls and boys she taught. Then they would send stockings, mittens, scarves and toques.

When threshing time came, a crew would come and thresh for the farmer. The crew would stay at the place and the lady of the house would have to cook for all of them. The crew would charge ten cents a bushel for wheat, seven cents a bushel for oats, and thirty cents a bushel for flax. There were not too many dances but there were lots of house parties. They went to picture shows, circuses and rodeos in Assiniboia.

They bought their first car a 49 Chevy, in 1923 or 1924.

Mrs. Fisher raised chickens and took them to Assiniboia to sell them. She took eighteen and sold twelve for thirty-five cents each. She came back with six chickens. No one could afford them.

One time Mrs. Fisher thought she saw a coyote on a hill about one quarter of a mile away. It looked as if it was eating one of her turkeys. She got her husband to get his gun and shoot it. Well he aimed and shot. The look on Mrs. Fisher's face, when he missed, was one of great relief, for if he had shot straight, he would have killed their milk cow.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher presently reside in Rockglen.

FLUTO, Reuben And Tessie – by Tessie Fluto

Reuben Fluto was born in Northwood, Iowa. He came to Canada in 1911 with his parents and settled in the Verwood district.

In 1914 he proved up land west of Scout Lake, paying ten dollars for the homestead and ten dollars for the pre-emption. He was required to stay on the farm for two months of each year, and break ten acres of land each year. At first he lived in a tar paper shack. In 1917 he was drafted into the Army and served in Siberia.

I was born in Regina in 1913 and moved to Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, in 1923 with my parents, the Carl Chaloupkas. I met Reuben when I was working for George Agers, and we were married in 1933.

Times were hard when we were first married. We sat on apple boxes and ate off a rough home-made table. Dust storms came with clouds of dust and thistles rolling through the air. We turned our plates upside down until we were ready to eat. We could not afford to drive our Model T Ford, so made it into a Bennett buggy.

Relief hay, vegetables, dried fish and beans were shipped in by train. (The dried fish are still soaking). We hauled relief lignite coal from the Kirby mine, and chopped trees for firewood. The horses were worked every other day because of the lack of feed, and in the winter they roamed the prairies. When we had to go to town for groceries, one day was spent looking for the horses and the next day we journeyed into town.

The mail came in by train once a week, on Thursdays. Everyone went to the station to meet the train just to see who and what came off. Our closest neighbors were the Ado Sykoras and the Mike Pilsners.

The barn dances were enjoyable events. We climbed the ladder to the hay loft, paid ten cents admission, and danced to the music of the Pilsner orchestra. The chickens roosted below; see

we had to keep moving or the mites would eat us up. There was lots of home brew around which sold for fifty cents a beer bottle.

Other evenings were spent reading, sewing, and making quilts. We made dresses out of flour sack, and dyed them different colors.

Our two sons, Lester and Kenneth, were born when we lived on the farm. One fall when Lester was three years old, he got lost. We found him sleeping in the wheat field. Kenneth was born in the spring and I came home with him on the train. The water was running and the ducks were flying back from the south. We drove home with this wee bundle over rough and slushy roads in a wagon. Shirley, the youngest, was born eight years after Kenneth.

The distance to Hay Meadow School and poor roads forced us to move to Scout Lake in 1945. We farmed from town, traveling back and forth on the tractor. We kept a couple of milk cows, and raised a few chickens and pigs.

In 1960 we retired and rented our land to neighbors. Reuben passed away in 1962. I worked in the Scout Lake Co-op store for thirteen years. I still live in Scout Lake, occasionally work in the store, and enjoy my garden.

FORSYTH – Walter and Mary

The Walter J. Forsyths emigrated from Jamestown, North Dakota, in 1906, with their son Walter (Pat), and married daughter Elsie (Mrs. Jay Heagy). Their daughters Minerva (Mrs. George Allingham), Sarah (Mrs. Jack Allingham) and their husbands had settled in Oxbow earlier.

The Forsyths settled briefly at Oxbow, Saskatchewan, then moved within the year, to the Little Woody district, south of Willow Bunch.

There they took up a homestead and began the arduous task of building their home. Lumber had to be hauled by team and wagon from Moose Jaw. Each trip took several days which was some time before they finally had their home livable.

In 1907, Mrs. Forsyth became postmistress of Little Woody Post Office. Mrs. Forsyth did most of the mail hauling to and from Willow Bunch, the only town south of Moose Jaw. Her trips took her to Kentanville, Lacordaire and Borderland districts as well as many others.

