

Jennie married Bliss Smith in 1916 and they live on their farm near Fort Saskatchewan. They had one son, Allen and three daughters, Kathleen, Dorothy and Isabel. Muriel, deceased in 1964 was married to Lawrence Devereux and they farmed near Fort Saskatchewan. They had one son, John who has operated the farm since his father's death in 1932. Cedric deceased in 1951, married Salome Silke and they had three daughters, Sylvia, Alta and Linda. Cedric served in World War I and upon his return helped to operate the mines. Fred and Frank, the twins and youngest of the family lived most of their lives on the home farm. Fred was married to Evelyn Woods in 1924 and they had one daughter, Lois. The twins are both deceased Fred in 1966 and Frank in 1968.

It would be difficult to assess the contributions made to the Clover Bar area by these pioneers and their neighbors. But without their persistent endeavors, their cooperation and desire to establish a thriving community, Clover Bar would never have become the fine and widely known district that it became.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ottewell have passed on to their just reward, Mr. Ottewell in 1942 and Mrs. Ottewell in 1952. May they rest peacefully in the knowledge that their strivings and hardships were not in vain.

SYD OTTEWELL submitted by Frances Ottewell

In 1884 Syd Ottewell left his home in Bruce County, Ontario to join his brother, Philip who had homesteaded three years earlier in Clover Bar, Alberta. He came by boat to Fort William and then by train to Calgary. At Calgary he got a job with Tommy Lauder who was engaged in freighting goods to Edmonton by ox-team. The trip was not an easy one; many streams had to be crossed and the Red Deer River had to be forded. Syd said he walked the equivalent of three times the distance owing to the reluctance of the oxen to maintain a straight course.

Syd Ottewell was a member of the Home guard when the North West Rebellion broke out in 1885. He, along with many others went to Fort Edmonton. After working at different jobs for a time, he filed on a homestead (N.E. 12-53-23 W4) upon which he erected a log house. The logs were spruce hauled from Cooking Lake. He did the first breaking with oxen. In 1890 he decided to go back to Ontario to visit his family. In the fall, pulling his luggage on a hand sleigh, he set out on foot to go to Calgary and catch the train. Back east his family were so taken with his tales of the fertile land, that his father sold his possessions and made plans to join his son in Clover Bar. His daughter, Annie Ottewell came in advance to keep house for her brother. Richard Ottewell with his wife and younger children, Alice and Albert, arrived here in 1895.

Syd Ottewell joined the Society of Equity in 1896, which in 1905 amalgamated with the Territorial Grain Growers which culminated in the U.F.A. In 1896 Harry Horton opened the Hortonburg

Post Office in his store which he had built on land belonging to Syd Ottewell. When the Grand Trunk Pacific came through and the station was established, the name of the post office was changed to Bremner. In 1902 Syd again travelled to Ontario where he met George Uren, who enquired about the country out west. The result was that Mr. Uren and family arrived here in the Spring of 1904. In July 1905 Syd Ottewell and Ella Uren were married. They had three children; Edith (Mrs. H. T. Deby of Drayton Valley), Frances and George.

In 1909 the Grand Trunk Pacific built the railway from Winnipeg to Edmonton. This was to run through Clover Bar. When it became apparent that there was to be a station at Clover Bar and one at Ardrossan but none at Hortonburg, Syd enlisted the aid of J. C. C. Bremner to see what could be done. Mr. Bremner interviewed the officials and was told that if the settlers would put in a grade for a side track, they would build a station there. Syd Ottewell and Everett Ball took men, horses and equipment and put in the grade. The side track was put in, a stockyards built and three elevator sites were sold. The new station was referred to as "Bremner's Siding" and later it became Bremner.

As soon as the work on the grade was finished, November 1, 1909, Syd left for England. He had been selected by the Alberta government to spend the winter travelling in England so that prospective immigrants might be able to interview a practical farmer regarding the actual conditions of taking up land in the province.

The need of roads and schools led to the formation of a Local Improvement District, which in 1918 changed into the Clover Bar Municipality with its offices in Fort Saskatchewan. Syd was the first councillor. He also became a member of the Agricultural Qualifications Committee of the Soldier Settlement Board after the First World War. He never lost faith in the country and did everything in his power to promote his own district. He was ever interested in politics and spent a great deal of time 'electioneering' before an election. He was a strong supporter of Frank Olover and the Liberal Party until the U.F.A. fielded candidates. He died in 1934 at the age of 67.

