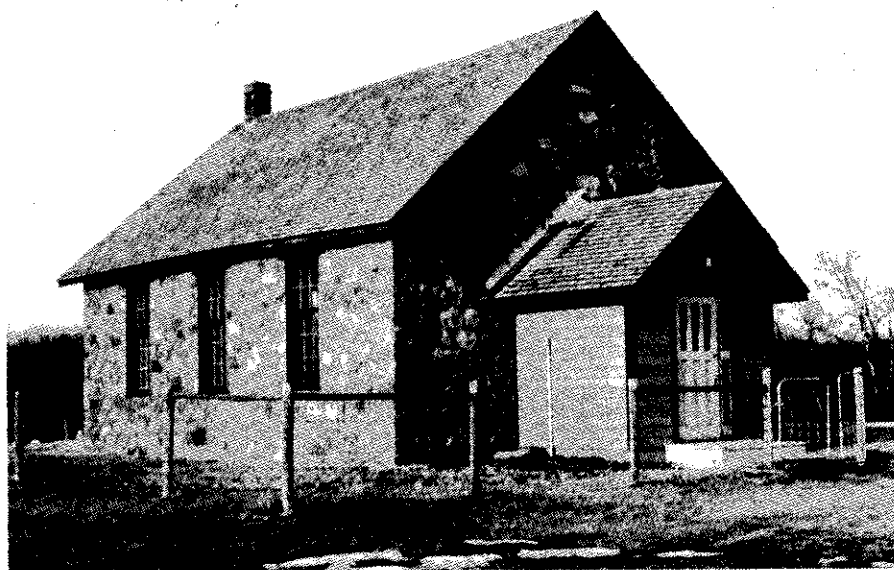
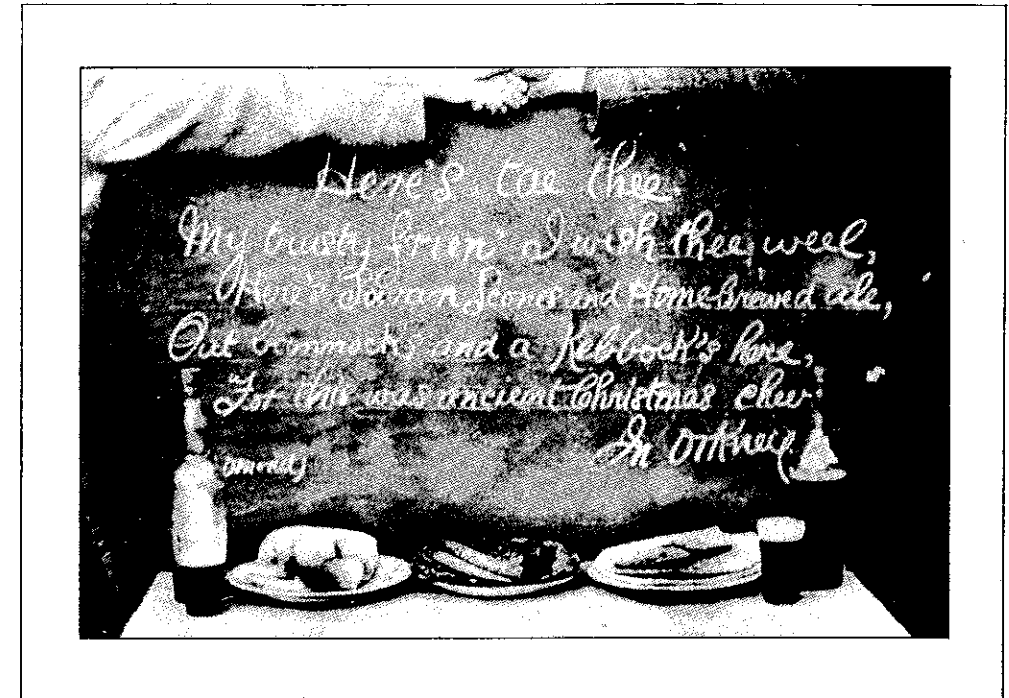


# ORKNEY STONES

1882-1989



THE ORKNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## *Dedication*

This book is dedicated to the memory of the men and women who endured great hardships in building up our community. Through their visions, courage, hardwork, determination and faith, they've passed on the legacy to us, our children and to future generations. They united in this vast lonely land in work and in worship. In recording their histories, we humbly accept their torch to carry on with their endeavours and dreams. May they always be remembered!!

Historian  
Helen A. Norman

*Helen A. Norman*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We the book committee of the Orkney Historical Society express a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who co-operated by sending in their family histories and pictures. Thank you for believing in and supporting us. Without you this book could not have been published.

We tried to be as complete as possible in recording people residing in our Orkney District. If we've missed anyone, it's because we couldn't trace them or histories weren't sent in.

This book was made possible by grants from the Saskatchewan Government, the New Horizons, the Yorkton Multicultural Society, monies from the sale of Donald's Diaries (Donald McKen) and donations.

Many countless hours of research and editing have gone into the pages of the "Orkney Stones". This effort has been lovingly nurtured by the Orkney Historical Society since its' inception nine years ago, through to its' birth at the Official Dedication on July 16, 1989.

As chairperson of the book committee it is my pleasure and honour to acknowledge two individuals whose lives are rooted deeply in Orkney soil. Kenneth and Susan Norman have given generously of their time, energy and countless talents in order to make this book a published reality.

Susan did all the typing and data entries of the histories. Kenneth was responsible for the paste-up, shooting half-tones and type-setting headings for the history book. Photo cover was designed by Kenneth.

Both Susan and Kenneth are great grandchildren of John F. Reid, Orkney's first settler and great great grandchildren of William Rendall, the pulpit builder.

Chairperson of Book Committee  
Joyce Muir



**Orkney Historical Society Book Committee**  
Standing (L to R): Tom Patterson, Ivy Stout, Jean McKen, Marion Vaughan, Barney Fenske  
Seated (L to R): Doris Hepburn, Helen Norman, Joyce Muir. Missing: Betty Popowich





### CONGRATULATIONS

I wish to extend congratulations to the Orkney Historical Society. Your endeavours in so many ways have made this book a recording of facts and figures.

I am the last living member of the late John F. and Ida Reid family.

May the many hours spent in research and decisions become a worthwhile reward to those who have labored long and hard for the presentation of this book.

Thank you for regarding the past as important as the future ... with recordings both interesting and essential to the history of the Orkney District.

*Ida E. Markham*

Mrs. Ida E. Markham



### A GREETING FROM MARYBOROUGH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

I have a close attachment to the old Orkney Church through my grandfather, William Rendall, who in the words of H.S. Swallow who, in his book, "Ox Trails to Highways, Yorkton Pioneers" refers to my grandfather as a "skilled carpenter, who did all the doors, windows and furniture, including the lovely pulpit, which is still in use" in the Orkney Church.

William Rendall and his son, William, went from the Orkney Islands to Orcadia in the late 1880's following the death of his wife.

My father, David Munro Rendall, elder son of William Rendall Senior, came to Maryborough, Queensland in 1883. He often told me of his father's part in the building of the stone church in Orcadia. My uncle, William Rendall, also assisted in its' construction. He fought in the Riel Rebellion.

Now, having this distant link with the Orkney Church and in more recent years with my cousin, Mr. Alvin Norman and his wife, Helen, I would like on the occasion of the Restoration Celebrations on July 16, 1989 of the Orkney Church and School, to offer my best wishes for its success and my congratulations to all concerned with its organization and to the folk responsible for the preparation and publication of the book, Orkney Stones.

May the day of celebration be an outstanding success and may the church and school continue to prosper.

Greetings from

*William Rendall*

William George Rendall  
(80 years)  
280 Ann Street, Maryborough  
Queensland, Australia  
April 3, 1989

# Orkney — The Beginning

It's a hundred and seven years since the first settlers arrived and settled in a district six miles northwest of the present city of Yorkton, Saskatchewan. They were part of the "York Farmers" who acquired land through the York Farmers Colonization Company and its managing director, James Armstrong. The land was in township 26, ranges 4 and 5 and west of the second meridian, in the district of Assiniboia, North West Territories.

This company offered the settlers 160 acres free, the adjoining 160 acres at two dollars per acre with three years credit without interest and they could obtain money at six percent per annum to improve their homesteads.

The land was described as rich loam with a clay sub-soil covered with wooded areas that would supply timber for building, fencing and for heating. Lakes and streams to provide water and meadows, hay and pasture. To top it all, the climate was described as "very healthful".

It was with much faith, courage and vision that the settlers secured their homesteads and named the district, "Orkney" after their beloved Orkney Islands of Scotland.

The first original settlers of Orkney were the Reids and Fergus's.

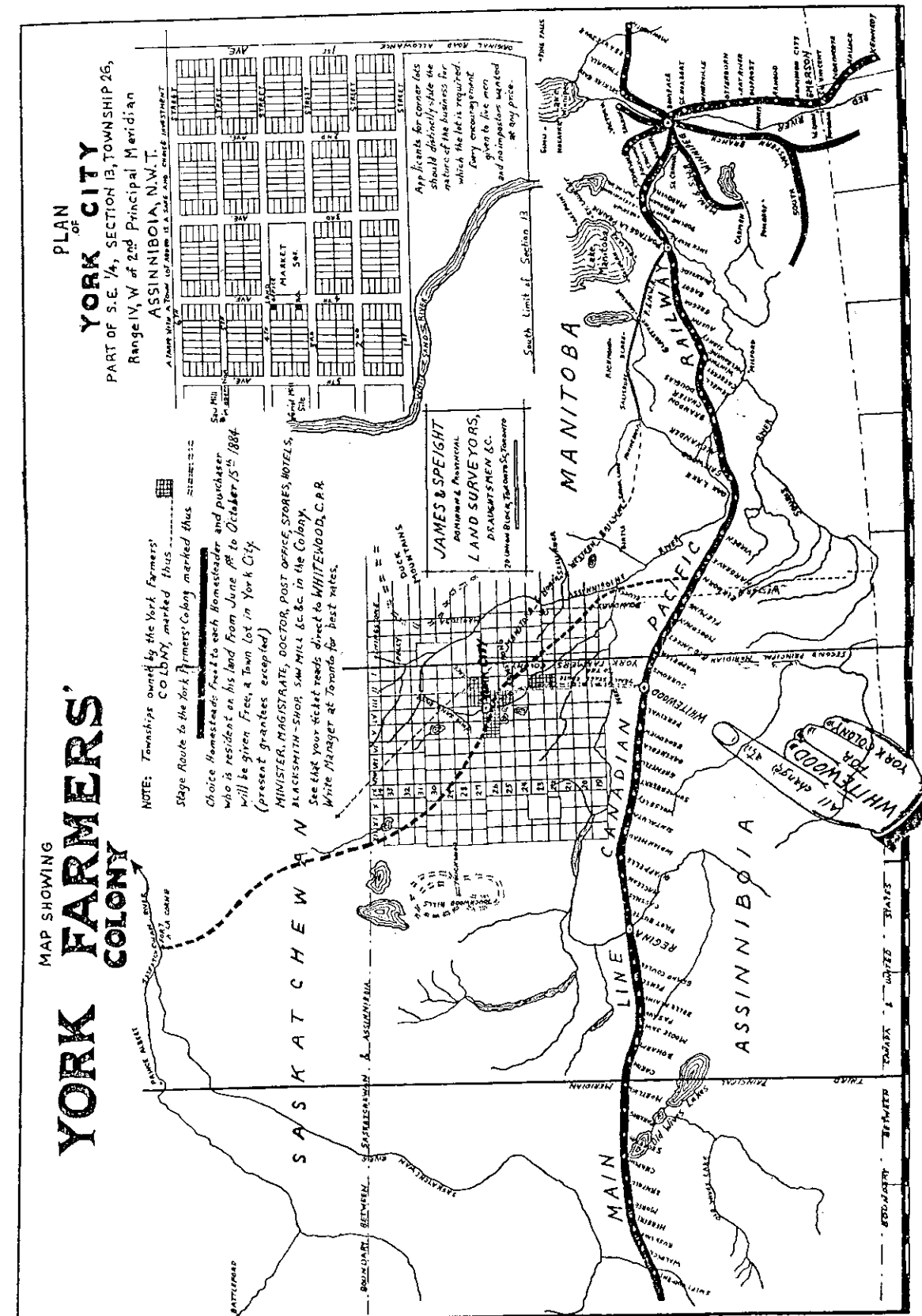
1882 - John Flaws Reid of Windywall, Eday, Orkney. He arrived in June, walking all the way from Whitewood, N.W.T. to York Colony, just a tent town. He explored the land around York Colony, made his selection then walked back to Whitewood and returned to Winnipeg. He worked in Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie the rest of the summer and that winter, returning to York Colony in the spring. He erected a small dwelling, broke an acre of land and then waited for the arrival of his mother and brothers.

In 1883 Charlotte Stevenson Reid, a widow, and sons Robert, James and William, all from Windywall, arrived accompanied by the Fergus Bros. Dave M., James and William, from the parish of St. Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland.

They all took out homesteads and pre-emptions on June 14, 1884, except young teenager William S. Reid.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| John F. Reid      | - N.E. 1/4 Sec.36, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.E. 1/4 Sec.36, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Robert Reid       | - N.W. 1/4 Sec.36, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.W. 1/4 Sec.36, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Charlotte S. Reid | - N.W. 1/4 Sec.34, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.W. 1/4 Sec.34, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| James Reid        | - N.E. 1/4 Sec.24, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - N.W. 1/4 Sec.24, Tp.26, R5, West 2nd Meridian |
| Dave M. Fergus    | - N.E. 1/4 Sec.32, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.E. 1/4 Sec.32, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |
| William S. Fergus | - N.W. 1/4 Sec.32, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.W. 1/4 Sec.32, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |
| James Fergus      | - S.W. 1/4 Sec.30, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |
| Pre-emption       | - S.E. 1/4 Sec.30, Tp.26, R4, West 2nd Meridian |

They all made their home with John F. while building their own dwellings and breaking up some land.



An early map of York Farmers' Colony

Other settlers to arrive at this time but not from Orkney were: N.H. Neilson, Stonewall, Manitoba; The Garrys, Thomas, Donald, Thomas H. from High Bluff, Manitoba; John Glanagan, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; John Livingstone, Northern England.

1884 saw the arrival of other Eday families. John F. Reid's sister Ann, her husband Matthew Peace and sons John Reid, Matthew Jr. and Robert, as well as an uncle and cousins, Robert Sinclair Sr., Robert, James and William Sinclair.

Other arrivals this same year were George Seatter, John A. Garry, H. Wiseman and family and the Ferguson family.

The next few years saw the arrival of many more settlers willing to take homesteads and share in the building of the district.

In a booklet written by the Presbyterian missionary, Hugh Hamilton, titled "Northern Homesteads", are some prices settlers had to pay for equipment for their homesteads.

Entry fee for homestead	\$10.00
Plough - new	\$25.00
- second hand	\$12.00 - \$15.00
Stove	\$20.00
Wagon - new (cash)	\$65.00
- second hand	\$40.00 - \$45.00
Yoke of oxen with harness	\$70.00 and up
5 weeks food	\$45.00
1 cow in calf	\$25.00
50 bushels of potatoes	\$10.00
Lumber for floor, a door and window	\$15.00

It also had several settlers giving accounts of how they've prospered since arriving and taking out homesteads. This booklet was sent overseas to encourage more settlers for this Canadian Northwest.

Oxen were more beneficial for the new settlers as they were very strong and cheaper to feed than horses. They could be turned out on the rich grass at the end of a days work to graze, thus saving the feeding of oats. With a yoke of oxen and a wagon, the settlers hauled logs to build their homes. A 14' x 18' foot dwelling with split poles for a roof and sod for a covering, made a snug home.

Most settlers helped one another build these dwellings. These were called "building bees" and depending on the number of settlers, a dwelling could be erected in one day. It was this co-operation that helped the settlers succeed.

The outbreak of the Riel Rebellion in 1885 saw many of the Orkney settlers volunteer their services and join the "Homeguard", under the command of Major T.C. Watson. Volunteers were John F. Reid, George Seatter, Robert Sinclair, James Sinclair, John Stevenson, Joseph Caldwell, T.H. Garry and William S. Reid. William was the youngest of this sixty-three member group, being only fourteen years old.

A stockade was built in York Colony and many families went there for safety. A short time later Riel was captured elsewhere and settlers returned to their homesteads. However there still were small bands that struck at different areas, stealing cattle and raiding homes.

One such band looted Matthew Peace's home, taking food and a keep-sake pocket watch. Next they crossed Cussed Creek and entered Charlotte Reid's home. It wasn't long before twenty-eight Indians were almost taking the door frame off, in their big hurry to get out of the cabin. Mrs. Reid fairly swept them out of the cabin, waving her broom and exclaiming in, "Ye thieven' spalspeens, hae I noo been feedin' ye all winter and now ye come raidin' ma hoose!".

Further up Cussed Creek, about five miles northwest of the John F. Reid homestead, another group of Indians were gathering and finally camped. About twenty-eight Home Guard volunteers decided to check this group, so after carefully and quietly sneaking up and surrounding the encampment, they were exposed when the Indian dogs started barking. The Indians were quite agitated but with Sgt. John Walberry and John F. Reid entering the camp and talking to the leaders, the two volunteers were able to promise the Indians some food and convince them to return to their reservations. They were given 5 bags of flour and bacon.

After the rebellion, each volunteer was given a script worth \$160.00 cash or it could be applied on the pre-emption of 160 acres.

In 1885 the crops were almost a total loss due to severe frost, so were chiefly used for cattle feed. The settlers other enemy were the gophers. It was said that around York Colony in 1886 over three hundred acres of crop and hay were destroyed by these fuzzy-tailed demons. Animals suffered broken legs when stumbling into their burrows.

It is interesting to note that weeds we know today were not present or a problem during these early years. No Canada Thistle, Sow Thistle, Twitch Grass or Wild Oats existed, just some Pigweed and Wild Buckwheat.

The settlers got a lot of their food from natural sources such as, rabbits, prairie chicken, sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse. There were no buffalo and not too many deer. Small animals were trapped or snared. The muzzle-loader shotgun was the only weapon available, as the 22 rifle wasn't around yet. It wasn't long before the settlers raised their own hogs, chickens and beef cattle so they didn't have to depend on wild life.

Since no money circulated, the settlers exchanged butter, vegetables, some meat and some animal skins for much needed coal oil, candles, sugar, salt, flour, axle grease and plug tobacco. The last not that necessary but from the record book of sales from Joel Reaman's store, a much bought item. Each settler's name was recorded, what was brought in for exchange and what was purchased and the price. Joel Reaman was truly a "good friend" to all the settlers, always willing to share with those who needed it. He became the first Member of the Legislative Assembly for Assiniboia.

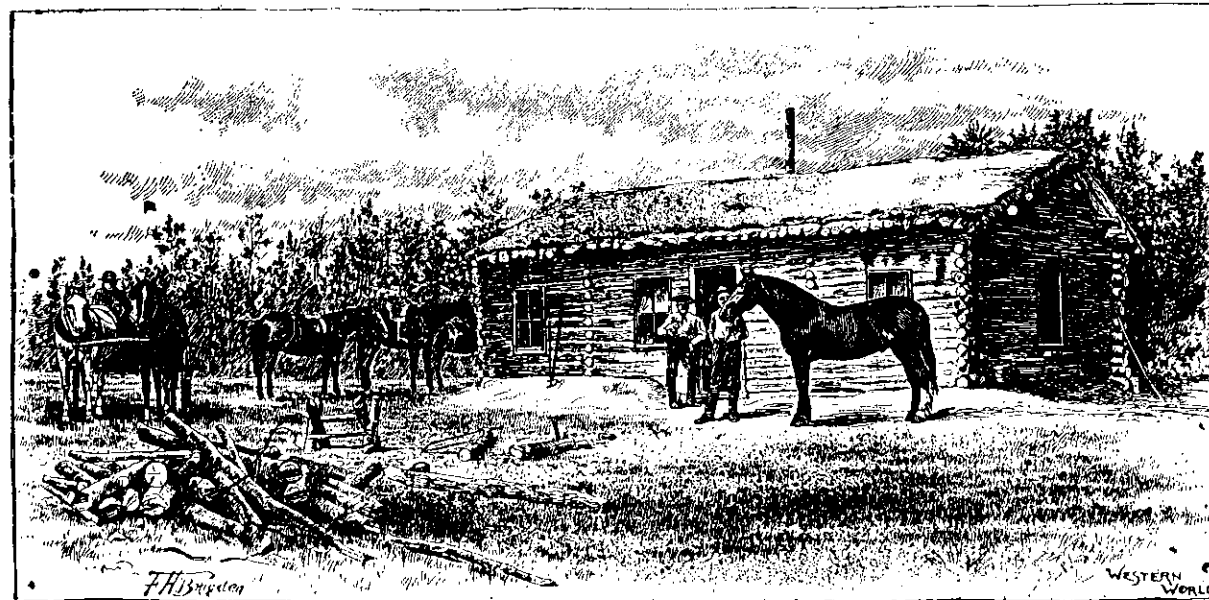
It was in Joel Reaman's big dining room that church services, meetings and dances were held.

Some prices of items that were sold in Joel Reaman's store in 1884-1885:

Rope - 25 cents a yard	1/2 lb. coffee	- 18¢
Baking Soda - 1lb. - 10¢	1/2 lb. pepper	- 10¢
1 pint vinegar - 20¢	1 lb. rice	- 10¢
1 lb. salt - 5¢	1 Loaf Bread	- 20¢
5 lb. oatmeal - 25¢	Plug of Tobacco	- 25¢
Butter - 1 lb. - 15¢	1 lb. currants	- 15¢
1 pair laces - 05¢	1 Broom	- 30¢
1 lb. candles - 40¢	1 can salmon	- 25¢
1 pair moccasins - \$2.25	5 lb. syrup	- 50¢
axe handle - \$1.55	5 lb. nails	- 30¢

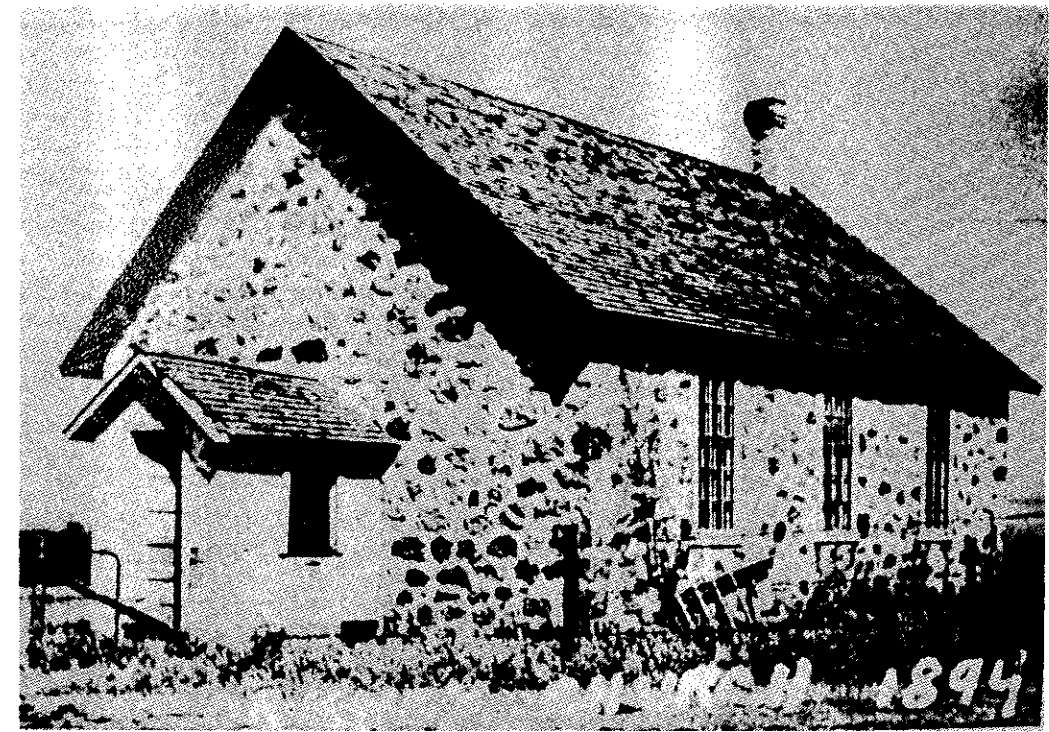
1 lb. sugar	- 12¢	matches	- 25¢
pail	- 35¢	1 pair shoes	- 2.50
1/2 lb. gun powder	- 35¢	window	- 2.00
1 box cartridges	- 50¢	1 lantern chimney	- 25¢
1/4 lb. cream of tarter	- 12¢	wash basin	- 50¢
6 lb. dried apples	-1.00	1 coffee pot	- 50¢
2 lb. biscuits	- 40¢	1 blanket	- 4.50
sheep skin mitts	-1.50	1 pr. wool mitts	- 50¢
1 pair overalls	-1.50	1 pr. wool socks	- 50¢
1 sack flour	-3.75	1 hat	- 3.50
1 bar soap	- 15¢	braces	- 75¢
1 wooden keg syrup	-4.75	1 pair felt socks	- 2.50
1 bottle electric oil	- 25¢	epsom salts	- 10¢
1 bottle castor oil	- 25¢	1 suit clothes	-14.00
1 buck saw	-1.25	1 pkg. hop yeast	- 40¢
1 box wagon grease	-2.50	1 pound bacon	- 16¢
dozen eggs	- 36¢	1 lb. turnip seed	- 25¢
1 lb. tea	- 60¢	1 coat	- 8.00
1 grain cradle	-4.50	1 whip	- 1.50
fox skin for credit	- 75¢	lantern	- 1.00
1 pair boots	-4.00	1 cigar	- 10¢
3 prong barn fork	- 75¢	white shirt	- 1.75
men's box collar	- 25¢	1 can Snowdrift	- 30¢
1 trap	- 50¢	Baking Powder	
1 pair drawers	-1.25	2 lb. shot	- 25¢
1 can coal oil	- 75¢	1 yd. cotton print	- 17¢
1 pipe	- 75¢	1 yd flannel	- 50¢
1 tin blackening	- 19¢	6 bushels potatoes	- 6.25
1 lb. jam	- 25¢	1 skeen thread	- 05¢

Mrs. Reaman served meals and travellers often stayed overnight. Rev. Mr. Cooper was charged \$1.00 for three meals and a bed when he was visiting York Colony in 1886. If a horse was stabled, it cost the owner 25¢.



