

Sherwood Park: The First Twenty-Five Years

Another son, **George McAllister**, obtained "right of entry" for the quarter section (SW 16) directly west of his father's homestead on January 9, 1893. A log cabin was built and land cleared. The south wall of this log cabin remains between the kitchen and living room of the house lived in by **Stan Seutter**. George left the homestead in the early 1900's.

Roy McAllister was a lover of horses and had as many as fifteen. He grew grain, raised Holstein cattle and performed minor veterinary tasks.

Ruth's fond memories of the family on the homestead include her brothers trapping muskrats. The money earned was spent on such items as watches and bicycles. The children carved their names in the logs of the granary, which was built in 1908 and recently moved to Fort Edmonton.

Maurice Smeltzer began homesteading (NE 28) on November 14, 1892. Maurice's early days included clearing the homestead of timber, breaking land and coal mining in the area of the present day Hotel Macdonald. He served as an elder on the church board of the Homewood Presbyterian Church.

South of the Smeltzer quarter, **Ralph Burgess** began homesteading (SE 28) on May 2, 1893. Later he became friends with George Ball who built a log cabin with a sod roof north of the creek which ran through the northern portion of the quarter. Mr. Burgess suddenly sold out to George Ball in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Burgess returned to Ireland in 1909.

John Ball, Sr. began homesteading (NE 22) on January 17, 1895 and his son, **Frank Ball**, on September 22, 1895 on the quarter (SE 22) directly to the south. **John Ball, Jr.** bought land (SW 27) from the C.P.R. on April 28, 1899 under Contract No. 10708. The next year he died of yellow fever while in South Africa nursing the sick people of the Boer War. His last job before leaving the Northwest Territories was the chimney construction of the Clover Bar Methodist Church. His mother received a gold medal for her son's service and today it is proudly kept by **Jack Ball** who lives in the Salisbury district. John Ball, Jr. left his property to his brother, **Wallace Ball**. The house, which was built in 1907, was one of many structures built by Wallace, Frank and their father, John, in their lifetimes.



One of the first reunions of the John Ball family, 1906

the Ottewell and Keith families, though not as a paid teacher. In 1891 the required number of children of school age necessary for the formation of a district, was reached, but only by counting in a recent bride.

On April 13, 1891, a notice was posted calling a meeting for school organization. It stated that all the conditions prescribed by the Territorial Government at Regina had been met. The meeting was to be held April 27 at the house of T. Daly, who had prepared the notice. This document is a model of composition and penmanship, and is now held by Mrs. C. H. Wilkinson. The "Gazette" of January 15, 1892, gives the date of the organization as April 27, and the records of the Department of Education as December 30, but they agree as to the names of the trustees elected: W. S. Edmiston, Thos. Stephens and R. P. Ottewell.

Until a building could be erected the school was held in a log building of the Colonization Co. The first teacher was Mr. Wilkie, a Presbyterian student missionary who preached on Sundays at Edmonton South, Clover Bar or Fort Saskatchewan. Some teachers who followed were: J. D. Fraser, R. E. Holbroke (who married Margaret Pithie, later graduated in medicine, died in September 1929, and whose children Ruth and Wilbur now live with their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. M. Smeltzer) Walter Ramsay, W. J. Bower, Miss Zola Campbell (now Mrs. A. A. Campbell), Andrew Meneely, (now an M. D. at Coronation), Miss E. Sutton (Mrs. W. J. Ottewell), Miss E. Ganong (Mrs. S. Drysdale), Miss Clara Schroter (Mrs. J. P. Hargraves). The secretary-treasurers who served the school were: Thos. Daly, four years; William Keith, two years; W. J. Ottewell, four years; W. F. Wilkinson, two years, George A. Clapp, one year; J. S. Doze, two years; I. R. Lindsay, four years.

Four adjacent school districts have since been formed: Salisbury, East Clover Bar, North Clover Bar and Clover Bar Village.

Salisbury: In 1899 N. D. Mills, Alfred Cover and Frank Ball applied for a new school district to be called "Hazelmere." In December of that year an organization was effected with G. R. Ball, R. Burgess and J. Pithie as trustees. A resolution was also passed that the name of the school be changed to Salisbury in honor of the then premier of Britain, Lord Salisbury.

East Clover Bar: In January 1903 a petition asking for a school district was sent to the government at Regina, with the names of Alf Ottewell, John Brubaker, John Reynolds, J. S. Wardrop, William Byers, R. Gibbs, Andrew Carr and John Schroter attached. The report of the organization meeting is on a printed form and is a very interesting document. There was a place for the list of nominees and before each name there was "Mr." printed, showing it to be an age when women were not "persons." Following the name of each elector was a square to indicate how he had cast each of his three votes for trustee (no secret voting then). Those nominated were John Reynolds, D. D. Lints, J. Williams, M. Latam, R. Gibbs, Edmiston.

JOHN EVERETT BALL

My name is Robert Briggs. On this date December 14, 1979, I have the pleasure of interviewing Jack Ball and he is going to tell about events and experiences in the County of Strathcona in the early pioneer days. This interview is recorded under the auspices of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee of the County and its sub-committee for Oral Pioneer History.

RB: Well, Jack, you can go ahead and tell us when the relatives came here and the dates they came at. When did your grandfather come?

JB: 1890.

RB: And your father came a little bit later than that did he?

JB: 1892.

RB: Your father's and your grandfather's names were what?

JB: My grandfather's name was John Ball. Dad's name was Wallace Ball.

RB: And who was he married to?

JB: Mother's name was Jane Ball.

RB: Where did the Balls originate from?

JB: Prince Edward Island.

RB: And they came directly here, or what?

JB: No. Dad moved to Boston and lived there just a few years and then went on to Seattle and then come here.

RB: And what work did he do in Seattle?

JB: Grandfather was a contractor.

RB: Well, when they came here they started farming then?

JB: Yeah, and then carpenter work too. Dad built many buildings.

RB: Yes, I thought he was a carpenter. Whenever there was carpenter work to be done he was busy at it.

JB: And my grandfather built Clover Bar, old Clover Bar Church.

RB: Oh, the original one?

JB: Yeah.

RB: Is that right?

JB: And that was built before 1900.

RB: And I believed you settled in the Salisbury district before there was a Salisbury district!

JB: My grandfather named it Salisbury at a meeting.

RB: At a meeting? That's the origination of the Salisbury district then. And I believe your Dad also helped to build the Salisbury United Church when it originally was a Methodist church. What year was that?

JB: The little church down on the corner?

RB: Yes.

JB: It was 1915.

RB: 1915. And it was located on the southwest corner of the SW 1/4 of 18-52-23. What year were you married in?

JB: I married in 1932.

RB: Can you tell us a bit about the teachers?

JB: I got some teachers names down, oh, teachers, I put the ministers down, started with, Miss Goldtharpe.

RB: What were some of the others?

JB: Oh, Mrs. McLeod was one of the first, Miss Miller, Taylor.

RB: You don't happen to remember Mary Bishop. She taught out here at one time apparently?

JB: No, no.

RB: Where did the teachers usually board? They boarded in the district I take it?