

Ott and Ethel

Memories and Milestones

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Orson Eli Hall

and

Ethel Evans Hall

----- ~ -----

by

Olive Eliza Hall Johnson
Margaret Rae Hall Eller
Enid Francis Hall Kinniburgh

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INTRODUCTION

to

OTT and ETHEL

In January, 2007, Olive, Rae and Enid had occasion to be together. As we reminisced about 'the old days', the good times, and sad, we realized these stories should be recorded for posterity. The three of us were born on the farm, but Olive is the only one who actually remembers living there. Rae and Enid depend on her memory, and tales that other siblings and parents shared with us. All the memories are very dear to us, we want our posterity to be acquainted with their grandparents, the sacrifices made, the hardships endured, but also the optimism that prevailed in spite of disappointments.

As you read, you will find repetitions, however, with the three of us, miles apart, and writing independently, it was inevitable that it would happen. Please remember that repetitions help to improve the memory, also keep in mind that the authors are amateurs. We challenge you, dear readers, to find another book written by 89, 84 and 82 year-old sisters. That alone, makes the book unique.

Throughout the book one may read about "Dad and Mother", "Papa and Mama", "Nana and Pa"; those endearing terms refer to Ott and Ethel, our parents, your grandparents. (The Nana title has become a tradition in the Hall family and is shared by many generations.) In our efforts to recall special experiences we had a few disagreements about time, place and people, but we settled any problem by writing to the dictates of our own conscience. Since we are the last three of the family, there was no one to challenge the authenticity, so we did it 'our way'. Some of the oft-told tales have become legends, which, according to Webster, is an unverified, popular story, handed down from earlier times. Whether fact, fiction, or legend, we hope the lives of loved ones written herein will have a positive influence in many lives.

"Posterity who are able to reap the blessings, will scarcely be able to conceive the hardships and suffering of their ancestors."

-----~-----
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
-----~-----

When we, the trio of writers, had the inspiration to record the events and stories of our parents, we had no idea of the problems we faced. As novices in this undertaking, we depended on the expertise of family members gifted with computer ability and knowledge. It was freely given and gratefully accepted.

We asked for, and received, family stories that touch the heart. You will read tales that make you smile, even chuckle, but there will be some, too, that bring tears. For everyone that contributed **"WE GIVE THANKS"**!

Our first consideration: how should the accumulation be compiled? We dreamed of a hard back bound book, but dismissed the idea as too expensive. We agreed that a binder would be the answer, we could add to it, we could do the copy and printing work ourselves. We proceeded in that direction. However, to give credit, where credit is due, Nancy Andrew discovered, by consulting with Envision Printing and Schaffer Bindery that our dream was realistic. You see the result. We appreciate the suggestions of David at Envision, the scanning and printing and the finished product from Schaffer's.

Our limited writing ability improved with the help of family members and friends more adept than we. The manuscripts were circulated for corrections; nieces, Marianne Davidson and Cecily Nelson, friend Juanita Carter, corrected punctuation and spelling. Joan Rea gave her time and talent to enhance the book with the beautiful calligraphy.

For one year, LaVon Eller, patient husband of Rae, forgave her dedication to the book by diligently performing many household duties. He often edited the newly typed pages and made wise corrections.

To all, we offer our humble thanks, ask forgiveness if we have offended, but above all, trust we have done justice to our noble parents and heritage.

*Oliver Hall Johnson
Rae Hall Eller
Ernie Hall Kinniburgh*

"OTT and ETHEL"
is lovingly dedicated to

ORSON ELI HALL
Our Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather
and

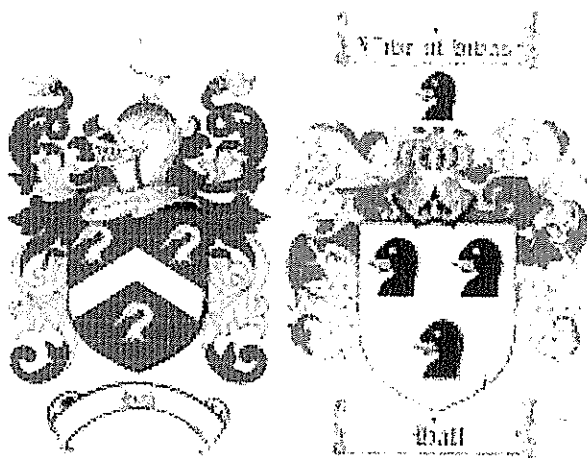
Ethel Evans Hall
Our Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother
(Nana)

As descendants of "Ott and Ethel" we express gratitude for their perseverance and sacrifices, but most of all for their love and faith. In his youth, Ott was an adventurer, he had interesting experiences, but his greatest achievement was developing a homestead and providing a happy home for his family. Ethel followed in the footsteps of her progenitors, who as converts, left comfortable and secure homes, became pioneers and settled in a new country. Ethel and Ott can be numbered among the pioneers of Southern Alberta. She accepted the challenges and dedicated her life to her husband, children and Church. Many people have testified of their generosity, hospitality and kindness. Referring to the 26th Chapter of St. Matthew, 40th verse:

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

Ott and Ethel exemplified this scripture by doing good, caring for family, friends, neighbors, and often strangers.





Hall Family Crest & Coat of Arms

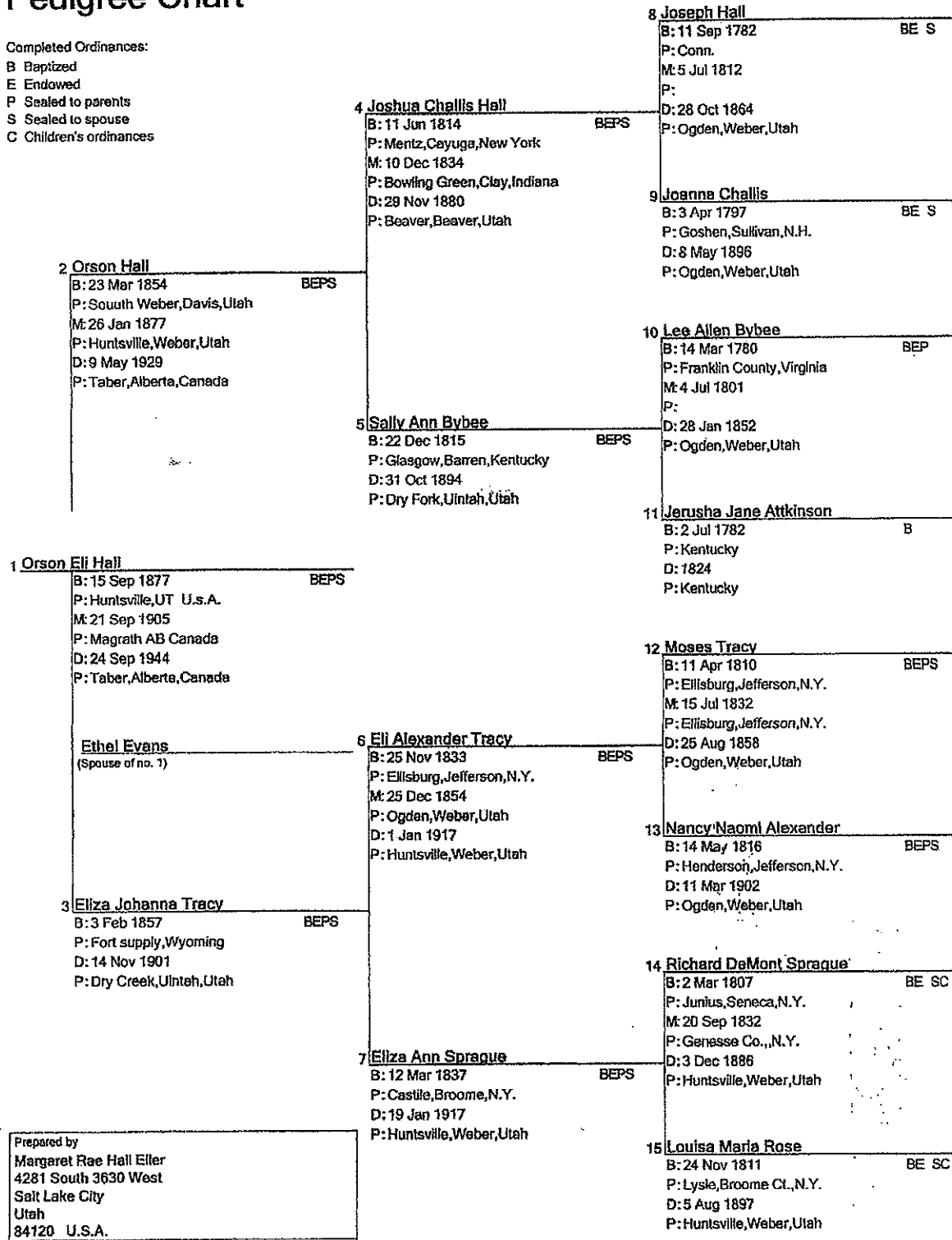
Be aware that there is more than one Coat of Arms for the Hall surname. The motto translated: "Live that you may live forever". First found in Lincolnshire where the Halls were granted lands after the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The origin of the name **HALL**: A topographic name for someone who lived near a large house, or occupational name for someone employed at an hall or manor. One of the most common English surnames, bearing witness to the importance of the hall as a feature of the medieval village.

Our first ancestor to arrive in the Americas was Christopher Hall. He was born in Attelboro, Bristol, England, in 1723, came to America in 1745.

Pedigree Chart

Completed Ordinances:
 B Baptized
 E Endowed
 P Sealed to parents
 S Sealed to spouse
 C Children's ordinances

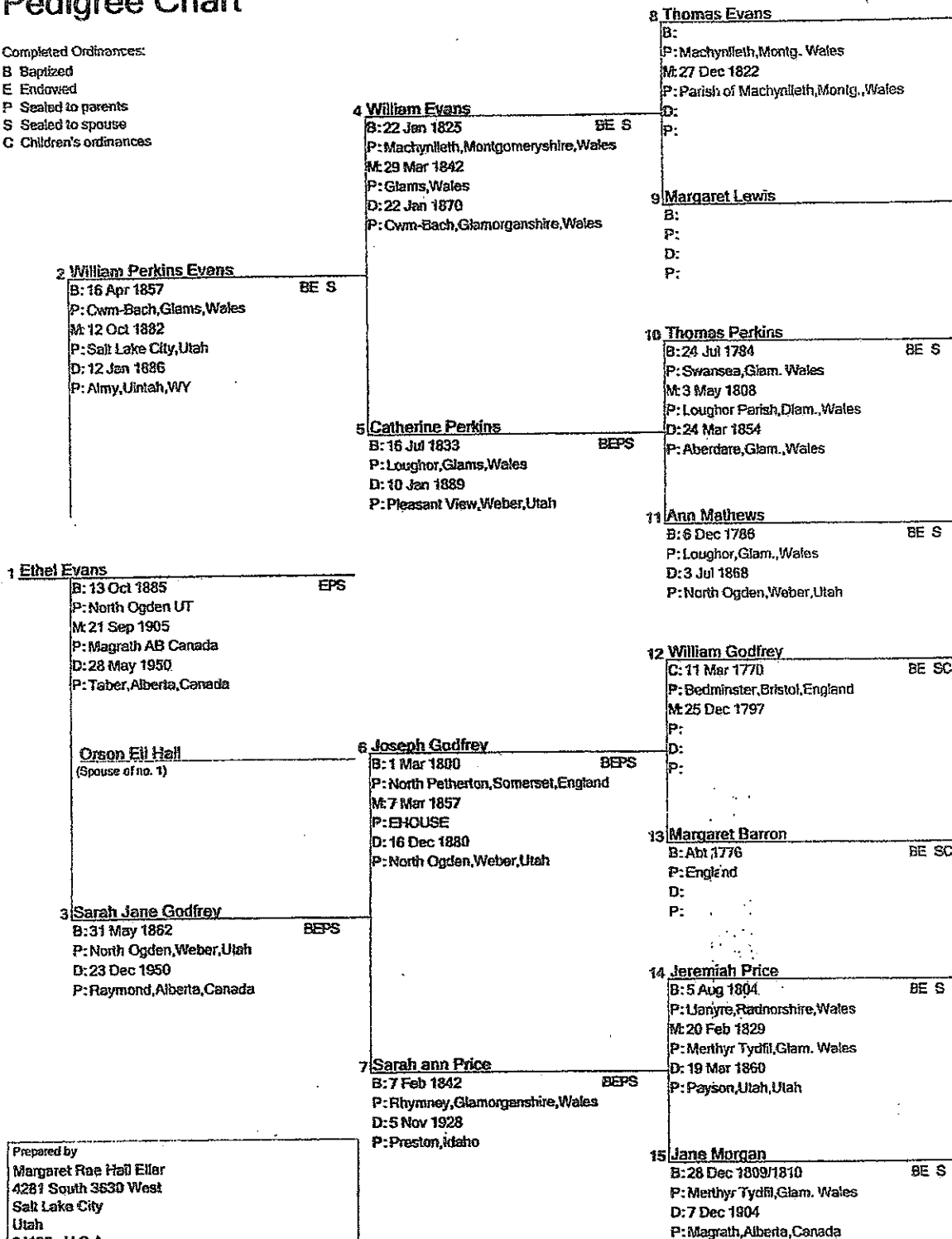


Prepared by
 Margaret Rae Hall Eller
 4281 South 3630 West
 Salt Lake City
 Utah
 84120 U.S.A.

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1

Completed Ordinances:
 B Baptized
 E Endowed
 P Sealed to parents
 S Sealed to spouse
 C Children's ordinances



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*In the Beginning
There Were Two*

Ott



and

Ethel



Then There Were Ten



Marjorie, Enid, Olive, Evan, Usona, Gordon, Rae, Reta

1964

Then There Were



Six in 1990



Five in 1992



Four in 2000



Three in 2004

ORSON ELI HALL

OTT

1877 - 1944

Orson Eli Hall

In the year 1877 there were several memorable events in United States history, to list a few will make us now, at the beginning of the second millenia, realize it was frontier time:

Congress passed the Desert Land Act permitting settlers to purchase up to 640 acres of public land at 25 cents per acre, provided they irrigate the land.

The last Federal Troops withdrew from the south bringing reconstruction to an end, the Civil War was over in 1865.

On August 29 Brigham Young, the Mormon leader who built a prosperous community and a vigorous church, in a seeming wasteland died at age 76.

However, the main event occurred in the little community of Huntsville, Utah, on 15 September of that year, when Orson Eli Hall was born to Orson and Eliza Johanna Tracy Hall. Today (the last day of February, 2007) there are only three of his children surviving, Olive, Rae and Enid, who can attest to the many attributes of this remarkable man, our father. It is our desire that his many descendants may read this short version of his life and be grateful to be numbered among his posterity. There are three King grandchildren, Glenn, Joan and Marianne who fondly remember him also and have contributed personal experiences. (Section "Nana and Pa")

Orson Eli Hall was born of goodly parents, his father, Orson, was the last child born to his pioneer parents, Joshua Challis and Sally Ann Bybee Hall. His mother, Eliza Johanna Tracy, was also of pioneer parentage, the first child of Eli Alexander and Eliza Ann Sprague Tracy. With such a unique heritage, Ott, as Orson Eli was nicknamed, was endowed with a sense of adventure, love of family, dedication and perseverance.

Huntsville is a village, one of the small communities in the beautiful Ogden Valley. The Tracys settled there in 1864, raised their family of one daughter and three sons in the village and died in 1917, just 16 days apart. Prior to 1870 Joshua and Sally Ann Hall with their sons and daughters settled in the Valley and farmed about three miles south and east of the village. This fertile farm is now the property of an order of Catholic Monks where they have a Monastery. Joshua, Sally and their family, except for Orson, left the area and lived in southern Utah for a time. Joshua died in Beaver but the sons and mother, Sally, left and settled in Dry Fork, Uintah County. Sally Ann died in Dry Fork and is buried there.

