

AMY G. SLED (DAVIES) 1888 - 1992 - HER LIFE

INTRODUCTION

This narrative represents an update of the original material assembled and distributed in 1993. To avoid disrupting the flow and style of the original document, other than the correction of a few errors and minor additions, the additional information has generally been added as footnotes.

The following was based on her typewritten material and dictation during her last years in Victoria and first years in North Vancouver when she was in her 90's, a series of tape recorded interviews with the late Nina Olson, Prospect Road, North Vancouver, when she was in her late 90's and on personal recollections of her family and friends. Wording attributable to Amy is generally in the script type. Some added material, except that in the final section, has generally been written in the first person attempting to imitate her own words.

Unpleasant events seem to have been screened out of her recollections as she did not mention the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the First World War and the difficult times following the death of her friend Edith's husband, the influenza epidemic of 1918/1919, the depression and drought of the 1930s, the difficult living conditions of rural Saskatchewan, the Second World War, her many serious bouts with asthma and finally, the death of her family and virtually all her contemporaries leaving her almost 'the last survivor'. Rather, she was able to look back on each of the many phases of her life of 104 years only with pleasure. For completeness, brief mention of a number of these significant events has been added.

THE BEGINNING

I was born April 13, 1888 ¹ in the village of Ashford Carbonell ², Shropshire, England. Not a very fancy name - this is where you can have a laugh if you want to - but that was what it was called. My first recollections are of living at No. 11. After that we moved to No. 13, Ashford Carbonell and we lived there for quite a number of years, then we moved to No. 18 ³. We always put Ashford Carbonell because there was also the village of Ashford Bowdler nearby.

FAMILY

I was the youngest of three girls (Annie, Edie and Clara) and one boy (Alfred). I don't remember my brother very much other than one day I was out playing and a man came along - a stranger - and in those days we used to have what was called packman - he came around selling everything from shoelaces, lace, dress material, pins and needles, everything you could think of, thread, all those things - and I ran into the house and I said "Mother the packman is coming". Well, it turned out it was my brother. I hadn't remembered ever seeing him before. He was the oldest and I was the youngest. He had always lived in Cardiff.

My father's name was John Davies ⁴. My mother's name was also Davies before she was married. Jane Davies was her maiden name. I think they were related, I'm sure they were. They

were cousins but now I'm not sure now whether they were first or second cousins. There apparently was no taboo about cousins marrying in those days. As far as I know they had always lived in Ashford.

Eddie ⁵ later became a teacher and Clara ⁶ learned dressmaking from our cousin who lived on Wheat Common.

FATHER

My father was what would be called now a master thatcher. That is, he did all the fine work on houses - not an ordinary thatcher who would thatch haystacks and things like that. He always did the fancy - he was always quite a fancy worker - very perfect - very meticulous. He worked on his own - he was independent. It was hard work. I always remember he wore a big leather apron in front of him and that's where he put the straws (possibly the ties). He always had a small boy went with him - paid I think about a shilling a week - and he would carry the bundles of straw up the ladder and hand them to father. Then he would put them in place just so. He would ride to work with his tools on one of those high bicycles, one with the three wheels, one big wheel and two little wheels. I believe it was called a penny farthing. He would take a lunch wrapped in a cloth and a bottle of cider.

Father was about six feet tall. He always wore a topper when he was dressed up. He was really very handsome with his gray hair and whiskers. It was one of my jobs to brush his hair every night. My arms would just ache but he never had enough.

We weren't very well off because for one thing - if it was bad weather he couldn't work - he couldn't thatch roofs in rainy weather or snowy weather - not that we had much snow.

He was considered quite a scholar. Not everyone could read in those days and he wrote a beautiful hand. Where he got it I'm not sure but he was a beautiful writer - just beautiful handwriting - wish I could write like him. My sister Eddie was the only one who came close. He kept books and things of course. They always came to my father with any papers - any legal work - bits of legal work or anything like that. Most of the adult people had no education at all - couldn't read or write - they couldn't even read, lots of them.

I think we got a weekly paper but only my father read it. He read every page. He was a great reader. He liked to spend all day Sunday sitting in his greenhouse reading.

Mother was the gentlest little person on earth but we were all a bit afraid of father. If we saw him coming Mother would say "put the cloth on quickly and set the table, your father's coming." I only remember once having been punished by him. I was sitting on a chair with one leg and the other three in the air and he rapped me over the head with his walking stick.

MOTHER

Mother could read very poorly. She had practically no education. Mother wore a bonnet. All married women did. She was only about four feet tall.

I remember mother helping out one time by going to a dairy that was quite close to us and milking cows. I loved going with her. I didn't go in the morning because she got up too early but in the evenings it was just lovely. I loved the smell of the cows and the heat of the barn and the cats waiting to get their turn to get a drink of milk and the bubbly milk in the pails. I have very happy memories of that cow milking business - not that I ever milked a cow. I've always have been afraid of them and still am really.

Although father was rather devout he didn't go to church much but the family did. We did but Mother mostly went to the chapel - what we called the chapel. She liked their singing and stuff. But we all went to the Anglican Church.

HOME

Our house (No. 13 ?) had just four rooms on two floors. Downstairs, we had one big common room and then what we called the back kitchen. We had two bedrooms upstairs, one for the parents and one for the children. There were fireplaces in all the rooms. Off the back kitchen was the cider room. That was the most important room. That is where we kept our barrels of cider. It was also the wash (laundry) room. We didn't have running water but the well and pump was right at the door. The toilet was outside.

We didn't have a kitchen stove but a fireplace with an oven on the side **7**. We had a thing called a Dutch oven and we put it on a little stool in front of the fire and it would rotate exactly like a rotisserie. We bought both coal and wood for the fireplaces. The wood came around on a donkey cart. We had a funny little custom in our house. Whenever we got a new supply of coal - it was delivered by the ton - we were allowed a treat to have a fire upstairs. We'd carry the live coals from downstairs, smoking furiously and put it in the upstairs grate. Why we didn't burn the house down, I don't know.

Another thing I remember was - we would sit around the fire on our own little stools **8** - we each had our own stools - and make spills - they were long strips of paper tightly folded and used to light father's pipe. Every family had a fancy jar on the mantle with these little spills in them.

CIDER

Cider making was the highlight of the autumn. There was only one cider mill in the village and everyone used it. We'd all make a beeline for the cider mill right after school. Apples would be gathered in huge stacks and carried to the trough. It was a huge wooden trough in a half circle. In it was a huge stone wheel with a long handle. The apples were poured into the trough from a pail only

we called it a bucket. Everything went into the trough, leaves, rotten apples, everything. We children would grab hold of the handle. It was long enough that three or four could hang on it and we would run back and forth the half circle, the wheel grinding the apples to a pulp. The mulch was then scooped up and poured through horsehair blankets held onto the top of tubs with screws and the liquid would drop into tubs. We'd take a cup and have a drink quite often. It was a lovely sweet concoction - could be quite heady. We made two barrels every year for ourselves. When it started to work it was a lovely sound. It would pop, pop, pop for about two weeks and could be heard all over the house. When it stopped popping it was ready and Father would put a tap on the barrel - you just turned the tap. To me nothing tasted quite so good as when it trickled into the tubs.

Cider was the common drink - more common than tea. Everybody put cider on the table first thing in the morning. I always remember a neighbor coming one day "Could we have some cider. We haven't got any for our breakfast." They were great borrowers but they never paid anything back. People drank cider three times a day - always. Children always had their own little mugs. They had cider from the time they were babies. It's good for you.

You can get very drunk on cider. I've often seen the men come staggering down the road when they'd had too much cider. Cider was the thing - I don't think I ever saw beer. It can be quite potent. I got quite drunk on it one night. I had a terrible cold and I sat up half the night - my sister was making a dress - so I stayed with her for company. We had a great big jug of cider and we'd put a hot poker in it you know. We'd put the poker in the fire and get it white hot then put the poker in the cider. It would all fizz up. I kept at that jug till I went to bed and she had to carry me upstairs. I was perhaps 8 or 9 then. I can still remember her carrying me up the stairs.

FOOD

Another fall job was potato picking. We'd rent two long rows in a field and Father would dig and we'd pick and we hated it. It was always cold and windy. I suppose it was days he couldn't work on the roofs.

We had a marvelous garden and we ate vegetables from the garden and the greenhouse all winter. My father had a lovely green house which was his pride and joy. I can still smell the lovely warm earthy smell. There was a lovely bit of musk, amongst other things I remember. There's no perfume like it in the evenings when the dew is on it. It's just hard to describe. Father always picked the vegetables. We were never allowed to pick anything. We were the first to grow tomatoes in the village. We were the envy of the village. It was his sanctum and there he would sit and read. On Sundays there would be a regular stream of people coming to see the greenhouse. They had never seen tomatoes growing. The climate wasn't really suitable for growing them outside. We also had lettuce, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and all that sort of thing.

When I was about 12 we moved from No. 13 to 18, a few minutes walk away. Father refused to move. He wouldn't leave his beloved orchard and garden. However, after about six months, he took his greenhouse apart and wheeled it over in a wheelbarrow and settled in with us.

Mother preserved food in glass jars. We made a lot of jam. We lived on jam practically. It was cheaper than butter. We always had lots of gooseberries, and black currants and red currants, everything. We had loads of apples, damsons, plums and pears - we had a big orchard. Most people had an orchard. We had lots of holly trees you know - in the winter they were lovely.

We ate a lot of rabbit. I don't remember how we got them- maybe we just bought them from people. We had our own rabbits but we wouldn't think of eating them - they were just pets. I always remember this stool and the dutch oven and the thing would go round and round. It was delicious. It was like barbecuing.

We baked our bread in a brick oven which was in the wash house room. Bundles of wood were burned in it and then when the bricks were white hot the hot ashes were swept out and the bread put in. The bricks held the heat and it was done by the time the bricks cooled off. On the outside of the steel lid, mother would put lardy cakes as we called them. They were really like scones. In later years we sometimes took the bread, after it had already risen, to the bakers in a wheelbarrow and he would bake it. I remember very well wheeling the wheelbarrow to the bakers. Things were getting a little better. We would pay maybe a half penny a loaf or something.

We had our main meal at noon but Father would have his at night when he came home from work. Mother always had something stewing away on the hearth. You hated to waste the fuel. We had a big long chain which you hung the pot on over the fireplace.

But, I do remember one episode - one day a man came around about at noon with - oh sort of little windmills. We begged Mother to get us one. All he wanted for them was a bundle of rags. Mother put the dinner on the hearth to keep warm and while she hunted the rags we tried out the windmills - you had to run to make them go - the cat ate all the dinner. We were having suet pudding with treacle, a real favorite of mine. It's funny how that stands out in my memory.

THE VILLAGE

The village consisted of just one long street. There weren't street names - each house had a number. The school was at one end of the street. Of course we went home for our lunch - we never thought of taking it. We lived about half a mile from the school.

The shopping area was near the school. That was the main part of the village. The shops were independent. Then there was the blacksmith shop. That was the great meeting place. He would be busy pounding away and the sparks flying and the shoes - the horses being shod and the lovely smell of

the burning hoops you know. We'd often stay there much longer and be late for school, just watching the blacksmith.

No one in the village had horses - we walked. They never went anywhere so they never needed a horse and buggy then. They never went on vacation. You had to go three miles to Ludlow to get the train. But people had no occasion to go on trains. I don't think my father was ever on a train. Once when I was quite small Mother took me to the railway station, put me on the train and lifted me off. Then she said "Now you have been on a train." In later years my mother did a lot of traveling with the three girls there.

At the other end of the street was a large piece of land called the Wheat Common. It was owned by the government and it was covered with bracken. On a certain day it would be announced that all the bracken that one could cut on that day from 6 to 8 - I think it was - belonged to that person. They would dry and stack it and use it for bedding and such like.

Ashford was actually very, very much behind the times compared to other counties. I realize that now although I didn't know it at the time. We had no train service, no connection to the outside world, it seemed to me at all. A carrier went to Ludlow - I think twice a week - cost threepence. People didn't often ride. A man came out once a week and took grocery orders and the next day they would be delivered from Ludlow. That was about all the connection we had.

Babies were always delivered at home - never heard of going to the hospital. There was a midwife in the village. I don't think she was trained. She just picked it up. I imagine she just picked it up.

GREAT HOUSES

All the land and buildings in the village were owned by the wealthy people who lived in the big houses. It was a very poor community and most of the people worked for the big houses. I remember that one of the people who owned a manor near us was Lord Tredegar ⁹. One of the major estates was called Moore Park apparently owned by Lord Inchiquin ¹⁰.

We had no connection with them actually - because my father was on his own. I think they were quite decent to the people. We would see them driving around with their horses and carriages. We were able to see them hunting foxes with their horses and hounds from the school windows. They never came to the village to shop. Although they had children, we were never invited there. They would have nurses and nannies and private tutors. We had no connection with them whatsoever.

LUDLOW

Ludlow, the closest town was three miles away. It had a cathedral and was famous for its castle, Ludlow Castle. Ludlow Castle is where the princes were at one time - the boys that were suffocated ¹¹. The castle was in ruins when I was there. The houses and the shops are still exactly as they were then. I couldn't believe it, every thing was exactly the same, even the shop windows. They've preserved

it you see - and little narrow streets - a car can hardly go - only one car could go down. The streets were made for horses.

SCHOOL

They say I went to school 12 when I was two. I don't remember. My mother said she couldn't keep me at home so they took me when I was two. I wanted to go to school with my three sisters. I should have absorbed more I think if I did. It was a small school of about thirty to forty odd. There was one teacher and a student teacher. There was just a little wee room for the little ones and then we graduated into the bigger room. It had a huge fireplace and it was somebody's - one of the children's - job every day. If you were lucky you sat at the front and if you weren't you sat at the back and froze. I can just feel how cold it was. You had to rub your hands to keep them warm. I can remember being in the little room - we called it the little room - because it had a wooden pump and we pumped out the letters A, B, C and D. That's how we learned our letters. It was just like a big wooden pump and it had a handle. If you were really good you were allowed to use it.

We had slates - of course we only used slates in the younger grades. We didn't have pencils as such but a hard marker almost like granite that scratched the slate. We didn't write on paper until we got into the upper grades.

Every Friday the whole school paraded to church. Being a church school the first hour of every day was devoted to bible reading and prayers.

We wore our dresses to the knee and always wore an apron, like a pinafore apron. We wore two or three petticoats under the dress. Our hair was worn straight but our pride and joy was our hair ribbons.

I remember a great big bell. That was another thing, if you were the top of the class you were allowed to ring the bell. For the last four years - I'm going to brag a bit - I won the top four prizes and I still have a couple of work boxes. They were lovely then - all fitted up - but they're a bit battered now. If I didn't get top of the class it was a terrible thing but my parents didn't criticize if I didn't.

