

A CENTURY OF LIVING



HARTNEY

1882 - 1982

Edith, and Gibson. Mother and Dad moved back to Winnipeg in 1929, where they lived for many years. Dad passed away in December of 1949, and Mother in March 1952. Edith died in June 1967.

Margaret married Ewart Horwood in 1931, and they have two daughters, Carol and Gail, who are both married and live in Fort Garry. Carol is married to Jerry Kinsman, they have a son, Thomas Andrew, who is the assistant Golf Pro at Southwood Golf course, and a daughter, Patricia Gail, who is just finishing her last year at Red River College. Gail married Bob Gilbert and they have three children — David John, Susan Beth, and Grant Michael. They are still at school and university. Gibson (Gib) married Edythe Robinson (formerly from Melita). Gib worked for the Manitoba Sugar Refinery for many years, retiring in 1979. He is an ardent curler and golfer. He and Edythe live in Fort Garry. They have two sons — Douglas Arthur, and Kenneth James. Doug is married to Carole Lockley, and they have a daughter Janice. They live in Charleswood. Kenneth is a banker, and at present is in Ontario.

FORBES, ROBERT MATHEW AND FAMILY

by James G. Forbes

The arrival of the Forbes family in Canada was marred by the untimely sinking of their vessel in the St. Lawrence River around 1832. Father, mother and three of the six children drowned, leaving Robert Mathew Forbes (Grandfather), his brother William, and a sister, believed to be named Sarah. William died in his early 30s while working in a well which caved in and trapped him. As to Sarah, I am at a loss to her subsequent activities.

Robert Mathew Forbes had been born in Cork, Ireland, around 1828. Following his arrival in Canada, he was apprenticed as a shoemaker at about age six and later worked in the bush hewing railroad ties by hand, before becoming a farmer in



Grampa Forbes and Arthur Barker.



Eleanor Forbes, Mrs. Jim Forbes and Lawrence Forbes.

Bruce County, near Whitechurch, Ontario.

Around 1860, he married **Martha** Brunson (born in Blackburn, England, around 1839). Their first child, **William** Mathew, was born October 12, 1862; followed by **Sarah Ann** Elizabeth on May 12, 1864; **Margaret** Theresa on January 3, 1866; **Charles** on March 11, 1868, **Louisia Jane** on November 25, 1869; twin boys **Charles** and **James Alexander** on October 31, 1874; **John Wesley** on August 7, 1876; and **Russell** Richard Newman on March 3, 1885. Following their arrival in Manitoba, they added to their family by adopting **Belle**, a young Ontario girl whose mother had died of TB and whose father was unable to care for her and three other children.

William, the eldest son of Robert and Martha, came west to participate in the Northwest Rebellion, returning west again with Grandfather Forbes around 1887 to search for land in Manitoba. It is believed William and Grandfather (age 62 at the time) walked from Winnipeg to Deloraine and then to Hartney where they found farm land. They returned to Bruce County and the following year William, Grandfather, and the youngest of the family, Russell, returned to the area via a settlers car. The rest of the family came west by train which, at that time, came as far west as the correction road allowance west of their land.

My father, James Alexander, attended school in Hartney and later attended either the Brandon or Winnipeg College. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. As a young boy of 12, my father had been stricken with polio and as a result suffered paralysis of his left arm and leg. For one or two years my father farmed near Menteith, but because of his disability, was unable to carry on. He subsequently moved into the Hartney residence

of his father and mother and commenced work for the post office. For many years, through to his retirement, he delivered mail by horse and buggy to and from the trains (both CNR and CPR ran through Hartney at the time) to the post office.

On September 7, 1926, my father and Edith Alice Grattan Popkin, his housekeeper at that time, were married. Edith had been born in England on March 26, 1888. A registered nurse, she opened a maternity centre in our home where many Hartneyites first saw the light of day. This service continued for some 25 years. Mother also cared for older folks requiring ministrations, while raising my brother, Ellis Dudley (born June 5, 1927), and myself, James Grattan (born May 4, 1930).

