

Introduction to Cowan

The Cowan of Ancient History

The first objective here is to explore briefly the surname history of Cowan and to suggest the ancestral roots of our family in Dumfriesshire and Bartonshire, Scotland. Some stories are included that suggest some of the life of Cowans in years past.

Scottish surnames evolved over the centuries from the Gaelic, Latin, Norse, etc. languages of ancient peoples of the moors and Gaul. Spellings and forms also changed as the distinct Anglo or Old English language evolved. Further, names are bestowed to memorialize ancient events, to describe a laborer's craft or may be based on a description of the lands possessed. For example, the name Cowan is sometimes explained as from the Scots, meaning a dry-stone dyker, but this is doubted. So surnames over history will change and evolve sometimes into new names that may be difficult to match to the older forms.

Cowan, Cowans, Cowen are common surnames in Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire and other lowland counties of Scotland. The name is one of a mix of names that evolved possibly from its earliest Gaelic form Macilchomhghain (seventh century). It is also a name that has its roots in the name Colquhoun (thirteenth century) and is found in its current form (Cowan) as one of the Septs of the Colquhoun clan of the moors of Lock Lomond. The names Colquhoun and Cowan were likely pronounced similarly.

The following Macilchomhghain and Colquhoun paragraphs discuss how the Cowan name developed in antiquity and much of the information is derived from *The Surnames of Scotland; Their Origin, Meaning, and History*, George Frazer Black, Ph.D., b.1866, published 1946 by the New York Public Library.

The Cowan name has historical roots in the ancient name of Macilchomhghain. The story of this name goes back to the seventh century in the early Middle Ages to a time when the English language we know did not exist. People spoke in the old Celtic and Gaelic dialects and the writings of Old English would be as foreign to modern English as any foreign language might be. Study of history back to that time would require knowledge of Latin and Gaelic. You will note in the following text that the name Cowan comes from the Chom part of the name as it evolved and shortened over many centuries. According to George Black, the Macilchomhghain history is as follows and I quote briefly:

"G. Mac Gille Chomghain, 'son of the servant of (S.) Comgan.' S. Comgan resided in Lochalsh in the last half of the seventh century, and planted several churches along the west coast. The M'Ilchomhghains were an ancient race or sept of untraced origin, and a family of the name seems to have been early possessor's of Inveraray. The large market cross there bears the following inscription: Hec est crux: nobilium virorum: videlicet Dondcani meic Gyllichomghan: Patrici filii: eius: et Maelmore: filii Partici: Qui hanc crucem fieri faciebat. In translation: "Gillacomgan, son of Maelbridge, mormaer of Murebe (Moray), and fifty of his men were burned to death, 1032 a. d." (AU)."

This was a violent period of Scottish history. During the early 11th century, we note there were many struggles for the Scottish throne, for castles and position and for lands.

Kings were often replaced by murder and treachery. As men fought for lands and positions of power, the soldiers of the conquering clans looted homes of the vanquished for booty and raped their woman as a soldier's right. This oftentimes was followed by the tragic burning of the town. Eight years after the above burning of Gillicomgan and his men at Inveraray in 1040, for example, Duncan, king of Scotland, was murdered by one of his generals - Macbeth.

A James J. Hill Reference Library Record

The Cowan name existed at least from the early sixteenth century as noted in a recorded civil complaint of 1530 made by the Cowans to a local Earl regarding the McDonalds. I found this report in an old book some years ago in the Scotland section of the stacks of the James Hill Reference Library of St. Paul. Unfortunately, I did not take down the name of the book at the time. The year was 1530: According to the story, the McDonalds came up over the hill and attacked the Cowans, burned their barns, pillaged their lands, and raped their woman. The judge requested that the McDonalds pay restitution for their acts. Whether restitution was actually made, the record didn't say. For date reference, this incident occurred 38 years after Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain into the western sea searching for a route to the Orient - only to discover a new world.

The Connection

The second objective is to establish a possible geographic historical origin of our particular family in Scotland.

My great-grandfather was William M. Cowan, born Sep. 22 of likely 1840, and his parents were Robert and Eliza Cowan. The only two records of Robert and Eliza Cowan are of their marriage on September 9, 1833 at St Andrew's Canadian Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland) of Quebec City and of their names listed on the marriage record of their son William M. Cowan to Margaret McMichael at the Canadian Presbyterian Church of Clinton, Ontario June 26, 1866. The names shown on the record are Robert Cowan and Eliza (nee Gunston) Cowan - I have found no further information.

Family lore says that William was born 1840 and based on William's age written on his marriage record, his birth would have occurred in the latter part of 1840 (actually Sep. 22, 1840). There are possibly two scenarios where his Cowan ancestors came to Quebec. Our ancestor may have been conscripted by England to fight the French at Quebec during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) Battle of Quebec. Later when the war was won he stayed on, married and had children. This would likely be Robert's grandfather. The other scenario is that they came from Scotland after the war to claim free farm land. England was providing free passage and land to non-French immigrants to populate the countryside with British subjects and stake a hold on the land as its territory. This would have happened sometime during the late eighteenth century and it's possible this was Robert's parents. Eliza's presence in Quebec could be part of the same circumstance.

We may surmise that William and perhaps also Robert and Eliza, his parents had some associations with the Seaforth, Ontario community. It is common that when people emigrated they came in family and community groups and that they emigrated together to set up the

same community only at a different location. We know that the McMichael family (William's inlaws) along with relatives and neighbors from this small community in Dumfriesshire relocated in Ontario at Hullett Township around the villages of Seaforth and Clinton.

Therefore, although there is no direct evidence that our Cowan ancestry originates in the Dumfriesshire Parishes of Scotland, there are several issues that point in that direction. For example:

- The family name of Cowan was common in Dumfriesshire, and there are some Gunston's listed as living there as well (Liza Gunston – wife of Robert Cowan). The Gunston or Gunson name is not otherwise common in Scotland or England.
- Family lore talks about Scotland as our home. Dudley Cowan with whom I first talked to back in 1972 about family lore talked of it.
- Robert and Eliza Cowan or their son William settled eventually in Hullett Township in Huron County of Ontario. Folks usually came over from Scotland by family groups and settled together with others from their old home communities. This area of settlement was common for families from Dumfriesshire.
- There are several Cowans who lived in Hullett Township. Robert and Eliza's son, William had a farm near Seaforth and Clinton in Ontario and married a neighboring farmer's daughter there (Margaret McMichael, daughter of Thomas Victor McMichael and his wife Elizabeth [McMillan]). Her family is known to be from Dumfriesshire.
- And finally, there are resemblances in appearance among members of our family with some who live currently in this area of Scotland.

A paper by Beatrice McCowan, *Land, Feudalism and Clan McCowan* written as an introduction to feudalism and patterns of medieval land-holding discusses historical data that connects a McCowan family to Cumnock, Ayrshire, in southwest lowland Scotland. I make a few points here about that: 1) The McCowan name regularly also became Cowan, and 2) country populations were sparse in those days, and 3) Cumnock is in the vicinity of where the McMichaels came from. The Cowans and McMichaels came from the same area in Scotland and settled in the same area in Ontario and William Cowan and Margaret McMichael were neighbors and were married.

Beatrice McCowan continues: *The McCowan name in Cumnock, Ayrshire, goes back to at least 1515 when William McCowane was "confusedly apprehended". His ancestors had migrated the dozen or so miles from the Kirkconnel area, adjacent to New Cumnock Parish, but in the Dumfriesshire part of the upper Nith valley. Legend holds that Robert the Bruce had a company of Kirkconnel area McCowans during the Wars of Independence. At this early period, over 400 years ago, the name was commonly seen in the records in variations of McGachan. Some of this old clan who arrived in Cumnock chose to not partially anglicize the name to McCowan – John McGeachan was one of the Cumnock Covenanting martyrs, killed in an ambush in 1688. Other variations of the name here are McGavin, McGawn, and McGowan, all relatively common in central Ayrshire. Still later, some*



Cumnock-based McCowans further anglicized their surname to Cowan. McCowan writes there must be many such cases, most of which are likely undocumented.

There are three or four Robert Cowans listed in the census rolls in that area of Canada of the period after 1850 and it is unclear which may possibly be our ancestor. There is a Robert Cowan who died in the early 1860's and it could be for the reason of his early death that there is no further record of his family. A search of Scottish and English records for the family of an Eliza Gunston who was born in about 1810 may be the solution. It is clearly documented that our ancestral family of McMichael is from Cumnock in Dumfriesshire.

TWO - The Story of Robert and Eliza Cowan

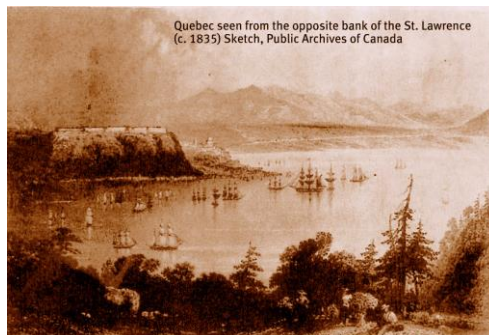
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The Story of Robert and Eliza Cowan and of their son William M. Cowan

Cowan, Cowans, Cowen are common surnames in Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire and other lowland counties of Scotland. The name is sometimes explained as from the Scots, meaning a dry-stone dyker, but this is doubted. The name comes from the clan Colquhoun and has possible earlier roots in the ancient name Macilchomhghain. Macilchomhghain is one of whom it is written that he built Christian churches along the west coast of Scotland in the sixth century. Cowan is one of the Septs of the Clan Colquhoun and others are Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Macachounich, and MacCowan.



Robert Cowan and his wife Eliza Gunston

Robert Cowan b. ca. 1800- 1810
Eliza Cowan` b. ca. 1800 1810

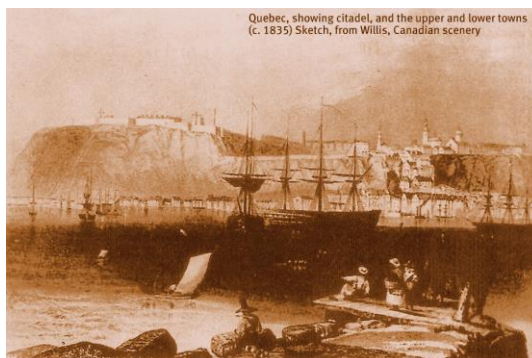
*Here begins the story of Robert Cowan and his wife Eliza Gunston(e). They each either were born at Quebec around 1800 or came together with their families around 1800 from Britain across the Atlantic to Canada; likely setting forth from Liverpool and arriving at Quebec on the St. Lawrence River. The U.S. census of 1910 for their son William M., however, states that his parents Robert and Eliza both were, indeed, born in **Scotland**. Their son William M. Cowan was born at Quebec, lived at Seaforth in Ontario and later moved on to settle in the Dakota Territory. From the prairie that became the State of North Dakota, their descendants spread across the nation from Maryland to California. These are their descendants and this is their story.*

How it all started

Back in the early 1970's my brother Wally (1931 – 2003) told me that Dudley Cowan with whom he worked at the FMC Corporation knew quite a bit about our family history. Lawrence W. (Dudley) Cowan (1904 – 1978) was the son of my grandfather's brother Robert and I had not met him before but he worked at FMC Corp. in Fridley and he helped Wally get his job there

after his stint in Korea. One day during the summer of 1972 I gave Uncle Dudley a call and asked if I could come over to visit. He lived across town in St. Louis Park, Minnesota at the time. Well, I went over to visit and we sat in the back yard and, over lemonade, he told me story after story of things I had never heard before. I went home and wrote down everything he said. Thus began my long journey to search how our family is connected and to discover many, many stories.

Among the things he said was that Grandpa William (Jim) Cowan's father was born at Quebec in 1840 shortly after his mother and father arrived from Scotland (I'll get onto some of the other



things he said later). Although there are still several loose ends, three things I've discovered since then have helped to get back to that time. The first (1) is the marriage record in 1833 of Robert Cowan and Eliza Gunstone at Quebec City; the second (2) is the marriage record of their son William to Margaret McMichael at Clinton, Ontario; and the third (3) is William's death record in South Dakota.

1. From the Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection (1621 – 1967) (I found this record in March of 2012): St. Andrew's Church (Presbyterian) Quebec City, QC documented on the 1833 Record of baptisms, marriages and deaths, forty-eighth leaf (page), Sept 09, 1833 the record of the of the marriage of Robert Cowan and Eliza Gunstone. Also found at [*Quebec, Non-Catholic Parish Registers, 1763-1967, , Presbyterian Church of Canada St Andrew, Baptisms, marriages, burials with index 1833 \(image 65\).*](#)

The record reads: "Robert Cowan, bachelor & Eliza Gunstone, spinster, both of the city of Quebec, were, after due presentation of service, joined in Holy Bonds of Matrimony on the ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred thirty three by me"

Signed: James Harkness, Min.

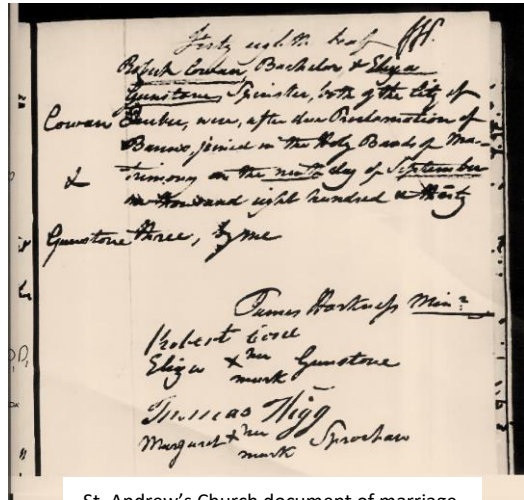
Signed: Robert Cowan

Signed: Eliza X [her mark] Gunstone

Signed: Thomas[?] Higg [Possibly a pastoral student]

Signed: Margaret X [her mark]

Sprosten[?]



St. Andrew's Church document of marriage

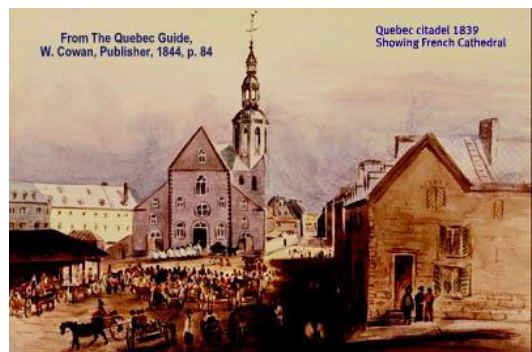
2. [Huron County Marriage Record, 1858 - 1869](#); Vol. 1, p. 164: **WILLIAM COWAN**, 25, of Hullett, born Canada, son of Robert Cowan and Eliza Gunston and **MARGARET McMICHAEL**, 21, of Hullett, born Canada, daughter of Thomas McMichael and Elizabeth McMillan married June 26th, 1866 by the Rev. A. D. McDonald of Clinton, Canadian Presbyterian Church. The witnesses were Malcomb Campbell of Mckillop [probably a relative] and Grace McMichael [Margaret's sister] of Hullett.
3. The ND Dept. of Health Public Death Index lists William's death on June 4, 1918 and his birth on Sep. 22, 1842. The birth date of Sept. 22 is likely correct but the year must be incorrect. Based on his recorded age of 25 at his marriage, he was born sometime in the period of June 24, 1840 and June 25, 1841; not in 1842. If the date is correct, then the year must be 1840 as was told to me by Dudley.

What do we know and what can we surmise about Robert and Eliza Cowan?

1. Because there is not a direct lineage connection to our ancestry it cannot be unequivocally confirmed that Robert and Eliza recorded married here are indeed our family ancestors – some additional connecting evidence is needed but I doubt we'll ever find it. However: oral statements from several sources say that our ancestor William M. Cowan was born in Quebec and that his parents were first generation immigrants who lived at Quebec. Some census records point to Quebec as well. The Scotch population of Quebec was not large making it unlikely that here were two sets of people with the same name. For example, the Scottish immigrant population in 1844 was 700 just souls.

2. When Robert and Eliza married, the day of the marriage on September 09, 1833 was a Monday. Does that suggest that it was a small ceremony with only the principals attending? On the other hand, the “weekend” as we know it when people have time off from work didn’t exist then.
3. St. Andrew’s church is located within the citadel walls of the Quebec City on the bluff which overlooks the St. Laurence River. The citadel was the economic and social center of the city. It was where commerce commenced; where government business was conducted; where the churches were headquartered; and where people with means lived and partied. Lower Quebec below the bluff along the river was where the general populace lived and worked. A single difficult road up to the bluff connected the two. The marriage record for Robert and Eliza states that they were both “of the city”. Does this mean that they were residents within the citadel?
4. Does the fact that they were unmarried young adults living in the city suggest that they lived with family or, more unlikely; they immigrated alone and had no connections? I suspect that they were there with their parents and that had siblings there as well. There is no information on this but we do know that it is common that families emigrated together; often with other relatives and their neighbors and that they also often settled in the same place. Were they there with intentions to move on?
5. It is likely that Robert and Eliza were born in the period of 1800 – 1810 however it’s possible that Robert was born earlier. Did Robert and Eliza know each other from an earlier time in Scotland or did they discover each other there in Quebec? Is Eliza originally from England as her surname suggests?
6. According to Uncle Dudley they emigrated from Scotland. Also, the 1910 US Census for Owego Township, Ransom County, ND shows William, then age 63, saying that both his father and mother, Robert and Eliza came from Scotland. The 1910 census for Granville, ND for his daughter Elizabeth and for his son Stanley separately report the same.
7. Robert and Eliza’s son William M. Cowan was born in 1840 or early ’41 seven years after they were married. There should be other siblings born both before and after his birth.
8. The parents of Robert and Eliza were born at about the time of the American Revolution (1776).
9. With the signing of the Peace of Paris, or the Treaty of 1763, Canada East came under English rule which resulted in an influx of merchants to Quebec from Scotland and New England. Was it at around that time that our ancestors came to Quebec? If so, then it would have been Robert and Eliza’s grandparents who emigrated at that time. A possible family member was a William Cowan of Quebec City, noted around 1800 to be a book printer (his company printed the city’s almanac).

Another possibility is that when England defeated the French and overtook Quebec City in 1759, they fortified the city to prevent invasion by the sea. As the years passed, however,



they grew concerned about invasion by land, so in 1815 the British government offered free passage and land to English citizens with the idea that they would settle the land to the north and south of the city and thus provide further protection from possible invaders. I suspect that one or the other of these possibilities is the reason that our ancestors emigrated.

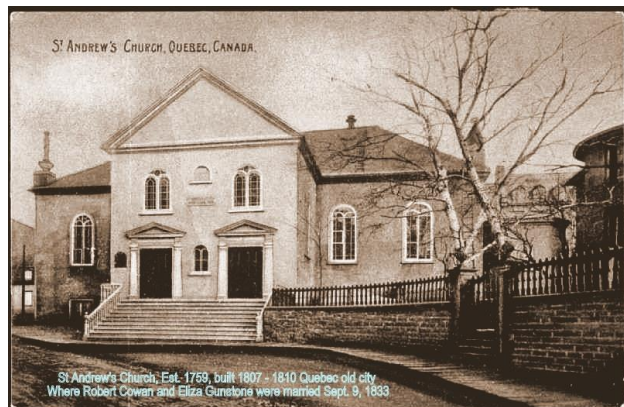
10. 1830's Quebec City Population Estimate

It is estimated that [during the 1830's] tourists, immigrants and sailors together numbered between 5,000 and 10,000. Although a majority of the resident population was French Canadians, there were a large minority of British extractions. The closest population record for Quebec City was from the period of 1844 when 700 Scots were enumerated.

French Canadians		19,386
British Canadians	5,560	13,039
English immigrants	1,347	
Irish Immigrants	5,432	
Scotch immigrants	700	
Other immigrants		239
Americans		112
Total population		32,876

A note about St. Andrew's Church of Quebec City

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Quebec City is a *Presbyterian Church in Canada* congregation in the Upper Town of Quebec City. The congregation's roots began with the British conquest of Quebec at the Plains of Abraham in 1759 under the leadership of the Church of Scotland Chaplain Robert MacPherson and soldiers of the famous 78th Fraser Highlanders of James Wolfe's Army in 1759. A congregation evolved under his leadership, until his death in 1765. He was succeeded by another former Chaplain, George Henry.



With the 1763 Treaty, and the influx of merchants from Scotland and New England, the congregation soon assumed civilian status and was known as the *Scotch Congregation - in connection with the Church of Scotland*. During the 1802 ministry of Alexander Spark, in response to a petition signed by 148 persons, the present Church site was granted by His Majesty George III, although it was not until 1807 that construction began.

The long-contemplated Church was dedicated on November 30th, 1810, on St. Andrew's Day, and appropriately named after the apostle. Today, the building remains virtually unchanged but for the addition of the Vestry in 1900.

On the same triangular site with the church are the Kirk Hall, first erected in 1829 as a Protestant School which continued as a flourishing scholastic institution for many years; and the magnificent Manse erected in 1837, which has been the residence of the ministers to the present time. William Reed was notably the church's organist from 1900-1913.

The Rev. James Harkness D. D. who married Robert and Eliza served there from the period of 1820 – 1835. The Sanctuary easily holds 600 for worship but today there are but thirty members and about 47 souls who participate there. The *Friends of St. Andrew's* group was recently founded by the church congregation to assist in raising funds to keep this historic congregation operating.

Much interesting information is available on the internet about the church and its pastors as well as about the city during that time.

William M. Cowan, my great grandfather was a son of Robert and Eliza (nee Gunston) Cowan. Little information is found about the early years of William Cowan and, although likely, it is not known if he had any siblings. William's granddaughter, Doris Randleman of Toledo, Oregon says that William was born at Seaforth, in Ontario. Also, William's marriage record states that he was living at Seaforth before he was married. These suggest that his family (parents) were at Seaforth and a name search in that area could be successful.

According to William's marriage certificate, he was 25 years of age when he married Margaret McMichael on July 26, 1866 at Clinton, Ontario. This places the time of his birth during the 12-month period before July 26, 1841. His parents are listed on his marriage certificate as Robert Cowan and his wife Eliza Gunston. Here also he enters his birthplace as Canada; however earlier censuses show Nova Scotia and Quebec as possible places of birth. William's granddaughter Doris Randleman says that he was born 1841 at Seaforth.

On Ancestry.com I found the following record regarding the possible location of William's birth. The date of birth here is April 4, 1841 but his N. D. death record places the date at Sept. 22, (1840). Both dates fit his age of 25 at the time of his marriage in 1866. The record follows:

William, son of Robert Cowan and his wife Eliza was born on the 4th day of April was baptized on the 10th day of October, 1841 in the presence of these subscribed witnesses.

Jonh Dunlop

George Beggar

By Rev. David Dobie, Minister.

Religion: Church of Scotland

Place of Worship: Huntingdon (Church of Scotland and Presbyterian Church) Church of England - Quebec, Canada

Huntingdon is 203 miles to the west of Quebec City along the St. Laurence River past Montreal.

It appears that the church is what today is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Huntingdon where Rev. David Dobie was pastor from 1839-1844. Pastor Dobie was from Dumfries in Scotland. Dumfries is associated grandpa Jim's wife's family – the McMichaels of Seaforth, Ontario. Checking land records, the two witnesses appear to be neighbors and had land near Robert Cowan. Also, an Alexander Cowan has land adjacent to Robert's property. Alex may be a brother of Robert. Any relationships discussed on these paragraphs about William's birth are only conjecture now and need further research.

Another record of 1854 states that the Rev. David Dobie was Pastor at (First) St. Andrews Presbyterian Church 1839 - 1844. He was son of James and Agnes (Brown) Dobie of Dumfries.

The North Dakota Department of Health public death index recorded at the time of William's death however lists his birth as Sep. 22, 1842. I suspect that the day of the year is correct but there is a discrepancy regarding the year. It is possible that the actual date of his birth is Sep. 22, 1840 which coincides with the Clinton marriage record and not a later year as he reports while married to Dell. This also is consistent with the conversation I had back in the summer of 1972 with Dudley Cowan when he said that the Cowans arrived from Scotland in the summer of 1840 and that William was born "shortly upon their arrival." That the family came to Canada in the time shortly before 1840, however, is not correct. More likely it was around 1800 or earlier.

