
Perry (Pere) DARLING

Author: Stu Berry

Peregrine George Ellison Darling was born August 12, 1905 at the Remmington Vicarage, Northumberland, England. He died in Naramata in 1984. His parents were Rev Oliver Warner Darling (Dec 6, 1850 - Dec 20, 1914) and Violet Caroline Carr-Ellison (Mar 8, 1870 - May 25, 1955).

Pere's father died Dec. 1914 and his two half brothers were killed in WW1 (1915) when Pere was 9 years old. His remaining family of sister Katherine and mother Violet often came from England to visit Pere in Naramata.

Pere immigrated to Canada in about 1927. He was sponsored by a German farmer in Harrop, BC. He later worked for a farmer in Grand Forks, BC where he learned of the new orcharding community of Naramata. By 1929 Pere was in Naramata and while working for Mr Fred R. Cross, he became good friends with both Cross sisters, Alice and Dora, and the Staniforth brothers, Gwyn and Selwyn.

In 1930, Pere purchased the 5 acres on Booth Rd from Mr. Kennedy near Mr. Cross' orchard and he planted apples, pears and a peach orchard.

He built a small cabin on the property with the help of the Staniforth brothers. In 1933 Pere took a long holiday home to England and Ireland to visit family and friends. It was while he was staying with his uncle in Ireland that he met a pretty young lady who was working as a nanny for his uncle's neighbours. After living in Canada for 5 years, his courting manners shocked the stodgy Englishmen and women. He was asked what his intentions were, so he said: "to marry this lovely lady," so they became engaged after meeting only three weeks earlier. Pere then finished his holiday and returned to Naramata to build a proper home. Fortu-

nately, his father had set aside money for his son's future needs. In March, Frances Gwellian Morgan, (born July 1, 1912) age 21, and her mother came to Halifax by boat and Pere came from Naramata by train to Halifax to meet them. Frances and Pere were married in Halifax on March 23, 1934 with Mrs. Morgan as their witness. Pere and Frances had a lovely long trip across Canada on the CNR train and arrived in Naramata to a house not quite finished and no money left to finish it with.

They must have done alright working for other orchardists for they bought two horses, 'Nertz' and 'Bobby' and loved riding and picnicking in the hills above Naramata. The family would end up owning other horses with daughter Ann on her horse 'Patchy' and Sula on 'Rusty' and enjoyed many a ride with Mary and Jean Raitt. 'Patchy' had been purchased mainly for Frances to ride but was used in the orchard during and after the war. 'Patch' and sometimes 'Rusty' would pull the stoneboat loaded with boxes full of fruit through the orchard and up to the fruit stand. I can remember the excitement as 'Patch' especially, was a bit too high strung for this work and the full boxes would nearly tip over.

John Morgan Darling was born June 14, 1935 and Ann, born Gwellian Morgan Darling came on Jan 7, 1937. Ursula (Sula) Katherine Darling was born Oct 16, 1938. Frances' younger sister Nancy lived with them (. . .) invasions forced Nancy to return to England.

Pere's mother, Violet Caroline Darling was a regular visitor and she purchased the Manse home across from the Anglican Church where she was an avid Sunday school teacher. Joy Wiseman remembers Mrs. Darling making her do her calligraphy bible passage three times before accepting it. This work still hangs in the Anglican church. Violet also purchased a peach orchard and small summer home on the beach. When Violet died, this orchard was described as too sandy to be economical and was sold to Mr and Mrs Braidwood who would build Sandy Beach Lodge amongst the peach trees.

Pere joined the Army in 19__ in Penticton and ended up in the regiment where he trained as a radar man in the East before being assigned to the radar unit in Prince Rupert. Frances had the hard task of raising the three children plus running the orchard for many years.

ADDENDA:

1 - Letter from Pere to his mother on Feb 20, 1933

2 - April 2, 1911 Census of Ireland record sheet for Darling household

Keep for the present

To Canon H. Nestling
 Rectory Rectory
 Mr Navan
 Co: Meath, Ireland

Feb 20th, 1933.

