The Family History of
Samuel BENNET
(ca 1820-1896)
and
Elisabeth “Betty” McCORMICK
(1811-1895),
their children and
grandchildren

D'Arcy Hande ©
Box 32040, Erindale P.O.
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CANADA
March 2022
1-Samuel BENNET, son of Robert BENNOCH and Margaret KIRK, was born about 1820 in Glencairn Parish, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, died on 24 Nov 1896 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada about age 76, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada.

General Notes: Proclamations of banns, Glencairn parish records, 26 Feb 1843

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: Presbyterian.
3. Residence: 1851, Braehead, Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland. visiting with John and Jean McCormick
4. Biographical information:
   In 1881, the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was opening up the Canadian West in conjunction with the Dominion Government, began promotion in Great Britain of the advantages of settlement in the West. A pamphlet was issued entitled The Great Prairie Provinces of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. No doubt one of the main attractions pointed out in this brochure was the offer by the Dominion Government of 160-acre homesteads for a mere $10 registration fee. Perhaps it was a brochure like this that fell into the hands of the New Cumnock Bennets, for in 1882 they reached the monumental decision to emigrate from the land of their ancestors to Canada. In some respects this is remarkable, since Samuel was over sixty years of age, and Elizabeth was now in her seventies. . . .

   In March 1882 the Bennets left New Cumnock for Canada. We do not know their exact route, but we can be sure that their entrance into Manitoba was made through the United States. The Canadian Pacific Railway line had not been completed through northern Ontario at this point in time. It is hard to recreate in our minds just what the family met as they stepped off the train in Winnipeg. Although the Red River settlement here dated back some 70 years, the city of Winnipeg still had only 10,000 people in 1882. The province of Manitoba was only a dozen years old. Just the year before its boundary had been pushed 120 miles farther west to accommodate the flood of immigrants brought in by the C.P.R.

   The Bennets did not stay long in the provincial capital. Soon they were back on the train and travelling westward to Brandon, a railway town that had sprung up that very year from bald prairie. Here they disembarked again. Samuel and Angus heard of homestead lands available to the north-west, so they travelled on foot over the sixty-odd miles to Birtle. Once in Birtle, they went directly to the Dominion Lands Office, and they each filed on a homestead and pre-emption. The date was the 24th June 1882. Samuel selected the West half of Section 6, Township 21, Range 29, West of the Prime Meridian, land bordering on the western-most boundary of Manitoba. Angus filed on the East half of the same Section. Then, without going the additional 30 miles to see the lands they
When Samuel and Elizabeth died, they had contributed a great deal to the future well-being of the family. One implements they used, some handmade, this was quite an accomplishment.

That over 100 acres were open for cropping on the full Section 6 after about ten years on the land. Considering the breaking of land continued. Both men also had their pre-emptions to work on. By 1888 over thirty acres had been broken and cropped on Angus's pre-emption. Another twelve acres were broken on Samuel's by 1893. That meant years they found solace in the lines scribbled in the front of their Bible:

1896 at the age of 76. Both he and his wife are buried in the Russell cemetery. We can be sure that in these last hours over these months, Samuel would tell Bess stories and sing songs to her. . . .

Getting established on the homestead was a formidable task. Angus and Mary built their first home on the S.E. 6-21-29, only a short walk away from Samuel and Elizabeth's. The younger couple's house was also constructed of logs, 14 feet by 16 feet. It had two storeys. There were two bedrooms upstairs, and another bedroom, a dining room and a kitchen downstairs. The furniture was almost entirely handmade by the men, who put their joiner's skills to good use. When Angus applied for the patent to his homestead in 1886, he valued their home at $200.

As for the farming operation, Samuel seeded the six acres he had broken on his homestead the previous year, and he broke another fifteen acres in 1883. On Angus's land seven acres were broken that first year, 3 1/2 of which were put in crop. They also erected a 14 ft. X 16 ft. stable for the oxen. Other livestock did not appear until 1885, when they had three cattle, including the team of oxen, and five pigs. These years were poor for farming - dry summers, early frosts, low prices for grain, high prices for agricultural implements. All supplies had to be obtained from Birtle, Russell or Moosomin. Wherever they went, it meant crossing a river. A boat had to be built to cross the Assiniboine. Ploughshares would be carried to Birtle or Russell for sharpening. The women would have to walk to Russell for those supplies which they could not produce for themselves on the farm.

The children were able to play to their hearts' content once the chores were done. There was no school, so their grandfather would teach them some simple lessons when they ran over to the grandparents' home. Elizabeth no doubt had her hands full when the children came over. Bertie (Macdonald) Bruce remembers that they would often be scolded for marking up Grandmother's best cutlery. When the children became too much for her, she would go to the door and say, "Who's that coming over the hill?" When the youngsters ran to see for themselves, she would shoo them out the door and send them on their way home.

The unfamiliarity of the family with their new homeland was at times a cause of anxiety and at other times of amusement. Occasionally a prairie fire would sweep through the area. These infernos were often miles across and were whipped up by the wind currents they themselves generated. The only protection was to plough fire-guards around crops and buildings in an effort to avoid loss of one's belongings. The first total eclipse of the sun was also a terrifying experience. In the spring of 1885 there was widespread unrest among Indians and Metis, leading to the Riel Rebellion in the North-West Territories. At this time a band of Indians approached the farm along a prairie trail, and the women and children, being alone at the time, hid in an overturned wagon box until they had passed by--apparently, quite peacefully. . . . One funny occurrence was the day Grandmother Elizabeth came along carrying by the tail a "bonnie wee beastie" with stripes down its back which she had found. One can imagine the commotion when she was informed that it was a skunk! . . .

In 1890 Grandfather Samuel received patent to his homestead, the N.W. 6-21-29. However, the clearing and breaking of land continued. Both men also had their pre-emptions to work on. By 1888 over thirty acres had been broken and cropped on Angus's pre-emption. Another twelve acres were broken on Samuel's by 1893. That meant that over 100 acres were open for cropping on the full Section 6 after about ten years on the land. Considering the implements they used, some handmade, this was quite an accomplishment.

When Samuel and Elizabeth died, they had contributed a great deal to the future well-being of the family. One wonders if they had much time to feel some longing for their homeland. No doubt they were disappointed that they could not return at least for a visit before the end of their days, but the tight financial situation precluded any such plans. Elizabeth died at their home on 24th August 1895 at 84 years of age. After her death, Samuel moved into a small house that was built for him in Angus's yard. Here he died a little more than a year later on 24th November 1896 at the age of 76. Both he and his wife are buried in the Russell cemetery. We can be sure that in these last years they found solace in the lines scribbled in the front of their Bible:
There's a land that is fairer than day,
and by faith we can see it afar,
for the father went over the way
to prepare us a dwelling place there.
In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore.
In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Samuel married Elisabeth "Betty" McCORMICK, daughter of Robert McORNOCK and Mary OSBURN, on 10 Mar 1843 in Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Elisabeth "Betty" was born in Sep 1811 in Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, died on 24 Aug 1895 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 83, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Elisabeth "Betty" was BENNET. They had four children: Robert, William, Alexander, and Angus McDonald.

