



*George Swan, Stony Point, 1935.*

## **GEORGE SWAN**

*submitted by Helen Hourie*

George Swan was the son of William Swan, a laborer from Greenwich, in the County of London. George was born in the year 1867.

On Oct. 25, 1890 George Swan married Harriet Rye, daughter of George Rye, in the Parish Church, in the Parish of Christchurch, Greenwich.

Three girls were born to them, one set of twins. However, one baby died and left them with two daughters, Dorothy and Daisy.

In 1903, George Swan, Harriet and their two daughters came to Canada to live. He took out a homestead on a 1/4 section of land, 27-7-7E, in 1920.

George passed away in 1953. He and Harriet are both buried in St. Philips Cemetery, in Scanterbury.

## **PIOTV (PETER) AND BRONISLAWA (BERNICE) SZYDLIK**

*submitted by Sharon Szydluk*

*Piotv (Peter) Szydluk* was born in Gbojna, Poland in 1898. He came to Canada in 1928, got a job on the railroad and made his way to Winnipeg.

*Bronislawa (Bernice) Krzczonowiec* was born in Llove, Poland in 1911. She arrived in Canada in December 1928, with her mother, brother Karl, sister Winnie, half-sisters



*John Szydluk*

Mary and Katie, and half-brother Adolf. They travelled to Winnipeg where stepfather, Paul Moroz arrived about two years earlier and rented a house in Old Kildonan. After the death of her mother, about seven months later, Bernice took on the care of her brothers and sisters.

The Moroz family attended the Polish National Catholic Church in Winnipeg where they met Bishop Markewich, who farmed a quarter section for the church in Libau, Man. The Bishop offered the Moroz Family the opportunity to come to Libau and work on the farm until they could purchase their own property. Peter Szydluk came to Libau also to work on the farm. Peter arrived in the Spring of 1932 and the Moroz Family came in December 1932.



*Stan and John Szydluk, Eugene Chomick.*

On January 27, 1933, Peter Szydluk married Bernice Krzczonowiec at the Polish National Catholic Church in Libau. Witnesses were Joe Sobowitch and Paul Moroz. The 18 carat gold wedding band for the bride and the silver band for the groom were purchased from the Bishop for a total of \$5.00. After the ceremony the family returned to the church farm house for a wedding supper of prairie chicken. Paul Moroz played the squeeze-box while everyone sang and danced.

A few years later Paul and Peter jointly rented and eventually purchased forty acres (13-15-6e). This land was divided equally between them under separate titles.

To supplement income during these years both men worked on the railroad to Thompson and helping farmers with harvest in Saskatchewan. They also worked in Pine Falls cutting cordwood in the winter.

The Szydluk's had three sons and three daughters all of whom were born at home in a log house except for the youngest daughter, Linda who was born in Selkirk Hospital, and the oldest son, George, who was born in the St. Joseph's Hospital, in Wpg.

Son, George, married Jean Bowen of Winnipeg. They have two sons and two daughters. All reside in Winnipeg.

Daughter, Nellie, married Henry Besser of Saskatchewan. They have three sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren. All are living in Winnipeg.

Son, John, married Helen Paley of Bissett, Man. They also live in Winnipeg, as do their two sons and two grandchildren.

Daughter, Judy, married Wayne Pownall of Winnipeg, Man. They have two daughters and are living in Winnipeg.

Daughter, Linda, married Paul Cyrenne of Saskatchewan. They are living near Lockport in the R.M. of St. Clements with their two sons and one daughter.

Son, Stanley, married Sharron Humbert of Petersfield, Man., in 1965 and after living in Winnipeg moved to the Szydluk farm in July 1968. This was after Peter's death in 1967. Bernice later moved to Winnipeg.

Stanley and Sharron have a daughter and two sons who are attending Happy Thought School. All are active in the community and 4-H Club. Hopefully the Szydluk family will be a part of the R.M. of St. Clements for many years to come.

### STANLEY AND SHARRON SZYDLIK FAMILY

*submitted by Sharron Szydluk*

Stanley Bronis Szydluk was born on July 24, 1938 in the family log house, NW 13-15-6E, east of the town of Libau. Third son and fourth of six children born to Peter and Bernice Szydluk, he attended Libau East School completing Grade 8. He helped out on the farm and also held different jobs in Winnipeg and around the province, gaining skills in drywall taping and building maintenance.



*Left to Right: Stanley Szydluk, Sharron, Sophie Klim. Front Row: Cindy, Premier Sterling Lyon.*

In May 1964 Stan met Sharron Jean Humbert of Petersfield, Man. She was born in the St. Boniface Hospital on January 24, 1945. They were married at the Westminster United Church on August 28, 1965. Stan completed an Upgrading Program and the Appliance Repair and Refrigeration Course at Red River Community College in 1968.

The Szydluks moved to the family farm in Libau in July 1968, to take up permanent residence after the death of Stan's father. His mother moved to Winnipeg.

On May 12, 1969, daughter Cindy Robyn was born. Two years later on March 26, 1971, son Scott Jason arrived. Son, Terry Wade made his entrance two years after that on June 10, 1973.

