

CHAPIN - ANDERSON

July 15⁸²

Submitted By Ordie (Chapin) Anderson.

Dad, Frederick Lewis Chapin, was Born at Osage, Iowa, U.S.A. on March 31, 1870. Mother, Ethel May Chapin, was born at Park River, North Dakota, U.S.A. on March 9, 1881, to Mr. & Mrs. Giles C, Oakes. My two eldest sisters, Addie & Ida (twins) were born at Roosevelt, Minnesota in 1908. About two years later, 1910, Dad & Mother & twins travelled to Canada by oxen team and filed on a homestead in Alberta about 8 miles East of Colinton adjoining Canoe Lake. In those days it was a long and hard trip.

The first home, of course, was a log house. I don't remember much about it - in fact very little. But here was where sisters Edith and Ethel, brother John and myself were born.

It took a lot of hard work and time to clear the land and break it. Dad went into mixed farming, which I think was the only way to go. We had a lot of horses, cows, pigs, chickens and fields of grain - wheat, oats, barley, hay, etc., also a big vegetable garden. Some years later Dad built a store a short distance from the house, where he sold groceries, tobacco, candy, etc., also a Post Office and Creamery. This location was called Stocks, Alberta. He also had a blacksmith shop. I remember different farmers coming to Dad to have something welded. The forge and the bellows are pictured clearly in my memory. Threshing was a big event, lots of men to feed, so the women were kept busy cooking and making coffee and tea. Mother and Dad often had hired help as they couldn't begin to do it all by themselves.

Pine Creek ran through our farm. We children had great times fishing and swimming in the summer and skating in winter. One spring the creek flooded - the lake must have overflowed too, as there was water all over the fields. We waited and watched - Dad said, If it came up to the barn, we would have to move to higher ground. It came to within a few feet of the barn, then started to recede, so we didn't have to evacuate.

Some of our neighbors were Bob Gilmore, Grandpa and Grandma Oakes, our maternal grandparents, Uncle Walter and Aunt^E Unice Oakes and family, Oscar Oakes, Sr., mother's cousin, Crackles, Watsons, Ashbys, Morbess, Mike Miller, Robinsons, Reeds, no doubt I have not mentioned them all. The school that my older sisters went to, was two miles from our place - Keyes School. They used to walk with other children, including our cousins. Sometimes Mother or our Aunt would take them or bring them home with a team of horses. The school dances were great fun in those days. The whole family went and the ladies supplied the lunch. The Mitchells were popular musicians at that time.

A new store was built on Bob Gilmore's place (I don't know what year) who operated it until his death. So the store on our place was remodelled inside for our home and a kitchen built on. This is the only original building still standing. The Wetankos, who now own the farm, lived in this same house for fifteen years after we left it. (Wetankos)

We used to pick berries in the summer for jam, jellies and preserves. Mum made us wear straw hats, how I hated them, or we would probably get sun stroke and lots more freckles! One day we were picking strawberries; John was about three years old; he suddenly dropped his pail and said quite emphatically, "I'mot pick anymore o' those dod damn little twa-babies, I go home to Papa", and started marching down the road.

By the time Addie, Ida and Edith were ready for High School, Dad and Mother bought a house in Athabasca from Mr. & Mrs. Percy Taylor. Mother's cousin, Oscar Oakes Sr. remodelled and built on to it. Here is where I started school in the old brick school. I went from Grade I on through high school and received my diploma. All those years I had only three regular teachers - Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Heacock and H. G. Shaw. Grandpa Oakes stayed with us in town until his death, as Mum and Dad were still on the farm. We were by ourselves for a while, but of course, the twins were older by then. Mrs. Taylor was like a second mother to us. Often when we came home at noon for lunch, she would come over with a pot of soup for us. She was such a good neighbor and friend. Some of our other neighbors and friends in Athabasca were the Nancekivells, the Crawfords, the Burgerons, *Daigneau* Danieous, Falconers, Mackies, MacIntyres, Dents and others. Some time later Grandma Oakes came and stayed with us.

