

David Bowers

wife - nee Katheline Rowe

Lorrain Valley

672- 3851

retired

born - Mrs Bowers, Capbelton, P.Q.

married - July 1925

arrival: Mrs Bowers came to Cobalt in 1908 with her parents, she travelled by train and her father came to work in the mines, her father had been a mine captain for the mines in Capbelton, before coming north and her grandfather had been a miner in Mich. before the family moved to Quebec, they had been miners for several generations. Her father was a mine captain for fifty years.

Mr Bowers came north to Hilliardton in March 15th, 1912, they travelled by train to New Liskeard, then I gather by team to Hilliardton. They came from Toronto but they were from Muskoka, 16 miles from Bracebridge, near Gravenhurst. He came with his parents to homestead they had read a great deal about the north the government was making it a big thing to come north and homestead and they had been to the Parliament Buildings and were given all kinds of literature, land was advertised at 50¢ an acre, all you had to do was to clear 16 acres and have it under cultivation, for \$80. they got 160 acres with all the timber and mineral rights. They only stayed in Hilliardton about one year the frost was very bad up there and it froze in July so they decided to leave that property, he finally homesteaded in Lorrain where he eventually had four farms.

Power Lines in winter of 1914 -1915 Mr Bowers worked on a private power line that was being put in from Charlton to Kirkland Lake, he saw the first lights turned on in Kirkland Lake, the contract was done by Peter Farah, of whom Farah Ave in New Liskeard is named.

Roads in 1913 after they had started to homestead in Lorrain Mr Bowers and a group of men from that area decided to build a road in to the valley, they started in 1913 from Haileybury, they had done work as far as the hill at Martineau Bay when it was decided to have the road coming in from North Cobalt, about 60 men worked on this road project, including Mr A. Peltier and Mr Bowers, it was built as far as where he now lives, it was cut out and graded in 1915, the first car over the completed road was Mr Paddy Fleming, he measured the mileage of $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the start of the road in the valley to the Vendome Hotel in Haileybury, there was 14 miles graded and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles not graded at that time. On the original project in 1913 their workers only numbered about 5 or 6 local people, the second project was built by Northern Development, who had their head office in Englehart. Before the road was built they had to walk in to their property, there was a winter bush road as far as the Montreal River.

Haileybury Mr Bowers lived in Haileybury for a short time in 1913, the town was at its best then, it was very busy, you could rent a house for \$15. or \$25. a month. There were four licensed hotels and a number of local approved hotels where you could buy 2% beer, cigars etc. There was a great deal of traffic on the lakes. There were lots of jobs, made about \$4. a day working for the Department of Public Works building the docks.

Docks and Lakes: Mr Bowers worked in 1913 building the docks for the Department of Public Works at Dawson's Point, Ville Marie, Guigue, Paradie Bay and Silver Centre. The boats went to Silver Centre and to Paradie Bay. River Drivers made about \$50. a month including board, Lumber men would make about \$26. to \$40. a month.

Schools Lorraine Valley, it was very hard to get a school started in any northern settlement and Lorrain was no exception, meetings were held in 1914 with the view of starting a school but these came to nothing. A school in the rural areas had to be started by the people then the government would give grants to help run it. Mr Bowers was a member of the school board for many years. The school was heated with wood and later oil, in the early days people could cut wood for the school and put the cost against their taxes. The school would be the centre of entertainment, square dances, Christmas parties etc would be held there. One of the early students in this school was Llyod Clark, he later became a school inspector, is now retired and lives in Owen Sound. The school was a one room building with eight grades and one teacher. Mrs Bowers came to teach at the school when she graduated with her permanent teaching certificate from the North Bay Normal School in 1923. She had 20 pupils and she taught them for three years, she was available later to do relief teaching. The school was probably started about 1918 it was on the Bowers property later a second school was built, distance was a problem for some families, some children had to walk over 3 miles to school, the second school didn't run very long until they started to bring the children to a central school by bus. These children now attend school in Haileybury.

Schools: The school would often supply soup for the children at noon so that they could have a hot lunch. Children who wished to go to High School went to Haileybury, they drove their own children up to Haileybury to go ^{to} the High School

Dairy they ran a dairy for a number of years, they delivered milk to Silver Centre, first with a horse later by truck, they delivered about 75 quarts a day to Silver Centre, had milk and cream, they didn't have pasturization but they had a sterilizing plant which they sold to Noranda Dairy when the first dairy was opened in Noranda. Refrigeration was supplied by ice which they put up themselves in the winter. Mrs Bowers would help in the dairy.

Post Office and Store they ran a general store with the post office, they later had a gas pump, the business closed about 20 years ago. Bill Bolger of Haileybury would bring the mail in from Haileybury.

Silver Centre had a population of about 2000 people all the houses built there were of the temporary variety.

Mines Mr Bowers worked in the mines as did most farmers, they needed this extra income. Mr Bowers worked in the Carry Mine owned by a Pittsburg Syndicate, Haileybury Frontier Mine, run by the Mining Corporation. He has been underground in most of the mines, he quit mining after he got married in 1925.

They had a saw mill and they sold timber to the mines.

Cobalt Mrs Bowers says she liked Cobalt when she arrived, it was a boom town, you had to elbow your way down the streets they were so crowded.

Fort Temiskaming There was nothing doing at the Fort when Mr Bowers first came into the area, if you came down by boat and wanted to get off you went off on a gangplank, there were still buildings there but now there are none. Mr David McLaren Sr, his decendants still live in Lorrain Valley, worked at the fort in the 1800's, he was the first mail carrier from Haileybury to Mattawa, used dog team and went on foot, this would be about 1885. Mr McLaren had something to do with erecting the height of land tablets on the side of the lake, worked with someone named Palson, this was a geological survey. Things that came into the fort would have to be moved by boat or with a team and jumper (sleigh made of wood).

Doctors and Hospitals Dr Arnold and Dr Jackson were their first doctors, later Dr Smith of Silver Centre. Their first child was born in the Roman Catholic Hospital in Haileybury, the rest were born at home. Had four children in all.

Provincial Police at Silver Centre was named Jack Reaverly.