

## **Burns**

Alexander Burns	
Robert Burns (1)	1824 - 1901
Robert Burns (2nd)	1852 - 1929
Esther Jane Burns	1886 – 1962

## **Surname and Pre Canada History**

The Surname Burns came from Burness and became Burns because it was pronounced that way in Ayrshire, Scotland.

### **Alexander Burns**

Alexander Burns of Hawick, Roxboroughshire, Scotland was a shepherd. He married Agnes Jaffray. They had 7 sons, including

1. William Burns
2. Alexander Burns 3 Dec 1820
3. Robert Burns, b, February 1824
4. George Burns born 24 April 1826

### **Robert Burns (1) 1824 - 1901**

Jean (Burns) Atkinson writing in April 11 1952 indicates that Robert Burns, son of Alexander and Agnes Burns, was the youngest of the seven sons and was born on February 1824 in Hawick Scotland and immigrated to Canada at the age of 19 years in 1843 and settled near Brussels, Huron County, Ontario. Esther Jean (Burns) Atkinson believed that he was the youngest of the 7 brothers and died in Brussels around 1903 of Cancer.) His death certificate indicates he died of cancer in September 10 1901 at the age of 77. His wife Elizabeth Richardson born April 1823 immigrated to Canada and married in 1844.

Their children include

1. Alexander Burns, b. 1845 Brussels, Ont. d Merrill, Wisconsin
2. Agnes Burns, b. 1849, Brussels, Ont. d. 1865 m. Mr Pugh
3. Robert Burns, b. 14 May 1852 Brussels, m. Jane McNab, Dec 1929 Regina, Sask.
4. James Burns, b. 1855 Brussels, 1864 d. Brussels
5. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Burns b. 27 Aug 1858 m. Richard Joseph Stewart in 1876, d.4 Nov 1925
6. John (Jack) Burns, b. 1860
7. Esther Burns, b. 1863

### **Robert Burns (2nd) 1852-1929**

Robert Burns (2nd), son of Robert and Elizabeth Burns, was born on 14 May 1852 in Brussels

Ontario. He was known as Bob. He married Jane McNab on 4 December 1878 and in 1881 along with infant daughter Grace moved to homestead in Elkhorn Manitoba. In 1884 or 1885 he traded his land at Elkhorn, Manitoba for a quarter section at Neepawa (SW ¼ 17-14-15.) purchased by his father-in-law Daniel McNab on January 7 1881. He lived there to 1897.

He retired from farming in 1917 and moved to Regina, renting the farm to son Bob who had been given the first quarter. Robert died in 1929 and his wife in 1941.

Their children include,

1. Grace Burns, b. Mar 1880 in Brussels, Ontario; d. Jun 1889 at Neepawa, Manitoba
2. Elizabeth Richardson Burns, b. 20 Apr 1882 at Elkhorn, Manitoba; d. 1955 at Regina, Saskatchewan
3. Margaret Emma Burns, b.4 Sep 1883 in Elkhorn, Manitoba; m. John (Jack) Alexander Stevenson, 15 Jul 1913; d. 17 Oct 1957 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; They had two children Jack Burns Stevenson, b. 15 May 1914, d. 01 May 1981, Elizabeth Jean Stevenson, b. 12 Sep 1916 who married Bill Dixon; three children Donald William Dixon, b. 19 May 1948, David John Dixon, b. 19 Jul 1949 and Margaret Dixon, b.1952, d. 1952
4. Robert Burns, b. 2 May 1885 in Neepawa, Manitoba; d. 30 Nov 1950 at Neepawa, Manitoba
5. Esther Jane Burns, b. 26 Jul 1886 Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Edward Elbert Atkinson, 25 Jan 1912, d. 13 Feb 1962 at Vancouver, British Columbia, See below
6. Mary Olive Burns, b. 6 Feb 1888 in Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Roy William Egbert Loucks, 16 Aug 1916, d. Jun 1982 at Regina, Saskatchewan, Two children, Jessie Isabelle Loucks, b. 17 May 1917, m. Bob Foster and William Wentworth Loucks, b. Jun 1921, m. Helen McCauley
7. Grace Ellen Burns, b. 9 Mar 1890 in Neepawa, Manitoba; d. 1970
8. Agnes Isabel Burns, b.4 Jun 1898 in Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Frank Guthrie. 1926, d. 1977 in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. Two Children, Isabel Elizabeth Guthrie, b. 1929, Frank Burns Guthrie b. 1932

### **Ester Jane Burns 1886 – 1961**

Esher Jean Burns (called Jean) was born 26 July 1886. She graduated from Grade 11 in Neepawa and then attended Normal College in Winnipeg for three months where she got a second class certificate. She taught school for 8 years. She was terrific in English especially Robbie Burns poetry.

She married Ed Atkinson 25 January 1912. They lived in Waskada from 1912 to 1917. Their children:

1. Ethel Jean Atkinson born 30 October 1913 Married Alexander McRae
2. William Burns, 24 July 1915. William (Billie) died of an obstructed bowel at three months and was buried in the Burns plot in Neepawa Cemetery
3. Grace Elizabeth Atkinson born 11 December 1916. Married George Clifford Retson
4. Robert Donald born in 1 November 1920 had an appendectomy operation and died thirty days later at age 8. He was buried at Kerrobert.

In the depression she entered several essay contests to win several prizes including a contest, “Why every woman needed an electric Iron.”, and first prize in a contest with Saskatchewan Phoenix.

In the fall of 1943 they moved to Meyerthorpe, North of Edmonton. In the summer 1944 her husband set up a gunsmithing and plumbing business in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. In 1948 they moved to Vancouver.

She died 11 February 1961 in Vancouver. She was buried in Mountain view Cemetery, 5455 Fraser St., Jones new Block 20 A, Plot 14 Disc 214

### **Sources of Information on Burns in Canada**

While not accurate in all details Esther Jean (Burns) Atkinson wrote a history which is used here where not contradicted by other information. Another unidentified writer provided data to Grace Retson on a later day trip to Kerrobert