In the summer it was mosquitoes, horse flies and thunderstorms that made Mrs. Forsyth's life exciting; in winter it was cold, deep snow and blizzards.

Many times the blizzards were so thick she couldn't see anything; she would tie up the reins, cover herself with blankets and trust the horses to find their way home. They always brought her home safe and sound.

The Forsyths were well known for their hospitality. The Willow Bunch-Wood Mountain trail passed by their home; many were the travelers who stopped for meals and lodging.

In 1921, they gave up the post office and retired from farming. Their daughter Minerva and her second husband, George Carpenter, farmed the land until they moved north during the "dirty thirties".

The Forsyths settled in Constance, until ill-health forced them to move in with their son, Pat, and his wife, Florence. Mrs. Forsyth passed away in 1936 and Mr. Forsyth followed a few years later.

FRANK, Joseph And Mary – by Mike Frank

Joseph Frank was born in Illmitz, Austria in 1896.

In 1912, at the age of sixteen, he ventured to Canada. He went to live at Vibank, as some of his relations had immigrated there earlier. He worked on neighboring farms.

In 1913 he went to Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, and to Fort Walsh, Alberta. There he worked on some very large cattle ranches. As he was an avid admirer of horses he was kept busy riding the range (winter and summer), checking the fences and tending the cattle.

In 1916 he returned to Vibank and filed on a homestead. He was fortunate to rent the adjoining land which had a two storey house, long red barn and large garage. With the wages he had earned as a ranch foreman he purchased twelve horses, a plough, disk and seed drill. Summer fallowing was done by ploughing.

In 1918 he married Mary Diewold of Vibank.

In 1924 his nephew Martin Rauchwarter came from Austria to live with them.

In 1927 he sold some of the horses and bought a Model T. They loaded up their personal belongings along with their five youngsters and set out for Rockglen. The furniture and livestock were loaded on railway cars. Martin rode in the train and was caretaker of the livestock. We moved to the Max Diewold farm which was located a mile south of the Borderland school. Since there wasn't a house on this farm, we had to move into a granary, temporarily. Before we could settle in, we had to sweep out the grain and get rid of the mice. It was very crowded in that granary. It was either too hot or too cold. The best fuel, which the youngsters had to help collect, was cow chips and wood chips. Angelena and I attended Borderland School.

The next year Dad rented the Riley farm. We lived there until 1939. Our neighbors were Willy Knops, Joe Freise and Niels Gording. Now, Angelena, John and I attended Gladiolus school.

Martin and Dad worked on threshing crews besides farming our own land. The rest of us had to pump water with a wooden handled pump for the livestock. It was quite a tiresome task.

Dad and Martin built a barn in the side-hill with poles and straw. One day one of our best work horses fell through the roof. The only way they could free the horse was to cut down the poles. Incidentally, they had to haul a load of straw so the horse could land safely.

In 1930 we loaded our wagons and racks and set out for Bexhill, Saskatchewan. We trailed the livestock behind the wagons. Dad rented the Mooney land. Our neighbors were Hommonick's and Ike Waterton's. This time we attended Willow Beach School. Martin left us to venture on his own. He bought the Harry Hourrie place and settled there. Martin built himself a pole house. A few years later he bought the Eugene Delorme farm and moved there.

In 1933 we bought land between St. Victor and Scout Lake. We leased a lot of pasture land, also.

Our neighbors were Beauregard's, Beaubiens and Fontaines. Neighbors were a great asset. They were always eager to give a helping hand. They were all kind hearted with true western hospitality. The "thirties" were grim years but happy ones, since everyone was so understanding.

We built a new house southwest of Leo Delorme's farm. This house was moved to Rockglen and is still there today.

Five of us attended Maisonneuve School. We remember the severe thunder and lightning storms during the thirties but never any rain. Dust storms were very common.

In 1935 Dad bought the Theilen ranch. We expanded our cattle herd and tried our luck with sheep. We moved into a large two storey house. Mr. Theilen had built this home.

The last band of wild horses roamed the Theilen pastures. Eventually, we captured some and were able to tame a few. Some were outlaws. They were impossible to tame or train. We sold them as rodeo stock. These horses performed at Cave's Cove Rodeo at Rockglen. "Soak" Brown and Bobby Ogle were the bronc riders; Elmer Lamb was an all round cowboy plus an excellent pick up man.