Stanley and Sharron are both active in the Libau Community Club and Curling Club. The whole family is involved in the 4-H Club, 1984 being Sharron's tenth year as head leader.

The children all ride the school bus to Happy Thought School. In Grade 5, Cindy's teacher, Mrs. Sophie Klim entered Cindy's drawing, titled "Wildlife in My Backyard", in a provincial contest held during National Wildlife Week. Cindy won First prize over 1200 entries from Grades 3 - 7 entered from around the province. She received her prize from Premier Sterling Lyon at his office in the Legislative Building. This will be a memorable event in her life.

Scott enjoys playing soccer and electronic games. Terry is interested in baseball and Star Wars.

Stanley has worked for the Province of Manitoba as building manager at 446 Main Street, Selkirk for the last 11 years. Sharron works as a chef at the Elmhurst Golf and Country Club on Garven Road.

### ROBERT ALEXANDER TAYLOR

*submitted by Bob Taylor/sh*

Robert Alexander Taylor was born in Rupert's Land in the territory of the Honorable Hudson's Bay Company in the year 1836. He was the son of George Taylor and Jane Tait. He was baptised March 9, 1836, in the Red River Settlement. His Mother, Jane Tait, was the daughter of John Tait who was born in 1777. John Tait (Tate) had immigrated to Canada from the Orkney Islands (Trestia, Kirkwall and later Caithness, Scotland) and was a member of the party which James Sinclair led to Oregon from the Red River Settlement in 1841. John had entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1796 and served in the Northern Dept. of Rupert's Land as a Blacksmith and Steersman and he retired in 1839 at the age of 61 years after a service of some 40 years with the Company. John died on or about June 7, 1851 presumably at Fort Vancouver, in present day Washington. The Tait's lost one son, John, who died in the Columbia District on June 17, 1835.

Robert Taylor married Eliza Waller on June 27, 1867. Eliza was the daughter of James Waller and Nancy Birston. Eliza had been born Jan. 24, 1849 in the Red River Settlement. Eliza's Mother, Nancy Birston, had been born in 1805 at Norway House. Her father, Alexander Birston, was born in 1774 and had come from Ronaldshay in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. He entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in the year 1793 and served in the Northern Dept. of Rupert's Land, first as a laborer and later as a Bowsman, Steersman and Pilot. He apparently left the service in 1821 and retired to the Lower Rapids (present day Lockport). Alexander Birston died on July 13, 1829 and has been recorded in the Red River Register of Burials. There it is recorded by the Rev. John West, Chaplain to the Hudson Bay Company, that on the 12th of Aug. 1821 he baptised the



*Laurence Taylor born 1900, Eliza Waller born Jan. 24, 1849.*

following children of Alexander Birston and an Indian woman, deceased: Alexander, William, Magnus and Nancy.

Robert Taylor purchased a parcel of land on the east side of the Red River within the Parish of St. Clements. The land was 3 chains wide, being the most northerly portion of River Lot No. 88, consisting of about 26.1 acres. This land had been surveyed by J.S. Dennis for the Dept. of The Interior back in 1874 and was registered in Taylor's name, by 1884.

Robert and Eliza had three children, Marianne born in 1869, Edward in 1870 and Caroline in 1871. They were all born in the vicinity of Lockport. Caroline married James Henry Frost on Feb. 28, 1894, and their family history is covered with the Frost family history.

Marianne married Thomas Mowatt and they lived at Oak Hammock all their lives. They had several children including Arthur, Dora, Lawrence, Tom Jr., Dorothy (Dottie), Edith, Kate and Norman. They mixed farmed and ran a Dairy. Of their children, Arthur became a fisherman at Matheson Island, married Katie Jensen and raised a large family. Dora married Thomas E. Mowatt and raised their family also at Oak Hammock. Lawrence married and had one daughter and was self-employed as a Carburator Mechanic. Tom Jr. farmed and did labour at various places and worked in the shipyards at Prince Rupert. Tom never married. Dorothy (Dottie) married Siggs Bondarson who worked for the Man. Rolling Mills. They moved to Calgary and Siggs worked for the Rolling Mills at that location. Both Dottie and Siggs are deceased. Kate stayed home to help on the farm and care for her parents and then moved into Wpg. where after her Mother's death, she married. Norman also stayed home and helped his parents until they were deceased, then he moved out to Matheson Island where he worked at the trade of Fisherman. Norman never married and is now deceased. Edith married Alfred Grieves and had a family of three children, Lorne, Jimmie and Lois. Alfred farmed and Edith helped with the land at Oak Hammock. Alfred is now deceased.

Edward married Clara Spence, daughter of Alex and Annie Spence who lived at Lot 107-108, Parish of St. Clements, (Mapleton, east area) on the old Calder place. They married in about 1898 and lived for a short time with Grandpa Taylor and this is where Lawrence was born in about 1900, followed by: Edward Jr. in 1902, Bill and George, the twins in 1904, (only Bill survived), Edith in 1913, Bob in 1914, Nellie and Jimmie who both died as young children in the great flu epidemic of 1918. Thomas was the last child born to Edward and Clara Taylor, in 1921. It should be noted that between 1900 to 1913 there were 8 children born to Edward and Clara Taylor, but only the four children lived.

