

Subject: Electric store picture

Hello Marty, I have visited your web site and think it is great! The picture looks like it could be my great great grandfather William Y Bedal or (Bill Beadle) hard oiler, and his wife Margaret Mcleod (Mrs. Bedal in another picture of the Quilters of Petrolia) store. The guy in the picture looks like it could be my grandfather Gerald Isaac Bedal born in 1900. I don't know for sure but his father Isaac John Bedal and brother Leonard would be older. Leonard Bedal had some family history of the Bedals. One of my oldest memories of my grandfather was a hat like the picture and a always present cigar, though later in life he mostly chewed his cigar rather than smoke. White rose oil cans were in his garage also. My grandmother would also mention Canada often. When my grandfather died in 1958 or 9, I asked about family in Canada. She wrote to uncle Leonard, and he replied with the family history. He was an accountant by trade, and I have yet to find any mistakes in his info. Stephen Handorf a cousin 6 times removed and I agree on the family history back to the 1st Isaac born in 1743. According to Leonard, William Y. Bedal left his fathers farm in Brighton township to get a job on Drakes well in PA. but he was too late ,so he returned to Canada and learned the business and became one of Petrolia's hard oilers drilling in Sumatra, Borneo and other far off places with headhunters and primitive conditions. The picture in the Braddock collection with him with his hand on the shoulder of his mentor, resembles another picture with his mentor and another man that looks like William only much bigger in stature, in a rickshaw in the far east. I would like to know who his mentor was. Mystery is part of the Bedal history. The descendants of William Y. Bedal are many, Essex, Amherstburg, other places in Canada, Toledo Ohio suburbs as well as far south as Louisiana thru William Y s son William A, who stayed in the oil business with Gulf Oil. William Y worked for Gypsy Oil? Have you heard or do you know anything about Gypsy oil? I suspect William may have had a falling out with his mentor and by 1900 he was listed as a laborer on the census and not a driller as previous census's. It is also true that the drilling business changed with the invention of a new type of drill bit by Samuel (golden rule) Jones who later became mayor of Toledo Ohio. Family history has become a hobby, and I think the web site is a great resource. I hope you are able to keep up the good work. Sincerely Robert Bedal

I would like to add more info on the Bedals. While hard oiler William was after oil, a cousin was teaching Laura Ingalls Wilder how to read so she could grow up and write the book which was the basis for the TV series Little House On The Prairie. Another cousin the brother of the Teacher left Walnut Grove and made his way west to marry a Indian girl daughter of a Sauk chief. This info can be found by searching James Bedal and wife Susie W. Now back to William. The father of the cousins was Elias Bedal born 1822 in Picton Canada. Williams father was Isaac Bedal born in Canada. His mother was Maturah Tubbs, the daughter of Isaiah Tubbs and Rhoda Shepard. Isaiah Tubbs owned Westlake Island at one time and the resort there now is still named the Isaiah Tubbs resort. This is where it gets confusing. The father of William, Isaac Bought the farm from his uncle Isaac who was the father of Elias(little house on the prairie). This farm was adjacent to Williams grandfather Yeoman Elias Bedal born 1788 in Dutchess county N.Y. The

father of Yeoman Elias Bedal and uncle Isaac Bedal was Isaac Beadle according to Leonard born 1743 in Wales. I have not proved this birth but I have no reason to doubt it. It is fact that Isaac Beadle was married to Sarah Palmer and noted on the Bower man Genealogy as Sarah Beedle. The beadles and Bowermans have intermarried over several generations. I forgot to mention The Bowermans and Sarah were Quakers. The Bowermans and Beadles came to Prince Edward county after the American Revolution, getting land from the crown with the Loyalists. These records are available. Sarah Beedle made a acknowledgement in 1799 that she had married outside the faith. This was after her children were born, the acknowledgement was accepted by the Westlake Quakers and she went on to be active in her faith. The 1st Isaac was in business with Stephen Bowerman the father or grandfather of Sarah Palmer, in a salt mine. Info can be found in the writings of A.C. Bower man, Ron Lahti,s web site, Hawkshome,and other genealogies web sites. The children of Isaac #1 and Sarah were not all Quakers. The ones that were are recorded. Isaac, and brother Elias were, marrying Quakers. Isaac #2 married Nancy Gerow. Elias #1 married Rachel Ferguson. William on the 1851 census was listed as 4yrs old and sister Rachel as well as mother Maturah and father Isaac were listed as Quakers. I do not know why but they lost their Quaker faith in later censuses. William while in Petrolia was listed as Baptist. Petrolia was Williams final resting place ,along with wife Margaret. A plot was purchased for son William A., but he died in Tulsa Ok. and never made it back home. If you knew my father or grandfather and said they came from Quakers you would laugh. Turning the other cheek and Quaker ways were just not them. I never knew my great grandfather Isaac John Bedal, he died the year I was born. What I have been told is that he ran a race track and was on the edge of legal behavior. I would still like to find out more about William and Margaret as well as descendents. One more thing I would like to add is that all Bedals are not related. There is a line of German Bedals I know nothing about. The famous Konrad Bedal author and Carl Bedal author of note are two. Also a line of Bedals in Malaysia makes me wonder if William sowed some wild oats. Mystery is always interesting.

Sincerely Robert Bedal