

## ALEXANDER BUTLER ROWLEY

*submitted by Hallie Wilson*

Alexander Butler Rowley was born in Nov. 12, 1855, at Penryth, Cumberland, England. His home was named Swarthfield farm, touching the shores of Ullswater Lake; some called it the lake district. Behind the house were the Cambrian Hills, a very beautiful setting for a home. As well as the stately home, there were other buildings on the grounds, 3 of which were the coach house (which sheltered their mode of transportation), a stable for the horses, and very important to my Dad, a boat house on the lake. Inside the house were many large rooms. Those on the main floor had special significance, a clock room, on the walls and floors of which were numerous clocks of every description. I am fortunate enough to own one of those beautiful clocks. Another room was a picture gallery. There was a billiard room, a library, a drawing room and most important to the family, a music room in which was a grand piano, violin, flutes, harps, etc. They were a musical family. The young boys were singing in the cathedral that was close by. The musical talent was passed on to the next generation, that is, my family.

My dad used to sing many lovely melodies to us children and also at community concerts in the district. We children used to wait patiently and quietly until he had read all the foreign news in the papers and periodicals he received from overseas. Then we would gather around him with our arms around his neck and he would sing to us small children all never-forgotten songs, many of which he composed.

At an early age, Dad and his brothers were sent away to a private school, only returning home for brief visits. Dad and my uncle Campbell were to be educated as lawyers. Dad had a bit of trouble when he started school as he was very left-handed and he was not allowed to use his left hand. As, it was tied behind his back to make him use his right hand. However, that became an asset later on, because Father then became ambidextrous. He used his left hand whenever no one was watching. I must tell you about Dad's troubles at school. He was in trouble a lot at school because he did not study while the other boys were working. For punishment he was given the "cane" or had to write lines. Dad said he wrote hundreds of lines using either hand. The professors never knew he used his left hand.



*A.B. Rowley Residence, R.M. of St. Clements.*



*Alex Butler Rowley family.*

When Dad was sixteen, tragedy struck his family, his father was killed in a train accident. Dad, being the eldest, had to take over all the affairs of business which included coal mines (later confiscated by the British government in the First World War). There were large cotton plantations in the southern United States, to which Dad made numerous trips by steamship, etc. Dad had a very retentive memory, consequently he did not study, just sat in class and absorbed everything his professors said. He attended University, passed his law course attaining the highest marks in England in Chancery. He went on to practice law in London. In 1885, Dad was among the volunteers who came to Canada to settle the Saskatchewan Rebellion. When he reached Montreal, he was made Commander of his group of men, probably 'Sargeant'. From Montreal they travelled to Lake Winnipeg to the mouth of the Saskatchewan River. They boarded the York boats there and rowed or paddled down the turbulent Saskatchewan River, to Batoche. Dad said, on all the long trips, he never saw a hostile Indian. In fact, Dad had, in later years, many very true friends among the Indians around Selkirk. Dad's brothers came to Canada (that's Manitoba) before he did. In 1887, Dad became so lonesome for his brothers, that he chose to sign away his home and all the assets to his only sister. They left for



*Shirley, father  
Duncan Rowley,  
Clayton and Barrie  
Rowley, 1941/42.*

Canada, arriving at East Selkirk via the old Trans-Continental C.P.R. He stepped off the train and shook hands with Mr. Jack Martin, the first Manitoban to shake his hand. They became firm friends and remained so all their lives. In fact, Mr. Martin was an honorary pallbearer for Dad. On April 5, 1888 Dad married Margaret Ann McIvor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch McIvor. Murdoch McIvor came from Stornoway, Isle of Louis, The Hebrides, Scotland. His wife Frances Moore, came from the Orkney Islands. Their mother tongue was Gaelic. Murdoch McIvor was a pioneer too. He was hired by the Hudson's Bay Co. because he spoke several languages. He became a Factor for the "Bay" and when he left the company, he spoke 7 languages, eg. Gaelic, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Cree another Indian language and the last language he learnt, was English.

My mother was a very level person, she was educated at St. Mary's Academy for her higher education. Although she was a strong Presbyterian, they sent her there because it was a good school. At the Academy, she learned music, sewing, crotchetting, handiworks of all kind, as well as passing her grades and becoming a school teacher, quite young too. Dad and Mother started life together, north of East Selkirk at Poplar Park. They didn't stay long as their home burnt down, a severe tragedy as they lost all Dad's medals and certificates, also Mother's. Later, Dad's certificates were replaced. As well, they lost a beautifully furnished home including a grand four-legged piano. They then bought a home near East Selkirk on the banks of the Red River, where they raised a large family and they lived out their days there.

