



Heritage Project

Hello!

I am Jeanne Anderson

(Jeanne shared her story when she joined about 15 others at the Lundgren Centre in Innisfail, and is so excited to talk about her great-grandmother's Quick Cake that she wanted to run it as the photo with this feature!)



“My recipe goes back at least three generations in my family. It’s the easiest cake to bake and eat – it was an old recipe where women would just throw the ingredients in and go!

“There were five siblings all together in my family and we grew up in Red Deer. We would visit my grandparents in Benalto every Sunday. Their house was so small we all had to be outside. But my grandmother managed to make big dinners for us – all of us! Aunts, uncles, cousins. It was amazing. She had a wood stove that she made turkey and ham in. Her Quick Cake recipe probably saved the day for her when she had to feed all those people.

“My grandparents originated in England and moved to Canada at a very young age. The Quick Cake recipe came from my great-grandparents. There is a hand-written note from my great-grandmother with that very recipe - it’s beautiful to have something from that far back in my family’s history! It has been passed along to every girl in our family and they all treasure it - even though it is very basic. In fact there are very few instructions with it, except ‘mix in a bowl and put in oven’! It doesn’t even say the temperature, because they would just put it in a wood stove. We’ve guessed that the temp would be 350 and watch for it to brown on top!

“We ate hearty in our growing up years in Red Deer, as mom and Dad cleared out the whole backyard and put in a garden to grow natural vegetables. In the fall, my Dad would go hunting birds for our table as well. They worked hard to feed all of us.”

Now Jeanne lives in Innisfail – she came to town when she was 16 for two years of high school, but was gone for many years in between. She began her bookkeeping career in Red Deer and then moved to Calgary to become a controller with a Calgary firm. She returned to Innisfail in 2013, and all her siblings also still live in Central Alberta. They are more likely to grab a coffee together these days, though, instead of the big hoopla of organizing a huge meal!

Jeanne’s Great-Grandma’s Recipe - Quick Cake

Add strawberries and ice cream, or poke holes in top to pour in jello - fancy this basic cake up any way you’d like!

Bring to boil:

- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 Tablespoons butter

Add the dry ingredients mixture to the hot milk and butter mix. Put in oven.

Mix in bowl:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 beaten eggs

(The family has ascertained that the oven temperature should be 350!) Use square or round pan. When it browns on top, it’s done.