I went to the school the last time I went back in 1984 and they still had one of the old desks with the inkwell. It had just been put outside in the lane. I was so glad to see it - all ink stained just the way it was when I was there. I would have had that in a glass case almost.

TEACHER

I only had one teacher all through school. She was married to a lawyer who went to work in Ludlow each day on his bicycle. I used to spend a lot of time at their house. I know that I was

enied. I was kind of the teacher's pet. We became great friends and I visited her when I would go back. It was she who really pushed me on.

CURRENT EVENTS

Queen Victoria was on the throne and there were great celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee (1897), the sixtieth anniversary of her reign. The school had about a week's holiday. We marched to all the great houses and had tea and seed cake. I have the commemorative mug presented to me on one of these excursions. Mine sat on the mantle [in Victoria]. After being at my nephew Harry's all these years I've at last got it.

Then the Queen's death (1901) stands out in my memory. All we did in school for a whole week was read aloud in turns of her life from heavily black-bordered newspapers. Everyone went into mourning.

Another day I remember was the end of the Boer war (1902). For days we marched around to all the great houses with our mugs and were handed out cakes and tea - waving out flags furiously.

Another memorable day was - there was a motor race from the south to the north of England - the old Roman Road ran about a mile from us - everyone went to see it. It was the first motorcar we had ever seen.

CHRISTMAS

We always went out and cut our own Christmas tree. We always had a big tree - much bigger actually than the house could take. We had no real ornaments - just paper - bits of paper - you know paper strings - paper things. We had candles but were scarcely ever allowed to light them. They were just little candles in little wee candle holders. They were real candles.

We didn't have stuff in our stockings as they have today. We would have an orange and an apple and a bag of nuts and a pair of maybe new scratchy stockings, a pair of mitts and that was it. We could have all the hazelnuts we wanted and we would have candy. In those days we had our mail delivered on Christmas day. The postman used to bring it in a wheelbarrow. We would dash out and meet the man with the wheelbarrow - that was the highlight of the day at Christmas.

We always went to a church service with the whole family. The traditional Christmas dinner was roast beef and always a steamed pudding.

The highlight of Boxing Day was the jugglers and jesters and clowns who would perform on the Common. They went from village to village on Boxing Day and people would give them drinks and pennies.

VILLAGE LIFE

Our only recreation seemed to be - oh walking down the lanes and picking flowers and gathering mushrooms. We would go down a long lane to pick mushrooms - gorgeous mushrooms, great big ones. There were beautiful walks, beautiful hedges and so on. That was actually our main entertainment - going for walks both as little children and when we were older. The only area that would be forbidden to you would be the manor property but you could go around it. One day I walked 22 miles - I kept track. I went up to the village just beyond us. I don't know what we did there. And then we came back and walked into Ludlow which was three miles.

We played marbles and 'ring around the roses' and hide and seek. Then of course there was a big - what we used to call a 'copse' - actually the word is coppice. It had a lot of trees. It was really like a little forest almost. When the leaves would fall we could just bury ourselves. Chief enjoyment in the fall was to be buried alive. It's a wonder some of us didn't suffocate. Then they would come and find you. That was our greatest excitement.

And then we used to go nutting. That was another great entertainment - hazelnuts. They grew in hedges all along the roads. The hedges were tended but anyone could pick the nuts.

I don't remember having toys. I had one doll with a china head which I always carried around in her box you know with a glass lid. Cards were not allowed in our house.

We played for hours on the Common - boys and girls. We also did a tremendous amount of skipping - with one at each end and also singly.

Our cousins who lived on Wheat Common (the Passeys ¹³) had a donkey. We had a lot of fun with it. There were two boys, Sam and Ernie, and two girls, Bertie and Dolly. Sam became head gardener at Moorepark and Ernie joined him later. Sam's son, Sam Jr. later worked as a carpenter on the estate and I visited him in 1987. Ernie married Edith Jones who was an aunt of Edith, my nephew Ivor's wife who was named after her.

We had lots of frost in the winter. We didn't have skates but all winter we'd slide on the ponds.

The Ludlow May Fair was the highlight of the year. Everybody went there - even Mother sometimes. We'd have about sixpence to spend on the swings and the hobby horses and all the things you now see everyday at a carnival. But to us it was marvelous. The rides only cost a half penny or a penny at the most. And then we'd walk around and look at the shop windows. You didn't go in unless you wanted to buy. Sometimes we'd go in to buy a spool of thread just to look around.

Later there were dances in Ludlow every Saturday. We'd walk three miles there and three miles back and danced all evening - only a couple of houses on the way but I don't ever remember being frightened.

RADBROOK

Then one day the teacher announced a two year scholarship and urged me to try for it. I had to go to Shrewsbury, the County Capital, about thirty miles away, but it seemed like a hundred to me. I was frightened to death - I had never been away. I was the only one from Ashford. I had never been on a train except a stationary one. I had to stay overnight - something I had never done before.

I won the scholarship and spent the next two years very, very happily at Radbrook 14. It was a private girl's school and had been open only one year when I went. It is still operating. It wasn't considered posh but there were two grades of pupils. There were scholarship people and then there were people who paid. The people who paid lived on rather a better scale than we did. Anyone could go if they could afford the fee but it is not likely that my family would have been able to send me if I had not won the scholarship. I have an idea that the books were part of the scholarship. It was a church school privately funded - Anglican - in my day everything seemed to be Anglican. It was like a senior high school and I was 16 when I went there.

I went off with a trunk full of my belongings. Everything was new to me. I'd never lived with gas before - only coal oil lamps. I had a room to myself 15. I'd never had a room of my own before. My room was right over the entrance doorway. We had central heating. That was my first experience with central heating. It seemed unbelievable that you could be anywhere in a room and still be warm. I really enjoyed it. I think it was the best part of my life. We had common bathrooms at both ends of the hall. That was a treat because we'd never had a bathroom. It was just - another world really. The meals were excellent and there were staff to serve us.

The grounds were beautiful. They had gardeners to keep it up. They had, of course a dairy, a herd of cows. I don't know why we were never urged to milk - try that - I think I would have been terrified. We learned all about the dairy business, butter making and the cheese making and all that sort of thing. I left there with prizes in most subjects, one of which is my prize Mrs. Beeton 16 bragging again.

Every evening we'd line up in the corridor after getting into our nightclothes and brush each other's hair. We walked two-and-two to church and for our walks. And we'd date each other early in the week so we could walk with our favorites. Going to church was compulsory in the morning but in the evening we had a choice - it was over two miles each way - it was quite an effort. However we did an awful lot of walking. We had lovely picnics there. Walking two-and-two we'd carry our lunch in a big clothes basket and starting at the front two we'd pass it along to the last two.

Every Sunday that I was there, there was a letter from my sister Edie. We could hardly wait to get our shoes off and dash to the mail desk. We weren't allowed to cross the hall in our walking shoes.

In winter we played field hockey and entertained the visiting team with hot toast and beef dripping. It really tasted good.

There would have been maybe a couple of hundred students. I made wonderful friendships. I've kept in touch with some of the girls. I think I'm the last one left. The school mistresses were lovely. They weren't overly strict.

We also played tennis and golf but the main thing was walking - I think we walked every day. We walked on the local streets - in formation of course - never dared get out of step.

The subjects we took included domestic economy, cookery, laundry work, needle work, dressmaking, housework, upholstery, household management, household accounting, domestic hygiene, house sanitation, home nursing and first aid. We had examinations for everything. We learned how to take care of the sick and we had a lot of practical work too. Quite a number of the girls got positions as hotel or maybe hospital housekeepers and managers. I think that's what I would have gone into if there hadn't been the opportunity to come to Canada. A lot of them got very good positions.

I still have my sewing samplers from school. They were all done by hand with very fine stitches. The samplers show the techniques in embroidery, darning, buttonholes and hooks and eyes. We had never heard of zippers of course. We put whalebone stays in a bodice. In those days everyone wore long skirts. My sample shows how we put braid on a separate piece of fabric which hung just below the hem. We used the braid because the skirts dragged in the dirt. In an Arts, Crafts and Industrial Exhibition held in Shrewsbury, 1906, my carpet patch won a Certificate of Merit.

We did not have a sewing machine at home until my sister took up dressmaking. My mother didn't sew but she did all the mending and that sort of thing. Our clothes were bought until my sister took up dressmaking and then she made all our clothes, even Father's.

I don't remember ever having visitors at Radbrook. You never thought of going home for a weekend but we went home for summer holidays. There was a graduation ceremony at the end of the two years. My mother and some of the girls came. My Father didn't come. We had a marvelous garden party.

I stayed on and worked there for a year after graduating. I was in charge of the principal's home. The principal's house was attached to the school. I stayed in the dormitory but had nothing to do with the students.

I do not remember giving any thought to any plans for what I would do after I left the school. I think I was kind of stupid. I have no recollection of ever planning anything. I went home from Radbrook without the slightest thought of what I would do next.

TO CANADA

Then one day, after I'd been home from Radbrook for a while, Edie Powell, my school chum, came running up with a newspaper advertisement - wanted two girls to go to Canada, expenses paid - I can still see her. We'd hardly heard of Canada except in geography. I wrote a letter. Then we had to go up to Shrewsbury again for an interview. We went by train and stayed with somebody we knew.

From many others we were chosen, mostly on account of my having been to Radbrook. I couldn't believe it when we got the letter to say we had been accepted. I think my mother was upset but she didn't say much and they never tried to stop me. I was 19. I expect my father felt badly. I never saw him again as he died before my first trip back. All we knew about Canada was seeing a picture of huge grain fields with a man standing up and only his head showing amongst all this wonderful grain. That was the whole of Canada. No one in the village had ever gone anywhere. Canada was like another world actually. It was a nine day wonder in the village. **17**

The work was to be in a new theological college to be opened in Regina. Mr. Littler, who was to be the Warden, came to give a lecture in the village with slides and so on. Naturally everybody came and I remember the school was packed. He was originally from St. Chad's in Shrewsbury. Although he had been in Canada for some time **18**, practically all of the money for the college came from Britain. He had lectured all over England and taken collections you know.

We hired a man to take us to Ludlow. He brought us with our luggage - huge trunks of course. We were late getting to the station at Ludlow and, had it not been that the Vicar from Ashford was at the station and actually - actually - persuaded the engineer to hold the train for us, I guess I wouldn't be here. Annie was the only one of the family to come to Liverpool to see us off. We sailed from Liverpool on the 17th of May 1907 on the old Empress of Britain **19**. I'd never been on a boat. I had only been to the seaside once or twice.

I was terribly seasick and the first morning I got up and I went to see where my friend was in her berth - apparently we must have had separate berths [cabins] because we weren't in the same one I know. She said "I'm terribly sick." I said "Oh I feel fine." I'd just said it when I was sick and I ran as hard as I could go to find the first washroom and I got into a bathroom and I remember vomiting into the tub and turning the water on and it was a shower. I had never seen a shower and I got soaked from head to foot. I was sick and for three days I wished that the boat would go down. Never thought of jumping overboard. I remember rowing over and over I'd never cross again. It was to be a two year stint and I don't know how I ever thought I would get back other than by boat. There was no flying at that time. Everything was lovely after those first three days. We had the time of our lives. The meals were gorgeous, far better than anything I had experienced before. The service was out of this world, fresh linen table napkins every meal, the stewards didn't seem to be able to do

enough for us - fresh fruits - finger bowls - oh everything. We had concerts and dances on board. We landed at Quebec (OR Halifax ²⁰) - the boat couldn't go up the St. Lawrence because of ice and got on the train there.

TO REGINA

It was about midnight and the beds were all made up. I'd never seen a night train. I can still feel the heat and the stuffiness. One of the divinity students threw his bag on to the top bunk and turned to me and said "that's yours below." I said I'm not going to sleep there. I thought it was dreadful, men and women all sleeping in the same place. However, I did eventually settle down. Mother had made me some flannel nightgowns high at the neck and quite coarse and scratchy. Well, I shall never forget the heat and no air. It was awful. I think it was the 23rd or 24th May we landed. Then there was a long train ride to Winnipeg - three or four days. In the party were Mr. and Mrs. Littler and son and two daughters and five theological students. We all stayed at St. John's college in Winnipeg for three weeks because the place in Regina wasn't ready. We were supposed to get the hang of how to run a theological college there so as to be able to run the place in Regina. We had a lovely time there. We were waited on hand and foot. We didn't do a thing you know. We just observed and it was lovely. We enjoyed that immensely.

I forgot to tell you that I got lice on the train. I had long hair down to my waist you know. What a time I had to get rid of them! We used liquid paraffin. It burned like everything. It got rid of the lice and I kept my long hair to about 1920. Lice were a common occurrence in those days.

REGINA - THE COLLEGE

It was pouring with rain when we arrived in Regina. There's no mud in the world like it. I think there were three teams of horses to take us to our Dewdney home on the north side of Regina. They got stuck over and over but we eventually got there. And what a place! It had originally been intended for two houses. But, somewhere along the line, the Qu'Appelle Diocese had bought the property and turned it into what was to be St. Chad's College ²¹. It was just two houses that weren't even furnished. The one side was to be the college and the other side for living quarters. I was in charge of the kitchen and Edith was to look after the housework. It was nothing like Radbrook.

The first Sunday Mr. Littler decided to have a service for the public in the dining room. Quite a few people came. For seats we had nail kegs with planks laid across. There was no music. Edith and I were the choir assisted by the students.

The electricity wasn't installed and we had pieces of wood with three nails in to which was inserted a candle for light. In a way it was more primitive than Ashford - we had only candles but we had a telephone. I couldn't believe it. I'd never seen a telephone, never. The first time I answered a call I put the hearing part in my mouth and tried to talk into the other part.

The heat that first summer was terrible. When winter came we bought skates and learned to skate **22** - bought season tickets, outside skating of course. We put roasted potatoes into our shoes so that they would be nice and warm to put on. We loved skating.

Services were held for quite a while in the college and then an old school was bought and turned into a church and the parish was called St. Peters. We were into everything which took place in the parish of course. In fact all the years that I lived in Regina the church was my whole life. Regina at this time had only one street paved, short portion from 11th Avenue to Victoria Avenue. Wooden sidewalks would get pretty muddy and slippery. There was only one big store, the old Regina Trading Company **23**. I still have a little hot water jug with a pewter lid that I bought there, because it was the same pattern as some china we had at home.

Mosquitoes were awful. There was so much swamp to walk through to get into town you couldn't avoid them. Edith had to go to the doctor one time when she got bitten in the eye with one. There were dances at the old city hall and lots of amusements. We started a Glee club. Mr. Honeyman, the city librarian was the head of it and we used to give concerts all over, often up at the Mounted Police barracks. They would send their sleighs down and drive us up there and bring us home again. I remember one night, they said it was 60 below, that's Fahrenheit not Celsius. I froze my ears. In the summer we golfed at the Mounted Police Barracks.

