

Augusta Soderberg (1864-1946)

Submitted by: Delbert A. Flaten

August and Augusta Soderberg were born in the parish of Walarna, Sweden in 1864.

They emigrated to America in 1893 and settled in Walesberg, South Dakota and operated the first blacksmith shop. They had four children, Gunnar, Yngve, Sigurd and Svea Flaten.

In 1904, they built a brand new frame house; however the "Canadian fever" caught up to August and all the free land was tempting for his boys. They came to Weyburn in a "settlers car" in May of 1907, where they were met by the tail end of a very bad winter. With the help of a neighbour they found their homestead and promptly built a tar paper shack much to the dismay of Grandma Soderberg. She never really got over the huge change to her living conditions.

Each year for five years they added another room but really had no conveniences. However, as time went on, they acquired machinery and livestock. Like most families during that time, especially the first ten to fifteen years, there were many challenges. The isolation and distance from any of the small towns including Weyburn must have been difficult, but they had very good neighbours and were able to move on. Despite hard times, poor crops and hard work things improved. The children were able to get at least a grade eight education in the local Rockfield school.

In 1912 they bought a steam engine and threshing machine and did a lot of custom work in the area. Soon the railways were built and in 1924 they got a new model T Ford.

In later years Augusta was able to at least enjoy some of the newer conveniences.

She passed away in 1946. She was a true pioneer woman.