

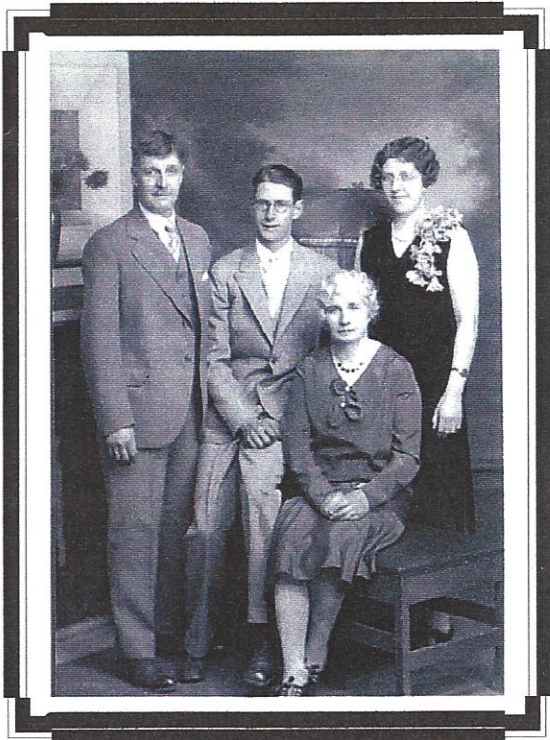


Number One and havin' fun!
Ronald Edward
 June 16, 1936

A Watson Family Album

The Watson family is a very, very old family. And the history of the Watson family is recorded in an ancient library somewhere in Scotland, in five massive volumes. And in the middle of the third volume, in a marginal note, we read, "Aboot this time the warld was created." For this Watson family reunion of 2001, I wanted to take us back only about 100 years, to the early years of the 20th century. I hope this will be an interesting journey "back to then." — Ron

The first generation of the Watson family to live in Canada was represented by William, the third child of George and Annie Watson of Scotland. In this picture, he is seen with his son Melville, his daughter Georgina and his wife Jessie (seated).



There was another daughter, named after her mother, five years older than Melville, but she died of appendicitis at the age of 15.

Jessie (Beattie) was one of nine children, all of whom moved to Canada.

Mel was born in Arcola, Saskatchewan, and worked in Moose Jaw and Regina all his working years. Prior to getting on with CP Express, he worked at a service station on south Albert Street during the depression of the early 1930's. There he was a "Jack of All Trades," and developed some skills as a mechanic.

This skill was sorely tested by a sequence of questionable automobiles the family later owned.

Meanwhile, George Fowlie and Grace Ronald, some of whose families had also come to Canada, met and married. What they did not know was that in the confusion of moving to a new country, they were already second cousins. Therefore, little Grace, their eldest child, and her eight siblings, were their own third cousins!



By way of illustrating some of the criss-crossing of bloodlines in pioneer days, we see here Aunt Minnie (originally a Beattie and sister to Grandma Watson) and Uncle Alex Fowlie (brother to Granpa Fowlie), along with Aunt Ella (originally a Ronald and sister to Grandma Fowlie) and Uncle Dave Beattie (brother to Grandma Watson and Minnie). The gals met their "beaus" in the Gap View.

An earlier child of George and Grace, John, had died in childbirth, but after Grace came George (Geordie), William

A Family Album

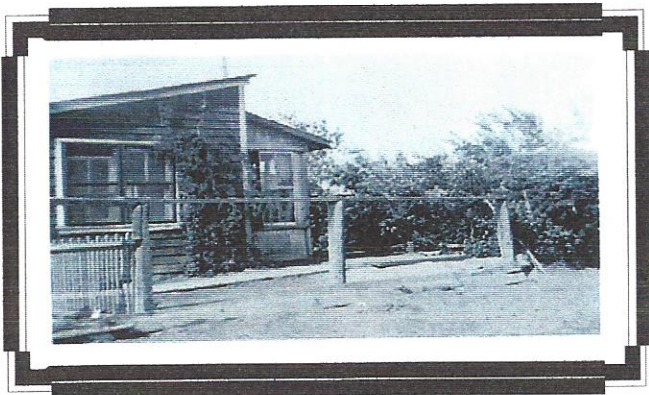
(Bill), Lillian (Lily), Winnifred (Winnie), Ruby, Gordon, Isabel and Joyce (Joy).

George Fowlie, who, for a time, owned "Fowlie Brothers Dray" in Moose Jaw, was a good business head. The story used to be told that the "Fowlie Brothers" did hauling right up to the era of motorization, then sold out. Who knows? Perhaps if they had stayed at it a little longer, or had the capital to make the transition, a major trucking firm could have been the result.

George's wife Grace died of cancer shortly after giving birth to their youngest child, Joy. Joy was born in January of 1932. Grandpa George remarried (three times, as it turned out) and finally settled in Vancouver.

Mel and Grace, probably for economic reasons, basically eloped to be married. The recession of the 'thirties was upon them, and they wondered how they could even afford to be married. However, when Mel had a medal he had earned for his marksmanship with a rifle melted down to make a ring, obviously Grace was impressed.

Shortly after their wedding, Mel and Grace moved to Regina. They first lived with his parents, then upstairs in the same apartment house on Retallack Street part of the time. But when they learned that Douglas was on the way, they made the major move to buy a home of their own. That house was on the southeast corner of the intersection of Rose Street and 13th Avenue in Regina. The house pictured here was either that very one, or one very like it. Mel and Grace referred to it in later years as "The Shack".



When Dorothy was still little, and we learned that Ruth was on her way, the decision was made to move again, this time to 1016 Athol Street. This house was more or less adequate for the six of us, until Linda, then Vivian, surprised us!

Somewhere about this time, the transition was made from First Baptist church down town to the Cameron Memorial church, which had been planted and launched by the peo-

ple at First, and was now within walking distance for our family. The church was named for Dr. Marjorie Cameron, a member of First Baptist, Regina, who had died on the mission field at about that time.

With the large families of the time, and so often intermarried, it is understandable that we children had difficulty figuring out who was who. Mom would say, "This is Uncle Alex. This is Uncle Dave. This is the other Bill Fowlie." And I'd be saying, "Like, how can you tell?"



But in the end, I decided that if Mom knew who they were, and if she let them in, that was good enough for me!

Mel and Grace were a remarkable pair. I have concluded, in my own mind, that as I knew them, Grace was the "drive" in the family, and Mel was the "glue"

Uncle Ron married Margaret Rosser in February of 1963. Their 4 wonderful children are Daniel Lee (March 12, 1965), David Alexander (August 16, 1965), Cameron Cree (January 5, 1967) and Gwendolyn Grace (April 23, 1970). Ron began his post-secondary studies at Luther College in Regina and finished up his B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He then completed his B.D. at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He did his internship in Wakaw, and began his career as a Baptist minister with his charge at Swift Current, where he was also ordained. From there he pastored in Dryden Ontario, St. Lambert Quebec, and then Smiths Falls near Ottawa. In 1988, he became one of the first Area Ministers in the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. It is from this post that he has very recently retired, in June of this reunion year. Like all the Watsons, he is nuts about his grandkids (which is much to his credit)!