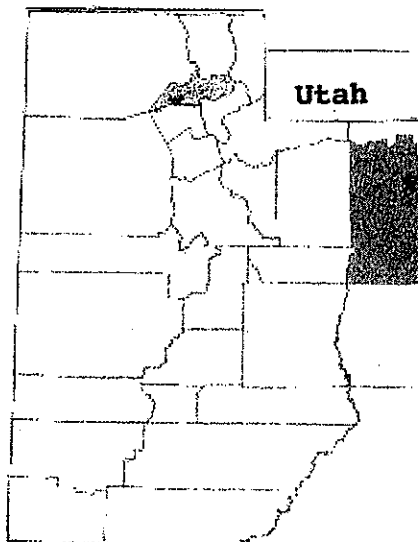
A personal reaction to that move: What prompted the Hall family to leave beautiful Ogden Valley and move elsewhere? Each time we visit Huntsville we wonder why. Only Orson remained in Huntsville but he, too, eventually moved to Uintah County.

In the spring of 1878 a man named Mosby asked Orson Senior to take a herd of cattle to Ashley Valley in Uintah County. Orson agreed to Mosby's proposition, maybe he recognized it as an opportunity to see his mother, brothers and their families. It was a dangerous journey for the little family, it was a desolate area between Weber and Uintah counties, few white settlers but many Indians. They lived in Dry Fork for two years and while there a daughter, Eliza, was born 7 August, 1879.

The Indians often threatened the settlers in the little Dry Fork community and there were reports that white babies were taken in order to bargain for horses, liquor or food. One day Eliza was home alone with Ott, before the birth of Eliza, when she saw Indians approaching, she quickly wrapped Ott in a blanket and hurried out the back door to a field of grain. She hid him, urging him to be quiet, then knelt in prayer asking protection for her child. She hurried back to the cabin just as the Indians arrived. They touched and admired her pretty red hair but did not harm her. She gave them some food, which seemed to satisfy them.

It is not surprising that Eliza was concerned and deeply worried about Indians as the Meeker Massacre had occurred in nearby Colorado. The Utes had rebelled because Meeker had tried to convert them, and killed many people, including Meeker himself.

Maybe that prompted the family to return to Huntsville. Baby Eliza died there 17 September, 1881. Just two months later another son joined the family, David Moses, born 14 November, 1881. Perhaps his birth eased the loss of Eliza.



Left: Weber Cty. Huntsville
Right: Uintah Cty. Dry Fork



**Orson Eli (Ott)
about 3 years**

Indians in Huntsville were a threat, too. One day Indians could be seen approaching their cabin. Eliza quickly hid the boys in a window seat. Again, Eliza fed the begging Indians and they left peacefully. Three more children were born in Huntsville, Joseph Lee on 31 March 1884, then a girl Mary Elizabeth 7 May, 1886, another boy Absolom Moroni, 18 Feb. 1888.

Ott was about nine years of age, when Orson decided to leave Huntsville and join the Hall family in Dry Fork. He attributed this decision to his dislike of 'petticoat government', apparently Eliza's mother was a meddling mother-in-law. However, it must have been a great disappointment for the Tracy's to have their only daughter and the five grandchildren move so far away.

At 15 years of age Ott had a terrible accident. A shell in his gun backfired. He was blinded! His father, Orson, was a dogmatic individual, and simply asserted that it was a permanent condition, and there was no use in seeking medical help. However, Eliza was determined that she would take Ott to Fort Duschene where there were Doctors. She was sure they could save his sight. So with a great deal of faith, and courage, she took Ott in an old buckboard, by herself, a distance of at least 50 miles, to the Fort. She left Ott there with the Doctors and returned to Dry Fork. The Doctors succeeded in saving the sight in his right eye. While at the Fort, Ott worked for the Colonel, drove him in his carriage on many errands, took care of the horses, polished harnesses and even peeled potatoes. He worked long hours and hard enough to completely pay for all the medical help he received.

Fort Duschene was established in 1886, located between Roosevelt and Vernal in Utah. About 250 men were stationed there until it's closure in 1912. It consisted of officer's and enlisted men's quarters, a commissary, storehouse and hospital. Remnants of the Fort still exist, all buildings were made of adobe brick.

Ott's limited vision did not stop him from hunting - he loved to hunt whether it was sport or necessity. He had to change his manner of shooting by switching from the right hand to the left, he became just as proficient as before. It seemed the power from his blind eye transmitted to his good one, and his sight was very keen. He had beautiful blue eyes and it was impossible to tell which was the blind one, no scars or disfigurement.

Because he was the eldest child in the family he accepted and assumed a lot of responsibility, ready and willing to help his parents and siblings. He was accustomed to hard work, his father demanded and expected much, but it prepared him for the future. The following is from a letter written by his daughter, Marjorie, to her daughter, Marianne:

"Dad had very little schooling but was wonderful at 'ciphering' as he called it. He could figure in his head quickly and accurately and all his life was adept at this. Mother used to say he would have done very well in school had he had the chance. At the end of the fifth grade he had to quit school to help earn a living for the family."

When Ott was sixteen he started packing mail from a town called Old Ashley, to Dry Fork. This thirty mile trip, three days a week, continued for two years. He had many different jobs after that, freighting, driving stage (think of that kids, you had a great grandfather that drove stage) punching cows.

On 11 November, 1894, another girl was born, Sally Favorett. All of her big brothers and one older sister, Mary were very happy to have this new addition and loved, spoiled and enjoyed her, as they did Leona May, another girl born 25 November, 1897.

Orson and his sons built a log house for the family which was on Main Street next to where the old deserted Caldwell house still stands. The house was sold to a family who numbered all the logs in the house, dismantled it and put it back together on their own property, less than a mile from the original

In 1901, Ott's mother, Eliza was very concerned about the environment in Uintah County. Her young sons were fascinated with law breaking gangs. Even "The Wild Bunch", Butch Cassidy and the Sun Dance Kid were in the vicinity at times. Orson was concerned also, they decided a move might be wise. They thought Canada may be the solution. Ott, because he was the eldest son, was elected to search for possible homestead territory. He was excited about this adventure and willingly agreed to go north. With a pack horse and four saddle horses he was ready to leave, his mother embraced him and cried. She had a premonition that she would not see him again. Eventually he found his way to Magrath in the N.W.T., later Alberta. It was there, he read a Utah newspaper, in which there was an obituary about his mother's unexpected death.

It was a very sad, young man that returned home to Dry Fork. He gave excited accounts of the opportunities in Canada. His father was convinced that they should move there. As usual, lack of money was the biggest problem, but they sold their land and everything they could not take with them. Orson was still grieving for his beloved wife. He packed her worldly treasures in a little trunk and it went with them. (Read The Treasure Trunk P. 233)

It took almost a month to make the trip from Vernal to Green River, Wyoming. They had to cross the treacherous Green River in wagons at Brown's Park, fearing every moment that they, with their wagons, might be swept down the stream. When they were safely on the other side they uttered a prayer of thanks. It was a long hard trip over Diamond Mountain, part of the time there was no road to follow. At times the men had to tie ropes to the high side of the wagons, and hold fast to keep them from toppling down the mountain side.

When the tired, little party arrived at Green River, Wyoming, they were all happy that from here the rest of the journey would be by train. After a night's rest the men loaded the horses, cattle and wagons on the freight cars. The men went with the cattle and the women and children by passenger car. At great Falls, Montana, they transferred to the Turkey Trail that took them to the boundary line and beyond as far as Stirling. A week later the rest of the group arrived with the stock and belongings.

From Stirling they found their way to Magrath where many members of the L.D.S. Church members had settled.

Note: This history of Ott is concluded with the Hall family arriving in Magrath. From here on his and Ethel Evans histories are one. For more details of Ott's early life read The Family History Book.

My father Orson Hall was borne in
Cyden Utah March 23rd 1851
Mother Eliza Ann Tracy, was borne at
Fort Supply on Smiths Fork near
Mt. Bridged Wyoming in 1853 Feb. 21st
I was borne Sept. 15th 1877 in Huntsville
Utah. In the spring of 78 ~~of~~ my
parents moved to the Ashley Valley
250 miles. and took a herd of cattle
there for a man named Mosby
There was only a very few white settlers
in that country but Indians everywhere
I remember hearing my mother tell
of the meek massacre by the indians
on White River in Colorado and
after came through our country
Robbed the people of their supplies and
drove of their cattle or most of them
Then that winter was called the
hard winter and the people nearly
starved before supplies could be
brought in. and what cattle
were left by the indians nearly all
died. I was 3 years old when my
people moved back to Huntsville

where we lived until I was ~~7~~ nine. Then moved back to ashley again. When I was 16 I packed mail from a town called Old ashley to Dry Fork where we lived making 30 miles three days a week I had this job two years. From then on ~~then on~~ until 1901

I worked at diferent jobs freighting driving stage Piraching cows and many other jobs. I guess I had better tell of a little experiance or rather a joke I plyed on my brother Dave and another young fellow that nearly cost my life you know nearly every one the range packed a gun. Well we heard of gold being found in the Battle Lake mountain in Wyoming it seemed from all talk you had to just pick it up there was an awful stampede so we started with saddle horses

30
Pack horse with bedding & grub
We tried to get in on the west
side of the range but the snow
was too deep. So we thought
we could get around and come
in from the other way
which took us about two weeks
in all by the time we got
there we were a month so,
you can tell we were getting
pretty short on grub and short
on money. Well we made it
around but when we got within
about 25 or 30 miles our fortune
we met men by the hundreds
coming out in worse shape
than we were. Well we turned
back, hungry and our horses
pretty well fagged. on our way
we passed through a little town
name Saratoga but nowing
we had no money we didn't
stop but noticed there was a store
we got about a quarter of a mile
out when one of the boys said

I have 15¢ it will buy a loaf of bread
 So that started all three digging in to
 our pockets, in all we had 30¢

They said for me to go back to the
 store and get something so I did.
 when I got in the store I looked
 around and couldn't see anything
 I could buy with that amount
 so I spied a sack of old chum tobacco
 25¢ so I told the clerk to give me
 that and a cornob pipe & I hadn't
 had a smoke for a week and that
 tobacco looked the best of any
 thing to me. Well just before
 I got to the boys I filled up the
 cornob and started peffer. Oribson
 said to Dave see what that damned
 skunk has done and pulled
 his gun said shal I shoot.
 If Dave had said yes there
 would have been a grave to dig
 Well after a ways farther on I saw
 a sheep camp I told them to
 go on and I would fetch grub
 and I did.

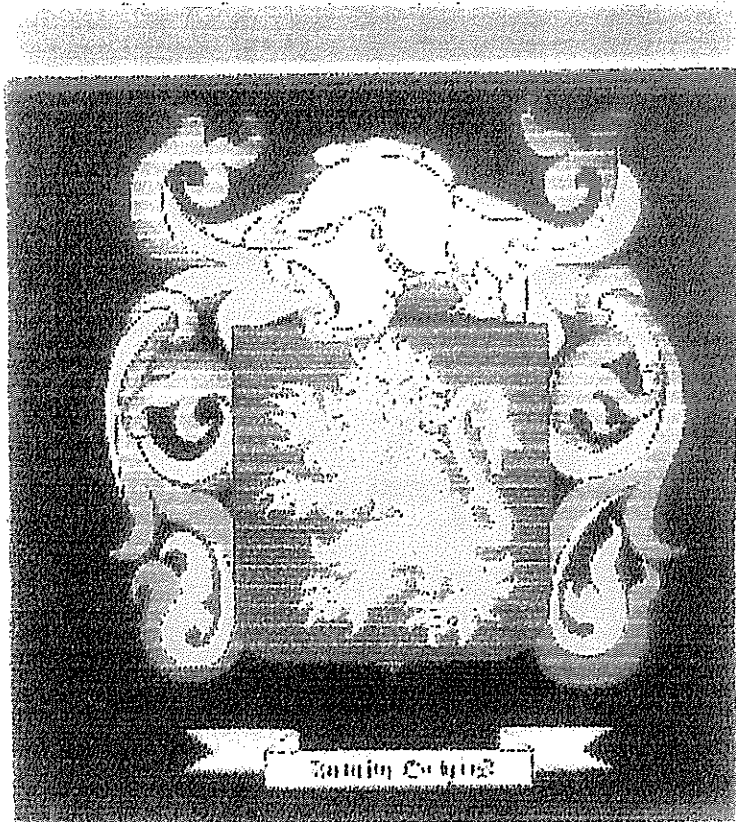
4
In 1901 I left Home with 4 saddle horses
and a pack horse headed for Montana or
in that direction. I got as far as
Idaho Falls when I met a man
by the name of Vincelle who
was on his way to Canada said
he was waiting for a man named
Frye with a band of horses
whic they were going to trail
through, and if I would wait
for them they would give me
a job, we waited about two weeks
when he got word that Frye
had taken sick and was in
the hospital at Salt Lake and
had sent the horses back home
So Mr Vincelle said he would
pay two thirds for a car and we
could ship through Canada.
I sold one horse and we loaded
and was on our way. We got to
Great falls, where we had to

transfer on to narrow gauge, called
the Turkey Trail. Some road,
two or three times they would
stop and the train crew would
go out to some little lake shooting
ducks. another time the train
stopped and a lady in the coach
asked what's the matter now
Mr. Vincellette said I think the
breakie said the cow catcher
had a calf and they had to
wait until it could travel
In 1904 I got married went to
B.C. lived for a while then
came back on the prairie and
in 1909 took a home stead 90 miles
north east of Leduc near the
Belly River and have been
farming every since.

ETHEL EVANS
HALL

1885 - 1950

EVANS FAMILY CREST

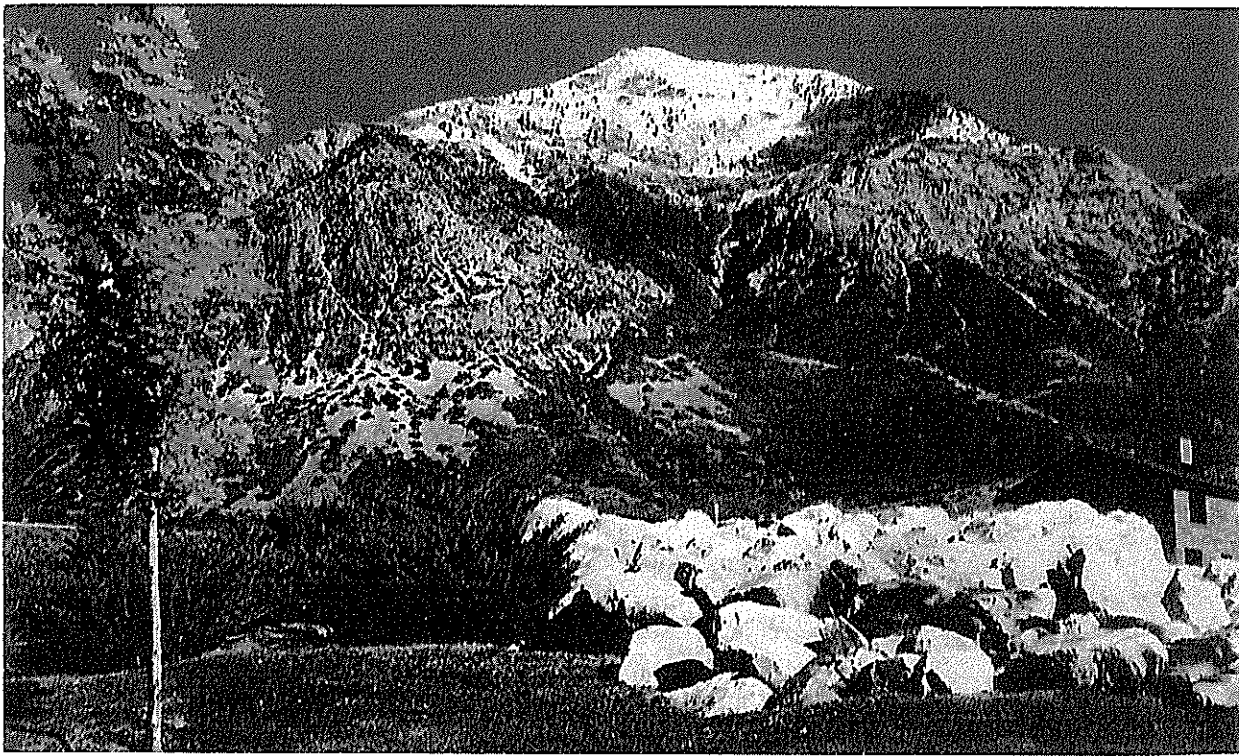


The surname **EVANS** is a family name. Within the United Kingdom it is the 8th most common surname, being most common in the city of Swansea, Wales. Within the United States it is ranked as the 48th most common surname. It is of Welsh origin. In its anglicised form, the name means "son of Evan". Regarding the Welsh roots; it is a derivative of the name Ifan, a cognate of John. It means fearless or bold. Many Welsh were late converts to Christianity, convert followers took the name of Son of John (the Baptist).