Marriage Notes:

BENNET, Samuel - M10/3/1843 - At Sanquhar, on the 10th curt. Mr Samuel Bennet, Cottage Row, Moniaive, to Miss Elizabeth M'Cormick, New Cumnock.

"Marriage Notices from the Wigtownshire Free Press"
Transcribed by Diana Henry and Compiled by Randy Chapple
Updated: May 11, 2004
http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~leighann/wfp/marriages/2.html

Birth Notes: Baptized 10 Sep 1811; according to the 1851 census, she was born at Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire

General Notes: WIGTOWN FREE PRESS INDEX, Vol. 1, 1843-80

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: Presbyterian.
2. Residence: 1851, Braehead, Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland visiting with John and Jean McCormick
11-Robert BENNET was born in 1844, died on 15 Oct 1847 in Brochloch, Carsphairn Parish, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland at age 3, and was buried in Carsphairn, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland.

Death Notes: Kirkcudbright monumental inscriptions (1990), p. 107;

*Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser of November 3rd 1847:*
"At Brockloch, parish of Carsphairn, on the 15th ult., Robert, aged 3 ½ years; and on the 18th ult., William aged 2 years - sons of Samuel Bennet farmer there."

Grave marker in Carsphairn churchyard:

*[Partially obliterated] Inscription reads:*
"Erected by SAMUEL BENNET in memory of his sons who died at Brockloch, [name] on the 15th October 1847 in the 4th year of age. William 18th October 1867 in the 2nd year of his life."

12-William BENNET was born in 1845-1846, died on 18 Oct 1847 in Brochloch, Carsphairn Parish, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland at age 2, and was buried in Carsphairn, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland.

General Notes: The name is given as John in "Kirkcudbright Monumental Inscriptions," but Robert in the death notice in "Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser." Robert seems more likely, given that was the name of both his grandfathers.

Death Notes: Kirkcudbright monumental inscriptions (1990), p. 107;
*Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser of November 3rd 1847:*
"At Brockloch, parish of Carsphairn, on the 15th ult., Robert, aged 3 ½ years; and on the 18th ult., William aged 2 years - sons of Samuel Bennet farmer, there."
13- **Alexander BENNET** was born on 7 Sep 1848 in Brochloch, Carsphairn Parish, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, died on 15 Oct 1870 at age 22, and was buried in Old Cemetery, New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Death Notes: There is no record of death in Scotland, giving rise to speculation that he might have died elsewhere.

General Notes: Parish register for New Cumnock; grave marker
Census of Scotland, 1861
Jeanie BENNETT SCHEPP

Noted events in his life:

1. Occupation: Salesman.

14- **Angus McDonald BENNET** was born on 5 Feb 1851 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 21 Dec 1915 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 64, and was buried on 23 Dec 1915 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada.

General Notes: Middle name "McDonald" does not appear in his own bapt. rec., but does appear in the bapt. recs. for his children Mary & Samuel.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: Presbyterian.
3. Biographical information:

Angus . . . inherited his father's farm and continued to work on it with his family. By the turn of the century he had a hundred head of cattle and six horses. In 1901 he purchased from the Crown another 320 acres on the south half of Section 7-21-29, bringing his total property to 90 acres. Obviously times were getting better. Indeed the droughts and low prices for farm produce which had hampered farmers for several years were over by 1897 and the economy began to boom. In 1901 Manitoba had a bumper crop of wheat and there was no shortage of markets for it.

With the new prosperity, the Bennets were able to do some of the things they had had to put off for so many years. In 1902 Angus and Mary decided to return to Scotland for a visit. Mary travelled by passenger train to Montreal, where she was met by Angus, who had made the trip on a cattle train. From Montreal they set sail for the Old Country. They remained there until next spring. When they returned from overseas, Angus and Mary were accompanied by a nephew and niece: Robert Stevenson was the son of Mary's sister Janet, and Mary Trotter was the daughter of Mary's brother Robert. Robert Stevenson worked in the district for a while and then moved to British Columbia to work on the railway. Mary Trotter stayed on to marry her cousin Robert T. Bennet in 1905. There are a couple of other sidelines to the Bennets' trip to Scotland: Mary Bennet brought back a gift with her, a teapot on which were the words "Mrs. Bennet, Manatoba (sic), 1903," which is still in the family. The autumn after their return to Canada, Mary Bennet's brother Robert and his wife had a baby boy, whom they named Angus Bennet Trotter.

In 1904 another dream was realized when Angus and Mary built a new frame house. It had a total of nine rooms on two storeys: two stairways led up to six bedrooms, and downstairs there was a large dining room, sitting room and kitchen. Here many happy family gatherings took place and friends entertained on their visits. House parties and dances were common forms of recreation in the community, and the sitting room offered spacious room for the more dignified events such as family weddings. In 1906 a huge stone and frame barn 34 feet by 80 feet was constructed to replace the log stables which had previously been used.

Mrs. Bertie Bruce [foster daughter] can remember some of the entertainment which occupied the Bennets and their neighbours, especially during the winter months. She recalls dances and house parties at which music was provided by the talented Blain family. A neighbour named Sandy Black used to play his bagpipes for them in later years. Card games that they enjoyed playing were King Pedro, an early form of Bridge, and Rummy. During quieter times, the women would sit mending clothes or knitting, while everyone did a lot of reading.

The flavour of those early days comes out in this priceless letter written by Angus Bennet to his daughter Mary, who had married Robert Boles in 1899 and lived many miles away at Spy Hill, Saskatchewan:

Harrowby 18th Jany. 1909

Well Mary

just a few lines to let you know that we are still alive, we had quite a time at the dnce and we have had quite time since. [Son] Bob has been in bed since they day after. he had newmonia and they Dr has been here twice. he was here yesterday. he says he's all right, we have they whole family here and the baby (Bert) is a little Devil to howl and they Boys keeps Bertie going. Mag [daughter Margaret] and [son] Alex was at they Mackabe (Maccabees) Ball at Russell on Friday. They Lees was their Erney with his evening suit on. we are expecting Bill and Bess (Cusitar) over to day Sunday. their is to be a dnce in Harrowby School on Friday night. all welcome. Ladys fitch your basket. . . . when are you coming over? your Ma and me is talking about going to Winnipeg at the Bonespeal. Bill and Bess is going to. you and Bob had better come along and we will have a good time. was it cold over your way about a week ago? it was a corker here. now I will stop.

good by from your Dad.

Angus Bennet's community involvement was not entirely limited to the lighter side of life. For several years he was a trustee for the Harrowby School District. His last term in this position ended in 1911. In 1912 the Presbyterians in the Harrowby district finally were able to build a small church, and Angus was active in
making this possible. The whole family took part in church activities, and it is likely that prior to the erection of the church some services were held in the spacious Bennet home.

