

Auntie Martin

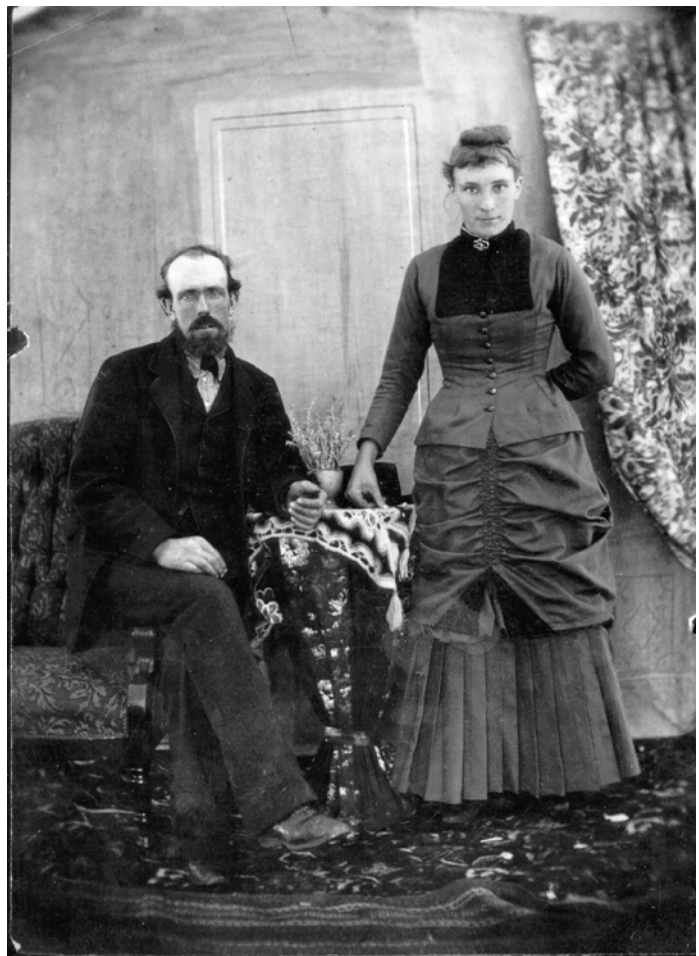
It has been mentioned earlier that Janet Walker left her homeland of Scotland and her Muiravonside birthplace for a new life in Canada. As we shall see in newspaper and other reports, a close tie to a schoolmate, Elizabeth Wilson, was a large factor in her decision to immigrate. This person immigrated, herself, and became a dominant person in her local community and throughout the province of Saskatchewan. She became known as 'Auntie Martin'. So, who was Elizabeth Wilson and what was her footprint in the province.

Let us begin by reviewing a newspaper article based on an interview of Janet Walker, now Janet Acton, by a local resident and historian Angelina Campbell (see next two pages). This interview likely took place very close to Janet's 87th birthday. This article clearly identifies Elizabeth Wilson as a major factor in Janet's decision to come to Canada. This begs some understanding of Elizabeth's family history.

Elizabeth Wilson was born in 1859 in Muiravonside, Stirlingshire Scotland, the daughter of John Martin and Helen Fleming. She had an older brother John and sister Helen.

Elizabeth's father, John Wilson worked as a servant until several years after he was married and then wanted to go into business for himself, so he took a Grocer and Victualler's shop in Linlithgow. After 9 years " We made some money and I thought I would like to try a farm." The farm was called Craig Mad near Blackbraes, a few miles south of Falkirk. This is where Elizabeth was born. The family continued to live there, at least until the time of the 1881 Census.

Elizabeth married Alexander Martin on June 1, 1883 at Blackbraes, Muiravonside Parish. Alexander was a bachelor, son of Robert Martin, a farmer, and his deceased mother.



Alexander Martin and Elizabeth Wilson, possibly on their wedding day at Muiravonside.

Janet Walker

Elizabeth and Alexander had job offers at the Bell Farm north of Indian Head, Saskatchewan so they immigrated immediately after their marriage.

Arthur Stilborn studied the history of the Stilborn family and determined many relationships existed between the Stilborns and the Wilsons and Martins. To begin, Alex Martin's sister Jane, married Charlie Begg. They had three children, namely, John, Robert and ??, Jane died when the children were very young. Her husband, Charlie Begg, took the two youngest, John and Robert, to Canada. John Begg married Alice Stilborn. To continue, Elizabeth Wilson's sister, Helen, married William Martin, a brother of Alex and Jane Martin. Helen and William had five children, William, Helen, John, Alex and Jeannie. Helen also died when the children were still young. John Martin came to Canada after his mother died. He married Esther (Ettie) Stilborn, a sister of Alice. Jeannie was only five when her mother died. She came to Canada when she turned 21. She married John William Stilborn, Arthur Stilborn's father.

