

THE MAXWELLS

JOHN DOUGAN Maxwell was born May 28, 1889 in Castle Douglas, Dumfries-shire, Scotland. The search for better work opportunities and his relationship with the McKen's prompted his move to Canada. John or Jack as his friends called him, was a first cousin to Donald McKen.

Jack Maxwell immigrated to the Orkney District around 1904 and acquired work on many surrounding farms. Jack also found work with the railroad, constructing roadbed between Hudson Bay and The Pas, Manitoba between 1908 and 1912. A couple plots of land were acquired during this period and tax notices are proof of his brief tenure. This was his first look at Northern Saskatchewan but not his last.

Jack, along with Donald McKen's brothers, together enlisted with the Canadian Army on December 31, 1914 in Yorkton, Sask. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and embarked to France on September 22, 1915. He was wounded in action on June 2, 1916 while serving with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles during the Battle of Mount Sorrel. Recuperating in an English hospital, Jack met ETHEL EVA TROWER and their relationship was destined for Canada. Jack returned to the war and remained in the army until discharged on July 29, 1919 in Regina, Sask.

Jack returned to the Orkney District and established a farmstead on Sec. 26-26-6 W2. Ethel came to Canada by ship in August 1921. Jack and Ethel were married in Yorkton on August 31, 1921. Ethel was a refined English lady and must have experienced a fair amount of culture shock upon her arrival to the prairies. She was taken to their homestead with her china and fine lace to a small farm house, only to be greeted with a shiverree by the neighbours with food, drink and occasional shotgun blasts. Jack and Ethel were blessed with their first child, SAMUEL JOHN DAVID, on December 9, 1922 in Yorkton, Sask. Their second child PATRICIA ELLEN was born on August 26, 1926 on the farmstead.



Sandy with mother Ethel (Trower) Maxwell

Jack never forgot the north and several hunting trips convinced him the Nipawin area had potential. Jack and his family moved to Nipawin, Sask. in the summer of 1929. Their personal goods went by train and they travelled by car. Jack had purchased a rooming house which was located on center street where the parking lot is next to the present Saskatchewan

Telephone building. Nipawin was booming at this time. The railway bridge was under construction. The Pas Lumber Company was in full swing and farming was prosperous. Jack filed for a homestead on the NE 14-52-11 W2 in 1929. This land is located 30 miles northeast of Nipawin and was only accessible by foot or horseback in those days.

On February 14, 1932 the Maxwell's completed their family with the birth of their third child, JOAN IRIS. Jack's health, always a problem due to war wounds, deteriorated during the spring of 1933. He never recovered and died in November of 1933. Ethel continued on at the rooming house with little money and poor health herself.

Samuel (Sandy) worked at various jobs about town to help support the family. Sandy joined the R.C.V.R. (Navy) on November 3, 1942 in Saskatoon, Sask. While in Saskatoon taking basic training he roomed at the home of Hal and Ellen Lewis.

Sandy served with the navy on minesweepers and corvettes in the North Atlantic and Canada's east coast for three years. Returning home from the war Sandy worked at various businesses in Nipawin and at the same time established a farm on his Dad's original homestead in the Carrot River area. He began farming full time on the homestead in 1948 with some off farm income occasionally required.

Sandy married Gladys Pierce, a Tisdale girl, on June 21, 1950. Sandy and Gladys continued to live in Nipawin and farm in the Petaigan district near Carrot River. Their first child was born, Carol Lynn, on November 23, 1951. Their second child was born, David Stewart, on January 24, 1955. Ethel's health continued to fail. She stayed for awhile with Pat and Joan in California feeling the climate would help her arthritis. She corresponded faithfully with her sister in England every week and finally returned there in 1962. When her health made her nearly immobile, she returned to the south wing of the Nipawin Union Hospital and later was one of the first occupants of the Pineview Nursing Home. Ethel's mind was strong to the last. She passed away December 18, 1969.

Carol graduated from the College of Nursing in 1973. She married Dr. Blaine Thompson of Bagot, Manitoba. They live in Winnipeg and have two children, Casey (5) and Carla Jean (2). Carol continues her career with the Public Health.

David graduated from the College of Commerce in 1977 and has farmed in conjunction with his father since that time. David married Lauren Thompson of Arborfield, Sask. They have two daughters, Sheena (4) and Tiffany (2).

Sandy's sisters Pat and Joan grew up in Nipawin. Pat married Max Berry of Saskatoon in Nipawin on April 16, 1949. Pat and Max moved to the Los Angeles area in 1955. Pat is a nurse and continues her career. They have two daughters, Sandra and Wendy, who both live and work in the L.A. area.

Joan graduated from nursing in 1955. She moved to the L.A. area to be near her sister. She worked as a nurse for a few years before she married Kenneth Berry of Daniel Boone, Kentucky. They live in L.A. and have three children, Patty, John and Jason. Patty has taken her nurses training and is working in L.A.

The Maxwell family still reflects on our brief history in the Orkney District. Donald McKen and Mrs. Fenske and Barney are people who remained as contact persons and occasional letters or visits were very interesting.

MALCOLM CLOUSTON

submitted by: Mary McPhee

MALCOLM CLOUSTON was born and educated in the Orkney Isles, Scotland. He was an excellent scholar and was chosen to further his education in Edinburgh, Scotland. Due to the poor economy at the time his parents were unable to send him, so at the young age of 15 he headed for Australia.

While in Australia he became an avid checker player and won many tournaments, winning to the last man. He lived in Australia for four years. It was at the end of the fourth year he heard about the gold strikes in South Africa, so the adventurer boarded the "Tripper Ship True Blue" and landed in Africa at the beginning of the Gold Rush.

The trip at sea took sixty days during which they lived on salt pork and hard tack. Finally they arrived at Cape Town, South Africa. Being a true adventurer, he eventually worked his way to Johannesburg. His knowledge of firearms and his acquired reputation at being a "crack" shot made him an excellent candidate for the British Army, which he joined and was commissioned to instruct other officers in this field.

Malcolm met a man by the name of Christie and the two went into business together. Mr. Christie was the blacksmith and Malcolm the wheelwright. The business grew rapidly and was very successful as they provided service for the only means of transportation, horse and cart.

While in Bulawaya he tells a story about seeing a monkey tied to a long leash. A small child who was just able to walk toddled within reach of the monkey, and the monkey took the child and fled up a near by tree. People who witnessed the scene tried in vain to get the monkey to come back down with the youngster. But when the child cried, the monkey came down quickly and put the child back into the arms of his anxious mother.

During the Matabelli Tribe uprising the soldiers were stationed along the Zambezi River. The mosquitoes were so terrible that it was impossible at time to even see your own hand in front of your face. With this kind of infestation, many soldiers contracted malaria, so did Malcolm.

He returned to Scotland for a short time. He had wanted to return to South Africa, but because of the Malaria, he was advised against it, so he journeyed to Canada and immigrated in 1904 or 1905. He settled in the Orkney District on Section 28, along with the Patterson's and then Hepburn's, who were in the Wallace Municipality at that time.

A family of three were born here, MURRAY, JAMES and MARY (now MRS. ERNEST MCPHEE).

Mary McPhee had four children, ROBERT, NIEL, JOANNE and JAMES. James and family live in Yorkton.

THE DODGE FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. JAMES Dodge and family settled in Orcadia shortly after Saskatchewan was designated a province. They were natives of the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia.

JAMES LONGLEY Dodge was born in Bridgetown, December 11, 1870. Mrs. Dodge, the former CORA LUCRETIA WHITMAN was born December 10, 1874 in Lawrencetown. The couple married November 12, 1894 and for some 12 years were fruit farmers near Bridgetown in the valley.

In the early spring of 1906 they arrived in Saskatchewan with their five children, namely, HAZEL, MARJORIE, born November 17, 1895; OLIVE GENEVIEVE, October 13, 1897; FLORENCE ETTA, January 1, 1900; ALICE WINIFRED, December 9, 1902; and GORDON MAXWELL, February 5, 1904. Yorkton was their destination where Mrs. Dodge's brother, A.O. Whitman had settled.



James & Cora (Whitman) Dodge
with some of their family.

The family remained in Yorkton until farm land was acquired. The west half of 35, one half mile north of the hamlet of Orcadia was the choice. (It's now the site of the Radar Warning Base.)

A general store building with attached living quarters was erected in Orcadia. The carpenter in charge was a well known personality in the area, familiarly called "Sunshine Clark".

During the stay in Yorkton, two of the children contacted the Scarlet Fever germ. The family was quarantined. This along with incessant attacks from hordes of unfamiliar mosquitos, seemed like a rude welcome in this new land and intensified the homesickness all suffered.

In their eagerness to leave this situation the family moved out to their new home before the roof was on. The roof came eventually, but not the upstairs partitions or inside finishings. Drapery material strung on wire, served as partitions.

The move from Yorkton was made in a barn wagon drawn by broncos. One reared so much that the older children climbed out and walked behind part of the way. The boredom of the bumpy trip was relieved somewhat with their discovery of so many unfamiliar varieties of wild flowers in bloom along the trail.

That summer Mr. Dodge was employed at times by Dr. T.V. Simpson (Veterinary) on his grain farm surrounding the hamlet. The children started school at Orkney, some three miles southeast. They received their first ride in a motor vehicle when Dr. Simpson picked them up as they were on route from school. The one seated car had democrat wheels, no side doors or top and a glass windshield.

On May 25 that spring, a son CARL FREDERICK was born in Queen Victoria Hospital in Yorkton. Dr. T.M. Patrick attended.

What seemed like a never ending arrival of trekkers from the Dakotas and other areas were accomodated even before the roof was on the building. Many times the overflow slept on the store floor around the drum heater. Meals were served daily to local grain agents and assistants, hunters, commercial travellers and any others straying through.

The family learned to skate on a slough across the tracks. Occasionally, when weather and roads permitted, they piled into a sleigh box and drove to Yorkton to a carnival or to skate to the strains of Billy Moore's Band. Not too many people were experts on skates at that time, so Mr. Dodge, who had learned some unusual acrobatics on Annapolis Valley ponds, was able to entertain the younger generation.

As country schools were closed during the winter months, Mrs. Dodge and children moved to Yorkton the winter of 1908-09. On February 13, 1909, a son HARRY was born.

Those early years Excursion Trains brought easterners west to assist with the harvesting. Three of Mrs. Dodge's brothers, R. Douglas Whitman, a Boer War Veteran, L. Roy and Arthur arrived at various times. Another brother Herman taught school in the area. He eventually set up a law practise in Wynyard. Roy and Arthur returned to Nova Scotia but Douglas remained and farmed many years near Rama. Their youngest sister, Viola Beton Whitman followed her four brothers and remained to teach school in the Yorkton area. Their oldest brother, Percy Bernard and family came later from Fall River, Mass., U.S.A. They resided for a time in the house vacated by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Knight, until farm land was secured in the Plainview country.

A most welcome visitor, especially in those bleak winters, was a man referred to as "Sunday School Sutherland", who arrived on horseback to deliver Sunday School papers and other religious material.

Student ministers too, served the district. Services were held in Orkney stone church or in the homes. David Robertson was one student minister the Dodges have cause to remember, in that he was credited with saving Mrs. Dodge's life by his quick action in applying a tourniquet to a ruptured varicose vein. Professional aid was many hours drive away.

Yearly picnics held in Orcadia attracted people for miles around. A valuable keepsake is a group photograph taken of all who attended the summer of 1911. The photographer was Percy Rowe of Yorkton.

Two more children were added to the Dodge family, a daughter VIOLET IRENE, May 27, 1911 and a son CARMEN WARNFORD September 19, 1912. Both were born in Yorkton Queen Victoria Hospital.

In the nine or more years residence in Orcadia a few more families were added to the population. Mr. Wm. Bagg of Springside and family moved into the former Knight home, when Mr. Bagg received an appointment as grain agent. A Mr. & Mrs. Lawr and daughter Pearl and a Rev. & Mrs. Clarence Mann are others remembered.

Harvesting grain was a new experience. Neighbours formed a crew that went from farm to farm assisting each other. Women weren't excluded. In threshing time they would have 25 to 30 men to prepare meals and lunches for. The latter were taken to the field, either by foot or pony and buggy, not by motor as in the '70's.

Interrupted schooling was a continuous problem. The two eldest girls stayed in Yorkton five days a week for a few seasons to attend Collegiate. In the fall of 1915 the family moved to Yorkton.

Mrs. Dodge died shortly after on February 13, 1916 at age 42. Mr. Dodge died in 1952 in Santa Monica, California, where he had lived



The Dodge Kids

Hazel, Olive, Florence, Alice, Gordon, Voilet & Carmen

since the early 1920's. Olive (Mrs. F.G. King), Harry and Carmen of Santa Monica died in March 1972; Harry, January 29, 1969 and Carmen in the spring of 1927.

The eldest daughter, Hazel (Mrs. Peter E. Fernie) resides in Anderson Lodge, Yorkton, Sask.; Florence (Mrs. F.E. Francis) in Ventura, Calif.; Alice (Mrs. H.W. Carpenter) in Leisure World Laguna Hills, Calif.; Gordon in Thunder Bay, Ont.; Carl in Ojai, Calif.; and Violet (Mrs. Herbert Hargrave) in Van Nuys, Calif.

THE ANGUS FAMILY

ROBERT Angus was born in Kirkwall, Orkney Islands in 1856. He was a herdsman at Newbigging, Widford in Kirkwall. On August 10, 1876 he married JANE SCOLLY, born in 1847, at Westray. They came to Canada in 1902 and filed a homestead on Section 10, northeast of Willowbrook. They had four daughters, one who remained in the Orkneys, MIMI, JEAN and MARJORIE, and one son JOHN, who homesteaded in the Beaver Hills area later moving to Peace River, where he died.

Mr. Angus died on March 15, 1906 at the age of 50 years, 10 days and was buried in the Orkney Cemetery. Mrs. Angus later moved to a small house in the John Sharp farmyard. She died on October 12, 1930 and is also buried in the Orkney Cemetery. She was 84 years of age.

Mimi (Angus) Fraser died in B.C. leaving one daughter, Dorothy.

Jean Angus married Robert Macaulay in Winnipeg, Man. They had two sons and one daughter. Bruce, now deceased, Robert living in B.C. and Madge also in B.C.

Marjorie Irvine Angus was born August 6, 1885 at Wideford Farms in the Orkneys. After arriving in Canada she worked for three years for the Robert Sinclairs, west of Yorkton. They were also from the Orkney Islands.

She often recalled Indians coming to the Sinclair door begging for food. She married John Sharp in June of 1906 and they lived on their homestead in the Beaver Hills. Neighbours were the Ross brothers, Emmet Moore, Harry Swallow, Fred McFayden, the Duffs, Andersons, Wilsons, Ashdowns, etc. In 1910, they sold the homestead and moved to Section 34,26,6 in the Stoney Coulee District, between Willowbrook and Springside. They had seven children.

ANGUS born in 1907, married Edith(Ena) Cumming in 1930 in Springside. They had one daughter, Lenora (Mrs. Harvey Schmidt) of Saskatoon. She had a son Evan Schmidt, who is a druggist at Mildred, Sask. He has one child, Andrya. Their daughter Heather (Schmidt) Tuck lives in Regina, Sask. and has two children, Amber and Scott. Their other daughter Valerie, lives in Calgary, Alta. Angus and Edith's son Jack, works for Alberta Agriculture in Grande Prairie, Alta. He is married and has 2 sons, Kevin and Wade.

CLIFFORD, deceased at the age of 5 years.

JEAN (Sharp) Dennison married Grant Dennison a school teacher in Swan River, Man. in 1932. They later lived in Grand Forks, B.C., now deceased. Their children included: Denice Dennison, deceased in infancy; twin sister Donna Capps, U.S.A.; Robert Dennison, Grand Forks, B.C.; Jeannie (Dennison) Gurly, Grand Forks, B.C., 1 son Trevor; Jimmie Dennison, Grand Forks, B.C., 3 sons; Betty Dennison, Grand Forks, B.C.; Rick Dennison, Grand Forks, B.C., 1 daughter.

JOHN Andrew Sharp married Mabel Mohn of Birch Hills in 1946. Their children included: David who married Nancy Norman of Foam Lake, now is maintenance man in Wadena, Sask., 3 sons Martin, Trevor and Terry; Kenneth married Donna Mitchell of Yorkton, they have the hotel at Springside, Sask.; Norman married Sheila Gorenko of Yorkton, he is with McLaren's Music; Maureen married Dave Walchuk, mechanic in Nipawin, Sask., children David, Heather and Shannon.

JAMES Allan Sharp married Hazel Anderson of Beaverville in 1943. They farmed in the Stoney Coulee District and are now retired in Springside, Sask. Their children included: Marguerite Mae Sharp, married Allen Gillespie in Brandon, Man., now living in Calgary, 2 sons, Mark and Jason; Gerald Allan, Sgt. in R.C.M.P. in Edmonton, Alta., married Julie Taylor of Delta, B.C., 1 daughter Andrya and 1 son Steven; James Wallace married Brenda Berrns of Springside, live on the family farm, 3 daughters, Lisa, Carrie and Marla.

WILLIAM Sharp married Anne Simair of Springside. They live on the family farm. They have one daughter Cheryl who works with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Yorkton.

IRIS Sharp married Doug Christison of Prince Rupert, B.C. She is the publisher of the Prince Rupert Daily News. Their children included: Doug Jr. married Patty Letherby, live in Vancouver, B.C., 3 children, Peter, Paul and Laura; Carol Christison married Bill McIlroy, live in Vancouver area, 2 children, Kelly and Erin.

Marjorie (Angus) Sharp and her husband retired from the farm in 1956 and moved to make their home in Springside. She was predeceased by her husband in 1970. In February of 1980 she moved into Anderson Lodge in Yorkton, where she lived until August 1983, at which time she entered the Yorkton & District Nursing Home. She died on November 5, 1984 at the age of 99 years, 3 months and is buried in the Springside Cemetery.

THE MUIR FAMILY

submitted by: James R. Muir

Like so many of the stories of the settlers who came to the Orkney District, the story of the Muirs also begins in the Orkney Islands. The influence of the immigrants who came from there, beginning in the late 1800's and continuing well into the present century, is evidenced by the fact that a rural municipality, a stone church, built by the pioneers in 1894 and a stone school, also built by the pioneers in 1897, have all been named Orkney. The story is extant that the settlers wished to call the nearby hamlet Orkney, but since there already was an Orkney in southwest Saskatchewan, they settled for Orcadia.



William & Sarah (Skea) Muir Sr.
with son W. S. Muir - ca. 1899

My father, WILLIAM was born on the Island of Eday in 1869. He was proud of the fact that he and his hero, Robbie Burns were both born on January 25th. My mother, SARAH ANNE SKEA was born on the Island of Sanday on September 21st, 1873. They were married on the 26th December, 1895 and together took up farming on a small croft in Eday called Caldale. I recall my mother saying that sometimes when the North Sea was extremely rough, fine spray would hit the windows of the house. In season, my father, along with the neighbours, went to the fishing and to the peat hill for the annual supply of fuel.

In time, my three brothers, BILL (1898), DAVIE (1901) and JOHN (1905) were born. During the first years my parents had done considerable work to improve their holdings, but all the while, they had in the back of their minds the thought of migrating either to Australia or to Canada, where there were greater opportunities, especially for a growing family.

The late Pete Rousay, who had come to Canada from Eday in 1895, was sent "Home" as an immigrant agent. It was his visit that decided my parents to come to Canada. This they did in 1907, arriving in

Yorkton on 28th September. They were met by Pete Rousay, who took them to his farm just three miles west of town. There they were to remain and work until next spring. Threshing was in full swing when they arrived and my father, a "greenhorn", had a rude introduction to the hustle and bustle of a Canadian harvest.

On the voyage from Glasgow to Montreal, my father kept a journal/diary which he sent to his sister on arrival. Her granddaughter, my second cousin, Annie Leask, gave me that diary when she visited Canada 74 years later. I quote from the last page, dated 24th September:

"Dear Sister.

We will reach Quebec this afternoon and very likely we will be there all night as there is a lot of cargo to put out there, so it will be Wednesday evening before we get to Montreal, so I fear we will not reach Yorkton this week. We are all well and we have had a good passage, but it has been slow. But we are all as well off as we can desire to be, but I am getting in a hurry now for I have had a long holiday. So goodbye at this time and be sure and write and let us know how you are getting on.

With love from your brother,
W. Muir"

My mother used to tell of an incident that happened right after arriving at the Rousay home. Luggage was being carried in, and in order to get out of the way, she stepped back into the pantry, only to find herself in the cellar. Someone had left the trap door open. Fortunately, she was not hurt.

That first fall, my father took measles and was very ill. A relapse caused some concern for his recovery, but he did, finally. However, the effects of that sickness was with him for the rest of his life.

A bewildering incident was to introduce my mother of a strange Canadian custom. One fall day, she saw Bobbie MacKenzie, who worked for Pete Rousay, coming towards the house with a stone boat load of manure. When he began slapping this stuff around the foundation of the house, she rushed out to see if he had taken leave of his senses. She was informed that this was to help keep the house warm in winter. Even in 1907, energy saving was important. Incidentally, Bobbie was to go overseas with the First Division in 1914.

While the men, including Bobbie MacKenzie and Dan Stephen did the chores, my mother was the cook. Pete Rousay had, in the meantime, married Mary Anne Black, and was on an extended honeymoon in Vancouver.

In the spring of 1908, the family moved to the next section north - SW 8-26-4-2, a place that was to be home from then on. There was a small two room house on the place, recently having been used to store oats. Oats kept falling out of the cracks for some time, but that wasn't as troublesome as some crawly livestock that shared the cracks with the oats. They also proved up a homestead on 35-25-5-2. This was largely meadow and served as summer pasture for the cattle and as a source of hay for winter feed. The 36 acres that my father broke, usually grew a good crop of oats, which were hauled, at threshing time, to Vanstone Siding on the Willowbrook line of the C.N. Here they were shovelled into the car for shipment to Fort William. My father also bought the SW quarter of 17-26-4-2 from the York Farmers Colonization Company. This was mostly wooded with grassy patches here and there.

It took a lot of hard work to cut the bush, dig the roots and do the breaking before it was ready for cropping. Generally, most of the quarter was brought under cultivation. What wasn't done in my father's time, was done in Bill's.

My father tells the story that shortly after moving to section 8, he walked one day to Springside to buy a pair of oxen. He made the purchase, and led the animals home the next day. The day after that, one of them lay down and died.

Bill and Davie enrolled at Orkney School, as did John when he became of age. Bill and Davie completed their formal education there and then set about to help with the farming operations. When they were still quite young and in cutting time, my father fitted an extra seat on the binder. While Bill worked the controls, Davie did his best to keep the oxen going, from his seat.

Meanwhile, I came along (1911) and was immediately sold to Pete Rousay for 25 cents. My brother, John, who was just under six years my senior, wasn't for having a bawling brat on the place. Although he collected, delivery of the sale was never taken.

In 1917, the St. Magnus School District was formed, and since the home farm came within its borders, John transferred there. Classes were held in an empty house at Carsons - later Larges while the new school was being built. He completed his entrance there. Incidentally, the school is named after St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, the market town of the Orkneys.

My father used to enjoy telling the story of a put-down he once experienced. One day he was working in the west field, while across the road on 7, which belonged to Pete Rousay at the time, the hired man, a recent arrival from central Europe, was packing. There came a sudden shower, and my father seeing that the man's packers had become clogged with dirt, crossed the road, and to be helpful, as he thought, suggested that the man could possibly do something else-harrow perhaps. The curt reply was, "Mr. Rosey tell me go harrow, I go harrow. Mr. Rosey tell me go pack, I go pack."

My father was a firm believer in the Co-op movement, and helped organize the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool during its membership drive in 1924. He was councillor of Division One from 1922 to 1928.

Like everyone else, the family experienced the vagaries of farming in Western Canada - fluctuating prices, rust, hail and drought. Perhaps this led to it being facetiously called a "Next year country". However, progress was made - a new home was built in 1920, to replace the little original one, which incidently had had its annual application of winter insulation, that so disturbed my mother that first winter.

After two years at home, JOHN went off to High School in 1921, then to University and Normal School in Saskatoon. He married BERNADINE CARROLL of Salvador in 1928. They had five sons, all of whom are married and have families of their own. KEITH and SHIRLEY; BRUCE and BARBARA live in Ottawa; LYLE in Unionville; LORNE and ELLEN in Indian Head; and LYNN and ELLADEE in Regina. John was principal of a number of schools in Saskatchewan and ended his teaching career teaching English in a Regina High School. He retired in 1970 and died two years later. Bernie continues to reside in Regina. Keith and Lyle are grandparents.