I can very clearly recollect that Mother's total fee for maternity delivery, including pre-delivery, delivery and about 10 days post-delivery residence for the mother and child, was \$25. My brother Ellis and I frequently found ourselves billeted out to a neighbour's house, so that our shared bedroom could be used by an expectant mother or an injured area resident.

When my father died on December 28, 1950, my mother retired to the West Coast, a retirement that was short lived as she once again took up her nursing profession in the community of Gibson's Landing. She was a life member of the Hartney W.I. and continued her activities in the United Church in Gibson's Landing. She died on July 30, 1970 and is buried beside my father in the Forbes family plot at the Hartney Riverside cemetery.

Ellis and I attended school in Hartney and the Manitoba Technical Institute in Winnipeg. I also spent one year attending the Forbes School, named in honour of my grandfather, Robert Mathew Forbes.

Ellis is now residing in Scotia, N.Y., with his wife, the former Lorna Jackson, of Winnipeg. They have twin boys, Cameron and Kevin, born March 21, 1958. Ellis served in the Canadian army during the latter part of the Second World War and joined the Royal Canadian Navy following the war. He is now employed with General Electric.

Upon completion of my education, I worked for a time with Manitoba Power in Winnipeg and then joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Following my marriage to the former Lois Taplin of Edmonton, I joined Alberta Power Limited in Edmonton, where I am currently employed. Lois and I have three daughters, Diane Forbes Bauer, Sherri, and Judy.

I have many fond memories of Hartney and its residents arising from some 18 years residency and numerous visits back "home" since leaving in 1948-1949 to make my career elsewhere.



William and Margaret Forbes.

FORBES, WILLIAM MATHEW AND FAMILY

Robert and **Martha** Forbes came to Hartney about 1885. They had five sons and four daughters.

William Matthew Forbes, the eldest, born in Whitechurch, Ontario came with his friend, John R. Scharff, to homestead six miles out of Hartney. It was later called Forbes District with a church and school each called Forbes. William Forbes married **Margaret** Isobel Sharpe of Teeswater, Ontario. They had five children — three girls and two boys.



Winnifred Bayliss, Mary Anderson.

Sadie, the oldest, taught two years in the Hartney School before she married Herbert Anderson (Bert). They had one child Jean Isobel. Sadie died at Sorrento, B.C. in 1933.

Charlie worked in the Union Bank in Hartney until he enlisted in World War I. Upon his return from overseas he continued in the bank. He married Dorothy Dickinson of Winnipeg in 1936. They had one daughter, Marjorie, who is married to Dennis McKinnon. They have three teenage daughters, Laurie, Cathy and Lesley and live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Charlie died in B.C. in 1944 and Dorothy returned to Winnipeg to engage in Social Work. Dorothy died very suddenly this year — February of 1981.

Winnifred taught school in Forbes School for two years and later in Winnipeg. She married Bill Currall of Sorrento, B.C. He died five short years later. Winnifred moved to Parksville, Vancouver Island, to continue her teaching. She later married Francis J. Bayliss in Parksville, where she has continued to live since her husband's death in 1965.

Stewart died at the age of two, a few days before his Father during the Scarlet Fever epidemic in Hartney in 1903.

Mary, the youngest, was only five months old when her Father died. She took all her schooling in Hartney. Mary also taught school until her marriage to her brother-in-law, after Sadie's death. Mary, Bert and their daughter Jean lived in Sorrento, B.C., until Bert's death in 1951. Mary returned to Winnipeg and Social Work until her retirement. Her daughter, Jean, an R.N. moved to the United States where she married James T. Shaw of Montana. They have three grown up sons — Jamie, Bill and Duncan.

Mrs. M. I. Forbes lived with Winnifred and Mary after their marriages until she died in 1939.

Mother, Sadie, Charlie and Bert Anderson are buried in the Sorrento Church yard.

Grandpa and Grandma (Robert and Martha Forbes), Papa (William Forbes), and baby Stewart are buried in the Hartney Cemetery.