Ethel Evans

In 1944 Ethel was asked to write a short history of her life, she complied. But it surely was short - five pages, hand-written. It is included here. However, only the bare essentials were included. This narrative is to acquaint you with her life until the time she arrived in Canada from Utah, her five years in Magrath, and her marriage.

Ethel Evans was born 13 October, 1885, to Sarah Jane Godfrey and William Perkins Evans, in North Ogden, Weber County, Utah. North Ogden is located in the north-central part of Weber County in a beautiful, little valley surrounded by white-capped mountains. It is literally built in the tops of the mountains. To the north is Ben Lomond Peak and to the southeast is Mt. Ogden.



Ben Lomond Peak

Ethel's brother Joseph was two years older than she, born 18 August, 1883 and throughout their lives they had a deep affection for each other. Their mother, Sarah Jane was a daughter of pioneer parents, Joseph and Sarah Ann Price Godfrey. William Perkins Evans, their father, was from Wales and had come with his widowed mother and siblings to Utah in 1871.

The family divided their time between Almy Wyoming, in the winter when Will worked in the coal mines, and North Ogden in the summer where they farmed. In January 1886 they were in Almy, Ethel just three months old, when disaster struck, forever changing many lives. There was an explosion in the Almy No. 4 mine, killing 13 men. Will was one of them, his brother Joseph another.

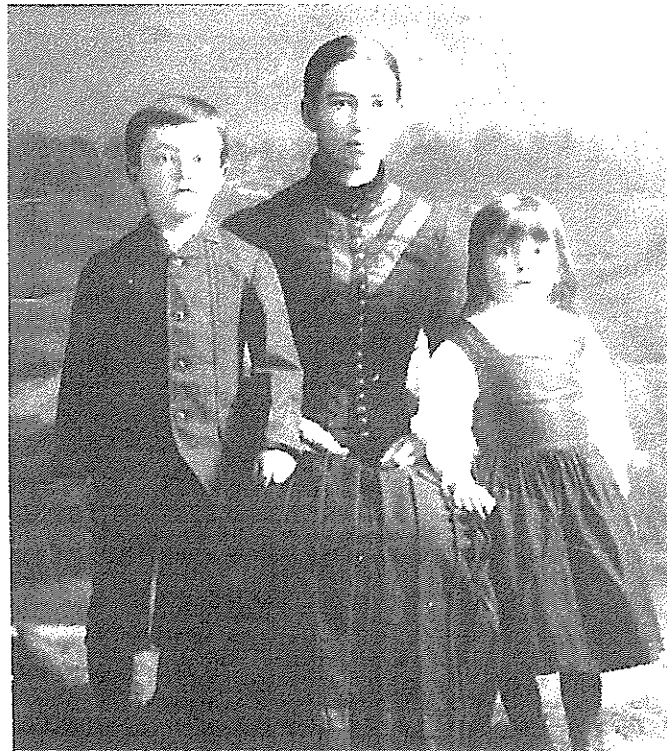
Thus, after only four years of marriage, Sarah Jane was a widow, Joseph and Ethel fatherless. It was a great concern to Sarah Jane - how was she to support her two children? Fortunately, the three of them received compensation from the Mining Company, Sarah Jane was frugal and handled the money wisely. Also, she was an expert seamstress and never lacked for customers. One of Ethel's earliest memories was of her mother sewing for other people, then she and Joe would stay with her grandmother Godfrey.

In late 1886 Sarah Jane bought an acre of land that had a small, poorly built house on it. She worked hard to make it liveable and secure, her many talents made it cozy and comfortable. That winter Ethel was very sick, Sarah Jane would often have to take her to a doctor in Ogden. Everyone was worried and even concerned that maybe Ethel would not live through the winter.

The loss of her dear husband and Ethel's illness took a toll. But by the spring of 1887 she had adjusted to widowhood and Ethel was well. She was determined to provide a good home for her two children. She was in great demand as a seamstress but her legs would ache from pumping the treadle of the sewing machine. Then Joseph and Ethel would take turns working the treadle with their hands. They became very adept at threading needles.

When it was necessary for Sarah Jane to go to the homes of her customers, Joe would take Ethel by the hand and they would walk the mile to their Grandmother Godfrey's home. There were occasions when they had to stay with her for a few days. They became very attached to that loving and good woman, she was an inspiration to them throughout her long life.

She was paid well for her sewing and it wasn't long before she was able to have a nice brick home built on her property.



Joseph, Sarah Jane, Ethel

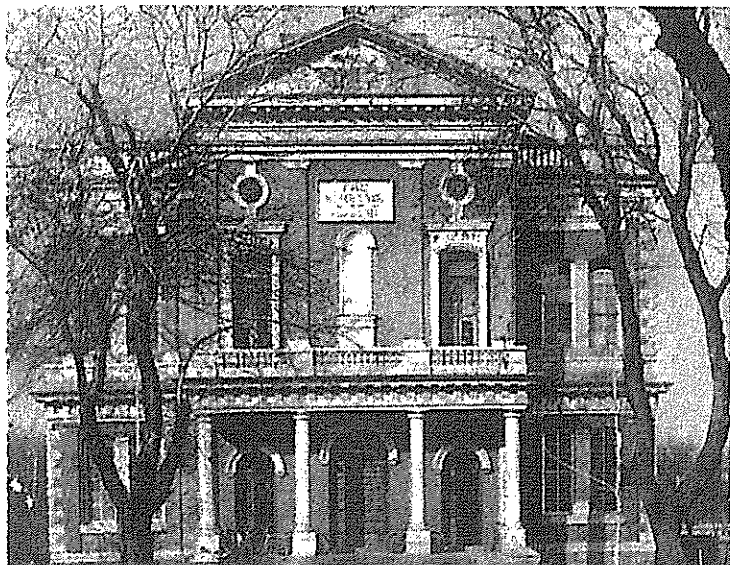
Before Sarah Jane had been courted by William, she had a beau, Henry Holmes. Seven years after the death of Will, Henry again pursued her. Ethel was too young to have any feelings about this, but Joseph who was nearly ten certainly resented it. He would often have a tantrum when Henry came calling. On 8 June, 1893, Sarah Jane and Henry were married. Joe had been sent to Star Valley, Wyoming to stay with an uncle, possibly to avoid the trouble anticipated and the objections to acquiring a stepfather.

The two children had to work hard, but Henry was never pleased with their efforts, he was demanding and unpleasant. They continued to live in the brick house that Sarah Jane had had built. Myron was born there 3 May, 1894; Sarah Ellen, 15 March, 1896; and Margaret, 20 July, 1898. The three-room home was not large enough, so they rented a home in Pleasant View, a little community just a mile or two west of North Ogden. Joe and Ethel were in school but had many chores and tasks that had to be done before and after.

Henry heard about the opportunities in Canada, good land was available for farming. He was not satisfied with his limited acreage in Utah so he went north to assess the possibilities. He returned in a month, enthusiastic about moving to Canada. Sarah Jane was not! But she agreed to go. At fifteen years of age Ethel was reluctant to leave school, her friends, Grandmother Godfrey and relatives.

In May 1900 they left for Canada, arriving in Lethbridge after four or five days of traveling. From there they made their way to Magrath where they lived in tents until Henry built a two-room frame house. There were several families close by, many of them living in dug outs.

Ethel went back to Ogden in 1901 to attend the Weber Academy and stayed with her Grandmother Godfrey. It was a very pleasant time for her, she was fortunate to have David O. McKay as a teacher. Elder McKay had returned from his mission in England in 1899 and was offered a teaching position at the school. In 1902 he was appointed principal serving in that position until 1908 when he was called into the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Ethel always said she knew he would be a very important man, she recognized and was grateful for his spirituality and influence.



Weber Stake Academy Teachers
David O. McKay center

Before she went back to Utah to school she worked in Taylor's Store for \$2.25 a week, when she came home she was employed at the Harker Head Co., General Merchandise. She also taught a religion class at school.

Ethel was very blessed that she had the association of her grandmother Godfrey (Sarah Ann Price Godfrey). She must have appreciated and heard the story of Sarah Ann's pioneer trek to Utah when just eleven years old. No doubt she also loved her great grandmother, Jane Morgan Price, who had so much sadness and grief in her 98 years. Jane was living in Magrath with a daughter, Jemima Coleman (sister to Sarah Ann) at the time she died and is buried in the Magrath cemetery.

Note: This short sketch of Ethel ends with her arrival in Magrath but there is an important event in her life told in the Magrath chapter. Read about the World Champion Basketball team: "The Pothole Mollies".



Ethel and two dear friends pose for a photographer after a busy day of cleaning the Church. Ethel, Mary Hall and Ethel Gibb



Two of the early places of business in Magrath were the Harker-Head Co. store, at left, and the Magrath Pharmacy, below. The photo of the store was taken after the big snow-storm of 1903 had begun to melt. The two women in the photo are Ethel Evans and Dora Dudley,

Jan 30th 1944
Apr. 16 1851

My father was born in Wales and came with his widowed mother and three brothers and three sisters to Utah

Mother was born in North Ogden Utah on May 31 1862. My grand mother too was Welch and my grand father English.

My father and mother were married on Oct 12th 1882 in the Endowment house in Salt Lake City.

In Aug¹⁸⁸³ the following year my older brother was born. Then two years later on Oct 13th 1885 I was born in North Ogden just six miles north of Ogden Utah.

When I was three months old my father was killed in a mine explosion at Alamy Wyoming (Jan 12th 1886)

Soon after my father's death mother went back to North Ogden and bought a home there.

Some of my earliest recollections are my mother sewing for other people and I staying with my grand mother while mother was away at work and of my ^{elder} brother Joseph. We lived in North Ogden until I was 15 yrs old.

In 1893 (June 8th) mother married Henry Holmes. From this union I have two brothers and three sisters.

In May ^{14th} 1900 we came to Alberta Canada. At that time many settlers were coming here to obtain land and work on a canal for irrigation purposes. There were very few settlers

in Southern Alberta at that time. The country was covered with grass and no fenced roads so we could go straight across country to Magrath.

I worked in Taylors store for two years at \$2.25 a week

which didn't much more than buy
foot wear.

In 1901 I went back to Ogden to
attend school as there were no teachers
available in southern Alberta at
that time.

That was a pleasant winter for
me as the church had the Weber
Stake superise the school. All
its teachers were fine men and
women and good Latter Day Saints.

It was in this school that Bro.
David O. McKay was my teacher and
his influence over boys and girls was
very beneficial.

It was on Sept. 15th 1905 that
you father and I were married by
Bishop Levi Harker in Magrath.

That winter we spent in Marysville
B.C. and came back to Magrath
in June 1906.

In 1909 we moved to Taber
where we lived thru the winter. The

following spring we moved to the homestead five miles east and five miles north of Taber on the banks of the river (Beely)

When we moved to the homestead we had one child Marjorie. The following July Usona was born in Taber.

We moved to town for a month when Usona was born and again for a few months when Gordon was born but the other members of the family were born on the homestead.

In the fall of 1925 we had no teacher for our school at the farm so we moved to town (Taber) where we have lived.

It has been my privilage to be a teacher in all organizations of the church. At 16 yrs I was teacher in Religion Class and Sunday school.

Later I taught in Mutual and primary

after I had a large family I taught Relief Society classes and was president of Relief Society for 8 yrs. and councillor in Primary.

for three yrs.
My fondest remembrances are the
ones of my family and the church. To
be of service and grow with these
experiences.

It has been my privilege too
to work in the Welfare organization
for six years at the canning center
in Idaho.

I have six daughters and two
sons. Marjorie, Usonia, Reta, Olive
Rae and Enid. Evan + Gordon.

Ethel Evans Hall
Feb 16th 1944

Family Group Record

Page 1 of 2

Husband Orson Eli Hall				
Born	15 Sep 1877	Place	Huntsville, UT U.S.A.	LDS ordinance dates
Died	24 Sep 1944	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Baptized 29 Nov 1914 LIVE
Buried	27 Sep 1944	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Endowed 11 Feb 1931 ALBER
				Sealed to parents 14 Feb 1980 ALBER
Married	21 Sep 1905	Place	Magrath AB Canada	Sealed to spouse 11 Feb 1931 ALBER
Husband's father Orson Hall				
Husband's mother Eliza Johanna Tracy				
Wife Ethel Evans				
Born	13 Oct 1885	Place	North Ogden UT	LDS ordinance dates
Died	28 May 1950	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Baptized 6 Jun 1894 LIVE
Buried	31 May 1950	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Endowed 11 Feb 1931 ALBER
				Sealed to parents BIC
Wife's father William Perkins Evans				
Wife's mother Sarah Jane Godfrey				
Children List each child in order of birth.				
				LDS ordinance dates
				Temple
1	F Marjorie Hall			
Born	9 Jan 1907	Place	Raymond, AB Canada	Baptized 20 Aug 1916 LIVE
Died	26 Dec 1967	Place	Radium, British Columbia, Canada	Endowed 3 Jun 1972 ALBER
Buried	31 Dec 1967	Place	Cranbrook, B.C. Canada	Sealed to parents 9 Jun 1973 ALBER
Spouse Howard Cressman King				
Married	22 Apr 1928	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Sealed to spouse 13 May 1997
2	F Usona Hall			
Born	27 Jul 1909	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Baptized 12 Aug 1917 LIVE
Died	12 Mar 1975	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Endowed 20 Jan 1962 ALBER
Buried	15 Mar 1975	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Sealed to parents 20 Jan 1962 ALBER
Spouse William George Carroll McCartney				
Married	14 Jun 1926	Place	Lethbridge, AB, Canada	Sealed to spouse 20 Jan 1962 ALBER
3	M Orson Evan Hall			
Born	9 Jul 1911	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Baptized 19 Sep 1920 LIVE
Died	20 May 2002	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Endowed 13 Apr 1949 ALBER
Buried	31 May 2002	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Sealed to parents 11 Feb 1931 ALBER
Spouse Eva Frances Jensen				
Married	2 Nov 1936	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Sealed to spouse 13 Apr 1949 ALBER
4	F Reta Hall			
Born	28 Nov 1913	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Baptized 13 Aug 1922 LIVE
Died	24 Apr 1991	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Endowed 19 Aug 1993 ALBER
Buried	27 Apr 1991	Place	Mt. View Cemetery, Lethbridge AB Canada	Sealed to parents 11 Feb 1931 ALBER
Spouse William Howard Wood				
Married	18 Jul 1934	Place	Taber, Alberta, Canada	Sealed to spouse 19 Aug 1993 ALBER
Prepared by		Address		
Margaret Rae Hall Eiler		4281 South 3630 West		
Phone		Salt Lake City		
679-0895		Utah		
E-mail address		84120 U.S.A.		
ellers4@msn.com				
Date prepared				
20 Mar 2008				