BILL branched out on his own in 1925 - purchasing the east half of 19-26-4-2 from Frank Patterson, later moving to the NW of 17, acquiring the SW quarter on my father's death. In December 1925, he married JESSIE

VERHAAG of Willowbrook and Yorkton. They had five children, all of whom are married and have families. LESLIE and JOYCE in the Orkney District; RONALD and MARGE in Calgary; JEAN and BROCK in Calgary; KENNETH now deceased and MARY, who lives in Nelson; GERALD and YVONNE in Estevan. Both Leslie and Jean are proud grandparents. Bill served for a time as trustee and chairman of the Orkney School Board, as an elder and session member of the Orkney and St. Andrew's United Churches and was a member of the Wheat Pool Committee. After retiring from the farm, he worked for a time with the Yorkton Co-operative Association. He and Jessie took up residence in Yorkton where they remained until Bill's death in 1977. Jessie continued to live in Yorkton until her death in November 1982.

DAVIE took over the home farm - married ERSULA AUSTIN of Paris and Brantford, Ontario in 1929. They had one daughter, RUTH ANN. She and husband DICK LABAN and two children live in Harare, Zimbabwe. Davie served as councillor of Division One for 16 years, was trustee and chairman of the St. Magnus School Board, was a member of the Board of the Yorkton & District Union Hospital, was a member of the York Lake Authority & District Planning Committee. He also served a time as member of the Wheat Pool Committee. Davie died in July 1977. Ersula now makes her home in Yorkton. Ruth Ann and Dick are also grandparents.

As for me, JIM, I too attended St. Magnus School, High School, worked on the farm, attended Regina Normal School, taught at Otthon and Fonehill, worked in war industry, served a stint in the R.C.S., married MARGARET MATHESON of Toronto in 1943, and after the war worked for the Cockshutt Farm Equipment in Brantford. Returning west in 1957, I was employed as a teacher by the Department of Indian Affairs, later as an educational counsellor, and finally as Assistant Superintendent of Education for the Blackfoot/Stony/Sarcee District. During these years, I was able to attend University on a part time basis. On retirement in 1976, we now make our home in Calgary.

After a lengthy illness, my father died in July 1931. My mother died in her 88th year in June, 1961.

The family which numbered five on coming from the Orkneys, now number more than seventy, extending to the fifth generation. The individual families are in a variety of vocations - farming, education, medicine, law, commerce and industry, and in widely scattered locations. However, we do manage to get together from time to time - not all at once, but in groups as can be arranged. Leslie and Joyce who purchased the farm from Bill and Jessie on their retirement, also from Davie and Ersula on theirs, remain in the Orkney District.

OLD CHARLIE

submitted by: James R. Muir

Charlie was born in Montana early in this century, and came to Canada in his youth, presumably with an American homesteader. Not too much is known of his early years in this country, but we do know however, that he was employed by a number of butcher shops, at a time when there were stores that sold only meat, and at a time when each butcher shop had its own abattoir - usually a frame building, on the outskirts of town. We are told that it wasn't uncommon for Charlie to lose patience while the wagon was being loaded, and to take off for home, scattering sides of beef along the road.

You see, Charlie was a horse - not beautiful, permanently skinny, with wild, black, bulging eyes, and wearing a determined expression that revealed that he had an unchangeable mind, especially when it came to doing whatever task he was given. This applied too, to his self-inspired criminal pursuits.

Charlie first came to our notice when he was employed to deliver groceries in Yorkton for the Grain Grower's Store. He would stand quietly in the street while the driver delivered the orders to homes, but once back in the rig, that was an unspoken signal to move on to the next stop. In later years, when Charlie's life style changed, this custom was to cause him no end of discomfort and confusion. Well, the store ran into financial difficulties during the post World War I recession and in 1922 the store went out of business and its assets sold. My father bought Charlie and his harness for \$26.00.

We were farmers, and my father, who never drove a car, would drive Charlie in buggy or cutter to town when we went in on business. As he would be driving down the street to the livery barn, someone, on more than one occasion, from the sidewalk would call out, "Hello Charlie". It seems he had become a well known figure on the streets of Yorkton during his career in the grocery trade.

Charlie was often used when we went visiting, again in buggy or cutter. At the end of a visit and Charlie was hitched up and his passengers seated, there was only one thing to do and that was to move. However, it was customary for a few last words before getting on the road. This, Charlie could not understand or tolerate, for he would jerk ahead, back up, rear up on his hind legs, and be just plain ornery, until he got the signal to go. Then he was quite satisfied to jog along at a snail's pace for home. Looking back now, it was perhaps very inconsiderate to expect him to unlearn the habits of a lifetime.

Some will recall that cutter shafts were offset so that a single horse could run in the sleigh trail. If Charlie thought the trail he wasn't running in was better than the one he was in, he would, without warning, change over. You can imagine the consequences, especially if the snow was deep on either side of the trail.

We sometimes used Charlie to haul manure to the field on a small stoneboat. Everything would go fine until we started throwing off the load - standing on the stoneboat of course. This meant GO, and Charlie would start for home with the reins out of reach where they had been thrown onto the snow. More than once we ended up back at the barn with most of the load still on the stoneboat.

Charlie was also an accomplished break-in artist. It was a constant battle of wits to secure granary doors so he couldn't get in for a feed of oats. In this, he had plenty of encouragement from his mates, who would stand around him while he struggled with the latest door fastening my father had devised to keep him honest. Poor Charlie never did wise up, for no sooner would he meet with success, and get scarcely a mouthful of oats, than he would be chased away by the accessories to his crime, who would then feast until the break in was discovered.

Charlie's advancing years were beginning to tell on him. His worn down teeth and digestive troubles brought an end to a colourful career. It was a sad day at our house when he came to the end of the road in the fall of 1929. We were not sure of his exact age, but we believe it would have been about 27. If there is a horse heaven, I hope he is there, and that a doorless granary is filled with oats.

THE WILLIAM and JESSIE MUIR FAMILY

submitted by: Joyce Muir

Dad and Mom had a family of 5 children. All attended the Orkney School and Church.

LESLIE JOHN, RONALD JAMES, JEAN HAZEL, KENNETH DAVID and GERALD GEORGE.



William & Jessie Muir Family

(L to R): Gerald, Kenneth, Bill & Jessie, Ronald, Leslie.

LESLIE MUIR

submitted by his daughter, Bonnie Gallagher

Once again, Mother was right. My parents have been involved with this project since the time of it's conception. Last weekend, when Mom and Dad were visiting, Mom said, "it's easy to help someone put together their family history, but your own is a different story". I got the job, and indeed, she was right.

LES MUIR AND JOYCE MCKEN were married in June 1951, their first child was born in April of 1953, a daughter BONNIE, followed by a second daughter in March 1955, CAROL and only son, DAVID GRANT LESLIE (GRANT) in November 1963.

I remember with great excitement the day that Grant arrived in this world. My sister and I were sure that Mom's pregnancy would never end, (Mom I'm sure concurred with this), but finally the day arrived when our baby brother arrived. Grant was not a typical baby, he weighed in at 10 pounds, three ounces, and was absolutely the most beautiful baby that Carol and I had ever seen. Grant, though had to decide to arrive the morning of our midterm spelling test, a day that Carol and I will never forget or live down. Spelling did not come easily to us and that day we forgot every rule and failed our test miserably.

The three of us were blessed with superb parents and a strong community. I recall Dad being active on the School Board and it seemed that whenever there was a problem with the school Dad would be there trying to solve the crisis of the day. And he generally did.



**Joyce (McKen) & Les
with grandchildren David & Erin Gallagher**



Grant, Carol & Bonnie

The Yorkton Fairboard was an important part of our lives. I don't know when Dad got involved as a Director, but I don't ever remember seeing him without his "director's ribbon" pinned on his shirt pocket. Dad traded in his Director's ribbon later for that of President and then I think one he's most proud of, is the one for "Honorary Life Member" that he received a few years ago.

That community spirit that runs so strongly through my parents has never waned. A few years ago I came home for holidays and had the opportunity once again to see it in action. It seemed that the Orkney Historical Society had purchased a building from Robert and Eva Dodds. Dad, Barney Fenske and Bill Hepburn were moving this building to it's new home at the stone school and church, via the old Orkney Road. The trip was a difficult one and I am quite sure that on a couple of occasions I heard a few "choice" words and there was a distinct haze of blue smoke from time to time. I felt so lucky that my children and I were able to see that this kind of camaraderie still exists and that there are some things that, like time itself, will never cease.

Mom was always there for us too. It was not until I became a parent did I realize what a terrific Mom, we had. We were all too typical. It seemed that one word from Mom and we did exactly as we pleased, but Dad would just give us the "LOOK" and Carol and I would turn into perfect angels. I vividly remember one night when we moved into Orcadia, Dad was at the farm doing field work and it was getting late. Mom, if she told us once she told us a hundred times to get into bed and go to sleep, but Carol and I had more important things to do in our bedroom. Finally after Mom had used every threat she could possibly think of, she slipped out the front door quietly, stamped her feet on the front step and made sounds

that Dad would make if he were coming home. Carol and I knew we would be in deep trouble if Dad caught us up at that hour, so with a giant leap, I flew to the top bunk, and Carol to the one below, our halo's appeared and we were fast asleep. Mom was so angry with us. All night she had tried to get us to bed, and all it took was "Dad's" step at the front door.

Somewhere along the way to our adulthood, Mom and Dad stopped being parents and became chauffeurs. We were all very active in different groups and organizations. Carol developed a love for horses, a gift from her father, and was an active member of the Silver Spur Gymkana Club. Grant too, was blessed with this talent, those two were poetry in motion the moment they got in the saddle. I too, was in motion the moment I sat in a saddle, and the motion was definitely not poetry. It was then that I learned a valuable lesson in life. God had given us all talents and gifts, mine did not lay in the area of horsemanship.

My Dad is the most patient and understanding person, that I have ever had the good fortune of knowing, but there was a time when I did not appreciate his patience. When I was just about 17 I began working at the Tower Theatre in Yorkton, about four or five miles from our farm. Dad would be working in the field or busy running the farm all day, come in for supper and I would be rushing him in order for him to drive me to Yorkton to get to work. A strange paradox developed, I found that the faster and louder I banged, clanged and cleaned the kitchen, the slower Dad drank his tea. When I slowed down and tidied up more appropriately, the faster Dad drank his tea. I was never late for work and developed a much more patient attitude. Years later this lesson proved itself invaluable when I was blessed with a very special little boy, who was born with Fetal Dialtin Syndrome and needed all the patience that my Dad gave me.

The three of us have grown up, and moved away. Carol has lived and worked in Toronto for the past twelve years and has made it her home, but for Carol particularly, the old adage holds true, "You can take a girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl". Carol holds our community and all those things we did in the Orcadia School deep in her heart. My baby brother, Grant, has gone west and has made Thorsby, Alberta his home, where he works in a tire dealership. I am divorced and live in Saskatoon with my two beautiful children, David and Erin. I work for Cambrian a consulting engineering firm.

Thank you Mom and Dad, and thank you Orkney community for giving us the tools, the strength and the wisdom to be able to go out into the world and carve our own little corner and make our own way.

THE MUIR BOYS

RONALD better known as Ron, attended the Orkney School and Church. After he completed his education he painted with Dan Patterson for a number of years before joining the Army in 1950.

He went overseas to serve his country in the Korean War in the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry.

He returned home in 1953. After his discharge Ron became an ever faithful mailman.

Ron married MARJORIE SHINER in 1960. He and Marjorie made their home in Calgary. Ron took up carpentry and Marjorie continued to nurse.

They have 6 children. GLENN, GILLIAN, IAN, JAMES, SARAH and ROBIN. All live in Calgary except Gillian, who is a Veterinarian and works out of the U of S Veterinary Department

Ron and Marg are now divorced.

JEAN married BROCK BAKER and they live in Calgary. Jean and Brock have two girls, BRENDA and DONNA. Brenda is a teacher and is married to Bob Baker. They have 3 girls, Shari, Lori and Kimberly.

Donna is a nurse and married to Brian Geis. Donna and Brian have four boys, Peter, Dale, Michael and Kyle.

Jean and Brock are now both retired and are having a great time traveling and enjoying the grandchildren.

KENNETH married MARY KRYSKI in 1951. They had 5 children, CLAYTON, LAYNE, LOWELL, KELLY and SHELLY.

They lived in Yorkton where Ken worked with the Highway Department. He transferred to Regina for a short time. Ken was killed in a tragic truck accident at McLean, Sask. in 1964.

Mary and family then moved to Trail, B.C.

GERRY was born on April 2, 1936 and attended school at Orkney until he moved to Yorkton to complete his high school. After attending Teacher's College in Moose Jaw, he taught at Graham School near Saltcoats for two years before moving into Yorkton for two years to teach at Fairview School and Simpson School as vice-principal.

Upon completing his B.Ed. in Saskatoon in 1960 he returned to Yorkton to serve as principal at Victoria School. In 1961 he married YVONNE HALL of Kelvington, after she graduated as a registered nurse from the Yorkton General Hospital.

Gerry completed his M.Ed. degree at the University of Oregon in 1969. Upon his return, he served as principal at Angus Spice School for a few months before assuming the position of assistant superintendent in Yorkton. In 1974 he and his family moved to Estevan where he began work as Director of Education.

Gerry and Yvonne have four children. BRIAN, born in 1963, graduated from the College of Medicine in Saskatoon in 1988. CAMERON, born in 1964, graduated from the College of Law in Saskatoon in 1986. REGAN, born in 1968, is in his third year of university in London, Ontario. KIRSTEN, born in 1975 is attending junior high school in Estevan.



Gerald & Yvonne (Hall) Muir

Back Row (L to R): Regan, Cameron, Gerald
Front: Kriston, Yvonne & Brian.

Some of his fondest memories are of his years in the Orkney District involved with his childhood friends. Who could forget those memorable hockey games played on the roadway or on the slough east of the school using those locally manufactured pucks courtesy of those proud beasts of burden who also provided transportation for most of us.

Gerry vividly recalls riding home bareback from school on a beautiful, wet, spring day loaded with a knapsack full of books and treasures when his horse stumbled momentarily, hurling him ignominiously into the mud and slush. With only his pride injured, he patiently looked about for a large enough rock from which he could remount his steed.

Frozen sandwiches, air conditioned out houses, and great distances to school were to be considered as character builders, not as handicaps. As Gerry recalls, Orkney School helped spawn many fine young people with great character that went on to enjoy considerable success and happiness.

In closing, this is a poem written by Gerry's daughter Kirsten. This poem certainly tells what a young girl feels about her heritage.

MY HERITAGE

I'm moulded by the thistle proud,
A symbol of my way.
The glorious fields of heather,
On the isle of auld Eday.

I'm nurtured by Norwegian kings,
And Vikings strong and bold,
The birch trees, fjords, and fearless sea,
Are part of me I'm told.

I'm tempered by the shamrock green,
Which grows on Emerald Isle.
I'm tickled by the leprechaun,
Which shapes my Irish smile.

I'm chiseled by St. George's Cross.
And scented by the rose.
I'm sturdied by the kings and queens,
And books of English prose.

I'm tinted by the tulip bright,
That hem the Zuider Zee.
The windmills standing straight and strong,
Will e'er be part of me.

- by Kirsten Muir

THE BOB HALLIDAY FAMILY

submitted by: Betty (Halliday) Larson

The Halliday family, JAMES and his wife MARY (nee: Patterson), with their sons, JOSEPH, ROBERT (Bob), THOMAS (Tom), JAMES and PETER and daughters ANNE and KATE, came from Scotland to the Orkney District in 1907. They later moved to the Rokeby District. It was here that Bob met and married MAUD ARTUS of London, England. The couple moved to a farm at Waldron where their daughters ELIZABETH (Betty) and MARY were born.



Bob Halliday



Mary "Maud" (Patterson) Halliday

In the mid-twenties, Bob and Maud moved back to the Orkney District, making their home on the NE quarter of Section 32-26-4 W2nd, near land owned by Bob's father. The S1/2 of Section 32 was also a part of their farm. Their third daughter DOROTHY, was born here.

Bob's mother, Mary, died in 1917, and is buried in the Orkney Church Cemetery. Also buried at Orkney are his father, James, Bob and Maud's infant son and Bob himself, who died in 1936. Mentioned on "Grandma" Halliday's grave marker is Bob's brother James, who died in World War I.

In 1939 Maud Halliday, with her three daughters, moved to Yorkton so that Betty and Mary could continue high school. Maud died in 1968 and is remembered by her daughters as a courageous and resourceful woman who was always willing to help those in need.

Mary and Dorothy pursued careers in Ontario. Betty remained in Yorkton, marrying Patrick Larson in 1958. Their son, Eric and his wife, Judith Radwanski, live in Regina. "Pat" died in 1985.

History records that the nineteen thirties in Saskatchewan were times of drought, poverty and suffering. But the people helped each other and friends and neighbours visited and enjoyed many times of fellowship. The picnics and dances held at the Orkney School stand out among these events as well as the dances in the home of Uncle John (John and Ann Patterson, Bob Halliday's sister and brother-in-law).

The Halliday girls recall many happy occasions: their mother reading to their father at night by lamplight (the girls crept to the top of the stairs to listen); the aroma of bread baking in the oven of the iron stove on Friday afternoons; the excitement at the arrival of Uncle John's threshing gang. They remember trips to town (Yorkton) with their father in the horsedrawn vehicles of the day - the sleigh in winter or the "Bennett buggy" in summer and their mother teaching the "hired man" to read. The family's life was enriched by having with them these workers, newly arrived from Europe. On many Saturday nights the John Pohl family invited the Hallidays to share their hospitality as they listened to the WLS Barn Dance and the hockey broadcasts on the radio.

A special memory for Betty and Mary is their invitation to the wedding, in 1939, of Mr. Henry Chilman, their highly respected, long-time teacher at Orkney School. Mr. Chilman was married to Miss Edith Green at the farm home of Stewart and Frances Dodds. The girls travelled there by themselves by horse and buggy.

School days provide many memories of the Orkney years. Betty's sister Mary shares the following:

One of the highlights of the school year at Orkney School was the Christmas Concert. The concert was held in the stone church across the road from the school.

The children acted in plays, recited poems, some played their musical instruments - violins, mandolin and accordion, others sang solos and then there were the choruses, so that all the children took part in the concert. I remember my sister Betty and I playing a violin duet and Wesley Norman playing his mandolin and singing a cowboy song - "When the Work's All Done This Fall".

When the entertainment was over, a big Christmas tree in the corner was lit up with candles - little wax candles in holders that clipped on to the tips of the branches and were all lighted by someone using a cigarette lighter! Imagine lighting a tree with candles nowadays - the fire department would be down upon us!

Once the tree was lit, Santa Claus came in and handed out the presents from under the tree along with little bags of candy - those colored peppermint strips in the shape of an "S".

During the preparation days of the concert the children had drawn names and made or bought a gift for the person whose name they had drawn. Of all those years of receiving gifts, the only one I remember is one my sister Betty received. It was a box of delicious and beautiful pink and white coconut candy. I think it was called Coconut Ice. One of the Harrison boys, Reggie, Sydney or Herbert, had drawn Betty's name and their mother had made this delicious confection. The inch-square blocks, some pink, some white, were packed in a pale blue box in a checker board design.

These were wonderful concerts and what a lot of work and planning was done by our teacher, Mr. Chilman, for this annual event.

Dorothy Halliday remembers this exciting ride to school:

In the summer and early fall my sisters (Betty and Mary) and I drove to the Orkney School with a horse and buggy. Along the way we picked up our cousin, Colin Patterson.

This particular day, Hallowe'en, we were having a party at the school. Our regular teacher, Mr. Chilman, was away and we had a replacement - Miss Phyllis Wood. She was the first "lady teacher" I had known and she was so pretty and gentle. Miss Wood had asked us to bring a cake, which we did.

Shortly after we had picked up Colin, one of the shafts on the buggy broke. This frightened "Billy" and he galloped off wildly down the road, with the buggy careening from side to side. Mary and Colin fell out, over the dashboard, but somehow Betty held on to me with one hand and grabbed a rein with the other. Eventually Betty got "Billy" to run into an embankment where he was forced to stop.

Fortunately, Mary and Colin were not hurt. Somehow we got word to Uncle John (John Patterson) and he came with the car and took us to school. (The cake survived the ordeal just fine!)

THE ROUSAY FAMILY

ROBERT ROUSAY

submitted by: Velma Rousay

ROBERT Rousay was born in 1868 on the Isle of Eday, Orkney Isles. He came to Orkney District in 1889 and took up homesteading on the N.E. quarter of section 36-25-5 W of 2nd.

In 1897 he married MARY JANE REID from Orkney. Their marriage was blessed by two children, ROBERT, who was killed in action during World War I; and JOHN, who died in infancy. Their mother passed away in 1898.

In 1903, Mr. Rousay married ELIZABETH GARRY.

Mr. Rousay was very interested in public affairs and when the first municipality of Orkney was formed, he became its first Reeve. He held that position for six years. He was also past president of the Yorkton Agricultural Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Rousay continued to live on the land they homesteaded, until their retirement in 1946. At that time they moved into Yorkton. They had five children. Two daughters, MRS. TOMENA HEARD in Saskatoon and VIOLET, who died in infancy. They had three sons, ALEX, who passed away August 22, 1988; PETER, who passed away on January 10, 1980 and ROBERT, who passed away in 1989. There were nine grandchildren.

Excerpt of Robert Rousay's letter in the pamphlet, the Northwest Homesteads, which was to induce settlement of the North West Territories. The letter of December, 1894 is as follows:

"When 21 years of age, I left Eday, one of the Orkney Islands, Scotland, and sailed for Montreal, Canada, in the month of April 1889. I arrived in Manitoba in the beginning of May, but being unsuccessful in finding work in the several places I tried, I determined to go up to York Colony, where a number of people lived whom I knew in the old country. Immediately on arriving in Yorkton I got a situation and received \$10 in hand to take up a homestead. By the month of Jan. I had cleared \$60. When spring came I again hired out and earned \$26 a month till the fall of that year, and for the winter months I earned \$15 a month. With these earnings I bought a team of oxens and 2 cows. By the spring of '91 I put in 8 acres of crop and built a house on my own homestead, and broke 15 acres more of land. In the fall of that year my father, sister and brother came out and all settled on my homestead.

Since that time we have built a sod stable 30 ft. x 48 and another 24 ft. x 24. I have also built a log granary 18ft. x 22 and have increased the size of my house by 20ft.

I had 35 acres of crop in this summer, 10 acres of which were in wheat, 5 acres in barley and the remainder in oats and potatoes. I realized from this 425 bush. of oats, 150 bush. of wheat, 100 bush. of barley and 140 bush. of potatoes. At present we own 40 head of cattle and 1 pony. I have a buckboard, a wagon, a mower and horse rake, a seeder, 2 ploughs, a set of harrows and all the other requisites for carrying on farm work.

By next year I mean to put in at least 50 acres of crop. Crops are not to be depended on exclusively, as they are liable to be damaged by drought or frost. Still for a man who wishes to go in for cattle it is always safe to have in a crop of grain, for if it comes off well you have the grain for market and the straw for your cattle, and if comes off badly you have the straw for feeding purposes, also the damaged grain. Mixed farming is undoubtedly the best, as one branch of our work will succeed when another fails.

The climate here goes to extremes both in winter and in summer. The thermometer registers as high as 110 degrees in summer and as low as 50 degrees below zero in winter, but owing to the dryness of the atmosphere these extremes are not nearly so oppressive as a person living in the old country would be apt to imagine.

The cattle in many cases are not stabled during the entire winter, and it is sometimes a question whether the cattle thus handled are behind in fatness or freshness those that had been more carefully looked after, though as a rule it may safely be said the better your cattle are cared for, the better the results will be."

JOHN ALEXANDER ROUSAY

JOHN ALEXANDER (ALEX) Rousay was born January 10, 1908 at Yorkton, Sask. His father was Robert Rousay from the Isle of Eday, Orkney. He was one of the early settlers of Orkney.

His mother, Elizabeth Garry, one of the early settlers, was born at Tuckersmith, Ontario.

VELMA MARION KENNEDY was born February 1, 1907 at Dundalk, Ontario. Her father was Duncan Kennedy, born at Gore Bay on the Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Her mother was Mary Lawrence, born at Orillia, Ontario.

In 1934, January 18th, Alex and Velma were married and moved into the farm home, where Alex had been living for two years. They operated a dairy farm selling the milk to the Co-op Creamery and to Sid Peet's Palm Dairy. As this was in the municipality of Orkney, they took part in activities there.

