

BIRLE
HISTORY
MUNICIPALITY

*A View
of the Birdtail*

A History of the Municipality
of Birle

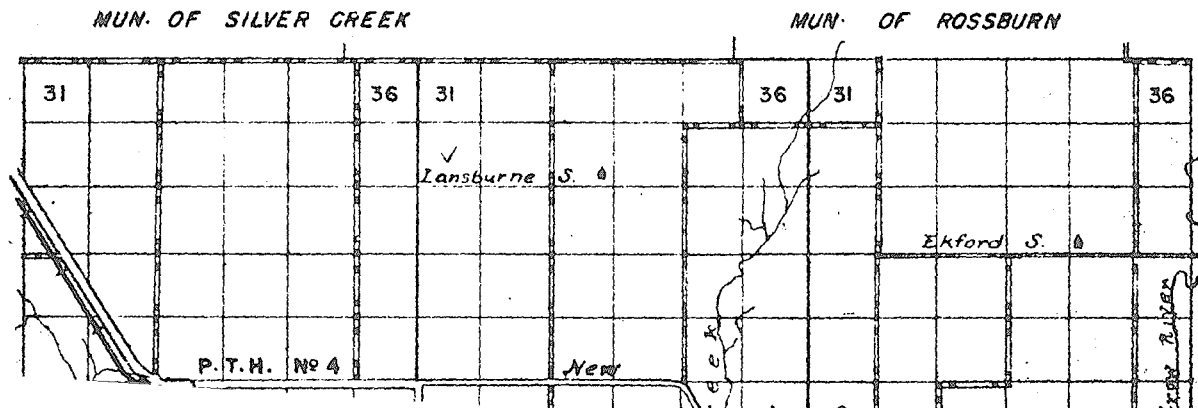
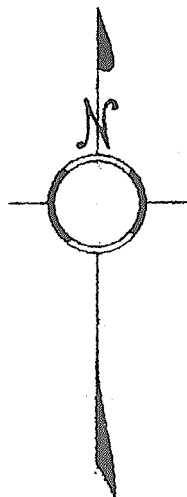
1878 - 1974

Marion Abra

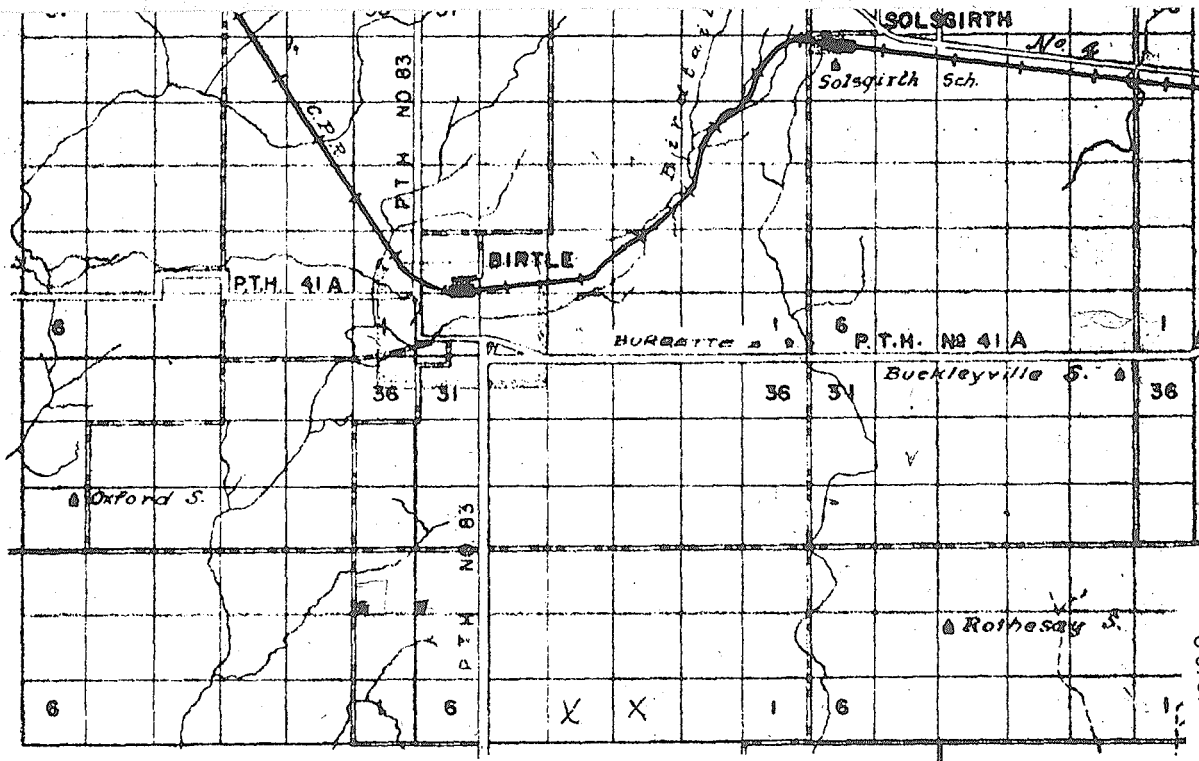
MUNICIPALITY OF BIRTLE

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THE HISTORY COMMITTEE

The original group who made the decision to support and move forward with this history has remained active during the years of its preparation, aided and encouraged by many others. It includes representatives from each of the districts of the municipality, and from the various essential areas of research. The four Women's Institutes were most helpful from the beginning, and were mainly responsible for the large number of family stories received.

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Mrs. Lorna Workman

FOREWORD

It is good to know that the history of Birtle has been written, and written so fully and well, with the lives of its pioneers recorded.

Birtle was my mother's girlhood home. Christmas at Grandfather Manwaring's was one of the year's great events, and those visits remain among the fondest of childhood memories. The long drive from the station behind the spanking horses, the bells jingling, the sleigh swinging, along the ravine road down to the valley, always set the tone for a holiday scarcely to be equalled. In the talk at table I listened to many scraps of local history, and became aware of the excitement of building new homes in that beautiful and welcoming country.

It is, then a deep pleasure to offer Marion Abra my thanks for this history of her childhood home, and thanks also to all those who helped in the research and writing. Many others I am sure will share my pleasure in this happy outcome of their work.

May the Birdtail always run, and Birtle nestle in its lovely valley!

W. L. Morton

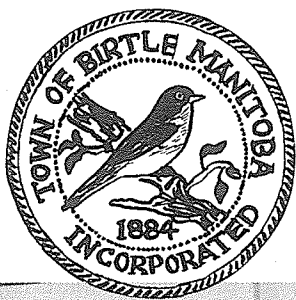
Trent University,
Peterborough, Ontario.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIRTLE



From right to left: Reeve Ashcroft, Councillors A. Porter, D. Bamford, B. Lougheed, Sec. Treasurer F. Stevenson, Councillor K. Crew Asst. Sec. Treasurer Sylvia Marshall, Councillors J. Stewart and J. Labay.

The Reeve and Council of the Rural Municipality of Birtle appreciate the efforts of all the people who have contributed to the preparation of this history. We are sure that the contents will be interesting and informative to all people who desire to learn of the early pioneer days of the Birdtail District.



1974 COUNCIL

Clockwise: Mayor Ray Howard, Sec. Treas. Keith Wilson
Councillors Ralph Kitching, Len Lane, Jim Dalton, Al Parnetta, Gordon Ehnes, Ernie Walley.

We express the gratitude of our citizens for the excellent work of Marion Abra and the many people who served on the local committee, which resulted in the publication of "A View of the Birdtail".

We congratulate you all, knowing that this book will be treasured by many, and enjoyed by all.

It is a fond look at our early beginnings and the generations that followed; but even more, it is our foundation on which our future depends.

Sincerely
MAYOR and COUNCIL

PREFACE

"Time stops for no one" — in its flow constantly turning futures into pasts. It has taken with it almost all the pioneers, and many of the following generations. Aware of the great loss of first-person recollections, we trust that this book will record and preserve what is still known of our beginnings, and the years that followed.

Countless hours of research, selection and assembling have preceded its appearance. Citizen response produced a flood of family stories, anecdotes and pictures. The editorial committee regrets that much has had to be omitted or condensed. The hope is to preserve all material submitted, to complement "A View of the Birdtail", and perhaps facilitate the writing of other stories of the builders of our district.

For the editor, this book has brought many hours of entertainment and new knowledge. The experience of returning to Birtle after many years has been refreshing. This lively community has a happy existence, comparatively free from many of the vexations said to beset rural living. Near enough to urban centres to take advantage of special events, it is far enough removed to have few worries about traffic snarls and the current crime rate. City dwellers might well envy their remoteness from crowds, high rises and pollution. One need not be an incorrigible romantic to feel that this is a good life.

A few words of gratitude must suffice to repay a large accumulation of debts — to historians Dr. Aileen Garland and Dr. W. L. Morton for generously sharing their wide experience — to Dr. S. A. Holling, grandson of first Mayor J. S. Crawford, for stirring Birtle to look to its past — to the Solsgirth Women's Institute, Mr. N. M. Rusaw and the late Miss May Kenny for preserving mementoes in album form. Our thanks to the very helpful staff members of the National and Provincial Archives, of the libraries of the University of Manitoba and Manitoba Historical Society, to Mr. W. H. J. Pople of the Surveys Branch of the Manitoba Government. Books and ideas have been borrowed freely from many sources, including the authors of a number of community histories prepared for Manitoba's Centennial Year, and in particular from writers Mrs. Dorothy Vipond, Mrs. F. D. Barager, Mr. David McDowell and Dr. Peter Neufeld.

Residents past and present have been generous with assistance. Especially should be mentioned former Mayor M. K. Clubley, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brayshay, Mrs. Eleanor Warren for early hospitality, Mrs. Marion (Malcolm) McKenzie, Mrs. Lila Johnston, Dr. "Madge" Dudley and Mrs. Ruth (McNarry) Meldrum for her help with the proofs. Invaluable information regarding schools has been received from Messrs. John McLennan, Harvey Kingdon and George Belton, former principals, who have expressed their thanks to the "Eye-Witness", the staff of the R.M. of Birtle, to former principal Mr. J. O. Beckstead, and to the Administrative Branch of the Department of Education. Rev. Father Romeo Beaulieu sent a gently humorous account of St. Mary's church and hospital.

It would be impossible to thank individually the many who have contributed directly to the text. Members of the History Committee have each acknowledged a debt to their neighbors, and it is assumed that every page of narrative was preceded by consultations, telephone conversations, letters. Typists have been ready with their skill, and in particular Bess Talbot, Barbara Radalinsky and many young people of the district.

Last, but by no means least, my thanks to my long-suffering husband and other members of my family for constant support and encouragement, when at times threatened with extinction in a sea of paper.

Winnipeg, April 1974

Marion (Smith) Abra

— A history of the Municipality of Birtle, of the beautiful Birdtail valley, and of the men and women who came to make their homes there.

PART I

Chapter I THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

A VIEW OF THE BIRDTAIL

In undertaking such a narrative it seems best to begin at the beginning. As with all history, the present emerges from the past; so for our story we are concerned not only with what happened here in the last hundred years, but also with developments from the actions of men two centuries earlier, and with natural events and changes thousands of years ago.

When Alfred Morton, John Richardson and Andrew Bissett reached the Birdtail on Sunday, June 9th, 1878, they found themselves in a land not entirely strange. These loyal Canadians must have been in part familiar with recent events in "Rupert'sland". In November 1869 the Hudson's Bay Company released its hold on this vast territory for three hundred thousand pounds and a grant of land. Shortly before, the Government of Canada had attempted a new survey along the rivers in the Red River Settlement, only to be blocked by Louis Riel and the Metis. The ensuing "troubles" were resolved for the time being by the arrival of the Wolseley Expedition in August 1870. The way seemed clear for further surveys and more settlements.

Quoting Edmund J. Wilson, founder and long-time editor of the Birtle "Eye-Witness" — "Surveyors — accompanied their maps with glowing descriptions of fine rolling timbered and prairie lands. — The Winnipeg — Edmonton trail crossing of the Birdtail got a double share of boosting. Its sparkling waters, famous spring and camping grounds were heralded — A line twelve miles north through the Ranchvale reaches of the Birdtail (indicated) a paradise for stockmen. — Large stretches of spruce and tamarack would supply building material for many years."¹

Alfred Morton heard and heeded the siren call to the west. He sold his farm, resigned his school and "spent the winter preparing to tackle homesteading. — His enthusiasm induced a neighbor's son, John Richardson and Andrew Bissett, a Scotch friend, to accompany him."¹ Mr. Morton was to be the first permanent resident of the Birdtail valley, and one of the main supports of the new community that followed soon after. An able man with the pen, he kept a diary from the beginning, and served as well for many years as Secretary of the Town Council. We are indebted to him for much that we know of those early years.

The Touch of Nature

A quick look at the map of Manitoba suffices to show us the effect of the great glaciers. The latest glacial period, known as the Wisconsin — when ice up to four thousand feet thick made its way from the north-east some sixty to one hundred thousand years ago — has left the clearest record. It pushed over the Canadian Shield onto the central plains, dropping as it melted vast amounts of soil — rock, sand, clay and organic matter — scraped from the Pre-Cambrian rock. This was deposited on the plains to form a layer of so-called “till”, flat in some places, in others gathered into ridges or rolling land called “moraines”.

After several periods of advance and retreat with changes of temperature, the ice departed, leaving glacial lakes in many places. Over the granite of the Shield these are still to be seen for hundreds of miles. On the more porous plains they tended to dry up, but many traces remain. Largest of the lakes of the plains was Lake Agassiz, which after thousands of years took its leave, surviving to-day in Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis, and various smaller lakes. The so-called “Manitoba Escarpment” marks its shoreline. Silt deposited by many streams running into Agassiz became clay. Violent winds after the retreat of the glacier blew sand and dust into dunes and hills. The drifting was eventually controlled by the first grasses, other vegetation, trees — and at long last men and the farmer.

The study of soils in our province has been given much attention over the years, particularly since the Great Depression of the thirties, its effects exaggerated in rural areas by the Great Drought. A complete survey has been made in recent years to help the farmer help himself.



George Seale, N.W.M.P., Cypress Hills, 1877

Here he may find much that he already knows through hard experience, but possibly he is given a clearer understanding of the basic reasons for the features of his land that plague him, together with suggested remedies close to him or readily accessible.

The "Reconnaissance Soil Survey of the Rossburn-Virden Area" tells us that the area is entirely underlain by cretaceous shales of the Riding Mountain formation. The carrying power of the great ice sheets added surface deposits from the granite formations underlying the shale, which reach the surface on the Pre-Cambrian Shield. These deposits form the parent material of Manitoba soils, and their nature in various districts has a strong influence on natural fertility. In our district the lake bottom (lacustrine) silt, the "outwash" from streams during the melting process, the alluvial remains of periodic flooding, are all visible. Glacial till, a mixture of clay, sand and boulders, underlies most of the surface deposits, mixing with them to form loam of varying degrees of stoniness, and an irregular topography, from gently sloping to hilly. Ravines, knolls, depressions which become sloughs, sandy or gravelly areas are features of the Birdtail district which derive from the glacial period. Along the Birdtail course may be seen the effect of flooding from time to time — alluvial deposits, sometimes in the form of a raised bench or "terrace". It is mostly sand, silt and clay, with some muck and peat — fine-textured and very fertile "highly-rated from an agricultural standpoint".²

Other natural features of the Birdtail district are for the most part well suited for agriculture. Rainfall in summer is not sufficient for a high yield of grain, but is usually supplemented by moisture reserve from fall and winter, so that severe droughts are rare. Average annual precipitation for many years has been 16.71 inches, slightly less than in the southern part of the Rossburn-Virden area. The average mean yearly temperature over thirty-five years was 33.93 degrees.

The southeastern portion of the district developed fertile blackearth soil, under tall prairie grasses and associated herbs, with trees and shrubs like poplar and willow where water is adequate. Northwest the aspen is increasingly prevalent, and there is a gradual transition from blackearth to grey-wooded soils. Tree growth is mixed deciduous and coniferous, as in the Riding Mountain district, the result of increased moisture through higher precipitation or lower temperatures.

Streams and Waterways

The lifestream of the Birtle district has always been the Birdtail River, or Creek, from which it took its name. An Indian legend, with the poetic truth of much of their lore, explains the origin of the name thus: "A band of Sioux Indians, following a herd of buffalo, camped beside a small river. The chief's son noticed a lovely bird flying over the water. It was bright blue, and the scarlet of its breast flashed in the sun. At that moment a hawk swooped on the bird. It escaped, but a blue feather from its tail floated past the boy. He leaned over to grasp it,

slipped and was drowned. When his body was recovered he was clutching the blue feather in his tiny hand. From that time the Sioux spoke of the river as the "Birdtail".

Percy W. Grant of Solsgirth, son of William Grant and born at Dowsford Crossing in 1885, devoted much time and thought to the story of the valley that he knew so well. "The Birdtail Creek rises in the Riding Mountains and flows for fifty miles in a southwest direction to empty into the Assiniboine in Township 15 Range 27. The area of the valley is about 535 square miles. — The headwaters of the Birdtail Creek, where there are a number of small lakes, are hilly and forested, and form part of the Riding Mountain National Park and Game Sanctuary. The lower reaches flow through farming and grazing land. Bluffs of poplar, willow and various softwoods spring up quickly when prairie fires are not allowed to run."³

Apart from the Birdtail, and innumerable ponds and sloughs beloved of water-fowl, there are in the district two rivers of major importance, closely associated with settlement days. The Birdtail empties into the Assiniboine about twelve miles south of its confluence with the Qu'Appelle River, in a lovely valley which has a marked similarity to the astonishing Qu'Appelle valley in eastern Saskatchewan. The Assiniboine continues its meandering course upstream north and west. It was a highway for the fur trade, for Indians who brought their harvest of furs to the most convenient post, and later for the canoe brigades of the Nor'Westers invading the domain of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Wild Life

P. W. Grant asserts that the valley was one of the best game districts in Manitoba in the 1880's. Various species of duck — mallards, pintails, teal, spoonbills and others as well as geese and "wild turkeys" (cranes) were a common sight. Prairie chicken in buggy-loads provided many a meal. Partridge were rarer, but were to be found in willow bluffs.

Jumping deer, moose and elk were numerous around the headwaters of the Birdtail, now mostly within the Game Sanctuary. The buffalo had gone, but many skulls still lay around hillside springs. Smaller animals included fox, coyote, badger, lynx, marten, skunk, weasel and many rabbits. Mink and muskrat in the streams, varieties of squirrel and gopher, as well as bats and field mice and a rare ground-hog provided trapping experience for small boys. "House rats and potato bugs were unknown."

The only snake was the garter snake "harmless and useful", but startling on a sunny hillside in the spring. Frogs and toads were numerous, and lizards, often by the hundred on roads and around lighted doorways.

Let us conclude this brief sketch of the natural features of the Prairie valley with a quotation from Col. W. F. Butler, who after arriving at Red River in the summer of 1870 to meet the Wolseley expedi-

tion, was commissioned to go further west. He crossed the prairies in fall and winter in a journey he describes in vivid detail in "The Great Lone Land": "In winter a dazzling surface of purest snow; in early summer a vast expanse of grass and pale pink roses; in autumn too often a wild sea of raging fires. No ocean of water in the world can vie with its gorgeous sunsets; no solitude can equal the loneliness of the night-shadowed prairie — This ocean has no past — time has been nought to it. One saw here the world as it had taken shape and form from the hands of the Creator."⁴

Indian Neighbors

Early arrivals in the Birdtail settlement had many tales to tell of their neighbors the Indians, with whom they lived in a generally friendly relationship, sharing food and warmth on occasion. The Riel Rebellion of 1885 was a time of anxiety, and there was some apprehension about the attitude of the local Indian. He seems not to have shared in the deep antagonisms that brought conflict and tragedy in neighboring Saskatchewan. This friendly goodwill has continued to the present time.

Manitoba Indians have derived from four main groups, all wanderers. The *Cree*, of Algonkian stock, moved westward over cen-



John Bopha



Billy Longclaws and wife at Fort Ellice.

turies, separated into three sub-groups. The "Swampy Cree" of northern Manitoba were the Home Indians of the Hudson's Bay Company, employed as guides and retainers. The Wood Cree, a happy, carefree group, lived in the central areas, and the Plains Cree were the expert buffalo hunters who acquired horses from the Mandans south of the border, and firearms from fur traders. The *Salteaux* or Ojibway from around Sault Ste. Marie came west as far as the Lake of the Woods and Whiteshell, lived in wigwams of birch bark, and were agricultural in habit. They gathered wild rice, made syrup from the Manitoba maple (box elder). The well known chief Peguis raised corn and possibly potatoes, and was a good friend of the people of Red River. The *Assiniboines* were a branch of the Dakotah Sioux, but became their enemies. Their livelihood was the buffalo hunt, their "tipis" were made of hides, and "beat meat" or pemmican was their great contribution to early western development.

The *Sioux* in Manitoba are mostly descendents of refugees from the Minnesota disturbances of 1862, and in Saskatchewan from the defeat of General Custer by Sitting Bull in 1876. They brought with them their independent natures, but were very glad to find security and a place to establish homes. The Birdtail Sioux in 1877 were allotted a reserve of twelve square miles at the junction of the Birdtail and Assiniboine, but were not Treaty Indians. They were given stock, seed and implements, and L. W. Herchmer was sent as Agent from Ottawa to teach them farming, but with little success. They lived in their own way, grew corn and cut hay, cured fish and game, and aided the settlers in search for strayed stock. When E. J. Wilson saw them in 1879 he was impressed with their appearance — lithe, straight, often over six feet in their moccasins. Familiar personalities were Sioux Jack, Solomon, Big Hunter, Sioux Benn, Thunder, Moses Bunn.

An elderly Chief of the Lizard Point Reserve had some words to say about the Indian way of life before the coming of the white man. "We were never sick, unless we met with an accident. We killed the deer, moose and buffalo with bow and arrow, and made our knives from their rib bones. Our clothing was found in the hide of the jumping deer, and our homes were made from buffalo skins. Dry yellow birch wood rubbed between two stones produced first a spark, then a flame for our fires. We made necessary articles from wood and bark, horn and animal bones. Perhaps it was freedom and the lack of restraint that made life so wonderful."³

The early explorers and traders owed much to the Indian, whose skills in hunting, tracking, survival in the woods and plains in all seasons were borrowed freely, as were their foods, medicines, clothing and means of transportation. For the Indian's debt to the white man we are on more uncertain ground. Early gains — new tools and weapons, novel kinds of food and clothing — scarcely compensated for loss of age-old skills and independence. Side-effects were disastrous illnesses like small pox and tuberculosis, for which the Indian had little or no immunity. Dislocation with the coming of the railroad, needless slaughter

of wild game by irresponsible hunters were among the causes of the increasing deterioration of the Indian people, which reached a low point about the turn of the present century. Since then much has been done by government and other agencies, but much remains to be done.

The treaties signed on behalf of their people by various chiefs in the last century seem rather irrelevant now, slanted as they were to converting the Indian into a farmer. Treaty No. 4, signed Sept. 21st, 1874 for the bands of western Manitoba, assigned to each family one section of land, to each person an annual stipend from \$5.00 to \$25.00, to every ten families farm equipment, livestock and seed. They were not to be sold liquor, and were to live at peace with each other and the white man.

An interesting new approach is the centre at Rivers, Man., named Oo-Za-We-Kwun (Yellow Quill), aimed at building a predominantly native community along urban lines, attracting industries to provide jobs, and providing social programs to develop in families the skills necessary for modern city living. Established in 1972, the training centre has still to make its mark, but the outlook is hopeful.

Returning to the early years of our district, many family stories relate anecdotes of their Indian neighbors. Lilian Ridout Allen of Solsgirth writes that it was quite usual to have Indian visitors, bringing freshly caught fish from the creek and baskets made of willow to exchange for flour, bread, bacon and eggs. "The baskets were well made and strong, lasting for many years." Gertrude Winter Quelch in her diary wrote that the Indians would glide into the house, sit down and never say a word until you spoke to them . . . Tea was a great treat, and nothing pleased them better than a little of it. Her father, losing his way one winter's day, came upon Big Jack camped with his wife. He was offered some buns, and a smoke from the long pipe . . . He felt quite refreshed when he started for home.

Women at home alone seemed to have little fear of the visitors. The Loughheed farm was a halfway house between Lizard Point Reserve and Birtle. "Mother seemed always to have Indians sleeping all over her kitchen floor." Mrs. Samuel Cahoon, living a hard, lonely life near Bodwin, Montana, armed herself with a poker when she opened the door to an Indian's knock. He calmed her fears when he said "No, Missus, we friendly Indians. We just want drink (water, of course)." The Samuel Widdicombe home on the Pelly Trail was a stopping-house for travellers, and Indians were a common sight. Samuel suggested jokingly to one chief that they exchange wives. The Indian took him seriously, insisted on taking the lovely Sarah Jane with him, and was dissuaded only with great difficulty. Howard Haines tells of an old Indian who often visited their home in hope of a handout. On one occasion his mother, scrubbing the floor, lifted a shotgun to move it — and frightened the old man so that he hightailed it across the field, and never came back. The lady always declared that she knew nothing about guns or how to fire one.

Bernard Miller of Solsgirth was one who was privileged to witness one of the last ceremonies of "the making of a brave" — the Sioux Sun

Dance. "From the tall centre pole hung two ropes, fastened into the breasts of the young man . . . As the drum beat and the Medicine Men chanted, the brave-to-be danced, leaning back until he had broken the flesh of one of his breasts. If this was accomplished without the poor fellow succumbing to the pain, he was admitted to the tribe as a full-fledged brave."

The Hudson's Bay Company

The history of Manitoba as we know it begins in the north, with the discovery by Henry Hudson in 1610 of the great bay later named for him. Ventures such as this, commercial in motive, sent ships and men probing in all directions, combining profit with patriotism, as the bounds of the British Empire expanded with them. On May 2nd, 1670 the Charter was granted to the Company of Adventurers, who became the True and Absolute Lordes and Proprietors of a million and a half square miles of unexplored territory. It was given the name Rupertsland for Prince Rupert, cousin of Charles II, and the first Governor of the Company.

For two hundred years the Company rule was well-nigh absolute, maintained fortunately with a strong sense of responsibility to its own servants and to the Indian people who were both suppliers and customers. The year 1867 brought Confederation to eastern Canada, and turned thoughts westward with the promise of a railroad. There was an additional goad in rumours of annexation of the west by the United States, now in a period of expansion after the end of the Civil War. As the Company felt its hold slipping in the midst of these great events, on November 19th, 1869 the Gentlemen Adventurers "stepped aside as rulers, and became what they were originally intended to be — traders and merchants — today The Bay."⁵

During the two centuries "When Fur was King" the Governors and Factors of the Company undertook supervision of all aspects of life in its vast domain. Agriculture, stock-raising, transportation, education, spiritual and moral instruction all received their share of attention. "The Company Men" carried responsibility for trade, government, peacekeeping and general welfare, and were expected to conduct affairs with self-reliance and dignity. "Self pride is the great requisite in anyone who comes out here, for there is no society to cry down what is done amiss."⁶ The early settlement on the Birdtail had not far to look when a crisis arose. A few miles distant was a never-failing help in time of stress — the Company post at Fort Ellice, and its then Chief Factor, Archibald McDonald, "almost venerated by natives, and honored by settlers for his square dealing where opportunity for graft was unlimited."⁷

Fort Ellice

In the fall of 1831, ten years after the amalgamation of the Hudson's Bay and North-West Companies, the decision was made to construct a fort near the junction of the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle rivers.

The cairn erected on the site in 1935 bears an inscription which states that the fort replaced Fort Esperance (1783) and Cuthbert Grant House (1793) of the North-West Company and Beaver House (1817) of the Hudson's Bay. The main speaker on the occasion of the unveiling of the cairn outlined the story of the dynamic individual for whom the fort was named — Edward Ellice, called "Bear Ellice" for his identification with the fur trade, a partner in the North-West Company and a prime mover of the amalgamation. He served as Director and Deputy Governor of the new Company until his death in Scotland in 1863. Chief forester on his estate near Inverness was a McDonald, father of Archibald, who was born there, and no doubt in later life was to see in the rolling terrain of the Assiniboine valley many a reminder of the hills of home.

The first Fort Ellice was built on a plateau almost four hundred feet high overlooking the Assiniboine near Beaver Creek. About 1862 it was moved a mile east to the familiar site above the Assiniboine. The structure was of wood, with a stockade of fifteen-foot spruce pickets. The "Big House", residence of the Factor, was two and a half stories, built of logs in the "Red River frame" construction, containing offices, rooms for meetings, reading, dining and living. It was heated by four fire-places, carron stoves and a kitchen range, and visitors reported that the occupants lived in comparative comfort. Other buildings included a trading post, warehouse for storage of furs and provisions, carpenter and blacksmith shops, dairy and icehouse, as well as more sleeping quarters. The buildings were all whitewashed, presenting a neat appearance, and attractive with flower and vegetable gardens.

The Fort was a place of importance in its best days. After 1872 the office for the District of Swan River was located there. It became the headquarters for survey parties, and for a time a contingent of the N.W.M.P. was stationed there. It was the hub of the overland transportation system, and served as a postal centre and depot for exchange of horses. Red River carts were manufactured within its walls. It was also a main treaty-paying post for several tribes. Fanny Wilkinson Cooper wrote that she had seen the plain covered with the tipis of Indians camped and waiting for their money.

A tragic tale of the severe winter of 1879 will be of special interest to Birtle people. Fifteen families of starving Indians were brought to the Fort by a relief party sent out after one White Bear made his way there. They were cared for, then pitched their tents in the valley. In the spring they contracted a fatal disease — perhaps smallpox — and all died except the stalwart White Bear. Spring floods swept away the bodies, and the tribe vanished.

Another story concerns a survey party under Captain J. Ermatinger, who arrived in December 1871 from Saskatchewan. Intense cold, scarcity of fodder, horses strayed and frozen to death had made their journey a hard one, and they were very glad to reach the fort, where Factor McKay did everything in his power to assist them. There they rested, exchanged carts for sleighs, half-starved horses for fresh ones, and went on their way.

After the decision was made to build the C.P.R. further south, the fort gradually lost its importance as a distributing centre. Trade had so declined by 1890 that the post was sold to the Company storekeeper, T. V. Wheeler, and became a country store and stage post between Birtle and Moosomin. E. R. Lewarton of Foxwarren purchased the store and operated it until the Grand Trunk Pacific came to St. Lazare, when the buildings were disposed of. Little is to be seen now except the cairn, and the remains of two cemeteries. One stone clearly marks the grave of "Peter Kierstead, drowned 1881, aged 25." There are also remnants of foundations of stockade, Big House, well and bake oven.

The Carlton Trail

This home-spun band so roughly corrugated,
Gouged out by trains of carts that wound their way
In rain or sunshine, through to old Fort Ellice,
A barter outpost of the Hudson Bay.
Here crawls the commerce of a sprouting nation,
The first Canadian highway of the plains . . .

Leo Leavens

Highway No. 1 for western Canada in the nineteenth century was the rutted, stony, often rain-soaked Carlton, Saskatchewan or Edmonton Trail, the name depending upon one's destination. It followed an erratic course for nine hundred miles from Fort Garry to Fort Edmonton, from which point other less-travelled routes might be taken south or to the Pacific coast. The Trail dates from the eighteenth century, probably from early buffalo hunts, and later was found to be a convenient road for traders and wayfarers of many kinds.

From Fort Garry the trail led to Portage la Prairie, dividing there into two branches, one of which followed roughly the route of present Highway No. 4, through Gladstone, Shoal Lake, Minnedosa, the Bird-tail spring and Fort Ellice. From there a network of trails led north to Fort Pelly, south to the United States, south-west to Qu'Appelle. The intrepid space travellers of the time, men of many callings and even a few women and children, made their way along these roads in all seasons and weathers, for reasons economic, political, religious or adventurous. Western tourism of the nineteenth century included Captain John Palliser, Henry Youle Hind, The Earl of Southesk, hunting big game, Dr. Cheadle and Lord Milton, tourists on horseback. The great engineer Sandford Fleming, accompanied by botanist John Macoun, made an early survey for the projected railroad in 1872. Oddly, Fleming's recommended route was rejected in time, partly because of Macoun's studies of the vegetation and agricultural possibilities of the southern plains.

Travel conditions on the trail varied with the weather, which however seems to have ranged generally between poor and indescribable. Red River carts notorious for their screeching, wagons and buckboards lacking springs, sleighs and "stone-boats" were the vehicles most favoured. Oxen, sometimes horses provided motor power. When

speed was essential, the traveller rode horseback, with a train of packhorses. Many of these wayfarers have left detailed accounts of their journeys, written by flickering candle or firelight at the end of the day. From these we hear the almost incredible story of the opening of the west. Rains, floods and mud in the spring, storms, mosquitoes and other pests in summer, fires in the fall, snows, blizzards, deep-freeze cold in winter did not deter them for long. Their courage, determination and optimism, founded on faith in the future of this "Great Lone Land", helped them to accomplish the impossible — when common sense should have persuaded them to take the shortest route home.

John Macoun, with scientific detachment, writes vividly of experiences which left him and his companions many times in a state of discomfort. After sixteen miles of tramping through a driving snow storm without shelter, they found "a little marsh surrounded by wood, and camped . . . In a short time we had blazing fires, and after the ice was thawed off our clothes, we sat about the fire making a shelter for the night. I lay under the wagon with my feet to the fire, and never awakened until morning." He described a prairie storm, near Portage la Prairie: "Every form of beauty was combined in the sky — blue, that those who have seen only dull English skies say is only in heaven — vast billowy mountains of fleeciest white — a swollen black cloud, under which greyer masses were eddying at a terrific rate. Lightning rushed towards the earth in zig-zag currents, and thunder varied from rattle of musketry to roar of artillery. The wind and rain struck together, and hail and lumps of ice an inch across . . . In less than an hour the sun burst forth again."

Of the mosquitoes, familiar to all Manitobans, perhaps the less said the better. Ernest Thompson Seton wrote in 1882 "The mosquitoes are a terror to man and beast — one could kill one hundred with a stroke of the palm. At times they obscured the colour of the horses . . ." P. W. Grant tells us "The plight of the domestic animals was pitiful indeed, as they had no rest day or night. Cattle would stampede wildly through the willows, trying to brush off the maddening swarms." That other menace of the grassy plains, the prairie fire, is mentioned often in the stories of pioneers, bringing terror and destruction in its relentless career. T. A. Wilson describes one which he witnessed — "There is seldom seen the phenomenon of "topping" — when the fire races in the tree-tops far ahead of the ground fire. This happened on the home farm, when a bluff of 40-foot poplar burst into flame with a tremendous cracking and roaring . . . About 1910 such a fire was a threat to Birtle town. A great many citizens turned out to control the fire, which burned out only a short distance below the dam. I remember Frank Manwaring coming to check the situation at my post."

Chapter II

THE SETTLERS ARRIVE

Beautiful valley, handwork of God,
Tree-clad thy slopes by pathway and road;
Shaded from heat of summer's bright sun,
Sheltered in winter when storm blasts are on

Alfred Morton 1895

The years after Confederation in Canada were busy and stirring ones. In the eastern provinces feeling ran high during the Fenian raids from across the border of the U.S.A. There was talk of further aggression, rumours that the much-publicized "Manifest Destiny" would lead to annexation of the unorganized territory in the west. The people of the central plains however, cut off from the east by a thousand miles of rock, pine and muskeg, did not entirely share this hostility. For centuries they had used a travel route north and south by land and water, and the fur trade had linked the North-West Territory with the northern United States. When the first settlers came out to the "postage-stamp province" of Manitoba, they used these same routes, more convenient now with the aid of the American railroads.

It has been said that the speed and comfort of travel has improved more in the past hundred years than in all the centuries since Imperial Rome. Enough has been written by those who undertook lengthy journeys in the nineteenth century for us to visualize the uncertain, tedious, bone-shaking modes of transportation that were the rule then. Even more uncertain was their way of life on arrival. The question is often asked "Why did they come?" The Homestead Act of 1872, the promise of a railroad linking east and west, the desire for more fertile and arable land than was now to be had in Ontario gave rise to the contagious "Manitoba Fever" that turned many eyes and thoughts westward.

Summarized briefly, the Homestead Act permitted each adult over eighteen to register for one hundred and sixty acres for a fee of ten dollars. Another quarter section might be pre-empted for \$1.00 per acre. There were required homestead duties to "prove up the claim" — residence on the land for at least six months in each of three years, cultivation of a minimum of ten acres a year, erection of a habitable house. Certain sections were reserved for the C.P.R. from 1881, for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869, and two sections in each township for sale for schools. Two and a half million acres were selected for half-breeds and Metis, for which scrip was issued — resulting in much confusion and profiteering. It seems, however, that because of the colonization project there was not much of this in the Birdtail district.

The Historical Atlas of Manitoba speaks of the unimaginative railroad-oriented "gridiron" pattern of most townsites in North America — but excepts Birtle and a few other towns from this stereotype, inasmuch as the town business centre was firmly established before the railroad came.

The story of the opening of the west with the building of the C.P.R. has been well and thoroughly told by Mr. Pierre Berton, in his two-volume history "The National Dream" and "The Last Spike". Little need be said here, except to point out that the first Birdtail settlers came out when the railroad was still a dream, that they selected their land in the expectation that the railroad would follow the route mapped in 1872 by Sandford Fleming, and that their hopes were doomed to disappointment. There was a flutter of excitement around Fort Ellice about 1880, when a line was surveyed through the valley, and lots were sold for a town laid out by the Hudson's Bay Company to be named "Coleville". The main line finally went through Moosomin, and was connected with the Birdtail settlement by stage, horses being kept at the Fort for exchange.

In the next few years the cry was raised by farmers and business men for branch lines to serve their needs. In southern Manitoba those lines that were planned and laid out ran into trouble with the Monopoly Clause in the C.P.R. contract with the Dominion Government, which was intended to eliminate competition from American lines with which these might connect. The "Pembina Branch" from St. Boniface to the border was the sole exception, it being part of the C.P.R. system. The dispute over "disallowance" of provincial railway charters continued until a test case in 1889 resulted in a decision in favour of the provincial right to grant such charters. One of the issues in the dispute — freight rates — is still a sore point with farmers and others. Historian W. L. Morton mentions the "policy of the federal government — to make Manitoba and the Northwest an economic hinterland of eastern Canada . . . The conflict between local interest and national policy became a political struggle in which the Manitoba farmer turned to the provincial government as a means of fighting their battle . . ."

Manitoba and Northwestern Railway

The railway which finally linked the Birdtail district with the world was not involved in this controversy. It received a Federal charter in February 1880 as "The Portage and Westbourne Railway". Finally the name became "Manitoba and Northwestern". The Montreal Allan family of steamship fame took it over in 1882, and expansion proceeded rapidly. It reached Minnedosa in 1883, Solsgirth in 1885. In February of that year The Winnipeg Free Press carried the announcement "Birtle has secured the line . . . for a \$40,000 contract. The line is expected to open in August". By the end of 1886 it reached Langenburg, Sask.

In the Provincial Archives are preserved copies of a newspaper — the New Year's issue of 1886 of the "Manitoba Sun" and the Mid-summer Holiday number of the re-named "Winnipeg Sun" of 1888, with lengthy articles about the new railroad and the country through which it ran. A land grant of 6400 acres per mile for three hundred miles had been assigned by the Dominion Government. The head office was to be at Portage la Prairie, and the officers were named "well known efficient railway men". The article ends with the statement — "So ex-

cellent are the prospects of the Company that it bids fair to rival the C.P.R. in magnitude!"

The "Sun" issue of 1888 turns its beams upon the beauties of the newly-opened territories — "the Park Lands of the Fertile Belt, from which come the best carloads of wheat — extra No. 1 hard — at the Port of Winnipeg . . . plenty of chances for safe investment of money. Towns and villages are springing up — mills, warehouses, stores are required . . . The rivers abound in fish . . . Pay a visit in shooting season to this country. We are told that the railroad has the finest roadbed in the North-West, and a supply of the very best rolling stock."

Realistically, the line may have been one of the "Puff and Toot" variety. W. L. Morton states that "It opened a rich territory in which for many years it had no rival. But it gave an inferior service, and failed to earn reasonable returns. In 1894 it was taken over by the C.P.R."

Another side-light is provided by the Low family story. "Dad also told of the time Mr. Cheney Burdett was bringing some horses up on the train. One of them got loose and got off the train. Dad said "The train was so slow that the horse just trotted alongside. He could have gone ahead, but he didn't want to leave the other horses."

Steamboats on the Assiniboine

It happened that the expansion of settlement in the North-West coincided with a few years of exceptionally high water in the Red River Valley in spring and early summer. River navigation by paddle-wheel steamer had been common on the Red River since 1859, when the "Anson Northrup" was put into service. By the time the Pembina Branch Railway reached St. Boniface in 1878, as many as fifteen steamboats were working the Red. From then until 1882 the Assiniboine was sufficiently high to permit navigation as far as Fort Pelly. We hear most about the "Alpha" and "Marquette", which left Brandon for Fort Ellice about once every two weeks, going on to Pelly at least once. Scows downstream also provided a freighting service from the Forts to Red River, but no effort was made to use them on the return trip. In the expectation of more river traffic, bridges were built at Fort Ellice and over the Qu'Appelle, one a swing bridge, which by 1882 was no longer needed.

In these same years, and for the same reason, travel overland was particularly arduous in the spring months, with creeks and marshes swollen, water knee-deep in places on the prairie, and the mosquitoes more than usually vicious. Alonzo Shepherd in May 1880 arrived at his homestead by the Trail after seventeen days' laborious travelling. He wrote of rain, snow, lost animals. Crossing one creek — "We had a rough time, as the bridge was gone. I crossed five times, and the water was cold and came into the wagon-box". Later, at the Little Saskatchewan (Minnedosa) River "The water was to my middle and very cold." He had shipped his goods by boat, and found them waiting at the Fort Landing.

Some families chose to make the entire trip by boat — slow, but

Set "Steamer Marquette" 70th May 1880

Marks and Numbers.	Weight of Packages.	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Entry for duty Ex-Ship.	Date of Entry for Warehouse.	Date of Entry Ex-Ware- house.	Date of Receipt in Depot.
④		Alas: Hay-					1880 May 10
①		House hold goods	111	111			
①		Box Glass	1				
①		Drum Nails	1				
①		Bbl Pork	1				
①		sack Wheat	0	1			
①		Photo	11	1			
①		Box Stone	1				
①		square Looking stone	1				
①		Keg Molasses	1				
①		Sub &c	1				
①		est Whipple trees	1				
①		Bundle Red rails	11				
①		" " slabs	11				
①		" " ends	11				
①		ed Windows sash	1				
①		" Chairs					
①		" R.					
①		" b "					
①		Iron Chair					
①		sack Oatmeal	1				
①		" feed	111				
①		ea ox yoke	1				
①		set Iron hammers	1				
①		sack Salt	1				
①		Role Bedding	1				
①		Greener					

Received Correct
Alas: Hay

not uncomfortable. Henry and Charlotte Randall came this way in 1882. Youthful Margaret Webster (later Mrs. Hector Porteous) came in May of the same year with her parents and grandfather Borrowman. "We came from Winnipeg by boat, a Mississippi steamer, flat-bottomed, two decks, huge wheels on each side." The boat was full. Among the passengers were forty Mounted Police and their horses, also her future mother-in-law Mrs. Porteous and Mrs. Lawrence Herchmer. "Our way upstream was from bank to bank. The boat would break a paddle or two, then a stop to mend it, or to cut cordwood to take us a few more miles. The Assiniboine is not a straight river!"

From the "Eye-Witness" comes a story of a steam boiler for a sawmill in the Riding Mountains, freighted by river, hauled by ox teams across country, leaving traces still to be seen within living memory. P. W. Grant relates that a steam engine for the Grant flour mill came in the same way about 1882.

The First Settlers

Alfred Morton (1850-1929) and his friends had a choice of several routes of travel when they left Stratford, Ont. on Tuesday, May 14th, 1878. They might have selected the way taken by the Shepherd family in 1880 — by train through Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul to Fishers' Landing (Moorhead) or St. Vincent near the Manitoba border, and then by the Pembina Branch to St. Boniface. They chose however a slower but possibly more comfortable route by the boat "Manitoba" from Goderich on Lake Huron, to Duluth, thence by train to Fishers' Landing and two days by boat to Winnipeg, stopping at Emerson for customs inspection. In Winnipeg they purchased oxen, carts, harness, camp stove and food supplies, and set off for the Birdtail. Impeded by rain and the notorious Manitoba gumbo, by ruts and pot holes, creeks and sloughs, they required a full two weeks to travel the two hundred miles, arriving Sunday, June 9th.

We have fortunately a wealth of information about these adventurers and the first months of settling into their new homes. Mr. Morton's diary provided much detail of their daily life, which E. J. Wilson used to supplement his own recollections after his arrival the following June. His pamphlet "Birtle's Beginning" is a mine of rich and humorous anecdote, of alert and pithy on-the-spot reporting, which we can only endeavor to round out from other sources. We have received in addition several letters "back home" written by Mr. Morton and his wife Addie, and the family story of his granddaughter Eva McCann (Mrs. Alex Duff). Together these provide a uniquely vivid picture of this pioneering family.

On arrival Alfred Morton, John Richardson and Andrew Bissett selected their homesteads and pre-emptions — Mr. Morton taking the west half of 31-16-26 (later given the German name "Alashehr"), Bissett the east half (naming it "Pioneer") and Richardson W½ 32-16-26 ("Hazeldean"). On June 12th they walked to Shoal Lake, hired a pony and rig, and made entry for their land at the Office at Tanner's Crossing (Minnedosa). There followed plowing and planting a garden, and the start of a house, for which logs were cut and a cellar dug. Pem-mican from Fort Ellice, and from passing cart trains, and abundant wild strawberries helped out the larder, and despite constant rains and hordes of mosquitoes they managed by mid-July to put up both hay and the walls of the house. They then started the journey back — Mr. Morton to Stratford for his family, the other two to Winnipeg for supplies.

August 30th saw the return of Mr. Morton, with his wife, Adelaide (1849-1927) three small children and Annie Bissett, sixteen years, sister of Andrew, to help with the children (later to become Mrs. Harry

Turner of Miniota). With them came two tons of goods and an organ. On the journey from the border to Winnipeg the family boarded the "Dakota", and Alfred with horse and democrat passed them several times. At Grafton all boarded the "Minnesota". After a week at the Dominion Hotel in Winnipeg, they departed on Sept. 21st, an inch of snow making the road difficult. The family remained with a friend McTavish near Basswood, and the men continued on to complete the house with plaster chinking, doors and windows, as well as to dig the vegetables. The family moved in on Oct. 29th, a fireplace was begun and the stable completed. With weather well below zero, poplar was cut for flooring, furniture and a sleigh were made, and the newcomers were ready for their first Manitoba winter. Eva McCann Duff has a letter describing the first home — built in an open field west of the Ewbank house, it measured 18x24 feet with centre door and a window on each side. Beds were made of poplar logs, and a loft was built under the rafters for the two single men. About 1885 a two-story white frame home was built on the Birtle south hill, sheltered by a row of evergreens. It was demolished in 1969.

Mrs. Duff and an Eye-Witness story record some of the sorrows of the Morton family. A baby son died in the spring of 1879, and was buried in a home-made casket under the old oak tree that still stands in the ravine. A Mountie from Shoal Lake came to attend. Later another son and small daughter were buried beside the first child. Two daughters grew to maturity, Florence becoming Mrs. Alex Stewart and Agnes, Mrs. Melth McCann. Andrew Bissett and John Richardson in time moved from the district, the former ending his days in Medicine Hat, the latter back home in Stratford.

Alfred and Addie Morton wrote letters home from time to time, which provide side-lights on their life as pioneers:

Dec. 15, 1878 — Lorne Tp. N.W. Territories; You have little idea in your comfortable Ontario houses, how little we can get along with . . . The air is so invigorating and pure, it gives one an appetite. (Addie)

Jan. 10, 1879; We economize the oil by putting the lamp out after supper and using the light of the fire. It answers very well to read by. When in Winnipeg I purchased a shaganappie hide for \$2.00, out of which we make moccasins. Addie made comical little ones for Florence and Agnes and lined them with fur . . . There seems to be always a way of getting along. (Alfred)

Aug. 8, 1879 — Address *Alashehr*; I am sure you would not be lonesome here, as there is more excitement in one day than in Shakespeare in a month. People of every possible social position pass here. (Alfred)

May 28, 1880 — Birtle; I still wear that venerable hat, and I must say it has been some trouble to me. I trimmed it over with black velveteen, and it is on a par with the other hats in the neighborhood . . . (Advise) Ellen to bring a cat with her. She can get one in Winnipeg. The mice are so bad that the goods are sure to be eaten. A lot of our clothes and bedclothes were eaten . . . That was very hard on Mr. Battram. I

suppose you heard the truth of it. He had no idea of smuggling it in . . . It was only a small bottle for medicinal purposes. (Addie)

Hamilton and Northwest Colonization Society

Settlement in the Birdtail district received stimulation in the spring of 1879 by a group of seven men from southern Ontario, combining their forces to encourage emigration west. They issued a circular during the winter of 1878-79 with detailed instruction for colonists who might elect to join the Society and settle upon the land reserved for it — in Township 17 in Ranges 24, 25, and 26 West. Those initiating the project were:

Matthew Richardson, Hamilton
Whitfield Douglas, Hamilton
Thomas Wilson, Dundas
J. S. Crawford, St. George — merchant
J. H. Wood, Woodstock — journalist
D. W. Cumming, Stratford — merchant
John Smith, Hamilton — Society Secretary

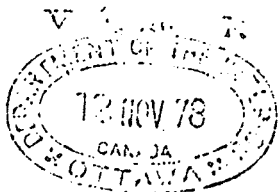
Of the first three listed we hear nothing more. The last four however made their homes in the settlement, and were largely responsible for its growth. They were to receive jointly one section of land for each forty settlers established, and it seems were expected to carry out the usual homestead duties.

The original circular is retained in the files of the Dominion Archives. Emigrants are cautioned against paying heed to American land agents and ticket scalpers who might waylay them and induce them to settle in the States. Rail fares are quoted to St. Vincent, 64 miles south of Winnipeg — \$24.00 for adults, children under twelve half fare; freight per car \$200.00, with livestock \$210.00. Those wishing to travel via the Great Lakes could do so for \$19.00, with freight and livestock in proportion. There is mention of the possibility of making the journey from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie also by boat and "The trail from Portage to the settlement can be travelled at almost any time."

The first colonists arrived in the spring of 1879, before the Dominion Land Survey was complete, which later caused some complications, and a few disputes over land holdings which kept a stream of letters, telegrams and memoranda passing between the colony and Ottawa and "daily indignation meetings, making a mountain out of a molehill."¹ This however was later.

The first summer was a busy one. In May Secretary John Smith requested a timber license for areas up the Birdtail, "so as to have timber for a sawmill and a lath and shingle factory." D. W. Cummings in June wrote directly to the Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, saying that he had visited the colony and "it needs lumber and machinery, for such must go west before July, to get up to the Birdtail before the waters of the Assiniboine fall." It was late in August before

 15600
CIRCULAR.



HAMILTON & NORTH-WEST

Colonization Society

A Society has been organized here for sending delegates to the North-West for the purpose of selecting a location for the settlement of the Colony, and to make the necessary arrangements for the conveyance of the Colonists. Parties wishing to join the Society can do so by enclosing \$1 to the Secretary.

A further assessment will be made, not to exceed the sum of \$4, to defray the expenses of the Society, including the cost of the delegates.

A number of the Colonists intend going out this season, which will be of great advantage to those following next spring. Parties desirous of settling out West will find the cost of going there very much reduced by joining the Colony. In addition they would derive all the advantages to be obtained from this system of emigration, where schools and churches could be established in the settlement.

JOHN SMITH, Sec'y,

Hamilton, Ont.

the request for the license reached the appropriate agent, who was away in the west.

Mr. J. H. Wood was the man on the spot most of the time, and as controversy over land continued, he made repeated requests for a land agent. In July 1880 A. J. Belch was appointed, and an office was opened in Birtle to serve the surveyed blocks west of Range 22 and north of the projected C.P.R. mainline. Clementi Smith, a recent arrival from England but well versed in the work, was the assistant, and also had duty as guide for home-seekers. He was a congenial addition to Birtle's social set for some months — but "Wanderlust returned with the long warm days, and Clementi disappeared as he came."¹ His hand-written report is still in the files of the Archives. It reported that in November 1880 there were 169 settlers who had claimed land, thirty-one of these actually resident, which number reached eighty-six by July 1881.

The Society seems to have done its best to see that its group of colonists was settled to their individual satisfaction, despite annoyances and frustrations that were understandable. A belated tribute in 1968 reads thus: "*Re. Wood and Crawford Colony* — The townships were especially selected by delegates for the excellent quality of their soil, splendid belts of timber and abundant water supply. It was one of the few, if not the only one (of similar societies) that fulfilled its pledges to the government."⁸

The two leading personalities in this pioneering project were without doubt those mentioned above — J. H. Wood and J. S. Crawford. They merit individual attention here.



Morton Oak Tree — Burial place of three children.



"Orphans' Home" built by John and Tom Patterson, 1879. Mrs. Toss Carpenter.

John Sanderson Crawford — (1837-1916) — was an outstanding man, the details of whose life have been supplied by his grandson, Dr. S. A. Holling of Mississauga, Ont., who visited Birtle in May 1971. John was the eighth child of George and Esther Crawford, of Scotch-Irish descent, who settled in the Hornby area of Ontario in 1819. Two of John's relatives had a close connection with Manitoba — a niece Prudence who married Henry Rose, the Methodist student minister who served in Birtle in the early years, and a nephew, Crawford Norris, who came to Griswold, Man., entered politics and became Premier of Manitoba in the Liberal Party.

John married Sarah Lundy in April 1860, of Quaker parentage. In time he opened a general store in St. George, Ont., where he was still in business at the time of the organization of the Colonization Society. He did not come west with the first group in 1879, but remained in the east to promote additional groups. In the spring of 1880 he came out in company with a young protege Robert W. Gibson, and with enough general merchandise to open a store. On learning that J. S. Crerar had already done so, he decided to remain in Portage la Prairie to dispose of the stock.

John S. Crawford's history from that time is the history of Birtle. He was President of the Society, and first Mayor after incorporation in 1884, serving until 1897. Events of that long term of office have been capably summarized by present Mayor Howard in "The Crawford Years." He and his family were the first occupants of "The Castle" after E. P. Leacock's departure. He was largely responsible for the acceptance of the contract which brought the railway to Birtle, for a bonus of \$40,000, an obligation that later proved onerous, but served its purpose.

One of Mr. Crawford's daughters, Gertrude, married R. W. Gibson. She died in 1896, leaving a daughter Muriel. The elder daughter, Mary Etta, married Rev. T. E. Holling, a Methodist student minister in Birtle for a time, graduating in 1884.

The slump that hit the Birdtail district after the heady optimism of the early years was felt especially by its leading citizens. After several financial setbacks, Mr. Crawford, who had devoted so many hours and years to the advancement of the community, began to feel that his contribution was about at an end. In 1897 he accepted a position with the Department of the Interior, his task to encourage settlement of American farmers in the Canadian west. He was stationed first in Salina, Kansas, later in Kansas City, Mo., then Syracuse, N.Y. and finally back in Winnipeg. Failing health took him back to Birtle, where he died in the local hospital in the summer of 1916. He and his wife Sarah both rest in Birtle cemetery.

James Hewitt Wood

According to Masonic records, Mr. Wood was born in 1828, occupation "yeoman". He was a journalist in Woodstock, Ont. and became associated with the Colonization Society in 1878, coming west in the spring of 1879 with one of the first groups of settlers. During the first summer, while Mr. Crawford remained in the east, J. H. Wood carried most of the responsibility for the many details of establishing the new colony. He map-surveyed Section 5, adjoining the embryo town, dividing the future town-site into lots, most of which were never developed, except a few on the west edge.

Mr. Wood was recipient of most of the complaints from dissatisfied settlers, was rather unjustly accused of "fraudulent practices" in regard to the \$10.00 fee required from each member of the colony.



The Castle — built 1881.

Ben Dutton and S. W. Chambers were especially enraged, having partly developed property in Section 5 before the survey was complete. After an indignation meeting in the "Orphan's Home" (a bachelor residence) in the spring of 1880, "when speeches rivalled old-time political gatherings in bitterness", and which ended in a loud explosion from two old army muskets in the hands of two young boys (harmless fortunately) the feud was settled by a conciliatory letter from the Society officers in the east. ¹

Mr. Wood worked energetically for the settlement, and was a prime mover in most of the early institutions — church, school, post office.

He visited eastern cities to lecture on the bright prospects of the west, and found purchasers for hundreds of lots. He returned in April 1882 with his son Albert, who had been employed with the Hamilton "Spectator". With money saved he built "Albert Hall", still standing, the upper floor of which building was used for meetings, school classes etc. He later became Editor of the St. Paul newspaper "Pioneer". Mr. R. J. Gourley knew the family well in his youth. He says that son Hubert became Postmaster after his father. St. Clair Street in Birtle was named for the third son, who worked later for Jim Hill's railway. He was an expert photographer. There were three lovely daughters. One became Mrs. Graham. Edith married a Mr. Travis, and her daughter married Arthur Meighen, M.P., a lawyer in Portage at the time, and later Prime Minister of Canada, for the Conservatives.

W. H. H. Wood, a son of J. H. Wood, served in the Riel Rebellion of 1885. His family has a picture of him mounted on a horse decked with Indian beadwork. Later a cavalry sword from the rebellion was presented to the Birtle Masonic Lodge. Palmer Wood, only son of W. H. H. Wood, lived in Birtle until he attended Dental College, then prac-



Dickinsons' oxen.

tised in Winnipeg. He married Sophia Gardiner, who now lives in Calgary, has a son Gardiner and two grandsons.

Later Arrivals

"Birtle's Beginning" has a detailed narrative of the settlers as they came. In the spring of 1879 two groups left Ontario, one from Stratford with D. W. Cummings in charge, the other from Hamilton under J. H. Wood. The overland journey from Winnipeg was through a sea of mud, and they were to learn later native trappers and traders rarely attempted to travel before mid-May. E. J. Wilson was with the Stratford group, equipped with his tool kit, as were others who hoped for work with survey or railroad. "E. J." remained in Winnipeg until June. The Wood group arrived at the Birdtail on May 18th, and Section 6 was at once designated as the townsite. A draft survey was made, and lots assigned to those wishing to build. The first foundation was laid by B. G. Battram, a blacksmith — for a log residence 18 x 25. S. W. Chambers' hostel was the first building completed, the roof thatched by July 17th, the hostel occupied by August 15th.

First ladies to arrive were Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Chambers with their children, coming up the Assiniboine by boat. Mrs. Ben Dutton and three children came by ox team in September. October 31st saw the arrival of five more ladies and children, in a bitter sleet storm, so that they travelled by the Arden Ridge Road. John Haines piloted the party. The winter of 1879-80 was especially severe, as many stories tell us, but it passed at last, and all was again activity, as homes were put up hastily on land to be seeded in early spring.

The summer of 1880 saw many more arrive in the area, four of them Scarlet Riders from Fort McLeod, who applied their bounty warrants for half-sections in the Blenheim district — Samuel Henderson, Ed Allan, George Seale and Ben Daniels. Others mentioned, from the N.W.M.P. post at Shoal Lake Narrows, were J. L. Ridout, W. Brandon, J. S. Crerar and A. McKinnon, who located at Warleigh. By the time winter was upon them, many were already "old-timers", and after the New Year was ushered in with celebration and good cheer, they set about enjoying life with weekly meetings for debates, music, dancing at the mill house. The organ at the Morton home saw much service. Mr. R. J. Gourley, to the amusement of his family, says that he learned to sing from Alfred Morton.

April of 1882 was marked by a land auction, held at Birtle by the Dominion Government. Speculators bid for millions of acres at \$5.00, in the hope of future profits, which failed to materialize, but interest was focused on the settlement, and many names were added to the tax rolls. Nonetheless, "Birtle's Beginning" tells us that the first years of toil and hardship were followed by a period of depressed spirits and discouragement, especially after the Rebellion of 1885, which had a disrupting effect upon many, some of whom sold their land and took off on the brand-new railroad for greener fields further west. In an effort to replace them, Mayor Crawford spent some time in Winnipeg to meet

immigrant families from England and elsewhere. At this time came the Newsham, Sutcliffe, Salmon, Larcombe, Tibbatts and other families, who were received with hospitality, and quartered at the station or in rooms until they found farm locations.



Taming the wild. Name unknown.

Travel Overland

One reason for going west via Birtle was the presence of good spring water, and for many years the ruts of various vehicles could be seen in that district radiating to the distant points of Regina and Edmonton. In other respects the modes of travel were not unique to this area; Red River carts, wagons, oxen, horses, and walking.

The writer is acquainted with a one-time resident of Moosomin whose father walked to Birtle — a matter of some fifty miles — and returned carrying a hundred pound sack of flour from the local mill. The rails ended at Winnipeg and from there people had to make their way as best they could.

Judging by the problems encountered even today in severe winters, transportation must have been an almost insurmountable barrier at times, always difficult, and sometimes tragic. On the other hand many funny things happened — not necessarily viewed that way at the time — and a couple of instances may be given here.

An elderly — and rather irate — pioneer was returning from Birtle with a load of lumber. The weather was hot, the roads heavy, and the oxen maddened by mosquitoes decided on a little diversion. Without consulting the driver they strode into a deep slough and remained standing there for more than an hour.

"If it hadn't been for my pocketbook," he later said, "I'd've cut their bloody throats."

Another man, also elderly, had an even more dramatic trip home from Birtle. The spring flood was on, and returning home in the dark with his weekly groceries he unfortunately didn't observe that a bridge spanning the local creek wasn't. It had gone down the river a little earlier, and he, buggy and horses followed the same route for a short distance.

"It could have been a lot worse," a local lady remarked. "He wasn't hurt at all and he certainly needed a bath."

In retrospect, the sleighs that overturned with loads of grain; the runaways that smashed everything; the wagons that got stuck and had to be unloaded and re-loaded, often several times — these things are amusing, and indeed were so regarded by the victims themselves. But those same people were an indomitable breed, who worked under most adverse conditions in a harsh country far from their homes and familiar surroundings. And for what they achieved and handed on to us they deserve the greatest respect. (Stephen North)



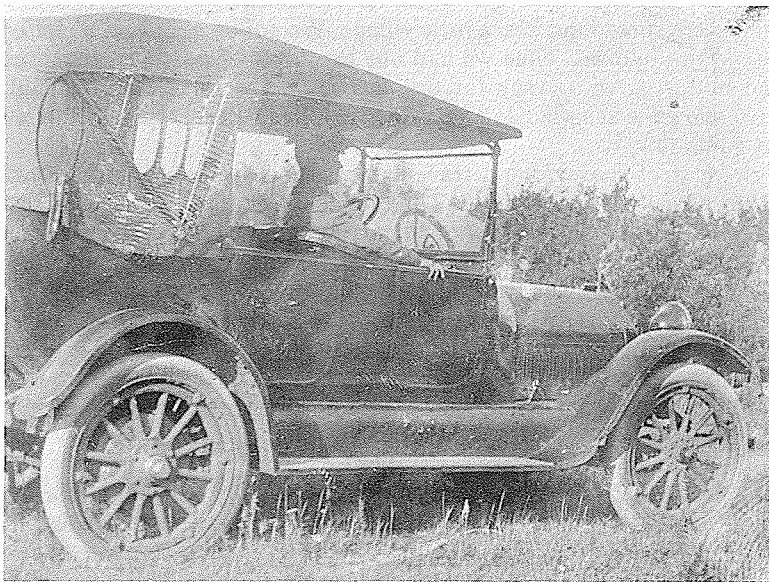
George Mitchell, Cal Clemens, Chief Longclaws, V. Schwalm, Mervyn Markle, J. Johnston. (Others unknown).

As the Pioneers Tell It . . .

And they came in goodly numbers,
Made the lonely valley ring,
As they camped upon the hillside

By the lovely Birtle spring . . . Thomas Low Sr.

Travellers in the more leisurely nineteenth century had it seems an irresistible urge to write down their thoughts and experiences. We are fortunate that much of what the early residents of the district entrusted to paper has been preserved, and serves to flesh out the bare bones of history. One of the earliest diary-narratives that we have is from the pen



Lamb's McLaughlin, 1910.

of James C. Anderson, who kept the first store and post office in Solsgirth, as his father had done back in Braemar, Ont. Ben Dutton, who boarded at the Anderson home before his marriage, persuaded James to come west with himself, wife and family in the spring of 1879. "Things were rather bad in Ontario, very little work. We had some trouble on the way out — our car went off the track, but they managed to stop the train before much damage was done." They came the Windsor-Detroit-Chicago route, arrived at the Canadian border then "proceeded very slowly to St. Boniface, as the railway was not ballasted. . . Next morning we crossed the Red river on scows . . . I was surprised at the size of the potatoes we had to eat. They were almost a foot long . . ." They found the country at Palestine and Gladstone inundated, and water running over the flats where Minnedosa now is.

Alex Anderson and his wife and family came west in September 1880, by the Great Lakes route through Sarnia. "We sailed with the "Manitoba" for Duluth — very stormy on the lake. As the old boat was frail, the Captain thought it wise not to push through, so we cast anchor twice. At the end of ten days we arrived in Winnipeg, coming from Duluth by train. . . On Sept. 21st we started on our tedious journey . . . in a covered van, which carried provisions, clothing and children. Then we had two Red River carts with an ox hitched to each, with household effects and some chickens. The carts were best on the road, with large wooden wheels, whereas Ontario wagons would sink in the mud road . . . We always pitched our tent when we came to a slough of water. . . then we put up the stove (we gathered wood as we went along) . . . It was delightful to sleep in a tent. We had quite a number with us, and the

tents were spread out like a little village. We got up about six o'clock to attend to the oxen. Then we had our breakfast of porridge, tea, bread and butter. . . with syrup for the porridge. . One of the parties had a cow, and gave us milk . . . Every day we killed some game, as there was no game law."

Most of the overland travellers mention special hazards beyond Minnedosa — Mosquito Hill, Three-Mile Creek, then Ten-Mile Creek. At Shoal Lake on the border of Manitoba, was a N.W.M.P. Post where all travellers were stopped and searched for liquor, illegal in the North-West Territories. There were a few "stopping-houses" on the way, some better than others, where wayfarers could have bed (perhaps on the floor) and breakfast for about a dollar. They were glad of the shelter in the really bad weather, when the men of the party were often wet through all day long, as they progressed from one slough or creek to the next. A rope was slung in a corner of the covered van, for their clothes to dry a little during the night.

Alonzo Shepherd kept a diary methodically each day when he came out in April 1880, father John having made a trip west the preceding year to select homesteads. The brief entries tell a moving tale of laborious toil, some good times, strong faith and determination, thrift and ambition. The first log house sheltered Alonzo and his brothers, and brother-in-law George Osborne until sister Melissa came out the following summer. Sarah, another sister, was cook and housekeeper, and did not once go into Birtle during the long cold winter until the following July.

A few highlights of their first year in Manitoba:

Sunday June 27th — A little rain. Went to church, about twenty-five present. Went to the Mortons for dinner and Mr. Wood's for tea,

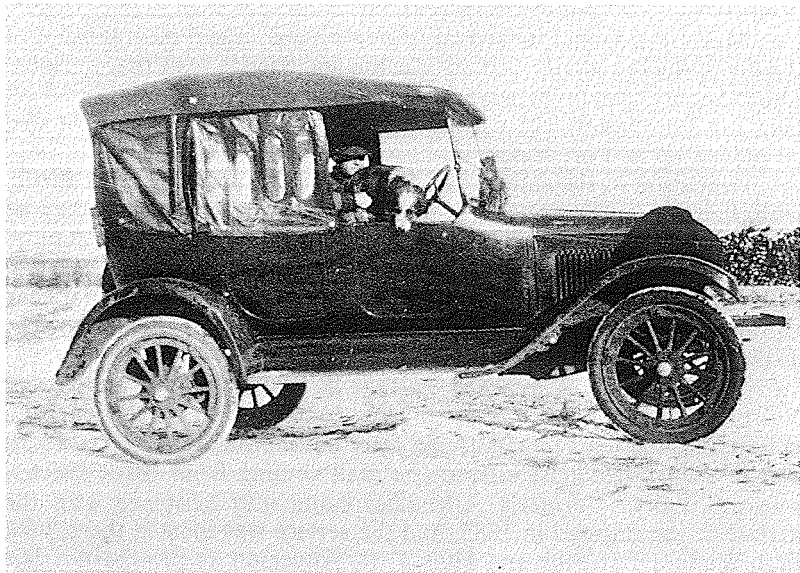


Bayfield Church (after 1917).

Bible class and home. Sept. 12th — Fine day. Joseph Wilkinson and I went for a drive out to the plains, had our dinner and a good time generally. Had Corney's buckboard. Sat. Dec. 25th — Beautiful cold Christmas morning, forty-two below and the air is very clear. I had fresh fish stuffed and pudding for dinner. Joseph and Walley were here to share the beautiful fish.

Jan. 1st, 1881 — Lots of parties around here. One at Ellice, one at Herchmer's. . . Disaster struck Wed. March 9th — very windy, away hauling logs . . coming home I saw the house on fire, the folks all out of doors, Sarah on the bed tick crying about George's watch . . about \$600 loss. . . Shortly thereafter came the "bee", with twelve or more men assisting, E. J. Wilson with his renowned axe..By April 14th they were in their new house. Dec. 25th — very good dinner — rabbit, duck, partridge, all stuffed, and plum pudding. . .

Miss Gertrude Winter, later Mrs. Quelch, came from England with her parents and nine children in March 1882. "We enjoyed the voyage, although we had a rough passage and were carried over the Atlantic, as it were, in the arms of a drunken man . . . In Halifax we were taken straight to a train warmed and waiting for us. The trains were heated by stoves, and there were no tourist cars with every convenience as there are now. (After two nights in a Pullman car) we made the journey in the ordinary car, not as comfortable as to-day, but with movable seats that could form a bed . . . As we neared Winnipeg we ran into a snowstorm, and kept stopping until the track was cleared. We



Peter Sutcliffe's Overland, 1920.



Studebakers for delivery about 1914.

had six engines, four in front and two behind. . .” In Winnipeg the family spent the first night in the station waiting-room. Next night they managed to find one room in a partly-finished hotel. “We paid \$5.00 a day for that room, and all it had was beds made upon the floor. At first we went down for meals, but they were poor and badly cooked. They used to chop slices of meat off a frozen quarter of beef and then fry it to a chip, so we bought provisions and picnicked in our room.”

Mail Service and Communications

Mail from home, its arrival or non-arrival, was a central event in the life of the settlement. Alfred Morton and friends went first to Shoal Lake, a relay station for government mail and light express from Fort Garry to Edmonton, with service once in three weeks. Mail might also be picked up at Fort Ellice.

A petition in the summer of 1879 secured a post office for Birtle, with J. H. Wood in charge. It was formally opened in the spring of 1880, and the town was given its name — a contraction of Birdtail — after the Department rejected “St. Clair”, as duplicating another name. Mail day became the major social event in town, as for the first year Birtle was the receiving point for the four settlements of Beulah, Birtle, Toddburn and Rossburn.

When the C.P.R. reached Portage la Prairie in 1881 and Grand Valley east of Brandon, the mail came once a week, by carrier using ponies and dog teams at first, and later horses. Before long Toddburn and Rossburn had post offices, the mail coming from Birtle twice a week. Solsgirth (formerly Allendale) came into existence with the arrival of the railroad in 1885, and the service was located there, with first William Porteous and later J. C. Anderson as postmaster. His brother-in-law Daniel McLeod drove the mail to Toddburn, Lone Tree, Rossburn, Seeburn and later Ranchvale. Son Alex became postmaster in 1924, and his daughter Gloria took over on his retirement — a family affair. Manny King drove mail twenty-four miles return to St. Lazare

twice a week "regardless of roads or weather." Somehow, whether by contract or simply picked up at a neighbor's, the Royal Mail seldom failed to get through.

Telegraph service came to the west in the seventies, following the line of the early survey, reached Livingstone near Fort Pelly in July 1876, and Edmonton in 1879. Operators and linemen were located at various points, and found the main hazards to the poles to be prairie fires and buffalo. The service proved invaluable during the Rebellion of 1885.

The telephone system in Manitoba was first owned and operated by Bell Telephone Co., later in 1908 by the Manitoba Government. Winnipeg had its first in 1878, and long distance service to Selkirk came in 1887. Main centres in Manitoba were connected by 1906, but there were no rural lines. The minutes of Birtle's Town Council mention that lighting and telephones were investigated in 1901, and in July 1907 the Town entered the business. By the mid-twenties all farmers had access to the telephone, and a great change came to farm living on the prairies, as the feeling of helpless isolation was dispelled at least in part.

George Irving Jr. of Solsgirth was fortunate to have a telephone when few had them, and he connected it to his neighbor's house by way of the barbed wire fence. They could not ring each other, but arranged that each would listen after the passenger train had gone by in the afternoon. The neighbor Mrs. Edwards could hear her favourite music from George's gramophone.

The improvement of roads and highways with the advent of the automobile is too long a story for more than a mention here. In the beginning there were no roads, merely trails, and the farmer with team and sleigh in winter drove across country as often as not, fences being few. Coxe Butcher became lost in a storm one night, travelled in circles for hours, walking up and down in the sleigh box to keep warm. He finally saw a familiar ridge, and the home light in the window.

The automobile made its first appearance in Manitoba about 1902, and by 1911 was sufficiently popular to require a new standard of road-building. The Manitoba Good Roads Act in 1912 gave advice to Municipalities and by 1914 the Provincial Government shared in the cost. Farmers had long been accustomed to doing road work to help with their taxes, and as they were gradually won over to the automobile for transportation, their interest in better roads increased. By 1914 many roads were gravelled but one recalls the mud road that was a problem spring and fall, and after every rainstorm, and also the collapsible top and side curtains that had to be raised and buttoned on when the raindrops began to fall.

Will the automobile ever take the place of the horse? Certainly in this day of fuel shortages, one wonders!

Chapter III

THE COLONY LIVES AND GROWS

Political Events

What happened next? Pioneers, almost by definition, are men of ambition and initiative. It was not long before the busy little community began to see itself as a place with a future, and looked for the necessary controls.

The "postage-stamp" Province of Manitoba had been created in 1870, its boundaries the U.S. border, the Riding Mountains, on the east forty miles from Winnipeg, and on the west about twenty-four miles beyond Portage la Prairie, in the vicinity of present-day Carberry and Neepawa. The Mounted Police post at Shoal Lake guarded the border of the North-West Territories, and enforced Her Majesty's rule of law and order.

New Year's Eve of 1881 was celebrated with several parties in the Birdtail colony. One of these was at Fort Ellice, where Factor Archie McDonald invited a number to "a big spread" that continued into New Year's Day. Among the guests were the Indian Agent, L. W. Herchmer, Major Boulton from Russell, D. C. O'Keefe and the Bligh brothers from the neighborhood of the Fort. This cosmopolitan group exchanged views about the extension of the Manitoba boundary, and the result was a meeting in Birtle on January 12th and the drafting of a petition to Ottawa. Some weeks later, by Act of Parliament the western boundary was fixed at the west limit of Range 29.

The administration of the added territory now became the task of the Manitoba Legislature, and the new Birtle-Russell riding required a representative MLA (or M.P.P. as the title was then). The first political meeting was held in the Allan Hotel on July 5th, and another on July 26th. J. S. Crerar formerly with the N.W.M.P., now a prominent Birtle businessman, was suggested as a candidate, but apparently retired. E. P. Leacock, a citizen of Birtle with an interest in the sawmill, who had begun construction of the familiar "Castle" on the north hill, decided to run, and there were three other candidates. "The contest was short but hot, as Manitoba had not yet adopted the secret ballot. Voters were freely challenged, and fists brought into play if the constable was not on the spot. When the smoke cleared on Election Day, Nov. 2nd the results were:

Stephen Clement — Liberal — Shoal Lake farmer — 138 votes

D. W. Cumming — Ind. Conservative (in place of Crerar) — 126 votes

Charles A. Boulton — Ind. Conservative — Russell — 115 votes

E. P. Leacock — Conservative — Birtle — 86 votes

The result so upset Mr. Leacock that he departed, leaving the Castle unfinished. However, a few months later Mr. Clement resigned his seat to become Sheriff of the Western Judicial District, and in the subsequent by-election in August, 1882 Mr. Leacock was successful over J. S. Crawford in his bid to represent the riding.

E. P. Leacock — “dynamic Uncle Edward” as a personality merits more than a brief mention here. “His character was so exaggerated already that you couldn’t exaggerate it . . . About thirty, bronzed, self-confident, with a square beard like a Plantagenet king . . . he came west to Winnipeg at the rise of the boom . . . He was into everything, and knew everybody . . . made a great fortune on paper and built a house on the river . . . After the crash of the boom he continued on credit . . . could get money out of any country banker, never suggesting payment . . .” He seems the prototype of the expansive men of an expansive era.

Towards the end of 1881 the organization of municipalities was carried out, and an effort was made to establish the County system, as in Ontario. Shoal Lake County comprised Shoal Lake, Birtle and Ellice, and Russell County included Rossburn, Silver Creek, Russell, Boulton and part of Shellmouth, the two counties combining to form the provincial riding. The municipal elections were held in December, and the first County Council was elected on Jan. 3rd, 1882. James S. Crerar became Warden of Shoal Lake, and there were six Ward representatives. Major C. A. Boulton became Warden of Russell County. Shoal Lake Council held its first session on Jan. 9th, and later J. M. Laurie was appointed Clerk and J. H. Wood Treasurer. The County system was not successful, however, and after two sessions was abandoned as too costly and cumbersome in view of the difficulties of travel.

On July 4th 1882 an election was held for the Federal House, and Robert Watson “The people’s Bob” was elected over one Macdonald as M.P. for Marquette constituency. Both were citizens of Portage la Prairie, and the riding extended to Manitoba’s west boundary. The contest was hot, but the candidates remained friendly. At the Birtle meeting Watson mislaid his address, and borrowed his opponent’s. A microscope was apparently needed then as to-day to find any difference between Liberal and Conservative policies.¹

Council of the Rural Municipality of Birtle

“The first council of the Municipality of Birtle met at 2:00 p.m. in Birtle” on Tuesday, January 8th, 1884. Reeve J. S. Crerar chaired the meeting with Councillors Dow, Chambers, Nesbitt, Borrowman, McMurray, Haines in attendance. James R. Cook was elected Secretary-Treasurer; James McKenzie was elected as Assessor. The Reeve was requested to procure a proper seal for the municipality. This seal is presently being used by the Rural Municipality of Birtle.

The first council of the Municipality of Birtle appointed Pathmasters for the orderly control of Statute Labour. Statute Labour was used for building roads and each farmer was allowed to spend a limited time building roads and the money earned would be credited to his taxes. Statute Labour continued until March 9th, 1896 at which time it was abolished.

Other appointed officers were Poundkeepers, Fence Viewers, and later on there were Weed Inspectors and Health Officers.

On November 5, 1890 a By-law was passed, which gave to the Reeve and Councillors for the first time, an allowance of two dollars per meeting and ten cents for each mile travelled to and from a council meeting.

On June 8th, 1889 council provided for aid and assistance in the establishment of a flour mill in the Town of Birtle and for the establishment of rates to be charged for the gristing of the wheat of the resident ratepayers.

During the depression from 1936-1940, conditions were very hard for farmers, and tax concessions and extension of due dates for taxes at par were frequent. Many parcels of land were redeemed by Manitoba Farm Loans and other lending institutions.

On May 4th, 1940, a by-law creating a reserve account for the purchase of replacement machinery was initiated. This Machinery Replacement Reserve is still in operation with amendments which have been made from time to time.

The Reeves and Councillors and Secretary-Treasurers along with their terms of office are listed alphabetically below.

REEVES

		Catherwood, J.	1908-09
James S. Crerar	1884-86	Chambers, Captain	1884
John Dunlop	1886-88	Cochrane, Henry	1892-94
	& 1895		1898-1900
William Watt	1889-90		1902-05
Fred W. Huehnichen	1891-94	Cooley, H. W.	1949-53
	1896-1900	Crew, K. F.	1949-
	1904-07	Darrell, C. H.	1903-07
George Porter	1901-02		1909-20
Thomas Bowen	1903	Davidson, H. H.	1922-48
Edward Graham	1908-10	Dickinson, R. B.	1924-25
Andrew Doig	1911-35	Dodge, William D.	1908-20
Alfred O. Webb	1936-65	Dow, John M.	1884-85
Richard P. Butler	1966-70	Dudley, J. C.	1895-98
J. Cromar Ashroft	1971-	Dunfield, George	1908-09
		Elliott, A. F.	1906-08

COUNCILLORS

		Elliott, H. M.	1899-1900
			1902-05
Akolow, George	1887-88	Fisher	1896-97
Anderson, James C.	1888-90	Fulton, E. B.	1937-44
Bamford, D. E.	1966-	Fulton, Harvey	1959-65
Barteaux, O. T.	1945-48	Fulton, Robert	1951-58
Bartley, W. J.	1901-03	Graham, G. T.	1948-53
Borrowman, D.	1884-85	Hadden, G. A.	1913-16
Butcher, Cox	1898-1900		1921-24
Butler, H. P.	1928-40	Haines, John	1884, 1905
Butler, W. H.	1954-71	Harrison, H. T.	1891-95
Catherwood, A. N.	1926-31	Hay	1892-95

Hornsey, James D.	1890-91	Stewart, J. F.	1966-
Huggins, William	1891-97	Stitt, S. J.	1932-43
Labay, John	1964-	Sutcliffe, Peter	1911-12
Lane, Thomas	1885-87	Tarrant, F. W.	1944-47
Larcombe, Samuel	1901-03	Tett, J. H.	1927
	1907-08	Thornton, Robert	1917-20
Leggatt, J. B.	1892-94		1925-31
	1906-07	Treble, R. N.	1932-35
Lougheed, Bernard L.	1972-	Wady, W. C.	1931-36
Lougheed, Wilbert	1912-31	Walley	1885
Lowe	1896-97	Watt, Wilbur	1921-31
McGillvary, Alex	1889-90	Webb, T. V.	1954-56
McLeod, E. G.	1947-50	West, Samuel G.	1886
McMurray, Thomas H.	1884-87	Wilcocks, F. A.	1886-90
	1891-92	Wilson, H.	1904-06
	1901	Workman, R. K.	1942-45
Nesbitt	1884	Workman, William	1910-25
Nickel, H. W.	1936-55	Wotton, W. H.	1920-23
Nickel, Oliver	1888-90	Wotton	1941
Patterson, Robert W.	1887-89	Young, Alex	1908
Patton, J. E.	1937-44	Young, John	1899-1901
Peeler, George E.	1926		1904, 1921
Porter, G. Alan	1956-		
Preston, George	1891,		
	1895-1900	SECRETARY-TREASURERS	
Ralston, E.	1891-94	James R. Cook	1884
Ridington, W. R.	1900-01	John W. Laurie	1885-89
Robbie, Francis	1910-11	Thomas Leese	1890-99
Robbie, John	1931-36	Thomas W. Thompson	1900-12
Rockett	1898	W. B. Chapman	1913-33
Roseborough, Samuel	1886-90	Jack Kitching	1933-56
Smith, W. B.	1945-46	Dorothy M. Olson	1957-69
Spencer, George	1904-	Frank R. Stevenson	1969-

The Building Room

The Midsummer Holiday Number of "The Winnipeg Sun" in 1888 carried an enthusiastic article on the virtues of the North-West, and the Birtle district in particular. Some of its more glowing phrases are these: "Location the most picturesque in the province . . . an ever-running spring of the purest, sweetest, coldest water . . . perhaps the most financially solid town in the province (not quite born out by events) . . . growth healthy but slow . . . noted for morality and social life, run on temperance principles . . . a town most romantically situated . . ."

The article goes on to list the buildings — three churches and one pipe organ, the only one outside of Winnipeg — a stone schoolhouse,

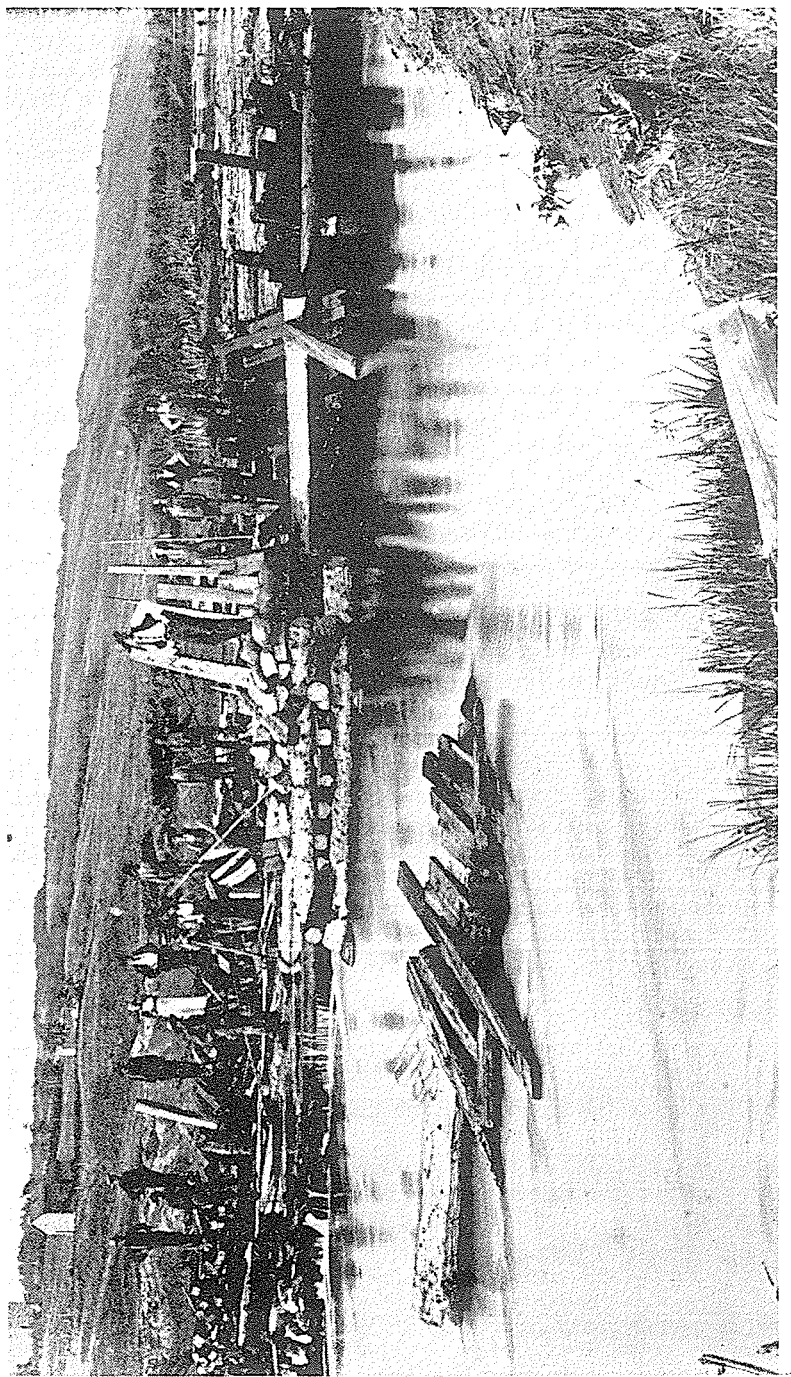
six general stores, one hardware store, one harness shop, shoe shop, drug store, bakery, two butchers, three implement depots, one bank, one book and fancy goods shop, two blacksmiths, a paint shop, waggon shop, two law firms and several insurance agents. A picture of Main Street shows a building with sign "Manwaring and Wright".

All this rapid development had its origin in the enterprise of one of the men who came out in 1879. D. W. Cummings, a dry goods merchant of Stratford, Ont., was leader of the first trainload of settlers with the Colonization Society, which left Stratford April 1st. To provide some of the basic needs of the infant colony, he and Joseph Sharman planned a sawmill for timber from the Riding Mountain district, around the head of the Birdtail. Mr. Sharman, a dealer in farm implements, intended to market these, and also to look into the possibilities for ranching. They left the other settlers in Winnipeg, secured saddle horses and reached the upper Birdtail crossing April 22nd. Sharman located his land near present Rossburn, and Cummings found spruce and tamarack in abundance, so applied for a timber license, which was granted after some delay.

D. W. Cummings returned to Ontario to interest some Toronto financiers in his lumber project. In October he brought out seven skilled woodsmen and set them up in camp in log huts with teams and supplies. James S. Crerar started a store in Birtle in order to keep a supply of provisions and equipment for the camp. Men of the colony could work in the bush during the winter months for much-needed cash, returning to homestead chores in the spring. The wage from sun to sun was \$1.50 and "grub". Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Paradine from Woodstock served the camp — he as driver of supplies, she as cook.



Miller home and barn "Rosevale".



Log Drive on the Birdtail. First Indian School in background.

The camp became mobile in the spring for the log drive, and they all lived in tents. Logs for over a million board feet of lumber were piled on the banks, and brush was cut along the sides for a path. E. J. Wilson has a vivid account of the log drive, which doubtless kindled the imagination of all who witnessed it. The men often rode the logs, which were fastened in floats for the 150-mile journey along the winding stream. At full flood the current was swift and turbulent, and the drive often dangerous. Stanley Broadfoot of Solsgirth in 1895 wrote a lively description of the Birdtail in full career, at a time when he was fishing for goldeyes - - "the creek running full with huge logs swirling by and pounding each other as they rolled and bounced over the rapids on their way to McArthur's Mill at Birtle . . . It was a rough hole when the logs were on the run; several river-drivers got into difficulties one year, and one poor chap did not survive . . ."

When the drive reached the townsite, booms were fastened to hold the logs for sorting. Construction of the mill began about June 1st, with Matt Rockett as foreman and James Cairncross from Ontario as contract adviser. The Toronto financiers sent machinery via the Assiniboine, and it was installed before the roof went on. James Kent came as paymaster and accountant. Sawing began at once — mainly flooring, sheeting and shingles. People still used poplar logs for the walls of their homes. The supply of milled lumber continued to be scarce, so that roofs were often thatched, and planks for door-jams and floors were whipsawed. "Dugouts and sod roofs provided shelter where haste was a factor."

Two years later the demand for lumber over a fifty-mile radius still took all the cut — three million feet in 1882. In that year D. W. Cummings dropped out of the business, in favour of the "Toronto capitalists". Mr. Wilson states that the business operated for some fifteen years. It is not certain when J. D. McArthur took it over, but in 1894 R. P. Easson worked for him as a contractor.

All this time the homesteaders were busily engaged getting out their own logs for homes, erecting the walls and finishing them with whatever they could afford to purchase in the way of finer lumber. The



Old Mill — Birtle about 1904.



Winter family second home — 1903.

family stories relate many of their experiences in thus turning unaccustomed hands to this skilled task. Building materials lay close at hand, but required some experimenting to use them successfully. Lime for mortar was abundant, made by burning limestones in caves in the hillside or in kilns. Cheney Burdett had a lime kiln, in which was made the lime for the first church — Zion — in his district. Thatch was used when shingles were unavailable, and was made of clay and straw. The F. B. Miller story mentions sod roofs for their barns. Eli Wotton remembered the Old Country art of roofing, when he made the roof of his milk-house of clay and straw bricks and thatched the roof. The children pulled the long prairie grass and made bundles which Eli laid on the roof, lacing each layer with twine. The building was always cool for the dairy foods, and it lasted many years.

Sometimes the homesteader was caught with his house unfinished in time for winter. Muriel Long Fowler writes that her father had only the foundation done when cold weather set in, "so we moved into a big shack with a sod roof. In spring the roof leaked everywhere . ." The Leggat log home was lined with newspaper, and Peter Sutcliffe states that when he visited there he read the paper up one wall, across the ceiling and down the other wall. Many times the first floor was of earth or mud — replaced by wooden flooring in time. The houses had one or two rooms, separated perhaps by just a sheet or blanket — but the Haines home boasted a second story, reached by a ladder, later by a steep and narrow stairway.

Stone for building came in the nineties, with the arrival of stone



Malcolm Stone House built 1891, "The Cairn".

mason Charles Dunham. Many of his houses still stand, in excellent condition. Among these were the Shepherd home (1895) his own home (1896) the Eye-Witness building (1897) the Hatch and Stewart (now Henry) homes (1898). F. B. Miller had a barn built of stone and wood about this time. His earlier home of logs had been a good size, with three rooms down and four up.

Daily Life in the Home

Furniture varied in elegance, according to the resources of the home-owner, and the time and mode of his arrival. The first settlers used hand-made pieces for the most part, put together with pegs of wood, which were also used as hangers for clothes, according to the King story. The essentials were made first, to supplement those laboriously hauled in by cart. Wooden tables, sometimes with benches attached, wooden bedsteads with slats, no springs of course, and mattress stuffed with straw or hay. "In the fall, when the old hay was replaced with new, the smell was delightful". The McIntosh story also tells us that buffalo hides were used on the beds. More often feather "ticks" provided warmth, and the economical patchwork quilt. The McLellan family had two beds — Jim and Maggie in one, the four children in the other — two at the top and two at the bottom.

Even more primitive means produced usable articles. Orange crates are mentioned. The large barrels which held the winter's supply of apples might be utilized afterwards for extra furniture. As Stanley Broadfoot wrote — "A comfortable chair could be made from a barrel — by laying it on its side, cutting the staves at a mark across the mid-

dle, filling in some bridge-work to make a seat and adding some padding. If there was a baby, it had a homemade box-crib on rockers . . .” Tools used for all purposes were a saw, a draw knife, axe, hammer, an occasional plane, auger and monkey wrench for bolts. One might of course always borrow.

The decor was of the simplest. They were happy to have the chinks filled in time for winter. A quilt might make a crude separation of rooms. One family had a sheet across the ceiling to catch the debris from the thatch above. In time plaster, kalsomine and whitewash brightened the interior, and at last paint, varnish and paper. Families became so attached to their first log home that it was rarely torn down after a more impressive one was achieved of frame or stone, but was retained as an extra barn or granary. There were some also, who came in by train in the eighties or later, who brought with them a carload or two of “effects”. The Hatch home in 1898 had a piano, ch[^]sterfield, complete dining-room suite, desk and cabinet gramophone downstairs, and dressers, washstands and wardrobes in the three bedrooms upstairs. The W. H. Thorpe family on their isolated homestead had their first “boughten” furniture at Christmas — a bedroom set with toilet articles, dining-room set, blinds and curtains — all fabulously cheap and they were in the seventh heaven. The T. M. Wallaces had some fine furniture — a four-poster bed, cherry-wood cabinet, a frame couch with collapsible legs and mesh springs, as well as a very ornate stove with double doors on the oven, carved legs and a copper-lined reservoir for hot water.

Several families provide details about lighting — homemade candles at first, followed by kerosene chimney-and-wick-lamps, then the more elaborate Aladdin lamp. Gasoline and natural gas came into use for lights and finally electricity. The closed kerosene lantern was the farmer’s friend for early morning or evening chores in winter. Heating was supplied by the kitchen wood-burning range, and generally by another heater at the other side of the house, with pipes that extended across the ceiling to spread the warmth. Percy Waddell told of getting out about thirty loads of logs, which were cut into stove length by a sawing gang, later to be chopped by the son of the family, the younger members picking up the chips. Later came in the furnace in the cellar, which burned both wood and coal.

Laundry was done first in tubs with a washboard and homemade soap, but with time the gasoline-powered washing-machine came into use. The D. McLennans had one with two wooden tubs and movable wringer, and a wooden cover to keep the small fry out of the fly-wheel. Cooking equipment mentioned by the Neil McKays, early arrivals in Wattsvie, were cast iron pots of various sizes, one copper pot and a five gallon one to cook feed for stock and poultry, and cast iron or steel frying pans. The preparation of milk for various purposes needed special utensils. At first it was kept in a cool place, in large shallow pans, for the cream to rise. Next day it was skimmed off — great

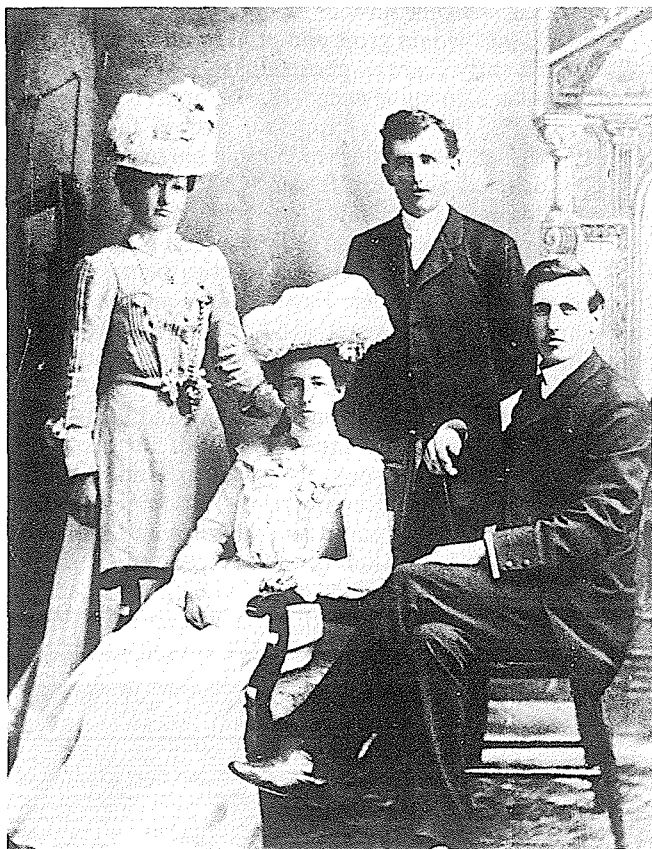
thick blobs of it — and put into a crock to be churned into butter. Various kinds of churns are treasures of antique lovers, as are the great metal cans in which milk and cream were carted to the railroad siding to be taken to the nearest dairy. The more sophisticated “separator” was an elaborate affair, with many parts that must be carefully washed after each using.

Fire and Water

These two essentials for life in any place were both readily accessible in the Birdtail district, sometimes with disastrous results. The farmer’s first need was for water, and he selected his homestead with this in mind, if he were wise. Streams and sloughs were many, but not reliable in all seasons, so a well was usually dug “with or without being ‘witched’.” The Wotton story describes one method — “the dirt drawn up by bucket and windlass . . . cribbing built of lumber was lowered into the well to keep the sides from caving in. A 60-foot windmill was purchased to power the water pump so that the trough was easily filled for the stock.” Bill Pizzey on one occasion was down sixty-five feet with no water, when the ground suddenly broke through and water gushed around him. He was rescued with a bucket, losing his shovel and pick. The water came from an underground stream, and the well was called “Bottomless” thereafter.

Those with land on the river had less need of wells, and hauled their water in barrels. In winter the men drove out on the ice and cut a hole to fill the barrels. The water might be frozen again on the return trip, so the barrels were rolled into the kitchen to thaw. Well-water was generally very hard, so rain water was caught in a tank outside, or a cistern in the cellar, and pumped into the kitchen sink. When this supply failed, the housewife might soften the well water with lye, or ashes from the stove.

Fire, the other essential element, was as always a good servant but a bad master. The destructive fury of the prairie fire was well known long before the white man established his home there, and wherever the long grass bowed and undulated before the wind there existed a potential menace to life and property. Fanny Wilkinson Cooper wrote that it was the worst of their problems in those early days, and recalled helping her teacher make a “back-fire” around the school on one occasion. Later her brother John lost his horses and almost his own life while plowing a guard around Zion Church. There were other causes for fires as well, not the least frequent the need to keep the stoves going during the night in the coldest weather. Once started, a fire was almost impossible to stop before the little home was a total loss. Harry Wotton’s first barn, which boasted running water, was struck by lightning during a storm. “The horses were terrified, and Rachel worked furiously to keep them from going back into the blaze . . . They saved all but a family of pigs.” The fires in town of course often spread, and the Winnipeg Sun of 1888 reports a fire on Birtle’s Main Street which took a drug store, the largest hotel, a butcher shop and several homes.



Double Wedding 1901. Tom Taylor and Jessie Campbell, Bob Campbell and Lisa Taylor.

Food and Clothing

Birtle's Beginning mentions "the spirit of amity that prevailed in the winter of 1879-90 . . . Those who had flour, meat, potatoes shared with those who had not, and the same with sugar, tea, salt. Pemmican could be bought at Fort Ellice. Milk was at a premium, but fortunate ones who had winter cows stinted themselves, and pans of frozen fluid, cut into chunks, were freely distributed . . . No one who had experience of that first winter of Birdtail life permits a harsh word respecting his fellow pioneers."

The Birdtail settlers for the most part fared very well at meal time, once they had struggled through the first winter and learned to preserve and store the food that nature and hard work provided in abundance. Muriel Fowler wrote that the Long family learned to exist on a diet of frozen potatoes, wild game and rabbits, the McPhersons at times had "nothing to eat but potatoes", and these were a staple in all homes —

"and such potatoes — clean, smooth-skinned and free from rot and disease. Even the peelings would grow and produce tubers . . ." Wild fruit were prolific in the early years — gooseberries, raspberries, pincherries, chokecherries, which also made wine — saskatoons, strawberries, black currants, cranberries, the last a crop that seldom failed. These were gathered by the bushel, and might be kept in a barrel of cold water until freeze-up, then drained and kept frozen. Other fruits were canned in quart sealers and kept in the cellar, along with root vegetables, onions, etc. The stores supplied dried fruits, apricots, raisins, prunes, and pears and apples in barrels — the favourite varieties being russets, snows, northern spies, greenings for pies. Fish could be purchased in hundred pound cases, and flour in later years, at \$1.50 for a hundred pound sack. Other prices quoted are sugar — white or brown five cents a pound, tea and coffee about .25 a pound. "You could get three pounds of steak for .25, as a three-year Export steer brought \$35.00, and he had to be big."

Preservation of food taxed the ingenuity of farmers, and winter fare of necessity was monotonous, though satisfying. All housewives made bread and Blanche Spicer describes watching the process — "Mother made bread in a big pan with a handle you turned round and round until it formed a ball. Then it was covered until it rose, was put into pans to rise again and then baked." Meat might be kept in various ways, including canning. The Randall story relates that a few farmers had smoke houses, in which they cured hams, shoulders and bacon with



Blanche Spicer and Daisy.

salt and sugar brine, then smoked them for added flavour. The farmers used oak chips, burned in a container with no draft in the smoke house. Thus cured, pork kept for months. The Beef Ring is described elsewhere. Summer was the problem time for keeping meat, but the farmer learned to pack ice blocks in sawdust saved from sawing his own wood. These were stored in insulated shacks, or in an "ice-well" dug about ten feet deep and six feet square, in which the ice would keep until September.

Clothing likewise was often homemade, where the Singer sewing machine with the foot treadle was a part of the furniture. Women made and remade, knitted, darned and patched. Mrs. H. Loughheed mentions the flour bag, which played a major role in the wardrobe, cut up for shirts and household "linens". Homemade quilts were common, and lasted for years. Yard goods and some clothing could be purchased in the stores and from the pedlars who travelled around in covered wagons to the outlying districts. Clothing for winter had to be warm for travel in open sleighs or cutters, or for long walks over the fields. Long fur coats were common in early days, and animal hides provided robes for the sleigh, moccasins, mitts, gloves and various kinds of inner jackets.

Stanley Broadfoot wrote that working clothes for men, overalls and smocks, cost \$1.25 in the late nineties. They were held together by copper rivets, and could withstand most usage except a cut from saw or axe. The pants might be damp on retiring, but were ready for use in the morning. They gradually shrank with washing, exposing the legs to the blood-thirsty mosquitoes, so most wore long boots, leather gauntlets, and even a veil over face and neck at the worst season. Elsewhere we find that work boots with leather laces cost \$1.25, a shirt .75, a straw hat .25.

Good Times

Moonlight and children and glittering snow,
Furnish delight when the glass is low;
A while on the hillside with toboggan and skate,
Then in for the night before 'tis too late.

Alfred Morton.

A homesick young Englishman, sent to Canada to learn farming and make his fortune in 1882 wrote from his place in Elkhorn — "There are two or three settlements of English — Rapid City, Turtle Mountains and Birtle, but they are mostly do-nothing, expensive sort of establishments where there is more play than work. As for the ladies, I believe there is one out west, but have not heard whether they have imported any more!"⁵

The homesteaders on the Birdtail might not have recognized themselves in this description, but it was true that they managed to find considerable fun and enjoyment in the midst of the rigors of pioneering. Summer and winter alike found them gathering in homes, and after a year or so in halls, schools and churches for celebrations. The winter of '79 was enlivened by concerts, debates, singing classes, card games,

even dances at the Battram house, now occupied by the Wood family which boasted a piano. The "Orphan's Home" and Sam Chambers' hostel vied for entertaining honours.¹ The second winter saw more organized social events, and people travelled miles to Fort Ellice, Beulah and Rosburn, and even to Cummings' lumber camp for parties over the holiday season. The following July 1st was marked by horse races and athletics, supper in the Town Hall, a concert and dance.

As the settlement grew, parties actually became rather formal. Mrs. W. J. Workman wrote — "Young ladies never went to invited balls until they were over eighteen, then had a chaperone and long ball dresses, and boys wore gloves, and some had cut-away coats! The orchestra was mostly piano and violin, better music than today. No drinking or smoking allowed. Very dignified — had programs. Oh for those good old days!" Miss Helen Miller also mentions the parties "Many of the dancers wore evening dress. The commercial travellers said that the ladies of Birtle were the best-dressed, best looking and best dancers west of Portage la Prairie!"

Less formal affairs were more frequent — home parties with taffy pulls, surprise parties when a sleighload of friends and plenty of food arrived for games, card and dancing. Annie Grant McCredie mentions pie and box socials, picnics, Thanksgiving celebrations at Foxwarren United Church. There was always food in abundance, music supplied by fiddle, accordion, even mouth organ and Jews' harp. Archie McPherson was a fiddler remembered by many, who supplemented his small income by playing for dances from early evening until daylight. His daughter Mrs. Lougheed says the trip home was often rough — it was nothing to have three or four wolves follow the cutter. Later his daughters accompanied him, warmed as was usual with blankets, buffalo robes and foot warmers, which were heated stones. The Malcolm story mentions parties at "The Cairn" when all doors were folded back for square dancing, and the heated horses of the guests were carefully lodged in the stable at the expense of the family stock.

Distinguished visitors from a distance were not uncommon, and were received with as much ceremony as could be mustered. Among the earliest to come to the district was the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, who with his wife, the Princess Louise, made a prolonged journey west in the summer of 1881. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* had a special correspondent assigned, who reported that the party arrived by train to the end of the steel, west of Portage, to be met by a Mountie detachment under Col. Herchmer to escort them to Fort Ellice — "The equipage included twenty carriages, eighty-one horses and many baggage wagons". They later returned to Brandon from Fort Pelly on the S. S. "Marquette" under a Captain Cumming, who had taken his boat up to Pelly earlier to meet the party. The journey by land took them to Fort Ellice, where His Excellency arrived August 12th and spent the night, after being entertained by five hundred Indians in native dress. They proceeded further west along the Trail, and the correspondent describes their crossing of the South Saskatchewan river at Batoche in a

single scow, which made several trips in five hours — "That the officers and men should be able to ride into the fort (Carlton) clean, pipe-clayed and in all respects as though they were just out of their barracks seemed well-nigh incredible."

P. W. Grant mentions other official visits from time to time — Sir A. T. Galt, Col. J. S. Dennis, Dep. Minister of the Interior, and also Premier Norquay who on Sept. 12th, 1881 addressed a meeting for his Conservative government, and promised a grant of \$100.00 for prizes for the first Agricultural Fair. Two Prime Ministers of Canada came to the Birtle district on western tours — Sir John A. Macdonald in September 1886, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1910 to open the new Town Hall, who was driven into town by John Hatch, speaking French all the way.

On July 1st, 1942 Lieut. Governor and Mrs. R. F. McWilliams honoured Birtle with a visit to the Sports Day. It was wartime, and the day was marked by a parade of military personnel, and a 400-man artillery display.

Personalities

In the spacious days of the late nineteenth century there were men whose ambitions and personalities matched the time. Some of them were attracted to the region of the Birdtail during the years of opening of the west, made their mark for the moment, and have been almost forgotten. One of these was *Major-General H. C. Wilkinson, C.B.*, retired from service in India, who purchased land overlooking the valley on the south about 1887. It was visited by the Winnipeg Sun reporter the following summer, and added considerably to his favourable impression of the district. The farm "Birtleside" was to be a model, with the very latest equipment for milling, threshing, etc. imported stock — cattle, pigs, poultry, bees, as well as eight fine draft mares and a stallion "Trent Prince". Three nephews J. B. Lloyd and A. N. and W. C. Wilkinson were developing a three-quarter section "Durham Farm".

E. P. Leacock and Clementi Smith had a part to play in Birtle's history, the former after his election doing his share to bring the railroad in, the latter moving on to a Land Office in Brandon. Here he joined a company of recruits as Lieutenant, and served in the Rebellion of 1885. He lost his life in the Boer War. J. D. McArthur and his brother John operated a sawmill up the Birdtail, had the contract for ties for the new railroad, but were held up by dry weather. The work was finally completed and all debts discharged. "This was a turning point in his life, and he became a wealthy contractor . . . later erected the McArthur Building in Winnipeg." Mr. R. J. Gourley says that he knew J. D. McArthur well, and went with him to the Peace River district for railroad construction. Mr. McArthur built a bridge over the River, and unfortunately "lost his shirt" on this project — a not unusual experience for railroad contractors of the time.

Let us not overlook the first Member of the Provincial Legislature Stephen Clement, of Shoal Lake, who together with the representative

from Minnedosa, John Crerar, and one Davidson from north of Shoal Lake, found an unusual mode of transportation to the Assembly in April of '82. Delayed by rain and mud, they built a raft of logs at Brandon, equipped it with a tent and floated down to Portage la Prairie, and thence by train to Winnipeg. Other colorful "characters" there were as well like Corny O'Callaghan and his friends the remittance boys,¹ and many citizens of sterling quality who added stature to the new settlement with their enterprise and originality. Some of these we have met elsewhere.

Winter Adventures

To illustrate just how nearly courage and the spirit of adventure are allied to tragedy, we have two tales of early Manitoba wayfaring. One, narrated by E. J. Wilson, tells of five young men — J. C. Anderson, John Patterson, Len and Dan Howson (now Huesten) and himself who set out overland to Gladstone on November 14th, 1879 to bring flour and other supplies back to the colony. With a large number of late fall arrivals, a shortage was anticipated before spring.

"The round trip of about 240 miles was made with oxen and sleighs, homemade of poplar logs . . . with cross bunks fastened with oak pins and prairie schooner boxes fitted on the bunks. Long-handled fry pans, blackened camp pails, hardtack, pemmican, ground wheat, tea and fat bacon were the bill of fare . . . The boys were green as grass as to prairie winters, and not clothed for the weather that awaited them . . ."

They left Birdtail Crossing in bright sunny weather, and had a pleasant five-day trip to Gladstone, found lodging at farms and got one hundred bushels of wheat for 45 cents a bushel, needing only to be ground. Unfortunately the temperature plummeted to thirty below, and remained there for two weeks, and Malcolm Bros. steam flour mill refused to grind. The time passed agreeably with local hospitality, and they were a great success at a concert-social at the Lawson parsonage. Grinding resumed Dec. 12th, and the charge of 20 cents a bushel was paid.

The return trip was a nightmare, never above twenty below. Cooking was in the shelter of bluffs, and they slept on the sacks of flour in the schooner boxes "a bitter cold mattress". Ice eighteen inches thick was cut in sloughs to water the oxen. One night was spent with an elderly couple named Crerar at "Mosquito Hill", and the next in a willow bluff on a frozen slough. Len Howson's feet were so badly frozen that the toes had to be amputated at Shoal Lake, where he was detained at the police barracks. The others had shelter at the Gourley hostel near the Warleigh gravel pit, and were finally back at the Birdtail Dec. 20th. Their loads assured several families of enough food for the winter — and no doubt the experience served them well in later years.

The second tale has no happy ending. (as told by Mr. Peter Neufeld of Minnedosa for the Brandon Sun).

Hubert Darrell and his brother Charles came out from England in

the late eighties to learn farming with Robert Collis in the Buckleyville district. A stocky, energetic young man, he left the homestead to join the Klondike gold rush, and spent the rest of his life prospecting, exploring, hunting and trapping in the Yukon and eastern Alaska. He was guide and friend to explorers like Roald Amundsen, Stefansson, David Hanbury, whose 16-month Arctic expedition he guided. He was to have accompanied Amundsen on his South Pole expedition.

Hubert was associated with the Hudson's Bay posts in the north as mail carrier for a time after 1905, and was a close friend of several H. B. men, whom he mentioned in letters home to England. Amundsen met him in Feb. 1906 "accompanied not even with a dog, dragging his toboggan behind him . . . hundreds of miles from the nearest human being." He delivered mail to an American whaling fleet caught by winter in the Bailey-Herschel Island regions of the Beaufort Sea. To summon a relief ship for them he hauled his toboggan for thirty days over 480 miles, across one low range of the Rockies — arriving at Fort Yukon almost exhausted. Stefansson wrote later to Hubert's fiancée, Agnes Dudley — "Darrell had to his credit more real achievement than many who are famous for their work in the north."

Darrell became a guide for N.W.M.P. patrols in the Yukon, and was last seen alive in November 1910 at Cape Bathurst on Bailey Island, where he stopped for supplies. He left letters with Eskimo friends on Liverpool Bay, and was seen or heard no more. So ends another saga of the northland.¹⁰

Chapter IV

From minutes of the Council: — Town of Birtle

Some years after settling into their new homes, the people of the town began to give thought to their place in the larger world. By 1883 a movement had begun which ended in the incorporation of the Town of Birtle in 1884. The early years were marked by rapid change and development. Birtle's first Mayor, John S. Crawford, and his councils were active in seeking industry and securing rail service for the town. They were involved in arranging for immigrants, and established medical, educational and commercial services. These years saw the coming of the railroad and the development of various commercial endeavors. In the first year the town established a Normal School, a fire brigade, a public cemetery, and procured grounds for the Agricultural Society.

On December 31st, 1884, Secretary Alfred Morton entered the following: "During 1884 there were nine births and three marriages — population two hundred and eleven souls . . ." There are references in the minutes of every year to new roads, bridges, sidewalks and buildings. Mayor Crawford made many journeys to Winnipeg and Ottawa to negotiate for the railroad and to find new settlers. The outward-looking attitude of the Council is reflected in reference to an address given by the Mayor at a reception for the Governor-General at Minnedosa in September 1885, and in requests for greater representation for Western Manitoba in the House of Commons in April 1886. **Sir John A. Macdonald** visited Birtle in September of that year.

All was not action and glory, however. Early councils were plagued by problems not uncommon today. Dogs were a constant headache. Hallowe'en pranks, liquor licensing, tax collections are referred to many times.

The minutes of 1898 refer to what was likely the first circus to visit Birtle. The Town hired a person to protect visitors and to stop gambling and games of chance.

The Boer War is noted in minutes of January 10th, 1900. A citizen's committee was gathering funds to send a subscription to the Birtle boys going to South Africa.

One of the really big issues of the first decade of the Twentieth Century was the licensing of a pool table. Council spent literally dozens of hours on this subject. The controversy kept flaring up, and is referred to as many as forty years later.

Public lighting and telephones were investigated in 1901. A 6-light carbide plant was purchased in September 1901.

Coronation Day was proclaimed a holiday in June 1902.

Continued growth is noted in the reference to Birtle Cement Block Company in 1904.

Minutes arouse curiosity at times. One wonders what event on June 2nd, 1906 resulted in a number of citizens appearing before Magistrate Manwaring on charges of disturbing the peace!

In July 1907 the town entered the telephone business — and continued in it for almost sixty years.

Plans for a new **Town Hall** were made in 1908, resulting in the present structure. Council chose the colour of the bricks on July 3rd, 1909. **Sir Wilfrid Laurier** attended the opening in the summer of 1910.

The **Great War** had a profound effect on Birtle, as it did on all of Canada. Send-offs were planned for men going to the "Front". The 226th Battalion was given free use of the Town Hall. Council voted \$3000 to the Manitoba Patriotic Fund.

In July 1918 the Mayor was authorized to sign a petition demanding abolition of the Senate of Canada.

The beginning of the **Royal Canadian Legion** is noted by a grant voted to the Great War Veterans' Association in May 1919.

The rash of derring-do hit-and-run crime that swept southern Manitoba in the early twenties is recalled by notice of a public meeting to discuss suggestions by Colonel Rattray to protect the town from bandits and bank robbers.

Agreement was reached with the R.M. of Birtle for construction of a **hospital** in May of 1923. Rates were: Private — \$5.00; Semiprivate — \$4.00; and Public wards \$3.00 per day.

Mayor Manwaring and Councillors Wilson, Copeland and Taylor were appointed to investigate **power development** in 1924. In 1926 Councillors Laidman, Knowles and Moxham investigated electric-light plants. In February 1928 By-Law No. 248 was passed, providing for the raising of money to install a lighting and power system. In July 1928 Mr. H. Crookshanks was hired as plant operator. Meter rentals were 25 cents per month for light only, and 50 cents per month for power. Light rates were 25 cents per k.w., minimum rate \$1.50 per month. The plant was sold to Government Hydro in 1930.

In August 1926 a new telephone switchboard was ordered from Northern Electric Company — total cost not to exceed \$1200.

In April 1927 Council asked the Sports Committee to organize a celebration of **Canada's Diamond Jubilee**.

Do you remember "**Silent Policemen**"? These traffic devices were placed at Main and 7th and Main and 8th in the summer of 1928.

Property was sold to the Dept. of Indian Affairs for construction of a new **Indian Residential School** in 1930.

The Town corresponded with the Province concerning a highway through Birtle in 1930.

Distress of the **drought and depression of the thirties** receives surprisingly little mention, but is indicated mainly by the lack of significant recorded deliberations. The Councillors were very likely depressed like the times.

By 1936 the need for a new municipal **skating and curling rink** was painfully evident, and a committee was appointed to find ways and means. The old rink was declared unsafe for public use in June 1938, and the present arena was built in 1939-40.

In 1936 the Dominion Government was petitioned to construct a dam under their water-conservation scheme.

In March 1940 the **Hospital** and equipment were transferred to the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, beginning an association that lasted for some twenty-five years.

The Guardian of Morals role was strong in councils of the day. Council refused permission for the operation of a merry-go-round for the reason that young children should not be encouraged to stay out late at night. May 12th 1941 a motion was passed — "That no person under age sixteen be allowed in places where Bingo is played."

The **spectre of war** again enters into discussions. Pool Elevators were given permission to construct an annex for storage of wheat without extra assessment, for the duration of the war. A unit of the Manitoba Volunteer Reserve was formed, and the arena offered for military use.

Patriotism and an indication of the serious state of the war is evident in a motion passed September 8th, 1941 — "That the citizens of Birtle are requested to unite with all other municipalities in Canada in commemorating Consecration Week, September 10th to 17th. It is especially desired that merchants and private citizens decorate their premises by flying flags and other suitable displays, and by so doing demonstrate their determination to continue the struggle to end all tyranny and aggression, and in proud memory of those valiant hearts who have gone on, or will in future go from among us to preserve our common freedoms."

Ration stamps are recalled in the appointment of Mayor R. L. Miles and Councillor C. L. Dutton to the Ration Board. Councillor Dutton with J. H. Kitching and J. H. Dalton formed the committee in charge of **Volunteer Harvest Help** for 1943.

In December of 1941 Council accepted with thanks the transfer of park lands from Mr. Copeland.

Mr. A. E. Quelch left the office of Secretary-Treasurer at the end of 1946 after twenty-six years. He was called back from September to December 1947.

The great times dancing at the skating rink are recalled when we note that Council met with the Legion to discuss the laying of a floor in the rink in May 1947.

The **flood of 1948** is referred to several times — damage to the dam, the Centre and Main Street bridges and the Ravine Road. In July 1948 steps were taken to restore and replace the park.

In December of 1948 the fight to get a highway south to No. One Highway began.

In March 1952 extensive renovations of the telephone system and switch-board took place. **Formation of a hospital district** and a plan for a new hospital were matters of great concern in the early fifties. On August 24th, 1953 the Hospital By-Law was voted upon. The site was chosen February 4th, 1954 and the hospital was officially opened January 4th, 1955.

Fires and fire-fighting agreements with the R.M. of Birtle received much attention in these years too!

Pressure was exerted on the Province for a road connection with St. Lazare. Council opposed the C.P.R. **cancellation of passenger trains** No. 105 and No. 106.

The Main Street bridge was condemned in November 1954.

1955 was the year of repeated delegations to Winnipeg as the dispute over the re-location of PTH No. 4 raged. Even though our fighters lost the battle, the government of the day knew that Birtle existed, and certainly one seat changed in the ensuing provincial election.

In many communities **water and sewer services** were being installed, resulting in great improvement in the quality of life. In 1955 Haddon, Davis and Brown, Consulting Engineers, were authorized to proceed with a survey. Detailed discussions with the engineers took place early in 1957. **Local Improvement District No. One** was formed by By-Law No. 610 on May 5th, 1959. Contracts were awarded July 23rd, 1960 for construction of the water and sewage system.

Developments such as the first carbide lighting system, the telephone system, the electric-power plant and the water and sewage system are mile-stones in the life of a community. They are the result of much soul-searching, mindbending and hard work. They are the reward of the dreams of many.

Television reception was a hot issue in the fifties. Many efforts were made to secure better reception for the district.

Much effort was exerted to have St. Mary's Hospital converted into a Senior Citizens' home. St. Mary's was eventually torn down, and the modern and lovely **Pioneer Lodge** became a haven for many of our pioneers.

In April 1957 Council met with representatives of the W. I., the Legion and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed **Memorial Hall**.

Birtle's **75th Anniversary** was in the planning stages. In May 1959 Council granted \$500 to the Anniversary Committee. A cairn was planned to mark the occasion.

Negotiations began with Birdtail School Division in 1961 for property for a **new collegiate**.

An agreement was reached for the construction of a **new theatre**. The theatre meant a lot to Birtle, who had been without one for several years.

Additions to the Local Improvement District were planned in mid-1961.

In 1962 mercury vapour lights appeared on Main Street. A large-scale paving program was planned, and continued in subsequent years. In this year also the Birtle-Shoal Lake-Strathclair Weed Board came into existence.

One of the last one-room school districts, Buckleyville, consolidated with Shoal Lake and Birtle in 1964.

In 1964 also Council decided to get tough with the Province over

the condition of PTH No. 41A between Birtle and St. Lazare. Planning for **Canada's Centennial** began in April, and negotiation began again for elderly persons' housing.

In June 1964 a deal was made that resulted in the establishment of Birtle **Flying Club's airstrip**.

Major changes did not always pass easily. The Unitary School Division referendum was defeated on March 10th, 1967.

In April 1965 an agreement was made with the R.M. of Birtle for the Centennial Project in **Birtle Park**.

The major fire that destroyed the W. I. Restroom, Masonic Hall, Birtle Garage and the town washrooms is noted in negotiations with Insurance adjusters in early 1968.

The controversial **Local Government Boundaries Commission** is referred to in the preparation of briefs in November 1968.

In 1968-69 a major effort to secure a **Regional Library** for the district was carried on. The Town voted for it, the Rural District did not — and we did not get our library.

In 1969 Birtle **Hospital District Ambulance** began operation — a co-operative effort of the R.M. of Ellice, Village of St. Lazare, R.M. of Birtle, Town of Birtle, Birtle Branch of the Legion and the Birtle Lions' Club.

A "first" is noted in the minutes of January 6th, 1970, when Mrs. H. Lynne McKibbin signed the oath of office, and became the **first lady councillor** in Birtle's history.

The **closing of the Indian School** in 1970 was a painful blow. Council made efforts to find a new use for the building, but did not succeed.

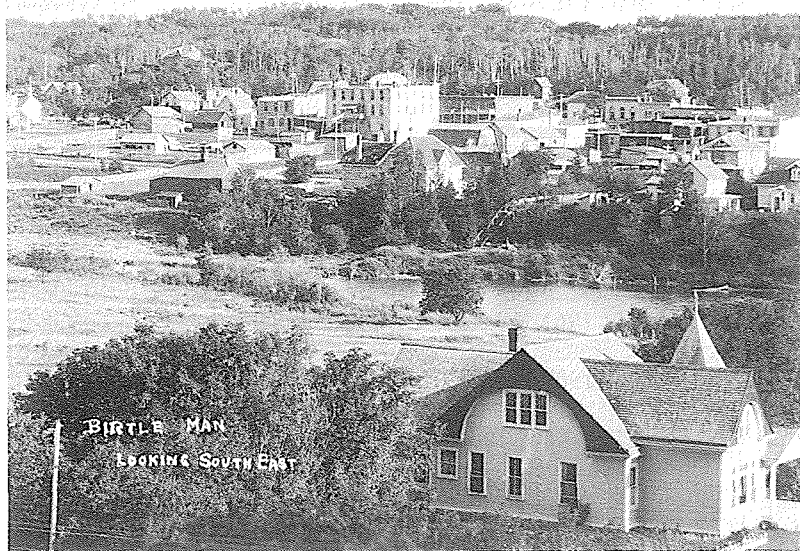
On May 15th, 1970 Council entered into an agreement with Dr. R. G. Parton to establish a **Dental Health Program**. After many years Birtle once again had a dentist.

The **Shoal Lake Veterinary Clinic** came into being with the co-operation of the town and other municipalities.

Nov. 10th, 1970 approval of the building permit for the **new curling rink** was given. 1970 was **Manitoba's Centennial Year** and the people of Birtle went all out with their three-day celebration, which included one of the largest and most colorful parades in the province.

The early seventies saw continued progress. The Town took advantage of Provincial and Federal labour schemes. New sidewalks began to form a network over town. Major renovations and new buildings appeared in Birtle District Park. The interior of the Town Hall was redone. The old arena sported a new roof, and old buildings were demolished. A new regional depot was built by Imperial Oil Company, continuing that company's association with Birtle that began in the 1890's.

At the time of writing (1973) negotiations are taking place with the R.M. of Birtle to form a **Community Centre Area** with the intention of building a new arena. Plans are underway for a meat-processing plant. The Recreation Commission obtained one of the schools for a Recreation Centre.



Birtle, looking South-East.

The Town of Birtle in its eighty-ninth year is still a hive of activity despite the fact that the dreams of our founders are beyond our reach. The contradictory, confusing situation of a region suffering depopulation in an over-populated world is very evident, but our citizens, continuing in the spirit of our previous generations, shall surely add further chapters to Birtle's history.

MAYORS

John S. Crawford	1884-97
C. A. Flower	1898-99
	1901-03
John Walley	1900
	1905-06
John Clemens	1904-07
Dr. R. Wheeler	1908
E. J. Wilson	1909-1920
	1928-1932
H. A. Manwaring	1921-25
J. W. Pratt	1926-27
	1948-51
	1954-59
F. H. Manwaring	1933-39
	1946-47

Dr. R. L. Miles	1940-43
	1959-61
C. L. Dutton	1944-45
C. E. Tibbatts	1952-53
George Hart	1962-65
M. K. Clubley	1966-69
R. E. Howard	1970-74

SECRETARY-TREASURERS

Alfred Morton	Jan. 1884-July, 1903
J. B. Hodgson	July 1903-Jan. 1906
J. C. Dudley	Feb. 1906-Feb. 1920
F. C. Barber	Feb. 1920-Sept. 1920

A. E. Quelch		Ehnes, G. G.	1972-73
Sept 1920-Dec. 1946		Ewbank, J.	1948-49
Sept. 1947-Dec. 1947		Foster, J. G.	1901
F. Otten		Fulton, E. B.	1950-51
Jan. 1947-Feb. 1947 (acting)		Geras, M.	1967-68
R. A. Taylor		Gerrand, T. R.	1946-47
Mar. 1947-August 1947		Gibson, H.	1902
Thomas R. Gerrand			1904-05
Jan. 1948-Feb. 1948			1908-09
Ed Hall			1916-27
March 1948-June 1961		Gibson, R. W.	1884
Mrs. E. M. Davidson		Gourley, W.	1908-13
July 1961-Feb. 1969		Greeves, H.	1938-39
Jake Driedger			1943-61
Feb. 1969-Sept 1970		Hall C. E.	1904
Keith Wilson		Hall, Ed.	1940-45
Oct. 1970 —		Hallen, G. S.	1888-89
COUNCILLORS		Hamilton, J. H.	1950-51
Asselstine, C. A.	1967-70	Harris, A. B.	1890
Barber, F. C.	1941-43	Hatch, J. G.	1913-20
Barker, H. A.	1962-65	Hickman, F.	1953-59
Barteaux, O. T.	1952-63	Hough, J. M.	1904
Beirnes, W. T.	1900-01		1907
Bell, Thomas	1907	Huzzey, A.	1963-66
Berry, A. W.	1966-69	Johnston, J. A.	1884
Birnie, G.	1940-42	Kelly, O. L.	1960-62
Brown, R.	1926-29	Kingdon, H.	1970-72
Campbell, George	1899	Kitching, R.	1970-73
Cartmell, H. M.	1914-21	Knowles, W. C.	1933-39
Copeland, George	1891-93	Laidman, T. S.	1928-29
Copeland, T. W. B.	1899-00	Lane, John	1895-96
	1902-04	Lane, J. Len	1972-73
	1906	Lepper, A.	1886
	1908-12	Lewis, F. G.	1894-96
	1921-32	Lewis, S. B.	1969
	1934-46	Lidster, W.	1907-08
Corbett, Isaac	1891-96	Madiuk, P.	1964-71
	1901	Markle, J. A.	1885
Dalton, J. S.	1971-73	Mickle, C. J.	1890
Doig, Andrew	1907	Morris, T. E.	1940-41
Doig, Arthur	1887	Morris, W. J. G.	1947-52
Doig, H. M.	1930-39	Morrison, Dr. J. H.	1886-87
Doran, T. E.	1950-61	Moxham, G. H.	1944-45
Dunham, Charles	1898	Murdoch, J. A.	1888-89
	1901-03	Murrell, George	1901
Easson, R. P.	1884-85	McFarland, G.	1944-45
Edberg, R.	1973	McKibbin, Mrs. H. L.	1969-73

McQuaig, J. M.	1909-20	Stewart, J. M.	1899
O'Callaghan, C.	1889		1900
Olson, R.	1940-44		1904
Parnetta, A.	1974		1910-18
Patterson, John	1906-07	Sutcliffe, P.	1921
	1909	Tansley, J. W.	1912-13
Patterson, T. F.	1884-88	Taylor, E. J.	1922-24
	1890-1900	Taylor, J. B.	1903
	1902		1906
Patton, J. E.	1945-54	Vant, Thomas	1910-12
Preston, R. F.	1905		1914-15
Richardson, W. J.	1884-85		1917-18
Robert, H. L.	1962-65	Walley, E. A.	1921-39
Roseborough, John	1888	Walley, E. C.	1967-73
	1890	Walley, J. E.	1952-66
	1894	Wilson, C. H.	1910-11
	1905	Winder, F. R.	1901
	1919-20	Wood, A. B.	1885-86
Roseborough, L. M.	1925	Wood, W. H. H.	1889-90
Shepherd, A. J.	1913-16		1908-09
Spencer, D. L.	1961-66	Yeandle, Thomas	1895-96

Early Business Enterprise

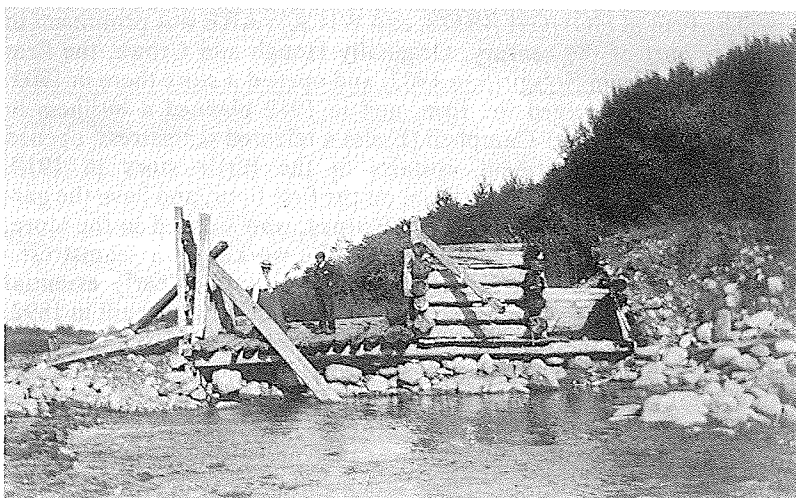
There was no unemployment in Birtle in the early years. The building boom and the need for supplies and services of all kinds kept every able-bodied man busy from dawn to dark. Those with good horse outfits, T. Carlton, Alonzo Shepherd and others, trucked lumber from the mill to centres further south, brought back goods for the stores, supplies for the mill camps, freight for business men. The first store was built in the fall of 1879, operated by J. S. Crerar, who later employed R. W. Gibson as manager-salesman. A private bank was started by D. W. Cummings, which Mr. Gibson in time took over. It was sold about 1896 to Dudley and Leese, and still later to the Union Bank of Canada.

"Birtle's Beginning" mentions a number of business ventures of those first years. In most cases the man with an idea built his own building to contain it. Some that merit attention were — J. S. Crerar's flour mill, not very successful, was succeeded by a more up-to-date structure built by contractors Nelson and McKenzie on the site of present Birtle park. It was three stories high with a basement, and ran by water power. S. E. Bush's stone livery barn was built by the same contractors. Tom Patterson put up and operated a furniture store and repair shop near the Main Street bridge about 1882. Some years later with brother John he started the Patterson Lumber Company. Dr. J. H. Morrison and Joseph Pritchard arrived from the "bluenose provinces", and erected respectively a drug and novelty store and a feed and provision shop, both with living apartments above. In 1887 Joseph Dutton began to operate a cheese factory in the Patterson Furniture Store. The

Winnipeg "Sun" of 1888 reports the general store of Manwaring and Wright as thriving in a two-story stone building 33 x 60 feet, with free delivery service. Mr. Manwaring also ran a steam sawmill thirty miles north of Birdie, and sold lumber and brick. Years later his son Frank, one of the town's best-known citizens, was to carry on the general store in his own name and another building.



The Ravine Road (before 1910).



Dam in early days.

Other structures mentioned — J. S. Crerar with new lumber put up another building, which in 1967 still survived as Archer's shop. The first Town Hall, in autumn of 1880, was built of donated materials and volunteer labour, 20 x 36 feet in size, with a belfry made by E. J. Wilson and a bell given by J. S. Crawford which still hangs in the present Hall

As time passed, names and buildings changed, but business continued to grow with the town. Of special interest is the present Walley store, now in charge of the fourth generation. The original shop was built of logs by George Walley in 1880. It was on the corner of Main and Eighth, 20 x 36 in size, and served for twenty years, then the present store was erected, still a landmark on Main Street. Having come west from Ingersoll in 1879, in Winnipeg George heard of the shortages on the Birdtail, loaded two oxcarts and was soon in business. His next shipment was sent up the Assiniboine, and by cart from Fort Ellice. Son John took over the business on his arrival in 1881, was followed by his son Ernie in 1903 and now Walley Bros. is in the charge of Ernie's sons John and Ernest Jr. (see family story) John married Alice Edmundson and has two children. Ernest, married to Maureen Newsham, has a son and two daughters.

Another well-known name in business was that of Doig (see story). The family came from Owen Sound in 1882. WILL DOIG operated a hardware store in Russell, where the Doig Block still stands. ANDREW for a time was engaged in a machinery and livery business in Glenboro, then resumed farming near Birtle in 1902. ARTHUR had a hardware business in Birtle on the site of the present Royal Bank. He married Mrs. Dan MacArthur, a widow, and built a cottage and also a home for his mother and sister JESSIE, who later married Dr. McGillivray.

The firm of HOUGH BROS, and WICKWARE was prominent in the early part of the century. Originally Hough and Crowe, the firm built a creamery in Solsgirth in 1902, and opened a store there in 1903. D. A. Wickware joined the firm, and in 1912 planned a business in Rossburn. Miss Esther Campbell (Essie) a talented seamstress, opened a dressmaking department upstairs in the Birtle store in 1910. Customers could purchase material on the first floor, and have the garment made on the second. George Beirnes, who worked in the store, met his wife Louisa Whitfield there, as she worked as a seamstress.