Family Group Record

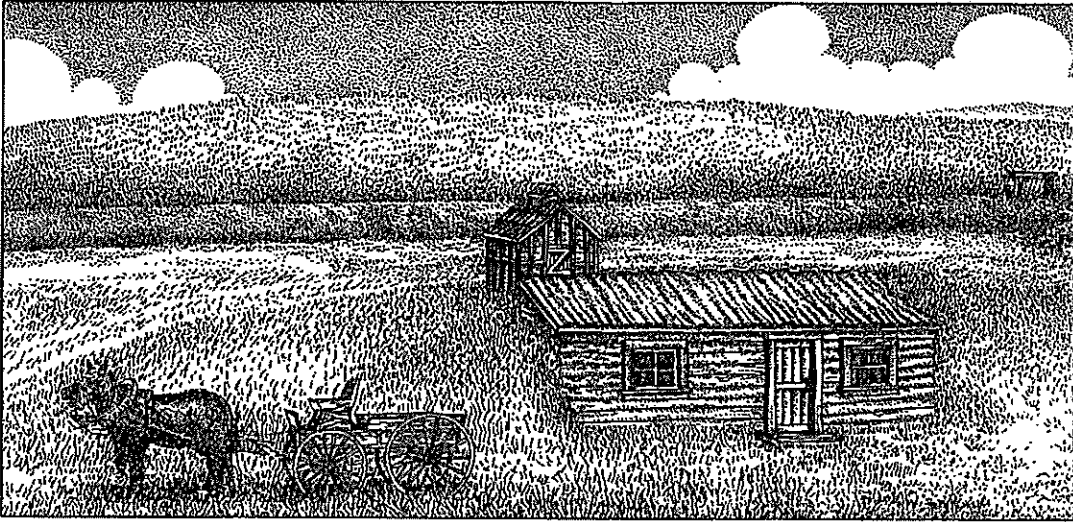
Husband		Orson Eli Hall	
Wife		Ethel Evans	
Children		List each child in order of birth.	LDS ordinance dates
Temple			
5	M	Gordon Hall	
	Born	2 Dec 1915	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Baptized	27 Jul 1924	LIVE
	Died	12 Jul 1999	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Endowed	9 Feb 2008	EDMON
	Buried	15 Jul 1999	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Sealed to parents	11 Feb 1931	ALBER
	Spouse	Maude Barbara Collett	
	Married	10 May 1943	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Sealed to spouse		
6	F	Olive Eliza Hall	
	Born	1 May 1918	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Baptized	14 Jul 1926	LIVE
	Endowed	16 Mar 1963	ALBER
	Sealed to parents	11 Feb 1931	ALBER
	Spouse	Cecil Johnson	
	Married	30 May 1944	Place Edmonton, AB, Canada
	Sealed to spouse	15 Feb 1964	ALBER
7	F	Margaret Rae Hall	
	Born	9 Jun 1923	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Baptized	7 Aug 1932	LIVE
	Endowed	10 Jun 1947	ALBER
	Sealed to parents	11 Feb 1931	ALBER
	Spouse	LaVon Fred Eller	
	Married	12 Sep 1950	Place Cardston, Alberta, Canada
	Sealed to spouse	12 Sep 1950	ALBER
8	F	Enid Francis Hall	
	Born	6 Oct 1925	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Baptized	1 Jul 1934	LIVE
	Endowed	26 Apr 2006	EDMON
	Sealed to parents	11 Feb 1931	ALBER
	Spouse	Arthur Hugh Kinniburgh	
	Married	22 Mar 1946	Place Taber, Alberta, Canada
	Sealed to spouse	20 Jan 2007	ALBER

Notes
 CHILD 6 - Olive Eliza Hall
 Olive was named for her grandmother Eliza Johanna Tracy Hall, paternal grandmother.

Magrath
& The Pothole

Magrath and the Pothole

In the year 1900, home was a dug-out on Pothole Creek. Before a bridge was built across the creek, settlers south of the creek referred to their community as the Pothole. Many of the early immigrants coming into the Magrath area came looking for fertile land to colonize; others to help introduce irrigation. They lived in tents, log cabins and dug-outs.



To quote from "The Power of the Dream" (a collection of stories about early Magrath): "High grass on the pothole gave men visions of productive soil waiting for the plow. They returned to Utah, gathered their families and possessions and brought them to Canada to share in the abundance."

Henry Holmes was one of those men, his family arrived in Canada from North Ogden, Utah, in the summer of 1900. They settled on Pothole Creek and put up two tents; one for the family, and the other for their 40 chickens. The mother, our grandmother, Sarah Jane, said it was a pleasant summer, with rain, clean, fresh surroundings and no housework. Henry built a two-room frame house providing better shelter for them and the five children; Myron, Ellen, Margaret and the two Evans children; Joseph and Ethel, who were Sarah Jane's children by her first husband, William Evans. In 1901 another Holmes son, Godfrey, was born and in 1904, a daughter, Martha.

Moroni Coleman, Levi Harker also brought their families and settled on the Pothole. Other neighbors were the Perry, Pitcher and Weaver families.

The Orson Hall family arrived in 1902. Orson's oldest son Ott had first ventured into Canada, been impressed, and went home to Dry Fork, Utah, successfully convincing his father to make the move. They were fortunate to have Eli Tracy already living in the area, he invited the Hall family to live with his family until they could procure adequate housing. Eli was a brother of Eliza Johanna, Orson's late wife. The Halls' were soon able to build a two-room house. Dave and Elsie had one room; Orson, Ott, Lee, Mary, Ab, Fay and Leone shared the other. Though it was a very crowded abode, it provided much appreciated shelter from the summer heat and frigid winters.

The men obtained jobs with the Knight Sugar Co. and also with the Spring Coulee Canal. In the book previously referred to, there is an interesting article about work on the canal.

"Every possible man, boy and team was out there, scattered along 90 miles of canal, working to obtain cash to live and lands to live on. Much of the lack of house construction was entirely due to being too busy to do any building. The houses that were occupied were often only tents with no lumber - or just a bare minimum for dug-outs."

Our mother, Ethel, told us about one morning while living in Magrath, when they heard a great roar and the ground shook. Everyone was frightened and concerned and soon it was explained: In the early morning hours of April 29, 1903, Magrath residents, 100 miles away, heard a roar and the ground shook. They had no idea what was happening but later were informed that Turtle Mountain in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, had collapsed. It was the greatest landslide in North American history. In 100 seconds at least 75 people were buried under tons of boulders. Three fourths of the houses in the small town of Frank were crushed, a mile of the Canadian Pacific Railroad was completely demolished, and a river became a lake. Indians of the area had avoided Turtle Mountain, to them it was "the mountain that walked."

Athletic competitions were the highlights of entertainment in the Pothole community, baseball and basketball the most popular. Ethel Evans played basketball in 1904 with the girl's team called "The Pothole Mollies" with her friends, Mary Hall, Sara Tracy, Phoebe Bingham and Irene Coleman. Their coach was Charlie Edwards. The Mollies were victorious over the Magrath team then went on to play Cardston and adopted the slogan "Pothole Against the World".



The game was held in the Galt Gardens in Lethbridge and every citizen of the Pothole was there to rally round their team. Rooms were reserved in the hotel for the teams. However, there weren't enough rooms for all the others, so they slept under and around their wagons, or on the grass in the Park.

Before the game began one of the Mollies said, "Won't it be terrible if Cardston wins?" Ethel Evans replied, "They won't, join with me in prayer". She offered a simple, little plea asking that they would play fairly and well. And they did! There was much celebrating when they won the game and declared themselves "Champions of the World". and added, too bad if the world didn't know it. Each girl on the winning team received a U.S. five dollar gold piece.

Frontier life in Magrath and the Pothole included hardships and a lot of work but there was also fun, mostly sports. In the summer there were hayrides, in the winter, sleighrides. Home dramatics, choirs and special celebrations, like July 24th, were sponsored by the Church.

Soon after arriving in the Magrath area Henry Holmes made payment on 80 acres of land, stocked it well with cattle, pigs and chickens. Quoting from the life story of Sarah Jane (Grandma) she states, "I had my money and it paid for the stock, lumber and land." Henry wanted more land so they sold the 80 acres and moved on to a farm of 160 acres at Welling, which soon became part of the Raymond District. It has always been ironic to the Hall family that Henry prospered due to our grandfather's insurance, as that was the money Sarah Jane was able to contribute for land purchase and stock.

1905: Ott & Ethel are married (story follows).

1906: The Holmes Family move to Raymond.

1907: Marjorie born in Raymond.

1908: Orson Hall married Anna Maria Price (see Grandparent section).

The Latter-day-Saints moving into Southern Alberta made an impact with their pioneer spirit, the ability to colonize and irrigation experience. They (our family included) contributed to the growth and prosperity of the area.

HOLINESS TO THE LORD.



The General Board of Education

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

TEACHER LICENSES

Ethel Evans

to act as *Teacher* of Religion Classes in *Magrath Ward, Alberta Stake* of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he has been engaged, under the authority of the constituted State Board of Education. This

LICENSE

to be valid until *June 30th 1903*

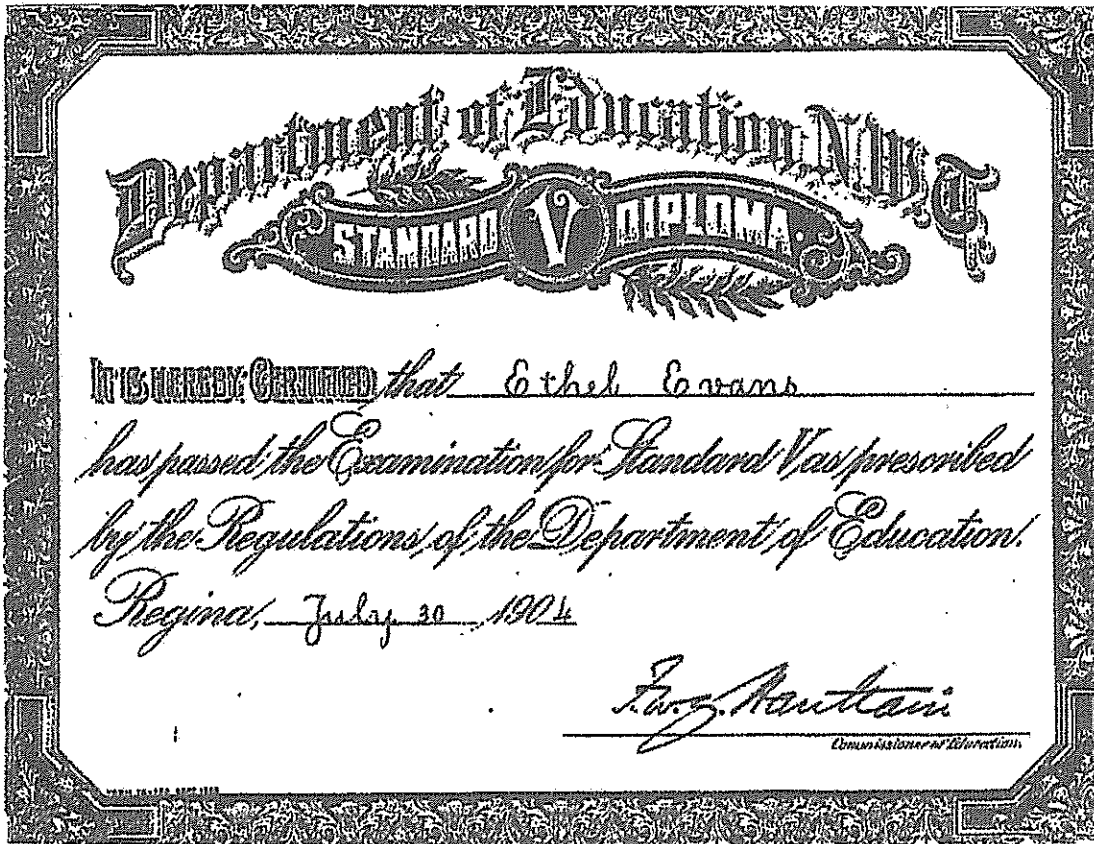
In Witness Whereof, we have herewith attached our signatures and the seal of the Board at Salt Lake City, Utah, this *31st* day of *January* 1903

IN BEHALF OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.

General Superintendent of Religion Classes.

THE GENERAL BOARD OF EDUCATION of the CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The General Board of Education was established in 1877. One of their main functions was to provide Religion Classes to the youth of the Church. Ethel Eavns was called as a teacher in the Magrath Ward, Alberta Stake in 1903. She was eighteen years of age. This experience provided her the incentive to study and prepare. She became an appreciated teacher throughout her life in all Church organizations.



The Standard V Diploma

from the Department of Education N.W.T. indicates that Ethel Evans successfully completed High School, passing five Academic Courses.

Alberta became a Province in 1905.

Alberta CANADA

VITAL STATISTICS

LM267180

Name of Groom **Hall, Orson E.**

Place of Birth **U.S.A.**

Name of Bride **Evans, Ethel**

Place of Birth **U.S.A.**

Date of Marriage **Sep 21 1905**

Place of Marriage **Magrath**

Registration Date **Dec 05 1905**

Registration Number **1905-08-002096**

Date Issued **May 16 2005**

Certified extract from REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE
filed at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

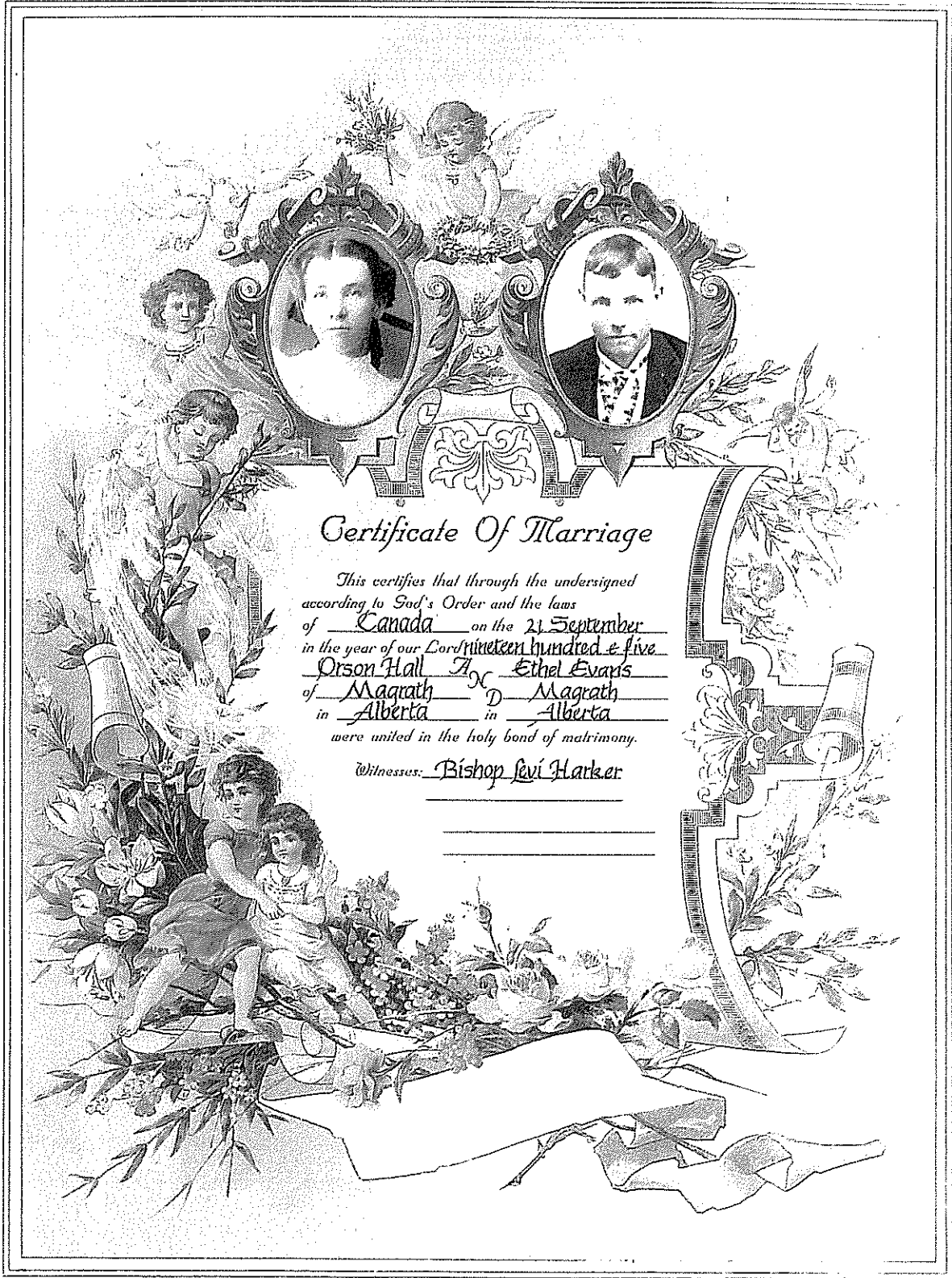


[Signature]
Director

REG 3149 (2004/05)



The Wedding
21 September, 1905



Certificate Of Marriage

*This certifies that through the undersigned
according to God's Order and the laws
of Canada on the 21 September
in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred & five
Orson Hall & Ethel Evans
of Magrath & Magrath
in Alberta in Alberta
were united in the holy bond of matrimony.*

Witnesses: Bishop Levi Harker

The Wedding
Orson Eli Hall and Ethel Evans

21 September, 1905

There were no printed wedding invitations, just verbal requests that friends and relatives attend the ceremony. Orson wanted his father to attend; also his brothers and sisters. Ethel wanted her family, brother Joseph, and Irene, the girl he was going to marry; also the young Holmes half sisters and brothers. Of course there were neighbors: the Colemans, Weavers, Pitchers and Harkers. Ethel's mother worried: how was she going to accommodate such a crowd as the house was just two rooms? However, Sarah Jane consoled herself with the thought that the weather on September 21st should be nice enough for some of the festivities to be held outside.

