

Emilie Gariepy Fellers (1855-1934)

Emilie Gariepy, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Gariepy and Judith Cardinal, was born on August 31, 1855 in St. François Xavier. She died on December 30, 1934 in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Emilie married Adolphe Fellers, the son of Henri Fellers and Marie Catherine Dufly in 1870.¹ He was born on November 9, 1837 in Paris, Seine, France. He died on June 21, 1917 at Dupuyer, Montana.

Jean-Baptiste Gariepy was at St. François Xavier until father's death, in 1856, after this he became a noted buffalo hunter in Canada, which occupation he followed until 1868, when he came to Montana and located at Fort Benton, which he made headquarters for buffalo hunting until 1882, when the American bison practically ceased to exist and his occupation was gone. But he was equal to the emergency and in that same year secured a ranch on the upper Teton River, eighteen miles from Choteau, Teton County, and for twelve years engaged in stockraising. This property he sold in 1896, and from that time he has resided with his son, Eli, who has a fine ranch on Cut Bank River, and with his daughter. Emily, the wife of Adolphus Fellers, living near Dupuyer, Teton County. Mr. Garepee, although advanced in years, is still healthy and active, and has a number of plans mapped out for hunting and trapping in the mountains. He has seven children ; Mrs, Emily Fellers; Magdaline, now of North Dakota; Johnnie, at St. Peter's mission; Charles, living on the Teton River; Mary, married and residing in Canada; Eli, owner of the ranch on the Cut Bank River, and Josephine, wife of Gabriel Selwood (Salois), now living on the Upper Dupuyer River. (From *Progressive Men of Montana* p. 1557-1558)

Adolph Fellers and sons were in town yesterday with 49 wolf hides all small but one, which they had dug out of dens in the last two weeks. Eighteen young wolves were taken from one den and one on the way to town five coyotes were taken out and killed. (transcribed from the *Montanian*, 1896: 5-6.)

Mrs. Emily Fellers, Former Resident, Dies in Canada, 1935, Dawson Creek, BC

A copy of the *Peace River Block News*, published at Dawson Creek, BC, Canada, given to us by Mr. Burbank of Choteau, tells of the death on December 30th of Mrs.Emily Fellers of near there, and gives an interesting account of her life. Mrs. Fellers was well and favorably known by older residents of Choteau and Teton County, as she and her husband, Adolphus Fellers, operated a horse and cattle ranch near here for many years, their brand being the ``Flying U``.

Excerpts from the Dawson Creek paper's account of her death are as follows:

“The death of Mrs. Emily Fellers occurred very suddenly at her home near Arras on

¹ Alternately: She married Adolphus Fellers Abt. 1870, son of Frank Fellers and Rosette Henry was born (Source: (1) Gail Morin, *Métis Families* (2001) CD-Rom, Vol. 5 Pg 130 (Ancestors of James D. Campbell, by Nora Gebhart, Suzi and James D. Campbell), (2) www.ancestry.com, Tracy Veen <veenent@hotmail.com>.).

Friday, December 30, 1934. It is believed that the end came as a result of heart failure, as she was cheerfully working about the house at the time and suddenly dropped to the floor. She was 83 years of age. The funeral service, which was conducted by Father Martin, was held from the Catholic Church, Dawson Creek, at 11:00 am on Tuesday, January 3rd. Burial took place in the Dawson Creek cemetery.”

“Mrs. Fellers was the mother of eleven children, ten of whom are living. Six sons, Louis, Frank, Adolph, Albert, Julius B. and Van, reside in the Peace River Block, and the district in which they live is called Feller’s Heights, after the family name. Daughters living are Mrs. Carson, Loughheed, Alberta; Mrs. Killaly, Pigeon Lake, Alberta; Mrs. Salois, Dupuyer, Montana; and Mrs. Truchot of Idaho.”

“There are also 85 grandchildren, 59 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren now living.”

“Born at St. Boniface, Manitoba, on August 30, 1851 [sic], before Confederation, Mrs. Fellers met her husband, Adolphus Fellers of New York, in Montana. Adolphus had sailed round the Horn and took part in the California gold rush of 1865. He and his wife subsequently operated a cattle and horse ranch at Choteau, Montana.”

