

Grandma Hoskin

Marjorie May Young, or when she lived in Pinedale, Marjorie Hoskin. She was better known as Grandma Hoskin to all the younger people and most of the adults in the area. Grandma Hoskin was born on the 23rd of November, 1900 on a farm outside of Uxbridge to parents James Arthur and Eliza Jane Eva Young nee Thompson. She had a sister, Leata and a brother Lloyd born before her. Unfortunately, her father died the following July when she was only a few months old.

Her mother remarried in 1903 to Thomas James Graham and 2 more half brothers were added to the family, Roy and Don. They farmed on concession 6, Uxbridge near the town of Uxbridge until Grandma met a widower named John Festus Hoskin, a hardware merchant in Uxbridge. He was 45 when he married the then, 23 year old Marjorie on June 23, 1924. John had a business partner that had strong political views and wasn't adverse to letting them be known to anyone that walked through the door. Because of this and the economy in general declining, the number of customers that came to shop dwindled so they shut the doors and moved into the original Hoskin farm on concession 3 of Brock township. The Mark family had rented the farm for many years but found a new home just a few miles away near Little Britain. The friendship was strong between the 2 families and was maintained until no-one was left.

Roy was their first child born on July 3, 1926. They worked hard and made a living farming. Grandma knew about canning and preserving fruit and vegetables that they grew in abundance in a large garden. Shortly after they moved to the farm, the great depression hit and they considered themselves lucky to be there. Now they didn't need to worry about going hungry. Most of John's investments disappeared, but they still had the farm. Grandma was frugal all her life and it was during this time that she learned most of those lessons. Patching clothes, darning socks, knitting home made socks, sweaters and so on. When the clothing was too worn out to patch anymore, the good bits became quilt patches and eventually a quilt. Over her lifetime, she made many, many quilts and as she became older, it was not just a way of using scrap cloth, it was a social event where several of the local ladies would have a quilting bee where they'd sew the day away while catching up on all the gossip. These events always put a smile on Grandma's face.

Having survived the depression, the family grew in 1931 with the addition of Norene, a little sister for Roy, now a 5 year old.

Both Roy and Norene attained their public school education at the Pinedale one room school house. However with John's declining health, Roy started missing many weeks of school from the time he was 12 and wasn't able to continue with his formal education as he would have liked. His assistance with the farm work was imperative to the survival of the family. He finally graduated 8th grade when he was 16 in 1942, the year his father died. This left him the man of the house at 16 and his mother, a widow, 10 days before her 42nd birthday.

They worked hard on the farm and were able to send Norene through school to eventually get a teachers certificate.

Grandma and Roy operated the farm alone until 1947, when Roy married Mary Newell. I'm sure those early years were not easy for the ladies. Too many cooks in the kitchen and all

that but they made it work. In 1952, Roy and Mary started a family and Grandma officially became "Grandma Hoskin".

Over the next 9 years the family grew to John, Brian, Donald and Ruth as a 3 generational home. We did become 4 generations for a while when Grandma Hoskin's mother moved in. She was becoming more than her son Don and his wife Doris could handle while operating their hardware store in Brechin. Sadly, she suffered from Alzheimer's disease and it was more than a full time job to take care of her. Eventually, the hard decision was made to move her into a nursing home facility in Whitby where she could be cared for by trained professionals. She died in January, 1961 at 91 years old.

The years passed and Roy injured his back to the point, they had to sell the home farm as he was no longer able to do the heavy lifting required to operate it. A new house was built across the road from the farm on another property they owned and Grandma was very happy there. She always enjoyed the large groups of her grandchildren's friends that would seem to congregate on the weekends. Meals were an event and normally there would be a minimum of 1 extra at the table. Grandma's pies and tea biscuits were always a hit.

Roy worked in Sunderland at Morrow's farm equipment for several years, but always missed the farm. He did eventually purchase another farm on the first of Brock, across the road from his sister and her husband, Murray Hooper's farm.

They remained living in the house on the third, rented out the house on the farm and travelled between the 2 locations for several years.

The time however did arrive to sell the house on the 3rd and move into the farm house.

Grandma understood the need, but it didn't make her happy.

She lived out the remainder of her life there and died on April 23, 1986.

Some surnames that you may be familiar with from her direct family lineage are, starting with her grandparents, Young, Hall, St John, Thompson, Pennock, Garbut, Lloyd, Baker, Glover, Bagnall, Driscoll, Smithwick, Swift, Freeman, Dolmage and Switzer. This takes us back as far as some of her 3rd and 4th great grandparents.

Grandma lived her life in an incredible era. As a child, she rode in a wagon or carriage pulled by a horse as transportation. She saw the introduction of the automobile and marvelled at it's advancements from basic transportation to comfort with a certain amount of luxury when she went for a ride. She never did drive, but always enjoyed going in the car. She saw the invention of air travel up to and including large jets. She was here when the early computers were being introduced to the mass markets.

She survived the great depression and 2 world wars. She was always overjoyed when her brother, Lloyd would surprise her by driving in unannounced from the airport, having just flown in from Alberta. He was a survivor of Mustard Gas burns on his legs from WW1 when he served in France.

She enjoyed the simple things in life, was always frugal and worked at being a good Christian daily. Her greatest joys were her family, friends and being a part of the Pinedale community as everybody's "Grandma Hoskin".