Hospitality was a way of life for the Bennets, as those from Langenburg and other districts to the north west who went to Millwood to get flour from the mill would always stop off for tea and lunch. These habits seemed to stick with Mary, as she was always giving tea and scones to someone.

In 1910 Angus and Mary again were able to make a trip to Scotland. They returned the following spring. 1911 was a hard year for the family, as Maggie and Sam both died after short marriages. Soon after, Angus's health began to fail and he was forced to retire from farm activities. Flora and her brothers carried on under the steady direction of their parents. After a lengthy illness with a poor heart, Angus died at home on 21 December 1915. He was buried two days later in the Russell cemetery.

Angus McDonald married Mary TROTTER, daughter of Robert TROTTER and Margaret MIDDLETON, on 24 Apr 1873 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. Mary was born on 12 May 1855 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 24 Apr 1937 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 81, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Mary was BENNET. They had ten children: Elizabeth, Mary Middleton, Samuel, Robert Trotter, Margaret Middleton, Jessie Trotter, Alexander, Flora, Angus Armstrong, and Thomas Martin.

Marriage Notes: LDS IGI gives marriage date as 24 Apr 1874
General Notes: LDS IGI gives date as 24 Apr 1874
Noted events in her life:

A family gathering at Angus and Mary Bennet’s farm home near Harrowby, Manitoba, ca. 1904. Angus and Mary are seated at centre.
Elizabeth BENNET was born on 20 Jul 1874 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 23 Mar 1944 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 69, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Elizabeth was CUSITAR.

Elizabeth (Bennet) and William Cusitar

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: United Church.
2. Biographical information:

Elizabeth, the eldest child of Angus and Mary Bennet, was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, on 20 July 1874. She started school in New Cumnock, but her formal education ended when the family emigrated to Canada in 1882. Her grandfather, Samuel Bennet, gave Elizabeth, her brothers and sisters some informal instruction on the homestead while they were growing up.

Elizabeth was a great help to her parents, both in the fields and housework. It was on one of the shopping trips into Russell with her mother that she first caught the eye of William Cusitar, a young settler near Russell. They got to know each other better at community dances, which were quite a common form of entertainment at the time. On 29 November 1892 William and Elizabeth were married at the Bennet home near Harrowby.

William Cusitar was the son of David Magnus Cusitar and his wife Margaret Whitford. He was born at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, on 4 May 1864. William's father, a native of the Orkney Islands, had come to Western Canada as an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. In later years he farmed and owned a store at Portage la Prairie. In 1882 William obtained a homestead claim on the North-West quarter and a pre-emption on the South-West quarter of Section 6-21-28, near Russell. He brought a team of oxen, a plow and other settler's effects from Portage la Prairie to begin work.

In the years prior to his marriage, William was quite active in community activities. He joined the first baseball team in the Russell district, known as the "Maple Leafs," when they were organized in 1889. He also joined the Knights of Maccabees, a fraternal organization in Russell. And in 1889, when the first brass band was organized in the town, William took part in that.

The early years in Bill and Bess Cusitar's marriage were filled with hard work as they got their farm operation established. In order to brighten up the interior of their two-story log home, Bess lined the walls with yards of unbleached cotton, which sometimes was tinted with various colours. Since they did not have a cream separator, they took cans of fresh milk about two miles to the Dr. Bernardo orphan's home where the cream was separated and sold to the Barnardo creamery.
In 1895 William purchased a threshing machine with which he did custom work for his neighbours, as well as his own harvesting work. Later in 1909 a steam tractor was bought and the family did breaking of land to earn extra money. Before the turn of the century William bought a saw mill in the Riding Mountains and sold lumber in the Russell District. This mill supplied jobs for many men in the family over the winter months when logging was easiest. Another sideline was Bill's raising of Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses for sale in the area.

The Cusitars' efforts prospered so that they were able to buy the East half of Section 6-21-28. In 1901 a new home was built on the North-East quarter of that Section. It was constructed of bricks and lumber from Bill's mill in the Riding Mountains. Later electricity was installed in this house, making it the envy of the Bennett relatives across the River. Another two sections of land (1-21-29 and 29-20-28) were purchased from the Barnardo Home estate, so that by the time of Bill's retirement each of his children were established on a half-section (320 acres) of land.

With the size of the farm, keeping up with domestic duties, children and hired hands was a full-time job for Bess. Nevertheless, she is remembered as kind and even-tempered amid the hectic activities. The family had little time to spare, but Bess was always glad to give a helping hand in community and school activities. She enjoyed hobbies like sewing and embroidery, and her pride was the flock of Plymouth Rock chickens which she raised.

On 22 August 1921 William died at his home after a lengthy sickness with cancer. He was buried in the Russell cemetery. Bess and the children continued on the farm. One by one the younger generation married and moved away. Mary and Lawrence, who remained unmarried, stayed with her mother until her death at home on 23 March 1944. Elizabeth was buried beside her husband in the Russell cemetery.

Elizabeth married William CUSITAR, son of David Magnus CUSITAR and Margaret WHITFORD, on 29 Nov 1892 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. William was born on 4 May 1864 in Poplar Point, Manitoba, Canada, died on 22 Aug 1921 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 57, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. They had seven children: Mary, Maud, David, Angus, Lawrence Cameron, Edward, and Clifford.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: Presbyterian Church.

Mary Middleton BENNET was born on 17 Mar 1876 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 18 Apr 1948 in Spy Hill, Saskatchewan, Canada at age 72, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Mary Middleton was BOLES.

General Notes: Bapt. record, Arthur Memorial Church, New Cumnock

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: United Church.
2. Residence: 1906, Marquette census district, Manitoba, Canada.
3. Biographical information:
Mary Middleton Bennet, second child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennet, was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 17 March 1876. When her family came to Canada in 1882, she was just six years old. The first winter was spent in Moosomin, and the following spring she moved with the family onto her father's homestead in what is now the Harrowby district of
Manitoba. As a young woman, Mary enjoyed riding her pet pony "Jip." A side saddle which she used is in the antique collection of Mrs. Charles Clarke of Spy Hill, Saskatchewan.

On 25 December 1899 Mary married Robert Boles at her parents' home near Harrowby. Robert was the son of William and Dorcas Boles, born 25 August 1877 in South Sherbrooke Township, Lanark County, Ontario. About 1884 his parents decided to move to Western Canada. They arrived at Fort Ellice, near present day St. Lazare, Manitoba, on the last boat to make its way up the Assiniboine River from Winnipeg. Fort Ellice was just at the end of the many years of service in the Hudson's Bay Company. Robert could remember the annual preparation of pemmican, a compound of meat, fat and berries, which provided sustenance for the fur company's employees and other travellers going West.

Robert Boles's mother died in childbirth while he was still quite young. As a young man he spent a couple of years herding sheep for Mr. Emerson Bligh, a homesteader in the Bavelaw district, near Spy Hill, Saskatchewan. He then purchased a farm near Fort Ellice. It was here that he brought his bride in 1899. They drove to their new home by horse and buggy as it was an open winter that year.

