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GENERAL

*"Keep in touch with the folks at home"*

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE**  
with the  
**CANADIAN FORCES**

HEADQUARTERS  
30 ALBERT STREET  
TORONTO, ONT.

115 - 505 Donald Street,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

October 31st, 1944

Mr. J. Goodmanson,  
Selkirk,  
Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Goodmanson:

We sur with sincere regret, in the list of casualties from overseas, the report of the passing of your beloved son, Spr. Johannes Goodmanson.

In your hour of sorrow, we, The Salvation Army, join with your many friends in extending to you and yours our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that Divine help may be given to you.

We unite with you in grateful tribute to the memory of one who so gallantly made the supreme sacrifice so that others may live in Peace and Freedom.

May our Heavenly Father sustain and comfort you in your bereavement.

Yours very sincerely,  
*George Jones*  
(George Jones)  
Major

**CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS**  
*World Wide Communications*

W.D. NEIL, General Manager of Communications Dept.

WX 0 8 50

45/48 NL. GB 2 Extra Via Wpg. Ottawa, Ont., 1 Sept 44.

Grimae Goodmanson, Report Bly. Selkirk, Man.

7195 Minister of National Defence deeply regrets to inform you that H 82119 Sapper Johannes Goodmanson has been officially reported killed in action twelfth September 1944 stop, if any further information becomes available it will be forwarded as soon as received.

Director of Records,



*Father to Amy Clemons  
John George Sinclair*

# FAMILY STORIES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE



•William Kirkness

## THE ABLESON FAMILY

*submitted by Mrs. Harold Ableson*

### HENRY PAUL ABLESON

Henry was born in Alton, Ont. in 1858. He married Mary Jane Reid and they farmed in the Calidon, Ont. district for many years. In 1918, they came west and settled in the Mayfield District. They had five children; Norman, Mable, Edna, Howard and Harold, all of whom are now deceased.

Henry Paul died July 13, 1922. In 1930, the Ableson farm was sold and Mary Jane moved to Winnipeg where she resided until her death in 1950 at the age of 68.

### NORMAN ABLESON

Norman first came west in 1912. He returned to Alton, Ont. in 1914 and then moved to Detroit, Michigan where he worked in an ammunitions plant. In 1917 he again came west with his brother Howard. They bought a farm and settled in the Mayfield District. Norman left the farm and moved to Winnipeg where he worked as an electrician. He retired to Victoria, B.C., where he resided until his death November 7, 1960.



*Left to Right: Mary Jane Reid, Howard, Mabel, Henry holding Harold.  
Back Row: Norman and Edna.*

### MABLE ABLESON

Mable married John Wheeler and moved to Outlook, Sask. They farmed at Outlook and Nipawin Sask. for many years. They retired to Trail, B.C., where Mable died March 7, 1958 and John died August 15, 1967. They had eight children, two of which are now deceased.

### EDNA ABLESON

Edna married Chris Irvine and they too moved to Outlook, Sask. In the late 1940's they moved to Nelson, B.C. They had four children, all of whom reside in British Columbia. Chris died January, 1958. Edna died September, 1974.



*Henry Ableson and Mary Jane Reid.*

### HOWARD ABLESON

Howard came west in 1917 and settled in the Mayfield District. In 1930 when the Ableson farm was sold, he moved to Winnipeg where he took up Barbering. Howard retired to British Columbia, where he resided until his death January 24, 1973.

### HAROLD ABLESON

Harold married Sarah Margaret Kenny in March 1932 and they resided in Winnipeg, where Harold operated a service station on Hargrave St. In 1955, they moved to Victoria, B.C., where Harold worked for a General Motors Firm, Empress Motors. Harold and Margaret had one son Dennison who lives with his wife and two daughters in Prince George, B.C. Harold passed away in August, 1981.

