

HARRY POWELL, A Builder of Hearst by Ernie Bies March 27, 2021

Harry Edgar Powell was born on April 10, 1876, in Blenheim (near Chatham) Ontario. One of ten children, he was born on the homestead of George and Mary (Smith) Powell. He died in the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto on August 15, 1933 at the age of 57.



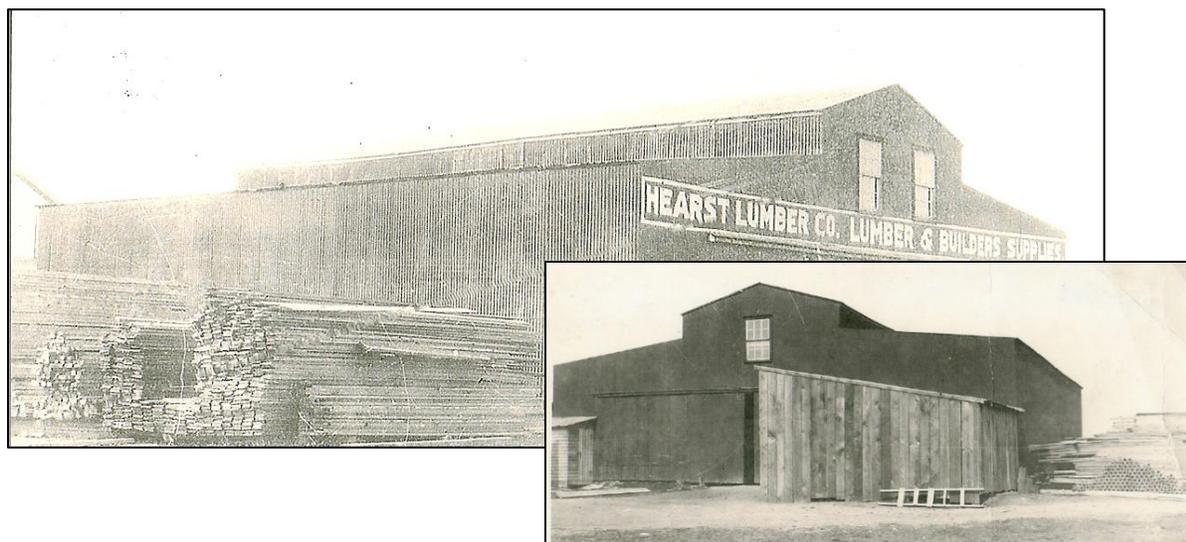
At age 17 he started to work for Jas. Telfer in Blenheim to learn the lumbering business. Fifteen years later he moved to Sault Ste. Marie to practice his trade, later going to Spokane, Washington and Toronto. He returned to Sault Ste. Marie to work for Hesson's Lumber where he

met and married a fellow employee, Agnes (Aggie) Reid on August 25, 1913. The marriage took place on Cockburn Island, home of the Reid



family. Aggie, born on November 23, 1887, was the eldest surviving child of Susanna and Robert Cross (R.C.) Reid.

Harry moved to Hearst in 1914 where he bought a business that he renamed the Hearst Lumber Company, pictured below.

