

1897

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRE

No. 7



"Although the word FOLKLORE is more than a century old, no exact agreement has ever been reached as to its meaning. The common idea presented in all folklore is that of tradition, something handed down from one person to another and preserved either by memory or practice rather than the written record. It involves the dances, songs, tales, legends and traditions, the beliefs and superstitions, and the proverbial sayings of people everywhere. It also includes studies of customs, of traditional agricultural and domestic practices, types of buildings and utensils, and traditional aspects of social organizations."

-- Stith Thompson,  
Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology  
and Legend. Funk and Wagnalls, 1949

YOUR CO-OPERATION in answering this list of questions is greatly appreciated. By thus writing down what you know, you have contributed to the permanent record of our Province. All Questionnaires are preserved in the Saskatchewan Archives.

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Directions for filling out the questionnaire:

1. Print all proper names and place names in capital letters.
2. Use ink if possible.
3. If space allowed is insufficient for your answer, use either the back of the sheet or a separate sheet of paper; put the number of the question at the beginning of this continuation.
4. If you are unable to answer a question, skip it. We realize that not everyone can answer every question.

A SPECIAL SUGGESTION: The answers in this questionnaire are a case of "one thing leads to another". It is therefore a good idea to fill it out in groups rather than individually. (However, if grouping is not possible, individual answers are also desirable). Groups might be neighbors.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Saskatchewan Archives Office,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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## I INTRODUCTION

Name JAMES D. TULLOCHAddress ARBORFIELD-POST-OFFICE BOX-1

(Do you live in or outside of town? Did you always? Since what year?)

*outside of town**yes in arborfield since 1911*

Where did you live before coming to Saskatchewan? (From what year to what year?)

*in Manitoba**from June 1894 till November 1897*

Where did your parents live before that? (From what year to what year?)

*my parents never lived in Canada*

What language did your father (or you) speak before coming to Canada?

*English language*Age 82 Years

Where born

*Scotland*

Occupation by which you earn a living

*Farming*

Hobbies or talents (either for pleasure or to supplement your income) such as: playing a musical instrument; hunting, trapping; collecting curiosities; photography, etc.

Father's occupation before coming to Saskatchewan.

*Sailor*

After.

Father's hobbies or talents.

Mother's hobbies or talents, such as: fine sewing or other handwork; china or other painting; playing a musical instrument, etc.

*Sewing Knitting*

## II SETTLEMENT

The Land

- is composed of many people from Europe  
the majority are French speaking from Quebec and Eastern States  
English speaking came from Eastern Canada and British Isles*
1. Where you lived or now are living, are there any natural features or landmarks (e.g. butte, coulee, valley, stream, lake)? Name? What stories are connected with them?

*I was told Carrot River - Burnt out creek - Gordon River  
wild Carrot grew - The Surveyors camp was burnt out while surveying along the Burnt out creek  
crossed many rivers this was the last one entered the happy hunting ground*



## Explanation

In regard to my parents living in Canada  
my parents never lived in Canada my mother  
died when I was born and my mother requested my  
grandmother to nurse and care for me my father was  
a sailor and the boats he was employed on traded between  
London and the far east that is East Indies in this  
way I did not see my father very often as I lived in the  
Shetland Islands and Steamboats were not in general  
use as they are now therefore I might see him once in  
three years my grandmother I refer to was on my mother  
side I was learned the alphabet and spelling two letters put  
together such as in and to by my grandmother I was then  
sent to the school there were no Government Schools then that  
was in the Spring of 1878 I was not 6 years of age till October  
it was a Free Church school that was built from Church grants  
and contributions my Grandfather gave them land free to build  
a school and house for the teacher fees were paid the teacher  
every three months  $2/6$  per quarter or ten shillings per year to start  
the fees increased the fees increased as you passed your examinations  
the Government Schools started in 1880 for Scotland in the District  
I lived in I left Shetland in 1890 and was working in the  
South of Scotland on the border in Dumfriesshire  
I came in contact with a Mr Haugh Mayor of Winnipeg  
he was interested in securing immigrants for Manitoba  
he advised me to come out to Winnipeg this time was the  
fall of 1893 I came out to Winnipeg in June 1894



Are there any man-made features (e.g. Indian rings, old trails, ruins of fort or dwelling house or other building)? Name? Why so called? What stories are connected with them?