Edward and Clara moved to Lac du Bonnet in about 1909 and farmed at Sec. NW1/4 33-15-11E. Edward did wood cutting and bush work to supplement the family income. Clara died about 6 weeks after giving birth to Thomas, on May 31, 1921. Edward took the children back to James and Caroline Frost's (his sister) in St. Clements (Lot 88) in 1921, where Caroline raised them with loving care and opened her heart and home to the motherless Taylor family. Lawrence was by this time 21 years of age, Edward Jr. was approaching 19 years and Bill, the twin, was turning 17 years. However, Edith was only 8 years old, and Bob 7 yrs. and little Thomas was only a babe in arms at the time of Clara's premature death. This was quite a burden for Caroline, but she coped, raising her brother Edward's children. The children attended Kitchener, Happy Thought, and Selkirk Schools for their education. Edward Taylor passed away on May 20, 1925. He was only 54 years of age.

The children grew up and early on made their own way in life, always eternally grateful to Caroline, who had mothered them after the loss of their own Mother, Clara.

Lawrence married Mary Stevenson from Fisher River. They had a large family who were mostly all born in the Lac du Bonnet area. Mary is deceased and Lawrence lives in Thunder Bay, Ont. where three of his daughters live.

Edward married Esther Demeria, daughter of Frank and Jean Demeria. They raised a large family in the Lac du Bonnet area. Esther is now deceased and Edward resides in Selkirk.

William (Bill) married Georgelina Jaoule from St. Boniface. They had one son, Bill Jr., now living in B.C. Georgelina is deceased.

Edith married Archie Demeria and they had a large family, raised in the Lac du Bonnet area. Archie is deceased and Edith now lives in Wpg.

Robert (Bob) married Ethel Wheeler Korman and they had four children and Bob and his wife reside in the Town of Selkirk.

## ROBERT AND ETHEL TAYLOR

*submitted by Bob Taylor/slh*

Robert is the son of Edward Taylor and Clara Spence. His grandparents were Robert Alexander Taylor and Eliza Waller.

Robert was born in 1914 and raised in the Lac du Bonnet area. When Bob was about 7 years old, his Mother Clara died (May 31, 1921) and his father, Edward, moved the children to Lot 88 St. Clements, where his Aunt Caroline and James Frost lived. There Bob attended Kitchener School and completed his education.

Robert's Father, Edward, passed away in 1925 in his 54th year.



*Edward Taylor, son of Alex Taylor. Mrs. Taylor nee Clara Spence.*

Robert grew up and worked at several occupations during his early adult years including time in Ont. with the building of the Trans Canada Highway. In 1941, Robert returned to Selkirk, but he did not return alone. He had met and married a young lady, Ethel Wheeler Korman, the daughter of Dorothy and Alfred Wheeler of St. Catharines, Ont. Ethel was the adopted daughter of Albania Korman. Bob and Ethel were married on July 12, 1941. They moved to Selkirk where Bob commenced working for the Manitoba Rolling Mills. He worked there for 15 1/2 years with the exception of the 3 1/2 years spent Overseas during the Second World War. Bob served with the RCA (Anti-tank branch) and saw duty in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Bob attained the rank of Sergeant and after his honorable discharge he returned to Selkirk and continued to work for the M.R.M. Bob resigned from the Mill in 1957 and then went to work for the Selkirk School District in their Custodial Section. In 1967 Bob's position became a part of the Lord Selkirk School Division at Consolidation time. He soon became Asst. Supervisor of Maintenance, a position he enjoyed until his retirement from the division on Oct. 1, 1979. Since that time Bob has not been idle as he keeps busy travelling, gardening and like his father before him, a lot of carpentry and woodworking.

Robert and Ethel had four children: David born in 1943, Bruce in 1950, Kristina in 1951, and Alexandra in 1963.

David married Linda Rasmussen in 1966, the daughter



*Frank Frost, Bob Taylor, Ian Taylor, 1928.*

of Harold and Alice Rasmussen, of Wpg. David and Linda have three children, Lisa and Laurel in 1971 and Stacey in 1973. David had joined the Armed Forces (RCAF) in 1962 and this has been his chosen career for over 21 years.

Bruce married Valerie Bucholz of Moosehorn, in 1972, the daughter of Adolph and Freda Bucholz. They have two children, Gregory born in 1974 and Coreen in 1976. Bruce works for the Wpg. Ambulatory Service.

Kristina married Nelson Macauley in 1972, the son of Robert and Lorraine Macauley from Brokenhead. They have two children, Kathryn born in 1976 and Kevin in 1977. Nelson joined the Armed Forces in 1970 (CAF) as a career.

Alexandra (Sandra) married Bruce Chymboryk in 1983. Bruce is the son of Tony and Jean Chymboryk of Donnelly, Alberta. Bruce joined the Armed Forces (CAF) in 1976 as a career.

