

EDWIN PECKHAM



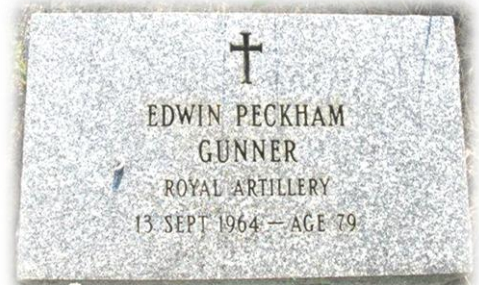
Edwin and his wife Elizabeth along with their three daughters; Muriel, Nora and Gladys, immigrated to Canada from Surrey, England. The family arrived in the Bezanson District late in June 1928 and filed on land under the Soldier Settlement Board's "3000 family scheme". Edwin had served as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery - British Army during WWI.

The "3000 family scheme" was a joint program by the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom that facilitated the immigration of over 18,000 individuals between 1924 and 1930. The Soldier Settlement Board provided settlers with furniture, livestock, and farming equipment under a financing agreement for British soldiers of the First World War.

The Peckham's purchased ½ section of land that only had 70 acres that could be seeded to crop. They also purchased a mild cow, four horses and the absolute minimum of machinery to begin to establish their farm. As Edwin had been a deacon in the Baptist Church in England, he arranged for church services to be held in various homes in the District. He travelled from residence to residence for many years preaching to the congregations until the roads were improved and a minister could then arrive from Grande Prairie to facilitate the services.

The Peckham's farmed actively for ten years after which they sold their farm to Art Rees who had married their daughter Gladys. Edwin and Elizabeth continued to live in their house on the farm and Art built a new house in the same yard for his family.

Edwin worked at various jobs in the area; the Bezanson Co-Op Store following which he managed the Goodwin Co-Op Store. He and Elizabeth moved to Goodwin to live during that timeframe. When the store was sold, the Peckham's moved back to their home in Bezanson. In 1958 their daughter, Gladys, held an Open House in her yard for Edwin and Elizabeth's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Elizabeth passed away in 1958 following which Edwin moved to Powell River to stay with his daughter, Muriel. In 1963, he moved back to Grande Prairie and subsequently passed away in 1964. He was laid to rest at the Glen Leslie Cemetery next to his wife, Elizabeth.



Reference

Smoky River to Grande Prairie History Book pg 59