Sarah Jane spent many hours wondering about the wisdom of these two getting married. She was concerned that maybe Ethel was getting married just to free herself from the Holmes family. Sarah Jane's second husband, Henry, was a very stern man and had always resented his two step children, Ethel and Joe. Did Ethel really love Ott? Sarah Jane hoped so; she remembered the doubts she had herself when she married Henry - was she marrying him hoping for security and help in raising her two children? Henry had pressured her into marriage with promises that he would provide and care for the children.

She wanted more for her dear daughter who had been such a joy, patiently enduring Henry's resentment. Ethel deserved the best in life and Sarah Jane recognized that Ethel and Ott were not compatible in some ways. She was deeply religious and wanted her husband to be active in the Church. They did have in common a love for family life, and a great desire to have a happy home environment. Also they were both kind, thoughtful, and generous.

Putting aside her concerns, Sarah Jane concentrated on having as nice a wedding and reception as could be provided. She made many sugar cookies and a big freezer of homemade ice cream. Bishop Harker performed the ceremony and all the guests extended their best wishes and congratulations. The youngest child of the Holmes family was Martha, age two. The most interesting part of the celebration, to her, was "Etties pitty new shoes". The newly weds received some appreciated gifts. Ethel and Ott were the fifth couple married in the new Province of Alberta. It had become a Province on 1 September 1905, instead of the Northwest Territories.

For her wedding Ethel wore a lovely white organdy blouse and a dark skirt. The blouse had been made by Sarah Jane a few weeks previously for Ethel to wear to a dance, to which she and her brother, Joe, were going. As she and Joe were leaving the house that night, Henry declared that she couldn't be seen in public in such an immodest and indecent shirt. It was organdy and see through, but she was also wearing a camisole under it, making it very modest and appropriate. Henry continued to rant in spite of objections by Sarah Jane, Ethel and Joe, until Joe lost his temper and made some remarks that Henry didn't like. They were on the verge of a physical confrontation when Sarah Jane intervened. They did go to the dance, and Ethel did wear the blouse.

Five months before the Hall wedding, Ott's sister Mary was married to Berg Ellingson. Mary was now a sister to Ethel, as well as a friend. The next year

Ethel's brother, Joe, was married to Irene Coleman, Irene and Ethel were best friends, they became sisters also.

Soon after their wedding Ott and Ethel left for Marysville, B.C. There was a timber and mining expansion in the area and perhaps, because Ott missed living in the mountains he wanted to explore the possibilities of working there. He was successful in securing employment.

However, Ethel was working in the Post Office; she was subjected to a way of life that shocked and surprised her. Having lived in a Mormon community all of her life, she was not prepared for the rough atmosphere of the camps. Prostitutes were frequently in the Post Office, saloons lined the streets, the men were rough and tough, and the language appalled her. Even though she appreciated the beauty of her surroundings - the mountains were even more spectacular than the ones in Utah - she was homesick, and longed for family and friends.

When she discovered she was pregnant, she suggested to Ott that they return to Magrath. She did not want to raise a family far from the security of family and the Church. Ott must have been disappointed, but did give in, somewhat reluctantly, as he did like the work. However, it proved his love for her, in that he was willing to leave. Many years later Ethel was to wonder what their life would have been like if they had stayed in Marysville. It did offer possibilities for financial security.

On their return to the prairies, Ott again began to work on the canal. Joe and Irene had married. The two couples pitched a tent close to the area where the men were working and that was home. Ethel and Irene spent many hours stitching baby clothes as they were both pregnant. A daily duty for them was to bring milk from a neighboring farm. Every day they would walk a mile or two, often cutting through a pasture. Returning one day with a pail of milk, an angry bull started after them. Ethel with her long legs outdistanced Irene but they both finally crawled through a fence to safety; but with an empty bucket.

When they entered their tent they were both very distressed and unhappy to discover that Indians had been there in their absence. The beautiful, little hand sewn baby clothes had been taken. For several weeks following they always looked closely at Indian papooses to see if they were wearing something familiar.

An amusing story that Aunt Irene often told should be related: Marjorie, was born 9 January, 1907. Irene was expecting her baby in March and wanted a baby just as cute as Marjorie, but as she, herself, said, "I got Leonard, he was so ugly".

Ott and Ethel and their baby went to the Taber area in 1909 to homestead. There they raised the eight children that eventually blessed their home. It was a happy home, there were times of discouragement and grief, but love sustained them.

Smiles, tears of all my life! - and, if God choose

I shall but love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Marjorie

When Ott and Ethel returned to Magrath from Marysville in 1906, they shared a tent on the prairie, with Joe and Irene. It was close to the canal where the men were working. Each couple was anticipating the birth of their first child.

Joe and Irene purchased the home of the Holmes when they moved to Raymond, and were happy to share it with Ott and Ethel.

Grandma, Sarah Jane, was anxious to be at the birth of her first grandchild. She convinced Ethel to make the ten mile trip to Raymond for the confinement. The Holmes home was very rustic, originally just a one-room shack. The outside was formed by vertical gray, weather-beaten boards, the inside was made liveable because of the talents of Sarah Jane. She covered the walls with cheesecloth and paper. The floor consisted of wide, bare, bumpy, but well scrubbed boards. Henry moved a well built room to the shack, so it was more comfortable. Sarah Jane's handmade braided rugs covered the floor. Heat was provided by a small coal stove in the middle of the room. The addition was always called "the other room".

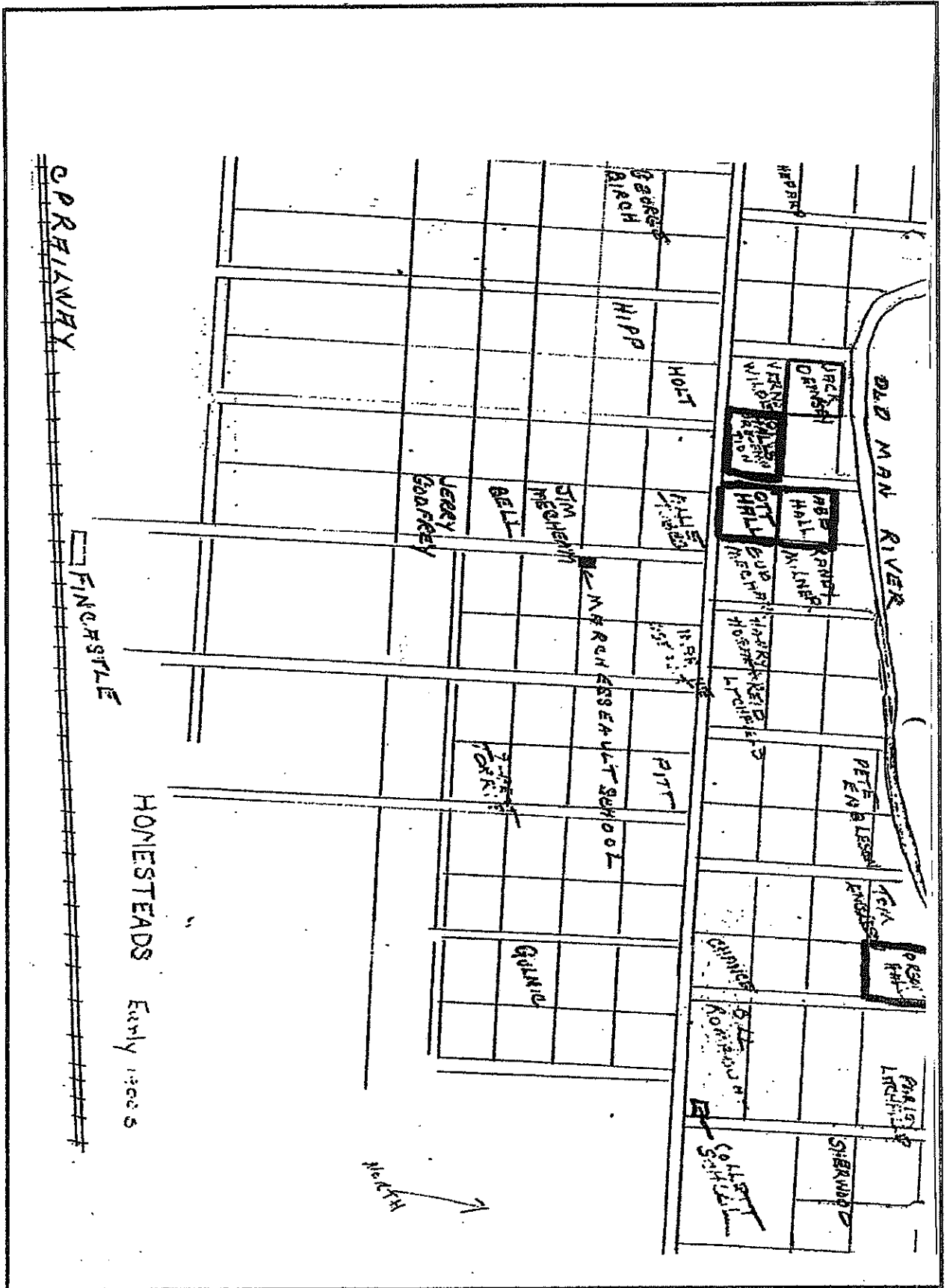


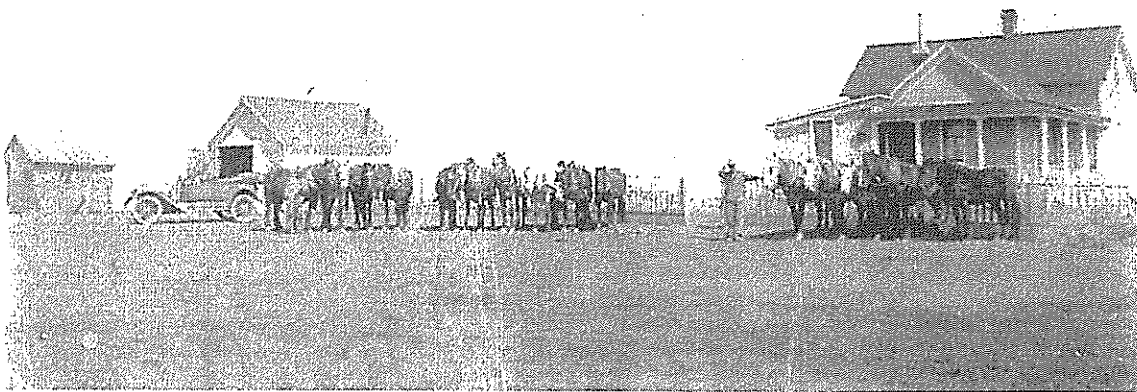
Marjorie
About three months

The kitchen had a big table, a "Home Comfort" coal stove and a reservoir for hot water. These two rooms housed a family of seven, Henry, Sarah Jane and their five children, Myron, Ellen, Margaret, Godfrey and Martha.

*And this is where Marjorie Hall was born on a cold wintery day!
9 January, 1907.*

She was born with a mop of curly, red hair which was her distinguishing feature throughout her life. At an early age, her parents recognized her diversity, but seldom attempted to contain it. She had a penchant for teasing, siblings being her prey when she was young. But it continued and her dear husband and children endured the torment. In 1909, "The Homestead Days" began, Marjorie was there at the very beginning. Usona was born that year, Evan followed in 1911, Reta in 1913. Gordon came along in 1915, then Olive, Rae and Enid. So Marjorie was big sister to seven siblings. There are only a few people, at this time, who remember Marjorie, but we consider ourselves fortunate; for whether she was loved and admired, or resented, she had a personality so unique she will never be forgotten.





Alberta Homestead Records 1870 - 1930

- [Advanced Search](#)
- [About the Homestead Project](#)
- [How to View a File](#)
- [How to Order a Copy of a Homestead File](#)

Surname	Given Name	
Hall	Orson Eli	<input type="button" value="Search ->"/>

(2 records)

HALL, Orson Eli			
Section 6	Township 11	Range 15	Meridian 4
Film # 2765 in Accession # 1970.313 at Provincial Archives of Alberta			
File # 1295285			

HALL, Orson Eli			
Section 5	Township 11	Range 15	Meridian 4
Film # 2830 in Accession # 1970.313 at Provincial Archives of Alberta			
File # 1686757			

(2 records)

Current Search

Surname: Hall

Given Name:
Orson Eli

*The Homestead
Years*

The Homestead

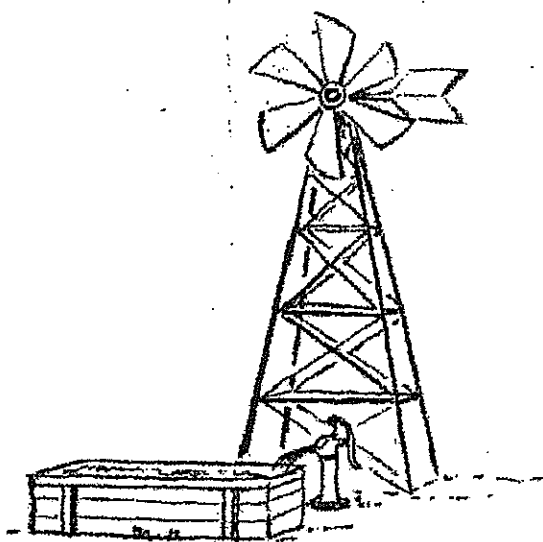
by Olive

Ott Hall, like most men of his time, had a strong desire to own land. Western Canada was a land of opportunity, because land was cheap. There was a bond between Orson Sr. and his sons. In 1909 they rode their horses to the Taber area. All were impressed with this goodly land. Ott chose to homestead on the S.W. 1/4-5-11 west of the fourth meridian. The following year he took up a preemption on a quarter section to the west. His brother, Dave, moved onto a homestead north of Grassy Lake. Abb settled on a homestead one mile north of Ott. He was married with children at the time. Abb stayed on this land only about a year because he could not find water to dig a well, so he moved to the Kinniburgh District. Their father chose land five miles east of Ott. He built a home on the top of the hill overlooking the Old Man River. A flood in 1908 had swept away the MacLean Bridge north of Taber, and a pile of lumber from the bridge had washed from the river up onto the flat, just below Orson's homestead. He used this lumber to build a chicken coop and other out-buildings on his property.

Ott paid ten dollars for his homestead, with the promise to improve on the property. So he went down to the river, dug up about 100 saplings, and planted a row north of his home. They formed a landmark in that area, and provided a windbreak. At this time he, and his wife, Ethel, had two little girls, Marjorie and Usona.

On his property, Ott noticed a green, wild rose bush with lovely blossoms. He knew that was where he should dig a well. He found water just ten feet down. Later a windmill was installed, which pumped the water into a trough where the farm animals could drink. The well also provided the water for the household, and did so for two generations.

The family lived in a two-roomed house that Ott built. He was a very capable carpenter. It contained the bare necessities but Ethel made it cheerful and homey. A red geranium on the window sill brightened the kitchen.



Ott worked diligently to prepare his land for crops. He planted rye, barley and wheat. There were many years when he had a bumper crop but often the opposite, wind, drought, hail and even frost often contributed to failures.

More children were born to the family - Evan, Reta, Gordon and Olive. As the family grew, so did the house. There was an addition to the original two rooms. Out of necessity one of the older rooms became a pantry, as it had to hold a cream separator. That appliance had to separate the cream from the milk and it was used to supply the family with churned butter. There were plenty of shelves in the pantry to hold the milk and cream. The main room was the dining room. It was just off the kitchen and was quite large, furnished

with a big, round dining table and chairs, and an ornate sideboard that held the dishes and a few treasured ornaments.