Further information regarding William's date of birth can be found in the **1885 Dakota Territory Census** and the **1900 North Dakota Census**. He states in the 1885 census that he is 45 years of age and this corresponds to his birth in 1840. But later in the 1900 census when he was married to the much younger Delia Carr that he was born in September of 1843 and is 56. According to those numbers William aged only eleven years over that fifteen year period between these censuses! I believe the solution to this is that he was born in September of 1840 but fibbed about his age when he married Dell who, born in 1870, was thirty years younger than him. I might add that Dell's father was sixty years old when she was born so a much older male figure in her family was not unusual.

William M Cowan

The earliest reference to a William is five years prior to his marriage in an **1861 Hullett Township Census** reference to a William Coan (a common spelling of the name). According to the record, William, age 22, was a laborer living on the farm of John and Janet McMillan. The McMillan's, ages 37 and 30, had six children, the oldest being ten years old in 1861. The census states



Portrait of William M Cowan
From tintype photograph

that William was born in Nova Scotia and that he was a member of the English Church. John McMillan, b. 1824, is the son of Walter McMillan and Mary Laidlaw; he came from Kirkconnell in 1843; and he married Janet McMichael, b. 1831, at Huron County. A significant event for the McMillans in 1861 is that their oldest daughter Grizel died that year at ten years of age.

The 1861 census record is an interesting reference since Janet McMillan is Margaret's aunt: Janet's brother Thomas is Margaret McMichael's father! There are some inconsistencies with this record and the record on the 1871 Census discussed below and I suggest that these inconsistencies are because the questions for the earlier 1861 census were not asked of William but of John McMillan who was head of the household. John guessed William's age and the spelling of his name; knew he was born in Canada to the east somewhere - but not exactly where; and, knowing his parents were from England, said he was a member of the English Church. This is all conjecture, of course.

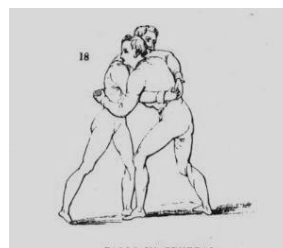
The following is another possible scenario. I received a copy of photograph now in the possession of Sally Hausken of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota that is of a man and woman and a child.



On the back of the photograph is written the following: **"John, Walter & Janet McMichael Cowan 1831 - 1867 Constance Kinburn."** There is no question that this is a photograph of John and Janet McMillan and their son Walter. Walter, one of their six children by then, was born in 1856 and I would guess him to be four or five in the photograph. Thus the photograph was taken in about 1861 - the same year of the census. The dates 1831 - 1867 are the years of Janet's birth and death and thus, one would think, the name **Janet McMichael Cowan** written immediately preceding these dates is a reference to her full name as was known. See **A3-d7** Janet Ritchie McMichael in the McMichael family genealogy record for further discussion.

Based on the year that John and Janet's first child was born (1851), they were likely married in about 1850. Why then is the name **Cowan** included in her name? Is it possible that Janet was previously married to widower Robert Cowan (Eliza died?) and that Robert then also died shortly thereafter leaving Janet to raise William, now her stepson? If this were so, then she would have to have been no more than about 16 - 17 and Robert about 48 when they married - not a likely scenario. But why would they have a young man living on their farm named Coan [Cowan] and why would that name also be attached to Janet's name? Was John sloppy in his answers to the 1861 census recorder's questions and does this suggest an attitude toward William and his wife's previous marriage or was it that it was so long ago (ca. 1847)? Did William's parents live in the Hullett County area? Did he attend school in the county and are there school records there? Are his parents buried in the county and are their tombstones recorded? I believe that, if there is some relationship here, we can find his parents - Robert Cowan and his wife Eliza Gunston.

Margaret who five years later married William Cowan is listed on the same 1861 census living with her parents and is age 17. Her age matches the later record on her marriage certificate. Margaret, who had eight brothers and sisters, lived on the family farm just a few farms away from her aunt's farm and there is no question that she would have been acquainted with this young man William Cowan.



According to the Sheldon, North Dakota Centennial Book (1880-1980), William was called Bill and he was a wrestler in Ontario. This was confirmed in my conversation with Dudley Cowan back in 1972. It may be possible to find further information about William in old sports news or records of wrestling during the 1860 - 70's around Huron County.

The following is the marriage record of Margaret McMichael's sister, Elizabeth McMichael, dated 1864, and the marriage record of Margaret to William Cowan, dated 1866:

Huron County Marriage Record, 1858 - 1869; Vol. 1, p. 124: WILLIAM GRIEVE, 25, of McKillop, born McKillop Huron, son of John Grieve/Agnes Scott and ELIZABETH McMICHAEL, 21, of Hullett, born Hullett, daughter of Thomas McMichael/Elizabeth McMichael married May 13, 1864 by Rev. Mathew Barr, Canada Presbyterian Church. Witnesses: Robert Scott and Robert Grieve, both of McKillop.

Huron County Marriage Record

Huron County Marriage Record, 1858 - 1869; Vol. 1, p. 164: **WILLIAM COWAN**, 25, of Hullett, born Canada, son of Robert Cowan and Eliza Gunston and **MARGARET McMICHAEL**, 21, of Hullett, born Canada, daughter of Thomas McMichael and Elizabeth McMillan married June 26th, 1866 by the Rev. A. D. McDonald of Clinton, Canadian Presbyterian Church. The witnesses were Malcomb Campbell of McKillop [probably a relative] and Grace McMichael [Margaret's sister] of Hullett.

The church where they were married was the First Presbyterian church of Clinton, a frame building built eleven years earlier in 1855. It was located on the present site of St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church. The First Presbyterian church was later abandoned and sold, and in 1884 a new white brick building was built on East Rattenbury Street. The contractor was Mr. Henry Stevens and the first preacher in the new church was Rev. E. A. McDonald. There was no organ in the church for many years “as many of the early Scotch folk did not believe in that type of music.” A small hand organ was donated by “R. Irwin, who operated an elevator in the town’s early days”, and later a pipe organ was installed. One of the Willis Presbyterian Church’s ministers was Dr. A. Stewart who served the congregation for a record thirty-four years. Unfortunately, many of Willis Presbyterian church records were lost in the fire which destroyed Wesley-Willis church in 1928.

Wesley-Willis United Church was formed in 1925 with the joining of the congregations of Wesley Methodist and Willis Presbyterian. The story of each church goes back almost seventy-five years before that.

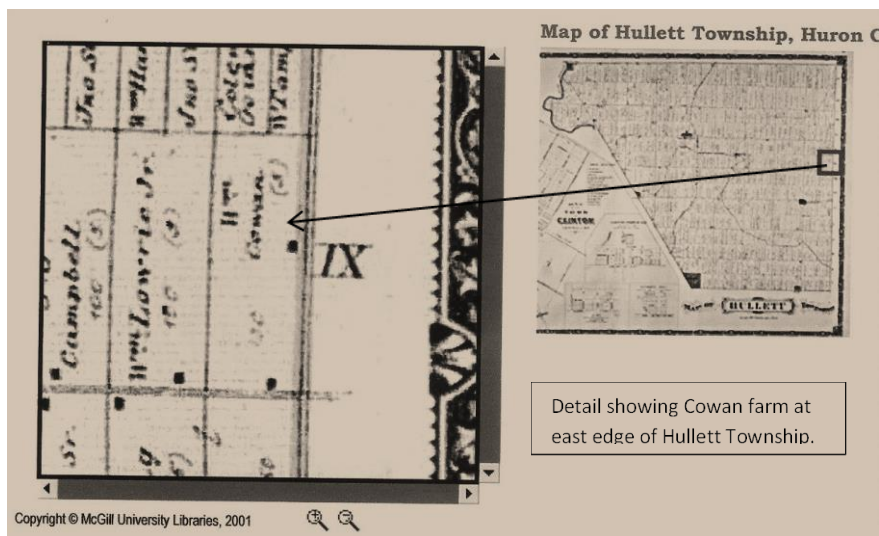
At the time of church union in 1925, when Willis Presbyterian united with Wesley Methodist, some of the members remained with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Eventually the former ‘Willis’ church became their church once again and the name changed to St Andrews Presbyterian. St. Andrew’s (Clinton) Presbyterian Church (HP141) Box 1623 Clinton ON Phone: (519) 482-7368

I suspect that William and Margaret had some association with the Willis Presbyterian Church in the fourteen years that they farmed at Seaforth. It is likely also that this was the church of Margaret’s family and that William and Margaret were members. Their three children were perhaps baptized there.

William and Margaret lived in Hullett Township for fourteen years, from the time of their marriage in 1866 to March of 1880, during which time they had three children: William James (1874), Thomas (1877) and Robert A (1879). I have wondered why they were childless during their first eight years of marriage and then had three children over the next five years.

The Federal Census of 1871 (Ontario Index) shows the following entry: **District:** HURON NORTH (026), **Sub-district:** Hullett (E), Division 3, page 4, **Microfilm reel:** C-9931, **Reference:** RG31 — Statistics Canada

Land record for Hullott Twp in 1879. Full record for Cowan, William (See map below.)	
Last Name	Cowan
First Name	William
Post Office	Constance
Township	Hullett
County	Huron
Atlas Date	1879
Consession	IX
Lot	1



The record states: *William Cowan and Margaret. Hullett, age 30, born Quebec, Presbyterian, parents - England.* The age reference for William matches the marriage records. The birth reference to Quebec is specific and is corroborated by a statement made to me back in 1972 by Dudley Cowan that Grandpa Jim's father was born in Quebec. The reference to his origin in England could be a reference to Britain or in fact his parents were English. If his parents were from Scotland - as Margaret's parents were - I would certainly think that he would have been specific and said "Scotland." In the 1910 U.S. census he does specify Scotland as their origin. At the time of this Canadian census William and Margaret had been married for six years and were farming near Seaforth. Bill also made the rounds of the pubs and local arenas in the county as a wrestler. There are no children listed on the census as none are yet born.

A farm described as Concession IX, Lot 1 owned by Wm. Cowan is shown on an 1879 Huron Atlas map of Hullett Township and it is located about six lots from four farms owned by the McMichaels. E___ McMichael had two lots and Robert, G___ and William each had one lot. In Ontario, townships are divided into concessions and each concession is a strip of land 1 and 1/4 mile wide. Concessions are divided into lots that use Arabic numbers (3, 4, etc). Originally lots were 200 acres, which could then be easily divided into parcels of 100 acres. The lots ran parallel to the road.

So after fourteen years of their marriage and in the spring of 1880 when the children were six, three and 11 months, William and Margaret loaded all of their possessions and horses onto the overland train, left their land and headed west to the Dakota Territory to begin a new life on the frontier.

The 1880 Train to the Dakota Territory

William and Margaret and the children moved to the Dakota Territory in March of 1880, when son Jim was six, son Thomas three and son Robert was just under a year old. William didn't file immigration papers at Fargo until September of that year. A second William Cowan filed immigration papers for Cass County in 1886 and I don't know who that would be.

North Dakota Naturalization Records Index

Cowan William Canada 1st September 24, 1880 Cass D-3 356

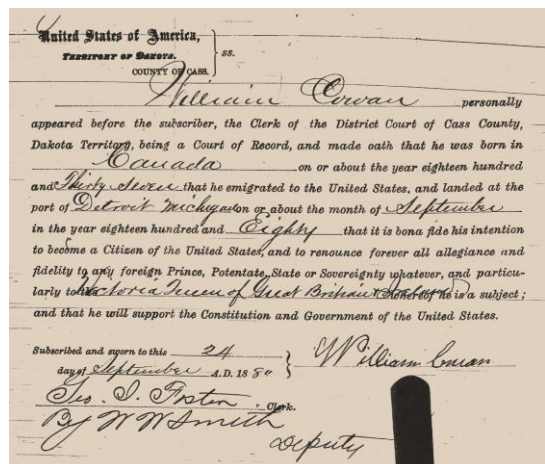
Cowan William Canada 2nd December 30, 1886 Cass F-21 232

Dale McMichael [deceased] tells an oral history that relates how William and Margaret Cowan came to the Dakota Territory. Dale was county judge in Eastern North Dakota and is the grandson of Margaret's brother, Robert McMichael. According to the story, William Cowan, his wife Margaret, and their three



children, along with Margaret's brother Robert and his wife Aggie (Von Egmond), and their children, left for the United States to homestead on the free land that was to be settled. They sold their farms in Canada, loaded their horses and housing goods on the railroad newly opened to the west, and left for the Dakota Territory. I am told that, when they arrived, they found the free land had already been staked. Later census records indicate that William owned the farm and it was not mortgaged suggesting that it indeed was acquired through homestead.

In the summer of 1988 I lunched with Agnes Schoer. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, granddaughter of Robert McMichael and she describes a dimension to their move to Dakota. It seems that Elizabeth McMichael (William's mother-in-law and mother of Margaret and her brother Robert) was getting on in years (born about 1820 and now about age 60) was getting forgetful and dementia. It could have been arteriosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, or whatever. In any case, her son Robert told Agnes that he would never have placed her in a home for the aged and demented and was angry about the unfortunate thing that then happened. In those days, there were no nursing homes like today – people who seemed out of touch were locked away in a home for the demented (insane asylum). Such homes were custodial only and it was known that folks committed there had little care or contact. What happened at the McMichael home was that two other of her sons came home to visit their mother Elizabeth and told her that they wanted to take her for a buggy ride. Well, instead, they took her to the insane asylum. She fought all the way and in the scuffle, she cut her arm on a fence wire. Within thirty days later she died at that asylum of blood poisoning. This places Elizabeth's death likely in late 1879, just prior to the time that Robert McMichael and his sister, Margaret traveled to the Dakota Territory in March of 1880.

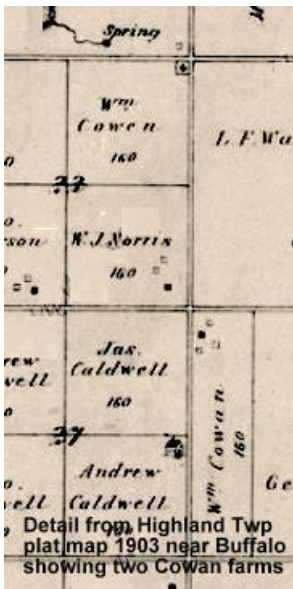


It may be a coincidence, but it is conceivable that the events of their family regarding her mother may have had something to do with the decision to move to the Dakota Territory. Agnes also adds in this story that Robert (and apparently William, as well) went first to the Dakota Territory to check out the opportunity. When they found a place at Shenford, they then brought their families out.

It is clear, however, that the opening of the railroad to the territory and the availability of land made this move possible. Settlers moving in included primarily Scots, English and Norwegians.

The Jenksville Settlement

William and Margaret's child, Robert A. was born on April 21 of 1879 and was eleven months old when they settled at Jenksville in Highland township. Jenksville was six miles or so north near



what would become in 1881 the new town of Sheldon. This places the date of their move to the Dakota at March of 1881, in the fifteenth year of their marriage. According to the Sheldon Enterprise, a number of Scottish families came by train that spring to make new lives at this place that became Jenksville. New towns were opening up fast and William began farming at Jenksville while Robert Me road to the east. The train didn't reach the village of Sheldon until 1883. By the late 1880's most people at Jenksville had moved on; probably to be closer to where they could sell their grain.

From a comment by Miss E. B Greene reported in the Sheldon Centennial book, page 17. "In what includes our Sheldon Community there was a group of Scotch Canadian families who came from Ontario before Sheldon (about 1880, I think), and settled north of town (Jenksville). I do not know of any written record of those years, though there may be something somewhere. The old settlers Picnic records...might tell something. A lot of the pioneers were living then and at least it gives the dates of when they came...Of course we ourselves were only babies or small children, but we heard a lot later."

Another record talks about the intrusion of Scottish families from Canada. The organization of Jenksville occurred in September, 1880, by B. D. Wilcox on section 21 (SE1/4-21 Highland), of what is now Highland Township. The post office was started the following winter (Jan. 6, 1881) and the mail was taken overland from Buffalo to Jenkdville. The families settling there in 1879 were Messrs. Patrick Perce, now of Enderlin, Patrick Keene, Nils Beestrom, John Brick, John Bauerschmidt, Christian Larson, and the Fraedrichs family. In the spring of 1881 the immigrants from Canada made their intrusion in the person(s) of George Patterson, George Fowler, **William Cowan**, Alexander McIntosh, Andrew Caldwell and High McIntosh.



September 6, 1917 Facebook Post: For many of my Facebook friends this simple photo of a field doesn't mean much, but if your name is COWAN or you are related to a Cowan among my relatives this field has some meaning. You see, back in 1881 our ancestors, my great grandparents and their children homesteaded this land coming from Canada. They had this and another 160 acre plot nearby. The place was called Jenksville. Great grandpa became postmaster there at that little

post office. The little town became Cowan Corner and the little school there became Cowan School. They were William M. Cowan and his wife Margaret McMichael and the children were William James (called Jim), Thomas and Robert Alfred.

In the foreground of the photo is what became Jenksville Cemetery. In it lay several children, a mother and child and several graves now unmarked. The place is located about six miles north of Sheldon, ND (pop. today less than 200).

Four more children, Elizabeth Jane, Stanley, Lynne and Lee were born and some years ago I counted over 500 descendents in 23 states and two provinces. Today it's more like 800 or a thousand.

My brother Bill, my nephew Wayne and I were there a couple of weeks ago and I stood there in the center of the gravel road to absorb the feel of the air. The sun was warm and a light cool breeze blew. The air seemed fresh and clean washing my body with peace and happiness one seldom senses in the business of life. I'll not soon forget.

The village of Jenksville was east from Enderlin on Highway 46. Go east to the second left, 147th Ave., past the Sheldon turn-off. Keep going about three miles and you will see the little Jenksville Cemetery on the left. It's all that remains there now. The photo above shows the spot. There are a few children's graves there and a mother and child who appears to have died in childbirth. The photo above was taken at the intersection shown at the top of the plat map on the left and points toward what was the fields of the upper Cowan farm. The "X" shown at that corner shows the location of the old Cowan Corner post office. Also at that corner of the farm is the old Jenksville cemetery.

The village was named by the first postmaster, Barnabus D. Wilcox after his wife's maiden name Jenks. It was located on the Maple River in Highland Township of Cass County and William M. Cowan had two 160 acre farms there. The 1883 Plat Map shows the farms at TWP 137, Range 54, W1/4Sec26 and NE1/2Sec22. The post office was opened in about 1877 and closed in 1881 when it was moved to Sheldon, a few miles to the South. The Sheldon Enterprise reports that the post office at Jenksville was reopened in this corner of the Cowan farm in 1883 and named Cowan Corner. The post office remained until 1888.

The first settlers in Highland Township

The first settler in Highland Township were Shea Healy in 1878. In 1879 and the early 80's, the people who made up the Jenksville settlement arrived: Patrick Pierce, Robert Anderson, the Casgroves, Pattersons, Morrisises, **Cowans**, McIntoshes, Bricks, Bauerschmidts, Boyles, Fraedrichs, Boehms, Westphals, Ihmes, and the Oehlkes.

Of the groups of people who settled at Jenksville, there was a contingent of Scots from Canada many of whom are named above. It is interesting that Robert Anderson named above has the same roots as our ancestor, **William Cowan** who joined him in the journey to Jenksville. This also tells me that Cowan's ancestry likely hails from Dumfries in Scotland and that the family of the McMichaels were known to his family both in Dumfries and in Seaforth in Ontario.

According to a student paper (NDSU), Family History 1952, by Darryl Anderson 1934 -, his great-great grandparents emigrated from Dumfries, Scotland to Hensel, Ontario, and in 1880 moved to the Dakota Territory where they homesteaded near Jenksville, Highland Township (Cass County). Not only is Hensel just south a couple of miles from Seaforth but Jenksville is where William Cowan first settled. [This paper is found in the Institute Room, North Dakota State

University Library at Fargo.] In case you didn't get the point here, this family made the journey from the same place in Scotland to the same place in Ontario and ended up at Jenksville just as our great-grandparents did. History tells us that people moved in groups as they emigrate from place to place and, I'm sure, there was some contingent of people within this group making the same journey. This family and our great-grandparents both immigrated to Jenksville area in 1880.

The following is a look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum ... by Susan Schlecht. She says the Enderlin Museum contains many interesting items and artifacts from the Sheldon area, also. The following are excerpts from a paper entitled EARLY HISTORY OF SHELTON, RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA prepared by Ed Pierce and read at the Old Settlers' Picnic at Sheldon, ND, in July 1906.

Mr. Pierce states: "The reason for Sheldon's being was apparent about 1880 when the settlements of Jenksville, Owego and Bonnersville began to produce sufficient (commodities) to warrant looking for a market. Prior to that time, their grain was hauled from 20 to 50 miles, and supplies the same".

"The Jenksville settlement was the most active and aggressive. Among its early settlers were Robert Anderson in 1880 with his sons John, Gilbert, James, Robert and Joe." (Other early names mentioned by Mr. Pierce were Wilcox, Shea, Haley, Pierce, Bystrom, Bauerschmidt, Brick, Dablow, Cosgrove, Schobinger, Westphal, Boehm, Fraedrich, Patterson, McIntosh, **Cowan**, Fowler, Norris, and Lindemann.) "For many years this continued to be the best settlement tributary to Sheldon. They were foremost in building of schools, churches, bridges and roads and as hustlers for the railroad. In politics they were nearly all dyed-in-the-wool, gold standard Democrats." Mr. Pierce continues by stating, "I was surprised to learn this, but the poll books of the recent election prove it beyond a doubt."

"At that time, even the Maple River commanded a good deal of respect. I recall that in April, 1881, a lot of fellows accustomed to the antics of Canadian streams volunteered to build a bridge on what is now (1906) the Treglone farm, and under the direction of George Patterson, commenced on the ice in the morning, built cribs of heavy oak and elm logs 20 ft. high, decked them with stringers and floors weighting hundreds of tons, and before night the little creek broke loose and in ten minutes there wasn't a log, a block, a bolt or a tool within a mile of the site of the bridge, and its builders were looking on with open-mouthed wonder at what happened to them."

"The settlements of Owego and Bonnersville were old at that time, but not much of the land was filed on until in Owego John Knutson filed on Nov. 20, 1878, Helmuth Schultz on June 28, 1878, S.R. Day on Dec. 14th, 1877, Frank Probert on July 2nd, 1879, Gust Mueller Oct. 7th 1879, and in Bonnersville, John H. Kratt on June 13, 1879, Ed Rhinehart on May 28, 1879, Peter Bonner on Nov. 27, 1878, Julius Bracher on Oct. 23, 1881, John McCusker on July 20, 1880, and Louis Clement on Dec. 1st, 1877."

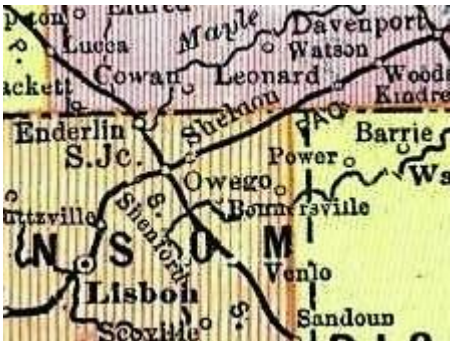
"In 1880 the greater number of the settlers on the Maple River filed, (including) the Hansons, Stensons, Fosses, Wolds, Christiansons, Fausetts. Others moved in early in the spring of 1881." (More excerpts from Mr. Pierce's speech will be included next week.)

Sue's comments: For those who may not know, Jenksville was located in Section 21 of

Highland Township along the Maple River about three miles north of what is now Highway 46. The colony of Owego was located in Section 16 of Owego Township just south of the Sheyenne River. Bonnersville was located in Shenford Township about three miles southeast of Anselm. All of these settlements existed before either Enderlin or Sheldon were founded.

The Cowan farms were located in Highland Twp as follows: Twp 137, Range 54 W1/4Sec26 and NE1/2Sec22.

COWAN CORNER: A rural post office established April 8, 1884 with William Cowan, postmaster; discontinued Oct. 8, 1888 and mail sent to Sheldon in Ransom County. (80; 82). Source: Origins of North Dakota place names by Williams, Mary Ann Barnes, 1966, North Dakota State Library Digital. NO KNOWN COPYRIGHT



This is detail from an 1898 Ransom County map that shows the Village of COWAN about where old Jenksville was located during the 1880's about six miles north of Sheldon.

The Dakota Territory Census Index of 1885 shows the William Cowan family living at their farm in Jenksville of Cass Counry.