They at first had a market garden. Dad had never done any manual labour in his life. However, he soon showed how clever he was and with the help of a wonderful wife they made a success of it. Dad tile-drained at least 10 acres of land. He also dug a ditch 2 miles long and at least 2 feet deep, all this work was done by hand. He also tunneled under the road from our basement to have drainage. He also did the same for the root houses, so water never laid in those places. No mean feat for a man who had never done any manual labour. He was called upon to use his legal ability by the municipality of St. Clements, by the community at large and by many friends who, in legal trouble, turned to him. He was the solicitor for the municipality, also an auditor. He formed the School District of Kitchener at the request of the Dept. of Education. He formed municipalities at the request of the Manitoba Government. He named the East Selkirk's new school at that time, Happy Thought. This name was chosen over others. He was called on the jury in Winnipeg many times and owing to his integrity and sense of justice, one or two people owed him their freedom.

My mother kept things going at home, a friend and helper to all. She helped nurse many of her sick friends and neighbours. She worked very hard, but through all the ups and downs she had the love and respect of everyone with whom she came in contact. No father and mother were more respected by their sons and daughters than they. I always thought that we children learned more at home than at school.

My father passed away in May, 1943 after a lingering illness and pneumonia at the age of 87. Mother passed away on Dec. 3, 1962, at the age of 93. Both were not senile in any way, both died peaceful deaths as they deserved. Dad was blind in his last few years, but never complained.

I recall some other interesting facts about my Dad. He had a very inquiring mind. He loved experimenting with chemicals and made many odd "concoctions" (I'd guess you'd call them). He stopped when he set his jacket on fire with sulphuric acid. My dad was asked by the municipality of St. Clements to make the Ferry road usable, or passable I should say. He examined it and told them that as the river flooded and washed away the mud grade, they would have to have a permanent footing. They agreed to anything he said. He then had the road to the river dug down deeply and filled it with granite boulders, huge ones, which he found right around the district. Since then the road had always been usable even though it floods almost every year. The Ferry Rd. leads from the steam plant which is now at the top of the hill, right down to the bridge.



*James Duncan Rowley*

Another item I would like to mention is that my mother loved young people very much. She always had her grandsons and their friends staying at the farm in the summer. They would tent, she would feed them in return. The children did all her errands and helped her in every way possible. They and their friends, dearly loved Grandma Rowley, as they called her. To this day, you can ask grown-up young men about Grandma Rowley and they will always talk of the lovely times they had over there. eg. the Funk boys (who left the district.)

The clock that Hallie Wilson received from her father came from England, "one of the many items my father brought over and I was fortunate enough to be given it. My dad wanted me to have it and therefore it's in my home now."



When my parents went on their honeymoon, they went in a cart (probably to Winnipeg). The first home they moved into after they were married was already built quite a few years before and Mr. Rowley renovated it and made it quite beautiful. At the time of the fire in 1897, they only had 3 children and when the fire started the two oldest children had started it by playing with matches and Murdock was a baby in the cradle at the time. When my mother noticed the fire, she raced to the house and got the children out. The cradle was on fire and mother put it out. Her sewing machine was by the door on fire, the board you lift up to let the machine down was burnt right off, but she pulled it out the door and saved it.

Father imported his horses from England and Scotland, mostly Scotland, Clydesdales, as he needed the heavy horses to work the land. He also brought out purebred bulls and Shorthorns. He often showed his cattle at the Selkirk Fair after they moved to East Selkirk.

When they moved to East Selkirk there was already a log house built there, built by a man named Andrew. The log house and property was located exactly 2 miles south of the Selkirk Bridge, right on the east bank of the Red River. Father enlarged the home, it was built in an "L" shape. It had to be enlarged to fit a large family. The old log portion became the kitchen. That's where we had all the dances and all the people from the district used to dance in there. I think there were three floors put in that kitchen, they danced them out. The house had six rooms upstairs and a long hallway. In this hallway, one end had a big oak table, it was a wide hallway over 8 ft. wide, and this table was always piled high with books. At this table we did our homework. Downstairs we had a huge kitchen, another big hallway, a sitting room and my parents bedroom. The house had brick chimneys, a huge kitchen range with a copper boiler for boiling water. In the hall was a large Quebec Heater lined with bricks. The living room had a long box stove. In the downstairs bedroom was a small Quebec Heater. The pipes from the stoves and heaters went upstairs to the four chimneys. The pipes through the floors had cement all around them, so they were safe from fire and safe for the children. We had a pantry at one end of the kitchen, full length. Mother stored the goods we used everyday. In the basement, which was a full stone basement, there was a huge room with plank shelves, where Mother stored her canning (wild fruits, cranberries, raspberries, wild strawberries, rhubarb, pumpkin jam, blueberries, etc.). She made pickles by the gallons, jar upon jar -- we kids loved to eat. By spring, those preserves would be gone. Of course the basement was very cold, but it didn't freeze. If there was any doubt that it might freeze, they had kerosene heaters to protect the root crops from freezing.

Father (AB Rowley) built a beautiful barn and it had a big high loft. There was a kind of platform built on top and they had ventilators, little steeples, three of these on top of the barn and a ladder going to the top. We kids liked nothing better than to sit away up and look over the country side.