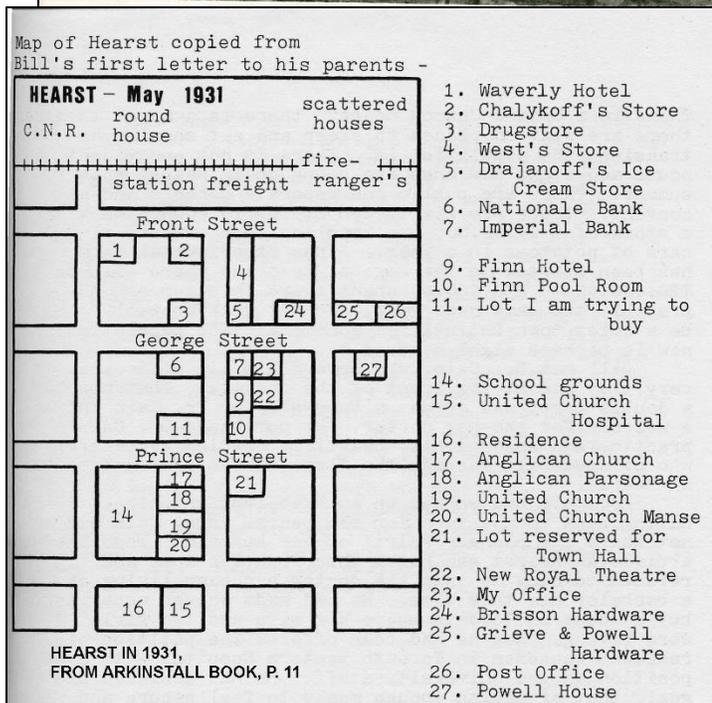


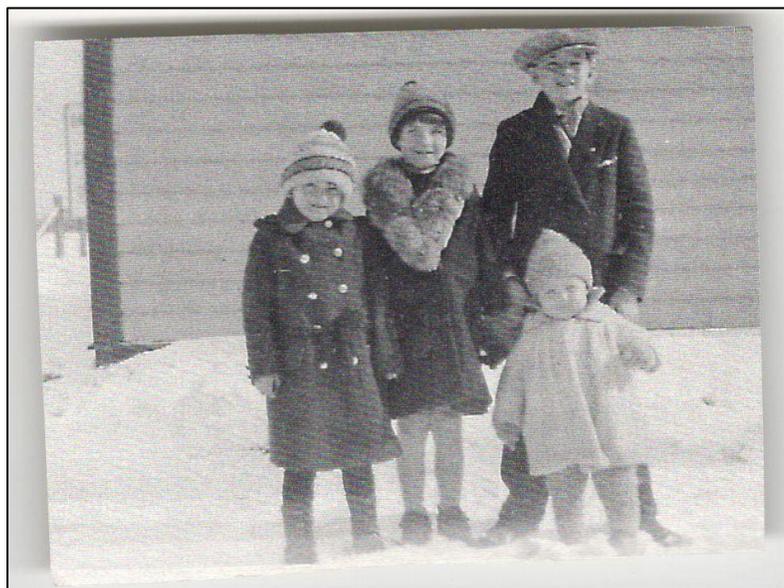
Aggie followed him a few months after the birth of their first child. Lorne L. Powell, pictured on right, was born on May 15, 1915.



Harry was the Postmaster in Hearst from 1918 to 1929 with able assistance of his wife Aggie. The Post Office, pictured below, was located in their first home adjacent to their lumberyard on the north side of George St. The location can be seen in this 1931 sketch of the town by Dr. Arkinstall. It later became the office for the Hearst Lumber Co. with apartments at the back and upstairs. The Arthur Lecours and Armand Côté families were later residents of these apartments.

Kathleen (Kay) Powell Braun provided many anecdotes about the family, such as: *"I was born in 1920 in the Post Office, being the same building in which we lived, as was my sister Mary Evelyn in 1923. Marjorie Eileen was born in St. Paul's Hospital, in 1927, the same year my Dad had his first operation for cancer in Toronto."*





The Powell children are shown above, circa 1928. Harry and Aggie with Kathleen, Evelyn and Marjorie, circa 1930, on left.

Kathleen also relates the story of her mother surviving the Spanish Flu but losing a baby. *“Dr. Kinsey was my mother's doctor who treated her when her daughter, Irene, was born during the 1917-18 flu. My sister died as my mother had been six weeks pregnant when she became ill with the flu and the baby was not fully developed”*. Dr. Albert Kinsey (pictured on right, courtesy of Michael Kinsey) was the first doctor in Hearst. He worked tirelessly treating patients but sadly lost his wife and two of his children to the epidemic.

Harry's timing in coming to Hearst was opportune as the entire town had been destroyed by a forest fire in July 1914. Rebuilding a town from scratch provided a great opportunity for a lumber company.



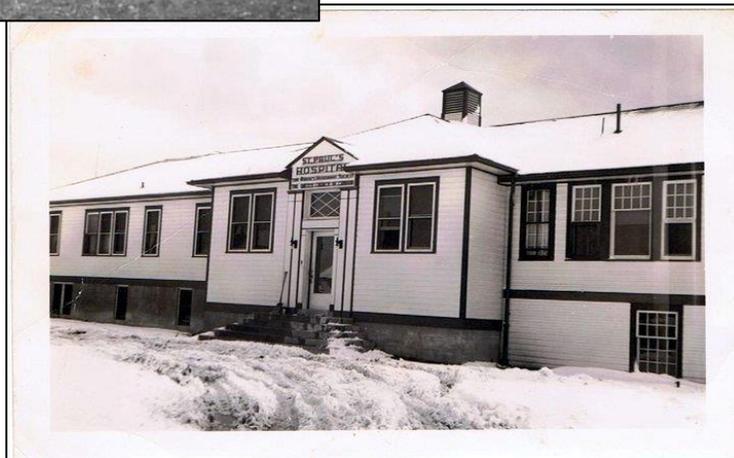
Harry was a builder and a community leader in Hearst. As a contractor, he built many houses including the Fire Protection Office, on right. Partnered with Fred Larstone, they built the new Public School in 1916, below.



He was the General Contractor for the construction of the St. Paul's Hospital in 1922, pictured below.

Later branching into the pulp business, he sold to paper companies in the United States.

In the mid-1920s, Harry built his family residence across the street from his lumberyard. Ivan (Robbie) Robinson recalled: *“The Powell house was a large imposing one on George St. The house was just across the street & a little farther east than Brisson's Lumber Yard. Wedged in between my Grandfather William Robinson's house and that of the Derkus family, I believe. The Smiths were in it from about 1930 on. They had a son, Marvin, about my age whom I played with (and an older daughter). Mr. Smith worked as a Brakeman or Conductor for the railway.”*



Harry's friend, Tom Grieve, was employed as a book keeper at Hearst Lumber Co. In 1927, Tom went to work for E. O. Allen, who had a general store and farm machinery agency. The following year, Tom worked for Vital Brisson, who had a hardware store and was in the process of acquiring Powell's lumberyard and pulpwood operation. In 1930, Harry entered into a partnership with Tom to buy E. O. Allen's business, renaming it Grieve and Powell. They now had the International Harvester agency. The Grieve family lived above the store, which was located on the corner of 8th St. and George, the current location of Lecours Motors.