In 1907 Robert and Mary moved to a farm in the Bavelaw district near Spy Hill, which they had purchased from William Davis. It was located on the North half of Section 3 and the South-West quarter of Section 10-10-30. In 1917 they built a large house which can still be seen on a sunny hill, proudly facing the south, and ringed by trees.

The Boles farm was always a busy home with lots of excitement. An amusing incident took place one night at milking time, when the hired man went on horseback, accompanied by two hounds, to get the mail at the local post office. On the return ride, the dogs found a wolf which they immediately chased after. The pursuit ended in the Boles's barn, where the wolf tried to take refuge between a team of horses. A merry time ensued as the horses jumped into their manger and the cow Mr. Boles was milking also took flight. The wolf finally ran under a granary where it was shot.

Quite often Mary's nephews and nieces would spend a few days visiting and can remember the mischievous verbal sparring that took place between Robert and Mary, and Alex's teasing the hired girl.

Mary kept busy with her farm duties, but was also active in community and church activities. She served as secretary for the Bavelaw Ladies' Aid for many years. She passed away at Spy Hill on 18 April 1948. She was buried in the Russell cemetery. Robert remained on the farm for another ten years although he gave up the farm work. In later life he moved to Wainwright, Alberta, where he was a patient of the Battle River Foundation. He died on 13 July 1961 in Wainwright and is buried there.

Mary Middleton married Robert BOLES, son of William BOLES and Dorcas GAMBLE, on 25 Dec 1899 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Robert was born on 25 Aug 1877 in Maberly, South Sherbrooke Twp., Lanark County, Ontario, Canada, died on 13 Jul 1961 in Wainright, Alberta, Canada at age 83, and was buried in Wainright, Alberta, Canada. They had one son: Alexander Simpson.

"The Bowles Families in Canada" by Tom LaPorte
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bowlesfamily/robert_boles_of_sherbrooke_e.htm> [birth date is wrong on the website]

Noted events in his life:
2. Residence: 1906, Marquette census district, Manitoba, Canada.
143- Samuel BENNET was born on 25 Mar 1878 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 28 Dec 1911 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 33, and was buried in Russell, Manitoba, Canada.

General Notes: Bapt. record, Arthur Memorial Church, New Cumnock

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: Presbyterian.
3. Biographical information: Samuel Bennett, third child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennet, was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 25 March 1878. He came to Canada with his parents at the age of four years in 1882. His education was probably mostly from his grandfather, Samuel Bennet, and possibly some formal schooling in Harrowby.

   Samuel's passion was breaking horses, and he received many bad throws in the process. Once he was found unconscious in a field with a mouthful of dirt after having been bucked off by a wild horse.

   For a few winters Sam worked in lumber camps in the Riding Mountains for his brother-in-law William Cusitar. Sunday was their day off, and the young men put on "concerts" to entertain themselves.

   Sam first acquired entry to a homestead on the South-West quarter of Section 10-21-29 about two and a half miles east of his father's farm, but he later abandoned this claim. Instead, in 1904 he took another homestead, the S.W. 2-21-30, across the boundary into Saskatchewan, about two and a half miles west of the Angus Bennet farm. By the time of his marriage he had broken 90 acres on this land.

   On 24 June 1908 Samuel married Eva Blanche Collins at Harrowby. Eva was the daughter of Edmond Burritt Collins and his wife Catherine Cornell, born at Dominion City, Manitoba, on 10 December 1888. The Collins family were descended from United Empire Loyalist stock, living at Maitland, Ontario. In about 1879 they moved to Dominion City, where Eva's father was a blacksmith. In 1904 they moved to the Harrowby district.

   After their marriage, Sam and Eva made their home on Sam's homestead. By 1910 Sam had broken another ten acres on his land and owned six cattle. He had no fewer than 33 horses, showing that his love for that animal had not diminished.

   In 1911 Sam developed Bright's Disease, a kidney ailment, and on December 28th of that year he died at Harrowby.

   Samuel married Eva Blanche COLLINS, daughter of Edmund COLLINS and Catherine CORNELL, on 24 Jun 1908 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Eva Blanche was born on 10 Dec 1888 in Dominion City, Manitoba, Canada, died on 2 Jul 1962 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada at age 73, and was buried in Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Eva Blanche was BENNETT. They had one son: Laurence Samuel.

Noted events in her life:
1. Occupation: Schoolteacher.
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: In 1911 [her husband] Sam developed Bright's Disease, a kidney ailment, and on December 28th of that year he died at Harrowby. Eva and her son Laurence lived briefly at the Angus Bennet home and then moved to Russell. Eva's farm was rented to Sam's brother Alex, who lived there briefly after his marriage. Eva and Laurence returned to the farm to live for a few years, and then in the early 1920's Eva decided to move to Strathclair, Manitoba, where her brother, Dr. Ralph B. Collins, practised medicine.
In Strathclair, Eva finished her high school education and then attended Normal School in Brandon. Her parents lived with her and kept care of her home during this period. In 1924 Eva accepted a position as a primary school teacher in Strathclair, and she remained here for her thirty-three year teaching career. Her tenure was noted for its student academic interest and her musical ability. Her talents in music were shared not only by her pupils, but with her United Church, and the annual music festival. On her retirement in 1957, the school and community honoured Eva at an evening social and presented her with an inscribed silver tray.

In 1958 Eva moved into Winnipeg to be closer to her son and his family. At first she shared an apartment with her cousin, Olive Collins, but later moved into a suite of her own. She belonged to the Westminster United Church, the United Church Women, and the Winnipeg Musical Club. She also continued to enjoy reading, television (especially the hockey broadcasts), and keeping in touch with her relatives near and far. On 2 July 1962 Eva died at her home. She was buried in Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Winnipeg the following July 5th.

144 - Robert Trotter BENNET was born on 9 Jun 1880 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 17 Jun 1947 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 67, and was buried in Harrowby Cemetery, Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Robert Trotter was BENNETT.

Noted events in his life:
3. Biographical information:
   Robert Trotter Bennet, fourth child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennet, was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 9 June 1880. He came to Canada with his parents in 1882, and attended school in Harrowby. Nature was a life-long love of Robert's. Even as a child, he spent a lot of his time watching wildlife, when he should have been tending to his chores. Following in the Bennett tradition, Robert liked the excitement of breaking broncos as a young man. Often he would go hunting farther north, and the mounted head of a moose he once shot is still hanging in the community hall in Marchwell, Saskatchewan. Another trophy, a bear-skin rug, graced his home for many years. Before his marriage, Bob worked a few winters in lumber camps in the Riding Mountains for his brother-in-law, William Cusitar.

   In 1901 Robert took a homestead on the Nor1h-West quarter of Section 36-20-30, about one-and-a-half miles south-west of his father's home. While he broke 77 acres on this quarter by the time of his marriage in 1905, he lived with his parents during that time. In subsequent years he and his wife Mary expanded the size of the farm. Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses were acquired as time went by.