A RANCHER'S FIRST SHANTY, NEAR YORKTON, ASSINIBOIA, CANADA.

## Orkney Church



Orkney Church 1894

Until now the Orkney settlers held church services in their homes, the log school or even travelled to York Colony to Joel Reaman's boarding house, where the large dining room served as a church, meeting hall, concert hall and a dance hall.

The first minutes of the Orkney congregation were recorded November 9, 1890 with the election of a managing committee to act until the annual meeting early in 1891.

Thomas Garry Sr.	-	Chairman
James Reid	-	Secretary-Treasurer
John F. Reid		
Matthew Peace		
Robert Sinclair		

Matthew Peace was appointed to take up the collection on the Sabbath and James Reid to receive and record it. The collections book to be left at the Robert Sinclair home for convenience.

The committee as a whole were to canvass the district for the annual subscription to the missionary.

At the annual meeting February 4, 1891, the 1890 managing committee were re-elected becoming the first official church board of the Orkney Presbyterian congregation. W.S. Tulloch was elected auditor.

The Sunday collections amounted anywhere from forty-five cents to one dollar and fifty-five cents. By subscription the amount was more satisfactory, between twenty-five and thirty-one dollars.

Hymnals were purchased costing two dollars, it didn't mention the number of books. A collection plate cost twenty-five cents.



The 1892 Board of Managers were:

James Fergus	-	Chairman
John F. Reid	-	Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew Peace		
James Reid		
John A. Garry		
William Sinclair		
D. Garry	-	Auditor

Mr. Robert E. Byers was the missionary for this year. The board had a motion by James Reid, seconded by John A. Garry to adopt the envelope system for collections. However this was amended by William Sinclair, seconded by John F. Reid and tabled. The managers were also to confer with the School Board with regards to fixing the school house. So ended 1892.

The 1893 Orkney Church Board:

Dave M. Fergus	-	Manager
James Reid	-	Chairman
William Sinclair	-	Secretary-Treasurer
Donald Garry	-	Auditor
John F. Reid		
James Fergus		
John Garry		

The committee of John F. Reid, John Garry and William Sinclair were to inquire into the cost and selection of a building site for a church.

The secretary, William Sinclair wrote to James Armstrong of the York Farmers Colonization Company to "beg" for an acre of land for a building site on the S.W. corner of section 19, township 26, range 4, W-2.

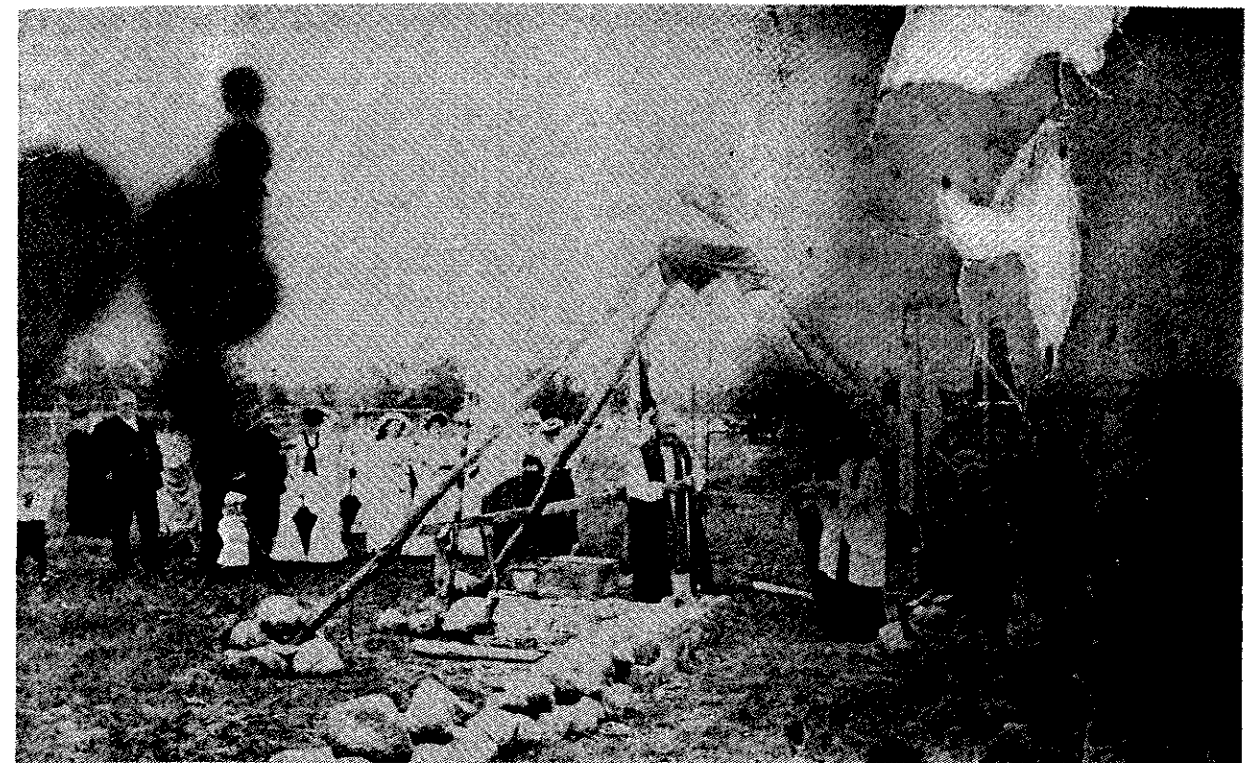
In April, the committee received an affirmative reply. An immediate "vote of thanks" was rendered to James Armstrong and the York Farmers Colonization Company. The secretary also wrote for an application form for a grant. Letters were also written to Mr. Murchie and Rev. Murray.

In May, the Board resolved to call a meeting and consider the plans and estimates of the church. The decision to start building immediately was approved and a building committee was elected. It consisted of John F. Reid, John Garry and William Sinclair.

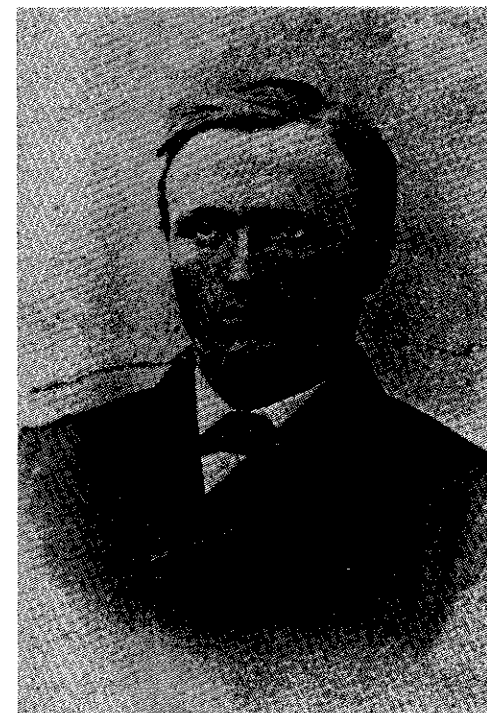
N.H. Neilson, one of the settlers was a stonemason, so was put in charge of the building of the church. At first the settlers thought of using lumber to build the church, but after pricing the material, they found that for another one hundred and fifty dollars they could have a stone building. The vote was in favor of the stone.

The laying of the corner stone was on June 10, 1893 with missionary Hugh Hamilton and Rev. Frew conducting the service. This marked the birth of the Orkney Presbyterian Church.

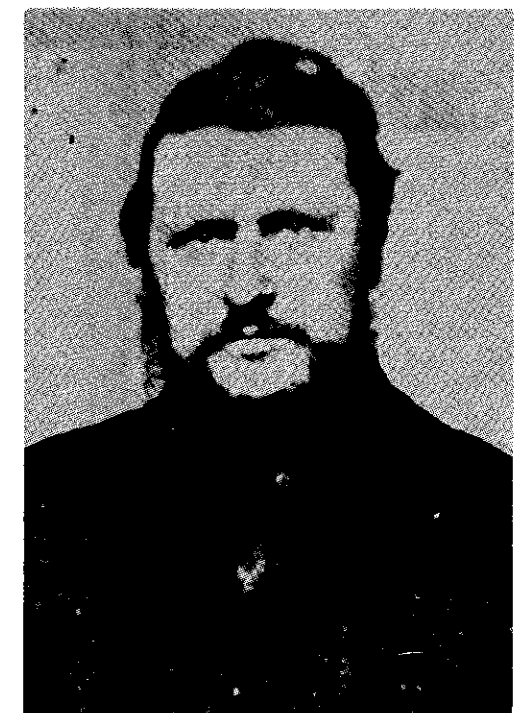
A trench was dug to the specifications of the church plans. Everyone volunteered to do some job. It's even mentioned in Harry S. Swallow's book, Ox Trails To Highways, that John Flanagan, a Catholic, did his part to help with digging of the trenches, although confiding to Pete Fernie and several others, "That this church would not stand long because it was built on a Catholic foundation!". This statement has been proven wrong as it's now restored and shall stand for another one hundred years.



Laying of the Corner Stone — June 10, 1893  
Rev. Frew conducted the service, assisted by Rev. Hugh Hamilton.



**N. H. Neilson**  
Early settler & Stonemason who  
built Orkney Church



**William Rendall**  
Built the Pulpit and the fine woodwork  
in the Church.

Besides, the foundation was never touched, it's still solid. It was only a part of the wall that was leaning in and had several bad cracks that were fixed.

The stones were gathered and hauled from nearby areas (which to this day are still very stoney) and hauled to the building site with ox-drawn stoneboats and wagons.

The lime stone was quarried from the Smith Brothers farm. The lime making operation involved considerable night work to keep the fires burning in the kiln. Firewood was also hauled in to make certain that fires wouldn't die.

Stones and mortar were wheeled in wooden wheelbarrows and when the walls became higher, up ramps, to the stonemason, N.H. Neilson. He cut and shaped all the stones. Men also carried mortar and some stones in hods slung over their shoulders.

Once the walls were erected and the window areas framed, a roof was added and then the inside work commenced.

The walls and ceiling were plastered by Messrs. Peterson, Hansen and Jensen. H.D. Wiseman and A.B. Fernie did the windows, door and floor. Wainscoting covered the lower three feet of all the walls. There were two narrower windows on the short north wall with three windows on each of the long east and west walls. A door was located in the middle of the short south wall. A wooden porch was built over the door area, with a window to the east and a door facing south. The porch was also used for storing wood. A big flat stone about three feet across, served as a door step.

William Rendall, father of Mrs. John F. Reid and Alice Rendall, did all the fine woodwork and built the pulpit, which is still in use today.

A two foot high, six feet in depth platform was built on the north end under the two windows. The pulpit was placed on the platform. Several steps were on the left side of the platform. Its been said the reason for the height of this structure wasn't only for the preacher's ease to deliver his sermon, but also for the concerts and later a choir.

N.H. Neilson and William Rendall were the only ones paid for their work. N.H. Neilson \$182.90 and William Rendall \$115.75.

It took six months to build at a cost of \$875.00.

Opening dedication services were held on Sunday, June 10, 1894, again with Rev. Frew officiating and Hugh Hamilton assisting. The settlers requested the return of Mr. Hamilton for this special occasion and to remain in this charge for the coming year as he was of great help in the community. Rev. Frew received eight dollars and fifty cents for the service.

Other expenditures for the Orkney Church:

50 chairs from Meredith and Hopkins	- 26.60
Stove and pipes - Levi Beck	- 14.55
1 cord of wood - Dave M. Fergus	- 2.00
cutting of wood at 75¢/cord - George Seatter	- .75
Lamp - T. Collacott	- 5.50
Broom	- .30
9 Windows - Ashdowns & Co.	- 9.90
25 panes glass @ 8¢, 5lb. putty - T. Collacott	- 2.75
putting in glass - C. Bow	- 2.40
Lamp wick - T. Collacott	- .15
12 Hymn Books - Russell Co.	- 1.75
5 gallons coal oil & coal oil can - T. Collacott	- 2.05
Hired Organ - C.M. Clark	- 2.00

Other expenditures for the Orkney Church:

Money Received:

Grant - from missions building fund	- 200.00
Collection at Church Opening	- 87.50
By subscription	- 235.90
From York Farmers Colonization Company	- 20.00
Left over material from church building - auctioned	- 27.60

Board of Managers of the Orkney Presbyterian Church September 3, 1894.

John Garry	-	Chairman
Robert Rousay	-	Secretary-Treasurer
George Seatter		
John F. Reid		
Dave M. Fergus		
William Sinclair		

A motion carried, requested the secretary to draw up a plan for a stable and to present it to the congregation the following day. At this meeting it was voted to build a sod stable with George Seatter as superintendent of the project. Building to commence at once. It took a week to build. Ashdown & Company supplied the nails at a cost of six pounds for twenty-five cents and lumber from Levi Beck for twelve dollars.

The first concert was held in the church on February 7, 1895. Programme committee were Dave M. Fergus, James Fergus and William Sinclair. A provisional committee with the power to add were Robert Rousay, John Garry and George Seatter. A total of \$18.15 was realized from this event.

Most of the ministers serving this charge were not ordained because this station could not raise the one hundred dollars for an ordained one. There were other outstanding bills, N.H. Neilson and William Rendall. Letters were written to Mr. Michel about borrowing one hundred dollars on joint note. Some of these bills were settled.

Another concert with Colina Garry and Mrs. Fergus added to the provisional committee. Concert was a success and raised \$27.50. Another one hundred dollars borrowed from J. Caldwell and more debts settled.

In January 1896, the envelope system was adopted. Lizzie Garry and Alice Rendall added to provisional committee. Planks were put in for more seating accomodation.

On February 6, 1896, with the death of Ruth Watson Wiseman, the Orkney Cemetery was started. On April 6, William Rendall became the second settler to be buried here. Since then many of these first settlers and their descendants have been laid to rest in the peaceful cemetery.

The Orkney School Board made a request to the Church Board for the use of the Orkney Presbyterian Church as a school, for about three months while the new Orkney School was being erected. Request was granted with the understanding that the school district be responsible for fire protection for the building, while using it. This was March 1897.

Six more pipes with a damper were purchased from T. Collacott for seventy-five cents. One thousand pence envelopes from Hart & Co. in Winnipeg cost one dollar and twelve cents. Mr. Jarves was paid eleven dollars and twenty-five cents on the fire fund in February and a further ten dollars and seventy-five cents in December. Another twenty-three hymn books from Russel & Co. for two dollars were purchased. Willie Stainger fifty cents for kindling fires and Gilbert Stainger three dollars for one cord of wood.

At the annual meeting of the Orkney congregation in January 1900, Lizzie Garry was acting secretary. Treasurer, Robert Sinclair gave his financial report.

Monies promised on subscription \$134.90, paid on subscription \$68.85, received from all sources \$143.77. Money paid out \$105.00. Arrears for 1899, \$65.05. Arrears for 1898, \$31.45.

Concert raised twenty-nine dollars, this money to go towards fence for church yard. The fence to be three rails high with a board on top. It was also at this meeting that a motion by Robert Sinclair, seconded by J. Hourie that an organ be purchased. Committee of John F. Reid, Robert Sinclair and John Garry to see about getting one. One was finally purchased for \$30.00.

In 1902, a stable of ship-lap be built, 30' x 24' x 8' high with 2x4 studding set on a sill of 6x4. Robert Rousay commissioned to buy the material. No record as to price of material.

In 1906 the congregation bought a cart for the preacher from W.D. Dunlop at a cost of fifty-two dollars. D.M. Robertson was the missionary. Willie Stainger's wage for building fires has increased to two dollars. In 1910 a gate was added to the fence, posts cost \$3.50 and the gate \$7.00.

In 1910 a manse was built in the hamlet of Orcadia. Its first resident preacher was W.B. Mahon. He is remembered as the preacher who drove around to all his parishioners in the "green buggy".

Mrs. Mahon had a beautiful piano shipped all the way from her home in Ireland. It was enjoyed by family and friends. Piano lessons were given to several local children.

Another preacher, Sunday School Sutherland, is remembered with humor. He would visit different homes just before dinner. He'd make himself right at home, even to going and taking the lids off the pots to see what was cooking. His Sunday School lessons were "remembered".

With the manse in Orcadia, there would be church services first at the Orkney Church, generally in the morning and evening services in Orcadia.

There had never been a wedding in the Orkney Presbyterian Church. It was the custom to have the marriage ceremony in the front parlor or in summer out on the lawn by the flower garden with a family dinner served afterwards. Later the happy couple would drive off in a buggy or a wagon to the homestead or farm. No honeymoon. Several days later the community would have a shivaree for the couple. It was generally a surprise, everyone would come after the couple had gone to bed. First they would shoot off a shot gun, then everyone would bring along some noisy item which they beat or shake, kettles, pans, horns, etc. Ladies would bring lunch. If room was available, someone would play a fiddle and there would be dancing, if not, card games and singing.

The Orkney Presbyterian Church eventually became the Orkney United Church. Some of the congregation went to churches in Yorkton, Sask.

In 1939, the Orkney School #97 became too small to hold all the students, so the Orkney Church was turned into a school. Half of the students, the higher grades, were transferred here.

Church services were still held occasionally. Student ministers served this charge only during the summer months.

In 1958, all the students were finally transferred to the new Orkney School #97 in Orcadia.

Both buildings remained unused until January 1963, when the Orkney United Women and the Orkney Church Board decided to fix up the church. The ceiling was lowered and covered with squared hardboard. The feature wall was covered with panelling while the other walls had cracks filled, sanded and were painted. Pews were bought from a church that was closing. Letters were written to the Provincial Government asking to have the two buildings declared as historic sites.

The Orkney United Church Women gathered history and pictures which they put into a large photo album, which they called "Orkney Pioneers".

A plaque was received from the Government so a dedication and an unveiling of the plaque service was held on June 9, 1963.

Miss Mary Alice (Mamie) Reid, the first girl born in the new Orkney settlement, November 16, 1886, was to unveil the plaque. However due to ill health, her brother, Robert (Bob) officiated for her.



#### Dedication of Plaque to the Orkney Pioneers

R. L. (Bob) Reid unveiled the plaque honoring the early settlers, June 9, 1963. The Orkney Church and School were declared historic sites.



Others taking part in the service were Rev. J.E. Jones of St. Andrew's United Church, Yorkton; Jack Monteith, chairman of the Yorkton Presbytery; Mr. J.E. Smith, the Orkney minister; Mr. Batke, Reeve of the Orkney Municipality #244; Mr. Maurice McKen, chairman, Orkney Church Board; Mrs. Alvin R. Norman, president of the Orkney United Church Women and Kathy Wood, on behalf of the young people.

Rev. Douglas McMurty, past president of the Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church said, speaking of the pioneers, "Their spirit of independence is represented by these stones. The stones represent the integrity of the people from the Orkney Islands and from other parts of the British Isles and Europe. We are grateful for the inspiration of these values held by the pioneers. Today, we in the nuclear age are a new kind of pioneer and we need the same visions and independence of those other pioneers".

Orkney United Church Women of 1963 were:

President	-	Mrs. Alvin R. Norman (Helen)
Vice-president	-	Mrs. Maurice McKen (Jean)
Secretary	-	Mrs. Pete Tymourski (Roxy)
Treasurer	-	Mrs. John Yuzik (Ann)

Orkney United Church Board for 1963 were:

Chairman	-	Maurice McKen
Secretary-Treasurer	-	F.W. Harrison
		Leslie J. Muir
		John Streeelasky

In July 1965, a jubilee celebration was held on the church and school grounds. Pipers and the cadet corp were in attendance, contributing to the Scottish character of the celebration.

A parade of people in old time costumes was much appreciated. Pictures were taken of former teachers, students, school board members and the oldest residents. The school was turned into a museum and a number of articles used in and by the early pioneers were on display.

Sadly, the museum had to close after vandals broke in and destroyed quite a number of family heirlooms.



**1905-1965 Sask. Jubilee Celebration**

*Back Row (L to R):* Donald McKen, ?, E. Grunert *Center Row (L to R):* Rose Rousay, Ora Border, Alex Rousay, R. L. Reid, Barney Fenske, Bill Ferguson, Jean McKen, Betty Popowich, Vera Wood, Henry Chilman, Joyce Muir, Francis Dodds, Edith Finnie *Front Row (L to R):* Isabel Betts, Helen Jones, Ellen Schaver, Margaret Draper, Lloyd Garry, Steve Popowich, Leslie Muir.

A wedding was finally performed in the Orkney United Church in August 1975, when Kathy Wood, daughter of Tom and Vera Wood, married Warren Crossman. Rev. Don Milne of the Westview United Church, Yorkton officiated.



**First Wedding in the Orkney Church — August 30, 1975**  
Kathy Wood and Warren Crossman were married by Rev. Don Milne

In June 1980, a "Homecoming Service" was held at the Orkney United Church. Over two hundred people attended. Special guests were Mrs. Gretta Devins, daughter of Dave M. Fergus; Mrs. Annie Hamilton, daughter of Orcadia's first postmaster, F.R. Knight; Mrs. Hazel Fernie, daughter of James Dodge, Orcadia's first storekeeper and Donald McKen, son of Robert McKen. Mrs. Ida Markham, youngest daughter of John F. and Ida Reid, was unable to attend.



**Homecoming 1980**

*Back Row (L to R):* Mary Tytula, Jean McKen, Alvin Norman, Steve Popowich, Leslie Muir, Helen Jones, Alice (Wilson) Hicks, Ann (Tytula) Stevenson, ?, Moira (Folster) Deven, Edith Finnie, Agnes Just, Lyle Just, Annie (Knight) Hamilton, Robert Lange, Merle (Hall) Larson, Elizabeth (Harrison) Popowich, James Beblow, David Just, Barney Fenske, Kenneth Just & Donald McKen. *Kneeling (L to R):* Margaret (Stainger) Draper, Clifford Knoll, Mary (Wilson) Stein, Rev. George Stainger, Pauline (Tytula) Skinner, Lorne Stainger, Betty (Stainger) Wilson and James Wiseman.



*Left:*  
**Annie (Knight) Hamilton, Donald McKen  
Hazel (Dodge) Fernie**



**Susanna M. Fergus Devins**  
Daughter of D.M. Fergus



The first couple married in the Orkney United Church, Warren and Kathy Crossman, had their first born baptised, a daughter Marsha Christine, by Rev. Don Milne.

Every summer a special service has been held with the Yorkton Pipe Band and the Scottish Dancers performing, followed by an old fashioned family picnic.



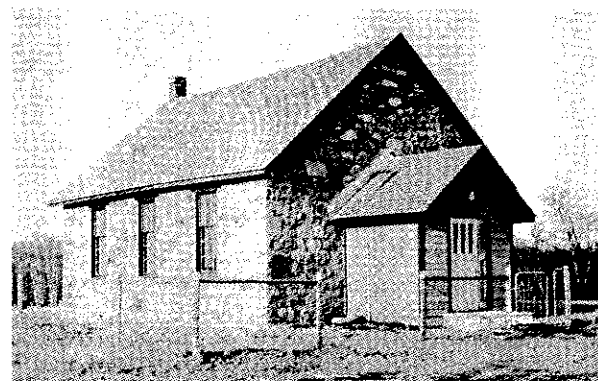
**Summer Picnic at Orkney Church & School**  
Yorkton & District Pipe Band performing

Inside the church, a new platform has been rebuilt, the two north windows uncovered, the hardboard removed from the lower walls revealing the wainscoting and new window frames replaced the old rotten ones. The platform and wainscoting were oiled and window frames, varnished.

A new porch was built onto the church and new cement steps replaced the cracked flat stone. The church yard has a new fence, the plaque of 1963 is now mounted onto the southwest corner of the church.

Trees were planted in both the school and church yard. Peter Stout and Douglas Norman hauled water for some time, assuring the trees survival.

On July 16, 1989, a special Restoration, Celebration Service will be held at the Orkney United Church. It will be a dedication and a memorial to those pioneers who dedicated their lives to this new homeland and settlement. They passed the torch on to us and now, we salute them with love and pride and hold the torch for the next generation.



**Restored Orkney Church 1989**

## MISSIONARIES and MINISTERS

Missionaries and Ministers who served at the Orkney Presbyterian and Orkney United Church - 1890 to 1989:

R.P. Byers	W. R. Sutherland	W.B. Taylor
Hugh Hamilton	Rev. G.B. McLennon	Ian Ashford
D.M. Robertson	Rev. N.A. McDonald	Don McLeod
W.B. Mahon	Mr. Jessop	Nathan Bowering
Rev. Mr. Frew	Dr. T. Sendall	Susan Sherwood
Rev. Sterling	J.A. Watt	Mary Naaimoal
Mr. McKay	Dr. W.S. Reid	Rev. Stewart Dingwall
Mr. McGrath	Rev. J.E. Jones	Mrs. Essie Johnson
Rev. Mr. Kenmure	Rev. Shanks	Rev. Evelyn Matthews
Ferne Graham	Rev. George Stainger	Nathan Meyer
Mr. E.J. Smith	Rev. James Reid	Rev. Don Milne
Rev. Mr. Murdock	Mr. Mann	



**D.M. Robinson**



**Mr. Mann**



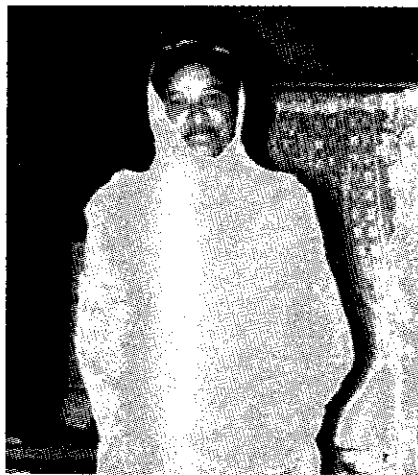
**Susan Sherwood**



W. B. Taylor



Essie Johnson



Mary Naaimoal



Rev. T.H. Sendall



E.J. Smith



Rev. Don Milne

Robert P. Byers published the newspaper, "The Messenger". It lasted from June 1892 to September 1892. It sold for one dollar a year.

Dr. W.S. Reid and Rev. James Reid, a Methodist and a Presbyterian, were the sons of Mrs. Charlotte Stevenson Reid. They were Orkney's first settlers.



Rev. James Reid and Dr. W.S. Reid

Rev. George Stainger is the son of J.G. Stainger, who as a boy attended both the log and stone Orkney School #97. He is also the grandson of Gilbert Stainger, who for many years was secretary-treasurer of the Orkney School Board.



