

JOHN (JACK) HAWORTH

Jack was born on January 4, 1891 in Blackburn, England. He was raised and received his education in the Blackburn area.



In 1914, he enlisted with the British Imperial Army and served in France. Although Jack was wounded in action in 1916, he fully recovered. Once discharged on demobilization, Jack found employment with the Local Council (County) and was in charge of maintenance. Jack subsequently worked for a dairy farmer for quite a few years.

On October 10, 1925, Jack married Florence Elizabeth Large at Stroud, Gloucestershire. Florence was a registered nurse with the General Hospital in Bristol. As the young couple was adventurous and wanted to see Canada, they purchased steam-ship tickets to Halifax. Eleven months later, they had saved what they thought would be sufficient funds and embarked for Canada. Upon arrival, they traveled by train to Calgary. As their savings became depleted, they decided to stay in Calgary for a period of time. Florence soon found work in the Calgary Holy Cross Hospital and Jack went to work on a dray outfit. After hearing about the opportunities for land ownership in Northern Alberta, Jack traveled

to the Peace River area where he purchased a $\frac{1}{4}$ of land in the Bezanson District (SW 31-71-2-W6) which had been owned by Jack Peshel. Jack immediately wired Florence that land had been purchased and for her to pack their belongings and travel by train to Grande Prairie. A log house from a nearby farm was taken apart and rebuilt on the property. A daughter, Peggy was born on September 9, 1930; however, she passed away 10 months later. In 1932, a son Richard (Dick) was born on April 2. Florence's father, Fred Large had arrived for a visit but decided to stay. He resided on the property until he passed away on December 21, 1932 and was buried in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

As farm life was difficult during the 1930's, Florence went to work at the Pouce Coupe Hospital for several years. During these years, Dick often stayed with Fred and Ida Dewhirst. Once farming became more profitable in the 1940's, Florence left her employment in BC and arrived back home. However, she was kept quite busy tending to the sick and needy in the Bezanson area. Florence passed away on January 30, 1952 after a lengthy heart ailment and was laid to rest at the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Dick continued to farm with his father and eventually purchased an adjoining $\frac{1}{4}$ of land. By 1960, Dick married a lady by the name of Dianne who was from Buffalo Lake. The young couple moved to Big Valley where their two daughters, Beth and Joyce were born. Jack lived on the family farm until 1972 when he moved to Big Valley where he resided for three years. He then moved to the Golden Hills Lodge at Three Hills, Alberta where he lived until he passed away on July 20, 1976. He was buried at the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Dick and his family eventually settled in Trochu where Dick found employment as a battery operator.

Reference

Smoky to Grande Prairie History Book pg 13