Nearest point here in regard to Indians and trading posts is Kipawin about thirty miles from here

2. What jokes did people tell about (a) gumbo (b) fording streams or getting caught in unusual situations caused by weather, work at home, travel etc. (c) the loneliness of the open spaces?

We have lots of gumbo here we do not enjoy it as our land is flooded and what crop we have we cannot save it up to date as the gumbo sticks to machinery and prevents us from operating it

### Climate

3. Outline briefly any tales or beliefs you have heard about (a) cold weather (b) snow and blizzard (c) hail (d) drought (e) high wind. Example: the way to tell if the wind is blowing is to nail a chain to the top of a post; if the links stand out straight horizontally, it's windy; if they begin to snap off, it's good and windy. (What variants of this one have you heard?)



4. What similes about climate were in general use in the old days?  
 e.g. as dry as ; as cold as ;  
 as wet as

5. What do people generally remark about a rainbow? A double rainbow? A mirage? Do you know of any strange happenings generally said to be connected with these?

6. What weather signs were generally taken notice of that you remember?  
 e.g. "rain before seven just before 11"; "red sky at morning all sailors take warning". Complete these; list any others you know of, both past and present.

*red sky in the evening is the  
sailors delight*

7. What animal behaviour was generally considered a weather sign and of what kind of weather? e.g. actions of frogs, crickets, groundhogs, wasps, muskrats.

*Frogs croaking sign of a change of weather  
generally rain ground hogs come out of his den  
on the second of <sup>2</sup> February and sees his shadow he  
will go back to his den for another six weeks*

#### Celestial Bodies

8. Do you remember hearing stories (possibly Indian legends) about the sun, moon, stars?

What is your belief (or others' belief) about sun dogs, a ring around the moon, position of horns of new moon, a change in the moon, sleeping in moonlight? Shooting stars? Use of North Star as a guide -- for what? how? Northern lights? Caused by? Do they make a noise? If so, what kind?

*Northern Lights do make a noise like the rustling of an umbrella in a windy day.*



Sundogs was considered a sign of a coming storm  
 if they disappeared before sunset a sign of good weather  
 a ring around the moon a sign of a coming storm  
 if the moon is perpendicular or upright means wet or stormy weather  
 if the moon is not upright means very dry weather if a star  
 shoots a certain direction the wind next day will be coming from  
 that direction

9. Do you know any stories or beliefs about heavenly bodies, not listed here?

again Sundogs on the North of the Sun  
 is a sign of cold weather I have noted this  
 many times a Canadian drew my attention to this  
 I did not know it before at times northern lights  
 a noise like the rustling of an Umbrella in a windy day

10. Have you ever kept an account of the weather, bird migrations, blooming time of trees or plants, etc? Do you know anyone who did so? Are these accounts available now?

in the year 1896 it thawed in February and all the snow melted  
 and then in March it got cold and froze over the streams  
 and ducks died in the spring of 1907 leaves came out on the  
 poplars on the last week in May in the year 1924 blooms came out  
 in the last week of May this year 1954 blooms were  
 very late in this part

#### Supernatural Beings

11. Tell briefly any stories of ghosts or fairies or strange beings who inhabited your pioneer district. From whom did you hear these stories?

I don't know any ghost stories relating to this part of the world  
 heard of many relating to the British Isles  
 I don't believe in ghost stories made up stories to frighten people  
 I believe there are good and evil spirits about but we do not see  
 them we don't see the wind Christ smote Saul on the Road to  
 Damascus the Lord had chosen him

#### Human Beings

12. Do you know any tales of an individual who once lived where you do (or did live) who performed prodigious or somehow unusual deeds? Or who was notably wise or silly, strong or feeble, well formed or misshapen? Tell briefly. From whom did you hear these?

