

## MATILDA (TIL) REDDICK

Matilda was born on May 24, 1859 and baptised in the North Gower Anglican church on August 24, 1865, the same day as Louisa, Minerva and Jemima. Nothing more is known of her until she and Minerva emigrated to Minnesota in (according to a niece) 1884. The 1900 census of Minnesota records Til's birthdate as 1861 and her year of immigration as 1885. Nerv's obituary (she was the daughter born in 1861) says that she moved to Minnesota in 1884. Since the two sisters are believed to have gone at the same time, 1884 seems to have been the year, not 1885. Erastus and Oliver, (although Oliver's name has not yet been found in the 1900 census) had already been in Minnesota since 1877, so it was four Reddick siblings who settled at the outset at Mille Lac Lakes. The two sisters registered a land claim in that year but did not prove it up and in the following year they opened a dress store in Aitkin Village.

Til married John W. Cluff about 1887. According to the 1900 census he had emigrated from Grafton, New Brunswick in 1881, although the 1910 census indicates 1883 and the 1920 census, 1879. Nerv's husband, Fred MacDonald, was also from that town (from a part of it called Vinegar Hill) and had emigrated at about that time. The 1900 census of Aitkin reports John's date of birth as August 1854, his trade to be a logger, his age 45, his years married as 13 and his time in the United States as 19 years. Til was said to be 39 years old at that time.

The 1910 census of Aitkin Village listed:

Cluff,	John W.	55	Head	marr.23 yrs.	imm.1883
"	, Matilda	50	Wife	"	.1885
MacDonald	Leon	16	Neph.		

There were, at that time, no children of the marriage. John and Matilda were born in Canada; he was involved in rail and road construction. Leon MacDonald was Minerva's son.

The 1920 census listed only John, a widower aged 62, living on a farm in Aitkin Township. A niece has said that John had a store in Aitkin at one time, worked as a logger and farmed for a time. It was soon after selling the farm that he died.

There were no children of this marriage. Til died January 6, 1920 and was buried in the Lakeview cemetery; she would have been almost 61 years old. John remarried (unhappily apparently), died on February 11, 1942 and was buried with Til.