REGINA AND LUMSDEN

Then Mr. Littler became very ill and he had to give up. And our two years were up and we decided not to stay on with the next Warden, Dean Dobie **24**. We got a job running a men's club for professionals - lawyers, doctors etc. I don't know now how I had the nerve. It was a resident club that didn't cater to any but club members. It was very strenuous work.

Edith, by this time had decided to get married [John Liddell]. They went to live on a farm at Lumsden **25** in the valley which afterwards Jim owned. Then I took scarlet fever about this time and was in the Pest House (isolation) for six whole weeks. A man, a registered nurse and I were the only occupants. I was really not sick but in those days you were isolated as long as you had a spot. I went to stay with the Liddells [at Lumsden] after I came out of the hospital. I always remember - it has no connection really - but it his funny little episode - they had party telephone lines. One morning there was a general ring and I can still remember Jack Liddell, Edith's husband, "Ede, the king's dead", King Edward **26**. A favorite winter pastime was to listen in to all the conversations on the telephone.

One morning a stranger came to the door, Will Sled, Isabel's [McGill] dad. They had just arrived from Ontario and his wife, Ellie, was expecting a baby. He said he had heard there was a young girl staying there and would I come and help them out. I did and I well remember the morning

their son Jim was born. Grandma Sled - everyone called her that - came downstairs and announced, "you have a baby brother". He had been born in the night and they had gone for the doctor and for Grandma Sled without waking me though I remembered hearing some talking in the night but that's all 27. I went back to sleep again I guess. Years later that young Jim moved to Port Alberni and we had many happy times with him.

A few days later another man appeared, Jim Newsome, who was to later become my brother in law. He had married Will's sister, Isabel, that spring 28 and wanted to know if I would come and stay with them. They had a huge farm. I went to them and worked there on the farm all the rest of 1911 and a happier time I never had. On the next farm lived the mother and dad Sled with their two sons, Charlie and Jim. Everything was so new to me and I enjoyed every minute of it - the outings and the picnics and the walks down in the valley. I just loved it. Catherine [Newsome, later Forbes] was born in March 1911 29 and what a darling baby she was. As a young girl she used to visit me in Regina and enjoy a luxurious bath as there was no running water on the farm.

I think back to the huge washings we had. The Newsomes had a lot of men 30. Water had to be hauled by horses or caught in rain barrels or cisterns then heated in huge boilers. White clothes were always boiled then strung on clothes lines and fences all around the house. Then everything had to be ironed. Monday was always washday and Tuesday was for ironing.

There were several barn raisings. All the neighbors would gather from miles around and heaps of food would be brought and the men would put up the barn in one day and the women would feed them. We all sat in the open to eat. The food that was consumed!

In December 1911 I left for England - stayed in Regina for a few days and saw my first streetcar 31. I traveled on the old Royal Edward 32, a CNR Line boat, which was later taken over and sunk in the Mediterranean during the First World War. We sailed from Halifax and there were about 20 or so making the round trip and returning in April. The ocean liners were very luxurious. And we had a marvelous time together and made almost lasting friendships - kept in touch for years with some of them. Father had died a month or so before I went home. Mother and Clara were still at Ashford. I returned on the same boat in April. I lost my train ticket at Halifax. The ticket man failed to return it after examining it. I've always disliked Halifax, I suppose for that reason.

REGINA - THE TREASURY

Most of our crowd dropped off in Winnipeg and when I got to Regina Jack Liddell met me and said "I've got a job for you but you have to start a nine o'clock today." It was then two AM. I started at the Parliament Buildings that day and was on the Treasury staff for 18 years. My first job was as a filing clerk and writing receipts in long hand. There were only two typewriters then in the

Treasury. I took a night course in Pittman and typing for two months then I found I could do better work at home at nights than going out to night school.

On 30 June 1912 Regina had a terrible cyclone - 43 people killed. [Another source says 28.] I was right in the middle of it but didn't get a scratch.

After a few years, I became the Deputy's secretary ³³ and during this time the staff had grown from about nine to fifty. I watched Regina develop from a little bit of a town to a beautiful city. There were no trees or anything when we first came. I had been present at the cornerstone laying of the Parliament Buildings by the Duke of Connaught in 1909 and then it seemed miles out of the city, now it's almost the centre. I boarded at the Siddells ³⁴ at first then moved to the home of some people we'd met on our first trip out. I think I paid ten dollars a month, room and board. Then I had a suite with Cicily Williamson³⁵ and later Viola Sled ³⁶ joined me when she graduated from nursing school. Later, after Cicily and Vi left, Myrtle (Sled, sister of Viola) joined me.

At that time I was absolutely absorbed in the church. I lived for the church. At one time I knew every Anglican clergyman in Saskatchewan ³⁷. Because having started out that way you see I knew them all and my whole life was devoted to the church. [Her friends of that time would have included Bessy Dickens ³⁸, Annie Truesdale ³⁹, the Humes ⁴⁰, likely the Lythes ⁴¹ and Dorothy Ough ⁴².] I was in everything, I was president of the girl's W.A. and then we had an embroidery guild. We made church embroidery. I once made a frontispiece. It hangs down in front of the altar. It is very different than any other kind of embroidery. It's kind of like a satin stitch but yet it's different. We used gold thread. I still have some gold thread. It is very hard to work with. You don't embroider it in, you sew it on with tiny little stitches. I made a stole that goes over the chalice. I was absolutely absorbed in the church and now I'm a heathen. I learned church embroidery from the former bishop - the first bishop of the diocese. She had retired to England then she came back and she taught us.

I spent my whole life with the church. We had our W. A. and we put on baking sales. We were always making things and selling them.

In 1916 Miss Findale ⁴³ and I took a trip to the coast - first time I had been - by Edmonton. We stayed at the Chalet in Jasper for three days. We sailed down the inside passage from Prince Rupert to Vancouver then Victoria and Seattle then back via CPR. We had three days at Banff. The whole package trip, including Jasper, Banff and Seattle cost sixty dollars.

Another year Viola and I came to the coast via the lakes. There was an overnight boat trip and I so well remember taking on peaches at Peachland and having them for breakfast. Oh they were delicious! And we saw the great Sarah Bernhardt at one of the theaters in Victoria.

I went to England again in 1919 ⁴⁴ - after the war. I went by New York. I had two memorable days there all on my own. I even went out to Coney Island and was thoroughly frightened when I got there and took the next bus back and it was midnight when I got back into New York. Clara had married and gone to live in South Wales and Mother too. [She met with Edith Liddell in England and they visited her husband's grave at Warrington. Stories of Edith's purse having been stolen at the cemetery are recalled.]

Wrigley's Directory for 1921-22, page 492, listed Amy G. Davies as Secretary to the Deputy Minister of the Treasury Branch, Government of Saskatchewan.

In 1925 I again went to England ⁴⁵, each time of course it was by boat. I went to London and saw all the sights of the city. I went to Rose Marie at the Drury Lane Theatre and I went to the Torchlight Tattoo at Wembley Stadium. My sister Annie, Dollie's mother, was on a farm and I spent a lot of the time with them. There was a railway strike on when I was to return. I hitched a ride with a man who trucked eggs to Manchester. Had to stay there overnight and he said I could stay at his house. Everyone was in bed when we got there and I was a bit frightened. But it was all right and the next morning his sister gave me breakfast. He had already left. I can't remember how I got to Liverpool but I must have got there.

All through these years the Sleds were my very good friends and I had many happy holidays with the Sleds at Plenty too and even Edith and Ken [Liddell] would come there. And I visited back and forth at Lumsden all through the years.

Just before I leave the Treasury I must tell you this little episode. I don't think I've told it to anybody. My boss [Mr. Parker] who had been widowed a few years earlier was dictating a personal letter and said "You asked me about marrying again. There is only one lady I would like to marry and that is my secretary." Well, you can imagine my confusion. He didn't know I was getting married shortly. I had golfed with him occasionally but he had never - so far as I can remember ever even bought me a cup of coffee - or tea - it would have been in those days I suppose. It was like a bolt from the blue. I was leaving any way in about a month so it was not too bad.

LUMSDEN - THE FARM

On March 4, 1930 Jim and I were married. We went to Winnipeg for a week and stayed at the Royal Alec. There were fourteen guests at the wedding, the Newsomes and Kass, Charlie and Alice [Sled, Jim's brother]. Charlie was best man and Edith and Ken [Liddell] were there. Edith was bridesmaid and Miss McMurchie [McMurchy] ⁴⁶ gave me away. Pat [Patterson] ⁴⁷ was there and Alice Simmons ⁴⁸ [Collins] and two more - I've forgotten. We went back to the Chateau ⁴⁹ [Apartments, Regina] afterwards. Oh yes, Dean Dobbie married us in St. Chad's Chapel.

For the first year we had a married couple living in and I hadn't much to do but enjoy life. That spring we bought an incubator and I raised my first chicks. It was heated by a candle. The eggs had to be turned every day. We kept it in the den. That was fun. We kept the new hens each year and killed and dressed the roosters in the fall and took them into Regina. I remember we sold them for a dollar apiece - they were five or six pounds. We would put up the year old hens for eating ourselves. That was our winter meat.

We farmed 640 acres, three quarter sections on top and a quarter section of land in the Boggy Creek valley. We grew wheat, oats, barley, cattle, pigs and chickens. We bought our first tractor in 1931 (a steel-wheeled McCormick Deering 15-30). Until then all work had been done by horses but the horses were still used for many jobs including travel in winter and hauling grain for many years afterwards. We bought a rubber tired McCormick Deering in 1939. We had at least one team all the time we were on the farm.

The house was a typical farm house built in the early years of the century by James Kinnon. The main house had a living room, dining room and den on the main floor and three bedrooms upstairs. The stairs to the upstairs were made of a beautiful light coloured wood with some nice ornamentation. The kitchen was attached to the rest of the house but was about three steps lower. A summer kitchen was connected to this kitchen. Both had ranges but the summer kitchen was used in hot weather particularly for canning and laundry. The cream separator was also kept there. The summer kitchen could not be heated in the winter but served as a porch and storage area. These houses were always cold in the winter as they did not use any insulation in those days. The house had a veranda on two sides, fully enclosed with screen. The flies and mosquitoes could be very bad. [The house, still present but greatly altered, is at 50° 37' 01.5" N, 104° 50' 44.5" W. The barn burned down many years ago.]

We had coal oil lamps and burned wood in the range and furnace. On special occasions we would light the Coleman gas lamp. And I'm telling you that wasn't nearly as easy as turning buttons as we do now. We had two cellars, the kitchen one with a trap door and I remember someone coming in the door and falling down into the cellar and I forget whether it was butter or a crate of eggs that they fell into. The furnace was in the other cellar under the main part of the house. We burned mostly wood in the furnace. One of the fall jobs was cutting a winter's supply of wood. With the help of the neighbors it was cut to length with a saw that attached to the front of the tractor. The wood was gathered in the valley - just dead trees - we never cut live trees. Neither cellar was lined - just the exposed earth - but they stayed dry and the earth stayed firm.

We kept our food in the kitchen cellar in the winter but in the summer we had an ice house. It consisted of a small shed near the kitchen door. A hole in the ground lined with boards about eight feet deep and about eight feet square had been dug in the middle of it and each winter ice was cut from the

pond and the hole filled. Water was then hauled and dumped over the ice to form a solid block of ice. There was a box in which the food would be kept in the summer and the ice was covered with sawdust. As the ice melted there was a ladder to go down. The box had to be tight as green salamanders also made their home in the shed. The ice would last all summer.

We did not have a well on the farm. The water off the roof was stored in a cistern and in barrels. Our water in the winter was ice cut from the pond in chunks and put into a barrel (also snow) in the kitchen and as it thawed - well we used it. Water was always very scarce. We used it for washing the dishes (NO SOAP) then it would go in the pig's pail and the pigs would drink it. We never wasted a spot of water. There were two ponds near the house which were used to provide water for the livestock.

I drove a car for the first time and on wintry nights when driving to bridge my mind was more on whether the car would start than on the bridge. It always did. We would sometimes invite the men. Often at the farm and especially at the farm when it was my turn. One night I had four tables of ladies and three tables of men. It was a wonderful life. We worked hard in the summer and in the winter the men curled and the women played bridge. Now they go south in the winter. Some of the ladies in the Willingdon Bridge Club in the earlier years included Florence Trott, Sadie Hoskins, Tena Morton, Margaret Morton, Irene Kealey, Evelyn Stewart, Ethel Wills and Bessie Hill.

We churned butter and sold it for 25 cents a pound - sometimes it went down to 15 cents. I never begrudged the time with eggs because the hens looked after themselves but butter was a tremendous amount of work. We churned with a hand churn - like a barrel with a handle. My greatest hate was washing the separator - and the milk pails. The pigs and calves got the skim milk. That was one of the things I missed when we left the farm - I used cream for everything. I made all my pastry with cream.

Newsomes went east in 1931 much to our regret and in 1932 Jim's mother and dad also went. Then Charlies left and we were the only Sleds left in Lumsden.

To our great joy, in 1933 John was born at the Grey Nuns Hospital [Regina]. It's now called Pasqua. In '34 I took John to England ⁵⁰. Nancy Evans - Griffiths ⁵¹ traveled with us. He had his first birthday on the boat. Coming back, Jim met us at Montreal and he and Jim Newsome and John and I drove back along the St. Lawrence to Prescott. It was beautiful in the fall weather and the colouring was gorgeous. We visited at Prescott for a while then went to Stayner ⁵². John had been quite ill in England with asthma and I was glad to get back. [We also visited the Ontario relatives in 1936 ⁵³.]

One time when John was very small we lost him. We were frantic. Our thoughts immediately turned to the ponds but we were unable to find him anywhere. I took the old 1924 Star [which had

been converted to a truck] and drove through the fields looking for him. We eventually found him crying with his ankles raw and bleeding from walking in the stubble.

One time a sow had more piglets than she could handle. We took four of them in the house and raised them in a box on the oven door.

I was busy in both churches [Anglican and United] and a group called the Zenanas. One time Zenana had the poet Edna Jacques to speak to us and she spent a weekend with us on the farm.

The years on the farm were very happy ones. We lived close beside the highway and had many drop-ins because they were stuck either dust (*mud*) or snow. One morning I got up to find a tray of dirty cups and saucers. I'd wakened Jim in the night because I thought I heard someone downstairs. Sure enough he'd gone down to find several people sitting around a big fire which they'd kindled and he had made them tea etc. and they discovered by looking at a picture on the piano a mutual friend of mine so they knew me. In the summer, people would get stuck in the mud and Jim would often be up all night pulling people out with the team of horses.