“When her husband died in 1918, Mrs. Fellers, with three of her sons, Julius B., Louis and Van, came back to Canada. “I felt that I must come back to my own country,” she said. They traveled in a caravan with four teams, and brought their possessions and livestock, lock, stock and barrel, to the Peace River Block in BC. It took them twenty-eight days to cover eighty miles. They had eight in the party all-told, twenty-seven horses and four heads of cattle. They trekked via Howe’s Crossing on the Athabasca River to the Lesser Slave, using the old Klondike Trail for part of their trip. They had to cut and lay corduroy roads, struggle with windfalls and muskeg-some days they did not make more than three miles, despite arduous labor.”

“They had ten horses harnessed to the wagon and ten days out their grub failed, when they were forty-five miles from a store. They had scanty supplies of milk from the cows in their herd, they caught fish and picked blueberries, and so got by till supplies could be brought in. They wintered in Alberta and came the next spring to the Peace River Block in BC.”

“The father of Mrs. Fellers, John Baptiste Guardipee, was in the service of the Hudson’s Bay Co. Mrs. Fellers went to the United States with relatives, travelling in company with Sioux Indians via Missouri and Yellowstone in 1868 to Fort Benton, Montana. At that time, prior to the Riel Rebellion, Red River Carts were the common vehicles for travel all over the United States.”

Mrs. Emily Fellers would be Franklin Joseph Fellers’ grandmother. Franklin was born in 1899, his mother died when he was three months old. His grandmother adopted him (Grandma Gray); they reside by the Ear Mountain Ranger Station. Franklin worked on the ranch and for the Forest Service. In 1923 he married Minnie

Bruno and they had ten children, six children now living; June Lensing of Choteau; Marian Eggerling, Idaho; Charley Fellers, Choteau, Tommy Fellers, Choteau; Joanna Smith, Nebraska and Ronald Fellers of Hamilton. They have 13 grandchildren.

Lure of the South Peace; 1919 and into the 1920s, Fellers Heights, British Columbia, Canada, pg 293-296; submitted by Aurthur Fife to Ancertry.com on 14 Feb 2012 as a PDF document and transcribe by Mary McKague on 3 Apr 2011.

Fellers Heights, 1919

The Story of the Fellers

Adolphus Fellers left the Alsace-Lorraine district in France as a young man to travel to the United States. Eventually, he settled near Chateau (sic), Montana. There he married Emily Guardipes (sic) and raised 11 children: Louis, Franklin, Louise, Rosie, Adolphur Jr., Mary, Albert, Julian, Hattie, Van and Laura.

They remained at Chateau until 1905 when the family moved by horse and covered wagon to the Alliance, Alberta, area in order to obtain land. Around 1913, most of the family returned to Montana, where Adolphus died of the flu in 1917.

In 1919, Louis, Van, and Julian and his family left Montana to trek to northeastern British Colombia to homestead, where a quarter section of land could be had for \$5. Ten acres cleared and broke secured the title.

They took their widowed mother with them. Julian wrote Albert and convinced him that it was, indeed, "God's country" and to bring the rest of the brothers up. Frank, Adolphus Jr., Albert and families sold everything in Montana and left for Canada in 1923 in two covered wagons per family.

When the families reached the Canadian border at Coutts, Alberta, they were forced to stop their journey north for ten days while their livestock were put in quarantine. The first year they made it as far as High River, Alberta. Albert and his family moved back to Pincher Creek, Alberta, for the winter. In July, they were on the road again-between obstacles on the trail and not being able to travel on Sundays in Alberta, they finally reached Falun, Alberta, in the fall of 1924, where Frank and Dolph had settled on C.P.R. land. They wintered there together, and in the spring of 1925, they decided to move to Pigeon Lake.

Albert and Dolph were married to sisters, Ivy and Nora Armstrong. The Armstrong's had left Battle Bend area and moved to Pigion Lake, so Ivy and Nora were again to see their parents and brothers and sisters. The children went to Bonnie Glen School and their post office was Mulhurst, Alberta.

In the spring of 1926, the three families moved again. They travelled north on the "Edson Trail" towards Slave Lake. They arrived in McLennan, Alberta, in the fall of 1926, and stayed there through the winter.

In the spring they crossed the Peace River at Peace River town. In July of 1927, they reached Arras, B.C., where they were met by their mother and three brothers. They wintered at Arras and worked by driving cattle to the end of the railroad at Hythe, Alberta, where the livestock was shipped east to market.

During their stay at Arras, Albert and his two eldest sons travelled 15 miles to their homestead at what was to be called Fellers Heights. They built a log cabin and homestead at what was to be called Fellers Heights. They built a log cabin and cleared land. In March of 1928, the Albert Fellers family moved to their new home. Clearing land was done by hand, using axes and grub-hoes. Horses were used to pull stumps and the breaking plow.