## MICHAEL AND PARASCEVIA (PARANKA) ADAM

*submitted by Olive (Mrs. Ed) Corby*

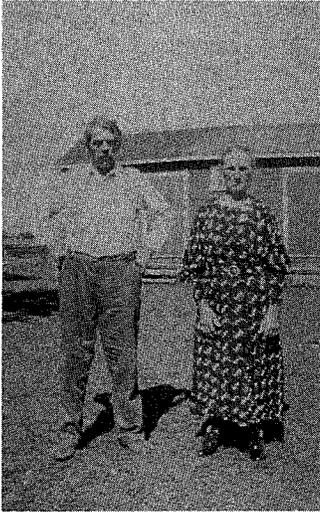
In the late 1880's new arrivals in the village of East Selkirk were Michael Adam and his wife Parascevia (Paranka).

They came from Austria with their two children, John and Anna, and with Michael's mother, Mary Adam.

They farmed and built their home beside Cooks Creek, on the property now owned by Nick and Elsie Nova, and they lived there for the rest of their lives.

Michael died at the age of 80 in 1944, Parascevia (Paranka) passed away in 1942, at the age of 75. They are both buried in the East Selkirk Cemetery.

Many newcomers to this country found a warm



*Mike and Paranka Adam.*



*John Adam and Stephen Leckie as "Cowhands", 1800's.*

welcome at Michael and Paranka's home, where they could stay overnight, or make it their home, until they had a place of their own.

Michael and his family were devout church people and worked faithfully in their parish. Many a priest was made welcome and given lodging in their home.

Their two children, John and Anna attended school in East Selkirk.

Anna later married Stephen Leckie and moved to Chicago. Anna and Stephen raised their three children, Hubert, the oldest, now lives in Washington, D.C. Olive, now Mrs. Bill Balow lives in Chicago, as does Anna and Stephen's son Walter, who is the youngest.

John married Mary Rokosh and they made their home on the family farm in East Selkirk.

John was a stonemason who worked first at the Garson Quarry and later on in Wpg., until his untimely death at the age of 36. John passed away from having pneumonia.

John was an avid sportsman who enjoyed boating and hunting. He also served as a Councillor in the Village of East Selkirk. John was a member of the Selkirk Rowing Club, when they won the Roger Cup in 1912, the Winnipeg Beach Cup in 1913, and the Western Invitational



*Adam family.*



*John and Mary Adams (nee: Rokosh), 1915-16.*

Regatta in Winnipeg. Other team members were Mr. Tracy, Mr. Moody, Mr. Jones, Mr. Pook, and Mr. Tutt.

John left behind, his wife Mary and three small children, Walter, Olive and Mary (Minnie). They attended the Happy Thought School in East Selkirk.

Walter inherited his father's love of sports and participated in and won his share of honors in speed boat racing. He worked as a mechanic, and later on operated a garage of his own, the building that was once Sharp's Meat Market, next to the Star Hotel.

Walter was in ill health for several years before he passed away in 1953, at the age of 35. His illness was diagnosed as Addison's Disease, one of the few recorded cases in the province.

Olive married Edward Corby from East Selkirk. They first settled in East Selkirk, and had two children, Larry and Sharon.

During the Second World War, Ed and Olive moved to Calgary where they lived until 1945, and then returned to East Selkirk. They later moved to West Selkirk where they have made their home since 1950.

Ed and Olive's son Larry passed away on Nov. 14, 1971, at the age of 30.

Sharon and her youngest son Lawrence live in Selkirk. Her two older children Randy and Cynthia (Cindy) live in Vancouver.

Mary (Minnie) entered the nursing profession at the Selkirk General Hospital then spent some time as a stewardess with Trans Canada Air Lines.

Mary (Minnie) married Hugh Richards, and they live in Calgary with their three children, John, Joanne and Patricia.

## FAMILY OF WILLIAM AND GUDRUN ALDRIDGE

*submitted by Ola Astrope*

William Aldridge was born in 1869, in Aldershot, Surrey, England. At the age of twenty-one he emigrated to Canada, the only one of his family to do so. He worked for a few years on a farm in the Stonewall district before taking a homestead at Scanterbury, where he met Gudrun Goodman. They were married in 1917, by Rev. Coates.