Editor's Note: Robert and Ethel Taylor besides raising their own four children, have also raised about 70 other children for the Child Welfare Dept. of the Province of Manitoba. They opened their hearts and home to those youngsters who needed care and attention as well as a home. Some of the children only remained for a week-end or perhaps a week or two, but many came to the Taylor home as infants and remained through to adulthood. Robert and Ethel shared their home and hearts with those in need for over 30 years, having commenced fostering in 1947. The vast majority of these youngsters are now parents themselves and many of them have returned to visit the Taylor family.

So you see, when Caroline and James Frost opened their heart and home to the motherless Taylor family back in 1921, little did they know that 7 yr. old Robert would in turn foster 70 children.

The municipality salutes Bob and Ethel and commends them for their great compassion, contribution, and community involvement.

## WASYL AND ANN TEPLESKI

*submitted by A. Kaluzniak*

Wasył and Ann (Chenkie) emigrated to Canada from Galicia Austria in 1903 and settled in East Selkirk where they resided all their lives. They arrived in Canada with six children, Alex, John, Cliff, Elias, Metro and George. Later two sons were born, Mike and Steve, twin girls were deceased at birth.



*Wasył Tepleski and grandchild, Doreen.*



*Steve, George, Alex and Cliff Tepleski, grandmother Annie, wife of Wasył, holding grandchildren Tommy and Doreen.*

Alex had married Sophia Tkachuk and they had two sons, Walter and Johnie. Alex had worked at the mill. He died when the flu hit him in 1928.

John moved to Winnipeg and worked at a Steam Plant and married Ann Dubas, they raised three children, Norman, Lily and Jack.

Clifford built his home in East Selkirk, working at the mill, he married Victoria Rokosh. Together they raised three children, Peter, Helen and Bill.

Elias left to Saskatchewan working with the telephone system. He married Kay and they have one son, Bob.



*Metro Tepleski's first homestead in Walkleyburg, 1927.*

Metro moved to Walkleyburg and started a farm homestead. He married Annie Waytiuk and they have three children also, Fred, Adeline and Victor.

George, remained a bachelor, and spent his whole life as a Selkirk Merchant operating Topley's Store.

Mike married Dora Corrigan raising three children also, Clifford, Jean and Joan.

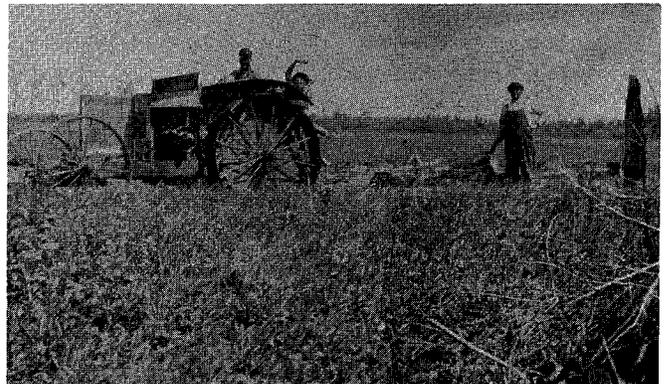
Steve remained at the homestead and worked at the Rolling Mills. He married Olga Machewski, raising seven children, Doreen, Tom, Lorne, Betty, Gordon, Jeanie and Barry.

## STEPHEN AND OLGA TEPLESKI

*submitted by Olga Tepleski*

Stephen was the son of Wasył and Annie (Chenkie) Tepleski who had come to Canada from the Western Ukraine in 1903. Stephen was born in Canada in 1909 and Michael in 1907. The other six children of Wasył and Annie came to Canada in 1903 with their parents: Alex, John, Eli, Metro, Clifford and George.

When Wasył and Ann bought the few acres of land in East Selkirk and started to eke out a living, they had a hard time farming because they would turn up enormous amounts of bricks. The remains of the brick factory, that had been unknown to them when they bought the land, caused considerable problems when it came to plowing and planting. Besides this, they also plowed up railway ties and lengths of rail. Years before, the CPR had a spur line running through East Selkirk to the Red River. One such rail, dated 1897, is still on the property (Lot 76 and 77).



*John and Gusty breaking land, 1927.*

As the years went on they bought and cleared more land in the surrounding area. The children grew up, getting their education at the Happy Thought School and attending the St. Mary's Catholic Church for their religious training. Soon, the children left home to make lives and homes of their own elsewhere, except Stephen who finally took over the farm as the parents got older.

Over the years Wasył did odd jobs in the community to supplement his income and meet the needs of his growing family. He worked on the roads and drains and did custom plowing. In the old Country, Wasył had worked within the forestry trade, prior to coming to Canada.

Wasył had owned 40 acres in the Walkleyburg area and this land he gave to his son, Metro.

Annie Tepleski died in 1949 at the age of 82 years. Wasył passed away in 1954 at the age of 91. They are both resting at peace in the East Selkirk Cemetery.

Stephen farmed the Tepleski land as well as worked at the Manitoba Rolling Mills for over 33 years.

Stephen married Olga Machewski in 1940 and they had 4 sons and 3 daughters: Doreen, Tom, Lorne, Betty, Gordon, Jeanie and Barry.

Tom married Anna Grabowski and they and their two children live in St. Andrews.

Lawrence married Lillian Lukinski and they had three children: Lornie, Layne and Lori and live in Portage la Prairie.