Jerry and Annie Godfrey and family visit with the Hall family 1916

In 1918 Ott built a two-storied addition to the house. The south door now opened onto a verandah, where the family spent long summer evenings. There was a bathroom that had a porcelain bathtub and a pipe to drain the water to the outside, but no running water. The water had to be carried from the well to the kitchen stove where it was heated, then carried through the dining room into the bathroom. There was a little medicine cabinet that was usually empty, except when Olive and Reta gathered wild rose petals and put them into bottles with a little water, placing them in the dark cupboard in an attempt to make perfume. Mama and Papa's bedroom was on the main floor, and contained a luxurious feather tick. The most wonderful room of all was the parlour. It had one window on the south with a white lace curtain, a horsehair sofa, a writing desk, and a piano with a claw-foot stool.

The piano was obtained as a result of a freight train derailment at the Fincastle crossing. Ott was fortunate to be able to buy this musical instrument. Ethel was delighted that it enabled their daughters to have music lessons. The large, wooden piano box was saved out in the yard. It was a secret hiding place for errant boys. When Evan and Sherry Ellingson hid there to get away from Margie, she threatened to roll the box down into the pond, but found that with two boys inside it was too hard to move.

The parlour was revered - a safe place for children to share secrets. Margie took each of her brothers and sisters there to inform them that Mama was getting Papa a guitar for Christmas. The parlour was seldom used to entertain guests, company was usually just relatives who liked to be with the family in the kitchen.

It was a practice in the homesteading community to visit neighbors, not for just an hour or so, but all day. They were events looked forward to by

parents and children. The Halls were very hospitable and their home was always what we, today, could call "open house".



The desk that was in the parlour of the home is probably the only surviving piece of furniture. Mother (Ethel) once said it was the first piece of furniture that they purchased.

It is now in the Eller home.

Underneath the stairwell was a little closet used to store old shoes. Papa mended the old shoes and they were handed down. At this time, Ott's sister, Mary had died. She had also been a special friend of Ethel's, so they both realized the need for their children to have a home. One or two of the Ellingson boys lived with us. Sherwood (Sherry) was Evan's age and lived with us most of the time. For protection against Margie's temper, they fastened a latch inside the closet and were often seen diving into this place when Margie was after them.

The second floor had two bedrooms - one for boys and one for girls. In between, there was a little alcove which held a chamber pot with a lid. On cold winter nights this was a luxury. In the yard was a three-hole outhouse. One of the seats was small, for the use of little children. There was also a car shed to house the 490 Chevrolet, the first car that Ott owned. This car was used more by Usona than anyone else because Papa could send her to town to pick up machinery repairs. She was able to do this after a five-minute instruction course on how to drive. On the walls of the car shed the boys in the family had written with chalk:

MARJORIE HALL LOVES LYLE PIERSON

There was a large barn for horses and milk cows and a loft above to store hay as fodder. This also served the children as a stage where they could put on plays and programs for the family. Also, outside, we had a wonderful swing made between two telephone poles. Papa bought the poles when telephones were first being installed. We could all recite R.L. Stevenson's poem:

O how I like to go up in the swing,
 Up in the air so blue,
 O, I do think it the pleasantest thing
 Ever a child could do.
 Up in the air and over the wall,
 'Til I could see so wide,
 Rivers and trees and cattle and all
 Over the countryside,
 'Til I could look down on the garden green,
 Down on the roof so brown,
 Up in the air I go flying again,
 Up in the air and down.

Down by the well and the windmill, Papa had built a wash house for our mother. It contained a little, old stove to heat the water, and an engine which would propel the clothes back and forth in the washing machine, saving Ethel from scrubbing clothes on the board. She thought she was very fortunate to have this invention. The clotheslines were handy for drying the clothes, even in the winter when they froze.

Papa built a pit for storing potatoes and vegetables over the winter. A ladder went down into the pit and there was a wooden cover for the hole. One of Marjorie's favorite tricks was to stand on the lid, if the boys were in the pit, not letting them out until they repeated several times: "Marjorie Hall is a beautiful girl". Very seldom did Olive venture into the pit, there were so many spiders and even a salamander occasionally.

There was also a woodshed to store wood for the kitchen stove. It was also the place for punishment, because there was always a stick handy. There was a chicken coop, a grainery and a smokehouse to cure meat. The smokehouse was very versatile, could be used for smoking or drying. It had an underground fire pit and hooks hanging from the ceiling to suspend the ham and other meat. Papa was very clever about preserving the meat. Reta said that when the children came home from school, they loved to go into the smokehouse and cut off a piece of meat for a treat. Probably much like today's jerky. In all, the farm was quite self sufficient and provided the family a healthy diet.

The vegetable garden was a family project, lots of potatoes, onions, carrots and cabbages were planted. In dry years, the boys had to pack pails of water from the well to the garden. The younger ones picked potato bugs from the plants. They thought the best part was dropping the bugs into an open fire and hearing them sizzle.

During the long, winter evenings the family spent time around the table, taking turns reading aloud. The favorites were Beau Geste and Uncle Tom's Cabin. Margie loved her turn and read the stories with such expression that she often had us crying. Uncle Tom's Cabin was one of the productions that was held in the hayloft. Harriet Beecher Stowe would have appreciated the portrayal of her characters as presented by the Hall Family. The major roles:

Uncle Tom:	Sherwood Ellingson
Eliza:	Marjorie Hall
Eva:	Olive Hall
Simon Legree:	Evan Hall
Topsy:	Reta Hall
Owner of the horses:	Gordon Hall
Wife of the plantation owner:	Usona Hall

Eliza was magnificent as she crossed the river on ice pans, carrying her baby; but we wonder who portrayed the wicked men who pursued her. Olive's part as little Eva was surely the most important. The audience must have shed tears when the dear, little girl died and went to heaven. Evan rigged up a pulley to do the job but it failed and poor, little Eva (Olive) fell on her stomach and the wind knocked out of her. Mother was called from the audience for assistance.

Winters were cold but homemade sports equipment provided a lot of fun. We had two pair of bob skates to skate on the pond, down by the well. There was a sleigh for the boys to give the children rides over the ice. The boys also made skis out of barrel staves and rode them behind a horse over the rough prairie. At Christmas and for special events, the community would meet together to dance and play games at the country school. Some-times Mother would have a candy pull and invite the neighboring families. Sometimes we would go to visit our neighbours, the Sam Rombough family, who had fifteen children, we were always welcomed. Another family we visited was the Alma and Sina Meacham family. They owned a wind-up gramophone with a morning-glory horn, played cylinder records, one of the favorite songs being *Roamin' in the Gloamin'*:

*Roamin' in the gloamin' by the bonny banks of Clyde,
Roamin' in the gloamin' with a lassie by my side,
When the sun has gone to rest,
That's the time that I love best,
Oh, it's lovely roamin' in the gloamin'.*

Plenty of antelope roamed on the prairie. Dad was a good shot and the meat was a staple for the family, along with potatoes and milk gravy. When Mother's sisters and brothers came to visit, they always wanted antelope steaks.

In the evening the coyotes would howl, and Gordon was good at howling back and getting a response from the animals. To keep the mosquitoes away on summer nights we'd make smudgepots by burning sagebrush in pots. Then we'd sit on the verandah and listen to the coyotes howl.

There were rattlesnakes, but no one ever got bitten. Once when Dad was throwing bundles of hay onto the hay wagon, a rattlesnake dangled from his pitchfork. Dad never killed a rattlesnake though, because they ate gophers which were a bigger menace.

In the summer, huge flocks of bluebirds would fly onto the property. They would be so numerous that they would look like a large ocean wave, and it was beautiful. A bluebird once nested in Dad's binder. In this piece of machinery there was a little hole where the binding twine came out that was just the right size for a bluebird to get in and be safe. Mother also loved the meadowlarks and their beautiful songs. She told Olive that the meadowlark is singing: "Olive Hall is a pretty little girl".

Reta and Olive had a play house. The long row of trees which Dad had planted had grown very tall, one area provided an ideal spot for the play house. Reta used a corn stock broom to sweep away dead leaves and rubbish to make it neat, the trees provided shade from the hot, summer sun. An empty apple box became a table and two empty milk pails, turned upside down served as chairs. The two little girls, ten and five years old loved their hide-a-way and enjoyed the long summer hours 'pretending'. Reta would send her little

sister to the garden for new carrots for the pretend meals. Reta made mud pies, cakes and biscuits from dried leaves. Even at this young age she was interested in baking and cooking. It wasn't long before she actually was adept at the real thing, cooking good, delicious meals.

One sad day the pet dog died and the children were devastated. It was only right that a dear member of the family should be given a funeral worthy of his illustrious life. His body was transported to the grove of trees where Evan and Sherry dug a grave. Songs were sung that seemed appropriate. "Away in a Manger" and "Among My Souvenirs". Many tears were shed, also some weeping and wailing.

Many stories are told of Marjorie's escapades, teasing and tormenting but she had a very sensitive side, too, and wanted to instill in the family an appreciation for, and use, good manners. Olive remembers an occasion when she was taught a lesson, by Marjorie, that she has implemented in her life. Marjorie was sweeping the upstairs floors, as she came to the top of the stairs she asked Olive to bring her the dust pan. Olive obeyed, Marjorie thanked her and Olive turned to leave but was stopped. "Olive", Marjorie said, "It is nice when someone thanks you, to reply 'you are welcome'. Now let's do it again". It was repeated, Marjorie smiled her approval and a good lesson was learned.

When new babies arrived, the other children would be sent to the neighbors to stay for the day. Dr. Leech would come in his horse and buggy, or in his magnificent Reo, and bring with him, Mrs. Elizabeth Pierson, a midwife. To the children she was Aunt Liz. She stayed two weeks and insisted that Mama stay in bed while she did the cooking, cleaning and washing. Rae and Enid were both born at the farm and both proved to be good additions to the family.

In 1925, when the school was closed, we left the homestead and moved into a little brown house near Douglas Lake. Many adjustments were made. Papa stayed on the farm most of the time to care for the farm animals. We learned a new way of life, sometimes painful, sometimes happy. Mother was especially glad to be in town where she could attend her Church meetings and have her family active in the Church.

There are so many experiences and stories not told about life on the homestead. We wish we had Evan here to tell us things he remembered so well. We regret not recording his many tall tales. The parents and six children who lived those sometimes happy, occasionally sad times, on the old farm have provided us with guidelines for living. The two 'city girls' regret not having the privilege of "life on the farm".

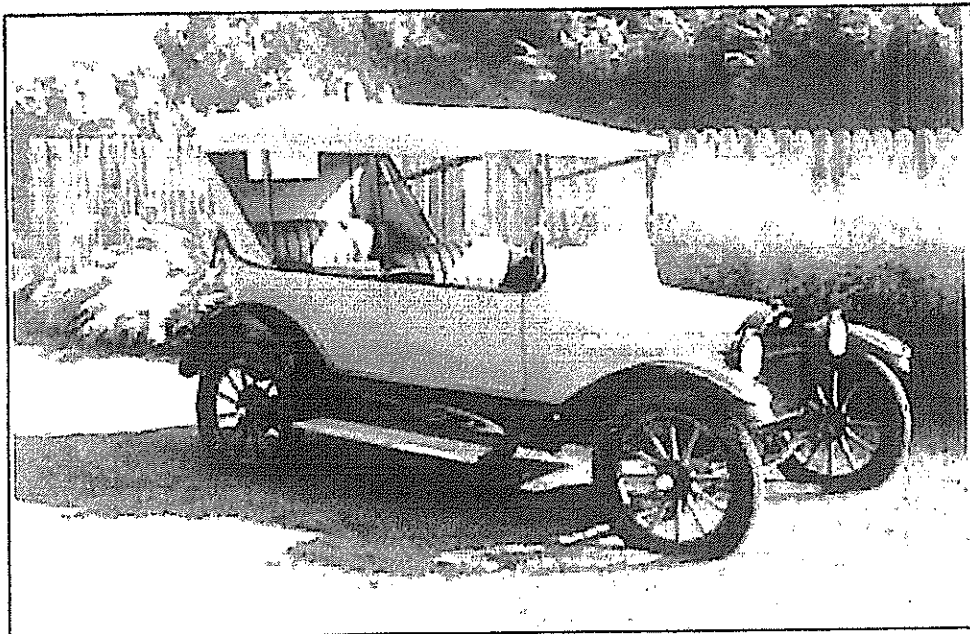


Taken on the porch of the farm home, 1922. Evan, Usona, Gordon, Mother, Olive and Reta. Marjorie was at school in Medicine Hat.

We are grateful for Marjorie's autobiography (read it in the Hall Family History Book). On page 8 she writes the following:

In the fall of 1916 my father bought a car - a 490 Chevrolet - and what an absolutely marvellous luxury it was. My Mother learned to drive soon after it was purchased and became a very good practical driver all her life. She was among the first few women in the area to learn to drive, and it was wonderful for us children and many of our neighbors. She took us into Taber quite often for various things; church concerts, chataquas in the summer, Church conferences, etc. It gave us a taste of things which we would have otherwise missed. Dad loved to go in the car too, and a couple of summers took us to Waterton Lakes on camping trips. This was a big trip for those days and over such roads. But they were grand experiences. We were all crowded together in a tent for a few days and nights. Sleeping on the ground, cooking over a camp fire, hiking over the many lovely trails and best of all a trip to the head of the lakes on a big launch. A boat trip was an unheard of luxury for prairie children and we talked all winter long of these two great outings. In the summer of 1918, when my sister Olive was only two months old, my parents made one of these two trips and I look back now on the effort it must have been for both of them - six children under twelve years of age. Mother and Dad had both been raised in the mountains and loved them very much. They were anxious that we, at least, see them occasionally. I have grown quite old before realizing what they did for us. I wish now I could say thank you to them for the sacrifices and efforts they made on many occasions to give us pleasure and opportunities.

The Barnes' Model 490 1916 Chevy



The
MARCHESEAU

COUNTRY SCHOOL

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THE MARCHESSEAULT COUNTRY SCHOOL

by Olive

Argyle Romault Marchessault was born in Quebec, Canada. He left home at age fourteen and moved to the United States, where he soon became known only as "Archie".

He bought 640 acres of Hudson Bay land one mile north of the railroad track at Taber. His family moved there from Wyoming in 1902. Their address was "77 Tank, Northwest Territories". The trains seldom stopped, except to take on water so any mail for the town was thrown out of the train in a heavy bag. Also outgoing mail was thrown into the train, which took a little practice.

Myrtle, a daughter never forgot the first time they celebrated Dominion Day. There was a picnic. Everyone was anxious to show loyalty to this chosen land, but noone knew any Canadian songs, not even, "Oh Canada", so they compromised and sang "Yankee Doodle".

Coal was discovered on Mr. Marchesseault's land and the Eureka Mine was born. So he decided to go homesteading. He proved up on one N.E. 1/4 32-10-15 and moved his family of seven children to this new home. He began negotiating for a school. He donated the property for the Marchesseault School.

Many homesteaders were moving into this area north of Fincastle, including the Halls, Henry Hogarths, Alma Meacham and his brother James, the Jerry Godfreys, Tubbs and Sam Romboughs. A school room with a belfrey and a loud bell was erected and in two years a two-roomed teacherage (a home for the teacher) was built, a barn for the horses of the students, a coal bin and a well.

The first teacher in this school was Miss Stella Rittan. Miss Jessie Godfrey, Jerry's daughter, also taught, as did Miss Margaret Holmes, Ethel Hall's sister. Mrs. Gidman was remembered as a strict English lady, she was a sister of Dr. Alfred Hamman. There were many other teachers, Mr. Carlyle Litchfield was the last teacher. His wife, Fanny, was not a teacher, but served as an aide to her husband who had several grades in the one room.

Children who poked along, picking wild roses on the way to school, and looking for the nests of robins and bluebirds, were forced to run when the bell sounded promptly at nine a.m. The Hall children walked the two and one-half mile trip to school, or rode horse back in the winter, with two on each horse. Each had their own tin lard pail containing their lunch, which usually consisted of green tomato preserve sandwiches, hard boiled eggs, or baking powder biscuits. They often traded with other children to get a dill pickle. Olive remembers riding behind Evan, and at his suggestion would put her face into the back of his wool jacket to keep her face from freezing.