Gudrun was born in 1882, in Akureyi, Iceland. In 1887, with her parents, a sister and two brothers, they came to Canada and settled at Winnipeg Beach. It was a difficult life and they endured many hardships. She lost her mother and sister in a scarlet fever epidemic. In 1900, they moved to Poplar Park, with the John Erickson family; who bought the farm where John and Anne Marko now reside.

The big log house that they built was the scene of many good times as the young people had many nights of dancing there. Gudrun or Roonie as she was called played the mouth organ and her brother, Sam, played the violin. After her marriage in 1917, she moved to Scanterbury and they lived there until Sam's death in 1923, when they moved back to the family farm at Poplar Park. Her father passed away in 1910, and her brother, Jim, married and lived at Stoney Point. His young wife died leaving two little girls, Minnie, Mrs. Alex Anderson, now residing at Victoria Beach and Winnifred, Mrs. John Anderson, now residing at Grand Marais. Jim later remarried and lived for many years in Lundar, Man., where he passed away.

There were four children in the family of William and Gudrun Aldridge. Harry, who was their first born in 1921, and passed away in infancy. Bill, a bachelor, now retired and residing in Vancouver, B.C. Melba, married Lorne Phillips, is living in Winnipeg. A widow since 1967, she has four children. Their children are Sergeant Lorne Phillips, his wife, Sharon, now living at the Canadian Forces Base in Nova Scotia. Their children Lorne and Sherri. Janice and husband, Ron Mann and their children Ronda and Kenneth. They reside in Transcona. David and his wife, Judith and their children Burly, Jeffery and Craig of Scobey, Montana, U.S.A. The youngest, Susan, still lives at home.

Ola, married to Bert Astrope, living in Winnipeg, a widow since 1974. Their children are Landon, his wife, Karen, their children Trevor, Terry and Jonathon. Ingrid residing in Saskatoon, Sask. Karen and husband, Harold Johnson, their children Brandie, Amanda and Darryl. Bert, who still lives at home. Eric, his wife, Cathy, both living in Winnipeg. Wayne, his wife, Angie and son, Adam. Lorraine and her husband, Richard Coad, both of Winnipeg. Brent and Sean, still both living at home.

William Aldridge was a Sunday School teacher for many years at Poplar Park and at Scanterbury. He would often hold church service when the minister, who resided at Scanterbury, was unable to make the trip to Poplar Park.

Roonie was an extremely hard worker and a very generous person. She was well known for the large

garden she grew and which she was most generous with. She only had partial hearing due to an attack of measles as a small child and could not attend school. She was a determined woman and with help from her husband learned to read and write which she enjoyed very much until her last few years, when failing eyesight made it impossible. William passed away on June 13, 1938, at the age of sixty-nine. Roonie never forgot her many friends who came to her aid during the following years especially the Mike Marko family, who were our neighbours.

In 1947, Roonie, with her daughter, Ola and son-in-law, Bert, moved to Lundar, Man. They lived there until 1955, when they moved to Winnipeg and where she resided with them until her death on October 20, 1972. She enjoyed all her grandchildren very much and related many of the happy times and the hardships to them as she had a wonderful memory.

Our childhood memories of Poplar Park are numerous. How we loved to listen to the sleigh bells in the wintertime. Each set of bells had its own sound and when mother was expected home from town, long before she came in sight we could hear our bells in the clear frosty air. We loved playing outside and there was always a great amount of snow which often had drifted right over our shed and we would slide on our sled right down into the garden. How well we remembered the hot cups of cocoa mother always made for us when we came in, while our feet were thawing out and a piece of wood in the oven of our big old cast iron kitchen range.