Mrs. Syd Ottewell is now in her 88th year. Although confined to a wheel chair she still enjoys fairly good health. She enjoys particularly the company of her two grandchildren and her three great-grandchildren. She often talks of the early days and the experiences of her husband and herself. She tells how her husband worked his way west as a boy of 17; how he was in Fort Edmonton at the time of the North West Rebellion; how he and Johnny Stevens answered the call for volunteers to repair the telegraph line which the Indians had cut; and how they awoke in the morning to find a tomahawk on their blanket when they slept out in the woods, although they never saw an Indian or were molested in any way. She tells how he worked to obtain money to prove up on his homestead. Once he

worked for a year for St. George Jellet without missing a day, and was awarded a silver watch which he carried for the rest of his life. He carried his supplies on his shoulders from Edmonton to his homestead, a distance of 12 miles. He broke the land first by oxen, then with horses and a wooden beam breaking plow and carried the shears to Edmonton to be sharpened. He worked in the woods in Washington for two years as a sealer where the city of Seattle now stands. She remembers how she came to Strathcona with her family in March 1904, dressed in a spring suit with a little hat on her head and wearing kid gloves, to be met by Albert Ottewell who was at the time hauling grain to the mill. She recalls the 20 degree below weather and the heavy slow team and the big sleigh. They came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ottewell to spend the night, and later, they lived in a log house on Syd Ottewell's place until their own home was ready. She gave music lessons, having graduated the year before from the Toronto Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She recalls their wedding in 1905 with joy; her husband bought her a piano for a wedding present. This instrument was transported by team and sleigh and hoisted by rope slings into the hall above Horton's chophouse when the community gatherings were held. The Orange Lodge was formed and a hall built on their farm; this was used for community affairs as well as Lodge meetings. She reminisces about the Ladies' Lodge called the "True Blues" of which she was a member. There were also the Orangemen's picnics which were held annually on the 12th of July; of her husband attending the first session of Parliament and of his going to the inauguration of the province which was held at the site of the old Fair Grounds on the flats. Attending also were the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governor and the first Premier, A. C. Rutherford; of the cattle drives in the early days when the men of the district drove their cattle to pasture near Wainwright for the summer. The Clover Bar district was heavily wooded and there was no natural pasture. She tells of making butter, and during the summer months leaving home early in the morning with a horse and buggy to take it to Edmonton to sell for 5 cents a pound; of the opening of a creamery at Hortonburg.

She tells of Bremner growing to a village before the First War, including a branch of the Merchants Bank, Horton's Store with living Quarters above where Mr. Horton and members of his family lived; of Todd's Store built by Mr. Todd before he enlisted and left to go overseas; of Mr. and Mrs. Will Fife who built a house and opened a lumber yard opposite Todd's store; of the two elevators which were built; of the telegrapher, Billy Barn who married Gertie Latam; of Jim Woods the buyer for Swift's Packing Plant at the stockyards, who married Elizabeth Horton; of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Busse who built a house and blacksmith shop next to the Lumber Yard, where Mr. Busse was kept busy; of Dr. and Mrs. Collison buying the farm across the road from Horton's Store, where they came to spend the sum-

mer holidays; of the many, many changes which have taken place in the district; of the good times and the setbacks; of the beautiful country which it has now become.

AN EXCERPT FROM THE EDMONTON BULLETIN ABOUT 1940

The other day at the farm home of Sidney Ottewell, Clover Bar, about 40 family relatives held a picnic and family party. Included among the guests were Richard Ottewell, Sr. age 86, seven of his children and two great-grandchildren, and all the sons and daughters-in-law living in Alberta.

This only represented the Alberta contingent of the family, for in Ontario there are 5 more great-grandchildren, about 40 grandchildren and 6 children.

Richard Ottewell, Sr. was born 86 years ago in Lincolnshire, England and came to Canada about 65 years ago, when he settled near Toronto. He moved thence to South Huron and later to north Bruce. About 15 years ago he came to Alberta, and he and his family have been prominent and well respected residents of the Clover Bar settlement to the east of the city.

The venerable gentleman though now past the three score and ten years is still hale and hearty and he is able to work quite a large garden. He has been a lifetime Methodist and has acted as a local preacher for 65 years!

THE HERMAN OTTO FAMILY

In the spring of 1897 Louise and Herman Otto with their first born son left their home in Europe to come to western Canada. They were accompanied by my father's parents, three younger brothers and two sisters.

After twenty-eight days of travelling by steamship and train they arrived at the small railway station at Strathcona. There they were met by my uncle (the late Albert Otto) and aunt (the late Mrs. Lena Stephens). The last leg of their journey to my uncles farm at Bremner was by two large white oxen.

It was on this farm at Bremner that my Mother, Father and oldest brother moved into a one room sod roofed shack — this to be their home for four years.

Two days after my Father arrived at Bremner he went to work in a coal mine with my uncle. They walked a distance of nine miles, leaving on Sunday afternoon and returning the following Saturday afternoon, weather permitting. The wages they received were fifty cents a day. Three of these mines my father worked in were the Humberstone mine; Dawson mine; and Fraser mine at Clover Bar.

In 1900 my father went to work at construction on the Low level Bridge and worked there until its completion in 1902. It took many long hours and many years of hard work before he could save enough money to buy his own farm.

My father purchased our farm from the C.P.R. for less than four