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ROWLES/CADWELL HISTORY

T.R.C. (Bob) Caldwell of Saskatoon donated six, very special historic, family samplers to the Heritage Collection of the Embroiderers' Association in September 2003. They are listed below and documented in this booklet.

Bob's grandparents, Thomas Rowles (1873-1951) and Gertrude Mary Rowles (1876-1968) immigrated to Canada from the Manchester, England area in 1911 and homesteaded at Empress, Saskatchewan. Their five children all obtained their Bachelor Degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, enjoyed successful careers and participated in many community endeavours over the years. They were an example of families who came to Canada so that their children might receive a better education and make a contribution to society.

The mother of Bob Caldwell, Jessie Caldwell (1901-1990), was the oldest daughter; the middle daughter, Edith Child Rowles Simpson (1907-1997) received her doctorate in education in 1956 and served as Dean of Home Economics at the University of Saskatchewan from 1965 to 1972. Dr Simpson lived a very full life, always working toward the betterment of others. Among the many honours paid to her was her induction into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1981, being awarded the Order of Canada in 1987, as well as, the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Saskatchewan in 1993.

Following is a list of the samplers donated by Bob Caldwell and the relationships of the stitchers to the Caldwell family:

- Mary Musgrave, who stitched her sampler in 1797, at 10 years of age, was an ancestor of Bob Caldwell.
- Mary Ann Gaskell worked her sampler in 1829 when she too, was 10 years old. Because there were two Mary Ann Gaskells in the family, the stitcher and Bob's great grandmother (1852-1908), the former was identified at the time of the donation, as a direct ancestor of Bob Caldwell.
- Mary Williamson, who stitched her sampler in 1859, was Bob Caldwell's great aunt, and, the aunt of his mother, Gertrude Williamson Rowles.
- Alice Rowles embroidered two samplers, both of which may well have been worked in the classroom during the latter part of the Victorian era. Alice was the sister of Bob Caldwell's grandfather, Thomas Rowles and

thus, a great aunt of Bob's. Alice Rowles also immigrated to Canada and homesteaded like her brother, Thomas.

- Hannah Renshaw Gaskell began her Berlin woolwork sampler possibly in the mid 1800s when this type of embroidery was a favourite pastime. Hannah was Bob Caldwell's great great grandmother. This sampler was also embroidered by his great grandmother, Mary Ann Gaskell (1852-1908). Both women were born and lived all their lives in England. Interestingly, the family has a portrait of Hannah dated 1847 and it is thought she may have begun embroidering this sampler from that time to at least 1860. Her daughter, Mary Ann, may have worked on it as late as the 1860s, but in all probability, it would have been later, and possibly after her mother's death.