

# Proud Roots



*'Venerable' ... aged, ancient, erudite, esteemed, old, patriarchal, and respected; any one of these words certainly describes the Reid family. The Cliff's farm is one of the oldest active Hereford herds in existence in Canada having registered its first purebred Hereford in 1894, when D.H. Reid registered the cow Daisy 750. She was born April 4, 1894; sired by King John 462 (who was bred by James Ewens of Alsfeldt, Ontario) and out of Rosette 9th (bred by F.W. Stone of Guelph, Ontario). In or around 1904, T.H and J.H. Reid moved west to Moosomin, Saskatchewan, bringing cattle from the home herd and several from the W.H. Hunter herd in Ontario.*

*Now in its fifth generation comprised of Kyle, Kurtis and Kaitlyn Reid, who are still ably assisted by Grandpa Grant, their parents David and Kathy; the love of Herefords continues and possibly glows stronger than ever ... certainly in Kurtis' mind! So, this is his story...*

"The Reids are a family that has always been surrounded with the influence of agriculture. Since our family first set foot in Canada with the New World's promise of opportunity in their sight and a dream in their hearts, they have managed to survive through the good times and the bad. There has been seven generations of Reids who have called this great country home and hopefully, many more in the future. Being a Reid just doesn't mean coming from a line of farmers, honest hard working people and Hereford cattle breeders; it also means you are a proud Canadian.

The Reid family journey to Canada started nearly 200 years ago, in Normandy County, England. Thomas Reid met a young lass from southern Scotland named Agnes Black. Agnes's father was actually a heralded piper and was ordered by the queen to play for her at every ceremony she held or attended. It was not long until they were happily married. While life in England was good, the population was on the rise, land was scarce and there just wasn't enough room for a new couple who dreamed of raising a family and having a promising future. When the call for settlers came from Canada and the West, the Reids answered. The promise of a better life and a strong future attracted the couple's attention.

Thomas and Agnes Reid immigrated to Holstein, Ontario. They bought a small farm, some cattle and started a new life of promise. Immigration to Canada meant a new start. Thomas had dreams like any other young married man, and a dream that came true was having a family with his wife Agnes. Thomas and Agnes were blessed with a family of six. They had four sons; William, John, Thomas Jr., David and two daughters; Elizabeth and Janet.

In 1883, William headed for the wide open prairies of the west, hoping to make his own mark and settled in the Moosomin area. He brought with him his purebred Hereford cattle which were the first of the breed in western Canada, his two hands and a team of horses. The next brother to move out west was John, and along with his wife Sarah, settled five miles south of William's farm. John later became heavily involved in the community being appointed an organizer of the Woodlands School and then elected the first chair in 1891.



During William and John's early years in Saskatchewan, news from Ontario came telling them that their father (Thomas Sr.) was thrown from a horse and passed away shortly after. Thomas Sr. was buried in an unmarked grave that has not yet been located. Once the estate and family issues were taken care of, David took over the farm in Ontario and Thomas Henry Reid Jr. packed his belongings and bound for the west, following his older brothers. Thomas settled six miles south of Moosomin, Saskatchewan, and to this day we still refer to that as the homestead.

The Reid boys took full advantage of their new opportunities in the west. They quickly cleared land for fields that held promise of bumper wheat crops year after year. The work was not easy, and although they had more land than they would have had in Ontario, only two or three fields were originally cleared on the homestead at Moosomin. This was because clearing a field took a great deal of time. It is hard to say how long it took, but my grandfather estimates (while helping clear some fields with hired help from local boys), around three months. Then after clearing the field it took two days of hard work to pre work the field for seeding, and after that, the seeding itself took three days. I'm sure everyone realizes that tractors were not around in the early 1890's, all the field work was done with a team of horses, a plow, a shovel, your hands and your feet. It is truly remarkable to think of the work that my ancestors put into the land and only expected the land to treat them the same.