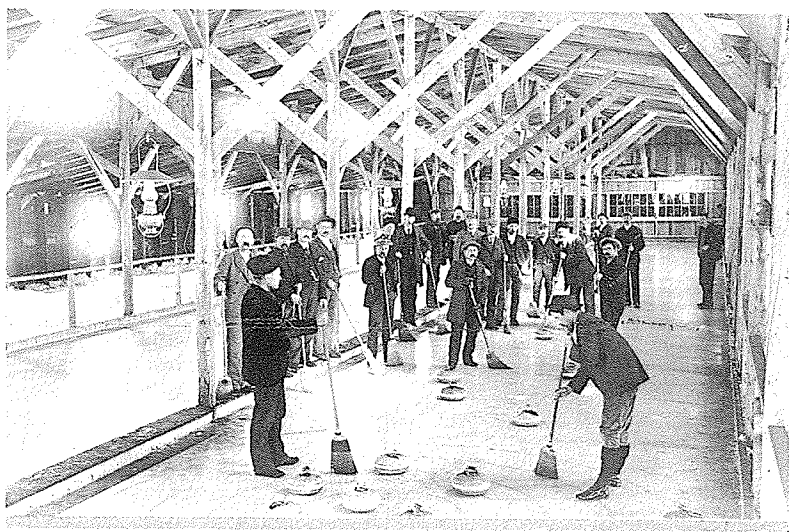
The columns of the Eye-Witness mention other early essential businesses — the Lane and Roseborough blacksmith shop built in 1892, a garage added later, and the whole taken over in 1921 by L. Brennan and Ernie Gibbs; Harry Gibson's furniture store, built in 1902; tailor shops run in early years by Nicholas Hill, R. J. Moore in 1892, Charles Greeley in 1913, Dick Jones later **REUBEN OLSON**, — opened a watch, clock and jewelry repair shop in 1930 in the old Easson Block. In September he moved to the Pratt Block and in 1932 he moved across the street next to present Barker's. Charles Midwinter had had a jewelry store in the same place. In 1953 Mr. Olson built a new store on the same property. He sold to Mrs. Swanson in December 1970.

The first drug store mentioned was Dr. Latimer's in 1892, managed by a Mr. Stevenson, who later bought it together with a Mr. Speer. Mr. C. L. Dutton, long identified with the pharmacy business in Birtle, was apprenticed from 1905 to 1909, in 1910 was employed in Medicine Hat, came back to Birtle in 1911 to take over the Stevenson store, re-named Birtle Drug Co. which he purchased in partnership with Dr. Wheeler. The business was sold after the Second World War to George Barker. Mr. Dutton continued to do relief work at Wasagaming and elsewhere until very recently. In 1972 he was recipient of the "Bowl of Hygeia" Award for outstanding community service in his profession. The award was made in Richmond, Virginia. Besides his other achievements, Mr. Dutton in 1974 is the oldest citizen of Birtle who was born there — in December 1887.

Birtle Hotels

Manitoba's rapidly growing population in the eighties, many of them on the move, brought into being many "stopping-houses" throughout the prairie region. One was built in the Warleigh district by former N.W.M.P. W. Brandon. In the townsite the need for transient and temporary lodging was soon evident. In July 1879 S. W. Chambers put up a hostel, with living space for his family. It was of logs, with a thatched roof. A year later it was purchased by John McDougall, an Imperial Army man recently with the Mounties. He operated the McDougall House for twenty years — famous for service and good cheer.

In 1882 the McDougalls erected the Rossin House, on the site of the present Birtle Hotel (see family story) It was leased by a Mr. Lyons in 1903. The Eye-Witness notes that a bus was purchased in 1913 to



Birtle Curling Rink about 1896.

convey guests from the station, and its boarders had a hockey team. The Rossin House burned in March 1931.

C. J. Mickle built a hotel in 1882, on the later site of the "Robert". He intended to name it "Leland", but after Mr. and Mrs. Russell Easson came from Stratford to operate it, the name became "Russell". It was later the "Birtle House", re-christened "Commercial" in 1923 by new owner W. J. Elliott. Later Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hall took it over, and in 1943 the Robert family (see story). Son Hector built the Riverside Motel and Drive-In. Joe and Elsie Horvath purchased the Robert in 1962. Joe's death was recently noted in the Eye-Witness.

By 1881 Birtle had three hotels, with the "Allan" of Ed Allan, and the "Arlington" built by Sheriff Adams. A ball on May 4th opened the "Allan". Two more were put up by 1883 to serve the travelling public. In 1880 the Carpenter family from Grimsby, Ont. erected a much-needed boarding house, extended to 18 x 50 feet. It was sold to John Flynn, later was destroyed by fire.

At present there are two hotels in Birtle, both undergoing extensive alterations — the "Birtle" and "Villa Motor Inn (formerly "Robert") as well as the Riverside Motel, overlooking river and park.

Health Services

A great lack in pioneer days was provision for care of the sick or injured, but these hardy souls soon learned to improvise their own. Many stories tell of home remedies, more or less effective, which were commonly used to combat illness. "Mother believed in castor oil, goose grease, mustard plaster, and yearly doses of good old sulphur and molasses. They must have been good, as I do not remember any serious illness." (Lougheed) "My grandmother told of remedies made from

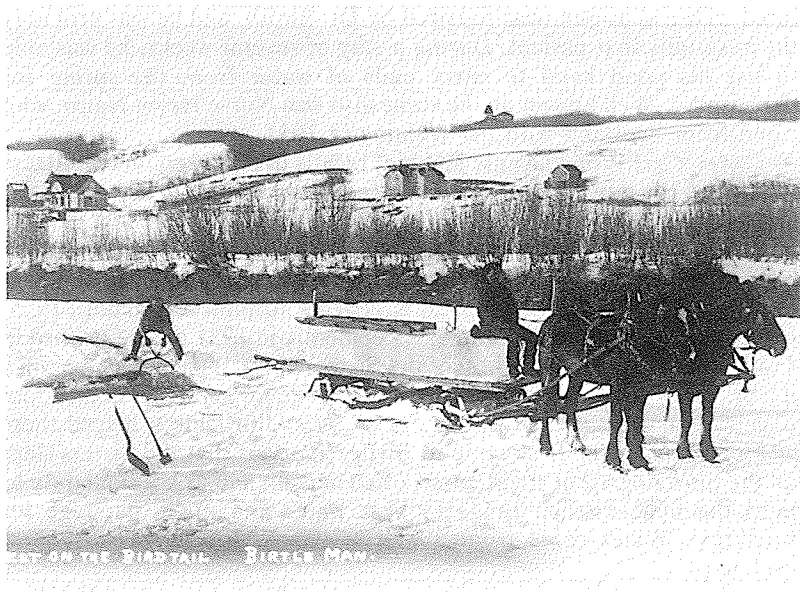
plants . . . black poplar buds blended with lard for healing salve . . . extract of wild strawberry to combat dysentery . . ." (Flynn) "For infections, a mixture of lemon juice and cream of tartar . . . For ringworm, a mixture of gunpowder and lard . . . Alum was used to rid the house of bedbugs, and a mixture of red precipitate and lard for head lice . . ." (McIntosh).

When the family could not cope alone, there were soon found women in the district with some skill in home nursing and midwifery. Mentioned many times is "Grandma" Hall of Foxwarren, Mrs. McIntosh and daughter Nellie Ferguson of Wattsview, Mrs. Robert Myers. These women travelled miles in all weathers to bring a child into the world, or ease the passing of the elderly. In the Solsgirth district lived Mrs. Moulson (later Mrs. Ness) who opened a nursing home for a time after her husband's death. "The road was never too long nor the weather too bad for her to answer a call." Mrs. Hatch and Mrs. Ed Taylor are others mentioned. Mrs. Margaret Robbie worked as a nurse for sixteen years, and her daughter Annie, Mrs. Carl Wood trained at Neepawa, did home nursing around Birtle, and later in the Birtle hospital when it opened in 1924.

The epidemic of Spanish influenza (the flu) of 1918-19 was a world-wide affliction, following closely upon World War I, and, we are told, killing more people than four years of war. "Schools were closed . . . everyone turned in to help the stricken . . . food was carried and mail delivered . . . many volunteered as nurses, aides or handy-men." (Thorpe). The Wotton family housed two Indian families in their



"Cantata in Costume" 1888. From left to right: Henry Gibson, Annie Hodnett, Nettie Mitton, Mrs. Easson, Margaret Webster and Della Laurie. Seated: Louise Webster and Margaret Richardson.



Winter — Ice harvest, 1914.

harvesting caboose and cared for them. Two died, and of course the Wottons caught the disease. The Hesketh family, coming to Solsgirth by train, were locked in the station-house and brought food, until found free from infection. Mrs. Frank Lindsay, a professional nurse, supervised the Foxwarren area during the epidemic. She continued to help well into the “Hungry Thirties”, when nurses might be paid in eggs, meat, quilts even wood for the stove.

Other epidemics are noted from time to time by the Eye-Witness — smallpox and diphtheria required quarantine in early years. In 1929 three young girls died of diphtheria. As one disease was conquered with vaccine, others emerged. Polio and sleeping sickness plagued the forties and early fifties. About this time District Nurse Vance was in charge of clinics in Birtle, Ellice, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Foxwarren. — after many years of agitation for such a service, led by the Foxwarren School Board. Trachoma was a problem in the early thirties, especially at the Indian School.

Hospitals

Meanwhile the need for a hospital for the sake of both doctors and patients became increasingly evident, but it was not until 1917 that a beginning was made with the Lady Minto Hospital on the second floor of the Stubbs (now Pratt) Block. With two beds and one or two regular nurses under the supervision of Dr. Frank Smith, emergencies could be cared for, and women brought in for maternity care rather than the doctor having to travel for miles in all weathers, sometimes arriving too late for the event. R. K. Workman writes that his left hand, badly in-

jured with a shot-gun, was repaired by Dr. Smith, and he was probably the hospital's first patient. During a stay of several weeks, he was able to use his good hand to carry pails of water from the spring for the hospital. Well known on the scene also was Nurse Helen Nairn, who came from Scotland with her training in 1911.

Mrs. Carl Wood (Annie Robbie) recalls being taken on a mattress in a sleigh to the new little hospital, and being carried up the stairs for an emergency appendectomy — the first in the hospital.

It was 1924 before the district managed to build a complete hospital, Dr. Head was Chief of Staff, Nurse Pearson was Matron, and one staff nurse was Miss Bedman R.N. This hospital served until 1955, was closed for a period following an epidemic in 1931 and re-opened in 1940 under the administration of the Sisters of St. Benedict who named it "St. Mary's", and carried on "with a missionary spirit of dedication, poverty and adaptation to necessities." Mrs. Jim Dalton helped there as a nurse when she first came to Birtle. She says that the Sisters slept on the third floor. The night nurse, often herself, had as her final duty to light the huge kitchen range to heat water and make porridge for breakfast. Water came from a well in the yard, and was of course very hard.

Finally, in 1955 the present very modern Birtle Municipal Hospital was opened, still for a time under the Benedictine administration. Present administrator is Mr. N. M. Rusaw, formerly Principal of the Birtle Indian School. Dr. Edwards was Chief of Staff until his retirement in 1971. It has an excellent staff of nurses, under Matron Mrs. Essie Olafson. The Birtle Health Unit was housed later in an addition on the north side. The hospital is under a District Board, with recent Chairman Mr. C. G. Orr, Dr. M. Tack is presently Chief of Medical Staff. Other doctors who have recently served the community well are Dr. Sasyniuk and Dr. N. F. Petrinack until 1972 and Dr. D. Bostock. The district doctors now work as Birdtail Medical Associates in the hospital. In 1974 they are Dr. M. Tack and his wife Dr. M. M. Tack, Dr. R. M. Smith, and from Hamiota Dr. J. E. Hudson and Dr. W. K. Hames. Dr. R. T. Lunn is Radiologist. The hospital has a well-equipped Dental office and an emergency ambulance service. In January 1974 Miss Linda Fletcher came as a medical social worker, joining the team for Health and Social Development serving Birtle, Shoal Lake, Russell, Rosburn, Silver Creek and Park Municipalities.

The district is most fortunate to have a beautiful residence for senior citizens in Pioneer Lodge, built in 1966 on the site of St. Mary's Hospital. There is felt to be a need for a personal care unit attached to the hospital, and a committee has been set up to work towards this objective, but at present this remains a hope.

Medical Doctors

Many physicians have done their best to maintain the health of the community, often with the odds against them. Dr. Latimer was one of the first, at least as early as 1891. Dr. Wickware was here doing surgery

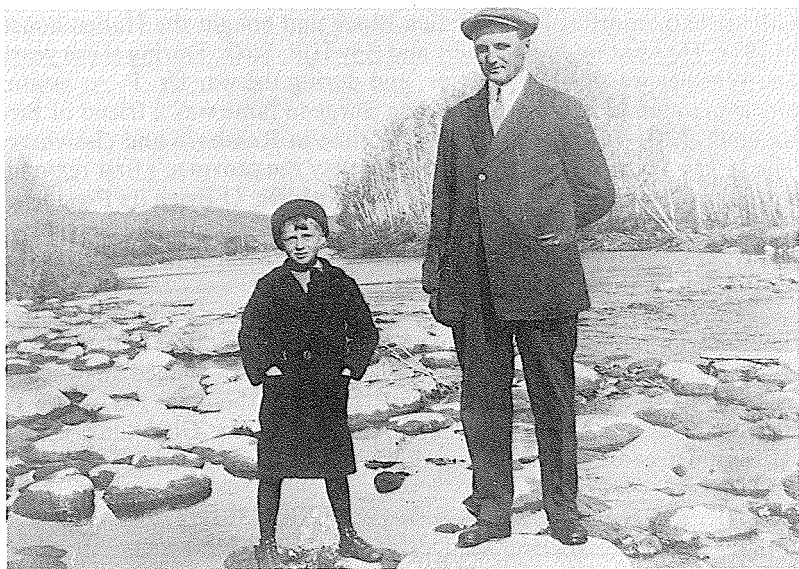
in 1901, and Dr. Maynes in Foxwarren before World War I. Dr. F. O. Gilbert had an office in the Hallen Block and bought the Hallen house in 1912. He went on to Ethelbert and Spy Hill, Sask. During these years Dr. Wheeler was also in practice, and during the war Dr. F. A. Smith, Dr. Murrough O'Brien of Saddlebag Surgeon fame was a friend of Birtle, and often visited there during his time in Rosburn and elsewhere. The North West Manitoba Medical Society, the province's first regional association, was launched in June 1917, with Dr. O'Brien its President, Dr. Smith Vice-President and Dr. Leishman of Shoal Lake Secretary. Dr. O'Brien came to Birtle from 1920-30. For Mrs. O'Brien, it was the best-loved of all their many homes.

Dr. Davidson and Dr. Mason practised here for a short time after the first war, and Dr. Head came in 1922, taking an office in the Easson Block (now Ray Howard's shop). Dr. T. I. Brownlee opened an office in Foxwarren in 1921, and Dr. Henderson was there in 1931. Dr. F. Fjeldsted was in Birtle for a time, leaving in 1940 for Gladstone. Dr. C. R. Scribner came in September 1941, living in the Quelch residence.

DR. RICHARD JAMES S. WHEELER (1861-1915) was born in Ireland, attended Medical College at Edinburgh University. He came to Manitoba in 1888, first to Arrow River, then to Birtle, where he married Edith Wilma Broadfoot in April 1896. She had come from England with her mother (later Mrs. Bagshawe) to live with brother Stanley near Solsgirth. Dr. Wheeler had a large practice in the district, driving with horse and buggy for miles in weather good or bad. Once while driving in a blizzard he could not find his house, until he discovered that he had driven over it in the storm. Small as it was, it was completely covered with snow. "He had a good horse, that kept the road winter and summer. The horse could find his way home while his overworked master slept." (Cahoon)

Dr. Wheeler was an active sportsman, played cricket with the local team, also tennis, and he enjoyed hunting and the whist tournaments popular at that time. He belonged to the Anglican Church and the Masonic Lodge. Dr. Wheeler died in September 1915, his wife in October 1925. Their children were — DORIS married to A. H. Templeton, a banker in Vancouver. They have three children; NORAH in England, had a son Basil and five grandchildren; BETTY in Victoria, B.C. had one daughter, a nurse, and a son who is a physicist in Edmonton; GUY died in Toronto in 1970. His widow and daughter Jane recently visited in Birtle, and there is a son James.

DR. FRANK A. SMITH (1882-1940) — was born in Whitemouth, Manitoba, his mother an Irish O'Connor and his father a railroad contractor in the west. He received his degree in medicine from Manitoba Medical College in 1906, and married Elizabeth Mary McComb of Winnipeg. They lived for a year at Maple Creek, Sask., then returned to Winnipeg, where Dr. Smith interned at St. Boniface Hospital for a time. They came to Birtle in 1915 after Dr. Wheeler's death, and lived



Spring 1917 — Dr. Frank Smith and son Campbell.

first in Dr. Miles' house, and later in the cement block house recently demolished on the south hill.

Alone during the war years, Dr. Smith experienced the usual problems of rural medical practice. The writer recalls many a midnight call to Hatch's Livery Stable, and long drives over rough roads in all weathers. The flu epidemic was an ordeal, and one remembers the nose-and-mouth masks that were generally used, even at the Victory bonfire after the Armistice November 11th, 1918. The following June the family with much regret left for Winnipeg, and post-graduate work at Chicago in Radiology. Dr. Smith continued in the practice of this specialty until his death in April 1940, just at the time of the invasion of the Lowlands, which was to bring more heartbreak to the world.

This kindly man with his Irish sense of humour and his gentle wife, who lived until October 1969, left a legacy of affection to their family and friends. Their children were — CAMPBELL, AGNES and KENNETH, all deceased, MARION (Mrs. John Abra) of Winnipeg; FRANK McCOMB (Mac) at Shilo and Brandon; NORAH married to Dr. Barrie Duncan of Regina; LEONARD O'CONNOR, with the C.P.R. in Winnipeg; DR. GORDON SMITH, formerly of Gladstone, now Chief of Psychiatry at Victoria Hospital, Winnipeg. There are twenty-two grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

DR. P. W. HEAD — came to Birtle in 1919 to replace Dr. Smith. He remained until 1934, during which time a much-needed hospital was built.

In 1934 Dr. Head and his family joined the Dept. of Indian Affairs, and for seven years he worked in the north, up the Mackenzie River, in Aklavik, Norman, Fort Chipewyan. Here his wife died. He re-married in later years. From 1942 to 1954 Dr. Head was stationed at North Battleford for the Department. On retirement he went out to B.C., and now lives at Sanach, a suburb of Victoria. He has four children — one married daughter, and three sons.

DR. HERBERT LYON EDWARDS was born in January 1894 at Souris, Man., son of a pioneer of 1882 from Kingston, Ont. After high school he worked on the farm and played league baseball until old enough for University. He had two years of Arts at Queen's before he enlisted in 1915 in the 46th Battery, Field Artillery, serving in France as a driver. Discharged in April 1919, he entered Queen's Medical Faculty, and graduated in 1924 with B.A., M.D.C.M. and L.M.C.C. He later served an internship and received a certificate from New York State Medical Board.

Dr. Edwards practised for two years in Roland with his brother, met and married Mabel Elizabeth McLaren in June 1926, who has been "a constant, faithful and efficient helpmate." They honeymooned in the east in a 1926 Ford Coupe. In September 1927 Dr. Edwards started practice in Foxwarren, with no water or electricity, the nearest hospital at Birtle or Russell. In 1930 they came to Birtle, after the departure of Dr. O'Brien. Here transportation was somewhat improved with railway passenger and freight trains, the Sectionman's jigger at times, and occasionally a Bombardier. Dr. Edwards, now in retirement, is grateful for the aid of Sisters, nurses and other doctors, and considers his most memorable day to be Sunday, July 23, 1967, "Dr. Edward's Day" when a reunion of friends and relatives was organized by a local committee. "God bless you all."

Dr. and Mrs. Edwards have five children — FRANCES (Mrs. W. K. Coulthard) in Grande Prairie, Alta; DAVID married to Margaret Selby in Calgary; CHARLENE (Mrs. Douglas Edmondson) Winnipeg; MARYAN¹¹, married to Capt. Clifford Schmidt R.C.A.F., and CAROLYN (Mrs. R. J. Doran) of Thompson, Man. There are twenty-seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dental Care

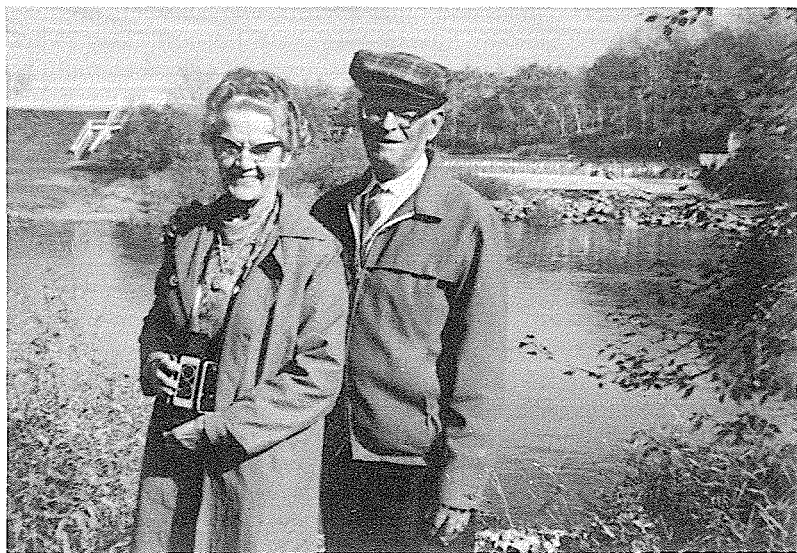
Dentistry came into existence first as an art, or skill, developed by an individual and rarely shared with his fellows. Only since the start of this century has it become a science, based on research and knowledge, and passed on to all members of the profession through their journals and associations. Indians and Eskimo, contrary to popular opinion, often suffered from dental decay and disease, and had their own remedies. One ingenious Eskimo, skilled in carving, made himself a denture from ivory and wore it with pride. It is now in the museum of the Dental Faculty, U. of Toronto.

Pioneers in the west had neither the facilities nor funds for proper dental care. Medical doctors were able to extract and treat for pain, but did little more. Many a farmer built a reputation as a tooth puller. In time it was found that a piece of clove, shaped to the cavity of an aching tooth, would ease the pain. Oil of cloves came to be used, and for abscess the pioneers used sliced hot onions held against the cheek.

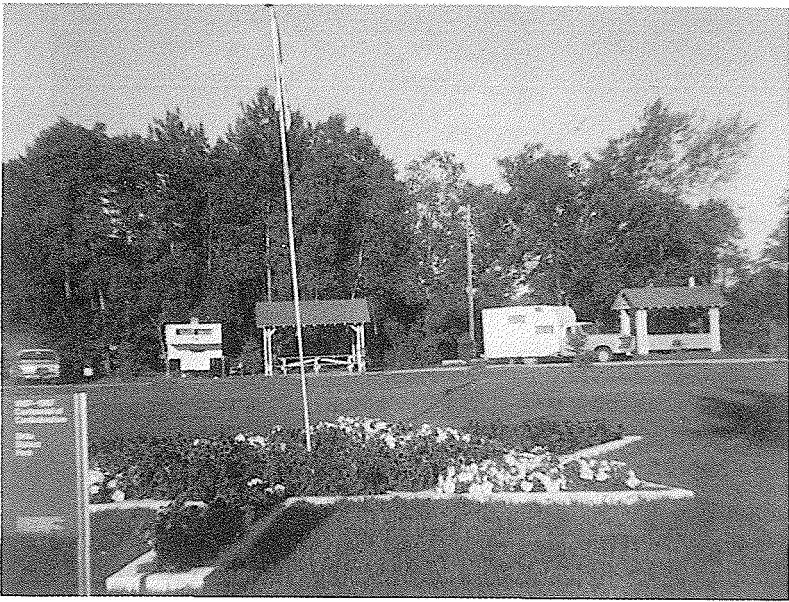
While Dr. Miles was in active practice, the Municipality was well served in dentistry. Since his retirement, the College of Dentistry at the U. of Manitoba has gradually been able to fill the need in rural areas. Dr. R. G. Parton, a native of Foxwarren, his arrival heralded by headlines, returned after graduation to practise in the hospital Dental Clinic until the spring of 1973. His place has been taken by another Manitoba graduate, Dr. Maurice Lang. A new program of dentistry for school children, financed by the Town Council, has been undertaken with Dr. Lang. Both young men have proven to be welcome additions to the social and sports set in the community.

DR. R. L. MILES was born in Michigan in September 1889, graduated in Arts and became Principal of Killarney Collegiate in 1912. He served in the U.S. Army in World War I, then joined the famous Class of 2T3 to graduate in dentistry from Toronto University. In 1918 he married Agnes Gertrude Johnston, of Killarney pioneer stock, and a fellow teacher. Following his graduation they came to Birtle, lived for a time above the Pratt Block where "water and ice were carried up, and ashes carried down."

Dr. Miles maintained offices in Miniota, Rosburn, Foxwarren and St. Lazare as well as in Birtle, travelling in winter by team and



Dr. and Mrs. Miles and Dam at Birtle Park.



1967 Centennial Flower Bed — Birtle Park.

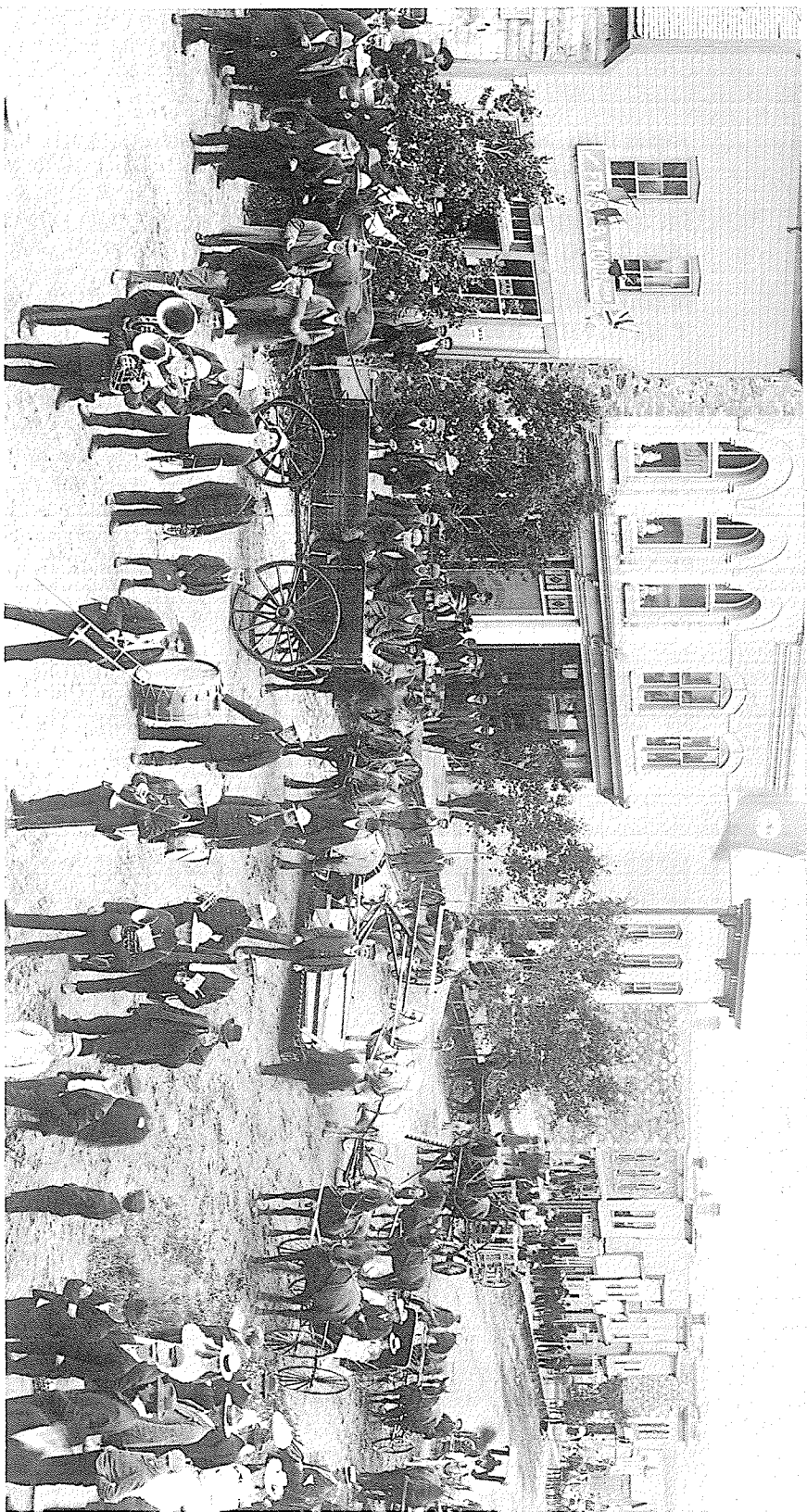
cutter over drifted roads, aided often by kindly folk along the way. He also farmed in Wattsville for some years as a hobby, raising pure-bred cattle, sheep and other livestock, until he gave up in 1952 for reasons of health.

Dr. and Mrs. Miles have been active in many community affairs, he as School Trustee, Councillor and Mayor, she in the United Church and W.I., both as Life Members of the Golf and Curling Club. In October 1973 Dr. Miles was honoured with Harry Cottingham with the first Town and Country Citizenship Award — "A night to remember." Dr. and Mrs. Miles have one daughter, FRANCES MARIE, who served in the Air Force in World War II, graduated in Social Work at U.B.C. and married lawyer Marvin Lundeen Q.C. of Dawson Creek. They have three children.

The Law

The first lawyer in the Birdtail district was **MR. CHARLES J. MICKLE**, who came from Stratford in 1882. He was nominated as Liberal candidate in 1892 and elected to the Manitoba Legislature. He was later Secretary-Treas. in the Greenway government. During these same years **GEORGE S. HALLEN** also practised law in Birtle, finally moving to Hartney, Man. in 1893.

A most colorful and idealistic lawyer and personality was **LEWIS ST. GEORGE STUBBS**, born in 1878 in Turks Island, Br. West Indies.



Birtle Main Street, July 1st Celebration (probably before 1914).



Jubilee and Celebration — July 1st, 1927.

He served in the Boer War, and in 1904 married Mary Wilcock. He studied law in Manitoba and was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1906. He came to Birtle in 1908, and in 1913 purchased the block vacated by the Manwaring store, which he remodelled for his office (now the Pratt Block). In 1920 G. A. Lauman joined the firm, which was by now Stubbs and Pratt, and an office was opened in Foxwarren in 1921. Next year Mr. Stubbs was appointed Judge of the County Court of Manitoba, Eastern Judicial District, and gave up his law practice in Birtle.

The Stubbs family, four sons and three daughters, have carried on the family tradition in the armed services and in law. All four sons took part in World War II, and STANLEY lost his life with the R.C.A.F. ROY, HAROLD, and GERALD and daughter CONSTANCE graduated in Law from the Manitoba Law School. Now Mrs. Cruickshanks, Constance lives in Toronto. Roy is a Judge of the Family Court, and Harold is Secretary of the Law Society of Manitoba. Gerald continues with the family law firm.

JOHN W. PRATT Q.C. — was born in Oxfordshire, Eng. in October 1894, and came to Manitoba in August 1912. He received the LL.B. degree from Manitoba in 1916, served briefly in the Air Force, articulated with Mr. Lewis St. George Stubbs in Birtle, and remained to practise there after Mr. Stubbs appointment to the County Court. The firm was Pratt and Lauman until 1942, when Mr. Lauman left for Russell to give greater attention to his duties as Magistrate.

Mr. Pratt was Solicitor for the Birdtail River School Division, the Town of Birtle, the R.M. of Birtle and Pioneer Lodge. He served on the



July 1st, 1927.



Coronation of King George VI, May 12th, 1937.

Town Council and as Mayor of Birtle for several terms. He represented Birtle-Russell in the Manitoba Legislature from 1927 until 1936, and also served on the Hospital Board for nineteen years. His great interest was the welfare of the people of the district, particularly working for wider health care. In 1938 he published an article — "A Plea for Economic Justice Relating to Agricultural Contracts."

Mr. Pratt married Kathleen Barnes of Birtle in 1920, and they had five children — EILEEN a teacher, served in the photography section of the R.C.A.F.; BRIAN with the R.C.M.P. in Vancouver; DENNIS



St. Mary's Hospital, 1924.



Birtle District Hospital, 1955.

— solicitor and barrister with the Department of Justice, Ottawa, DAVID — also a solicitor with the Vancouver Hydro; and EDWARD an engineer with Vancouver Water Works.

On April 23rd 1973 Mr. Pratt was honored by the Hospital Board on retirement "for unselfish contribution . . . as a member of the Organizing Committee and first Governing Board." In December of 1973 he passed away.

Geoffrey Fulton, a graduate of 1973 of Manitoba Faculty of Law, was articled with Mr. Pratt, and by special arrangement continues the work of the firm until his call to the Bar.

Veterinary Service

Of particular importance in a farming community is the availability of this service when required. Well known in Birtle for many years was **DR. ENOCH GREEN V.S.**, who settled in the district about 1885 and became "one of the best veterinary surgeons in the country, and has a large practice." (Winnipeg Sun) Born in Staffordshire, England in 1860, he came to Birtle and served the surrounding area, driving with horse and buggy for many miles in every direction. He was a continual student of his work and never gave up reading books on the subject.

Dr. Green lived in a small building overshadowed by the Patterson Block, so built himself a cement house and barn where the Co-op now stands. His practice grew smaller as cars took over from horses, but he managed to live comfortably "Another Gentleman and good citizen left us in 1940" (C. L. Dutton). In 1903 Dr. Rowcroft and Dr. Hayter opened a veterinary office in Birtle.

A recent trend has been a decrease in the number of veterinarians in Manitoba — from sixty-five at one time to twenty-six. The Provincial and Federal governments have provided funds to organize Veterinary Service Districts, so that clinics may be built and service become available. There are clinics in Shoal Lake and Roblin, and in 1973 one was set up in St. Lazare. The R.M. of Birtle agreed to participate with an annual financial contribution.

Birtle Volunteer Fire Brigade

The problem of fire-fighting has been with the community since its beginning. In 1950 the first engine was purchased, and later a second was bought by the R.M. of Birtle. Both are housed beside the Town Hall. Elmor Honey, Sandy Harvey and Fred Phillips were sent to take a course at No. 1 — Firehall in Winnipeg. Mr. Honey served as Chief for seventeen years, followed by Ernie Walley, and now Keith Wilson has the responsibility. Five homes of volunteers are equipped with telephones with the Number 3600. All five ring, and the first to answer presses a button which sounds the siren — three blasts, as distinct from the single one heard every day at noon and six P.M. All within hearing run to the Firehall, and the water tank is towed to the fire.

Regional Development

As we go to press (spring 1974) there is considerable interest in the Birtle community in the development of all its resources, with a view to improvement of sports facilities, roads, accommodation for travellers and tourists. A comprehensive Community Report has been published, with various possibilities pointed out. Birtle has taken an active part in the work of the West-Man Division of the Manitoba Tourist Association — particularly through Mayor Ray Howard, who became President in 1974.



Dr. Wheeler out hunting.



Nurses dressed for flu epidemic, 1918.

In Business in Birtle 1974

Archer's Plumbing and Heating
 Ball Hardware
 Barker's Men's Wear
 Bicknell W. E. Ltd. Freighters
 Birtle Locker Plant
 Birtle Pharmacy
 Birtle Drive-Inn
 Boulton Bros. Snowmobiles
 Braendle-Bruce Funeral Service
 Brau's I.G.A. — Meats and Groceries
 Canadian Co-operative Implements
 Capri Theatre
 Clubley's Meat Market
 Cochrane's Radio and TV
 Co-op Insurance Services
 Dalton's Allied Hardware
 Dandridge's Birtle Fur Farm
 Doran, E. N. — Trucking
 Deleau, Aime — Carpenter & Contractor
 Foxwarren Credit Union
 Gulf Oil Canada
 Hickman's Esso Service
 Howard's Clothing
 Imperial Oil Ltd.

J & K Restaurant
 Kelly, A. — Fire and Auto Insurance
 Johansson Pontiac-Buick
 Macleod's Ltd. Hardware & Appliances
 Maduik Bakery
 Manitoba Pool Elevators
 Margaret's Beauty Nook
 Marie's Beauty Chalet
 Marion's Beauty Shoppe
 Melnyk's Barbershop & Billiards
 Morris, W. J. G. — Clothing
 North American Lumber
 Nairn, Bill — Contractor & Carpenter
 North, Stephen — Contractor & Carpenter
 Riverbend Laundromat
 Royal Bank of Canada
 Shield's, George — Auction Service
 Swanson's Jewellery
 Twin Valley Co-op Ltd — Farm Supplies
 Walley Bros. — Groceries
 Walker, W. — Painter & Decorator

Birtle Organizations

Many groups have been active in Birtle Town and Municipality through the years. Oldest is the Agricultural Society, which organizes the annual Fair. Birtle Sports Committee will hold its 94th Sports Day July 1st, 1974. (For other sports see Chap. XI.) Also working actively for their community are the following —

Royal Canadian Legion — the driving force behind Birtle Community Hall, the Ambulance Service and many youth activities.

Pioneer Lodge Inc. — operates the very happy home for the elderly!

Birtle Lions Club — has many projects. One unique money-raising activity is the Garbage Collecting Service for \$1.00 a month.

District Chamber of Commerce — among other things, it sponsors Citizenship awards, and the Santa Claus Parade.

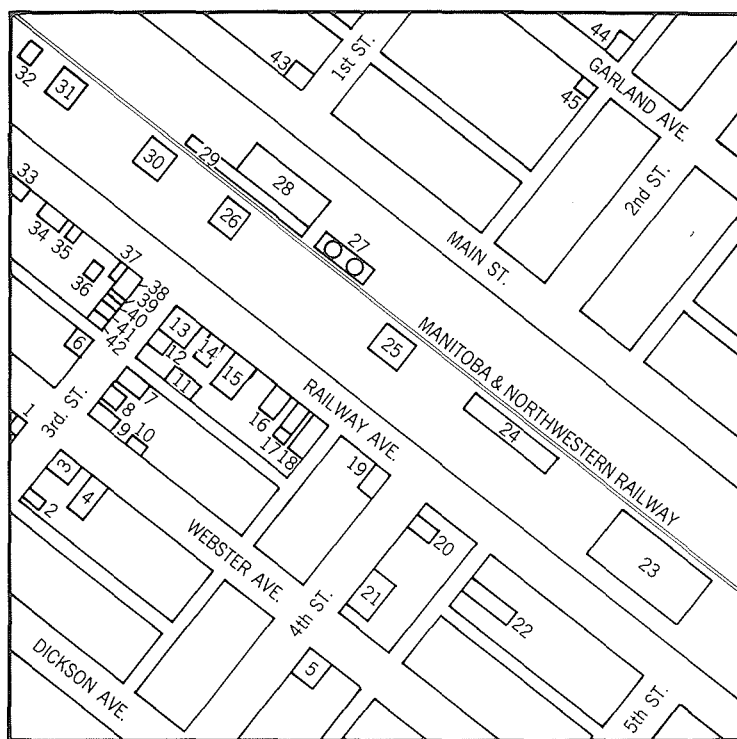
Birtle Masons, Artaban Chapter O.E.S., Loyal Orange Benevolent Association, Oddfellows and Rebekahs provide an outlet for the energies of their members.

Professional Groups include the Birdtail Medical Associates, Manitoba Government Employees Association, the local Branch of the M.A.R.N., with Mrs. Lorna Workman its head at present. The school teachers are active in the Manitoba Teachers' Society, of which Principal Harvey Kingdon is President this year.

A large number of Sports Clubs have been in action for years. There are also groups interested in chess, horseshoes and card-playing. An "Old Boys" Club has its own drop-in centre in the old Imperial Oil

Office. The beautiful Birtle District Park is maintained by an efficient Park Committee.

In addition there are several essential organizations which carry on in the Birtle Municipality together with other districts and municipalities. Among these are the Weed Board, the Birtle-Shoal Lake Health Unit, the West-Man Regional Development Corporation, and the Union of Manitoba Municipalities.



Key to Map of Foxwarren Village before Incorporation 1912

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Owen Burdett's bakery & cafe | 24. Loading platform |
| 2. Methodist Church manse | 25. Imperial elevator |
| 3. Methodist Church | 26. Albert Laycock's grain warehouse |
| 4. Leo Leaven's dance hall | 27. C.P.R. water tanks (former M. & N.W.) |
| 5. Murphy's lumber yard | 28. C.P.R. station |
| 6. John Hall's blacksmith shop | 29. Station platform |
| 7. Baker & Peter's store | 30. Tom Almack's grain warehouse |
| 8. Ridington's lumber & workshop | 31. Northern Grain Co. warehouse |
| 9. Hooper's harness factory | 32. Imperial Oil warehouse |
| 10. Fix-it Shop (owner forgotten) | 33. Scott Ellis' blacksmith shop |
| 11. Manny King's livery stable | 34. Ransom's hotel |
| 12. Albert Laycock's first store | 35. Ransom's butcher shop |
| 13. A. Laycock's new store (McCrinkle's) | 36. Grandma Hall's house |
| 14. Dunfield's hardware (Dunlop & Rorke) | 37. Milton Stitt's barber shop |
| 15. Austin Lipsett's machine agency | 38. A. Laycock's drugstore & phone office |
| 16. Hayes' Brothers butcher shop (H. Carr) | 39. Barker's boot factory |
| 17. Ransom's livery stable | 40. Robb's tailor shop |
| 18. Ransom's machine agency | 41. Luke's restaurant |
| 19. Dan Sutherland's blacksmith shop | 42. Bank of Hamilton |
| 20. Creamery | 43. Leckie's store |
| 21. J. K. Hay's garage & machinery | 44. Presbyterian Church |
| 22. Skating rink | 45. Presbyterian manse |
| 23. Stock yards | 46. Anglican Church |

Chapter V

FOXWARREN

The makeshift crosses are rotted now,
And covered with sod and sand.
The knolls and glades are dotted with homes
Of the tillers of the land.

W. Leo Leavens

The community that was to become the Village of Foxwarren developed a few years later than the Birdtail district, as homesteaders gradually made their way further north and west. George Belton writes that the first pioneers were with the group of settlers from Hamilton and Stratford who arrived at the Birdtail on May 7th, 1879. Among these were Alex and James Hay, Joseph Brown and his family, and in 1880 James Cairncross, Matt Rockett, Frank Robbie and the O'Keefes. Everetts, Emerson and Rupert Bligh from Nova Scotia settled in the Crewe district, the Stitts nearer Rossburn.

A. J. Swainson speaks of a Mr. Dawson, who attempted to duplicate an English estate on the banks of Snake Creek, spent money on well bred horses, cattle and dogs. The venture failed and later J. B. Hodgson took up the land. Further up the Creek were Thomas Ferguson, R. W. Patterson and Thomas Almack. Stephen Carr, Pete and William Davies and Henry Bierd settled on the plains west of the Creek, and in 1881 William Honey and his new bride came there, and her parents the McCamons. Samuel Widdicombe chose land east of the Assiniboine, later Balmerino, in 1882. Mr. Low lists his own family and Myers, Hillcox, Reid and Blayney — with fourteen new children. Other families mentioned by Mr. Belton were the Lewarton Brothers, who operated the store at Fort Ellice until the location was by-passed, and in 1904 "offered the residence, store, post office, stopping-house and stables at Fort Ellice for sale, proposing to retire from business." The Falloons were early arrivals, Burdetts after trying to farm east of Birtle, Bill Boles, J. H. McQuarry, Bob Ferguson.

Albert Laycock had already started his business in the location which became Foxwarren — the name suggested by the many fox warrens in the banks on the west side of Snake Creek (Wotton story). The Manitoba and Northwestern Railroad finally came through this point in 1886, and the settlement grew rapidly. The Bayfield district had received a few homesteaders via the Pelly Trail, whose numbers now grew until by 1887 a school was needed.

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of Bayfield School in 1938, Thomas Low Sr. entertained the guests with a lively and humorous story of Bayfield district. He spoke of the great rush for land in the spring of 1882, when the hotels in Birtle were full, with guests sleeping on the floor. Word had spread of "heavy black soil, and sloughs literally alive with ducks." Some land claims were a disappointment — as one Mike Coyne grumbled — "It's **all** sloughs and ducks!" For some years wheat was frozen almost every summer, 1887 the first year with a good crop,

when every available shelter was filled with good Red Fyfe. In 1888 Jim Grant shipped out the first carload, six hundred bushels, carted by ten yokes of oxen hauling ten wagons, borrowed from neighbors. Mr. Low told the story of an early frost that same year, when the farmers tried a method of combatting it that was employed in French vineyards — burning piles of wet straw to envelop the fields with smudges. “We worked all night, hung a thermometer on a stick in the smoke, and it went down ten degrees. We never tried the smudge again.”

Other tales were told — of the lost child Ellen Thompson, and the search in which all shared for a day and a night; a wolf had come pretty close to her, but she pulled her coat close over her head and scared him away; of the fifteen dry years, without even hay, the district being a solid sea of skunk grass. “The Bayfielders took to drink to forget the frozen grain and debts.” Mr. Vaughan, a reformed drunkard, and his wife were travelling about the province to hold temperance meetings. “The word came to Bayfield by moccasin trail (i.e., an Indian) that he was coming, and people turned out in a mass to see what kind of critter had turned down good whiskey.” The ladies all signed the pledge “Lips that touch whiskey will never touch mine”, and finally the men were brought into line. Meetings were held regularly that year, and turned into a courting school — “and never again was there any lack of children to keep the school going.”

The dry period, 1886 to 1900, was followed by twenty-eight years of rain, then in 1929 the dry cycle returned “and won’t let up until 1943, four years before the muskrat comes back.” There is a story of the heaviest rainstorm he remembers, in August 1936, when the bridge on the road to Binscarth went out. Most fascinating is the experience of the young teacher, who did not know how to get rid of a skunk under the floor of the school. The resulting events were hair-raising — but as Mr. Low rightly said “Any red-blooded woman or man who can’t chase a skunk out should not be teaching!”

Foxwarren Village was incorporated March 1912.

MAYORS of Foxwarren

A. Laycock	June 1912-16
E. Graham	1917-18; 1927-28
J. Hall	1919-20
L. Armit	1921-22
A. Lewarton	1923-26
W. L. Leavens	1929-37; 1939-43
W. R. Tett	1938-39; 1944-45
J. E. Morris	1946-47
J. M. McCrindle	1948-52
S. J. Stitt	1953-54
J. F. Lazenby	1955-
James Low	1956-63
N. B. Bergsteinson	1964-66
R. H. Gilmour	1967 (Acting)

COUNCILLORS

Archambault, Hector	1967-
Baillie, John	1924-26; 1932-33
Boyd, W.	1912; 1929-33
Breckenridge, Gordon	1951-66
Burdett, C.	1916-21
Cameron, Alex	1956-61
Carr, Thomas	1944-46
Copeland, G. H.	1927-28; 1930-31
Dunham, M. H.	1948-53
Elder, J. C.	1954-62
Faid, R. J.	1953-54
Falloon, S. J.	1922-23; 1947-50
Hastings, S.	1938-39
Hay, J. K.	1919-20

Hillcox, Victor	1938-44	Souch, Stanley	1962-63; 1967
Hume, J. M.	1938-39	Sutherland, D.	1915-18; 1929-32
Johnson, George	1919-20	Thomas, E.	1912-17
Laycock, B.	1923-26	Thorpe, A. R.	1941-42; 1959-62
Laycock, Charles	1918-20	Thorpe, W. H.	1934-35
Laycock, William	1921-26	Widdicombe, E. G.	1963-66
Leckie, A. N.	June/12-1915	Widdicombe, W. S.	1955-58
Lindsay, F. H.	1927-28		
Lockey, G. L.	1930-31; 1934-36		
Morris, W. J.	1937-40	SECRETARY-TREASURERS	
McCall, Sidney	1964-67	W. J. Rorke	
McKinnon, G. E.	1941-47	June 1912-March 1913	
McLennan, J. W.	1948-54	J. W. McCrindle 1913-May 1914	
Peel, Charles	1963-65	Percy Highfield 1914-38	
Ranson, E. N.	1935-37; 1940	L. Armit 1939-55	
Robb, D.	1936-37	W. F. Hinkel 1955-61	
Sawyer, S. A.	1946-47	Gowan B. Hay 1962-Sept./65	
Snowdon, T. J.	1923-29; 1932-37	Sophia Smith Oct./65-Dec./67	

Foxwarren's Growth

Mr. Mervin Dunham, who has written a comprehensive narrative of the development of Foxwarren's community life, states that the small log store built by Albert Laycock was the birthplace of the village. This pioneer businessman undertook in this lonely location to serve the growing number of farmers settling on the rich land of the district. The small structure was the first business within reach, and also housed the post office, and the first telegraph office when the railroad came through. Later Mr. Laycock built a new frame structure on the corner of Third Street and Railway to accommodate his growing business, and still later a large brick building across from it. To this was added an annex, which housed other enterprises, including Dr. Floyd's office. Mr. Laycock's store was later sold to James McCrindle, who had worked there as a clerk, but Mr. Laycock retained the post office in another small building. His brick block meanwhile provided space for many purposes — for the Telephone Office, the Law firm of Stubbs, Pratt and Lauman, an Insurance business and the Drug Store. Ashley Leaven's secondhand shop, the I.H.C. Parts Department, and Stan Hastings Electric Shop found a home in the annex.

Mr. Laycock soon found other outlets for his business acumen. He put up a warehouse and became the first grain merchant, and in time built an elevator. These were said to be a very great boon to the farm industry, providing as they did an accessible market for surplus grain, the farmer having now passed the stage of hauling his grain to the grist mill for flour for his own use. Mr. Dunham describes the procedure thus — "Mr. Low now drives to his unloading position in the warehouse. The bags of grain are taken from the wagon by hand, placed upon scales,

then carried to the appropriate bin. As the bin fills, the bags must be lifted six or seven feet from the floor, but there are young men around to assist. Mr. Low receives his cheque and drives away, leaving the merchant to load a boxcar. The loose grain is conveyed by cart across a plank into the boxcar, and dumped. As the pile grows the plank bridge is inclined, and a rope is used to pull the cart up. Once filled the boxcar door is closed and sealed. The young helpers are paid fifty cents a day."

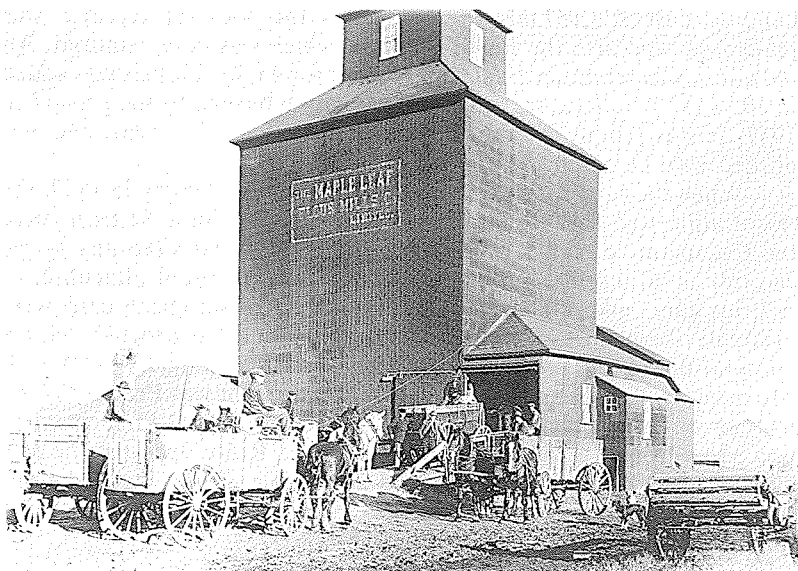
Meanwhile Northern Grain Company had built another warehouse, and competition induced Mr. Laycock to build his elevator. The farmer could now load his grain without bagging it, drive up the incline of the elevator, and watch his grain run out from the tail gate of the wagon into a pit below the driveway. From here the grain was raised by an ingenious system of belts and pulleys, with attached iron cups, about forty feet to the top of the elevator, where it was directed by a flexible pipe into the various bins. This system was powered at first by horses, driven in a circle outside the elevator to turn a large gear, which turned a shaft which was coupled to the elevator.

The Northern Grain Company later built an elevator of the same kind. Tom Almack, who had also built a warehouse, sold it to Dow Grain and the Imperial Grain Company built another elevator, later sold to the N. Bawlf Company. Gasoline engines in time took over the task of supplying power, sometimes causing trouble and even danger to those who handled the new machines, expert machinists being few and far between.

As the grain business increased in volume, other companies came in. Maple Leaf Milling Company purchased Mr. Laycock's elevator, which served until it was demolished in 1935. Some of its operators



Leaven's' threshing outfit and friends about 1909.



Maple Leaf Elevator (formerly Albert Laycock's).

were Ed Graham, Burt Laycock and Melvin Graham. The Imperial Grain elevator, owned in time by the N. Bawlf Company, was demolished about 1940. Operators were Jim Thomas, George M. Graham and Harry Walton.

Foxwarren Co-operative Elevator Association — Pool No. 22

Mr. P. K. Peterson, born in Norway and farmer at Erickson, Man., was one of the founders of the first farmer-owned elevator, which shipped grain through the Manitoba Wheat Pool. Mr. Peterson became a buyer for the Wheat Pool at Foxwarren, where he played a part in the start of Pool No. 22.

The first meeting of the provisional directors and prospective members took place June 24th, 1926. Mr. Isaac McLellan, the Chairman, became the first President, followed by F. E. Burdett. The first Secretary, F. W. Tarrant, served for twenty-five years, to be succeeded by C. G. Orr. The original members recorded were Messrs. G. Laycup, L. McNarry, J. Johnston, A. Little, T. McLeod, D. G. Graham, R. Cahoon, G. Gage, E. Williams, A. Reid, E. Gadd, Farquhar, B. Tibbatts, T. Low, D. Black "and others".

Dissatisfaction with prices, handling of grain, price spreads were among the reasons for starting the Co-operative. In spite of some opposition, the group leased the Victoria Elevator, which still stands as Elevator "B". A profit of \$8000.00 was made the first year. Next year the Association decided to build its own elevator. A few members strayed during the delay, but most of them finally returned. The new

building cost \$23,187.00. In the forties the Victoria elevator was purchased, and also the Bawlf elevator, which was later removed. An old annex was rebuilt in 1950, and another for 45,000 bushels was added in 1954 to "A" elevator, which unfortunately burned to the ground in 1957. It was rebuilt in time to receive grain that same year, and was opened with ceremony.

When the fund for the community rink was underway in 1949, the Association was able to donate \$1500.00 from savings. At least twice the Co-operative had handled more grain in a year than any single elevator in Manitoba. Problems recently have involved allocation of railway cars, and the delivery of quotas then sufficient cars were available. Nonetheless the Association continues to prosper, with a youthful Board of Directors — K. Tibbatts, F. Copping, C. Wotton, J. Moulson, G. Simms and W. Johnston. Alex Wright was President for a number of years, recently succeeded by M. E. Falloon. First operator was Mike Couch, a very capable agent. Fred Rowe operated the new building. Mervin Snow is mentioned as serving when things were difficult, and as one who helped start the Seed Club. Present operator is Burton Johnston.

United Grain Growers, Foxwarren Local #195

The United Grain Growers Limited started in Foxwarren with the purchase of Northern Elevator Company in 1913. The old No. 2 Elevator was built in 1902, and No. 1 in 1923. The new composite was built in 1963. The first Board of Directors was elected in 1920, made up of Chairman Mr. F. Cooper, Secretary R. J. Connelly, and members H. McCredie, A. Wotton, George Laycup, A. McPherson. Mr. Donnelly was first delegate to an Annual Meeting. Secretaries over the years have been Mr. Connelly 1920-38, Mr. H. Denham 1938-55, and Mr. J. W. Hamilton since 1955.

The new elevator was officially opened Aug. 8th, 1963 by Chairman Vernon Falloon and the Local Board #195, and was attended by representatives of town, rural and provincial governments. Mr. R. M. Wilson of Gladstone, Director and second Vice-President of the Company spoke of the planning that preceded the building. Honored guests were Mr. Joe Lazenby, former Head of the Sampling Department in Winnipeg, and former Agent Mr. M. G. Hay. Mr. Lazenby's mother, Mrs. Harry Lazenby, was an interested member of the audience, and still lives in Foxwarren.

Mr. Runciman, President of U.G.G. of Canada, asked Mrs. Kathleen Prescott, representing the Farm Women of the district, to cut the ribbon. The first load of No. 1 Hard Wheat was delivered by Mr. William Redmond, long-time customer and supporter. Agent Mr. Phil Baker received the load, and called on Mr. Lazenby and Mr. Hay to assist in grading and weighing.

In recent years shareholders of Locals Beulah #221, Chillon #217 and Isabella #171 have been included in Foxwarren Local #195. Foxwarren is one of five points designated for training of grain managers.

Elevator Managers since 1913 have been Messrs. M. G. Hay (1913-47), L. L. Armit (1947-50), E. G. Hall (1950-51), R. W. Hadland (1951-59), P. S. Baker (1959-67) and Roy Freeman since December 1967. In 1968 a new house was built for the Manager and his family.

Present Chairman of the Board is Bernard Lougheed, Secretary J. W. Hamilton, and Directors Jim Hamilton, Fred Graves, Matthew Smith, Rodney Graham, Bob Jelfs, Alex Reid Jr., Ross Laycock, Ivan Crerar, Lawrence Smith, Gordon Stewart and Allan Murray.

J. M. McCrindle's Store

Mr. James McCrindle had worked as clerk and part-time telegrapher for Albert Laycock, and he purchased the business when Mr. Laycock gave it up. He kept a full supply of staple groceries, and a drygoods department in an annex to the shop. Customers brought in their lists of requirements, then went elsewhere while the clerk packaged the needed flour, salt, sugar, tapioca. Credit was usual, especially in the summer, the bills to be paid "after threshing". Wholesalers likewise extended credit to the retail merchant.

Bargains at McCrindle's Sale 1908

Tomatoes, corn, peas and beans 10¢ a can; coloured flannelette 9¢ a yard; fine English print 10¢; famous Crompton corset 59¢ keepskin-lined coats \$4.50; kitchen chairs 45¢, rockers \$1.75.

There was a ladies' millinery shop in the store, where the large ornamented hats of the pre-war period were put together. Other kinds of merchandise crammed the store to the rafters. One could purchase work-clothes, suits, lanterns, shovels, baby needs, seeds and farm produce. The stores of the village were its community centres, where friends met, gossip was exchanged, politics discussed.

Henry Leckie built a two-storey shop on the corner of Main and First Street in 1898, and lived with his family on the second floor. His son Adam carried on the business, and daughter Agnes married J. M. McCrindle, who in time sold to a group — Ed Graham, Rance Laycock, Walter McCrindle — retained an interest himself, but moved out to his farm. Here he carried on a very successful farming operation, and also an agency for McLaughlin-Buick cars.

Other general stores noted — Baker and Peters, later owned by Merritt Leavens, J. J. Hutton, Mr. Cunningham, Frank Manwaring, J. Perry Teeple and W. J. Morris. In 1935 Mr. Morris built a new store on the site of Manny King's livery stable on Third Street. His son Ted followed him in the business, and sold it in 1957 to Hector Archambault. Ted, now operates a grocery store in Moosomin. In 1972 Reg Gadd bought the Foxwarren store. The old building put up by Baker and Peters was purchased by a group of local citizens and converted into a motion picture theatre, operated for many years by Alvin Thorpe. It was demolished in 1970. Also mentioned was the "business emporium" of Mr. Luke, next door to Laycock's brick building. Mr. Luke carried groceries as well as running a restaurant. It was sold to W.



Foxwarren before 1914. In background are the Methodist Church, Hutton Dry Goods, Hall's Blacksmith Shop and Owen Burdett's Cafe.

Leo Leavens and became a general store, then was purchased in the 1940's by the Co-op for groceries. Charlie Peel owned it for some years, until it was destroyed by fire in 1968.

A farming community needs goods and services for its particular requirements. There was a hardware store, started by Edgar Murphy and later owned by John Dunfield, Dunlop and Rorke, G. R. Scruton and Louis Armit. At its peak it carried large stocks of nails, bolts, nuts, rivets, hammer parts, anvils, stoves, coal-oil lamps, lanterns, saws, galvanized iron. Of great interest to the passer-by was Harry Hooper's harness repair shop, at first located in an annex to Baker and Peters' store. In time Harry built his own place nearby, where he both repaired and manufactured complete sets of harness. At last obsolete, the building housed McArthur's restaurant, the Telephone Office, and various other enterprises including Harry Kalyniuk's grocery store. Mr. Hooper's first location, the annex, became a Law Office for Louis St. George Stubbs, and the first home of the Credit Union.

Mr. Ridington, the first carpenter in Foxwarren, built himself a workshop and lumber office in the same street block, which later held J. K. Hay's implement agency, and public washrooms after the waterworks came to the village. Another agency for machinery and a garage was built by Austin Lipsett on Railway Avenue, taken over by Lou Leavens, then by Charlie and Rance Laycock. Further east on the same street was Pete Westegaard's Livery Stable, across from the Imperial Elevator. Then came the Massey-Harris business and Ford Agency of Russell Ransome, converted into a boarding-house, and finally demolished in the forties.

It was Lou Leavens who built up the farm machinery agency into a centre for automobile sales and service. This was the time of the "hey-day of car inventors", when about eighty different types of automobiles were manufactured in Canada alone. Few survived for any length of time, but Sam McLaughlin's masterpieces, with the Buick engine, took a commanding lead over all competitors, and survived the test of the years. It is doubtful if anyone knows the exact number of people who built automobiles in the U.S.A. Many fell by the wayside very soon, and the depression of the thirties thinned out the survivors, until you could count the successes on your fingers.

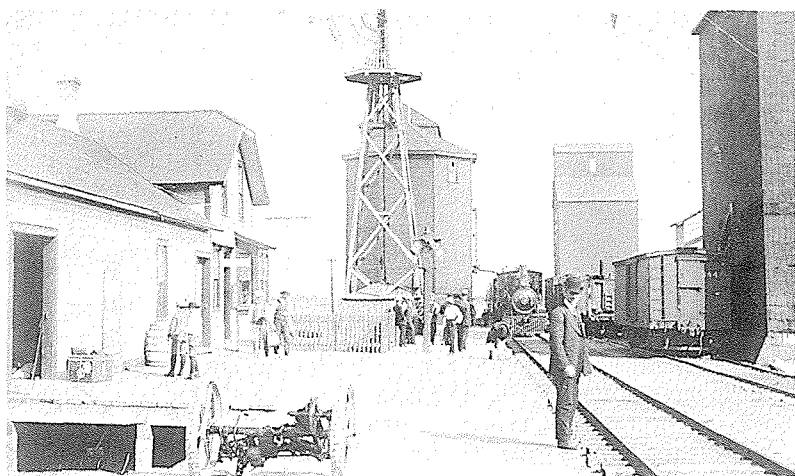
Lou Leavens, who sold Studebaker cars, Frost & Wood, John Deere and Deering-Cockshutt implements, was an astute businessman and a great salesman. He was responsible for putting many automobiles in farmyards. Later Charles and Rance Laycock carried on through the boom of the twenties, selling to Arnold Lewarton and Sam Falloon, who were the owners when the fire, starting in the garage loft, destroyed agency and garage, as well as most of the street. To the south, on Webster Avenue, Steve Dolhun built a garage and repair shop before 1920, which shared part of the growing automobile business in those optimistic years.

Jim Murphy built a lumberyard on the corner of Webster and Fourth Street. It was taken over by son-in-law James K. Hay, who sold it to the Monarch Lumber Company, under Fred Tammage's management. J. K. Hay remained one of the active businessmen of the district. He built a garage and implement business on the site of the old creamery, where he did a large volume of business during the early twenties. Many of the Overland cars in the area came from his agency. He also sold Gray Dort automobiles, Turner tractors, and several makes of farm machinery. He ran a brisk car repair business, with Alvin Sonne and a Mr. Zimmerman among his mechanics.

Frank Clement of Binscarth bought a hardware store and garage from Mr. Simmie in 1927, managed by Doug McCaig. In 1929 Harold Ranson and Harold Hazeldine bought it, later Ranson added an Imperial Oil agency. He was joined by brother Wilbur, who took over after the Second War, and sold the business to Cliff Elder. The building has been since demolished.

Mervin Dunham established a car repair service in the rear of Ranson's Hardware in 1931, which business he continued in various premises until enlistment in the R.C.A.F. in 1941. After the war he built a garage on the site of the present post office, where he handled an agency for Ford until 1960, when he joined the Civil Service. George McKinnon, who bought the I.H.C. business from Jack McCrindle in 1935, operated a service garage and B.A. Oil station for many years, until retirement to the west coast.

Melvin Graham was another enterprising businessman, who established an agency for International Harvester in 1946, sold it in 1953. Later Norman Bergsteinson bought it, and re-established it on the highway. It is now the repair depot for Chegwin Construction. Alex



Foxwarren C.P.R. Station showing windmill-driven pump, water tank, Laycock's and Imperial elevators.

Cameron's service station of the thirties, rebuilt by Bob Gilmour and Don Hodgson, is the only repair shop left in the village, where once there were five.

Manners (Manny) King has become a legend in Foxwarren. (see family story). Famous for his colorful vocabulary, there are many tales about this old timer. Besides his livery and dray business, he had the first truck in Foxwarren for commercial purposes, and hauled grain for farmers from thresher to elevator. His livery barn was moved out of the business section in the late twenties for sanitary reasons, was taken over by Cliff Drysdale, then moved again to Mr. Wilson's farm in Wattsview. Manny and his wife ended their days in "Grandma Hall's" house. Others mentioned who engaged in the trucking business were Clarence Brott, Alvin Thorpe, Rolly Johnson, Ted and Sam Widicombe, Jim and Alex Cameron, Bob Sawyer.

Many other business ventures have come and gone over the years. J. M. McCrindle had a furniture store on the later site of Manny King's barn. It was moved north of Railway Avenue and became a flour warehouse. A creamery was built by a Farmers' Co-operative group, and was taken over by Mr. Laycock and then sold to J. M. McCrindle in 1908, who moved it west of the village for a better water supply. Eight or ten teams were required for the moving on skids, which took several days. There was one mishap — the contractor hollered "Gee" when he meant "Haw". Some drivers did what he said, others did the opposite. As a result, the building split down the middle. Once re-located, it was operated by a Mr. Gibson and later Mr. Klaus as manager and butter-maker. It was lost in a fire about 1913 and never replaced.

Foxwarren had its own bank in earlier years — the Bank of

Hamilton, housed in a large brick veneer building put up by William Boyd on the west side of Third Street. It was taken over by the Bank of Commerce, and its managers contributed much to the welfare of the community. Some recalled are H. B. Adams, J. F. Gill about 1917, James Leckie, William Beckett and M. Keyes.

The first telephone switchboard was installed in the Laycock building around 1908. Operators were the Newton girls, Miss Taylor, Ila McPherson (Mrs. Leavens), Mrs. Phillips, Dolly and Rita Lazenby, Elsie Wynne, Olive Wallace, Mrs. M. E. Graham, Mrs. Harold Hamilton, Mrs. Alex Low, Mrs. Nora Campbell. Later the exchange was moved to Harry Hooper's shop, and then to the new building on Webster Avenue. The dial system came in 1971, and the building on Garland became its home. Harry Copeland, Joe Franklin and Gordon Johnson have been maintenance men.

Albert Laycock was the first postmaster, and in the present post office is kept the first account book, signed by him, stating the opening date to be August 1st, 1889. William McGranachan took over in 1919, working from his home. His son Ron followed him in his own office, until a new post office was built on Market and Main. Ron is now at Birtle post office, and Ethel Stewart is in charge in Foxwarren.

In the years since the coming of the railroad in 1886, many more men of skill, training and enterprise have undertaken business ventures in the village, with greater or less success, depending upon circumstances. Among these have been:

Blacksmiths — the first was Tom Ferguson, who about 1880 worked on the John Leaven's farm. Others were Scott Ellis, John Hall from Assissippi (1897), Dan Sutherland, Louis Martinot, Charles Fleming.

Butchers — There was an early butcher shop east of Ransome's Hotel, then a Mr. Hayes, Harry, Tom and Burt Carr, Bob Faid, Jimmy Hume.

Barber Shops generally with attached Pool Room — Harry Hislop, Milton Stitt, Mr. Robinson, George Lockie, "Red" Davis, Frank Johnson, Sandy Black, Mr. Lindenbaur at present.

Carpenters were needed very early. W. R. Ridington was the first, then William Boyd, followed by Fred and Tom Poole.

Cattle Buyers found it could be profitable to purchase from farmers, transport the cattle and sell in the larger centres. Among these were George Johnson, Jack McLean (Shoal Lake), Frank Brown (Solsgirth), Harold Hamilton and James Mekin Hume.

One *Tailor shop* is mentioned, Robert Robb's in the annex to Laycock's brick building, preceded by Mr. Barker, a shoemaker who measured and made shoes to order. He married a daughter of Arnold Lewarton, moved to Ontario to establish a firm that still manufactures footwear, specializing in hockey boots at ninety dollars a pair.

Hotels — Ransome's "Traveller's Home" was built in 1898. Gus Rennie built the "Kent" in 1933.

Restaurants were opened from time to time, one in Mr. Luke's

"emporium". Hooper's Harness Shop became George McArthur's restaurant, then Statham's. Hong Lee, a Chinese gentleman, operated a cafe in the old McCrindle store until it burned, rebuilt the City Cafe on the site, which after his retirement was run by Ed Reid, Bill and Effie Johnson, George Clark and now Joe Plumb. The bank building also became a restaurant, run at first by two young Chinese, then by Sandy Black and his wife, and Glen Doran. It was also destroyed by fire.

Owen Burdett opened an elite restaurant in a two-storey building, with bakery and confectionery on the ground floor, living quarters above. Later it became a doctor's office, then the Foxwarren W.I. renovated it for their meetings, and in 1972 the Legion bought it as a club room.

The only *Drug Store* was also in Laycock's building, run for a time by Mr. Laycock, then by Dr. Maynes, Lou Leavens and Harold Hamilton, Roy Dutton (the only licensed pharmacist), Dr. Brownlee, John Pratt and Walter Hall after the First War. Then Gerald and Myrtle Snowdon operated a novelty shop there.

Foxwarren Old Timers' Organization

The Organization was formed on February 27th, 1925, by a Committee made up of H. Copeland, Thom Taylor, R. Ferguson, A. McPherson and D. Smith, with Chairman W. Loughheed and Secretary J. Teeple. The first Old Timers' dance was held in January, 1926, and a list was made of Old Timers and the dates they came west.

W. Loughheed	1899	G. Hodgson	1888
J. Teeple	1882	G. Bierd	1899
D. Smith	—	William Boyd	1900
Thom Taylor	1905	R. H. Loughheed	1900
G. Copeland	1888	C. Malcolm	1898
R. Irwin	1887	Thom Boyd	1893
A. McPherson	1881	W. J. Sherritt	1880
Mrs. T. Hodgson	1893	Mrs. C. Shepperd	1879
T. M. Hodgson	1888	Mr. C. Shepperd	1882

A list was kept of all who had been resident in Manitoba more than twenty years. The first financial statement, January 1928, showed a balance of \$33.45, reduced to \$15.57 in 1929, and today standing at \$141.75. Surplus monies have been donated to organizations, mostly local, which were in need of assistance.

Available records are at present in the hands of Mr. W. Butler, available for anyone wishing to read them.

Unity Lodge No. 68, Independent Order of Odd Fellow

Unity Lodge No. 68 was instituted June 9th, 1909, with the following Brothers as Charter Members: J. J. Hutton, Walter Leavens, William Boyd, A. A. Hay (still residing in Winnipeg). William Flynn and William Turnbull were transferred from Harmony Lodge, Binscarth as Charter Members. Officers were: Noble Grand, J. J. Hut-

ton; Vice-Grand, William Boyd; Recording Secretary, A. A. Hay; Conductor, J. M. McCrindle; Treasurer, Isaac Murphy; R. Scene Sup-
porter, J. K. Hay; L. Scene Supporter, Walter Graham; Financial
Secretary, Walter McCrindle.

The Lodge met weekly, first in the old school, then in May 1910 in new quarters over the Bank. Activities were few during the First War, but afterwards the Lodge raised funds to purchase gold rings for those who had served their country, and also assisted with the Memorial in the Park. Through the years the Lodge has sponsored many sports events — in 1925 a local Sports Day; in 1948 a Ladies' Baseball Team, coached by Brother O. Thorpe and Brother Bert Carr; from 1953-71 a Minor Hockey team; 1958-59 a 22-rifle competition; 1959-60 a Fancy Dress Carnival in the Arena; 1960 the first Basketball and Record Hop in the school; 1970 Defensive Driving courses.

Special events have been a Reception in 1940 for Odd Fellows and Rebekahs from many towns in the district; The Institution in 1948 of Prudence Rebekah Lodge, including financial assistance to cover costs; the sponsoring of a weight-judging contest at the Fat Stock Show for many years, the money used for Youth work; in September 1959 the Lodge bought the United Church building, have remodelled it and put in oil heating; in 1965 the Lodge sponsored a Variety Concert, and in 1968 a Safety Firearms course. In 1969 they defeated the Masons in curling for the first time.

In October 1959 Unity Lodge celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary, with sixty-nine Brothers and Sisters present. Brother George Dunfield and Brother Taylor cut the birthday cake, and were presented with 50-year jewels.

In 1971 Brother Ernie Burdett retired as caretaker after seventeen years. Brother W. E. Hall and William Sheritt both have 50-year jewels. Brother Hall has been Noble Grand, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, which office he still holds.

Foxwarren Lodge No. 152, A.F.A.M.

Early in the century there were a number of Masons in the district, who belonged to Lodges at Birtle or Binscarth. Travel conditions being poor at that time, it was almost impossible for Foxwarren men to join one of these, and some preliminary steps were taken about 1912 to form a Lodge in Foxwarren. The idea was given up at the outbreak of the First War, and it was April 1929 when an inaugural meeting was held. A second meeting in the office of the lumberyard was attended by almost every Mason in the district.

In June 1929 the Grand Lodge of Manitoba considered the petition. August 8th, 1929 was the date of institution of the Foxwarren Lodge, at which eighteen lodges were represented. There followed a banquet in the basement of the school. On Sept. 3rd, 1930, Foxwarren Lodge No. 152 was duly constituted and consecrated by the Most Worthy Grand Master of Manitoba according to all ancient rites and

ceremony. The hall was filled to capacity.

One significant event was the Divine Service held May 21st, 1933, conducted by the Lord Bishop of Brandon, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. This meeting was open to the public, and the school assembly hall was filled. "Now God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy Glorious Name." I Chronicles 29:13

Foxwarren Truck Service

In 1930 Mr. Oliver Lougheed and Mr. Arthur Wotton decided to pool resources and start a truck freighting service. They purchased a one-ton truck, and had a permit to freight cattle and hogs to Winnipeg. They applied for a freight franchise, and had permission to bring out freight for storekeepers in Basswood, Newdale, Strathclair, Shoal Lake, Birtle, Foxwarren and St. Lazare. At this time railway freight rates were rising, and the farmers appreciated the privilege of having the truck come to the home to load livestock. The service was seasonal, usually ending in December until April or May.

Mr. Elmor Honey of Binscarth bought Mr. Lougheed's share in 1937, and Mr. Wotton's in 1944. In 1945 Mr. Austin McGregor bought the franchise, followed by Dave Cairnes, Eric Randall, Thomas Fulton. Fouillard Bros. of St. Lazare later managed the business, and Bill Bicknell drove for them. Eventually he moved to Birtle and started his own business, now managed by his son David.

Foxwarren Credit Union

In April 1973 the Foxwarren Credit Union held its Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting, and the original officers were honored with 25-year pins — Messrs. John Johnston, Robert Cahoon, A. Wright, Laurence Ryan, Carman Ryan, Frank Burdett, S. J. Falloon, Fred Tarrant, Harry Cottingham, Harvey Fulton, Ken Crew, Fred McKay, P. K. Peterson. The Credit Union has a history of steady growth. Present officers are: President, Robert Turnbull, Vice-President Cecil Burdett, Executive member Jim Johnston. John Jones is Secretary-Manager. The Union maintains an office in Foxwarren. Its first location was in the annex of the theatre. Later the Credit Union moved to a building on the south side of Webster Avenue. In October 1970 it applied to open a Branch Office in Birtle.

Foxwarren Fat Stock Show

The Fat Stock Show was first organized at a meeting on June 25th, 1935, when Officers elected were President, A. S. Falloon; Vice-President George Dunfield; Secretary E. H. Ransome, Committee members were G. Breckenridge, Arthur Falloon, J. E. McNeil, Harry Wotton and Charles Wood. Later Mr. Leggat and Vic Murray were added to the Committee, and Melvin Graham became Treasurer. Solsgirth was invited to join in the Show. It was to be held in the rink on June 27th, 1936 with Mr. C. E. Bain as judge. Each member was to find fifteen head of cattle, and auctioneers chosen were Staples and Braendle. A charge of 2¼% was made to cover expenses. The Show was

warmly received, and became a yearly event. In 1943 scales were purchased and installed.

In 1948 Vernon Falloon donated a heifer to be raffled for money for a new rink. Later \$500.00 was given to the rink fund. Also in 1948 it was decided to sponsor a Calf Club. In May 1950 bulls were allowed for exhibit. In 1951 \$150.00 was given to the Athletic Association for a P.A. system. In 1952 an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease prevented the show, and the sale of fat cattle was held at Union Stock Yards, Winnipeg, with judging for Breed and Grand Champions. 4-H Club calves were judged as usual, and Club representatives attended the sale.

The show continued to expand in following years. In 1959 provision was made for an exhibit of a Pen of Three Steers. In 1962 an open class of Charolais cattle was added, and new interest was given by a concession stand manned by Cubs, a C.G.I.T. handicraft table, and an Anglican W.A. home baking sale. The Royal Bank of Birtle, Russell and Binscarth presented a silver Rose Bowl in 1963 for the Pen of Three. The Oddfellows organized a guessing contest, and Joe Plumb operated a confection stand. In 1965 the 4-H Clubs sold Slow-Moving Vehicle signs.

Executive for 1972 were Carman Falloon, President, Stan Souch Vice-Pres. and Dale Falloon Sec. Treas.

The Thirty-seventh Annual Show was held in June 1973. Added were 4-H Dairy classes, as well as the 4-H Heifer class, and a Pee Wee class for calves shown by children six to eight. Also in 1973 Mr. G. T. Graham was honored for many years of service as Director and President of the Show. After the 1973 Show the complaint was made in the Eye-Witness that buyers had failed to appear as expected, the three present being Manitoba Pool from Brandon, who also supplied free auction service, Virden Auction Mart and Burns Packers of Brandon. Average price was 45.80.

Great War Veterans

The Great War Veterans' organization meeting was held in the I.O.O.F. Hall on April 14th, 1920. Officers elected were: President Rev. Murchison; First Vice-Pres. J. Crowhurst; Second Vice-Pres. A. Hoarne; Secretary-Treas. W. E. Hall. Letters were sent out to all local veterans in regard to details of the Soldier Settlement Board. Together with the Women's Service League the year's activities were planned.

A first Memorial service was held in 1920 on the lawn of the J. K. Hay residence. In November a meeting was called with the Town Council and Oddfellows to consider the matter of a monument for those in the district who had given their lives in the war. A Memorial Fund Committee was set up to canvass the community and raise funds. The amount of \$3,254.00 was raised, which was sufficient to purchase property from Albert Laycock, the monument from Guinn & Simpson Co. of Portage la Prairie, and also for shrubs and general expenses.

The Great War Veterans organization became inactive in 1923.

Among its members had been three veterans of the Boer War — James Low, Arthur Smith and William McGranachan.

The War Memorial Monument was unveiled in a solemn service on Friday, November 11th, 1921. The first part of the service was in the school beginning with a welcome from Mayor Armit, a recitation by Miss Irene Hay and invocation and scripture readings by Rev. E. E. Annand, Rev. Father Barton and Rev. W. E. Rowan. Mayor-General Kirkaldy was guest speaker. The second portion of the service was held at the monument, following a procession including next-of-kin, veterans and many others. The monument was unveiled by a next-of-kin representative, and Lieut.-Col. Wells gave the dedicatory prayer.

On Sunday, October 17th, 1948 there was held another unveiling ceremony, in memory of those who had given their lives in the Second War. Miss Sylvia Williams, who had lost two brothers, unveiled the plaque, and Captain J. M. Murchison gave the dedicatory prayer. A second portion of the service was held in the school, with welcome by Mayor J. M. McCrindle and Mayor J. P. Browne, M.C. as guest speaker.

Royal Canadian Legion

The original organization, known as Foxwarren Branch #152, Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League was formed in June 1942, and received its Charter in February 1943. In 1958 the name became "Canadian Legion" and on Dec. 19th, 1960 it was changed by Queen Elizabeth II to "Royal Canadian Legion".

The first officers were — President T. Jackson; Vice-President J. R. McMillan; Sergeant-at-Arms William MacGranachan; Secretary S. A. Sawyer; Treasurer W. Hall; War Services F. Graves and Chaplain Captain Murchison. Others in executive positions were Ed. Reid, S. Stitt, G. Reid and W. Leavens. Among those present were representatives from Binscarth and Fort Ellice Branches.

Over the years the Legion has sponsored Air Cadets, hockey teams, barn dances, and helped maintain the grounds around the Cenotaph. A special burial plot is reserved for veterans in Foxwarren cemetery, and care given to graves of veterans at Zion, St. James' and Balmerino. Help when needed has been given to widows and needy veterans. In 1972 the former W.I. Club Room was purchased as a Legion Hall.

Still living in the district are seven First War veterans — Frank Graves, George Goodings, Louis Martinot, Ed Reid, Arthur Simms, Tom Vaughan and Walter Hall, who is one of three survivors in rural Manitoba of the Royal Flying Corps. He and other members of the R.F.C. were guests of the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 1971.

Foxwarren Branch — Legion Auxiliary

Earlier organizations were the Women's Service League after the First War, which raised \$500.00 for the Cenotaph Fund and the War Services Committee formed under the Legion during the Second War

to send parcels to men in the service. Mrs. Frank Graves was the first President, Mrs. Bob Fowler Secretary and Mrs. Bob King Treasurer.

The Legion Auxiliary was formed on Feb. 3rd, 1950, with first President Mrs. Faid. Its chief responsibility is the welfare of veterans of all wars, and their families, but it has assisted in many branches of community service. Financial aid has been given to sports funds, Air Cadets, Deer Lodge Hospital, Pioneer Lodge in Birtle. Together with the Legion, in Centennial year the Auxiliary helped plan the ornamental iron gates into Foxwarren Cemetery, honoring the pioneers.

Charter Members of the Auxiliary were: Mmes. E. Dodd, T. Jackson, E. Williams, G. Mansell, F. Graves, R. Goddard, G. Law, M. Dunham, A. Mansell, W. MacGranachan, S. Stitt, T. McPherson, B. Carr, M. Hillcox.

Foxwarren Cadets

Various Cadet Corps were formed in the early twenties, with the Principal of the school in charge. During the term of Mr. J. H. Plewes the Corps was very active. In 1941 Mr. Kristinson undertook to organize an Army Cadet Corps, and he took an instructor's course at Fort Osborne during the summer. The Foxwarren Cadet Corps was organized in 1942, uniforms were purchased by the boys and the School Board, and the first inspection was carried out by Major Cummings in 1943. The Corps was disbanded in 1947 for lack of enough boys in the district.

In 1959 Russell formed Air Cadet Squadron #677, which a number of Foxwarren boys have attended, and several have got their pilot's license as a result. The Cadets meet every Tuesday in Russell for drill, training with firearms, radio and gliding. They also may attend summer camps.

One successful Cadet for whom the Legion takes some credit is Wallace Peel, who continued on to make a career of flying. He graduated in June 1969 at #1 Flying Training School at Gimli, and was awarded the Scroll of Honour and Barker Trophy for highest standing. In 1966 he was awarded the Tudhope Trophy in Toronto for the top amateur pilot in Canada. Now a Captain, Wally was one of eight pilots to fly nonstop across the North Atlantic in Canada's first transoceanic air-to-air refuelling exercises.

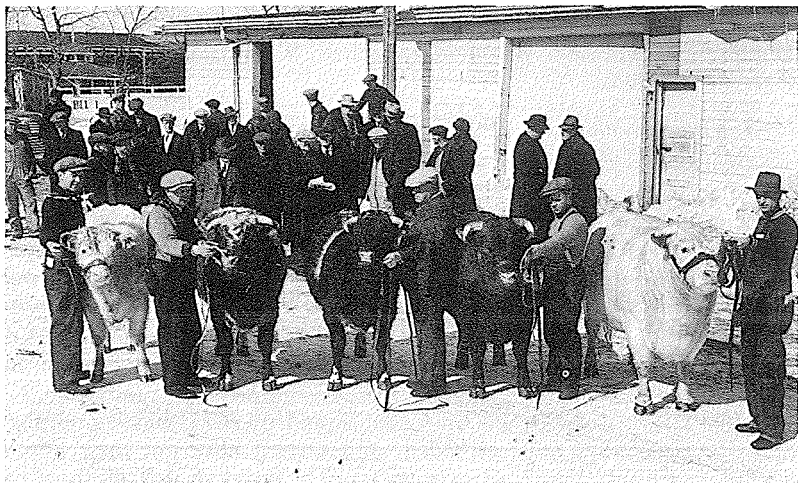
Foxwarren Athletic Association

The history of the Athletic Association has been marked by determination to achieve its objective despite all obstacles, and in this spirit many things have been accomplished over the years. The first minutes now existing were recorded May 14th, 1906, at which time the present sports grounds were already in use, purchased from Albert Laycock, and various rinks had served skaters, but their location was not recorded.

Directors serving at various times were Messrs. J. McCrindle (President for some years), Leavens, A. Laycock, M. R. Young, H.

Hooper, D. Mitchell, D. Sutherland, T. Metcalfe, A. Newton, G. Laycup, Ed Graham, Robbie, Beird, Livingstone, Loughed, R. Ransome. H. Tibbatts, Mickle, Lissiman, Boyd, A. Hodgson, H. Hodgson, L. H. Leavens, Murphy, W. McCrindle, Jones, R. Laycock, Hutton, Bradley and Dr. Maynes.

Sports Days were a great attraction each year. Baseball and football teams were very active, and came from as far as Moosomin and Yorkton to compete. An entry fee of \$2.50 was charged for each team, and prizes of money were given — \$40.00 for first, \$20.00 for second.



Pictured are five of seven Shorthorn bulls shown by Widdicombe Bros. at the Royal Winter Fair in Brandon in 1943. Left to Right: George Widdicombe with Junior Champion; Jack McDougall, 1st; Stanley Honey, 1st; Jim Widdicombe, Reserve Grand; Sam Widdicombe, Grand Senior Champion.

Admission was charged — .25 for adults, .15 for children — so that the event showed a profit of \$65.00 the first year. Church ladies managed booths, to raise funds for their own good causes. For games at other times, gate receipts were split, with 75% going to the Clubs, 25% to the Association. An additional source of revenue was garnered from the west end of the grounds, which was sown with grain, or rented for that purpose. The enterprise was prosperous enough to afford to guarantee a special train from Russell, and also to provide "water closets" on the grounds.

The Association was incorporated through Lawyer (later Judge) Mickle early in 1907, its capital to be \$5000.00, from one thousand shares at \$5.00. The first shareholders' meeting elected as President J. M. McCrindle; Vice-President D. Mitchell, Secretary-Treas. M. R. Young. Ground was rented to Baseball and Football Clubs, also Cricket and Tennis Clubs, and the west end became a track for horse-

racing, which together with other novel events added to the attractions of Sports Day, Birtle Band was hired at \$25.00 for one year, then Fox-warren had its own.

From 1908 the Association managed the rink, and there was talk of building a new one, which was accomplished in the winter of 1911-12. The first caretaker, who also looked after flooding, was paid \$55.00 a month. The rink was well used, and a financial success, with money made from carnivals, moccasin dances, broomball as well as the usual ways and means. The band was hired for \$3.00 to play for skating every Thursday night. Special events paid them \$5.00. The rink was officially opened January 12th, 1912, and curling came on the scene. The Curling Club asked to be included in the plans for the rink, the next year paid \$215.00 in rent and paid for needed lights. Hockey was scheduled at regular hours, both Senior and Junior. A carnival was held in 1913.

By 1916 negotiations were underway to sell some land to the School Board, and in 1917 ten acres at the north end were offered for \$800.00, with the privilege of using the remainder for sports. From 1920 school children were granted noon hour skating Tuesday and Thursday, which Mr. George Belton writes was of particular benefit to those who came by van, and had little time to skate at home. In 1945 a High School Curling Club was organized and continued while there was a high-school.

Meanwhile the Ladies' Curling Club was formed in 1918 (see Chap. XI). The rink continued its popularity, and served many purposes through the years. Various facilities were added, and equipment supplied for school sports both summer and winter. In 1930 the contract to wire for Hydro was given to Ranson and Hazeldine. Next year the Curling Club affiliated with the Manitoba Curling Association. Binscarth Curling Club was given accommodation for a small fee, after their rink was damaged in a storm. Girls' hockey came in 1935, and ice time allotted at a special rate.

After 1945 further improvements were installed — new flooring, waiting rooms, ventilators. In this year Association officers were drawn from a pack of cards — the seven of clubs elected the President — but for this year only. No doubt there was a shortage of manpower after the war. From 1948 discussion centred on building a new Arena with modern facilities, and with this objective everyone laboured for three years. The aim was \$18,000.00, and half of this was gathered by November 1948.

Building began in the spring of 1949. There was now a Board of twelve members, with President Melvin Graham, Vice-President Edgar Dunfield, Secretary-Treas. Thorpe McPherson, who with Alvin Thorpe and Alex Wright were to continue to manage the old rink for the last season. It was finally sold to William Abrahams for \$100.00.

The brand new Arena was opened with much pride and fanfare that winter, with a record crowd of fifteen hundred in attendance. Included in the celebration were a curling draw, skating races, clowns for the children, and an exhibition of figure skating from Brandon Club.

Proceeds of the day amounted to about \$2,000.00. The press report remarked — "We understand that the rink, valued at around \$30,000.00 is practically free of debt — a magnificent tribute . . . to the community, and a challenge to posterity."

The Arena has served its purpose well in subsequent years, more improvements have been added, and other activities included in the yearly program. In 1972 the Association took over the management of the lunch counter, which showed a tidy profit of over \$2,000.00 that year. A Committee of ten was set up by the Board of Directors to arrange details and financing for artificial ice for the arena, with the objective installation for the season 1973-74.

At present the Directors are Messrs. George Simms (President), Bill Johnston, Ken Tibbatts, Fred Graves, Mickey Hamilton, Matt Smith, Don Falloon, Jim Johnston and John Lee.

Mr. Dunham concludes his narrative with a consideration of the trend since World War II, which has spelled doom to many a thriving village. Farmers have had to increase their holdings to operate profitably. There have been fewer families, less trade and fewer merchants. Better roads and the automobile have led people farther afield for services. What is left for the small town is peace and quiet, fresh air and freedom from pollution, friendship and pride in home and community. So they carry on the work begun by their pioneer forebears almost one hundred years ago.

Mrs. Doris Low remarks on the changes the years have brought to the Bayfield district. "Where once a section kept two or four families, with many children, a farmer now needs two or more sections to feed four or five people. Such is progress! All over the province small communities are being killed off. Children are bussed many miles to school, and this completes a cycle. The first van routes were far too hard on small children, and the trustees did a good job of shortening the routes. Now we are back to children making ten to twenty-mile trips to school. Many cannot take part in extra-curricular events. Progress? Maybe!"

Chapter VI SOLSGIRTH

O rippling river, call the weary passerby,
To pause and meditate a while,
To behold the nameless beauty
That stretches mile on mile
From: "The Hill at St. James"

Mrs. Laura Hamilton

The district north of present-day Solsgirth became the home of some of the earliest arrivals to the Birdtail settlement. Possibly first of them all was J. Lionel Ridout, who had come from Ontario to join the N.W.M.P., and was stationed at Shoal Lake for a time. It may have been 1878 when he selected a well-wooded spot with wild fruits and hazel nuts on a hill which he named "Hazel Hill". In 1883 he married Emily Frodsham, sister of Mrs. F. B. Miller. Their daughter Mrs. Ben Allen (Lillian) wrote "How we used to love to sit on the hill in spring, watching the ice on the creek, and later the logs from Grant's Mill."

Lionel Ridout was a Police Magistrate, but as people were law-abiding he was not often called to the "Bench". He had first-class stock, and one of the first gasoline ploughing outfits. His two sons Vincent and Walter were killed at the same time in the First War. He felt the loss very keenly, and almost lost interest in life. He and George Porter were great friends. Stanley Broadfoot wrote that Mr. Porter was a fine old Highlander from Aberdeen, the soul of hospitality.

On April 1st, 1879 the first trainload of settlers with the Colonization Society left Stratford in charge of D. W. Cummings. Among the hundred or more on board were William Todd, William Tait, Henry Harrison, C. K. Vanstone, a Mr. Pratt, Joseph Sharman, the Tye family, George Finch, Harry Sleigh, J. M. Dow, the Pengelleys. They purchased in Winnipeg the essentials for the overland journey, left about April 23rd, and arrived at the Birdtail May 23rd. En route they found the horses too tired to go on, so the men walked the remaining eighty miles leading the oxen and the cart of provisions. They selected land not yet surveyed, in the later Toddburn district. By June they had broken land, planted potatoes in the first furrows, as well as oats for feed, later cropped fifty bushels from three of seed potatoes.

Two log houses were erected for the party. One in time was occupied by Mr. Tait and his sister, who came out later. They lived there in what became a comfortable home until retirement to Solsgirth "to enjoy the even-tide of their lives." Mr. Todd went home in August for his family, returning in November, when the weather was cold but the trail much better. The eldest daughter Margaret (later Mrs. Harrison) cared for the younger five children, while her mother made the evening batch of flapjacks, and biscuits for next day on the road. On arrival at the homestead the family with Mr. Tait, Harrison and Vanstone all took up residence in one house, and prepared for winter.

The winter of 1879-1880 was a hard one, as we have seen. There

was plenty of game for meat, but jam and syrup soon ran out, and before long they were short of flour. Mr. Todd travelled thirty miles to Fort Ellice, could be given just one small bag, so set out for Portage la Prairie, a distance of 150 miles. The mill at Gladstone was shut down for the cold, but he secured a few bags of wheat, took them on to Portage for grist, and returned home two weeks after departure.

The Todd home, on one branch of the Carlton Trail, became a stopping place for travellers. The house had one big room, with bunks extending from the wall into the centre, where the stove stood. Mrs. Todd had a busy life, with her family and many a wayfarer to cook for, and also the housewife's task of spinning, weaving and making garments. She seemed none the worse, however, and lived until the age of eighty-four.

In the spring of 1880 Oliver Nickel and Sam Cochrane came from Quebec and settled nearby, followed in a year or two by Henry Cochrane and Alex Hamilton. The Porteous family made their home a few miles south, and Mr. F. B. Miller in what was later known as the St. James district, near the homestead of Mr. Ridout. The latter gentleman took as a farm pupil Reginald Percival from England, son of Bishop Percival. Working together, these men in time became the prime movers for the building of St. James Church. Dowsford school was built near the Todd homestead, and the little settlement had great hopes for the future.

Of the group of settlers in the Toddburn district, Mrs. Nickel's daughter Sara was the first child to be born, and Margaret Todd and Henry Harrison were the first couple wed. SAM COCHRANE some



Solsgirth Station, 1930.

years later married Mary Gardner of Oakburn, lived on NW¼ 16-18-25. They had six children, who attended Dowsford School. HENRY COCHRANE and his wife Margaret (Phelan) settled on the north-east quarter of the same section. They had ten children, and were faithful supporters of St. James Anglican Church.

Several branches of the CATHERWOOD family settled in the Solsgirth district, coming from Brampton, Ont. NEIL came out in 1885, and worked on the railroad. He first homesteaded at Kelloe, later moved to SE¼ 17-18-25 on the Jubilee Road. He married Martha Nixon of Hagersville, Ont., had two sons Howard and Albert. JAMES and JOHN came in 1900. James settled on NE¼ 17-18-25, married Esther Edwards, and had a daughter Wilma. John took land on the north-west quarter. Their sister May came to Solsgirth in 1886. Her husband George Fisher took a homestead on NW¼ 2-18-25. (see family story) Neil's son Howard married Hazel Margaret Cochrane in 1934. Their son Keith, born 1937, was still on the homestead quarter until his accidental death in September 1973. Daughter Gladys Hazel, born October 1940, married Gerald Mathison of Hamiota in 1966. They live in the Hamiota district.

TALES OF SOLSGIRTH PIONEERS

BERNARD MILLER — My father (at Portage la Prairie) gathered together twenty-six ox carts, loaded with a piano, an office desk, a barrel of salt, family pictures etc. — and trekked 140 miles to the homestead . . . There was the usual gathering of neighbors when a new barn was raised. I can remember, when very small, watching the building of a new cattle stable on our farm, with an experienced axeman (J. L. Ridout was one) straddling each corner, and the walls getting higher and higher . . .

MRS. PERCY MOUNTAIN (Whitworth) — Howling of wolves and coyotes always made newcomers nervous. Mother asked Father to start singing when he was near home so she would know he was coming. Father was Welsh, and many a Welsh air floated over the prairie. . . Oxen were a great trial. Ours must have belonged to a union — when stopping-time came they stopped, and Father could not do a thing about it. If he did not unhitch them from the plough, they brought it along with them to the stable. . .

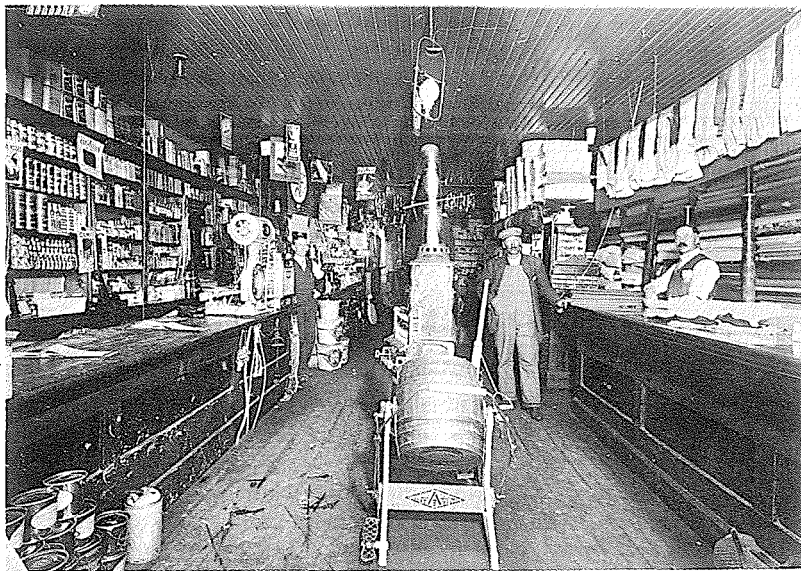
ABBIE NELSON (married Dr. Latimer of Treherne) — It was a happy, excited family that met the train for the North-West in July 1879 — five children with parents Robert and Sarah Nelson, of Barrie, Ont. . . Irving, the eldest, not yet seventeen, and Lewis, twelve, had gone ahead in April with Uncle Stephen Clement and his two sons. Father had engaged an experienced man, Charlie, to help the boys, and sent a carload of implements and a team of splendid horses. . . Charlie rented a farm at High Bluff, put in a garden, and got the log house cleaned for us in July, Father was too ill to travel till then. We arrived by boat at High Bluff. . . Lewis was wild with glee. With eyes streaming with smoke from the smudge, he rattled off the numbers up to ten in Sioux.

Later I learned many Indian Words, and could barter with the squaws for baskets. . .

In October 1880 the family made the move from High Bluff to the homestead on the Birdtail — with oxen and two wagons, four cows and calves, and a crate of hens. En route they met Cheney Burdett, whose homestead was next to theirs, and he knew the trail, which was still deep with mud, and the sloughs full of water. The children thought it a great adventure, and sang "One more river to cross". The oxen seemed to like it, and pulled better when we sang. . . Rob, aged five, went down with typhoid, and needed special care, but somehow pulled through. They reached the homestead Nov. 5th. . . When the railroad came in 1885, many people from Binscarth, Russell etc. came to Solsgirth to take the train, often had to remain overnight. . . and Mrs. Nelson, her husband very ill, was persuaded to try the "stopping-house" business. Unlimited credit was given her by D. W. Cummings, merchant F. G. Lewis and others. They had thirty guests the first night.

CECIL ROGERS writes that in 1880 the Clements, Robert Nelson and Bill Rogers came to Shoal Lake, where the Clements remained. Bill Rogers homesteaded two miles south of Solsgirth. Sam West and Ed Rogers took the train to Portage la Prairie in 1881, loaded their belongings on their backs, and walked to Birtle. Ed Rogers homesteaded the Percy Cooley farm. In 1882 he drove ox team and sleigh to Moosomin to meet his mother and family. The trip to Birtle took three days.

The Clements, Rogers, Nelson and Sam West all came from the same village in Ontario (Barrie).



Mr. Fisher's General Store, 1913. Thias McCann, Alfred Bailey, Sr., E. G. Fisher.

ONE PIONEER (Nameless) who arrived in 1879 wrote that the country was almost undrained, sloughs running over, and they cut holes in the toes of overshoes to let the water flow out. Where he settled was prairie, with no bluffs, and they saw very little game, except ducks and geese, and the sandhill crane, their nests generally found on the top of muskrat dens.

MRS. J. A. HAMILTON My father Oliver Nickel was the first assessor of this municipality, travelling from house to house on snowshoes. Later he travelled by horse and buggy provided by the Government. One trip was made to Regina. As he spoke French well, he was sent as an interpreter when the Riel Rebellion was being settled.

The second daughter of Alex Hamilton (Jessie) married T. A. Crerar, (Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture in the Union Government, Ottawa) and was for several years one of the First Ladies of the land. She and her daughters were presented at Court . . . Mrs. Alex Hamilton gave willingly of her service in sickness and trouble. She was known for miles around as an excellent nurse.

MRS. E. B. R. Hall (Helen Younghusband) — We used to have severe winters with lots of snow. I remember driving through the bluff on the land now owned by Osmar Workman, and tying a rag to a tree where the height of the snow was, and the following spring we found it was eighteen feet up. The farmers, though short of money, were never short of things money cannot buy — contentment, helpfulness, and splendid hospitality. I look back with pleasure to the happy years in Solsgirth.

Winter was when we had the most fun. There were usually four large dances in the school, quite swanky affairs — balls, not dances — the New Year's Ball, Bachelors' Ball, Masonic Ball, and one more, sometimes called the Farmers' Ball. They were invitation dances, so were always properly conducted. Several of the gentlemen had dress suits, and the ladies always scrimped on ordinary clothes to have a pretty evening dress, and they carried fans and wore beautiful cloaks. We had programs, and started with a Sir Roger de Coverley, then a French Minuet, Polka, Schottisch, Waltz, Jersey Lancers, and many other pretty dances.

To improve our dancing, for two winters we took lessons from an excellent teacher, Miss Easson from Birtle.

Stanley Broadfoot adds that the balls went on from 8:30 until 4:30 a.m. The "Rush Polka" was in vogue, to the tune of the "Washington Post". The young bloods picked their special partners, the fiddlers started off in fast time, which gradually doubled — in fact some of the girls appeared to be flying. But didn't they enjoy it!

SOLSGIRTH DISTRICT RECOLLECTIONS — (Mrs. Ed Fraser nee Hamilton)

The Christmas drives to Irvings in the cutter — complete with fur robes — foot warmers filled with hot coals from the stove — bricks warmed in the oven and wrapped in blankets — usually at least one up-

set over huge drifts — and running behind the sleigh or cutter on the smooth bits of road to get warm.

The winter drives to Dowsford school — meeting loads of hay with no room to pass because of depth of snow — having to unhitch the horse and lead it around the load — pull the cutter around — hitch up again and on our way.

The lovely spring walks to school — the country roads bright with spring flowers — lady slippers, butter cups, cowslips — and dandelions.

The great kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bowles who lived midway between home and school — the warmth of their welcome with cups of tea and caraway seed cake.

The Christmas concerts at Dowsford school — real productions under the able direction of Nora Rhind (now Mrs. O. Workman) — the wonderful education in music appreciation she gave us — complete with classical recordings on her gramophone.

The evening sing-songs at home with neighbors from near-by farms.

Picnics at the Birdtail River both at St. James and at Moulson's Crossing.

The long, but pleasant journey by horse and buggy to church at St. James, followed by lunch at the river. And the even longer all day trips by horse and buggy to Solsgirth for the mail and groceries.

Tobogganing down the long hill at Moulson's — the night drives home with the stars so very bright and the harness on the horses jingling and the coyotes howling, sending shivery feelings up and down a child's spine even while snug and warm under robes, sitting on bales of hay in the bottom of the sleigh.

The annual woodsawing days — when all the neighbors came to help — and the wonderful meals served by the wives.

The horrible drought years with dust so thick you had to hold a handkerchief over your nose and mouth to breathe — when walking home from school.

Those magnificent winter sunsets — and the gorgeous green of spring — previously announced by the arrival of the first crows.

My consternation as a child at finding Indian encampments in our pasture when going to fetch the cows.

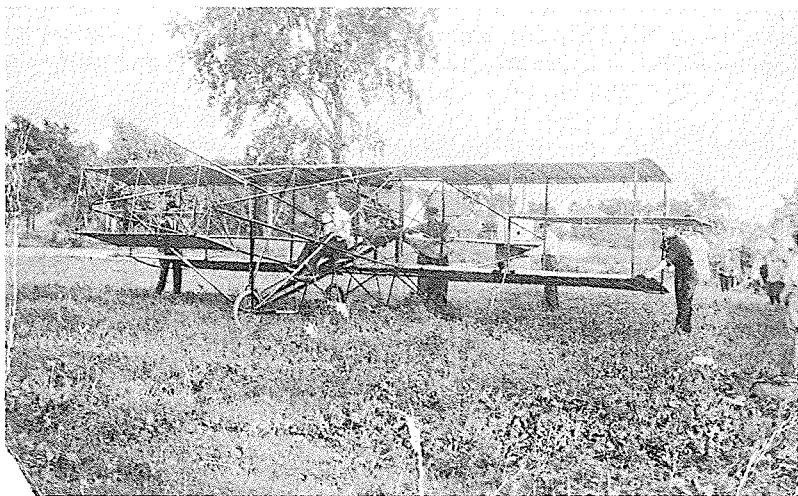
Going to Indian Pow Wow Days in the Birdtail Valley — and hearing the drums echoing down the valley as you approached.

Ski-ing and tobogganing down straw stacks as a child.

And the very real sincerity and friendliness of neighbors in those days.

Those days have been hard in some respects — but they were a very priceless heritage and very much to be valued. Thank you — Solsgirth and district.

ALEX McLEOD, AVIATOR — A pioneer in another world was Alex McLeod, son of Daniel, an early arrival in the Solsgirth district (see family story). Alex was always interested in aviation, and constructed a



Alex McLeod's plane, 1911.

working plane model in Solsgirth before leaving for Chicago to study aviation. The family has clippings from the Chicago newspaper which related the story of the accident which almost cost Alex his life in September 1911. He fell out of a Curtiss biplane while making a flight over the school practice field, and suffered a sprained neck and internal injuries. At the time there was little hope of his recovery.

"McLeod had been flying about an hour and a half, when he was seen to make two or three sharp turns, and appeared to have trouble with his machine. He suddenly made another turn, and dipped several feet. The machine shot upward, and then fell. It was so badly wrecked that it was impossible to discover if anything had gone wrong with the engine." Alex had graduated from the school, and was considered one of the most successful amateur aviators there.

EARLY BUSINESS

Grant Flour Mill

William Grant and his brother Robert came about 1881 from Bruce County, Ont. to find a flour mill site on the Birdtail. Land was purchased from Mr. J. M. Dow, agreeing that the mill should be named "Dowsford". A dam was built and a mill-race dug across a bend to carry water to the mill-wheel. It was a year of high water, which William suspected from the Indians who talked of "Neepawa nipi" (plenty water), and there were some signs of earlier dry years, but he decided to take a chance with the mill.

William brought out his wife and family — John, Elsie and Christina — in 1882. House and mill were both built of lumber, the first in the district. Unfortunately, from the first the mill had problems. Frosts came early in those years — in August 1888 icicles hung on the

wheat heads in the fields — the market was poor for frozen grain, and the mill ran at a loss, with almost every settler for miles around on its account books. It operated until 1890's, then was closed and used as a granary when William turned to farming.

Percy Grant writes that the mill was three stories in height, with a stone basement for the machinery, which was brought up the Assiniboine and hauled over the prairie by oxen. There were two burr grinders on the second floor, and the third housed the silk "bolts" for sifting the flour. Graham flour, cracked wheat, bran and shorts were also milled. Settlers came for miles from Shell River, Miniota, Shoal Lake, Rossburn, Elphinstone for the service of the mill, many of them housed overnight in the Grant home. William Waller, who had helped with the building, was also in charge of operation. Later he ran the Birtle mill, below the town on the site of the present park.

The final blow to the mill's success was the change in the route of the railroad, so that Dowsford disappeared as a community and the mill was left stranded without transportation. The Birdtail meanwhile fell steadily after the wet years. Land-clearing, lumbering and forest fires had their effect on the flow of water. In the thirties water stood in pools among rocks where once there were rapids, and a million feet of timber tumbling downstream to Birtle sawmill.

A **Limekiln** was a necessity to provide lime for log chinking and thatched roofs. Tons of boulders were strewn over the valley and in the riverbed, ready for use. The homestead of H. B. Hartley, (later Robert Mountain) on the west side of the Birdtail across from St. James, had two limekilns whose remains are still visible. "The Limekiln Road" still leads down to Grant's Bridge.

J. M. Dow, who homesteaded in 1879, had a log store on Sec. 25-18-26. A creamery (Hough and Crowe) and cheese factory were started in Solsgirth about 1892, but with no great success, as farmers raising stock wanted their milk at home. The creamery later was moved to Rossburn.

Patrons of Industry in 1894, was a forerunner of present-day farm organizations. A monster picnic was held in July, to which people came from far and wide to discuss marketing conditions and the sale of farm produce. Mr. Thomas Young of Rossburn was nominated to represent the gathering at subsequent meetings. The day was dull and cool, but the party continued, and the young people soon started a baseball game.

THE RAILROAD COMES TO SOLSGIRTH

This event, looked for so long, brought its disappointments. However, at the time, all was rejoicing. The first train arrived in July 1885 at a point known as "Allendale" — "We were all agog, and there was much shouting when the President Mr. Baker spoke from the rear platform and told us what a thriving metropolis we would surely have. He announced the name as SOLSGIRTH, meaning the girth of the sun." While negotiations went on with Birtle, the road ended at

Solsgirth. A by-law was submitted to ratepayers to change the surveyed route. The result was the end of Toddburn.³

The station was built in 1886, an annex in 1923, and renovations were done in 1936. In June 1900 four trains daily passed through the station — a passenger and a mixed train east and west. People could travel to Winnipeg in a day or a night, and change there to trains for further points, or have a day of business or shopping in the city and be home next morning.

Mail Service — Early post offices were set up in central points — homes or stores, where the carrier could leave and pick up the mail for the district around. The Toddburn P.O. was located in the Harrison home, near the Jubilee Road. Mr. W. G. N. Porteous, and then Mr. Anderson's store had the post office in Solsgirth until 1917. It later was handled by the McLeod family, and now by Alex's daughter, Mrs. Gloria Clubley.

Post Office No. 5720 in Solsgirth also handled the mail for Lone Tree, Toddburn, Rossburn and Ranchvale, which was sent twice a week by carrier, until the C.N.R. built through Rossburn. Postmasters from 1918 to 1924 were John G. Bradford, A. C. Page and Alex McLeod, who continued until 1956. Mrs. Clubley writes that there have been many changes over the years. The mail is now trucked in every morning at 7:00 a.m., and the truck picks up outgoing mail at six. The mailing list is now around sixty-five. Two to five bags of mail are usual, while in the early forties there might be as many as twenty.

As Solsgirth Grew

Cecil Rogers, writing about 1947, recalled the buildings he remembered — the Nelson boarding-house, where the Co-op Store now stands, the Porteous and Anderson store just north of Miller's blacksmith shop, Will Todd's bakery where later stood Zimmerman's store. There was a livery barn north of the tracks, and Sandy McPherson's licensed hotel. The Town Hall, with a store on the ground floor and a school upstairs, stood where the town well was later. The Town Hall was moved away in time, and D. W. Cummings built the "Red House" on the site. It was sold to Will Rogers, then to the Tait family, and finally removed.

George Simmie and his wife took over the general store and lumber yard in Solsgirth during the First War. This was a popular meeting-place in town, and on Saturday it was hard to find a hitching place for all the teams and wagons coming in from farms for miles around. Some farmers could rent or buy a stall in the livery stable, where the horses were kept warm during the hours spent waiting for mail or gossiping while purchases were made and groceries parcelled. "Money was scarce in the twenties and thirties, and much of the business was in trade — butter and eggs for groceries. Sugar and flour etc. were purchased in bulk, and everything had to be weighed and bagged. The General Store handled everything from horse harnesses

and binder whips to clothing, yard goods, medicines, candies and ice cream."

A very new young teacher (later Mrs. Walter Choptiuk) arrived in Solsgirth in 1947, and was given a guided tour by Barbara Roberts. They walked past Harry Bourne's garage, livery barn, post office, Co-op store, Zimmerman's General Store, the new community hall, the rink and on to the school — which was in disarray. On opening day however it was ready, and Solsgirth became home for twenty years. At the end of that time Mr. Hogberg's store was on the site of the burned Co-op store. The new school was built, but in 1968 was closed. (see Schools) "The flag, the swings and playgrounds must now be only in the minds of those who remember." It was for years a centre for meetings, Home and School, 4-H, C.G.I.T., Christmas concerts with "Beautiful hand-made decorations that made the hall glow".

Some new things have come in recent years — a new National Elevator, Credit Union Building, Derry Ashcroft's garage, and especially the Greek Catholic Church (formerly Burdette School), a sanctuary for the Ukrainian people of the district. Solsgirth entered the Hydro family in 1951, and water works were installed in 1967.

Some pictures Solsgirth brings to mind — "St. Stephen's spire in the sunset, — black clouds from a steam engine with dozens of cars in tow — a flaming cherry bush, a pasture of new grass full of cattle, many cars and the sound of happy music from a Ukrainian wedding, the sharp clear sound of a school bell — an old loved hymn at the Grandmothers' Tea — the smell of freshly baked apple pie — the ring of a phone with a warm greeting — a crowded post office or open store in the evening where people gathered to chatter."

Solsgirth Memorial Hall

The first Town Hall served as a social centre for the community in the early years, but ran out of funds and was moved away about 1900. In 1920 Mrs. George Simmie started the Solsgirth Community Club, with Mr. Ernie Hall as first President. The Women's Institute gave it their support, and all meetings and social functions were held in the two-room school. A social Committee organized dances and parties for all ages, and an Entertainment Committee planned plays, debates, concerts. From it grew a Drama group, a Boys' and Girls' Club, a brass band, a cadet group. It was a source of free entertainment for a whole community during the years of the depression. Later came a Tennis Club, and curling and skating rinks.

In 1945 the idea for the Memorial Hall emerged, sponsored by the School Board. A Committee was set up in July 1946, with Harry Bourne as President, and John Brown, R. Mansell, O. Workman, W. Yaskiw, J. Zimmerman and G. McIntyre. Funds were raised by interest-bearing notes and debentures, and building began on the site of the Simmie store, destroyed by fire, but part of the foundation still usable. Lumber came partly from an old school, and most of the labour was volunteer.

Carpenters were C. Magnowski and Jack Poole, and Mr. Peden put up the chimney.

In 1950 electricity was installed, and other improvements were added gradually with funds from Bingo games from 1966. In November of that year the last Credit Union loan was paid off. The hall has been the scene of weddings, showers, meetings and fowl suppers. There is a dance every month and Bingo every other week.

The Canadian Girls In Training Solsgirth group was organized in 1954 under the leadership of Mrs. Grace McTavish and Mrs. Edna Richardson.

Meetings were held in the W.I. club room when weather permitted and in the homes during the winter months.

The churches in the community — Greek Catholic, United and Anglican all had girls who worked together within this organization for young women. The program encompassed community services, Bible and Mission study. Girls from 12-14 were included.

Traditional highlights each year included Vesper Service, the Mother and Daughter banquet, initiation and a fund-raising project for missions. The Isabel McTavish shield was awarded to the C.G.I.T. in 1958 for their mission project on Japan. Camping at Camp Wasaga was available to the girls and in 1966 Darlene Tutkaluk attended Camp Brereton. Heather Workman in 1967 went to the Centennial Camp. A final banquet concluded C.G.I.T. activities in 1968.

Leaders during the later years were: Evelyn Holmstrom, Wilma Nichol, June Seddon, Shirley Workman, Connie Choptiuk, and Nora Workman.



John McTavish putting up hay.

Solsgrith Credit Union Society Ltd.

This Society had its origin in the Farm Organization M.F.A.C. Three study groups were set up in 1940, and on March 27th, 1941 Mr. John Friesen from the M.F.A.C. came to a meeting in the old school. Previous to this, a group had attended a meeting in Kelloe with Father Benoit of St. Malo Credit Union, a most dynamic speaker. Application for a Charter was made on May 3rd, 1941. Charter Members were — W. J. Workman, J. Murray, R. K. Workman, R. Doubleday, W. H. Randall, C. B. Workman, H. A. Millar, F. C. Butcher, J. T. Butcher, A. Williams. Provisional Board of Directors — Messrs. Randall, Murray, Millar, C. B. Workman, F. C. Butcher, A. Williams. Credit Committee: F. E. Bailey, E. J. Hamilton, J. Murray. Supervisory Committee: J. T. Butcher, A. Porter, E. W. Pedrick.

The first general meeting was held Jan. 20th, 1942, when a Board of Directors and Executive was elected. Working capital was to be a minimum of \$200.00, any one loan not to exceed \$25.00. The Credit Union has had slow but steady growth, with a substantial increase in membership and savings over the year. A Credit Union Office was built in time. Dividends on savings come from rebate of interest on loans, as well as interest on deposits. "Credit Union means Economic Betterment to Member and Community."

Mr. Art Williams was Manager until 1957, when Lloyd Hogberg took over. Assets in 1973 were \$466,000.00 and still climbing. In 1970 "Society" was dropped from the name.

Solsgrith Consumers' Co-op Ltd.

Interest in a Co-op Store was in evidence at the time of organization of the Credit Union. At a meeting May 14th, 1942 teams were set up to canvass the district, with the objective \$5000.00, which however was not achieved at that time. Negotiations had begun with Mr. H. A. Fogal to take over his store, which was later run by Mr. Lowery. With the many problems of consumers in wartime with shortages and rationing the interest remained, and in time negotiations were resumed with Mr. Lowery, and the owner Mr. Saunders of Winnipeg. Finally the deal was completed, for \$1700.00 cash, and the Solsgrith Consumer Co-op received incorporation July 31st, 1944, with authorized capital of \$25,000.00 shares. The first Board of Directors was made up of Joe Roberts, F. E. Bailey, A. Porter, R. Mountain, R. Doubleday, C. B. Workman. President was H. W. Nickel and Secretary A. Williams. Mr. Morgan Johnston was first manager. Succeeding managers have been Mr. Bruce Galloway, Mr. Silver, G. McIntyre, Mr. Trafford, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hogberg. It was expected that the store would be sound and progressive on a policy of cash trading, but required loyalty from its members.

The store burned February 21st, 1960. Mr. Hogberg moved another building in to replace it.

United Grain Growers

The United Grain Growers Elevator was established in Solsgirth in 1917, handling in that year 110,000 bushels of grain. Through the years the grain handled has varied, reaching a low of 12,000 bushels in 1936, and a high of 183,000 bushels in 1922. Managers were W. J. Gray, J. E. Mills and C. B. Rogers. In 1946 the U.G.G. elevator was sold to National Grain Company, which had already taken over the Northern Elevator in 1923. Managers of Northern and National from 1923 to 1973 have been F. B. Hamilton, C. D. Fraser, J. Dunn, S. Austman, F. Ward, E. B. R. Hall, H. L. Hall, R. L. Mansell, J. N. Brooks, J. R. McDuffe, L. R. M. Nield, W. M. Potter, W. A. Rezansoff, M. Zadrey, S. Walter, M. Schentag, G. Nichol, S. Ostash. . .

The total crop at Solsgirth from 1923 to 1972 has been 15,250,000 bushels.

Solsgirth Pool Elevator

The first meeting to establish a Pool Elevator was held April 18th, 1928. A Board of Directors was elected, the members being John Hamilton, Ed Randall, John Butcher, Harry Cooley, W. Chamberlain and Bert Shaw. First President was John Butcher, first Secretary Osmar Workman, and Joe Roberts in later years. A year later a cottage was built for the operator Mr. Percy Finch, at a cost of \$2,400.00 with furnace and cistern. In November 1929, the beginning of hard times, his salary was decreased by \$20.00 to \$135.00 a month, more than many farmers were earning.

Farmers signed contracts in regard to the number of bushels of grain to be taken to the elevator. These were violated at times in bad years, and were eliminated during the time of the Bracken Government. About 1930 the Wheat Board was established.

Screenings were sold at \$5.00 a ton, and in 1934 a wagon load sold for \$1.00. Ten tons of screenings were sent to Beulah district after it had hail in one year. The Pool Elevator was generous in donations to community groups like the Seed Club.

Changes were made in procedure through the years. Permit Books came in about 1938, and members must buy a share for \$1.00. In 1939 a carter disc with 1½ H.P. motor was rented to farmers for \$1.00 a day.

Operators were P. A. Finch, A. Graham, Alex Jack, A. Chapman, Alex Reed, Mr. Kilburn, J. Mansell, A. Neelin, R. C. Richardson, C. Nichol, John Williamson, Ron Falloon (1970).

Solsgirth Seed Oats Growers' Association

Prior to 1923, farmers in the district had grown crops of oats suitable for seed, and shipped car lots of seed eligible for registration to the seed houses in Winnipeg and Brandon. The work was heavy and prices very poor, and it was felt that a seed cleaning plant was needed. Northern Elevator Company undertook to sponsor the venture.

A meeting was held to form a Co-operative Association, and a Board of Directors was appointed — M. P. Mountain Chairman, R. B.

Dickinson Secretary, and E. B. R. Hall, F. L. Dickinson, W. J. Workman. It was necessary for a bill governing Co-operatives to be passed by the House of Commons, as this was a new idea. A Registrar of Associations was appointed to issue charters. The Solsgirth Board, assisted by Prof. T. J. Harrison from the Dept. of Agriculture, drew up a Memorandum of Association, the basis for all subsequent Co-operative Associations.

The Solsgirth Seed Oat Growers Association was formed, and a thousand acres seeded to oats for seed were signed up. In 1924 Northern Elevator built a Seed House and Warehouse and installed a Monitor Cleaner and McNalley Rotary Grader. The result in returns was very good.

Seed was shipped to Italy and South America, and one year a carlot of Registered Banner Oats was shipped to Argentine for Extension work. The largest handle for one year was 61,000 bus, sent to points all over Manitoba and Saskatchewan. During the dry years of the thirties yields dropped and quality was poor, and the operation of the Seed House was gradually suspended. However, the Association finished with its debts paid, and its members satisfied.

Junior Seed Club

A Seed Club was started in January 1929 with President M. P. Mountain, Secretary E. B. R. Hall and Manager R. B. Dickinson, one of eight formed under the direction of the Manitoba Extension Service. Then came bad times, and the seed business was finished. However, Solsgirth could not stay out of the field.

On March 19, 1932 the Junior Seed Club was organized, in spite of the problems that the Senior Association was meeting. By 1934 the Junior Club had a high place in Manitoba Junior Club Work. Grain, grass and clover judging occupied the winter of 1933-34, and next spring some twelve grasses and clovers were planted for observation. In June Robert Whiteman, Assistant Agronomist, started the ball rolling for Junior Test Plots in Manitoba. Field Days were started in 1934, and thousands of visitors registered to visit and gather information.

Mr. Joe Murray took over the leadership, continuing until the Club disbanded. The Board at that time was — President Clifford Williams, Vice-Pres. J. F. Workman, Secretary Alan Porter and Merton Murray, J. N. Workman, G. Hesketh, W. Hesketh, C. B. Workman, Gordon Workman, Alfred Bailey, Francis Bailey. Trips were won by Alan Porter, C. B. Workman, Clifford Williams and Merton Murray. The Club won the Harrison Trophy for all Club work in the Province three times in five years. The Provincial Championship for oats was won five times.

Joe Murray — came to the district in 1920, and worked for T. A. Bailey. Later he farmed on Sec. 5-19-25 and then on 10-18-25 until 1972. Junior Seed Growers' Field Days were held on his farm from 1931-42. He specialized in Oats, and was one of the top growers in the Province. He started Elite Stock seed-growing in 1935, and in 1939 was

appointed to the Seed Advisory Board in Ottawa until it disbanded. Mrs. Murray and the family aided with selection. In 1950 Joe was President of the Manitoba Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association, served as National Director of the Canadian Association until 1959, then became President for two years. He received the Robertson Associate Medal in 1951. During his time with the Canadian Association he worked on a method of bulk certification of seed which was adopted in 1962, and is now the main source of seed for farmers.

In his spare time Mr. Murray enjoyed judging the Crop Improvement Plots for the Manitoba Pool Elevators, and doing Field and Seed Inspection for the Plant Products Division. He was excellent in public relations, and was instrumental in introducing farmers to new varieties of grain. At the present time he is growing a plot of the new Glenlea wheat.

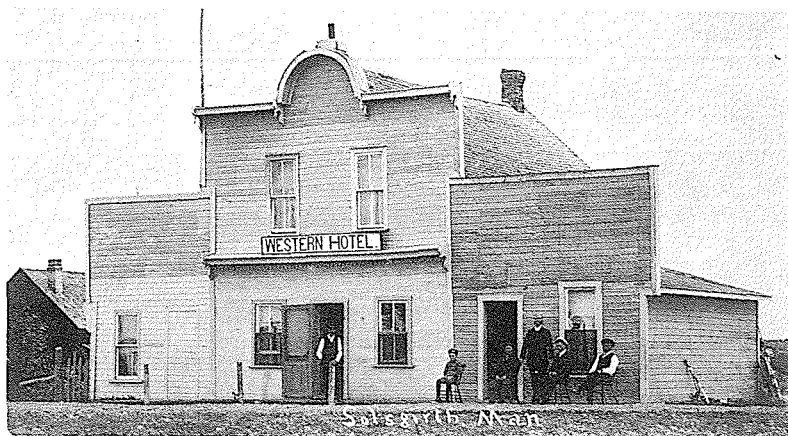
Business in Solsgirth Through the Years

Stores — James Anderson store and Post Office, — later Hodgson, burned; Manwaring's, Manager E. G. Fisher; Simmie's from 1919, burned; Frank Sanders, Fogal & Lee, Lowery, — (present Hogberg location); Herb. Thompson; Co-op Store, burned Feb. 1960, Managers: Messrs. M. Johnson, Gallaway, Silvers, G. McIntyre, J. Trafford, L. Hogberg. A. Williams — Bookkeeper; Lloyd Hogberg's store; John Zimmerman, Ted Bryhasen, Mike Kowaluk, Bill Cooley, finally sold to Mr. Hogberg.

Butcher Shops — Frank Brown & William Dixon, 1911; Charlie Nickel.

Barber Shop & Pool Room — Jack Catherwood, Mr. Page, Russ Knight, Carl Risgard and Chris Hart, Wally Hart, Charlie English, Sandy Black, Norman Irwin.

Pool Room became a *Cafe*, 1947; Bob Mansell, Joe Lee, Helen Ryder, Mike Kowaluk, Annette Choptiuk.



Western Hotel, Solsgirth.

Union Bank of Canada — Managers Roy Fleming, R. McDonald.
Machine Companies — *Massey Harris*, Jack Millar; *International*
E. B. R. Hall; *John Deere*, Harry Bourne; *International*
George Irving Jr.

Blacksmiths — Jack Millar, George Beirnes, Mr. Robinson, Paul Yaskiw.

Garages — *Saunders*, Alex Clarke; Mr. McFarland; *Harry Bourne*; *Johnny Decelle*; Ashcroft, Howard Pedrick; Bill Gaines; Frank Malchuk; Edward Workman, L. Hogberg.

Oil Companies — *B.A. Oil*, E. G. Fisher; Jack Murray; Jack Brown; Paul Yaskiw; Bob Mansell; *Imperial*, Lance Hall; Albert Catherwood, Harry Bourne.

Hotels, Daniel McLeod, 1895; Lissiman; Herder; Beirnes; Overholt; Ray Ghorst; Ben Shepherd; Jim Johnson; Art Ellis, burned.

Livery Barn, Mr. Hodkinson; Mr. H. Cooley; Isaac Murray; Jack Brown.

Carpenter, Bob Crawford; Jack Poole.

Lumber Yard, Mr. Harrison.

Real Estate, Mr. Burbank.

Railway Station, built 1886, annex added 1923, renovated 1936.

Agents, Mr. Blackwell; Vic Holmstrom; Murray Falloon; Taylor; Kilpatrick; Harris; Walter Govenlock; Phil Seddon, (last permanent Agent).

Caretaker Agents, Mrs. Tom Plumb, Mrs. Claridge; Georganne Hogberg.

Section Foremen, Lou Lissiman; John Sicinski; Lodge Menzies.

The station was closed completely in June, 1971, and demolished by Mike Pomehichuk during 1972-73.

Chapter VII

FARMING — MAN WORKS FROM SUN TO SUN

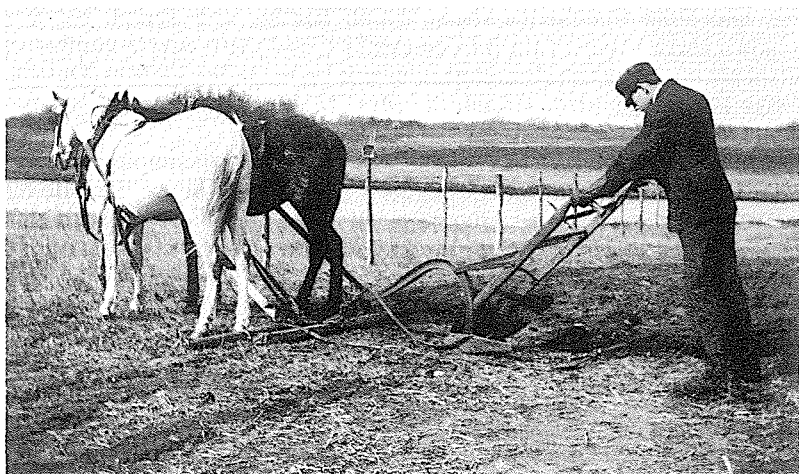
There's as gude land at Birdtail Creek
As e'er gaed work to pleuch or harrow,
As fertile soil as man need seek
Among the rolling plains of Arrow.

William Gerrond, November 1879

The information in this section has been gleaned from many family stories, and therefore is the grist from many sheaves, ground out by the mill of hard experience and some laughter. As has been aptly said — "It has always been, and is now a Next-Year industry."

Farming on the prairies at first was back-breaking toil, and the rewards were often meagre and discouraging. Land was broken with a one-furrow walking plough, pulled by oxen or horse, the farmer holding the reins and walking behind to guide the blade. This was a slow process, and one acre a day was good going. The soil was broken to a depth of two inches, then "back-set" later to a depth of three or four inches, and then harrowed. If broken in early spring, it might be sown the same year, but often was prepared in one year and sown the following spring. Most of the grain was broadcast by hand, carried in a bag over the shoulder. The wheat of the period was Red Fyfe, too late-ripening for the early frosts of the prairies. Hail and fires likewise took their toll of the small crop, most of which the farmer required for his own use, or for seed next year.

Reaping was done with a scythe equipped with a "cradle", and early threshing was with a flail, which beat out the dried grain against a log or floor, described in the Morton diary as a piece of level ground with a canvas or blanket to hold the grain, while the straw was removed by hand and the chaff blown with the breeze. Later a crude reaper came



Jim Anderson, 1910 — the hard way.

into use, which cut the grain and deposited it in bundles to be tied by hand. A binder followed in time which tied the sheaves with wires, until the miller objected to the damage to his mill-stones. Next came the Brantford binder which used twine, which sometimes however failed to function properly, and the harvester resorted once more to hand-knotted straw.

The grain, however harvested, had then to go to the mill for grinding into flour. There was one in Birtle very early, and Grant's mill built further up the Birdtail about 1882 served homesteaders in that district. Frozen wheat made dark, heavy flour, and also might gum up the mill machinery, so that the miller was reluctant to grind it. Flour kept for a year made better bread, and if very poor it might be mixed with next year's to improve the dough. After a year or so of experience, the farmer might find that he had more grain than needed for his own use, in which case it was hauled into town to the general store, and exchanged at forty cents a bushel for groceries and dry goods.

The Sutcliffe family, arriving in 1887, are said to have harrowed their first ten acres with deer horns tied to a log and drawn by Indian ponies. Their first threshing outfit was a treadmill operated by two horses. Four or more might be used, and the horses as they walked round and round were sometimes dizzy with the motion, especially on a warm day.

Whatever might be their problems, the farmers of the Birdtail managed by 1881 to organize their first Agricultural Fair. This was held on October 12th, a little too late, as the weather changed and there was snow. Over two hundred attended, and the organizers and exhibitors enjoyed a supper at the McDougall hotel at the end of the day. Livestock made up most of the show — Tom Paradine's heavy-draft mill team, Tom Carlton's freighters, Miss Edith Wood's saddle horse, and some fine ponies of the Birdtail Sioux. There were a few dairy cattle, and John Shepherd's sheep. Noah Bartley and Joseph Butcher made a clean sweep of the garden exhibits, and there were a number of displays of kitchen skills and needlework by the ladies — Mrs. Dutton, Miss Patterson, Miss Crawford, Mrs. McPherson, Mrs. Flynn and others.

The story of farming in the early days would be incomplete without giving due credit to the homesteader's best friend, the ox. Despite his proverbial stubborn "cussedness" and slow pace, the patient animal usually came through the rains, snows and mud with his load behind him, and his picture is inseparable from the Red River cart of blessed memory. His chief foe was the mosquito, whose effect upon the ox team was maddening. The animals generally headed for the nearest slough or bluff, regardless of plough, wagon or passengers, "and the farmer had to wait until they were good and ready to come out." One English gentleman, who had trouble guiding the beasts with the usual commands, finally told them "Go where you want to — it all has to be done some day." Oxen were however cheaper than horses, and less likely to be lost through sickness. Swamp fever claimed many valuable horses.

Harvesting

A large part of the summer and early fall was busy with the countless tasks required to gather, store or dispose of the earth's bounty, meagre though it might be in some years. Hay, used for feed as well as in the home for comfort on occasion, was the first crop, and an extra bonus, as it had not been sown. Phil Barteaux writes that it was done by horses, mower, rake, pitchfork and rack, and it took several weeks to put up enough of the sweet-smelling grass for the cattle. Now with a self-propelled swather, a hay conditioner and pick-up baler, haying can be done in as many days.

Dave Graham's diary, about 1902, states that wheat was cut as early as August 16th, and finished by September 9th. Threshing, begun a few days later, was not finished until October 28th, and plowing was done immediately, neighbors helping each other.

Threshing was always a glamorous business, and many writers do their best to describe the thrill it was in their younger days to look on, and assist with small tasks, such as carrying the mid-day lunch out to the hot and weary men. The Thorpe story relates — "We kids loved threshing time, and I feel sorry that to-day's youngsters know nothing of the fun . . . riding on the stook wagons, tumbling in the sheaves, forking a few into the separator, hearing the steam whistle blow . . . seeing the long tables of food and the hungry workers . . ."

