

HAZEL CLINK--Barwick

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Mrs. Clink arrived in Barwick in 1902 on a September night she had a sister and her mother and father. There was nobody to meet them, the C.N. was just coming through so there was no depot yet. They walked to the only hotel in town which is on Main Street and spent the night there. The next day her uncle Rod Gillies came to get them to take them to his home. Barwick at this time was just mud of the street it just rained and rained. Her father had a job as a clerk in Chicago and then decided to come to Barwick. Her uncle Rod Gillies had one hundred and sixty acres and he gave her father the north eighty acres. They had to clear five acres and put a building on it and then they could get a deed for the place. They spent that winter at the Gillies. Her mother came from a well of family and was used to all the luxuries like indoor plumbing, water, electricity but she didn't mind it because the children thrived in the country.

There weren't very many doctors at this time so when women had babies there was an Indian women who was a mid-wife the white women trusted her very much. There were quite a few settlers between Rainy River and Fort Frances. Before Hazels time it was said a priest tried to teach the Indians about the bible but it didn't turn out so well so he left, in his place a nun came and they said they scalped her and she died. By the time Hazel got to this area the Indians were a kindly people. In the early nineteen hundreds there was an abundance of deer, moose, bear and a few elk, they didn't hunt for sport but for food. In the summer they ate partridge, mud hens, rabbits and there were lots of coyotes and timber wolves, Hazel loved to sit on her porch and listen to them, it was an errie sound but she loved it.

The first store was on the river bank and the first store-keeper was W. Thompson and the first hotel keeper was Thomas Weston and the first school teacher was Thomas Knetal. The first school was an old log cabin and in 1901 there was twenty seven children, Kate Ruttan taught in 1903. At the end of September 1901 and all of October the school was closed because of an

epidemic of diphtheria. Barwicks first Reeve was Thomas Weston and the first Baptist Church preach was Traiten Luckens and he came in 1903. Mr Sam Booth was first and only blacksmith. The Booths lived one half a mile from their place and they hauled water to the school from Booths well. Barwick got its name from a few of the first settlers in Barwick, they were Thomas Weston, James Tierney and George Cawston. The mail used to come by boat as they didn't have a post office, the Tierneys had a dock for the convenience of the settlers and the boats. These men then informed the Post Master General at Ottawa that the name would be Boston but they said there was already a Boston in Ontario so they decided Berwick was a good name but again they were informed that there was already a Berwick in Eastern Ontario, the Post Master General did suggest they change the e to a to make it Barwick so the three decided that it was a fine name.

There were getting to be more people settling in this area and more children going to school so the people got together and formed a school board, it was called Shenston No. 5. In 1903 and 1904 the first new school was built, at this time Hazel was five years old and she remembers Mr. Knectal as one of the first teachers. She remembers the pot bellied stove that heated the school. In the summer for recreation they had annual picnics, and often had box socials. For the picnics everyone donated food, her father used to make the lemonade and her father-in-law used to make the ice cream she remembers this time with nostalgia. The box socials used to be lots of fun they used to sell their boxes or auction them off the school teachers used to go for the highest amount but the teenaged girls who were quite popular came close to them. When you bought their lunch you had to eat with the person whom you bought.. In the winter they worked hard to get a good Christmas concert, they would all get together at the school one farmer would pick everybody up in his steigh which was

pulled by a team of horses, they had hot stones for the ladies feet, the horses had bells on their harnesses and it was real nice. They had plenty of blankets to keep warm, they were quite comfortable, they sang songs going and coming to the concert. Santa came to the concert with gifts for everyone. They had sleigh and tobaggan parties and did enjoy the winter.

In the summer they picked all kinds of berries, she started to pick berries at age six and picked berries this summer of 1976. They canned them, made jams and jellies to last from season to season. They raised there own beef, pork chickens, ducks and geese, they made their own vegetables, pickles and saurkraut, they just bought the necessities in those days they made bread, pies and even canned meat that was left over from the winter.

They didn't have a church at this time so they had their Sunday services in the school. They didn't need weiner roasts, corn roast, games and parties to keep them from coming to church. In those days it was a privelage to go to church and they went. The only time people didn't go to church was if they were ill. She always wondered why little children always wanted to be grown up. She feels childhood days are far to short, that they are the happiest days of our lives, children are carefree, innocent and blessed, we understood nothing of the hollowness of life or the treachery of nature, we don't know sorrow or distrustfullness, or despair. She feels it is good to know there is a way of escape and that is to lean hard on the Rock of Ages.

Hazel Clink wrote a book of Poems and Prose which was published when she was over seventy years of age.