In 1939 we bought a half ton Fargo truck. With the new truck, I had a steady job hauling friends and neighbors to the barn dances at Leon Kwasnicki's.

During this period Scout Lake was an active town. The train came in three times a week. Everyone came in to see the train and get the mail.

In 1939 we bought a house in Assiniboia. Mom, Mary, Pat and I lived there. Mary attended high school and I worked at J. B. Smith's garage.

In 1944 Dad bought the Matt Lang farm and moved to that location. Later, in 1968, he sold this quarter to Pat who now lives there with his family.

Joseph Frank, Sr. retired to Scout Lake in 1968 to the Halver Folkstead house which he had bought during the fifties.

In 1971 Martin retired to Scout Lake buying the house next door to Dad. Martin sold his farm to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Turiff, who are presently living there.

Joseph Frank, Sr. passed away in Scout Lake in 1972.

Martin Rauchwarter passed away in 1974.

Mom, (Mrs. Mary Frank) resided in Moose Jaw. The six children at present are: Angelena, Mike, John, Mary, Joe and Pat.

FRIESE, Joseph And Christina

Joseph Anton Friese Sr. was born in Pfalzdorf, Germany, on November 6, 1886. He had a trade as a harness maker and upholsterer in Germany, but when he was just a young man, he heard of the wonderful opportunities in Canada.

He booked passage on the (fatal) Titanic, but it was already filled, so he took its sister ship the Allen Line.

He landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 29, 1912. He then came to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where he worked building sidewalks, digging sewers and he helped to build the Robin Hood Mill.

He could speak no English, so found it very hard to communicate. In the fall of 1912, he went to Briercreech, Saskatchewan, to work, helping with the harvest, on a threshing crew. Then on November sixth he went back to Moose Jaw to thresh flax.

On November 30, 1912, he took a homestead thirteen and one-half miles southwest of Rockglen. He built a shack there in which to live.

In the early spring of 1913 he went back to Moose Jaw to work on the North Western Railway. There was an outbreak of typhoid fever and eight of his friends died.

In the late spring of 1913, he came back to the farm and broke his first ten acres of land to prove his homestead.

On August 5, 1913 a cyclone struck and blew away his homestead shack and caused damage everywhere.

In April of 1914, he went to Ogema, Saskatchewan and worked for Art George, helping to put the crop in and other farm work. In the fall he moved back to his farm to do his homestead duty.

In 1915, he went to Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan where he worked on a threshing crew. In the fall he came back to his farm.

While working out at various farms and jobs, he also learned the many ways of farming in Canada, as this kind of work was all very new to him and everything he could learn would help him in his own farming endeavors.

In the spring of 1916, he drove oxen for Harmon Jannsen, breaking land on his farm southwest of Rockglen and in the fall he went to work for Alfred Moen, working with a threshing crew.

In the spring of 1918, he worked with Andrew Von Heswick, on his own homestead. He had four oxen and Heswick had two horses. They broke sixty acres of land.

He rented his land out to Conrad Keller from 1921 to 1926. From 1921 to 1924 he worked for Anton Kaczmarski, saving his money to buy horses and machinery to do his own farming. He moved to W. J. (Loudie) Kaczmarski's in 1924 and stayed there until 1926, when he moved back to his homestead to live.

He married Christina Bartch on January 28, 1923, in Weyburn Saskatchewan. They had four children, one boy and three girls; Gloria born July 2, 1925, married John Franzen of Rockglen; Joseph Jr. was born on September 19, 1927. He married Evelyn Lins of Nelson, B.C. Deiphinia born July 21, 1931, married Philip Klee of Southey, Saskatchewan. Doris was born on November 14, 1931 and married Mirle Wiest of Maclean, Saskatchewan.

Christina was born at Maclean, Saskatchewan on June 5, 1903. Her family came from Viessell, Russia. When she was a very young girl, her family moved from Maclean to the Lacordaire district, where her father took up a homestead. Christina worked in Regina for several years, but is now retired and lives with her children, spending most of her time in British Columbia and Regina.

Joseph Jr. was born in house on the farm, which his father homesteaded. He bought the farm from his father and still farms this land, where he lives with his wife and family.

Joseph Sr. lived on the family farm until November, 1967, when he moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

In February 1973, he moved to the Pioneer Lodge in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. He passed away in the Assiniboia Hospital in 1975.