Our friends included the Kolt's who farmed near Craven, about five miles from Lumsden. Ken Kolt⁵⁴ had come to Canada at an early age and eventually established a farm there. Edith Kolt had come to Canada some years later to marry him. They had no children. They took great pleasure in John and Beverly. We spent Christmas at their place for a number of years and each year one or the other of them would stage a very elaborate and convincing visit from Santa Claus. One memorable Christmas night the car lights burned out and we had to drive home without lights. The Kolt's became very successful in raising purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle and eventually sold out and returned to England where they lived in a very nice country house on a small farm. I was able to visit them there in 1964.

We had a huge vegetable garden. We grew all kinds of vegetables. They didn't have fresh vegetables in the stores as they do now. We stored potatoes, turnips and parsnips in a root cellar. It was a big pit which was covered with straw. We depended on them to last all winter. We sometimes dried peas and corn in the summer sun. We grew a tremendous amount of corn. We sold it for 25 cents a dozen to people passing by on the highway.

We put up crates and crates of B.C. fruit in the fall - oh the flies. We picked saskatoons and chokecherries which were preserved as jam and jelly. We bought things like sugar and flour in 100 pound sacks. Even now I buy too much at a time.

We had a beef ring. An animal was killed in the fall or spring, every member putting in one in turn. And then each member would have every part of the animal in turn so we always had fresh beef. In the fall we killed off our chickens, dressed them and froze them and the old hens were canned. We cured our own ham.

The Harry Mortons with their five children, Ken, Mary, Stewart, Rae and Howard who lived about two miles from us were our good friends. A highlight of the spring was a visit to their wonderful tulip gardens.

John's first day at school was memorable, asking if he could have the afternoon off. I've never forgotten that. He hated going to school. I had to put him in bodily and lock the car door. There was no kindergarten in those days and he had no friends. We had nobody close to us. He had been with adults all the time. Of course after a few days you couldn't keep him home. I think he was encouraged by both of us. His dad had had a high school education and had taught school a year or two before he went farming. They didn't have PIRs or anything like that then. I don't remember going to the school much. But I think the schools were a good start. I really do. I think the teachers were sort of dedicated and they did their very best. Yes, I really feel they did well. There was just one school from Grade 1 to Grade 12 with five teachers.

Ensuring that John got to school each day was very difficult during the winter. He would sometimes have to stay with friends. The roads were not built up as they are now and they would quickly block with snow drifts. As well, the roads were not cleared as promptly then. Between the blocked roads and sickness, he missed a lot of school in his first years. Sometimes during the war years the first clearing of the roads would be by the airforce crews going out to recover a downed plane from the training station at Moose Jaw. Even after the highway was cleared the lane out to the highway would be covered by a deep snow drift. We often traveled by horses and cutter or sleigh in the winter. There was still a livery stable in Lumsden where the horses could be left while in town. The roads would sometimes also be impassable in the spring during the snow melt and we would travel by horse and buggy.

Although we combined our wheat, we would still have a threshing gang come to do the oats and barley. The sheaves and grain were hauled with horses. A large number of men had to be fed. One year we had an early cold spell and I went skating on the pond with John. We were playing with a rope and I fell and broke my wrist. The threshing gang was coming in a day or two and this was a pickle. We had to hire someone to prepare all this food. It was during the war years and help was very difficult to get. My wrist never was right after that.

LUMSDEN - TOWN

Beginning with the winter of 1942-43, we moved into the house in Lumsden (now designated as 200 Elgin Crescent, 50° 38' 39" N, 104° 51' 46" W) each winter with arrangements being made for the cattle to be looked after by the Kinnons at Craven. At last we had electric lights again but still no running water. The house was a pretty brick veneer house with very high ceilings on the main floor. It had been built by an early settler named James East but had been in the Sled family for many

years. Jim's mother and dad had lived in it before they went back east and then it had been rented for a number of years. It had a living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry and two bedrooms on the main floor and two small bedrooms and sort of a bathroom with a tub (but seldom water that ran) upstairs. There was a coal furnace, large coal bin and a large water cistern in the basement. The furnace was later converted to oil. The water was collected from the roof. That was all the water we had. Both the living and dining rooms had nice bay windows and the rooms upstairs had pretty dormer windows. The living and dining rooms were separated by sliding doors. We had Tommy Mack, an excellent local carpenter, remove the doors and put in an arched opening. The house is now owned by Bill and Jean McGill.

While we were on the farm, the Stewart family, Charlie and Evelyn and their children, Mary, Charlotte (Babe) and Margy were good friends of ours. Their house was quite close to ours in Lumsden but unfortunately, shortly after we moved to town, they had to move to Bladworth Sask. We visited them there nearly every year, usually on Thanksgiving weekend. During one of our visits we went on a picnic and I had a sudden asthma attack. I had left my inhaler at their house, some miles away. They drove me back as fast as the car would go but I thought each gasp would be my last.

Other close friends during that period included Brian and Sadie Koskins and their children Phyllis, Lillian, Bill and Les. Sadie's youngest child, Les, was born in the front bedroom of the house in town. Mrs. Irene Kealey and Helen Wills assisted.

The main winter activities were curling, skating and hockey. The children were able to walk to school.

I still skated then. I never curled though. One night we had a masquerade party (carnival) and I went. I didn't tell the children I was going - I dressed at a friend's. And I went and then I came home. I was home by the time they got home and I said, "How was the carnival?" and oh they were telling me. I started to laugh and said, "I was there you know". "You were not." "Yes I was." They hadn't recognized me mind you. But Bev. said she noticed my mitts. She said, "You know I saw a woman with fur mitts just like yours."

Then in early 1946 Jim broke nine ribs as a result of a broken railing at the grain elevator. The man who brought him home, strangely enough, was a boy I'd gone to school with - the only person I'd ever met from Ashford. Jim felt he couldn't carry on the farm. Jim didn't find the time hanging on his hands at all. He visited around you know - he'd go off down town and visit and then of course he curled all winter.

Jim and Isabel McGill operated the farm till 1950. It became obvious that John's health would not permit him to operate the farm so we had to sell it. It was very sad to see the farm go. All of the machinery and equipment was sold in an auction sale.

We bought a trailer and several summers we spent at Wasquesui (Prince Albert National Park in Northern Saskatchewan) as asthma was getting me again. John did some caddying and Bev. haunted the docks for free fish. We picked a lot of wild raspberries and I made pounds and pounds of jam.

My sister Edie visited us in Lumsden in 1953 55. John drove us to Wasquesui.

TO VICTORIA

Then in 1955 I think it was my asthma was beginning to act up again and I came out to Victoria for the summer and stayed with Alice Simmons until the freeze-up and I found I was free of it here. I came again in '56 I think. That year Jim and Bev. went east and John was in Alberta. The next two summers we both came and in the fall of 1958 we bought our present home and came out to it arriving on May 24th (1959). Bev, Jim, Isabel (McGill) and I drove out. I carried the globe to the old lamp on my lap all the way. I was so afraid to pack it. I did all the packing and you know I didn't break a thing and when I was unpacking in the basement I dropped one of my good sherbet glasses.

It was awful to leave Lumsden but I've kept in touch with them all and I've been back several times.

VICTORIA

Our new home at 148 Cambridge Street was very comfortable. It had a living room, small dining room, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms all on one floor. There was a single car garage, a small bedroom and a large storage room in the basement. It had a large yard with a vegetable garden and an apple tree. It was located quite close to downtown and about two blocks from the ocean at Dallas Road. It was also about two blocks from Beacon Hill Park, the major park in Victoria. We had many pleasant walks there. There was a small shopping area with a bank within close walking distance and there was good bus service to downtown.

I loved Victoria, really. And then of course I immediately got back into the church. I said I wasn't going to hold office or do anything more. I wasn't here five minutes it seemed to me till I was in office. I've always held office in everything I've been in.

Among the people we knew when we arrived were George and Margaret Lythe from Regina whom we had known for many years and Chet and Eliza Sinden from Lumsden as well as Mrs. Simmons who had been a good friend of ours since the Treasury.

Within a few years Graham and Marie Sled, Stan and Ann Sled, Don and Hazel Sled, Myrtle Burton (Sled) who had stayed with me many years previously in Regina, and Jim Sled who came down from Port Alberni after the death of his wife all came to live in Victoria. As well Isabel McGill looked after Jim (from Port Alberni) till his death.

I visited England in 1964, the first time since 1934.

My sister Edie visited us in Victoria in 1968. My niece Dolly Milburn from England visited in 1973. My nieces Amy Craven and Lillian Valentine visited in 1976. Niece Isabel and her husband Jack Higginbotham visited in 1977.

Although Jim was in relatively good health at the age of 82 when we arrived in 1958 and remained so for quite a few years thereafter, his health gradually deteriorated. I was having to spend all my time with him leaving me only a few minutes to shop etc. In 1973 I was not able to look after him any longer and he went into St. Vincent's long term care home.

He passed away on September 8, 1974 at the age of 98.

I was able to accompany John, Jessie-ann and little John to California in the spring of 1975.

In the summer of 1975 I went to England, then again in 1984.

I was able to visit Lumsden several times in the following years.

NORTH VANCOUVER, THE LAST YEARS

In 1979 the upkeep of the house, together with the loss of many of her relatives and friends led her to conclude it was time to give up the house. Jessie-ann arranged the rental of an apartment on the 16th floor of a block at 145 W 14th Street in North Vancouver. Amy found it very comfortable here and the house was sold shortly after. She was able to quickly make a number of friends in the building and at the Silver Harbour senior's centre nearby. She was able to remain very active, regularly traveling downtown and to friends on the bus. She also entertained many visitors. Jessie-ann's mother, Pearl Johnston, later moved into the apartment directly above and the children were able to visit two grandmothers at one stop. Mildred Gordon (Sled, Graham and Marie's daughter) also was to later live in the building and keep an eye on her.

As soon as I walked in I liked it - good view. There isn't anything I liked better. I could go to the bank and be back in ten minutes. I didn't have any fancy furniture. It was just comfortable. I haven't been inside a church since I came. To tell you the truth I'm fed up with the church. Right up to the very last, Jim belonged to the Metropolitan (United) Church and he was buried through the Metropolitan. And Bev. was in the choir and everything and they were all very nice to me. Not one person from the Anglican Church came near me - not one of them ever said anything. I spent a lifetime in the church. I began to think things over and, well if that is their attitude, I don't want any part of it.

Her nephews, Ivor and Harry Woodhouse from Wales visited her there the spring of 1984. She took a cruise ship to Alaska in 1985 and was able to visit the world's fair, EXPO86, in 1986.

She particularly enjoyed her 99th birthday in April 1987 with the visit of nephew Harry from Wales and Isabel McGill, Bill McGill and Jean Duncan (Isabel's daughter) from Lumsden. Her niece Beth and husband Dick Hoar from Calgary also visited her at that time. They made a point of visiting her almost every year.

The happy and independent life in North Vancouver continued until one day in June 1987 when, while out for a walk, she collapsed on the sidewalk. She had been going up the street to pick berries. A kind lady took her to the hospital emergency ward. Although she only suffered bruises and was not hospitalized, the fall took a lot out of her and she did not have the strength to return to her apartment. When John, Jessie-ann and family went on holidays, she went by plane to Bev's at Campbell River. Her trip was difficult and a few days later she fell out of bed, breaking some bones and necessitating a hospital stay.

She was not able to regain her strength and went to stay at Dogwood Lodge in Vancouver. She remained very mobile with the help of a walker. Again she made some good friends and later she made a point of being taken back to visit with her friends there each Christmas.

She later moved to the Lynn Valley Lodge in North Vancouver and again made new friends. She participated in their keep-fit program.

She celebrated her 100th birthday while at the Lynn Valley Lodge. Out of town visitors for the celebrations at John's included nieces Amy, Isabel and Lillian, great niece Susan Ward all from England, nephew Harry from Wales and Isabel McGill, Bill McGill and Jean Duncan from Lumsden and Eliza Sinden and Marie Sled from Victoria.

She then spent three happy years in the Kiwanis Lynn Valley continuing to participate in all family birthdays and get-togethers. She was popular with everyone there and made many friends. She made a point of walking every day. Whenever she could, she walked on the grounds and when the weather was poor she walked around the penthouse on the roof or around the corridor on her floor. She was admired by everyone for her effort to keep going. They made much of her birthday each year. She actually wore out a set of wheels on her walker. A ritual during this period was her daily phone call to Jessie-ann to learn of the day's activities there.

Her most faithful visitor during this period was Dorothy Chapman (Marie's sister) who visited several times each week and always ensured that her plants were well looked after. Mildred Gordon was also a frequent visitor.

In 1992 she had increasing difficulty getting her breath but was able to continue to go on Sunday drives and visit until the fall. Her health deteriorated further in the fall and on the evening of December 1 she was taken to hospital. She was diagnosed as having had a heart attack but she continued to persevere and was able to get out of bed and walk. Her condition then worsened and she passed away in the early hours of 17 December 1992. She had specifically requested that there be no funeral service.

FOOTNOTES

The following footnotes have been added. Many of the items could be sub-titled ‘forgotten lives’ as they are about people who played major roles in my mother’s life but most had no children and there is now no-one to remember them.

Footnote No. 1 (from page 1):

The birth of Amy Gertrude Davis was listed on a *Birth Index* page 134 for the *Births Registered in April, May and June 1888 in Ludlow District, Hertfordshire, Shropshire* as Amy Gertrude Davies of Ludlow. There were a number of other Amy Davies born in this area within a few years of the date and a Gertude Amy Davies born a few years earlier in Ludlow.

Footnote No. 2 (from page 1):

Based on many *Internet* sources, Ashford Carbonell (also spelled Carbonel) was and still is a small village in rural Shropshire, England, near the border with Herefordshire. Its beginnings trace back to feudal times. The word Ashford has its origin with a ford or crossing of the River Teme. The word Carbonell has its origin in the Carbonel family which was present at the time of the Norman Conquest of England in the 11th century. An historic bridge, on the road connecting Ashford Carbonell and Ashford Bowdler, built 1750-1799, designed by the famous English engineer, Thomas Telford, is reported to still span the river at that location. In the 1890s, the village still consisted of the 'big houses' in which the landowners lived and the cottages in which the villagers, who worked on the estates, lived. The village people, sometimes called cottagers, who would have worked on the estates for generations, did not own their houses but paid in cash a small rent to the landowners. Placenames discussed or mentioned in the footnotes of this narrative include Ashford Carbonell, Ashford Bowdler, Richards Castle, Brimfield, Wyson, Batchford and Ludlow. They are in close proximity to each other and the first four are now small collections of dwellings which have become satellite residential communities to Ludlow. In earlier times they would have been individual villages with a range of services. Ashford Carbonell is about three miles south of downtown Ludlow. Ashford Bowdler, a collection of a few houses, is about half a mile to the west of Ashford Carbonell. Richards Castle is about 2 miles further west from Ashford Carbonell. The placename, Batchcott, is about half a mile north of Richard’s Castle and the placename, Stanton Lacy, is about a mile north of Ludlow. Brimfield, which appears to have been the parrish headquarters in earlier times, is about two miles south of Ashford Carbonell. Wyson is about one half mile west of Brimfield. Current names of roads in the area include the A49 and B4369 highways and Wheat Common Lane, Woodhouse Lane, Wyson Lane.

