

every year. It is an absolute obsession, I am drawn to Sandy Lake as irresistibly as a moth to a flame, each visit carrying on as though there had been no interruption. Each summer is my annual pilgrimage, a renewal which allows me to tolerate the pain of being away. In the words of my wife, "Ed spends a month of each year in Sandy Lake and the other eleven dreaming about it."

In June of 1982 I found myself in the Sandy Lake cemetery standing at my mother's grave. Thoughts of the excitement she and I shared for my impending visits, thoughts that were but one week old. Through my tears I see the gravestones of my grandparents, uncles, and aunts. I know that they came from the Ukraine and for that my life has been enriched and I would not want to change one iota of my heritage. My parents were born here and as I look down upon Mom's fresh grave and the space reserved for Dad next to her, I am filled with a love and sense of belonging for this land and, this *Sandy Lake my roots!*

BALES, George and Family

submitted by Lillian Buchanan

George, a settler of the Clear Creek district, was born in England. On January 18, 1902 at Cobham, England he married Edith Lillian Kilworth of Norwich, England.

Here in England three children were born: Violet in 1902, George Jr. 1904-1906 and Margaret Ellen in March of 1905.

In 1906 George, his wife Edith and their three children came to Winnipeg taking up residence here for a short while. Here in 1906 their son George Jr. died.

In about 1909 George Bales moved his family to Gladstone, Manitoba. Here their daughter Lillian Ann was born on June 20, 1909 and Bessie Evelyne on April 19, 1914.

From Gladstone, George and his family moved to Orangeville, Manitoba. Here three more were born: Laura Irene on April 19, 1914, Alfreda Myrtle on February 14, 1916 (later died accidentally on March 11, 1927) and Stanley James on October 31, 1917.

An interesting incident about their daughter Alfreda is that at the age of four she saved her young brother Stanley James' life. Both were sitting on a plank which served as a bridge across Silver Stream Creek and Stanley fell off into the creek. When he came up Alfreda caught him by the shirt and held him up till help arrived.



George and Edith's children. Back row: Bessie, Margaret, Violet, Lillian. Front: Alfreda, Stanley, Laura. Left: inset George, Ralph (see military).

George Bales, his wife Edith, children Violet, Margaret, Lillian, Bessie, Laura, Alfreda and Stanley came to the Clear Creek district in March of 1926. With them came Violet's husband Robert Renton and their infant son. The Rentons settled on SW 27-19-19 which was owned by Andy Linder. George Bales and his family lived on the Donnelly farm till spring. This land was too stoney so they moved in with the Rentons

and lived there till fall.

In the fall George Bales and his family left the Rentons and settled on the C.E. Crawford farm. George now hauled freight for Mr. Crawford's store till April of 1928.

In 1928 George Bales with his wife Edith, children Bessie, Laura and Stanley moved to Mayfeld, Manitoba and his history at the Crawford district ends. George's daughter Violet and her husband Bob Renton stayed until 1930 and moved to Mayfeld, Manitoba in March of that year.

At Mayfeld, Manitoba George and Edith Bales had another son Ralph Leonard. Unfortunately Edith died shortly after and Ralph was raised by his uncle Bert and aunt Emily Kilworth. Left behind were daughters Margaret and Lillian.

Margaret worked at Crawford's store and post office for nearly a year. In March of 1927 Margaret married Walter (Mac) McLaughlin and lived on the south half of 7-20-19, once owned by Jim Zahara, an original settler. Margaret and her husband moved to Edran, Manitoba in April of 1928.

Bessie, their daughter, kept house for her parents when they lived at Crawford's. Laura, Alfreda and Stanley all went to Clear Creek school. Laura returned to Crawford Park and stayed with her sister Lillian the winter of 1930-31, working at the Crawford store and post office until spring. She returned to Mayfeld in 1932.

Lillian, George and Edith's third daughter, did not leave the district. She married Tom Buchanan and lived in the district all her life. More about Lillian is found in the Buchanan, Tom and Lillian history.

BALYK, Steve

submitted by Steve Balyk

I was born on April 10, 1898 in Orishkivtsi, Husiatyn, Western Ukraine. I attended school four years in the village of Orishkivtsi. My parents, Yakiw and Anna, had seven sons and five daughters. Three of the children are still living; I am the only one in Canada.

While yet a young man, I was taken into the Austrian army, eventually ending up in Italy for two years. After spending some time at a hospital, an opportunity arose to make my way home. I travelled by freight trains for many days, as did so many other young men. I do remember that we travelled without a penny in our pockets. It's understood that we suffered from hunger but we were bappy because we were going home.

After spending some time at home, I regained my health and strength. I married Helen Yagilnisky in September of 1920. She was born in the Western Ukraine.

We were under Polish rule at that time and this is when we decided to come to Canada.

We sailed to Canada, an eight day journey, arriving at Halifax on April 7, 1928. On April 12 we came to Sandy Lake. In 1929 I took out a homestead so we had plenty to do.



Helen and Steve.