FORBES, CHARLES AND FAMILY

by Beatrice (Forbes) Saunderson

My father came with his parents from Ontario when he was a small boy. He had a twin brother, Jim. They settled in the district which was later called Forbes district.

My mother, **Maud Andrews**, was the daughter of Rev. Andrews, a Methodist minister in Ontario. She and her sister came to Napinka and opened a milliner and dress shop. This work was all done by hand and a "Singer" sewing machine.

Mother and father were married in an arbor under a beautiful archway at the farm of her aunt,



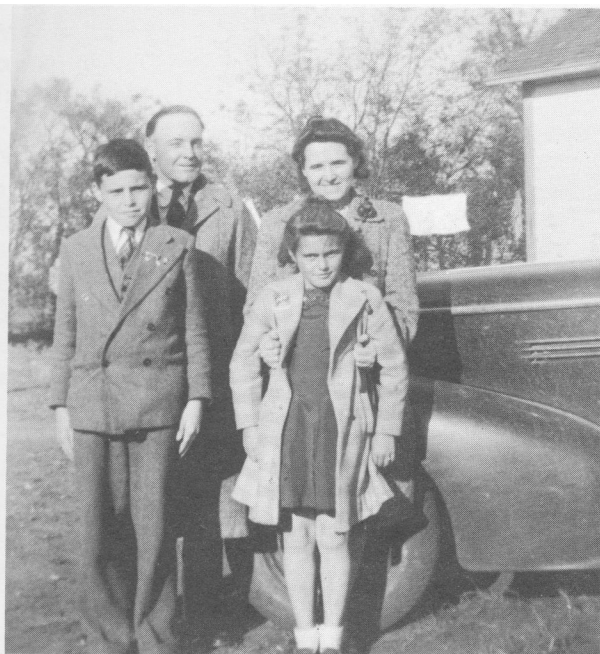
Mr. and Mrs. C. Forbes.

Mrs. Keeler, at Lauder. Her dress was beautiful — white net which she hand embroidered. They started farming on his parents' farm and farmed there until they retired to Souris. They were both buried in the family plot at Hartney.

They were both dedicated workers in Forbes church and community affairs. Father was very good with sick animals and I remember when Dr. Houck needed help, he would call on Dad to go with him. I always remember in the winter just before Dad went to bed, he would go out to see if all was well at the barn.

Mother was the first organist when the Forbes church was built. Church was held in the school until then. Mother loved music. She played by note and also by ear. I loved to listen to Mother and Nelson Kingsmill play and sing duets on their autoharps. Hymns are beautiful, sung to autoharp accompaniment. Mother also trained the young people in putting on plays and recitations. She was presented with a lovely walnut music cabinet for her work with music in the church. Our daughter, Sheila, has the cabinet.

My memories of the farm in the Forbes district were happy ones. We had many relations there and special occasions were quite exciting. My love on the farm was spring time. Dad raised a lot of colts, then there were calves, puppies and kittens. Many tears were shed by me when it came time to part



Cecil Saunderson, Bea (Forbes) Saunderson, Bob and Sheila.

with them. I learned to ride, by riding behind Dad and when I learned balance and understanding of riding, I got my own horse. I always loved my saddle horse and spent every spare moment on horseback. Oh yes, a girl had to learn to cook, sew (by hand) very small stitches, knit and do housework. Easter holidays, we seemed to be busy wall-papering or painting woodwork. I had to milk cows and I have never had much love for them since then, as I had to miss too many ball games over milking. I loved the old steam engines and threshing machines. I think it was the most exciting time on the farm. There never was a dull moment. Uncle Wes Forbes and Dad had a threshing outfit between them. There usually were 15 men or more on the crew, as most of the work was done with horses and manpower.

Dad showed his Clyde mares and their foals, two and four horse teams at the fairs and won many red ribbons, which I still have. There was much work went into polishing the brass on the show harness. My girl friend, Annie Bryden and I rode at about three fairs during the summer and won some prizes. I used to go on the train with my father to the Winter Fair in Brandon. This was a big thrill in those days. I have always loved fairs. I have been a director on the Souris Fair Board for 39 years. I was so pleased to have been made a Life Member of the Fair Board in 1980.