The pupils had fun, besides being taught "Reading, Writing and Arithmetic". The girls played at hopscotch and skip-the-rope during recess. The boys played catch if they had a ball, or, teased the girls. Sometimes they forfeited their recess time to have a game of fox and hounds at noon. One boy, the fox, took off when the rest of the pupils were inside the school.

He'd drop bits of paper which had been all cut up and put in a bag for him. In five or ten minutes the rest of the students all went out looking for him by following the paper pieces. The fox ran all over the prairie, and the hounds chased him on the run. Sometimes the game lasted for an hour or more. It was exciting and fun.

Another exciting time was when the teacher told Gordon Hall to hold out his hands so she could strap him for misbehaving. Gordon pushed his hands deep into his pockets and even the teacher could not get them out. After school the teacher rode over to the Hall farm and reported the misconduct to Gordon's mother. That night Ethel Hall opened up her treadle Singer sewing machine and stitched pocket seams closed, back and forth several times. It was impossible for him to hide his hands in his pockets. At recess time, Gordon's friend, Clifford Rombough, took out his pocket knife and with Gordon's help cut open every stitch in the pockets of Gordon's jeans.

One warm spring day, at the noon hour, Marjorie Hall, who was about ten or eleven years old, announced to the other students that she was going to walk down to the river (a mile or two away). The other children begged to go with her, so there was a little parade that started off, with the little children running most of the way trying to keep up. The teacher was very astonished when she returned to the classroom to find it empty.

Julia Meacham, daughter of Jim and Martha Ann, was considered to be a gifted child, and the other children held her almost in reverence. She wrote poems and stories and was called the "teacher's pet." Marjorie Hall was not intimidated by her. Julia wrote a verse which the teacher encouraged all the students to memorize. This is the verse:

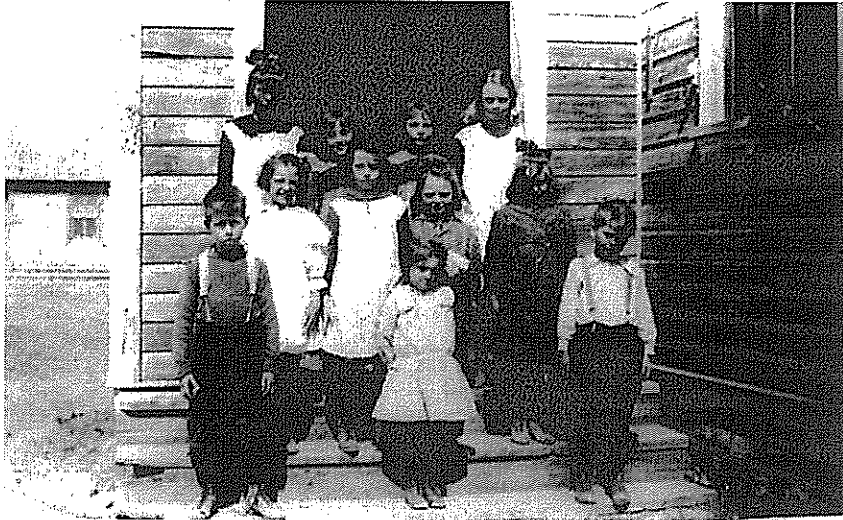
R R Ticker R, M R Rooney,
Alla manna goosts
Ping pang penny.

The teacher was impressed, but Marjorie wasn't. When any of the children in Marjorie's home repeated it aloud Marjorie howled with laughter.

The school was also used for many community activities, parties, dances, celebrations, etc. Charlie Houck played a squeeze box (smaller than an accordin) for music. It really intrigued Gordon because Charlie kept time by tapping his one wooden leg in time to the music. Gordon learned to whistle the tunes which Charlie usually played. His whistling was always off-key. The Hall family was surprised in later years when Gordon produced two children who were exceptional singers. Marjorie began calling Gordon "Charlie Houck" to tease him, and he would respond, "Red head, gingerbread".

In 1917 an L.D.S. Sunday School was held in the school. It was called the Torrie Sunday School after Albert Torrie, a very fine Mormon man. The Sunday School was well attended by members and non-members. Marjorie and Usona especially loved it for the excuse to wear nice clothes and display their new Roman sandals.

The school remained open until 1925. By then many of the families had moved away. The years had been very dry, and the farms could not support the families. They had struggled with drought, hail storms, grasshoppers and rattlesnakes and were forced to leave their homesteads. The school opened in the fall of 1925 but there was only Evan, Reta, Gordon and Olive Hall in attendance so **THE MARCHESSEAULT COUNTRY SCHOOL** closed it's doors.



Marchesseault School 1918 or 1919
Evan Hall front row left, Usona Hall middle row second from left.



Picture of Evan, about 80 years later, showing family members during a reunion, the location of the Marchesseault Country School.

TABER
YEARS

Taber

Remembered by Olive

There are many sweet memories of Taber. I remember it as it used to be, board sidewalks, gravel roads, the Northend, the South Side, rustic old homes, Central School, the Social Hall. I see it now with cement sidewalks, paved roads, the lovely park, beautiful houses, elementary schools, Junior High School and the High School. The L.D.S. churches have built in "social halls" now called "Cultural Halls". Gone is the dear old Social Hall where Saturday night was a disaster if we couldn't go to the Saturday Night dance and enjoy a moonlight waltz or a fox trot.

In the 1920's and 1930's many rural areas in Canada and the U.S.A. anticipated having the Chautauqua come to town. A travelling show, they provided a variety of appreciated programs including comedies, musical productions and lectures. The townspeople enjoyed the performances held in big tents, at a very minimal price. One year in particular is remembered as a family member participated in a play.

We were told in school, one Friday, that the Chautauqua was in town and needed local children to help them present the story of young Lochinvar. All children were invited to go to the Central School auditorium on Saturday morning and some children would be chosen to act out the story. Canadian school children were familiar with Sir Walter Scott's "Young Lockinvar", many of them were excited about the chance to participate and anxious to be chosen. On Saturday morning Mother spent extra time getting Rae and me ready to go for the "auditions". She had washed Rae's hair and put it in ringlets. She looked like a little doll, I was so proud of her. The auditorium was filled with excited children and we found a seat near the middle.

Elsie and Merda Snell had come early to get front row seats. They were confident girls, pretty and so very eager to have parts in the production. Their father was the local tailor and had his business on main street, next door to the Rex Theatre. The family lived in an apartment in the back, attached to the shop. Mrs. Snell was a member of the Women's Institute, as was Mother. At times I was called on to take messages from Mother to Mrs. Snell. It was always a surprise to go to their home. I would knock on the door, be graciously welcomed, deliver my message then immediately invited to play cards. When I told my friends of this experience, they replied that was always the normal procedure. Apparently because their home was almost on the Main Street, Mrs. Snell didn't want her daughters talking to friends outside, she was afraid they would learn 'street gossip'.

Back to the auditions; Rae and I were seated comfortably in the middle of the auditorium, enjoying the association of our neighbors. A lady from the Chautauqua spoke to the group. She then asked for volunteers to play the part of fair Ellen. The Snell girls were the first on their feet, waving their arms to be seen. The lady ignored them, looked over the crowd and spotted Rae. She asked her to come forward and give her name. Rae just smiled, and won everybody's heart. She was given the part of Ellen. The poem begins:

*"Oh young Lochinvar is come out of the west
Through all the wide border his steed was the best."*

The director read the words as the poem was acted out. The story goes that it was Ellen's wedding day, but it was really Lochinvar that she loved. Before the rites could be performed, Lochinvar rode in on his horse and stole Ellen away, much to her approval. Mother took the white lace curtain from the sewing room, folded it in half lengthwise, threaded a ribbon in order to gather it, tied it under Rae's chin to create a wedding veil. After one rehearsal, the show went on. Leonard Green was young Lochinvar. He stole Ellen away on his tricycle. Rae stole the heart of the audience by waving goodbye to them, throwing kisses with one hand while she held on to Leonard with the other.

The big Taber Central School was intimidating to me, I had attended Grade 1 in the little Marchesseault School and part of Grade 2. The transition in 1925 was difficult but successful. The picture below shows me with students who were classmates clear through to the twelfth grade.



1927 - 28

Top Row: Alvin Jensen, Leonard Green, Medywin Roberts, (...), John Fertig, Roger Carr, George Engleson, Jack Barto
 3rd Row: Genevieve Pyne, Edna Browning, Annie Guminy, Helen Holman, Cecilia Rose, Dorothy Westlake, Ina Graham Hilda Turner.
 2nd Row: Catherine Smith, Margaret Brown, Olive Hall, Mary Bell, Mary Powell, LaRue Valgardson, Margaret Garrick.
 1st Row: Bob Bland, Bob Henry, Douglas Francis, Mike Powell, Henry Renner, Harold Layton, Douglas Johnson, (...), (...).

Gone are the days when children play "Hide and Seek", "Kick the Can", "Run Sheep Run", under the corner streetlight. But in 'the good old days' all the neighborhood kids would gather on Friday nights, Halls, Hammans, Moores and Keith Tallman across from Hammans to play softball. When it would get dark we'd move to the streetlight across from our house to play the above games. I remember twice when Keith suggested that we "swipe" his brother's beloved Model T Ford and go for a ride. We all willingly agreed and very, very quietly managed to push that old automobile out of the garage to the alley, then Keith could get it started, we would all jump on, or in it, and take off. The route was the same, down the road past the cemetery. We thought we were being very daring, and proud of it. However, in retrospect, we were quite foolish.

The Broder Cannng Company became aware of the wonderful vegetables that the Taber area produced and built a factory in the southeast corner of the town. It provided work for many young people during the summer and we made the magnificent hourly rate of twenty cents. It was not a pleasant job!

Especially when the peas were being processed. There were three or four belts, conveying hot peas; thistles, beetles and bad peas had to be picked out by the girls manning the belts. After a couple of hours of the moving belts and the sickening smell we would be the color of the peas. If there was a sympathetic supervisor we could take turns going outside for a few moments to ease the upset stomach. The corn processing wasn't so bad, we just had to feed the corn into a machine but had to be cautious that we didn't get our hands into the machine.

A very strange fellow lived downtown in Taber on Main Street. He lived in an abandoned old store by himself. He claimed that he was the only sane person in Taber because he owned a paper declaring him to be sane by the Ponoka Mental Institute. Noone else in town could make that claim. His name was Kenneth L. Jardine. He was the correspondent in Taber for the Lethbridge Herald and was quite competent in writing up pieces for the paper. His payment for this service was the only income which he had. His dining table was covered with a pile of newspapers, each day he put down a clean sheet to eat his humble meal. Sunday afternoons young people would gather outside his door to be entertained. He wrote his own songs and his dancing was very original, too. He sang and danced, usually at the same time. The crowd would applaud and he was pleased. One of his songs was "In the Little Town of Purple Springs". It seems a little cruel because he was the butt of many jokes, but he never complained and seemed to enjoy the attention.

Taber had more than it's share of 'interesting' people. It was the custom many years ago for the Post Mistress to meet the passenger train each evening and pick up the mail from the postal worker in the mail car. Mrs. Munro was the Post Mistress. She was a very grouchy old lady, so she prevailed upon one of her three sons to take care of this duty. A two wheeled cart was kept in the alley behind the Post Office to carry the important product back from the train. This was considered to be almost a sacred mission and no one ever bothered the cart. Today it would have ended up on someone's lawn or on Main Street. But mail service has changed and improved since then.

Carl McCartee also met the trains as he was a C.P.R. Station Agent. There was a lady who met the express each evening and was always looking for a parcel. She was Mrs. Winwood, a widow, who lived on the south side. She would ask Carl each time if a parcel had come for her. The answer was always, "No". One time he asked her if she was expecting one and she replied, "No, but I thought someone might send me something." Mrs. Winwood was also a problem at Central School, where she showed up very often to take her daughter Ella home. Ella did not ever want to go but was afraid to argue with her mother.

I loved Taber back then and I love Taber today, it has always been my hometown and I appreciate the many happy memories I have of it.

*When time, which steals our years away,
Shall steal our pleasures, too;
The memory of the past will stay
And half our joys renew.*



A grandson recently asked me what I remember most about my hometown. I attempted to describe Taber, not as it is today, but the way it was years ago. I let him preview the story that follows. "Why", he asked, "don't you explain about Alberta Wheat Pool?" He had been puzzling over the strange buildings in the above picture. I explained they were built to store local farmer's crops, until a train came through to collect and transport them to markets. That was years ago when wheat was the main crop in Alberta: Dad took many loads of wheat to an elevator in Fincastle, about ten miles east of Taber. It was closer for him than Taber's elevators. Irrigation brought a change, farmers grew potatoes, sugar beets and corn.

These magnificent buildings are gone from the landscape of most towns in Alberta now, and I, for one, am sad.

Taber

by Rae

To many of us **TABER** is our hometown. Many generations of Halls have lived here, but Olive, second generation is the only one of Orson Eli and Ethel's family still calling it HOME. So does her son Eric, third generation; his son Tim, fourth generation; now his son Ott Junior is the fifth. The McCartee daughters and their families and Evan's daughter Jane, also have offspring going into the fifth generation. Although surnames have changed they are all descendents of Ott and Ethel HALL. To the rest of us who have left Taber, living near or far, there is always a yearning to return.

Several years ago, when I was young, there were dozens of cousins, boys and girls. Each member of our family had a cousin their own age, and many older and younger. Now, I understand, there are only two men in Taber who are descendents of Orson Hall, Senior with the privilege of the surname Hall, Jerry, Evan's son is one of them.

In 1902 James S. Hull decided to leave Utah and travel to Western Canada with the intention of moving if the venture seemed feasible and he could obtain land for homesteading. He returned to Utah, reporting there was great potential and was excited about returning with his family. He was one of the first to homestead, many others followed. Their names are very familiar to us, VanOrman, Bennett, Edwards, Layton, Easthope, Pierson, Meacham, Godfrey.

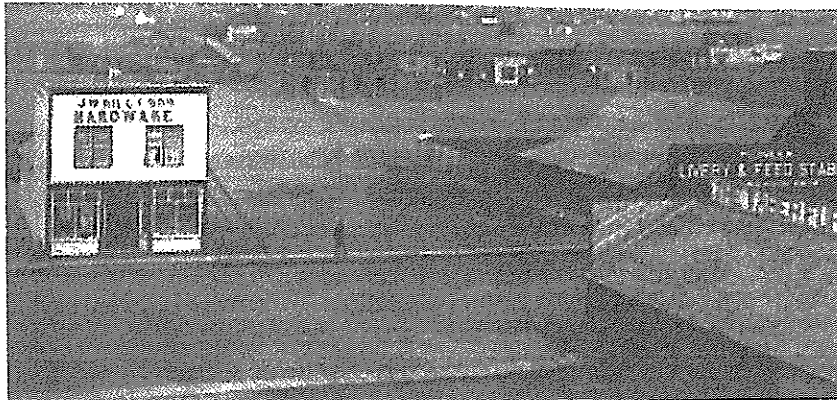


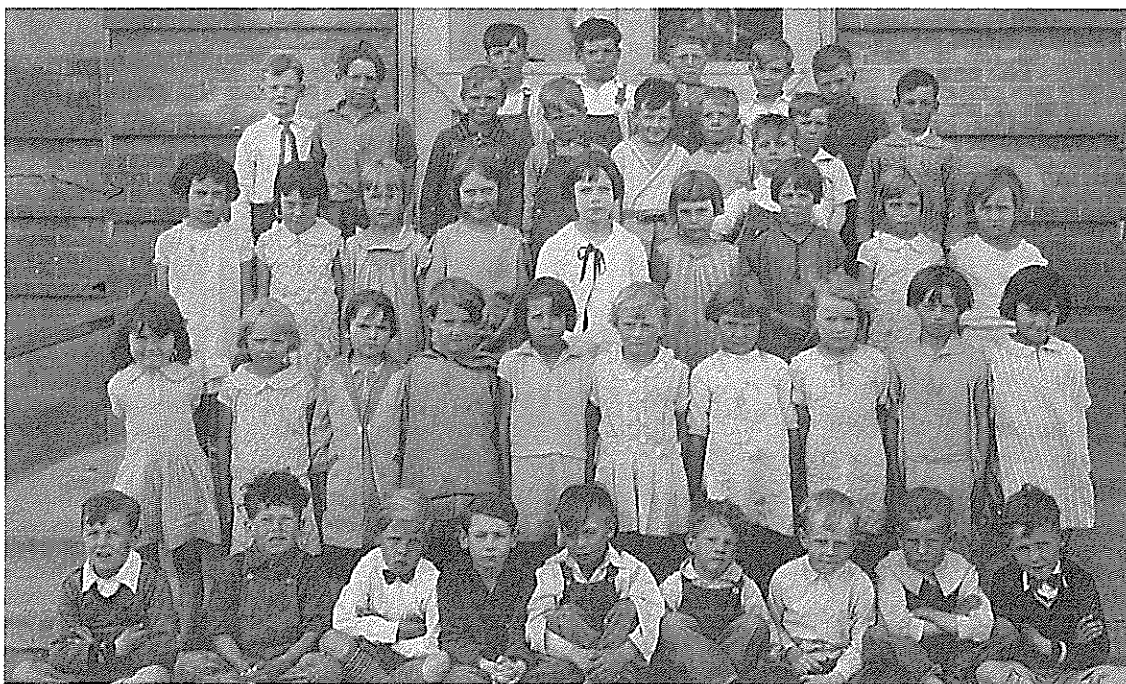
Photo of the Town of Taber, fall of 1907

The population increased rapidly and a town started to appear. Water was pumped from the Old Man River to the 77 mile tank to supply the trains with water. At one time, before the name of Taber was given it was known as Tank 77. The name Tabor was given to the town in honor of a railroad official by that name but soon became Taber.

