



Early Settlement

1870-1910, Brant-Argyle

INFO

Rev. March 14, 2013

- **Cattle & Supplies to Winnipeg:** The Arthur Nunn family c.1880's settled NW ¼ 20-14-1W cleared one hundred acres and depended on herds of cattle for a living rather than growing grain. Hauling wheat to Winnipeg with an ox team was always difficult and sometimes impossible. Driving a herd of cattle was simpler and more profitable, often making these trips of 30 miles to Winnipeg twice a year. Winnipeg was the only market and source of supplies in the early years, and there were no roads, sometimes not even a trail.

Walter Nunn raised cattle and some grain. He frequently freighted by oxen to Brandon and used the defunct Sutherland 40 Railway bed to haul his hay to Winnipeg.

Joel Willson: during the winter months several trips were made to Winnipeg by team and wagon, taking items for sale, like eggs, butter, rhubarb, and vegetables being the usual. They would leave early in the morning and arrive in Winnipeg by noon. Streets in Winnipeg in those days were very muddy with planks down for sidewalks. After doing their own shopping, it was the long trip home. Stops had to be made for the horses to rest and feed. The folks would spread blankets on the ground and enjoy a picnic, arriving home by midnight.

- **Fishing in Shoal Lake:** Charlie deLaroques, Albert Smith and Arthur Nunn spent three years fishing on Shoal Lake. It was a three day excursion, to go to the lake to fish, fill their sleigh boxes, and take them to Winnipeg to sell and to make the trip home. They fished on Shoal Lake in the summer, too. The three lakes were one in the 1870s and 1880s with lots of fish. They could drive near the shore and fill a wagon box. Their only fishing gear was a pitchfork. The fish were not worth much to sell, only 1.5 to 2.5 cents a pound.
- **Ontario to Argyle:** William Sims moved to Manitoba in 1873, reaching Winnipeg via the Dawson Trail from Port Arthur, Ontario, walking a great deal of the way. His wife and two small children (Samuel 3 years old, William 1 year old) arrived somewhat later via the Reid River to Emerson route. Steam boat from central Ontario via the Great Lakes to Duluth, on to Moorhead by rail; on to Emerson by Red River steamer then on to Winnipeg by stage coach.

- **Land Grants:** Lionel Suche (Pat) applied to the Dominion of Canada on March 10, 1908, with a \$10 entry fee for title to NW ¼ 16-15-1W. (west of Woodroyd) He had to be 21 years old, a British subject, break 30 acres of land, fence it, dig a well and live there for six months. The process took three years. Title was granted December 20, 1911. Like most before him that land was unforgiving and later given up. There was very little topsoil)
- **Log homes:** Tom Appleyard home was first built of log and sod, when he homesteaded in the 1870s.