It has been mentioned above that Elizabeth and Alexander immigrated to Canada immediately after their marriage. Alex obtained entry to a homestead in the Rosewood District in Saskatchewan in October, 1883. They built a house on their homestead in 1895, perfected entry in 1886 and received patent to his homestead in 1890. They then left their homestead lands to live in the Qu'Appelle Valley west of Ellisboro. Elizabeth's husband Alex died a very young man in 1900. By this time, Elizabeth had helped many Martin and Wilson neices and nephews settle in her beloved Qu, Appelle Valley. Lizzie (who by then was known as Auntie Martin to everyone) lived in a small cottage near one of her nephews. She was active in the Methodist church which had established a camp at Lumsden Beach. For many years, she worked as a volunteer at the camp, cooking meals for members of CGIT, Tuxis, and minister's summer schools. Some years ago, the United Church Observer printed a number of letters from people reminiscing about their camping days as children. One man mentioned the delicious saskatoon berry pies that Auntie Martin served to the Tuxis boys.

On a hill called Round Top at Lumsden Beach, there is a cairn bearing her name and the names of two other people who worked on the Lumsden Beach committee. One of the stories that Arthur Stilborn told his children about Auntie Martin was that women in the area knew that if they needed help in childbirth, they could call on Auntie Martin. A prospective father would come by and ask her to go over while he went for the doctor. She had no medical training, but would always go when called because she knew that if she didn't, there might be a young woman giving birth, alone, in a one room log cabin.

Auntie Martin

*Family Herald & Weekly Star
September 18th - 1946.*

PRAIRIE PIONEER

by

A. H. Campbell

A Canadian soldier on leave in Scotland was commissioned by his grandmother to obtain her birth certificate, while in Blackbraes. On the arrival of this document in Lemberg, Saskatchewan, one of the family laughingly remarked, "Let's see it, I think we'd better take a look at that bit of paper. Perhaps mother has been letting on she's much younger than she really is."

The certificate however confirmed the mother's statement that she, as Janet Walker, had been born at Blackbraes, Scotland on August 26, 1859.

Her schooling was finished at the age of 11 and in her own words, she was "wonderful keen to get out earning".

Her first paid job was herding cows and knitting as she sat. She could earn eight cents for knitting a pair of knee length hose.

She comments that the knitting suffered as a cash incentive because her brother contributed occasional pennies to her pocket.

Herding was a hot, tiresome job, so she decided to be rid of it soon.

"I'm no goin' back", she told her mother one night but her mother said dryly, "Ye'er goin' back".

"I'll run away then", countered Janet. "Ye'll run quicker back", her mother warned her.

Thus Janet was taught in a few words to stay by the contract till feein' (hiring) time came round again.

Janet had one very good school friend in the person of Elizabeth Wilson. Should Lizzie call around in the morning before Janet had her chores finished, Mrs Walker had always been duly cautioned by Janet, not to show Lizzie the slate "wi' the home work on it". School sums could only be fairly compared when both girls were present, they recall.

Janet Walker

- 2 -

Lizzie and Janet still have an annual visit together and have much to talk over.

At fourteen years of age Janet became a junior maid, gradually taking positions farther from home until she reached Glasgow.

In looking back at her years in Glasgow, she reflects "As I think on't they were all Christian people I worked for and with. We had always to be in for nine o'clock prayers every night. One of the girls I worked with in Glasgow sent me a Bible for a wedding present."

GOES TO CANADA

Meanwhile Elizabeth Wilson had married Alexander Martin and gone to Canada where she worked at the Bell Farm, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. It was "no many" years before Janet Walker had put by enough to join her friend in Canada.

She landed in New York in 1885. At St. Paul, Minnesota, where she waited a day for her luggage to catch up with her, she had an experience which impressed upon her the fact that women were very scarce in this new land to which she had come.

She entered a dairy for a drink of milk. The man at the desk by dint of much questioning learned that she was new to the continent, new to the town and single. He suggested that they made a match but she thought not. She remembers that the milk anyway was good, cold and free.

On arriving at Indian Head, she was not suited with the work and returned to Winnipeg, where work was plentiful but wages low.