After a summer of heat and dry conditions that brought prayers for rain, it was time to harvest. This was always a big deal and to this day when we help with harvest at our friend's farm in Macrorie, Saskatchewan; it is still a time of hectic happenings. In the early days of the Reid homestead at Moosomin, it would take three days to harvest the front field, 105 acres, and four to five for the two back fields which were around 190 acres. My grandfather told me a story of how John had trouble during one of his first years of selling wheat. He had been taking it to the local grain elevator, but Moosomin was offering a much higher premium, so he decided in his fourth year of selling grain to take it to Moosomin. The elevator agents in Moosomin would not pay the hauling cost as it was too far, thus forcing John to pay for it himself. At that time there were no railroads around the Moosomin area and as a result, all grain was hauled in carts by a team of four to six horses. It cost my great-great uncle 40 cents on top of the regular hauling charge to have his grain hauled to Moosomin. The next year, John went back to his original country elevator. Farmers back then had to do everything they could to get the best prices for their cereal crops, and it turned out that John did make some extra money. However as there were no grain augers, all the grain was shoveled by hand and the physical labor turned out to be too high a price.

Thomas married my great grandmother Margaret Grant in 1893. From what my grandfather told me, Margaret was a worthy match for Thomas as she met his stubborn farming roots with a look of her own that usually ended up going in her favor.

After getting the farm started and having a solid base for their future, my great grandfather Thomas John Carlyle Reid was born in 1902. He was always known as Carlyle, and to my great-great grandmother's relief, a beautiful girl named Leonne was born in 1904. Life's rhythm returned after the children were born and farming took the forefront for Thomas, while Margaret took care of the children, fed the hogs and chickens, gathered the eggs and ran a very organized household.

In those days the Hereford female cattle were primarily crossed with Shorthorn bulls brought back from Ontario. Shorthorns were popular in Eastern Canada at the time and the trend spread across the West as families settled the wild prairies. However, at the Reid farm only about half the cattle were crossbred and the other half were kept purebred.

Carlyle and Leonne attended school in the Cloverdale District, riding to and from school on horseback every day. There were no real fence lines in those days; they could cut straight across country for the 10 or so mile trip. Carlyle took over the farming operation in 1924 while he was courting a lovely young woman by the name of Florence Katherine Zimmerman, a student at the teachers college in Moosomin, whom he took as his bride in 1925.

When John announced that he and his wife Sarah would be dispersing their cattle and moving to British Columbia, it came as a surprise. They had no children and wished to live the rest of their lives in a more relaxed atmosphere. John held a major cattle auction sale; dispersing his purebred herd of Herefords which he had built over 30 years. Carlyle attended the sale as he wished to continue his father's herd of purebred cattle and cease to cross breed to Shorthorn. John approached Carlyle before the sale and asked him which of the females was his favorite ... after walking through the cattle and evaluating them, Carlyle pointed to a specific female who John walked up to and pulled out his knife, cut her neck tie and said that she now belonged to him. Since there were no fences, the cow was able to roam free and during the sale wandered off into the bush. After the sale Carlyle tried to locate her for days but never could, two years later a group of wild mustangs were spotted in the valley with a purebred Hereford cow tagging along behind. There was no mistake that this was the cow that John had given Carlyle. It turns out that she followed the mustangs (because cattle don't paw snow like a horse) and survived in the winter by following the horses and eating in the areas that they had cleared of snow.

Now that Carlyle and Florence had their farm going productively, Thomas decided to retire and built a house in town. In 1921 the red brick house was finished and still stands today, across from the Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

On January 5, 1927, Carlyle and Florence were blessed with their first child (my grandfather) Grant Carlyle Reid. Then on April 29, 1929 my great Aunt Leonne was born. The Reid family kept going strong even as the "dirty thirties" hit.

Cattle prices plummeted, the grain market virtually died and times seemed to just get harder and harder every day. The Reid family did not suffer my grandfather tells me. "There was always food on the table and work to be done, which is what helped us get through." My grandfather remembers that a strict law helped the family stay ahead, namely, the Pure Bred Cattle Act. This act stated that all bulls used as breeders were to be purebred only and if a crossbred bull was used the vet would be sent to the farm to castrate the bull.