O. T. Barteaux writes — "The first fall I got a job driving a stook team on Will Leggatt's steam outfit. He did custom threshing. This outfit used eight stook teams, four field pitchers, a tankman to haul water, a fireman, engineer and separator man. A caboose was used for sleeping quarters. The fireman had to be up and out soon after four to get up



Threshing on J. K. Hay farm about 1898. In picture are members of the Hay family: Wottons, Rev. Robertson, Tetts, Leggatts, Tom Edmundson and others.

steam. About five he would blow the whistle, and the others knew it was time to feed and harness the horses. Breakfast was at six, and the busy housewife knew the men would soon be in . . . Farmers were always glad to see the threshers come, and to see the threshing done . . ." The Wotton story adds that it became a contest to see which outfit could blow the whistle first. There were Tett's, Shaw's, Leggatt's and Harry Wotton's all within hearing distance.

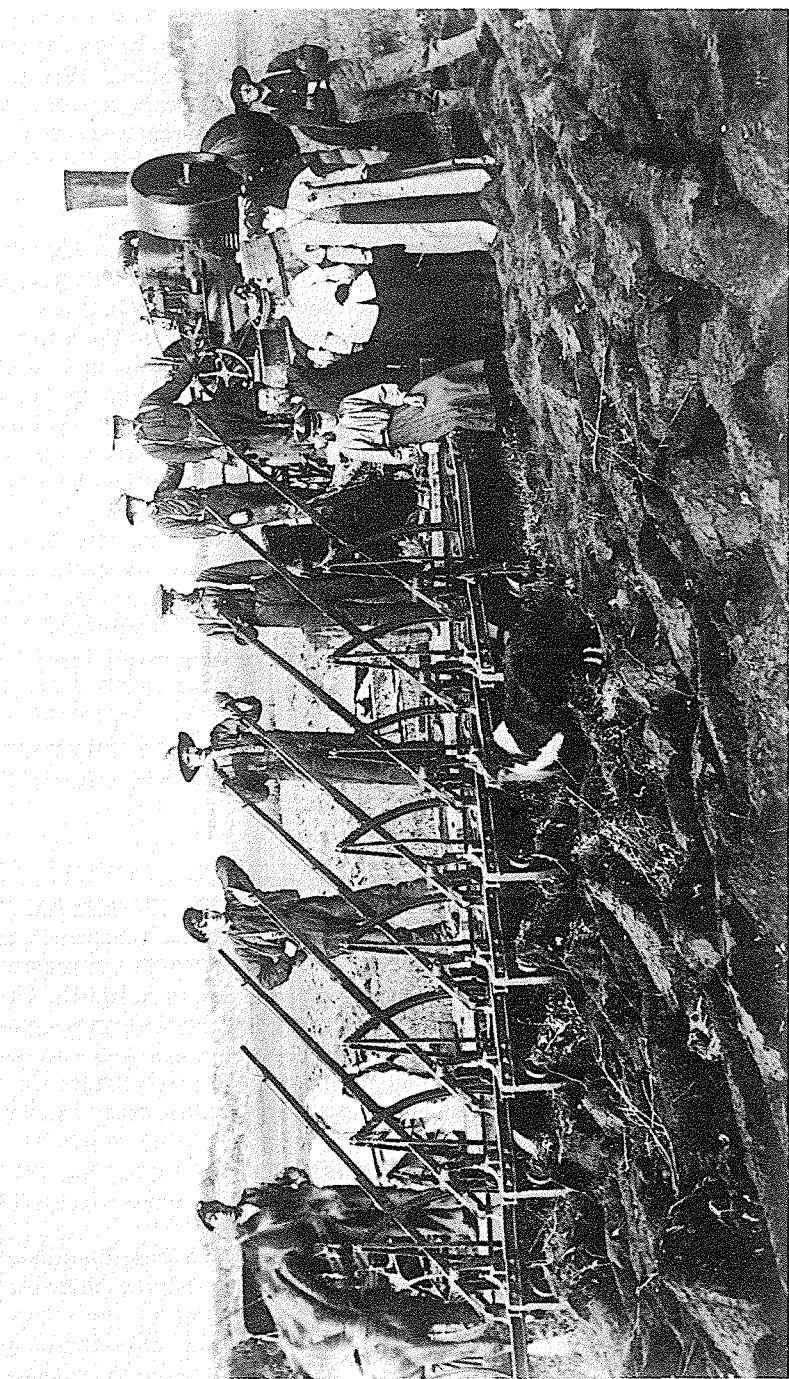
Feeding the threshers took weeks of planning and preparation. Crops of butter and beet pickles, fruit preserves, garden produce in readiness, a beef killed for meat. The farmer's wife was up at four preparing a breakfast of fried potatoes, bacon and eggs, stacks of bread or pancakes, syrup or honey, hot tea. Then dishes to be done, vegetables from the garden cleaned. Morning lunch of fresh biscuits, butter and jam, quarts of hot tea, the horse hitched to the buggy, waiting on the men as they ate a few at a time, listening to their teasing and chatter. Dinner of mountains of vegetables, huge roasts and gravy, and quantities of dessert. The men rushing in, feeding and watering their horses, sloshing in the outdoor wash basin. They ate quickly and ravenously, with mouthfuls of food, talk and laughter — then back to their horses and the field. Another pile of dishes, then sandwiches, cake and tea for the afternoon lunch — hitch up the pony and take it out. Half an hour's rest in the shade of the machine while the men ate, then home again for chores with the help of the children after school, then supper for the weary men. Dishes washed once again, and table set for breakfast, and she could fall wearily into bed.

Threshing was a stimulating time in spite of the hard work. It brought its own interest and fun, as long as the beautiful fall weather held. A stretch of rain was bad, as the home where the machine sat was responsible for feeding the men, and no work could be done. (Wotton story)

This story also describes the earlier horse-powered thresher owned by a syndicate made up of Eli Wotton, John and Will Tett, Jim Hay Sr., Henry Joyce and Archie McPherson. "Eight teams of horses were required to power it, so each member supplied a team. The horses went around in a circle turning a wheel which turned a shaft which ran the thresher. One man stood on the centre wheel to drive the horses — a matter of keeping them all pulling at the same steady speed for hours. It was a horse-killing job . . . When everyone in the syndicate was threshed it was a time for rejoicing, and the members and families gathered for a big dinner — with oyster soup, a great extravagance, the oysters bought in a big wooden bucket . . . Uncle Jimmy Hay brought big pans of shortbread from Scotland . . ."

Mr. Ken Crew has supplied a brief history of the changes in farm machinery over the years. After the horse-powered thresher the steam "outfits" came into use . . . Work continued until dark, seven or eight o'clock, and the outfits moved from one farm to another.

In the 1890's the steam tractor took the place of the portable engine, and the grain separators were equipped with self-feeders, a



Falloon Bros. breaking with steam — 1907.

straw-blower and a self-registering weighing machine. You had to be careful about fire, as steamers were dangerous — one reason for the long drive-belt. In 1912 the big gas engines came in, and in 1930 the diesel made a great change in farming. Now they have cabs on tractors, air-conditioning and radio. Lights on tractors were a great asset, as you could work late or all night, as some of our neighbors do. The combine harvest the crops instead of the binders and threshing machines. It is now a one-man operation, replacing the old threshing gang.

The work of breaking the land was also more mechanized after the first Great War, and the horse as motive power was rapidly dispensed with. The one-way disc instead of the plow is now in general use. In 1890 the shoe-drill seeder came to the west, and later on the double-furrow gang plow. With the coming of the big steam engines and six to twelve-furrow plows, they could plow or break up a lot of land. With the big gas engines a heavy breaking plow also came in, which could turn over a furrow twenty-four inches wide, and could plow down willows and poplar trees up to fifteen feet tall. They plowed about ten to twelve inches deep.

In the later thirties tractors with rubber tires came into being. Most people said rubber tires would not stand up to the stones and roots, but when this goes to press, all implements now have rubber tires.

When the railroad arrived, more grain was grown. It was hauled in bags to the station, and there was a lot of heavy lifting. Most bags held two bushels, or 120 pounds. Trucks now take grain to elevators in minutes, instead of hours or days as in pioneer times. We use brush cutters instead of a man with an axe, sweeps and stackers for the hay instead of the pitch fork, elevators for loading trucks and filling granaries.

Grain Marketing

Mr. Alan Porter takes up the narrative in regard to the disposal of grain after harvest. As farmers began to have a surplus, the grain was hauled to the railroad in bags, and the station agent kept the record.

Later grain elevators appeared, at one time five in Solsgirth. The farmers were not pleased with the prices they got from elevator companies because there was such a spread between track and carload prices. The C.P.R. erected a loading platform, and farmers loaded their own cars with a scoop and shovel — no augers in those days. In 1929 Pool elevators were organized by the farmers, and this competition eliminated the spread in prices. Since 1935 very little grain has been loaded over the platform, as competition became stronger. In recent years the platform was taken up.

All grain was sold on the open market until the Wheat Board was established. The Quota system, too was brought in, so that each farmer had a fair chance of delivering his grain. Varieties of grain have changed with the years. Red Fyfe, the early wheat was often frozen as the season was so short. Then came Marquis, Axminster, Garnet,

Reward, Ceres. Thatcher was the first rust-resistant wheat, then came Selkirk, Manitou, Neepawa, and Durham grown for macaroni, etc.

The Government in the thirties established Agricultural offices across the country. Agricultural Representatives are there now to help farmers gain knowledge of new developments. Wheat, oats and barley were the main crops, until in recent years special crops such as rape, flax, corn, some sunflowers and faba beans helped out in years when there was poor sale for coarse grains. In 1969 farmers were paid not to grow wheat, in the "Lift Program". Now with the anticipated shortage in 1973, farmers are urged to grow more.

Farmers formed organizations to try to get better conditions — in early years "Patrons of Industry", later Grain Growers, of which Alex Crerar was the first president. In later years the Solsgirth farmers called a meeting and formed the United Farmers of Manitoba (U.F.M.). M.F.A.C. and Farmers' Union followed, and more recently the Farm Bureau. We are still hoping for one Farmers' organization.

Man's return for his labour in dollars and cents has always been a matter of controversy. The farmer, naturally, has strong feelings on the subject. Rugged individualist though he is, he has learned to join with his group to bargain in the market place, just as they have always worked together in times of stress. They have organized pools, co-operatives, livestock associations. A wide range of prices for grain and other produce may be traced in reports from year to year. In 1922 the Bank of Montreal estimated the yield of wheat on the prairies to be "close to 380,000,000 bushels, or some 100,000,000 bushels greater than last year . . . Owing to the early harvest, 7,000,000 bushels were



The Spicer Farm — Blenheim District.

marketed in August, and 95,000,000 in September — an abnormally large movement with which the railways coped in an excellent manner.” So large a crop brought a drop in price, which ranged that year between \$1.11 and .67, with oats .49 to .30. Beef on the other hand rose from \$3.85 per 100 lb. to \$5.75.

Bernard Miller, pioneer of Solsgirth, wrote that the best wheat in early days was 35 to 42 cents, oats as low as ten cents, dressed hogs two or three cents per pound, butcher cattle two cents live weight, eggs six and seven cents a dozen. There were no outside markets.

In 1892 No. 1 wheat was selling for .52, live hogs .04 per lb., butter .14. Bread sold in Winnipeg 18 loaves for \$1.00.

Some comparative prices were:

1908 wheat .....	.83		
oats .....	.32		
		1931 wheat .....	.53
1914 wheat	1.01	oats .....	.25
oats .....	.48		
			(record low)
1917 wheat	2.05	1932 wheat .....	.38
oats .....	.67	oats .....	.14
		eggs .....	.12
1919 wheat	2.40	beef .....	.03 lb.
oats .....	.71		

In January 1974, for top grade wheat, one price quoted was \$5.70.

One retail price list around 1880 had eggs for cents a dozen, butter five cents a pound, flannelette five cents a yard. Wages of tradesmen were proportionate — millhands \$1.50 - 2.00 per day, brickmakers the same, sawyers 1.75, blacksmiths and railway workers 1.50 - 3.00. Lumbermen received about \$25.00 per month and board.

The Horse on the Farm

Ken Crew writes that horses were few in the early days, but were used for power, and were the best mode of travel. Later they were used in greater numbers, and were the farmer's pride and joy, the Agricultural Fair the chief show place for a prize gelding or mare in fancy harness. They still steal the show almost everywhere, even in the colourful display of uniforms in the Mounties' Musical Ride. In Manitoba they began to be used for the fur trade by the end of the eighteenth century — mostly Indian ponies — and interest grew in breeding horses of better size and appearance. “In 1831 Company officials sent word that a stallion of proper breed was being sent by way of Hudson's Bay to the Company farm at Red River . . . “Fireaway” was looked on as one of the wonders of the world by the natives . . . ”¹¹

Alan Porter states that in the Solsgirth district the Fenton Brothers imported horses from the States. John Tett raised purebred Percheron horses, and won prizes at Toronto and Chicago. G. J.

Graham's father had Clyde horses. Other breeders were McCrindles, Tom and Jack Johnson, Jim Lothian. Yeandles and Edmundsons brought racing horses. Jim Douglas with his stallion "Doug" introduced many of the better hackney horses. Good general purpose horses were raised by crossing light and heavy horses.

They had to be shod, so the blacksmith was kept busy. Horses were always given the best feed, as they provided the power for the machinery. On some farms it was forbidden to drive a horse for visiting on Sunday. One could walk, as the horse needed his rest. He was used to run the first grain elevators. Horses pulled the binders to cut the grain. In the early twenties some farmers had tractors and cars, but in hard times had to return to the horse.

Since the thirties there has been a steady decline in use of horses for power, but with the shortage of fuels predicted one wonders if it might happen again. Now in 1972 a few farmers keep a team for winter chores, but most horses are for amusement, and so almost a luxury.

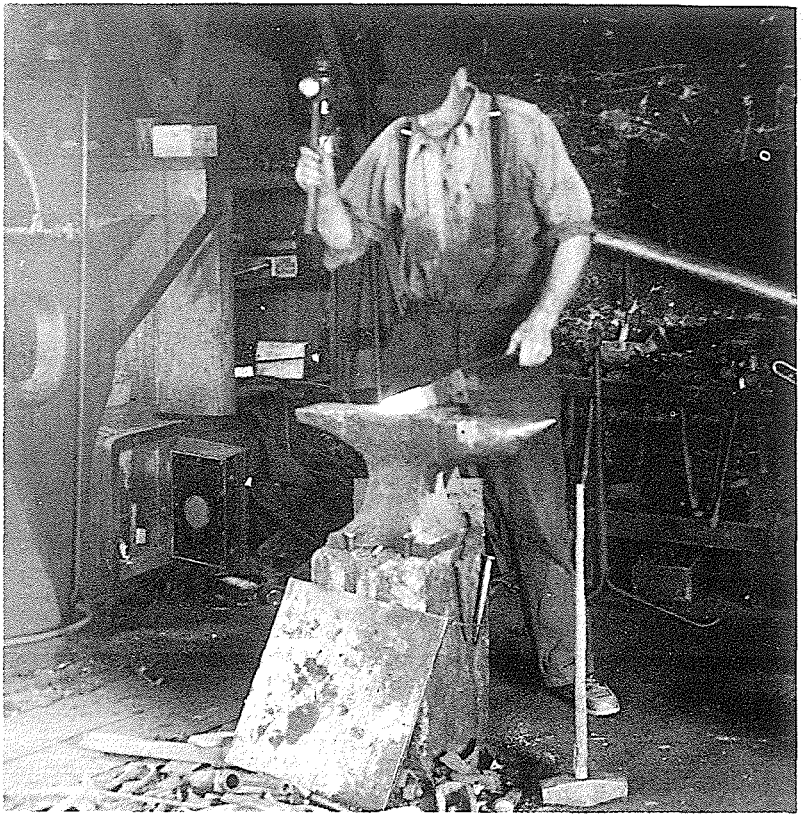
Several of the tales involving horses also involve lady drivers — who, perhaps not so much from lack of skill as lack of strength sometimes had trouble with their means of transport. Ruby and Helen Miller were driving with cousin Louie (Ridout) Hartley in a buckboard, when the harness became twisted, and Louie walked out on the shafts to adjust it. The horses bolted, Louie slipped and fell under the hooves and wheels of the buckboard. As the horses headed for the valley, the reins caught in the hub of the wheel and brought them to a full stop. Turning back, the other girls found Louie huddled on the road but little the worse.

Three ladies — Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Haddon and her daughter Elva, on their way into Birtle for shopping, had just reached the south hill when their spirited horse bolted, upsetting the buggy and leaving the disheveled ladies to pick themselves up from the dust. Little shopping was done that day. One recalls similar incidents in the early twenties, when a late-model horse met an early-model automobile — and the result was many a near catastrophe, until the world of horses at length accepted their fall from power.

Cattle Raising

The first cattle in the district were either brought in by flatboat, or driven all the way from Winnipeg. A milk cow might supply the family with milk en route. Once at the homestead, as there were no fences for some years, the animals had to be watched all day, this as a rule being the chore of the younger children. Attendance at school took second place to this responsibility during the summer and fall, when the crop of the family or a neighbor might be endangered. The neighbor might employ the children to herd his cattle as well. Frank Salmon and his sister Sarah occupied the long hours by trying to find bird nests, or the first crocus, violet or buttercup. Digging out gopher holes for the five cent bounty on tails was a profitable pastime as well.

Fenton Bros. brought Hereford cattle in about 1896. John Tett,



Harry Greeves in his blacksmith shop.

Treble Bros., W. H. Hacking, Falloons, Widdicombs were some of the early purebred breeders. In those days farmers strived to raise purebred stock, but now there is a trend to cross-breeding with more vigorous traits. The story is told of the night, Col. Fenton's car-load of horses and cattle arrived — "the worst and longest snowstorm ever seen blew in, and the stock had to be kept in the stockyard for two days. The horses were got into some of the local barns. All over this district numbers of stock suffocated in the stables, most of which were log with no ventilation. The snow completely covered all holes. Ultimately these same young stock became the nucleus of other herds in the district."

In early days a beef animal was kept for three years before it was sold. Many of them wintered in the straw stack. Buyers came to the farms to purchase their cattle. The farmers would get together then to drive the cattle to the railroad — which was a problem with no fences. They were kept in the stockyards, then herded on the trains. Mr. Hacking, Mr. Brown and Albert Pickup are buyers we remember. The last carload of cattle was shipped in 1951. Transfers now go to the farmers'

yard and take the cattle to market. Many farmers have invested in large trucks and haul their own.

Mr. Armstrong tells of chasing a cow to town to be sold. He got \$1.75 for her. That same day he saw a roast of beef in the store for \$1.60. It was really a bad deal, after taking time from threshing — and as he says “Some got richer, some got poorer.” In early times pigs were five cents a pound. In 1907 fat steers brought $3\frac{1}{4}$ or 4 cents a pound, and now bring .34. Cows which sold for \$12.00 in the thirties now sell for \$200.00 and up.

The Beef Ring

The Beef Ring was a means of having fresh meat. Farmers joined together, each one promising to supply a beef of a certain weight, price, etc. The animal had to be stall-fed for the first few months of the year, and later, as growth allowed, it could be grass fed. A secretary kept books on the business. Mr. Hadland is one I remember. Shareholders bought a share or a half share, depending on the size of the family. Each made white bags with the name printed on. In these the butcher put the meat, ready to be taken home. Mr. Brown and Gilbert were the butchers I remember. Different cuts were alternated each week, so each got a variety. In 1924 beef was nine and twelve cents a pound in the beef ring. What a treat it was to have fresh meat instead of the cured pork and eggs!

In Foxwarren Mr. Ed Williams did the cutting and bagging each Saturday, and in Birtle George Spencer looked after the division, so that by varying the cuts each farmer got back the equivalent of his animal.

Dairying

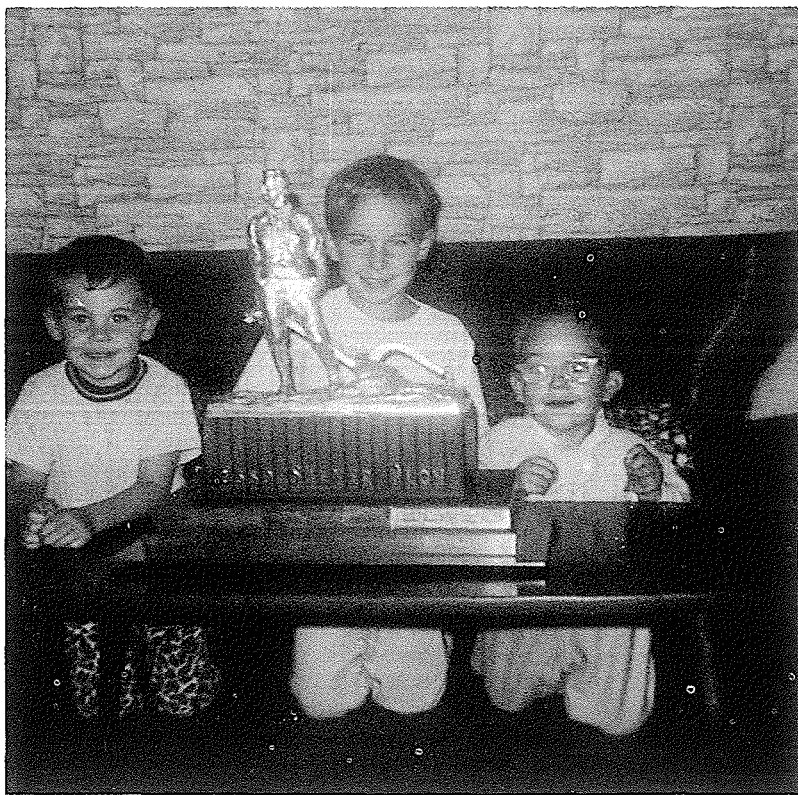
As the homesteader's herd grew larger, and the milk, cream and butter were more than could be disposed of locally, the surplus was shipped to a creamery. A driver came around to collect the cream in a big barrel, testing a sample of each farmer's lot. It became pretty rank by the time it arrived at the butter-maker. During the thirties the cream cheque was often a major part of the household budget.

A cheese factory was built in Birtle in the first years, and they seem to have been popular in Manitoba for some years, but they steadily decreased in number from forty-two in 1907 to five in 1968. Prof. Ellis suggests that for various reasons the cheese they produced was of poorer flavour than Ontario cheese, and less popular with consumers. The five factories in 1968 however made more than twice as much cheese as those in 1907, and the price was triple. Creameries in Manitoba on the other hand increased in number from eighteen in 1907 to seventy in 1945, and in 1969 there were forty-six, making ten times as much butter as in 1907.¹¹ Mr. Porter tells us that the small dairyman has been forced out of business, as large creameries have improved their facilities. A milk truck now calls at each farm, and hauls the milk to the creamery at Rossburn.

Smaller Livestock

Sheep raising has been tried in the district, but with varying success Thomas Low Sr. found that the crows and magpies picked out the eyes of the newborn lambs, which at that time were born outside in the spring rather than in lambing barns. One winter many sheep had to be slaughtered because of ergot in their feet. John Shepherd showed his sheep at the first Fair, but the cold of early spring brought death to the first lamb.

Pigs had a place on many farms, and could be fed economically on kitchen scraps. The Wotton story relates in detail the preparation of pork. "In the spring and fall the big black pot was filled with water and a great fire lit. The pig was scalded so the gristly hair could be removed, then cut into hams, bacon and roasts. The excess fat was rendered and stored in stone jars for pie-making. Curing the ham was an art and took several weeks. A mixture of salt, brown sugar, saltpetre and spice was rubbed in every other day. Once cured, they were hung in a cool cellar. The hocks were cleaned and boiled to make jelly to which edible parts of the head were added to make head cheese. The intestines



Jerry Lyttle's silver plow with Kirk Terry and Kevin.

were scrubbed and put in brine for sausage casings. Poorer cuts of pork and beef were put through the mincer, bread and seasoning added, and all was put through the sausage machine into the casings. This process involved the whole family. Even the bladder was cleaned, blown up and given to the younger children as a balloon — “everything but the squeal!”

Poultry

Each farmer kept at least a few hens and a rooster or two. The mother hen would hatch her own little brood, after sitting on her eggs in some secluded spot for three weeks, bringing them out sometimes too late in the season. Later on incubators were used to hatch greater numbers of chicks at one time. The eggs were kept warm with a coal-oil lamp, and each day they had to be turned over. Now most farmers go to the hatchery and pick up their chickens in the spring. Others depend on larger poultry farms for their eggs and fowl.

Mrs. Ed Low writes of the care of poultry, which was generally the task of the lady of the house. Young chicks were often brought into the house for warmth at night. When the brooder house came into use with the oil lamps the chicks found heat close to them. Later came the electric brooder. She also describes the home preparation of poultry for market — plucking, cleaning and trussing. They were usually sold to the Poultry Co-operatives. Mrs. Low Sr. was a skilled poultry raiser, and the eggs were a source of pin-money. On one occasion she is said to have refused the price offered at the local store, so walked all the way to Russell to sell her basketfull.

Present-day Farming

Many families tell of the changes in farming in these days of sophisticated machinery and scientific methods. It is not the intention here to detail much of this — partly in the realization that another year or two will see other changes. Modern farming is a large operation — as different from the homestead era as a jet-propelled aircraft is from the ox cart. It requires less manpower and returns greater dividends, but the farmer to make a profit must become involved in a tremendous investment and possibly indebtedness. A vicious circle, says Alan Porter. “It has led to the decline of rural population and the deterioration of the small towns where good times were once enjoyed . . . The government now sees the mistake and is trying to encourage the return to the country . . .”

Some of the trends are worthy of mention — the first a sad one, as Mr. Crawford Lints regrets the loss of trees planted a generation ago. “These are all bulldozed out now along with all the bluffs. We planted trees and shrubs for shelter and beauty, now they are a nuisance. Early farmers claimed the bluffs held moisture from spring melting. Now the fields are robbed of this protection, and the good topsoil drifts off the fields. . .” Phil Barteaux speaks of the operation “Barteaux Brothers” — who have purchased more land and now have eight sections. We try

to crop half and summer fallow half, as well as having about six hundred acres for pasture and haying . . . Rapeseed has been popular for some years, and is quite profitable . . . Carl Workman mentions the advent of wheat spraying about 1944. Northern Elevator brought in a big chemical weed sprayer, and a strip of his land was used for demonstration. The startling effects of the spray could be seen from the thoroughfare . . . Annual spraying became general practice.

Demonstration Farm

In 1917 a half-section of land (said to have been the present Victor Fulton farm) was purchased by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to be operated as a provincial demonstration farm, "intended to supply information on farm management and the actual cost of farm produce under the average conditions . . . It is to be hoped that . . . this venture will set forth the possibilities of a half-section farm in Manitoba . . ." ¹¹ The Birtle Demonstration Farm was in operation from 1918-1934. Its purpose was to demonstrate a typical half-section on mixed farming lines. A similar farm was set up in the Killarney district to demonstrate fruit growing and vegetable gardening. Manager at Birtle was William Pierce, who received his instructions on technical matters from a three-man board, made up of J. H. Evans, R. Milne and T. J. Harrison. The farm was operated on a six-



Frank Jacob receives World Rye Trophy.

year rotation system. A few pure-bred Shorthorn cows and horses were kept there, and some "grading-up" of livestock — cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry — was undertaken. Resident stockmen were C. Twose until 1929, and J. Blackhall until 1933. The farm was rented from 1934, and sold in 1947.

Some Outstanding Farmers

The Birdtail district seems always to have offered a challenge to good farmers, and there have been many of them through the years. Possibly best known has been the genial Englishman who came to Manitoba in 1887, and who by patient observation and experiment developed his own strain of rust-resistant wheat — Axminster — won the title "World Wheat King" in 1917 in Peoria, Illinois, and became so renowned that the district has been dubbed "Sam Larcombe country". Axminster wheat did not meet the needs of the time, but Mr. Larcombe continued with his experiments, and continued to win awards as late as 1933.

The Mayor was surprised a few years ago to receive a request from Almeria, Spain for some of the wheat developed by a "Mr. Sam".

It would serve no purpose to try to seek out an "All-time best" among many who were excellent, whether for grain-growing or stock breeding. In the latter group Harvey Nickel of Solsgirth and J. M. McCrindle of Foxwarren have been prominent. Each year recently the Birtle and District Chamber of Commerce has offered a "Master Farmer Award", scoring based on factors such as home, buildings, field crops, livestock, equipment, family activities. Winners have been:

1968—Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Fulton

1969—Mr. and Mrs. George McCrindle

1970—Frank and Frances Leggat

1971—Dale and Kathy Falloon

In 1971 Frank Leggat was selected "Mr. Manitoba Farmer" by a committee of Winnipeg's annual exhibition "Manisphere".

In the summer of 1971 Gerry Lyttle of Foxwarren finished first in the Manitoba and Western Canada Plowing Championships, and went on to the Canadian event, which he also won. In October he was a contestant in the eighteenth World Plowing Match in Somerset, England.

Other winners have been Frank Jacobs and son Garth of Foxwarren, who in 1972 and 1973 achieved the Canadian and World Rye Championship at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair.

4-H Clubs

The beginning of the 4-H CLUB movement was in Roland, Man., when about 1911 a small group of young people and adults formed a group to encourage agricultural projects — little dreaming that they were laying the foundation for one of the largest youth programs in the country.

The groups were first called simply "Boys' and Girls' Clubs", often a natural progression from Boys' and Girls' School Fairs — and every

rural centre had several branches in time. The name 4-H is derived from "Head, Heart, Hands, Health" of the pledge, and the badge chosen was the four-leaf clover. The motto was "To make the best better." The aim of all clubs was to improve the skills of the members in whatever project — sewing, seed-growing, raising of calves or pigs — might be the particular interest of each group.

In 1951 a change in organization took place, when the great number of clubs in Canada were joined under the Canadian and Manitoba 4-H Club Councils, and projects were expanded to include Home Economics, Garden, Seed, Calf, Tractor, Auto, Teen and Light Horse clubs. The 4-H motto now is "We learn to do by doing", and the pledge dedicates:

My head to clearer thinking

My heart to greater loyalty

My hands to larger service

My health to better living

For my club, my community and my country.

Every member has a chance to be a part of club activities, the local Achievement, the annual inter-district Rally and the inter-provincial Rally at Brandon.

It is impossible to estimate the good that has been gained from these clubs over the years — how many girls have learned their sewing skills, how many boys and girls have learned the proper way to choose, feed, groom and show a calf or a horse, how many children have learned to grow a good garden, how many have gained from the experience of public speaking, and from the experience of working with others to improve their club and community.

We have named no names, since over the years some hundreds of members through their participation have been awarded the chance to take part in trips to many parts of Canada and United States, in the Calf Scrambles at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, to be interviewed for a Gold Watch Award, to be a participant in the Kiwanis Public Speaking competition held yearly in Winnipeg, to attend 4-H Camp for a week each summer.

We could not conclude an account of the 4-H movement without mentioning the time and devotion of the 4-H leaders; people like Mr. William Falloon who was leader of Birtle Calf Club for 20 years. Without the volunteer effort of these people, the 4-H Clubs could not exist.

Birtle-Solsgirth Cubs and Scouts

There are active Scout and Cub groups in Birtle. In 1973 they were engaged in a tree planting project at Assessippi Provincial Park, together with about two thousand Cubs and Scouts in Manitoba. A request went out for garden spades, and parental assistance, and for sponsors at so much per tree. They raised \$657.00 in pledges, with a profit of \$262.00 to be used to promote scouting activities. Thirty-seven boys from the district took part. 18,000 seedling white spruce were set out,

and there were some remaining which were planted around Birtle Park and Golf Course.

At present there is some interest, prompted by newcomer Vincent Harding, in starting a Beaver Colony — of boys five to seven years of age.

A Boy Scout group was formed in Solsgirth under the capable leadership of Mr. Clarence Tibbatts in 1933. The committee was: Mr. George Simmie, Lance Hall and Harry Kilpatrick. The group varied from 15 to 20 boys who went on hikes and many scout activities. At the time of the coronation of George VI the scouts lit a beacon on the valley hill along with other scout groups across Canada.

Solsgirth Boys' and Girls' Club Fair

The Club Fair was organized in 1915, small at first, but later expanded to include school work, gardening, sewing, calves, hogs and poultry. In time there were nine schools taking part, and prizes were contributed from breeders, packers, elevators, the Royal Bank, as well as local people. Leaders were J. B. Davidson, J. R. Bell, A. Woods, J. Strachan, W. Crowfoot, Bob Rutherford and W. Hacking.

Club members competed in western shows, at Toronto Royal Fair and in 1935 in Chicago. Gordon Hacking was Champion and Robert Falloon Grand Champion at Toronto. Buyers for Winnipeg Packers helped the boys learn judging, and twice members won the Provincial Judging Competition for beef cattle at Brandon. The Fair was an important occasion for many years, and interest was great for the young people. Livestock entries were judged one year, then brought back next year for the continuation class. It was then a sad day when the calf was sent to the packers.

The Club and Fair came to an end in October 1964, one year short of the fiftieth anniversary, after several schools had gone out of existence and 4-H Club activities gradually replaced the much-loved event.

Solsgirth 4-H Clubs

The Calf Club was born July 14th, 1947, at a meeting at the Ken Workman home with Mr. Doug Fletcher, Agricultural Representative. Alan Porter was the first leader, and officers were Rowdon Hesketh, President, Donald Hamilton, Vice-President and Ethel Dunn Secretary-Treas. Each member paid a fee of ten cents a meeting. Bill Hacking gave instruction on judging and feeding cattle. Eleven calves were shown in June 1949 at the Foxwarren Fat Stock Show. Jim Dunn became assistant leader. A money raising project was the manufacture of gate signs for \$2.50. 1951 was a banner year, marked by participation in a bonspiel and a trip to Winnipeg for Elmer Workman, awarded by Albert Pickup for the best all-around club member, and other inter-club activities. The club joined the Manitoba 4-H Club Council, and became a 4-H Club.

In 1953 Raymond McTavish and Albert Pickup became leaders,



Road-building — 1907.

and the Club organized a bonspiel. Lectures were given by Rep. W. Stonehouse to joint meetings — on Feeds and Nutrition, Animal Diseases and Selective Breeding. Alan Porter and O. Workman took over as leaders in 1954, and calves were shown at Strathclair. A social evening was held with the Sewing and Tractor Clubs.

The Club disbanded for a few years, then reorganized in 1960 with Murray Falloon as leader, and with a tractor project under Howard Pedrick. There were ten members in 1965, and trips to visit dairy and beef farms, Brandon Fair and Packers, the Sire Indexing Centre at Douglas were part of the program. In that year the club became a Beef and Auto Club with Garry Workman and Howard Pedrick as leaders. Bill Gaines assisted in 1966 and there were twenty-one members. There was an excursion to Brandon Winter Fair, and fifteen calves were exhibited at Foxwarren. In 1967 Larry Kowal caught a calf in the Scramble at Brandon Fair, and the club began an annual family social night, as well as participating in public speaking.

In 1968 Garry and Edward Workman and Charlie Butler were leaders, and a Teen project was added, with record hops and discussions which included girl members and Mrs. Charlie Butler assisting. By 1970 only the Beef Club continued, with ten members, and Danny Workman assistant leader. In 1971 seven members from Birtle Beef Club joined seven from Solsgirth under Garry and Danny Workman and Frank Ashcroft. David Kowal caught a calf in the Scramble at Brandon, as did David Stewart in 1973, when the club had ten members.

A Garden Club was organized in 1948 under Albert Pickup, and continued until Mr. Pickup became leader of the Beef Club in 1953. The Tractor Club under Howard Pedrick was organized in 1953, operated

for four years and took part in social events, rallies, square dance competitions, as well as studying parts identification, tractor driving and belt lineup. After a lapse of three years the club reorganized in 1960, and in 1965 became an Automotive Club.

The Foxwarren Junior Seed Club was first organized under the leadership of Mr. Mervin Snow, manager of the Manitoba Pool Elevator at Foxwarren in the late 1930's. Vernon Falloon was the first President but the first secretary is not known because of lost minute books. From 1953 on minutes have been kept. Also in 1953 both boys' and girls' clubs adopted the 4-H mottos and pledge.

Following leaders were: T. A. McPherson, Murray Pizzey, Bernard Loughheed, Ivan Crerar, Jim Hamilton and the present leader Bruce Ellis.

Members winning award trips to Winnipeg were Stan Souch, Charles Souch, Jim Hamilton, Lawrence Williams and Elmer Ryan.

Members winning award trips to Brandon for judging competitions were Earle Burdett, Jim Hamilton, Lawrence Williams, Elmer Ryan, Wayne Mansell, Dale Snowdon, Murray Carr, Bill McFarlin, Don Hodgson, Lloyd Wotton, and Garth Jacobs.

Trips to the Lakehead were won by following members: Ron Falloon, Allan Butler, Garth Jacobs, David Graham, Russell Hamilton, David Carr and Warren Loughheed.

Lawrence Williams and Elmer Ryan won the Provincial judging title in 1945 and went on to Toronto to win the Dominion title.

Exchange visits were won by Don Hodgson who went to B.C. and Frank Hamilton who went to South Dakota.

Over the years the members have grown many different varieties of cereals and flax, also some grasses and alfalfas. The membership throughout the years has been good with an average of twelve boys. Present officers are Ken Hodgson as President and George Graham Secretary with Bruce Ellis as leader and the club has a membership of fourteen.

Birtle Beef Calf Club was organized in 1947 with Harvey Fulton as leader. In 1948 Glen Fulton won a radio for Public Speaking in Winnipeg.

Bill Falloon became leader in 1949, and continued until 1949, when the club won the Frazer Trophy.

The Beef Heifer Club was organized in 1957, and in the same year was the top Beef Club in Manitoba. Grant Wotton was winner in the first Calf Scramble at Brandon in 1959, and the club members have won in nine calf scrambles, and also have been awarded five gold watches and ten trips outside the province.

Foxwarren 4-H Calf Club

As members of the Solsgirth Boys' and Girls' Club, in 1936 Vernon and Garnet Falloon won second prize for cattle judging at Toronto Royal Winter Fair. In 1952 the Foxwarren Calf Club was formed, and

members competed in the Foxwarren Fat Stock Show each year. Dale Falloon's calf was Grand Champion in 1952 and again in 1956. Gary McCrindle won the award in 1960 and Russell Falloon in 1961. At that time Bill Butler was Club leader, and there were twenty members.

With Arthur Burdett as leader, in 1963 the Club was winner for the best kept and decorated stall. By 1965 membership had dropped to nine, but Marylou Falloon has the Grand Champion. The Club was non-existent in 1969, was reorganized in 1970 by Arthur Burdett, when the Club won a prize as "Best-Dressed" in Centennial Year, repeating in 1971, and also for best-decorated stall. These awards were won again in 1972, and Pam Burdett had the Grand Champion, later placing ninth in a large class at Toronto.

In 1973 a Junior Section of twelve members was formed. There are nineteen seniors with President John Falloon, Secretary Patty Falloon and Treasurer Cheryl Pizzev.

For 4-H HOME ECONOMICS CLUBS of Birtle, Foxwarren and Solsgirth, see Chapter VIII.

Solsgirth and Birtle 4-H Light Horse and Pony Clubs

The first Club was organized in 1961 with John Parobec as leader and nineteen members. It met once a month and held its Achievement at the Birtle Agricultural Fair. A special project each year — tack boxes, saddle tree, name signs for horses and farrier boxes — was assigned for judging. The Club attended 4-H Rallies, and took part in the parade, judging and demonstrations.

In 1967 the Club participated in the parade for Canada's Centennial and for Manitoba's in 1970. It held a number of gymkhanas, and in 1971 a rodeo. For three years, 1971-73, their musical ride placed first at Brandon Summer Fair. Members have competed in public speaking, and raised funds for a television set for Pioneer Lodge. A trail ride and wiener roast ended the year, with parents and friends included.

In 1970 there were twenty-nine members, and in 1973 the Birtle Club was formed, leaving Solsgirth with fourteen members.

Leaders and Assistants through the years have included John Parobec, John Crerar, Harold Salmon, Walt Butcher, Marg. Johnston, Rose Lane, Charles Butler, Martin Rusaw, Lillian Wilson, Reg Berry, Audrey Dodge, Lil Brown and Agnes Hogberg.

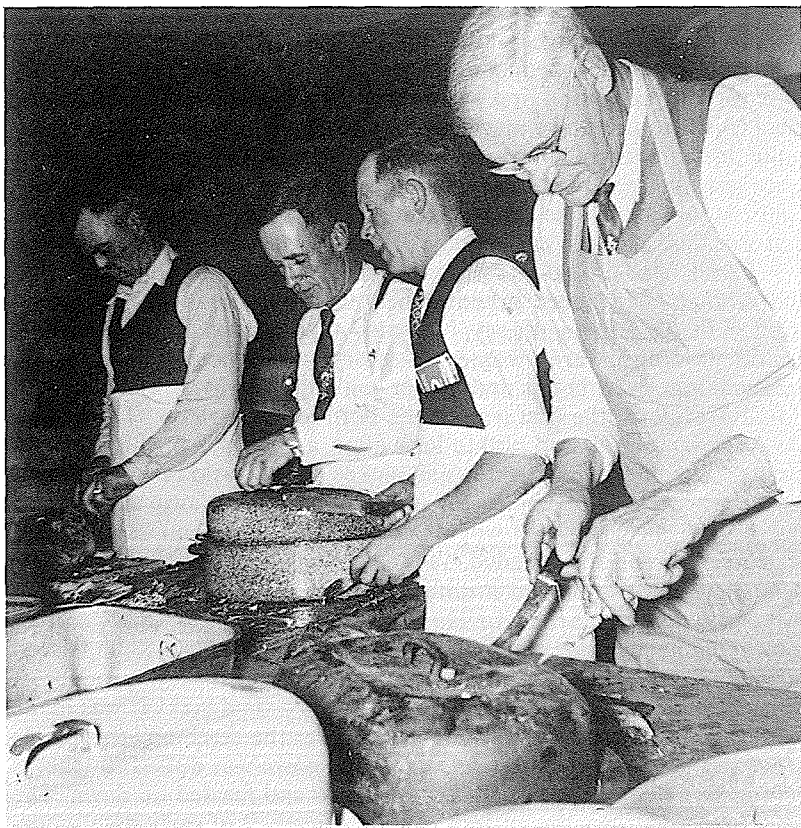
The Birdtail Valley Riders' Club was formed in 1972 to promote and sponsor a rodeo in our area. Its membership numbers fifteen, who have worked together and planned a successful rodeo in 1972.

We hope to make this an annual event and this year with the funds raised last year we are building a permanent arena.

Our rodeo is strictly amateur and everyone enjoys trying out the various events from bronco-riding to cutting horse competitions.

The contestants compete for an annual trophy for the rodeo champion and for various individual trophies and cash prizes. The trophies

are donated by some of our local business places in the Solsgirth area and surrounding districts.



Solsgirth Fowl Supper. Brooks Dickinson, Buster Nickel, Dick Butler, Tom Davison.

Chapter VIII

WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE

Statues have been erected and books have been dedicated to the pioneer woman, her joys and sorrows, and the contribution she made over the years to the opening of the west. The rigors of frontier life were softened in time, as the first generation grew older and passed on, and their children took their place. The aids and amenities of urban living came one by one to the farm home, and the farmer's wife is the first to voice gratitude for the telephone, hydro, mechanical servants of many kinds. Nonetheless, one detects a note of nostalgia in many of the tales that are told of those earlier days.

Family stories seldom fail to recognize the contribution of the wife and mother, and indeed grandmother. Of Mrs. David Watt, guiding spirit of the W.I. in its infancy, it is said — "Jenny did all the things expected of prairie farm women — dairy work, poultry, gardening, dressmaking, even bread and butter making" Of Mrs. Will Butcher (Mina McIntosh, the first white baby born in Wattsvue) "There were always cows to milk and pigs to look after, and a flock of chickens and turkeys. She grew a big garden, and picked pails of wild raspberries and saskatoons which she canned for winter. There were lamp and lantern glasses to clean each day. I would hate to estimate the number of loaves of delicious bread she kneaded, and the pounds of butter she churned."

There is humour and a note of pathos in the story of Elizabeth (Myers) Thorpe, married to Hartwell in March 1896. She wept for several nights over the colour — peacock blue — for her wedding dress, the material bought at the store in Binscarth in exchange for produce. It was a new colour, and to her it looked green — bad luck! It was made by a dressmaker, however. Immediately after the ceremony the couple drove to their lonely homestead, where the gown was doffed for chores before the arrival of the guests, who danced and feasted till dawn. The Low story describes the custom of the "chivaree" of early days — derived from the Old Country, and perhaps not yet quite forgotten. "When a couple was married, friends called on them in the evening, usually after they were in bed. With cowbells, dishpans, boilers and sticks, they made such a noise that the couple had to get up and let them in, and feed them before they would leave. This kept up until the early hours of the morning."

Mrs. Alan Porter of Solsgirth has written a knowing description of some of the tasks of the farm wife — "One of the most laborious jobs was the washing of clothes. Water had to be hauled from sloughs or the river, and strained or left to settle. Sometimes lye was added to soften the water. In winter snow was melted — a slow process, but the water so soft! Soap was made from melted beef fat and lye, and the clothes scrubbed on a washboard. White clothes were boiled with coal-oil to whiten them — no bleaches in those days. After washing, the clothes were hung on a fence or clothes-line. What a tragedy when the line broke and the wash fell in the mud! Then came the ironing with heavy

sad-irons, with the detachable handle to save burned hands. As the stove had to kept hot for the irons, the housewife usually planned on baking bread the same day to save wood, and hours in the heat. No permanent-press shirts.

Cooking was an endless job for the early housewife. Yet a visitor was always welcome, and meals were delicious as everything was prepared at home. No opening of cans, biscuit mixes or other so-called luxuries of to-day. Life was hard, however. In harvest time especially the day began around five A.M. to have breakfast ready for the threshers at six. Children enjoyed the excitement of threshing time, with lots of men around, but had no inkling of the worries of their parents.

Home Economics Societies and Women's Institutes

The first of these came into being in 1910, when the Manitoba Agricultural College offered to supply speakers for women's meetings. That year twenty-two such meetings were held at rural points, resulting in the formation of seventeen Home Economics Societies, one of these being at Birtle. In 1918 the College Department of Home Economics increased its extension work by using senior students in the summer months, from which developed Home Demonstration Agents in rural Manitoba.

The first Annual Convention was held at M.A.C. in February 1911, and four years later the local Presidents met to consider establishing an Advisory Board, which included four elected representatives of local Women's Institutes, as the name became about 1920. Mrs. David Watt was a member of the first Advisory Council in 1915. Districts were started about this same time, which met in convention to nominate members for election to the Advisory Council. By 1919 there were thirteen districts, 112 locals and 4,124 members. After the First War the number of local W.I.'s grew, but the number of members decreased a little — no doubt because of a diminished feeling of urgency. Nonetheless the movement grew and developed as "the members on their own initiative, and as the need arose, rendered meritorious and unselfish service to their communities".

Their varied activities included short courses, libraries, sewing classes, magazine circles, boys' and girls' clubs, hot lunches, playgrounds, welcome to new settlers, rest rooms, child welfare, street lighting, community halls, cemeteries, war memorials.¹¹

The history lists the Women's Institutes by date of charter — Birtle Charter No. 11, 1910; Solsgirth Charter No. 29, 1915; Foxwarren Charter No. 42, 1916; Birdtail Charter No. 132, 1923; Rothesay Charter No. 231, 1947.

Birtle Women's Institute

In 1910 a representative of the Manitoba Extension Service — Miss Juniper — visited many Manitoba towns including Birtle, with the purpose of forming organizations of women, whose main work would be in the homes and districts. As a result the Birtle Household Science

Association was formed, and the first regular meeting was held Dec. 3, 1910, with Mrs. G. H. Malcolm as President and Mrs. David Watt as secretary. It was decided to meet the first Saturday of every month in the town hall and to levy a fee of 50¢. A suitable Christmas program followed the business, and at the close of the meeting there were forty members. This association filled a cultural and social need and was a medium through which Extension workers could carry out educational and inspirational projects. The forty members increased during the war years to over one hundred. This group organized a Red Cross Society, sponsored concerts to raise money for overseas and relief purposes, formed a Hospital Aid, started a library, and established a trust fund for triplets — this fund later was turned into a Victory bond and given to the mother. A Club rest-room was established and maintained in various places — the Shepherd property — the old Post Office — the front of the Pratt block and latterly on the ground floor of the Masonic Hall. It was necessary to rent and heat the room and supply a matron. Through the years the room was gradually furnished with tables, Chairs, cupboards, dishes, etc. and had ample space for the large lending library. For years too it supplied the only public toilet in the town. It was the custom to serve ten-cent Saturday teas, the members taking turns serving. The room was available to other groups who wished to rent it for teas, bazaars, meetings, showers, etc. The organization's big money-making project was serving lunches at the July 1st Sports Day and in those years there were no conveniences, no electricity, no water, and very little shelter. The women were not daunted — tanks of water and big boilers were hauled in and a man was hired to tend the open fires. The women worked all day long — as well as many hours the previous days and felt well rewarded if \$200.00 was cleared. Another big project was the New Year's Eve dance. Lunch was prepared in the afternoon to be served at midnight. Both Rural and Town Councils gave annual grants to help with the Club room expenses and many a farmer donated a load of wood.

To return to the early years: In 1911 the first annual Provincial Convention was held in Winnipeg and the name Household Science Assoc. was changed to "Home Economics Society". At the 1916 convention Birtle H.E.S. won a Maytag washer as a prize for an exhibit of home products. Through these and the following years many short courses were given by the Extension Service in dressmaking, cooking, cannery, etc.

There have been many dedicated workers in the Women's Institute (as it became known in 1919) but the most memorable leader would be Mrs. David Watt. She was a typical farm woman, one who never spared herself in home, church, and other local public works. No wonder then that she was elected the first secretary and later served seven consecutive years as President. She became Provincial President in 1919 and Federal President in 1923. She enhanced the prestige of the Institutes through the organizing of a W.I. Exhibit at the Exhibition at Toronto in which each province had a share. Manitoba's display

TWO NATIONAL PRESIDENTS



Mrs. David Watt, 1923-1925.



Mrs. E. V. Fulton, 1971-1973.

was supplemented by a team of two girls who gave demonstrations on "honey". She was a life member of the Birtle W.I. and the highest honour in the gift of the F.W.I.C., a life membership, was conferred upon her in 1933 shortly before her death. In 1930 Mrs. Watt brought further honour to the Institute by being appointed a judge at the Community Progress competition arranged by the Colonization Department of the C.N.R. and designed to stimulate the new Canadians of the province. In the Birtle W.I. Club room, a beautiful photograph of Mrs. Watt (given by her family) was unveiled and dedicated Dec. 14, 1933. This picture hung there until the disastrous fire of 1968, when everything was lost. She has left a shining name among those who have written the foundation chapters of the Women's Institute.

In the 2nd World War years Birtle W.I. was honoured to have its second Provincial President — in the person of Mrs. T. L. Townsend. She was an enthusiastic and faithful member — was President of the local Institute for some years and became one of its life members. She has since left Birtle but has continued with her W.I. work, and in 1972 returned to Manitoba to dedicate her gift in memory of her husband, — a plaque and washroom in the W.I. picnic area in the Peace Garden.

In the past ten to twenty years the W.I. has continued with many of the same projects. After the loss of the club room and its contents by fire, of necessity the Saturday teas were discontinued, and the serving of July 1st lunches was turned over to another organization. The society has continued to be active — now meeting in homes or the United Church Lounge. It has commenced several new projects such as:

- (1) an annual tea and sale for the Children's Aid or Rheumatism and Arthritis Society

- (2) catering at the Agricultural Fair
- (3) a book cart for the hospital and members to tend it
- (4) books to the Children's Hospital Book Mart in Winnipeg — books to the local schools and to the Inuvick Library
- (5) assistance in sending students to the United Nations Seminar
- (6) sponsoring 4-H projects
- (7) providing a layette for the first New Year's Baby in our hospital
- (8) generous financial help for the Community Hall

The planned programs have been used since their inception and speakers have been procured to assist in studying topics such as "health units", "native people" or "pollution".

Birtle is again honoured by having its second National President — Mrs. E. V. Fulton. She came to Birtle as a war bride, and very soon became an active member in the Institute, becoming before many years President — then District President and in 1965 Provincial President and she is now completing her term as Federal President. She too is a farm woman who has not spared herself, and is a great asset in the Institute and District. Birtle W.I. is very proud to claim as its own the only two National Presidents from Manitoba.

Rothesay Women's Institute

The Rothesay W.I. was established in August of 1947, and received its charter in September 1950. First President was Mrs. T. Mallard, Secretary Mrs. Thomas Young and Treasurer Mrs. F. Wiseman. Many of the needs of the community were met by the organization, although the membership was never large. Besides contributions to W.I. projects and charitable groups, the Rothesay women arranged functions such as dances and card parties, showers, catering for weddings and anniversaries, parcels and flowers to the sick, school projects, camps and dental clinics for children.

While it was active, the Rothesay W.I. served the community well. The meetings gave opportunity for discussion of matters of general interest. The W.I. was disbanded in January 1972, but is still missed in the district.

Foxwarren Women's Institute 1916-1971

From the Minutes of June 27th, 1916:

The first meeting of the Foxwarren Home Economics Society was held in the school with Miss Clarke of the Manitoba Agricultural College. Officers appointed were: President — Mrs. F. Cooper; Vice-President — Mrs. F. Smith; Secretary-Treasurer — Miss N. Johnson. In July, signatures and fees of fourteen members were noted, and later the number stood at twenty-two. The first meetings were held in the homes of members, the Oddfellows' Hall, the school and the Methodist Church. There is a note later that Mr. Johnson, the school caretaker, was to make fires on Saturdays for 25 cents a month. (By 1927 the

caretaker of the Club Room was paid 15 cents per week to light fires — early inflation!)

By July, 1917 some thought was given to a Club or Rest Room, and donations were acknowledged from Eaton's, some business men and a member. In September application was made to the Council and the Grain Growers, and later to both Ellice and Birtle Municipalities, who in 1918 responded, Ellice with \$15.00, Birtle with \$25.00. Meanwhile a stove was purchased for \$6.00, and wood was promised by Mrs. Leavens and Mrs. H. McCredie. The first Rest Room Committee was comprised of Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Burdett. A Red Cross Committee was formed in September 1916, with Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. C. Leavens, Mrs. Denham and Mrs. Burdett. By the following July the women changed the meetings to evening for the hot weather. An evening out would give the house time to cool off, as well as making for a much cooler drive for both ladies and horses.

Programming the meetings was always a major part of the W.I. work, as the aims were primarily educational, and much assistance was given by the Department of Extension of the Agricultural College. In the first year demonstrations of canning and preserving, also hat-making, and papers on the objectives of the Home Economics Societies, and on preparation of special goodies like puff pastry and Christmas pudding were given by members or guests. Meetings were held with the ladies of the Birtle Society taking part. In 1917 programs covered a broad range — invalid care and home nursing, household hints, preparation and storing of food, poultry raising and fancy work, and a paper on "Literature and Life". In 1918 subjects were concentrated on the home and children, with recreation, school lunches, saving steps in the kitchen receiving attention. "Do these subjects sound familiar? How far have we progressed in these areas?" asks the writer. In a year or so, with the pressure of war removed, the responsibility of women as citizens came under consideration — with papers on women as voters, parliamentary procedure — in addition to recipes and helps for wash-day. In 1920 there was a presentation on "The Legal Rights of Manitoba Women", and an effort was made to get women out to vote. The liquor traffic and Temperance laws were looked at in the twenties, when Prohibition was "in" but not working too well. Also in those years readings and music brightened the meetings, and the W.I. Travelling Library was applied for, in addition to a Book Club and small library of their own.

Meanwhile the good work in which women excel continued — catering for dinners to raise funds, collecting money and articles for Red Cross, Children's Aid, Salvation Army, C.N.I.B., Fresh Air Camps, knitting for soldiers in the trenches and welcoming them home. In 1918 a committee was formed to collect eggs for the French Red Cross. "Wonder how fresh they were by the time the French received them?"

Ten members attended a Convention in Birtle in June 1920, where a resolution was endorsed in support of "Maternity Cases among the

wives of returned soldiers, to assure them of adequate care if unable to provide for themselves. This to include hospital and medical fees, and in cases of impossibility to reach hospital, that medical and nursing expenses be paid." Beds were to be supported in the local hospitals for this purpose.

A few years later the members undertook to call on newcomers in the district to make them welcome. They also instituted a "Cemetery Day", when the men did what was needed for a clean-up of the grounds, and the ladies served lunch. Perhaps Thomas Low Sr. stirred them to action with his poem on the subject.

As with most organizations, the W.I. had its periods of self-doubting it seems. Mrs. C. Leavens, the first delegate to the H.E.S. Convention in January 1917, became President in 1919, but in her report at the end of the year expressed some dissatisfaction with progress to date — perhaps the effect of end-of-the-war lack of direction and firm objectives. Lunch after meetings was an innovation next year, no doubt stimulated interest and attendance, and was never thereafter neglected. Mrs. Leavens served as President in the next year, but the loss of the Minutes for 1920-26 makes it difficult to ascertain whether she was later better pleased with the progress of the group.

The years since the twenties have been busy with many projects, renovation of the Club House, the institution in 1929 of a "Grandmothers' Tea" — which became an annual event, and in time included most of the members. In 1938 meetings were enhanced by the purchase of a piano. The annual roast beef dinner on the day of the Fat Stock Show was an appropriate and very enjoyable undertaking.

In 1938 the main project was a Dental Clinic, and much time and effort was devoted to making this work well. One hundred and ten public school children received treatment.

During the late 1960's interest began to decrease, and younger members were hard to attract. In 1971 with great regret the charter was returned, and the building was sold to the Legion for a Clubroom. The last officers were — President — Mrs. Ed Low; Secretary — Mrs. Edward Widdicombe; Treasurer — Mrs. Doug Falloon (and for at least fifteen years earlier).

Solsgirth Women's Institute

The Solsgirth Women's Institute was formed in 1915, by an Extension Service Staff member from the Provincial Government.

The first President, Mrs. William Hamilton was a woman of vision and strength of character, with qualities of leadership, whose pioneer efforts to gain members were so persevering that she asked each woman she met to become a member or even an associate. Looking back, one wonders if it must have been at times a little joke among her friends. Vice-president was Mrs. E. Hall, who lived in the village and whose husband was always willing to help out. The Secretary-Treasurer was Mrs. H. Porteous. She was later President for a number of years, and

due to her wise management, the W.I. thrived. After Mrs. Porteous, a teacher, Miss Esther Moulson, then Mrs. W. Gray were Secretary.

Early work was for the Red Cross during the 1914-1918 war. The members received material already cut out from the Red Cross, sewed them according to directions and returned them to the Red Cross. Even padded gowns and surgical gowns were made.

Funds were raised by garden parties, barn dances, fowl suppers, and a White Elephant Sale. Mr. F. A. Wilcocks, Auctioneer of Birtle, gave his services. The "White Elephants" were of a wide variety, from garden produce and home cooking (which included canned meats, vegetables, and pickles, pies and cakes) to an ice cream freezer, camera and young pigs. Because of the good auctioneering and the spirit of the crowd, well over \$200.00 was realized.

When peace was declared after the First World War, the people of Solgirth met on the square in front of the C.P.R. station and built up a huge bon-fire using as a last resort, the C.P.R. snow fence.

When the boys returned, a social evening was held in their honour, and each was presented with a wrist watch.

In the Second World War, each member of the different services was given a bill-fold before departure for overseas. An all-out effort was made to make quilts, and the Solgirth Branch held a record for making and sending the largest number of quilts. They also knit socks, mitts and scarves (in the first war many remember Mrs. C. J. Dagg doing knitting of sock legs on her machine for other members to finish). They also sewed pyjamas and dressing-gowns. At the close of the war, a ward in Birtle Municipal Hospital was furnished as a memorial to the boys of Solgirth who gave their lives in the conflict.

Meetings were held in the school, the old hotel, the old Burbank residence, and rented rooms until 1921, when a Club room was built. It is interesting to note the total cost, including the mortgage (January 1922 minutes) was \$967.47. In February, each member brought something for the Club Room, to help in furnishing it.

A library was started, with Rev. Richardson sending a gift of books. The library grew and was well used. Two members served tea each Saturday and were there to list the books loaned out.

In 1950 a Scrap-Book — The History of Our Community — was compiled for the Women's Institute by Mrs. O. Workman, Mrs. E. Hamilton, Mrs. R. Butler, and illustrated by Mrs. C. B. Workman. Mrs. H. Bourne was President of the W.I. at this time, and it is of interest that her Grandmother, Mrs. O. Nickel, was one of the first members.

Since 1950, we have had several meetings and social events which will long be remembered. The Grandmother's Tea which we have each June brings in a good crowd. It was once suggested that we make every meeting a Grandmother's Tea, as this brings the most members and visitors.

One year we were asked to model our wedding dresses (or have someone smaller wear them), showing varying styles over the past fifty

years. Roll Call — each describes her wedding dress. Pictures were taken and many comments and memories were enjoyed. Prizes were given for such things as the most grandchildren, the youngest or oldest. One time it was for the Grandmother with the largest feet and one with the most teeth (of her own). This brought much laughter, and of course, some embarrassment.

When the hydro came in 1951, the Club Room was wired and the coal oil and gas lamps were discarded. In November 1965 an oil heater was purchased. It was placed in a corner and took up much less space.

Some of our most interesting meetings were demonstrations. In earlier years these included soap and pastry-making, and more recently, ceramics, Christmas decorations, and candle-making.

One very enjoyable meeting was a flower show in September 1956. Mrs. Govenlock, as President, asked her sister and brother-in-law to come. He gave an interesting talk on selecting and preparing flowers, and judged the flower arrangements. Slides were obtained from the Horticultural Society and the beautiful flowers will long be remembered. Neighboring W.I.'s from Rossburn, Shoal Lake, Foxwarren, Birtle, and Rothesay joined us and entered flower arrangements.

The early 1960's found our Institute catering for quite a number of local weddings. During this time, we purchased a set of silverware and dishes, which made the work much lighter.

A 1967 Centennial Project was the making of a Centennial Quilt. Among others putting a great many hours of work into it, was Mrs. O. Workman. Imagine her surprise when the quilt was presented to her as a farewell gift when she left the community later in the year!

In March 1968, we sponsored a Variety Concert, with Proceeds going to purchase drapes for the lounge and dining room in the Pioneer Lodge in Birtle. All members put a lot of thought and hard work into this project, but a packed house made it all worth while. A few weeks later, portions of the concert were taken to entertain those at Pioneer Lodge. Each year finds us putting on one or two showers for our local girls, giving farewell gifts to leaving members and arranging chivarees for newlyweds in the district.

In recent years, as our community is getting smaller, we have fewer members. It is difficult to carry on, but when March comes we look forward to those Irish jokes and Mrs. H. Nickel at the piano, leading us in Irish songs.

In 1971 it was decided that we disband for two years with a meeting to be held in early 1973 to decide the fate of Solsgirth W.I. A meeting was held at the R. K. Workman home with nine ladies present. It was decided to send the Charter back.

The Solsgirth Busy Bees Sewing Club was organized in 1948 under the leadership of Mrs. Isobel Pickup, Mrs. Daisy Govenlock, Mrs. Hazel Catherwood, Mrs. Connie Ashcroft, Mrs. Etta Hamilton and Mrs. Keitha Dunn. The early meetings were held in the station house,

the Govenlocks home. However, the Women's Institute bought a sewing machine for the club and from then on meetings were held in the W.I. Clubrooms. Records of club activities are scanty but they did jointly with the Beef and Tractor Clubs sponsor a community social evening in 1953 with games, contests, community singing and speeches by award-winning club members, the Ag. Rep and Home Economist. It is also known that the club attended 4-H Rallies exhibiting a club display and jointly with the Beef and Tractor clubs participating in the square-dance competition which was a prominent part of those early 4-H rallies. The club held their Achievement night in the community Memorial Hall annually until 1954 which was their last year of operation.

Foxwarren 4-H Home Economics Club

Boys' and Girls' Clubs in Manitoba date from about 1912, with responsibility shared at first by the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Agriculture, and in 1929 taken over by the Extension Service of M.A.C. In 1972 the sixtieth anniversary of club work in Canada was celebrated, and forty countries now have 4-H.

The 4-H Clothing Club in Foxwarren came into existence in 1944, with fifty-five girls enrolled. It was sponsored by the Women's Institute, and mothers helped with the teaching. Leaders have been Miss Winona Wotton, Mrs. Ed Low, Mrs. Jim Hodgson, and at present Mrs. Ken Tibbatts. In 1948 two Singer treadle machines were purchased by the Club and the W.I., and later irons, ironing boards and skirt marker were added. Kay Laycock (Mrs. Vic Prescott) and Audrey Low (Mrs. Stan Fulham) won provincial demonstration competitions, went on to Toronto and placed third at the Dominion finals. In 1951 Margaret Jelfs (Mrs. Lorne Boulton) and Beverley Tibbatts (Mrs. Ken Ellis) won in Manitoba, also going to Toronto. Sheila Belton won top honours for public speaking in the province, and a gold watch for our area. In 1965 Cathy McFarlin and Carolyn Gilmour went to the provincial finals after winning locally with "Tool Tips".

Several Queens have been among the members — Audrey Low, Verna Lou Laycock and Marjorie Murray at the Dress Review, Edna Clunie in 1967 was crowned by Miss Dominion of Canada, and Carolyn Gilmour and Shelly Groves were Queens of the Centrepiece Competition. The club has participated and been champion at local rallies, and has entered displays and taken part in provincial rallies many times.

Numerous girls and leaders have won exchange trips through merits received. When the W.I. found it difficult to sponsor the Club, the Rebekah Lodge took it on in 1971.

District Home Economists are appointed by the Dept. of Agriculture Extension Service. Among these have been Louise Batho, Norma Morrison, Maxine Heritage, Pat McAuley, Peggy Barker, Joan Dicken. Mrs. Yvonne Gabowsky and Mrs. Vic Prescott attended school in Foxwarren, Miss Glenda Butcher, appointed to Swan River Area, grew up in the Birtle district, and was active in 4-H and C.G.I.T.

Birtle 4-H Home Economics Club

This Club has been in existence for a number of years, and several members have received gold seals for five, six and seven years of activity. They meet in Birtle Collegiate every other week, and hold their Achievement in the United Church Christian Education building. At present the Leader is Mrs. F. Ashcroft, and there are three Units each with a leader. The program includes money-raising through rummage sales and other means, handicrafts and sewing. Some of the girls attend 4-H camps.

Joy Butcher was President in 1971. In 1973 the President was Colleen Ashcroft, Vice-President Josie Shmyr, Secretary Heather Lloyd, Treasurer Marcella Brydon, Reporter Anna Farquhar. Brenda Bartram was in charge of the scrap-book. There were about thirty-five members.

Women's War Work

At the outset of the First World War the value of the Home Economics Society was beyond all estimate. There was no time wasted as the Mayor or Reeve had at once ready to his hand a society inclusive of all women in the district for miles around, who were in a position to render public service. The group undertook all the war work for the district — made vast quantities of war comforts for the Red Cross and raised large sums of money for patriotic purposes. There are many persons who remember fine concerts put on Sunday nights by three sisters — one of whom still resides here — Mrs. Nell Watt. A silver collection was taken and given to the Red Cross. Parcels were sent to the overseas soldiers, and companionship and comfort were given to the lonely at home. With the rationing of so many foods, courses were given in the use of substitute foods. After the war The Home Economics Society did its share in planning a fitting memorial to the boys.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, it was decided at once to organize a women's section of the Birtle Red Cross Society — thus it would be a co-ordinated effort of all who could help. Officers were elected and meetings were held regularly in the Women's Institute Club Room. The W.I. supplied not only the room, but also heat and light and other equipment. A tremendous effort was made, and much work accomplished. Quilting bees were held every week and hundreds of quilts were delivered to the Manitoba Red Cross, along with countless quantities of sewing and knitting. Repaired clothing was priceless, all needed for "Bundles for Britain": Victory Bond sales involved both men and women. Concerts were put on in the Legion Hall to promote these and special entertainers would come from Winnipeg. There was a paper drive and metal scrap drive, in which children helped by a competition in which they won Army Insignia for work accomplished.

THE WAR TIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD was active and Mrs. T. L. Townsend was provincial representative from Birtle to attend meetings in Winnipeg and bring back necessary information.

This group of women carried on all through all the war years. They

came from the town and from the country always working harmoniously. They felt it a privilege to have this small share in furthering the war effort and later the cause of peace.

Ladies' Auxiliary to Royal Canadian Legion

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the British Empire Service League Branch No. 55 was instituted in Birtle on July 10th, 1931 and was later changed to Ladies' Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion.

There have been nine presidents in the forty-three years, some of whom have served more than one term.

The first president was Miss Frances Shaw, first secretary Mrs. Midwinter and first treasurer Miss Smith.

Other presidents through the years have been: Mrs. Bond, Mrs. T. Mallard, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Vic Fulton, Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. Fred Graham, Mrs. T. Mitchell, Mrs. Arnold Wood. Mrs. A. Wood is the current president.

There were twenty-five chartered members of whom nine are still living as far as we have been able to find out.

Remembrance Day banquets and program which was open to the public in the years gone by were the highlight of the year, even during the second war.

During wartime the ladies put on dances every Saturday night, which were always well attended, to raise money to send cigarettes and food parcels to our boys serving overseas.

We have had two District 2A Rallies in Birtle. The one in 1970 was our Province's Centennial Year and we had a large crowd at our Rally. We also had Sandra Heise pipe in the color party and the honored guests. The men's branch served our banquet and made an excellent job of it.

During the years we have also sent socks, pyjamas, magazines and the Birtle Eye-Witness to Deer Lodge Hospital.

Delegates are sent every two years to the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Provincial Command Conventions.

Quite a few members have received their 25 year pins and several are due for 40 year pins.

The aim of the Auxiliary is to look after veterans and their families and to cooperate with the men's branch.

We strive for peace, good will, and friendship among our members and all nations, at the same time advocating the maintenance by Canada of adequate and sufficient forces on land, sea and in the air for the defence of our country and for the discharge of those obligations which rest upon us by virtue of our partnership in the British Commonwealth and Empire.

The Hospital Auxiliary

The first hospital auxiliary was formed in 1936. The Sisters of St. Benedict were in charge of the hospital, having taken over in 1935. At a suggestion of the hospital Board a meeting of interested ladies was

called. Mrs. Phyllis Dutton was elected President and Mrs. Maude Walley as Secretary.

Meetings were held in the Rest Room below the Masonic Hall. Hospital gowns, baby clothes, pyjamas, house coats, sheets and pillow cases were made and all hospital mending was done by the members.

Each fall a tea and a shower (vegetables, preserves, etc.) was held in the dining room of Mrs. Kay Smith's hotel. Mrs. Edwards always assisted the President in receiving the guests. The Auxiliary bought the first electric refrigerator to replace the icebox. Storms frequently put our lighting system out of commission. The doctors one night were forced to complete an operation by lamp light, so at their request, the Auxiliary carried on purchasing, dishes, cutlery, and gowns or anything which they were called upon to get within their means. They

The new hospital was opened January 4th, 1955 and the Hospital Auxiliary carried on purchasing dishings, cutlery, and gowns or anything which they were called upon to get within their means. They purchased some of the small machines and were quite proud of the first cardiograph equipment which was put in by the Auxiliary.

Like all Ladies' organizations they did a worthwhile job until Nov. 14, 1961 when they felt their efforts were no longer necessary as a Hospital Auxiliary and their untiring efforts were turned to a different project.

Ladies' Auxiliary to Pioneer Lodge Inc.

After a great deal of publicity and discussion in our community in 1960 and 1961 regarding a Senior Citizens' Home in Birtle, on May 6, 1961 a meeting was called with twenty-one ladies and four men present in the Rest Room to discuss the needs of such a Home, and to form an Auxiliary to go ahead with the project. Mrs. Maude Walley chaired the meeting and Rev. Whetter gave us a very informative outline of the different approved plans and costs for Senior Citizens' Homes.

It was decided to form an Auxiliary for the purpose of raising funds, and to plan picnics, outings, etc., and for doing something to make life more pleasant for our older people. Mrs. Eph Salmon was elected President, Mrs. J. W. Pratt Vice-President, Mrs. Allie Munro Secretary, Mrs. Annie Wiseman Treasurer and Mrs. Maude Walley Convener of the Ways and Means Committee.

Work started immediately to raise money, making tea towels for sale from sugar sacks which sold for 35 cents each, sale of books, etc. Bazaars and teas were held and we catered to Curling Club lunches and held many dinners. In a short time we had enough money together to help the Directors get started and a Patent was soon obtained for Pioneer Lodge Incorporated.

The Auxiliary was a great help to the Directors in the way of financing. We made many thousands of dollars which helped with the furnishing and carpeting of the lounge and the corridors.

In the month of July 1962 we held our first Senior Citizens' picnic in Birtle's most beautiful park, where we had a good turn out. The

Town of Birtle assured us that the first Sunday in July would become known in Birtle as Senior Citizens' Day, and each year since 1962 a dinner and program has been held for the senior citizens of our community. To date we are grateful to the Anglican Church people for the use of the Parish Hall for this memorable occasion.

We now have a beautiful Lodge where there are 25 single units and five double units which are filled all the time. This all makes a beautiful home for the older members of our community. It would appear that our residents are all very happy without a dull moment. A P.A. System has been installed in 1973.

Many thanks to the Ladies of our Auxiliary who made all this possible by their generous support, efforts and harmony in working together. In 1973 we have 56 members on our roll.

Artaban Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star

Artaban Chapter was instituted in Birtle on March 1st, 1923, with Mrs. Carrie Beckstead as first Worthy Matron and Brother F. E. Pitts as first Worthy Patron, with fourteen members from Russell Chapter attending. The chapter was named for the fourth wise man, Artaban. Mr. J. C. Cartwright was one who had promoted the idea of forming a chapter in Birtle. Unfortunately most records were lost in a fire which destroyed the Masonic Hall in 1968.

Over the years there have been 159 names listed as members, and fifty were on the roll for the Fiftieth Anniversary on March 1st, 1973. Three Charter Members were still living, but not present for the event. A brief history of the Chapter was read, which mentioned the many hours of volunteer service and the many dollars contributed to causes such as research in cancer, heart disease, arthritis and rheumatism, to the C.N.I.B., Children's Aid, as well as Masonic and O.E.S. projects. In recent years an interdenominational chapel was built at the International Peace Garden.

Foxwarren Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star

Foxwarren Chapter, No. 58, Order of the Eastern Star was instituted by Worthy Grand Patron Arthur Hopkins, assisted by Worthy Grand Matron Mary Owens on February 27, 1954. The impressive ceremony was held in the Assembly Hall of the Foxwarren School with officers of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba in attendance and Artaban Chapter of Birtle conferring the degrees. Sixteen Manitoba Chapters were represented, one from Saskatchewan and one from North Dakota. In July of the same year, the chapter received its constitution from Worthy Grand Matron Christine Piper and Worthy Grand Patron William Bradley. Our first officers were Worthy Matron, Lillian MacGranachan, Worthy Patron, Fred Tarrant, and secretary, May Johnston.

Through the years, our Chapter has supported many worthy causes; Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, Red Cross, Institute of the Blind, Children's Aid Society, Cancer Research, the

Heart Fund, and our own Eastern Star Awards for Religious Leadership. We also help to maintain Eastern Star and Masonic homes for the aged, Job's Daughters and Demolay and have had our own musical award presented at the local musical festival.

Our Chapter has been honoured by having two of its members serve as officers of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba; and has had several of her members named as Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions in Manitoba. We meet once a month and dedicate our efforts to the pursuit of charity, truth, loving-kindness, and the good of our fellow man.

Prudence Rebekah Lodge No. 25

Early in 1948 Unity Lodge No. 68 I.O.O.F. decided to agree to Brother Alvin Thorpe's suggestion, that a Rebekah Lodge be instituted in Foxwarren.

Accordingly application was made and a Rebekah Lodge namely, Prudence No. 25 was instituted on April 15, 1948 by Assembly Officers, assisted by members of Purity 26 and Crystal No. 49.

Purity initiation team initiated twenty-two members, after which officers were installed by Crystal No. 49.

Sister Jemima Webster (teacher) was installed as Noble Grand and Sister Evelyn Crerar as Vice Grand for that term.

So Prudence Rebekah Lodge No. 25 became active and has been active ever since.

We had some stormy days prior to our Lodge opening. The road we used into town had numerous snow-banks across it, and traffic had passed over them leaving a switch-back trail.

Going into town, using a wagon-box and bob-sleighs was not too bad, for it was daylight, but returning by team and cutter in the dark was a little different.

Chapter IX

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

"That all people of the earth may know . . . that this house which I have builded is called by Thy Name." I Kings 8:43

Men of the faith, of all denominations, were among the very early travellers in the west. Priests of the Roman Catholic church came with the explorers to bring the Word of God, undeterred by discomforts and hazards. Rev. John West, the first Anglican priest in Red River in 1820, opened a school there, left it to his assistant, and travelled the rivers and lakes of Manitoba to bring to the Indian people "just and true ideas of the Saviour."

Many are the stories of Methodist Rev. George McDougall, who was often met on the plains, accompanied only by his Cree guide "Souzie" (meaning Joseph). He and his son John stopped at Fort Ellice many times en route to Fort Edmonton. They wrote of enjoying pancakes and maple syrup there, and their first slice of real bread in two years. John married his second wife in the east, and they travelled by cart and horseback from Fort Garry to Edmonton through snows and blizzards in February. Rev. Daniel Gordon, travelling by the long route through San Francisco, northern B.C. and Edmonton in 1879, visited Fort Ellice, and learned that the Hamilton Colonization Company had secured two townships for settlement.

These dauntless men of God were in the habit of holding services wherever they chanced to find hearers. Lizzie McFadden, a youthful traveller to northern Saskatchewan, wrote in her diary that they passed the McDougall party on the trail. "He is going to preach to-morrow, and we are going to camp near them." "Banner Country" tells the story of Presbyterian Rev. McLean, who came across a group of wayfarers greasing the axles for a trip to Ellice for freight. "We were soon all seated, and Mr. McLean opened his Bible and commenced to read a chapter — and the cattle and ponies were getting farther away every minute —".

Sometime after 1860 Rev. Thomas Cook, brother of the wife of Factor McKay, set up an Anglican mission outside the Fort stockade, to minister to "people of the lowest condition". A Roman Catholic mission served by Father Decorby and others was established near St. Lazare. Other clergymen made a temporary stop at the Fort to hold services. Archdeacon Cowley in 1877 preached to the Indians with an interpreter Mr. Pratt, a well-educated Cree formerly of Qu'Appelle. Dr. Andrew Baird on his way to Edmonton preached two services, and slept in the same bed occupied the year previous by the Marquis of Lorne.

"Missionaries — on flying trips during the summer of '79 reported great need for work among settlers in the Shoal Lake and Birtle districts. As a result C. M. Copeland arrived in Birtle in October, and started work for the Presbyterian Church. On October 25th Henry Rose, a Methodist student, arrived — and made plans for regular ser-

vices. Messrs. Copeland and Rose arranged their schedules so as not to clash. Each gave Birtle a service once in three weeks."¹

"Peageant" narrates the saga of Rev. Rose, who homesteaded near Minnedosa in April 1879. He travelled with a toboggan and a Mountie seventy-seven miles to Winnipeg, preaching en route, at various points. Through storms in March 1880, undeterred by snowblindness, he walked or rode over three hundred miles to Shoal Lake, Birtle, Rossburn. P. W. Grant writes that he came regularly to Solsgirth, walking from Birtle summer and winter, sometimes taking a route around Shoal Lake. Later we are told that the Rev. Hodnett used to snowshoe up the river from Birtle to Solgirth.

Meanwhile, back in Birtle, plans were underway for regular services and permanent establishments. "J. H. Wood's home was freely given to both denominations. Mr. Copeland had a small space curtained off in Chambers' boarding-house for a study. Mr. Rose adopted early-day teacher style, and boarded with his parishioners, starting at Alfred Morton's. A Union Sunday School was started on July 24th, 1881, with J. H. Wood Superintendent, Alfred Morton Bible Class, Oscar Carpenter and Miss Patterson (later Mrs. Joseph Dutton) as teachers."¹ Mrs. Dutton wrote in her diary in 1881: "Ontario has lately sent us two of her ablest ministers, a Methodist and a Presbyterian. We meet for worship in Mr. Wood's house, where there is a large parlor and a piano." By 1882 Albert Hall had been built, and the upper floor was used for services.

St. Alban's Anglican Church — Blenheim

St. Alban's, one of the few stone churches in western Manitoba, is situated on land donated by Sir James Aikins of Winnipeg. Its name was chosen by Mrs. Hooper, who laid the corner-stone in 1902, in honour of the first British martyr, who died June 22nd, 303 A.D.

Earlier Anglican services were held in homes, and for fifteen years in Blenheim School. Rev. Mitton, Rev. Wakefield and Rev. George Armstrong served in those years. Rev. E. R. C. Pritchard was Rector when the church was built. The committee consisted of Mr. C. R. Winter, Rector's Warden, R. Buchan-Hepburn, People's Warden, and Messrs. Malcolm, Seale, Spencer and Palmer. The church was dedicated Dec. 27th, 1903 by Rt. Rev. S. P. Matheson, Suffragen Bishop of Rupertsland. Exactly fifty years later was the final Annual Meeting.

The building was constructed by W. Lidster of stones from nearby. The interior was lined with cedar and fir, the finishing done by Rev. Armstrong and Harry Rake. Mr. Vibert of Shoal Lake did decorative burnt wood work, and made the font in memory of his wife's nephew. Parishioners gave memorials in memory of loved ones. After World War I a rugged stone cross was erected in memorial to the boys who served overseas.

The first wedding was that of Beatrice (Trixie) Winter to Hubert Meyrick. The first christening was Phil Quelch's, and the first funeral

that of Roger Hepburn. The pioneers who built the church have almost all passed to higher service. Names remembered are Haney, Wady, Webb, Sutcliffe among others. Dedicated service at the organ was given by Miss Seale, Mrs. Malcolm, and recently Mrs. O. Q. Warren.

St. Alban's was officially closed on All Saints' Day, 1964, with a service at St. George's conducted by Rt. Rev. I. A. Norris, Bishop of Brandon, followed by a procession to Blenheim for the final closing.

Foxwarren Anglican Churches Balmerino

The building of Balmerino was a community project in which men and women alike assisted. The furniture was all hand-made, mostly by Robert and Walter Pizzey, and all carving was done by Walter. In 1967 the church was dismantled. The pews were sold to Braendle-Bruce funeral home, and all other pieces of furniture were placed in St. George's, Foxwarren. It is the intention to have a monument erected at the site.

In 1952 Melba Pizzey and Dorothy Watt (Ethel Pizzey's daughter) were married at the church in a double service — the last wedding at Balmerino. The last funeral was that of Thomas Redmond in 1964.

St. George's

In 1907 John H. Hodgson deeded a portion of his land — (N.E. corner of S.E.¼ 5-17-27) to the group of pioneers who belonged to the Church of England. Here they built the church which is still used for regular services in Foxwarren. In 1921 two lots were purchased from A. Laycock in the village, and between October and December the church was moved to its present site. Archdeacon Thomas of Brandon was present for the first service, and the minister was Rev. T. R. Lancaster.

Among those who served as ministers over the years were Reverends R. C. Pitts, J. Lane, J. H. Hill, B. H. Nugent-Wilson, G. W. Dawson, C. G. Littler, A. Nixon, H. Moss, I. Norris, R. C. Mathews, H. Markle, Capt. Logan, G. Adams, C. W. J. Salmon, J. D. Lafferty, W. S. Smith, A. J. Middleditch, E. Hyatt, Chas. Sells. Some of these were student ministers, and would travel by train from Winnipeg to Binscarth on Saturday night, conduct two services and return Sunday night to resume classes Monday morning.

In 1913 the Women's Auxiliary and Missionary Society were formed. Until 1970 it carried on to help with financing and with missions at home and abroad with sales of handicrafts and baking. They also helped clothe Indian children in the residential schools. There was a Junior Girls' Auxiliary in the 1920's and a Sunday School from 1916 until World War II, and again in the 1950's. At other times children were taught by the "Sunday School by Post". Once a year the Bishop's Messengers visited the homes.

We remember with gratitude the pioneers who built our church and helped keep Christianity alive.

St. George's Anglican Church — Birtle

According to the first Vestry Book a meeting presided over by Rev. W. Dawson was held in the Town Hall on Sept. 25th, 1881, to establish an Anglican Church. The Incumbency was to be called St. George's, Rector's Warden was Mr. O'Callaghan and People's Warden was Mr. Leacock. Vestrymen were Mr. Hooper, Mr. Hopton and Mr. Herchmer. For the time being, services were held in the Town Hall.

On June 9th, 1883 Bishop Machray of Rupertsland visited Birtle, approved the site chosen for the new church and gave permission for its building at the cost of \$1500.00, of which \$1100.00 had been promised. On Sunday June 10th ten candidates were presented by Rev. J. J. Morton for confirmation. On Monday Rev. Morton and Miss Catherine Ellen Simpson were married by Bishop Machray.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21st, 1884, the new church was officially opened by Bishop Machray. Rev. Morton carried on the mission until Dec. 30, 1887, holding services also in schools and private homes in Solsgirth, Blenheim and Beulah. For more than seventy years Old St. George's was the centre of Anglican worship in Birtle.

Disaster struck on Sunday, March 8th, 1955 at 10 A.M. and forty below, when the fire siren summoned firemen and others to the old church. Valuable items, the organ and stained glass windows were rescued. However the church chimes, "one of our dearest possessions" were lost with the belfry, where the fire started. They were thought to be priceless and irreplaceable.

Undaunted by the great misfortune, the congregation held meetings and planned for a new church, with a good basement for a Parish Hall. The rubble was soon cleared, and the contractor began work in July. The cost was to be \$35,000.00, partly covered by insurance on the old building. Rev. Frank Coyle with church members and others raised one thousand dollars for new chimes with an operetta, "H.M.S. Pinafore".

The chimes were installed March 28th, 1956, and the first service was held on Sunday, April 22nd, before Rev. Coyle's departure for another Parish. Determined to meet the debt on the church, the congregation worked hard for three years. On July 5th, 1959, at the time of Birtle's and St. George's seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations, the beautiful new church was consecrated at the morning service by Rt. Rev. I. A. Norris, Bishop of Brandon, in the presence of old and young, new people and some from the early days.

The church building is 36 by 72 feet, stuccoed in white. With its Rectory, built in 1950, it makes a lovely picture on the bank of the Bird-tail. Its Parish Hall is used for many meetings for the church, and also by the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. Active in St. George's are two branches of the A.C.W., Junior Girls' Auxiliary, Altar Guild, Little Helpers, as well as Choir and Sunday School.

Ministers

1887- — Rev. F. R. Hole	1926-27 — Rev. D. J. Littlejohns
1888-93 — Rev. W. T. Mitton	1927-47 — Rev. W. J. Finch
1893-94 — Rev. A. Standen	1947-49 — Rev. B. O. Whitfield
1894-96 — Rev. C. Wood	(On leave)
1896-02 — Rev. W. Robertson	1949-50 — Mr. W. G. Chapman
1902-07 — Rev. E. C. R. Pritchard	1950-51 — Rev. B. O. Whitfield
1907-09 — Rev. G. G. Armstrong	1952-53 — Rev. W. J. Hunter
1909-10 — Rev. C. Hooper	1953-56 — Rev. F. R. Coyle
1910- — Rev. E. C. Storr	1956- — Capt. R. J. Pullar
1910-17 — Rev. T. H. J. Walton	1956-62 — Rev. J. M. Buck
1918- — Student	1962-66 — Rev. D. M. Flint
1919-20 — Rev. C. H. Bristol	1966-68 — Rev. J. Van Lane
1921-25 — Rev. G. W. Legge	1968-73 — Rev. R. L. Jacobs
	1973- — Rev. M. Harding

Solsgirth Anglican Churches *St. James'*

From about 1882 the Anglican members of nearby homesteads met at the home of Mr. F. B. Miller, who had brought with him several



St. James Anglican Church, Solsgirth.

books of sermons and a piano. This group combined forces to erect St. James Anglican Church in 1889, on land given by Mr. J. L. Ridout. In England Bishop Percival, whose son Reginald "a farm pupil" was active in the venture, helped to gather funds. The frame structure, beautifully situated overlooking the valley, is said to have been built by Fred Holman. William Collins of Rossburn built the foundation with stones gathered in a "bee". On Nov. 15th, 1891 the church was consecrated by Rev. S. P. Matheson, later Primate of Canada.

The pulpit and lectern were given in memory of Mr. Miller and his son William. The first incumbent, Rev. W. T. Mitton, presented the Vestry book. He served St. James and also Birtle, Blenheim and Rossburn from 1889 to 1893. His successors included ministers who served other parishes, and also several students and laymen.

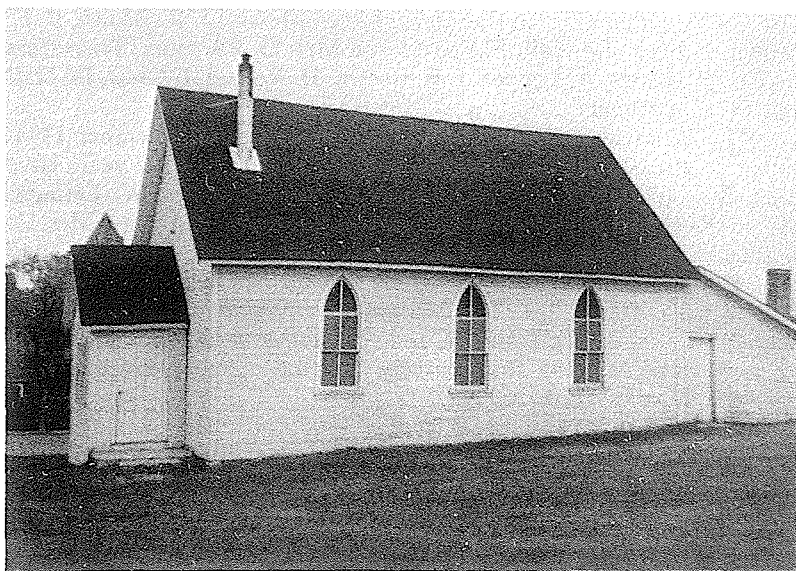
As Solsgirth grew around the station, four miles south of St. James, meetings of all denominations were held in the community hall and in the school. Mr. S. Broadfoot, arriving by train on a Sunday in May, 1890 — "trekked over with the others, also several wagons and buckboards loaded with adults and children. Rev. Mitton drove up from Birtle with a team on ponies . . . which were stabled, then all went into the school, and the service began."

St. Stephen's

By 1905 there was a movement to bring St. James' to Solsgirth, but it raised such a storm that the idea was dropped. Rev. E. C. R. Pritchard was a prime mover in building St. Stephen's in the village. The corner-stone was laid by Birtle Masonic Lodge in the summer of 1906. Rev. T. J. Latornelle was the priest in charge, serving the district until 1915. Mr. E. B. R. Hall was the first Rector's Warden, and Mr. J. J. Whitworth People's Warden. The first baptism was that of Hazel Margaret Cochrane (Mrs. Howard Catherwood) March 17th, 1908; first marriage that of James Goodman Stern and Annie Antinoni Feb. 1st, 1908. The first funeral was August 21st, that of Mrs. Alfred Bailey (nee Workman).

In 1909 St. James, Solsgirth, Rossburn and Buckleyville were made into a separate parish. Rev. Henry Boyd followed Rev. Latornelle until 1919 then Rev. J. Richardson and Rev. W. F. Bushe until 1926. Lay readers mentioned were J. C. Cartwright, W. Chapman, J. Tyman. Since 1926 the churches have been served by the clergy from Birtle. In 1965 the two churches decided to amalgamate under Rev. David Flint, with services at St. James' in summer and St. Stephen's in winter.

Church records invariably reflect local conditions. At times attendance was small because of storms, rains, impassable roads. Once service was cancelled "because the church smoked". In September 1918 St. James was closed for the epidemic of Spanish influenza. In 1966 the steeple was removed because of deterioration, and radiant heating installed next year reflected a growing shortage of firewood. When Blenheim Church was closed in 1964 its lovely altar and chair replaced the original in St. James'.



Birtle Baptist Church.

Birtle Baptist Church

In 1883 Baptist Believers residing in or near Birtle resolved to form a Baptist Church. A special service was held in the Town Hall on June 5th, with speaker Rev. Dr. Crawford from the Baptist Training College at Rapid City. The decision was made to organize a Baptist Church. Charter Members were: Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Wilcocks, Mr. and Mrs. L. Fry, Mr. A. Lepper, Miss Martha Thick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, Mr. J. R. Brown, Misses Lizzie and Louisa Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hargreaves, Mr. and Mrs. T. Almack, Mr. J. H. Innes, Mr. W. Pengelly and Mr. J. Waldock.

The first Church Clerk was J. H. Innes. Services were held in the Town Hall in homes until 1895, conducted at first by students from the College, then in 1884 by Rev. Jordan, Rev. Cody and Rev. H. B. Schaffeur. In 1895 Rosemount Chapel in Newdale was purchased and moved to its present location with horses. Formal opening was Oct. 20th, with minister Rev. J. P. McIntyre. The vestry was built in 1889, with Rev. D. Holford minister.

For some years services were conducted also at Beulah, Ellice and Oxford and Burdette schools, and for a time at Solsgirth. In 1938 Birtle, Shoal Lake and Strathclair were a Field, with minister Rev. Duncan Richie. Strathclair withdrew in 1954 to be self-supporting. Since 1968 its minister has taken services at Birtle. The present expectation is for a minister for the three churches once more.

In 1962 Miss Rosamound Brown, daughter of Charter Members, willed her house to the Church as a parsonage. Miss Brown had served for years as Church Clerk, and for forty years as Sec. Treas. of the Mis-

sion Circle. Other Church Clerks have been Messrs. J. R. Brown, F. E. Brown, I. Crew, Ed Hall, F. Sparks and Mrs. O. Barteaux. Treasurers have been Messrs. A. Lepper, J. R. Brown, H. Reeder, I. Crew, Ed Hall and O. T. Barteaux.

The Women's Mission Circle was organized in December 1894, with first President Mrs. J. Brown. Presidents through the years have been: Mrs. W. H. Redman, Mrs. A. J. Bowbrick, Mrs. W. Letham, Mrs. J. H. Hart, Mrs. I. Crew, Mrs. K. Crew, Mrs. V. McKay, Mrs. O. T. Barteaux, Mrs. A. Watson, Mrs. H. Dandridge, Mrs. G. Nelner, and Mrs. E. Backlin. A Ladies' Aid Group was formed in 1916, with President Mrs. G. Dandridge. The two groups amalgamated as the W.A., holding meetings once a month, and very active in Home and Foreign Mission work, sending food parcels, hospital supplies, clothing and quilts to those in need.

Sunday School was organized in 1895, with Mr. A. Lepper as Superintendent. There was an active Mission Band from 1926 to 1968, and a Young People's group for many years, but at present inactive. The church has sponsored a Daily Vacation Bible School from 1955 to 1963. Since then the classes have been conducted by Child Evangelism.

Organists have been Mr. O. Pound, Mrs. E. Randall, Miss Bessie Bell, Mrs. George Dandridge, Miss Estelle Gerdes, Mrs. E. Berry, Mrs. M. McCann, Mrs. A. Duff, Mrs. Ed Hall, Miss Doreen Crew, Miss Lois Dandridge, and at present Mrs. R. W. Gadd.

Ministers of the Baptist Church from 1900 to present times are:

Rev. D. W. Gunn (Interim) (1900)
Rev. J. A. Bowbrick (1902-03) (1909-15)
Rev. W. H. Redman (1905-09)
Rev. W. Letham (1916-19)
Rev. J. W. H. Hart (1920-21)
Rev. P. H. Anderson (1923-26)
Rev. B. Gerdes (1928-37)
Rev. W. McLeod (1944-46)
Rev. H. Kemp (1950) (Interim)
Rev. G. Rempel (1953-54)
Rev. G. Nelner (1955-58)
Rev. B. Jenkins (1964-68)
Rev. F. S. Attwood (1901-02)
Rev. Welsh (1903-05)
Rev. E. B. Chestnut (1915-16) (Interim)
Rev. W. Smalley Sr. (1919-20) (Interim)
Rev. F. Smith (1921-23)
Rev. H. Peppin (1926-28)
Rev. D. Ritchie (1938-42)
Rev. T. McGibbon (1946-49)
Rev. L. Warke (1950-53)
Mr. Keith Haskins (1955) (Interim)
Rev. E. Backlin (1958-63)
Rev. E. Hildebrandt (1968-71)

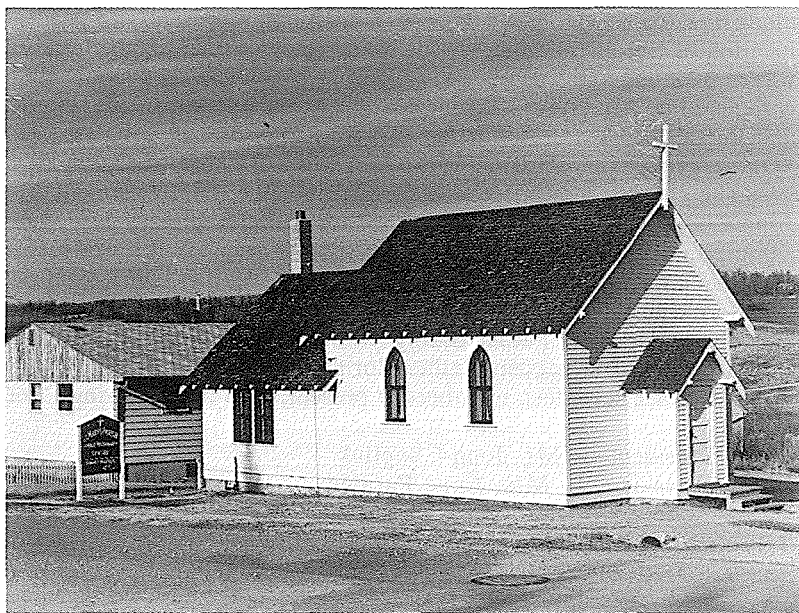
St. Mary's Catholic Church — Birtle

The Roman Catholic Church in Birtle had its beginning with the coming of the Sisters of St. Benedict to take charge of Birtle hospital at the request of the Manitoba Government. A priest came from Russell to say Mass for them, usually on a Monday.

Father J. Desjardins of Russell built the first Catholic Church in 1946. He obtained funds from Church Extension in Toronto, and built the church for \$500.00 — 20' x 40' in dimension, including a sacristy. Three priests, Fathers Neary, McAuley and Mulholland lived there in turn for two years, with meals provided at the hospital. In 1948 the Oblate Fathers took over, and Fathers Heinz and Lapuszanski served there until 1953, when the French Oblate Province took over.

Father Louis-Philippe Giroux became pastor of Birtle, joined in 1954 by Father Joseph Poulette. The district included Beulah, Miniota, Arrow River, Decker, Shoal Lake, Kelloe, Solsgirth, Foxwarren and Wattsview. Father Poulette also looked after the Indian Reserve of Gambler, Valley River, Rolling River, Lizard Point, as well as all the Metis in the area. He moved to Birtle from Binscarth, and the two priests lived together "like two brothers", Father Giroux continued as chaplain to the Sisters, and had his meals at the hospital, while Father Poulette had his at the Robert Hotel.

In 1956 Father Giroux had to leave because of illness. Father Poulette, now alone, died in October 1957. Father Gerard Nogue, then Father Romeo Beaulieu took his place, assisted after 1959 by a lay



St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Birtle.

Brother Stanley Heytens until 1971. In 1962 funds were provided by the diocesan and oblate authorities to build a larger rectory at a cost of \$17,000.00, to accommodate another priest. "For Father Beaulieu, it was just like he had won the Stanley Cup".

Recent missionary priests have been Father Mark Monforton, Father Frank Lemire, Father Edmond Paris and Father Denis Bourbonnais since 1970. In 1972 the Birtle missionary centre was attached to the parish of St. Lazare, and the Indian missions to Toutes-Aides. The Benedictine Sisters left in 1970 for lack of recruits.

St. Peter's Ukrainian Catholic Church

We had our first meeting on November 29, 1953, when we decided to build a church. There were around twenty-five to thirty families at that time. We held our services at the Roman Catholic Church for the first few years, until we gathered some money and started to build in the year 1957.

Our church was finished and consecrated in 1961. It is a wooden frame building, with stucco on the outside, and we have oil heat.

Reverend Peter Romanyshyn was our first parish priest. Reverend Stephen Boris is our priest at present. He comes once a month to Birtle, and has charge of four other churches.

Solsgirth Catholic Church

Our church was the former Burdette School, which was situated along the former Highway No. 4. The church's present site was the location of Solsgirth's first school. With volunteer labour the building was remodelled and was opened for use in 1950. The final coating was completed by Mr. Steve Maydaniuk of Rosburn in 1953. The shingles and outside work were done by Mr. Bert Dickson of Solsgirth. The "Dome" was hand-constructed by Mr. Mike Swistun of Oakburn.

The church committee was formed in 1950, with President Mr. John Choptiuk, Sec.-Treas. Mr. Bill Yaskiw and Secretary Mrs. John Zimmerman. The first priest was Father J. Fornalychuk, who served until 1952. Father Romanyshyn served until November, 1963, then was transferred to Winnipeg. Father Zakrewski was with us for three years, and was replaced by Father Slabjy, who died of a heart attack in the spring of 1967. At present Father Boris is the priest.

There are seventeen members at present, with the following Committee:

Men's President — Mr. John Choptiuk
Ladies' President — Mrs. Anne Parabic
Vice-President — Mrs. Sylvia Yaskiw
Secretary — Mrs. Rose Hupak
Sec. Treas. — Mr. Walter Choptiuk

Birtle United Church

Vine Street Church began as a Presbyterian church, and Dedic-

tion Sunday was June 19th, 1887. Rev. William Hodnett was chiefly instrumental in having the present building erected.

Mrs. J. H. Morrison, wife of the student medical doctor, died at the age of twenty-six on New Year's Day, 1887. As she had been organist and choir leader, her husband bought a pipe organ in her memory. It was secured from Knox Church, Winnipeg, and was said to be the first pipe organ west of the Great Lakes. He also put in a stained glass window in her memory, as beautiful to-day as seventy-five years ago. The present organ is an Estey two-manual electric placed in memory of six young men of the congregation lost in World War II.

July 1st, 1887 saw the laying of the cornerstone for Jubilee Methodist Church by Mrs. Buchanan, wife of the pastor. William E. Crawford was the contractor.¹ After Union, the building became the high school. A. J. Shepherd placed the corner-stone in the vault of the Eye-Witness for safe-keeping in 1931. In 1917, some eight years before national Union, the local Presbyterian and Methodist churches were united, and held their services in Vine Street Church. Mr. Hugh O'Donnell was appointed organist, a part he filled ably for over thirty years. In 1954 many families put in stained glass windows to mark the seventy-fifth jubilee of the holding of the first service in Birtle.

In 1928 a home was purchased across the street from the church as a manse. To this day it serves as an adequate family home, spacious and now modern. During the years the pastoral charge has been changed, including at times Solsgirth, Wattsvie and Gnaton. In 1970 it became a Wider Parish with the four points Birtle, Miniota, Beulah and Isabella sharing two ministers.

The building stands with little change, the original shingles lasting until 1973. A large Christian Education building was completed in 1964, partly connected to the old sanctuary and designed to complement its lines. Its usefulness for congregational and family functions was soon proven.

MINISTERS

In the Presbyterian Church

Mr. Copeland

(student)

1879

Mr. J. McArthur

(student)

1880

Rev. Wm. Hodnett

1880-1890

Rev. Robert Frew

1892-1898

Rev. H. T. Murray

1898-02

Rev. John A. Cormie

1902-05

Rev. Wm. McLaren

1905-07

Rev. J. C. Cameron

1907-10

Rev. Arthur W. Smith

1910-12

Rev. J. N. Brunton

1912-17

Birtle United Church

Rev. J. E. Lane

1926-36

Rev. J. A. Stephen

1936-44

Rev. Elmer R. Wilson

1944-49

Rev. Hubert T. Smith

1949-55

Rev. W. L. Whetter

1955-65

Rev. John Sloan

1965-68

Rev. James Maxwell

1968-73

Rev. R. Hayes

1970-72

Mrs. Edythe Stockton

1972-73

Rev. N. A. Velnes

1973-

Mr. Keith Young

1973-

In the Methodist Church		Rev. A. B. Osterhout	1901-05
		Rev. J. W. Ridd	1905-07
Mr. Henry Rose	1879	Rev. F. A. Buckley	1907-09
Rev. J. F. Betts	1883-84	Rev. W. W. Shoup	1909-12
Rev. T. B. Wilson	1884-86	Rev. E. Howard Smith	1912-14
Rev. T. C. Buchanan	1886-89	Rev. D. M. Kennedy	1914-16
Rev. F. A. August	1889-90	Rev. Moses E. Nixon	1916-17
Rev. W. Somerville	1890-91		
Rev. W. G. Wilson	1891-95	Birtle Union Church (Local Union)	
Rev. A. B. Hames	1895-98		
Rev. Joshua Dyke	1898-1900	Rev. W. H. Pankhurst	1917-23
Rev. J. W. Bell	1900-01	Rev. J. H. Miller	1923-26

Foxwarren United Churches

Westminster United (New)

The records of the former Presbyterian church are not at hand, but the memories of older citizens bear out that services were held in the homes of settlers from about 1888. Mention is made of John Hall's log house in the village. The Presbyterian Church was probably built about the turn of the century, and was used until Church Union, when joint services were held in the newly-named Westminster Church. When the new church was built in 1951 on the Presbyterian site, the old building was moved to the north-east, and is now the Masonic Hall.

Victoria Methodist

The first Methodist Church in Foxwarren was built by Rev. Murchison, Mr. W. Ridington and Mr. W. Boyd. The cornerstone was laid May 24th, 1901, and the church named for England's late great Queen. After official Union in 1925 the church was re-christened "Westminster United".

In 1951, during Harland's ministry, a new church was built with basement, kitchen, chimes, electric organ and P.A. system. The cornerstone of old Victoria Church was placed in the southwest corner. Papers found therein attest that it was to cost \$1500.00. Many names well-known in Foxwarren are among those listed for various services and donations. The Pastor was Rev. L. D. Post. In 1951 the I.O.O.F. purchased the building for \$1000.00, and it is still in use.

Sunday School was held from time to time by both churches. The school was used for classes after 1918 during the summer. When the congregations joined in 1923 the Sunday School grew to a membership on 140 at one time. From 1927 it was held in the school both winter and summer. Picnics at Binscarth, Beaver Dam and Birtle dam were enjoyed by young and old alike. Teachers gave freely of their service, under Superintendents L. Armit Sr., J. McCrindle, F. Tarrant, E. Williams, R. Gadd, George McCrindle, Mrs. L. Martinot and Mrs. R. Burton. Mrs. Ella Ryan assisted for years with the Cradle Roll, and Mrs. Tom Carr as Secretary. Pearl Boyd, Evelyn Dunfield, Evelyn Tarrant, Elaine Thorpe and many young people helped provide music.

Organists and choir directors have been numerous. Mrs. H. Denham and Miss Nina Hall for over fifty years — Catherine Gadd, Evelyn Parton, Isabel Cooper, Phyllis MacGranachan, Mmes. Ted and Jack Widdicombe, Strachan, Ted Morris, George Belton, Rev. Payne, Messrs. Percy Highfield, Roy Lobb, and E. Williams.

Many changes have taken place since the new church was built. Foxwarren, Binscarth, Bayfield and Zion are now one pastoral charge. "One can only hope that the groundwork laid by our forefathers will not completely crumble."

Ministers serving before Union included Reverends Post, Murchison, Peacock, Loree, Summerville, Helier, Egan, Bailley, Benney, Hintman, Stewart.

Since Union until the present time the congregations have been served by Reverends Murchison, Bird (1926), Caldwell (1927), Rowan and Price (1928), Thompson (1930), Conley (1934), Payne (1936), Brown (1938), Robinson (1940), Savage (1941), Wes Harland (1946), Marguerite Miller (1953), John Ross (1961), Mr. Kendall (layman — 1964), Dick Kendall and Carson Walker (1965) and Rev. Robert Burton since 1968.

Zion Church

Built by volunteer labour in 1888, Zion Church served its community well for seventy years. Earlier services had been held in the Wilkinson home by Rev. S. H. Dewart and Rev. J. B. Wilson, and by homesteader S. Wilkinson, after he completed his studies. The ministers after the church was built had responsibility for several charges — Zion, Binscarth, Bayfield, Pumpkin Plains, Foxwarren and Seeburn — and at times the church was served by students. The first Board of Stewarts is said to have been Messrs. Chas. Siple, H. McCamon, James Falloon and W. Watt. In 1898 Rev. J. M. Murchison married Eliza Laycock, a local girl. It was the church's first wedding, and they settled into the charge and into a new parsonage in Foxwarren.

In 1915, during the pastorate of Rev. W. E. Egan, a beautiful new church was built, which for many years was the centre of the life of the community. Trustees at that time were Messrs. C. Burdett, F. Cooper, G. Falloon, S. J. Falloon and James McLellan. Mr. H. Denham served as Secretary for more than forty years. Many men and women have given dedicated service through the years as leaders, teachers, choir members. Sunday School Superintendents were Richard Hesketh, Andrew and David Hunter, Mr. F. Burdett for twenty-four years. Mrs. Fred Cooper was the first Women's President, and her daughter Mrs. Walter Laycock the most recent. Mr. E. H. Edmunds, Mrs. C. Honey and Mrs. H. Denham served in the ministry of music.

The mid-week Epworth League, with its discussions and debates, and the annual picnics, Christmas concerts and fall suppers helped maintain a lively church community.

In 1949 the Zion congregation joined with Foxwarren. In 1958 "in

response to modern trends and conditions" the church was dismantled, and in 1960 the building was sold. On July 24th a red granite memorial was erected and dedicated in a service by Rev. I. M. Miller (a lady). A Committee was established to care for the cemetery, in which the first grave was that of Mary Hesketh, ten years, Jan. 12, 1891.

Bayfield Church

Bayfield derives its name from Bayfield, Ontario, on the shore of Lake Huron. Bayfield School, built in 1888, provided a meeting place for early religious services, conducted by Rev. T. C. Buchanan, Methodist, and Rev. Hodnett, Presbyterian, both from Birtle, generally on alternate Sundays. They were followed by Messrs. Frew, August, Holland, Larcombe and Cooksley, some of whom were Lay preachers. Then came Mr. Somerville, who managed to launch a branch of the Royal Templars of Temperance, a side effect of which was twelve happy marriages among young people of the district.

Other ministers came from Birtle Methodist Church — Reverend Stewart, Spence, Williams, and also Presbyterian students from Binscarth — Messrs. Innes, McDermott, McGinnis, Smith, King. Rev. J. M. Murchison took services until 1897, they were discontinued for ten years, and re-opened by Rev. Langille. The charge was joined variously with Seeburn, Angusville and Binscarth.

In 1912 the first church was built while Rev. McNair was pastor. It was burned in 1917, and re-built on the site of the old school. In the late fifties Bayfield Church joined Foxwarren, and the building was sold to a Russell congregation. One who merits mention is Mr. Davies, Secretary-Treasurer for more than twenty-five years. Bayfield Church also enjoyed the loving assistance of a Ladies' Aid, with its annual fowl suppers a highlight. It re-organized in the Thirties as the Bayfield Sewing Circle, which still keeps Bayfield alive with showers for the brides and parties and gifts for newcomers or departing young people.

A favourite story in the Thorpe family concerns Rev. J. F. Douglas, who came to Bayfield from Angusville to relieve at times. After he had preached the same sermon twice, my mother told him about it. He blithely replied "Oh, I have only two sermons. I must have put my hand in the wrong pocket!"

Solsgirth United Church

P. W. Grant writes that the settlers around Toddburn met for services at the Todd home, it being on the main trail. Methodists, Prebyterians and Baptists met together, with laymen often taking the service and an occasional visit from a travelling clergyman. As Solsgirth grew after 1885, services were held in homes and community hall. Mrs. Helen Hall, who came to teach in 1899, found both Presbyterian and Methodist churches had been built recently north of the tracks, where they were threatened with flooding in spring. After Union in 1925 the Methodist building was sold to Harry Bournes for a garage.

1945 is reported as a busy one for the United Church, which was painted and insured for \$1200.00. Rev. E. R. Wilson served as minister until 1949, followed by Rev. Smith, then Rev. W. L. Whetter in 1955, when service was held at 1:30 P.M., and there were nineteen resident families. Organists during these years were Doug Wilson, Mrs. Killburn, Miss Lockerby, Mrs. O. Workman, Mrs. Ashcroft, Mrs. Nelin, and later Mrs. Choptiuk, assisted by Miss Hogberg and Miss Dunn. Necessary changes in the building included asphalt shingles, supporting rods for the walls, installation of electricity, and in time a new floor covering for comfort and warmth. In 1959 the time of service became 10:30 A.M. An oil furnace and ceiling insulation were improvements in 1964.

Young people continued to join the church during these years, and were given a sincere welcome. In 1963 three girls, Flora Irwin, Esther Mae McDonald and Elaine Dunn were married in their home church. In July 1965 Rev. Whetter left the charge to continue his studies, and his place was taken by Rev. John Sloan from Miniota. Since that time, as has happened with many churches, declining membership gave cause for concern, but the decision was to carry on as long as the church could be maintained. In 1966 the interior was painted, in time for two happy weddings — those of Shirley Nichol and Norma Porter.

The writer recalls the church's part in the community through the years — choir practices with lunch and singsong, with Will Lowsby at the piano — progressive dinners in homes, followed by a variety concert — many happy memories!

Solsgirth Community Sunday School

Early Sunday Schools were held in the homes of settlers, then in St. James' and from 1917-20 in Solsgirth, where Mr. Frank Brown was a very able superintendent, the Fisher girls were among the teachers, and the school boasted a very good choir. Children travelled for miles on foot, or by horse and democrat. After the first war there was a lapse, then about 1926 a Sunday school was organized at St. James' with Mr. Kitching as superintendent and organist, and Alan Porter his assistant. At times, the children received instruction by the "Sunday School by Post". In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Dickinson re-organized the school, and later Albert Pickup became superintendent, with mothers taking turns as teachers. The St. James' picnic at the river was a yearly highlight, with open-air service and Mr. Kitching at the organ (on a truck).

Meanwhile a community Sunday school was organized in Solsgirth United Church before 1920. For some years it was held in St. Stephen's, with about forty children in attendance. Classes were not held from Christmas until Easter because of cold and blocked roads. From 1955 the school alternated between St. Stephen's and the United Church. With Baptist and Greek Catholic children attending, there were six classes and forty-two children in 1961-62. Faithful workers were Mrs. O. Workman, Mrs. C. Butler, Mr. Wilson, Mary Mansell,

Mrs. Neelin, Mary and Hilda Workman, Mildred Butcher, Mrs. W. Morris and Lloyd Hogberg, and Mrs. Connie Choptiuk at the organ. The public school was used for classes from 1967, but with a shortage of children the Sunday school lasted only a short time longer.

St. Stephen's W.A.

From the report to the Fiftieth Anniversary, held July 25th, 1957, a very complete picture is received of the work of this devoted group. The first meeting was called at the Hall residence by Rev. Pritchard, with ladies present from both St. James' and St. Stephen's. It was decided to form two groups, and the St. Stephen's W.A. was launched with President Mrs. William Hamilton, Vice-President Mrs. E. Hall, Secretary Mrs. F. Shaw and Treasurer Miss Gorst. As the church had just been built, there was much to do.

Money-raising became the first objective — used to purchase pews for \$11.00 each, stalls for the choir, cocoa matting for the floor (recently replaced by a wine-coloured carpet and linoleum). Later a lectern and desk were purchased, and after much planning, a pulpit was ordered from a cabinet-maker in Winnipeg, which turned out to be rather too high in front for a shorter minister!

Young girls were organized into G.A.'s and J.A.'s, who also worked to supply chairs, hangings and ornaments from receipts of teas, corn roasts, plays etc. Mention is made of the annual fowl supper, dropped for a time, but revived in 1947 together with St. James. The Altar Guild did its work faithfully. One story concerns the harvest festival, and the loss of carefully scrubbed vegetables to Mr. McCann's cow. Children of the church were made into Little Helpers, whose picnics were provided by the W.A. This organization has now become known as "Family Life".

In an effort to expand its activities beyond money-raising, the W.A. introduced program and study into its meetings, and tried to devote some time to the spiritual side. They now hold meetings with members of other denominations, and the "World Day of Prayer" alternates with the United Church. The fluctuating membership was noted in 1957 — down to six in 1956 — the hope expressed for an improvement. Ten years later it was reported as standing at twelve, and the total impact of the organization seemed greater with new program and perhaps wider sights — leading to greater understanding.

St. George's Women's Auxiliary (Anglican Church Women)

The organization has been meeting every two weeks since 1889 — to aid the upkeep of church and Rectory, and send a yearly amount of money to the Brandon Diocesan W.A.

Presidents since 1930 have been: Mrs. W. Vant, Mrs. Brayshay, Mrs. F. Manwaring, Mrs. A. Darrell, Mrs. J. W. Pratt, Mrs. W. Nevill, Mrs. H. Greeves, Mrs. I. Haney, Mrs. R. L. Dutton, and in 1970 Mrs. Haney again.

In the early days the W.A. supplied prayer books to be signed by

the Rector for each confirmee. In 1931 Mrs. Darrell, looking to the future, started a Chancel Fund for Rectory repairs. By 1945 this had reached \$985.48, beside what had been spent for a dilapidated old Rectory.

In 1930 Mr. A. Bird donated a W.A. Cross of Oak, upon which the W.A. put a brass plate with the words "To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of the following members of St. George's W.A. Birtle, who departed this life in Thy faith and love." There are now thirty-eight plates with names of departed members.

In 1949 the W.A. gave \$500.00 towards a planned Parish Hall. A new Rectory was built, where the December 1950 Annual Meeting was held. The W.A. has paid for most of the interior decorating of this building. A meeting with heavy hearts was held March 10th, 1955, after fire from over-heated pipes had badly damaged the church. However, the Annual Report of 1956 reported a beautiful new church with a Parish Hall in the basement.

Each year the W.A. has added equipment for kitchen, cleaning, repairs for the church, and a carpet donated by Miss Ada Sutcliffe and the W.A. We have often felt that ministers come and go, but the W.A. goes on forever. Then in 1967 it was announced that the name would be A.C.W. — Anglican Church Women. A new constitution is in the making, but meanwhile we shall carry on under the new name.

Foxwarren W.A.

The earliest record of the work of the church organization now known as United Church Women is a minute book of the Methodist Ladies' Aid Society which dates back to 1909. The first officers on record were: President Mrs. S. J. Falloon, Vice-President Mrs. W. Boyd, Sec. Treas. Mrs. T. W. Bailey. There was apparently a Woman's Missionary Society at this time who worked closely with this group but no records are available. Missionary boxes were sent, quilts made, bake sales and garden parties held and in 1920 the Ladies' Aid served at a Boys' and Girls' Club fair.

In the late 40's the Pollyanna Women's Club was formed whose members were principally younger women of the community and worked in close association with the W.A., as the women of the United Church were now called. In the early 50's these groups worked toward raising money for our new United Church and supplied carpets, organ, piano, dishes, cutlery, tables for the basement, etc. Plates with Foxwarren United Church inscribed were sold and are in many homes. Other projects were showers for Osborne home, support for P.C.T.C., Camp Wasaga, parcels to Korea and aid to Fresh Air camps.

In 1962 the United Church Women's organization came into being. Mrs. John Ross was elected president of the U.C.W. with Mrs. Chas. Peel as leader of the evening unit and Mrs. C. Bamford leading the afternoon group. Officers changed every two years.

As the organization of the church was re-structured these groups decided to disband.

Solsgirth United W.A.

Mrs. L. Shaw sends a brief history of the women's organizations of the United church during the late "lean" thirties, when there was an almost complete transition of members of both W.A. and W.M.S. Mrs. W. Hacking served as W.M.S. Christian Stewardship Secretary until her departure in 1948, when Mrs. Joe Murray took over this post until the Inauguration of the United Church Women in 1962.

The devoted women of the earlier organizations had many ways of raising funds, including teas and bazaars, and sumptuous fowl suppers in the old brick school. Unaided by electricity, they cooked on coal oil stoves, and kept food warm on top of the furnace. Coffee was made in wash boilers, and tea, steeped earlier at home, was brought into town in cream cans. "We marvel to-day at the ingenuity of the W.A., and pay tribute to their memory."

Rev. William John Finch — Rector of St. George's, Birtle 1927-47

Rev. Finch (born Canterbury, Kent, March 1871) came to Birtle from Elkhorn and Melita in July 1927. With him came his wife Marie Louise (nee Bailey, Rapid City May 1886) and five children, including two pairs of twin sons. The parish at that time consisted of Birtle, Blenheim, Solsgirth, and later Beulah. Travel was by car in summer, horse and cutter in winter.

Rev. Finch served the parish until 1941, when he was due to retire, then continued to conduct services until 1947 because of the war-time shortage of clergy. Then he built a small house on the old school property near St. George's for his retirement, well-earned after a ministry that included two wars and the Depression. His wife Marie Louise died in February, 1930. Later that year Rev. Finch was made a Rural Dean, and in June 1936 was appointed a Canon of Brandon Diocese. He died July 12th, 1952.

THE CHILDREN — the twins George Herbert and Charles Howard were born April, 1923, and completed Grade Twelve at Birtle. GEORGE enlisted as a pilot in 1941, served in the Middle East, was awarded the D.F.C. and was a Squadron Leader at twenty-one. He lost his life in the Red Sea March 17, 1945. HOWARD, prevented by ill health from enlistment, worked in an aircraft factory until his death November 1942.

Twins Edward John and Wilfred Arthur were born November, 1917, and also completed high school in Birtle. EDWARD enlisted under Major A. M. Pratt in 1940, served overseas, and transferred to the R.C.A.F. to train as a navigator. He married Shirley Armstrong of Morris, Man. in May, 1949. WILFRED served as telegrapher in the R.C.N. during the war. In May 1961 he married Dorothy Whidden of Winnipeg. They have three children.

Edward and Wilfred both attended U. of Man. after the war,

receiving a B.A. and a Degree in Law. Both are employed in the Land Titles Office, Edward in Brandon, Wilfred in Dauphin.

NELLIE LOUISE born June, 1916, attended high school in Birtle and Brandon Normal School. She taught at Oxford School 1938-40, and at Rapid City in 1940. In January 1941 she married Lieut. Lockhart Fulton at Truro, N.S. (see FULTON). They have six children.

Reverend David Iverach

My father was Principal of the Indian Residential School for three years (1913-16). He had been minister of Springfield, Man., for nine years, and taught in Elmwood Collegiate for a short period. The family lived opposite the Presbyterian Church on Vine St., next door to the Wheatley family "kind neighbors, and good to the children next door". (It is said that Mrs. Wheatley was a descendent of the Missionary Rev. John McDougall). Mrs. Penner relates many nostalgic incidents of her childhood years in Birtle — school days, parties, roaming the hills. — "the clop clop of horses' hooves and the squeak of buggy wheels."

In April 1916 the family moved to Rossburn, where Rev. Iverach was Presbyterian minister until a local Union in 1917. He was then Principal of Oakburn School, and after a year became Principal of Strathclair, just at the end of World War I. His wife and youngest child died in April in the Spanish flu epidemic. Two of the children were taken by their grandparents, the four eldest remaining with their father. He became Principal at Melita High School then minister at Griswold United Church, then at Clanwilliam and then because of ill-health retired to Winnipeg. Still a student, he continued to work now and then, and at seventy-five went to teach at Garson, Man. during the shortage after World War II. Here he strained a heart muscle, and died in Winnipeg December, 1946.

THE CHILDREN — JESSIE, born 1907, a teacher and choir leader, is Mrs. Roy Gunn, living on a farm near Transcona. DAVID a retired bank manager, lives in Calgary; ISLA (Mrs. Philip Penner) is in Vancouver; DONALD a Spitfire pilot, died in a plane crash over Wales; CATHERINE (Mrs. Harold Button) lives near Vancouver at Tsawwassen; JOHN is with Saunders Aircraft at Gimli, Man., and lives in Winnipeg. There are a number of grandchildren.

Reverend John H. Miller

Rev. Miller served the United Church in Birtle from 1923-27, at the time of local and later national Union. His residence was the former Seale (later Stubbs) home on the south hill. Coming to Birtle from Regina, he left to go to Stonewall, and later to Port Arthur until his death in 1939. His wife continued in Port Arthur until her death in 1961.

Rev. Miller, always interested in the world of nature, worked with Sam Larcombe at one time to develop a bird and animal sanctuary in

the area around Birtle. To arouse interest he brought speakers to the town, who always stayed at the Miller home. Among them were naturalists Ernest Thompson Seton, Jack Miner, Thornton W. Burgess.

Rev. Miller's son, DR. RALPH G. MILLER, practised in Port Arthur, and is now retired in White Rock, B.C. Daughter LILA (Mrs. Harold Johnston) graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital. She also lives at White Rock, has two daughters Marilyn and Carol and four grandchildren. DORA (Mrs. Jack Turnbull) lives in Amherstburg, Ont., has two children and one grandchild. JEAN (Mrs. George Crittall) lives in Port Arthur, and has three children and five grandchildren.

Rev. James Moore Murchison

Rev. Murchison, born November, 1869 near Lucknow, Ont. was educated at Albert College and Victoria U. Toronto. After serving as student minister west of Yorkton, Sask., he came to Foxwarren district by bicycle over prairie trails, stopping one night at James Falloon's home. Next year he served the Zion field from Binscarth, and this time met his future wife, Mary Eliza Laycock, who was picking berries before prayer meeting.

After serving a year in Beulah-Miniota he graduated from Wesley College in 1898, and became the first ordained minister for Foxwarren, Zion, Bayfield, Seeburn, St. Mary's and Pumpkin Plains. He and Eliza were married in the first wedding in Zion Church. After a year they left for Devil's Lake, North Dakota to the Methodist-Episcopalian Church there, and in 1909 they returned to Saskatchewan Conference at Tisdale and Kindersley.

Mr. Murchison joined the 210th Battalion and served overseas from 1916, while his wife and family came to live with her brother Ross Laycock. After his death in 1918 they moved into Foxwarren. Meanwhile Mr. Murchison served in France with the 11th Railway Troops, was commissioned and returned in 1919 as a Chaplain. Wishing to farm, they bought W½ 31-17-27, land not yet cleared, and they had much hard labour with little return at first. The farm buildings were constructed from the old Foxwarren school.

In 1922 Rev. Murchison accepted an invitation to take the Foxwarren churches into early Union. In 1927 he returned to Saskatchewan, to serve at Fort Qu'Appelle and Adanac. They returned to the farm in 1936, and in 1939 to their first home in Foxwarren. The farm was taken over by daughter Donalda and husband Thorpe McPherson and their family of four. Daughter Anna Jeanne married Chris Delahoy of Adanac, a grain buyer, and they live at Cut Knife, Sask. and have a daughter Judy Linda.

Son Francis Vivian, born 1907 on the Laycock farm, has been employed for thirty years with the Co-op Elevator at Basswood. He married Phoebe Belcher of Bield, Man., and they have three children. Mrs. Murchison died in May, 1949, and Mr. Murchison in May 1958. They rest among old friends in Zion churchyard.

Reverend Walter Rayle

Rev. and Mrs. Rayle retired to live in Foxwarren in 1954, after forty-five years in the service of the United Church of Canada, and in the communities of various towns in Manitoba. Mr. Rayle came to Canada from Manchester, England, and was a graduate of Edinburgh University and Manitoba College, Winnipeg. His wife came to the Lenore district from Ashburn, Ont. She was a 1909 graduate of the Winnipeg General Hospital, and one of the first Public Health nurses in Winnipeg, on the staff of the Margaret Scott Mission. There are two daughters — Mrs. Ted Widdicombe (Frances) of Foxwarren, and Mrs. Hector MacIver (Vera) of Burlington, Ont. Rev. and Mrs. Rayle are buried in Foxwarren cemetery.

Reverend Arthur W. Smith

I am not one of the pioneers, but my father was the Presbyterian minister in Birtle about 1910. Birtle was always a delightful place for young folk. During the winter months we seemed always to be going to parties. Those of Mrs. Andy Doig and Mrs. Stewart I remember best. On one memorable night a sleigh called for our class at school, and took us down the valley to the Wallace home. After games of various kinds we went in to supper, where the table literally groaned with the weight of good things to eat.

In those days girls never thought of going for a swim in the Bird-tail, but we roamed the hills and through the woods. Our favourite walk was to the Dam, and another which branched to the left, leading to an old graveyard. One grave, on which we used to lay wild flowers, belonged to a sea Captain, though how he came to be buried there I never knew.

In those early times the only worms for fishing were in the garden of a Mrs. Lane. On Saturday morning the boys would ask if they could dig the worms. Mr. and Mrs. Lane had brought a basket of plants from the east, and the worms were in the soil.

Chapter X

BY PONY, VAN AND BUS

School for the public, both Indian and white,
Teachers whose talents are guided by right;
Training and teaching the girls and the boys . . .

Alfred Morton in 1895 could look back with considerable satisfaction upon the years since he had ventured into this much-loved valley. He was a part of almost every move for progress in those years. When the children of the settlement were in urgent need of a school, this former school-master was a first trustee, and undoubtedly a prime mover in its founding.

The little log schoolhouse was not long in making its appearance in several locations in the territory. We have record of some, but not all of them. Of necessity they tended to a uniform style of construction and equipment. Family stories provide many details and give a fairly clear picture of how their parents or grandparents went to school. The main structure was generally backed by a stable, certainly by an "outhouse" (polite term). Inside were wooden benches and desks to seat two, a desk for the teacher, a water pail and "the huge box stove which ate wood like a giant" (Mrs. Henry Loughheed) "Outside were the bathroom facilities, the seats often heaped with snow, and hardy young pioneers that we were, we thought nothing of a hurried trip out and back." Inside, the spot near the stove was scorching hot, the walls little warmer than out of doors. Attendance was irregular in bad weather, the equipment primitive — slates and pencils, readers provided by the school district (one recalls the "Sweet-Pea Reader") but somehow the children learned their three R's and seem to have found the school experience both enlightening and entertaining. The Christmas concert is invariably mentioned as a highlight of the year, with the closing picnic a close second.

After the selection of the teacher, who generally "boarded" with a family in the vicinity, the next problem was getting the children to the school. During the summer months they could walk — often as many as five miles — but these were often also the months for work at home — the girls' tasks included keeping the cattle out of the grainfields in the days of few fences, as well as helping with kitchen chores during the busy harvest season. For boys the work were limited only by their physical capabilities, and they often stopped school at fourteen or younger. School usually opened in August, but regular attendance could be expected only after harvest until the end of April. The Manitoba winter could be relied on to do its worst from time to time. Blizzards kept children at home, and occasionally overnight at school. Faithful ponies, with buggy, sleigh or cutter, helped on many bad days, and often knew the way better than the drivers.

School Vans

In time there came into being the School Van. A. C. Sparks, whose

father drove a van for years, remarks that the regular route was thirteen miles across country to Birtle School. The team was stabled in the livery barn, and the day began and ended at six o'clock. The early vans were built of wood, "like a little caboose", often with canvas sides and were heated by small wood stoves and lighted by coal-oil lamps — resulting in occasional accidents. Mostly however they were happy trips, with games, chatting and songs, and an occasional run beside the van for warmth and exercise.

The driver might be a parent or an older brother, who perhaps himself attended the school, and sometimes in time married the teacher! Now and then a local bachelor drove the van for extra cash. In the thirties we are told that the contracts were given first to those whose taxes were in arrears.

Birtle School (S.D. No. 132)

Prior to 1881 spasmodic efforts were made to start a school, first with Miss Etta Carpenter in charge and later Percy Dewart, son of the Methodist minister, who taught classes in the Flynn Hostel (where Mrs. L. Dalton's home is now situated). Mentioned in Morton's diary as students are Vi and St. Clair Wood, Maud Chambers, Nelson Carpenter, David Adams and members of the Brown, Flynn, and Cairncross families.

Early in 1881 the number of children of school age had increased to over thirty, and the first School Board consisting of Alfred Morton, J. H. Wood, and Joseph Brown was elected. In May 1882 James H. Innes, a certified Ontario teacher, took charge of the first official school in the "Town Hall" (where Mrs. Thelma Smith's house now is). His salary was \$500.00

A contract was let to Johnston and McKenzie August 5/82 to build the first school. It was situated on the site of the present Highway Yard and was to have a full basement, two classrooms on the main floor and a 30' x 60' auditorium on the second floor. The contract price was \$5600.

Weather prevented the stone work being completed in the fall of '82 and a second classroom was opened in "Albert Hall" the upper part of the house on the corner north of the "Legion Community Hall". The two classrooms were opened in September 1883 with J. H. Innes and Jesse M. May in charge.

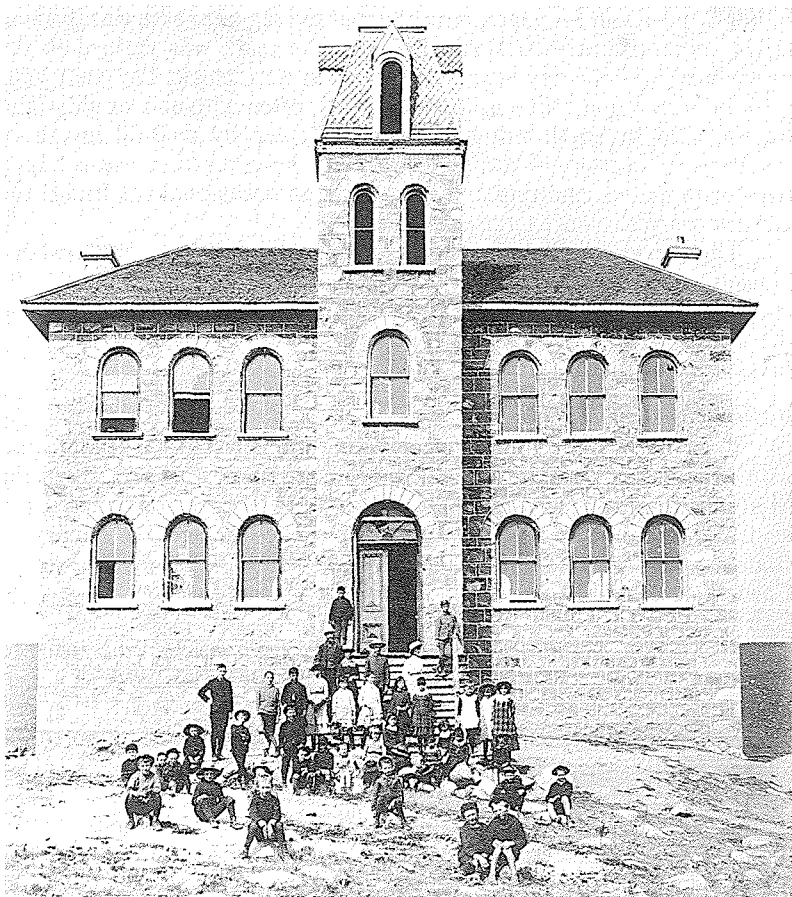
Here the records fade except that for some reason the "Stone School" was leased to the Department of Indian Affairs and classes were returned to the Town Hall and Albert Hall.

The Eye Witness records that the Stone School burned on November 20, 1895 and classes carried on as before.

The Blue School was built in 1905 and two rooms added later.

On July 1, 1912 the districts of Birtle, Blenheim and Gnaton consolidated and Mount Joy joined in September 1915.

High school classes occupied the Old Methodist Church (where the Geo. Wilson and A. Spencer homes are) from 1917 until the four-



"Stone School" — 1883.

roomed Brick School at the east side of town was opened in November of 1928 (cost \$19,000).

In the fall of 1943 the "Blue School" burned and all records were lost. Elementary classes were set up in the upstairs room of the present Town Hall (Highways Office), with Miss D. Finkbeiner and Miss M. Woods in charge. Mrs. M. S. Williamson with the primary class was moved to the Brick High School. In Sept. '45 the Court Room was set up as a Grade V and VI classroom with J. McLennan in charge.

The Second World War made building difficult but at Easter '49 the north four rooms and auditorium of the Brick School were completed at a cost of \$65,000. Population increase required more accommodation and in 1956 the four-room North School was built at a cost of \$45,000.