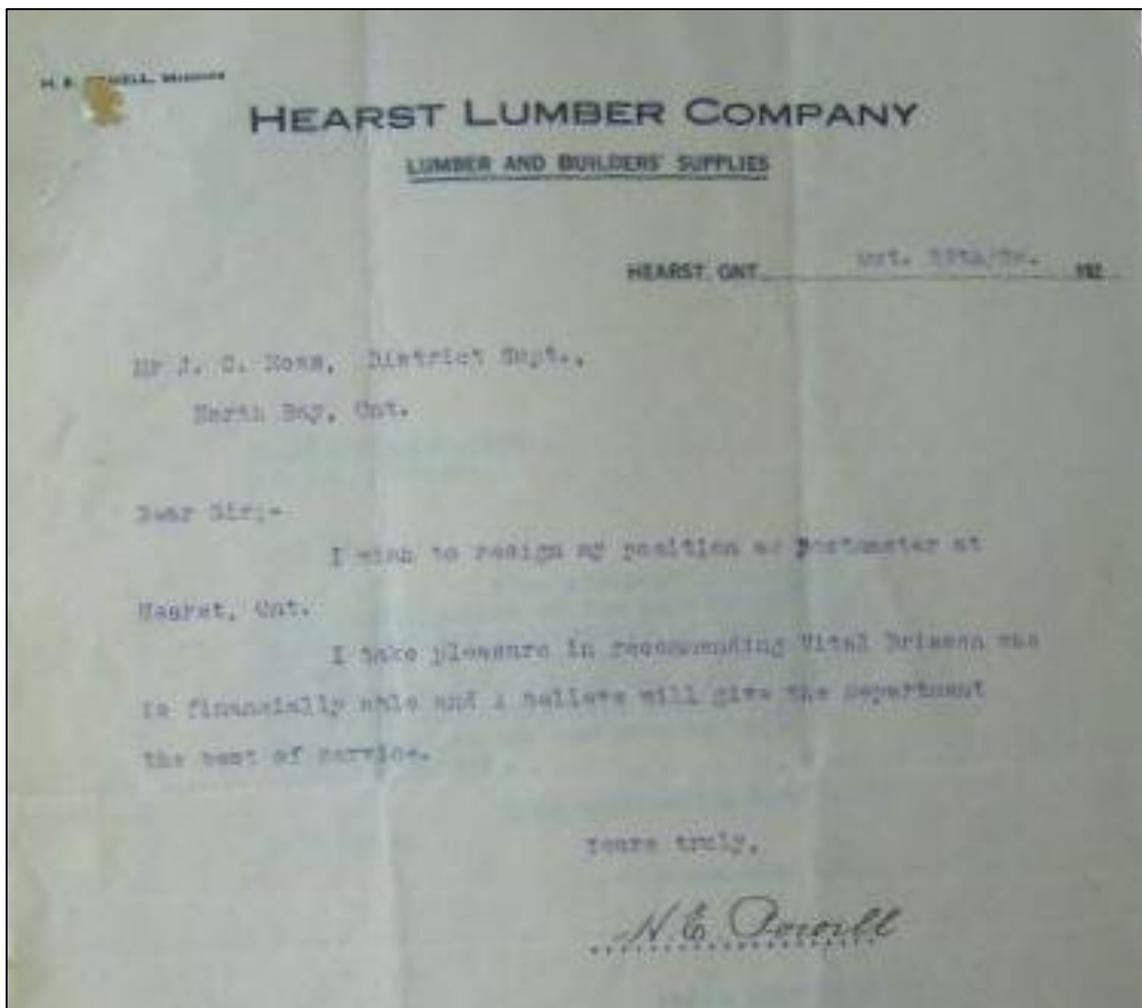
Over the years the Hearst Lumber Co. changed ownership from Harry Powell to Vital Brisson, who then sold it to the Lecours brothers, Arthur and Rosaire (Fred) in 1935. It is now the Home Hardware Building Centre, always maintaining a connection to the original business. The Powell and Robinson homes gave way to new developments.



Harry's religion was Methodist and Aggie Reid was Presbyterian. He was instrumental in the organization and building of both the St. Matthew's Anglican and the St. Paul's Presbyterian churches. He was the director of the first Sunday School in 1917, assisted by his wife Aggie and teachers Mary Reid, Ethel Larstone and Gertrude Howard. He was one of the first trustees of the new Presbyterian Church when it opened on October 9, 1921. Kathleen Braun adds "*My father was one of the men who accompanied the minister from Hearst, Rev. Irwin, to Toronto when the Presbyterian and Methodists combined to become the United Church*".

After the incorporation of the town of Hearst on August 3rd, 1922, Harry Powell was tasked with many civic duties. Teamed with Henri Perrault to enumerate the inhabitants, they counted five hundred and seventy-three first citizens. Harry Powell was appointed, along with the Mayor and Dr. A. Quackenbush, to form the local board of Health for 1923 and 1924.

