

Arthur Joseph Tourond was born on September 8, 1883 in Batoche, Saskatchewan. His parents were Elzéar (Escard) Tourond and Ernestine Breland. His grand parents were Joseph and Josephte (Paul) Tourond from St François Xavier, Manitoba and later from Fish Creek, Saskatchewan. He was baptized by Reverend Father C. Moulin o.m.i. on September 9, 1883 at St Antoine de Padoue Church in Batoche.

During the Métis Uprising in 1885, when Daddy was nearly 2 years old, the family fled from the battle and Louis Riel helped to carry my father to a safer place. He attended the School Number 1 in Batoche with Father Moulin as teacher.

He enlisted in the Canadian Forces at Edmonton, Alberta on July 3, 1916. His regimental number was 1021144. He was a private in the 233rd Battalion of the Canadian Forces. He arrived in England aboard the SS Canada on March 15, 1917. In April 1917, he was transferred to Whitley. On April 3, 1918, he arrived in France and saw action with the 22nd Battalion. He was wounded in the leg in the field on August 27, 1918 and was sent to a hospital in Boulogne, France. When the war ended he went into Germany to help “mop up” and was discharged from the Canadian Forces on May 23, 1919 because of the demobilization of the forces. When he left the Canadian Forces he was 35 years of age. His total military service was two years and ten months.

He suffered considerable hearing loss from the war but he did not talk about his war experiences a lot. My mother used to say he preferred to forget about the war. My father had one sister named as his next of kin in the military records. Her name was Josephine Tourond who later married and became Mrs. Alcide LEspérance living in Starbuck, Manitoba. His military records quote him as being a farmer and a gas engineer. He was single however he had lived with Régina Lefort before the war and had three children by her.

After the war, he must have come back to Batoche because there he met my mother, Annie Ainslie Hood Haggie from Britain. Mother was working for Gus and Clémence Campbell in Batoche and it was at their farm that my parents met. They were married in the United Church in Rosthern, Saskatchewan on October 21, 1929 and went to live on their homestead property, which was a quarter section soldier’s grant NW Quarter Section 1 Township 52, Range 18 West of the 2nd Meridian. Interestingly enough, the Certificate of Entry for Soldier Grant had a clause stating “This entry conveys no right to salt, coal, petroleum, natural gas, gold, silver, copper, iron or other minerals within or under the land covered by such entry or any exclusive or other property or interest in, or any exclusive right or privilege with respect to any lake, river, spring, stream or other body of water within or bordering or passing through the land covered by this entry. Section 37, Soldier Settlement Land Regulations, 1918.”

My parents cleared that quarter section “inch by inch” according to my mother. In winter, my father would go to the bush to the lumber camp to make some “grub money”. Then he would go back to farming his land. They built and lived in three log homes. My mother used to say “Be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home!” She would finish by saying “That was the good life!”

I was born and brought up on that farm and well remember my father playing his fiddle and talking politics with friends and neighbours. He died in the Holy Family Hospital on February 8, 1948 and was buried in the Veterans' Cemetery in Prince Albert.