Rev. George Stainger

Organists and Pianists - 1905 to 1983:

Mr. F.R. Knight	Mr. Graham Hall
Miss Barbara M. Sinclair	Miss Lois Wood
Mrs. F.C. Draper	Miss Lynn Wood
Mrs. F.W. Harrison	Miss Audrey M. Norman
Mrs. Alex Rousay	Miss Maureen E. McKen
Miss Betty Stainger	Mr. Rodney Yuzik



**Confirmation Class 1968**

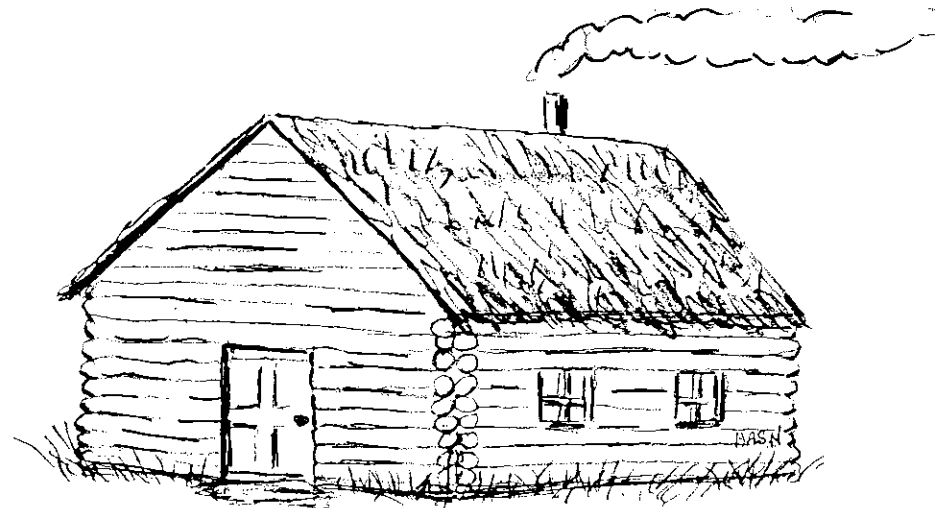
Back (L to R): Doug Norman, Brian Wood, Bob Norman  
 Front (L to R): Audrey Norman, Maureen McKen

**PERSONS BURIED IN THE ORKNEY CEMETERY**

Person	Born	Died
1. Angus, Jean Scolly	1856	1930
2. Angus, Robert	1847	1906
3. Devins, Baby Girl	1928	1928
4. Duff, Isabelle	1873	1957
5. Duff, William	1878	1959
6. Fergus, David Munro	1865	1953
7. Fergus, George		1885
8. Fergus, Isabella Smith Hourie	1876	1936
9. Fergus, James	1859	1900
10. Fergus, John David Munro	1904	1914
11. Fergus, Mary	1907	1922
12. Fergus, Mary Rendall	1827	1901
13. Fergus, Baby William	1903	1903
14. Fergus, William Seatter (Whitewood)	1857	1885
15. Ferguson, Humble	1873	1957
16. Ferguson, Isabella	1873	1957
17. Ferguson, Jean (Jane)	1843	1928
18. Ferguson, Janet(Jessie) Christina	1872	1906

19. Ferguson, John	1873	1948
20. Ferguson, Mary Lazurko	1902	1929
21. Ferguson, William D.	1878	1959
22. Grunert, Alfred H.	1905	1907
23. Halliday, James P.	1854	1945
24. Halliday, Mary Ann	1855	1917
25. Halliday, Robert Patterson	1894	1936
26. Hanke, Baby	1905	1905
27. Hansen, Jane(Jeanie) Bews Patterson	1889	1977
28. Harrison, Marjorie Edith	1923	1926
29. Jonat, Julia	1859	1935
30. Just, Robert George	1924	1933
31. McKen, Alex	1896	1897
32. McKen, Donald	1900	1987
33. McKen, Helen	1867	1914
34. McKen, John		1912
35. McKen, Robert	1865	1945
36. McKen, William John	1895	1917
37. McVey, Francis	1861	1924
38. McVey, Hannah	1866	1963
39. Norman, Frederick Stafford	1884	1953
40. Norman, Susie Fergus Reid	1892	1920
41. Patterson, Jemima	1868	1906
42. Patterson, George	1883	1945
43. Patterson, Patrick	1923	1924
44. Peterson, Baby Boy	1927	1927
45. Reid, Charlotte Stevenson	1828	1905
46. Reid, Ida Estella Rae Rendall Fergus	1862	1925
47. Reid, John Flaws	1860	1943
48. Reid, Mary Alice Rendall	1886	1964
49. Reid, Robert Loutitt	1888	1965
50. Rendall, William	1835	1896
51. *Rousay, Baby Girl, daughter of Robert	1898	1898
52. Rousay, Jane Jamina	1854	1926
53. *Rousay, Mary Jane Reid, mother of girl	1871	1898
54. Rousay, James	1877	1961
55. Rousay, John Richard	1888	1976
56. Rousay, Richard	1856	1921
57. Rousay, Rose Christina	1904	1972
58. Rousay, Peter M.	1885	1940
59. Rousay, Robert	1830	1914
60. Sinclair, Mary Reid		1916
61. Sinclair, Robert Sr.	1830	1911
62. Stainger, Alice Adaline	1930	1931
63. Stainger, Isabella Emma	1899	1973
64. Stainger, John George	1884	1972
65. Stainger, Peter	1882	1908
66. Wiseman, Humble D.	1820	1903
67. Wiseman, Julianna	1879	1959
68. Wiseman, Ruth Watson	1818	1896
69. Wiseman, William Duff	1851	1932
70. Work, Baby Boy (Archie Work)	1914	1914
71. Work, Baby Boy (Archie Work)	1922	1922

# Orkney School



Orkney School #97 1888

Homesteads were steadily improving, so now the settlers who had been brought up in a country where education was considered essential, called a meeting to form a school district.

They met at the home of Robert Sinclair and by a show of hands all were in favour of forming a school district and erecting a log school.

First minutes were recorded on May 14, 1887. H. Wiseman was the returning officer. The first school board committee elected were:

N.H. Neilson	-	three year term
J. Stevenson	-	two year term
Matthew Peace	-	one year term

Eleven days later the executive officers were elected:

N.H. Neilson	-	Chairman
J. Stevenson	-	Deputy Chairman
James Fergus	-	Secretary
J. Stevenson	-	Treasurer

The Orkney Protestant Public School District #97 was established on June 2, 1887. Debentures in the amount of \$600.00 were issued that year to build a school. The "Protestant" was dropped and the school became Orkney School #97.

Secretary James Fergus wrote to the Board of Education of the North West Territories for information and a permit for Jessie Ferguson. He also inquired about school furnishings and the price of books. It was a discouraged group of trustees at the July 11, 1887 meeting. Jessie Ferguson's application for a provisional teaching certificate was refused by the school inspector, so the board decided not to hold school that year.

On January 4, 1888 the 1887 school board was re-elected. Mr. Ross was appointed auditor. To raise money, a motion by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Garry that a tax be levied, \$2.00 per year on single men and \$3.00 per year for married men. Secretary to advertise for a teacher in the Winnipeg Free Press. This cost \$2.00.

A building committee was elected, which consisted of D. Garry, L.A. Fernie and Robert Sinclair.

The applications were opened in Yorkton and Miss Ellie Carson was hired at \$25.00 per month to teach 10-18 pupils for the summer months only.

Secretary, James Fergus wrote to the secretary of the Board of Education to inform them that Miss Carson was hired and that school would open on the 17th of April 1888. He also wished to know why he had no reply to questions regarding school furnishings and a grant. School registers were ordered.

The school was built of logs with a peaked pole roof covered with sod and slough hay. It had two windows on the east and two on the west, with a door on the short south wall. Pupils sat on long wooden benches at a plank table. They wrote on slates with slate pencils. The teacher had a small wooden table and a chair.

The school was located on the S.E. 1/4 of section 24, township 26, range 5, west of the second meridian, on land donated by Robert Sinclair.



## First Classes Taught

While the Orkney log school was under construction, Robert Sinclair's homestead was used for classes. The teacher had a room that doubled as bedroom during the night and a classroom during the day. Some stories are told of how the students sat on the bed to get their lessons.

While the school was being built, Mr. Sinclair's home was used as a school. This school was the first built in York Colony and ninety-seventh in the Assiniboia District of the North West Territories. The settlers officially named it "Orkney", thus Orkney School #97 was born.

The cost of the school was \$15.75 for lumber (floor and door), and \$7.00 for the four windows, plus \$3.75 for bringing out these items.

Other essentials for the school, 1 broom 40¢, tin mug 10¢, pail 30¢, white washing school inside \$1.50 and a cord of wood \$2.00. Bella Ferguson was appointed the school caretaker. A school seal was bought costing \$3.00.

Only seven taxpayers paid their taxes so the treasurer was instructed to apply for the money verbally.

A vote of thanks to Robert Sinclair for the school site and for the use of his home. Mr. Ross died so R. Hopkins became the auditor.

First pupils in the 'log' Orkney School were: Barbara Sinclair, Willie and Humble Ferguson, Robert, John and Matthew Peace Jr., G.H. Stainger, Lizzy Garry, Kirk, Almont and LeRoy Ross, D. Tulloch and Ernie Beckett.

The community held a 'school' picnic at the Orkney School. W.S. Tulloch supplied prizes for the children's games. There is no record of what type of prizes were given. The school board moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Tulloch for his thoughtful gesture.

There was a tiff between the teacher, Miss Gillespie and a pupil Wm. Fernie, who was sent home for disobedience. When the trustees confronted Wm., he admitted his guilt. The trustees agreed to re-admit the young man provided he apologized to the teacher. However Mrs. Fernie said, "no apology". During this trying time the Board gave the teacher permission to punish any student as she saw fit. There is no record of what happened with Wm., but the teacher must have stayed in the Board's good graces as she was given two weeks holidays, the last week in July and first week in August. School remained open until the end of November and Miss Gillespie was rehired for another year at \$35.00 per month.

In 1891, the Orkney School Board purchased school seats from the Yorkton School at \$1.50 per seat. In March of this year a porch was built onto the south end by S. Sanderson, at a cost of \$15.00 with \$3.00 extra for shingling. The porch had a window to the south and a door to the east. It served as a cloak room, a place for the lunch pails, the water pail, the wood box, a wash house and the wood for the wood heater which didn't leave any room for anything else.

A letter was written to Joel Reaman, M.L.A. member, with an enclosed petition protesting the cutting of grants in rural districts.

The school roof needed repairs, it was leaking water and had families of mice and birds. Mr. Beckett re-did the job, tar paper covered with sod at a cost of \$10.00. A well was dug for \$44.25 and a pump added for \$15.75.

List of ratepayers for 1892-1893:

H. Beckett	A.L. Fernie	Rowland Hawkins	John F. Reid	George Scatter
Dave M. Fergus	John Garry	William Kettel	Robert Reid	Robert Sinclair
James Fergus	Dan Garry	John Livingstone	Mrs. Ross	Robert Sinclair Sr
Mrs. Ferguson	Thomas H. Garry	Ira McConnell	Matthew Peace	Humble Wiseman
John Flanagan	Mrs. Fergus	Charlotte Reid	W.S. Tulloch	William Wiseman
Hudson Bay Co.	Mrs. Healy	James Reid	N.H. Neilson	York Farmers Colonization Co.

In April 1896 J. Kelso Hunter became a ratepayer in the Orkney community. The ratepayer voted on the issuing of debentures to the extent of \$600.00 bearing interest at the rate of 8 percent per annum, repayable in ten annual installments for the purpose of building a new school. The school board approached the church board requesting the use of the church for three months while the school was being built. J. Kelso Hunter became the last teacher to teach in the log school. His salary was \$35.00 per month.

The tender of Carl Ericksen to build a stone school at \$675.00 was accepted. It was to measure 20 x 30 feet. The log school was sold to Mr. Ericksen for \$12.00. Mr. N.H. Neilson was the stonemason.

First school board of the new Orkney School #97 were:

Dave M. Fergus	-	Chairman
John F. Reid		
John Garry	-	Secretary-Treasurer
James Fergus	-	Auditor



J.K. Hunter

Last teacher at the Orkney Log School



J.A. Patrick

First teacher at stone school, 1897

The first teacher in the new school was J.A.M. Patrick at \$35.00 per month.

The first pupils in the stone Orkney School #97 were: George and Mary Neilson, John Gunn, Connie Healy, Fred Davies, Robert, Mary-Alice and Margaret Reid, Louisa and Edward Pagett and Jim Bow.



New Stone School 1897

Back Row (L to R): Teacher - Barbara Sinclair, Connie Healy, Louisa and Edward Pagett  
Front Row (L to R): Mary and George Neilson, Mary-Alice Reid, Fred Davies, Margaret and Robert Reid, Jim Bow, John Gunn.



A new seal for the new school was bought from Richardson Company for \$4.00.

Other school purchases:

New Blackboard -	2.50	Wood	-	5.50	
Chalk	-	.25¢	Coal Oil Can	-	.25¢
New Paper	-	2.50	Coal Oil	-	.40¢
Blackboard Eraser-	.25¢	Lamp Glass	-	.10¢	
A Sprinkler	-	.65¢	Wick	-	.10¢
School Insurance -	Royal Insurance Co.			-	13.00
Painting -	George Hall			-	15.00
Broom				-	.35¢
Door Latch				-	.25¢
School Site				-	15.00
Transfer of Site				-	3.00
Plans and Specifications -	J.W. Christie			-	5.00
Dictionary -	T. Eaton's Co.			-	2.25
Screens				-	1.80
Empire Map				-	6.00

The settlers now had a sturdy new school across the road, west of the Orkney Presbyterian Church. Side by side they stood, each giving knowledge, guidance and a foundation in faith and character.

The school was also used for concerts, socials, dances and picnics.



Orkney Picnic 1912

In September 1905, the Orkney School was used as a polling station when the Assiniboia District became a Province. Cost for the use of the school was \$4.00.

A stable was erected by Logan and Black, labour \$75.00, lumber from Meredith and Stonehouse \$220.00, \$1.50 for a window. Insurance on the stable \$7.00.

Assessment and tax roll of the Orkney School #97 for 1908 was as follows. Rate of taxation was one and three quarter cents on the acre. This was recorded by Gilbert Stainger, Secretary of the Orkney School. In 1909 it was reduced to one cent on the acre, in 1910 it went up to one and a half cents on the acre and in 1911 up to two and a half cents on the acre.

The task of collecting taxes was not an easy one. Money was scarce, but somehow the fees were collected. To help the economic situation, the York Farmers Colonization and Hudson's Bay Companies paid a substantial amount in taxes due to the size of their land holdings.

List of ratepayers of the Orkney School District #97 for the years 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 as recorded by Secretary-Treasurer, Gilbert Stainger:

H. Arnold	Jesse Hill	John Pezzani
Frank Betts	A. Henke	Peter Rousay
Levi Beck	Mrs. A. Henke	James H. Reed
M. Clouston.	H. Irwin	Robert Reid
Joseph Caldwell	Wm. Kittel	John F. Reid
C.P.R.	S.H. Kent	Robert Rousay
W.D. Dunlop	Duncan Kennedy	George Seatter
J.L. Dodge	F.R. Knight	Seatter Bros.
H. Elliott	Mrs. T.H. Thomas	Wm. Simpson
Estate of James Fergus	Wm. Muir	T.V. Simpson
D.M. Fergus	F. Meredith	Gilbert Stainger
R. Farley	W.G. Mundle	Peter Stainger
W.D. Ferguson	A. McLean	Robert Sinclair
H.J. Ferguson	Robert McKen	Wm. Wiseman
Mrs. Jane Ferguson	C.S. McLaury	A.O. Whitman
John Ferguson	T. Meredith	Jas. Wotherspoon
Frank Garry	J.O. Markham	M. Walden
John Garry	W.W. Nicholas	George C. Wickens
Dan Garry	Wm. Pachal	G. Walden
R.W. Gillis	Frank Patterson	York Farmers Colonization Co.
A. Grunert	G.B. Peterkin	
Mrs. E.A. Healy	R. Pachal	
John Hawkins	J.A.M. Patrick	
Albert Henry	Martin Pachal	

Throughout the years, methods and rates changed from the set amount per individual to sixteen cents per acre, to the modern method of charging a number of mills on the assessed value of the land. Adding to the difficulties was the job of collecting these taxes. The Local Improvement Districts which were started in 1905, handled this problem with their elected committees. However in 1912, the municipal system came into being and took over the tax collections and from thereon each year an annual amount was set and handled from the municipal office.

The Orkney Municipality #244 1st Reeve and Councillors for 1912-1913 were:

Robert Rousay	-	Reeve
Jas. Williams	-	Deputy Reeve
Jas. B. Swallow	-	Secretary-Treasurer

Councillors -	Division 1	-	Thos. Waterfield
	Division 2	-	Jas. Williams
	Division 3	-	Thos. H. Garry
	Division 4	-	Dan Hoffman
	Division 5	-	John F. Reid
	Division 6	-	George Fernie

Two names were suggested for the new municipality, York and Orkney. Orkney won out, so the new municipality became Orkney Rural Municipality #244.



**First Municipal Council — Orkney R.M. #244**

*Back Row (L to R):* T.A. Waterfield, T.H. Garry, Dan Hoffman, John F. Reid, George Fernie  
*Front Row (L to R):* James Williams - Deputy Reeve, Robert Rousay - Reeve,  
 Jas. B. Swallow - Secretary-Treasurer

The R.M. of Orkney #244 1989 Council Members are as follows:

Reeve - Irving Bittner

Councillors:	Division		Division	
Art Sully	1	Harvey Grunert	4	Administrator:
Edwin Shrader	2	Robert Kriger	5	John Gazdewich
Ken Hamilton	3	Herb Laube	6	

In 1915, coal was used in the stove at the school. First a coal box had to be purchased from Logan and Black for \$8.75, then a load of coal was brought in by John F. Reid at a cost of \$14.00. A shield was bought for the stove for \$4.00. The coal heat lasted longer and was hotter thus the shield had to be used to protect children from burning themselves.

A set of framed pictures of the King and Queen were bought from Furley & Son for \$5.50. A new flag and a stove were purchased at a total cost of \$12.50. A little flag for inside the school cost 51 cents while the outside Union Jack cost \$4.00 and the rope 40 cents. The school also had a telephone which cost \$14.00 a year rental. It actually was installed in 1914. Window blinds \$4.20, a water cooler \$8.00 and school and barn insurance \$20.00 and there you have it, a well equipped school!

Prizes were given for good attendance. This was in 1914, five prizes not to exceed five dollars and seventy-five cents. This was carried on for several years.

In 1922 at the annual meeting, the decision to shorten the term of school and reducing teacher's salary due to the country's financial condition was discussed and carried. The school term ran from March until December, making it possible to put in the full number of days in order to get the full grant from the Government. Teacher, Miss Pachal of Yorkton was paid \$85.00 a month.

Attendance problems, some reasons justified the pupils being at home, such as James Wiseman missing thirty-five days of school due to the fact he had to help his aged father with seeding and harvesting. Others, the reasons weren't feasible. A Local Attendance officer was appointed, Mrs. F.A. Draper. Even the teacher wasn't exempt. The trustees felt that if a teacher had dental work done, she was still able to teach and couldn't expect the rest of the day off with pay. They felt it was too much of a hassle to get in a substitute teacher just for part of the day. Teacher's salary was \$1100.00 a year, the ensuing years teacher's salaries were reduced to \$900.00 a year.



**Class of 1928**  
 Teacher - Selma E. Lange



*Orkney* S.D. No. 97  
ATTENDANCE FOR THE MONTH OF February 1928

Pupil's Register No.	Age	Grade	Teacher	Day of the Month	1st WEEK					2nd WEEK					3rd WEEK					4th WEEK					5th WEEK					TOTAL FOR MONTH
					MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	
			<i>Salma L. Lange</i>																											
8	7	a		<i>Hazel Work</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
7	7			<i>George Stainger</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	16
7	7			<i>Irving Juste</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	18½
7	7			<i>Agnes Juste</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	20
7	7			<i>Herbert Harrison</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
9	9			<i>Lloyd Garry</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	18½
7	7			<i>Norman Stainger</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10
7	7			<i>Dan Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
			<i>Salma L. Lange</i>																											
8	10	II		<i>Mary Wilson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
10	10			<i>Alfred Juste</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
10	10			<i>Walter Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
10	10			<i>Lena Stainger</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10
			<i>Salma L. Lange</i>																											
9	10	III		<i>Wesley Norman</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	16
10	10			<i>Alfred Wilson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
9	9			<i>Edith Stainger</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	17
10	10			<i>Sidney Harrison</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
10	10			<i>Harry Popowich</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	16
10	10			<i>James Work</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	16
			<i>Salma L. Lange</i>																											
12	11	II		<i>Ruby Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	20
11	11			<i>Louis Wiseman</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
10	10			<i>John Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
11	11			<i>Nellie Popowich</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
11	11			<i>George Wilson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
11	11			<i>Earnest Behr</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
			<i>Salma L. Lange</i>																											
13	13	II		<i>Jim Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
13	13			<i>Helen Wilson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
11	11			<i>Alvin Norman</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
11	11			<i>Reggie Harrison</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
13	13			<i>Lawrence Kenke</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10
13	13	II		<i>Norma Behr</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	18
13	13	III		<i>Howard Norman</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12½
13	13			<i>Max Wiseman</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
12	12			<i>Frederick Harrison</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
14	14			<i>Louise Patterson</i>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
TOTAL DAILY ATTENDANCE					32	27	27	27	27	29	26	26	27	27	26	26	27	28	25	26	27	27	27	27	29	27	27	27	27	585½
Total Possible Daily Attendance					32	27	27	27	27	29	26	26	27	27	26	26	27	28	25	26	27	27	27	27	29	27	27	27	27	672

Average attendance during the month 27.88.  
I hereby certify that the above record of attendance is correct and does not include any record of teaching on Saturdays or other holidays.  
*Salma L. Lange* Teacher.  
NOTE.—At the end of each month transfer each month's attendance to the "Summary of attendance for the term."  
\*See instructions on first page.

A page from the Daily Attendance Register 1928

The school stable burned down, so a new one was built by James Logan, 24'x 28' on a cement foundation.

In 1929 Mr. F.W. Harrison was hired to put storm windows on the school, turn the black boards and paint them, make the wainscoting draught proof and make a coal stand in the porch.

The well water was not fit, so George Stainger was paid \$20.00 a year to supply water for the school.

The school board offered to buy ten to fifteen dollars worth of Christmas treats. The annual Christmas concert was thoroughly enjoyed by the community. The teacher and the students, assisted by parents decorated the school and the Christmas tree. Plays, solos, skits and a school choir followed by Santa passing out treats and small gifts brought the evening to a very satisfactory close. Mr. Harrison in later years hooked up a battery system to give the stage, 'lights'.

The Community Club was organized and made a request to the school board for the use of the school for a dance. The request was granted providing they sweep the floor with dustbane and then sprinkle the floor with Lysol, that was diluted in boiling water. Everything had to be left in order for pupils and the teacher.

Dr. Houston came to the school and immunized all the children for Diphtheria and vaccinated for Small Pox. This was in February 1926. Written consent by parents was required. 45 were immunized for Diphtheria and 21 vaccinated for Small Pox.



Class of 19??

St. Magnus and Grunert Schools generally joined with Orkney for the annual school picnic in June. It was the event of the summer, beginning at twelve o'clock with the different races, from grade one to the men and women of the community. The fun races were the wheel barrow, shoe or boot, the potato, the gunny sack and the three-legged. Prize money was, first 15 cents, second 10 cents and third a nickel or five cents. The young children that didn't win also received "a nickel". They proudly displayed their money held in their chubby little hands to their parents or grandparents.



Ladies from each school took turns working in the booth. Prices of items were mostly a nickel, a banana, chocolate bar, ice cream cone, a bottle of pop, box of popcorn. Gum sold at three packages for ten cents and licorice pipes at one cent each. Each succeeding year more items were sold in the booth, hot dogs, hamburgers, varieties of chocolate bars, shoe string licorice and different flavours of ice cream.



**Orkney School Ball Team**

*Standing (L to R):* Herman Knoll, Bill Wilson, Annie Tytula, Henry Chilman (Teacher), Alice Wilson, Robert Dodds, Winston Knoll *Kneeling (L to R):* Eva Wilson, Clifford Knoll, Pauline Tytula

Ball games were "played off" then one school would become the winner. After this the ladies would make a boiler of coffee on the cook stove in the house closest to the school or in the school basement. Every lady brought sandwiches, cookies and cakes. Everyone would sit in a large circle, the lunch would be passed around by the ladies and coffee pots of coffee by the men. Good farm cream for the coffee completed the fare. The children had Kool-Aid or milk, but most wanted pop. The climax was the ball game, women against the men. It was a delight to see a woman pitcher strike out a man or see a third baseman slide by a woman only to be called "out"! The cows didn't get milked until later that evening! There were a lot of bruised, stiff-jointed individuals the next day. Everyone thinking how they'll improve things for next year's picnic.

The school and the church were both used for Vacation Bible School, right up into the 1960's.

On June 10, 1936 the school board had a letter from Orkney, Sask. asking our board to relinquish the name "Orkney" to the school district in the village of Orkney, Sask. Our board replied, stating our "Orkney" has been here since the first settlers arrived in 1882-1883 and therefore we were the rightful ones to use the name.

Framed pictures of Queen Elizabeth and King George VI were purchased at \$1.75 each. A motion was made at a special board meeting to spend forty dollars towards the Royal Visit at Melville, Sask. (1939). A letter was also sent to all parents stating that since the majority of parents expressed the wish for their children to go to Melville to see the Royal couple. Forty dollars was voted to cover expenses for this event.

However they also stated that they freed themselves from any responsibility in case of accidents to any of the children. The children were accompanied by the teacher, Mr. Henry Chilman, and the school secretary, Edith Stainger.