When mentioning any contributions made by our generation we must always remember that they become secondary to that of the original settlers. They left us a firm foundation on which to build our future. Their strength of character, endurance and hard work will always be honoured by all the Scottish people who helped settle the Orkney District. There were many changes in the settlement by the time Alex and Velma came into the district. Like the rest of Saskatchewan, we had settlers from many other countries of the world. They were hard working people and added much to the future culture and prosperity of the district. The housewives were very active in the Orkney District. Much of this activity centered around the church and school. The Ladies Aid, as it was then called gathered together to clean up the church while the men of the district looked after the yard and graveyard. The ladies held bazaars and catered to teas and sold lunch at sales held within a reasonable

distance. Alex and Velma served on the church board during the time Essie Johnson and Stuart Dingwill ministered there. The Co-op Guild had its beginnings among the women of Orkney. They worked together during the war years each doing what they could to help the war effort. They sent many parcels overseas, some designated for the Orkney servicemen. During the war, Mrs. Lightbody and Velma acted as liason officers between the people of Orkney and the ration board. People worked together to the best of their ability, no one wanting any great recognition for what they did.

The following is a list of schools where Velma Rousay taught during her career as a teacher.

1. Laird S.D. - was the first school when she was 17yrs. old
- taught for 2 yrs. and then returned for more training
2. Happyland S.D. - near Adanac. Was transferred to Stoney-Coulee
and got a transfer from there to St. Magnus
3. Rosemount - 3 years
4. Willowbrook - 7 years
5. Orkney - 5 years
6. Moncton, N.B. - 4 years

Alex and Velma had four children, BETTY, BOB, DUNCAN and SUSAN.

BETTY MARY ELIZABETH married Edwin Sigurdson of Swan River, Man.

They had one daughter, Susan Creurer of St. Brieux, Sask.

ROBERT IAN married Gloria Robinson of Saskatoon. They had five children, Darrell of Saskatoon; David of Saskatoon; Tracy of Surrey, B.C., Mrs. Allen Fogwill; Shelley, Mrs. Durwin McLellan of Saskatoon; Trevor of Saskatoon.

DUNCAN STEWART married Nicole Paquette of Ottawa. They had three daughters, Paula, Mrs. James Vanbuskirk of Inuvik, N.W.T.; Elaine Rousay of Fredricton, N.B.; Lisa Rousay of Fredricton, N.B.

SUSAN LEE married Sherwin Pohl of Yorkton, Sask. They have one son, Nelson Frederick of Yorkton.

After Velma left Willowbrook School she came to Orkney B School in Orcadia. She taught here for five years. At the end of that time the school was closed. She always felt that if she made any contribution to the district it was in the area of teaching. This was the occupation she had chosen many years before, and she never regretted a moment of her time in the classroom. In this area as all others Velma wishes to let her record in life speak for itself. She will always be grateful for having lived and worked in the Yorkton S.D.

After she left Orkney School she went to New Brunswick and accepted a junior high room in Hillcrest School at Moncton, N.B. She remained there for 4 years and returned to Yorkton, where for a while she continued teaching Adult Education.

Velma is retired and lives in Queen Elizabeth Court, still enjoying her grandchildren, family and social functions.

RICHARD and JANE ROUSAY FAMILY

RICHARD and JANE JAMINA Rousay of Cooper Hat, Eday, Orkney, Scotland came to Canada and the Orkney District in 1908. They were accompanied by their family of three sons and a daughter, JAMES, PETER M., JOHN RICHARD and ISABELLA (BELLA). Another daughter died on Eday. The family farmed about four miles straight south of Orcadia, Sask.

ISABELLA married James Harcus. She made her home Victoria, B.C.

All the family received their education at Southend School, Eday. Their farm wasn't far from the Robert Reid farm, Johnny told this writer that when he looked out his door he could see the Reid house. The three Rousay brothers were known as the "Singing Rousay's". This community was fortunate to have this talent for the church and social functions. Many dances are fondly remembered when the Rousay brothers provided the entertainment for the evening and after a midnight lunch, into the "sma wee" hours of the morning. Their violin playing and beautiful harmony was thoroughly enjoyed and it was remarked that with their talent, they could have had very successful musical careers.

JAMES (CHIMMIE) was born October 9, 1877 at Cooper Hat, Eday. He took an active part in the social and church life of the Orkney community. Gifted musically, he served as choir leader in the Orkney Church. He made farming his lifelong occupation. He never married. James passed away November 2, 1961 and is buried in the Orkney Cemetery beside his parents. His father passed away September 21, 1921 and mother on February 21, 1926.

PETER M. was born on October 20, 1885 at Cooper Hat, Eday. He received his education at Southend School and then for a number of years taught school. He later left the teaching profession and learned the tailoring trade in the shop of Peter Shearer of Kirkwall, Orkney.

He took an active part in church work and was a musician of no mean ability having a first class certificate in reading and singing music at sight. While at Kirkwall, he had been a member of the Patterson United Church choir, under the leadership of Malcom Heddle, Surveyor of the County of Orkney, a noted singer and choir conductor.

Peter and James played for dances and Johnny would call the square dances. It has been said that at one of these dances, Peter said to James just before they began a musical piece, "Give me a not' Chimmie". "Gay to heel and find your ayn not", replied James.

Peter passed away on September 25, 1940 and is buried in the Orkney Cemetery. He never married.

JOHN RICHARD (JOHNNY) was born February 4, 1888, also at Cooper Hat, Eday. He farmed with his father in the Orkney District, purchasing the family farm in 1913.

He enjoyed singing along with his brothers, Peter and James in the Orkney Church and at dances and house parties. After Peter passed away James would play at functions accompanied by Mrs. Alex Rousay (Velma), while Johnny was the floor manager.

In December 1935, Johnny married ROSE CHRISTINA WISEMAN, daughter of William Wiseman and Julia Balint. Their union was blessed with a son, Richard William.

Rose and Johnny were active in the Orkney United Church and the Orkney community. Rose was a member of the Orkney United Church Women.

Upon their retirement from farming, they moved to Yorkton.

Rose passed away September 10, 1972 and Johnny, September 11, 1976. Both are buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

PETER ROUSAY

PETER Rousay came from Eday, Orkney in 1901 with his father and two sisters to make his home with his brother, Robert, who preceded him 1839. He married MARY ANN BLACK in 1908.

THE THOMAS WOOD FAMILY



Tom & Vera (Bailey) Wood & Family - 1985

(L to R): Nancy, Lynn, Kathy, Brian, Bill, Lois, Vera, Scott & Tom

My father Ernest, who was born in London, England, 1881, immigrated to Canada in 1884, with his parents, brothers and sister. They settled on a homestead 4 1/2 miles northwest of Yorkton. In 1908 he married Alice Benwell of Yorkton. They settled on the farmstead 10-27-5-2 in the Grunert District. They attended the Orkney Church and mother was a member of the Orkney Ladies Aid. They raised a family of seven children.

As an only son, my help was needed on the farm, so after completing grade X at the Grunert School, I remained at home. In 1945 I married VERA BAILEY of Oungre, Saskatchewan.

During the war years of 1939-1945 many changes took place in the methods of farming. Land was cleared by hand and horses and machinery was horsedrawn. Our first tractor was bought in 1947 and in 1949 the first engine-drawn combine. Grain augers were unknown.

1950 brought many changes. My dad passed away and mother moved to town. We moved with our young family into the larger farmhouse.

Through the years mixed farming was a must, with all our children expected to help with the chores of milking, looking after poultry, gardening, etc. In 1953 electricity came to the district. Our first item bought was a refrigerator, which replaced the 'ice house' in which straw and ice slabs were layered and on it were kept the milk, cream, butter, etc. during the summer months. During the 1960-70's we built up a Holstein dairy herd, only now the work was made easier by a milking machine.

Although living in the Grunert District, the Orkney community was a big part of our lives. Vera taught the Orkney School in 1944 and 1945. Our family attended the Orkney Church, Vera belonged to the U.C.W.. We were members of the Orkney Community Club and more recently the "Historical Society". Four of our children attended the Orkney B School in Orcadia.

Lois and Lynne from 1954-1957, and Nancy and Scott after the closure of Grunert School 1967-1969. They have fond memories of their teachers, Mrs. Regina Walters and Mrs. Velma Rousay. On August 30, 1975 our daughter Kathy was married to Warren Crossman of Saskatoon in the Orkney Church. This is believed to have been the only wedding ever to have taken place there.

Our children are: Lois Kirby (R.N.) Regina; Lynne Lee (R.N.) Brandon, Man.; Brian (B.Ed.) Nelson, B.C.; Kathy Crossman (Clerk-Steno III) Battleford; Bill (surveyor) Regina; Nancy Verhelst (Legal Secretary) Richmond, B.C.; and Scott (Geog.) Saskatoon.

As well, the first 5 mentioned are the parents of our 13 grandchildren.

THE POPOWICH FAMILY

HARRY POPOWICH

HARRY was born in 1876 in the Ukraine. He married MARY WOYTAS and they had one child in the Ukraine, Alec. Alec got the measles and died just before sailing to Canada in the early 1900's. With Harry and Mary they brought Grandpa John Popowich (Harry's father). They settled in the Jeroslov District on Section 18-25-4-2. From here they moved to Oreegan's place in the Orkney District and then to a house in Yorkton. Harry worked for the railroad at this time. They then moved to the home quarter where the farm is now, NE 16-26-5-2. Most of their children went to school in Orkney.

Harry died in 1946 and Mary died in 1959. They are buried in the Yorkton Cemetery. Grandpa John and 2 children, Tammy and Johnny, are buried in the Jeroslov Church Cemetery.



The children of Harry & Mary (Woytas) Popowich - ca. 1940
(L to R): Nellie, Mike, Stella, Steve, Rose, Bill, John, Mary, Ann & Harry.

Harry and Mary had 13 children: ALEC (who died in the Ukraine); TAMMY and JOHNNY (who both died of influenza in the early 1900's); BILL (lived in Cleveland, Ohio until he died at age 86); MARY Betiz (lives in Calgary and is 83 years old); ANN Watson (lives in Yorkton); MIKE (lives in Kelvington); NELLIE Tatula (lives in Saskatoon); STEVE; HARRY (lived in the Yorkton area and now is deceased); ROSE Bradshaw (lives in Yorkton); JOHN (lives in Yorkton); STELLA Sabot (lives in Yorkton).

STEVE POPOWICH

STEVE was born on May 15, 1912. He went to the Orkney School and then St. Magnus in Yorkton. Steve married KAY MICHALISHEN from Willowbrook on August 29, 1943. Steve and Kay started farming on Steve's parents home quarter. They moved the buildings from the N 1/2 of the quarter to beside the road, where it is now. Steve died in 1983 at the age of 71. Kay now lives in Yorkton.

They have 4 children: MARLENE Baker (married Dennis Lynn Baker and they live in Broadview. They have 2 children, Carla and Trevor); RON; DENNIS (lives in Yorkton); and TERRY.



Steve & Kay (Michalishen) Popowich Family
Back Row (L to R): Dennis, Marlene, Terry, Ron
Front: Kay & Steve

RON POPOWICH

RON Popowich, the second child of Steve and Kay Popowich, was born on February 13, 1946. I took my public schooling at Fonehill, grades 9 & 10 at the Composite High School and grades 11 & 12 at St. Joseph's High School. After finishing school I went to work for the Dept. of Highways in Yorkton. In 1968 I was transferred with the department to Saskatoon. Here I met EDNA WICK from Outlook, Sask. and we were married on October 21, 1972. In 1974 we transferred back to Yorkton and we lived there until 1976, when we built our home on the farm located one

mile east of Fonehill and 1/2 mile north. In July 1985 our only son CURTIS was born. Edna has been employed with Yorkton Television since we moved to Yorkton and I am still employed with the Dept. of Highways and we have our farm rented out to neighbours.



Ron & Edna (Wick)
with son Curtis

TERRY ROBERT POWOWICH

TERRY, the youngest child of Steve and Kay Popowich, was born on April 6, 1957 in Yorkton. My grade one was taken at Fonehill School with Mary Anderson as my teacher. I can remember going to school either by horseback, horse and cutter or by walking. Grades two to twelve were taken in Yorkton. I graduated from the Regional High School in 1975 and then began farming with my parents. My spare time was spent curling and trapshooting.

We had a mixed farming operation until in 1979 we sold all our cattle and began a seed cleaning plant in our yard. This seed plant started out as a few machines in an old granary and has grown gradually over the years.

I married ANN MARIE KRUSZELNICKI of Glen Bain, Sask. on November 7, 1981. We lived in Yorkton for two years and I commuted to work on the farm. After my dad died in 1983, we moved to the farm where we still reside and farm.

We have two children: Michael Steven, born on April 13, 1985; and Kellsey Alexandra, born on February 25, 1987.



Terry & Ann (Kruszelnicki) Popowich
with children Michael & Kellsey

THE JOYCE FAMILY

ARCHIBALD JOHN Joyce was born in 1886 in Castle Camps, England. Archie as he was known to his friends, had three brothers and two sisters, who chose to remain in England. Archie came to Canada in 1912, settling in the Yorkton area that same year. He found employment with Frank Patterson, who owned land in the Orkney District and worked for Frank until 1915. At that time he joined the Fifth Battalion of the Canadian Army and returned overseas, where he fought in France with the Canadian Army until the war ended in 1918. Upon returning to Canada after the war, Archie once again began working for Frank Patterson.

BARBARA COUTIE GODDARD was born in Irving, Scotland in 1896 and came to Canada in 1912 to join a married sister living in Theodore, Sask. Barbara found employment with families in that area and in 1918 moved to Yorkton and continued to work. She married Archie in 1928.

Archie and Barbara in 1928 purchased a half section of land from Frank Patterson, which to this day is still in the family and is part of the farming operation of their son, Colin.

Archibald John Joyce passed away on February 2, 1970 at the age of 84. Barbara Goddard Joyce remained on the farm up to the time of her passing on January 10, 1975 at the age of 79.

COLIN ARCHIBALD Joyce, son of Archie and Barbara Joyce, was born in 1933. Colin received his education at the Orkney School and Church, which also served as an additional classroom because of heavy enrollment at the time.



Archie & Barbara (Goddard) Joyce
with son Colin.

As one recalls school days, many incidents come to mind, some humorous, and some that could have been very sad. One such incident was recalled by Colin. It involved children who had gone to a circus during summer holidays and had seen an act involving 2 people of equal weight on either side of a board (teeter totter fashion). The idea was for one to jump on the board at his end and flip the other one on the opposite end high enough so that he could do a back flip and land on his feet. The children wanted to try this and to make it more exciting, they decided that the one doing the jumping be much bigger, so when the one on the opposite end

was flipped, he was sent flying much higher and did not land on his feet but instead landed on his head. This was very funny to the children watching but could have been a tragic incident. Fortunately for Bob he survived his flip. Needless to say no one told the teacher.

In 1950 Colin took over the family farm, added to it and enjoyed a mixed farming operation. In 1982 Colin and LOUISE, daughter of Mike and Molly Chernoff of the Mikado District, were married and settled on the farm, living in a house built on the same site on which once stood the first house Archie and Barbara moved into after they were married in 1928.



Colin & Louise (Chernoff) Joyce

THE EMANUEL MILLER FAMILY

EMANUEL Miller was born in Russia in 1890. He immigrated to Canada with his mother, brothers and sisters in 1910. The family settled in Winnipeg. Emanuel ventured to West Ebenezer, Sask. He worked on farms until he felt he was ready to begin his own farming in the Orcadia and Orkney Districts. ROSIE Miller (nee SCHMIDT), Emanuel's wife, was born in Poland. She came to the Ebenezer District in 1901. Emanuel and Rosie were married in 1914 and farmed in the Orcadia District. The Millers raised a family of ten children, all of whom attended the Fonehill School. However, the family attended the Orkney United Church. The family members recall vividly the road travelled to Orkney. Horses and buggy transportation was important to get through the bush trails, around sloughs, and across the open prairies. Fond memories come to mind of the "Orkney Young People's Group". An orchestra was formed as a part of this group and the Miller girls joined in to sing and play instruments. They loved music. Some Sunday School teachers come to mind in Ella Katzberg, the Fritzke girls, and Mrs. Harrison, of course. The old organ in the church and Mrs. Harrison were an essential part of the services.



Emanuel & Rosie (Schmidt) Miller Family

Back Row (L to R): Rod, Ed, John, Bob, Rosie (mother), Emanuel (father)
Front: Dorothy, Bertha, Tillie, Ruth, Martha.

BERTHA was the oldest child of this family. She worked at home, in the house and on the land, to help the family maintain a sense of well being during the hungry 30's. She also assisted in concerts at Fonehill School during Mr. W. Haachi's time. Bertha worked for other farm families. In 1940 she married HARRY POWOWICH, a neighbour of the Miller homestead. A few years later this couple moved to the Rothbury District, near Churchbridge, where farming was their lifestyle. Some years later this family moved to Yorkton. They raised five children.

Harry died in 1978, and Bertha continues to reside in Yorkton.

MARTHA was married to BEN JONAT in 1936. They farmed north of Orcadia, but later moved to Vancouver. Martha had one daughter. They still reside in Vancouver.

AUGUST worked for awhile in Manitoba before returning to the home farm. He passed away in 1940 at an early age of 22 years.

ROBERT, known to everyone as Bob, took his secondary education at Y.C.I. and additional technical training in Calgary. After completing the technical programs, he joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942. He served overseas until 1945, and after being discharged, he started farming in the Rothbury District. In 1946 Bob married ADELAIDE DRESSLER. In 1954 he took employment with the Veteran Lands Act. Later he transferred to the Farm Credit Corporation serving at Spiritwood, Indian Head, Yorkton, North Battleford, Regina, Ottawa and Kelowna. He retired at Kelowna and resides there today. Bob and Adelaide had three children.

RUTH is the next family member. She attended a Bible College in Winnipeg. Later she worked in Saskatoon. She married GORDON ALLEN, who operated a delivery business.

Ruth worked in Manitoba later. She was remarried to JOE CURVELIER. Later they moved to Kamloops and they retired there. They had four children.

JOHN returned to high school after farming for two years. His intention was to join the R.C.M.P., but recruits were not accepted during the war. So he enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R., in an overseas assignment he participated in the Normandy invasion on board the Infantry Landy Craft. Later he returned to Canada to be posted at Esquimalt, B.C. While enroute to Japan on HMCS Unganda, VJ was declared and he was immediately returned to Esquimalt. He was discharged and returned home in 1945. In the spring of 1947 he started farming in the Rokeby District. At a ball game John met JOYCE BRITTON, his wife to be. They were married in 1948. They operated a large dairy farm until 1979 when retirement was forced upon him due to a back injury that resulted from being attacked by the farm bull. In 1985 John and his wife moved to Yorkton. They stay busy with involvement in community affairs and the Canadian Legion. Recently, John was named Yorkton's Citizen of the Year, an award given for community services.

ED Miller farmed until 1954. He married ESTHER RILLING in 1946. Because of his wife's health difficulties, Ed moved to Windsor, Ontario where he was employed at a dairy plant. They have four children.

TILLIE was first employed at Fort San. While working here, she married CHAS HOWE. Later Tillie worked for Indian Affairs and was transferred to the Yorkton Branch. At the present time, she works for Neill's Jewellery in Yorkton. Her husband passed away in 1987. They have three children. Tillie enjoys music very much. She continues to perform on the piano in church concerts and choir support.

ROD started farming in 1949 while he lived with John and Joyce for a while. In 1951 he moved out on his own and shortly afterward moved to Meadow Lake. Here he operated Spruce Motors. He moved again, this time to Uranium City to work at Gunnar Mines. From there he moved to Terrace, B.C. to work as a mechanic of heavy equipment. After moving to Campbell River for a short while, he now resides at Abbotsford. Rod married JONE TOPP in 1971 at Terrace, B.C. They have no children. Rod enjoys restoring old, water cooled engines and being involved in community affairs.

DOROTHY graduated from Y.C.I. and in 1952 married LAWRENCE OLSON. He was a grain buyer at Willowbrook. Later he was transferred to Edgerton, Alta., and after some time to Surrey, B.C. They now operate a Janitorial Service. Dorothy and Lawrence have four children.

A number of activities and events that occurred during those memorable times are important to us. Sunday was ball time at the Miller farm. The diamond was in a pasture just west of the barn. Many young people would meet here to visit and play ball. In winter a toboggan slide was built at the Popowich farm. A number of years later the ball games changed location. The Charlie McKen farm became the ball field. Sometimes on the way home from Sunday School, the Albert Knoll farm provided the sports programs. Mr. Knoll was very sports minded and participated in the ball games. He was also a fine soccer player. The Knoll boys were also very good ball players. Cliff was a top-notch pitcher. John caught many fast balls in those days. Some of the other players were Geo Fritzke, Tom Wood, Frank McVey, Herman Knoll, Winston Knoll and Ed Miller. Not too many games were lost.

Hockey was played on sloughs and on Simpson Lake. Orcadia ended up with a rink a few years later.

Picnics were held at Orcadia and Orkney. Races and games gave the necessary funds for ice cream.

Some winters a rink for hockey was not made on a nearby farm. We then travelled to the Elliot farm, shovelled the snow off the ice on the creek, and played hockey for a couple of hours. We then hurried home to do the necessary chores.

After the war years, a fine ball team was again put together. Reaman, Anenome, St. Magnus, Springside, and other districts became fun competition. Often times, after special games or tournaments, we ended up at the Billie Muir farm. What fine friends and neighbours we had to share this growing up period!

One of the severest winters we will ever recall was that of 1946-1947. There was so much snow the piles often covered the telephone poles and the lines. In Orcadia a snowbank had drifted in that covered the top of Lewchuk's store. Another snowbank, blocked the school house door. August Gabert shovelled some of the snow away so that the children could get out. The well and the pump were completely covered and a tunnel was made so that water was available. That same winter P.J. Lewchuk rented a team of horses from John, a closed cutter from August Gabert, and travelled around Yorkton selling household products.

Another incident that happened was, while John was rod-weeding on summer fallow, the rod broke. He tied the horses to the fence, picked up the rod, and headed towards Orcadia. He was hoping to get the rod welded. The distance to travel was two miles. After a long, tedious, and tiring walk, John's father came along to provide some assistance. His father was on his way to Orcadia to deliver a can of cream for shipment. Everything turned out fine.

Many memories bring us close feelings of neighbours and friends in this community.

THE WILSON FAMILY

HELEN WILSON (SEATTER) was born on November 12, 1892 in Westray, Orkney, Scotland. Her parents names were WILLIAM and ELLEN SEATTER. HARRY WILSON was born on February 7, 1885 in Leicester, England. His parents names were ANNIE and THOMAS WILSON. Helen and her parents and brothers and sisters came out to Canada and farmed in the Orkney District for awhile then they moved back to Scotland. When Helen reached the age of nineteen she came back to the Orkney District, and worked as a domestic in farm homes. Harry came out to Canada for health reasons and he worked on farms in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Harry and Helen were united in marriage on April 2, 1913. They had eleven children namely: HELEN, GEORGE SEATTER, ALFRED, ANNIE MARY, ALICE MILDRED, EVA MARGARET, WILLIAM THOMAS, ROBERT JAMES, JOHN HENRY, FRANCIS CHARLES, and DOROTHY MAY.

Harry and Helen started their married life on a farm about one and a half miles north of the Orkney School. They gave up farming and moved into Orcadia, Saskatchewan in 1919, where Harry was a grain buyer for the N. Bawl Grain Company for twenty years, when the elevator closed down.

Most of us were educated at the Orkney School and if we required further education we went into Yorkton to the Yorkton Collegiate Institute.

We had a lot of good times when we were growing up. There were no dance halls in those days so we held dances in our homes or in the loft of barns. All of our neighbours and even any farmers who lived close, turned up to dance. Whoever hosted the dance would make sandwiches, cakes

and coffee, to have at midnight and then we would continue to dance until about 3 or 4 A.M. and we would go home by team and cutter or sleigh box, depending on how many came from each family.

We often had skating parties in Orcadia or Simpson Lake just south of the railroad tracks in Orcadia. Even the farm kids would drive into Orcadia to skate. We all congregated at the Wilson home and Mum Wilson always served applie pie and good whipped cream from the farm and a hot cup of coffee to warm us up.

I remember our family was quarantined for fourteen days when Helen had Diphtheria and the health officer put a poster on our door. When the fourteen days had come to an end the health officer came out and told us we were not quarantined any longer, so George and Alf went out and tore the poster off the door and threw it away up in the air and ran all over the place. They were so happy to be able to go out and play with other children again.



