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Gordon, Bazzel W. (1865 -)

Clarence Chisholm

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GORDON, BAZZEL W.

File No. B-438

Bazzel Gordon, known as Joe Gordon, was born in Piatt County, Illinois, November 1, 1865, a son of Bazzel and Elnore (Wells) Gordon.

Bazzel Gordon, Senior was born in the state of Ohio, and Elnore (Wells) Gordon was born in Pennsylvania. After their marriage, they made their home on a farm in Piatt County, Illinois. They lived there until the year of 1867. Nine of their ten children were born while they lived there. They are: Elizabeth, deceased; George, Sarah, Sylvia, Bazzel and Henrietta who was born in Meeker County, Minnesota.

The trip from Illinois to Minnesota was full of hardships for there were very few people living in this part of the country. In order to get to his place in Section Six, Meeker County, Bazzel Senior had to follow a poorly marked trail. Many times he was compelled to make his own roads. When they arrived at their destination they began immediately to clear out some trees for a place to build their house which they made of logs. After their home was completed, they cleared more land, so that they could put in a crop. Every year they would clear more land and make their fields that much larger.

The first years that they lived on the new farm, they were well supplied with fresh meat, as deer and bear were plentiful. On more than one occasion, while hunting deer, they could see where some other hunter had shot a deer and taken the hide, leaving the meat lay for the smaller animals to devour. There were many bears, but the two dogs the family brought along, drove them away.

In the winter time, they spent most of their time hunting, trapping, and chopping wood. The rivers and lakes were full of fur-bearing animals. They sold the furs or traded them for groceries.

The Gordon children attended a school in Mananah, which was located south of their farm.

Whenever they needed flour, they would have to haul their grain to Hutchinson, where there was a mill. They had to cross Crow River to get there. In order to cross it with a load, they had to put logs alongside of the wagon and build an extra platform to keep the flour from getting wet. The round trip required one week to make because of the bad roads and poor trails. If they had to buy flour at the mill, it would cost them twenty dollars per barrel, plus the hardships they had to undergo to get it home.

When Bazzel, Junior grew older, he helped work at home. Later, when other people came to settle in the same territory, he helped them clear the land.

In 1890, Bazzel was united in marriage to Matilda Roach, daughter of William and Matilda (Kissinger) Roach. The ceremony took place in Litchfield, Minnesota, on January 5, and was performed by Jim Atkinson, Justice of the Peace.

Bazzel and Matilda lived on a farm in Meeker County for several years after their marriage, and then moved to a farm in Stearns County. They rented farms at different times in Paynesville and Eden Lake townships. They are the parents of six children, who are: William, Stella, Joseph, Lawrence, Blanche, and Marvin Cecil. Lawrence and Blanche are twins.

William Gordon was born in Meeker County, December 4, 1891. At present, he is employed by the Northern States Power Company, as a lineman, and lives at home with his mother in Paynesville.

GORDON, BAZZEL W.

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Stella Gordon was born May 5, 1894. She is married to Arthur Glenz. They have six children, who are: Velda, Donald, Fern, Gordon, and twin girls, Betty and Betsy. They live on a farm northwest of Paynesville in Kandiyohi County.

Joseph Gordon was born June 16, 1897. He is married to Alvina Kost, daughter of Joe Kost of Roscoe. They have two sons, Eugene J. and Elgin W. Joe is manager of the Standard Oil Service Station at Paynesville.

Lawrence was born June 13, 1902. On December 17, 1924, he married Loretta Larson of New London, Minnesota. They have one daughter, Joyce. Lawrence is employed as a Highway Patrolman and is stationed at Willmar, Minnesota.

Blanche, Lawrence's twin, was also born June 13, 1902. She married Oscar De Blois, son of James De Blois, on December 17, 1921. They have five children, who are: Winifred, Maxine, Roberta, Leroy, and Warren. Oscar De Blois is employed by the State Highway Department and is stationed in Minneapolis.

Marvin Cecil Gordon was born on August 2, 1907. He married Miranda Voss on September 26, 1929. He is employed at the Pure Oil Station in Paynesville.

Bazzel, Senior and Elnore (Wells) Gordon are buried in the cemetery located at Menanah, Minnesota.

William and Matilda (Kissinger) Roach are buried in the Paynesville Cemetery.

Interviewed: Bazzel Gordon Junior
Date: August 19, 1937
By: Clarence Chisholm

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE GORDON, BAZZEL W. BIOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 2. PAGE 16178

Oscar A. DeBlois and Blanche Gordon

Married at St. Cloud, December 17, 1921

By: Wm. H. Alden, Justice of the Peace

Witnesses: Lownie Bennett and Alma Listmann

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 2. PAGE 14622

Joseph Gordon and Alvina Kost

Married at St. Paul, March 3, 1919

By: Rev. John F. Doherty

Witnesses: Thos. F. Reane and Ella O'Toole

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK X. PAGE 12938

Arthur Glenz and Stella Gordon

Married at St. Cloud, October 29, 1914

By: J. L. Donohue, City Justice of the Peace

Witnesses: Ben Kruger and Nona C. Limperich

MARRIAGE RECORD BOOK 8 PAGE 19833

Marvin C. Gordon and Miranda L. Voss

Married at Paynesville, September 26, 1929

By: Rev. A. H. Nauman

Witnesses: Idella Gruetzmacher and Arlie Voss

DEATH RECORD BOOK Y. PAGE 18 LINE 455

Matilda Roach, Born in Indiana, March 21, 1856

Daughter of Jacob Kirenger and Matilda Kirenger

Died February 10, 1932

Age 75 years 10 months and 19 days

(Editor's Note: Mother of Matilda (Roach) Gordon