I know an Irishman who did something other settlers  
 did not know about the winter of 1907 was very severe and  
 vegetables was scarce in the spring of 1908 this man kept his  
 potatoe peelings and grew potatoes for his own use from  
 the peelings



Animals

13. What tales or anecdotes do you remember where animals provided the main action or in which animals as well as people are involved? E.g. buffalo, deer, rabbit, gopher, birds, insects (such as bees, grasshoppers, mosquitoes, fish).

*This tale is about myself when I came to this country in 1894 the mosquitoes were very bad on cloudy days and at night I used a smudge made up of small sticks and grass placed near the window in the room where I slept on Sunday in the room where I slept. I noted a red insect creeping along the bed clothes I killed it and showed it to the Boss it was a bed bug after that event I slept in the stable loft*

## III SUPPORTING ONESELF AFTER SETTLEMENT

14. How did you learn to do the following: (Example: learned from other settlers, Indians, read in book, etc.).

(a) build a house

*I learned it by working for other parties sod houses were common when I came out West and sod barns When I came up north to this part I built a sod barn for all my stock about fifty head of horses and cattle that was in the year 1911*

(b) put in and harvest a crop

*I was used to work on farms in Scotland both harvest work and care of live stock I was raised on a farm this farmer I worked for broke his arm and could not do any harvest work I with the aid of his 13 year old son cut his crop and stacked all his grain that had to be stacked his land area was 160 acres*

(c) hunt local game

(d) use wild plants or their fruits for food (Example: prairie potato, prairie turnip, saskatoon, wild rice); list others.

15. Did you have help other than members of your family for (a) outdoor work (b) housework?

*I have hired help from 1900 till 1947 when I rented my farms beginning in 1907 I hired help by the year*

How were these helpers treated: as servants, as members of the family, somewhere in between?

*as members of the family we dined at the same table there was no difference in the British Isles there is a great difference I refer to sixty years ago when I worked on farms in the British Isles*

What was the basis of payment?

*I hired a man from Britain advanced his passage to Canada this was in the year 1907 I paid 180 dollars per year first year he worked for me for three years the last year was 225 paid for one year with Board*



16. What domestic animals did you have for work? What were their names?

The first was a team of oxen their names were buck and bill I had them for ten days and traded them for team of horses that was in 1898 Kate and Tom was the horses name I had that team up in this country in 1916

What animals did you have for food? beef was the most animal food we used as we raised steers for export we fatten a two year old steer and butcher it before Christmas

What pets did you have? What were their names? (Example: dog, cat, canary or other bird, wild animal or bird you tamed?)

I am fond of horses and dogs we have kept canaries but lost them in the second World war not having the proper food we have a budgie now

#### IV FAMILY OR GROUP GATHERINGS IN THE PIONEER COMMUNITY

in pioneer days the time I refer to 1895 it was a new house opening one party wanted dancing the others didn't so the party was called off

17. Comment on the following activities. Add others wherever possible.

##### (a) Story telling.

Were the stories about animals, people of another time, ghosts, fairies, Indians? Give brief outlines of stories you remember.

Did just anybody tell these stories or was there someone with a reputation as a teller of tales who usually did so? Man or woman?

##### (b) Singing

Were the songs story-telling songs (ballads) or were they about an emotion (for example, love songs) or work songs (for example railroad or cowboy)?

When I came out to Manitoba in 1894 I was in a Scots settlement. I was in Burns songs were the most songs that were sung at parties the Red river was commonly sung not many cow boy songs

Were there some of each? yes

Were there hymns, or hymn tunes with different words?

hymns were sung on Sunday most people went to Church on Sunday

Were the songs accompanied by a musical instrument (e.g. mouth organ, fiddle, zither)?

both fiddle and mouth organ



Put down the first lines of as many songs of the pioneer period as you can remember.

Red River When you gangawa Jammie  
ge Bank and Braes of boonyadon  
coming thru the eye

Were any popular songs composed by people in the district? If so set down as many as you can remember.

(c) Swapping stories

Comment on the following and add others if possible:

Anecdotes (about settlers' adventures; Indians; animal behavior; hunting adventures; the party line, etc.).