He served on the Hearst town council from 1925 to 1929 and as acting Mayor for parts of 1925, 28 and 29 before being elected as mayor in 1930. Harry was the Post Master from 1918 until 1929. He resigned due to poor health in October 1928 and recommended Vital Brisson as his successor. His letter of resignation, on Hearst Lumber stationary, is shown below. Brisson was the successful candidate in the ensuing competition and assumed the duties on April 1, 1929 at a salary of \$1620. The transfer was simplified as Brisson had also purchased Powell's Lumber business so he just took over the facilities.



Aggie Powell was equally active in community services such as the Mother's Club, formed in 1918, forerunner to the Home and School Association. Working with the teachers they organized activities for the children, such as Christmas concerts and



plays. They had fundraising activities such as bake sales to provide funds for sporting goods, library books and a flag and flagpole. Original members were Mmes: Powell, Reid, Wilson, Woodward, Banks, Larstone, Fulton, Taylor, Moss, Purvis and Mitchell. Some of these ladies are shown below.

Hearst Ladies 1922 (courtesy Clayton's Kids)

Lila Wilson, Maude Larstone, Mrs. Alex Purvis, Aggie Powell, Mrs. Seymour, Nell Woodward, Elizabeth Bird

Kay Powell Braun added: *"In 1927, my father ill with cancer, moved back to Blenheim to the family farm which belonged to him in July, 1931. There he bought my mother a lumber yard which had come on the market. This was the business she knew. He died in August 1933 leaving four children Kathleen 12, Evelyn 10, Marjorie, 6 and Lorne, 17.*

I always thought of my parents as a team - they always worked together in the business. My father could see the opportunities and take a chance. My mother was more circumspect. When the 1929 crash came, they were losing a lot of money daily. My father said to her - if I had taken your advice, we wouldn't be losing all this money to which she replied, if you had taken my advice, we wouldn't have this money to lose."

Lorne's daughter, Arlene added: *"Harry purchased a lumber yard, Gibson Lumber, in Blenheim, renaming it Powell Lumber and Builder's Supplies."* Lorne Powell later took over the family business.

Kay Braun had pleasant memories of her school days with teachers Louis Tivy and Florence Nancekieville. She visited Hearst in 1997: *"I attended Hearst's birthday celebration a few years ago and Ted Wilson said I should write a book about my*

father - I was very pleased at that time to be invited to the Council chambers to view the picture of my father with all the former mayors. Also, at that celebration, an elderly gentleman came up to me and said my father had given him his first job at 16 years of age."

Harry Powell passed away on August 15, 1933 and Aggie on July 16, 1967. This newspaper article summarized his life story.

Harry E. Powell Passed last Tuesday

Was Prominent in Lumber Business in Heart, Ont., Where He Served in Public Offices.—Returned to Blenheim Two Years Ago to Engage in Business

The death last Tuesday of Mr. Harry E. Powell, at Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, marked the passing of a man who was a member of a well known and highly respected family in this community.

When he was a lad of seventeen years Harry E. Powell, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Powell, of the Communication Road North, entered the mill of the late Jas. Telfer, in Blenheim, to learn the lumber business. About 25 years ago he left his home town to carry on his chosen work in Sault Ste. Marie, later going to Spokane, Wash., and then to Toronto. He returned again to the Sault, where he

engaged in the lumber industry for himself in the town of Hearst, Ont., in 1915. Here through his ability and integrity he met with considerable success and became a prominent and popular citizen in the northern town. For a number of years he served on the council and held the office of mayor. He displayed a keen interest and activity in all public works, and was also a prominent member of the Presbyterian and later of the United Church. From 1918 until 1929 he served the town of Hearst as postmaster.

Mr. Powell was also an outstanding Mason, being a member of a Toronto Shrine Lodge, of the Temiskaming Preceptory and of the Key Stone Blue Lodge in Sault Ste. Marie.

For the past several years he had been in failing health, and for this reason, mostly, he returned in July, 1931, to Blenheim to take up residence on the old homestead, thinking the change of climate might prove beneficial. He purchased the business of the Gibson Lumber Company, Blenheim West, and had engaged Mr. Chas. H. Mooney to assist in carrying on his business activities. Unfortunately, his health did not improve and on May 15th he was obliged to enter Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, for medical treatment, at which place he passed away on Tuesday afternoon, August 15th, at the age of 57 years.

In 1913 Harry Powell was married to Miss Agnes Reid, of Sault Ste. Marie, who survives him with their family of a son and four daughters, Lorne 18, Kathleen 12, Evelyn 10 and Marjorie 6. There are also three brothers and two sisters, Ernest, at home; William, of Toronto; Fred., of the Sault, Mich.; Mrs. J. Lee Gosnell, of this town, and Miss Jane Powell, at home.