Gordon married Debbie Kurbis and have two sons: Jared and Jodie, and they live in Selkirk.

Barry J. married Velvet Stutsky and they reside in Calgary.

Doreen and her husband, Sgt. Paul Hughes and their sons, Randy and Kevin make their home in Ottawa, Ont.

Betty married Roger Wasnie and they have three children: Trevor, Jamie and Erin and they live in Selkirk.

Jeanie is employed in Wpg. and continues to live in Selkirk.

Stephen died in 1980 at the age of 70 years, and the Tepleski property was sold. Olga now makes her home in Selkirk.

## CLIFFORD AND VICTORIA TEPLYSKE

*submitted by Adeline Kaluzniak*

Cliff came to Canada from Austria in 1903 as a little boy. He lived with his parents in East Selkirk. In later years, he married Victoria Rokash on July 15, 1923 and settled on a homestead in East Selkirk, where they spent the rest of their married lives. Cliff worked for twenty-eight years at the Manitoba Rolling Mills. After retiring



*Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Teplyske married July 15, 1923.*



*July 31, 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Teplyske, Bill, Helen and Peter.*

he spent several years with his brother George operating Topley's store. They raised three children, Peter, Helen and Bill.

Peter married Gloria, of Edmonton where they reside and have three daughters, Pat, Karen and Gail.

Helen married Morris Lewickik of Winnipeg, where they reside with their two daughters Diane and Linda.

Bill married Helen Gowryluk (now deceased) and raised three sons, Perry, Kenneth and Ronald. Later he was transferred to Leduc, Alta. where he later remarried and resides now.

## THOMAS FAMILY

*submitted by Mable Danwich*

Four generations of the Thomas family have served the public as councillors of Ward 6 in the R.M. of St. Clements.

Henry Thomas started the ball rolling in 1899-1900, to be followed by his son Henry-George Thomas who served from 1915 to 1918. Many years later Henry-George's son Reuben Thomas served the longest 1941 to 1950 and 1955 to 1966 for a total of 22 years. Three years later Reuben's son Earl was elected and served in 1969 and 1970 and he was re-elected for 1971 and 1972.

The Fore-Fathers of these men worked for the Hudson Bay Co. William Thomas married Catherine Best, daughter of John Best. They had six children Catherine, Charlotte, Matilda, Elenor, Charles, and Richard. William died Nov. 27, 1818 at Pentonville, England in the County of Middlesex.

It is not known who Richard Thomas married, however he had six children, Alexander, Louisa, Richard, Margaret, Ann and Henry. He operated a Grist-mill on the Creek at what was known as Little Britain and is now Lockport, Man.

Richard died in approx. 1862. He willed the mill to his son Alexander. (Note. see Richard Thomas Will.)

Henry Thomas (taken from the St. Peter's marriage records) at age 21, St. Clements, Tripman son of Richard Thomas deceased, married Charlotte Parisien age 18, of St. Peter's April 1, 1869, daughter of Baptise Parisien married by Rev. Henry D. Cockran. Witnesses were John Kipling and Louisa Akderman.

In the Red River censuses of 1870 Henry was described as

a Manitoba English Halfbreed. He was a lay reader and taught Sunday school in St. Judes Anglican Church at Grand Marais, Man. Henry Thomas hauled mail from Selkirk to Balsam Bay.

He was the first delegate in 1895 from the Grand Marais Church to the Anglican Synod in Winnipeg. He operated at Balsam Bay, Man. for 3 or 4 years. The years are not known for sure. The stories go that he didn't carry too much in his store or make too much money. He was there more as a service to the community.

Henry George Thomas married Mary Ann Anderson daughter of Alexander and Matilda Anderson, Aug. 28, 1900. They raised 12 children. Norman, Emily, Reuben, Mildred, Mable, Phyllis, Dorthy, Florence, Gordon, Geri, John and Gladys.

Henry George cut wood, fished and for the most part farmed to raise his family. Mary Ann started selling milk at Grand Beach in the early 1920's. Around the middle of May she would move her herd of 12 to 15 cows from Stoney Point to Grand Marais along the Lake shore as there was no road. She had to cross a creek and the channel, from approx. where Island Beach is today, there was a road to Grand Marais. This was a days journey. She would drive down the streets with a horse and buggy and holler "milk". The campers would hurry out with their containers, and she would use a quarter measurer to measure the milk from 10 gallon cans. It sold for 5 cents a quart. By 1929 she was bottling the milk. In 1930 she moved her herd to Victoria Beach, Man. She would go as far as her son Reuben's place at Balsam Bay in one day and carry on the next day. She sold milk at Victoria Beach until 1935.

Mary Ann also had a grocery store at Stoney Point, between the year 1925 and 1943.

Henry George died in 1961 and Mary Ann died previously in 1946.