The only neighbors we had was James Frost, Mrs. Frost's parents lived there first, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor. Then when Mrs. Frost was married to Jim Frost, they made the house bigger and lived with her parents,

because they were old, and looked after them.

I can tell you a story about "old Bobby" Taylor. We children all liked "old Bobby". My father always looked out for him. "Old Bobby" wasn't always responsible for what he was doing, especially in the winter. My father looked after him though I don't think there was much difference in their age. He watched when he'd go to town and when he came back, especially in the winter. One night he didn't come back early and Mrs. Frost came and told Dad her father hadn't come home. So, Dad immediately went down to Selkirk to look for him. He found him, with his team, stuck in a snowdrift, and he was on a cold wood rack (just a rack for holding wood, with uprights). He had a hold of one of these uprights, with his hands and they were frozen to the upright. My Dad took him home, sent my older brother Duncan on horseback for Dr. Ross. They got the Doctor and rushed the old man over to the hospital. (Dr. Ross's office, don't know if the hospital was built then.) Anyhow, the old man lost his hands. He was very agile with his "hands" after that. He could do all kinds of things, he was quite a smart old man, in spite of losing all his fingers (stumps for hands) still in all, Dad used to look after him, along with Mr. and Mrs. Frost. They kept an eye on him to see that things went right.

Mrs. Frost died a very tragic death, she was coming over to visit my sister (Mother wasn't there then) and right at the creek running through our place, I guess she was down in a hollow and this truck came along and I guess she wasn't far enough off the road, it was an oil truck and she was run over and killed. (1940)

Mrs. Frost was a very remarkable woman and I'd like to say a bit about her. She was so clever and could do anything. She was a most beautiful sewer and made a lot of dresses for me. She was very good to me. She had a brother living in Libau and he was away. His wife at childbirth, had a little son, she went out in a rainstorm to look for the cows. Shortly after the baby was born and she got pneumonia and died. She left 3 small children and 2 grown-up sons. Mrs. Frost took those 3 children, including the infant. This baby was very sickly and she nursed him night and day. My mother used to help with the nursing and allow her a break. Between the two of them they saved the child's life. These children were Taylor children. Mrs. Frost's brother's children, and there are relatives of these people living in Selkirk, today.

We had a beautiful well, we could call it a flowing well. 103 ft. deep "bored" well. Sometimes they'd run short of water at the CIL plant which was close by and they would haul a lot of water from our well. The more water they took out, the more the water ran out of the well. Out through the pump, it wouldn't stop running.

Father constructed it and Lou Curtis was one of the men who operated the well-drilling machine. Pruden's, owned the outfit, and Curtis was in charge. My dad insisted that they go down deep. They had to go down below the depth of the river to make sure you got good water. He was very fussy about water, he always had it analyzed. He was very critical about the pollution of the Red River. We were never allowed to take any fish out of the river. If the Indians came to the door to sell fish, we'd buy the fish, but never ate them.



Dad was always good to the Indians and had many, many, friends. He always gave them a little money to buy their tobacco. We never used the river water.

Dad did a little market gardening. When they first started out they had a market garden. Dad really bought this place on the Red River for one specific reason, he was pretty smart, looking out for things, he examined the soil and discovered there was 4 Ft. of topsoil on that land. No wonder he wanted to buy it. It would never "play out" and it was heavy soil, a lot of it gumbo, I guess, but the topsoil was 4 ft. deep.

About the topsoil, it probably built up from the river long ago. Maybe the Ice Age. One item I must mention, across the CNR track there was a field (stretched for 2 miles), 4 acres of that were planted in wheat one year. This was this 4 Ft. deep soil where they planted Durham wheat. When they harvested it in the fall, they grew 79 bushels to the acre, No. 1 Northern, the best wheat there was for making flour. That was written up in the Free Press.

We had horses mostly, Clydesdales, driving horses, very frisky because they were fed a lot of grain. They took a lot of handling, but my brothers were strong and able to do it.

They had cattle, bulls, Shorthorns, and Ayreshires for cream, chickens, turkeys, and geese. The geese swam in the river.

We did some of our own butchering, but most of the time we got "old John" Robertson, a very good friend of the family, and he did a lot of work for us. They lived down on Eaton Ave. He used to have a butcher shop right on Eveline St. right across from the railway station, that brick building right on the corner of Eaton and Eveline which was the old railway station. They used to have an electric railway that ran right down Eveline to Main St. and that was their station.

We had a fancy buggy, quite shiny I remember, with a top on it, like a surrey with a fringe on top. Usually, they just used one horse on it. One horse, they clocked on Ferry Rd. she was quite a fast animal, a friend of ours had a car (quite a long time ago) they could put the top down on the car and she had her nose at the back of the car and Duncan was driving her. Jim Dixon (from Mayfield, a friend of my brothers) was driving the car, and they clocked her from the riverbank (where the bridge is) to the bottom of the hill, and she travelled 15 m.p.h., that was her usual gait.

