

## A century of memories

By Lyman Roberts

Faith Watt celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 2, 1991 and when I spoke to her by phone that day she was delighted to hear from one of my old neighbours. We talked about the stone fence in front of her old home and the fact that the grandson of John Campion still lives on the farm next to her home.



Faith in Alberta a couple years ago.

## A 100 year-old subscriber passes

A faithful subscriber to the Huntingdon Gleaner over the many years that she lived at Acadia Valley, Empress and Calgary, Alberta, and a native of the St. Chrysostome/Havelock area, FAITH KARR passed away in Calgary, Alberta on December 4, 1991. It was only a month earlier that Faith Karr celebrated her 100th birthday with most of her family and many long time friends in attendance.

She was born Faith Watt on November 2, 1891, the only daughter of William Watt (1848-1895) and Janet (Cowan) Watt (1853-1915). She graduated from the Ormstown High School and then received a teachers certificate from Macdonald College at St. Anne de Bellevue in 1912.

After teaching for five years at schools in the vicinity of her home, in 1917 she went west to Alberta and taught at a small country school in the Oyen/Acadia Valley district.

It was here that she met Ray Karr, a pioneer homesteader. They were married

The Campion family had settled on St. Charles Road in the early 1820s and her grandfather Robert Watt bought land from the Seigneur of Beauharnois July 9, 1846, hence the start of the close relationship between two pioneer families of Russeltown. Then she wanted to know if I had seen Jimmie Allen recently, and how was he?

Our conversation soon switched to her memories of The Little White Church. She recalled names of families: Jim Brown's family sat in the fourth pew in the centre row... then there were the McGilton's... the McFee's... Sarah and Lucy Gilmore... the Pettis families... and Uncle Johnny and Aunt Sarah... And no discussion about the church and her childhood would be complete without reference to Mrs. Hattie Bouchard the organist and Sunday School superintendent. "We would go to Mrs. Bouchard's home to practice for the school concert at Christmas time; and of course the Cowan Post office was in their kitchen".

She was excited about the party which had been organized for her 100th birthday and speculated as to how many would come including her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As our conversation was drawing to a close, again she reminisced about all my neighbours... Jimmy and Lucy McCort... the Gilmore's... the Miller's and Johnny and Mrs. Campion... Oh I have nothing but pleasant memories of when I was growing up there..."

Faith had a sparkling personality which she conveyed to you in her letters or by phone or better still in person in the hospitality of her home. She was a great letter-writer and when I asked her if she would record names of Chateaugay Valley citizens who had moved to Alberta she quickly replied with a 5-page letter "with names of the people that I have kept in touch with and of course, are of my generation". Here are a couple of cases she wrote about:

"Kenneth Dalgleish came from Huntingdon to the Aldrie area and then in 1910 came to the Acadia Valley district and farmed. He had a brother, Burt who was a minister. Their parents built and operated store in Huntingdon, which later became the McCoy store. In 1917 as the Acadia Valley district grew, Ken Dalgleish with other settlers organized a school district. He placed an in

The Gleaner for a teacher and I applied and was accepted. As it would be a summer term it was all right for me. The children lived some at a good distance from their homes and most all of them had to ride horse back or drive with horse and buggy to school, the teacher included, over prairie trails".

"The 4 Dunn brothers from Franklin who came out to Medicine Hat, George, Robert, Richard and Jerry. After some years Jerry returned to Franklin. Their sister Gertie came out and taught school at Hanne Alberta but returned to Franklin with her husband a Mr Harvey."

When I asked Faith why she decided to leave her home in Russeltown to teach in Alberta she explained that by this time she was an orphan. Her father had died when she was only 4 years old, leaving her mother to struggle along on the farm and to raise her.

After graduation from the Ormstown Academy and the School for teachers at Macdonald College for a few years she taught in local schools. All seemed to be going fine until 1915 when her mother died after a very brief illness after contacting some kind of a virus.

She was devastated and her health began to deteriorate. The late Dr J. C. Moore recommended that she should have a complete break and move to a new environment. Hence her reason for going to Alberta in 1917.

The young school teacher from Russeltown had no idea of the cultural shock in store for her when she discovered that her rooming house was to be a two-room log cabin, a far cry from the comfortable farm home she had left behind. But she told me how she fell in love with the wide open spaces and soon adapted to her new surroundings.

By 1919 she had fallen in love with a young farmer, Ray Karr and soon after they married and had a wonderful family of four sons and one daughter.

With the death of Faith Watt Karr we are reminded that a link has been severed that can never be joined. While she returned to Russeltown for visits only a few times, she cherished and nurtured her roots with the community.

