



Sumako Fujino

(1875 - 1934)

Sumako Fujino, the first Japanese woman to settle in Mission, was born in Shiga-Ken, Japan. At the age of 20, she married Kumikichi Fujino and immigrated to Canada four years later.

In July of 1904, they bought 30 acres of land near Wren Street and Silverdale Road in Mission where they raised their family.

Sumako helped her husband clear the land and build their farm. In addition to looking after her family of five children (2 boys and 3 girls) she worked in the berry fields and orchards and cooked for the hired hands.

Because Sumako had a great love of animals, she enjoyed looking after the family cows and 600 chickens. The people of Mission, who had never seen a Japanese woman before, flocked to the farm to welcome her.

As more Japanese families settled in the area, Sumako visited the immigrant brides to offer friendship and encouragement. Although her English skills were not strong, she served as a bridge between the women of the Japanese community and those of the community at large.

She was also very active in the Buddhist Church. She died on August 29, 1934 at 69 years of age and is buried in Hatzic Cemetery. Fujino Street was later named after her family.

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