We usually shopped in the Town of Selkirk and the family crossed the river by the St. Clements Church.

Mrs. Rowley (Margaret Anne McIver) met her husband Alexander Butler Rowley at the Peguis Post Office where her father (Murdoch McIvor) had been Post Master for the years 1871 to 1898. After her three years at the St. Mary's Academy, Margaret Ann had assisted her Father with the postal duties.

During their 55 years of life together, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley lost three homes to fire (one at Poplar Park, one at Sleeve Lake, and the third along the east side of the Red River), "And we lost two pianos in those fires" Mrs. Rowley used to relate regretfully.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowley marked their 55th Wedding Anniversary April 5, 1943.

The late G.H. Fox wrote the following in the Selkirk Record (issue June 3, 1943) relating to Alexander Butler Rowley who had passed away in May of 1943: "Another grand old-timer and most likeable man was lost to the community in the passing of Alex Rowley. One of nature's gentlemen. Alex Rowley lived a long life in kindly fashion and enjoyed every moment of it."

"Though trained in early life for a professional career, the urge of the West drew him to the Red River Valley where he took a partner from one of the oldest families of the district and settled down to the life he loved, close to nature of which he was a student."

"Kindly and gentlemanly in disposition, Alex Rowley admired and enjoyed that which was good in life and enjoyed it to the full, always taking a kindly, sympathetic view of his surroundings."

"Balanced by a charitable judgement, Alex Rowley made many friends and never lost one."

"These will long remember their association with a courtly, kindly gentleman with whom it was a pleasure and a privilege to have been associated and to have known."

Alexander Butler Rowley had a long list of achievements including a Law Degree, Municipal Auditor, Certificates to practice Veterinary Medicine, trained in the expert art of Boxing, was a cartoonist, Accountant, legal advisor, assisted in incorporating schools and local government.

Alexander lived to 87 years of age dying in May 1943, Margart Anne, his wife lived to age 93, dying in 1961/62.

They had a family of 13 children, Amy, Duncan, Murdoch, Maude, Ethel, Laurie, Cecil, Hugh, Hallie, Laundy and Beth. And two children died at birth.

Of the 13 children only Sam (who was born Samuel Lawrence Bedson Rowley, named after Colonel Bedson) and Beth (Stephenson) and Hallie (Wilson) are living today.

Sam and his wife Ada live on Eveline, as does Hallie Wilson. Beth Stephenson and her husband live on Manitoba Ave. All in the town of Selkirk.

Lanty was named after the Primate of the Church of England and Sam after Col Bedson. Both of these named used to make visits to the Rowley farm and stay over while in Manitoba and had conversation to the early morning hours with Alex Butler Rowley.

## **SAM ROWLEY**

*submitted by Sam Rowley*

Sam Rowley and his wife Ada live in a lovely, cozy home at 321 Eveline St. in the town of Selkirk.

You can see the East side of the Red River from their front window, the Bridge and the Steam Plant structure.

Sam is the son of Alexander Butler Rowley and Margaret Anne Rowley (nee McIvor). His father had come to Canada in the early 1880's and had been involved in the 1885 Rebellion. Sam was one of 13 children born to Alex B. Butler. One of their homes was situated on the east bank of the Red River, near where the Manitoba Hydro towers are and where the batching plant is, in close proximity to the CIL Plant.

Sam remembers that the Rowley family had about 8

horses and 2 oxen to work the land and for transporting wood etc. He fondly recalls hooking the 2 oxen up to the wagons and hooking the horses up in front of them. As a team they all worked well together. Sam recalls a lot of wolves and wild turkeys on the east side of the river and the shooting of game which was in plentiful quantities for the settlers.

Sam married Ada Booke in 1929 when he was 29 years old. Ada was a schoolteacher from England and had taught at the Happy Thought and Walkleyburg schools from about 1920 to 1926.

Sam remembers that the old Rowley farm was near Taylor's and Frosts place and all that land was eventually bought out by Hydro. Rowley's built another home again across Hwy. 59 (near CIL Rd.) and he thinks Nordal's bought it after that. Sam remembers the sad day that Mrs. Frost was coming over to visit his mother and got killed on Henderson Hwy. by a truck.

His father and mother, the late Alex B. Rowley bought another homestead up at Sleeve Lake, north of Fisher Branch and Sam used to enjoy going up there to visit, hunt and fish.

In 1933/34, Sam started working on the brushing and clearing of the C.I.L. property. Sam continued to work for C.I.L. when the Plant opened for operation. He was their first Plant Foreman, a job he was to continue for the next 30 years, retiring in 1965.

Sam attended the Kitchener School and recalls Mrs. Hall and Principal Stokes. As he outgrew Kitchener School, he went across the River by boat and ferry every day to Selkirk, where he attended the Central and old High School. He completed his Grade 11. In winter he crossed the river on ice. It was tricky crossing the ice during spring break-up and in the late fall and early winter.