The funeral service was conducted at his late residence on Friday afternoon, with Rev. Dr. J. F. Smith, officiating in place of the regular pastor, Rev. Sidney Davison, who is away on his vacation. Kent Lodge, No. 274, A. F. & A. M., had charge.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">DIED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Toronto, on Tuesday, August 15, 1933</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HARRY E. POWELL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aged 57 Years</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">The Funeral</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Service will be conducted at his late residence, Communication Rd. North, on Friday afternoon, August 18, at half-past two o'clock, by Rev. Dr. J. F. Smith.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interment at Evergreen Cemetery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Funeral in charge of Kent Lodge, No. 274, A. F. & A. M.</p> |
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DEATH OF FORMER MAYOR OF HEARST IN WESTERN ONTARIO

The following from the Hearst correspondence in The Northern Tribune will be of interest to many in the North:—

"Relatives and friends have received word of the death, on Wednesday at Wellesley hospital, Toronto, of Harry Edgar Powell, of Blenheim, former well and favourably known pioneer citizen of Hearst.

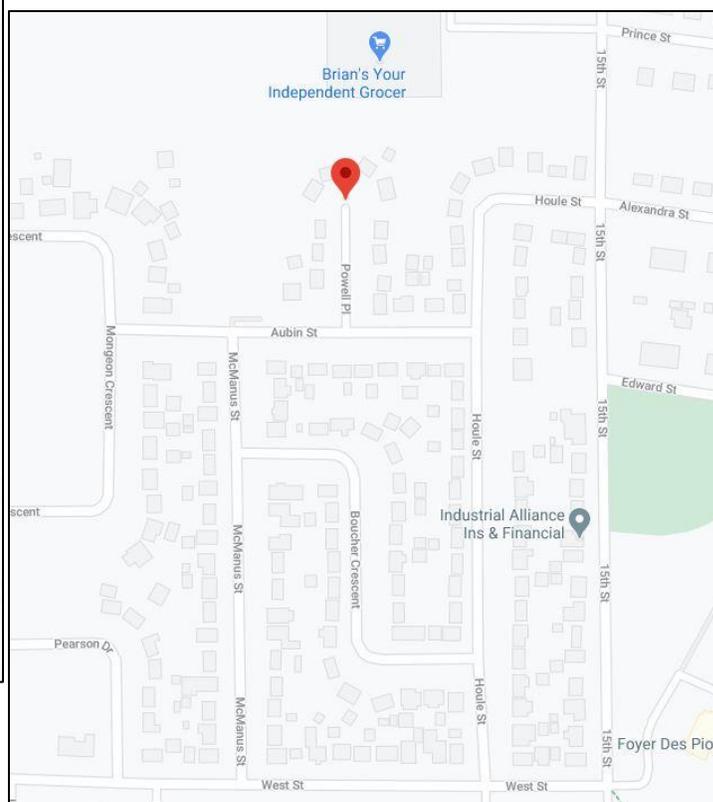
"The late Mr. Powell came to this town about 17 years ago, engaging in a pulpwood and lumber business, which later developed into the well-known Hearst Lumber Co. Later he entered the grocery business, and at the time of his death was a partner in the firm of Grieve & Powell. He was post-master for about 14 years. Two years ago, his health failing, he disposed of most of his interests here and moved south to Blenheim, old home and place of birth, in the hope that the less rigorous climate would prove of benefit.

"He was a good citizen, actively associated with all movements for the betterment of the community. He was mayor of the town of Hearst during 1928 and 1929. He was a Mason, a member of the United Church and for many years one of the board of trustees of St. Paul's United Church here.

"His widow, formerly Agnes Reid, a daughter of Robt. Reid, of Hearst, and four children, Lorne, Kathleen, Evelyn and Marjory, remain to mourn his loss."

The Porcupine Advance carried the story of Harry's death on August 24, 1933.

Nattily attired Harry and one of his children are pictured below, playing on the beach.



The town of Hearst honoured former mayors by naming streets in a new West-end subdivision after them, including Powell Place.

Lorne Powell's Journal, the Northern Ontario years.

Like his father, Lorne carried on in the lumber business, with the Powell Lumber Co. in Blenheim. He was an active member of the community, serving on the town council, school board and was a prominent member of the church. He was also a distinguished veteran of WW II. Arlene Powell, Lorne's daughter, gave him a journal and asked him to write down his memories. Transcribed below is an account of his childhood in Northern Ontario. Bracketed notes are additions by Arlene from conversations with her father. Arlene also provided Powell family photographs. Young Lorne is pictured on the right. While people in the photos below were not identified they do represent the time spent there by Lorne.



"My Boy Years: I was born on May 15, 1915, in the town of Thessalon, a few short miles from Sault Ste. Marie where my parents worked. A few months later we moved to Hearst where my father had bought a struggling lumber yard. Hearst was truly a frontier town hewed out of the wilderness to make a Divisional Point for the National Transcontinental Railway so, as with most of the young boys in town, our interest was in railroads, hunting and trapping and an interest to some extent in lumbering. (some Hearst youth pictured on right). Looking back, I realize now that I must have been a real worry to my parents as my friends and I spent most of our free time playing around the railroad yards, especially in refurbished steam engines going to the west coast and shunted to a siding for a few days to make way for more important freight. Another of our dangerous games was running logs which was running across the river clogged with logs to be elevated to the sawmill. (They played cowboys and Indians and he wanted to be a train engineer. His good friend was Ted Wilson)



Winter closed in early and stayed late in this part of the province, so most of



my spare time was taken in skating, skiing, snowshoeing and of course tending my trap line which was about a mile and a half through the bush. On this line snares for snowshoe rabbits and traps for small game were set and the line had to be checked regularly and usually had a couple of rabbits and occasionally a weasel. I skinned the animals and stretched them on shingles taken from the shingle piles in the lumber yard, cured them by rubbing salt on the pelt and sold the rabbit skins for twenty-five cents. Weasels were a real bonanza, they brought about two fifty. (Unidentified boy playing with bear cub on left).

