

STARK FAMILY

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



Family reunion:



The Starks who came to Canada from Wales in 1926 and 1928 included (front, from left), John, Will Jim, Donald, Mary, Elizabeth, and (centre row from left) Margaret-Ann holding Isabel, Will, John Sr., James holding Mary, John Jr. holding

Thomas, Mary-Elizabeth holding Isabel, and (back, from left) Jean, Bill, Margaret, David and John D. The photo was taken in Wales before the 1926 trip.



Those from the original immigrant group who came to this year's family reunion in Bezanon were (front, from left) Isabel Heasler, Isabel MacPherson, Mary (Polly) Patterson, Mary

Summach, Elizabeth Chandler, Jean Stewart, and (back, from left) Donald Stark, John Stark, Jim Stark, William Stark and John D. Stark.

First Starks came to Bezanson area in 1926

By BRENDA BROCHU
of our staff

BEZANSON — Most of the Canadian descendants of the late John Stark Sr. gathered in Bezanson during the Canada Day weekend for a family reunion.

Granddaughter Mary

Summach of Grande Prairie said 187 of the 205 surviving family members in Canada were on hand for the activities, which included ball games, horseshoes, kiddies' events and "just visiting".

The reunion was held at the Bezanson Community Hall, with one family unit responsible for each meal.

"Both evenings were ended in singsongs, one around a campfire and the other in the hall, with the accompaniment of guitars and violins," Mrs. Summach's daughter Barbara Wurtz said.

The group which gathered in Bezanson now from various parts of Alberta and British Columbia — all hail from or were part of a group of 20 immigrants who came to Canada from Wales in 1926 and 1928.

Brothers James and John Stark Jr. and their families came over in 1926,

and were placed by the Soldier Settlement Board in the Bezanson area.

Their father, John Sr., known as "little GrandDad with his cane", joined them in the same area in 1928.

Meanwhile, another brother, William, took his family and settled near Brightview in the Wetaskiwin area.

Eleven of the original 20 immigrants were present at this summer's reunion, Mrs. Summach said.

The family originally came from Scotland, but some of the members moved to Wales to find work before coming to Canada.

Three daughters of John Stark Sr. stayed in Scotland.

Mrs. Summach is one of eight children of John Stark Jr., who had six of his

children in Wales and two in Canada.

James had three children in Wales and one in Canada, while William had four children, all in Wales.