*William and Roonie (Goodman) Aldridge.*

During the long winter months, school was a big part of our lives but evenings and weekends found many hours spent with our friends at their homes or ours. The Johannson's, Osk and Jonina, the Prudens, Stella and Gracie were our closest friends. With Stella and Gracie,

we would often go to the home of their sister, Katie and her husband, Andrew Anderson, who made us welcome and we would listen to the radio to programs some of which our favorites were Cecil B. De Milles, Lux, Radio Theatre, Gangbusters and The Shadow Knows. Needless to say there were times when there were very frightened girls going home in the dark.

How excited we were when we were invited to go along with Katie and Andrew and her sisters to Sandy Point. What fun it was riding in the back of their truck. Sandy Point was a favorite beach in those hot dry years and many families were there on Sundays.

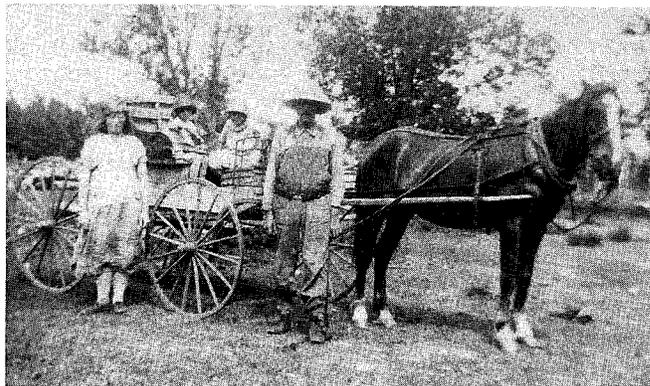
We had our chores to do and one we always seemed to enjoy was hauling in the wood for our two stoves. Another daily chore was filling the lamps and lanterns with coal oil and cleaning all the globes. Of course, there were always dishes to do and the separator to be washed, with its many discs which had to be scrubbed with a brush and rinsed with hot water. That was one chore we were not fond of and we took turns doing it. Our house like alot of others then, was made of logs and this required plastering and whitewashing inside and out. It was a difficult task as the lime could not be made too strong or the result was burned fingers and hands.

Every spring and fall we looked forward to the day when the new Eaton catalogs would come in the mail and we not only loved to pick out our favorite clothes but we knew we could have the old ones to cut up which we did and had shoe boxes full of paper dolls and household furnishings and played house by the hour. We played cards with our brother, Bill and also checkers.

The trips we made with the horse and buggy were something special to us. We would go to Stoney Point to visit the Monkmans and Fletts. One spring there was a rumor that a cougar had been seen near Scanterbury and against the wishes of our father, mother would not postpone this trip and it added a little more excitement as we kept looking behind us all the way there and back.

Every fall we made an annual trip into Selkirk, to visit friends of our parents and do some shopping. We would leave early in the morning and arrive home just after dark. However, on one trip, we left Selkirk, later than usual and when we crossed over the river on the ferry by old Saint Peters Church, darkness was upon us and we ended up taking a wrong turn in the road. Needless to say, we were scared when mother finally announced that we were indeed lost. There were numerous side roads which we could take and after trying a few, mother, said she would just have to let Prince, our horse, have his way and sure enough we finally came upon a stretch of road that was familiar. We arrived home just before midnight to be met by a very worried father standing by the gate with the lantern in his hand, but, also with a look of relief on his worried face.

There were times of unhappiness in those days, too. When an epidemic of Encephomolitis broke out in the district among the horses, it was a tragedy to see many horses die and see many farmers lose all their animals, as well. How happy we were when we went to check on Prince, every morning before we went to school. Finally, one morning we went to find him down and unable to get up. How we cried when he died, knowing never again



*Roonie and Bill Aldridge, Melba and Ola.*

would we be able to feed and pet this friendly trusting pony, who gave us many happy hours.

Our dad had many friends from the Salteaux Band from the reservation near Scanterbury. Their visits were always looked forward to as they tried to teach us many words in their language. There was also the beautiful beaded mocassins and mitts which were gifts we always appreciated. They had also given dad many remedies for different ailments. When we had a bad cold he would get a certain bark of a tree and brew it. It was unpleasant but, we did not have a cold long.

