

Page 1 (Courtesy of by Grenville Schrader)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF EVELAN ERNEST MCELWAIN. (Retyped by Bob Long)

I was born on a cold winter night, February 28th 1896 in a log house of the pioneer type at Lot eleven Concession eleven in the township of Snowdon in the county of Haliburton and was the first child to bless or curse, as the case may be, the union of Martha Jane Sedgwick and Robert Samuel McElwain, both of Gelert in the township of Snowdon, who were married there in 1894.

My mother was a daughter of John and Charlotte Sedgwick, who lived about a mile and a quarter east of where I was born. My grandfather Sedgwick was a well known lumberman and for many years was foreman of a lumber camp. He was a big-hearted generous man and was well liked and popular. For many years he was either councillor or Reeve in the Snowdon township council, and he was Reeve of the township at the time the county of Haliburton was formed into a Provisional county out of townships from the northern parts of Victoria and Peterborough Counties and thus he was a member of the first County Council for the county of Haliburton.

My grandmother Sedgwick was a fine Christian woman, a very faithful member of the Methodist Church. Her quiet modest and saintly ways endeared her to all who knew her.

My father was a son of William and Eliza McElwain, also pioneer stock, who lived just across the road from where I was born. They, too, were Methodists in religion and splendid industrious citizens of the first class. The McElwains in early times had lived in Scotland but when that country was torn with civil war they went to Ireland and later to Canada and Haliburton County. My Grandfather was an ardent Orangeman, as also was my father, and these orange convictions were then born with me.

Notes from Grenville Schrader

Page 1 – introduction to my Uncle Evelan McElwain

Page 5- Evelan went into the camp when he was 16 years – he turned 17 in February, 1910.

Page 7 - At 17 years (1912), Evelan went west on a harvest excursion and got off at Strasbourg, Saskatchewan. Evelan had relatives around Duval – Luvan – Seimens and he worked for several threshing outfits in the area.

In December of 1912, and at the age of 17 he went back to school to complete high school. He went to Lindsay, Ontario and eventually graduated with honors from teachers college.

My father's oldest sister, Bertha Helena Schrader – born July 12, 1895 graduated with honors from teachers college in North Bay, Ontario.

They met in Lindsay at Easter (April, 1920) married – bought a store in Gelert. He taught school in Gelert and Bertha ran the store. In 1934, by an order of Council, the Provincial Government appointed him as Registrar for Haliburton County. They had no children. Bertha also worked in the registry office and retired as Deputy Registrar.