

Acknowledgements

I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE the contribution many people made to my research and study. Their generous assistance made the writing of this story possible.

Old Family Letters (from 1890's to 1940's)

Thanks to my grandfather's sister Anna in Norway, who lovingly saved the letters she received from her brothers. And a special thank you to Arvid Uldal, and his mother Margit Uldal, who was my grandfather's cousin and retained ownership of the Rosseland farm, keeping it in the family. Margit graciously hosted us at the lovely Rosseland home, and Arvid and his mother shared all the old family letters and photographs with us.

I must extend a special thank you to Per Kavlie Anderson, who translated the original Norwegian letters from Old Norwegian to English. Per's expert knowledge of the language and history of Norway was an invaluable asset in preparing the story.

Thanks to my mother, Agnes, for saving her family letters. And a very special thanks you to dear Aunt Faye, who shared her memories through many interviews, memories sometimes not easy to talk about.

In Norway, Oystein Knibestol hosted us graciously, and introduced us to family members. Our maternal great-grandmothers were sisters. He located all old family homes and introduced us to other Rosseland family members. He gave invaluable assistance locating and photocopying letters and old photos. This story could not have been written without his assistance.

I extend a special thank you to Ingrid Ytterdal of Staubo, Norway, a gracious, intelligent lady who generously made a major contribution in Norwegian research. In a private archive in Norway, Ingrid located letters written by the captain of the sailing ship that my grandfather sailed on, letters written to the ship's Norwegian owners from the era before to immediately after the South African War.

United States

I must thank Dr. Benita Howell, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Mr. Tom des Jeans, Cultural Resources Manager, National Park Service, Oneida TN. Each gave me considerable assistance in locating data and sending appropriate literature.

In Kentucky, I was fortunate to make contact with J. Patrick Thomas, who had possession of the early records from the Stearns Company, which had owned a coal-mining and lumber operation in the Appalachian Mountains of southeast Kentucky. We were each researching the early days of the company, and exchanged data pertinent to both of our stories.

Alberta

From the homestead years in Alberta, I learned that my family had become close friends with the Berild family, when both families were homesteading south of Youngstown. In 1998, I phoned Berit (Berild) Hagen and asked if she remembered my family. This bright lady answered, "Oh, yes!" and after almost seventy-five years, was able to name the eight children in my mother's family, in the order of their birth. I had four delightful visits with Berit and Palmer Hagen, when Berit shared with me many stories that I later relayed to Faye, who added more details. Allin Allsop lived in that same area and he also shared with me his childhood memories of the Berild and Roseland families.

I met several old family friends from the period the family spent in Okotoks, Alberta during the Depression years. Ralph Cameron was the little boy next door, an only child who spent a great deal of time with the family. Ralph spent an afternoon with me, sharing old photographs and memories, and showed me the town of Okotoks, pointing out locations significant to their lives at that time. Later, I met with Herb Jacobsen, whose father was the pastor of the church my grandparents attended, and whose mother was best friends with Grandma. Herb read many pages to me from his mother's diary of Roseland family events that she had shared with them.

Maurice Ardiel was the son of the physician in Okotoks in the '30s, and was my Uncle Arnold's best friend. This charming gentleman shared many of his memories of life in Okotoks during the years that my family resided there. Thanks go to Alice Halstead, who attended church with my grandmother and put me in touch with these people.

Second World War

When it came time to write the Second World War portion concerning my uncle's experience in the Royal Canadian Air Force, I searched for a researcher. Several whom I contacted recommended Owen A. Cooke, who worked for twenty-five years as Chief Archivist with the Directorate of History and Heritage. I cannot thank Owen enough for the time and consideration he contributed to my project. He read my early drafts and gave me much invaluable advice.

I was also fortunate and privileged to meet with B. D. 'Dal' Russel, DSO, DFC, and Bar, who trained Fighter Squadron No. 14 in Kittyhawks, was with the squadron in Vancouver on West Coast Defence in 1942, and was squadron leader when their wing was the first to be established in France in June 1944, following D-Day. Dal read an early draft of my story and on a very special visit to Knowlton, Quebec he shared his memories with me.

Last, but not least, I must mention Hugh Morse, DFC, who lives in the neighbouring town of Maple Ridge. My Uncle Arnold's wife and Hugh's wife were best friends. Hugh was with No. 14 Fighter Squadron in Alaska and remained with the squadron in Britain and France. He often flew with my uncle on missions over enemy territory. I had lunch with Hugh many times, when he shared his memories and memorabilia with me.

When I had compiled sufficient research to commence writing my manuscript, I contacted Margaret Slavin of "Writeaway!" whom I had met at the Victoria School of Writing. Margaret was an invaluable and supportive partner who offered many helpful suggestions and comments through the writing of the first draft of this story.

As an unpublished author I was privileged to have my manuscript accepted by Borealis Press. Frank Tierney and Glenn Clever, and Editor Janet Shorten were encouraging and attentive throughout the publication process. They were truly a pleasure to work with.

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