Harry & Helen (Seatter) Wilson

HELEN left Orcadia in April of 1936 to go in training at the Winnipeg General Hospital towards a Nursing Career and graduated in May of 1939. Helen continued to work at the W.G.H. as a registered nurse until 1942. She left Winnipeg and went down east to Barrie, Ontario, where she married JOHN H. JONES on September 10, 1942 in Thornbury, Ontario. They were married by a Presbyterian Minister, who was also a Padre out at Camp Borden where John was stationed. He was related to John. Helen and John had two sons, RICHARD and DAVID.

GEORGE worked out on farms in the Orkney District. George and EDITH STAINGER were married on October 25, 1939. They lived in Orcadia for a few years then they moved to Barvis, Saskatchewan, where George was a grain buyer. In 1944, George joined the Army and was sent overseas and in 1945 was killed in action. He left behind his wife and one son, DENNIS.



The Wilson Children

*Back Row (L to R): George, Helen, Mary, Alf (Biff)
Middle: Alice, Eva, Bill, Bob
Front: John, Frank, Dorothy.*

ALFRED worked on farms also around Orcadia and he also joined the Army when war broke out and he was sent overseas and was wounded over there. He married GWEN CULL, from Birmingham, England on September 8, 1945. They came back together and lived in Yorkton. They had two sons, BILLY and GEORGE.

MARY worked at different jobs to earn money to help Mum and Dad with the expenses of raising a big family. She married EDWARD STEIN on September 18, 1942 and they had three children, DOUGLAS, ALLAN and NORINNE.

ALICE took a hairdressing course in Winnipeg. Helen paid for her course and when she graduated from there she came back to Yorkton and did hairdressing here. She married CLARE HICKS on June 23, 1943. They lived in Bredenbury and had two children, MELVIN and RENA.

EVA worked in grocery stores for several years. She married EVERET WILKINS on July 4, 1945 and the had one son, GLENN.

BILL joined the Air Force when World War II broke out. He went overseas and never returned, he was killed in action.

BOB worked at different jobs in Yorkton. He married DENISE HUME on December 20, 1947. They lived in Yorkton for a few years then moved out of Quesnet, B.C. and then to Sparwood, B.C. They had four children, BONNIE, JIM, DONALD, and LYNNE.

JOHN worked at different jobs in Yorkton and then started working at Sask. Brewers and he is still there. He married VICTORIA PITTS on July 23, 1949. They have six children, LAVERNE, LARRY, BEVERLY, WAYNE, KAREN and RHONDA.

FRANK worked at different jobs in Yorkton. He married GERALDINE LAING from Theodore on August 30, 1949. Shortly after they were married they went down east to Sudbury, Ontario, where Frank works in a mine near Lively, Ontario. They had two children, LINDA and LOUISE.

DOROTHY got married at a young age to MURRAY GOULDEM in 1945 and they had four children, KENNETH, DONNA, SHARON and MARGARET. She and Murray were divorced a few years ago and then Dorothy married FRANK TRACEY. They live in Faremost, Alta.

In 1941, Harry and Helen and family moved to Winnipeg but only stayed for one year. Harry worked at the Vulcan Iron Works there. Late in the fall of 1942 they moved back to Yorkton, Sask. Harry was a grain buyer at Mehan, Sask. for the Pool elevator from then until his retirement in 1947. They bought a home at 27 Gladstone Avenue, South in Yorkton. They lived there until Harry passed away in April of 1971. Helen sold the house and then lived with Mary and family for a few years, then with Alice and then with Helen. She went into the Nursing Home in 1980 and she had passed away in June of 1981.

I remember one year that a camp meeting of all the school children was held up at Devil's Lake. It was a Sunday School Camp meeting by the Orkney Church. Mr. Bill Muir and our mother were camp Mother's and I remember Mum saying what a wonderful time they had up there.

THE DRAPER FAMILY

FRANK C. DRAPER SR.

FRANK C. Draper Sr. was born in the state of Michigan on March 7, 1854. He was one of a large family left fatherless by the death of his father at the Battle of Gettysburg. At the age of eleven, he went on his own and began to work his way west through the wilderness that extended from Minnesota to the Rockies. He spent the next twenty-five years of his life panning for gold in the Black Hills of North Dakota and South Dakota. He also drove stagecoach through hostile Indian country, travelled with long trains of immigrants, journeyed by prairie schooner through land that was uninhabited except by hostile Indians and inhospitable country. Eventually, he settled on a ranch about ninety miles northwest of Billings Montana. There, he married CARRIE STIGEN



Frank & Carrie (Stigen) Draper Sr. & Family - ca. 1915
Standing (L to R): Frank Draper Jr., Frank Patterson, Frank Draper Sr.
Seated: Frances (Bradley) Draper, Bessie (Draper) Patterson

of Albert Lee, Minnesota, but after only a few years of marriage, he was left a widower, as his wife became one of the early victims of the New West.

Frank first came to Canada in 1897. He left Montana with a herd of ranch horses and he sold them to farmers in southwest Manitoba, and southeast Saskatchewan as he worked his way North.

Having sold all his ranch stock, he settled in Canada and became a naturalized citizen. He settled in the Yorkton District in 1903, and joined the well-drilling business in the area. He covered much of the area between Buchanan, Kamsack, Theodore and Saltcoats.

In 1915, at the age of 61, he settled in the Sheho District.

He passed away because of a heart attack on December 1, 1928 in Yorkton.

The only family he had was a daughter, MRS. F.S. PATTERSON, and a son, FRANK CHARLES Draper Jr. He also had three grandchildren.

FRANK C. DRAPER JR.



Frank Draper Jr.



Frances (Bradley) Draper
 Pianist, vocalist and tea cup reader.

FRANK C. Draper Jr. was born at Ryegate, Montana, on November 4, 1888.

His mother passed away early in his life, and in 1903, he moved with his father to Elkhorn, Manitoba. In 1904, they moved to the Willowbrook District, where they farmed until 1908. He lived in Yorkton a short time and then attended Brandon College. He returned to Yorkton to article with the law firm of Patrick and Doherty and became a clerk of the court in 1913.

In 1915, he was married to FRANCES BRADLEY, and in 1917 they decided to try to farm in the Orkney District. In 1924, they moved to a farm just west of Yorkton. In 1947 they moved to Yorkton, but Frank helped on the farm until 1964.

For many years he was a Wheat Pool member, serving as a delegate for sixteen years.

He was president of Yorkton Co-op Association for many years.

I recall as a young boy travelling around the country with grandpa Frank, to visit farmers as part of his Wheat Pool delegate's duties.

One amusing incident I recall was having grandpa cut my father's and my hair. It didn't turn out too well, and I remember dad and I wearing touques in 90 degree summer heat for a couple of weeks until it grew back.

Grandpa passed away at the age of 80, leaving his wife, Frances, and two sons, Dan and my father, Eric. At the time he also had seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

ERIC BRADLEY DRAPER

I was born on October 8, 1918 in the house on the farm near Orcadia, section 19.

We lived at this location for six years and then moved to the former Low farm, just west of Yorkton.

I attended public school at Simpson School. We rode horses to and from school, about two miles one way.

I also attended St. Magnus, for grades seven and eight, where you could take two grades in one year.

I recall a couple of teachers at Simpson School: Mrs. Brunsell, and also Dorothy Simpson. Velma Kennedy, later Mrs. Rousay, was principal at St. Magnus. Mr. Crosswaite was principal at Simpson.

I played hockey, football and softball in school and always got a lot of enjoyment from these sports and still like to follow them.

At home, our jobs were typical farm chores. We milked and herded cows, and took care of our horses. We always had some range horses and broncos to break and train. These were purchased from Dick Buckle and George Dulmage, who brought them in from Alberta.

We operated a dairy farm for many years, called Hillview Farm Dairy and delivered milk for many years in Yorkton.

We always raised our own chickens, pigs, etc. We put up large gardens, and cut and hauled many loads of firewood.

We also rented land from Backlund and also Boyd Quarter.

We went out of the dairy business and dad purchased Black Angus Cattle from an auction sale in the Jedburg area and we started raising beef cattle.

We leased a quarter section of land west of Fonehill, full of hay for our cattle.

The first few years we put up hay on shares, with David and Billy Muir. We hauled this hay twelve miles one way, all through the winter months. We usually used two teams, driving one and trailing the other.

When war broke out, I enlisted with the 64th Battery in Yorkton. We trained in Saskatoon and Dundurn and then went to Fort Garry in Winnipeg. From there, we went to Ottawa and Montreal, then to New York, and sailed for England on the Empress of Japan.

We disembarked at Camp Borden in England. After six weeks I was transferred to Fifth Division, 17th Field, Royal Canadian Artillery, Armoured Tank Division. We trained for a month in Northern England. We then mobilized to Italy in convoy.

Some of our ships were sunk in the crossing. We landed at Naples, Italy. We took over all the 8th Army equipment when they came out of Sicily. All this equipment was badly in need of repair, having just come from desert combat.

We first saw action at Ortona on January 13, 1944. We were right behind the First Division Canadian and we took a beating and lost quite a few men. There was always strafing and we spent a great deal of time in ditches and gullies.

After leaving Italy we went through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany itself. What a relief when the war ended.

I volunteered to go as a paratrooper to the Phillipines to fight the Japanese but due to an accident between a train and my parents car I returned home to help on the farm, as it was harvest time.

I helped out for a year on the farm, then I met my wife LORENE MERLE WORDEN from Melville. She was training at the Yorkton Hospital to be a nurse, however we decided to get married and go farming.

We were married October 8, 1946, in Melville. We purchased the former Fred Austin farm through the V.L.A. and spent the next 28 years of our lives there.

We were blessed with five children during our marriage.



Eric & Merle (Worden) Draper Family

Back Row (L to R): Bradley, Marie, Gaile
Front: Glenda, Eric & Merle, Bonnie

BRADLEY MORLEY FRANK (1947), who married Bernadette Prybylski in 1968. They have two children, Rashelle Bernadette born in 1972 and Barton Bradley Frank born in 1975.

LORENE GAILE (1949) who married David Reddekopp from Saskatoon. They have two daughters, Jean Gaile born in 1968 and Bernice Dawn born in 1969. Gaile is a E.C.G. technologist at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Davie works at the University of Saskatchewan.

FRANCIS MARIE (1952) married Garry Hartridge. They have two children Tina Marie born in 1975 and William Eric born 1977. Marie is employed at Boots Drug Store in Kelowna, B.C.

GLENDA CATHERINE born 1957, married Cliff Chutskoff in 1975. They have two daughters Carly Dawn, born in 1979 and Kristina Laureen born in 1982. Glenda is a part-time Ophthalmic Dispenser and Cliff is vice-principal at Central High School in Esterhazy.

BONNIE DARLENE born in 1960, married David Moar in 1983. They have two sons, Tyler David born in 1986 and Chad Eric born in 1988. Bonnie is employed as a Price Maintenance Clerk for K-Mart Store in Yorkton and David works for Inter-City Gas and Propane.

While on the farm we had between 80 and 100 head of cattle, most of the time.

I was a Wheat Pool member all my life, Co-op member, Sec. Treasurer of Fonehill Wheat Pool for many years and Chairman for some years.

Due to illness, we were forced to give up our cattle herds in 1968, but we continued to grain farm. Merle took a job at Yorkton and District Nursing Home, where she remained employed for the next 17 years. This sure resulted in a lot of travelling back and forth to Yorkton.

In 1974 I couldn't continue farming so we sold the farm and moved to Yorkton. I was then employed as an equipment supervisor by Stan Kyba for the next ten years.

I also worked with the commissioners for six years doing security work. Due to ill health I was forced to retire.

We moved to Esterhazy and lived at a Senior Housing Complex, Daisy Hill Manor for three years and have just moved back to Yorkton (1988). We now reside at 330 Circlebrooke Drive.

THE HEBURN FAMILY

WILLIAM and JESSIE HEBURN

They were married in the Kirk, Shapinsay, Orkney Isles, Scotland on February 22, 1911 and sailed for Canada to settle on the homestead Mikado, Sask. They farmed here until 1917 when they moved to S.W. of 27-26-4 in the Yorkton District. The family attended the Orkney Church and Sunday School. The school pony "Belle" went to school five days a week, to town on Saturday and to church and Sunday School on Sunday. The Orkney School was always a favourite spot to attend dances for the young folk.

WILLIAM and JESSIE were blessed with a family of five, JESSIE, ROBERT, MARGARET, WILLIAM AND MARY.

Jessie married STANLEY HANCOCK. Their family included Barbara, Beverley and Douglas and 7 grandchildren.

Robert (Bert) married MARGARET ROUSAY.

Margaret married LLOYD SHERWIN. Their family included Myrna, Margaret, Marlane and Keith, 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

William married DORIS GILBERT. Their family included Stuart, Donald and Jack.

Mary Ann attended Sunday School at Orkney Church in the thirties. She taught school there from August 1945 to July 11, 1946.

On July 11, 1946 she married A.J. (Jack) WILSON. They were blessed with 5 children.

David married Bev Foster. They have one stepson, Leonard Foster and one daughter Sharlene. David is a farmer.



William & Jessie Heburn Family - ca. 1943

with their children Jessie, Robert, Margaret, William and Marcy.

Bruce married Lois Frederickson and they have 3 daughters Carla, Michelle and Jody. Bruce is a graduate engineer working in Dept. of Mineral Resources in Regina.

Sandra married Gerald Konkel and they have 2 sons and 1 daughter Chad, Gavin and Amy. Sandra took a secretarial course and is now a home-maker.

Craig married Pamela Kerpan and they have one son Andrew. Craig works for C.F.Q.C. Radio and T.V. in Saskatoon.

Sherry married John Gillies a R.C.M.P and they are living in Ottawa.

We've been farming on Jack's father's homestead all of our 42 years. We're enjoying semi-retirement and our travelling. We have been to Scotland, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, the Maritimes and Hawaii.

WILLIAM and DORIS HEBURN

WILLIAM and DORIS (GILBERT) an ex-Sgt. in the CWAC as a stenographer in Ottawa for 4 years. They were married in St. Andrew's United Church, Yorkton, by Rev. E.J. Jones on September 5, 1947.

William was employed with the Western Grocers Ltd., Yorkton for 37 years, retired 5 years ago. After his retirement we made a trip to Scotland, where we visited the Orkney Isles, found this a very interesting adventure.

Doris has been secretary of the Orkney Historical Society since June 1981 and Bill has helped with the restoration of both the Orkney Church and School since he retired in 1984. We have found this project interesting and worthwhile and it has been a pleasure to see these buildings restored. We received a Volunteer Recognition Award from Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation in March 1985 for our work in the area of Heritage Conservation, namely the Orkney Church and School.

We were blessed with 3 sons, STUART, DONALD and JACK.

Stuart born 25 July 1948. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in October 1966, trained as a Pilot Instructor and was instructing at Camp Borden, Ontario for 8 months prior to his death in March, 1969. Lieut. Stuart Heburn was only 20, the youngest Pilot Instructor at the time.

Donald born 28 October 1949, graduated from University of Saskatchewan in 1972 with a Degree in Agriculture, Regina. Married Arlene Evans of Findlater, Sask. and they make their home in Regina. Don plays the bagpipes and does butter sculpturing for a hobby. He makes a different sculpture each year for the Western Agribition in Regina. These are sold at the Sale of Champions and the proceeds go to the University of Sask. new Agriculture College, Saskatoon.

Jack was born 12 November 1957. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Advanced Science (Geologist) in 1982. He lives in Cochrane, Alta. and is a consultant on oil wells in both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

THE STOUT FAMILY

JOCK and MARY STOUT

In December of 1919 JOCK Stout left Kirkwall and MARY MAINLAND left Egilsay, Orkney Island to come to Canada to assist with the dairy farm in the Yorkton area owned by Maggie and Pat Stout (Mary's sister and Jock's brother).



Jock & Mary (Mainland) Stout

Jock and Mary were married April 11, 1925 at the home of Willie and Sarah Muir of the Orkney District. They worked for Peter and Mary-Anne Rousay until Peter's death, but continued to rent the farm and raise pigs. In 1963 they bought and moved to the Black farm, which is still owned by the Stout family. Jock continued to keep pigs at the Rousay farm until the seventies. He was a familiar sight in Yorkton, making daily trips to the Co-op Creamery hauling buttermilk first with horses and a variety of trucks over the years, stopping only when a new Co-op Creamery began powdering the buttermilk, ending a contract that lasted over 40 years.

Anyone who dealt with Jock Stout knew him as a truly honest man. As a pig buyer in the area he always insisted on paying a fair price. He never left a debt unpaid, his word was his bond.

Jock loved to dance, and seldom missed a social in the district. They enjoyed company and a visitor never left without partaking in their "Scottish" hospitality.

Jock and Mary raised two sons, PETER born in 1926 and LAWRENCE in 1930. PETER married IVY WALES and raised a family of six children.



Jock & Mary Stout Family - 1944
(L to R): Peter, Lawrence, Mary & Jock



Four Generations of Stouts - 1969
(L to R): Peter, Jack & Jock holding Robert.

JACK married DENISE LARIO, farms the home farm at Yorkton and has three children, ROBERT, JODI and BECKI.

LORFE, married BRIAN YOUNG, is a family therapist in Calgary and has one child, FRASER.

DIANNE, married DOUG NORMAN and is a public health nurse in Yorkton.

PETER, married LORRIE ROUSAY, is a biomedical engineer at Yorkton Union Hospital and has two children, ALYSON and GRAEME.

MARY-ELLEN, married BRIAN HARRISON, attends the University of Calgary and has one child, JOHN CAMERON.

PATTI, married RICK WILK and is a veterinary technician in Saskatoon.

Peter and Ivy live in Yorkton and Peter is shop supervisor at the Department of Highways.

LAWRENCE married BETTY SEABORN and still resides in Yorkton. They are now retired.

Jock and Mary worked hard in their lifetime. There never seemed to be enough hours in the day for Mary to get all she intended done. In her eighties she still had a perfect garden and shortbread or bannock on the cupboard for company. Jock was still playing as keen a game of bridge or cribbage as ever into his eighties. Their grandchildren and great grandchildren were a source of great joy to them.

John William Miller Stout died April 13, 1980 at 85 years.

Mary (Mainland) Stout died December 7, 1984 at 84 years.

THE TYTULA FAMILY

submitted by: Anne Stevenson



Mary (Tytula) Beitz

HARRY and MARY (Popowich) had 4 children, ANNE, PAULINE, WILLIAM and WALTER, also a son JOHN. Harry came over from Poland, a widower with John. John was 12 years old when he came to Canada, he attended Orkney School completing Grade 8 in 4 years. I'd guess they didn't have exams or classes as we have today, also John had some schooling in Poland. He went on to St. Joseph's College in Yorkton for his high school education.

Anne, Pauline, Bill and Walter must have been in some physical fitness program along with all the other Orcadia students, we walked about 5 miles (notice I say miles, not meter, I'm from the Old School) a day on the C.P.R. tracks, 200 days a year, rain, snow, sun and heat, hardly ever missing a day of school. Today we have authorities telling us Canadians are unfit. Not the Orkney kids. When we got to school we played softball, football or basketball during recess and noon hour. We also had Phys. Ed. a couple times a week. I'm getting tired just writing all this down on paper.

Orkney had about the best softball team in the area, winning most of our games. Then we had our School Picnic. We played softball, ran races, had jumping. The good part was the real ice cream, watermelon and coconut in the shell. We waited all year for this event.

Our Friday night dances and whist-drives at the school, we had fun at them. We had coffee made in a boiler on the stove and the ladies made the most delicious sandwiches, some of them made out of bought bread, real homemade cakes with icing, what a treat!

Oh yes, our washrooms were well ventilated and about 200 feet from the school. Summers weren't bad but the winters, as I was saying we were a hardy bunch.

Our teachers were excellent. I think we'll all agree we remember Mr. Chilman the best, because we had him the longest. I remember the first day he came to our school. We were afraid to go into school to see what the new teacher looked like. One of the brave boys went into the school and he came out and said, "This one is tough". After we got to know Mr. Chilman, I think he was put on earth to teach, he cared about every pupil. He was kind, gentle, caring and firm. He had to be, he taught 10 grades, usually about 60 pupils. Could anyone see that being done today?

Our Christmas Concerts. All the talent in the district performed here. Our mothers made pretty costumes and the Orcadia kids usually got to ride to the concert in a sleigh-box. It was usually way below zero. We could take off our long-sleeved underwear and wear our new Christmas dress. Mum always gave us a new haircut for the concert. That was fashion.



The Tytula Kids - 1988

(L to R): Bill, Anne, Walter & Pauline

Where Are We Today?

John worked for the C.P.R. for 42 years, the last 20 years as Roadmaster. He retired in Yorkton and passed away in 1984.

Anne and Pauline both married R.C.M.P. Constables stationed at Yorkton. Ron (retired) and Anne Stevenson have 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and they all reside in Calgary. Les (retired) and Pauline Skinner have 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter and reside in Lethbridge. Bill and Barb live in Trenton. They have 3 daughters and 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. Bill served in the Air Force, now retired, works as a civilian. Walter and Helen live in Calgary. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

Mrs. Beitz (Tytula) also lives in Calgary close to Walter and Anne and is still enjoying every minute of her life. Mary, as she is known at the Confederation Park Senior Centre, takes part in several activities and is still kept busy making coffee for gatherings at the Centre.

WILLIAM TYTULA

I was born in the CPR Section Foreman's house in Orcadia, Sask. October 14, 1929, the son of Harry and Mary Tytula and half brother to John Tytula.

I began school in Orkney in 1935 and continued until grade 7 at which time the family moved from Orcadia to Yorkton.

My earliest but not so fond memories of Orkney School was the fact that it was 3 or 4 miles out of Orcadia, almost half way to Yorkton and that we walked both ways daily, usually following the railway tracks. I distinctly remember the many times when it was bitterly cold and we'd be walking through fresh snow, when Dad and his section men would come by on his "jigger". They seldom, if ever, gave us a ride.

Dad passed away in September, 1948 and I boarded a train to Trenton shortly after his funeral. I had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I had served in the R.C.A.F. from 1948 to 1982, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. I started as a Radar and Radio Technician, but changed several times in my career. I attended the Aeronautical Engineering School at Aylmer, Ontario, graduating in 1958, the University of Alberta, graduating as a Mechanical Engineer in 1960, and Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, graduating with a Master of Science in Human Factors Engineering in 1964.

During one of my previous visits to Orcadia, Jean, your son if I remember rightly, also graduated in Mechanical out of U. of A. Our 1960 class was the first of Mechanical Engineers out of U. of A. and was a small class of only 19 students.

Throughout my years I served in such places as Trenton, Ottawa, Edmonton, Churchill, Germany, Arizona and Indiana in the U.S.A.

At present I am still doing the same work but as a civilian. I am manager of Field Aviation, at the Aerospace Maintenance Development Unit, Trenton, Ontario. While Trenton is basically a transport aircraft base, most of our work is on fighter aircraft such as CF5, T33, Voodoo and CF104's.

As an avid sailor now, I sail often with Royal Air Force friends in England. In 1986 we cruised the North West coast of Scotland, hoping to eventually end up in the Orkney Islands. The trip was in August which by all planning documents was the best choice of times for good weather, however, that part of Scotland is a pretty harsh climate. We had rain every day with only brief moments of sunshine. Gale force winds were a rule rather than the exception, and the seas were always rough. We cruised from Glasgow, through the Crinan Canal and made it as far as Skye and Mallaig before being forced to turn back. People in this part of Scotland live mainly from the sea. If one could develop a taste for mackerel, you would never go hungry. There was seldom a time when it took more than minutes of fishing to fill the locker with fresh fish.

I guess that part of Scotland could be considered an excellent training ground for their people who pioneered our part of Saskatchewan.

FRED PARKER

FREDERICK EDWARD Parker was born on February 25, 1911 at Theodore, Sask. As a young lad he came to live with John Munro Reid. He received his primary education at Orkney.

He loved sports and music. He played hockey with the Norman boys in Orcadia and at home where a skating rink was made in the ravine. His other favorite vocation was making candy.



Fred Parker

For thirty-eight years Fred worked for Logan and Black as a carpenter, eventually becoming the construction foreman. Fred was very talented when it came to working with wood. He made beautiful trays and plates, inlaid in different woods.

Fred was married to HANNAH EVEREST. They had two sons, DONALD and KENNETH. The marriage broke up. He married again, to ELSIE LEVESQUE of Yorkton. He had a stepson DENNIS LEVESQUE.