   On 8 December 1905, Robert married his cousin Mary Trotter at his parents' home near Harrowby. Mary was the daughter of Robert Trotter and Mary McRobert, born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, on 13 August 1878. Mary's father was a coal miner in New Cumnock. At the age of eleven, Mary had to leave school and work as a dairy maid in the countryside. Later she became a cheese-maker, a skill she never forgot. In 1903 she came to Canada with her uncle and aunt, Angus and Mary Bennet. She worked as a housemaid for homes in the area, including the Cusitars', prior to her marriage.

   Just before their marriage, Robert built a frame house, on his homestead. It had one large room downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. In 1908 an addition was made, giving them another bedroom and a kitchen. In later years a 1916 Model T Ford car was purchased.

   Bob marketed his grain and other farm products in both Harrowby and Marchwell, a siding established on the railway in 1907 which had grown into a trading centre. Marchwell slowly took precedence as he became more involved with the community there. In 1910 Bob was first elected as a
trustee for the Maple Hill School District No. 1118, a position he held with the exception of only a few years until his death. In 1916 the Shallow Lake Rural Telephone Company was formed in the Marchwell area, and he was elected a member of its first board of directors. He held this position until his death. He was an active member of the farmers' union and was a member of the Wheat Pool at Marchwell from its inception in 1923 until his death. In 1929 he was elected Councillor for Division I of the Langenburg Rural Municipality. He served two terms ending in 1934.

Mary was also active in community and provincial affairs. The depression in the 1930's and the problems faced by the farmers led to her involvement in the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section. In 1933-34 she served a term as a women's director on the U.F.C. Central Board. She used this opportunity to advocate world disarmament and women's rights. Mary became active in the Farmer-Labour Group, forerunner to the Saskatchewenan Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and served as secretary-campaign manager in the provincial constituency of Pheasant Hills in 1933-34.

Church was always a central part of Bob and Mary's family life. They were loyal adherents of the United Church in Harrowby. While Mary was a Baptist, she agreed with Bob that a strong Christian life was necessary for their children.

In 1946 Bob and Mary retired and moved into Marchwell. They were in the process of building a house there, when Bob became ill with pneumonia and died at Russell on 17 June 1947. Mary lived in the completed house with her son Bert until her death at Langenburg, Saskatchewan, on 11 May 1956.

Robert Trotter married Mary TROTTER, daughter of Robert TROTTER and Mary McROBERT, on 8 Dec 1905 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Mary was born on 13 Aug 1878 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, died on 11 May 1956 in Langenburg, Saskatchewan, Canada at age 77, and was buried in Harrowby Cemetery, Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Other names for Mary were BENNETT and Mary Laidlaw TROTTER. They had seven children: Jeannie Elizabeth, Robert Angus "Bert," Alexander Martin, John Samuel, Vera Isabel, Thomas William, and John Trotter.

General Notes: Bapt. record
Signs her name "Mary Laidlaw Trotter" when witness to the marriage of her sister Jean Trotter to James Ferguson

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: Baptist.
   "A Stirring Call"
   [A letter published in the United Farm Women's Column of The Western Producer (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), 28 September 1933]

Dear Fellow Members:

In the issue of Aug. 10 Western Producer Mrs. Hollis says: "We must support our new woman president and two directors with all our power," and adds, "success to their term of office."

I beg to thank Mrs. Hollis for her good wishes, and to make our term of office a success we surely need the support of every member of the organization.

Like Mrs. Hollis, I am looking forward to the time when women, without consideration, will take their stand, side by side, with men; but the time is not yet, much as men deny it. The dominant male is so accustomed by centuries of tradition to rule, that it will take a long time to rid the race
of this old bug-bear. Are we women doing our full duty to stand by and merely wait for this benevolent change to come about by itself? At one time I thought so, but as I see my daughters, and other women's daughters growing into womanhood I ask myself the question, "What am I doing for the mothers of tomorrow?" There have always been people active in reform and this is our God-given opportunity for making conditions better for future generations. Let us do our duties.

The "slave mind" has been discussed from time to time, but I find that this condition is not confined to feminine mentality; are there not many men in our circle of friends, and even those in high places of our present day affairs whom we feel should know better) but who are still slaves to tradition? So why attach this criticism to women who have never been able to get away from home, and have never had time to take an interest in civic or state affairs? How many men when they come home from any of the public gatherings that they have attended sit down and discuss the affairs of the community or state with their wives? This to me is their duty. They are content to let the wife run her part of the business (as they think) forgetting that the wife is a partner in all things.

We want women to know the conditions as they are and as they should be. It is to this end that we are working. If we have understanding and intelligence applied to our problems we are a tremendous force for the evolution of the race. Olive Schriner says that the greatness of a race can only be judged by the intelligence of its women. How many people know that not until 1929 did the B.N.A. Act recognize a woman as a person? Five women from Alberta as a delegation went to Ottawa and had this changed. So you see if women want things changed they must do it themselves.

Last fall I appealed to our women to assist in our column. I repeat my appeal. There are so many women who could assist in this work and relieve a little the few who devote a great deal of their time and effort to filling our space in The Producer each week.

Yours fraternally, Mary Bennett

Biographical Note concerning Mary Bennett

Mary Bennett was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 13 August 1878, the daughter of Robert Trotter, a coal miner, and his wife Mary McRobert, who died when she was just 14 years old. She was raised in the Baptist church, a religious background to which she remained faithful to her dying day. A family story has it that Mary was so talkative as a small child that she was sent to school early! However, her education was cut short when, at the age of 11, she had to leave school to work as a dairy maid in the countryside. Sometime later, she was promoted to the position of cheese-maker on the farm.

In 1903 Mary accompanied her aunt and uncle, Mary and Angus Bennet, back to Canada after their visit to "the old country." Mary and Angus had homesteaded at Harrowby, west of Russell, Manitoba, in 1882. After working a few years as a housemaid in the vicinity, Mary married her cousin Robert Trotter Bennet(t) in 1905. They farmed just across the boundary, near Marchwell, Saskatchewan, until their retirement in 1946. Robert died in 1947. They had a family of two daughters and five sons, one of whom died in childhood.

Although she had always been involved in community affairs, Mary did not get actively involved in the farmer's movement and left-wing politics until the early 1930's, a consequence no doubt of the severe problems of the Depression.

In 1933-34 she served a term as a women's director on the central board of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section. At the same time she served as the secretary-campaign manager for the Farmer-Labour Group (forerunner of the CCF and NDP) in the Pheasant Hills constituency, a campaign which they lost in the 1934 provincial election. She remained interested and active in political affairs after that, but never it seems in an official capacity. She is remembered for her love for fervently debating political and religious issues.

Mary died on 11 May 1956 at Langenburg, Saskatchewan.
145-Margaret Middleton BENNET was born on 25 Feb 1883 in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, Canada, died on 14 Apr 1911 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada at age 28, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Margaret Middleton was BURROUGHS.

