

JACOB HUFFMAN, U.E.
Descendants' Trek to the West

Below is what we have been able to piece together from traditions handed down through the family, information from Eula C. Lapp's book, *To their Heirs Forever*, the Argyle history book called *Come into our Heritage*, the Archerwill history book called *The Past To The Present*, from *U.E. Loyalist Links, Vol. II: Lennox & Addington County*, and actual documentation of our ancestors and their journey to the west. The relatives in the East lost track of the ones that moved West, but hopefully this will help to reconnect them.

Jacob Huffman was born in Ireland in 1756 (parents Elias and Elizabeth). He married Margaret Embury (parents David Embury & Margaret Sleet). According to Eula Lapp's book their ancestors had escaped from Germany in 1709 when Louis IV had invaded, fleeing down the Rhine in flat bottomed boats to Rotterdam in the Netherlands where Queen Ann made arrangements to have them transported to England. Our connections were sent on to Ireland to the Southwell Estate where they farmed. Around 1760 Elias and his wife Elizabeth along with their children, including Jacob, moved to New York along with some of their friends and relatives. In 1770 the group moved to Camden Valley onto land that was disputed between New Hampshire and New York, where they farmed for awhile. The Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. They did not feel they could fight against the Crown which had saved their Forefathers, so became United Empire Loyalists and escaped to Canada. There they were allotted land near the Bay of Quinte, by the Crown, and once again broke land to try and settle in peace.

[1] Jacob (b. 1756- Mar 22,1837) and Margaret Embury (b. 1768) had 10 children- Elias (bp. 1787); Sarah (b1788-m Isaac Post b1786); Mary (b. 1792 m Thomas Wagner Jr. b1791); Lucy (bp. 1796); JAMES (bp. 1801 m. Flora Bell b. Dec. 27 1807); Rebecca (b. 1797 m. Peter Windover b. 1797); John (bp. 1803 m. Mary Parks b. 1805); Margaret (b. 1807); Margaret Anne (bp. 1810); Elizabeth.

[2] James (bp. June 09, 1801- Aug.11, 1854) and Flora Bell (b. Dec 27, 1807- aft. 1871) were married in 03 Mar. 1826 and had 9 children: William McQorquodale Sheffield Bell (b. 1826 m. Jane McGill b. 1835 in 1860 and had 7 children); Janet (b. 1828 m. Robert Aitken); Margaret Ann (1830-1909 m. John Stinson 1821-1871); JACOB ABRAHAM (b. May 04, 1832 - d. Mar. 30, 1916 m. #1 Eleanor Coomb – no issue, #2 Elizabeth Meacham); Mary (b. 1835 m. James McGill in 1863 – had 9 children); Matilda (b. 1839 m. George McGill b. 1835 in 1863 – had 6 children); John Edward (b. 1842 m. Lucinda Armstrong b. 1851 – had 5 children); Daniel Andrew (b. 1843 m Agnes Jones); Hannah (b. 1845 m. George McGill – no issue); Philip (b. 1848 m. Elizabeth Campbell –had 4 children).

[3] Jacob Abraham (May 04, 1832- Mar. 30, 1916) and Sophia Elizabeth Meacham (May 01, 1837- Feb. 02, 1909) were married in 1861 in Rednersville, Prince Edward, Ontario. Jacob earned his living as a carpenter. They had seven children.

Legend: *m* – married *b* – birth date *bp* – baptism

[1] through [5] designate the generations starting with Elias's son Jacob, who was the first UEL of our Huffman line.

Eleanor Meacham (1864-1948), or “Nell” as she was called, married Volney Waldo (1864-1932). They operated general store in Rosemont, S. Dakota, before taking up homesteading in Saskatchewan. They farmed at Carlea near Nipawin. They are both buried in the Carlea Cemetery. They adopted Forest and Ilsa.

Flora (“Flo”) Matilda (1866-1933) married Philip Sherlock and lived in Killarney, Manitoba. They had seven children: Ellen, Mabel, Cora, Clarence, Gerald, Harry, and Donald.

Harry Havelock (1867-1943) never married and lived on the family farm with his parents and youngest sister. He was a faithful member of the United (Methodist) Church and Sunday School and was interested in all community affairs.

Simon (“Alex”) Alexander (1870-1964) married Blanche Embury in 1893. They farmed in the area and had two sons, Roy and Angus.

MARTHA (“Mattie”) (Oct 5, 1872 - Oct. 28, 1956) married Herb Pierce.

Annie (July 17, 1876-1905) married Andrew Embury (1870-1966).