In a 1977 letter she lamented the passing of some relative and how she would miss their long newsy letters. She then referred to the fact had she had now subscribed to The Gleaner for more than sixty years but with the poor mail service she wondered how much longer she would keep subscribing to it, she had not received two issues in the previous month.

In another letter she commented on some activity by the Chateaugay Valley Historical Society as reported in The Gleaner, she thought that the classes must have been interesting and she wished that she could have attended them. In another she referred to "The old organ question in The Gleaner sparked my interest, I recall two or three in the neighbourhood and it seems that Q Aunt Eliza's was that make... I may be wrong. Mother bought mine in 1902 from Montreal. It was a great enjoyment and I still play" (at the age of 86).

Faith Watt Karr has left many memories to be shared by her wide circle of friends and loved ones. I cherish the privilege of having enjoyed her acquaintance. May she now Rest in Peace.

# Births and Deaths

Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams, Marriage Notices, Engagements, Announcements.

## BORN

FORRESTER - David and Ruth (née McIntyre) are proud to announce the birth of their third child Everett Paul, born on November 27th, 1991, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. at the St-Joseph Hospital North Bay. Brother for Katie and Adam. Proud grandparents are Everett and Beatrice Forrester of Ormstown and Dot McIntyre of Little Britain in Ontario.

## DIED

CRAIG, Miss Esther - At the Centre d'Accueil, Ormstown on December 15th, 1991, age 87, daughter of the late John and Marian Craig. Predeceased by her brothers and sisters Mervyn, Lois, Ruth, Lydia, Willis and Wallace. Funeral was held from the chapel of the McGerrigle Funeral Home Inc., Ormstown, on Tuesday, December 17th at 2 p.m. Interment Riverfield Cemetery.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Norris Tait wish to thank all those who sent cards, flowers. A special thank you to the ladies of the Howick United Church for their kindness.

Tait family

## IN MEMORIAM

KNOX, LEWIS, Marjorie - Who passed away on June 29th, 1990, nine days later after being transferred to Montreal General Hospital.

Too sudden, for us to accept.

At nights while looking-up at the stars, I'm wondering Mom is this where you are.

There's always One Shining Star which seems to outline the rest, And I think to myself yes, God, only takes the Best. I know that you're in the best of care,

And it was the pain and suffering which wasn't fair.

You were taken much too early for us to let go,

And not seeing your face or hearing your voice just hurt us so.

At times I feel like a child who needs her Mother, the kisses, hugs and love that can come from no other.

The years we've shared were so precious and few, and we thank God for giving us You.

When summer nights when the wind is warm and the stars are shining bright,

I wonder if that Shining Star is you that lights-up the night.

Is your Spirit floating free, And Mom can you really see me?

And that falling star that I've wished upon, please Lord let it come true,

For if it does Mom I'll be floating there someday with you.

I miss you Mom so very much and do pray for time to help me heal.

We love you, Daughters Connie, Bev, Maryann and family

PORTER, Gordon - In loving memory of our dear husband, dad and grandfather who passed away Dec. 30, 1990. In our hearts and thoughts forever.

Sadly missed by Jean, Nancy and Leslie, Harold, Nicholas and Trisha

## CARD OF THANKS



GRATTON, André of St. Anicet, passed away, at the age of fifty, at the Barrie Memorial Hospital on October 28th, 1991, after a long illness.

Mr. Gratton is survived by his dear wife Monique Nadeau, and his loving daughter Johanne, married to David Beare. He was interred in St. Anicet Cemetery on October 30th, 1991.

We wish to thank all our relatives and friends for their moral support, sympathy, presence at the funeral and also for the donations, masses and flowers.

Monique & Johanne Gratton

## CARD OF THANKS



Following the death of Mrs. Guy Sedgwick (née Ida Tessier) on December 5th, 1991 aged 81 years, Eric (Jeannine Quenneville), Gertie, Fred (Doreen King), Peggy, Shirley (Larry Dear) and Carol would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness and sympathy at the time of their mother's death. Everything was deeply appreciated.

## CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of those who sent messages of Sympathy to us at the time of the sudden death of Michael Long Sr. on Nov. 10, 1991. For those who visited the funeral home and made donations to the Cancer Society, cards and phone calls. A very special thank you to Richard Grant for his generosity. Your support and kindness will always be remembered. Please accept this as our personal thank you.

Kevin and Joyce Long

The family of the late Robert Todd would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Rosenberg and the staff of the Huntingdon County Hospital for the care given him during his illness. We would also like to thank all of our relatives, friends and neighbours for their sympathy and their support during our bereavement. The flowers, food and donations to the Hospital and to the Parkinson's Foundation were deeply appreciated.

Elsie Todd  
Grant Todd  
Janet and Brian  
Zeldenrust