Ludlow dates back to 1066. Ludlow Castle, built as a defense against the Welsh was begun between 1086 and 1094. It was greatly enlarged in the 12th century to protect the town that had built up around it, reaching its peak in 1405, but was abandoned in 1689 and soon became a picturesque ruin.

“Richard Fitz-Scob (or Richard Fitz-Scobe)” apparently built the castle at Richard’s Castle before 1051. It now only consists of earthworks and foundations.

The settlements apparently do not date back to Roman times. There are various references to a Roman Road passing through the area but its exact location has not been determined. It was likely along or close to the A449 Highway.

Much of the area is still intensely farmed but many treed areas, termed coverts, coppices and woods have been set aside as shelter for game.

Footnote No. 3 (from page 1):

The cottages, including No. 18, actually half of a duplex or semi-detached, were still present and occupied in 1998. It appears that the area has been recently redeveloped.

Footnote No. 4 (from page 1):

From marriage records we know that on 23 June 1869, John Davies, widower, farmer, and Jane Davies, spinster, domestic servant, both residing at "Wheat Common, Richards Castle, Salop" (Shropshire) were married in the "Primitive Methodist Chapel". John was 33 years of age and Jane was 23. John would thus have been about 52 years old and Jane 42 when their youngest child, Amy, was born in 1888. John's father was named Thomas and he was also listed as a farmer. Davies was (and still is) pronounced 'Davis' in that area and the two spellings are used interchangeably. The record was copied from the original and provided by Harry Woodhouse on his last visit. It is filed in back of her photo album.

We may trace John Davies back through the census records, accessible at the *Ancestry* website including the following:

The 7 April *1861 England Census* had recorded, living at dwelling No. 11 in the village of Wyson, John Davies, age 25, Thatcher, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, and wife, Mary J. Davies, 20, [?] Maker, born in Ludlow, Salop, (Shropshire). They were enumerated immediately after Thomas Davies, 55, Farmer, born in Tenbury Herefordshire and Mary Davies, 62, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, living in dwelling No. 10. The latter appear to have been John's parents.

Note that some of the *Ancestry* accessible websites appear to erroneously credit John Davies with one wife, Mary Jane, having combined the names of the two wives but neglecting the age discrepancy.

The 30 March *1851 England Census* had recorded, living in the village of Wyson, Thomas Davies, 48, Thatcher, Mary Davies 50, William Davies, 24, Thatcher, and John Davies, 13. All had been born in Brimfield, Herefordshire.

Similarly, we may trace the family forward from the marriage including the following:

The 2 April *1871 England Census* records John Davies, 35, farm servant in charge of [?] acres, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, Jane Davies, 24, born in Stanton Lacy, Shropshire, Farm servant wife and Alfred Davies 7 months, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire.

The 3 April *1881 England Census* records, living in village of Brimfield, John Davies, 45, agricultural labourer, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, Jane Davies, 34, born at Richards Castle, Shropshire, son, Alfred Davies, 10, scholar, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, daughters, Elizabeth A. (Annie) Davies 4 and Clara J. Davies 10 months, the children being recorded as born in Brimfield, Herefordshire.

The 5 April *1891 England Census* records, living in No. 12 Ashford Carbonell, John Davis, General Labourer, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, Jane Davis, wife, 44, born Ludlow, Shropshire, daughters, Clara 10, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, with Edith 6 and Amy ? both born in Ashford Carbonell, Shropshire.

The **1891 England Census** also recorded Alfred Davies, 20, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, as a lodger with a widow with no profession or occupation and her grown-up family in the village of Batchcott, Parish of Richards Castle, Registration District Ludlow, in Shropshire. He was employed as a groom-domestic. As indicated above, Batchcott is close to the Ludlow-Ashford Carbonell area.

And the **1891 Census** recorded Annie Davies 14, born in Brimfield Shropshire, a servant, in the household of Richard Wall 64, a labourer and his wife Eliza Wall 63 at Bromfield.

The March 31 **1901 England Census** recorded John Davis 65 General Labourer, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, his wife, Jane Davis, 56 charwomen, born in Ludlow, Shropshire, with daughter Clara Davis, Dressmaker, working at home, born in Brimfield, Herefordshire, and Daughter, Amy G. Davis, 12, born in Ashford Carbonell, Shropshire, all living in a four-room house.

George Powell, 45, farmer, his wife Mary A. 46, with Charlotte E. 13 and three younger siblings were recorded on the same page in the 1901 enumeration. Charlotte E. is Edith Powell who was to accompany Amy to Canada in 1907.

The **1901 Census** also recorded Edith Davies 16, born in Ludlow, Shropshire, as a general servant in the household of Vincent Chillingworth, farmer of Bewdley, Kidderminster?.

The **1901 Wales Census** recorded an Alfred Davies 30, waggoner on farm, born in Eardisland (Eardisland?), Herefordshire, with his wife, Mary J. 26 and children Joseph 4 and Arthur 1 at Clyro, Radnorshire, Wales. Eardisland is about eight miles southwest of Brimfield. Clyro is about 25 miles southwest of Brimfield and Ludlow and about a mile from the England-Wales border.

The 2 April **1911 Census of England and Wales**, recorded John, age 75, born in Brimfield, Hertfordshire, occupation "thatcher farm work", employee, and Jane Davies, age 64, together with Clara Jane 30, a seamstress, living in the 3-room house at No. 18 Ashford Carbonell, Ludlow. Each householder filled out his own form and John's fine handwriting may be seen. Among the items of information recorded was that Jane had born 5 children.

Richard Owen Wall, an "agricultural engine driver", employee, with his wife and two small children lived at No. 17, the other half of the attached house. Immediately before the Walls, Julia Georgina Campbell, 67, a widow, and her daughter Gertrude Emily Campbell, 44, single, both born in India and living on "private means", together with four servants, lived in a 20 room house. This would likely have been one of the "manor houses" where the landowners lived. Julia and Gertrude, living on own means, with son/brother, Claud, a captain in the British Calvary, had been living in Somerset England, with seven servants in 1901.

Most of the other residents were employed as gardeners, domestics, or farm labourers and lived in 3 or 4 roomed houses. Other occupations of employees included the building trades and coachman. The residents included George Powell, widower, 53 and his son, William Robt. Davies, 59, a retired publican, with his wife and son, William Passey, 63, general agricultural labourer with his 66 year old wife, Joseph John Meridith, the blacksmith, with his wife and family, William Prosser, the grocer, with his family, John Davies, 47, foreman carpenter, with his wife, Sarah Jane, 44, and 4 children living at No. 6 and Charles Davies, 30, waggoner on farm and his family.

And Alfred Davies, cowman on farm, born in Eardsland, Herefordshire, with wife, Mary Jane, and children Garnett 13, Arthur 11 and Elsie 7 recorded in his own handwriting living at Clyro, Radnorshire Wales. Their mailing address was indicated as Upper House Chapel, Clyro, Hereford.

It is possible that this is not the Alfred Davies of interest but no other persons of that name, age and approximate location of birth have been identified.

And, Elizabeth Annie Milburn 34, married for 5 years, born at Brimfield Herefordshire, with her husband Alfred Milburn 31, born at Dudleston Heath, Ellesmere, and daughter Edith Dorothy Mary [Dolly] Milburn 3, born at Leaton Shrewsbury were recorded in the *1911 England Census* living at Leaton Heath Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury. Alfred Milburn was a bricklayer on an estate.

Footnote No. 5 (from page 2):

Annie married Alfred Milburn about 1906. They had a daughter known as Dolly and son Charlie. Neither married. Edith married Tom Barton in 1913. They had four children, Eric, Isabel, Amy and Lillian. Isabel married John (Jack) Higginbotham. They had two children, Peter and Wendy. Amy married Craven. Some time after his death she married Ward. Lillian married Tom Vallentine and they had two children, David and Beverly.

Footnote No. 6 (from page 2):

Clara married Woodhouse. They had two children Harry and Ivor.

Footnote No. 7 (from page 3):

A heavy brass cooking pot which occupied a place on the fireplace hearth is a treasured possession of the Sled household.

Footnote No. 8 (from page 3):

The stool was brought to Canada and still in use at the Sled household.

Footnote No. 9 (from page 6)

Lord Tredegar, 1831-1913, descendent of a wealthy land-owning family, was associated with the Cardiff area of Wales and there is a statue of him astride his horse there. He achieved fame as a commander in the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War. No information associating him with the Ashford Carbonell area has been identified.

Footnote No.10 (from page 6):

The 15th Baron of Inchiquin (Lucius William O'Brian, 1864-1929) is reported to have married Ethel Jane Foster, daughter of Johnston J. Foster of Moore Park on 14 January 1896 and this became their residence. The 16th Baron Inchiquin (Donough Edward Foster O'Brian, 1897-1968, first child of Lucius and Ethel) is indicated to have inherited Moore Park. The many earlier Lords and Barons of Inchiquin are more generally associated with Ireland

Footnote No. 11 (from page 6):

History has it that the two princess were Edward (2 November 1470 – 1483?) and Richard (1473 – 1483?) of Shrewsbury. They reportedly spent their early years in the castle and upon the death of their father, King Edward IV, were summoned to London where Edward was to be designated

as King Edward V. This did not please other members of royalty and the boys were imprisoned in the Tower of London so that their uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, could become king. Various websites indicate that they were murdered but there is no definitive information on their fate. The story of the princes apparently was known to the local people in Amy's time there.

Footnote No. 12 (from page 7):

Education in England had only become widely available after the Education Act of 1870. Schooling had only been compulsory (to the age of ten) since about 1876. In about 1889 the school-leaving age was raised to 12 and shortly thereafter it was raised to 14. The parents of younger children would have likely had to pay about 1d per week and parents of older children about 2d per week during this period. My mother recalled a pump-like fixture in the school out of which came flashcards for the children to read. The school, actually a rather impressive stone structure, built in 1875, unchanged from its image on an early photograph, was still present in 1998. It was still used as a day-care and kindergarden but the schoolyard had been paved to facilitate the delivery and picking up of the children by the mothers in their SUVs.

Footnote No. 13 (from page 9)

It was a bad family joke that the Passeys had "21 children twice over". They apparently had 21 children then one died and then they had another child.

Footnote No. 14 (from page 10):

The Radbrook School (52° 42' 12" N, 2° 45' 41" W), a large red brick building, was still present and in use as an educational institution in 1998. We were provided with a tour of the building. Most of the grounds had been paved for parking. It was announced in 2015 that the property was to be sold to a developer for the construction of 120 homes.

Footnote No. 15 (from page 10):

If we had visited a year earlier we could have seen her room just as it was when she was there but the building was undergoing a major renovation.

Footnote No. 16 (from page 11):

Beverly has the Mrs. Beeton Book. It not only reflects the English culinary practices of the time but it also provides insight to the entire British social order. Several editions are accessible at the *Internet Archive* website.

Footnote No. 17 (from page 12):

Edith's son, Ken Liddell, (See footnote No. 34.) in a column in the *Calgary Herald* of 22 August 1974, as part of a discussion of women who came to Canada in the early days, described the event and relationship as follows:

"Many came through the auspices of various societies, usually the church, yet under these protected circumstances for a woman to come to this land and head West must have been a terrifying experience.

"My mother was one of them. I recall a story she told of getting off the train at Regina and being scared nigh out of her wits by the croaking of frogs. She thought they were all under her feet.

“The girls came for a variety of reasons. In my mother’s case, she lived in Shropshire, England, and read an advertisement in which an Anglican minister wanted two girls to accompany his family to Western Canada where he was to set up schools for students of theology.

“She induced a chum in their village to come, too, although induced is hardly the word. My mother was not inclined to induce people to do things. She was more inclined to tell them.

“Her village chum became Mrs. James Sled, formerly of Lumsden, Sask., but now of Victoria, my godmother. Mrs. Sled told me a while ago that the two got along reasonably well except when the weather was bad. Then one would blame the other for having come.”

Footnote No. 18 (from page 12):

Mr. Littler was recorded as a First Class passenger on the Steamship Lake Champlain which departed Liverpool and arrived at Montreal on 31 May 1903. He was listed as a clergyman and his destination was Winnipeg.

Footnote No. 19 (from page 12):

The 2nd Class passenger list (page 30), accessible through the *Ancestry* website records that Amy Davies; indicated age 22; able to read and write English; single; Nurse; Country of birth: English; County in British Isles from which passenger came: London; Destination: Regina and Edith Powell; age 19; all other entries the same, were passengers on the Canadian Pacific Steamship Line Empress of Britain which had departed from Liverpool and arrived in Quebec on 24 May 1907. Amy would actually have also been 19 years of age at that time. The Canadian Pacific Railway-owned first Empress of Britain would have been one year old in 1907. It had a displacement of 14,189 tons, length 458.8 feet, a beam of 65.7 tons and a speed of 18 knots.

The 2nd Class passengers also included (page 27 of the list) Charles Littler; age 44; Minister; from Shropshire with his wife, Mary, age 42, and children, Edith, Maud and Henry; ages 20 to 16, all “Ret’d Canadians”, bound for Regina. And also, on page 25, Howard Arthur 26 and Harry Hilchcot 26, “missionaries”, from Warwick, bound for Regina. E. A. C. Hackman apparently was also a member of the party. See Footnote No. 21. There were a total of 1510 passengers on the voyage, its maximum capacity, just over one passenger for every 10 tons of displacement. Modern cruise ships carry about one passenger for every 40 tons of displacement. While Amy considered it luxurious after she got over her seasickness, it would have been crowded by modern standards.

Footnote No. 20 (from page 13):

The passenger list indicates that it landed at Halifax and it is recalled that she said that they landed at Halifax.

Footnote No. 21 (from page 13):

A brief history of the Anglican Church in Regina, including the arrival of Rev. C. R. Littler’s mission in 1907 was provided in the *Leader* of 28 May 1963 and a letter of appreciation from one of the 1907 group, Rev. Canon E. A. C. Hackman, was published in the *Leader* of 7 June 1963, page 39.

