

## THOMAS HENRY FENNELL

A Merrickville Anglican register records the baptism of Thomas Henry,

Parents: Thomas and Ann Fennell  
Montague Township, farmer

Date: June 6, 1855.

This does not correspond with a handwritten item which is contained in the Hawkins bible recording the date of his birth as July 24, 1856 but the variation is not great.

Thomas was listed in the census of 1861 and 1871 as 6 and 16 years old respectively. In 1880 he was in North Dakota, age 24, with Joseph and John and married to Mary, age 20. In 1885 the listing was:

Fennell, Henry	age	28
" , Mary A.	"	23
" , Theresa J.	"	4
" , Isabella J.	"	3

The identity of his wife is not known. In 1880 she was recorded as born in Canada, her father born in England and her mother born in Russia. In 1885 all three were said to have been born in Ontario. There is a possibility that the family identified in 1880 is not the family identified in 1885 although the position of the group on the census sheets does not lead to that conclusion. They do not appear in the 1900 census since by that time Thomas had left the state.

There was some difficulty in identifying Thomas Henry since a second Henry had settled in Hamilton Township, Pembina County; his wife was also Mary A. That family had emigrated from North Gower Township, Carleton County, after 1881. He was almost certainly the son of John and Catherine Fennell who were originally from Wolford Township, Ontario.

Thomas' farm in Pulaskie Township was on the NE1/4 section 23, township 156, range 51, W5. Homestead Patent #1633 was issued to him on September 24, 1889. On December 27, 1898 Thomas and Mary Ann sold the farm. They moved to Oregon but whether or not directly is not known. Family members say that Thomas returned for a visit between 1932 and 1940. He was quite old at that time; there was no mention of a wife nor of children.

The 1920 Federal census of Oregon listed Thomas H. Fennell in Marion County, Marion Precinct, as follows:

Fennell, Thomas H.	Head	63	imm.1879	b.Ontario	farm
" , Mary	Wife	57	imm.1879	b. "	
" , Marion	Dau.	24		b.N.Dakota	
" , Billie	Grd/son	5		b.Oregon	

The census of 1910 is not indexed but a search of the same precinct did not locate the family. Neither did the family appear in the index to the 1900 census of Oregon and there is no information as to the family's location in the years after the Pulaskie Township farm was sold.

The Hawkins family bible records the death of "Harry" Fennell on December 24, 1937; he would have been about 82 years old. The Oregon Index of Deaths records the death of Thomas Fennell, spouse Mary, in Linn County on December 24, 1936.