Will Anderson and his brother Sam decided to leave their home at Ingoldsby, Ontario, in 1892 and move west to the Northwest Territories. On their journey across Ontario and Manitoba, they worked in lumber camps to earn money for their financial needs. They were both husky men and were well adapted for the lumber trade and railway tie making.

They landed at Strathcona that same year, and filed on homesteads at Edna, now Star, four miles north of Lamont. In 1897, Will married Christina Boss, from the Fort Saskatchewan area.

In 1899, they bought a quarter section of land at Partridge Hill, two miles east and three miles south of Fort Saskatchewan. Dad was noted for his skill as an axeman. The barns and granaries with the hewed logs and dovetailed corners were a good example of his broad axe ability. I can well remember him cutting up a pig with a broad axe in twenty minutes to put in the salt brine for curing.



Christina (Tina) & William Anderson Children - daughter Maimie, and son Howard Image - Courtesy of Jean Anderson / Bob Long

Mother passed away in 1917, and father in 1947. There were nine children born to them. I was born at Lamont in 1898. The others were born at Fort Saskatchewan.

William Alexander Anderson by Mamie (Anderson) Miles

Some years after our mother died, our father bought some land at Lavoy. He remarried and another daughter, Frances, was born. Frances married Delbert Wells and they farmed at Wanham, in the Peace River country. Later they moved to Grande Prairie, where they are in the Air Transport business.

In 1917, I married John Miles of Fort Saskatchewan. We farmed there until 1929, when we moved to Clarimont, Alberta. We raised four children. John passed away in 1954 and I am now retired and living in Clairmont.

The next two children, my sister Beatrice and brother Harold, passed away in the diptheria epidemic of 1904.

My brothers, Howard and Maurice, being the oldest boys, farmed the land at the Fort until 1928. Then they sold and bought land at Clairmont. Our uncle and aunt, Chris and Laura Boss, were already living at Grande Prairie. Howard farmed at Clairmont and also operated a grain elevator. He married and raised four children. He passed away in 1977.

Maurice farmed in the Watino district. There were two children in his family. He passed away in 1961.

Fred, after finishing high school at Strathcona in 1931, joined his brother to homestead at Watino, in 1932. In 1952, he moved to Grande Prairie, where he worked until his retirement in 1977. He had four children.

The next in line was Lloyd. He graduated from the University of Alberta, in 1939, with a degree in Electrical Engineering. That year he went to England to work with the company of Reyrolles of England, at Newcastle. He served four years with the R.C.A.F. during World War Two. He married a Welsh girl and they have two children. They are now retired In the country near Newcastle, England.

Jean was raised from an early age by our uncles and aunts, the Boss family. She graduated from university with a Bachelor of Arts and Education in 1935. She taught school for six years in the Lamont and Smoky Lake districts. In 1944, she went to work for the Federal Government in the weather office at the Edmonton International Airport. She has recently retired and is living in Edmonton. With the help of the Boss family, Fred, Lloyd and Jean were able to further their education.

Norman, the youngest child, passed away in 1915 at the age of seven months.