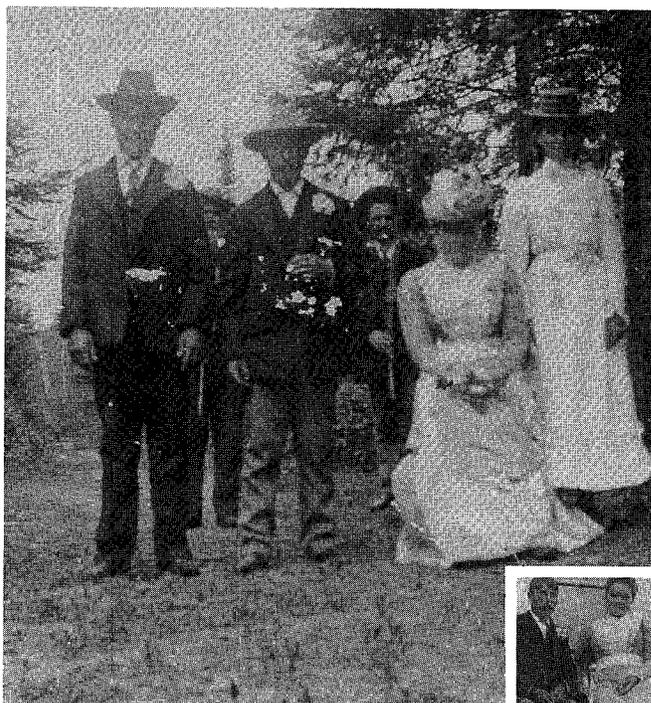
It was the Christian love and teachings of Henry George and Mary Ann that motivated Geri in 1954 to be instrumental in founding a Faith Bible Camp. The camp operated on Elk Island. In 1969, it was moved to the mainland and still operates there.

Geri served in North Africa, Sicily and was wounded in Italy while serving with the Royal Canadian Dragoons in World War Two.

Gordon also served in the same war with the Princess Patricia's 1st Division.

Norman, who was always a builder of one thing or another, built a lime kiln at Stoney Point in 1929. It was built by digging a hole in the ground. One side was dug out on a long taper so you could get in to fire it. It was built up above the ground with rock and dirt. When the lime stone was put in, it was built up so there was a fire place in the center of the stone so it could be fired. Then it was fired continuously for 4 or 5 days or until sulphur appeared on the top which was an indication the stone was cooked. The lime was sold to mix with mortar for log houses and also for white washing your house. In those days there wasn't a lot of profit in anything and Norman said it was a bigger job selling the lime than making it.

Norman also built a sawmill that operated first at Stoney Point, then Jack Fish Lake, Beaconia, Jack Fish Creek, Victoria Beach and then it was moved to Reuben's



Henry George and Mary Thomas wedding.



William Thomas, Catherine Thomas nee Anderson, Baby Richard Thomas born Dec. 23, 1907.



Henry James Curtis (Harry Thomas) Margaret Thomas and their children. Left to Right: Wilfred, Kenneth, Clifford and Melville Duncan.

place at Balsam Bay where Norman built an addition to the business, a Shingle Mill. They also made fish boxes that were sold to the fish dealers.

Norman worked for Purvis Bros., Purvis Boats and Selkirk Machine for 30 years. When they built the "Joe Simpson", he launched it with a unique way of launching. Norman says he hasn't seen another launched like it before or since. It was built with the keel sitting on a timber, then they brought the butter boards up so that it was higher than the timber it was sitting on, so that when they tipped the boat over, after it got over so far, the weight came on the side of the boat and not on the keel. As soon as this happened the boat was launched very smoothly.

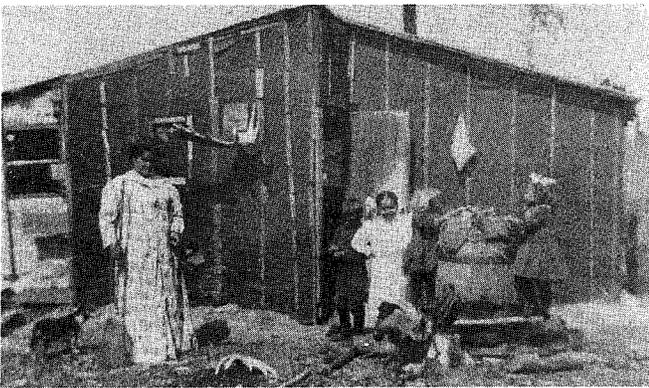
Norman was in charge of laying out all the steel and installing the machinery on the "Paddle Wheel Queen",



Mrs. Barbara Knott later married to Robert Thomas at Beaconia, 1932.



4 generations, Mary Thomas, Matilda Anderson, Richard Thomas, Emily Thomas.



Mary, Reuben, Emily, Mabel and Mildred Thomas.

and "Princess" and the "River Rouge". He was also in charge of putting up all the steel on the "Lord Selkirk".

Norman's latest boat building was for the Knights of Columbus on a little smaller scale. He built a replica of the "Nonesuch" to scale from wood, from a 7 inch model in a bottle to an 11 ft. model.

Reuben married Beatrice Wiegand May 14, 1929. They raised seven children, Earl, Wilma, Ted, Lorne, Ann, Mable and Monda.