The school was a large one room classroom and one teacher taught with threats and use of the strap, all grades from junior first to senior fourth (grades one to eight). It was heated with a stove that looked like a forty-five-gallon drum on its side, and kept well stoked with three-foot logs. Plumbing was an outhouse and in twenty below weather, time was certainly not wasted in there. The picture below shows an elementary school graduation circa 1929 with Lorne in the front row, in the light-coloured suit and Stella Drajanoff is in the back row, seventh from the left.



Some of my most vivid memories are the long trains of harvesters on their way to take off the crops in the west. These were men from Ontario and the eastern provinces, the train stopped for about an hour and the men ran wild through the town, most merchants closed up shop until they left so their stores would not be looted.

Christmas at my grandparents is another fond memory where the most beautiful and expensive toy or doll was for my cousin Joy, much to the chagrin of my sisters and other cousins. Another memory is the whole town down at the railway siding ready to climb into box cars because of a forest fire creeping up to the town, Fortunately the wind changed and we didn't have to go, but believe me a forest fire up there is really awesome.

My Teen Years: After graduating from elementary school, it was time to go to high school. This meant that I had to go to a government boarding school, the Northern Academy, as few towns in the north had high schools. Students came from a wide area, White River, Copper Cliff, Sudbury, Smooth Rock Falls and Hearst to name a few. (Cost was \$25 a month for room and board and books).

The school was at a place called Monteith, about two hundred miles from Hearst so I only got home at Christmas and Easter on the train. The school was



both girls and boys, housed in fairly large dormitories, the boys in the basement and girls in a separate building. The principal was an ex-army officer from World War One so he ran the school quite a bit like an army camp. Classes were five days a week, nine to four and study and homework period from seven until nine in the

evening. My time spent here was enjoyable even though I was a bit lonesome at times, the teachers and staff were excellent. We had a fair amount of free time for hockey, skiing etc., and the school itself had



programs such as parties, dances and a small amount of army drills. (They had an agricultural course and an experimental farm where they planted potatoes in the spring and harvested in the fall. His favorite subject was ancient history, least favorite was Latin.)

Photos below show some of the activities at the Northern Academy).



In 1932, in the middle of the Great Depression, with paper and pulp mills going bankrupt and not able to pay off their debts to pulp contractors such as my father, it was estimated we lost a thousand dollars a day for six months and as my sisters

were nearing high school age, we moved to the family farm in Blenheim. I must say it was a cultural shock for me, for the next two winters due to the damp climate in southern Ontario, I couldn't keep warm”.

Many students from Hearst attended high school at the Northern Academy including Ted Wilson, Stella Drajanoff and Bill Woodward, who went on to play professional hockey in England and the American Hockey League. In the Wilson story in Clayton's Kids, Pioneer Families of Hearst Public School, Ted Wilson recalls: *“In the 1930s, the Ontario government set up a co-ed regional secondary school in Monteith, called the Northern Academy. Its purpose was to assist communities with limited secondary facilities. This was a co-ed boarding school. Ted remembers Stella Drajanoff being there at the same time. The Northern Academy offered classes from Grade 9 to Grade 12. Those students wishing to do Grade 13 could do so on an individual basis under teacher supervision. The boys were boarded in the basement of the school, with the girls in a separate dormitory in another building where the kitchen and dining room were located. Roman Catholic students were bused to Val Gagné. The school was closed during the war and the building used to house German prisoners of war. Subsequently, it became a minimum-security prison.”*

Kay Powell Braun provided much of the family history, photographs and some interesting anecdotes about the Powell and Reid families. *“Before I e-mail my father's history in Hearst, Ontario I shall tell you of R. C. Reid and his wife Susannah (Kendrick). They had moved to Cockburn Island where their large family was born. The Reid's later moved to Thessalon.*



Reid Family, 1912,
left to right, back row:
Ruby, Carl, George,
Theresa (Tess),
Maime, Frank,
Florence, Edna, Ella
and Agnes. Front:
Susanna and Robert
Cross

My grandfather wrote to my father expressing his desire to relocate to Hearst. Because of the primitive conditions in Hearst at that time, my father tried to dissuade him, pointing out it was not an older man's country. The road, such as

it was, a muddy mess, few houses, no hospital and all the disadvantages he would face. To further implement his argument, he invited him to visit and picked the worst time of the year. I suppose it was the early Spring.

My grandfather must have been a true pioneer as, rather than being deterred, he fell in love with the North and moved forthwith.