Sam and Ada had one son, Cecil, who was educated in Selkirk and at the University of Manitoba. He worked in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto for the Dominion Patent office. Cecil and Ruth have 5 children, Steven, Bruce, Gordon, Michael and Wendy.

Sam is enjoying his retirement and during an interview in April, 1982, was able to recall in detail his work years with the CIL Explosives Plant in St. Clements. We have included this information under the heading of CIL and have shared some of his memories with you. Sam has a sharp and vivid memory at age 82.

## THE ROZAK FAMILY

*by Paulette Anne Rozak*

It was poverty, scarcity of land, political unrest, and lack of opportunity that led John Rozak I and his wife, Pauline, to leave Malnov in Galicia. Although they were immigrating from Poland, they were staunch Ukrainians who belonged to the Greek Catholic Church. In the year 1906, John and Pauline started their Journey to Canada. They had no money except for Pauline's inheritance. Travelling across the Atlantic by ship, they reached Canada and then took the train to East Selkirk, Man. where many immigrants were being dropped off at the Round House. Their year of arrival was 1907.



*About 1951. Back Row, Left to Right: John Rozak, Pauline Rozak, Mary Rozak, John Rozak II, Kaspar Boehmer, Kay Boehmer. Front: Paulette Rozak, Marlene Boehmer.*

They brought with them a four month old baby on the train trip, but the child caught cold and died. This child was the first of many babies to be lost to Pauline. A close estimate was seven including a set of twins. However five children survived. They were John II, Mike, Kay, Mary, and Steve.

John I farmed in East Selkirk and worked at many jobs to earn money for his family. His wife, Pauline, badgered him so much about the money from her inheritance being responsible for their arrival in Canada that John worked hard for several years, saved \$300, and sent the money back to Poland. Pauline was sorry then but could not stop her husband from salvaging his pride.

John and Pauline had several homes in the village of East Selkirk. Their last home was on the Two Mile Road just off the 59 Highway. It was built by the oldest son, John II.

Their children went to Happy Thought School. In fact, John Rozak II, the eldest, started school in 1916 when the old stone building on Henderson Highway was opened.

Steve married Dorothy Moar and moved to Toronto. They had two children, Donna and Mona. Mary married Nick Simec and also moved to Toronto with their four children, John, Dan, Tom, and Patricia, Kay married Kaspar Boehmer and lived in East St. Paul. They had two children, Marlene and Daniel. Mike married Mary Reilly but later divorced. They had eight children, Mike, Betty, Mary Jane, Wendy, Shirley and Danny (the twins), Tim, and Grace.

John, the eldest son, took for his bride, Mary Federowich, a Polish girl from Rossdale, Man. Mary and John might have met sooner, but Mary's grandmother, who also came from Poland, found East Selkirk to be too much wilderness and wanted to go further to Winnipeg where the land was better. John and Mary had four children, Paulette, Bobby (who died at childbirth), Jim, and John III. They decided to build a home on 35-13-5E just about one and a half miles from the village of East Selkirk.

Paulette, Jim, and John attended Happy Thought





25th anniversary, 1971. Back Row, Left to Right: Jim, John III Rozak. Front Row: Paulette, John II and Mary Rozak, Lettie Federowich.

School from Grades 1-8. Then they went across the river to attend high school at Selkirk Collegiate Institute. John finished his Grade 12 at the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive High School when it first opened. All three were known for their academic prowess.

Paulette went to the University of Manitoba to earn her permanent first class teaching certificate. Her first position was at the new Happy Thought when it opened in 1966. Eventually she went back to university - this time to the University of Winnipeg - to earn her bachelor of Arts degree. At present she has returned to teaching at Happy Thought.

Jim entered Red River Community College and received his diploma in computer programming. He is employed by the Manitoba Telephone System in Winnipeg.

John III went to Red River College for one term, went to work for Marshall Wells in Winnipeg, and is presently continuing his education.

## WALTER AND AGNES ROZMUS

*submitted by E. Rozmus*

When Walter Rozmus was only 18 months old he sailed to the new world from Ruzaniecka, Poland with his father and mother, John and Annie (Wazny) Rozmus, his older brother George, two older sisters, Katie and Rose and his paternal grandmother Annie. Even though Walter does not recall the trip, he often tells the story of how once in Halifax, they along with other immigrants, were forced to ride in a boxcar part way to Winnipeg. That was 1904.

The first year the family stayed with George Rozmus, John's brother, who had previously settled in Canada. John bought 40 acres of land one mile south of Highway 44 on the boundary of Springfield and St. Clements (now called Highland Glen). The land was mostly swamp and bush and infested with mosquitoes, frogs and snakes. During the first year the family cleared the land and built their home.