Dear Mother

You may have guessed by my last letter that there was a bit of news coming. I'm engaged to Frances Morgan who is companion to Mr Collins not far from here. I need not say that she is a charming girl, one in a billion, and that I'm very much in love with her. I know you'd be sure to like her. She is very unsophisticated and has all sorts of fanciful ideas of her own and an amusing outlook on things; and she's very pretty I think with such a lovely complexion as Aunt Lizzie is always saying. She is a great favourite with the uncle and aunt and with Miss Harrison.

It started as a flirtation at about the beginning of the week. Then we became serious and started arranging meetings and writing letters to each other, and it was then

that I wired cancelling my passage (a bright idea!). Unfortunately, we were rather indiscreet and succeeded in shocking the country-side, and M^{rs} Collins hauled Frances over the coals and told her she wasn't to see me any more. She must have had a rotten time of it, poor dear.

Frances told me the whole situation in a letter and I went over to M^{rs} Collins this morning, and had a talk with her. She was very decent about it and, as I'd already asked Frances if she'd marry me some day, told me I could come to the house so long as it was on the understanding that we were engaged (which would obviate any awkwardness for her).

This has rather precipitated things, but there is no damage done. Very much the reverse.

Whether we had better break off the engagement temporarily when I go back, or what, I don't know. I don't think we'll be in any great hurry about getting married yet awhile, but I mean

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to come back again next winter and if we still hit it off perhaps we might marry then.

I am afraid this is all ~~at~~ rather knocking to pieces the plans you and I were making for the future, but we must see how we can combine the two. Supposing you came out with me this year, for instance? Or supposing you brought out Frances with you next year as 'companion'? (or would that be too improper?!).

A little while ago you said something to the effect that if Kay or I ever wanted to marry you could settle a certain sum on us. I think you said the amount would be enough to keep a wife, but not at all on a luxurious scale. Would you tell me about how much it would be — so that Frances and I can start building castles in the air (We're rather good at that sort of thing). She says she's got nothing herself so ~~it~~ we will have to be content with a very simple style of living.

I had to be rather vague about ^{the} financial ~~side of~~ ^{side of} ~~my~~ ^{my} affairs when writing to Mr Morgan just now, and merely stressed my good intentions. However, I expect you will be able to give me a better idea of things before I have to write again to her. Mr Morgan died six months ago. He was in the army, and his father was a clergyman. The family lives in Essex; and besides Frances there is a sister and a brother, both younger. She herself, by the way, will be twenty-one in July.

It's a quarter to four in the morning, so I won't write any more now, although I could write reams. But you'll get another letter I expect, in a few days' time.

With very much love. Your affectionate son
Pere.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd

Number	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.				WHERE BORN.
	1.	2.				6.	7.		9.	10.	11.	12.	
	<p><i>No Persons absent on the Night of Sunday, April 2nd, to be entered here; EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, APRIL 3RD.</i></p> <p><i>Subject to the above instruction, the Name of the Head of the Family should be written first; then the names of his Wife, Children, and other Relatives, then those of Visitors, Boarders, Servants, &c.</i></p>												
	Christian Name.		Surname.										
1	Oliver Warner	Darling	Head of Family	Church of Ireland	Read & write	59		Married	10	2	2	15.	United S. N. S.
2	Mabel Caroline	Darling	Wife	Church of Ireland	Read & write	40		Married	10	2	2		Boyer
3	Katharine Elvira	Darling	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Read & write	9							Lyford. Boyer
4	Frederica	Darling	Son	Church of Ireland	Cannot read or write	5							Boyer
5	Annal	Boe	Servant	Church of Ireland	Read & write			Non-eman (Domestic)					Boyer
6	Mabel	Stafford	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write	17		Non-eman (Domestic)					Boyer

Census of Ireland, 1911. Sheet lists entire household of the Darling Family