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: Presbyterian.
2. Biographical information: Angus, Mary, Elizabeth and the other children... remain[ed] in Moosomin over the winter months [1882-83]. Angus worked on railway construction and the women washed laundry for the construction workers to earn some much-needed cash... While the rest of the Bennets were still in Moosomin, another daughter was born to Angus and Mary. They named her Margaret Middleton Bennet, for Mary's mother. The event caused quite a stir in the small frontier settlement, as she was the first white child to be born there. In honour of the occasion, she was presented a village lot. Margaret also became the first child to be baptized in the new St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregation in Moosomin. The minister, Rev. William Nicholl, also homesteaded in the vicinity. The church services were held in the Struthers home, and on one occasion at least the minister had to pause during the service to allow Mrs. Struthers, the organist, to baste the roast in the oven... Because Margaret was the first white child born in this railway settlement, she was given a town lot (Lot 19, Block 21). She was also the first child baptized in the Presbyterian congregation at Moosomin. Margaret grew up and was educated in the Harrowby district. She was a fair-haired and slim young woman. Although she was not a strong person physically, Maggie had a zest for living which everyone enjoyed. She particularly liked to dance.

On 16 February 1910 Margaret married William Henry Burroughs at her parents' home. William, the son of John Burroughs and his wife Margaret Johnston, was born at Shellmouth, Manitoba, on 26 October 1884. William farmed near Shelimouth on the South-West quarter of Section 7-22-29.

After their marriage, William and Margaret lived on their farm. Margaret became ill very shortly with a bladder ailment and was hospitalized at Winnipeg. Here she died on 14 April 1911, and she was buried in the Russell cemetery.

Margaret Middleton married William Henry BURROUGHS, son of John BURROUGHS and Margaret JOHNSTON, on 16 Feb 1910 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. William Henry was born on 26 Oct 1884 in Shellmouth, Manitoba, Canada, died on 13 Oct 1950 in Langenburg, Saskatchewan, Canada at age 65, and was buried on 16 Oct 1950 in Shellmouth Cemetery, Shellmouth, Manitoba.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: William farmed near Shelimouth on the South-West quarter of Section 7-22-29... William married again on 31 December 1913 to Hughina Rolston at the home of the bride's father near Deepsdale, Manitoba. Hughina was the daughter of Thomas Hilbert and Margaret (Knox) Rolston,
and was born at Tummel, Manitoba, in 1894. William and Hughina lived on the farm near Shellmouth until their retirement, when they moved to Inglis, Manitoba.

William Burroughs died of a stroke at Langenburg, Saskatchewan on 13 October 1950. He was buried in the Shellmouth cemetery. William and Hughina had one child, Gordon Thomas Hilbert Burroughs, born 21 October 1930.

146-Jessie Trotter BENNETT was born on 9 Dec 1885 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada and died on 29 Jun 1893 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 7. Another name for Jessie Trotter was Bennet JANET TROTTER.

General Notes: birth registration gives her first name as Jessie; death registration gives it as Janet

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: Presbyterian.

147-Alexander BENNET was born on 6 May 1888 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada, died on 15 Oct 1975 in Rossburn, Manitoba, Canada at age 87, and was buried on 18 Oct 1975 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Alexander was BENNETT.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: Alexander Bennett, seventh child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennet, was born at his parents' farm home near Harrowby, Manitoba on 6 May 1888. He attended school at Harrowby and Russell. After finishing school he worked on his father's farm. He spent several winters, accompanied by his brothers, working at the lumber mill north of Inglis owned by William Cusitar, his brother-in-law. When his brother Samuel died in 1911, Alex took over his farm south of Marchwell, Saskatchewan.

Alex married Mary Campbell Blain at the home of her parents near Harrowby on 1 December 1915. Mary was the daughter of David and Margaret (Blain) Blain, born at Stratford, Ontario on 11 September 1895. The Blains had farmed in Ontario and they continued at Harrowby after moving there in 1910.

After their marriage Alex and Mary lived on the Sam Bennett farm south of Marchwell until Alex's brother Tommy enlisted for service in World War I. They moved in with Alex's mother and sister Flora to help along with duties on the home farm until Tommy's return in 1919. They then moved onto a farm on the North-West quarter of Section 6-21-29, land which had been the homestead of Alex's grandfather, Samuel Bennet. They remained here until their retirement in 1967.

Alex and Mary worked hard on their farm and saw many difficult times during the depression. They farmed on a half-section of land and had two hundred and forty acres of pasture land. They kept forty or fifty head of cattle and milked ten or twelve cows every summer. The milk was separated and the cream shipped to Russell by truck. Alex would chop blocks of ice at the River, bring them home by team and sleigh and freeze them along with some water in the ice well-to be used to keep the cream cool during the summer. To earn a little extra money during the winter Alex would chop wood and haul it to Marchwell for sale. It was a happy time when he would come home with a large box of groceries and always a bag of candy for the kids. Mary always had a good vegetable garden and a beautiful flower garden. She was noted for her good baking and her delicious home-made sausages. She also did a lot of hand-sewing, knitting and making quilts.
Alex and Mary were quite involved in community activities. Alex served on the Harrowby School Board from 1928 to 1944. Mary played the organ and taught Sunday School in the Harrowby United Church. She was also an active member of the Ladies Aid.

Life centered pretty much around their two children as they were growing up. Many sacrifices were made so they could attend school and get an education.

Alex and Mary enjoyed people and always welcomed them into their home. Seldom a Sunday went by that they didn't have company. This meant extra baking and preparation, but Mary still took time to play the piano and lead the young in singing favourite hymns. They both enjoyed playing cards, chinese checkers and crokinole. May must have had fond memories of good times spent in their home on the farm.

In 1967 Alex and Mary sold their farm and moved to Rossburn, Manitoba, to be near their daughter Lorna and her family. Alex could no longer drive the car as his eye-sight was failing him. This was a real affliction for him because he did enjoy driving the car, and he spent much of his spare time reading.

Mary, plucky as she was, started to drive the car, so they continued to be independent. They were happy living in Rossburn and always looked forward to having folks from back home come to visit them. They did enjoy having their grandson, Kevin, pop in to see them every day after school. There was lunch, a time of fun, and then a piano lesson. Alex and Mary were always cheerful and seemed to accept life and changes with a sense of peace. After a lengthy illness, Alex passed away in the Rossburn Hospital on 15 October 1975. Mary also passed away in the Rossburn Hospital on 29 January 1976. They are buried in the Russell cemetery.

Alexander married Mary Campbell BLAIN, daughter of David BLAIN and Margaret BLAIN, on 1 Dec 1915 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Mary Campbell was born on 11 Sep 1895 in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, died on 29 Jan 1976 in Rossburn, Manitoba, Canada at age 80, and was buried on 2 Feb 1976 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Mary Campbell was BENNETT. They had two children: Douglas Blain and Lorna May.

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: United Church.

