

THE LIFE OF ROLAND ATTWATER

Written in Loving Memory by his Nephew

Dave Attwater

Uncle Roland was born in London, England on December the 6th, 1891 to parents William Frederick Attwater and Alice Elizabeth Andrews. During most of his growing up years the family lived at Norwood, then a suburb of London, now well in the city. They also lived for a time at Southend-on-Sea. He received his schooling in London, and later assisted his father at his office. His father was the London Representative for a French Company that sold candy, cookies, etc.

A brother, Oswald, my father, had come to Canada about 1900, and had in 1907 homesteaded land in Robillard Township near Charlton. He had been joined by another brother, my Uncle Andrew, in 1907. Uncle Andrew died in 1909. In June of 1910 Uncle Roland accompanied by his mother, father and three sisters, Elsie, Gladys and Muriel came to join my father at his homestead.

In 1911 Uncle Roland homesteaded 160 acres of land adjoining the original homestead. He and my father farmed the two homesteads, along with another purchased from Charlie Foster in 1917, until my father's death in January of 1946. Later that same year Uncle Roland retired from farming and moved to Charlton with his sister, Muriel, who never married.

My mind runs back over the years to a few of the things Uncle Roland told me about. His arriving in Englehart from England and having to spend the night in the only hotel, having a look at the hotel's sanitary arrangements out back, and deciding that a trip to the nearby bush would be better. Of arriving in Charlton the next morning, where most of the town was at the T.&N.O. Railway station to welcome them. Of the trip up the Blanche River in the steamboat to the homestead. Meat being scarce that first winter, he went to the edge of the clearing, felled a green birch and set snares, going out with the lantern after dark and collecting the catch of rabbits before the