Mother was well-known for her tea cup reading and it was not unusual for someone to bring their tea cup to our house to be read. She was also fond of houseplants and had windows and a table with many plants of which she freely gave slips to many visitors to our home. An incident we remember when we were about six and eight years old, still stands out in our memory. One hot June, Sunday, we had been out visiting when a terrible hailstorm struck. When we arrived home we found our windows smashed and her houseplants in ruins. The hail had also killed many of our young chicks and turkeys.

At least once a year and often twice, we had a visit from a man whom we called a peddler. He had a leather suitcase which he strapped on his back and it held many surprises for us children. This gentle old man's name was Ateah, and he always spent the night at our home. We could not wait till supper was over so we could watch while he opened up this huge suitcase which held everything from dress material, lace, combs, shoelaces, needles, etc. He always gave us girls a comb or something before he left.

He always had his bible with him and would read it for an hour or so and then would talk with our dad for another couple of hours before he went to bed. Another frequent visitor in our district was the Watkin's man. He had a horse and buggy with a roof over it and we always bought something from him, too.

Mother's day would start with the grinding of coffee beans and the coffee pot was always on the stove. Coffee was made in a bag in the pot then, and she often added a bit of chicory to it. We often had to make butter in the old butter churn and then we would watch mother as she would add just so much salt and then, she packed and printed it. These butter and eggs were taken into town

and traded for other staples that we needed.

Mother often made Mysuoostur and Skyr which we called Icelandic peanut butter and ice cream. How we looked forward to visiting at Steve and Hopka Markewich's as we were sure to have some of her delicious perogies and borscht which were a real treat for us.

We shall never forget the amount of wild fruit we had. We could not wait for the gooseberries in the spring and the nanny berries in the fall. Our dad would take us picking plums and there was always a favorite patch of trees. We remember where our favorite chokecherry tree was behind our barn. We picked Saskatoons by the pailful and in the summer our hay fields would have strawberries, huge ones deep in the grass. These same fields which were covered with water in the spring had marigolds which we picked by the armful and filled every vase we had in the house. We would usually take some to school, as well.

On long winter nights mother would get out her spinning wheel and bags of wool and we often held the yarn while she rolled it into big balls. She also dyed it different colors so we often had toques and scarves and mitts that were matching in color. How we disliked our knee-high felt boots and all that lacing. In the spring, we had to wear low rubbers over them.

Christmas and Easter were very special to us. The house was filled with the aroma of cake and plum pudding and we ate our Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve. We remember the lovely Easter Eggs we were given by our neighbours the Marko's.

We hung up our stockings and were happy about the fruit and candy that we found Christmas morning. We loved the long bags of popcorn which always had a prize in the bottom.

We attended church and Sunday school regularly and the weather had to be extremely bad before we stayed home. We loved the sound of the bells ringing and it hurried our walk to the church. If we heard the ringing of church bells during the week we knew someone in the district had passed away and it was not long before we knew who it was.

We remember the sad and unhappy times too. When something broke and needed repair there was no money to replace it. When the grasshoppers came and we did not have our garden. Our turkeys got fat on them but we did not have enough hay for our cows. There were times when we did not know if we would have enough flour for the winter or if we would be able to pick out a pair of shoes from the Eaton catalog. Then, there was the time our father was sick with Pleurisy and how hard our mother had to work.

It has been years since we lived at Poplar Park but it is still home to us and every summer as we go back to the little church and the quiet and peaceful churchyard, where our loved ones are buried, memories come back to us of our childhood at Poplar Park.



*James (Jimmy) Allan*

## **JAMES (JIMMY) ALLAN (NICKNAMED CHERWORNY)**

*submitted by Olive Wardrop*

Jimmy came to Canada from Glasgow, Scotland as a young lad of 16. He worked at a Brewery in Winnipeg prior to coming to East Selkirk. He drove the Tractor at the Van Horne Farm. Bill Ranger remembers that Jimmy broke all the land behind J.C. McLean's property and other tracts of land along Church Road right down to Cook's Creek.

