



**Alma Jean Lloyd
Debert**

Alma Jean Lloyd came to Canada as a War Bride but didn't realize that a connection to her British home was waiting to meet her here.

When the Second World War ended, Elsie married Canadian Jim Lloyd who brought her back to the Debert area where he was from. Alma was born Nov. 6, 1919 in Lanconshire, England. Her parents were Thomas and Lillian McClynot.

After settling into the area, Alma was chatting with her mother-in-law who was also from England. In fact, it turned out that Jim's mother went to school with Alma's father in England.

While admitting she still gets homesick, Alma said the move to Canada worried her a bit because of some of the stories her mother had told her about the country. "You

would be surprised what we were told," Alma said with a laugh.

But "it was great when I got over here. It was nice when I could go into a store and buy a dozen eggs after years of living with rationing in England."

Jim was a mechanic and they had eight children: Audrey, England; Carol, Sylvia, deceased; Kenny, Cape Breton; Leslie, Lower Debert; Harold, Australia; Pam, Debert and Jimmy, Ontario.

A great sense of humour, said Alma, "helps you get through a lot. You may as well put on a smiling face - what's the use of complaining?"



**Alfred Matthews
Debert**

Alfred Matthews remembers helping his mom milk cows when he was seven years old.

"I was born in Debert on the farm and worked my arse off," Alfred said with a laugh. "I was too light to get into the army so I stayed on the farm. My dad was sick so I helped my mom around the farm."

He was born on the farm on May 6, 1920, the son of Earl and Lola Matthews. "There were six of us in the family and I was the oldest boy."

Alfred married Shirley Patriquin in 1943 and he got into construction work, particularly with Tidewater Construction. He helped with a project in Newfoundland and also was part of the crew that built the causeway in Pictou.

After working in the Folly Mountain gravel pit for a number of years, Alfred retired in 1985. Shirley passed away four years but Alfred is "still driving and getting around."



**Margaret Mackay
Parrsboro**

Moncton, New Brunswick native Margaret Mackay and

her family moved to Parrsboro in 1953 and it's been home ever since.

Margaret was born in the New Brunswick city on Sept. 26, 1916, daughter of Leslie and Laura (Miller) MacMurdo. She completed her education there and then moved to Fredericton, N.B. to work. On Oct. 4, 1939 Margaret married Fraser Mackay who became a commercial traveller. The couple stayed in New Brunswick's capital city for 14 years. They started raising their children there with Jeanne, Judy and Les being born there. A set of

twins, Dorothy and Barbara who died in infancy, were born in Halifax, as was one son, John. After moving to Parrsboro in 1953, they added three more children to the family: Gerry, Jim and Laura.

After Fraser retired as a commercial traveller, they ran a convenience store in Parrsboro with Fraser also opening a second store, Fraemar's Shop in the village.

Because of their many years working with the public, the couple is well-known and liked by many in the Parrsboro area.



**Forest McClelland
Parrsboro**

It was a life on a briny seas for Forest McClelland.

Forest was born on June 30, 1918 in Ward's Brook, the son of Bill and Mary McClelland. Ward's Brook "is just below Port Greville in Cumberland County," Forest pointed out.

As a youngster, forest went to the area school and then did what many young men did back then, he went to work in the woods.

But he heard the call of the sea and joined the Merchant Navy during the Second World War, staying

with it until 1945. Afterwards, he went to work as ship's engineer for the Irving Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. He has two sons from two previous relationships: Keith McClelland and Dana McCully.

Forest married Joyce four years ago. She's originally from Ontario but her late husband of 52 years was from the Parrsboro area so she knew the area. "Forest came along and he was lonely and I was lonely and now we're not," she said with a laugh.



**Mae MacLean
Londonderry**

Born on Feb. 14, 1921 on the Westchester Road in Londonderry, Mae MacLean was raised by her mother's half-sister Margaret Davis.

Times were tough when Mae was young but they got by and she's still living in the same house she grew up in.