Later consolidations saw Burdette join Jan. 1/59; Oxford in /61;



Birtle "Blue School".

Buckleyville /64 and Rothesay /67 and in January 1968 the Board of Trustees of Birtle Consolidated S.D. No. 132 disbanded, as the district became part of the Birdtail River School Division.

Under the Division Board the schools from Beulah and Isabella were moved to Birtle and joined to the Brick School and pupils from these districts and Solsgirth were transported to Birtle in the fall of 1968 when twenty-two elementary teachers were employed.

Miss Blanche Spicer writes that she attended the "Blue School", and also the high school in the old Methodist Church. "We used to sit around the big wood stove with our coats, hats, overshoes and even mitts on. Bill Birnie and his Dad looked after this school — and they often heard "Put a bit more wood on!" There were not many school days in the winter because our teacher was not well and it was so cold. But some pulled through until they finished."

Oxford School

The first log school was built in 1883. Its story has been well told in "Wandering in Wattsvie". Mrs. Ferguson (Nellie McIntosh) of St. Lazare has said that because the well was often contaminated with drowned gophers, the children carried sealers of water to school. Some walked as many as four miles every day, carrying in the mosquito season a "smudge pot" of burning manure, straw or hay. Philip Barteaux recalls one morning when the thermometer on the blackboard inside registered twenty-eight degrees below zero. "Not much work was done with our mitts on!"

Rothesay School

Mr. Crawford Lints supplies information about this school, attended by his daughter Edith. In 1924 it was moved from Mr. J.

Young's farm to the N.W. corner of Sec. 9-16-25, then owned by Mr. J. Stout. After the school was closed, and the children bussed to Birtle, it became a residence for Mr. William Whyman, and still stands on the same foundation.

Church services, Sunday School, picnics and dances were held there. There were as many as forty-five pupils at times. An orchestra "Rothesay Rhythm Rangers" was formed with young people playing guitar, accordion, mouth organ, and Edith Lints at the piano. Practising was enjoyable, and they provided entertainment on various occasions.

Birtle Collegiate

Prior to 1959 there were several little schools throughout the area now controlled by our Division Board. Each school was financed from real property tax and from provincial government grants. Both grants and mill rates were altered from time to time. There was relatively little difference between these schools. They offered few subject options and each school attempted to give all students the basic education for a university entrance standing. Perhaps 20% of the students who started school completed Grade XII! 80% were school dropouts! Citizens in our area, as well as those throughout the province, realized that the educational program was not meeting the needs of either the students or of society.

There was need for more effective planning of educational programs based on the principles of efficiency, quality of education, and equality of opportunity for all children. This was accepted. In 1959 school divisions were formed with the responsibility of administering the secondary schools and the finances for both the elementary and secondary schools. Noticeable changes for good took place at the secondary level. Then in 1965 and 1967, Bills 39 and 16 respectively made provision for the formation of Unitary School Divisions, placing all elementary and secondary education under the jurisdiction of one board — in our area, the Birdtail River School Division Board.

With these Unitary Divisions, which were introduced in 1967, came financial changes with the Foundation Grant Program. This plan for financing was basically sound. It included all significant elements of school expenditures; instructional salaries and supplies, administration, maintenance, textbooks, transportation of pupils, debt service charges, and purchase of school buses. The results have been impressive. The changes that have taken place in the Birdtail River School Division have produced a superior "quality" of education and the citizens of this division are proud of their educational system.

At least at Birtle Collegiate an opportunity for "quality" education was provided as the following statements indicate:

1) A wide range of academic subjects was provided to meet the needs, abilities, and interests of the students. a) The High School Program was offered with a wide range of subjects so that students could choose from among sixteen different subjects in grade X to thirty in grade XII. b)

The complete Business Education Course with appropriate options was offered. c) The complete Occupational Entrance Course with both academic and practical experience was offered. d) Special encouragement was given to French study — French, Francais, and French Clubs. e) Special options include industrial arts, home economics, Francais, and typing at the grade nine level. f) Driver Education courses were offered.

2) A move towards a greater individualized program was attempted. The best example of this was with 201 and 101 mathematics where all students progressed at individual rates.

3) Attempts were made to provide enrichment programs. Brighter, more able students were encouraged to do further research and depth study. Others were encouraged to take extra subjects through an accelerated program made possible by the semester system.

4) Remedial work was provided for students finding the academic programs difficult. Special groups, senior student aid, audio-visual aids, and special teacher attention helped these students.

5) The semester system was initiated in Birtle Collegiate in an attempt to improve instruction, increase student interest, and offer a wide range of subjects.

6) Special efforts and money were directed towards the resource centre in Birtle Collegiate. As a result this area became attractive and useful and contained resource materials as good as any in rural Manitoba. A full time teacher-librarian was available to organize and meet the needs of the students.

7) A variety of teaching methods was attempted. Different types of team teaching were popular. Audio-visual aids, a variety of non-teacher guests, and field trips — including one to Toronto — were used.

8) Realizing the need for a guidance counsellor, the collegiate provided a full time teacher for this purpose.

9) The collegiate provided a wide range of co-curricular activities. In 1972-73 there were twenty-five different Academic-Social Club activities, and about the same number of athletic events and teams. The teaching staff provided instruction, supervision and coaching aid during noon hour or after school.

10) To help the students develop a sense of responsibility a system of "freedom with responsibility" was practiced at the Collegiate.

11) Efforts were made to keep parents and the public informed about the collegiate, and to act as a source of information for the community.

12) Adult education with the collegiate staff as instructors was recommended and introduced.

Trustees

With the establishment of the Birdtail River School Division in 1959 Lockhart R. Fulton became the first trustee for the Birtle area. When the Unitary Divisions were introduced in 1967 Earl Butcher and L. R. Fulton were Ward trustees. In 1972 L. R. Fulton resigned and was replaced by Rev. Ralph Jacobs.

Significant Events

Official Opening of Birtle Collegiate

The official opening of the new Birtle Collegiate took place on Nov. 2nd, 1962. Chairman Mr. L. R. Fulton complimented the architects, Pratt and Lindgen, and the Harper Construction Company. J. W. Pratt, Q.C. cut the ribbon to officially open the school. Mr. J. Slobodzian, Inspector of Schools for the Indian Affairs Branch, praised the trustees for their cooperation with the Branch. Guest speaker was Hon. Walter Weir, introduced by Mr. R. C. Smellie, M.L.A. The keys to the school were presented to C. E. Tibbatts, Principal.

The two-story building included eight classrooms, a gym, staff room and office. The Business Education Course was introduced.

Change of Principal

In December, 1966 Clarence E. Tibbatts resigned as Principal, but remained on staff as a teacher. Harvey C. Kingdon became Principal of the Collegiate.

Cabins

These temporary classrooms for the overflow of students gradually increased in number until 1969-70, when seven such cabins were joined to the main building.

Addition to Collegiate Opens

The official opening of the addition to the Birtle Collegiate was held on November 13, 1970. Chairman of the School Board, Mr. L. R. Fulton presented scissors to Mrs. Leone Dale who cut the ribbon. Mr. W. C. Davison, Division School Superintendent, introduced the guest speaker, Mr. C. E. Tibbatts. The architects were Ward — MacDonald of Winnipeg and the contractor was Hoffman Construction of Minnedosa. The presentation of keys was made to H. C. Kingdon, collegiate principal.

The physical features at the new Collegiate were most adequate. They contained: ten classrooms, four labs, four classroom-size open areas, a large resource area, lecture theatre with stage, gym with change and shower rooms, two business education rooms.

Area Collegiate

When the new addition was complete the collegiate became an Area school. A Junior High section was set up with the addition of Grades VII and VIII from the elementary school. Students from Fox-warren, Miniota and St. Lazare were bussed to Birtle for Grades X to XII. Students throughout the Division came for the Occupational Entrance Course. With the establishment of the Home Economics and Industrial Arts areas, students in Grades VII to IX from other schools in the Division came on a one-day basis to take advantage of these opportunities.

Extra-Curricular

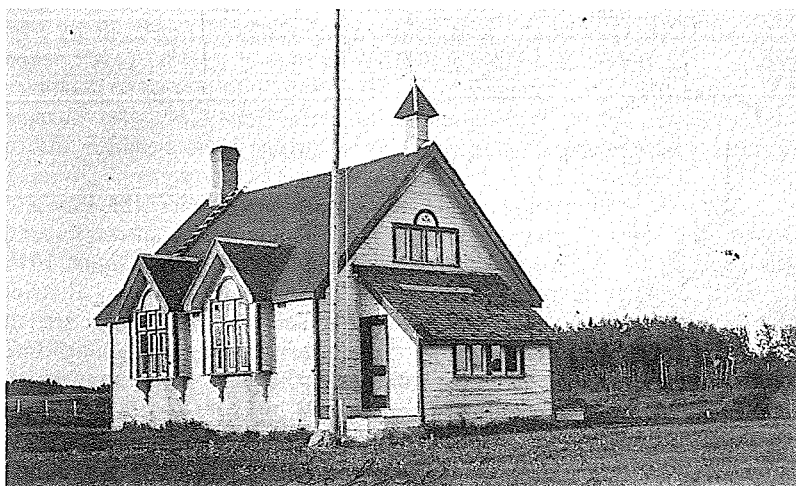
Staff and students are kept busy during the school year with many activities which help to broaden the scope of their education, and give

fresh insights into the modern world. Of great interest in February 1973 were the Science Fairs held at both Elementary and High School level. Projects and exhibits were judged and awards made impartially. There were over two hundred and fifty participants at the Elementary level, and over eight hundred from the Birdtail Division at the Collegiate. Winning projects were entered in the Western Manitoba Science Fair.

A recent (1974) most interesting undertaking has been the Young Voyageur Program, sponsored by the Collegiate and funded by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Twenty-four students from Bridgewater, N.S. arrived in Birtle by Air Canada and bus, to be hosted and entertained by the same number of students from B.C.I., who were to return the visit to Bridgewater some weeks later. The whole community made them welcome, and no doubt the Nova Scotians returned home with a clearer picture of life on the prairies, even in the depth of winter.

Dunstan S.D. No. 379

Dunstan, the second-oldest school district in the municipality (Oxford being the oldest) was established first at the home of Thomas Almack, the site of the present Lloyd Parton farm, on NE¼ 34-17-27. Miss Fanny Graham, the teacher, received whatever parents chose to contribute. Early in 1884 a request was submitted to the Board of Education for the formation of a school district — the result being “Dunstan Protestant School District No. 379” The Board consisted of Mr. Almack, Chairman, Mr. Hill and Mr. Nesbitt as Secretary-Treas. A building was erected on SW¼ 33-17-27 for \$410.00, and opened in October with Miss Graham as teacher and twelve pupils. During the winter classes were held in a sod lean-to at the home of Thomas Ferguson, as the school was rather isolated. There is a story that Bob



Second Dunstan School — 1898.

Ferguson pushed doughnuts through the log wall to the girls writing on the blackboard.

Thomas Leese was an early teacher, and Edgar Murphy, who stayed for seven years to March 1899. In January 1897 the school and records were destroyed by fire. (Square nails and ink bottles still turn up on the site.) A new building was erected on SW 2-18-27 by J. L. Barge of Birtle for \$650.00 and opened in the fall of 1898. When Foxwarren achieved its own school in 1904, Dunstan was moved further away to NE 26-17-27. After consolidation in 1917 the school was closed. Mr. Neil McKay and his neighbors undertook to move the building with their own horses and skids to the Dave Graham farm, where it served the needs of their own children for a time.

Boyle S.D. No. 167

Boyle School came into existence in 1884, in the R.M. of Silver Creek. It was built first on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 20-19-26, and later moved to SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 17-19-26. It was burned in 1898 and all records lost, but a new frame school was built immediately, replaced by a modern building in 1951. As enrollment decreased, consolidation began to be discussed. A Board of Arbitration made the district part of Foxwarren S.D. No. 525, and from August 1959 Boyle children came to Foxwarren by van.

Bayfield S.D. No. 525

Settlers in the Bayfield district felt the need for a school as early as 1887. After a meeting at the home of Mr. J. Hornsey the Secretary, Mr. J. Newton made contact with the Board of Education, indicating that the required number of ten children were in the district. Accordingly, the "Bayfield Protestant District No. 525" came into being, with Board members Messrs. James Grant, J. D. Hornsey and Mike Coyne. The school opened May 2nd, 1888 in a log house rented from Mr. J. Robbie with Miss Emily Tibbatts as teacher. A new school was built by Mr. Wood of Birtle for \$450.00 on the SW corner of 27-18-27. It opened Jan. 2nd, 1889, with teacher Mr. H. M. Elliott, who remained in charge for ten years. Among later teachers was Miss Bella Cox, who married Arthur Meighen, a young lawyer from Portage, who became one of Canada's Prime Ministers.

When consolidation became an issue in later years, the Bayfield Board took stock of their situation, and called a meeting of ratepayers. The decision for consolidation was unanimous, and from August 1916 Bayfield children went to Foxwarren by van, and the new district adopted the number 525. The Board at the time was comprised of Milton Joyce, Thomas Low Sr., George Laycup and long-time Secretary Sam Davis. Mr. Low purchased the school building, which still serves as a home for son Edward and his wife Doris. The new Bayfield Church was built on the site.

Crewe S.D. No. 546

This district was settled gradually, and education at first was

arranged privately in homes. By 1887 there was need for a school, and the request was submitted, with the result the "Crewe Protestant School District No. 546", with its Board Messrs. E. Bligh, James Falloon and James Ellis. The building was erected on NW¼ 33-17-28 by Rupert Ellis for \$415.00, with Mrs. Gwyer the first teacher. By 1916 the school was out-moded, and as an alternative to another building the Crewe district joined the consolidation in April 1917. Miss McLellan was the last teacher, and Frank Burdett the last Secretary. The building was sold to James Reid and moved to NW 18-18-28, served as a home for some years and is now hidden away in a poplar bush.

Lansburne S.D. No. 806

This district was formed in November 1893, with a by-law passed by the Council of R.M. of Birtle. The school, which opened early in 1895, was built by E. K. Holman, and the stable by E. J. Tett. Miss Kemp was the first teacher. Early records and registers cannot be found, but it is thought that Thomas Bowen was Trustee and Secretary-Treas. from 1893 to 1924, when Joe Roberts became Secretary-Treas. Miss Annie Huehnichen (later Mrs. George Porter) taught there for several years, as did Mamie Manwaring, Ethel Buckley and Mae Doig. William "Jock" Wyness served on the Board for many years, and with his "squeeze-box" provided music for dances in the school. Plays were produced and taken to neighboring villages. An active worker was Miss Ruby Workman, who taught for six years in the thirties.

A new school was built in 1951, and oil heating installed as well as a second-hand piano. By June 1959 the doors were closed for consolidation with Foxwarren. The building now serves as a community hall.

Moresby Union S.D. No. 910

Ratepayers west of Snake Creek at a meeting in January 1898 made the decision for a school in their district and elected as Trustees Messrs. Stephen Carr, (Chairman) Henry Bierd, James Waddell and J. B. Hodgson (Secretary-Treas.). The Council of R.M. of Birtle set up the district, but as the land involved lay partly in R.M. of Ellice, the school was to be "Public" not "Protestant". The house of two Hodgson sons, Thomas and James, was used for the first classes, and the first teacher was Miss Mary Smith from Hartney, Man. The school was built by F. K. Holman for \$676.00, on land donated by Joseph Laycock, and the school opened in August 1898. The stable was built by R. J. Pizzey.

Within twenty years Moresby was influenced by Crewe district to join the consolidated district. The School Board, with Chairman Mr. F. Graham, included Messrs. Henry Denham of Moresby, F. W. Tarrant of Dunstan and S. J. Falloon from Crewe. The last teacher was Miss Stocker. The school building is now a granary on the farm of J. Johnston, and its porch is used as a pump house. Percy Waddell writes that the coat hooks with the students' names are still visible. A mound of trees marks the site of the school.

Colonsay S.D. No. 2081

This district was formed in July 1921, with its Board Messrs. William Moulson (Chairman), B. Copping, Fred Dickinson and Percy Mountain, Secretary-Treas. The school was built on SE¼ 7-19-25, and opened in September 1922 with nine children. Attendance varied, and the school was closed for a few years. Indian children from the Way-way-see-cappo Reserve, and from the Oudie and Mentuck families were welcomed, but were later integrated into classes at Rossburn. Colonsay School was closed in 1960, and the children continued their education at Foxwarren. The school lands were divided between Rossburn and Foxwarren. The building still stands on the site.

Foxwarren S.D. No. 1274

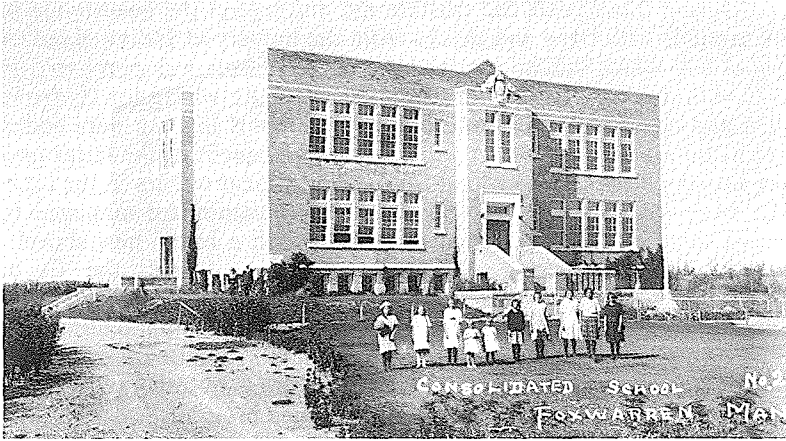
The first school district in the village of Foxwarren was formed in 1904 from four sections of land from Dunstan and Moresby, and two from Bayfield. First classes were held in the skating rink east of the present main street, the first teacher Mr. T. W. Ebborn from Dunstan School. Another teacher, W. J. McLaughlin was famous for his football teams, including both girls and boys. The first School Board consisted of Albert Laycock (who was also Secretary-Treas.), John Hall and Henry Leckie, all serving for six years. William Rorke, J. J. Hutton and Louis Armit were other Secretary-Treasurers.

By 1913 the school required two rooms, and set a high standard of proficiency. A number of scholars graduated into the teaching profession, often finding positions in the district. In the spring of 1916 the consolidation movement was initiated with a merger with Bayfield. After the new school opened in 1918, the old building and lots were purchased by Rev. Murchison for \$1050.00, and used to erect a house and barn, still standing on the farm of Mowbray Hodgson on 31-17-27. College Avenue, terminating at the new school, runs past the old site.

Foxwarren S.D. No. 525

In June 1916 a new Board with Chairman F. Graham, G. Cunningham Secretary-Treas. and L. St. George Stubbs of Birtle as Solicitor prepared plans for an addition to the school building. However, consolidation with Moresby, Crewe and Dunstan in April 1917 and the organization of a new Board with Mr. Graham as Chairman and Mr. J. F. Gill as Secretary-Treas. prompted the decision to build a new school. Ten acres on 5-18-27 were selected, a Winnipeg architect Mr. H. W. Green was employed, and the tender of the Progress Construction Co. accepted for \$43,645.00. The cornerstone was laid by Mrs. Janet Hall in August, and the school opened the following January. Official ceremonies held August 30th, 1918 were attended by the Governor-General of Canada, the Duke of Devonshire, Premier Norris of Manitoba and Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. F. W. Tammadge became caretaker and Attendance Officer, and later served as Secretary-Treas. as well. Early in 1919 the institu-



Foxwarren Consolidated School.

tion was enlarged by the addition of a high school on the advice of the Inspector.

By August 1927 Grade XII was added, and a Collegiate Department established, with Mr. Charles Cresswell as Principal. This status was continued for thirty-seven years. The General Course was offered, with few specialties for lack of space. However, in subsequent years extra-curricular activities included manual training with Mr. Tammadge, carpentry with Mr. George Tett, auto mechanics with Mr. Mervin Dunham. A sewing program for girls came in 1945 under the Department of Agriculture, and continued as the 4-H movement.

A residence for the Principal became essential, and a temporary home was purchased on Garland Street. In 1928 a house was purchased and moved to a suitable location, where it was occupied by school principals until 1965, and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Talbot.

Mr. George Belton's comprehensive history of the schools of Foxwarren and district provides many details of progress, vicissitudes and achievements through the years, some of which material appears in other chapters. Financial problems during the depression of the thirties were met by various expedients. Cordwood instead of coal was used in the furnace, to keep the money in the district. Contracts for the driving of vans were allotted so that 75% of earnings could be applied to arrears of taxes. Salaries of teachers were cut time and again, as was the rule throughout the province, where at times a new teacher signed on for his board alone, to gain the experience necessary to do better. During these difficult times Mr. L. McNarry served for twenty years as Secretary-Treas. and also caretaker, screened hundreds of applications for teaching positions, and was heartened to hear from Vera (Lamont) Morris that Foxwarren School salaries were among Manitoba's highest in that period.

During these years the trustees did not neglect the beautifying of the grounds with trees and shrubs from the nursery at Indian Head. A school bell which still summons loiterers to classes was purchased in 1926 with proceeds from high school concerts. Re-wiring for Hydro in 1934 and new beams, roof and pillars for support in 1936 were added strains on a shaky budget. A fortunate fringe benefit of the latter project was the discovery of a long-time establishment of bees in the attic. Mr. McNarry and Mr. Tett of the building committee managed to secure some of the honey, scooping it out with a brand new shovel.

Health problems encountered in epidemics, notably the 'flu of 1918, scarlet fever in 1926, pinkeye in 1932, infantile paralysis from time to time necessitated special precautions, and the appointment of nurses and doctors for health supervision. In 1927 the Board appointed Dr. T. Brownlee as medical inspector, followed by others for many years. Also in the interests of health a hot lunch program was instituted in the twenties, discontinued for a time, and revived in 1948 by the W.I.

Two world wars naturally affected the school's program, and attendance at the high school level suffered. Gasoline rationing tended to restrict the van service, and many functions such as conventions were cancelled. After 1945 attendance of young men picked up once more, but did not come up to the peak during the thirties, except for one year. However, the school continued to expand in other areas. Lessons by radio came to the schools through the Department of Education. A projector and films brought added interest to the curriculum. An always active sports program was augmented by a High School Curling Club, and a Junior Track Meet directed towards the annual Field Day at Binscarth. The first Graduation exercises were held in 1947, and the first Yearbook appeared in 1948.

In 1962 the Assembly Hall was converted into two classrooms to provide additional space for teaching, and the following spring a new auditorium was officially opened on the north side of the building. Further changes were not far in the future. Mr. W. E. Hall ended twenty years as Secretary-Treas. in December 1962, and Mr. Cecil Smith retired in 1964 after long service to the School Board. The Department of Education meanwhile was urging and promoting the movement to larger school divisions, although at time of writing this development was still controversial. On Jan. 31st 1968 the local Board was dissolved.

Mr. Belton, himself a teacher and principal at Foxwarren from 1944 to 1953, pays tribute in his narrative to two teachers with long records of service. **Victor Hillcox** educated at Bayfield and Foxwarren, spent twenty-two years on the staff from 1931 to 1953. Miss Louise Medcalf (Mrs. G. Matheson) taught at Dunstan and Foxwarren from 1921 to 1944, when her last class included the small son of one of her first pupils — Muriel (Lindsay) Thorpe. Tribute of a different kind is given to Mr. Hillcox by Wilfred Hamilton, who tells of some of the escapades of a boys' fraternal club. "When we arrived at school late Vic Hillcox met us at the door. Leonard Burdett was first and I was second to get the strap. Vic had a lot of strength . . ."

Foxwarren Student Council

As originally organized, about the second year after Foxwarren Collegiate opened its doors, the Council consisted of a President from Grade XII, usually a boy, and a Secretary and Treasurer from Grades X and XI. The Junior High grades had a representative from each class. "Larger decisions, such as the year-end party, were made at meetings of the student body. Money to finance special events was raised from year-books, musicals, sleigh and skating parties.

When the high school grades were transferred to Birtle in 1966, the Junior High grades carried the responsibility, with a Grade IX student as leader. The Executive of the Student Council for 1972-73 was: President, M. Moulson; Vice-President — L. Parobec; Secretary — L. Juba; Treasurer — C. Copping.

Eckford S.D. No. 1135

This school was built in 1902 on SW¼ 23-18-25, with volunteers assisting carpenters Dan McArthur and Jim Hamilton. The first trustees were Archie McArthur and William Cameron. The first teacher was Miss Poyner, who married a pupil, Cyrus Fraser, son of the Secretary-Treas. John Fraser. There was an enrollment of over thirty, in Grades One to Eight.

"Many a good time we had in Eckford School — Christmas trees, dances, picnics, meetings of all kinds . . ." (Collingridge story) Mrs. Frank Treble was Secretary-Treas. for twenty-five years, and her husband served on the School Board for many years. They also "boarded" the teacher. It is said that the school held the record for the most gopher tails — caught by the children for spending money in depression years — 2½ cents a tail.

By 1959 enrollment was down to twelve, and the school was consolidated with Solsgirth. Mrs. R. P. Butler was the last teacher, and Mrs. L. Johnston the last Secretary-Treas. The building was sold for a granary to Peter Pomehichuk. "The school yard was plowed up, and only a grain field remains."

Dowsford S.D. No. 190

The first school was built in 1881 near Dow's Crossing over the Birdtail, east of Grant's Bridge. The first teacher is said to have been Miss Milne, and William Russell was Secretary in 1883. Oliver Nickel, Secretary for many years, was influential in having a new school built on the Jubilee Road. Unfortunately, the ceiling was high, and the school was very cold in winter — so that there were times when the children found their lunches frozen by noon. Some teachers made hot chocolate, which was much appreciated by the pupils, who took turns bringing milk from home.

Miss Nora Rhind is a teacher well remembered. She taught for seven years through the depression period for as little as \$43.10 per month. She planned the planting of trees around the school yard — a project completed in 1936 after her marriage to Osmar Workman. Mr.

E. J. Hamilton, Trustee for many years, was honored in 1951 with a presentation for long service.

Dowsford was consolidated with Solsgirth in 1954. The last teacher was Mrs. Mary Workman, and the last Secretary-Treas. was Frank Carscadden.

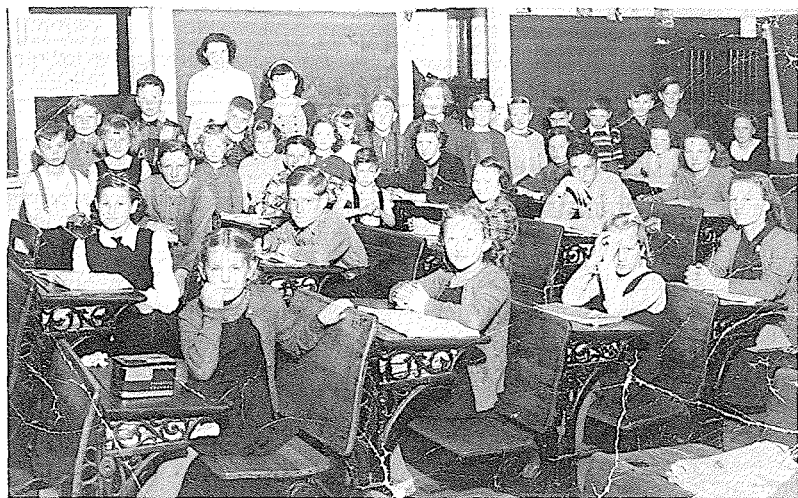
Mount Joy S.D. No. 378

This school was built in 1887 west of the Farquhar farm buildings. The first teacher was Miss Annie Hodnott. Others who taught there for several years were T. W. Thompson, Mr. Hayes, Miss Jean Leckie. Last teacher was Miss Myrtle Graham, from 1912-15. Attempts were made to dig a well, but always unsuccessfully. In 1896 a new barn was built, and in 1911 a new school at a cost of \$1450.00. Mr. George Porter Sr. is recorded as Secretary-Treas. for many years.

The Edmundson story relates that the eleven children attended Mount Joy as well as Dunstan School, each about five miles from home. "Through all kinds of weather they walked along wooded paths and rutted trails. For winter they had the luxury of a horse-drawn vehicle over crisp sparkling landscape, which could turn into a howling blizzard, confining them overnight to the school's protection."

Solsgirth S.D. No. 462

School was first held in Solsgirth above Berry's store, which as far as we can tell was where the town well is now. In 1887 a school was built north of the track, where the Catholic Church now stands. Church services and also dances were held in the school in those days. Discipline seems to have been a problem, and many teachers did not stay long. In 1899 Miss Helen Younghusband (later Mrs. E. B. R. Hall) was hired as a "good disciplinarian" She writes — "I did not find them as difficult



Class at Solsgirth 1951 — Miss Nicholson — teacher.

as I had been led to believe. They responded well when they found I meant what I said — and we became the best of friends —” Others who remained for several years were Miss Arthur, Miss Kelly and Mr. Kristinson, who started a Boys’ and later a Girls’ Band. Many a boy was made into a gentleman.

In 1914 a new two-room brick building was erected on the south side of town. At times the overflow — either lower or higher grades — was accommodated in the old school. In 1919 Mrs. Hall and Miss Esther Moulson planted a hedge and trees, naming them after the pupils. A more modern school with three classrooms was built north of the brick building in 1953. It was closed in 1968 when all the pupils went to Birtle, and the building was moved to Shoal Lake. Miss Helen Kostuik taught from 1960 to 1968. She married Walter Choptuik in 1961, and continued teaching until the school closed.

The Division system for high schools was instituted in 1959, and from September 1961 Grades Nine to Eleven went to Birtle. Mr. E. G. Fisher will be remembered as a Secretary-Treas. for many years, retiring in 1947. Mr. Bill Choptuik served from 1961-68, when the school was closed. R. K. Workman and H. Bourne served on the School Board for many years.

In 1954 a Kindergarten under the supervision of Mrs. Bob Richardson and Mrs. Derry Ashcroft was held on Friday afternoons at the homes of the two teachers. Cost was twenty-five cents per afternoon.

Home and School — Parent and Teacher Association

Organized on Dec. 2nd, 1957 by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Weinmaster — principal and teacher respectively. First President — Mrs. Osmar Workman. First Secretary — Mrs. Jack Treble. A Charter Member Roll is formed and is in safe keeping in the W.I. Club Rooms. Some of the contributions made during its continuance — Scholarship fund and Award system in the school; sponsorship of the UN. Seminar student delegates; Adult Education programming; promotion of a liaison between Board Members, teaching staff, students, and parents. The last meeting was held in June 1964.

NOTE: There was help given by the organization to the Area music festivals, local school picnics and parent-day gatherings. At one time it was the only organization that embodied a representation of all the district.

Miss Helen Miller recalls how cold it was when they drove in a cutter to school. The horses were kept in a stable behind the school. Sometimes the children’s hands were so cold that they could not take off the bridles until recess.

Other schools mentioned in family stories are **Gnaton School**, built in 1893, **Gambler’s School** in the Foxwarren district, and **Thoona School**. No details are available.

Teachers and Principals

It has been impossible to include a complete record of the many good and faithful staff people who have presided over the schools of the district for nigh on a hundred years. To them all we must pay tribute for the contribution they have made, often under the most difficult circumstances. A very few come to mind — Miss Nan Johnson of Fox-warren, who taught in Birtle, went on exchange to New Zealand, later taught in Saskatoon. Her death was announced recently in the Eye-Witness Miss Hazel Manwaring "one of the outstanding teachers in her field. How fortunate Birtle youth were to have her." (Mrs. Alex Duff) Principal Arthur Hensley, now in Victoria, B.C. wrote recently about some of his recollections of sixty years ago — and incidentally mentioned that his wife was formerly Miss Olive Armstrong, also at one time a Principal in Birtle. Mr. J. O. Beckstead is still active in retirement in Winnipeg. In conclusion, we quote from Steele McLennan's poem on the occasion of "John McLennan Day" —

Teaching school, with all its joys,
Thoughts of all those girls and boys —
Now, after all the years he spent,
His dog looks real intelligent!

Birtle Indian School

Birtle Indian School, with its motto "Fiat Lux" — (Let there be light) served for more than eighty years as home for hundreds of children from various reservations. They found affection, guidance, concern — acquired knowledge and useful skills, and developed whatever special talents they had inherited from their forefathers.

During the last century Indian children had sometimes shared in the schooling provided by various church missions. After the tragic events of 1885, the Government of Canada at long last turned its attention to the native people of the west, and education for the young was



First Indian School — Principal, Mr. Crawford.

given top priority. Reports are on file with the Department of Indian Affairs with regard to the children of Birtle Treaty Indians and the Birdtail Sioux Reserve. A school was established on the reserve by the Presbyterian Church, taught by a Mr. Burgess. Mr. J. A. Markle, Indian Agent, reports seven students enrolled in 1888, and eight others had been sent to the Industrial School at Sault Ste. Marie. Mention is made of a boarding school to be established in Birtle.

By 1890 it was reported that the children had been transferred to the boarding school, principal Mr. McLaren — "a clean, well-kept and handsome building of greystone, not however suited for boarders". This of course was the "Stone School" built in 1882, and now rented by the Dept. of Indian Affairs. A year or two later the Indian children were it seems moved to the Watt house, and the town children returned to the Stone School until it burned in 1895.

In 1894 a new stone structure on the north hill was formally opened with Professor Hart as Chairman, and Mayor Crawford participating. Mention is made of T. Patterson as contractor for the stone stable. The school was operated and financed by the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, with per capita grants from the Indian Affairs Branch. After Church Union it came under the United Church for a time, but in 1927 was transferred back to the Presbyterian W.M.S. Frequent reports about the school and its students appear in its publication "Glad Tidings".

In 1904 W. H. Dalton had charge of plumbing installations, the water supply coming from the C.P.R. station tank. John McCuaig looked after farm instruction until 1926, when Ted Newsham replaced him. The farm was always an integral part of the school, to assist senior students to "learn by doing". A by-product was the provision of sufficient meat and vegetables for staff and students, and a flower garden that was "the pride and joy of the whole town." Agriculturalist I. B. Whale, father of a staff member, visited the school in 1960. He found there "nine hundred acres of land . . . forty-two swine, six hundred chickens, two hundred turkeys, ninety head of Holstein cattle, of which any breeder might be proud." Prizes had been won at fairs and exhibitions, and in 1966 a B.I.S.-bred Holstein bull "Birtle Citation Bob" was sold at Calgary for the top price of \$7600.00.

In 1945 Mr. N. Martin Rusaw was appointed Principal of the school and his wife became Matron and incidentally Choir Director. Mr. Rusaw had served with the R.C.A.F. and was also gifted in woodwork, and it was expected that "his air training will help smarten up the boys." Mr. Rusaw in an article for "Glad Tidings" writes of the task as he sees it — "Not only must we educate the Indian children, but we must educate white people to accept them into their world." He mentions that the new red brick building had been erected in 1931-32. Registration was 142, nearly capacity, the pupils mainly of Cree, Sioux and Ojibway descent, all in Grades I to VIII. In 1951 Grades IX to XII were added, but the students received instruction for the most part at Birtle Collegiate.

Since 1960 government policy has changed gradually, towards integrating Indian children into public schools whenever possible. By 1962 Grades I to III attended school in Brandon, and from Grade VII the pupils were enrolled in Birtle School. They remained in residence until 1970, but by 1972 the handsome structure stood empty and rather desolate, waiting the next stage in its life of service.

Space permits a very brief sketch of the many-faceted life of this fine school and its lively young residents. The program was firmly based on a religious foundation, with mission study, C.G.I.T., rallies with Birtle churches. Visiting ministers held regular church services, with music provided by a student choir. A special year was 1964, when the choir of thirty under Mrs. Rusaw's direction sang in Norwood Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg — and then went on to Montreal to sing for the W.M.S. Centennial celebration. Later a concert was held at the school, and the boys' choir took first place at Binscarth music festival.

The "Eye-Witness" (June 1971) reports that two recent graduates of the school have become ministers of the church. **Gordon Williams** of Cree origin, attended Brandon University, married Maureen Lynette Watkins, a social worker, trained at the Presbyterian College in Montreal. He served for a time in Formosa, and in 1971 was in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He is now in Ottawa with the Department of the Secretary of State. **Stanley McKay** of Fisher River, Man., son of Stanley Sr. a well-known Indian church worker in Winnipeg, studied theology at the U. of Winnipeg, and was appointed to the United Church in Norway House. Here he met and married Miss Dorothy Fahner of Gladstone, a teacher.

Miss Pearl Maude Kenny, a staff member from 1943 until her sudden death in March 1968, entered whole-heartedly into the life and



Indian pupils — 1912.

work of the school, and has left a record of her experiences there in a carefully-kept scrapbook. In tribute to her loving persistence a student Johnny Hinchell wrote "If it wasn't for your pushing and nagging at me, I wouldn't be where I am. I shall always be thankful toward you!" To Miss Kenny we owe a debt of gratitude for a rich store of memories and anecdotes about the school and its students.

Following are brief sketches of subsequent careers of a few of the students of the school. Doubtless many others could be added to the group. **Tom Stevenson** from Broadview, Sask., with a love of music inherited from his grandmother, an organist, carried on his studies with the aid of various scholarships, received diplomas in music from both Manitoba and Toronto Universities. He performed with distinction in Winnipeg in 1961 for the program "Manitoba Salutes her Ethnic Groups", and now teaches piano in Winnipeg.

Ida and Colin Wasacase, twins, their father Chief Albert Wasacase of Kahestihaw Reserve, Sask., graduated from the school in 1957. Ida studied Education at the U. of B.C., is now Cross-Cultural Consultant for programs for native children with the Manitoba Dept. of Education. Colin worked as camp counsellor in New York State, then trained for the ministry at United College, Winnipeg, is now in Ottawa as Chief of Student Residences with the Dept of Indian Affairs. **William Clarence Thomas** of the Peguis Reserve completed a university course in Alberta, was Regional Superintendent of Education there, and lately has been Regional Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Manitoba.

Sam Isaac, of Cree descent from the Ochapowace Reserve, Sask., trained in art with Miss Kenny, won a design competition from the National Indian Council at the age of fifteen in 1962. He had a place in the school choir, and also in track and hockey events. He now works as an artist in design at Red River Community College. **Grenville Craite** a choir member and athlete, competed at Minnesota for the U. of Manitoba in track, came a close second in the three-mile event of the International Meet of Champions at Winnipeg in 1964. He is now with the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood as a community development worker. His cousin **Elsie Craite**, who described life in an Indian School in a well-written article in the magazine "Miss Teen-Ager", later trained as a nurse. Another nurse, **Betty Bunn**, Sioux by birth, was the first Indian to receive her cap at the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1955. **Nelson Bunn**, another track star, set a provincial record at a meet at Sargent Park, Winnipeg, in 1964.

Lac Kingsley Nelson Bannab, a full-blooded Salteaux from the Waywayseecappo Reserve near Rossburn, became a photographer with the R.C.A.F. at Trenton, Ont. **Verna Kirkness** taught school at Norway House, then served with the Dept. of Education in Winnipeg, overseeing Indian students. She is now (1973) studying Cree and other languages at the U. of Manitoba. **Charlie Bittern**, from the Berens River Reserve, and **John Nazzie** had a moment of glory during the Pam-American Games in Winnipeg in July 1967. They were among the

runners who carried the torch in relays all the way from St. Paul, Minn. to Winnipeg — which torch was used to light the flame at the formal opening of the Games in the presence of Prince Philip.

Mrs. Isla Penner, whose father Rev. David Iverach was Principal from 1913-16 recalls great delight when allowed to visit the School, and was carried around on the shoulders of the students. The family got their milk from the school farm. "One Saturday night mother was giving me a bath in the tin tub on the kitchen floor, when someone knocked at the door. She threw an old raincoat over the tub and me and went to the door. It was a boy from the school with the milk, so she asked him in for some cookies. They sat and chatted while I peeked through a hole in the raincoat and the water got colder and colder."

Chapter XI RECREATION

Game Hunting

I have hunted the grouse, for the geese made a hide;
And tracked a bull moose by the long lake's side;
But my choice of it all is the fall's frosty bite,
And a boat in the marsh for the fast bluebill's flight.

Frank A. Smith 1918



Roy Sutcliffe, Unknown, John Sutcliffe.

The enthusiasm of the hunter is incomprehensible to the uninitiated, and to most women. However, the true hunter has no difficulty explaining to himself and the rest of the world that a) his family needs meat and b) he himself needs relaxation. At any rate, hunters every fall take to the woods, fields and sloughs, to seek out and hopefully bring home trophies of the chase.

The Birdtail area has been acclaimed as "good hunting" country since long before the settlers came there. After their arrival, many a dinner was provided by the game birds and animals that existed almost on their doorstep. As time went on, and domestic stock increased, the basic need for food may have passed, but men, and some women and many small boys still found a challenge in the western version of the chase. "Wandering in Wattsview" has a vivid description and some fine pictures of hunters and their "bag" or catch, fishing in the Assiniboine or Birdtail having been productive in years past.

There are many tales told of the bird or animal brought down, and of the one that got away. Wolf hunting was a favourite sport. Mr. A. O. Webb kept three wolf hounds, which were taken out in a "Dog Box", ready to be let out when a wolf was sighted. Phil Dearlove was often with him on these outings. At that time there was a bounty of \$5.00 for the hides. In 1902 Birtle paid out \$392.00. A recent note in the "Eye-Witness" remarks that a farmers' meeting asked that the bounty be reinstated because of loss of sheep in the country west of Lake Manitoba — but that the objective should be control, not eradication, the wolf now being an endangered species.

John Lissiman was another enthusiast, and kept five hounds for the forays. Mrs. Kitty Edmundson says that in younger days she often went along on wolf hunts, riding side-saddle! Her husband Tom and his brother William, who arrived in Birtle in 1889 as boys, amused themselves in the first days by snaring gophers, and impressed their parents by bringing down several wild geese. Wilson Hamilton had a



A. O. Webb and W. C. Spicer, 1911.



Caught with Ken Crew's camera.

narrow escape in an encounter with a wounded moose, fortunately was rescued in the nick of time by Frank Pizzey, with his last shot. Wilson's wife did better right at home, when she took aim at a wolf feeding on a dead horse in the next field. The men on their return found the remains locked in the summer kitchen. Mrs. Mort Wallace had less success when she threw a kettle of water at a wolf as it ran off with one of her precious hens. Ken Crew tells the story of two bucks with locked horns, who were, however, freed after being shot — only with a camera. Frank Salmon was another who loved to hunt, and also the Wottons, who looked forward to an annual outing in late November with neighbors — the Hays, Murrays, Ellises, Dunfields, Leo Leavens, even Rev. Bailey. They camped in the snow for a week, and had a glorious time tracking elk, deer and moose.

Valley Rifle Association — was started in 1906 by Robert Mountain. It grew to be a large club, and had a first-class range north of Solsgirth on Mr. Tait's property. The target was centred in front of an embankment, behind which two men stood in a deep trench to record the scores. Many young people learned the art of shooting as well as good sportsmanship. A silver badge was given to the highest scorer each day, and he wore it until the next shoot.

Snake Creek Sportsmen's Association — was formed in 1970, with members from Solsgirth, Foxwarren, Birtle, Miniota, Beulah and St. Lazare. It is affiliated with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, and one of its objectives is the conservation of game, and the preservation of wildlife habitat. First President was Dunc Johnston of Birtle, Vice-President Len Lane and Secretary-Treas. Ric Edberg, who became President in 1973, succeeding Ray Peacock. The Club sponsors an annual fish derby, and has a trophy for the largest typical deer head.

Curling in Birtle

Birtle curlers have won many a trophy in bonspiels in Winnipeg, Yorkton, and the surrounding district. Names recalled are Roy Dutton, Gordon Stewart, Henry Doig, Arthur and Andrew Doig, J. M. Stewart and Stan, Jack Patton, Bob Gourley, Ernie Walley Sr., Percy Watt, the Beirnes, Rife boys, Billie and Alex McDonald, and many younger ones.



Winners Northwestern Bonspiel, 1953. H. Greeves — Skip, J. Scantlebury, Rev. Hunter, T. Mitchell Jr.



Ready to tee off, 1957.

T. Edmundson
Mrs. Miles
Mrs. Edmundson
Edna Doig
Mrs. King

A team of High School boys, Frank Seisling, Bobby Corr, Fred Greeves and Terry Brown, went to the High School Christmas 'spiel in Winnipeg in 1953, and won the Free Press Trophy.

Birtle has had at least three curling rinks. The "Eye-Witness" of May 1911 mentions a proposed new rink to replace the one in use for eighteen years. When built, the rink combined skating and curling (two sheets). The present imposing building with its artificial ice was built, partly by volunteer labour, in 1970, and a weekly lottery, with prize of \$100.00 has helped finance it. The rink was opened for curling in December 1971, and the official opening was Nov. 25th, 1972, when Mrs. R. L. Miles cut the ribbon and C. L. Dutton threw the first rock, using an iron rock made from a cannon ball from the Plains of Abraham.

The ladies always took a special part in curling. In earlier years such names as Mrs. Moxham, Mrs. J. G. Hatch, Phyllis Dutton, Mrs. Ted Newsham, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Dair, Mrs. Tom Copeland, Mrs. Ann Greeley, Mrs. Ernie Walley Sr., Mrs. Moss Andrews, Louise Watt, and numerous school teachers.

A few years later, Jean Doig, Edna Doig, Mrs. Miles, Winnie Wilson, Christie Greeves, and Marion, Peggy and Kaye Hatch, Mary Patton, Mrs. Percy Watt, Thelma Barber, Annie Morris, Louise Stewart, Jean Mitchell, Frances (Walker) Wilcox, Mrs. William Walker, Ella Crew, Chris Will, Mary Graham, Mrs. Mabel Edwards,



"Birtle Maroons" — Girls' Fastball Team, 1957. Front Row: Margaret Wood, Donna Doran, Barbara Mitchell, Terry Fulton, Leona Stainer, Roy Graham (Bat Boy). Back Row: Nelson Graham (Coach), Winnie Wilson, Dorothy Doran, Bev Newsham, Shirley Stewart, Lois Stainer.

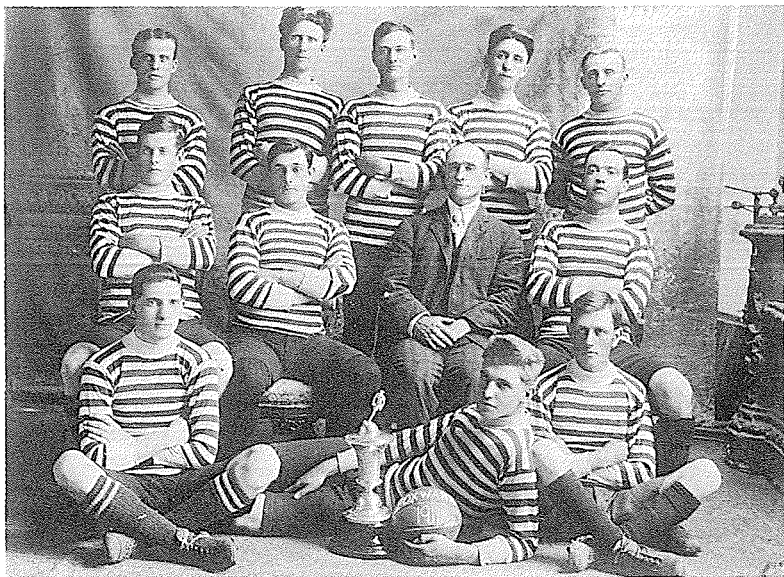
Charlene (Edwards) Edmundson, Babs Edmundson and many more were active in the winter, going to bonspiels to all the surrounding districts, to Winnipeg, Brandon and Yorkton. Many a trophy has been won. At present, there are fourteen evening rinks and six afternoon rinks in our Club.

Foxwarren Ladies' Curling Club

Ladies first curled in Foxwarren in December 1917, the fee being \$2.00. By February 1919 they had one sheet of ice on Tuesday and two on Friday, and in September 1923 a fee of \$4.00 was set, reduced to \$3.00 in November for eight rinks. In April 1924 the ladies formed their own Club. At the first meeting April 17th Mrs. W. Boyd was elected President, Mrs. D. Smith Vice-President and Miss I. Irwin Secretary-Treas. Next season there were nine rinks, the fee 50 cents, ice fee \$2.50. They held their first bonspiel in February 1928.

In January 1930 two rinks entered the men's bonspiel, skips being Mrs. B. Laycock and Mrs. W. McJanet. Games were twelve ends. During the thirties fees were omitted, ice fees reduced, and the ladies and men enjoyed Mixed 'spiels. In 1938 the end-of-the year balance was one cent. Money was raised at bridge parties.

The new rink opened Dec. 10th, 1949, and since then the ladies have raised money for upkeep of the rink by serving lunches, etc. In 1950 the Club affiliated with the M.L.C.A., and two years later with the Western Association.



Foxwarren Football Team. Manitoba Intermediate Champions, 1911. A. A. Hay, W. McLaughlin, W. Forsythe, A. N. Leckie, H. Simpson, D. Thompson, A. Walton, W. J. Rorke, P. McCallum, D. A. F. Dickson, B. Laycock, A. Hodgson.

The year 1953-54 was distinguished by the performance of a rink consisting of Dorothy Sawyer Skip, Kay Lazenby Third, Nora Campbell Second and Effie Johnson Lead. They entered the Provincial Playdowns, won the south half of District 10, and defeated Mrs. Delmage of Dauphin, winner of the north half. On March 4th in Winnipeg they defeated Mrs. Clark of Winnipeg for the Manitoba Championship, then went to Edmonton for the Western Playdowns, sponsored by T. Eaton Co. In a double round-robin Alberta won, and the Foxwarren rink tied with Saskatchewan for second place. In May the rink was invited to Vancouver for the July Bonspiel, a part of the British Empire Games. The Foxwarren rink was winner of the round-robin, and received trophies.

Solsgirth Curling Rink

The Curling Club was organized at a meeting in Mr. E. B. R. Hall's office Dec. 8th, 1913. Present were Messrs. E. G. Fisher, F. E. Brown, H. B. Hartley, John F. Workman and J. L. Ridout, Chairman. Mr. Hall was elected both President and Secretary-Treas. Four rinks began the season. The rink was on Sec. 31-17-25, north of the road. It was demolished after a few years by a windstorm.

In October 1929 it was decided to erect a new building. Trustees appointed were G. E. Simmie, E. G. Fisher, A. J. Ellis, J. A. Hamilton, R. K. Workman, F. Sanders, and Mr. Hall. A charter was applied for, and decision made to finance the rink by sale of shares for \$5.00. James Hamilton directed the building, with mostly volunteer workers, who made a curling rink from buildings purchased for \$250.00 from U.G.G. on the site of the old lumberyard.

The school principal Mr. Kristinson was asked to form a junior club, and Mrs. Kristinson to organize a ladies' club. The work continued for several years. Lighting was from a gas engine, temperamental at times, often stopping when a crucial shot had just left the hack. With Hydro in 1951 this problem was overcome. Through the years the ladies served lunch on many occasions, and with the money "We ate ourselves out of the hole — (financial)".

Bonspiels held were Men's, Ladies', Open Mixed, High School and 4-H. The waiting room was often packed with spectators during the hard days of the thirties — even at 40 below they came by cutter, van, sleigh or on foot — and "always curled a perfect game behind the glass". We did not produce any "Big O's" or Donnie Duguids, but many across Canada will recall happy hours spent at the old rink, which ended its career in the winter of 1965-66. After that time the few remaining curlers could drive on good roads to heated rinks. In 1971 the rink built by volunteers was pulled down under the Winter Works Program. In 1973 there are weeds on the building site, a desolate spot that once echoed to shouts of "Sweep! Sweep!" To us who cared, it hurts.

Hockey in Birtle — There have been many good players in past years — the Copelands, Beirnes boys, Henry Doig, A. Spencer, the Wilsons, Bill Beard. Then came the teams made up of Dunc, Stan and Bill Birnie, Jack and Ernie Walley, Buck Dodge, Stu Smith, Doug and Mac Manwaring, Ernie Spencer Sr., David Edwards, Fred Greeves, Joe and Alf Dair. In time the younger generation started in — the Mitchell boys, Bill Walley, Dallas Randall, Keith Wilson, Fred and Jack Haney, Chuck McArthur, John Olafson, Gay Stewart, Fred and Phil Greeves, and the Dunham boys. They played many interesting games.

Now Birtle boasts of five different age groups in its hockey league — eight and under, ten, twelve, fourteen and sixteen years and under. They are all doing well, winning their share of trophies, etc. The ten-and-under team go to Qu'Appelle to compete, and the twelve-and-unders have taken in the Weyburn Pee Wee tournament for a number of years. Binscarth-Birtle Combines (thirteen and under) won the Bantam BB Championship in 1972.



Birtle Hockey Team 1905-06. A. S. Hames, Point, J. M. Stewart, President, E. C. R. Pritchard, Cover point, Frank Manwaring, Rover, L. Cann, Centre, W. Wilson, Goal, P. Becket, Right wing, E. Campbell, Left wing.

Ladies' Hockey — The girls also had some good hockey players. Earlier ones were Edith Quelch, the Wheatley girls, the Wheelers, Louise Wilson, Jean Doig, Edna Harrison, the Beirnes girls. In later

Arena is used for many other purposes — wedding suppers, smorgasbords, Recognition Nights, dances and bingo, and is a focal point for community activities. The Hockey Club is presently working for artificial ice.

Our first team to play in Winnipeg were runners-up in Juvenile in 1918. Melvin Graham and Vic Murray, still resident in the district, were on that team, and later on the Champion Intermediate team of 1924-25. Since World War II many teams from Foxwarren and district have won trophies. Senior teams have played in the Southwest and Riding Mountain Leagues, and in 1972-73 in the Western Division of the North Central League.

One player has been especially outstanding. Ron Low, great-grandson of early pioneers, played with our Juvenile B Champions, went to the Winnipeg Junior Jets, then to the Dauphin Kings, Junior Provincial Champions. He was drafted by the Toronto N.H.L. Junior Draft, was sent to Jacksonville, Fla., then played professionally with the Oilers in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was signed for a two-year contract to play goal under Jacques Plante for the Maple Leafs. Other local boys have gone on to play for other teams — Norman Johnston with Selkirk Steelers, and Dave Johnston with Yorkton Junior Terriers.

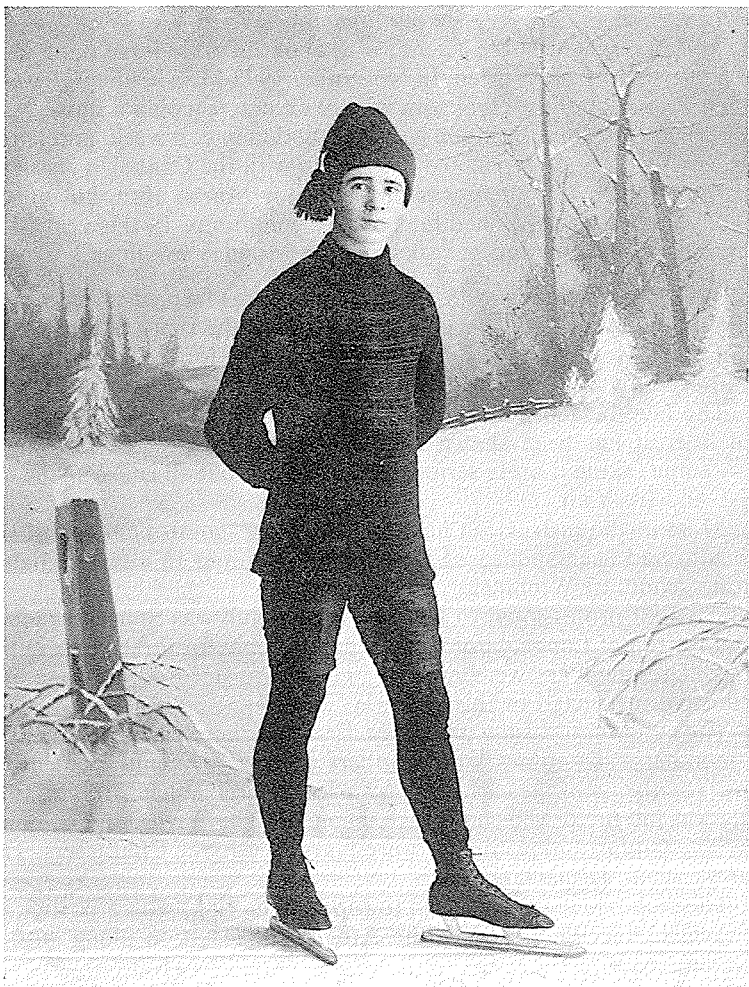
Foxwarren has been fortunate in the men who have coached and managed the teams — too many to mention — but special tribute is given to Andy Low for many years of assistance and advice.

Championship teams have been: 1925 Intermediate A, also representing Manitoba for the Allen Cup; Junior B in 1945, 1948 and 1952; Intermediate B 1961, and Intermediate A 1962; Juvenile B 1967; Intermediate C 1971. Teams have been finalists in eight years since 1918.

Skating — has always been popular in Birtle, and there have been many fine speed skaters. George Beirnes was well known, winning many local races, and at one time was Manitoba Champion. Not many years ago he appeared on his skates, and did a turn or two around the rink. His brothers and sisters were also good skaters.

The first rink was built about 1893 near Centre Street bridge, on the "Post Office" hill. When the roof blew off in a storm, Mr. Ted Townsend writes that the children missed their skating so much that they organized a protest march and went around the streets carrying placards asking for a new rink — and they got it! The rink was remodelled and a bigger one built.

During the thirties a new skating and curling rink was built across to the right of the bridge, where the skating rink still stands. A new curling rink was built two years ago in the Exhibition Grounds, with four sheets of artificial ice. Skating races now take place at the Carnival. In 1973 unfortunately the ice melted before the end of the show. Birtle hopes to get artificial ice before long for skating and hockey. Meanwhile youngsters from seventeen months to sixty-seven years are to be seen on our ice at times.



George Beirnes Gold Medallist Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Birtle Figure Skating Club — was started in 1942 with Bob McMordie as President and Mrs. Rita Evans in charge of carnival numbers. The club got underway with a few of Mrs. Evans' dance pupils, and grew larger each year. Succeeding presidents were Mr. Winstone and Jack McLennan. Mrs. Evans took three of the skaters into the Winnipeg Figure Skating School for two weeks one year.

A carnival was arranged each year, and made visits to perform in Foxwarren, Binscarth, Shoal Lake, Solsgirth, Minnedosa, Erickson, Rossburn, Isabella, Russell and McAuley. Mrs. Evans selected the music for the various numbers and made all the costumes, assisted by the girls' mothers and other helpers. Mrs. Nellie Fulton and Miss Elaine Winstone are mentioned among those helping with the skating.

In March 1972 a very successful show "When You Wish Upon a Star" was presented in the Arena, with about fifty skaters taking part, and a guest pair from Virden. In November 1972 Mrs. Millie Berry was elected President of the club, with a large executive plan a show. Mrs. Ellen Matheson from Brandon gave instruction once a week, and senior girls assisted. The club planned to affiliate with the Canadian Association. In 1973 an Ice Show was arranged for March 10th, but unfortunately had to be postponed for poor ice conditions. In this year Mrs. Nancy Birch of Brandon gave lessons on Monday evenings.

The Foxwarren Figure Skating Club — was formed in the winter of 1952-53. Gwen Johnston of Foxwarren was the first instructor and her mother, Mrs. Evans of Birtle, was responsible for the costuming for the first carnival put on by the club and for several years after.

The membership has averaged 25 to 30 through the years and a keen interest has been shown by youngsters in the art of figures on ice — some taking it more seriously than others, but all enjoying the exercise and fresh air.

Most of the instruction has been given by senior members of the club who had been sponsored the previous summer to attend a figure skating school in Winnipeg.

The first professional to be hired by the club was Shirley Francis. Leslie Burton of Langenburg was the professional for three years in the sixties. The members were divided into groups according to age and ability and instructed in this way.

The main fund-raising project each year is an ice carnival put on by the members, sometimes with numbers by invited members of other clubs. The theme of the carnival has varied greatly. When Mrs. Flint of Birtle was instructor she chose such themes as The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, The Circus. Other themes were Nursery Rhyme Characters, The Four Seasons, Disneyland, etc.

The club has always worked to support the rink, with a portion of the carnival receipts going to the Athletic Association along with a donation.

Solsgirth Skating Rink — the first building was constructed in 1909, east of E. G. Fisher's house (now W. Workman). It was 50 x 120 feet in dimension, with a rounded roof, which caved in from heavy snow about 1912. Next year a new roof was put on, and one sheet of curling ice added, but in 1916 the building was blown over in a storm. In 1923 an open-air rink was set up in the old lumberyard, where it remained for years, the scene of much clean fun for young and old.

Hockey tournaments with teams from the district added to the finances, and carnivals with colorful costumes and lots of laughs were often held. These usually ended with a broomball game, and lunch sold by the mothers to help finances. A record-player provided music, which was heard with enjoyment by older people on the crisp winter evenings. One who learned to skate in Solsgirth was Bill Murray of Gilbert Plains, who later made headlines with the Dauphin Kings.

As the number of children in the village dwindled, the rink was closed, with much regret. The curling rink was used for skating for a few winters, then in 1971 all was demolished.

Swimming — has always been a popular pastime for Birtle people. Each year they have Water Sports in the summer, to conclude the summer lessons. Earlier days saw the Townsends, McMordies, Finches, Mitchells, Smiths, the King girls, Spencers, Edwards family, Pratts, Moxhams, Hatch and Greeves families all taking part in the water gala.

In recent years the Red Cross has sponsored and helped with swim instruction for all children from kindergarten to seniors. Lately Barbara Wonitoway has been the instructor, assisted by numerous other people. Barbara was honored in Winnipeg for her efforts. The swimming pool is in the Birtle Park, and has all modern facilities. Swimming used to be in a natural pool. One year, when there was a great deal of algae in the water, Mr. Townsend circled the lake in his boat with a bag of copper sulphate tied in the back, to kill the algae.

Men's Baseball — Years ago Birtle was noted for good ballplayers. (See "Wandering in Wattsvie") The team toured to many towns, with players imported from other places to help out the locals. Among the players were George Porter, the Corr boys, Sorby, McDonalds, Larry Brennan, George and Frank Wilson.

Another team later, from Wattsvie and Birtle, was made up of Robert Crew as catcher, Ken Crew, the Wilsons, McDonalds, Corrs, Bradleys, Dales, the Wilcox family. Still later a young team, which played through the High School term, consisted of George Brown, Ray Dunham, Fred and Jack Haney, Chuck McArthur, Bill Walley, Keith Wilson and Dallas Randall. Recently there has been no Birtle men's team, but the Lions' Fastball team played at Sport's Day last summer.

Birtle Flying Club

The Flying Club was organized in 1962 with ten members, including one lady, Mrs. Beryl Johnson, and was incorporated as a non-profit Company. The Club assumed all expenses, necessary work to prepare an airstrip and put up buildings being done by volunteers. There are now four hangars, a small Clubhouse, and a 2600-ft. grass airstrip.

First President was William Snow. The Club helped with its own expenses with Air Shows, "Fly-Ins", demonstrations of aerobatics. At present Baldur Johannson is President, and Secretary is Aime Deleau.

Sports for Girls in Birtle

Basketball — Girls had teams in both Public and High School, on two courts on the grounds of the Public School (now Keith Wilson residence). In 1914 and 1915 Miss Gladys Johnston, a teacher, coached the teams. The first team was made up of Bessie Lidster, Norah Wheeler, Elizabeth and Marguerite Wheatley, Bertie (Wood) Newsham, Allie (Cottingham) McBean. Then a team was organized

with Sadie (Barber) Graham, Allie Cottingham, Bertie Newsham, Ruth and Elizabeth Wheatley, Luella Henry, Edna (Harrison) Doig and Jean (Doig) Porteous enjoyed many victories. Then followed a team with Thelma (Barber) McLennan, Winnie (Spencer) Wilson, Margaret (Hall) Reid, Olive Wheatley, Eva (Thompson) Rousell, Joan (Dickinson) Davison, Mildred (Uzell) Jones, Audrey Newsham. They took in numerous tournaments in Shoal Lake, Miniota, Beulah, Foxwarren, and at Birtle July First Sports Day.

The last team before softball took over in 1927 was made up of Alice Walker, Doris (Smith) Lawton, Joan Dickinson, Winnie Spencer, Margaret Hall and Kathleen (Hatch) Simms. . . Years later basketball was revived in the Collegiate, but indoors in the gym, and with boys' rules.

Baseball — Ladies played baseball for a number of years. Early teams of 1915 and 1916 were Luella Henry, Edna Harrison, Elizabeth, Marguerite and Ruth Wheatley, Jean Doig, Bessie Lidster, Bessie Haines. Younger ones were Maggie Hall and Winnie Spencer, ten years old, who were allowed to play if they got ten cents from home to help pay for supplies. We had many good games, especially on July First.

Softball — In 1936 Birtle girls had a very good team which captured the L.O.L. Cup at Strathclair; the members of that team were — Dorothy Bradley, Gwen Manwaring, Audrey Dodge, Winnie Wilson, Dutch Poole, Nell (Edmundson) Cooley, Georgina Thornton, Nellie Fulton, Dorothy Newsham, Peggy Williamson. This team was unbeaten all summer and took in all Sports Days. Then as some players left or got married another team was organized. The coach was Nelson Graham and son Roy was our Mascot and bat-boy. We invested in uniforms with some merchants sponsoring us and we were called "The Birtle Maroons". The players were as follows: Donna and Dorothy Doran (twins), Bev Newsham, Shirley Stewart, Winnie Wilson, Margaret Wood, Lois and Leona Stainer, Barbara Mitchell, and Terry Fulton. That was a very successful team for several years.

Golf — Birtle has a pretty and interesting nine-hole golf course with sand greens. Before it was opened in 1931, earlier players had a course on the Fair grounds. It was here that Tommy Laidman made a hole-in-one, said he had done what he set out to do, put away his clubs and quit the game. There have been several holes-in-one on the present course.

A late member, Thomas Edmundson, was very interested in golf, and played until his late seventies. There are several Life Members in the Riverside Club, including Mrs. King, Dr. and Mrs. Miles, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pratt. In 1972 there were 166 paid-up members, including people from Welwyn, Binscarth, Foxwarren, St. Lazare, McAuley, Isabella and Beulah.

Tennis — started in Birtle in early years, on a court where Paul Madiuk's house now stands, and later, where John Brown's and Frank

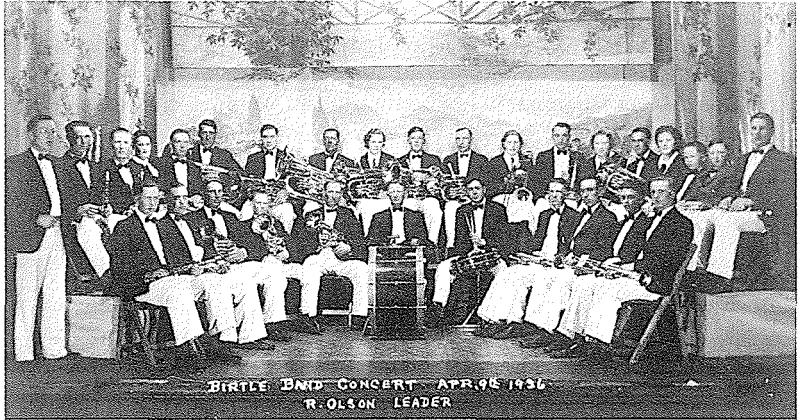
Wilson's houses are, there were three courts. There are now two hard-top courts in the Park near the Golf Clubhouse.

The names of Hazel Manwaring, Gordon Stewart, Olive Armstrong, the Tom Edmundsons and Gilbert, the Brayshays, Edna Harrison, Henry and Jean Doig are mentioned as good players. Later other players took part in tournaments at Minnedosa and Miniota — Helen Manwaring, the Finch boys, Dr. and Mrs. Miles, the Percy Watts, Frances Miles, Jean Doig, Edna Harrison, Cyril Allan, George Lauman, Ewbank and Gilbert Edmundson.

In 1954 and 1955 tennis was reorganized, and players took part in tournaments at Clear Lake and the Western Open at Brandon. Those taking part from Birtle included Nellie Fulton, Winnie Wilson, Bev and Ernie Spencer, George Brown, Garth, Ray and Bob Dunham, Ed and Wilf Finch, David and Dennis Pratt. Nellie Fulton and Winnie Wilson won the Ladies' Doubles match three years in a row at the Brandon Western Open Event.

THE LIVELY ARTS

There is much evidence that the arts are alive and well, like Jacques Brel, and living, not in Paris, but on the Birdtail! The "Winnipeg Sun" in 1888 reported — "The town (i.e., Birtle) is run on temperance principles — no license is to be issued when the present one expires. It is noted for morality and social life. There is a brass band of eleven instruments, a Rifle Association, and baseball and cricket



Birtle Band, 1936, Leader — Reuben Olson.



Birtle Minstrels, 1905.

clubs." The Eye-Witness has notations of various events through the years, which indicate a general interest in music, which refreshed the soul of the homesteader on days of leisure — generally the Sabbath. One piano and one organ in the small community made the homes possessing them centres of social life, culture and refinement. In time other instruments found their way there.

Birtle Band — Herb Walker was one of the first organizers, and by 1902 was Bandmaster, as well as entertainer at concerts, and for the opening of the Town Hall in 1910. The Band disappeared for a time, perhaps during the war, but was revived in 1932 with W. C. Knowles as instructor and Bandmaster. Mr. Reuben Olson took over as Bandmaster in 1935, continuing until 1942, when most of the personnel were now in the Armed Services. In 1939 the band placed second for rural bands at the Brandon Exhibition, and in 1940 it was in first place.

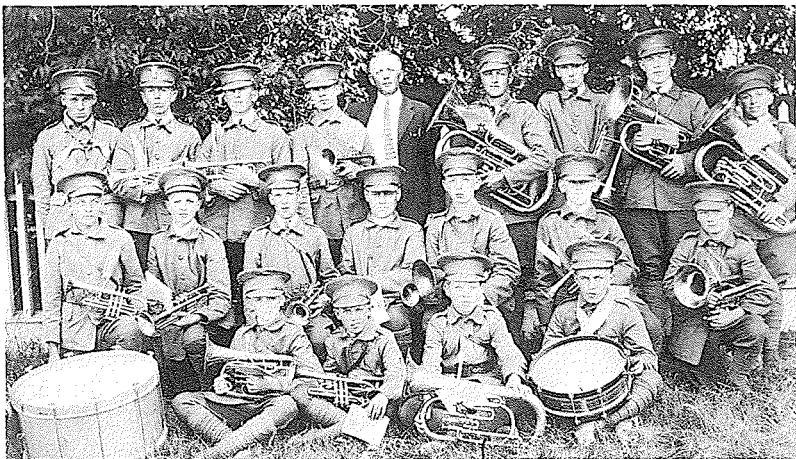
Mr. Olson recalls that some instruments had been stored in one of the cells in the Town Hall for many years, and the slides, valves, etc., were corroded badly. He and Milt Curll boiled each one in a copper washboiler to remove the corroded parts, re-soldered and repaired them, and put all the instruments in working order. The Town Council purchased a few new ones — and doubtless the Band did much to cheer the days of the Depression with their concerts and dances.

In the years before the war various theatrical entertainments were offered from time to time, when leaders were found to spark the productions, or as some financial need — often for the churches — provided a reason. As early as 1892 a Music and Drama Association was formed. In November 1910 the Birtle Players performed "Jane" (a musical?) in the Opera House. Christmas concerts in the schools uncovered a wealth of talent — such as Miss Jennie Leckie with her song "Won't You Buy My Pretty Flowers?"

The end of the war and the advent of the twenties gave new life to the artistic set. This was the period of the annual "Chautauqua" — "a week of unparalleled delight for all, and almost the only chance to see real live professional entertainers."

Birtle Orchestral Society was organized under the direction of a Mrs. Holmes. The movie house was the Savoy, which flourished for many years. Birtle Odd Fellows and Rebekahs produced a comedy "The Private Secretary", which toured several towns. Such productions were generally profitable. "Ten Nights in a Bar-room" provided furnishings for Zion Church, just as years later "H. M. S. Pinafore" rang in the new chimes for St. George's.

In Solsgirth a Boys' Band was started in 1924 by school principal Mr. A. Kristinson, "a born band-master". With varying personnel the band thrived and grew larger, playing at fairs and sports days, and once at Brandon Fair. As the boys grew up, girls were added to the band, until it became an all-girl group under Mrs. Kristinson. They too played for many events, and earned a little money which in the thirties was most welcome. After the Kristinsons left the district, George Porter



Solsgirth Cadet Band, 1926, Leader Mr. A. Kristinson.

helped as manager and chauffeur, until the girls too went on to their vocations. For them all it was an enriching experience.

Foxwarren also had a band, first organized in 1910 by George Goodfellow. It played for various events, and once at Binscarth for a campaign tour for R. L. Borden, later Prime Minister of Canada. After a lapse of some years the band was revived in 1926 under Mr. Percy Highfield. A portable bandstand in the village was the stage for musical performance on Saturday shopping nights. The same instruments were used again by the student band directed by Mr. Kristinson.

Many individuals of talent and some training have helped to make music a vital part of community life. Music lessons have been given from time to time by dedicated teachers, among them Mrs. Gilbert Edmundson, Mrs. John Hamilton, Mrs. Ron MacGranachan. Miss Winnifred Walker came for years by bus to Birtle, made her home from Monday to Friday at the Indian School, and went about the district to teach young musicians. Mr. Jack Young formed an orchestra with his own children, and provided the music for many country social events as well as calling the square dances. During his twenty-five years in the village, Mr. Percy Highfield and his family provided proof positive that "Man does not live by bread alone". Trained in singing and violin in England, he taught music in Foxwarren, and from time to time managed to produce operettas, assisted by Miss Vera Lamont of the school staff (now Mrs. Ted Morris), usually with Miss Nina Hall as accompanist. Their productions included "The Magic Ruby", "Windmills of Holland", "Bulbul" and also "Maarda", which Mr. Highfield wrote and produced himself, with a cast of thirty-one. Mention is also made of the Foxwarren Quintette — Florence and Annie Widdicombe, Shirley Ryan, Lilian Falloon and Mickey Hamilton, accompanied by Frances Widdicombe — who for several years have entertained at concerts, parties, and Senior Citizen Homes.



"Buck's Haymakers" (about 1933). Frank McLean, Earl Preston, Tommy Mayo, Buck Dodge, M. Fitzgerald, Frank Hastings.

At the present time it is evident that interest in music and theatre arts is becoming wide-spread, and new projects to foster them take in a much larger territory than was possible in earlier days. Noteworthy has been the development of the *North-West Marquette Music Festival* and also the *Speech Arts Festival*, each of which is held annually at one or other of the towns in the area. Folk dancing is included in the Music Festival. Adjudicators are brought from Winnipeg, Brandon University, Dauphin Collegiate and other places, and are people of training and experience in the special fields embraced by the festivals. Entries number generally from three to five hundred. In 1972 tapes were made of some numbers, as a result of which Heather Clunie of Foxwarren, accompanied by Mrs. Ron MacGranachan, was invited to take part in the Provincial Festival Highlights concert in Winnipeg.

An outstanding accomplishment in recent years has been the formation of the *North-West Marquette Centennial Choir*, organized in 1970 with singers from Russell, Binscarth, Foxwarren, Birtle and Inglis. Directed by Mrs. E. C. Sanderson, the four-part choir was accompanied by Mrs. M. Phillips and Mrs. Joan Roberts. A performance was given on July 10, 1970 for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Erickson, during the Royal Visit for Manitoba's Centennial. The choir has performed since in many towns, always for enthusiastic audiences. Tenor soloist has been Mr. Ed Williams, eighty-two when he sang for the Queen. A recording was made by Dwight Stewart of Birtle, and one record was sent to Her Majesty, for which a letter of thanks was received from Prince Philip.

Birtle Collegiate Institute has a very successful *Drama Club*, which produces plays each year, and has twice won the top award at the High School Drama Festival in Brandon, with "The Death of the Hired Man" in 1971, and "Fog in the Valley" in 1972. Sister Albina LaBonte



Excelsior Dance Band, 1933. Jim Hough, Art Olson, Art Mason, R. Olson, Bill Walker, Dean Robinson.

directed each play. The adjudicator spoke of "The deep sincerity of the acting, and the technical accuracy of their use of the stage . . ." John Ashcroft was especially successful in the leading role. In the 1972 production, Lyall Porter was named "Most Promising Actor".

Other facets of the art world are receiving attention in the community. In 1970 a class in *Ballet* was organized by Miss Erika de Korompay of Regina, formerly from Hungary, who had also studied with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Sixty or more students were enrolled in the class and were given an opportunity to show what they had learned at a recital in Virden, with other students from Moosomin, Virden and Rocanville. In the fall of 1973 Hilary Fulton held classes in dance.

Birtle has a *Ceramic Club*, which meets regularly, and which has entered exhibits in the show held by the West-Toba Ceramic Association in Brandon Arena, and won several prizes — including two to youthful artists aged five. The artistic life of the district is also encouraged by the *Travelling Art Exhibitions* from the Winnipeg Art Gallery, which have been displayed from time to time in the Collegiate, and attracted much attention.

We have just space enough to mention the achievement of David Maxwell son of Rev. Maxwell of the United Church, who won a scholarship at the Marquette Festival in 1971, which took him to Music Camp at the International Peace Garden, and thence with its choir toured countries in Europe. David wrote a series of vividly descriptive letters home to the Eye-Witness, to share his experience with the local people who had rallied to his support with various fund-raising projects.

Birdtail Valley Theatre

The arrival in Birtle of Mrs. Hilary Fulton in the summer of 1973 was the spark required to set off an explosion of energy and enthusiasm for a theatre group. Assigned a room in the "Pink School" by the Recreation Commission, the "motley crew" went to work to set up workshops in theatre arts and crafts, and to plan a production or revue for the late-winter doldrums. It was later announced that "H-E-L-P" would mount the stage of Birtle Collegiate Theatre in the first week-end of March.

W. H. Wallis, Artist

Mr. Wallis was born at Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, and received his early training at the Art School there, and later at South Kensington. He studied with a French master, M. Charbonnier, and English architect R. Cornwall-Jones. He and his wife toured Europe, where he spent much time studying French cathedrals and making sketches, some of which he finished later in his shop in Birtle.

The family came to Birtle in 1901, and bought the McGilvray farm across the Birdtail from the Shaw Place. Mr. Wallis farmed with his brother until 1911, when he moved to Birtle and opened a confectionery store, where Birtle people remember him painting in between customers. In 1920 the family moved to Winnipeg, where Mr. Wallis devoted full time to painting, then in 1927 they went out to Vancouver, where he died in 1946. This information has been supplied by his daughter, Mrs. Charles Copeland of Bellingham, Washington.

Mr. Wallis achieved considerable success with his paintings, which are distinguished by fine colouring and careful detail. He won many prizes in exhibitions in England and Canada, and sold paintings in many parts of Canada and United States. One large painting of Rheims Cathedral was purchased by the Manitoba Government for the new Legislative Building. Another of Rheims hangs in the United Church in Birtle, and the Honour Role in the Town Hall is his work.

Photography

An early photographer in Birtle was Horace Bagshawe (see Broadfoot-Bagshawe story). About 1903 Mr. Arthur J. Lawrence arrived, and established a studio in the third story of the Patterson block, Main Street at Eighth, about 1912 moving to Seventh Street east of the Town Hall. Many scenes and events of succeeding years were photographed by Mr. Lawrence, and were printed as postcards which sold for five cents. He drove about the country to take pictures of farm scenes and threshing gangs. He also carried on his work in Russell, Rossburn and Binscarth in the firm Lawrence and Meeres with George and Fred Meeres from England.

He enjoyed sports as a spectator, and playing cards and cribbage with old friends. He was an early fan of the radio, had one of the first headphone sets in town, and often invited people to his home on Sunday evening to listen to the Tabernacle Choir from Salt Lake City. He was a

member of the Presbyterian (later United) Church. Mr. Lawrence was born in eastern Ontario in June 1874, and died in Birtle March 1974.

Mention should be made here of the work of Mr. Steele McLennan of Birtle. A farmer who took up photography as a hobby, he has become professional in his craft, and at the present time is in constant demand to record people and events on film.

Recreation Commission

Recreation — properly thought of as “Re-Creation” has in recent years come to be looked upon as one of life’s necessities, and no longer to be limited by the resources of the individual. Governments at all levels have since World War Two taken a growing interest in leisure-time opportunities for people of all ages, and each year a larger share of the bill for sports, theatre arts, handicrafts, even travel has been underwritten and tax-supported.

The Recreation Commission of the Town of Birtle, set up several years ago, has shown marked progress in giving aid to a better life for its citizens. Grants are made to many organizations in the town, and a very full summer program is planned and coordinated by a student director working on a full-time basis. Janice Fraser held this position in 1971, and Sharon Waytowich in 1973. In October of this year negotiations with the School Division resulted in the acquisition of the north or “pink” school for recreation purposes.

At present (1974) the Town and Municipality have formed the Birtle Community Centre District, specifically for the purpose of building and maintaining a Joint Community Centre with facilities for figure skating and hockey, with artificial ice.

Projects sponsored by “Opportunities for Youth”, “New Horizons” for senior citizens, the Chamber of Commerce, Service Clubs, corporations like Imperial Oil, originating locally or elsewhere, are all helping to enhance the “quality of life”.

Chapter XII EPILOGUE

WE LOOK BEFORE AND AFTER

History is not a date or place —

History is:

A single crocus blooming in the snow,
A child delivered in the wilderness,
A burial beneath a canvassed sky,
A rutted epitaph in river mud.

Myra L. Haas — “Ox Cart”

In the final summing-up, history is people, their loves, joys, sorrows, labours and times of happiness. Recording all of these is the local newspaper, in this case the “Eye-Witness”, its masthead proudly claiming to be the Official Voice of the Beautiful Birdtail Country. On Thursday, September 17th, 1891 the newspaper was born, and in September 1973 celebrated its eighty-second birthday.

In October 1884 Birtle’s first Council offered a deal to Mr. A. J. Murdock and Son to start a printing office. Named the “Birtle Observer”, it was short-lived, lasting just long enough to repay the town for a bonus and loaned freight charges. The “Eye-Witness” was undertaken in 1891 by Councillor E. J. Wilson, a stalwart citizen of Birtle from its very first year. A good man with tools, and one of the best axemen in the district, “E.J.” could always be counted on to hew the corners for every new home. He now turned his skill to manipulating the press, aided by partner J. C. McChesney, who withdrew after three years. Hugh McKay from the Way-Way-See-Cappo Reserve was an apprentice for a time, and when he left for the Regina Industrial School, Bert Haines took his place.

There were some shareholders at first, but by 1897 Mr. Wilson was sole owner, and had the present stone and brick block erected. The second story was named “Victoria Hall”, later became an apartment. T. Arthur Wilson, one of “E.J.’s” ten children, has carried on the publication for many years. The weekly issues still come out regularly with the assistance of Editor No. 2 — Miss Pat Robertson. The newspaper has a wide circulation among ex-Birtlites right across the continent, who look forward to the arrival of this link with their old home.

Issue No. 1 so many years ago had thirty-five contract advertisers. Of all these, only the name of Walley still appears, but there are many new business names. Along the Birdtail the common saying remains — *I see in the “Eye-Witness” —*

1880 — Aug. — Birtle Post Office opened by J. H. Wood in the Bat-tram House.

1882 — Aug. — McKenzie and Johnstone contracted to build the Stone School for \$5,600.00. J. H. Innes teacher — salary \$700.00.

1886 — Aug. — Sir John A. Macdonald and his sister welcomed at Birtle.

- 1887 — Oct. — Major-Gen. Wilkinson purchased S.½ 2-17-27 with stock from Herchmer for \$6000.00.
- 1891 — Oct. — Holman & Corbett contracted for St. James' Church.
- Sept. — Huntley Malcolm and Janet Winter married in St. George's.
- Dec. — Arrow Mill offered bran at \$5.00 a ton.
- 1892 — April — An Act for relief of Birtle, Shoal Lake, etc., from railway bonuses was before the Legislature.
- Sam Larcombe engaged in immigration publicity in Old Country.
- Evangelists had 150 pledge signers at Birtle.
- Sept. — Marriage of John Bunn and Mary Bunn, and Charlie Hanska and Elizabeth Benjamin at the Sioux Reserve.
- Site selected for new Indian School. Gibson & Corbett contractors.
- 1893 — Aug. — Harvesters' Excursion from the east was \$28.00 round trip.
- Birtle Brass Band had new instruments valued at \$400.00, purchased by the Town. Hugh O'Donnell was leader.
- 1897 — *Prices* — sofa \$8.50, six chairs \$3.50; livery stabling .25; restaurant meals .25; Eye-Witness \$1.00 a year, Tribune .75.
- 1901 — D. Robinson succeeded by Mrs. Lyon in charge of Station dining hall.
- Birtle area covered with tents and teepees as claimants awaited scrip.
- Birtle-Moosomin stage made two trips weekly, with dinner at Fort Ellice.
- Nov. — Public meeting endorsed gas lighting for Birtle.
- Dec. — Elevator space was plugged, and Arrow Mill stored grain in bags.
- 1902 — Sept. — Birtle School had 156 pupils; salaries \$1,545.16.
- 1910 — *Prices* — harrow cart \$10.00; 4-year Hereford bull \$30.00; telephone poles \$2.25; party line yearly rate \$20.00.
- 1911 — July — A flying machine featured at Winnipeg Exhibition.
- One day a week should be reserved for farmers' wives to come to town in safety other than by auto.
- Birtle's Chinese, Lee Tong and son, gave up traditional pigtails.
- Harvest Excursion from Toronto carried 800 workers.
- 1912 — Mar. — Citizens engaged the Adams Hall as the Empress Theatre and Opera House (Legion Hall site).
- April — J. D. McArthur let contract for 100 miles of railway northwest from Edmonton.

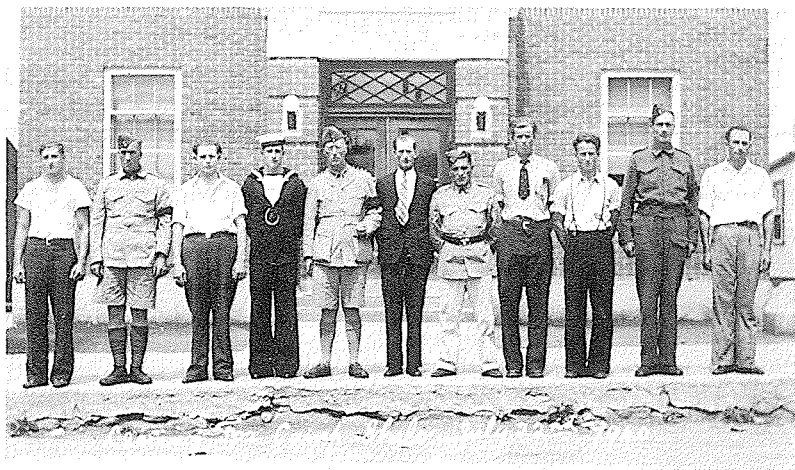
- Land Title Registry Office closed and moved to Neepawa.
- 1913 — Joseph Sharman's ranch between Solsgirth and Rossburn up for auction.
- 1914 — Aug. — Great Britain and Canada declare war on Germany and her allies.
- 1916 — Aug. — A violent cyclone hit the area in mid-afternoon, doing untold damage to crops and buildings.
- 1920 — Tom Laidman wired the Demonstration Farm buildings for light.
- 1922 — June — The annual Chautauqua was held the first week in June.
Birtle, with 600 population, had 100 telephones.
- 1923 — April — John Bopha died at the Birdtail Reserve.
Nov. — J. C. Cartwright received a letter from Germany with postage of thirty million marks — pre-war value .22.
- 1930 — Mar. — Premier Bracken outlined highway program of \$2,-500,000.00.
- 1931 — Jan. — Death of Sioux Benn, last link with tribal warfare. The new Indian School was officially opened in October.
Nov. — The United Church shipped over 100 railway cars of food into Saskatchewan.
- 1939 — Sept. — Great Britain and Canada declare war on Germany and her allies.
- 1941 — Aug. — Winnipeg Tribune carried a letter of thanks from Commonwealth airmen for Birtle hospitality.
- 1942 — Aug. — High school opening delayed for boys and girls helping with harvest.
Nov. — Triplet sons of John Ashcroft joined brother Cromar in the services.
- 1943 — Sept. — Birtle "Blue" School, built 1897, burned, with fire starting in the roof.
W. Dodge writes of advance of Montgomery's 8th Army into Sicily.
Ron Lambert, RAF Australia, dedicated poem "White Christmas" to Birtle friends.
- 1944 — Feb. — Ernie Walley graduated from Virden Flying School, winning an award.
- 1966 — Jan. — Mrs. Charles Hanska celebrated her 100th birthday on the Birdtail Reserve.
- 1971 — Mar. — Indian Band Administration course held at Indian School, now closed.
- 1970 — May — B.C.I. team "Reach for the Top" won Northwest League, lost to Kelvin, later Canadian Champions.
- 1973 — Oct. — Mrs. Winona Benn celebrated 100th birthday with Golden Age Club at Beulah.

- Nov. — Birdtail Sioux Reserve admitted to Birdtail River School Division.
- 1974 — Feb. — Former Indian School buildings and land offered for sale.

War in Our Time

The people of the district can look back on four wars within the century that have touched their lives closely, and with increasing intensity. They were nicely settled on their land when the second rebellion of the Metis under Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont broke out. It was many miles from the Birdtail to Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Batoche, but at least one settler was certain that a shot from the battle passed over one of his fields and just missed him! Captain George Wood, who homesteaded in the district about 1885 was a leader of infantry during that time. Better known were Boulton's Scouts, recruited by Major C. A. Boulton around Russell, Birtle and Moosomin, who did much of the reconnaissance for General Middleton and averted more than one ambush. No. 2 Troop was from Birtle, commanded by Capt. J. A. Johnston, with surgeon Dr. Rolston and Lieutenant H. Gough. (See family story) Quartermaster was George Cox. "This mounted unit of superb horsemen knew every bluff and coulee on the prairie."¹² There were fifty-seven men in the Birtle troop, and one, Edward Brown, lost his life.

The Boer War in South Africa was an alluring adventure for some. Major-General Wilkinson departed from the district to serve there, and Clementi Smith (now Captain) enlisted and was killed in the fall of 1901. Others mentioned in the Eye-Witness as serving in the campaign were Trooper Matt Leggat, who was wounded and given a royal



Recruits leave for Camp Shilo, July, 1940. Edward Finch, Lloyd Newsham, Wilfred Finch, Major A. M. Pratt, Wellington Dodge, James Hough, Albert Spencer.

welcome in February 1901, Trooper Harris who returned after hospital treatment. Others were Rafe Winter, E. Seeley of Beulah and Alex McDonald of Ellice.

The curtain went down on this distant stage, two more monarchs were crowned in England, and we found ourselves somehow inextricably drawn into World War I, with its tragic story of errors, miscalculations and heroism. The curtain fell once more on this "War to end Wars" on November 11th, 1918, and the Armistice was celebrated with marches, songs and bonfires. John Hatch was picking up the mail at the station when the news came over of the signing of the Armistice. He delivered the mail to the post office, then ran to ring the chimes of the Anglican church.

The Robbie family story tells of girls who found themselves doing the work of their absent brothers "stacking wheat and oat sheaves for threshing. We donned khaki uniforms and did our bit preparing for winter. We got back to school about November, which meant digging in to catch up".

The Eye-Witness pays tribute to Captain Leo Warde, later a well-known citizen of St. Vital and Mayor there for many years. He recruited the 226th Battalion which trained in Birtle. Their trench warfare exercises left traces in the Sports ground only recently obliterated. Captain Warde died in Deer Lodge Hospital in 1971. His grandson, Dr. Ian Fraser, one of a group picking up ballot boxes by helicopter after the 1972 election, was lost in a tragic accident over Lake Winnipeg.

The veterans returning after the war were welcomed home, presented with gifts, and given land if they wished it. Those who did not return were honoured in memorial services and with cenotaphs, and the world did its best to forget the carnage. Twenty years later the curtain



Dominion Day parade, July 1st, 1942.

went up again on World War II. We are still too close to that time to look at it objectively, but we hope and pray that it may be the final Act in this drama of destruction. Perhaps the current power shortage may give men pause before launching again the machines of war.

Birtle district did its bit again. A Winnipeg Tribune article in 1943 stated that every man eligible for active service volunteered, and many local girls were also in uniform — some two hundred in all. Those at home became accustomed once more to extra hours of work, rationing of food and gasoline, affecting even the school vans. They were only too thankful that there was little danger of the destruction from the skies falling upon them, their homes and their children.

ROLL OF HONOUR

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old —”

1914-1918

<i>Foxwarren</i>		<i>Birtle</i>	<i>Solsgirth</i>
E. A. J. Baird	Frederick Barnes	Harry Ireland	E. R. Dunn
R. Baird	George Black	Walter Jordan	N. Dickinson
J. C. Bottomley	George Bonner	Ernest Ledbetter	James Grant
J. E. Coyne	Joseph Bunyan	N. S. Malcolm	W. Grant
N. E. Darling	James Corr	Kenneth Menzies	W. Hallam
L. S. Denham	Robert Dair	James McArthur	John Kenward
A. J. Eddy	W. Davy	Alex McArthur	Murdo McLeod
A. W. Hall	David Dixon	Paul Newsham	J. McMicken
J. Hews	Arthur Doig	Orlo Pound	G. Morris
C. Lavallee	William Earle	Herbert Patton	T. Other
J. L. McQuay	George Eddis	Harry Rake	W. C. Ridout
T. L. Selby	Frederick Flynn	Robert Short	V. L. Ridout
G. S. Simpson	James Fisher	Vaughan Watt	A. E. Tallant
J. E. Taylor	Harry Haynes	Herbert Walker	
H. Younger	Wilbur Haines	Percy Warner	
	John Haines	Francis Wilby	
	John Hazel		

1939-1945

N. A. Diamond	George Finch	Mike Boraskawich
J. G. Falloon	Norman Gerrand	Lloyd Butcher
T. H. Lazenby	Garth Johnson	N. Diamond
L. R. Low	Orville Waterbury	C. Mathews
R. MacGranachan	Harold Wilson	Stanley McTavish
L. Peppin	Averd Wilson	G. A. Moulson
E. W. Sherritt	Leslie York	Ernest Murray
L. L. Williams	Walter A. Black (Korea)	Warren Roberts
R. L. Williams		

The Dirty Thirties

The cataclysmic events of World War I were followed by ten heady years when the world seemed to right itself and push ahead at breakneck speed. This course was arrested abruptly, first by the stock market crash in October of 1929 — its effects spreading endlessly like a stone cast into a pool — and a year or so thereafter by the great drought that seized our western plains. We can dwell only very briefly upon those days, as reflected in life on the Birdtail. Many of our families have related some of their recollections.

The Wottons: "The drought came . . . Day after day the sun would rise and set and never a cloud would show. Winds started to sift the soil, cutting off the tender young shoots of grain, piling the fine dirt along the fences. The sky would become so full of dust that it darkened the sun until it became a dull hot disc . . . The short scant wisps of grain rushed into maturity and were gathered in to serve as feed for the stock . . ." People did what they could to stay alive. Bill Gwyer trucked cordwood from St. Lazare to the Indian School for \$1.00 a cord. His wife Winnifred Bartram left school, to work as a home helper for \$10.00 a month and board.

Those on salary, like teachers, were resigned to cut after cut, until some beginning teachers came to work for their board only, in order to get needed experience. George Belton writes that only by great effort on the part of teachers, Councils, Department of Education were the schools kept open at all. Municipal road-building gave employment to some, or helped to pay back taxes. Mortgages on larger farms and homes built in the good years went unpaid, were at times foreclosed and the land rented back to the owner. Younger men like Tom Reed and Tom Fulton took off by the freight car route to the west coast, here they found a thousand men for each job.

O. T. Barteaux writes of the "Bennett Buggy" — made from a car cut down and mounted on wheels so that it could be drawn by a horse. The native ingenuity of men and women came to their aid, and they even managed to enjoy life. Cream and egg checks brought in some cash. Impromptu parties were the order of the day, as in the old times — with everyone bringing sandwiches or a cake. Mrs. Laura Dalton writes of social evenings in the Town Hall for the young people, when boys paid fifteen cents and girls brought the lunch. Alfred Morton's granddaughter, Eva McCann Duff, tells of using the small pail of rainwater three times — to bathe the children, then the clothes, and finally the floors. Home-prepared meats and wild fruits kept them all well fed. Made-over garments, some from sugar and flour sacks, replaced ready-made clothes. "Our problems were the same as our neighbors, and we didn't even know how rough it was."

The Life of a Bachelor

The institution of bachelorhood may not have been unique to the late nineteenth century, but as in all pioneer communities there were for years a great many more men than women in the district. Most of the

surplus men were young bachelors, who had come west to homestead or just in a spirit of adventure. Most of them married in time either a local neighbor's daughter, or the "girl back home". Meanwhile, however, they cooked their own meals and kept house after a fashion, very often helped out by some motherly soul from a nearby farm, who sent over fresh bread and other goodies from time to time.

Family stories frequently make mention of these interesting young men, who added much to the social scene. To name a few — Jimmy Mullins "a grand little Irishman"; Jack Bailey and Edward Denison, who came from England as Barnardo Boys; Bill Gill, who lives in Pioneer Lodge; A. P. Nixon, whose shanty was the "Bachelor's Rest"; Reg Percival, one of the prime movers for St. James Church; William Murray, Albert Armstrong, James Beatty "always a gentleman", Sam Garson, an old style bachelor whose housekeeping left much to be desired; Jim and Alf Taylor, Mike Kitler, Jim Irving, William Baker, Tom Millar, Joe Teasdale, a lover of poetry, Amos Spencely, Fred Scott were all well known in the Solsgirth district, where the Bachelors' Ball was a highlight of the winter social season.

The Castle

A landmark since 1881 has been the "Castle" on the north hill. E. P. Leacock chose the location, and began to build what he thought would be a suitable home for the first Member of the Provincial Legislature. He was unfortunately defeated in the election of that year, and for the time being left the district, his dream house unfinished. It was later completed, a structure of frame and stone, with an imposing tower. J. S. Crawford, Birtle's first Mayor, seems to have occupied the house for a time. Then the Pattersons took it over, and in 1890 their relatives the Duttons moved in. Mr. C. L. Dutton recalls a happy childhood there "with all the little men living in the roots of a large oak tree". They moved down to the town in 1895.

The Castle has been home for many families — the Sparks, Adams, Mrs. Fenwick, W. Huggins who put up a barn in 1906. Mr. Spalding made some additions. A Mrs. Brentnall came to live there from England in 1912, and next year the Neil Gows moved in. The James Martin family were occupants from 1922, and before them a Miss Lyon. Mr. J. Dunn, Tom McKenzie and M. E. McCann had their home there, Mr. McCann began to remodel in 1943, removing the tower. Robert McMordie purchased from him. At present the house is owned and occupied by Mrs. E. Blackhall, who enjoys the seclusion and the past history of her home.

Chairman Howard and the History Committee have the last word

The preparation and writing on this book has caused all of those involved to look backward to our district's beginning and back into the lives of our citizens. A look into the future will also be of historical value a few years from now, so here are a few glimpses of the future:—

"The long-lived trend of reducing rural population will halt and may even reverse. This will strengthen and stabilize the way of life for Birtle district."

"Birtle District will have improved recreation facilities — the new arena is only another step. The short-range future will see year-round swimming, a good library, a top-notch museum, a ski hill, a regional park and many other developments."

"Health Care and care for the elderly will improve both institutionally and in support functions, enabling people to live healthfully in their own homes."

"Birtle's business community will grow and offer more and better services to district citizens. Look for new stores and new business."

"Agriculture will remain by far the main reason for the rest of the community to exist. District farmers will produce greater crops, and diversification both in field crops and livestock will be an interesting development."

"More people from the large cities will come to rural areas for relaxation — many will want to escape the cities at retirement or sooner. Birtle will grow as a retirement centre."

"Municipal people will have a fight on their hands with a move toward large regional government. Changes will come but the municipal people will win some of the battles and should be able to "humanize" the end result."

"Students from rural areas will continue to be much in demand and the value of a rural upbringing will receive wider recognition. A scheme will be developed that will bring higher education opportunities to rural students at a cost similar to those available to urban students."

"Our way of life will survive. Major changes will come in measures equaling our ability to adapt to change. The life experiences of which we write will serve us as we live the years to come."

NOTES TO PART I

1. *Birtle's Beginning*
2. Reconnaissance Soil Survey — Rossburn-Virden Area
3. P. W. Grant — Solsgirth W. I. History of Sosgirth
4. W. F. Butler — *The Great Lone Land*
5. Manitoba Pageant
6. Memoirs of Walter Traill — *In Rupertsland*
7. W. L. Morton — *Manitoba — A History*
8. Norman McDonald — *Canada Immigration and Colonization 1841-1903* (Nat. Public Archives of Canada) — Aberdeen 1968
9. Stephen Leacock — *My Remarkable Uncle*
10. Dr. Peter Neufeld — in the Brandon Sun
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PART II

FAMILY STORIES



PIONEERS OF 1879

Left to right: Louise Emma (Mrs. Reuben Burdett), Alice Maud (Mrs. Herb Reeder), Frederick Herbert, Henry Albert, Frank Edward, Florence Jane, Rosamund Ellen, Elizabeth Ann Burdett, Cheney Burdett, Joseph Brown Sr. and Elizabeth (Sach) Brown, Joseph Robert. Children are Fannie and Frank Burdett.

ANDERSON FAMILY — Alexander and his wife Jane Ann came to Solsgirth with their family from Braemar, Ont., in the fall of 1880. Later they had a store and post office in Franklin, Man. Alexander died in 1912, his wife in 1926, and are buried at Minnedosa.

JAMES C. ANDERSON left Braemar to come to Manitoba in the spring of 1879, and was among the first arrivals of that year. He was acquainted with Mr. Ben Dutton, who came out with his wife and family at the same time. James writes in his diary of tapping maple trees the night before he left. He intended to take syrup with him, but forgot. His father gave him \$35.00, of which he paid \$23.25 for "car fare". In London, Ont., they joined up with the party from Bruce and Huron counties — Ross, Peden, Murray, Sam and Hugh Warnock, Broadfoot, Joe and Jim Stitt and others. He also mentions "Mrs. Chambers and family" for whom rooms were found in Winnipeg as well as for the Dutton family. For the next stage of the journey they bought bread — twenty loaves for a dollar in Winnipeg, sixteen in Portage.

Their destination was Swan River, but at Portage they met J. H. Wood and a Mr. Shepherd, decided to join the Hamilton colony, and paid \$5.00 for a lot in the future town of Birtle. On arrival, after the usual struggle through high water and mud, they selected their homesteads and pre-emptions. The settlement consisted then of Alfred Morton and family, John Richardson and Andrew Bissett. "Having heard a cow bell we knew we were near a settlement. We were given our supper, and for the first time in my life I tasted pemmican. I thought I would taste it for weeks, but anything tastes good when you are hungry."

James Anderson had his farm west of Solsgirth (called "Allandale" in the early days) but decided to open a general store and post office. It seems he extended too much credit for those difficult times, and the store was closed, to be taken over by Taylor Bros. of Minnedosa, with Will Love in charge. Mr. Anderson retained the post office, and son Fred helped in the store. Later another store was opened, finally sold in 1917 when they moved to Winnipeg.

James married Catherine McKay at Wattsview, she having come from Braemar in 1883. It was a double wedding, the other couple Georgina McKay and Donald McLeod, and Rev. Hodnett officiating. Catherine died 1894. Later James married Lavina Beirnes at Beulah. He died in 1945, Lavina in 1946 at Vancouver.

Fred A. Anderson, Oakville, Ont.; *William M.*, Kamloops, B.C.; *James C.*, Vancouver, B.C.; *Mary (Mrs. D. Weir)* Winnipeg; *Christena* of Vancouver, died 1969; *Robert McK.* died and buried at Birtle Feb. 1895; *George Blennard*, Winnipeg; *Violet Beatrice (Mrs. A. E. Hughes)* died at Winnipeg 1971; *Ellswood Morley*, Kitchener, Ont.

ARMIT FAMILY — Mrs. Armédie Armit (Mary Ann Sykes), born near Peterborough, Eng., married a British Colonel serving in India, who died just before the birth of JOHN GEORGE LOUIS LEMOTTÉE in London in 1875. In 1892 Mrs. Armit came to Canada,

and homesteaded near Fort Ellice. Their log cabin burned in 1898, and shortly thereafter they returned to England. Mrs. Armit, a nurse, had a part in the Boer war, remaining as a hostage with imprisoned soldiers.

Son LOUIS secured a job at Waterside Works, owned by Duckering & Son, and in 1899 he married Sarah Kate Duckering in Lincoln, Eng. In 1912 they decided to come to Foxwarren, as Louis had liked the area earlier. He bought the Dunlop & Rorke Hardware store, which was destroyed by fire in May, 1928. This was a "Big Fire", starting in Lewarton's warehouse, and in a high wind destroying several business places and the Armit home above their store. Their loss included treasures collected from many parts of the world.

Mr. Armit went into the Insurance business, in 1939 became Foxwarren Municipal Clerk. He was a Justice of the Peace and Magistrate, Mayor for a number of years, and member of the School Board, also of Westminster United Church, where he sang in the choir and was Sunday School Superintendent. Became a Provincial Vice-President of the Red Cross, and in 1935 presented with the George medal. Member of the Masonic Order for over fifty years, he was a Past-Master of Birtle and Foxwarren Lodges, and held offices in District Five and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Mr. Armit died in July, 1955, his wife in 1951.

Their children: *Phyllis* was educated in Foxwarren, studied painting in England and at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Among her works are Indian faces and headdress, and a fine portrait of Sir Winston Churchill. Retiring in 1969, she lives in Milton, Cambridgeshire, England.

Louis LeMottee (Lou) educated in Foxwarren, played midget hockey for Birtle. Left for England 1938, enlisted 1942 with British Army, transferred to R.C.E.M.E. in 1943, landed in Normandy on D-Day. On return became a buyer for U.G.G., then a Wheat Board Inspector at Weyburn, Sask. Married Mary Phillips 1956, moved to Brandon 1960. Lou died in Winnipeg March, 1970.

ARMSTRONG, WALTER — bought SW¼ 36-18-25 in 1914 and married Mabel Fisher. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters. One baby daughter died in infancy. GEORGE lives in Estevan, Sask. HAROLD in Hazen, N. D. OSWALD was lost in second world war. MAY lives in Dauphin. WINNIFRED was killed in an auto accident and WREAFORD lives in Winnipeg.

The two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Armstrong served in 2nd world war in the R.C.A.F., Harold in Africa, Oswald in England. His plane was lost over Karlsrue, Germany.

ASHCROFT, CROMAR — I was born in 1920 at Hamiota Hospital. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ashcroft were farming E½ of 23-16-25 in the R. M. of Birtle where they had lived since immigrating from England and Scotland earlier.

There were 6 children in our family, 2 girls and 4 boys. I was the

oldest son. We all attended Rothesay school during the '30's and looking back, it was a most interesting time to be growing up.

I farmed with my parents until the 2nd War came along and then I enlisted in the Tank Corps and later joined the "King's Own Calgary Regiment" from Alberta. While overseas I met my wife, Eunice Hince of Herefordshire, England. We were married June, 1945 as soon as the war ended. I returned to Canada in November, 1945 and started farming on the E½ of 14-16-25 which was formerly owned by Mr. William Mallard. Eunice later came over in 1946. We have been farming ever since then and raising a family of five — DAVID, MOLLY, RODNEY, RANDY, and DEAN. David was married in Dec. 1972 and is employed with Manitoba Hydro. Molly is teaching Junior High and Rodney farms with me. Randy is at the University of Waterloo in Ontario studying Science. Dean is attending Birtle Collegiate.

As a family we have enjoyed being a part of the community, and feel that the Birtle area has been a good place to be farming.

ASHCROFT, ALBERT JOHN (JACK) — was born in Somerset, England in 1890 and journeyed to Canada in March 1911 to work for Mr. Fred Wyatt of Orrwold. Hellen Mary Anderson McDonald Collie, came from Scotland to Manitoba June, 1912 to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brooks near Decker. They were married by Rev. W. Ross at the Isabella Manse Dec., 1915 and in 1917 moved to the home farm in the Rothesay district. They had a family of eight children — twins were born Dec. 1916, only one survived — DOROTHY (Mrs. L. O. Williams of Sarnia), LORNA (Mrs. A. L. McKay of Carberry), CROMAR, Triplets FORD, DERRY and FRANK, and DONALD. Mr. Ashcroft passed away in Feb. 1946 in the Shoal Lake hospital.

Derry married Connie Turnbull in August 1948. He died in 1959 leaving a family of four — *Peter, John, Karen and Merredith*. Frank married Margaret Webb December 1952. They have a family of four — *Nancy*, at Brandon General Hospital, *Lawson, Colleen* and *Derry* at home. Donald married Marlene Shaw in October 1949, and moved to the farm they now reside on. They have one daughter *Loren Joyce* born in April 1959. Ford lived with his mother and he and Frank farm together.

Mrs. Ashcroft passed away October, 1972 in the Shoal Lake Hospital.

BAILEY, ALFRED — The name of our farm is "Sandy Lee", location SE¼ 23-18-26, the previous owner being Mr. R. B. Dickinson. The family is still on the farm after thirty-two years. It is in the district of Foxwarren Consolidated School, and we attend the Anglican Church.

We came to this farm in the fall of 1934, and as it had never been lived on, we had to get busy and fix a place to live, and a place for the stock. This we did, and used the first buildings until 1948, when we built a barn 30 ft. x 60, and in 1958 we added two rooms on the little house.

We rented the farm where we started, then in 1948 we bought half of Sec. 24-18-26, which is beside it, and in 1949 we purchased the

original three-quarters. We have 360 acres under cultivation, so you see there is a lot of waste land, which can only be used for cattle, so we do mixed farming.

We started with horse-drawn machinery, and now have a good line of mechanized implements. An outstanding event was the installation of the Hydro in 1951.

BAILEY, THOMAS ALFRED (1867-1936) — came west from Shawville, Quebec in 1897 to Birtle working for J. D. McArthur, a contractor.

He returned east to marry Margaret Workman February 1899 returning west to live in Birtle until he went farming in the Dowsford district on N.E. ¼ 17-18-25. Selling this farm to Mr. Norrish he moved south of Solsgirth to 19-17-25 where he raised his family. His first wife having passed away in 1908 he married Phoebe Maud Moulson, children were: MERVIN, EDNA, MAUD, MARGARET ANN, all deceased; ALFRED, farming in Lansburne district; HARVEY, elevator manager at Oakville, FRANCIS, farming in Solsgirth district; HAROLD employed at Winnipeg General Hospital.

There were ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Bailey was instrumental in building the present St. Stephens Anglican Church and served on the first vestry.

BAKER — Captain Baker was born in England in 1840. He joined the navy at age 14. He married Margaret Manwaring, sister of Henry A. Manwaring. After his wife's death he brought his three sons, ALBERT, SIDNEY and EDWIN, also Amy Fisher, aged 17 (E. G. Fisher's sister) to Canada in 1892. A daughter JESSIE BAKER was left in England. Capt. Baker farmed the land now owned by Cromar Ashcroft. Edwin aged 11 was drowned in a well in 1893. Albert married Edith Kendall and had 2 daughters. Sidney married Mary Kendall and had 2 sons and one daughter. They continued farming till 1908 when Capt. Baker returned to England and the sons moved to farms near Meota, Sask. Sidney died in June 1972 aged 92 years. Albert, Edith, and Mary died a few years ago.

BAMFORD, GEORGE — and his wife came from the Ottawa River valley to live in the Foxwarren district in March 1920, with a family of four. Mr. Bamford had been west on previous occasions and had purchased a farm (17-18-26) from Mr. W. Tett.

Furniture and stock were transported by freight train, each car accompanied by someone to care for the stock. The two oldest boys CAMPBELL and GEORGE, took care of this and were on the way for approximately ten days. The other members of the family and maternal grandparents came by passenger train.

GEORGE, the second son, was stricken with typhoid fever while at The Pas and died in October 1924 at the age of 23.

PERCY married Ottie Smith of the district in December 1932.

They settled on the farm formerly called the Arthur Wotton place and have a family of three girls.

MAE attended Foxwarren Consolidated School and Success Business College. She worked for the Provincial Government in Winnipeg from 1926 to 1970 — for thirty years as Probate Secretary to the Deputy Minister of Finance — retiring on October 31, 1970.

At the age of 58 Mrs. Bamford died after a short illness in February 1932. Mr. Bamford passed away in 1947 at the age of 74.

George Bamford was bilingual as some of the St. Lazare merchants found soon after he arrived from Quebec. They told their clerks to give this Englishman an inferior article. George Bamford told them in French that he would have none of that. In 1944 some French harvesters worked at Cam Bamford's and as they couldn't speak English, had to be taken to his bedroom each morning to get the day's instruction in French.

CAMPBELL BAMFORD — was born in Waltham, Quebec in 1899, moved to Foxwarren in 1920 and married Ella Gunn in 1927. Cam, took an active part in community affairs serving as secretary-treasurer for 21 years at Lansburne school district, served on church boards, also with Pool Elevator Boards and Foxwarren Credit Union Society and was also a member of the Oddfellows Lodge. The day rarely came when either one of the Bamfords or both were not attending meetings. The family consisted of WANDA, who taught school for four years and married Russ Ivey, Pool Elevator agent; DELMAR farmed the home place; VELMA taught school for four years and married Burnie Clayton; ROBERT GEORGE joined the R.C.M.P. in 1960 and in 1963 married Gloria Johnston. He is a Corporal at Kelowna, B.C. Cam and Ella retired to Foxwarren in 1952. Cam died in 1965, Ella in 1973.

DELMAR BAMFORD — born at Foxwarren on the farm where they now reside, it being the original Bamford farm which was homesteaded by William Tett. Married Iris Tibbatts in 1952 and their family consists of, JEAN, DONNA, KEITH, LORRAINE, and TERRY. The family are active in community activities such as baseball, hockey, figure skating and 4-H. Delmar has served on the Birtle Rural Council for 8 years. In 1956 he shot the champion deer head of Manitoba several miles from home. Also a bear was shot half a mile from the yard. Iris gets honorary mention for doing chores during hunting season.

BARBER, FREDERICK CHARLES — (1871-1954) was born in West Templeton, P. Q. and was married in 1903 to Mina Elizabeth Hodgson (1876-1968) of Coteau Landing, Quebec. They came to Birtle from Ottawa. They had three daughters: SADIE HELENE married George Graham of Neepawa, who died in 1955. They had one son, *Keith Charles*, of Winnipeg. THELMA ELIZABETH married Jack McLennan in 1941. Their daughter *Lois* married Stephen McBeth of Moncton, N.B., and they have a daughter. Thelma died in 1953. BEULAH MINA married Harold Barker of Melita in 1942. Their daughter *Faye*

(*Mrs. Wilf Womchuk*) of Roblin has one son. Her brother *Harold Frederick* has completed his course in Business Administration.

BARBER, T. C. — was Secretary-Treasurer of the Birtle School Board for twenty years. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Birtle, and was District Deputy Grand Master for one term. Mr. and Mrs. Barber were members of the Methodist Church on first coming to Birtle, and then of the United Church, Mr. Barber serving as a steward and elder. He also sang in the choir for many years.

Mrs. Barber was a Life Member of the W.M.S. and also of the W.A. of the United Church, and a Life Member of the W.I. She was a Charter Member of the O.E.S., and served as Worthy Matron twice.

BARKER, HAROLD — came to Birtle in September, 1934 to start a Men's Clothing Store, which he is still operating. The only other business man from that time is Mr. J. W. Pratt, (since deceased) who was in the practice of Law when Harold came to Birtle. Other exceptions are the businesses which have passed down from father to son, and are still in the family name.

Harold served on the School Board for years, and then on the Town Council. He was one of the directors of West-Man when it originated, retiring in 1970. He is a Past Master of Birtle Masonic Lodge.

Beulah Barker served as President of the United Church W.A., and sang in the choir for a number of years. She is a Past Matron of the O.E.S. Chapter No. 16.

BARNES, WILLIAM TANNER — born October 1860, came to Birtle in 1892 from England, to settle on Sec. 36-16-27, south of Burdette School. In 1893 he returned to England to marry Emma Elizabeth Mitchell, born July, 1862. Returning to Birtle, he farmed for a time, and in 1894 came into Birtle and rented a house, where KATHLEEN ADELAIDE was born January, 1894. The following year he took up farming again on Sec. 28-16-27. Here twins FREDERICK WILLIAM and CYRIL GEORGE were born October, 1895.

One day a prairie fire came, and burned all the buildings. Mr. Barnes then returned to town, and acted as Bailiff for many years. In September 1896 JOHN EDGAR VYSE was born. In March 1900 his wife Emma Elizabeth died. The family were scattered for a time, until a sister of William's came out from England to keep house. After two years she married, and shortly after W. T. Barnes married Gertrude Cullerne, who had been born in May, 1867 — Confederation year. Several years later the family moved to Minnedosa.

In July, 1920 Kathleen married J. W. Pratt, who was engaged in the practice of law in Birtle. Frederick was killed in action in World War I in August 1918. His twin brother Cyril is a retired banker, and lives in Winnipeg. John Edgar, a retired farmer, lives in Birtle. William Tanner Barnes died October 1944, and his wife in December 1945.

JOHN EDGAR BARNES — I was three when my mother died, and was taken by the Fitzgeralds as a foster-child. We attended Gnaton School, walking two miles, or driving a pony. I left school at fourteen and worked full time, driving a team or herding cattle. In 1925 I started farming on my own on SE 18-16-26. In June 1928 I married Helen Munroe, a school teacher from Washington. We have a family of five: GERALD married Eleanor Graver of Winnipeg, was with the R.C.M.P., now retired at High Prairie, Alta; RILLA married C. C. Lougheed, lives in Winnipeg; RUTH married Jack Bartram of Wattsview; DAVID married Adeline MacKenzie, is on the home farm; MARY LOU married David Reid and lives at Virden. We have twenty-two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We continued to farm until 1956, when we moved to the town of Birtle, and I invested in a back-hoe. At that time it was the only one in this area, and I was kept busy putting in water systems for farmers over a wide territory, as far north as Marchwell. The work got too heavy for me, and in 1966 the hoe was sold.

BARTEAUX, AINSLEY — My father came from Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia around 1900 as a harvest hand. Later he came to Birtle and taught at Blenheim and Oxford Schools. He quit teaching and went farming. He bought the S½ 18-16-27 and NE 7-16-27 from Ernest Walley in December 1907. I have the original purchase agreement. There were approximately 320 acres broken in 1907. Dad broke about 40 more acres.

Water was obtained from a dug well and a drilled well but the main source was a spring on a hill-side which never went dry or froze over. Dad built a 10 room frame house and barn, which replaced the old log house and barn.

Dad grew a large vegetable garden and flower garden. He kept considerable stock and used only horses for power. My Father bought the first engine-driven washing machine in Birtle district and he had one of the first lighting plants.

My Father married Ethel May Tansley in 1910. She died in 1922. They had three sons, JOHN EDGAR, CLIFFORD, and LLOYD who died in 1922.

Father and mother were active in the community. Father was sec-treas. of Oxford school for many years. Mother played the organ for church services held in the school.

In 1940 my Father married Mrs. Alberta Joll. They farmed until November 1948 when they retired to live in Birtle and continued their hobby of gardening. Many people came to see the flowers and would never go away without a lovely bouquet.

Mother now lives in Vancouver. Clifford married Wilma McDonald in 1963. They have two children and live at Kelowna, B.C.

My first wife Lil died in 1944. In 1946 I married Kay Seigler of Transcona and moved to Victoria, B.C. We had a family of eight. Kay passed away in Decemember 1963. I worked in Parts Department of

Morrison Chevrolet-Oldsmobile Ltd., and we reside at Cedar Hill Road in Victoria.

BARTEAUX, O. T. — I was born in Annapolis County, N.S. in 1890, one of twelve children of Edgar Rice Barteaux and Ann Gertrude Whitman. I grew up knowing pioneer life. We lived on a small farm and apple orchard. My mother used to spin her own wool, and wove cloth on a loom. Father called the pants she made "Rock Maple Pants" because there was so much wear in them. I remember helping to make candles, which were in daily use.

My brothers Ainsley and Dudley had both come west when I came to Birtle on a Colonist train in 1909. A brother Alvin came out later, and died of influenza in 1919. I worked with Ainsley on his farm and also as a carpenter until I bought a three quarter section from John Huggins in 1914, where I batched in the stone house for several years. I worked with horses until the 1940's, then began to use machinery, with which I could thresh my own crops and those of several neighbours.

In 1921 I married May Stanton, who had been born in England, and was always active in Blenheim Anglican. She died in May 1936. We had one daughter and three sons, who all attended Oxford School. EVERELD married William Pittendreigh in 1942, and they live in Rutland, B.C. They have two sons - *David*, with the C.N.R. in Winnipeg and *Donald*, a Mountie in Alberta.

Miss Nell Suddaby kept house for us for four years. In 1940 I married Clara Crew. We had one son BRUCE, who attended U. of Winnipeg and in 1965 married Karen Coates of Brandon. He is a pharmacist at Brandon Clinic, and they have a son *Matthew* and a daughter *Hiliary*.

I was a trustee of Oxford School for eighteen years, a councillor for Ward 3 and on the Board of the Pool Elevator. In 1948 we moved to Birtle, and I served on the Council for twelve years, and on the Hospital Board. I have served as Dean and Treasurer of the Baptist Church, and am a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge.

GEORGE H. BARTEAUX — I have been a resident of Wattsview since I was born July 1926. My parents were Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Barteaux.

In January 1952 I married Margaret Ida Hamilton, daughter of Walter and May Hamilton of Birtle.

We lived in the stone house on S.E. ¼ 32-16-27 until Dec. of 1955 when we moved a house onto S.W. ¼ 33-16-27 acquired from R. B. Dickinson's farm in St. James, Solsgirth. We added a piece at this time and again in 1964.

In April 1956 our son FREDERICK GEORGE was born and Dec. 1958 our daughter DONELDA MAY.

JOHN D. BARTEAUX — I was born January 1928 to Evereld May Stanton and Orlando Tilson Barteaux and went to school at Oxford for nine years. I worked for Uncle Ainsley for two years then rented the

Charlie Wady farm and in 1949 bought the S ½ 4-17-27 from Jack Laing. I married Enid Ruth Barnes October 1950 and we have six children, ROBERT JOHN, 1952, BARBARA LEANNE (MRS. IVAN BICKNELL) 1953, RONALD BRUCE 1956, MARYANNE 1959, KARI LYNNE 1963 and SARA JACQUELINE 1970. I have one grandchild *Alissa Jean Bicknell*.

PHILIP T. BARTEAUX — I was born May 1925, son of Mr. O. T. Barteaux, with Mrs. Hatch in attendance. Attending Oxford School, we drove a Bennet Buggy made from a Model T. Ford, with Taffy our pony in the traces. Quite often we skied to school behind our pony, using real skis, which were quite a novelty. We had learned on barrel staves. I quit school in 1941, and had to walk behind the harrow and four horses. After the first 400 miles I hankered to be back at school, but had decided to be a farmer.

Isaac Fishtrom sold me my first cow in 1945 for \$55.00. Next year George and I bought NE ¼ 32-16-27 and N ½ 33-16-27, so were bona fide land owners. Our first tractor was a 15-27 John Deere 1931 model with two gears — slow and slower. Later Jack Barteaux joined us, and we became known as Barteaux Bros.

We started clearing land in 1947 with our John Deere, pulling out one tree at a time, sometimes cutting the scrub by hand and ploughing with a wooden beam plough. In later years bulldozers and discers have taken over, allowing us to clear some land every year, approximately 1000 acres altogether.

In July 1951 I married Beverley Shier of Crandall. We have seven children: LINDA 1953, (married Morris Butcher 1971), WAYNE 1954, CONSTANCE 1956, KAREN 1958, GLENN 1960, DALE 1962 and JANETTE 1967. We lived in the stone house on the farm until 1966 when we built a new house. It has three bedrooms above and three in the basement.

Farming and the cattle keep me busy all year round. Outside activities have included serving in the Crop Improvement Club, the Manitoba Pool Elevator Board, Birtle Elementary School Board, Cub and Scout Committee, United Church Committees and as Fire Guardian for our ward.

BARTLEY, NOAH — My grandparents, Noah Bartley and family came from Woodstock, Ontario in 1879. Part of the family travelled by the boat "Marquette" up the Assiniboine, and the others came by covered wagon from Winnipeg to Birtle.

Mr. Ben Dutton had already done some breaking for the Bartley family on the Wattsview Plains on section 19-16-27. A log stable was built to house the animals which included those of Neil McKay, a son-in-law. During the first winter the family lived in a tent.

A lightning storm later burned the stable and the animals which were housed.

The home built of logs by Noah Bartley in those first years still

stands and is in use. In the early days it was a haven for travellers who came by boat up the Assiniboine headed for Birtle ten miles away.

Grandfather Noah Bartley gave the land for the first log school built on the southeast corner of his farm and WALTER BARTLEY, a son, gave the land for the new school which was on the northeast corner of the same quarter section.

Before the school was built the Noah Bartley home was used for church services.

Noah Bartley (1828-1888) was buried in the first cemetery in Birtle on top of the hill. Later when a new cemetery was provided a memorial for him was placed in the new location where Mrs. Bartley was buried in 1924.

BEIRNES, GEORGE — born in Birtle 1886 — died in Birtle 1973. His father W. T. Beirnes came from Regina after the Riel Rebellion. He had seven brothers and one sister. Attended the stone school on the north side of the Birdtail, then helped in his father's harness shop, where Ball's Hardware now is. The family lived upstairs. His mother, a very capable woman, did all the washing and cleaning.

George loved skating, and helped clear snow from the river for this. He holds gold medals for provincial competition in Winnipeg and Yorkton, Sask. His first skates were simply attached to his boots, with home-made laces and sharpened with a stone. His last pair are size six, made to order in U.S.A., called "Alfred's Ice King". The leather was Kangaroo. George also won many trophies for curling.

George recalls that William MacDougall once saved his life while hunting muskrats along the river's edge. His father rewarded McDougall with a bridle and saddle.

George clerked for Hough and Wickware and other stores, had no holiday for twenty years. Here he met his wife Louisa Victoria Whitfield from Morden. She worked as a seamstress above the store, on materials purchased in the dry goods department.

His present home was purchased from Percy Mountain. He also owned the Sutcliffe brick house before John Sutcliffe. His brother Norton built the present Gray house beside the cenotaph. George remembers Red River carts and oxen crossing the river by the spring, along the trail east of his house and on to Edmonton. He saw buffalo tracks, but no buffalo.

He has two sons — VICTOR is a meteorologist in Vancouver; HAROLD served overseas in World War II, visited Ireland, and found the family name registered there as early as the fourteenth century.

BELTON, GEORGE SCOTT — came in 1944 with his wife and daughter SHEILA, six years of age, to Foxwarren, where George was to teach in the High School. They lived for two years above the drugstore, then moved to the teacherage in 1946 when George became principal. He resigned in 1953 to become principal of Queen Elizabeth Junior High School in Norwood, a suburb of Winnipeg.

While in Foxwarren the Beltons were active in church and com-

munity affairs. Particularly interested in history, George compiled a story of the early schools in the Foxwarren area. After forty-six years in the teaching profession, George died in 1967. Mrs. Belton still resides in their Norwood home, and carries on an active life.

Sheila attended school in Foxwarren until Grade XII, which she took at Norwood Collegiate, then enrolled in an Arts course at United College. After training for three years at St. Boniface Hospital she specialized in Public Health Nursing and worked at Lac du Bonnet and Dauphin. She met her husband Donald Dresen of the American Army while travelling in Germany. They live in Madison, Wisconsin, where Don works with a meat packing company and Sheila is on the Faculty of Public Health Nursing at the University. They have two sons — *Scott*, born 1970 and *Warren*, born 1972.

BEREZA — Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bereza came to Birtle Municipality in 1947 from Glenelmo, north of Rossburn, to have better farming conditions. They settled on 15-18-25, formerly owned by Howard Cochrane. Their children attended Eckford School. Their family are: **DANNY** married at North Battleford, Sask.; **LILLIAN** (Mrs. Kalynaik) lives at Angusville; **JERRY** farms at home after receiving his education at Solsgirth and Birtle; **JANICE** (Mrs. Castle) lives at Calgary.

BERRY, E. A. — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Berry and small daughter, **DORIS** came from Devonshire, England in 1911 and settled at Saltcoats, Sask. Here MAE was born. After a year, they moved to Nebraska where two more branches grew on the family tree. — **ARTHUR** and **LORNA**. They spent five years there — always in constant fear of the gypsies which roamed the country in large bands. They decided to return to Canada, this time to Fortier, Man., where they worked on a farm. Here, **WILLIAM** was born. Two years later and because of the consolidated school system at Birtle, they moved to this district and managed the Harry Cartmell farm (now occupied by Douglas Snow). Two more children joined the family, **HELEN** and **REGINALD**.

In 1927, after several years working as farm labourer and school van driving, they started farming on their own.

They retired to Vancouver, in 1944. After Mr. Berry's death in 1958, Mrs. Berry moved to Victoria, where she still resides.

They were associated with both the United and Baptist Churches while at Birtle. During their stay on Wattsvie Plains, Mr. Berry was superintendent for the United Church Sunday School held at Oxford School.

Their grandchildren number twenty-five with twenty-nine great-grandchildren.

At the present time, Doris, Lorna, and Helen reside in B.C., Mae in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and Arthur in Brandon. Two boys still remain in this district, Bill and Reg on their farms.

BILLANEY, CHARLES — came from Yorkshire, England in 1912 at the age of thirteen, with parents Mr. and Mrs. H. Billaney, brother Albert and three sisters, sailing on Empress of Ireland. From Winnipeg they went out to Nokomis, Sask. to work on the farm of Jack Shields, and remained for fifteen years. In 1924 married in Nokomis United Church to Kathleen Sherman, from Belfast, and employed in the McFarlane household.

After farming on their own for some years, in 1927 returned to Winnipeg, then to Birtle to work for Mr. A. O. Webb. In 1931 they rented SE¼ 23-16-27, moving to S½ 22-16-27 in 1937, then in 1939 to NW¼ 25-16-27, the farm of William Edmundson, homesteaded by J. R. Cook. The stone house there, still standing, was their home until Mr. Billaney retired to Pioneer Lodge in 1969.

Their great desire was to have a holiday back in the home land of Ireland. In March 1953 Kathleen was persuaded to go with daughter-in-law Hazel and two children. Kathleen's sudden passing in 1954 ended the hope of their making the journey together. Their children are: SHERMAN, born 1924 in Nokomis, served overseas and married Hazel Patterson of Belfast in 1947. Sherman died in Winnipeg in 1966. They had four children *Colleen*, *Echlin*, *Robyn* and *Kevin*, and one grandson. ALBERT, born 1929, married Mildred Wood of Gnaton district in 1951. Farms W½ 36-16-27 (the J. Haines homestead). Have one daughter *Brenda Kathleen*. EILEEN born 1940, married William Kowaluk of Solsgirth in 1959, has two children *Russell* and *Karen*.

BIRCH — Gerald and I, Nancy, were both born at Birnie and grew up there. We were married on July 31, 1965 and I came as a bride to Birtle. Gerald had begun working here as a surveyor for the Highways Department in 1962. We lived in a trailer for two years and then bought the former Fred Cooley home. I taught in the elementary school for two years and then came our family — COLLEEN, born March, 1968 and BARBARA, March 1970.

BIRD, ARTHUR DURHAM — was born 1871 at Heaton Norris, Lancaster, to Dr. John Bird and Caroline (Roberts) Bird. His father was a graduate in medicine from the U. of London. Arthur also attended medical school at Owen's College from 1890. He came to Manitoba in 1896 to homestead near Arrow River.

In 1899 he married Ethel May Winter (1873) who had come from England to join her family in 1884. RALPH DURHAM was born at Arrow River May 1901. Next year Arthur moved to a farm on N½ 35-15-27, eight miles southwest of Birtle. Ralph received his early schooling at Blenheim school and later at Thoona School on SW¼ 30-15-26.

In 1913 Arthur sold the farm and moved into Birtle, living first on the east side, and from 1921 near the Quelch family on the southwest. Mrs. Bird died in 1933 and Arthur in Winnipeg in 1964. He is remembered for his "green thumb" and skill in metalwork. His flower garden was much admired and in winter was devoted to a special

mechanical project. Included were two clocks, a steam engine and three locomotives. Several have been on display at the U. of Manitoba.

Ralph went to high school in Birtle, then into science at U. of Manitoba and received a PhD in 1929 from the U. of Illinois. While teaching at the U. of Oklahoma he married Lois Gould, botanist, daughter of the State Geologist. In 1933 Ralph became Head of the Brandon Entomological laboratory, and in 1957 Head of the Entomology Section on the Research Station in Winnipeg.

Ralph was an excellent photographer, receiving many awards, including first prize at an International Exhibit at Preston, England. His wife died in 1959. Later he married Lillian Mary Watson, a commercial artist.

Ralph was author of many articles, and a book on the ecology of the Aspen Parkland. He and son *Charles* wrote the chapter on the Aspen Parkland in "Alberta — A Natural History". He retired to Saltspring Island, B.C. where he died in 1972. He is survived by his wife Lillian, his son *Dr. C. D. Bird*, U. of Calgary, daughters *Mrs. J. A. Neilson (Maida)* and *Mrs. J. F. Young (Linda)* and nine grandchildren.

BIRNIE, GEORGE — born in Fraserburgh, Scotland in 1870, he came to Wattsvie Plains in 1889 and worked for Charlie Tisdale for a few years. Then he and a friend Charlie Bird were bachelors together on top of Corr's Hill.

George went back to Scotland and married Helen McRobbie, arrived back in 1901 to farm in the valley. They lost two little children in the fall of 1905. They then went back to Scotland, where DUNCAN, WILLIAM and STANLEY were born. They later returned to settle in Birtle.

George Birnie was a member of the Town Council, and a Life Member of the Masonic Lodge. He was caretaker of the Birtle School for a number of years. He died in July, 1942, and Mrs. Birnie in May, 1938. Besides their three sons, the Birnies had four daughters — MARGARET, DAISY, PAT and JEAN.

BLACK, DUNCAN — Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Black and family arrived in Foxwarren from Glasgow, Scotland April 1, 1913 and worked for Walter Graham on 9-18-28 for three years. In 1916 Duncan bought the E½ of 21-17-27 from Edward Graham and farmed there until retiring to the village of Foxwarren where he resided until his death in 1945.

MARY BLACK the oldest girl married Thos Johnston. They farmed on 12-17-28 for eight years until they moved to Birtle district on 9-17-26. Mary still resides in Birtle.

HECTOR BLACK helped his father until his father retired then took over the farm until he joined the Canadian army. After serving overseas he came back and farmed near Beulah until his health failed. He died in 1964.

JEAN BLACK, the youngest of the family married Hugh Gilmour in 1927 and farmed on 5-18-28 in Ellice Municipality. One son was born

to them *Robert Hector Gilmour* who is the Esso Agent and operator of the Foxwarren Service Station. Hugh Gilmour died in 1928. In 1935 Jean married Alexander Wright and they are farming on 5-17-27.

BLACK, JOHN — and his wife left Glasgow, Scotland, where he had been employed with the North-West British Railway. They came out to Churchbridge, Sask. in April, 1910 to work on a farm, then came to Foxwarren in 1912 to work as a couple for Mr. Edward Graham.

In 1916 they started farming for themselves on the farm of Bert Elliott north-east of Foxwarren. In 1934 they moved to the farm where Doug Falloon now lives. They remained there until Mrs. Black passed away in 1937. Mr. Black then sold out and made his home with his only daughter, MRS. JOHN JOHNSTON. John Black died in July, 1952 at the age of seventy-eight.

BLAYNEY FAMILY — came from the County of Montgomery, North Wales, arrived in Canada May 1888, and settled on NE¼ 22-18-27. Parents were Mary and Joseph, the children STEVE, DAVE, LUSTON and MARY. The ship they came on was both steam and sail, and they arrived in Foxwarren without mishap by train. The family lived for a year at the farm of Avril Atkinson, between Birtle and Foxwarren (Gordon Stewart farm 1973).

Their first home was of log, with a sod roof. The logs were obtained from the Bayfield district, and firewood from north of Angusville. Avril Atkinson and Mr. Blayney were the chief builders. They had no furniture to speak of — just crude tables, chairs and beds. The house was later plastered inside. Cooking and heat were from a wood stove, and they had coal oil lamps.

