

Duczeminski Family

Jozefa (Josephene) Duczeminski (nee Holubowicz)

- Jozefa (Josephene) was born on January 6th, 1911 in the village of Kociubince, Poland, the same birthplace as her future husband.
- She was the only child of Albina (nee Tarnowski) and Metro Holubowicz.
- Her father was a soldier in the First World War and died in a Russian Prisoner of War (POW) camp when she was only four years old.
- Her maternal grandmother died next.
- When she was 5 years old, Josephene's mother died of pneumonia.
- Josephene was left with her maternal grandfather for one year until his death.
- For the next ten years she was in the care of a distant relative, a widow with five children. Josephene was the "orphan" and not treated like the other children. They attended school but she was left to tend to the grazing cows.
- After school hours, she received private tutoring, which was made possible because her aunt Mary Tarnowski sent money from the U.S.A.
- When she was 15, Josephene was finally allowed to go to school with other children.
- Canadian immigration records indicate that Josephene, age 16 years, arrived in St. John on April 4th, 1927, on the Canadian Pacific Line ship, the *S.S. Marburn*.
- She travelled by train to Manitoba and for 18 months worked on the farm of her uncle, Joe Holubowicz.
- She then moved to Winnipeg where she worked as a domestic in a number of Jewish homes. Josephene was treated well in some homes, and mistreated in others.
- She married John Duczeminski in January 1931, with whom she spent the rest of her life.
- She joined John in Red Lake in the fall of 1937 with their two children, Jean and Walter. She lived there until 1966.
- Josephene died on November 19th, 2008, at the Holy Family Nursing Home in Winnipeg. She was in her 98th year.

Jan (John) Duczeminski

- Jan (John) Duczeminski was born on January 3rd, 1899 in the village of Kociubince, Poland (then under Austrian rule, now in Ukraine).
- He was the only son of Patrycja (nee Rudnicki) and Jozef Duczeminski. He had four sisters.
- John was in the army cavalry circa 1920-22. He wore an Austrian uniform and is presumed to have served his compulsory military service.
- John immigrated to Canada in 1924. He first settled in western Manitoba, where his grandfather, aunt, uncle and cousins lived.
- John worked on numerous farms in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- John was living in Brandon, Manitoba at the time he went to visit his brother-in-law, John Yurkowski, in Winnipeg – where he met his future wife Josephene. John was promised a job upon his return to Brandon.
- After marrying Josephene, they returned to Brandon but the job prospect that John had been offered had fallen through.
- After living with relatives for a couple of months, he and Josephene moved to Sinclair, Manitoba and lived with her Uncle Joe.
- John then got a job for a farmer who had an empty house, where they lived for about a year.
- The next move was to the community of Antler, Saskatchewan.
- With the prospect of working in the gold mines, John moved to Red Lake, Ontario in the spring of 1937.
- He initially found work as a carpenter, but eventually got a job at the Madsen Red Lake Gold Mines, Limited.
- From there he went to work for the Hasaga Gold Mines, Limited, until its closure in 1953.

- Campbell Red Lake Mines was the next stop, where he worked until he retired in 1966.
- He and Josephene moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba the year of his retirement.
- John died on December 4th, 1991 at age 92.

The Couple

- Josephene became re-acquainted with John Duczeminski when he came to visit his brother-in-law, John Yurkowski, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- John proposed to Josephene and she accepted. They were married on January 3rd, 1931 in Winnipeg.
- They moved to Brandon, Manitoba where John had been promised a job, but the prospect had fallen through, so they went to live with relatives for a couple of months.
- They then moved to Sinclair, Manitoba, and lived with her Uncle Joe for a couple of months.
- John got a job for a farmer who had an empty house, where they lived for about a year. This is where their daughter Jean was born.
- The next move was to the community of Antler, Saskatchewan, where their son Walter was born.
- With the prospect of working in the gold mines, John moved to Red Lake in the spring of 1937. Josephene and the two children followed that fall.
- After living in Red Lake for nearly 30 years, they retired and moved to Winnipeg in 1966.
- John and Josephene Duczeminski were fortunate to live long lives, and to have many family celebrations.
- They marked their 60th wedding anniversary in January 1991.
- They are buried together in Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg.

Children

Jean Duczeminski

- Born in Sinclair, Manitoba, on October 30th, 1931.
- She moved to Red Lake with her parents in 1937, where she received her elementary and high school education.
- In 1949, she entered the school of nursing at the Misericordia General Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Jean graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1952.
- She did her postgraduate work in operating room technique and management at the Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, and earned her Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba.
- Jean worked in hospitals in New Orleans, Louisiana; West Palm Beach, Florida; San Francisco, California; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and Calgary, Alberta.
- Her last professional work was at the Children's Hospital (Health Sciences Centre) in Winnipeg.
- Jean retired in 1991.

Walter Duczeminski

- Born in Antler, Saskatchewan on May 15th, 1933.
- He moved to Red Lake in 1937, where he received his education.
- He had numerous summer jobs at the Hasaga Gold Mines, Limited during his high school years.
- His first full time employment was with the Imperial Bank of Canada in Red Lake. He was then transferred to the McKenzie Island branch, where he worked for less than a year, and then transferred to Longlac, Ontario.
- He stayed with the bank in Longlac for four months then accepted a position with Longlac Pulp and Paper Woodlands Division.
- He was employed by Domtar, where he worked at various jobs until he retired as a papermaker in 1993.

- Walter played hockey for the Geraldton Goldminers (1954-1957) and then the Red Rock Royals (1957-1962).
- Walter married Joan McKenzie on August 29th, 1959. They have three children, David, Alison, Cheryl, and five grandchildren, Erica, Jenna, Sarah, Benjamin and Samuel.

Joseph (Joe) Duczeminski

- Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on May 21st, 1940.
- He came to Red Lake with his mother and siblings at the end of June 1940.
- He received his education in Red Lake and Winnipeg.
- He became an automobile technician and worked for Westport Motors and Canadian Tire in Winnipeg until his retirement in 2000.
- Joe married Judy Kloss on May 13th, 1967. They have two sons, Derek and Alan, and one grandson, Luca.