Fred passed away on April 19, 1985 at his residence in Yorkton, Sask. Funeral services were from St. Andrew's United Church with burial in the Yorkton Memorial Gardens.

THE McVEY FAMILY

FRANCIS and HANNAH McVEY

This history of FRANCIS and HANNAH is as it was remembered by their youngest son, the late ROBERT McVEY. It was submitted by JEAN McKEN (McVEY) daughter of Dave McVey.

The McVey family immigrated from Ayreshire, Scotland in 1903. They came to a rented farm near Hamiota, Manitoba, where they remained for three years. Dad arrived in March, and Mother with two of the four children BOB and NELLIE followed in June. JOHN the eldest remained in Scotland to complete his blacksmith apprenticeship, then came, started his own business in Ontario and remained there. DAVE completed a work term on a farm and then immigrated. Nellie married DONALD MARSHALL, and they and their three children farmed in Manitoba.

The folks with Dave and I bought the McConnell farm north of Theodore. I remember a Clydesdale mare and her colts, with silver manes and tails and white stockings. We showed them at the Yorkton Fair. The night before the show, Dave and I stayed up late polishing the brass and copper harness mountings. The collar tops had fancy tassels and ribbons. Dad loved horses. As a young man he had worked on a farm called "Craigy Mains" the home of famous studs. He bought a purebred shorthorn bull from a breeder in Saltcoats for \$300.00, the first one in the district.



The Francis & Hannah McVey Family

Belle & Frank McVey, Margaret Marshall, Viola & Margaret McVey, Bob & Gladys McVey, Hannah Marshall, Stanley & Jack McVey, John & Margaret McVey, Dave McVey.

We had a Mogul tractor and an Aultman Taylor separator and did custom threshing. The Mogul was used to pull 7 bottom plows, but the extension wheels packed the soil so much that the crop ripened unevenly.

The family raised hogs. We changed from Berkshire to Yorkshire to compete with Denmark for bacon. Berkshires were too fat, as Jimmy Gardiner told a group of farmers at a meeting. Twenty-five cows were milked and Mother banked the cream money. When she had enough she bought a new car, to be used only on special occasions.

A few years later, Dad and Mother decided to give up farming and return to Scotland. Mr. Dulmage, an auctioneer from Yorkton, sold their stock and machinery. Meanwhile Dave had moved to the Halliday farm in the Orkney District. He took his horses, cattle and the threshing outfit. Dave did custom work and graded roads with the big tractor and so worked off his taxes. It was a lucky move for him, because it was there that he first met BELLE McLACHLON.

Within three months the folks returned to Orcadia, when they realized that Saskatchewan was the best place to live. They moved in with Dave, who was batching.

Times were hard, but with good neighbours like the McLachlons, Pattersons, McKens, Reids, and many others, they could take the hard times in their stride.

These old folks believed in lots of work, no relief, (a word used to describe money distributed by various governments to need families), plenty of good nourishing food, cleanliness was next to Godliness, their word was their bond, honesty was the best policy and they always helped a neighbour in distress.

I remember dancing to the music of the Rousay brothers. "I've seen four squares in that old Orkney School - that's sixteen couples!" Life was full.

In March, 1924, the family was saddened by the sudden death of Dad. He got up one morning and lit the fire for breakfast with the same match that he used to light his pipe. "Waste not, want not" was the rule they lived by. He did the chores and came in for breakfast, leaned against the kitchen wall, and with a sigh was gone to his reward. His whole life was spent in trying to make things better for his family. He was buried in the Orkney Cemetery.

Mother was the same thrifty Scotch type and after a few years she bought a cottage on Haultain Avenue in Yorkton. She looked after the Traveller's Aid, which meant that she met all the trains, both C.N. and C.P., rain or shine, winter and summer. Mother wouldn't accept the old age pension, thinking that it was a disgrace to take charity. In later years she spent time with daughter Nellie. She passed away in 1963 at the age of 97. We laid her to rest beside Dad at Orkney. The family are always grateful for those who maintain the cemetery.

I, BOB McVey, married GLADYS TRACEY of Theodore. We farmed south of Orcadia for a time. We left the farm and bought the store and post office in McKim. Gladys was a teacher and during the "no money" years often worked without salary. She felt it was important to teach the children. She was also a beautiful painter. I joined the Air Force. We raised a family of two girls, RUTH and SHIRLEY, and finally retired to Victoria, B.C. Ruth married Bill Isaac, had four children, and lives in Victoria. Shirley married Claire Cowan, had two children and lives in Port Moody, B.C. I always considered it important to visit in the Orkney District. Mrs. Bill Muir and Donald McKen were special friends.

Just before Christmas of 1924, Dave married ANNA BELLE McLACHLON and they continued farming. Dave took part in seed grain competitions. He spent many cold winter evenings near the heater, choosing the best kernels. He won several red ribbons for his effort. As a hobby Belle did beautiful fancy work. She knitted gloves and a scarf for me one winter, "just for best wear".

FRANK McVey (Francis, named for his Grandfather McVey) was Dave and Belle's firstborn. He rested quietly in a cradle made by his "Uncle Bob", from an apple barrel. Next came JEAN and then ELLEN.

Memories by Jean McKen (McVey)

Certainly my first recollections are of life on the farm northeast of Orcadia.

The Halliday girls, Betty, Mary and Dorothy drove past our place with horse and buggy on their way to school at Orkney. We could hear their voices as they chattered and sometimes sang. They seemed like such grown up young ladies, and so merry with their bright scarves blowing in the wind.

Land boundaries determined where you went to school, so we attended Reaman School at first. It was five miles away, and Frank rode a pony

as soon as he was old enough to go that far alone. By the time Ellen and I started we all walked, no small job.

George and Jeannie Patterson lived just west of us. They were kind souls and always had a bag of peppermints, which they shared with us, on the shelf beside the old mantle clock.

John Patterson Sr. was good to Ellen and I. We were much younger than his own family. He would hold us on his knee and tell us lots of things. He used a cane and we were always a little leary of that.

One warm summer Sunday we were invited to Cannon's for supper. The five of us walked. Other visitors there were the Tom Patterson family, Donald McKen, Mrs. Fenske and Barney. Donald McKen offered us a ride home by car. Mrs. Fenske held me on her knee and I remember how nice she smelled. I went to sleep that night dreaming of the day when I could wear powder and perfume.

The Yorkton Fair, school picnics and Christmas concerts were highlights. Mom always did lots of canning and baking for the fair. She had a little wood stove. Dad would sit by to see that things didn't burn while Mom mixed up more cakes and cookies. Lots of items were made early on the morning of the fair. Then we would pack up and drive into Yorkton in the buggy. It was hot, dusty or sometimes rainy, but there was no thought of staying home. In 1938, Mom won the silver tray, presented by the Canadian Bank of Commerce for highest points in the cooking section. She always enjoyed the challenge and the prize money came in handy. She bought a little washing machine one year with the proceeds.

Wild fruit and hazel nuts were plentiful. We always enjoyed the berry picking trips.

The soil on our farm was very sandy. I remember how it would blow in along the bushes and fencelines like snow drifts. One of the neighbours gave Ellen and me an old flour sifter. We played for hours making piles of beautiful sand. At that time we didn't realize how detrimental to farming the erosion was.

In those days, there was very little money but I think we had the really important things. We three kids had a great time together. Ellen and I were near the same age, and were especially close friends. We had the security of togetherness, with Mom and Dad always there. No baby-sitters then!

After a few years we left the farm and moved into Orcadia. What fun, two stores, post office, trains everyday, lots of neighbours, and now only three miles to school. There was a time when 17 children walked down the track to Orkney. The regulars from the village were the Wilson, Stainger and Tytula families.

I remember Mrs. Harrison, having been a music teacher in England, offering to give the girls music lessons. After school we would stop there, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, play a few games and learn a little music. We didn't take the music lessons seriously, but later on we wished we had.

About this time the school became too crowded, so the church was converted to a senior room. Several years later the old manse in Orcadia was acquired by the School Board and Orkney B came into being. How wonderful for the Orcadia students! We could sleep in until 10 to 9 and still get there on time.

The war was in full swing. Lots of the young men were joining up.

Frank enlisted in the Navy when he was 17. He served on a Corvette in a convoy that protected battleships in the South Pacific.

Everyone worked hard for the war effort. There was knitting and sewing to be done. Care parcels were packed for the boys overseas. We bought War Saving Stamps with every spare quarter we had.

On Frank's return, he took up residence in Yorkton, trained in the carpentry trade and later worked as shop foreman for Logan and Black. He married PHYLLIS PRICE and they had two children, LEAH and BARRY. They moved to Regina and lived there until his death in 1976. Leah and Barry are both married and each have three daughters.

In 1947, I married MAURICE MCKEN, the best thing I ever did. Refer to McKen family.



Frank & Phyllis (Price) McVey



Jack & Ellen (McVey) Shaver

Ellen worked in Yorkton for a few years and in 1952 she married JACK SHAVER. Jack worked with the Dept. of Natural Resources. They resided in Regina. They have three daughters, twins CONNIE and CATHY, and LAUREL. In 1976 they moved to Edmonton where Jack became Wildlife Administrator for Western Canada. They have three grandchildren.

Dad, Dave McVey, passed away in 1956. Mom then moved to Yorkton. She worked at the Public Library for twelve years. She passed away in 1976. They are both at rest in the Yorkton City Cemetery.

Several years ago, at a quiet graveside service at the Orkney Cemetery, the ashes of Uncle Bob and Aunt Gladys McVey were buried near the graves of our grandparents, Francis and Hannah McVey. Rev. Don Milne was in attendance. A Communion Table was placed in the Orkney Church in memory of Francis and Hannah by their family.

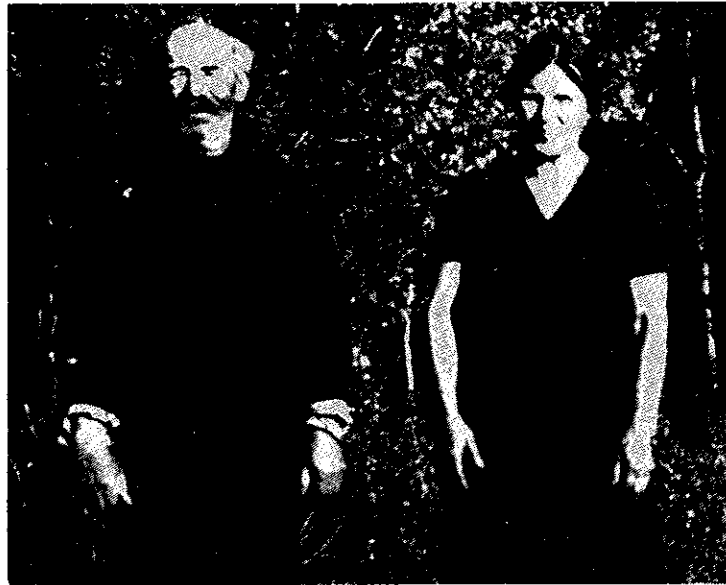
"So sad, so strange, the days that are no more", by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Hopefully, we have gained in wisdom and understanding from the lives of our forefathers. Each leaves a special mark on the building of a community.

THE STEINKE FAMILY

REINHOLD and LYDIA STEINKE

submitted by: Esther Steinke



Reinhold & Lydia (Henschel) Steinke

In the year of 1878 on January sixteenth in Alexandrufka, Russia, REINHOLD Steinke was born to Andreas and Elizabeth Anna Steinke (nee: Scheffler). He grew up with three sisters (Mathilda, Bertha and Pauline) in different villages in Russia, Poland, etc. to places they were sent from time to time.

Reinhold attended school there and took up carpentry and finishing work as a trade and spoke seven different languages.

In 1905 he came to Canada and Winnipeg area where his two older sisters had immigrated and settled a few years prior to his arrival. He worked with his brother-in-law at the slaughter house for a time, then branched out on his own to do carpenter work. In his travels and work he met LYDIA HENSCHEL at Morris, Man.

She was the daughter of Johann and Mathilda Henschel (nee: Mathias) who came to Canada in 1891 with four young children and settled in the Winkler-Morden, Manitoba area. Here they farmed for several years then moved to Morris, Man. and farmed there.

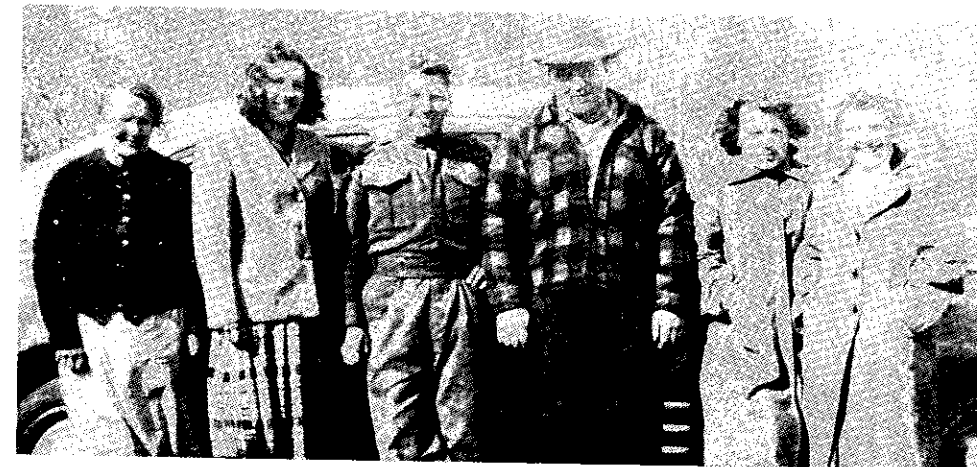
Lydia was born the twenty-eighth of April 1888 in Volhynia, Russia and was the third child in a family of fourteen siblings. She attended school in Manitoba and helped on the family farm until she met Reinhold and joined him in matrimony. To this union seven children were born.

They lived in Winnipeg for a time where their eldest daughter Esther was born in November 1918. Then dad's work took him to Cavalier, North Dakota, USA where a son, Fredrich, was born to them in April 1920. Some months later the family moved back to Morris where Roy(Reinhold) and Ruth were born, June 1921 and December 25th, 1922 respectively.

Reinhold then decided to take on farming plus carpentry and moved to Saskatchewan with the family and settled in the Fonehill and Orkney Districts in 1923. Here three other children were born namely Arthur in August 1924, Elsie in July of 1926, Victoria in 1928 of January.

In 1936 ESTHER went to Manitoba to work at domestic work for a time in Morris, then went to work as a seamstress in Winnipeg for several years and one year at Trans Canada Airways. When the work became slack at the sewing factory she went to work as a Nurses Aide in northern Sask. for three and a half years at the nursing stations at La Ronge, Onion Lake Misyawasis and Pelican Narrows. She was then transferred to Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., where she served several years and then went on to Yorkton, Sask.

FRED remained on the farm with his parents until he was called up for army service in 1942. He took his basic training at Esquimalt, B.C. for six months, then was transferred to Prince Rupert, B.C. West Coast Defensive, 31st Battery, 28 Regiment. After his discharge in April of 1946 at Regina, Sask. he went to the seminary in New York for four years. Then he returned home for a time where he met and married Luella Dies a Registered Nurse from Kindersely, Sask. in July of 1953. They worked at the nursing stations in La Ronge, Sask. for a couple of years then took a pastorate at Avonlea, Sask. in 1956. After a few years his wife became ill and passed away one year later in June of 1961, leaving him with three preschoolers, Margaret, Joyce and Douglas.



The Reinhold & Lydia Steinke Family

(l. to R): Lydia (Mother), Ruth, Art, Adam (Ruth's husband), Elsie, Esther.

In 1937 ROY(REINHOLD) went to work as a dragline operator in Manitoba and the Alaska Highway until he was called into military service in 1943. After three years of army training he was discharged at Regina, Sask. He bought a farm north of Willowbrook and settled. He married Laura Gottschalk from Springside in May of 1946. To this union five children were born, Joan, Larry, Judith, Gerald and Carol.

RUTH married Adam Friesen of the Willowbrook area in December 1942 at Melville, Sask. They farmed north of Willowbrook for several years then went to Winnipeg to work for some time, then moved to Oliver, B.C. where she has resided since. She was widowed in February 1971.

ARTHUR remained on the family farm until he was married to Rose Voriak of Saltcoats, Sask. He enjoyed curling and broomball as a sport. They had six children, Ethel, Bonnie, Mabel, Allen and twin girls, Rhonda and Wanda.

ELSIE went to work at a nurses residence in Winnipeg, Man. in 1946 or 1947 and then went to work for T.C.A. in the flight kitchen for a time. She married John Griffin at Yorkton, Sask. in 1950 of November. Two children were born to this union, Charles and Glen.

VICTORIA ELLA, born in January of 1928, died at one month of age.

Reflections of the Times

submitted by: Fred Steinke

North Americans got the shock of the century after the 1929 stock market crash. The aftershocks filtered down into every strata of society. Falling wages and prices of goods, business slowdowns brought living standards down to the bare basics of survival. Even weather patterns changed, ending what was called "The Roaring Twenties" and ushering in "The Great Depression" of the thirties. That year dad sold his last two houses in Winnipeg and bought a farm in the Orkney District. By 1935 a sudden foreclosure turned the property over to new owners.

The intervening years changed lifestyles from independent to depending on the neighbours help in time of need. People began pulling together for the good of all. In bigger centres turmoil and strife frequently brought even greater hardships. Communications were slow then, so the young never really knew the anxieties of their parents. To us everything seemed so normal as we grew up with the conditions. Country kids had a carefree attitude even in the midst of want that today's youth desperately need. A real life story tells with far greater impact the contrasts of the two generations.

In my mind I still see the galvanized pail of snow water sitting on the pot-bellied stove near the back of the one room school. The water did several jobs. First, supplying moisture in the air which the stovepipes, running nearly the full length of the school absorbed. But they also helped heat the place. Secondly, the water was used for kids to wash their hands before dinner. Lastly, the bigger boys salvaged it to sprinkle on a snowpacked strip running two thirds along the east side of the school, forming a slide.

One day after school some of the boys were taking a few last slides before going home. Bill, a happy-go-lucky sort was among them. We called him "King Billy" nicknamed after William the Conqueror. He slid across the slab several times, outdistancing his friend. Turning to his friend he exclaimed, "Du kannst nicht schleedern wie ich!" meaning, "You can't slide as far as I can!". Then raising his foot and tilting the sole up he brushed off the snow, exposing a hole in his shoe, the sock and the red skin of his foot. "Oooo!" exclaimed his friend. Bill grinned it off as transient trivia, like a missing button on a coat. The fun of enjoying life seemed uppermost in his mind as the two left the school grounds.

People Helping People

Tragedies often bring little rainbows of virtue into the human family, opening opportunities to show empathy for the less fortunate. Like Noah's Flood caused universal chaos and agony upon creation. Archaeologists discover again and again in caverns of the earth a great variety of bone species, indicating that, though enemies under normal conditions, calamity united them in a common goal of survival. So togetherness during the depression years people developed a common bond. Never was the axiom, "United we stand, divided we fall" more fitting. I recall constant reciprocal exchanges of labour, horses, implements, binder canvasses and even kitchenware during threshing time.

One winter the Red Cross sent a fifty dollar clothing voucher to needy families. The Salvation Army mailed out a twenty-five dollar credit slip for a food hamper. The clothing dossier stands out more

prominent in my mind because of the human touch involved. Several families, trying to get the most from each dollar agreed to order enough woven yarn for a couple pair of mittens and socks for each family member. One Harry Wilson, agent for Northern Bawlf Grain Co., purchased a knitting machine, not as a private business venture, but rather to produce the mitts and socks without charge. Such tales can be repeated over and over in every community. There was however, a brighter side of the Depression picture, as the kids of the times saw it.

Reminiscing of Noon Hour Capers

Peer pressures never really became a problem. Students accepted each other regardless of dress, looks or other advantages. I cannot recall anyone demeaning another for what their dinner pail contained. But it was common to watch the trading of food items among the little huddles of children scattered around the schoolyard in the summer. Others shared lunches with the less fortunate.

Some of the older boys staked out their eating area under a clump of sparsely scattered trees along the tattered east fence of the schoolyard, midway between the school and the old barn. The shady haven soon turned into a favourite rendezvous for birds, chipmunks, squirrels and striped gophers. After all the food trading and giving away was over, whatever remained uneaten was unloaded for the little scavengers.

Two boys seldom missed eating at the lively retreat. They were never seen opening their "Shamrock Lard" dinner pails displaying what was inside, nor did they offer sandwiches in trades or give away. It was for good reason they held them like one playing a mouth organ, when eating. Often their lunch consisted of four slices of homemade bread lightly dipped in milk or cream and sprinkled with sugar. In the heat of summer they turned soggy and sometimes soured. The boys were still nibbling after the others left. The scurrying little animals were merrily enjoying their sumptuous banquet. The feast ended abruptly when the boys made a dash for the cheese, peanut butter, jam sandwiches and other goodies. For the boys it was a game of "survival of the fittest" and for the little moochers a revolting intrusion. On reflection, I suppose everybody has a bad day now and again.

A "Free Weight" Flim Flam

Many kinds of inventiveness and scams prevail in a hardtimes society, often rubbing off early on the young siblings. A bit of lunch hour buffoonery comes to mind, concocted by a "think tank" group eating dinner behind the barn. The clownery is notable more for its cleverness than practical value.

After lunch some of us were casually kicking the soccer ball around when an excited little emissary came running from the barn with a yarn about getting weighed for free. It used to cost a penny on a street scale in town. I was about to call my partner but the kid cut me off, saying only one can go into the barn at a time. Curious as a mouse dancing around a baited trap, I followed the kid. A half dozen sober faced boys stood around near the middle of the barn. I assumed they had already "weighed" in. One of the bigger boys stepped forward to explain the procedure. "We can't tell how we weigh unless you do as we

tell you". The gleam and what looked like crossbones in his eye aroused my suspicions. I refused to cooperate. So the little recruiter was sent on a mission to find another client. His sales pitch succeeded and soon returned with a good sport.

The chief weighman called the ten year old over to where he stood. "Look up and raise your right foot". His assistant standing behind the kid slipped a loop of twine from a spent oat sheaf on the ground directly below the raised foot. "Ok put your foot down!" The weighmen, one on each side squatted down and directed the candidate to do likewise. "Now put your arms around our necks!" The boys stood up raising the boy in a sitting position, above their shoulders, along with the twine the boy stepped into earlier. Without the boy noticing, the assistant slipped the twine loop over a large spike in the beam above, where a horse collar hung just a moment before. Turning to the boy the chief ordered, "Grab hold of the spike in the beam!". Then adding, "Got a good grip on it?". "Yep!" answered the boy. The weighmen slowly released their support, leaving the kid suspended as the party of spectators broke into tumultuous laughter.

Suddenly the school bell rang and everybody ran to the school. The teacher glanced over the class, then asked, "Where's Willie?". No answer. The weighmen volunteered to make a search. They ran to the barn and took down the good sport, tersely warning him, "No squealing to the teacher, you hear? Tell him you were in the backhouse!" Shortly the three came into the room looking pleased that the lost had been found. Nobody ever asked how much any of the boys weighed and none cared. It was a unique circus performance enjoyed by all but Willie. On reflection, there is a moral to this story. If scholars would put as much ingenuity into their studies as they do dreaming up high jinks, we would have a 95% honor roll on graduation day.

Noble Project Fails

Every summer nature dresses up the world in most beautiful apparel without human hands, but we do have a part in keeping it nice. So the teacher organized a clean up workbee in spring and another before summer holidays. After one of these early summer clean ups, some kids had walked barefoot for a month. Five of the older boys decided the clean up needed to be more comprehensive. They organized a foot washing bee for the barefooted. The steering committee consisted of John Patterson, the washer, Louie Wiseman on controlling the feet of candidates, and Alvin Norman on manipulating the water basin. Other assistants whose names I can't recall were plentiful. Roy, usually called Roland, was about third in line, unbeknown to him. The unperfected strategy was to put the fellow on his back. Then a guy on each side holding his arms and one or two steadying the feet. Next they raised the candidate off the ground and proceeded to wash. Somehow in the process of getting the clean foot out of the basin and the other one into it, Roy got both feet underneath flipping it high in the air. As it spun over and over everyone got deluged with the dirty water, as hilarious spectators laughed. The project was scrubbed as the crew went to dry out in the sun in time for classes.

A Truancy Escapade

The four mile trek to school always seemed too long on cold winter days and too short on the beautiful, lazy mornings of summer. It was a typical summer morning. Esther, Roy, Ruth and I doddled along to school. A mile and a half on we're joined by Zenna, a neighbour girl. There were few watches then, making it difficult to keep track of time. Consequently we got to school late, which meant a grilling in front of the whole class as to why we were late. Other kids used the standard cliché excuses, "I slept in!", "was sick", "had to do chores" and other cover-up lingo.