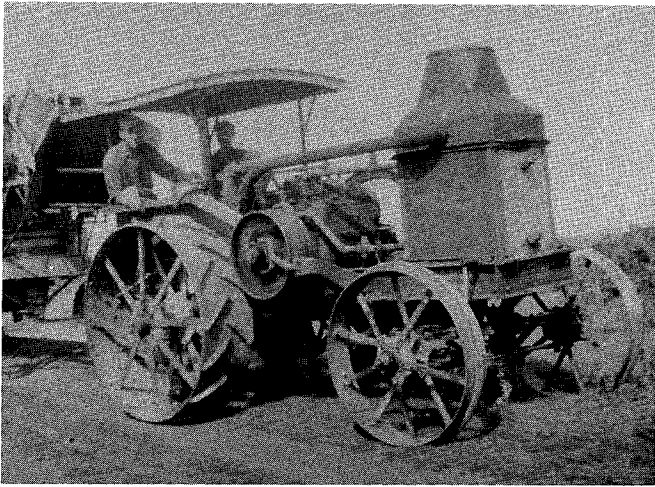


Walter and Agnes Rozmus, 1925.

Walter recalls attending the Melrose-Springfield School (2 miles South of Highway 44 and 1/2 mile west of 212). He said that it got so crowded that the students had to sit on the floor and stage. Finally the St. Clement students were asked to leave and for awhile attended the Ashfield School. In 1912 the one-room Highland Glen School opened and Walter attended for about four years until he quit at age 14 to help his father farm. In 1918 when Walter was 16 he bought 20 more acres of land



Log home of Mr. W. Rozmus, 1916.



*Walter and Bill Rozmus, 1945.*

adjoining his father's farm, where he built a new family home. A year later his father died in Highland Glen.

In 1925 Walter married Agnes Wazny (1904) who lived a mile away in Cooks Creek. After their marriage they lived on the Highland Glen farm.

The Depression years witnessed a big change for the Rozmus'. In 1933 Walter started the J.W. Auto Wrecking Company on Main Street in Winnipeg, which he operated until 1954. In 1936 they also sold the Highland Glen farm and moved to the city.

Walter and Agnes bought their present farm of 220 acres in Highland Glen (Highway 212, 1/2 mile north of Highway 44) in 1944. In 1947 a fire destroyed the original house and was not rebuilt until 1958. During those years they spent the summers in Highland Glen and lived and worked in the city during the winters. Walter is now retired from farming, but his son Henry continues to farm the land.



*Back Row, Left to Right: Sidney and Joan (Rozmus) Jones, Eleanor (Gorda) Rozmus, Henry, William Rozmus, Elinor (Beard) Rozmus, Violet (Rozmus) Jones. Front Row: Shelley, Agnes, Walter and Mark Rozmus.*

Even though Walter and Agnes were both born and raised in the Roman Catholic Church, in 1928 they became affiliated with the International Bible Students Association. They and three of their children and their spouses continue to be active in this organization.

In 1967 the Highland Glen School closed its doors and Walter purchased this site. His oldest son William (1927) now owns and operates Highland Implement Sales on this location. He and his wife Elinor Beard (1941) of the U.S.A. also live at this location. Their second son Henry (1931) is married to Eleanor Gorda (1936) from Selkirk. Henry, in addition to farming is an air-conditioner mechanic at Motorways in Winnipeg. They live in Highland Glen and have two children, Mark, 25 and Shelley, 22. Walter and Agnes also have two daughters, Vi Jones (1935) also of Highland Glen and Joan (1938) who is married to Sidney Jones (1932) of the U.S.A. They also live in Highland Glen.

## **THE SALUK FAMILY**

*submitted by Phillip Saluk*

Phillip and Anne arrived in Canada with their six children from Brody, Austria in 1908 to Halifax. They travelled by train to Winnipeg and then settled in the Beausejour area, known then as the Sandhill Area.

Jack, son of Phillip and Anne, married Mary Zawiduk in 1929. Mary arrived in Halifax in the year 1929, on the ship Polanolynia, then travelled by C.P.R. to Beausejour, May 17/29. They settled in the Tyndall area and then moved to Ladywood.



*Phillip and Anne Saluk.*



*Jack and Mary Saluk.*

## **WALTER SALUK AND FAMILY**

*submitted by Walter Saluk*

Walter, born March 3, 1931 at Tyndall to the late Jack Saluk and Mary Saluk now residing at Selkirk Centennial Lions Manor, moved to Ladywood (Brokenhead area) and farmed, married in 1954 to Madeline Boyko who was born in Walkleyburg on May 4, 1933 to the late Peter and Ann Boyko (nee Gryzko). Madeline attended school at the Lilydale school. She moved to Selkirk with her father in 1949. Madeline and Walter moved to Winnipeg in 1955. Walter was employed at Standard Dairies. They moved to West Selkirk in 1958, built a house on Sophia Street and lived there until 1967 when they bought Mike Walenchuk's place on Church Road, East Selkirk. At this time Walter started his employment at Selkirk Mental Hospital.