The *Saskatoon Daily Phoenix* of 28 February 1908 contained a social item reporting that Rev. Littler had visited friends in Glenhurst. Glenhurst, Saskatchewan, now long gone, was located

on Sec. 36, Tp. 30, Rg. 11 W. 3rd. There would have been no railways in that area in 1908. It would have been at least 40 miles across the prairie by horse and buggy from Saskatoon. It had a post office from 1906 to 1918.

Footnote No. 22 (from page 14):

The *Leader* of 11 February 1909 reported on a successful skating party held at the North Side rink which had been organized by the members of St. Chads Church. The proceeds were to be devoted to the St. Chads building fund and Mr. Littler thanked those involved. There were likely many similar events.

Footnote No. 23 (from page 14):

The Regina Trading Company, a department store founded in 1898, was a well-known Regina institution. It was on South Railway Street, now called Saskatchewan Drive, across from the railway station and yards.

Footnote No. 24 (from page 14):

Dean Dobie was apparently well known in the Lumsden area and was involved in the establishment of the picturesque Kennell Church. A photograph of him is contained in Amy's album. He was to officiate at my parents wedding. See page 16. A lengthy and laudatory biography of Dean George Nelson Dobie (born in Scotland (or England) about 1863) as of 1924 may be found in *Saskatchewan and its People* by John Hawkes, also *Pioneers and Prominent People of Saskatchewan*, both likely written by himself, accessible on the Internet. They confirm that he was appointed Warden of St. Chad's College in 1909. He married in 1920 at age 57. His son, Paul Nelson Dobie, age 20, is recorded as having lost his life in the Second World War in 1942. The parents were living in Malvern, Worcestershire, England, at that time.

Footnote No. 25 (From page 14):

The circumstances which led to John and Edith Liddell living in the house in the valley (on the NW ¼ of Sec. 23, Tp. 19, Rg. 21, W 2nd) have not been ascertained. A John Liddell, labourer, age 20, had been recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Bavarian which departed Liverpool on 18 February 1904 and arrived at Halifax. And, John Liddell, age 24, farmer, had been recorded as a passenger on the steamship Victorian which departed Liverpool and arrived at Halifax and St. John on 20 March 1908. He was recorded as a returning Canadian and his destination was Regina at that time.

John Liddell 6 had been recorded living with his parents, Henry and Sarah A. and sibling Edward 4 in Huddersfield, Yorkshire England in the *1891 England Census*. Henry, age 40, was employed as a "Dyer's Laborer" John Liddell 16, "Percher, Woolen Mill", was recorded living with his mother, a widow, "Chip potatoes Shop Keeper" and his sibling Adelaid 9 at the same location in the *1901 England Census*.

The *HILLS of HOME* tabulation of first owners indicates that Thomas Moorhouse was the first owner of the valley property. There is information that confirms that Mr. Moorhouse and his family had lived in this area. Amy's comments would suggest that the portion of Section 23 west of the railway right of way may not have been part of the Dickson/Sled farm at that time. John T. and Katherine Sled with their sons, James and Charles, relocated to their Lumsden farm which may or may not have included this property in 1909. The location of a house on a bench

partially down the slope of the west side of the valley was still discernable in the 1940s but the house had been demolished earlier.

Footnote No. 26 (from page 14):

King Edward VII died on 6 May 1910.

Footnote No. 27 (from page 15):

James Franklin Sled, son and seventh child of William and Elie, was born 26 July 1910. There is a photo in her album indicated to have been taken at the Will Sled farm in 1910. This would have been in the Condie area, a few miles from the Sled farm. Her album indicates that she, along with the Liddells, later visited the Will Sled family at Plenty – a long train ride with a change of trains and stations in Saskatoon.

Footnote No. 28 (from page 15):

The Newsomes were married on 8 June 1910.

Footnote No. 29 (from page 15):

Catherine Mary Newsome, first child of James and Isabel Newsome was born on 7 March 1911. There is a photo in her album of Amy riding a horse at the Newsomes in 1911. The farm buildings remain, the barn being virtually unchanged from what it would have been in 1911. It had been built by Henry Edgar Carss in 1908 shortly before the Newsomes purchased the property. The house is in use with it having been insulated and new siding installed in recent years, but the configuration essentially unchanged in the over 100 years since its construction. The farmyard is at about 50° 36' 41" N, 104° 50' 23" W.

Footnote No. 30 (from page 15):

Although the handwriting is nearly indiscipherable, it would appear that Amy was enumerated in the *June 1911 Census* as a domestic in the household of James Newsome at Lumsden.

And, John Liddell, born August 1883, age 27, having immigrated in 1900, and Edith Liddell born March 1889, age 22, having immigrated in 1907, with daughter Mary, born April 1909 age 2, were recorded living in Suite 305 in a bldg, name indiscipherable, likely on 12th Avenue in the *1911 Census* (Regina 68, page 44, line 33) He was recorded as a teamster employed by a store. Mention of a daughter is not recalled.

Footnote No. 31 (from page 15):

The streetcar system in Regina was inaugurated on 28 July, 1911, fare 5¢.

Footnote No. 32 (from page 15):

Amy saved the passenger list from the Royal Edward's voyage which departed Bristol on 3 April 1912 for Halifax. It is filed in her album. The other voyages of the Royal Edward do not appear to be accessible on the Internet. She said that she was on the ocean when the Titanic sunk, 14-15 April 1912 and recalled the news coming over the wireless and it being announced. She said that they saw many icebergs in the North Atlantic during the crossing. The ship must actually have been very close to Halifax when the Titanic sank as the Royal Edward was scheduled to leave Halifax on the 17th April. Thus, the Royal Edward does not appear to be part of the Titanic history. Built in 1908, it was torpedoed and sunk on 13 August 1915.

Footnote No. 33 (from page 16):

Thomas Lax was a senior official in the Treasury Branch for many of those years. A number of visits with the Lax family are recalled. Thomas Lax, 25, clerk, first trip to Canada, is recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Empress of Ireland which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 23 June 1911, destination Regina. Earlier *England Censuses* record that his father was a coal miner. He was recorded in the *1916 Census*, age 30, boarder, book keeper, on Pasqua Street, North Regina, immigrating 1907. Thos. Lax, supervising accountant, salary \$2800, was recorded with his wife, Gertrude Elizabeth, and three children in 1921 living at 1057 Garnet Street. *Wrigley's Directory* for 1921-22, page 529, recorded Thomas Lax as institutional accountant and supervising accountant, Treasury Department Saskatchewan Govt. Thomas, Civil Servant, and Mrs. Lax with daughter, Miss E. Lax, civil servant were recorded living at the Grenfell Apartments on Hamilton Street in the 1945 *voters' list*.

The Laxes were members of St. Peters Anglican Church in Regina. (*Leader* 4 June 1932, page 6)

He was awarded the Imperial Service Order in the King's Honour List of 1946. The *University of Saskatchewan Archives* contain a lengthy recitation of Mr. Lax's service to the province upon the awarding him with an honorary degree in 1952. He had started his government service in December 1911 and retired in 1950.

They are recorded as having resided at 1044 King Street in Regina for many years. The family also later had a farm in the Condie area and their descendents continue to live and farm to the present time in the Lumsden area. As a teenager, it is recalled being hired for a day by Mel Mack to help feed a concrete mixer for the construction of a basement for a new house at the Lax farm about 1948. As a farmer, Thomas Lax is recorded as having been a member of the 'United Grain Growers Local at Condie' at their organizational meeting in 1965. The United Grain Growers had purchased an elevator at that location in 1959. His son was recorded as a member in 1982. However, Thomas Lax, 79, is recorded as having been buried in the Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery, Regina, on 3 November 1964. Gertrude Elizabeth, 87, was buried at the same location on 18 August 1975.

Footnote No. 34 (from page 16):

Amy Davis, a stenographer in the Treasury Dept., was recorded as a lodger in the household of John and Edith Liddell with their son, Kenneth, age 4, at 757 Pasqua Street in the *1916 Census*. John was indicated to be a Gov't Printer at the Parliament Bldgs and a soldier stationed at Camp Hughes [in Manitoba].

John Liddell (Reg. No. 925815), printer, born 8 April 1884, in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, enlisted in Regina on 20 May 1916. He indicated that he was residing at 757 Pasqua Street in Regina at that time and listed his wife, Edith, as his next of kin. He indicated that he had served 3 years in the 95th Battallion of the Saskatchewan Rifles and 5 years in the "Territorials" in England.

And, Sarah Liddell 53, John Liddell's mother, was recorded living at 1372 Cameron Street in Regina with a boarder and daughter Adelaid 24, stenographer, in *1916 Census* (Regina 12, page 83, line 12). Sarah Liddell 50 "wife", Adelaid Liddell 21 "milliner" and Willie Liddell 23 "spinner" had been recorded as passengers on the Steamship Corsican which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 12 May 1913, destination Regina. No mention of them is recalled.

Private John Liddell, “son of John and Sarah Liddell of Huddersfield England”, died in England on 6 October 1918 and was buried at Warrington Cemetery, Lancashire, England. Charlotte E. Liddell 30, UK address: Ashford Carbonell, Shropshire, and Kenneth 6 were recorded as passengers on the Steamship Minnedosa which departed St. John and arrived at Liverpool on 28 December 1918. Charlotte E. Liddell 30 and Kenneth E. Liddell 6, full European address Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow Shropshire, were recorded as passengers on the passengers on the Steamship Minnedosa which departed Liverpool and arrived at St. John on 28 December 1918. Her and Kenneth’s passage to England, apparently just at the end of the war, is inexplicable.

Also, Edith Liddell, age 31 is recorded as a passenger on the Scandinavian which departed Antwerp Belgium and Southhampton and arrived at Quebec on 22 August 1920. “Ocean Arrival Forms” indicate that she was returning to her home at 757 Pasqua Street in Regina. It was recorded that she had left Canada because of a nervous breakdown. She also indicated that she was “destined” to her late husband’s mother at 1589 Athol Street in Regina. Kenneth Liddell 8 was also recorded on the voyage.

Edith 33 and Ken 9 Liddell were recorded living at No. 69 Trading Co. Bldg. in Regina at the time of the *1921 Census*. Edith’s occupation was indicated as none.

And, Charlotte Liddell 48, Librarian, destination Vimy Pilgrimage, London, was a passenger on the Steamship Ascania which departed Montreal and arrived at London on 28 July 1936. Charlotte Liddell 48 , Clerk, last Address in UK: “18 Ashford St. Carbonel Ludlow” was a passenger on the Steamship Antonia which departed Liverpool and arrived in Montreal on 25 September 1936.

Edith had obtained employment with the Provincial Government in library services and remained there until her retirement. She lived in a very nice bungalow at 2349 Rettallack Street. Her neighbor just across the lane on Rae Street was Dick Irvine, NHL hockey player and later well-known coach of the Montreal Canadians, who spent summers in Regina with his family. Among his summer activities, he raised racing pigeons which were housed in a large aviary in his backyard, a nuisance to the neighbors but a source of interest to young visitors. Dick Irvine, with his son, Dickie or Junior, was often seen in Lumsden as the coach of a Regina junior baseball team which had its home field at Lumsden. Junior appeared until recent times as a commentator on CBC hockey. His appearance, looking every one of his near-80 years, made me feel old.

Edith was recorded as retired at the Rettallack address in the voters lists of 1949 to 1957. Subsequently she relocated to Calgary and was recorded living at 516-7 22nd Ave SW Calgary in the 1962 voters list. The Retallack Street area has been redeveloped with not-very-attractive low-rise apartments.

John and Edith’s son, Kenneth, born 1912, was a well known photographer and writer for the *Leader*, the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Calgary Herald* and the author of several books on aspects of prairie life. His photographs of the Regina riot in 1935 and the visit of the King and Queen in 1939 were widely circulated. Kenneth E. Liddell, Columnist and Mrs Evelyn Liddell were recorded living at 1933 Grand Oaks Drive in the 1963 to 1972 voters lists. He died suddenly in Calgary in 1975 and was buried in the Queens Park Cemetery. After his death, Evelyn relocated to Vancouver to be near members of her family. Susanah Eveline Liddell, widow of Kenneth Liddell, of 201-5411 Vine Street, born 2 January 1909 in Davidson Saskatchewan, died suddenly on 7 September 1977, age 68. Her brother, Clarence William

Ellison of 6788 Beechwood Street in Vancouver, signed the death certificate. Amy, with John and Jessie-ann, attended her funeral.

Footnote No. 35 (from page 16):

Amy, stenographer with the Prov. Govt., salary \$1380, was recorded living with **Cicily Williamson** at 1613 13th Ave. in the *1921 Census* (Regina 21, page 5). Although the handwritten record of Amy's name is clear, the *Ancestry* transcription has interpreted it incorrectly so does not show up in a search. Cicily was also a stenographer with the Prov. Govt., salary \$1140. They apparently shared a house with the Timothy Hurley family, apparently from New Brunswick. The Hurley name is not recalled.

Cicily Williamson, born July 1891, had immigrated with her widowed mother, Maria F. and siblings in 1910. The mother and four children but not Cicily had been recorded as passengers on the Steamship Lake Manitoba which departed Liverpool and arrived at St. John on 10 April 1910. Cicily and three siblings had been recorded in the *1911 Census* living at Humbolt, Saskatchewan. It was recorded that the mother lived on an income. The four were recorded living at 217 Angus Crescent in Regina in the *1916 Census*. Cicily's occupation was stenographer. She had been recorded in the *1901 England Census* as a resident pupil at St. Anne's College in Staffordshire with her older sister Marjorie. Her father was recorded as a "Mineral Water Manufacturer" in Middlesex England in the *1891 England Census*. The mother and one son later lived in Vancouver but no other information on Cicily has been located.

Footnote 36 (from page 16)

Viola Sled, born 1896, was the first of seven children of William and Ellie Sled. She was the first grand-child of John T. and Katherine Sled. Their association would have began in 1910 around the occasion of the birth of Viola's brother, James. See page 14 above. While no records of their living in Regina have been located, a number of their trips to Lumsden have been documented.

Footnote No. 37 (from page 16)

Among the ministers she would have known was Julius Foster Dyke Parker, 1859-1944. He was the sixth child of Henry Parker, the "Rector of Saint Mary's", St Mary the Virgin, Canterbury, Kent, England (*1871 England Census*). As well, he was well known in Lumsden. Mention of him by my mother is recalled. His story is an interesting one.

