

August 21, 2017

This is excellent to make these connections!

My name's Ronald (Ron) Arthur James Anderson, and Jimmy cc'd me on his reply to your email. Burpee James Anderson and Mary Kerr (Hunter) Anderson are my grandparents, and I live on a ten acre lot that was subdivided from Burpee's original 1885 homestead, located 2 miles north of the village of Silton, SK, which in turn is located approximately 30 miles north of Regina. Burpee and Mary's house stood on a low hill approximately 200 yards due east of my house. My younger brother, Kenneth Richard (Rick) Anderson and his wife, Orishas (Rish) own, live on, and farm, the remainder of Burpee's land, plus Burpee's father Thomas's original 1884 homestead land, adjoining this land immediately to the northeast.

I've lived here on this land most of my life, except for the four years in the first half of the 1970s that I spent in the PPCLI, garrisoned at Workpoint Barracks in Victoria, BC. My future wife, Vera (deceased in 2008), was a Victoria girl, and our marriage was the impetus for me to leave the army, as I had learned that the military was no place for anyone who desired a lasting marriage. We moved back here to Saskatchewan and I designed and built our house on this land that my parents had given to us as our wedding gift. Subsequently, I have been in and through Banff innumerable times on our many trips to Victoria to visit Vera's family.

I've been working on "reworking" - i.e. principally updating and expanding - an "Anderson genealogy" from an extensive document researched and compiled several decades ago by a distant cousin-in-law who was a professional genealogist. My "reworked" version now extends to some 17 to 18 pages, single spaced, in 8 point type. I will forward a PDF of it to you if you wish. However, I'll sketch out very briefly the "Anderson" history in North America as follows: First, the earliest ancestor in the Anderson lineage was a fellow named Palmer Tingley, a miller from London, who arrived in Boston town, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British North America, aboard the HMS Planter, in 1635. The first "Andersons" were Thomas Edward Anderson and his new bride, Mary Blackburn, who arrived at Upper Sackville, Nova Scotia Colony, in 1772. (This was some ten years before New Brunswick was carved out of the western half of Nova Scotia. When that occurred, it took the town of Upper Sackville with it; hence, Upper Sackville was subsequently located in New Brunswick.

My great grandfather, Thomas Edward Anderson, was 4th generation North American Anderson. He and his bride, Elizabeth Sarah Latta, came west and homesteaded on the quarter-section immediately northeast of me in 1884. Their eldest son, Newton, homesteaded some 3 miles north of there in 1884. And their second son, Renwick, homesteaded the same year 2 1/2 miles north. Renwick was killed by a runaway horse, and is buried in the cemetery of Longlaketon Church, located 4 miles east of me. Burpee, the third son, had to wait a year to homestead, as he was legally too young.

My grandmother, Mary Kerr Hunter, was the first school teacher at Longlaketon School, located 2 1/2 miles southeast of me. Burpee was chairman of the first local school board by then, and that's how they met. Mary subsequently introduced Newton to her younger sister, Barbara, and that's how they met. Burpee and Mary's first son was named Renwick also, after Burpee's elder deceased brother. Renwick was in his first year of university in Saskatoon when WWI broke out. He left university and enlisted in the army. He survived the entire war in the trenches, and was leading his platoon in the preliminary assault on the city of Cambrai when a German sniper shot him, six weeks before the armistice. He was age 25. (When I was born, my dad wanted to name me Renwick. However, my aunt was adamant that he not because every Renwick in the family had died young. Thus my parents decided on Ronald.)

Burpee and Mary's second son was Thomas. (This Thomas was Jimmy's grandfather.) The third son was Newton (named for his uncle). (There is a marked Welsh influence in the Anderson line, even though we are predominantly Scot, because of the numerous clearances imposed by the the English resulting from the Soottish-English wars. Hence, the predominance of the names "Thomas" and "Edward".) Thomas and Newton were both born at the Hunter home at Lewellyn because William Hunter, my grandmother Mary's father, had been killed previously by a falling log while building their house and the Hunter family needed help, so Burpee and Mary travelled to Saskatoon and spent several years there assisting them.

Upon returning here, Burpee and Mary had a fourth son named Roy, followed by their first daughter, Janet (who I knew as "Aunt Jenny"). Following Janet, my dad, James (Jim), was born in 1904. Then came their remaining four daughters - Margaret, Mary, Wilhelmina (who I knew as "Aunt Billie") and Laura. Thus Jimmy's dad, Jim (my eldest cousin), was named for my dad, Jim. I have two older sisters - Maxine and June. Then WW2 intervned, and my dad joined the RCAF police. Following the war, I was born in 1952 and my younger brother, Rick, was born in 1954.

If you're interested, I can send you several photos of such things as the house that Burpee and Mary built, etc., as well as the gravestones of my great grandparents, Thomas and Elizabeth, the elder Renwick (i.e. my great uncle), and grandparents, Burpee and Mary, as all of their graves are located nearby and I have all these photos on file on my computers. (If you would prefer not, don't hesitate to say so - I'm a big boy and can accept it.)

Well, the foregoing is sufficient for now, Jeff. (I can get some of my emails to "book length" quite easily. The only reason I've been able to write this lengthy one is that it's somewhat drizzly here today and not particularly nice to do some needed work outside.)