This hunting adventure ~~adventure~~ I am going to relate is about myself I was Reeve of the Municipality myself and three Councillors agreed to go Moose hunting on 13th of March 1925 This was out of season for hunting <sup>manitoba</sup> we were arrested by the chief game guardian from Dauphin and our rifles confiscated it was out of season and we had no licence and we shot a cow and calf we were let off in May and our rifles returned

Jokes (tricks played on people; jokes on pioneering life; showing the funny side of something serious, etc.).



Tall tales (exaggerated accounts of some well-known character, who may be local; strange happenings, etc.).

Tongue twisters ("Peter piper picked --"; "She sells seashells --", etc.). Complete examples, give others.

Riddles ("Thirty white horses upon a red hill --"; "Little Ann Netticoat in a white petticoat --"). Complete examples, give others.

## V LIFE CYCLE IN THE PIONEER COMMUNITY

### Childhood

18. Complete the verse "Monday's child is fair of face --". Give any others similar to this, where the day of the week or the month of the year of a child's birth is supposed to affect its appearance, character or fate. Do you remember other circumstances of birth that affect one's fate, such as being born during a storm or when the mother is away from home, etc?

19. By whom were children baptized or christened? *by the preacher*

List the Christian names of 10 of your friends, either sex.

*Mr. Walter Lindsay Mrs. Walter Lindsay Mr. James Forbes Mrs. James Forbes  
Mr. Robert Warner Mrs. Robert Warner Mr. Joe Lindsay Mrs. Joe Lindsay  
Mr. Robert Ruston Mrs. John Ruston*

Which was more customary in your childhood--one name or two? *two names*



Were children generally named "after someone" and if so, was the someone a friend -- a person prominent in the world -- a relative (living or dead)? *relative either alive or dead also grandparents or a preacher*

Were children given a name just because one of the parents chose it as being "a nice name" or "a pretty name"? Other reasons? *the parents chose as a nice name disputes arise among relatives about names for children parties I know living in British Columbia don't correspond with relatives living in the Britain owing to dispute over names*

20. At what age were children baptized or christened?

*Between the age of 1 month and six months*

Was it considered unlucky or unwise to delay baptizing or christening a child?

*both unwise and unlucky in pioneering times it was done by a preacher whenever one was available*

21. By what name did you call your parents? Mum and Dad? Mother and Father?

*Mummy and Daddy? Other? In the part where I was born the name used was Mam and Daa in this part Mumm and Dad*

22. Were children's birthdays celebrated? How? *by a childrens party or school mates*

*Adults? How? by your nearest friends and relations by inviting to a party for your birthday*

23. What prayers were taught you? Complete examples and give others, either bedtime, or grace before meals: "Now I lay me --"; "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless --".

*I was taught the Lords prayer I was instructed in the Presbyterian point of view that is over 75 years ago*

24. What lullabies or cradle songs do you remember? Complete examples, give others: "Rock-a-bye, Baby --"; "Bye-bye-Baby Bunting --".

25. What finger and toe games were played with babies when you were small? Complete examples, give others: "This little pig went to market --"; "Let's go to bed, said Sleepy-head --"; "Thumbiken, thumbiken --".

26. By what alphabet rhymes did you learn your ABC's? Complete example, give others: "A was an Archer --"; "A was an Apple pie --".

*I learned The ABC by using blocks letters first marked*



27. Do you remember which nursery tales you liked best? Cinderella? Jack and the Beanstalk? List titles of 5 you remember. As you list them which are those you "haven't thought of in years"? Which are the ones your own children know?

28. Which game songs were part of your play? Complete examples, give others: "I sent a letter to my love --"; "London Bridge is falling down --".

*When I went to school the girls  
sang London Bridge is falling down  
the boys played foot ball*

29. What counting-out rhymes did you use to determine who was "It"? Complete examples, give others: "Eeny, meeny, miny, mo --"; "Intra, mintra, cutra, corn --".

30. What did you believe would happen, when you were a child, if you (a) stepped on a crack (b) did not pick up a pin (c) swallowed a fruit pip?