"Julius F. D. Parker" had been recorded as an attendant at the British Museum in London in the *1881 Census of England*. J. F. D. Parker 23 was a passenger on the Sarmation which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 8 October 1882. Just a week later, the *Winnipeg Daily Sun* of 17 October 1882 recorded him as registered at the Queens Hotel in Winnipeg with a number of other gentlemen from England. Again, an item in the same source of 28 November 1882 indicated that he would spend a year representing the interests of the British Museum in collecting specimens of the flora and fauna. He was in the company of Mr. Forget, a government official, who would later be the first Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. *Hawkes*, page 1208, contains an extensive biography of Rev. (later Canon) Parker. Among other things, it is indicated that Dyke Parker had been employed on the telegraph line to Edmonton then had been a teamster during the Riel Rebellion (1885). The telegraph to Edmonton was in operation before the completion of the trans-continental railway in 1885.

It appears that Mr. Parker subsequently changed his occupation as the **Prince Albert Times** of 18 October 1889 reported “Mr. J. F. Dyke-Parker, the newly appointed Indian school teacher at Fort a la Corne, left on Tuesday of this week, accompanied by his wife, for their new home at the above mentioned place.” The issues of 7 March, 4 July and 12 September 1890 made reference to J Dyke-Parker of Fort a la Corne visiting Prince Albert. He was recorded with his African-born wife, Maud, and two sons at Fort a la Corne in the **1891 Census**. Fort a la Corne was an historic fur trading post on the Saskatchewan River about 25 miles east of Prince Albert.

Mr. Parker apparently changed his occupation again as the **1901 Census** recorded him as a clergyman with his wife, Maud, and family of five children at Halcro, Noth West Territories. Halcro is on the South Saskatchewan River south of Prince Albert. **Barr** (of Barr Colony fame, 1904), pages 3 and 13, makes reference to the Rev. J. F. Dyke Parker as Incumbent of St. Georges Church, Battleford, and indicates that he was one of a committee organized to receive and care for the women and children of the Barr colonists. He was recorded in the **1906 Census** with his wife, Maud, and four children in Prince Albert.

Shiels, indicates that he was minister of St. Johns Church, Craven (page 72) and also Kennell Church (page 76) in 1912. **Hawkes** further indicates that Rev. Parker was “preferred to the Parish of Lumsden and elected first Rural Dean of Lumsden” in 1912 and was “appointed rector of the Pro-Cathedral and Rural Dean of Qu’Appelle” in 1916. The **N-Rs** of the time contain many referenced to Rev. Julius Dyke Parker, his travels, his curling, his cricket etc. The Parker family, Julius Foster Dyke, wife, Charlotte Elizabeth, and three children were recorded living in Qu’Appelle, Sask., in the 1916 and 1921 censuses serving as the Anglican minister.

Mr. Parker attended the Lumsden Old-Timers Picnic in 1941, apparently played a prominent role, and was included in a photograph of the earliest settlers (**Leader** of 28 July 1941). The Sled family are also recorded as being present at that event, one of the last get-togethers of the original settlers. **HILLS of HOME**, page 266, also contains an interesting biography on Mr. Parker. A number of striking photographs of the Reverend Parker and his family are accessible on the Internet at the **Ancestry** website. Pictures of both wives are included.

Footnote No. 38 (from page 16):

A photo of **Bessie [Eliza, Elizabeth] Dickens** is contained in Amy’s album. It indicates that Amy was the bridesmaid at her wedding when she married “Reverend Butcher”, date not determined. Elizabeth Butcher 27, intended occupation in Canada - domestic, is recorded as a passenger on the Steamship *Tunisian* which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 23 June 1912, destination Regina. She was recorded as a housekeeper to an elderly gentleman at 1916 Dewdney Ave. in the **1916 Census**.

Reverend Butcher was probably Jesse Francis Butcher, born 8 November 1882 in Sheffield England. He was a theological student at St. Chads College in Regina, single, when he enlisted in the First World War on 29 October 1915 at Camp Hughes, Manitoba. He does not appear to have been one of the 1907 group. His mother lived in Vancouver when he enlisted. Jesse Butcher 36, student, St. Chads College, Regina, was recorded as a passenger on the Steamship *Niagara* which departed Vancouver 12 May 1919 and arrived at Honolulu, Hawaii, on 18 May. He departed Honolulu on 18 September 1919 bound for Victoria.

Elizabeth Craik Dickens, 32, steno with the Prov. Govt., salary \$1080, was recorded as a boarder at 1169 Garnet Street in 1921. Jesse F. Butcher 38 was recorded as an Anglican clergyman, salary \$1500, at Assiniboia, Sask. in 1921.

Reverend Butcher was apparently known or at least visited in Lumsden as the *N-R* of 8 August 1929 reported “*Rev. J. F. Butcher, rector of St. Michael’ church, Moose Jaw, with his wife, are guests of Rev. G. W. Rhodes at All Saints’ vicarage. They expect to be here two weeks. Mr. Butcher will assist Mr. Rhodes in the service at All Saints’ and deliver a sermon.*”

Jessie 53, “C in H. O.”, and Eliza Butcher 51 were recorded as passengers on the Steamship Duchess of Bedford which departed Liverpool on 18 September 1936 and arrived at Montreal.

Jesse F. and Mrs. Jesse F. Butcher, both retired, were living at 4124 McGill Street, North Burnaby, in the 1945 and 1949 voter’s lists. Mrs. Elizabeth Butcher was listed in later directories. They were recent residents of the area in 1945 as they do not seem to be listed in earlier B. C. directories.

Elizabeth Craik Butcher, 70, died in Vancouver on 11 April 1955. Jessie Francis Butcher, 82, died in Vancouver on 27 May 1965.

Letters and/or Christmas cards from Mrs. Butcher are recalled.

Footnote No. 39 (from page 16):

A photograph of Miss Truesdale is contained in Amy’s album. **Annie [M.] Truesdale, 16**, born in Quebec, was recorded living with her mother, a widow, in Regina in the *1891 Census*. The *Leader* of 8 April 1890 recorded the high standings of Miss Annie Truesdale in history, dictation, Euclid and general proficiency in the Easter examinations at the Regina Union School. She was recorded as a student, born 12 November 1874, living in Brandon Manitoba in the *1901 Census*.

The *Leader* of 31 October 1901 reported “*Miss Truesdale has left teaching at Sherwood school to renew her studies at Brandon college, and Miss Laura Rothwell has taken her place at Sherwood.*” The Rothwells were an early Regina family. Laura’s sister, Emily, in 1900, became the wife of Chris Scott who farmed adjacent to the Sled farm at Lumsden until the early 1940s. Emily was the first school teacher at Lumsden. The father was an educator and public school inspector.

Miss Truesdale was recorded as a stenographer employed by the Provincial Government and living at 2349 Lorne Street with two boarders in 1916 and as a secretary at the same address in 1921. Miss Annie Truesdale was recorded living at 2929 McCallum Avenue in the 1940 voters list. Miss Annie Truesdale, retired, was recorded living at 2225 McIntyre Street, Regina, in the 1957 voters list.

Footnote No. 40 (from page 16):

Through the 1881, 1891 and 1901 England Censuses, the 1916 Canadian Census, the First World War records, the *Leader* of 3 March 1923, the various Regina and British Columbia directories, the voter’s lists and the *B. C. Archives*, it is possible to follow the Hume family throughout their lives. Available information includes the following.

The Hume family, parents Ernest J. and Elizabeth Ann with children Elsie born 1891, Isabel Agnes born 1893, Jessie Ivy born 1895 and Joseph R. born 1897 had immigrated to Canada from London, England. The mother and the four teen-aged children were recorded as passengers on

the Empress of Britain which departed Liverpool 14 November 1913 and arrived at Quebec. All but Isabel were recorded living in Regina at 1554 Albert Street in 1916 with the father employed as a hail insurance agent, Jessie I. employed as an assistant librarian and Joseph in the army at Camp Hughes, Manitoba. They were Anglicans and lived not far from St. Paul's Church so they probably became acquainted with Amy through the church. Joseph, previously employed as a bank clerk, was to lose his life in the war on 2 October 1918.

Ernest 62, clerk at "Oil Works", salary \$2000, and Elizabeth 59 with Elsie, Cashier in Insurance, salary \$950, and Isabel, clerk at bank, salary \$900, were recorded living at Suite 6 of the Elgin Apartments, 2044 Rae Street in 1921.

The father, then employed by Imperial Oil, died in March 1923 and the mother with Elsie and Isabel apparently moved to Apt. 100, 1209 Jervis Street, the Blenheim Apartments, Vancouver, shortly afterwards. Jessie Ivy had married Ernest Fayre in Regina and at least she apparently also later relocated to British Columbia. The Humes occupied Apt.100 and/or 101 of the Blenheim Apartments until about 1935. They subsequently lived at Apt 5, 1243 Thurlow Street in 1936. The mother died in 1942. About 1942 Isabel married Ernest C. Mason who apparently owned a business and they were subsequently recorded living in the Kitsilano area for a number of years. Elsie moved to 843 Cardero Street about 1944.

Elsie and likely Jessie Ivy relocated to the Island about 1946. Jessie Ivy Fayre died at 1464 St. Patrick Street in Oak Bay in August 1946. Elsie, of the same address, was recorded as the informant of her death.

Elsie relocated to No. 7, 1451 Beresford Road, the Marine Chalet Apartments, in Oak Bay, about 1947. Isabel, apparently without the husband, joined her. They continued to live at the Marine Chalet Apartments the rest of their lives. Letters to and from the Marine Chalet address are recalled. After employment as a cashier at Excelsior Life Insurance Co., both in Vancouver and then in Victoria, Elsie retired before 1963. Similarly, after employment in Vancouver as a bank clerk and in Victoria as a saleswoman and later librarian at Spencer's then Eaton's, Isabel was also retired by 1963. Isabel died in February 1973, age 79. Elsie died in August 1975, age 84. An ornate antique wooden chair from their home occupies a prominent place in the Sled household in North Vancouver.

Footnote No. 41 (from page 16):

Many visits to the George and Margaret Lythes in Regina and their many visits to Lumsden are recalled. The beginning of the connection between the Lythes and Amy has not been identified. George Lythe 16 was recorded as a coachman living with his parents at Pickering England in the *1901 England Census*. He was recorded as a "Joiner-buildings" living with his parents in Leeds, Yorkshire, England in the *1911 England Census*. The Hendersons Regina Directory for 1911 recorded him as a carpenter in Regina.

George, general carpenter, salary \$1500, and Margaret were recorded living at 1411 Wascana Street in Regina in the *1921 Census*. The *1945 voter's list* recorded them at 4038 Dewdney Ave. The Dewdney Avenue location was a very nice small house located on the north-east corner of the intersection of Dewdney Avenue and Pasqua Street, directly across from the Grey Nuns Hospital. The Lythes always had a beautiful garden. Mr. Lythe worked for Simpson's Department store for many years as their in-house carpenter and display installer. He was well known in Regina for his photography. He coloured black and white photographs before the

technique was widely practiced. He was also known for his scooter which he had made or at least assembled long before similar models were commercially available. It would have been a long and inconvenient trip by bus from their home to the Simpson store. It is recalled that they did not have a car until after the war. It may be safely said that Mrs. Lythe did not ride the scooter!

The 1953 voter's list recorded George, cabinet maker, and Margaret with Margaret's sister, Rachel Featherstone were living at the Beta Apartments, 2925 14th Ave in Regina in 1953. The red brick Beta Apartments, built 1914, at the corner of 14th Ave and Robinson Street is a Municipal Heritage property. The relocation of the Lythes from Dewdney Ave. is not recalled.

The 1962 and 1963 voter's lists recorded the Lythes at 1712 Chandler Ave. in Victoria. This was a very nice house with a larger and immaculate garden. The 1968 voter's list recorded them at 1302 Purcell Place in Victoria. The *B. C. Archives* record the death of Margaret Lythe (Boyle) of 1302 Purcell Place on 9 December 1968. She had been born in County Down Ireland on 22 June 1882.

The B. C. Archives records the death of George Richard Preston Lythe of 1025 Lyndon Ave., Victoria on 27 February 1971. It recorded that he had been born at Scarborough, England, on 7 May 1885 and had lived in Canada for 61 years. His niece, M. Perry of Whiterock, B. C., reported his death. Unfortunately, his lifetime collection of photographs, negatives and slides had been damaged by a flood in his basement in Victoria.

Footnote No. 42 (from page 16):

Visits to the home of Dorothy Ough in Regina are recalled. Dorothy Ough 25, domestic, with her mother Mary 60, a widow, brother Harry 29, farmer, sister Rosalie 23, domestic, were recorded as passengers on the Steamship Melita which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 20 July 1919. Their destination was Mrs. Ough's brother, 388 William Street, London, Ontario. Dorothy Ough 27, clerk, was living with her mother, Mary 63, a widow, brother Harry 32, a civil servant, and sister Rosalie 25, clerk, the latter three employed by the government, at 3227 15th Ave. in Regina in 1921. All were recorded as having immigrated in 1919. Various records indicate that Harry had arrived in Canada previously in 1912.

The family with Frederick J. 39, a farmer, Mary E. 42, Harry J. [Jenken] 12, Dorothy R. [Roseveara] 8, Rosamond 5, and a hired "horseman on a farm" were recorded living at St. Pinnock, Cornwall, England, in 1901. Dorothy Ough 18, "Farmer's Daughter Dairy Work" was living with a police constable and his family at the same location in 1911.

Miss Dorothy Ough, civil servant, was recorded living at 1202 Garnet Street, Regina, in the 1945, 1953 and 1958 voter's lists. She was recorded with no occupation at that address in 1962 and as a "student" at that address in 1972. She would have been 76 at that time.

Footnote No. 43(from page 16):

Although the name is recalled, Miss Tindale has not been otherwise identified. Also, Miss Oxley.

Footnote No. 44(from page 16):

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960 records that Amy G. Davies, European Address - 29 Blackburn road, Ribchester, Stenographer, 31 year old single female, departed Montreal on the Metagama, arrived at Liverpool, 18 June 1919. The passenger list is contained in her album. Dorothy E. [Elizabeth] Greensmith, stenographer, 28 year old female was also a passenger. Many mentions of Dorothy are recalled and the records of her trips of 1912, 1916, 1919 and 1938 across the Atlantic are documented at the *Ancestry* website. Dorothy Greensmith 26, was recorded living in Regina in the *1916 Census*, a stenographer working at the Parliament Buildings. It was recorded that she had immigrated from England in 1912.

And, Amy E. Davies, 31 year old female, returning Canadian, born in England departed Liverpool on the Steamship Canadian and arrived in Montreal on 16 October 1919, destination Regina Sask. Dorothy E. Greensmith, 29 year old female, stenographer, destination Regina, was also a passenger.

The records indicate that she departed from and arrived at Montreal in 1919. Her 1925 trip landed in New York (See Footnote 43 below).

