

famous "green Englishmen." Uncle Billy's birth certificate lists his father as a master butcher by trade. Someone else has said that William left England because his family wanted him to be a clergyman, but these two statements do not seem to go together. I do not know how successful he was as a farmer, but he may have come to Canada with money. Mrs. Douglas Chevrier (nee Herdis Best) says that the Palmer home was better than most rural homes at that time. They had a chemical toilet in the days when most people used outhouses. Also, they had brought with them quite a lot of lovely things from England. These included Rockingham china flower pots, silverware in the Saxon pattern, and antique candleholders. Dad had a dozen pure silver christening spoons, one of which I still have. The Palmers also had a Victrola with a horn, and a supply of patriotic records. Mrs. Chevrier, who visited at the Palmer home when she was a small child, remembers "Rule Britannia" and "The Maple Leaf Forever."

Whatever their financial situation was, Mother remarked that she never saw Grandpa so happy as when he was all dressed up, and getting into the buggy to go to Dominion City to arrange for a loan from the bank!

Mrs. Chevrier remembers the Palmers as a hard-working family. Grandma used to have a special way of dressing chickens which impressed Eaton's so much that they wanted her to set up their display for them. She had a way of tucking in the wing-tips so that the breasts plumped up. It was this connection with Eaton's in the sale of poultry and eggs that brought the Palmers and the McCombs together. The McCombs, according to Mrs. Chevrier, whose mother was a McComb, had come to Winnipeg from Ireland seeking their fortunes, or at least seeking jobs. The Palmers hospitably opened their home to them, and these lonely young women visited at the Palmer home from time to time. Mrs. Chevrier's mother was Margaret Elizabeth McComb, and her aunts were named Norah and Winnie.

Another example of the warmth of the Palmer hospitality was their reception of William's nephew, Robert John Pullman. Robert came to stay with the Palmers in 1896, and stayed a year or two. He later moved to other places, but his daughter, Muriel (my second cousin), who is Mrs. George Wadge of Roland, does not know a great deal about his moves in those early years. Robert was the son of Julia Sophia Pullman (nee Palmer), Grandpa's sister.

Mrs. Chevrier says the Palmers had two riding horses, named

Ruby and Fly. These were also used to pull the buggy. The family also owned a Model A car, which usually Mary drove.

Mother told me that it was Grandpa who made the porridge in the morning. He would stand at the stove stirring, and at the same time would call the children in a slow, drawling voice: "Jo-o-ohn, Ma-reee, Will-yum." Perhaps Grandma was not well even then. Grandpa dropped dead in the yard from a heart attack March 16, 1916, and Grandma died on May 20th, 1917. Mother remembers the doctor forbidding Grandma to drink tea. It seemed too bad to deprive her of the tea that meant so much to her when she had only a short time to live in any case.

#### **The Millars, Robert and Agnes**

As I recall rather vaguely, Grandpa Millar came to Canada from County Antrim, Northern Ireland with his brother John. He worked with the survey for a time. It was recorded somewhere that three bachelors of the Greenridge district, Mr. Millar, Mr. Calder and Mr. Davison were all married on the same day by a travelling Quaker minister in 1879. Robert Millar married Agnes, the daughter of George and Agnes Burrell, who lived in the same district. Her twin was married to Charles Brown.

I know so much about Grandpa Millar, almost none of it good. Mother quoted him as saying that it was a poor hen who couldn't scratch for herself. As for "scratching", it would seem that my Grandmother, Agnes Millar, was busy enough having babies, let alone doing anything else. From 1881 to 1894 she had eight children, all of whom lived. Mother was exactly eight years younger than her sister Agnes, who was the oldest child. Mother said that it was Aunt Agnes who cared for her, combed her hair and all the rest.

Grandpa may or may not have been a hard worker. Mother used to say that he liked to chop wood on Sunday just to shock the rest of his family! And he saw to it that the rest of the family worked hard, even when they were small. On one occasion some of the boys had been sent to search for the cows. When they later returned without the cows, Grandpa beat them with a rope. These are things that people do not forget. Aunt Agnes remembered that when the children were small her father had them pick the weeds out of the crop, promising them so much a bag. Then he waited until the weeds were dry so that they would all go into one bag!

Uncle George remembered that the Millar cows were so nondescript that the boys were ashamed to be seen chasing them home. He also remembers that when it was time to put up the stove-pipes in