31. When you lost your baby teeth, what did you do with them? If they disappeared, who was responsible and was anything left for you in their place?

### Marriage

32. What accessories were considered indispensable for the bride? Example: white dress -- veil -- ring -- "something old, something new, etc.

33. What connected with a wedding would bring bad luck? (E.g. bride trying on wedding dress, seeing groom morning of wedding).

What would bring good luck? (E.g. shower of rice, old shoes).

*Shower of rice horse shoe was considered  
good luck*



Were any jokes played on them after the wedding or at any other time?

Give details.

*when a dance was expected after the wedding a party would invade the home of the newly weds*

Death

34. What was believed to be a sign someone was going to die? (Example: dog howling, plaster falling from ceiling).

*dog howling black Raven flying around near the house wood ticks or wood lice in dressed lumber in a house making a tick or a drop noise*

35. How much time elapsed between death and burial?

*three or four days*

Was this interval considered "proper" or merely convenient or prudent?

*proper*

36. Did anyone "sit up with the corpse"?

If so, who and how chosen?

37. Instead, was there a wake? Always? Sometimes? For certain people and not others? Explain.

Was there food and drink served at a wake?

What?

*I don't know about wakes*

38. Was there any difference of procedure at a child's funeral from that at an adult's funeral?

*not many attended a child's funeral depends on the age of child*

39. In the absence of a representative of the church, who conducted burial services?

*a person chosen who was qualified to conduct the service*

VI GOOD AND BAD LUCK

40. Was there a day in the week when it was said undertakings would prove unlucky or would be otherwise unsuitable (e.g. not threshing on Friday). Why? Give other examples.

*Friday was an unlucky day 13th day of the month was considered an unlucky day to start out any job or starting harvest*

41. Name 5 things that bring good luck (e.g. putting on garment inside out by mistake, horseshoe over door).

Name 5 things that bring bad luck (e.g. a bird in the house; spilling salt).

*spilling salt breaking a looking glass seeing the moon thru the window rooster crowing at night Friday was an unlucky day also 13 was an unlucky day Sunday was exempt from work but not now there are no unlucky days now*

Name 5 ways to avoid bad luck (e.g. touch wood, cross your fingers).



This event I am going to explain  
is called a chivaree it's for newly Weds  
it occurred in November 1928

party started out about 9 o'clock P.M.  
they had cow bells and an old shotgun tincans to make  
lots of noise The newly Weds would not come out nor open  
the door They then pounded the door as no admittance  
was allowed they then got on the roof of the house and  
blocked the chimney the door was then opened  
and a row started it only ended up in bad friends

There are no chivaree performance now there are too  
many ~~we~~ marriages and many divorces  
according to Canada year book 1954 in the year 1952  
there were 223 divorces in Sask the lowest in the Western  
Provinces I have lived most of my life in Sask  
and I am looking forward to seeing the  
Sask jubilee year 1955-



42. Describe the use of the following in locating articles or foretelling future events: (if not sure, tell what you think is done; add "not sure").

a ring; a Bible; a divining rod (of what wood? to find what?); playing cards; tea leaves; coffee grounds.

*For finding water or a flow of water in the Earth a forked willow was used this way has been used on this farm and proved all right*

43. What would you say was the general attitude in your family towards the things mentioned in questions 36 and 37? (Check the statement below most closely resembling the general attitude:

"True, but you can't explain it logically".

"Well, there could be something in it, but --".

"Ridiculous--just superstition!"

*just superstitious*

What was the attitude in your district?

44. Is the attitude today different? Can you give a reason for your answer?

## VII PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL PHRASES

45. Complete the following:

"A bird in the hand --"; "As the days begin to lengthen --"; "A task begun --". Set down as many more as you can.

*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush  
as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen  
Phrase used very often Root hog or die - the man who does not do  
more work than he paid for isn't worth what he gets  
blood is thicker than water*

46. Complete the following:

"As fresh as --"; "As smart as --"; "Scarcer than --"; Set down as many more as you can.