**The Royal Visit to Canada 1939**

*Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth*



*Orkney Group in Melville to see the King and Queen*

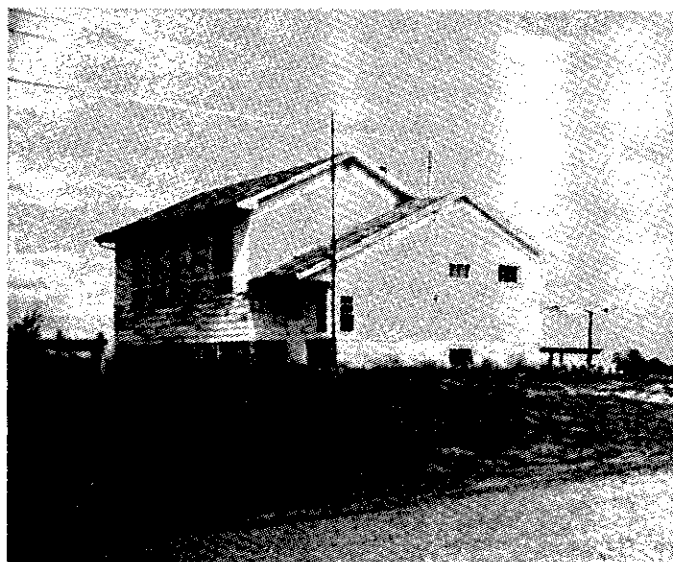
In August 1939, the Orkney School Board, consisting of R.L. Reid, W.S. Muir and A.A. Knoll made the acquisition of the Orkney Church as a second classroom. School Inspector, Mr. Martin, was at this meeting and made necessary alterations, blackboards, tentest over wainscoting, windows repaired and porch to be made suitable as a cloakroom. Logan and Black were hired for this job. A large sized stove was purchased for the Church School and teachers M. Galbraith and Doreen Katz were hired, Miss Katz being the junior teacher. Schools were known as Orkney A, the school and Orkney B, the church.

In February 1943 there was a proposal to build a school in Orcadia. However, the School Inspector, Mr. Martin, stated that subject to suitable alterations being made to the cottage of Mrs. Tytula, the building would be approved for school purposes. The decision to move one classroom to Mrs. Tytula's in Orcadia was approved. R.L. Reid moved that an agreement be drawn up immediately between Mrs. Tytula and the Orkney School Board for the rental of her cottage at \$80.00 per year for three years.

Work was to begin on the building immediately under the supervision of Messrs. Hall and Grunert. Material was to be purchased from Logan and Black. All necessary equipment to be transferred from the "stone" Orkney School to the Orcadia School. A new desk was purchased from Christie's in Brandon for \$35.00. The Orcadia Community Club was to calamine the school. The School Board gave permission for social events to be held in the school, Orkney B, excluding dancing. The School Board were:

W.S. Muir - Chairman  
 R.L. Reid  
 A.A. Knoll  
 F. W. Harrison- Secretary-Treasurer

The two schools operated this way until 1958 when a new school was built in Orcadia. It had a large classroom with two small rooms off to the east. One was a library and the other the teacher's room. It had two indoor bathrooms and a hall that also served as a cloakroom. There was a full basement that had a small kitchen and another room that held the septic tank.



**Last Orkney School**  
 Built in 1958 and closed after the 1968-69 term

The last teacher at the Orkney School A was Mrs. E.L.A. Popowich, the former Elizabeth (Betty) Harrison. It seemed very fitting that Mrs. Popowich be the one to end the "life" of this historic building. She received her education at the "stone" Orkney School and attended the services at the Orkney Church.

Pupils used to walk down the tracks from Orcadia to the Orkney School. Almost everyone walked, however, there were the lucky few who had a horse and buggy or a cart like the Pacholka family. They lived three and a half miles from school and also had to do all the morning chores before leaving for school. So being late the odd morning, they'd have their horse going full gallop past the neighbouring farms, the cart bumping along behind the horse and the children hanging on for dear life.

For several years the pupils walked, rode bicycles or were driven by their parents to the Orkney School in Orcadia. When the larger school

unit was formed, the unit had a fleet of buses with hired bus drivers, who picked up the students at their farm gates or lanes and transported them to the Composite Jr. High School. 1966 was the last grade VII and VIII students, Marjorie Norman and Bonnie Muir and Maureen McKen, Doreen Spilchen and Audrey Norman.

A small school bus was brought in from the unit and hired John Schab as driver, assisted by Alvin Norman. They picked up all the grades one to six students at their gates and transported them back to Orcadia. When the Orkney School in Orcadia closed, Alvin Norman became the regular driver and drove the students to Yorkdale(Composite) and the Regional High School. He retired after fourteen years service and the route was taken over by Bill Koban of Springside.

The first teacher in the "new" Orkney School #97 in Orcadia was Mrs. Freda Nygren from 1958-1964. She had twenty-six students, grades one to eight.

The Orkney School Board were:

Fred Hall - Chairman  
 Maurice McKen -  
 Leonard Lange -  
 F.W. Harrison - Secretary-Treasurer

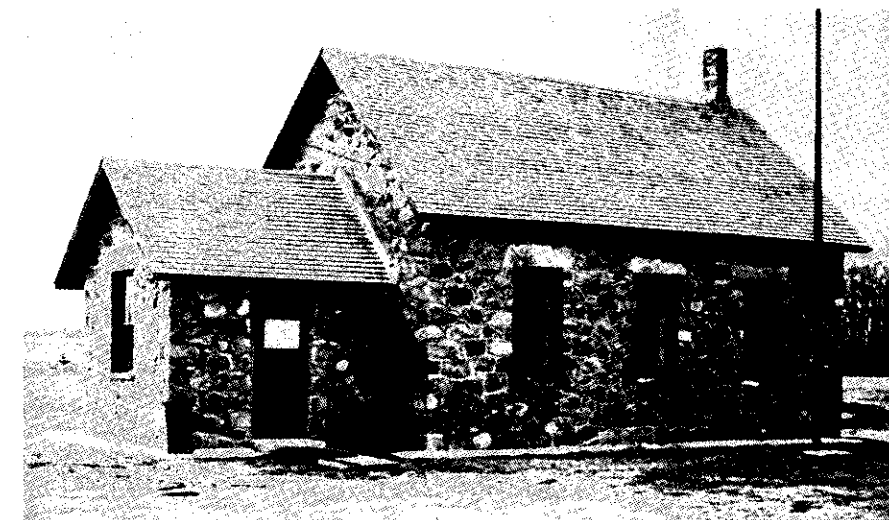
The last teacher was Mrs. Velma Rousay (Mrs. Alex Rousay).

The last School Board were:

Wilfred Breehn - Chairman  
 Alvin R. Norman  
 Nick Shumay  
 Everett Gerrard - Secretary-Treasurer

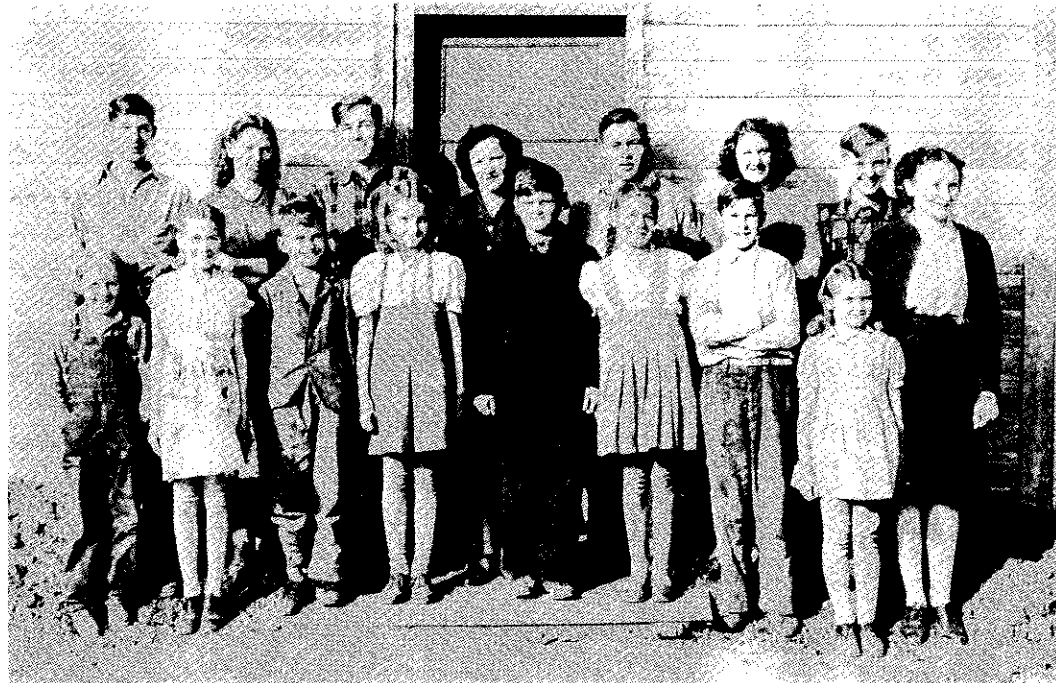
The Orkney School in Orcadia was used for a while by the Orkney Community Club and the Silver Spur Horse Club and finally was sold, rebuilt and now is Grace Baptist Church.

The original stone Orkney School was restored in 1984. The Orkney Historical Society took this project with the intentions of restoring and preserving this historic building. It's only fitting after all the years of teaching, guiding and moulding that this community uphold this sentinel.



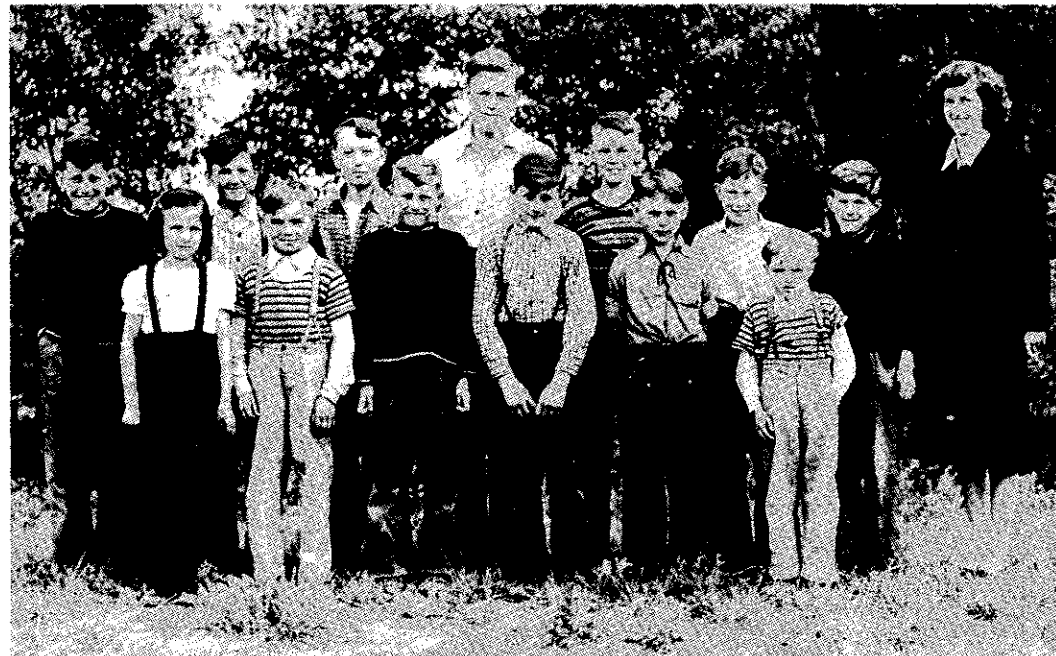
**Renovated Orkney School 1989**

**CLASSES THROUGH THE YEARS**



**Orkney A: Class of 1947-48**

*Back Row (L to R):* Bob Lange, Silvia Lewchuk, Eugene Lewchuk, Ellen McVey, Lorne Stainger, Irene Lange, Graham Hall, Sylvia Baumung - Teacher *Front Row (L to R):* Gerald Chupa, Annie Beblow, Paul Beblow, Marion Popowich, Wesley McKen, June Lange, James Tomanik, Gladys Popowich.



**Orkney A: Class of 1948-49**

*Back Row (L to R):* Harvey Herzke, Paul Chupa, Gerald Muir, Colin Joyce, Lyle Just, Rodger Folster, Doug Harrison, Ruby Kolstad - Teacher *Front Row (L to R):* Roselia Chupa, Mike Pacholka, Allan Herzke, Donald Chupa, David Just, Silviko (Daniel) Chupa.



**Orkney A: Class of 1951-52**

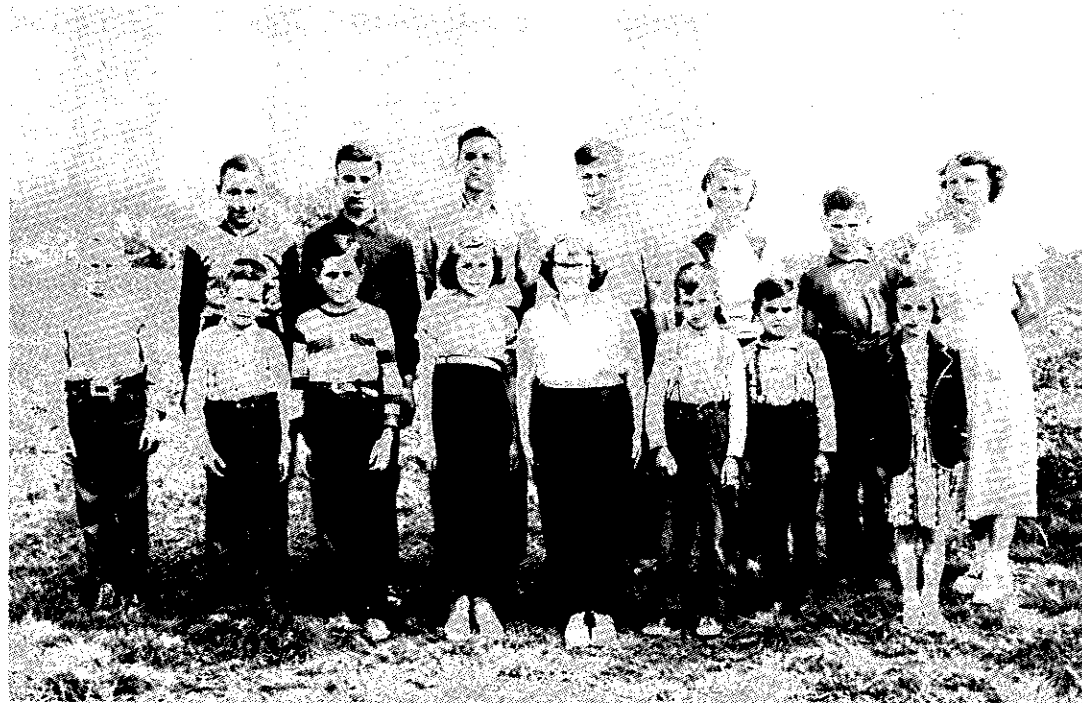
Iris Sonia Chupa, Terrence Anderson Folster, Adeliene Edith Pacholka, Herman Rutch, Irene Jean Pacholka, Iona Violet Herzke, Mike Frank Pacholka, Roselia Marie Chupa, Allan Arnold Herzke, Harvey Herbert Herzke, Paul Albert Chupa, David Gilbert Just, Roger David Folster, Selviko Pacholka, Donald Daniel Chupa, Douglas Harrison, John Wayne Norman, Laurie Irvin Blommaert, Sharon Ann Hursh.



**Orkney A: Class of 1949-50**

*Back Row (L to R):* Doug Harrison, Donald Chupa, Roger Folster, Paul Chupa, Lyle Just, Gerald Muir, Harvey Herzke, Allen Herzke *Front Row (L to R):* Iona Herzke, Roselia Chupa, Iris Chupa, David Just, Mike Pacholka, Silviko (Daniel) Pacholka.





**Class of 1952-53**

Shirley Beblow, James Beblow, Jerry Beblow, Paul Spilchen, David Moulton, Henry Spilchen, Earl Hall, Merle Hall, Carol Beblow, Myron Gabert, Henry Shumay, Olga Shumay, Iris Skwarchuk, Stephen Spilchen, George Spilchen, Paul Beblow, Keith Gabert, Peter Moulton, Teacher - Hermaine (Stricker) Breehn.



**Class of 1956-57**

Delores Tomanek, Phyllis Chupa, Peter Chupa, Donald McKen, Allen Beblow, Lynne Wood, Trevor Cherry, Robert Norman, Henry Spilchen, Paul Spilchen, Lillian Chupa, James Beblow, Barbara Lange, Dale Hoffman, Shirley Beblow, Kathleen Wood, Wayne Norman, Dennis Cherry, Mervin Nidesh, Earl Hall, Iris Chupa, Merle Hall, Carol Beblow, Henry Shumay, Teacher - Regina Walter.



**Class of 1960-61**

Dale Hoffman, Barbara Lange, Lillian Chupa, Jerry Beblow, James Beblow, Henry Spilchen, Robert Norman, Veronica Pawliw, Allen Beblow, Donald McKen, Delores Tomanek, Phyllis Chupa, Peter Chupa, Lenore Fritzke, Andrew Beblow, William Chupa, Douglas Norman, Judith Pawliw, Doreen Spilchen, Maureen McKen, Audrey Norman, Allan Stobee, Marjorie Norman, Adeline Spilchen, Ronald Chupa, Bonnie Muir, Constance Fritzke, Shari Breehn, Stephanie Chupa, Arlene Spilchen. Teacher - Freda Nygren.



**Class of 1967-68**

*Back Row (L to R):* Daryl Minke, Randy Breehn, Kenneth Norman, Wayne Gerrard, Vivian Gerrard, Bill Wood, Mrs. Velma Rousay - Teacher, Terry Minke *Middle Row (L to R):* Allan Shumay, Russell Miles, Fred Gurel, Susan Norman, Valerie Gerrard, Ferne Katzberg, Barry Shumay *Front Row (L to R):* Barron Peltier, Nancy Wood, Terry Breehn, Karen Miles, Stephen Miles.

## TEACHERS OF ORKNEY SCHOOL #97

1887	-	Miss Jessie Ferguson - School Inspector refused her application to teach. The settlers decided not to hold school for this year.
1888	-	Miss Ella E. Carson - April 17 to October 31
1889	-	Miss Katie J. Gillespie
1890	-	Miss Katie J. Gillespie
1891	-	Miss Emma J. Southam
1892	-	Miss Mary Stewart
1893	-	Miss Sproule
1894	-	Miss Ida M. Greer
1895	-	Mr. Beveridge
1896	-	Mr. A.W. Argue
	-	Mr. J. Kelso Hunter
1897	-	Mr. J.A.M. Patrick
1898	-	Miss Barbara M. Sinclair
1899	-	Mr. William Clark
1900	-	Miss McCullum
1901	-	Mr. E.J. Murray
1902	-	Miss Sibbald
	-	Mr. J.A. Magee
1903	-	Miss Kate E. Neilson
1904	-	Miss Ella MacLacklin
1905	-	Mr. D. Brown
1906	-	Mr. D. Brown
1907	-	Mr. A.O. Whitman
1908	-	Miss Isa M. Rollins
1909	-	Mr. Wm. J. Weir
1910	-	Miss Anna Jean McKenzie
1911	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1912	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1913	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1914	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1915	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1916	-	Miss Kate McTavish
1917	-	Miss Kate McTavish
	-	Miss Euphemia McPhail
1918	-	Pansy Marion Sweet
	-	Mabel Winnifred Outhwaite
1919	-	Ralph C. Russell
	-	Florence A.B. Morrison
1920	-	Florence A.B. Morrison
1921	-	Florence A.B. Morrison
1922	-	Vena Pachal
	-	Mrs. Lillie Jean Norman
1923	-	Mrs. Edith M. Shaw
	-	Mrs. Lillie Jean Norman
1924	-	Mrs. Lillie Jean Norman
	-	Effie Young McQueen
1925	-	Effie Young McQueen
	-	David Andres
1926	-	David Andres
	-	Ivan Patrick



Isa M. Rollins



Winnifred Outhwaite



Florence Morrison



Effie McQueen

1927	-	Ivan Patrick
1928	-	Selma Ella Lange
	-	Ivan Guy Patrick
1929	-	Ivan Guy Patrick
1930	-	Ivan Guy Patrick
	-	Wilfred Arthur Tripp
1931	-	Wilfred Arthur Tripp
1932	-	Wilfred Arthur Tripp
1933	-	Arthur Simpson Larmour
1934	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
1935	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
1936	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
1937	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
1938	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
1939	-	Henry Alexander Chilman
	-	Malcom Galbraith
	-	Dorene E. Katz
1940	-	Malcom Galbraith
	-	Dorene E. Katz
	-	Elizabeth Leslie
1941	-	Elizabeth Leslie
	-	Mrs. Margaret Rousay
	-	A.L. Lozinski
	-	A.C. Kranmer
1942	-	*Lena Marushechka
	-	*Mary Anne Evanishen
1943	-	*Same as 1942 January to June term
	-	Iris Humeniuk
	-	Vinona Serena Hoffman
	-	Mrs. A. Esther Harris (substitute)
1944	-	**Iris Humeniuk
	-	**Vera Ida Bailey
1945	-	**Same as 1944 January to June term
	-	***Mary Teresa Gleason
	-	Mary Ann Hepburn
1946	-	***Same as 1945 January to June term
	-	Mary Teresa Gleason
	-	Marie Adelheit Baumung
	-	Nathan H. Mair
1947	-	Mary Teresa Gleason
	-	Marie Adelheit Baumung
	-	Ruby Kolstad
	-	Mr. J. Watt (substitute)
1948	-	Sylvia M. Baumung
	-	Ruby W. Kolstad
1949	-	Sylvia M. Baumung
	-	Ruby W. Kolstad
1950	-	Sylvia M. Baumung
	-	Ruby W. Kolstad
	-	Edith Brierley
	-	Hermaine Stricker
1951	-	Edith Brierley
	-	Hermaine Stricker



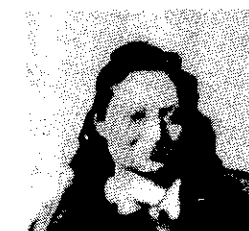
Selma Lange



Ivan Patrick



Henry A. Chillman



Dorene E. Katz

- 1952 - Edith Brierly
- Hermaine Stricker
- Hermaine Stricker - second term
- Regina Edith Walter - Orkney A
- 1953 - Regina Edith Walter - Orkney A
- Hermaine Stricker
- Hermaine Stricker - Orkney B - married Wilfred Breehn
- Mrs. Wilfred Breehn
- 1954 - Regina Edith Walter
- Elizabeth Harrison
- 1955 - Regina Edith Walter
- Elizabeth Harrison
- Regina Edith Walter
- Mrs. Frances S. Dodds
- 1956 - Mrs. Regina Edith Walter
- Mrs. Frances S. Dodds
- Mrs. Nick Popowich (nee Harrison)
- 1957 - Mrs. Regina Edith Walter
- Mrs. N. Popowich
- 1958 - Mrs. Regina Walter
- Mrs. N. Popowich
- Mrs. Frieda Nygren
- Mrs. Frieda Nygren
- 1959 to 1964
- 1964 to 1968 - Mrs. Velma Marion Rousay



Mary T. Gleason

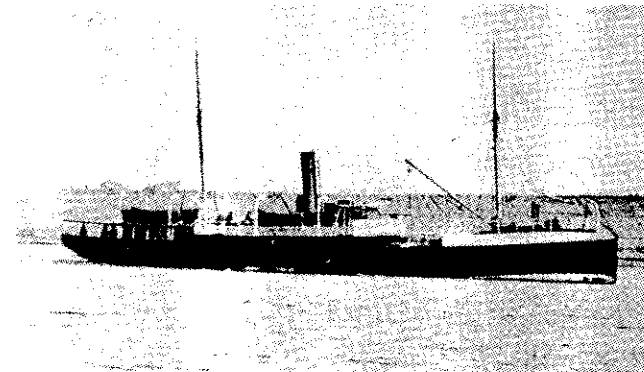


Regina Walter, Velma Rousay, Elizabeth Popowich and Mary Wilson

## Orcadia

In 1903, the Canadian Pacific Railway was extending their rail lines from Yorkton to Sheho. Doukhobours were hired to do the building, their only equipment being shovels and wheelbarrows. That's what is called hard labour!!

Their policy was that every eight miles they'd grade up a landing, set down a small shack and presto, they had a station! This station was situated on the N.W. 1/4 of section 26, township 26, range 5, west of the second meridian and owned by Dr. T.V. Simpson, an early settler who acquired his homestead in 1893. He farmed and was the local veterinarian. He was told to survey the surrounding land, set up lots for a town site and name it. As a result four families, all from the Orkney Islands and who settled this area first, held a meeting and named it after a small ship that sailed amongst the Islands delivering mail, passengers and freight, the S.S. Orcadia. It was situated on a brow of a hill overlooking Lake Simpson.



S.S. Orcadia

Early settlers named Orcadia after a small freighter that sailed in the Orkney Islands.

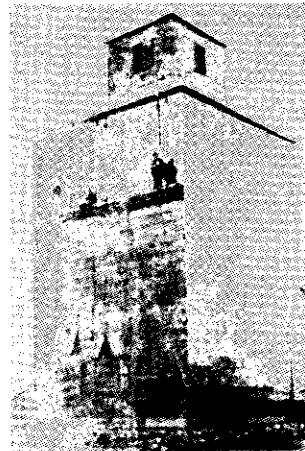


Right:  
F. R. Knight  
Orcadia's First Postmaster

A petition for a post office was circulated in February 1904. By February 1, 1905 a post office was established in Orcadia with the first mail delivery on February 3, 1905. Mr. F.R. Knight was the first postmaster. He kept this position until 1910 when D.A. Robertson took over the store and post office. The store was located in the same building as the post office. Being an accomplished pianist, Mr. Knight gave piano lessons and accompanied performers at the local functions.

In 1904, the first grain elevator, the Northern, was built by the Northern Elevator Company. The first buyer was J.J. Buchanan, assisted by Charlie (Scotty) Barbour. It took in the first wheat which graded a good number one and came from the farm of G. Peterson. It was September and all the wheat was cut and stooked. Grain prices were:

Wheat #1 Northern	_____	82¢ bushel
#2 Northern	_____	80¢ bushel
Oats	_____	25¢ bushel
Barley	_____	25¢ bushel



**The Northern**  
Orcadia's first elevator built in 1904

The first business in Orcadia was the Prairie Lumber. An office with living quarters was built for their agent, but the business folded in 1910 and the office building was bought by the elevator company (Northern).

The first blacksmith was J.G. Stainger, who built a shop and looked after the blacksmithing needs of the surrounding farmers. He later sold this business to Ronald Foster and worked for a number of years building elevators.

In 1906 James Dodge and family arrived from Bridgetown, Nova Scotia. James Dodge was a doer, he first built a large dwelling and store combined. He bought the north half of 35-26-5, one mile north of Orcadia, where the Drug Rehabilitation Centre is located today. He farmed as well as running a general store. In 1907, James Dodge formed a partnership with the Northern Elevator agent, George Seatter and became agents for the Cockshutt Plow Company. So naturally Cockshutt farm implements became quite popular with the farming community in the district.