Reuben farmed at Balsam Bay, Man. He fished in the fall and winter. In the 1940's, Pickerel sold for 2 1/2 cents per pound. He cut wood and either sold it to the storekeeper, August Fruehlich, to pay for groceries, or he would load it on a boxcar to be shipped to Pine Falls. He also sold stove-length-wood at Grand Beach to the campers at 25 cents per 3 ft. by 2 ft. rack. He mink ranched for a number of years. He subcontracted for Abitibi Pulp and Paper. At that time he had a herd of 50 horses. These horses were used in the bush by Reuben's crew to skid wood.

Reuben owned and operated the Passenger Boat named "The Clipper", which was built in 1950 by Sam Orvis. It carried up to 40 passengers and made half hour trips at 25 cents per person. It operated off the front at



The "Clipper" at Grand Beach 1956, Reuben Thomas.

Grand Beach from a dock that was put in every year by Mr. Thomas. Reuben also owned and operated a Marina in the lagoon at Grand Beach. He rented canoes, row boats, and motor boats from 1957 to 1964. The "Clipper" operated until 1962. He raised beef cattle until he retired. Reuben passed away after a lengthy illness on April 9, 1976.

Earl married Vera Allberg on Nov. 30, 1951. They have 4 children, Eileen, Terry, Mundy (deceased) and Shane.

They live in Beaconia, Man. where until recently Earl farmed and operated the Earl Thomas Trucking. He has now gone out of farming. Maybe when another hundred years has gone by someone will be writing about us.

## WILL OF RICHARD THOMAS

submitted by Mable Danwich

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Richard Thomas, of Little Britian Red River Settlement, North America, Being through the abundant mercy and goodness of God, though weak in body yet of sound and perfect understanding and memory, do constitute this, my last will and testament, and desire it may be received as such:

First I must humbly bequeth my soul to God, my maker, beseeching his most gracious acceptance of it through the all sufficient -- and meditation of my most compassionate redeemer Jesus Christ, who gave himself to be an atonement for my sins, and is able to save to the uttermost, all that come unto God by him. Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them, and who I trust will not reject me, a returning penitent sinner when I come to him for mercy. In this hope and confidence I render up my soul with comfort. Humbly beseeching the most blessed and gracious trinity, one God most holy, most merciful and gracious, to prepare me for the time of my dissolution, and then to take me to himself into that peace and rest and incomparable felicity, which he has prepared for all that love and fear his holy name. Amen. Blessed be God I give my body to the earth from which it was taken in full assurance of its resurrection at the last day.

As for my burial, I desire it may be decent, without pomp or state, at the discretion of my dear wife and my executors hereafter named. Who I doubt not, will

manage it with all possible prudence. As to my wordly estate, I will and positively order that all my debts be paid *first*.

I give to my dear and loving wife, the house where in I now dwell with all the furniture and the lands attached to it, also the stove, the old grey mare and a cow and calf.

I bequeth to my son Alexander, the windmill, after the expiration of the lease to Charles Foy with this provision, that he give his mother a share during her life, say one-third of the mootre-i Grain by grinding. After her death the mill to be solely his property.

I bequeth to my daughter Louise, a cow and calf.

I bequeth to my son Richard, a young ox and a young bull, also the plough.

I bequeth to my daughter Margaret, a cow.

I bequeth to my daughter Ann, a cow and calf.

I bequeth to my son Henry, two cows with their calves, also an ox, seven or eight years old.

N.B. the old grey horse to be sold to enable the pay of debts.

I constiture and appoint, Thomas Truthwaite and John Vincent, my executors of this my last will and testament and trustee's for my wife and children, in witness whereof.

I have here unto set my hand and seal this thirteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty one.

Witnesses

William-

Henry Stevens

## EARL RICHARD AND VERA THOMAS

*submitted by Vera Thomas*

Earl Richard was born in Selkirk on May 14, 1930, and was the eldest son of Reuben and Beatrice Thomas. Earl's wife, Vera Catherine Allberg was born in Winnipeg on December 28, 1932.

We were married on November 30, 1951 in the Christ Church, Selkirk. In April, 1955 we bought and moved into our first home in Beaconia, Nov. 15 of the same



*Robert Allberg, Earl Thomas, Vera Thomas nee Allberg, Edna Lesosky.*



*Mundy Thomas*

*Earl Thomas family, 1968-69. Left to Right: Earl, Eileen, Vera, Mundy, Terry and Shane.*

year, we got our daughter, Eileen Mary. She was 4 years old Sept. 11th and on Dec. 27, same year Terrance Earl our oldest son, was born.

My father-in-law had given us a cow when we got married, so by 1955 we had a few more cattle, also chickens and pigs. Earl worked our land, and worked in the bush in the winters cutting wood, really taking any jobs he could get. On June 14, 1957, our son Murphy Warren was born, now we were quite a family. By this time Earl had bought our first (old) gravel truck. He also used it in the winter to haul the wood he cut to Pine Falls.

Then came our first trouble, our home burned on Jan. 29, 1958. Although we lost everything else, we were very lucky, we got our three children and ourselves out, all ok. By April 27th the same year, we moved into our new home. It was not furnished inside, but to us it was beautiful as it had been built by so many dear friends. We got the lumber, then everyday until our home was up, our friends came armed with hammers and saws.

