

Alma Harris and Lommatzsch family

GR-1738 PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA.
Originals, ca. 1909-1979, 23.6 m Central
correspondence files, ca. 1909-1979
68-13 Harris, Alma 1954-57

Alma Lommatzsch Harris
Place: Kelowna
Date: 1989 9 25 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 89
Event: Death
Reg. Number: 1989-09-017597
Microfilm: B17138

peel.library.ualberta.ca
Henderson's 1911
CROWN LUMBER CO. LTD of Calgary,
B.R. Lommatzsch, Manager

Nanton
Lommatzsch Barney R draying and
freighting agt Crown Lumber Co Ltd.

Calgary
Henderson's 1918
No listing

Henderson's 1919
Lommatzsch Alma clk Fred Harling

Henderson's 1920
Lommatzsch Alma bkpr F Harling r 225
13th Ave E

Henderson's 1921
Lommatzsch Miss A steno F Harling r 1
Norfolk Apts

Henderson's 1922
Lommatzsch Alma bkpr F Harling r 1,
225 13th Ave E

Sixth Floor of the Lougheed Building, 604
1st St. W
610 Harling Fred ladies wear

Henderson's 1923
Lommatzsch Alma bkpr F Harling h 1
225 13th Ave E

Henderson's 1924
No listing

Fred Harling: exclusive ladies tailor,
made-to-measure garments (per
something I found on Google Books).

Lethbridge Herald, 12 Sept 1910:
NANTON
Mrs. Lommatzsch and her young
daughter, Alma, returned last week from
Acme, where they had been summoned
by the dangerous illness of Mr.
Lommatzsch, who is now able to be out
and attend to business again. His illness
came upon him suddenly, and it was
feared he would not live through the
night, but after the crisis was passed, his
recovery was rapid.

Calgary Herald, 16 Aug 1918:
Garbutt College notes – Miss Alma
Lommatzsch has just received

penmanship paper entered in the Edmonton fair, having received first prize for her penmanship work”

Nelson Daily News, 23 May 1924: Miss Lomatzschke [sic] arrived last week to take up a position as accountant for J.M. Harris.

Nelson Daily News, 30 Jan 1925:
SANDON FOUNDER HAS
PRESENTATION

Mr. Harris on 61st birthday is given surprise party
Sandon, Jan. 29 — An enjoyable surprise party was given recently at Sandon in honor of J.M. Harris’ 61st birthday. The entertainment consisted of bridge, radio selections, and dancing.
The guests of the evening presented Mr. Harris with a handsome dressing case. He then suitably replied and a delightful lunch was served. Those present included Mr. and Mrs. E.O. White, Mr. and Mrs. JA Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. James Sime, Miss Loraine McLeod, Miss Alma Lommatzsch and Messrs. Watson, W.G. Clark, A. McMillan, W.J. Parham, O. Strathearn, W.R. Rudkin, Fred T. Kelly of Spokane, J.W. Holmes and R.H. Stewart of Vancouver, Dr. H.C. McKenzie of Calgary, and H.A. Johnston of Nelson.
Slocan Record & Leaser, 11 Jun 1926: “J.M. Harris and Miss Lommatzsch were guests of J.P. and Mrs. McFadden ...”

Washington Post, 7 Nov 1926:
LICENSED TO MARRY

John M. Davis, 62, of Vernon Mills, Va., and Alma Lommatzsch, 25, of Vulcan, Canada. The Rev. J.H. Dunham.

(Johnny Harris and Alma Lommatzsch were married on 8 Nov 1926.)

According to Angus Davis in the *Nelson Daily News*, 10 Mar 1948, Johnny Harris was not married as of 1907. He was listed as single on the 1911 census.

Slocan Enterprise, 18 May 1927: Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Harris returned home Friday, May 13 from a six-months honeymoon in Cuba, Florida, and other southern states. Mrs. Harris was formerly Miss Alma Lamotzah [sic] ... J.M. Harris brought in a Lincoln sedan on his arrival here Friday evening.

Slocan Enterprise, 1 Jun 1927: Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris of Sandon returned after touring through the States in a new Lincoln car.

Slocan Enterprise, 5 Oct 1927: Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Harris arrived home Friday morning after holidaying in Spokane.