The family attended Bayfield school, which was built in 1888 across the road from their homestead. The first teacher was Bert Elliott, and the last was Miss Cox, who married a man who became the ninth Prime Minister of Canada — a Conservative, Mr. Arthur Meighen.

Clothes were mostly home-made, but you could buy ready-made clothes at Foxwarren in Albert Laycock's store. Everyone had a fur coat, woollen mittens, blankets and leather mittens.

Mr. Blayney died in 1909, and his wife in 1929. Newspapers popular in the early days were the Birtle "Eye-Witness", the Russell "Banner", the Tribune and the Free Press.

BLELLOCH, DAVID — (1886-1968) born in Torryburn, Scotland, son of David and Helen (Taylor) Blelloch. He came to Isabella in 1907 and worked for Mr. William Iverach, then farmed on his own for twenty-two years. In 1915 he married the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Craig of Miniota (born April, 1890). The family moved in 1933 to the Shoal Lake district, and in 1948 to the former James Stewart farm near Birtle. Since her husband's death Mrs. Blelloch lives in Birtle with sons John and Tom.

Their family: DAVID Jr. served in World War II, now is

employed with a lumber firm in Port Alberni, B.C. He married Evelyn Bell in 1946, and they have two children and two grandchildren. ROBERT served with the R.C.A.F. After the war he purchased the James Stewart farm, married Isabel Jean Grant of Birtle. They have three sons and a daughter. JOHN also served with the R.C.A.F., farmed with Robert for a time, and in 1965 bought the Thomas Sud-daby farm. He works it from town, and is also in the fuel department of the Birtle Co-op. HELEN married William Paterson of Kelloe, Man., and they live in Brandon. SARAH married Hugh Harley in 1951. (see Harley) TOM lives in Birtle, and is employed at the Birtle Co-op.

BONNER, EDWIN JULIUS — came to Birtle in 1903 from Chester, Iowa, where he had married Anna Mary (Molly) Hall. Ed's brother George and his wife accompanied him to Birtle, and purchased a farm but returned to Iowa after some years. Molly's brother Will Hall (Yankee Hall) and wife were also in the party. They settled first on 33-17-26, later operated a livery stable in Foxwarren. In 1915 they returned to Iowa to raise their family of six.

Ed's sons LAMONT HARVEY (1898) and ELRIE EDWIN (1900) attended Mount Joy School. The teacher often boarded at their home — a favourite was Miss Margaret Leckie, who later married G. M. Graham of Foxwarren. The boys worked in Birtle when their father's health failed — Lamont in Huggin's Hardware, Elrie with Hough and Wickware.

Anna Mary died in March, 1925, and Edwin in June 1929. In 1926 Elrie married Josephine Maud Whitelaw. Their family: *Bernice* (1928) married George Graham 1948. They have three sons and three daughters. *Margaret (Peggy)* married Arthur Norman Dearle in 1947 and they have two sons and two daughters. *Constance* married Elmer Laurence Ryan in 1952 and has five daughters. Her twin *Millicent*, married Alen Trevor Hansen in 1955. They live in Winnipeg and have four children. *Robert Elrie* married Alberta Rose Musgrove in 1958 and they have three children. They live on the original farm 21-17-26 in a new home built in 1951 and later enlarged. Also added were up-to-date pig barns for diversified farming.

Mrs. Elrie Bonner died in 1958. Elrie lived with Bob and family until his death in 1968.

LAMONT HARVEY BONNER — In 1918 Lamont Harvey went to Normal School in Brandon. He taught in the Russell and Shoal Lake districts until he was needed to help run the home farm. In 1935 he married Evelyn Mary Ethel Shepherd of Birtle, and they continued farming N½ 21-17-26. Two sons were born, ELGIN LAMONT and NELSON GORDON.

In 1941 Lamont joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a motor vehicle mechanic. He served in Canada and Britain. During this time Evelyn and the boys lived in Birtle.

After returning in December 1945, Lamont sold his farm to Elrie

and went to teach at Oxford School in the Wattsvie district in 1946 and 1947. In 1947 his third son STEPHEN JAMES was born. Late in 1947 he bought a farm in the Isabella district. At this time he applied to become a Canadian citizen and received his papers on April 13, 1948.

In January 1949 RHONDA MARY was born. Lamont farmed for another eleven years, and then returned to teaching at various Manitoba schools. Housing was difficult to locate near his schools so the Bonners rented a house in Gladstone and in 1964 when Lamont retired they bought a home there. Lamont died October 1971.

Elgin married Carol Smaluck and their children are *Cheryl* and *James*. They live in Dauphin. Nelson lives in Winnipeg. Stephen married Victoria Danyluk and they and son *Dean* reside in Plumas as does Rhonda and her husband Victor Zelezsonik. Evelyn has also lived in Plumas since Lamont died.

BOWEN, TOM — born 1846 in Kent, England. His wife, the former Jane Mary Harbottle, was born in 1860 near Guelph, Ont. When they came west, they decided on the district because it was ideal cattle country. Tom worked for the M. & N.W. Railway until he moved to the farm 34-18-26 in 1893. The Bowen family, with six children, lived with the late William Grant family at Dow's crossing until their house was built.

The few families residing near-by erected a school known as Lansburne. Church services were held at St. James'. House parties were common, with dancing, cards and singing. Bees were great events — putting up barns, or for the women quilting. Their children: LUCY married John Nield, eight children — farmed in the Seeburn district. She died in 1947. EFFIE (Mrs. William Bowen) farmed in Makwa, Sask. She died in 1972. LESLIE trained as a nurse in Minneapolis. Married Frank Diamond, and had six children. Farmed in R. M. of Birtle. Passed away in 1969. SARAH (Mrs. James Stainer), three children. Farmed in Silver Creek. She died Feb. 1973. BILL died in 1968. BESSIE, a teacher, married Joseph Roberts, had three children, and farmed in R. M. of Birtle. MURIEL is a teacher in Brandon. JOHN married Margaret Ingmundson, had eight sons. Lived Brandon and Winnipeg. HATTIE a nurse trained in Grace Hospital, Winnipeg. Married John Mahan, farmed the home place. NAIDA a teacher married Jack Hosie; have three sons and live in Unity, Sask.

The Bowen farm is now owned by Murray and Bill Diamond and Allan Stainer.

BOWLES, HARRY — On emigrating from England, Mr. Harry Bowles and his wife, the former Alice King, took up residence in Brandon. He practiced the trade of brick-laying until they moved to Solsgirth in the early twenties and rented a farm from Mr. Billy Mitchell.

Later Harry and his brother George bought land and they all lived on the S½ 29-32-25, the original "Finch Farm".

When George married in 1929, Harry built a house and barn on their other quarter — 29-31-25 — across the “Jubilee” Road and he and his wife moved over there. While farming, Harry found time to make cement basements and build chimneys many of which are still in use today (1973).

Reports have it that Harry insisted on pie everyday! In the early 1940's shortly after his wife's death, Harry moved to Solsgirth town, where he lived until his death.

To fill in the long winter evenings, George's wife attempted to teach him to dance. But she never really adjusted to Canada, and while their two children were still quite young, they returned to Scotland — her homeland. There George was employed on the police force.

BRAYSHAY, WILLIAM HUTTON — came from Westmorland, England to Canada to learn farming. In 1898 he married Emma Elizabeth (1878-1958) eldest daughter of pioneer John Edmundson. They farmed N½ 6-17-24 in the Kelloe district, and owned other land as well. William died in a farm accident in Sept. 1928. Emma was a staunch Anglican and Life Member of the W.A. The couple had four children: **ELEANOR FISON** born 1902 in South Wales. (See Warren.) **ROGER HUTTON (ROY)** born 1904. Served in World War II and later became a worker for the Veterans' Land Act. Married Mary Hick in 1948, and lives in Winnipeg. They have two children, *Susan R.N. (Mrs. Murray)* and *Rowland John*; **MARY EWBANK (MOLLY)** born 1908 in Shoal Lake Married Lt. Col. Hugh Humphreys in 1935 and lived in South Wales. They had three children, *Margaret Elizabeth (Mrs. W. Stanford)*, *Susan Eleanor (Mrs. Henry Wills)* and *John Brayshay*, all living in England or Germany — and there are five grandchildren. **CATHERINE AGNES** born 1916 married Capt. Bowen Summers in 1940 in England. They have two children, *Sutton Hugh* and *Elizabeth Catherine (Mrs. Michael Houghton)* and four grandchildren.

BRECKENRIDGE, GORDON — was born July, 1895 in the Boyle district of Silver Creek municipality. He received his education at Boyle school.

In 1918 he married Ruby Berney, also of the Boyle district. They resided on the homestead he had begun to break in 1917. All his life he took a genuine interest in community and civic affairs, and spent eleven years as councillor of the R.M. of Silver Creek. He served many years on the Boyle School Board.

In 1947, due to ill health, he retired with his wife to the village of Foxwarren. He was a member of Westminster United Church and served a time on the Board of Stewards. In Foxwarren he was a member of the village council for eighteen years, excepting a short period when he was acting Mayor. He was also a member of the Birtle District Hospital Board from the time of its inception, and chairman for a period of time. He attended the meetings right up until the time of this death.

BRENNAN, LAWRENCE — was born at Dublin, Ont. in October, 1872. He moved with his family to Chicago as a small child, and later attended Notre Dame College. He came to Birtle early in 1900. He served as Town Commissioner for some time, and was instrumental in the organization of baseball in Birtle and district.

Lawrence served overseas in World War I, and while in the army took up the trade of farrier. On his return to Birtle he opened a shop and carried on this trade. Upon retirement he sold this business to Mr. Harry Greeves.

He died in Deer Lodge Hospital in June, 1966.

BRENNAN, LILLIAN ELLEN (NEE TAYLOR) — (born August 1887) married Lawrence Brennan Sept. 1904 at Shoal Lake, Man. They had five sons and two daughters. Lillian died Portage la Prairie Hospital Feb. 1967. Daughter MARCO died 1965 and eldest son GORDON 1966. CARROLL lives in Vancouver, B.C., TOM — Winnipeg, JOHN L. (JACK) — Calgary, KENNETH — Calgary, ARDELLA CLAYDON — Winnipeg. There are 18 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Lil was a wonderful friend and neighbour and shared her skills, her worldly goods and delightful stories with one and all. She told of washing clothes on the riverbank to save carrying water. Friends made a "bee" and a social time of this awkward task. She was a firm believer in poultices and concocted them of many unusual ingredients and they worked! Mrs. Brennan was a creative cook, who, when asked for recipes invariably said she made them out of her head. She nursed a lot and acted as a mid-wife.

She stayed ever young, and was loved by all who knew her. Her friends always knew what she thought and her honesty was as refreshing as her wonderful sense of humour. She never ceased to make new friends and never neglected the old.

BROADFOOT, BAGSHAW — Mrs. Elsie Broadfoot, after her husband died in Liverpool, England in 1892, came to Canada and Birtle the next year with her daughter EDITH to live with her son, STANLEY. She became a member of the Anglican Church, and, having a fine musical training, she played the organ there for twenty-five years.

After a few years in Birtle she married Horace Bagshawe, the first photographer in the town. Her daughter Edith, born 1877, died in October 1925. After Mr. Bagshawe's death, his wife went to Winnipeg to live, and finally to Victoria, until her death in 1930, at the age of eighty-two.

Her son, Stanley Broadfoot, married Maude Mountain in 1904. They had two sons. *James*, died at fifteen. *Maurice* married later, and has three children. Both his parents have since died.

BROWN, JOHN C. — (born Jan. 1884) and his wife Margaret (August 1883) came to the Solgirth district with their family of seven. Here they bought the Fenton farm and farmed until their family were away.

Mr. Brown died in May 1954. Mrs. Brown (formerly Margaret Morrison of Stornoway, Scotland) lives in Thelmo Mansions, Winnipeg.

Their first home on the farm was frame, heated by coal and wood, with a cement cistern and hot and cold running water.

Their family: ALFRED, farming north of Newdale, JACK, married Lily Pedrick, lives in Solsgirth with daughter *Shirley*, MURDO married Sylvia McLeod, lives in Kelowna, B.C. with five children. ANNABELLE WATSON, now widowed, has four children — *Jim, Robert, Marlene, and Peggy*. DONALD, married, lives in Neepawa, does Maintenance work at Shilo. PHYLLIS, (Mrs. Jack Collins) in Winnipeg, has five children — *Donald, Beth Waltbauer, Sandra (Mrs. Doug Alexander)* in Sudbury, *John and Brian* — also three grandchildren. LORNA married to Bill Workman, is employed as R.N. in Birtle Hospital. They live on Bill's father's farm and have four children — *Wayne*, married to Pat McCrindle, *Dale, Heather, Blair*, and a granddaughter.

BROWN, JOSEPH (1836-1907) — came with his wife Elizabeth (1839-1925) and their family from England to Stratford, Ont., 1873. In the fall of 1879 they came west and homesteaded west of Birtle station. Their children were:

JOSEPH ROBERT (1862-1957) married Agnes Reeder of Wattsview; FREDERICK HERBERT (1871-1944) married and lived in U.S.A.; HENRY ALBERT (1876-1964) married Blanche Churchill of Morris, Man.; ELIZABETH ANN (1864-1951) married Cheney Burdett; LOUISA EMMA (1865-1942) married Reuben Burdett; FLORENCE JANE (1872-1958); ROSAMUND ELLEN (1873-1962); ALICE MAUDE (1875-1965) married Herb Reeder of Wattsview; MINNIE ELIZA (1879); FRANK EDWARD (1878-1947) married Gertrude McNutt of Birtle 1904. In 1903 bought the Jim Cairncross farm west of Birtle station. Moved to Solsgirth in 1911, to go into partnership with William Dixon in butcher business, became a cattle buyer until his death in 1947. Their children: *Gilbert Sach* (1906) married Olive Crowther of Kelloe, has two sons, lives in Winnipeg; *Clarence Frank* (1911) married Tannas Connell of Langruth, lives in Winnipeg, three children; *Percy Joseph* (1913) married Lilly McLellan of Birtle, lives in Neepawa with two children; *Isabella* (1904) (Mrs. Dufferin Barber) lives in Saskatoon, two children; *Audrey Gertrude* (1908) married Leslie Dunn of Solsgirth, lives in Brandon; *Elfarata Mae* (1916) married Bruce Treble of Solsgirth, two children, lives in Virden; *Mabel Jean* (1924) (Mrs. Andrew Johnston) two children, in Gilbert Plains; *Lorna Gail* (1927) is Mrs. Walter Clark in Calgary.

Mrs. Henry Brown lives in Transcona and Mrs. Frank Brown in Brandon.

BRYDON, ALLAN — and his wife Grace, with their two children RUTH and WILLIAM, moved in 1947 from Shoal Lake to Green

Lawn Farm (previously owned by George Salmon) in the Gnaton district. Ruth left the farm to carry on teaching, while Bill stayed on, to take over later in 1951.

In 1961 Allan passed away, followed by his wife Grace in 1963. Bill married Sheila Kelly of Welby, Sask. in 1951, and they took up residence on the home farm. Later there were three children — *Barbara*, *Barry* and *Letitia*. In 1965 they remodelled the old Salmon house, and to date it is still the home of the Brydon family.

At present Barbara is working as a secretary in Winnipeg, Barry is at the U. of Manitoba, and Letitia is at home, attending school.

BURDETT, CHENEY — came to Pumpkin Plains on the bank of the Qu'Appelle River, west of what is now St. Lazare and married Elizabeth Anne Brown in 1883. They moved to the Crewe district, west of Foxwarren in 1897 and retired to Foxwarren in 1915.

There was a school built at Pumpkin Plains where FANNY, FRANK, and ERNEST started their education. The land there was very light and sandy. It needed quite a lot of rain to grow grain. It was a wonderful place for garden vine stuff such as pumpkins (hence the name), citron, tomatoes, etc. Cheney would take a wagon load of garden produce to Moosomin, Sask. to sell. The water supply was a spring near the buildings with good water, also the spring water was used for a place to cool milk and cream. They milked about twelve cows. The house and stables were built of logs.

Children and Grandchildren:

FANNY (Mrs. Samuel Falloon) lived on the farm. Children *Lois* — Montreal, *Douglas* married to Betty Gardham, *Maurice* married to Lillian Moxham, *Beryl* (Mrs. Ken Fallis) Winnipeg have collectively eleven children for the fourth generation.

FRANK married Mary Angus. Their children: *Cecil* who married Betty Thompson and farms near Foxwarren, *Leonard* married to Laura Walford, Edmonton and *Jean* (Mrs. Seymour Stevens), Russell have added seven to the family tree.

ERNEST married Thurza Honey and had children *Blanche* (Mrs. William Falloon), *Pearl* (Mrs. Dick Clunie), *Edith* (Mrs. Gordon Miller), *Arthur* married Kay Kominko, *Earl* married Helen Mitchell — all but Edith on farms near Foxwarren and have added thirteen to the new age group.

LENA (Mrs. W. C. Honey, Binscarth) has a family *Myrtle* (Mrs. James Peters), *Ella* (Mrs. Colin Mactier) Winnipeg, *Irene* (Mrs. Harvey Tibbatts) and *Adelle* (Mrs. Stewart Bowley) both on farms near Binscarth and *Gordon* married to Mavis O'Brien in Winnipeg. This branch has sixteen great-grandchildren for Cheney.

AMY (Mrs. Dwight Dahlgren) lived in Flin Flon and Transcona. Their children: *Lorraine* (Mrs. Jack Wedel) Transcona, *Earla* (Mrs. Harry Fee) Grimsby, Ont., *Flora* (Mrs. Robert Lamoureux) Montreal, *Elizabeth* (Mrs. Norman Dumontet) Transcona and fourteen grandchildren for Amy.

Mr. Cheney Burdett, forefather of this widening family circle died December 1943 and his wife in May 1951.

BURDETT, JOHN AND MARIA — came from Nasby, England, to Guelph, Ontario in 1872. He was a Methodist Local Preacher. They raised nine children. The family moved to Manitoba in 1879 and took up a homestead east of Birtle. The Burdette School was named after them. They later moved to Oregon, U.S.A.

ANNA and ALICE BURDETT went to Illinois, U.S.A., married and lived there till death. ALFRED married Sarah Shepherd. They lived first near Birtle, then moved to Pumpkin Plains and later to Oregon in 1903. Their family were two sons, *Roy* and *Leslie*. Alfred died in 1940, age 82 years. JOHN went to Oregon with his parents.

OWEN married Florence Baird. He was in a Confectionary and Bakery in Birtle, then in Russell and Foxwarren, finally went to B.C. They had four children. His first wife died there. In later years he married again and lived in Summerland, B.C. Owen died in 1952, at the age of 82.

JULIA married James Kitching in October 1877, in Ontario, then came to farm near Birtle. In 1891 they moved to Oregon. They had ten children. Julia died in 1933 and James in 1927.



1879. Mr. and Mrs. John Burdett and Adelaide.

SALATHEIL married Grace Meyers in 1899 and they lived in Oregon. He was a Government Employee at the W.S. Indian School until 1910, then started farming. They moved several times and finally settled in Canby, Oregon. They had five children.

ADELAIDE married Tom Ross and lived in Oregon. They had two sons.

BUTCHER FAMILY — Joseph William, his wife (Susannah Stokes) and son COXE arrived in Birtle in 1879 from Huntingdon Heath, England, after settling for a time in Indiana, U.S.A. Mr. Butcher and his wife had already reached the ages of seventy-four when they arrived in Wattsvie. They died in 1888 and 1890 respectively.

Their son, JOSEPH WILLIAM JR., his wife (Ellen Peasegood) and two children came from England in 1882. Their boat was struck by an iceberg out of Halifax, and the four hundred passengers were taken aboard another vessel. Thence the family travelled by train to Brandon, and by boat to Birtle Landing at Wattsvie.

Mr. Butcher died of blood poisoning the same year. His family lived with the senior Butchers until Ellen's marriage to Coxie in 1884. Her daughter *Maude* married William McDonald 1907, and farmed in Wattsvie. William died in 1947, Maude in 1966. Their children: Edward married Myrtle Hamilton of Foxwarren in 1931, lives in R.M. of Ellice, has six children. Jean (Mrs. Ad Bruys) of Vancouver, with three children; David married Lona Caplette, has three daughters; Bill married Sharon Ayres, has four children; Donald married Joan McCall of Foxwarren, has four sons; Shirley (Mrs. Herbert Weidman) of Starbuck has a son and a daughter; Arla (Mrs. Raymond Gall) Winnipeg, has two daughters.

Mabel (Mae) married Robert Corr in 1936, lived on the Corr homestead, then moved to Birtle. Son Robert married Elizabeth Meadows, lives on the Corr farm, have three children. Daughter Myrna (Mrs. Edward Vanstone) in Winnipeg, one son Derek. Linda (Mrs. Keith Smith) of Birtle, has two sons.

Howard married Jean Oswin of Beulah 1945 — now on the family farm at Wattsvie. Daughter Dorothy is in Toronto, son John at home, Carol at school in Birtle.

BUTCHER, COXE — born 1854, came to Birtle with his parents in 1879. After the death of his brother, Coxie married his widow. They lived on their homestead until 1900, then moved to a farm in Springfield Municipality, and in 1912 to Vancouver, where Ellen died in 1937, and Coxie in 1938.

Their family: EDITH married Russell Bacon, died in Vancouver 1969, had two sons; ETHEL (Mrs. Gordon Parker) in California, two children; MAY married Jack Clowes, in Vancouver with two sons.

Coxie's son JOHN THOMAS bought a farm in the Burdett district, married Jessie Jane Scoular of Dugald, two sons *Douglas* and

Walter, both farming at Birtle. John and his wife retired to Birtle 1945. He died in 1968.

Son Douglas served in Europe during World War II, married Georgina Tarrant of Foxwarren 1941, has two sons. Walter married Margaret Johnston of Solsgirth, is on the John Butcher farm, has four children.

Coxes's second son FREDERICK farmed with his brother at Burdett, later on the former Ernest Colley farm. Married Elsie Randall of Solsgirth in 1918, had two sons *Lloyd* and *Earl*. Frederick died 1966 after retirement to Birtle, where his wife still lives.

Son Lloyd served with the R.A.F. during World War II, saw action in Burma and the Middle East, returned home in 1943 after months in hospital. Married Helen Hamilton of Solsgirth, was killed on duty in a plane crash May 1944. Earl served with the R.C.A.F., saw much action as a navigator, returned in 1945 to the family farm. Married Mildred Dennis, has seven children, several now graduated from University.

Coxe Butcher is survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family have always contributed to the life of the community, on various Boards, the Legion and Agricultural Society, and in church work, 4-H and social activities. Many have scattered to other places, but many are still in the district to carry on the Butcher name.

BUTCHER, WILL — born 1876 in Lincolnshire, England, son of Joseph William Jr., came to Wattsview with his parents in 1882, attended Oxford school, following a furrow across the plains, as did Mina McIntosh, whom he married in 1904. Mina was born in 1881, the first white baby in Wattsview.

They lived after marriage on Will's farm, where they later built a two-story house for their growing family. Farm work was done by horses until son Fred took over in 1946, when a tractor was purchased. Later they had a car, the second in the district, a Model T Ford. Their life on the farm was busy with many struggles during the Depression, but they enjoyed raising their family, and the many animals and pets around their home. They cared for an injured deer until it had a little fawn of its own, after which it disappeared.

The Butchers were active in the life of the community, attended the Roman Catholic church, and celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1954. Will died in 1959. Mrs. Butcher at ninety-two was still in fair health in Kamloops, B.C. Their family: GEORGE married Elizabeth Cross, lives in Ladner, B.C.; NELLIE married Trueman Lamb, lives at Kamloops; JOE married Babs Dickinson, is a school Inspector at Neepawa; FRED married Belle Sunley, is on the home farm; WINNIE (Mrs. Walter Robinson) a nurse at Kamloops. There are ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

BUTLER, CAPTAIN R. P. — came with his family from Ireland in 1881, settling first in Portage la Prairie. Moved to Solsgirth district

1900-01, to a farm near St. James. Their only son HANS PIERCE BUTLER (1880-1940) in 1908 married Selena Agnes Moulson (1888-1931) born in Wiexham, Wales. They farmed west of Solsgirth on 34-17-26. Mr. Butler was a member of Council of R.M. of Birtle, and well known for horsemanship.

Their children: *Richard Pierce* (1911) married Vida MacDonald 1933, had three children. Vida died 1968. Richard married Elsa Butler, now lives in Swan River. *Agnes Gertrude* (1913) — *Mrs. Walter Taylor*, lives in Vancouver and has two children. *Eva Constance* (1915) — *Mrs. Walter McTavish* — they farmed in Boyle district, retired to Rossburn 1972. They have four children; *John Edward* (1916) — with Allan Moulson rode horseback from Solsgirth to foothills of the Rockies, where he was a forest ranger for years. Married Kathleen Wilson of Maycroft, Alta., has four sons, and ranches with two sons near Youngstown, Alta. *Arthur Cecil* (1919) married Joan Goodings, after her death he married Isabel Panting of Winnipeg, and they farm north of Winnipeg. There are five children; *William Hans* (1922) *Charles Edwin* (1926) married Marian McKay, has two sons and farms in Solsgirth district. *Sydney Clarence* (1928) married Joan Murray, has one son and lives in the Dugald district.

After his wife's death Mr. Hans Pierce Butler married Maude Addison of Solsgirth. They had three children, *Marina*, *Brenwyn* and *Pierce*. After his father's death in 1940 Arthur took over the family farm until it was sold in 1952 to Max Yaskiw. The old home was moved one mile north in 1963, and became the home of Charles and his family. The Butler family worshipped at St James' Anglican church, where Mr. and Mrs. Butler are buried beside an infant son *Garth*.

WILLIAM BULTER — was born and raised in the Solsgirth district, son of Hans Butler and Lena Moulson. He joined the R.C.A.F. in 1939 and served overseas in England and Africa as a pilot. He married Betty Attwell of Southall, England and had three sons.

On return to Canada they purchased the old Joyce farm, W½ of 24-18-27, where they still reside. Bill served 18 years as councillor on the R.M. of Birtle, is an active member of Foxwarren Legion and Odd-fellows Lodge and interested in all community affairs. At the present time he is president of the Manitoba Region Canadian Water Ski Association.

CAHOON, SAMUEL — born County Antrim, Ireland, married Mary Agnew in 1879 and came out to work in Indianapolis, Ind., U.S.A. in 1882. Returned to Ireland 1885, then came to Canada in 1887, working on the section at Gladstone, and later as foreman in Minnedosa. 1890 the family was moved to a railway station at Bowdin, Montana, in wild and sparsely settled ranching country — a hard lonely life for a woman with three small children, with a fourth arriving later. There were rattle snakes in Montana, and once the mother found one of the boys sleeping outside with a big snake in a coil close by.

They decided to return to Manitoba in 1891 to farm at Foxwarren, after hearing of an available quarter-section (SE 18-18-26) beside the farm of their aunt, Mrs. Robert Talbot. Of the nine children, seven reached adulthood — JANE, JOSEPH, ALBERT, MYRTLE, ROBERT, ETHEL and HAZEL. Jane married Will Talbot, who homesteaded NW 18-18-26, and later moved to the Nelson Boyd farm 8-18-27 close to Foxwarren. Their son *John* lives there, has three children and several grandchildren. Surviving of the original family are Robert of Foxwarren, and Hazel (Mrs. Ed Reid) of Brandon, who has two children — *Clinton* in Montreal and *Joan* in California.

Samual Cahoom died in 1944, his wife Mary in 1949, each aged eighty-nine. Three of his brothers did much globetrotting before settling down. William went to Australia at sixteen, and took up ranching. David returned to Ireland. TOM CAHOON JR. came to Manitoba in 1817 with his father Tom Sr. and sisters Jane and Margaret. They all moved to Bredenbury, Sask., where Tom found work as a car repair man. Jane married Hugh Ogilby and Margaret became Mrs. McFetrich. Tom married his cousin, third daughter of Sam Cahoon, and had three children — Tom Jr. of Melville, Sask., Eileen (Mrs. Ken Lowes) in Calgary and Jean (Mrs. Earl Moffat) at Naskup, B.C. There are twelve grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

CAMERON, ALEX — My father, Alex Cameron and his wife, Helen, were both born in Scotland. They came to Canada in 1911, when sister NELLIE was one and I (J. W. CAMERON) was two years old. Dad worked for John Tett for a year. Then he was hired to run the Hay Brothers' farm east of Foxwarren (now owned by Alex Wright). My brother ALEX was born here.

My sister and I enjoyed harvest and threshing time, with the big steam outfits. My mother cooked for over fifteen men in those days. We began our education at Dunstan school, walking two miles unless it rained, when we had a horse and buggy. The teacher was Miss Gwen Elliott. That summer, 1916, the big cyclone went through the Foxwarren area. Later Dad moved to the present J. M. McCrindle farm. Here we attended Moresby school, with teacher Miss Stokes.

In 1919 my father bought the Booth house in Foxwarren, where we attended the Consolidated school, and enjoyed many years of happy living. Dad was employed by the C.P.R. as sectionman until his disability. Then he had a small shoe repair shop, which he managed from a wheel chair. Senior citizens of the village gathered there for a chat, and often pushed Dad home. He died in 1951. Mother is in Assiniboine Hospital, Brandon.

I married Anne Wilson of Wattsview, we have four children, and we now live semi-retired in Brandon. Alex married Elsie Jackson, lives in Foxwarren with five children. Nellie married Robert Man of Russell. She has four children, and lives in Winnipeg. I have many happy memories of Foxwarren, which we still call home. After returning

from overseas in World War II I enjoyed the community projects and sports activities.

CAMERON, WILLIAM (1859-1939) — and his wife, formerly Isabella Bell, of Paisley, Ontario (1859-1922) came west from Bruce County, Ont. to get a homestead. He had been preceded by another member of the family, Archie Cameron. On first arrival, there were no schools in the district, but the younger members of their family went later to Eckford School. Their church was Argyle Presbyterian. The first home was log, with plain furniture and wood stove, and a dug well, later a drilled well.

Their children: The eldest son, ALLAN, married Pearl Sherrit, and is now deceased. His son *Ray* lives in Winnipeg. FLORENCE married William Johnston. LAUGHLIN married Grace Shaw, farmed and now retired in Rosburn. LINDA married William Shaw, with a second marriage to Willard Eaton. JESSIE married Jack Richardson, of Brandon.

Laughlin's son *George* lives in the Eckford district. His four children, Brenda, Debbie, Carol and Clifford attended first Eckford school, and later Solsgirth and Rosburn schools.

CARR, STEPHEN (1848-1921) — of Coburg, Ont., son of Reginald and Cloien Carr, pioneers of Northumberland County. Orphaned at three, Stephen was raised by an uncle John Carr, attending school in Coburg and worked for farmers to learn skills of agriculture. Purchased land in vicinity of Stratford, Ont., which he lost because of having gone security for a friend, and had to begin again.

Came to Manitoba and worked in Winnipeg for the railway, but a three-months' illness consumed his savings. Joined by his wife and four children, they managed to save enough for a team of oxen and journeyed to Foxwarren to take up a homestead, as well as freighting with the oxen. Endured many hardships, but with determination succeeded in overcoming obstacles, and increased his cultivated acreage each year. At one time held title to 1120 acres which he reduced by sale, and undertook stock raising in addition.

In 1869 Stephen married Maria Davey, likewise of pioneer stock in the Coburg district. They had twelve children, three dying in infancy. Maria died after her husband, in 1930. Their children were:

EZEKIAL, in meat business in Belcaras; MINNIE (Mrs. Thomas Copeland) of Birtle; ANNIE married George Copeland, Telephone Inspector at Foxwarren; MARGARET, wife of Arthur Barker, Binscarth; CHARLES, a farmer; JOHN, engineer in Edmonton; WILLIAM, THOMAS and GEORGE.

Stephen Carr was a member of the Church of England and the I.O.O.F., was active as school trustee and community affairs. With careful management and care he and his wife were able to spend their later years in the comfort denied them in youth. They were survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CARSCADDEN — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carscadden came from Ontario with their respective parents to the Virden district. They were married in January 1908, and moved to the Birtle district in 1933. In 1943 they moved to the former Sydney Hamilton farm, where they farmed for four years. Mrs. Carscadden taught school for several years at Eckford, Dowsford and Rothesay. In 1947 they built a house on the present farm site 21-18-25, where the eldest son MAC still farms. Other family members are: LORNE, married and lives in the Rothesay district near Birtle; MARGARET (Mrs. Harrison) live in Edmonton.

Mr. Carscadden 1886-1961. His wife 1887-1967.

CARTMELL, JAMES — came to the Birtle district in 1880, and started farming five miles north-east of Birtle on the Birdtail River. (D. Snow lives there now, still in the house built in 1896.)

Mrs. Cartmell and her four boys, Herbert, James, Leslie, and Harry came later from Listowell by way of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and from Winnipeg west on the boat "Manitoban" to Birtle Landing. The four boys all attended the old stone school. Herbert and James both became doctors. Herbert settled in the United States, and James at Glenboro where he practised until his death. Harry studied Law with Mickle until he had to give up and take his brother Leslie's place on the farm.

HERBERT — (1864-1945 in Washington). Four children; *Lucille Guiland* of Lafayette, Ind.; *Harold* — dentist of Pasco, Wash.; *Walter* — died on the submarine "Argonaut" in 1943; *Astha Dresser* of Washington, D.C.

JAMES — (1867-1948), married May Wilcox 1892. Their children, *Mona* and *Elwyn (Bung)* live in Vancouver.

LESLIE — (1869-1915). — married Bessie Lawrence 1913

HARRY — (1870-1960) — married Mary Preston 1902. She was born in Lakefield, Ontario in 1873. Their children — *Iola* of Winnipeg, and *Elma Burnett* who died in 1966. Harry moved to Birtle in 1912, where he resided until October 1945, when he and his wife moved to East Kildonan, Winnipeg. Mrs. Cartmell died Sept. 1964.

CARTWRIGHT FAMILY — Robert Stiles Cartwright was born in Wiltshire, England in 1851. Married Lucy, daughter of Canon E. R. Eddrup in 1884. Leaving son Jack, two years, in care of an aunt, they came to Canada in 1889 to homestead in the Balmerino district, and later near Fort Ellice. Moved to Birtle town 1909, where they had a wonderful garden of flowers, vegetables and lilacs, a tennis court and fine poultry. Mrs. Cartwright died in 1921, and her husband in 1927. A tablet in her memory was placed in St. George's by the congregation in 1922.

JACK CARTWRIGHT came to Birtle some years after his parents. Served as bank teller and also as lay reader in Anglican churches in the district. Helped organize the Agricultural Fair, was interested in baseball and cricket. Chief interest stamp-collecting, formed

many stamp clubs and won many trophies, including signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1956.

Organized the Dramatic Society and staged many plays. The funds were used to erect a flagpole at Birtle's Cenotaph November 1927. A charter member of Artaban Chapter in 1923, and in 1924 became Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba. Moved to Winnipeg and was employed in the office at Stevenson Field Airport. Sec. Treas. of the Good Neighbors' Club. In 1928 married Margaret Pearson, a nurse in Birtle's first hospital. Has one son Robert and a granddaughter. In 1945 he and his wife went to live at Tunbridge Wells, Eng. where he died March 1973. **HILDA CARTWRIGHT** — born 1885. married Mr. O. J. Gwyer (now deceased) in 1906. Four children — *Bill, Jack, Hilda and Eileen*, and five grandchildren. **SYBIL CARTWRIGHT** — born 1894, married Horace Jelfs in 1926 (now deceased). Farmed in Birtle and Foxwarren districts. Four children, *Nora, Bob, Norman and Margaret*, and seven grandchildren. Bob farms at Foxwarren, and Margaret and husband Lorne Boulton in Birtle district.

CHAMBERLAIN FAMILY — Our father, W. O. Chamberlain, living in Richmond, Vermont, decided to come to Canada, so got in touch with an old friend, Jim Lacy, a baker in Winnipeg. We came to Canada by train through Montreal. It was a very tiresome journey, the seats all slats and the road rough. We reached Winnipeg at the end of March, 1910. It rained all day April 1st, Easter Sunday, and for the next two weeks. We stayed with a Mrs. Watson on Kennedy St.

Father took a parcel of land in the Solsgirth district from a mortgage company. Goods and furniture and two yokes of oxen were purchased and shipped by freight. The family followed in a passenger train, and passed the car of "effects" at Minnedosa.

On our arrival we saw young folks skating on ice beside the station — and we thought we had come to the North Pole. Later, on June 1st, we took a load of wood to town on sleds. We lived in town for two months while a crop was put in and the farm house repaired on the former Joe Beirnes place on 26-17-26. Our home burned in 1930 and a new one was built on Section 25, where the well and barn were. That winter we rented a house in Solsgirth, lived in a harness shop and two granaries until we moved home in August. Power and water have been added these last years.

Our father passed away in August, 1946, aged 77. Of his family, **RAYMOND**, born 1890, has been blind since 1964, lives on the farm and still plays the piano. **LUELLA ADELINE** died in 1966. **ELLIDA BETSY** (1895) married Will Kenward, and lives in the Rothesay district with a family of four. **SARAH JEANETTE**, the writer, (1897) married Dougald Alexander Rankin and live on the farm. We attended Solsgirth United Church, and I finished my schooling in Solsgirth, boarding with early settlers, the Taits.

Farming methods have changed a great deal since we started with

two yokes of oxen and walking plows. After two years we had horses, and about twelve head of milk cows. Later we bought a tractor, and in 1950 a combine. One quarter of land was sold to Tony Hrysak, and the crop land on the home place has been rented to Charles Butler. How much longer we will live on the farm depends on our health. We are blessed with fine neighbors, for which we are very thankful, for they have helped us all through our stay here.

CHERRY FAMILY — Richard Mitchell Cherry (1848-1936) born in Liverpool, his wife Jane Rice (1857-1950) born in Ontario, brought their family to Manitoba from Toronto in 1898. Formerly foreman for a large lumber firm, Mr. Cherry decided to try farming, and started on the E½ 12-17-26, homesteaded by Albert Shepherd. He remained there until World War I, when hired help was almost unobtainable. The farm was sold, and the "Cherry house" built in Birtle.

While on the farm the old house there was found unsuitable, and the family lived in Ben Shepherd's house on the next farm, until a frame house could be built. Ben's house, like his father's was a beautiful old field stone house. Mr. Shepherd had come from stone quarries in Ontario, and knew stone house building. On retirement he built that stone house at the end of Main Street in Birtle. Heating in those days was usually an iron box stove with wood for fuel, where the cat lay underneath to find warmth.

The Cherry family came to the district by train — furniture, two horses, a walking plow and wagon in a freight car, Mr. Cherry and Harry travelling with the car to attend to the stock, the journey requiring ten days. The others came out by passenger train, stopping overnight in Winnipeg at the old Brunswick Hotel (see Travel).

The family: WILLIAM 1876-1881; BENJAMIN WATSON died 1953, unmarried; HARRY SCOTT 1882-1958; ELLA MAY, born 1888; RICHARD 1894-95; RUSSELL MAURICE 1897-1967. Grandchildren are Ethyl May Ratcliffe, of Victoria, Hazel Law, Margaret Jones, Frances Davies, Richard and Arthur William, all of Calgary, and Eileen, wife of Rev. Glen Park, with the United Church at Dawson Creek.

CHICHELUK FAMILY — Matt and his wife, formerly Olga Sabeski, came to the Dowsford district from Rosburn to farm in 1949. They bought the farm of Mont Hayball — N½ 32-18-25 — in 1952, and built a new home with electricity, oil heat and plumbing. They have two children DEBBIE and TERRY — both at Rosburn school.

CHIPPING FAMILY — Cyril and Eleanor Chipping and son CLIVE (born 1947) came to live and work on the Harvey Fulton farm three miles south of Birtle, March 1950. A second son GERALD, was born there.

In 1954 they moved a small house from Miniota on to Lots 10-14 Block 9, Plan M on the south hill at Birtle. This house was later enlarged. Cyril was for the next six years a heavy equipment operator

working with Pizzey & Graham on roads in the municipality and for Penner Construction in the building of No. 4 Highway between Fox-warren and Shoal Lake.

In Feb. of 1960 the Chippings bought the blacksmith shop on Main St. formerly owned by Harvey Greeves renaming it "Chip's Welding and Repair". Cyril operated a welding and repair business until, due to ill health, it was closed in 1966. The old building was one of the original buildings from Old Fort Ellice.

In 1967, Cyril was employed by the Parks Branch.

In 1970 Gerald married Beverly Craig of St. Catharines, Ont. and Clive married Vivian Cipryk of Brandon.

In the fall of 1970, Eleanor and Cyril said good-bye to Birtle and made their home at Glenboro, Man. and Chris and Charlie Will became the new owners of the house on the south hill.

Twenty happy years were spent in Birtle by the Chippings, raising their family and working in the community.

CHOPTIUK JOHN — and his wife **NELLIE** (nee Hulyk) and their two eldest children **WILLIAM** and **HELEN** came from Marco to the Gray farm west of Kelloe in the spring of 1930. **RUTH** was born here in 1933. In April 1938 we moved east of Solsgirth to a farm formerly owned by Joe Glover, Fred Scott and Abe Giesbrecht. **EDWARD** was born here. In 1947 we purchased the George Irving farm where we farmed till 1964 retiring then in Birtle.

William Choptuik farmed with his parents till December 1960 when he married Connie Ashcroft and lived in Solsgirth. They have one son *Mathew* and now live in the Isabella district.

CHOPTIUK, WILLIAM — and his wife came originally from the Ukraine, and settled in Marco, north of Rossburn, to farm. Mr. Choptuik died in 1950, and his wife came to Solsgirth to live with her daughter, **MRS. MIKE OSTASH**. Her son **JOE** married Ann Stebeleski of Oakburn. They farmed south of Solsgirth, and now live in St. Vital, Man. Their children are *John*, at Churchbridge, Sask; *Walter*, *Ernest* in Winnipeg, and *Phyllis* (Mrs. David Twerden) in Winnipeg.

WALTER CHOPTIUK — born 1917, son of Joe and Ann Choptuik of St. Vital, came first to Marco, and later to the Kelloe District to farm. His wife Helen Kostuik, of Angusville, Man. came to teach in the Solsgirth Consolidated School. They now live in Birtle and attend the Catholic Church in Solsgirth. They have one small daughter, **MARIANNE**.

CLEGG, LOUISA — Mrs. Clegg has been twice a Birtle resident. As a small girl she came with her family from England, as a senior citizen she returned to take up residence at Pioneer Lodge.

Born in London, England she arrived at age four and lived with her family in the saw mill for three weeks. Then in a small house on Main

Street (the house now between the Capri Theatre and the laundromat). Then the family homesteaded south-east of Birtle. Louisa's summer task was herding the cattle. Also she herded for a bachelor neighbour, who paid her \$2.00 for her summer's work and with this she bought new shoes to start school. She was now eleven and her education was to last three years. During these school years she lived with the T. J. Lewis family in town for her board, and the tasks included milking the cow. The school was the stone school west of town. Her brother-in-law Owen Burdett ran a restaurant and young Louisa worked there and later went to Russell with the Burdett's.

In 1907 she married Morley Clegg and they farmed at Binscarth retiring in later years to Binscarth town. Only two of their four children are living — MRS. FANNIE GRAHAM of Binscarth, presently assistant matron at Russell Personal Care Home and ROLAND CLEGG at Arrow River, a farmer and welder. After Mr. Clegg's death, Mrs. Clegg took a suite in the Pioneer Lodge and lives a gentle happy life with many visits from loving grandchildren, children, and great-grandchildren and many friends.

CLIFTON, JAMES — and family moved to Foxwarren having purchased the hardware business from Wilbur Ranson. He also took over the Imperial Oil Agency. He was interested in all town activities, belonging to the Foxwarren Legion and serving on the town council for a number of years. He was also keenly interested in the Annual Foxwarren Fat Stock show, donating a trophy for the owner of the Grand Champion Steer. He died in 1962 and his wife took over the Oil Agency and Hardware business until 1966 when the hardware stock was sold and the business ceased to exist in Foxwarren.

His son DOUGLAS received his high school education in Foxwarren and is at present (1973) a radio operator at Cape Dyer, N.W.T.

COCHRANE, RALPH AND BETTY — Betty's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walsh with her mother and uncle came from England 1908 and bought land now farmed by Mr. Doug Butcher.

After Ralph's R.C.A.F. service, the Cochranes decided to come to Birtle as a suitable place for a radio and appliance repair business. Arrived September 1945, rented a shop on Main Street and a suite of rooms from Mrs. Darrell on Vine St. They appreciated the warm welcome extended by neighbors the Nicholsons, A. G. Smiths, Mrs. Mallard and Mrs. McCann.

Their business expanded when Mr. W. Cruickshanks of the Manitoba Power Commission requested that they include electrical construction. The first home where they installed light and power was that of Mr. F. Andrews.

They were warmly welcomed also by Reverend Wilson of the United Church, and had many pleasant experiences there. Their children were fortunate in their school teachers, and in the rolling hills for exploration, the swimming facilities and picnic spots. They par-

ticipated in Baptist Bible School, Mission Band, Explorers, Cubs and Scouts, 4-H, C.G.I.T., choir and hockey.

BETTY ANN after high school entered St. Boniface Hospital to train, and graduated with the Centennial class of '67. Married Fred Cottingham and has one child.

LARRY graduated at R.C.M.P. depot in Regina August 1969, trained at Ottawa in French, and is with a French detachment in New Brunswick. Married Jeannine Legere May 1972.

The Cochranes appreciate this fine community, and Canada as one of the greatest countries on earth.

COLLINGRIDGE FAMILY — Albert Collingridge, a widower with seven children and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collingridge came in 1890 from Essex, England to Winnipeg and then by horse and cart to the Eckford district. Three homesteads were filed, but Albert and his father both died that summer. The eldest son, HAROLD, eighteen, took up his place on NW 14-18-25, where he farmed until his death in 1950.

The family, now just the seven children, lived in a frame house. The barn was of logs. The land was broken by Harold with a mare called "Darky" and an ox, and walking plow, still kept in the family as a souvenir. Darky was parent for all the farm horses — thirteen colts in all, and she lived to be thirty-seven years old — a hardy pioneer.

HAROLD married Mary Whyman in 1903, driving to Russell for the ceremony. They had eight children — Janet, Wilbert, Elvie, Edmund, Mary and Edith (twins), Vera, Harry.

The family had many stories to tell of their life on the farm. They attended Eckford school, built in 1903, where most of their good times were centered. One winter of heavy snow it was necessary to feed the livestock through a hole in the stable roof. With the well covered over, the stock was watered with snow. Harold died in 1950, his wife in 1958. All the family records were lost in a disastrous fire. They moved into a log hen house for the summer. Their new house was destroyed in 1934 by a cyclone, together with most of the farm buildings.

The younger members of the original family remained on the farm until marriage. EDITH married Alex Rogers of Makroff, Man., died 1951. . . BERTHA died in Oakland, Calif. in 1966. . . EDMUND died after service in the Boer War. . . ETHEL his twin became Mrs. Jack Lamont. . . THALIA, Mrs. Arthur Cloke, deceased. . . ADA (Mrs. Barr) is still living in a Senior Citizens' home in North Battleford at ninety-four.

COLLINS, WILLIAM — and his wife nee Mary Ann Porterfield came to Birtle Municipality in 1886 and homesteaded N.E. ¼ 26-18-25. They farmed there until 1911 when they sold the farm to William Johnston and moved to Rosburn. They had a family of nine, WILLIAM, CHESTER, JOSEPHINE, LAURIE, LESTER, JOHN, JENNY, ELIZABETH, and THOMAS COLLINS. Five of the youngest

children attended Eckford school. Five boys were in the army during the first Great War. William and Laurie were killed overseas.

COOKSLEY (COOLEY) — Mr. and Mrs. James Walter Cooksley Cooley both came to Birtle April 1888 from London, England, where he had been born in 1858, she in 1860. Mr. Cooley had been in the Merchant Navy in England for several years, which no doubt helped him to endure a very strenuous voyage to Canada. They came across the Atlantic seeking a better and healthier place to live but perhaps the sea voyage with five small children under seven caused them to wonder about the decision. The crossing with rough weather, cramped quarters and poor food required about three weeks, and they were happy to see land once more.

When they finally arrived in Birtle, Mr. Cooley worked on a farm for a time, then later moved to the town where he built a frame house and found employment in the flour mill.

Theirs was a busy life, with twelve children to raise, and Mrs. Cooley did maternity nursing now and then. Mr. Cooley however found time to assist in the old Methodist Church as lay reader, and to teach a Bible class.

He died at an early age in 1898, leaving his wife with eleven children. In January 1901 she was remarried, to Mr. W. Gourley, and they returned to farming. With four more children they finally moved to Vancouver, B.C. where they lived for twenty years.

Mrs. Gourley died in 1935. Surviving of this large family are: WILLIAM in Winnipeg, MRS. JANE BLACK, Burnaby, B.C.; MRS. MAY HOGG, Warren, Man. MRS. FLORENCE NICOL, Saskatoon; MRS. VIOLET MCGREGOR, Saskatoon; MRS. ELSIE DAVIS, Vancouver; MR. MERVIN GOURLEY, Vancouver; MRS. TOM JOHNSTON (Ruby Gourley) Burnaby, B.C.; MRS. GARNET VERNER, California. There are also numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

COOLEY, WILLIAM E. — (1855-1935) and wife Mary Lynn (1855-1924) first came to the Solsgirth district from Lincolnshire, England in 1887. They had eleven children, seven of whom were born in England.

They came to Manitoba to take up farming and settled on a homestead east of the present location of Earl Butcher. Their first home was a log structure, their heating system consisted of a cast iron wood stove. They had dirt floors, straw and feather mattresses, wool quilts and cooking was done in heavy iron pots. Furniture was scant.

They later moved to a farm south of Solsgirth where they built a large house in 1899. Their children attended Burdette School in the first years and later in Solsgirth. They were of Anglican faith.

I think their main reason for coming to Canada was to seek better opportunities for their family who were: WILLIAM G. (1878-1961) married Margaret Watt — Scotland, HARRY (1879-1956) married Annie Quigley, LILLIAN (1881-1927) (Mrs. Harold Birch),

FLORENCE (1882-1915) (Mrs. A. L. Judson), FRED (1884-1966), JOHN (1885-1918) married Margaret Cowie — Scotland, ALFRED (1887-1962) married Annie Cowie, FANNY (1889-1957), MINNIE (Mrs. James Spence), ERNEST (1894-1969) married Margaret Nichol — Iceland, PERCY (1896-1963) married Nettie Shuemeta — Austria.

There are over 200 living descendants of W. E. and Mary Lynn Cooley, comprising 6 generations.

COOLEY, ANN — I was born in 1899 in Aberdeen, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1914, two weeks after war was declared. My sister was married to John Cooley, on a farm three miles from Solsgirth, and in 1916 I married Alfred Cooley in Birtle Anglican Church. We farmed on 7-17-25 for forty-six years. My husband died in 1962. I lived with my family, then moved to a small home in Solsgirth owned by my daughter.

Our children, ALBERT, PERCY and RITA LYNN attended Burdette school, and the family went there for church. I felt very sad when the old schoolhouse was moved. It was just two miles from our farm, and we had happy times there. Solsgirth was a nice small town, one could go to Winnipeg in the morning and come home on the Flyer at night. The dear horses are nearly all gone. None drive on the road now. So changes go on, and Solsgirth is small now. The children go by bus to Birtle to school, the station is pulled down. We don't have the winters we used to. Sometimes there were six to eight feet of snow, and blizzards all the time. My husband had hound dogs, and hunted wolves in winter, sometimes as many as sixteen.

The best thing in my farm life was the Hydro — no more oil lamps. I was badly burned with gasoline when my children were small, and spent a year in Birtle hospital. I lost my first baby in Birtle, and Dr. Smith took me into town with an old car with no top, which was a big deal then, and I think the only one in Birtle at that time. My two sons farmed with their Dad till the second war and they both joined up — Percy in the Air Force and Albert in the army. Now one son lives in Toronto, one in South Burnaby, B.C., and my daughter at Ladysmith, B.C. I have twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I am crippled with arthritis, but I will always love the farm. I had a very good life even if it was hard at times, and I think Canada is a grand place.

COOLEY, FRED — came to Canada with his parents in 1886 at the age of three years. He married Dorothy M. Gee of Lincoln, England at Neepawa in 1912 and settled on the N.W. ¼ 31-16-25. Mr. Cooley was employed 18 years by the Highway Department maintaining Road No. 42 between Birtle and Shoal Lake Municipality boundary. Mrs. Cooley died in 1949. He remarried in 1952 to Ida Reames (nee Quinn). He died in 1966 and Ida in 1972.

There were three sons born in the first marriage. MELVILLE married Evelyn Campbell of Isabella in 1940. They have two children *Valerie* (Mrs. Victor Lobban) of Pope and *Murray* married to Wendy Cameron of Foxwarren and lives in Dauphin.

FRED married Laura Wallace of Kenton in 1947. They have 5 sons and a daughter — *Wallace, Miriam* (Mrs. Ivan Sabesky) in Winnipeg. *Ken, Gerald, Craig, and Blair*. IVAN married Beulah Ryan in 1949. They had four children. *Nola, Garry, Orville, and Brian*. Beulah passed away in 1963. Ivan remarried in 1968 to Joyce Cline. They have two sons *Richard and Dennis*.

Fred Cooley achieved recognition in the agricultural field by winning the Grand Championship in oats for the three prairie provinces in 1921 and 1922. He was also awarded 9th prize in the Chicago World Fair for barley in 1923. A very active man, he enjoyed sports and excelled in distance running.

There are fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

COOPER, FRED — born Wiltshire, England (1865-1952) came to the Birtle district at the age of twenty-one. He worked first for a bachelor, Mr. Joseph Wilson in the Wattsville district. In 1898 he began farming on the E½ 24-17-28 in the Zion district. In the same year he married Frances Rebecca (Fanny) Wilkinson, (1876-1954) who had come with her parents in 1881 from Oxford County. In later years her parents lived with them until their death in 1911.

The Coopers were active in many community affairs. Mr. Cooper belonged to the Grain Growers, United Farmers, Beef Ring, and Choral Society under Mr. P. Highfield. He competed in the local plowing matches, in the walking plow class. Fanny was often asked to give readings at entertainments. She belonged to Foxwarren Mission Society and Zion Ladies' Aid, was made a Life Member of the W.I. in 1943, and of the W.M.S. 1947. On retiring they lived in Foxwarren, then went to Winnipeg to live with daughter MARY. In 1948 they celebrated their Golden Anniversary.

Their children: JOHN JOSEPH (1901) attended Moresby School then took the diploma course at M.A.C. Worked in road construction and in the mine at Bissett, then on the farm of Mr. Charlie Carr, whose daughter Isobel he married in 1936. They live in Moosomin and have two daughters — *Anne* (Mrs. Len Gunn) in Minneapolis, and *Colleen* (Mrs. Dave McIntyre) in Montreal. GERTRUDE (her twin Annie Victoria died soon after birth) born 1907, married Walter Laycock 1931. CHARLES born 1913, served in the R.C.A.F. in World War II awarded the D.F.C. Married Margaret Rhodes of Yorkshire, now farms at Binscarth. Has a daughter *Peggy* (Mrs. Murray Bradshaw) at Binscarth, and twin sons *Howard* and *Warren*. MARY EDNA born 1917, taught school in the district, married Ralph Lennox and teaches in Winnipeg.

There are nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

COTTINGHAM — My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alwin Cottingham, came from Sussex, England in 1899, Mother with two children a few months later. He worked in Winnipeg as a brick-layer and purchased in the fall S.E.¼ 17-17-26. He drove a team of broncos from Winnipeg. Mother and the children came by train.

Father cleared and broke land, and drove a cream route for Rossburn Creamery. The family moved out to the farm when living quarters were built. Father also built various brick houses around the district, all still standing. They gradually bought more land, and built a large barn in 1914, and in 1916 a brick house west of the original small home. They lived there until they retired to Birtle, where Dad passed away in 1945 Mother died in 1971, at the ripe old age of 96.

ALICE MARY (Allie) was the first child born on the farm. Dr. Wickware rode out on horseback, and when he prepared to ride home after all was over, his fur cap was floating in the soft-water barrel. He travelled home with his head wrapped turban-style in a bath towel.

HARRY was born in 1902, **WILLETT** in 1906 and myself in 1912. **MAY** married Walter Hamilton of Solsgirth, and they raised four children. Both parents are now deceased. William fought in World War I, was badly gassed, and some years later died from the effects. Allie married Frank McBean of Winnipeg. After his death she returned to live at Birtle, and has one child living. Harry married Hazel Shepherd of Birtle. Six of their seven children are living, all married. Willett died at twenty. I, **MAUDE**, married Brooks Dickinson. We do not have a family, and are still residents of Birtle.

Harry still farms the original section. There are eleven living grandchildren, and twenty-five great-grandchildren of our parents.

CRERAR, JOHN — and his wife Evelyn (McTavish) came to farm on 20-16-27 near Foxwarren, from Angusville. It was March in 1947, a day when it was over twenty below zero. They moved with horses across country, as even the roads were blocked. Their home was far colder than the barn. When you put a hot meal on the table, you could tell which way the wind was blowing from the steam. Mr. and Mrs. Crerar spent ten winters in this house before they could afford to build a warmer home.

They had four children : **DEVONA EVELYN**, born 1937 died in infancy. **IVAN JAMES**, born 1939, now in Solsgirth; **LEONA BERTHA** born 1941, now in Toronto; and **DON AUSTIN** born 1952, also in Toronto. Ivan and his wife Betty (nee Patterson of Winnipeg) have three children, *Bradley James, Lisa May and Douglas Scott*.

While in Foxwarren Mr. Crerar owned five quarters of land, and drilled a well three hundred feet to get eighty feet of water. They sold their farm in 1972 to Brian Pawluk, and now reside in Birtle.

CREW, ISAAC — (1874-1955) was born in London, Ontario, son of William Crew and Margaret Edwards. In 1894 he came to Alexander, Man. to work on his brother-in-law's farm. In the fall of 1897 he and Mr. John Tansley drove to Birtle to look for land. They bought in the Wattsvie district because Mr. Tansley had known some of the families earlier in Oxford County, Ont. and the land was good. Dad bought N½ 28-16-27. It had some broken land and quite a lot of bush. Mr. Tansley bought nearer Wattsvie Plains, with more open land.

Dad built a three-room shanty, which after a few years he moved

to the present site and added another room, and also bought another half section. For first breaking Dad used horses and a walking plow, then about 1920 he bought a Case tractor and also a separator for threshing.

In January 1900 Dad married Jessie Gillanders who had come from Scotland to Alexander in 1898. They drove to Birtle by horse and buggy, as that year there was not enough snow in January for sleighing.

Oxford School was over three miles distant, so our parents drove us there and back, and when Bob was ten Dad got a pony for us to drive ourselves. BOB and KEN attended school to grade eight. I continued on to high school to Birtle and Normal School in Winnipeg.

In 1904 a large barn was built of stone and cement. The wooden roof was blown off by a cyclone in 1938 and later rebuilt. In 1912 an eight-room two-storey house was built, heated by wood stoves and lighted with coal oil lamps.

Dad always kept a herd of milk cows. Mother made butter, and sold it to stores and private customers. In the 1920's cream trucks came from Shoak Lake and Miniota to pick up cans of cream.

I recall many good times at our home gatherings. Mother played the organ or accordion by ear and we learned many lovely Scottish songs. My parents were active members of Birtle Baptist Church. Mother taught Sunday School and was President of the Ladies' Group for many years and active in W.I. and Red Cross. She died in 1939. Dad was Deacon and also Treasurer of the church and also Trustee for Oxford School and on the Board of the Elevator. Dad lived with son Ken until his death.

CREW, KENNETH F. — On May 6th, 1903, I arrived into this wonderful world at Birtle, Man, on N½ 28-16-27. We lived over three miles from school and sometimes had to walk. Later we got a pony named Dick, a wonderful horse, and a good saddle pony. We also got a bicycle to ride to town, for hunting cattle, and fishing in the river. We went with the big boys and girls to a swimming hole and could not come back until the boys said so.

In 1917 the school put on vans, and I drove one in winter — a sleigh box covered with old canvas, no stove, but a big improvement over an open cutter. In summer months I worked for \$30.00 a month, and went to school after threshing. In the fall of 1920 we bought a 24-inch separator for threshing, and we ran this machine until 1927, when we bought a 28-inch Red River separator, and used six or seven stook teams. In 1929 we bought an 18-36 Hart Parr Engine for threshing and field work, which we used until 1949.

In 1930 we had a dry period, when crops were not very good, but with our cattle and cream cheques, cutting and hauling wood to Birtle for \$2.00 a load, we were able to make ends meet.

In 1936 I married Ella Pittendreigh, and we lived for four years on S½ 10-17-27, now owned by Mr. Jack Lavinaway. When Mother died we moved back to the home farm with Dad and Robert in 1940. During

the war I went carpentering on airports at Carberry, Souris, Rivers and Fort William, then returned to the farm as Robert's health was not good.

We have three children. FRANCIS, our son, now assists with my farming. DOREEN graduated from Brandon College, married John Platt, and they live in Montreal. GEORGEEN JESSIE lives in Shoal Lake. ELLA is active in community, and enjoys curling, church and Pioneer Lodge Auxiliary. We are members of the Baptist Church and I have served as a Deacon, also on the Board of the Pool Elevator, and since 1948 on the Rural Council, as well as the District Hospital Board.

It was a great lone land our forefathers came to. However, Wattsvie community was very fortunate in its people — kind, hospitable and neighborly. They stuck together, which generally assures success.

FRANCIS CREW — I was born in Birtle in 1942 and have spent all my life in the Wattsvie district. I am living with my dad on the farm, operating a father and son mixed grain operation.

Oxford School was the first year of my education and then to Birtle where I completed Grade XI and a three year Commercial course.

My hobby in winter is snowmobiling, which provides many hours of cross country jaunts in our beautiful surroundings.

It should be an inspiration to the present generation to carry forward the banner which was raised by our fathers and grandfathers of the last century.

CREW, ROBERT — (1901-1951) the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Crew. He attended Oxford School until 1915, when he was in the eighth grade. After World War I started in 1914, hired help was hard to get on the farm. Dad's hired man Kenneth Menzies enlisted so Bob quit school and started driving a four horse team on the land.

Bob was keenly interested in community work. He was an avid baseball fan, playing for many years on the Wattsvie team, and also on the Birtle team. He usually was the catcher for the team. After his health became too poor to play ball, he refereed games.

Bob will be remembered for his kind jovial manner and his interest in young people.

Bob continued to farm until 1946 when his health became poor after a lengthy illness.

CURLL, WILLIAM OWEN — (1876-1954) born Bridgewater, N.S., came west to Plum Coulee about 1898, learned telegraphy and was employed as a telegraph operator by the C.P.R. 1907 married Elsie Elizabeth Gordon (1883-1961) from Attwood, Ont. They lived first at Edrans, Man., where William was Station Agent, then came to Birtle in 1921.

There were six boys in the family, one dying in infancy. Their mother was very efficient in making their clothes, even their best suits, and the boys helped with the housework. Mrs. Curll was active in the

United Church and Past Matron of the O.E.S. Mr. Curll was Past Master of the Masonic Order, and Past Patron of the O.E.S., as well as being an ardent gardener.

In 1932 the family moved to Hamiota, where Mr. Curll operated a grocery business until his death. He and his wife rest in beautiful Hamiota cemetery. The children: JAMES MILTON (1907) married Jessie Pittendreigh of Birtle 1938. Employed by the C.P.R., operated a hardware store in Crandall during the Depression, returned to the C.P.R. in 1942, retiring as a conductor, Jan. 1st, 1973 after forty-seven years. Home is in Brandon, they have two daughters and a grandson. GORDON OWEN (1909) joined the Royal Bank in Birtle 1927, served in various towns, retired as Manager 1969. Married Mary Hough of Whitemouth 1940, lives in Winnipeg with three children; CLIFFORD JOHN (1913) served in R.C.N. in World War II. Married Harriett Lyons 1941. Has a grocery business, lives in Virden with two sons; NESBITT (1915) married Kay Wright of Beulah 1943. Took over the business in Hamiota until sold to the Co-op. Manages the grocery department. MARSHALL (1916) Served with R.C.N. in World War II. Married Marion Lyons 1942. Now employed as conductor with C.P.R., lives in Saskatoon and has two sons.

CUTHBERTSON, JESSIE — (1845-1937) eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Start of Claredon, P.Q. was married in 1873 to George Cuthbertson (1846-1934). They farmed in Quebec until 1919, when they moved west and took up a farm northwest of Foxwarren.

After many years, they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary at Foxwarren on April 23, 1933, with all the family present for the happy occasion.

Mrs. Cuthbertson died at the age of 92. Until her last long illness she took a keen interest in church and community affairs.

Mr. Cuthbertson died on Christmas Day, 1934. For over forty years he had been an elder in the United Church. At the funeral service Rev. Conly chose for his closing words part of the last sermon that Mr. Cuthbertson had prepared, but had been unable to deliver.

Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbertson had eight children and eight grandchildren. JANET (Mrs. C. McNeil) died 1916, ELIZABETH (Mrs. Thomas Clark) died 1963 aged 87 at Carberry, CHRISTINA died at Vancouver 1969, at the age of 92, MARY died in 1960 and AMELIA in 1968 at the age of 86, SAMUEL died in 1937, GERTRUDE (Mrs. William Tett) lives in Vancouver, aged 87. Son ISAAC married Verna Mayhew in 1938, lives in Winnipeg.

The grandchildren: *Cuthbert McNeil* of Flin Flon; *Ross McNeil* Summerland, B.C.; *Jessie Graham*, Penticton, B.C.; *Annie Sparrow*, Redcliffe, Alta.; *Mary Bennet*, Carberry; *George Henry Tett*, Vancouver, B.C.; *George Clark* and *John McNeil* are deceased.

DAGG, CHARLES JOHN — (1861-1939) and his wife, formerly Elizabeth Jane Workman (1868-1934) came to the Solsgirth district in 1905 from Shawville, P.Q., to join Mrs. Dagg's brothers John and

William Workman and sister Mrs. T. A. Bailey. They farmed first north east of Solsgirth, and in 1910 moved a mile south of the village. They were members of St. James and St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

In 1906 Mrs. Dagg's father Benjamin Workman came west to make his home with his children until his death in 1919 at the age of eighty-seven. He was buried in Shawville beside his wife Mary Jane Hodgins.

Their family: FERGUSON BENJAMIN (1894-1966); EVA JANE (1895-1960); EDWARD CHARLES (1897-1958); DAVIS EGELSON (1901-1945); NOBLE WILFRED (1903-1948); MARGARET LOUISE (1910-1947).

Edward Dagg had three children: *Darwin*, of Flin Flon, *Fern* (Mrs. *Garry Orock*) in Winnipeg, and *Dwight* in New Zealand, and three grandchildren. His wife, Mrs. Emily Dagg, lives in Brandon.

Noble Wilfred Dagg married Ruby Reid, who lives in Winnipeg. Daughter *Sally Ann* (Mrs. *Joe Martin*) lives in Toronto has three children. Margaret Louise (Mrs. Harvey Bailey), lived in Oakville, Man, where Mr. Bailey still resides. They had two daughters, *Margaret Jean* of Oakville, and *Elizabeth Maude* who married Douglas McCormick, farmer at Oakville, and had four children.

DAIR, — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dair arrived in Birtle on August 8th, 1912 with two children, leaving behind one son WILLIAM. They came from Wellbank near Dundee, Scotland to the Wm. Cleghorn farm on the west hill, known as Cleghorn's hill. They went from there to work for Alfred Yeandle and four more children were born.

When the first World War broke out Robert Dair joined the army and was stationed at Camp Sewell. He was killed on August 2, 1916 at the age of 32.

The family moved to town when he enlisted and lived up at the station for awhile and then moved downtown and have lived there ever since.

GEORGE lives in Fort Nelson, B.C., One son ROBERT died in 1915. ALFRED and JUNE in Winnipeg, BILL in Scotland, and JOHN, and JEAN in Birtle.

Mrs. Dair is now 87 years of age.

DALTON, JAMES HOWARD — third son of Alfred Dalton and Alice Maud Mary Talbot, both from England, who met and were married in Neepawa in the first Anglican church about 1879. Jim came to Birtle in 1920 as a partner of Mr. W. E. N. King of Neepawa, to manage the hardware store formerly owned by H. A. Manwaring. In 1932 Jim purchased Mr. King's share, and the store became "Dalton's Hardware".

In 1923 Jim married Laura Kilpatrick of Neepawa, whose parents were also early pioneers. They made their home above the hardware store, where Mrs. Dalton often helped out. In 1937 they purchased the Thomas Vant property, where they still live. Mrs. Dalton was responsi-

ble for starting into china and giftwares in the store, which was very successful.

James Dalton served for four years in World War I, returning in time to witness the strike of 1919 in Winnipeg. He was fond of sports, running, lacrosse, football, golf and curling, and especially hockey. He was a faithful member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Anglican Church, and a member of the Birtle School Board for twenty years. He took part in the Legion and the Town Band, was a Life Member of the Curling Club, and helped start the Birtle golf course. He passed away in October, 1967.

Mrs. Laura Dalton has for many years been active in the Anglican Church, for fifty years with the W.I. This she says was very rewarding, and provided many happy memories. Before coming to Birtle she received the Past Noble Grand jewel from the Rebekahs, and in 1972 the Past Worthy Matron's jewel from Artaban Chapter.

There were two children. VERNA MARY CORRINE, born 1928, married Lloyd Besselt of Bowsman, is secretary for the schools there, and has two children. JAMES STANLY, born 1924 was educated at United College, then worked in the store. He married May Gibson of Toronto in 1952. May had been a nurse at the Indian Residential School. They have four children, all active in church and community.

In 1957 Jim bought the hardware stock from his father, sold the building in 1964 to Eric Archer, and built a new one across the street, joined up with Allied Stores. He and his wife are both active in community affairs — Jim on the Town Council, Rector's Warden of the Church, with the Chamber of Commerce. May helps out as a nurse, works in the store, as well as in the church, W.I. and Music Festivals.

DANDRIDGE, GEORGE — was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Dandridge of Shoal Lake. He came with his parents from Reading, England in 1889 at the age of 5 years. He was educated at Shoal Lake and at the age of 17 in 1901, he started to work as a section man at Shoal Lake where his father was section foreman. Four years later as the sections were expanding and many men were employed by the C.P.R. he became a Section Foreman. His first section as foreman was at Bredenbury. He later moved to Binscarth as foreman where he met Louise Burdett, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Burdett, of Pumpkin Plains and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, pioneer residents of the Birtle District. They were married in October 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Dandridge moved to Birtle in 1910 and took up residence in the C.P.R. section house. Their family of three sons and two daughters were all born at Birtle. LLOYD has a bakery business at Souris, MYRTLE (Mrs. C. R. McElroy) and VIOLA (Mrs. A. A. Brown) both live at Cranbrook, B.C. Mrs. Louise Dandridge died at the age of 47 years.

In October 1939 Mr. Dandridge married Mrs. Nellie (Dutton)

Gunn, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dutton also early pioneers of the Birtle District.

When Mr. Dandridge retired from the C.P.R. in 1949 he and Mrs. Dandridge made their home in Toronto. They lived there until his death in 1960. Mrs. Dandridge died in 1966.

HUBERT, eldest son of George Dandridge spent a few years working on the track, but eventually decided to try fur farming.

In 1943 he married Kathleen Sparks of Birtle. They have a family of three. *Orville* in Birtle, *Lois* teaching at Strathclair and *Glenda* in Winnipeg.

EDGAR Dandridge lives nearby and he owns and operates a fur farm. He has a very interesting hobby taking pictures of birds and wildlife.

DAVIDSON, HUGH HILTON — (1878-1956) was born in Wellington County in Ontario and came west with his parents in the late 1890's to farm north of Carberry. In 1901 he married Mary Jane Fitzsimmons, daughter of a neighbor, and they moved in 1905 to the Burdette district between Birtle and Solsgirth, on Sec. 32-16-25. Seven of their eight children were born here, and attended Burdette School and Birtle High School. Church was in Burdette School, the service conducted generally by a Baptist minister from Birtle. The Christmas concert and community summer picnic were events always eagerly anticipated.

Mr. Davidson was active in community affairs, on the local School Board, and for twenty-seven years a member of the Rural Council. He represented the U.G.G. several times at conventions. His wife led a quiet life in home and community, very busy with the activities of a farm wife and mother. In 1947 they retired to live in Birtle, leaving sons ENZER and JAMES to carry on. Mr. Davidson died in 1956, his wife in 1960. His aging mother spent her last years in Birtle with her daughters, dying in 1946 at the age of ninety-one.

Mr. Davidson's brother Parker purchased the A. J. Shepherd farm in 1910, and sisters Minnie (Mrs. William Elliott) and Annie (Mrs. George Grant) rented this land until his son William married Ruth Wiles of Virden and came to make his home there. The Elliots then purchased NW 8-17-25 (now Weston Randall) and the Grants located on SE 3-17-26 now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H. Brereton (Alice Grant).

Mr. H. J. Davidson's children were: WILLIAM, farmer, married Jean Feasby of Shoal Lake, had two sons; DORA (Mrs. Wilfred Wood) lives in Birtle, has one daughter. ANNE (Mrs. Melvin Preston) of Birtle, has three children; LLOYD in Real Estate in Winnipeg, married Hilda Nendick, has three children; LILLIAN (Mrs. Arthur Brooks) lives in Gladstone, has three daughters; JOHN served in World War II, is with the Winnipeg Police, married to Vella Ferguson of Foxwarren, has one daughter; ENZER also served in the war, retired from farming, married Edith Foley of Stoughton, Sask, and had a son and daughter; JAMES lives in Birtle, is with the Provincial Highways, married Gladys Smith of Birnie, Man. has two children.

DAVIES, NATHANIEL — was born in Brampton, Ont. of Welsh parentage. He was a pensioner from the American Civil War — the war to free slaves. His brother Robert was in business in Toronto. Mother was born at Fort Benton, Montana, daughter of Captain D. Rae, and was later adopted by John Norquay. My parents' marriage was solemnized in 1877 by a Roman Catholic priest in the absence of any other clergy. They lived for a time near the Assiniboine river west of Winnipeg.

Mrs. Davies recalled having to abandon their home and flee to higher ground with what goods could be carried by ox and cart. Her husband absent at work, and with three children, she erected a teepee Indian-style with blankets and poles, and for warmth brought in pot-fuls of red embers from the fire.

The family came to the Crewe district, west of Foxwarren. There were six girls and two boys at that time. Now the only survivor is AGNES, Mrs. Fred King of Birtle, the writer. She says that the house was of logs, situated north and east of St. Lazare. There were two graves, Indian or other, on the farm, which were respected by the family. Mrs. King also remembers flights of passenger pigeons, which cast a shadow as they passed over.

Mrs. Davies was a nurse, and in much demand, working a great deal with the late Dr. Munro of Welwyn. She was also a Charter member of Zion Church.

MR. and MRS. FRED KING were married in Welwyn in 1910, and made their home in Spy Hill, where Fred worked as a carpenter on many town buildings. Later they moved to Beulah, fording Snake Creek when it was in flood, so that the horse had to swim. The night was spent in the Ben Dutton home.

In 1928 they moved to Birtle, where Fred died in 1964. He was a South African veteran, a prisoner at Ladysmith, yet he brought his emergency ration packet home unopened. It is now in the possession of a daughter *Evelyn*, now Mrs. Jack Clarke, Winnipeg. Others in the King family are *Shirley* (Mrs. Lundie Lyall) Salmon Arm, B.C. and *Lloyd* at Birtle.

DAVIES, SAMUEL — (1863-1943) born in Radnorshire, Wales. At 15 he and his two brothers and a sister moved to London, where they started a milk business. Advised by his physician to seek a different climate for his health, he came to Birtle in 1889 securing employment with E. J. Wilson editor of the Birtle Eye-Witness. In 1889 he took up a homestead in the Bayfield district. Mr. Davies later bought from Michael Coyne N.E. ¼ 43-18-27 which son SAM farmed. After the death of Mr. Davies, son-in-law George Armitage farmed this land, selling to Don Porter in 1972.

In 1893 Mr. Davies married Martha Jane King (she was born July 1871 in Saint John, N.B.). They had six children — JOHN and SAMUEL, (the other two sons died in infancy) ELIZABETH (Mrs. George Armitage), VIOLET (Mrs. Leslie Wright). After the death of

his wife March, 1935, he made his home with Elizabeth and George who took over the family farm. Mr. Davies was an ardent worker for the church. Having a beautiful tenor voice he also added much to the music of the Bayfield church. He was Sec-treas for 25 years, also on the school board for many years.

ELIZABETH ANNIE — Born 1902 in Bayfield — married George Henry Armitage (born 1905 in Denver, Colorado,) in 1925 at Gary, Indiana, coming to Bayfield 1931 to farm with Mr. Davies. They had six children: *Dorothy* — (Mrs. Robert Rannie), Binscarth; *Edgar* — Humboldt, Sask.; *John* — Edmonton; *Phyllis* (Mrs. Jack Young) Lac La Biche, Alberta; *Eleanor* (Mrs. Kalvin Pedrick) Melita; *Mary* (Mrs. Lynn Scott) Telkwa, B.C. Retired and moved to Binscarth in 1971.

DAVISON, TOM CARMICHAEL — and Margaret Joan Dickinson were married on Nov. 3, 1934 by Rev. W. J. Finch in St. James Church. They lived and farmed on the half section formerly owned by F. L. Dickinson. They had three children, **MARILYN KAE** born 1935 now Mrs. Norman Moulson. She was formerly wife of William Cottingham now deceased. The second daughter **PATRICIA MARGARET**, now Mrs. Raymond Tole. The son **LAWRENCE BARRY** is at present farming the home place. Tom died in December 1965. The grandchildren are *James William Cottingham*, *Thomas Gordon Cottingham*, *Allan Cottingham* and *Susan Cottingham*. Also *Janice Rae Tole* and *Sandra Lynn Tole*.

DEARLOVE, PHIL — (1888-1955) was born in Norfolk, England, March 1888, the youngest of a family of six.

In 1906, at the age of eighteen, he came to Canada, settling in the Blenheim area. His first employment was on the Bill Lidster farm. Later, he and another bachelor Tom Tohm, farmed together on what is now the John Edmundson farm in the Miniota Municipality. Some years later he purchased the Harry Vaux farm (owned now by John Bellock). In January 1912 he married Janet May Malcolm. They had two daughters **JANET** (Mrs. Sidney Miller) of Vancouver, B.C. and **PHYLLIS** (Mrs. Tom Wady) of Birtle.

In 1927, when farming was not at its best here, he went to Kenya to farm with his brother-in-law, Mr. Allison Smith in the highlands of that country. Farming there was just developing. He had a great love for this beautiful country. He had two trips back to Canada, but he was always glad to return to his adopted country, where he died in 1955.

In August 1928, Janet and Phyllis went to Seattle, Washington to be with their mother and make their home there.

DENHAM, HENRY EDWIN — (1871-1958) came from London, Eng. to homestead at the age of eighteen. In 1898 he married Mary Eliza Wood (1871-1956), also from London, at the home of Mr. Charles Leavens, Their first home was of lumber with lath and plaster, two rooms at first, later enlarged. It was still in use when Mr. Denham retired.

Mr. and Mrs. Denham were active in their community. She taught music, could sing and play the piano, and often helped out in churches, and with Mr. Percy Highfield's musical comedies. Mr. Denham played with the Ellice baseball team, held office for Moresby school, Zion Church, R.M. of Ellice and on the Foxwarren School Board. The last time he helped with threshing was about 1937, with four men all over sixty-five and two teams. The family had good neighbors in the Coopers, Wilkinsons, Leavens, Laycocks and others, and Sam Garson, an old Hudson Bay man. They all helped one another in time of need.

Mrs. Denham returned to England in 1915, as her Mother was very ill. She was booked on the "Lusitania", but changed at the last minute. On that trip the "Lusitania" was sunk. "So we were a fortunate family".

The children: MARY in Winnipeg, three children all married; DOROTHY in Brandon; WILLIAM died in Winnipeg in 1971; FRANK, a teacher, retired to Three Hills, Alta., has two daughters, one a missionary in Japan; COURTENAY, a grain buyer, retired in Vernon, B.C. has two daughters; HARRY died at the age of nine; SID a school inspector, lives in Winnipeg and has one son; ERIC lives in Queensville, has three children, one son a Professor of History at U. of Sask., one an architect, and daughter *Laurie*.

DESROSIERS, HARVEY — was the third child of a family of ten, born in Bruxelles, Man. In 1945, Dad came to St. Lazare and met Hilda Blouin, the thirteenth child of a family of nineteen. In 1948, they married and settled in the Birtle Municipality on section 8-17-27. Mom and Dad raised a family of three — JULIETTE, married Edmond Huberdeau and they are now living in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They have a family of two. REME, married Marilyn Fowler and they are now living in Winnipeg. They presently have one child. GEORGETTE is now finishing her education in Birtle. Dad works at the C.C.I.L. in Birtle and Mom works at the Birtle District Hospital.

DIAMOND, JOHN AND FAMILY — John married a Miss Evans and settled near Blythe, Huron County, Ont. They had nine children, of whom JIM, FRANK, DAN and CHARLIE died unmarried. ROSIE (Mrs. Murphy) lived in Kansas U.S.A. A sister MRS. SHARPE lived in California. WILLIAM and SARAH JANE came west (see below and Widdicombe).

John Diamond was killed in a tree-felling accident before 1880, as was his son Jim. Mrs. Diamond came west with her family, hoping for a homestead as provided for widows with small children. The children were considered too old, and they returned east.

WILLIAM DIAMOND — the eldest son, was born in 1847, married Martha Reinhardt at New Year's 1883, and came west with a team of horses to find a homestead. His family came out next year, by boat from Goderich, train to Moosomin, and by horse and wagon to the homestead on N½ 16-19-27 in Silver Creek Municipality.

There were six children, all except Frank now deceased, with no children. CHARLES and BILL homesteaded at Reymour, Sask. in 1907 and both served in World War I. Later they moved to Chauvin, Alta., where their mother came to keep house for them after William's death in 1930. Martha died in July, 1940. FRANK born 1883, homesteaded at Lipton, Sask., then came to assist his father on the home farm. He married Leslie Bowen on Christmas Day, 1917. They had six children: *Katharine* (Mrs. Lynn Dunham) had three sons. She died in 1940; *Norman* was killed in World War II; *Bill* and *Murray* are farming in the district; *Merle* married J. K. Chegwin, they farm at Swan River and have two sons and two daughters; *Jim* is married with two children.

Frank and his family moved in 1935 to 26-18-26 in the R.M. of Birtle. Now over ninety, Frank has many memories. One in particular — at the age of eleven he rode on horseback to Foxwarren, and saw much wild life destroyed by a hailstorm of terrific violence.

DICK, JOHN — The family came from Ontario in 1908 and settled on section 12-16-25 in what was then the Orrwold district. They stayed on the farm for four years then returned to Ontario. There were four children in the family, WILL, RUTH, SADIE, and JACK. Will had a dry goods store in Hamiota later moving to Brandon.

DICKINSON FAMILY — the boys came to Canada first and the parents later. NORMAN and BROOKS immigrated to Canada in 1904 and in 1906 Fred came. After hiring out with Coulter, Keating and Anderson families of Silverton they took homesteads in northern Saskatchewan in district of Arabella P.O. 22 miles from Pelly. Sister DOROTHY came to join the boys in 1909 and to keep house. In 1912 Norman came to Ridout's sale and bought a team of horses having cleared and proved his homestead with oxen, and was persuaded to buy half a section of land on 36-18-26, the present home of Lawrence Davison a nephew. The boys took lumber from Porcupine and shipped it down. Brooks built the cottage in 1913 while Norman put up hay.

In 1924 B. Workman, Fison, R. B. Dickinson and some others in the district formed the Solsgirth Seed Oat Association. In April 1914 the parents Richard and Ada Dickinson, KITTY, HARRY, and JOAN came from England and settled on the farm with Brooks. Fred and Norman joined the infantry in 1914. Norman died overseas and Harry died of pneumonia in 1920. Mother died in 1930, father in 1924, Dorothy in 1972.

The heating in the cottage was wood stoves and it was dangerous in the kitchen as water froze when it was spilt on the floor. The water supply was the river, hauled in a barrel by team and it was drinking water for house and barn and washing too.

The community concerts were the main entertainment in Solsgirth, and there was unbelievable talent brought to light then. "The Minstrels" were examples of it, they played to a "packed house". Our

recreation was improvised — in winter we slid down the hills in a road scraper and in summer we played in the river with a barrel sawn in half or a home made boat and picnicked with a camp fire.

DODGE, HEAMON — (1829-1907) was probably descended from Daniel Dodge who settled with his family in Oxford County, Ontario as U.E. Loyalists around 1799. The many hardships and misadventures of their journey from U.S.A. through unbroken forests on pack horses are narrated by Mrs. L. Crittenden (nee Dodge) in "Pioneer Life in Oxford".

Heamon Dodge married Eliza Ann Dumont (1833-1911) in 1852 in Oxford County. In the early 1880's they came west to the old log home on N½ 30-16-27 homesteaded by John Wilkinson. Will Watt may have lived there for a time, and it was in front of this house that a gathering of settlers, remarking on the beautiful view, adopted the name "Wattsvie" for the district. Heamon served on the Wattsvie School Board in 1890.

Their daughter HARRIET married William Sherrin, a former teacher at the school. After son WILLIAM'S marriage, a new house was built for his parents. Later enlarged into a double house, it still stands, the home of Mrs. Margaret Thompson.

DODGE, WILLIAM D. — (1867-1920) returned to Ontario to marry Jennie, daughter of Isaac Edwards, a pioneer of 1879 who had returned east. The young couple lived in the old log house until Heamon's death, then moved to the newer place. In 1898 they took into their home Lottie and Leo Hart, aged four and seven, whose mother had recently died. Lottie later married Percy Wilkinson, and still lives in Birtle. Leo farmed at Wattsvie, then went to live in the U.S.A.

Around 1909 a most interesting young chap from England — later well known as Reeve Alf Webb — spent his first year in Canada with the Dodge family, and later purchased the Isaac Edwards homestead.

All work on the Dodge farm was done with horse equipment, by beautiful purebred Clydesdales which took many prizes at exhibitions. William also had some fine driving horses. He and his wife exhibited regularly at provincial fairs. William was awarded the International Championship for Wheat at Chicago in 1910, and the Provincial award for barley in 1917. Mrs. Dodge won the Canadian Championship for dairy butter at Toronto. Her fancy work, poultry and cooking won wide recognition, and she was awarded a diploma from the Manitoba Agricultural Societies at Birtle Fair in 1918.

"Billy" Dodge was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, served on the Municipal Council, as Sec.-Treas of the Birtle Agricultural Society, and a director of the first hospital. After his death his wife carried on the farm for two years, then moved to Birtle for schooling for their two sons. Here she helped out the family budget by providing a home for teachers and students, and later with a hairdressing business, sold in 1946 to Marie Graham (Mrs. J. Gordon). Still later she opened a hobby shop of needlework and crafts. All her life she was active in W.I.,

church, Eastern Star and Legion Auxiliary. She helped organize the recognition ceremony for pioneers in July 1959, and had the honour of unveiling the cairn of local field stone at the entrance to Birtle park and golf course. She passed away in November of that year.

DODGE, WILLIAM W. — born 1909, educated at Oxford school and Birtle High School. Active in all sports, but considers goal-tending in hockey the greatest. Loved music, and took part in "Bucks Haymakers" orchestra. Married Audrey Isabel Irwin in 1937, and moved to NW½ 36-16-27 to raise mink.

July 1940 enlisted for active service with No. 3 Provost Company under Major A. M. Pratt. Later saw front-line service with the R.C. E.M.E. in Italy and northern Europe. Greatest thrill was to be picked to play goal for the Canada All-Star Hockey Team which toured in 1940-41. Returning home August 1945, he and Audrey raised mink and sheep for ten years, then William became Grade Inspector for the Dept. of Highways.

Children are *Gwenyth*, married to Garth Butler, with the Manitoba Hydro in Thompson; and twins *Patricia* and *Jean*, at Birtle Collegiate. Grandchildren are Kathy and Neal Butler.

DODGE, DAVID W. R. — born 1919 at Birtle. Keen and active in sports, especially hockey goal-tending. Passed Kingston R.M.C. exams, and went overseas in 1941 as Lieutenant. Wounded in action in Italy, returned to England, and again saw front-line service in D-Day operations in Europe, until malaria contacted in Italy sent him to hospital in England. Married Nursing Sister Doreen Brier Johnson in 1946, and returned home in June.

Deciding to continue an army career, David served in Korea, Egypt and West Germany, and is now with the Civil Service Commission in Ottawa, having retired in 1969 with the rank of Colonel. He and Doreen have four children.

DOIG, ANDREW — (1863-1951) homesteaded in the Isabella district, later moving to Birtle. He married Margaret Young of the Rothesay district, and they moved to Glenboro, where Andy was engaged in the machinery and livery business. They returned to Birtle to resume farming in 1902.

They had five children: MAE married Charles Williamson and had two children. After her husband's death she taught in Birtle Elementary School until retirement, when she moved to Winnipeg to live with daughter Peggy. RITA married Dr. Carl Seale, lives in Vancouver and has two sons. ARTHUR was killed in England in 1917 in the First World War. HENRY married Edna Harrison of Birtle, and has a family of four. He operated a lumber yard in Birtle, then moved to Vancouver. JEAN taught school for some years, married Mr. Porteous and lives in Brandon.

Andrew Doig was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and later the United Church. He was a staunch Liberal. He held the position of

Reeve of the R.M. of Birtle from 1911 to 1935. He died in 1951, and his wife six months later in 1952. (See Chap. IV)

DORAN, NELSON AND SYLVIA — came to Birtle at the time of their marriage Nov. 10th, 1945. Nelson continued to farm in the Isabella district and purchased a bulldozer and trucks and began construction work. He has been an active Lions member and a worker on the Community Hall Committee. Sylvia became involved in Women's Institute and Sunday School work and served for eight years on the Elementary School Board. At time of writing one daughter LUCINDA is a student of Birtle Collegiate. JOYCE is in photography in Saskatoon. CLAUDIA, a Home Economics graduate (Mrs. R. B. Semaniuk) is teaching in Surrey, B.C. and HAROLD a graduate of the Diploma Course in Agriculture, works for a Brandon implement company.

DOUGLAS, JAMES C. — wife Gertrude and family, MILDRED, DOROTHY, and HUBERT, moved to Solsgirth from Oakburn in 1933. Mildred (Mrs. Harvey Nickel) and Dorothy (Mrs. Jack Treble) married boys in the district. Hubert has been in the Composing Room of the Winnipeg Free Press since his discharge from the Services. He is married and has a family of three.

Jim was a horse breeder. He and his wife moved to Winnipeg in 1942 where he trained horses for Drewry Products and the T. Eaton Company Delivery Service for a time. He then joined the Winnipeg Free Press, where he drove J. W. Dafoe and Victor Sifton during the war with a team "Tom and Dora" while gasoline was rationed. He was employed there until his death in 1952. Gertrude passed away suddenly in 1958 after an active life in community and church work.

DUDLEY, J. C. — born 1851 in Herefordshire, Eng., came to Canada 1885 to work for the C.P.R. as architect and surveyor, but found work at a standstill, the C.P.R. being preoccupied with Louis Riel. He decided to homestead on 30-25-16, eight miles south-east of Birtle, and erected a shack for the winter.

In the spring of 1886 Mrs. Dudley, Ernest and Agnes came to Canada, travelled by train to Minnedosa, then by stage. Their "settlers' effects" were brought by ox-team, a trip of several days. With neighbors' help a house was built, with two rooms down and two up, no foundation and one ply of boards, banked with snow for winter "the walls were well ventilated, and it was not unusual to step out of bed into a snowdrift." In 1890 an eight-room cement house was built, and a stone barn. Named "Warleigh", it was the local post office.

About 1896 Mr. Dudley and Thos. Leese bought R. W. Gibson's banking business, and moved to town to the Gibson house on the north hill — now demolished. Ernest and Agnes had been sent to school in England, returned in 1891, and carried on the farm.

ERNEST married Berthe Lissiman 1902. They had three daughters — *Dorothy Robertson* of Regina; *Muriel (Mrs. Ernest Heys)* lives in Winnipeg, has a son and daughter and five grandchildren;

Stephanie Carswell of Medicine Hat died 1967, had three children and four grandchildren.

AGNES Dudley taught school in Wattsvew, married Charles Darrell 1921. She came into town to keep house for her father, now Town Clerk, after Mrs. Dudley's death. They lived on Vine Street until Mr. Dudley's death in 1932. Agnes died in 1959, her husband having predeceased her. Ernest and his wife meanwhile had moved into Birtle to a house on east Main St. built by Mr. Lissiman, now the property of Horace Jelfs. Ernest died March 1963, his wife the previous November.

The writer, Dr. Margaret Dudley, was a teacher in public school and later at the University of Manitoba, and subsequently in the Correspondence Branch of the Dept. of Education. From 1938-1950 she carried on research in Allergies with Dr. Charles H. A. Walton of the Winnipeg Clinic.

"Nothing remains to mark our sojourn in Birtle except two cemetery plots and a memorial window in St. George's."

DUFF-McCANN — Mrs. Alex Duff was born Eva McCann, and was the daughter of Agnes Morton and grand-daughter of pioneer Alfred Morton. Her father was Melth McCann, (1880-1952) born in Dashwood, Ont. Eva was born in August 1907 at the Ness farm, west of Solsgirth, and lived in the district until 1942, except for six years in B.C. (see Morton and McCann stories) She attended the "Blue School" from 1916, and recalls daily singing of the hymn "for those in peril on the sea" as well as the victory bonfire on the baseball diamond near the school. She pays special tribute to teachers Olive Armstrong and Hazel Manwaring, and to kindly school caretaker George Birnie. Other members of the McCann family were ALFRED, in Winnipeg, who married Rose Randall; BERNARD in Vancouver; VERELLA FRANKARD in Redvers, Sask., and ROY in Carberry. They attended high school in the former Methodist Church, vacated after the Union Church was established.

Eva married ALEX DUFF, born in Stonewall, Man., then living in B.C. until his family came to Birtle in March 1910, to the former Will Huggins farm. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Crew were friendly and helpful neighbors. LOUISE DUFF worked at the H. A. Manwaring store and as supervisor of the local telephone office, until her marriage in 1916 to Peter MacPherson. Alex and brother WALTER worked in construction until the family moved to the Barnes house in Birtle in 1921. Walter bought a small house on the property of Dr. Frank Smith, moved it south and lived there with his family until they went to B.C. in 1924, where Walter still lives. There are four children.

Alex purchased a woodworking business in Birtle, later expanding to blacksmith, buggy and tire work. He drove his 1924 "Star" auto as a school van, was active in farm organizations, and drove about on campaigns with J. S. Woodsworth, founder of the C.C.F. party (now N.D.P.) He took a large part in the organization of Birtle Swimming Club in 1931, and in that year became the first manager of the Birtle

Co-op. In 1940 he was employed at Camp Shilo, and later at the cordite plant in Transcona, and the family reluctantly moved to St. Boniface. In 1945 they returned to his childhood home in Vancouver, where Alex died in 1967. A handyman and hard worker all his life, his family recalls the many additions and improvements he made in their various homes, and the makeshifts for their comfort that were necessary during the years of the depression. (described elsewhere).

Their children are: *Shirley*, with the Candian Armed Forces in Trenton, Ont.; *Vivienne*, wife of Baptist minister James Yoder in Vancouver; *Winona* with the Alcoholism Foundation in Vancouver; *Robert* an engineer in Vancouver, has two children; *Glen*, an athlete, is employed with a pharmaceutical firm in Montreal, has a wife Sharon and small daughter. (see Morton story, Chap. II)

DUNFIELD, GEORGE — About 1905 my father arrived from Portage la Prairie, coming by team and wagon to find land for farming. His goods were shipped later by box-car to Foxwarren. He married Edith Wotton, whose family arrived earlier from Yorkshire.

My father was a member of the School Board which built a consolidated school in 1917. He belonged to the Foxwarren Athletic Association which moulded together the sports activities, and was I believe instrumental in building the rink which paralleled the C.P.R. track. I recall his telling us how the men after a hard day's work would rush to town to play football. Well-known players such as Jimmie Hume, Bert Laycock and Arthur Wotton contributed to Foxwarren's team.

My father was for years a member of the Foxwarren band, and my brother Vernon and I were also members. The Band was an institution for many years. The Sports' Day in which it participated had many fond memories. Our family spent much time in church activities. Mother belonged to W.M.S., Ladies' Aid and W.I. She never complained about the loads of food transported out of our home to raise funds. Likewise my father was involved in the Session and Board of Stewards, and derived a great deal of pleasure from the church choir. He was also a life-long member of the I.O.O.F., in which he earned a fifty-year jewel.

Pioneers like my parents contributed much to the generations to follow. In the words of the poet "They builded better than they knew". The family: VERNON ALLAN (deceased) and wife Jean had three sons *Wayne*, in Calgary, has one daughter; *Robert*, Winnipeg and *John* at home. EDGAR FRANCIS and wife Ann have a son *Grant* and daughter *Mary Ann*, married to Don Lepper, a teacher, with one son. EVELYN MINNIE (Mrs. Charles Stalker) has daughters *Sharon Olson* and *Margaret Farouki*, both in Vancouver, and three grandchildren. MYRTLE EDITH married to Gordon Wolfe, has a son *David*, an Agriculture Field Rep. and daughter *Valerie*, in London, Eng.

DUNHAM, CHARLES — (1864-1943) was born on a farm in Lancaster, Eng. After leaving school worked as a stone mason on the Manchester Ship Canal. 1889 married Elizabeth Louisa Morgan (1871-1918). In 1891 planned to emigrate to Australia, but as no passage was available, they sailed for Canada, and came to Winnipeg by rail. Lived in the Immigration Hall, where a child Frances died of measles contracted on the boat.

The family travelled to Portage by scow, then to Birtle by Red River cart. They started to go further by ox-team, but the oxen, goaded by flies, took to a slough and refused to move except back to Birtle. Here the Dunhams made their home, and Charles resumed his trade as stone mason and carpenter.

Buildings he worked on were the Shepherd house, 1895, his own home 1896, Birtle Eye-Witness 1897, J. M. Stewart home 1898 (now the Henry home). In 1904, while engaged on a home for Joe Atkinson (cost \$1800.00) he lost the sight of an eye from a stone chip, from which time he worked more on interior finishing with plaster. He also worked for J. D. McArthur, and as caretaker of the Birtle rink. Was elected to the Council in 1898.

In 1904 he took up farming, moving to Thomas Yeandle's homestead north of Birtle. Their house burned in 1914, was rebuilt in a "bee". His eyesight was in time weakened by a cataract, restored by an operation in 1940. Mr. Dunham died in 1943. He was survived by six sons and four daughters, as well as grandchildren. During his busy life he found time for a few hobbies, reading, cards and music. The family experienced the usual hardships of pioneer life, but managed without complaint. Mrs. Dunham, an expert seamstress, "made over" clothing for the younger children, and had new outfits for everyone each year for Christmas.

The family were: CLEMENT, JESSIE, VERNA, SYLVIA, WILLIAM, DOUGLAS, ALBERT, MERVIN, IVY (Mrs. Tibbatts), CHESTER and LYNN. Two children are deceased.

CLEMENT DUNHAM — Clement Dunham (1891-1962) came from England with his parents when he was about one year old.

In 1924 Clement married Jenny Breckenridge who claims to be a pioneer, as she was born in a sod-roofed shanty where they lived for part of one year while her Dad did the duties on a quarter he homesteaded in Silver Creek Municipality. They had four children Iris, Bob and Garth twins and Ray.

They farmed till 1941 when they moved to Birtle. Clement was in the Air Force for four years and then worked with the Good Roads for several years until poor health forced him to retire.

IRIS (Mrs. Cliff Hosler) lives in Toronto and they have three children. BOB is on staff at Red River College in Winnipeg. He married Donna Reid and they have three children. GARTH is a bank manager in Winnipeg, married Delta Redmond of Foxwarren and they

have one son. RAY married April More of Winnipeg. They live in Transcona with their three children.

Jenny Dunham now lives in Pioneer Lodge in Birtle.

MERVIN HENRY DUNHAM — eighth child of Mr. Charles Dunham of Foxwarren, was born in 1905 on Sec. 4-19-26, and attended Boyle School until age sixteen. He worked for neighbour farmers, then on construction at Island Falls Junction near James Bay for a Hydro-Electric dam. In southern Alberta he worked for a year on a ranch, then for a machine shop and operating a large threshing outfit each fall. He also operated a caterpillar tractor on highway construction.

Returning to Manitoba in 1931 he married Jennie Levina Wallace of Foxwarren, and started a garage business, until 1940 when he joined the R.C.A.F. as aero engine mechanic. He was discharged with the rank of Sergeant, and returned to auto repair work and sales with a franchise from Ford Motor Co. The business was discontinued in 1960, owing to the attrition of small towns after the war, and he became a Zone Officer for Civil Defence for Eastern Manitoba, moving with his wife to Portage la Prairie.

After the U.S.-Russian incident over Cuba in 1963 it seemed that the probability of global conflict was rapidly diminishing, and Mervin left Civil Defence to return to auto repairs at Drever's Garage in Winnipeg. He gave this work up for reasons of health and was employed at Western Tools and Industries, with a wide diversity of machine products. He was retired at age sixty-six, returned to Foxwarren to buy a house and help with odd jobs in town. He collects old cars and farm machinery which he intends to restore to working condition. Wife Jennie helps run the local Esso Cafe.

Their children are BERT, now in the Air Force, JOYCE a teacher and BETTY R.N. They were all born in Foxwarren.

DUNN — John and Jessie Dunn came from Grand Valley, Ontario to homestead in the Isabella district. Mrs. Dunn was formerly Jessie Jamieson of Grand Valley.

Their frame home, heated with wood, was burned to the ground in 1905 and they lost much of their furniture and all of their wearables. However the good people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan rallied to their need and boxes of clothing, bedding, etc. arrived on the scene shortly. They were able to start a new home without too much hardship.

John died in 1920 at the age of fifty-two and Jessie in 1943 aged seventy-five. They had a family of eight sons and one daughter (three now deceased) and there are twenty-eight grandchildren.

DUTTON, C. LEROY — I know little about my father's parents and brothers and sisters, but know that three Dutton girls married three Wilkinson boys.

However, my dad Joseph Dutton was born in Cheshire, England 1845 and died 1900. He attended school in England with his cousin Ben Dutton who later farmed northwest of Birtle and with Mr. George

Walley. The three of them came out to Ingersoll, Ontario and in the winter of 1879-1880 came west to Birtle. Ben came first and my Dad and Mr. Walley along with the two Lane boys drove from Winnipeg to Birtle with oxen.

Bob Lane later went to Brandon and married and it was his first wife who was shot by Hilda Blake, who was the first and only woman hanged in Manitoba.

My Dad homesteaded the farm east of town, which was later taken over by Mr. Samuel Larcombe, while my Dad started a cheese factory down by the Main Street bridge. This is where I was born 1887.

The reason most people came to Birtle was, I believe, because of the agents of the Hamilton Colonization Company who induced them to come. These were Mr. J. H. Wodd and Mr. Crawford. Then there was good spring water in Birtle and easy crossing of the Birdtail by the spring for those going farther west.

My uncles John and Tom Patterson came to Birtle in early 1880 and in mid 1880's my mother Mary came west to keep house for them. She met my Dad and see what happened. The rest of the Pattersons, including the grandparents, followed also.

There were 6 little Duttons; I am the sole survivor: ANNA GERTRUDE, HUGH WILFRED, JOSEPH ROLAND, CHARLES LEROY (ROY) born in Birtle Dec. 4, 1887, MARY FOTHERINGHAM WATT, and THOMAS CEDRIC.

I married Olga Phyllis Fisher 1920. Both were born in Birtle and the children also. *Vernon Leroy* lives in Winnipeg and is married with two sons and a daughter. *Marilyn* is librarian at U.B.C. *Ian Ross* is married with a son and a daughter, and is a teacher in Ryerson Technical School, Toronto.

EASSON, RUSSELL PERTH — and his wife came from Stratford in 1882 with D. W. Cummings. They built the first hotel — the "Russell House", on the site of present Hotel Robert. Mr. Easson served on the first Town Council in 1884. In 1885 he was one of three men left to take care of Birtle when all others went to Batoche. In that year their daughter Marion Winona was born — one of six babies known as "Rebellion Babies". Later her mother took her to Minnedosa to have her picture taken — on the first train out of Birtle.

In 1887 the family moved to a farm (now owned by Ben Murray) where Russell McGregor, was born. The children attended Boyle school. In 1894 they all moved back to town, where Mr. Easson worked as a contractor, and for J. D. McArthur's mill. He took a great interest in sport, especially skating which he managed to do at the age of eighty.

WINONA (Nona) became a teacher, taught locally and in the Birtle Indian School, then at Basswood and Rossburn. Married Robert Peden there, where they still live. GREGOR when he finished school worked for the bank in Birtle, Shoal Lake and Strathclair, then went to the Pacific Coast. Was trained as a singer, and sang in opera. Married

Lora Bothel of Seattle, returned to Manitoba to the old farm, then to Rossburn and Winnipeg, where he died in 1940.

EDMUNDSON, JOHN EWBANK — (1844-1918) and his wife (nee Mary Hannah Hoggett 1853-1933) were married in 1875 and lived on a farm in Masham, Yorkshire, England. When their family numbered seven, they decided upon the move to Canada in the spring of 1889. At Winnipeg they were persuaded by Mr. Harry Manwaring to continue onto Birtle, where they stopped first at the "Rossin House" and in May settled on S½ 25-17-27.

Their first home was log, to which was added a room of frame structure, and the name "Masham House". The main trail to Fox-warren passed close by, and they had many visitors, including Indians who "were very honest, and would move on after a request for food". The family increased to eleven children, who in time attended Mount Joy and Dunstan School. Their church was St. George's, in Birtle five miles distant. About 1917 a modern brick house was built, where Gilbert still lives with his family.

Oxen and a stoneboat were used at first for transportation to picnics, parties, etc., later a horse and ox, and finally horses for both saddle and field work. They raised many thoroughbreds, strong contenders on racing circuits from Winnipeg to Edmonton, and also Shorthorn and Holstein cattle.

Of their eleven children, Charles and Harry died at an early age. In all, the Edmundsons were to enjoy twenty-six grandchildren, sixty-two great-grandchildren, and forty-five great-great-grandchildren.)

WILLIAM EWBANK EDMUNDSON (1876-1956), the eldest son of John Edmundson, came to Birtle with his parents at the age of thirteen. Early experience in the west included snaring gophers in the present Sports Grounds, and shooting a wild goose, only to be outdone by younger brother Tom, who shot two.

William worked on the home farm, then for other farmers such as Henry Randall and Charles Tisdale, then on the C.P.R. section, becoming foreman in time. The men worked ten hours a day with pick and shovel, and William managed to save enough to buy a small farm. In 1909 he returned to England to visit, and to see Miss Gwendoline Rees, (1874-1963) who with her sister had kept house near Birtle for a brother. They were married, and came to live on the farm south of Birtle for thirty years. William raised light horses as drivers. When the market for horses failed after World War I, he turned to Hereford cattle.

William sold the farm in 1939 to Charles Billaney, for reasons of health. He and his wife then lived with daughter Nell.

HELEN MARY (Nell) married Harry William Ray Cooley in 1938. They have six children: *Ruth Gwendoline* (Mrs. Robert Wasslen), *Lynn Margaret* (Mrs. Murray Stowe), *David Laurence*, *Joan Adelaide* (Mrs. Gordon Ellis), *Edmund Allan* and *Myrna May*. Mr. and Mrs. Cooley have fourteen grandchildren. They farm in the Burdette district.

Daughter ALICE EWBANK, born 1911, married John E. Wally in 1936. They have two children — *Valerie Ann* (Mrs. Dale Adams) of Pinawa, Man. and *William John*, teacher at Dauphin — and four grandchildren.

THOMAS CHARLES EDMUNDSON (1880-1967) came to Canada with his parents. Married Katherine Victoria (Kitty) Brayshay, also from England, in Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg, in November 1907. They lived on Tom's farm north of Birtle. Both were keen horse lovers, owning and breeding many racers who did them proud on racing circuits. Two of these were "Lady Edmonton" and "Midget".

Francis Brian, born 1909, their only child, died of pneumonia in 1927. After Thomas passed away "Kitty" went to live in Pioneer Lodge, where she portrays a very cheery attitude.

JOSEPH LOUIS EDMUNDSON (1882-1960) — entered into farming with a keen zest for good crops, cattle and sports, especially football and tennis, having his own court which entertained many people. He returned to England and in 1916 married Emily Barr Milne, who came back with him to his farm east of Birtle. In early spring Canada must have seemed to her like a vast white wilderness, but she made the best of it. Emily died in April 1948.

There were two sons: *Arthur Charles* born 1918, a Weed Supervisor at Shoal Lake. Married Edith Lints of Isabella 1943, have three children and one grandchild. *James Richard* born 1931, a hardware manager at Shoal Lake, married Ruby Bartrune of Angusville 1949. They have two children and one grandchild.

EWBANK EDMUNDSON — born 1888 was a infant when the family came to Canada, later had his own farm north-west of the home farm. He married Norah Ellaline Marshall of England in 1918. After Ewbank's untimely death in 1935 she carried on with their four children until son Frank took over. Norah retired to Birtle until her death in 1969.

The family: *Francis William* born 1919, married Olga Kuch 1948 in Birtle, lives on the home farm with four children; *Dorothy Mary* married Wallace William Lazenby, grain Supervisor at Foxwarren, live in Winnipeg, have two children and two grandchildren; *Joan Ellaline* married Sid Bowman, lives in Edmonton. There are three children and twin daughters, deceased. *Betty Grace* married Don William Cowan, lives in Carman, Man. with three children of school age.

ROBERT BROWNELL EDMUNDSON (1889-1947) — fifth son of John Edmundson, was born after the family came to Birtle. Farmed in the Beulah area with Holstein cattle which provided Beulah with milk for many years. He married Mary (Molly) Ewbank, R.N in 1921. After Robert's death she served as a nurse until she died in 1961, and was greatly missed. There were three children: *John Ewbank* born 1922, farmer, married Verna Davidson, a teacher, and they have three children; *Rosemary* R.N. born 1925, married Keith Kitching in 1948 at Birtle. They live in B.C. with two children. *Daphne*, R.N. born 1927,

married Bruce Medd 1953. They farm south of Beulah and have three children at Birtle School.

GILBERT WILFRED EDMUNDSON youngest son of John Edmundson was born in 1894. Two other sons, Charles and Harry died in infancy. Gilbert farmed on the home farm while his health permitted. He loved race horses and tennis. In 1930 he married Mary Katherine McLean in Birtle. She taught music to their own three children and many others. The children: *Harry Francis* born 1932, married Melina Chartier of St. Lazare in 1958. They live in Birtle with four children; *Marion* born 1937, married Glenn Allan Maguire in 1965. They live at Rivers and have two children; *Janet Katherine* teacher, born 1944, married Benjamin John Shaw, also a teacher in 1966. They live in Morden with one daughter.

EDWARDS — Isaac and Priscilla came to Birtle in the fall of 1879, with two small children, HENRY and JEAN (DODGE) from Beachville, Ontario. The district was later named "Blenheim" by my father and Sam Henderson.

Born in Birtle were FRANK, SELINA, (Mrs. Larcombe), and JIM. They returned to Beachville in the spring of 1888. There AGNES and MAY were born. May married Laurie McAree, who worked at the Indian School at Birtle.

My father came to Birtle on the advice of his brother Tom, who said there was lots of water, pasture land and fire wood. There was a sawmill in Birtle at that time, and logs were floated down the Birdtail River for many miles. Each spring my father helped with this.

I married Frank Larcombe Jan. 1st, 1908 in Ontario, and came to farm three miles east of Birtle. There we had three children *Arthur*, *Laurence* and *Lucy*, now residents of Alberta. We moved to Minburn, Alberta in the fall of 1914. We had three children there. *Elsie* (Krimmer, B.C.), *Ernest* (Alberta), *Thelma* (Skinner, U.S.A.). We farmed there for thirty-one years, retired in 1945 and lived in Kelowna, B.C. Frank passed away July 1962. My home is still at Kelowna, but I spend some time each year at Minburn, Alberta. (See "Wattsvie")

ELLIOTT, WILLIAM — came with his wife in 1911 from Brookdale. They farmed for seven years on Sec 10-16-25, (the old Shepherd farm) in the Burdett district, bought previously by Mrs. Elliott's brother.

They then sold their homestead at Humbolt, Sask. to purchase N½ 8-17-25, where they fixed up the house and built a new barn. Mr. and Mrs. George Grant moved to the vacated farm, where they lived for ten years until they bought the Jamieson farm for their children to attend school. Mr. Grant was a veteran of World War I.

The Elliots had one daughter FRANCES, whom they cared for from the age of two until her death in 1952. They remained on the farm until 1946, when Mr. Elliott suffered a bad accident and decided to retire to Birtle. He died in 1954. Mrs. Elliott at present resides at Sunset Lodge, Brandon.

ELLIS, JOHN — (1817-1896) moved from Nova Scotia to Manitoba in 1882 with two sons. He was the first Crewe postmaster.

ELLIS, RUPERT — (1860-1909) lived on the homestead with his father. In time he married Henrietta Gwyer. They had seven children, SCOTTY of Winnipeg (deceased), BILL (deceased). Both served in the First World War. JOE lives on a farm north-east of Foxwarren. OWEN (TIM) lives on the homestead, LUCY in Saskatoon, DOROTHY (deceased) and RUTH in Vancouver, B.C.

ELLIS, SCOTT R. — (1863-1946) He had a blacksmith shop in Foxwarren and in 1896 was Mayor of Foxwarren.

EWBANK, JAMES W. — born in Appleby, Westmoreland, England in 1890, he emigrated in 1909 to the U.S.A. and was employed as a cow puncher at the Wyoming ranch of Mr. Hogg (later Senator Hogg). He came to Beulah in 1911 to visit an old friend J. H. Kitching, and decided to go into partnership in farming with him. In 1914 he purchased E½ 31-16-26 and married May Ringland of Miniota. More land was added later, and a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Jim was active in many farm movements of the time. He served as Secretary of the local U.G.G., and as member of the Marquette District Board. He supported the Progressive movement and the U.F.M. when political action was taken in 1922, and in 1940 was elected to represent District No. 3 to the U. F.M. Provincial Board. He helped organize the Pool Elevator movement as District Delegate and in drafting the By-Laws. He also served on Co-operative Boards and the Birtle Pool Elevator Association. For four years he served as Trustee of the Consolidated School District, and also on the Birtle Town Council. His wife was equally active in United Church, W.I., Eastern Star and Horticultural Society. She died suddenly in March 1952, and Jim in June, 1954 while speaking at a meeting in Foxwarren. At the time he was Master of the Birtle Masonic Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank had four children: NELSON; MOLLIE graduated from Winnipeg General in 1939, and has just retired from a long career in the Winnipeg area. Lives in Winnipeg with husband Ted Gunn, has one daughter Arlene (Mrs. Clarence Hodgson) in Baltimore and two grandchildren. CORA was well known in the Marquette music festival, married Robert Till of Salisbury while he was in Canada for the R.A.F., went to England by convoy in 1944. She is active on the Salisbury City Council and in W.I. She has one daughter Brenda (Mrs. Robert Hawkins) in Salisbury. CONNIE was active in choir work and United Church Youth group. She married Jim Morgan of Beulah, farmed for eighteen years, now live in Esterhazy, Sask. They have two daughters — *Janice* (Mrs. Arthur Wilkinson) in Esterhazy and *Debbie* at U. of Saskatchewan.

NELSON EWBANK — took over the family farm after his father's death, and acts as recreation co-ordinator and caretaker of Birtle Skating Arena during the winter months. In younger years he was

active as a Boy Scout, becoming a Queen Scout in 1952, and is always a worker with young people in the community. He is a member of Birtle Lions' Club, the Birtle Recreation Committee, a director of the rural S.T.E.P. program and a member of many farm organizations. He works on the Birtle Hall Committee, and is one of the Hospital Ambulance drivers.

Nelson married Lynne Clubley in 1955. She had come to Birtle with her family in 1945. Lynne is active with the Swimming Club, the Ceramics Club, Eastern Star and the new Curling Club. The Ewbanks have two sons — *Ken*, and *Rob* (at Birtle Collegiate).

FALLOON, JAMES — (1846-1922) born in County of Tyrone, Ireland, son of Samuel and Mary (Rutherford) Falloon. There was little future for the seven children in Ireland at the time of the potato blight, and four emigrated to New Zealand, while James decided on Canada. Arriving in Toronto in 1875, he drove a horse-car on Yonge Street, then found work with C.P.R. construction between North Bay and Winnipeg. Reaching Winnipeg, he worked for Kelly's brickyard. Meanwhile his fiancée Mary Scott and sister Sarah (later Mrs. Redmond) came to New York and worked in the Vanderbilt mansion, until James sent for them. They came to Winnipeg by rail to Minneapolis, then by stage and steamboat. James and Mary were married in Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg, Nov. 29th, 1880.

For two years they remained in Winnipeg, and Mary and Sarah ran a boarding-house. James, William McMinn and three other Irishmen travelled to Brandon by rail, then by team to Fort Ellice, and James staked claim to SW¼ 10-18-28. He returned to Winnipeg to gather settlers' effects, and in the fall of 1882 he and Mary with son Samuel James and some stock set out via stage coach to the homestead. They built a log house and stable with help of Rupert and Scott Ellis. After eight years, because the land was low and crops froze, they moved to N½ 32-17-28 with a larger log house, replaced in 1898 by a large stone house on "The Hill". The home was a centre for community activities, housed the Crewe Post Office, and boarded the Crewe school teachers.

James died in 1922, and Mary in 1939. Three children died in infancy, and two in their teens of tuberculosis. They were buried in Zion churchyard, the church they helped build in 1888.

Other children were: **SAMUEL JAMES**, (1882-1973), in 1908 married Fannie Burdett (1884-1971) had four children; **ARTHUR** (1883-1945), in 1914 married Edna Cline (1896-1919), had one child; **GEORGE H.** (1885-1941), married in 1910 to Norma Clegg (1884-1959), had seven children; **ALBERT** born 1889; **SARA** (1893-1962) married Arthur Wilson in 1921, had two children; **JOHN E.** born 1893, in 1919 married Louise Wilson, had seven children; **ELEANOR** (1896-1958) in 1919 married Freeman Lamb (1894-1970) had four children; **J. LEONARD** (1897-1952), married G. Eleanor Lamb in 1919, had two children; **L. HAZEL** born 1900.

The Falloons were always ready to try out new equipment in their farming operation. "Firsts" included a riding plow in 1886, a six-foot hoe drill in 1890, a twine-tying binder 1899, a Port Huron steam engine and separator in 1903, an eight-furrow breaking plow in 1907, a Case car with acetylene lights, top and windshield in 1911, various tractors and combines.

ALBERT SCOTT FALLOON — born on the homestead in 1889, went as far as Grade VI at Crewe School, then helped on the farm and played baseball and hunted wolves for recreation. At twenty he bought his farm S½ 8-18-28 from his father for \$250.00 a year for as long as his father lived (\$3,250). Named "Westwarren" the farm was mostly prairie, and Bert built a shack and broke his land with three horses and a walking plow. 1916 was a memorable year, when he built a house, married Mary Pearl McLellan and lost his crop with the first black rust.

In 1924 he began to breed Shorthorn cattle with his brother Arthur, with purchase of the Grand Champion at Brandon Fair, and a few herds from the district. Three years later he won first prize at fairs at Russell, Binscarth, Birtle and Shoal Lake. Surviving the Dirty Thirties with difficulty, he continued to show cattle at Brandon, Toronto and towns in the district. He became known as an outstanding breeder, was Director and President of the Cattle Breeders' Association and Director of the Canadian Shorthorn Association. For six years he served as Superintendent of the Cattle Breeders' Sale, a job requiring tact, firmness and organizing ability. He was honored by the Manitoba Shorthorn Club at a banquet in Brandon in 1949, and presented with an inscribed cane.

Locally he helped organize the Foxwarren Fat Stock Show in 1935, and was President for twelve years, and also a Councillor from 1920-37 for R.M. of Ellice. In 1960 he turned the farm over to son Dale, and in 1963 built a home in Foxwarren, where he lives now, keeping busy with his garden and working the tractor at the farm, as well as with his family.

The children are: *James Garnet* born 1917, was killed in action March 1944. *Edith Iola* born 1919, married M. E. Wilson, a plumber, in 1942, has two children. *Edgar Dean* born 1923, farms in the district, married Helen Jean Selby 1952, has four children; *Elmer Murray* born 1925 is a C.P.R. Agent, married Mary Elsie Woodhouse in 1953, has two sons; *Mary Margaret* born 1927, married William Murray, a baker, in 1946, has five children including twin boys; *Glenn Dale* born 1939, is a farmer married in 1962 to teacher Marion Kathleen Brackner, has two children.

MARCUS EDWARD FALLOON, second son of Samuel James Falloon, was born on the home farm in 1916. This home, on the SE¼ 10-18-28, was the pre-emption to the homestead settled by his grandfather. He attended Foxwarren school and for some years worked for the Madsen — Red Lake Gold Mines in Ontario. In 1942, he joined the R.C.A.F. and after training as a pilot in Canada, served in India and

Burma. In 1944, he married Lillian Moxham of Birtle and they have three children, Ted, Mary Lou, and Linda. He is still farming on the home farm.

DOUG and BETTY FALLOON, have four children all receiving their education at Foxwarren. Shirley a teacher married Drillon Beaton of Elphinstone. Don married Dianne Ellis of Foxwarren and they farm in the Ellice R.M. Ron married Dianne Talbot of Foxwarren and he is the Elevator Agent at Solsgirth. Janet (Mrs. D. Gervin) farms at Goodlands.

FARQUHAR, ARTHUR H. — In 1903 came from Glasgow, Scotland to the Woods farm at the age of 21. This farm was owned by his mother's cousin and has been recently known as the Russett place on Highway 83. ALEX and DAVE, younger brothers of Arthur followed within the next couple of years.

Arthur bought the NW¼ of 28-17-26 and began farming. Dave and Alex worked for the Leggat and Bonner families until they were able to start farming on their own. World War I broke out and Dave and Alex went into the Army and Arthur carried on farming.

After the war Arthur sold his farm to the Soldiers Settlement Board and it was taken by a veteran Joe Harrison. This farm is presently owned by the family of W. R. FARQUHAR. Arthur returned to Scotland where he worked for a time and married Helen Ramage in 1922. They returned to Canada to live for a time on the Wattsview plains and then spent two years at Foxwarren.

From there they moved to the Mount Joy area, where BILL, JIM, and FRED FARQUHAR families all farm. At the time of writing Arthur Farquhar is 91 years of age and one of the oldest pioneers left in the Mount Joy district.

FERGUSON, TOM — came from Scotland to Perth County, Ontario, and practised his trade as blacksmith. He married Catherine Smith, and in the spring of 1880 came west to Manitoba to shoe horses for the Hudson's Bay Co. and the R.N.W.M.P. The family lived in a double house in the Dunstan district on W½ 4-18-27 (now owned by Reg Gadd), sharing home and section with the R. W. Patterson family.

From here Tom commuted to his blacksmith shop in Birtle, opened July 1881. He fashioned his own tools. When the railroad was being constructed he did all manner of smithery for the camp, situated where the Foxwarren cemetery is now. The Ferguson boys supplied the camp with milk, butter and eggs delivered by ox cart.

Mrs. Ferguson died suddenly in 1893, and the three youngest children were cared for by Adam and Jean Angus, for whom Angusville was later named. The homestead was sold to J. T. Leavens.

Tom and the older boys lived together, and in 1897 began construction of a log house on NE ¼ 35-17-28 (owned by Doug Falloon now). Meanwhile son BOB spent some time getting out logs in the bush north of Angusville. In 1900 he began farming N½ 34-17-28 and Walter

Pizzezy built a one-story two-roomed house for him there, with finished interior, even to a pretty wall-paper. Sister BELLE came to keep house for him, and brother WATT (or WALTER) helped him break his land with horse and walking plow. On Christmas Eve, 1902, Bob married Helen McIntosh of Wattsview in the Birtle Anglican Church, the ceremony performed by Rev. Pritchard.

Tom Sr. lived with them for three years, returned to Scotland for a visit, then came back to Foxwarren to carry on a livery service in Foxwarren for Lou Leavens and Charles Laycock. He lived for four years with daughter JANET SHERRITT until his death in 1918. Son WALTER had predeceased him in 1910, aged thirty-three.

Bob and Helen later built a larger home, which still stands. They had six children: *Lena, Douglas, Earl (Toddy), Isla, Vella* and *Elda*. Bob died in 1951, Earl continued to farm and in 1958 when he and his mother moved to St. Lazare. In 1970 the farm was sold. TOM JR., SAM and WILL never married. Belle became Mrs. George Dunlop; Janet (1888-1945) married James Sherritt and had six children, *Norma, Eunice, Iris, Jean, Pat* and *Eric* (killed in action in World War II.)

The Ferguson name is carried on through Bob's son Douglas, who had one son and three grandchildren.

FIELD, ERNEST — Ernest Field married Esther Phipps in November 1933 at Marchwell, Saskatchewan. In April 1949 they moved from Shellmouth to the Dickie farm east of Birtle, partly by horse and wagons. They had four children.

KENNETH attended Rothesay and Hamiota High School. He worked in creameries in Miniota and Shoal Lake, drove the cream truck and made ice cream and butter. He went to Palm Dairies in Winnipeg where he won a trophy for butter making and a set of silverware for top honors in making ice cream. He became supervisor in Edmonton four years ago. In 1959 he married Edythe Wotton of Foxwarren. They have three children.

DENNIS attended Rothesay School as far as grade eight. He worked for local farmers and ran a gravel crusher for Veterans Construction. He then moved to Lethbridge, returned to school and took a mechanic's course while at Sunny Esso Service. He then worked at Subway Gas and Oil and farmed as well. He married Lucille Kolobar of Lethbridge 1961. He is presently in the diesel service department of John Deere in Lethbridge. They have two girls.

GARTH attended Rothesay, completing grade nine by correspondence and High School at Hamiota and Shoal Lake. After attending United College and Teachers College he taught at various schools and in 1967 he accepted the principalship at Miniota Junior High. Last year he purchased a small farm north of Miniota where he keeps horses and cattle and helps at his dad's farm on week ends and holidays. He married Margaret Johnston of Foxwarren. They have a family of five.

NEIDA attended Rothesay and Shoal Lake High School and then took a hair dresser's course at M.I.T. in Winnipeg. In 1962 she married

John Fedak formerly of Parkerview, Sask. Last fall they moved to a farm there. They have a family of five.

FISHER, ERNEST GEORGE — (1870-1955), was born in London, England. He came to Canada by sail boat, by train to Moosomin, Sask., by stage to Fort Ellice, Man. then on to Birtle by team with his Uncle Henry (Harry) Manwaring, arriving October 8th, 1883. He went to school in the old stone school, then on to St. John's College in Winnipeg for business training. He returned to Birtle to enter partnership with H. A. Manwaring in the general store business. Mr. Fisher married Elizabeth Ann Harbottle June 1892 in Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg.

The bedroom suite and the dining table bought the day of the wedding, along with the invoice for this furniture is now on display at the store where it was bought—Wilson's Furniture Store in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher spent the first three years of married life in Macdonald where Mr. Fisher was in charge of the general store. The next seven years was spent in Birtle, moving to Solsgirth in 1902 where he managed the general store. They retired to Shoal Lake in 1946.

He was the last person to be buried from the original St. George's Church which was destroyed by fire. He had helped draw the lumber from the Riding Mountain to build that church.

Mr. Fisher was a clarinetist in the Birtle brass band. He joined the Birtle Masonic Lodge in 1908. He was trustee of Solsgirth School for many years and Sec-Treas. for 44 years.

Mrs. Fisher (1871-1959) was born in Cranbrook, Ont. and died in Kelowna, B.C. Mrs. Fisher was one of the early members of St. George's Church W.A. About the turn of the century she belonged to the Birtle Ladies Cycling Club.

There are 4 daughters in the family.

MYRTLE, Mrs. R. W. Ross, Kelowna, B.C., PHYLLIS, Mrs. C. L. Dutton, Birtle, MABEL, Mrs. George Lauman, Shoal Lake, Man., WILMA, Shoal Lake, Man. There are 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

FISHER, GEORGE — (1859-1934) and his wife (nee Catherwood — 1859-1950). The railroad had not yet reached Solsgirth when my father came from Ontario in 1884. He walked from Brandon. The railroad was as far as Solsgirth when my mother came to Manitoba in 1886. They settled on W½ 2-18-36. As my father had enlisted and served with Major Boulton, he was given a quarter section script land and one quarter homestead land. Mother and dad stayed with a neighbor until the log house was built. Neighbors helped to raise the walls and shingle the roof. My mother helped with chinking (filling between the logs and plastering). That house was lived in many years by Fishers and Mr. and Mrs. Treble who bought the farm. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fisher had seven children. One daughter and one son died in infancy. I remember my mother telling of being unable to buy fine thread to sew her baby clothes and of splitting coarse thread. Some task! Father farmed for

four years with oxen. The doctor lived in Birtle. There were no phones and only horse and buggy. Midwives often officiated at births. Mrs. Alex Hamilton was the lady in our district. She willingly came — storms, snow or rain and won the gratitude of many in our district.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McArthur were our nearest neighbors on E½ 2-18-35. The beautiful grove of trees were planted by Mrs. McArthur by hand. That property is still held by two of her sons. That is the only farm still held by its original owners.

We were pleased when Eckford School was built. Prior to that the McArthur and Fisher children attended school in Kelloe — a long walk of about 4 miles. — (By Mabel Armstrong)

FITZGERALD — BARNES — Gerald Fitzgerald and cousin Jim Roseborough came in the 1890's from Lakefield, Ont. to visit relatives. They purchased a half-section south-east of Birtle from Mr. Gourley and "batched" for several years. Aunt Maggie Preston made their weekly supply of bread. Later Gerald died, and Jim returned to Ontario. The farm was taken over by Edward Fitzgerald, who had come out in 1892 as an apprenticed blacksmith. In 1892 he married Florence Boyce of Lakefield, and they moved to the farm after 1896.

JACK E. V. BARNES joined the family as a three-year-old in 1900, after the death of his mother. He grew up on the farm with young MARCUS GERALD FITZGERALD, born 1901. They attended Gnaton school, used also as a community hall. After its closing, a new Gnaton Hall was built on a corner of the Fitzgerald farm, and became the centre of social life for the neighborhood.

Edward Fitzgerald early in 1900 established a homestead near Dafoe, Sask., and carried on his trade as blacksmith there, leaving the Birtle farm in charge of hired men. The family spent their summers on the new homestead for a few years.

In 1928 Jack Barnes married Helen Munro, granddaughter of Mr. D. B. Fulton, and made their home on the Beulah road, later moving to Birtle. They had five children. Marcus Fitzgerald married Grace Morrison of Texas in 1951. *Geraldine Faye*, born 1954 is now at the U. of M. Marcus died in 1970, and his wife lives in Birtle.

Mr. Ed Fitzgerald died in 1938. After some years on the farm, Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to town for the latter years of her life. The original farm home was sold to Ron Stewart in 1963.

FLEMING, JAMES A. — moved to the Kelloe district in 1907, with his wife and small son John Allan. Mrs. Fleming was Helen Inglis Findlay. She had come west in 1902 with the Rev. Davidson, to help with the children. She met James Fleming, and they were married at the manse by Rev. Davidson in November, 1903.

The Flemings purchased N½ and SE¼ of 24-17-25 from Mr. Riddell, after selling their butcher shop in Shoal Lake. They farmed this land until 1945, when they retired to Shoal Lake.

They had three sons — JOHN ALLAN born 1905; WILLIAM

THOMAS born 1909 of Dufresne, Man. He married Janet Anderson, and they have a son *Douglas*, a daughter *Isabella* (Mrs. James McCoy) and three grandchildren. ROY DAVID born 1917, lives in Winnipeg, married to Ruth Bailey. Their son *James* is now with the Police Force.

Mr. Fleming died in 1947 at the age of seventy, and was buried in Birtle cemetery. Mrs. Fleming died in 1968 at the age of ninety.

FLEURY, ALBERT — I was born in Miniota, July 29, 1947, youngest son of Ruby and Fred Fleury. I lived in the Pope, Arrow River, Wattsvie, and Uno districts prior to moving to Birtle in 1967. I attended school in Beulah until 1964, then I attended Birtle Collegiate in 1964-65. In July 1965 I was employed by the Canadian National Railways. I married Jan Robison of Birtle. Jan was born in Winnipeg, March 15, 1949, daughter of Lloyd and Millicent Robison. She moved to Birtle in 1962 when her mother married Mr. Gordon Morris. We have one daughter, JANINE, born in Shoal Lake March, 1968.

FLYNN — Mr. and Mrs. John Flynn came to the Birtle district in 1881 from Shakespeare, Ont. There were nine children in the family, and the eldest son John was already employed with a surveyor group in the area. Mrs. Flynn, formerly Ellen Morton, was sister of Alfred Morton, Birtle's first settler in 1878.

While John Flynn homesteaded Sec. 12-16-27, his wife kept stopping-house for travellers. The first schoolroom was held in their dining-room. The first St. George's Anglican church was built during the ministry of Mrs. Flynn's brother John. Daughters Margaret and Josephine sang in the choir, and were among the first communicant's class presented for confirmation by their uncle.

A log house was built on the homestead, and named "Rose Hill". My grandparents were great lovers of nature, never ceased to be scholars, and were experts in needful skills, home remedies etc.

Of the nine children, the four daughters married. MARGARET became Mrs. Robert Whitelaw, JOSEPHINE, Mrs. Thomas Green; ELEANOR, Mrs. Ed Dickin, EVA, born at Portage la Prairie on the way west, married James Orr. FREDERICK was killed in action in the First War. JOHN married Flora Barber. JAMES and RICHARD did not marry. WILLIAM married Amy Austin. — (by Mrs. G. L. Woods)

FLYNN, WILLIAM — his wife Amy and three children ETHEL, ARTHUR, and GLADYS moved from North Dakota to Birtle in 1897 and farmed west of Birtle until 1906, when they moved to Binscarth to farm.

The eldest daughter **Ethel** married Albert Phizacklea of Binscarth and had one daughter *Marguerite*. **Gladys** married Stanley Honey, also of Binscarth, and had three sons; *Lloyd*, *Lawrence*, and *George*, and two daughters, *Thera* and *Irma*.

Arthur married Winnifred Foord of Binscarth in 1919, and farmed two miles west of Birtle until 1939. During the spring of 1939, Arthur

purchased land in the Rothesay district and moved his family of three. Daughter *Doris* married Don Kyler of Ponoka, Alberta in 1940. They have two children. *Gerald* (Bud) after some time in the army farms at Rothesay. He married Dorothy Hooper of Kelloe and they have two sons and a daughter at school in Birtle. *George*, after discharge from the navy married Merle Phillips of Isabella, and is presently custodian of Birtle Collegiate. George and Merle raised three children.

Arthur and Winnifred had their first home on the Flynn homestead.

Their social life consisted of visiting their neighbours and playing cards. Every fall Arthur enjoyed duck and goose hunting.

They moved to Birtle in 1965, purchasing a house on Vine Street, where they live quietly enjoying visits from friends and family, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

FOWLER MURIEL (nee Long) — In 1924 I married Bertram Fowler a returned soldier from the 1914-18 war. Bert was a soldier in the Imperial Cavalry. We went on a farm in the Strathclair area for a number of years. It was while on this farm that our daughter CATHERINE was born.

About 1931 we moved to the Thompson farm west of Solsgirth. From here Catherine started to school.

Some time later we moved to the Cartmell farm, north of Birtle. While on this place I was taken ill and went to Winnipeg for medical care. Soon after we sold out, and Bert and Catherine came to Winnipeg too. Bert got employment at the C.N.R. shops in Transcona where he worked until his retirement. He passed away in 1965.

Our daughter Catherine married a young man from Winnipeg, Larry Ridge. They live in Edmonton, Alberta and have two daughters and a grand-daughter.