Jessie (1883-1968) m Sam Christie (1870-1943) and they went into partnership with Harry on the home farm.

In early 1882 Jacob and Elizabeth packed up their family of six with another on the way and traveled to the Canadian west by oxen to make a claim for land offered by the government. They made it as far as West Lynne, a small village across the river from Emerson, Manitoba and stayed there until spring until the baby was born. This gave Jacob time to travel to file a claim on a suitable quarter section-26-4-14, in the R.M. of Argyle. In the spring of 1883 the whole family traveled by oxen to their new home three miles south of Baldur, Manitoba. The Emburys that married into the family had also moved out around the same time from Tamworth, Ont. and were UEL.

The first home was close to the road and became a “half-way house” in the early days of travel, by horse and wagon, between the widely separated settlements. At first grain was hauled to Manitou. While one of the boys was delivering grain, Jacob would walk to Marringhurst district, where his sister Margaret lived, to cut a load of wood. This would be picked up by the team of oxen on the return trip from Manitou. The younger children attended Rosehill School in the summer months, walking three or four miles across country.

Harry and Alex did most of the clearing and breaking, while Jacob divided his time between the farm and carpentry, whenever the opportunity arose. In 1897 Jacob tendered to build the first Huff School. His tender was “to supply material and erect a school building in a workmanlike manner,” for the sum of \$467.40.

The Huffman homestead remained in the family until 1943 when it was purchased by Jack Dearsley of Baldur.

Mattie & Herb Pierce

[4] Martha, or “Mattie” as she was called, was born in Thurlow, near Belleville, Ontario on Oct 5, 1872. She received her education in Ontario, Emerson, and Baldur at the Rose Hill School. In 1890 she married Herbert Chandler Pierce (Oct. 6, 1869 - May 7, 1940) and they had six children.

Olive Uretta (Aug 6, 1891 - July 15, 1966) m. Rev. Albert Carmen Burley (Nov 11, 1882) in 1912 and adopted Douglas and Evelyn.

Herbert Huffman (Dec 12, 1893 - Feb 6, 1991) remained a single farmer.

Myrtle Elizabeth (Aug 12, 1897 - Dec 7, 1988) was a secretary, teacher and then nurse and remained single. She worked in Public Health, Midwifery and in 1956 became Nursing Supervisor for Northern Saskatchewan.

Ivan Elliot (Dec 29, 1900 - April 26, 1990) married Mary Butchard in 1945. He had been a beekeeper, millwright, teacher and tool maker. They had no children.

Melvin Glen (May 17, 1903 - Nov. 1926) was a teacher and farmer. He was accidentally shot by one of his companions on a moose hunting trip.

ANNIE FERNIVAL (Aug 14, 1908 - March 19, 1966), or “Fern” as she was called, was a teacher and married Hugo J Johnsen (Oct 6, 1903- Aug. 30 1979) in 1937. They farmed in the Everton District near Archerwill, Sk.

Mattie and Herb Pierce lived in Manitou, Hartney, and Baldur, Manitoba, having a child at each place. In 1892 Herb lost both legs below the knee in a hunting accident. Herb worked with his father, William Smith Pierce, in the implement business and in 1893 established a Pump Factory in Hartney, Manitoba building wooden pumps. Herb sold artificial limbs for the Erickson Artificial Limb Co., exhibiting at the World's Fair in Atlanta, Georgia in 1895, St. Louis in 1896, Chicago in 1897 and at the Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo in 1900-01. In the early 1900's Americans were looking for cheap and plentiful agricultural land so Herb went into partnership to locate and arrange for sales of farm land in Saskatchewan.

After his accident Mattie helped nurse him. She and the family of three lived at the Omaha exhibition in 1898 and '99. They then settled in Hutchinson, Minn. USA. There she nursed and cared for her mother-in-law, Uretta Pierce. Uretta was an invalid after unsuccessful surgery for breast cancer, and died in 1902. Mattie's father-in-law, William Smith Pierce and his son Will, then twelve, continued to live with them.

In 1905 prospects looked so good they all moved to Saskatchewan and settled on a farm three and one half miles south of Wadena, called Ridgeway farm. In 1911, Will married Lucy Foght and they, with Herb and Will's father, settled on a homestead in a home of their own in Dahlton.

In 1913 Mattie, Herb and family moved to Dahlton and settled on a farm, N 17-40-14 W2.

[5] Annie Fernival and Hugo J. Johnsen farmed on NW 20-40-14-W2 on the North side of Echo Lake from where her parents lived. They raised five girls: Ethel, Judy, Petra, Sylvia and Susan.

Submitted by "The Hugo J. Johnsen Girls"