In Winnipeg her employers were Roman Catholic, Anglican, Baptist but "very good, nevertheless", and the employers must have had mutual regard for Janet Walker, because at her marriage one employer presented her with a fine tea-pot, another with a china tea-set.

Elizabeth Wilson Martin and her husband had by now moved to their homestead some miles south-east of the present site of Lemberg, and Janet Walker while visiting them there, met Samuel Acton to whom she was married in 1891.

Auntie Martin

- 3 -

Her husband had been living with a friend of his in a sod-shck, (or a "sad shock", as some Ontario pioneers aptly termed these shelters).

After their marriage they lived for nearly a year with the Martins, while a house of poplar logs was being erected for them.

It was while they were moving their belongings to the new "hoose" that tragedy befell the china tea-set from Winnipeg. The box containing it had been placed on top of the load so that an eye might be kept "on't", but when one wagon wheel dropped into a badger hole, off went the box and only two plates remained intact.

Mrs Acton recalls that a Scottish neighbour in sympathising with her said, "It means the best of luck to break 'cheeny' on the way to a new hoose." So Mrs Acton perforce took what comfort she could from Scottish superstition and two unbroken "cheeny" plates.

They had two cows at first but their aim was six cows, the assumption being that a man who kept six cows was kept by them.

One of this treasured pair of cows was lost through poisoning from wild parsnip.

Prairie chicken and wild duck were very plentiful and helped wonderfully with the meals.

Sugar was five cents a pound and a quarter's worth did a long time. Distance from the store and lack of cash were factors which imposed a self-rationing system.

Neighbours were friendly and obliging. Shank's mare didn't balk at distance in those days. It was as nothing to run a mile across the prairie to borrow some coal-oil, yeast or thread.

They always, she says, referred to their land as "stony 10", that being the number of the section. However, even the stones were put to good use, when in 1908 a fine commodious stone house was built, the present home of their eldest son, Richard A. Acton.

Mr and Mrs Acton retired from the farm to the town of Lemberg, where the former died in 1927.

The present family consists of two sons and three daughters. One son is deceased. One daughter, Miss J. Acton, lives with her mother. Grandchildren number 22. The only great grandchild was born in England some months ago.

Janet Walker

- 4 -

A granddaughter, Muriel Watson R.N., spent two years nursing in Labrador recently, probably motivated by the same pioneer urge which called Janet Walker to the prairie.

Grandma Acton scatters her wisdom freely, yet unobtrusively. To a group dreading a certain duty which presaged much unpleasantness she suggested that the circumstances of the situation might alter completely before that date arrived.

To her grandson with an English wife and child still across the Atlantic and who hesitates as to his choice of work, she gives sane advice to any returned soldier. "Choose what you know you have aptitude and liking for, and if the wife be worth the name, she will help you in that work whatever it be."

In talking to this fine citizen of Saskatchewan one is amazed to find how she has maintained lines of contact with so many of her acquaintances of former decades.

Her interest in reading is broad. Her interest in affairs is global. Her love of people "ken's no barrier". Her youthful spirit takes her to church, recently she travelled the eight miles to the lawn of her son, R. W. Acton, where a rural Sunday service was held. She enjoyed the service, pronounced the coffee delicious and the lunch good.

Each spring she attends the boys' fat calf show in Lemberg, where her grandchildren's entries usually place high.

These and other interests reflect her vitality.

She mentions the fact that the Family Herald and Weekly Star has been in their home since its start. She remembers hearing her father-in-law tell of visiting the office of this paper in the early years to renew his subscription, and noticing that the printing press was placed on boards supported by two barrels.

"Ah, yes", concludes Mrs Acton, "Canada has been good to us. The pound note I brought in my purse from Scotland, I never used. I sent it back right away."

Auntie Martin

The photo on the right is a studio print of 'Auntie Martin', likely taken somewhere in Saskatchewan. It is from the album of Annie Acton.

An Acton-Watson Sunday Picnic in the 1940s would not be complete without the presence of 'Granny Acton' (nee Janet Walker) and her former school chum and lifelong friend Auntie Martin. The photo below was taken on one of these occasions at the farm home of Janet's son Robert Acton. Four of Janet's children can be seen, in the very back row, L/R: Robert (Bob), Agnes (Nancy), Janet (Jenny, tall lady) and Richard (Dick). There were seven grandchildren that were standing: Stanley Acton, Richard Acton, Elinor Acton, Margaret Watson, Robert Watson, Janet Elizabeth (Beth) Acton and Duncan Acton and another five sitting or crouching near their grandmother and 'Auntie Martin', namely: Audrey Acton, Doris Acton, Donald Acton, Shirley Acton and Clifford Acton. Others in the photo include Nellie and Joe Acton standing on the left hand side, then Jim Watson and Annie Acton. John Watson and Bill Watson are standing on the right hand side. Sarah Acton is kneeling beside Auntie Martin. Of special note are the mini-print dresses worn by Janet Acton and Auntie Martin and the string of pearls worn by Auntie Martin.



