

...Cobden of the Past

When researching the unmarked burials in Cobden Union Cemetery, another Swedish family was discovered.

A 9-year-old girl, Hazel Osbeck, is buried in the first row of the Anglican block of the cemetery. She died Oct 10, 1918 in Cobden. Her family are listed in the 1921 census of Cobden, living on Cowley St. Her dad Carl was a labourer and both parents were born in Sweden. The 2 children were Alice and Carl. The year of immigration to Canada was 1913. That is the only reference I can find for this family in Canada.

However, on further search in US records, a marriage certificate is found for Carl Andersson Osbeck (the father) and Anna Johanna Johnson (the mother). They married at Shortsville, New York in 1896. They had at least 4 children born in Pennsylvania. The first daughter Clara apparently died in childhood. The second daughter Alice married in New York in 1930 and she and her husband died in Florida. The third child Hazel died in Cobden. The fourth child Carl married in Syracuse and this couple died in Syracuse.

It would appear that the parents came to America and married there but after their 4 children were born, they ventured to Cobden c1913. What contributed to that decision is unknown to us, but it is an odd move unless there was a connection to other Swedish families in the area. They moved back to the U.S.A. by 1930, leaving their deceased little girl in our custody in Cobden Union Cemetery.