On the way home we cranked out a plan to avoid the gruelling exercises when ever we were late. The Canadian Pacific Railroad grade was high where the road crossed it. Coming up the incline from the west, the schoolyard was clearly visible through the tops of the trees that lined the road beyond the tracks. If kids played in the yard it indicated we were early and ran the rest of the way. If not we retreated and played hooky. Then as soon as children were spotted going home we also headed home. Of course we had to give account of the missed day but we then could use the standard excuses as alibis.

Time passed quickly on those "off" days. The girls played their own games while the boys fished for minnows that flowed with the stream through a big wooden culvert, halfway between the school and home. Sometimes we all went hunting crow's eggs. Most boys carried a sling shot in their back pocket and a wad of string plus other paraphernalia in the others. At this time the string was used to snare gophers, which netted a cent for every gopher tail from the government. Target practice was also a favourite pastime. There were plenty of targets around, armies of gophers, squirrels, crows, blackbirds, fenceposts and telephone insulators. The neat little hokum hooky scam worked pretty well for a while, neither the teacher nor parents caught on.

Then on Saturday afternoon dad accidentally met Mrs. Lange, the teacher, on a Yorkton street. During the conversation she mentioned our spasmodic absences. Whereupon dad replied defensively, "We send them every day!". She assured him something would be done about the shenanigans. When he got home that evening he confronted us with the truancies. We stood dumbfounded, wondering how he found out. There was no spanking. Just a bit of short schriff, "The teacher wants to talk with all of you Monday!".

In trepidation Monday we were all in school, not "bright" but "early". After the opening preliminaries of singing "O Canada" and repeating "The Lord's Prayer" we all sat down. She called the Roll. Then standing up she turned to the first item on her agenda, calling out five names. Then dramatically reaching down and opening the center drawer of the desk, drew out a piece of well used belting. She reversed the customary "ladies first" protocol sending the boys to the porch first to face the music. We held out our hands in traditional fashion. After a couple of well directed whacks, Roy felt he needed a break and pulled back his hand. She struck her thigh and all fury broke loose as she finished the second half of an unpleasant task.

Then it was the girls turn. There seemed to be a lot of commotion coming from the porch, indicating problems. On our way home that day we asked the girls about it. It seems the teacher wanted

to spare their more tender hands and strapped them across the seat. Apparently she didn't get good cooperation.

In retrospect, the discipline improved our attendance and began a momentum that helped us pass into the next grade that June.

Mind and Character Education

Most youngsters and some teachers view recess recreation as a purely fun and exercise time. Comparing the old and new education systems, the missing link in the modern system is obvious in the classroom and more so on the streets. Character education is equally as important as expanding the mind. On the playground a student observes how others act and react under certain conditions. He discovers why they act that way and why he should or should not follow the person's example.

Despite all our accrued knowledge and know-how, human relationships are a paramount problem in North American schools. Most teachers working under the school system we grew up with, concentrated their efforts on the development of both the mind and character of the student. Everybody benefits when pupils learn growing up facts from a text book and apply them in human experience in school and afterward, as well as at recess time.

The thirty-five to forty pupils from grade one to twelve played certain games together. This meant exercising mutual respect for each other. The teacher was the educator, policeman and administrator of both the intellectual and character education of the student. Also an acting parent while children were at school. Mr. Tripp played the part very well during games all kids participated in. At softball games, though handicapped with a missing eye he played catcher and referee for both teams. Often he delegated the refereeing to an older student.

Children were not permitted to loiter around in school during recess. Teachers knew the value of activity in growing children and therefore were sent out to play. In the cold months of the winter, more vigorous games such as, "Pump, Pump, Pull Away" or all school soccer games gave kids the required exercise and wore off the spunk that usually makes children hyper.

Group games also had educational functions such as developing cooperation traits, leadership abilities, imagination, respect for rules and other persons, and unselfishness. I recall only a few of the games, such as "Three Deep", "London Bridge is Falling Down". Some were interwoven with tunes and lyrics, others contained neither. There were even games with a romantic tinge, "Stand and Face Your Lover", especially designed for mixed groups of girls and boys of various ages. Excellent for enhancement of wholesome boy-girl behavior relationships.

At the time I did not understand this total education system but looking back and reflecting on its various aspects, it all makes so much sense. All the technology, degreed teachers, accredited schools and wonderful school facilities are unable to achieve what the one room school did in character education. Of course more clever minds have been produced but heads full of facts have added little to quality living. This generation is branded as "The Permissive Generation". Old school educators knew that children grow and should be educated in the care of their bodies, their character and their intellects. Sometimes convincing the student to respect others was very difficult.

Christmas Rebellion

At the beginning of a Christmas program rehearsal about eight of teenagers stood in a row on a make-shift stage along the front wall of the classroom. I stood beside an unpopular girl who had an impediment in her speech. Mr. Armour urged us to crowd closer together, so we appear more as a unit than a row of fenceposts. I refused to budge from my position. He turned up his volume and heat slicing up the air with the yardstick. Suddenly the short fuse burned to the end and the yardstick crashed across my mental computer, sending the last foot whirling to the floor and sending me to my desk. A stand-in was called, he too balked. The same treatment was doled out to him, leaving the teacher comically waving the last stubby fifteen or so inches. Lloyd, the substitute, was tolerant with most kids, filled in and the rehearsal went on. Looking back many times through the years I regret not learning a valuable lesson. It seems that what one fails to learn as a youth he will have to learn in "Hard Knock" school of the work world.

Encounter with Destiny

Some of the hardest things for the young to think about are things like serious issues, terminal diseases, tragedies, human destiny and danger. Yet we are bombarded with them every day, by the media, in conversation or in real life.

Most kids on the prairies during the 1930's thought springtime was the happiest time of the year. Barnyard animals kick up their heels, birds are back singing, chirping, cawing, gophers squeak from every knoll and people feel all charged up for the summer.

One Friday after school in early April we decided to take the long road home from school, walking along the eastern shore of Orcadia Lake to the town. Then back south two and a half miles on the country road which later became #10 Highway. Usually the ice along the shore at this time of spring easily supported two or three people. But Esther and Roy ventured beyond the shallows and got carried away daring the cracking ice. Ruth and I begged them to come closer to shore.

Suddenly the laughing stopped. I looked up and Roy had vanished. The ice around him broke in big pieces, its bouyancy brought him back up. Esther grabbed his outreached hand, pulling him to safety. From there on the sombre four stayed close to shore. The sun was nearing the western horizon. Roy's clothes began freezing, his pant legs sounding like stove pipes rubbing together in the frigid air.

When we reached the town we decided to warm up at Jack Stainger's before going on. Mrs. Stainger asked what happened. Someone said he fell in the water but gave few details. She took him to another room and put a fresh suit of George's clothes on him. Then gave each of us a cup of hot coffee and cookies and sent us on the last lap home.

For years afterward I began wondering if there are real guardian angels, whether there is a real God or if He is just a phantom produced by the ancients. On another April day in 1943 I found the answers. He became a reality as I followed the directions He once gave to a nation centuries before.

"Call to me and I will answer you
and reveal to you great and mighty
things which you do not know."

Jeremiah 33:3

THE ALBERT KNOLL FAMILY

The Knoll family lived on a farm approximately three miles southwest of Orkney School. All the children, five boys and one girl, attended this historic school at one time or another. The oldest boy, Herman, and the second oldest, Clifford, started school in 1930. Mr. Wilf Tripp was the teacher at the time. The school opened at the beginning of August each year. No classes were held in January due to the cold winters and the distance the children had to travel. This schedule reduced school attendance for the older members of a family because of the help required during the seeding and harvest periods on the farm. Horses were mainly used to provide the power for farm machinery and to transport people and products when required.

The Orkney School red barn was usually filled with horses used by the children. The hayloft was used for feed storage and sometimes became a hay unloading device for those on their way up the ladder. Many children walked to school every day. The CPR became the upgraded road for the Wilsons, Staingers, Tytulas and others who had no other transportation. A number of other families walked most of the time as well. During seeding and harvesting the horses had to be used on the farm.

Other members of the Knoll family attended Orkney a few years later. Winston, Remona, Earl and Alton (Bayo) were also a part of this fine school and community. Most students attended Orkney to Grade Ten and then proceeded to the Yorkton Collegiate Institute for Grade Eleven and Twelve. After the completion of High School academics, many students went on to university and technical schools. Orkney holds a fine record of excellence for the students who attended there through the years.

The Knolls were enthusiastic participants in sports and community projects. They are proud of Orkney, the education and friendship it offered and the hospitality available from all who were a part of the community.

Where are the members of the Knoll family today? HERMAN has recently retired from many years of work at the Experimental Farm in Agassiz, B.C. He now resides in Abbotsford, B.C. CLIFFORD retired as Director of Education in the City of Yorkton after spending many years in teaching and administration. WINSTON is still working as Director of Finances for the Regina Board of Education. REMONA married Edwin Maier, and they are now retired and living in Penticton, B.C. EARL stayed in agriculture and farms near Kamsack, Sask. ALTON, the youngest member of the family resides in Winnipeg, Man. He works for Case International as Regional Supervisor of Sales. His work has extended for more than thirty years for the corporation.

MRS. ALBERT KNOLL is still alive and well. She resides in Yorkton. Albert Knoll and his family were a part of the Orkney District for many years. Albert served as a trustee on the school board for a number of years. In 1947, the Knolls operated a grocery store in Fonehill. In 1950 they returned to the homestead farm, north of Orcadia. However, Orkney remained as their focus of interest.

It is with pride that we, as a family, relate to Orkney and the many friends associated with this school and community.

THE HARRISON FAMILY

MR. and MRS. F.W. HARRISON

submitted by: Betty (Harrison) Popowich

FREDERICK WHEELER Harrison first arrived in Canada in 1912 to work as a wireless operator on Sable Island, N.S. EDITH MARY FENN followed in 1913 and they were married in Halifax several days after her arrival.

Frederick was born in Halifax in 1915. The doctor said that Edith wouldn't live through her second pregnancy so she returned to England to make arrangements for the care of her infant son. Fred followed soon after and by 1916 was working as a submarine cable operator. REG, SID, HERB and MARJORIE were born in England.



The Harrison Children just before leaving England in 1926

(L to R): Reg, Sid, Fred Jr., Herb and Marjorie (front).

The Harrison's returned to Canada in 1926 under the sponsorship of the Soldier's Settlement Board. Their intention had been to settle in the Niagara area where Fred owned some land. They were advised that the West was the place for a family of healthy boys.

The family arrived in Yorkton in March and completed the trip to the farm with the help of Doc Simpson. The Weidman's were still in residence at the time.

Soon after arrival, diphtheria hit the family. Fred walked to Yorkton. The doctor came out and vaccinated the family, but six weeks later Marjorie was dead at the age of two.

BOB, BETTY and DOUG were born in the Orkney District.

Mr. Harrison was janitor at the school for thirty years and always had a fire going when the children arrived. He was also secretary-treasurer for both the school and church.

Mrs. Harrison played the organ and piano for church and Christmas concerts. She gave piano lessons for anyone who wanted to take them. She also taught Sunday School for many years.

Fred served as lineman for the Beaver Telephone Co. until he was seventy. He rented out his land in the late 1940's.



The Fred & Edith (Fenn) Harrison Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Back Row (L to R): Reg, Sid, Doug, Herb, Michael, Keith, Kenneth, Fred Jr., Bob, Nick Popowich *Centre Row:* Rita (Reg), Shirley (Sid), Roberta holding Rob, Beryl (Herb), Patricia, Martha (Fred), Mary (Bob), Betty (Harrison) Popowich *Front:* Tannis, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Harrison, Tracy, Greg Popowich.

All the children attended Orkney School which was situated on the southeast corner of their land. Fred passed Grade 8 in 1928 at 13 and stayed home to farm. He worked for Archie Joyce for several summers. He joined the Army in 1940 and served for 25 years. He farmed for 20 years at Rimbey, Alta. and is retired there. He married MARTHA STOCKMAN of Medicine Hat. Fred has a step-daughter Phyllis and son Gordon.

Reg finished his Grade 8 in Orkney, helped with the clearing of land, farming, and working out at neighbour's farms. He joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 and served as a wireless operator. He worked for the National Film Board then joined the C.B.C. T.V. Montreal as camera man and later became producer of *Chez Helene*, a French and English program for children, and other T.V. programs. Reg and his wife RITA had one daughter Sandra. They presently reside in Burlington, Ontario.

Upon completion of Grade 8 Sid worked on the farm. In '37 Fred and Sid went to work in bush camps out of Fort William for the winter. Sid stayed, later worked in an airplane factory, and then as heating and refrigeration supervisor at the University of Toronto. He married SHIRLEY MacLEOD and they had one son, Kenneth. They recently retired to White Rock, B.C.

Herb joined the R.C.N. in 1937 as a boy seaman. He served on the Ottawa until it was torpedoed, and then on motor torpedo boats. He received the D.S.M. from King George VI. Herb married BERYL SIMPSON in England. Their three children Michael, Keith, and Patricia all enjoyed visiting their grandparents and listening to stories of the Orkney District. Herb worked for the National Film Board in Montreal, then the C.B.C. T.V. and later moved to Winnipeg as director of programming. Herb passed away in 1986. Beryl resides in Winnipeg.

Bob went to Orkney from Grades 1-9. Then he left for Winnipeg where he worked with electronics until he began his own company, Harrison and Nowell, which was later expanded to Victoria. Bob and MARY have five children, Tracy, Tannis, Trent, Todd and Tyler. The Harrison's reside in Winnipeg.

Betty (Elizabeth) went to Orkney for Grades 1-9 then attended Yorkton Collegiate, returned to Orkney for Grade 11 by correspondence and completed Grade 12 in Yorkton. She attended Moose Jaw Normal School, attained her teaching certificate, then joined the R.C.A.F. in 1950. She then returned to Orkney and taught there in '53, '54, '56, '57. She married NICK POPOWICH and they had three children, Greg, Laurie, and Wendy. Wendy was baptised in the Orkney Church. The Popowich's farmed in the Fonehill area and Betty taught school for many years in Buchanan, Sask. Nick passed away in 1982 and Betty resides in Yorkton.

Doug Harrison attended school in Orkney and the Yorkton Collegiate. He helped his father a great deal on the rural telephone lines. He joined Sask-Tel and worked on the microwave system both in the field, technically, and in the office. Doug and ROBERTA have two sons, Robert and Kevin. Doug and Roberta live in Regina.

Things We Remember

(A Combined Effort of the Harrison's)

We arrived at the log cabin at night and early next morning we went exploring. We found ice and thought it was a "brook". Later we skated there with skates brought from England. They screwed onto the regular boots. Everyone in the family used them.

A lot of the recesses were spent getting into fights. We were teased because we wore short pants and spoke with an English accent.

A group of boys tied the teacher to the flag pole and left. Bob Reid discovered her at about 9:00. A few of the older boys were missing from school next day.

Our first crop was rye. Dad paid \$1.00 a bushel for seed. In the fall it was \$0.70. Dad decided to store it. The pigs broke into the log granary. The cows got into it and two died from over eating it. It was later sold for 30 cents a bushel.

In the fall an Eaton's order was made up. It included rubber boots, felt insoles, work socks, long johns, leather mitts. and denim overalls and jackets. The complete order came to about \$50.

Every Christmas a parcel would arrive from England that included books, sweets, and other small treasures. It was from Aunty May, Mom's sister.

One year we received a box of donated clothes, and a barrel of apples. The welcome gift came from Ailsa Craig in Ontario.

Every year we had a huge garden. One year we even grew peanuts. A lot of time was spent weeding. We traded vegetables to Safeway and other stores in Yorkton for groceries. We also sold cream, eggs, wood, and beef or pork. Later we had a root cellar and Mom canned endless jars of vegetables.

In '31 and '32 there was no rain and little snow. We threshed only 10 bushels of wheat. Mother used to soak it and cook it and we'd have it for breakfast. It was like eating rubber pellets.

We never went hungry but many times we had boiled wheat, potatoes, and lots of milk. Reg and Sid shot or snared hundreds of rabbits and partridges. These were served in a delicious stew with a few vegetables.

In '28 Dad bought a water-cooled, upright gas engine. In the fall and winter Dad and one of the boys would hitch up the horses and haul the engine with a saw attached, to a farmyard. They would work all day

sawing wood. Dad used to sharpen saws for himself and the neighbours at the kitchen table. He would mark it off with a pen and then file away for hours.

We had a homemade windmill and homemade batteries. The batteries were made from beer bottles gathered after a school dance. This was about 1940. When the wind blew we had electric lights.

The school had the only phone for miles and many messages for the community were taken there. One that Betty remembers was for her Mom. Her heart sank but the teacher kindly said, "Don't worry your brothers are all right. One is coming home on leave".

One pastime at school was drowning gophers. The bigger boys carried water and everyone had a stick. Quite often the gopher got away and students suffered from misdirected whacks.

There was a mudhole on the Orkney Road just south of the school. Sometimes cars would get stuck and the older boys would take a team and pull them out. I can remember carrying water to help encourage the trade. Then a load of gravel appeared in the mudhole.

Track and Field were big events in the 40's and 50's. Time was taken out for practice. Betty remembers Garth Blommaert showing an interest in long distance running. Everyday we would take a few minutes to time him when he ran from the school to Feige's gate and back which was a mile. When he went to Saltcoats and competed, he finished away ahead. One year we took Mr. Harrison's goat as a mascot to Springside. Many children had never seen one and they were enthralled.

Bob was always designing some new machine, and for one he needed a roll of paper. He was cutting, pasting, and rolling during class when Mr. Chilman caught him. The teacher pulled and pulled the paper from the desk and Bob thought that he was "in for it". However Mr. Chilman mumbled something about a "budding scientist" and Bob was allowed to finish a machine that sent messages.

In a school that was crowded, had pupils that could only come when there was a break from farm work, or pupils that would rather be working than studying, discipline was sometimes a problem. Mr. Chilman, who was well liked by most students because he played ball and was fair, had the solution. Anyone who misbehaved in the morning was sent to the cloak-room and strapped at dinner. The afternoon ones were strapped after school.

Betty remembers her Dad working on the telephone lines. In summer he used the car and in winter he had a horse-pulled van with a stove in it. However the roads weren't always open and he snowshoed many miles. She remembers him snowshoeing to Otthon or Beaverdale to try and keep the lines working.

Our Christmas concerts were something to remember. One year all the students stayed in the school and dashed across the road, through the window of the church and so behind the curtains onto the stage. It made more room for the audience but it was a chilly run in our crepe paper dresses. One teacher told us that something exciting was going to happen when we were all lined up on the stage for the finale and that we weren't to be afraid. She lit a type of flare which gave off a blinding light. The students thoroughly enjoyed it but the audience was startled. Mr. Harrison used to make stage lights with tin cans as reflectors and six car batteries to provide power.

Betty remembers the cyclone that went behind their barn, north to Humble Ferguson's farm and then reappeared in Kamsack. Mother sent Betty

to see if Humble was all right. The roof was off the house and the yard was a mess, but there was no Humble. Just as Betty had gathered up enough courage to go in the house, she noticed the cows coming home with Humble behind them. He walked up to Betty and asked, "What happened?"

In the late 1920's Reg and Sid would wander for miles hunting and exploring. It was during this time that they found some dynamite caps and proceeded to blow up gopher holes with them. Sid, however, held one in his hand and it cost him a finger and an eye. The two boys walked home and Sid was rushed to the hospital. Sid was fitted with a glass eye. He was about 11 at the time.

There were only a few acres cleared in 1926 and a great deal of time and energy were spent in chopping roots and pulling out trees with the horses.

Reg remembers when the drought broke in 1933. The crops were up but due to die. Then in early June a storm hit. It rained, hailed and stormed for two hours. Then it changed to a two day rain. When it was over the sloughs were full. That year we got 33 bushels per acre of No. 1 hard wheat which sold for 70 cents a bushel. Most of it was used to pay debts but the Eaton's order was a large one with a few luxury items such as leather work boots for \$2.98. That was the only good crop of wheat we ever got but it was a turning point.

Reg adds, "When I remember back --- there were some hard times, sad memories, but mostly I think we were happy. We learned to 'make do' -- to work for what we wanted and to appreciate what we had, and I think I wouldn't have wanted it any different".

When the Harrison's came from England they brought furniture and dishes but most important they brought at least 100 books, including encyclopedias. These were read over and over again along with the Winnipeg Free Press, the Western Producer and the Country Guide. They also belonged to the Wheat Pool Library which sent out books by mail. Dad would walk the three miles to Orcadia along the track and carry home the mail and a few groceries in a pack sack on his back.

In '37 when Doug was born, Mom stayed in Yorkton awaiting his arrival. The arrival of new babies was not discussed in those days so Betty did not know what was happening. She does remember dad mixing up a batch of bread for the family, with his pipe in his mouth. Every once in awhile a few ashes would sift into the dough. She remembers how good the bread tasted. She also remembers Mom walking up the road carrying a bundle. She said, "Guess what I have here", and proudly showed her new son.

The teacherage was moved onto the school grounds in the early 1950's. Up until then the teachers had boarded with various families. The teacherage was brought from the Tom Wood's farm. It had a slant roof, one bedroom and a living room. It was heated by a wood cookstove and an oil space heater. Water was brought in in a cream can, and there was no power or phone. The Orkney Road was a busy thoroughfare and so life in the teacherage was never lonesome.

The Departmental Exams were written at the end of Grade 8 and if you passed them you could leave school, take high school by correspondence or go into Yorkton for high school. The exams came in large brown paper envelopes. They were sealed and were to be opened in front of the class. When Orcadia opened Orkney B the exams still came in one package. One of the older students would be at Orcadia for the opening, jump on a bike and within a few minutes the exams would be delivered to Orkney A students.

Exams were an exciting time in school. The younger children were usually released in the middle of June to make room for the important event. This also gave the teacher more time to prepare and mark exams. The departmentals were two hours long and when they were completed the children took their books outside to study for the next exam. Students were tested on the whole year's work. The juniors received their report cards at the annual picnic and quite often the teacher delivered the high school marks in the holidays. Betty remembers delivering report cards on a motor scooter, which she used for transportation.

The Harrison's got their first car in the 40's. Up until then walking was the most common way of getting around. The horses were saved for unnecessary trips. However, Fred bought a huge bicycle when he was working in Pelly and he used to come home on it sometimes. It was handed down to the younger children and Bob, in particular, made good use of it. He managed to get two old bicycle wheels and he and Bob Ferguson made a cart to be pulled behind the bike. The two of them went fishing or swimming to Cussed Creek or on long trips around the country. They would take turns, one pedalling and one riding in the cart behind. Both Betty and Doug learned to ride on that bicycle.

During the 40's and early 50's the student ministers took the Sunday School classes from his area to summer camp at Gunn's Beach. At first, some of the mothers would cook for the group and later the older children would cook food that had been sent in sealers by the parents. The boys and girls had separate cabins and each cabin took turns cooking. The children took their own cutlery and a mattress and bedding for the floor. The memories of camp will never be forgotten by those attending. Such things as sleep outs, singing around the campfire, getting lost in the dark, plugging the chimney of the girl's cabin, putting sulfur in the boy's cookstove, playing horseshoes and swimming until you were burnt brown and waterlogged. "Tuck" at Joyce Gunn's little store was a most important time. Joyce and her mother joined in the shennanigans and they were always considered to be part of the group.

Many of the students from Orkney went to Farm Boys or Farm Girls Camp held in the fairgrounds. The girls stayed in the Yorkton Collegiate where they slept on the floor. Nellie Moynes and Ann Vandermeulen were their leaders. The boys slept at St. Joe's. Both groups marched to the fairgrounds for breakfast and then went on to a day of questionnaires, studying and practicing skills. The boys learned about cattle and pigs and how to judge them. The girls learned sewing and cooking. Baking powder biscuits were a favorite. The girls brought an article of clothing that they had made and modelled it in front of the grandstand on the last night. The boys entered animals or a homemade farm item and these were also shown on the last night during the parade.

Betty went to Orkney or taught there for 13 and a half years. She remembers the students as being courteous and thoughtful. There was little talking during class time and if you were finished your work you listened to someone else's class. There weren't many library books, but the teacher read to the class after dinner each day. Discussion around the warm stove was usually about farming activities, the current school dance, or the odd show that some of the students might have seen. All students went outside to play whenever they could. We played ball, rugby with a tied-up grain bag, horsey (a rough game, where a big student carried a smaller one on the back. The object of the game was to get the smaller student off the "horses" back), and anti-I-over.