148-Flora BENNET was born on 27 Feb 1890 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada, died on 12 Sep 1967 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 77, and was buried on 15 Sep 1967 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada.

Noted events in her life:
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: Flora Bennet, the eighth child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennet, was born at her parents' farm home near Harrowby, Manitoba, on 27 February 1890. She was a bright girl from the beginning, taking a leadership role with her younger brothers, and ever instigating some good fun. She attended school at Harrowby and spent two years in high school at Binscarth, Manitoba. Although she grew to be a lovely young lady, with dark hair and sparkling brown eyes, she always kept the men at arms length and chose not to marry. Nevertheless, she had a miriad of friends far and near, and she remained a favourite in her family until the end of her days.
She was a faithful member of the Presbyterian (later the United) Church in Harrowby, serving as secretary of the church board, a Sunday School teacher, and member of the Ladies Aid. During the years of the First World War, she helped to raise money for the War effort, knitted articles of clothing to be distributed to the soldiers by the Red Cross, and wrote to many young men from the district fighting overseas, who greatly appreciated her fun-loving, witty and news-filled letters. When Flora's brother Tommy enlisted to go overseas, it meant an additional workload on the farm. The women milked a dozen or more cows, which provided butter, milk and cream for the family, besides bringing in necessary cash for the cream they were able to ship. Flora helped with field work as well, sometimes driving four-or-five horse outfits.

Nephews and nieces loved their Auntie Flora dearly, as she was their most trusted confidante and defender. She seemed so considerate of their feelings, as for example when they sat beside her in church, and she slipped a nickle or dime into their hands to avoid the embarrassment of not having any offering when the plate was passed around. She always had special treats for the children, too, whether it was a box of chocolates or some of her delicious home-made shortbread. She was also a bit of a prankster and enjoyed pulling a good-natured trick on some unsuspecting victim.

In later years, as her mother's health gave out, Flora cared for her and the family home. While Christmas Day was usually spent at the Cusitars' house, Flora always prepared a sumptuous meal for the whole family on New Year's Day. As her mother's memory failed her, Flora's nursing tasks became more onerous, but she gave her mother her full devotion until her death in 1937.

In 1940 Flora left to care for her sister Mary Boles at Spy Hill, who was in failing health. She also helped Mary Cusitar when [sister] Bess was in poor health a few years later. In 1949 she moved into a house in Russell which had been left to her by her nephew Angus Cusitar. Here she lived with her family memorabilia and her friends and family close by until her terminal illness with cancer was discovered in 1965. She then moved into the home of Lilian and Walter Roulston. Flora died in Russell on 12 September 1967 and was buried in the Russell cemetery.

149-Angus Armstrong BENNET was born on 19 Mar 1892 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada, died on 12 Jun 1969 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 77, and was buried on 14 Jun 1969 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Angus Armstrong was BENNETT.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: Angus Armstrong Bennett, the ninth child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennett, was born at his parents' farm home near Harrowby, Manitoba, on 19 March 1892. His education was taken at Harrowby, and then he worked on his father's farm. He and his brother Tommy were the cut-ups of the family, spending much of their spare time breaking horses or doing other mischievous things. Angus was a very witty man in his own quiet way and was well liked by his family and acquaintances.

   On 15 August 1917 Angus married Bertha Edna Rea at Russell. Bertha was the daughter of James and Jemima (McDonald) Rea of the Brightside district, west of Russell, where she was born on 21 February 1897. Bertha's father had come west from Ontario in 1874 and took a homestead near Russell in 1879. Bertha was only five years old when her mother died. She took her schooling at Brightside and Russell.

   After their marriage, Angus and Bertha farmed four miles north and west of Harrowby on the South-East quarter of Section 7-21-29. Later on they acquired another
quarter-section of land. The farm life was of a mixed variety, with grain, cattle, sheep, etc. There was always plenty of work to do. Spring meant grain to be cleaned and sheep to be sheared by hand. Stones had to be picked and the land prepared for seeding. As fall came on, there was haying and harvesting to do, feed and wood to be hauled for winter. Angus was handy at repairing almost anything, and he worked hard keeping all machinery in working order.

Bertha, being a town girl and having been quite young when her mother died, had a lot to learn about cooking and farm life in general. She received some instruction from her mother-in-law and Angus's sister Flora and caught on to her duties very quickly. She became quite accomplished in all things and took great pride in her housekeeping and gardening. Angus and Bertha loved to have company, and their home was always open to relatives and friends.

Both Angus and Bertha were active in their community as well. Angus was secretary-treasurer of the Harrowby School District, 1926-39. He did quite a lot of veterinary work for friends and relatives, and would even do some barbering. Bertha was involved in the Harrowby United Church Ladies Aid and joined the Marchwell Community Ladies Auxiliary in later years. During the Second World War she helped knit articles of clothing for the soldiers overseas. After moving to Russell she was a member of the United Church, the Women's Institute and the Rebekah Lodge.

There were times for fun and relaxation, too. The school would have picnics in the summer and Christmas concerts followed by a dance and a box of lunch. Occasionally card parties would be held at homes in the neighbourhood. Angus enjoyed playing cards and would also play accordion and call for square dances.

In 1949 Angus and Bertha sold their farm to Don Johnston and moved to a home in Russell. Angus worked for the Russell Rural Municipality maintaining roads, until poor health forced him to retire in the 1960's. He died at Russell on 12 June 1969, and is buried in the Russell cemetery.

Bertha continued to live with her daughter Gwen in Russell. She enjoyed visiting with friends and relatives, and each year she and Gwen would make a major trip, usually to the West Coast. Bertha also kept active in her clubs in Russell. She died suddenly at home on 28 December 1981 and is buried in the Russell cemetery.

Angus Armstrong married Bertha Edna REA, daughter of James REA and Jemima McDONALD, on 15 Aug 1917 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Bertha Edna was born on 21 Feb 1897 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada, died on 28 Dec 1981 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 84, and was buried on 30 Dec 1981 in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Bertha Edna was BENNETT. They had one daughter: Gwendolyn Mary.

Noted events in her life:
1. Religion: United Church.

14A-Thomas Martin BENNET was born on 16 Jan 1896 in Harrowby, near Russell, Manitoba, Canada, died on 27 Jan 1962 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada at age 66, and was buried in Russell Cemetery, Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Another name for Thomas Martin was BENNETT.

Noted events in his life:
2. Religion: United Church.
3. Biographical information: Thomas Martin Bennett, the tenth and youngest child of Angus and Mary (Trotter) Bennett, was born at his parents' home near Harrowby, Manitoba, on 16 January 1896. He attended school in Harrowby and then worked on the family farm. In 1918 he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was sent to England. Before he was ready to see action, the First World War ended. The next year he returned home. . . .

Tommy took over the Bennet farm on his return from overseas. He and his sister Flora were great favourites of their nephews and nieces, as stories elsewhere in this book can testify. He was noted for his love of pranks and his witty characterizations of friends and foes alike.

