

MINERVA (NERV) REDDICK

Minerva was the daughter of James and Matilda (Goldie) Reddick. She was born on May 21, 1861 on the farm on lot 4, concession 4, Marlborough township, Carleton county, Ontario, and baptised on August 24, 1865 in the North Gower Anglican church. There is no sign of her confirmation.

Minerva and Matilda immigrated into the United States in 1884. That is the year reported in her obituary and in the 1920 census. At the outset the two sisters took a land claim in the Mille Lac Lakes area where Oliver and Erastus had been since 1877. The sisters did not prove up their land claim but, in the following year, opened a dress shop in the village of Aitkin, a few miles north of the lake. Nerv's daughter, Margaret, has said that before going to Minnesota, Minerva had operated a dress shop in Osgoode, Ontario.

On October 19, 1887, Minerva married Fred T. MacDonald in Aitkin. He was born on March 8, 1863 in Grafton, New Brunswick, the son of John A. Macdonald and Abigail Hovey. He had emigrated to Aitkin in 1883. Their children were:

	<u>Born</u>		<u>Died</u>	
Gladys	October	8, 1888	December 22,	1902
Clarence	December	12, 1891	April	4, 1980
F. Leon	June	22, 1894	December 19,	1964
Melvin	May	3, 1900	December 25,	1900
Margaret M.	July	22, 1902		
Grace	October	--, 1904	October	--, 1904

The 1920 census listed the following:

MacDonald, Fred T.	56	Head	imm.1883	nat.1885	farmer
" ,Minerva	56	Wife	imm.1884	nat.1887	
" ,Margaret M.	17	Dau.			

Clarence is buried in Wirt, Minnesota, the other four in Lakeview cemetery at Aitkin. Margaret was alive in 1984.

Fred was a logger at the beginning; Nerv cooked in camps for three years after they were married. When Fred left the logging business he turned to farming in the Aitkin district. Nerv is remembered by Margaret as "....kind and generous to a fault"; she gave "...the last 50 cents in the house to a stranger who looked hungry" and she gave "...my best winter coat away while I was uptown".

Fred died on January 7, 1933, Minerva on August 17, 1948. Both are buried in Lakeview cemetery at Aitkin.