

RUSSELL ARNARD DAVIDSON

Born: August 21, 1868
Portapique, Kings County, Nova Scotia, Canada

Parents: Robert Davidson and Lavinia Davidson

Brothers and Sisters: Agnes, Alice, Lavinia, Samuel
Gordon, Thomas, David, Fulton Johnson
Russell was the eighth child

Married: 1. Nina Isabelle Scott, November 20, 1895
Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, Canada
2. May Webb - 1930 - Michigan

Died: December 6, 1942
Delano, Kern County, California

Russell grew up in Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, Canada in a family of nine children. The family lived on the shores of the Bay of Fundy in the Annapolis Valley in Evangeline country. Although little is known about six of the children, it is probable that the children died young from tuberculosis.

Russell's brother Fulton Johnson (F. J.) did not suffer from tuberculosis and did not want his future family to get the illness so he quickly decided to move to the New Mexico Territory where he accepted a job teaching at Cliff, NM. Before moving F. J. decided that like Jesus he wanted to be a son of David so he added a "d" to his name and became Davidson.

The Southwest had a reputation for having an ideal climate for curing tubercular patients. Russell had the disease so F.J. urged him to come live with him in Whiskey Creek. Russell arrived on a stretcher on the train. Since F. J. had changed his name he, too, became Davidson.

Russell made a rapid recovery and began to help milk F.J.'s cows and deliver milk in a wagon to Silver City. F.J. started the F.J. Davidson Mercantile Company which sold hardware, clothing, lumber, feed, etc. Russell was given the responsibility for the meat which included buying, moving and butchering the cattle. The currency at the store included gold dust.

F.J.'s wife Sara Jane invited her sister, Nina Isabelle to visit. Russell and Isabelle fell in love and soon made the trip to Elmsdale, Nova Scotia to be married. They returned to Pinos Altos to their adobe, one bedroom house. All five of their children were born in Pinos Altos. Russell continued working for his brother in the Mercantile Company. The business required travel all over the area.