

2nd President of Cochrane District.

Mrs Dan Johnson, Matheson W.I.

Born in Margareville, Nova Scotia, Mrs D. Johnson, youngest of a family of five girls, was the daughter of sea captain, John Roy.

She grew up to be a school teacher, to meet and marry Dan Johnson, a widower with three small children whom she mothered and later on increased his family with the addition of an infant son.

For a year and a half they lived in Westville, New Glasgow, then moved to Nipigon. Here some of the formalities of older cities must have been observed as Mrs Johnson's daughter has in her possession one of her mother's calling cards which specifies her "at home" days.

From such a background Mrs Johnson was plunged into the life of a pioneer in a Northern Ontario community when her husband was made manager of the Reirllion Fures Co, at McDougall's Chutes in 1907. Some very interesting stories could be told of those early years and of the part played by the Johnsons in the growth of a new community which later became the town of Matheson.

Mrs Johnson took an active part in the work of her church, also in the work of Red Cross of which group she was president for some time. When Matheson W.I. was organized in 1914 she became a charter member, and later on was made a Life Member of that group. She remained an active member until her death.

At District level she was 2nd president of Temiskaming North (later Cochrane District) in 1929 and 1930. In her account of those years her District Secretary, Mrs Ada Hyde, tells of travelling with her to help organize several new branches. For five years, 1930 to 1935, Mrs Johnson was Federated Representative becoming F.W.I.D. Board Director for 1933, 34, 35. Although Area records are missing from 1927 to 1933, an old Convention program found among her papers, shows she was Area Chairman in 1930 with Mrs Hyde as her secretary.

Note: The above information has been provided by Mrs Johnson's daughter, Mrs R. Tracy of Englehart and by W.I. records available.

Compiled by Edna Gettler March 30, 1966.