

KRATS, KALLE OTTO  
[from Voitto Krats, February, 1976 - R.S.]

Kalle Otto Krats, known as Otto Krats was born August 2, 1874 at Saarijarvi, Keski-suomi

He was married in Finland and his first child, Ina, was born there. He was apprenticed to a blacksmith at one time, and later worked in a paper mill. In 1902 he came to Canada and worked in Copper Cliff. Then he moved to Worcester, Mass., where he worked in a steel mill. His wife died in the States. In April, 1909 Otto Krats was married in Worcester to Fanni, Matilda Isotalo, born 18 April, 1883 in Koylio, Turun-ja Porin Laani (on the border between provinces).

Two sons, Eino and Johannes (Jussi) were born in Massachusetts. In 1913 the family came to Mond. Voitto was born while they lived there.

Otto learned that his sister, Maria and her husband John Saikkonen were in Canada and homesteading in Louise Township. About 1914, Otto bought land, the north half of Lot 4, Concession V from Hays or Heesi. There was a small log house on the property, but the Krats family did not move out from Mond until September, 1918.

Otto Krats died April 28, 1953. Fanni died August 13, 1954. They are buried in Whitefish.

Voitto Krats has the marriage certificate of Otto and Fanni, and Fanni's birth certificate.

The name Krats or Kratz appears to be Swedish or German in origin. Väinö Saikkonen's birth certificate gives his mother's name as Maria Grats. Väinö says that this spelling is correct and that the name is German.