

Extraits d'une lettre (datée du 15 décembre 1978,) adressée à George de Savoye, par Myles C. Kinney (du 3928-15ème ave., Regina, Sask.) Ce dernier, né à Tyvan en 1914, écrivait l'histoire du village.

*de l'endroit
cit.*

" Dear George,

..... I'm quite certain that your dad was one of the first four or five business men to arrive in Tyvan. Mr. John Simpson, a landman for the Stone Land Company was first and he was instrumental in bringing in Earl Bishop and John Redden (June 1904) who started the first general store, also in August his nephew James Buchan, a young man of twenty-four recently out from Scotland, who started a Livery Stable and Horse Exchange. About the same time, an Englishman from the Barbados, Richard Hutchinson, got a farm implement business under way. Your dad must have arrived about the same time and according to my information he had a lumber yard, a photograph business, and, before leaving Tyvan, he built and operated a confectionery store.

The rails were laid to Tyvan in September and the first train through was on November 9th 1904. Following this event, the townsite was rapidly developed--1905 and 1906 could be termed boom years. I have always heard that that your folk's house was the first built in Tyvan. (All those other chaps named were bachelors and lives in their place of business.)

Now, I think you will be interested when I tell you that I visited one of those originals...Jim Buchan is the grand old man of Tyvan and will be 99 next June. Physically and mentally he is almost a youth...He was surprised when I told him I'd heard from Henri de Savoye's son. He remembered your folks well and told me your dad had the first lumber business.

A few weeks ago I was talking with a long time friend whose father's homestead bordered on what was to become Francis. In 1902-03 (before the townsite was surveyed), the district was referred to as the Wascana Settlement. She would have been six or seven years old then. I told her that I had a letter from a man who was born in Francis in 1904. She asked who it was and when I told her George de Savoye she said, "Oh, I remember Mr. de Savoye. He used to come to our place for milk. I'll bet for that baby".

Yes, the photo-copy you sent was taken at Tyvan. Any museum would be happy to have that baby buggy now. I am able to identify every building in the background. Your folk's house is the one with the cottage roof on the extreme right. My parents always referred to that house as the de Savoye house. My generation called it the Marren house. Your dad probably sold it to Pete Marren. The Marrens had a farm, while the family was young, they wintered in town and lived on the farm in summer. Later the house was rented. Over the years several families lived in it. When the Marrens retired from the farm about 1940 they returned to it and, about 1947, they had it moved to Lampman a distance of about sixty miles so that they could be near their daughter.

I have very unhappy memories of that little house as, in my pre-teen years, my parents got the idea that I should be a pianist; the music teacher lived in that house and how I dreaded going there for lessons.

The confectionery store your dad built managed to escape the several serious fires that over the years destroyed most of the business buildings in Tyvan. However, depression and war were too much and it became vacant. In a short time it was dismantled and the material used to build a house which still stands.

You mentioned that your dad was fond of hunting. I'm wondering if he hunted fox in the bush country south of Sintaluta, (near Indian Head). Waldron Hutchinson gave me a picture of his dad's hunting horse and told me that he used it to hunt fox in the Red Fox Creek district which is about 25 miles north-east of Tyvan. I just remember now that there was a small stable at the rear of your folk's lot, so probably he had a horse or two.

I note that your dad lived to be 92. Those old pioneers were living proof that good honest work doesn't hurt anyone. My dad died in 1967, three months short of his 95th birthday.

I have quite a few pictures of the 1903-1933 era, and some of the earliest were taken by your dad.....after Christmas I hope to get back to the archives to continue my research. I've been endeavouring to locate and plot the main prairie trails.

.....A joyous Christmas and happy, healthful New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Myles K.