He bought some acreage, farmed, then built a larger home in the town. That house is still standing and is across the road from the United Church building. I have been told it is considered a heritage house.



Both Robert and Susannah Reid died in Hearst – in 1938 and 1940 respectively.”

The Reid family moved to Hearst in 1918 and was involved with much of the early history of the town. RC Reid was a member of the first town council in 1922. With ten children in the family, the Reids became connected to many pioneer families in Hearst including the Powell, Woodward, Jones, Sprickerhoff, Hinds, Larstone and Miller families. The photo of the Reid family cousins on the right, circa 1946, shows some of these relationships. Back row: Marjorie Powell, Dixie Shaw, Kay Powell. Middle row: Anita Reid, Glenna Jones, Beverly Sprickerhoff. Front row: Lois and Carol Sprickerhoff.



Ken Sprickerhoff wrote in a family history that RC Reid owned a tugboat, “the Aggie B. Reid” named after his oldest daughter. He carried the mail between Cockburn Island and Thessalon on the mainland by boat, dog team and horses. One day the tug burned and he and son Frank barely escaped in a lifeboat.

The Powell children enjoyed long lives, with Lorne passing away on December 16, 2009 at 91, Kathleen 92, on January 5, 2012, Evelyn, 89 on October 19, 2012 and Marjorie 93, in 2020. The three sisters, Marjorie, Kay and Evelyn are shown below in September 2010. Insert shows Evelyn and Kay circa late 1920s.



Lorne Powell 1915-2006



POWELL, Lorne L. - A resident of Blenheim, passed away at the CKHA, Public General Campus, on Saturday, December 16, 2006. Born in Thessalon, Ontario, 91 years ago son of the late Harry Powell and Agnes Reid. Survived and sadly missed by his loving wife Helen (Cartier), two sons Harry (Jackie) of Waterloo, James of Blenheim, three daughters Arlene Powell of Harwich Township, Patricia Copeland of Oil Springs, Pamela Lucio (Richard) of Chatham, eight grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. Three sisters Kathleen Braun and Evelyn Cartier of London, Marjory Brown of St. Catharines as well as many nieces and nephews also surviving. Lorne was a distinguished veteran of WWII. He owned and operated Powell Lumber Co. in Blenheim for many years and was an active member of the community. He served on the town council as both Councilor and Reeve as well as on the Blenheim Public School Board. He was an active member of Trinity Anglican Church, Blenheim and a member of the Kent Masonic Lodge #274 for over sixty years. Lorne was Past Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star. Friends will be received at the Bowman Funeral Home, 4 Victoria Avenue, Chatham (519-352-2390) for visitation on Tuesday, December 19 from 2-4 and 7-9pm and where funeral service will be conducted on Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at 1:00pm with The Rev. Ed Richmond of London and Fr. Richard Cartier of Windsor officiating. Interment at Evergreen Cemetery, Blenheim. Members of the Masonic Lodge #274 will conduct a Memorial Service at the funeral home, Tuesday at 7:00pm. In Lieu of Flowers memorial donations to the Shriner's Mocha Temple Children's Hospital or to the charity of ones choice would be appreciated. Online condolences may be made at www.bowmanfh.ca

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Kathleen (Powell) Braun 1920-2012



of Sarnia passed away at the Bluewater Health Palliative Medicine Unit on Thursday

January 5, 2012. A kind and caring person who will be remembered for her contagious smile, her love of shopping and her impeccable taste in clothing, Kathleen will be missed greatly by her son Bob, his wife Lisa and their children Sarah and Jason Braun of Bright's Grove. Kathleen was born in Hearst ninety-one years ago to her late parents Agnes and Harry Powell. She is survived by her sisters Evelyn Cartier of London and Marjorie Brown of St. Catharines. She was predeceased by her brother Lorne Powell. In keeping with Kathleen's wishes and good taste, friends are invited to gather at the Blenheim Community Funeral Home on Monday January 16, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. for a time of remembrance and hospitality. At the conclusion of the reception, Kathleen's urn will be taken to Evergreen Cemetery in Blenheim where she will be laid to rest with her mother and father. The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful care afforded to Kathleen by Nurses and staff and would be pleased if friends wishing to remember her with a memorial donation would consider the Bluewater Health Palliative Medicine Unit.

Evelyn Powell Cartier 1923-2012.



Cartier, Mary Evelyn....Peacefully surrounded by her family at the Dearness Home, London on Friday, October 19, 2012. M. Evelyn (Powell) Cartier in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late Alfred "Al" Herman Cartier (1998). Dear mother of Karen Dooner (Terry), Marcia Cartier all of London, Margaret Cartier of Ailsa Craig and John Cartier (Cinzia) pf Port Perry. Loved grandmother of Paul Dooner (Susie Joe), Mark Dooner (Isabelle Debard), Megan Powell (Adam), Tomas and Matthew Cartier and great grandmother of Kelan Powell and Domenique Dooner. Dear sister of Marjorie Brown.

