

X THE GEORGE L. WILLIAMS FAMILY

My grandfather, George A. Williams, came to the Americas in the early 1880's to take up farming. He had been a school teacher in England and thought he would like to try farming for a change. He worked on a farm in eastern North Dakota the first winter for \$10.00 per month, feeding stock and cutting wood for summer use. On stormy days he worked on the sheltered side of the house. Later on he and Alec Hunter (who later became his brother-in-law) went into partnership in farming. In the late 1880's he moved west on to what was called "The Mountains," Cavalier County, North Dakota, near Langdon. Here he took up a homestead. It was here that his second son, my dad, George Lannus, was born, June 4, 1890.

Pioneer times were tough and by this time my grandfather had several small mouths to feed so he finally returned to teaching in rural areas. Wages were small and school teachers were scarce but my grandfather was paid \$35.00 per month which was about \$10.00 more than most teachers received as he was able to teach the higher grades.

There were folks of shady character in the good old days too. This is one incident my grandfather used to tell. Grandfather cut a load of wood for \$2.00 so he could take home a sack of flour to feed the hungry mouths. The man put two silver dollars on the counter and while grandfather was talking, the man managed to retrieve one of them. When grandfather took to him about it, he said, "You saw me put it there," and that was that, so he had to cut another load and sell it some place else to get the flour.

My dad, George Lannus Williams, herded cattle on foot for a neighbor for 10¢ per day. He later was paid 15¢ per day for good service, he said. Dad started driving three head of horses on a sulky plow when he was nine years old. Shortly after this he took over the farming and his dad went back to teaching, full time.

In the year 1909, Dad came to Bassano, hired a horse so he could come out and pick out a homestead. Then he went back to Calgary and on November 6 he filed on his homestead and pre-emption which was the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 23, twp. 23, range 12, N4. The south quarter was the pre-emption.

Dad worked about a week in Bassano while waiting for his neighbor, Arthur Hyde, to haul out the lumber for his homestead shack. He spent the winter months helping the neighbors and cutting willows, and in February he helped Anderson build his first home and was glad to welcome the Axel Andersons and the Turner men as neighbors. In the spring he hired Axel to do the required breaking on his homestead while he went back to Dakota to put in his father's crop. When Dad returned in the fall, he found that someone had filed cancellation papers on his homestead as they didn't expect him to return, but he was able to have it re-instated.

In 1911, his uncle Bert came from North Dakota and filed on a homestead kitty-cornered from his own homestead, on the south half of section 25. In 1912 he filed on a quarter section for his brother, Oliver, by proxy, on land a half mile east of his own homestead. In 1913 they both went back to North Dakota and brought back two box cars of settlers' effects which included six horses, three colts, a cow and a calf, and a well-drilling machine among other things. The well drilling equipment was used extensively in the ensuing years, drilling wells for the homesteaders. Times were pretty hard and cash was pretty scarce so many of the wells were paid for with stock which they charged exorbitant prices for. Seeing the profits were so poor he resumed his farming. Uncle Oliver eventually bought the well drill and moved it out of the country.

Glenna Gardner was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and on completion of two years high school she attended the Agricultural College of the University of Minnesota for two years. In 1913 she and her mother came to this area on visas to visit her sister, Ruth, Mrs. Fred Turner. That fall she was hired to teach the Cessford School which had just been completed. So with passes renewed for another six months, they stayed until September of 1914 before returning to Minneapolis. During this time she had met George who in the meantime had been put on as a school trustee. In the spring of 1915 she returned to the prairies where they were married on April 15 in Brooks.

Dad and Mom were getting their mail at Shandleigh post office. This was at the Jack's homestead situated on the northeast side of Berry Creek. In the winter when the weather was mild, Dad would give Mom a sleigh ride but in lieu of a cutter he used an old slip which he pulled with a rope tied to the saddle horn. Rather a bumpy ride, so I am told, but Mom hung on with no bad effects.

The following spring Dad's younger brother, Travers, came from Portland to visit. He had written for them to meet him but when no one was in Brooks to meet the train he came out with the mail stage. It took two days but even then he arrived before they received his letter. He liked the country so well he decided to stay and work. He immediately took a load of wheat to Richdale via 4-horse team and wagon, picked up a load of coal at the Sheerness Mine and returned home with enough money to file on a quarter section joining Dad's. This had been Fred Turner's pre-emption which he had never proved up on so it had reverted to the Crown. Travers was a high-spirited young man, doing everything with zest and ingenuity. However, when the leaner years came he decided to move on so he returned to Portland, Oregon, where he married Della R~~o~~ and went into the hardwood flooring business. Uncle Bert remained here until 1927, then moved to North Battleford, Sask., and later going back to England where he died.

Dad and Uncle Oliver worked together on many projects but he was a bachelor and could move on where Dad had a large family to keep. As crops had been poor and times were hard he had to do almost any kind of work to keep the wolf from the door. He moved buildings, pulled well casing from abandoned wells, did commercial seeding and threshing, and in the winter when the snow was deep he hauled the mail from Wardlow to Sunnynook with a sleigh and horses. This pulled us through the "hungry thirties." Dad was a counselor and a school trustee most of these years.

In 1925, Uncle Oliver shipped his belongings and moved to Abbotsford, B.C. Later, during the war, he worked in the shipyards in Vancouver and after the war he worked at longshoring. He was married in 1947 and died in November, 1967, and is survived by his widow, Ann, who resides at 2364 Wall St., Vancouver.

The first son of George and Glenna--George Duane--was born March 12, 1916. After completing his schooling, George worked for Mr. Sloan, Geo. Zimmerman, the Williams Bros. at Duchess, then trucked for Russ Campbell at Cessford. In 1941 he started with the P.F.R.A. as rod-man under A. B. Cook and still works for that organization. In 1948 he married Molly King of Castor. They now reside in Calgary and have two children.

I, Myron Allen, the second son, was born July 16, 1917. I joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 while working in Edmonton for Mr. Agar. Was shot down during a raid over Germany and spent several months as a prisoner-of-war, also in Germany. While in England, after being released from the war camp, I married Violet East in 1945. Since returning to Canada we have lived in Calgary. I was active in the construction business for several years and the contractor for much of the expansion at Cessford Consolidated School. We have five children.

Charles Douglas (called Doug) was born August 19, 1920, and took his schooling at Cessford, Pollockville and Hanna. Except for time spent in the R.C.A.F. he has remained on the farm. On his return from overseas he purchased the holdings of W. E. Williams. He married Dorothy Coultis in 1949 and they have seven children. When Dad and Mom retired to Calgary in 1954 he took over the homestead and has since added the Pell, Gertsma and Taylor places to his ranch.

After Dad left, Doug has been very active in the community affairs. He participates in all community activities, is a school trustee, was interested in 4-H work, is on the Cessford irrigation scheme, and he and Dorothy have been avid curlers for years--now the younger generation is very interested in it as well. So there will probably be a whole family of curlers.

(Helen) Dorothy Elizabeth Williams was born July 23, 1922. She received her schooling at Cessford and Alberta College in Edmonton. After completing her business course she worked in