Forbes school and church were the hub of most activities in the district. We were taught a great respect for our teachers. Ann Lee taught for three years, Grade 1 to Grade 10 inclusive. We had to write our exams in Hartney with the town kids.

The teacher was able to keep order and get us through our grades, because our parents backed the teacher all the way. We had a great time at school; skating, knitting lace on stormy days, baseball, football, and sleigh riding.

Most of us took music lessons from Minnie Buckley. I loved lessons but I never turned out to be a very good pianist. We all took turns playing for Sunday School.

I met Cecil Saunderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Saunderson, at the home of my aunt, Mrs. John Scharff, in Souris. We were the first couple married in Forbes Church on April 4, 1931. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1981.

We farmed in the Botany district and raised our family, a boy and girl, Bob and Sheila. Bob was in the Air Force for a few years and is now a security officer in Winnipeg. He is married and has a family of three boys and three girls. Sheila was a bank clerk in the Royal Bank before she married Bill Kirkup of Melita. They have a family of five boys. Bill and Sheila have an Insurance and Travel agency in Souris. We also have two great-grandchildren. We feel very fortunate to have lived close enough to watch our grandchildren growing up.

We retired from the farm in 1966. Cec started the business of "Souris Hi-Way Sales and Service" and sold that in a few years. He now works for crop insurance.

Cec's interest outside of his home and church was council work, both municipal and town. He served 13 years on the Hospital Board and is chairman of Victoria Park Lodge. Cec has also enjoyed being a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

I have enjoyed 4-H work, teaching Sunday School and being a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Rebekahs, and U.C.W. I was honored in 1981 by being made a Life Member of the U.C.W. in St. Paul's United Church in Souris.

We have had a very active and happy life, enjoying the good things that came our way. All in all, life has been very good to us.

FORBES, WESLEY JOHN AND FAMILY

Robert Forbes was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and immigrated with his family, at the age of eight, landing at Muddy York, which is now Toronto. He married Martha Brunsdon and came west from Whitechurch, Ontario, and settled on the Reekie Place in the Forbes District. He brought his family with him. They were: Maggie, Jim, Belle Lloyd — adopted, Tillie, Wes, Charlie, Sadie, Will, Martha and Russell.

Wesley John Forbes was born at Whitechurch, Ontario, on August 7, 1876. After coming west,

the family attended the Swaffham School and as a young man he settled on Section 31-6-22 to farm. He married **Ida May** Smiley, 1909, in a double wedding ceremony with Ida's sister, Ena and Tom Steele, in the C.P.R. station at Hartney. Ida had taught school in the Forbes district. Wes purchased the farm in 1903 at \$40.00 per acre and cleared it off in 1928.

For a few years, Wes was Superintendent of Forbes Sunday School and for many years was a director on the board of Manitoba Pool Elevators, as well as a trustee of Forbes School. He was one of the first directors of the Hartney Co-op. Wes and Ida retired to Souris in 1945 where they took an active part in community life. Wes died in 1950 and Ida in 1970.

Three children were born to Wes and Ida: **Loleen Bernice**, born in 1912; **Lawrence Wesley**, born in 1915; and **Mildred Louise**, born in 1920. They attended Forbes School.

Bernice attended Grade 12 at Wesley College in Winnipeg and took up teaching as a vocation. She married Albert Lechner in 1940 and they have four girls. Bernice and Leckie reside in Morden, Manitoba.

