



**Reuben Hartley Ploughman**

**Royal Air Force**

**Service No. 789883**

**World War II**

**Born:** Nov 1920

**Died:** 30 Apr 1999

**Place of Birth:** Port Rexton, Trinity,  
Newfoundland

**Parents:** John and Addie (nee Hedges)  
Ploughman

Although born in Port Rexton, Reuben first appears in the 1921 census as a nine (9) month old living in Bay Roberts.

Presumably, his father, John, a school teacher by profession had secured a job in the area and moved here with his young family.

By 1935, the family had moved to an area of the town known as Coley's Point. By this time, the family had grown to include seven (7) children: Reuben 15, James "Gerald" 13, R. Vernon 12, Gerturde and Winnifred 10,

Jack 5, and Howard 2. John's mother Mary Ploughman 74 was also part of the household.

Reuben, the eldest, followed in his father's example of service and enlisted in the war effort of World War II when he joined the RAF (Royal Air Force). Two of his brothers, Ronald Vernon and James Gerald would also enlist in service.

Reuben took leave from his job with the Hudson Bay Company to enlist in the RAF. In fact, he worked with HBC for some forty (40) years from 1939 – 1979.

Reuben authored a book about his work experiences with the Company entitled "**The Last of the Great Fur Traders.**"

*"I worked for the Hudson`s Bay Company for close to forty years, having gone North on the tall ships, a three-masted schooner in 1939. I came South by modern jet. If I remember correctly, I think the pilot`s name was Julie Caesar, so it was a long time ago."*  
*Reuben Ploughman*

Following release from service, Reuben would marry Lily Bambrick and together they would make a life in North Bay, Ontario. They would raise five (5) children of record.

Reuben would pass away in 1999 in North Bay, Ontario at the age of 79. He was cremated, and his ashes interred at the Anglican Cemetery at St. John's, Newfoundland.

### **PLOUGHMAN, Reuben Hartley**

At North Bay General Hospital, Scollard Site, on Friday, April 30, 1999, Reuben Hartley Ploughman, beloved and cherished husband of Lily Barnbrick, in his 79th year. Proud and loving father of Donna McLeod and her husband Mark of Van-kleek Hill, Ontario, Joanne Geid of Drumheller, Alberta, Susan Fix and her husband Bob of High Level, Alberta and John Ploughman of Moosonee. Predeceased in 1987 by his dear daughter Margaret. Fondly remembered by his brothers Burford and Bob (Robert) both of Newfoundland and sister Gertrude "Gerry" Hall of Toronto. Predeceased by his brothers, Vernon, Howard and Gerald and sister Jean. His grandchildren Renee, John, Sarah, Travis, Jennifer, Aaron and Margaret will sadly miss grumps. His special little friend Shannon Hurst will lovingly remember "Grandpa Frog". Reuben was employed as a Factor or Post Manager for the Hudson Bay Company. His 40 year career took he and Lily and their family throughout the Arctic. Following his retirement in 1979, the Ploughmans remained in Moosonee where Reuben served as a justice of the peace. He and Lily operated the "Lily Pad", a B & B until they moved to North Bay in 1987. Friends may call at the Martyn Funeral Home on Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral services will be held in the Martyn Funeral Home Chapel on Monday, May 3rd at 10:30 a.m. Cremation Forest Lawn Crematorium, with interment of ashes in St. John's Anglican Cemetery. If desired donations to the Food Bank or the Terry McKerrow CAT Scan Operating Fund will be gratefully acknowledged as expressions of sympathy.

*From Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
11 March 1944*

### **JOINS R. A. F.**

Reuben Ploughman, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ploughman, has been accepted for the Royal Air Force and will be leaving here next week to begin his training in Canada. Reuben is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Ploughman to join His Majesty's forces. Reuben spent a number of years in the Far North with the Hudson's Bay Co. and came home last summer for the purpose of joining the forces. We wish him the best of luck in all his undertakings and a safe return when victory is won.