Record	Name	Age, Relation	Birth	Census
17-027-17	Cowan, William	45 Head Farmer	Canada	Cass
17-027-18	Cowan, Margret	40 Wife	Canada	Cass
17-027-19	Cowan, William J.	12 Son	Canada	Cass
17-027-20	Cowan, Thomas	9 Son	Canada	Cass
17-027-21	Cowan, Robert	6 Son	Canada	Cass
17-027-22	Cowan, Elithbeth	4 Daughter	Dakota	Cass
17-027-23	Cowan, Stanley	1 Son	Dakota	Cass

Arbor day at Jenksville School

by M. Cowan. May 9, 1885

Originally from the May 12, 1885 issue of the Sheldon Enterprise written May 9, 1885 by M. Cowan and addressed to the editor. This story is about a village and school that no longer exist.

“Last Saturday, May 2nd, will long be remembered by the scholars of Jenksville School. They inaugurated a new holiday – Arbor Day. Promptly at 9 o’clock the scholars all assembled at Mr. McIntosh’s house, each one provided with a lunch basket; thence under the direction of the teacher, Mr. Morgan, they hid themselves to the cool shades of the Maple River. Fun and enjoyment were nicely combined with business.

“Swings were soon suspended from the trees for the little ones, while the older pupils, armed with axes and spades searched the woods for neat little shade trees. Each scholar selected one tree, dug it up, carried it to the school house, and planted it. The requisite

number of trees were soon dug up and ready to be transplanted. The remainder of the day was given up to real enjoyment with a will. The older girls prepared a neat little dining place, while the boys went off fishing and boating. The manual labor was interspersed with many instructive lessons in botany by the teacher, who showed his pupils many wonderful instances of natural economy of which they were hitherto ignorant.

“At 3 o’clock, a procession was formed, each pupil carrying his or her own tree, headed by the teacher, and they marched to the school house. Thirty trees were soon planted in a long row before the school-house, adding much to the appearance of the play-ground. The pupils were then all assembled in the school room where the teacher read for them an article on the planting and its benefits, from the School Journal, after which appropriate pieces were recited by the pupils – The whole ceremony concluded with a general jubilee and a grand hurrah for the teacher. “

Larry Cowan note 09/01/1917: I suspect that it was my great-grandmother, Margaret McMichael Cowan who wrote this article. Two different listings of settlers name the Cowans and McIntoshes next to one another. I suspect they had neighboring farms and were well acquainted. So in the story, the McIntoshes provided the pupils their lunches and, I suspect, Margaret McMichael Cowan wrote the story. Note that only an initial, M, is used to name the author. In those days it would have been presumptuous for a married female to use her given name. And secondly, the subject is not one that a male author, particularly a farmer would write. Also it appears that the author was schooled in writing. The Cowans would have had four children at the school at that time in May: William James 11 yrs 3 mos, Thomas 9 yrs 3 mos, Robert Alfred 6 yrs 1 mo, and Elizabeth Jane 4 yrs 3 mos and Margaret would have been carrying one in her arms, Stanley 2 ½ mos.

This is from a column in the May 02, 2014 issue of The Independent that looks at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum. By Susan Schlecht

A Sheldon Newspaper entry of 1885 states that there was a Cowan School. I haven’t found any further information on this statement. I suspect that was the school at Jenksville.

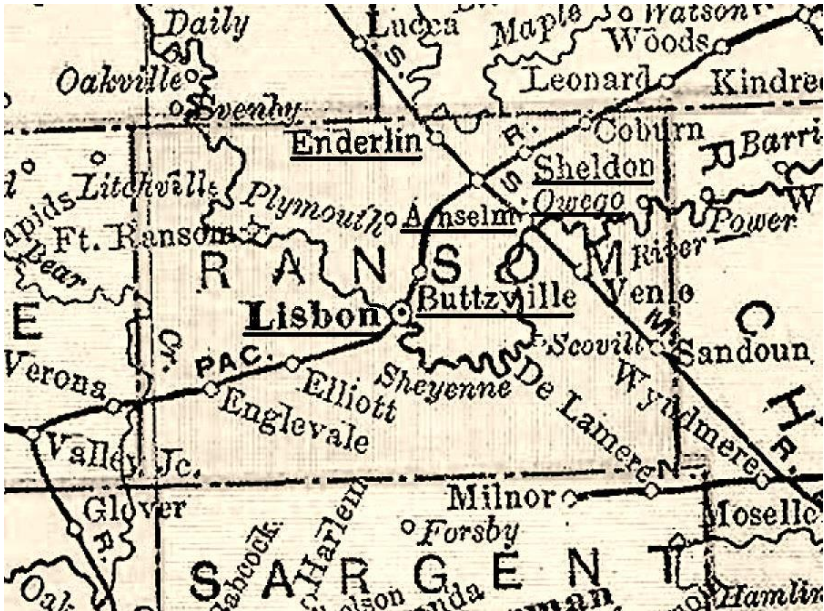
A farm at Shenford (later named Anselm)

It appears also that in 1881 William and Margaret Cowan purchased a farm at Shenford (later named Anselm) in Owego Township to the south. According to an affidavit of William Hutchings, resident of Ransom County since 1878, he says, “He was neighbor to and worked with James B. Murray, unmarried; that Murray homesteaded that part of the S1/2 of Sec. 8, Owego Township which jigsaw fitted the odd pattern of the Thiergart farm.” And says Hutchings, “Murray sold this farm to William Cowan (and Margaret) in 1881.” There is apparently some discrepancy regarding land ownership during the period of 1876 - 1895 and the pre-emptive certificate to Abraham H Marsh, for NE1/4, Sec. 20 of same township, may be misplaced. Transactions regarding this land can be further researched in Abstracts and indexes to Ransom County Trust Company (Sheldon, N. D.) Case File no’s. 3136 and 3137: The North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies & University Archives, a division of the NDSU Libraries, collections. The Ransom County Trust Company records document the operations of a major North Dakota Land company dating from circa 1899 – 1940

Robert McMichael’s livery stable at Leonard was just a mile or so to the southeast of Jenksville. Later, Robert moved his livery stable from Leonard to Wahpeton. At Wahpeton he

raised horses for many years and they became one of the elder families of that area. The city library in Wahpeton is today built on the land that once was Robert McMichael's stable.

1885 United States Atlas – Ransom County, North Dakota. Jenksville was located at the top of this map on the river just below the “a” of the word Maple (River). Note that the village of Leonard where Margaret’s brother settled is just a couple of miles to the east.



The map above shows the town locations in Ransom County in 1895. For reference the distance by train from Sheldon to Lisbon is about 14 miles. Sheldon is about 42 miles to the southwest from Fargo. The population of North Dakota in 1895 was 182,000. The town name of Shenford was changed to Anselm in 1892.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>1895 Population</u>
Lisbon (County Seat)	Platted and post office 1880	935
Sheldon	Platted 1882 and Incorp. 1884	456
Anselm (Shenford)	Post office estab. 1880	15
Owego	Estab. 1869	14
Enderlin	Estab. 1891	Not listed
Leonard		104

According to The Early History of Ransom County 1835 - 1885, Published at Larimore N. D., 1918, H. V. Arnold, author and publisher, 1848 - 1931, p. 71, “The history of Sheldon dates from June 23, 1881, when B. D. Wilcox purchased the present town site from the Fargo and Southwestern Railroad which was then being built. He bought all of section 17, the section upon which Sheldon now stands, for \$3,200, but having no money with which to pay for it, he sold it three weeks later to E. E. Sheldon for \$3,800.” Mr. Sheldon platted the land for a town and thus, the town of Sheldon, Greene Township, Section 17 of Ransom County was born.

The following describes some of the early development of the Sheldon area prior to 1906 and lists some names of early settlers. These excerpts are from a paper entitled Early History of Sheldon, Ransom County, North Dakota which was prepared by Mr. Ed Pierce and read at the Old Settlers’ Picnic at Sheldon, ND in July 1906. Mr. Pierce was apparently an officer of the Ransom County Trust Company located at Sheldon. This paper in its entirety is on file in the Enderlin

Historical Society and Museum.

Mr. Pierce writes, "The reason for Sheldon's being was apparent when the settlements of Jenksville, Owego and Bonnersville began to produce sufficient (commodities) to warrant looking for a market. Prior to that time, their grain was hauled from 20 to 50 miles, and supplies the same."

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"At the time, even the Maple River commanded a good deal of respect. I recall that in April, 1881, a lot of fellows accustomed to the antics of Canadian streams volunteered to build a bridge on what is now (1906) the Treglone farm, and under the direction of George Patterson, commenced on the ice in the morning, built cribs of heavy oak and elm logs 20 feet high, decked them with stringers and floors weighing hundreds of tons, and before night the little creek broke loose and in ten minutes there wasn't a log, a block, a bolt or a tool within a mile of the site of the bridge, and its builders were looking on with open-mouthed wonder at what happened to them."

"The settlements of Owego and Bonnersville were old at that time, but not much of the land was filed on until in Owego John Knutson filed on Nov. 20, 1878. Helmuth Schultz on June 28, 1878, S.R. Day on Dec. 14th, 1877, Frank Probert on July 2nd, 1879, Gust Mueller Oct 7th 1879, and in Bonnersville, John H. Kratt on June 13, 1879, Ed Rheinhart on May 28, 1879, Peter Bonner on Nov. 27, 1878, Julius Bracher on Oct. 23, 1881, John McCusker on July 20, 1880, and Louis Clermont on Dec. 1st, 1877."

In 1880 the greater number of the settlers on the Maple River filed, (including) the Hansons, Stensons, Fosses, Wolds, Christiansons, Fausetts. Others moved in early in the spring of 1881.

The Family at Pigeon Point

From this point forward in this story, I will generally refer to William as Bill. I do not know how he was referred to prior to Sheldon but, at Sheldon, he was known in the community as "Bill." Early records seem to indicate that Bill and Margaret farmed two separate farms in the time when they first came to the area. Whether or not they were farming at both places concurrently isn't known. They farmed near what was Jenksville in Highland Township of Cass County and apparently also at Owego. They were at Highland Township when they first came from Canada in 1880 and were there when their son Lee was born in 1899. I suspect that he was still farming at Highland township in 1918 38 years later when he died.

There are also records that show that Bill and Margaret settled on a parcel of land a few miles southwest of Sheldon in what would become Owego Township. The actual plot where they lived was the center half of the south side of section 32 of Owego Township (S1/2NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4-32). I am told that this was actually quite close to the edge of village toward Lisbon and that their neighbor was a Mr. and Mrs. George Van Horn whose two daughters, Kate and Louise, married Lee (son of William and Dell) and Lloyd (Grandson of William and Margaret) Cowan respectively. The

land was pretty much open country back then and the people who lived there were few as noted by the 1895 population record shown above (Owego population 15 people).

George Van Horn Sr. and his wife Louisa and family came from Fargo and then to Owego Township (SE1/4-19 Owego) as early pioneers and settled on section 19 next to Pigeon Point. Pigeon Point is a high mound from which one can see far into the distance and a shelter was built there for travelers between Fort Abercrombie on the Red River and Fort Ransom. From the top of the mound, a sentry could keep watch and signal the approach of Indians. According to the Fort Ransom, Pembina Territory census of 1870, George Van Horn, age 23 was a soldier from Pennsylvania stationed at Fort Ransom. According to old school records, his son also named George was born in 1871 and in 1883 attended Sheldon School No 2.

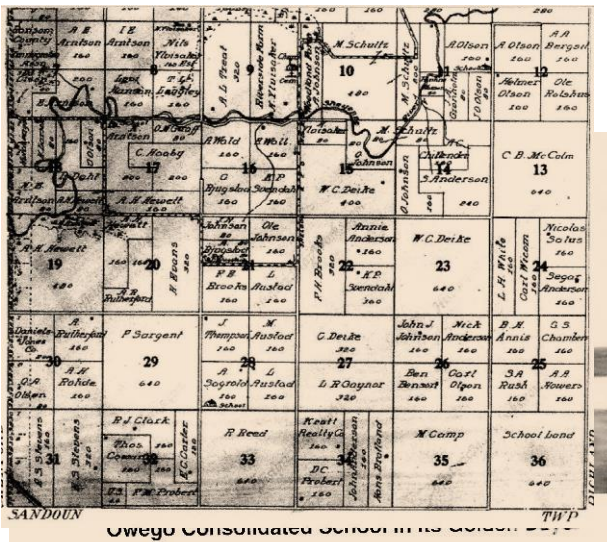
The Van Horn land is shown on the adjacent plat map just to the left to the one above. It's near the right edge close to the Cowan farm shown on the lower left of this map.

The following story about the early days is recorded in the Sheldon 100th Anniversary Book and I quote: "A story handed down from Pigeon Point days comes from George Van Horn who homesteaded at Sandoun [later renamed McLeod] and later lived at section 19. George's father, a soldier stationed at Fort Abercrombe, had a dark eyed baby girl named Laura. Besides teaching the early settlers the use of "kinnikinic" (willow bark) as a substitute for tobacco, the Sioux Indians took a special liking to this little girl and called her Black Eyes. A Sioux band was visiting at their farm one day and later left on a hunt towards the west and shortly afterward the Van Horn family missed their daughter Laura. The soldiers were ordered to pursue the Indians and on reaching the band found the dark-eyed Laura among the papooses of the tribe. She was returned unharmed and years later became Mrs. George Duty of Sandoun Township, Ransom County, N. D."

Laura is a sister to George Van Horn (the son) and aunt to his father George. The 1920 census of Owego Twp. shows George and Laura's son William, age 24 living on the farm of George Van Horn, age 44.

In February of 1996, I talked to one of the senior residents of Sheldon who knew of the Cowan family. His name is Newman Arntson and he is secretary of the now closed Owego Lutheran Church. He says there are two old Lutheran churches in the area (Zoar and Owego) and he clearly remembers that there are no Cowans buried at either church cemetery and he doesn't recollect that they were members of any church. He remembers that Bill had a farm in the hills area of Owego and that he raised cows and hay crop. The land wasn't suited for commercial crops. He remembers Bill's youngest son Lee and his son Jim and several of Jim's older children - - Lloyd, Mel, Oliver, Jane and Hattie. Newman remembers that the Cowan kids went to school at the old Owego Consolidated and that he was in Lee's class. He remembers that George Van Horn died many years ago and that his son George, Jr. and his wife were out to Sheldon to visit and he talked with them about ten years ago.

Owego Consolidated School (a one room school) was nearby and that's where



the children attended school.

Owego, Kvam and Zoar Lutheran Churches were close by and it's possible that baptisms or weddings may have been conducted there. These churches are now closed and according to Luther Seminary archives, a Rev. J. J. Akre served as circuit pastor at the Owego Lutheran Church during the period of 1892 -1898. He was born April, 14, 1863 and died April 20, 1950 and his parents were Johaness O. Akre and Martha Malene. I bring this up because Bill's son Jim married an Akre woman and this may be a tie (however, unlikely) to how they became acquainted. The church records that list pastoral acts (Baptisms, Weddings, funerals) for Owego Lutheran Church are not in the seminary archives. Newman Arntson remembers that Pastor John Engerholm took those records with him when he left and so they are not still in the Owego community.

Territorial Days on the Dakota Plains

During the late 1800's, the northeastern Dakota Territory was opening to settlements of small farms and was planning for Statehood. Bill Cowan and his wife Margaret McMichael Cowan left Canada and began their life on the plains of the Dakota Territory. The roads between towns were only trails and one traveled by horse and wagon and so the opportunity to travel by train was a major development in the opportunity to move west.

Let me back up and relate a little Dakota history. From the World Book Encyclopedia (1978) we read: "In 1812, Scottish and Irish families came from Canada and made their first attempts at a permanent settlement at Pembina in Dakota. In 1818 the United States obtained the northeastern part of Dakota by treaty with Great Britain. Congress Created the Dakota Territory in 1861 and President Abraham Lincoln appointed William Jayne as Governor. The territory included the present states of North and South Dakota and much of Montana and Wyoming. The first legislature met in Yankton (now in South Dakota) in 1862. In 1863, the territory was opened to homestead and settlers were given free land if they lived on it and improved it. But the territory developed slowly. Transportation was poor, and the settlers feared the Indian attacks. In 1862 Sioux Indians killed hundreds of settlers in an uprising in Minnesota near Mankato and some of the Indians who had taken part fled to the Dakota Territory while many were hanged. For many years during the 1860's and 1870's, the U. S. government sent troops into the territory to punish the Indians and many battles were fought. Federal agents signed treaties with the Indians in the Dakota Territory giving them land on reservations; but the whites often broke the treaties causing more uprisings. Peace came in 1881 when the great Sioux chief, Sitting Bull voluntarily surrendered to the U. S. troops. This is the same year that the town of Sheldon came into existence.

Large-scale farming began in the territory in about 1875 when eastern corporations and some families established huge wheat farms. Most of the farms were in the Red River Valley and ranged from 3,000 to 65,000 acres. The farms earned such large profits they became known as bonanza farms. The farms used orderly methods of planting, harvesting, and marketing. Later most of the farms were divided into smaller farms and sold to newcomers. During the 1870's, the settlers began to ask Congress to divide the Dakota Territory into two parts as the population centers had developed in far corners of the territory - in the northeast and in the southeast. North-south travel was difficult because the trains had laid their tracks in an east - west direction. [Remember James Hill's drive to connect with the Pacific Northwest?] The two groups of settlers felt they had little in common and wanted to develop their own governments."

"In February of 1889, Congress established the present boundaries between North Dakota and South Dakota and it passed an enabling act allowing the two regions to set up machinery to

become states. Then on November 2nd, 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states in the Union.”

In that year that the Dakota Territory became two new states, Bill’s son William James Cowan was 15 years old and widow Inger Akre from Iowa, whom William James Cowan will marry the next summer, was 24 and had just lost both her husband and her toddler son. Bill’s son Thomas who had epilepsy (or as they said, was prone to fits) was about twelve, Robert was ten, Lizzie was eight, and Stanley, his last child by Margaret, was four. Bill’s wife, Margaret, to whom he was married for the past 21 years and who was mother of his children, will die sometime during the next year.

According to the dates in her tombstone in the Sheldon city cemetery, Margaret died in 1890. Margaret was 45 and her youngest child, Stanley, was five years old at the time of her death. This confirms what Dudley Cowan told me in 1972 when he said, “Stanley was just a child when Margaret died.” Stanley was born in February of 1884.



Dudley related to me that after Margaret died, Bill took in Delia Carr from the nearby village of Shenford to keep house and care for the children. Dell was an attractive

young lady and over the years a relationship developed between Bill and Dell. Bill and Dell were then married on December 29, 1897, about seven years after Margaret died.

In reviewing the dates surrounding Bill and Dell’s early relationship, however, I have found some interesting facts about the birth of their daughter Lynne. Dell became pregnant in about March of 1888 when she was eighteen years of age and her daughter Lynne was born in December of 1889 when she was nineteen. This is an age at which most young girls of the time got married so it was apparently a most unfortunate event. Regarding William’s marriage to Margaret, the relationship with Delia was an affair that began more than two years before her death and about the time when Dell came into their household to care for the children.

Bill Marries Delia Carr of Shenford, N. D.

Delia: born 1870 Melbourne, Ontario. died 1938 Granville, North Dakota

Delia’s family is from Melbourne, Ontario that is about 45 miles directly south of Seaforth so it is possible that Bill and Margaret knew Delia’s family from when they lived at Seaforth. Her parents homesteaded a farm at Shenford, Dakota Terr., in 1880 when the post office was established there.

The following is a record of Dell’s family.

Dell’s father was Andrew Carr. b. 1810. d. _____. Andrew was born in England and he married Margaret _____. Andrew and Margaret had three children. The 1861 Ontario census shows Andrew, married, P. Methodist and age 51 at Carradoc, Middlesex, Ontario. Andrew later married Hannah Ann Seaburn Cook, born 1829, of the state of New York and later of Granville, North Dakota. Andrew and Hannah lived at Shenford, a small community near to Lisbon, and they had eight children including Dell.

The first three children listed are the children of Andrew and his first wife Margaret.

Mancie Carr b. ____ d. ____ Daughter of Margaret

Mary Elizabeth Carr (Betsy) b. ____ d. ____ Daughter of Margaret. Betsy Married James Mark, q.v.

_____? Third child

The next nine children listed are the children of Andrew and his second wife Hannah Cook.

Christine Carr b. ____ d. ____ Daughter of Hannah.

Anne Carr b. 1857. Anne lived in Canada and had eight sons and one daughter.

Andrew Carr b. 06/1859. Andrew married Isabelle (Belle) Bonner 05/1869 and they had four children. The 1900 U.S. Census lists three of the children: Earl 05/1890, Perle 11/1892, Loyd 05/1896 and shows the family living at Shenford. Andrew and his brother Jack farmed 480 acres at Shenford. E1/2-23 and this is where Andrew died in his horse barn. Andrew and Belle also had a house in Sheldon. Andrew died in 1910 and Belle died in 1934 and both are buried at Sheldon City Cemetery.

Robert Carr b. 1860.

Hannah Amy Carr (called Amy) b. 1864. Amy and her husband first lived 1 ½ miles south of Anselm, then moved to Sarnia, Ontario. They had seven girls and one boy.

Esther Carr b. 1865 Esther married the brother of Amy's husband and later took back the name of Carr.

Isabell (Belle) Carr b. 1867 Belle lived a few years of her youth at Prince Edward Island then came with her parents when they homesteaded near here.

John (Called Jack) Carr b. 1869 Jack married Ethel Rhinehart. Ethel Rhinehart was a school teacher in the Legg School in Shenford. They moved to Buhl, Idaho and Jack was one of the first to get water rights at Buhl, paying \$40 per acre for the water rights and \$.50 per acre for the land.

Delia (Dell) Carr The historical record of www.granvillenorthdakota.com states that Della Carr was born near Melbourne, Ontario, Canada on May 24, 1871. While she was a small child, she

Certificate of Marriage

Ransom County

*I hereby certify that the persons named on the foregoing license were by me joined in marriage at the court room in Lisbon, County of Ransom, State of North Dakota on the 29th day of December, 1897. In the presence of Herman Shirley, H. P. Grinager, witnesses.
Frank P. Allen,
Judge of the County Court,
Ransom County, N. D.*

Lisbon, N. D.

Dec. 29, 1897

To any person authorized by law to perform the marriage ceremony:

Greetings,

Your are hereby Authorized to Join in Marriage William M. Cowan of Sheldon, N. D, aged fifty years and Delia Carr of Sheldon, N. D. aged twenty-seven years and of this license and your certificate you will make due return to my office within thirty days.

Frank P. Allen, Judge of the County Court.

County of Ransom, North Dakota.

moved with her parents to Prince Edward Island, Canada and, at the age of twelve, she moved with her family to Leonard, North Dakota, where they homesteaded. As a young woman, she was married to William Cowan, who died in 1917. They had one son, Lee. In February, 1923, she married George Griffin of Granville. Mrs. Griffin was a member of the Presbyterian Church, but for many years she attended Sunday School and services at Hope Congregational Church. Mrs. Griffin died on January 13, 1939. Other records state she was born in 1870 and born in 1867. Dell was the youngest and, I would imagine, the 1871 date of birth is correct. The above record doesn't say but Dell had another child, Lynne b. 1889 by William Cowan and they were married in 1897. The ND Death Index states that William died in 1918.



The *Dakota Territorial Census of 1885* lists the family as Andrew Carr, Head age 75; Hannah, wife, age 56, John, son, age 16; and Delia, daughter, age 15. The other nine children not listed are off on their own by then.

According to the *Sheldon Press*, Judge Allen at Lisbon married William and Delia on December 29th, 1897 at Lisbon, the County Seat of Ransom County. Delia's family was at Shenford, a very small farm community near Owego. Apparently her parents had homesteaded a farm nearby in 1880 when the post office was established there. The village was renamed Anselm in 1892.

Dell was 26 when they were married and Bill indicated for the license that he was 50 years of age. Bill was actually 56 or 57! (Based on his stated age of 25 in the marriage record July 26, 1866 to Margaret) A studio photograph shown below taken of Bill and Dell upon their marriage in 1897 shows Bill seated and Delia standing at his side - - Both rather somber - - They are nicely dressed and Delia is a handsome girl.