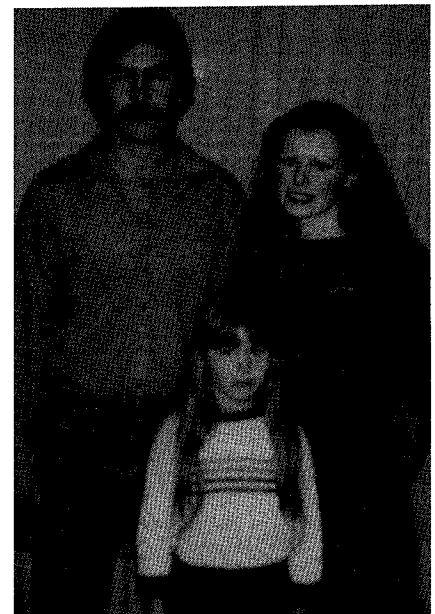
Walter and Madeline have four children; son Greg born Nov. 19, 1955, daughter Darlene, born June 12, 1960, son Gary born Sept. 6, 1965 and son Bradley born Nov. 7, 1974. All the children were born in Selkirk. Greg married Erin Wark in 1975, their daughter Cara was born in 1976, now in East Selkirk, Manitoba.

Darlene is employed with Permanent Trust. Gary attends high school at the Selkirk Comprehensive. Bradley attends Happy Thought School.

Greg is employed by Versatile as a Computer Programmer. His wife Erin is a Lab Technician at the Selkirk Medical Centre. Daughter Cara attends school at Daerwood in Selkirk.



*Walter, Madeline Saluk, Darlene, Gary, Bradley.*



*Greg and Erin Saluk  
and daughter Cara.*

## **HENRY SALUK**

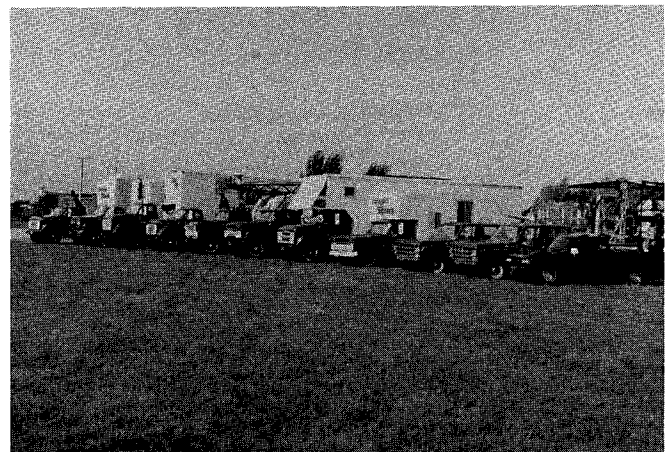
*submitted by Walter Saluk*

Wonder Shows Ltd. was started in 1964 with one ride and a Cotton Candy Concession, started by Henry and Eleanor Saluk residing in Winnipeg at the time. Moved to the Selkirk area in 1974. Presently Wonder Shows employs up to 30 people during the summer months, and is now managed by Henry, Eleanor and son Randy. The show moves on 11 trucks and consists of 14 rides and 8 concessions.

Henry was born July 24, 1941 in Beausejour, Man. son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Saluk. Henry's father passed away May 17, 1980. His mother is presently living in the Centennial Lion's Manor in Selkirk.

Eleanor was born June 19, 1943 in Beausejour, Man. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Struss of Beausejour.

Henry and Eleanor have one child, Randy born in Winnipeg on Feb. 20, 1966. Presently attending school at the Selkirk Comprehensive.



*Wonder Shows Fleet, 1982.*





*Henry, Eleanor, Randy Saluk, 1982.*

## **CLIFFORD AND ANNA SAWCHUK**

*submitted by The Sawchuk Family*

Clifford Sawchuk was born on Aug. 18, 1894, the son of Paul and Alexandra Sawchuk in the Parish of Tartakow, District of Sokol, which was ruled by Austria at that time. Paul's father was Conrad Sawchuk and his mother was Irene Bernadyn. Alexandra's parents were Thaddac Kolobasa and Barbara Melnyk.

As a young lad, Clifford Sawchuk arrived in Canada with his parents in 1904.

Paul and Alexandra with the help of their son Clifford, built a home in East Selkirk, as Paul was a carpenter by



*Grandmother (Baba) Alexandra Sawchuk and granddaughter Stephanie.*

trade. Clifford went to work at an early age, due to his father's illness, and continued to support the family and supplement the family income during the difficult times.

After the first house burnt down, they built another larger home on the same location on Colville Road.

Clifford was active in the community along with his parents. Soon he and his friends organized an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Uhryniuk of Winnipeg. This was one of the first major bands in the area and consisted of Clifford Sawchuk on the Trombone, Michael on the Saxophone, Fred Kordalchuk on the Coronet, Nick Kunitz on French Horn, Fred and Bill Karanko who alternated on Drums, and finally, John Karanko who played violin.