When the twins left High School, Ida worked at the Telephone Office, and Addie at the Post Office. Edith went to Normal School and her first teaching position was in Athabasca. Ethel and I were still in High School, John in Public School. We had our Literary Society, with debates, speeches, current events and high school parties. We had many good times, with school events sports days, when we competed with Clyde, ending with a dance the same night.

About 1932 or 1933 we formed an all girl orchestra; the only male member was Percy Taylor, who was our instructor and leader. He played violin and sister Edith had taken violin lessons from him previously. Dorothy (Hershberger) Tatlock played piano, Percy Taylor and Edith on violin, Alvah (Hays) Coats on banjo, sister Ethel on guitar and myself on drums. Irah Peterson played with us for a short time, then dropped out. We were called the Collegians, and had a ball playing for dances in and around Athabasca. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Later on we broke the all girl routine and Wilson Miller and Jim Keier joined us. They both played horns, so made quite an improvement. Consequently we changed the name from Collegians to "The Tempos".

About 1930, Ida married Art Vaugeois who had a meat market in town. After their marriage they left for British Columbia, where they took up residence in Vancouver area. Addie left for B. C. about 1934, where she met and married Jack Cummings, who worked for B. C. Hydro.

In 1929, the Harry Anderson family came to Athabasca, and took up residence in a home across the street from our home. They had five children, namely-Clifford, Douglas, Bernice, Jim and Frank. Doug went to Barber School in 1931 in Edmonton where he received his barber's license. He opened a shop in Athabasca and later

when a larger space was available, which was next door to Davey Jone's office, he had a barber shop, pool room and smoke shop. Doug and I were married on Nov. 10, 1936. Our first home was in Jake Benton's house which we rented for Five Dollars a month, unbelievable isn't it?

Edith married Joe McCoy the following month of the same year and made their home in Boyle, Alta. On Oct. 13, 1937, our first son was born, James Lewis. Twenty-two hours later a daughter was born to Edith & Joe McCoy. Edith and I were in beds side by side in the maternity ward - what a riot. We had each others company through it all, and had lots of laughs about this and that. On Dec 15, 1939 our daughter, Maureen May was born. By this time the Second World War broke out and all the rest of my family had moved to B. C.. In their letters they said there was lots of work to be had in Vancouver, B. C., so we left Athabasca on Dec. 15, 1941. Doug worked for Boeings for about two years, then at B.C. Plywoods for approximately two years. Our third child, another son, Wayne Kenneth was born Sept. 25, 1942, so now our family was complete. Ethel married Cliff Hutchins and has one son. John is married to Helen (Kish) and has one son and two daughters.

Doug decided to go back to barbering, so obtained a book from the B.C. Barbers Association to read, as one could not barber in B. C. on an Alberta license. He wrote his exam and received his B.C. Barber's slicense. A short time later, he opened a shop on Fraser Avenue, first one chair, then two and finally three chairs. He had this shop for about 32 years. Our oldest son, Jim, went to Barber School too, and worked with his Dad for a few years, then went in to partnership with him. In 1975 Doug sold his share of the shop to Jim, who is still owner and operator. Maureen is a checker for Market Foods in Langley, and Wayne is owner and operator of Mighty Brake & Muffler in Courtenay, B.C. on Vancouver Island. They are all married and we have eight grandchildren. Doug is retired, and we live in a pleasant mobile home park in Penticton, where we have good friends and neighbors.

We have been back to Athabasca several times since we left, and really enjoy visiting there and seeing the changes and old friends. We were there last summer, when we went to different locations with Don & Marj Logan, including our old farm site. We had a marvelous time.

Ida presently lives in Edmonds, Washington, Addie and Ethel in Burnaby and Edith is in a nursing home in Leduc. They are all widows. John and his family live here in Penticton, where he operates Beaver Gas Bar, self serve, on Main Street.