

Thomas Nicholas McIlmoyl Family

Thomas McIlmoyl was born in Ontario, Sep 13 1849. He was the son of **John McIlmoyl** whose parents had come up from the states following the American Revolution with the United Empire Loyalists. From his place of birth, east of Peterborough, he went up into the woods about 40 miles north of Peterborough and hewed out a farm in the woods.

He worked as a carpenter to half supplement his income. He married Margaret Mairs, a school teacher who had braved the wilderness to come up and teach. He had three sons, Harry, Bert, and Julius, (who died very young) and four daughters, Annie, Edna, Jane and Nelly. All but two of this family came west and lived in Southey for some time.

As a young man, he was seriously injured in a logging accident and limped badly the rest of his life.

He came to Southey in 1914 to visit his son, Harry, and daughter, **Annie Hales**, and he spent some time here building barns and houses throughout the district. He returned to his farm in Ontario when his son, Bert, enlisted in World War I. He remained there until 1924 when he again came to Southey, this time to spend his remaining years.

In spite of his lame leg and advancing years he continued to work at his trade. He was a familiar sight seated on his bench in front of his sons' place of business. He had a white beard and his cane was near by. As the years went by he spent more time on his bench than at work. His many friends would stop to chat with him as they passed by. The last year of his life he was bed ridden. He died in 1935 in his eighty-sixth year and was buried in the Southey cemetery alongside his grandson, Alvin.

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