

SANBORN, Eleanor "Nell"



Nell Sanborn was born in 1894, and spent her early years in Saintfield, Ontario. She came to Saskatchewan with her family in 1906, where they had a dairy farm outside of Saskatoon, near where 33rd Street and the Dundonald area now exist.

In 1912, the family moved into a red brick house on Avenue P in Saskatoon. It was one of the first houses constructed in the area and, according to Mrs. Sanborn, may have been the location of Dr. Willoughby's original homestead.

In 1918, she married William Sanborn, who sadly died during the influenza epidemic just a few months later.

Mrs. Sanborn moved back into the house on Avenue P and began taking in boarders. As it was only half a block from St. Paul's Hospital, it was a popular place with people who needed to be close to the hospital, including Edna May Diefenbaker's mother, who stayed there during Mrs. Diefenbaker's final illness; and Jack Wood, who later became Deputy Chief of Police, and his wife Pauline, who lived on the third floor of the rooming house while building their own house next door. Other boarders stayed for many years.

She was active in St. Thomas Wesley Church and the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. She grew a large garden each year, had a yard full of crab apple and plum trees, and kept her property beautifully flowered. She was an active bridge player and enjoyed lawn, alley and carpet bowling, which she continued to do until she broke her hip when she was in her 90s and moved from the red brick house on Avenue P to Porteous Lodge.



Nell Sanborn died on January 18, 1996 at the age of 102.



It is believed that the first photograph above was taken in the late 1920s. It shows a young Nell with her late husband's son, Billy, born in 1919, who moved to the United States when he became an adult. He died there in 1992.

The second photograph above was taken to announce the celebration of Nell's 100th birthday in 1994.

Photograph of Nell and Billy Sanborn; and Nell's 100th Birthday Announcement, graciously provided by Mr. Bob McKay. Used with permission.