



**Ida Louise (Brown) Cameron**

Born in East Mapleton on May 6, 1920 to Aaron and Gertrude Brown, Ida was the eldest of their shared children. She had eight half-brothers and sisters. There are still three full brothers

living. She was raised on the family farm in East Mapleton and attended the local school. A lot of time was spent outside as kids. One special “toy” was an old wagon hoop. In the winter they coasted on an old “sap” sled.

At the age of 17 she came to the Economy area to work. The first night she was so homesick that she would have walked home if it wasn't so far!

One of her great pleasures, as a young woman, was dancing. She would work all day then dance all evening.

In 1943 she married Billy Cameron. Their first son, Lee, was born in 1946. She cooked in local lumber camps for a number of win-

ters. Once Lee started school, she became a stay-at-home Mom. In 1955 their second son, Ross, was born.

Knitting and quilting were two pass-times she excelled at. Her door was always open and there was something delicious on the table to share with all who dropped in.

In 1990 Billy passed away after 47 years together.

She has two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Today she enjoys word puzzles, especially cryptograms, and playing solitaire on her computer.

Someone once described her as a “People Person” and she most certainly is! She loves company and talking to anyone!



**Grace Chambers**  
*Five Islands*

For over a quarter of a century Grace Chambers' main job was to prepare the hearty meals that fueled lumberjacks in various camps in the area.

Grace was born Nov. 10, 1914, the daughter of Murray and Patience Killen who lived in Lower Five Islands.

From 1937 to 1963 Grace worked in the lumber camps, coming out long enough on Dec. 9, 1961 to marry Vincent Chambers, who also worked in the woods.

The couple returned to Lower Five Islands in 1963 to help take care of her aging parents. Grace and Vincent raised their daughter Marilyn (Smith) there and Marilyn said her parents enjoyed going to dances together.

“Mom loves to play Bingo. She goes every Friday night to play in Five Islands.”

Marilyn, who lives next door to her mother, also said Grace still does all of her own baking and housework “and her memory is excellent.”



**Ronald Colpitts**  
*Diligent River*

Juniper, New Brunswick isn't too far from Sussex and

that's where Ronald Colpitts was born on Sept. 28, 1921.

It was about five years after Ronald was born that his parents, Burpee and Caroline Colpitts, moved the family to Parrsboro. They moved around the area for a few years with Ronald joining the Army and being sent overseas during the Second World War.

When he got home after the war, he took a grant from the government and built a home in Diligent River. He married Mary Pearson and they had two children, Mark, who is deceased, and Nancy, who lives in Parrsboro.

Ronald sent he spent a few years after the war working in lumber mills and a s a mechanic and body repairman. He also worked in Ontario for a year and then joined the Air Force in 1953. he spent 20 years in the force and then went on to work another 13 years with the department of Lands and Forests.

These days, Ronald says he keeps busy mowing lawns in the summer and plowing driveways in the winter. He also is a handy repairman who still enjoys taking himself for a dive and a bit of socializing.

**Helen Abbott**  
*Bass River*

Bass River “is a good place to live,” says lifelong resident Helen Abbott who was born in the community on June 2, 1920 to parents Chesley Gamble and Anna Wilson.

Helen pointed out that “if you ever needed help around here, you got it.”

Helen and her first husband Orville Patriquin had seven children: Ronnie, Brian, Gail Vance, Michael,

Terry, Judy McLaughlin and Cindy Grue. In 1967 she married Bob Abbott who worked at the Bass River Chair Factory.

While Helen still likes to quilt, she remembered with great fondness the old quilting bees they would hold around the community. “People would come in and quilt and we'd have lunch and enjoy each other's company. People don't visit like they used to. You can have

just as much enjoyment in life just by visiting and talking to people.

When Helen isn't busy quilting, she may be doing puzzles to spending time “with my beautiful cat Cedar, who is from Economy.”

When Helen was younger, she travelled to Brewster, Washington with her mother and sister to visit cousins who moved there from this area. “I really enjoyed those trips,” she said.



**Irene Cook**  
*Bass River*

Irene Cook was born in Bass River on July 22, 1919,

the daughter of Arnard and Verna Rutherford.

The first 10 years of her education were completed in a one room school in Little Bass River. “You can imagine what that was like,” she said with a laugh.

After completing high school in Bass River, Irene attended the Normal College in Truro with her first teaching job landing her in Halfway River, where she taught for a year. She moved on to Portapique where she first met Lloyd Cook, whom she married in 1947.

But prior to getting married, Irene worked in an

office in Halifax and after the war, taught for three years at the School for the Deaf.

The couple moved back to Bass River where Irene taught for a year in Montrose and then substituted over the years.

Irene and Lloyd raised three children, Helen Lowe, Yarmouth; Myrna Fisher, Bass River and Donald Cook, Bass River.

In their young years the Cooks enjoyed dances and parties in the area and “bon fires on the beach.”

Irene says she's in good health and enjoying every thing life has to offer.



**Addie Currie**  
*Glenholme*

Addie Currie finished her

last quilt at the age of 93 but she made sure she passed her skills along to the next generation.

“She taught us all how to quilt,” said her daughter Wanda Frizzle of Glenholme.

Addie was born May 30, 1915 in MacCallum's Settlement, a daughter of Stearns and Esther Blackmore.

Leaving home at the age of 14 to attend school in Pictou County, Addie left there to work on a farm. She then moved to Stewiacke to work in a factory owned by the Lewis Hat and Cap

Company which was based in Truro.

Addie married Cecil Currie from Crowe's Mills in 1939 and they had four children: Wanda; Burton, North Kingston, N.S.; Bonnie (Redden), Enfield and Sandra (Kent), Stewiacke.

When the children got older, Addie went to work at Stanfields in Truro at the age of 40, staying there for 23 years. Addie has 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren (and one on the way) and one great-great-grandchild.



**Elsie Davis**  
*Lower Five Islands*

When Elsie Davis and her husband Roland were raising their six boys in Lower Five Islands “we went to movies, dances, beaches, clam bakes, drove the back roads and enjoyed the scenery. It was fun.”

Elsie was born in Lower Five Islands on Jan. 6, 1919, one of the 13 children of James and Ruth Eagles. Elsie had nine sisters and three brothers but she's only one

left from her immediate family, she said.

In 1941 Elsie married Roland Davis, who was a heavy equipment operator with the Department of Lands and Forests. They had six boys, Burton, Perry, who are deceased; Glen, Five Islands; Mark, Amherst, Louis, Truro and Harold, who lives in Toronto.

Elsie said she generally feels pretty good “but if I could see a little better I'd be okay.”



**Willena Dow**  
*Moose River*

At 97 years of age, Willena Dow still likes to get out and

socialize.

The Moose River, Cumberland County native was born on Nov. 27, 1913 to parents Stewart and Beatrice Roberts. The family home was next door to the anglican Church and Willena attended school just down the hill from the church, said her niece Doris Soley.

Willena married Glenford Dow from Parrsboro in 1933. he worked in the woods for a while and then was hired on by the Department of Highways where he was a heavy equipment operator.

The couple had three

sons: Floyd and Donald, who are deceased, and Elmer who is a retired pilot who resides in Moose River and Costa Rica. Willena used to dabble a bit in farming, said doris. She and her brother used to raise chickens to supply local stores like the Co-op.

Being the oldest member of her family means Willena has lots of company visit her in her assisted living unit in Munroe Court, Truro. She has close to 40 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and “is still sharp as a tack, plays cards and is very sociable,” Doris said.



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