Education was one of the priorities of pioneer families. This is shown by the distance some of the students travelled and the support that school sponsored activities received. The teachers were always respected and welcomed into community life. The children performed well because they knew their parents considered education important. Many students had to leave school when they had completed Grade 8 or less, but this did not mean that they stopped learning. A desire to learn and the necessary skills to do it had been instilled in them by their parents and by their association with the "little stone school".

THE FOLSTER FAMILY

DAVE and ANNE FOLSTER

In 1926, DAVID decided to purchase E 1/2 Sec 21-26-4. He batched for a year and decided that was enough. He went home to Scotland to marry ANN SPENCE, the girl he left behind.

We were married on the 2nd of February, 1927, in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. We honeymooned in Orkney where David's folks were, then went south to spend some time with Ann's folks before sailing on March 19, 1927.

We took up our home with lots of ideas. Then we hit the dry years and it was slow going.



Dave & Ann (Spence) Folster Family

Our life was brightened by the birth of our first son CLIFFORD, on May 23, 1929. Then on December 7, 1932, our only daughter, MOIRA, was born. Clifford was so happy he had a sister. As time went on our second son, ROGER, was born on June 4, 1939. On that day, the King and Queen visited Melville. Their teacher, Mr. H. Chilman, took the school children by train to celebrate the occasion.

On May 22, 1944, TERENCE was born, so Roger had a brother near his age. Our family was complete and farming was still our goal.

Farming was a never ending job and we worked at it together. Times got easier as our family grew up and helped. Clifford helped to build our new farm house. We were tractor farming by now and it was easier to manage.

Clifford and Daryl married on December 13, 1950 and left to make their home in Abbotsford, B.C. Glynn and Moira married on May 5, 1951 and took up residence in Prince Albert.

Then in 1952, sadness hit us a blow in the passing of our Terence at eight years of age from polio. So our family chain was broken on August 15.

We carried on again and Roger decided he wanted to travel, so he joined the Air Force in November 1958. He married Arlene Bergman, down east. So now our family was on their own.

In 1970, David decided we were to go on holiday to Scotland. We met relations and friends after an absence of 43 years.

We sold our farm in 1973 to Mr. and Mrs. Craig Burkell and retired to Yorkton. Our retirement together was short. Dave's health failed and he passed away on January 1, 1977.

Our years on the farm were what we wanted. We will always look back with thanks to our nice neighbours. We enjoyed living among them. They were always there in good times and sad. So I say, "Thank you neighbours".

THE BLOMMAERT FAMILY

ALEX and JOHANNA BLOMMAERT

submitted by: Raymond Blommaert

ALEX Blommaert was born in Belgium on November 23, 1887. JOHANNA ESSER was born on April 17, 1888 at Ede Gelderland, the Netherlands.

They both immigrated to the U.S.A., where they met.

Grandpa (Alex) came to the Yorkton area in 1912, Grandma (Johanna) followed in 1913. They were married in the Dunleath District on June 14, 1913.

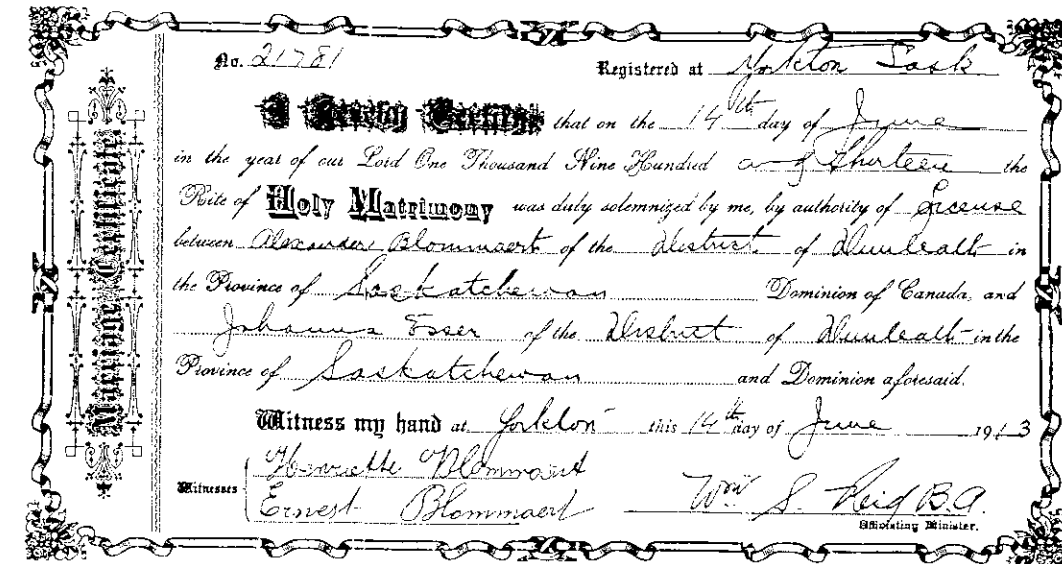
From 1913 to 1920 they farmed Sec. 22-25-2 W2nd, R.M. of Wallace.

From 1920 to 1926 they farmed Sec. 6-26-3 W2nd, the present site of Brown Bros. Implements just east of Yorkton.

In 1920 they started the "White Sand River Dairy", which they kept in operation for 26 years. Milk sold for 7¢ a quart and it took a lot of pull to make a dollar in those days. In 1926 they lost their farm, but continued with the dairy from various farms in the district, which included Sec. 12-26-5 W2nd, R.M. of Orkney and Sec. 31-25-4 W2nd R.M. of Orkney, until they bought Sec. 28-26-4 W2nd in 1943.

Grandpa came to this country with a good knowledge of farming and herdsmanhip. I believe he was the first person in the district to put up silage. The Blommaert family successfully grew tobacco in the Yorkton District, but had to stop because there was no government agency to collect the tax on it. I suppose it was something like making whiskey.

When I was a youngster, it seemed to me that every time I went near Grandpa's farm he was in the barn cleaning and polishing and looking after his cows.



Wedding license of Alex Blommaert & Johanna Esser

They had nine children. FRANK, MARGARETTA, MARY, MARINUS, IRVIN, BERNARD, DAISY, RITA and OSCAR.

Oscar was the youngest and I recall the entire family was devastated when he was killed in a tragic tractor accident in 1960.

The boys all farmed in the R.M. of Orkney.

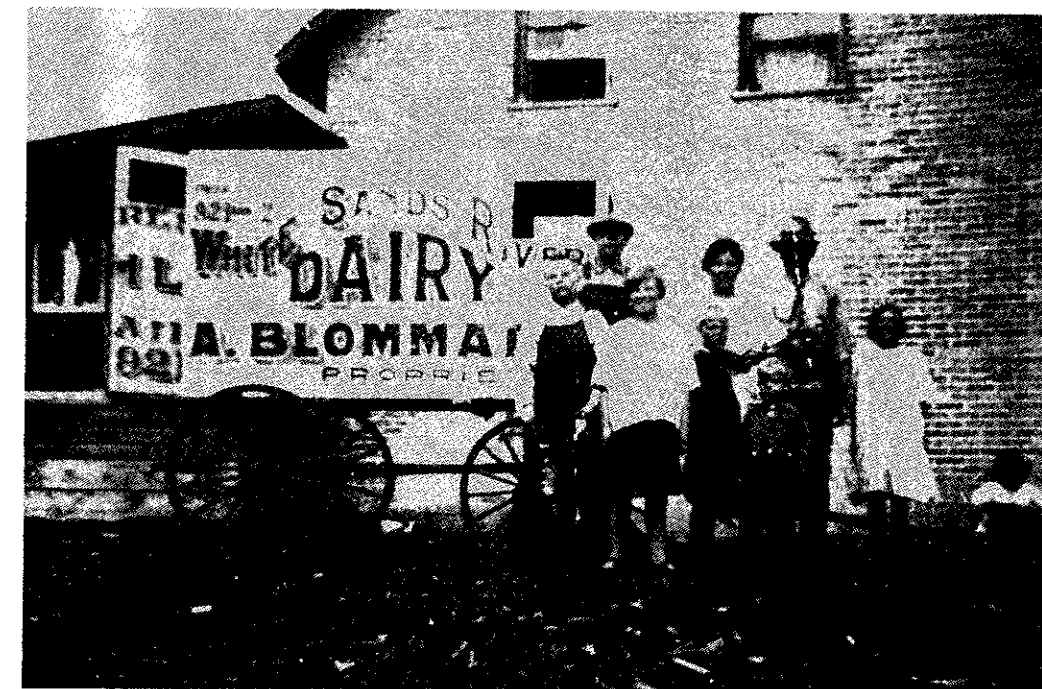
Frank - Sec. 4-27-4 W2nd

Irvin (my father) - Sec. 21-26-4 W2nd

Marinus - Sec. 9-26-4 W2nd

Bernard - Sec. 28-26-4 W2nd

Oscar - Sec. 28-26-4 W2nd



Alex Blommaert & Family with their dairy wagon.

Frank's son, Ronald, still farms in the R.M. of Orkney, Sec. 33-26-4 W2nd. Bernard still farms NE Sec. 28-26-4 W2nd. Irvin still farms Sec. 21-26-4. Irvin's three sons all farm in the R.M. of Orkney. Raymond (me) W1/2 Sec. 19-24-4, Laurie NW Sec. 28-26-4 and Warren Sec. 21-26-4.

My dad, also known as Joe, bought his farm in 1949. It was mostly bushland and it seemed like all our spare time was spent picking roots. We found a lot of Indian artifacts, arrowheads, stone axes, buffalo skulls and even some old Pemmican. Of course now that I'm older I wish I had kept some of these things but they are all gone. The roads were not up to much in those days, so I stayed with my grandparents Mable and Ray Baldwin and went to school in Yorkton at Victoria School for grades 1 and 2. When my younger brother Laurie started school, we both started going to Orkney School, him in grade 1 and myself in grade 3. Warren started later.

We had several teachers over the years, Miss Stricker later Mrs. Breehn, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Dodds and Miss Harrison, later Mrs. Popowich.

Most of the families who lived any distance from the school used horses to get to school with, summer and winter. I sometimes rode bare-back to school on an old horse called Prince. Even though he was well past his 20th year he could still sidestep faster than any other horse I ever rode and many times I got thrown off and had to walk home while that cursed horse would stay just ahead of me. I recall the ink bottles being frozen solid in the winter when we got to school despite Mr. Fred Harrison's efforts to warm the school early in the morning. I don't remember the exact year but it was around 1954-55, when we all rushed out of the school to see the first diesel trains go by on the C.P.R. tracks.

Farming has been a way of life for a good many members of the Blommaert family since my grandparents started it many years ago. It would be interesting to see what my grandfather would have to say if he could see it all today. I'm sure he would be delighted to see the advances we have made in cattle breeding and farm machinery. However you would have to be sure the old boy was sitting down when you told him the price of a new tractor today!



Johanna & Alex Blommaert

The Children

FRANK married ETHEL WOOD. They had four children, Sharon, Carrol, Veryl and Ronald.

SHARON is MRS. DENNIS MANDZUIK and lives in the Yarbo District. They have 3 children, Rhonda, Trent and Glenda. Glenda is married to Lloyd Holmes and have two children, Brittnay and Nathan.

CARROL is MRS. LOU GAGNE. She has two children, Carey Gleason of Yorkton who is married to Dianne Ferleyko and Shelley who is married to Rob Woloschuk of Yorkton. They have a son, Chad.

VERYL is MRS. WALLY BOYCHUK. They live in Regina and have two children Trevor and Karri.

RONALD is married to BRENDA WLADICHUK. They live near Yorkton and have two children, Ryan and Jaime.

MARGARET married HAROLD CURSONS. They have five children, Tom, Doug, Bob, Elaine and Betty Anne.

TOM married SHARON NEIL. They live in Yorkton with their 3 children, Nancy, Dean and Neil.

DOUG married BRENDA HUMPHRIES. They live on the family farm near Fonehill, Sask. They have two children Brent and Tom.

BOB and his wife JAN live near Calgary.

ELAINE is married to KEN HORROCKS. They live in Beausejour, Manitoba. They have three children, Clerl, Kimberly and Greg.

BETTY ANNE lives in Calgary.

MARY married GEORGE JONES and they have two children, Don and Chickie.

DON married MARG WILLIAMS of the Hazel Dell District. They live in Yorkton area with their two children, Graig and Lisa.

CHICKIE married FLOYD DAVIES of the Springside District. They have four children, Karen, Jerry, Debbie and Jim.

Karen is Mrs. Newt Laughlin of Joyceville, Ontario and has three children, Kelly, Michal and Benjiman.

Jerry and wife Susan live in Saskatoon with their two children, Drew and Mitchell.

Debbie is Mrs. Chris Thorkelson and lives in Burlington, Ontario.

Jim and his wife, Anna, live near Winnipeg with their two children Sahra and Ashley.

MARINUS married DOROTHY CHAMBERLAIN. They have three children, Jannette, Donna and Judy.

JAN married ED SOLOSKI and lives in Langenburg, Sask. with their three children, Leanne, Brenda and Kevin.

DONNA married MICHELE GUIMOND and lives in Calgary. They have a son Marc.

JUDY is married to JIM CURRIE. They live south of Kandahar, Sask. She has four children, Brent Stumph, Kathy Hardy and Jamie & John Currie.

IRVIN (my father) married MILLICENT BALDWIN. They have three sons. Raymond, Laurie and Warren.

RAYMOND is married to SHIRLEY THOMPSON of Winnipeg. They have five children and two step-children, Cindy, Alisha, Stacy, Pam, Darcy, Claudia and Tracy.

Cindy is married to Darrel Robertus of Rhein and has two children, Tamarra and Nichole.

Alisha lives in Winnipeg.

Stacy lives in Edmonton.

Pam lives in Dawson Creek, B.C.
Claudia lives in Winnipeg.
Tracy and Darcy are still at home.

LAURIE married SHIRLEY PFEIFER of Yorkton and lives in Orcadia, Sask.
They have two children, Brian and Shawna.

WARREN is still single and lives at home with Dad.

BERNARD married MARGARET HASPER. They have two boys, Dennis and Dave.
DENNIS married LYNN MOSSMAN and they live in Surrey, B.C. They have two children, Kathyne and Christopher.
DAVE married DEBBIE KARMAZNUK and they live in Yorkton.

DAISY married BILL JENZEN and lives in North Vancouver. They have four children, ROBERT, BARBRA, DWAYNE and DWIGHT.

RITA OBERTUS lives in Calgary and has two children, GAYE and DARREN.

OSCAR married ERNA PHILLIPS. They have four children, Gordon, Bruce, Cheryl and Audrey.

GORDON married GAIL MALINOWSKI. They live in Regina and have two boys, Shane and Brett.

BRUCE lives in the Yorkton District.

CHERYL married BRIAN FALLOWS. They live near Yorkton and have three children, Carla, Christi and David.

AUDREY married DALE PEASLEY. They live in Yorkton and have two children, Shawn and Carmen.

THE MARTIN and HULDA JUST FAMILY

MARTIN Just came to Canada from Russia in August 1914 to Springside, Sask. and worked as a hired man for Daniel Hoffman at Ebenezer.

HULDA JONAT came to Canada from Russia as a young girl of eight in 1908 with her parents, Karl and Julia Jonat. Her father took up a homestead north of Springside, Sask. (We still have the deed.) She took her early education at the Homestead School.

In March 1917 she was married to Martin Just and they farmed in the Homestead District until 1925. They then moved to the Lehman farm, west of Orcadia and in 1926 purchased the farm south of the Orkney School.

They ran a successful grain and cattle farm which expanded to the present operation now operated by their son Lyle and his wife June.

The Orkney District became a very meaningful part of their lives. Martin and Hulda were involved with the school, church, the Wheat Pool and 4-H Club. Both never forgot their humble upbringing and the opportunities which Canada opened for them and their family.

Their family included eight children. HERBERT died in infancy.

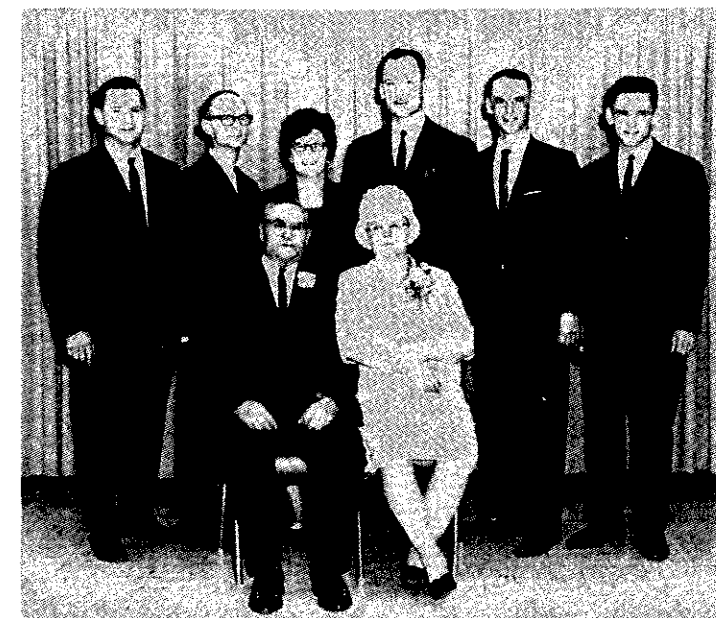
AGNES married Peter Husulak. They live in Saskatoon and worked in the retail business for a number of years.

SHARON is a Medical Laboratory Technologist and lives in Calgary.

GEORGE died tragically in April 1933 at the age of nine years, breaking through the ice of the farm dugout. The whole district was shocked by the accident. He is buried at the Orkney Cemetery.

HARVEY married Madeline MacAulay. He is a Veterinarian at Prince Albert. He attended the University of Sask. and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1951. He is presently serving as an Alderman

on Prince Albert City Council. Dr. Arlene (George) Finch is a Veterinarian in practice with her father. She has two children, Alicia and Michael. Martin (Kim) is in the carpet business and lives in Saskatoon. Valerie Preston is a High School teacher in Prince Albert and has a son Mitchel. Heather (Don) Hanson is a Dietician and lives in Winnipeg. Christine (Rob) Hopkins is a High School teacher and lives in Elrose. Jon is in his last year of Medical School. He is interning in India and will complete his studies in Saskatoon.



Martin & Hulda (Jonet) Family

ALVIN married Linda Gay. He is a dentist at Cochrane, Alberta. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, 1959. He served with the R.C.M.P. for seven years after graduating from Y.C.I. Kathleen (Bill) Anderson lives in Calgary and has two children, Lisa and Pam. Michael (Gail) is an Architectural Engineer and lives in Calgary. Kent (Marlene) is a Security Officer and lives in Calgary.

KENNETH married Eldine Feige. He graduated from the University of Guelph as a Veterinarian. He practiced in Melfort for 12 years, then joined the Federal Dept. of Agriculture and is presently in charge of Meat Hygiene and Food Production in Regina. Murray (Marlene) is in Research and Development for Morris Rod Weeder in Yorkton. They have two children, Jamie and Jennifer. Howard is a Federal Products Inspector at Wynyard. David is attending the University of Regina.

LYLE married June Bergquist. He runs the original family farm with their son Jeffrey. Both June and Lyle have been very active in community activities and the Fair Board. Jeffrey is Service Manager at Case Power and Equipment in Yorkton. Penny (Paul) Hickie is a Dental Assistant. They have one daughter Karli and live in Regina. Patty (Gerry) Gattinger is a Controller for Revenue Canada. She has her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree from the U. of S. She has one son, Adam and lives in Winnipeg. Pamela (Greg) Graves is employed by the Royal Bank. They have two children, Lindsay and Joel and live in Saskatoon.

DAVID married Lyn Johnson. He is a District Manager for Morris Rod Weeder and lives in Regina. Gregory works as a Heavy Duty Equipment

Mechanic and Operator in Saskatoon. He has one son, Jory. Sharilyn (John) Smith has one son Michael and lives in Saskatoon.

Hulda and Martin retired to Yorkton in 1951 but maintained their contact with the Orkney community until their passing, Hulda in 1969 and Martin in 1979. Their dedication to the community, hard work, love of the land and pride in the achievements of their family and grandchildren was the legacy they left the Orkney community.

IRVING JUST

IRVIN Wylie Just is the son of Theodore Just, who resided in the Orkney district. One other son, Alfred lives in Beausejour, Manitoba. I, JUNE BROWN came from Rockhaven, Sask. We met in Geraldton, where I lived at the time with my father. Irvin came and worked at McLeod Mines in the fall of 1946. We met there and left in May 1947 to go to Thunder Bay, where we were married in June. Irvin then came to Marathon to work starting August 30 at American Can, now James River. We have three children, SANDRA, TED and JOANNE. They are all married and living away from Marathon, except Ted who lives here with his wife and three boys. Ted works at James River also. Irvin retired in December, 1985. He enjoys fishing and hunting.

Irvin was born on December 20, 1920.

THE SCHMULAND FAMILY

WILLIAM and EMILY SCHMULAND

submitted by: Al W. Schmuland

We lived a mile and half north of the school. My father's first name was WILLIAM and my mother's EMILY. I'm ALFRED or Al as I'm now called. I believe I was born on the farm so my parents were there in 1928. I have two brothers, ELMER and LORNE and one sister, JUNE. Both Elmer and Lorne went to Orkney but June was just a baby when we moved to Vancouver.

This part of my life seemed to involve a lot of hard work and not much spending money. A trip to Yorkton was a great event to us... maybe even a dime to spend.

I believe a person automatically forgets the bad times in our early lives, however, one event stays with me and as I remember, a number of us in about Grade 3 fouled up on some Math which we really didn't understand. We were all herded into the cloakroom, made to wait about half an hour and then all got the strap. Mr. Henry Chillman was the teacher at the time.

On the whole we made our own fun. In summer it was softball and soccer and in winter such games as fox and geese and pump, pump, pull away.

I was in the same grade as Ronald and Jean Muir, Ramona Knoll and Bob Ferguson. There were about 40 of us in the same room until they converted the church to a school room.

After Orkney I went to school in Vancouver, joined the Air Force for a short period of time, was a pilot with Pacific Western Airlines for 11 years until I lost my license due to medical problems. Now I am a tug boat captain. My wife, LILA and I have four children, 2 boys and 2 girls.

THE FRANK TOMANEK FAMILY

submitted by: Delores (Tomanek) Kowalchuk

FRANK Tomanek was born August 1, 1902 in Pravda, Czechoslovakia. In 1920 he immigrated to Canada. That was the last time he saw his mother and youngest sister, Mary. Frank had three other sisters who settled in the U.S.A. Francis and Anne lived in Trenton, New Jersey and Emily lived in Chicago.



Frank & Pauline (Spilchen) Tomanek

For several years Frank worked for farmers in the Hamton and Verigin area in Saskatchewan. During this time he met the former PAULINE SPILCHEN. Pauline was the eldest child of Mike and Magda Spilchen of the Whitesand District in Saskatchewan. She was born on June 7, 1917. Pauline and Frank were married in Toronto, Ontario. Both were employed there. Pauline as a seamstress in a dress factory and Frank worked in a broom factory. When they moved back to Saskatchewan they settled on a farm near Orcadia. This is where they raised their two children, James and Delores. They lived there until Frank passed away in May of 1968. He died of Bronchial Cancer in the Grey Nuns Hospital at Regina. Months prior to his death they sold their farm to Mike and Pauline Spilchen and purchased a house in Yorkton, where Pauline still resides. Unfortunately Frank never lived long enough to make the move into Yorkton. Pauline still keeps active looking after her garden and making lovely patchwork quilts for her family.

Pauline also enjoys her great granddaughter's company very much. She is still able to look after her when Tammy goes to work.

Their son JAMES was born on February 29, 1936. He received his education in Orcadia, Springside and St. Joseph's College in Yorkton.

When he left home he moved to Ontario. After several years working there he moved to Edmonton. This is where he still makes his home.

He was married to the former MARGARET SCOTT of Rocky Mountain House, Alta. until the year of 1966.

They had one son KENNETH. Ken was born December 30, 1964 in North Battleford, Sask.

During Ken's growing up years he spent a good deal of time with Grandma and Grandpa Tomanek, and later on with Delore's family. Ken was Frank's only grandchild that he lived to see. Ken now resides in Edmonton, Alta.

Their daughter, DELORES, was born on August 29, 1950. She received her schooling in Orcadia, Yorkton Composite High and the Regional High School.