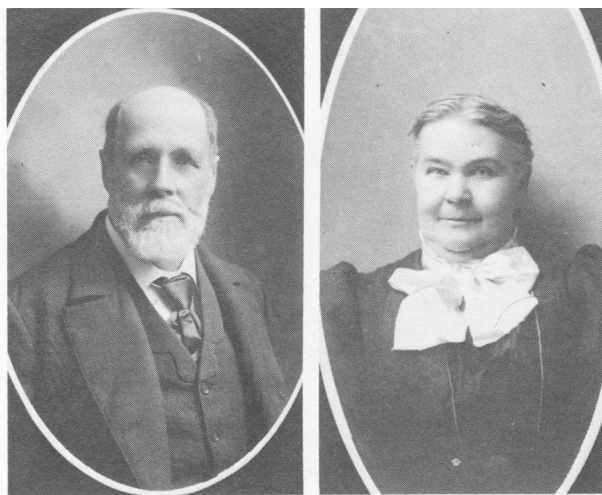
Mildred also became a teacher and married Earl Omar Hoover of Souris and they have two sons and one daughter. Earl died in 1980 and Millie resides in Claresholm, Alberta.

Lawrence married Ida Eleanor Reid in 1945 and took over the farm of 31-6-22. They have two children: Francis Edward Wesley (Ted), has worked in the oil fields since he was 16 and later went to off-shore drilling. He has worked in the Sahara Desert, in North Africa, off-shore in the North Sea, working out of Scotland, and for the past six years has worked in Borneo, drilling in the South China Sea. In the spring of 1980, he was appointed Drilling Superintendent at the age of 34 years. He married Sharon Gail Ross of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, in 1969.

Marion Lorraine Forbes, was born in 1949 and attended school at Hartney. She joined the Bank of Montreal in Thompson, Manitoba, later transferring to the staff of Inco. She married Gregory Jasper and lived and worked at Thompson. Greg worked in the Metallurgical Department at Inco. They returned to the Forbes district to farm the Forbes farm on 31-6-22. They have two children: Dallas Gregory, born in 1973 and Tara Leigh, born in 1976. Dallas attends Hartney School and Tara also started in the fall of 1981.

Lawrence joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and spent five and one half years in the Services. He operated with the Bomber Command in Europe and North America for three and one half years.

Lawrence and Eleanor retired to Souris in 1973.



Robert and Martha Forbes.

FORBES, RUSSELL AND FAMILY

The Forbes family fled from Scotland after the Jacobite Rebellion, to the Island of Wight. In 1832, they sailed for Canada, to escape the potato famine. The ship they were on sank in the St. Lawrence River, and the mother, father and three children were drowned. Three children survived, Robert, Will and Sarah. Robert was apprenticed to a shoe maker in Ontario, when he was six years old and later worked in the bush for a number of years, cutting railroad ties.

In 1860, Robert married Martha Brunsdon in Ontario. She was a sister of Richard Brunsdon and also a sister of Jim Callander's mother. From this marriage there were nine children born to them and one girl adopted. They were Will, Charlie, Wes, Jim, Russell, Sadie, Tilly, Maggie, Lou and Belle, who was adopted when she was 12 years old. Belle was married to Bruce Lloyd of Fort Frances, Ontario.

In 1887 or 1888, Robert Forbes, who was 62 years old, and his son, Will, left Bruce County, and came to Winnipeg. They walked to Deloraine and then north to Hartney looking for land. Robert homesteaded the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 36-6-23 and then purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 36-6-23 from a John Pringle who had purchased it in 1886.

In 1888, Robert, Will and Russell came to either Brandon or Souris, with all their belongings in a settlers' car. The rest of the family came west by train in a passenger car.

The C.P.R. came to the correction line on the north side of 36-6-23 in 1889. It was built through Hartney the next year. Until the railway came, all the wood for the stoves had to be drawn by horses and sleigh from the Turtle Mountains.

In 1907, Russell Forbes farmed on Section 8, just east of Menteith, then in 1908, moved to the present Forbes farm 27-6-23.

The exact date is not known when Robert, Martha and Jim Forbes retired to Hartney on the corner lot of River and Souris Streets. Robert died June 6, 1909 and Martha died in 1919.

Russell Forbes married **Annie Jane Gibson** on November 3, 1909, at Hartney. They were married by Rev. John Thorne. They continued to farm the E½ and NW¼ of 27-6-23. There were two sons born to this marriage. **Robert**, born February 20, 1911, and **Lloyd**, born January 13, 1916, at his Grandfather Matt Gibson's home in Hartney. Annie Forbes was born October 20, 1883, died March 2, 1940, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Hartney.

