

## *Hazel Litzgus*

“where the meadowlark sang”



Hazel Ball Litzgus, U.E., 2003  
Photo courtesy of Hazel Litzgus

Hazel (Ball) Litzgus, U.E., was born in 1927 in Lloydminster where she lived with her 3 sisters (Jean, Kathleen, and Mildred) for 12 years before moving to Edmonton. She loved walking up the hill behind their farmhouse when the crocuses were blooming in the springtime and she loved drawing pictures whenever and wherever she could. Hazel fondly remembers playing in the yard with her sisters. She recounts one time when they heard coyote sounds and rushed into the house only to remember that the nearby Aboriginals had made sounds like that before.<sup>1</sup>



Hazel's sisters, Kathleen Perry 1987 (left); Millie Coleman, 2008 (middle); Jean McCord Noyes, 2009. Photos courtesy of Hazel Litzgus and Kathleen Perry

Hazel states, "Our farm in Lloydminster was small by today's standards; one half section. Since my father farmed with two teams and a small temperamental tractor, it was probably enough land. There were roads in our area but they were gumbo (or rutted) in the summer and often impassable in the winter. We were 6 1/2 miles from town and when the school was finally built, it was 2 1/2 miles from our house.

My father bought the farm with some land broken and only partly fenced so he had to begin immediately pulling an incomplete holding into a working, producing operation.

I remember both of my parents working very hard; early mornings and into the twilight. There were chickens to feed, cows to bring in and milk, horses to water and feed, as well as ploughing, harrowing, and planting of crops. We grew oats and wheat.



*Moving the Threshing Outfit*

Painting by Hazel and printed with permission from Hazel Litzgus <sup>2</sup>

I loved being in the middles of all of this activity although I was of no use except to bring in the wood for the big black cook stove and to feed the chickens. My sisters could milk a cow, ride out and bring in a stray animal, and help in the kitchen. Every girl in a farm family was expected to cook as soon as she could reach the stove.

We had wonderful neighbours on all sides. Everyone helped if a hand was needed. On one side of the gravel Highway where we lived, the people were English settlers who had come out to Canada after the First World War and were given a piece of land. Some had been injured and found the life very hard. However, they pitched in with determination and most, as we say, "made a go of it". Some of their



descendants are still farming in the area.

On the other side of the Highway, most of the settlers were from the Ukraine. They worked so hard and were fiercely determined to make a better life for their children.

I loved to go to their houses. They were so clean even if the floor was packed dirt. The meals were wonderful and to me, exotic. My mother was a good cook but she didn't make cabbage rolls or garlic dills. Perogies were not on our menu.

When the one-room school was built, it was on the Highway; half way between our house and the town. We walked when the weather was nice and sometimes, rode horses. (I preferred to walk.) In the winter when it was cold, Dad took us to school in the sleigh. Our teachers were just out of school themselves, but they did their best to instill a love of learning in us. And isn't that one of the main jobs of a teacher? I remember lining up outside the school and marching into the classroom to the music of Colonel Bogey or the Laughing Policeman.

My little world encompassed about 10 miles in each direction out from that little farmhouse, and I remember and cherish every step of every mile in my memory.

*A Stop on the Way* by Hazel Litzgus printed with permission from Hazel Litzgus



Northern Lights: Painting by Hazel Litzgus printed with permission from Hazel Litzgus.

Whip-lashing across the sky, white, pink, sometimes bright green, the Aurora Borealis would appear on cold, still winter nights. They would shimmer and dance, lighting our farmyard and bringing us out to exclaim over the colour and movement.

Northern lights do make a sound – it's a high whistle, inaudible if there is another sound, so we had to stand in perfect silence, barely breathing. Gradually they would fade and disappear and we would return inside in awe of what we had seen.

When my father's health failed, probably from hard work, we moved to Edmonton. I was 12 years old and war had just been declared. We went on to a different life. The little farm became part of a big conglomerate.

No one goes up the hill behind our house to see the crocuses because the prairie wool has all been ploughed and the small, weathered dwelling has long since settled into the land and disappeared.”<sup>1</sup>

Hazel Ball married William Kyle Litzgus in 1948. Bill worked in the oil industry and their daughter, M. Jen, was born in Edmonton. Hazel and her family lived in both Calgary and Edmonton and then in Egypt from 1979 until 1981. Bill died of heart failure in Egypt.<sup>1</sup>



Hazel wrote and illustrated a book; *Where the Meadowlark Sang*.<sup>2</sup> Above left, she is signing one of her books in 2011 at a UELAC, Calgary Branch event. Photo courtesy of Linda McClelland

On the right, is Hazel's daughter, M.Jen Avaz. Photo courtesy of Hazel Litzgus

In 2013, Hazel's residence is in Calgary, Alberta.

Hazel also **volunteered**.

- Hazel read and helped young readers at Collingwood Elementary School once a week for 7 years.
- She worked for 3 years as a volunteer at the Foothills Hospital emergency desk.
- As a member of the "Petrolets" (approximately 23 wives of oilmen), she helped to raise money to buy new and unusual experimental equipment for the hospitals and individuals..
- Hazel served on the board of the Art Foundation for 3 years.<sup>1</sup>

## LOYALIST ANCESTOR INFORMATION <sup>3</sup>

Generation 1: **Hazel (Ball) Litzgus**

Generation 2: **Isadora Emmaline Banford** (1887-1983) married George Casselman Ball (1886-1958)

Generation 3: **Isadora Jane Hanes** (1856-1943) married William Samuel Banford (1854-1942).

