

HAMIOTA CENTENNIAL HISTORY.

THE ARTHUR ATKINSON FAMILY----- (E 1/2--4 -- 14--23 W1).

Arthur Atkinson was born in Whittlesea, England, in 1872. He emigrated to Canada during the 1890's, having heard of the great opportunities to make a better living in this country. He worked in England from the age of nine and saved enough to bring him over. Obtained his primary education in Ontario. Was self-educated. He was an avid reader. He worked in Ontario till he had saved enough to come to Hamiota, Manitoba: having heard that the West was opening up. He worked for Robert Hamilton until he could afford a team of horses. He subsequently bought the N.E. 1/4 of 4 - 14- 23 from Robt. Hamilton and built a house on it. The land was mostly treed and he cut them with a buck-saw. Later he purchased the S.E. 1/4 of the same section and moved his house to that.

During the time Arthur worked at Hamilton's Ida May Levins from Viola Dale, near McConnell worked there too. Later they married and lived in the house he had built. They attended the Methodist Church. A family of six was born to them: Ethel Hope in Nov. 1900 ; Ernest Lionel in July 1902 ; Orison Kermit in April 1904 - died in 1922 ; Ellen Grace, Oct. 1905 and two babies who died in infancy. Grace married Norman Turnbull of Binscarth, Man, in June of 1926 and they now reside on their farm at Binscarth. Hope married Robert Brebner of Duffield , Alberta and lived there until her death in 1942. Ernest moved to Detroit U.S.A. where he studied refrigeration and obtained employment with Frigidaire. He subsequently went into business for himself . In 1927 he married Onda May Flory of Greenville Ohio and they now live, retired in Baraboo. Wisconsin.

Arthur also owned 3/4 of 14 - 14- 23. Here he gave a start to his sister, Alice , and her husband Jack Brown and family whom he brought out from England along with other members of his family.

Ida Atkinson was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. and came to Canada with her parents, Thomas George and Maria Georgina Levins in the 1890's. They settled in the Viola Dale district.

Kerr School was located on the South East corner of the S.E. 1/4 of the farm.

Addendum to Page 2 History of Arthur Atkinson Family. Insert between paragraphs One and Two on page 2 .

KERR SCHOOL S.D.220 . 1890-----1913 .

Ernest Atkinson, now eighty years of age, tells of his experiences as a pupil going to Kerr School. He took on the job of going to the school early in the morning and putting on the fire in winter. For his effort he was paid ten cents per day. The school was about half a mile from home but there were some winter mornings that he wondered if he would make it. A temperamental furnace sometimes did not co-operate and the school would fill with smoke till he could scarcely see. At times his hands were so cold he could scarcely strike a match to light the lantern which he needed to see his way into the cellar where the furnace lived. The heat and often smoke, came into the schoolroom through a big register in the floor. It was a good place for cold pupils to stand to get warm. There was one time when one of the pupils, 'Geordie' Park was so cold he danced on the register to warm up faster. Suddenly the register gave way and Geordie fell through to his armpits. Between Geordie's consternation and his schoolmate's mirth there was quite an uproar.

Ernest also tells of long cold drives from their home to Viola Dale to visit his Grandparents Thomas and Maria Levins who lived on their homestead south of McConnell. Their house was made of logs which was roomy enough for their fairly large family. One of their sons, Jack Levins, could play the violin fairly well and at times they would clear the floor and have dances when relatives or neighbors came over to visit. Ernest tells of one time when they were having a dance, the floor, which was only supported by one post in the 'dug out' under the house, collapsed when the post broke, and the whole dance slid into the cellar. Fortunately the stove was in another part of the house and did not accompany the dancers.

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Insert
Addendum

The Village of Hamiota also had it's origin on this quarter just a little West of Kerr School. A store and post office functioned there until the railroad came through when 'Hamiota' was moved to it's present location. The Atkinsons named their farm 'Old Hamiota.' Arthur died in 1924 and his wife Ida in 1929 . During his life in the Hamiota district Arthur Atkinson was an active member of the Methodist Church, member of the School Board and also active in the Forresters and Orange Lodges.

THE
NORMAN
TURNBULL
FAMILY.

In 1927 Norman and Grace Turnbull took over the running of the farm. In the spring of 1934 they sold out their farm equipment and moved into town, The administrator of Arthur Atkinson's Estate sold the farm to T.J. (Tommy) Strachan. By this time Norman was active with G.W. Spearman, owner of the Hamiota Flour Mill. During the nine years he was employed by G.W. Spearman the latter trained him in the operation of the mill and the steamer by which it was driven. On the death of Mr Spearman Norman was mill manager and head miller and carried on the business for a year for the late Mrs G.W. Spearman and for a short time for ^{the late} George Spearman Junior who succeeded to the Hamiota Mill as part of his father's estate.

During the twenty three years Norman and Grace lived in the Municipality and village of Hamiota they raised a family of six. They were all born in Hamiota Hospital. Robert Orison, (Bob) May 1927. Georgina Constance (Connie) March 1929. Ida May Cecilia (May) August 1933 . Jessie Hope (Jessie) April 1935 . Leslie Blanche (Leslie) June 1944 . Violet Heather (Heather) February 1948. Bob, Connie and May received their Elementary and High School education in Hamiota. Jessie her's at Hamiota and Binscarth, Leslie and Heather at Binscarth.

In the fall of 1936 Norman entered the Provincial political arena in the snap election of that year called by the late Hon. John Bracken . He was nominated at a meeting held in McConnell's Hall by a group of Social Creditors who were interested in the Social Credit Movement which had elected Premier Aberhart to power in Alberta the previous year. After several days consideration Norman

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THE NORMAN TURNBULL FAMILY Cont.

accepted the nomination and on Official Nomination day he found himself opposed in his choice of Social Credit by John Spalding Secretary Treasurer of Miniota Municipality and also Treasurer of the Manitoba Union of Municipalities. John was flying the Liberal banner and when the smoke cleared on Election Day, Norman found he led the race by a margin of over three hundred votes. He was one of five representatives of Social Credit elected to the Legislature in the contest of 1936 . He served Hamiota Constituency for twelve years in the Legislature; under three Premiers, John Bracken, Stuart Garson, and Douglas Campbell . Prior to the 1949 Provincial election a redistribution of constituencies was suggested by the Committee on Privileges and Elections and Hamiota was scheduled to join with Virden. This did not materialize .With a growing family and a doubtful political future Norman decided not to run in the '49 election and the family decided to return to the farm at Binscarth which for the past seven years had been carried on under the partnership of Cooke and Turnbull. This they did permanently in 1950.

In 1967 they sold the farm to their son, Bob . He had married Iyy Eula Hall of Fowarren in August 1951, and was farming in Silver Creek Municipality. In 1962 they built a new home in the same yard as their parents where both families still reside .

While living and working on "Old Hamiota Farm" and in the Village itself both Grace and Norman took an active part in the work of the United Church both in the Sunday school and The Official Board .Both look back on those years as some of the happiest of their lives. The cottage at the East end of Front Street was small for the family but we, and they, survived.