He was a frequent Plowing Match winner.

He purchased a quarter section from Mrs. Oastler and farmed it for many years. Jimmy also worked at the Nelson farm.

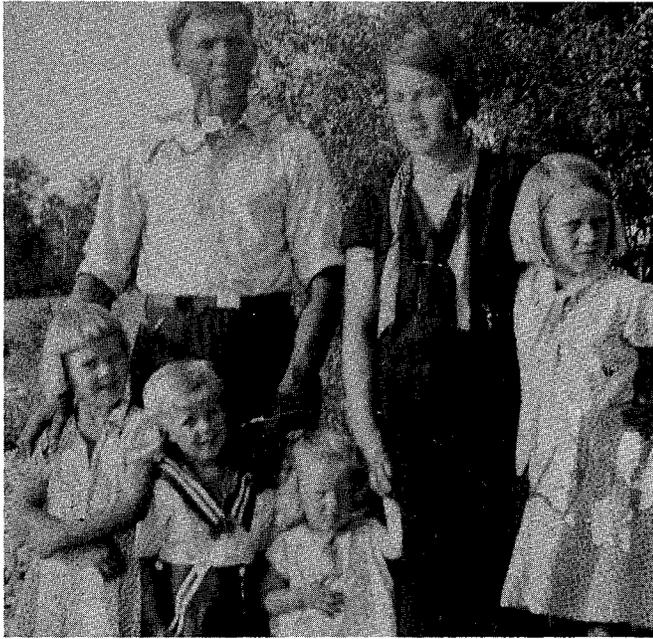
When the CIL opened their Explosives Division at Brainerd, Jimmy was hired as a Watchman. He boarded with Mrs. Eva McLean, and was a member of McBeth Presbyterian Church.

## **THE ALLBERG FAMILY**

*submitted by Vera (Allberg) Thomas*

The Allberg family is not an old family in the Beaconia area. Mom and Dad, my two sisters and brother, came here the spring of 1931. A friend, Adolph Anderson had told Dad there was good fishing at Hillside Beach, so being hard times and all, they left Winnipeg. They got to Beaconia, the Craigie family although poor, were very kind people, they offered Mom and Dad an older house to live in, so they stayed.

My Dad was born in Sweden Carl Teador, coming to Canada at the age of 20. My Mom, Myrtle Catherine Johnson was born in Teulon, Man. Both my mom's parents were born in Sweden also. Mom and Dad were married in 1923, after coming to Beaconia, Dad fished the summer and winter, but with one more child he had to go away to work. Dad went to work for Parrish and Heimbeker Elevator Co. Mom looked after us kids, a couple of cows, chickens, pigs and she also fished.



*Karl and Myrtle Allberg and their children.*

I believe it was in 1938, that Dad bought 29 acres of land from the R.M. of St. Clements (on payment of course). Then came the struggle to pay for land and build a home.

Mom sewed all our clothes from hand-me-downs. I often wonder with all the outside work she had, how she ever found time to sew. We were very poor, money wise anyway, but a happy family. The spring of 1946, Mom opened a restaurant right down in Beaconia, we ran that until 1950, as Mom was about to add to the family. So after 18 years, the Amen to the Allberg prayers came along. In the late 1950's, Dad had to retire as his health was bad.

Dad died May 2, 1962 at the age of 69. Four months later my oldest sister Dorothy died Sept. 11, 1962, age 38. She was born June 1924, married Ed Johnson, lived in Kenora, Ont. until her untimely death, she left one daughter and one son.

Nov. 1927 Jean was born, married David Anderson, lives in Red Lake, Ont. They have one daughter, and two sons.

Oct. 1930 Robert came along, he married Myrna McWhiter, they live in Saskatoon, Sask. They have four sons.

Dec. 1932, that's me, Vera, I married Earl Thomas, we live in Beaconia. We have one daughter, two sons living, lost one son in 1973.