Generation 4: **Richard Hanes** (1826-1908) married Caroline Eamon (1826-).

Generation 5: **Jacob Christopher Hanes** (1798-1882) married Hannah Cramer (1805-1870)

Generation 6: **Christopher John Hanes/Heinz** (1758 -1844) and Catherine (Empey) Hanes (1760 - 1838)

Christopher John Hanes/Heinz and Catherine (Empey) Hanes were Hazel's 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather and grandmother. They settled on Lot 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession, Osnabrock Township. Christopher had fought for 7 years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment (KRR) of New York. <sup>3</sup>

The following is taken from an archived report

*Claimt, says he was at La Chine in fall of 1783 & the ensuing winter. Is a Nat. of Germ. Came to America 23 years ago. Lived at Johnstown on the Mohawk. Came into Canada in '81. Three sons joined Sir John Johnson, 1 was killed; two others served till end of War. Came into Canada because the Rebels persecuted him. They would have taken his life if he had not come away. Lives 4 miles from Montreal, but has land in 4 Township. Had a Lease from Sir Wm. Johnson of 100 acres, Lease forever, paying Rent 6 pounds pr. Ann. Cleared 50 acres. Built house, barn, planted an orchard. Lost his utensils, furniture, 3 Horses, 3 Cows, 24 Sheep, grain, 300 Borads. The Rebels took some, but his wife disposed of some and brought some to Canada.*

*Caleb Peck, Wit.: Knew Claimt. He has 3 sons in the King's Army. Claimt. Was always Loyal. He came in long before the War was over. Knew his farm. He had between 30 & 40 acres clear. He had 3 Horses, Cows & Sheep & a Wagon. <sup>4</sup>*

## History of Osnabrock



United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (below in red) include Osnabrock

*Cornwall and Osnabrock were two of the original eight "Royal Townships" established along the St Lawrence River in Upper Canada. Osnabrock was named after a title formerly held by Prince*

*Frederick, son of George III, who at one time was Prince-Bishop of Osnabruck in Lower Saxony, and Cornwall was named for Prince Frederick's title as Duke of Cornwall.*

*This area was first settled by members of Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York and became Stormont County in 1792.*

*The lost Villages, ten ghost towns which were flooded by the construction of the St Lawrence Seaway in 1958, were located in the former Cornwall and Osnabruck Townships. The communities of Long Sault and Ingleside were newly built to accommodate displaced residents of the flooded villages.”<sup>5</sup>*

Christopher and Catherine had at least 5 children. Christopher's 5<sup>th</sup> child, **Jacob Christopher Hanes (1798-1882)**, married Hannah Cramer (1805-1870) in 1825. Their children were all born in Osnabruck Township. In 1832 Jacob applied for 200 acres of land because he had fought in the war of 1812.<sup>3</sup>

Jacob's second son, **Richard**, married Caroline. Richard had a brick yard, saw mill, a grist mill, a wagon and buggy works at Hainsville (nr Iroquois). Hazel states, "The community is said to be named after him".<sup>1</sup>

Richard's daughter, **Isadora Jane Hanes** married William Samuel Banford. They were Hazel's grandparents. Their graves are located near Cornwall on the St Lawrence River waterway.<sup>6</sup> Isabella and William had 13 children: 12 of their own and 1 adopted (Charlie Rose) from Dr. Barnardo's program in England.<sup>10</sup>

From 1870 to 1905, Thomas John Barnardo had established 112 district homes for homeless and destitute children living on the streets of London.<sup>10</sup>

Charlie Rose worked on the farm, never married, and stayed with the family until he died at an old age. Kathleen Perry remembers Charlie as being "well-spoken" and Hazel remembers hearing that he was "shy and tentative".<sup>1</sup>

Isabella and William's daughter, **Isadora Emmaline Banford** married George Casselman Ball and Hazel was the youngest of 4 daughters.

## **EMIGRATION WEST OF ONTARIO**

**Isadora Banford's** sister, Laura, had trained as a tailor and had travelled west with her husband to Alberta. In 1912, Isadora, a teacher, decided to travel west in order to teach Laura's young son, Alexander, because there was no school in his small town. She would live with her sister in the hotel that they ran in Edgerton. It was there she met and married George Casselman Ball in 1917. George had arrived in Alberta in 1906 and homesteaded in the Chestermere Lake district. In 1913 he moved to

Calgary and opened a livery business (across from where the Palliser Hotel now stands) but returned to farming near Cereal and then on to Lloydminster in 1924. While in Calgary, he successfully exhibited his light harness horses and attended the first Calgary Stampede.<sup>8,9</sup> Isadora became active in the United Farm Women of Alberta and was president for many years.<sup>1</sup>

In Hazel's words, "My parents' first farm was in Cereal, Alberta. My three sisters were born there, or near there. I was the only child born at Lloydminster. The hospital was on the Saskatchewan side of town but we lived on the Alberta side."<sup>1</sup>



Above left: Hazel's Aunt Blanch Hamilton and mother, Emma Ball Banford (right)



Above right: Millie Coleman (left), Isadora Emmaline (Emma) Ball Banford, unknown boy, Aunt Kathleen (Banford) Shaver





Left: Back row: ----, ----, Laura Montgomery, Halle Montgomery, Halle's husband, Morley

Front row: Kathleen Banford Shaver (Hazel's aunt), John Banford (Hazel's Uncle)

Family photos taken in the late 1940s courtesy of Hazel Litzgus

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