In 1909 the Imperial Elevator was built. Its first grain agent was W.H. Comrie. As more land was opened up, more grain was produced, the need for another elevator arose.

In 1910 Orcadia had its first resident minister in the person of Rev. W.B. Mahon, a Presbyterian minister and wife, recent arrivals from Ireland. A manse was built for them. Ron Foster, the handyman blacksmith as given the contract for the building. It served as a home for several ministers and later served as a make shift school. Rev. Mahon was supplied with a driving team and a "green buggy" and held services every Sunday at Orcadia, Orkney and Fonehill.

Mr. Foster had the first car in Orcadia, a 1910 model, merely a motorized buggy. It really scared the blazes out of every horse that came within sound or sight of the contraption. Next car was that of James Sinclair. Progress had arrived!

In 1911 William Bagg came from Springside to be an agent for the Imperial Elevator. He bought the store from F.R. Knight and also took over the post office. Mr. Knight retired to his farm one mile north of Orcadia where he took up sheep ranching. In 1914, F.R. Knight again took over the store and post office. William Bagg went back to his farm in Springside. In the meantime, Mr. Knight set up the first and only pool room in Orcadia, one table!!



**William Bagg**  
Imperial elevator agent, storekeeper and postmaster.

In the meantime, other people had arrived in the district. To mention a few, there were the two Whitmans, Doug and Bernard from Nova Scotia, brothers-in-law of James Dodge. They farmed for several years then moved on to greener pastures. Another Nova Scotian, Herman Banks, who was called the "Giant" owing to his size, six feet six and weighing over two hundred pounds. He had tremendous strength, he could lift the back end of a wagon loaded with sheaves. He worked in the Orcadia District for many years before going back to Nova Scotia.

Another resident was Peg Leg Parker. He worked for the Prairie Lumber Company and wore a wooden leg, hence the name. He was a very fine carpenter and helped to build several local homes. By 1910 the Prairie Lumber Company closed.

In 1912, some changes were taking place on the farms, the Rumely Oil Pull Tractors were being introduced. William Ferguson and John McKen were the first threshermen to acquire these behemoths.

Thomas Paul invented a simple system of communication by telephone. A one wire line was mounted on tall poles with a ground wire every quarter mile. This completed the circuit and carried the voice clearly and efficiently. If a break would occur, the good old barbed wire was used to repair the area. This came into use in 1902 in Yorkton. This system went to the rural area in 1907 and was called the Yorkton Northwest Electric Company. In 1908 the Yorkton Rural Telephone Company held a meeting in Yorkton. Rural representatives were elected and organized into circuits of ten to a unit. Telephones were put into homes. That wooden box hanging on the wall united neighbours and the community. It also provided everyone on that line with no privacy. Generally everyone listened to each other's calls. At times this created real problems!! Listed are subscribers and their phone numbers.

Dave Fergus - St. Ola	.....515	Peter Rousay	..... 15
John McKen - Greystone	.... 53	Robert Rousay - Lakeview	.....552
Robert McKen	.....155	Thos. Garry - Garry Ranch	.....251
Orcadia Elevator	..... 52	Robert Sinclair - Glen Orkney	... 52
Gilbert Stainger - Greenbush	.3	Mrs. Ferguson	..... 2
John F. Ried - Norseman's	..555	Frank Caldwell - Pleasant View	.. 4
	Home	J.L. Dodge	..... 54
Dave Muir	..... 55		



This telephone company later became the Rural Beaver Telephone Co. It now has been taken over by the Provincial Government and is called Sask. Tel.

John Pezzani arrived in Orcadia from Italy in 1913. He bought the east half of section 27, township 26, range 5 from August Grunert. He built his farm home on the outskirts of Orcadia and for several years supplied the people in the village with milk.

Pezzani was an expert teamster, he always drove a fine team of horses on farm implements and grain tanks. He also became a great thresherman.

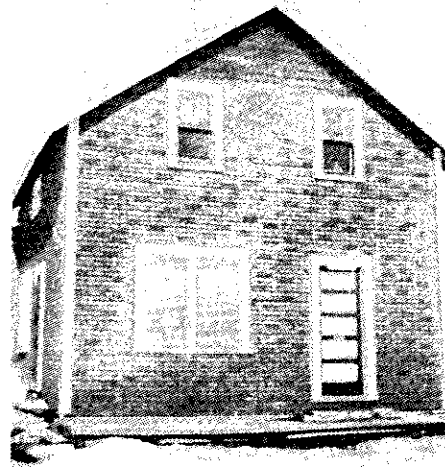
His other vocation, he could play any wind instrument and could sing opera.

In 1922 things went sour so he left everything and migrated to the U.S.A.

One of his sons, Peter, lived in Detroit and ran a garage business and was in the millionaire class. He never forgot his place of birth or the Orkney School where he started his education. From 1946 until twelve years ago he made annual visits to the Orcadia, Springside District visiting kinfolk and taking pictures of the old "stone" school. He always flew up in his own plane and gave a big donation towards the renovation of the "old school".



**Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pezzani 1966**  
Donated to the renovation fund



**Orcadia Postoffice**  
J. G. Stainger, Postmaster

World War I brought a lot of changes. A number of young men joined the Armed Forces, some not coming back. Ford cars had become popular. Mrs. James Dodge passed away suddenly which broke up the family. Mr. Dodge closed his store, rented his farm and all but one of the family moved to California. His daughter Hazel remained, married Pete Fernie and made her home in Springside. Today she's a guest at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home.

In 1914, J.G. Stainger returned to Orcadia, married Isabel Hall and bought F.R. Knight's store. He took over as postmaster, a position he held for 40 years. He was also an agent for the Northern Elevator until it burned down in 1920.

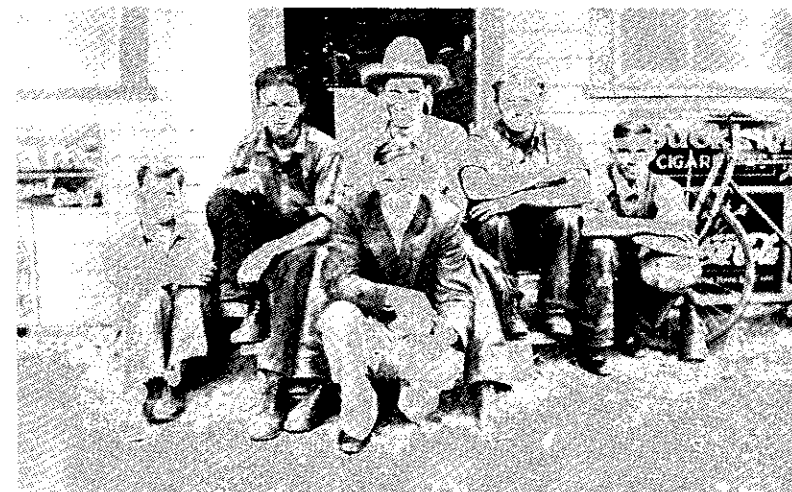
It was Christmas Eve 1920 when fire destroyed the Northern Elevator and the flour shed. In March 1921, the Bawlf Elevator (used to be the Imperial) also burned mysteriously. Both were rebuilt in 1922, Harry Wilson becoming agent for the new Bawlf Elevator.



**Infront of Orcadia Store 1919**

(L to R): Jim Wiseman, Rose, Margaret Wallis holding son Edward, and Bess standing.

From 1933 through the hungry thirties, Orcadia has had several storekeepers. A Mr. Murphy set up business in the vacant Dodge building for a short time. Mrs. Mary Tytula started a confectionary store. In the 1930's P.J. Lewchuk built a store, western style with a false front. After a number of years they sold out to Steve Springinatuk, who after a short time sold the business to Ruth and Roland Gabert. While Ruth looked after the store, Rolly ran the Sask. Wheat Pool Elevator.



**On the steps of Lewchuk's Store 1937**

Back (L to R): Herb Harrison, William Ferguson, Barney Fenske, Reg Harrison, Biff Wilson Front: William Cannon



**Mrs. Jean Schab**  
Orcadia's Last Postmistress

The next and final storekeeper and postmasters were John and Jean Schab. The post office closed in 1965 and Jean got a post office in Quinton, Sask. They sold the buildings and moved. John passed away several years ago and Jean is still postmistress of Quinton.

Postmasters of Orcadia from its beginnings until 1965:  
F.R. Knight - February 1, 1905 to October 19, 1910  
D.A. Robertson - October 20, 1910 to May 4, 1911  
William C. Bagg - May 5, 1911 to June 2, 1913  
James L. Dodge - June 3, 1913 to January 16, 1914  
F.R. Knight - January 17, 1914 to October 22, 1917  
John George Stainger - October 23, 1914 to May 31, 1960  
Mrs. Eleanor Jean Schab - June 1, 1960 to 1965



Grain buyers at the Orcadia, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. The elevator was built in 1928.

J.G. Stainger - April 2, 1928 to December 1949

Richard Gourley - January 1950 to October 1951

Allen Layfield - October 1951 to May 1952

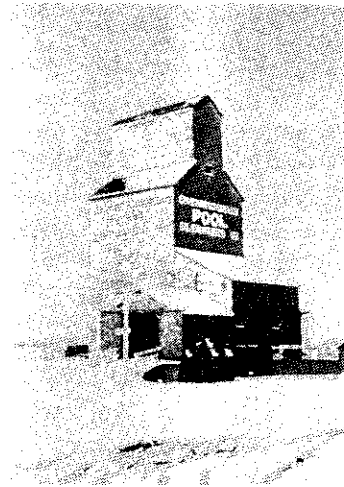
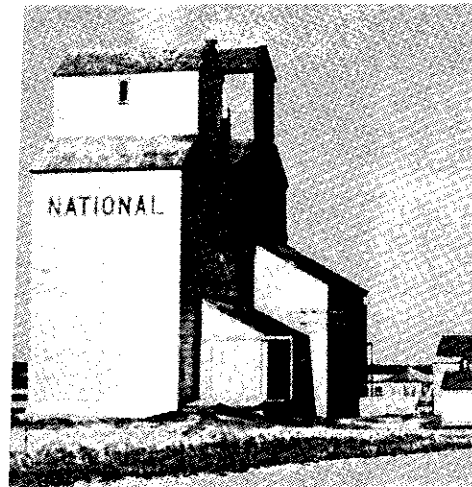
Roland H. Gabert - May 1952 to 1956

Ken Guenther - 1956

Herb Laycock - 1956

Percy Kotzer - 1956

Henry D. Hoffman - 1957 to 1974



**National Elevator  
& Pool Elevator**

Last elevators in Orcadia  
— now gone.

August Gabert was the elevator agent for the National Grain Company from August 1946 to March 1970. He ran this elevator in opposition to his brother Rolly Gabert, who bought grain for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. August also played hockey, baseball and was on the executive on the Orcadia Community Club. He coached the Orcadia baseball and hockey teams in later years. He is now retired and lives in Kamsack, Sask.

Other National Grain Buyers was John Grunert. He also built a barn just across the road from the National Elevator and went into the dairy business, selling milk to the Orcadia population.

The last buyer for this company was Howard Maahs. He bought grain from November 1969 to July 31, 1982.

Another business in Orcadia was Henry's Service Station. Henry Hoffman was a "jack of all trades". He could weld, do blacksmith work, as well as operating the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator. Lillie, Henry's wife and helpmate looked after the service station while Henry ran the elevator. She is also noted for the most delicious lunches she served at the Wheat Pool committee meetings. Both of them were involved in community affairs. Henry formed a small orchestra encouraging the young people to take part. They performed at church and family functions.

They moved to the West Coast in the 1970's where they enjoy their retirement. Their son Dr. Dale Hoffman and family are not far from their home, so they enjoy their grandchildren.

The longest resident of Orcadia was J.G. Stainger. from 1917 to 1960. He was the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool agent for 20 years and the Orcadia postmaster for 43 years. Next were Henry and Lillie Hoffman, 28 years followed by the Harry Wilson and Harry Tytula families of 20 years. Harry Tytula was the C.P.R. section foreman.

Pete and Roxy Tymourski settled in Orcadia in the late 1940's. Pete worked for the C.P.R. section gang, patrolling the tracks. He used the hand car, which in those days was uncovered and run manually. Poor Pete, during the 40 degree below weather, he really had to put on a lot of clothing to keep warm. Just imagine a whole day spent out in the adverse conditions and doing your job.

Both Roxy and Pete were involved in community affairs. Roxy served as secretary and treasurer for the Orkney Ladies Aid which later became the Orkney United Church Women. Pete was much in demand at the dances at the Orkney School. He was the best polka dancer!! Pete, Roxy and their children Cindy and Neil moved to Saskatoon in the late 1970's.

Mrs. Annie Hamilton, daughter of F.R. and Mary Knight grew up in Orcadia and attended the Orkney School #97. Mrs. Hamilton lives in Leroy, Sask. She has given generous donations for the restoration of the two buildings, the church and school.

Other short period residents of Orcadia:

Mr. & Mrs. Sokolan and family

Mrs. Simpson

Mr. & Mrs. Brian deVries

Helen & Alvin Norman and family

Joyce & Les Muir and family

Nick & Effie Shumay and family

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Shumay and family

Mr. & Mrs. Dave McVey

#### ORCADIA TODAY

The elevators were pushed down, burned and the ground levelled. The property where the Orcadia store was, is empty. The building that housed the Orcadia Post Office is a private dwelling. This building is part of the original that first was erected in 1904. Mrs. Delores Kowalchuk and her family make it their home.

Mr. & Mrs. Laurie Blommaert and family live in the house that August Gabert, the National Grain Elevator agent called "home". The Shumay home is now owned and lived in by John and Janet Chepil. Janet's mother, Mrs. Johnson has made the deVries house her home.

The Orkney School was bought and is now known as the Grace Bible Baptist Church.

What was once a bustling village is no more, just a pleasant memory. A half mile to the east by the railway tracks, the sign "Orcadia" still stands. May it remain standing as a remembrance of the village and the small Orkney boat, the "Orcadia" that gave it its' name.



**Orcadia 1917?**

In the beginning.

# Organizations of Orkney and Orcadia

## THE LADIES AID SOCIETY

The ladies of the Orkney Presbyterian Church helped to raise funds for the church by holding box or basket socials. As early as 1895, several ladies names are mentioned being on committees, Barbara M. Sinclair, Mrs. Rousay, Colena Garry and Alice Rendall.

The ladies next started to have meetings in their own homes, meeting monthly. Besides having worship and bible readings, they shared ideas, friendship, recipes, plus ways to help in the community.

At the church socials, when a lady brought her decorated basket full of lunch, it was auctioned off to the highest bidder, who then shared the lunch with the owner of the basket. It was all in good fun, but at times a romantic lunch was wrecked when the beau was outbid because he was short of cash. Ladies with baskets were admitted free while gents had to pay twenty-five cents. This was later raised to thirty-five cents.

The first record of a Ladies Aid Society was listed in 1908 with Mrs. Betts as president of this Presbyterian organization.

In 1912, the Orcadia Presbyterian Ladies Aid consisted of members:

Mrs. W.B. Mahon	Jessie Mcken
Mrs. R. McKen	Mrs. Rousay
Mrs. Verhaag	Mrs. Gillis
Mrs. Jas. Dodge	Mrs. Fleck
Nellie Seatter	Mrs. F.R. Knight

These ladies supported both the Orkney Church and School.

In 1917, the Orkney Ladies Aid held a Red Cross Tea in the Hudson's Bay Store in Yorkton, Sask. Member present:

Mrs. J. Simpson	Miss Mamie Reid
Mrs. A.F. Garry	Miss Jessie McKen
Mrs. Joe Wallace	Miss McTavish (Orkney Teacher)
Mrs. Muir	Mrs. Rousay
Mrs. Markham	Miss Muir
Mrs. F.R. Knight	Mrs. E.W. Wood



**Orkney Ladies Aid 1929**

*Back Row (L to R):* Jean Patterson, Rennie Seatter, Mrs. Blommaret, Frances Draper, Annie Irwin, Mrs. John Patterson, Frances Dodds, Mrs. Archie Joyce  
*Front Row (L to R):* Mrs. F. W. (Edith) Harrison and son Douglas, Mrs. Elizabeth (Bessie) Weaver.

In 1947 the Orkney Ladies Aid increased its memberships. The executive officers were:

President	-	Mrs. Frank Draper (Frances)
Vice-President	-	Mrs. Walter Patterson (Phyllis)
Secretary/Treasurer	-	Mrs. F.W. Harrison (Edith)

Members:

Mrs. W.S. Muir (Jessie)	Mrs. J.G. Stainger
Mrs. Dave Muir (Ersula)	Mrs. Archie Joyce (Barbara)
Mrs. S.A. Muir (Sarah)	Mrs. Charlie McKen (Ethel)
Mrs. Julia Wiseman	Mrs. Sam Dodds (Euphima)
Mrs. Laura Fenske	Mrs. Dave McVey (Annabelle)
Mrs. Ernest Wood (Alice)	Mrs. Harold Cursons (Margretta)
Mrs. Dave Folster (Ann)	Mrs. John Rousay (Rose)
Mrs. Stewart Dodds (Frances)	Mrs. Alex Rousay (Velma)
Mrs. Jock Rennie (Caroline "Tula")	Mrs. Fred Hall (Louise)
Miss Mary Alice Reid (Mamie)	Mrs. R.H. Gabert (Ruth)
Mrs. Dan Draper (Margaret)	Mrs. Marinus Blommaert (Dorothy)



**Ladies Aid 1949-50**

*(L to R):* Mrs. Fenske, Mrs. Draper, Ellen McVey, Mrs. Ernie Wood, Mrs. Jean McKen, Rose Rousay, Mrs. McKen (mother), Mrs. Dave McVey, Mrs. Hepburn, Mrs. Stainger Sr., Grandma Muir (Sarah), Margretta Cursons, Mrs. Edith Harrison (behind), Phyllis Patterson, Ersula Muir, Helen Norman (behind).



**1954 Ladies Aid**

*Back Row (L to R):* Louise Hall, Rose Rousay, Barbara Joyce, Isabel Stainger, Mildred Baldwin, Sarah Muir, Essie Johnson, Edith Harrison, Phyllis Patterson & ?. *Front Row (L to R):* Helen Norman, Audrey Norman, Margretta Cursons, Alice Knoll, ? Cursons, Ersula Muir, Joyce Muir, Bonnie Muir, Vera Wood, Lynn Wood.

**ORKNEY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

The Orkney Ladies Aid were affiliated as the Orkney United Church Women in May 1962. First Executive were:

President - Mrs. Alvin R. Norman (Helen)  
 Vice-President- Mrs. Maurice McKen (Jean)  
 Secretary - Mrs. Peter Tymourski (Roxy)  
 Treasurer - Mrs. John Yuzik (Ann)

Other members:

Mrs. Dave Folster (Ann)  
 Mrs. F.W. Harrison (Edith)  
 Mrs. Fred Hall (Louise)  
 Mrs. John Knoll (Alice)  
 Mrs. Leslie Muir (Joyce)  
 Mrs. J.A. Schab (Jean)  
 Mrs. John Streelasky (Marjorie)  
 Mrs. Thomas Wood (Vera)

Other members to join in ensuing years:

Mrs. John Wesley Norman (Molly)  
 Mrs. Everett Gerrard (Marjorie)  
 Mrs. Wayne Knoll (Carol)  
 Mrs. Gordon Grunert (Debbie)



**Orkney United Church Women 1961-62**

(L to R): Mrs. A. R. Norman, Miss Gail Knoll, Miss Lois Wood, Mrs. Maurice McKen, Mrs. John Knoll, Mrs. Thomas Wood, Mrs. Fenske, Mrs. Fred Hall, Mrs. F. Harrison, Mrs. J. A. Schab, Mrs. Ethel McKen.

Past presidents who received their life membership pins from the United Church of Canada.

Mrs. Maurice McKen  
 Mrs. Alvin R. Norman  
 Mrs. John Yuzik  
 Mrs. John Knoll  
 Mrs. Thomas Wood  
 Mrs. John Streelasky  
 Mrs. Wayne Knoll

Mrs. Alvin R. Norman served as treasurer for thirteen consecutive years, 1975-1988.

Former members were Mrs. Isabel Turchuk, Mrs. Gordon Grunert and Mrs. Albert Farrell.

Orkney United Church Women of 1989 are:

President - Mrs. Maurice McKen (Jean)  
 Vice-President- Mrs. Everett Gerrard (Marjorie)  
 Secretary - Mrs. J.W. Norman (Molly)  
 Treasurer - Mrs. Colin Joyce (Louise)  
 Reporter/Sick/Visiting - Mrs. Alvin R. Norman (Helen)  
 Lunch Committee - Mrs. John Yuzik (Ann)  
 - Mrs. John Streelasky (Marjorie)



**Orkney United Church Women 1989**

(L to R): Molly Norman, Ann Yuzik, Louise Joyce, Jean McKen, Helen Norman & Marjorie Streelasky.

**SALTCOATS SHIFTINGS — DECEMBER 23, 1897**

I.O.F. Court Yorkton #1918 Lodge, Charter Members and Executive

C.R.	-	Geo. A. Bull
R.S.	-	Geo. H.P. Hall
F.S.	-	Wm. P. Hopkins
Treas.	-	Geo. C. Betts
V.C.R.	-	J.R. Reid
C.D.H.C.R.	-	J.W. Christie
C.P.P.	-	N.H. Neilson
CHAP.	-	Robt. Sinclair
S.W.	-	John H. Baleman
J.W.	-	John Hanson
S.B.	-	John I. Hawkins
J.B.	-	William Kittle
Court Physician	-	Dr. T.A. Patrick
Auditors	-	Christie, Reid and Hall
Financial Committee	-	Christie and Reid
Sick Committee	-	Bull, Reid, Hanson, Hawkins, Kittle and Sinclair
Trustees	-	Bull, Hall, Betts, Christie and Reid

### 1907 ORCADIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Honourary President	-	John F. Reid
President	-	J.J. Buchanan
Vice-President	-	Jas. Dodge
Secretary-Treasurer	-	D.M. Robertson
Committee	-	D. Kennedy
	-	T. McKen
	-	J. Williams
	-	J. Stainger

The 1907 Football League consisted of four teams, Orcadia, Beaverdale, Springside and Willowbrook.

Honourary President	-	T. Garry
President	-	David Pinder
Vice-President	-	D. Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer	-	Mr. Willis

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND R.M. OF ORKNEY #244 BOARDS

Orkney and District residents serving on Local Improvement Districts and then on the R.M. of Orkney #244 from 1913 and on are as follows:

- Robert Rousay - first Reeve of the new R.M. of Orkney #244
- John F. Reid - 1905 to 1912 on Local Improvement District Board and then first councillor for Division 6 of the new R.M. of Orkney #244 in 1912.
- Jas. B. Swallow - secretary on both the Local Improvement District Board and first secretary on the R.M. #244 council.
- T.H. Garry - Division 4 of the new R.M. of Orkney #244
- 1927 - Reeve J.W. Large, Wm. Muir Division 1 councillor
- 1943 - George Porteous Division 6 councillor. He became Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor in the 1980's.
- 1943 - E. Miller Division 2 councillor, John Grunert Division 5 councillor
- 1952 - Reeve John Grunert

### WOMEN GRAIN GROWERS

In 1917 the ladies section of the Grain Growers was newly organized. Mrs. Caskey as President and Mrs. Robert Stevenson as Vice-President.

The 1922 Women Grain Growers Association consisted of the following ladies:

President	-	Mrs. Joe Markham
Vice-President	-	Mrs. Robert Stevenson
Secretary/Treasurer	-	Miss F.A. Seatter
Directors:		
	Mrs. R. Beck	Miss Walsh
	Mrs. Vandenburg	Mrs. Robert Sinclair
	Mrs. Reusch	

### 1942 CO-OP LADIES GUILD OF ORCADIA

Mrs. George Patterson	Mrs. John Patterson
Mrs. Jock Rennie	Mrs. Sam Dodds
Mrs. Archie Joyce	Mrs. Alec Blommaert
Mrs. Frank Draper	Mrs. Fred Harrison
Mrs. Albert Irwin	Mrs. Elizabeth Wiseman Weaver

### 1945 ORKNEY RED CROSS SOCIETY

President	-	Mrs. J. Patterson
Vice-President	-	Mrs. F.W. Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer	-	Mrs. P.J. Lewchuk
Reporter	-	Mrs. D. McVey
Auditor	-	Mrs. F.W. Harrison
Lunch Committee	-	Madames Grunert, Fenske, Muir, Stainger and McVey
Social Committee	-	Messrs. W. Muir, F.W. Harrison, D. McKen, L. Muir and W. Patterson

### 1915 ORCADIA BIBLE SOCIETY (Methodist)

President	-	F.R. Knight
Secretary-Treasurer	-	Mrs. W.E. Wood
Collectors	-	Wm. McKen and Harry Wilson

### 1917 MISSION BAND

This was later changed to the Happy Works Club.		
President	-	Caroline (Tulla) Seatter
Secretary	-	Tomena Rousay
Treasurer	-	John Muir
Project Reporters	-	F.R. Knight and Frances Seatter

### 1936 YOUNG PEOPLE OF ORKNEY CLUB

President	-	Delia Schmuland
Secretary	-	Mary Wilson
Treasurer	-	George Seatter
Pianist	-	Edith Stainger
Honourary President	-	John F. Reid



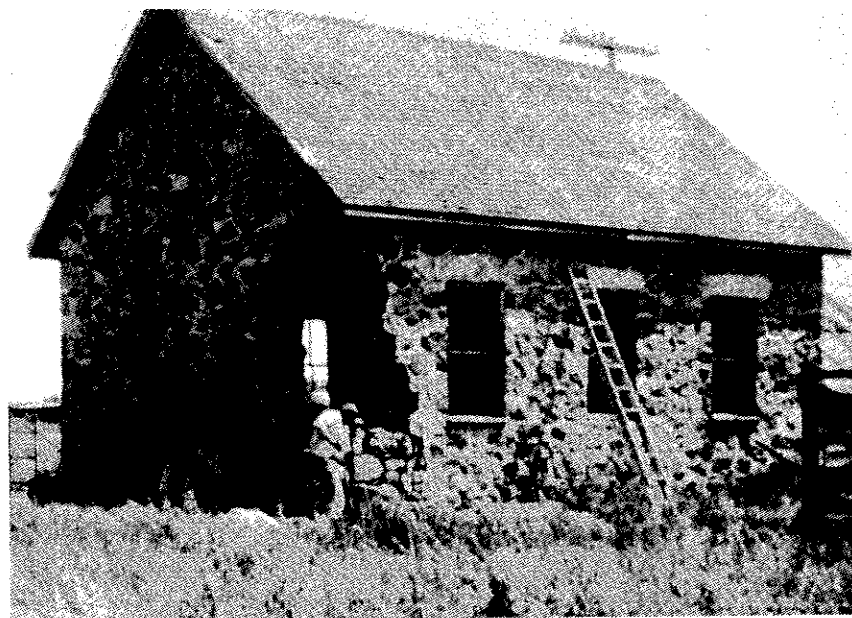
Orkney Young People's Union

Back Row (L to R): Agnes Just, Alice Wilson, Edith Stainger, Ruth Miller, Margareta Blommaert.  
Centre Row (L to R): ?, Grace Stainger, Margaret Stainger, Eva Wilson, Adeline Schmuland.  
Front Row (L to R): George Stainger, Robert Miller.

### ORKNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President - Lawrence (Barney) Fenske  
 Vice-President - Maurice McKen  
 Treasurer - June Just (Mrs. Lyle)  
 Secretary - Doris Hepburn (Mrs. William)  
 Historian - Helen A. Norman (Mrs. Alvin R.)

The Orkney Historical Society was incorporated in 1981 for the purpose of restoring and preserving the Orkney School #97 and the Orkney United Church (formerly the Orkney Presbyterian Church). These buildings are situated approximately nine kilometers northwest of Yorkton on Highway #16. A glance to the right, over the C.P.R. tracks reveal these sturdy stone buildings, one on either side of Orkney Road. A small cemetery is located behind the Church, which is the final resting place for many of the early pioneers.



**Orkney School Being Restored**

In the summer of 1982 the Orkney Historical Society began its' work to restore the Orkney School #97 and the Orkney United Church. The school was started first due to its' poor condition that required much more work. Mr. Rodger Morgan, a stonemason was hired. The inside of the school was torn out and the whole northwest corner had to be taken out due to a bad crack that caused the corner to lean out. Mr. Morgan completely replaced the stones in those two corner walls. The roof was totally reshingled. It was here the workers discovered the square tapered headless nails that had been used in 1897 in the original roof. New windows and doors were installed and a new floor laid. Walls were replastered. All the work was voluntary except the drywalling. It took two years to complete, including the repointing of the stonework.

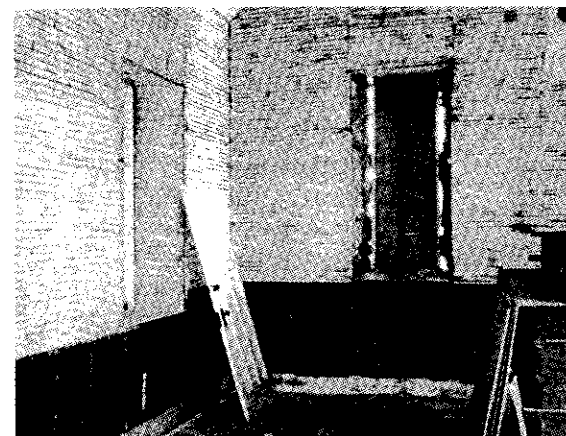
The Church was next. Mr. Morgan advised Barney Fenske and William Hepburn how to straighten the wall that was leaning out. Two windows were uncovered on the north end and all new windows installed. Inside, wainscoting was uncovered and a new platform rebuilt. Both were oiled.

Walls were drywalled and painted. New chimneys were also rebuilt on both of the buildings. Mr. Morgan was unable to return to work on the church so Barney Fenske, William Hepburn, Alfred Wilson and Lorne Stainger did all the repointing of the stonework. A new porch was also rebuilt on the church.

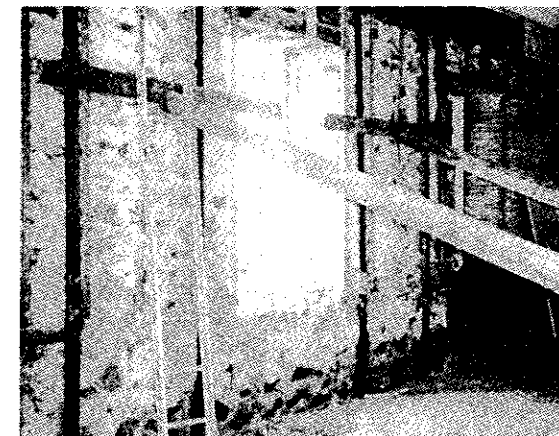
Both buildings were wired for electricity. Trees were planted in both yards. The churchyard and cemetery were refenced and new gates hung. The total cost of everything was \$24000.00.

Others working on the buildings and grounds were Maurice McKen, John Yuzik, Alfred Wilson, Bernard Blommaert, Bill Wiseman, Lorne Stainger, Leslie Muir, Alvin Norman, Douglas Norman, Peter Stout, Colin Joyce, Jeff Just, Lyle Just, Tom Patterson, Doug Nickels, Jack Stout, Craig Burkell, Robert Stout, Tom Wood, Bill McPhee, Don and Arlene Hepburn, Doris Hepburn, Ivy Stout, Joyce Muir, Helen Norman, Jean McKen, Kathy Nickels, Denise Stout, Jody Stout, Louise Joyce, Ann Yuzik, June Just and Gordon and James MacKenzie.

Bill and Louis Wiseman donated shingles for the church.



**Church Interior Being Guttied . . .  
North window being uncovered.**



**. . . And Reconstructed**



**New Shingles**



**Barney Fenske & William Hepburn  
The fellows who made the renovations possible.**



## ORKNEY COMMUNITY CLUB

The Orkney Community Club was first organized in the late 1930's by Henry Chilman, the teacher at the stone Orkney School #97. He also became the first president and later the only honorary president. Due to lost records the rest of the executive names are not available.

The first official executive of 1940 were:

President - Malcolm Galbraith  
 Vice-President - Miss Katz  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Armien Martin

Membership fees were ten cents for one year. The purpose of the club was to promote and organize social functions and to assist in the needs of the school or community.

The last executive officers of the Orkney School club were in 1969:

President - Gerald Grunert  
 Vice-President - Alvin R. Norman  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Ella Grunert  
 Reporter - Helen Norman

Persons who served on the Orkney Community Club and later the Orkney Social Club.

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice-President</u>	<u>Secretary Treasurer</u>
Henry Chilman	Miss Katz	Armien Martin
Malcom Galbraith	Margaret Stainger	Mrs. George Wilson
Walter Patterson	Agnes Just	Lena Marushechka
Lawrence Fenske	Miss Homeniuk	Lawrence Fenske
Dick Gourley	Vera Bailey	Miss Theresa Gleason
August Gabert	Mr. Humm	Ellen McVey
Maurice McKen	Leslie Muir	Clifford Folster
John Streelasky	Betty Harrison	Mrs. Ruth Gabert
Leslie Muir	Alfred Grunert	Mrs. Maurice McKen
Gerald Grunert	August Gabert	Mrs. E.J. Schab
	Maurice McKen	Marjorie Streelasky
	John Streelasky	Roxy Tymoruski
	Wilfred Breehn	Hermaine Breehn
	Lawrence Fenske	Ann Yuzik
	Alvin Norman	Ella Grunert

Reporters to the Yorkton Enterprise: Betty Harrison  
 Roxy Tymoruski  
 Helen Norman

In 1960 the Orkney Community Club started the Orkney School Achievement Award. The student with the highest scholastic marks was presented with a watch worth \$45.00 at the annual school picnic on the last day of school. Students receiving the award were:

Dale Hoffman	1960	Maureen McKen	1965
Barbara Lange	1961	Curtis Grunert	1966
Judy Pawliw	1962	Marjorie Norman	1967
Donald Mcken	1963	Randy Breehn	1968
Audrey Norman	1964	Susan Norman	1969

## Through The Years

- 1941 - Forty school children (Orkney) attended for one week a summer camp at Good Spirit Lake.
- 1942 - The Club helped to pay for a piano. Total cost of piano was \$76.50. Home and school club paid \$52.50 and the club \$24.00. Membership fees for the O.C. Club were 15 cents for one year.
- 1943 - The Club helped with the war effort by sponsoring "Milk for Britain" dances. Music by Donald McKen, Robert Cannon, Barney Fenske, Dave Muir and Jean McVey was at no charge. Proceeds sent to the Yorkton Rotary Club in Yorkton.
- 1943 - A dance to raise funds for the Red Cross was a "flop". Orchestra of the Bercher Bros., cost \$3.00. Lunch was free. A joint meeting between the Orkney Club and the St. Magnus School committee resulted in the decision to hold dances at Orkney and socials at St. Magnus. From the proceeds raised parcels would be sent to soldiers overseas. Dance netted \$33.00 and the social \$88.50. Yorkton Rotary Club commended the Orkney Community Club for their donations on the local radio station. The Club donated \$25.00 to the H.M.C.S. Orkney fund.
- 1944 - Membership fee raised to 25 cents. More dances. A sum of \$12.00 was sent to Sweet Caporal Tobacco Company. One dollar bought three hundred cigarettes, so \$12.00 would buy cigarettes for 12 soldiers. A tornado blew the roof off Humble Ferguson's house. The Club sponsored a dance to raise money for his house and helped with the building.
- 1945 - More money sent to Sweet Caporal Tobacco Company for cigarettes for overseas soldiers.
- 1946 - Twenty-nine pen and pencil sets were purchased from P.J. Lewchuk, the Orcadia storekeeper. These were presented to the returned veterans. Total cost was \$239.70.
- 1947 - Farewell social for P.J. Lewchuk family.
- 1948 - Membership fees up to 50 cents a year.
- 1949 - The Club collected \$128.00 for the Manitoba Flood Relief.
- 1950 - No dances, no socials.
- 1951 - The Club decided to fold until the following year, however it remained inactive until 1955 when it re-organized.
- 1955 - The Orkney Community Club joined with the Grunert School District to celebrate the Saskatchewan Jubilee (1905-1955). It was a huge success. Donald James Grant Norman was the youngest at this celebration, a mere two weeks old. Son of Alvin and Helen Norman.
- 1956 - Membership 50 cents a year. Total membership 22. A bridal shower held for Betty Harrison. Money in bank \$299.46.
- 1957 - Membership now 26.
- 1958 - Lunch sold at Ed Liebrecht auction sale.
- 1959 - Donations to the Cancer and Red Cross, \$5.00 each. McLachlan and Fandrey played for dance. Fowl supper success.

1960 - J.G. Stainger retired as postmaster and Wheat Pool agent. Presented with Gladstone Bag. The Orkney Community Club set up the Scholastic Student Award. The Club sponsored a social for F.W. Harrison's 70th birthday. He was presented with a pipe and a half a pound of tobacco. Raffle of a trilight lamp was won by Bob Lange.



**Stainger Retires**

August Gabert presents a Gladstone Bag to J. G. Stainger on his retirement as Postmaster and Grainbuyer.



**Orcadia Instrumental & Vocal Group**

Back Row (L to R): Mr. Smith, Bonnie Muir, Maureen McKen, Billy Wood, Carol Muir, Rodney Yuzik, Kathy Wood, Henry Hoffman, Paul Hoffman.

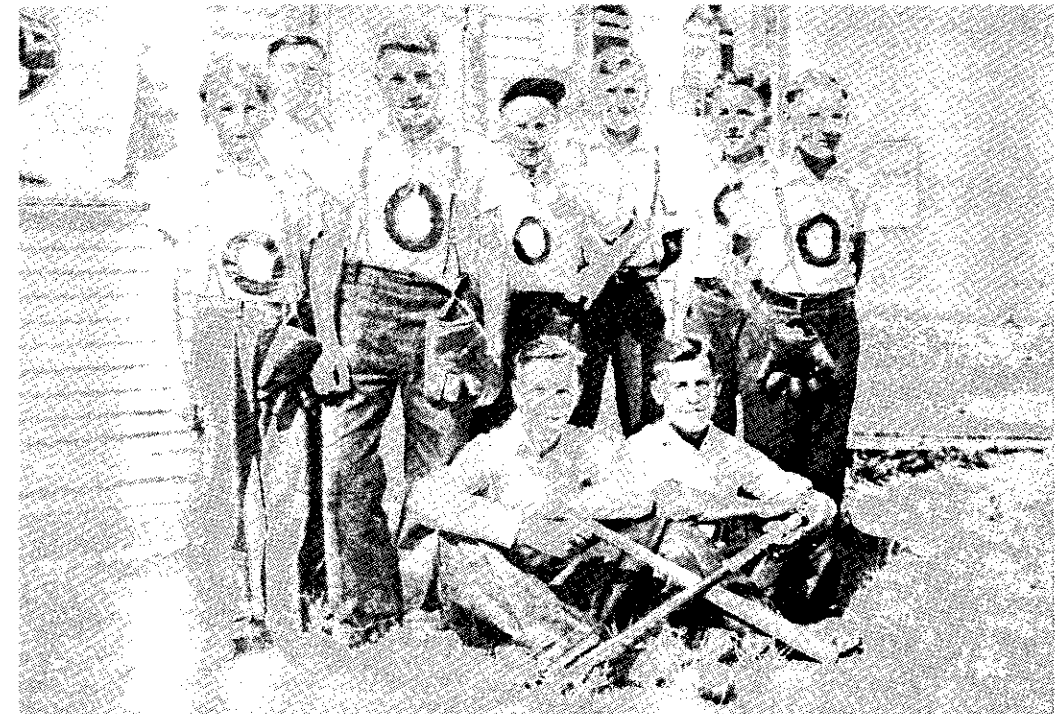
- 1961 - Masquerade dance with the McLachlan Fandrey Orchestra.
- 1962 - Orkney Community Club name changed to Orkney Social Club.
- 1963 - The Orkney Social Club sponsored the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Harrison. It was held at the Orcadia School. A six piece dinner set with a matching tea pot, cream and sugar, was presented to the deserving couple. An anniversary cake was baked by Mrs. Henry Hoffman and decorated by Helen Norman. Congratulations sent to Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Just on the birth of twin daughters, Pamela and Patricia. A fire destroyed two barns belonging to Tom Wood. The Club donated \$100.00 and canvassed the community for a total of \$1374.00. The men helped to rebuild the barn while the women donated baking and helped with the cooking and serving.
- 1964 - Membership fees still 50 cents a year!
- 1965 - The Orkney Social Club joined the Orkney United Church Women in a Jubilee celebration honouring the old timers.
- 1966 - Membership fees up to \$1.00!
- 1967 &
- 1968 - Both years the Club and the Orkney School committee put on the annual school picnic.
- 1969 - Orkney School closes. The Orkney Social Club transfers \$41.61 to the Orcadia Recreational Board, ending thirty years of community caring.

## Orkney Athletics & Community Involvements

The Orkney School and Community was enthusiastically and competitively involved in sports and community programs for many years. It is with no difficulty that the students recall the fastball, baseball, soccer and track and field events of the Orkney District. The regular schedules included St. Magnus, Windsor, Grunert, Fonehill, Springside, Orcadia, Whitesand and Reaman Districts. School teams represented their communities and schools with pride. The students were anxious and eager to be a part of the country life that brought their parents and grandparents to this beautiful land.

Orkney School had many students during the late thirties and early forties. The church building was used as a second classroom to accommodate the large number of children. It was then that Orkney was undefeated in sports and athletics.

Numerous family names come to mind ... Reid, Patterson, Dodds, Knoll, Harrison, Stainger, Wilson, Muir, Garry, Just, Tytula, Steinke, Ferguson, Schmuland, Fenske, Joyce, Halliday, McVey .... It seemed that Fonehill School provided very keen competition, particularly in fastball.



**Orkney School Ball Team**

Standing (L to R): Elmer Schmuland, Bill Wilson, Herman Knoll, Frank McVey, Leslie Muir, Winston Knoll, Ivan Martin. Sitting (L to R): George Dodds, Clifford Knoll.

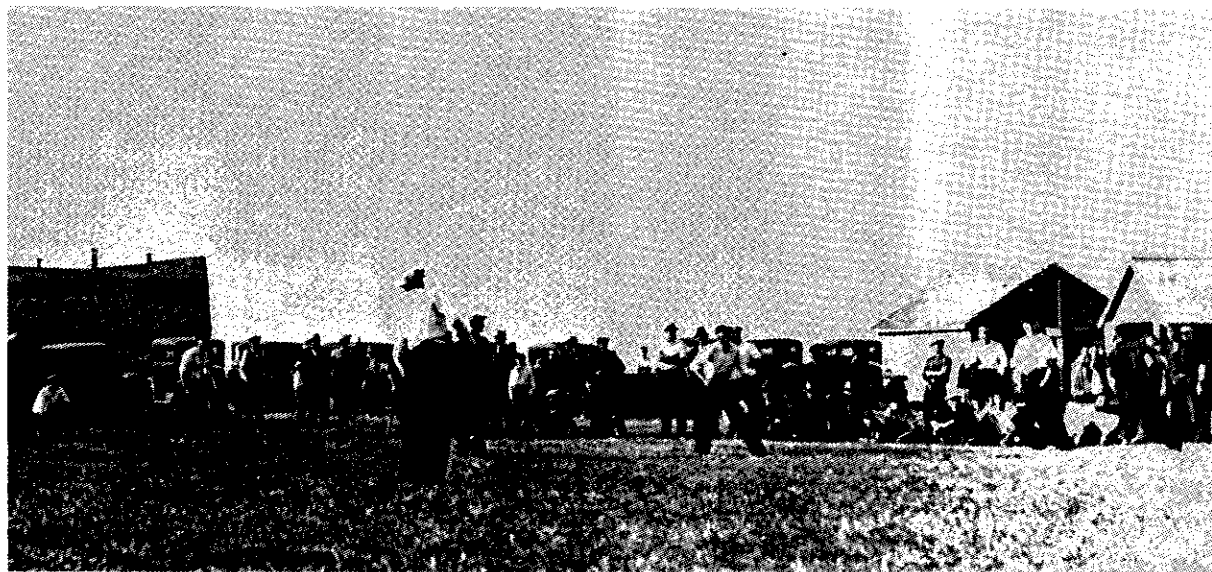
Orkney School provided the leadership and enthusiasm for other districts to become competitive. Although transporting teams to other districts was a bit of a problem, a few cars were always available and parents were most anxious to assist. Of course, ponies were always available and were often used.

The annual picnics provided the opportunity to have the annual tournaments. These activities were a pleasure for all who participated. The five-cent ice cream cones seemed to be so costly, but with cautious saving and spending, they were enjoyed by every family present.



**Orcadia Sports Day — 1907**

This photograph was taken at the Orcadia Sports Day in 1907. The two young girls on the left are unidentified. The others in the group from the left; Miss Dodge, ?, ?, John Knoll, Mamie Reid, Edith Fleck, ?, ?, Bertha Fleck, Edith Grunert, Jessie McKen, ?, Mr. Mann, Jim Rousay and Bob McKen.



**Ball Game at Alf Gaberts — 1935**

Johnny Grunert's 'Elephants' shellacked the 'Wild Gabert Tigers' 11 to 8. Lineup for the ELEPHANTS: George Stainger (Short Stop), Wesley Norman (Pitcher), George Wilson (Catcher), Henry Chillman (1st Base), Alvin Norman (2nd Base), Willie Cannon (3rd Base), Barney Fenske (Right Field), Sidney Harrison (Centre Field), Reg Harrison (Left Field). For the TIGERS: Henry Gabert (Short Stop), Rolly Gabert (Pitcher), August Gabert (Catcher), Danny Gabert (1st Base), Randolph Gabert (2nd Base), Bert Gabert (3rd Base), Bill Nehring (Right Field), Willie Fandrey (Centre Field), Fred Nehring (Left Field).

Films and Christmas Concerts brought the people together as well. One can hardly forget Mr. F. Draper and his representation of the Wheat Pool. The communities came together and enjoyed the programs, coffee and lunch. Although these activities have disappeared, the memories linger on. It is with pleasure that we can relate to the district of Orkney with the objectives of the future in mind.



**Orcadia Picnic June, 1910**

Identified by numbers: 1) Mrs. Robert McKen 2) Ellen (McKen) Lewis 3) Jessie Jen (McKen) Cannon 4) Robert McKen Sr. 5) Charles McKen Jr. 6) Robert McKen Jr. 7) William McKen 8) Nellie McKen 9) Mary McKen 10) Jessie (McKen) Benjamin 11) Grandma McKen 12) Kate Haliday 13) August Grunert 14) Mrs. Robert Rousay 15) Dan Garry 16) Frank Garry 17) Miss MacKenzie (Teacher) 18) John Ferguson 19) Jack Maxwell 20) Grandma Garry 21) Grandpa Garry 22) John McKenna 23) Humble Ferguson 24) George Seatter 25) Bernard Whitman 26) William Reid 27) Robert Rousay Jr. 28) Robert Reid 29) John F. Feid 30) Mrs. William Wiseman Sr. 31) James Rousay 32) William Ferguson 33) Mrs. James L. Dodge 34) James L. Dodge 35) Tom Tullis 36) Susan Reid 37) Peter Rousay 38) Bella Rousay 39) Dolly Patterson 40) Betsy Jean Patterson 41) Cella Martenie 42) Mrs. John Innis 43) Hazel Dodge 44) Gordon Dodge 45) Carl Dodge 46) Rev. Dave Robertson 47) John Innis Jr. 48) Margaret Wiseman 49) James Reid 50) Florence Dodge 51) Fred Hall 52) Ida Reid 53) Olive Dodge 54) Alice Dodge 55) Bella Ferguson 56) Frank Patterson 57) Benny Martinie 58) Frances Dodds (Seater) 59) Caroline Seatter (Rennie). The remainder are unidentified.



**Orcadia-Springside Hockey Team**

Back Row (L to R): August Gabert - Coach, Alton Knoll, Robert Lange, Eddie Miller, John Shumay, Alfred Bort, Henry Bort, Harvey Effa, Lyle Davies. Front Row (L to R): Fred Evans, Earl Knoll, Clifford Knoll, Alven Nygren, Nick Shumay, Mike Spilchen, Wilson Niel.





Ribbon from 1914  
Sports Day



**Football Squad**

*Back Row (L to R):* George (Red) Seatter, Bob McKen, Bill Ferguson, Bill Bagg, J. G. Stainger *Front Row (L to R):* Bill McKen, Jim Dodge, Clarence Whitely, Donald McKen.



**Orcadia Fastball Club — Early 1970's**

*Back Row (L to R):* Paul Spilchen, Bob Lange, Brian Wood, Andy Beblow, George Knaiz, Allan Beblow *Front Row (L to R):* Henry Spilchen, Larry Trost, Bill Yaremko, Craig Grunert.

The teaching staff was carefully selected and we recall a few names, specifically: Tripp, Larmar, Chilman, Galbraith, Douglas, Evanishen, Bailey .... Teaching, through professional instruction, was only part of the total responsibilities. Coaching, planning and organization were also important aspects of the roles undertaken by the teacher. These were much appreciated by the students and parents.

Orkney was a proud school, not only in educational and academic endeavours, but in most community activities. The senior softball team, with Wesley Norman as the key left-handed pitcher, kept the school team performing at a top-notch level. The competition was great.

It is with pleasure, and a note of melancholy, that we take time to recall the past of this family community.

## Those Who Served



**T**HEY whom this scroll commemorates were numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten.

**BOER WAR**

Malcolm Clouston  
James Sinclair  
Wm. McKen  
John Gunn

**THE RIEL REBELLION**

Enrolled May 1885 in the Yorkton Home Guard, under the Command of Major Watson

James Armstrong  
J.G. Bryant  
Frank Bull  
H. Boak  
Edward Boak  
Norman Boak  
James Bolton  
Ambler Bolton  
John Cadzaw  
Alf Cole  
F. Covtifson  
Joseph L. Caldwell  
J. Cluceies  
William Digby  
John Duglass  
David Dunsmore  
George Evens  
G.J. Emerson  
George Gardner  
Thos. H. Garry

Robert Barvin  
William P. Hopkins  
Roland Hopkins  
John King  
H.J. Langstaff  
All. Langstaff  
W.H. Miller  
William Miller  
William Merrideth  
Robert Mason  
W.R. Moore  
Robert Moore  
Robert Maddaford  
Cosmo J. MacFarline  
Hugh McConell  
C. McCollem  
D. McKacheren  
John McKacheren  
Arch McKacheren  
George Newlove

J.M.R. Neiley  
George Partrage  
John F. Reid  
William Reid  
Danial Reid  
William Reikie  
John Stevinson  
Joseph Sanderson  
George Seatter  
Edward Slanton  
Charles H. Smith  
Robert Sinclair  
James Sinclair  
William Thos. Smith  
J.D. Stevenson  
J.S. Tydd  
John Regnol Tullock  
John Tracy  
John Wellebry  
Thos. Waterfield  
David Webb

**WORLD WAR I**

John Reid  
John Maxwell  
Robert McKen  
Wm. McKen  
J. S. Stainger  
James Hepburn  
Archie Joyce  
George Seatter  
John Gunn

Robert Rousay  
David Folster  
Alfred Wilson  
Jim Halliday  
Fred Harrison  
Jock Rennie  
Jock Stout  
Robert Schollie  
James Cannon



James Sinclair



Malcom Clouston



James Hepburn



Archie Joyce



John Maxwell



Robert McKen Jr.



William McKen Jr.