In 1965 I went to Edmonton to live with Catherine and family. Later I took up residence in Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home there. Despite all our ups and downs it has been a good friendly life.

(Mrs. Muriel Fowler passed away at the Lodge June 17, 1972 in her 79th year. The burial took place in Winnipeg beside her late husband.)

FRASER — Mr. and Mrs. John Fraser came to the Solsgirth district as early pioneers. Mrs. Fraser was formerly Ellen Cochrane. They came from Quebec to obtain good farming land settling in the Eckford, Dowsford district. Their only son CYRUS farmed for a few years and then managed the Northern elevator in Solsgirth. He married the former Sadie Poyner who taught school at Eckford. Their family were: *Fred* who taught at Eckford (now deceased), *Douglas* who works at Chalk River, *Phyllis* now Mrs. Cooper of Don Mills, Ontario.

FRASER, JOHN A. — (1875-1945) and his wife, formerly Margaret Middleton (1871-1944) arrived in the Solsgirth district to farm. This

Mr. Fraser did, and also drove a school van with horses for two years, to Solsgirth school.

Their children are: STEWART, in Toronto; HAROLD, at Lakeside, Ont.; IRENE (FRASER) MATHESON at Embro, Ont.; EDITH (FRASER) TOWLE, of Beachville, Ont.; and LORNE FRASER, London, Ont. Son MELVIN died at twenty-one in 1931, and JOHN CLARENCE in 1943, aged 33.

For three years from 1925 to 1928, the family lived on N.W. 26-17-26, in a log house, heated by wood stoves. There were two barns, and a large grain shed.

FULTON — Grandfather D. B. Fulton (1850-1939) and his wife, Emma Julia Holmes (1850-1936), were both born in Nova Scotia. They came to the Birtle district with their son, and lived there near their second son, JOHN, until their deaths.

David Beatty Fulton had homesteaded in 1878 near Gladstone, and though primarily a farmer, he was a skilled axeman, gardener and ox team driver. He cared nothing for horses, and refused to drive them. During the building of the railroad, he was employed first as a laborer, then was given the job of moving bridge piling with an ox team, working in the water all day long for several weeks.

He preferred walking to driving, and thought nothing of walking six miles to Birtle for mail and return. His needs were always simple, and he believed that to borrow money or go into debt was a sin akin to stealing. He was a strict Presbyterian, and Bible readings and prayers were mandatory in his home, even in harvest time. An avid reader of great books of all kinds, he enjoyed and could quote from the Bible and the Encyclopedia. English history and for light reading Shakespeare, Browning and other classics.

FULTON, JOHN I. (1888-1969) — brother of E. B., came to Birtle in 1922, and farmed on W½ 18-16-26. He married Christina McLennan in 1932, and they had four children, of whom the youngest, DAVID, died in childhood. In 1965 they retired to B.C., where Mrs. Fulton still lives at White Rock. Their son GLENN graduated in Agriculture, and is with the Federated Co-op in Saskatoon. FRANCES married Dr. H. Krahn and lives in Winnipeg, and ROBERT is a geologist with the Federal Government in Ottawa.

FULTON, ERNEST B. — Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fulton arrived in Birtle in November, 1919 from the Austin district with the expectation of better land and better schooling for their children. With them were a family of five, later increased to seven, and Mr. Fulton's parents. The land they selected was the former Hodnett farm E½ 30-16-26. The family attended Birtle United Church and the children received their primary and secondary schooling in Birtle.

His wife, formerly Ethel Mary Futers, was born in 1880 in Durham, England. They attended the United Church faithfully and E. B. served over twenty years as an elder. He took part in community ac-

tivities as school trustee and Municipal Councillor for many years, and helped organize the first Birtle Pool Elevator.

An excellent horseman, he raised and trained them, bought and sold them, and took pride in driving a good team. He farmed with horse teams until the Second World War, but was ready to move with the times, and saw that the horses must give way to the tractor. He experienced the whole range of farming in Manitoba — from breaking the sod with oxen, through boom, depression, drought, prosperity — to the large scale operations of the seventies. He never lost his faith or love for “the land”.

E. B. Fulton died in April 1972, his wife a few months earlier, and both rest in Birtle cemetery. Their children are carrying on their tradition of service in their community. KATHERINE, the eldest married Ross Gray, a farmer at Sprague. They had three sons. After Mr. Gray's death in 1962, she returned to school teaching in Winnipeg.

EVA FULTON married Dean Robinson and had two children. All live in B.C. MARY FULTON married Tom Fulton of Birtle, (no relation) and they live in Saskatoon. They had six children living in various cities west and east. There are twenty-four grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren of E. B. Fulton.

ETHEL MARGARET FULTON is at present Dean of Women at U. of British Columbia.

HARVEY FULTON — married Millicent Green. They farm in Birtle on E. B. Fulton's original farm, and keep purebred Shorthorn cattle. Harvey served as Rural Councillor for some years, and is active in the Birtle Co-op and Manitoba Co-operative Implements, Ltd., being a District Director. Of their four children, two sons *Richard* and *Kenneth* farm with their father. *Theresa* (Mrs. Ron Baillie) lives in Winnipeg, as does son *Garry*.

VICTOR FULTON — served overseas during World War II as Flight Lieut. in the R.C.A.F. Here he married Marion Tye of Yorkshire, and they returned in 1945 to farm at Birtle. Mrs. Fulton has been very active in community affairs, and is at present (1973) Canadian President of the Women's Institutes. Victor is active in the United Church, Legion and the District Hospital Board. They have three sons. *David* plans to farm with his father at Birtle, *Craig* is studying at Iowa State University, and *Sheldon* lives in Sanford, Man.

LOCKHART FULTON — married Nellie Finch, and they have six children. Lockie served during World War II as Colonel of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, and is now active in the Legion at Birtle as well as in the Anglican Church and School Board. Of the children, *Jennifer* and *Abigail* are in High School in Birtle; *Deborah* and *Peter* are in University; *Bruce*, a History Major, is at present an instructor in University in Sydney, Australia, after a year in South Africa, and *Geoffrey*, a Law student, is coming to practise in Birtle.

GADD, ERNEST — (1877-1965) and his wife Jane (nee Petty 1882-1956) came out to Winnipeg from Grey County, Ont. For some years Ernie worked in the city for an ice company, then in 1904 he brought his family to the Birtle district, where his brother TOM was butter maker in the creamery. Ernie broke land and prepared a home on a farm south of Foxwarren. The small daughter ESTHER re-calls their fear of Doukhobors, walking the tracks through their farm.

They spent some months with Mr. and Mrs. Phil Nettle, then in March 1905 moved by wagon to their own place. The farmyard at that time was all bush and a trail had to be cleared between well and sod barn which burned in later years. The present barn was built after World War I, the house in 1932, the old home still used as a farm shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Gadd lived there until 1952, with MERV and REG farming the land, then moved to Foxwarren. In 1955 the entire family had a reunion at the farm home.

Their family: ESTHER (Mrs. George Campbell) at Cypress River, Man. They have eight children. HAZEL — on staff at the Birtle Indian School, married Armor, son of a principal, Rev. A. J. Lockhart. They farm in Sask. and have two daughters. GORDON, a retired electrician, lives at Flin Flon with wife and daughter. BERTHA and husband Will Thompson have five daughters and farm at Basswood. LETTIE also on supervisory staff at Birtle Indian School and other schools, now lives in Portage la Prairie. MYRTLE and husband Gerald Snowdon farmed at Foxwarren and later ran a motel at Swan River. They have a son in Peace River and a daughter. CARL lives in Vancouver with wife and two daughters. MERVYN farms the former Jim Wotton farm. Married Margaret Young and their son Ray farms with his wife (formerly Barbara Doyle), has two children. REG farmed the home farm until 1971, now in the Solo Store in Foxwarren. Married Catherine Hall of Birtle and they have three sons. DARLENE and husband Irwin Eisler live at Elliot Lake, Ont. and have two sons.

GAMMACK, LAVERNE — was born at Decker, Manitoba, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Gammack.

In 1955, Laverne and Grace, (nee Crighton of McConnell, Manitoba) were married and lived on the farm at Decker. Three sons were born; SCOTT (1957), DOUGLAS (1960), and CAMERON (1962) and the family resided at Decker until 1963; at which time Vern became employed as Partsman with the C.C.I.L. at Birtle and moved his family to "The Beautiful Birdtail Valley". Vern continues his employment with Co-op Implements, now as the local Depot Manager. Scott, Doug, and Cam attend school in Birtle and are active in hockey, curling, Scouts and all are carriers for the daily newspapers. Grace is employed in the Birtle office of the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation.

GOUGH, HUGH HENRY HAVELOCK — (1858-1949) emigrated to Canada from Londonderry, Ireland in 1883. Prior to this Mr. Gough had pioneered in Australia and had returned home to Ireland on a visit.

He had intended to return to Australia. It is not known why he changed his mind.

However, in Canada he spent the first year or two with Mr. and Mrs. Rankin (Mrs. Rankin was a sister of Mrs. Hooper). The lake on the Hooper farm still bears the name. He later homesteaded on N.E.¼ 36-15-27 W.

In 1885, when the second Northwest Rebellion broke out, Mr. Gough joined Boulton's Mounted Infantry, as Aide de Camp to Major Boulton with the rank of Lieutenant, a rank he held in Ireland in the English Militia. His commission in the militia, was signed personally by Queen Victoria and is now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Kelly.

Mr. Gough was at Batoche when Louis Riel surrendered.

After the rebellion campaign, he returned to his farm in the Blenheim district. In 1891, he married Ada Vaux, daughter of an English settler, Mr. Edwin Vaux.

They lived in a frame house, the first in the Blenheim district. It was heated with wood stoves. Water came from a well but was not sufficient for stock in winter, when a supply was hauled from Hooper's Lake. At that time Anglican Church Services were held in Blenheim School.

In 1903 he moved to the Qu'Appelle Valley where he had taken up his second homestead. The next year, Mrs. Gough died. They had a family of two, a son HUGH BLOOMFIELD, now deceased, who left a family of six sons still living in or near Spy Hill, Sask. Their daughter, ALICE LETITIA is now Mrs. Arthur Kelly. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly had three sons and four daughters. The youngest daughter is now Mrs. William Brydon of Birtle. — (By Arthur Kelly)

GOURLEY, ROBERT J. — born in Brampton, Ont. in 1878, his father William Gourley came to Birtle with his family in 1879. He recalls working at J. D. McArthur's sawmill for \$1.00 a day — steering logs up the jack-ladder, stacking shingles and lath, and finally helping with the books in the office. At age twelve he carried water for road workers on the valley road to the station for ten cents a day.

He worked for R. W. Gibson's bank, paid \$5.00 a month for cleaning, copying letters, etc. after school. When the bank was bought by Dudley and Leese, he worked for them for \$17.50. At the age of twenty he went to Wolseley, Sask. with Mr. Gibson, who had started a small business there. He was paid \$50.00 a month to keep two sets of books, double entry — which had to balance monthly.

The Banbury brothers, Ed and Robert, sold a grocery business to purchase the Gibson enterprise, with Mr. Gourley to stay on, which he did as a partner, borrowing \$3000.00 from Mr. Gibson to finance his share. At the end of a year he was persuaded to go to the Union Bank. He was sent out to a new branch at Fort Saskatchewan then back to Souris, Man., Carberry for a year, then Winnipeg as Sec-Treas. of

Beaver Lumber just organized. He became General Manager within a year, and was Chief Executive for over sixty years.

William Gourley was a good builder, had little money, but managed to pay his debts and maintain a home. He moved out to Burnaby, B.C. in 1914, where he died in 1924. "R. J." is the sole surviving member of the family, and perhaps the sole survivor of those who came west with the Hamilton Colonization Society. One of his greatest thrills was winning the Canadian Curling Championship in 1931.

His children: HELEN (Mrs. Morley Lazier) in Toronto, has three children. BYRON married Evelyn Hill from Scotland, lives in Winnipeg. His son *David* married to Marilyn Brand of Winnipeg now living in Victoria with four daughters. ARTHUR and his wife Margaret have two children. Daughters GRACE and BETH live in Winnipeg.

GRAHAM, CLARENCE EDWARD — born 1905 eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Graham of Denman Island, B.C., was born in Victoria. His wife Anna Hazel was daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Doran, born 1911 at Isabella. She went to the Pacific Coast in 1935, worked on Vancouver Island until her marriage.

Clarence worked for his Dad's Denman Island Logging Co. as "whistle punk", felling timber and as logging engineer, then later on the high-rigging for Bloedel, Stuart and Welsh (later McMillan Bloedel). He decided to study for his papers in stationary engineering, made the grade and by 1939 was chief engineer for Totem Shingle Co. on Vancouver Island.

They lived for a time in Prince Rupert, Clarence in the power plant at the dry dock, his wife "in a fascinating magazine and book store". After the war they returned to Vancouver Island, where Clarence worked for B. C. Forest Products at a lumber mill. Their nephew DAVID DORAN, aged six, came to live with them, which made things much more exciting. The next twenty years were spent in Port Mellon, Howe Sound, where Clarence was employed by Canadian Forest Products, and Mrs. Graham in the Post Office. "I could write a book about Port Mellon, which I am sure would be classed as a comedy". The community church included Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Pentecostal, Quakers and United Church people.

David Doran was educated in B.C., returned to Birtle to marry Marlene Davidson. They have twin daughters *Andrea* and *Lisa*, live in Gibson, B.C., where David works for Can. Forest Products Pulp Mill and Marlene works part time as a nurse. For our retirement we chose to come back to Birtle among my kinfolk.

GRAHAM, DAVID GEORGE (DAVE) 1870-1938 — came out from Wyman, P.Q., about forty miles north of Ottawa in 1902. His wife was Harriet Mahalah Taber of Bristol, P.Q. They were married in 1913, some years after Dave had settled on Section 26-17-27, in the Fox-warren district. He came to Manitoba after his uncle Edward had located in the West, and purchased the section jointly with Edward's

son Walter. They brought horses from Quebec, and enough lumber to build a house, cut and sawed in the Gatineau Hills. Each winter they returned to Quebec to cut timber for much-needed cash, then in the spring came west to put in a crop.

Walter's half of the farm was sold later to Jim Graham, an uncle, whose team of mules were well known in the district. A barn was built with lumber from Rossburn, which still stands. Meanwhile other families arrived from Quebec — Hugh McCredie, John Little, Isaac and Jim McLellan, Tom Clark, Dave Smith, Tom Reid and William, Tom and Jim McJanet. Dave Graham left a diary of his early experiences on the farm. In 1910 work on the land started March 30th, with plow, disc and harrow, the men from the various farms helping each other, and sowing finished on May 31st.

Dave's father George (G. G.) lived and worked with them, and Aunt Jean Morrison kept house. Their life was busy, but they regularly attended church, usually Presbyterian, and visited friends on Sunday. In 1910 Dave was badly scalded in an accident, had to return to Ottawa for treatment and skin graft, and was always lame as a result. He was always a progressive farmer — in 1914 bought the first gasoline tractor in Foxwarren (a Hart Emerson "Big Four"), and had the first milking machine (a Himan). In 1910 he imported a team of registered Clydesdale mares costing \$1000.00, and built up an excellent herd. Won the Manwaring cup for the best mare for three years. Also raised purebred Ayreshire cattle. He exhibited grain in various shows, and won awards even with competitors Thomas Low Sr. and Sam Larcombe.

Dave Graham and his wife were active in church organizations and Agricultural Societies. They had three children: ANNA MARY, (1914-1953) a teacher, married Joseph Roy Robinson, one daughter *Marion Fair* of Brandon and two grandchildren. GEORGE TABER born 1916 married Alta Bernice Bonner 1948, have six children, three still in school. George and son *Roy* still farm the father's land, and run a modern dairy farm. EDITH HARRIETT born 1919, married William Vaughn Snow 1942, also has six children, three in school at Birtle.

GRAHAM, EDWARD — was born 1849 in Pontiac County, P.Q., son of Thomas and Mary Graham, of Scottish extraction, Thomas having pioneered in bush land which he brought to a high state of productivity. Edward left school at fifteen, to give undivided attention to the home farm, then at twenty-two set out to see the world. Spent two years in Australia and other parts of the globe, decided to return to Canada. Opened a cheese factory in Pontiac County, purchased land adjacent to his father's, and after selling the cheese factory farmed for twenty years.

In 1879 he married Margaret Graham, daughter of James and Janet Graham, also of pioneer stock. At the turn of the century he became interested in the West, visited Manitoba, was favorably impressed, and decided to locate there. Purchased a section on Range 28,

between Foxwarren and St. Lazare, improved it with the help of his sons, and in time held twenty-four hundred acres. His success and enthusiasm were the direct means of bringing to this district twenty-five others, all of whom prospered. Later he became a buyer for Maple Leaf Milling Company after Mr. Alfred Laycock, and bought grain until retirement in 1918.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. Graham married Janet Johnson. The family attended the Presbyterian, later the United Church. Mr. Graham was a member of the Masonic Order and I.O.O.F., served as Reeve of R.M. of Birtle 1908-1910, and on the Foxwarren Council. He and Margaret celebrated their sixtieth anniversary in 1939. Their family : JANET (Nettie) married James Thomas, buyer for Northern Elevator Co. and later the Codville Co. Lived in Winnipeg, one daughter. WALTER married Marion Lord, a nurse, while serving England in World War I. Was a grain buyer and farmer, retired in Innisfail, Alta. had three children. GEORGE, married Margaret Leckie, took over the home farm until 1952, then moved to Foxwarren. Sons *Harry* (see below) and *Rodney* carried on farming after George retired. DINAH married Allie Hay, Station Agent at Foxwarren, had one son. MYRTLE first a teacher, then a nurse, devoted her life to the profession, now retired in Winnipeg. MELVIN married Gertrude Laycup, has two sons and two daughters, farmed 1917-1971, was a grain buyer and worked for International Harvester Co.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE GRAHAM were fine community minded citizens, Mr. Graham being a member of the Masons, the Rifle Club and served on the Church Board for many years. He was also a member of the Manitoba Seed Growers Association.

Mrs. Graham, the former Margaret Leckie was a member of the W.A., W.M. and of the Church, a member of the Eastern Star Lodge, a member of the Women's Institute and the Zion's Ladies' Aid.

HARRY AND VELMA GRAHAM — Harry Graham elder son of George and Margaret (Leckie) Graham was born and received his education in Foxwarren, went on to 1 year U. of Manitoba before joining the Air Force as instructor. He went overseas in 1944, returned in 1946 and went back to U. of M. then returned to farm and road construction.

He married Velma Murdock of Binscarth in 1951. They have 5 children *Dianna Marie*, *Walter George* (deceased age 20 months), *Bruce Edward*, *Joy Louise*, *John Malcolm*, and *Henry Adam Newton*. They farm 1000 acres in R.M. of Ellice but reside in Binscarth.

Harry was always interested in sports and refereed Minor Hockey for many years both in Foxwarren and Binscarth.

At present time Harry is Conservative member of the Legislature for Birtle-Russell Constituency. Was elected member of the Binscarth School Board — and served as trustee for Pelly Trail School Division for 1 year. Entered Provincial Politics in a by-election in 1969 and was

re-elected in the General Election of the same year, and again in June, 1973.

Harry served 2 years as Master of the A.F. & A.M. (Masonic) and served one year as District Deputy Grand Master.

Has served as Chairman of the Community Club Committee which operates the Theatre and Community Hall. Was a member of the original Hospital Board of Russell and served as Chairman of the new Russell Hospital Board but resigned this position as he felt his political duties might be detrimental to the Hospital Board.

Is still interested in promoting sports and likes to curl and golf when he has the time.

Velma, after keeping her household duties attended to and acting as hostess for Harry's commitments still finds time to be active in Church organizations, curling club and Eastern Star Lodge.

RODNEY GRAHAM — son of George and grandson of Edward Graham received his Grade XII education in Foxwarren, then took the diploma course in Agriculture at the U. of Manitoba, after which he returned home to farm with his father on the old homestead. He married Edith Simms in 1953 at which time his parents moved into their new home at Foxwarren.

Rod has continued to farm the home farm 9-18-28 and in 1968 he bought the W½ 1-18-28 from John Cooper. Rod is an established seed grower and operates his own seed plant.

He has served on the United Church board for many years, is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Foxwarren and is a director on the U.G.G. board and supports other community activities.

Rod and Edith have five children, four daughters and a son.

GRAHAM, JAMES FREDERICK — came to Birtle in 1930, worked for Bob Thornton, and then for Fred Bruce at Beulah. He started to farm for himself between Foxwarren and St. Lazare, but finding the crops poor, he moved back to Birtle to land now owned by Albert Billaney. It was still the dry thirties, yields were low, but he raised cattle, horses and poultry. Prices for these were poor also, but the cost of living was in line with them.

In 1937 Fred married Mary Sparks, and in 1941 they bought the Watt residence. In the same year he joined the R.C. Artillery, and served overseas for over four years. After his return he bought the front hillside, broke the land and raised many good crops there. They found the cement structure of the house deteriorating badly, so a cottage was purchased, and the old pioneer residence torn down. In 1961 the cottage was moved onto the Watt foundation and rebuilt with a new front.

Meanwhile the Grahams raised a family of five sons and six daughters. ALF lives in Thompson, MARGARET R.N. is touring Australia, GRACE R.N. (Mrs. Joe Slawinsky) lives in St. Vital; JEAN is Mrs. Mike Werestiuk, in Winnipeg; MAE ANN R.N. has come back from California recently; HAZEL R.N. in the Children's Hospital,

Winnipeg; HELEN is also in Winnipeg; EDWARD is at Churchill, NORMAN with the Hydro at Thompson, ALLAN and HAROLD are at home. There are seven grandchildren.

Mary Graham for twelve years has worked at the local hospital. They still keep a few cattle and horses. The young people enjoy riding, and the boys have belonged to the local Pony Club.

GREEVES, HARRY — born in Norfolk, England, in 1899, came to Winnipeg in 1920 with William Ayres. Mr. Malcolm, MLA for Marquette, through the Employment Bureau invited them to Birtle. Having to transfer from C.N.R. to C.P.R. for the trip, they carried their trunks from one depot to the other.

They both found work. Bill Ayres worked for Philip Dearlove, later raised sheep on his own farm. He died in 1935 and was buried in Blenheim cemetery. Harry worked for Robert Thornton, then opened his Blacksmith and Machine Shop in 1923 beside Roseborough's garage. Much of his iron work is still to be seen in the Municipality.

Harry married Elspeth Christie Hatch, R.N. in 1927, lived on the south hill for a time, then in 1933 bought a home on Kent Street where they still live. Harry has been active in Birtle Legion, having served with the Queen's Own Regiment in World War I. He also was a member of Birtle Town Council for twenty-four years, on the School Board, and for twenty-six years on the Vestry of the Anglican Church, and Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1963.

He retired from business at age sixty on orders of his doctor, but worked for the Manitoba Highways for seven years. He won the North-West Bonspiel in Birtle in 1953, and is fond of gardening, golfing and hunting. Mr. and Mrs. Greeves have four children, educated in Birtle Elementary and High Schools, and taking further training in Winnipeg. HARRIET LEONE, born 1930, graduated B.A. in 1951, taught in Costa Rica for two years, then in Foxwarren High, married John Alfred Milner in England in 1955. They live in Cranfield, England and have two daughters. AUDREY JUNE, born 1932, R.N. 1954 married Barrie McPherson of Foxwarren in 1954. Barrie died in 1965, and June lives in Minnedosa with her six children. FREDERICK JOHN, born 1934, BSc. M.E. U. of M. 1958, married Marjory Murray of Foxwarren in 1958, now lives in Rocanville, Sask. as Mill Supt. in the Potash industry. He and Marjory have two sons. GEORGE PHILIP, born 1940, graduated from Man. Dental College in 1968. Married Doris Kosowan of Fort Garry in 1968, is now in Dr. Graham's Dental Clinic in Minnedosa.

GRIDLEY, MRS. ERNIE (ELLA) — My husband and his twin brother came to Birtle from their home in Brighton, England. My husband ERNEST served overseas in the First World War with 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers). His brother HARRY joined up in Toronto. Both lost the left leg above the knee — I think the only twins in the Canadian army to have amputations.

Growing up on the farm we had to make our own amusements and entertainments. The little old Burdette school building at one period saw lots of use besides education.

Here I might add something that will astonish the younger generation. When I started school there in 1899 we had a teacher, one of a local family. She had a Grade VIII standing, a 6 weeks Normal course which gave a certificate good for teaching for three years. The salary for that was \$35.00 per month. So as Burdette school was closed from Christmas till Easter it was no wonder our education was not equal to what this generation is getting.

ELLA JEAN STEWART — wool shop in New Westminster;
WILLIAM RICHARD GRIDLEY — consulting architect with Federal Govt. in Ottawa; ERNEST EDWARD GRIDLEY — school teacher, Winnipeg; BEATRICE MAY GRIFFITHS — R.N. St. Joseph's Hospital Victoria.

GUNN — The J. R. Gunn family came to this district in 1909 from Neepawa, locating in the Gamblers school district, and from there to the farm north and east of Foxwarren vacated by M. S. King. Mr. Gunn was born in Old Kildonan, a grandson of William Gunn a Selkirk settler of 1812. Mrs. Gunn was born in Listowel, Ont.

The family consisted of CECIL GUNN who taught school and retired to Victoria, B.C.; BURT who served with the Strathcona Horse Cavalry in World War I and later with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs retiring to Penticton, B.C.; MYRTLE who married Harold Murray, farmer, and retired to Binscarth. JARED married Elaine Brown and was employed by Gutta Percha Rubber Company and later by Sask. Co-operative, retired to Fort Qu'Appelle and died in 1972. FLORENCE married Clare Hillcox, farmer, ELLA married Campbell Bamford, and farmed northeast of Foxwarren. IRENE married Eldred Storey, farmer at Arden, retired to Winnipeg in 1960. BEULAH married Garfield Blough, mechanic, and lived in Flin Flon. Mr. Gunn died in 1943 and Mrs. Gunn in 1951.

GURNICK HARRY — (1880-1942), born in the Western Ukraine, and his wife Maria Ircha (1886-1955) came first to Montreal, where Harry worked for the C.P.R. He broke his leg in an accident, was paid off by an insurance company and he moved west to the Rossburn district. When they lost their quarter section there, they decided to move to the Birtle district in 1938.

Their first home had four rooms with homemade furniture, heated with wood stoves. They carried their water in pails from the well.

Son JOHN and daughter MARGARET came with them from the Ukraine. Later there were five daughters. John, the son, lives on the home farm, married to Anne Hryciuk of Rossburn, and has two children and two granddaughters. Son *Laurence* has a Radio and TV shop in Rossburn, *Carol* (Mrs. Jon Klagenberg) lives in Hamiota. The Gurnicks won first prize as Farmer of the Year at Rossburn in 1970.

Daughters: KAY PERSOVICH, in Toronto, MARY KALYNOVICH at Oakburn, Man.; NELLIE BERZANSKI, Birtle, MARGARET KOZAK, in Winnipeg, NETTIE ANTONIW died in 1927. Among them they have seven children.

GWYER, OWEN J. (1882-1963) — born in Crampton, England came to Birtle with his parents in 1888, where his father worked for Ben Dutton. In his early teens Owen worked with his brother Will for the survey of the railroad between Virden and Moosomin. Also cut cordwood and did land surveying near Quill Lake, Sask. In 1906 married Hilda Florence Cartwright, and farmed east of Binscarth, then in Foxwarren Chillon district. Here EILEEN and HILDA were born. After several more moves the family settled on the Hay homestead NW 20-17-26 in Mount Joy district, where they remained for thirty-seven years. The Gwyers celebrated their Golden Anniversary in December, 1956. After Mr. Gwyer's death Mrs. Gwyer, now eighty-eight, made her home with Hilda and son John, who has taken over the farm.

WILLIAM ROBERT GWYER — born 1908, son of O. J. Gwyer, educated at Balmerino and Welwyn, Sask. He helped his father on the farm, and worked with his gravel truck on Provincial roads, generally loading with a shovel.

Married in 1938 to Winnifred Catherine Bartram of Angusville, and started to farm on the old Marsh farm, north-west of Birtle (now owned by Barteaux brothers). Moved to St. Lazare in 1940, then back to SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 28-17-26 (Isaac Leese farm), where they still live and farm. Bill drove school vans to augment his income. The children received their schooling in Birtle.

Bill Gwyer is fond of hobbies, and of reading. In boyhood he collected and mounted birds' eggs, over forty varieties from chick-a-dee to red-tailed hawk. He now collects Canadian stamps, and keeps two hives of bees. He and his wife belong to the Agricultural Society and exhibit at the fairs. Mrs. Gwyer has been a leader in 4-H for thirteen years.

The children: ROBERT OWEN married Mary Ann Craig of Miniota, lived in Erickson and now Brandon, drove for Western Concrete, and is now with Brandon Implements. Has two children. MARJORIE ROSE trained at St. Boniface Hospital, graduated Sept. 1966 from School of Medical Technology, specializing in Cystology. Married David Bates of Birtle, now with Air Canada at Dorval, P.Q. They have one son. SHIRLEY MAE, born 1950, loves sports and riding, and was an outstanding member of 4-H. Studied Education at Brandon U., taught at Pipestone. Married Clare Moster, with the Energy Resources Conservation Board in Calgary, where Shirley studies at the U. for a degree in Education.

HADLAND, WILLIAM (1882-1950) — born in Banbury, England came to the Solsgirth district with the Barr Colonists in 1903 as a farm laborer and worked for Capt. R. P. Butler.

His wife Kathleen born at Poplar Point, Manitoba 1884 was the youngest daughter of Capt. Butler. She moved to Solsgirth with her family in 1901. In 1908 they were married and settled on her father's farm.

The Hadland family lived in the Toddburn district until 1926 where Mr. Hadland was secretary of the Dowsford School for several years. In 1931 the Hadland family moved from the Solsgirth district to a farm south of Shoal Lake and in 1943 retired to the village of Shoal Lake.

Mr. Hadland joined the Birtle Masonic Lodge in 1912. He was interested and active in the Lodge until his death. The Hadland family attended St. James Anglican Church, where Mrs. Hadland played the organ for many years.

Their original home was burned in 1914 and was replaced by a frame house. Water was obtained from a shallow well in the summer and during the winter it was brought up in barrels from the Birdtail River 2 miles away in the valley.

Family all born at Solsgirth. REX (1909). He bought grain for the United Grain Growers until his death in 1966 in Neepawa. He married Laura McLeod of Shoal Lake. HENRY (1917). He farms at Shoal Lake. He married Marjorie Dunn of Russell. ALICE (1913) (Mrs. Clifford Preston) of Shoal Lake. PHYLLIS (1915) is a Public Health Nurse with the Man Dept. of Health.

There are five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

HAINES, JOHN BYRON (1846-1930) — of Stratford, Ont., and his wife (formerly Ann Joynt) (1853-1917) from Listowel, then Woodlands, Man., had operated a harness shop in Winnipeg shortly after the departure of Louis Riel in 1869. When the shop burned in the spring of 1879, they decided to test their fortune further west, and set out with two Red River carts and oxen, a buckboard and pony. Their objective was Prince Albert, but on arrival at the present Birtle they had dinner with Alfred Morton, who persuaded them to remain. They settled on the section west of the Morton's, dividing it with E. J. Wilson. The Haines family of twelve and the Wilsons' of ten children grew to maturity on this land.

The Haines family were Methodists, and loyal Tories — scarcely on speaking terms with Liberal friends during elections. Their children were: ALBERTA (1875-1921) married John Brough, lived in Grandview and Winnipeg, had four sons — *John Jr.*, *Bernard* in California, *Eric* married Bessie Storey, lives in Norwood, one daughter; and *Gilbert*, deceased; JOHN RICHARD (1877-1915) worked in the Crow's Nest Pass for J. D. McArthur. Was in San Francisco in hospital during the earthquake, enlisted in 1915 and was killed in France in 1916; ANNIE BIRTLE — the first white child born in Birtle, married Archibald Headlam, one of the Englishmen brought out by General Wilkinson to learn farming at Birtleside. Gave up farming and taught school, finally at St. John's College School. Two children — *Morley* in Victoria and *Ruth* (Mrs. Bernard Deaville) in Winnipeg; JOSEPH

LEWIS lived on the home farm, and in time took care of Birtle cemetery, married Sadie Mackay of Birtle, had four children — *Joy*, *Jack*, *Neil* and *Rita*, now in the Birtle Post Office; PHOEBE married George Stanton, lived in B.C., their eldest son was killed in World War I; JAMES was killed when employed as an engineer on Great Northern R.R. in Montana; CHARLES WHITNEY, an athlete, worked for E. J. Wilson, died in Toronto in 1952; ALFRED in Winnipeg — lost a leg in a railroad accident in Cleveland. Has two children; HOWARD taught school in Foxwarren and Birtle, then East Kildonan, retiring to Huntsville, Ont. 1957. Married Elizabeth James of Aberystwyth, Wales, who died in 1964. Two daughters *Myfanwy* (Mrs. Alex McGuire), of Florida and Muskoka, and *Betty* (Mrs. Leonard Pateman) in Winnipeg, has four children and three grandchildren. GLADYS married Bert Wallis in Birtle. Died in Vancouver. WILBER played baseball and hockey for the Army in World War I. Killed in action 1918; BESSIE (Mrs. Archie Rankin) in Toronto, had one son and three grandchildren.

HALL, FAMILY — Abraham Hall, born in Hull, England, came to Canada with his Scottish-born wife, first to Ontario, then to a farm seven miles north of Foxwarren in 1880. Mrs. Hall, later known as "Grandma Hall" was a midwife, beloved for her service to the community. She had the honor of laying the corner stone for the present Foxwarren school, a tribute from the community, as many of the children of her babies were to receive their education there.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall had seven sons: JOHN, DAVID, ROBERT, ABE, THOMAS and two who died in infancy — and three daughters, SUSAN (Mrs. G. Hillcox), MINNIE (Mrs. C. Cooper) and JESSIE (Mrs. M. King). ROBERT worked at first for the section, living in a log house, later on a farm north of Foxwarren.

JOHN began the trade of blacksmith in 1882, moved to Assessippi in 1885, and back to Foxwarren in 1887. He bought the smithy from Scott Ellis and moved it to a site on Third Street, and also moved his house from Assessippi to Foxwarren, quite an event in those days. He was active in his work until retirement in 1932. He had two sons, *Arthur* and *Walter*, both in the Armed Services during World War I, joining the 203rd Battalion. Arthur, after transferring to the 44th, or "Little Black Devils" was killed in action June 1917.

Walter served later with the Royal Flying Corps, and was taken prisoner of war. Returning to Foxwarren after the war, he took over the drugstore in the Laycock block, was active in the insurance business and Secretary-Treasurer for the School Board for twenty years. Was also member of the I.O.O.F., Masonic Lodge and the Legion. His sister *Nina* was active in W.I. and church, as organist for over fifty years.

HALL, ED (1877-1961) — born in England, came to Canada from London 1905, then went to the United States for twelve years. Returned to Medora, Man., met Mary McGregor (1893-1960), who had been born in Medora of Scottish parents from Ontario. They were married in

1921 by Rev. Duncan Ritchie, who later served in Birtle Baptist Church.

Ed worked in Dauphin in a lawyer's office and beginning an insurance business. He came to Birtle to start his own business, influenced by there being a Baptist Church there — the church was an important part of their life. Here he sold insurance, did office work for Diamond's store. They stayed for a time with the George Dandridge family in the station house, until finding a home of their own near the present Elementary School, and later moving to a suite in the Morton Block, with near neighbors Percy Greeves and Sam Morton. Later they moved to the former home of Judge Stubbs on the south hill, the east half of which was occupied by the Diamond family, and later by Harry Greeves.

They began a small dairy business here, moved to the Lawrence farm (now Peter Tucker), then to the Wilcock farm (now owned by Mr. Naylor). In 1939 they had a farm sale and moved back to purchase the home on the south hill. Ed worked as bookkeeper for the Co-op store, and as Secretary for the Credit Union, finally at seventy served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Town of Birtle until eighty-three years of age.

The Halls had two daughters — CATHERINE, a teacher, married Reg. Gadd of Foxwarren, has three sons, *Bob*, *Floyd* and *David*. FRANCES died in 1946.

HALL, ERNEST BENJAMIN RUPERT (1873-1934) — of United Empire Loyalist stock came to Solsgirth from Headingly, Man. in 1896 with his brother Charles (1864-1912). They wished to start a farm implement business, as they had heard of many young men settling there. They built the "Hall Bros. Implement Shop," which was there until 1932, when it burned together with the hotel across the street.

Miss Helen Elizabeth Younghusband (1876-1949) came to Solsgirth to teach school in 1900. Of English parentage, she had come to Manitoba from Dunrobin, Ont. She and Mr. Hall were married in October, 1904, and built a home on the north side of town, (now Garry Workman). It was named "Cherryview" from the pincherry bluff nearby, and "Cherry" was also an affectionate name for Mrs. Hall.

The Halls attended St. James' Anglican Church until St. Stephen's was built across the road from their home. Mr. Hall was first Warden and held the position until his death. The family always took an active part in the work of the church, as well as in Solsgirth School, which the children attended. Theirs was a very happy home, and the children had a heritage of good Christian living. In 1910 they acquired the first car in town — a Hupmobile.

The family were: LANCE (1905-1951), who married Dorothy Knight; BILL (1908-1962) married Edith Bonner; ALICE (1909-1965) married Donald Sale; MARY (1919-1951).

The writer MARGUERITE, born 1906, married Rev. J. Stanley Parke in 1934. She was the first child baptized in St. Stephen's Church,

and was married there. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg in 1924, and was employed in an Insurance Company. She and her husband, now retired, live in Santa Maria, Calif. Their children are *Ronald*, *Marilyn* and *Cherry* all living in U.S.A.

HAMILTON, ALEXANDER — and his wife Mary Ann Nickel came to the Solsgirth district in 1886 from Ontario. Alex was a cooper or barrel-maker and the family still has some of his cooper tools, a curved hammer, mallet, and wood plane, etc.

They stayed for a time with Oliver Nickel, then moved to SE¼ 28-18-25, where they lived in a log house. Alex's first crop was sown by hand, about ten acres, on land broken by oxen. The first years were lean ones, as hail or other calamity often ruined the crops. One day the reaper was readied and oiled for the next day. At sunset a hailstorm came up, and nothing was left. The fields looked as if they had been ploughed, and another year's work was lost.

The family were WILLIAM, ANNIE, ALEXANDER JR., who married Agnes Irving; JESSIE (MRS. T. A. Crerar), ERNEST, married Florence Bloomfield; SYDNEY, married to Etta Thompson. The farm is now owned by John Antoniwi.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, the son usually known as A. J. made 33-18-25 his homestead after his marriage to Agnes Irving. They had one daughter *Izora*, now Mrs. Ed Fraser of Calgary, who attended Dowsford school and Solsgirth and later took her R.N. training at St. Boniface. In 1942 they left the farm. A. J. moved to Kelowna for his health and died there in 1953. Burial in Winnipeg. He was a lover of nature, spending many hours hunting and fishing.

ERNEST HAMILTON — son of Alexander Sr. was two years old when the family came from New Glasgow in 1886. He served in World War I, and in 1919 purchased from William Hamilton the homestead "Queenshill Farm" N¼ 18-18-25, with the house and large hiproof barn put up in the early 1900's. Purchase price was \$12,500.00, reasonable for the times.

Ernest married Florence Bloomfield. There were three children — ALEX ROY born 1919, served in the R.C.A.F. for five years in World War II, discharged as Pilot Officer, now living in Penticton, B.C. with wife Elaine and three children. MARJORIE ELIZABETH (Mrs. L. W. Murphy), a nurse, married with four children, lives at Fort Wayne, Ind.

DON married Rosemary Crawley of Clanwilliam, has two sons. He farms the land homesteaded by Samuel Hamilton in 1879, with SE¼ 19-18-25 added in 1961. There is a large hill on the home place where a large number of Indian and prehistoric relics have been found.

HAMILTON, FRED B. — lived in the Solsgirth district for many years. He married the former Mary Johnston. They farmed for a few years east of town and then moved into Solsgirth where Fred worked for the Northern Elevator Company, 1923. Two sons GARTH and

BOYD died at Solsgirth and are buried in St. James cemetery. The family later moved to Yorkton where Fred and Mary both died and were brought back to St. James. Their daughter ELEANOR married Syd Swaby of Yorkton. She died in 1967 leaving one son. Another daughter EDITH (Mrs. Keefe) lives in Oakland, California. Fred lives at Abbotsford, B.C.

HAMILTON, JAMES — Jim and his wife (formerly Lizzie MacMullen) came from Montreal to the Dowsford School District. Mr. Hamilton was a builder, and also ran a farm. Their home was of logs, two-storey, with three bedrooms, heated with wood.

Their family: ARTHUR married Miriam Tait, and is now deceased; WALTER married May Cottingham (both deceased), their children *Frank, Douglas, Lillian Wilson*, on farm at Birtle, as is *Ida Barteaux*; STANLEY married Laura Hainstock, and they have four children, all in the West — *Clare, Howard, Blaine* and *Gwen* (Mrs. *Bruce Walker*). KATHLEEN married Arthur Quinn, has two sons *Walter* and *Arthur*, and a daughter *Ida*, in New Zealand.

HAMILTON, JOHN H. — The first member of my family to come to the Solsgirth area was John H. Hamilton. Born in New Glasgow, Quebec in 1885, he came west on the "Harvesters Excursions", which were common at that time, approximately 1907. His Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Sr. were settled there, living with their daughter, Mrs. Oliver Nickel.

He returned to farm there around 1911. His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hamilton lived with them for two or three years. Mr. Richard Hamilton was a carpenter and along with Mr. James Hamilton (Father of Arthur, Walter, and Stanley) built homes in the Solsgirth, Kelloe, and Shoal Lake areas.

John started farming, renting the Robt. McMurray farm, later buying adjoining land, where he built a frame two storey house.

John and I (Helen Richmore of Dropmore, Manitoba) were married in 1923. We have one daughter ISABEL who served in the Air Force for four years 1942-46. She is now Mrs. William Somerville and resides in Winnipeg, they have two teenage children.

We retired to Birtle from the farm in 1946. In 1957 we left Birtle and took up residence in Neepawa. In 1963 we moved to Kelowna, B.C. John passed away in 1964. In 1967 I moved to Victoria where I make my home.

HAMILTON, SAMUEL — Came from New Glasgow, P.Q., in 1879, and homesteaded the land now owned by Don Hamilton. Two sons — *William* ("Little Billy") and *James*, who married Eva Nickel, daughter of Oliver.

HAMILTON, JAMES EDWARD — came west in April, 1881 with James Waddell, Joe Balsaam and Mr. Johnston in search of good farming land. Spent their first night in a tent, waking to find two feet of

snow. Determined to stay, Ed applied for homestead SW¼ 6-18-27, broke ten acres the first year, cropped it and prepared fifteen more the second year and also the third year. He built a house, and returned to Ontario in 1882 to marry Agnes Harper Kerr of County Wentworth in January 1883.

After ten years Ed received the final receipts for his land, which now included NW¼ 6-18-27. He also worked as a carpenter, with lumber hauled from Moosomin, and with John Dunlop built Dunstan school for \$410.00. He used to walk to Fort Ellice for mail from Ontario. Their grain was hauled to Moosomin for sale. In the spring of 1892 he hauled his last load, developed pneumonia and died. Funeral service was in Zion Church, with Rev. Somerville.

Edward and Agnes had three sons — JOHN WILSON (1884-1951) (see below) ROY (1889-1963) married his cousin, a widow Mabel Emmons with a son Garth. They had four children *Doris, Nell, Nadean* and *Clayton*. HAROLD (1891-1953) see below.

Agnes in 1893 married Rance Laycock. They had three children — William (1894-1972) married Pearl McMinn; Lorna married Percy Carr and had two daughters; Eliza married Wilfred Thompson, had six children. After Wilfred's death she later married Allan Proctor. Agnes was a great gardener, and gifted for handicrafts. Many quilting bees were held in her living room. She died in June, 1938. Rance Laycock died in 1958.

Old buggy trails are still on this farm through the pasture. A well dug July 1922 by Robert Meyers, assisted by Rev. Murchison and Percy Waddell, is still in use.

JOHN WILSON HAMILTON (1884-1951) eldest son of Edward and Agnes, was seven years of age when his father died. Attended Moresby school, and helped with the work on the farm, including milking cows while still a small child.

In 1909 he married Winnifred Pizzey at Portage la Prairie. They farmed SW¼ 26-17-28 (now Vic Prescott's) then in 1915 moved to Walter Pizzey's farm SW¼ 4-18-28 where son *Jim* now is. He retired to NE¼ 4-18-28 where his wife Winnifred still lives.

Wilson took part in community work, served as councillor in R.M. of Ellice during the dry years, an experience he never forgot. He and brother Roy had a large threshing outfit (a 30-60 Rumley) as Hamilton Bros. Wilson was also a great sportsman, captain of the Foxwarren Rifle Range at one time and won awards for shooting at St. Charles Match Shot in Winnipeg. The story is told that his wife Winnifred was also a marksman, and on one occasion shot a wolf from the shed door and locked it in the summer kitchen until her husband's return.

Wilson had a Delco Lighting plant of 32 volts before 1920. About 1944 the district was a test area for rural electricity. Stan Hastings changed the wiring in the house, and it was later connected to the Manitoba Hydro.

JOHN WILFRED HAMILTON was born in 1920, son of Wilson and Winnifred Hamilton, and attended school and collegiate in Fox-

warren. We were no different from the boys today, and we wanted our own car. I bought a Model T for \$8.00 and fixed it up. My brother Jim and I had lots of fun as well as being useful. I often wonder what category the teachers would put us today. I guess we would be classified as outlaws. We were never involved in alcohol or drugs though. Looking over the old gang, we didn't turn out badly.

Jim and I wanted a .22 rifle. We received it after six months without brown sugar on our porridge. I now own several guns from .22 to a muzzle loader. I'm at present a Firearm Instructor, member of the Russell Game and Fish Association, Area Correspondent for the Canadian Black Powder Federation and Life Member of the American Rifleman.

Wilfred helped on the farm from the age of twelve, took a Diesel Auto Engine Course by correspondence, joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and served four years at the west coast, operating power houses and installing electric units for R.C.A.F. stations. In 1945 he married Marian Newsham in a double wedding in Winnipeg. In April 1946 they came home to farm on the old homestead. They built a new house, and installed wiring for the Hydro which was turned on Oct. 4th, 1948. Other land was added to the farm in later years.

Wilfred belongs to the Foxwarren Legion, and serves on the U.G.G. Board as secretary. He and his wife were both active in Zion Church until it closed, and now belong to Foxwarren Westminster United. Mrs. Hamilton works with young people's clubs and also full-time at Russell Personal Care Home. They have three children — *Patricia Ann* (Mrs. *Michael Fenez*) a nurse, with two children; *Winifred Louise* (Mrs. *Richard Brereton*) in Winnipeg; and *John Wilson* at school.

HAROLD HAMILTON — the youngest son of Edward and Agnes Hamilton was born in the Foxwarren district in 1891. Harold learned the painting and decorating trade under the direction of Mr. Prost. In Aug. 1915 he enlisted with the 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers) but in Mar. 1916 he received his discharge "in consequence of being unfit for further service". He returned home and took over his mother's farm. In 1920 he sold out at home and went into partnership with Jack Bied on NW 10-17-27, nearer to Birtle.

In 1928 he joined the Masonic Lodge No. 39 in Birtle and in 1929 he became a Charter member of Foxwarren Lodge No. 152 of which he became W.M. in 1938. In 1929 "Hamilton and Bied" sold out, Jack going to Alberta and Harold to Winnipeg for surgery. Following this he returned to live with his mother. He spent several years as a "cattle buyer", shipping car loads of livestock regularly to Winnipeg from Birtle, Foxwarren and St. Lazare. He was always a lover of the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and trapping and was also an ardent curler.

In 1935 he married Dorothy Hodgson in St. George's Church at Birtle. Harold went back to painting and decorating and also had a small mink ranch, until he passed away in Dec. 1953. Dorothy secured

work as a telephone operator in Russell and Foxwarren until ill health forced her to retire in 1971. She lives in Foxwarren.

The family were all members of St. George's church in Foxwarren, Dorothy being Secretary for several years and also a member of the J. A. and then the W. A. She joined Artaban Chapter, O.E.S. and in 1954 transferred to become a charter member of Foxwarren Chapter.

Daughter *Helen* received all her education in Foxwarren and took a position with the Royal Bank in Birtle until 1955 when she married Donald M. MacKay of Binscarth. They took up farming in the Lidcliff district where they still reside. They have two children Marjorie and Glen.

JAMES RUSSELL HAMILTON resides on the land which was farmed by his father Wilson Hamilton 4-18-28. This land had previously been the homestead of James Fleming and was later bought by Jim's grandfather Walter Pizzey.

Jim had lived most of his life on this farm. He took the diploma course in agriculture at the University of Manitoba and has been a seed grower for 29 years.

In 1948 he married Edith May Moxham of Birtle and they have four children — *Russell, Frank, Betty, and Jo-Anne.*

HAMILTON, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM — were early settlers coming in 1897 to the Solsgirth district. Mrs. Hamilton the former Elizabeth Boyd Potter was the first president of Solsgirth Women's Institute. They farmed north-east of town where in later years Glovers, J. B. Heskeths and Skomoroskis farmed. Their family was LORNE who married Bessie Stebbing who taught at Dowsford school 1912-13 and now resides in British Columbia. Their two sons are *Fred and Bill.* HENRY farmed just west of the home place, later moving to B.C. They had one son *Jack* who lives in B.C. EDITH married Roger Fenton. They farmed where Charlie Butler now lives.

HANEY, CLIFFORD — was born and grew up in the Minota Municipality just west of Hooper's Lake. He was employed by Dinsdale Cartage of Brandon, with headquarters in Birtle, for sixteen years, and later with the Manitoba Telephone System. He met and married Helen Harvie in 1940. They had three daughters — BETTY (Mrs. Garry Lund), Dauphin; PEGGY (Mrs. Gary Smith), Winnipeg; and BEVERLEY (Mrs. Glen Slimmon), Russell. There are five grandchildren. Clifford passed away on May 5th, 1962. Helen still resides in the family home in Birtle.

HARLEY, HUGH — was born in 1906 in Boarhills, Scotland, eldest son of Alexander and Catherine (Pringle) Harley. He came to Birtle in 1927 with his brother Dave, to the home of his cousin, Mrs. Harry Stewart. Hugh worked for Mr. Stewart until 1940, then for Marcus Fitzgerald.

He made a trip home to visit relatives, with his cousin Mrs.

Stewart. Returning in the spring of 1948 he worked for Mr. Fitzgerald until 1957, when he moved to Brandon. Here he worked as caretaker for the Wheat City Curling Rink, and for six years with the Exhibition.

He had married Sarah Margaret Blleloch, daughter of David and Mary (Craig) Blleloch, at Brandon in August, 1951. Their daughter CATHERINE MARY was born in St. Mary's Hospital, Birtle in July 1952. She attended school in Brandon, and now is employed in Brandon K-Mart. A second daughter LINDA, born November 1955, died suddenly at the age of one year.

Mr. Harley suffered a heart attack in August 1963. Was in and out of hospital until his death in December, 1966. Mrs. Harley and Catherine live in Brandon, where she is employed with Perth's Laundry.

HARRIS — My father **MICHAEL HARRIS** was the land agent in Birtle. Colonel Lawrence Herchmer was the Indian Agent, both I suppose under John A. Macdonald's government. The Harris family must have arrived there in 1881 and were there for four years. I first saw the light of day 19th of May, 1882. My mother told me the doctor attending her was running away from his wife and I took so long to arrive she caught up with him. Sometimes when my father was left in charge of me, he would pick me up in my long white baby dress and ride across the prairie on business bent I suppose.

The first thing I can remember is standing with my mother dressed in a pale blue dress, when she attended a celebration in honor of the "Boulton Scouts" on their homeward march to Eastern Canada, after the Rebellion of 1885.

My only other recollection was travelling by stage with my mother and two older sisters to board the train at Moosomin to rejoin my father in the autumn of 1885 in Calgary.

I was the only Harris born in Birtle. My two older sisters were born in Eastern Canada.

— by Mrs. R. S. Knight, Calgary

HARRISON, HENRY THOMAS — (1859-1935), arrived in the Bird-tail Valley in May 1879 from Stratford, Ont., with his wife, formerly Margaret Todd of Stratford. They were influenced by the government promise of a free quarter section and a second quarter at \$1.00 per acre. Under this arrangement they homesteaded the N½ 20-18-25. They were among the first settlers in the district. There were no schools or churches at that time. They lived in a log house.

Children: MRS. ELLA TORMEY, deceased, MRS. AGNES HACKING, deceased. Son DYNE HARRISON, deceased; MRS. JESSIE ADAMS, Winnipeg, and MISS MARGARET HARRISON, Regina. There is one grandson, *Gordon Hacking*, of Taber, Alberta, and four granddaughters — *Mrs. Marjorie (Hacking) Smith*, Toronto; *Mrs. Merle (Hacking) Brown*, Winnipeg; *Miss Ruth Adams*, Thailand, and *Mrs. Irene (Adams) Donogh*, Brandon.

HARRISON, TOM A. — came to Canada from England in 1913 at the age of eighteen. He worked on different farms in the Kelloe and Solsgirth area before acquiring land of his own. He enlisted with the Canadian Field Artillery during World War I, and after discharge he resumed farming.

In 1921 Tom married Minnie Parfitt. They had one daughter and one son, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. "T. A.", as he was known to his friends, promoted sports among the younger generation, and was himself an avid sportsman. He was chosen to play cricket for Yorkton Division against the renowned cricket team from Australia. He passed away in August 1973 in Birtle District Hospital.

HATCH, JOHN GEORGE — (1869-1943) homesteaded near Oak Lake 1883. 1901 married Margaret Lindsay Henderson (1877-1970), born in Perthshire, Scotland. In 1909 purchased the Livery, Feed and Stable business in Birtle from his half-brother Lorne Hatch — located where the Gulf Service station stands. They made their home in a stone house on Kent Street built by Dunham in 1898.

John met the trains twice each day with team and dray to bring mail and express parcels to town. In addition horses were stabled for townspeople, and customers were driven by light team and buggy to their various destinations. A highlight of the first year was meeting Canada's Prime Minister, Sir Wilfred Laurier, who came to Birtle to open the new Town Hall. John could speak French, having lived in Quebec City, and no doubt helped the Prime Minister to feel at home.

John served on the Vestry of St. George's, and as Warden used to light the gas lamps then in use for evening service. He also drove the minister with buggy or sleigh to services at Blenheim, Solsgirth or St. James in the afternoon. Mrs. Hatch loved young people, and assisted Dr. Head with seventy-six births, most of them in her house. Mr. and Mrs. Hatch enjoyed their family of eight children, seventeen grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren.

JOHN GEORGE married Audrey Thompson, is a retired druggist in Winnipeg; DAVID died in 1919 of typhoid; HENRY LEROY, Canadian Army Provost Corps, died 1953; EVA MARION PENROSE lives in California; MARGARET ELAINE LAPIER, a nurse in Chicago; KATHLEEN SIMMS, Treherne, Man.; ELSPETH CHRISTIE married Harry Greeves; AUDREY ISABELLE married Frank McLean, farmed north of Birtle for five years, then took over the McLean home in 1940.

In 1970, Manitoba's Centennial year, forty-six members of the Hatch family enjoyed a reunion in the new Anglican Parish Hall, and especially the playing of hymns on the old organ by John Hatch's grandson, John from Quebec.

HAY FAMILY — Mr. Alex Hay was a sea captain in his native Scotland. The family emigrated from Dundee to Ontario, where they lived for about seven years before coming to Manitoba. Mr. Hay and

his brother J. K. Hay Sr. left Winnipeg each with a yoke of oxen and a cart, arriving at Fort Ellice a week before Mrs. Hay and the children, who reached there on the "Marquette" May 10th, 1880. Alex Hay homesteaded on Section 20 (now Gwyer) and his brother on Sec. 2 (now Herb Wotton).

Later Mr. Alex Hay went west to Fort Macleod, Alta., to take charge of supplies for the Blood Indian Reserve. The Indians called him "Firm Rock". He lost his life in a tragic accident by drowning in the Kootenay Lake. The family has in its possession a letter dated June 25th, 1886, describing the sad event. It is signed by "S. W. Chambers" — possibly the same Chambers who was an early resident in Birtle.

Children of Alex Hay: CATHERINE married Dave Hall, farmed at Binscarth, both deceased. Their children were Edna, Colin, Janet, Bertha, Alex and Evelyn. There are nine grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren. JENNIE married Edgar Murphy and had two sons. ISABELLA married William Mitchell of Birtle, both deceased. They had three children, Allan, Jean and Isla, and six grandchildren. DOUGLAS the eldest son was killed in a fall from his horse, just a year after his father's death. JAMES KIDD (below) MINCHIN GEORGE — his son Alex lives in Vancouver; ALEX A. son Lloyd lives in Brandon; MARY married Leo Leavens.

JAMES KIDD HAY ("J. K. JR") — born in Shakespeare, Ont. October 1879, was a few months old when the family came west to Manitoba. He married Bertha Murphy in July, 1906, and farmed for a few years on land owned by Mr. Alex Wright. They then moved into Foxwarren to take over the lumber business of Mr. Murphy, later added automobiles and machinery, and became the agent for Massey-Harris.

In 1965 Mr. Hay moved to Winnipeg, lived with grandson Don Hume, a student in Theology, then to his own apartment, and at the age of ninety-three moved into Beacon Hill Lodge. He fractured a hip in June, 1973, but seemed on the way to recovery at time of writing.

Their family: Irene a graduate of Winnipeg General Hosp., married Bob Hume in 1938, lived in Foxwarren and Winnipeg. Bob served overseas for four years. Irene died in 1961, Bob in 1964. Son Donald is a United Church Minister in Kitimat, B.C., and has two children.

Muriel a teacher, married Jack McLennan of Inglis in 1941. Lived in Winnipeg and Foxwarren, then Winnipeg in 1952, where Jack died in 1959. Muriel teaches in Norwood. Their son Christopher James is with the Dept. of Physiology, U. of Man. Edith married Robert Gordon Elliott, R.C.A.F. in 1942, were stationed in various places, finally three years in France after the war. Now with the Dept. of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. Daughter Carol (Mrs. Robert Cromie) lives at Prince George, B.C., has one daughter.

MURPHY — J. K. HAY Jr. married Bertha, (born March, 1886) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Murphy, who farmed in the Springfield district, and later engaged in a lumber business at Foxwarren. There

were five children. *Maggie* married Dr. Joe Wilkinson, brother of Mrs. Fred Cooper. One daughter survives, Mrs. Alex Kennedy, Winnipeg. *Martha* (Mrs. Peter Dunlop), daughter Mary is a retired teacher in Vancouver. *Lena* (Mrs. John Speer) had three children. *Edgar* married Jennie Hay. One son Eldred lives in Vancouver. *Bertha* married J. K. Hay. She died in September, 1946.

HAY, ALEX and GOWAN — moved in October, 1933 to the farm they had purchased east of Foxwarren on Sec. 3-18-27. They had two sons, ALAN, and DAVID. The boys received their elementary and high school education at Foxwarren Consolidated School, then went to U. of Manitoba, where Alan received his B.Sc. (M.E.) in 1961, and David a B.S.A. in 1960. He continued study for a Master's degree at Colorado State, and went to Iowa State for his Ph.D.

Alan married Joyce Hagborg, R.N. of Winnipeg in 1961. They lived in Montreal where he is manager of Signode of Canada, and have two sons. David married Colleen King, B.Sc. H.Ec. in 1963. He is now teaching at Iowa State U., and they have two children.

During the thirty-two years in Foxwarren district Alex and Gowan gave their time and talent for the community. Alex managed the junior hockey team for many years, was a 4-H leader for ten years, President of the Pool Elevator Board, Agricultural Society, Foxwarren Credit Union of which he was a founding member, also of the Foxwarren Red Cross and the local Poultry Pool, as well as serving as Trustee of the Consolidated School District.

Gowan worked with 4-H, taught Sunday School and C.G.I.T., served as Secretary of the Board of the United Church, of the Homecoming Committee, of the Consumers' Co-op and President of the Foxwarren W.I. She also was manager of the Co-op store and Sec. Treas. of the Village of Foxwarren.

Alex and Gowan sold their farm in 1965, and are now employed at the U. of Manitoba.

HAYBALL — My father, William Hayball, was born at Chard, Somerset, England in October 1879. At the age of twenty-two he sailed for the United States, arriving in New York, April, 1901. Here he worked for Bill Vickery, who had a butcher business at Newton, N.J. After ten years, with short visits back to England, he came to Solsgirth and worked for various farmers. In 1917 he bought a half-section north-east of Solsgirth to start farming on his own.

My mother, born in England in 1877, came to Strathclair in 1920, and stayed there with friends until she was married to my father at the Manse at Rossburn in June, 1920. I, their only child, was born February 1921. I attended Dowsford School. One teacher, Miss Rhind, taught me for seven years and became Mrs. Osmar Workman.

Our farm was sold to Pete Kaban in 1945, and my parents retired to live in Solsgirth. My mother passed away in 1953, and my father in 1968. Two of his brothers had also come to Canada. Mont farmed

north of Solsgirth, where Matt Chicheluk now lives. He died in August 1949. Leonard farmed at Strathclair, is now retired and lives in town.

One item of interest I recall — my father said that before he owned the farm, our house was the post office for that area, and the stopping point for mail drivers from Solsgirth to Rossburn. Jim and Judy Nickel have the farm which was once my old home. I was married to Douglas Johnston in March, 1946, and we live on the old Bailey farm south of Solsgirth. We have four daughters — *Donna, Marlene, Marian and Linda.*

HESKETH — My husband, John B. Hesketh, born in Brighton, Eng., came to Minnedosa in 1909 to learn farming. I, Grace Evelyn Miles, born at Wye, Kent, followed in 1913 to be married. Our wedding took place in St. Mark's Church, Minnedosa in 1914. The Rev. G. A. Wells, later Bishop of Caribou, performed the ceremony.

We settled on a half section south of Minnedosa. However, owing to a shortage of water, we decided to move near Burdette, where some of our family went to school. We purchased the R. M. Cherry farm, and we came by train to Solsgirth.

Our church in Solsgirth was St. Stephen's. I belonged to the W.A., and the children to the Little Helpers. Later we farmed two miles north of Solsgirth. Our first home was frame, six rooms, heated by a large box stove and a large comfort range. The oven door was broken, and soon after we bought a "Saskalta", a McClary product. We tubbed in front of the range, warming the towels on the oven door. Rain water was heated in a wash boiler for baths and washings.

Eleven of our fourteen children are living: AUDREY EVELYN, Vernon, B.C.; WILLIAM RICHARD married Virginia Ellison, lives in Calgary and has three children; VALERIE PATRICIA married Steele McLennan who farms in Birtle, and has two children; ROSEMARY JOAN, (Mrs. Ralph Hatton) has two sons and lives in Courtenay, B.C.; RAWDON ESME, married to Winona Turnbull, has six children and lives on a ranch in Lumby, B.C.; SHIRLEY PAULINE, married to Roy Jewell, has three children — at Salmon Arm, B.C.; PHILLIP, married to Agnes Boyd with four children, is a C.P.R. Rail Agent and lives at Abbotsford, B.C.; DIANNA JENNIFER (Mrs. LeRoy Trenholm) and JACQUELINE GRACE (Mrs. Ralph Paynton) each have four children and live at Salmon Arm. JOYCE SYDNEY (Mrs. John Bolleman) has two children and lives in Hope, B.C.

GEOFFREY HESKETH came to the Solsgirth district with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hesketh. After serving in ground crew with the R.C.A.F. in World War II, he started in mixed farming in the district. He has two children, *Andrew and Iris* at home.

HIGHFIELD, PERCY — came with his wife from Sheffield, England in 1910, to live in Foxwarren for twenty-five years. An interior decorator by trade, Mr. Highfield and his family have contributed im-

mensely to the musical life of their community there and elsewhere. (See Chap. XI)

Mr. Highfield was trained in festival work in England under Sir Henry Wood, and played violin for six years in a symphony orchestra. In Foxwarren he produced operettas, gave lessons in violin and piano, and instituted the Musical Society, Brass Band and Orchestra. He taught theory and singing in the school, and encouraged many good showings in the Musical Festival. He also taught at the Birtle Indian School, and served as Town Clerk for twenty-five years. Before leaving Foxwarren he was presented with scrolls in tribute to his work: "Able teaching of the Musical Arts produces a lasting influence for good — and your influence remains."

In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. Highfield went to Pilot Mound, and from 1941-46 were both members of the staff of Cecilia Jeffrey Indian School at Kenora, Ont. Of sixty-four boys enrolled, Mr. Highfield had thirty-eight in his music classes, to whom he taught theory and brass instrument playing. His band of eighteen players made many public appearances in towns and cities, and as an all-Indian band was both unique and received with enthusiasm. Mrs. Highfield also taught in the school, a regular class and also sewing. After Mr. Highfield's death in 1946 she continued to teach there and later at the Indian School at Cardston, Alta. She died in 1953.

Their daughters have followed their father in the world of music. MARY (Mrs. Grant Collins), has many honors in festival work. BARBARA (Mrs. B. Black) taught at Norberry School, St. Vital, where a trophy "The Barbara Black Memorial" was donated for musical competition after her death. MARJORIE (Mrs. D. DeBolt) played violin in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and plays four other instruments. EILEEN (Mrs. T. Young) serves church and community in choir work.

HILLCOX, GEORGE — born in Waterloo County, Ont. in 1853. In July 1879 married Susan Hall in Glenallen, Ont., and went to Michigan to live before coming to Manitoba in 1883. They homesteaded on Sec. 22 in Bayfield district. They lived there long enough to celebrate their Diamond Wedding July 16, 1939. Mr. Hillcox enjoyed good health until 1943, when he died, his wife passing away the following year.

Mr. Hillcox served as trustee at Bayfield school, and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church at Bayfield and Foxwarren. Their children: CLARENCE married Florence Gunn, farmed the East half of Sec. 23, still owned by son Murray. VICTOR married Mary Canning (Wilson), taught school in Foxwarren and Brandon, retired to Vancouver. FLORENCE (Mrs. Charles Laycock) had four children. MAGGIE (Mrs. William Reid) had two sons.

The "Foxwarren News" carried an article at the time of the Diamond Anniversary celebration, describing some of the early experiences of Mr. and Mrs. Hillcox. Their log home had a roof of tar paper, and floor of rough lumber. A kitchen was added next year with sod roof and

plastered with clay on willow lathes. To get the logs from Angusville it was necessary to leave as early as three a.m., to return the following evening. Mr. Hillcox spent his first winter in the log camp, earning enough to buy a cow. Later he worked as foreman for the M. & N.W. Railroad for \$45.00 a month. One winter there was just one train a week, and one gang on the railway between Minnedosa and Yorkton. The Hillcox family returned to farming in 1899, retiring to Foxwarren in 1919. Wheat was taken to Birtle by oxen to be ground into flour. Mrs. Hillcox often walked the four miles into Foxwarren, carrying butter and eggs to exchange for goods.

HODGSON, JAMES BUCKHAM — brought his wife, the former Thomasin Messenger, and family from Cumberland, Eng. to Foxwarren in 1888. They settled on the farm 32-17-27 and spent the remainder of their lives there. They lost their first house by fire, but it was rebuilt and named "Waver House". It had beautiful gardens, enclosed by trees, a croquet lawn and a tennis court, and became a centre for church garden parties, picnics and tennis tournaments.

The Hodgsons were very active in many interests — the building of St. George's church on land donated by their son Herbert, and of St. Peter's at Balmerino. Mrs. Hodgson was a Life Member of the W. A. Her husband raised purebred stock — Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Oxford Down sheep — and won many awards. He worked for years as bookkeeper for the Dudley and Leese bank in Birtle.

Mrs. Hodgson in 1901 brought her mother Mrs. Messenger from England, and later Miss Dinah Bradley came out to keep house for her, until her marriage to Arthur Hodgson. In January 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson celebrated their Golden Wedding, and in July Mr. Hodgson passed away. His wife continued her interest in garden, handiwork, church and friendships until her death in 1933.

There were nine children: Daughters MARY, ANNIE and MILLICENT became teachers. Annie later kept house for her parents. Mary became Mrs. Peter McKenna in 1923, and lived in Benito, Man. Millicent married Rev. Arthur Humphrys in 1915, lived in parishes in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Their son *Noel* joined the army in 1942, attained the rank of Captain, and was killed in action in September 1944. Rev. Humphrys died in 1973, and Millicent lives in Bath, N.B.

THOMAS, the eldest son — see below; JAMES farmed with him at first, later sold it to brother Gilfrid. James died in 1923. HERBERT and Gilfrid both took up homesteads at Foam Lake, Sask. Herbert became Agent for Pioneer Grain Co., later returned to Foxwarren and died in 1961. ARTHUR farmed the home farm. Married Evelyn Garvey 1929. Had one son *Arthur Graham*. Arthur Sr. died in 1959, and next year the farm was sold to William Talbot. GILFRID returned from Foam Lake to Foxwarren to farm. In 1921 married Emilie McDonald and had a daughter *Norma* (Mrs. Wayne Brown), in Sudbury with three daughters. Gilfrid died in 1957. The youngest son

DONALD worked for the C.P.R. and the Union Bank, joined the Air Force and died in Deer Lodge Hospital in 1946. He married Nina Hogan R.N., who died in 1972. They had two daughters, now in Vancouver.

THOMAS MESSENGER HODGSON (1876-1952) eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hodgson, farmed with his brother James for a time, then bought SE 32-17-27 and built a home on the bank of Snake Creek. He married Edith Mountain in 1907 in St. James' Church where she had been organist.

In 1916 they sold the farm and bought the store and house of J. C. Anderson in Solsgirth, which they operated until it was destroyed by fire in 1921. The family spent the summer at "Waver House". In 1922 they moved to Shoal Lake, where Thomas worked for the C.P.R. and the creamery. After his father's death in 1924 they moved back to the farm on 31-17-27, taken over by son Jim in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson moved to Winnipeg, where he worked for Cassidy's Wholesale. He died in 1952, his wife in 1956.

They had an active life at Foxwarren. Mrs. Hodgson served as organist at St. George's, Secretary for W.A. and W.I., and was interested in dramatics and curling. Her husband worked for church, the Clydesdale Club, a Life Member of the Old-Timers' Association, and on Pool affairs. Before leaving for Winnipeg they were honored at a social evening.

Daughter *Dorothy* married Harold Hamilton in 1935. *Mowbray* married Ina Beattie of Beulah in 1944, and in 1945 *Jim* married Doreen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carr of Foxwarren.

HODKINSON, GEORGE — born 1889, came to Canada in 1912 from Newton Stewart, Scotland to work for an H. B. Hartley on a cattle ranch, but finding no such place, worked for H. H. Davidson, and later for Jimmy Hamilton, north of Solsgirth. After a visit back to Scotland he returned to Canada and joined the army in 1914, serving until 1919 when he returned to work on the railroad.

In 1921-23 operated the livery barn in Solsgirth, then bought the Harry Cooley farm (now owned by son Vic Hodgkinson). Married Phoebe Coulter, R.N. in December 1924. We worked hard and encountered many heartbreaks as well as many happy memories in the Burdette district. Interested in sports, and played soccer with Birtle and Solsgirth. Retired to Vancouver 1971, still in good health and often reminisce about farming days. Present address: 3215 Yukon St., Vancouver 10.

Their children: SHIELA, R.N. — married Robert Gault, lives San Jose, Calif. — two children; JOHNNY deceased; NORMAN mining at Elliot Lake, Ont. — has four children; AGNES — (Mrs. Charles Porter) lives in Calgary with three sons. DANNY — mining at Sudbury, has two sons. His twin VICTOR, farms the home farm, married with two children.

HOGBERG — Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hogberg came to the Solsgirth district in the spring of 1955 from their farm at Marchwell, Sask. **CONSTANCE** and **CHRISTOPHER** came with their parents. **CATHERINE** completed their family — born in Shoal Lake 1956. They took over the Co-op store which they managed until it burned. Lloyd also was manager of the Credit Union. After the fire, they were pressured by the community to remain, so started up in the store where they are now. Constance married Raymond Tymkiw and lives in Solsgirth. Christopher married to GeorgeAnn Bicknell and with their family reside in Thompson. Catherine goes to school at Birtle Collegiate.

HONEY, WILLIAM (1849-1940) — came with his parents to Ontario in 1869, went to New Zealand and worked on a sheep ranch for twelve years. 1881 married Blanche McCamon of Warkworth, Ont. and came west, travelling by boat up the Assiniboine to "MacDonald Landing". Blanche, just eighteen, stayed with the McIntosh family while Will chose a homestead in the Zion district (later Fred Cooper farm). The Henry McCamons settled on the later "Cartwright farm".

In 1886 William left his farm with the McCamons and took his wife and three young children in a covered wagon further west to Fort Macleod, Alta. After eight years, during which time his brother Charlie and family came to live close by, the two families moved on again, by caravan to Lacombe, Alta. — a journey of three months.

In 1894 William decided to return to Manitoba, sold most of his herd of cattle, and sent his wife and four younger children to spend Christmas with the McCamons. **JUNE** and **STANLEY** started to school at Ellice, with teacher Miss Emily Tibbatts. William after his arrival purchased land 36-19-28 near Binscarth, and the McCamons joined them there after three years.

"Six years and two babies later" Blanche Honey died after an illness of a year. June, fifteen, became the woman of the house. In 1910 William married Augusta Tibbatts and they later retired to Binscarth. He died at ninety-two, in 1940, Augusta in 1956. The children: **CLARENCE**, (1882-1965) farmed near Binscarth. Married Bessie Brisbin 1911, who died 1912. In 1915 married Lena Burdett. There were seven children in all. The eldest *Elmor*, lives in Birtle. **HARRY** died as a child; **JUNE** 1886 married John Widdicombe, who died 1964. She lives in Foxwarren. They had eleven children. **STANLEY** (1888-1945) married Gladys Flynn, farmed near Binscarth. They had five children. **MAY** born 1890 married William Davies, a veteran of the Boer War. Lived in Sacramento, Calif., had six children. **ETHEL** (1892-1969) married Edwin Williams, farmed near Foxwarren. Had six children, lost two sons during World War II. **THURZA** born 1895, married Ernest Burdett, farmed near Foxwarren. Five children, one of whom is Mrs. William Falloon in the Birtle district. Thurza and Ernest now in Pioneer Lodge. **GEORGE** born 1897, killed in action World War I.

LAVINIA born 1900, married John McKay, who died 1972. They had four children. Venie lives in Binscarth.

HONEY, CHARLES — his wife, and family came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1882 and settled on S.E. ½ 6-18-27 (Arthur Burdett's in 1973) in the Dunstan area. He had two daughters, MORRIE and VI. Morrie was one of the first class at Dunstan school when it opened in 1884.

Like his brother Will, Charlie went further west and lived at Fort Macleod, Alberta for six or seven years. However Alberta lost its appeal and when Will returned to Manitoba in 1895, Charlie left too but put down his roots in southern Saskatchewan.

HOOPER, FREDERICK JAMES — born in Cornwall, England in 1895, where he attended school and later worked for the Cornish Tin Mines. In 1916-1919 he served in World War I in the British Army, and suffered in a gas attack at Arras which necessitated hospitalization in England. He later served in the Army of Occupation in Germany and in Ireland.

Fred was married in 1920. His brother Philip meanwhile had come to Canada and worked north of Neepawa. He found employment for Fred with George Laing at Birnie in the fall of 1920. His wife Ethel Maude remained in England until May, 1922, when she came with her small daughter to Birnie, where they lived for a time in a two-room cabin in the Laing farmyard. Fred was in charge of the Laings' purebred Shorthorn cattle, which won many awards at fairs in the area.

In 1928 they came to Birtle to work for the C.P.R., living with brother Phil and his wife (formerly Nell Clemo of England) and Nell's parents. Phil and his family returned to England later, where Nell died in 1970 and Phil in 1972. Fred served for five years with the Veterans' Guard in World War II, afterwards purchased the Patterson House on the north hill. He enjoyed his garden, and in 1956 won the trophy for the best-kept home grounds. Fred died in 1961, and Mrs. Hooper now lives happily in Pioneer Lodge.

Their family: ETHEL married Gordon Stewart of Foxwarren. They have four children — *Ralph Wesley* married Pam Williams and lives in Foxwarren; *Linda* (Mrs. Alan Butler) lives at Stony Mountain; *Alan* works in Winnipeg; *Verna* (Mrs. David Thibodeau) is in Winnipeg; *BILL* is to marry Donna Stewart of Birtle and farm near Foxwarren. IRENE married Ivan Armitage of Miniota. They farm in the Assiniboine Valley and have four children — *Rick*, married to Elaine Attwood of Isabella, lives in Virden; *Arlene* a nurse, *Debbie* and *Doug*. FREDERICK RONALD born 1928, joined the navy in 1946, married Joan Shaver of Victoria, has two daughters *Leslie* and *Tracy*. Mrs. Hooper has at present five great-grandchildren.

HOWARD FAMILY — Ray was born at Oak Point, Manitoba, lived on family farms at Oak Point and Vivian, Manitoba and in the town of Gimli. He joined Hudson's Bay Company Fur Trade Department at

age sixteen and was employed in Northern Ontario until 1955 when he came to Birtle as an employee of Birtle Co-op. At Birtle he met Margaret Robertson who was raised near Inglis, Manitoba and later lived at Foxwarren and Birtle and who had been employed as a telephone operator at various points in Manitoba. Margie and Ray were married in 1956 and have three children, LAURIE (1957), DAVID (1959), and JEFFREY (1965).

Ray and Margie opened their own store in 1961. Ray was elected to council in 1966, became Mayor in 1970 and has been active in community and regional affairs for a number of years. At the time of writing Ray Howard is 1st Vice President of West-Man Regional Development Inc. and represents the town members on the executive of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities.

HUEHNICHEN, Freda Amelia Gerdes — (1845-1933) and FRED W. HUEHNICHEN (1839-1908) — were married Dec. 22nd, 1874 by Rev. George How, Vicar of Bomley, St. Leonard County of Middlesex, England.

They came to the Blenheim settlement in 1880. They travelled by oxen and it took six weeks to come from Winnipeg. They attended the Blenheim Church and are buried in the family plot there.

They raised and educated six children — three girls, all teachers ANNA (Mrs. G. Porter), MARIE (Mrs. Sandercock), DORA (Mrs. S. Clarke) and three boys FRITZ, CARL, and HANS.

Mr. Huehnichen passed through all the varied experiences of pioneering life in the west — how successfully best attested by the many places of honor and trust his neighbours had awarded him during those past years. He filled the position of trustee and Sec.-Treas. of Blenheim school and councillor in ward 3 of Birtle municipality.

He was the Reeve of Birtle municipality for 13 years and to his careful management of expenditures was attributed the enviable standing of the municipality finances of the time.

He was a professor of languages and spoke seven fluently.

HUNTER, ANDREW — (1866-1940) born in Stroud, Ontario, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hunter. He came to Manitoba in 1899 to homestead NE¼ 22-18-28 in the Zion district. In 1897 he married Evalina Parkinson, and a new brick house replaced the old log home, later used as a granary. (See Early Days).

The Hunter family stayed on the homestead until 1910, experiencing the common disasters of frost, hail and wind damage to crops. First ranked problems must also include fire, which on one occasion burnt the barn, destroying purebred cattle, horses and pigs. The family moved to Binscarth in 1910, for better education for their children — two girls and two boys. In town Andrew worked at carpentry and building of homes and barns.

In 1918 they moved back to the farm until 1926 when they moved to the Bayfield district for three years, onto the George Hillcox farm, then later to the McMinn holding one-half mile south of Foxwarren.

Andrew Hunter died there in 1940. Mrs. Hunter moved to stay with her family until her death in 1944. The family has scattered from Manitoba to British Columbia. The "Old Home" was sold to Paul Huberdeau, and none of the Hunters is left in the district. The brick house is still occupied.

Both Andrew Hunter and his wife were buried in the Zion cemetery, near the home they founded many years before. There also lie his father and mother, three brothers, and a grandson.

IRVING, GEORGE SR. and JR. — came over to Canada from Motherwell, Scotland in the year 1904. He worked at Kelloe with the Johnstons then returned to Scotland and persuaded his family to come back with him. They settled in a log house between Solsgirth and Kelloe. Geo. Irving Sr. and his wife (Mary Horn) retired to Solsgirth in later years. Mr. Irving was a lay minister in the Presbyterian and later the United Church. His family were all very musical. Mr. Irving and his wife both buried in the cemetery at St. James.

Their son WILLIAM served in the first World War. He married later in life and lived in Weyburn and Swift Current where he died. Daughter AGNES was married to Alexander Hamilton in 1915.

GEORGE JR. first worked on a farm near Kelloe, later north-east of Solsgirth. He married Christina Johnston from Scotland. She died in 1921. Their children: *William* married Viva McTavish and lives in Winnipeg, has two children; *Ina* who is now Mrs. Norm Soul of Calgary; *Margaret* married to Allan Porter of Solsgirth; *Norman* married to Frances Reid of Kelloe, lives in Winnipeg with four sons.

They farmed east of Solsgirth where the four children went to school. The family attended Solsgirth United Church. Student ministers coming from Winnipeg on the Saturday train were met by George and taken home for the night. On Sunday they took the team and drove first to Kelloe for a service, then to Solsgirth and then back to Winnipeg on the train.

In 1929 George married Carrie Lyall. They had one daughter *Betty*, now Mrs. Jack McNab of Minnedosa. George ran an implement shop in Solsgirth for a few years before moving to Winnipeg in 1941. He died in 1959. Mrs. Irving later remarried to Gordon Gowanlock of Glenboro.

IRWIN, JACKSON — came to Canada from Ireland in 1911 to the old Sam Falloon farm at Foxwarren. He can well remember chasing on foot a herd of long-horned cattle home to the farm where there were no fences, no roads. Wolves would circle the herd making the chills run up his spine. Crops were good. Threshing would start at 6 a.m. and go on to 8 p.m. In 1916 he went overseas with the 8th Battalion with Canadian Railway Troops. In 1920 he farmed west of Foxwarren, married Edna McDonald in 1925 and in 1927 moved to the farm south of Solsgirth (the former Winder farm). In 1936 they moved with their family into the village of Solsgirth where Mr. Irwin worked as drayman, shovelled cinders on the track, caretaker of the school. In later years he

transported the mail to Birtle until No. 4 was built. Their family is: JOE, at Wellwood, TED in Winnipeg, BOB at Nanton, Alberta, TOM at Cayly, Alberta, JACK at Calgary, ALLAN and FLORA at Cold Lake — all married; ALICE at Mapleridge, B.C. and NORMAN at Winnipeg.

JACKSON, THOMAS — came from England to Canada in 1912 and went to work for Cheny Burdett. In 1914 the war broke out and he joined up with the Canadian army and went back overseas where he served his country for four years. In 1918 he married Lucy Anthony in England and they came back to Canada. He worked for Bert Falloon until he got his own farm in 1922 through the Soldiers Settlement Board. He resided in Ellice Municipality on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 18-18-28 until he had to quit because of ill health in 1940. The farm was sold to Honore Plante.

Mr. Jackson was a charter member of the Legion when it started in St. Lazare and also when it started in Foxwarren.

He also belonged to the Foxwarren rifle range until it dissolved when war broke out in 1939.

The Jacksons had seven girls and six of them went to Gamblers School where Tom Jackson was chairman of the Board for years.

Mrs. Jackson was a charter member of the Foxwarren Legion Auxiliary and belonged to Foxwarren Women's Institute.

In 1966 Mr. Jackson passed away and Mrs. Jackson in 1968.

JACOB — Frank Jacob came from Hampshire, England to Lloydminster, Alberta, in 1928, and worked on a seed farm for four years for H. C. Weaver.

In the fall of 1934 Frank came to Foxwarren and rented the S $\frac{1}{2}$ 31-18-27, the Charlie Thorp farm in Bayfield District. He married Mary Barker from the Balmerino District in 1938 and they had three children, MILDRED, RUTH and GARTH.

Frank bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of 8-18-27 in the fall of 1945 from Scott Ellis and moved to this location. This farm was originally Hugh McCredie's homestead. In 1963 Frank bought $\frac{3}{4}$ of 10-18-27 from Walter Oxenbury; this farm was homesteaded by Henry Joyce.

Frank and Garth have been very interested in showing grain at Seed Shows. In 1967 they won the Centennial trophy at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Brandon, for the best sample of Manitou Wheat grown in Manitoba; in 1972 they had the pedigreed seed wheat champion sample at the Brandon Fair; and at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair in 1972. Frank and Garth won the World Championship Award for Rye.

JOHNSON, GEORGE MOGENS (1858-1941) — and his wife Emily Harriet (1860-1938). They came to Canada from Denmark in 1888 and lived in Carberry, Manitoba. They had four children.

Their church affiliation was Lutheran, but as there was no church

at first they became Methodists. Early services were mostly held in private homes. There was no school.

In 1890 the family moved to a home near Marchwell, Saskatchewan where they lived in a sod shack. After seven years of no crops they moved to Foxwarren. There they lived in a log house heated by two stoves. Some of the furniture was hand made.

Mr. Johnson opened a butcher shop and later acted as buyer for Burns and Swifts of Winnipeg. He prospered. In 1921 they moved to Winnipeg.

Their family: CHARLES, deceased; HARRY, carpenter, married and lives in Winnipeg; EMMA, a nurse, lives in Port Coquitlam, B.C.; ZIRA, married, now deceased; ALF, a Methodist minister, was drowned in 1924 near Prince Albert, Sask.; RAY, his twin is a carpenter; KATIE RUTH, deceased; JOHANNA ELIZABETH (NAN), deceased; MARY HARRIET became a teacher, as did GEORGE. EFFIE LAURA died in childhood.

There are nine grandchildren.

JOHNSON, TOM — and his wife were early settlers, coming from Ontario to farm south of Solsgrith. Their family were: TOMMY (as he was known to all) married Josy Winder. Now deceased. JACK and ELEANOR deceased; MARY (Mrs. Fred Hamilton).

All the members of the family are buried in St. James' cemetery.

JOHNSTON, JOHN — born 1888 on the Orkney Islands, one of twelve children, nine of whom are still living. The family moved to Aberdeenshire, where he received his education, and later took up the trade of blacksmith as an apprentice. He also helped on the home farm and in his father's dairy.

John with Jack Mitchell came to Canada in 1911, travelling by train to Calgary, where they worked for the C.P.R. at Strathmore, Alta.; then after three months he went to Brooks-Bassano to work as a blacksmith on an irrigation development. He and Jack next came to Hamiota, where he worked for Mr. A. D. McConnell, and ran a threshing outfit for a Mr. Anderson. The next move was to Binscarth, and in 1912 to Rance Laycock's farm on Sec. 2-18-28. He worked here and on other farms until 1923, and bought a Case tractor and threshing outfit to do work in the district.

John married Elizabeth Black of Foxwarren in 1924, the Rev. Murchison performing the ceremony. They moved back to the Laycock farm, which they purchased in 1949. John had fifteen head of cattle as a start for a herd, and sowed mixed grains for his first crop. Their first house was burned, and a new one built in 1938. In 1939 he sold horses to buy a land tractor. During the depression in the thirties he kept sheep, won many prizes in shows, and was able to sell wool and lambs. He also had Clydesdale show horses and registered Shorthorn cattle. Later he purchased Angus and Galloway cattle.

Mr. Johnston served on many Boards — as Arbitrator for the

Sheep Board and as delegate to a sheep convention in Winnipeg, as President of the Foxwarren Colt Club, Director for the Pool Elevator for twenty-six years, as a member for the Co-op at Birtle, Foxwarren and Welwyn Fuel Board. In 1948-49 he and his wife bought E½ 1-18-28, on which stood the old Moresby school which she attended, and here they built a new home. John planted a spruce grove and many fruit trees in his garden. He has travelled to Australia and Scotland, and at eighty-five still works on his farm. The Johnstons had three sons and four daughters, and fifteen grandchildren.

JOHNSTON, THOMAS — (1885-1968) was born in Stromnes, Orkney in 1885. He later lived on Tyronhill farm Aberdeenshire, owned by Lord Saltoun. Therefore Tom Johnston came from tenant farmer stock, the backbone of a Scottish agriculture.

At the end of World War I Tom's father bought Tyronhill farm when this and other large estates were being broken up and sold due to heavy taxation.

Tom Johnston came to Canada in the spring of 1910. He went first to Calgary then to Winnipeg and was hired with the late James Yule, then manager of the Van Horne farm, East Selkirk. After a stay of about two years he moved to Binscarth and went into the blacksmith business with a friend. Soon his brother Jack came out from Scotland and they rented a farm at Foxwarren. In 1916 he bought a section of land at Rapid City. During this time he married Mary Black of Foxwarren. In 1920 he moved back to Foxwarren and rented a farm for eight years. In late 1928 he moved to Birtle to the present farm site now managed by his second son, DUNCAN.

Tom Johnston was an outstanding horseman and excelled as a breeder and exhibitor of Clydesdales. He was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Manitoba Clydesdale Club in 1954, and received the Save the Coil certificate in his area for five consecutive years. No one sought his help in vain — where he was best known he was best liked. No greater tribute can be paid to any man.

His wife now lives at Pioneer Lodge at Birtle. Thomas was predeceased by his daughter MARGARET, and is survived by three sons and three daughters — DONALD of Winnipeg, DUNCAN at Birtle, DAVID at Drayton Valley, Alberta, ADDIE at Birtle, CATHIE at Shoal Lake, and ETHEL at Oak River.

JOHNSTON, WILLIAM MORRISON (1892-1944) — was born on a farm near Glasgow, Scotland. He came to Canada July, 1905, aged thirteen, to his brother Alex who was farming in the Kelloe district. He came because Canada was being promoted as the "Land of Opportunity".

In 1913 he bought a farm six miles south of Rossburn, and in 1915 married Florence May Cameron, (who passed away in 1962). The farm was two and a half miles from Eckford School. Presbyterian church and Sunday school were held there during the summer months.

In 1936 he bought a farm in the Solsgirth district. He had a good herd of registered Holstein cattle.

He had five children: ANDREW married Mabel Brown, lives at Gilbert Plains; LAUGHLIN (Pat) farms at Rossburn, married to Bertha Campbell; INA married Len Randall, farmed the home farm and later moved to Brandon; DOUGLAS married Margaret Hayball, and farms in the Solsgirth district, and MARGARET, married to Walter Butcher, farming in the Birtle district.

Their first home was a two-roomed frame house, heated with a big wood cookstove. They had a dug well with plenty of good water. The house was small, but there was always room for relatives and friends, who can well remember the hospitality and good times.

JOYCE, HENRY — born Galway, Ireland, moved to England, and in time married Annie Drake, a descendent of Sir Francis Drake. Emigrated to Canada to Parkhill, Ont., 1882. Henry came to Manitoba, his family two years later. Homesteaded SW¼ 24-18-27 (now owned by W. Butler) then in 1902 moved to SW¼ 10-18-27 (now Frank Jacob) where they built a fine brick house and barn. When son Roy took over the farm, his parents built a smaller home on the farm for themselves, Annie died 1920. Henry later moved to Foxwarren, where he died at eighty-six in 1935.

Their children: ERNEST settled in Detroit; FRANK homesteaded NW¼ 25-18-27 and NE¼ 26-18-27 (now owned by Lawrence Smith). He and wife Tillie had five children, all but one now in U.S.A. March 1918 sold to John Anderson and moved to Starbuck; ALICE married Bert Elliot from England, farmed NE¼ 16-18-27. Bert taught school at Bayfield. Their one daughter *Gwen* (Mrs. A. Pugh) was Dunstan school's last teacher. HERBERT MILTON, born 1877, married Elizabeth Widdicombe 1902. Farmed his father's homestead — house and contents burned to the ground next year; but he continued until his death in 1928, when the family moved to Binscarth. His wife died 1958. They had six children. GRACE married George Murrell of Binscarth. They had three children. GARFIELD, farmed at Killarney, married a missionary, and had one child, now Mrs. Vyrna McCartney, Winnipeg. ROY, (1893-1929) farmed his father's farm east of Foxwarren. Married Jessie Campbell of Birtle. They had three children.

JUBA, — MR. AND MRS. FRED (1891-1960) — came to Canada from the Western Ukraine in 1910 as young teenagers, looking for a new start in life. At age of eight Fred left home and had to fend for himself. He worked for a few years in Germany in the coal mines and saved enough money to come to Canada. He worked for four years in the Oakburn district. His cherished memories were those of handling the big steam thresher. In 1915 he married Queenie Mychasiw, a widow with two boys JOHN and MIKE. John now farms the old homestead and Mike farms near Birtle. Mr. and Mrs. Juba bought a quarter section, built their home and raised six more children. They raised all the

children of Catholic faith. They farmed at Marco for 35 years, and then bought a farm a half-mile west of Birtle in 1948. After Fred died his wife Queenie moved to Birtle where she died 1962.

Their children ANNE the oldest is married to John Chychaluk, a carpenter now retired and living in Birtle. They have one daughter *Shirley*, MILLIE is married to Joe Charney a C.N. worker. They live in Winnipeg and have 4 children. MARY is married to Joe Poppell an electrician. They have 3 children and live in Miniota.

HARRY was married to Nellie Koroway who passed away at the age of thirty-one leaving him with five children. He farms with his children, in the Foxwarren district. PETER is married to Donna Miller. They live in Roblin and Peter is a town policeman in Grandview. They have five children.

JUBA, NICK — I was born at Marco in 1921. When I was 14 years old I started hunting and trapping. I also worked out at harvest time for farmers in the Oakburn and Shoal Lake district.

In Sept. 1946 I married Pearl Ostash of Solsgirth. We worked in Fort William for one year then we returned to Solsgirth where Pearl lived with her parents and I went to the Riding Mountain Park and cut lumber. In the spring we came to Birtle, where I worked for Mr. Ewbank, Hector Robert and Hydro. We bought our farm in 1949. All the buildings there are from lumber I sawed in the park. My father let me use his 15-30 tractor with which I broke some land. We lived in a bin until our house was finished in the fall. We bought a wood stove and some necessary furniture, and used a coal oil lamp. We didn't have electricity until 1955.

In 1959 we sold our cattle and haying equipment and bought the Star Cafe from Mrs. Liz Hickman. In 1963 we bought some more land — the Oliver Gordon place and in 1967 we built our present home on Lundy Street in Birtle. We sold our cafe in April 1968 to John and Kim Mark. Now we live in Birtle and still farm.

JUDSON, ALGERNON LENTON — born January 1881, came to the Solsgirth district from Cowley, near Uxbridge, Middlesex — to take lessons in farming. He was nineteen at the time (1900) and went to the home of W. G. Cooley, to live and work with the family, and says that he enjoyed every minute of it. After two years he started farming for himself, and married Florence Cooley. Later his wife died, leaving him with four children.

In time Mr. Judson re-married, and was able to make a home for his family, which numbered eight children finally. After twenty-three years of losing English money in farming, he decided to pull out, and went to Emo, Ontario. Emo, he says, treated them very well, and he did well, but has not forgotten his friends in the Solsgirth district. His wife is now an invalid, and he finds it very hard to manage, as old people are not wanted in hospitals — "and so we do the best we can". (Address R.R. No. 2 — Emo, Ont.) Mrs. Judson died Oct. 1973.

KENWARD, RICHARD — Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kenward were married in England in 1888 and came to Canada in April 1889. After a poor sixteen-day boat trip they arrived in Canada and reached Winnipeg early in May. They were met at the immigration sheds by Mr. Crawford, Mayor of Birtle and were joined by the Larcombes, the Waters, and the Freemans, among others who were persuaded to settle at Birtle.

Mr. Kenward worked at various jobs, as stone mason and plasterer as well as farming, and exchanged labour for necessary food supplies. He worked for some time at the M. and N.W. Railway.

In 1948, he and Mrs. Kenward homesteaded on what was to become the family farm in the Rothesay district. Ten acres were broken the first year with oxen and sown to oats which sold at 15¢ per bushel. The taxes were paid with labour on road building.

Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenward, ten of which survived. ROSE (Mrs. W. Mallard), WILL, JOHN (killed in First World War), HARRY, ERNIE, ANNIE (Mrs. Frank Wiseman), FRED, twins ROY and VERA (Mrs. Charlie Burt), and PERCY who died in childhood.

In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Kenward held their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home in Rothesay joined by their family and many friends and their Diamond anniversary ten years later. They both died in 1949.

WILLIAM JAMES KENWARD — I was born in 1890 in Birtle. A few years later we moved to the Samuel Larcombe farm, and soon after took a homestead in the Rothesay district. We attended Burdette and later Rothesay School. I played goalkeeper with the Solsgirth hockey team for two years. In 1915 I married Ellida Betsey Chamberlain (born 1895 in Vermont, U.S.A.), and in 1918 bought Sec. 18-19-25 across from Dad's. I served on the Rothesay School Board for nine years, and enjoyed sports like cricket, baseball and curling with a group called the North Eskimos, who went to curl in Birtle, Isabella and other towns. Rothesay School was the place for picnics, concerts, dances and also church. Rev. Bowan came from Isabella for the services, and my wife Ellida and Mrs. Crawford Lints played the organ.

Our four children attended Rothesay School, and joined in sports and activities there. FREDERICK LAWRENCE born 1916 works at the Co-op Creamery in Winnipeg. He has two sons and a grandson, all in Winnipeg. HELEN MARY born 1918 married Charlie Bartram from Angusville, now with the Inter-City Gas Company. They have two sons and four grandchildren. WILLIAM KEITH born 1925 married Roween Brown from Vista, Man., and they live at Weyburn, Sask. where Keith works for the C.P.R. They have a son and daughter and two granddaughters. DOREEN JOYCE born 1933, worked for the Telephone Company in Birtle, and now lives in her own trailer in Brandon.

Ellida and I celebrated our fifty-eighth anniversary Jan. 5th, 1973.

We now live in the former Indian Agent's home in Birtle. I worked with the B.A. Gas station and the Bus Depot for a few years. Birtle is a lovely town to live in, but our best days were with our children in good old Rothesay.

KILPATRICK, HARRY AND JANET — (C.P.R. AGENT). We moved to Solsgirth in July, 1928, JOAN our youngest was just a month old, so we had four children all under school age.

In a day or two Mrs. Fred Hamilton called and asked me to go to a W.I. meeting with her the next day, which I did and found everyone to be so friendly.

We belonged to the United Church which had services Sunday afternoons; the minister coming from Birtle to preach.

I remember so well the Community Club, the concerts, whist drives, dances, etc. held in the school house in the winter time. The curling rink was a popular place for the men and women too. In the fall there was usually a fowl supper which made a great deal of work, but which had a great deal of fun.

The station we lived in was very old and cold, so after a few years we moved into a house. The station was remodelled and a furnace put in so we moved back, but as Harry wanted to be a Dispatcher, we moved to Forrest near Brandon the next year.

I'm still in touch with the Arnot Chapmans, Mrs. Ben Nicholl, and Mrs. Brown who lives in the same block as I do.

I can truthfully say, Solsgirth was the best small town we ever lived in and we left with a great feeling of regret.

KING FAMILY — Stewart King married Elizabeth Sutton in Belfast, Ireland in 1862, emigrated to Digby, N.S., then came to Manitoba. He worked in Birtle for years as school caretaker. Stewart King 1831-1918, his wife 1841-1901.

Their son **MANNERS SUTTON** (Manny) (1864-1936) came to Birtle with Robert Hall in 1880, then to Flint, Michigan to work on log drives on the Saginaw River. Returned to Manitoba 1882, and worked at the Crerar lumber mill then homesteaded 1888 on SW 34-18-27. Here he built a log house chinked with clay, with roof of prairie sod.

In 1894 Manny married Jessie Ann Hall, who had come with her family from Lynwood, Ont. in 1880, travelling with horses and oxen to a homestead south-east of Binscarth. The young couple lived on their homestead, later acquired E½ 33-18-27, and a large herd of horses and cattle. Cream was sold to the Foxwarren creamery of Mr. James McCrindle, who also owned a store.

Later E½ 35-18-27 was purchased, as well as farm machinery for threshing and traction. With varying fortunes he farmed until 1910, when he sold cattle and farm moved into Foxwarren and purchased Austin Lipsett's livery barn, while Mrs. King managed a hotel. They lost one home from fire, and later moved to Grandma Hall's house, to care for Mrs. King's father, an invalid.

Manny had the contract for driving mail to St. Lazare, as well as other driving for doctor, telephone repair men, etc., and later three vans for the consolidated school. After Manny's death in 1936 his wife lived in Foxwarren, Winnipeg and Vancouver, where she died in 1955.

Their son STEWART was born 1898, received his schooling in Bayfield and Foxwarren, much desired as his father could neither read nor write. Stewart worked for a bank, then with the Pool Elevator at Rapid City, Glenboro and Harding, retiring in 1966 to Kenton. He married Mary Hunter of Foxwarren in 1930. Daughter DONALDA (Mrs. Martin Smith) lives at Ladysmith, B.C., has two daughters. Their son RAYMOND died in an accident in 1959.

KINGDON — The Kingdon family, Harvey and Loraine and their five children, KATHRYN, LORRIE, KAREN, HARVEY LESLIE, and KIMBERLY moved to Birtle in July, 1966.

Mr. Kingdon was born in Spy Hill, but attended school in the Binscarth area at Jelbio and Binscarth. He received B.A. and B.Ed. degrees from the University of Manitoba. Mr. Kingdon had taught school in Crosby, Elphinstone, Shoal Lake, and Miniota where for six years he had been principal before assuming a position as guidance counsellor and English teacher in Birtle Collegiate. At Christmas in 1966 he was appointed principal and held that position until June 1973, when he received a year's leave of absence to take over a full-time position as President of the Manitoba Teachers Society. Prior to leaving he had his first book published by the Carlton Press in New York.

Mr. Kingdon was most active in Teachers' Society work at both the divisional and provincial level. For four years he was Councillor for the Town of Birtle. He was also active in the Lions Club, athletics, and many extra-curricular events connected with the Collegiate.

Mrs. Kingdon was born in Hamiota, Manitoba and took her education in Winnipeg and Binscarth. As a housewife, she had played an important role in keeping a most active family organized, healthy, and happy.

The Kingdon children are all very active and involved in music, 4-H clubs, church work, athletics, drama, festivals, hockey and figure skating.

KOROSCIL — My husband Peter and I, and our family moved into the Rothesay district from Elphinstone in 1949, and settled on the former Roy Sutcliffe farm. The loss of our home and personal belongings in a fire prompted our move to greener pastures.

We spent many happy years and acquired many good friends in this district until 1964 when Peter's ill health forced us to leave the farm. We planned to move to Birtle but after surgery in Winnipeg in the fall of 1964, he became paralyzed and spent the last four years of his life in a nursing home in Brandon. He died November 1968.

Our home farm was taken over by our son, DONALD. He replaced the old house with a newer one moved from Foxwarren (A.

Murray) in 1972. Don and Pat have two sons and a daughter. We had seven other children. They are: KAY (Mrs. M. Koss) Thunder Bay, Ont. They have three children; MICHAEL predeceased his father in 1962. He was unmarried. ALICE (Mrs. Ron Harrison) lives in the Rothesay district. They have two children. LAWRENCE married Verna Kwiatkowski. They have two children and live in Shilo; BRIAN married Lorna Kauffman and lives in Thompson; MARTHA (Mrs. Vic Hodgkinson) in the Solsgirth area. They have two children. SONJA (Mrs. Gerald Lyttle) in the Foxwarren district. They have four children.

KOWAL, TONY — and his wife, formerly Anne Wuschenny, of Ituna, Sask., came to the Solsgirth district from Oakburn, Man. in September, 1925. Here they started to farm, as did Tony's brother Walter, who lives on Sec. 22-18-25. The family attended Solsgirth Catholic Church, services for the church being held at that time in the Solsgirth Rest Room.

Their home on the farm was a frame structure, heated with coal and wood. Water came from a well, and was heated on the stove, there being no plumbing, although this has since been installed. Furniture was much like today's, but with no TV before the Hydro came.

Their son LARRY is employed in the Brandon Mental Hospital, and DAVID and DENNIS are still at school.

KOWALUK, PETER — (born February, 1899) and his wife Lena (born Lena Tutkaluk 1907) came to farm in the Dowsford district from Elphinstone, Man. The family have been members of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church at Oakburn. Their family are: MICHAEL, construction worker, married to Helen Ostach, lives in Shoal Lake with children *Darlene, Debra* and *Michael*. ARCHIE, a farmer, married to Leona Stainer, lives at Sandy Lake. Children: *Marion, Sally, Teraus, Eva, Teresa*. WILLIAM, a farmer at Solsgirth, married Eileen Billaney. Children: *Russell* and *Karen*. SOPHIE married Mat Smith, lives at Foxwarren, with son *Jason*.

Peter Kowaluk died May 23, 1966.

KUKURA, HARRY — came from the West Ukraine in 1924, his wife Barbara and sons MICHAEL and STEVE coming four years later. They came to the Lansburne district as farm laborers in 1931, during the depression. Their first home was of logs, with very crude furniture, heated by a wood stove, and water from a dug well.

Harry died accidentally in 1937. Michael now lives in B.C. Steve died in 1964. MARY lives in Brandon, OLGA in Thunder Bay, FRED in Alberta. HENRY died in 1971.

LABAY, JOHN — The family of John and Anna Labay came to their present farm (of Mrs. Vants) from Beulah in 1959. They came originally from the village of Menzie in Strathclair Municipality, where John's parents, Andrew and Teena live. John and Anna were married in Fort William, Ont. in 1948. Anna was daughter of Carl and Ksenia Kotoph.

They have four children: NICHOLAS the eldest is completing a course in geological engineering at the U. of Manitoba. ANDREW is taking civil engineering at Red River College, and JOHN JR. is taking architectural drafting. MARIA-ANNA is completing Grade Twelve at John Taylor Collegiate in Winnipeg.

John has been a Councillor for Birtle Municipality for nine years.

LAING — John Laing, my father, born in Scotland 1887, came to Canada in 1910 with a friend, James Fisher. They reached Birtle by train, and walked to the Cleghorn farm, where they were to work. In 1911 Mr. Laing rented on Sec. 4-17-27, where he remained for forty years. The house, built in 1906, was two-storey frame, only a shell and decidedly chilly in winter. In the morning the roaring wood stove was cold, and the kettle filled with ice. In 1913 the house was lathed and plastered.

In April 1919 John married Miss Helen Nairn (1880-1961), who had come from Scotland in 1911. She, with her friend Eleanor Smith (later Mrs. Harry Collyer of Crandall), worked in the district as a Registered Nurse until her marriage, and was a welcome assistant in many homes.

The family grew with the arrival of John's brother Alex and sister Jean, who later married Miss Nairn's brother William, and lived on Sec. 5-17-27. Alex remained unmarried and farmed on N.E. ¼ 4-17-27. He died in 1942. Their parents Mr. and Mrs. David Laing arrived in 1920, to build their own home on Alex's farm. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 1936. Mrs. Laing died 1944, and David in 1946.

John Laing was a member of Birtle Curling Club for fifty-six years. He started the first Farmers Club, became a Life Member in 1950. He and his wife moved to a home on Vine Street in Birtle. John now lives in Winnipeg with Davina. She married Roland Randall in July 1940, the son of Ephraim Randall of Wattsview. They have two children, Jack, a Captain in the Armed Forces at Kingston, Ont., and Carol, a teacher, married and living in Ottawa. Mr. Roland Randall died very suddenly in April 1973, with burial in Birtle cemetery.

Davina Randall recalls her school days while living on the farm. The farm was four miles from the school, but by van the trip each day became thirteen miles. She and her Mother often walked to town and to visit neighbors, especially the Crews and Barteaux.

LAMB, JOHN WESLEY — (1864-1939) was born in Gorrie, Ont. in 1864. He married Anne Brooks, born 1866 at Collingwood, Ont. They came west to farm in the Gamblers' School district. Their first home was of frame with five bedrooms, living and dining rooms, and a kitchen with hard and soft water pumped by hand. There was the added luxury of a piano and oak dining suite.

The family attended early church services in Gamblers' School, and later in Zion Church. Their children were: ROSS, NORMAN, FREEMAN and MAE, all deceased; GEORGINA ELEANOR

(NELL) — now Mrs. G. E. Falloon in Winnipeg. Her husband was Leonard Falloon, and they were married in December, 1919. TRUEMAN LAMB lives at 299 Oak Street, Winnipeg, NORAH LAMB in Kamloops, B.C. JAMES CECIL died in 1929, and Mrs. Lamb in 1952.

LARCOMBE FAMILY — Much has been written about Sam Larcombe "Devon's gift to Birtle" (W. L. Morton) For some part of his contribution to grain growing in Manitoba see Chap. VII. "The John Bull of the West" was born April 9th, 1851 near Axminster, Devon, and while little more than a child worked twelve hours a day for twelve cents, later increased to twenty-four cents, doing odd jobs for neighboring farmers. He attended night school to learn to read, married his cousin Lucy Larcombe, and went into business for himself marketing farm products.

Seeking a better life for his family, he decided upon western Canada, sailed from Liverpool, arrived in Winnipeg. Here he is said to have met Mayor Crawford of Birtle, and was persuaded to change his destination from Portage la Prairie to Birtle, where the family arrived May 8th, 1889. Sam's capital at that point was \$8.00 — having learned en route that his savings, invested before departure with the Liberators' Building Society, had been wiped out in the failure of the Company.

It was to be a summer almost without rain, and Sam worked at whatever he could find to do, the family living meanwhile in a log house on a discarded homestead. This was to become the most publicized half section in Manitoba, if not the best. The eldest son Frank took over the farm duties while Sam worked with a builder in Rosburn. A kitchen garden proved the fertility of the soil, a quarter section of marshland was acquired for hay, brought home in all weathers with oxen. The roof of the house collapsed once under a weight of snow, damaging no one, but the family was accustomed to shaking snow from bed quilts on rising in the morning.

The family was profoundly affected in 1900 by the death of their mother Lucy, who had endured early rigors and gave lavishly of love and care to her children and others in need. MAURICE, the youngest, left school after Grade XI to assist his father both on the farm and in the home. The family meanwhile grew and departed: EMILY married Ben Shepherd in 1902; PERCY married Marion Stover and later moved to B.C. MABEL had a business career in Winnipeg; BERTHA married W. A. Dickson and CLARA became Mrs. R. Page. MAURICE now lives in Winnipeg, married to Georgia Rankin. A sister Edith died in 1904.

On October 15th, 1929 a group of five hundred business men and Provincial Department heads came to Birtle in special Pullman cars to the opening of a new home for the Larcombe family replacing one destroyed by fire. Lieut-Gov. J. D. McGregor presented a brass tablet "in appreciation of his self-denying efforts on behalf of Canadian agriculture."

In 1935 Sam Larcombe, no longer able to do the things he loved, went to live with Emily in Winnipeg, and the farm was sold. He died while on a visit to Birtle, Oct. 20, 1937. Numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren live in various parts of the country.

LAYCOCK, JOSEPH (1872-1951) — son of William and Mary Laycock came from Meaford, Ont. in 1888. April 8th, 1897 he married Clarissa (Dolly) Pizzey (1877-1954) from Fareham, Eng. They were presented with a family Bible as "First couple married in Westminster Church". They farmed NW¼ 24-17-28 with one ox and one horse, established their home on SE¼ 36-17-28. The bounty from a wolf provided more than enough to pay their first taxes. The couple had three sons WALTER (1900) JAMES (1904) and JOSEPH ROSS (1919). Various quarter sections were acquired from time to time, for the use of the boys in the future.

WALTER married Frances Gertrude Cooper, daughter of Fred and Fanny Cooper, in Zion Church in 1931, and they lived on the "William Laycock farm", where they were forced to struggle during the depression years, as did many others. Daughter *Kathleen* (Kay) graduated in Home Ec., worked as District Home Economist, married Paul Prescott and began to farm. After Paul's death, Kay married his brother Viateur in 1964. She has three children. Her sister *Elsie* a teacher, married Arthur Butler of Solsgirth in 1955. They farmed for a time, then both resumed teaching and continued their studies. Live in Erickson and have two children.

JAMES married Ethel Louise Mayhew in 1929, farmed SW¼ 36-17-28 and NE¼ 25-17-28. Daughters *Verna Louise* and *Marjorie* attended Foxwarren school. Verna, a nurse, married Ronald Smith, lives in Royal Oak, Mich. with five children. Marjorie married Rev. Arthur Woitte from B.C., live now in Windsor, Ont. with three children. James sold his land in 1960, moved to Winnipeg and worked for the Tribune until his death in 1967. Ethel later married Bertram Biglow.

ROSS married Edna Maud King of St. Lazare in 1943. Their first home was moved from St. Lazare to the Laycock homestead. The Laycock brothers shared farm machinery for some time, and planned their work together. They attended Zion Church. Joseph became ill after a stroke, and died in 1951. His wife Dolly lived on the homestead until her death in 1954. Ross and Maud moved to the homestead, and Walter and his wife live on the land purchased by his grandfather in 1888.

LAYCUP (formerly LAYCOCK) — George Robert Laycock (1873-1946) was born in Hull, England. He came to Canada with his parents and one sister Nellie in 1883. The family name was changed to "Laycup" after arrival in Canada. They settled first in Maple Creek, Sask., where his typical Yorkshire wit made him many friends. In 1894

he homesteaded in the Bayfield District, Foxwarren. Here he earned the title "Wheat King" by delivering the first load of wheat to Foxwarren.

George married Jennie Wotton. They had four children, two dying in childhood. GERTRUDE (Mrs. Melvin Graham) had four children — Marie (Mrs. Gordon) Ruby (Mrs. Breakey) Douglas and Bert. Gertrude died in 1967.

HAROLD married Olive Mayhew, had two children, Mrs. Thelma Scarth and Mrs. Doreen Kippen. Harold died in 1960. There are no sons to carry on the family name.

George retired to Foxwarren in 1941, and died in 1946. There is a Laycup plot in Foxwarren cemetery.

LAZENBY, HARRY (1883-1955) — born Peterbrough, England, came to Canada 1905, and homesteaded in the Crosby district. In 1908 married Elsie Thomas, then moved to a farm in the Harrowby district, and worked on the C.P.R. section. Later promoted to section foreman 1918, and moved to Foxwarren until retirement in 1948. Continued to work for the Hydro during the summers. Harry died in 1955.

There were eight children: JOE worked for the U.G.G., married May Botterill of Oakville, one daughter. Became Grain Inspector in Winnipeg until retirement 1971. TOM killed August 1943 with the R.C.A.F. over the Mediterranean. PERCY worked on C.P.R. section from 1943 to retirement in 1973. Lives in Foxwarren with wife Kathleen (Keller); LAVINIA (Venie) married Bob Feasby with the U.G.G., lives in Elgin, Man. with two sons; WALLACE also with U.G.G. married Dorothy Edmundson of Birtle, lives in Winnipeg with two children. DOROTHY with the M.T.S., is Chief Operator on Directory Assistance in Winnipeg. MARGUERITE (Rita) lives with her mother in Foxwarren, is Chief Operator with M.T.S. in Russell. CECIL (Binks) was born in Foxwarren in 1919, worked for Palm Dairies in Winnipeg, Fort William and Geraldton, Ont. Married Ethel Vance, had three sons. Binks died in Geraldton in 1968.

LEAVENS, CHARLES — came to the Foxwarren district in 1891 from Owen Sound, Ont. with his wife Mary and two children LENA and LEO and purchased N½ 30-17-27 from Steve Carr. Their house was log, with a log leanto. Both roofs were lifted by tornadoes and carried across the road. The stables were of sod.

There was a buffalo wallow a half mile west, from which a path was worn to their watering-place. There were no road allowance roads until after the turn of the century. The trail wandered from the William Laycock house through the woods, past our house and over the prairie past the J. B. Hodgson house, across Snake Creek to Foxwarren.

My father sowed grain by hand, using a bucket hung from his shoulders, and the first harrows were nine teeth wide. Our hired help in the 1890's were young English lads, Dan Hallacy, George Harvey and Joe Pescott — all industrious honest lads. Mother was a regular exhibitor at fairs at Russell, Birtle, Shoal Lake, with fancy work, wild fruit preserve and pickles. She passed away in 1930, and Dad in 1944.

I just remember my Grandmother Leavens, in the drab Quaker dress she wore. John Leavens and Mary (Mrs. W. Laycock) were my father's brother and sister, and Letty (Mrs. J. Pentland) was mother's sister. Lena, my sister, married Charlie Wood of Welwyn, Sask., moved to Trail, B.C. where she died in 1963. Her son *Clifford* lives in Winnipeg, and daughter *Beatrice* (Mrs. Don Lewes) in Terrace, B.C.

Zion church was just across the municipal line. I remember Rev. Sommerville, and my Sunday School teacher was Mrs. Cheney Burdett, a wonderful woman with a fine husband. I (Leo) left the old home in 1908, farmed until 1916, then purchased a store in Foxwarren. Had a short term in the R.F.C. in 1918. Staggered through the tough 30's. With Harold Ranson organized the Foxwarren Fat Stock Show with cattle breeders Falloon, Widdicombe, and Dunns of Russell.

I was Mayor of Foxwarren for years. My wife (former Ila McPherson) served with the R.C.A.F. 1942-45. We sold the store in 1944, moved to Winnipeg, employed by Marshall-Wells, until I retired in 1955. I have many happy memories of hunting with Fred Machan and a great bunch of local boys.

LEAVENS — In 1891 John Ferris Leavens and his wife Mary Elizabeth with son Lou, aged ten, came from the Georgian Bay district of Ontario to settle in Foxwarren district. Here he farmed until 1917, when he sold to Jim Hay. Then he and his wife retired to Clarksburg, Ont., whence they came.

My father, LOU LEAVENS, farmed and raised his family north of Foxwarren, on what was later the Isaac McLellan farm. He married Mabel Hunter, and their family were all born in a small brick house. Lou not only farmed, but also managed to carry on a car sales business. In 1908 he brought the first cars to Foxwarren (Fords). Later he was a McLaughlin dealer, and dealt in farm implements in partnership with his cousin Charlie Laycock. In 1917 we moved to Winnipeg, where we grew up.

I, *Charles Ferris Leavens*, remember going to school north of the station in a sort of corner store, and to another school west of the post office near the barber shop — then for a short time in Grade III to the "big school" north of the station — about 1917. For a while we lived over the McCrindle store — for I remember seeing my father have a great fight with another man on the flat tin roof over the back of the store. Since 1925 I have been a school teacher in and around Winnipeg, retiring in 1972.

Mrs. David Hunter, my maternal grandmother after her death was buried at Zion. One of her seven sons, Willie (married to Clara Taylor of Birtle) died in 1961 and was buried there too. The last of the seven, Newton, died in Vancouver in 1969. Almost all of them knew Foxwarren well, and had homesteaded in the west.

Lou Leavens died in 1969. Of his children, only *Frank*, *Dora* and I remain — all with children and grandchildren.

One scene at Foxwarren I recall was gruesome: several horses, in-

cluding some of ours had been killed by a train — and dogs were pulling and tugging at the bodies. This I saw on my way home from school across the tracks one noon.

LECKIE FAMILY — a pioneer family of the Foxwarren district. Henry and daughter Elizabeth came from Glasgow in 1897, Mrs. Leckie and the others in 1898. He established a general store, served on the first School Board, and was a founder, elder and choir leader of Foxwarren Presbyterian Church. The store was sold to Mr. J. Hutton after his death.

Schooling was at Dunstan, Foxwarren and Birtle High. The children were enthusiastic about sports and music, and sang in the choir with leaders Mrs. Denham and Mr. Percy Highfield. Mrs. Leckie in 1922 moved to Abernethy, Sask., where son Adam had a store, destroyed by fire in 1932. She died in 1938.

The children: AGNES (Mrs. J. M. McCrindle) had six children, and at ninety-four returns to Foxwarren for the summer; ELIZABETH died 1900; JEANNIE was a teacher; ADAM served in World War I. Managed a store in Abernethy, then travelled for Robinson Little Co. and became President. Married Clare Beardon, lived in Neepawa and Oakville, Ont. Adam died in 1962; MARGARET, a teacher, married George Graham. She died 1965. Two sons, Rodney, and Harry, at present MLA for the district; HENRY JR. with C.P.R., married Emily Burke, one daughter. He died in flu epidemic of 1918; JAMES, a bank manager, served as pilot in First War. Married Francis Lawlor, and later after her death he married Adeline Sproat. Six children survive James, who died in 1959; GEORGE, a doctor, served as pilot in First War, as Medical Officer in World War II. Retired in Saskatoon. He and wife Edith Sanderson have three sons; ELSIE, a teacher, married Harvey Hyslop, lived in Rosetown, Sask, and now in Saskatoon. Her one surviving son William is a teacher in Saskatoon.

LEE — Jack and Olive (formerly Olive Fogal of Brandon) came to Solsgirth in 1934, and bought a store, which was also their home for some time after their arrival. They had two children — ARLA ELLEN, now Mrs. Tom Owen, Edmonton — and JOHN ORLAND, married to Helen Broadleridge, and living in Vancouver.

LEGGAT FAMILY — James Leggat (1840-1921) and his wife Agnes nee Boyd (1843-1925), both originally from Scotland, came to the Mount Joy district, Birtle 1880-81. They settled on NE 19-17-26, north of the C.P.R. station, built a log house which was lived in until the present house (now Fred Farquhar's) was built in 1917. The farm was sold to Harry Lawrence in 1944.

WILLIAM Leggat, (1884-1960), eighth child of James and Agnes, started farming on Sec. 30 north of his parents in 1898. In 1916 he built a brick house (now Frank Leggat's) and in 1917 married Ellen (Nellie) Cochrane from Solsgirth. They lived on the farm until the late 1950's, then built a house on St. Clair St. in Birtle. They had three sons: *Lorne*,

Manager of Man. Agricultural Credit Corp.; *Roy* with C.P. Airways in Vancouver; and *Frank* the youngest, who took over his father's farm in 1959 and married Frances Veyonet of Winnipeg. They have four children, Byron, Cheryl, Colleen, and Jeffrey. In 1970 this farm won the "Farm Award" sponsored by the Birtle Chamber of Commerce. See Chap. VII.

In 1946 William Leggat won "Grand Champion" at the Birtle Fat Stock Show, and next year "Reserve Grand Champion" at the Fox-warren Show with his Shorthorn cattle.

Other children of James Leggat were : CHRISTINA (1868-1920); MATTHEW (1870-1954), married Mary Robinson, had — children *Lorne Campbell*, *Jessie Agnes Langfeldt*, *Mildred Aikenhead Price*, *Margaret Eleanor Dickson*, and *Edna Marston*; JAMES BOYD (1877-1962) married May Isabel Shaw, children are *Audrey Alberta*, *Berna Boyd*, *Wilma Boyd Mooney*, and *Roderick James*, all living in Alberta; JEANIE (Mrs. Frank Vaux), whose children are *Verna Valette*, *Norman Vaux* and *Ada Orris* of Winnipeg; JANET BOYD (1881-1924) (Mrs. S. A. Hall), daughter *Verna Victoria Eddy*, in Hawaii; AGNES BOYD (1879-1964) and NORMAN (born 1886).

LEWARTON, ELIAS ROBERT (1846-1923) — born Lincolnshire, England, married Olive Palmer (1844-1914) in 1869. Came to homestead in Warleigh district June 1887, then in 1895 served as the first and only postmaster at Pumpkin Plains P.O., closed 1897. The family moved to Fort Ellice to manage the general store there, then in 1904 to Churchbridge, Sask. where son Albert had a store. Mrs. Lewarton died there and Mr. Lewarton at Long Beach, Calif. where he moved in 1921.

Their children: JOHN (Jacky) (1870-1955) became blind from scarlet fever, learned to move about, and lived a useful life at Long Beach as proofreader of braille manuscripts, and co-editor of an indoor sports magazine "Among Ourselves".

ALBERT — (1872-1956) operated store and post office. Married Lizzie Minhinich; there are two children still living. Died at Long Beach. OLIVE LOUISE — (1873-1957) married Harry Lindsay, lived Regina. Four children survive. EMILY SOPHIA — (1885-1934) (Mrs. Ralph Collyer) Died London, Ont. survived by one daughter, *Olive*. ARNOLD — (1877-1962) married Mary Ann McDonald, farmed in Ellice district, Foxwarren and Roland, Man. He and his wife died at Kitchener Ont. Three daughters survive them. WALLACE (1880-1964) — married Nellie McDonald, farmed in Ellice district. Retired to Fox-warren, where he and his wife died. Two children, *Robert* and *Mrs. Mary Adam*, live in Winnipeg. EDGAR — (1882-1968) married Maranda Woolley, lived Brooking, Sask. and Wisner, Neb., then Long Beach, where he died. Two daughters live in California. ELIAS (1884-1924) married Daisy Loptson of Churchbridge 1910. Moved to Wisner, Neb., where he died. They had three daughters. PERCY NOEL GUYLEY (1890-1970) lived at Fort Ellice and Churchbridge, then

Scoby, Montana and County of Los Angeles. Survived by his wife Mame. AMY — born Birtle 1887, the only living member of her family. Married Wayne Troxel 1907 at Churchbridge, moved to Portland, then Long Beach. Six children live in U.S.A. Her husband died 1958.

LEWIS SID — In November 1961, the Sid Lewis family of Winnipeg came to Birtle. Sid was retained by the Hospital Board as Administrator. Joyce Lewis, an R.N. looked after Carla and Dana, in the rented home belonging to Eleanor Warren on Main Street. On New Year's Day, 1963, Paula was born in the Birtle District Hospital. The summer of 1966 was exciting in our own home on the South Hill (the former Art Huzzey residence). Sid was a member of the Lion's Club, A. F. and A. M. Lodge No. 39 and a Town Councillor just prior to leaving for Brandon in April, 1969.

LINDSAY, FRANK HENRY (Jim) 1884-1929 — born Norfolk, Eng, a naval seaman, came to Foxwarren to visit his sister, Mrs. Jack Woolven 1911. Harvested the first year for Mr. Henry Joyce — called a "Greenhorn Englishman" because he upset a rack of sheaves. Went into carpenter business with William Boyd and Jack Baillie, building many barns around Foxwarren.

His fiancée, Rosa Ada Marsh, a registered nurse, came from Nottingham, England in 1912, and they were married in St. George's Church, Foxwarren. Rented a home from Fred Smith, then built their own, where Mrs. John Widdicombe now lives. There were three children — ROBERT (died 1958), MURIEL (Mrs. O. Thorpe, Carberry) and EDNA (Mrs. Garnet Clement, Russell)

Frank joined the Army in April, 1916, and served overseas and in occupied Germany until 1919. On his return, was caretaker of Foxwarren school until his death. Active in community affairs, played cornet in the band, sang in choirs, was a member of Odd Fellows Lodge and served on the Foxwarren Council.

Mrs. Lindsay practised her profession as a nurse for many years. The first baby she delivered was her nephew, Jack Woolven, the second was Mrs. Dorothy Hamilton. She attended more than one hundred births here, five without a doctor's aid. (See Chap. IV) She supervised the Foxwarren area during the 1918-19 flu epidemic, with the school as headquarters. Later assisted as relieving Matron at Birtle hospital. She was in addition a member of the W.I. and Rebekah Lodge, sang in choirs and Choral Society, and worked with Red Cross. She died September 1948.

LINTS, CRAWFORD — In the spring of 1919, while still farming at Decker, Man., I bought the NW¼ of 8-16-25 in Birtle Municipality (now owned by Mr. William White). I began breaking with four horses on a break plow for seeding the following year. That fall I bought the NE¼ of 8-16-25. A stable, granary and part of my house were built and we moved in April 1920. I drilled a well and cemented a basement, where our house was moved and finished by harvest. Mr. William

Mitchell helped build the house, which still stands. Other buildings have been added as needed. In 1935 I bought SE¼ 17-16-25 just north of my home (now owned by Mr. Stephen North). The home quarter was sold in 1964 to Mr. Vern Fenty when we retired to Shoal Lake, and it is now owned by Mr. Lawrence Smith.

In 1921 our only daughter EDITH CECILLIA was born (now Mrs. Arthur Edmundson). She studied music and attended Rothesay School, taking her high school grades by correspondence. She now plays the organ in church and is the pianist for the "Keystone Five" of Birtle, Messrs. T. Reed, Mel Cooley, Fred Cooley, and Ivan Cooley.

Our granddaughter *Vivian* taught school at Thompson, Inglis, and Rapid City, and in 1969 married Cpl. Bryce Warren, R.C.A.F., now at Moose Jaw, Sask. They have a son and a daughter.

Rhonda graduated in nursing 1972 and is now in University Hospital, Edmonton. Our grandson *Derrick* attends high school in Shoal Lake, and plans to prepare for a pilot's license and follow a course in Air Traffic Control.

We had many good crops ruined by hail, frost, rust and the drought of the '30's. I decided to raise more pigs and cattle, using the poor grades of grain for feed. Although the animals sold for three to five cents a pound on the market, I realized more cash than by selling grain at the very low price at that time. Regardless of the many setbacks, our years of farming were the happiest of our lives. We enjoyed the quiet and free life, surrounded by trees, hedges and birds instead of houses and dusty streets, noisy cars and motor bikes.

LISSIMAN FAMILY — MRS. E. SHEPHERD of Penticton, B.C. writes that her parents were born in Herefordshire, England, close to the Welsh border. **JOHN LISSIMAN** was very interested in hounds and racing horses, joined the Yeomanry and was a beautiful rider in the saddle. He inherited ownership of "The Red Lion" inn, but could never handle money, and his wife took over the business. With four children this was too much for her, and the decision was made to emigrate to Canada with Mrs. Lissiman's sister Jane. In the 1880's this took six weeks in "an old tub".

Came to Toronto, then to Winnipeg "Portage Avenue was just a quagmire". Instead of taking up land they decided to join a C.P.R. construction party under D. D. Mann. They lived in tents in the Rocky Mountain area, another child was born, and the rugged life finally induced them to return to Winnipeg, and they "dumped over the mountain-side a large trunk of silver, pewter and other valuables from the inn" — too burdensome to carry with them. In Winnipeg they were frightened by Indians in native costumes of feathers, beaded leather coats and mocassins staring through their shack windows. Understandably, Mrs. Lissiman suffered a nervous breakdown at this time.

Aunt Jane and husband Charlie Prior went up to Solsgirth, where he found work on the construction gang of the old M. & N.W. Railway. Later he took up telegraphy, working in Portage la Prairie, Kenora,

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and finally Rossburn. The Lissiman family meanwhile had also come to Solsgirth, where John worked as section foreman until his retirement. They lived in a free house, with fuel supplied, kept cows, chickens, geese and pigs. The salary of \$50.00 was augmented by barter of eggs, etc. Shopping for clothing was at Garland's Department Store in Portage la Prairie. Ducks, prairie chicken and rabbits for "jugged hare" helped fill out the menu.

Brother Bill married and lived in the old McLeod hotel. In 1900 BERTHA married Ernie Dualey, and LOU married Walter Scott. Mrs. Shepherd writes that she left Solsgirth at nineteen. Those were "the happiest carefree days of my life". She went to Edmonton, attended business college, worked as a stenographer for a time during World War I, then trained as a nurse in Calgary General Hospital, graduating in 1920, too late to serve overseas, as she had wished.

LONG — Our family, father **GEORGE LONG**, mother, three sons **GORDON**, **GEORGE** and **LEONARD**, and daughter **MURIEL** (myself) came to Canada from England in 1903. We first stopped at Shoal Lake, with Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Tindall. Later we located on a farm in the Birtle Municipality.

It was too late to build a house. Father only got the foundation done when winter set in, so we moved into a log shack with a sod roof for the winter. In the spring the roof leaked everywhere, so a new roof and another room were added to the original. The foundation was never used.

That year our post office and shopping were at Kelloe. The first winter we learned about good neighbors — Mr. and Mrs. Edward Parfitt. We also learned to exist on a diet of frozen potatoes, wild game and rabbits.

We moved again to a farm in the Solsgirth district, which became our post office and shopping centre. My brothers Gordon and George enlisted in the first World War. Gordon was reported missing. George returned to help on the farm. He and Leonard never married, but lived on the farm for a number of years.

Our parents passed away in the latter 20's, and are buried in Birtle cemetery. Sometime after this George and Leonard moved into the village of Solsgirth, and gardened. Leonard passed away in 1965, and George in 1970. Both are buried in Birtle cemetery.

LOUGHEED, HENRY AND McPHERSONS — Henry Lougheed, born in Ontario, came to Manitoba at fifteen with his family. They travelled in a Settlers' train, in the same car as their livestock. They lived one year in the Frank Edmundson district, then on Carman Falloon's farm, then in the Frank Leggat district. After marriage Henry moved a mile east of Foxwarren, to where the Clunies now live. He and his wife passed away in 1970.

Mrs. Lougheed was eldest child of Mr. A. McPherson, who came out to Manitoba in 1881 to take up his homestead (the present R. Jelfs'

farm). Returned to Ontario, married in 1883 and came back to the farm, by oxen via the U.S.A. With them came Harty Thorpe, aged eight, who had lived with the family since the death of his mother.

Mrs. Lougheed had many tales about the early years on the homestead. In adult years her greatest pleasure was work with W.I., Red Cross and church. She was made a Life Member of Foxwarren W.I. and W.M.S.

She attended school at Mount Joy and Bayfield, at first boarding with families near the school. Later with others of her family, the trip was made by cutter, bundled in quilts, with the faithful pony "Topsy" who always knew the way. One tale recalls a Manitoba blizzard, which kept the children and their teacher, Mr. Hayes, confined for the night, until parents arrived in the cold, clear morning with food and clothes for the trip home.

LOW, JAMES SR. — came from Peterhead, Scotland with his wife and three children in 1891. They homesteaded SE¼ 28-18-27. Son BILL farmed in Silver Creek Municipality for a time, then moved to B.C. Daughter AMELIA married Mr. Ben Murray, and MAGGIE became Mrs. Sid Tibbatts. Mr. and Mrs. Low died within two days in 1917, and were buried in a double funeral in Binscarth cemetery.

Mrs. Low's sister, **Mrs. T. McLeod** came with her husband in 1891 also, and farmed NE¼ 21-18-27. Their daughter ANNIE married Bert Tibbatts and they farmed Sec. 27-18-27. Son TOMMY married Tannis Nesbitt, a teacher, had two daughters and twin sons. Later moved to B.C., Annie and Bert Tibbatts had four children. Son *Lloyd* farms in Ellice Municipality, and *Tom* west of Binscarth. He married Irene Haliuk and has three children.

LOW, THOMAS SR. — son of James Low Sr. came to Canada from Peterhead, Scotland in 1886, worked in Ontario, then came to Bayfield in 1887, homesteaded NE¼ 32-18-27, later pre-empting the north-west quarter. He lived first in a tent, then built a two-story log house chinked with clay from the well. He sent for the other members of the family in 1891. (above)

Thomas married Mary Jane Grant, who had come from Elgin Scotland with her family in 1880. After an ocean voyage of three weeks, they lived in Winnipeg for a time, and experienced the flood of 1882, when they were taken out of an upstairs window into a boat. They moved to Souris, then to Bayfield by ox-cart unloading their goods at every creek. Mary Jane lived with her uncle, Jim Grant who homesteaded NW¼ 28-18-27.

Thomas Low started a frame home in 1900, with lumber hauled from Angusville by oxen. He had many tales to tell of their experiences in the early times, and put them into the form of humorous verse. Mr. and Mrs. Low lived through many near-disasters — cyclones, hail storms, disease which destroyed cattle and sheep, frost that made an end to crops. Mr. Low, like Sam Larcombe, worked to develop more suitable grain seed for the area, and won many prizes. He helped with

the organization of Boys' and Girls' Clubs in the district. In 1939 he was presented with a scroll on the occasion of the Royal Visit to Manitoba "in Recognition of Service to the Community."

Mr. and Mrs. Low had ten sons and one daughter. Four of the boys went to B.C., the rest farmed in the district. Daughter JENNY studied Home Economics at University, spent much of her time keeping house for brothers in B.C. and Manitoba, and cared for her mother in her last years. ANDY and BEN farm two sections of land, and have machinery for road construction. They also worked on the Shellmouth Dam. They were all interested in curling, hockey and baseball, and Andy served many years as manager and coach of young teams. "The yard was filled with young people playing baseball and riding horseback, and there was always a freezer of homemade ice cream."