Nov. 1950, Faith was born, she married David Thomas, they live in St. Adolph, Man. They have two sons and 1 daughter living, they lost a little girl.

Now we were a very lucky family as Mom and Dad gave us another Amen to our prayers, our foster sister Linda. Born April, 1948, married David's brother Glen Thomas they live here in Beaconia. They have two sons and one daughter.

Mom enjoys her family. She is now 77, and lives in

Selkirk. She keeps really on the go. Although at one time we thought she would never walk again. She had both her hips replaced, and was in a wheelchair for about 2 years, but she walks really well now. I guess they just don't make people like her anymore.



*Ted and Myrtle Allberg.*



*Back Row, Left to Right: Cousin Lil, Robert Allberg, Cousins Betty and Kay, Vera Allberg. Front Row: Taylin Allberg, Dorothy and Jean (Evelyn) Allberg, Linda Allberg.*

## POPLAR PARK -- ANDREW ANDERSON FAMILY

*submitted by M. Woodward*

Andrew Anderson's father, Jonas Anderson, was from Sweden. His mother Agnes Lamert Stevenson was from Scotland. They met in Norway, where they both worked. Agnes taught weaving. It is not known when they came to Canada but they lived on Superior Ave. in Selkirk, Man. Andrew Anderson married Caroline (Larson) Samuelson who was born in 1865, in Lima, a small village in the Province of Dalarna, in northern Sweden. In October 1833, she left Sweden, sailing via Liverpool, England. It was a long journey and Christmas was spent on the boat. Her destination was Crookston, N.D. and later Alexandria, Minnesota, U.S.A., to join an older sister.

Andrew Anderson worked for the C.P.R. and died in a railway accident on May 27, 1900. At the time of his death, they had five children living: Charlie, Albert (Abbie), Ethel, Allan and Andrew.

Caroline Anderson and her five children moved to



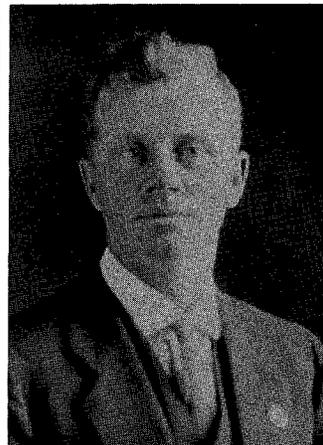
*Allan Anderson, 1936.*



*Andrew Anderson and Family in Walkleyburg, Mr. Strick holding horses.*



*Charlie Anderson*



*Andrew Anderson*

Poplar Park after her marriage to Charlie Mattson in 1901.

Charlie Anderson left the area to work for the C.N.R. He married Miranda Hutchinson and had five children. Their only son was killed during W. W. II.

Albert Anderson like his brother also left the area to work for the C.N.R. He married Florence Stilwell. They had three children.

Ethel Anderson also left the area. She worked in Winnipeg, prior to her marriage to William Stilwell, who was also a C.N.R. worker. They had three children. In later years she and her husband spent their summers at the farm.

Allan Anderson never married. He stayed on the farm, helping his mother and stepfather. A few years before his death in 1955, he took up mink farming.

Andrew Anderson Jr. worked for a short while for the C.N.R. in Winnipeg, prior to serving in the Army in W.W.I. After the war, he returned to Poplar Park, where he worked on the family farm, before he married Katie Pruden (daughter of William and Ann Pruden). They farmed just south of the St. James Anglican Church, prior to moving to Winnipeg in 1941. They had one daughter.

## ALBERT ERIC ANDERSON FAMILY HISTORY

*submitted by Florence Anderson*

Albert Eric Anderson, son of Gustav and Hadory Anderson, of Stockholm, Sweden, crossed the Atlantic Ocean to visit his brother living in Superior, Wisconsin, U.S.A. From there he went to the Dakota's. Later he travelled north into Manitoba, Canada. On the Silver Plain's, he helped feed a herd of buffalo for a rancher. His next stop was in Narol, where he purchased a River Lot, and built himself a house.