Nine months into their marriage, an article of *September 30th, 1898* relates that "*Some children playing with matches started a fire in the stable in the rear of the Cowan house in Sheldon last Wednesday. Owing to the direction of the wind and the prompt assistance of the citizens, the fire was contained to the stable thus saving the house and other buildings*". Who were these children? Of Bill's grandchildren, the only small children at the time were Jim and Inga's children: Mae (seven), Willie (five), and Oliver (three). Six months earlier in April of the year, Jim and Inga had moved from Sheldon to a farm a few miles to the south at Anselm. It's easily possible the kids were visiting at grandpa's farm and were the culprits playing with matches!

Eleven months into their marriage, a newspaper entry from the *Enterprise* of November 18, 1898 states: "*Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Cowan of Highland township November 15th, a son. The Enterprise is glad to note that the old-timers are still doing something to sustain the population of the "Bonnie Highland."*" This child was Lee and Bill was about 58 years of age and Dell was 28.

TwelfthCensus of the US, 1900 Shenford Township, Ransom County taken June 20, 1900									
Name	Relation ship	Birth	Age	Years Married	Nativity	Immi- gration	Years in U.S.	Father's Nativity	Occupation Rent/Own
William	Head	Sep 1843	56	3	Canada	1882	18	Canada	Farmer/Rent

Delia	Wife	May 1870	30	3	Canada	1882	18	England	
Lynn	Dtr	Dec 1889	10		ND			Canada	
Thomas	Son	Jan 1877	23		Canada			Canada	
Lee	Son	Nov 1898	1		ND			Canada	
Stanley	Son	Feb 1884	16		ND			Canada	

The U. S. Census of June 20, 1900 shows William Cowan and his wife Delia Cowan whom reported age married three years earlier in 1897 living at Shenford Township where they rent a farm. Both are from Canada with roots in England. Delia's father is shown being from England. Residences in North Dakota include Rosemead, Shenford & Sydna Townships, T.134-Ranges.53-54, Ransom, North Dakota. The township of Sydna is about twenty miles straight south of Shenford on the opposite side of the Sheyenne National Grasslands.

The 1900 census record also shows that William and Delia have two children, Lynne, age ten (b. 12/1889) and Lee, age one. It is interesting to note that their daughter Lynne was conceived by Dell in April of 1889 a month before her nineteenth birthday and was born apparently some months before William's wife Margaret died. Back in 1972, Dudley told me that Dell was housekeeper in the home and took care of the children Lee and Thomas (perhaps when Margaret was ill). Census records of that period show that it was common for young girls to take the position of servant in farmer's homes. Dell and Bill married seven years later just after Christmas of 1897. The record is shown on the texts above.

1910 Thirteenth Census of the U.S., Owego Township of Ransom County, June, 1910				
Name	William Cowan	Delia	Thomas	Lee
Household Status	Head	Wife	Son	Son
Race	W	W	W	W
Birth month	Feb	Sep	Jun	April
Birth Year	1843	1872	1876	1899
Reported Age	63 yrs	38 yrs	34 yrs	11 yrs
Marital status	M	M	S	S
Yrs married	12	12		
Births		2		
Living Children		2		
Birthplace	Canada	Canada	Canada	Nor Dak
Father's brthplc	Scotland	England	Canada	Canada
Mother's brthplc	Scotland	Canada (Eng)	Canada	Canada
Emmig. Year	1881	1882		
Years in US	30	11		
Naturalization	Yes	Yes		
Occupation	Farmer			
School attendance			7 Months	7 Months
Read	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Write	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Speak English	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Own or rent	Own			
Own free or mort	Free			
Farm or house	Farm			
By the time of this census all of the other children, Jim, Lizzie, Robert and Stanley have married and left home and are not recorded here. Daughter Lynn died at age 18 in 1907.				

1915 North Dakota Census, Owego Township, Ransom County, April 1, 1915				
Name	William Cowan	Delia	Thomas	Lee
Household Status	Head	Wife	Son	Son
Race	W	W	W	W
Reported Age	65	44	36	16
1920 Fourteenth Census of the U.S., Owego Township of Ransom County, June, 1920				
Name	William Cowan	Delia	Thomas	Lee
	-Not reported-		-Not reported-	
Reported Age		48		21
		Head – Dairy farmer		mother's farm
Dell's stepson Thomas died some time during the ten years previous and her husband William died in 1918 about two years before this census				

The 1915 Owego census shows neighbors of William and Della as Son Stanley, 30, and Mae Cowan, age 25, and daughter Maud, age 5. The Van Horn family are also neighbors as noted below.

It would be interesting to know more about Bill and Delia and their life tOwego Census gether over the years to the time of Bill's death and also about the circumstances of their marriage.

Several comments can be made regarding the census reports of 1900, 1910, and 1920. Lynne died as a young seventeen year old teen in 1907 and her grave is located in the Sheldon City Cemetery. Bill's son Thomas died sometime after 1915 in his late thirties. It is noted that he had epilepsy. I have not been able to locate his grave in the area cemeteries.

In 1915, the Owego Consolidated School student membership roster shows that William is the father of Lee Cowan who is in the upper grades list. Based in his stated age of 25 at the time of his first marriage in 1866, William is now about 74 years of age. William died June 4th, 1918 at the farm in Owego at age 77 and is not listed in the 1920 census. Delia is age 48 and listed as a widow at that time. Della and her son Lee are still living at the farm in Owego listed in Tom's name. In 1921 Lee married neighbor girl Katheryn Van Horn and in 1923 Della married George Griffin and moved to Granville in McHenry County. The farm at Owego is now empty and abandoned.

Owego World War I Service

Honor Roll 1917-1919

Chifford R. Black, William O. Duty, Clyde G. Duty, Ole M. Johnson, Percy G. Carter (KIA), George P. Hpy, Harold J. Wiltse, Thomas Thompson, **Lloyd A. Cowan**, Fred J. Carter, **Melbourne J. Cowan**, **Robert O. Cowan**, Emil Matejcek, Bernard Benson, Edward C. Austad, Gus Rutherford (listed with Sheldon, too), Halfton M. Sagvoid, Martin D. Haakenson, Henry Haakenson, Andrew Sandvig, Swen Johnson, Hiko Elofson.

William M. Cowan - A Pioneer Life Ends

According to my conversation with Dudley Cowan back in 1972, Bill died two years later in 1917 and he is buried at Sheldon. He said that, "The folks at the mortuary at Wahpeton would know where. The county seat is Lisbon, about 30 miles out of Wahpeton to the west. Enderlin and

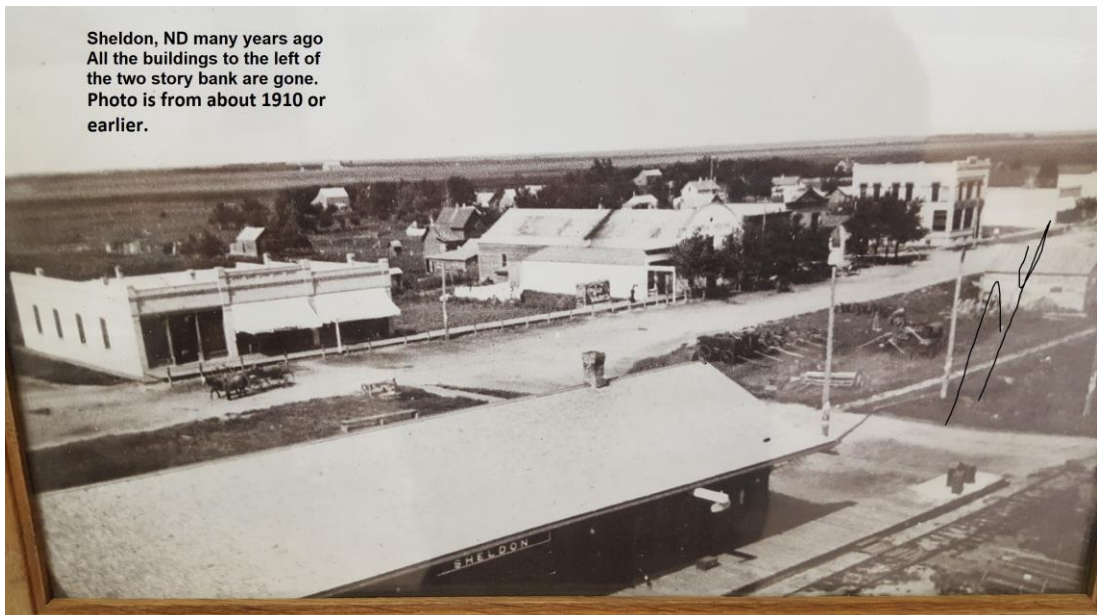
Sheldon are both in Ransom County.” Also, Doris Randleman who is Bill’s granddaughter by Lee also says that Bill died in 1917 at Sheldon. The ND Dept. of Health Public Death Index however lists Bill’s death on June 4, 1918. The 1918 date must be correct. It also shows that Bill was born Sep. 22, 1842 which must be two years off based on earlier records that place his birth year at 1840.

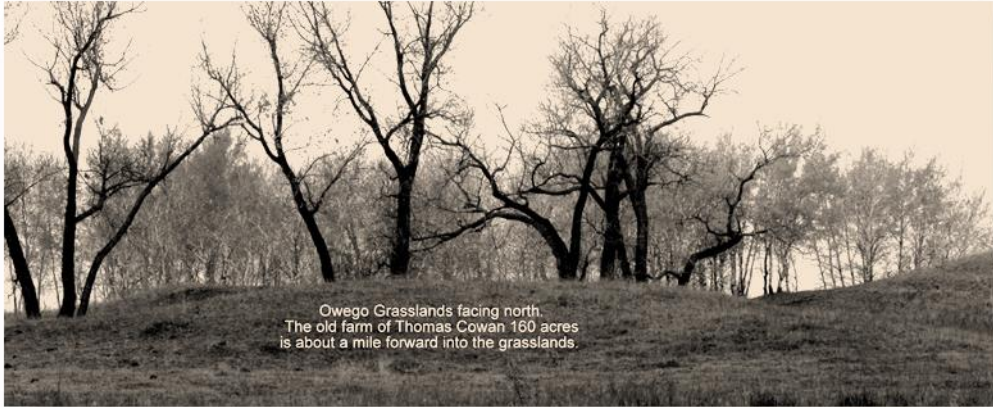
So there we have it - William was a farmer married to Margaret McMichael for 14 years and later to Delia Carr for 21 years and died at the age of 77 in the community where he lived these past 38 years.

Finding William’s gravesite took a little digging if you may pardon the pun. A survey of the tombstones of Ransom County by the Fargo Genealogical Society conducted in 1976 shows only one tombstone record of a William Cowan buried anywhere in the county - - and that isA. Cowan 1893 - 1913.” After further search, Marie Boeder of box 36, Sheldon, (701) 882-3405, who keeps the records for the Sheldon cemetery says that according to the cemetery plot map which she has on the wall in her garage, a William Cowan is buried in an unmarked grave at Sheldon cemetery, Block 12, lot 8 and there is no date of death recorded. This is certainly his grave because the sites of his wife Margaret and daughter Lynne are nearby. Perhaps someday a tombstone can be placed on his grave as it was for both his wife Margaret’s and his daughter Lynne’s graves.



After Bill died, Delia married George R. Griffin (b. 1868 in Michigan), a widower who owned a farm at Granville. George and Delia farmed there at Granville for many years afterward. Delia’s granddaughter Doris Randleman says that George is the only Grandpa she ever knew. Delia died Jan. 13, 1939 at age 68 at Granville and is buried there. May they each rest in God’s peace and may we honor their memory for many generations to come.





Owego Grasslands facing north.
The old farm of Thomas Cowan 160 acres
is about a mile forward into the grasslands.



Sheyenne National Grasslands
Near the farm of Thomas Cowan



The old Sheldon passenger train station
connecting to Fargo. Willie used to hawk
newspapers here.





Margaret Jane, Willie and Martin
Photo about 1907 or 1908



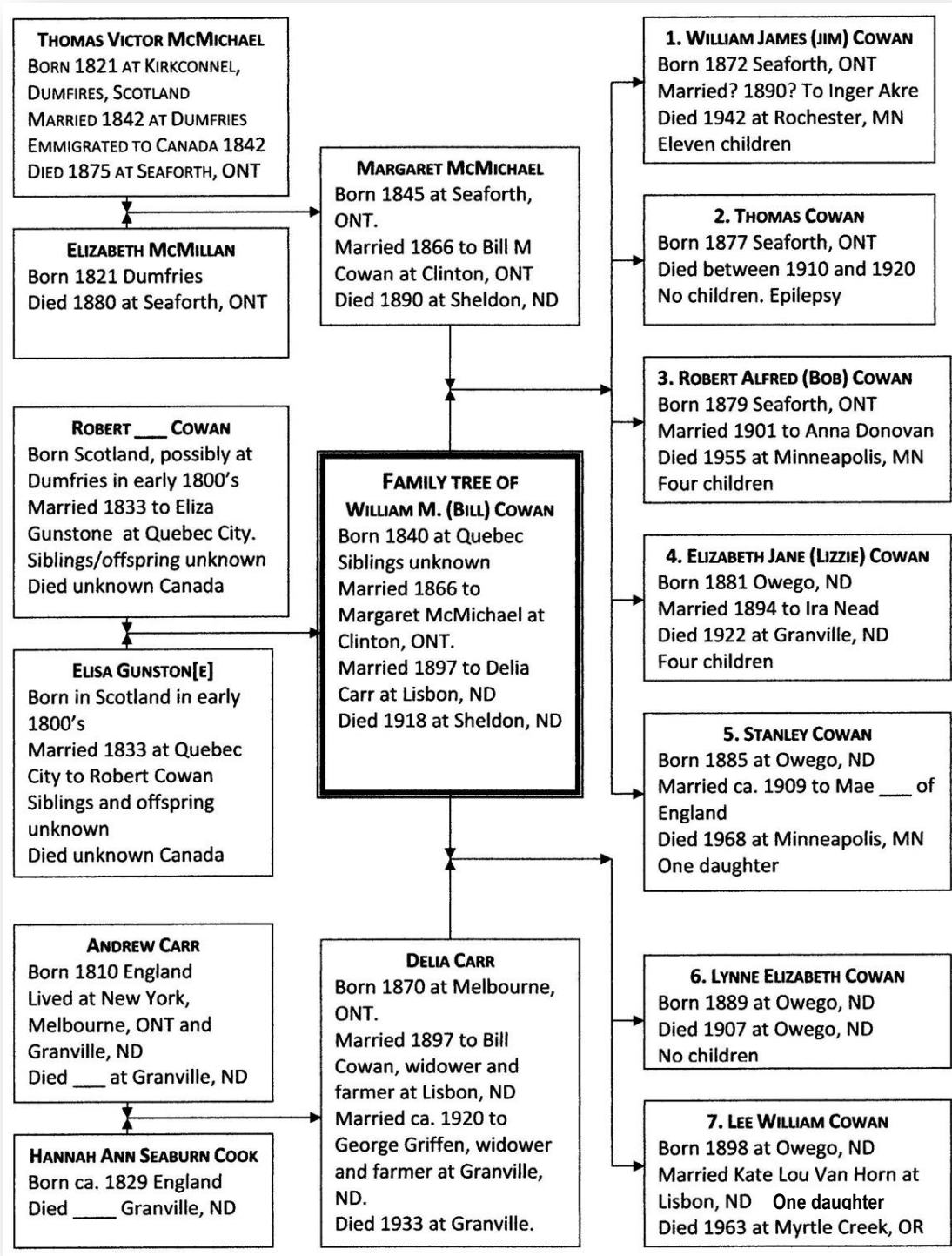
Old Homestead on the Sheyenne Nat'l Grasslands



(l-r) Ira Nead, Lee Cowan, Robert Cowan
That's probably Lizzie on the horse and
little Grace in the surrty - Summer 1902



The Family Tree 1821 - 1963



was a school in Owego in the early 1880's but he is not listed as a student there. A newspaper ad October 27, 1897, of Sheldon shows Tom as "wanting woods wing jobs." Tom would have been about 20 years of age at the time of this newspaper clipping.

A 1910 Atlas lists Thomas Cowan living in the center half of the south side of section 32 of Owego Township (S1/2NW1/4,N1/2SW1/4-32). This is the farm where Bill and his wife Margaret and later Dell lived. The 1910 US Census of the city of Owego shows the family enumerated William Cowan, age 63 and head of family. He is a farmer and he owns his farm unencumbered. He was born in Canada and his parents both were born in Scotland. His wife Della is age 38 and was born in Canada. Her father was born in England and her mother in Canada. Son Thomas is age 34 and is a laborer on his father's farm. He was born in Canada (to his father's wife Margaret who died). Son Lee is age 11 and is the son of William and Dell born in North Dakota. The 1900 US Census lists William as age 56 and was born in September of 1843 which means he aged 7 year in the ten years between censuses. The 1915 Ransom County census lists William Cowan, head of household and age 65, Della, his wife age 44, Tom, age 36 and Lea, age 16. This census suggests William was born in 1850, loosing more years. My best guess is that he was born Sep. 22, 1840 which corresponds with his age 25 when he was married. Also Tom was more likely age 38 since he was born in 1877.

According to Dudley Cowan, Tom had epilepsy and he didn't marry. Dudley said that Tom died young at Sheldon not too many years after his mother died and is buried at Enderlin. I have found no further information about Thomas. No grave marker is found for him in the county around Sheldon so it is likely he is buried in an unmarked grave. My guess is that he died shortly after 1915 in his late 30's. (This would place his death at more than 25 years after his mother died.) A search of local cemetery plot maps may locate his grave.

1C Robert Alfred Cowan

Robert Alfred Cowan, son of William and Margaret McMichael Cowan was born on 21 April, 1879 at Seaforth in Hullett Twp., Huron, Ontario.

Robert died March 4, 1955 at Minneapolis. Robert was named after his grandfather, Robert Cowan who came from Scotland in 1838 - 1839. Robert was the third of the children born at Seaforth. The first was William James b. 1874, and the second was Thomas born between 1875 and 1877. For reference to the period, Abraham Lincoln was president and the United States was in the midst of civil war.



Robert Alfred Cowan
b. 21 April, 1879 d. 4 March, 1955

In March of 1880, when Robert was just eleven months old, William and Margaret moved with their family to Sheldon, in the Dakota Territory. At that time, Bill was 41, Margaret was 36, Jim was six and Thomas was about four. As the years went by, Robert attended school at Owego and at age 22, married Anna Donovan of Lisbon, ND - - a town a few miles to the southwest. They were married at the Catholic Church at Lisbon on July 24, 1901. Robert had a livery stable at Lisbon and Anna worked as a waitress in town. From Lisbon, they moved to Norwich, N.D., which is up by Minot, just a couple of miles to the west of Granville. A Photograph of 1901 shows Robert and his brother Stan and some others standing out front of the new livery stable that his brother-in-law Ira Nead had just builr at Granville.

In 1905, Robert filed a homestead claim three miles south of Douglas. Douglas is a small town organized in 1906 south a few

miles of Minot. Robert began carrying mail there in 1908. The 1910 census was 171 people. In 1915, they moved from the farm into Douglas. Robert and Anna continued to live in town at Douglas and he worked as a mail carrier until his retirement in 1949. Over the years Robert and Anna had five children, Evelyn, Virginia, Lawrence, Robert, and Margaret. Virginia, their second child, died in 1918 at age 15 (about the same time as her grandfather Bill died).

Robert died in 1957 at age 78 while in Minneapolis. Funeral services were held on March 6th at the Malone - Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway, in north Minneapolis. The clergyman was Rev. William Barr. After Robert's death, Anna lived with her son, Lawrence for a number of years, then with her daughter, Evelyn. After the death of Evelyn, Anna lived in a retirement home in Minneapolis. Esther Cowan says that Bob used to write some nice poetry. Robert and Anna are buried at Rosehill Cemetery, Minot, Ward County North Dakota next to their daughter Virginia. Further information about Bob and Anna and their children is found under the separate story of Robert and Anna Cowan.

1D Elizabeth Jane Cowan

b. Aug. 12, 1881 d. Sept. 29, 1922. Lizzie was born in late summer of the year after Bill and Margaret came to Owego in the Dakota Territory. Lizzie grew up at Owego where her father operated a livery stable and, at age thirteen, she married a neighbor Ira J. Nead. The next year, their first child, Margaret Ann was born Dec. 5, 1895 and she lived only a little over a month. The child is buried next to her grandmother, Margaret Cowan at the Sheldon cemetery. Ira and Lizzie then moved to Granville in the spring of 1896 or 1897 where they homesteaded a small farm about 4 ½ miles from town. Lizzie then had three more children, Charlie, Violet, and Grace.



Elizabeth Jane Cowan (Lizzie)
b. Aug. 12, 1881 d. Sept. 29, 1922

The U.S. census of 1920 shows Ira J. Nead age 54 and his wife Elizabeth Nead age 38 together with their daughter Violet age 20 living at McHenry County, ND. Ira's birthplace is listed as Ohio.

Elizabeth died just past her 41st birthday of pneumonia on September 29th, 1922 and was buried at Sheldon near her mother Margaret and her daughter Margaret Ann. The grave was unmarked until about 1980 or 1981 when her grandson, Paul Nead, brought a grave marker up from Missouri and had it placed on her grave. Further information about Lizzie and her children and grandchildren is found under the separate story of Elizabeth Cowan.

1E Stanley Cowan

Born Feb. 18th, 1885 died March 13, 1968. Born at Sheldon, N. D. in Ransom County. Stanley is the youngest of the children of Margaret Cowan. His mother died in 1890 when he was just five years old. His father then took in a young Canadian girl from over at Shenford named Delia Carr to tend to the house and care for the children. Several years later when Stan was twelve, on December 31, 1897, his father married Delia, now 27 years old, and Delia and their father then raised the children. Bill was 56.



Stanley Cowan
b. Feb. 18, 1885 d. March 13, 1968

During the period of 1909 or earlier and being 24 years of age, Stan was living at Granville and married Mae Kemp who was born in 1888 at Devonshire, England. The McHenry County marriage certificate states they were married on May 30, 1909 at Granville by the Rev. Theodore J. Watts. Ira and Elizabeth Nead were witnesses. Elizabeth (Lizzie) is Stan’s older sister. The marriage record was filed at county court on June 3, 1909. They continued to live at Granville and in February of 1910 when Mae was 22, their only child, Maud, was born. The 1910 census lists their daughter as Edith M. Cowan so at some point early on they began calling her Maud and it stuck. She is listed as one month old on April 20, 1910. Also it shows that their neighbors were Ira and Elizabeth Nead together with their three children, Paul and Mae Penfield and their daughter Florence now seven months old and George and Sophrina Van Horn together with their four children. All were owner operated farmers. Paul’s wife Mae worked away from the farm as a public school teacher.

The 1915 US census shows Stan, age 30, May, age 25 and their daughter Maud, age 5. Neighbors shown on the census are the Van Horns:

George Van Horn, age 45, Head	George, 10
Sophrina, 30, Spouse	Mabel, 6
Louise, 14, daughter, married Lloyd Cowan.	Henry, 40, George’s brother?
Kathie, 12, daughtet, married Lee Cowan.	Louise, 67, George’s mother

Stan’s younger brother Lee married Kathie (later called Kate) and his nephew Lloyd married Louise. Lloyd was one of the older children of Stan’s older brother William James.

Also neighbors were William, age 65, Della, age 44, Tom, 36 and Lea (Lee), 16. Lee married Kate when they were a bit older.

In the middle 1920’s, Stan and May moved to Minneapolis where he began working as a waiter in the Jolly Miller at the elegant Nicollet Hotel on Washington and Hennepin Avenues in the Minneapolis Gateway. The 1940 Minneapolis city directory lists Stan and Mae living at 64 North 12th Street in downtown Minneapolis (about 2 blocks north of Hennepin Ave. on 12th St.) and states he was working as “iceman” for the Nicollet Hotel. Stan continued to work at the Nicollet hotel for over 50 years and retired in the early 1960’s when he was about 75 years old.

One of the things remembered about Stan was that “he could always tell a story” and if you) let him talk - he would talk forever. And, yes, everyone enjoyed him and loved to laugh at his stories. One time during the late 1950s’ when tape recorders were just coming out, Stan and Mae came to visit at Walter and Esther’s home in North Minneapolis. A number of the family came over and we knew that he would have a lot of stories to tell. I believe Marty and Francis, Harriet, Pearl and Chet, and Maud and Jay were over. So we hooked up that tape recorder before he got there and put the microphone under his chair. When he got to talking, I reached behind the couch and turned on the recorder. Afterwards that evening, we played it back for him and he was so amazed and we all had a laugh.

