

Sarah Purdon nee Proven

Submitted by Maxine Chipley, granddaughter

Sarah Ann Proven was born in Ontario. Nov.19, 1871. Prior to her marriage she became a teacher having the required Grade eight education. On March 25,1896 at McDonald's Corners, Ontario in Lanark County Sarah became the bride of Duncan Purdon, who was born April 29,1859 .They farmed for 8 years. During that time four children were born. Duncan worked off the farm in winters, part of the time in lumber camps.

In 1904 they moved to Antler Saskatchewan by rail with Duncan taking care of the animals. Sarah may have had a sister with her to help with the children. Her family, two brothers and two sisters all came west. There was a school in Antler when the family arrived but it was very hard for her to take their oldest daughter to school and leave her with complete strangers. After they settled two more children were born. Their oldest son died in the influenza epidemic in 1919.

Sarah liked to be working out of doors. They must have had so much and ready for winter. She made quilts and mats and taught her daughters to crochet and knit. All those talents were necessary to keep the family in mitts, scarves and socks for the bitter winter cold.

The family skated while their Dad curled at the rink in town. She would have toast in the warming oven above the stove for them when they got home. My Dad mentioned not long ago that he didn't suppose they ever thanked her.

Duncan died February 5, 1955. Sarah followed soon after May 19, 1 955. They are both buried in the Antler cemetery.