During the summer of 1929, a school was built. It was a one-room log building and the desks at first were long benches and tables. The first-year teacher was Dennis Clarke and there were 19 students, 17 Fellers and two Haneys. The school was named Spring Hill School and still stands today. The school was cleaned at nights by the older girls of the families.

In 1920, Julian and Ada Fellers opened a post office. The government named the settlement and post office Fellers Heights. Julian and Ada also operated a small store out of their home, and boarded the teachers. Fellers Heights then consisted of the homesteads of several families, a post office, store and school. It is located approximately 25 miles southwest of Dawson Creek and many descendants of these early settlers are still on the original homesteads.

By the time Albert and Ivy's youngest children were starting school, their oldest ones were getting married and having families of their own. Albert and Ivy had four sons serve overseas in the Second World War: Alvin, Dave, Ralph and Don. Ralph was killed in France, in 1944, on his 23rd birthday.

In August of 1953, Albert died of a heart attack and Ivy moved to Dawson Creek to live with her son, Dave. She took care of Dave's family and wife, Betty, who had polio. After Betty died, Ivy lived with her youngest daughter, Norma, from 1955 to 1957 in Dawson Creek, then moved back to the homeplace at Fellers Heights with Norma and Steve Landiak, who still live on the original homestead.

In the summer of 1972, Ivy moved to Clayhurst, B.C., to live with her oldest daughter, Marion, and husband Howard Joy. The Joys sold their farm in August of 1978 and they all moved to Dawson Creek, where they purchased a home. Albert and Ivy's 12 children and families are mostly in the Dawson Creek area. She is still very active and spends most of her time making quilts. In the winter of 1979, she learned to crochet. She is very healthy and has enjoyed her life. Ivy was born in Oil Springs, Ontario, February 9th, 1894, to David Armstrong and Alice Hunter. On her 87th birthday in 1981, Ivy Fellers' family consisted of 12 children, 50 grandchildren, 89 great grandchildren, and 11 great-great grandchildren.

Of Ivy's brothers and sisters, both brothers are deceased, four sisters have passed on. Her three remaining sister, Rena Churchwell, Jessie Vitle and Rudy Finke, live in the district. Six original Fellers brothers have all passed away.

The abridged story is for Ivy Fellers, who is a great pioneer woman and has lived to see her fifth generation of descendants born, and keeps track of them all. She has endured all of life's hardships and still has a warm welcome for anyone she meets.

We are all proud of her.

Children of Alolphus Fellers and Emily Guardipee (Their six sons all settled in the Arras-Fellers Heights area).

- Louis - married Lizzie (last name unknown), who died young and childless. Louis did not remarry.
- Franklin - married Ella Gray, and had three children: Franklin, Mabel and Stella. When Ella passed away, Frank remarried to Isobel Sinclair. They had three children also, George, Lillian (Kercher) and Victoria (McNabb).
- Louise - married Louis Truchot.
- Rosie - 1959, married Jack Killaly, and had 11 children: Roy, Percy, John, Louise, Marie, Ruby, Steve, George, Helen, Charlotte and Irene.
- Adolphus Jr. -married Nora Armstrong, and had 15 children: Julian, Allen, Jessie, Alice (Fullerton), Merle, Ruth, (McKibbon-Tenborg), Ray, Roy, Emily, Elsie (McLarty-Patterson), Lucy (Bedell), Laura (Houle), Jean and Lila.
- Mary - married John Salois.
- Albert - January 19th, 1884 to July 6th, 1953. Married Ivy Armstrong, June 26th, 1912, and had 14 children: Marion (Nicholson-Joy), Alvin, David, Hazel (Bassett), Dorothy (Bassett), Ralph, Don, George, Ruby, Frank, Virginia (Moe), Marjorie (Bedell), Geraldine (Hawryluk), and Norma (Landiak).
- Julian - Known as J.B., April 24, 1888 to June 23rd, 1976. Married Ada Embody in December, 1915, and had seven children: Julian (Nibs), Emily (Semple), Van (Bud), Harold, Herbert, Hattie (Cooke), and Bruce.
- Hattie-1925, married Reinhart Klinger, and had three children: Roy, Helen and Emil.
- Van - did not marry.
- Laura - 1893 - 1968. Married Jim Carson, and had ten children: William, Dora, Cora, Merle, Sam, Arnold, Evelyn, Martha, Clarence and Robert.



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