

SAIKKONEN

【from Väinö Saikkonen, February 10, 1976, R.S.】

Johannes Saikkonen was born in 1883 in Jaakkima, near Viipuri, in Karelia.

He married Maria Grats.

In 1907, his occupation was listed as "gardener" on his first child's birth certificate. ("I heard that John had taken a course on gardening at some kind of college" - O. Svensk).

Johannes left Finland and went to the United States. He worked in a Massey-Harris? factory making wheels for binders (farm implements). He was making something like 16 cents an hour.

In 1910, his wife and children, Väinö and Eino came to Canada, John met them in Halifax and came with them to the Sudbury District. They were first at Naughton or Waters, then moved to Louise Township, east half of Lot 3, Concession V. Their third child, Reino was born there.

In 1912 Johannes moved to land on the shore of Rat Lake, Lot 4, Concession III.

Another son, Taisto, and a daughter, Sylvia were born after the family took up their lot.

Johannes and his family became naturalized citizens of Canada in 1920.

Johannes built two greenhouses. He grew bedding plants to sell on the market in the spring. During the summer, long cucumbers grew in the greenhouses and the Saikkonens took cucumbers and other vegetables to market in Sudbury.

Johaanes and his sons planted about three acres of cranberries on marshy land. They also used to trap for furs, both in Louise and neighbouring townships and farther north. They would travel from Sudbury by C.P.R. to Biscotasing or some other station.

The family also picked wild blueberries to ship to Toronto. They would take the 11 quart baskets of berries to the Whitefish station in the evening. The berries would be received in Toronto the next morning.

Maria died in 1954. Johannes died in June 1971. They are buried in the graveyard at Whitefish.

Their eldest son, Väinö, has a copy of Johannes' Canadian Naturalisation papers and his own birth certificate, issued in Finland.