In 1959, Earl started to drive school buses, (he did this for 13 years) poor Earl, between buses he cut wood in the winter, looked after our cattle (now quite a few). I did the milking, shipping cream, it brought in a little money, of course the kids had lots of milk to drink.

On Feb. 9, 1962, our son Shane Richard came along, he was to be our last child. The spring and fall of 1962, were very sad for us, on May 2, my dad died and on Sept. 11, my sister Dorothy (38 years old) died. But life must go on and it did. In the spring of 1963, Earl got our first brand new gravel truck, a Dodge. We were all very proud of it, but I was sure we were doomed for the poor house. How would we ever pay for it, but we did.

By now we had around 50 head of cattle. Earl seemed to be working all day and half the night. In 1968, he became Councillor of Ward 6, as if he didn't have enough to keep him busy, with trucks, loaders, haying, cattle and the school bus. He was councillor for the Rural Municipality of St. Clements for 4 years.

Then in 1973 our world pretty well ended. The worst happened, we lost our son Mundy on June 2, (12 days

before his 16th birthday), in a car accident, along with 5 others. We are much stronger than we think, somehow we came through this sadness, though I guess it changed us a lot. Then in 1976 more sadness, we lost my dear father-in-law Rueben, and again in 1978 we lost our dear brother-in-law Terrance Danwich (29 years old). But all was not bad, our daughter Eileen got married and Feb. 21, 1971 she gave us our first grandchild, Vanessa, just before our 25th wedding anniversary. On Nov. 18, 1976 she gave us our second grandchild, Ashley Richard. Our son Terrance got married to a lovely girl, Patricia Ann in Aug. 1977. On June 14, 1979, they gave us another grandchild, Sharon Curtis. On July 1st, 1977, you guessed it, another grandchild (our daughter again) Andrea was born. So now we have four beautiful grandchildren.

Here it is 1983, and we do not have cattle anymore, we have three tandem's, one 3 ton gravel truck, loaders, cats and other gravel equipment, that I don't even know the names of. We still live in the same house, its much quieter, there is just our youngest at home yet and that's Shane, he's 21. He works with his father, maybe some day our sons will take over the gravel business, time will tell.

Our eldest son Terry and his wife Pat and Shaun live in Winnipeg. Terry is a highway truck driver, so we do see him often, Shaun is our pride and joy. Our one sadness, is that Eileen lives in Richmond, B.C., so we do not see as much of our other grandchildren as we'd like to.

## GEORGE THOMAS

*submitted by Helen Hourie*

My Grandfather, George (Geordie) Thomas was born to Charles and Mary Thomas at Brochet in 1840. All his younger years were spent growing up in Northern Manitoba, learning how to live off the land, and being a Hudson's Bay Factor. Meanwhile, my Grandmother, Adeliade Moran was also growing up in Ille La Crosse. She was born March 15, 1847, the daughter of French Canadian parents, Genevieve Rioux and Pierre Moran. Geordie and Adeliade were married at Brochet in 1864, at a time when the Civil War was still raging between the Northern and Southern United States. They had thirteen children, some of whom died when they were no more than babies, and some lived to raise families of their own.

During an interview in March, 1955 on the occasion of her 108th birthday, Gene Telpner of the Wpg. Free Press carried an interesting article, which in part read as follows:

"A living reminder of Canada's lusty frontier heritage has made history -- then outlived it.

This month at Traverse Bay on the winter-locked shores of Lake Wpg., Mrs. George Thomas celebrated her 108th Birthday.

Adeliade is the last of the rugged northern Manitoba frontiers-women --- the women who knew pioneer life in the raw, who lived on pemmican, whose feet recognized only the feel of a hand-sewn moccasin.

Last week (March 15, 1955) at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Orvis, friends and relatives gathered in the



*Mrs. Duffield, Granny Geordie, 100 years old, Nancy Guimond. Traverse Bay, 1947.*



*Granny Geordie and grandchildren Agnes, Theresa and Thelma setting out to pick blueberries, 1937.*

large Traverse Bay residence to pay her homage. To the strains of a Red River Jig, the tired old eyes, misty with age, had a valiant try at staying open. But at 9:30 p.m. she gave up, and quietly went to bed with her memories."

And what memories! Born at Ille La Crosse in the far northern part of Saskatchewan, the daughter of French Canadian parents. They moved to Brochet and there she met her future husband -- dashing George Thomas, who became Hudson's Bay Factor at Moose Factory.

Adeliade's eyes generated an age old sparkle as she recalled her life with Geordie Thomas. "For life with a factor", she stated, "was like being a Queen of a castle". "A Factor was Lord paramount; his word was law". She went on to say that he was surrounded by a halo of dignity, and his person was sacred. He dressed everyday in a suit of black or dark blue, and wore a black beaver hat. Also, salutes were fired whenever a Factor entered or departed one of the forts. This was considered necessary at that time, because it added to the dignity of the factor in the eyes of his subordinates, and also had a good effect on the Indians. Proud indeed was an Indian fortunate enough to be presented with a Chief factor's cast-off beaver hat. Often it became a part of the Indian's costume.

With the exception of a few trips to Selkirk by York boat, Adeliade spent her entire life in the hard north.