



# Street Stories

## Henry Avenue

GPS: [49.1532601,-122](#)

Hatzic was once the largest CPR Express point in Canada. This was due to the prolific fruit production in the area: fruit growers in Hatzic sent their produce by train to the prairie provinces during the summer.

Among the pioneer fruit growers in Hatzic was George W. Henry. George moved from Ontario to B.C. in the 1880s, and in 1892 he and his wife Edith set up a home and fruit nursery business in Mission's Hatzic area. It is claimed that he had the "first fruit tree nursery in BC." George also headed the Mission City Fruit Growers and Canning Association, formed to help fruit growers after the 1894 flood.

Sadly, Edith died at the young age of 29. About two years after Edith's death, George went back to Ontario and married Marion May



Henry family portrait, c. 1906: Adelbert and Millie with their three children (left to right) Ivy, Clarence and Harold.  
Mission Community Archives 112-018

Fowler, a well-educated banker's daughter. He brought his new wife to Hatzic, but she disliked life in the wilderness and after a year they returned to Ontario.

In 1900, George's cousin Adelbert (Delbert) Henry (1869-1949), his wife Malvina (Mille) (1874-1950), and their children Ivy and Harold came to Hatzic. Once here, they had a third child named Clarence but he died in 1908. Delbert and Millie bought the family farm and continued to run it calling it "Mt. Prospect Fruit Farm." Their daughter Ivy recalled the early days during an interview in 1975 which is preserved in the Archives:

*First of all they had to take [the fruit] into Mission and the roads were awful bad. It went east mostly, Kamloops and Calgary. Later on so many people went into raising fruit that the train stopped at Hatzic. I can remember the train stopping there half an hour in the height of the season to load on all of the fruit.*

While Delbert Henry was a quiet but respected man, his wife Millie was outgoing and well-liked. She was very active in the local women's groups, including the Hatzic Women's Institute committed to "institute a social and education centre...and the encouragement of agricultural and other local and home industries for women."

Delbert grew mainly raspberries on the farm until 1930 when the crops declined due to a disease that Ivy Henry described as a "plague." This, along with his failing health, led Delbert to eventually retire from fruit farming.

Since his heart problem forced him to rest a lot, it was hard for him to make a living. In the late 1940s, he began selling lots from his land in order to survive. This continued after his death in 1949 and Mille's in 1950 until there was no farm left. Both had lived more than half their lives in Hatzic.

By Laura Barth; edited with additions by Val Billesberger