Tommy was considered by some to be an inveterate bachelor, so it was quite an occasion when on 14 November 1934 he married Lilian Maud Mansell at Russell. Lilian was the daughter of Frederick
Charles Mansell and his wife Elizabeth Mary Tothill, and a sister of Dorothy (Mrs. David) Cusitar, wife of Tommy's nephew . . .

After their marriage, Chick and Tommy lived in the old Bennet home with Flora and Tommy's mother. Grandma Bennet died two-and-one-half years later and Flora was often away visiting or caring for her older sisters. During the Second World War Tommy and Chick could afford to buy a couple of tractors, and Chick helped in the fields by driving the smaller one. She enjoyed helping out in harvest time, too, whether preparing and serving meals and lunches to threshers, or in later years riding the tractor or binder herself.

Every Sunday Tommy and Chick would ride down to the valley with their collie dog to check the cattle and sometimes would shoot a few gophers along the way. They also liked to take in the baseball tournaments. One they tried to attend every year was at the Indian Head sports day, where they would see teams from miles around and cheer on their own Binscarth Orioles. When a curling rink was built in Marchwell, they became ardent curlers and hated to miss a game.

Tommy had a wonderful relationship with his family and worked very happily with his brothers and nephews on co-operative projects such as threshing, butchering, or cutting cordwood. Of course, the wives came along, too, and there would be meals together and time for playing cards or crokinole.

In 1954 Tommy went into hospital in Winnipeg for surgery, and it was discovered that he was terminally ill. Consequently he and Chick had to sell the farm. They were living in Marchwell prior to Tommy's death at Russell on 27 January 1962. He was buried in the Russell cemetery.

Thomas Martin married Lilian Maud "Chick" MANSELL, daughter of Frederick Charles MANSELL and Elizabeth Mary TOTHILL, on 14 Nov 1934 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada. Lilian Maud "Chick" was born on 19 Jul 1915 in Russell, Manitoba, Canada and died on 22 Feb 2008 in Langley, British Columbia, Canada at age 92. Another name for Lilian Maud "Chick" was GURVITZ.

Death Notes: GURVITZ "Chick" (Lilian Maud) nee MANSELL Chick passed away peacefully at her home in Langley B.C. on February 23, 2008. Chick was born in the small Manitoba community of Russell and later moved out to West to settle in Langley, B.C. Chick had many interests and hobbies ranging from sewing, all kinds of sports, playing cards and of course playing the slots at the casino. She was known for shopping and buying new clothes only to bring them home and immediately alter them to her particular taste. She had a particular passion for curling and baseball and was one of her favorite T.V. pastimes. Chick was a warm and wonderful person with a great sense of humor and tremendous desire to live. Her determination and out right passion for life were inspirational to all who knew her. "Give Up" was not in her vocabulary, she will be missed! Chick was predeceased by her husbands Tommy Bennett and Walter Roulston. She is lovingly remembered by her husband of 26 years, Mitch Gurvitz, her sister Ivy, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. There will be no public funeral or service by family request. A private family service will be held at a later date. No flowers please. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or any charity of your choice in "Chick's" honor would be gratefully appreciated.

Published in the Vancouver Sun and/or The Province on 3/2/2008.

Noted events in her life:
1. Residence: Langley, British Columbia, Canada.

[On 14 November 1934 [Thomas Martin Bennet(t)] married Lilian Maud Mansell at Russell. Lilian was the daughter of Frederick Charles Mansell and his wife Elizabeth Mary Tothill, and a sister of Dorothy (Mrs. David) Cusitar, wife of Tommy's nephew. She was born near Endcliffe, Manitoba, on 19 July 1915. Lilian's parents were originally from England and settled in the Russell area in 1906. Her father passed away when she was just ten years old, so an older brother became the main supporter of the family. Lilian, or "Chick" as she likes to be called, took her part in working on the farm and attended Endcliffe school. For one year she took piano lessons. She enjoyed roaming along the Assiniboine River and the hills near her home. In winter there were activities like skating, tobogganing and hockey, and all year round there were dances, which she loved to attend.

After their marriage, Chick and Tommy lived in the old Bennet home with Flora and Tommy's mother. Grandma Bennet died two-and-one-half years later and Flora was often away visiting or caring for her older sisters. During the Second World War Tommy and Chick could afford to buy a couple of tractors, and Chick helped in the fields by driving the smaller one. She enjoyed helping out in harvest time, too, whether preparing and serving meals and lunches to threshers, or in later years riding the tractor or binder herself. . . .

[After Tommy's death] Chick moved to Russell and lived with [sister-in-law] Flora Bennett for two years, and then on 11 December 1964 she married Walter Vincent Roulston at Winnipeg. Walter was the son of John and Mabel (Couke) Roulston and was born at Hamiota, Manitoba, on 13 December 1908. . . . [Walter and Chick later moved to British Columbia, where Watt died on 11 September 1978.]

On 27 April 1981, Lilian married Mitchell Ureal Gurvitz in Vancouver. Mitch, the son of George and Jeanette (Goffman) Gurvitz, was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on 21 January 1926.
Other Source Citations

Name Index

BENNET
Alexander (1848-1870), 5
Alexander (1888-1975), 16
Angus Armstrong (1892-1969), 18
Angus McDonald (1851-1915), 5
Elizabeth (1874-1944), 8
Flora (1890-1967), 17
Margaret Middleton (1883-1911), 15
Mary Middleton (1876-1948), 9
Robert (1844-1847), 4
Robert Trotter (1880-1947), 12
Samuel (1878-1911), 11
Samuel (Abt 1820-1896), 1
Thomas Martin (1896-1962), 19
William (1845/1846-1847), 4

BENNETT
Jessie Trotter (1885-1893), 16

BENNOCH
Robert (1779-1862), 1

BLAIN
David, 17
Margaret, 17
Mary Campbell (1895-1976), 17

BOLES
Robert (1877-1961), 10
William, 10

BURROUGHS
John, 15
William Henry (1884-1950), 15

COLLINS
Edmund, 11
Eva Blanche (1888-1962), 11

CORNELL
Catherine, 11

CUSITAR
David Magnus, 9
William (1864-1921), 9

GAMBLE
Dorcas, 10

JOHNSTON
Margaret, 15

KIRK
Margaret (1776-1874), 1

McCORMICK
Elisabeth "Betty" (1811-1895), 3

McDONALD
Jemima, 19

McORNOCK
Robert (1774-1842), 3

McROBERT
Mary (1856-1893), 13

MANSELL
Frederick Charles, 20
Lilian Maud "Chick" (1915-2008), 20

MIDDLETON
Margaret (Abt 1815-1894), 7

OSBURN
Mary (1783-1862), 3

REA
Bertha Edna (1897-1981), 19
James, 19

TOTHILL
Elizabeth Mary, 20

TROTTER
Mary (1855-1937), 7
Mary (1878-1956), 13
Robert (1818-1891), 7
Robert (1850-1912), 13

WHITFORD
Margaret, 9