Carlyle felt the effects of the stock market crash heavily; he had just completed the main barn in 1929 that would house the cattle during calving, store hay and straw and the minimal equipment that he owned. During the previous eight years Carlyle had saved enough grain to pay for the barn all at once (thinking that it would be a good idea to hold the grain and sell it the following spring), as prices usually went up around that time of year. Three months before he had planned to sell ... the market crashed. My grandfather remembers his father telling him, "If I would have sold that grain then, we would be in the black today." In the end it took 20 years to pay for the barn; Carlyle was not one to hang his head and kept on until 1940 when it was fully paid off.

During the thirties the land was so dry and the crops were so poor, farmers were unable to pay money for a bull. My great grandfather went back to the barter system when selling a bull. Grandpa remembers when men would come to look at a bull and tell his father that they didn't have enough money to pay. Carlyle would tell them to go back to their farms, pick out their two best steers, bring them back and they could take a bull home. But when people from the north came to buy a bull a different agreement was reached. The north was not hit as hard by the drought as central and southern Saskatchewan, so the deal Carlyle made with them was that, if they brought a full truckload of wheat they could take home their pick of the bull pen. My grandfather told me that, "The barter system was all they had. It was barter, deal and trade or you wouldn't survive."

Some money was also made by pedaling meat and shipping steers, but shipping was tricky as there was a chance that you would not see any money and sometimes you would even have to pay the difference from your own pocket. Carlyle was a firm believer in culling the weak end of the herd; my grandfather remembers a few times when a bill instead of a cheque would come in the mail, after an old cow was shipped.

My grandfather has many stories about the dirty thirties; with money scarce and the crops thin, the butcher was a necessity to survival. He was hired by the local beef ring and would travel to farms in the area every day of the week. He would butcher an animal in the afternoon and early the next morning he would cut it and place the fresh meat into bags supplied by each family. This was the family's meat for the week and portions were dependant on the size of each family. Grandfather stopped right then to tell me this story. He pointed at me and said, "You know, there was no market where we could buy canned goods. We had to do that all ourselves. We would buy peaches, then peel and can them."

Our farm lies along the Pipestone Valley and now, next to the Moosomin Lake shore. The lake was man made when the Moosomin Dam was built in 1955; they sold the land across the valley before the project was finished. The valley held an abundance of wild saskatoon berries, raspberries, cranberries and within the garden, rhubarb, peas and carrots were picked. Picking berries was a day long exercise and like everything else back then, physically demanding. Once the picking, washing and peeling was complete all the vegetables and fruit was put in separate jars and placed in the boiler with rubber rings. Then came the job everyone hated ... filling and keeping the stove full of wood. They had to keep the fire going until the water came to a boil, and then had to keep it going in order to cook, preserve and disinfect the food. Finally the hot cans were pulled out, the seal pushed into the lid and then tightened as tight as it could get.

This would last the family for the year, until the next picking and canning season came. When that happened it was my grandfather's job to go into the cellar, check for mice and alert my great grandmother that it was safe to come down (she was terrified of mice). They then would check the remaining cans. If any had gone bad due to a broken seal or bad contents it would be opened and poured into the pigs slop because waste back then was not an option. Everything had a use and if it didn't it wasn't worth having. After checking all the remaining cans, the empties would be brought upstairs and the process started over again.



*Three generations of Reids.  
L to R: Kurtis, David and Grant*





Carlyle passed away in 1967 and was followed shortly by his wife Florence. My grandfather Grant stayed on the farm and married my grandmother Phyllis Kilpatrick in 1949. He was heavily involved with the Hereford cattle business; one of the founding members and long time secretary of the Eastern Saskatchewan Mainline Show and Sale, as well as founding director and president of the Moosomin Hereford Show and Sale. A major honor was bestowed to Grant and Phyllis in 1980... they were awarded with the Family Heritage Award for being the third generation on the family farm.

My grandfather and grandmother had 5 children; four girls, Margaret (Margo), Carol, Barbara and Cheryl and a son (my father) David Grant Reid. In 1967, they dismantled the old house (which was built in 1905) and moved a new house onto the foundation. All five children received their schooling in Moosomin, graduated high school and moved onto successful careers.

