

ALEXANDER(SANDY) ADAMS FAMILY.

Alexander Adams was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1863, and nicknamed Sandy for his fair hair and complexion. He was the third son of David Adams Sr., a Weaver, and Agnes Dobie, who had migrated to Canada with their children when Sandy was two years of age. They settled in the Renfrew area of Ontario.

Sandy's first journey into the Mattawa district was for the McCoy Lumber Co. Having an eye for the future, he located two lots in Brule. These lots were the beginning of a full life for Sandy. In 1880 he met Mary Anne Sullivan, eldest daughter of Richard and Margaret Sullivan. The Sullivans had come north to locate in nearby Rutherglen. Mary Anne or Mannie as she was lovingly called, was of Irish heritage. Her parents migrated to Canada from Belfast, Ireland. Sandy and Mannie were married in 1892. Sandy built a log home on one of their lots and they began their life together. Many times Mannie recalled the pleasures of that first home and the gift of a cow and calf from her parents to start a farm.

The McCoy Lumber Co., where Sandy was still employed, was purchased by the J.R. Booth Company of Ottawa. Having a talent for cooking, Sandy soon excelled in the company cookery. His bread and pies were famous. A natural talent for music made Sandy popular. His violin in his hands, he entertains the J.R. Booth employees.

One of the highlights of Sandys cooking career was a three day sand Cook-out. The occasion was the christening of the bell of the newly constructed Catholic Church at Eau Claire. The work involved was tremendous but the celebration was a complete success. When the food disappeared and the merriment began, the music for the evenings entertainment was from Sandys beloved violin. As his cooking improved so did his position and he went on to serve many tasty meals for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

When Sandy and Mannie had been married fifteen years and had eight children, tragedy struck their little home. Sandy had come home and was helping to replenish stove-wood for his brothers family. While putting a log to the buzz-saw his foot slipped and he fell, his left arm being amputated at the elbow. This accident ended his musical career and eventually his culinary arts as well. With the help of his family and friends, and a lot of pioneering courage, he was rehabilitated and accomplished more with one hand than many people do with two. Always at his side was his wife and their love and respect for each other filled their fifty years of marriage.

The remainder of Sandys active years were spent working for the Government. He became a forest-fire ranger the spring following the loss of his arm and spent ten or more years in this position. During these years part of his earnings was used for hiring men to help his growing family clear land and establish a productive farm. His oldest son and daughter sacrificed much to make life easier for their younger brothers and sisters.