Janet Walker



Janet Walker. The photo on the left may have been taken in Scotland. The one on the right was a studio print taken during her stay in Winnipeg.

Janet Walker left Scotland by boat in 1885, headed for New York, USA. She took the train from there to Winnipeg but had to wait in St. Paul, Minnesota for her luggage to catch up to her. She took a moment to enjoy a glass of milk at a nearby dairy. After a few introductory questions, the gentleman serving her proposed marriage. This was only the first time that Janet was proposed to by a stranger. She soon realized that young women were in high demand for marriage in this “new land”.

Janet’s journey continued on to Indian Head, in hope for employment there. She concluded “she was not suited for the work” and returned to Winnipeg where “the work was plentiful but wages low.” Janet recalled in her interview by Angelina Campbell that her employers were of many Christian faiths but “very good nevertheless”. From this discussion, Mrs. Campbell concluded that the employers must have had mutual respect for her, because at their marriage one employer presented her with a fine teapot, another with a china teaset.

Janet Weds Sam Acton



Janet Walker and Samuel Acton on their wedding day at Brandon, Manitoba on August 17, 1891.

Auntie and Alex Martin lived less than a mile from a young bachelor, Samuel Acton. On one occasion, during a visit of Janet Walker to their homestead, she invited him for a visit. This visit ended in their marriage on August 17, 1891.

There were several interesting side-lights to Janet Walker and Samuel Acton's marriage in Brandon, Manitoba. One was that Auntie Martin was Janet's bridesmaid. The second was that Samuel had to quickly recruit a fellow he knew that was working on a construction project to be a signator to his marriage. Thirdly, Janet received another proposal for marriage on her train ride from Winnipeg to Brandon.

Samuel was born in Montreal the year his parents immigrated from Yorkshire England. After a few years in Montreal they homesteaded at Rockingham, Renfrew County, Ontario. Samuel was the fifth child in what eventually became a very large family. He was only six when his mother died. Prospects for a livelihood appeared very grim so he

Janet Walker

headed west to Winnipeg, using carpentry skills he learned with his father and uncles at Rockingham. In 1883 he and Jack Hartell came to an area north of Wolseley, Saskatchewan (North West Territories) where they took up a homestead. After a number of years and a lot of hard work on and off the homestead, Samuel obtained title to Section 10, Township 19, Range 9, West of the Second Meridian.

It appears that Samuel was not quite prepared to bring his bride into his current housing so he proceeded to convert his house to a 14x22 foot log house and a 12x16 frame kitchen lean-to. He was not finished when he was married but, fortunately, the Martins had vacated their homestead so it was possible for Janet and Samuel to live there while he finished. This they did until Samuel, Janet and their newborn child, Agnes Elizabeth, moved into their new house in 1892, when the baby was born.

Angelina Campbell repeats a memorable story of Janet's, concerning the move from Martins to her new home. Her belongings were placed in a cart with the precious tea set she received from a former employer in Winnipeg carefully placed on top of the load "so an eye could be kept on it". Tragedy struck when one wheel fell into a badger hole. Out went the tea set and only two plates remained intact. Janet recalled that a Scottish neighbour in sympathizing with her said "it means the best of luck to break some 'cheeny' in moving into a new 'hoose'". So, Janet took what comfort she could from Scottish superstition and two unbroken "cheeny" plates.

Life would be quite different for Janet from her life in Scotland and Winnipeg. She had to adjust to working with her husband with caring for poultry and other livestock as well as feeding and providing housing for a growing family, relatives and hired help. Her father-in-law, Richard Acton came to live with them about 1900. Her nephew, Robert Walker, was a frequent visitor as he became settled in his new Canadian home. The unbelievable work load Janet carried through these years is illustrated in the 1906 Census. The family had grown from first-born Agnes to include Richard, Robert, May, Jennie and Dora. In addition to all of these, there were two hired men, including Robert Walker, and a boarder, and, father-in-law Richard Acton. In good judgement and having carpentry capabilities, Samuel built a bedroom addition above the former log house in 1904 (see next page).

The farm began to prosper and the need for more space for an ever-expanding family and to accommodate hired help led to the building of a wonderful stone house. It would be a busy, but interesting, time for Janet as the stone masons were Scottish immigrants (see photo on opposite page).