As Grant's children grew older they participated more and more in everyday farm life. There is a gap of about 13 years between my oldest aunt (Margo) and my father (David). Keeping with tradition all the kids were introduced to cattle showing through 4H. Grant led the 4H club for about 12 years and remembers when David was in grade 1 (in his first year of 4H) that the Reid family had 12 calves at the 4H achievement day show. My Grandfather started something inside the 4H club that had never been done before, a Pee Wee class. This was done because he wanted to increase the club numbers and give every kid the opportunity to show. He remembers seeing these little ones trying to drag a stubborn calf around the ring, and he tells me, "I am not kidding; those little buggers were stubborn ... so stubborn that they would lie down on the poor kids. So when they did that I would get over there quickly, roll the calf over and put its feet under it. The calf didn't even know it had lain down. Someone in the crowd said, 'that doesn't look like the first time he has done that', and then my grandmother said, 'and I bet you it won't be the last time either.'"

In 1977 my grandmother took over the local grocery store in a venture of her own. She purchased the local Solo store and changed it to Reid's Lucky Dollar Food Store. My father remembers working in the store at times and how it was Phyllis' project, separate from the farm. When Phyllis passed away in 1985, the store was sold but to this day it is called the Lucky Dollar. Grandpa and Grandma moved into the red brick house on Main Street in 1982; he down sized the herd in 1989 and went into semi retirement enjoying evening card games at the hall.

My father married Kathy Predinchuck in 1984. Coincidentally, she was born a day after my father and in the room next to the one my dad was born in. She grew up in Moosomin and went to school with my father. My father became a bank manager at RBC in Southey at the time I was born. We lived in numerous towns across Saskatchewan following his work as he rose up the corporate ladder and as farming had become too strenuous for my grandfather; we did not sell out, but put our cattle on shares with a friend in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. We still have cattle there and every fall we always seem to have a few decent calves to take out on the show road.

My grandfather, Grant Reid, was awarded the 100 year breeder's pin in 1989 by the Canadian Hereford Association. A huge barn dance and celebration to commemorate this honor was held, as we are only one of a handful of Hereford breeders who have been recognized with this award of achievement.

The Reids originally started raising horned Hereford cattle. For those who are unfamiliar with the cattle industry and the Hereford breed there are two separate genes, horned and polled. Back in the days of my great grandfathers the polled gene was considered a mutant and only very, very few breeders raised and bought them, everything else had to be horned. But as the polled gene was bred up they started to become more and more favorable. They were easier doing (took less maintenance), heavier muscled and overall more attractive to look at, so in the 1950's my grandpa Reid and great grandpa Reid changed to polled cattle. That same year they purchased a quarter of pasture land that enabled them to expand their operations.

Our family only held one production sales (in 1954) in which the cattle were all our own. This was an exciting day; my grandfather remembers painting the barn the year before, hauling old equipment out of the bush and to the trash, cutting the grass where he had never bothered to before and worrying what the outcome would be. The outcome in the end was excellent. The cattle sold well, but Grandpa Grant decided not to continue the sale as he had the Mainline, Moosomin and private treaty sales, and for him that was enough.

In 1959 the Reids exported a bull to England, this had not been done very often as Herefords originated in Herefordshire England and most of the importing was done from there, so it was a great satisfaction to know that we could send our animals back to their place of origin. In the 1970's we entertained international guests from



*Phyllis and Grant*



*Grant being awarded the  
100 year breeder's pin*

across the globe that were looking to purchase females in Canada, we exported heifers to Japan, Russia, Spain, and Czechoslovakia.

In 1975 Grant toured the USA looking at cattle and visiting different farms and decided to purchase a group of females in Missouri. These females became a great addition to our herd and can still be found in our cattle's extended pedigrees.



Showing and selling cattle in the Reid family was a key factor in income and the bonds of friendship. My grandfather Grant took cattle to Brandon, the local Moosomin Fair and to the Regina Bull Sale. The first cattle ever shown by a Reid, at Agribition, was in 1972, my grandpa Grant took four heifers and after that continued to exhibit animals at Agribition for 20 years. Our family has always done well at Agribition standing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and virtually every where else in class. We have had Jr. Division Champions and Sr. Division Champions ... but the overall Grand Champion banner has eluded us thus far. It is now my dream to win one of those banners for the family.

