

# Kinzie Family History

From "Reflections—Pike Lake Valley Park"

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## WILLIAM KINZIE

It was in the fall of 1905, when enthused over the prospect of getting land for the sum of ten dollars and residency that, William Kinzie and Bert Pippin left Missouri, U.S.A. to come to Saskatchewan. Literature promoting Canada being circulated throughout the States decided them to look over the country surrounding Saskatoon.

William Kinzie owned a farm in Missouri and also worked in shallow coal mines. After much travelling, he filed on the North West Quarter of Section 16, 34, 6, while Bert Pippin filed on the South West Quarter.

They returned to Missouri and spent the winter getting ready to move in the spring. In April, 1906, William with his wife, Cora, and family, consisting of Lena, Merrel, Darlene and Lois, accompanied by Bert Pippin, his wife, Florence a sister to Cora and one son Ralph arrived in Saskatoon on an immigrant train. They unloaded their goods from the train and pitched tents in the vicinity where the C.N.R. Freight Sheds now stand. The women and children remained there while the men moved the machinery and supplies to the homestead by mule team. This task accomplished, they took up residency in late May. A few acres were broken and a crop of oats seeded to furnish feed for the animals.

Besides the four mules which they brought, there were some chickens, a cat and a yearling colt, which was a descendent from a breed of running horses. Merrel and Lena made a harness from ropes and bits of twine they found and used the colt for hauling dry trees from the bush for firewood.

The men spent the summer putting up log buildings which were ready by early fall. In spite of a cold winter and a heavy snow fall, a surveying crew spent the winter resurveying the surrounding land, while living in tents on the bank of the creek near the Kinzie house. William spent six weeks working with them.

The nearest school was at Valley Park, a distance of six miles, which presented quite a problem, however, this was solved in 1907, when Grandma Brady, then a widow come out to Canada. A bachelor's shack just across the road from the school was made ready with Grandma Brady as housekeeper. The young Kinzies attended school there until the Pike Lake School was built in 1912. It was then only two and a half miles to school, a distance which could be walked. Sometimes in nice weather the lake was crossed by boat. The first teacher, Miss Annie Campbell, boarded at the Kinzies for two years.

In 1908, more horses were needed to do the work so they sold the four mules to a farmer at Goose Lake for \$1,000.

They bought two mares from Gus Keindel for \$375 and two mares from Albert Dunning, who owned a livery barn in Saskatoon for \$400.

On March 28, 1908, a son Arthur was born. The

following years were spent clearing land by hand and breaking was done with a sulkey plow drawn by horses.

The third son Maurice was born on October 30, 1910. Those years it was unheard of to go to hospital for childbirth. Cora's sister, Florence, attended at the birth of Arthur and Maurice and as seven of the eight Pippin children were born in Canada, Cora had an opportunity to act as midwife in return.

Once the gardens were cultivated any vegetables grown, as well as butter and eggs, were taken to Saskatoon and sold to the stores. A group of farmers formed a syndicate and bought a stallion. Horses were raised for farming purposes until the early 20's when tractors became the source of power. In 1917 a 490 Model Chevrolet car was purchased for \$815. The same fall 4 cows and 6 steers were sold to the butcher in Delisle for \$1200.

On October 20, 1912, Lena married William Castle, who was a Deputy Sheriff. Three children were born to them - Russel, Lawrence and Gertrude. After moving several times they finally settled at Meadow Lake. Lena passed away in 1943.

Merrel was married in 1925 to Regina Gagen and farmed in this district until 1955, when he moved into Saskatoon.

Darlene was married to Orville Smith on October 28, 1924 - a farmer in this district. They had three boys and one girl. Darlene passed away in 1942.

Lois married Henry Dahlen on June 17, 1925. They had two boys and three girls. They are still farming in the district.

Arthur married Eileen Price on October 1932. They have one boy, Philip, who lives in Vancouver. Arthur died in 1946.

Maurice married Dorothy Russell in September 1937. They had one boy, Russell and one girl, Sharon. They are living in Vancouver.

In 1927, William put up new buildings on Section 21, 34, 6, where they lived until 1937, when they retired to a smaller house on Elling Dahlen's homestead which they had purchased some years before. They lived there until January 1947, when they then made their home with Henry and Lois.

Cora Kinzie passed away in May, 1947 at 78 years of age, and William Kinzie remained alert and active until his death June 1952, at the age of 88.

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## THE MERREL KINZIES

Merrel Kinzie started farming for himself in the spring of 1925, on the South West Quarter of 10, 34, 6. On April 14, he married Regina Gagen, who was teaching the Pike Lake school. She rode horseback five miles to school to finish her term.

The following year, February 25, a son, Donald, was born. He received his education at Valley Park. He always liked farming and bought the farm of his grandfather Kinzie, from his uncle Maurice Kinzie, who had acquired it. He married Hazel Smith, on October 1957. They have two boys, Francis 4, Kevin 2, and a baby girl Arlene, 6 months old. He still farms and raises a lot of cattle.

His second son, Dermid was born on May 26, 1927. Received his education at Valley Park, but went to Biggar to his grandmother's to finish his grade eleven and twelve. After that he spent two years at the West Coast in the sawmills and helped his cousin build a new house at Mission. Bought himself a car and returned home. He acquired some land of his own and is farming and raising cattle also.

A daughter Evelyn, was born on April 30, 1929. Went to school at Valley Park, after which she worked in the Income Tax Office in Saskatoon. In 1950, she married Orville Erixon, who has a farm at Clavet. They have four boys and two girls. The four oldest are attending school at Clavet.

Patrick, was born on March 11, 1931. He received his education at Valley Park. When he grew up he did construction work and finally went to Vancouver and worked out there for a number of years. He married Audrey Dame in 1954. They had two boys, Ralph and David and a girl, Evelyn. In June, 1958, he was coming back to Sask. to work on the South Saskatchewan Dam when the truck he was driving hit a train near Edmonton and he was killed. His children live and attend school in Vancouver.

A second daughter, Merlyn was born on February 24, 1938. Received her schooling at the convent of Sion in Saskatoon. On graduating she entered St. Paul's Hospital and trained for a Registered Nurse. She spent four months in Jersey City, U.S.A. and took special training in Obstetrics. She is teaching Obstetrics in St. Paul's Hospital at present. February 25, 1963 she married Michael Shirley who owns a garage in Saskatoon.

In 1955, Merrel decided to quit farming and bought a house in Saskatoon. He turned the farm over to his son Dermid and is now living in Saskatoon.

## THE DON KINZIE FAMILY

The family has now grown to number six children. Nolan, born October 1963, Bonnie, born October 1964. Gail, the youngest, born in November 1968.

Frances and Kevin are farming on the family farm with their father, a mixed farming operation. The Kinzies have expanded their farm by purchasing the William Wilson farm in 1971, the Orville Smith farm in 1972 and part of the Agnes Torgerson farm in 1976.

Frances is presently employed in Northern Alberta for the winter months. Nolan is attending St. Thomas College in North Battleford. Arlene is attending Delisle Composite School and Bonnie and Gail attend Delisle Elementary School.

The Kinzie children have been members of the Vanscoy 4-H Club for eight years. Hazel has been a leader in the Vanscoy 4-H Club for six years. Don has been actively involved with the local school board, being chairman for the past three years. He also represented Pike Lake on the Delisle School Board. Don is presently on the Community College Contact Committee.