Janet Weds Samuel Acton



Janet feeding her chickens outside the kitchen door.

In 1904, Samuel added bedrooms to the poplar log house with kitchen lean- to he built when he and Janet were married.



In 1908 he began construction of the stone house (below), finishing the veranda and balcony in the following year. A large, unheated kitchen can barely be seen at the back.



Janet Walker



Janet's daughter Agnes Elizabeth Acton (right) was born on the homestead in August 1892. Her son Richard Arthur Acton (left) was born in July 1894. Janet endured one of the coldest winters on record during her pregnancy with Agnes, or 'Nancy', as she was called. Many heat records were broken in the summer of '93 during her pregnancy with Richard, or 'Dick'.

In the photo below, Samuel's father Richard Acton is on the left. Janet and Samuel's children from left to right are: Richard Arthur, Sarah May Hazel, Agnes Elizabeth, and Robert Walker. The photo was likely taken in the late 1800s, before Samuel Percy was born in May, 1900.



Janet Weds Samuel Acton



The photo above captures many of the spouses of Janet's children as well as some of her first grandchildren. Standing (L/R) Annie Acton, Nancy Watson, Richard Acton, May, or Mae Acton, Robert Acton, Sarah Acton, Jennie Acton and James Watson. Samuel Acton Watson is sitting on Sam Acton's knee and Janet Elizabeth Acton (daughter of Richard and Annie Acton) is sitting on Janet's left knee and Vera Janet Mary Acton (daughter of Robert and Sarah Acton) is sitting on Janet's right knee. Jim and Nancy Watson's children, kneeling on grass, are left to right, Doris Janet, Richard William, Muriel Mae and Jean Muir.



The School That Sam Built. Samuel (Sam) built the first Rosewood School. All of his and Janet's children attended it. Two of them, Dick and Nancy can be seen in the front row.

Janet Walker

Sam and Dorra

Tragedy struck the Acton family in the early 1900s. It is described in an interview of Richard A. Acton by his son Donald Acton .

“One fall day in October, Nancy and I went out to look for a horse that had strayed away. As soon as fall work was done, many farmers turned their horses out for the winter, hoping they would find them in the spring. Dad was different, though, he thought they should be in the barn every night.

We took old Dandy and cart and started out. Horses never seemed to travel north when on their own, always south. There was lots of good prairie wool a few miles south and they gathered there by the hundreds.

It was a cold , windy day and when we got on the Krinke quarter, as it was called, Nancy was pretty cold. A young man we both knew offered to go with me to see a bunch of horses a mile or so south. Nancy went in the house and we were gone about an hour.

This man said he had a bad cold and was not feeling very good. It turned out he had diphtheria and Nancy must have picked up some germs while in the house.

It was the worst diphtheria calamity that could happen. Before it was over, Sam and Doris never recovered from it. At first, Dad and Mother thought it was just a bad cold but Sam soon developed a soar throat and had trouble breathing. After supper this night Dad decided to go to Lemberg for a Doctor. A new Doctor had come to Lemberg, Dr. Knoke, who was a smart, young man. Dad had to drive him home as he did not know the country.

They decided that Sam had to be steamed, so Dad, Mother and the Doctor made a wooden bunk beside the box stove in the living room. Hoops were put on and covered with cotton sheets. A hose was run from the spout of the kettle into the tent and steam was kept going for over a week. Doris was pretty sick, too, but never as bad as Sam. Nancy, May and Jennie also had a mild attack but Bob and I never contracted it at all.

We were all quarantined for about a month as well as having a shot in the hip. The men were allowed to draw grain into town providing they did not go into any home. Sam never got over it and while in some days he was quite bright and cheery, he tired easily and kept to his bed all the time. He passed away in April, six months later. I often

Janet Weds Samuel Acton

wondered how mother stood it as Sam required 24 hours a day nursing for a long time. She was all alone and with us being quarantined, no one could come to help her.

Doris never seemed to rally from it and was in poor health all the time. She passed away about one year after contracting the germ. When Doris was so sick one afternoon, Dad told me to saddle up Charlie, an old white horse, and go to Wolseley for the Doctor. I left about one o'clock in the afternoon in October. Charley was a real saddle horse, one of the best I ever rode on. He had a lope like a slow gallop and could go on for miles without stopping.

I got to Wolseley about 4:00 pm., told the Doctor where to go. Then I gave Charlie a drink and had a root beer for myself before I started out for home. I arrived there about 8:00 pm. Charlie had travelled about 40 miles that afternoon.” Told by Richard A. Acton to Donald Acton about 1980.