I don't remember life on the farm, I was always a town girl. Although I was born on the farm, life for me began in Taber. There were a few stores, Smith & Woods, Dry Goods and Groceries, we could phone in an order and it would be delivered by Horace Hackett by horse and buggy. Mother would charge groceries and then Dad would pay the bill in the fall. In gratitude for payment, Byard Smith always filled a bag with candy (hard tack) for the family. Stella Smith, a sister-in-law to Byard, ruled the Dry Goods Dept. and always knew how much yardage was required for a certain pattern. Vickeries

was a grocery store and opened early in the morning. When Mother needed something for unexpected breakfast guests, I would run to Vickeries for the necessary item. Pa McCartee was always there, and because he said I was the first customer, I got a free bag of jelly beans. Mah Joe & Nam (sp) was a combined grocery and restaurant. There must not have been rigid inspections; for that establishment would never have passed. But the long display cases held toothsome delights and five cents bought a varied assortment of candy. Campbell & Anderson's was the one and only men and ladies wear store, mostly staffed by one or more of the family. Everyone went to the Post Office for their mail; a few people had the luxury of rented boxes where their mail was placed, but most of us had to go to the window and ask cranky Mrs. Munroe for our mail. I worked at the Post Office for a short time until Mother suggested I get another job, as I was getting as ornery as Mrs. Munroe. Mrs. Winwood was always accusing me of giving her mail to Bishop Wood or Father Lyons.

The Taber Central School was in our block, and if we were going to be late for school we could dash through the Smith's back yard and rush into school. (That is, if the Smith's mean rooster was penned; if he was out he'd chase us and peck at our legs.) We could rush home from school for our noon meal and listen to "Tarzan of the Apes" on the radio. My children are amazed that I can name every child in my first grade picture.

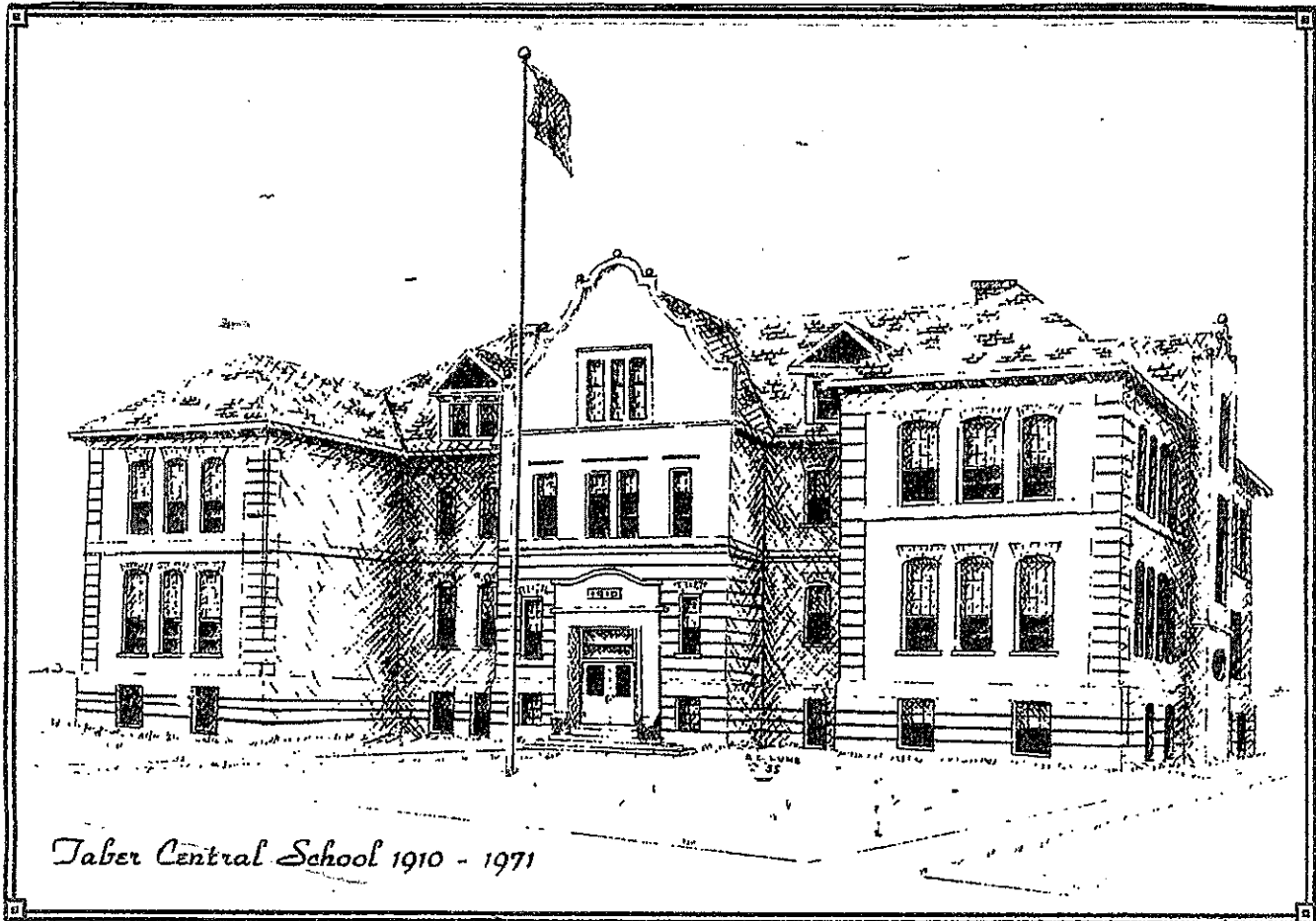


GRADE 1 - 1929-30

- Top Row: Don Hurley, Evan Evans, Wolfgang Feller, Lorne Armstrong, (...).
- 4th Row: Donnie Campbell, Parley Hill, Willie Wright, Ralph Valgardson, Hubert Prowse, Jack Dunn, Wally Hall, Joseph VanHees, Willie Trivalia.
- 3rd Row: Alice Meacham, Elva Perdue, Jean Duce, Marion Irwin, Lola Conlin, Mary Rombough, Norma Johnson, Opal Stewart.
- 2nd Row: Ray Hall, Thelma Makinson, Ardell Price, Florence Birch, Mildred Valgardson, Audrey Sundal, Robina Love, Jennie Bland, Christina Black, Gladys Hamman.
- 1st Row: Norman Long, Stanley Reamsbottom, Norman Fooks, Edmond Harding, Jimmy Potts, Stanley Larsen, Tommy Browning, Dean Francis, Herbert Rose.

In the winter we were always delighted when a snowstorm gave us a day off school, but Mother would insist we go, just in case there would be a teacher there. If a blizzard came while school was in session, some of the country

kids would not be able to make it home, and a few times some of them would stay with us. I remember especially, the Baroldi's, Dorothy and Lillian, who stayed with us in such a situation. On cold days we could go to the basement for recess and had such fun playing the old familiar games, 'Farmer in the Dell', 'London Bridge, and many more. Young people now cannot comprehend the agony of visiting the outdoor privy located behind the school, a wooden structure, painted red. There were two rows of holes, about 6 holes to a row, no toilet paper, if we were lucky there would be old newspapers. Often I could go home and back quicker than using the school privies.



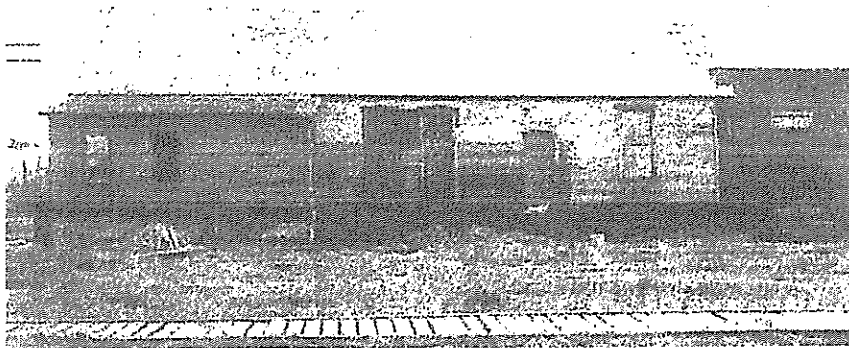
Taber Central School 1910 - 1971

There was quite an assortment of teachers, as I look back now, most of them were very good. My favorite was Miss Bell, I had her in third and fourth grades, she was not only a good teacher, but a lovely one. Every morning we said "The Lord's Prayer" and at the end of the day we sang "Now the Day is Over". Quite a change now when a school prayer is outlawed.

Our home was just a block from the Church, and on Tuesday's after school we would go directly from school to Primary. As we got older and 'graduated' to M.I.A. we became Beehive girls, then Juniors, Gleaners. How blessed I was to have good teachers who spent much time, not only giving us Gospel lessons, but extra activities and fun. The janitor for the Church was Brother Potts, a dear little Englishman with a cockney accent. The Church was his pride and joy, we were more reverent and obedient for him, than for our teachers.



Dear to our hearts are the memories of the Saturday Night dances in the old Social Hall. Very seldom did we go to the dances with dates. It was more fun to go with the girls and dance with many fellows instead of just one. We would spend hours decorating that old hall for a "Green and Gold Ball" and it would be transformed into a beautiful ballroom. That night we would have a date!



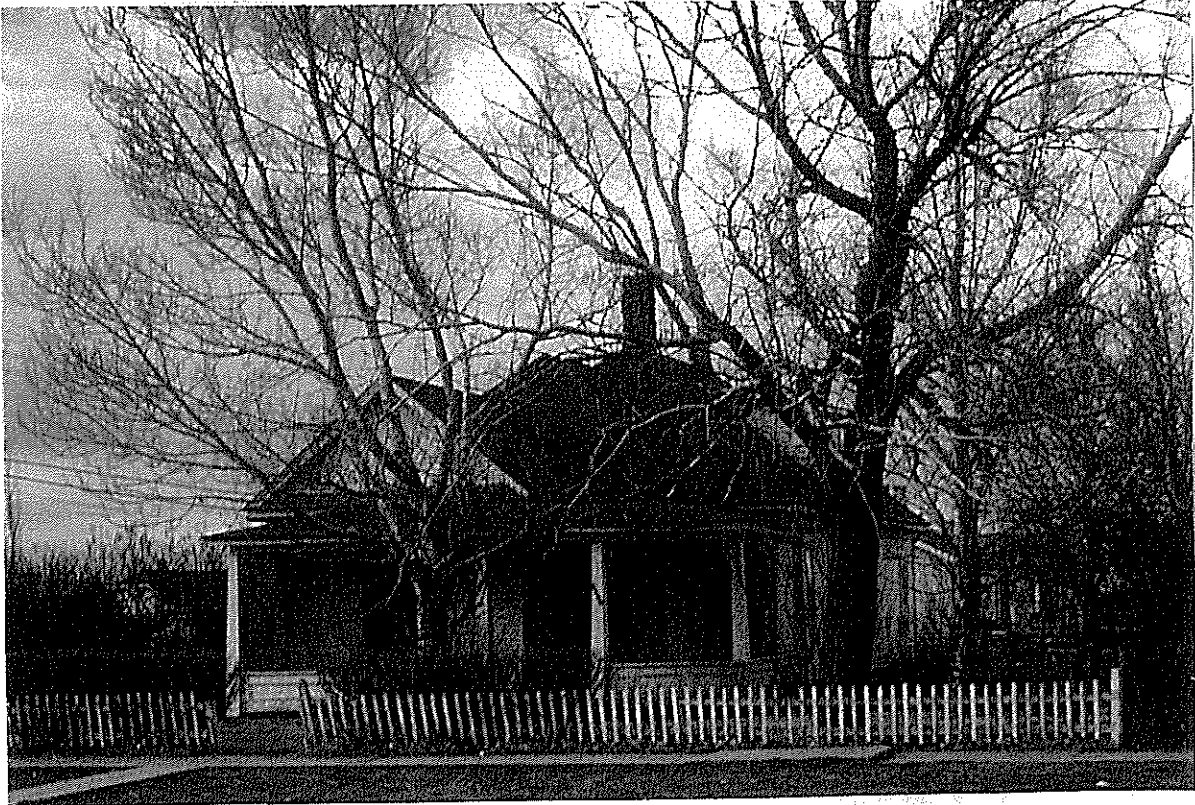
Old Social Hall in the uptown setting

The Rex Theatre provided good movies and we enjoyed the Saturday afternoon matinees - just ten cents for kids under twelve. After the main show there was usually a serial, more exciting than the main show. Taber was blessed with an excellent band, John Johanson was the director. Band concerts were often held on Sunday nights around the Little World War I Memorial down town. In the winter they were in the Rex Theatre. Taber appreciated it's band.

The River Park was a fun place for picnics, family reunions and weiner roasts. Many people would swim there but it was a treacherous place and a few people drowned. It was interesting watching George Vayro float in the river. His large stomach protruded several inches above the water, it was amazing to everyone that he didn't sink. Across the bridge there was a spot in the river designated as the Baptismal for the L.D.S. Church. Olive was baptized there by Grandpa Hall.

If we were desperate for entertainment we could go downtown and stand in front of the White Lunch when the Greyhound Bus came in about nine p.m. Jardine would be there to amuse the passengers, and the locals, with his song and dance routine. He was one of Taber's favorite characters, and there were quite a few of them. I loved taking our shoes to be half-soled at Mr. Perini's shop, he was entertaining and his shop had a wonderful leather smell. Whenever I passed Brush Grubb's little office I would stop and hope to see him at his desk. I was fascinated by his handle-bar moustache. Yes! That was his real name! There was sweet, little Johnny that everyone understood, and were very careful when they parked their cars. Johnny had an invisible one, only he knew where it was parked, there was trouble if someone dented it.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to grow up in Taber. We made forever friends, our home was a refuge where we enjoyed love, good times and choice experiences. There were four marriages performed in the front parlours, Marjorie and Howard, Evan and Eva, Rita and Howard, Gordon and Barbara. LaVon and I were married in the Cardston Temple but our reception was held at home, thanks to my dear sisters. There was one birth, Marianne King was born in Mother's bedroom. I remember one time when a body rested on our dining room table. A Rombough boy was killed in a mine accident, I don't recall the circumstances resulting in our home being a temporary mortuary. Another time a wee baby in her coffin was in our front parlour. However, two very sacred occasions occurred when Dad's body was returned home for viewing before his funeral, also Mother's.



The Scent of the Roses

*Let fate do her worst; there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;
Which come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.
Long, long be my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled -
You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.*