MRS. EDWARD LOW (Doris Highfield) was a frequent visitor, and pays a warm tribute to Mrs. Low, her mother-in-law "one of the finest women I have ever known." — who accepted as a matter of course the many tasks and responsibilities of a farmer's wife. Mr. Low died in November, 1947, his wife in March, 1957.

THOMAS LOW JR. farmed E½ 29-18-27, formerly owned by his father. He married Lily Baird of Foxwarren, had eight children. *Victor*, *Leslie* and *Gordon* joined the Forces. Leslie was killed in training with the R.C.A.F. Victor married Dorothy Evans, lived in Flin Flon. He lost his life when a tractor went through the ice. Gordon is a Security Guard in Winnipeg; *Bill* married Margaret Deacon. He was killed in a truck collision. *Alec Donald* is with the C.P.R. in Yorkton, married to Elaine Thorpe; *Evelyn* (Mrs. George Widdicombe) lives at Lacombe, Alta; *Phyllis* (Mrs. Bill Talbot) is on a farm at Foxwarren. There are twenty-two grandchildren.

JAMES LOW, JR. — farmed W½ 29-18-27. married Margaret Highfield from Sheffield, England, sister of Mrs. Ed Low. Later they moved into Foxwarren, where Jim served on the Council and as Mayor, and Margaret worked with the Anglican Church and Legion Auxiliary. Margaret and Jim died in an automobile accident in December, 1966, and were buried in a double funeral, as were their grandparents in 1917.

Alec Low married Shirley Jackson in March 1947. They were both born and raised in the Foxwarren area. They took up residence on Alec's farm in the R.M. of Ellice (SE. 38-18-28).

They lived there until 1952, when they purchased the W½ 27-18-27 in the R.M. of Birtle from Mrs. Annie Copeland.

They had four children *Ronald*, *Jack*, *Bonnie* and *Debbie*.

Bonnie became a teacher, Ron played hockey with Foxwarren and went on to be signed up to play goal for Toronto Maple Leafs. Jack farms with his father and Debbie is still in school.

LYTTLE — Getting employment with Low Brothers on the farm Jerry and Sonja Lyttle moved from Beulah to the Bayfield district in 1965. They took up residence in the Tom Low house where they still live with their family of four children, TERRY, KIRK, KEVIN, and ROBIN.

Jerry won the Manitoba Plowing Championship in 1968, the Manitoba and Canadian Championship in 1970 and competed in the World Championship in 1971.

Both Jerry and Sonja are active in sports and take a great interest in the community.

MALCOLM, HUNTLEY (1865-1930) — born in India, and educated in England at "Westward Ho", the school attended and made famous by Rudyard Kipling. Huntley's father, Col. George Malcolm served in the Crimea and at the fall of Sebastopol, and at the siege of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny.

Huntley came to Canada in 1882, attended the Agricultural College at Guelph, and came west in 1885, (the year of the second Riel Rebellion) to his uncle Ben Miller. He homesteaded SE¼ 4-16-26 with oxen and walking plow, living in a sod shanty until he built a substantial log house. In 1891 he married Janet Winter. Later they moved to 36-15-27, in Miniota Municipality, where they built a stone house "The Cairn" 1901.

Janet Malcolm died in childbirth in 1902. Later Huntley married Adelaide Barnes, daughter of the Anglican minister. He served as MLA from 1909 to 1922, two years as Minister of Agriculture. He was also People's Warden of St. Alban's from 1904 to his death in 1930. His children are: JANET MAY married Philip Dearlove in 1913. He later decided to try farming in Kenya Colony in Africa, where he died in 1955. Janet, now Mrs. Claude Stockdale, lives in Vancouver. Daughter *Janet* (Mrs. Sidney Miller) lives nearby. Her sister *Phyllis* married Tom Wady, and they farm south of Birtle. MARION ETHEL taught school, then trained as a nurse in Winnipeg General. In 1924 she married Lawyer Robert McKenzie. He died in 1949. Their son *Douglas* died in 1942. *Roderick* served in the navy in World War II, is now a teacher in Winnipeg with three children. *Marion* also lives in Winnipeg. GEORGE LAWRENCE served in World War I, farmed in the Qu'Appelle Valley, where he still lives with his wife Alberta (Donaldson). The farm belonged formerly to Neil Malcolm, cousin of Huntley, killed in action in the First War. CAMPBELL became a grain buyer, in time Manager of the Federal Seed Grain Division. Married Iola Taylor of Foxwarren 1926 (see Taylor). Now lives in Victoria, B.C.

MANNING, FRANK — came from North Hampshire, England in 1912 to Indian Head, Sask. working as a farm hand until 1919 when he went back to England to visit. He returned to Indian Head in 1920, married Jesse Robertson and moved to the Solsgirth area settling on a farm N½ 7-18-25. In the fall of 1924 they moved to the Eckford district farming on SW 26-18-25. They had four children. Mr. and Mrs. Manning belonged to the Anglican church and had their children baptized by Rev. Finch. The children attended the Eckford school walking and a mile and a quarter each day. One particularly harsh winter they tell of walking home after school and having to stop in at a neighbor's, a half

mile on the way, to get warm. One of the children had already frozen his legs.

ADA (Mrs. Edmund Collingridge) still resides in the Ekford district. ALBERT moved to Sask., marrying Florence McNabb and lives in Stoughton, Sask. He works for the Dept. of Highways. AUDREY married Norman Locke and now farms north of Shoal Lake. IRENE (Mrs. Henry Wiegel) lives in White Fox, Sask. There are eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Manning had a mixed farm, doing all the chores with four horses. He used to haul wood for fuel from the Birdtail valley some eight miles away. He served on the Ekford School Board for a number of years.

Mr. Manning died in 1956 in Brandon. Mrs. Manning moved back to the Indian Head area and died in 1960.

MANWARING, HENRY ALBERT (HARRY) — was born in London, England December 1847. He came out to Canada in 1866, and spent three years at Brampton, Ont. Then he went to work on location survey for the C.P.R. north of Lake Superior, arriving at Fort Garry in 1870. Later he served as Chief of Commissariat for the Dominion Government on the original survey for the C.P.R. mainline, working east from the Yellowhead Pass to the Ontario boundary about 1875. He made a trip alone in a York boat from Edmonton to Grand Rapids, and from there by H.B. Co. steamer to Winnipeg in 1877.

He settled at Fort Ellice in 1881, where he kept a store, in opposition to the H.B. Co. In 1883 he married Matilda Fitt (born 1851) of Georgetown, Ont. The same year he moved to Birtle, and carried on his business in Birtle, Solsgirth and Foxwarren, until he retired in 1919.

A member of the Anglican Church, he served as Rector's Warden for forty-five years. He was a life-long Conservative in politics. Always interested in local affairs, he served on the School Board and Town Council, as Magistrate and Mayor for four years from 1920. He was one of Manitoba's best-known curlers. He died in 1929, and Mrs. Manwaring many years before in 1896.

They had four children: FRANK H., the only son and HAZEL in Birtle, ALICE whose husband Mr. Rod McAskill was Mayor of Gladstone in 1924, and MAMIE, married to the Hon. William Morton, a prominent M.L.A. and member of the Cabinet of Premier Douglas Campbell. There were fourteen grandchildren.

MARTINOT, LOUIS — was born in Nully, France Sept. 1897 the eldest child of Augusta Eugene and Amanda Martinot. They came to Canada in 1902 and Grandmother Martinot came shortly afterward. She lived to be 88 and her grave can still be seen on the home farm.

The family settled eight miles north of St. Claude. As there was no school Louis could not get an education. He farmed with his father from age eleven until he enlisted and went overseas in 1916.

He married Alice Hunt in 1917 in the Anglican Church at Islip, North'ant. He was wounded in August 1918. They returned to Canada

in October 1919 with TOM, their first son. Louis' parents moved to the States in 1920. Louis and his family remained in St. Claude for eight years employed by the C.P.R., then to Rackham for six years where Louis worked as a blacksmith. As demands for this type of work were dwindling the Martinots cut and loaded cord wood into boxcars. After paying Government fees and the men who hauled the wood the Martinots received \$4.50 for each carload (17 cords). They lived at Kellwood and Arden before moving to Foxwarren in 1942.

The Martinots raised eight children and now they have twenty-seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Their family is very wide spread. TOM is in Winnipeg, LOLA in the Yukon, BETTY WALKER in Prince George, RENE EUGENE in Brandon, CELINA in California, YVONNE in Carstairs, Alberta, JARLINE at Rocky Mountain House, young LOUIS lives at Foxwarren.

The Martinots worked hard during the depression to make a living and now they do the things they enjoy. Louis does a bit of blacksmithing and welding and at 75 still enjoys hunting. They both are ardent fishermen.

MATIOWSKY, ANDREW — and his wife Cecilia came to the Solsgirth district to farm on Sec. 32-17-25, previously farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Matowsky. They are members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Their children are ARNOLD, MARGARET, DAVID, CALVIN, CONRAD, CYNTHIA and SAMUEL. They attended school in Solsgirth, and later in Birtle.

MAYHEW, JAMES (1865-1964) — son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Mayhew, homesteaders of Renfrew, Ont. married Susan Grasley at Orillia, Ont. in 1897, and came to farm in the Wawanesa district, Man. James was interested in grain farming, and also in raising show horses, especially Belgian horses. He became interested in the great Foxwarren farming district while journeying around the province as a judge for ploughing matches. So the family pulled up stakes and moved to Foxwarren in 1921. Here James sold insurance for Dominion Life Co.

The family were active in community affairs, Mrs. Mayhew in church and W.I., of which she was a Life Member. After moving to Winnipeg in 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew celebrated their Diamond Anniversary, with all but one of the family present. Wires of congratulation were received from the Queen, Prime Minister and Premier of Manitoba as well as from many relatives and friends. There were at that time thirteen grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren. In 1960 the Mayhews moved to Calgary to live with Lillian and Arthur. Mrs. Mayhew died in 1962, aged eighty-six, and her husband a few months before his one hundredth birthday.

Their family: CECIL in Calgary; LYMAN, in Detroit, has four children: *Nancy, Charles, Garry and Jane*; LILLIAN (Mrs. Elton McCredie) has three children: *Kenneth, Merle and Marguerite*;

VERNA married Isaac Cuthbertson of Foxwarren; OLIVE (Mrs. Harold Laycup) Foxwarren, has children *Thelma* and *Doreen*; ETHEL married James Laycock of Foxwarren had two children, *Verna Lou* and *Marjorie*; CHARLES lives in Detroit; ARTHUR has two children, *James* and *Judith*.

MENZIES, LODGE (1906-1964) — Lodge Menzies came to Solsgirth in 1947 from Rapid City, Man. He came here because of a promotion in his work and was Section Foreman on the C.P.R. until his death in Solsgirth in 1964. He lived in the Section House which was a frame building with ordinary household furniture and heated by wood and coal plus fuel oil. In 1951 he married Gloria McLeod, and they had no family.

They took an active interest in curling and belonged to the United Church.

MILLER, FRANCIS BENJAMIN (1837-1901) — had been in business in England with sailing ships before the days of steam. He and brother Charles then became cargo brokers, arranging for shipments to other countries, and Francis decided to see the world, travelling first to Australia, but in a very dry year. He returned to England and married Charlotte Taylor, and with two young sons travelled to South America, also during drought. Charlotte died after their return to England, and some years later F. B. Miller married Fanny Louisa Frodsham (1849-1924). Two children were born in England.

As Canada seemed the land of opportunity, they sailed on the "Rolling Polly" (well-named), arrived in Toronto and met J. Lionel Ridout, who spoke highly of the Birtle district. They came west in the summer of 1880, by train to Winnipeg and boat to Portage la Prairie, where twins were born. Mr. Miller went on to take up his homestead in the later Solsgirth district near the Birdtail. He and son William took 640 acres together, and Mr. Ridout took 240 acres north of the Miller farm. Later he married Mrs. Miller's sister Emily, who had accompanied them. (See Chap. VI)

A substantial log house was built. "Willie" adapted well to farm life, buildings and animals. He later helped audit the municipal books in Birtle. The Miller home was a centre for social life, and Anglican church services were held there before St. James' was built in 1893. F. B. Miller died in 1901, and son William in 1904. The farm Rose Vale was sold, and Mrs. Miller with daughters Helen and Ruby lived in Birtle for four years, returned to England for two years, then settled in Winnipeg, and finally went to California in 1913. Mrs. Fanny Miller died there in 1927

The Miller family were: FRANCIS (Frank) (1863-1953) remained in England, joined the Navy and was an Admiral when he died. WILLIAM JOSEPH; ROSE (1877-1927) married Harry William Plant, lived in Birtle and U.S.A., died in New Orleans. They had one daughter *Joan*, now Mrs. Robert Jackson, living in California. She has three sons. FREDERICK CHARLES (1878-1937) was an Episcopal

clergyman in California, married Marion Menona Sanders. **BERNARD WEST**; **DOROTHY** his twin, born in Portage la Prairie, died at two months of whooping cough. **GERALD HOPE** born in Solsgirth 1881, lived in Santa Monica, Calif. aged ninety. Married Ethel Pearson in 1907, lived in Vancouver nineteen years, engaged in real estate since 1910. Had four children. He died Oct. 1973. *William Sydney*, and *Philip* are the Miller Bros. Sailmakers in Vancouver, *Vernon Hope* is a commercial artist, *Ethel Mavis* lives in California with her father. Gerald has four grandchildren and one great-grandson. **HELEN** born in Solsgirth in 1885, lived in Birtle, Winnipeg and Hollywood, and worked as a church secretary. Retired to the Episcopal Home for the Aged. **RUBY** (1887-1953) worked in Hollywood for Lasky Studio, in charge of girls who typed scripts, for some well-known stars: Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Charley Chaplin. Later she worked for the Y.W.C.A. and as Secretary for St. Stephen's Church, Hollywood.

BERNARD WEST MILLER (1880-1971) — one of the twins born in Portage la Prairie, stayed at the farm "Rose Vale" until age twenty, then took a business course in Winnipeg. Worked at various jobs in Calgary, Brandon and Minnedosa, then returned to the home farm after the death of brother William. After the farm was sold he worked for a real estate firm in Winnipeg and for Codwell wholesale groceries. He opened an office Downing & Miller in Real Estate, then during World War I bought a farm north of Stonewall. Later moved to Regina and engaged in real estate and insurance. During World War II he was an Inspector with the War-Time Prices Control Board in Vancouver. Retired in 1958.

He married Marguerite Pearson in 1909, and they had four children: **JESSIE MARGUERITE** — a missionary in Japan and India, now retired in Vancouver; **DOROTHY WEST** in Vancouver; **DONOVAN FRANCIS** married Katherine Mary Gordon, lives in Vancouver and has four children; **GARTH WADSWORTH** married Frances Mary Gale, lives in Toronto, has three children.

MITCHELL, JOHN CLARK — came to Canada in 1911, and was employed first digging ditches at Strathmore, Alta., where he was very homesick. He came to Hamiota, Man., to work on a farm, then to Binscarth where he sawed wood for farmers during the winter, earning enough to rent some land. He increased his herd of cattle and horses, but prices were so poor that they were not worth much. A large Hereford cow shipped to Winnipeg did not bring enough to pay the freight.

Jack was well known for his love of music. He drove many miles with team and cutter to play for house parties with dancing and cards "and tea and good home-made bread and butter". On stormy nights Mr. Wilson Hamilton would phone him to play over the party line.

In 1919 he married Jessie Ann Taylor, who came out from

Stonehaven, Scotland. Jessie died when her son CHARLES was born. The child was taken to Scotland to be raised by his grandmother. Later Jack married Mary Ann Taylor, who had come with her brother Jim from Coleraine, Ireland. A daughter HELEN was born. Mary Ann died in 1941. Meanwhile in 1931 Jack moved from the rented farm in the St. Lazare district to the McJanet farm, which he purchased in 1929 to be closer to Foxwarren School.

Helen worked hard to help her father. Washing was done on a scrub board until Hydro came. Meat from the Beef Ring was too much for two, and had to be canned. She stayed home from school to cook for threshing gangs. During World War II help was very scarce. She hauled grain with team and wagon and pitched sheaves to help get the harvest in, and cut some of the crop with team and binder. She had special consent to drive the car when her father had a broken arm.

In 1953 Helen married Earl Burdett. A son *Lynn* was born. After Jack's retirement in 1959 they rented his farm until his death in 1969. Ray Gadd now operates the farm.

MITCHELL, SAMUEL (1876-1962) — came from Castle Fleming, Ireland to the Solsgirth district in 1894. He worked for Mr. Ross, Peden, Williamson and for Sam Warnock, where he married Isabella Stitt in 1903. Born 1884 in a log cabin south of Rossburn, she passed away in 1970.

In 1905 they moved to their own farm in Birtle Municipality. His brother William farmed further north, and they worked together with the same machinery — a walking plough with two horses, harrows, etc. The family were staunch Conservatives, and were affiliated with the Rossburn Methodist Church, and later the Rossburn Pentecostal Church. Sunday School was at Eckford school. Samuel was superintendent, with assistants Mrs. Richardson, Billie Johnston, Mrs. Treble and Walter Armstrong.

The Mitchells had a comfortable home of frame construction, their own well and in time a gasoline engine to operate the pump, and also assist with the washing on Monday morning. They enjoyed their Model T Ford in the early twenties, and were very proud of a large hanging lamp and a kitchen clock bought at Jimmy Andersons sale in 1918 and still ticking.

Amusements were simple and inexpensive — skating parties on the frozen sloughs, school concerts, dances and box socials, picnics and local fairs. Good neighbors were Alex and Sydney Hamilton, and Billie Hayball, who would let them dress him up as a lady caller. "We had so many things money couldn't buy in a happy home and Christian parents who loved us."

The family were: CHRISTINA Williams, in Brandon; DOROTHY Veitch, in Toronto; ALFRED farmed the home place until moving to Brandon in 1959, where he died in 1969. ECKLIN is a Pentecostal minister at Belmont, Man.; FLORENCE Clara, in Win-

nipeg; ISABEL O'Brian, wife of a Pentecostal minister in Prince George, B.C. There are nineteen grandchildren, all but one married.

MITCHELL, THOMAS J. BROCK — was born in Brandon. His father was one of the pioneers of Brandon and his mother came from England to work at Carberry.

Tom is a relative of Dame Clara Butt and Sir Isaac Brock and is also a relative of F. E. Weatherly who wrote "The Holy City".

He was a first mate on the boats on the Great Lakes. He came to Birtle in 1930 with a road-building company and helped build part of the road, now known as Highway 83. In October 1930 he married Jean Dair and they had seven children, a daughter FAY died in December, 1935 at the age of three. BOB and TOM are in B.C., GARY in Alberta, CHARLIE and BETTY in Birtle and BARBARA at Angusville.

Tom was a carpenter and painter by trade for many years and was Town Constable for 10 years and is now retired.

MORRIS — Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Morris took up residence in Foxwarren in 1925 coming from Balcarres, Sask., and took over the J. P. Teeple general store. They brought with them a family of three children — two boys GORDON and TED and one girl MARION.

Mr. Morris was very active in community affairs and served on the School Board for many years.

In 1936 they built the store now owned by Reg Gadd at the cost of \$2000.00 and to celebrate the occasion a dance was held in the store before the shelving was put in.

Mr. Morris passed away in May 1943 and Mrs. Morris now resides in Pioneer Lodge in Birtle.

JAMES EDWARD (TED) MORRIS — second son of W. J. and Mrs. Morris came with his parents in 1925 to Foxwarren. Ted received his education in the public and high school of Foxwarren Consolidated School. On completion of his education he worked in his father's general store until his father's death in 1943, at which time he took over the management.

During the ensuing years Ted was active in public affairs serving on the village council and as Mayor for several years. He was a member of the school board and an executive in the Athletic Association when the new rink was built. Ted was Foxwarren's member of the Hospital Board during the period covered by the building and opening of the Birtle and District Hospital. Edward Morris is a member of the Foxwarren Lodge A. F. and A.M. and a charter member of Foxwarren Order of the Eastern Star.

Ted Morris married Vera Lamont in 1940. They have one son, LORNE RODGER MORRIS who graduated in 1971 with a B.A. degree from the U. of Manitoba and now teaches school in Transcona Springfield.

In 1955 Ted sold his Foxwarren business to Hector Archambault.

He moved with his family to Moosomin, Saskatchewan where he opened a new general store business.

Vera Lamont graduated in 1932 with a B.A. degree from the U. of Manitoba and came to Foxwarren in September 1935 to teach grades VII and VIII. In 1938 she went into Winnipeg to teach, returning to Foxwarren after marriage.

Mrs. Morris taught Latin and History in the high school during the 1942-43 term. Vera Morris was interested in music and she contributed to the cultural life in Foxwarren with her festival choirs, folk dancing and operettas produced and played by the high school students. She was active in the W.I. and for several years acted as Provincial Song Leader and on the District Board. Also supervised classroom singing in the Birtle Indian School for several years. She was a member of the Westminster United Church choir and the Order of the Eastern Star.

W. J. GORDON MORRIS — I, Gordon Morris was born in 1913 in Edmonton, Alta., and moved to Foxwarren with my parents in November, 1925. I attended school there through Grade XII. In 1937 I opened a new store in Strathclair. In 1942 I returned to the Birtle-Foxwarren area to take over the T. E. Morris store in Birtle, located in the old Manwaring block, which has since been torn down.

In July, 1943 I married Annie McCaw of Strathclair. We lived in the Birtle Hotel for the first few months at \$55.00 a month for room and board for two. Our daughter MARGARET was born in May, 1953, and her mother, after a lengthy illness, passed away in April, 1961. Annie had been very active in the Eastern Star, serving in several offices for the Artaban Chapter.

In August 1962 I married the former Mrs. Millicent Robison of Winnipeg, and our family was increased by two more daughters, JAN, thirteen and BEV, eleven. Jan is now married and living in Birtle. Beverley has taken up residence in Vancouver, employed with the Royal Bank. Margaret is attending U. of Manitoba, and hopes to teach.

During the forties and fifties I enjoyed eight years on the Town Council.

MOULSON, WILLIAM THURSTOW EDWARD — came to this country about 1890 from Secombem, Wales. His wife was Selina Frances Spencer from the Isle of Wight. They settled in the school district of Lansburn because relatives lived there. They attended St. James Anglican Church.

Eldest son, T. E. S. MOULSON married Florence Burrows from Winnipeg — 2 sons, 2 daughters. A CNR engineer, he died at 81. W. J. MOULSON married Kathleen Mountain — very successful farmer — 4 sons and 5 daughters. LENORA married Hans Butler — lived on a farm, 6 sons and 2 daughters. Lena died at 42. LOUISA married Alf Bailey lives in Winnipeg — had 3 boys. ESTHER (Mrs. John Spencer)

lived at Russell — now deceased — 2 boys and 2 girls. GERTRUDE married Edwin Shaw, deceased. She is retired and living in Birtle.

When my people came out to this country there was no doctor in Birtle and my mother did a lot of nursing. She used to bring babies into the world without a doctor. When my father died in 1893 they sent money out for mother to take us all home. My oldest brother was 15 and I, the youngest, three years old; but my mother built a large house and took cases in there. We would have as many as four babies at once.

One winter the roads were so bad the teacher could not get to school. The children that lived close came to our house and had school in our front room. Then a neighbour arrived and had twins also.

MOUNTAIN, ROBERT (1882-1958) — came to Canada with his parents from Lincolnshire, Eng. in 1893, lived on The "Fry farm", the "Sharman farm", then bought N½ 36-18-26 "Dowsford Grange". The children attended Mount Joy, Toddburn and Lansburne schools. Bob in 1914 bought 14-18-26 (Hartley and Nixon farms). Next year he married Dorothy Dickinson (1884-1972) who had come to Pelly, Sask., in 1910 to keep house for her brothers. They lived in a frame house built 1890 by Thomas Carpenter and Jay Pentland. In 1919 an electric light plant was installed, run by a gas engine, which also ran a washing machine. It was expensive, and during the depression they returned to kerosene lamps. A new house was built in 1950.

The farm is situated west of the Birdtail across from St. James, and known as "Valley View", as one could see about eight miles down the valley. On the hillside are remains of two lime kilns, which burned thousands of bushels of lime in early days. The land was noted for being very stoney, but this had some value in the late 1950's when rock and gravel for Hwy. No. 4 had to be found.

The family attended services at St. James, which has a special spot in the hearts of many families. Bob also enjoyed hunting and trapping, which assisted the larder, as did the wild fruits in the valley. In 1906 he started the Valley Rifle Association. He was a trustee of Lansburne School Board and he and Dorothy were kept busy with the church, where she was organist for some years. Gardening was a favorite hobby for them both.

Their family: ADA married Fred Copping of Foxwarren, farm in R.M. of Silver Creek, have six children; JOHN is on the home farm at Solsgirth; NORMAN is with a Nursery in Lloydminster, Sask., married Dorothy Ewers from London, Eng., and they have four children; RICHARD married Jean Davis of Reading, Eng., farms at Innisfail, Alta., specializing in sod and grass seed. They have five children; ANNE married William Mills of Bowden, Alta., where they have a mixed farm and four children.

Three of the Mountain family saw service in World War II — Norman, Richard and Anne. There are two great-grandchildren.

MOUNTAIN, PERCY — farmed on 36-18-26 with his father Mr. Mowbray Mountain who came from England in 1898.

In 1915 he married May Whitworth. Their church was St. James and family went to Colonsay school. Their family are: two sons MOWBRAY and DAVID who live in the original farm home; MOLLY married Mel Reaney and lives at McTaggart, Sask.

Mr. Percy Mountain was a seed grower and took a keen interest in community life.

MOXHAM, GEORGE WARWICK (1881-1953) — and his wife Ethel Sarah (Wheeler, of Banbury, England — 1881-1964) came to the Birtle District in 1913 from Bath, England, with two young sons — EDGAR GEORGE (1908-1965) and LESLIE VICTOR (1910-).

As promised in the propaganda fed the British in the early 1900's, they came to Canada to find the streets paved with gold.

After arrival Mr. Moxham followed the trade of wheelwright and blacksmith for J. Roseborough, eventually buying the business, which he changed to auto sales and service. They spent the first winter in the old Post Office building on Centre Street. Next spring they purchased the old town hall, tore it down and used the lumber to build a home on Centre St. where they lived for forty-five years — across from the Legion Hall.

They were members of St. George's Church, where Mr. Moxham served for many years as Church Warden. Their children: the two eldest sons joined the R.C.M.P. LILLIAN ELSIE (b. 1918) is now Mrs. M. E. Falloon; FREDERICK ALBERT (b. 1920) lives in Brandon; EDITH MAY (b. 1922) is Mrs. J. R. Hamilton. There are thirteen grandchildren.

MUNRO, ALEX — In April 1933 we moved from Oak Lake to the Flynn farm at Birtle. We farmed there for eight years and in 1941 we moved to Doonside, Sask., where we farmed for four years, then moved back to Birtle and bought the Stewart butcher shop which we operated for one year, then sold to Morris Clubley. We bought a half section of land in the Rothesay district which was rented out until it was sold. We had one son IAN who married Ruby Wood. They have four children, two boys and two girls and are now living in Cranbrook, B.C. I took up draying and trucking after selling the butcher shop.

MURRAY — Mr. and Mrs. Joe Murray came to Solsgirth district in 1920 to work for Mr. T. A. Bailey. In 1925 they moved to Sec. 10-18-25. In 1931 Mr. Murray started with the Junior Seed Growers and continued as a seed grower until his retirement in 1972. In 1956 they moved to the town of Solsgirth where Mrs. Murray died in 1964. Their family are: MERTON — married, living at Shoal Lake; MILDRED — (Mrs. C. Kennedy) at Regina; LILLIAN — married in States; JOAN — (Mrs. S. Butler) in Winnipeg; BONNIE — (Mrs. L. Regaux) in Winnipeg.

Mr. Murray is married again and lives in Wpg. having sold his farm in 1972 to Lyall Porter. However he still returns to the little house in Solsgirth for visits.

MURRAY, ISAAC (1890-1964) — and his wife Dorothy Helen (nee Tyson) (1892-1960) came from Lancashire, England to the Solsgirth District in 1921, because times were hard in England after the first World War. Isaac worked first as a farm hand, then as owner of a livery stable and draying business. The children attended Solsgirth Consolidated School, and the family belonged to St. Stephen's Church.

Their first home was two-story, with the barest essentials for furniture. Water was carried from the town well, and for the laundry rain in summer and snow in winter. Life was happy and carefree despite hard times. Isaac worked very hard at his livery and dray business, and as the town handyman, plowing gardens, clearing snow, dragging roads for the municipality. Later investing in a truck, he transported teams, young people to camps and sports days, picnics, etc. Parties and concerts in the Community Club provided the social life. Cricket, baseball, curling were popular sports, also skating on open-air rinks. Tennis, softball and swimming in the Birdtail occupied both girls and boys in summer.

The family were: ELIZABETH HELEN (Nell) is Mrs. A. W. Morier, St. Vital; DORIS (Mrs. Lou Hill) of Dauphin, (formerly Mrs. Paul Halldorson); JEAN (Mrs. Alex Kernovich) of St. James, Winnipeg (formerly Mrs. David Laing); ROWELL (JACK) with B. A. Oil at Port Moody, B.C.; GEORGE ERNEST lost his life on D-Day in 1944; WILLIAM in bakery business in Gilbert Plains, Man.

Grandchildren are *Garth and Gayle Halldorson, Lorne Hill, Pat, Ron, Terry, Suzanne, Janice and Dorise Morier, Murray Laing, Lorna Kernovich, and Pamela, Terry, Trudy, Billy, Dale and Dean Murray.*

McARTHUR, ARCHIBALD — homesteaded the N½ 2-18-25 in 1881. He married Elizabeth Webster in Brandon in 1885. She had come from the east. They had sixteen children. Archie served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Eckford School district for a few years, and they boarded the teachers.

The original house was of log, with one room down and two up. Later a larger log house was built connected by a passageway, with a large room and two small bedrooms down, and two more up. This had a stone cellar with a double stone wall foundation, and it is still standing. A slough in the yard supplied water for stock, and in the first years drinking water and ice for the ice well was hauled from it. Later a well was drilled, with a never-ending supply of very hard water.

The family: DUNCAN married Lena Wilton and had three children — *John* of Dryden, Ont., *Jim* in U.S.A., and *Ruth* in Estevan, Sask. Duncan died at eighty years in 1966. AGNES married R. J. Doubleday and they farmed until her death in 1960. They had five children. BELLE. ANNIE deceased, married William Atkinson, lived in U.S.A. ALEXANDER and JAMES were killed in World War I, and JOSEPH died from TB contracted in the trenches. MARY his twin, now deceased, married Elmer Pettit, lived in Saskatoon, and had one child. DONALD died at sixty-seven with a heart attack. ROBERT

and GORDON lost their lives in road accidents. Gordon married Eula Nunn, and had three children. CHARLES (below). ISAAC unmarried, lives in Birtle and owns the NE¼ of the homestead. MYRTLE married Dan Rankin, farmed for some years, now in Dryden, Ont, has three children. SARAH married to Jack Lizzard, lives in U.S.A. PETER a bachelor, lives north of the homestead.

CHARLIE AND RITA McARTHUR (nee Haines) — were married in 1938, lived on SE ¼ 2-18-25 for nine years. Their sons are: *Charles* or Chuck born 1941, attended school in Birtle and the University of North Dakota, married Linda Peeler of Birtle. He teaches at Souris, Man., and they have a daughter. *James* born 1952, had his schooling in Birtle and now works for the Highways Branch. *William* born 1954, lives on the original homestead and plans on farming. He married Darleen Brott of Foxwarren, and they have a son Louis.

McCANN, HENRY — and his wife went to school together in Guelph, Ont., later married and came west early in the '80's, coming by boat, and to Winnipeg by Red River cart. From there they rode on a construction train, with their children, chickens and a cow, to the end of the steel, where they both worked, Mrs. McCann cooking for a crew of men laying the steel. When the railroad reached Loon Creek near Regina, Mr. McCann looked for a homestead in the district, and bought a team of horses, a mule and some sheep.

They were living on the homestead during the Riel Rebellion of 1885. There were Indians about in war dress and paint, very good however, and mostly asking for tea, butter and bread. Mrs. McCann generally gave them what she could spare, being the only white woman for some distance around, and her husband away many times to work or go for supplies. Other homesteaders had cleared out on news of the rebellion.

In 1892 the family gathered their belongings and moved to Manitoba, to a farm in the Solsgirth district, later sold to Mr. Fisher, and the Fisher brick home in Solsgirth taken in return. Mr. McCann died in 1929. A sale was held in 1938 and Mrs. McCann and Nora (the writer) went to Vancouver, where Mrs. McCann died in 1939. Mrs. McCann had been Elizabeth Beirnes. One of her sisters was Mrs. J. C. Anderson of Solsgirth. A brother George was a blacksmith in Solsgirth, and Joseph of Rossburn married Mrs. Netty Ross, sister of Mrs. Dan McLeod.

The McCann family were: REBECCA — see Pengelly; MELTH married Agnes Morton of Birtle, still living in New Westminster, B.C. WILLIAM died in First World War; GEORGE married Miss Smith and lived in Winnipeg; MATHIAS (THIAS) married Lillian Gee from England, moved to south Burnaby, B.C. 1946, had two sons *Horace* and *Alvin* and five grandchildren; ROY married Miss Smith of Binscarth, lived in St. James, Man.; PEARL WARNOCK in Vancouver; MARY DAVIS of Winnipeg; NORA was twice married, first to Mr. Burman

of Kamloops, B. C., after his death in 1959 to Mr. Brown of Vancouver. Both he and Nora are since deceased.

McCREDIE, HUGH — Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCredie came from Bristol, Quebec in 1905 to Foxwarren and settled on the E½ of 8-18-26.

They lived in a small shanty for five years then built the brick house which still stands and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jacobs.

The farm was originally owned by the Hudson's Bay Co. and through a Real Estate Co. sold to Hugh McCredie.

The family were all active in community affairs — Mr. McCredie was an interested United Grain Growers member and on the school board before consolidation.

Mrs. McCredie was a charter member of the W.I. and was one of the early presidents at which time the building known as the W.I. Rest Room was built. She remained a very active member all her life.

The family were members of the Presbyterian church and all sang in the choir.

LESLIE the oldest son married Annie Grant in 1916 and they moved to the James Grant farm three miles north of town. They had one son *Elmer* who received his education in Foxwarren High School. He later joined the R.C.A.F. and after his discharge he went to Medicine Hat, Alta., where he still resides and is employed by the C.P.R. Leslie died in 1950.

ELTON married Lillian Mayhew and they moved to their farm one mile north of town. They left the farm to live in Medicine Hat, Alta. in 1947 and then moved to Calgary in 1950 where they now reside. They have fifteen grandchildren. KENNETH and family live in High River, Alta. MERLE (Mrs. Harry Anderson) and MARGUERITE (Mrs. Wm. Duffell) and their families live in Calgary. MARY McCredie taught school for a few years then took her training and received her R.N. from the Winnipeg General Hospital. She was married to Grover Lobb of Helston, Man. He passed away in the late 1960's.

McCRINDLE FAMILY — James Marshall McCrindle, born 1879 in Nova Scotia, came to Winnipeg with his family, and in 1897 to Foxwarren to work in Albert Laycock's general store. He took over the business at age twenty-one, and his parents and brother Walter lived with him over the store until their cottage was built. James also operated the telegraph system for the railroad until an agent was appointed in 1905.

James married Agnes Leckie from Glasgow, Scotland in 1907. Her father operated another general store in the town. James was keenly interested in the growth of the community — having a part in starting the first bank in Foxwarren, also the first rink and the Athletic Association. He was President of the local United Farmers of Manitoba — which among other things sponsored concerts of local talent as entertainment. Members of the McCrindle family took part in most musical activities

in Foxwarren — in the band, church choir and choral society, as well as with Mr. Percy Highfield's operettas. James also helped with the organizing of Foxwarren's Consolidated School, and served on the Board for thirty years.

He began a farming career in 1912 with a quarter section 11-18-28, adding more land later, all virgin soil which he broke with horses and later a Sawyer Massey engine. Son GEORGE now operates this farm. Mr. McCrindle also raised purebred Percherons, and won many honors at fairs. He joined the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in 1940, and began production of registered seed with Renown wheat, Ajax oats, Royal and Sheyenne flax. In 1955 he was honored to be made a Robertson Associate of the C.S.G.A.

The McCrindles were both active in church work, and had a part in the opening of Westminster Church debt-free in 1951. They moved to town in 1943, and Mr. McCrindle served as Councillor and later Mayor of the Village. He died in 1966. His wife at ninety-three returns each summer from her home in Winnipeg.

Their family: ISOBEL teaches in Winnipeg; MARGARET married Frank White, a teacher in Winnipeg, have three children; JEAN married Stanley Henry, seed grower at Oak River have three children; MARION (Mrs. Allen Shepherd) lives at Crystal City, has three children.

GEORGE McCRINDLE — married Marjorie Barker of Glenboro. They have three children, GARRY, MRS. WORKMAN (PATRICIA) and LINDA.

George, along with his son, Garry, operates the home farm and they are successfully carrying on the seed business. They have produced registered Selkirk, Pembina, Neepawa, and Glenlea wheat as well as Noralta flax, Span rape seed and Bonanza barley. George was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Canadian Seed Growers Association in 1969 and was recipient of the Master Farmer Award for the district the same year. In 1970 he was made a Robertson Associate by C.S.G.A. In 1973 he was elected President of the Manitoba branch of the Seed Growers' Association.

McDONALD, ARCHIBALD — (See "Wattsvie") (1836-1915) born Ivergarry, Invernesshire, Scotland. Landed at York Factory 1854 aged 18. Working first as a H.B. Co. apprentice he rose to be Chief Factor at Fort Ellice early in 1870's. Married Ellen Inkster, sister of Sheriff Inkster of Seven Oaks, Wpg. Mr. McDonald bought land from the Hudson's Bay Co. and introduced highland cattle into the Wattsvie district. There were no schools in the district of Fort Ellice. Church services were held in the Fort, generally Presbyterian with the Factor often presiding.

WILLIAM, brother of Archibald arrived at the Birtle Landing by river boat June 12, 1882. His one surviving child MAUDE, was Matron of Birtle Indian School for many years, now residing at St. 8-A-Colonial House 405 Assiniboine Ave., Wpg.

Children of Archibald: only daughter **ELEANOR** in Vancouver, Sons: **BRIG. GEN. H. F. McDONALD C.M.G. D.S.O.**; **D. H. McDONALD** — member of Sask. Legislature; **DR. ELLICE McDONALD** — in cancer research, Philadelphia.

Fort Ellice was heated by wood stoves. Water came from a spring at the top of a hill.

McDOUGALL, JOHN — an Imperial Army man, came out west in 1874 from Toronto with Wolseley's second expedition. With him were his wife Christina, and their daughter **NELLIE** aged two years (only two women were allowed to come with the troops). John served in the North West Mounted Police (Scarlet Riders) at Fort Pelly and other posts before settling in Birtle in 1880. (see Chap. IV)

They had four children: **NELLIE** married James Johnston of Birtle — both deceased — lived where the McQuaigs and Birds lived later. Daughter Maude. **JOHN THOMAS (BUFF)**; died 1930. **GEORGE WALTER**: died in St. Paul approx. 1910. **WILLIAM PEMBROKE**: died in the 1920's.

When John McDougall died shortly before the turn of the century, Christina sold Rossin House and made her home in "The Stone House". She later moved to Winnipeg and died in 1927.

McINTOSH, ALEXANDER — came with his wife Wilhelmina from Scotland to Quebec, where Alex practised his trade of stone mason, and his wife trained as a nurse. In 1878 they came to Winnipeg, and in 1879 at the request of Archibald McDonald, a former schoolmate, Alex came by steamboat up the Assiniboine to "Invercoe", the Hudson's Bay farm at Wattsville. Alex was foreman of the farm, and in charge of the Company warehouses on the river. Next year his wife and three daughters came up the river on the paddle steamer "Manitoba" — a voyage of two weeks.

In 1882 Will McDonald, brother of Archie, came from Scotland to take over "Invercoe". The McIntosh family took their own farm, named "Aberfail", living with the McDonalds while their log home was built. For this Mr. McIntosh cut the logs and they were brought across the river in winter. This house burned down, and a second was built immediately, which still stands on Lynn Watt's land in the valley.

The children attended Oxford school, and shared with their neighbors all the joys and sorrows of pioneer life. Mrs. McIntosh helped many a time with her nursing skills, and was grateful for the training she received in Quebec, as were many others. Daughter Helen (Nellie — Mrs. Ferguson) like her mother, helped with the birth of many babies in the district, and with the flu epidemic in 1918, for which she received a certificate from the Board of Health. (see Chap. IV)

The McIntosh family were: **MARY** (Mrs. John Carr), **JESSIE** (Mrs. Frank McGibney), **QUEENIE** (Mrs. Bill McKenzie) **MINA**, the first child born at Wattsville (1881) married William Butcher; **HELEN**

(Nellie) born 1883, ALEX, WILLIAM, MAGGIE, DUNCAN and DOLLY.

Mr. McIntosh died in 1903 at the age of seventy. His wife and Dunc lived on the farm until 1919, then moved to Birtle to a house Dunc built for his mother. She spent her latter years with daughter Mina, and died in April, 1928 at seventy-six. Mrs. Ferguson still lives at St. Lazare, the oldest lady of the early Crewe pioneers. She has seen many changes — from the days of oxen to trips to the moon, and enjoys everything as she has done all her long life. (see Ferguson)

McJANET, TOM — came to Foxwarren with brothers Jim and William and several other relatives approximately 1908.

T. McJanet settled on SW-34-17-27 plus 56 acres south of that quarter, dividing the land equally between brothers.

Tom built a log barn and house which burned down shortly after his death. The Bill Lishman Sr. family were living there at that time.

Mrs. McJanet had all the frame buildings built that are still there.

McKAY, NEIL — came to the Wattsvie district in 1881 from the Woodstock district of Ontario. He came by train via St. Paul, down the Red River by boat, and up the Assiniboine by boat. He took up NE 19-16-27 to homestead, then returned to Ontario to bring his horses and effects next spring. He married his fiancée Frances Bartley in April, 1882, and they lived for two years on the Albert Bartley homestead. He was building a log house in 1884, when lightning struck a shed and the house and his horses were lost. After that he used oxen for ten years.

The McKays had seven children — MAME, ALEX, SADIE, GERTRUDE, FRED, JIM and VICTOR. All but Victor attended Oxford School, which their parents helped to start, Mrs. McKay giving it the name. In 1898 Neil bought the Tom Yeandle homestead north of Birtle, where the family went to Boyle school. Fred tells the story of going out with brother Jim at age ten, to fetch the cattle, becoming lost and spending the night in a haystack.

Later in 1898 Neil bought S½ 24-17-27, the homestead of the Taylor brothers, and the family moved there in 1904. Still in need of a school, they helped move Dunstan school to the Dave Graham Farm. (see Schools) In 1922 Fred and Victor took over the farm, and their parents moved to Birtle in 1925, when Victor married Myrtle Randall.

The McKays were good neighbors wherever they had their home. At a time when there were no trained nurses, Mrs. McKay helped in illness from Wattsvie Plains to Angusville. They kept open house for wayfarers, as most of the trails in early days passed through farm yards. When the family left Wattsvie their friends presented them with an arm chair that is still in use.

Fred writes that he never went into Birtle until the age of seven, when his father loaded them all into the wagon to take them to the July First Sports Day.

McKAY, WILLIAM (BILL) — and Dan McKay came out from Braemar, Ontario in the early 1880's and took up homesteading near Fort Ellice on what was then known as the Pumpkin Plains.

Bill taught school for awhile as he had brought books out with him. Some of them were written in Gaelic, the only language the McKays spoke or understood until they attended school.

Later Bill lost a hand while operating his steam threshing outfit, and from then until he retired he helped his brother-in-law Dan McLeod on the farm.

Dan played real toe-tapping music so he and his fiddle were always welcome at dances and house parties. He was also adept at the Highland Fling and other step dances. In later years he was caretaker of the Solsgirth school and was affectionately known as "Uncle Dan" by most of the students.

The two brothers shared a love of horses and horse racing. Bill bought his stallion Bismark out with him and won many prizes at local fairs.

Bill died in 1934 and Dan in 1935, both were in their late seventies.

Georgina and Catherine McKay came west with their brothers William and Dan. A third brother, Neil located at Wattsvie in 1881.

They came by rail to Moosomin, Sask., as they had a car of "settlers' effects". The men brought some horses and implements. Georgina brought her favorite cow and some furniture. One piece of note was a bird's-eye maple cupboard which her brother Neil had given her mother. This cupboard well over 199 years old is the treasured possession of Gertrude McLeod.

Dan McLeod followed the McKays west, and he and Georgina were married by the Rev. Hodnett, in a double wedding ceremony with Catherine and James C. Anderson at Solsgirth.

A younger sister of the McKays followed them to Solsgirth. This was Henrietta, Mrs. Dan Ross, a young widow with three children MAY, ROBERT, and KAY. The children all attended Solsgirth school.

Later Mrs. Ross married Joe Beirnes and had two more sons HAROLD and EWART. Joe Beirnes farmed and bought grain at Solsgirth, moving in 1903 to the elevator at Kelloe. They eventually made their home at Rossburn, where they resided for many years.

McLEOD, DANIEL (1850-1923) — and his wife Georgina farmed for a time in the Solsgirth district, then moved into town to be near the school. They took over the boarding-house in 1895, and Dan drove the mail to Toddburn, Lone Tree, Rossburn, Seeburn, and Ranchvale. "We are rather proud that over the years the mail for Solsgirth has been handled by McLeods for their kinfolk, Dan and his brother-in-law James C. Anderson.

Dan sold the boarding-house and returned to farming in the Mount Joy district. They returned to Solsgirth again in 1917, where they lived in the brick house formerly owned by the McCanns. Dan died in 1923,

his wife in 1941 at the age of ninety. Their children were: ALEX born 1886; MURDOCK GLENLIAN born 1888, worked on the home farm, joined the Winnipeg Rifles in World War I. He was hospitalized several times, and died Sept. 1918 at the age of twenty-seven. WILLIAM born 1891, married Gertrude McKay of Birtle, had one daughter *Georgina*. After returning to Solsgirth from the farm they lived in a cottage near St. Stephen's. William had a livery barn and two school vans, as well as helping in the elevator. He died in 1923. His wife Gertrude lives in Selkirk, as does Ena, married to John Johnston of Kellogg. In their home are several antiques from the old boarding-house — goblets, condiment sets, etc. — still in use.

ALEX McLEOD — was born in 1886. He worked in Fisher's store as a young man and in 1910 went to Chicago to an aviation school where he was building and flying aeroplanes. He trained and graduated from the "Curtis School of Aviation" and two weeks later had a serious accident. He returned to his father's home for a long convalescence. (Chap. VI)

The years 1913-1916 he spent up at The Pas working on railroad survey for the Hudson Bay Railroad, then he returned to join the army. He had just managed to get transferred to the Air Force when the war ended.

After returning from overseas he married Ella Helmer from Lunenburg. They farmed around Solsgirth for a short time and then went to Ontario. Here two daughters were born SYLVIA, 1921 and GLORIA, 1923. Returning to Solsgirth he was Postmaster from 1924-1956. His wife passed away in 1951. He has 5 grandchildren — children of Sylvia who married Murdo Brown.

He now lives in retirement in Victoria, B.C. Gloria took over his home and the post office.

McLELLAN, JAMES — was born in Wyman, P.Q. in 1867, worked as a street railway motorman at Racine, Wis., then returned to Quebec to marry Margaret Rieland in 1894, and to begin farming. "Go West young man" brought him to Foxwarren in 1905, where the family lived in a granary on Dave Graham's farm until a house was built. The children attended Dunstan, later Moresby school.

Two horses, a one-furrow plow and two cows were a first purchase. Hail ruined the first crop, and four horses were lost in a fire one threshing time.

Jim farmed for sixteen years. He worked in all community efforts, especially in connection with the Zion methodist Church. He was on the Ellice Council from 1923 to 1926. He retired to Foxwarren and operated the Livery barn purchased from M. King. Jim and Maggie had four children: PEARL (Mrs. A. S. Falloon), of Foxwarren; FLORENCE (Mrs. D. A. Linklater), of Dawson Creek; GRACE (Mrs. A. H. Davis), of Victoria; JAMES REUBEN of Calgary. The three girls were all teachers and James is an electrician.

JOHN McLELLAN, a brother of Jim's, moved from Wyman, Quebec to Foxwarren in 1907, with his wife Marjorie and ABIGAIL. He farmed on half of section 27-17-28, which is now owned by Eugene Simard.

He retired in 1917 and built a home in Foxwarren, now owned by Sid McCall. His wife Marjorie died in August 1932. John died June, 1938 at 79 years of age.

ISAAC was another McLellan brother, who arrived from Wyman, Quebec in 1913. He bought a farm from Louis Leavens which is now owned by George McCrindle. He was the first president of Foxwarren Pool Elevators. Isaac was killed while trying to stop runaway horses.

McLENNAN, DONALD A. — and his wife came in April, 1904 with two small children from Lancaster, Ont. to settle on Fairmount Farm, near Basswood, which they had bought from the McGill family. A year later brother John, also from the east, bought the farm and Donald with Joe Knight built a large departmental store, which however, burned after a year. The McLennan family thought of moving elsewhere, but were urged to stay by a delegation of folk from the district, so they established a hardware business.

In 1917 the property was sold to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and Donald bought the other hardware store from an Englishman who wished to retire to his native land. The McLennan family were all involved in the life of the Basswood district, and their home was a centre for neighbors and strangers away from home. Donald and his wife played old-time music on organ and piano for dancing and singing at home parties. Mrs. McLennan, convent-trained in music, taught piano, violin and choral work, as well as serving as church organist and choir leader.

Donald died in 1932, and Mother McLennan moved to Birtle to be with John. She continued teaching music, and her pupils and junior choirs brought honours to Birtle. Mrs. McLennan moved to Flin Flon in 1942 and had a large music class in Neil's home. She died suddenly at the home of Rev. Carlyle Parker.

There were five children, all of whom attended Brandon Normal School, along with three of "Uncle Jack's" family. NEIL taught in Flin Flon since 1932, is now retired; JOHN in Birtle; DON in Brandon; HILDRED in Binscarth; ANNABELL in Birtle. Hildred married Philip Robinson, farmed south of Binscarth. There are seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

McLENNAN, JOHN M. — John was the second member of the McLennan family to come to Birtle from Basswood. He became principal of the Elementary school in 1928, retiring from that position in 1970. During the second World War he taught Science at the high school and at present is substitute teacher in shop work at the collegiate, is also assisting teaching evening classes in ladies' woodwork.

He married Thelma Barber, also a teacher in Birtle. They have one

daughter LOIS, who had business training, worked as secretary, then as buyer in Eaton's in Winnipeg and Montreal. She is married to Cst. Stephen McBeth, they are now stationed in Lac du Bonnet. Thelma died in 1953 of meningitis.

John makes use of his retirement with his hobbies — mainly woodwork, gardening, etc. He has been an active member of the United Church, serving in the choir, in Sunday School as superintendent, member of the Official Board, as elder, steward, treasurer, and chairman. He has also been busy in other circles as well, was secretary of the School Board for many years, is now on the Hospital Board. He is very much at home in the hardware and tinsmith business, as well as in implements, having grown up in a small town in depression days where he had a chance to work at these jobs. In the McLennan Hardware the boys had a chance to repair all sorts of things. One old Irishman brought in his clock one day, but unfortunately it struck 13 times instead of 12 — scared him so badly he refused to take it home.

McLENNAN, DONALD A. (1881-1960) — came in 1905 from Rosshire, Scotland, working at first as a blacksmith for the C.N.R. Met Mary Rattray (born 1888) and decided to give up railroading and raise wheat and Canadians. They were married at Invermay, Sask. in 1908, settled near Tuffnell, Sask. In 1920 they moved to Birtle with family of nine, as there seemed to be better educational facilities there.

They lived first on the Uzell farm, then the Andrew Doig farm (now Lockie Fulton) then moved to the Massina (now Jim Lane) until retirement to White Rock, B.C., where Mrs. McLennan still lives with daughter Mary.

Donald McLennan took a keen interest in community affairs. He was instrumental in organizing the Pool Elevator at Birtle, the Farmers' Union and the Co-op store, and his family have memories of him donning his big sheepskin coat and going off on foot on winter evenings to canvass neighboring families for support in these projects.

Neighbors remembered fondly are Mrs. Ben Dutton and her cookies, Mrs. Andrew Doig, Mrs. Barber, Miss Cartwright (Mrs. H. Jelfs), Mrs. Manwaring, Mrs. Hercus, and Mrs. Harry Cartmell. Mrs. McLennan's circular knitting machine took care of dozens of pairs of socks each winter. The children delivered milk to neighbors in jam pails at ten cents a pail — no rigid health regulations in those days. They also recall funeral processions which went past their yard on the Shoal Lake road — especially Mr. Hatch's big black horses with plumes on their harness, and the elaborate hearse, followed at first by buggies and democrats, and in the twenties by the occasional car.

The family has scattered, but they keep in touch. BILL married Joan Rennison. They had three children, and all live in Edmonton. DON is in business at Cremona, Alta. CHRIS married John Fulton, lives at White Rock and has three children. MARY lives in Surrey, B.C. with her mother; LILLY (Mrs. Joe Brown) Neepawa, has two children; GRACE (Mrs. Ronald Newsham) also has two children;

ELSIE (Mrs. Jack Miller) lives at White Rock; STEELE married Mollie Hesketh took over the farm, moved to Birtle in 1973, makes a hobby of photography. They have two children, as have ROY and wife Pearl (Coldicott) in Winnipeg and ARCHIE and Brenda (Townsend) in Vancouver. Four of the sons and daughter Mary went overseas in World War II, all returning.

McMULLEN, WILLIAM A. — and Catherine Bennett were married in Solsgirth Presbyterian Church in 1899. They farmed the S.E. ¼ 16-18-25. Mr. McMullen has two sisters living in Solsgirth district: Mrs. Richard Hamilton and Mrs. James Hamilton.

One son MELVIN lives in Winnipeg, now "Mr. Manitoba" an honor bestowed on him in 1963 by the Governor-General.

McNARRY, LEON — (1885-1963) was born in Essex County, England and educated at a private school. He came to Canada about 1905, spent his first few years in the Crewe district, and helped build the Sam Falloon house, now occupied by Maurice Falloon. Mr. McNarry had served an apprenticeship as a journey man carpenter in England. In 1910 he became involved in well drilling around Foxwarren, and next year with Teddy Sheridan of Hamiota, drilling wells in western Manitoba, often walking from one town to another, and dealing with many well-known merchants and suppliers. The development of the Neepawa Salt Company was a direct result of the drilling, the brine flowing from a hole which was drilled in the hope of finding oil.

In August 1911 he met Annie Elizabeth Bollman while drilling on her father's farm — and they were married in Brandon in October, 1915. They lived west of Foxwarren, where Mr. McNarry's interest in education became manifest, with many meetings about school consolidation and building. He was a trustee of Foxwarren Consolidated S.D. No. 525, and later became Secretary-Treasurer. Miss Sybil Shack, a well-known Manitoba educator, writes that she was encouraged by him when she came to her first school at Foxwarren in the Depression period. Mr. McNarry was also concerned with the physical plant and grounds, and during the depression years served as caretaker. He became anxious about the strength of the beams in the school and as a result of his report the building was closed until steel posts were installed. His interest likewise extended into art, and school and community plays benefited by his painting of backdrops and scenery.

Mr. McNarry moved in 1915 to SW ¼ 34-17-28 to take up farming, and made a study of farm layout for scientific crop rotation — possibly more of a philosopher than a practical farmer. He made a hobby of tricks with cards, his interest having been kindled when he once assisted the great Houdini on the stage. In later years he began sketching and oil painting.

Leon and his wife Annie had four children: MARY KATHLEEN (Molly) is Mrs. E. A. Wilson, lives west of Ottawa and has two

children. She had been an officer at Rivers with the R.C.A.F., and her husband, a retired Wing Commander, is with the Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs.

MARJORIE RUTH a teacher., married Allan Meldrum of Deloraine in 1944, has a daughter Marjorie and now lives in Winnipeg. She has been a proof-reader with the Free Press and other firms, is now with Eaton's Advertising Dept. EDGAR GARNET, always interested in aircraft, joined the R.C.A.F. and became a trainer of pilots during World War II; and has since served with the Search and Rescue Team. Later he was employed in flights to locate potential mineral deposits in the Arctic and also in Mexico. He married Lauretta Scott in 1941, and had four children, and two grandchildren. He is flying out of The Pas for Manitoba Govt. Air Services. LEON ROBERT served as a radar officer during the war, and afterwards attended the U. of Western Ontario for an MSc. degree in 1950. He is now with the National Research Council in Ottawa, and has a special interest in educational devices for handicapped children, has written many scientific papers and has been Honorary President of Ontario Science Teachers. He married Mavis Reid of Hamiota, a teacher of sewing and millinery. They have four children.

Annie McNarry died in April 1930, her husband in 1963. A tribute to his memory notes his devotion to the cause of education. He foresaw larger School Divisions, and advocated that Foxwarren be the centre of the first Division. The idea lacked support, and the honour went to Dauphin. He had felt that the larger division would preserve the school and the town.

McNEIL, CHRISTOPHER — with his wife and two small sons came from Maryland, P.Q. in April, 1904. Mr. McNeil accompanied the stock and household effects in a box car, the others following two weeks later by passenger coach. The description of their journey gives a vivid picture of travelling conditions at that time.

They lived at first in a log structure on the farm E½ 17-18-27. A log partition separated humans from animals for a time, as all managed to find shelter under one straw roof. That summer a small house "two up and two down" was built, with assistance from "Uncle Jim" and Dave Graham. The family in time increased to five. The writer Mr. Cuthbert McNeil, pays special tribute to one of their teachers, Mr. William McLaughlin, who about 1912 came to Foxwarren, and among other achievements organized a boys' hockey and baseball team "The Red Sox", insisting on true sportsmanship at all times. A special memory is a picnic and game with boys from Zion in August 1914, during which the news came that Britain had declared war on Germany.

About that time Mrs. McNeil's people, the George Cuthbertsons came to the district — fortunately, as it turned out, for the family lost their beloved mother in 1916 and the two young daughters were raised by her relatives Mrs. Tett and Isaac and Verna Cuthbertson. Members of the McNeil family were: G. CUTHBERT, Flin Flon, retired miner.

He married Minnie Edith Hamblin of Hamiota in 1937. Their children were *Janet Anne Shortland*, a nurse, Kelowna, B.C.; *Ellen Louise Rideout* is a teacher, has two children; *Robert John (Bob)* is a world traveller and was a champion skier; *Flora Mae (Susie)* was Manitoba Senior Ladies' Champion in Figure Skating in 1970, now teaches skating at Thompson. CLIFFORD ROSS, a retired mechanic at Summerland, B.C.; married Marjory Cooper, a nurse; has three daughters; JOHN EDWARD (Jack) married Lulu Brandon, of Roblin, lost his life in a car accident in San Francisco; JESSIE and husband Thomas Graham (deceased), Penticton, B.C. ANNE and husband Jim Sparrow, a retired electrician and amateur cowboy, live in Redcliffe Alta., their daughter Elaine in Calgary.

McTAVISH, JOHN EARL — grandfather Peter McTavish came over from Scotland in a sailing boat at the age of six. The trip took weeks, and Peter's father died with cholera, leaving the mother with five children. Sandy McTavish was one of them. He came out west from Seaforth, Ont. in 1882, and homesteaded E½ 10-20-26 at Angusville, not far from the Lizard Point Indian Reserve. He married Elsie Vandercar from a farm in the Woodstock district. Their son John and his wife Ethel May Nicholl moved to Solsgirth in the winter of 1935-36, a terribly cold year. Many neighbors helped them in the move with as many as fourteen teams of horses.

John hauled split wood, hay, oats and barley for feed all winter. He rented eight quarters of land, two at the marsh south of Solsgirth. He had 450 acres of arable land, 75 head of cattle, 25 horses and 125 pigs. He had his land paid for by 1951. He acquired machinery and a farm hand, until son Raymond was big enough to run a tractor. They had a threshing machine until 1955. When Raymond and his wife (Grace McComb of Shoal Lake) decided to move to Saskatoon, John sold the farm and bought a house in Birtle. Raymond meanwhile tried various jobs, none as good as farming, to which he finally returned.

John and Ethel lived in the house and in a house trailer, and he worked for the Veterans' Construction Co. Ethel died after a stroke in Nov. 1961. She had been a Rebekah, and worked for the W.I. and Missionary Society, as President for years. They enjoyed their life in Solsgirth. John served on the Board of the Credit Union, as School Trustee, and helped put up the community hall where many old time dances were held with Dunc McIntyre as fiddler. In 1958 they moved the trailer to Carman, where John worked on the highway hauling gravel. Before leaving Solsgirth they were given a chair, lamp and coffee table by their good friends there.

Their eldest son STANLEY EARL, born 1921, was killed at Caen, France in July 1944; Daughter VIVA DOREEN, born 1918, married William Irving in 1942. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Viva often helped her father on the farm, even after her marriage — driving the tractor and binder as well as a man.

NETTLE, PHILLIP L. — born in 1870, came to Canada from St. Agnes, Cornwall, England, after seeing an ad in a newspaper for a farm in the Dunstan district. They homesteaded on Section 14-17-27. Mr. William Flynn rented this land in 1902, and Ernie Gadd in 1904. Phillip Nettle bought it in October, 1904, and the Gadds and Nettles lived together for the first winter. The house was of concrete, heated by wood and coal stoves.

HENRY NETTLE, a son, is still farming this section, and another son JOHN is retired and living in Birtle.

The Nettles attended the Methodist Church in Birtle. Mr. Nettle died in July, 1954. His wife Anna died in January, 1951. She had been born in Penzance, Cornwall.

NEWSHAM, ROBERT — descended from a once wealthy and influential family in Yorkshire, England, as far back as 1234 A.D. Robert, a man of great substance and ability came to Canada to Ontario with his wife Mary Ann Clark and family. They came to Birtle in 1886, homesteaded SW¼ 22-16-26, working as a section hand for the old M. & N.W. Railroad while proving up his land. They had a large family, as was usual with pioneers. The eldest JACK (1877-1912) married Laura Cairns of Kellogg, had two sons. Jack was killed by lightning while operating a binder; GEORGE (1879-1932) married Minnie Hunt, served with Winnipeg Grenadiers in World War I; EDWARD (1883-1916) married Pearl Chapel, had eleven children, one of whom, *Jim* still farms at Birtle; two small boys ROBERT and JAMES died in 1891 from burns in a tragic accident; ANNIE (1889-1963) married Percy Taylor, lived in Saskatoon, had three children; RICHARD CLARK (1892-1968) married Evelyn Robbie at Knox Church, Winnipeg in 1922. They had three children. *Marian* is Mrs. J. W. Hamilton, Foxwarren. Richard (Dick) served with George in World War I, later joined the R.C.A.F. as a service police in World War II. He died in Winnipeg 1968. His wife Evelyn was presented with a silver cross as a memento of his war service. BERTHA (1899-1968) married Vincent Oldfin, lived in Winnipeg and Toronto where she died. Had two children. FLORENCE MARTIN (1901-1962) lived in Vancouver, had one son son *Stanley*.

The family had happy memories of school days at Gnaton and Burdette schools, and of the Christmas concerts attended in sleighs "with robes, foot warmers, and the jingle of bells". Mary Newsham after an operation at home, as was usual then, died in June 1910. Later Robert married Christina Taylor, a widow with thirteen children. He died in March, 1936, while attending the Birtle Fat Stock Show. Christina passed away at ninety-two in 1955.

NEWSHAM, NED — brother of Robert, came with his wife Elly and four children in 1887 from Westmorland, England to Solsgirth. The first winter was spent in a settler's mud dwelling on the "Fenton Place" east of Birtle. The family moved into town when Ned found work in the railroad yards, and the children attended the old stone school.

Mr. Newsham later bought land south-east of Birtle (sold to W. B. Smith in 1910) and built a concrete house. The family now numbered nine, and they attended Burdette School. In 1909 Ned had a sale and left for Vancouver, where he died later from injuries received in an accident at work in the shipyards. His wife died in 1919.

Their family were: THOMAS bought a quarter section next his father's from John Walley. Met and married a young lady from England, Bertha Wilson, in Toronto. They had three children, — *Reuben* worked with explosives on the highway from Fort Francis. In 1957 married Lillian McCrindle of Crystal City. There are five sons and several grandchildren, and they live on the land that first housed his grandparents in the mud hut. Daughter *Edith (Nellie)* married Leslie Shaw, farmed near Solsgirth, then lived in Brandon. Had four children and eleven grandchildren. *Ronald* married Grace McLennan, was on his father's farm, has two children. Thomas died in Birtle 1944, Bertha in 1963. Ronald and family now live in Birtle.

GEORGE, Ned's second son left to farm at Mortlach, Sask., and was joined later by brother JOHN and sister BARBARA, married to Stanley Hart. John married, had four children, still lives in Moose Jaw. George died in a car accident in 1924, Barbara died 1961. MINNIE (Mrs. A. Rose) lived in Oregon, had four children; CAROLINE died in Vancouver; SEVINA (Mrs. W. McCall) died shortly after her husband. Their three children were taken to live with Barbara and her family; PAUL served in World War I, died at sea in 1918; LOUIS Ned's youngest son trained as a jockey, died in an accident on Lulu Island, B.C. Had three children.

NICKEL, OLIVER. — came to the Dowsford district north-east of Solsgirth from New Glasgow, P.Q. with his wife (formerly Ellen Hamilton) and two daughters. Oliver had homesteaded S½ 20-18-25 in the spring of 1880, and in 1882 brought out his family. Five more children were added to the home after coming to Manitoba. The family were: MAUD, a nurse, married Percy Rowland, farmer; EVA a stenographer, became Mrs. James Hamilton. She lives in Fairview Home, Brandon; SARA married Herbert Bond, a druggist in Winnipeg; ELLEN (Mrs. William Workman) lives in Carberry; JESSIE a teacher, married farmer John Cormack, living in Rosburn. Sons of Oliver Nickel were JOHN RICHARD and CHARLES KENNETH, farmers, now deceased.

Grandchildren are: DORIS ROWLAND (Mrs. Harold Taylor) Edmonton; ALLAN ROWLAND, farmer of Angusville, married Jean Sherritt; RUTH HAMILTON (Mrs. Kenneth Irwin) in Saskatoon; HELEN HAMILTON married Lloyd Butcher, a pilot killed in a crash at Dafoe, Sask. Now Mrs. Art Gavette of Belmont, Calif.; JEAN BOND (Mrs. William Dempsey) Highland Creek, Ont., JACK, EDITH and WILLIAM WORKMAN and MARGARET WORKMAN BOURNE, Carberry; KEITH NICKEL in Vancouver, with wife Maisie; BLAIR NICKEL and wife Sharron in Edmonton;

SHIRLEY CORMACK, married to Weldon Kilburn, Captain with Air Canada in Winnipeg; MURRAY CORMACK of St. Vital, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, married to Catherine Crookshank of Brandon.

HARVEY NICKEL — a nephew of Oliver, lost his mother when he and twin Gordon were born. Ellen Nickel and Mrs. Alex Hamilton cared for the babies, then took them to their homes, a drive of thirty-five miles on a cold winter day. Jessie Cormack writes that at eight she was overjoyed about a baby coming to the house, and Harvey (Buster) was more like a brother than a cousin.

Harvey took over the farm S½ 20-18-25 in 1922. He married Mildred Douglas in 1942, and they had twin sons John Hunter and James Douglas in Nov. 1943. They took the Diploma course in Agriculture and are making farming their career. John married Carolynne Lee of Newdale in 1969, and they built their home in the home yard.

Jim Nickel married Judy Rose of Strathclair in 1968. They now live and farm on SW 28-18-25, which has an interesting history. The first post office of the Solsgirth district was situated there, and the townsite was planned for that location. However, the railroad came through five miles to the south, and the townsite was re-located.

NORTH, WILLIAM IVOR WOLSELY — arrived in the Birtle district directly from England in 1901, specifically to the farm of Robert Collis in the Buckleyville area. Mr. Collis at that time 'taught' young Englishmen the intricacies of farming — with greater or lesser success.

Mr. North was born in 1883 and died in 1970. He married May Florence Cook (Kent, Eng) in 1912. Mrs. North pre-deceased him in 1959. They farmed in the Buckleyville district until 1945, and then moved to Sidney, B.C.

One son, STEPHEN W. married Marion Harrison in 1941. They had seven children: *Hugh, Lynne, David, Lorna, Heather, Neil, and Geoffrey*. They returned to the Birtle district (Rothsay S.D.) in 1961. Hugh North died in 1964. Lynne married Edwin Potter, Winnipeg and presently lives with one son, Richard, in Vancouver.

Mr. North broke a portion of his farm with oxen. Early near neighbours, all deceased: Percy Tapscott, Jack Ashcroft, Tom Harrison, Bentley Other, Joseph Edmundson, Ralph Peel, Charles Darrell, George Kendall, William Rogers, William Mallard, John Wood, William Cadman, and Francis Andrews.

ORR, CON — Before joining the Forces Con worked as a mechanic in Winnipeg also on his uncle's farm at Wawanesa where he took a liking for farm life. Enid's home was in Arrow River.

Upon discharge from the R.C.A.F. in Oct. 1945 we purchased the W½ of Sec. 1-18-27 and N.E.¼ of 2-18-27 which was originally the Ollie Loughheed homestead.

We have two daughters, DIANNE and BEVERLY both married. We would like to add having chosen farming as a way of life we have never regretted coming to the Foxwarren area to make our home.

OSTASH, MIKE — came to Canada from the Western Ukraine in 1910 at the age of twenty-one years. Jean Choptiuk came at the age of five. They were married in 1921 and lived in Oakburn where Mike worked for the CNR. In 1924 they moved to the Marco district and farmed there until 1943 and raised six children. In 1943 they moved to Solsgirth where they rented land from Mr. Catherwood which they later bought and farmed there until 1963 when they retired to Birtle. Mr. Ostash died in October 1972. Mrs. Ostash still lives in Birtle. They are of Catholic faith.

Their children, **JOHN**, the oldest married Jean Yaskiw and lived in Winnipeg with their four children — two sons are married and one of them *Peter* has a son. John was a landscape proprietor until his sudden death just ten days after his father. **BILL** is married to Anne Belbas and they live in Winnipeg with their four children. Bill is a manager of a Gulf Service Station. **SILVIAN** married Lillian Boychok and they live in Thompson with their two daughters where Silvian works in the mine. He still owns the old homestead at Solsgirth. **PEARL** married Nick Juba. **HELEN** is married to Mike Kowaluk a contractor. They live in Shoal Lake and have three children. **GWEN** is married to Peter Pech a Hydro worker and they live in Winnipeg with their two little sons.

OSBORNE FAMILY — It all started in 1909, when everyone said "Go west, young man!" John James Osborne left Ontario in March of 1910, landed in Birtle by train, bringing four good horses, implements and household effects, and rented the Brown farm two miles north of Birtle station. His wife Ada Jane arrived a few days later, with the four children.

The house was stone structure, very cold in winter, and matched the stones in the field. Warm friendships were soon made however — the Frank Browns, Nettles, Nairns, Duttons, Chapmans. Next year the Osbornes moved to the Charles Hall farm east of Birtle, where they lived for four years. Neighbors here were John Robbie, Ed Randall, R. M. Cherry, H. Wilcox, J. Winder, H. H. Davidson, John and Fred Butcher and many more. The children attended Burdette school, and church and Sunday School were held there — R.M. Cherry Superintendent, and the Baptist minister taking the services. It was a good district, and many functions, concerts and picnics were enjoyed.

In 1915 the family moved to the George Lidster farm south of Birtle, sold out after two years, F. A. Wilcox Auctioneer. They returned to Lindsay, Ont. but disliked city life, so returned to Birtle in 1918 and settled on the Ben Shepherd farm. Again activities centered at Burdette School, and Mr. Osborne took on the duties of Superintendent, assisted by Mrs. Ed Randall and others.

In 1928 **STAN OSBORNE** and Frank Randall motored to Peace River to homestead, returned after a few months and bought the Cherry farm. He lost his first crop by hail, and after four years of ill health sold out and moved to Brandon, where he retired after twenty-five years working as a glass cutter. Born 1902, he is the only one left of the first

Osborne family. John James born 1872, died 1941, his wife born 1873, died in 1933. ABRAM CLINTON, born 1899, died in the 'flu epidemic in 1920. NELSON GRANT born 1903, died in Edmonton 1969. ALDA MAUDE (Mrs. Henry Gervais) died in 1971 at Black Diamond, Alta.

Stanley has one son in Vancouver, and three grandchildren, Randy, David and Beverley.

PATTERSON — Grandfather HUGH PATTERSON was born in 1828 in Glasgow, died in 1907 in Birtle. He came to Ontario from Glasgow, Scotland about 1845 and operated a spoke factory in St. Catharines, Ont. As a result of advertising and contact with settlers already in the West, he decided to come to Manitoba.

His wife Betsy Patterson nee Fotheringham (1828-1903) came to Ontario from the Orkney Islands about 1847.

Their family: MARY T. DUTTON 1849-1927; LIZZIE (Mrs. George Marsh) 1853-1898; JOHN, 1854-1921; THOMAS F. 1858-1908; WILLIAM 1864-1912; ADAH H. 1865-1944; MRS. MUNDELL.

One daughter MRS. CORNFORTH married and stayed in Ontario.

JOHN and TOM PATTERSON came to Birtle early in 1880. John was a land guide operating from Brandon around 1880. He bought an Indian pony from George Seale at Birtle, which he used in his land guide work. Subsequently he spent twenty years in the U.S. carpentering and operating lumber yards.

In 1896 he married Anna L. Dickinson in Minneapolis, Minn. About the first of the century John came back to Birtle, bringing with him his wife and year-old son, *Douglas A.* (the writer).

At this time John and Tom started the Patterson Lumber Co. They lived in the Patterson Block on Main Street which was built by Tom Patterson. In 1904 he built the house presently occupied by Dr. Edwards. Another son, *Bruce H.* was born June 21st, 1905.

Douglas Patterson, retired druggist, resides in Oak River, Man. Bruce Patterson, retired, lives near Cleveland, Ohio. "When reminiscing, John often mentioned walking to Fort Ellice (12 miles), dancing all night, then walking home again."

PEACOCK FAMILY — RAY, LENORE, RITA, and TRACY PEACOCK moved to Birtle in 1958 from Letellier, Man. Ray was assistant District Supervisor for Man. Hydro and worked with Max Moore. In 1960 KEN was born in Birtle District Hospital. In 1960 we purchased the Manwaring house. This was lived in for 2 years and then torn down and a new one built on the same site.

PEDRICK — Mr. and Mrs. Bert Pedrick came from Fairlight, Saskatchewan in 1933 to the Solsgirth district and farmed on the former Bagwell farm. Bert was born in 1906 and died in 1949. Bert was a good butcher and mechanic and willing to help all his neighbors. His

wife was the former Lilian Jane Wedger of Young, Sask. Their children attended Dowsford school. HOWARD — married Donna Lane and is a mechanic and liner at Churchbridge; KELVIN JOHN — married Eleanor Armitage of Foxwarren and works with Manitoba Telephone at Melita. Mrs. Pedrick is now Mrs. Jack Brown and they farm 17-18-25.

ED PEDRICK lives on 30-18-25 previously owned by: the Todd family, Harry Johnston and Charlie Adderson. His parents came from England to Ontario later moving to Illinois, then to Dugald, Man., Otterburne and in 1931 to the Solsgirth district. Ed does mixed farming and is an ardent lover of fishing and most forms of nature. Want to know if there are any ripe saskatoons or cranberries? Ask Ed.

PEEL, CHARLES — In the early summer of 1968 we purchased the Co-op store in Foxwarren, and moved from our farm west of Isabella. We lived in Douglas Falloon's house until October, when we purchased the Drysdale house.

In Foxwarren Charlie coached twelve-and-under baseball for two years, and the senior club from 1960-65. He assisted John Parobec with the Angusville and Foxwarren Midgets, winning the Manitoba Championship in 1964. He was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Men's Curling Club. Frances taught in Foxwarren from 1958-63, and at Rothesay from 1963-66. She was a member of the Eastern Star, the U.C.W. and the Ladies' Curling Club.

In 1966 we sold the contents of the store and purchased a farm at Riding Mountain and Kelwood, where we now reside. We had two children — MARJORIE graduated BSc. Hons. from the U. of Manitoba, and is a Computer Systems Analyst. She married Jerrold Bone, (M.A. Fine Arts) in 1963. They live at Shilo and have two daughters. WALLACE (BSc. Brandon U.) is a Captain in the Air Division of the Forces at Cold Lake, Alta. He married Vivian Jansen of Watson, Sask. in 1971.

PEEL, RALPH HURT — married Catherine Hannah Edmundson (Kate) (1885-1952). Ralph had been sent out from England to learn farming. They lived on his farm in the Buckleyville district east of Birtle. The family loved dogs and owned many greyhounds, which they used to hunt wolves. Ralph died in 1933. There were three sons: ROBERT EDMUND LAURENCE born 1909, lives on the home farm with his wife, Adelaide Cowley of Solsgirth; REGINALD EWBANK born 1912, married Ethel Rose of Elphinstone, a nurse, in 1947. They lived first on the home farm, then moved to Shoal Lake 1970. Have one daughter, *Eileen Louise Davies* of Brandon, and one granddaughter; FRANCIS NEVILLE born 1919, served in World War II, married Barbara Mundt in 1946, lives at Spruce Grove, Alta.

PEELER — Mr. and Mrs. George M. Peeler came to Birtle in 1919 from Osprey, southwest of Neepawa, Man, which had no high school. There were two children ALICE (Mrs. N. Hough, Vernon, B.C.) and

ELMER in Birtle: The family moved to the former Atkinson farm northeast of Birtle. Alice attended high school in Birtle and later became a school teacher.

Mr. Peeler died in 1926 at the age of 48. Elmer and his step-mother carried on farming until 1936 when he married Daisy Hunt of Kenton, Man. They had four children *George, Jim Marjorie*, and *Linda*. George was killed in a car accident in April 1966 at the age of 27. Jim married Ida Lee of Birtle 1970 and is on the old home farm. They have one child. Marjorie married Venance Deshambault of St. Lazare in 1962. They have three boys. They have a dairy farm in the Wattsview valley. Linda married Chuck McArthur of Birtle in 1965 and became a R.N. the same year. Chuck teaches school in Souris and Linda nurses there.

Elmer and his wife left the farm in Oct. 1970. They now reside in Birtle.

The old Peeler home has seen many changes in the way of heating, lighting, etc. Heated at first with wood and coal, stoker furnace was put in in 1948 and in 1969 an automatic oil furnace. The hydro came to the farm in 1948. There always seemed to be plenty of room for the weekend guests of the children and relatives of the family. The waterworks were put in the old farm in 1966. There has always been a real good water supply on the farm.

The farm has proved to be an ideal place to raise a family. Elmer spent 51 years on the same farm. Many happy memories are with us, and an added pride in the fact that our son is there now.

PENGELLY, GEORGE — born in Richmond Hill, Ont. June 1871, was married to Rebecca McCann Nov. 25, 1896. They farmed at Solsgirth for a time, moving to the Mortlach district in Saskatchewan in 1909, later settled in Kuroki, Sask., on a farm where they made a home. There was a family of four sons and four daughters **ELMER, ARTHUR**, and **CLIFFORD** of Kuroki and **ALBERT** of Nanaimo, B.C.; **PEARL** of Saskatoon, **ETHEL** of Archerville, **IDA** of Wanless, Man. **EDITH** of Kuroki, Sask.

Mr. Pengelly passed away in Feb. of 1966. Mrs. Pengelly predeceased him. There are several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

PETERSON, PETER KAROL — born in Sputvik, Norway 1886, emigrated to Canada via the "Lusitania" in 1907, following glowing reports of the "Good life" there. The ticket from Hull, England was \$62.00 After working on the railroad at Moosomin for a year, he went to Winnipeg to purchase a return ticket home — and found that it would be \$180.00 All hope of returning had to be abandoned, and he went to Erickson to the Emil Bergesons, from the same district in Norway. He purchased land near them, and in 1917 married their daughter Helmine, born in Norway in 1898.

They farmed at Erickson until 1932, when the trials of the thirties — eggs 3 cents a dozen, oats 2 cents a bushel, barley 8 cents — led him

to say to his wife "Others may work for nothing, but not I!" He helped at elevators at Arden and Waskada for three summers, and then went for the Manitoba pool to operate the elevator at Chillon Siding (between Binscarth and Foxwarren — dismantled 1972) In 1943 he moved to Foxwarren, remaining there until retirement in 1957, when he received a gold watch for twenty-five years service.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson reside in Foxwarren, and have enjoyed two trips home to Norway. They have three children; who attended school at Erickson and Foxwarren, where their "home away from home" was at the Harty Thorpes. ANNIE was a civil servant in Ottawa during the war, for a time secretary to Mart McClung, a retired naval officer and son of author Nellie McClung. Married Sam Widdicombe, has two sons; FLORENCE a teacher, married Jack Widdicombe, has three children; NORMAN served in the Army, then attended U. of Man. for a BSc degree, now has his own company "Peterson Manufacturing" in Saskatoon.

PHILLIPS, RALPH ARNOLD — was born in Brandon, on Feb 3, 1892 son of George Theron and Emma Norton Phillips.

He received his education at Arrowton school and Brandon College. He served with the 8th Canadian Battalion in World War I. In 1919, on returning from overseas, he married Hazel Rose Reid daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Reid of Hamiota.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips moved to the home farm until 1938. They had seven children who all attended Isabella school. In 1938 the family moved to Foxwarren, returning to the Isabella district in 1942.

Their three oldest children served with the forces in World War II. GEORGE with the R.C.A.F. and HILTON with the Artillery overseas and THELMA in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips retired to Birtle in 1953.

Mr. Phillips passed away in 1963 Mrs. Phillips in 1969, and George in 1969. Surviving are two sons HILTON at Fruitvale, B.C. and EDWARD of Edmonton and four daughters, THELMA of Russell, VERNA at Winnipeg, MERLE (Mrs. George Flynn) at Birtle, ELSIE (Mrs. Harvey Still) of Thunder Bay, Ont. There are eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

PICKUP, ALBERT — married Isobel Porter and lived in Wpg. for a few years. Purchased SE 21-18-25 and farmed there till 1948. Later moved to Ingelow where he was agent in National Elevator till his retirement. Still lives there with a greenhouse and Elkhound dogs for hobbies.

His family: SHIRLEY married Vern Linzmeyer and lives in Prince Albert; JOHN married and farms in Central Butte; GEORGE married and works in potato plant at Carberry.

PITTENDREIGH, WILLIAM SR. — and his wife were married in Banffshire, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1910, with ELLA aged one and a half years. William and a pal decided to come first to Cran-

dall, where a very good friend had a bakeshop. They sailed from Glasgow on the "Bretona", and had rather a rough trip. Little Janet Mair, daughter of the friend in Canada, died on the train, and never saw her father. William found work waiting for him on a farm at Crandall, and his pal went west to try his luck. Mrs. Pittendreigh (formerly Helen Mackie) and Ella sailed in August of the same year on the "Hesperian". Both ships were later sunk during World War I.

William worked at various jobs — in a livery stable, and driving travellers and Dr. Fraser, hauling lumber for cottages at Shoal Lake. His brother John, wounded and discharged during the war, came to Canada, and they decided to farm north of Isabella, then on another farm west of Isabella. William was Weed Inspector at Miniota for a time; then they moved finally to Birtle, where they lived for thirty-two years. Mr. Pittendreigh worked for the Co-op for five years, and running a diesel tractor for the Good Roads.

The Pittendreichs were active in the United Church. Mrs. Pittendreich was a member of the Legion Auxiliary, was Warden for some years, and presented with a Meritorious Pin. After her husband's death in 1966 she had a trip home to Scotland, to renew old friendships. She then moved into Pioneer Lodge, where she died in 1968. Mr. and Mrs. Pittendreigh had six children — ELLA is Mrs. Ken Crew of Birtle; MRS. JESSIE CURLL of Brandon; GEORGE also in Brandon; BILL at Kelowna, B.C.; HAZEL at Boissevain and MRS. GLADYS LAWRENCE in Birtle.

PIZZEY, WALTER JOHN — (1851-1925), son of William and Jane (Biddell) Pizzezy, came to the Balmerino area in 1888 from Hampshire, England, where he was a cabinet maker. Next year (1889) his wife Clarrissa and four children, with Walter's brother Robert and his family, came to join him in Manitoba. They lived near Chillon on N½ 4-18-28, which was bought from Mr. and Mrs. Fleming.

Clarrissa Pizzezy (nee Syms) (1852-1931) was a close relative of Richard Doddridge Blackmore, a lawyer and writer, best known for his romantic novel "Lorna Doone".

The Shell River Trail from Fort Ellice to Shellmouth, was on the west end of Walter's farm. It can still be seen today, well worn down by Red River carts. There were many Indians around in those days. They could be heard celebrating at night.

Walter and Robert supervised the building of Balmerino Church in 1896, closed in 1970. The cemetery is still kept up by members of the families of those at rest there, including most of the Pizzezy family.

There were five children: DOLLY (1877-1954) married Joe Laycock, had three sons, *Walter, James and Ross*; JOHN (1880-1933) married Mary Ebborn, their children were *Frances, Dorothy, John, Joe and Bert*; FRANK (1883-1967) married Florence Langston, had four children, *George, Walter, Clara and Ralph*; FRED (1891-1962) was a veteran of World War I, and a well-known gunsmith. WINNIE born 1886 married Wilson Hamilton, had five children — *Myrtle, Walter,*

Gordon, Wilfred and James. They farmed on Walter Pizzeys farm from 1915, and son Jim and family are there now. Winnie lives with them, on the farm she first went to at nine years old.

ROBERT JAMES PIZZEY, nephew of Walter, came to Canada in 1889 with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pizzeys. They homesteaded S.E. ¼ of 14-18-28. They came to Canada from England with a desire to farm, hoping they could better themselves financially. Their farm in the Balmerino district expanded to include the north half of 14 as well. Their first home was a frame house with wood stoves and some furniture. Water had to be hauled from a well in the valley on the south part of the farm.

In 1905 he married Sarah Jane Redmond and they had eight children: *Robert James* — farms the S.E. ¼ of 14-18-28 and rents and resides on the farm of Mrs. Arla Redmond, W ½ of 12-18-28. *Mary Elizabeth* (Edwards) — retired and lives in Binscarth; *Ethel Eliza Jane* (Watt) — also in Binscarth; *Norman Thomas* — died Oct. 29, 1942; *Lawrence Russell* — mechanic and lives in Foxwarren; *Alex Murray* — farms N ½ of 13-18-28 and S.W. ¼ of 14-18-28; *Allan Gordon* — farmed E ¼ of 14-18-28 but had to move to Winnipeg for health reasons; *Melba Jean* (Carter) — retired school teacher living in Lac du Bonnet. Robert Pizzeys (1875-1934).

MURRAY PIZZEY, son of Sarah Pizzeys and the late Robert Pizzeys, was born on NE 14-18-28. He married the former Imogen White of Binscarth in 1944. They have since resided on NE 13-18-28, which was, in the past, the Albert Souch farm (an uncle). Murray and Imogen have two children. Cheryl, at Birtle Collegiate. Calvin, their eldest, married the former Donna McDougall, hairdresser, of Binscarth. They live on SE 11-18-28, the former William Redmond (great uncle) homestead. They have two children — Jacki and Tracy.

Calvin still plays hockey and Cheryl is interested in music, playing piano and guitar and singing. Has won the Rebekah Scholarship and has attended the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens, also won trophies at the Marquette Music Festival.

POMEHICHUK, PETE — and his wife Marian, nee Johnston, along with son KENNETH and daughter KAREN moved to Solsgirth from Rosburn in Nov. 1956. They took over the farm previously owned by Carl and Mary Workman. TOM was born in 1957. In 1966 they lost their home and all its contents by fire which occurred when all were away from home. For the time being they moved into the house vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McLeod who had moved to Birtle. In December 1968 they moved into their new home on the old site. At present Ken is working at Esterhazy, Karen in Brandon and Tom going to school. Besides being very busy with their farm and cattle raising, they find time to drive a bus for Birdtail School Division.

POOLE — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Poole (Mabel Gee from England) lived in Solsgirth for many years. Jack was a very good carpenter. Many

homes still have cupboards, etc., showing his talent. Their family was : JEAN — now deceased; DOROTHY — Mrs. Venables of Hamiota; EDITH — Mrs. Proctor (Winnipeg); JACK — lives at west coast.

PORTER, GEORGE SR. — was born in Scotland in 1841. He and Kate Boulter were married in Aberdeen and came to the Solsgirth district in 1889. With them came two sisters Isobel and Kate and a daughter KATE (Mrs. Tyndall) and a son GEORGE.

The home was a halfway house between the reserve and Birtle. The door was always open to welcome travellers day and night.

The railway was as far as Solsgirth. They homesteaded 10-18-26 where they built a log house using wood as fuel. Their farm work was done with a team of oxen and a pony. They kept a large flock of sheep which at one time was totally destroyed by a prairie fire. Mr. Porter contracted to haul freight between Birtle and McArthur's mill north of Rosburn.

They were members of the Anglican church and helped to build the present St. James Church where they are now buried. He served as councillor and reeve of Birtle municipality.

GEORGE PORTER JR. came with his parents in 1889 when he was 14 years of age. He married Anna Huehnichen who was teaching at Lansburn school. The wedding was at St. James church in 1910 with Rev. T. J. Latornell. They lived on the NE¼ 10-18-26 until 1931 when they moved to E½ 5-18-25. Mr. Porter continued to drive the school van which he drove from across the valley. In 1942 they retired to Birtle where Mrs. Porter died in October. Mr. Porter died May 1959. Both are buried at St. James.

Their children: *Anna Isabel* — Mrs. A. Pickup of Ingelow, *Ena Winnifred* — Mrs. G. Moore of California, *George Alan Porter* of Solsgirth. There are nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

George Alan Porter took over the farm from his parents in 1931. Farming was done with horses. In 1942 he married Margaret Irving of Solsgirth. In 1943 they moved to the farm formerly owned by Jim Hamilton who was forced to move to Solsgirth from ill health. Their family is Norma Smith of Hamiota, Betty Jean, R.N. at General Hospital Winnipeg, Lyall who at present is taking his Grade XII in Birtle and plans on farming.

PORTER, WILLIAM RICHMAN (BILL) — born May 1892; died March 1965, emigrated to Canada from Ilford, Essex, England, in 1908 at age 16. He worked at various jobs, mainly near Binscarth until 1913 when he bought a quarter section in the Jeleco District. In 1919 he moved to 31-18-27 (½ section) presently owned by Albert Low.

He married the late Lillian E. Brown in 1930. They had one daughter (BETTY MARIE) Mrs. Jim Watson of Elm Creek and two sons, DONALD WILLIAM (married) and ROBERT SEWELL.

In 1938, the final move was to 34-18-27, where he farmed until retirement in 1963.

POWELL — Mr. Powell came to Canada from England in 1910 and Mrs. Powell in 1919. They came to the Birtle Municipality in spring of 1927 to the farm recently vacated by Joe Teasdale, coming from Reidville District. They were mixed farmers remembering the days when the cattle had to be chased on foot to the stockyards at Kelloe and Solsgirth. Many are the red ribbons Mrs. Powell received for her White Leghorns. Help from neighbors and the hours spent on the road working in the summer with their horses helped them over the hard times, as well as hunting wolves and skunks in the winter months.

Mr. Powell passed away at the age of 82 years. Mrs. Powell still resides on the farm.

PRESTON FAMILY — George Ernest Preston came in 1882 from Peterborough, Ont. and homesteaded on Sec. 4-16-26, Birtle. His wife, the former Maggie Rosborough came with their six children in 1883, travelling to Brandon by train and by cutter to the farm. They farmed south of Birtle until they retired to the town. The children were — EMMA (Mrs. Preston of Saskatoon), MARY (Mrs. Cartmell), ANNIE (Mrs. Findlay), ERNEST, ALICE (Mrs. Palmer) and WILL. There were two children born in Birtle — ETHEL (Mrs. Wakefield) and LAURA (Mrs. Beattie).

ERNEST PRESTON — eldest son of George Preston, married Edna Bell of Walkerton, Ont. in 1903, and farmed seven miles south of Birtle. Ernest died in May, 1931 at the age of fifty-four, and his wife in 1970 at ninety-one. They had three sons: *Elmer* born 1904, married Margaret Boyce in 1944 at Edmonton. Their daughter Elaine, born 1947, married Terry Dallman, has two children, and lives at Vulcan, Alta. Son John, born 1949, married Bernice Boychuk in 1972 and lives in Edmonton. *Melvin* born 1906 married Annie Davidson in 1936, live in Birtle and have three children. Ernie, born 1938 married Betty McQuarrie, is Manager of the Royal Bank at McCreary and has two children. Ethel, born 1941, married Fred Farquhar of Birtle and has three children Carla, Wanda and Allan. David, born 1948, married Francis Morgan, is Royal Bank Accountant in Winnipeg. *Erl* born 1913, married Shirley Massina in 1949, lives in Kemnay, Man. They have five children, all in Brandon — Bruce, married to Beverly Shepherd, has one daughter; Robert married Janice Wilson, also has one daughter; Edna, (Mrs. Randall Snyder) and Larry and Joyce at school.

PROST, STANLEY — and wife Gertrude moved to Foxwarren in the fall of 1949 where Stan was employed on the Melvin Graham farm. He started showing beef cattle at Fat Stock Shows as his interest in cattle grew.

They moved to Birtle in April of 1955 where he was employed as the Farm Instructor at the Birtle Indian Residential School and started seriously showing dairy cattle. In 1966-67 he won the Golden Fork for his herdsmanship and became well known amongst dairy breeders.

In the spring of 1968, as the school's farm began to dissolve, Stan harvested down south while the family reported a lovely summer right in Birtle.

In the fall of 1968, the family moved to Steinbach. Stan is now with the Federal Dairy Division as a R.O.P. Dairy Inspector. MARLENE, the eldest, is now married and living in Selkirk. KENNETH has been with the Royal Canadian Navy since 1968. GERALD is a partsman at Loewen Chev-Olds. in Steinbach. GORDON just graduated; BEVERLY, NORMAN, and FRANCES are still in school.

QUELCH, ARTHUR —came from Oxford, England to Springfield, Man. in 1884. He married Gertrude Winter, second daughter of Christopher Winter, and they farmed near Tyndall, Man. until 1902. In that year, making a visit to the Winter family en route west to Maple Creek, Sask., Mr. Quelch decided to remain in Manitoba, and rented, later bought the Curtis farm in the Blenheim district, (now George Cooper's). Mr. Quelch was later Town Clerk in Birtle.

The Quelch children learned to be self-reliant, and to accept life's hardships as a matter of course, as did most children at that time. They trudged many miles to and from school, and managed to pick up a good deal of knowledge of astronomy from the elder brother whose interest it was. In winter they all played football, skated on sloughs, in summer learned to swim in Hooper's Lake. They helped with the home chores — cooking, washing dishes, milking cows, cutting wood for the stove. A meal at the "Rossin House" was a special treat. Mrs. Quelch, their mother, was mechanic and carpenter as well as housewife, and managed to use hammer, saw and plane to make and repair essential household articles.

Miss EDITH QUELCH, writer of the family story, gives a quick summary of the many changes she has witnessed since childhood on the farm. Methods of farming, transportation, social life, the effects of two world wars, have all had their influence, but she says that she enjoys today, and its generation of long-haired boys and long-haired, brief-skirted girls.

Her three brothers were JACK, STEPHEN and PHILLIP. Jack spent two years, with only ten days' leave, in the trenches in France, and was wounded at Passchendaele. In 1919 he returned, found a position in the Customs at Windsor, married Frances Watson. Their daughters and grandchildren all live in Windsor. Stephen became a teacher, finally became Principal of Transcona Collegiate, retired in 1954. He has two daughters — *Fay*, (Mrs. Richard Desautel) in New York and *Shelagh* (Mrs. John Stevenson) in Toronto. Fay has five children. Shelagh's son Marshall lives in Winnipeg, has been an outstanding athlete in weight-lifting, judo and football. Phillip (Phil) always "up and coming" as a boy, lives in West Vancouver, formerly Western Manager for Simonds Saw Company. Now retired, but still busy in the

lumber and filing world. He married Bettie Dyer, of Vancouver, and they have a son *Terry*, a collegiate teacher, and three grandsons.

EDITH taught school, ran a "Ladies' Ready-to-wear" store in Birtle, is now retired in Pioneer Lodge, and is still interested in the life around her — "Women from teens to nineties . . . in slacks, pantsuits and what is left of the dress . . . Men, bearded and in equally colorful attire (replicas of Dickens' day) who still live, love and keep Birtle on the map, as in 1882, so in 1973."

RANDALL, HENRY (1849-1927) — and his wife Charlotte (nee Reeder, 1852-1937) came west from Brantford, Ont. in 1882, and settled on N½ 6-16-27 on the Wattsville Plains. The journey was by flat-bottomed boat up the Assiniboine from Brandon. The chief attraction of the homestead they selected was the excellent water supply, with many free-flowing springs. Birtle, the nearest town, was about twelve miles away. They lived in a log house, broke the land with oxen, and planted grain which had to be hauled across the Assiniboine to the grist-mill at Moosomin.

The family were members of the Baptist Church. Services were held in the homes until Oxford School was built, which the children attended, and of which Mr. Randall was Trustee for several years. The Randalls later moved to S½ 10-17-27, four miles west of Birtle. In 1920 they retired to town.

There were six children: EDWIN, EPHRIAM, HARRY married Barbara Winder, his daughter *Elsie* is Mrs. F. C. Butcher; MAUD married Walter Bartley; CHARLOTTE married Oliver Wood. Their children were *Wilfred*, married Dora Davidson in Birtle; *Robert* in B.C.; *Alma* (Mrs. Frank Salmon); *Alberta* (Mrs. Jim Newsham); *Carl* married to Anne Robbie and *Arnold* married to Jean Stewart, all in Birtle. *Gordon* is deceased. MARY married Will McDonald of Wattsville. In 1971 she was still living with her daughter in Moosomin at ninety years of age; her children are *Ruth* (Mrs. Lloyd Bradley) of Moosomin, *Charlie*, *Wilma* (Mrs. Clifford Barteaux), *Dorothy*, *Eva*, *Glen*, *Mervin* and *Edith*. (See Wandering in Wattsville)

EDWIN RANDALL (1876-1961) — wife Ethel Randall born August 29, 1882.

He came west with his parents to Brandon from Brantford, Ont., then on to Wattsville by the Assiniboine River, as a young lad of 9 years old.

In 1900 he settled on section 1-17-26, five miles east of Birtle and five miles south of Solsgirth, and lived there the rest of his lifetime.

He married Ethel Wilcocks in January 1904 building the main part of the house prior to this. In 1917 an addition was added to accommodate a growing family. A log stable was built in 1900 and these buildings are still in use. He carried on mixed farming until 1945 when youngest son Len took over.

Their family were four boys *Frank*, *Wes*, *Eric*, and *Len* and three girls *Leona*, *Joanna*, *Leah*. Frank passed away in 1965, Eric in 1969.



1882. Charlotte and Henry Randall.

They were supporters of the Birtle Baptist Church where Mrs. Randall was organist prior to her marriage. Later church services and Sunday School were held in the Burdette school which was on the section where they lived.

They saw many changes in farming practices, machinery, etc., in home conveniences as well as travel.

WESTON RANDALL started farming in 1929 on the Hall farm across from his Dad's and then to the Bailey farm now owned by Doug

Johnston. He married Frances Elliot and later moved north of Solsgirth to the Jack Catherwood farm where they lived for 9 years then moving south again to the Elliot farm where Wes still farms. Their family are: Leila — Mrs. Don Darker; Mabel — Mrs. Sexsmith of Virden; Edward now living in Brandon; Branwen — Mrs. David Bicknell of Birtle.

A fire at home was the cause of the death of Mrs. Randall.

In recent years Wes married the former Mrs. Bill Davidson.

EPHRIAM RANDALL (1884-1925) — married Freda Munt of McNutt, Sask., in 1904 and lived on the Randall homestead. Their first child was *Myrtle (Mrs. Vic McKay)*. She writes an interesting story of their life in the early part of the century. School for some years was from spring until Christmas. Their pony Peggy took them there at first, later they drove a team and democrat. In winter the trails became so drifted that they were hard to follow, and it was easy to become lost. Ainsley Barteaux often came to school to meet them on stormy days. The trail went through the Barteaux yard.

School was missed often during busy seasons, when the children had to help in the fields, with plow, harrow, and stacking hay by hand. Church was at Oxford School, the service taken by Baptist and Methodist ministers on alternate Sundays. The children made their own good times — week-end visits to neighbors like the Crews, riding sleighs or horseback, house parties, even oyster suppers. Wattsvew was a friendly neighborhood.

The family were: *Myrtle*, who in 1925 married Victor McKay, also from pioneer stock in Wattsvew. They have three children, Marian, Philip and Charline; and live in Birtle. *Edna* married Herman Clark; *Rose* (Mrs. Alf McCann) lives in Winnipeg and has three children; *Richard* married Delta Newsham, farmed at Shoal Lake, now in B.C., and have three children; *Roland* married Davina Laing, had two children. They lived in Winnipeg, where Roland passed away in 1973; Margaret, Tina, Henry and Edna are deceased.

After Ephriam's death in 1925, his wife and family moved into the Vant house in Birtle. Mrs. Randall died in 1963.

DOUG RANDALL — In 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Randall purchased the farm W½ 12-17-26 from the Cherrys and farmed till his death in 1965.

In 1966 Doug and Lorraine (nee Workman) took over the farm. Now they have a family of three girls, *Rhonda* and *Caroline* at school in Birtle and *Kimberly*.

RANKIN, DOUGALD ALEXANDER — My parents came from Ontario with their parents when quite young. My father born 1872 lived at Glenora, Man. My mother, Grace Lavinia Reid, born 1879, lived near to Baldur, Man. They farmed for some time at Rock Lake, Man., later went to Dauphin, then back to Rock Lake. Then to Wadena, Sask., where they homesteaded 1905 for some forty years. My father died in 1947 at Boise, Idaho, while visiting my sister.

My mother lives by herself in Birtle and keeps in pretty good health for her years.

Their family: DOUGALD ALEXANDER — born 1898, married; WILLIAM LIONEL — born 1900, married has one son. Lives at Lacombe, Alta., retired Manager of Patwin Lumber Co., HAROLD EDWARD — born 1902, passed away in his 57th year. Married. Was grain buyer for Western Grain Elevator Company. Later superintendent for Pioneer Company. Worked out of Regina. His wife is deceased. One daughter lives in Regina. NELLIE — born 1905 lives in Saskatoon, married Rev. L. W. Schnell, retired, now Secretary for northern Saskatchewan for the British and Foreign Bible Society. They have two children, a son and a daughter. She taught school for many years. CLIFFORD — born 1912 married has one daughter and three sons. Lives in Regina, Sask. Works at municipal work, office in Government House. IRENE P. — born 1918 married, lives in Olympia, Wash. Has two sons. Took her R.N. training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton. Her married name is Mrs. George Neely.

RANSON, HAROLD — was in Foxwarren for the first time in the years 1926 and 1927, when he was with The Canadian Bank of Commerce. He returned in 1929, and in partnership with H. J. Hazledean, purchased a hardware, service station and machinery business from Frank Clement. He was also appointed agent for Imperial Oil. The partnership was dissolved a couple of years later, and Hazledean built a grocery store adjacent to the hardware. He sold out shortly to Mr. and Mrs. David Robb, with their family of three children.

Harold Ranson continued in the original business, and was joined by his brother Wilbert in 1935. His interests were expanded to include the sale of automobiles and trucks, after obtaining the Chrysler franchise. At this place of business the Depot for Greyhound Bus Lines was also situated.

Harold Ranson married Patricia Robb, daughter of the David Robbs, in 1937. They had three children, PATRICIA ANNE, CATHERINE, and DAVID.

WILBERT RANSON married June Widdicombe in 1941, and they had two children, KAREN and JUDY. Wilbert joined the army and went overseas. Harold sold his business in 1945 to Anderson & Beal, but on Wilbert's return they repurchased in 1947 under the name of Ranson Brothers. They carried on until the fall of 1948 when Harold and his family moved to Victoria, B.C. Wilbert carried on as sole owner until 1953, when he sold out and moved to Brandon for a short time, and then on to Victoria, where both families are now residing. Wilbert died in March, 1973.

REDMOND, THOMAS JOHN (1860-1919) — and his wife Sarah Jane (1851-1936) came to the Balmerino district in 1890. They were both originally from Ireland. Thomas had served with the R.N.W. Mounted Police, and saw action in the Riel Rebellion. He then worked

in Winnipeg, operating a horse-drawn streetcar. They had two children when they settled on their homestead on NW¼ 12-18-28. Their first home was of frame, with lath and plaster, and the furniture was adequate — beds, dressers, dining set and kitchen table and chairs.

School for Sarah Jane Jr. in 1895 was in an old log house on SW¼ 14-18-28. She started here with young Ebborns, Widdicombes, Carrs and Cartwrights. In 1899 the family moved to E½ 2-18-28 and the Redmond children all attended Moresby School. Thomas helped build Balmerino church in 1896, before which time services were in homes. The Redmonds moved back to Sec. 12 in 1905, and purchased half of Sec. 11.

The children were: SARAH JANE JR., born 1887, married Robert James Pizzey in 1905, and is the only surviving member of the family; THOMAS JOHN JR., (1889-1964); ETHEL MARY (1891-1961); WILLIAM JOSEPH (1895-1966); GEORGE VICTOR (1898-1955). George's wife Arla is also still living.

REED FAMILY — S. J. Reed was a military man all his life, and his family was born in all corners of the world — three girls and four boys in all. TOM, the writer, was born in 1913 at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, and has a vivid tale to tell of his school days at a Convent there, and later at a boys' school, where his Protestant faith made it pretty tough for a new boy in a district that was largely Catholic. "The Irish rebellion of the early twenties was just the same as today — faith against faith and politician against politician . . . When school was out I had to walk home, but for the first while I never made it without a bloody nose . . . The windows in our house had to be replaced with bullet-proof steel plates to stop the lead from flying through the house." I realize now there will always be trouble over the same issues . . .

Tom remembers his father's stories about the Boer War, and still has his campaign medals for that and World War I. His brother BILL joined the British Navy and served on H.M.S. Glasgow, where he became friendly with C. E. Bissett, from Birtle. Charlie Bissett returned to Birtle to farm after the war, and in April 1923 the Reeds decided to do likewise. "I was nine years old, and ready to fight Indians and anything else."

They arrived on the morning train with much baggage — a whole lifetime of clothing, mementoes, etc. "We picked up groceries at Diamond's store and headed for the farm. Mother must have died a hundred times over on that trip — mud up to the hubs, over humps, etc., but no Indians." Their school was Burdette, the teacher E. Hays, who boarded at the Dudleys. In 1926 the house burned and all their possessions lost. Another try was made at farming, but they finally moved to town, and in 1930 returned to England.

Tom was tossed from pillar to post during the depression. His sister Vera married Elvin Wotton and farmed in the Foxwarren area. In 1937 Tom married Joanna Wilcocks, took off for New Westminster and worked in a dairy, and in 1940 enlisted in the R.C.A.F. After dis-

charge he farmed east of Birtle, where they are now. They have two daughters *Sharon Fowlie* and *Adrienne Angus*, and six grandchildren.

REEDER FAMILY — See “Wandering in Wattsvie”

Mr. Moses Reeder, one of a family of twenty-two children, migrated to Canada from England in 1851, settled in Brantford, Ont., and in 1885 came to Manitoba to the Wattsvie Plains in 1885. With him were a son BEN, daughter MARTHA (later Mrs. Albert Bartley), and a few years later another son JAMES came out with his son *Herbert*. Moses had settled just across the river from the Birdtail Sioux Reserve. James bought land east of the survey for the Grand Trunk Railway. He was joined later by his wife and three daughters. Later there were three more daughters and a son, William Spurgeon.

The Reeder family were very hospitable, kept a large garden and shared gladly with their neighbors. Mr. James Reeder was a Trustee of Oxford school, and a Deacon of Birtle Baptist Church. His wife died in 1914, and he retired to Winnipeg, where he died.

The family have gone to live in various centres. BERTHA and AGNES (Mrs. Joe Brown) went to Victoria. HERBERT married Alice Brown, whose parents were early pioneers of Birtle. They farmed for ten years, then moved to Vancouver, where Herbert died in 1963 and his wife in 1965. They had two sons — *Harvel* (deceased) and *Alvin*, in Vancouver. CHARLOTTE taught school, then she, HATTIE and ROSE lived in Winnipeg. LILY married and lived at Puffer, Alta. All are deceased.

William Spurgeon (Bill) enlisted with the Strathcona Horse in 1916, served until 1919, then returned to the farm. In 1924 he married Kathleen Bedman, a nurse in Birtle. In 1938 they moved to Penticton, B.C. with their family. Kathleen was active with Red Cross and other community affairs, and was awarded the Penticton Good Citizen Award in 1949. She died in 1971, William in 1972. Their five children — Herbert, Mitchell, Rose, Marguerite and Doris all live in B.C. There are a number of grandchildren.

REID, ALEX — (1843-1940) and his wife Levina Ransom (1853-1939) came to their homestead on NE ¼ 20-18-27 from Mornington, Ont. in 1887. They raised a large family in their two story log house, and attended Bayfield Presbyterian Church. There were six daughters — Margaret, Ellen, Kate, Sarah, Edith and Jessie, all born in Ontario. Margaret (1875-1968) married “Mort” Wallace in 1909. Four sons were born at Foxwarren — William, Alex, Edward and Sam. There are thirty-one grandchildren, and one of them is George A. Reid, present owner of the homestead.

ROBBIE, JOHN F. D. — John and his wife Margaret were married in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1899. John, a freight contractor, had four men working for him, each responsible for his own team. After some years he felt a desire to go to Canada, sold the business and crossed the Atlan-

tic in February, 1906. The voyage took fourteen days, with much seasickness among passengers. From the harbour of St. John he came west by train, to Winnipeg and then to the Rothesay district, where he worked for Andy and Sam Nickel.

After a year John arranged to rent the Nickel farm, and sent for the family, who arrived in Kellogg in January, 1907. "We did not think much of the cold welcome — snow everywhere . . . We all got into the sleigh-box, and were covered with blankets." At the house they had a warm welcome, however, and a supper prepared by Mr. and Mrs. William Milne. Daughter ANNIE (Mrs. Carl Wood) tell a vivid story of their new life. Most enjoyable were trips into Birtle for groceries and mail at Warleigh Post Office, the home of Ernest Dudley.

When the children were of school age the Robbies moved to (32-16-25, and the girls attended Burdette School, with Miss Agnes Dudley their teacher, whom they loved. In time the family moved nearer the school to 36-16-26 (now James Torrie). Still later they purchased land in the Rothesay-Gnaton district, and moved their home to 11-16-26, among old friends. The Robbies were always involved in community affairs, and attended the church and Sunday school held in Burdette School, with the minister from Birtle, Baptist and United alternately. As a maternity nurse Mrs. Robbie was in great demand. "I think she deserved a medal, for she never lost a mother or baby in sixteen years."

There is a description of parties in the home, school picnics, and the world at war, when the girls donned khaki uniforms to help with the harvest. Christmas was a sacred day to this Scottish family, but at New Year's they had turkey and all the trimmings, music and dancing. The guests departed around 1.30 A.M. with their teams and sleighs.

Annie trained as a nurse at Neepawa, then returned to Birtle for special nursing. At this time one sister died. In time Mr. Robbie decided to sell the farm to Mr. Ernest McLeod, and John and his wife went to Winnipeg to make their home with daughter EVA (now Mrs. R. C. Newsham). Here they celebrated their Fiftieth Anniversary in November, 1949. The following February John died very suddenly. Mrs. Robbie passed away in December, 1954.

Annie and her husband are still farming. Their daughter and family of six live at Grosse Isle, Man., and their son is a baker in Birtle. Eva and her husband live in Chilliwack, B.C., have eight grandchildren. JOHN and wife Dorris with seven children live in Victoria.

ROBERT — In 1943 Alcide and Beatrice Robert and young son CLEMENT of St. Lazare came to Birtle to take over the Commercial Hotel. They were joined by their son HECTOR in 1945 and together they continued under the name of Hotel Robert until 1962 when the hotel was purchased by Mrs. Elsie Horvath.

Several years later Hector built the Riverside Motel and Drive-In from which he retired in 1971.

Now, in 1973 both parents are deceased. Hector still resides in Birtle with his wife and three of their seven children.

Clement, who is a co-owner of a gravel crushing and concrete company lives in Russell with his wife and their three children.

ROGUSKY, STEVE (1907-1961) — was born on board the immigration ship while his parents were en route from a village near Warsaw, Poland in 1907. The family settled in an area north of Winnipeg, and eventually found their way further west. Steve married Mary Morelak, also of Polish decent, and born in 1914 at Sperling, Man.

In 1943 Steve and Mary, with two children, moved to the Solsgirth district to the E. K. Stitt farm. They had tried farming in the Ruthenia district of Manitoba north of Angusville, on a quarter section which produced a meagre income. The half section at Solsgirth provided a home and better income, with good crops and farming conditions. Work was hard, but resulted in improved techniques, increased herds, better roads and friendly neighbors.

The children EDWARD and HELEN attended the "little white schoolhouse" at Dowsford School No. 190, Edward went to Rossburn for high school, Helen to Solsgirth, and both to Rossburn for Grade XII. In 1956 Edward was employed with the Birtle and District Co-op until he was accepted for the R.C.M.P. With the Force for fifteen years, he has served in various places in the west, in time as an Instructor, and now in charge of a seven-man detachment at Redwater, Alta. He married Joanne Frieda Fitz of Leduc in 1964, and they have two sons — *Derek Noel* and *D'Arcy Joel*.

Helen left the Solsgirth district in 1959, as did many of her peers during the years which saw a change in schools with consolidation and in family farms to larger grain operations. Helen moved to Winnipeg, and was married in 1961 to Fraser Hunter of Pilot Mound. They have two children — *Donna-Rae* and *Curtis Glenn*, live in the Transcona area. Fraser is employed with a Chrysler dealership in Winnipeg, and Helen works in a clinic as Lab Technician.

After Steve's death in 1961 the farm was sold and Mary moved to Winnipeg to be near her daughter and grandchildren. The Melnyk family are now on the farm.

RUSSETT, DONALD — was born in Wyman, Quebec in 1896. He came to Manitoba (Foxwarren) on a Harvesters Excursion and decided to make Manitoba his home. He married Elizabeth Blair of Pakenham, Ont. in 1927 and the following year they moved to the farm NW 19-17-26 where they made their home.

Four children were born — DONALD, 1928, took his schooling to Grade IX. He went to Ontario and later B.C. making road construction his line of work. He married Shirley Hannah of Red Deer, Alberta. They have five children and two grandchildren. He is at present employed on a pipe-line in northern Ontario.

GORDON married Edna Wardell of Wellwood. They have lived at Boggy Creek since 1956, and they have six children.

JEAN finished her schooling in Birtle and took Laboratory

Technician training at Winnipeg General Hospital. She is now at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, and is in charge of the Cancer Research lab.

I, RUTH took teacher's training in Winnipeg and after three years' teaching married Stan Teasdale. We live on the farm at Isabella and have two girls, *Leslie* and *Laurie*.

Dad farmed his quarter section with horses for many years, and was always proud of his horses. He drove the winter school van (horse drawn) to Birtle many winters and often arrived in temperatures of 50 to 55 degrees below zero.

Mom was an active member of the Mount Joy W.I., the Auxiliary to the Legion, and the Ladies Orange Lodge. She passed away in July 1957. Dad lived alone on the farm for some years, but in 1966 he sold it to Jim Farquhar. He is now a resident in Cornwallis Nursing Home in Brandon.

RYAN FAMILY — Frank Clifford Ryan married Ella Frances Beagle in Iowa in 1898, worked for twelve years in Chicago, and decided in 1911 to go to Dropmore, Man., on the suggestion of a minister who had a farm there. En route he met "Danish" Johnson a cattle buyer from Foxwarren, and was advised to go to Foxwarren instead. He was urged to go to Mr. Johnson's home to stay until he found a place. Almost at once he met J. K. Hay, whose brother-in-law Peter Dunlop wished to sell his farm — and the deal was made, including a half section, five horses, cow and calf and implements. He paid a deposit of \$1000.00 and went back to Iowa for his wife and son, LAURENCE. On return they were included in a shower of rice intended for a newly-married couple, and set off for their farm with team and wagon, glad to be in a new land and away from gangster-land.

Their troubles began with their crop in 1911 — Red Fife, blown flat in a storm, and frozen before threshing — graded No. 5 at 52 cents a bushel. Crops until 1916 were only fair, then there was a record crop year, Marquis wheat at 60 bushels to the acre, and fair prices for war-time. In 1918 and 1919 Mr. Ryan was the largest grower of Registered wheat and oats in Manitoba, nearly 300 acres. He picked the heads for a quarter acre Elite plot of Marquis.

Mr. Ryan died in 1939. His wife died in 1972 in her ninety-sixth year. She had for years been an active member of Foxwarren United Church, in charge of the Cradle Roll and a willing worker for W.M.S., W.A. and W.I. until her health failed. Their son Laurence married Dina Jean Fraser of Binscarth in 1922. They had four children — *Carman*, who farms the home place, married Shirley Scarth of Isabella, has daughters Patricia and Julie. *Elmer* farms nearly two sections, married Connie Bonner and has four daughters, Meredith, Shelley, Rebecca and Maureen. *Beulah* (Mrs. Ivan Cooley) of Birtle, who died in 1963, had four children — Nola, Gary, Orville and Brian. *Myrna* (Mrs. Doug Graham) lives in Brandon, has three children — Scott, Jody and Jayne.

Laurence is now retired. He and Dina celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in June, 1972.

RYDER — My uncle Edward Ryder lived in Brandon before he came to Solsgirth in 1927.

He was a road contractor and built 30 miles of road in the Solsgirth district.

After completing the road work he moved to a small farm on the west side of the Birdtail River five miles NW from Solsgirth (last tenant George Potter). Later he moved to the east side of the river on a farm vacated by William Hadland five miles NE of town which he purchased.

He farmed till his health failed and he moved to town. While in town he had a small cafe assisted by his niece Helen Ryder, who made her home with her uncle. He was very much interested in curling for many years. He curled in his 83rd year. Ill health set in and he passed away in August, 1961. He was highly respected by everybody and was always ready to lend a helping hand when necessary. After his death his niece Helen went to Winnipeg to take up nursing at the Middlechurch Home for four years and later the Frederickson home for three years, and is still assisting in the home at time of writing, 1971.

SALMON, SIMEON — came with his wife Sarah and three small children from Essex, England to "a land flowing with milk and honey" in 1890. They had a few hundred dollars, and were allowed to bring some necessary household articles. Arriving in Winnipeg, they met the Rev. Mitten, the Anglican clergyman in Birtle, and on his advice took the train to Birtle, stopping at the Leland (now Robert) Hotel.

A cabinet maker by trade, Mr. Salmon was determined to farm. Referred to lawyer C. J. Mickle, he was driven by team and sleigh to the quarter section where they were to live through their entire life — NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 16-16-26. They lived in a small frame house 16 x 24 with one partition, built during the summer by Mr. Salmon. He found it necessary also to work out to make enough money to live, as well as looking after the farm. At one point the family ran out of money, and thought of returning to England — but were determined to make good on the farm. One favorite story about Sarah's efforts as a farm wife relates that when first attempting to milk, she sat down on the wrong side of the cow, but the cow would not stand for such a surprise. She learned to milk, however, and to make superb butter, which took many prizes at fairs.

Their children were LOUISE, FRANK, SARAH, ANNIE, GEORGE and EPHRAIM. Gnaton school was several miles distant. Frank quit at twelve years of age to help on the farm, and the others did not proceed much further.

The Salmon family progressed from oxen and a one-furrow plow to horses and machinery such as a binder and riding plow and harrow cart, and in time owned a nice top buggy and good driving horse.

Mr. and Mrs. Salmon were staunch Anglicans and they loved their flowers. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 26th, 1934 in Gnaton Hall. Here on this homestead they moved to a modern house with gas lighting and a well-filled cistern with a pump, which at that time was wonderful. Here they were respected by all. The old farmstead was sold in 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Salmon rest in Birtle's most beautiful cemetery.

FRANK SALMON — born in England in 1888, and came with his parents to the homestead in 1890. During childhood he was charged by a cow and injured in the neck by her horn. He fortunately recovered. By the time Frank was six, they had acquired a herd of eight or ten cattle, and he and Sarah had the job of keeping them off the grain fields during the day. By the age of nine Frank was ploughing and seeding. With the long cold winters and constant work in the summer, schooling suffered, but the children learned their trade as farmers.

When Frank was twelve his Dad bought the NE¼, and the boy learned the art of picking stones with horse and stone boat. About this time Mr. Salmon was injured felling a tree, and for months all the field work was left to Frank. He found time however to help organize a baseball team, and by working early and playing late they had fine games. Another half section was added to the farm, which Frank broke with three horses and a walking plow — fifty acres the first summer — what a difference from the modern tractor and machines.

Frank looked after the farm while his brothers served in the First War, then on their return he married Alma Wood, and they bought E½ 13-16-27, where they stayed for fifty years. In 1973 Frank and Alma were living in Birtle, enjoying fair health, and talking about homesteading again. Their children are all married and within visiting distance: HAROLD married Lillian Deans. Harold served in the Army until he was injured, then returned to farming on his Dad's quarter-section. Their two sons *Ray* and *Don* are both specialists in Agriculture; DOROTHEA (Mrs. Lawrence Amy) lives in the Beulah district. They have three children and seven grandchildren; LLOYD married Agnes Stewart. He farmed with his Dad, then took over the farm. He has three children and three grandchildren; PEARL married William Sutcliffe, farmed in the Rothesay district, has four children; JULIA (Mrs. Charles Pierce) lives in the Beulah-Miniota district, has four children and two grandsons.

EPHRAIM SALMON — was born in 1897 on the family homestead, the youngest of Simeon Salmon's family. Attended Gnaton and Blenheim schools, but with four miles to cover with no vans, his education was limited. He tried to enlist at seventeen in World War I, was finally accepted in 1918, but was hospitalized for illness. After discharge in 1919 he returned to farming, and in 1926 married Mary Sararas, a descendent of a Pennsylvania family that migrated to Waterloo County, Ontario in 1901. In Birtle she was employed as a stenographer in the law firm of Stubbs and Pratt.

After marriage and farming for twenty years, the Salmons moved into Birtle, and Mary resumed work in the office of J. W. Pratt, Barrister, where she still is. Their farming operation was mixed, with cows, sheep, pigs "and all that goes with it." They graduated from horses and walking harrows to all the modern machinery, from coal oil lamps to electrical appliances. While living in Birtle Eph still helps George on the farm, enjoys hunting and fishing.

Their children are: VELMA born 1927, married Donald Potter, lives in Winnipeg and has three children; BETTY born 1929, lives in Birtle with husband Clarence Hickman and six sons; VERLA born 1933, married Joe Zuzanski, a school teacher in Winnipeg, has three children; GEORGE married Merlene Smith of Grandview, raises grain and cattle on the home farm, and has four sons.

SANDERS, FRANK (born 1895) — and his wife Christina (1899) came to the Solsgirth District from Winnipeg, with the desire to live and raise their family away from the city. Mr. Sanders worked as an automobile mechanic in Solsgirth, and they lived in a frame house east of the Harrison home, heated with coal and wood. With no water of their own, their supply came from a neighbor's well.

The Sanders have two daughters — FRANCES (Mrs. J. Knyppstra, Kaleden, B.C.), and BETTY (Mrs. Jack Gair in Winnipeg).

SAWYER, SAMUEL ALFRED — came to Foxwarren with brother Frank from London, England in 1908, at age sixteen. They lived for a time with relatives the Tom Liveringtons in the Fort Ellice district. Frank departed, and Sam worked for farmers: Hunters, McLellans, Lewartons, Falloons and others. He earned a reputation as a dependable man, a humorist and a formidable debater, with new and unheard of ideologies.

In 1911 he joined the Canadian Army for a brief period, returned to Foxwarren, then in 1913 visited England and enlisted with the British Army for World War I. He was badly wounded and handicapped for the rest of his life. However he married the girl friend of his youth, and returned to Foxwarren in 1919 with wife Mary and son ROBERT. Arriving later were JIMMY and VERA, the only Manitoban at present, having married into the prominent farming family of Dillin in Roblin.

Sam's love for his fellow-man and his socialistic outlook prompted his activity in the Legion, and other organizations for ex-servicemen and croplless farmers. He was a supporter of the C.C.F. and United Farmers, promising a better deal for those who had to toil for a living. Meanwhile he had to give up farming because of illness and the depression. The family moved to town, where he worked in insurance, as Crop Inspector, on the village Council. He also wrote a weekly column for the Binscarth "Express" under the byline "S.A.S."

In 1951 his health deteriorated, and he and Mary moved to Victoria, where a return to better health permitted him to work for twelve years for the Corps of Commissionaires. He died in 1969, leaving the

country much enriched by his having passed that way. To the population explosion Sam and Mary contributed three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

SCANTLEBURY — David John Wesley was born in Birtle District Hospital Sept., 1943, the son of the late John Scantlebury who died May, 1965 and Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Scantlebury who still lives on the home farm in the Birtle district. He attended elementary and high school in Birtle and later started farming in 1963. As a boy he was in 4-H and also played baseball with the St. Lazare A's, and later fastball with Beulah; but hockey was his favorite sport, playing on four Manitoba Championship teams and one in Saskatchewan.

Wes married Joan Elaine Taylor December, 1970 in the Miniota United Church. Joan was born in Brandon, February, 1952. She was the first child of Stuart and Margaret Taylor of Miniota. She attended grades 1-10 in Miniota and 11-12 in Birtle. Joan was active in 4-H, sports and church activities.

They have two children JACQUELINE ELAINE born May, 1971 in Hamiota and STUART SCOTT born in January, 1973 in Birtle.

SEALE, GEORGE (1857-1934) — came west from Granby, P.Q. in 1877, through the United States and down the Red River to Winnipeg, where he joined the N.W.M.P. He was stationed at Cypress Hills, Sask., under Inspector Walsh, when Sitting Bull came across the border from Montana. After three years, he spent the next two years freighting flour with horses from Winnipeg to Calgary. Regina was still "Pile of Bones Creek", and he saw the last of the wild buffalo during these years.

In 1882 he homesteaded in the Blenheim district, wishing to be near a river, and because he thought the land better for wheat than further west. In the fall he went east to marry Isobel Booth (1864-1945) of Granby. Returning to the homestead, they lived in a log house where all the children were born. In 1899 they built a stone house, still standing. They attended the Anglican services, held at first in the school and later at Blenheim Church.

Children: LILLIAN SARAH, R.N. (1884-1969); VERA PATIENCE IRWIN (1887-1931); G. D. H. SEALE, D.D.S. (Born 1894); C. W. E. SEALE, M.D. (1895-1962). There are seven grandchildren, all now living in B.C., except *Audrey Dodge*, of Birtle.

SHAW, GEORGE ARTHUR — came from Lincolnshire, England in 1888 with wife Mary Jane and four children. They started farming on the "Edward's place" south-east of Solsgirth in a homestead house of logs and mud with a sod roof, where four more children were born. In 1898 Mr. Shaw bought land further west in the Birdtail Valley, where he built a frame house and barn close to the river — an ideal spot for pasture, and also for sports.

The children attended Burdette school, five miles distant over prairie trails, then later went to Solsgirth Consolidated School, with

still a mile to walk to meet the van. The family attended the Anglican Church, and helped build St. Stephen's in Solsgirth.

The older children began to leave home for the west, and Mr. Shaw finally followed to Hanna, Alta., later buying a farm near Gleichen. He and his wife retired to Golden, B.C., where Mr. Shaw died in 1920. Mrs. Shaw returned to Birtle and built a cottage on Main Street, where she died in 1936.

Their family were: FLORENCE died in Vancouver 1905; MAY married Jim Leggat, had four children, lived in Calgary until her death in 1965; FRANCES graduated from Regina General Hospital 1912, served overseas as a nursing sister, and later with the Red Cross. Cared for her mother in Birtle for several years, then died in Victoria in 1963; ELSIE (Mrs. S. E. Dafoe) lived in Calgary, where she passed away in 1960. She had two daughters; WALTER farmed at Hanna, Alta., retired to Vancouver with his wife Dorothy, died in 1958. A son Bruce (deceased) and two daughters; FRED married Florence Birtwell from England, farmed south of Alexander, Man. retired to Victoria where he died in 1953. Daughter *Mrs. D. Smart* has three children, son *Clarence* is on the farm at Alexander with wife Jane, and has three sons. ALBERT served in World War I, returned to farm on the east side of the valley. Married Birdie Sanderson in 1930. Retired to Birtle and died in 1968. Daughter *Marlene* married Donald Ashcroft, farm in the Rothesay district, have one daughter. EDWIN married Gertrude Molson in 1918, farmed the home place. Retired to Birtle, where he died in 1964. Gertrude now lives in Pioneer Lodge. LESLIE born 1900, married Edith Newsham, farmed on his father's land. Retired to Brandon where he died 1969. They had four children and eleven grandchildren. Son *Ronald* farms on his father's farm, and his children attend school in Birtle.

SHEPHERD, JOHN (1831-1898) — one of nine children of Simpson Shepherd (1806-1893) and his wife Minelly, who came to Canada early in the nineteenth century, Simpson from Leeds, England, his wife from Ireland. Born at Bathurst, Ont., in 1854 John married Margaret Richmond (1832-1916), born in Buffalo, N.Y. of English parents.

From their home in Oil Springs, near Sarnia, Ont., John came west in 1879 to find land to homestead, then returned east. In the spring of 1880 John came back to the Birtle district with the five older members of the family and his son-in-law George Osborne. They were joined later by daughter Melissa, and in 1883 Margaret came out with the younger children. Their journey has been outlined vividly in the diary of the eldest son Alonzo.

The first log home on the homestead was destroyed by fire in March, 1881, but quickly rebuilt with the help of good neighbors. The Shepherds had a lime kiln on their farm, which provided lime for building a stone house on the homestead, and another in the town in 1895. It also supplied lime for many of the stone buildings in and around Birtle.

The family were: ALONZO JOHN (1855-1932) married Laura Grandy, the first teacher at Burdette School, in 1885. Alonzo lost a hand in a threshing accident in 1892, was later employed at Brandon Mental Hospital until he returned to Birtle to take over the Massey-Harris Agency from brother Clifford. His daughter *Luella* (Mrs. John McTavish) still lives in Birtle, and son *Robert* in Toronto. Robert has a son and a grandson. MELISSA MARGARET (1857-1942) married George Osborne in 1878, and remained in the east to teach for a time when he came west with the family. They moved to Oregon City in 1890, where George died in 1940, Melissa in 1942. Their sons *John* and *Clarence* are deceased. There are two grandsons George and Keith (a Methodist Missionary). SARAH ALICE (1859-1947) married Halford (Alf) Burdett in 1886, later moved to Oregon. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1936, the service being conducted by grandson Lawrence, a Methodist minister. Sarah won many prizes at country fairs while at Birtle, especially for her fancywork. ALBERT (1861-1897) homesteaded with his father, and died at age thirty-six. BENJAMIN RICHARD (1865-1954) married Emily, daughter of Sam Larcombe, farmed at Birtle and Solsgirth until leaving to live in Winnipeg in 1928. Emily died in 1966. They had five children — *Clarence*, in White Rock, B.C.; *Maud* (Mrs. William Axon) in Winnipeg; *Edna* (Mrs. Wilfred Moyer); *Jean* (Mrs. John Hall) in Stratford, Ont. and *Rita* (Mrs. M. Gordon) of Vancouver.

CLIFFORD SIMPSON (1867-1948) married Annie Laurie McKinnon of Rosburn, farmed at Birtle, and later in the Angusville district, as well as running an implement and auto agency. Clifford and his wife experienced many of the hardships of pioneering. Four of their nine children died within sixteen months. Three sons *Clarence*, *William* and *Frank* are deceased. Frank married Verna Dunham. Daughter *Ethel* (Mrs. G. W. Chapman) lives in Brandon and son *Elmer* in Russell. There are numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

GEORGE (1870-1954) married Emma Scott, moved first to Iowa, then to Oregon City and finally near Vancouver, Wash. Their son *Clarence* lives in Oregon.

WILLIAM JAMES (1875-1960) came west with his mother in 1883. Married Lillian Margaret Armstrong of Beulah in 1905, taught school for twelve years in various towns. He operated general stores for twenty-seven years in Hilton, Beulah, Birtle, Winnipeg and elsewhere, and from 1933 worked in insurance. He was always interested in sports and club work, and was an elder at Young United Church, Winnipeg. His wife died in 1968, aged ninety-one. One child died in infancy, and four daughters survive — *Lillian Mary*, R.N., who served for forty years at Municipal Hospitals, Winnipeg, retired as Director of Nursing in 1968. *Ruby Margaret* (Mrs. E. P. Venables) lives in Brandon, *Grace Melissa* (Mrs. Don Tedford) in Vancouver, and *Wilma Augusta* in Winnipeg.

ELLA MARY (1878-1966) lived for many years in U.S.A. Married Phil Brown, who died in 1942, then Tom Martin, who died in

1948. She lived mainly in Atlanta, Ill., and owned a large ranch in Alberta. She died in Illinois after a lengthy illness, and was buried in Birtle, the last survivor of John Shepherd's family.

SHEPHERD, WILFRED JOHN — born at Birtle in 1921, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Shepherd, now living in Calgary. Others of the family were: BERT in Victoria, has seven children; HAZEL, (Mrs. Harry Cottingham) of Birtle; EVELYN (Mrs. Lamont Bonner) of Birtle; GORDON in Port Alberni, B.C. has three children; EARLE has four children, lives in Victoria; GERALD, in Calgary, with three children; DALE in Victoria, has two children.

All the children were able to attend the celebration of their parents' sixtieth wedding anniversary on February 21st, 1972 in Calgary.

WILFRED was educated at Fort Ellice and Birtle, then worked on various farms in the district. He well remembers the Dirty Thirties, when he worked long hours for ten dollars a month. In 1942 he joined the Twelfth Manitoba Dragoons, and served overseas until February 1946. Upon discharge he returned to Birtle and rented a half section north of Birtle from Mrs. A. Cottingham.

In September 1946 Wilfred married Edith Marion, daughter of Mr. Harry Sawyer of Beulah. Born in 1925, Edith went to school in Beulah, and worked in Winnipeg until her marriage. After the death of her mother in 1952, Edith and Wilfred moved to her father's farm, where they lived until 1955. At that time Wilfred purchased NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW 80 acres of 17-15-26 in the Beulah district, where he has done considerable breaking, planted windbreaks and put up a house and other buildings. Besides farming, Wilfred does carpentry work, including among others the work in the Dunc Johnston and Lynn Watt homes in Birtle.

Wilfred and Edith have two daughters — MARLENE JOYCE, born 1947, married Lynn Amy of Beulah, and has two children. DEBORAH MARY LEAH, born 1953, married Gerald Hanilin of Arrow River, has one daughter *Shannon*.

SHERRITT — Mr. and Mrs. George Sherritt came to the R.M. of Birtle in 1943 from Rossburn district. They do mixed farming. Mrs. Sherritt (Stitt) can remember going to church every Sunday as a child in her bare feet.

She tells of happy family times and hard work on the old scrub board. Curling was the sport she most enjoyed as well as skating on the sloughs. SYLVIA a daughter is Mrs. George Ryder of Hamiota. CARMAN a son is home on the farm.

SHERRITT, WILLIAM — was born at Exeter, Ontario in the year 1878. He moved with his parents to Rapid City, Man. when he was five months old. He remained there with his mother and older sister while his father went to the Boyle district to build a house on the homestead, in which the family was to live for a number of years. Some of the

families in that district at the time were the Burgesses, Dows, Teeples, Berneys, Eassons, Browns, and Sherritts.

The first school that he attended was a small sod roofed shanty, and was located on the Berney farm. A new school was built later which was one mile south of the old one. The school building is now gone, but the location is marked by a cairn.

Mr. Sherritt spent part of his younger years working on the railroad and helping his father on the farm. He can recall the days when he and a brother were hired out to pick potatoes from eight in the morning until dark for 25 cents a day. When he was 28 he started farming for himself, and in June, 1906, he married Katherine Grant from Ranchville. They had two daughters, ARLA and ORAL (Mrs. George Redmont and Mrs. James Pizzey).

