

POTTAGE, JOHN HENRY



Sedgewick Sentinel: A History of Sedgewick and Surrounding District

EARLY LIFE

Jul 25, 1894

Born in Pottageville, Ontario to Garton and Letitia (Courtney) Pottage.

1901 Census

Age 7

Lived in King Township, Ontario with Garton Pottage (head of house – father, age 39), Letitia Pottage (mother, age 35), Frank Pottage (brother, age 15) and Stephen Pottage (brother, age 13).

1916 Census

Age 22

Lived in Flagstaff, Alberta with Garton Pottage (head of house – father, age 55), Letitia Pottage (mother, age 50) and Edith Pottage (sister, age 14).

MILITARY SERVICE

May 22, 1918

Drafted under Military Service Act, 1917, 1st Depot Battalion, Alberta Regiment

**Attestation
Paper**

- **Number:** 3211350
- **Present Address:** Sedgewick, Alberta
- **Next of kin given:** Mr. Garton Pottage (Father) in Alberta
- **Trade or Calling:** Farmer
- **Married:** No
- **Previous Military Experience:** No
- **Religion:** Methodist
- **Physical attributes:**
 - **Age:** 23 years, 10 months
 - **Height:** 6'3"
 - **Complexion:** Fresh
 - **Eyes:** Gray
 - **Hair:** Dark

AFTER THE WAR

1921 Census

Age 27

Lived in Flagstaff, Alberta with Garton Pottage (head of house – father, age 59), Letitia Pottage (mother, age 55) and Caren Feusham (boarder, age 15).

1944

Age 50

Elected as a councillor in Flagstaff, Alberta.

Jul 1979

Age 85

John died on his farm in Sedgewick, Alberta. He never married. He is buried at Mount Pleasant Municipal Cemetery in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Garton Pottages Go West

Looking at the grand old bedecked house of the Pottages of Pottageville, Ontario, one would wonder why the Garton Pottages — Garton, his wife Letitia, sons Stephen and John Henry (Harry) and daughter Edith — would leave Toronto and the area just north of Toronto for good to strike off west on a colony railroad car to homestead in what is now Alberta, south of Sedgewick, in the N.W.T.

Then one can just look at the family of Garton's father and mother, Edward and Elizabeth Pottage, and see that there were twelve Pottages running around and the small plot of land of the 4th concession could not hold much future for Garton when his family was growing up. The plot of land was only 100 acres.

The news of homestead land in the west must have excited Garton and family for they could apply for three quarter sections of land, 480 acres, with \$30.00 down on the condition that they do some improvements on the land before title could be obtained. It was indeed a promising thought.

Garton and his family were living in Toronto when they decided to move west.

In the spring of 1906 they bought a carload of stock, loaded all their effects on a settler's car on the railroad and headed west to their homestead. Stephen slept in the car with the cattle and furniture while Garton and Letitia, Edith and Harry slept in the colony coach car with its slatted seats. It was truly a mixed train. There was a stove in the car to cook the meals.

By the time they had arrived in Wetaskiwin, the railroad had been built to Daysland so their rail travel ended there.

From Daysland to the homestead, the Pottages travelled in a little caravan. Garton and Letitia with Edith, travelled with a team that Garton had hired, Stephen came behind driving the oxen while Harry followed with the old cows.

The family stayed in the sod house with the sod roof for a night or two while the lumber roof was being built on the other sod building.

Garton began immediately to build a frame house on his quarter. He had Albert Asper help him. The lumber for it came from Daysland.

That summer the railroad arrived at Sedgewick, thirteen miles north of the farm. They proved up their land and it turned out to be some of the best land in the country.

John Henry (Harry) took out a homestead at the booming town of Grouard in the Peace River district, when he came of age to get a homestead.

Son John Henry (Harry) remained a bachelor and farmed at Sedgewick all his life. He became an avid historian and collector of Canadiana. Harry passed away in July, 1979.

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By order of the Minister of Municipal Affairs issued in December of 1943, the enlarged Municipal District of Killam was formed and later renamed Flagstaff, as petitioned by the Council. The first meeting was held in the Co-op Hall in Killam, on March 14, 1944; the councillors being Robt. C. Johnson, Chas. P. Hayes, Scott McLennan, Allan Bradley, Nels Toppe, Fay Pendleton and Harry Pottage. Mr. Hayes was elected as Reeve; R. C. Johnson, Deputy Reeve; and Cecil Brown became the first secretary.