

Leask – River Lot 55 (1870)

Sam Leask was born in Sandwick Parish in Orkney. His father, John William Leask, had worked for the HBC on the West Coast and in the Mackenzie valley. When Sam retired as a carpenter from the HBC, he took up a River Lot south of St Andrews Church. Sam and his brother Thomas owned lots 222 and 223 on the East side of the river as well as lot 279. By 1878 Thomas had sold his property to John Fraser.

His daughter, Annie, married George Sutherland and was one of the earliest pioneers of the Clandeboye area.

The Leask Family descendants (that I knew who lived in the Clandeboye District RM of St. Andrews by Irene Foster).

Members of Willie and Ivory (Sutherland) Leask family that I knew.
Their family home was on NW ¼ of 3, 15, 4E, one mile north of the hamlet of Clandeboye.

Robert Anthony (R.A.) and Isabel Ann were twins and both lived to celebrate almost ninety years. Robert (Bob) lived in the family home and helped out many nieces and nephews. He served in World War I and was known as a good neighbour with a wonderful memory.

His twin sister Isabel married Alex McDonald and they farm on NE ¼ of, 36, 3E. They had four children, Graham, Orma, Helen, and Marie. Isabel was a talented seamstress and an excellent cook as well as a good friend.

Son Graham was in the Navy in World War II. He married Edna Schofield, and lived in Clandeboye with four children, Garry, Lois, Owen and Susie.

Helen married Edward Meyers and moved to the west coast. They had two children, Kenneth and Donna.

Marie married Edwin Bracken and they also moved to British Columbia where they raised three girls, Valerie, Andrea, and Shelley.

Olma McDonald, the oldest daughter of Alex and Isabel married Will Agar. I believe they worked with Great West Life and Air Canada. They had three children, Lyall, Gail, and Gordon.

Margret Leask never married but she lived with her brother Robert (Bob) on the family farm. She was very active in the Presbyterian church that became the United Church in 1925 and she was a faithful secretary for 32 years. The whole Leask family were active members in the Clandeboye Church (built in 1901).

James "Colin" (JC) Leask married Ethel Carmichael who had been raised by Alex and Christine Sutherland, descendant of it's Red River Settlers. Colin farmed on SW ¼ of 6, 15, 4E corner of Clandeboye Road and #8 highway. Eventually it became a dairy farm to support their children, Christina, Evelyne, Gladys, Wilma, Keith, and Allan.

Christina married Albert (Bertie) Grieve who served in World War II in the Army and was wounded in France. They married after the war and operated a General Store south of Clandeboye Road on #8 Highway. They later moved north and Bertie drove the Interlake Milk truck, picking up milk in the No. 8 area and hauling it to dairies in Winnipeg. They had six children, Wilma, Elva, Judy, Sam, Sheila, Leonard, and Dena.

Evelyne married Ken Griffiths, of Sperling where they operated the post office. Evelyne will be 94 on September 7, 2018, living in a Winnipeg residence.

Gladys married Dick Swain of Sperling. They had two children, Murray and Josh. Gladys died early in life.

Wilma married John Goodbrandson of Selkirk, who died accidentally in 1970. They had three children, Jack, Joy, and Ron. Jack died suddenly, and Ron manages the Goodbrandson Trucking Company.

Keith married Louise Edmonds of Oak Bank. They have two girls, Barbara and Janice. Keith worked at the Glenlea Research Station but he died young.

Allan married my niece, Jean Brown, so he is my nephew. He took over the dairy business from his dad but sold it and moved to Agassiz, British Columbia. He lives now in Sardis, British Columbia, has one daughter, a grandson, Tyler, and a granddaughter, Marlee.

Julia Leask was the second youngest in the William Leask family. She married Clarence McDonald and lived in the corner of the Leask property. She was a friend of mine that I admired. She struggled to raise her family of three boys and three girls. Her husband worked at whatever jobs were available and she sold regal cards and Avon.

All of the family became upright Canadian citizens. Julia was interested in the Clandeboye community and was instrumental in having all the children get a present from Santa Claus at the Christmas school concert. She learned to play the organ and was the United Church organist for many years. She compiled books for the history of the church and of the Clandeboye School. She returned to the Selkirk Lions Home and lived to be 104. Her three sons were named Donald, Raymond, and Lorne. The girls were named Virna, Muriel, and Clarice.

For more information of the Leask family, please go to: redriverancestry.ca, or the Memorable Manitobans section of the Manitoba Historical Society website: MHS.mb.ca or the "Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry (1981)