Over the years Mae

"took in more kids than you can shake a stick at and enjoyed every minute of it." She adopted Nancy Mattix after her mother passed away and raised Lewis O'Toole who now resides in Hammond's Plain.

Mae is in pretty good health, aside from a bit of arthritis.



**Lillian McCulley
Parrsboro**

When Lillian McCulley was born in Springhill, N.S. in 1921, the coal mines were going great guns and the town was a thriving community.

The daughter of William

Murray and Roda (MacKenzie) Murray, Lillian completed her early schooling in Springhill, then attended the Normal College in Truro. Upon completion she returned to the coal mining town where she taught students in Primary to Grade 5.

As a side note, Lillian added that her mother's parents came over on the Hector. "Mom always told me to remember that," Lillian said with a laugh.

Growing up in Springhill was good, recalled Lillian.

"We used to have a lot of fun. We'd tunnel in the snow, skated and went tobogganing in the winter and played ball and swam in the summer. Everybody had fun and there was no

fighting." She said they used to travel by train every summer to the annual picnic in Parrsboro.

Lillian also loved to get out and dance. "I loved to dance. I danced and danced as long as I could."

Lillian was married to her first husband Ronald Canning for 48 years and they had two children, Dorothy (Harron) and Lorraine (MacDonald), both of whom live in Springhill. Ten years ago she married Don McCulley whose children Eddie, Parrsboro; Brenda (Estabrooks), Sackville, N.S. and Sharon McCulley, Parrsboro have become part of Lillian's life.

These days, lillian keeps busy and "takes one day at a time."

**Harland and
Audrey Akerman
Great Village**

After working a full career in the nickel mines in Ontario, Harland Akerman retired and moved back to Great Village.

Born in Westville, Nova Scotia on Aug. 8, 1918 to David and Caroline Akerman, Harland and his family moved to great Village in 1928. He went to school in

the community and in 1939, he moved to Quebec to work in the gold mines, leaving that job in 1941 to join the Air Force. After serving three years overseas, Harland said he quit the Air Force and moved to Ontario where he worked in the nickel mines for 30 years.

Harland has three children, Gail, David and Wayne, having been married twice before. Last year, on June 12, he and Audrey were married.

Audrey said they had met a few years back in Great Village. She was born June 21, 1921 in Parrsboro, the daughter of Maud and Charles Newton. Her family moved to Economy where she went to school. "I moved to Bass River where I married a young chap just before the war," she said. She and Borden Rector were married "for a good many years" and had three children, Esther, Vaughn and Colleen.

**Laurie Matheson
Bible Hill**

Born in Tatamagouche on April 21, 1918, Laurie Matheson worked on farms in the area for a number of years.

The son of William and Myrtle Matheson said he was

in the Army for a few years and after being discharged at the end of the Second World War, he returned to the area and resumed farm work.

Laurie married Isabel (MacKenzie) and they had two children: George William, who is deceased, and Elizabeth.

After farming for a number of years Laurie said he was hired to work at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in Bible Hill so they moved to the community where he still lives. He's been a member of the Oddfellow's Lodge for more than 55 years, he said.

**Bill Grant
Advocate**

Bill Grant started singing in the church choir when he was a teenager and he stills get out now and then to lend his voice to the group.

"Mom (Vola (Morris) of Advocate) and dad did a lot of community work and were both very active in the church," explained their only child daughter Patricia Strange.

Bill was born May 28, 1917 in Apple River, the son of Wellington and Utah (Milton) Grant. He spent his early years in Apple River but then the family moved to Spencer's Island, which is on the Parrsboro side of Advocate. He finished his schooling in Spencer's Island then went on to Acadia University, Horton Academy. He served as a radar operator during the Second World War, leaving the army in

1945 with the rank of Sergeant.

Bill and Vola married that same year and he returned to the area. he worked in Grant's General Store in Advocate with his uncle Edgar Grant. He continued to run the store with other family members until 1974 when he joined Canada Post. Bill retired from Canada Post in 1982 and has kept busy helping out in the community ever since.



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