Samuel Percy Acton was born on May 22, 1900 at the Acton farm in the Assiniboia District of the N.W.T. He died on April 10, 1905. He was almost five years old.



Doris Mary Acton was born on November 15, 1903 at the Acton farm in the Assiniboia District of the N.W.T. There are several contradictions of her date of death. The year of death on her gravestone indicates that it may have been 1909. It also stated that she was three years old. This would place her birth to be 1906. Richard Acton's story of the 'diphtheria calamity' suggests she died in 1905. The 1906 Census tells us Doris was still alive and two years old in June 1906. This has lead this writer to conclude Doris Mary Acton died on October 6, 1906.

Janet Walker



Marrriages of Janet's children. Agnes (Nancy) married James Watson, an Ellisboro farmer on June 14, 1914 at the Acton farm home (above left). Photo courtesy Samuel Watson. Robert (Bob) married Sarah Jonston, school teacher, on November 3, 1920 at Oak Lake Manitoba (above right). Richard (Dick) married Annie Belle (Annie) McKinnon (school teacher) on February 16, 1921 at Oak Lake Manitoba (below left) and Sarah May Hazel (May or Mae) married Alexander Hunter Watson, Lemberg farmer on January 1, 1927 at Lemberg (below right). Alex died in 1934; May married his brother William, Ellisboro farmer, on August 15, 1940 in Sintaluta.



Janet Weds Samuel Acton



Studio print of Nancy Acton, above left; nursing graduation photo of May Acton, centre, and a photo of Dick and his sister May (and an unidentified person) as Dick prepares to leave for military service with the Canadian Armed Forces. Below, Samuel and Janet leaving their farm home for Lemberg, their nearest town, for groceries.



Janet Walker



Janet Weds Samuel Acton

Sam's hard work resulted in him being able to build the beautiful stone house described earlier, build a large horse barn and expand his land base of two quarter sections of homestead land on Section 10 to five times that amount. He divided this between his sons Robert and Richard in 1920 and took retirement residence in Lemberg. Janet, Samuel and Jennie spent the first winter of their retirement in Victoria, B.C.

Samuel died in 1927. Janet and Jennie continued to live in their Lemberg home. It became a place for grandchildren to stay when in high school and a meeting place for other grandchildren to meet before going home on a Saturday night.

Janet, ^{msn.} Walker Acton died on September 30, 1948. She and her husband and all seven of her children, including their spouses, were buried in the Ellisboro Cemetery. She was 89 years old.



The Samuel and Janet Acton farm on Section 10 about the time they retired to Lemberg and turned this land over to his son Richard.

Janet and Sam at the home of Elizabeth (Lil) and Harry Birch in Victoria in 1920-21 (below).



On the opposite page: upper left Samuel, Acton, Photo courtesy Pat Acton. Upper right, Janet and Samuel at their Lemberg home. Lower, Janet and five of her children, left to right: Jennie, May, Bob, Dick and Nancy.



Janet Walker

Walkers in Canada

Robert Walker

Robert Walker was born April 22, 1881, Abbots Grange, Polmont, Stirlingshire, Scotland. He was a nine year- old schoolboy, living with his Walker grandparents in Blackbraes at the time of the 1891 census. His son Robert thought his Dad stayed with the Reids and developed a trade as stone mason.

Robert Walker immigrated to Canada in 1898. He couldn't find work as a stone mason so took up a homestead at Gull Lake, Saskatchewan in 1906. He was asthmatic and couldn't stand the dry climate there so he moved to Lemberg to the farm of Janet and Samuel Acton.

'Bob' began working as a machinists helper on the railroad at Rainy River about 1910. On a visit to the Actons at Lemberg he met Lillian Mae Baker, widow of Philip Warner, who was visiting her sister Priscilla Sharpe. They were married in Rainy River, Ontario on December 1, 1914. Bob retired from the railroad in 1946, at the age of 65.

Lillian Mae Baker was born in Birmingham, England on February 27, 1885. she and her sister Priscilla immigrated to Canada, to live with an aunt near Winnipeg, in 1902. She married Philip Warner in Winnipeg, in June 1905.

In August 1965 fire struck the Walker home in Rainy River. Bob was working in the garden when he noticed the outbreak. He successfully rescued his wife Lillian who was confined to a wheelchair, but collapsed as he got outside. He died from smoke inhalation several weeks later, on September 2, 1965 and was buried in Rainy River. Lillian lived for another 18 years in a nursing home in Fort Francis. She died on January 19, 1983.