In later years he gave up farming, and with his family, moved to Foxwarren where he found employment. When R. Sherritt was 67, he started working for the Manitoba Hydro and continued there until he retired at age 75.

His wife passed away in 1966 and he lived alone for awhile, and kept his house and garden in perfect condition.

In October 1970, Mr. Sherritt moved to Birtle, where he lived with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cooley. He is 94 years old now and yet he still goes for a walk every day, enjoys very good health, and reads without glasses. He likes company, and can tell some very interesting stories of years gone by.

SIMMIE, GEORGE E. — born near Wiarton, Ontario, son of a Scottish settler, George came to McConnell, Man., in early 1900. Here he married Jennie Grace McConnell, for whose family the town is named (as is Simmie, Sask. for an uncle of George). They lived at Rainy River, Ont. and Decker, Man., before moving during the First War to Solsgirth, where they took over the general store and lumber yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmie were both very active in their community, and most hospitable to neighbors and wayfarers — as many as twenty people sitting down for a meal. There was always an open door for travellers, especially the Home Economist from the Extension Service, who might arrive day or night. George had a curling rink and hockey rink built on the site of his lumber yard — and devoted time to tennis, baseball teams, church choir. In the words of his daughter-in-law, the late Joyce Simmie: "He was a fine and kindly man, A helping, faithful friend. . ."

The store burned one night in 1937, and George's chief concern was the loss of the curling cups. After this disaster, the family left Solsgirth, finally to Gordon, Man., where George was grain buyer for Pool Elevators. He passed away in 1944, in his early '50's.

Mrs. Simmie was equally involved in community affairs first with the church and W.I., which she served as Manitoba President, and on the Board of the Federated W.I. of Canada, also as Government Member of the Board. She promoted the Book of Remembrance and

Life Membership of the Institute. After her husband's death she moved to Winnipeg, did writing for the "Weekly Free Press", worked in insurance and travel agencies, and finally was House Mother in the Women's Residence at United College (now U. of Winnipeg). She died in July, 1970.

Daughter EILEEN, a teacher, married Robert Doubleday, farmed at Solsgrith, then moved to Stonewall, and finally Teulon. They have four children and ten grandchildren. Sons MURRAY and BILL married sisters — daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Chapman, both joined the R.C.A.F. and later lived in Winnipeg, where Bill still is, with daughter *Brenda Murphy* and son *Craig*. Murray and wife Wilma live in Calgary. They have four children and three grandchildren.

SIMMIE, JAMES ALBERT (1872-1944) — and his wife, the former Margaret Ann McCulloch (1872-1968), both born of Scottish parents, came to Foxwarren in 1922, where James was to be Buyer for Bawlf Grain Co.

Their family continued their education at Foxwarren Consolidated School. They are JEAN (Mrs. W. J. Kyle) a teacher later with Hudson's Bay Co. in Winnipeg; JAMES deceased 1922; JESSIE, first a teacher at Gamblers and Shoal Lake, she graduated from Winnipeg General Hospital and nursed until retirement; BELLA is Mrs. Alvin R. Thorpe, of Winnipeg; GILBERT married Theta Armor in 1930, lives in Calgary, retired as Federal Grain Analyst in 1970; ALBERT married Louise Jacobs in 1930, Grain Buyer for U.G.G., lives in Moose Jaw, WILFRED married Alma Larson in 1938, was employed with Royal Bank at Binscarth and in Life Assurance in Ontario. Died accidentally July 1968; ALLAN married Edna Carefoot 1941, was employed with Royal Bank, and later as Personnel Manager in an Electrical Co. in Indiana, U.S.A.; ARCHIE married Margaret McNeelands in 1959. Has lived in Winnipeg since 1930 and is employed with Sharpe's Ltd. "Parts Dept."

SIMMS, ARTHUR — was born west of Russell, Man., June, 1892. He herded cattle when he was six years old. He started school when he was ten at Londonderry School north of Russell.

When he was eighteen he took a course in Engineering at Agricultural College in Winnipeg. On May 2nd, 1911 he went to work in Neepawa Machine Works for \$5 and his board for one month and after that he worked for 20 cents an hour and paid his own board. In 1915 he was earning 40 cents an hour but that year the company sold out so Arthur went home to help with the threshing.

In 1916 he enlisted in the 107th Battalion and later that year was transferred to the 75th Battalion. He trained at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg and went overseas in 1916. He was a prisoner from 1916 till the end of the war. He sailed for home April 24th, 1919 after convalescing in England.

In 1921 Arthur took a Soldier Grant of land in the Clear Lake

area. He had 240 acres of wild land and in 1922 broke 25 acres. In 1923 he sowed 17 acres to wheat and 8 acres to oats. The wheat was frozen and graded No. 6.

He married Mary Edna Kelly of Elphinstone and they have 4 boys and 2 girls.

They came to Foxwarren in April 1947 to S.E. 7-18-27 to the farm formerly owned by Mr. Prost. They lived on the farm until 1955 when they retired to Foxwarren. Their son GEORGE took over the farm. He married Evelyn Breakey, 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Simms' family are all married and there are 18 grandchildren.

SLINGER, WILLIAM (1880-1962) — and his wife Isabella (1880-1956) came to Birtle from Applebery, Westmorland, Eng. early in 1900. They lived in the frame house now occupied by Dr. Miles, and used to bring their water from the spring on a yoke. Mr. Slinger was well-known in Birtle as an Interior Decorator. They attended the Methodist Church. In 1925 the family left to live in Winnipeg.

The children: RICHARD, in Vancouver, THOMAS (deceased); STEPHEN, Los Angeles; MARJORIE, now Mrs. Pyper, JEAN, now Mrs. Miller Brown, Winnipeg. There are twenty-one grandchildren.

SMITH, ALEX — came to the Foxwarren district from the dried-out area of Cando, Sask., in April, 1938. With him were his wife, two sons Thomas and Charles and their families. They came to Sec. 35 and 36-17-27. The sons travelled with the stock and settlers' effects on a box-car, while the others travelled by train.

The night of arrival was a bit hectic, as the cattle and horses wandered off while the men were absent. Grandma Smith took five-year-old James with her to round up the milk cows. They got as far as 25-17-27, where Mrs. Nora Edmundson gave them food, while Frank went on horseback after the strays. The younger women meanwhile were becoming uneasy, made a fire on a ring of stones to boil a kettle for tea, and waited, putting a light in the window. Coming back home Grandma and James were lost again, and James suggested "Grandma, let's pray" — which they did, kneeling in the snowy field, then saw the light in the window and were soon home. The men arrived later with the furniture, the stove was set up, cleaned, and beds were made for the night.

The Smith family were: THOMAS born 1899, farmed in the Foxwarren district married Beatrice Whittaker from Lancashire, England, later farmed on E 21-17-27. Son *Matthew* still farms in the district, and daughter *Alice* (Mrs. Norman Barr) lives in Morden. CHARLES born 1902, married Mary Cairns of Portobella, Scotland, moved to Cromer, then to Winnipeg, where they run a rooming-house. They have four children — *James*, *Mary Alice* (Mrs. Earl Barkley) in Cromer, *Malcolm* and *Victor* in Calgary; LUCY born 1904 (Mrs. McCann) a teacher, lives in Winnipeg; ROBERT born 1908, with the C.N.R. in

Toronto. All the family were born in Sintaluta, Sask. Two died in infancy.

SMITH, ARTHUR GEORGE — came with his wife and family from Suffolk, England in 1920. They crossed the Atlantic on "The Scotian", saw many icebergs, and travelled up the St. Lawrence to Quebec. Mr. Smith had served with the British Army for twenty-one years, as Sergeant with the Royal Garrison Artillery. He received many service medals with bars, served in the South African war, and at the Relief of Ladysmith. While stationed later at Gibraltar he met his wife, Marie Galvez.

The Smith family travelled to Toronto by train, where Mrs. Smith and the younger children remained for two years while her husband and son Cecil went west to look for a homestead. They finally rented a farm from Mr. Matthew Breckenridge, adjoining the Lizard Point Indian Reserve. Mrs. Smith and the children came later by train to Angusville, on the C.N.R. They were delayed by storm for a week in Neepawa. Arriving at last at Angusville, they were met by Mr. Ed Berney, who now lives in Rosburn.

In the spring of 1929 the Smith family moved to the Foxwarren district, purchasing the farm of Mr. John Anderson, 25-18-27. Then the children began to move on: MAUDE married Gordon Carter of Rosburn, lives in Brandon and has two sons. ARTHUR married and lives in Ontario; CECIL; KENNETH died in 1949. Mr. Smith passed away in 1931, his wife Maria in 1950. AURELIA (Ottie) married Percy Bamford in 1932, moved to the Arthur Wotton farm. They have three daughters: *Joyce*, a teacher, married neighbor Ray Simms, and lives in Birtle. *Shirley Mae* married Dr. Prus of Shoal Lake, lives in Brooks, Alta., and has three children. *Beverley* married Peter Haliuk of Foxwarren, who is a clerk in a lawyers' office in Russell, Man. They have a son and twin daughters.

The Bamford farm was sold in 1973 to Gordon Stewart.

Mrs. Bamford recalls many happy times there and in their family home, where everyone was welcome, and it was the scene for many old time dances.

CECIL SMITH — was fourth in the family of Sergeant Arthur Smith. On arrival in Ontario, Cecil and brother Arthur went to Tottenham, Ont., and the others to Whitby. In 1921 Cecil came west to the farm of his Uncle Harry Smith in the Boyle district, and the following year his father came out.

In 1933 Cecil married Margaret Way of Silverton. She was daughter of William and Avis Way, and has been born in Dundas, Ont. Her father was a furniture designer. After his death in 1914 Mrs. Way and Margaret came to live with her parents the Minshulls in Silverton, where Margaret attended Silver Creek School and Russell High School while Major Pratt was principal. After Normal School at Brandon she taught at Boyle and Ranchdale schools.

Cecil and Margaret farmed in the Bayfield district N¼ 25-18-27, owned previously by Frank Joyce and then by John Anderson, who raised a herd of choice prize-winning Hereford cattle. Some of his animals were later sold to the Dunns at Silverton, and became the nucleus of the "Primrose Herd" famous across Canada. Cecil and Margaret Smith held a "bee" to replace the barn. Their three children attended school in Foxwarren, transported by van.

Cecil was a member of the School Board for twenty years before consolidation, and was secretary of the Old-Timers' Association for thirty years. Margaret has always been a member of the Bayfield Ladies' Sewing Circle. Their children were: GAIL married Gordon White of Binscarth, who is with the Brandon Fire Dept. They have four children; RODNEY lives in Winnipeg and LAWRENCE is on the home farm. Cecil and Margaret Smith moved into Foxwarren in 1972.

SMITH, JOHN (Jack) — came from England in 1890 to Midland, Ont. Married Elizabeth Stanton in 1900, and they came to Deloraine, Man. in 1909. John joined the army in 1914, went overseas in 1915 with the 79th Canadian Regiment. Meanwhile the family lived in Brandon.

In 1920 they moved to the Rothesay district, where he farmed until 1937. They retired to live in Birtle. John was very active in the Legion, and also in the Orange Lodge.

Mrs. Smith passed away in 1950, and Mr. Smith in 1960 at Deer Lodge Hospital. There are two sons — JOHN and LES, in Birtle and a daughter LIZZIE (Mrs. Ed Coleman) in Winfield, B.C.

SMITH, JOHN STEVEN JR. — was born in Midland, Ont, in 1905, and came with his parents to Deloraine, Man. in 1909. In 1917 he moved to Isabella, where he received part of his education, and then to the Rothesay district in 1920. In 1933 he married Thelma Brott (born 1903) who came with her parents in 1907 from Vassar, Michigan. She lived in Shoal Lake, and went to school there and at Buckleyville and Rothesay.

John worked out until 1939, when he rented a farm on S½ 22-16-27, which he later purchased, and where they lived for twenty-seven years. The farm was sold in 1966, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Birtle, where they still live.

They raised a family of seven: HAZEL, born 1935, married Alvin Miller of Russell, has two sons. EARL born 1938, married Sally-Anne Neish of Calgary, is stationed there with the Armed Forces, and has two daughters. KEITH born 1939 lives in Birtle and works for the Dept. of Highways, married to Linda Corr and has two sons, Scott and Wade. ISOBEL, born 1940, married James Jones from North Battleford. They live in Thompson, Man. and have three daughters. RICHARD, born 1942 is stationed at Petawawa, Ont. with the Armed Forces, married Shirley Palmer from Fredericton, N.B., and has three children. LESTER, born 1943 is also with International Nickel in Thompson, married Noella Lemoine from St. Lazare and has five

children. LAWRENCE, born 1944 lives in Pueblo, Colorado, married Valerie Holt from International Falls, U.S.A. and has one daughter.

SMITH, W. B. — I came out to Canada in 1906 and worked out for a year for \$120. Came to Birtle in 1907 and started farming on the Ed Newsham farm with my brother. It was tough going for a few years. In 1920 I went to the old home in England and married Miss Elisa Peel of Accrington, Lancashire and carried on farming. We had one son, RICHARD. He married Peggy Wood of Beulah. In the early days I used to play football with the Birtle team. I was trustee for the Burdette School District for a number of years and also served a term as Councillor for Ward 2. We used to attend Sunday Service at the Burdette School. I came to this country through the Y.M.C.A. and I am a member of the St. George's Anglican Church. After seeding I worked on the road for \$2 a day. I have a few pictures of road work. My son Richard and his wife Peggy live in Neepawa where he works for the Plains Implement Company and Peggy is teaching school at Neepawa. They have 3 boys and 1 girl.

When we got the best of the wild oats, we used to sell some of the grain for seed. My first year I worked for Mr. G. D. Lamont in Napinka. I was used to horses and got along very well with farm work. I remember plowing in November when up came a storm which lasted for four days. I was sleeping in a little room over the kitchen and the wind blew the snow on me in bed and it was so cold I got down in the kitchen and lit the lantern to warm my feet. It was a very cold winter and did not open up until the next May. In the 30's we lost our house by fire and built a new house. When we moved to town I served a few years on the Birtle School Board and helped in rebuilding St. George's Anglican Church.

In 1973 Mr. Smith is a resident of Pioneer Lodge, Birtle.

SNOW, THOMAS (1855-1923) — and his wife Ann (1851-1935) arrived in Canada in 1888. They reached the Arden Ridge, where Tom worked on the railroad for some years, living in a boxcar that was moved about, so that the water pail had to be steadied. Mr. Snow was transferred to Birtle, lived in the section house, and worked from there. In 1892 he decided to homestead, and broke the required fifteen acres for three years. They then moved to the old Lane farm (now Lavineway), then to 35-15-27 in the Blenheim district, where the children attended Oxford School, and Mrs. Snow often helped as nurse and midwife. In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Snow retired to live on Centre Street, Birtle.

Their children were: ALFRED, ELSIE, who kept the house for him; LOU and BEATRICE, who married the Tansley brothers and moved to Saskatchewan.

ALFRED SNOW — married Vera Watt, daughter of Dave Watt. After five years on the Snow farm they moved to the Dave Watt farm north of the station, 18-17-26, farmed here until 1945, when son John took over.

Alf and Vera lived for six years in B.C., returned to Birtle and lived on St. Clair Street. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in November 1964. Alfred died in 1967, Vera in 1968 at Pioneer Lodge. Their children were: JOHN married Agnes Bowman in 1950, lived on the farm, then moved to B.C. and Edmonton, where John has an electric appliance business. They have three children — *John, David and Gwenyth*. WILLIAM married Edith Graham in 1942, and after the war lived on the Waterbury farm 16-17-26, then moved to Birtle where William was Water Supervisor for thirteen years, and is now Equipment Supervisor, Air Division. They have six children — *Judith, Linda, Janette, Wayne, Brian and Mark*. The boys attend Birtle school, the girls are all married. DOUGLAS married Lois Thompson in 1946, and they live on 15-17-26 (old Cartmell farm) They have six children — *Geraldine, James, Richard* helping on the farm, *Rodney, Morris and Warren* at Birtle School. There are two grandsons. DOROTHY married Allan Bowman in 1946, live in Minnedosa and have three children *Anna Marie Hogan, Connie and Garry*.

SPARK, ALEX AND WILLIAM — Alex Spark was born in 1885 and William Spark in 1887 in the parish of Tealing near Dundee, Scotland. They came out to Canada in 1911. William went back to Scotland in 1916 and enlisted in Highland Light Infantry. He was wounded in March 1918 and returned to Canada, arriving in Birtle July 1st, 1919. Alex worked out around Decker for ten years. In 1921 they bought the S.W.¼ 5-16-25 and S.E.¼ 6-16-25 from Andrew Clubley. They farmed there for forty years and sold out to Russell and Eddie Doran in 1962. They bought a house in Birtle on Pearl Street and have lived here eleven years.

SPARKS, ALFRED CHARLES — came to Canada as a young boy, with the Barnardo Homes. He was placed in the home of John Bell at Vista, Manitoba. It was here he learned to make and knead bread while standing on a box because he was so short.

After spending several years with them, he came to the Birtle District as a young man working on several farms. He finally took up farm instructor work with the following Indian Residential Schools — at Birtle, File Hills School at Balcaras and Round Lake, Sask., where he met his wife to be, Elizabeth Reid of Whitewood, Sask.

On July 28, 1915 they were married at Forrest Farm, North of Whitewood and came across country by democrat with John Hatch of Birtle to the farm now owned by Gordon Boulton. They farmed there until 1926, when they moved to the Duff farm.

In the year 1929 we moved to town and lived where Mrs. Ann Lee now resides. Later we moved to the Castle (now occupied by Mrs. Blackhall). Our Dad did odd jobs, worked on the construction of Birtle Indian School, did dray work and plowed many a garden in town. He was a member of the Birtle Baptist Church for many years.

The family consisting of MARY (Mrs. Fred Graham), Birtle,

ELMER now living at Thompson, HAZEL (Mrs. Albert Jans of Maple Creek, Sask), KATHLEEN (Mrs. Hubert Dandridge) Birtle, and JOHN of Libau, Man.

There are 21 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Our father died in January 1952 and our Mother continued to live in their small cottage on the north hill until she took up residence in Pioneer Lodge. After a serious fall, she was moved to Fariview in Brandon. She is eighty-eight years of age, with reasonable health, even though she is blind.

SPARKS, JIM — older brother of Alfred Sparks, came also to Canada with the Barnardo Homes. He resided around Shoal Lake for a number of years, and was also a resident of Birtle. He belonged to the Birtle Band in its early years and helped to put up the first telephone line in the Birtle area. He and his wife left Birtle many years ago. He had no family, and following his death was brought back and was buried in the local cemetery.

SPENCER, GEORGE B. (1877-1959) — and his wife Lucy (nee Witham 1876-1955), immigrated from Worksop, Notts, England in April, 1911, with three children. Mr. Peter Sutcliffe Sr., who had persuaded them to come to Canada, met them at Birtle station with team and democrat, and took them to his farm in the Gnaton district until they moved into the cottage of the late Mrs. Bagshawe on the south hill.

Mr. Spencer worked on the section for a time, under foreman George Dandridge. However, having been a butcher in England, he decided to open a little shop, where the present MacLeod's store is. He was later butcher for the Birtle Beef Ring, where the Archer's shop is now. In 1916 he decided to try farming, first on the J. B. Cartmell farm, then on the Bonner farm (now Lane). He returned to butchering at Saltcoats, Sask. from 1925 to 1931, then back in Birtle until his retirement. After World War II, ALBERT took over the business, now in the family for sixty years.

Others in the family are: HAROLD farms the old Massey farm, married to Beatrice Cooley of Solsgirth, with a family of four. GEORGE S. farms southeast of Birtle, married Dorothy Fleury, has one son *David*. SHIRLEY (Mrs. Frank Andrews) lives in Birtle, has six children, *Carolyn* (Mrs. Ken McCall) *David*, *Harold*, *Kevin*, *Kerri Lynne* and *Jody*. YVONNE married Carman Carroll of Selkirk and has four children. VALERIE (Mrs. George McLean) is in Pilot Mound with two children. WINNIE (Mrs. George Wilson).

ALBERT E. SPENCER — born 1901 eldest son of George B. Spencer, came to Canada with his parents in 1911. After his father moved to the farm and entered the cattle business, Albert in 1918 went to Agricultural College. In 1925 he went with his father to Saltcoats to buy a butcher business, then in 1927 he went west to Bridge River, B.C., worked in the Pioneer Gold Mine and other places. He returned to Saltcoats to work with his father, and married Violet Gardiner, a telephone

operator. They sold the Saltcoats business in 1930, and returned to Birtle to open another shop.

In July 1940 Albert joined No 3 — Can. Provost Corps, and was sent overseas in August, where he served with the First Canadian Corps. In 1943 he escorted four thousand Germans to New York in the Queen Mary, and returned to Winnipeg on a month's leave. He then had to get out of the army to take over the business, which his father was forced to give up for health reasons. In 1962 Albert's health was such that he had to give up, and his son *Ernest* had to leave the Manitoba Dragoons, after serving thirteen years with rank of Sergeant-Major. So the third generation carried on. In 1965 Ernest built a store and carried groceries as well as meat. Two of his children as well as Grandmother Violet Spencer helped in the store.

Beverley trained as a teacher, taught at The Pas and married Donald Lamb of Lamb Airways in 1954. They have two children Meredith and Todd. Ernest married Robina Harris in 1951, and has five children.

In 1929 George and Albert bought the old Methodist Church building on St. Clair Street, tore it down and built two cottages, where Albert and Violet still live, with Winnie Wilson in her father's cottage.

SPICER, CHARLES — was born in London, England in 1881, attended Bedford Grammar School, won trophies for running and swimming, and enjoyed skiing in Switzerland. He left England in June, 1899 and came to Birtle, where he worked for Charles Darrell until 1903, then farmed for himself first in Birtle Municipality, and at St. Lazare 1914-18. Grain was stock in those days, water for cattle was from a well, and Mr. Spicer hauled cordwood from St. Lazare to Birtle, an all-day trip.

Charles married Helena, second daughter of Mr. R. S. Cartwright in December 1907 at St. Peter's Church, Balmerino (Rev. George Armstrong). Helena had been born in Birtle Municipality in November, 1889. She was familiar with farm life, made bread, cured meat, helped in the field in haying time, and drove her daughter Blanche to school at Fort Ellice with horse and buggy.

The family moved to Birtle in April 1918, with horse and buggy, leading a cow behind, and also a hen and chickens, a cat and a St. Bernard dog. In Birtle Mr. Spicer took contracts for building and decorating, and also had his own apiary. He drove doctors, ministers, Indians for the livery stable, and was Assistant Postmaster. He was active in both Blenheim and St. George's churches, and took part in the procession at the consecration of the former Oct. 18th, 1908. He was also an enthusiastic hunter of moose and elk.

Mr. and Mrs. Spicer had three daughters: **BLANCHE**, born 1908; **DOROTHY** born 1911, married Roy Kenward in 1933. They had two daughters: Mary, who married Arnold Wood of Neepawa, lives in Wattsville and has five children; Phyllis born 1945, works in the hospital at Minnedosa. **EDITH**, born 1919, married Harold Neumann

of Pouce Coupe, B.C., where they live. They have a son and a daughter *Carolynne*, married to Staryl McBride in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Charles Spicer died in December 1968 at Brandon Hospital.

BLANCHE SPICER — was born in Birtle Municipality in October, 1908, and attended Fort Ellice School after her family moved to Ellice Municipality. She remembers a terrible storm about 1916 when the children were at school, and you could feel the schoolhouse rock. The teacher Miss Margaret O'Keeffe had the children sit still in a corner. "We had lots of fun at this country school, playing baseball and riding horseback at noon."

After the move to Birtle the family lived where Lloyd Salmon is now, then moved to a house on Main Street built in 1906 where the Town Hall stands, which was pulled to the east end of Main Street. Miss Spicer remembers the school she attended, which burned Sept. 17th, 1943. She also attended classes in the court room of the Town Hall, and in the old Methodist Church, which was made into two rooms. She attended the Anglican Church and Sunday School, won a gold button and a prayer book and Bible, joined the Girls' Auxiliary in 1925 to do sewing, and a young people's group which held dances, produced plays, etc., which were taken to various towns.

After leaving school Blanche worked at many jobs, keeping house, baby-sitting, etc., in many towns from Winnipeg to Thompson. She cans fruit and vegetables, and has taken many prizes at the Birtle fair. She lives with her mother in Birtle, where there have been many changes since they moved there in 1918.

STAINER, JAMES — came from Dorsetshire, England about 1898. He came to Solsgirth and worked for Bill Grant and Mr. Harrison who ran the Post Office. He later homesteaded NW¼ 34-18-26, where he lived for fifty years.

In 1906 he married Sarah Bowen. After retiring they lived in Birtle. Jim died at the age of eighty-eight, and Mrs. Stainer in February, 1973. Their children are: BESSIE married Charlie Lang from Basswood in 1929. He worked for Joe Roberts and Jim Stainer. Bessie went to school at Lansburne, the scene of many plays, concerts, social evenings. FRANK married Eunice Sherritt. MARGARET married Bill Stevenson. After his death she moved to Foxwarren, where she lives at present.

FRANK STAINER purchased 27-18-26 in 1936, and raised a family of eight there. Water was a problem until eight years ago, when a well was drilled to 260 feet with plenty of water. The family are: *Allan* and *Lydia* (Semaniuk) farm on 26-18-26. They have one boy *Mark Delmar* and *Ruth* (Murray) live at Spy Hill. They have two boys *Jim* and *Eric*. *Gladys* and *Andy Fiola* live in Churchbridge, Sask., have four children, *Robert*, *Janet*, *Lorraine*, *Daniel*. *Lois* and *Doug Clarke* live on a farm at Binscarth and have two children *Shelly* and *Dean*. *Leona* and *Archie Kowaluk* farm at Sandy Lake. They have five children, *Marion*,

Sallyanne, Teras, Eva, and Teresa. *Orville* and Debbie (Flynn) live at 27-18-26. Orville hauls trailers. *Gordon* and Marie (Bauer) live in Victoria, B.C. Gordon is member of R.C.M.P. *Myrtle* is at home, she is a receptionist in a Doctor's office at Birtle.

STANCHUK, WILLIAM (1889-1970) — and his wife Susan (1892-) were both born in the West Ukraine. William came out to this country in 1914, Susan following in 1920. The children attended Lansburne school, and the family have been members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church at Shoal Lake, Rossburn, Lakedale and Angusville, where they retired in 1948. Children: MICHAEL farms the home place at Solsgirth, HARRY is at Russell and FRED at Foxwarren. STEVE, farming at Angusville, died in 1971; PAUL is at Elphinstone; MARTHA (Mrs. Kocuk) at Russell; MARY (Mrs. Danleyko) at Thunder Bay, Ont.; JULIA (Mrs. Dewar) lives in Winnipeg.

STANTON FAMILY — Philip Stanton was born in 1871 at Mitcham Grove, Mitcham, England. His wife Evereld Constance (Hill) was born in 1873 at Thornton Le Dale, Yorkshire. They were married in England.

Philip was in the South African War for two years. In 1904 they moved to Birtle. They had two children when they came to Canada HARRY and MAY. CONNIE, born later, died in childhood.

They farmed on several farms before they bought the Tansley farm in 1910. They enlarged the house into a twelve room house. They used horse equipment, getting their first tractor in 1922. They grain farmed, also raised livestock such as pigs, cattle, and sheep.

Mr. Stanton died in 1930. May married O. T. Barteaux in 1921 and they had four children. May died in 1936. Mrs. Stanton moved into Birtle in 1938. She was always active in Women's Institute, Red Cross, also in Anglican Church W.A. She went to live in B.C. in 1949 where she died in 1954. She was buried in Blenheim cemetery with her husband and daughters.

Harry went to World War I in 1915, returned home in 1919 and farmed with his dad. He carried on farming after his father's death. Harry, born 1895 married Mary Melynk and they had five children. The twins died in infancy. *Dick* their oldest son is married and has three children living in B.C., *Edward* teaches school in Vancouver, *May* is married, has a daughter and they live in Victoria.

Harry served in World War II. After the war he continued to farm until 1949 when he sold the farm to Johnny Robertson. They moved to Ladysmith, B.C., where they are still living. (See "Wattsvie")

STEWART, HARRY — came in 1907 from Aberdeen, Scotland, worked in the Birtle Indian School for a year, went further west for two years, then returned to Birtle, and started farming in the Gnaton district. He built and lived in a stationary granary until 1912, when he built his home. He was joined by brother Jimmie in 1911, who married Mary Smith from England in 1913, and with their two children Henry and

Gwen lived with Harry until 1919. They then moved to their own home until they retired from farming in 1948 and moved to Edmonton. Mary died in 1966, and Jim in 1973.

Brother John, sister Molly and her husband Jim Massie and daughter Mabel came to Birtle in 1912. John farmed on the Bob Newsham farm until 1934, then worked in Inglis, Man. until his death in 1955. The Massie family lived on the present Harold Spencer farm. They had five children. Jim Sr. and son Jimmie died, and Bill Gill who had worked for the family before the First War, came back in 1926 to help on the farm until 1934. At that time Molly and her children returned to Aberdeen, where they now live.

Harry Stewart married Margaret Grieve from Aberdeen in 1921. Their five children attended Birtle School, and church services were at Gnaton Hall. The Stewarts retired to Birtle in 1949 where Margaret died in 1965, and Harry in 1967. Their children are: JACK married Jean Carr in 1949, and lived on the home farm. They have three daughters — *Marilyn, Myrnalee and Melanie*; CATHERINE married Arthur Harrison of Birtle in 1947, live in Barrie, Ont., and have four children — *Brian, Tim, Rodney and Joyce*; BETTY (Mrs. Allan Gill) in Winnipeg, has two sons *Rick and Gordon*; RON married Dorothy Ellis in 1951, farmed the old Charlie Wilson farm until 1957, then bought the Fitzgerald farm. They have four children — *Karen* (Mrs. Danny Workman), *Donna, David and Rhonda*. MOLLIE and husband Reg Berry farm south-east of Birtle, and have two children, *Robert and Joan*.

STEWART, HERBERT HILLIARD (1888-1963) — was born in Stouffville, Ont., and came west after his older brothers Jim and Wesley in 1909 — first to Hamiota, then the Isabella district, then to Calgary where he worked for three years. Here he married Viola Beatrice Jones in July, 1910. She was born in 1887, also of Uxbridge County.

They moved to Tampa, Florida in 1912, where William was born, who now lives in Los Angeles. After two years they decided there was no place like Canada, returned to Isabella and helped brother Wes build their first real home. In 1915 they moved to Beulah, to Sec. 19-15-26, now farmed by Oscar Hamburg. GORDON was born here in 1915, and in 1922 brother ROY, now in Toronto. In 1929 the Stewart family moved to Foxwarren district, Sec. 20-17-27 the "Harry Baird farm", then in 1935 to the Dave Smith farm 3-18-27, where Gordon is now. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart retired to Foxwarren in 1957 until his death in 1963. Mrs. Stewart is at Sunset Home in Brandon.

In May 1941 Gordon married Ethel Hooper, daughter of Mr. Fred Hooper of Birtle. Their children are: *Donna Marie* born 1942, passed away at ten years of age, making the family realize how uncertain life can be; *Ralph* born 1944 married Pamela Williams in April, 1967, has one daughter; *Linda* born 1945, married Alan Butler in April 1966, lives at Stoney Mountain with one son; *Verna* born August 1948 (Mrs. Dave

Thibodeau), lives in Winnipeg and has two children; *William Gordon* born 1962 is in Winnipeg, but has plans to return to the rural life he loves.

STEWART — LANE — J. M. STEWART came west from Ontario to Miniota in 1882. He was descended from the first of the family to come to Canada — a Captain (Army or Navy) who had been born in Perth, Scotland. J. M. Stewart met his wife Christina Lane at Beulah, where he was playing his violin for dancing. The violin is in the possession of grandson Dwight Stewart of Birtle. The young couple moved to a farm near the Lanes. Their farmhouse burned from a prairie fire. Mr. Stewart helped a butcher in Birtle, who moved away, leaving Mr. Stewart to carry on.

"We lived in a small house near Copelands, then in rooms above the butcher shop. He built a stone house in 1898 (now Herb Henry's). In the early days Birtle was a very flourishing town — Normal School, Land Office, Indian Agency, Elevator and Hotels. Roy Dutton and I seem to be the only remaining members of our time. Father took an active part in town affairs as Trustee, Councillor, leader in curling, baseball, hockey. . . a strong Presbyterian and President of the Liberal Association. Mother was a noted hostess of her time." (Ella Stewart Coltart)

LANE — Christina Lane Stewart was a daughter of Scottish parents, who came to Canada before the days of steamboats. "Grandpa Lane had a stormy passage, the ship was driven off course and was six weeks late. Animals aboard were slaughtered for food." His wife-to-be came later. She booked passage on the first steamboat, which sank on its return to Scotland, and she finally came over in a sailboat. The Lanes were married in Ingersoll, Ont., moved to Waterton, then operated a store in Woodstock.

"Grandma" Lane's family lived near Hawick, Roxburgh, Scotland. Two Brydons are mentioned in Morton's "In search of Scotland". An early record of the name mentions Sir Adam Brydon, who raised a force of men for the Battle of Flodden, where most of them perished. "Grandpa" Lane's family were weavers in the district of Stirling. "Grandpa was the most Godly man I ever knew. He had family prayers."

The Lanes came west in 1880, on advice of their doctor, who thought the drier air would help Mrs. Lane's arthritis. They travelled from Winnipeg to Fort Ellice by boat, which was tied up at nightfall because of sandbars. Mr. Lane came by land, with some purebred cattle and horses. Two sons, JOHN and ROBERT took up homesteads, aged eighteen and sixteen. John also operated a business as a wheelwright and worked with Mr. Roseborough the blacksmith, in a building next the Town Hall which burned recently (Olafson's Garage). Two ornate chairs in the Chancel of the new St. George's are a tribute to his workmanship.

Note: John McKenzie Stewart was grandson of a McKenzie who

persuaded William Lyon McKenzie (1795-1861) to come to Canada from Scotland. Ella's grandmother had letters from him, which were burned in a house fire. She was a girl when William came to their home asking for help, and was hidden from the British soldiers. Later she helped to get him away across the border. William's daughter Helen married a Toronto Lawyer, Mr. King, and they were parents of McKenzie King.

Children of J. M. Stewart: LLOYD; GORDON married Hazel Manwaring, and after her death Louise Stubbs; ELLA (Nellie) is Mrs. Coltart.

STITT, SAM — was born on the farm two and a half miles from Rossburn. After serving in World War I he bought a farm N½ sec. 36-18-27 nine miles from Foxwarren from Howard Allen. Lived on this farm for one year then married Emma Seebach who was born on a farm in the Seeburn district.

Emma and Sam had three girls: MURIEL (Mrs. McManus) of Minnedosa, SHEILAH (Mrs. Danko) of Flin Flon, and BEATRICE (Mrs. Small) of Ninga.

While farming they had good years and bad but always kept cattle to help out when crops failed. They attended Bayfield church and Sam served on the council of R.M. of Birtle for many years.

They sold the farm in 1947 to Mr. Stadnyk and moved to Foxwarren. Sam worked in the trailer camp at Clear Lake and the teachers at Foxwarren found a very good home at the Stitts. Emma's cooking agreed with them all.

After Sam retired they went on trips to Vancouver, Waterton Lakes, Toronto and Ottawa.

On Dec. 28, 1966 after spending Christmas with their daughter Sheilah and family in Flin Flon, an accident on the way home took the lives of Sam and Mr. and Mrs. J. Low.

Emma stayed in Foxwarren until 1968. She sold the home and moved to Pioneer Lodge in Birtle where she has found good friends and keeps busy at many activities in and outside the Lodge.

STUBBS, GEORGE — born in Yorkshire around 1870, he married Ellen Maine Cocking of Durham in 1898. Enticed by posters all over England encouraging people to emigrate to Canada, George answered the call in 1910. He came to Winnipeg in a harvest excursion train, and was sent to Birtle, where he was met by Alf Snow and taken to the Snow farm at Blenheim.

His wife and three children arrived in October, and lived in a suite in the Patterson block (later H. A. Manwaring, now demolished). They occupied a third-floor corner suite, the only other occupants of the block being Lawrence and Meeres photo studio. The first winter they had trouble keeping warm, and kept lifting the lids of the stove to see the fire, having had nothing but fireplaces in the old country.

Mr. Stubbs worked at odd jobs, and his wife at the Rossin House

(Birtle Hotel), and they managed to save enough in three years to build a home on Main Street (Helen Haney's home today). Mr. Stubbs had learned brick and stone masonry, and many of the chimneys in Birtle are a tribute to his skill. He took pride in his flowers and garden, and for many years Birtle's cemetery blossomed under his care, as well as Birtle park. His daughter Louise remembers him playing his accordion for skaters, sitting in a chair in the middle of the ice surface, and with bare hands ringing the bells of the old Anglican Church for Christmas carols and the New Year Watchnight service. Mrs. Stubbs died in 1940, and George in 1959.

Their family were: CECIL RHODES born 1900, died in B.C. in 1956; Ellen (Nellie) Born 1903, died in 1922 at the birth of her first child; LOUISE born 1909 married Gordon Stewart in 1936; DORIS born 1915 married Harry Kerton at Courtenay, B.C. in 1937, and had three daughters; RITA (Margaret) married Bert Barnes in 1940, lives in Campbell River, B.C. has two daughters.

Louise has been active in Birtle with Pioneer Lodge Auxiliary, with amateur dramatics, singing and entertainments. She read Alfred Morton's poem "Beautiful Valley" at the 1967 Centennial celebration. She now plans to retire and let the young people take over. Her husband died in 1944, and she worked in various places to educate her two sons. *John Gaylord* (Gay) is a bank manager in London, Ont., married to Sharon Hemminger and has one son. *Cecil Dwight* is an office clerk with the Provincial Highways in Birtle, sings and plays the guitar, and is active with the Anglican Church and Marquette Centennial Choir, helping to cut the recording sent in 1970 to H.M. Queen Elizabeth.

SUTCLIFFE PETER SR. (1859-1952) — was born in Blackburn, England. He married Sarah Ann Stubbings of Nottingham, near Sherwood Forest, about 1880. They came to Canada in May 1887 with five children, and arrived in Birtle by train, the engine the "Countess of Dufferin". On Minnedosa hill the men had to walk, as there was not enough power to pull them all. The railroad ended at Birtle at that time.

The family lived in the house that still stands by the Capri Theatre. Peter worked at his trade as butcher, later as auctioneer and bailiff, until he started to farm on N½ 14-16-26, where he built a frame house. In time the farm grew to thirteen acres. The first crop of ten acres was sown by broadcasting. In 1906 they purchased a steam outfit for threshing, operated by the five sons — the separator cost \$1100.00 and the engine \$2200.00. The outfit was used until 1938. The family operated their own sawmill, and drew logs from north of Oakburn, which were sawn into lumber for their buildings.

There were few trees, and the elevators at Birtle could be seen over a distance of eight miles. With no fences, they could drive across the fields in a buggy, and the wheels in summer would be red with wild strawberries. As they lived on the Arrow River Trail, a light was put in the window at night, a welcome sight for travellers.

Mr. Sutcliffe was a Trustee of Gnaton School, and was a first sub-

scriber to the Birtle "Eye Witness". When they moved back to town in 1914 he operated a general store where MacLeods now stands, and owned fourteen houses. He was also a Town Councillor. Mrs. Sutcliffe died in 1930, and Peter Sr. in 1952 at the age of ninety-three. They had ten children: POLLY married Murdock Smith, farmed in the Shamrock district. A son *Neil* lives in Winnipeg; GEORGE married Marie Ford, who still lives in Pioneer Lodge. They farmed the home place; ADA, PETER JR., JOHN married Louise Rotter and farmed N½ 23-16-26; ROY, SADIE married Bert Cole, who farmed NW¼ 10-16-26; WALLACE died as a child; GORDON married Marian Jenkins and farmed SW¼ 13-16-26; HELEN (Nellie). Only Peter Jr., Nellie and George's wife Marie are still living.

POLLY SUTCLIFFE — eldest daughter of Mr. Peter Sutcliffe, came to Canada as a child, and knew the hardships of pioneer life. She married Murd Smith, and they farmed in the Isabella district. After Murd's death in 1921 Polly and the family moved to Birtle. In 1928 she married Wesley Strong of Rossburn, who passed away in 1947. Mrs. Strong lived for a time in the Osborne Home at Neepawa, then in the East View Lodge where she died in 1967 at the age of eighty-six.

There were seven children: *Neil* born 1905, married Elsie Kerr, lives in Winnipeg and had four children; *Allan* born 1907, married Evelyn Hamilton and had three children. They live in Carman, Man. *Jim* born 1908, married Netta Andrew lives in Rossburn and has one child; *Dorothy* (Mrs. Gordon Lawton) born 1910, lives in Welland, Ont. and has one child; *Isabel* born 1911, married John Miller. They had ten children, and live at Vista; *Marion* (Mrs. Robert Crookshanks) born 1913, lives in Rossburn. Her husband died in 1957, and she has three children; *Glen* born 1920, married Agnes Andrew. They live at Plumas, Man., and have two children.

ADA SUTCLIFFE — known as "Miss Ada" to many friends, was born in England before the family came to Canada in 1887. She trained as a nurse in the Misericordia Hospital, Winnipeg in 1919. For years she went to homes when new babies came, and stayed with mother and child. One of her "babies" was the late Rod Clement. Ada cared for her mother and father until their deaths. She loved her church, St. George's Anglican, and did much towards its support.

PETER SUTCLIFFE JR. — was born in England in 1885, came with his parents to the district of Birtle, and has lived here ever since. He had little schooling, just a few years in the building later known as the Moxham House (west of the community hall). He worked hard, and learned many skills simply by doing. He worked at carpentry, and when he began farming he built his own home, and did all his welding and blacksmith work.

Mr. Sutcliffe met Elizabeth Kate Woodman, the lovely lady who was to become his wife, when she was housekeeping at Mr. Charles Wady's. He saw her only five times, then she went to work at a C.P.R. Hotel in B.C. Feeling his lack of education, he bought a dictionary to

check the spelling of his letters to Miss Woodman. They were married in 1915. Kate had been lucky in 1912 when coming to Canada, as she narrowly missed sailing in the "Titanic". Unfortunately she was badly injured in a car accident, and spent many years as an invalid.

Peter helped his sister Ada look after their father when in 1949 Mr. Sutcliffe Sr. went to bed and said he would stay there until he died. It was actually three years later that the old gentleman did die. Peter Sutcliffe now lives alone, and treasures his memories as well as objects like Corny O' Callahan's billy-can from the Riel Rebellion. It hangs realistically ready to brew tea in his fireplace.

HELEN COLE SUTCLIFFE — Helen (Nellie) the youngest of the Sutcliffe family, was born in 1898. She and Peter Jr. are the only members of the original family still living. She recalls that they lived in a house on St. Clair Street, beside the present home of Peter Jr. Previously they lived on the farm on 14-16-26, where the children attended Gnaton School, two and a half miles distant. They drove there with horse and cart or cutter, bringing hay and oats for the day. A stable was provided for the horses of the pupils. They also had a little bay riding pony named "Dell". Teachers she remembers were Gertrude Dutton and Dorothy Huehnichen. They enjoyed many good times, dances and taffy pulls at the school. Neighbors were the Ned Fitzgeralds, Salmon family, Spaldings, Midwinters.

Mrs. Cole was married three times — first to John Simm, a Scot, and they had three sons *Roy*, *Murray* and *Barrie*, now at Oakbank. There are five grandchildren. Later she married Robert Miller, and her third husband was Bert Cole, formerly the husband of her sister Sadie. They lived for three years in Portland. Again widowed, she lives in an apartment in St. James, Winnipeg.

ROLAND MARK SUTCLIFFE (ROY) — (1887-1958) was born in Birtle. He farmed N½ 13-16-26 in the Rothesay district from 1921, and the following year married Lavina Rose Campbell (1889-1971) from Chesley, Ont., daughter of Mrs. Ann Jane Campbell, who lived on the Robert Squibb farm. Their children attended Rothesay School, of which Mr. Sutcliffe was a trustee for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe were hard workers on the farm, raising cattle and pigs, preserving meat, fruit and vegetables. The homemade bread, pies and doughnuts, roast meat and vegetables simply vanished when the threshing gang sat down, and the kitchen was hot with the crackling wood cook stove. Mrs. Sutcliffe and her mother worked for the Red Cross in two World Wars, and it was a sad day in the home when Grandmother Campbell died in November 1946.

In 1949 the Sutcliffes sold their farm to Peter Koroscil and moved to St. Vital, where they had running water and electricity for the first time in their lives, and where they kept their flower garden to the end.

They had three children; *Helen Ann* married Ronald Hudson in 1947. They farm in Rosser Municipality near Winnipeg, and have two children. *Bernice Jane* married Rolfe Miner in 1947 and lives in St. Vital. They have four children.

William Peter born in 1923 was educated at Rothesay School, three miles from home. Like his father and grandfather, he was also a trustee.

In 1946 he married Pearl Salmon and moved to S½ 24-16-26. They have a family of four, all educated at Rothesay and Birtle. Lona Dawn born 1949, married Anthony (Tony) Ives, formerly of Taunton, England, in 1970. They live in Winnipeg. Heather Pearl 1952, is presently attending Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England, after two years in Pasadena, Calif. Lois Joy was born in 1954, and Frank William in 1955.

SWEREDA, FRED — and his wife were among the first people of Ukrainian descent to settle in the Kelloe district, also among the first in the Birtle municipality. Coming from the Ukraine with their parents in 1899, they homesteaded in the Olha district. They were married Feb. 1909 and farmed in the Seech area for eight years.

In March 1917 they moved to a farm north of Kelloe on Sec. 12-18-25 where they lived till they retired to Rossburn in 1950.

Their family are: JOHN on the family farm; TEENIE, Mrs. Nick Hrycak, Rossburn; MARY, Mrs. Harry Yaskiw, Rossburn; ISABEL, Mrs. Andrew Kozack, Kelloe; ROSE, Mrs. Tony Hrycak, Solsgirth.

Mr. Swereda passed away in May 1951 and his wife, Feb. 1968.

TALBOT FAMILY — Robert Talbot, from the Talbot Settlement in Ontario, came to the Foxwarren district in 1881 from Centralia, Ont. With him were his second wife Margaret and five children. They travelled by ox-cart to their homestead on SW¼ 18-18-26. Son WILLIAM DONALD filed for his homestead on NW¼ 18-18-26 as soon as he reached the age of eighteen. JOHN HENRY joined the NWMP in 1885, fought in the Riel Rebellion, and helped keep order in the Klondike during the Gold Rush. Later he worked as an engineer on the stern-wheeler "Whitehorse", and for the C.N.R. He was killed in a railroad accident at Chilliwack, B.C. in 1930. Robert Talbot's youngest daughter died at an early age. The other two are on the first Bayfield School register, and later attended secondary school at Moosomin. SOPHIA married William Angus of Angusville; ELLEN married a Rutherford, lived in Hamiota district.

Robert Talbot died in the late 1880's. His wife farmed for a few years, then moved to Birtle where she had a boarding house on St. Clair Street — still referred to as "Mrs. Talbot's" by the old-timers.

Son WILLIAM continued on his homestead, married Jane Cahoon in 1900 and later moved to the Nelson Boyd farm. He died in 1945, his wife Jane in 1964. Daughter *Ettie Mae* born 1902, married William Joseph Redmond, and they farmed west of Foxwarren until their deaths — Ettie in 1949, William in 1968. William's son *John Henry* farmed on the Talbot farm one mile west of Foxwarren until he retired in 1965 for ill health, and now lives in Foxwarren with his wife Jean, daughter of Joseph Lindsay of Shoal Lake. They have three children: William Lindsay married Phyllis Mildred Low, farms Sec. 32-

17-27. They have three children. John Robert married Sarah Margaret Cuthbert of Portage la Prairie, and farms the old Talbot farm. They have one daughter. *Diane Adele* married Ronald Falloon in 1967. They have two children.

In 1981 the Talbot family hopes to celebrate one hundred years of family life in the Foxwarren community.

TANSLEY, JOHN W. — was born in West Oxford County, Ontario. He farmed at Alexander, Man. for a number of years. In 1897 he and Isaac Crew drove by horse and buggy to Birtle to see about buying farms. Mr. Tansley knew the Watt and Huggins families who had settled west of Birtle, as they had also come from West Oxford County.

Mr. Tansley bought the Joe Butcher farm. He was a widower when he and his family moved to Birtle in 1898. The family were: AMBROSE (Bruce), HOWARD, JOHN, ANNETTA (Nettie), NELSON, CHARLIE, and ETHEL.

Mr. Tansley grain farmed also had cattle. He built a frame house, Ontario type, materials hauled from Birtle.

Mr. Tansley was trustee at Oxford school and took an active part in the community. They sold the farm to Philip Stanton in 1910. Mr. Tansley and his second wife retired to live in Birtle.

Ethel Tansley married Ainsley Barteaux in 1910. Nettie married Dr. F. O. Gilbert. They lived for many years at Spy Hill, then retired to Victoria where Nettie died. She was the last of that generation of the Tansleys.

TARRANT, FRED — born 1884 in Wiltshire, England, served an apprenticeship in the grocery business, became “fed up” and decided to try his luck in Canada. He sailed for Montreal on the “Empress of Canada” and arrived in Foxwarren in May, 1908. He spent the first night in the hotel owned then by Mr. Beird, and met Mr. David Graham, who offered to take him as a farm hand for a year. Here he met his future wife Mary, David’s sister, who was teaching at Boyle School, where Fred often had to meet her to drive her home for weekends. Mary was born in Bristol, P.Q., trained as a teacher at Shawville, and came to Foxwarren to help her brother David who had been badly burned in an accident with a steam engine.

Fred Tarrant returned to England by cattle boat for a visit, returned to Foxwarren, then went out to Vancouver to work as a wholesale grocer. From here he returned to Foxwarren to marry Mary Graham in 1913 and settle to farming. Their home was built of brick with a furnace — a far cry from pioneer days. Fred was interested in many community projects. He took a lead in the decision for school consolidation in Foxwarren district, when his neighborhood school Dunstan was holding out. He was nominated a trustee for the consolidated district. He also served as secretary of the Pool Elevator, President of the Red Cross, manager of the Credit Union.

Mr. Tarrant joined the Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, and in Foxwarren was interested in the Union Sunday School, became

Superintendent in time, and also leader of a Senior Bible Class, while his wife taught a class of girls for many years. They had two daughters of their own, both educated at Foxwarren, and trained as teachers. EVELYN married Lloyd Parton in 1942, took over the family farm and had four children: *David, Reginald, Mary Lynn and Laurie Jean*. GEORGINA married Douglas Butcher in 1941 farm east of Birtle and have two sons *Rodney and Lorne*.

Mary Tarrant died in 1959. Fred is presently living at Pioneer Lodge, with no regrets about the past years in spite of hail, drought, grasshoppers.

TAYLOR — Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Taylor settled in the Birtle District in 1883. Edmund was born in Huddersfield, England in 1844. He married Christina Dunlop in Stratford, Ont. in 1883. She was born in St. Mary's District Ont. in 1862.

They came west to Birtle the same year, coming by ox cart the last part of their journey. They first settled on a homestead five miles south of Birtle. After several years, they moved to Birtle. Then Mr. Taylor homesteaded a quarter of land six miles west of Birtle. The family lived in Birtle in the winter, going to the farm in the summer.

They had thirteen children, thirty-six grandchildren, and sixty-three great-grandchildren. Their family were MINNIE (Mrs. Coddington), EDMUND JR., ALFRED, GORDON and MRS. ADA CHRISTIANSON of Jackson, Michigan, MRS. CLARA HUNTER, Edmonton, MRS. VIOLET POIRER, PERCY and GEORGE of Saskatoon, WALTER in Winnipeg, MRS. PEARL HAIG, California and MRS. LILLIAN BRENNAN of Birtle.

Surviving family at time of writing: Edmund, Ada of Jackson, Mich., Clara of Edmonton and Violet of Saskatoon.

Mrs. Taylor besides raising their large family was ever ready to lend a hand in sickness and as midwife. Their home was always a gathering place in the community. They were truly pioneers. Edmund Jr. and Alfred were both active in World War I.

Several years after Edmund Taylor died. Mrs. Christine Taylor married Robert Newsham. They farmed in the Gnaton District until Mr. Newsham's death in 1936. Shortly after this, Mrs. Newsham moved to Birtle and lived in a suite. Later she lived with her daughter, Mrs. Lillian Brennan, Mrs. Newsham died in 1955 in her 93rd year.

TAYLOR, THOMAS (1874-1965) — and Jessie Campbell (1881-1935), were born at Waltham, P.Q., attended the same Methodist Church, and lived across the Black River from each other. The story is told of their courtship, and that of Robert Campbell and Lisa Taylor — to the effect that the two young men used one boat in turn to cross the river to visit his fiancée — which worked well until one or other overstayed the allotted time. However, all must have gone well, and the two couples were married in a double ceremony on June 3rd, 1902.

Thomas Taylor came west on a harvest excursion in 1904, looking for land, finally buying a quarter section north-west of Foxwarren. In

the spring of 1905 he brought his wife and two small children west. They were met at the station by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reid, who knew only that they had no friends in the district. The Taylor family stayed with the Reids until the arrival of their "effects" — their first experience of western hospitality.

Their first home was not built to keep out a Manitoba winter, but the Taylors had an intense fear of a housefire, so always let the fire die down in the stoves at night. Consequently the house was freezing cold in the morning — and a barrel of water, thawed from snow during the day, often froze solid again during a cold night. Colds and pneumonia were common, and their son LAWRENCE died in the fall of 1906, no doctor being available. Mrs. Taylor never got over the tragedy of losing him. Later Iola and Lelah arrived to complete the family.

During the years other members of the family arrived in the west. First the Robert Campbells, then Esther Campbell, and later sister Ella, who married brothers Arthur and Frank Wotton. Harriet Taylor came to teach school, and married Walter Leavens. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Snowdon (Martha Campbell), Mr. and Mrs. George Bamford (Jennie Campbell) and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell Sr. completed the family trek to Manitoba.

The Taylor farm grew, a new house was built, and the family kept busy with church and community. Mrs. Taylor was W.I. President, her husband an enthusiastic member of I.O.O.F., becoming District Deputy Grand Master. After his wife's death Thomas sold the farm to the Widdicombe Bros. in 1943 and left to live in Winnipeg until his death.

MABEL married Frank Gooden in 1929. They had two daughters, *Dorothy* and *Joan* and five grandchildren. Mabel and Frank are deceased. IOLA married Campbell Malcolm of Birtle in 1926. They live in Victoria. Son *Neil* is with the Armed Forces in Ottawa, *Shirley* (Mrs. Geoffrey Colley) also in Ottawa has four children. *Marie* (Mrs. Henri Enns) in Winnipeg has three daughters. LELAH married Robert Lewarton of Foxwarren in 1940. They live in Winnipeg and have one son *Lawrence*.

TETT FAMILY — came from Ontario about 1891, and settled on the farm now occupied by D. Pawluk. Mr. Tett was killed when his team ran away on the road to Birtle. There was a family of five — JOHN, ANNIE, WILL, EMMA and one other sister.

John continued to farm on the homestead, breeding Percheron horses and taking many ribbons at fairs. Will farmed the section south of the home place, and married Gertrude Cuthbertson. He raised registered Shorthorn cattle. On retirement he moved to B.C. The only surviving member of this family is Emma, who lives in Vancouver.

THOMPSON — Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Thompson and family came from Chesley, Ont. May 1891. They spent six years on the Tom Thompson farm in Mount Joy School District where Tom Thompson was teaching. In '97 they moved to the Fry farm on banks of the Bird-

tail. This was a nice place for a family to grow up. We had a good view of the sunrise every morning and the view up and down the valley was lovely at all seasons — things a person always remembers.

Dad died in 1915 aged 64 years. Mother and family continued on the farm until '23. Times were hard. None of the boys wanted to farm. So they rented the farm and had a sale March 23rd. The boys each went his own way. Mother came to live with Sidney and me.

THOMPSON — Thomas Wellington was born in Chesley, Ontario in 1859. He came west in 1885 to the North West Rebellion under General Middleton and in command of Major Boulton. They proceeded to BATOCHE, a small town in Saskatchewan on the South Saskatchewan River between Saskatoon and Prince Albert where the fighting took place. Later he acquired a homestead in the Mount Joy district seven miles north of Birtle. J. S. Crawford was Mayor of Birtle at this time.

In 1893 he went back to Ontario and married Ellen Thompson of Sullivan, Ontario. They came west again and settled in Rosburn, where he taught school. After leaving Rosburn they settled on his homestead in the Mount Joy district where he had taught school.

Thomas Wellington Thompson was Secretary-treasurer of the Birtle Municipality for many years. He ran for a member of the Legislature but was defeated by Mr. Malcolm. Mr. T. W. Thompson died April 1917 and his wife Ellen died February 1948.

THORP, CHARLES — came to this area in 1910 and went to work for Jas. Turnbull. His fiancée, Mildred Heap, came out to Turnbulls a short time later to learn the Canadian way of homemaking from Mrs. Turnbull, at Charles' request. They were married in 1911 at the Turnbull home and took up farming on the south half of 31-18-27 (Stan Souch's in 1973). They had one son JOSEPH.

An annual event which continued for many years was a Christmas party at which the Thorps entertained the John Widdicombe family. This was a source of great joy to the Widdicombe clan as Mrs. Thorp was an excellent cook. Some members of the Widdicombe family still use her recipe for fruit cake.

The Thorps returned to their homeland of England in 1935. Charles kept hens and also tended several gardens. Joe, who had voted to return also, became employed in electrical work.

While serving overseas during World War II, Jack and Ted Widdicombe paid a visit to their old neighbours, Jack and Mrs. Thorp, travelling on bicycles and enjoyed a shopping tour together. In 1972, Violet Widdicombe Ellis also called on the Thorps and found Mildred at 91 and Charles at 94 enjoying good health and able to be gracious hosts.

THORPE, HARTWELL AND MYERS — William Hartwell (Harty) Thorpe (1873-1946) was born in Arkona, Ont. His mother died in childbirth, and he was 'raised' by Grandmother Thorpe, who managed to instill into him a deep sense of honesty. At the age of ten he came west

with "Aunt Ettie", bride of Archie McPherson, who located on a homestead on the present Jelfs farm. Harty attended Bayfield School, where he acquired a taste for reading and poetry which remained with him all his life. As was not unusual in those days, however, he was often absent for spring and fall farm chores. At eighteen he stopped school and staked claim for a homestead north-east of Foxwarren. He continued to live with the McPhersons for a time, then built a shack and "batched" until his marriage to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Myers. (1877-1970)

She had been born in Yorkshire, England, and emigrated with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Myers in 1887. They had a rough passage across the Atlantic, and on arrival in Montreal Mr. Myers was ready to return home, but his wife with the true pioneer spirit said "We're going to the end of our journey" — and they had tickets for Birtle. They arrived there by train, lived for a time in the immigrant sheds near the station — crowded and horrible — but were lured to stay after a long look at the valley below. They rented a poor house downtown, with bedbugs, and cold enough to freeze liquid if left in the cups. Mr. Myers found work almost at once with Mr. Bell, who was very good to him, and Mrs. Myers worked out by the day, while Elizabeth looked after baby Emily. Mr. Manwaring persuaded Mrs. Myers to go for a time to his sawmill as a cook — of which experience she remembered best the mosquitoes. After three years the Myers' took a homestead, lived in a small house with unfinished loft, where they found room for the Wotton family when they were newly arrived from England.

Elizabeth and Harty Thorpe were married in March 1896, and went directly to their homestead house, to be followed by the guests for a party and dance. The location was isolated, and Elizabeth was often homesick, but weekly visits home with horse and buckboard revived her spirits. The young couple raised their family on the homestead, took an active part in Bayfield Church, and finally moved to Foxwarren to live in 1929.

Their family were: STELLA (Mrs. R. J. Webster) died 1928; LORNA (Mrs. B. L. McKenzie) Gladstone, a teacher. Son *Kenneth* is a Sales Manager in Winnipeg; ALVIN married Bella Simmie in 1926, lives in Winnipeg and manages the I.O.O.F. Temple. Their children are *Calvin*, a bank manager in Winnipeg, *Elaine* (Mrs. D. B. Low) *Murray* and *Donald*, both with the Royal Bank; ORMAN worked at Sudbury as a miner, married Muriel Lindsay in 1937, moved to Carberry in 1961. Their children are *Wayne* in Winnipeg *Ronald* in Belleville, *Darwin* at Minnedosa, *Glenda* (Mrs. H. N. Reynolds) at Carberry. There are eighteen great-grandchildren.

This story, supplied by Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Alvin Thorpe, included much interesting information about the early days, which has been utilized elsewhere.

TITTERTON — Richard J. and family farm the W½ 21-17-25 and N.E.¼ 20-17-25, where A. L. Judson formerly resided. Here they carry on mixed farming. Their son DWIGHT attended Solsgirth school, and

later Birtle Collegiate. Then he attended Brandon Technical School, and is now working on a surveying crew, and living at home.

TOWNSEND, TED L. and LILLIAN — came to Birtle with their family in 1936 from Winnipeg. Mr. Townsend was Farm Manager for the C.P.R. Colonization Finance Company. From 1936-1946 he was Manager for about four hundred farms in a large area around Birtle.

The Townsend family lived in the United Church Manse for four years, then in the Seale house (made of cement blocks) on the south hill for six years. Water was obtained from Mr. Smith's pump at the Indian Agency.

Mr. and Mrs. Townsend were both active in various community projects. He was interested in the swimming club, and one year circled the pool in his boat with a bag of copper sulphate tied to the stern to kill the algae so that swimming would be possible. Mrs. Townsend was particularly active with the Women's Institute, and became Provincial President. Mention is made of the W.I. Rest Room, which provided facilities for many meetings in town. She was also District Commissioner for the Girl Guides, when the first company was formed in 1942 with Mrs. Nellie Fulton as Captain. Meetings were held in the Town Hall, and camps in the summer. In 1938 the Extension Service organized a Home Management School for girls. Meetings were held in the upper room of the Town Hall, with Mrs. Townsend in charge.

The Townsend family were: **BRUCE**, President of Canadian Banks in San Francisco; **MURIEL** (Mrs. Barron) in pre-school education in New York; **ESTHER** (Mrs. Godfrey) works with handicapped children in Vancouver.

TREBLE — Robert Nelson Treble was born July 1877 at Exeter, Ont., and his brother Frank Wesley in the same place in January 1882. They came west to Headingley in 1910, where they farmed for one year, and then moved to a farm between Kelloe and Solsgirth— W½ 2-18-25, where their house was situated, and W½ 35-17-25 — purchased from George Fisher. They operated the farm under the name Treble Brothers.

The house was of logs, two-story with basement, with coal and wood heaters in both kitchen and dining room. The furniture they brought from Ontario.

F. W. Treble returned to Ontario in December 1911, to marry Isabella May Chesney, of Hensall, Ontario. Returning to the farm in the spring, they lived there until retirement in Solsgirth in 1948. F. W. Treble died in June 1966, his brother in December 1968. Mrs. Treble now resides in Fairview Senior Citizens Home in Brandon. Mrs. F. W. Treble was Sec.-Treas. of Eckford School for twenty-five years, and her husband served for many years on the School Board. They boarded Eckford School teachers for most of these years.

Mr. R. N. Treble was Councillor for Ward 6 for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Treble had three children: **JEAN**, now Mrs.

Ed Knight, is a nurse and lives in Oxbow, Sask. WILLIAM BRUCE is employed as an operator for the C.P.R. in Brandon. JACK CHESNEY farmed first on the home farm, later on his own farm north of Solsgirth. Born July 1917, he died June 1968. He had married Dorothy Douglas, and they had three children: *Marlene*, now Mrs. Peter French of Deep River; *Brenda*, in Calgary, *Linda*, who lives with her mother in Winnipeg. The farm was purchased by Morley Butler.

TUTKALUK — Mike bought the former Cecil Roger home N.E. 17-17-25 in 1949. He and Rose moved there in 1953. They have four girls: DARLENE now Mrs. Jim Lane received her R.N. and nurses in Birtle Hospital. LORRAINE, LUANNE and ROSEMARY.

VAUX — Edwin was an English immigrant with a family of four — two sons, HARRY and FRANK, and two daughters, ADA who later became Mrs. Hugh Gough, and NELLIE who died shortly after coming to Canada. He came to Elkhorn in about 1889 and later moved to a farm not far from Beulah. (I believe it was the old Rankin farm.)

VINCENT-PORTEOUS — Walter Charles Vincent came from London, England in 1894, to homestead in the Miniota-Beulah district. In 1896 he married Agnes Alberta Gurney, of a pioneer family who had come from England to Minota in 1884. Mr. Vincent and his wife farmed at Beulah on "Tatton" farm, which they sold to Charles Clifton in 1906 and moved to Winnipeg.

Their son CHARLES WALTER married Maude Christina Porteous R.N. in 1933. Her father Hector Albert Porteous homesteaded with brother William in the Solsgirth district in 1880, followed by their parents and their large family, who farmed at Kelloe. In 1889 Hector married **Margaret Webster**, who had come with her parents to Birtle by river boat in 1881. (see Chap. II) They were accompanied by Grandfather John Borrowman, and joined later by his brother James, both of whom died and are buried in Birtle cemetery, as are Mr. and Mrs. Webster, their daughter Louise and Hector and Margaret Porteous., and Miss Christina Borrowman.

Catherine Audrey Webster, Margaret's sister, married Simon Rae, bank manager in Birtle, later moved to Burnaby, B.C. Their son John Porteous Rae is a well-known business man in Winnipeg.

Mr. Charles Vincent has sent a narrative written by his mother Agnes Alberta Gurney, detailing the family journey in 1884 to Miniota. They left the comparative comfort of middle-class English life in a spirit of adventure, which must have been sorely strained at times. A very rough voyage of ten days from Liverpool to Halifax was followed by a journey by train via Chicago, five days on hard seats with meals from a picnic basket. In Winnipeg they were taken to the "reception" shed, long and low, with people asleep on a platform with a narrow sort of step for a pillow. Mr. Gurney managed to find rooms in a hotel, from which they watched through a window as a team of horses pulled an ox and oxcart stuck fast in the sea of mud that was Main Street.

They went on to Elkhorn by train, and thence by wagon and oxen, met by the brother who had preceded them, in "a ten-gallon hat, blue shirt and tie that had seen better days, and moleskin trousers tucked into top boots." Charley's shanty, eight miles from Elkhorn, was one room with a single layer of boards, daylight visible between the cracks, the floor partly boarded, the furniture home-made and primitive. "Bacon and beans were our diet for many weeks, with flap-jacks fried in a pan." Inevitably, a blizzard welcomed them for their first night on the prairies. Next day they went on to their homestead twenty-five miles north, enjoying a breakfast of porridge, bacon and eggs, bannock and milk at the McTurk stopping-house. Finally arrived at "home", they lived in tents for six weeks, while the house was built. One tragedy involved their pig, who made supper on a batch of dough that refused to rise, but responded to the warmth of his stomach. "So we lost a play-fellow and our winter's bacon".

WADDELL, JAMES (1849-1904) — born at Puslinch, Ontario, came to Foxwarren in April 1881, to homestead on N.E. ¼ 36-17-28 in R.M. of Ellice. In 1891 he married Margaret Jane Kerr, also from Puslinch, who came out to Binscarth. Their first home was of logs with a sod roof, furniture homemade and mattresses were canvas ticks filled with straw. Mr. Waddell was an expert with the broad axe, and spent many hours helping others put up buildings. **ANDREW PERCY** was born in December, 1895, Two other children died at birth. Percy has farmed all his life, for a year near St. James' Church, then north of Birtle and finally back at Foxwarren. In 1942 he married Evelyn Irene Wyness of Rosssburn. They have one daughter, born 1945, *Gladys Maureen*, married to Roger Anderson of Debuc, Sask. and a grandson Richard.

The Waddells attended Balmerino and Zion Churches, and Percy went to Moresby School. They went to Fort Ellice for mail. Percy tells the story of the presentation in 1918 of a play "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" with Rev. Egan as leader. It was taken to various towns, and the proceeds were used to furnish a classroom in Zion Church. Percy says he has seen many changes over the years in farming, education, transportation and the pace of living, with no time to visit anymore. The greatest treat he remembers in younger days was homemade ice-cream.

Percy tells one story of digging a well with his Dad, Bill Pizzey and Frank Robbie. There was no water at sixty-five feet, and Bill went down to try again. Suddenly the ground broke under him, and he barely escaped in the bucket losing pick and shovel. The well filled to within twenty feet of the top, and was called "bottomless" as it came from an underground stream.

WALKER, WILLIAM — William Walker was born in Sheffield England in 1884, came to Canada with his son Herbert in 1890. He farmed in Wattsville, south of the Albert Bartley farm. William was a very good cook so his home was a gathering place for all the young (as

well as old) bachelors of the vicinity. He died in 1902 and is buried in the present Birtle cemetery.

HERBERT WALKER — Herbert came to Canada with his father in 1890 at the age of 16. He spent the first years in this country working on farms, first at the Patterson farm north of the station and at the Cairncorss farm now owned by Gordon Boulton. Around 1895 they purchased the farm of Coxe Butcher in the Assiniboine Valley, where they farmed until William died in 1902.

In August 1905 Herbert married Mary Frances McKay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil McKay who had originally farmed in the Wattsvie district (Roy Watt farm). The wedding took place at the McKay farm home north of Birtle, now owned by Victor McKay. They had three children, WILLIAM, FRANCES and ALICE.

Herb bought the first gasoline tractor in the district, and was the first to use a tractor with the plow. He was among the organizers of the Birtle band in the early nineties, and was noted as a drummer. His wife also contributed to the musical life of the district by playing for the Methodist services held in Oxford School.

They left the district in 1917, when Herb enlisted. He was killed in action on Aug. 9th, 1918, their thirteenth wedding anniversary. Mrs. Walker and the children lived in Birtle. Mrs. Walker died in 1962.

WILLIAM WALKER JR. — was born in 1906 on the Wattsvie farm. After high school in Birtle he attended Normal School in Yorkton, Sask., and taught in Saskatchewan for several years. He then went to Winnipeg to train as a painter, and returned to Birtle to continue in this occupation. He also was employed as projectionist at the Savoy Theatre from 1941-1959, and later at the Capri, and has been associated with Braendle-Bruce Funeral Directors for many years.

Bill has been active in the United Church, on the Official Board, Elder and Stewart, and was often called on to preach here and at other towns. He has been choir master since 1953. Also he has helped with community choirs, the North-West Marquette Centennial Choir and the Men's choir. He was a founder of the Birtle band revived in 1932, of the Excelsior Danceband and of the Birtle Concert Orchestra in the thirties. A member of Birtle Curling Club since 1933, he was made an Honorary Life Member in 1968. This year he is president of Birtle Golf Club.

In 1942 Bill married Annabell McLennan, a teacher. They have two daughters *Marilyn* graduated from St. Boniface Hospital, and took training in intensive care at Winnipeg General. She married Dr. Paul Potoski of Dauphin, now in graduate work in surgery in Detroit. *Glen-da* trained as Library Assistant in Winnipeg, was with the Civil Service in Ottawa and is now with the Winnipeg School Board.

FRANCES — worked for several years with the Birtle Eye-Witness. In 1942 she married Harold Wilcox. They farmed for some years in the Wattsvie area. Later they managed hotels in Birtle and Treherne, then were in the Department of Highways in Brandon and

Winnipeg. Harold died in 1969. Frances lives in Winnipeg, is active in curling and bowling. While in Birtle, both were appreciated in musical circles, Harold in the band and Frances in the choir and band as well as in solo work. She was usually on the programme of any concert for many years.

ALICE worked in Brandon as a practical nurse for some years. In 1946 she married Dick Bardsley there. They have two daughters *Lynn* (Mrs. Dale Redekoppe) of Moose Jaw Air Base and *Beverley* of Regina. Alice has been active in musical circles as well as the rest of the family and is a very busy member of the Legion Auxiliary in Brandon.

WALLACE, THOMAS MORTON (1881-1950) — born on a farm in Palmerston, Ont., eldest of five children of John C. and Sarah Lee Wallace, originally from Scotland. "Mort" Wallace came to the Foxwarren district in 1906, worked for Ransome Livery, and also for his uncle Col. B. D. Wallace at Brandon Nursery. Mort purchased a half section of 35-18-27, returned east to gather his effects and came back to the Bayfield district in the spring of 1907 with a boxcar, horses in one end, furniture and implements in the other end. Some pieces of furniture are still in use with members of the family.

The first home was a shanty type structure. A well was dug, and the horse barn was so close to the house that the horses could be heard kicking the wall. Mort married Margaret Jane Reid (1875-1968) daughter of Mr. Alex Reid in 1909. Margaret had lived since 1887 in the Foxwarren district, and attended Bayfield School. The Wallaces farmed for many years, built a new home in 1910. They built a home in Foxwarren in 1918 for the children to attend school, but moved back to the farm later. Mr. Wallace raised Hereford cattle and did carpenter work, loved wild animals and allowed no shooting on his farm. He was fond of music and dancing, especially the French minuet. He was a member of the Foxwarren School Board, and of the I.O.O.F. and L.O.L. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace retired to Foxwarren in 1947.

The family tell many tales of life on the farm in Bayfield, of encounters with wild animals — one of a daughter sliding down a haystack and rousing a sleeping lynx on the sunny side. Good neighbors were the Joyce family, Thorpes, Loughdeeds, Blaneys, Lows and many others. Their children were: JOHN died in infancy; WESLEY (Buster) who farms at Palmerston; OLIVE (deceased) JENNIE (Mrs. Merv Dunham); ELLEN (Mrs. C. Dunham); ALMA (Mrs. Cliff Mayhew) EDNA (Mrs. C. Brott), all in the Foxwarren district in 1972. There are eighteen grandchildren, living in many places in Canada. Two have spent several years with the Forces in France and Germany.

WALLEY, GEORGE — came to Birtle in 1879, from Ingersoll, Ont. With him were his wife, formerly Emma Dutton from England, and son JOHN (1856-1941) who wanted to start a business, and also to take up a homestead. George opened a grocery store in a log building, on the corner of the present Walley store. The original building was torn down

in 1920, some time after the new store was built. John followed his father into the business, and was followed in turn by his son *Ernie* after John's retirement.

John also had two daughters — *Ella*, later Mrs. Howell, and *Eva* who married Rev. Arthur B. Hames, minister of Birtle Methodist Church for four years. Their son Albert (Bert) became a partner with Ernie Walley in the business. Their second son, Dr. Clarence Hames, now lives in Toronto.

E. A. WALLEY — only son of John Walley, pioneer of Birtle, was born and raised in Birtle in the early '80's. After high school he attended Business College in Winnipeg, then returned to go into partnership with his Dad in the General Store. In 1908 John sold the store and returned to Ingersoll, Ont. Ernie and Bert Hames bought a general store in Glenboro, Man., where they carried on for a few years. In 1919 Ernie moved back to Birtle and took over the Walley store again, which is now owned by the fourth generation, his sons Jack and Ernie. In Glenboro Ernie married Maude E. Christie, daughter of Mr. J. Christie, pioneer of Glenboro.

The Walleys were active in church and community. Ernie and his wife are Life Members of Birtle Curling Club, and he was a Past President. He served on the Board of his church, and for twenty years on the Town Council. Mrs. Walley was the first woman to be elected to the United Church Board, and served as Secretary, as well as President of the W.A. for many years. She was active in Red Cross work until she left Birtle in 1966 after the death of her husband.

The Walleys had five children: JEAN died in 1929, aged eleven, when an epidemic of diphtheria took the lives also of Lillian Gerrand, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gerrand, and Stella Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hall. It was found that there was a carrier in the school. JACK the eldest went to Wesley College (now U. of Winnipeg), played with various hockey teams, including Winnipeg Falcons, returned to Birtle after graduation to enter the business. Has served on the Town Council for years. RITA (Mrs. Duffy at Portage la Prairie) one of the first six girls taken into the Army in World War II, became Corporal and was Secretary to Col. Mitchell. KAY (Mrs. Matthews) was Assistant Principal of Birtle School, later worked in the British Embassy in Washington. ERNIE was a Pilot Officer in the Air Force, won a prize as most efficient in his class. After the war he went into partnership with Jack. Is now on the Town Council and Assistant Mayor.

WARREN, OLIVER QUIN (1884-1949) — son of Rev. William Warren of Essex, Eng., came to Canada in 1907 to gain farm experience at Beulah and Miniota. He farmed later near Swift Current, and at Grandview with brother Nat, and sisters Bridget and Salome who came out from England to keep house. The severe climate caused "O.Q." to contract pneumonia, and the farm was given up. Nat went to

Australia, Bridget back to England, Salome to teach in Alberta, and O.Q. to B.C. as a brakeman for the C.P.R.

He enlisted in August 1914, served overseas with the British Tank Corps., was commissioned in 1916 and was awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry in action — fine leadership and devotion to duty." He was discharged with rank of Major. He then came to the Blenheim district to take SW¼ 13-16-27 through the Soldiers' Settlement Board. In 1922 he married Mrs. Beatrice Laird of Montreal, whose three children attended Birtle School. She died in 1926, and was buried in St. Alban's churchyard.

In 1928 Major Warren joined the Hudson Bay Land Inspectors' Dept., until his death in 1949. He was always interested in the Royal Canadian Legion and Imperial Army Veterans, and attended several conventions. In 1929 he married Eleanor Brayshay of Shoal Lake Municipality. Four daughters were born — PHOEBE CAROLINE (Mrs. V. W. B. Hamilton) in Vancouver, has four children; DIANA ELIZABETH (Mrs. H. G. Dworschak) in Ottawa has three children; CYNTHIA CATHERINE (Mrs. Frank Lewis) has three children and lives in Winnipeg; PENELOPE ANN (Mrs. Bruce Speiran) lives in Montreal.

Mrs. Warren still lives on the family farm, and manages it efficiently, as well as keeping active in Birtle with church and W.I. She says that her years there have been blessed with happiness and enjoyment of rural life.

Children of Mrs. Beatrice Laird: FRANK married Anne Weirer, served overseas with the P.P.C.L.I., discharged as Captain, while Anne did munition work in Vancouver. Frank died in 1963, Anne, Donna and Beverly live in Brandon. CHARLES served overseas, married Roberta Greeves of Shoal Lake, was frozen to death on a business trip in January 1950 en route from Saskatoon to Rosetown, Sask. Had one son, John. PHYLLIS a dietician, served in the Armed Forces, now retired in Victoria.

WATT, DAVID (1863-1939) — and his wife Jenny (1867-1933), formerly Jenny Frazer, were both born and educated in Woodstock, Ont. They came to Birtle to live in a log cabin on the Will Watt farm (now Margaret Thompson), then moved to SW¼ 32-16-27 (Paul Zimmerman's now). It was a busy life, times were hard, but they still managed to enjoy visits with friends, and church activities. The three children Vera, Vaughan and Nell attended Oxford School.

Later Dave purchased land 18-17-26 north of Birtle station. The house, built by Captain Chambers, was the first frame house north of town. While it was being moved to a better location, Dave built a large granary to serve as home, which granary is still in use on the George Lee farm. Dave became a grain buyer, and was Manager for U.G.G. for twenty-two years. Dave sold his farm to son-in-law Alfred Snow. He and Jenny moved into town on the north hill, living in a spacious home overlooking the Birdtail Valley.

Jenny was very interested in the newly formed Federated Women's Institute, and became its first secretary in 1910. She became Provincial President, and National President 1923-25. (see Women's Work). She died in 1933, and Dave went to B.C. to live with daughter Nell and her family, where he died in 1939. Both lie in Birtle Cemetery. Their children were: VERA lived all her life in Birtle, raised four children John, William, Douglas and Dorothy (Snow), and had eighteen grandchildren. She died in 1968. VAUGHAN helped his father on the farm, worked in the bank, played baseball and in the Birtle Band. He enlisted in World War I, and was killed in France in 1918, one month before the Armistice. NELL was born in 1900, trained as a nurse in Winnipeg, married Bert Smith and lived in B.C. She died in a car accident in 1964 Daughter Beverley (Mrs. Woodrow McClure) has three children and lives in U.S.A.

WATT, JAMES and HELEN — My grandparents came from Scotland in the year 1911. They worked on a farm in the Holland, Manitoba district for some time. Later, they moved to Foxwarren. I do not recall the employment he had in the earlier years of residence in Foxwarren. I know he worked in his later years as assistant in the United Grain Growers elevator under management of M. G. Hay. At his retirement he bought one of the Fred Poole houses located behind the present Credit Union building

In my school days, my grandparents left and went back to the old country for awhile, later returning to Foxwarren. I believe that before coming to Canada he was an old country policeman (bobbie).

They had one son in South Africa, two daughters in Scotland, and one, my mother, in Canada.

Grandmother died in Foxwarren in 1931. Grandfather died also at Foxwarren in 1934. (by J. W. Cameron)

WATT, WILLIAM (1853-1925) — and his second wife (formerly Mary G. Dodge) came from Oxford County, Ontario in 1886, and settled in the district later named "Wattsville" for the beautiful view from the Watt doorstep. The district Post Office was in the Watt home. Oxford School received its name from the County from which the Watts and many others came. The Methodist Church services were held in the School for some years.

Mr. Watt's first wife, Margaret Wallace, passed away in 1880. Their son HAROLD (deceased) had three children living in Crow Agency, U.S.A. There were five grandchildren.

The first Watt home in Manitoba was of logs, with a very good well which supplied several neighbors. Mr. Watt was noted for his kindness, was a great organizer and a School Trustee for many years. Mrs. Watt was always at his side. Their family were: FRANK of High River (deceased) WILBUR of Birtle, (deceased). His children are: Lynn, married Margaret Burke of Brandon, farms in Wattsville and has two daughters, Sharon and Elizabeth Louise; Mervin, married Phyllis Hales of Virden, works with Pioneer Electric in Brandon;

Elaine, (Mrs. Don Ferguson) farmed near Brandon — deceased; *Shirley* (Mrs. Larry Johnson). They run a summer resort in Dryden, Ont., and have three daughters; *Frank* with the Brandon Fire Dept., married Marjory Santo, has two children. PERCY — (deceased). ROY WATT (deceased). His wife still lives on their farm in Wattsvew. Children are: *Leila* in Edmonton; *Connie*, married Dr. Day, an Optometrist; has three children and one grandchild; *Beverly* out west; *Ron* on the home farm. CARMEN (deceased). Son *Bill* drives for Greyhound in Calgary, has two sons. LOUISE died in 1961. She lived with her mother in Birtle until Mrs. Watt's death in 1947. GEORGE the one surviving of the original family, is retired in Birtle. Daughter *Judith* is married and lives in Spy Hill, Sask., has two children, Shawn and Wanda.

WEBB — Alfred Oliver was born in Suffolk, England in 1887. He was in the middle of a large family and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to a grocer for 50 cents a week and board. One of their customers was the Poor House which had six hundred occupants. He early decided not to be poor.

After six years apprenticeship he thought of bettering his position. He considered the police force but needed dental work and could not afford it. So he came to Canada in 1909. His employer gave him a half sovereign, his papers and a recommendation. The attitude to young Englishmen was not always friendly; some ads stated — "Englishmen needn't apply." At this time many remittance men were coming to Canada and they were usually poor risks as employees. He came to the Birtle area as a farmer's helper, to the Blenheim district.

Mrs. Webb was Ethel Maude Wady (born 1885), also from England and staying with her brother W. E. Wady. They had one daughter who died in early adulthood (DORIS), who served in World War II. Mrs. Webb was a tiny gentle lady who helped in her community all her days. She died in 1972.

Mr. Webb recalls his early tasks and wages. He once threshed 48 days for \$2.25 a day and shoveled gravel at \$1.50 per day.

His public service was long — 19 years on the school board and 30 years as Reeve of the R.M. of Birtle. In the early days there were no road grants and each municipality was on its own. He once met a man on a boundary road who stated he would throw the Reeve in the nearest mud hole, not knowing he spoke to said Reeve! When Mr. Savard, who had been a Barnardo Boy, wished to leave his farm for scholarships, Mr. Webb and the Council accepted it, and to this day the Savard Scholarships are a yearly windfall for University students from Birtle.

His years of service can best be summed up by the words on his Golden Boy Award of 1963. Mr. Webb died Dec. 1973.

"For exemplifying a way of life that helps make Manitoba a better place in which to live." See "Wattsvew"

WEBB, THOMAS — born at Daventry, Northamptonshire, England, June 1902 came to Canada in March 1914 and for six years lived near

Barrie, Ont. In the spring of 1920 he decided to see what the west was like and made contact with Mr. A. E. Doherty who offered work for the summer.

Tom lived around the Orrwald and Decker districts for a number of years, working for different farmers. He joined the Orange Lodge and was a member of the United Church.

In 1927 he married Bertha Young, of Rothesay. Tom and Bertha have eight children; BILL married Mary McTavish of Cardale, lives at Minnedosa and has a family of four girls and one boy. WINNIE (Mrs. Neil McCallum) lives at Oak River and has a family of three; DOUG at Regina married Lil Smith of Chilliwack, B.C. and has a family of two girls and two boys; MARIE married Jack Bartram of Birtle and they have nine children. MARGARET married Frank Ashcroft and they have two boys and two girls. IRENE married Keith Johnston and lives in B.C. BERT married Nola Pizzey of Foxwarren and has two boys and twin girls; BOB married Haraldine Magnusson of Langruth and has two girls and a boy.

After serving four and half years in the Army during World War II the Webbs purchased a farm in the Rothesay district where they lived until 1970 when they retired to Birtle.

WHEATLEY, G. H. — and his wife (formerly Ruth McDougall, daughter of the well-known Rev. John McDougall) came to Birtle about 1900 from Gleichen, Alta. Mr. Wheatley was employed as Indian Agent until moving to Winnipeg about 1921. He died in January, 1931, aged eighty-one, and his wife at ninety-two died in 1959.

Their only son RICHARD JOHN, born in 1913, died at the age of fifty-seven in 1971. He had served with the R.C.A.F. in World War II, was a prisoner in Germany for two years. He married Thelma Dow of Portage la Prairie after the war, and had a daughter *Karen*, a son *Allan* and one grandchild. He was a well-known merchant in Russell, Man. at the time of his death.

There were eight daughters in the Wheatley family: RUTH and OLIVE are deceased. ESTHER (Mrs. Hooper) lives in Beechy, Sask.; MRS. MARY SMITH in a nursing home in Sandy Lake, Sask.; MRS. ALMA BELL in Florida; MRS. MARGUERITE FAWCETT and MRS. ADA HARVEY in Winnipeg; MRS. ELIZABETH FERGUSON in Victoria.

WHYMAN, CHARLES ROBERT — came with his wife Ruth May and two children to the town of Beulah in 1951, where they rented a floor in the "Forrester House" and Mr. Whyman did carpentry for Mr. Ted Kling. Later that year they moved to a quarter section on 8-16-25 in the Rothesay district, where they remained until the children grew up. Neighbors were the George Whites across the road, Roy Irvine, Crawford Lints, Dave Moire, Lorne Carscadden, Art Edmundson and others.

The children, Robert Lyle and Sharon Ruth went to school in Beulah for a short time, then to Rothesay School to complete Elemen-

tary. Lyle took his high school courses in Isabella, and Sharon took Grade IX by correspondence, and the upper grades at Birtle. Teachers remembered are Geoff Smith and Helen Hanlin at Rothesay.

Mr. and Mrs. Whyman moved to New Westminster, B.C. in 1966, and the farm was sold to William White. They are now in Black Diamond, Alta. LYLE married Lorraine Evenson in Turner Valley, Alta., has a daughter and lives in B.C. SHARON worked for the Highways Branch in Winnipeg, married Lenard Elmer Kapchinsky in 1964 in St. George's Church, Birtle, and has a son *Ronald Gregory* and daughter *Karen Jeanette*. They live in Warren, Man.

WIDDICOMBE, SAMUEL — (1852-1937) born in Portsmouth, England, came at the age of five to Ontario. He worked for a time on construction of the Welland Canal. In 1878 he married Sarah Jane (Diamond) Clements, a widow, (1854-1889). Her parents had come from Ireland by sail-boat, a voyage of nearly three months.

Samuel, Sarah Jane and her son Isaac lived in Chicago for a time, then returned to Canada. In 1882 Samuel decided to come west to Manitoba, travelled from Winnipeg by boat to Fort Ellice, then along the Pelly Trail to stake his claim on S½ 36-18-28, in Balmerino district. Sarah Jane with Isaac and the other children came out by train in 1883, travelling by wagon and oxen from the railroad. Their home became a stopping-house for travellers on the Pelly Trail, among whom at one time was a contingent of soliders en route to the Riel Rebellion.

Samuel operated a freighting service to Yorkton, and engaged in construction there and also in Birtle, with a neighbor Henry Woodhouse, a stonemason. A mail exchange with Fort Ellice was also conducted from their home until the post office was set up in the Fletcher home. The family attended church at Balmerino, alternating Anglican and Methodist. The children began school at Crewe from 1887, then Bayfield 1888 and Balmerino in 1890. Sarah Jane became ill in 1888, and died the following spring on the journey home from a Rest Home for consumptive patients in Colorado.

Samuel managed to keep the family together in spite of misfortunes such as the burning to the ground of their home in the spring of 1890, after which they lived in a granary for months. One child JAMES (Chubby) died in an epidemic of scarlet fever. As the others grew, more land was added to the homestead — S ½ 30-18-27, later taken over by son John in 1905. In 1910 Samuel sold the homestead to James Turnbull, and finally settled in Victoria, where he died.

The family: ISAAC (CLEMENT) joined the American Army for a time, homesteaded in Saskatchewan. He married Clara Turner and had two children, then moved back to Manitoba to work with John, finally settling in Binscarth. He died in 1944, and wife Clara lives in Toronto, now ninety-two. ELIZABETH (see Joyce story) was born in 1881 in the east. GERTRUDE married Francis Ebborn, farmed at Wainwright, Alta. and had nine children. Gertrude died in 1964.

CHARLES WESLEY served in World War I, farmed at Wainwright, died 1967.

WILLIAM JOHN WIDDICOMBE (1879-1964) born at Goderich, Ont., grew up on the homestead, and purchased S ½ 30-18-27 from his father. He married Mathilda June Honey of Binscarth in June 1907, built a larger house in 1915 (later moved to Foxwarren by Mrs. Elder) and added NE ¼ of the section in 1916.

John and June had eleven children; educated at Bayfield and Foxwarren Consolidated schools. *Violet May* married Henry Ellis of Yorkton, They have two daughters and live in Los Angeles; *William Samuel (Sam)* married Annie Peterson, had two sons. Now live on NW ¼ 17-18-27, and is the largest breeder of hackney horses in Manitoba. *John Wesley* lives in Foxwarren; *Edward George (Ted)* served in World War II, married Frances Royle, had two daughters. Went into partnership with Sam for road construction in 1947, and in 1961 formed the Widdicombe Construction Co., which worked in 1963 with Low Bros. Construction to build Highway No. 4 west of Russell, where the river had to be diverted. Here a pre-historic animal skull was unearthed, now in a museum in Winnipeg. Ted now works as a supervisor and farms S ½ 16-18-27. *Robert Roland* served in the Air Force, married Gene Weir, had three children. Farmed for five years, moved in 1957 near Los Angeles and died in a fall from a horse in 1966. *James Arthur* and *George Honey* (who married Evelyn Low and farms at Lacombe, Alta.) combined with Roland as Widdicombe Bros. to raise a famous Shorthorn herd which won many awards during the years until 1957. *Mildred June* (Mrs. Wilbert Ranson) has two daughters, lives in Victoria. *Alice Grace* a teacher, married John Millar, has four children and lives at Milestone, Sask. *Daniel Diamond* served in the Parachute Corps, married Muriel Cowie, has two daughters, now lives in Foxwarren. *Clifford John* (Jack) served as a pilot in the Air Force, married Florence Peterson in 1947, farms two and a half sections. They have three children — Penny Lou (Mrs. Ian Menzies), Melva Lyn (Mrs. Harold Doran) and Daryl Lee.

WILCOCKS, FRANCIS ALLURED (1854-1949) — and wife Joanna Cornell Wilcocks (1858-1911).

He came to Canada from England as a small child with his parents, settling at Thedford, Ontario. Then in 1879 as a young married man came west looking for a home. He walked from Winnipeg to Rapid City to his brother-in-law, Dr. Santford Cornell, who had come west earlier and who was the doctor in that area.

He took up land close to the town, got himself a horse and an ox for transport. He cut wood into stove lengths, hauled it into the village for \$1 a cord. One day he returned home to find his shack had burned. In 1882 he brought his wife Joanna and little daughter Leah from Ontario and with another baby Ethel (born at Rapid City) they came to homestead in the Burdette district. His first house was made of logs, later he built a stone house heated with wood burning stoves. The water

supply was mainly shallow wells and the river which flowed through the farm.

His varied occupations included farming, constable, bailiff, and auctioneer. He was in his nineties when he auctioned his last sale.

His church affiliation was Baptist. Service was held in homes until the present Baptist church in Birtle was opened, his daughter Ethel playing the organ for a number of years. He saw many changes even then in mode of living as well as travel and could tell many exciting stories of his experiences.

Of this union there were 5 daughters and one son. LEAH married John Winder, had five children, she died in her 37th year June 1916. ETHEL married Edwin Randall, had seven children. HAROLD married Annie Nairn, had two children. IRENE married Henry Pease had five children. She died in her 32nd year in 1919. MYRTLE died of scarlet fever at a very early age. FRANCES married Lawrence Scrivens, and had one son.

Joanna, Mr. Wilcocks' first wife, died in 1911. In May 1916 he married Molly Thrift, and had three more children: SANTFORD born 1917, died 1920. PHYLLIS married Thomas Gerrand, and they have four children. DORIS born 1922, died 1938.

HAROLD HALTON WILCOCKS — born July, 1886. The family moved to Brandon for a few years and lived on the north hill there. Harold remembers vividly a fire in a coal oil warehouse "the barrels shooting up and exploding in a mass of flames." — a wondrous sight to a small boy. He received his early schooling in Brandon, then at Burdette School when they returned to Birtle district.

Harold farmed with his father, worked for a year for the Grand Trunk Railroad at Dyden, Ont., then settled to farming in the Burdette district. In December, 1911 he married Annie Nairn from Bridge of Allan, Scotland, daughter of Mr. John Nairn. Her brothers Henry and Andrew were farming west of Birtle, and Henry's sons Dick and Bill farm there now.

Harold and Annie suffered the tribulations of farming in those days, but all in all they had a good life. They retired to Birtle in 1956, where Annie died in February, 1973. They had two daughters — HELEN (Mrs. Terrance Shurvell) of Harding, and JOANNA (Mrs. Tom Reed) of Birtle.

WILKINSON, PERCY — arrived in Canada in 1910, lured by glowing tales from Jack Hawkins, of blue skies, clear waters and warm sunshine. Mr. Wilkinson came from Brandford, England, where he worked in a textile factory, washing, sorting and piling sheep's wool, and watching the production of woollen material by the yard. "Most of the boys developed good clear voices because of the noise of the looms." Evenings were spent playing games with the St. John's Mutual Improvement Club, "no time for mischief-making on street corners —"

In Birtle Mr. Wilkinson worked on the Patterson farm, then with

the railroad section gang, and later with Mr. Sweet's Bakery (later sold to A. Harrison). He met and married Lottie Hart, worked for a time for Gibson Hardware, then joined the 226th Battalion, later transferring to the 43rd Cameron Highlanders. His wife meanwhile worked for Eaton's in Winnipeg.

After a year overseas Percy was wounded in 1917, and returned on a hospital ship, arriving in Halifax just before Christmas, and immediately after the "Big Explosion" in Halifax harbour. After a leg operation in Toronto he was reunited with his wife in Winnipeg, and convalesced in Deer Lodge Hospital. After an interview he was engaged as Postmaster in Birtle, to replace Mrs. Charley Hall, who had been assisted by Charles Spicer.

Mrs. Wilkinson went to Birtle to learn the business, Percy followed on crutches. They rented the Wiggins' house for \$5.00 a month, carrying water in pails from Tommy Copeland's well (now the Snow residence). Milk was also supplied by Tommy Copeland, and Mr. Wilkinson recalls the evening sound of the bucksaw cutting wood for the morrow.

The Postmaster's work included American and British customs collections for the "Port of Birtle". New settlers in a twenty-mile radius had parcels coming from many lands. A Mr. Cleghorn received "everything from fruit to nuts" from the old country — a dozen or so parcels at one time from Dundee. Cleghorn Hill, west of Birtle, was named for him.

The Wilkinsons have four children, and at present twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They enjoy old-timers calling and chatting with them. (Mrs. Wilkinson passed away December 1973.)

WILL, CHARLES, SR. — was born near Bonnymuir Place, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in August 1871. He married Jane Paterson of Bridge of Dee, Aberdeenshire in July, 1898, and in 1902 they left the old land to come to Barre, Vermont, U.S.A., where son CHARLES was born in October. Mr. Will worked as a granite cutter, and joined the Masonic Lodge.

CHRISTINA was born in January 1916 at Peguis, Ohio. In August 1918 the family came to Canada, staying at first with Jane's sister and her husband at Springfield, Man. In November they moved to Birtle and worked during the winter for Charles Wady. The following spring Charles Jr. went at the age of sixteen to work for Mr. William McDonald at Wattsvew. The rest of the family moved to Neepawa, then Brandon, and later to Springfield where Mr. Will worked on the C.P.R. section.

In the spring of 1927 Charles rented the Duncan McIntosh farm in the Assiniboine valley to make a home, and in June Mrs. Will and Christina came to Wattsvew by train, spent the night with Mae McDonald, and then to the farm. Mr. Will arrived in August, but died soon after, in April 1928. After four years of good and bad times, Mrs.

Will died in January, 1942. Both are buried in Birtle cemetery. Mrs. Will was a member of Wattsview W.A., attending church at Oxford School.

Charlie and Christina moved in 1946 to the Alex Laing farm on 4-17-27 which they enjoyed until 1973, when the farm was sold to Barteaux Bros. Meanwhile they had moved into Birtle to the Cyril Chipping house on Queen Street. Christina has worked in town, and at present is employed at Birtle hospital. Charlie, now retired, enjoys his garden and his hobby of diamond willow work.

WILLIAMS, EDWIN — born 1890 in Llanmerewig, Wales, one of ten children of Edward and Amelia Williams, all deceased except Edwin, and Nell in Wales. He came to Binscarth in May, 1912, through an ad in an English newspaper, to work for Mr. William Honey, then for his son, Clarence, and for Jim Fletcher. In 1914 he married Ethel Honey, sister of Clarence, and they worked as a couple for D. S. McLeod, then for Charlie Miller. In the spring of 1917 they went to farm on their own for five years on land vacated by Tom Hodgson, then moved to the Laycock farm in Zion district, and finally in 1925 back to the Hodgson farm 32-17-27 until 1962, when they moved into Foxwarren.

Edwin worked during these years at many occupations — custom threshing, wood sawing, grain crushing, butchered for the Beef Ring. He served on various boards — the School Board, Poultry Pool, Church Session, Board of Stewards. He enjoyed singing always, in the church choir for thirty years, also conducted and assisted with services. He sang with the North-West Marquette Centennial Choir, and sang the Welsh National anthem as a solo. He first sang this in Wales seventy years earlier with the Nigger troupe. He has sung in many Senior Citizen and nursing homes. As a climax he sang with the Choir at Erickson in 1970 for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

The Williams' had seven children: one boy died at birth. LLEWELLYN and LEONARD were killed in action in World War II. EDWIN JR. married Ella Lewis; they have twelve children and live on NW 36-17-27. EMLYN married Eileen Martin while serving overseas; they have two children *Chris* and *Pam Stewart*, and live in Foxwarren. SYLVIA married Allan Hancock, has four children and lives in Prince Albert. LAWRENCE married Mary Abbey, has four children, lives in Salmon Arm, B.C.

WILLIAMS — Miss Effie Williams came to the Vista area in the late twenties to keep house for her brother Arthur Williams, who had earlier taken up farming in that district. After difficult years in the thirties, Mr. and Miss Williams moved to a small home that belonged to Harry Bourne in Solsgirth. They lived for some years, also, in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Irwin. In 1948, they built their own little home on the south side of Solsgirth Village. Here they both resided until Arthur's death in 1957. Miss Williams continued to live in her own home until January of 1968 when she moved to the Pioneer Lodge,

Birtle. She passed away in the spring of 1970. Mr. and Miss Williams' lives began in India, their parents being on the mission field there. They received their education in England and Arthur, having served with the Forty-Ninth Edmonton Regiment in World War I, returned to Canada to make his living at farming in the Vista area. Both brother and sister maintained a lifelong interest in the Quaker Community (Fellowship of Friends) and mission field in India. Both served their chosen communities faithfully during their lifetime. Arthur Williams was a founding member of the Solsgirth Credit Union Society and acted as its secretary-treasurer until the time of his death.

WILSON, EDMUND JAMES — ("E. J.") — second son of Thomas and Jane (Haines) Wilson. The Wilson family traced its origin to Lincolnshire, England, and in 1827 to Lower and later Upper Canada near Stratford. Jane was of U.E. Loyalist stock from New England. "E.J." attended Victoria College in Cobourg, started into a career in medicine, but soon gave it up to head west, in 1879 at the age of twenty, accompanying Andrew Bissett and John Richardson who had spent the winter gathering "outfits" for their homesteads. While the others proceeded directly to the Birdtail, EJ stayed in Winnipeg for some weeks to learn carpentry. He made the trip over a very wet prairie with James Cook and J. B. Haines, arriving June 22nd, 1879. He selected a homestead on the hill above the spring, on NE¼ 36-16-26, later adding the SE quarter. Settlers were pouring in, and he soon learned to dove-tail logs for cabins.

In March 1882 EJ returned east to marry Mary Ann Dunsmore, of Irish descent. The westward journey was water-soaked through much of Manitoba. At one point, when the buggy bogged down, EJ remarked to his bride — "Now, Molly you must promise to milk the cow, or you and the buggy stay there!" This she did for many years, adapting to pioneer existence like many others, including the burning out of the farmstead in May 1887. It was replaced by a frame house by a community "bee" and in 1902 a large brick home was added.

E. J. Wilson played a leading part in the growth of the new community. He was a member of the first Council in 1884, and many times Mayor. He worked for innovations such as telephone, acetylene lighting, cement sidewalks. His ambition for Birtle was unlimited. As a Methodist he was a strong advocate of Union. He was a past Master of the Masonic Lodge, and Past Patron of the O.E.S., of which his wife was a member.

In 1891, following a bout of illness, and looking for a vocation of less physical effort, he established the "Eye-Witness", which he carried on until his death in 1943, walking to work from the farm several times a day. When the business suffered the wrath of the newspaper association for its independence about 1897, the resultant idle time was spent building a new stone and brick office with Victoria Hall upstairs.

E. J. Wilson and May Ann, who lived almost to ninety-three, raised a family of ten. OSCAR married Mabel Bewell of Rosser, had

one daughter. He established a newspaper at Abernethy, Sask, but closed it to enlist in 1916. WILL (initials W.W.W.W.) practised law at Russell, and served three terms as M.L.A. His widow, formerly Bertha Cairns, still lives at Russell, as do their six children, the one son in law practice. ERL married Gertrude Donkin, farmed the home farm, then later at Wattsvie. Son Harold was an R.C.A.F. casualty; Doug, married to Lillian Hamilton, is on the farm; Murray and wife Edith (Falloon) live at Russell, and Roberta (Mrs. Lyle Westman) in Toronto. EDYTH lived in Toronto, now in Birtle. ELMER a Law graduate, practised at Rossburn, was an amputee in World War I and served on the Pension Commission at Ottawa. His widow, Sylvia (Glavin) lives at Tottenham, Ont. near her daughter. ARTHUR ("T.A.W.") is carrying on the "Eye-Witness". He married Sadie Falloon who died in 1962. One son was a casualty in the R.C.A.F. The other, Wilbur, married Marion Wallace with a Scottish burr, and they live at Russell. LOUISE married John Falloon, and they live at Fort Qu'Appelle, with six children scattered over America and the Bahamas. EDMUND (Ted) now retired after forty years in Toronto. His wife Ainsley (Shannon) died recently. They have one daughter Brenda. ALVIN unmarried is on the home farm. LORNE worked with the Birtle Electric Light Plant, then Manitoba Hydro, now retired. He and wife Doriss (Anderson) have four children in Montreal.

WILSON — George was born and raised in the Ellice Municipality and went to the Ellice School. He was the oldest of eleven children of the late Joseph and Mary Wilson. He married Winnie Spencer, April 1929 and farmed in the Wattsvie Valley, north of the "Wattsvie Siding". He was councillor for a number of years for Ellice, before moving to Birtle.

They had four children, twin girls who died at birth and one other daughter GERRINE WINIFRED who died at 11 months. In 1939 a son GEORGE KEITH was born. In 1947 George and Winnie and Keith moved into Birtle to live. George worked in the "Birtle Hotel" for a number of years and the last seven years of his life was caretaker of "The Birtle Park", which was the pride and joy of his life. He passed away October 1970 after a short illness. Winnie worked in the Birtle Telephone Office for 16 years until the "Dial" took over. She is now retired.

Keith was raised and educated in Birtle, except for one year in school at Wattsvie. He worked first for the Highway Branch, after finishing school, then he was bookkeeper at the Birtle Indian School until it closed down.

In October 1970 he was appointed Sec-Treasurer of The Town of Birtle. He was married in June 1962 to Margaret Wood, daughter of Arnold and Jean Wood, of Birtle.

They have one daughter *Debbie Lynne*, and one son *Alan George*. Keith, like his parents is very interested in sports. He has been the

coach of the boys' 12 year old hockey team for the past nine years. He also likes to fish, hunt, and trap, as did his late father.

WINDER FAMILY — This account was written by Louise Winder Colby, as a grateful memorial to her father, John Shaw Winder, Jr.

Grandfather Winder was born in Blackpool, England, and attended college there. At age twenty-one he crossed the Atlantic in a cattle boat, docking at Boston, Mass. Deciding to bring his family to Canada, he bought shares in a silver mine in Petrolia, Ont., but as this proved unprofitable he moved to Manitoba to homestead near Foxwarren. From the farm he commuted into Birtle to operate a shoe store. After his buildings were destroyed in a grass fire he farmed in the Burdette district until moving to live near son FRED in the Bolney district, Sask. His other children were AMBROSE, BARBARA and LIZZIE.

JOHN JR. — homesteaded between Birtle and Solsgirth, married Leah Wilcocks who died in 1916. Though crippled as a young man, John did his best to be both father and mother to his children — tobogganing, skating, swimming with them, and in family gatherings of singing, reading, visiting in the evening, after each had done his chores. "He gave us what really counts — love of God, integrity, respect for elders. . . and a good example to follow.." His children were: *Harold* (Harley) farmed his grandfather's land, then moved to Edinburg, Texas, married and lived in Prescott, Arkansas, then after his wife's death, lived in Emmett, Ark. *Bessie* married Gledhill Winder after teaching in the Newdale district. She had seven children: The eldest Jack was lost over Holland with the R.C.A.F. Beryl (Mrs. Frank Bumstead); Frances, married to Rev. William George, in missionary work in Mexico; Stanley with the R.C.M.P.; Edith (Mrs. Dennis Taylor) in Australia; Ronald on the home place; Kisra (Mrs. Jack Lamb) of Newdale. There are eleven grandchildren. *Joanna* (Josie) trained at Grace Hospital, Winnipeg, married Tommy Johnston of Solsgirth. Has one son Grenville in Edmonton, and a daughter Marion (Mrs. Pete Pohemichuk), and five grandchildren. *Louise* attended Brandon Normal School, taught in Saskatchewan, married Walter Colby in 1934 and moved to Stanley, N.D. She has a daughter and four grandchildren at Aurora, Neb. *Clarence* married Gladys Coolidge of Birch Hills, Sask. His son Arnold is on his father's farm. Clarence had two daughters and six grandchildren.

Mrs. Colby concludes: "One old oak still stands sturdy and tall (on the family farm) which brings back nostalgic memories of our childhood days."

WINTER, CHRISTOPHER — Mr. Winter, sixty years of age, and his wife, forty years old, came to the Beulah district in the spring of 1882 with nine of their fifteen children. The story of their journey from England has been well told in the diary of daughter Gertrude (Mrs. Quelch). They bought their first team of oxen, travelled to Brandon by train, where they were snowed in for a time. After spending the summer

there, the family came to their homestead, chosen by Mr. Winter partly for the beauty of the ravine running through it.

Their first home was of lumber, sodded over, and logs were gathered over several winters for the home "Winterton", that was finally built by a neighbourhood "bee", assisted by the Seales, Ashes, Goughs, Malcolms, Huehnichens and others.

The Winter family quickly learned to turn their hand to anything that would help with finances. The girls learned home-making, churning of butter, poultry-raising, finally teaching. The boys worked with log-cutting, crops and cattle. Mr. Winter grew a large vegetable garden and his wife became a maternity nurse in addition to her household tasks. The Winters were ardent church workers, and often held services in their home before the building of St. Alban's at Blenheim in 1902. Daughter Beatrice (Trixie) was married to Hubert Meyrick in the first wedding ceremony held in the lovely stone church.

Two children who had remained in England arrived in 1884, and two more were born on the homestead. Two died in infancy — fifteen in all. They were: MRS. FRANK COX; MRS. ARTHUR QUELCH; MRS. HUNTLEY MALCOLM; then three sons MALCOLM, CHRIS and PRESGRAVE, who learned to speak the Sioux language, joined the R.N.W.M.P. as an interpreter, and was present when Sitting Bull was escorted across the Canadian border. Malcolm became an Anglican clergyman. The fourth son RALPH farmed the home farm after several years in South Africa during the Boer War. ETHEL (Mrs. Arthur Bird) and LILLIAN (Mrs. Roger Hepburn) were the two little girls left in England. ISABEL became Mrs. Isaac Ashe. TRIxie, PERCY and GORDON completed the family. They were horse lovers, and rode and drove a great deal, the boys later breaking in broncos. Percy met his death in a riding accident. Gordon, the only member of the family still living, made his home in Toronto. (See Early Days, Travel, Indian Neighbors)

WOOD, HAROLD — was sent out from England to learn farming, and married Frances Mary Edmundson (May), third daughter of John Edmundson, in 1914. They lived on his farm west of Shoal Lake, where they raised horses and had many a nerve-racking experience with spirited drivers. They retired to Birtle.

Their family: DOROTHY ADA born 1916, married Willis Doherty, a teacher in Winnipeg. They have three daughters — *Patricia Ann* (Mrs. Jim Kerr), *Barbara Diane* (Mrs. Russell Crockatt and *Sandra Jo-Ann* and two granddaughters. ARTHUR GEORGE (Tim) born 1921 married Isabelle McKerchar R.N. of Strathclair in 1948. They farm the home farm and have four children: *Linda Louise* (Mrs. Sterling Eastcott) of Shoal Lake, *Gwennyth May*, *Joan Marie* and *Richard Harold* — and one granddaughter.

WOOD, OLIVER G. — was among many from western Ontario who located here in 1882, coming with his father George Robert, his mother,

brothers Alonzo and Albertin and sister Alberta (Mrs. Gale). They homesteaded in the Gnaton district south-east of Birtle. During the Washington State boom the family moved to Tacoma, but Oliver realized that prospects were as good in Manitoba, and returned to Birtle. He was one of those stalwarts upon whom the success of any country depends, and when farming permitted he was busy with building for his neighbors — for he was a born architect and builder.

Oliver married Charlotte Randall, whose parents came to Wattsview in 1882. They had their home in Birtle, then moved to their farm on E½ 10-16-26. The Wood children all attended Gnaton School, which was located on a corner of the family farm. The younger ones finished their education in Birtle. Mr. Wood was called to an untimely death with pneumonia in 1909, when the children were all under fifteen. Mrs. Wood carried on in difficult times with what help the children could give her. She bore her responsibilities with failing health until she died in 1935 at the age of sixty-two.

Their children were: WILFRED; GORDON and wife Mary had five children *Gordon, Eleanor, Gilmour, George* and *Edgar*. Gordon died in 1964. Their home was in Vancouver; ALMA married Frank Salmon; CARL married Annie Robbie, retired from farming for ill health, and lived in Birtle until his death in 1973. He had a son *Oliver* and daughter *Eileen*; ALBERTA married James Newsham, live on their farm in the Blenheim district. Have one son *Marcus*, and daughters *Greta, Lillian, Beverley* and *Carol*. ROBERT, a retired carpenter, lives in Huntingdon, B.C. with wife Ethel. Their children are *Joan, Robert, Frank, Donna* and *Kathleen*; ARNOLD married Jean Stewart, is retired from the Provincial Highways Branch, lives in Birtle. There are five children — *Charles, Ruby, Margaret Lloyd* and *Garnet*.

WILFRED H. WOOD was born in 1894 in Birtle. His parent's home was situated on the south-west hill, directly south of where his brother Arnold now lives in 1973. The home was unfortunately destroyed by fire after the family moved out to his Father's second homestead in the Gnaton district, the S.E¼ 10-16-26 in the early 1900's.

Wilfred lived at his Mother's home until after he returned from the First World War, then he took up farming on his own under the Soldier Settlement Board, on N.W.¼ 11-16-26 in the Gnaton-Rothsay district. In 1927, he married Dora Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Davidson of the Burdette district. They have one daughter, *Mildred June*, born in 1931.

Wilfred took an active part in the Gnaton Community affairs and served on the Rothsay School Board as trustee for about twenty years. In 1967 he retired from farming and took up residence in Birtle. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dushnicky now own and live on his home farm. Wilfred still owns the N.E.¼ 10-16-26, this being the original homestead of his Uncle, Alonzo Wood.

WORKMAN, ADDISON (PAT) — In 1927 prior to leaving home to set up farming for himself, Addison, his brother Irwin and Les Dunn,

lured by the spirit of adventure and big money (\$1 an hour!) hit north. A survey was being made to extend the rail from The Pas to Flin Flon. The boys' job was to dig test holes. From The Pas the boys went the next 65 miles with the freight sleigh, but as thermometer had dropped to 60 below, they walked most of the way to keep from freezing. Board was \$1 a day, plus \$1 a day for bedding. They slept in huge heated tents. Pay started on arrival at work site. At first this involved walking ¼ mile, carrying dynamite, diamond drill and other equipment, plus lunch. They stayed three months. By this time their work site was 14 miles away and they decided they'd had enough and walked back to The Pas. The weekly train had left the day before, so they took in the Trappers' Festival. On arrival home, they had little money but much experience.

In 1929 Addison bought the W½ 29-18-25 and farmed there. In 1945 a two storey house was bought from Mr. Percy Bamford, east of Foxwarren, and moved to this farm. In the same year he married Hilda Corder of Binscarth. Their three children were raised here. EDWARD ALFRED, born in 1947, attended school in Dowsford. Solsgirth and Birtle. Now a licensed mechanic. Worked in Birtle, Rivers, and now in 1972 is running the garage in Solsgirth.

Born in 1950 — DONALD GARTH (Danny) attended school in Solsgirth and Birtle. In 1970 he married Karen Stewart of Birtle and set up farming on N½ 7-18-25 the former Jim Catherwood farm.

Born in 1952, BEVERLY ANNE was employed as a steno in the Health Unit at Birtle, and in 1972 transferred to Swan River.

WORKMAN, CARL B. — farmed N½ 30-17-35, the village of Solsgirth being on the other half. This land was broken by Mr. Frank Brown, the buildings put up by Mr. Blandy. Mr. Workman bought it in 1935, and also later W½ 29-17-25. He "batched" until 1943, when he married Mary Annie Corder of Binscarth, who had been teaching at Dowsford.

Mr. and Mrs. Workman were both active in the community of Solsgirth, he on the Boards of the Co-op store and Credit Union, leader of the Swine Club, and on the Board of the curling rink. Mrs. Workman returned to teaching in 1952, worked with the Boys' and Girls' Fair and with the W.A. and Sunday School of St. Stephen's Church.

They carried on mixed farming, with Shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses and York pigs, wheat, oats and barley. Working with horses until 1940, Mr. Workman bought a tractor with Mr. Ferg Dagg, used it with horses, and in 1946 with a new model A. John Deere used only the tractor. Combines came next, and in 1944 came wheat spraying, demonstrated by the Northern Elevator. A sprayer was purchased for use by four farm neighbors. Hydro was "turned on" at 4.30 P.M. March 29, 1951 — "a good day for us".

The Workmans gave up farming in 1952, because of his health. The land was sold to Mr. Pete Pomehichuk, and Mr. and Mrs. Workman moved to Virden in 1955, where she resumed teaching. Mr.

Workman died in 1971 and is buried at St. James. They had three children: ROBERT ALFRED born 1944, in Winnipeg; CAROL LYNN born 1946, teaches at MacGregor, Man. SHARON MAE born 1947, training as Lab Technician at M.I.T. They all attended school in Solsgirth and Virden.

WORKMAN, JOHN FERGUSON — John Workman was born on a farm near Shawville, P.Q. of Irish ancestry. At an early age he worked in a lumber camp, and later at hewing ties for the many railways under construction. After a bout with typhoid he decided to follow the settlers west and build a home. He purchased N½ 8-18-25 in 1902 with brother William, broke sixty acres and went to the Crerar sawmill north of Rossburn with his team of horses for the winter. Next summer he built a cabin, put sixty acres into grain, broke more land. At Christmas he went east, and in February 1904 married Louisa Finan, arriving back in Solsgirth during one of the worst storms in history.

He found difficulties in breaking his land. He used a borrowed mule with his two horses to pull the break plow, then borrowed an ox from Oliver Nickel to spare the mare, about to have a foal. He broke a few acres with the combination of horse, mule and ox, which was a struggle.

Mr. Workman built a house in 1904, enlarged it in 1917. Many things were made by hand, such as harness hand-sewn with waxed linen thread. The frame of the first barn was put together with wooden pegs, not spikes. In 1970 the barns were burned.

Mr. Workman helped to build St. Stephen's Church, and purchased one pew. The children attended Dowsford No. 190 School (formerly Toddburn) and later Solsgirth. The family were: MARY (Mrs. Allan Fleming) of Shoal Lake; GORDON, deceased; RUBY (Mrs. Knox Gray) at Graysville, Man; MABEL (Mrs Fred Pedrick) of Transcona; HAZEL (Mrs. Newman) ERNEST LLOYD, of Bezanson, Alta.

Mr. and Mrs. Workman also raised Andrew McCrae, a child of nine sent by the Children's Home to a neighbor, who had asked for a baby. The Workmans kept the boy without adoption, but sent an annual sum of \$50.00 to the Home to be used for him later. Andy became a Sergeant and mechanic in World War II, now lives in Brandon.

Mrs. Workman died in 1932, John in 1943. The farm, left to son Gordon, was sold to W. R. Workman, son of John's brother William. There are a number of grandchildren, most of them married with families, and leading busy lives in various places, mostly in Alberta and B.C.

WORKMAN, ROBERT A. — and his wife (nee Annie Hodgins) with their family of six boys and one adopted daughter KENNETH, OSMAR, CARL, ADDISON, IRVIN, JOHN and WINNIFRED left Shawville, Quebec and arrived in Solsgirth, April 1st 1914.

Mr. Workman sold their small farm and bush land and came west

the previous year on the harvest excursion and bought the Miller farm ½ Sec. 12-18-26 and N ½ 1-18-26 for \$12,500.00 at the time rented by J. L. Ridout.

They brought with them machinery, eight horses, nine cattle, and furniture. This was brought by rail in two box cars for \$96 a car. Their home built by Mr. Miller was a log house very old and cold. It was heated by wood range and several heaters. Wood was plentiful. They lived in the log house for four years and built the present one in 1918. The stairs were used from the log house which are still in good shape.

They attended St. James Church. School was at Solsgirth four and a half miles and they had to transport themselves. They lost their large stone and frame barn by wind. It was built in 1889 and rebuilt in 1916. By 1928 the boys had left and started farming, all in the district.

In 1932 Irvin passed away at the age of 22 and next year Mr. Workman died at 68. John and his mother continued on the farm on 12-18-26. Mrs. Workman died in 1945.

KENNETH R. WORKMAN — born 1900, eldest son of Robert Workman, began to farm sec. 1-18-26 in 1934. He had come with his parents from Shawville, P.Q. in 1914, there being no future there for a large family of boys. He married May Kornyk of Rossburn (born 1912). In 1941 they built a small three-room house, which was replaced in 1945 by the house where they now live. They attend St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

They have a family of two boys, *Elmer* and *Garnet* and four girls, *Olive*, *Lorraine*, *Doreen*, and *Verna*. There are seven grandchildren.

MRS. OSMAR WORKMAN (Nora) came to Solsgirth District in 1928 to teach at Dowsford until 1935. She married in 1937 and lived as a farmer's wife on the Jim Catherwood farm for six years. They moved to S.E. 31-17-25 (Overlea Acres), formerly the property of E. B. R. Hall on the outskirts of Solsgirth.

Mrs. Workman says that the installing of Hydro in 1950 and water works in the home were a great convenience, and the purchase of a combine reduced the work of the wife as well as the farmer. In 1962 Mr. Osmar Workman died, and in 1967 his wife and daughter *Frances* moved to Winnipeg, *Sandra* lives there also. Son *Garry* and his wife *Shirley* had lived in a house trailer for five years. They now moved into the farm home, where they still live. They have a son, *Kent* and a daughter *Sheri*, both in school at Birtle.

WORKMAN, WILLIAM J. — married Ellen Nickel, daughter of Oliver Nickel, in 1910, and farmed north-east of Solsgirth until 1937. They moved later to Solsgirth. Mr. Workman died October 1952, and Mrs. Workman now lives in Carberry, Man. Their son **WILLIAM** (Bill) served for five years in World War II, and is now on the home farm; **JOHN** a mechanic, lives in Newfoundland; **EDITH** is a nurse, in Omaha, Nebraska; **MARGARET** the eldest is now Mrs. Bourne.

Mrs. Workman gives some information about life on their farm in pioneer days. Her father Oliver Nickel broke his land and worked it

with oxen. In 1885 he served as interpreter at Regina for the settlement of the Riel Rebellion. He drove a wagonload of the first Ukrainian settlers to their destination north of Rosssburn. The family church was St. James, and the children attended Dowsford School. Mr. Nickel helped out with the debenture to build the school, and was Secretary-Treas. for years. Their home was a "half-way house" and visitors were many — including peddlers with a variety of goods to sell, and many men from the lumber camps north of Rosssburn.

WOTTON, ELI — and wife Susan emigrated from Blackpool, England in 1893 to the Foxwarren district where son Tom had come earlier to work for the Myers family. It was a long and difficult trip — children sick and adults exhausted. Five days after arrival their infant son George died.

Eli located on the Finnigan homestead in a vacant log shanty, where drinking water had to be hauled in barrels with oxen and stone boat. They broke the land with a walking plow and broadcast seed by hand. Life was hard and they were homesick, but they leaned on their faith, and their church — Bayfield — was their centre. Neighborliness became the way of life. They gradually learned farming, and decided to homestead on SE ¼ 7-18-26, with a spring of sparkling clear water. Susan's asthma was helped by the change of climate, and they found pioneering to their liking.

— The art and science of building with logs, butchering, and curing meat, later threshing with horsepower were mastered (see Chap. VII).

Meanwhile the ten children grew, attended Mount Joy School, and one by one found partners and established homes. All six sons and three daughters remained in the district. **JAMES ELI** — see below; **ANNIE LOUISE** married Arthur Burgess. Their farm home became a centre for family parties, and for their parents' Golden Wedding. **ELIZA JANE** — see Laycup; **JOHN THOMAS** married Mary Coyne, and had six children. He became a Methodist, later United Church minister, served in Manitoba towns, and as the first Visiting Chaplain in hospitals in Winnipeg. Their son *Tommy* was killed in the Korean war in 1951. **WILLIAM HENRY** (Harry) married Rachel Green-shields from Arnprior, Ont., had five children. He bought the old Finnigan homestead, raised horses, built a barn that became a centre for barn dances. He became an accomplished blacksmith, and in the thirties worked at this as well as road-grading. **SUSAN MINNIE R.N.** trained at Brandon General, married James Wilson with the Imperial Oil Co. They lived in Calgary, then Peru, finally Dartmouth, N.S. They had three children. **ARTHUR RICHARDSON** married Esther Campbell from Pembroke, sister of Mrs. Thomas Taylor, who was employed as a seamstress at Hough and Wickware Dry Goods. They had four children. They lived on the home farm for fifteen years, then moved to Foxwarren and Arthur worked in an elevator. In 1930 he joined Mr. "Holly" (Oliver) Lougheed in a trucking service to Winnipeg, which Elmor Honey bought in 1934. **EDITH ALICE** see Dunfield;

CHARLES BENDLE married Margaret Ellen Hall and had a son and daughter. They took over a half section to farm, and added fox farming, beginning with wild red foxes, then developed the dark silver strain by inbreeding. One fox sold for two thousand dollars. Nellie raised ducks and geese in addition. Charlie had one of the first ear phone radios in the community. FRANK HERBERT married Ella Mae Campbell, sister of Esther. They had four children. Son *Lyall* was killed overseas in World War II. Later they moved to a homestead at Birch River, which was exceptional cattle country. They finally retired to Dauphin.

Grandmother Susan Wotton died in 1929 at the age of eighty-five, and Eli in 1937 at ninety-one, after a long life of faith and service. Their family story provides many details of pioneer life, joys and tribulations in the Foxwarren district.

WOTTON, JAMES E. and LANGSTON, GEORGE — James Eli Wotton and Emily Myers were married in 1905, having made acquaintance in the Methodist Church Choir. They lived on James' farm south of Foxwarren, first in a log house later in a new home built by Emily's father who came to live with them. James Wotton died at Shoal Lake in July, 1923. Next year Emily married George Langston, and they moved to Lloydminster, Sask. Emily's family were: WILMER JAMES WOTTON born 1907, who became a farmer in the district. He married Ada McAULEY of Foxwarren in 1931. Their children were — *Delmer*, and wife Shirley, farming at Angusville, have two children. *Ivan* married Shirley Ireland in 1965, also farming and they have four daughters. *Lois* married Lorne Dunham in 1952. He served with the R.C.A.F. in Germany and they have two sons. *Gwen* is stewardess for Air Canada. EDITH ALICE married Roy Field, lived in Kenora, Ont., and had a daughter *Marilyn Jean*. Later divorced, in 1944 Alice married Edmund Seehagen (deceased) and now lives in Ephrata, Wash. with daughter Marilyn and grandson Dan. HERBERT DOUGLAS born 1910 also farmed in the district of Foxwarren. He married Annie Hall, who had five children from a previous marriage, and they had four of their own: *Wilfred*, born 1932, married Florence Westfall, live in Brandon with four children; *Edythe* married Ken Field of Birtle, lives in Edmonton, have three children and several foster children; *Robert* born 1941 married Tibby Herron in Winnipeg, works in A-1 breeding at MacGregor, Man, has four children; *Alfred Lloyd* born 1946 married Beverley Barrie of Dauphin, manages the Birtle Co-op Lumber yard, now lives in the family farm house and has a small son. The five Hall children were: *George*, *Hilda* (Mrs. Charlie Goodwin), *Alice* (Mrs. Dick Wesley), *Cyril*, married to Mae Brentnall of Birtle, and *Ivy* Mrs. Bob Turnbull). Among them they have twenty children and four grandchildren. Herb Wotton now lives in Foxwarren. His wife Annie died in 1953. ALFRED LLOYD born 1911, died in Sudbury in 1941. MERVIN ROBERT born 1916 worked in the mine at Sudbury, Ont., married Beth Holmes of Frood, Ont. Son *Robert* is at college while wife

Janet teaches; *James* is a mining engineer in Central America, married Linda Kennedy of London, Ont. and has a son; *Bill*, is accountant for Inco Mines; *John*, born 1955 is in high school. WILBUR ELDRED born 1922, married Laura Hollingworth, lived in Lloydminster and now Vancouver. Son *Lloyd* is a photographer, daughter *Judy* is at home. VERNON LANGSTON, born 1927, and wife Phyllis live in Vancouver, have three children — *David Vernon*, born 1955, *Cindy*, born 1959, *Michelle*, born 1968.

George Langston died in 1964, and Emily in 1970.

WRIGHT, ALEX — sailed from Greenock, Scotland on S.S. Montmairn in March 1927, passed customs in Saint John, N.B. and took a train to Winnipeg — cost ten pounds (about \$50.00 then) through C.P.R. colonization. Three from the same village — Cowpits, Midlothian — David Simpson, John Cranston, Alex and another Alex met on the boat decided to stay together, and at the C.P.R. Colonization office in Winnipeg were sent to Foxwarren (train fare \$2.50). They were met by Mr. J. K. Hay, the Colonization agent, and were sent to their jobs — David to Jack Laing, John to Billy Dutton's, the other Alex to Bill Napper's, Alex Wright to T. Johnston on 12-17-28. Mr. Johnston was at Brandon Fair showing Clydesdales, so Alex spent a night in Mayhew's Hotel, and the next day around the Victoria elevator, Agent Mike Couch and helper Arnold Lewarton.

Alex helped Mr. Johnston move east of Birtle station that fall, and stayed with him until 1934. He then rented SE¼ 19-17-27 and broke forty acres, built a log barn and a single-ply shiplap shack 16x16 where he lived that winter and just about froze to death. With him was old Jim Lothian, owner of the land, who jacked up his bed and had a lantern burning under it all night. In April, 1935 Alex married a widow, Mrs. Gilmour (nee Jean Black), rented various farms until 1943 when they bought ¾ 35-17-27, where they now live.

Alex Wright has been active in many community efforts in Foxwarren, as Director and Chairman of the Beef Ring, Curling Club, Athletic Association, Consumers' Co-op, Elevator Association, Credit Union, and even with Birtle Consumers. Held offices with Foxwarren Masonic Lodge, was W.P. for the O.E.S. and D.D.G.M. in 1971-72 of the 5th Masonic District. In curling has had two eight-enders, and brought home a prize from the Winnipeg 'Spiel.

WYNESS, ALEX — came to Canada in 1904 to his father who was a store keeper in Rosburn. He married the former Ella McIntosh and they lived in the Shoal Lake district until moving to 19-18-25 of the Birtle Municipality in 1955. He now lives with his son WILLIAM who works the farm. A son JACK is married in B.C.; EVELYN is Mrs. Percy Waddell at Foxwarren; GERTRUDE is Mrs. Others living at Sandy Lake, Man.; FLORENCE is Mrs. Castles living in Saskatchewan.

WYNESS, WILLIAM "JOCK" — was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland June 1886. He served nearly four years in World War I. In

1924 he married Jessie Annie Cragg of Nottinghamshire, England, and they came to Canada in 1925. They worked at the farm of Mr. J. H. Tett of Foxwarren for two years after which they purchased a half section north of Lansburne School where they lived until they retired to Birtle in 1957. They had two children PEGGY (Mrs. Wilson Poole) and JOHN WILLIAM of Rivers. Mrs. Wyness was an active member of the A.C.W. until she passed away Sept. 1962. "Jock" lived alone for ten years and spent many an enjoyable time curling and playing his accordion. He was a forty-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion and was very active in the Legion especially at Poppy Selling Time! He passed away peacefully at his home Dec. 13, 1972.

YANICK FAMILY — Paul Yanick (1866-1923) and his wife Anna (born 1865, died 1949 at Shoal Lake) came to the Kelloe district to farm, from Oakburn and originally from the Western Ukraine (Stanislaus) in 1920. They lived in a log house, heated with wood, and had a root cellar, stable and granary, also of logs. Their well was ten feet deep. Their children were SAM (1900) ALEX (1897) FRED (1894) MICHAEL (1905) JOHN (1903) MARY (1904) and ANASTASIA (1911). In 1959 Michael came to Solsgirth to live.

YASKIW, PAUL — I was born in the Rossburn Municipality in 1916. My parents were Pete Yaskiw and Rose Zimmerman. Rose Zimmerman passed away in that same year. My father remarried in 1918 to Ann Kamaranski.

I attended school in Rossburn. My schooling ended at the age of fourteen. I worked for farmers in the Rossburn area for several years then I went to Ontario where I worked for a dairy farmer near Toronto. After six months of this I returned to Manitoba and started farming on my own. I rented my first farm three miles west of Solsgirth from the Great West Life Land Company in 1937.

In my first two years of farming I was a bachelor. Then one night I met Olga Derlago. She was born in 1917 in Mears district north of Rossburn. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Derlago. She went to two small one-room schools called Hemmiski and Glan Ehno. Olga was working for Fred Cooley Sr. when we met in Birtle.

After a lengthy courtship of two weeks we were married October, 1939, in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Russell. I sold two cows so that we could get married and for this day I rented a car. We started our marriage owning four horses and two cows. We farmed near Solsgirth for two years, 1942-44 on the farm presently owned by Matt Smith. Then we moved to our present farm, section 13-17-27. We had to work this farm for a considerable number of years before our efforts paid off. We think it was all worthwhile.

In 1947 our son PETER PAUL was born and in 1959 we adopted our daughter DONNA MARIE birthdate July 31/57.

We built our new home in 1955 which was a dream come true.

Farming has been profitable in the fifties and sixties. I wonder what surprises the future holds for us.

YOUNG, MURDOCK (DICK) — and his wife Annie came to the Angusville district in early 1880's, homesteaded in the Seeburn district where their home was for years a stopping-place for travellers on the old Angusville trail going north to cut wood or hunt. There were six children: WILLIAM farmed until 1942, then moved to Winnipeg. He had seven children. JOHN (Jack); JAMES farmed at Viscount Sask., later was the undertaker, carried on now by son *Jack*. Ross was killed with R.C.A.F. in World War II. Daughter *Ella* lives in Vancouver. MARGARET (Mrs. William Tait) had the P.O. at Stenan, Sask., retired to Vancouver. ANNIE a nurse, retired as Matron of Shaughnessy Military Hospital. MAE was the youngest child.

JACK YOUNG farmed with his father, served overseas for four years in First World War, married Margaret Kemp in England. Took over the family farm until 1942, then moved to Foxwarren, where he was Mayor when he died, 1955. He had been active in the Legion, I.O.O.F. and United Church, assisted as Chairman or M.C. for many events. Served in the Home Guard in World War II then returned to his draying business. Mrs. Young died in 1968. There were nine children: Reg served overseas for four years in World War II. Married Lelia McCauley, operated Macleod Stores in Sask., now retired and living at Kenosee Lake, has one son. KEN married Adelaine Johnson of Foxwarren, lives at Virden had two daughters. DORIS (Mrs. Lawrence Pizze) in construction work at Foxwarren. Have two daughters Beverley and Debbie, and two granddaughters. MARGARET married Mervin Gadd. JACK Jr. married Phyllis Armitage of Foxwarren. Served three years with the Armed Forces, now lives at Lac la Biche, Alta., with the Highways Dept. They have six children. LAWRENCE COOK served in World War II, married Bernice Jarem, works in construction in Winnipeg, has five sons. BOB with the Armed Forces for twenty-three years, married Shirley Miller, is stationed at Oromocto, N.B., with two children. JOYCE married Gerald Dawson of Shoal Lake, who is Federal Creamery Inspector in Dauphin. They have three daughters. Shirley (Mrs. Ray Stoetzel) lives in Brandon, with three children.

YOUNG, MATTHEW — the family came to Ontario from Paisley, Scotland in 1868. After stopping for a time in Ontario where the younger members of the family were born, they came west in 1882 to take up land in what is now the Rothesay district. Later, their two sons John and Alex established homes of their own in the same district. Matthew and his wife Janet both died in middle age, she in 1897 and he in 1903.

Of their family ALEX remained a bachelor and worked in Brandon for a time, then returned to Rothesay to farm. MARGARET married Andrew Doig of Birtle. JOHN married Lillie Allingham of the

Orrwold district. JESSIE married Wm. McConnell of Lavinia. MINNIE married Dr. A. Anderson of Kenton and Edmonton. LINDSAY died at the age of eight in 1883 and MARTHA in 1890.

ZIMMERMAN, JOSEPH — (born 1922) came to farm at Solsgirth in 1947, from Rossburn. His wife is Stella Kaban, of Marco, Man. Their family consists of LEONARD, now in St. Catharines, Ontario, with one son, Len, ARNOLD and RONNIE, who live and work in Winnipeg, and DARLENE, DIANE, and WESLEY, at home in Solsgirth and still at school.

