

RUDAVSKY



FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY — This photo was taken in 1980. Left to right:

The beginning of this story was in a small Slovak Village named Gbely which was a part and parcel of the Empire of Austria - Hungary, dominated and ruled by the then Emperor Franz-Ferdinand of the Hapsburgh Dynasty, which came to an end when Hitler's Germany was defeated by the Allies of England, France, U.S.A. and of course Canada too.

The Slovak people were granted independence from Austria and the two peoples united and agreed to name the Country Checho Slovakia.

My father was born in Nov. 1867 and mother in July 1870 in the Village of Gbely, where they grew up and married and since there was no work for them in the village, they moved to the big city of Vienna in Austria where they started housekeeping in government subsidized apartments.

Father got a job in a lumber yard and saw mill, besides other work he looked after the circular and band-saws and sharpened them. As the years went by there were eight children born, four girls and four boys, however the girls all died in infancy, one boy died when he fell in the river and drowned.

I was born on Nov. 18, 1896. My father had an accident at work, while he was sharpening one of the circular band saws, the saw broke and cut his hand very bad, he was off work for two months. When he was able to go back to work the company offered him another job with less pay or a cash settlement, so he took the cash and bought himself a ticket to go to America. Thinking that maybe life would be better there, he arrived in Pittsburgh Pa. in April 1906, and lived with friends of his, got a job in a steel mill where he worked and sent money to mother to feed the family. Then in April 1913 he got laid off from his job and moved to Detroit to find a job there. However he had saved enough money for my ticket to come to America. I arrived in Detroit the first week in May 1913. Then since my father could not find a job in Detroit, while reading a newspaper he noticed an ad by the Dominion Sugar Company located in Chatham Ontario. They were looking for farm workers in the sugar beet fields on farms near Glencoe. So he got in touch with the company agent in Detroit and made arrangements to come to Glencoe. In the mean time I had to wait until my father let the people where I was staying know where he was



John Rudasky
photo taken in France, April 1917

in Canada.

I arrived in Glencoe on May 20, 1913. After the work in the sugar beet fields was finished we got a job in the bush cutting wood at \$2.80 a cord. Then while the war was going on I enlisted in the Canadian army. On Feb. 16, 1916 in Glencoe, I went over seas with the 135th batalion. After training in England I was sent to France in April 1917 and for 18 months in and out of the trenches and in battles I took part in, I never even got a scratch, however just a week before the war stopped I was wounded. When I was well enough to travel I was sent to Canada. I guess I was one of the lucky ones to come back in one piece.

I was discharged from the army in May 1919, worked in the sugar beet fields until the beet harvest was over. I went over to the U.S.A. in Pottsburgh and got a job in a steel mine for the winter. Then I met the one and only, got married and came back to Glencoe in April 1920 and worked in the sugar beet fields again for two years.

We saved \$500 for a down-payment on a farm right close to Glencoe, we raised a family of 3 boys and 2 girls, farmed until Nov. 1942 then when the oldest son did not like farming and since I had a job in the London CNR car shops, where I worked for 20 years, got pensioned off Nov. 1961. So I sold the farm, bought a house in Glencoe, my wife died suddenly June 27, 1983, my mother died April 1917, my father died Jan. 1947 and after living in Glencoe for 33 years, I sold the house in July 1986. I am now living with my daughter Christina and grandson John on the farm.

John Michael Rudavsky.