Robert and Lillian had four sons: Robert, John, Kenneth and Frederick.

Janet Walker



Robert Walker often came to the Acton farm at Lemberg, usually to help with harvest. On this occasion they are cutting the crop with a horse-drawn 'binder'. 'Bob' is on far right. Others (L?R) are Bert Sharp, Annie Acton, Richard A. (Dick) Acton, and Richard K. Acton at his Dad's feet.

Walkers in Canada

Robert Lorraine Walker

Bob Walker was born September 2, 1915 in Rainy River Ontario. He attended school in Rainy River where he attained Grade 13 or 5th Form. In July 1933 he went west to Lemberg, Saskatchewan to work at the farm of Robert W. Acton. In September of that year he moved to Wolseley where he worked at the 'Old Folks Home' and with his grandfather Baker. In the spring of 1934, Richard Acton came to Wolseley and asked him to work for him. He worked on this farm until he joined the Canadian Army in September 1939.

Bob married Edna Alberta Phillips on January 8, 1939? in Kingston, Ontario. Edna was from Ituna, Saskatchewan. After their marriage, they moved to Regina, Saskatchewan. Bob's Army unit, the 113th Field Battery (later to become the 8th Army Field Regiment), left Regina for Halifax where they boarded the Monarch of Bermuda for Gaurch Scotland. Bob was with the Artillery Corps from September 1939 until September 1945. The Army wanted him to join the Infantry, so he took his discharge from the Artillery. He worked with the Army Placement Force at their dental clinic in Winnipeg from October 1945 until July 1946. On August 12, 1946, Bob joined Trans Canada Airlines. He worked in their Audit department, initially, and later in their Maintenance department. He stayed with TCA, later to become Air Canada, until 1976. He retired from Montreal and moved to Vancouver Island. He lived on the Island for almost a year, but the inconvenience of strikes in the spring of 1977 led to he and Edna moving to Vancouver later in that year.

Edna died in February, 1980. Bob married Louise Allen. Louise died in — — — —. Bob died on 21 August 1987, in Vancouver.

John Price Walker

Jack Walker was born on the 9 February, 1918 in Rainy River, Ontario. After completing his schooling in Rainy River he opened a bakeshop in Rainy River. Sometime later he moved his business to Kenora and eventually to Fort Francis, Ontario.

Janet Walker

Jack married Jean MacTavish on June 8, 1940. Jean was born on March 23, 1918. They had two children. Valerie was born on 19 (14?) January, 1946. She married Bernhard Sjoblom. They lived in the International Falls area of Minnesota. David was born September 23, 1952. He lives in Vancouver, and is not married.

Jack died on June 3, 1975 in Fort Francis. His widow married Tony O'Neil. She died in 2004.



Robert and Lil Walker's children sometimes spent summers visiting at Richard and Annie Acton's farm near Lemberg. On this occasion, in the 1930s, back row (L/R) Alex Thompson, John Walker, Elinor then Beth Acton. In the front row Doris Acton, Duncan Acton, Samuel Acton and Ken Walker.



Ken Walker

Kenneth James Walker

Ken Walker was born on February 7 1923 at Rainy River, Ontario. After completing school he worked for his brother Jack in the bakeshop. He later joined the R.C.A.F. and served overseas. On his release from the military he enrolled at the University of Manitoba. He finished his degree in Engineering at the University of British Columbia. He worked with the Federal Government in various places in British Columbia including Vancouver, Kamloops and Penticton.

Ken married Georgina Barker on October 8, 1951 in Vancouver. Their daughter Dawn, born January 5, 1955 lives in Penticton. A second daughter Gwen, who was born November 29, 1956, lives in Langley, British Columbia.

Ken Walker died February 21, 1985 in Vancouver.