Stanley died in 1968 at age 83 at Minneapolis. His wife May died at about 95 years in the nursing home in Blaine, a suburb of Minneapolis. Stan and Mae and their daughter Maud and her husband Jay are buried in adjacent graves at Crystal Lake Cemetery, section 26 in north Minneapolis. Maud and Jay had no children.

Now we move on to the two children of William M. (Bill) by Delia Carr Cowan who are:

1F Lynne Cowan

Lynne Elizabeth Cowan was born December 9, 1889 to Bill Cowan and Delia Carr when Delia was age 19. Dudley Cowan told me back in 1972 that young girls often worked at a neighboring farm for keep and Della Carr, a neighbor girl, was working as a maid in the Cowan house and helping to care for the children. A child was born to Dell by Bill just a few months prior to when Bill's wife Margaret died. The child was named Lynne and she and her mother remained in the household. In 1900, the U.S. Census of Shenford (Anselm) Township lists Lynne as ten years of age and the Owego School lists her as a student there during the 1901-1902 school year. Lynne grew up on the farm at Owego and died on January 25, 1907 at the young age of 17. The cause of her death is unknown, but as was common in those days, it may well have been the flu and pneumonia.



Lynne is buried in the Sheldon city cemetery just a few markers to the left of the grave of Bill's wife Margaret Cowan. An inscription on Lynne's gravestone states, **"There is a reaper whose name is death."** Not to get off topic here but part of my reason to write this genealogy is to get a sense of what life was like for our ancestors in those early days. Well, this inscription has a very bleak sense about it. Words like hopelessness, abandonment and perhaps anger come to mind. Do these words connote the helplessness felt in toiling on earth that reluctantly gives up its bounty; does it speak of Bill's tired body at age 67; does it speak to the loss of beauty and promise found in youth?



In September of 1972, Lynne's brother Lee visited Sheldon and spent a little time at her grave and took a photo of the gravestone and it looked a lot better then. There are four other Cowan graves adjacent to Lynne: 1) Lynne's father William M. Cowan (1840-1918) (section 12, lot 8 but no marker), 2) Lynne's father's first wife Margaret (1845-1890), 3) Lynne's older half-sister Elizabeth Cowan Nead (1881-1922) and 4) Elizabeth's daughter Margaret Ann who



died at 39 days in January of 1896. In the summer of 1996 Paul Nead, grandson of Elizabeth Nead laid a headstone marker on Elizabeth his grandmother's grave. In October of 2012, my wife Nancy and I took a trip to Sheldon specifically to visit their graves. Lynne's soapstone grave marker was overgrown with moss and I scrapped and brushed most of it off. I'm not sure anyone will ever visit these graves again.

Lee's daughter Doris had a large full-length portrait of Lynne that was left to her when Lee died in 1963. The portrait was apparently with Dell's things when she died in 1938 and was given to Lee. Dell kept the portrait for over forty years and her son Lee kept it for about thirty more. Doris has had the portrait in her possession for over thirty years and that photo of 1895 is shown above. That photo, along with the many others that Lee's daughter Doris had was sent to me in October of 2012 by Doris' dear friend Della Katon after Doris died.

So after all of this, what do we know of Lynne? She grew up in what may have been odd circumstances in her family; she seemed to be healthy on the adjacent photo taken when she was six; she attended Owego school; and, based on the inscription on her grave marker, fate had a strong and steady place in their lives even as her family faced grief and loss. Did she learn to sew and cook, help keep house and wash, go to parties and laugh?

1900 SHENFORD TWP US CENSUS									
184-111	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-112	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-113	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-114	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-115	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-116	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-117	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-118	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-119	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18
184-120	William	William	1871	July 18	18	3	1871	July 18	18

1G Lee Cowan

Born November 18, 1898 to Bill and Dell Cowan of Highland Township. According to an Owego Consolidated School record, Lee attended upper grades at Owego Consolidated School at Sheldon during the school year 1914-1915. The parent listed on the record is Wm. Cowan. The teacher was Stanley Prideaux whose salary was \$75.00 per month. According to the record, it appears that was the year the school opened. Lee was then 16 and his father was 74. Lee's father died three years later in 1918.

Also listed in the upper grade were Kate Van Horn and her sister Louise. Kathryn, born 1902, was then 14. Lee married his schoolmate, Kate Van Horn about five years later in about 1920. Lee and Kate then lived at Lisbon where Lee farmed and Kate waited tables in a small cafe in town. Lee and Kate had one child, Doris, who was born in 1922. Kate's sister Louise, born 1900, married Lee's nephew Lloyd Cowan on May 4th of 1920 and then lived at Granville until the early 1940's when they moved out to California where Lloyd worked in hotel management. Kate and Louise had two other siblings - - George Van Horn, born 1905, who, the record says, lives out west, and Mabel Van Horn who was born in 1909. Of course, the families were very close over the years and they also moved out west together in the early 1940's during the W.W.II.

After W.W.II broke out, Lee and Kate moved to Bremerton, Washington where Lee worked



on munitions at the shipyards. Kate's sister Louise and her husband Lloyd and her brother George and his wife Wilma all went out to Bremerton together to work at the shipyards. Their daughter Doris, now 20 years old and niece Madelyn worked there, as well. After the war, Lee worked in the plywood mills and was still working there when he died on December 20th, 1963 at the age of 65. Doris says that she has many pictures of Lee and the family from years ago.

The Years Move On And the Fabric of the Family Changes

Each of us one-by-one grows old and, although in many ways we remain the same; our stations and roles in life change. We're cared for as children; then have children of our own; our children move away and finally, we hope we are watched over and cared for in our old age and then are gone. In the introduction to this anthology, you may remember my statement that, "For everyone's life, there is a story - - a tale that is meaningful and important; for in its fabric is woven the very fact of existence. But after a while that story is forgotten." Some may have noted how this statement is a parody of William Shakespeare's mocking comments that, *"Life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury; signifying nothing."* I'm sure ol' Will meant for us to wrestle with that notion.

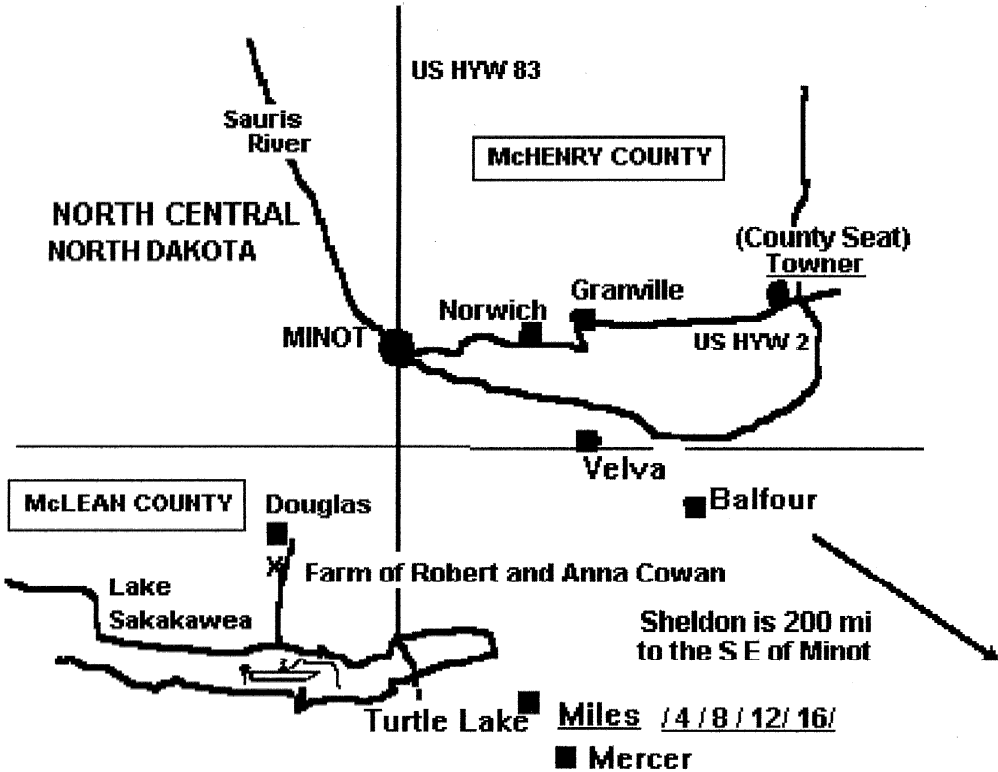
So I believe it is because of how life changes that we need to keep in mind what went on before and to remember. And so families change - - Children are born; they grow up; they move on and we grow old. Bill's children have a wide span of years between them with the oldest born in 1874 and the youngest born in 1898, twenty-four years later. The oldest married in 1890 and the youngest married in 1920. As you will see below, the fabric of Bill's family changes during that span of thirty years as the children marry, move away and have children of their own.

I now move ahead to the turn of the century to about the time when the children move on: four of the children have married and moved away; two of the children have died; and only one child - - Lee - - is at home up to the time that his dad died in 1918. I then move to a chronology of the period of 1793 to 1968 - - from the time of the birth of William's grandfather to the death of his last child.

Granville, The Gathering Place

It is interesting to note that Bill's four children by Margaret (Lizzie, Robert, Jim and Stan), eventually set up farming in the Granville area, a small town about two hundred miles to the northwest up by Minot. Their remaining child at home, Lee, married a girl from Lisbon and they stayed there.

I believe that the reasons that the children moved to the Granville area are twofold. First, of the seven children, two are daughters and in 1897 their daughter, Lynne, age 8, died and their daughter Lizzie, now age sixteen, moved away with her husband, Ira Nead to homestead a place at Granville. They moved there because this is where Ira's family is from and I would guess that Ira and Lizzie moved there to be near his family. Secondly, and no small thing, farming seemed to be good in the area and homesteading was available. It appears, then, that Lizzie was the first to move to the Granville area and she and Ira were the reason that the rest of the family eventually moved



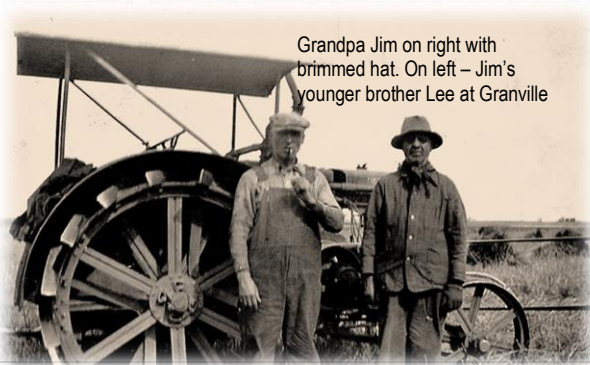
Map #2



there. So after Lynne's death, Lizzie was the only girl in the family - - and notwithstanding other reasons for homesteading around Granville, Lizzie and her husband must have been well liked for her brothers to also make that move with their families to be near their sister and her husband. Again, I believe that this points out that the strength of family ties should not be underestimated, particularly for the Cowans during that span of years.

So in 1897 Bill's daughter Lizzie and her husband Ira moved from Sheldon to homestead a farm near his family. Lizzie was still just a child then having married Ira at age fourteen. That town happened to be Granville - - a town about twenty miles east of Minot and two hundred miles northwest of Sheldon. Then in 1905 Robert and his wife Anna homesteaded a farm at Douglas - - a town just south of Minot near Granville. By 1912 Stan and his bride May were also living at Granville. So when Jim and Inga moved up to Granville from Minneapolis sometime after 1924, all of Margaret's children (Except their brother Thomas who had died a few years earlier and Lizzie who died of pneumonia two years earlier) were brought together in north central North Dakota. The only other sibling was Lee who was Dell's son and quite a bit younger than the rest.

Jim's daughter Mae (the oldest) married Paul Penfield and they moved to Minnesota and had five children. Mae and Paul later separated and Mae and the children then moved back to Granville where they lived for many years while the five children were growing up. Except for times away teaching, Mae lived for the most part, at Granville up to close to the time that she died in 1973. As her children married,



most of them stayed in the Granville area as well.

Also Inga's sister Hattie and her husband Krogh Ovre and their family farmed to the south a few miles at Mercer.

So, my goodness, as you may imagine life at Granville up until the early 1940 included many family gatherings, weddings and special occasions. Jim was good on the violin and provided much entertainment before his stroke in 1932. There are many photographs of life at Granville, I'm sure, spread out among the family. My mother Esther has a number of pictures which Walter had which were taken during the middle and late 1920's showing the kids growing up and work on the farm there at Granville.

A Chronicle 1793 - 1968

The following is a chronology of events that took place during the period of 1793 - 1968, beginning with the birth of Bill's grandfather and concluding with the death of his last child. Of particular interest are the years of 1897 to 1920 when the family moved to the Granville area. There are many stories as yet untold.

For an excellent chronicle of North Dakota people; why they came during the pioneer days, the expectation of prosperity, and why many left during the 1920's, see the North Dakota video **"Where Have All the Children Gone."** The video is available from Filmmakers Library, 124 E. 40th St., Ste. 901, New York, NY 10016. 1 (800) 555-9815 or the North Dakota State University Library at Fargo. The story is a mirror of our family and it tells of the hopes and tenacity of a people who sought to bring prosperity from the earth and found many obstacles.

1793 November 15th. **Robert McMichael**, son of Thomas and _____ McMichael of Hillend, was baptized at Dumfriesshire, Scotland. At about age 26 or earlier, Robert marries Grizel Niveson, b. June 17, 1799 of Conmouth.

Early 1800's **Robert Cowan and Eliza Gunston[e]** arrive in Canada from Scotland. According to early records they both emigrated and were not born in Canada. Early Quebec immigration trends suggest, however, it may have been much earlier.

1821 March 21. **Thomas Victor** was born to Robert and Grizel McMichael at Dumfriesshire.

1833 **William Cowan and Eliza Gunston[e]** were married at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Quebec City

1840 **William M. Cowan** is born to William and Eliza Cowan at Quebec.

1842 **Robert and Grizel McMichael** came to Canada together with their children and settle at Seaforth in Ontario. **Thomas Victor McMichael and his bride Elizabeth McMillan** are with them.

1845 **Margaret McMichael** was born to Thomas and Elizabeth McMichael at Seaforth.

1864 **Inger Akre** (Inga) was born at Highlandville, Iowa. At age 26 she will marry William M. Cowan's son William James (Jim) and they will have 11 children.

1866 **William M. Cowan and Margaret McMichael** were married at the Canadian Presbyterian Church of Clinton, Ontario.

1870 **Delia Carr** was born at Melbourne, Ontario. At age 27 Dell will marry William M. Cowan.

1874 **William James** was born to William and Margaret Cowan at Seaforth.

1876 **Thomas** was born to William and Margaret Cowan at Seaforth.

- 1879 **Robert A.** was born to William and Margaret Cowan at Seaforth.
- 1879 **Elizabeth McMichael** (Margaret's mother) was placed in an insane asylum in Huron County and dies within a month of blood poisoning from injuries.
- 1880 **William M. and Margaret Cowan moved** with their family in March of 1880 from Seaforth, Ontario to Owego Twp. near Sheldon, North Dakota.
- 1881 **Elizabeth Jane** was born to Bill (Wm) and Margaret Cowan at Sheldon.
- 1885 **Stanley** was born to Bill and Margaret Cowan at Sheldon.
- 1889 Daughter **Lynne** was born to Bill and Dell.
- 1889 - **Nov 2nd** The Dakota Territory is split into the north and south and they become the 39th and 40th states of the union.
- 1890 Bill's wife **Margaret** died and is buried at Sheldon.
- 1891 Bill's Son **Jim**, age 16 married Inger Akre and they live at Sheldon.
- 1895 Bill's daughter **Lizzie**, age 13, **married** Ira Nead.
- 1895 December 15 **Lizzie** had a child Margaret Ann, named after her grandmother, who lived just 5 weeks and was buried at Sheldon near Margaret, her grandmother.
- 1897 December 31 **Bill** Cowan and Dell Carr **were married** at Lisbon.
- 1897 Springtime, Daughter Lizzie, now fifteen, and her husband Ira Nead moved away from Sheldon and homesteaded a farm near Granville.
- 1898 Springtime, Son **Jim** and his wife Inga **move away** from Sheldon to Anselm, a few miles south of Sheldon, to begin their own farm there.
- 1897 Fall, Son **Thomas** was looking for work and an ad appears in Sheldon *Enterprise*.
- 1898 November 15, Son Lee was born to Bill and Dell at Sheldon. Article appears in Sheldon *Enterprise*.
- 1901 Son Robert **married** Anna Donovan and moved away from Sheldon to Lisbon, a few miles south of Sheldon and Anna's hometown, to set up a livery stable there. Shortly thereafter, they move up to Norwich, a town about four miles west of Granville.
- 1901 **Bill** is 56 years old, Dell was 32 years old; the family was small now and Bill doesn't have much help for the farm or to help with work any more. Bill's son, Jim and his family were living at Anselm; his son, Robert and his family were now living at Lisbon and about to move to Norwich. The children at home are Lynne, age 12; Thomas, age 24; Stanley who is now 16 and Lee who is 3.
- 1902 or later Bill and Dell's daughter **Lynne died** and is buried at Sheldon near Margaret, Bill's first wife.
- 1905 Bill's son **Robert** and his wife Anna **moved from** Norwich to homestead at Douglas, just south of Minot. Bill is now 60 years of age and Dell is 36. Stanley is twenty and Lee is seven.
- 1909 (Year uncertain) **Stan**, now 24 and living at Granville, married Mae ____ of Devonshire, England and they live at Granville.
- 1910 (Year uncertain) Jim and Inga's daughter **Mae** returned with her five children from Little Fork, Minnesota to live at Granville.
- 1910 Bill's son **Thomas**, now age 33, was listed in a 1910 atlas as still living on the farm in Sheldon at Owego Township. Dudley Cowan told me back in 1972 that Thomas was said to

have epilepsy; that he never married and died young. Dudley said that he was buried at Enderlin, a few miles to the north of Sheldon. I have found no further information about Thomas. No grave marker is found for him in the county around Sheldon so it is likely he is buried in an unmarked grave. My guess is that he died shortly after 1910 in his mid 30's.

- 1918** **Bill**, husband of Dell, dies at age 77. He was buried at Sheldon. No records show any of his family living at Sheldon at the time of his death. Bill is buried at Sheldon cemetery, block 12, lot 8 in an unmarked grave. Bill died on June 4, 1918.
- 1918** (Year uncertain) **Dell**, now age 49, married George Griffin, a widower who owns a farm at Granville.
- 1920** On May 4th, **Jim** and Inga's son Lloyd, now in his early twenties and living at Enderlin and playing on the Owego ball team, married Louise Van Horn of Lisbon and start a farm of their own at Granville. They later move, together with Lee and Kate, to Washington State to work in the navy shipyards.
- 1920** (Appr. – Year uncertain) Bill and Dell's son **Lee**, now age 20 and living at Owego and playing on the ball team there, married Louise Van Horn's sister Kate. They moved to Lisbon where Lee operated his own livery stable and Kate waitressed at a cafe. At Lee's age 21, their daughter Doris was born at Lisbon. They later move to Washington along with Lloyd and Louise.
- 1922** Bill's daughter **Lizzie** died at age 41 of pneumonia and is buried at Sheldon near her infant daughter Margaret Ann. Lizzie and Ira have a number of descendants.
- 1923** (Appr.) **Jim** and Inga sold their farm at Enderlin and moved to Minneapolis and live there for a year or so. They have eleven children - - Mae, their oldest child, is 32 and Pearl, the youngest, is just fourteen.
- 1924** (Year uncertain) Jim and Inga moved to a small farm in the Granville area.
- 1932** Bill's son Jim had a stroke on the farm in Granville and can no longer work. Many of Bill's descendants live in the Granville area. Dell still has family in the Sheldon area.
- 1936** Lizzie's husband **Ira** suffered a stroke and died in the state hospital at Jamestown at age 66. He is buried at the state hospital cemetery about a half-mile in from the road.
- 1938** **Dell** and George have lived at Granville for a number of years. Dell died in 1938 at the age of 68 and is buried at Granville, North Dakota.
- 1940** **Inga** Cowan, wife of Bill's son Jim, died at Minneapolis General Hospital at age 75.
- 1942** Bill's son **Jim** died in the State Hospital at Rochester, Minnesota. Jim and Inga are buried in adjacent graves at Crystal Lake Cemetery, section 26 at Minneapolis. They have many descendants.
- 1957** Bill's son **Robert** died at Minneapolis. Robert and Anna are buried at Minot, North Dakota and have many descendants.
- 1963** **Lee**, son of Bill and Dell died in California at age 65. Lee and Kate are buried at ___?
- March 13, 1968:** Bill's son **Stan** died at age 83 at Minneapolis.
- 1983** Stan's wife Mae died in a nursing home in Blaine, Minnesota (A suburb of Minneapolis) in 1983 about 15 years after Stan at age 95. Stan and Mae are laid to rest at Crystal Lake cemetery, section 26 at Minneapolis. Stan and Mae have one daughter, Maud and leave no descendants. Maud and her husband, Jay Munson, are buried adjacent to her parents, Stan and Mae.

The death of Stan ends the story of the immediate family of William M. Cowan of Quebec, of Seaforth, and of Sheldon. Thanks be to God. Amen. Blessed be the memory of these our family and all who have died. In this year of 1996 after the birth of Christ over 400 descendants of William M. Cowan are recorded.

A Benediction Forevermore: Jesus said. *"I AM the resurrection and the life, said the Lord: He that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die."* So we commend these who have died to Christ Jesus in his mercy and we look to the resurrection of the dead and to life everlasting. May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, now and forevermore. Amen.

The Children and Their Descendents

1. William James Cowan and Inga Akre

William James was the first born of William M. Cowan and his wife Margaret McMichael of Seaforth, Ontario. He was born on February 5, 1874. Jim married Inger Akre first born child of John and Martha Aker of Highlandville, Iowa. She was born on Sept. 8, 1864.

Further story of Jim and Inga and their eleven children is found in a separate story which follows.

2. Thomas Cowan b. 1876 - d. ca. 1915-1920

Thomas Cowan was the second child of William M. and Margaret McMichael Cowan. He was born at Seaforth on January 31, 1876 and was likely named after his mother's father, Thomas Victor McMichael, who immigrated to Huron County in Canada on his honeymoon in 1842. Thomas was about three years old when the family moved to Sheldon in the Dakota Territory in 1880. There was a school in Owego in the early 1880's but he is not listed as a student there.

Seventeen years later, a newspaper ad in the *Sheldon Enterprise* on October 27 of 1897 shows Tom as "wanting woods wing jobs." Tom would have been 20 years of age at the time of this newspaper clipping.

Dudley Cowan told me back in 1972 that Tom had epilepsy and died young around 1900. A 1910 atlas, however, shows that Tom owned a house and a bit of farmland at Owego Township, south of Pigeon Point. A 1910 Atlas lists Thomas Cowan as living in the center half of the south side of section 32 of Owego Township (S1/2NW1/4,N1/2SW1/4-32). This is likely where Bill and his wife Margaret and later Dell lived. Here's a question about property. Tom's father, William M. Cowan, is said to have died in 1918 and he is buried in an unmarked grave at Sheldon. Where was the property that he and his wife Dell lived up to that time? An old-timer I talked to on the phone a few years ago said that they lived on a small farm in the hills of Owego but some family have said that he had a livery stable in town (Sheldon). 929

The 1910 U. S. Census of Owego Township, North Dakota				
William	Head	63		30
Delia	Wife	38		11
Thomas	Son	34		Single
Lee	Son	11		

A 1910 Atlas lists Thomas Cowan living in the center half of the south side of section 32 of Owego Township (S1/2NW1/4,N1/2SW1/4-32). This is the farm where Bill and his wife Margaret and later Dell lived. The 1910 US Census of the city of Owego shows the family enumerated William Cowan, age 63 and head of family. He is a farmer and he owns his farm unencumbered. He was born in Canada and his parents both were born in Scotland. His wife Della is age 38 and was born in Canada. Her father was born in England and her mother in Canada. Son Thomas is age 34 and is a laborer on his father's farm. He was born in Canada (to his father's wife Margaret who died). Son Lee is age 11 and is the son of William and Dell born in North Dakota. The 1900 US Census lists William as age 56 and was born in September of 1843 which means he aged 7 year in the ten years between censuses. The 1915 Ransom County census lists William Cowan, head of household and age 65, Della, his wife age 44, Tom, age 36 and Lea, age 16. This census suggests William was born in 1850, losing more years. My best guess is that he was born Sep. 22, 1840 which corresponds with his age 25 when he was married. Also Tom was more likely age 38 since he was born in 1877.

