

Andrew Park, Sr.

Andrew Park, Sr., was born February 8, 1827, at Leonard, township of Dalhousie, Ontario. His parents, together with the Morgan, the Stewart and the Christie families, had emigrated from Scotland to Dalhousie in 1826. The land there was hilly and rocky, interspersed with cedar swamps. The farms were scarcely more than garden patches. Here Mr. Park spent his boyhood days. He worked on the farm with his father until he was about nineteen, when he left home and worked in the lumber camps for four years. For this work he received from \$10 to \$12.50 per month. In 1849, however, Mr. Park went west about four hundred miles along the Huron Tract to the township of Hibbert, county of Perth, near Lake Huron. The Morgan, Stewart and Christie families moved west at about this time, and also took up land in the township of Hibbert. At this place there was a heavy timber of maple, beech, elm and birch. The land was good when cleared, but, as Mr. Park remarked, "It was a laborious job clearing it." In 1856 he married Mary McDougall, of Lanark county and the township of Sherbrooke. They lived in Hibbert until 1881; by that time the land became valuable, selling at from \$50 to \$75 an acre. Mr. Park had signed a note with another man, and the hard times just then caused him to fail in business, and so brought on the loss of all of Mr. Park's property. The only thing left for Mr. Park was to start again. As Dakota was the nearest place he could take land he came here. At about this time others left Canada. There was Andrew Morgan, who wanted to start out for himself, and so came where land was free, and Angus Stewart, who was a carpenter, who wanted land and a settled home.

In July, 1881, Mr. Park came by way of the Grand Trunk railway to Chicago, then by way of St. Paul to Buffalo, N. D., where he worked that summer at \$2.50 per day. After filing on his land that fall he went to the woods near Gull River, Minnesota, where he received \$26.00 per month as sawyer. He chose his land where he did because he was told at Valley City that other Scotch people had settled near there.

Mr. Park's family came to Valley City in 1882. From there they followed a trail until near Willow lake. Then they came over the prairie to Andrew Morgan's, and arrived at their farm May 22, 1882. That summer they lived in a shanty built of lumber that had been hauled from Tower City. This shanty was not water tight. Mrs. Park said that "When it rained out it rained in."

Mr. Park hired Andrew Morgan to break five acres for him. He raised a few potatoes under the sod. Being on the prairie they hauled wood from the river for fuel. That winter he and his sons, Alexander and Andrew, worked on the Cooper farm at \$26.00 a month. His sons were of great assistance to Mr. Park in starting anew, and their pioneer experiences are practically the same as their father's. At first the buffalo bones were so numerous in some places as to hinder the breaking plow. Mr. Park took several loads to Hope after the market opened there and used the money for needed clothing and provisions.

Mr. Park was the first treasurer of Riverside township and was school treasurer until his hand became too stiff to write. He died July 25, 1908.