Wrigley's Saskatchewan Directory for 1920-21 recorded Dorothy E. Greensmith as secretary to the Attorney General, Attorney General's Dept, Saskatchewan Government. Dora Greensmith 30, Secretary to the Att. Gen, salary \$1200, was recorded as a boarder at 2404 16th Ave in Regina in 1921. The *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* website and other sources provide a picture of her and indicates that she later studied law, being called to the bar in 1925, became a Kings Counsel and practiced law with the Saskatchewan government until her death in 1951. The *Leaders* of the era contain a number of references to her social activities. An item in the *Leader* of 24 April 1947 reports that she visited Miss A. B. Collins in Victoria (See footnote 38 below). Apparently a name dropper, it also reported that she had seen, among others, Provincial Treasurer, C. M. Fines, his deputy T. Lax (Footnote 33 above) as well as Premier (of Saskatchewan), T. C. Douglas, in Vancouver.

Footnote No. 45 (from page 17):

Amy Davies; 37 years old; female, single; Secretary; able to read English; nationality: Gt. Britain; Race: English; Last Permanent Address: Regina, Canada; Nearest Relative: mother, Mrs. J. Davies, Yew Tree Cottage, Pentre Rhyn, St. Martin, Oswestry; Final Destination: Regina Saskatchewan; Immigration Visa Number 14789/348 issued in the City of London; was a passenger on the Ohio, owned by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which departed Southampton on 10 October 1925 and arrived in New York on the 19 October.

Footnote No. 46 (from page 17):

Christine McMurchy, born 8 March 1875, was a school teacher. She was recorded living in Wellington South, Ontario, in 1901. Christina McMurchy 26 had been recorded as a teacher at Killarny Manitoba in 1906. See Footnote 43 below. No later information on Tina McMurchy has been located.

Footnote No. 47 (from page 17):

Cordelia (Pat) Patterson, indicated age 25, born in Nova Scotia and Christina McMurchy 35, both teachers and Anglicans, were recorded in the *1916 Census* living in a large apartment building at 1839 Scarth Street, the Willoughby and Duncan Building. It was built in 1908 and is still

present. She had been recorded in the *1911 Census*, born March 1885, in Nova Scotia as a school teacher at Shelburne and Queens, Nova Scotia.

The *N-R* of 4 July 1929 had reported “Mr. Charles Sled with his wife and family left Lumsden last Saturday by auto on a trip to Ontatio. ...” And the *N-R* of 11 July 1929 reported “Miss Davies and Miss Patterson of Regina, are spending their vacation period at the residence of Mr. Chas Sled.”

Cordelia M. Patterson 42, teacher, UK address c/o English Summer School, was a passenger on the Steamship Empress of Australia which departed Quebec and arrived at Southampton on 9 July 1930. Cordelia Maude Patterson 42, born in Falmouth Nova Scotia, was recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Empress of Scotland which departed Cherbourg France and arrived in Montreal on 16 August 1930.

The 1945 voters list recorded her living with Thomas W. and Mrs. Featherstone at 140 Connaught Crescent, Regina. Mrs. Featherstone was the sister of Margaret Lythe ?. See footnote No. 39.

Many mentions of Pat’s name, communications with her, receiving Christmas presents from her and at least one visit to Victoria are recalled.

Footnote No. 48 (from page 17):

Alice Beatrice Collins (later Simmons), born 6 September 1885 in Southampton England was a longtime friend of Amy, both in Regina and Victoria. She worked at the Parliament Buildings for many years, apparently retiring in 1947.

Alice Collins, 21, domestic, from Hants (Hampshire) England, had been recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Virginian which departed Liverpool and arrived at Halifax and St. John on 14 April 1905. Her destination was recorded as Lumsden, Assa. [Assiniboia]. Her connection to Lumsden in 1905 has not been ascertained. *Wrigley’s Directory* for 1920-21 recorded Alice B. Collins as a clerk at the Great West Bank, 1017 McCallum Hill Bldg in Regina.

The *Leaders* of the 1930s and 40s contained many mentions of Alice Collins in the society columns, often connected with piano performances. Her many visits to Lumsden and her piano playing are recalled.

After retirement, Alice relocated to New Zealand, married Charles Simmons, who died shortly thereafter, then she returned to Victoria. Alice Simmons, born “6/9/85” was a passenger on the Saxonia which departed Montreal and arrived at London on 15 May 1958. UK address: Drove Lane, Alresford, Hants.

Alice Simmons was recorded in the 1958 voters list living at 1023 Oliphant Street, Victoria. She was recorded living at Apt 4, 217 Cook Street in 1962.

Then residing at 855 Vancouver Street, she died suddenly in Victoria of a heart attack on 27 September 1967, age 82, just before the Sled family weddings. Her death certificate confirmed that she retired 1947 and was the widow of Charles Simmons. Brother, Lewis F. Collins signed the death certificate.

The Sled family also knew Alice’s brother, Lewis, well. The Collins family was recorded in the *1891 England Census* at Southampton, England. Father, Robert F. Collins was a Master Mariner with his wife Mary A. and five children including Alice B. 5 and Lewis F. age 1.

L. F. Collins 18 was recorded as a passenger on the Kensington which departed Liverpool and arrived at Halifax on 7 April 1907. L. F. Collins was recorded as a farmer Sec. 2, Tp. 24, Rg. 27 in the Moose Jaw area in 1911. Lewis Collins 27 and Mary Collins 35, born in Ireland, were recorded farming on Tp. 17, Rg. 1, ?? Pilot Butte in 1916. They later farmed for many years at McTaggart, near Weyburn.

Lewis and Mary apparently also retired in 1947 and enjoyed a long retirement at 2146 33rd Avenue in Vancouver, just across the street from the then-Arbutus golf course. The Collins were in good health and spirits when they attended John and Jessie-ann's wedding in 1967

Lewis Francis Collins died 29 November 1973 in Vancouver, father: Robert Francis, mother: Mary Ann, born 29 July 1889 in Hants England age 84. Son, Robert L Collins, Birmingham Michigan USA signed the death certificate. Mary Alicia Collins, born 7 June 1879 in Ireland, died in Vancouver on 4 February 1974 age 94. Robert listed his address as the 33rd Avenue location at the time that he signed his mother's death certificate. Robert (Bob) had studied engineering at the University of Saskatchewan and was employed by one of the major automobile manufacturers in the Detroit area. The Collins' daughter was married to a Vancouver City fireman who was well-known in Vancouver as the long term director of the firemen's band.

Footnote No. 49 (from page 17):

The Chateau Apartments, 2104 14th Avenue at Scarth Street in Regina, was built in 1927 and is still present as a rental apartment building. It is recalled that some of her friends and likely Amy lived there.

Footnote No. 50 (from page 19):

Amy G. Sled; Proposed Address in the United Kingdom: Tromstree Villa, Tellarn Green, Malpas.; housewife, age 46; Country of Last Permanent Residence: Canada and John J. Sled, 9 mos. were Tourist Class passengers on the Duchess of Bedford, Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, leaving from Montreal and Quebec, arriving in Liverpool on 26 May 1934 (page 9).

Nancy Evans, Proposed Address in United Kingdom: 48 Van Road, Caerphilly, Glamorgan S. W., stenographer, age 22, was also recorded as a Tourist Class passenger (page 12).

And, Amy Sled; wife; 46 years old; married; born in Ludlow, England; English; having lived in Canada May 1907 to 1934; Destination: Lumsden, Sask. and John Sled, son, 11 mths old; single; born in Regina Sask.; English; were recorded as passengers on the Duchess of Richmond which departed from Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 19 July 1934.

Nancy Evans was recorded returning on the Duchess of York which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 10 August 1934, destination Regina.

A number of mentions of Nancy Evans are recalled.

Footnote No. 51 (from page 19):

The Evans family, father John 43, a labourer, mother Maria 43, and children John 11, David 9, Nancy 15 and Rachel 14 of Caerphilly, (Wales) had been recorded as "assisted" British immigrants on the Montrose which departed Liverpool and arrived at Quebec on 22 April 1927, destination Regina, money in possession £50.

Also Nancy Evans, age 24, secretary, resident of Canada, destination 7, Fir Tree Av., Coventry, is recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Antonia which departed Montreal and arrived at Liverpool on 3 May 1936.

The *Ancestry* website connects Nancy Evans to a Nancy Griffiths, born 1912, who made a number of ocean passages with her husband, John C. Griffiths, a university lecturer/geologist, about same age, both travelling on British passports and a daughter born about 1947 in the USA.

Footnote No. 52 (from page 19):

The Eugenia news in the *Flesherton Advance* of 8 August 1934 reported “*Mrs. John Sled and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vancise of Stayner, also her son, Mr. Jim Sled and wife and babe of Lumsden, Sask., visited one day the past week with the former’s sister, Mrs. W. Magee.*” Mrs. Magee was a sister, actually half-sister, of grandma Sled.

Footnote No. 53 (from page 19):

The Eugenia news in the *Flesherton Advance* of 16 October 1936 reported “*Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Sled and son Mervyn of Flesherton, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sled and little son, John, of Regina, accompanied by their aunt, Mrs. W. Magee, visited recently at the home of Mrs. D. Vancise, Stayner, to spend a few hours with their mother and sister, who is leaving on Tuesday to spend the winter months at the home of her daughter, husband and family at Prescott*”

And, the Feversham news in the same source of 21 October 1936 reported “*Mr. James Sled and son of Lumsden, Sask., have been visiting with friends here and at Prescott, Ont. and have returned home.*”

Footnote No. 54: (from page 20):

The Holts, Ken and Edith, were long-term friends of the Sled family. It was said that as the Holts would pass by the Sled farm on their way to Regina, Ken would mention that a lady from Shropshire lived there. Mrs. Holt had come from Shropshire. One day they stopped and a close friendship ensued. The writer had the pleasure of visiting them in 1966 after they retired to England. Also, see Chapter 17-Craven-James Brown of *Lumsden Snapshot*..

Mr. Holt, born 13 May 1895, had been enumerated in the *1901 England Census* as the fourth of six children of John Holt, a grocer, at Coventry, Warwickshire, England. He immigrated to Canada as one of a group of farm labourers on the Steamship Virginian which departed from Liverpool and arrived in Halifax on 9 March 1912 bound for Qu’Appelle Sask.

The *N-R* of 11 September 1913 reported “*Kenneth Holt, a young Scotchman, hired for two months with Quinton Pettigrew, but growing weary decided to leave, and without giving any notice whatever, walked to the barn and put in the horses and beat it. As an example to others Mr. Pettigrew had him summonsed before Squire Carss, on Tuesday evening sharged with a breach of contract. The learned magistrate after hearing the evidence imposed a fine of \$10 and costs.*”

He was recorded in the *1916 Census* (Longlaketon 2, page 4, line 17) as a farmer on Tp. 20, Rg. 21 W. 2nd. This would have been north of Craven. He employed one labourer. He was inducted into the army in Regina on 17 October 1917. He listed his father, John Holt of Longen Brampton, Bryan, Hereforshire, England, as his next of kin.

Ken was recorded in the *1921 Census* (Longlaketon 4, page 34, line 32) farming on Sec. 27, Tp. 20, Rg. 21

He was recorded as a passenger on the Steamship Montroyal which departed Quebec and arrived at Southampton on 3 May 1928 then as a passenger on the Steamship Duchess of Bedford which departed Liverpool and landed at Quebec 6 July 1928. He was recorded as a passenger on the Duchess of York which departed St. John, New Brunswick, and arrived at Liverpool on 20 December 1936. It was likely the latter trip which led to his marriage to Edith.

See also *MacEwen, John Walter Grant*, Agriculture on Parade, Thomas Nelson and Sons, Toronto, 1950. Page 169. Accessible at *Peels Prairie Provinces*

Footnote No. 55 (from page 23):

Aunt Edie traveled both ways by boat and train. No details of her trip have been located. She was thus the last family member or friend known to have crossed the Atlantic by boat.

Sources

LUMSDEN: HILLS OF HOME, 1971

Dick Hoar, Sled Family Record, 1987

Ethel Sled (Martin, Jones), Family trees of the Sled family, 1998/2001

John J. Sled, Lumsden – Snapshot of a Prairie Community, 1901, 2017

Leitch, Adelaide, The Visible Past, The County of Simcoe, 1967

Osprey Township, 150th Anniversary, Local History, 2006

Willmot, Elizabeth A., Faces and Places Along the Railway, Gage Publishing Limited, 1979

Maps: Rural Municipality of Lumsden No. 189, Dominion Land Grant Information

Rural Municipality of Lumsden No. 189, Municipal Map, 2010

Rural Municipality of Lajord No. 128, Municipal Map, 2010

Publications accessible at the Our Roots website:

Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Simcoe, 1872

Pioneer Papers, Simcoe County Pioneer and Historical Society, 1908

Hunter, Andrew F., A History of Simcoe County, The County Council, 1909

Craig, John, Simcoe County: the recent past, Corporation of the County of Simcoe, 1977

Palaces and People, A History of Stayner, Bicentennial Book Committee, 1984

History of Indian Head and District, 1984

Hawkes, John, The Story of Saskatchewan and its People, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago – Regina, 1924.

Publications accessible at Peel's Prairie Provinces website:

Canada, Department of the Interior, Extracts from Surveyors' Reports – Township Surveys – Manitoba and North-West Territories, Ottawa, 1884

McAra, Peter, Sixty two years on the Canadian Prairie

Henderson's Regina City Directory, 1919
Manufacturing and Business Opportunities in Western Canada along the Canadian
Pacific Railway, 1912

Publication accessible at University of Manitoba Library website:

Fraser, D.H.; History of United Grain Growers' Local #793 – Condie-
Regina, Saskatchewan

Genealogy websites:

ancestry.com

provides access to: Census of Canada 1916

Lists of Electors, 1935-1980

Ontario vital statistics websites

federal census of 1871

census of Canada, 1881

census of Canada, 1901

census of the northwest provinces 1906

census of Canada, 1911

automated genealogy (select 1851, 1901, 1906 or 1911)

alberta family histories society (mainly the 1906 census)

soldiers of the first world war

canadian virtual war memorial

commonwealth war graves commission

national inventory of Canadian military war memorials

Property Records websites keywords: western land grants

cpr land sales (glenbow)

saskatchewan homestead index

Becker, John; Early Land Surveys in Southern Ontario. "As appeared in OGS Families, Vol 38,
No. 2, May 1999. Accessible on Internet.

Aerial Photos and Maps website: maps.google.com and Google Earth

Photograph Website: Saskatchewan Archive Information Network

Cemetery Records: Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project website

Also newspapers as referenced

The Flesherton Advance chronicled the activities of the Sled family, including myself, and their
associates over a period of about 50 years. It may be searched by keyword (very slow) at:
fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html. And *F-A* issues from December 1883 to September 1950 may
also be browsed and searched with a search facility that is not as convenient but faster at:

images.ourontario.ca.ghpl/112091/data. It is likely that some relevant events reported in this paper have been missed.