According to Dudley Cowan, Tom had epilepsy and he didn't marry. Dudley said that Tom died young at Sheldon not too many years after his mother died and is buried at Enderlin. I have found no further information about Thomas. No grave marker is found for him in the county around Sheldon so it is likely he is buried in an unmarked grave. My guess is that he died shortly after 1915 in his late 30's. (This would place his death at more than 25 years after his mother died.) Tom and his father are not listed on the 1920 census – Tom and his father had died by then and Delia and Lee are listed as living on the farm alone and Delia is listed as a farmer. A search of local cemetery plot maps may locate his grave.

Tom never married and is said to be buried at Enderlin or possibly near his mother, Margaret. There is no grave marker, however, anywhere in the county for him - so it is likely that his grave is unmarked – in the end there was apparently none to mark it for him. In a survey of the grave plots at Sheldon city cemetery his grave didn't show up. We were looking for his father at the time and it's possible that it was overlooked. My guess is that his grave is at the Sheldon City Cemetery.

There are no known photographs of Tom.

3. Robert Alfred and Anna Cowan

1879 – 1955 and 1884 - _____

My Cross

By Robert A. Cowan

His cross was but a common thing of cypress wood upon a tired hill.
Desolate, it stood, and yet its arms have reached from sea to sea,
Arms so strong it has set man free and love so bright, burning long ago,
Changed the cross to gold with its glow.
My Cross, sometimes is a weary thing too hard to bear.
A tiny ugly thing, it floods my life in helpless care,
But with his love, I, Too, will make that cross of gold,
And pour the dark, tear stained wood into his mold.
My cross can never stretch its arms from sea to sea,
But it can raise my heart to God and set me free.

Third child of William M and Margaret (McMichael) Cowan b. April 21, 1879 Seaforth, Ontario, Married Anna Donovan at Lisbon, North Dak., Farmer, Rural U.S. Mail carrier

at Douglas, North Dak. d. March 4, 1955 Douglas, North Dakota

Robert Alfred Cowan was born April 21, 1879 at Seaforth, Ontario, third child of William and Margaret (McMichael) Cowan. Robert died on March 4, 1955 at Minneapolis. Robert was named after his grandfather, Robert Cowan who came from Scotland. Robert was the third of the children born at Seaforth. The first was William James b. 1874, and the second was Thomas born between 1875 and 1877.

In March of 1880, when Robert was just eleven months old, William and Margaret moved with their family to Owego Township near Sheldon, in the Dakota Territory. At that time, William was 41, Margaret was 36, and of the children, Lizzie was, I'm guessing about eight, and Jim was six. Thomas must have been about two or three, and Robert was just under a year (eleven months). As the years went by, Robert attended school at Owego.

The 1900 U.S. Census of June 25 lists Robert, age 21, living in the city of Enderlin at the hotel of Peter and Mary Callahan together with nine other boarders and the Callahan's six children. Robert was working as a driver for a livery barn in town. The next summer on July 24, 1901 Peter, now 22, married Anna Donovan of Lisbon, ND. They were married in the Catholic Church at Lisbon. That was the same year that his sister Lizzie's daughter, Grace was born.

Robert had set up a livery stable in Lisbon and Anna was working as a waitress in town at the time. From Lisbon, they apparently moved to Norwich, N.D. which is near Granville. In 1905, they filed a homestead claim three miles south of Douglas. Robert began carrying mail in 1908. The 1910 U.S. Census lists Robert, now 31 and Anna 27 living at Douglas together with their children Evelyn M., age 7 and Laurence W., age 5. In 1915, they moved from the farm into Douglas. Robert and Anna continued to live in town at Douglas and he worked as a mail carrier until his retirement in 1949.

The U.S. census of 1920 lists the family of Robert A. Cowan age 40 and spouse Anna Cowan age 36 living at Douglas in Ward County, N.D. Their children are Evelyn now age 17, Lance 15, Stanley 8 and Margaret 3 years and 5 months. Daughter Virginia isn't listed as she died two years before the census. Lance is Lawrence William and Stanley is John Stanley.

Over the years Robert and Anna had five children, Evelyn, Virginia, Lawrence, Robert, and Margaret. Virginia, their second child, died at age 15 in 1918 (about the same time as her grandfather William died). Robert died in 1957 at age 78 while in Minneapolis. Funeral services were held on March 6th at the Malone - Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway, The clergyman was Rev. William Barr. After Robert's death, Anna lived with her son, Lawrence for a number of years, then with her daughter, Evelyn. After the death of Evelyn, Anna lived in a retirement home in Minneapolis. Esther Cowan says that Bob used to write some very nice poetry. Robert and Anna are buried at Minot, N.D.

The Children and their Families

<u>Child</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Evelyn	Aug. 27, 1902	Jan. ____, 1963	aged 61
2. Virginia	1903	1918	aged 15
3. Lawrence William	Aug 4, 1904	April 5, 1978	aged 74
4. John Stanley	Jan. 29, 1911	Oct. 25, 1988	aged 76
5. Margaret	about Jan. 1918		(?)

3A Evelyn Cowan

Evelyn was born August 27, 1902, thirteen months after Robert and Anna were married. d. Jan. or Feb. of 1963. In 1905, when she was just under three years old, the family moved to the farm which they homesteaded just south of Douglas, N.D. Evelyn attended school at Douglas and later went to Devil's Lake, in Montana where she attended Nurses training at Mercy Hospital. After graduation as a registered nurse, she worked at the hospital at Devil's Lake and then at Outlook. Later she took a nursing position at Bismarck, N. D. At age 32, on October 23, 1934, Evelyn married Ben Klabunde at Bismarck. They had no children. Evelyn died at age 61 in January or February of 1963.

3B Virginia Cowan

Virginia was born in 1903, Virgie died in 1918 at fifteen years old, possibly the same year her grandpa died. Story? Lived at _____

3C Lawrence William Cowan

Lawrence was born August 4, 1904 at Norwich, ND and died on April 5, 1978 at Mesa, AZ. In 1905, his parents Bob and Anna homesteaded land to farm near what would become the town of Douglas, ND some miles south of Minot. By 1910 Douglas had 174 residents. Lawrence was third of five children.

"Bill, Dudley, Dud, Lancelot: I think this is all of them," says his nephew Dennis Cowan commenting on his nicknames. Bill grew up at Douglas, ND and graduated from high school there in 1922. The population of Douglas during the 1920's was about 280 people and by 2010 it dropped to 64.

03/30/2014 *This story was told to me by Julie Erickson, St. Louis, MO that "two years ago in 2012 my great aunt from Douglas told my mom, Claryce Thompson Erickson the story of this romance". In high school Lawrence had a girlfriend, Sofia M. Vick (b. 1906) but because he was catholic and she Lutheran her parents forbade the relationship and it was not to be. Later Sophia married ____ Thompson.*

Julie Erickson, St. Louis, MO says that "two years ago in 1912 my great aunt from Douglas [ND] told my mom this story of her birth that my grandmother never revealed to my mom all these years." Julie found my Cowan genealogy website and wrote, "I am doing some family history work, and am looking for living relatives of Lawrence "Dudley" Cowan. Is his son, Richard, still living in Bismarck, ND, and if so, do you have a contact for him? Or do you have contact information for his wife, or two sons? The reason I am asking is that I am searching for family history for my late grandmother, Sofia M. Vick Thompson, who was born and raised in Douglas, ND. I know she knew Lawrence Cowan and his family." The story told is that my grandmother Sofia and Lawrence had an out-of-wedlock child born January 17, 1932 and that child, Claryce Thompson Erickson is my mother. Lawrence was age 26 in the spring of 1931 when they had their relationship. Claryce, their daughter is now 82 and is married to Larry Duane Erickson and they live in Minot, ND.

Julie writes, "They were high school sweethearts in Douglas, but my grandmother's parents disapproved of the relationship because they were Lutheran Norwegians and apparently the Cowans were Catholic. My grandmother and Lawrence were then reunited a few years later again in Douglas. My grandmother became pregnant while she was married, and her husband left her when he found out. My great aunt from Douglas told my mom just two years ago this whole story as my grandmother never revealed this to my mom all these years. Grandma never married again (in fact I don't think she ever divorced her husband) and raised my mom and her sister as a single mother, living in Bismarck, Minot and Minneapolis.

My mom, Julie says, was born in Douglas at the home of her grandparents January 17, 1932. It was years later well into adulthood that she had a proper birth certificate issued. My mom is still living and married to my dad, Larry Duane Erickson of Minot, ND.

Julie writes to me, I much appreciate your sentiments about life and how happiness can be derailed. While my grandmother never remarried again, what this emerging story has taught me is that she had at least known love, and that my mom was a product of that loving

union. That is a comfort to me. I'm sorry she had to carry this story with her all those years, but it's probably not all that unusual given the time in history.

Bill was married to Louise _____ and they adopted son Rick (b. 1936) who now lives in Bismarck, ND area. Louise died of Leukemia and Bill then married Doris A. Burke. The 1940 census shows Lawrence, age 35 and Doris, age 35 living at ward 10, Minneapolis and Doris' mother Mary E. Burke, age 71 is living with them. In 1940 Lawrence's daughter Claryce Thompson (Of whom he has no knowledge) is eight years old and living with her mother in Minot. Lawrence is working as an auditor for the Wholesale Shoe Co. The 1941 Minneapolis City Directory shows Lawrence and his wife Doris living at 2501 Lyndale Ave. North and that he was working as supervisor at Wolfe Wear-U-Well Corp. During the 1950's they lived at 4028 Emerson Avenue N and later moved to St. Louis Park, MN. Bill worked at the Northern Ordinance, later FMC Corp., for many years. They retired to Mesa, Arizona, where he died.

Larry Cowan writes (2015): *It's because of Lawrence that this genealogical record exists. In the summer of 1972 I visited with Lawrence at his home in St. Louis Park and, over lemonade in his backyard, he told me story after story of our family from years ago thus began my journey writing down our family history through the years. It's now 2015 and I'm still adding bits and pieces.*

4C1 Richard R. Cowan (Rick). B. Sept. 15, 1936. 1020 E. Highland Acres Road, #R, Bismarck, N.D. 58501. (701) 258-0485 Cousin Dennis Cowan says, *"I have always kept in touch with Ricky. We are about the same age and used to stay in Douglas with our grandparents. After Dud's second marriage, he no longer came out to N.D., therefore we lost contact with one another. When I was a sophomore in college, my brother, Jim was out with his friends at a small campus tavern when he looked up at this fellow and was sure that he knew him but wasn't sure who it was. Anyway, I was very pleased to be awoken by the pair at 1:00 in the morning. When Ricky was married in Williston, my brother, Bill and I were in the wedding party. Interestingly, Floyd Penfield and his wife, Hildegard attended this wedding party and aroused my curiosity enough to start my genealogical work."* Rick married Cheryl Slatten and they have two boys: Greg who is 19 (1993) and Mike who is in the eighth grade. Both of the boys enjoy running.

The following is a memorial to Rick's wife Sheryl. Sheryl June Cowan, 71, Bismarck, passed away Saturday, July 23, 2016. Sheryl was born November 10, 1944, in Jamestown, ND to Ralph and Alice (Seibold) Slaaten. She was raised in and graduated from Williston High School in 1962. After High School, Sheryl attended Minot State College and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelors degree in teaching. It was during her time at Minot State that she met and fell in love at first sight with Richard Cowan. Sheryl eventually married Rick on August 10, 1968. They moved to and taught in the Montana public school system before eventually returning to North Dakota to begin their family.

Sheryl was an active mother to her two sons by participating and volunteering in their school and extracurricular activities. Sheryl returned to work with the North Dakota State Legislature, Interstate Business College, and the Family Medical Center. Her greatest enjoyment came to her when in the late 80s; she owned and operated the small boutique, Bojangles, in the Gateway Mall. Bojangles provided Sheryl with great joy as it combined her love of fashion and shopping. Sheryl retired in the early 2000s and enjoyed spending time with friends, traveling, and visiting her grandchildren.

Sheryl will be forever loved and remembered. Those surviving are her husband, Rick, Bismarck; her

sons, Greg (Heather), St. Michael, MN, Michael (Rachel), Cincinnati, OH; her four grandchildren, Brita, Paige, Andrew, and Kyler; her sister, Nancy (Brian) Malchert and family, Fergus Falls, MN; and her aunts, Dr. Doris Slaaten, Minot, ND, and June Hansen, Carrington, ND. Sheryl was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Alice.

3D John Stanley (Stan, Jack) Cowan

b. January 29, 1911, d. Oct. 25, 1988. John was seven years old when his older sister, Virginia died. Stan attended school at Douglas and then went on to St. John's University in Collegeville, MN with the intent to study dentistry. After his sophomore year, however, he decided to get married. He married Johanna (Joanne) Ulrich, b. May 11, 1911, at Garrison, N.D. and they farmed in the area for a couple of years. Stan then started to work in the grain elevators and in 1946 they moved to Flasher, N.D. where he was a manager for the local Farmers Union Elevator. During this time, he always held some land and cattle. Stan and Joanne had fifteen children. In the 1960's he purchased a farm about a mile from Flasher. They lived at Flasher in the southwestern part of North Dakota until 1970 when the remaining members of the family at home moved out to the west coast to Orting, Washington. John died at age 77 at Pierce, Washington. S.S. #470-24-1250 Many stories.

3D-1 John Stanley Cowan, Jr. b.____. 2426 205th Place S.W., Lynnwood, WA. Married to Kay Bales. Four children

3D-1a Micheal Anne Cowan

3D-1b Delora Cowan

3D-1c Jennifer Cowan

3D-1d John Stanley Cowan, III

3D-2 Robert A Cowan. b.____? d.____? Deceased. Married to Charlene Wilson. Five children

3D-2a Kathy Cowan

3D-2b Robbie Cowan

3D-2c Christie Cowan

3D-2d Clifford Cowan

3D-2e Denise Cowan

3D-3 LuAnne Cowan. b. ____?. Married to Harold Havens. Lake Tapps, WA Six children

3D-3a Timothy John Havens

3D-3b Harold Havens, Jr.

3D-3c Sheri Havens

3D-3d Debbie Havens

3D-3e Scott Havens

3D-3f Jeff Havens

3D-4 Joan Cowan. b. ____? Married to Warner G. Cook. 7667 S.E. El Dorado Street, Milwaukee, OR. Two children.

3D-4a Jason Cook

3D-4b Jeff Cook

3D-5 James William Cowan. b. ____? Married to Katheryn Wolford. Rt 274, Bandon, OR. Four children.

3D-5a Karen Cowan

3D-5b Patrick Cowan

3D-5c Katie Cowan

3D-5d Colleen Cowan

3C-6 William D. Cowan. b. March 29, 1941. Married to Teresa McDonald, b. May 7, 1943. Three children.

3D-6a William Daniel Cowan, b. June 15, 1967

3D-6b Elizabeth Cowan, b. April 7, 1969
 3D-6c Melissa Cowan, b. Sept. 14, 1971
 3D-7 Eunice Esther Cowan. b. ____?. Married to Walter Wilson (deceased). Black Diamond, WA. Four children.
 3D-7a Walter Wilson, Jr. Married to Claire. Rainer, WA
 3D-7b Dena Wilson. b. ____?. married to Jeff Torkelson. Orting, WA. one child.
 3D-7b-1 Clayton Torkelson Three children
 3D-8 Dennis Lloyd Cowan. b. May 31, 1944. Married to Katheryn Dunn, b. Jan. 20, 1947. Three children. 710 La Cresta Drive SE, Salem, OR 97306-1647 (503) 581-8962.
 3D-8a Amanda Marie Cowan. b. July 21, 1977
 3D-8b Jennifer Suzanne Cowan, b. April 20, 1979.
 3D-8c Katie Lynne Cowan, b. June 20, 1983
 3D-9 Donald Eugene Cowan b. ____? Everett, WA. divorced. Married to Karen Austad, McMinnville, OR. Three children,
 3D-9a Amy Cowan
 3D-9b Chad Cowan
 3D-9c Scott Cowan
 3D-10 Perry Joseph Cowan. b. August 15, 1949. Married to Donna Marshall. McMinnville, OR. Two Children
 3D-10a Kelly Cowan, b. Nov. 10, 1972
 3D-10b Michael Cowan, b. July 11, 1975
 3D-11 Mary Jo Cowan b. ____?. Married to David Vittetoe. Orting WA.
 3D-12 Danile Cowan. b. ____? Divorced. Willamina, OR
 3D-12a Mattie Schoenbachler, b. Aug. 24, 1972
 3D-12b Megan Schoenbachler, b. Feb 19, 1975
 3D-13 Lee Patrick Cowan. b. ____? Boring, OR
 3D-14 Diane Clarice Cowan. b. ____?. Married to Chuck Nunnally. Orting, WA. Three Children.
 3D-14a Christopher Nunnally
 3D-14b Reina Nunnally
 3D-14c Joseph Nunnally
 3D-15 Gerald Dean Cowan. b. ____?. Married to Rene ____? Orting, Washington. One child
 3D-15a Nicole Cowan

3E Margaret Cowan Burns

Born about Jan. 1918, d. _____. Margaret married Garland Burns. Garland was in the military and they lived down in Florida for a time. Later they settled at Sacramento, CA. 5129 Diablo Drive, Sacramento, CA 95842. Maggie Burns. Maggie died a few years before her brother, John died probably in the mid 1980's. The US Social Security Death Index shows a Margaret Burns at Sacramento who was born November 01, 1917 at Minnesota and died 1985 at age 68.

Person to write to for information? The children are:

3E-1 Ginger Burns Hansen b. _____. Stockton, California. Married to David Hansen. 340 W Anderson St., Stockton, CA 95206 (209) 941-2914

3E-2 Katherine Burns Guerra b. _____. Carlsbad, New Mexico. Kathy married to Reuben Guerra. Kathy is interested in genealogy of the Cowan family and the McMichaels, according to her mother, Maggie Burns. Would like to have their address. (Possible contact: Ruben W Guerra, 616 N Lake St., Carlsbad, NM 88220-5014)

3E-3 Robert Burns b. _____. Sacramento, California.

4. Elizabeth Jane Cowan and Ira Nead

1881 – 1922 and 1870(1866?) - 1936

The Story

Elizabeth Jane Cowan Elizabeth Jane Cowan was born August 12, 1881 and died on Sept. 29, 1922 at the age of 41. Elizabeth is the fourth child of William M. and Margaret (nee McMichael) Cowan and was named after her grandmothers, Eliza (nee Gunson) Cowan and Elizabeth (nee McMillan) McMichael; and was called Lizzie. Lizzie was born and grew up at Owego, North Dakota and married Ira Nead on January 29, 1895 when she was just 13 years and 5 months old and he was 29.

The U.S. census of 1920 shows that Ira is age 54 and estimates his year of birth at 1866. This is different than the following record that states that Ira was born in 1870 when his mother Julia was 15 years of age. If the above record is correct then Julia was thirteen or younger when Ira was born and married the father three years later.

The family record is as follows: Ira Nead was the son of Christopher Nead; b. June 20, 1848 d. Sept., 1870, and Julia Worthington; b. Jan. 9, 1854 d. June 8, 1904. Christopher and Julia lived in Ohio and were married there in 1869; Julia was 15 and Christopher was 21 at the time that they were married. Their son Ira was born in Ohio on March 22, 1870 and Christopher, his father, died at age 22 in September of that year shortly after Ira's birth. Julia was just 16 when he died and was left to raise her son Ira alone. Julia then married Charles (Charlie) Atkins and they lived in North Dakota where he worked as a carpenter. Charlie was said to be a kind and generous man known throughout the community for his wonderful tall tales. For reasons unknown, Julia and Charlie later separated and were divorced. Julia died at age 50 on July 8, 1904 and is buried at Surry, North Dakota; a village down the road from Granville.

Lizzie's first child was born Dec. 5, 1895 when she was just 14 years and 4 months of age. The child was named Margaret Ann after Lizzie's mother who had died earlier in 1890. The child lived only five weeks and was buried next to her grandmother Margaret Cowan in the city cemetery at Sheldon. Lizzie and Ira lived at Sheldon during their first year or so of their marriage and then, in the spring of 1896 or 1897, they moved to Granville where they homesteaded a small farm (Lizzie was still just 15 or 16). Their son, Charlie was born at Granville in the summer of 1897 on July 22 when Lizzie was almost 16 and Ira was 27. Lizzie and Ira then had two more children, Violet (now buried at Rochester, MN) and Grace (now buried at Lakewood Cemetery of Crosby, Minnesota.).

The 1910 McHenry County, ND Plat Map shows the farm in the name of Elizabeth J. Nead and the location is 155N 79W 34. This information is extracted from Film 4817, North Dakota Plat Map Film Index.

Paul Nead of Independence, Missouri wrote to me in February of 1996 and says,

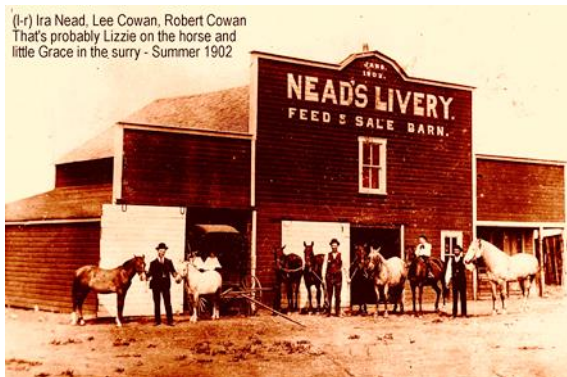
"We have been on the Nead Farm south of Granville where they lived. Sometime later Ira and Lizzie moved to east of Granville on Highway #2 where Violet had her store. The last time we were there, the store was gone and the house had fallen down. The first farm they lived on had a beautiful



large house on top of a hill looking out over the barn and a lake. Early on, Ira built an artesian well on the farm and then cut a trench around the barn to water the cattle. That trench was kept constantly filled by the bubbling water from the well. The only bad thing was that the water was sour. Nothing would drink it. That well is still flowing today. I don't know when they moved but they moved over onto #2 Highway before Lizzie died. Ira must not have been in good health then. Lizzie died on Sept. 22, 1922 and a month later, on Oct. 22, Ira sold the farm to Violet with the provision that she would take care of him as long as he lived. That made Violet at least 30 years old when she married him."

Paul Nead wrote that folks in the area remember that Ira was a veterinary, farmer, livery operator and mechanic; he did a lot of blacksmithing and iron work. They say he had the first electric light plant in the area and owned one of the first cars.

In 1902 Ira built and established a livery and feed sales barn at Norwich. Paul has a large wall photograph that shows the new barn and several people standing in front of the barn showing off the horses. The folks shown in front of the barn are Lizzie's brother Robert A. Cowan, age 23, holding the reins of two young horses; her daughters Violet, age 3 and Grace, age 1 ½ sitting in a buggy; Lizzie's brother Stan Cowan, age 17 holding the reins of four horses; Lizzie's son Charlie, age 5, sitting on a horse; and Ira her husband, age 32, holding the reins of a large white horse. The date painted high on the front of the stable is 1902 and the photograph was likely taken that year at the time that the livery stable was opened. Another photograph taken at the same time shows the same group standing on the boardwalk of the general mercantile store of Norwich. The clothing folks were wearing in this photograph are the same as in the above photograph so the photographs were taken the same day. In this photograph, Lizzie, age 21, is also shown and her little daughter Grace, age 1 ½, is sitting on a pony.



Lizzie's nephew, Ferde Penfield remembers that Ira and Lizzie had a small farm about 4 ½ miles east of Granville toward Norwich on old highway #2 and their daughter Violet had a small store and gas station right on highway #2 and the farm was about a ¼ mile to the south. Ferde also remembers that his mother Mae took him and the other kids there on occasions and she would get them candy.

Paul Nead and his wife Marie have several old photographs of the family including of William and Dell, Ira and Lizzie and their children, the older children of Jim Cowan and others. Lizzie was a handsome girl who always had a smile and was well liked by all who knew her.