The orchestra organized dances and concerts in the village to raise money to build a Hall in East Selkirk. They built one hall and it burnt down barely before it was completed. The next year they rebuilt the hall, of which the central structure still stands and has been renovated since. Clifford Sawchuk held various positions on the



*Clifford and Anna Sawchuk.*

hall committee and while President, held Sunday night dances to help pay off the building debts. He was a charter member of the East Selkirk Hall all his life.

Clifford and his parents were instrumental, with many others in the community, in building and raising the needed monies to furnish the St. Michaels Greek Orthodox Church in East Selkirk. The Church was established in 1918, and by 1980 was officially closed.

Clifford married Anna Wisnowcki, daughter of John Wisnowcki and Kateryna Myslywchuk. Anna's grandparent's family names were Myslywchuk and Semeniuk. Anna's father, John, was an officer of the Hussar Cavalry and had trained in Germany at the officers academy. Anna had come to Canada with her mother from Luchych, Sokol, under Austrian rule. Her father John had come out much earlier and got established. Anna's mother, Kateryna, gave her some land and Clifford built their first shanty on St. Peters Road, north of the Star Hotel. Later, in 1926, they built a larger home which they moved into in 1927.



*Helen and Ed Ledwos and children Clifford and Karina.*

Clifford and Anna Sawchuk had five children, Helen, Maryann, Stephanie, Betty and Andrew. When their only son, Andrew was born, Clifford's joy led him to purchase a farm of about 200 acres, located about 2 1/2 miles from his St. Peters home. This land extended from the Red River, across the CNR tracks, to the 2 mile Road. Clifford sold the land and later on, it was resold to Nick and Mary Kopansky, where they still live. Clifford and Anna very sadly lost two children to death, daughter Betty and son Andrew.

As there were no sons in the family, the girls very quickly learned to help look after the cattle, haymaking, harvesting and vegetable gardening. Before the tractors came along, they used the horses (belonging to Anna's mother), for all the farm work.

Clifford worked at the Manitoba Rolling Mills for many years.

Clifford and Anna sold their home and farm in St. Clements in 1952, and moved to the Town of Selkirk where they rented for a while and finally built a new home on Schultz Ave.

Having sold their home and farm in East Selkirk, Clifford felt he needed a new challenge. He and his wife along with their daughter Helen and son-in-law Ed Ledwos, bought an old building. It took them three years to successfully renovate the building into business office rental units. They built a restaurant for Oscar Cantin (Oscars) which he rented and was very successful. Other tenants were Cap Johnson Insurance, Geo. Vandor Denture Clinic, Neskars Jewelry, Prudens Beauty Parlor, Johnsons Barber Shop and others.

They enjoyed 17 years of great relationship with their various tenants. The steady maintenance work of the building helped to ease Clifford into retirement.

Anna and Clifford lived to enjoy their 50th Wedding Anniversary which was celebrated in the East Selkirk Hall with many good friends in attendance.

Clifford passed away in 1981 and had lived to see his first great-grandchild born, Andrea, daughter of Carla and Ian Christiansen.

Clifford's passing away left a great loss and void. However, he left a legacy to his family that "all things are possible if you believe they are", and that "there was no word such as can't".

Throughout his lifetime Clifford was helped by his loving wife Anna with great dedication and support.

Although he owned several second hand cars, the one he bought in 1938 for \$1200 cash was special, because it was new.

While the children attended school, Clifford took a special interest in education. He was elected to the position of Trustee while his brother Michael filled the post of Secretary-Treasurer. Through their efforts (and others in the community) they were instrumental in obtaining highly qualified teachers. Then Christmas Concerts were held, Ukrainian and Polish language besides English were taught. Then a Mr. Tyzuk came to the community and taught Ukrainian dancing as well, and put on performances in East Selkirk and functions around the district.

Clifford's interest in music soon had his and other children in the district forming a Mandolin and Violin orchestra under the direction of Mr. McLosky. They performed at various functions.

Clifford and Anna's children soon grew up and made lives of their own. Helen took Secretarial training and worked at the Manitoba Rolling Mills. Maryann graduated as a teacher and taught one year and then decided to take a Secretarial Course and worked for the government. Stephanie graduated as a teacher and teaches in the Selkirk area. Helen married Ed Ledwos and they have two children. Clifford at the University of Winnipeg, and Karina attending High School.

Maryann married Urban McKenzie and they have one daughter Marianne who is attending school.

Stephanie married Walter Boresky and they have three children. Roderick who majored in Science at the University of Wpg., and is married to Lisa Lindenschmidt. Carla who graduated from the University of Manitoba, and is married to Ian Christiansen, an Engineer with the City of Brandon. The third child, daughter Anika, who attended the University of Manitoba, majoring in Education, and married to Eric Ladoski, a teacher within the City of Wpg.



*Home built by Clifford Sawchuk in 1927.*