Slocan Enterprise, 12 Oct 1927: Mrs. J.M. Harris left on Wednesday evening for High River, Alta., where she will visit her parents for a few weeks.

Slocan Enterprise, 7 Dec 1927: Mrs. J.M. Harris arrived home on Wednesday morning from High River, Alta., where she has been visiting her parents.

Slocan Enterprise, 7 Dec 1927: Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Harris entertained Thursday evening at a dinner and dance at the Reco Hotel in honor of their wedding anniversary and also the American Thanksgiving Day. A large number of friends attended from the Lake points. Covers were laid at dinner for 25 guests. Three cheers and a tiger given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, after which the guests were escorted to the Reco office where bridge and dancing were indulged in for the remainder of the evening. Mrs. Ironsides and Mrs. Norris of Silverton were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harris this week, as also were Dr. and Mrs. Gomm, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. McFadden and J. McInnis, of New Denver.

Slocan Enterprise, 28 Aug 1929: "B.R. Lommatzsch of Vulcan, Alta. spent several days in Sandon, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Harris."

Nelson Daily News, 10 Sept 1929: Alma and Marjorie to Vulcan (Marjorie spent summer in Sandon)

Lethbridge Herald, 12 Sept 1929: Mrs. J.M. Harris of Sandon, B.C. and Miss Mary Lommatzsch, who have been visiting at Nelson, B.C., have returned to Miss Lommatzsch's home at Vulcan.

Slocan Enterprise, 11 Sept 1930: Mrs. J.M. Harris arrived home last week after spending the summer months with her parents at High River, Alta.

Lethbridge Herald, 20 Oct 1931:
MOVE FOXES TO NEW LOCATION
Vulcan fox farm is thriving — price of pelts holds steady

Vulcan, Oct. 19 — Recent announcement of the commencement on Oct. 5 of the annual inspection of registered animals on the fox farms of Alberta has a local interest. There are 135 ranches of the kind in the province, and the work of inspection will require two months or more. One of the number is that locally known in the industry of the west as the B.R. "Barney" Lommatzsch farm, located a mile or two east of Vulcan. This fox farm, established some five or six years ago with but a few pairs of the animals, this season totalled in young and old to 500.

During each year of the period there has also been a varying number pelted. Just recently there has been a division of the stock, more than half of which has been moved to a timber and brush location west of Calgary. It might be that eventually the entire lot will be transferred to this better location. There is in that here stated evidence of a very successful development of the Vulcan farm. The fox farming industry is said to have been less hit by the depression condition than any of the other livestock enterprises. Prices have declined, but to a smaller degree than in other Industries. The average price for pelts on the Montreal market during the latter part of September remained fairly steady at \$50. Mr. Lommatzsch states that the animals

that he has selected for next pelting are in condition better than many of the animals on some of the other farms in this part of the province.

Lethbridge Herald, 29 Dec 1931:

HELPS IN FUR HARVEST

Progress Made at Vulcan Farm

(From Our Own Correspondent)

VULCAN, Dec. 27 — B.R. "Barney"

Lommatzsch has distinction locally as "the fox man", owning and operating the only fox farm that is within the extensive area that is properly termed the Vulcan district. Mr. Lommatzsch has now been some years in the business, and has, in addition to the splendid development of his own enterprise, established an excellent connection in the industry ...

Lethbridge Herald, 20 Apr 1934:

RETURNS FROM TEXAS AFTER OPERATION

Vulcan, April 19 — B.R. Lommatzsch has returned from his trip to Dol Rio, Texas, where he underwent an operation under Dr. Brinkley. The operation was completely successful and Mr. Lommatzsch already feels much better. The fact that he was able to make the return trip by motor within one week of the operation is testimony of the wonderful recovery he has made. Mr. Lommatzsch was accompanied on the trip by his daughter Mrs. Harris of Sandon, B.C. and this gave him an excellent opportunity to see the country and to note the effect of the N.R.A. over a large territory. In his opinion conditions

are much worse there than in Alberta.

This coincides with the report of George Hanlin of Reid Hill who also returned recently from an extended trip.

Mrs. Harris intends staying in the district for a few weeks renewing acquaintance with old friends.

Arrow Lakes News, 20 Jun 1935: Mrs. J.M.