It appears that Lizzie was the first of the Cowan family to move to the Granville area and she was followed over the years by her brothers Robert and Stan and their families. A couple of years after Lizzie died, her brother Jim and his wife Inga moved to



Granville; her nephew, Lloyd Cowan and his wife Louise (nee Van Horn) set up a farm there in 1920; and her niece, Mae (nee Cowan) Penfield and her family eventually moved there in about 1920, as well.

The 1920 U.S. Census of McHenry County shows the following:			
name	yob	age	Status
Ira Nead	1866	54	Husband
Elizabeth Nead	1882	38	Wife
Violet Nead	1900	20	Daughter

Lizzie died of pneumonia shortly after her 41st birthday on September 29th, 1922 and was returned to Sheldon to be buried at the city cemetery. Lizzie was laid to rest near her baby daughter, Margaret Ann who died back in 1896, and next to her mother, Margaret Cowan who died in 1890 when Lizzie was just nine years old. Lizzie's dad Bill Cowan is also buried close by, but in an unmarked grave. Lizzie's grave was unmarked for almost 60 years until about 1980 when her grandson, Paul Nead brought a granite grave marker up from Missouri and had it placed on her grave.



Sometime in the late 1920's, Ira married Artimisia _____, b. 1889, d. 1941 and they had two children. The 1940 census shows the family is living at King, Washington.

Romayne Jerome Nead, son, b. 1929 d. 1992

Ira Nead, son, b. 1933 d. ____

In the mid 1930's, a dozen years after Lizzie died, her husband Ira suffered a stroke and was placed in the state hospital at Jamestown. He died there on August 22, 1936 at age 66. Ira is buried at the state hospital cemetery about a half mile in from the road and the site is marked with just a number. I would guess that it was when he went into the hospital that his daughter Violet, now relieved of her duty to care for him, got married.



Lizzie's daughter Grace and the children of her daughter Violet lived in the Minneapolis area in later years. Note: Check obits. of around 1963, Hennipen County, Minnesota, for dates and names of family. Also, further information on the Nead's should be in the Sheldon *Enterprise*. Three possible sources for information on the family are: Paul Nead of Independence, MO; Mary Zimmerman Anderson of Darwin, MN; and Donna Rudningen of Citrus Heights, CA. Paul and Marie Nead have many old photographs of the family which they received from Grace before she died and they have old records and information about the family.

May God be merciful to us all and may one day see Thee face to face. And may we remember well Lizzie and Ira, their parents and children and family and folks around them.

The Children and their Families

<u>Child</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Margaret Ann	Dec. 5, 1895	Jan. 13, 1896	aged 39 days
2. Charles Henry	Jul. 22, 1897	1988 (?)	aged 91
3. Violet Pearl	1898 (?)	1967	aged 69
4. Grace Jean	Dec. 1. 1901	Apr. 26, 1988	aged 87

4A Margaret Ann Nead

Margaret was born Dec. 5, 1895 and died 39 days later on Jan. 13, 1896. She was born to Lizzie when she was just 14 years and 4 months old. Margaret is buried in the Sheldon cemetery, Greene Township, next to her grandmother Margaret Cowan. Lizzie died twenty-six years later in 1922 and was laid to rest next to her daughter Margaret Ann.

4B Charles (Charley) Henry Nead

Charley was born in Granville, North Dakota on July 22, 1897. He was baptized at the Methodist Church on February 4, 1902 by Rev. W. A. E. Maddock. According to Charley's cousin Dudley Cowan [Dudley is a son of Lizzie's brother Robert and he was 7 years younger than Charley.], Charley was married for a short while to a girl in Granville and then took off to Kansas with a girlfriend. This story isn't quite correct and I relate it as an impression that a younger cousin had of him. The more correct story follows.



According to Charley's son Paul, Charley married Ida Ophelia Morrison in Granville on May 6th of 1918. He was then almost 21 years old. A photograph of Charley and Ida taken at their doorway in Granville shows that Charley was a tall and handsome fellow. In some photographs he looked a little like the actor Paul Newman in his younger years. Ida also was a good looking girl and, in the above mentioned photograph, Charley has his arm over her shoulder and she is holding his hand - - Ida appears contented and in love.

For the next three years Charley and Ida lived at Granville (and possibly at Deering just a couple of miles north of Granville) and they had two sons; Charles Robert, born in 1918 at Deering; and Lloyd Eldo, born 1920 at Granville. A photograph in the possession of Paul Nead shows Charlie Nead standing side by side with a young girl named Nina Roysum and behind them are Nina's brother Oscar and Charlie's wife Ida. The photograph looks like one that might have been taken at a wedding. When Charlie left Granville in 1922, the young girl Nina Roysum also disappeared and it is possible that they left together.

From the stories I hear, Charley's dad Ira was hard working, talented, and well liked in the community. Charley, however, it appears didn't learn a trade but hired out to work on farms in the area helping with the threshing and harvesting and such. Paul Nead wrote to me in 1996, *"About the last of July in 1921 Ida took her two boys and left Charley and moved to Butler, Missouri. Her third son Paul Edgar was born there in Butler hardly a month afterward on September 4. Ida never saw or heard of Charley again. A few years ago I found proof that he left with a threshing crew in 1922. From then on, your guess is as good as mine."*

According to Paul, Charley had a reputation of being a "ladies man." and that's at least part of the reason that they separated. My guess is that Charley left, not because he didn't care about Ida and his family, but because he cared for those around him more than he let on and couldn't bear for Ida and the children to think of him as a failure - - being tall and handsome, like many men he had an ego to support and had to maintain an image of success. So apparently he found himself a girlfriend, abandoned his family and took off for parts unknown. Sadly, Charley's mother Lizzie died that same year that he took off with the threshing crew.

Paul says that Charley followed the threshing machines along the Red River Valley and up into Canada. He heard that Charley may have gone up into Alaska looking for work and that his sister Grace and her husband Don Hollo were in contact with him while living in Anchorage, but Grace wouldn't say anything about it to the family. Although the family has much information about Charley's parents and grandparents (The Nead family from Ohio), there is little information about Charley specifically. His son Paul has reason to believe that he died in 1988. The following are the three sons of Charles Henry Nead. May Charley be remembered with gentleness.

On the afternoon of February 27, 1996 Paul Nead called me from Independence, MO and told me about having located a farm south of Granville which was in the name of his father, Charley Nead. The farm was sold for back taxes in 1942 and so he was excited to think that it's possible that his father had a farm there up to that time. If so, Paul may be able to find some information on his father and is looking forward to traveling to North Dakota when the weather improves to search that out.

The information shows that in 1915 Charley's dad Ira purchased a piece of land about five miles to the south of Granville and, in 1917 when Charley was 20 years old, transferred the land to Charley. According to a McHenry County atlas, Charley owned the land from 1917 through 1942. There had been an \$800 mortgage on the land and Ira had been paying on it over the years and when Ira got sick in 1935 the payments stopped. In 1942 the land was taken over by the State to pay back taxes. How long Charley was actually there on the land isn't known.

4B-1 Charles Robert Nead b. Dec. 5, 1918 12:30 AM Thursday night at Deering, N.D. (About 5 miles north of Granville). Charles grew up at Butler, MO and married on Dec. 5, 1951 to Irene Becker b. Nov. 18, 1923. Charles and Irene live at _____.

4B-1a Robert Lloyd Nead b. Nov. 3, 1952 d. Jan. 30, 1995. Robert married on Jan. 22, 1983 to Carolyn Weidinger b. Aug. 17, 1948. Robert died at age 43.

4B-1b Barbara Sue Nead b. Mar. 27, 1955. Barbara married on July 3, 1993 to Timothy (Tim) Rote b. Feb. 15, 1961.

4B-2 Lloyd Eldo Nead b. July 10, 1920 at 2:00 AM Saturday morning at Granville, N.D. Lloyd grew up at Butler, MO and married ca. 1943 to Elizabeth Jane Kipper and they have two children. Lloyd and Elizabeth live at _____?

4B-2a Jesse Lloyd Nead b. Dec. 5, 1942. Jesse married in _____ to Rebecca _____. Two children

4B-2a-1 Jackson Nead b. Feb 4, 1963. Jackson married on Nov. 22, 1993 to Joyce Ezekiel b. Jan 27, 1968.

4B-2a-1a John Jesse Nead b. Ap. 3, 1994

4B-2a-2 Scott __Nead b.____. One daughter.

4B-2a-2a Jordan __ Nead b.____.

4B-2b Elizabeth Jane Nead (Betty) b.____. Married on ____ to William Gentry. Betty was named after her grandmother Elizabeth Jane Cowan Nead.

4B-2b-1 Jessica Gentry b. Ap.1, 1981.

4B-3 Paul Edgar Nead, b. Sept. 4, 1921 at 8:00 PM Sunday night at Butler, Missouri, son of Charles Nead and his wife, Ida Ophelia Morrison Nead. Ida left Charlie and moved from Granville to Butler during the summer of 1921, two months before Paul was born. Paul never saw his father. Because Ida wasn't able to care for all three of the boys alone while they were little, Paul was taken to be cared for by Ida's aunt. Paul says that what then was supposed to be a short stay turned into 18 years and that he did not grow up with his brothers. I first contacted Paul in the summer of 1995 at his age of 73 and Paul states there has been little contact with his two brothers over the recent

many years. Paul married Nellie Marie Hupman of Independence on September 4, 1946. They were married at Kansas City. Paul and Marie live at 1827 Osage Street, Independence, MO 64055. Their four children are:

4B-3a Charles Edward Nead. B. Jan. 23, 1948. Independence, Missouri

4B-3b Joyce Elaine Nead. b. May 5, 1951 Married on Sept. 30, 1967 to Douglas Phillips, b. Sept. 15, 1950. Independence, Missouri. They have two children.

4B-3b-1 Scott Raymond Phillips. b. April 17, 1969. Lives at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

4B-3b-2 Michelle Renee Phillips b. May 16, 1972. Married Jason Osborn b. Feb 134, 1973. One daughter. Independence, Missouri

4B-3b-2a Hailey Osborn. b. Sept. 18, 1992.

4B-3c Kenneth Eldon Nead, Sr. b. Sept. 1, 1954. Married first to Paula Jean Larson and they have one son. Later, Kenneth married Karen Sue Mason, b. May 21, 1958 and they have one son. Kenneth Jr. is a son of Ken by marriage to Paula, Edward is a son of Karen by a previous marriage and Amy is the son of Ken and Karen (His - Hers - and Ours). Ken and Eddy have been adopted to be children of Ken Sr. and Karen. Independence, Missouri

4B-3c-1 Kenneth Eldon Nead, Jr. (Ken) b. Jan. 29, 1975. Independence

4B-3c-2 Edward Eugene Nead (Eddy). b. July 22, 1976. Independence, MO

4B-3c-3 Amy Renee Nead. b. Sept 8, 1980. Independence, Missouri

4b-3d Ruth Ellen Nead. b. May 23, 1957. Married on Feb. 26, 1984 to Ronald Reynolds (Ronnie) b. June 15, 1954. Independence, Missouri

4C Violet Pearl Nead

The U.S. census of 1920 estimates that Violet was born in 1900 and that in 1920 she was 20 years of age and living with her parents Ira, age 54 and Elizabeth age 38 at McHenry County. She grew up on their farm west of Granville. When her mother died in 1922, Ira deeded the farm over to Violet with the provision that she take care of him as long as he lived. That made Violet at least 30 years old when she married. Violet also had a small store and gas station right on highway #2 and the farm was about a ¼ mile to the south. Violet married to Alfred (Nels) Olson. They lived in Minneapolis and later moved to around the Milacs Lake area. They had two children; Edith and Violet. It is said that Alfred was an alcoholic and did not treat the family well. Violet died in 1967 of complications of alcoholism. Edith and her husband may be buried at Lakewood Cemetery at Crosby.

4C-1 Edith E. Olson b. Jan. 13, 1934 d. June 9, 1993. Edith was born about a year and a half before her grandfather Ira died. I am told that Edith was born with a club foot or short leg. Edith married Leonard Linn of Crosby, MN. Edith's obituary with family information is found in the Crosby - Ironton Courier and reads as follows:

Edith E. Linn, 59, of Crosby, died Wednesday, June 9, 1993 at her home. She was born on Jan. 13, 1934 in Minneapolis to Nels and Violet (Nead) Olson. She is survived by a son, Robert Linn of Duluth. She was preceded in death by her husband Leonard. Burial was at Lakewood Cemetery at Crosby. This is the same cemetery where her aunt Grace is buried. Edith's middle name is most likely Elizabeth - - named after her grandmother.

4C-1a Robert (Bobby) Linn b. _____. Son of Edith and Leonard Linn. Bobby lives in Duluth, MN according to James Fallon, last husband of Grace Nead.

4C-2 Violet Olson. b. ca. 1935 d. _____. Daughter of Nels and Violet (Nead) Olson. No information.

4D Grace Jean Nead

Grace was born Dec. 1, 1901 and died April 26, 1988. Grace was the fourth child of Lizzie and Ira Nead and was born at Granville when her mother Lizzie was 19. Grace grew up and attended school at Granville and, at about age 17, married Walter Zimmerman. Walter grew up in Wisconsin

and had been in an apprenticeship in harness making. Grace and Walter had three children. Their first child, born when Grace was 17 years of age, died in infancy. Their other two children are Walter, Jr. (Wally) and Donna.

After the death of her first child and sometime around the summer of 1920, Walter and Grace went to Grove, N.D. where Walter worked in a twine factory. The little town of Grove was near Bismarck and was home of the State penitentiary. The town of Grove no longer exists. Walter, Jr. was born at Grove and a while later they adopted a girl whom they named Donna. Grace and Walter divorced. Sometime later Grace married Donald (Donnie) Hollo and they lived at Marshall, Minnesota and later around Milacs Lake area at Cross Lake. Don and Grace also lived in Alaska for a while. There are a number of photographs which show Don and Grace together. Grace again married this time to John Supranant.

In her old age, Grace married a wonderful old gentleman, James Fallon. Grace and her husband, James lived at 215 3rd Street, SE, Aitkin, MN 56431. Beginning in 1983, after an illness for which she was hospitalized at the Grand Rapids Hospital, she resided at the Aicota Nursing Home, in Aitkin, MN. James paid for her care there and used up all he had saved over the years. Grace died in 1988 five years later with Alzheimer's disease. Update fall, 1993 - James Fallon is alive and well and is remarried. He is about 90 years of age. Update January, 1996: Jim died suddenly of a heart attack in August of 1995.

In June of 1996, I visited with Jim's widow Dagne at the senior residence in Aitkin, Minnesota and she said how Jim loved Grace and took care of her to the end. She showed me photographs she had of Jim and his family and she was so pleased for my visit with her. It was a warm day and she offered me a soft drink. Before I left, I said a short prayer with her. I also stopped to visit the cemetery in Crosby where Grace and Jim are buried side-by-side. Their graves are toward the back of the small cemetery on the left and they have a single flat stone marker inscribed with both of their names. There is also a large empty urn to the left that Jim used to keep filled with flowers. Dagne hopes to get some flowers for it but she can't get out there herself.

The obituary in the Aitkin Independent Age Newspaper reads,

"Grace (Suprenant) Fallon, 86, Aitkin, passed away April 26, 1988, at the Aicota Nursing Home, Aitkin. She was born Dec. 1, 1901 in Sheldon, N.D. She lived in the area since 1966. She formerly lived in the Isle and Onamia area. She was associated with St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Crosby, St. James Catholic Church of Aitkin and Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Wahkon. Services were held Thursday, April 28th, 1988 at 11 a.m. at the St. James Catholic Church with Father Clem Gustin officiating. Burial was in the Lakewood Cemetery, Crosby. She is survived by her husband, James; a daughter, Donna Rudningen of San Francisco; a daughter-in-law, Elaine Zimmerman of Eden Prairie; a niece, Edith Linn of Crosby; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Walter Zimmerman, [Jr.] in 1980."

Grace's daughter Donna has three children and her son Walter has four children. There are a total of at least 13 great-grandchildren today (As of April, 1988).

On the afternoon of February 27, 1996 Paul Nead called me from Independence, MO and told me about having located a farm south of Granville which was in the name of his father, Charley Nead (This is Grace's brother). The farm was sold for back taxes in 1942 and so he was excited to think that it's possible that his father had a farm there up to that time. If so, Paul may be able to find

some information on his father and is looking forward to traveling to North Dakota when the weather improves to search that out.

Paul also related to me the untold story about his aunt Grace and the child that died. Grace was born on Dec. 01, 1901 and gave birth to a child on April 3, 1919 by Walter Zimmerman, who I assume was then her husband. She was 17 years and 4 months old at the time of the child's birth. The child was apparently never given a name and died three days later. Fourteen months later, on June 11, 1920 their son Walter, Jr. was born. Grace was 18 years and 6 months at the time of Walter's birth. During the period of early 1919, Grace and Walter had another child living with them who, it is said, they were contemplating adopting. The child was born in 1912 and so in 1919 the child was about seven or eight years old. Paul says that the story goes that it was winter time and the child ran off. This was probably the winter of 1919-1920 while Grace was pregnant with Walter. The child was found a few days later by a straw stack frozen to death. An autopsy was performed and it was found that the child had been starved. All that was found in the child's stomach was a few kernels of raw wheat from the field.

Walter and Grace were charged with contributing to her death and the trial was held at the county courthouse at Towner. (The court records are at the courthouse there.) Walter and Grace were convicted and imprisoned at the State penitentiary at Grove, North Dakota for about three years. The town of Grove was immediately adjacent to Bismarck. At Grove, Walter was given the work of making twine and Grace gave birth to her son Walter, Jr. while in prison. What a sad thing that the child died because of their apparent carelessness, neglect, or abuse.

An interesting item is that the foreman of the jury was Pete Graham who years later married the daughter of Grace's cousin Mae! In 1939, about 19 years after this episode, Lawrence R. (Pete) Graham married Florence Penfield, then age 30 at Towner, N.D. Florence's mother Mae Penfield was Grace's first cousin.

Commentary about Grace: What a struggle for a young girl! Her grandmother on her mother's side died when her mother was little and her grandfather on her father's side died when her father was a baby many years before. Grace never knew those grandparents and they weren't around to influence her life. And her mother had no mother to influence her and her father had no father to give him direction. It is said that it takes about six adults who care about the child and who serve as role models to grow the child into a happy and responsible adult. That support apparently wasn't there for her. At seventeen she experienced the loss of her own newborn child. At eighteen she and/or her husband abused and neglected a child and that child also died. She must certainly have felt that life was out of control when she was put in jail.

In 1921, while she was in prison, her brother Charley was chasing around and for that his wife Ida left him - - and the whole scenario around Granville - - and moved with the children to Kansas. Grace's mother, Lizzie, died the next year, in 1922, also while Grace was still in prison. It is said that Lizzie died of pneumonia. But I wonder if she died as well from a broken heart.

Over the years Grace was married three more times and in her later years was active in her church. I am sure that in her church she has sought redemption and found the real meaning of her name.



4D-1 Name unknown Born April 3rd, 1919 at Granville, North Dakota and died three days later on April 6th. This child of Grace and Walter Zimmerman was born when Grace was eighteen years of age. Certainly, her death was a shock to the young couple and, I'm sure, the sorrow affected the direction of their short and troubled marriage together. The child is buried at Surrey, N.D. next to Grace's grandmother Julia Atkins. The little town of Surrey is near Granville. There is no headstone and this short paragraph and an obscure county record will likely be the only reference that makes note of her existence.

4D-X Girl child b. 1912 d. 1919. This child was living with the Grace and Walter and they were considering adoption. The child died at age seven and, according to Dudley Cowan and others, the child died under unusual circumstances under Grace's and Walter's care. Information about that was carried in the Minot, ND newspaper and is recorded in the courthouse records at Towner. See above story.

4D-2 Walter F. Zimmerman, Jr. (Wally) b. June 11, 1920 at 1:30 AM at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, N.D. At the time of his birth Walter was 22 and Grace was 18 years of age and they had moved to Grove, N.D., a town adjacent to Bismarck, where Walter worked in a twine factory. That town no longer exists. Walter, Jr. grew up at Marshall, Minnesota and married Elaine Fauvelle and they have three children. Walter served in the U.S. Army during W.W.II. In later years Walter and Elaine lived in Eden Prairie, MN. Walter died in 1980 and his wife Elaine died August 22, 1993. Walter and Elaine are buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Several grandchildren.

4D-2a Donald (Donny) John Zimmerman b. Dec. 1947? Age 49 in 1996. Divorced. 13928 Reflection Drive, #235, Ballwin, MO. 63021 (314) 230 5609

4D-2a-1 Jeff ____ Zimmerman b. _____. Age 26 in 1996.

4D-2a-2 Jody ____ Zimmerman b. _____. Age 24 in 1996

4D-2b Ruth Grace Zimmerman b. Jan. 29 1952. RR 1, Box 206 Granada, MN 56039. Divorced.

4D-2b-1 Tammy _____ b. _____, 1971? Age 25 in 1996. Married to _____.

4D-2b-2 Samuel _____ b. _____, 1974? Age 22 in 1996.

4D-2b-3 James _____ b. _____, 1979? Age 17 in 1996.

4D-2c Mary Kay Zimmerman b. Oct 2, 1953. Married Eugene Anderson. Mary and Gene live at 68580 US HWY 12, Darwin, MN 55324. (612) 275 3697. Interested in info on family.

4D-2c-1 Amy Jo Zimmerman b. Jan 28, 1979

4D-2c-2 Stacy Marie Zimmerman b. Dec 10, 1980

4D-2c-3 Steven Jerome Zimmerman .b May 21, 1987

4D-3 Donna May Zimmerman Rudningen. b. _____ Donna was an adopted child. Donna grew up at Marshall, MN and attended nurse's training around 1940. Donna married _____ Rudningen and they had four children. She has worked as a nurse in California for many years. Her husband died on _____. Donna's address is listed as 6500 Creekmont Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. Donna has four children based on the number of grandchildren listed in the obituary notice of her mother Grace. Donna has many of her mother's old photographs which she received from Jim Fallon after she died.

4D-3a _____, b. _____.

4D-3b _____, b. _____.

4D-3c _____, b. _____.

4D-3d _____, b. _____.

5. Stanley and Mae Cowan

1885 - 1968 and 1888 - 1985

Stanley Cowan was born on February 18, 1885 and died. March 13, 1968. Stanley is the youngest of the children of Margaret Cowan and was born at Sheldon, N.D. in Ransom County. In 1890, when Stan was five years old, his mother died at age 45. According to Stan's nephew Dudley, his mother died *"when Stan was just a child."*

Stan was living at Granville during the period of 1909 or earlier when he was about 24 years of age and married Mae _____. Mae was born in 1888 at Devonshire, England and, according to the 1910 US Census immigrated to the US in 1903 at the age of 14. The 1930 US Census however shows she immigrated to the US two years earlier in 1901 at the age of 12.

They continued to live at Granville and in February of 1910 when Mae was 22, their only child, Maud was born. Stan and Mae then moved to Minneapolis where he began working at the old Nicollet Hotel on Washington and Hennipen Avenues in the Minneapolis Gateway. The 1930 US Census of

Minneapolis shows Stan, age 45 and Mae, age 41 and their daughter Maud, age 20 living in a rooming house in downtown Minneapolis.

The 1940 and 1941 Minneapolis city directory show Stan and Mae living at 64 North 12th Street, Apt 3 and Stan is working as “iceman” for the Nicollet Hotel. Stan continued to work at the Nicollet Hotel for over 50 years and retired in the early 1960’s when he was about 75 years old.

One of the things remembered about Stan was that “He could always tell a story” and if you let him talk - he would talk forever. Stanley died 1968 at Minneapolis. Mae died 19 years later on March 31, 1985 at about 97 years in the nursing home in Blaine, a suburb of Minneapolis. Stan and Mae, Maud and her husband Jay are buried together in adjacent graves at Crystal Lake cemetery, section 26, in north Minneapolis.



Lee and Kate Cowan with daughter Doris and ? on the farm at Granville. The wagon is the field kitchen. Photo processed Feb. 20, 1930 so it's likely it was taken around harvest 1929.