Predeceased by her brother Lorne Powell and sister Kay Braun. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be conducted from St Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church, 489 Pine Tree Drive (at Oban) London, on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 11:00 am with 1 hour prior visitation (10:00-11:00 am) with Reverend Canon Sydney G. Smithson officiating. Inurnment later in Woodland Cemetery, London. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Mission Services of London, 415 Hamilton Road, London, ON, N5Z 1S1 would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to A. Millard George Funeral Home, London 519-433-5184. Online condolences, memories and pictures at www.amgfh.com.



Marjorie Eileen Powell Brown 1927-2020



Twinkle in, twinkle out. Marjorie is now reunited with her husband and dancing partner Jack Brown and her siblings Lorne Powell, Kay Braun and Ev Cartier. We will miss our Mom but we lost her memory by memory over the past seven years. She loved us - Paul and Jill Brown-Auchinachie, Jaquelyn and Dalton Clark, Cathy and Ken Coffin, and Elaine and Rick Jenkins. She adored her grandchildren, Jennifer, Reid, Mitch and Emma, and great-granddaughter Frankie. Marjorie was born in 1927 in Hearst, Ontario. She was six when her

father died and her mother raised her in Blenheim, Ontario. She enjoyed school and always spoke fondly of her final year of high school at Ontario Ladies College. Marjorie graduated from the University of Toronto, School of Social Work in the spring of 1948, and in the fall of that same year she married our father. She was a social worker in Toronto until the birth of her first child. Each of her children contributed to Marjorie's grey hair - she called us little pills because we were tough to take. If you suggested her kids were a challenge, she would lie through her teeth and say it really wasn't that bad. We can only imagine what our accomplished and outgoing mother could have done in addition to raising us if she had not been bound by traditional roles. She encouraged and supported us in all we did whether we were a son or a daughter. She gave us so much and taught us to give back to our community. Marjorie was an active member of Humbervale United Church, Welland Avenue United Church, Silver Spire United Church and United Church Women (UCW). She enjoyed playing tennis at Rosethorn Tennis Club and skiing with family at Valley Schuss. Our parents loved to dance and they had a wonderful circle of dancing friends. Early morning swims at the family cottage on Big Kennisis Lake, lazy afternoons on the dock with a gin and tonic followed by card games at night with the grandchildren - these were the best of times! The Centennial staff at Henley House cared for Marjorie with tenderness, kindness and patience and we are grateful. We cannot thank them enough for the support they gave us as a family. It was a privilege, a joy and a blessing to have Marjorie as our mom. We are close as a family because of her and as a family we will take her home to Toronto and celebrate her life together. "What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." Arrangements have been entrusted to GEORGE DARTE FUNERAL CHAPEL, 585 Carlton St. St. Catharines. In keeping with Marjorie's wishes, cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Alzheimer Society or your local Association for Community Living. Online Guest-Book at www.georgedartefuneralhome.com.

Pictures on right of Lorne and Kay Powell
in Hearst, early 1920s



Many people contributed to this story of the Powell family. Elaine Jenkins contacted me to buy copies of Claytons Kids for her mother and aunts and she put me in touch with Kay Powell Braun who provided many stories and pictures. She also connected me with Arlene Powell who also provided stories, pictures and her father's journal. Through an exchange of emails, I discovered that I had met Harry's grand-daughter, Karen Dooner years ago in Ottawa without knowing her connection to Hearst. Several Hearst historians also contributed, Alan Jansson with his Hearst Photos albums, Laurent Vaillancourt at the Hearst Eco-Museum, Pierrette Côté McDonald, whose family lived in the Powell/Post Office house, Doug Rosevear, Rose Bourgeault, Agathe Camiré, Diane Fortier Wilson and Sandy Bies, editor extraordinaire.

Other resources were Clayton's Kids, Pioneer Families of Hearst Public School, The National Archives, Find a Grave, Dr. Albert Kinsey photos, Dr. Bill Arkinstall sketch of Hearst in 1931, Anita Reid photos, Carole Sprickerhoff genealogy.

Author's notes.

1. As a good will ambassador for Hearst my motto was "The World is not Small, Hearst is Big." For example, when my son was playing minor hockey in Nepean/Ottawa in the mid-1980s, one of his team mates was Paul Dooner. Paul's Great-Grandfather was Harry Powell.

2. While this story focused on the Powell family, Pierrette Côté McDonald provided an interesting update to the first Powell house.

" I am not related to the Postmaster Côté. I belong to the Armand and Lucille Côté family. We moved to Hearst in 1963 as our father became the principal of the Hearst High School. Yes, we lived in the Powell House, that we called the Lecours House, since it was owned by Arthur Lecours. We moved in after the terrible fire of the Chalykoff Building in 1967.

At the time the Hearst lumber office was in the front of the building. We had the apartment that was the remainder of the ground floor, the upstairs and the basement. Suzanne Baron Joanis set up her first hair salon in the former office area.

*My mother, Lucille Côté, lived there until 1985 when the building was demolished and is now used for parking. My husband Chuck and our son Corey took out the hardwood floor board by board the week before it was torn down and installed it in our home on **Powell Place**. We also have an antique light fixture that was in the entrance foyer The Powell House lives on."*

3. A large sign outside the town hall in Hearst lists all the Mayors of the town over the years. Harry Powell was number 4.