John M. Reid



J. G. Stainger



George Seatter



Bob Schollie

WORLD WAR II

Harold Breehn  
 Otto Breehn  
 William Cannon  
 George Dodds  
 Isabel Ferguson  
 William Ferguson  
 Robert Ferguson  
 Lloyd Garry  
 Malcolm Galbraith  
 Fred Harrison  
 Reg Harrison  
 Herb Harrison  
 Alf Just  
 Art Larmour  
 Irving Just  
 Tommy Hall  
 Tom Moir

Frank Moir  
 Frank McVey  
 Howard F. Norman  
 Alvin R. Norman  
 James Patterson  
 John Patterson  
 Dan Patterson  
 Ivan Patrick  
 James Reid  
 George Stainger  
 Elmer Schmuland  
 George Wilson  
 Alf. Wilson  
 Wm. Wilson  
 John Miller  
 Robert Miller  
 John Jones

Robert Hepburn  
 Peter Stout  
 Roy Steinke  
 Fred Steinke  
 Eric Draper  
 Sandy Maxwell  
 Bill Tytula

Korean War

Ronald Muir  
 Elizabeth Harrison  
 Roger Folster  
 Lorne Stainger  
 Duncan Rousay



Harold Breehn



Otto Breehn



William J. Canon



George Dodds



Eric Draper



Bill Ferguson



Bob Ferguson



Isabel Ferguson



Lloyd Garry





Tom Hall



Fred Harrison



Herbert Harrison



Tom Moir



Robert Miller



John Miller



Reginald Harrison



Robert Hepburn



John H. Jones



Alvin R. Norman



Howard F. Norman



Dan Patterson



Frank McVey



Sandy Maxwell



Ronald Muir



James H. Patterson



John Patterson



James F. S. Reid



Peter R. Stout



Fred Steinke



Roy Steinke



William Tytula



Alfred Wilson



George Wilson



William Wilson

# Family Histories

## THE REID FAMILY

### The Beginning

The Reid family originated from Eday, Orkney Island, Scotland. We shall begin with ROBERT Reid, the son of ROBERT Reid and BETSY LOUTITT. Robert married CHARLOTTE STEVENSON on February 5, 1852. This union was blessed with five children.

ANN - July 28, 1852

ROBERT LOUTITT - February 5, 1858

JOHN FLAWS - June 30, 1860

JAMES GARRIOCH - October 24, 1866

WILLIAM STEVENSON - June 21, 1871



Back Row (L to R): Charlotte Stevenson Reid, James Reid, John F. Reid  
Front: William Reid

Ann, Robert and John F. were born at Sandsend, while James and William at Windywall, Eday, Orkney.

In 1875 Charlotte became a widow when Robert died due to a farm accident. He was only forty-eight years old. Charlotte and her family were deposed by the Laird and had to move in with relatives. In spite of everything all the family had received their education at South School, Eday.

In 1876, daughter Ann married MATTHEW FISHER PEACE, a neighbouring farmer's son. Robert acquired work locally and John F. went to Edinburgh, Scotland where for two years he apprenticed as a cabinet maker. It was here he read pamphlets advocating free homesteads in the Canadian North-west.



### "Go West - Young Man"



J. F. Reid - 1882

In April 1882, John F. left his mother, Charlotte Stevenson Reid and three brothers at Windywall, Eday and took the "Orcadia" to Kirkwall. The Orcadia was a small boat that transported passengers, mail and freight amongst the small islands. From Kirkwall he travelled to Glasgow where he booked a passage on the ship "Manitoban". His ticket was #640, cabin #30 and the destination was for Winnipeg, Canada.

The crossing was slow, rough and stormy. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence the Manitoban was held up for several days by icebergs before it docked at Quebec. From here he travelled by train to Winnipeg. By now all he had left were two sovereigns, about five dollars and sixty cents. He travelled from Winnipeg to Brandon and then on to Whitewood, walking or catching rides with settlers. However from Whitewood he walked all the way to York Colony, Assiniboia, North West Territories. All it consisted of was one building and a group of tents. Joel Reaman operated a store, post office and a land titles office, in that one building. This was to become Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

It was May 1882 and spring! John F. explored the surrounding area around York Colony, looking for a prospective homestead with a good building site. Finally, he found it, a small hill with a good back drop of trees to the north, a gentle slope to the south, down to a tree lined ravine with a running creek. The land to the west was quite open and would be easy to break.

Marking the area, he returned to Winnipeg, wrote his mother and brothers about his find and advising them to emigrate as soon as possible. He obtained work at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, for the rest of the summer and winter.

Early in the spring of 1883, John F. returned to York Colony, bringing a yoke of oxen, a plough and a cow, the first in the area. He hauled out some logs and built a cabin. It had a pole roof that was covered with sod and slough hay. He next broke up a few acres of land. After this he made preparations and waited for the arrival of his mother Charlotte, brothers Robert, James, William and cousins, the Fergus brothers George, William, James and Dave.

### Charlotte's Journey

In May 1883, Charlotte Stevenson Reid and sons Robert, James and William left Eday and boarded the S.S. Nestorian. They were accompanied by the Fergus brothers George, William, James and David M. They all were bound for York Colony, Assiniboia, North West Territories, Canada. (This was to later become Yorkton, Saskatchewan.) It was here at York Colony that John F. Reid was waiting for them.

They arrived at Point Levi, Quebec on May 28, 1883. Their possessions were loaded and their long journey by train, destination Winnipeg, started. From Winnipeg they took another train to Brandon, Manitoba. Here they purchased their outfits. Wagons, \$65.00 each; yoke of oxen \$190.00 each team; harness \$14.00 each; a cow \$95.00 each.

Other small equipment was purchased from a dealer named Evans.

Groceries and other household articles were obtained from a firm with the unusual handle of "Bundle, Mundle and Porter". All this was loaded on a train and shipped to Whitewood, N.W.T. At Whitewood the wagons were loaded, oxen hitched, cows tied behind the wagons and so began the long trek, 80 miles, to York Colony.



Covered Wagon & Oxen  
In The New Land

The spring of 1883 was very wet. Every duck pond, slough and streams like the Qu'Appelle and Whitesand, rushing torrents. The water level was high so crossings were slow and time consuming. Getting stuck in the bog and sticky mud on unmarked trails was bad enough, however very little was known by anyone in this group about driving oxen and less yet about navigating the heavy loaded wagons down steep hills. What they did to keep the wagons from rolling down too fast was to tie ropes to the back axle and every available person hung onto these ropes for dear life as the wagons slowly inched down to the bottom. The oxen also deterred the wagon's swift decent, however if the ropes were not used the oxen couldn't have held the loaded wagons back without causing a serious accident. Each wagon was inched down in this manner and this was done on several hills before a passing rider informed them what to do, "ground lock" the back wheels with a logging chain. They felt the Lord was with them, as they could have suffered very serious injuries.

To add to their problems, young William Reid came down with a "splendid" case of measles. He had to be tied on the wagon to keep from falling off and becoming lost. Every morning after being in a warm tent all night the rash would have really come out and he would virtually look like a "Redskin".

At last they arrived at York Colony and camped for the night as their oxen and cows needed rest. They also replenished some of their supplies. It was here that James Fergus dusted off his bagpipes and proceeded to entertain the residents. The mellow skirl of the pipes brought tears to the eyes of many as they remembered their families and their beloved homeland. It was here that John F. met his mother, brothers and cousins,

### Homesteads

The next day, June 14, 1883, after their arrival at York Colony, the group obtained their homesteads and pre-emptions through the York Farmer's Colonization Company. Some more supplies were purchased at Joel Reaman's store after which the entire party journeyed about six and a half miles west of York Colony tent village to the homestead of John F. Reid. They made it their home while building their own dwellings and breaking up land, preparing it for next spring's seeding.

Dominion Lands, *York Survey* Colonization Company's Office, *West 24 Range, Township 26, Range 26, N.W. 1/4 Sec 24, T. 26, R. 26, N.W. 1/4*  
 Return of Homestead and Pre-emption Entries for the *Period* *Week ending Saturday, July 28* 1883

No.	Date	NAME	Nature of Entry	Sec.	Part of Sec.	Township	Range	Acres	Cost
351	June 14	Robert Reid	Homestead	24	N.W.	26	5	160	10.00
352	" 14	"	Pre-emption	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
353	" 14	John Reid	Homestead	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
354	" 14	"	Pre-emption	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
355	" 14	James Reid	Homestead	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
356	" 14	"	Pre-emption	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
357	" 14	Mrs. Charlotte Reid	Homestead	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00
358	" 14	"	Pre-emption	24	N.W.	26	"	160	10.00

### The Reid Family obtained homesteads

James Armstrong of the York Farmer's Colonization Company hired John F. to build a grist mill in York Colony. It wasn't finished until 1886 and John F. became it's first miller. The grinding stone was brought in by oxen from Broadview, N.W.T. Mr. Armstrong wanted the colony to be self-sufficient as soon as possible, he also started a sawmill and brick-yard.



James Armstrong hired John F. Reid to build this Grist Mill in York Colony

In the fall of 1883, York Colony held a small fair. Mr. Armstrong encouraged the new settlers to meet, exchange ideas and just plain good visiting after their hard work and loneliness on the homesteads. They exhibited their prized yoke of oxen, the "breaking power" of the time and one team of horses. This visit of these settlers proved so beneficial that they all agreed to hold a bigger and better fair the next fall. This was the beginning of the Fall Fairs and the future Yorkton Fair and Exhibition. John F. and N.H. Neilson helped to organize this "fair". In October 1886, the first official fair under the auspices of the Yorkton Agricultural Society took place. John F. was one of the first official directors, as well as Dan Garry and N.H. Neilson. In 1897 and

1898 John F. served as president of this organization and continued this membership until his death in 1943.

The winter of 1883 Charlotte with sons Robert and William stayed at the homestead, looking after the stock while John F. and James went to Winnipeg, where they got jobs to earn much needed money. John F. earned \$2.50 a day as carpenter-cabinet maker while James earned \$42.00 a month driving a van. They returned in the spring of 1884, with seed, supplies and more equipment. They planted their prepared land, their first wheat was either Red Fife or White Fife, which originally had been brought from Ontario. Oats was called "Black Oats".

Oxen were used to till the soil after the grain was scattered by hand into the roughly worked soil. Seed was carried in a bag slung over the shoulder. During very hot weather, working with oxen often proved very futile as these strong stubborn animals would at times head for the nearest slough, taking plough and driver with them. Flies added to their mad conduct. Many a man was driven to tears with frustration and also developed language that would make hair grow on bald heads.



Sowing Grain By Hand

In October 1884, two more families arrived from Eday, Orkney. Charlotte's only daughter Ann, with husband Matthew Peace and sons, John, Matthew Jr. and Robert as well as close relatives, the Robert Sinclair Sr. family. They took homesteads and then all moved in with the Reids. That winter they hauled logs and helped each other with the building of dwellings. The younger members hunted and trapped while the women sewed, knit and visited, catching up on home news.

See the Matthew Peace and Robert Sinclair histories.

### The Riel Rebellion

In the spring of 1885, due to the Riel Rebellion, there wasn't much accomplished on the homesteads. John F. was amongst the first of the Orkney homesteaders to join the Homeguard, under command of Major Watson. Fourteen year old William was very persuasive and was allowed to join, becoming the youngest person of this sixty-three member corp. His daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Hess of Vancouver has his medal of service with this Homeguard.

John F. proved a courageous and valuable member of the Homeguard when Sergeant Wilbury and he entered the camp of Chief Little Bones on Cussed Creek and convinced the Chief to go back to the reservation. The band was given food as this was the reason for the raids on the settlers homes and cattle. This encampment had a total of over one hundred Indians while the Homeguard numbered only twenty-three.

Statement Made and Sworn to by

*John F. Reid* in support  
of his application for *Homestead* Patent for *Ac.* of  
*Section 16 Twp. 26 Range 5 N of 2 Meridian.*  
*Homestead N.E. Pre-emption S.E.*

*How far from Yorkton Ct. B. R. \$110*

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address? *John F. Reid 24 Yorkton*
2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, when and where? *Birth*
3. What is your trade, profession or calling? *Carpenter & Joiner*
4. When did you obtain entry for this homestead? *14 June 1883*
5. When did you build your house thereon? *1st June 1884*
6. When did you perfect your entry to your homestead by taking in your own person possession of the land and beginning continuous residence thereon and cultivation thereof? *land 1st June 1884 to 10th May 1886  
i. 20th October 1886 to 16th May 1887*
7. What portion of each year since that date have you resided thereon? State each month. *Resided in Yorkton 1883-87*
8. When absent from your homestead where have you resided, and what has been your occupation? *Depart Yorkton 20 Oct 1886  
wife and child were with me  
child resided 7 months absent  
In 1888, 5 acres between 1st 15th to 10th  
and 15 acres between 1st 15th to 1st 15th  
in 1889 15 acres, in 1897 10 acres  
in 1898 10 acres, in 1899 10 acres*
9. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you obtained entry, and how many acres have you cultivated each year? *1885 1000 1886 1000 1887 1000  
1888 1000 1889 1000 1890 1000*
10. How many horned cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs have you had on your homestead each year since date of perfecting entry? Give number in each year. *1887, 1000 Cattle, 1000 Sheep, 5 Pigs*
11. What is the size of your house, and what is its present cash value? *14 x 24 built 1884 \$200*
12. What extent of fencing have you made, and what is the present cash value thereof? *15 acres \$20*
13. What other buildings have you erected? What other improvements have you made, and what is the cash value of the same? *Stable 10 x 24 \$30  
11 x 18 \$10  
granary 14 x 20 \$20  
mound 10 x 10 \$10*
14. Are there any indications of minerals or quarries on your homestead? If so, state nature of same, and whether it is more valuable for agricultural than any other purpose. *None*
15. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what because of it? *None*
17. Have assigned or transferred or agreed to assign or transfer your homestead or pre-emption right or any part thereof? If so, when and to whom. *No*

John F. Reid's homestead papers.

Through The Years

In 1886, John F. married IDA ESTELLA RAE RENDALL FERGUS, widow of William Seatter Fergus (see William Rendall history).

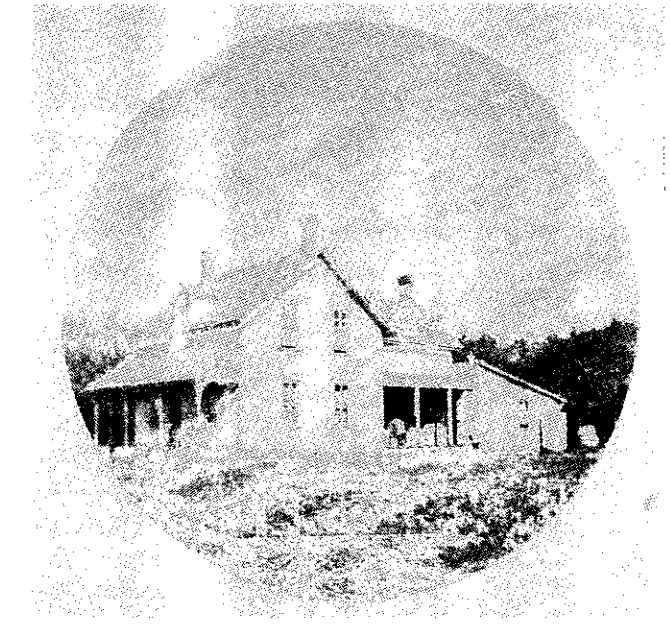
In 1887, John F. was a founding member of the Orkney Protestant School #97. It was later named Orkney School #97. It was the first school established in York Colony June 2, 1887. He served as a trustee and chairman on this school board for over thirty years.

In 1890, the Orkney community made plans to build a church. John F. was the original founder of the Orkney Presbyterian Church. He served on the first church board and building committee of 1893-1894 with the church being dedicated June 10, 1894. He served on the church board for over forty years.

In 1899, John F. was hired by the district of Yorkton as an inspector of roads, culverts, bridges and wells. He was trusted to give an honest estimate, opinion and do a thorough job. He was paid \$316.82 a year for this service.



Ida Estella Rae Rendall Fergus



Large Frame Reid House

In 1900, John F. built a large frame log house. It had five bedrooms upstairs and a large parlor, kitchen and another bedroom downstairs. Son, John Munro Reid, recalled how he played with the square-tapered, no head nails at the time when the house was built.

This home was called the "Norseman Home". It was always open to friends, neighbours and travellers, summer and winter. Especially in winters when settlers were going to Yorkton, even though they cut across country, they would reach the Reid home at sunset. Their horses would be stabled and the persons would be invited to share supper with the Reid's. Later, beds would be made up and they would stay for the night. Next morning, after breakfast, the settlers would continue on to Yorkton. When the temperatures would hover around 30 to 40 degrees below and the snow would be deep, it would take an hour to reach Yorkton. The persons travelling were very grateful to have places like the Norseman's Home for these stop-overs.



**The John F. & Ida Reid Family**

*Back Row (L to R): Robert, John F. Reid, Mary Alice, John, Ida Reid  
Front: Susie and Margaret (Peggy).*

On August 20, 1901, Rev. William Stevenson Reid married ALICE MARGARET TRAILL RENDALL, a sister of Mrs. John F. Reid and daughter of William Rendall. See William Rendall history.

As more settlers settled the Orkney area, more land was put into grain crops. These farmers were at the mercy of the grain companies, price wise. It was felt that the farmers needed an organization that would help to control these unfair pricings and marketing of their product. In 1902 the Orcadia Grain Growers were formed with John F. as a director. Later this organization would join the Saskatchewan Grain Growers and then become the United Grain Growers. John F. served as delegate, director and finally second vice-president of the United Grain Growers.

On February 1903, the Yorkton Draught Horsebreeders Association elected officers. John F. was elected vice-president along with directors Robert Sinclair and Robert Rousay. This was to promote the improvement of horseflesh in the Orkney District.

In 1903, Robert Loutitt Reid married MARY SARAH MASONCHUK, daughter of George Masonchuk of Insinger, N.W.T. See Robert Reid history.

In 1904, John F. helped to circulate a petition for a post office in the new hamlet of Orcadia. He was also one of the group who named the hamlet "Orcadia", after the boat S.S. Orcadia, that delivered mail, freight and passengers amongst the Orkney Islands.

John F. served as a board member of the Queen Victoria Hospital. It was built in 1904. Today this building is used as an apartment building.

On June 6, 1905, Charlotte Stevenson Reid passed away at the home of her eldest son Robert at Pelican Lake, Assiniboia, N.W.T. John F. made her casket, brought her home to be buried from the Orkney Presbyterian Church. The service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Simpson and assisted by Rev. Henderson. She was buried in the cemetery behind the church. On her tombstone, her last name is recorded as "Stephenson" instead of Stevenson. The reason is unknown.

This lady unknowingly left a big legacy to her adopted country, a family that built a community, a church, school and gave unstintingly of their talents and physical strength. Two sons as ministers, James a Presbyterian and William S. a Methodist and later a United Church clergy. John F. from the foundations he laid in his community to the services he rendered as a member of Parliament, to an overseas ambassador and many other organizations that benefited past and present generations.

In August 1905, Rev. W.S. Reid and John F. travelled to Portland, Oregon to visit the Clark and Lewis Exposition. While there they hoped to view the total eclipse of the sun.

John F. raised good stock and was a good farmer. Besides serving on the Local Improvement District Board he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Orkney District in 1906.



**The many facets of John F. Reid**

The community held basket socials, dances, ball games and finally a Football Association was organized with John F. as it's Honorary President. This league had four teams, Beaverdale, Orcadia, Springside and Willowbrook. There certainly were some great games, plus a lot of bruised bones.

Rev. James Garrioch Reid married MARY JEANETTE WILLIAMS of Ottawa on April 18, 1906. See the James Reid history.

In 1908, the Riel Rebellion veterans, the Homeguard, held their first reunion. John F. in his speech said he wasn't only a pioneer but a veteran as he had served as a sergeant in the Homeguard. He had his trials and troubles but was not sorry he stayed with the country. His only regret was that there were no pioneer ladies present, as they had also done their part during the rebellion and of building up the west.

In 1910, Thomas Paul formed a company of the Imperial Veteran's Assoc. of Canada, Yorkton Branch. John F. Reid, Yorkton Company of Infantry of the Northwest Rebellion (1885) was enrolled. Jas. Sinclair who served with the 1st Battalion C.M. Rifles in 1900, 1901 was another member added to this group.

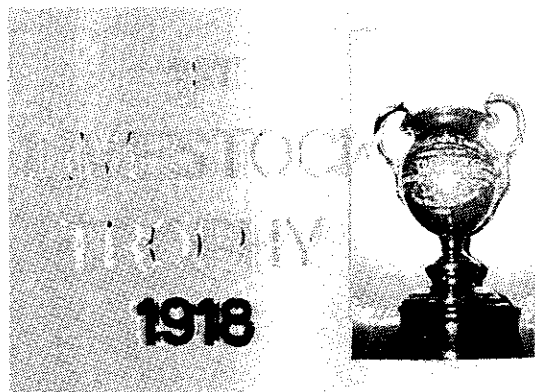
In 1911 the Yorkton Rural Telephone Company held a meeting in Yorkton. Rural representatives were elected and organized into circuits often to a unit. John F. was elected to represent the Orkney area. John F. represented the Orkney District on the Local Improvement District committee from 1907. When these districts became municipalities, he was elected to the first Rural Municipality of Orkney #244 in 1913. The new council selected the name Orkney over York. Its very easy to understand why as

most of the council were of Scottish origin and also from the Orkney District. Members of this first R.M. of Orkney #244 were a Reeve and a councillor for each division.

Reeve	- Robert Rousay
Deputy Reeve	- J. Williams, Division 1
Secretary-Treasurer	- Jas. B. Swallow, Division 2
Councillors	- T.A. Waterfield, Division 3
	- T.H. Garry, Division 4
	- Dan Hoffman, Division 5
	- John F. Reid, Division 6
	- Geo. Fernie, Division 7

In 1917, John F. was elected a member for MacKenzie Constituency as a Union Government candidate, defeating George W. McPhee K.C.A. Liberal by a majority of 1379. He held this seat from 1917 to 1921. While he served as M.P. for the MacKenzie Constituency he donated the MacKenzie Cup to the Yorkton Agriculture Society to go to a class for Purebred Cattle, beef type consisting of one bull and two females. This cup to be won three times by an exhibitor, then it becomes his property. In 1921 Mr. J.W. Large of Springside became the proud owner of the MacKenzie Cup.

**MacKenzie Cup**  
Donated by John F. Reid,  
member of parliament for the  
MacKenzie Constituency 1917-1921.



In 1922, John F. was defeated so at this time he had another cup donated in the same class, the J.F. Reid Trophy. It was won by S. Arbuckle of Lemburg, Sask.

In 1924, John F. was a member of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. He gave lectures at the Wembly Exhibition in London, England and in Scotland, promoting the merits of settling in the New West.

The Wheat Pool Association first came into being on June 10, 1924. John F. was one of the first contract signers of the new Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. He still served on the United Grain Growers Association, being a member since 1912. In 1930, he was elected to the position of second vice-president. These organizations helped to unite the farmers, to erect elevators, form committees and elect representatives to local and federal governments, marketing boards and the Canadian Wheat Board.

A beautiful cone shaped stone cairn, located on Memorial Boulevard on Darlington Street in Yorkton was unveiled on July 17, 1933 by Sir Frederick Haultain, in honour of Yorkton pioneers. Memorials are generally erected to the dead, Yorkton's cairn was erected "in honor" of both the living and the dead "who in the early eighties of the nineteenth century endured privations of pioneer life and founded homes hereabout". A welcome to the pioneers from the Yorkton and District Board of Trade was given by John F. Reid, with the reply by Thos. H. Garry. Sir Haultain gave his

address, in it he mentioned that he was glad that the cairn had not been dedicated to any particular class but rather to the men and women who had made homes hereabouts. No matter how much we may owe to the pioneer farmer, we may owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneer townfolk who helped establish trade and give the farmer a market for his produce. The two go hand in hand. After all, we should be a united people with no differences between us, but all pulling for the same goal. So marked Yorkton's Golden Jubilee and Free Fair.

In 1936, the "Young People of Orkney" Club was formed with John F. as honorary president.

John F. continued to operate his farm but with the assistance from his sons, Robert Loutitt and John Munro. He was recognized by all whenever he'd go into Yorkton and walk down the street. This stately gentleman with his Scottish burr surveyed the town and country places that he helped to develop and grow, his "ayn homeland".

JOHN F. REID died in July 1943 and is buried in that small peaceful cemetery behind the Orkney United Church. He is in company with many of his countrymen and friends who helped with the building of the Orkney Presbyterian Church and the Orkney School #97.

Surviving John F. and Ida Estella Reid is their last daughter, IDA ESTELLA RENDALL REID MARKHAM, who is a guest of the Yorkton and District Nursing Home.

John F. Reid, Orkney's first pioneer settler, left a big legacy to all who came after him. He always said, "To Thine Ownself Be True", a policy he lived by until his passing.



**John F. Reid**  
Member of parliament for the  
MacKenzie Constituency 1917-1921,  
a member executive of the S.G.G.A.,  
a director of the Grain Growers' Grain  
Co., and one of the best trusted men  
in public life among the farmers.



### The Family

JOHN FLAWS Reid married IDA ESTELLA RAE RENDALL FERGUS, widow of William Seatter Fergus, in 1886 at York Colony. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Mr. Cooper, a Church of England minister.

Ida was the first daughter and child of William Rendall and Margaret S. Foubister and was born on April 18, 1862 at Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland. The name "Rae" was added to her other names because of her father's good friend, Dr. John Rae. He was the doctor and Arctic explorer who used to visit and stay at their home.

Ida's father was a cabinet maker by trade and had his own business. They lived in a six room, two storey house on the Ayre, Kirkwall and adjacent to the Peerie Sea. There was a fireplace in each room and English coal was used for fuel. Coal was also used in the large kitchen stove. This house also boasted the convenience of hot and cold water and a toilet. In each bedroom was a double washstand on which were two large basins, two soap dishes and two water pitchers.

On September 25, 1884, she boarded the S.S. Polynesian, ticket no. 11 and the destination was Whitewood, N.W.T. She arrived October 5, and married William S. Fergus on October 8, 1884. William died of tuberculosis in August 1885 at Whitewood, N.W.T. and was buried there. There were no children.

It must have been very traumatic for Ida to experience so much in such a short time. The living conditions were so different, but she prevailed, a true pioneer.



**John F. Reid & Family**

*Back Row (L to R): William, Margaret, Robert, Susie & John  
Front: Ida, John F., Ida (mother), Mamie & James (on ground).*

John F. and Ida had a family of eight, all born at home and delivered by Ida's aunt, sister of her father, Mary Rendall Fergus, mother of the Fergus brothers.

The family consisted of:

MARY ALICE RENDALL REID	JOHN MUNRO REID
ROBERT LOUITT REID (BOB)	WILLIAM RENDALL REID (BILL)
MARGARET FOUBISTER REID (PEGGY)	IDA ESTELLA RENDALL REID
SUSIE FERGUS REID	JAMES FERGUS STEVENSON REID (JIMMY)



**The Four Daughters of John F. & Ida Reid**

*Back Center: Susie Fergus Center (L to R): Margaret (Peggy) Foubister, Mary Alice Rendall Front: Ida Estella Rendall.*

MARY ALICE RENDALL Reid (Mamie) was the first girl born in the Orkney settlement. She attended both the Orkney log and stone schools. Mamie often mentioned the Indians going past the school, on their ponies and travois. Sometimes they would camp in the ravine to the east of the school and the school children would gaze at them with curiosity. Mamie was an excellent cook and baker and won many prizes with her entries at the Yorkton Fair. She never married, but helped to raise her sister Susie's children. She also then kept house for her father when her mother passed away in 1925. After her father's death in 1943, she remained on the home farm, keeping house for her brother, Bob. She passed away in 1964 and is buried beside her parents and sister in the Orkney Cemetery.