5A Maud Cowan Munson

Maud was born February 17, 1910 and died September 30, 1974. She was the daughter and only child of Stan and Mae Cowan. Stan was 25 and Mae 21 at the time of her birth. Named Edith Maud, she was born at Granville, North Dakota. Maud married Jay Munson, of Wisconsin in about 1930. They were likely married in Minneapolis and I suppose being about age 20 it was about time for her to be moving out of her parent’s apartment. The 1920 US Census lists Jay Munson at age 19 is a lodger living together with several young people in a lodging house. Maud and Jay had no children. Maud died at age 64 in 1974 at Hennipen County and Jay died four years later. The US Social Security Death Index notes Jay Munson Social Security Number 468-07-9458 was born April 19, 1910 and died in November 18, 1978 at age 68 in Hennipen County. Maud and Jay are buried together at Crystal Lake Cemetery in north Minneapolis.

6. Lynne Cowan

Lynne was born to William Cowan and Delia Carr in 1889 about a year before William’s wife Margaret died. Dell was nineteen when Lynne was born. Nothing is known of this child except that she was listed in the census and that she attended Owego School. There is a photo of her. The 1900 U.S. Census lists Lynne as a living child and the Owego School lists her as a student there during the 1901 -1902 school year.

Lynne died in January of 1907 and is buried in the Sheldon city cemetery just a few markers down from the grave of Bill’s wife Margaret Cowan. The cause of her death is unknown, but as was common in those days, it may well have been pneumonia, tuberculosis, one of the childhood diseases or during the flu epidemic.

7. Lee W. Cowan and Kathryn Lou Van Horn

1898 - 1963 and 1903 - 1980

Lee Cowan was born. November 15, 1898 and died. Dec. 20, 1963. Lee was the seventh child of William M. Cowan and the second child of his wife Delia. A newspaper clipping from the **Sheldon Enterprise** of November 18, 1898 states: *“Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Cowan of Highland Township November 15th, a son. The Enterprise is glad to note that the old-timers are still doing something to sustain the population of the “Bonnie Highland.”* This child was Lee and William was

Lee Cowan, age 16 - Son of William and Della Cowan
Photo taken in about 1914 on the farm at Owego. Lee was
the only child living at home then. Lee attended Owego
Consolidated School in Sheldon, ND

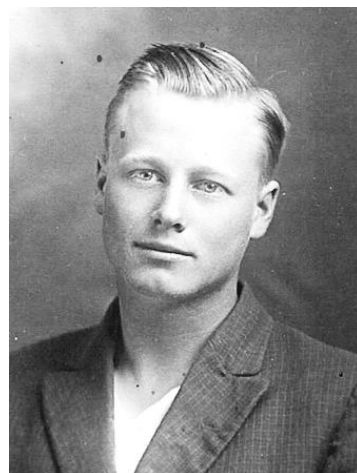


58 years of age and Dell was 30 at the time. Lee was born on the farm at Owego Township in southeastern North Dakota. Lee grew up at Sheldon and attended school at Sheldon. According to the newspaper, there was a Cowan School at Sheldon. Lee was younger by far than any of the other children: His oldest brother, Jim was 24 years older and his sibling closest in age was Stan who was 12 years older. Lee's closest friend and compatriot was his nephew Lloyd who was just two years younger than himself. Lloyd was a son of his brother Jim.

According to an Owego Consolidated School record, Lee attended upper grades at Owego Consolidated School at Sheldon during the school year 1914-1915. The parent listed on the record is Wm. Cowan. The teacher was Stanley Prideaux whose salary was \$75.00 per month. According to the record, it appears that was the year the school opened. Lee was then 16 and his father was 74. Lee's father died two years later in 1917.

A neighbor of Lee's was the Van Horn family. I am told that the Van Horn's had a place north of McLeod and that their farm was adjacent to William and Dell's place. Listed in the upper grade were Kate Van Horn and her sister Louise. Kate, born 1902, was then 14. Lee married his schoolmate, Kate Van Horn about five years later in 1921.

The U. S. Census report of 1910 shows the George Van Horn family at Sandoun and states that George worked as a stockman. George was born in 1871 in Dakota Territory. His father was from Pennsylvania and his mother was born in Germany. His wife's name was Stefanie and she was born in 1882 also in Dakota Territory. In 1910 they had been married for ten years and had four living children. The children in 1910 are Louise E., 9, Hattie L. (Kate), 7, and Mabel C., age 10 months.



Wedding party - 1923 - At upper rt are Kate and Lee Cowan w/ baby Doris
Dell and George Griffen are seated to the l & r of wedding couple

At age 22, on February 24 of 1921, Lee married Kathryn (Kate) Van Horn of Owego Twp. They were married at Lisbon (the county seat). During the early years of their marriage Lee and Kate farmed and had a livery stable at Lisbon and Kate worked for a time as a waitress in a cafe in town. About a year and a half later, on June 4th, 1922, their only child, Doris, was born at Lisbon.

Kate's sister Louise, born 1900, married Lee's nephew Lloyd Cowan (who was "head man" on the farm on May 4th of 1920. According to the 1920 census

taken in the early days of January Loyd (sic.) Cowan, age 22 was living at the farm of George Van Horn and worked as “head man.” Four months later, on May 4th of 1920 they were married. They then lived at Granville until the early 1940’s when they moved out to California.

A photograph taken during the summer of 1923 shows a group of about twenty adults and children posing in front of a small home on the plains. The couple sitting at the center have just gotten married and the bride is holding a bunch of flowers and has a braided ring of fresh flowers in her hair. Lee is standing at the back holding one year old Doris and Kate is standing at his side. The persons getting married are apparently friends at Lisbon.

A photograph taken in the summer of about 1924 show Lee and Lloyd Cowan on the Owego Baseball team - - It’s a group of nine guys in their early twenties posing for a group photograph. Automobiles of the early twenties are visible in the background and the fields are flat for as far as one can see. Lee and Lloyd would have a strong interest in baseball all of their lives and Lloyd eventually became manager of several ball clubs on the west coast. Note that Owego is also the name of the school that the boys attended as children. Their school attendance at Owego is recorded in a school souvenir of back in 1901 - 1902.

A photograph taken in the summer of 1925 shows Lee and Kate and Doris; Lees mother Dell and her husband George Griffin; Dell’s sister Esther Carr; and George’s grandson Ray Evans. They are posing in front of a 1923 roadster and a small barn is in the background. My guess is that George and Dell have driven down from Granville for a visit with Lee and Kate. Lee’s dad William Cowan died eight years before this photograph was taken.



A photograph taken during the summer of 1928 shows Lee and Kate and their daughter Doris standing in the field in front of the “cook car” where they lived when Lee was threshing. The cook car was like a small house on a big wagon and this is where Kate would prepare the meals for the threshing crew. Lee is wearing a suit with a vest and bow tie and Kate is wearing a Sunday dress and hat. Little Doris, six years old, is wearing a white dress with leggings and a light coat and cap. The fields are flat for as far as one can see. Shortly after that summer, the family moved to Granville where they lived for the next twenty years.

After W.W.II broke out in the early 1940’s, Lee and Kate moved to Bremerton, Washington where Lee worked on ammunition at the shipyards. Kate’s sister Louise and her husband Lloyd and her brother George and his wife Wilma all went out to Bremerton together to work at the shipyards. Their daughter Doris, now 20 years old and niece Madelyn worked there, as well. After the war, Lee and Kate moved to Myrtle Creek, about 60 miles from the Pacific Ocean in southern Oregon. Lee worked in the plywood mills at Myrtle Creek and was still working there when he died on December 20th, 1963 at the age of 65. Kathryn died in 1980 seventeen years later at age 77 in Lincoln County.

Doris says she has many pictures of Lee and the family from years ago.

7A Doris J. Cowan Randleman

Doris was born on June 4, 1922 at Lisbon, North Dakota. In the mid 1920’s, the family moves to Granville where they then lived for the next twenty years until the early 1940’s. Doris is an only child and as she grew up attended Granville high School. Doris and Madelyn, daughter of Lloyd and Louise Cowan, are close in age and were close friends as they grew up and still are today. According

to a letter of Aunt Inga, in June of 1938, at age 16, Doris and Madelyn go to visit their aunt Anne and Uncle Bob Cowan and their family at Douglas. Cousin Stan, 27, was married and living at Flasher or Garrison then. Cousin Margaret was a little younger in age. According to Aunt Inga, Doris is just a picture of her mother, Kate. In June of 1940, Doris and Madelyn graduated from Granville High School.

At the beginning of W.W.II, Doris moved to Bremerton, Washington with her parents where she and Madelyn worked at the Navy Shipyards. When Lee and Kate later lived at Myrtle Creek, Oregon their milkman was Randolph Randleman. Doris and Randy became acquainted, courted and were married on June 28, 1954. After their marriage, Randy worked as a logger and millwright in Plymouth. Randy and Doris then moved to Toledo, Oregon where they have lived for many years. Toledo is 5 miles from the ocean and about 120 miles to the north of Myrtle Creek. Doris and Randy have no children.

Doris says that they have been close to Bob and Anne Cowan of Douglas, North Dakota and to the children of Lloyd and Louise Cowan of California over the past many, many years. They are particularly close to Lois's daughter Robin to whom they feel like adoptive parents. Doris says that Madelyn and Bill were out to visit in September of 1994. Doris had a triple bypass surgery in July of 1995 and it all turned out well. Doris has information on the family, growing up, and about Dell and Lynne.



Summer 1925 (l-r) Lee Cowan, Dell (Lee's mom) and George Griffen (l-r) or Doris Cowan, Lee's wife Kate, Dell's sister Esther Carr and Ray Evans Granville?, ND



l-r Lee Cowan, Grandma Delia Griffin, Aunt Bell Flatters (Dell's sister), Doris Cowan, Ray Evans and Grandpa Griffin. Ray is Grandpa's grandson. Doris was born in 1922 and appears to be about 10 years old suggesting that the photo was taken in 1932 or 3. Photo taken at the farm at Granville, ND. Dell died about six years later on Jan. 13, 1939.

North Dakota Towns Where Family Have Lived During 1880 - 1940

Towns In Ransom County

Anselm (Shenford)

“Originally named Shenford for its township which was named by William F Bascom, one of its first settlers. He contended that since the Sheyenne River runs through much of the township and is only shin-deep and is easily forded, it should be called Shinford. From that name Shenford evolved. The post office was established in Sec. 5 August 2, 1880 with William F. Bascom, postmaster. A village grew about it with a store operated by A. C. Marks, a blacksmith shop, an elevator with loading station, making it a busy grain market by 1881. The post office name was changed to Anselm on Jan. 21, 1892 with Denis C. Cullen, postmaster. The wife of a Soo Line official named it for a famous medieval theologian and Archbishop of Canterbury.” (11, p. 202; 19, vol. 13, no. 3; 48, vol. 73, no. 8, p. 90; 80) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. p. 35)

The parents of Delia Carr, Andrew Carr and Hannah Ann Seaburn Cook of the state of New York were early pioneers at Shenford, settling there during the 1870's, and they had eight children including Dell. Dell married William M. Cowan and is the mother of Lee and Lynne Cowan.

William James Cowan, son of William M. Cowan, and his wife Inga Akre purchased a farm at Anselm in 1898 and farmed there until about 1904. They had seven children up to that time and three more later.

Enderlin

“The original platted township of 120 acres in Liberty TWP., purchased by the Minnesota Loan and Trust Co., Aug. 17, 1891 was from the homestead of Eleanor Olson and Ranvel Gullickson. It is located in the southern most bend of the Maple River on the Soo Line Ry., midway between Minneapolis and the Canadian border. The post office was established Oct. 10, 1891 with Nels O. Akre, postmaster. Incorporated as a city in 1896. There are two versions as to the origin of the name. 1. It was named by the Canadian wife of A. L. Allen, a Soo Line official; she was fond of English novels, and took the name from one she had just read. 2. The name was fashioned with a touch of humor, by townsite officials from the expression used by grade workers, who referred to the end of the railroad track at the time as the “end der line.” It was temporarily terminus of the Soo Line extension during the period of construction where the headquarters were established.” (10, p. 740; 38, vol. 3, no 11, p. 220; 76; 80) (The Early History of Ransom County 1835 - 1885, Pub. Larimore N. D., 1918, H. V. Arnold, author and publisher, 1848 - 1931, p. 71,. p. 37)

About 1907, William James Cowan and the family moved to Enderlin. Jim and Inga lived at Enderlin for about 16 years and by about 1923 they moved to the city of Minneapolis.

Jim and Inga's son Willie is buried at the cemetery at the Enderlin city cemetery. The marker reads William A. Cowan, b. 1893 d. 1913. Willie was a news butcher on the railroad and died at age 19 of pneumonia while the family lived at Enderlin.

Fort Ransom

“Established June 18, 1867 on the west bank of the Sheyenne River on Sec. 12-135-58, in the northwestern part of what is now Ransom County, for the purpose of keeping the hostile Sioux in check and guarding the trains of emigrants going westward. It was the first of a chain of forts,

planned to be established across the prairies to protect the frontier and was within supporting distance of Fort Abercrombie. The original fort was built of logs and was sufficient in size to accommodate 200 men. All the fort buildings were protected by two block houses and sod and log breastworks 12 feet high, surrounded by a ditch 8 feet deep. The fort was built by Gen. Alfred Terry and named for Gen. Thomas E. G. Ransom, a civil war officer of the 11th Illinois Volunteers, who died of battle wounds Oct. 29, 1864. The county was named for the fort. When the N. P. Ry. reached Jamestown, the fort was no longer needed and was abandoned on July 31, 1872. In Jan. 1880, there were 150 sections of land in this military reservation thrown open for settlement.” (5, p. 543; 7. p. 304; 10, p. 709; 19, vol. 13, no. 4, p. 183; 23, p.2) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. pp. 37-38)

Lisbon

“Situated on both banks of the Sheyenne River, at the foot of its bordering hills in Sec. 2, Island Park Twp. Named by Joseph L. Colton, his brother-in-law George Murray and John Challey, townsite owners, for their former homes, Lisbon, N. Y. and Lisbon, Ill. Colton selected land here in 1878 and built a flower mill. In Sept. 1880 he laid out the townsite and was appointed the first postmaster Jan 23, 1880, George Murray was the first mail carrier. The Fargo & South Western branch of the N. P. Ry. reached Lisbon Dec. 24, 1882. Kisbon is the county seat of Ransom.” (7, p. 305; 11, p. 202; 38, vol. 3, no. 11, p. 216; 80) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. p 39)

William M. Cowan married Delia Carr at the court room in Lisbon, County of Ransom, State of North Dakota on the 29th day of December, 1897 in the presence of Herman Shirley, H. P. Grinager, witnesses. Frank P. Allen, Judge of the County Court, officiated.

Lloyd Cowan and Louise Van Horn were married at Lisbon on May 4, 1920 and lived at Sheldon (where grampa Bill Cowan used to have a farm). Their son Kenneth was born in the fall of that year at Sheldon. By the spring of 1922 they moved to Lisbon and daughter Madelyn was born in April. Lloyd’s brother Lee, who married Louise’s sister Kate, also had a farm at Lisbon and Kate waitressed in the cafe in town. In June of 1922, Lee and Kate had a daughter Doris. Madelyn and Doris have been lifetime fast friends as well as cousins. By spring of 1923, Lloyd Louise moved to Granville.

McLeod (Sandoun)

“Originally named Sandoun for its township when it was founded in 1880 on Sec. 25. The township was given its name for the many sand dunes in its area. The post office was established May 23, 1892 with Liewellyn King, postmaster, who had formerly been employed on the Soo Line Railroad and who had settling here in 1890. The name Sandoun conflicted with Sanborn and in 1905 by petition, it was renamed for J. J. McLeod, local Realtor and one of the earliest settlers in the township. The McLeod post office was established April 26, 1905 with Erick Dovdi, postmaster.” (76; 78, p.71; 80) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. pp. 39-40)

The George Van Horn family were early pioneers who settled at Sandoun (later called McLeod) in Owego Township (SE1/4-19 Owego) near Pigeon Point in 1880. They had four children. Their daughter Kate married William M. Cowan’s son Lee Cowan and their daughter Louise married William M. Cowan’s grandson Lloyd Cowan.

Owego

"In 1869 the Owego Colonization Co., headed by Capt. Lafayette Hadley, settled a colony of pioneers from Owego, N. Y. on what proved to be after being surveyed, Sec. 11 of the township to which it lent its name and that of their former home. Twelve log cabins were erected in 1871 in the immediate area which was the first settlement in the county. The post office was established Sept. 1, 1871 in the home of James C. Felch, postmaster, on Sec. 11. The colony prospered for a year or two. The male members who were old enough went away to work on the Northern Pacific Railway. An Indian scare caused many families to leave. The townsite scheme was abandoned and the vacant buildings were burned by the Indians. Samuel Horton and F. A. Baguhn were two of the original settlers, who continued to live in Owego Twp. with their families. The post office was discontinued June 16, 1873; reestablished in 1874 on Sec. 9, with W. F. Baguhn, postmaster. It was moved from one farm house to another for a few years then discontinued; reestablished Dec. 11, 1886 with Elizabeth Schultz, postmaster and finally discontinued April 16, 1906 and mail sent to Sheldon." (21; 38, vol. 3, no. 11, p. 211; 80) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. p. 40)

The children of William M. Cowan and of his son William J.

Cowan, the children of George VanHorn, along with children of other pioneer families, attended the one room school at Owego during about 1900 - 1910. During the late 1910's Lee Cowan and his nephew Lloyd Cowan (who both married Van Horn girls) played on the Owego baseball team.



Pigeon Point

"Dave Faribault, a half-breed Sioux, nephew of old Chief Faribault kept a government station on the Sheyenne River in 1868. Because it was out of the direct line of the overland travel, he removed to a point near Owego, where he kept a station for several years called in that day 'Pigeon Point.' Origin of the name is not known." (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. p. 41)

The William M. Cowan 1880 homestead farm is located at Pigeon Point in Owego township. The only structure on the land was a two room one story log cabin. Their three children then were William J., Robert A., and Thomas. Two more children were added in the next few years. In later years the farm was held by his son Thomas Cowan who never married. Did Bill put the farm in Thomas' name so that he would have a place (Remember he suffered from epilepsy) instead of it going to Dell when he died? Possible.

Sheldon (Jenksville)

"First named Jenksville by the first postmaster, Barnabus D. Wilcox after his wife's maiden name

Jenks. At the time the office was in Cass County. In 1881 Wilcox bought land in Sec. 17, and Sec. 20, in Green Twp., Ransom County, from the Northern Pacific Ry. and three weeks later sold it to E. E. Sheldon, who deeded one-half section of the land to the railroad company to locate a station there. A post office was established July 20, 1881 with Carl E. Rudd, postmaster. The townsite was platted in the fall of 1882; incorporated July 29, 1884. The Fargo and Southwestern branch of the N. P. Ry. reached Sheldon Nov. 4, 1888.” (11, p. 202; 48, vol. 73, no. 8, p. 90; 80) (Origins of North Dakota Place Names, Mary Ann Barnes Williams, 1886 - , Pub. M. A. B. Williams, 1961. pp. 41-42)

The early newspaper Enterprise notes that there was a Cowan School at Sheldon.

The following family persons are buried in the Sheldon Cemetery:

1. William M. Cowan is buried in an unmarked grave, Block 12, lot 8 and there is no date of death recorded. Born Sep. 22, 1840 in Quebec and died June 4, 1918 at Sheldon. The place of his gravesite was located on an old cemetery plot map which is in the possession of the cemetery supervisor.
2. His wife, Margaret McMichael Cowan, b. 1845 Seaforth, Ontario d. 1890 is buried at Sheldon City Cemetery near her daughter Lizzie. A marble gravestone marks her gravesite.
3. Their daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) Cowan Nead, b. August 12, 1881 at Owego, post office at Sheldon. d. Sept. 29, 1922 at Granville, ND. A flat stone marker was placed on her grave in 1980, 58 years after her death by her grandson Paul Nead of Independence, MO. Sheldon City Cemetery
4. Daughter of Lizzie Nead, Margaret Ann Nead, b. Dec. 5, 1895 d. Jan. 13, 1896 Born to Lizzie when she was just 14 years and 4 months old. Margaret lived only 39 days and is buried in the Sheldon Cemetery, Greene Township, next to Margaret Cowan, her grandmother. An upright stone memorial marks her grave.
5. Lynne E. Cowan, preteen daughter of William M. Cowan and his wife Delia Carr. A narrow column upright soapstone memorial marks her grave. Lynne was born 1889 and died in 1907 at age 18.

The Starting of Sheldon

The following was written in 1918. “Sheldon is a village of between three and four hundred inhabitants, located in the northeastern part of Ransom County, on the line of the Fargo and Southwestern Railroad, 42 miles from Fargo. It is 14 more miles more to the town of Lisbon by the railroad. The altitude of Sheldon is 1,080 feet according to the railroad survey. The town is surrounded by good farming country and stores, banks, the school and churches are well represented in the place.” (The Early History of Ransom County 1835 - 1885, Henry Vernon Arnold 1848-1931; Pub. Larimore, N. D., 1918, p. 70)

The following is a portion of an article in the Sheldon Progress, Dec. 15, 1911 about Sheldon which gives a good account of the starting of the village:

“The history of Sheldon dates from June 23, 1881, when B. D. Wilcox purchased the present townsite from the Fargo and Southwestern Railroad which was then being built. He bought all of section 17, the section upon which Sheldon now stands, for \$3,200, but having no money with which to pay for it, he sold it three weeks later to E. E. Sheldon for \$3,800.

“Mr. Sheldon platted the village and sold off a few lots, deeded half of the plot to the railroad company for locating the town here, and in February, 1882, sold what was left to Horton & Detler for \$8,000.

“The first train - a construction train laying track - reached Sheldon on Nov. 4, 1882, and Lisbon on Dec. 23 of the same year. A mixed train was run off and on through the winter, and a regular service was inaugurated April 1, 1883. Although a few store buildings had been erected, it was not until the spring of 1883 that Sheldon really began to assume the aspect of a thriving new town. During the spring and summer a score or more buildings sprang up on what a year before had been the verdant prairie, and hundreds of settlers poured in to occupy the land opened up by the new railroad.

Adam Goodman was the first man to buy grain for shipment over the new railroad from Sheldon. In the fall of 1882 the Northern Pacific Elevator Company built the first elevator in Sheldon and Mr. Goodman was their agent. The elevator was situated on the site of the present public park, and 300,000 bushels of wheat were marketed during the first fall and winter it was in operation. It was no uncommon sight to see twelve to fifteen loads of grain lined up before the elevator by daylight, and Adam was kept busy almost twenty-four hours a day.

“The first general merchandise store opened in Sheldon was that of Karl E. Rudd who began business on Sept. 15, 1881, although the store of Goodman and Green was in operation several months previous a few miles east of town, and was moved in and opened for business in the old building at the east end of Main Street a few days after the Rudd store was established.

“The first bank institution was opened by I. C. Gaylord on July 9, 1883. The bank founded by Mr. Gaylord, after passing through several transitory changes, finally became the First National Bank of Sheldon.

“On August 18, 1884 the town incorporated. The first board of trustees consisted of K. E. Rudd, Jas. K. Banks and Adam Goodman. C. E. Cole was clerk, Marion Grange treasurer, and S. A. Durgin marshal, Jas k. Banks was also justice of the peace.

“The first drug store was established in the early eighties by C. E. and L. R. Cole, and in 1885 another drug store was opened by p. J. Hoff.

“Another pioneer institution is the Sheldon opera house whose doors were thrown open to the public by manager Chauncey Durgin on July 4, 1885.

Sheldon’s first newspaper was the Enterprise and was established and the first number issued February 25, 1885, D. M. Houge being the editor. It continued for twenty years and was then consolidated with The Progress”

Other towns where family lived

Towns in McHenry County

Granville

- Lizzie and Ira Nead
- Jim and Inga Cowan
- Stan and May Cowan
- Bob and Anna Cowan
- Mae Penfield

Norwich

Dearing

- Charlie and Ida Nead

Minot

Mae Penfield
Florence and Pete Christiansen

Velva

Pastor Ole Akre had a parish there

Towns in McLean County

Douglas

Bob and Anna Cowan

Turtle Lake

Walter and Ruth Christiansen

Mercer

Hattie (Akre) Ovre

McClusky

Bell and Martin Wassenberg

Towns in Morton County

Mandan

Walter and Ruth Christensen

Flasher

Bob and Anna Cowan

Towns in Williams County

Williston

Ferde and Hildegarde Penfield