In 1942, Russell married **Tena Glawson**. He retired to Hartney, but continued to farm until two years before his death at his residence in Hartney. He passed away January 1, 1957 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

The two sons, Robert, who is a bachelor, and Lloyd still farm on 27-6-23.

On October 25, 1939 Lloyd married Mildred Florence Knuth of Tribune, Saskatchewan, in

Estevan at the parsonage of Rev. Leedhal. They have three children, Keith, Lorraine and Glen. Keith was married to Maxine Grierson of Dand on October 26, 1963, in Dand United Church by Rev. R. Clark. They live on 23-6-23 and have two children Darryl and Marcia. Darryl was born September 21, 1967, and Marcia was born February 3, 1970. They both go to school in Hartney.

Lorraine married Langley Musgrave of McCreary, October 9, 1965, in Hartney United Church by Rev. Kim Warne. They farm at McCreary and have three children, Shawna, Vince and Nicole. Shawna was born September 29, 1966, Vince on August 27, 1969, and Nicole on November 11, 1972. They all attend school at McCreary.

Glen married Kathy Walker of Melita on October 13, 1979, in Melita United Church by Rev. Clark Saunders. They reside in Hartney. Glen farms with his Dad. They have no family.

This is the history of our side of the Forbes family as we remember being told about it.



Back row: Will and Susie McBrien, Chris and Maggie Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. N. Barber, Russell and Annie Forbes, Ellie and Myrtle Gibson.

Second row: Grandmother Forbes, Mae Brundson, John Gibson, Margaret Gibson, Grandpa Gibson, Grandma Gibson, on knee - Bob Forbes, Alice Somerville.

Front row: A. G. McBrien, Edith Somerville, Wesley Gibson, Martha Somerville, George McBrien, John McBrien.

THE WILLIAM MATTHEW FORBES FAMILY

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Mrs. M. I. Forbes lived with Winnifred and Mary after their marriages until she died of Pernicious Enemia in 1939.

Mother, Sadie, Charlie, Bill Currall and Bert Anderson are buried in the Sorrento Church yard.

Grandpa and Grandma (Robert and Martha Forbes) Papa, (William Forbes) and baby Stewart are buried in the Hartney Cemetary.

THE ROBERT & MARTHA FORBES FAMILY

1. William Matthew Forbes married Margaret Isabel Sharpe.

Children of this family listed on page one.

2. Sadie Forbes (deceased) married John R. Scharff

Children:

1. Robert Lyall married Alice ____?
2 Children (girls).
2. Carl Eric (deceased) married Dorothy Kingsmill.
7 Children (5 girls - 2 boys).
3. Gladys (deceased in infancy).
4. Willard Orville married Mary Kilpatrick (deceased)
3 Children (1 boy - 2 girls).

3. Louise Forbes (deceased) married William Barker (deceased).

Children:

1. Rilla (deceased).
2. Arthur (deceased).
3. Martha (deceased in infancy).

4. Charles Forbes (deceased) married Maude Andrews.

Children:

Beatrice (adopted)

5. James Forbes (deceased) married Edith ____? (deceased).

Children:

1. Ellis - (twin sons).
2. James - (2 Children).

6. Margaret Forbes (deceased) married William Callendar (deceased).

Children:

1. Vera (deceased)
2. Myrtle (deceased).
3. Wallace (deceased).
4. Agnes
5. Alexander (Sandy) - (deceased).

7. Wesley Forbes (deceased) married Ida Smiley (deceased).

Children:

1. Bernice married (4 girls).
2. Lawrence married (1 boy - 1 girl).
3. Mildred married (2 boys).

8. Russell Forbes (deceased) married Anne Gibson (deceased).

Children:

1. Robert.
2. Lloyd married Mildred ____? - (2 boys - 1 girl).

9. Belle (deceased) adopted-married Bruce.

Children:

1. William married (2 Children).
2. Mildred married David Brockie
2 Children (1 boy - 1 girl).