

George Saunders, Sr.

George Saunders was born at Newpitsligo, Scotland, March 19, 1825. His father was a minister whose failing health obliged him to teach. Before leaving Scotland a sale was held. A large party of relatives and neighbors left Scotland at the same time, but all except eight of the party remained in Manitoba. They left Scotland, April 19, 1882, were eighteen and one-half days on the sea, and arrived at Valley City May, 13, 1882. They crossed the Atlantic on the Manitoba on her first trip up the St. Lawrence that spring. Those on the ship who were without reading were furnished literature by the National Bible society of Scotland. At Valley City they were met by Alexander Saunders and Alexander Chalmers with two yoke of oxen and two teams. They had waited at Valley City seven days for the party to come. As this was a spring of very high water they met some difficulty on the way. At one place in the Getchell neighborhood north of Valley City they mired on a grade and were obliged to unload the goods, haul the wagon out to a dry place and reload. The first place they stopped was Andrew Henderson's, where the women of the party were refreshed with bread, syrup and black coffee. They pushed on the same night and arrived at Mr. Saunders' home at about midnight, after which pancakes were baked to relieve the hunger of the party. Mrs. Saunders died February 16, 1907. Mr. Saunders now lives in Washington, where he is engaged in fruit raising. In 1892, his daughter, Jessie, married John Thomas Gorman and moved to Washington. She returned, however, after Mr. Gorman's death, and now keeps house for her brother, Alexander Saunders.