

SUSANNA FENNELL

Susanna was born in Montague Township on January 22, 1862. She was still in Montague Township with her parents and Hezekiah at the time of the 1881 census so it is clear that she was one of the group to emigrate to North Dakota in 1882. On July 9, 1889, the same day on which her brother Hezekiah married Charlotte Weir, she married John Weir who had been born in Cobourg, Ontario on September 28, 1858. (1859 per 1900 census). The marriage took place on the Weir farm on the bank of the Red River, the farm adjacent to her parents' farm.

Susanna's parents had owned river lots #1, #2 and #3 of section 12. John Weir owned lot #5. By 1899 lots #5, #6 and #7 were recorded in Susanna's name for tax purposes but soon after that date they left the community and by 1905 they were living on Prospect Street in Grafton. Since his father had died in 1903 and been buried in the Grafton cemetery it is likely that the family had moved in that year or earlier.

On December 14, 1905 John died and was buried in the Grafton cemetery. Besides Susanna, he was survived by a daughter, Ethel, then aged 15. He had died intestate so the property was divided between Susanna and Ethel.

In fact, there may have been an older child since in the cemetery where Thomas and Ann Fennell are buried there is a stone recording the death of Irena Tressa, daughter of John and Susanna Weir, who died May 24, 1888, aged 3 mo. 15 da. This date suggests that the date of marriage of John and Susanna may have been before July 9, 1889. Still that was also the date of marriage of Hezekiah and Charlotte and they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1939.

The 1900 census of North Dakota lists the family, living in Grafton, as follows:

Weir, John	40	b.1859	m.14 yrs.	imm.1879	farm
" , Susanna	36	b.1864		imm.1882	
" , Ethel	10	b.1889			
Hawkins, Etta	18	b.1882			neice

The census indicated that there had been 3 children and 1 survived.

After John's death Susanna remained in Grafton for a time but she and Ethel eventually moved to Havre, Montana. She and Ethel were listed in the 1920 census of Montana as follows:

Havre City,

Weir, Susan, Mrs. wid. 56 imm.1882 1009 3rd Avenue

Hill County, School District #74, Cottonwood

Connolly, Thomas	Head	38	imm.1899	farm	b.Ireland
" ,Ethel	Wife	30			b.N.Dakota
" ,Asloyn(?)	Dau.	1			b.Montana

The date of Susanna's death and her place of burial are not known. Ethel is said to have been alive in Havre in 1959 and to have died in a nursing home there. There was a son, Thomas, who is known to have visited his aunt Emily Fennell (John's wife) in Vancouver but nothing more is known of him nor has anyone mentioned the daughter listed in 1920