

## **Ivan Purvis and Purvis Fisheries, Lake Superior**

Ivan Purvis was born at Gore Bay, Lake Huron in 1896 and was the grandson of William Purvis. William Purvis, with his two brothers, arrived in Canada from Arbroath Scotland in the 1850s, was lighthouse keeper at the Duck Islands, Lake Huron (off Manitoulin Island's south shore) from 1872, and began a fishing business by 1882 together with his five sons. In 1902 James Purvis sold his Lake Huron fishing license to concentrate on transporting mail and freight between the mainland and Manitoulin Island. James and son Ivan formed James Purvis and Son in 1922 and continued freighting until the highway was opened, when they returned to fishing. In 1934 James Purvis and Son purchased the Quebec Harbour, Lake Superior Booth Company operation, which had been in decline. That fishery was taken over by Ivan in 1936. The station would become home to 22 families. Fishing was conducted as far as Superior Shoal, 75 miles west of the harbour, and Caribou Island and the Pukaskwa and Otterhead. Arrival of the sea lamprey and stock depletion led to decline of commercial fishing and Ivan Purvis ceased operations and sold to James Macdonald and Ferroclad Fishery of Mamainse in 1960. He and his wife Nell Purvis continued to spend summer months at their Quebec Harbour home. At Burnt Island, Manitoulin Island the Purvis fishing dynasty continues into its fifth generation as Purvis Fisheries Inc.

The recording of an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Purvis (Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, Lake Superior, Sept. 13, 1979) has been deposited with The Archives of Ontario, Toronto.

Other interviews deposited include Mr. William Russell Brown (Officer S.S. Noronic, Indian Agent for Port Arthur, Councilman - Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, July 1978) and Mr. John Crew (Fisherman - Port Crewe, Lake Erie, June 1985)