My grandfather took it upon himself to get all of his children involved in showing cattle by leading the 4H club and taking them to as many shows as he could. My father David was one of the first members of the Canadian Junior Hereford Association and attended its first National Junior Show, Bonanza, held in Red Deer, Alberta, in 1980. In 1998, my father kept the cattle showing tradition of our family going when he introduced Kyle and me to the show ring. We attended the local fair circuit and being only a 15 minute drive from the Manitoba border we did what is called the Milk Run, which are local Manitoba fairs. I did not know it then, but because of that first year of showing the country seed was planted in my soul. I have a passion for showing and marketing my cattle across Canada and anywhere else that I travel. We continue to show cattle at Agribition and with great success; having had three class winners in three years (one female being a two time class winner).

In August of 1998 my brother and I experienced our first CJHA Bonanza in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. At Bonanza, parent involvement is against the rules because the show is meant to have junior members learn the ropes by doing it themselves. Since we had never been to a major show, a senior member named Chad Wilson taught us the ropes.

My brother Kyle has chosen a different career path and my sister Kaitlyn has joined me in showing. We are members of the local 4H club, active members of both the Canadian Junior Hereford Association, of which Kaitlyn holds the position of National Council President this year and the Canadian Charolais Youth Association. Since 1998 I have only missed two Bonanzas. I have traveled to Denmark and from British Columbia to Nova Scotia showing cattle and held the position of CJHA National Council President in 2006. This was such a huge honor for me as I hold the Junior Association and Hereford breed dear to my heart."



*David and Kathy take great pride in their children... encouraging them to always to do their best. Their theory in raising them, was, "Busy kids stay out of trouble" and so the kids' passion for Herefords has made the hours of time, dedication and travelling more than worth it. But not only do the kids have a passion for the livestock world and Herefords, so does their father David. When not involved with his "day job" (he is in his 29th year with the Royal Bank of Canada), David has spent and does countless hours in promoting the Hereford breed. He has been an enthusiastic adult adviser with the CJHA since 2003 and leads the committee for Bonanza "Bridging Friendships" 2011. When not working in that division of Herefords, he is currently chair of the Red Coat Classic*



and has been on the SHA board since 2006. David is also on the T Bar C Invitational Golf Tournament committee for which he has spent many hours, once again, giving of his time to youth in the livestock industry. Kathy may appear to be the silent one in the Reid family, but many of us know that this is not so ... being an elementary school music teacher her guidance and leadership skills have just been "built into the Reid kids." She is someone who is always "there," supporting youth in whatever they choose to do.

Kyle has his Bachelor of Commerce degree and is a Golf enthusiast, he and his wife Sarah were married in 2009. Kaitlyn is in her first year of university taking her Bachelor of Science/Public Health Science degree in Lethbridge, Alberta. Since becoming involved in the cattle industry, Kurtis has won countless awards such as Grand Aggregate (high proficiency) three times at Bonanza and two times at CCYA, many open grooming and showmanship competitions at different shows and a few open show, class winners. One of his favorite achievements was winning the Supreme Bred and Owned animal at Bonanza 2005 in Lindsay, Ontario. Kurtis says "My life has altered as well because of another section that seems to come naturally to me, cattle and livestock judging.

I have competed in the United States and have won many prizes and top placing at competitions in Canada." Kurtis received a scholarship to attend Nebraska College of Technological Agriculture in 2007 and then continued on with his education in Casper, Wyoming, where he received his Agricultural Diploma. Kurtis now attends West Texas A&M and is a member of their judging team; he will graduate with a Bachelor of Science Ruminant Nutritionalist degree in the spring of 2011.

Kurtis's family history has and always will be important to him. His dream: "To own his own farm, and start a life of his own involved with the livestock industry"... the future holds many possibilities and only time will tell!"



# Proud Roots