ROBERT (Bob) also attended both the log and stone Orkney schools. He remembered using the slate and slate pencil, also playing Indians and tying the teacher to the flag pole. Bob took a two year agricultural course at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. This was taken only during the winter months.

He told me that he remembered the day that he was born, April 21, 1888. Granny Fergus delivered him at twenty-one minutes to eleven, just before noon. She carried him to the window and as he looked out, it was "snowing". Some tale!!

He took over the family farm, carrying on with the Purebred Yorkshire Pigs and grain. Bob's father, John F. was advertising Purebred stock in the Yorkton Enterprise in 1911.

Bob served for years on the Orkney School #97 School Board. He was teased about liking all those "nice school marms", but he never married any of them. He belonged to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the Orkney Community Club. He loved to dance, was a good dancer and was a floor manager for many local dances. At one time Charlie Bull, Ernie Lamson and Bob ran the oldtime dances at the City Hall on Third Avenue in Yorkton.

In the late 1940's Bob rented his farm to his nephews, Alvin and Wesley Norman. He enjoyed his leisure time by driving around the community in his gray Ford car and visiting with people as they worked on their land. Sometimes they didn't have time to stop so he'd scratch his head and say, "By golly, they sure are in a hurry!"

In 1961 he bought a home in Yorkton and retired there along with his sister, Mamie.

He suffered a stroke and died in 1965. He's buried in the Orkney Cemetery beside his parents, sisters and grandfather, William Rendall.



Robert L. Reid with his Model 49 Chev.

MARGARET (Peggy) took all her primary education at Orkney #97. She sang in the choir of the Orkney Presbyterian Church. The ministers always came to the Reid home. Peggy became good friends with Mrs. Mahon, the minister's wife. Peggy was also a friend of Mrs. F.R. Knight, the Orcadia postmaster's wife. Peggy went to Winnipeg where she took a dressmaker's course.

In 1917, she married HERBERT E. THOMAS. They made their home in Yorkton where Herb worked as a salesman for MacDonald's Consolidated.

Peggy was an excellent cook and baker. She was a great knitter, her knitted doilies won many first ribbons and anyone owning one is indeed lucky.

They had a family of two, a son JOHN LOUIS and a daughter IDELLA MARGARET. John Louis died of Diphtheria on his birthday, at the age of seven. It was a loss they never recovered from. Idella Margaret finished her schooling, business college and then worked at C.J.G.X., Croll's and Canada Manpower.

Idella is an accomplished pianist and singer. The Thomas home was always a place of welcome, where friends enjoyed the piano playing, singing and much laughter.

Idella married JACK LARGE in 1954. He passed away in 1975.

Idella married EARLE PARK, October 24, 1987. They reside in Yorkton where they both are active in many organizations.

Herb died in 1960 and Peggy in 1965. Both are buried beside their "John Louis" in the Yorkton City Cemetery.

SUSIE FERGUS Reid was born at home, delivered by Cranny Fergus. She attended Orkney School, received her primary education there. She loved school, took part in entering her school work at the Yorkton Exhibition, winning prizes. She also entered and won for her flower and vegetable samples. When the school or church had put on picnics or socials, Susie helped to organize and run different functions. In 1912, she married Frederick Stafford Norman. In 1920, she died of T.B. and is buried in the Orkney Cemetery. See Norman history.

JOHN MUNRO Reid finished his education at Orkney School #97 and then farmed with his father and brothers Bob and Bill. During World War I, he served in the Army. He never got overseas due to a leg injury. On his return he bought the land N.W. and N.E. of Sec.30-26-4 from his brother Bob. It had to be cleared of bush so he had hired men help him. It took several years but once cleared, his crops were good and the farm prospered. One of his hired men was called Hungarian George. George liked the fried bologna and potatoes that John served his men. Another, a young lad from a broken home was brought out to the farm to keep him from going to a reform school. He grew up on the farm, married and ran a business of his own. Because John Reid cared, Fred Parker got the chance to turn out right. John never married. He retired in Yorkton, living with his widowed sister Ida Markham, until his death in 1960. He is buried in the "soldier's plot" at the Yorkton Cemetery.



John M. Reid



**William Stevenson Reid**

WILLIAM (Bill) received his education in the Orkney School #97. He then farmed with his father and brothers Robert and John until the late 1900's. His youngest brother James (Jimmy) had gone job hunting in the U.S.A. He finally settled in Detroit, Michigan and found a job in the Ford plant. Bill joined him in Detroit but got a job with the Chrysler Company. All went well until the "stock crash" of 1929. They lost their jobs and had to return home. Bill rode the freight trains. He just about starved as he had no money. Bill stayed for a time with his brother John M. on his farm near Orcadia, then moved into Yorkton and stayed with his sister, Peggy Thomas. He got a job in the Ford garage, doing what he excelled in, repairing cars. He made his home in the Patrick Block until the early forties. From here he moved to Kelvington, which became his permanent home. He died in September 1961 and is buried in the Kelvington Cemetery. He never married.



**Ida (Reid) Markham**

IDA ESTELLA RENDALL was the youngest and last daughter of John F. and Ida Reid. She was born November 28, 1899 in the old house. The kitchen had no floor, just the packed ground. She remembers when her father hauled logs from the Jedburgh area to build the kitchen onto the new house.

She attended both the Orkney School and Church. She remembers Rev. and Mrs. Mahon coming to their home for dinner after the Sunday service at Orkney. Her brother Jimmy and she would get the giggles during the prayer meeting in the parlor so they were quickly dispatched out of the room. A severe scolding followed.

Peter Veregin was a good friend of John F.'s and Ida remembers the choir Mr. Veregin brought to their home. They sang in harmony for an hour, after which they all were invited to dinner with the Reid family.

Ida recalls that grandmother Charlotte Reid used to spin the wool from the fleece from their sheep. She knitted socks and mitts which were exchanged for goods at the store. She also smoked a pipe. She also used a cane and at times when Ida and Jimmy would be running by, she'd hook their leg, causing them to trip and fall! Of course, they provoked poor Granny!

Ida recalls very happy times at home. Her parents were always loving and had time to play with their family. Even though her father was away a lot due to all his involvement in different organizations, his family came first.

Ida remembers her father telling her how he made friends with Chief Little Bones after the Cussed Creek incident. Chief Little Bones thought her father a very honest and sincere man. He liked to visit and it seemed it was always just about dinner time. This tall chief with his long braids that touched the floor would come into the kitchen sniffing, smelling and smacking his lips, saying to Ida's mother, "Good - Good!"

In 1921 the crops were described as magnificent. Tom McKen with his threshing machine and crew threshed the Reid crop. Wages for hired men during the harvest season were \$4.00 per day or \$60.00 a month.

Ida remembers that her mother along with her sister Mamie, and a hired girl had to provide meals for between 25 to 35 men. If it rained, the crew stayed and had to be fed, regardless.

There was no electricity, running water or refrigerator. Everything had to be made from "scratch". Either her mother or Mamie would bake ten to twelve loaves of bread at one baking. With the large crew this meant they had to bake every second day, plus all the other baking such as pies, scones, cakes and cookies. Then there was the main course!

Ida mentioned that the Reid women were fortunate as they never had to do the heavy outside work like milking cows or feeding pigs.

The poultry business was usually the responsibility of the women and children. The bronze turkeys were the common breed. Chickens came in many colours and sizes. The usual method of incubation was the clucking or broody hen. This was an old hen whose nesting instinct was strong. Hens were exchanged among neighbours. You brought it home in a gunny sack, stuck it under a box or tub, and hoped it would sit. Sometimes the hen broke the eggs. The clucker defended her nest or young fiercely. She would attack an intruder by pecking or jumping up and digging her spurs (back toe) into the unfortunate person. Many a child came back crying when attacked while collecting eggs or feeding the hens.

It was a great day when the eggs hatched. The hen looked after the young. Sometimes a confused hen realized that her "chicks" shouldn't be swimming in the pond.

Ida took a business course in Winnipeg. In 1917 she accepted a position with the Massey Harris Co. in Yorkton. Several years later she accepted a better position, as Court Stenographer for the law firm of Stewart, Edgar and Brown.

Ida married WALTER (Wally) MARKHAM, son of Joe Markham. They made Yorkton their home. Wally was very sports minded. He loved hockey, hunting and baseball. Wally owned Wally's Service Station. He passed away after a heart attack in 1950.

Ida is a guest of the Yorkton and District Nursing Home. She is the last of the children of John Flaws Reid, Orkney's first settler and Ida Estella Rae Rendall.

JAMES (Jimmy) FERGUS STEVENSON was the youngest son and last child of John F. and Ida Reid. He was born on December 29, 1900 in the new Reid house. He was delivered by Granny Fergus.

After his primary education at Orkney, he took further education at Winnipeg, Man. He later enrolled in the School of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. He never finished this course.

He married MAUD (MARJORIE) LETTITIA COCKAYNE of Winnipeg. A daughter BARBARA (JUNE) was born the following year, June 10, 1927.

The couple with friends Mr. & Mrs. Fred Neibrandt, moved to Detroit, Michigan, where the men got jobs at the Ford factory. However when the Stock Crash of 1929 came about, jobs were lost and the Reid's returned home to Orcadia.

On June 3, 1930, a son, JAMES EDGAR (EDDIE) was born in Yorkton. He later attended Orkney School while June attended the Yorkton Collegiate.

The family moved to Calgary. Jimmy joined the Canadian Army.

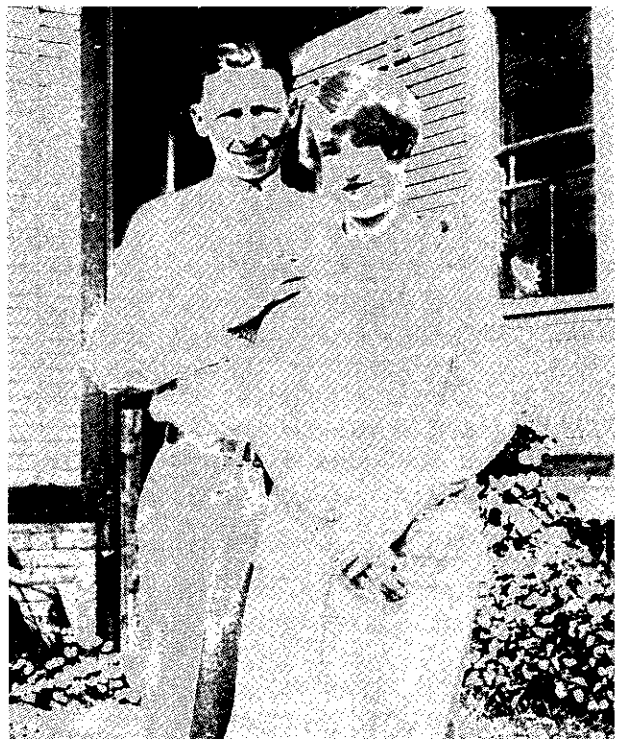
June married AL DUCE of Calgary. A daughter BONNIE LYNN was born on December 8, 1948. June died in July 1960.

Eddie married MARGARET ELAINE BALES of Carstairs, Alta. on June 11, 1951. They have a family of five.

SUSAN ELAINE, DONALD EDWARD, ROBERT JOHN, DOUGLAS GORDON and KENNETH MICHAEL.

Eddie and Margaret live on a farm on the outskirts of St. Paul, Alta. Their family all have homes or business ventures in or around St. Paul.

Jimmy Reid passed away in Calgary in December 1969 and Marjorie in 1976 in Winnipeg.



James Fergus Stevenson Reid  
and wife Marjorie (Cochayne) Reid

## ROBERT LOUITT REID



Wedding of Sarah (Masonchuk) & Robert Reid

Attendants were Mary Alice and Robert Reid.

The pamphlet, the Northwest Homesteads and how they are built up was put together by the Presbyterian missionary for the Yorkton area, Hugh Hamilton in 1895. It's purpose was to induce settlement of the Northwest Territories by the testimonials of about nine settlers in York Colony, Assiniboia, N.W.T.

Excerpts of Robert Reid's letter of January 1, 1895 are as follows.

"We left Windywall, Eday, Orkney, Scotland on May 10, 1883, to set sail on the Nestorian for Point Levi, Quebec, Canada, arriving there on May 28.

We travelled by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba where we remained for three days. From here we travelled by C.P.R. to Whitewood, a distance of 250 miles west. From Whitewood it took us 10 days to travel the 80 miles to Yorkton (York Colony).

I took up a homestead on June 14, paying ten dollars entrance money and on the 15th took possession of my homestead. The Fergus brothers and my brothers James and William and I began to cut logs. In two weeks time we were under our own roof. It wasn't a palace but it was comfortable.

We had purchased a team of oxen at Brandon that cost \$190.00 and the harness was \$14.00. We also bought a cow at the same time, she cost us \$95.00.

Immediately after our house was built we began to break the land and had ten acres ready for back setting for next year's crop. We had no income and it would be twelve months before our first crop could be taken off, so my two brothers had to go and find work.

They went to Winnipeg where John worked as a carpenter earning \$2.50 a day and James driving a van was paid \$42.00 a month. They came home in the spring of 1884 and their earnings kept us going until we had income from our homesteads.

We built a log stable for our few cattle, oxen, cow and a few poultry.

The crop of 1884 was by no means our best as the new land was rough. The grain crop was poor but our garden was really good. We had a good crop of potatoes, pumpkins and all the other types of vegetables that we tried. At the fall fair (1884) we took four first prizes for some of our vegetables.

In the fall of 1887 I went away to work and not returning until the spring of 1889. By now we had ten stock.

My mother had also taken a homestead and after getting a house and stable built on it, we've made it our headquarters.

By trading we got into horses with the result that today we own eight head. From 1889 our stock has increased rapidly. This is partly through purchase as I have earned wages for three winters, averaging \$26.00 a month and upwards and partly by natural increase.

By the summer of 1894 we owned 46 head of cattle, 11 sheep, 6 pigs 60 chickens and 640 acres of land. This year we cropped 40 acres and had 347 bushels of wheat, 223 bushels of oats and 50 bushels of potatoes. We have 100 acres fenced with wire and intend to put in 60 acres of crop next year.

If any of those who read my statement would like to take a chance and try a foreign land, we would most certainly advise them to try the Northwest. Go into mixed farming and invest in more cattle. The prices for provisions and implements are greatly reduced. There is also good advice from those who have experience in this new country."

ROBERT left his homestead at Orkney and moved to Fishing Lake where he went into ranching and mixed farming.

He married SARAH MASONCHUK on December 23, 1903. They raised a family of five.

CAROLINE FREDRICA - August 16, 1904  
RUBINA ANN - July 23, 1907  
GEORGE STEVENSON - September 22, 1908  
Twins IVAN JOHN - March 6, 1913  
IVY MARY

Sarah passed away June 1, 1927. Robert passed away August 24, 1939. George died during heart surgery and Caroline after a lengthy cancer illness.

Rubina and husband WALTER PETERSON, Ivan and his wife RUTH (nec Brown) and Ivy Ferguson make their home in Saskatoon.

#### REVERAND JAMES GARRIOCH REID



Rev. James G. Reid  
and wife Mary Jeanette (Williams) Reid.

JAMES GARRIOCH Reid, third son of Robert Reid and Charlotte Stevenson was born at Windywall, Eday, on October 31, 1866. He received schooling at Eday, being tutored while apprenticing. He was nine years old when his father died suddenly.

In 1883, he accompanied his mother, Charlotte, and brothers, Robert and teenager William to Canada and York Colony. The trip from Whitewood to York Colony was quite an experience. The stubborn oxen, the driving of the wagons down the steep hills and inclines and the bog and mud was a journey he never forgot. The mosquitos were also very bothersome pests that they just didn't know how to handle or protect themselves.

James took a homestead and pre-emption in June 1883, W1/2 of section 34, township 26, range 5, west of the 2nd meridian. That first winter he went to Winnipeg and drove a van all winter getting \$40.00 a month. He had quite a time trying to prepare his homestead. The settlers were given three years to prove up their homestead, meaning that a settler had to erect buildings, break land and seed it and whatever other improvements to be done in this time limit. In the spring of 1884 he started to build his cabin. Absence had to be noted on the declaration form. It shows where James had to go to Whitewood several times for seed, flour and implements. This would take about 10 days either way. He had 10 acres broken and fenced and finally finished his 14x16 cabin, valued at \$35.00.

During the Riel Rebellion (1885) the Indians chased him off his homestead. This prevented him from doing any more land breaking. He spent some time in the grist mill at York Colony.

In the summer of 1886, a prairie fire destroyed his cabin, stable and part of his crop. In October he went to Portage la Prairie and worked on the gravel train building the M&N Railway.



In 1887 he broke and seeded five more acres. He also helped with the building of the first "log" Orkney School #97. He was elected to the School Board in 1890 and served for three years. In 1893-94 he helped build the Orkney Presbyterian Church and was on that first Church Board along with his brother John F.

James finally gave up his homestead and went to Winnipeg, with his brother William S., where they enrolled at the Manitoba University. In 1900 they both graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology. He returned to Scotland, to Edinburgh to study and obtain his M.A. in Theology. While there James found out that the Reid's were really the proscribed clan of the Robertsons, who fought so stoutly for Prince Charles Stuart, the "Young Pretender" in 1745-46. James also figured that the Stevensons, his grandmother's clan, were also refugees from the terrible defeat at Culloden.

Rev. James Reid, a Presbyterian minister, returned to Canada and served several charges in Saskatchewan before moving to British Columbia. Here he met and married MARY JEANETTE WILLIAMS, whose home was Ottawa, Canada.

They had a family of five:

MARJORIE STEVENSON - married John E. Henderson  
KATHERINE BARBARA - married Nelson C. Moore  
JAMES "LOUIS" - married Sheila J. Wolfe  
DOUGLAS ROBERT - married Dorothy B. Morrow  
MARY ISOBEL - married Frederich J. Holland

James last pastorate was Gibsons, B.C. He passed away in 1940 and his wife Mary in 1960. Both are buried at New Westminster, B.C. Surviving are James "Louis" and Mary Isobel (Meribelle) and numerous grandchildren.

#### REVERAND WILLIAM STEVENSON REID, S.T.D., D.D.

Dr. Reid was born June 21, 1871 at Eday, Orkney, Scotland of Highland parents, Robert Reid and Charlotte Stevenson.

In his earliest years he was tutored by Rev. John Paul Tulloch of Marischal College, Aberdeen University. This fine scholar gave Dr. Reid a passion for learning and music, which never left him.

In 1883, his widowed mother and her three sons, Robert, James and twelve year old William came to Canada, first to Brandon and Whitewood and then by ox-drawn wagons to York Colony.

Scarcely had they settled when the Riel Rebellion broke out in 1885. Dr. Reid joined the Homeguard being the youngest volunteer. He served as scout and bugler and was also given a small musket. When the Rebellion ended, he was given a medal as were all the volunteers. His daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Hess is the proud possessor of this medal.

Dr. Reid matriculated from Regina High School when Regina had a population of less than five thousand. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg and B.D. from Wesley College. He took first class honours in winning both degrees. In 1925, he graduated from the University of Chicago, U.S.A., winning one of the most difficult of degrees, Doctor of Sacred Theology, with highest honours. In 1930 his great ministry as pastor, preacher and church administrator was recognized by United College, Winnipeg, when the degree of Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) was conferred on him.



W. S. Reid and Alice (Rendall) Reid

In 1901 he married ALICE MARGARET TRAILL RENDALL in St. Andrew's Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Alice, brother William and father William Rendall had emigrated from Kirkwall, Orkney to Canada in 1886. Her mother had died in 1884. Another brother David had emigrated to Maryborough, Queensland, Australia.

In 1905, with brother John F. they travelled to Portland, Oregon to visit the Clark and Lewis Exposition.

At thirty-nine years of age he was elected President of the Saskatchewan Conferences, possibly the youngest president ever elected at the time in Canada. He was delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church and General Council of the United Church. He was also a member of the Book Room Committee and Examining Board of Wesley College, Winnipeg, as well as Chaplain of the Kiwanis Clubs at Port Arthur, Saskatoon and New Westminster. He was an ardent Mason in King David Lodge, West Vancouver, B.C.

Dr. Reid held pastorates at Lumsden, Prince Albert, Weyburn and Yorkton, Saskatchewan; Souris, Manitoba; Trinity Church, Port Arthur, Ontario; Third Avenue Church, Saskatoon, Sask.; Queen's Avenue, New Westminster, Gibson's Landing and Port Haney, B.C.

While in Yorkton at the Methodist Church, he was also pastor of the Yorkton Curling Club and curled. He held services at the Orkney Presbyterian Church, where he first attended as a young man and had helped to erect. There still are people who were either married or baptized by Dr. Reid.

Dr. Reid died January 21, 1947 and is buried in Capiland View Cemetery, West Vancouver, B.C.

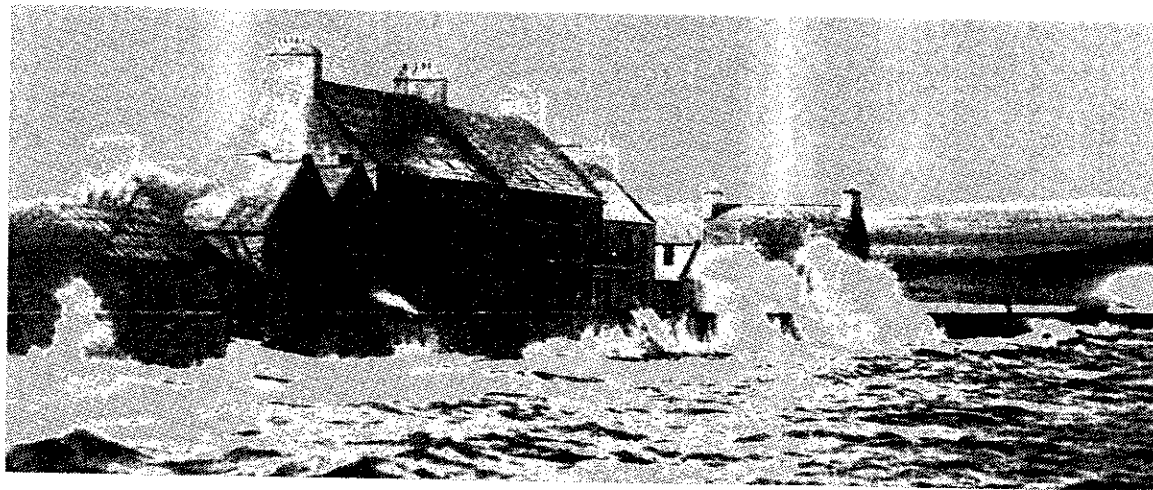
He is survived by two daughters, MRS. JOHN (CHARLOTTE) HESS and MRS. ELGIN (ALICE) CUMMINGS. A son WILLIAM STEVENSON JR. predeceased him in 1939 and his wife, Alice in 1971.

## WILLIAM RENDALL

submitted by: Mrs. Alvin Rendall Norman

WILLIAM Rendall, the fifth son and last child of William Rendall and Ann Munro was born on Papa Westray, September 1, 1835. On June 4, 1861, he married a Kirkwall lass, MARGARET S. FOUBISTER, daughter of Robert Foubister and Betsy Dick. They lived in Kirkwall, Orkney, where William, a cabinet maker had his own business.

Their two storey, six room house was on the Ayre, and adjacent to the Perrie Sea. English coal was used in the big kitchen stove and all the fireplaces in the different rooms. There was also hot and cold water and a toilet in this house.



William Rendall home in Kirkwall, Orkney.

William and Margaret had a family of four.

IDA ESTELLA RAE RENDALL

WILLIAM RENDALL

DAVID MUNRO RENDALL

ALICE MARGARET TRAILL RENDALL

In 1883, David Rendall immigrated to Maryborough, Queensland, Australia. In 1906, he married JANE ANN MUNRO of Crossiecrown, Kirkwall. She had immigrated to Maryborough in 1895. David passed away in June 1950 and Jane Ann in August 1953. They are survived by their only son, WILLIAM GEORGE Rendall and grandchildren, David William Munro and Ruth Margaret.

DAVID, a teacher, is married to ROBIN JOYCE PETRIE. They have two daughters, Lynda Susan and Clare Helen.

RUTH has her medical degree, a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and in Anaesthetics. She is married to JOHN AASKOV and they have three children, Yesten David, Freya Emily and Kirsten Isobel.

On September 25, 1884 Ida Rendall set sail on the S.S. Polynesian, destination Whitewood N.W.T., to marry a cousin, WILLIAM SEATTER FERGUS. She arrived on October 5 and married William on October 8th at Broadview, N.W.T.

In August, 1885, while they were in Whitewood, N.W.T. during the Riel Rebellion, William died of consumption. He is buried there. They had no children.



William Rendall Family

(L to R): David Munro, William, Margaret Traill Foubister, Alice Margerette, Ida Estella Rae  
Standing: William Rendall.

In 1886, Ida Fergus married JOHN FLAWS REID at York Colony. The marriage was performed by a Church of England minister, the Rev. Mr. Cooper. They made their home on John's original homestead in the Orkney community. See Reid history.

William Rendall, son William and daughter Alice immigrated to Canada and to York Colony after the death of wife and mother, Margaret Foubister Rendall at Kirkwall, Orkney.

Alice married a brother of John F.'s, WILLIAM STEVENSON REID. See William Reid history.

William Rendall was one of the two people hired to work on the new Orkney Presbyterian Church. He did all the inside woodwork and built the fine pulpit that is still in use today in the now Orkney United Church. His son William was his assistant.

Father William passed away April 5, 1896 and is buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

William Rendall, the son, married MARY ELIZABETH ELLIOT, formerly of Mitchell, Ontario, on December 12, 1900. William had a business in Winnipeg and here they made their home. Mary(Minnie) was involved with church work. They had two children, MARGARET and WILLIAM.

Margaret married Andrew Lillie. They had a son, Andrew.

William married Helen Sigerston. They had two children, William and Carol.

Both Andrew and Margaret have passed on and are buried in a Winnipeg Cemetery.