In October of 1968 she married CARL KOWALCHUK. They have four children and one granddaughter. Their oldest child HARLAND was born March 6, 1969 in Yorkton. He is now residing in Edmonton, where he is employed with Beta Well Oil Services.

Their second child, TAMMY, was born July 22, 1970 in Edmonton. At this time she resides in Yorkton with her daughter Shandi. She is employed at Zeller's as a cashier.

Their third child, ANGELA, was born in St. Albert, Alta. Angela now lives in Comox, B.C., where she is attending high school and working part-time.

Their fourth child, JONATHAN, was born October 11, 1981 in Yorkton. During this time Carl and Delores were residing in Orcadia. Jonathan is in Grade 1 and attends Simpson School. He spends divided time with his parents, who both reside in Yorkton.

Shandi is Carl and Delore's granddaughter. She was born August 1, 1981 in Yorkton. Shandi's hobby is keeping everyone busy.

Presently Delores is employed at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home, where she cooks.

Carl is employed at Weber's Construction.

THE BEBLOW FAMILY

METRO BEBLOW

METRO Beblow was born in Whitesand in 1907. As a young boy he worked for farmers in the neighbourhood. In 1931 he married POLLY CHUPA who was born in the Black Poplar District.

After marriage, Metro continued working for farmers in the Whitesand and Springside areas and he and his family moved from place to place as employment was made available.

Seven children were born to Metro and Polly - five in the Springside area and two in the Orkney area. The fourth eldest child died during infancy.

ANN was born in 1932. In 1951 she married Matt Shumay and moved to Yorkton. Ann worked at the Airport Hospital and the Yorkton Union Hospital for many years and is at present, an employee of the Yorkton Union Hospital. Matt worked at Crownmart for many years and is now retired. They have one son, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren who reside in Regina.

PAULINE was born in 1934. In 1951 she married Mike Spilchen. They have farmed in the Orcadia District since their marriage. At present they reside and farm at Orcadia. Mike and Pauline have three daughters and seven grandchildren. One daughter and family reside in Victoria, one in Rhein and one in Ituna.

PAUL was born in 1937. In 1966 he married Sylvia Spelay. Paul works as a mechanic at Kalium Chemicals. He and his wife and two daughters reside in Regina. The eldest daughter attends the University of Regina while the youngest attends High School.

CAROL was born in 1943. In 1963 she married Elgin Strocen. Both Elgin and Carol are elementary school teachers at Simpson School and Columbia School in Yorkton. They have two children attending school in Yorkton.

Twins, JERRY and JAMES, were born in 1946. In 1967 Jerry married Shirley Bork. They reside in Regina. Jerry drives bus for STC and Shirley is employed by Sears. They have four sons - one attending Moose Jaw Technical School, twins attending University of Regina and one in High School. In 1969 James married Iris Sass. James works for the Department of Highways as well as farms in the Orcadia District. They have four sons and one daughter. The eldest son attends the University of Saskatchewan and the other four children attend schools in Yorkton.



Metro & Polly (Chupa) Beblow Family

In 1945 Metro and Polly purchased their first farm from Polly's father, Michael Chupa.

Michael Chupa was born in Dubsharea, Ukraine in 1876. In 1904 he married Magdalena Diakiw, who was born in Lechveka, Ukraine in 1884. In 1905, due to overcrowding in their native land, Michael and Magdalena and Magdalena's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Diakiw, immigrated to Canada. Upon their arrival, after a two week voyage, Michael and Magdalena took a homestead in the Good Spirit Lake District. Following several moves in the Springside and Beblo School Districts, they moved to the Orcadia District. It was here, in 1943, at the age of fifty-nine, that Magdalena passed away. Fourteen children were born to Michael and Magdalena, nine lived. These included six sons: Bill, Metro George, Fred, John, Pete; and three daughters: Polly, Katherine and Pauline.

Michael Chupa lived with the Beblow family for a few years until he built a small house for himself on the same yard. Here he resided until his passing in 1953 at the age of 77.

Metro and Polly were very hard working people. Metro worked as a section man for the CPR for approximately twenty years.

After work he farmed as well as, with the help of the family, cut and hauled wood, made hay for the cattle, and carried out the many other farm chores. Due to a shortage of water and pasture on the farm, the children spent many hours "herding the cattle" along the road allowance.

In the winter snow had to be melted for water for the animals as well as for household use. Later, Metro and Polly rented the quarter section to the north of the home farm. Here the cattle had pasture and water. A great asset to the farm was the locating of an underground stream into which a well was dug. This well, a few steps from the house, provided all the water required for animals, garden and home use.

Polly always had a very large garden. She and the children milked cows and sold cream to the Creamery. This helped to pay for the groceries. Pork, beef and poultry for consumption as well as for sale were raised on the farm. There were no fridges or freezers until they got electrical power in the early 1950's. Meat, vegetables and fruit had to be preserved in jars. Polly's cold storage contained rows and rows of preserved foods. Bread was home baked and butter was churned.

As the family grew older, more space was required. In 1952 the old house was torn down and a new one was built on the site.

In 1962 Metro and Polly purchased the quarter section of land they had rented from Isabel Betts.

The neighbours in the Orkney District were very helpful. Metro and Polly had no phone. Whenever a call was required, the family used the phone at the Orcadia Service Station. Metro and Polly remember when Fred Hall and Donald McKen worked Metro's summerfallow while Metro had gone to work.

Many memories of the Orkney District remain with the Beblow family. All six children attended Orkney B School. The wedding for the two oldest daughters was a double wedding. Metro and Polly's 25th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated here. The cold winters and large amounts of snow caused many hardships. The sleigh rides to participate in the concerts at Orkney A School were very exciting! Sunday was always a day of rest. The family usually attended church and visited with relatives. During the summer, a picnic lunch was packed and Sunday afternoon was spent at Good Spirit Lake.

It was in 1967 that Metro and Polly moved to Yorkton, leaving the home farm in the hands of their youngest son, James. At present, James and his family live here and farm. In 1981 Metro and Polly celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Metro and Polly reside in their own home on Newfield Place. Polly just celebrated her 74th birthday and Metro will be celebrating his 82nd birthday in a few days. They enjoy their children, seventeen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

JAMES BEBLOW

JAMES Beblow was born in the Orkney District in 1946. As a young boy he attended the Orkney B School in Orcadia and also worked on the family farm. Later he worked at the Radar Base when it was being built and also at various other jobs. In 1969 James married IRIS SASS of the Jedburgh District. Iris is one of the ten children of the late Michael Sass and Anne Petrosky.

James and Iris lived at 310 Independent Street in Yorkton for a few months. Then they took over the Metro Beblow farm. James mixed farmed but was forced to sell livestock due to health reasons. He continues to grain farm as well as work out. Iris gave up her job as a nurses aid to become a full time homemaker and later a mother. The family farm didn't have a phone or running water.



James & Iris (Sass) Beblow Family
with their children Leonard, Leslie, Dean, Mark & Crystal.

James and Iris were blessed with five children.

LEONARD was born in 1973. He is presently attending the University of Saskatchewan, majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

LESLIE was born in 1973. He attends Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton.

DEAN was born in 1975. He attends C.J. Houston Junior High in Yorkton.

MARK was born in 1979. He attends St. Mary's School in Yorkton.

CRYSTAL was born in 1983. She is attending St. Mary's School in Yorkton.

After work James farmed with the help of the family and Metro Beblow. Over the years there were many changes to the farm. Land was rented from Isabel Betts. Additional land was purchased from Mrs. Hall, the wife of the late Fred Hall, Victor Stobee and Danny Gabert. He also farmed together with Paul Beblow. With the purchasing and clearing of more land, grain and machinery storage was needed. As the need arose more and larger machinery was purchased. In 1976 a new home was built as the family grew older more space was required.

As a young boy James' most fond memory was going to the train to get mail with Jack Stainger. He was like a kind old grandpa. James recalls playing with grandpa, Michael Chupa, who lived with the Beblow family. Going to concerts, picnics, playing, etc. and working on the farm as a family, were all meaningful to James. James made a lot of friends while attending Orkney B School in Orcadia.

In 1968 James purchased his first tractor, a John Deere 4020. After retirement Metro Beblow enjoyed helping on the farm especially working on the field with the 4020.

James, Iris and family have many fond memories of the Orkney District. We celebrated our 20th Wedding Anniversary, the birth of our five children, the graduation of our eldest son and the starting of our daughter in kindergarten. We have had many family gatherings with the Beblow and Sass families. Sunday is a family day around our home. We attend church, visit with family, friends, neighbours or do something special with the family. Last but not least, our fondest memories include seeing our family growing up, work together and contribute to our community. There is no greater joy than being able to live, to pray, to play and work together as a family.

In July of 1987 Mrs. Polly Beblow vacationed with James, Iris, and family to Ontario and visited Polly's sisters, Katie, Pauline, and brother Peter and families at Welland. Peter Chupa lived on the present place with Grandpa Michael Chupa until 1947. Dan and Kathy Popowich and family lived in the Orkney District until 1949.

THE GRUNERT FAMILY

JOHN GRUNERT

submitted by: Joyce Priestley



John & Rita (Much) Grunert Family - ca. 1944-45

Standing (L to R): Gerald, Joyce, Beverly, Lorne, Elmer
Seated: John, Marilyn, Rita.

JOHN Grunert, second son of August and Caroline (Fleck) Grunert, was born December 25, 1898 in Yorkton, N.W.T. John's father, August Grunert immigrated to Canada from Poland, arriving in Montreal, Quebec, October 13, 1891. He went to Winnipeg, Manitoba and there found employment as a blacksmith, a trade he had learned while serving in the Russian

Army. On April 3, 1892 August was married to Caroline Fleck, daughter of Friedrich and Barbara Fleck. August and Caroline remained in Winnipeg until May 19, 1893 when they took up their homestead on the N.W. 1/4 of Section 12, Township 27, Range 5, near Orcadia, N.W.T. They remained here until 1897 when they purchased the N1/2 of Section 1, Twp. 27, Rge 5. After living in Yorkton for a brief time, they took permanent residence on Section one in 1899. Their family now consisted FRED, born in 1893, EDITH (BONNET) in 1895 and JOHN in 1898. Fred and Edith attended the Orkney School until 1903 and in 1904 accompanied by John, who was now school age, attended the Grunert School, which their father had helped to found. Three more children were born to this family, ELSIE (REIMAN) in 1902, ALFRED in 1905 and IRENE (COOKSON) in 1910. Irene is the only one of the above family still living and she resides at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home. Alfred, born October 27, 1905 in Yorkton, died at the early age of two years on December 9, 1907 and is buried in the Orkney Church Cemetery.

John, at the young age of 19, decided to take up farming on his own. From 1918 to 1921 he farmed Section two and then in 1921, when his parents moved to Yorkton, he purchased their farm. A hard working young man he strived faithfully for improvements on his own land as well as in the community. On March 6, 1924 he was married to RITA MUCH, daughter of Emil and Matilda (Reiman) Much of the Yorkton area. The couple continued to live on the farm, building a new home in 1928 to replace the Beaver Hills log house built in 1904 by John's father.

In 1931, John was offered employment as a grain buyer with the National Grain Co. of Orcadia. He accepted this challenge as depression years were upon him, and also it gave him the opportunity to work with his fellow neighbours. Travelling daily from the farm to Orcadia became troublesome, so in the fall of 1942, he decided to move his family to Orcadia. They moved into the home that previously had been occupied by the Wilson's and next door to the Tytula family. Within a couple of years the Tytula home was turned into the Orcadia School, Orkney B. Some of the families, that we recall, residing in Orcadia at that time were the Staingers, Lewchuks and Hoffmans. Marilyn, too young for school, enjoyed running errands for her mother to the Lewchuk store in Orcadia.

From 1943 to 1945 John was Coucillor for the R.M. of Orkney, Div. 5 and from 1946 to 1960 served as Reeve of the R.M. of Orkney. He gave willingly and freely of his time and efforts to municipal work and his wife Rita was very supportive in every respect. His family all remember the many times he was called out to see washed out roads, bridges and broken culverts. There were constant meetings, trips to Regina, all part of the job, and he loved every moment. Along with tending to the elevator and municipal work, John continued to farm.

In 1945 the Grunert family moved to Yorkton. In 1946, after fifteen years of dedicated work, John retired from the National Elevator Co. in Orcadia. He maintained the farm from Yorkton until 1967, when he sold it to his son Gerald. Today Gerald and his wife Myrna still live on and operate this farm.

Throughout John's life he was associated with many other activities such as School Boards, Yorkton Curling Club, Church Committees and from 1970 to 1975 was desk clerk at the Yorkton Hotel.

John Grunert, a devoted husband and father, very special "Grampa" and great grandfather, will always be remembered as a kind and loving person.

John passed away January 8, 1982, and is buried in the Yorkton Memorial Gardens. His wife, Rita, resides in their home in Yorkton.

Rita and John Grunert had six children, JOYCE born July 29, 1926, GERALD born September 9, 1928, JORNE born October 3, 1929, ELMER born May 16, 1931, BEVERLEY born December 8, 1935, MARILYN born December 7, 1940.

JOYCE Grunert began her education at Grunert School and graduated from the Yorkton Collegiate Institute in 19-4. She worked at Logan's Drug Store for a short time. She also worked at the International Harvester Co. of Yorkton as a bookkeeping machine operator for three years. In 1948 Joyce moved to Vancouver, B.C. and went to work with Gordon and Belyea Hardware Co. Joyce married LAWRENCE PRIESTLEY of Vancouver, B.C. on November 24, 1950. Lawrence was a Plumbing Inspector for the City of Vancouver. He retired in 1981. They reside in Burnaby, B.C. They adopted two children, Douglas born December 10, 1957 and Cathy born September 6, 1961. DOUGLAS married Eileen Fuller of Vancouver, B.C. on December 1, 1979. Doug works at Lewis Printers in Richmond, B.C. as Pressroom Production Manager. They have one son, Daniel born October 14, 1987. They live in Surrey, B.C. CATHY married Robert Squires of Vancouver, B.C. Bob was born on February 15, 1980 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Bob is employed by the City of Vancouver, B.C. They have two sons, David born December 31, 1980 and Jonathon born June 24, 1985. They live in North Vancouver, B.C.



Laurie & Joyce (Grunert) Priestley & Family - 1987

Back Row (L to R): Doug holding Daniel, Joyce holding David, Cathy holding Jonathon, Bob, Laurie, Eileen (front).

GERALD Grunert attended Grunert School, Orkney School and the Yorkton Collegiate. On October 11, 1950 Gerald married ELLA PEPPLER. She was born April 25, 1930 at Rhein, Sask. They started farming in 1954. Twin sons, CRAIG and CURTIS, were adopted in 1955. Ella passed away suddenly August 16, 1975 at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. She is buried in the Yorkton Memorial Gardens. She was an active member with the Yorkton Fair Board, Ladies Auxilliary from 1963 to 1975.



Gerald & Myrna (Ross) Grunert & Family - 1989

(L to R): Craig, Sharon, Curtis, Myrna, Gerald & Jennifer (front).

Gerald was president of the Yorkton Fair Board from 1971 to 1977. In 1973, Gerald was honoured as the local "Sportsman of the Year" by the Yorkton Terriers. In 1977 he received an "agricultural Oscar" from the Lion's Club for helping to advance agriculture. He became an Honorary Life Member of the Yorkton Fair Board in October 1983 in recognition of long and outstanding service to the community and to agriculture as a member and officer of the Society. Gerald was co-chairman for the 1985 Canadian Senior Mens and Senior Ladies Curling Championships held in Yorkton. He was the Assistant Executive Director of the 1986 Saskatchewan Winter Games in Yorkton. In 1986 the Yorkton Curling Club awarded Gerald with an Honorary Life Membership.

Gerald was united in marriage to MYRNA ROSS on March 8, 1980. Myrna was born September 24, 1945 at Arcola, Sask. Gerald and Myrna live on the family farm in the Orcadia District. In 1980 Gerald was presented with a Family Farm Heritage Award from the Sask. Department of Agriculture to honour the heritage of the family farm of which was continuously operated by members of the family since 1895. Besides farming, Gerald sells hail and farm insurance.

CRAIG was born August 11, 1955. He attended Grunert School, Orcadia School, Yorkton Regional High School and Moose Jaw Technical Institute. He worked for accounting firms in Saskatoon and Yorkton for a short time and then decided to start farming. Craig owns and rents farm land adjacent to the family farm. Craig lives in Yorkton.

CURTIS was also born August 11, 1955. He attended Grunert School, Orcadia School and the Yorkton Regional High School. He works for the Sask. Government Insurance as an adjuster. On November 5, 1983 Curtis married Sharon Almasi of the Melville area. Sharon also works for the Sask. Government Insurance as a clerk. They have one daughter, Jennifer Ella, born March 15, 1984. Curtis, Sharon and Jennifer live in Yorkton.

LORNE Grunert attended Grunert, Orkney and Orcadia Schools and then went to high school at the Yorkton Collegiate Institute. Lorne works for Auto Electric Service in Yorkton as a service technician. He started there in 1952.



**Lorne & Shirley (Booth) Grunert
& Family**

*Standing: Colin & Stacie Seated: Shirley & Lorne
Above: Patrick*

On April 17, 1954 Lorne was united in marriage to SHIRLEY BOOTH of Yorkton at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Yorkton. Shirley worked for Dairy Producers Co-op as a bookkeeper. They have one son, COLIN. Shirley passed away suddenly January 1, 1988 in Estevan. She is buried in the Yorkton Memorial Gardens.

COLIN was born March 25, 1957. He graduated from the Minot State College, Minot in 1980 where he received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education. Colin married Stacy Becker of Minot, North Dakota, August 2, 1980. Colin is the Music Director at Estevan Junior High School in Estevan, Sask. They have one son, Patrick, born in Estevan January 24, 1984.



Elmer & Corinne (McLuckie) Grunert & Family - 1981

(L to R): Serge, Shannan, Trevor, Corinne, Elmer, Melodie, Dwayne & Wade (front).

ELMER Grunert attended Grunert, Orkney and Orcadia Schools and finished his education at the Yorkton Collegiate. He married CORINNE



McLUCKIE of Hyas, Sask. on June 9, 1956. Elmer managed the Co-op Stockyard, Yorkton and then transferred to Lloydminster, Alberta. In 1968 he opened his own business, The Lloydminster Travelodge. In 1974 the Kinsmen awarded Elmer the Honour of Justice of the Peace. In 1978 they sold the Travelodge and moved to Victoria, B.C. They have four children, SHANNON born May 31, 1957, MELODIE born August 23, 1959, WADE born February 24, 1966, TREVOR born March 5, 1971. Shannon graduated from the Lloydminster Comprehensive High School, attended N.S.I.T. in Edmonton, Alta., where she studied to become a laboratory technician. Shannon married Serge Touchette from Quebec City, Quebec, December 23, 1978. Serge is a Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces. They presently reside in Montreal, Quebec. They have two children, Mark born April 4, 1984 and Michelle born March 4, 1986. Melodie attended the Lloydminster High School, a private college in Edmonton, Alta. and the University of Victoria. She graduated with her degree in Social Work. Melodie married Dwayne Bowtell from Lloydminster. He is a District Manager with a large food service company. They have one son, Devin born April 24, 1986. They presently live in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Wade goes to university in Victoria and works part time. Trevor attends high school in Victoria (grade twelve).



**Murray & Bev (Grunert) Keith
with son Tim**

BEVERLY Grunert attended Grunert, Orkney, Orcadia and Burke Schools. She graduated from the Yorkton Collegiate in 1954. In 1955 she moved to Vancouver, B.C. and worked for the Canadian National Telecommunications as an operator. On October 29, 1966 Bev was united in marriage to MURRAY KEITH at the South Burnaby United Church, Burnaby, B.C. Murray was born March 8, 1930 in Didsbury, Alta. Murray has retired from the Canadian National Railway where he worked in freight accounting. They have one chosen son, TIMOTHY. He was born September 5, 1969. Tim presently attends B.C.T.I. and works part time.

MARILYN Grunert attended Burke, Simpson and Victoria Elementary Schools. She graduated from the Yorkton Collegiate Institute in 1958. She attended the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, for one year and then worked in the office of F.W. Woolworth Co. On June 25, 1960 Marilyn was united in marriage to CRAIG BURKELL at the First Baptist Church in Yorkton. Craig was born August 16, 1940 in Yorkton.

Marilyn and Craig farmed in the Tonkin area from 1960 to 1971. They then moved to Yorkton where Craig was employed as a Service Manager for the Morris Rod Weeder Co.

In May of 1973 Craig and Marilyn purchased a farm from Dave and Ann Folster (21-26-4-W.2nd) four miles northwest of Yorkton and began a dairy operation. They built a new dairy barn in 1973. The barn that was on the farm had been built by Marilyn's father, John at their home in Orcadia. John sold the barn to Davie Folster in 1948. Gerald moved this barn on skids with a caterpillar in the winter of 1948. At present this barn is still being used as a cattle shelter.

Craig and Marilyn have since sold the dairy cows and now raise Aberdeen Angus, Chianina and Simmental cattle. Craig is a very active member of the Yorkton Fair Board and is a Past President. Marilyn was also an active member of the Fair Board, Ladies Auxilliary from 1968 to 1980.

They are also active parents in the 4-H movement in Saskatchewan.

They both enjoy working at the Yorkton Curling Rink during the winter months, Craig as Rink Manager and Marilyn as the Lounge Manager. Their keen enthusiasms for the sport of curling is shared by the whole family.

Marilyn and Craig have three daughters, DONNA JACQUELINE born February 27, 1966, BARBARA JEAN born August 18, 1967, PATRICIA MARILYN born July 14, 1972.



Craig & Marilyn (Grunert) Burkell - 1988
 Back Row (L to R): Glenn, Craig, Lionel
 Front: Donna, Marilyn, Patty, Barb

Donna received her education in Yorkton and at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Donna received a school pin for her high scholastic standing in grade 12 and also was the recipient of the Parkland Lions Leadership award. She has been an active member of the 4-H Beef Club and in 1984 was awarded a trip to the Western Provinces Seminar in Victoria, B.C. Donna is an avid curler and played third on the 1983 Provincial High School Girl's Championship team. In 1989 she played third on the team that represented the Yorkton area at Northern Ladies Playdowns, Melfort. On June 25, 1988 Donna married Glen Parsons of Saltcoats. Donna works at Royal Ford as a car salesperson. Glenn works with his father-in-law on the farm. They reside in Yorkton.

Barbara received her education in Yorkton graduating from the Regional High in 1985. In 1987 she returned to school to take a course in secretarial studies. She received a scholarship for outstanding achievement. Barb has been an active member in 4-H and in 1985 was awarded a trip to the National 4-H Conference in Ottawa. She is now the assistant leader of the Yorkton 4-H Beef Club. Barb is an avid curler and in 1985 she played lead on the winning team of the Regina Youth Bonspiel and was awarded a curling trip to Germany. In 1989 she played lead on the team that represented the Yorkton area at Northern Ladies Playdowns in Melfort. On July 25, 1987 Barb married Lionel Woytas of Jedburg. Barb works as the secretary for the Yorkton Exhibition Assoc. Lionel and Barb live and farm in the Jedburg area.

Patty is presently attending the Yorkton Regional High School and is in grade eleven. In grade nine Patty was selected to give the Valedictory address at Yorkdale Junior High. Patty is an active member of the Yorkton 4-H Beef Club. Over the years she has won many public speaking awards through 4-H. In 1989 she was awarded a trip to the National 4-H Conference in Ottawa. Patty curls on the high school girls team. She plays ball and her team went to the Sask. Summer Games in Melfort. Patty has a part time job.

THE POHL FAMILY

JOHN and BERTHA POHL

JOHN and BERTHA Pohl moved into the Orkney District in 1933 with their two daughters DORIS and HONEY (Melrose). GARFIELD was born a year later in 1934. Doris, Honey and Garfield started Orkney School in 1940. Since we were five miles from the school, we drove a two-wheeled cart pulled by a small black pony we called Dolly. This meant getting up early and coming home late. We often picked up Eddie Reid at the three-mile corner. The Pacholko children, our neighbours, often drove either ahead or behind us.

On one such occasion, we were in the lead. Doris was the driver. When we approached the three-mile corner, we suddenly saw a bum with a napsack on his shoulder. Doris whipped around on the road and turned back. The Pacholko children turned and followed - for we were all afraid of the bum. We decided to take a short cut through George and Jean Patterson's farm. When we came back to the road we saw the bum again. He had walked the additional distance, and we were again cut off from going to school. All of us decided to go back home because we were so afraid of the bum. Dad and Mr. Pacholko went with a car in search of the frightful bum, but could not find him. Since we had an