

HISTORY OF PURPLE VALLEY STORE AND FARM

Mr. & Mrs. Antornie Charbonneau of Londesborough were among the first Purple Valley settlers. They came to the store property, at that time almost all bush and owned by Mr. Nat Fennell. They purchased the lot in 1867 and erected a log house. At this time their family consisted of Thomas (10 yrs) Margaret, Bella, Joseph and Willie who died when quite young.

A nephew, Robert Haggard was adopted and raised as their own.

A sturdy, honest and industrious family, they cleared the farm and erected a frame house which still stands on this property. Mr. Charbonneau was seized with a heart attack while attending a political meeting and died almost instantly in the year August 1890.

Mrs. Charbonneau started a small grocery store, her original capital being \$100.00, the first wages of their son, Joe. Mrs. Charbonneau still carried on the business.

After 1900 the west lured Thomas, Joseph and Robert westward. Her daughters were married so Mrs. Charbonneau went west to visit her sons. There she met Mr. Malcom McMillan who later came to Purple Valley and they were married. The grocery business had grown into a store and about the year 1900 Mr. and Mrs. McMillan erected the store, and dwelling on its present site and rented the farm to Mr. & Mrs. Chas Gilbert Sr. for a term, then Mr. Robert Crawford bought the farm. Mr. & Mrs. Percy Troute rented the store for a few years then moved west, Mr. & Mrs. McMillan taking the business over again and in 1913 she rented the store building to Mr. & Mrs. Chas H. Gilbert Jr. who bought the store stock and proved it a prosperous business. About 1935 they bought the farm from Mr. Crawford and in 1946 are owners of store and farm. Mr. & Mrs. McMillan retired to the farm of James McLean. They lived to be a good old age and their passing was sincerely mourned.

(Mr. Fennell purchased Lot 24 Con. 13 from the Crown Lands).

History written by Mr. Thos Coveney