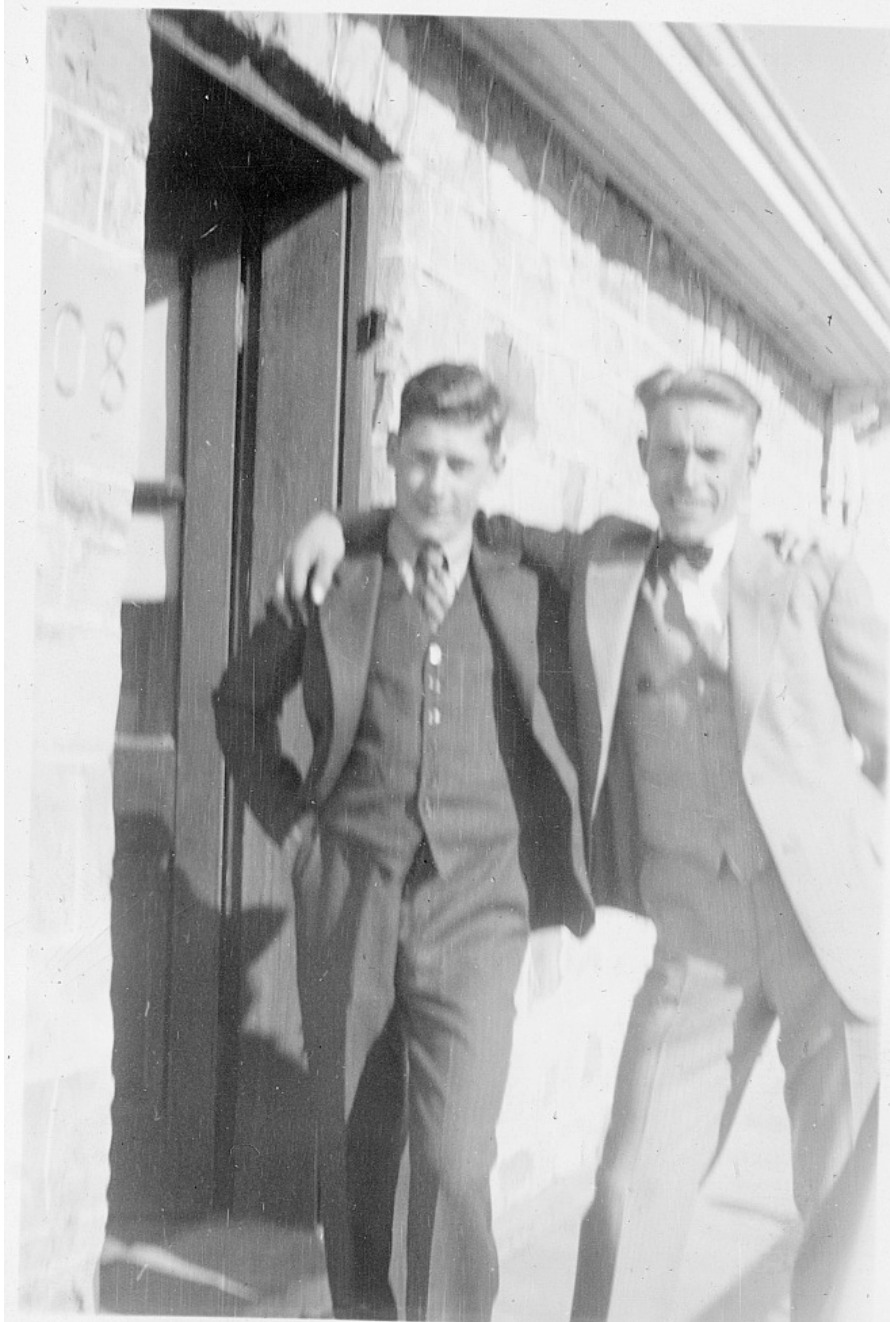
Frederick Norman Walker

Fred Walker was born on November 25, 1924 in Rainy River, Ontario. He apprenticed as a machinist with the C.N.R. in 1940 or 1941. He then joined the Royal Canadian Air Force but was too young to serve overseas. After the War, he returned to the CNR and worked in a number of areas in Canada. He ended up as Foreman in the C.N.R. Transcona, in Winnipeg. He retired about 1986.

Fred married Lillian Mae Gillis on June 16, 1953 at Dauphin, Manitoba. They had no children. Fred and Lil lived at 140- 2250 Louie Dr., Westbank, B.C. Fred died on February 21, 2007, 1924 in Rainy River, Ontario. He apprenticed as a machinist with the C.N.R. in 1940 or 1941. He then joined the Royal Canadian Air Force but was too young to serve overseas. After the War, he returned to the CNR and worked in a number of areas in Canada. He ended up as Foreman in the CNR Transcona, in Winnipeg. He retired about 1986.

Fred married Lillian Mae Gillis on 16 June 1953 at Dauphin, Manitoba. They had no children. Fred and Lil lived at 140- 2250 Louie Dr., Westbank, B.C. Fred died on 21 February 2007.

Janet Walker



Sam Acton (Left) and Bob Walker on the balcony at the Annie and Dick Acton farm home. This photo may have been taken in 1939 before Bob joined the Canadian Army in WWII.