Harris, accompanied by her father and sister of Vulcan, leave for Texas, where they will spend two months visiting.

Arrow Lakes News, 8 Oct 1936: Mrs. J.M.

Harris left today by motor for Vulcan, Alberta for a visit at the home of her parents at that point.

Arrow Lakes News, 31 Dec 1936: Mrs. J.M.

Harris returned to her home here on Thursday, having spent an extended holiday at the home of her parents at Vulcan, Alta. She drove her own car from Vulcan to Sandon in a little over 24 hours.

Silver Standard, 10 Nov 1938:

Sandon lady's picture in Calgary paper While visiting Mr. John Harris in Sandon last Saturday, we were shown a picture of Mrs. Harris, that appeared in the Calgary Herald on Oct. 29. The picture and article were about Mrs. Harris and her sister and the fox farm owned by her father, Mr. Lommatzsch, at Vulcan, Alta.

Mrs. Harris is assisting at the farm, due to the illness of her father.

The foxes are of the matzeh variety and the farm has 1,000 foxes.

The article gave a story of this farm and emphasized the success made by women in handling foxes.

Lethbridge Herald, 7 Feb 1941: Miss Marjorie Lommatzsch and Mrs. Emma Lommatzsch installed as officers of the Vulcan Rebekah Lodge No. 37

Lethbridge Herald, 15 Jul 1943: Pet silver fox from Vulcan struts along Calgary's main street

Calgary, July 15 — One fortunate hunk of fur that won't ever get to be just the fur piece around milady's neck, is Buddy, three-month-old white-faced silver fox pet of Marjory Lommatzsch from Vulcan. But Buddy is not like an ordinary little fox, a fact that was quite apparent, as, at the end of a leash, she strutted proudly down 8th Ave. Tuesday. No, ever since, as the runt of the litter of pups, she was chosen by Marjorie as a special pet, Buddy has cultivated such pampered tastes as a yen for chocolates and at the mention of a possible dish of ice cream her perky black ears point up and her body fairly quivers with anticipation. Not the first of such pets is Buddy, as Marjorie's family owns a fox ranch. However, each one has its own characteristics, declared Marjorie. Buddy gets along very well with the pet cats at the ranch, but fur flies when she is in reach of the dogs. She is very friendly and gentle, amiably suffering the fondlings of excited children

who gather about whenever she is brought to the city.

Lethbridge Herald, 13 Jun 1944: Marjorie at 26th annual farm young people's week at University of Alberta (honorable mention in livestock judging competition).

Silver Standard, 7 Dec 1944: Teddy Klein [sic] of the Lucky Jim mine spent several days in Sandon last week.

Lethbridge Herald, 30 Jan 1947:
Denbigh — Lommatzch
VULCAN — (HNS) — A wedding of interest in southern Alberta took place at the Pro Cathedral of the Redeemer, Calgary, on Jan. 17, when Marjorie, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Lommatzsch, Vulcan, became the bride of Jack Denbigh, son of Mr. Cyril Denbigh, Calgary, and nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Denbigh, Vulcan. Rev. Dean Smye officiated.

The young couple was attended by and Mrs. Russ Lawrence, Mrs. Eileen Sutherland and Mr. Lawrence Ottowell. The bride chose for her wedding a powder blue ensemble with which she wore gray accessories. Her shower bouquet was of deep pink roses. Supper was served to the bridal party at the Palliser hotel immediately following the ceremony.

After a short honeymoon spent in Calgary, Mr. and Mrs. Denbigh have returned to the district to reside.

Lethbridge Herald, 15 Feb 1949:

Couple marks golden wedding
Vulcan — (HNS) — Mr. and Mrs. Barney Lommatzsch celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently and it was the occasion for a delightful party in their honor, given by the ladies of the Church of Christ in the new room at the church. A large wedding cake centred the long table, which was decorated with flowers and candles. The room was decorated in yellow and white, this being done by Mrs. Shimp and Mrs. Boose.

The guests joined in singing several songs, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Gladys Koehler and a selection was given by four little girls, Agnes and Lillian Bogner, Patsy Robertson and Eileen Rutberg, and second number, a duet, was given by Agnes and Lillian Bogner. A short play, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, Eileen Rutberg and Patsy Robertson, was greatly enjoyed. A lunch was served.

Lethbridge Herald, 10 Feb 1950:
B.R. Lommatzsch officer of the Church of Christ at Vulcan.

Lethbridge Herald, 4 Jul 1950:
Mrs. B. Lommatzsch expresses good wishes to Mrs. Myrtle Shimp at farewell party.

Lethbridge Herald, 24 Nov 1953:
Mr. and Mrs. B. Lommatzsch will be married 54 years in January

Arrow Lakes News, 16 Dec 1954, quoted in same, 11 Dec 2014:

Reco Hotel in Sandon is about to close its doors for the first time in half a century. The many friends of Mrs. J.M. Harris were hosts Saturday night at a surprise party that literally raised the roof (well, cracked the plaster actually). Mrs. Harris plans to spend the winter with her parents in Alberta.

Calgary Herald, 28 Jan 1957:
ANNIVERSARY. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Lommatzch, old-timers of the Vulcan district, observed their 58th wedding anniversary recently. They were married in Wisconsin, moved to Nanton in 1907 and, the next year, homesteaded on land south of the present Vulcan townsite. Mr. Lommatzsch was also in the lumber and fox farming industries prior to retirement. They have two daughters.

Nelson Daily News, 3 Aug 1963:
Funeral rites for father of Sandon woman
New Denver — Interment in Vulcan, Alta. cemetery followed recently funeral rites for long-time district resident B.R. Lommatzsch, father of Mrs. Alma Harris of Sandon, B.C.

Mr. Lommatzsch died at age 86. He had homesteaded in the Vulcan district in 1910. He was instrumental in organizing the Vulcan Co-Operative Company Ltd., a lumber and building supply firm, and was its first manager.

Later he had farms at Vulcan and Millarville. He was one of the first members of the Alberta Wheat Pool and was a 49-year member of the Oddfellows

and Rebekah Lodges. He and his wife had been married for 64 years.

Besides his wife and Mrs. Harris he is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Jack (Marjorie) Denbigh of Vulcan, two grandchildren and one brother in Minnesota.

Rev. R.J. Pelham of Vulcan and Rev. E. Beonit of Nanton conducted the funeral service at the Vulcan Church of Christ. Graveside service was conducted by Samaritan Lodge IOOF.

Arrow Lakes News, 4 Aug 1976: Mrs. Alma Harris and Ted Kleim had as their guests at her new home in Silverton Mr. and Mrs. Don Fallory and sons Robert and Donald from Kirkealdy, Alberta.

Wilf Schmidt's journal, 30 Aug 1983: "I then continued to Silverton to visit Mrs. Alma Harris. Had a terrific visit. Great new photographs. great lady. Great story. I think this is the story I am going to write about."

According to funeral card at Silvery Slocan Museum:

Alma Kleim (nee Lommatzsch)
b. 16 Jan 1900, Kilbourn, Wisc.
m. John Morgan Harris, 8 Nov 1926, prob. Virginia
m. Theodore (Teddy) Kleim, 25 Mar 1977, Nelson
d. 25 Sept 1989, age 89, cremated
Predeceased by parents and sister
Marjorie Denbigh. Leaves nephews Wm.

M. Denbigh of Calgary and J.R. Denbigh of Vulcan. Organist was Agnes Emery.

(Kilbourn, also known as Kilbourn City, is today known as Wisconsin Dells, pop. 2,845.)

No sign of the Lommatzsch family on the 1911 Canadian census.

The 1955 B.C. directory listed Alma as proprietor of the Chambers Mine. It also showed her as manager of the No. 7 mine and the Reco Mining and Milling Co.

members.shaw.ca/traces/canada/abrefs/01cd.htm

DENBIGH, Jack S.: 1920-1964, Cemetery, Alberta, Full text, CA016

DENBIGH, Marjorie "Marj": 1920-1964, Cemetery, Alberta, Full text, CA016

lethbridgeags.theboss.net/NewsD.html

Index to Lethbridge Herald Obits
January 1960 - December 1969

Name/Age/Date of Death/Paper Date

DENBIGH, John Sutton 43

9 Oct 1964 13 Oct 1964

DENBIGH, Marjorie 44

9 Oct 1964 13 Oct 1964

Norman Carter writing in *The Beaver*, Spring 1976, p. 47: "During these years Mrs. Harris's young sister, a girl of my own age who was an invalid, came to Sandon. Johnny Harris, in his typical open-handed way, had invited her to live

with them for a time. He had a special sleigh built for her that was drawn by two big white dogs ...”

members.shaw.ca/traces/canada/abrefs/01kl.htm

LOMMATZSCH, Bruno Richard
"Barney": 1877-1963, Cemetery, Alberta, Full text, CA016
LOMMATZSCH, Emma Caroline: 1879-1964, Cemetery, Alberta, Full text, CA016

abgensoc.ca/homestead/search.php?
LOMMATZSCH, Barney Richard
Section 2 Township 16 Range 23
Meridian 4
Film # 2517 in Accession # 1970.313 at
Provincial Archives of Alberta
File # 46857A

Alma resigned as postmistress April 14, 1955. Yvonne Maxinuk filled in as of May 26 then permanent appointment Aug. 17, 1955. Resigned May 25, 1959. Peter Brolly acting July 1, 1959. Permanent Oct. 7, 1959. Resigned Dec. 12, 1960. Alma back as acting Jan. 4, 1961 and permanent March 3, 1961.

Elsie Turnbull fonds, Selkirk College Archives:
Box 47, brown 1953 diary: "July 11, 1953 ... We met Mr. Harris himself as he popped out of the Reco Hotel to read the thermometer. He is a tiny, delicately formed old man of almost 90 who came from Virginia to Wallace, Idaho. His connections there led him to Sandon to

look after the Payne claim in 1891 (sic) and he stayed to acquire property and become one of the founders of the little community. In 1892 he laid out the townsite, pre-empted claims and built hotels. The Reco [hotel] was one of them and now he lives in it and has a store and post office there ... The Virginia building ... was built by Mr. Harris and called after his home state ... With regret we said goodbye to Mr. Harris and continued on ...”

Box 48, brown 1964 diary: "July 25, 1965 ... I then drove up to Sandon and called on Mrs. Johnny Harris who lives in a back apartment of the Virginia during the summer. Inside the partially wrecked building which faces on the creek is a large, well-furnished apartment with washer, refrigerator, stove, cupboards, beds, and furniture. Here she and a friend were staying and her two nephews. These boys, 14 and 17, had been orphaned the year before and she is now raising them. A woman of 65, she finds the situation challenging but is happy to undertake it. During the rest of the year she lives in Vulcan, Alta. She very kindly lent me clippings about her husband and was most co-operative. A stout blonde woman, she came to Sandon in 1924 and according to Mrs. Greer she came to work as secretary for J.M. Harris who ran the waterworks and a mining and real estate office. She appears very competent and carefully listed all papers she lent me, giving me one copy and keeping the other ... Mrs. Harris showed me a photograph

of a watercolor done by a Japanese which gave to Sandon the atmosphere of a Japanese painting, all lines being very delicate and the mountain peaks wreathed in mist.”

Teddy Kleim died 8 Feb 2000 at age 87, per records at New Denver village office. He was buried in the same plot as Alma in New Denver. No obituary in *Nelson Daily News* nor *Valley Voice* nor in the issue of the *Arrow Lakes News* immediately after his death, although I wasn’t able to find the next couple of issues. There was a story about him and the Sandon flood in the *Valley Voice*, 6 Jul 1995.

According to “Ted Kleim: a local history,” which appeared in the *Nelson Daily News* of 29 Jan 1992, Teddy had a “close friendship” with Johnny and Alma dating back to the late 1930s. Teddy was raised in St. Boswell, Sask., and worked for Alma’s father in Alberta. He tried working in the Trail smelter, but only lasted two weeks, then went to Zincton for four and a half years. He came to Sandon in 1946. (Although the 1944 B.C. directory lists Theodore Kleim as a Sandon millworker.) Teddy had several jobs in Sandon, including power plant operator. (Was he the one Johnny fired?) He built a house in New Denver and moved there in 1963. “He worked with a variety of outfits stripping and trenching and building roads.” After Johnny died he acquired a part interest in the Reco mine. The 1955 B.C. directory lists him as “transfer and welding.”